



Afrika Korps Swimming Party

By Bob Bethea



This diorama is set in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya in WWII during the German Campaign against the British. The vehicle is a Landwasserschlepper (LWS) during its tenure there transferring goods from ships to shore when there was no harbor available. The troops are goofing off as troops often do, but are in for a rude surprise!

The LWS was an unarmored and unarmed amphibious tractor designed in 1935 as a lightweight river tug

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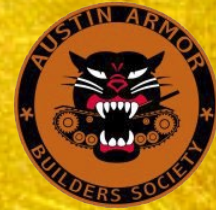
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The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities. The program is expanding into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



The Presidents **NOTE PAD**

By Randy Bumgardner

It's September! The kids are in school, the weather is cooling down, and vacations are dwindling as we look toward the holiday season. In addition, bench time is hopefully increasing for all of us.

I need to start out on a somber note this month. Long-time member and club fixture, Frank Sanchez, passed away last month. Frank has been a member of ASMS for many years - long before I arrived. He was always present at every meeting, every club event, and every after-meeting dinner. He died on August 11th of an undisclosed illness.

The meeting this month is a between-the-contests meeting. This month we'll be focusing on the last minute details of the upcoming Capitol Classic, and signup sheets for the volunteers. So, think about where you want to help out, and get your name on the signup sheets. Every little bit helps to make the show a success.

Next month is the Bondo Model Contest, so dust off those in-progress models from Bondo's stash, finish them up, and bring them along in October.

That is all I've got for this month - short and sweet.

Now, go build something, and bring it to the meeting!

-Randy

Randy





Continued from page 1.

for river crossings and bridging operations. It did not enter service until 1942 and though useful in North Africa and Russia, only 21 were ever built due to engineering difficulties, cost, and war priorities. It had a crew of two or three and could handle up to 20 passengers.



Pat Rourke was a well respected member of the club who passed away unexpectedly last year and left his “stash” for his family to deal with. They sold the unstarted kits but donated the started ones to the club. Eric Choy who handled the distribution came up with the great idea of having a yearly “Pat Rourke Memorial” contest with the club members finishing his started kits. I drew the LWS kit by Hobby Boss.



The kit hull had already been cut to “waterline” by Pat, so I had no choice but to design my project to be in the water. He also purchased some very nice resin bumpers around the top hull, which was

the only major complaint of the kit in reviews. I didn't have to build the running gear or the tracks! (although I did it anyway for fun...) I finished building everything but left the cab unglued until after the interior was painted.



The Figures

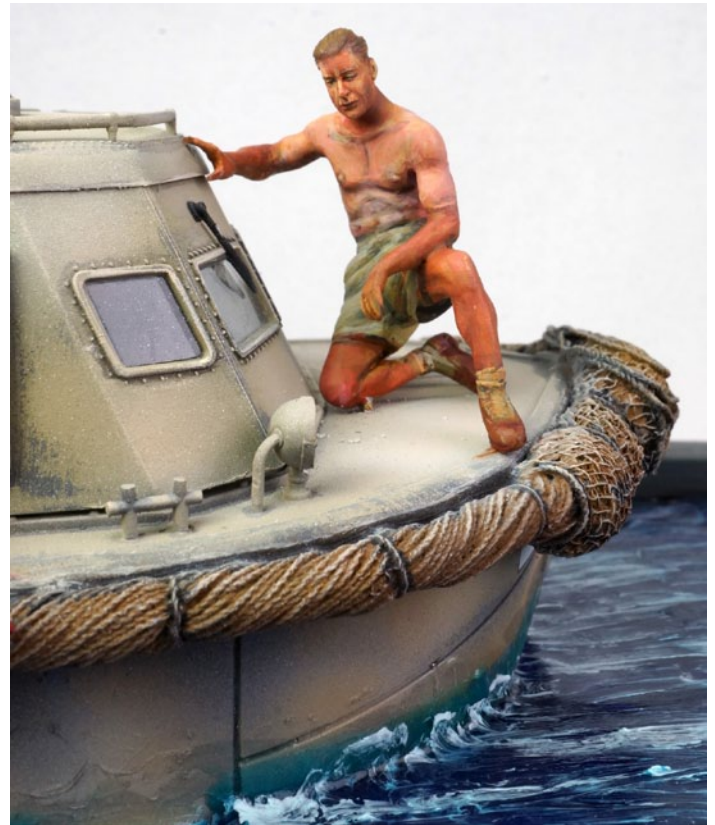
The LWS was used to cross rivers in Russia and as a sea-to-shore shuttle in North Africa. As the latter is my favorite campaign, and the kit includes valid Afrika Korps markings, I settled on that venue and looked for a crew. It so happens that Miniart makes a set of five Afrika Korps tankers that are shirtless in shorts that I felt they would be fine for sunbathers



and swimmers with a little effort. One was even wearing Arab slippers! I ordered the kit, and upon arrival, I cleaned all the torsos, arms, and legs and separated them.



The hard part was playing mix and match to get plausible poses. The last set of parts was not going to work, so now the result is floating in the Med with only shoulders and head showing! All of the heads were replaced by personality heads from Hornet. I used the pith helmets from the kit, although they were a little small. Each figure was



Painted separately, and I varied the tones of the uniforms from tan to olive. The skin tones of the men show everything from a bronze tan to sunburn to northern European paleness.

Painting the LWS

The interior of the vehicle was painted off-white

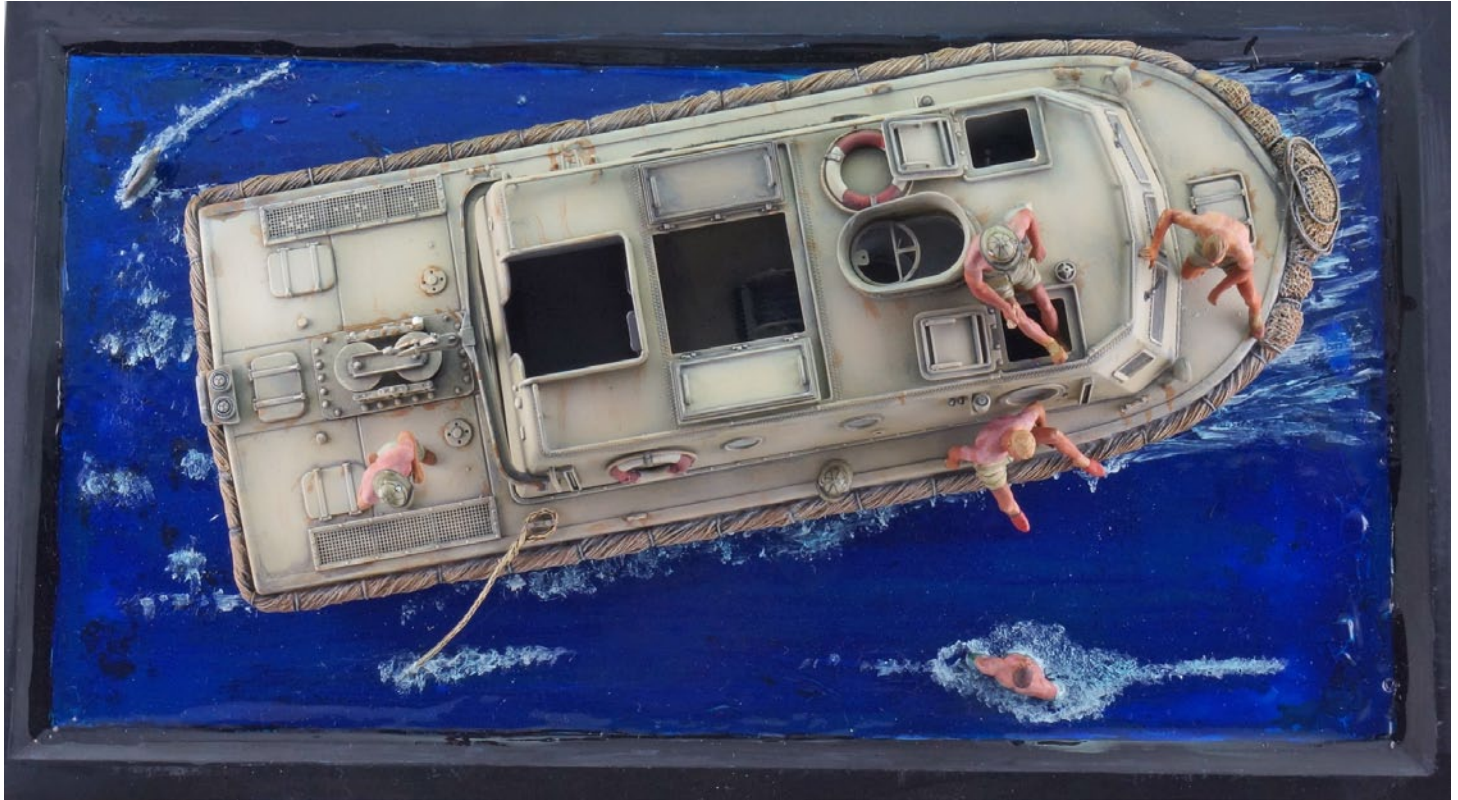




and highlighted with white and shaded along internal corners. The seats and dashboard were appropriately painted as was the tow rope.

The exterior was painted with Tamiya colors of Panzer Gray and highlighted. I then shot two coats

onto primer sprayed on the glass (for a smooth water-like surface). The LWS and the floater were glued to the base with the other four sunbathers to the vehicle. Then I poured Woodland Scenics (WS) Water directly from the bottle in several thin coats. The underlying paint tints it adequately and



of hair spray over the gray and let it dry overnight. The next day, I mixed up some tropical tan/yellow and applied it over the exterior. I highlighted it with panel fading so prevalent in the tropics. Several hours later, I took a series of brushes wet with water and removed the tan in appropriate high traffic and scratched spots to show the underlying gray. I did it to taste, and once I liked the result, future floor wax was applied to seal the result and to ready the hull for decals.

After decals, I added another coat of future and then pin washed details with burnt umber oil paint to enhance details and show effects. Touching up other items such as the life preservers was next. Last was the matte coat, applied by spray can.

Groundwork

The whole thing comes together on a cheap frame from Michaels. I painted the blue and green directly

the layers show depth. Unfortunately the WS water is self leveling, so it ended up too smooth. To make the surface uneven, I used gloss acrylic resin from a jar bought at Michaels for the purpose. It is a gel so it retains any shape such as waves, ripples or splashes. Each should be topped by flat white paint to simulate foam.

That wrapped up the diorama until I had an idea to fill a dead spot on the opposite side of the LWS. I went on the Internet and found that of the four main man-eating sharks, three are common in the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, I added a fin with its wake to add tension and a deeper back story, as well as to give the audience something to see on the vehicle's offside.

Bob





DML's M752 Tactical Ballistic Missile Launcher

by Ben Morton

Scale: 1/35



From Dragon Models USA website:

This M752 is understandably 100% newly tooled. Furthermore, it's the only 1/35th scale full plastic kit of this US-manufactured tracked missile launcher currently available on the market.

The missile can be elevated up or down to represent firing or transport modes, respectively. The missile mount and associated elevation mechanism are sophisticated and strong enough to support an accurately detailed Lance missile.

This new kit captures the somber days of the Cold War, and so this Lance self-propelled missile launcher would make a fine addition to any modern warfare kit collection. The Lance system was used by the US Army, Belgium, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and UK, meaning that this new kit offers enterprising modelers a lot of versatility.

The only other models of this vehicle, know to this author, is a 1/87th scale Roco/ Minitank kit and a Hobby Fan kit in 1/32nd scale. The Hobby Fan kit is mostly resin with some styrene parts for the road wheels and such. When Roco Minitank released their model they also released the accompanying transporter/loader M667. The Hobby Fan kit could be built as either the M752 or M667. Dragon Models engineering of some of the vehicle parts suggests other variants of the M113 chassis. One can hope that Dragon Models USA will be forthcoming with a M667 in the not too distant future.

While we wait, Dragon Models does provide us with the under represented M752. The M752 was based on the M113 chassis. The U.S. Army fielded the Lance missile in the early 1970's. The Lance was a tactical missile system for theater use and was nuclear capable. This missile system was replaced by the Pershing series and later by the M270 Multiple Launch Missile System.



individual rubber track pads (soft black vinyl) for each of the 74 links. Don't freak out! It a tedious chore, not an arduous one. If you so choose, you won't need to apply all of those track pads as a fair number will be hidden behind the sand shields (part # D1/2) mounted on each side of the vehicle. The Israeli's fielded this system and based on an extensive (almost thirty minute) search of the internet they are the only one to delete those sand shields. So if an Israeli vehicle is the way you go, happy track padding! But to Dragon Models credit, the effect is pretty neat! And saves a painting step.

Assembly begins with the running gear which consists of five road wheels, one idler, and one drive sprocket per side. Do exercise some caution when applying the transmission covers (part# D13/14) to the drive sprockets. There is supposed to be a gap between the transmission cover and the lower hull that allows the front glacis plate to slide into.

The Dragon Models kit consists of 342 parts on eight sprues with a small sprue of clear parts for the driver compartment windows. There is a small fret of photo etch for the missile tie down straps and some detail bits for the front and rear plates on the M752.

The tracks are of the length and link variety and have

It should be noted that this is a Dragon Models kit. Consequently, the assembly instructions are not the most scrupulously proof read or most well thought out. You could reason that they are the product of a committee. (Not to disparage committees.) Their assembly instructions often require some adult supervision, even for the most experienced builder. Go slow, pay attention, test fit

www.dragon-models.com
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DRAGON 3576



often, and all will be right with your build.

The majority of the build, six of the eighteen assembly steps, is consumed with the vehicle mounted missile launcher. The launcher has some marvelous detail and is a kit unto itself. An expression that actually applies in this case. The launcher may be built in launch or transport mode. Dragon Models also provides a piece of mono filament line to replicate the telemetry/firing cable employed on the launcher. I substituted a length of HO scale braided cable to represent that line on my build. The launcher with most of the kit parts, is a great feature of this model. Fun Fact: on the real M752, this launcher was removable and could be towed or deployed as a stand-alone launch platform, with wheels and everything.

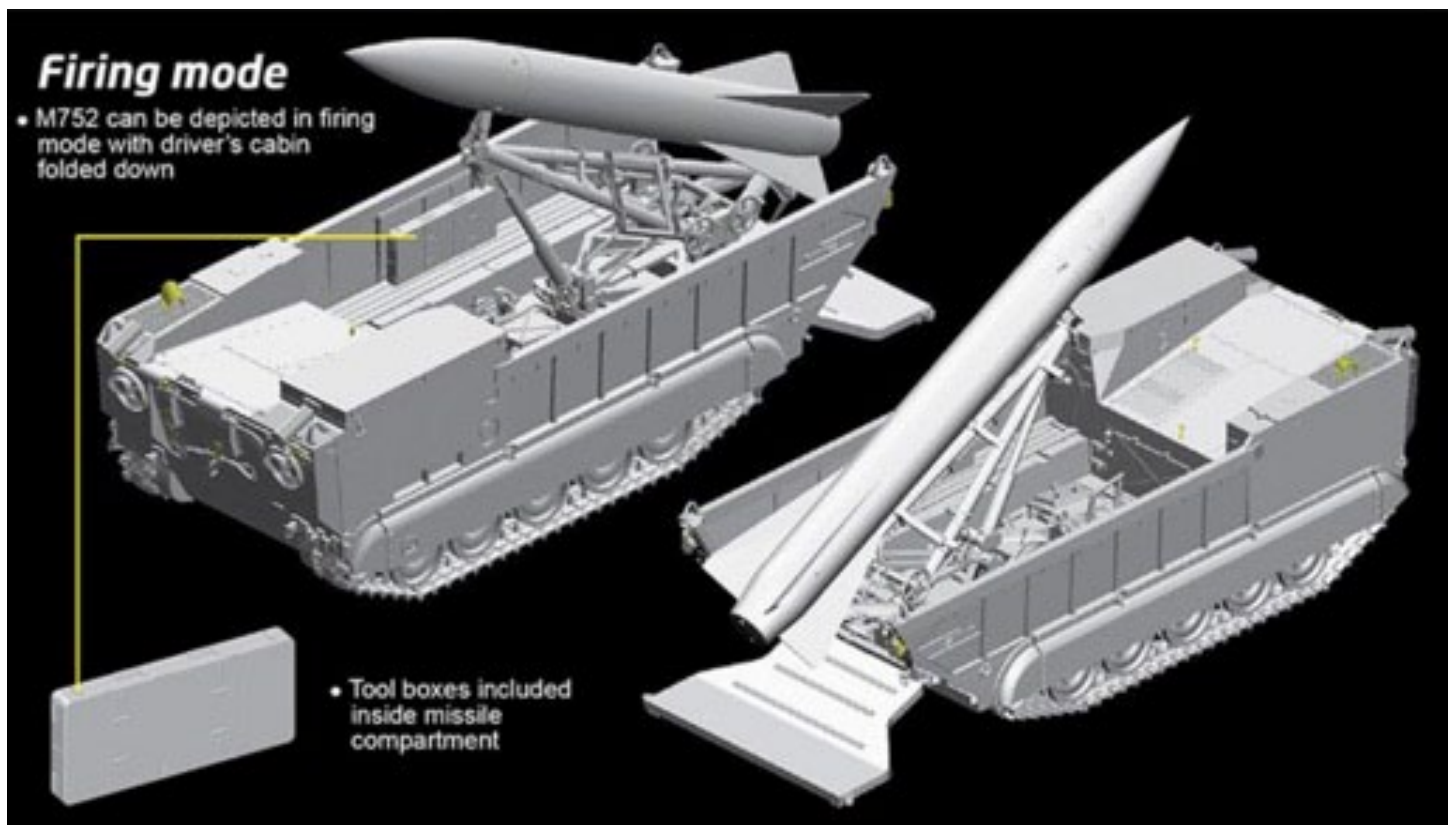
After dealing with the launcher you get to move on to the various hull pieces. The engine cover /top (part# B13) presented a few initial problems. The cradle (part # 16) for the nose cone of the missile is mounted on this piece. There are three photo etch parts that represent the tie down brackets/straps (part # A7) for the missile. The parts labeled as A 7, are actually I 7. Shocking! It wouldn't really be a Dragon Models kit if there wasn't at least one mislabeled part.

More whimsy on their part? The location of the tie down cradle on the engine cover top is a bit vague, so consult your sources. Or do what I did, position the launcher assembly first and locate the cradle accordingly.

There is nice detail on the front of the vehicle with all the various headlamps, black light, and siren molded as separate parts. One slight fault that might be levied against Dragon Models is that the headlamps lenses are molded in gray styrene, not clear.

A curious omission involves the photo etch engine exhaust shroud. The shroud is lovely but Dragon Models does not provide you with an exhaust pipe. The actual exhaust pipe was pretty basic so fashioning one from your spare parts stash shouldn't present too many problems.

If you wish to display the M752 in launch mode the drivers compartment sides and roof can be shown in a stowed/launch position. Dragon Models provides the two seats, front instrument console, and the control levers for the drivers compartment. The drivers station was rather spartan affair on the real vehicle so you'll really just need to add the odd extra bit here





and there to finish it off properly. There is a nice photo of this compartment provided via walk-around photos of a M752 in German service.

http://www.panzer-modell.de/referenz/in_detail/lance/lance.htm

The Lance missile is molded in twelve parts, four of which are the guidance fins. If you plan to show your M752 in transport mode, those fins would not be fitted to the missile body. They were attached just prior to launch. The guidance fins were fitted into slots on the missile body. This missing detail was simulated by placing styrene strips from Evergreen along the sides of each fin. Dragon does provide the carrying/transport cases for the missile fins carried on the real vehicle, although they are labeled as tool boxes on the box top.

A nice feature are individual parts (part # 186) that represent the stabilization rocket outlets on the mid-section of the missile. If you have trouble finding those parts, look on the back of the I sprue, behind the sprue label. On the runner is where they lie. In Dragon's defense, this may have just been a little Easter egg hurt to lighten the mood.

There is an aspect of Dragon Models kits that doesn't act as a mood enhancer. More like buzz kill. Parts that are not mentioned anywhere by anyone: such as parts B 2 and B 4. These appear to be rear view mirrors. You will need to consult your references as to their exact location on the vehicle. I just positioned mine where it seemed logical for them to be.

Click or copy and paste the URL address for a short



video of a Lance missile launch. Replicating a launch would make for a nifty and, potentially, an award winning diorama.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRJyft1Hx4Y>

Painting and markings options, listed in the instructions, are for three unidentified units. In addition, Dragon gives you four complete sets of letters and numerals for any unit you might choose. They also have included most, if not all, of the stenciling that was on an operational Lance missile. Extra brownie points to Dragon for that. One caveat, on my example, was the absence of one set of lift strap location markings (decal # 11) on the decal sheet.

As the M752 was operational primarily in Western Europe you are almost required to apply the tri-colour NATO paint scheme that was used during



the 1970's. But this vehicle was also deployed by Netherlands so unbroken NATO green would work. And if you choose to do an Israeli vehicle...well you know... a desert-y© color.

Aside the odd vagary, this kit goes together well and I enjoyed building it. When finished and all gussied up with decals the Dragon Models M752 will make a worthy addition to your cold war armor collection. My thanks to Dragon Models USA for the review copy.

Ben



The Aging Modeler

By Rick Cotton

*I*t becomes more and more obvious to me, each and every year that passes by... every time I wrench myself out of bed, and feel the accumulating aches and pains coursing through my body as it protests being roused from slumber.

I am getting older.

I remember having too much hair. That was a long time ago. Now it just relocates itself to odd places on my body. I remember when all of my teeth were mine. Yes, they actually came with the original body. I remember having energy. I think it was the '90's. I remember when injuries didn't happen when I was sitting or standing still, and when I did get hurt, it actually healed in a few days. Now, I look in the mirror at the increasingly wrinkled, bald guy there, and wonder why in the world my pretty little wife would ever want to hug or kiss me. I sure as heck would not kiss me. I don't think I could get drunk enough to do it and still not pass out. I think I tend to gripe more than I did as a youth. I guess I'm a little more cynical than I was then, although I try not to be. The sweet wife helps me out on that, as she is far more open and loving than I could ever hope to be.

Most of this does not really affect my modeling habit, but there is one part of aging that does. It makes me feel frustrated and helpless, but for now, technology is helping hold the line and keep the enemy at the gates.

Eyesight.

It is just a sad fact that as we get older, the old peepers do, too. We begin to squint. Then we begin to hold things a little farther away... or a little closer. Then we get a nice magnifying glass. Hmm. That's pretty good. How about a bigger one? With a light? That's even better! Then there are those visors, you know, the ones that make you look like a German mad scientist... never mind how you look to others while wearing them, just keep



them in the shop. Ah hah!!! We can stay small-scale for awhile yet!

But it can't last. Eventually, we get caught squinting at the TV, or the computer by our Significant Other. "When's the last time you had your eyes checked?" the Significant Other asks.

"Uh....I dunno..."

"OK. I'm scheduling you an appointment with Dr. Gefingerpoker. I think you are getting nearsighted. Or farsighted"

Nearsighted... farsighted...just call it what it is... blind.

So you go see Dr. Gefingerpoker, pay him a pile of money that could otherwise have been invested in beer and model plastic, or strippers, and he puts you through the regime of tests. He squirts those drops in your eyes that make you go instantly blind, and fits you with a pair of those extremely attractive temporary old people sunglasses. You know, the ones 90-year-old ladies wear while driving. This is so you cannot see his bill when you check out, lest you have a coronary. Coronaries are not his specialty, and there's no money in one for him.

A day or so later, he calls you into his office for a chat. This is when all that training and technology finally result in an incisive, thorough, and deeply technical diagnosis based on his years of schooling and experience:

"Your vision is lousy close up," he says. Wow. I don't have a Yale degree and ten years of Med school, and I already figured that one out. He says I have Hyper-dista-doo-dah-something-or-other... also known as "old guy eyes"... and I need glasses, which he orders for me. A few days later, they are ready, and I put them on.

Wow.

WOW.

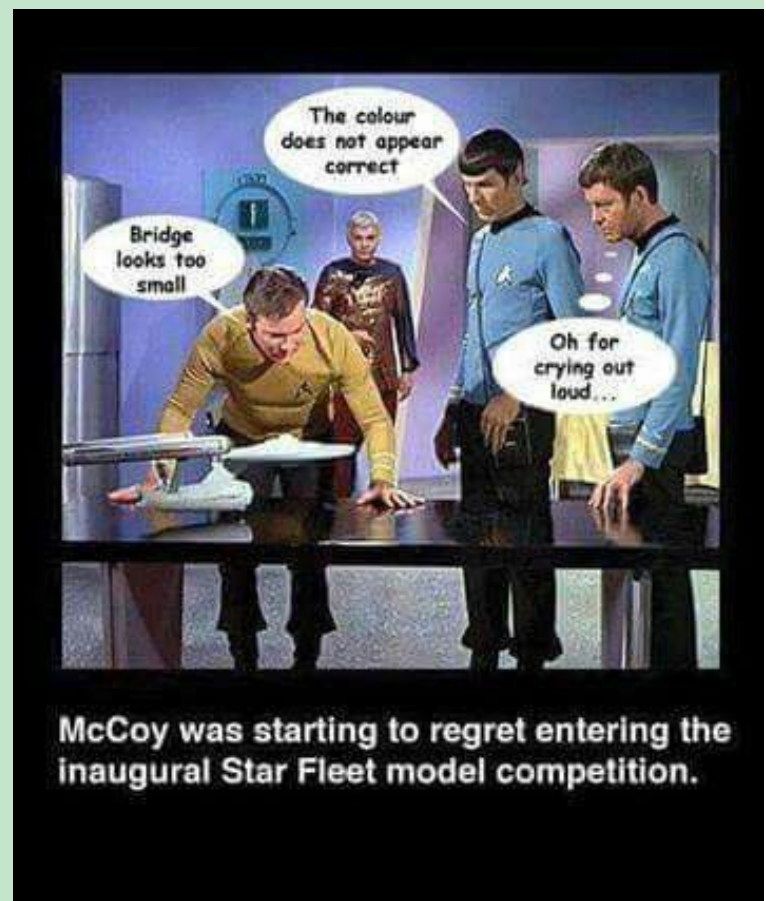
WOW! Glory be... I CAN SEE!!!

I can SEE my models again, up close! I can look my work over, and Holy Cow, it's daylight again, and ... Eeeeeewww... look at that seam. That decal silvering. That unpainted brass! Those GLUE SPOTS!!! AAAUUUGGGHHHHH!!!!

Boy, have I got to get to WORK! I have lost my modeling EDGE!!!!

Eventually, they will come. Look around the model club meeting next time, at the YOUNG guys with no glasses. Chuckle to yourself warmly. You are suddenly a fortune teller, a regular Nostradamus, and you can predict firmly, without a doubt, that ONE DAY... ALL of those young bucks will need spectacles. They will get theirs, heh heh heh... Father Time will see to it. Guaranteed.

Rick





Building Panda's 1/35 Bumerang IFV (Object K-17)

By Michael Lamm

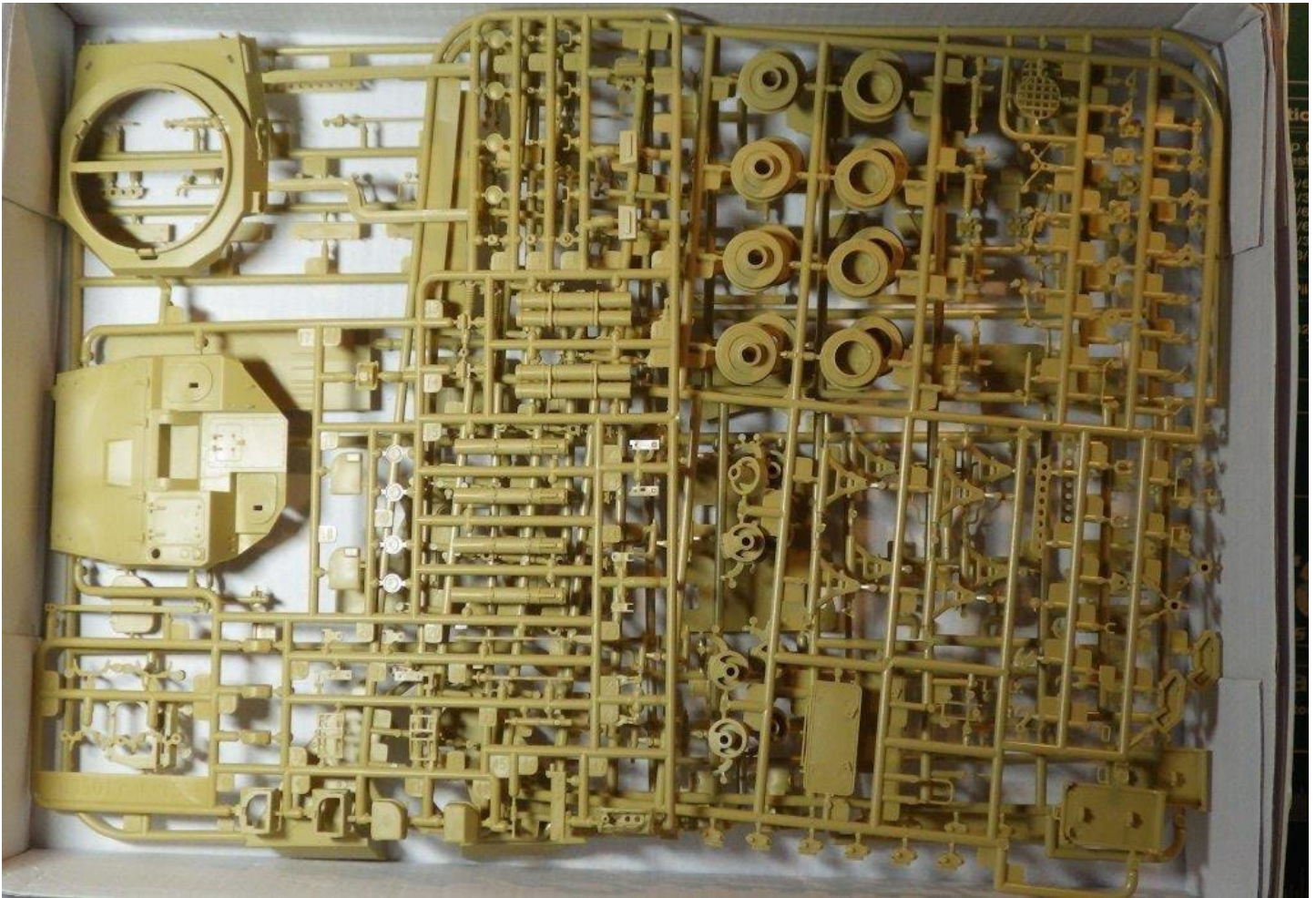


At the 2015 Russian Army May Day Victory parade, the world got its first official view of Russia's latest family of armored fighting vehicles. This new series of vehicles presented a new doctrine for Russian design by creating a modular system to work across multiple platforms like what the U.S. Army attempted with their Future Combat Systems. The "Bumerang" is the design of Russia's newest addition to their wheeled infantry fighting vehicle family, and ultimately intended to replace the BTR-80 and BTR-82 designs.

The Bumerang more closely resembles Western LAVs, rather than the very Soviet looking BTR systems. The engine has been moved to the front, which allows room for troops to exit through the rear of the vehicle, as opposed to having to exit

through the sides of the vehicle, as is the case with the BTRs. The Bumerang also has a v-shaped hull making it more mine-resistant, and it features an unmanned turret, to improve crew and troop survivability.

If you're not familiar with Panda Model, they are the military vehicle section of the airplane kit manufacturer Kitty Hawk. They have history for producing very detailed kits, but their reception from model builders have been a mixed bag. Most of the complaints have been about poor plastic, high part counts, and overly complex construction. I'm happy to report, that in many ways, this kit has addressed some of these complaints, in other ways, not so much. The plastic is crisp with some small flash on the parts, which was easily cleaned up; however, there are several parts that have



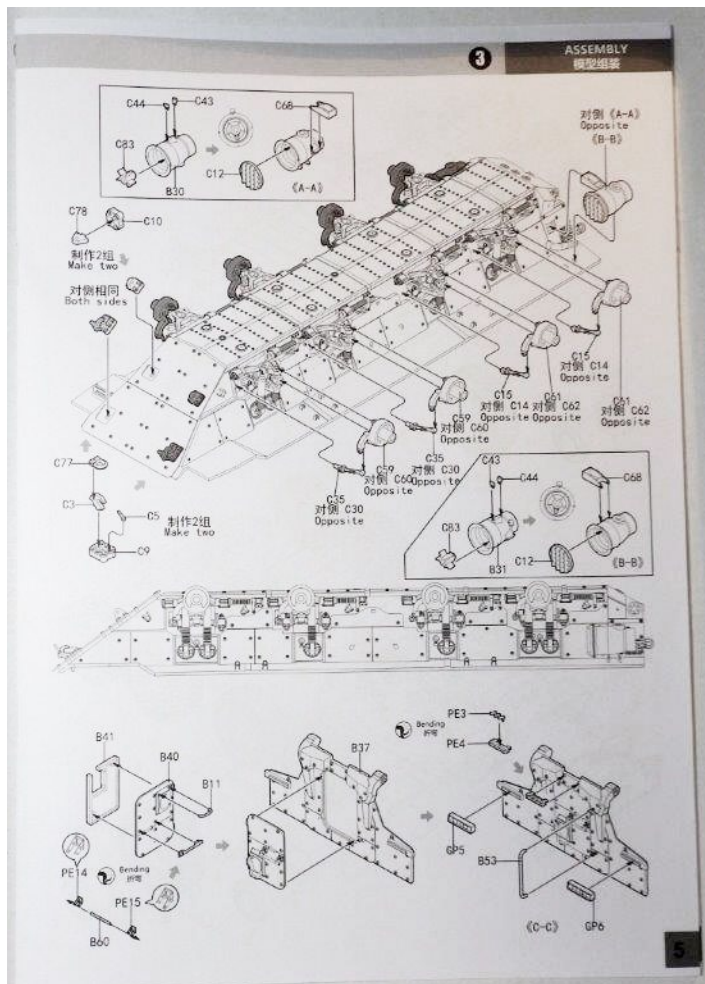
large ejector marks on the inside. In some cases, the ejector marks are so large, the pieces won't fit together without cleaning the inside of the part. The kit is molded in a light tan styrene, on five sprues, with an upper and lower hull, and includes a small clear sprue, a small photo-etch sheet, and a set of black vinyl tires, for an overall part count just around 400 parts. The vinyl tires are nicely molded, but also have a thin line of flash around the entire piece; however, if you don't want to deal with these, there is a resin set of replacement tires already available in the aftermarket community. Overall, the pieces cleaned up easy enough, but considering this a brand-new kit, the presence of these types of flaws is disappointing.

The instructions are printed in a small 15-page booklet, with detailed drawings for all 13 steps. However, don't be fooled by the small number

of steps. Some of the steps, particularly the first few, are very detailed with the first step including installation of 70 pieces. Pay close attention to which side the parts go on, because in some cases, it's a different part number, with a different fit.

Construction begins on the lower hull with the extremely detailed suspension. While it will take a while to go together, the end result is pretty





impressive. The first four steps all include working on the lower hull, and takes most of the time for this kit. I left the wheels and tires off and painted them separately and added them to the model at the end. Make sure when you don't glue the torsion arms, upper and lower, in place. You'll need them to have some movement when it comes time to attach them to the axles. Luckily, I just guessed at this and it made final installation easier.

The upper hull is a little more straight-forward. Most of the photo-etch is attached to the upper hull, but it consists almost entirely of small hooks and gear attachment points. I left much of the photo-etch off until I was finished with the construction, since I ended up knocking off pieces as I was working. Strangely, the engine grills are not provided in photo-etch. Once the upper hull is attached to the lower hull, be careful how you handle it. It seems like there are fragile grab handles and photo-etch pieces in just about every place you'd want to hold the model while

working on it. I found myself having to reattach pieces frequently, but that may have just been my 5 thumbs getting in the way. Still, I left off the 3 hull mounted antennae until construction was complete, and just prior to painting.

The turret is the next piece and it comes with a 30mm main gun, and four nicely detailed "Komet" anti-tank rockets. The turret went together with little fuss, although the mounting brackets for the missiles is where you'll spend the majority of your time. They are very detailed, and in the end, are nearly hidden completely under a PE shroud. Again, I left the antennae off until construction was complete.

The kit comes with two options to build, the version seen in 2015 and the one seen in 2016. There's very little difference between the two, other than a different bow. The painting instructions are the same for both vehicles, and color instructions are provided for both.







While the kit can be a little trickier than it needs to be in a few places, and it can be a fragile kit to work with during construction and painting, the end result is pretty impressive. Some interior details

are provided on the rear crew door, and the driver's compartment hatch, but no other interior details are included, so modeling it with open hatches isn't an option until a better interior is offered.



Overall, the kit is well-detailed, with some delicate parts that need care during assembly, but the finished model is nice. I'd recommend this to experienced modelers, or inexperienced modelers who want to quit the hobby before they spend a lot of money building a stash. Anyone with an interest in modern armor, or any Russian armor enthusiasts will probably enjoy this kit too.

This kit was provided to me by the manufacturer via IPMS USA for review, so thanks to both for the review kit.

Mike





On The

TABLE

By Our
Roving Reporter

Model of the Month and Gundam Contest



August gave us a Gundam modelling contest at Austin Scale Modeler's meeting. There were three prizes for the winners of the contest kindly provided by King's Hobby.

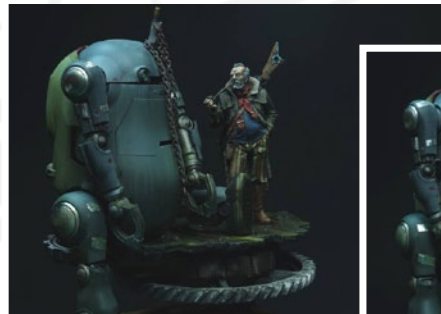
Ziggy, our resident Gundam expert garnered third place with his 1/60th scale RX-0 Unicorn Gundam. He also brought in several others including a 1/100 Gundam Barbatos Lupus Rex.



Second place went to Bob Bethea for his Tokyo School Bus in 1/24th scale.



First place went to Ian Candler's Ahab of Tomorrow which featured a harpooned Maschinenkrieger. The Ahab figure is a Scale 75 offering. The base of Gears was 3d printed.





Chris Chany, Rick Herrington, and Russ Holm also brought in entries to the Gundam contest.



Chris brought in a Gundam Blue Destiny RX-79 BD-3 Mobile Suit,



Rick brought in two figures from the Neon Genesis Evangelion anime series and



Russ Holm's entry was a Nitto SF3D 1/20th Ganez.



Outside the Gundam contest we had our regular group of excellent models.



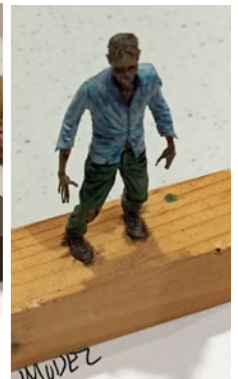
Ian Latham stepped outside his comfort zone by building an ICM 1/35th Saloon car. Ian's comment of "Too many parts!" sums up the build.

Dave Edgerly brought in a tribute to the US's early space exploration effort called "To the Stars" in 1/72 scale.



Tim Robb's wowed us with a bright yellow 1/48th scale Northrop N-9MA by Sword.





a zombie vignette called "Rule#7 Look Behind you" also in 1/35th, a Royal Model zombie figure in 1/35th and a Nuts Planet 75mm figure called Advance Guard.

Ron McCracken brought in a Spitfire MkVa, an F-35 and an in progress transport aircraft.



Rick Herrington also brought in his Andrea bust of the King in the North. (AKA Ned Stark from Game of Thrones) This was his project in the Andrea painting class.



Ian Candler brought in an Alpine 1/16th scale bust of a 116th PZ division trooper "Windhund"

Ben Morton has been busy lately. He brought in a Dragon SAM M752 in 1/35th,



Bob Bethea brought in a converted Spanish Civil War Panzer 1 in 1/35th scale. Bob added an aftermarket turret to Tristar's kit to up gun it.





He also brought in his Chicago winner an Andrea cowboy chuck wagon diorama in 54mm.

Randy Bumgardner brought in his in progress 1/35th Tamiya Grant. Eventually this will be a North African



Finally Alex Gashev brought in two WIP. The first was an Amusing Hobby 1/35th Panzer VII Lowe. The second was a Tamiya SDKFZ 251c in 1/35th scale.



That's it for August. Check out next month for more thrills and chills from the Roving Reporter.

Build It and Bring It!

Rover



ASMS MEETING

Third Thursday each month

7:00pm - 8:45pm

at the

Old Quarry Branch Library

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OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

Rick Herrington, Randy Bumgardner, Aaron Smischney, Golzar Shahrzad

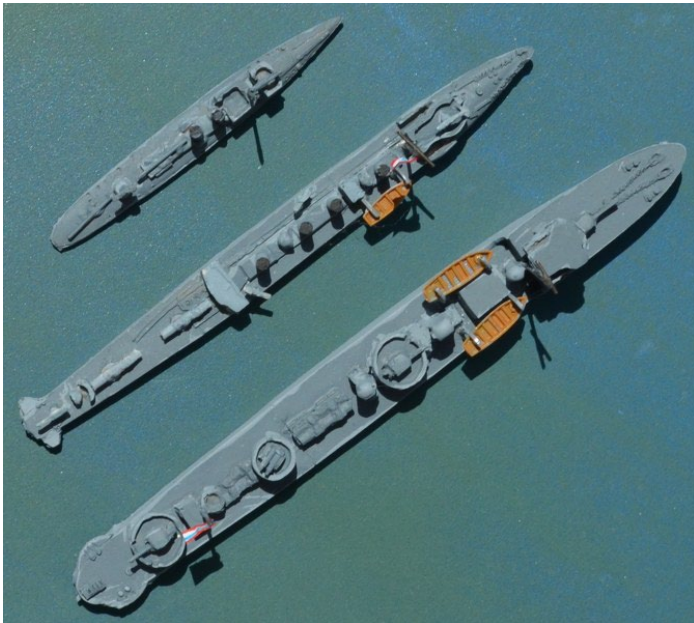
Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

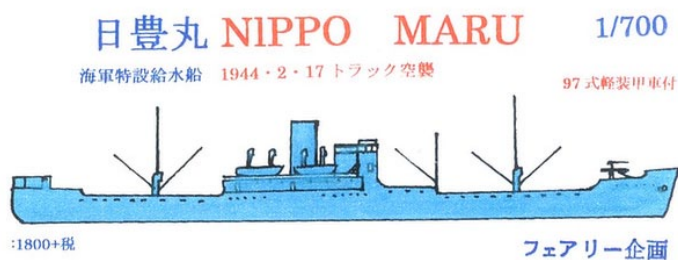
Let's start out with the small stuff.

1/700

Two new releases from a company called Fairy Kikaku.

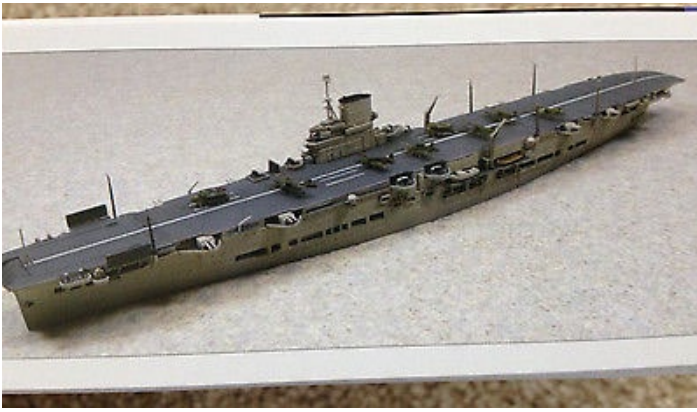


The first in 1/700th scale gives you three ships in resin and metal to re-create the Battle of Ko Chang. What? You're not familiar with the battle of Ko Chang? It seems France and Thailand went to war in 1941 and this kit gives you two French destroyers and an armed Thai merchant ship to re-create the battle. The second is a kit in the same scale of the Nippo Maru merchant ship.



Both Aoshima and Trumpeter have decided to re-release kits of the German aircraft carrier Graf Zeppelin. Aoshima's is a full hull version of the ship.



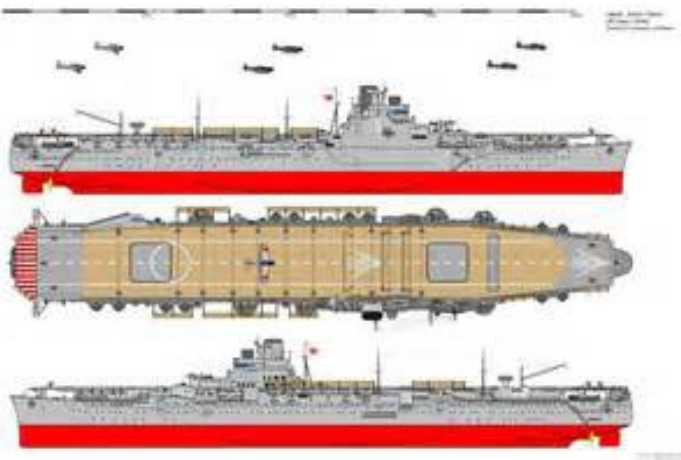


Trumpeter is also releasing their version of HMS Ark Royal. This version is circa 1939. It'll be nice to have an accurate version of this grand old lady out.



Aoshima is also releasing an IJN High Speed Transport cruiser Kitikami. The Kitikami started out as a regular light cruiser but was converted later in the war to an armed high speed troop transport.

1/350



In 1/350th scale we have a couple of new releases both from Hasegawa. The first is the Japanese aircraft

carrier Hiyo. Hiyo was a converted merchantmen later sunk in the Battle of the Phillipine Sea. The second is of the IJN battleship Nagato. This is another "special



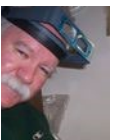
version" this one commemorating the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Nagato survived the war and ended her life as an atomic test victim. If you want to build this version it will cost you right around \$145 depending on where you find it.



The really large scale 1/200th has one release this month. Hobby Boss is releasing a USS Pegasus PHM-1. This was the navy's experimentation with hydrofoils. The Pegasus was the lead ship in the class.

That's the Shipping News for this month. Grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Rick





The Air Report

By Randy Baumgardner

This month we have a veritable cornucopia of new kits that have been announced or released. So, not wasting anytime, let's get rolling!



Let's start off with something for the large scale resin modelers. HpH is set to release their 1/32 F7F



Tigercat. This all resin kit leverages the attention to detail and fantastic quality that are hallmarks of HpH kits. Yes, they are a bit pricey, but they are worth it. Judging by the images on the HpH website, <http://www.hphmodels.cz/hph/f7f-tigercat-132/?lang=en>, this kit will certainly be a home run. It's due out soon-ish...

Next up is Great Wall Hobby with their 1/48 Sukhoi Su-35S "Flanker-E". I'm not sure of the release date on this kit. G.W.H. has a great track record for their kits. Both their F-15



and MiG-29 series of kits are well regarded. I wouldn't expect this kit to be the exception.

Eduard has a few new things on the horizon. Continuing their very nice family of ME-110 kits, Eduard brings out a newly tooled 'F' version. The kit is their standard "ProfiPack" boxing which includes injected plastic, photoetch, and masks. Oddly enough, Eduard did release a specific ME-110F-4 night-fighter in 2012 as a Weekend Edition.



Secondly, Eduard is bringing their nicely tooled MiG-21 family to 1/72nd scale. They are kicking off this adventure with the MiG-21MF due out early next year. Rumor has it Eduard will release the kits in the same order as they releases their 1/48th scale larger brothers.



Lastly, for Eduard, a new-tool Focke Wulf Fw 190A-4 has been announced. The release of this kit should occur later this year. Believe it or not, this version of

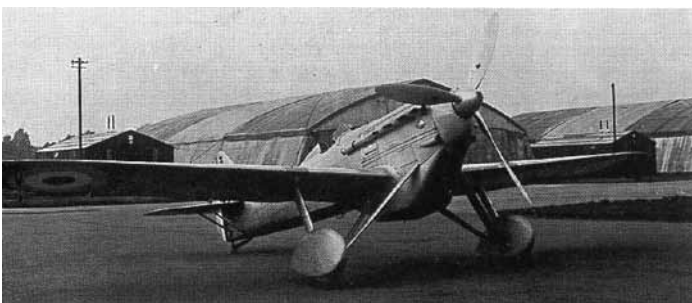


the venerable Butcher Bird has never been released by Eduard. Every other version, with the exception of the A-0 through A-3, have been kitted by Eduard in various incarnations – ProfiPack, Weekend, and Royal Class editions. That sacrilege is about to be rectified



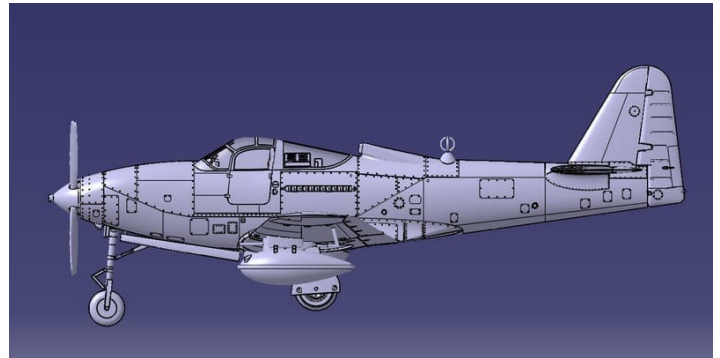
this year. In addition, it's an all newly tooled kit! So, those who found the cowling to be "a bit fiddly" on the previous editions may find a welcome surprise in this kit.

Moving along to Arsenal Model Group, we find they are releasing a couple of interesting aircraft for us. First up, they are releasing a new Dewoitine D.500/501/510 this October. This isn't the Dewoitine you've come to know and love from the Battle for France in 1940. No sir. This is its older brother (or much older cousin, almost an uncle) from the pre-war, Art Deco era. A time when spatted wheels, open cockpits, and flush exhausts ruled the designers thinking. From the images of the test sprues and test builds on Britmodeller, this looks like it will be a nice and very interesting model.



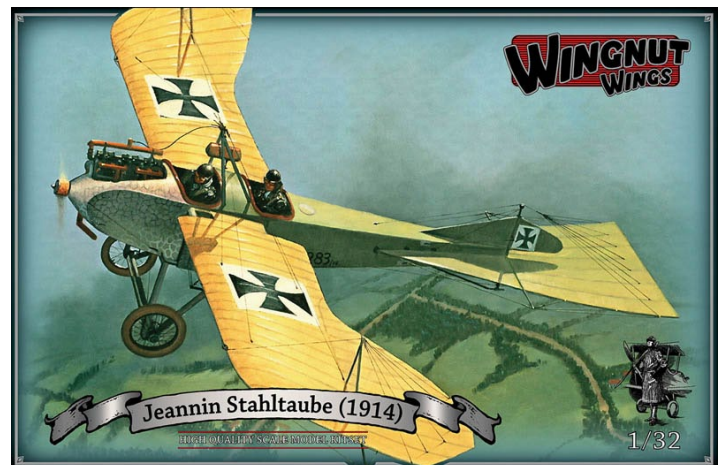
AMG will also be producing a newly tooled Bell P-63A/C/E Kingcobra family in 1/48th scale. In addition, they will be producing this family of aircraft in 1/72nd scale. From the renderings, test shots, and test builds

I've seen online, this looks to be a promising set of kits. The P-63E will also be offered as two-seat trainer. Now, that would be something cool to see built. Rumor has it these kits will be available in November of this year (2017).



(Arsenal Model Group P-63a in 1/48th photo)

On to everyone's favorite Great War model manufacturer. No, not Roden – although they do have some very nice kits. I'm talking about Wingnut Wings and their assortment of fabulous flying machines. In October of this year, they are set to release the 1/32 Jeannin Stahltaube (1914). For you early flight fanatics, this kit is for you. The images posted of the build on the Wingnuts website are beautiful (<http://www.wingnutwings.com/ww/productdetail?productid=3162&cat=5>). While certainly not as colorful as its later flying brethren, this is an historic aircraft for the collection.





Japan, somewhat near New Zealand, contains our next topic of discussion. Zoukei Mura, the model maker with their own "Old Man" at the helm (he doesn't look that old), are bring out the next kit in the large scale Pfeil pfamily. See what I did there... In November 2017, Z-M will release the 1/32 Dornier Do 335A-12 Pfeil in the Super Wings Series (SWS). This is the twin-seat trainer with the second cockpit above and behind the first, giving the aircraft a hunchback appearance.



Dornier
Do 335A-0 Pfeil

In addition to their Pfeil release in November, Zoukei-Mura is also adding to their 1/48th scale Phantom pfamily (see, I did it again) in mid-November. They are releasing the F-4C Phantom II in their SWS lineup, along with the previously released F-4J and F-4S. Their F-4E/EJ kit isn't far behind, either. Z-M was at the Wings over the Rockies air museum sizing up the F-4E out there.



Moving along to something smaller, Fine Molds will be releasing a 1/72 Grumman F-14A Tomcat in December. This is a welcome surprise for the holidays.

They have previously released an F-14D in 2015, so another Tomcat wasn't really a jaw-dropper. Based on the box art, we can expect the ubiquitous skull and crossbones of VF-84 "Jolly Rogers" in the markings mix. Fear the Bones, baby.



That's all I've got for this month that piqued the endorphins in my brain.

Now, go build something! And, show it off!

Randy



More Articles Needed.





It Figures

By Aaron Smischney

Welcome to those interested in miniscule 3d portraiture!

Scale 75 has some new releases (in 75mm no less) that look very nice. First up is a Rommel in Libya.

This is a really nice pose of the famous general. If you need reference on the hat stop by the mu-



seum in Camp Mabry as they have his hat on display.

Also from scale 75 is a US Marshal figure for all your wild west needs.

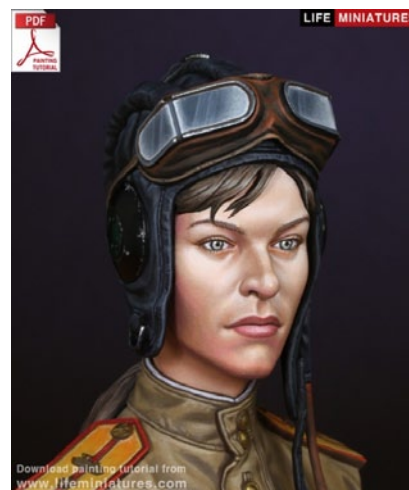
On the bust front DG artwork has announced a 1-16th scale half figure of a Japanese Lord that looks great.

Lots of canvas here for some colorful work!



Speaking of "Busts" Nuts Planet has a new one in its lineup of a barbarian girl.

She looks like she means business.



This next bust is on my MUST HAVE list as not only is it by my favorite sculptor Sang-Eon Lee it is also a subject I really love, a Soviet tanker from WW2.

This is in his "easy" line which is a set of busts with few parts designed to get you painting ASAP. He is also releasing a PDF painting guide for each of these pieces that is superb and highly recommended.



Tommy's War has some new figures announced that look great. If you have any interest in WW1 these are definitely worth your money.



Balloon Observation Officer, Royal Artillery 1917
Sculptor: Nino Pizzichemi



Pilot, Royal Flying Corps/Royal Naval Air Service 1917
Sculptor: Nino Pizzichemi 54mm



Piper Daniel Laidlaw Victoria Cross, Loos 1915
Sculptor: Benoit Cauchies



Private, 1/4th Bn Seaforth Highlanders, France 1917
Sculptor: Benoit Cauchie

Our Neighbors in Cedar Park have a new piece that looks great. A mounted Custer in 54mm. They also have several cavalry trooper releases that look like they're in the midst of Little Big Horn.

This one should be popular. Look for it on the shelf at King's in the coming month. Maybe they will have a painting class at Andrea on how to paint horses? I would be interested!



To finish this month off we have a Pawnee Scout from Art Miniatures. This looks like the bees knees.



That's my highlights, till next time friends!





Tracked Topics

By Aaron Smischney

Greetings armor fans and HELLO to all y'all armor curious!

Well dear readers, after an absence off in figure land I finally finished an armor piece and realized how rusty I have gotten, and how much I missed it. As the old saying goes, if you want to be good at something you need to do it and keep doing it!

Let's take a look at what's new in the world of big steel beasts. First up is an announcement that had our own Bob Bethea jumping up and down like a kid on Christmas morning... The M31!



The M3 series of tanks were a stop-gap in developing the M4 Sherman. We mostly gave them away in lend-lease versions (the Grant for the Brits and the Lee for the Russians) The Lee was in force for our initial invasion of Africa but was quickly replaced by the M4 for the invasion of Europe. While the "tank" version of the Lee disappeared, the chassis most certainly did not as it was converted into many things, from "Kangaroo" armored troop transports, self-propelled gun chassis like the Priest, and of course the M31 Tank Recovery vehicle. The M31 was used all over Europe and played a vital role in our war effort; The Germans were forced to abandon their knocked out tanks because they lacked recovery vehicles. Ours were dragged

back to the mobile depot and fixed up to fight another day.

The Lee and Grant that Takom announced are out and are selling well. King's has sold out of their initial shipment and I am building the Lee right now! I wouldn't have dreamed of Takom having such a fast turnaround but here we are! Let's hope they continue this and come out with more variants soon, and maybe get to some of the Shermans Tasca/Asuka missed?

Moving on, do you like your small tanks BIG? You are in luck because Dragon has announced a Panzer 2 in 1/6th scale.



FIGURES NOT INCLUDED

1/6 Pz.Kpfw.II Ausf.B DRAGON



www.dragon-models.com

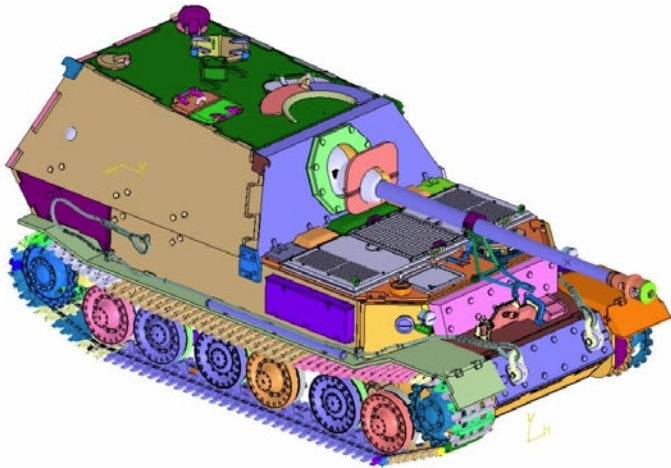
e-mail: info@dragon-models.com

75025

If you want to tackle this beast better clear off the dining room table! There is no hiding this purchase from your significant other.



Checking in with our Russian friends at Zvezda it looks like they have a new tool Ferdinand coming out, in 1/35th scale. We have some CAD images and box art.



You may ask why another Ferdinand? Ignore the old Italeri one it's not so good, the Dragon Ferdinand is very nice but can be hard to find for a reasonable price. Tamiya makes a very nice Elephant (the successor to the Ferdinand) but an Elephant is not a Ferdinand!

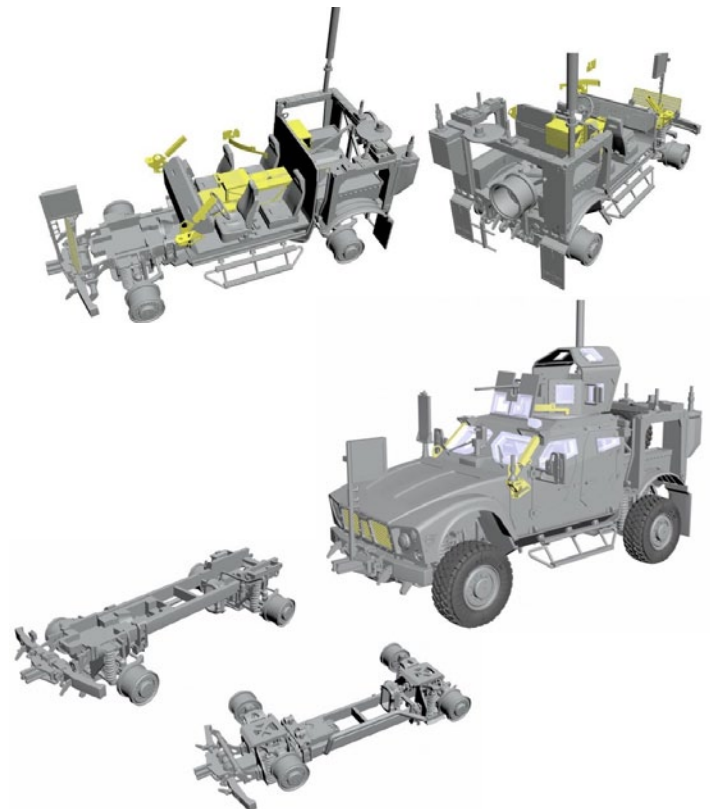


Most likely this is being made by Zvezda for Russia's market, as Zvezda can sell in the Russian market for 20%-30% cheaper than any imports. Zvezda has put out some very nice kits recently, so i am hopeful that this one is a good one. More competition is always good!

On the small scale Riich models has announced an M-ATV in 1/72.



As you can see from the CAD it looks like it has an interior! This vehicle is super cool and is the perfect size for a nice Iraqi street diorama!



Those are my highlights, till next time. Now go build a tank!

Aaron





Miscellaneous

By Golzar Shahrzad

For fans of really small scale aircraft, of which I am one, come two new offerings from two different manufacturers. First is a 1/144th scale B-47 from Academy. Actually it's from Hobbycraft as Academy



is using their molds. This reissue has markings for two aircraft as well as either the remote tail cannon model or the fared-over version. Academy has also announced a B-36 in this same scale.



The other offering is from Platz and is of the A-26 Invader. There are two 1/144th scale kits in the box which includes markings for three aircraft. Both this and the Academy kit are injected molded.

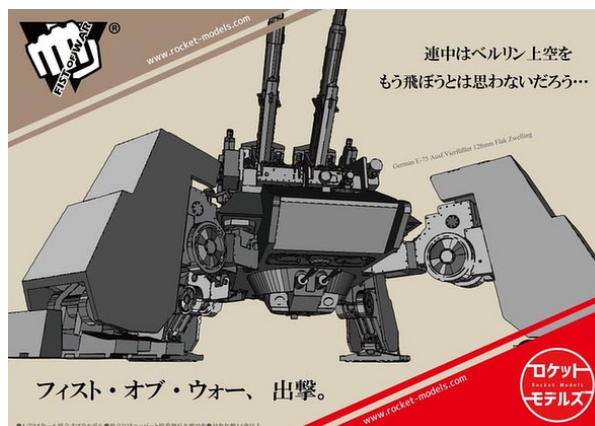
Most of us have at least heard of HALO. For the

truly uninformed, HALO is a military science fiction first-person shooter video game. The series centers on an interstellar war between humanity and a theocratic alliance of aliens known as the Covenant. Why this is important is because Revell is coming out with some vehicles from HALO. Among them are a 1/32nd scale Warthog (light recon vehicle), a 1/100th scale Pelican (troop carrier/drop ship), a 1/35th scale Wraith (assault gun carrier), and the 1/35th scale Scorpion (main battle tank). These are all Level 2 (snap build) kits and are designed for the



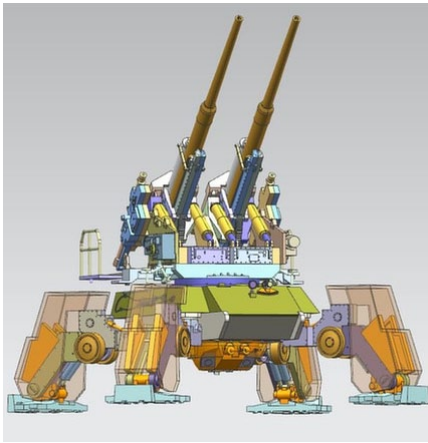
less experienced modeler. Which is not to say that an experienced modeler couldn't go to town on them. A couple of the kits do include figures.

The first time I encountered this next item it was being marketed by Model Collect. Seems that somebody didn't get the memo about them being Rocket Model kits. (Probably the same parent company.) Either way it's a new entry in the Luft '46/Paper Panzer kits that have been coming our way of late. One of the first offering is a 1/72nd scale German E-75 Ausf. Vierfussler (loosely translated as quadra-

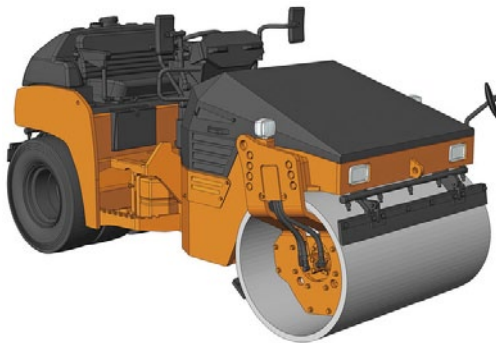




pod) 128mm Flak Zwellung. What is kinda cool is that the dual flak guns are mounted on a four-legged, walker chassis. Late WWII German design studies combined with Star Wars technology. What's not to like?



If you're in the market for something a bit more earthbound, Hasegawa is adding to their construction equipment line with a Hitachi Combined Road Roller. The ZC-50C-5 'steamroller' is injected molded and in 1/35th scale.



When I saw this my first thought was that this would make a great club build for the George Armstrong Custer Gin Drinking and Model Building Society. (Don't scoff, they are/were a real organization.) The kit in question is a 1/16th scale Yeoman Warder (Beefeater) from ICM. This injection molded figure is from 100% new molds and should be available very soon.



www.alamy.com - DRJ6RA

ICM is also adding to their 1/35th scale figure line with a set of Turkish Infantry (1915-1918). The set includes four figures with assorted weapons and equipment. ICM has been producing some nicely sculpted, out of the ordinary figure sets of late. Don't overlook them.

For something really out of this world, Pegasus Hobby has a Mars Lunar Explorer Vehicle set to launch very soon. This 1/32nd scale kit has a full interior with two figures: one a flight commander and the other in an EVA suit. The M.L.E.V.-5 has over 300 parts, some photo-etch, and a two hundred twenty five dollar price tag.





MPM/Azur is re-issuing the Latecoere 298 floatplane in 1/72nd scale.. This is a short run injected molded kit that includes a vac u-formed canopy, new decals, and some resin bits.

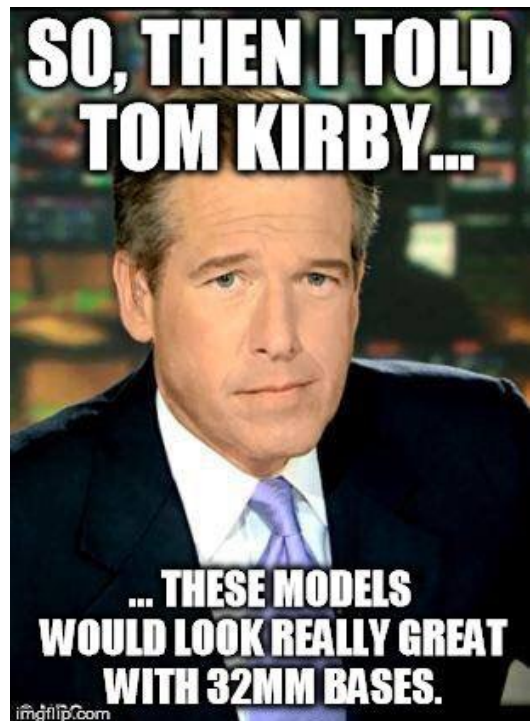


Go build the your model.

Golzar



Cabaanii is a Japanese company that focuses on diorama scenes, or more specifically room dioramas. One of their newer offerings is a 1/12th scale Old Time Passenger Car Room. By old time passenger car they mean railroad passenger car. These highly detailed kits are made from laser cut wooden parts, card stock, and plaque (clear acetate) for the window pane. Something a bit out of the ordinary to our Western eyes.





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