



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modeler's Society

March 2017

Only One Version by Mike Lamm

One of Trumpeter's latest releases, a 1/35th scale SU-101 SPA, is a somewhat odd choice. Only one version of the SU-101 self-propelled artillery vehicle was ever manufactured. And it never made it past the trial stage.

Still, with the increased interest in "paper Panzers" and AFV prototypes, it's nice to see some new modeling choices. Also, the increased interest in online video games like *World of Tanks*, has seemed to spark new interest in these proposed or prototype versions.

The Soviets developed the SU-101 at the same time they were developing their SU-100 in mid-1944. Both AFVs were turretless and were armed with the 100mm D-10 tank gun. The SU-101 was built on the chassis of the T-44, but the SU-100 was built on the chassis of the T-34. Other than the chassis, the main difference between the SU-101 and the SU-100 was the location of the crew compartment and the engine.

[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.

www.austinsms.org



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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

IPMS/USA Region VI Model Shows

New Orleans SuperInvitational 2017, Kenner, Louisiana	4.08.17
http://ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger	
Tulsa Modelers Forum, Bixby, Oklahoma	4.08.17
https://www.tulsaipms.org/contest	
Houston ModelMania 2017, Stafford, Texas	4.29.17
http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11	
ScaleFest 2017, Grapevine, Texas	6.03.17
http://www.ipmsnct.net/	
IPMS/USA National Convention, Omaha, Nebraska	7.26-29.17
http://www.ipmsusa2017.com/	

Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	4.06.17
http://alamosquadron.com/meetings.html	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	4.05.17
http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	4.06.17
CenTex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	3.16.17
www.ctsms.org	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	4.08.17
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Austin, Texas .	4.22.17
https://www.facebook.com/events/513518988858565/	

Other Events

Build-n'-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	3.18.17
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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

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Peanut Brittle

Randy Bungardner

Well, it's March and Spring is almost here, even though Spring started back in January.

The model contest season is underway, with the opening volley occurring in San Antonio at the end of February. I want to congratulate the San Antonio club for putting together another fine show. It would seem a record number of entrants and entries showed up and there was a lot of great work on display.

Quite a few of us from ASMS attended to partake in the festivities and buy some stuff that we couldn't live without. See Rick Herrington's show report elsewhere in this newsletter.

This month, we don't have a contest on the boards. However, yours truly will be doing a presentation on the benefits of glue and how not to stick your fingers together. It should be entertaining as well as informative. Well, as entertaining as I can make the subject of glue.

The club dues are past due. If you haven't paid by now, get in touch with Eric Choy and he will get you caught up. The dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a family membership.

That's it for this month. Short and sweet!

Go build a model.

Randy



Fiddly Bits

Frank Seibert



Please note the following: Lone Star Military Miniatures Society is holding their monthly confab at the Shady Hollow Community Center in Austin on **April 22**. This is not the usual time or place for their monthly meetings. The normal location, the San Marcos Public Library, has been taken over for tax stuff. Check the Facebook listing for details and directions. <https://www.facebook.com/events/513518988858565/>

P.S. File your taxes!

As I will be departing the premises soon, any correspondence should be directed to my home address. That mailing address is: 2850 Comanche Trail, Box 289A, Austin, Texas 78732. I only want them fat letters. That's F A T, fat letters! Do not send any of those flimsy postal cards. Nobody cares where you've been.



For those that may have missed the announcement, Ben Morton will be stepping down as newsletter editor after the April issue of the Sprue Examiner. Any of you that are contemplating an article for the newsletter, I encourage you to do so. Any and all material is welcome and will be gratefully accepted. Any article that misses the deadline for publication in April will be forwarded to the new editor, Rick Herrington, for future use. Get to typing.

Frank



On the SU-100, the crew compartment was at the front of the vehicle, with the engine in the rear. The SU-101 reversed the crew and engine locations.

Operationally, the SU-100 design created maneuverability issues, and increased the stress on the front suspension. The SU-101 design was intended to create better maneuverability, as well as a more even weight distribution over the wheels and suspension.

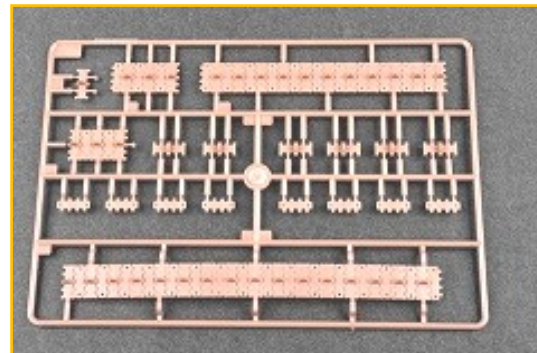
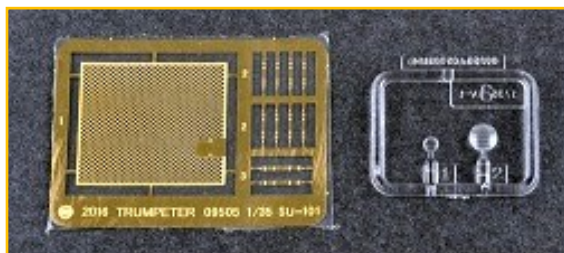


However, while the SU-100 saw widespread use, only one SU-101 was built and the design never became operational.

The war ended before the issues identified in its trials could be resolved, and Soviet high-command felt the SU-100 more than adequately filled the intended role of the SU-101. In fact, Russia still has a few SU-100s that they roll out every May Day.



Trumpeter's kit comes in a sturdy, top-opening box with light grey plastic sprues, a small clear sprue for the headlamp, a small photo-etch sprue for some handles and a grill cover, and two tan sprues for the tracks.



The kit has just over 340 pieces, but quite a few of these are not used in the construction. The road wheels are molded with the tires separately, and the gun is molded in two pieces. The kit also provides a small decal sheet; however, none of the photos of the actual tank indicate any markings were ever applied to the vehicle.

The majority of the parts are crisply molded with almost no flash. The one area where this isn't the case is the tires for the road wheels. Each one of these has a small seam around the entire tire, which will have to be removed prior to assembly. The tracks are provided in link and length, and are flash free with excellent details.



The lower hull goes together very quickly, with most of the attention spent cleaning the flash and ejector marks on the tires. With twenty individual tires to clean, this process was pretty tedious, but the fit between the road wheels and tires was excellent.

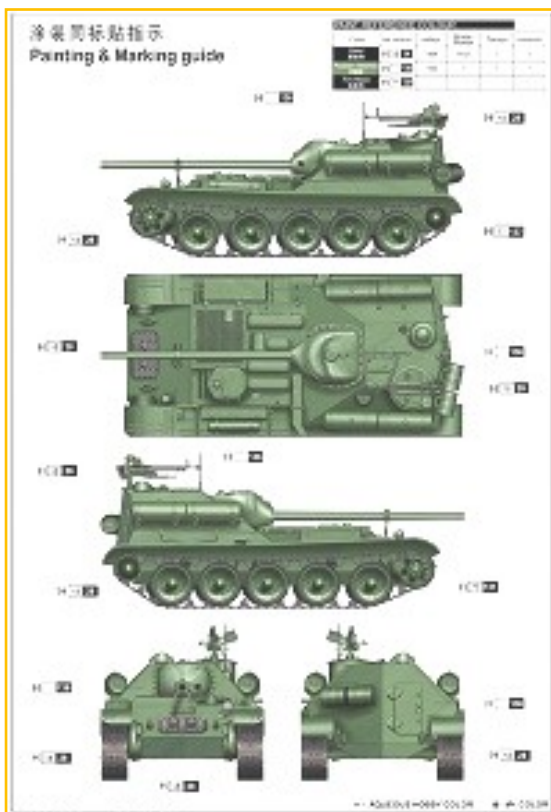
The chassis is next, and it also goes together smoothly. Adding the photoetch to the engine cover allows the vents over the engine compartment to be visible, which is a nice detail.

The hull and lower chassis go together without any issues. In fact, the fit of the model is outstanding. I didn't have a single fit issue with the kit. The kit also provides a very nice version of the 12.7 mm DShK machine gun.



My only complaint with the kit has to do with the auxiliary fuel tanks. There are two tanks per side of the crew compartment. Each of these tanks consists of ten pieces each (both plastic and photo-etch). While I appreciated the attention to detail, assembling these tanks took a considerable amount of effort, and in the end, all but five pieces will be all but entirely invisible.

I know I don't build that much armor, but to me, it seemed like overkill. Still, if my biggest complaint is that the kit is too detailed, does that really count as a complaint?



Painting options consist of one, Russian Armor Green.

A more creative modeler could build this into a "what if" version with better camouflage choices, or use a "skin" from one of the choices available in the World of Tanks game, but I chose to go with the real-life version. By the way, the "real" version is currently sitting in a museum in Moscow.

Overall, I'd recommend this kit for any skill level.

Once you get past the clean-up of the wheels, the kit goes together very nicely and has a very nice fit. The details are well done, and construction is very straightforward and stress-free.



Now, go build a model.

Mike



Gentile's Last Ride by Floyd Werner, Jr. IPMS/USA # 26266

I've always liked the P-51D Mustang. Who doesn't? But until recently, I didn't really have a subject aircraft that I wanted to model. Then I received the Lifelike Decals set with the markings for Don Gentile's P-51 Mustang that he used during his stateside war bond tour. I've always wanted to do this aircraft because Major Gentile was a childhood hero of mine. So that was all it took to motivate me to start this model.



[For a history of Don Gentile's military career, check out WarBird News. <http://www.warbirdsnews.com/warbirds-news/flight-don-gentile.html>]

The choice of the Tamiya kit was a no-brainer. But, which one? Gentile's aircraft had zero launch rocket rails and uncuffed Hamilton Standard props so the only kit that has those options is the Tamiya P-51D.

Unfortunately, I didn't have that kit in my collection. So it was off to the internet, in particular to the Hyperscale website. Within minutes after posting, I was lucky enough to have both Don Fogal and Robert Wiaderny offering to help. Now I had two kits, so why not build both of Gentile's aircraft? I needed an actual 4th Fighter Group P-51D for my 4th Fighter Group collection so again Lifelike Decals came to the rescue with a really unique looking aircraft.

Even though it is a great kit out of the box I wanted to use some aftermarket stuff to update it some. The Aires cockpit was significantly better than the kit cockpit so I elected to use that. The Ultracast upgrades for the propeller, exhausts and flaps were essential in my opinion. The uncuffed props are significantly differently shaped than the kit. Some Ultracast wheels were available so I used them on one of the planes just for variation.



Construction starts in the cockpit. The Aires cockpit fit really well after I cut the bottom portion of the sidewalls off. This made everything fit perfectly. I did have to sand the aft portion of the cockpit plug to allow the radiator and ducting to fit, but it was nothing difficult.

The fuselage halves fit well. The lower portion of the duct work needed a little bit of filler. I elected to use a piece of .005 plastic stock to fill that seam. That was an easier way to fill that gap. I did have to re-scribe some panels because I'd sanded them too aggressively. My fault.

Because Gentile's machine had the zero launch rocket stubs, I had to open the holes in the wings. Don't forget to open the drop tank rack holes while you're in there. The wings fit together perfectly and the wing to fuselage fit was ideal. This is a really well-engineered kit. Okay, I know! It *is* Tamiya, which is synonymous with perfect fit.



I opted to use the Ultracast flaps which are very accurate and don't have the unrealistic cutout that Tamiya molded on their part. That notch does allow you to put the flaps up.

The fit of the Ultracast flaps was flawless as was the fit of the horizontal stabilizers. Before you know it, I was ready for paint.

I primed both models with Alclad Grey Primer and Microfiller. This is perfect for the metallic paint.

After fixing a few areas that needed touch-up, I laid down a base coat of Alclad Aluminum over everything. I then masked over a lot of panels and sprayed White Aluminum around the panels and Duraluminum on the control surfaces. I used AK Dark Aluminum around the exhaust areas.

Now that I had a natural metal finish airplane, it was time to add some color. The fuselage band was masked off and the entire area was painted in Alclad White Primer and Microfiller. It works great and covers quickly and easily. Once dried, the fuselage stripe was masked off, then the tail and the nose.

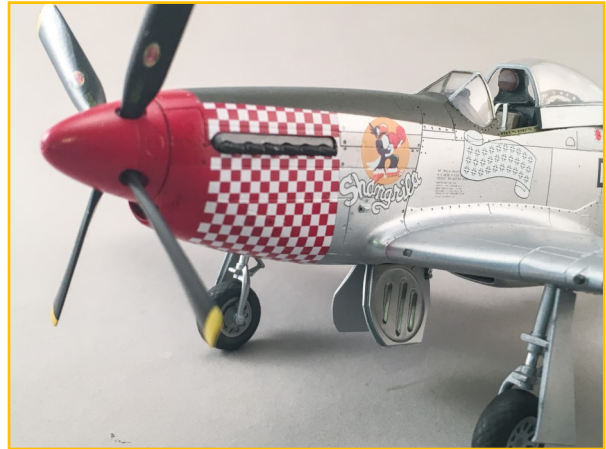


The hardest part was getting the angle of the red nose area. I'd have to see how I did later when I decaled the checkers. The same would apply when I added the olive drab anti-glare panel in front of the cockpit.

While I was painting the second model, I painted one side perfectly. While trying to turn it over in my hand while still holding my airbrush the model slipped. My hand shook just enough to spill the Alclad Aluminum all over the second model. I cleaned it off as fast as I could all the while swearing at myself for being such an idiot. It needed to be stripped and repainted. I elected to put it aside and finish it later. Now I was down to one model. At least it was the one I wanted to finish. With all that unpleasantness behind me, I had no choice but to finish off the one good model. I added a coat of Alclad Aqua Gloss to the entire model and let it dry overnight.

The first decals I needed to apply were the checkers. If they were badly off, I could still repaint it and make it some other specific airplane.

Before I cut the decal from the sheet, I put a new #11 X-Acto blade in my knife. Using a straight edge, I carefully sliced the decal where the designed cuts were. What I wanted to do was to cut the carrier film where the decals would meet. This would ensure that they would settle down without any trouble, provided they were well made.



I added the decals and I got pretty close with the checkers going down the side of the airplane.

The Olive Drab was way off. I figured I'd let the decals settle down with Solvaset and later, I could very carefully mask over the decals and respray the colors. After waiting all night. I went back in and used Tamiya tape. I put the tape on my palm two or three times to take some of the tack off of it as I masked over the decal.

Some touch up of the silver was done by re-priming in gray. This would help to keep the red background color invisible when I re-sprayed with the Alclad Aluminum.

For the top, I did the same thing for the olive drab. Now I carefully removed the masking tape and hoped for the best. No decals were pulled up. The decals worked perfectly and met beautifully on the bottom of the model. I did need to touch up a little bit of the white checkers here and there as I was not as cautious as I should have been when removing the carrier film.

With that behind me, the rest of the decals went down perfectly. I did need to touch up the American star on the upper surface with some Model Master Acrylic Insignia Blue but that is to be expected. All the decals and colors were now sealed with another coat of Aqua Gloss.

The only thing left to do was to apply some flat to the olive drab anti-glare panel. Small items were added like the pitot tube and antenna. Since the real aircraft appeared to be brand new, no weathering was added to the model.

The Ultracast exhausts and prop blades were added. Since this aircraft was fitted for the zero launch rocket rails, it required a grounding strap on the tail. Some EZ Line was all that was needed to make this little addition. After adding the clear red, green and yellow to the lights, the model was done.

The only part of the model that gave me problems was the canopy. The sliding portion of the canopy was a pain to put together. Tamiya released at least two different clear parts for this kit. The early one had the sprue attachment point on the clear glass. No matter what you did, you couldn't get rid of that blemish. Later Tamiya kit releases moved the mounting stubs to the bottom. This made the clear parts useable. I think if I had to do it again, I would use a Monogram kit for the sliding portion of the canopy. A vacu-formed replacement is another option. Nevertheless, I was happy with how it turned out.

The Aires interior fit well and was a marked improvement on the kit cockpit. The Eduard steel seatbelts also worked well. The thinness of the steel makes them easy to form. The Ultracast accessories were significant improvements on the kit items. I think the flaps, at the very least, are essential if you are going to model your aircraft with the flaps extended, which appears to be a normal position.



The exhausts are really nice and much easier than drilling them out yourself. The non-shrouded Hamilton Standard prop is the only way you can get there from here. If I hadn't already cleaned up the wheels, I would have used the Ultracast ones.



The Lifelike Decals were some of the best decals I've used. I love their research and the quality of the decals. They fit perfectly and looked great.

[For a review of the decal sheet see the October 2016 issue of the Sprue Examiner. <http://austinsms.org/news/2016/October2016.pdf>]



I'll get to that other Mustang soon. I just need to either strip it back down to bare plastic or sand and re-scribe the panel lines.

Overall, I'm extremely happy with the final results. I've always wanted to do Major Don Gentile's stateside aircraft and thanks to Lifelike Decals, I finally added it to my collection.

Floyd



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

Making a base for your latest modeling project will not only enhance the model but it also provides context and visual appeal. Paepercuts has a series of "How to" tutorials on making everything from realistic palm trees to waterfalls. To give you an idea of the nature of these tutorials, I've selected the one on Haunted Forest bases. The narrator's delivery is a bit droll but this is really nice work that just about anyone can do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9vUUAf6kpU>

Courtesy of Wikipedia, Parkour is a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training. Parkour includes running, climbing, swinging, vaulting, jumping, rolling, and quadrupedal movement that is usually carried out in urban spaces.

Parkour was originally developed in France, primarily by Raymond Belle, and further by his son David and the latter's group of friends, calling themselves the Yamakasi. The discipline was popularized in the late 1990s and 2000s through films, documentaries, and advertisements featuring the Yamakasi.

Anyone who has played any of the *Assassins Creed* video games is already familiar with this technique. To help the uninitiated, here is a short example of both Parkour and *Assassins Creed* in real life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8b1zWQgOKA>

There are two items of note from our PBS pals.

From the American Experience /PBS website: In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of America's entry into the war on April 6, 1917, *The Great War*, a six-hour documentary presented over three nights, explores how World War I changed America and the world.

Drawing on the latest scholarship, including unpublished diaries, memoirs and letters, *The Great War* tells the rich and complex story of the conflict through the voices of nurses, journalists, aviators and the American troops who came to be known as "doughboys."

The series explores the experiences of African-American and Latino soldiers, suffragists, Native American "code talkers," and others whose

participation in the war to "make the world safe for democracy" has been largely forgotten.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/great-war/player/>

The other item is a new film from Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Their film explores the Vietnam War.

Again, courtesy of American Experience/PBS: *The Vietnam War* is a ten-part, 18-hour documentary film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that will air on PBS in September 2017.

In an immersive 360-degree narrative, Burns and Novick tell the epic story of the Vietnam War as it has never before been told on film.

The Vietnam War features testimony from nearly 100 witnesses, including many Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as Vietnamese combatants and civilians from both the winning and losing sides.

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-vietnam-war/home/>

Who says you can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear? Fellow ASMS club member, Tim Eisenhour, has done just that. He has posted some photos on our website, of his latest project: a 1/28th scale DR 1 by Revell. You remember, that red plastic, clunky thing from your misspent youth. Tom has done an excellent job with an older kit.

Tom notes that the kit was built OOB. The hard part was the paint job. After the enamel base coat dried Tom applied the streaking with acrylics diluted with rubbing alcohol. As this technique can be a bit dodgy. Tom advises, to keep a bottle of Windex handy for your failed attempts.

While you marvel at Tom's modeling skills, don't forget to check out all of the other 8500+ photos available in the Members Gallery section of our website.

<http://www.austinsms.org/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=232>



Jean-Michel

Display Dilemmas by Rick Cotton

We all love to stick that plastic together. Hours and hours of fun spent either alone, or with our best friend, the television, blabbing away in the background.

Solitude, peace, quiet, glue, and paint fumes. Ah, it's blissful.

But then comes the time when the beast is finished, and sits there on the workbench in all its lovely, new glory. One stands a foot or two back and admires it. Then he turns it a bit to a new, attractive angle, steps back again and takes it in. It's gorgeous.

Then comes an unhappy realization: it has to be moved. Where will you put it? The workbench must be cleared. There are more jewels to unearth.

Where do you display your built beauties? Do you even display them at all, or has the wifey condemned "those toys" to a dark corner of the garage?

Has the wife pronounced orders that "your stuff" must remain forever in the confines of the man cave? Or have you manned up, and told her, once and for all, that these are not toys. They are works of art and deserve to be respected and displayed proudly?

Hmmm. Tough call. I don't know your wife. You might be playing with fire. How comfortable is your sofa?

I decided long ago that if I was going to invest money in plastic, brass, resin, decals, books, paint, and god-knows-what-else, it made sense to invest in a display cabinet.

I marched proudly into the furniture store, selected a cabinet about the size of a pickup truck, and said to the salesman "Yes, I want to go into months of mountainous debt! Sign me up!"

Ah, it was lovely. Yes, it had lights. Yes, it cost as much as a used Buick, but no matter. It was a necessary thing.

And it turned out to be a brilliant maneuver, because it was classy looking furniture. That's an important point. That even got to my ex-wife, who saw my modeling hobby as a filthy disease of which she needed to cure me. She liked the case. It even got to go in the house, glory be, and my models even got to go inside it...in the house! Where people live! Can I get an "Amen?"

You can get cases cheaper, used cases at Goodwill and the like. Or on Craigslist. Just make sure your

insurance is up to date before you go meet the seller in a dark parking lot at 2:00am, somewhere.



There are other options, but they are imperfect. There are bookshelves. You can line the shelves with the entire 1/35th scale Hohenstaufen division, but I can guarantee that the Allies will send a 1/1 scale cat to wreak havoc at some point. Ask me how I know this some time when you see me. I can still see the Carnage. Some things truly cannot be unseen.

If you are a plane nut, you can hang the birds from the ceiling of the man cave. This is an okay solution, for a little while. But it's amazing how much dust gets by a fifteen dollar HEPA air filter. Your darlings eventually begin to look like they are growing gray hair and beards.



You can try donating to a museum, an airport, a school, a library, a VFW hall, a veteran's hospital, or the strip club you frequent.

Then, there is the final, sad option. If nothing else works, if your other half refuses to cooperate, if the museum says no, if you have absolutely no other way to turn.

You get some packing peanuts, box the lovelies up, and seal the box with packing tape to keep critters out.



You slowly carry the box up to the attic (you imagine muffled drums rumbling) or back to the storage shelf in the corner of the garage. You are heartbroken. You think you hear the sound of *TAPS* being played far off in the distance, slowly, sadly.

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

You place the box neatly amongst the other 457 boxes already there. All are carefully lettered: 1/35 Tamiya Tiger I – 1999, 1/48th Fujimi Val – 2002, 1/24 Dodge Viper – 2010.

You set the box down gently, ever so gently. You stand erect and take a step back. Somehow you feel like saluting. For a long moment, you contemplate the boxes. Your little friends, all sleeping so peacefully. Someday, you say to yourself. Someday I'll get a case.

Time's a wastin', my friend. Bite the bullet. Take back your life, your hobby, and your happiness. Yes, it's an expense, but isn't the happiness you will get seeing your work respected worth it?

Rick



P.S. Did I mention that my brother sells furniture?



Bi-Monthly Model Contests

Moving forward, ASMS will hold six bi-monthly contests in 2017. The new, improved contest schedule will begin in February 2017.

The schedule/themes for the 2017 bi-monthly contests are as follows:

April 20



Pat Rourke Contest

June 15 (maybe)



Procrastinator's Contest

August 16



Gundam/Macross Contest

October 19



Bondo Special

December 21



White Elephant

A special thanks to King's Hobby Shop for their continuing support of our club.

MODELFiesta 36

by Rick Herrington



ModelFiesta is the longest running annual modeling event in IPMS/USA Region VI. The first ModelFiesta was held in 1981 at Wonderland Mall (now Crossroads Mall) and has been held each year since that first contest.

The contest has grown in size and quality since its early days and now averages over 120 vendor tables with over 500 models entered in the contest each year. ModelFiesta 36's entry count was 653! The theme for ModelFiesta 36 was: Everything Is Bigger In Texas.

This year's Model Fiesta was an excellent show put on by Alamo Squadron in San Antonio. It's truly an international event with modelers from as far away as Mexico coming to compete.

There were seminars held on Gundam/Gunpla models and painting Action Figures. The Tuskegee Airmen were there sharing their flying experiences and there were lots of great models to admire and take photographs of. The vendor area was packed with plenty of models and accessories on which to spend your money.

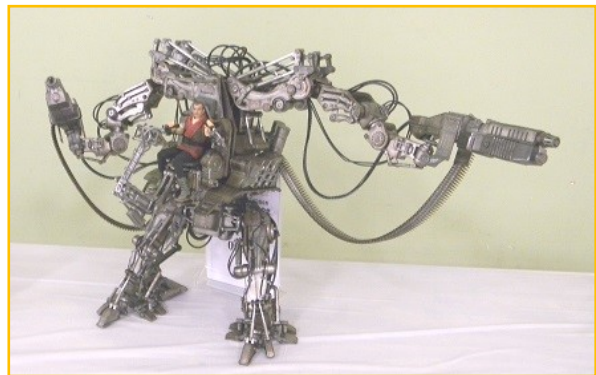


There were some truly outstanding models on display and the following pictures are just a small sample.

ASMS club member, Ian Candler, did an excellent video showcasing all of the entries at ModelFiesta 36.

https://youtu.be/HQy_dv3weSk

Who you gonna call? An excellent model of the Ghost Buster ambulance.



Armored Personnel Unit (APU) from the film *Matrix Re-Loaded*.



Ian Candler's Panzer 3 with Ostketten.



Challenger I from the Gulf War.



Steam Punk kit-bashed train.



Steam powered land cruiser.

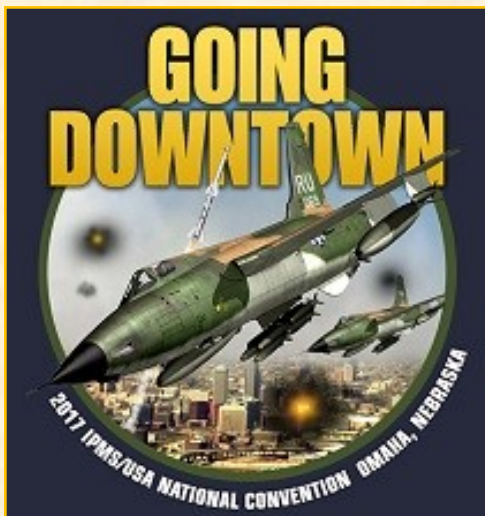
Alamo Squadron has produced a slideshow of the winners at this years ModelFiesta36. Just click the link to view all the awards.

<http://alamosquadron.com/ModelFiesta36/MF36%20Final%20Awards.pdf>

Rick



[Photos courtesy of Rick Herrington]



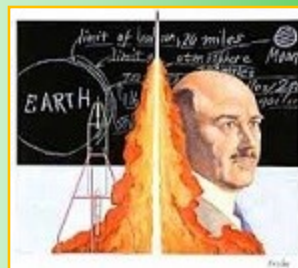
Registration for this year's National Convention is available via website.

Click here and follow the bouncing ball:

<http://www.ipmsusa2017.com/>

Fred's Fun Facts March 16

Robert Goddard, the father of rocketry, launches the first liquid-fueled rocket at Auburn, Massachusetts on this day in 1926.



In 1945, the Battle of Iwo Jima ends, although there remain scattered pockets of Japanese resistance.

The Ford Motor Company produces their fifty millionth car, the Thunderbird, in 1958.



In 1968, U.S. troops kill between 347 and 500 Vietnamese civilians at what was to become known as the My Lai Massacre.

Mississippi formerly ratifies the 13th amendment to the United States Constitution becoming the last state to approve the abolishment of slavery, in 1995.

It helps to be from Texas to truly appreciate this next one. March 16th is the birthday of Jerry Jeff Walker (singer-songwriter). The Jerry Jeff Walker hotel suite at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas was larger than the Dolph Briscoe suite. Dolph Briscoe was Governor of Texas from 1973–1979.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcTb1GbXdlQ>

March 16 is National Artichoke Heart Day.

[Inspired by Fred Horky, Information by Wikipedia]

Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

Austin Scale Modeler's Society has embarked upon a new contest schedule for 2017. Previously, we have done four in-house model contests each year. After some careful and lengthy discussion, as well as some lively debate, the club has decided to do six contests each year with prize money and everything. (First, second, and third place finishers all receive a gift certificate to King's Hobby Shop in Austin).

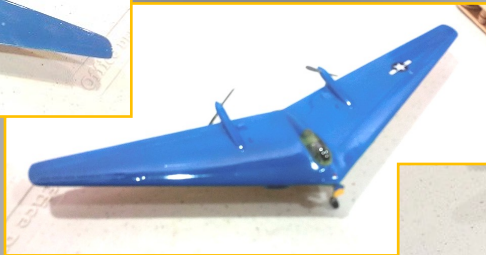
Our deep gratitude and thanks to King's Hobby Shop for their continuing support of ASMS.

The two additional contests will allow more specific genres of our hobby to be represented at these contests. Many of them are themed events with only specific areas of interest (armor, aircraft, Gundam, etc.) being eligible to enter. It is hoped that this new schedule will get more ASMS members involved in the contests throughout the year.

As was the case with our quarterly schedule, the first place winner is automatically awarded the Model o' the Month title. That first place entry is eligible to return in December to compete with other monthly winners for Model o' the Year honors.



Roy



Ron McCracken had three entries. A Northrop N9M-A, a Hasegawa FM-1 Wildcat, and an F3F-3 from Special Hobby. All are 1/72nd scale.





Brother Russ Holm came to play with a 1/35th scale S-51 SPG from Trumpeter.

Tim Robb was a bit disappointed that his P-51 didn't earn that many votes. He notes that the only vote he got was his own. His nicely done Accurate Miniatures P-51 in 1/48th scale is the one with the early Allison engine and twin 20mm guns in each wing. This is the very early P-51. The first production model before the P-51A and A-36. Tim also notes that the kit is very nice but has the wrong prop. He subbed a prop from a Monogram Mosquito that had more slender tips. "The fit is good throughout, especially the clear parts. The landing gear struts do need to be fiddled with to get them straight. They are not 'plug in and forget'. I used the kit decals and they worked well." The model does have the added benefit of disproving a theory of Pat Roarke's: the biggest airplane always wins the contest.



Randy Bumgardenr is to be congratulated, not for placing in the contest, but for actually finishing a model. Well done indeed, sir! Just kidding. Randy's entry was a T-55A from Tamiya in 1/35th scale. It was built mostly OOB with the addition of Fruilmodel tracks. You know, for that *droopy sag* © that Russian tanks just love. You should be aware that Randy uses only bigly, technical modeling terms when discussing his work.





Milton Bell arrived with this 1/48th scale Junkers DR I from Roden finished basically OOB with just a few add-ons. Milton mentioned that "this was an important development in fighter aircraft since it was the first all-metal monoplane. The only rigging was with the landing gear. It's a very nice kit and probably out of production now. Sure would like to see it re-released." The model has been absent at area model shows, of late.



Mike Lamm remarked that "the Mig-15 is from KP Models and is in 1/72nd scale. It was built OOB, including decals. Modeled as a "North Korean" air force jet during the Korean war, it was more than likely flown by a pilot who only spoke Russian. The kit came with a stand, but no pilot, so a pilot was added from the spares box and displayed as if in-flight. This kit came to me courtesy of the consignment shelves at King's Hobby Shop."

The 1/72nd scale Bf-109E-4 is from Tamiya. Mike believes that "it should be an E-7. I'm sure there are Messerschmidt experts out there who could explain that more clearly than I. I started painting the green mottle via airbrush and my skills weren't able to do a good enough job, so I went with the old hairy stick applicator for the mottle. After painting it, I realized that the Tamiya decals were no good (this kit was *also* picked up second-hand at King's. Since the scheme is so unique to one Staffel, I really had to find the same decals, or similar. The newer Airfix kit has the same markings as an option, so I picked up a *new* (yes, I sometimes buy new kits) kit, again, at King's, but off of the 'full price' shelves."

Support Your Local Hobby Shop!



Second Place



Dave Edgerly brought in an M40. "The 1/35th scale Tamiya kit and was built OOB with the Tamiya metal barrel. I used Mr. Color paints with Andrea Miniatures for the figures. I adjusted the kit decals to match the real vehicle (Alta's Ankles not Anita's Ankies.) I also added the Archer Transfers Confederate Battle flag. The base is from a contest award to which I added the molding. I printed off a 1951 map of Korea and used Mog Podge to set it down, then just displayed the gun in a firing position."

Dave also showed up with a "Bradley representing BAE Systems technology demonstrator for the SA360 imaging system. BTD-5 in this case. The SA360 system provides situational awareness, thermal and low light level daylight cameras, Check 6 thermal rear cameras, thermal rear view mirrors, and Drivers Vision Enhancement (DVE). Whew! The model is displayed as if at a Defense Manufacturers Show. Also seen are some Thermal Weapons Sights, a view of the vehicle cameras on the big screen and a modified iRobot for recon. The EOD guy is just walking his Bomb Disposal Robot around the displays and is taking a look at the Bradley. They do things like that at the conventions." Dave plans to add some civilians to the scene at a later date. For his efforts, Dave won **second place** (with the Bradley) and **third place** (with the M40).
Congratulations to Dave on his mini-sweep!

Third Place



First Place and Model O' The Month



Rick Herrington collected **first place** in ASMS's first bi-monthly contest with the DKM Admiral Graf Spee. The 1/350th scale kit from Trumpeter has added photo etch from both White Ensign and Eduard. His first place win also secures him **Model o' the Month** honors.
Congratulations, Rick!



Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Randy Bumgardner,
Rick Herrington, Golzar Shahrzad

Shipping News

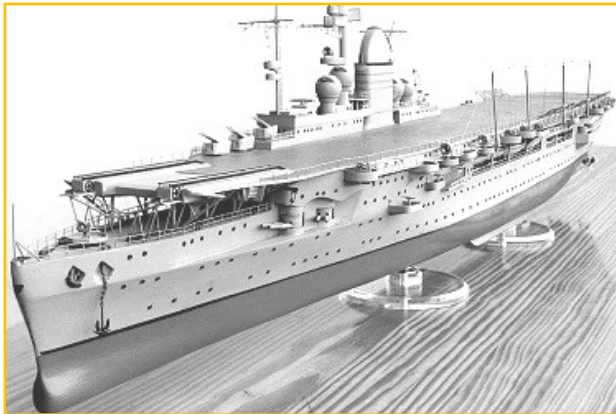
Here's the stuff! Lots of future releases in the news this month.

Seems as if Trumpeter is scaling down most of their 1/350th scale ship kits to 1/700th scale. No complaints here as 1/700th takes up a lot less space than 1/350th scale.

There are also two new behemoths in 1/200th scale and one 1/35th scale release in our future.

Beginning with those kits in 1/350th scale, we have the DKM Heavy Cruiser Blucher. This was the sister ship to the Prinz Eugen and Admiral Hipper.

Also there is the DKM Aircraft Carrier Peter Strasser. As there is no picture of this kit yet it could look like the DKM Graf Zeppelin. Germany was to build four aircraft carriers under the navy expansion plan, so we'll see.



For fans of more modern vessels, there is the USS Cole DDG-67 Aegis guided missile destroyer. All of these kits are from Trumpeter.



Hasegawa will soon be releasing the IJN Destroyer Shimakaze.

Fujimi has announced the Kagero class Destroyer Yukikaze.



In the space saving scale of 1/700th and from Pit Road, is the USS Tennessee BB-44. This kit will include brass barrels for the guns.

Aoshima has the HMS Victorious British Aircraft Carrier in 1/700th scale.

Trumpeter, as mentioned earlier, has downsized a bunch of their 1/350th scale kits to 1/700th. Among them are:

- USS Kitty Hawk CV63, a 1960's vintage aircraft carrier
- USS John F Kennedy CV63 Aircraft Carrier
- USS New York BB34 Battleship WW2
- USS Texas WWII battleship

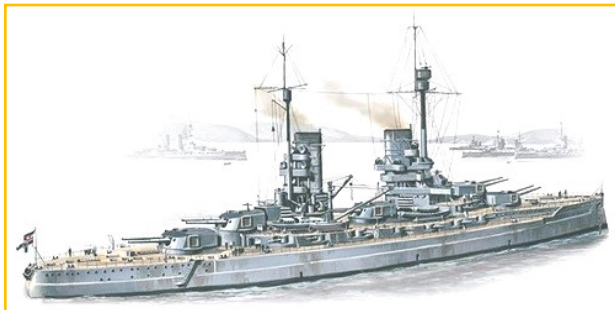


- USS Yorktown CV5 Aircraft Carrier
- USS Enterprise CV6 Aircraft Carrier
- HMS Belfast (1942) This last was a British Light Cruiser. There were two versions(1942 and1959) of this ship and Trumpeter plans on releasing both. The 1959 version should have different radars and AA mounts.



- HMS Ark Royal (1939) British Aircraft Carrier
- HMS Nelson (1944) British Battleship
- HMS Rodney British Battleship

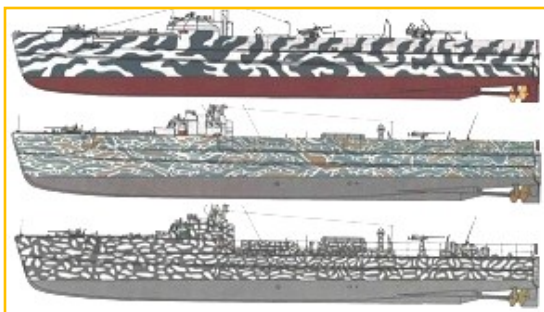
ICM is issuing the WWI SMS Konig German battleship. This release, in 1/700th scale, will have both full and waterline options.



In behemoth scale (1/200th), Trumpeter has two new kits. They are the USS Missouri, a WWII battleship and the Soviet Missile Destroyer Sovremnyy.



In 1/35th scale (yes, armor scale) Italeri is releasing the S-38 German Schnellboot. This is the class prior to the version with the armored bridge. It is also the class that carried all those camouflage schemes. This was the version that Revell really should have released in 2001 with their S-100 class in 1/72nd scale.



That's it for this month. Definitely happy news if you're a ship builder. Whatever you build, pull one out of your stash and "git 'er done."

Rick



Tanks A Lot

Greetings armor fans and hello to all y'all armor curious! Let's start off the month with something big and something small.

First up it looks like the 1/16th scale T-72 from Trumpeter announced last year is about to be released as we now have pictures of plastic! Here is a pic of the box which will probably be too big to sneak past the significant other.



Let's look at some plastic, shall we?



The hull looks very detailed.



The turret looks correct.

We also get individual track links, separate "rubber" for the wheels (which makes painting easier), as well as

pre-cut track pins.



Trumpeter's 1/35th scale T-72s are pretty nice and not a pain to build, so I suspect this 1/16th scale offering will follow suit.

Okay, let's head on down to the 1/72nd scale for something new in the small department!

IBG Models makes some very good small scale kits. Their plastic can be a bit soft, so be careful cutting and sanding! In general however they are very good kits. They have two interesting Japanese subjects coming down the road. First is a very, very small "tankette", the Type 94.



The model only comes with a few sprues. (It is a very small tank). Luckily, the tracks and running gear are one piece!



This is one of the best trends in braille scale models, in my opinion. Having the drive train in one piece makes assembly so much faster and avoids making alignment mistakes.

With modern molding technology, we don't have to sacrifice detail either!



Next up from IBG Models, is the very neat looking Type 89 "Otsu." This is one of my all time favorite Japanese tanks. Its kind of like a missing link between old tank designs from WWI and the newer designs of WWII. It stands tall, has several guns pointing every which way, and is covered in rivets! What's not to love? (That is unless you where a tanker going up against a Sherman).



The hull molding is especially appealing.

This one does not have one piece running gear, but given the almost rhomboid design of the tank that is not possible. At least the tracks are link and length!

Now, on to somewhere in the middle, with some new 1/35th scale offerings.



MiniArt has announced the expected version of their T-54, without interior. This kit will have fewer parts and a smaller price tag than the previous offering.

On the other side of the T-54 spectrum, we have a new announcement of a Tiran 4 from Takom.



The Tiran 4 is made from captured T-54 tanks from the Six-Day War. These were mostly used for training and border security by the Israelis. They did see combat as some were given to the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The SLA tanks were overpainted with a light blue and would make a superb subject for chipping and weathering fans!



Bronco has announced a new Turan 1 Hungarian medium tank. The kit borrows the running gear from their self-propelled Zrinyi that Bronco released a few years ago.

Those are the highlights. Until next time!

Aaron



It Figures

Hello, fans of Lilliputian renditions of people, animals, and things!

Evolution is releasing some new figures in its post-apocalyptic series.

The figures in this range aren't only for your zombie diorama. They are basically modern civilians with gear and weapons. You can set them in a *Red Dawn* theme, use them as insurgents or they could just as easily be US Special Forces.



Evolution figures are wonderfully sculpted and their casting are some of the very finest in the business.

DG Artwork has a rather unique bust coming out of a Maori warrior from New Zealand, mid-Haka.

The Haka is a ritualistic dance/chant and is a sight to behold. This YouTube video of them welcoming home the soldiers that died in Afghanistan that is very moving.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI6TRTBZUMM>



It looks like this bust is customizable with a choice of a grass cape or no grass cape. If you want to paint tattoos on an interesting and unique subject, I can't think of a better offering!

Andrea Miniatures has a new release in the "Eisernes Kreuz" line that is getting a lot of attention online, a pilot getting ready in 1940.



Their figures in this range are really outstanding! The 1/16th scale ones are the ones you want for the sublime detail. Their 1/72nd scale figures are true

1/72nd scale (no giant heads and hands) and would really compliment a 1/72nd scale German airplane. Our very own King's Hobby Shop is a distributor, so keep an eye out for this on their shelves!

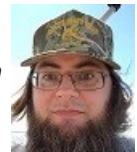
Heroes and Villains has a new bust coming of "1er Rég. Tirailleurs Algériens, France, 1916".



Also out is a 54mm figure "Húsar de la Princesa, 1884."

These are the highlights. Until next time!

Aaron



Miscellaneous

For those that like to model soft skin vehicles and armor and can't seem to find a happy medium, Trumpeter has just the thing. They are releasing an M 915 tractor/truck with semi-trailer and 40' container, all of which are in 1/35th scale.



I know that this may border on blasphemy, but the Star Wars stuff seems to be reaching the super-saturation point. Bandai is piling on with a 1/6th scale Yoda figure. The figure comes with two different heads, a light saber, and walking stick. They also will soon have a 1/2 scale BB-8. The MSRP for BB-8 is set at \$180.00.



Rye Field Model has a new, injected molded kit of the M1 Assault Breacher Vehicle. There are some CAD drawings of simplified tracks, but no other details on whether or not the lids to the line charges are possible or if the lane markers can be posed in an operational position.



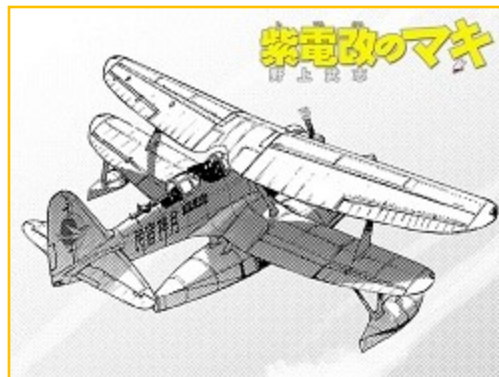
This variant of the M1 Abrams was previously available as a resin conversion

kit from DEF Model.

This next one has almost nothing to do with scale Modeling, but it might give you some ideas for an April Fool's joke. Just what everyone needs: a giant, soft vinyl woodlouse (otherwise known as a roly-polly) from Kaiyodo.

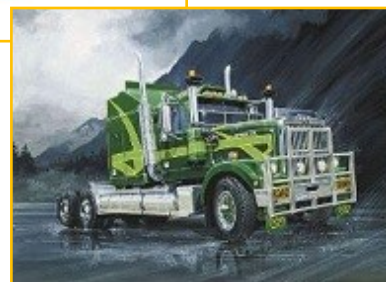


Hasegawa has a 1/48th scale, injected molded "Pete" coming soon. This is the Shinden kai Maki FIM2 seaplane. This is a limited edition release and comes via a Manga series where high school girls dogfight with iconic WWII airplanes.



Revell is showing a 1966 Chevy Suburban for release pretty soon. This 1/25th scale kit includes an engine, interior, and white wall tires.

Italeri is re-issuing (from 1999) their 1/24th scale kit of an Australian truck. This is a Western Star tractor. No word on any trailers for a road train. Although a 1/24th scale, Australian road train would take up a *lot* of room.



DEF Model is issuing a resin figure that may appeal to the desert warrior in you. It is a 1/35th scale WWI British officer riding a camel. It looks suspiciously like a well-known actor (Peter O'Toole) from an equally well-known film (*Lawrence of Arabia*). But that could just be me. Either way, it is available with or without the rider holding a flag.



AC Model, a New Zealand company, has a new set of resin figures to go along with that B-25 you've been meaning to finish. In 1/32nd scale, these six crewmen are on their way to their next mission.



For fans of weird German AFV's and softskins, Lead Warrior has a resin Schwimmwagen Sondertype 129 coming soon. This is/was the remote controlled version of the German amphibious carrier with R1-502 rocket boosters.



A&A Models has a 1/72nd scale injected molded kit of the AA-60 firefighting truck.

The kit contains 192 parts, five marking options, open/close crew doors and masks for the windshields.

This vehicle is based on the Russian MAZ-7310 tractor. This is the same chassis the Soviet folks use to tote around the SCUD and other assorted rocket-type stuff.

Roden has a few new items of interest. The first is an upscaled version of their Omnibus. They have done several variants of the Omnibus in 1/72nd scale, but this staff bus is in 1/35th scale.



Last month, I reported on a FWD Model B 3-ton lorry from Roden. They have announced that they intend to couple that truck with a BL- 8-inch howitzer. Redlegs, rejoice!



Staying with stuff that hauls other stuff around, IBG Models has a 1/35th scale, injected molded kit of the Scammell Pioneer SV 25 heavy breakdown tractor. This 6x4 tractor was used during WWII as an artillery tractor, recovery vehicle, and tank transporter.



MiniArt will probably get around to combining these two kits someday. Until then we have a German passenger car Type 170V four-door sedan and a set of cafe furniture and crockery. The car comes with a

female figure and is, in reality, a Mercedes Benz W136.



The Cafe Furniture and Crockery set has two tables, four chairs, assorted crockery, bottles, and a card stock cafe awning. All the makings for a nice diorama.



In the something kinda fun diorama department is a set of guitars from J's Work. These are resin castings of an electric and an acoustic guitar and are in 1/35th scale. It would appear as though you will need to provide your own super slinkys. That's a brand of guitar strings, for those who don't know.

Go build your model!

Golzar



Aircraft

March has arrived and so has the contest season here in Texas. Spring has been hanging around since January, so bench time has been yielding to yardwork time. Sad!

There are some surprises and some anticipated arrivals. I'll leave that determination as an exercise for the reader. We've got only a few goodies for this month, so this update will be a quick one.

Let's start off with a couple of announcements from Kitty Hawk. On Facebook, they have posted teaser images of an upcoming 1/32nd scale Mirage 2000.



The image looks very nice. Let's hope the kit is, too. No other details were given, such as the release date. Perhaps we'll find out by the end of the year.

Speaking of the end of the year, I have also heard rumblings about an upcoming release of a 1/48th scale F-101B, with a possible recce version, by the end of this year. On their Facebook page (this Facebook thing is really taking off, isn't it?), I saw an image of a recce F-101. Now, I'm not sure in this indicates the continuation of their 1/48th scale line-up or they just like the picture. You be the judge.



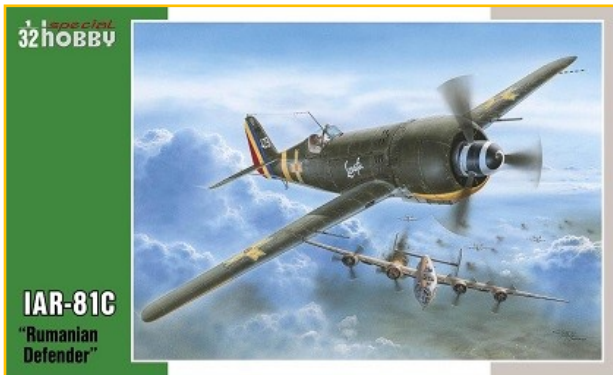
Our friends at Italeri, over in Italy, have just released a 1/32nd scale F-35A Lightning II. Modern jet fans are rejoicing as there is a newly tooled, large scale version of this aircraft.



I've seen the contents of the box and the kit includes photoetch and masks for the zigzagging panel delineations. The details on the plastic look very nice and refined. I haven't heard about a price for this kit, and I hope it's not as expensive as the real thing.

Special Hobby is becoming a ubiquitous name in this column lately. They have been producing some very nice and unique kits, and their quality no longer placed them in the "limited run" category.

They have recently announced a very popular and under-produced Romanian fighter from the Second World War. Due out this month, keep on the lookout for a 1/32nd scale IAR-81C.



Word has it they have started distribution of the kit, so it won't be long before it's on the shelf at your local hobby shop (or local online retailer).

On their blog, Special Hobby also showed us images of the fuselage test shots for their upcoming 1/72nd scale Short Sunderland Mk.V.

While these are only test shots, and subject to refinement, the images did reveal some nice interior details including well molded fuselage structures, and petite panel lines on the exterior. I'm not sure of the release date for this kit. Perhaps by the end of the year?



Eduard is set to release their 1/48th scale SE.5a Wolseley Viper this month. In fact, by the time you read this, it will already have been released.



The kit includes several runners of nicely detailed parts, Cartograf decals with options for five aircraft, photoetch details, and painting masks.

The markings options include both British and American air services, as well as an option for a post-war, brightly colored, red aircraft. Eduard lists the kit for \$39.95 on their website. That's a nice price for a nice kit!



Last, but certainly never least, the Wingnut Wings Camel is shipping again! Well, for most distributors. WETA seems to be slow in moving in this direction. From the emails, forum, and Facebook posts I've seen, patience is required. It's not like you guys don't have other kits in your stash to work on.

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

Randy



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**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES**

No Recasting

You may have noticed red "No Recasting" cards in some online orders from figure manufacturers of late. It is because some merchandisers have started an anti-recasting awareness campaign recently.



Recasting/bootlegging is the practice of making copies of an original kit and then selling those copies.

This hurts the original artists and producers as it's stealing their designs, proliferating bad copies, and taking away from the sales that the artists and businesses need to support their families.

Many small businesses have been put out of business by recasters. You might not realize that making and developing these small-batch kits is an expensive experience. Unlike recasters, these merchandisers have to fund the initial development costs and sell their kits to make those costs back.

So please, support original artists and producers by not buying recasts. Also, please report recasters to producers and authorities, auction sites, show staff, and wherever else they are sold.

Thank you for your support on this.



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://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2016.pdf

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In the latest IPMS/USA Journal

- Quick Tip - Getting a Better Bond Between Photoetched Parts, by Len Pilfer
- IPMS/USA Business Meeting - August 6, 2016 Columbia, SC
- A Girl and Her Bike - Brightening up Nuts Planet's 1:20 GC-B1 Motorcycle and its Driver, by David Kimbrell
- Post-Apocalyptic War Wheels - A Spare-Parts Mashup of Speed Racer and Mad Max: Fury Road, by Ro Annis
- Scratch-built Scout - Creating a Marmon Harrington Mk. II Armored Car from Styrene, Plans and a Little Work, by Bill Powers
- Captured By Canucks - Takom's 1:35th Krupp 21cm Morser 10/16, by David A. Kimbrell
- Maple-Leaf Mustang - Turning Airfix's 1:72 P-51D into a Royal Canadian Air Force Mustang 4, by Jim Bates
- From a Styrene Sheet to the Fleet - Building a 1:72 scale vacuum-form Fairey Gannet AEW.3, by Joe Vattilana

contact us

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**IPMS-HOUSTON PRESENTS
MODEL MANIA 2017
APRIL 29, 2017
STAFFORD, TEXAS**

THEME: LAND OF THE RISING SUN



For complete details: http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11

Next Meeting:

March 16

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



ASMS Club Dues Are Due!

Annual ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual or \$30.00/family.
You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same to
Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, TX., 78729.