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February 2018

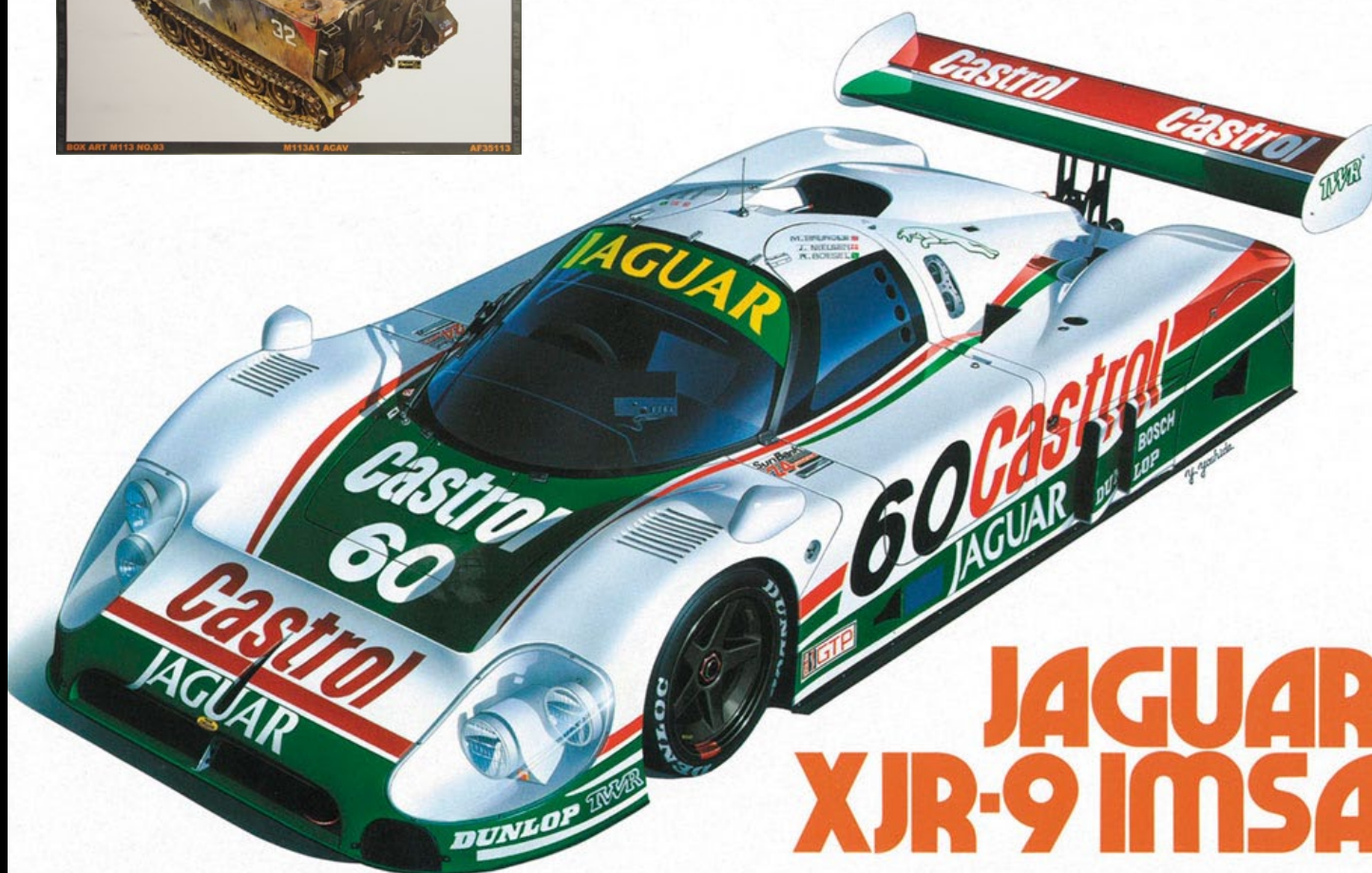
ASMS



SPRUE EXAMINER



AFV Club US ARMY M113A1 ACAV



JAGUAR XJR-9 IMSA

Plus

The Cotton Report • On The Table • Old Rumors and New Kits

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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www.austinsms.org

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.

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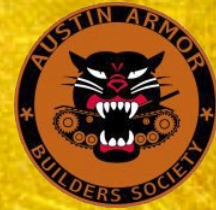
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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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



The Presidents' NOTEPAD

By Randy Bumgardner

It's February, time for Valentine's Day and the start of Show Season here in Central Texas. Currently on the horizon, the Alamo Squadron is hosting ModelFiesta 37 on Saturday, February 18th at the San Antonio Event Center. Their theme this year is "Oldies But Goodies", and is any kit produced prior to (and including) 1993, re-boxings notwithstanding. They have a new buddy build category this year, so Ben and I are entering our 1/72 Hasegawa F4U-TD Corsairs. We'll see you there! Speaking of shows, ours is on the (very) distant horizon. We scheduled it for Saturday, October 6th at the Travis County Expo Center. This will be our second year in the new digs, and we look to improve on issues that came up last year. Onward and upward, as they say. We chose a theme at our last meeting, "Red October: Cold War". That should cover lots of subjects for modelers to enter. It's going to be a fun time. Again!

At the February meeting we will be holding an informal Bondo Kit swap. This is to get more members involved in the Bondo Memorial contest in September. Those of us holding Bondo kits in the stash, bring in a couple of kits you probably won't build/finish, and we can make sure other members, who weren't at the original Kit Memorial Gathering, can participate. I'll be bringing along five kits, each in various stages of completion.

As a reminder, our May meeting will occur at the Milwood Branch of the Austin Public Library. This branch is located close to Amherst Drive and W. Parmer Lane. The exact address is 12500 Amherst Drive, Austin, TX 78727. You can copy the address into your electric Google machines and it will tell you how to get there. It's a nice facility, and a change of pace for us.

If you haven't signed up for either an article, presentation, or both, now is your chance. The months that are left over will have members assigned by picking names at random. Of course, those of us who already signed up will not be on that particular list.

As a final farewell (more on that in a bit), I opined about hosting the 2018 Annual ASMS Auction/BBQ at our house this spring. The membership agreed it would be a great idea, and so it began. I checked with the Powers That Be, and the date for this event will be May 5th, 2018. As that specific date is also Cinco de Mayo (rather fitting for some of us moving to California), we can combine the festivities and have a Last Hurrah/Auction/BBQ/Cinco de Mayo fiesta. I'll get the particulars out to everyone. As always, members who bring kits for the auction should try to bring kits that are complete and unstarted. Generally, as opposed to the Holiday Bash, that isn't as easy to do for this event. But, give it the old college try anyway.

As mentioned previously, these spring months are the final farewell, the last hurrah, for us. "Us" being myself, Liona, and Ziggy. As most of you know, our daughter in California is "with child" and we don't want to be the long-distance grandparents. So, we are moving back to California in June. It is certainly the definition of bittersweet. A flurry of renovations are occurring at Casa Downs-Bumgardner, as well as some packing and cleaning. That being said, we may need a Surprise Election at our April meeting. This depends on whether the Vice President formally turns down the offer of the Presidency. We can cover this at our next meeting. In the meantime, y'all are stuck with me (us) for a few more months.

Now, go build something! And then, bring it to show off...

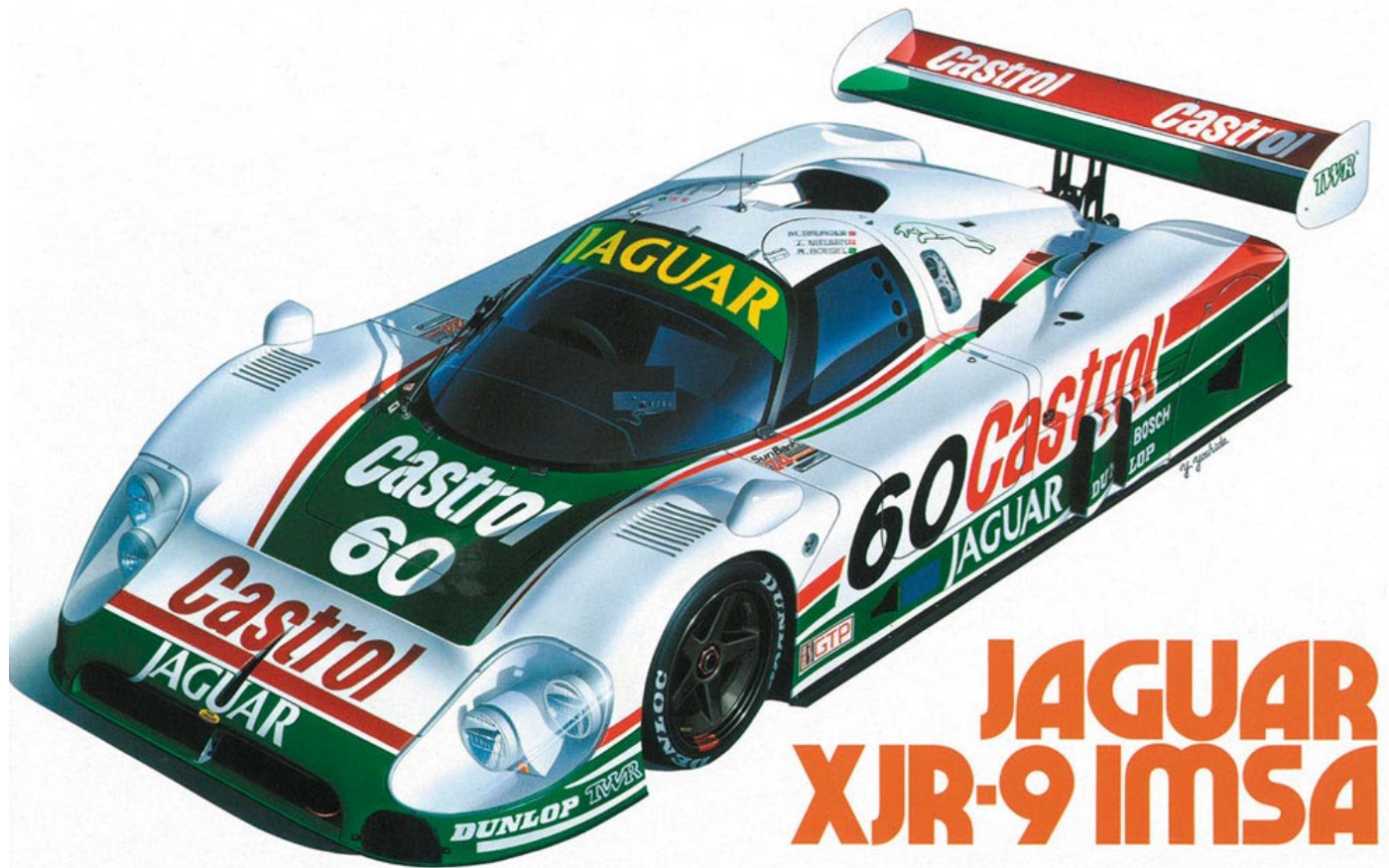
Randy





Jaguar XJR-9 IMSA (Daytona Type) Limited Edition

By Ben Morton



JAGUAR XJR-9 IMSA

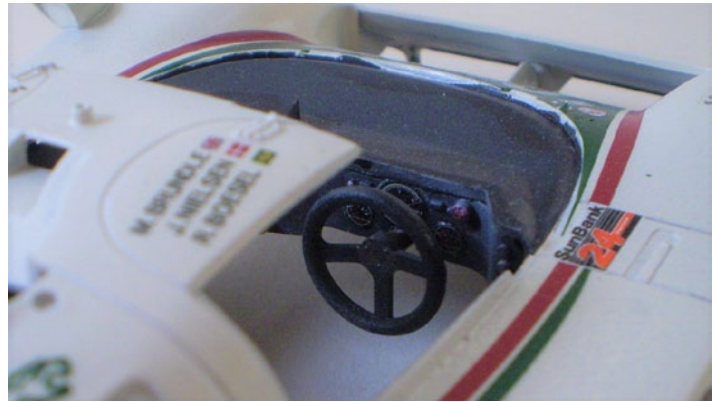
From Hasegawa's website: Designed specifically for taking the racing world by storm, the XJR-9 was the eighties Jaguar that finally cracked the iron grip Porsche had on the 24 Hours of Le Mans and brought Jaguar its first Le Mans win since 1957. In America, the type also brought home the win at the 24 Hours of Daytona and took third in the overall Constructor's Championship. This limited edition kit features markings for three IMSA-GTP class Daytona Sunbank 24 hours racers: Car No. 60 (the winner), Car No. 61, and Car No. 66 (third place).

Hasegawa originally released this kit in 1989, shortly after Jaguar had won at Daytona the previous year. This limited edition version is the same kit with new box art. (Limited Edition usually means that this will be the last release of these molds.) What is under that new box art are sixty seven parts molded in white plastic, clear parts for the windscreen and headlamp covers, four rubber tires as well as decals for all three cars (#60, #61, #66) that entered the 24 Hours of Daytona in 1988.





There are some extra parts included with this release but those are clearly marked on the instruction sheet. One note, those extra bits will allow you to build a car that was entered at Le Mans. Those cars had a different style spoiler wing, different exhaust configuration, and different style rear-view mirror. You will need to scrounge around for decals for those cars as the livery was somewhat different (different sponsor and color scheme). Although if you can wait, Hasegawa is re-releasing the Le Mans version of this kit soon with the appropriate markings.



may have actually spent more time drilling out the cooling holes on the disc brakes than I did assembling the kit.



The model goes together easily. There are some fit issues around the rear wheel cooling vents (parts #E24/#E26) but nothing insurmountable. Another problem area, for me, was with the windscreen.



Probably not, but assembly is well within the abilities of most, if not all, modelers. Having said that, a novice builder may need some help with applying the decals.



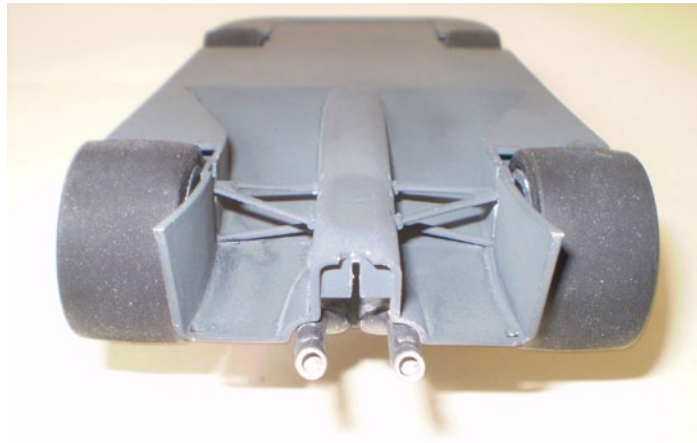
The side windows are separate parts and should be placed in position before attaching the main windscreen. There is a slight wrap to the upper portion of the body that may prevent a smooth, fault free fit of the clear bits. In Hasegawa's defense the headlamp covers fit like a dream. I



Painting this beastly wasn't much of a chore either. The cockpit, engine area, and under side are all black. I used a rattle can for the shell of the car body as it's an off white. There are some rear suspension



bits(four parts) but they are mostly for show as they are partially hidden behind the exhausts and the mounting bracket for the rear spoiler wing.



The rear wheel skirts are molded to the body shell. My feeling is that these cars look cooler and meaner without those skirts. There was some consternation, at the time, about those wheel skirts but after winning the 24 Hours of Daytona those complaints kinda died up. It wouldn't really be much of a chore to remove them and expose the rear wheels. But as this is a curbside model,

there isn't an engine, drive train, or suspension to show off, a detail that might be missed should you decide to remove them.

The instrument panel/dash is one piece with a detailed steering wheel and decals for the instruments. The driver seat has the five point safety harness molded to it with the gear shift lever being the only other detail part in the cockpit. The real cars had a rather spartan interior so you're not missing out on much. These cars only had one job and that was to go fast...for a long time. Well... maybe two jobs.

Applying the decals was a bit time consuming task, but they go on easily and snuggle down into all the nooks and crannies just fine. Just go slow and take your time, the decals are thin and subject to tearing. Do pay attention to the box art for proper placement. One slight problem area, for me, was with decals (#20, #21) for the rear spoiler wing. Both of those decals wrap around the wing but decal #20 is a two piece affair with the slotted one going on the bottom. That aspect isn't that well defined in the instructions. (I would suggest applying the decals for the spoiler before adding





the mounting struts.)

Hasegawa also provides some press-on badges/logos, either Dunlop or Denluc, for the tires. I wasn't able to get mine to adhere, so I gave up and went with a more natural, unadorned look. Besides... "don't need no stinkin' badges!" As I don't have the patience for a shiny finish, my 'Jag' is depicted as if at the end of the twenty-four hour race, covered in road tar and track gook. (This technique also allows for my less than stellar application of the color coat on the car body.) I do know a guy who has an excellent article on Six Steps To A Shiny Finish (<http://www.austinsms.org/Painting-Secrets-For-Car-Models.php>) if you'd care to have a go at that. Photos 8-12

This kit builds up nicely right out of the box and looks just like another really fast car. If your obsessive compulsive disorder does kick in, this kit

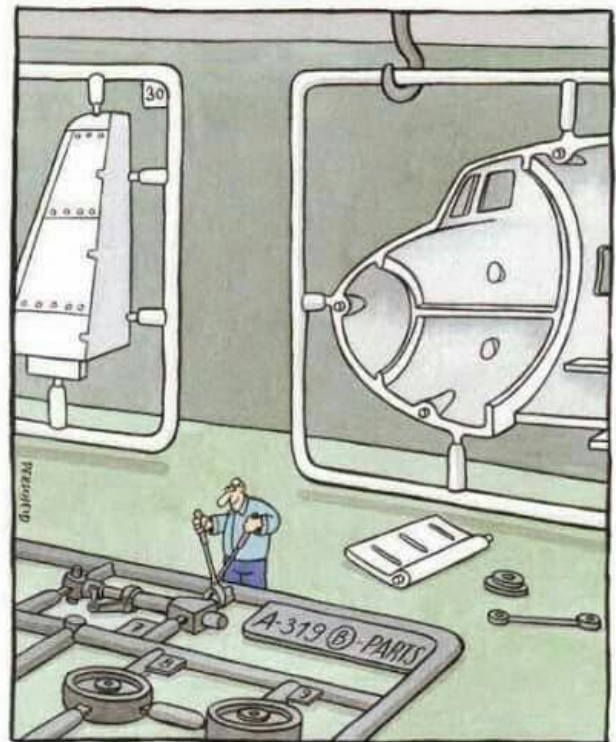


could be a detailers dream. With all the extra bits (driver seat, seat belts, wheels, instruments, etc.) available from the aftermarket crowd this would be a stunning model.



My thanks to Hasegawa and IPMS/USA for the review copy.

Ben



Juergen's job at Airbus was exactly like his childhood dreams.

The Cotton Report

By Rick Cotton

The typical hard-core model builder is a reference nut. I do not say that lightly. He (or she, yes some girls do) will amass books, and online articles, and magazine clippings, and any other darned thing he can get his hands on to make sure his next little lovely is dead-on accurate, so much so that even Mr. Rivet Counter will pronounce it “correct” at the next Podunk Model Invitational. This is much more than a “have to” among our crowd... it is a mania.

Too bad the model companies don't exactly feel that compunction. Well... to be fair, Tamiya does, but they charge an arm and a leg for that compunction. And we gladly pay for it, don't we? But being a battleship builder on occasion, and having dug deep in the box containing Trumpeter's USS New York, I wonder why some companies just don't seem to make a consistent effort to get it right.

New York, for those of you who are not boned up on your WW2 battleship identification, was the sister ship of – and VERY similar to – USS Texas. Yes, that same big hunk of ancient steel desperately attempting to stay afloat right now over at the San Jacinto Battleground.

It makes me wonder... did Trumpeter think it not worth the expense to send a few company engineers over to photograph and measure the REAL THING, and get the kit right? How could they not take the opportunity to study a real-live, honest-to-goodness existing WW1 dreadnought, and get it right? Obviously, they blew a few things in the kit, the most obvious being that hugely wide expanse... some would say “shelf”... that sits over the torpedo bulges down both sides. Oh, yes, it's quite wrong. Would require MAJOR surgery to get it right.

I'm not doing that surgery this time around. This time through the kit is only preparatory to building the Texas next time around. I want to find out what





fits, and what doesn't, what is good, and what is "ye gods!" this time around, before I do it again in the Texas boxing.

Even so, a 1944 New York is a thing of beauty. A monstrous prehistoric dinosaur of a ship, bristling with guns, top-heavy with casemates that harken back to her 1917 coal-burning days. A huge tripod mast, with those characteristic US-style fighting tops, so similar to the vessels at Pearl Harbor. She is ungainly, and by all historical accounts, a very bad "sea boat", with a tendency to roll and heave heavily in a rolling ocean swell, while trying desperately to keep her 1912 design speed of 18 knots up. This is made even more difficult due to the extra weight all of those 20mm and 40mm AA mounts that have been added on, along with that catapult and Kingfisher airplane, and all those bristling radar arrays, and the hundreds of sailors added to operate those items. All that stuff adds up, and results in a vessel that "ships" a lot of water under way, and rusts, and gets her paint badly chipped and worn.

Except for the even older USS Arkansas, New York and Texas were the oldest operational battlewagons in the US Navy on December 7th, 1941. Cranky, ancient, yet still useful as floating artillery, they plodded their slow way into combat and served, maybe not as glamorously as other vessels, but still they served. And they are, in their massive, heavy, slow, rusty and smoky way, lovely. I have other "Old Gray Ladies" to come – Queen Elizabeth... Warspite... Fuso... Yamashiro... they are ancient throwbacks, primitive when compared to the sleek 33-knot lowas, or the menacingly beautiful outlines of the Bismarck and Tirpitz. Nothing of the Italian sports car racing lines of Roma or Littorio.

More than any other genre of modeling, the battleship builder is very closely related to the armor builder. Both deal in plate steel, welded or bolted together into a monster whose sole purpose in life, was to move a huge gun or guns around and destroy similar monsters when they came across one. Both modelers are highly concerned

with camouflage schemes. Both deal with dings, dents, and rust, and the way water streaks down the side of the vehicle, and the way the paint fades in places. Both end up with a piece that is both menacing in appearance - and yet beautiful in its own way. Both build a piece that would be harmless and inanimate without the soft, puny little humans that inhabit it, and turn it from a pile of silent, peaceful steel to a roaring, menacing, smoking, fire-breathing killer, and master of its domain.

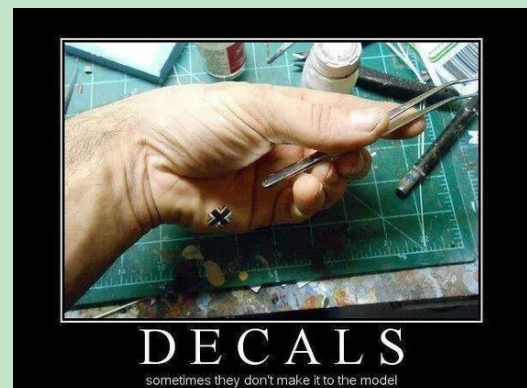
These great gray beasts fascinate me, and will continue to do so. They are what they are... beautiful.

The battleship was once queen of the seas, and the very essence of the projection of a nation's power – the Royal Navy was once the undisputed master of the seas, solely due to their massive fleet of powerful dreadnoughts. Then came the aircraft carrier, and since then, the old battlewagon was relegated first to gunfire support, then to retirement, and if they were lucky, museum status. Most are no more, having succumbed to national budgets and the scrapper's torch.

But in my workshop, it is 1944 all over again. I smell the smoke, hear the ship's bell, and feel the vibration of those ancient reciprocating engines far below decks. The rolling waves lift and bring the old girl to life once again, as she hoists her ensign, heads into the wind, and towards the terrible altar of battle.

It's pretty cool to be a modeler.

Rick





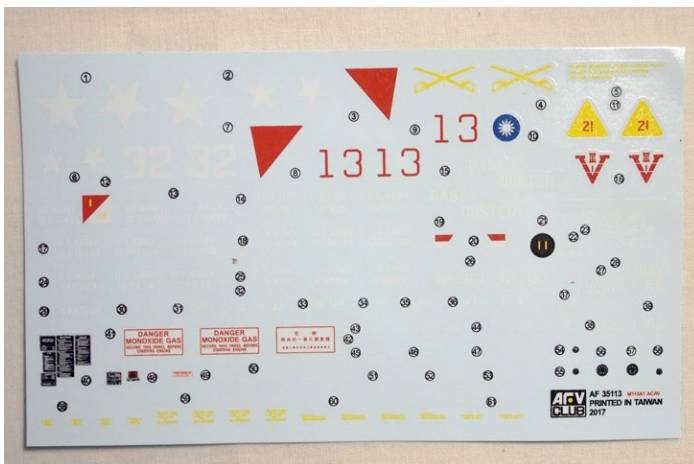
AFV Club US ARMY M113A1 ACAV Kit # 35113 (1/35th)

by Dave Edgerly

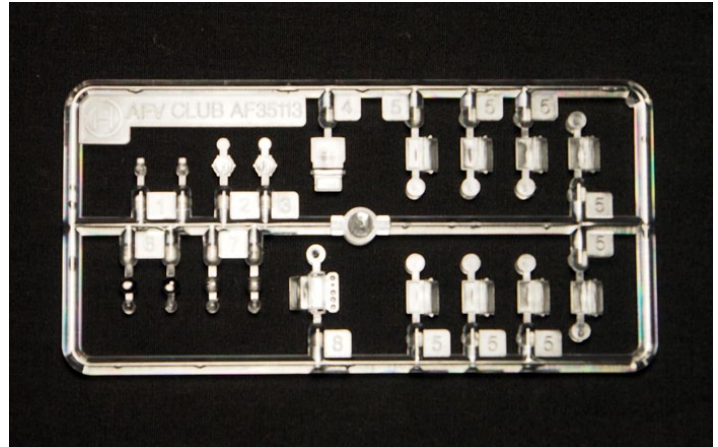
For we “Baby Boomers”, this kit represents a fairly tumultuous time of our youth. I have personally had some experience with the M113 ACAV but, thankfully, not encountering any hot action while on board.



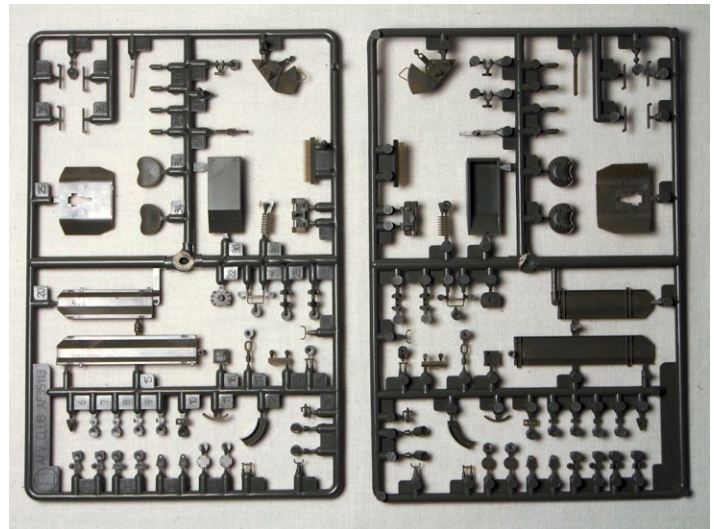
There is a fairly concise history of the Armored Personnel Carrier in US Army service that I don't really need to elaborate on in this review. Suffice it to say that the M3 half track started it for the USA and there were several fits and starts trying to achieve an effective vehicle. When the M113 arrived on the scene, it quickly became the primary APC for several nations. I believe it is still the most produced APC in history. It became obvious the standard M113 wasn't quite sufficient in battle in Vietnam.



Modifications ensued that provided better vehicle crew protection and far better firepower with the addition of 2 M60 7.62mm medium machine guns behind armored shields to supplement the commanders M2 .50 Heavy machine gun. A stronger bow wave deflector was added and in most cases, the side skirts were removed. They tended to trap the lovely red mud and jam the running gear.



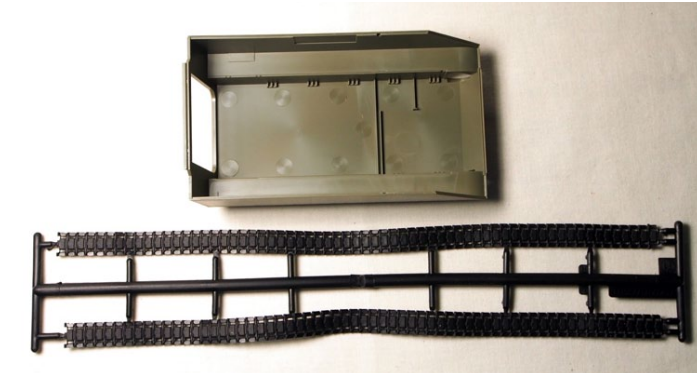
So, the AFV kit is a new tool kit that Vietnam era ground troop modelers will certainly appreciate. Please note that this is just an “In the Box” review. The kit is molded in dark green, clear, black vinyl track, photo-etch, a decal sheet and string for the tow cable. The markings are for 7 vehicles: 6 US and 1 Republic of China. One of the US versions is armed with the 7.62mm Minigun. Cool Beans.



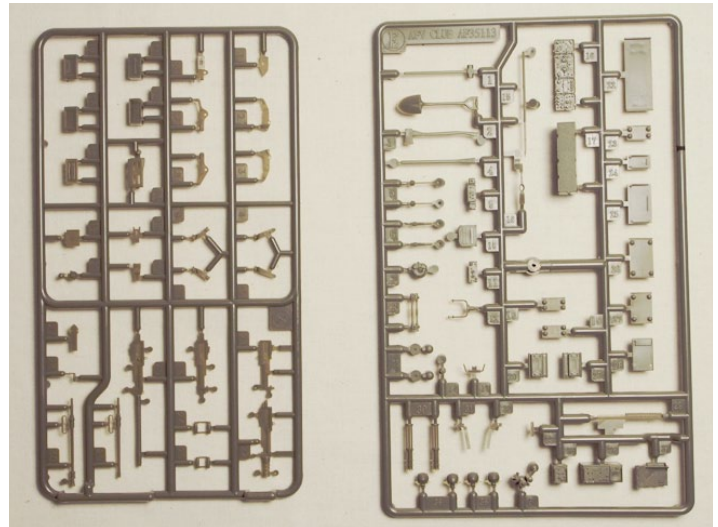
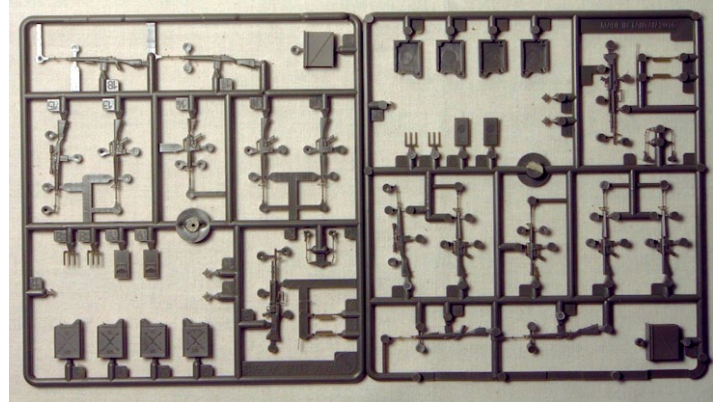
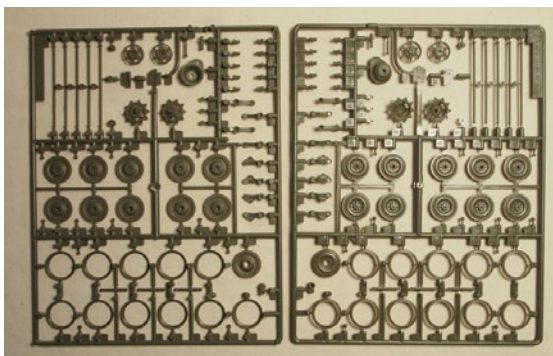
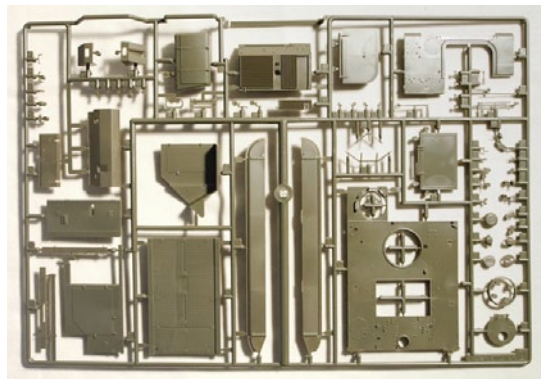
The lower hull is a one-piece affair. There is a fairly complete interior that is only missing the engine/transmission. For armament, AFV provides the M2 .50 cal., the M134 7.62mm Minigun, 2 each



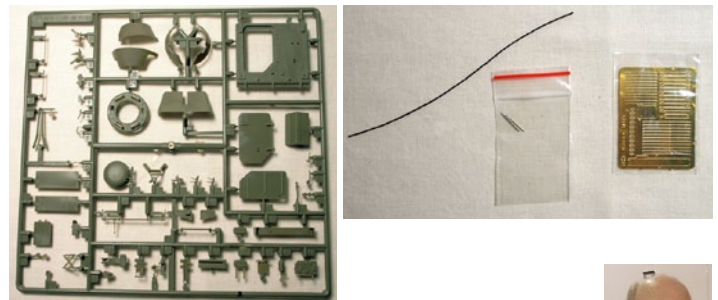
M60 7.62mm machine guns, 6 each M16 (3 each 3 prongs and 3 each bird cage suppressors), 2 each XM177 submachine guns, 2 each M21 sniper rifles, 2 each M14 rifles and 2 each M14E2 light machine guns. Wow! Too bad the only good crew men and squad members are Bravo 6 from Australia. Very nice but not all that easy to get.



Tracks and side skirts: the only vehicle in this kit that used skirts was the ROC version. Track sag is pretty obvious on the M113 family of vehicles and the kit tracks will need to be pinned or glued down to emulate that obvious feature. AFV makes an individual link set for this kit (I forgot to get a set and do not recall the kit number). DO NOT use the NATO M113 individual link set as they are not the same at all.



I hope to build this soon but who knows with all the other great kits in the stash. Which way does one turn?? I can say it is nice to see some Vietnam era ground equipment kits. We've been very blessed in the air war theater with kits.



Dave E.



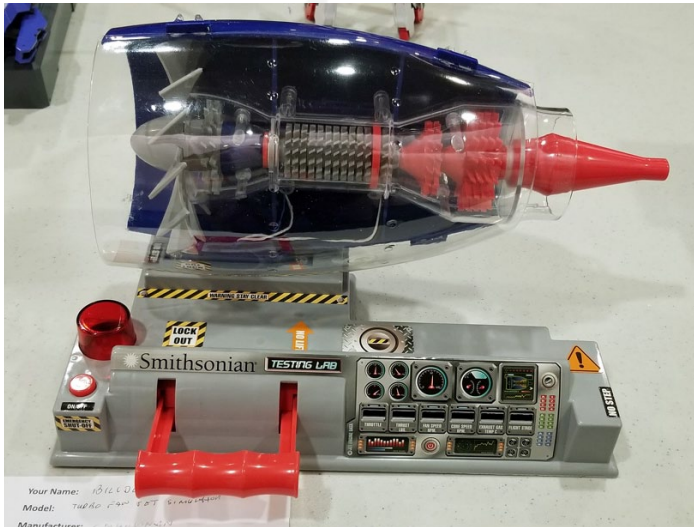


On The TABLE

By Our
Roving Reporter

Last month's meeting had the tables full with member's creations.

Bill Delk brought in a Smithsonian working model of a jet engine.



He also brought in a 1-144th Gundam Barbatos Lupus by Bandai.



Ben Morton brought in his usual plethora of stuff. The completed models were a 1/72nd scale Kfir and an Aoshima 1/72nd JASDF Tracked Recoilless Rifle carrier.



Ben brought in a Hasegawa 1/24th Jaguar XJR kit that he's going to review for IPMS.





He also brought several other review kits that he's going to do for the journal.

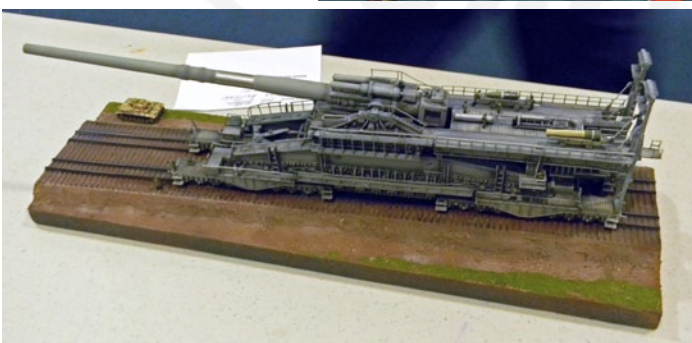
Randy Bumgardner and Ben Morton brought in their 1/72nd Corsair buddy builds. Ben is doing his as a Computer Assisted Design model. Randy is doing his as a more traditional piece. The buddy build category is for the upcoming Modelfiesta in San Antonio.



Bob Bethea was presented with the Most Prolific Model builder award for the 2017.



Bob continued his streak by bringing in a 1/144th Dora Rail Gun which garnered the coveted model of the month.



Bob also brought in 4 other figures including a Barbarian and a German Afrika Corps figure.



Ziggy Bumgardner brought in four Bandai Gundam models this month. The first was a 1/100 Gouf Custom. The second was 1/100 Freedom Gundam.



The third was 1/144 Bandai Zaku half-cannon. The fourth was an impressive 1/60th scale Gundam Exia.





Dave Ederly brought in a Tamiya 1/48th Spitfire MK1. Dave changed or modified the canopy wind-screen, the seat, harness radio mast and prop. Dave made the two blade propeller for the kit.



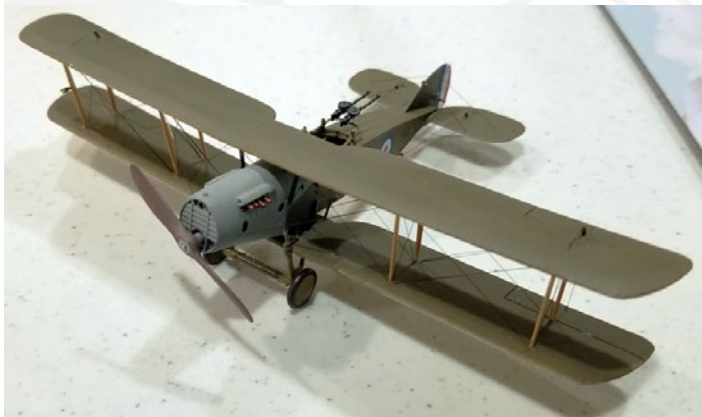
Alex Gashev brought in his in-progress Zvezda 1/35th Russian T-14.



Rick Herrington brought his Marine M1A1 in snow camouflage.



Ron McCracken brought in a Roden USB-2 in 1/72nd. His model is a conversion of an F2B to use the Liberty-8 engine.



Mike Lamm brought in his SDKFZ 234/3 in 1/72nd scale. He added Orion and Scale 75 figures to the vehicle to create a mini diorama.



Dave Ederly brought in his 1/35th M1A21 SEP in progress.





Randy Bumgardner brought in his Space Shuttle/Transport Egg model.



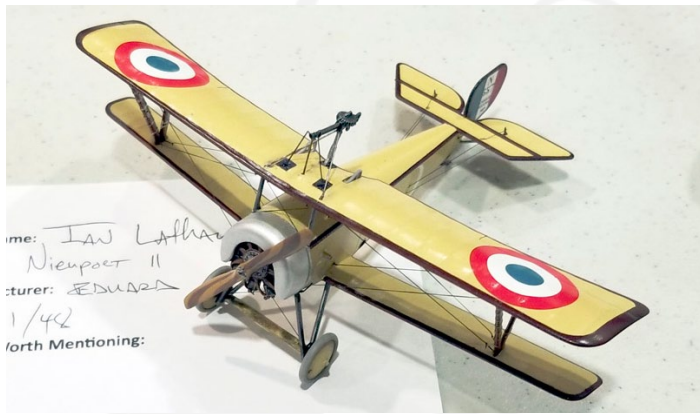
ASMS MEETING

Third Thursday each month
7:00pm - 8:45pm
at the
Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Dr.

Next meeting February 15th, 2018

No Reservations Necessary!

Finally, Ian Latham brought in a 1/48th scale Neuport.



Name: Ian Latham
Aircraft: Neuport II
Builder: EDWARD
1/48
Worth Mentioning:



This month's meeting had one more award to give away: the ASMS Member of the year. Bill Delk was honored for his contributions to the club.



Rover



Uh... Yeah.

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.



OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

Rick Herrington, Randy Bumgardner, Aaron Smischney, Golzar Shahrzad

Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

Slim pickens this month for new ship releases. Let's start off with 1/700th scale.

1/700

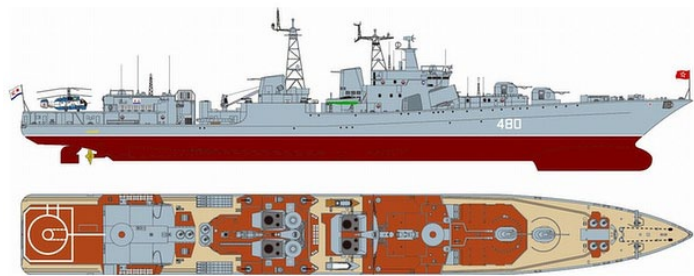
Aoshima is first up with a kit containing two ships. The HMS Exeter and the ship that sank her the IJN Inazuma. The kit depicts the WW2 Battle of the Java sea in which the Exeter was torpedoed by the Inazuma. It'll be nice to see the Exeter in 1/700 with new molding.



1/350

Pit Road is next up with two new modern releases the Soviet Missile Destroyer Udaloy and the JMSDF (Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force) Destroyer DDH-142.

Finally in 1/350th scale Fujimi is releasing a JMSDF Hyuga class Helicopter Destroyer. The kit comes with pre-painted crew figures.



SCALE 1/700 STYLYX MODEL 海上自衛隊護衛艦 DDH-142 ひえい Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force DDH-142 "HIEI"

As I said, slim pickens this month. Grab a kit from your stash and build it

Rick

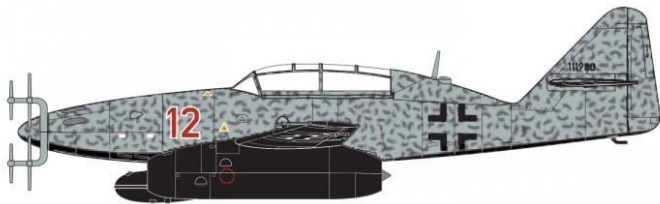




The Air Report

By Randy Baumgardner

It's February and love is in the air and if you pay attention to the world of injected plastic bits, it's also that time of the year for the annual Nuremburg Toy Fair. Every year manufacturers and the associated industries gather in that German city to show off and announce their wares. One of these years your intrepid newshound will venture out to the land of beer and lederhosen, and possibly take in the show. Anyway, let's hop to it.



First up is Airfix, with a follow-on to their nifty little Me 262A-1a. In October, they plan to release the night fighter version of the Schwalbe, the Me 262B-1a in 1/72nd scale.. I'm currently working on the single-seater version, so I have high hopes that the two-seater will be just as nice. If you yell "Trick or Treat" loud enough at your local hobby shop proprietor, perhaps they will throw one at you. You never know...



Vintage Fighter Series, VFS, are known for their very large models. They have produced a 1/24th scale P-40B/C, as well as a (nicer) 1/24th scale P-47D

Bubbletop. The last I heard, Kinetic had the molds and produced an early P-47D Razorback. However, the rumor mill has caught my ear, and VFS is mulling over producing a 1/24th scale F4U Corsair. I have no idea which version they are chewing on at the moment. Additionally, they are also contemplating a Spitfire Mk.XII in that very same 1/24th scale. If they do see the light of day, start building the extra wing on your house you've always wanted...

New kid on the block, Dora Wings, in conjunction with Arsenal Model Group, will be releasing a TP-63E in 1/48th scale. This one is due out this month, and I



haven't heard whether that is still the schedule. From what I perused on the Facebook, this will be a nice, albeit esoteric, kit.



They are also planning on releasing others in the P-63A/C/E family. On display at Nuremburg was their 1/48th scale P-63E-1, which they are readying for





release as we speak. And, they also displayed their Gee Bee R-1 and Gee Bee R-2 Super Sportster in 1/48th scale. They are making a splash...



ICM has been busy as of late. Their catalog lists lots of new kits to their lineup, including two new Mig-25, the RB and RBT, both in 1/72nd scale. In 1/48th scale they are planning on a Mig-25RBF and a Mig-25PD. They are also planning on a new Do 17Z-2 in Finnish



markings as well as the Do 17Z-7 night fighter, again in both 1/72nd and 1/48th scales. A newly tooled Dornier Do 217N-1 will be arriving sometime this year. In 1/32nd scale, a Bucker Bu 131B, as well as the Bu 131D, will be forthcoming this year. That's a lot of plastic. There is much more, but these are the highlights.



Special Hobby is set to release new L-39 kit in 1/48th scale. This kit is the L-39ZA/ZA ART light attack/trainer. The modernized L-39ZA ART is an export version of the Albatros for Thailand. There are a number of marking included in addition to the Thai version. Markings for a Czech aircraft in two different schemes, an Algerian aircraft in three different schemes, and, most interestingly, an aircraft with Czech camouflage and Israeli markings. Apparently, the Israelis test flew the aircraft and it wore IAF markings.





For those of you not interested in manned flight, LEM Kits has brought out a resin kit of the Blohm & Voss Bv 143A-2 glide bomb. This rocket-assisted glide bomb was carried aloft via an aircraft and launched at its target. The Luftwaffe used He 111s to accomplish this during testing. It looks to be a nice little kit and it does include the ground dolly. The kit is in 1/32nd scale.



Trumpeter is back on our map with an impending release of a 1/48th scale Fairey Firefly Mk.I. No word on when the release will occur, so keep your eyes out for it.



In addition, Trumpeter is also releasing a 1/72nd scale F-102B Delta Dart this year. Will the 'A' team step up to the plate, or will we see the 'B' team?



Last, and certainly not least, the darlings from down-under have something new heading our way. Wingnut Wings will be releasing a Junkers D.1 in 1/32nd scale, per usual. It's an interesting subject, the first all metal, low-wing monoplane. This aircraft was a significant step in the development of airframe structures. If you hate rigging, this is the kit for you.



There it is, a little of everything for everyone to chew on. Now, go build something!

Randy



*In politics
stupidity is not a handicap*

~ Napoleon Bonaparte



It Figures

By Aaron Smischney

Hello figure fans! Lets jump right into it:

Aradia Miniatures has two cool new releases, the first is a slightly toonish hiker lady Ellis in 54mm that i really like:



It looks like she has a koala hitchhiker? Very neat and different piece!

Next is a 60mm figure Harley and his Racehorse. It's certainly different as well.



Armor35 has a new Russian female tanker in 1/35th scale that looks nice. e will be available in 1/35 as well as 1/16.



Young Miniatures has a bust of a British Airborne with PIAT launcher in 1/10th scale that is really amazing looking:

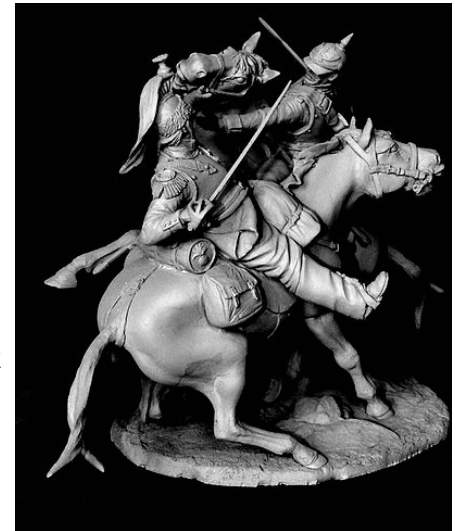




Our neighbors at Andrea miniatures have announced a new figure in their Iron Cross” line, this time a U-boat captain with periscope Kapitänleutnant Herbert Kuppisch (1909-1943). This line comes in 1/72,1/48, 1/35 and 1/16th scales. I am sure Bob Bethea will paint up a 1/72 one we can all squint at. Andrea has really been hitting them out of the park with this line, and i am sure this one will be just as good as its stable-mates.



Let’s finish off with a great 75mm piece available from Ellies Miniatures and sculpted by Carl Reid, “Dance of Death” Franco Prussian war, two horseback riders in mortal struggle.



Those are my highlights, till next time!



Aaron

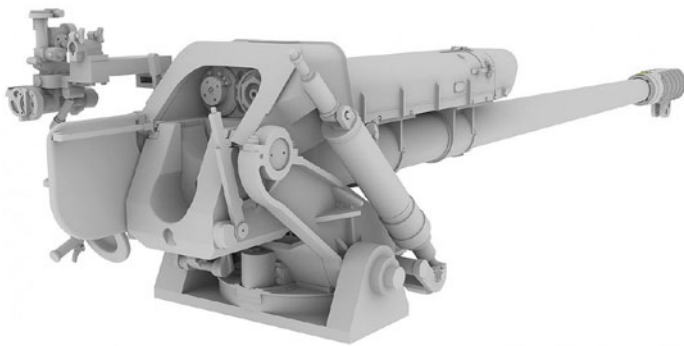


Tracked Topics

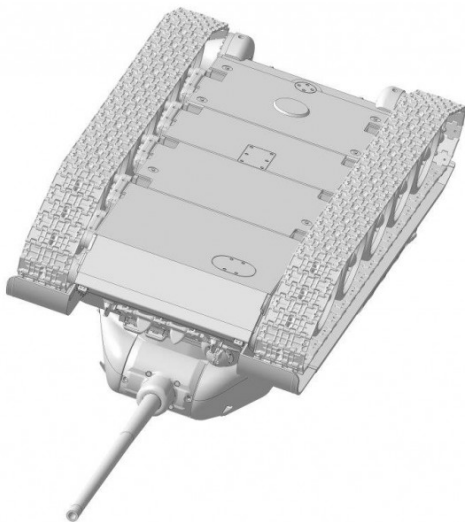
By Aaron Smischney

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

Let's start off with a REALLY neat kit from RMF, a T-34/122 Egyptian tank. The kit includes link and length tracks and some basic photoetch.

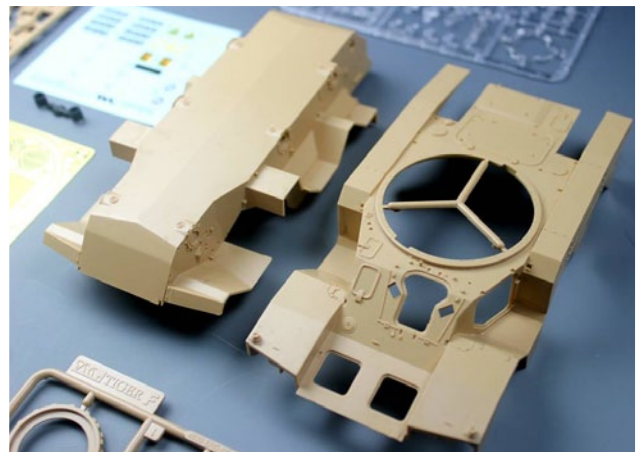


Sticking with T-34's Zvezda is coming out with a 1/35th T-34/85 "Zavod 183"



This looks like an all new kit. Zvezda has been making some nice kits lately. Lets hope this one is one of the good ones.

Tiger Model has a really nice looking kit of the armored car from Panhard the ERC-90 F1 Lynx.



This interesting looking beast was used in several countries, with Mexico having 120 of them in service.



Also from Tiger Model in 1/35th scale is the modernized t-90 tank, T-90MS Tagil. It looks like it will sport some metal parts as well as photoetch.



If you like big tanks that never saw battle Amusing Hobby has a new Super Conqueror on the way, most likely for the World of Tanks players to build as it was recently introduced there.



This is especially interesting as you get a resin figure to pose next to the beast.

Miniart has a new Tiran 4 with full interior, this one has some interesting markings including ones for the South Lebanon Army (SLA) A in blue.



Those are my highlights, till next time!™

Aaron

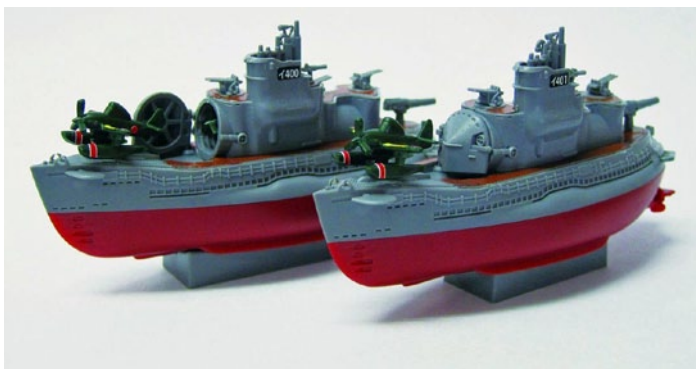




Sundries

By Golzar Shahrzad

It had to happen. Several months ago reports surfaced that some companies (Artwox/Fujimi) were indeed making after-market detail sets (wooden decks) for 'Egg Ships'. Now we have Fujimi adding the Japanese submarine I-400 to their Chibi-Maru fleet. This kit was originally released in 2016 but this time Fujimi is including photo-etch details and wooden decks. There are two complete submarine models in the box along with Aichi Seiran aircraft. This snap fit kit includes either foil stickers or water slide decals.



AMT has a number of re-issues headed for your local hobby shop. Among them is a 1955 Coca-Cola Chevrolet Cameo pickup truck. The 1/25th scale injected molded kit includes a die-cast Coca-Cola vending machine and a two-wheeled dolly.



A&A Models has come up with another unusual aircraft model. This 1/72nd scale injected molded kit is of the Helwan HA-300. The Helwan HA-300 was a 1960's Willy Messerschmidt design for the Egyptian air force. The newly tooled kit includes ninety parts and some photo-etch details. The only other kits, previously available, of this aircraft were from Ma Model (1/48th) and Classic Resin Planes (1/72nd), both in resin.



Staying with unusual aircraft kits, there is also an Am Fan Models kit of the Heinkel He-60C float plane. This 1/72nd scale kit features decals and clear bits for the canopy. The instructions are in English and Russian so you'll be able to work on your 'Ruskie' as you build.



From the new to me column is Ant Resin with a neat looking resin thingy for your workbench. Among this Chinese company's first offerings is the 1/35th scale, resin model of the U.S. MAARS. MAARS stands for Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System and is one of the U.S. Military's latest additions in the arena of unmanned reconnaissance/urban assault platforms.



If you ever see one of these wicked-looking things chugging down the street (top speed, seven mph), best to maintain a low profile.



AR-35003 1:35 scale

U.S. MARRS
(MODULAR ADVANCED
ARMED ROBOTIC SYSTEM)



Revell Germany has been making some nicely detailed military vehicle kits over the years. Continuing with that heritage, they have a new 1/72nd scale kit of the German M109G Howitzer. The injected molded kit has 172 parts with link/length tracks. There are four marking options included on the decal sheet, all for German vehicles from 1968-1982.



If German military vehicles peak your interest, Model Collect is re-issuing (sort of) their Pershing II missile transporter. Model Collect originally issued this 1/72nd scale kit not too long ago. That release featured the M963 HEMTT tractor, this one

features 1/72nd scale German MAN tractor with a Pershing II missile on a transporter/erector trailer. Model Collect kits are really neat and are of some long sought after, unusual vehicles. However, the fit of the parts can leave a little something to be desired.



Copper State Models prides itself on being on the cutting edge in WWI aviation modeling. Now it seems that they may be going after being on the cutting edge of land based vehicles. Their first foray into this area is a 1/35th scale kit of the Lanchester Armored Car. From available photos of this WWI era, injected molded armored car the kit looks superb. For a more detailed look, check their website. (<http://www.copperstatemodels.com/main/fullDetails/202>) The style of the instruction booklet alone should win them some points. (Editor's note: Chris Mrosko has built this kit up and has nothing but good words for it)

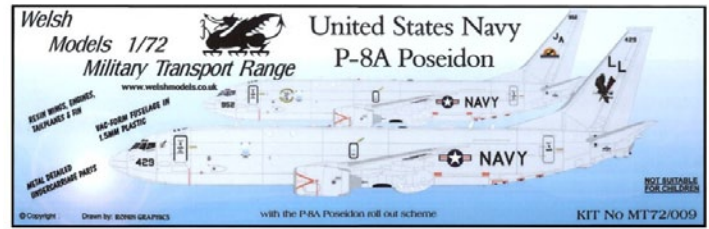




It is often a good idea, when displaying any model, to add a figure or two for scale and to give your project a little extra pizzazz. To help you with that, Hasegawa has a 1/35th scale, injected molded set of four Japanese construction workers. There are a number of extra bits (tools, shovel, plate compactor, wheelbarrow) included in the box. If you add the new Hasegawa 1/35th scale Hitachi Vibratory Combined Roller to this set of Japanese workers, the scene will be complete. This release is labeled as 'Set A', so one could assume that more figures are on the way.



If you scoff at the idea of working on a Mach II kit, Welsh Models has something to test your skill set on. They are releasing a Boeing P-8A Poseidon aircraft model (a modified 737). The 1/72nd scale kit is of the U.S. Navy's multi-mission maritime aircraft and has markings for VP-5 or VP-45. Relive the exciting, early days of scale modeling with this resin/vacuform kit. It would be kinda cool to see this commercial airframe with anti-ship missiles hanging off of it at a model contest.



Meng Models has a new edition to their automotive line with a 2-door, 10th anniversary version of the Jeep Wrangler Rubicon. This model joins their Ford F-350 and Humvee H1. The 1/24th scale, injected molded model may be built with either a soft or hard top. Other features of the kit are a detailed suspension, foil for the mirrors, and pre-colored seats.





There is a resin up-grade kit (sold separately) that includes a luggage rack, different front and rear bumpers, snorkel, and a complete light bar. A clever person could even electrify the lights with the aid of some mini LED lights. Anyone have Bill Delk's phone number? [Note: For those outside the club, Bill likes to build sci-fi and almost always electrifies those models with lights.]



Go build the your model.

Golzar



- 02/17/2018 **ModelFiesta 37** *This will be the Regional Show for Region 6 San Antonio Event*
Center 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr, San Antonio, TX 78227
Show Theme – “Oldies but Goodies”
A kit originally Produced in 1993 or earlier
alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta.html
- 03/03/2018 **MCMA Showdown 2018**
Dr Pepper Star Center
Farmers Branch 12700 N. Stemmons Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX, 75234
Show Theme - Revel Ford Bronco [Any Version is ok]
www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.php
- 03/24/2018 **RiverCon VII**
Bossier Civic Center
620 Benton Rd, Bossier City, LA, 71171
Show Theme - “The Great War 1914-1918” - *or the War to End all Wars as a tribute to the 100th Anniversary of World War I.*
Any subject from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.
www.facebook.com/RiverConIPMS/
- 04/07/2018 **Tiger Fest XXIV**
St. Jerome Knights of Columbus Hall
3310 Florida Ave., Kenner, LA, 70064
Show Theme – “The End of WWI”
www.facebook.com/IPMSFlyingTigers/
- 04/14/2018 **TMF Contest and Show**
Bixby Community Center
211 N. Cabaniss, Bixby, OK 74008
Show Theme – “The Fabulous Fifties”
www.tulsaipms.org/contest-2018
- 04/25/2018 **ModelMania 2018**
Stafford Centre
10505 Cash Rd, Stafford TX.
Show Theme - “Bent, Busted, Rusted or Wounded”
Any subject depicting, damaged, repair, or in need of repair as well as injured or wounded figures.
www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11
- 06/02/2018 **ScaleFest 2018**
Grapevine Convention Center
1209 South Main Street Grapevine, Tx 76061
Show Theme – “Between the Wars” [WWI 1919-1939 WWII]
www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm



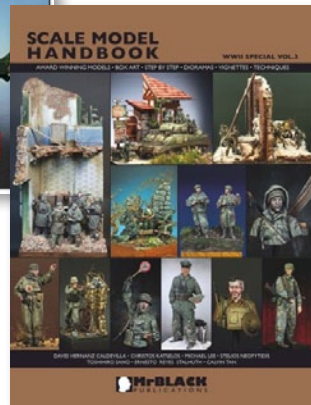
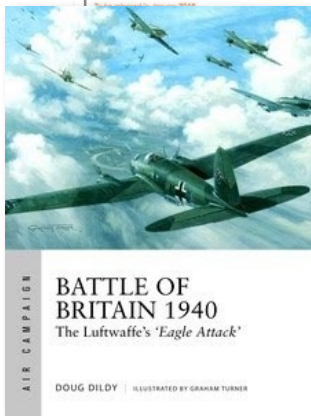
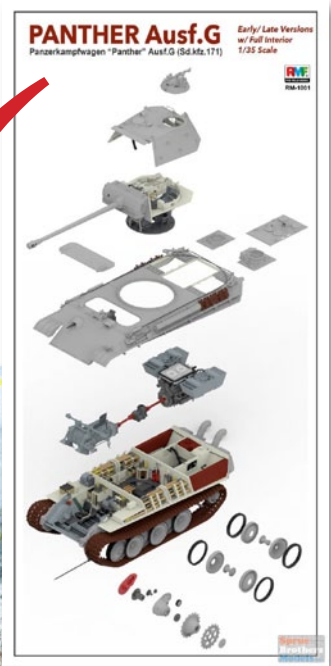


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