



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

December 2015

The Masochistic Modeler by Ron McCracken

E pisode One – The Mach 2

The idea for this article was suggested to me after I brought both a completed vacuum-formed model and a completed Mach 2 RC-12K model to our quarterly contest.

Basically, why would one tackle such projects? In my case, there are several factors that drive me to build difficult model kits. I want variety in my collection. After over 175 finished models, yet another P-51 has begun to lose much of its appeal. And at some point, you have to be willing to tackle some kits of less-than-state-of-the-art quality, or keep building more P-51s.

Ever since I started the hobby, I've wanted to improve my craftsmanship to the point where scratch-building is within my capability. You won't get there by building kits that just sort of fall together.

[continued on page four]

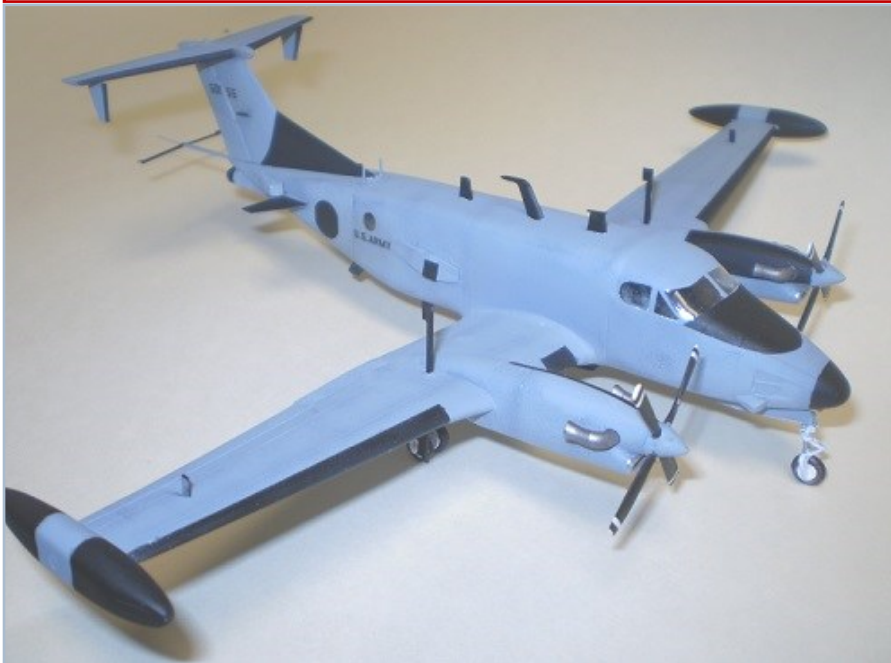


Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS/USA).

ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. It is intended for educational purposes only. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



IPMS/USA Chapter Newsletter Of The Year

In This Issue

The Masochistic Modeler	1
Peanut Brittle	3
Fiddly Bits	3
Web At Night:	7
Rewind	
What The Flip	8
Perception	10
Star Wars Christmas	11
ASMS News	12
Que Pasa Con Eso	13
Model O' The Month	14
Old Rumors/	17
New Kits 2G	
Storytime	23

Peanut Brittle

Randy Bumgardner

Ho, ho, ho! It's December and this year just flew by. I hope we've had fun this year, both as a club and individually. We've got another exciting year to look forward to in 2016.

For now, I want to look back at 2015 and thank everyone for electing me Lackey-in-Chief. I hope I met everyone's expectations and did just enough to avoid impeachment. Most of all, I hope everyone had fun. That was, and is, my main goal – to have fun, build models, and talk about models.

As I write this, the Christmas party hasn't occurred and myself and Mrs. Lackey-in-Chief are busy getting the house ready for the revelry. Once you read this, the party will have occurred and I'm sure we had a blast. Don't we always?

We are working on a new themed contest for the upcoming year. It's for all of us procrastinators out there, and it's a pretty neat idea. I hope we can generate enough interest to see it to fruition. We'll be providing more details at the upcoming December meeting.

In addition, we'll be awarding the White Elephant and the Model of the Year awards at the December meeting. We will be having the December Model of the Month contest, which includes the White Elephant entries, as a prelude to the Model of the Year. So bring in those finished kits and let's see what you've been working on. As always, in-process kits are welcome and strongly encouraged as well!

As a final note for the year, and as it's the holidays, make sure to visit with family and friends and enjoy their company. We only go around once, so make it worthwhile! Now, go build something! (And bring it for us to admire...).

Randy



Fiddly Bits

Frank Seibert

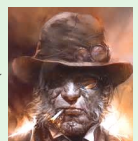
It is never too early to pay your ASMS club dues. So, pay your club dues. Be the very first and win a special prize. (Special prize to be determined). Club dues are \$25.00 per individual and \$30.00 per family. If you pay your dues prior to March 1, 2016 there is a five dollar discount per membership level. Save some money and do it now! You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same c/o Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, Texas 78729.
Don't send cash!



I would like to announce that Mike Poole has won the newsletter contest for 2015 and as such will have his annual ASMS club dues paid for by the yours truly. I may have to forgo a new hat, but it's worth it.

For those that might be wondering, what newsletter contest, two things. First; read the newsletter and you'll already know this stuff. Second; this is the contest whereby you, dear reader, send stuff in for publication in the newsletter. Items submitted can range from essays, build article, kit/product reviews, cartoons, short stories, or just about anything even remotely connected to scale modeling. Rest assure that the editorial staff considers all submissions for publication. On that point, submissions need not be published to qualify for this contest. The person that sends in the most stuff over the course of 2016 wins. And by winning, I mean you have your annual club dues paid for by someone other than you. So, get crackin'.

Frank



What counts as “challenging” today was “state-of-the-art” when I started in the hobby. So the idea of having to fix a flawed kit, or scratch-build various details, is not such a big deal to me.

That’s why I build the occasional challenging kit – they require at least some scratch building of components, they are the only game in town for certain aircraft, and challenging is a relative term anyway. And that brings us to the rest of the article. The Mach 2 RC-12K

Mach 2 kits are always a mixed bag consisting of a rarely kitted aircraft with poor execution of the kit. The C-12 series is no exception. But as far as I know, no one else has kitted a Beech King Air or any of its derivatives in any standard scale, so if you want one in your collection, you are left with the Mach 2 kit. Mach 2 sells the kit in either a standard passenger configuration or the RC-12 battlefield electronic surveillance configuration.



The basic aircraft, a Beechcraft King Air 200, is widely used both as a civil executive aircraft, and in military service as a utility transport. Thus, it offers an astonishing variety of possible markings, some colorful and some not.

For my own part, the RC-12K variant is so ugly it’s actually rather interesting and is the perfect size for a 1/72 scale model, so I acquired the Mach 2 RC-12K electronic surveillance aircraft kit and set to work.

First, let us discuss the expected problems: rough surface finish, poor canopy parts, and “short shot” issues.

The kit required serious effort with 400 grit paper to create a decent surface finish. I’ve yet to see a Mach 2 kit that didn’t. The good news is that the engraved panel lines are deep enough to still remain when the surface prep is done.

The clear parts are suitable only for re-polishing and using for vacuum-forming masters. Since I routinely cast my cabin windows in place using clear casting resin, all I needed was a new canopy, which I vacuum-formed using the cleaned up kit part as a pattern.

However, the fuselage opening is cut too deep for the canopy, and needs to be built up using a strip of .030 inch thick styrene.



The sensor housings on the wingtips are separate parts and suffered from “short-shot” problems, leaving holes that had to be patched with bits of styrene sheet during assembly. Of course, if you do the passenger version, that won’t be an issue for you.

Now let’s deal with the really nasty errors. The worst flaws of this kit are in the engine nacelles and the upper surfaces of the wings.



Before you assemble the nacelle halves, there is a large NACA-style air intake on the nacelle underside that the kit simply omits. This is the style of intake that looks like a triangle-shaped recess, with the apex of the triangle pointing into the airflow. This omission is easily corrected before you glue the nacelle parts together (afterwards, not so easy).

The engine nacelles on the real thing are built so the sides are parallel with the aircraft’s vertical centerline. The kit has them perpendicular to the wing centerline.

If you glue the nacelle parts together per the directions, and then attach the wings with the correct dihedral, the engine nacelles are canted outward at the bottom, and it just looks wrong. Fortunately, the portion of the nacelles ahead of the wing are separate parts, so these can be installed after the wings and fuselage have been joined at the correct angle, and a combination of putty and file work will blend the front portion into the rear.



The engine air intakes are also the wrong shape, at least for the RC-12K. (If you are doing another variant, do your research carefully). Rather than the "D" shaped openings of the kit, the intakes on the "K" are oblong slots with rounded ends. This little error is cured by cutting away the intakes back to the panel line (about .080 inches), fabricating replacements from sheet plastic, and fairing the new intakes into the nacelles with putty.

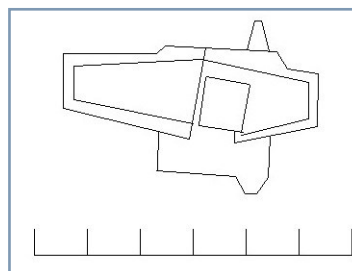
As for the wing, the roots are too shallow, by about .045", with the error all inboard of the engines on the upper wing half. As a result, in a frontal view there appears to be a bend in the upper surface of the wing, giving a decidedly non-prototypical gull wing appearance. The solution, unfortunately, is rather a bit of a chore involving building up the wing surface inboard of the nacelle.

In view of the rather large addition of thickness needed, the approach I took was to scab a supporting rib and stringer structure of .030" square plastic strip onto the inboard wing upper surface, with the stringers tapered to a feather edge at the outboard end (just inboard of the engine nacelle). I then added a "skin" of .015" thick sheet plastic. A bit of putty all around to fair in the edges, followed by sanding, and the problem was corrected.



Based on interpretation of photographs, I concluded that the ventral fillet ahead of the vertical stabilizer is nowhere near deep enough, and it had to be built up

with sheet plastic and putty. Also, on all the RC-12K photos I've been able to find, there is a bulb shaped ECM housing under the rudder which you will have to supply, as it isn't in the kit.



Also missing is an odd sensor installation on the starboard aft fuselage, between the wing trailing edge and the sole cabin window. I've provided a scale drawing of this item. Finally, there are small intake openings in the wing

leading edge, just inboard of the engine nacelles which the kit omits. These need to be opened.



A rudimentary cockpit is provided, but even with a vacuum-formed canopy, the interior is all but invisible, so you really don't need to exert yourself here. Just paint the kit parts and use them.

Then there are the fiddly bits, like landing gear, antennae, etc. The kit parts are trash. Plan on fabricating your own, or on finding substitutes in the spares box.

For the landing gear I procured MasterTools 1.1 MM and 1.6 mm brass tubing, which telescope together to simulate shock struts. I also fabricated new main and nose gear. In each case, the smaller diameter tube is the main structural member.

The larger diameter tube merely builds up the outside diameter of the top portion of the strut. At the bottom end of each main strut I soldered a short piece of tubing perpendicular to the strut as a mount for the axle. Once this is attached, the outer tubing is slipped over the top end of the strut prior to its assembly to the model.

To ensure a solid installation, I drilled up through the main gear well top and into the upper wing surface, carefully aligning the drilled holes so that when the gear struts were put in place, they were solidly attached and properly aligned. This, of course, meant extra-long struts, but the results were well worth the effort, as the landing gear is nothing, if not strong!



By the way, this procedure is best done during the "trial assembly" phase, where it is possible to mark the location of the hole in the upper wing. If you wait until all is assembled, alignment has to be done purely by "eyeball," which can be troublesome.

The nose gear strut was fabricated and mounted much in the same manner, but the lower end was a piece of brass sheet, cut to size and bent to the shape of the nose gear fork, then soldered to the bottom of the strut.



As for the wheels, I found a wheel of suitable diameter and spoke configuration in the ol' spares box, used it as a master to make a silicon rubber mold, and cast the five wheels/tires required. Failing that, you'll have to do your best to carve proper wheels/tires out of

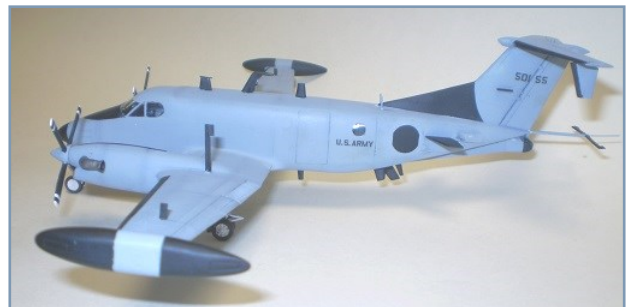
the blobs provided in the kit.

The many antennae require some research. As near as I could determine, there weren't any two RC-12K aircraft that had the exact same antenna farm, so find a reference photo and duplicate what it shows.

Most are just simple blades that can be made of sheet plastic, but there are several long antennae (two each on the upper and lower surfaces of the wings, and a pair on a tail boom) that had to be made from some streamlined plastic "strut" stock.



I found a painting diagram for the RC-12K out on the web someplace or other, which confirmed the colors used (FS 36375 gray overall, with black anti-glare panels/antennae/de-icer boots, and white wheel wells/landing gear) in addition to documenting the location of the black-painted areas.



Ron



[Editor's note: Apologies to Seth Green and Matthew Senreich of *Robot Chicken* for Ron's new likeness.]

Web At Night: Rewind ***compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne***

The first two items in this month's installment of *Web At Night: Rewind* were suggested by Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky. It is rumored that Chuck is a paid spokesman for MiG/AK products but that is simply a rumor. He does, however, recommend both of these items with unapologetic enthusiasm.

From AMMO is a new series of finishing guides with the first volume centering of cockpits. This review from Large Scale Planes website should be enough to enlighten you on the worthiness of these new volumes.

<http://www.largescaleplanes.com/reviews/review.php?rid=1499>

The other recommended product comes from the finishing side of Mig Jimenez Company. AK Products has introduced a new line of enamel-based metal paints known as Xtreme Metal.

This new line of paints is airbrush ready out-of-the-bottle and can be sprayed directly onto plastic, with a couple of exceptions. This review is from Cyber Modeler's website.

It should be noted that these new paints aren't cheap but may be the best thing since sliced bread. Which kind of begs the question...before sliced bread, what was the best thing?

http://www.cybermodeler.com/hobby/paint/aki/paint_aki_metal.shtml

Arnon Smischney brought in a new item he had acquired for show-n-tell at last month's ASMS meeting. I was impressed enough to delve a little more deeply into the One Studio resin dinosaur bust he showed. One Studio is an Australian company that is currently marketing their products via the internet.

The Cool Mini or Not website was originally begun as a community site for posting images of painted miniatures but they have branched out a bit to include fantasy miniatures and board games.

<http://www.coolminiornot.com/387323>

Some stalwart members of ASMS journeyed to merry ole England to visit Scale Model World 2015. Scale Model World is the equivalent of the IPMS/USA National convention and is held at Telford, Shropshire each November.

The format is a bit different, with the majority of models entered for display purposes only and not submitted for judging. Although they do that, too.

Scale Model World's website has a nice a breakdown of events and some photos of the best overall winners in their respective categories.

<http://www.smwshow.com/>

Much to Daffy Duck's chagrin, there weren't any reported sightings of the 'Shropshire Slasher' at this year's IPMS/UK sponsored Scale Model World.

If you don't get the reference, I don't know what to tell you...probably should have watched more cartoons growing up. But in the interest of fairness, follow this link to the Daffy Duck/Looney Tunes cartoon. A word of caution: some scenes do contain some awful puns.

<http://www.b99.tv/video/deduce-say/>

Jean-Michel



Fred's Fun Facts: December 17

This date coincides with the 112th anniversary of the first four flights by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk.

This date is also the anniversary for the first flight of the Douglas DC-3, in 1935, and the first flight of the Lockheed C-141, in 1963.

December 17th is also the date in 1526 when Pope Clement VII began the inquisition.

[Courtesy of Fred Horky]

What The Flip Is A Curbside Anyway? by Mike Poole

I can always tell when a new car modeler arrives at the contest registration table for the first time. That blank expression, the categories sheet dangling loosely from the outstretched hand.

Words like curbside, slammer, and street machine really aren't used anywhere but model contests and it can be confusing for a newbie. So I'll try and shed some light on what all that jargon means.

First, let's take a quick look at the scales in automotive modeling. 1/24th scale is the most popular scale around the world. Technically, American car model kits are 1/25th scale which is odd but very close and for contest purposes the two are considered the same scale. The majority of Formula 1 models are kitted in 1/20th scale.

These two scales are what are considered "builder's scale." I'd guess 90% of contest autos fall into one or the other. In most contests, there will be a separate category for smaller vehicles like 1/26th and Smaller and another for big scales such as 1/19th and Larger.

There are no models made in 1/26th scale. It's just a math-like way of saying anything smaller than the mainstream scales goes here, etc.

Car builders love to modify things so there are several categories for different types of customization.

The Factory Stock category is for a car that could be purchased from a dealer as displayed. The Custom category is for aesthetically oriented show cars and vehicles that are so wild, they likely aren't street legal.

Street legal customs are usually performance oriented and split into Street Rod, if the body was built before 1949 and Street Machine, if on or after 1949. So, for example a T-Bucket roadster with a small block chevy engine would be a street rod because of the Ford Model T body even though the drivetrain is more modern. Confused yet?



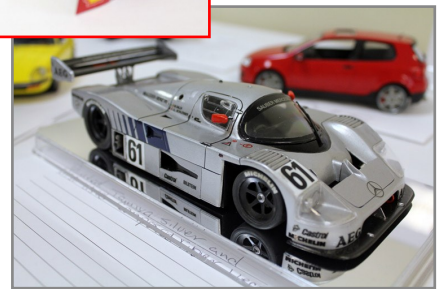
There is occasionally a separate category for Lowriders too. Like the name implies, these are cars lowered

so much they look like the door's sills are scraping the pavement.

Let's turn to competition vehicles. In most contests, cars which display large numbers are often split into two groups: Open Wheel and Closed Wheel. An open wheel car has no fenders surrounding the wheels such as a Formula 1 or Indy car. Closed wheel is anything with fenders like a NASCAR or Le Mans racer.



Some contests also have a separate category for straight line Dragsters like rails, funny cars, pro-modified, etc.



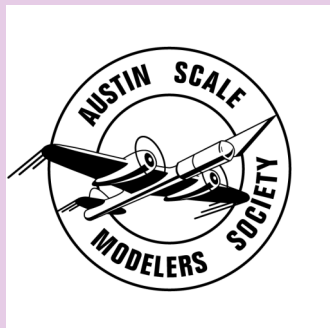
Next, there are what I like to call the "limited detail" categories. In the categories mentioned above, the modeler can do anything they want to their model and boy, do they! But this locks out too many people who just want to build a simple project but still wish to be competitive in the contest.

Box Stock is similar to other vehicles like planes and armor. The kit instructions are always required to be displayed. You should always check the contest flier for specifics because every club is different in what they do and don't allow.

There is no rule preventing it, but if you want people to ever talk to you again, don't enter an expensive super-detail multimedia kit in this category.



Curbside is a category for any model that does not have an engine or drivetrain. That's the technical definition but I often see cars with engines that simply have the hood closed to hide the drivetrain from judging. Slammer is a rare category that means no drivetrain and no interior. These models can be recognized by their black or silver painted glass area.



Monthly Program Schedule

December

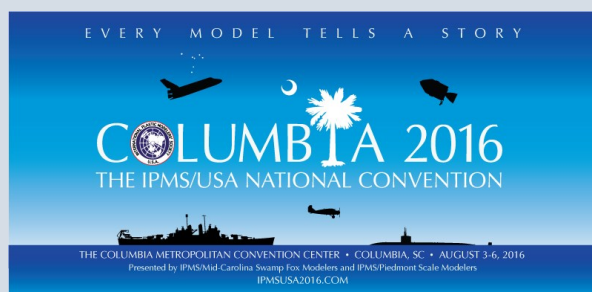
White Elephant
Contest

If you are interested in giving a presentation at one of our monthly club meetings please contact Aaron Smischney.

vicepresident@austinsms.org



A special thanks to King's Hobby Shop for their support of our quarterly model contests.



Columbia 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention

The 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention will be held in Columbia, South Carolina August 3-6, 2016.

More information is available at: <http://www.ipmsusa2016.com/>

Because trucks have been gaining in popularity, they are now often split into two or more categories. Pickups and delivery vans often go in Light Duty & Commercial while the big rigs are so different they go into Heavy Duty – Commercial or something similar. The names of the categories may differ among contests but the idea is to separate the Peterbilts from the four wheelers.



Lastly, there are Motorcycle, Auto-Diorama, and Miscellaneous – Technological. The first two are self-



explanatory and the last is a sort of catch-all for engines, parody cars, or perhaps a model of a go-kart or bicycle.

There are a lot of oddball category names in automotive, but the motivation behind the separation is the same as other types of models. Isolate the subjects into categories that closely resemble one another so they can be judged for workmanship among their peers. Where there is overlap it's usually up to the contestant where they want to place the model as long as it seems a reasonable choice.



Now that you are an expert on all things automotive, I hope you'll take a break from that stack of airplanes, ships, tanks, or whatever you normally work through and try a car model for a change of pace. I recently built a non-car and enjoyed the challenge.

Mike



[Photos courtesy of Ian Lathem]

Perception by Rick Cotton

This hobby is all about perception, or “how it looks to us.” How we see it.

We, as a modeling breed, are highly tuned to perception, especially visual perception. Often, a model can be beautifully detailed, outstandingly painted, but then when we look at it from the proverbial “three feet away”...it just doesn’t look *right*, somehow.

Our highly tuned sense of perception is kicking in. Just as the skilled carpenter just knows even without measuring that this shelf is too big for that space, our highly-trained three-dimensional sense can kick in, and we know that this particular model is...*off*...somewhere.

I recently finished a commission build for a customer. It happened to be a 1/700 Revell Bismarck, which the customer wanted built and neatly painted, and that was all. No weathering, no photoetch (at 1/700th, I wouldn’t have even attempted that!), no bells and whistles of any kind. Just stick it together, seam it, and paint it, so he could put it on the shelf next to his Missouri, his Yamato, and other 1/700 scale battleships.

He’s no modeler, nor is he knowledgeable about any of the fine techniques we use at our level of the hobby. Just glue and paint. I told him I’d be happy to do it, took the model, and off I went.

This Revell release isn’t bad, but it isn’t great, either. Detail is decent, but construction is a little flimsy here and there. Fit is not bad, and in a week, I had built, seamed, and painted the model in its full-hull configuration. She has her correct black and white camo stripes and dark red hull. The Kriegsmarine grey paint is clean and unweathered.

And somehow, to me...it just looks...*off*.

Why? What’s wrong? Masts and towers are aligned. Seams are dealt with. Guns are straight and true. The little seaplanes are even neatly decaled and lined up on the centerline catapult correctly. What’s going on here?

I turn the model and look at it from directly above. I did do a dark brown wash on the light tan deck, and it looks correct. It looks scale. It looks...**THAT’S IT!**

That’s what’s wrong! While I weathered the deck because it would have just looked plastic, toyish and monochromatic to my eyes, I did not weather anything

else according to the customer’s instructions. It looks from the side...like a MODEL. Not really wrong...but not really...real.

I see the model not as I want to see it, but as it was built per instructions, and my perception gives off red flags and warning bells like mad. It looks like a model, not like the real thing.

But, that’s exactly what he asked for. I am not going to do any other weathering, nor anything else he didn’t want, as much as it might SCREAM at me to be done. It isn’t MY model. I want to weather it, and stain it, and rust it...but that is not what was ordered.

I pack the model and its stand (decaled and painted, but kept loose per instructions), load up in the Toyota, and head off to meet him. He arrives on time and I hand the box to him, and with some trepidation, I keenly watch his expression to see just how the model hits him. I don’t have to wait long.

His eyes grow wide...with joy and wonder. He holds the little ship up, and smiles as he looks her over from pointy stem to brass-propped stern. He is very, very pleased. “Wow...this looks WAY better than I could ever do! This looks FANTASTIC!”

And it dawns on me. Like me, he is measuring the model from his own skill set, which in his case is next to nothing. He sees it as leaps and bounds past what he could have done, and it pleases him to no end to have his model finished cleanly and neatly.

He is completely satisfied, and tells me he has a Graf Spee and B-17 he will need done soon. I am gratified at his satisfaction with my work. We shake hands and part ways.

To him, it looks “right,” and it doesn’t really matter what my perception on this model is.

I know it is nothing special. I know it would probably never even place at a big show, and possibly not even at a smaller one, depending on the competition. It is, to me, a plain Jane build, and nothing special. That’s my perception.

But to him...it’s the honest-to-goodness Bismarck!

Bismarck as she looks in his mind, and in the movie he watches about sinking her, and in the books he has read about her. Bismarck as he could never finish her. He has his Bismarck, and he is well pleased. So be it. I have done my job as asked.

Perception. It's different to different people. And it might mean something that looks "wrong" to you... might look very "right" to someone else. This can explain some of the show results we see that make us scratch our heads. It's a VERY variable factor. I'll try to remember that.

Happy Modeling!

Rick



A Star Wars Christmas by Rick Herrington

Christmas is a great time of the year. As a modeler, it's a great time of the year to give and receive new kits in celebration of the holiday. This year is a little different as another edition of the Star Wars saga is premiering in December.

I found a way to blend my love of Christmas and Star Wars with Christmas ornaments.

I was in Target the other day taking care of some errands and on the way to the electronics section I passed the Christmas ornaments. A flash of gold caught my eye which turned out to be a C3PO tree ornament.



As I looked closer, I noticed there was also a Storm Trooper, Darth Vader and Kylo Ren. The figures were approximately 1/35th scale and fairly well-detailed.

Each had a ribbon attached to its head and could be hung carefully on your Christmas tree. I bought C3PO and later went back to get the others. Below are pictures of Hallmark's Storm Trooper and Kylo Ren. Both were \$7.99 each.



Once I got C3PO home I decided he could use some sprucing up so I pulled out the AK metallic and pin washes and went to work highlighting and shading.

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The picture shows the result.

I got to paint a great little Star Wars figure and hang it on the tree! Can't beat that. A great way to combine Christmas and Star Wars this year.

Rick



Newsletter articles are like rolls of toilet paper...you can't have too many!



Looking for newsletter articles of any size, shape, or subject.

All submissions to:
editor@austinsms.org



ASMS News

After countless hours of building, refurbishing, and cajoling others for help, Milton Bell reports that the Austin Scale Modeler's Society aircraft display at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is



back in its new home at ABIA. The display case is in the public area and as such you don't need a ticket to go have a look-see.

If you are asking yourself, "What display," let me enlighten you. ASMS has had a model display at the airport for

some time, but those kits were beginning to look a little long-in-the-tooth and the authorities wanted to move the entire display. Milton Bell graciously retrieved the models, spiffed them up, and they are now available for the traveling public's viewing pleasure.



The models represent the various types flown by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Reserve when Austin-Bergstrom International Airport was a military installation. So, the next time you find yourself out at ABIA, stop by and take a gander at this great display.



[Photos courtesy of Milton Bell]

¿Qué Pasa Con Eso by Cesar Herdez

There is a new armor model manufacturer on the scene: Hong Models. Their initial release is a 1/35th scale Soviet ZSU-23 anti-aircraft tank. From the available test shots, it looks to be a very nice kit.



Meng Models is soon to release their own 1/35th scale kit of the Soviet ZSU-23 anti-aircraft tank. Who would have thought that we would need two kits of the same vehicle?



There is also the curious case of dueling Soviet Smerchs from the aforementioned Meng Models and Trumpeter.

This recent trend is not limited to armor kits. The aircraft guys are beginning to mix it up a bit, as well.



Randy Bumgardner reports that, "When Tamiya released their 1/32 Mosquito Mk. VI, Hong Kong Models released their Mk. IV at the same time. Airfix just released their Shackleton, and

Revell is not far behind with their 1/72nd scale version. I've got no idea why it's happening. Perhaps the manufacturers are confident they can go head-to-head with

each other and don't care about stepping on each others' toes".



The why and wherefore are unknown. It could just be that great minds really do think alike. There has been some speculation on the interweb (so it must be true) that all the design work is being done by one individual and that they just sell the plans to anyone with a checkbook.

There aren't any wild conspiracy theories as to why all this is happening, so I'll start one. The proliferation of new model companies, mostly out of Hong Kong, is a ruse by some big Eastern syndicate to control our modeling dollars and then use those proceeds for some, as yet unknown, diabolical plan to enslave the modeling public for some, as yet unknown, purpose.

And that's what's up with that!

Cesar



Procrastinators Quarterly Contest

It has been suggested that we apply a theme to one of our upcoming, open 2016 quarterly model contests.

And it goes a little something like this: You write down **three to five** model kits already in your stash that you *really* do want to build but as yet have not. Bring that list to the January meeting and the club membership will vote for their favorite, which you then go home and build. At just the right moment, you bring the completed model back along with the original list for an ASMS quarterly contest.

The club gets to help with the selection of a kit you want to build anyway, you get added incentive to build one of your kits, and there is more participation in our quarterly contests.

What's not to like?

Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

As is Austin Scale Modeler's Society's wont, another Model O' The Month contest was held at the November club meeting. The number of models being offered for Model O' The Month honors has steadily increased over the intervening months that this award has been offered. This event provided the assembled multitude with the difficult task of choosing just one model as the November Model O' The Month.

It should be noted that at the December meeting, another model will join an august group of previous winners that have reassembled for consideration as the Model O' The Year. For those members of ASMS who have previously merited the Model O' The Month honors, it is imperative that you return with said model to be considered for the most prestigious of all awards: Model O' The Year.



Roy



Ian Candler continues to amaze with a Hasegawa Maschinen Krieger inspired work. He also brought along a couple of 1/35th scale Alpine figures as well as an Italeri Crusader Mk II. Ian noted that the bases for his creations are corkboard from a local hobby mart. Or maybe that it looked like something your grandmother might have had in her home.

See? This is the kind of misinformation that I am forced to make up when you don't get back in touch with the newsletter staff.





Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner continues his one-man mission to repopulate the Gundam universe with yet another Zaku II. Ziggy noted that this kit took way more time to build than he would have liked. However, I am getting concerned with Ziggy. He has begun to mutter to himself, very much like his father. If you have been to a Build-N-Bull session at King's, you know of that which I speak.



Mike Lamm brought in a couple of 1/72nd scale Spitfires. One from Esci and the other by MP3.

Mike continues to astound us all with his workmanship of what can best be described as challenging and ill-fitting kits.



Not to cast dispersions, but *someone* forgot to write down any particulars about this model. So, just enjoy the view.



One might be excused for thinking that Mike Gilsbach is retired what with the recent proliferation of completed models from his workbench. Either that or he has been hanging out with Rick Herrington who *is* recently retired. Nevertheless, Mike brought in this lovely Tamiya Challenger for us to marvel over. There are some additional photos of this Challenger on ASMS's website in the gallery section.





Real retiree Rick Herrington has been cranking out some nice models to fill that void in his schedule. This 1/72nd scale Beaufighter by Airfix being one such example. There are additional photos of this model in the gallery section of our website.

If you would like to add photos of your completed models to that gallery section, contact the editor for details about how to go about doing just that.



Mike Poole rounds out the selections for November with his Model O' The Month winning 1/48th scale Siemens Schuckert D III from Eduard. Mike fabricated the propeller by laminating bits of wood for a more accurate representation. Really! Who does that?



The Model O' The Year will be chosen at ASMS's December meeting from the past month's winners. You need not be present to win but your winning entry must be. Make arrangements to either have yourself or an appointed representative bring your past Model O' The Month winning entry to our next meeting. The Model O' The Year award will be selected from these entries. A complete list of qualifying models is available. Contact the editor.

Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington, Mike Poole,
Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

All but a few of the forthcoming releases are Japanese craft. I guess that's okay, since they do most of the buying of ship kits. Although, it would still be nice to see a German WWII light cruiser model in 1/700th or 1/350th other than resin, or a nice pocket battle ship like the Admiral Scheer in the same scales. British ships are highly under-represented, as well. We can only hope.

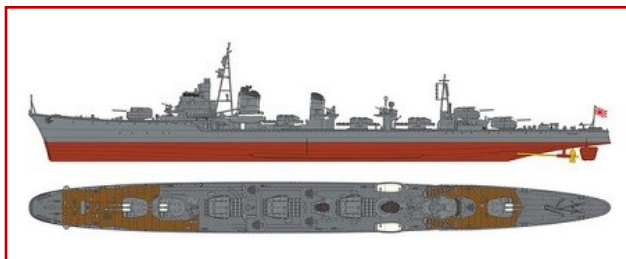
Beginning with the more diminutive scale of 1/700th Aoshima is launching the IJN Heavy Cruiser Haguro. Aoshima is also adding some kits to the Combined Fleet Girls Collection. Kanmusu or Kantai is a free web



browser game available only in Japan. One way to think of this is sort of like World of Tanks meets Panzer und Girls. You collect Fleet Girls cards and build up your fleet and then off you go to do battle. To aid you in that endeavor, Aoshima has the Kanmusu 28, a Japanese Fleet Oiler and the Kanmusu 27, the landing ship Akitsu Maru.

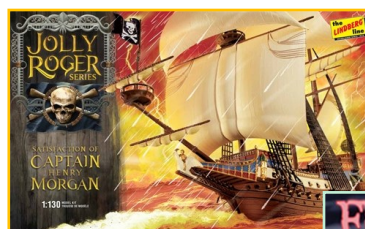
For something a bit different, Aoshima has the USS Wasp CV-7 Carrier (Malta Transport Strategy). The USS Wasp was assigned to the British Home Fleet and ferried Spitfires to Malta in the Mediterranean.

Pit Road is releasing the IJN DD Shimakaze and the IJN Munition Ship Kashino (1942). Also from Pit Road, we will have a USS Tennessee battleship and the HMS Queen Elizabeth British Battleship.



Both of these releases are the 1941 configurations.

There are two new releases in the 1/350th scale range. Both are from Hasegawa and include the IJN DD Shimikaze, Final Version. The Shimikaze was a super destroyer with six 127mm (5.0) guns and fifteen torpedo tubes and was the fastest destroyer built during WW II. Hasegawa is also releasing the IJN Submarine Kaidai Vi b 175.



The Lindberg line is re-emerging with the release of a series of sail-powered ships in 1/130 scale: the Flying Dutchman ghost pirate

ship and the Satisfaction of Captain Henry Morgan. Of course, the ghost ship glows in the dark



I saved this for last....For those of you who don't want to wait to complete your IJN Battleship collection, Fujimi has come out with a collection of 12 battleships that you can order as one set. The scale was not mentioned but I assume they are 1/700th scale, as the kits round out at just over \$30 a piece. This would be the perfect Christmas gift for that IJN Navy enthusiast on your gift list.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas and if you get a kit as a present, build it.



Rick

Aircraft

Well, the holidays are upon us and it's time to reveal what some model manufacturers have in store for us. It's a short list this month, and there are some interesting items on that list. Let's get rolling.

Anybody who is interested in WW I, particularly the aircraft of that dust-up, knows that this time of year is anticipated with bated breath.

Wingnut Wings always announces their Christmas releases and this year, we've got a pair of interesting choices. First up is a 1/32 DH.9a "Ninak" (Post War).



This is a follow-on to their previous First World War era DH.9a which was re-released in December 2010. This release contains markings for a plethora of not-usually-seen aircraft, including 3 RAF squadrons, an RAAF squadron, and the Polikarpov R-1 "AMYPA."

The Polikarpov R-1 was the Soviet licensed-built version of the DH.9a produce post-war. So, there are 42 new parts in this kit, and 88 updated armament parts.

Wingnut Wings' second announcement is for a 1/32 Albatros B.II (Early). This aircraft is unique in the fact that production continued throughout the war and after the Armistice. Markings for five aircraft are provided, and options for either the Daimler-Mercedes D.I 100hp or the Daimler-Mercedes D.II. 120hp engines are also provided.



Eduard is releasing a new 1/48 Hawker Tempest in cooperation with MPM. I believe each company will be releasing different versions with a Mk.II, Mk.V, and Mk.VII in the mix.

This is what I've heard through the grapevine. Eduard will design the main parts and tool the molds, while details for the detail parts are supplied by Special Hobby (MPM) based on their 1/32nd scale kit. Eduard will release the Mk.V first and the Mk.II will be included in a special Royal Class package with a Week-end Edition



down the road. Special Hobby will re-box this stuff as well. Stay tuned for more details.

Iconicair will be releasing a couple of new 1/32nd scale kits. Both kits are listed on their website as available during November 2015. And, as that month has come and gone, I don't think either kit is out yet. Anyway, soon to be released are the 1/32 Supermarine Spiteful and the 1/32 Supermarine Attacker. So, if you're into early Cold War British aircraft, then these have your name all over them. As with their Spiteful F.14 release in 2014, these kits will be resin and white metal.



The last two kits on this month's journey are from Merit International. As with the Wingnut Wings kits, these are aircraft of the First World War, and they are an even bigger scale at 1/24th.

Although, even in 1/24th scale, planes from this era really aren't that big.

Merit has released a 1/24 Fokker Dr.I and a 1/24 Royal Aircraft Factory S.E.5A, two iconic aircraft from WW I, if ever there were.



That's it for this month, and this year. Have a safe rest of the year.

Go build something!

Randy



Automotive

Welcome racing fans and all purveyors of fine automotive technology!

This close to the holidays, there isn't much left that hasn't already been announced but there are a few items to share.

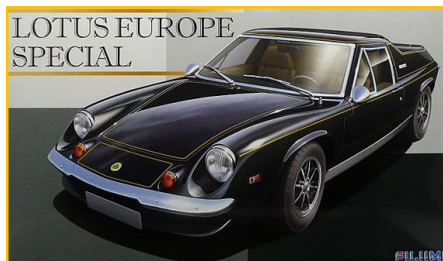
The 1/12 Shelby Cobra is brand new this month! What happens when you combine the nimble lightweight chassis of an AC Ace with the stump-pulling torque of an American big-block V8? Answer: a scary white-knuckle experience that only Carol Shelby could come up with, and few could drive without uncontrolled urination.



Fortunately for model car builders, MFH has a new big scale multimedia kit out this month that can give you all the good looks without the scary "kill me car" reputation to deal with.

I have to give a shout out to Model Factory Hiro in this last issue of the year. I don't know how the guys manage to maintain their pace. They release a major new full-detail model every single month. They don't have any steel tools to cut but there are hundreds of parts to design and 3D print. The parts have to be cleaned and check-fit, molds made, decals printed, instructions written, packaging, and so on. And it all has to be completed in only 30 days.

Fujimi has a 1/24 Lotus Europa Special out soon. It will include gold pinstripe decals to replicate the black John Player Special livery. I'm still not sure if this is an all-new tool or a re-box of the excellent Tamiya kit that was released a few years ago. Time will tell.



The new Moebius Plymouth satellite in 1/25th is out now. The kit has sharp exterior details, detailed interior, opening hood, full detailed 426 V-8 engine and detailed drivetrain with suspension.

This is a brand new tool with modern design features that put the injection gates in places that won't scar chrome and clear parts. As usual, the Moebius instructions are in full color and really are a joy to read.



Here is a link to an amateur review, if you are interested:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbwLHbpMrFM>

MPC continues re-popping their '70s era kits. Last month I mentioned the Honda 750 Four. This month they have reissued the Honda Trail 70. It's a nice little bike kit that goes together without much fuss. About



half the parts are aluminum plated and the tires are rubber but, strangely, molded in halves. Grab the kit if you want one or wait another 40 years for the next reissue.

Fujimi is kitting a 1/12 Honda Monkey Police Special soon. The economy is tough in Japan right now and some municipalities are starting to rethink their traffic enforcement fleets.

Honda worked with a local supplier to develop the Monkey Police special for Kyoto and other departments are now adopting it as well.



The bikes feature uprated performance engines with high speed tires, emergency lights, siren, and a

complete short wave radio installation. Here is the first production unit being officially delivered to the Kyoto Metropolitan Police:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKmgzZqMYdE>

Like Mick Jagger says: "I'm a monkey and you're a monkey toooo."

That's about all that's going on this month in automotive. Have a great holiday and I'll see you right back here for another look next month.



Mike

Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello all you armor curious!

Another year has gone by, CRAZY! My New Year's resolution was to build a model a month. Maybe it should have been *finish* a model a month. Needless to say it was not to be; but that doesn't mean I didn't have fun.

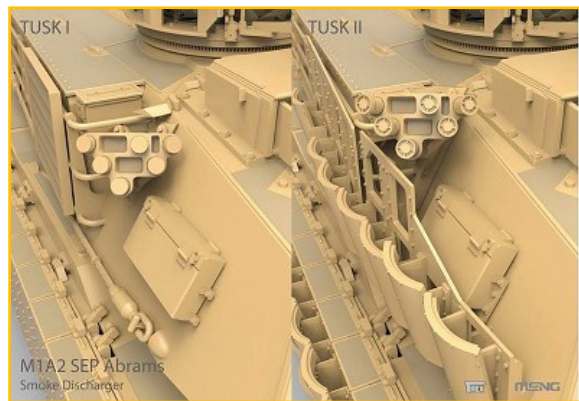
I model to relax and take my mind off of my busy day as well as have an excuse to hang out with some of the best people around, my fellow modelers. So in that respect, I don't feel bad about falling short of my resolution (does any one ever keep those things anyway?) Enough with the sappy bits, on to the armored bits!

Meng Models has rocked the modeling world with an astonishing announcement! Well, that's a bit of hyperbole. Actually a lot of hyperbole but that doesn't change the fact that this is really cool Meng has an-

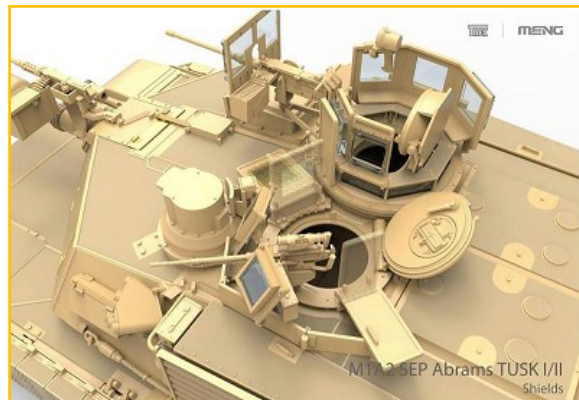


ounced it is working on an M1A2 SEP Abrams TUSK 1/TUSK 2 that is being made with some superb detail.

Not only that but they are keeping us all informed with up to date CAD images. The designer himself is talking about the work that he is doing, even explaining why some things need to be compromised because of mold limitations and the options he is giving modelers to work around these limitations.



Just take a look at the detail and care being put into this beast! Also note that they are adding the non-slip coating common to this type. One of the shortcomings of their Merkava kits was that the non-slip coating were absent. They are listening!



Let's check in with Dragon Models. They have announced an interesting beastie: the T54E1.

This was a concept/test tank with which the U.S. was experimenting with an oscillating turret, like those found on the French AMX-10.

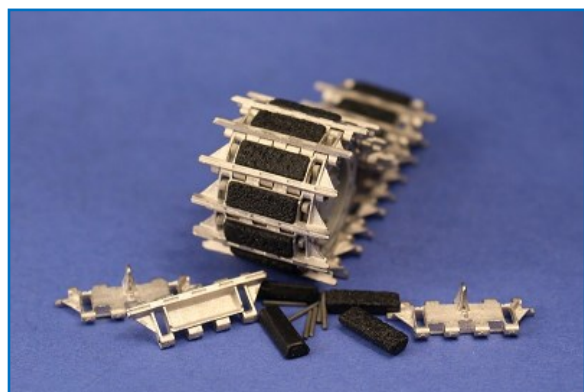
This looks cool, but it is in their Black Label kit series. This series has not been met with enthusiasm from the modeler community. (incorrect details, simplified assembly, etc.).

However, if you want to model one of these things in plastic, this is the only game in town.



Let's take a gander at some replacement tracks for the Chieftain. It is probably safe to assume that these replacement tracks are aimed squarely at the new Takom kits.

These are from Master Club and they are very novel, separate rubber pads! You can weather the metal parts and then just attach the rubber pads. No need for careful painting! This is a great idea.



In my opinion, Master Club is the best aftermarket track maker around. They use scale track pins and the detail on the track links are correct on both sides. Unlike some other manufacturers which usually have the correct track detail on one side of each track link. Fruilmodel comes to mind.

No prices yet, but expect them to be around \$35 to \$45 a set, which is hard to swallow since you can pick the whole kit up for that price. Then again, with these sets, you can save yourself the trouble of painting the track pads.

Those are the big highlights. It's a bit slow this month after the pile of announcements last month.

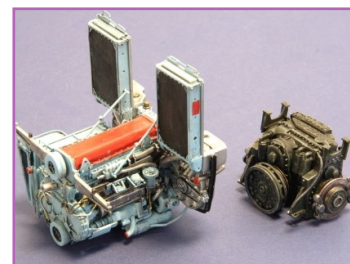
See you next year!

Aaron



Miscellaneous

To go along with that recently acquired Chieftain kit, Accurate Armor has a 135th scale Chieftain L60 engine and gearbox set. This set is only £35.



From their Castle Craft Collection, Bandai has a plastic mod-kit of the castle from *Frozen*. This would be perfect for your coffee table, or even as a night light.

AFV Club has introduced a series of 1/4th scale weapons. These are resin kits and include the M1 Garrand and the ROC T 65.



Krick is re-introducing those Model Airways kits from back in the day. These 1/16th scale kits are multi-media and some "parts do require finalization before they can be incorporated into the model."

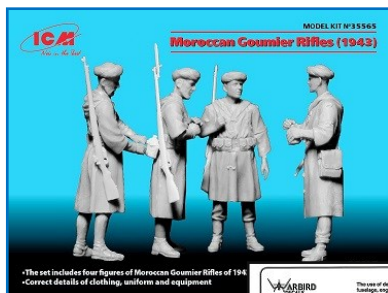
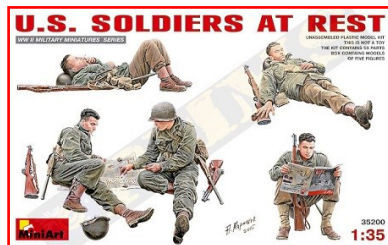
Matuo Kasten has a new resin kit coming your way.



This time, it's the Predator C Avenger.

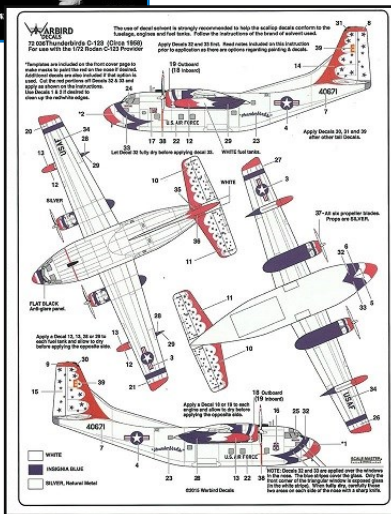


There are some interesting 1/35th scale figure sets available soon. From Mini Art is a set of U.S. soldiers at rest, a Tram crew with passengers and a set of just plain ol' passengers.



ICM is releasing a set of Moroccan Goumier Rifles (1943) and a set of U.S. Army infantry (1917).

I am always on the look out for alternative markings for existing kits and I've found a beauty. Warbird Decals has markings for the Thunderbirds support aircraft that will go perfectly with your 1/72nd scale Fairchild C-123B Provider.



PlusModel of the Czech Republic has a vacuum cast resin kit of the Pavesi P4-100, model 30A gun tractor. This resin kit has 221 parts and includes some photo-etch and decals. It also looks cool!



For something a bit different, Unicraft has the Ushakov LPL flying submarine. This was a concept vehicle that the Russian's tried to develop. Turns out, it leaked. Well, you don't know unless you try. This resin kit is in 1/72nd scale.

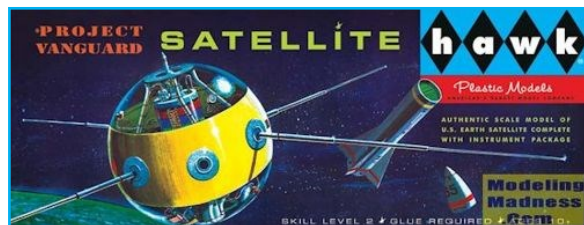


For your amusement, there is a short video demonstration with the flying sub in action.

<http://www.military.com/video/aircraft/military-aircraft/russias-flying-submarine/763661806001>

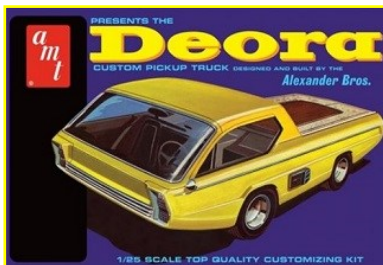


Airscale UK has been doing aftermarket stuff for awhile and is adding to their line. This time with a set of cockpit instrumentation and multi-function displays suitable for either U.S. or European modern aircraft. These sets will be available in both 1/32nd and 1/48th scales.



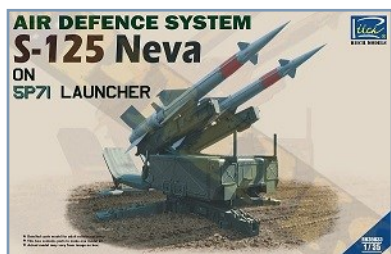
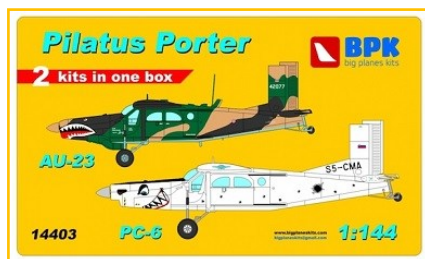
The Hawk kits of yesteryear are coming back. This time it's the 1958 Vanguard I satellite. This 1/5th scale kit has clear bits that allow you to view the internal components of the satellite.

Speaking of re-introductions, AMT is re-issuing the Dodge Deora. This is in 1/25th scale and is an injected molded kit.



Classy Hobby is releasing a 1/16th scale Panzer II Ausf L 'Luchs'. To go along with this release is a WWII German jerry can/fuel drum set.

Big Plane Kits has two 1/144th scale aircraft kits headed your way. Let that sink in for a moment. They are issuing a Pilatus Porter PC-6/ AV-23. There are going to be two separate boxings with two complete kits in each box. These injected molded kits will include extra markings.



Our pals at Rich are releasing an injected molded kit of the S-125 Neva air-defense system. This is an injected molded kit in 1/35th scale.

Go build the your model.

Golzar



ASMS presents... Storytime

He was from Texas and he needed a loan. So, our stranger walked into a bank in New York City and asked for the loan officer.

He told the loan officer that he was going to Paris for an International festival for two weeks and needed to borrow \$5,000 and that he was not a depositor of the bank.

The bank officer told him that the bank would need some form of security for the loan, so he handed over the keys to a new Ferrari. The car was parked on the street in front of the bank.

Our hero produced the title and everything checked out. The loan officer agreed to hold the car as collateral for the loan and apologized for having to charge 12% interest.

Later, the bank's president and its officers all enjoyed a good laugh at the Texan's expense for using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral on a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drove the Ferrari into the bank's private underground garage and parked it.

Two weeks later, the Texan returned, repaid the \$5,000 and the interest of \$23.07. The loan officer said, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled.

While you were away, we checked you out on Dunn & Bradstreet and found that you are a distinguished alumni from Texas A & M, a highly sophisticated investor and multi-millionaire with real estate and financial interests all over the world. Your investments include a large number of wind turbines around Sweetwater, Texas. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The Texan replied, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$23.07 and expect it to be there when I return?"

[Courtesy of Tim Robb]



Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews.

Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms_application.pdf

Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA
Dept. H
PO Box 2475
N. Canton, OH 44720-0475

In the latest Issue:

IPMS/USA Journal September + October



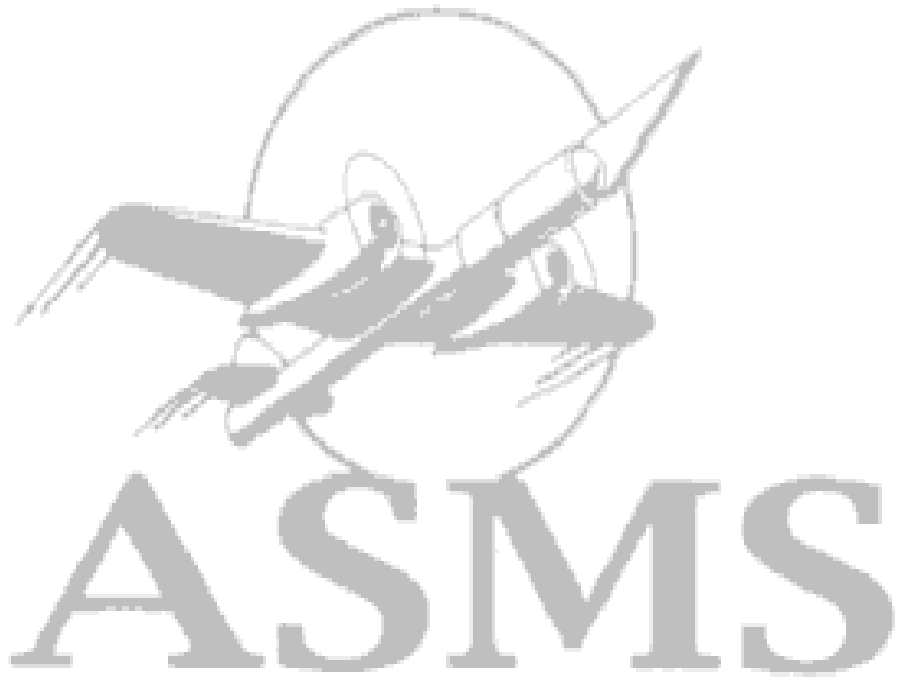
- Build For Victory - A Couple of Good Sports at the 2015 Nationals, by Dick and Bill Engar
- Juniors - Category Zero
- Tom Kolk Best Junior Model - Fire Truck, Vova Dorgachov
- Aircraft - Category One
- Military - Category Two
- Figures - Category Three
- Ships - Category Four
- Automotive - Category Five
- Real Space and Sci-Fi - Category Six
- Dioramas - Category Seven
- Miscellaneous - Category Eight
- Special Awards - Category Nine & Ten
- Popular Best of Show - "HMS Bounty-Mutiny in Progress," by Oren Long
- George Lee Judges' Grand Award - Republic P-47D Thunderbolt, by Marc Schachter

contact us

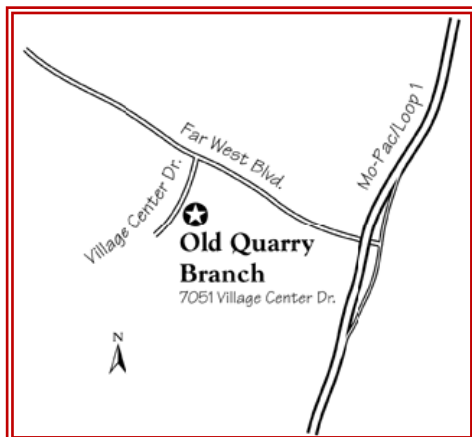
**Austin Scale
Modelers Society
1228 W. San Antonio St.
San Marcos, Texas
78666**

on the web

www.austinsms.org



**Next Meeting:
December 17
Austin Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas
7PM to 8:45PM**



ModelFiesta 35
The International Contest of Texas
February 20, 2016

<http://alamosquadron.com/ModelFiesta35/MF%2035%20FLYER%20rev%202011-28-15.pdf>