



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of The Austin Scale Modelers Society

January 2015
www.austlnsms.org

Water Effects For Modeling by Bob Bethea

All models and figures deserve a scenic base. It acts as a handle for folks picking up your project. It also sets time and place for the subject matter.

They won't have to ask if it's an Afrika Korps tank if it's in a desert setting with a sign to Benghazi on the base. However, the work on the base must equal the skill you put into your model or figure and it must be appropriate for the subject.

You've done some studying of the subject to get the markings, paint scheme or uniform right, so you know the setting. Go back to those photos of the real thing and use aspects from them as inspiration for your scenic base.

(continued on page four)



Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's 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 author. It is intended for educational purposes *only*. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

In This Issue

<i>Water Effects For Modeling</i>	1
<i>Message From The Prez</i>	3
<i>Web At Night: Rewind</i>	7
<i>Website Update</i>	7
<i>Reference Madness</i>	8
<i>Mark IX Updates: A Review</i>	10
<i>New To Me</i>	11
<i>Storage Space</i>	12
<i>Showing Up</i>	13
<i>Fiddly Bits</i>	14
<i>Old Rumors /</i>	14
<i>New Kits 2G</i>	

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www.centx.org

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Phil Brandt
(in memorium) | Jack Johnston |
| | Mike Krizan |
| Eric Choy | Mike Poole |
| Angie Forster | Aaron Smischney |
| Jeff Forster | |
| Russ Holm | Rick Herrington |
| Rick Willaman | |

Upcoming Events

Model Shows

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ModelFiesta 34, San Antonio, Texas | 2.21.15 |
| http://alamosquadron.com/ | |
| Lone Star Figure Show, Fort Worth , Texas | 3.12-14.15 |
| http://lonestarfigureshow.com/ | |
| RiverCon IV, Shreveport, Louisiana | 3.14.15 |
| http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/ | |
| MCMA Showdown 2015, Farmers Branch, Texas | 3.14.15 |
| http://www.themcma.net/ | |
| TigerFest XXI, Kenner, Louisiana | 3.28.15 |
| http://ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger#!_site/events | |

Local Club Meetings

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading , King's Hobby, Austin, TX | 1.10.15 |
| Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas | 2. 4.15 |
| http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com | |
| Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas | 2. 5.15 |
| Centex Modeler's, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, TX | 1.15.15 |
| http://www.centx.org | |
| Lone Star Figure Modeler's, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, TX | 1.10.15 |

Other Events

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Build N Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas | 1.17.15 |
|--|---------|

IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities.

The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country.

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is: www.models4troops@gmail.com

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

ASMS Officers & Chairperson

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- Milton Bell, IPMS/USA Coordinator**
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Message from the Prez...

Mike Poole

Last month was our annual "Pitch and Moan" meeting. The task was to review the entire year in an open discussion, remind ourselves where we can improve, and make a "pitch" for a new way. We focused in on one area in particular. It was felt that our authors and presenters are the same small group month after month and we should have more participation from all our members.

Starting in 2015 we'll be randomly drawing names from the member list for monthly newsletter articles and meeting presentations so don't be surprised if you get chosen for something. The system has been in successful use for some time by our sister organization, Austin Armor Builder's Society, and we'd like to give it a try too. The idea here is to gently nudge folks out of their shell a bit and increase the depth of our playlist.

Election season is upon us and that means this will be my last column here. I was going to list the things our crew has accomplished in the last two years but it boils down to just a couple of important ones that I'm particularly proud of. We've grown our fun, enthusiastic membership while keeping the ASMS nest egg secure. The office of prez, veep, and sec are all opening up in January so start practicing your handshakes and baby kissing.

Why am I stepping down? Frankly I enjoy the job and have learned and grown a lot doing it. But I also see a need to have periodic openings and opportunities for those dedicated members interested in these roles. It's also part of our club culture to have turnover. It benefits the club in having a depth of experience in the membership and helps the individual in developing new skills by taking on a new roll of responsibility. I've always said if you can motivate volunteers to work together doing it at work where people actually get paid will seem simple in comparison.

What's it like to be an officer? Our organization is like a restored Buick Roadmaster that can take us anywhere we wish to go in comfort and style. It practically steers itself and has no bad habits. Every now and then a leak will start or a tappet will need adjustment but the work is straightforward *and her chassis is spotlessly clean. The last crew handed us the keys with it washed, waxed and full of gas.* Through careful operation and good maintenance it's still just as pristine as when we got it. All it needs now is a new driver and pit crew.

Build something!

Mike



Brought to you by: Lone Star Military Miniatures Society

2015 Lone Star Figure Show

March 12-14, 2015
DFW Airport Marriott South
Fort Worth, Texas

www.lonestarfigureshow.com

Everyone can glue sand or dirt to the base and that should be enough, but to make the base work jump, or as Chris Mrosko says “to give it the WOW factor” you can add something more.

It can be as simple as static grass and/or rocks. Twigs make great logs for forest scenes. Lots of aftermarket companies make synthetic snow for Battle of the Bulge scenes.

Today we will look at replicating water effects on your base. It is more of a study than one would think. There are water puddles, smooth water, running water, waves, splashes, waterfalls, etc. Each has its own peculiarities.

Water puddles can be clear. However, if they are muddy, as those during WWI, they are usually cloudy and LIGHTER colored than the surrounding mud. Dips can be made in the ground on the base and after painting, the puddles can be poured to add atmosphere.

For large ones I use small pieces of clear acrylic sheet with the edges covered in the dirt. It makes a smooth surface that can be painted to look like water. Just remember to make it parallel to the bottom of the base so that it doesn't defy gravity.

Smaller puddles can be indentations with the lighter color painted in the bottom and a generous drop of Woodlands Scenics “realistic water” dripped into the bottom.

For VERY small puddles, you can even use a buildup of superglue. TRY TO AVOID WHITE GLUE, it yellows over time.

Smooth water can be handled like the large puddles with the acrylic sheet, or glass sheet method mentioned above, if it's VERY smooth. You can paint in some small concentric circles in flat white acrylic paint to simulate mosquitos landing on it or other splashes.

You can also mix and pour in multiple layers of two-part clear epoxy resin that has been tinted blue and green. One brand is Magic Water, and it's available at craft stores such as Michael's or Hobby Lobby.

It makes great translucent water and you can even embed fish in it at various levels. It is self-leveling. It's downsides are that it's heavy, stinks like crazy, is toxic, pulls away from the sides of the base, melts any paint but acrylics on the model involved, and is very HOT while curing.

It can melt plastic if you use too much hardener and it sets up too quickly. I've used it before, but now only use it for specific projects. For cloudy smooth water, you can use an acrylic or polystyrene sheet, with edges camouflaged, and painted to look like water. Then, any gloss varnish or Future floor Wax can be applied and will look like water.

Splashes are more complex. In the past I used scrap leftovers from old pours of Acrylic Resin to support the splashes. They are clear and strong enough to support other weaker products. Splashes occur when some action causes water to displace upwards, such as an item thrown into a pool, or just strong movement within the water. I use the clear scrap from Resin, cuttings from clear acrylic sheet and clear sprue pieces from aircraft canopies.

They present an option for strength and will disappear when covered with other water effects. On the “Revenge” vignette. The Ogre is falling over and displacing a lot of water. I cut three triangles of clear acrylic sheet and glued them to the base. Then Liquitex Acrylic Gloss Medium, available at craft stores such as Michael's or Hobby Lobby, was added in multiple layers to make the large splashes.

It is great stuff and comes out of the jar like Vaseline, and holds it's shape better than other options. It remains clear and shiny. They also make MATTE Acrylic Medium, so don't mix them up.



Running water is a little different. Streams and creeks move along and everywhere they encounter a rock, bank or other object they make small ripples and splashes. I use this a lot, as my bases are small, and a creek adds character and is small enough to be handled easily and effectively in the space available.

The base needs to be completely prepared and painted before adding the water effects. Paint the bed of the creek in a blend of dark blue and green, with some sections of pure dark blue, and some of pure green.

Nature is arbitrary and a single color does not look realistic. Remember, the deepest water is the darkest. I apply Liquitex Acrylic Gloss Medium over the painted creek bed in several levels. Remember to build it up around rocks and other areas where the water runs into objects. It can even splash up on rocks.

When you're satisfied, let it dry overnight and the next day add FLAT WHITE only to the highest points to simulate the foamy bubbles. Gloss white doesn't work for some reason.



On the Marcomanni figure, I accidentally added too much white and hated the result. I added future floor wax to gloss it up and it matted it for some reason. To add to my troubles, I thought that I'd add superglue over the future and the result was a strange fracturing...bad day turned worse.

The next day, I tried one last "fix" by adding Liquitex Acrylic Gloss Medium over the offending creek and it turned out even better than I expected!

Gone were the matte finish, the crazing and the abundance of white. Now the lower level of white adds dimension to the water, which is nice and shiny with just the right amount of white foam. The blind hog found the acorn.

Waves can be a very troublesome effect to reproduce. Attached is a photo of my LVT A-1 casualty vignette in 1/72 scale where the broken track leads back to the ocean. I did that because my daughter's cat ate part of my track!

The idea of using the remains to lead to the ocean was another acorn for this ole hog. The water is a merely painted and varnished base with Liquitex Acrylic Gloss Medium for the tiny waves. Later I topped the waves and the edge of the tide with flat white foam. Look at photos when you get stuck.



Larger scale waves can be done the same but you may need structural supports. The hardcore folks can sculpt waves in clay and make a mold from which they can cast clear waves in two-part epoxy resin.

The result is really cool, but the procedure is expensive and time consuming. Most waves are not transparent anyway, so you could sculpt them in two-part epoxy putty, or sculptamold, and just paint and varnish the result.

There are other water effects such as ice in streams and icicles, but that can wait until another time.

Bob

[Photos courtesy of Eric Choy]



Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Presenter/Subject
January	Bob Bethea/ Penn. Military Museum

The remainder of the monthly presentations for 2015 are to be determined by lottery at the January 15 meeting.

Each lottery winner will be given the opportunity to select the month in which that individual wishes to make their presentation during our monthly meeting.

As all ASMS members will be included in the lottery you are encouraged to attend the January meeting.

This is also the monthly meeting where ASMS will elect a new President, Vice-President, and Secretary for the coming two years.

Quarterly Contest Schedule

ASMS holds four quarterly model contest throughout the year. There is prize money for first, second and third place at each contest. Prize money is provided by King's Hobby Shop and ASMS. Thanks and appreciation to King's for their continuing support of ASMS. The dates and themes for 2015 are:

Month	Subject
March 17	Open any subject/ any era
June 18	Open any subject/ any era
September 17	Bondo Special/ Open
December 17	White Elephant

[This contest features any kit from the estate of Phil 'Bondo' Brandt or any subject/ any era. The Bondo Special winner will receive a commemorative plaque whilst the open contest will feature first, second, and third prizes.]

[Any model received at the annual ASMS Christmas gift exchange.]

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

Our first entry comes to us via Dan Hickox. This is a nice story and video of the only flying F-86 Sabre on the planet. Dan notes that the markings on the Sabre are for the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing. The 4th FIW never flew the F-86 but as that wing was the highest air-to-air scoring wing in United States history some latitude may be in order.

<https://www.eaa.org/en/aaa/aaa-news-and-aviation-news/aaa/2014-12-11-worlds-oldest-airworthy-jet-returns-to-us>

The next item is from a program that features the largest such and so. In this instance, it's the largest submarine in the world. That is, before the advent of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine and some Soviet models.

The 51:41 program features the Imperial Japanese submarine Sen Toku I-400 class. These giant submarines carried three Aichi aircraft in an on-board hanger and it was the world's first global weapons system. There is a lot of archival footage and interviews with WWII service personnel from both Japan and the United States.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBx2Bu-jnOs>

Our next web foray comes by way of Aeromobil. Which is not to be confused with Aeromobile, the U.K. telecom guys. Aeromobil is promoting and soon to be marketing a flying car. This is a marketing video, so bear that in mind. Oh, be sure and clear out some space in your garage.

www.aeromobil.com

Friend of the newsletter and frequent contributor Floyd Werner Jr. has an enterprise of his own, Werner Wings. Werner Wings in conjunction with Storm Miniatures has developed a resin conversion set for a MH-47E. This resin kit is in 1/35th scale and is designed for the Trumpeter kit. Included is a link to Floyd's blog that showcases the steps for utilizing this extensive conversion set.

Should you desire one of your very own, please contact Floyd just as soon as possible because the production run is somewhat small with just a few extra kits available.

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

Jean-Michel



Website Update by Mike Gilsbach

Have you visited the ASMS web site recently? You can find it at <http://www.austinsms.org> and we have lots of content for your reading and viewing pleasure:

- 37 online articles/tutorials/kit reviews.
- Over 160 ASMS newsletters from 2001 – 2014.
- 11 years of ASMS contest winners and photos.
- Over 7,000 photos from ASMS modelers.

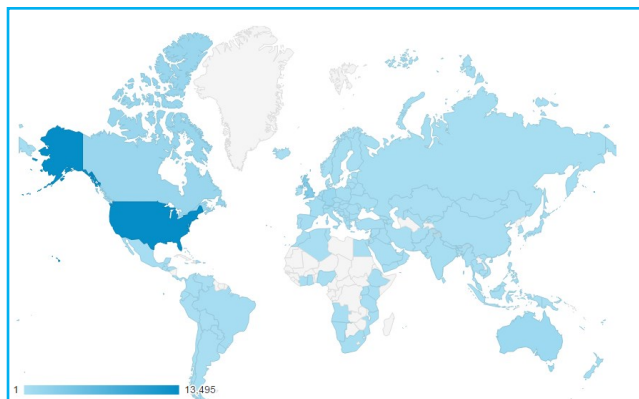
A built in search page that uses the Google Search API to help you find what you are most interested in.

Also, be sure to check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/73766449568/> where we have 122 members (and growing) from all over the world posting all sorts of articles, tips, contest photos and other modeling randomness.

Some Statistics for 2014.

As of December 20, the ASMS website had over 27,000 visitors from 143 different countries in 2014.

The top five countries were the United States, the UK, Canada, Germany and Australia. The shaded countries in the map below are ones we have had visitors from which we had visits.



The bulk of the US visits were from Texas, followed by California and New York but we had visitors from all 50 states.

The top keyword phrases visitors were looking for were "Austin scale modelers society", "ipms austin" and "how to rig a 1/48 biplane". A sizeable amount of traffic came from <http://www.ipmsusa.org> and various localized versions of Google.

The five most trafficked pages on our site in 2014 were:

- Rick Herrington's excellent ship building tutorial.
- Our home page.
- John Seaman's insanely popular article on rigging biplanes. (This article has been one of the most trafficked pages on our site since 2010. About a year ago someone even asked me for permission to translate it into Italian.)
- The Contest page.
- The Links page.

As always, if you have any suggestions for ways to improve the site, please let me know.

I am always looking for tips to add to the 'Tips' page and we always want more photos, because 7,000 aren't enough! We want more!

Mike

Reference Madness by Rick Cotton

Where the heck is my spreadsheet? A friend of mine just had a near-disaster with his laptop. A necessary repair caused him endless stress and some panic when members of the Geek Squad accidentally (?) wiped-out several months of data and photos off his hard drive while doing a simple repair to his web browser.

I can attest, they do have a tendency to do that. Back up, back up, and then back up, if you know what's good for you.

This friend, being a retired O&G engineer, is very organized and has his hobby information as equally well Organized. That includes spreadsheets, magazine articles, photos, data galore on the hobby, the club, and everything else that makes the hobby tick for him.

I've seen his man cave – neat, orderly, well-lit and sensible. But he has posed an excellent question to me after this near-disaster with his computer. Just how much information and organization do we really need in this hobby?

Remember the old days? I mean...really old days?

Many of us are old coots, who first started building after watching old war movies. Now there's a lousy reference to go by. Robert Shaw, dressed in a 1939-style Panzertruppen uniform, perched on top of a gray M-48 Patton, attacking green and brown-painted M-24's in what was supposed to be the Battle of the Bulge. No matter...we built and had a good time.

Then came the Dawn of Serious Modeling: *"In the beginning, there was darkness all across the hobby. And then, the modeling gods brought forth Shepherd Paine and the Monogram B-17, and saw that it was good. And Shep brought forth knowledge, and said, "let there be weathering, and dioramas!"* And it was REALLY good.

We looked at Paine's models and found our own lacking. We began to add extra parts, and replace parts. All of this because the modeling gods had moved again: *"Let there be Squadron Signal publications, with lots of grainy black-and-white photos....no, not good enough...let there be Bert Kinzey and Detail and Scale books, with color photos...yeah, that ought to get them excited!"*

We had our modeling eyes opened, just as surely as if we had eaten that apple. We were no longer satisfied, and knew it. *"Let there be the computer. That should do it."*

Oh, it did. We now had our modeling hands full with this baby! Oh, joy, internet pictures, and spreadsheets to catalogue our 783 kits and 7,000 books!

We could actually simulate work at the office, all the while working on THE STASH LIST, and our employers would never even know!

Now, we can have EVERYTHING EVER WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED, SAID, OR THOUGHT about the Flabbenschlapper 409 we are building on the computer! Isn't technology wonderful?

Hmmm....wait a minute. According to spreadsheet 608-9, page 42, paragraph three, my number of completed builds has gone from 2.4 a year to only 1.2.

Why is this so? Come to think of it, why have I not glued or painted anything in a week?

Could it be that I have spent the last six days searching the Web and my files for a picture of the Flabbenschlapper's oil cooler?

Pull up the History tab:

- Flabbenschlappers.com
- ILoveFlabbenschlappers.com
- HyperFlabbenschlapper.com
- SofiaVergara.com (thought I deleted that!)
- FlabbenschlappersAre BetterThanRichtenschlicters.com

Hmmm....

Has this computing contraption actually been a help, or am I deluding myself? Do I really need an entire 6-Gig directory of photos of the left wheel? I've already built all my Richtenschlicters. My finger slowly moves to delete the Richtenschlicter picture directory...but...I just... can't... do... it! I CAN'T DO IT!!!

Is something wrong here?

Rick



**Looking For Newsletter
Articles !**

Any Size, Shape or Subject.

All submissions to :

benmorton@grandecom.net

IPMS/USA 2015 National Convention July 22-25, 2015 Columbus, Ohio

The International Plastic Modeler's Society 2015 National Convention website is available to pursue. There is a lot of information there and it will be added too as the actual event approaches.



More information about the National Convention may be obtained at: ipmsusa2015.com

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www.hobbytown.com

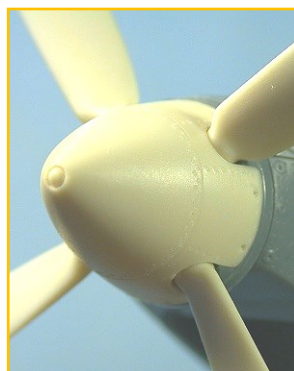
Spitfire Mk. IX 1/48 updates by Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS 26266

Ultracast has turned its attention to the Eduard Spitfire Mk. IX kit. While the kit is an awesome build there are some areas that could use some help. One of several areas that could be improved is the prop and spinner.



Perfectly molded in light caramel resin, this set has six resin pieces. There is no clean up of the parts. They are ready to use directly out of the package. The four resin prop blades have an improved tip shape over the kit ones.

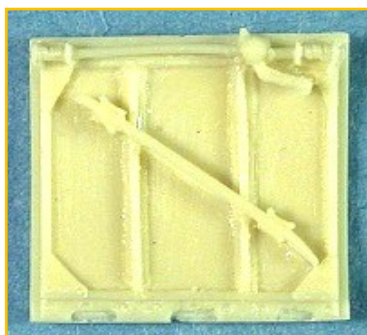
The prop blades are keyed to fit the kit spinner back plate and aids positioning them properly.



The spinner and prop shaft make up the other parts. The new spinner has rivet and fastener detail that the kit parts are missing. The nose cone is better detailed than the kit one and appears to be slightly more bulbous.

The added detail is worth the price of admission. This set will look great on your Eduard Spitfire. Along with the other parts Ultracast offers your Spitfire will stand out with minimal work. Another great offering from Ultracast!

The Eduard Spitfire kit cockpit door is nice but is missing some detail.



If you are good, and you can add all the photo-etch detail from the Profipack. If you aren't, or have the

Weekend edition, then you can now add the extra detail that is quite noticeable to your door. The crowbar clamps, door handle, and rib detail is superior to the kit.

The package is card stock with a plastic bag holding the parts. You get one cockpit door which is molded in light yellow resin. Removal of the part from the pour block is easy enough and adding it to the kit is just as easy as the kit part.

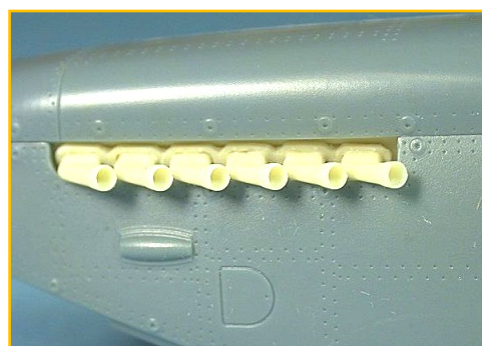
The level of detail is exquisite. If you don't like to use the photo-etched parts in the Profipack or if you have the weekend edition this is a great way to get the detail that your Spitfire needs. As this is highly visible on the side of your model it is a necessary addition.

Another area that could benefit from some ease in the construction of the Eduard kit is the exhaust manifolds.



Ultracast now offers both styles: tubular and fishtail. This is unlike the kit, which has individual exhausts and that need to be installed separately and then aligned perfectly. While not overly difficult there is always a potential for disaster. Ultracast takes care of that for you. On top of that, there is a bonus feature for the Ultracast part.

Packed in typical Ultracast fashion, the parts are perfectly cast in light tan resin. I could not find any blemish or problems with my examples. The exhausts are perfectly formed and have beautiful hollowed out stacks. There are four pieces in each set.



One of the nice things of this set which the kit cannot do is the ability to add the exhausts AFTER the model is built. The kit requires you to add the exhausts early in the construction.

These sets are awesome in the ease of construction and level of detail. Ultracast does all the hard work for you. I'll definitely use these on the next Spitfire.

I've built three of the Spitfires and yes there will be more. I don't think this set would work with the Brassin engine assembly, but with the Weekend or the Profi-pack these are perfect.

I've said it before, the Eduard Spitfire Mk.IX is one of my favorite kits. One of several parts that frustrated me a little bit was the two piece upper cowling. It was a pain to get rid of the seam line and keep the rivet detail...which I love.

I've built two models with this type of cowling and I got it right but it took a little time and I had to re-rivet the part slightly. I was thinking to myself why couldn't they just make a one piece cowling? Well, Eduard hasn't. But Ultracast has.



Each set is a one piece upper cowling that is attached to the pour block at the front end. Removal is simple enough. Molded perfectly in light tan resin, these are a one piece affair as opposed to the kit two pieces.

It is just a matter of removing the part, clean it up and add to the kit. Simple, yet so very effective. The price of the parts is quite reasonable. Simple, easy to use, and you retain the detail. I'll definitely be using these on my future models. They are a perfect addition.

All these kits are highly recommended. You can obtain your copy by contacting them directly at www.ultracast.ca or through some hobby shops and online retailers.

Floyd



New To Me by Cesar Herdez

New kit manufacturers seem to be popping up like dandelions in the Spring. The latest is Toxso Model from Hong Kong.



Toxso Model has been in existence since September 2014 and began by producing small scale (1/72) diorama accessories. Most notable are two different Army barracks.

They are expanding their offerings, as one might imagine, with some small scale artillery pieces: a M102/105mm (Vietnam) and a M114/105mm (WWII).



They are also introducing a SCUD-B launcher.



As yet, I've haven't uncovered any reviews of these or their earlier releases but the kits do seem to have that 'War gamer' look about them, particularly the included figures. Not that there is anything wrong with that...

Cesar



www.toxsoamodel.com

Storage Box For Models by Milton Bell, IPMS 16702

About mid-December I had a call from Kathy Pilmore about the display case at Austin Bergstrom International Airport. Kathy is on the transportation museum board which has control over the display cases.

She told me that there was to be some construction where the cases were located and all the displayed material would have to be moved and stored for about three months. And it had to be out by the first of the year.

First of all there was a bit of panic to decide where the models were to be kept. Thankfully, I would be responsible for only the models. All the other materials would go home with Kathy. Fortunately, I had my storage building extended and so had an additional 8 X 10 foot area that was still relatively empty.

I have several plastic storage boxes that I've used over the years for transporting models to shows and now they were pressed into being storage containers. No problem there. I did however have a problem with counting the models and remembering the sizes of the "big ones."

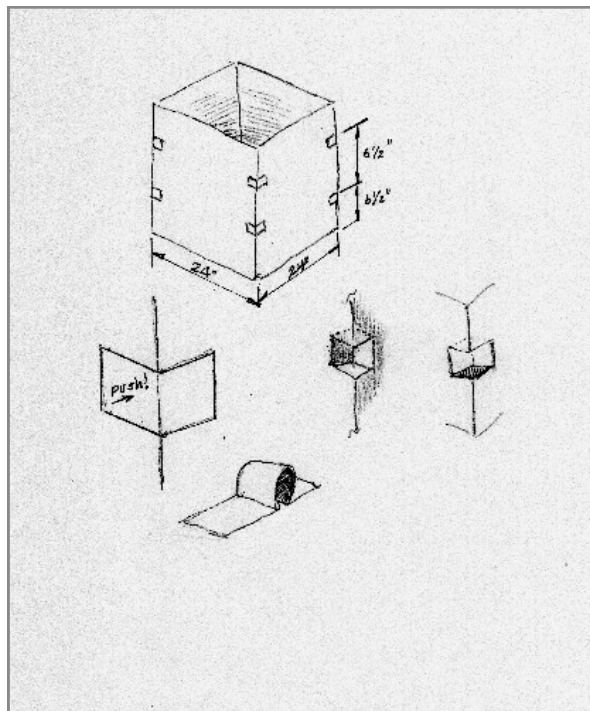
The last time we had to vacate the building I bought a large flat box to hold Bondo's 1/72 B-52. But I forgot how big the C-130, the KC Tanker, and the MATS DC-6 really were. They got to ride back home partially anchored in a plastic box. Minor repairs were needed.

Now that I had them, I had to figure out how to house them for at least three months and I think three months is a conservative estimate. Here's how I solved the problem. I think it's a good way to store models anyway and I bet we all have problems storing large items.

I went to the U-Haul place and for about seven dollars bought a box designed for moving microwaves or TV's. It was 24 inches on the side and about 20 inches tall. I assembled the box, taping the bottom securely with a couple of strips of duct tape.

Since I had three models to store I had to divide the height to allow clearance on the rudder. The C-130 is the tallest with the vertical stab/tail rising about six inches. Now it's obvious that 24 inches will more than accommodate a 1/72 C-130 or B-29 or DC-6. If you build a mixture of scales as I do, I can always "fill-in."

So, there's a box that's about 20 inches tall and I have three models. I divided that into three vertical sections and marked all four corners. Then I marked off a second line about two inches below the first mark. I cut only along the horizontal lines. I made the cuts with my pocket-knife (a kitchen knife would work too) as indicated on the sketch.



I then pushed each of these corner cuts inward so they formed small corner platforms that hold each shelf. You may have to re-cut and push very hard. Just don't tear them out.

Then I had to make a second purchase; two sheets of foam-core about a quarter of an inch thick. I cut two squares measuring 23 7/8 on a side just to be sure it would fit inside the box. The fit was pretty tight so I made a pull handle of duct tape.

Now I have a box that holds three models securely. If I need to I can store three of my 1/48 scale models on each shelf and more for 1/72. Individual "hold-downs" for the models are up to the modeler and what they build.

Milton



[Editor's Note: The display case mentioned showcases models of some of the aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force when Austin-Bergstrom International Airport was a U.S. Air Force base. Those models were built by ASMS members.]

Showing Up by Roy Lothbrok

Austin Scale Modeler's Society holds four quarterly in-house model contests per year. (The contest schedule for 2015 may be found elsewhere in this newsletter). Most of these contests are open in nature, as the participants may bring any finished kit of their choosing. The White Elephant model contest held at this past December's club meeting was a bit different. Only kits received at the annual ASMS Christmas party/gift exchange are eligible to win.

The White Elephant model kits exchanged at the Christmas party are supposed to be kits from the modeler's stash that you may never get around to building but have **not** been started. What these kits are **not** to be is some one-off, resin monstrosity that has been languishing in your stash for decades and **is** of some quality of manufacture. If the kit is of dubious quality to you then it most likely will be of dubious quality to someone else.

One thing these White Elephant gifts **are** to be is something that should tax, at least in some small measure, the recipient's skill set. Something out of their normal modeling comfort zone. Case in point is the M1-A1 tank entered by McCracken at this past White Elephant contest.

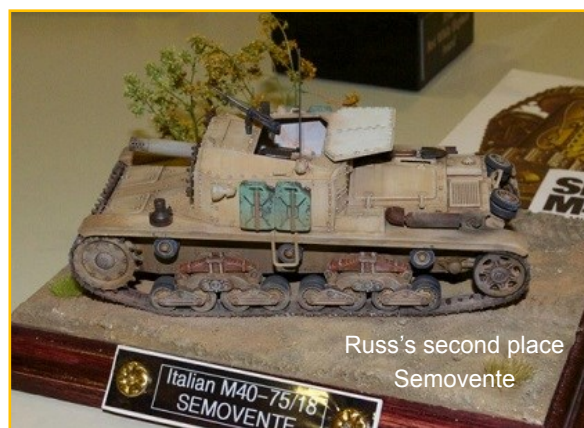


As many are aware, Ron usually builds only 1/72nd scale aircraft...American aircraft! But in his defense, it was in 1/72 scale. Don't want to get too crazy!

As an added incentive toward bolstering participation ASMS and King's Hobby Shop offer gift certificates for the first, second and third place finishers. These certificates are for \$40.00, \$30.00 and \$20.00, respectively. Real money, boys and girls! Additionally, the first place winner of the White Elephant contest receives the coveted White Elephant trophy to proudly display

at their home for a year. Which brings us to the "showing up" part of this exercise. The original author of the expression, "half the battle is just showing up" eludes me. Suffice it to say that at this year's White Elephant contest that expression could not be truer.

As is sometimes the case, the number of participants at the White Elephant contest can be on the thin side. These are, after all, kits that really aren't the desired subject matter for each respective modeler. But then again, that's the point. The entrants for this past contest were the aforementioned Ron McCracken, the effervescent Russ Holm, and our erstwhile newsletter editor, Ben Morton.



Ron brought a 1/72nd scale Dragon M1-A1 with mine plow. Russ a 1/35th scale Semovente beautifully displayed on a base and Ben Morton brought along his forlorn 1/72nd scale Tamiya F6F Hellcat, in 'target-drone pink'. Nice models, all. (Ben informs me that he has applied for a trademark on that color).

As there were only three entries, each participant received some extra model money to blow during their next trip to King's Hobby Shop. Like somebody once said..."half the battle is just showing up!"



Or, in this case, just showing up rewarded everyone.

[Photos courtesy of Milton Bell]

Roy

Fiddly Bits**Frank Seibert**

Dues are due. Your yearly club dues for ASMS are now due. Those dues are \$20.00/individual or \$25.00/ family. Now, if you fiddle around and wait until after March 1 it's gonna cost you, Chief! The fee goes up \$5.00 per category March 2. So, word to the wise and all, don't fiddle around. Bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same to: Jeff Forster, 1503 Cherry Creek, Cedar Park, Texas 78613.

The theme for the upcoming Capital Classic (ASMS's October Model contest) will be 'Speed Demons'. As the name implies this would be any subject from any era than connotes speed: land speed record holders, experimental aircraft (X-1), speed boats, etc.

ASMS is adopting a different approach when it comes to the presentations at our monthly club meetings. In years past, the club Vice-President/Program Director has relied on the good graces of members to step up and... well, present something. Beginning at the January meeting ALL club members names will be dropped into a hat, names drawn and that lucky individual will be tasked with making a presentation at a future club meeting.

Which is not to say that you don't have ANY say in what just happened. You do have the option of selecting the month that you'd prefer to do your presentation. Your presentation may be on any subject that relates (however tenuously) to scale modeling. That pretty much leaves the field wide open for whatever you choose. Your absence from the January meeting will not spare you from this lottery. So, best attend.

Frank

**Old Rumors / New Kits 2G**

Fujimi has a couple of new items. The IJN Kongo battleship (1941). This is a full hull kit. Additionally, Rensy Bungardner, Rick Herrington, Mike Poole, Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

Shipping News

Here's the stuff. As is customary we begin with 1/700 scale.

From Pit Road we have the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force DD-115 Akizuki. This is an air defense destroyer with photo-etch included.

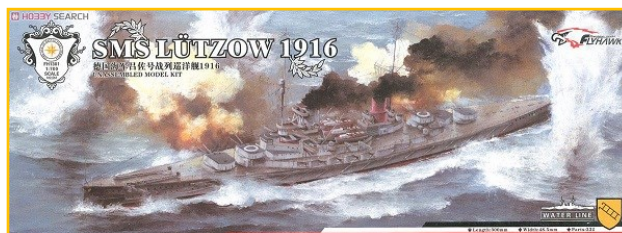
Going up in ship class size, Pit-Road is also



releasing the USS Baltimore CA-68 (1944), a heavy cruiser, and the US Aircraft Carrier CV-8 Hornet. Both kits come with photo-etch.

Fujimi has a couple of new items. The IJN Kongo battleship (1941). This is a full hull kit. Additionally,

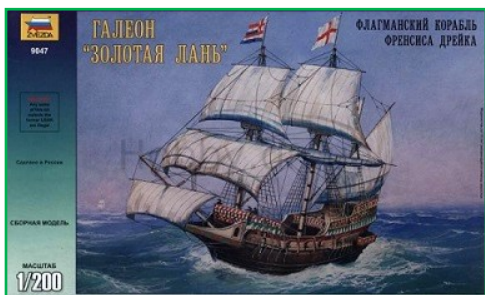
Flyhawk is releasing the SMS Lützow (1916). This is a limited edition model that includes photo-etch.



Moving up the scale line is Dragon with a 1/350th scale Z-32 German WW2 destroyer. What a surprise...another German destroyer from Dragon!

How about a German WWII light cruiser for a change? Again from Pit-Road is the JMSDF DDG-174 Kirishima.

Zvezda has an addition to their easy-build sailing ships, Sir Francis Drake's sailing ship the Golden Hind. The kit is in 1/350th scale.



In a somewhat different scale (1/150) and from a somewhat unusual manufacturer is the Taiping.

From Meng Models we have a Great Lakes passenger freighter from the 1920's.

This kit is based on the movie version of the ship as she appeared in "The Crossing" by John Woo. It is designed to be assembled without glue and comes with a lighting kit.



That's it for this month. Pull something out of that stash and build it!

Rick



Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

I think Meng has my e-mail bugged. As soon as I submit my "What's New," they announce something exciting!

This is a much awaited announcement: the Gigantic A7V, the *first* German tank!

This thing was nuts and had a crew of 18! It was also a terrible tank, most of the German tank corps was outfitted with captured British Mk IV tanks. Regardless, this thing is a beast and MOST welcome!



Lets take a look at Takom. They have something really neat coming out, a Ratte Maus. For those of you that don't know, this was one of the crazy tanks Hitler wanted built that was just massive. Its turret was from a battleship!



This thing was approved, but never built. It would seem as if someone may have realized that the allies would have bombed this thing into atoms. Takom has wisely chosen the scale to be 1/144th, so it will be a manageable size.

For something modern Takom has an eight-wheeled Luchs. It will have a fully detailed suspension and looks pretty good in the renders.



Finally, let's take a look at Mini-Art.

They have just announced two kits of the ubiquitous D7 bulldozer. One with towing winch and one with an angled dozer blade.

This thing was all over both theaters of war. If you want one make sure to get it as soon as possible as there are rumors that Caterpillar is trying to stop people from making kits of their wares.



There are the highlights, until next time!



Aaron

Aircraft

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope 2015 is moving along smoothly for everyone and that you got some rest, relaxation, and model building accomplished. Also with the new year comes the new kit release lists from some of our manufacturers around the globe. We've got three biggies for you this month: Airfix, Eduard, and Revell of Germany.

Before we get to all of that, let's start with a kit that was just released from ICM. They have just released a 1/48



C-45/UC-45 Twin Beech. It's the first release of this specific subject since the release of the Battle-Axe kit a few years ago – a kit that was up to

BattleAxe standards.

The ICM kit provides marking for four airframes: two USAAF, French, and Italian. And, in February, Caracal

Decals (right here in our very own Austin, Texas) will be releasing a sheet featuring a couple of very colorful USN schemes for NAS Oakland (White and Orange) and NAS Miramar (White and Red). That will be cool.

Now, on to the list of releases for this year. First up is Airfix. In 1/48th scale, they are releasing a couple of Battle of Britain favorites, the Hawker Hurricane Mk.I (March) and the Supermarine Spitfire Mk.I (February).



They are also releasing a Cold War interceptor that was the hottest thing of it's time, the English Electric Lightning F1/F1A/F2/F3.

They are all listed for pre-orders on the Airfix website, and they may actually be out the door as you are reading because they are for release in January. Basically, right now.

In 1/72nd scale, Airfix is bringing out a bunch of aircraft. I think those English model builders like this small stuff. Here is the list for this year and the release dates they have set:

- Avro Shackleton MR2, December
- Heinkel He111P-2, July
- Hawker Siddeley AV-8A Harrier, March
- Bristol Beaufighter Mk.X, July
- Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat, September
- Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mk.V, August
- Nakajima B5N2 "Kate", Q1
- Westland Sea King HC.4, December
- Junkers Ju87B-1 Stuka, December
- Boulton Paul Defiant Mk.I, January
- Battle of Britain 75th Anniversary gift set that includes a Spitfire Mk.Ia, a Hurricane Mk.I, a Heinkel He111, and a Me190E with glue and paint, August

www.airfix.com/shop/new-for-2015/1-72-scale-military-aircraft.html

Airfix doesn't produce anything in 1/32nd scale, but they do in 1/24th scale! And, if you're into big things and don't live under a rock, you must have heard the rumblings of their next big release.

Expected in October is the 1/24 deHavilland Mosquito

FB.VI. For those of us that missed out on their earlier rendition of the Mossie (and don't want to pay the price gougers on eBay) we have another shot at getting a very large Mosquito. I wonder how it will stack up against HK Models 1/32 Mosquito that's due out this February.



Whew... that's a lot of new releases from Airfix! Given the rise in quality over the years at Airfix, these kits should be wonderfully detailed, have great fit, and be fun to build.

On to our next contestant. Now we head into the Czech Republic and see what Eduard has in store for us this year.

First up is a re-issue of their controversial Messerschmitt Me 109G-6 from last year. If the gentle reader recalls, Eduard, in a fit of marketing hype, hailed their release as the best 109 in any scale. What actually happened wasn't a downpour of praise and kudos.

The kit has shape issues and the wingspan is overly long. Certainly not something one would expect from the greatest Me 109G-6 the model building world had



ever seen. So, flash forward to today.

Eduard has investigated the shape issues and redesigned and re-tooled the kit, and is planning to re-release it to us this fall. I haven't heard any proclamations about it being the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Anyway, here are their releases for this year. We'll start with the small stuff, 1/72nd scale. Already poised for a February release is the Avia B.534 in a Royal Class boxing.

I've been hearing nothing but praises for this kit. When Eduard does something right, they do it well...see their 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IX kits. This kit has great details for a 1/72 biplane, and the fit is rumored to be just as nice.

Other releases they have in store for us are:

- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IX
- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.VIII
- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.XVI
- MiG-15 UTI
- MiG-21
- Focke Wulf Fw 190A-5/-8/F-8

If they scale down their 1/48th scale Spitfires, these will be awesome. There is a lot there to like, and it doesn't end there. Here is what we can expect in their 1/48th scale lineup:

- Re-tooled Messerschmitt Me 109G-6 (see above...)
- SE5a
- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.VIII, March
- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.XVI, Fall

And there are two new kits that haven't been announced yet. Eduard is leaving those as surprises for us. All in all, this is a very nice list of kits for the new year. Although, by the time some of these hit the markets, the newness of the year will have worn off.

I'm not sure on release dates for some of this stuff and most of these are Eduard's ProfiPack kits complete with photo etch and masks. We can probably expect Eduard to release some of their Brassin sets for these kits as well.

Last up for us this month is Revell of Germany.

Already on the horizon is their newly tooled Focke Wulf Fw 190F-8 in 1/32nd scale. The expected date of launch is March of this year, and test shots have already been proudly displayed on the interweb.

Given that RoG has a fantastic bang-for-the-buck ratio, I'm certain that we'll see a winner on the hobby shop shelves. It's an interesting choice starting with the ground attack version of Kurt Tank's brainchild. I guess this avoids the direct head-to-head competition with the impending Zoukei-Mura Fw 190A series being released this year.

Also up in their new-tool lineup is a 1/72 Avro Shackleton AEW.2 due in October, a 1/72 BAe Hawk T.1 in Red Arrows markings due in July, and a 1/144 Embraer 195 due in September for all you airliner builders out there.



On the horizon with an impending release in April is a 1/72 Douglas C-54 Skymaster. Now that should be a cool release of an under-represented aircraft.

That's it for this month. Now go build something to make room for some new releases!

'Til next time...

Randy



Automotive

Let's start in Japan with the only news large scale modelers have been talking about for weeks.

Big surprise that following on the heels of their recent 1/12th 1964 Ferrari 250 GTO release they would follow up with the earlier, sexier version everyone really wants in their collection.

The February big kit release at Model Factory Hiro is

the 1/12th 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO with it's iconic inlet scallops to allow additional cooling air over the radiator.

As of this afternoon (that's why it's late Ben!) we now know that three versions will be on offer including two 24 Hours of Le Mans competitors and at least one Tourist Trophy entrant. Expect several pounds of parts including real wire spoke wheels, working engine internals and a highly detailed engine bay.

It will be a once in a lifetime build for a lucky few. So far I've resisted their big scale offerings but your Rumors and Kits correspondent is feeling a strong undertow with this one!



Keeping the big scale theme going is the 1/6th Harley Davidson FXE 1200 Super Glide from Tamiya. This kit is making a return and is just as detailed and easy to construct as all their big bike kits in the series.

The nice part is that with the dollar's current strength, all the big Tamiya reissues are cheap. At least until you add in the shipping for that big ol' box of air.



Aoshima is offering a new roadster version of their new



1/24th Lamborghini Aventador kit. I'm really impressed with this company lately for

bringing quality kits to the market at a reasonable price. Expect opening doors, a full engine and interior, as well as some metal transfers and other nice details.

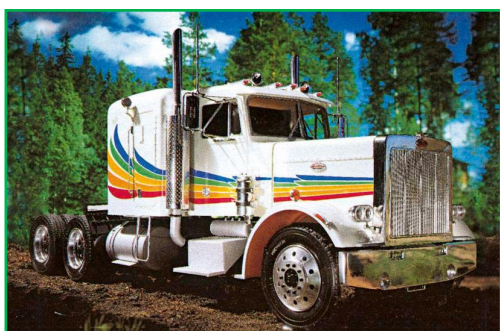
Like its West German counterpart the Volkswagen Beetle, the Trabant has also received a legendary reputation as a vehicle for the masses. The model 601 is perhaps the most popular of all Trabants and recently the Leipzig Graffiti Association (apparently they have associations now) was commissioned to paint a mural on one honoring the 25th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.



Revell Germany will offer their 1/24th Trabant 601 kit with special decals of the mural car for a limited time. Hurry!

Revell USA has reissued their 1/16th Peterbilt 359 conventional model with a colorful Christen Eagle-like feather scheme. It features a detailed Caterpillar 3408, Airleaf rear suspension and an enormous, for the time, 63" sleeper.

I worked for Peterbilt back in the '90s and recall an assembled version in a case on a printer table for years. I never found out who built it but imagine it was



abandoned by some engineer as part of a "yes dear" agreement. Did I mention it's 1/16th scale?

Well, that's about all I have this month from the garage. Let your wheels always find traction.

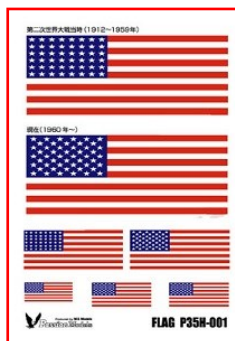
Mike



Miscellaneous

I'll begin with a diminutive release from Revell. Continuing their release of really nicely detailed helicopter kits is the latest addition of a 1/144th scale UH-1 Huey.

Passion Models has been doing detail and diorama stuff for a while now with 1/35 photo etch headphones, grasses and resin cast logs and stumps.



One of their latest releases is a set of 1/35th scale flags double printed on thin plastic that can be heated and 'wrinkled' to your heart's content. The series includes flags from the United States, Great Britain, and Germany.

They are also offering a complete resin kit of a Swash, a WWII U.S. towing tractor.

For the ready for display crowd comes a seven inch tall figure of 'Baby Groot' from the Guardians of the Galaxy film. Soundtrack sold separately.



AIM (Aircraft in Miniature) has a lot of new stuff for your next diorama. Chief among them is an airfield radar scanner in 1/144, 1/72, and 1/48th scales.

Not to be out done they are also offering a starter cart for the SR-71 Blackbird in 1/72nd scale.

Aircraft in Miniature Limited

Ground Equipment MODEL KIT

AIRFIELD RADAR SCANNER

GE48006 1:48 SCALE

Aircraft In Miniature Limited
19 Watling Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 6JJ, England
Email: info@aim72.co.uk - Website: www.aim72.co.uk

This next item is available now but I couldn't resist. From Aerobonus (Aires) is the mascot associated with the Grumman F-14 Tomcat. This resin kit is in the 90mm range.



Mach 2 is busy as well with a 1/72 plastic kit of the JMSDF Grumman Avenger TBM-3W. Best of luck.



HGW does riveting and detailing kits and sets for various kits. One of their latest offerings is a laser cut textile seat-belt set

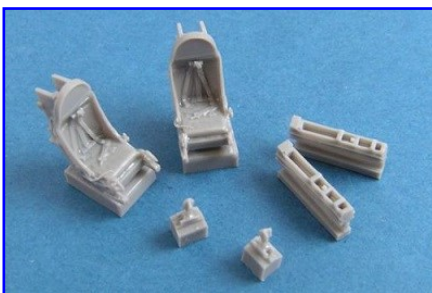
designed for the WingNut Wings kit of the DH-9.

For those that are always on the lookout for some new and unusual marking/decaling options, Print Scale has answered the call. One of their newer offerings is a set of markings for a Messerschmitt 262 'Schwalbe'. These decals come in either 1/72nd or 1/48th scale and feature what looks to be



a complete set of generic markings as well as those specific to captured aircraft.

If you are looking to spruce up that Academy or Hasagawa T-37



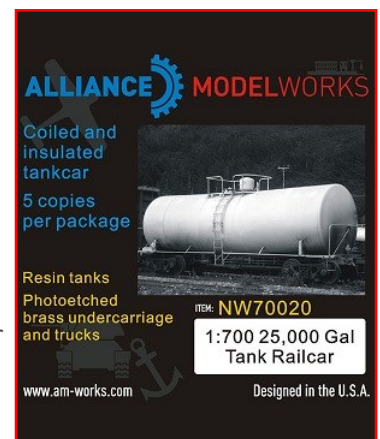
kit that has been languishing in your stash, Pavla Models has some 1/72nd resin ejection seats for the 'front office'.

Staying with the replacement stuff category for a moment longer, Flightpath has a resin set of Wright Cyclone engines for your DC-2/ DC-3. These are designed for the Airfix kit and look to be a simple part replacement.



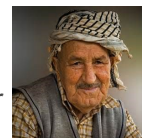
Phoenix has been doing a series of diorama and scenic pieces over the years with tarmacs, airfield revetments and such. The newest release is a vacuum-formed modern highway bridge section. This may be a good way to get your feet wet on a vacuum formed kit.

Alliance Modelworks has also been busy with their line of diorama accessories. The latest offerings are some dockyard and train yard items in 1/700th. Go to www.am-works.com for a more complete listing.



This same company did a complete kit of a Steampunk submarine that was featured in the February 2014 issue of the Sprue Examiner.

Golzar





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 fro 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
North Canton, Ohio 44720-0475

For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney, at manager@ipmsusa.org

In the latest issue of:

IPMS/USA Journal September+October



- Skills To Build - A National Contest 50 Years in the Making, by Richard C. Engar
- A Big Boeing Gets Going - 8th Air Force Animated 1:32 Diorama, by George R. Mustafa
- Juniors - Category Zero
- Aircraft - Category One
- Military - Category Two
- Figures - Category Three
- Ships - Category Four
- Automotive - Category Five
- Space And Sci-Fi - Category Six
- Dioramas - Category Seven
- Miscellaneous - Category Eight
- Special Awards - Category Nine
- Tom Kolk Best Junior Model - 1941 Willys, by Mark Russell
- George Lee Judges' Grand Award - The Reaper V-8 Trike, by Alexan-

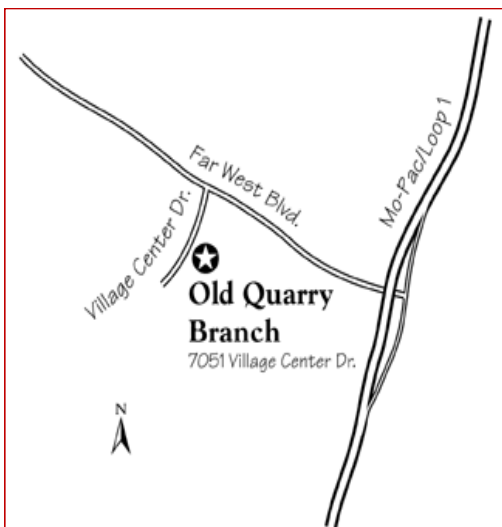
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Modelers Society**
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Antonio Street
San Marcos, Texas
78666

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at
www.austinsms.org



Next Meeting:
January 15, 2015
Austin Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas
7 PM to 8:45 PM



ModelFiesta 34

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF TEXAS

Saturday, February 21, 2015
San Antonio Event Center
8111 Meadow Leaf Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78227
<http://www.alamosquadron.com>