

SPRUE EXAMINER

Ziggy's Zaku

The Wonderful World of Antennas



Legends of Warfare
M551 Sheridan

austinsms.com



January 2020

The Cotton Report • Table Talk • Old Rumors & New Kits

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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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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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.



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Dear Members,

Happy New Year! We made it to 2020!

This is going to be an amazing year for us Texans as the Nationals are due here in August. Before that though we have local shows in several of our wonderful cities, and personally I'm looking forward to a little competition and probably (absolutely) more kits to buy.

Next month starts things off with our neighbors down south and the always fantastic Model Fiesta. If you haven't checked out their website for info and to download your entry sheets do so now. They are always ahead of the game and put on a fun show.

As for our club contests, we start the fun this meeting by choosing our 'Procrastinator Contest' submissions. We ask our members to bring in a list (or the kits themselves) of 3 to 5 partially started kits that can be chosen to complete for the contest in June. Be sure to bring something you really want to finish, as it can be quite the drudge getting through some of those unfinished kits. I've got mine ready!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

Cheers!

Ian





HOUSE CLEANING



ASMS MEETING



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

Next meeting January 16, 2020

No Reservations Neccessary!



***Break the ice at parties!
Don't miss out on the new name
badges for dues paying members.
Contact latham.ian@yahoo.com for
more information.***



Events

JANUARY 26, 2020: CALMEX, LAKE CHARLES, LA
SHOW THEME: "Snap-Tite/Snap-Together"

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 ASMS, 111620 Via Grande Drive, Austin, TX
78739.

PAY UP!

Club Quarterly Contests

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

January - ?



ZIGGY'S ZAKU

By Ziggy Downs Bumgardner



Mobile Suit Background-

This Mobile Suit was developed during the later end of the One Year War in Universal Century (UC) 0079. The Principality of Zeon was using its current MS-06 Zaku II as a testbed for new advancements in Mobile Suit technologies. While several Mobile Suits were under production (such as the MS-07 Gouf and YMS-08 Dom Test Type), to test the new systems for the suits, they would modify Zakus since they had the same base pilot controls and OS.

This is where the MS-06RD-4 came into play. It was to help develop and test the leg mounted thermonuclear thrusters which would eventually be implemented on both the YMS-08 Dom Test Type and the MS-09 Dom/Rick Dom. It was also used as an excuse for Zeon to look into high-mobility type Mobile Suits, which would lead to the eventual production of the MS-06R-1A Zaku II [high-mobility type] used by many of the Zeon ace pilots like the Black Tri-Stars, the "Crimson Comet" Johnny Ridden, and the "White Wolf of Zeon" Shin Matsunaga. The only ace that did not gain a high-mobility type was

. The only ace that did not gain a high-mobility type was Char Aznable, also known as the "Red Comet", who instead stayed with his MS-06s Zaku II and later went onto the MSM-07 Z'Gok then later the MS-14S Gelgoog. The test type was given only a heat hawk and a 120mm Machine gun as its weapons loadout, due to it being a "Testbed Mobile Suit".

It only saw combat once when during a test flight several EFSF GM type-Es attacked. Its escort Zakus got damaged and the test type got separated. It managed to take out several of the GMs and severely damaged the last.

The MS-06RD-4 is a MS that had advanced the Principalities technology, proving the thermonuclear thrusters were functional, eventually greenlighting the production of the MS-14 Gelgoog and the eventual MSN-02 Zeong at the end of the One Year War.

The Origin kits-

The High Grade The Origin line is one of Bandai's best High Grade lines. It stems from the OVA series Mobile Suit Gundam: The Origin, which follows Casval Rem Deikun as he grows up becoming Char Aznable, along with the events that lead up to the first months of the One Year War. Bandai put all of their effort into the Origin kits, the articulation is top notch, as well as the molding and color separation.

On previous Zaku kits, they were more or less just thrown together, with more focus being on the Gundam types. But The Origin reversed that, making these HG Zakus some of Bandai's best work, leaving the Earth Federation Space Forces (EFSF) suits to be the after thoughts. I have built... several... of the Origin Zakus, and I highly recommend them to anyone interested.

My favorite out of the bunch is the High Mobility Test Type. I have always liked its design, and got it the first chance I could. With this being a P-Bandai exclusive, which means it's only available in some stores or only on the Bandai web-shop, it will be harder to get and take a bigger bite out of your wallet. That being said, I still say bite the bullet and get it, it, in my opinion, it is worth the money.



The Model itself-

The High Mobility Test Type is a kit that I cannot recommend enough if you manage to get your hands on it. It is a very solid High Grade kit, and there is very little clean up needed on it. The only thing that I recommend is to be careful with the black armor. It marks easy and if not cleaned up well you will see a stress mark where you cut it off the runner. What I found to be a good thing to not get those marks is cut away about a millimeter or 2 away from the part then sand down to the part. Unless you paint it then it doesn't really matter, but that's my recommendation if you just straight build the kit.

The color separation is very good, even if this isn't the most color diverse kit. However it does do a good job with what it has, a good example is the black piece in the center of the crotch section. There are only 3 real "color correcting stickers", which are the 2 red squares on the feet as well as the mono-eye in the head. But all can be painted on easily and you don't even really have to mask if you were to paint just because of how the parts go together. There are a few seam lines that you will need to fix if you want it to be perfect. They can be found on the dome/shoulder armor piece, and on both forearms. Although they are easy to fix, I generally just use some Tamiya extra thin cement then sand down the plastic till you can't see the seam anymore.



The kit doesn't come with any decals. It comes with what Bandai calls "sticker style decals", which means it comes with a bunch of caution markings, warning labels, unit numbers, zeon logos, etc. However, they're stickers, like you would get with a standard release High Grade or a cheaper Master Grade (unless Bandai was just being lazy... like on the MG Deep Striker).



I did not put the stickers on, mostly because they don't look good on dark plastic. The reason being is because you can see the outline of the stickers on dark plastic, or the little bubbles under the stickers, so unless the kit is white or light gray I tend not to put the stickers on but to each his own.

The articulation is one of this kits leading aspects. It has better articulation than some older Master Grade kits, which is a bit surprising. The head is on a hinge joint at the base of the neck within the torso, and a ball joint that plugs into the head. This allows the kit to look up a decent amount, and the head can do a complete 360.



The mono-eye within the head is also moveable, there is a small tab on the underside of the head that allows you to move it left and right.



The way that Bandai engineered the torso is very unique. They put hinges inside the torso, so that the sides where the arms attach can collapse over the front of the chest so the kit can have an easier time holding a weapon with 2 hands. The poly caps they used for the arms to plug into also shift forward/out with to increase the mobility. If you were to use all of those joints along with the arm's articulation, then you can easily put the arm across the body without having to mess with anything.

The arms are attached to the torso via a ball and socket joint, which helps leave a wide range of motion for them to move. It also has a bicep swivel, letting the arm swivel a full 360° and they have a double jointed elbow.

This lets the arm do an almost 180° bend, which is far better than many other HG Zaku kits.



The hands are just on ball joints which plug into the arms. It comes with a trigger finger hand for holding the machine gun, a left and right holding hands, and a left side only open/relaxed hand which has become a staple among High Grade Zeon kits.

The waist is just a set of ball joints, one plugs into the torso and one into the hips, allowing the kit to have a decent torso bend. The front and side skirts move up and out of the way to let the legs move up and to the sides.

The legs have what is called a "universal joint", which means it's a peg plugged into a polycap, as well as a thigh swivel at the top of the thigh. The knees are double jointed much like the elbows, and the feet are attached to the legs at 2 points.



The legs have what is called a “universal joint”, which means it’s a peg plugged into a polycap, as well as a thigh swivel at the top of the thigh. The knees are double jointed much like the elbows, and the feet are attached to the legs at 2 points. The first is a hinge that holds onto the “ankle” joint, which has a ball joint at the bottom. The ball joint is what attaches into the actual foot and holds it to the ankle, which in turn holds it to the leg.

In conclusion-

This is a really good little kit, it is a fun and easy to build as well as only needing minimal clean up to look good. As I stated earlier, it is a little hard to find due to it being Premium Bandai, but there is a hobby shop here that has an online shop called NewtypeHQ, and they’re where I got mine. They have fairly decent prices for all their kits, especially their P-Bandai stuff. But I am almost certain that if you ask King’s to special order it for you, they would do their best to track one down for you.



This kit comes from a line of kits that I could not recommend more, so even if this one doesn’t really appeal to you, I’m almost certain there is an Origin kit that will grab your attention, whether it’s another Zaku or one of the few Gundam variants they released.

Thanks for reading, and this was my little insight into the world of Gunpla .. Next time I “talk” to you all (if I don’t write anything else for the newsletter) will be at the Nationals in San Marcos! Can’t wait to see everyone there!

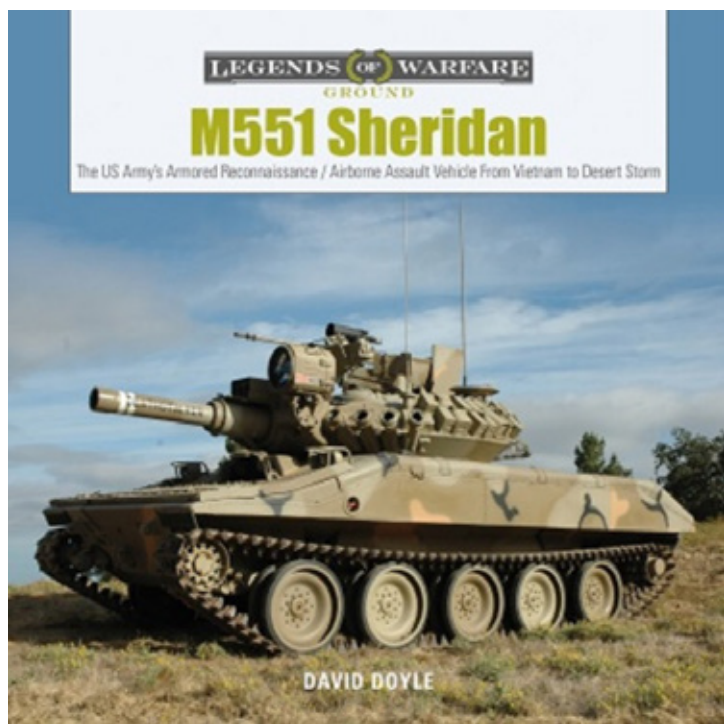
-Ziggy





Legends of Warfare M551 Sheridan

By Ben Morton



In the introduction to one of David Doyle's latest offerings, he writes: The M551 Sheridan is often referred to as a light tank, but in actuality it was an armored reconnaissance/airborne assault vehicle. The M551 was designed to be a lightweight, amphibious, air-drop-able vehicle armed with a massive 152 mm gun that doubled as a rocket launcher. The gun launcher was designed to fire the MGM-51 Shillelagh antitank missile, or 152 mm conventional rounds with a combustible cartridge case.

The vehicle saw extensive use in Vietnam, Operation Just Cause in Panama (where they saw their only combat air drop), and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Sheridan ended its service with the US Army masquerading as Soviet Bloc vehicles at the National Training Center.

Now if David Doyle's name sounds familiar you might harken back to the M551 Sheridan in Action book published by Squadron, because it's the same guy.

This 9x9 offering from the Legends of Warfare series has a hard cover binding and contains 231 color and black & white photographs from variety of sources. After a brief introductory chapter the tome is divided into three parts:

- Development
- Armament
- Field Use



M551 fitted with 105 mm gun

The Development section delves with the early prototypes and testing of those vehicles. A particularly fun series of photographs are those that show an early M551 with flotation covers on the road wheels. There are a myriad of ideas, for the modeler, on unique ways to display their finished modeling project throughout this volume.

The Armament section deals with...wait for it...the armament of the M551 Sheridan. With emphasis on the 152mm gun/launcher system there is also a number of photographs of the secondary armament. One on the many things that I learned from this book is that the early Sheridans sported a 'spotting rifle' coaxially mounted with the main gun.





The Field Use chapter focuses, primarily on the M551 Sheridan in Vietnam. There are great photos throughout this section of the Sheridan during field testing as well as its employment by armored troops in Vietnam.



The M551 Sheridan spent its twilight year as a platform for adversary vehicles at the National Training Center in California. These Sheridans, converted to look like Soviet vehicles are also covered with a extensive array of well documented photographs. Of particular interest for me are the staged photos showing the Sheridan "in action" on the East German border during the late 1970's. More great display ideas!



One aspect of Mr. Doyle's work that I truly appreciate are the captions that accompany the archival and detailed photographs. Nothing brief, vague, or trite about any of the captions. His concise and informative text exploring the M551 Sheridan with each photograph is most welcome. This volume will make a worthy addition to your modeling library. Although 'someone' did forget to include a bookmark.



M551 deployed in Operation Desert Storm



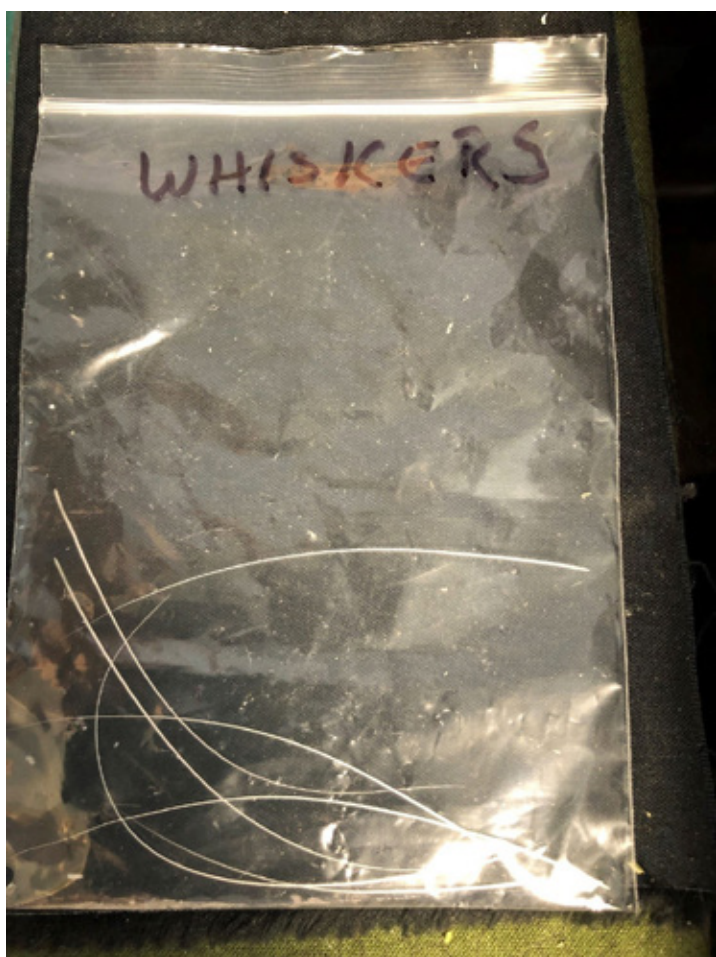


THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ANTENNAS

By Dave Edgerly

I'm sure that all of us modelers, be you Sci-Fi, Sci-Fact, Aircraft, Armor, Naval or Auto, have had to install whip antennas of some type. Well, I'm here to tell y'all of a great source of very useful material for just exactly that.

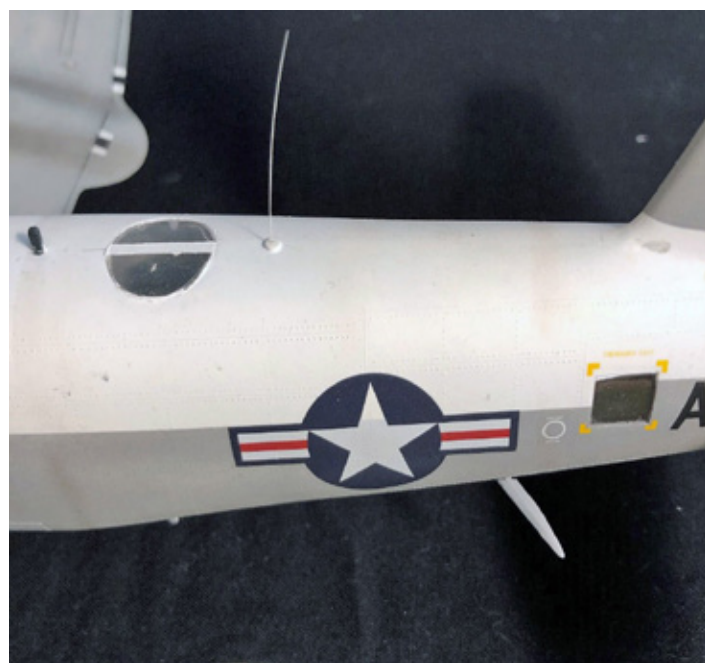
You can trim it to any length and it will be appropriate for 1/350th to 1/24th regardless of the subject matter. However, they may be just a tad thick for 1/700th Naval subjects.

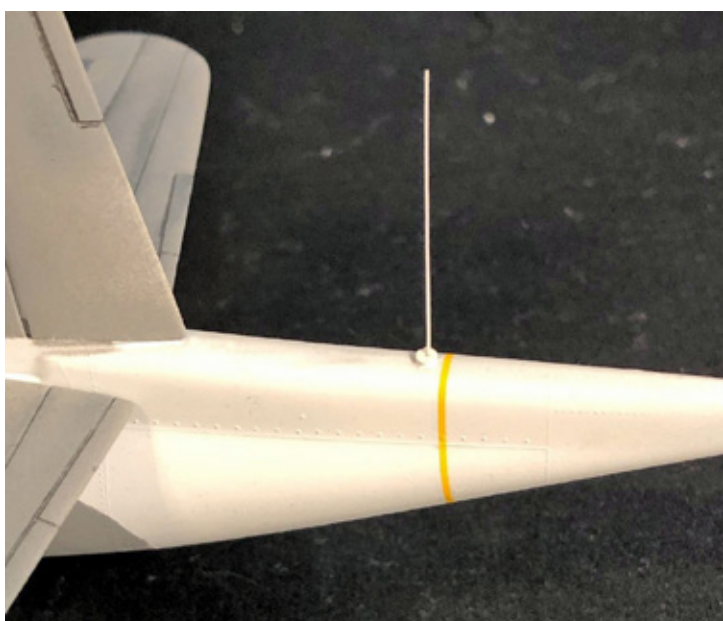


It is easy to collect these as they appear all over the house as long as you have a donor. I've included some images of a couple of instances where a whip antenna was indicated.

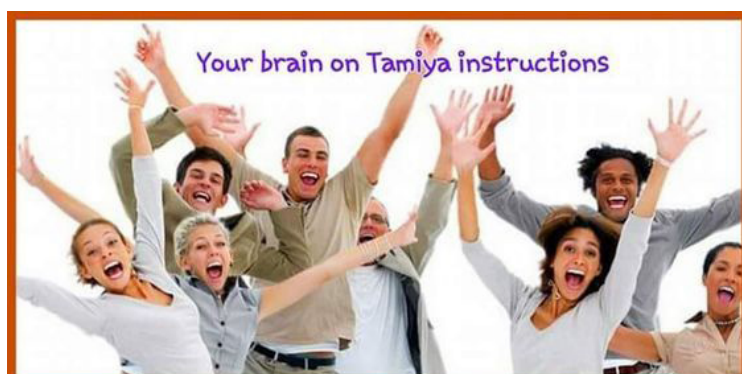


The first is of a 1/48th Tamiya Birdcage Corsair converted to an F4U-2 (thanks to the late "Bondo" Brandt.) The three following that are of the 1/72nd EP-2V Neptune flown in Viet Nam by the US Army Security Agency appropriately name "Crazy Cat". One more of the Corsair and of course, the Donor.

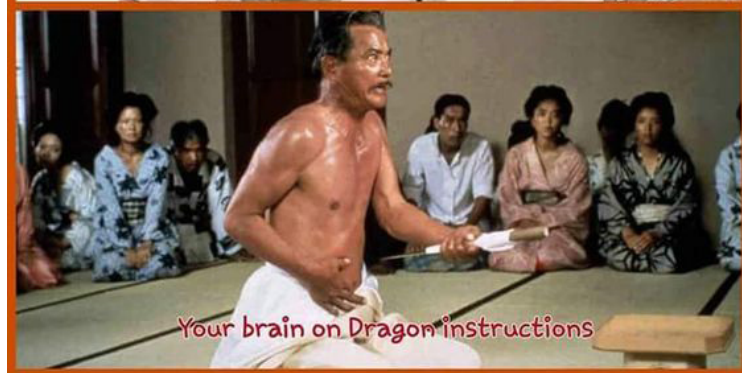




Source Material for the whip antennas



Your brain on Tamiya instructions



Your brain on Dragon instructions



Table Talk

December' meeting is usually a good one, not because everyone enjoyed the Christmas party but because it's the meeting where we decide who is The Best of the Best. The winners of the Model of the Month contests bring in their first placers and compete for the honor of Modeler of the Year.

Let's go over the December meeting new stuff before we get to the competition.

Jorge Martins brought in a show stopping Airfix 1/48 Lynx Mk 95 done up in Portugese Navy colors.



Keeping with the theme of excellent helicopter models Tim Robb had a spare 6 days and decided to finish up an 1/72nd scale MPC Westland Sea King circa Falklands 1982. Great model for such a short build span.



Mike Gilsbach brought in a Bandai 1/12th scale Boba Fett.



Bill Kulpa, one of our resident 1/72nd masters brought in his Airfix SBD-3 Dauntless.





El Presidente (Ian Latham) managed to crank out another fine model. This time it was a Roden 1/48th SE5A.



Bob Bethea brought in his Dragon Jagdtiger. The model will eventually include an RSO and more figures on the base.



Rick Herrington brought in a Meng Panther G Toon Tank.



Now for the major event, the Year End contest. "The Best of the Best"

Before we get to the entries let me say that Dave Edgerly was unable to attend December's meeting and bring his prize winners in. Dave won four of the months last year. Hope to see you at the next meeting Dave.

First up is Bob King with his 1/48th P-51D Katydid.



Bill Kulpa is next with an F9F Blue Angels Panther which he built for Bob King.





Mike Gilsbach had two entries in the contest. The first was his build of Tamiya's Flak 36 in an Afrika Korps setting.



Second was his ultra-fine 1/32nd Revell Arado AR-196-A3.



Rick Herrington shared his M109A6 monthly winner.



Not to be over looked Mike Lamm had his 1/35th Dragon Hetzer diorama.



The winner of 2019's "Best of the Best" is Ron McCracken with his Airfix 1/72nd scale Fokker C-131A. Ron scratch built the props and used casting resin for the kit windows.



Wow! What a year of great modeling. Next year promises to be as good, if not better. Remember, the models in your stash are for building.

Pick one up and remember how great our hobby is.



REFERENCE MADNESS, OR WHERE THE HECK IS MY SPREADSHEET?

By Rick Cotton

A friend of mine just had a near-disaster with his laptop. A necessary repair caused him endless stress and some panic when members of the Geek Squad accidentally (?) wiped-out several months of data and photos off his hard drive while doing a simple repair to his web browser. I can attest, they do have a tendency to do that. Back up, back up, and then back up, if you know what's good for you. This friend, being a retired O&G engineer, is very organized and has his hobby information as equally well organized, that includes spreadsheets, magazine articles, photos, data galore on the hobby, the club, and everything else that makes the hobby tick for him. I've seen his man cave - neat, orderly, well-lit and sensible. But he has posed an excellent question to me after this near-disaster with his computer.

Just how much information and organization do we really need in this hobby?

Remember the old days? I mean...really old days? Many of us are old coots, who first started building after watching old war movies. Now there's a lousy reference to go by, Robert Shaw, dressed in a 1939-style Panzertruppen uniform, perched on top of a gray M-48 Patton, attacking green and brown-painted M-24's in what was supposed to be the Battle of the Bulge.

Then came the Dawn of Serious Modeling:

"In the beginning, there was darkness all across the hobby. And then, God brought forth Shepherd Paine and the Monogram B-17, and God saw that it was good. And Shep brought forth knowledge, and said, "let there be weathering, and dioramas!" And it was REALLY good."

We looked at Paine's models, and found our own lacking. We began to add extra parts, and replace parts. All of this because God had moved again:

"Let there be Squadron Signal publications, with lots of grainy black-and-white photos....no, not good enough...let there be Bert Kinzey and Detail and Scale books, with color photos... yeah, that ought to get them excited!"

We had our modeling eyes opened, just as surely as if we had eaten that apple from Eve. We were no longer satisfied, and He knew it.

"LET THERE BE THE COMPUTER. THAT SHOULD DO IT."

Oh, it did. He knew His children now had their modeling hands full with this baby! Oh, joy, internet pictures, and spreadsheets to catalogue our 783 kits and 7,000 books! We could actually simulate work at the office, all the while working on THE STASH LIST, and our employers would never even know!

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

Hmmm....wait a minute.

According to spreadsheet 608-9, page 42, paragraph three, my number of completed builds has gone from 2.4 a year to only 1.2. Why is this so? Come to think of it, why have I not glued or painted anything in a week?

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

Flabbenschlappers.com

ILoveFlabbenschlappers.com

HyperFlabbenschlapper.com

SofiaVergara.com (thought I deleted that!)

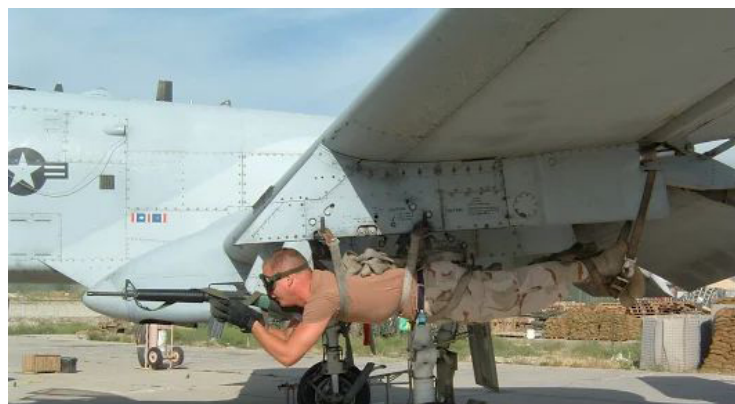
FlabbenschlappersAreBetterThanRichtenschlictters.com

Hmmm....

Has this computing contraption actually been a help, or am I deluding myself? Do I really need an entire 6-Gig directory of photos of the left wheel?

I've already built all my Richtenschlictters. My finger slowly moves to delete the Richtenschlictter picture directory...but...I just... can't... do... it! I CAN'T DO IT!!!!

Is something wrong here?





Old Rumors and New Kits

NEW AND IN VIEW AIRCRAFT

The New Year is starting off with a promising list of new or re-boxed kits with new parts/decals. So, without further introduction, let's see what's on the horizon.

1/18th Scale:

Hobby boss is promising a January release of a 1/18th scale Me-262A. The folks at Scalemates claim it is a re-box of a 2013 release from an outfit called Merit International, who frankly, I've never heard of. What changes, if any, there are to the new release are as yet unknown. With not even box art available, I have my doubts this'll really be available in January, but miracles do sometimes happen.



1/32nd Scale:

ICM Holding has released a Bu 131D kit with three Cadet figures. According to Scalemates, this is a re-release of a 2018 new mold, with new parts – probably the aforementioned figures.



ICM has also released an I-16 Type 10 in Nationalist Chinese markings. This is a re-release with new decals.



1/48th Scale:

Academy has announced an SBD-1 Dauntless in 'Pearl Harbor' markings. This is a re-box of a kit released some time back by Accurate Miniatures, with new decals.





Dora Wings has announced an MB.155C.1 for January release. According to Scalemates this is a re-release of their 2019 new tool with some revised parts.



Eduard has announced an F-104J Eiko Limited Edition kit which is a re-release based on Hasegawa molds from 2000, with some new parts thrown in.



Second from Eduard is an Fw 190A-8 Weekend edition kit, essentially a re-release of their earlier kit with new decals.



1/72nd scale

A-Model has released a Pilatus PC-12/47E, which appears to be a re-box of a 2019 new tool, with new decals. This kit continues a theme for A-Model, which is executive aircraft. One hopes the line will eventually include more Lears, Citations, and Swearingens.



Eduard has re-released their 2018 new-tool MiG-21PFM as a ProfiPack edition, with some new parts and decals.



Great Wall Hobby has announced a new tool Su-35S Flanker E, but other than box art I haven't found much about





ICM has announced a MiG-25-BM Foxbat, an update of their 2018 new-tool MIG-25-RBT kit, with new parts.



1/144 Scale:

Roden has released a new-tool Boeing 307 Stratoliner in TWA markings. If bare metal isn't your thing, it could be built as a USAAF C-75 in olive drab and grey camouflage. In any event, it is an aircraft rarely released in kit form and welcome for that reason alone.



Roden has also released a C-133B Cargomaster, a rebox of last year's C-133A with new parts.



That wraps it up for January's report. Happy modeling!





SHIPPING NEWS

Most of the new releases are going to be in 1/700th scale this month so let's get right to it.

Aoshima has a new release of the British heavy cruiser HMS Cornwall. HMS Cornwall sunk the German commerce raider Penguin early in the war. She ended her career along with HMS Dorsetshire by being sunk by Japanese carrier aircraft.



Fujimi has a new release of the IJN light cruiser Kuma.



Dragon is re-releasing their Bismarck model repackaged with some Swordfish torpedo bombers. Surprisingly they're calling it "Sink the Bismarck". I have one of the original release Dragon Bismarcks but always thought it was over-sized compared to Trumpeter's.



Pit Road is releasing a new HMS Renown British battle-ship in her 1945 configuration.



Trumpeter has an unusual 1/700 release coming up. The USS Blue Ridge LCC-19 is an amphibious command and control ship. She was launched in 1969, served through Vietnam and up through Desert Storm and is still an active part of the Navy today. Trumpeter's model depicts her configuration in 1997.



A picture of the real USS Blue Ridge

Moving up in scale to 1/600 (the old Airfix ship scale) Academy is releasing a USS Enterprise CVN-65.



Larger still in 1/400 Academy is releasing a USS Missouri BB-63. The model depicts her in her modern configuration.

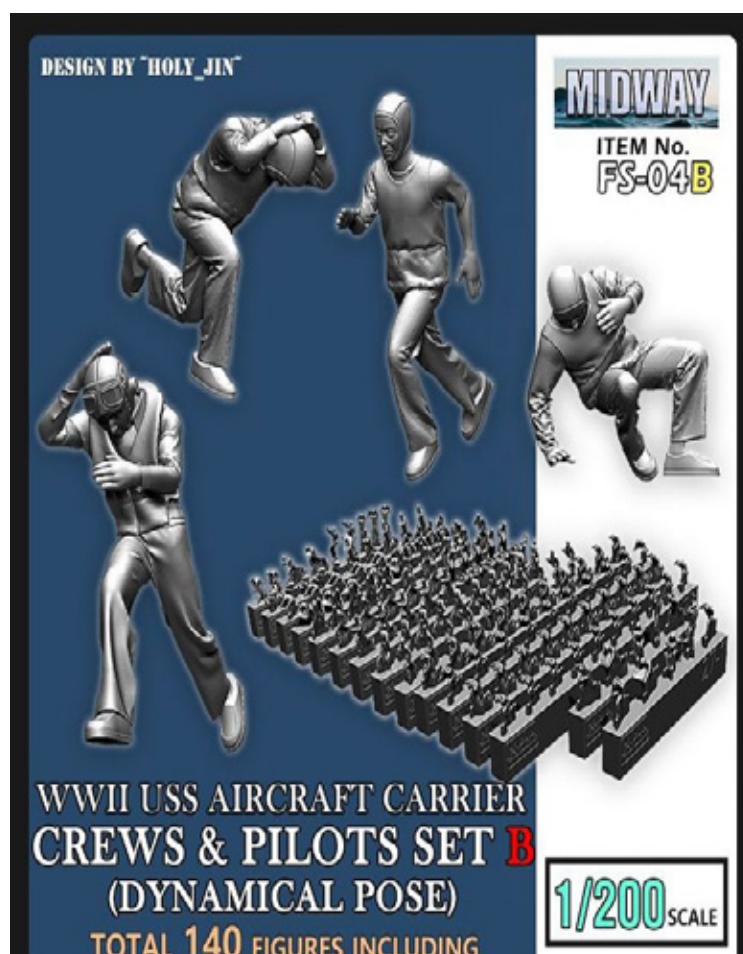


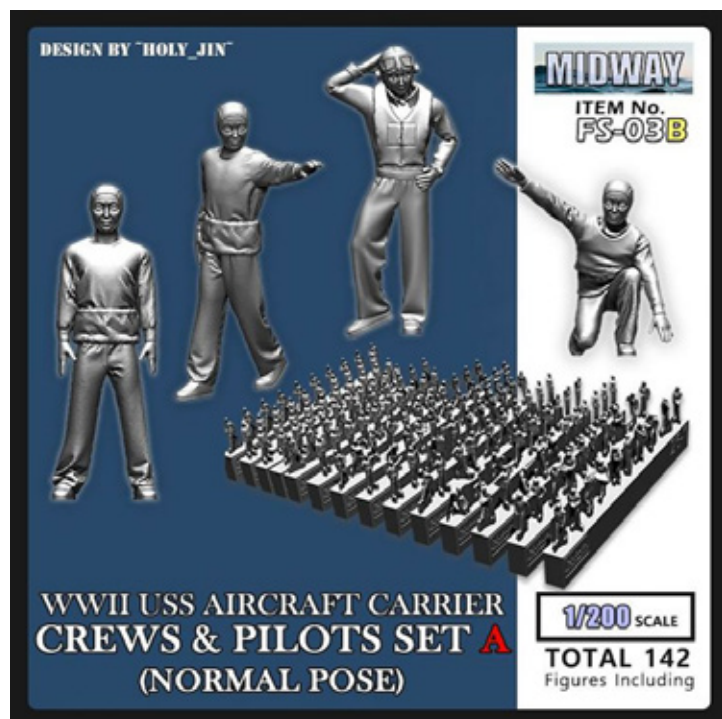
画像はキットを組み立てて塗装を施した製作例です。

One release coming up from Trumpeter in 1/350th scale, a DKM Bismarck. Not much to be said about this as there are already some great Bismarck models from Tamiya, Academy and Revell on the market.



Zipla had decided we need some crew members for our Trumpeter 1/200 scale USS Lexington. They have released two sets of crew figures. Both sets have 140 crew members in each. One is labelled "dynamic" and has crew members in action poses. The second set is listed as "normal" and has guys in non-action poses. Zipla is also releasing these sets in 1/350th scale.





I apologize for not having my promised Flyhawk Scharnhorst In-Box-Review but we had content from other folks that I thought people would like to see instead of my ramblings.

Grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Tracked Topics

Two very different scales this month, 1/35th and 1/144th.

I know I know you're saying 1/144th isn't that the scale they do really small aircraft kits in? Yep, that's it.

As if 1/72nd scale wasn't small enough for our eyes to focus on, now we have something even smaller to strain our eyes on.

Both of the 1/144th releases are by U-Star Hobby. The first is a Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Type 59 Main Battle Tank (MBT)



Next from U-star is a Canadian Leopard C2 Mexas.



Moving on to 1/35th the first release we have is from Trumpeter. It's a Soviet BTR-152. The six wheeled armored infantry carrier soldiered from 1950 until it was replaced by the BTR-60.





Sticking with a Soviet theme MiniArt is releasing a Polish Production T-55.



King's should have this one in stock if this pique's your nterest

Meng is releasing an M4A32 Jumbo Sherman in 1/35th.



Academy is a little behind the curve with their Panther G release. It is a late production G meaning no zimmerit, but guys , "it's just another Panther."



Speaking of just another Panther, DML continues its series of Panthers with a late war steel-wheeled G model.



If you're a big fan of the Japanese anime Girls und Panzer you're in luck. This month Platz is releasing a Panzer 3 Ausf J Kuromorine High school. No figure included just decals for the anime version.

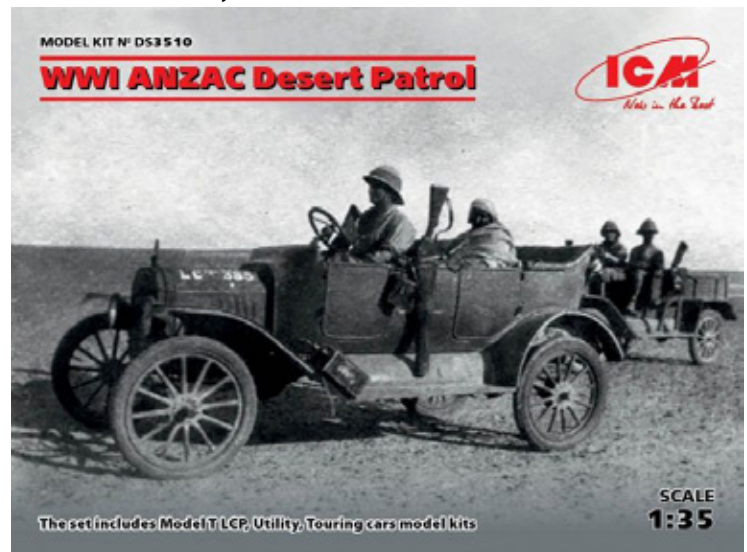
These kits are pretty pricey for just a re-boxed version of Dragon's kit with new decals.



Rye Field Models (RFM) is releasing a late production Panzer 4 Ausf J.



ICM is releasing a WWI Anzac Desert Patrol Model T.



ICM is also releasing a Chernobyl Radiation Monitoring Truck. The kit includes a ZiL-131K truck and 5 figures.



A couple of shots of two of the figures that come with the ICM Radiation monitoring truck.





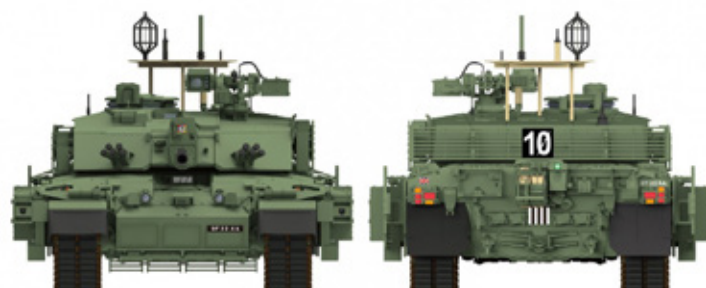
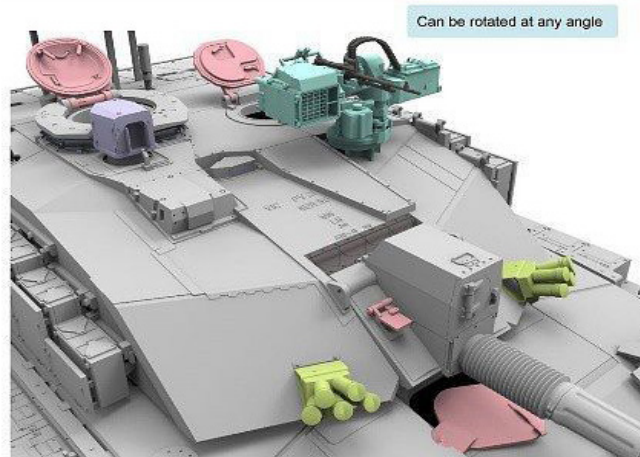
Now for the big news. If you're an Anglophile like me the news that RFM is going to release a new British Challenger II is great news. Trumpeter released an updated Challenger years ago but it was based on their flawed original release.

This one appears to have all the bells and whistles of the latest Challenger including a Crew Remote Operated Weapon System (CROWS).

Hopefully Rye Field Models will do this one justice with its "A" team engineering folks. They have been releasing some excellent kits lately.



REMOTE CONTROLLED WEAPON SYSTEMS (RCWS)





IT FIGURES

Ny Mike Lamm

Happy New Year, fellow little people admirers! Welcome to the first installment of It Figures for 2020.

First off, something from a new to me sculptor, Jeff Shiu at Jeffshiu Miniatures. He has a pretty vast line-up of resin 1/35th scale figures and a bunch of 120mm (1/9th) figures of primarily German WWII subjects.

If you're like most people, I know you ran out and snatched up the Italeri 1/9th scale Kdf.1 Type 82 "Kubelwagen", heck most of you probably have two of them. Now you've got the perfect set of figures to display it with.

Seriously, these are some awesome looking figures, and at 1/9th scale, I don't even think I'd need my cheaters to see the details. The set includes four beautifully detailed German soldiers sitting in a Kubelwagen dressed for an extremely cold and miserable day, more than likely intended for somewhere on the Eastern front. The facial expressions and uniform and weapon details really look great.



<http://jeffshiu.lsft.com/>

If you prefer soldiers from a warmer climate, Jeff has also recently released a machine gun team from the Afrika Korps. This set of two 120mm figures look just as good as the ones in the Kubelwagen. One figure is carrying a MG42, and the other is carrying a couple ammo cans and wearing the uniform shorts commonly seen on soldiers in North Africa. The figures are nicely detailed with a lot of great gear, and even appear to be carrying extra water with them.



<https://miniart-models.com/>

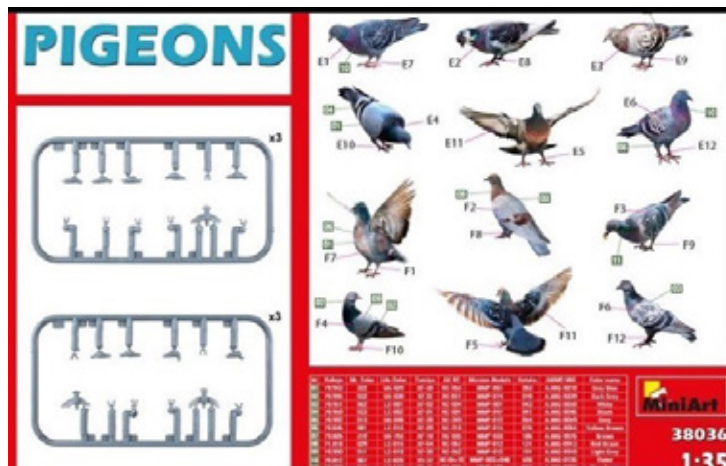
For something a little more modern, and a lot less German, Miniart has released a nice set up relatively modern Soviet tankers in winter gear. This has been a recent trend for Miniart with similar figures for U.S. tankers and modern German ones as well. This set of four figures are posed in relaxed stances standing in the hatches of their tank. All but one have their gloves on, or their hands are in their pockets, which is actually a good thing, because I think Miniart has trouble doing fingers. These will make a nice addition to the many offerings of modern Soviet armor available.



Miniart has a great looking kit on the way soon. This one is a Soviet "Dinner on the Front". It's another in their recent releases of what I'll call a diorama in a box. It includes everything you'd need to set up a nice little scene, including five figures, furniture, a stove and even a samovar. That's right, a samovar....also known as a tea pot, only a lot fancier. The figures are posed relaxing around a table enjoying a respite from the carnage of the front, and even making a little tea to enjoy. Look for this one sometime early 2020.



Also, from Miniart, is something I know we're all going to run out and get right away. What we've all been waiting for....1/35th scale pigeons! This small box comes loaded with 36 "flying rats" in various poses that are sure to make a nice addition to any scene.



<http://www.young-miniatures.com/index.htm>

From Young Miniatures out of Korea, we have a 1/10th bust of a British 1st Para "Red Devils" soldier. His helmet and smock jacket look really great with fine details on the camouflage fabric and netting, as well as the gear on his back. A very nice bust to work with for sure.





<https://breakthemoldminiatures.com/>

Next is a new figure company from Spain. Their first release is "Chloe" a 1/12th scale half figure of a blast from the past. Chloe represents everything "cool" about the 80s. She's blowing a bubble of chewing gum, and wearing a Walkman on her hip.

Back when headphones had wires, and if you wanted to listen to the last song again, you needed to hit rewind. Then fast forward a little bit, then rewind again, because you missed the first part of the song, then just a quick fast forward and you still had to listen to the closing notes of the song before it.

Anyway, the figure is beautifully cast into three parts and comes packaged in a very nice little package.



www.diesekits.de

Last but not least is an interesting German company called Diesekits. An interesting release of their's is The Aviator and Marcy the Legend. The Aviator is the plane kit and you can get it separately or with several different female figures.



So, that does it for this month. Hopefully each of you made a Resolution to start working on figures more this year. I know my New Year's Resolution is to build and paint every miniature I have in my collection before I buy a new one. I'm sure this one will stick!

Now, go build a model and add a figure to it. Or just assemble a model and get it painted. You won't regret it!



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