



# SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

November 2015

## Jam Up And Tamiya Tight by Rick Cotton

**T**amiya. No other name speaks fit and engineering quite like Tamiya. The Tamiya model line has always meant quality. If one is willing to put in the effort, a Tamiya kit always yields a good result.

So it was with a sense of ease and confidence that I accepted a commission to build Tamiya's 1/350th IJN Mogami heavy cruiser kit. In this case, it was the post-conversion vessel with a seaplane flying deck.

The kit starts with a set of upper hull halves, a lower hull section, a bag of screws, nuts, and other assorted bits. The kit includes a waterline option, as well. However, my customer wanted the barnacle breeding grounds of a full hull.

The hull halves are joined and attached to the lower hull without any fit issues whatsoever. Transverse bulkheads, which actually bolt to the sides, are added by Tamiya to make it a really solid build. The running gear was added next, except for the props and rudders. Those items would be attached later.

[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

Jam Up	1
And Tamiya Tight	
Peanut Brittle	3
Fiddly Bits	3
Web At Night:	8
Rewind	
Airfix Kate:	9
OOB Review	
One Fewer Kit	11
A Bidding	12
We Will Go	
Model O' The Month	13
Old Rumors/	15
New Kits 2G	

Visit us on the web

[www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org)

**Our Sponsors**



**Austin Armor Builders Society**  
[www.austinarmorbuilders.com](http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com)



[www.kingshobbyshop.com](http://www.kingshobbyshop.com)



<http://www.williamsbrothersmodelproducts.com/planes.html>



<http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/>



Phil Brandt (in memorium)

Eric Choy            Angela Forster  
 Jeff Forster        Russ Holm  
 Rick Willaman     Jack Johnston  
 Mike Krizan        Mike Poole

Aaron Smischney

Rick Herrington

## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

CALMEX XXX, Lakes Charles, Louisiana	1.30.16
<a href="http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html">http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html</a>	
Model Fiesta 35, San Antonio, Texas	2.20.16
<a href="http://www.alamosquadron.com/">http://www.alamosquadron.com/</a>	
RiverCon V, Shreveport, Louisiana	3.12.16
<a href="http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/events/">http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/events/</a>	

### Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	12.03.15
<a href="http://www.alamosquadron.com/meetings.htm">www.alamosquadron.com/meetings.htm</a>	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	12.02.15
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	12.03.15
Centex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	11.19.15
<a href="http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/">http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/</a>	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	12.05.15
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Shady Hollow, Austin, TX	11.21.15

### Other Events

Build-N-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	11.21.15
--	----------

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

[www.models4troops@gmail.com](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.com)

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

**Randy Bumgardner**, President  
[president@austinsms.org](mailto:president@austinsms.org)  
**Aaron Smischney**, Vice-President  
[vicepresident@austinsms.org](mailto:vicepresident@austinsms.org)  
**Eric Choy**, Finance Minister  
[treasurer@austinsms.org](mailto:treasurer@austinsms.org)  
**Mike Lamm**, Secretary  
[secretary@austinsms.org](mailto:secretary@austinsms.org)  
**Ben Morton**, Newsletter Editor  
[editor@austinsms.org](mailto:editor@austinsms.org)  
**Randy Bumgardner**, Show Coordinator  
[showcoordinator@austinsms.org](mailto:showcoordinator@austinsms.org)  
**Mike 'Hollywood' Gilsbach**, Web-master  
[webmaster@austinsms.org](mailto:webmaster@austinsms.org)  
**Milton Bell**, IPMS/USA Coordinator  
[chaptercontact@austinsms.org](mailto:chaptercontact@austinsms.org)  
**Mike Poole**, Membership Coordinator  
[mpoole12@austin.rr.com](mailto:mpoole12@austin.rr.com)  
**Chris Chaney**, Rumpus and Hokum Abatement Director

## Peanut Brittle

*Randy Bumgardner*

Hello, my modeling compatriots! It's November and the holidays are just around the corner. Although, if you visit any retail outlets, you would think the holidays began around Labor Day, given the number of holiday displays strategically placed around said retail outlets. November also marks the biggest model show in the UK, Scale ModelWorld. A delegation from our club went this year, and hopefully they can regale us with wondrous tales from that faraway land at our next meeting.

In more immediate news, we retained our date (the third Thursday of each month) on the library calendar for our meetings. As a famous show once stated, "Same Bat-time, same Bat-channel."

No doubt most of you have heard the latest hubbub within IPMS/USA Region 6. San Antonio, with help from some friends in Houston, are going to make a bid for the 2018 IPMS/USA Nationals. We can talk about it at the meeting this month, and hash through some of the details. They will be looking for volunteers, so think about helping out our fellow IPMS/USA mates to the South.

Our annual holiday festivities are swiftly approaching. They will be held the evening of Saturday, December 12th at my house. Our esteemed editor will be producing maps with the pertinent information in the near future. We will be having a model gift exchange for the modelers, and a non-model gift exchange for those who choose not to participate in the model gift exchange. Frankly, I can't fathom why anyone wouldn't want a model. (My wife assures me that's not the only thing I can't fathom). The usual rules apply. It must be an **unstarted** kit, in good shape, and something you would want to receive. So, take an extra five minutes and actually open the box and check the contents. If anything has glue or paint on it, put it back on the shelf and try again. Granted, someone's garbage is another modeler's treasure and the reverse is also true. You may think that Starfix Fairley Fruitbat is a gem of a kit, but the rest of us...not so much. Just be considerate.

Last weekend, Ben Morton and I attended the Fly-In at the Pioneer Flight Museum. It was a cold, windy day and only two aircraft actually flew in but I had fun. I've never been there and it was a good time talking with people and examining the aircraft. We will have a club table there next May and hopefully, more members will show up.

Alright, enough of my rambling. Go build something and bring it to the meeting Thursday!

Randy



## Fiddly Bits

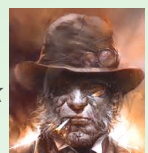
*Frank Seibert*

If you haven't visited our club website in a while you may want to head over there and take a look. The winners list for Capitol Classic 2015 has been posted. Photos are soon to follow. There are also some new additions to the Members Gallery.

In order to increase the possible contenders for the *Bondo Special* award each year and to give the new guys in the club a chance, if you have some Bondo kits that are still unbuilt (and I know that you do) let Randy or myself know and some of those kits can be re-distributed. Who knows? They might actually get built. That was, after all, one of the stipulations that you agreed to for getting the kits in the first place. Honor your word.

Here are some handy instructions for determining the suitability of that kit that you're considering for the gift exchange at our upcoming Christmas Party (**December 12**). 1- Open the box, 2- Look in the box, 3- Determine if the kit has been started or not and that all the parts are still in the box., 4- Close the box, and 5- Gift wrap it nice.

Frank



A little sanding at the beam ends of the hull and were ready for color. I sprayed the entire hull exterior a dark flat red. After letting this cure overnight, I masked off the lower portion of the hull, and sprayed everything above the waterline a very dark gray, almost a match for Testor's Gunship Gray.



With the exception of the clear parts and the seaplane parts, I used this same dark gray and primed every single sprue in the kit. Every part was completely sprayed while still on the sprue. After this had dried overnight, I gave all the gray parts (including the upper part of the hull) a dirty brownish-black sludge wash with a mixture of tempera paint, water, and a drop of liquid dish soap. This concoction breaks up water tension and aids with paint adhesion. The sprues were allowed to dry thoroughly.

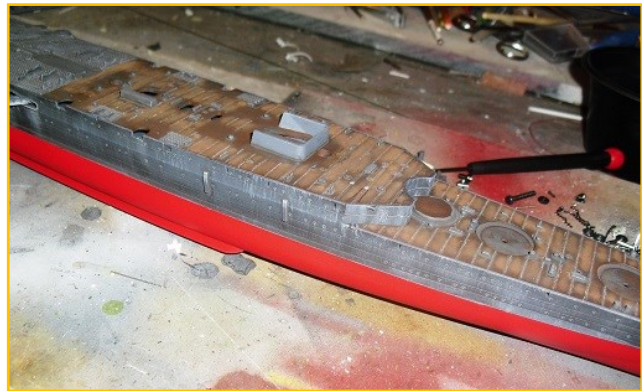
A slightly more brownish wash was applied to the lower portion of the hull and then that was allowed to dry. Wiping most of this wash off leaves a nice, dirty finish to the bottom of the hull. The wash was similarly wiped down on the upper hull until about two-thirds of it was gone.

The decks of IJN cruisers of this period were covered with a dark brown linoleum and Tamiya just happens to have that particular color in their spray lacquer lineup. Imagine that! The Tamiya sprays are outstanding, and lay down smooth and flat with NO "orange peel."



I sprayed the linoleum areas with Tamiya "Linoleum Deck Brown," and let that dry. Once it was completely cured, I picked out the metal sections and deck details with the dark gray. I also used a sharp, bright yellow Prismacolor pencil to pick out the brass strips between the linoleum plates. This produces a more subtle effect than might be encountered in real life on a weathered, hard-working ship in combat.

The deck attaches to the hull with a combination of screws and nuts, plus application of liquid cement at appropriate areas. The fit is "Tamiya tight."



My painting process for Japanese ships involves the following steps in this order: dark gray base, wash, dry brush with lighter gray paint, and pick out details with a very light gray Prismacolor pencil. The washed parts are snipped from the sprue, the attachment points trimmed and cleaned, and touched up with the base gray. All these parts were left to dry.

The wash is removed in the direction of the flow of gravity. This results in some of that wash being pulled over the snipped and re-touched area, blending it in with the rest of the part. If you need to, you can re-touch the wash as well, then wipe most of it off.

The part is dry brushed, heavily, with a lighter version of the dark gray, again, in the direction of gravity (top to bottom). Finally, the details of the part are carefully picked out with a very light gray Prismacolor pencil. By turning the pencil on its side and sweeping it across, you can easily pick up the tread pattern on the steel decks, making them "pop" out. This method is the rule, used for *everything that is gray*, including the hull.

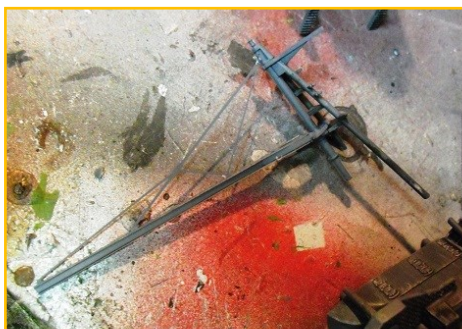
After wiping down and highlighting the hull, I added rust with four shades of brown, reddish brown and orange, all added with a 0000 brush. Remember, *no rust* below the waterline. The area under the water generally does NOT rust until it is exposed to air.

If your ship has been in dry docked for some time, or has underwater damage, it might have some hull rust under the waterline. Otherwise, no.



I build ships in layers, deck by deck, working my way up and add photo etch as I add platforms. I also paint the photo etch while it is still on the fret. I add the pieces, then touch them up with a small brush when the glue has set. A bit of clear flat eliminates the glue spot shine and we move on. The perimeter railing is the last stuff added. It is too easy to mess up by reaching over it to work on something near the center of the ship.

Speaking of metal...never trust the plastic yardarms that come in *any* kit, including Tamiya. They might look scale and thin, but that means they are *flimsy*. I



replaced the yardarms with bits of thin piano wire attached with super glue. If you really want it sturdy, use five-minute epoxy, but watch out when applying that stuff. It tends to get everywhere.

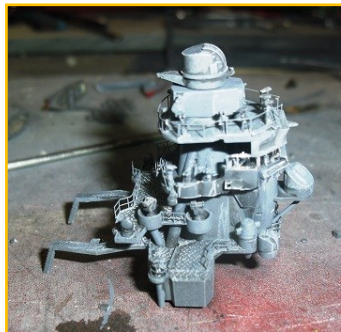
The funnel halves were filled and sanded after being joined, and the numerous pipes and details were attached.



The assembly attached precisely to the deck. This being a Tamiya kit, everything fit like a glove. So easy!

The superstructure is a good one to tackle before trying, say, a Kongo-class battleship. It has a typical IJN

pagoda mast but with far fewer layers. The many optical sighting devices on each deck will have to be added. As these are a pain to remove from the sprue and clean up without breaking, I would suggest either after-



market parts or using a very sharp, new blade to cut them from the sprue. Photo etch railing was added to each platform as it was finished.

The tower fit to the deck perfectly, with no muss nor fuss. Now, on to the seaplane deck!



Mogami's conversion to seaplane cruiser came about after Midway. With the loss of so many carriers all at once the Japanese were forced to convert their remaining fast seaplane carriers, Chitose and Chiyoda, to light fleet carriers. This deprived the IJN of some of its seagoing scouting aircraft.



IJN doctrine, unlike their US opponents, depended highly upon seaplanes as scouts. Also, the lack of available carriers left space for combat aircraft aboard the only few available CV's. Similar seaplane deck conversions were also done to battleships Ise and Hyuga.

The kit catapults, although nice, went in the spares box. Photo etch, in this case Gold Medal Models, is the only way to go here. The catapults were folded, glued, touched up, and attached to the ship with super glue. They really look the part, like no plastic ever could.

The kit provides some 17 seaplanes with a mix of "Pete" biplanes and "Jake" monoplanes.

All are crisply molded with nicely fitting pieces. Fuselages, wings, floats, horizontal stabs, and props are all separate parts. There is also a cleanly printed decal sheet for aircraft markings.

The aircraft were partially assembled, completely primed with IJN aircraft gray, and allowed to dry. A bit of judicious (and time-consuming) masking was applied and the topsides of aircraft and floats were painted with Tamiya IJN Green. After all was dry, the entire air-group got a couple of coats of Future. Decals went on, more Future, then a couple of coats of clear flat.



The floats were attached,

props added, and the entire air-group was set aside to cure completely.



The secondary and anti-aircraft batteries assembled easily. Tamiya uses fewer parts than their competitors on small flak mounts. This is an acceptable compromise in the opinion of someone who has done hundreds of flak mounts for three big IJN carriers. My eyes are not nearly as crossed as before.

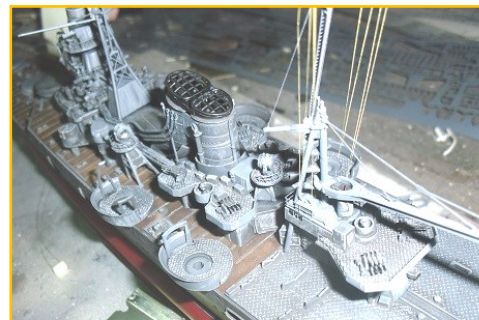


The ship's boats (a mix of cutters, and open rowboats) were painted individually and detailed out with White Ensign photo etch. These photo etch bits really dress up the boats, which are usually a weak point on big IJN ships. Here too, you might want to consider aftermarket detailing sets. There is some fabulous stuff out there, if you are willing to pay for it.

One by one, the sub-assemblies came aboard: pagoda mast, after deckhouse, associated crane, turrets, secondary and anti-aircraft batteries. Follow the instructions! Make sure everything that was supposed to be done before you attach that piece has been done and you will have no assembly issues.



The ship's props were painted flat black and lightly dry brushed, first with bronze and then with brass enamels. A thin water-based wash of a turquoise color was then applied to simulate the patina that forms on brass props in salt water. [Weathered bottom and shiny brass props?]



I prefer to use a very thin fly-fishing line for rigging. In fact, a one-pound test line. It is stretched in place with the loose

ends tacked down off the ship with masking tape. Super glue is applied wherever it meets the plastic. Later, the ends are trimmed and the line is painted a dark gray. I also paint the signal yards a dark yellow (rope vs wire).

I make my own signal flags and battle ensigns in AutoCAD software and print them on a color printer.



Tamiya includes a basic fret of photo etch parts for the ship, mostly consisting of deck trolleys for the planes. These are folded carefully into the proper shape, painted, and attached to the undersides of the planes.

The trolleys fit onto the railings that are molded on the aircraft deck. Attaching the aircraft was the last major construction step.



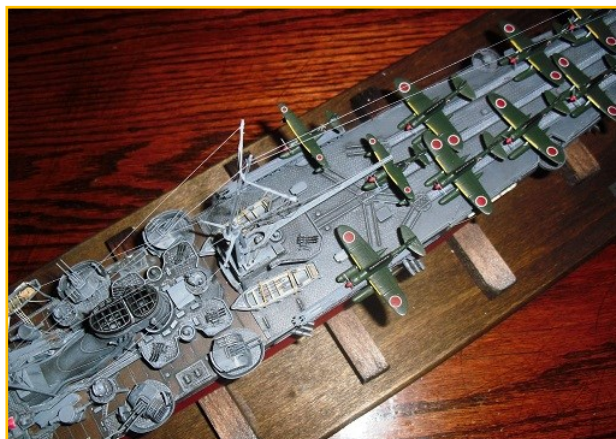
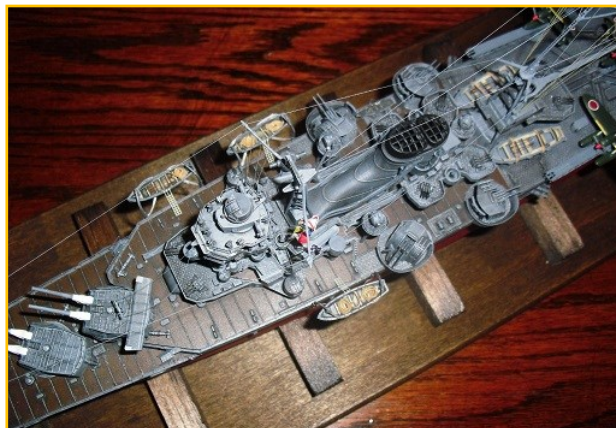
All that remains to do was just attaching the last bits, such as the ship's props, a few miscellaneous antennas here and there, and adding insulators to the rigging with drops of white glue.



Finally, with the ship mounted on stained timbers and poplar base, the final step is "the check." With a high-powered flashlight in the left hand, and a 0000 brush loaded with dark gray in the right, I go over and over the ship, from all angles, looking for brass or glossy spots.

The light will reveal them and it continues to amaze me how many times you have to repeat this process to get rid of them all. I then have my wife look it over with the light – it never hurts to have an extra set of eyes to check it out. She always finds one or two. When neither of you can find any...and not before then...you are done.

So there is Tamiya's Mogami. An excellent, well-engineered kit that will give you hours of fun, and not too much hair-pulling. I highly recommend anything with Tamiya's name on it.



Rick



[All photos by Rick Cotton.]

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

As does happen from time to time, articles are submitted to the newsletter for publication without a title. This provides the newsletter staff the opportunity to begin each monthly staff meeting with the task of coming up with something appropriate for those specific articles. As was the case with the lovely article submitted by Rick Cotton on building the IJN Mogami.

After careful reading and much deliberation, the staff decided upon the title that was applied to Rick's article. The title, the staff feels, reflects those comments made by the author regarding the fit and finish of Tamiya kits. The title is a bit of a play on words originally uttered by Tommy Row in a song released in 1969 entitled *Jam Up and Jelly Tight*.

And yes, "Building Tamiya's 1/350 IJN Mogami" was considered but was ultimately considered to be exceedingly dull.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIUai6D7xh4>

I want to say that the next two items were mentioned in the newsletter from the Oklahoma Historical Modeler folk. If not, my apologies. Both seemed to cry out for further mention. First, is a cottage industry group called Thachweave Products. They produce some nifty coiled ropes and rope bumpers for that 1/35th scale LCM, LCVP, LCA, or DUKW that is languishing in your stash. But what really caught my eye is their line of stowage and camouflage barrel wraps.

<http://thachweave.tripod.com/index.htm>

The other item, via a business card, was Grass Tech USA. They are situated in Colorado and manufacture and distribute static grass applicators. And, of course, they sell the static grass separately. Check out their site and in particular the short video "Flocking Made Easy." It features Oingo Boingo's *Weird Science*.

<http://grasstechusa.com/>

Fred Horky included a short feature from Sleeping Dog TV in one of his missives that accompany the other IPMS/USA club newsletter he graciously distributes to us all.

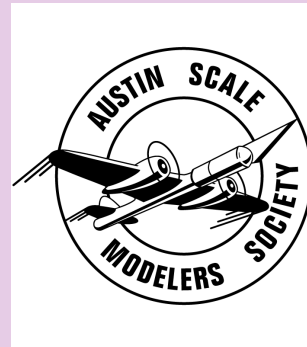
The item Fred sent concerned the Piper Cub, but it turns out Sleeping Dog TV has lots of other cool things to view. After all, Sleeping Dog TV is the "leader in aviation television production".

For the attention deficit amongst you, check out Dog Bones. These are short video clips of aircraft in flight and one even features a DUCK landing.

<http://www.sleepingdogtv.com/home>



Jean-Michel



**Monthly Program Schedule**

**November**

**Bob  
Betha**

**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](mailto:vicepresident@austinsms.org)



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



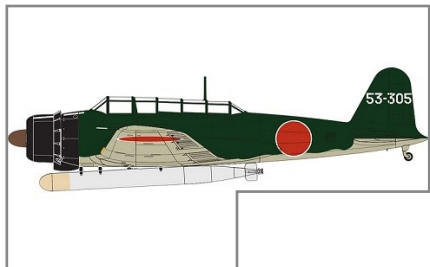
## Airfix's 1/72 Nakajima B5N2 'Kate' by Ben Morton

From the Airfix web-page: The Nakajima B5N2 'Kate' was the most numerous Japanese torpedo bomber of the Second World War and, while primarily operated as a torpedo bomber from carriers, it also saw service as a land based bomber. A single engine monoplane, it was defended by just one rearward firing machine gun, operated by the radio operator. It's relatively low speed left it vulnerable to enemy fighters, performing well at Pearl Harbor and going on to have success at the Battle of the Coral Sea and Midway.



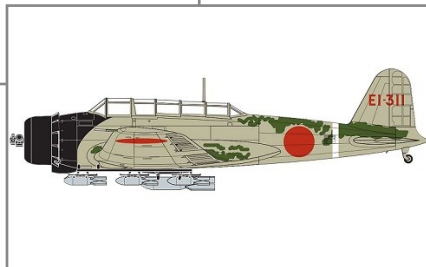
It has been written before, but it is worth repeating, that the new Airfix has been producing some nicely tooled, and moderately priced, 1/72nd scale aircraft kits. This 'Kate' is no exception. The kit contains 107 parts and markings options for two aircraft. One flying off the Imperial Japanese Navy carrier Shokaku during the attack on Pearl Harbor and the other from the 553rd Kokutai, or squadron, during April-October of 1944.

The markings provided may strike some as a bit sparse but they do include wing walks, instrument faces, and some nice sign-of-the sun (Hinomaru) aircraft insignia. I would imagine that the after-market folk will soon arrive with some additional bits to alleviate that craving for additional markings.



The kit parts are molded in the usual light blue-gray

plastic that we have come to know from Airfix. While some may find this plastic a bit on the soft side, if you exercise the appropriate care while building, it shouldn't present any problems.



The cockpit consists of fourteen separate parts. Airfix has molded the cockpit floor as an integral part on the one-piece upper wing. Neat! They have also included three options when it comes to adding the greenhouse canopy to the kit. One is a completely closed version, another has the rear gunner position opened, and a third option allows for all the canopies to be open, which will allow for showing off the three crew members that are included.



Another feature of this kit is folding wings. The wings were hand folded on the real thing so Airfix has only included the hinges and some end plates. They did include some fastening (tie-down) brackets, if this is the way you wish to go. You will need to do some minor surgery on the kit as the top and bottom wings are modeled as one piece. This is where the "exercise appropriate care while building" comes into play.



In Airfix's defense, the demarcation line for the folded wings version is very well marked. The elevator and rudder are also molded as separate parts, and as such, are position able.

You also have several other options with this kit. The selection of under-wing ordinance being one. Airfix has included three different types of bombs or a torpedo.

A knock on the kit is the inclusion of parts for the shallow water device the Japanese used on their aerial torpedoes at Pearl Harbor with not one mention in the instructions.

There is the option of modeling your 'Kate' with the landing gear up or down. (This to go along with a separate display stand that Airfix markets).

Another item of interest is the inclusion of separate flaps, which are molded separately in either a drooped position or non-drooped fashion.

The building instructions are what we have come to expect from this latest generation of Airfix kits. Being on the pictograph-style you won't be taxing your reading skills. But good observation skills will come in handy, as there are several clear, fiddly bits to add to the center wing section and fuselage before they get closed up. So, pay attention!

The manufacturers' suggested retail price for this kit is \$18.99. While that may be at the high end for a 1/72nd scale Airfix kit, you do get a lot for you money.

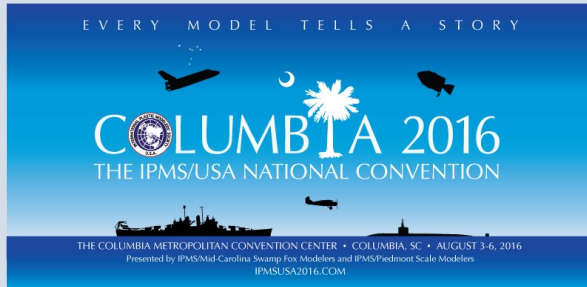
In addition to those things already mentioned, Airfix includes open or closed cowl flaps, weighted (flattened) tires, and two options for the propeller spinner. There is a lot to offer for this new 'Kate'.

Go build the your model!

Ben



### Columbia 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention



The 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention will be held in Columbia, South Carolina August 3-6, 2016. The host hotel is sold out as is the adjacent Hampton Inn.

More information is available at the convention website and, as is the norm, more will be added as the event approaches. Check back often!

<http://www.ipmsusa2016.com/>

### Support Your Local Hobby Shop



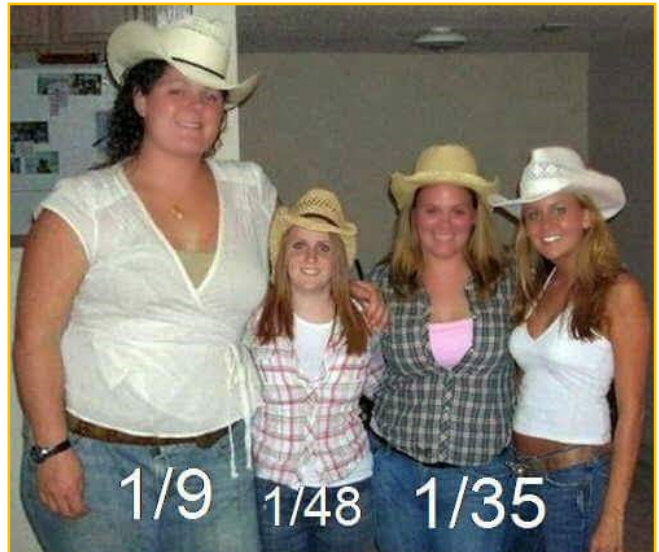
<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com/>



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



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



**Scale is important!**

[Courtesy of Keith Townsend.]

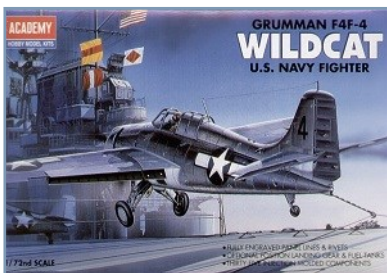
## One Fewer Kit in the Stash by Mike Lamm

This past summer, I actually got a weekend alone when my wife and kids went to visit the in-laws without me. [Insert mother-in-law jokes here].

Believe it, or not, I actually really like, and get along well with my in-laws...no, I'm not just saying that because this is an award-winning, widely distributed newsletter, available in many fine news outlets around the country. I actually do enjoy spending time with them! Seriously! No, really I do.

However, having kids (one teen, one pre-teen), my wife and I rarely get a lot of "free" time to spend doing things we like to do. In my case, one of the things I enjoy doing is building models for longer than 20-30 minutes at a time. Now I had the opportunity to spend a *whole* weekend working on models.

Of course, most of Saturday was spent attending our club auction and picnic. However, after getting home from the auction, I decided I was going to try and knock out a model in record time.



My victim of choice would be Academy's 1/72 F4F-4 Wildcat. The kit seemed like a low-hanging fruit from the old stash tree, so why not? It's an Academy kit from the late 1980s that I'm sure everyone is familiar with, and since it's an Academy kit from the late 1980s, we can probably guess most of the issues.

The shape is not exactly correct (especially the canopy), the decals are terrible (luckily there are only a few and they were easily replaced with spares), the cockpit has no details (at 1/72nd there's not much to see), and the paint instructions are wrong (thanks, Google).



Nevertheless, the kit has finely engraved panel lines, simple construction, and clean/crisp molding. So, just after 9:00 at night, I got it started.

The kit represents an Atlantic-based Wildcat, possibly flying from the ill-fated USS Block Island (CVE-21) <http://www.usblockisland.org/Beta/Welcome.html>



The kit features a decent engine, detailed landing gear, and the fit is tidy and quick.

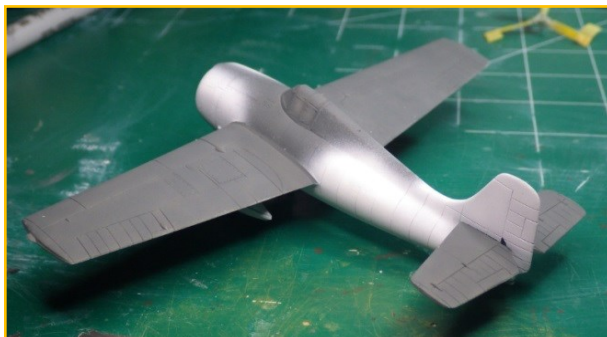
After just a few hours, I had the

model, as well as a few beers, mostly completed and ready for some primer. Just in time for me to call it a night. As I mentioned, the kit features engraved panel lines, but there's something about the canopy shape that just seems off; however, in the end, it looks like a Wildcat...bulky and tough.



As I mentioned earlier, the Academy paint instructions are wrong in both color and pattern.

Academy would have you paint the model almost entirely blue with a grey underside. In reality, Atlantic-based planes by 1944 featured a Gull Grey/White pattern. Not a big deal and I'm sure most of us research every plane we build anyway.



So, after a night of drying, the correct colors were sprayed, new decals were applied, and in less than 16 hours of elapsed time, the model was completed.



Now, what's keeping you from picking some low-hanging fruit from your stash?



Go build a model, or two.

Mike



### IPMS/USA Region 6 News

After every IPMS/USA National Convention, attendees return home with a pile of recently acquired kits, books, and tools, as well as an increased enthusiasm for their hobby. Many return home with the thought that their home chapter or other IPMS/USA chapters in their area could host a national convention. After all, how hard could it be?

That scenario has played out amongst some of your fellow Region 6 club members for many years. Members of the Houston and San Antonio IPMS/USA chapters have teamed up and formed a committee to assemble a bid for presentation at the 2016 IPMS-USA National Convention to be held in Columbia, South Carolina. This committee will prepare a bid to host the 2018 National IPMS/USA Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE COMMITTEE'S CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

The members of all Region 6 clubs have talents, abilities, and leadership that will be needed to make this effort successful. This effort will require volunteers with talent in technology, photography, specific organizational skills, graphic arts, communication, finance management, and many other fields.

If you are interested in serving on the bid preparation team (and beyond), please contact Dick Montgomery at [dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net).

**“Remember the Alamo-Nationals”**

### Ben and Randy's Holiday Fruit

Orders are now being taken for lovely holiday fruit baskets that will include a various assortment of pineapples and mangos. Please get your orders in early as those who dawdle will be left with the mushy stuff.

Expected delivery will be in time for the holidays in 2018. We hope!



## Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

As the end of 2015 draws near, the award for Model o' the Year is intensifying, at least a little bit. During the October meeting of ASMS there were just a smattering of finished models from which to chose the Model o' the Month. All previous Model o' the Month winners will reassemble at our December club meeting whereupon the coveted Model O' The Year will be chosen from those entries.

An opportunity still exists for you to bring in a finished kit, and hopefully, add your name to that list for the grand prize. One should not forget that ASMS will also be awarding a Most Prolific Modeler to the one individual that is...well, the most prolific. This is one of those rare occasions where the guy with the most toys, or in this case finished models, wins.

Roy



Mike Lamm has been on a year long quest to try and eliminate as many kits from his model stash as is possible. With his showing of two more 1/72nd scale kits, he may want to consider *adding* to his stash.



The Academy Hellcat is featured elsewhere in this newsletter. I know the editorial staff is anticipating a nice article on the Airfix Me109 in the very near future.





Speaking of quests, Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner seems to have embarked upon one of his own. Populating the known universe with Gundams, with Zaku II (the pink one) taking command.



Ian Candler's Ma K/ Zbv 3000 fighting suit from the Maschien Kreiger universe won Model o' the Month.



For those unfamiliar with the Maschien Kreiger universe it originally began as the science fiction series which ran in the Japanese hobby magazine *Hobby Japan*. To develop the storyline, Kow Yokoyama collaborated with Hiroshi Ichimura as story editor and Kunitaka Imai as graphic designer. The three creators drew visual inspiration from their combined interest in World War I and World War II armor and aircraft, the American space program and films such as *Star Wars*, *Blade Runner* and *The Road Warrior*. Yokoyama built the original models from numerous kits including armor, aircraft, and automobiles.

[Thanks to Wikipedia for that last bit.]

## Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

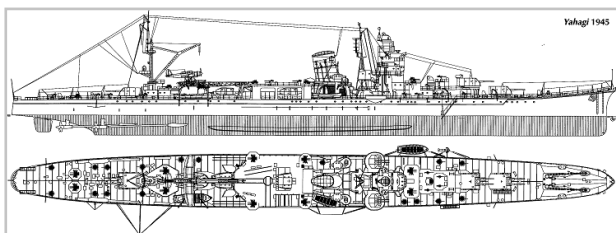
Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington, Mike Poole,  
Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

### Shipping News

Here's the stuff. This month is big on Japanese ships.

Tackling the small scale stuff (1/700th) first, from Aoshima is the IJN Aircraft Carrier Ryujo. Aoshima will also be releasing the USS Wasp CV-7 aircraft carrier in this same scale.

Fujimi is showing three new ship models all from the Imperial Japanese Navy. The IJN light cruiser Yahagi, the IJN Heavy Cruiser Tone, and the IJN Destroyer Shiratsuyu



Pit Road has two newer offerings with the JMSDF Destroyer DD151 Asagiri (2015) and the USS Lake Erie CG-70 Guided missile cruiser and two WWII subjects. Those two are the IJN Destroyer Shimakaze and the IJN Food

Supply Ship Irako. It is nice to see kit manufacturers delving into auxiliary ships as well as the main combatants.



Flyhawk Models is showing the HMS Aurora (1945) Arethusa class British light cruiser.



Flyhawk also has a companion set that includes metal gun barrels for this kit. Thanks, Flyhawk for continuing to release British ship kits.

Italeri is re-releasing the long-in-the-tooth DKM Graf Spee in 1/720th scale.

Scaling up a bit to 1/350th, is Tamiya with the IJN Destroyer Kagerou. Fujimi has the IJN Shimakaze and Dragon is re-releasing the DKM Scharnhorst. This is a smart kit with lots of extra goodies included in the box.

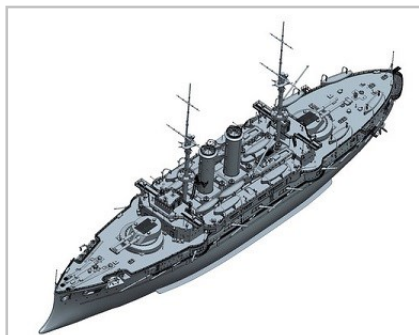


For the submariner in you and in 1/350th scale is the IJN Submarine I-52 by Aoshima.

Moving up to 1/200th and RC capable model ships is Trumpeter with the HMS Rodney battleship. This kit includes 1,260 parts, a one piece hull, and nine photo etch frets for handrails, ladders, radar parts, etc. There are also two



2 Walrus seaplanes. It is nice to see Trumpeter supplying the photo etch with their kits instead of leaving it to the after-market suppliers.



Finally, Wave is releasing what is arguably the most famous participant in the Battle of Tsushima, the IJN BB Mikasa.

There is a YouTube video to help get you up to speed on the importance of this naval engagement during the Russo-Japanese War. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ink4S1adrhw>

That's it for this month. Grab a kit from that stash and build it!



Rick

### Automotive

Most of the car news this month comes from one small but very busy company in Tokyo, Japan. Model Factory Hiro has announced no less than FOUR completely new offerings for the month of November – incredible!

First is the 1/12th Porsche 917LH '71. Beginning this month the Langheck, or longtail version of the Porsche 917 endurance entry for the '71 24 Hours of Le Mans race will be offered. Full drivetrain and interior detail are featured in resin and white metal castings. Many details are molded in translucent beige resin to emulate real fiberglass on this huge model.



Another is a 1/12th Ferrari 330 P4 Berlinetta. In September the second most anticipated release from MFH finally arrived with the release of the open-top 330 P4. This month the still sexier version, the closed-top berlinetta has just been released in Monza, Le Mans, and Daytona variants of the 1967 endurance season. The subject is so downright gorgeous one can't help making a breathtaking model. A lucky few with a large sturdy workbench will have a good time building this one.

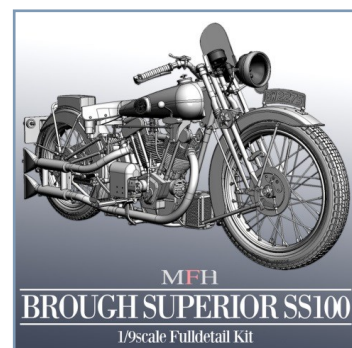


The third offering is a 1/12th Williams FW16. Not wanting to leave Formula 1 fans in the lurch this

month, MFH are re-releasing the Williams FW16 which competed in the 1994 season with some success. For Williams fans it's a chance to own a large 1/12th scale model of a race-car not often modeled in any scale.



Last but not least, something for the motorcycle modelers. The 1/9th Brough Superior SS100 (sounds like ruff) kit will finally be released this month after being teased about it for the last six months or so. It will contain mostly white metal castings but also have stainless steel spokes and spoke tensioners, individual chain links and finned cylinder heads that stack from individual slices.



Back in the realm of injected plastic, Revell Germany have announced the 1/24th Ferrari 250 short wheel-base berlinetta will be reissued. For those interested, this is the Italeri tool which has a fairly accurate body and would make an attractive curbside model with an aftermarket wheel kit.



Fujimi will soon release their new model of the 1/24th Lotus Esprit S1 with submarine option for all the James



Bond, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, fans. I remember Roger Moore emerging from the surf onto a crowded beach in this car, stopping momentarily to toss a dead fish out of the window. Not much else in the way of details on this one.



I'm really happy to see the Heller folks reissuing more of their classic tooling. Despite half a dozen attempts over the past 50 years nobody seems to have gotten the E-Type right except Heller. Collector prices for the 1/24th Jaguar 3.8 liter E-Type Roadster, FHC Coupe and Le Mans lightweight versions have soared on EBay as they have become increasingly rare.



These models look great right out of the box because the designers took the extra time to make their work as accurate and detailed as possible. The engine compartment and interior are well done. Even the plastic wire wheels look pretty good. If you like the E-Type, grab one of these inexpensive new kits before they disappear for another 20 years!

After reissuing their Laverda and Honda 750's earlier this year Heller are now promising to do the same for the 1/8th BMW R-60 and 1/8th Norton Commando motorcycles. All of the Heller bikes in 1/8th scale are extremely detailed plastic kits with finned heads that stack in slices, accurate linkages, and thin spokes.

They aren't perfect, but with a little scratch work to enhance the more prominent aspects these can be made into very attractive models. Prices for the older un-started kits have soared into the stratosphere so I'm really glad to see these back in production.



That's it for the automotive roundup this month. Pick up one of these great kits or ask Santa to toss it under the tree.

Mike



## Aircraft

Happy November everyone! As we all know, thanks to the 24-hour news cycle, November marks the arrival of Scale ModelWorld – the biggest model show in the UK. In addition, we get a bunch of new release announcements from this show. This month we are full to the gills with model news, and leading the way is Airfix. Not everything I've listed below was announced at Telford though. So, let's get this party started!

Airfix announced a bevy of new stuff for 2016 at this year's show. They also had test shots of their forthcoming 1/48 P-40B and 1/48 Gloster Meteor. Both of these looked very nice – as nice as the images I examined would allow. The Great “chin scoop/underwing fairing” debate of 2015 still rages on, and I'll reserve judgement until I have the actual evidence in hand.

The majority of the new releases will make the Small Scale Modelers very happy. Airfix have announced two



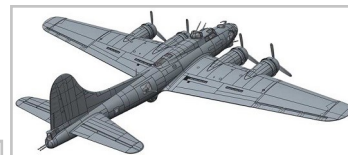
jets in the lineup for 2016. A Hunting Percival Jet Provost T.3 and a Handley Page Victor B.2 are headed for your

LHS later next year.



Both of them are 1/72nd scale, and the Victor is a large kit so make some room. Other kits in 1/72nd scale are the Boeing B-17G, the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mk.VII, the Heinkel He 111H-6, and the Grumman Martlet Mk.IV.

These are all very nice choices, although I wished Airfix was announcing a B-17E or



F rather than the B-17G. Just my preference. The Martlet isn't strictly a “new tool” kit as Airfix recently brought out the

F4F-4 earlier this year. The two remaining kits from Airfix not in 1/72nd scale are the 1/48 Junkers Ju 87B-1 and the 1/24 Hawker Typhoon Mk.IB “car door” .

We don't have a decent Ju 87B-1 on the market right now, and it was only a matter of time before Airfix released the car-door version of the Tiffie. For those of us who missed the boat the first time around on the Typhoon, now is our chance to get one. Granted, it's not the bubbletop version, but the car-door style looks cool too.



GasPatch Models, the turnbuckle guys, had a 1/48 Henschel Hs 123A-1/B-1 at their booth in Telford this year. This model was first announced (well, I first heard about it) in the summer of 2014. It looks as if it will finally be arriving to market. GasPatch have already produced their Salmson A2A in various incarnations, so it must be time for the Henschel to appear.



HpH, those resin master model makers, have released a 1/32 Focke Wulf Ta 154 Moskito. This is their usual fare – a full resin kit that is detailed six ways to Sunday.

It's an interesting subject, if not a very esoteric subject. The gear are reinforced with rods to support the weight of this all-resin kit. The parts layout is fairly conventional with hollow two piece wings, hollow two piece fuselage, etc. If you can afford it, or any of their kits, it's well worth your money to pick one up.

Meng have announced a new-tool 1/72 F-106A Delta Dart. The test shots look nicely detailed as the parts

layout look very similar to their F-102. For those who want to purchase any aftermarket bits, Meng is also preparing a resin cockpit, electronic bays, and wheel wells for this kit, all available for a nominal fee, of course.

I have no idea when all of this will be available to the common folk.



A hint on Facebook that caught my eye recently is the HKM 1/32 North American P-51B/C. It didn't cause a overly large stir in the modeler's continuum – probably because it wasn't Tamiya making the noise. HKM recently did this with their 1/32 Phantom “announcements” - just putting up a couple of photos on their Facebook page.

Even though HKM has brought out some nice kits in the recent past (and my fingers are crossed on this one) I wonder if I should throw away my Trumpeter P-51B and my Revell P-51B that I was planning to graft together to make a proper P-51B... Naw, that would just jinx it.

Kinetic Models have been busy recently. They have announced a couple of new releases in 1/48th scale. First up is their Sukhoi Su-33 Flanker D. This is the navalized version of the Flanker with larger, folding wings and beefed-up landing gear and associated structures. This kit is scheduled to be released in December of this year. Wow, talk about keeping a secret!

Next up is the 1/48 Super Etendard which should be released soon as well. Both kits were on display in Telford and I'm waiting to hear the results.



Kinetic will also be releasing a “new-ish” tooled kit in 1/24th scale. A couple of years ago, Kinetic purchased the molds for the 1/24 P-47D from VFS.

Last year, Kinetic released that kit under their label. Just recently, they have announced a new kit based on these molds. This month, November, they are releasing the 1/24 P-47D Razorback, a kit I hoped VFS would put out years ago to befriend my VFS P-47D bubbletop. Well, it's not VFS, but it looks like the razorback is arriving.

Fly Models have also been busy. Recently, they released a 1/32



Westland Wessex and it looks typically nice. I don't build rotary-winged craft, although I might make an exception in this case. They are also releasing a new-tool 1/32 Hawker Hurricane Mk.IIc and a Mk.IIc Trop version as well. I'm not sure when these are heading out to market, but some test shots are posted on their Facebook page.

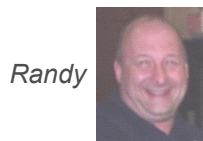


Lastly, and the 'Z' in our roundup this month, is Zvezda. They have recently released a 1/48 Petlyakov Pe-2,

and the early results are very good.

Modelers are very impressed with this kit, and we can be a fickle bunch. If you have any interest in Soviet aviation during World War II, then you should have this kit.

That's it for this month. Go build something!

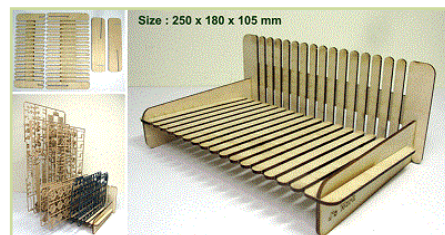


Randy

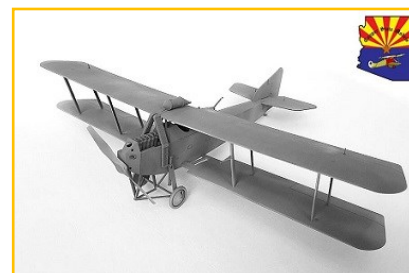
### Miscellaneous

I saw this item and my first thought was, why? My second thought was that this thing might just be the modeling accessory we have all been longing for.

From J's Work comes a sprue organizer. This four-piece, organizing stand holds your plastic sprue so you no longer have to fish around whilst searching for that elusive part.



Copper State Models has a 1/48th scale injected molded Armstrong-Whitworth FK8 coming your way. Copper State Models is a purveyor of WWI aircraft, as well as figures.



ICM is best known for their excellent automotive/truck

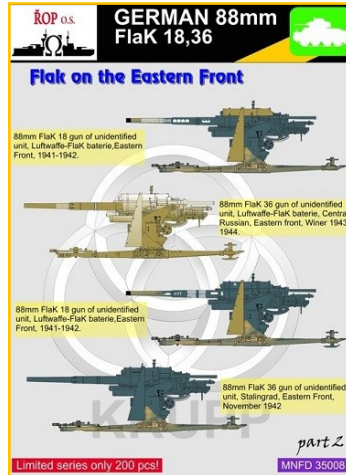


kits. They are now delving into the world of aircraft modeling. Their first venture in this arena is a 1/48th scale JU88A-5, WWII bomber. This injected molded kit is from all new molds.

In a never ending search for alternate markings from what the major manufacturers provide comes Combat Decals. They are issuing a decal set in 1/72nd scale of some British test and developmental aircraft. Included are markings for a Harrier, Tornado, Jaguar, and a Eurofighter Typhoon.

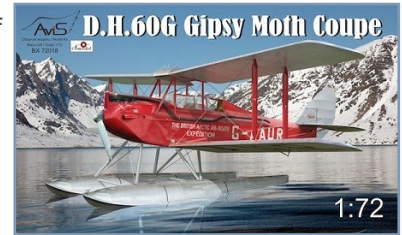


ROP o.s. has a 1/35th scale German 88mm Flak18,36 available soon. The kit includes markings for anti-aircraft pieces on the Eastern, North African, and Western Italian fronts.



nacelle or with just the basic framework exposed. Decals are included for a Polish, Czech, and one East German model. It looks for all the world to be an upsized version of their previous 1/72nd scale kit.

For those that crave something a bit out of the ordinary, Avis/AModel has a De Havilland DH-609 Gipsy Moth float plane for your amusement. This injected molded kit should give you hours of consternation and ultimate enjoyment. Plus, you'll have the only one on your block.



Roden is adding to their interesting airliner schemes. First, was the aircraft used by Elton John and now we have the Boeing 720 used by the

BeeGees during their 1979 North American tour. "Stayin' alive, Stayin' alive..."

Attack Squadron is also branching out from their usual fare with an all-resin Grumman F2F-1 in 1/48th scale. This kit includes some photo etch and a clear bit for the canopy.



For the truly unusual is this kit from Hasegawa. They are offering a 1/12th scale Crane Claw game. This is a snap-kit molded in white, blue and clear. "The claw..."



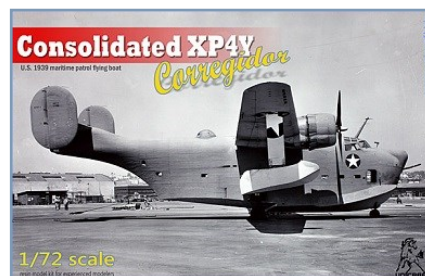
PST has a GAZ-03-30 Soviet city bus to populate your next diorama. This kit is injected molded and in 1/72nd scale.

For the Iron Blood Orphans fan in you is a 1/144th HG Gundam Gusion by Bandai. This kit is injected molded and is posable, after assembly.



Uircraft Models has a 1/72nd scale resin kit of Consolidated's XP4Y Corregidor.

Special Hobby has an injected molded, 1/48th scale DFS SG-38. This kit can be built with a fuselage



If this doesn't get you the 'Road Less Traveled Award' at the next ASMS model show, nothing will.

5M Hobby has a Panzer II VK 901, This is the Panzer with the cool, overlapping road wheels. 5M Hobby's kit is in 1/35th scale.



Wave has a 1/20th scale kit of a Pak Krote.

I thought to just leave it there, but for the uninitiated, this is a fighting suit from the 'Maschinen Krieger' world armed with a 75mm gun. The kit comes with two marking schemes.



Golzar

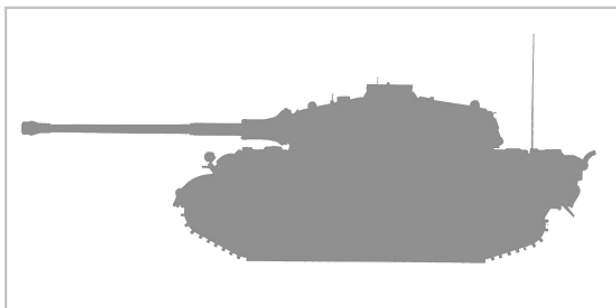


### Armor

Greetings, armor fans! And hello to all armor curious!

Right now, the two subjects that are hot and heavy in the modelling world are Modern and WWI. This makes sense as it seems just about every variant of WWII tank has been kitted, and in some cases just a scribble on a napkin from the Germans has been put to plastic.

I don't try to list every new kit that is coming out as that would be truly nuts, and as a rule I stay away from letting you know about every esoteric variant of the Tiger or Panzer 3 that Dragon is working on.



That being said, there is some interesting news in WWII kits, and from one of my favorite kit makers, Meng. Meng has announced that they are making a new King Tiger. Not only are they making a new one, they are asking for your help!

Yes, that's right. If you don't like the new King Tiger you only have yourself to blame. They are asking for information as well as suggestions on features from the modeling community.

They are already working with the famed "Tank Museum" as well as esteemed modeler David Parker. David is editor of the AFV Modeler mag and builder of an amazing 1/16th fully detailed King Tiger whose build was featured in many issues of AFV Modeler. Rumors already abound of it having a full interior, something that Meng does so well.

Why is this such a big deal? Well, Meng has said this is just the first in a new line of WWII subjects which will be done this way.

(This is really audacious of them!) The commitment that Meng is making to the modeler is really astounding. I am sure that the rivet counters will still complain but, they only have themselves to blame.

So, in a capitalist society we vote with our dollars. I am not the biggest WWII German armor fan, but I am seriously considering supporting Meng in this endeavor. I want to encourage this kind of behavior!

Here is a link to their page if you have any suggestions for them. (I, for one, want them to copy Tiger Models sprue tagging stickers I showed last month).

<http://www.meng-model.com/new.php?id=522>

Let's move on to another Shilka and from Meng Models! The Shilka could be compared to our own M42 Duster. Both were designed as an anti-air weapon that was turned into a vicious anti-personnel weapon.

This is the second Shilka announced in as many months. This should replace the old and difficult Dragon offering.



Next, we have another offering from new kit manufacturer Tiger Models, an AMX-30B2! This is the reactive armor festooned AMX-30. I wonder if they have any connection to Meng. Meng already has several AMX-30 tanks that are superb. I would have expected them to kit this variant.



Either way, competition is good and this looks like a beast. It was a stop-gap variant while the French were waiting for the final Le Clerk to be delivered. Now those tanks are residing in training centers as OPFOR tanks sprouting that cool dark blue/grey camo.

New from Takom is a series I have wanted for a long time, a family of AMX-13's! This is great news for fans of the Middle Eastern conflicts as the AMX-13 was used extensively by the IDF.



The old Heller kits can finally go the way of Dragon's Duster...into the bin. It looks like Takom is wasting no time and will be releasing three variants all at once, one of which is the IDF variant.

Also from Takom is a very interesting subject, a 1/35th M9 turned into a combat bulldozer! The only other plastic offering of this vehicle was in 1/87th scale from Roco/Minitanks.



This little guy sure looks pug-nacious!

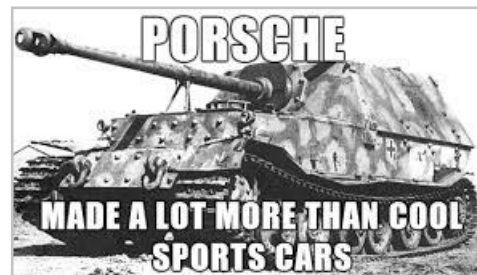
You like big guns? You like the Great War? If you answered yes to either question the next one will make you happy. A big Bertha from Takom!



Takom has really been knocking it out of the park recently with their WWI kits. This one will be an impressive addition to any modelers collection.

These are the highlights, folks. Until next time!

Aaron





## ***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](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 July + August***



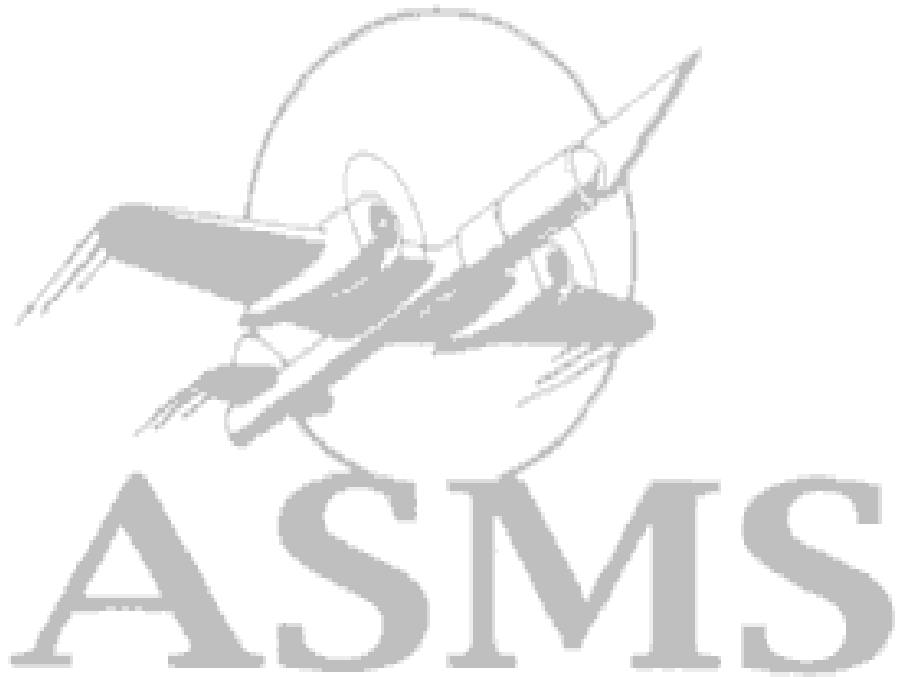
- Dem Brudders - They Say You Can't Go Back, by Bill Engar
- Making a Woody - Adding real-wood trim to a 1940 Ford, by Ray Ferguson
- Half-Sized Gas Passer - Comparing Minicraft's 1:144 Scale KC-135E with its bigger brudders in 1:72 Scale, by Richard C. Engar
- Formidable Fishbed - Exporting Eduard's Excellent 1:48 MiG-21PFM to Vietnam, by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
- Nocturnal Knock-Out, Exploring the Details of Zoukei Mura's 1:32 He 219 – Part 2, by Doug Reed
- Air-Cushioned Armor, Scratch-Building a Hover Tank from the "Hammer's Slammers" Series, by Dan Thompson

**contact us**

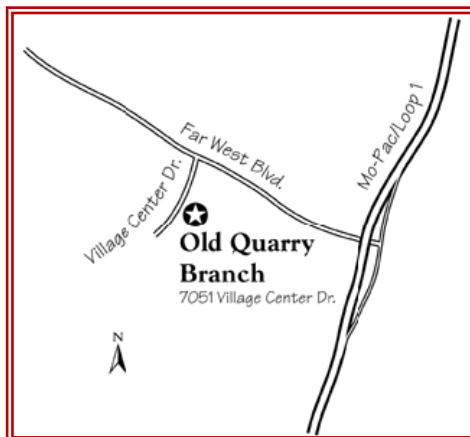
**Austin Scale  
Modelers Society  
1228 W. San Antonio St.  
San Marcos, Texas  
78666**

**on the web**

[www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org)



**Next Meeting:  
November 19  
Austin Old Quarry Library  
7051 Village Center Drive  
Austin, Texas  
7PM to 8:45PM**



**SOUTH WEST AREA MODELERS OF PLASTIC PRESENTS**

# **CALMEX XXX**

**JANUARY 30, 2016**

## *Contest Theme*



Theme entries must depict persons or things that made a significant appearance or occurred 30 years ago. Examples would include a 1986 Ford Mustang, and F-14 tomcat from the movie Top Gun and the space shuttle Challenger. The model must be readily associated with 1986 as this element will form part of the judging process for the award. Documentation of theme eligibility may be required.