

# SPRUE EXAMINER



## 65 AFX PLYMOUTH SATELITE

AN IN-BOX REVIEW BY DAVE EDGERLY

## CURTISS A-25 SHRIKE CONVERSION BY RON MCCrackEN



austinsms.com



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



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

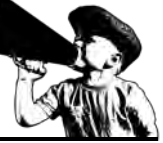
ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.





# PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Greeting Members,

Wow, what a month! I hope everybody is safe and comfy.

First up, there will be no meeting this month, and the open contest will roll over to the next meeting. However, the next meeting may be a few months away. We will update you and let you know when we know the situation. Please make sure Rick Herrington (Secretary and Editor at large) has your email for spam blasts. Also, Mike Gisbach (our Fearless Webmaster) will be posting updates on our website and facebook page.



Next, we're modelers! Who's scared of a little extra bench time and isolation. Between telework and social distancing we are now in our natural elements. I've set up my computer next to the model table and work from home is treating me just fine. Please feel free to use this exceptional gift of down time to do what you all do best, build and paint. I'm looking forward to finally getting together again and seeing what marvels the club has come up with during this event.



Last of all, although we won't get together this month, remember to reach out to other members and check and see how each other is doing. A large number of us are in the high risk group for this outbreak and fear and anxiety can be overwhelming at times. ASMS is a wonderful group of people and I know that when times get tough, we will be sure to put some glue on it, or maybe a rattle can.

Ian



Stay safe



# HOUSE CLEANING



## ASMS MEETING



# CANCELLED

**Until Further Notice**

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

*Next meeting*

**No Reservations Necessary!**



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



## Events

### ***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.

## Club Quarterly Contests

March - Covid-19 Cancellation  
April - Open Contest  
June - Procrastinators contest  
September - Bondo contest  
December - White Elephant contest

## Monthly Meeting Presentations:



# 1965 AFX PLYMOUTH SATELLITE GOLDEN COMMANDOS IN BOX REVIEW – MOEBIUS MODELS KIT# 1237

Few of us in ASMS are avid car modelers but this one caught my fancy right away. Admit it, there are quite a few of us that started building models with AMT, JoHan, Revell and MPC car kits and then found warplanes. I certainly am one of those modelers. My best friend and I were drag racing nuts and come the mid-sixties, the factory stock cars (so very colorful) began to transform into Altered Factory or A/FX class racers. Now as modelers, we tried our best to create replicas of them with the kits available. Eleven and twelve year olds didn't really have the skills to make this come off very convincingly. We were happy though until it came time to put those super tall injector intake tubes on. There was no such thing available and using a knife to hollow out the ends was a disaster. End result- pretty ugly.

We eventually gave up.

Now Moebius has produced an accurate representation of the A/FX dragster and moved the rear and front axles forward, chassis consists of separate components which are very well molded, a choice of three engine configurations with different fuel delivery system, two hoods and two marking options for the "Golden Commandos" Team.

Nice artwork that shows the altered wheelbase as well as those honkin' tall intake tubes. (see how fast they were!)

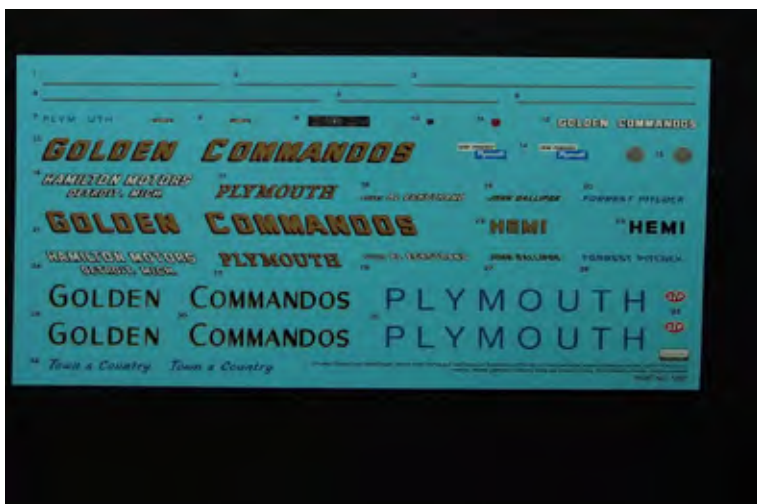
Next up are the instructions with good color photos of built up models in the two paint schemes, exploded drawings and test as well as paint color callouts. No paint manufacturer recommendations, however.







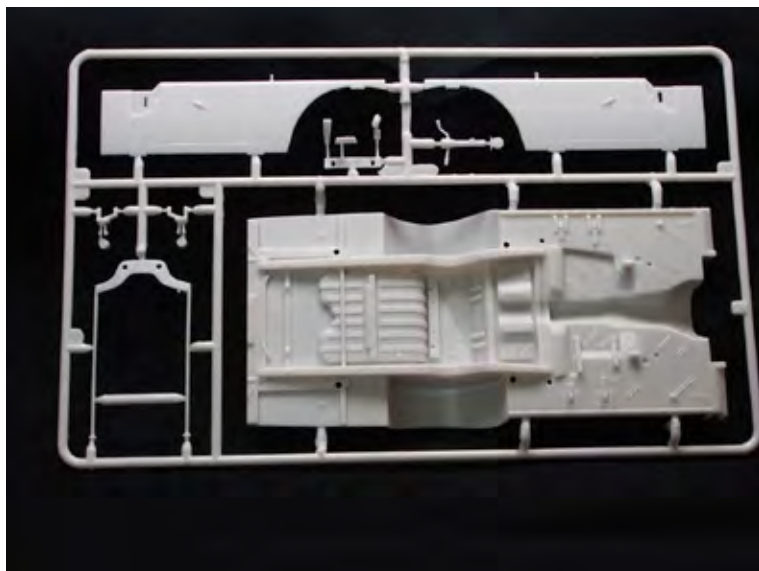
The decals look good on the paper and pretty complete but I have not had experience with Moebius decal performance as of yet.



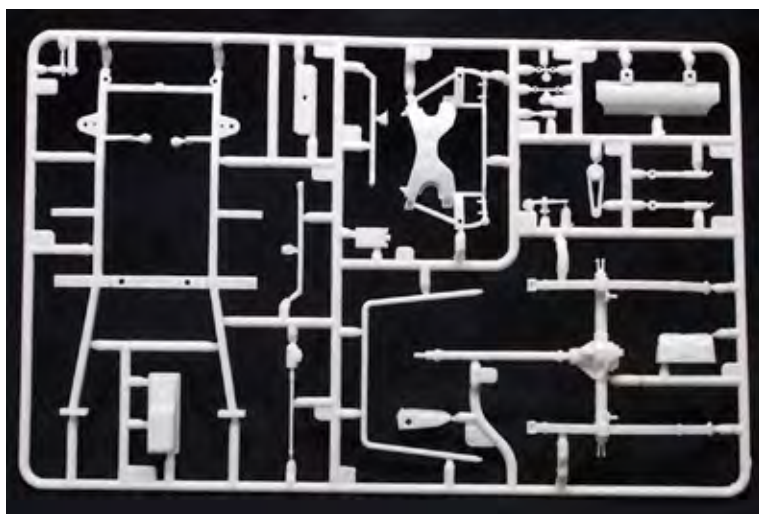
The next item is the body and it looks very well molded with very fine mold parting lines along easy to clean-up areas. There will be a bit of cleaning in the window openings but it is very minor and a few swipes with a sanding stick will take care of that. The altered wheelbase is very well done. Being white plastic, the photos are a bit tough to pick out the details.



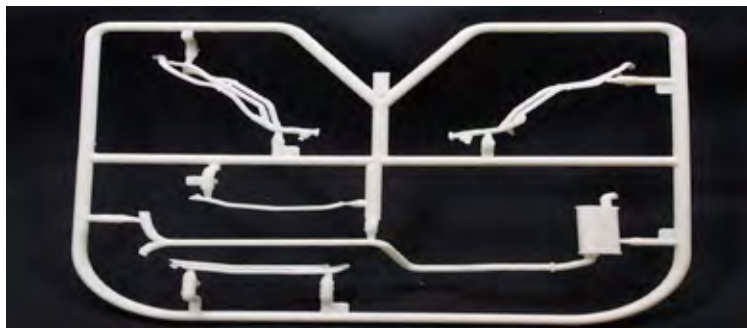
Rear chassis and interior sides or door cards (if you're a brit). The front torsion bars, steering column and pedal assembly are on this sprue.



Here is the "K" member, front suspensions components, driveshaft and differential, some engine components, shocks and a front roll pan.

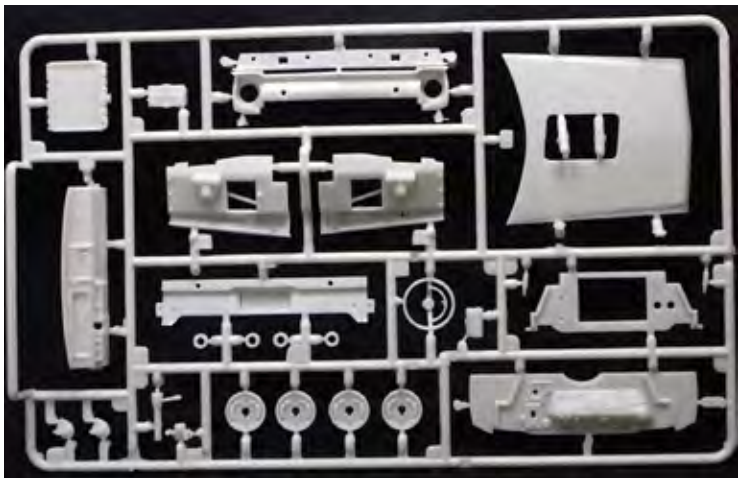


The headers and other exhaust components are not used for this particular model. Obviously good for the parts bin. Ya never know, after all.

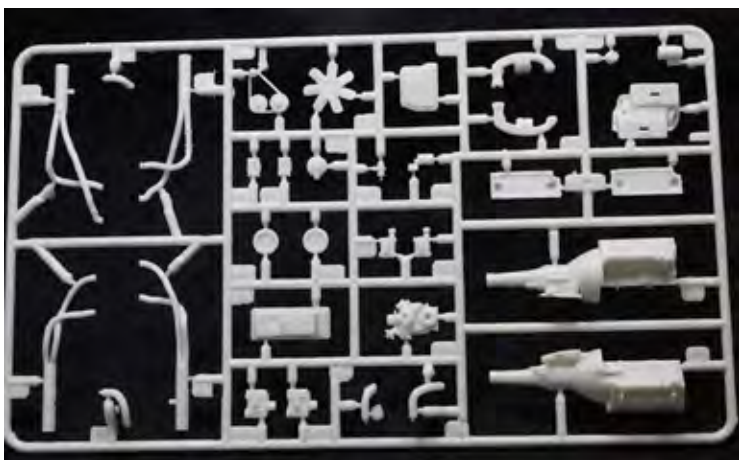




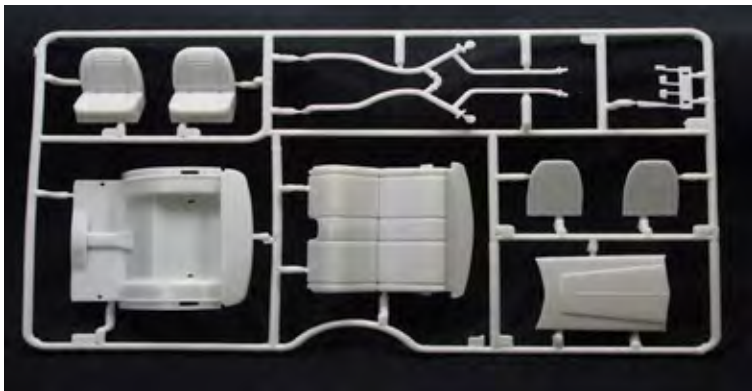
This sprue has the engine compartment sides, firewall, radiator steering wheel, backing plates for the drum brakes and the hood for the tall intake tubes. The front body work is also there to tie the front end together. Also note that the appropriate steering column is here as well. One doesn't need a turn signal stalk in a dragster for Pete's sake.



Now, the 426 ci Hemi with the appropriate tune headers and Torqueflite transmission.



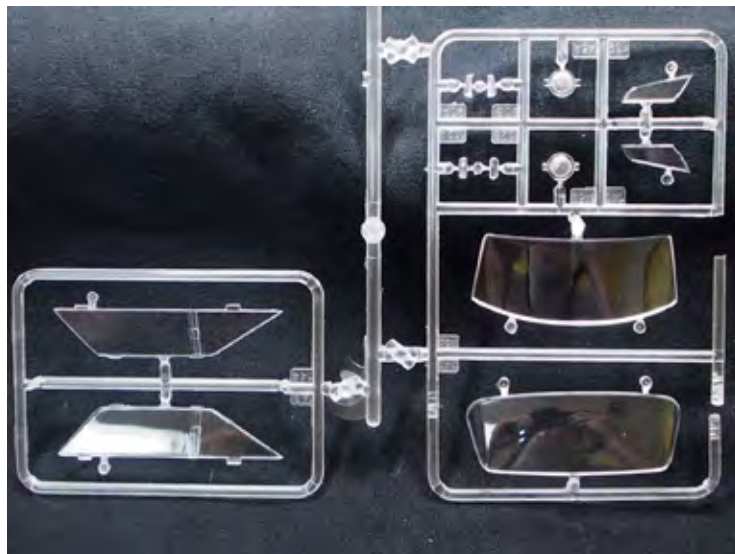
Some interior bits with rear seat delete and the front buckets.



Here is another hood used for the Cross-Ram Carb intake and the short injector tube intakes which will use the hood scoop from the previous sprue.



Clear parts that are pretty darn clear and thin for a car kit not made by Tamiya.

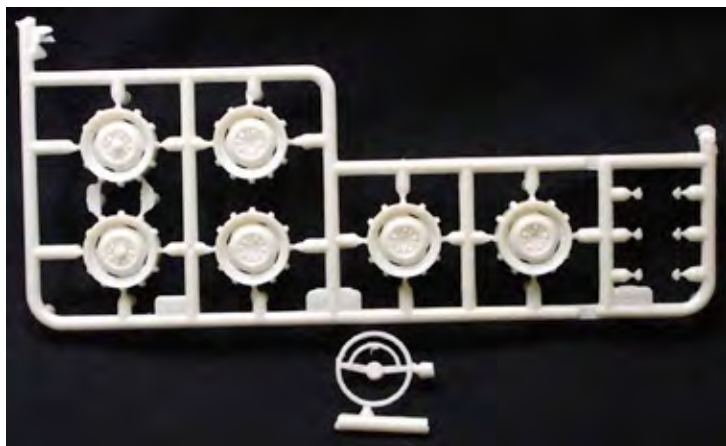


**PROOF THAT THERE IS A FLAT EARTH!!!!**





Steel wheel rims and the steering wheel used on the factory A/FX cars.



Of course, there is a chrome plated sprue; as with all car models. The plating is pretty darn good but it's a shame that it will be stripped off most of the parts as there isn't much chrome on a race car, even back then in the heyday of chrome accents.



Finally, there are the tires. Small fronts and Slicks in the rear. As is common nowadays with the overpopulation of lawyers needing work, brand names are absent. Sad indeed.



I really do plan on building this one as the test car with tall stacks. Saw a picture of the white one with them as well as the bronze one.

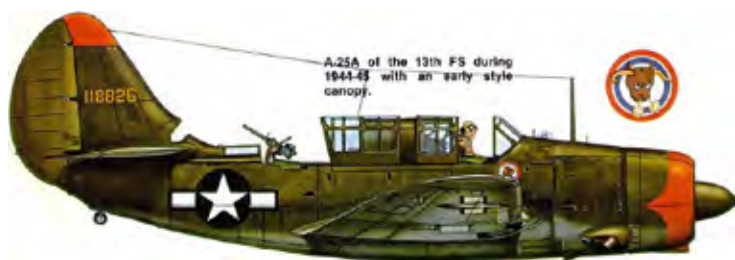




# Building a Curtiss A-25 Shrike

By  
Ron McCracken

Although the U.S. Army had turned to twin engine attack aircraft in the late 1930's, the success of the German Stuka dive bomber in 1939 resulted in a brief, renewed interest in single engine attack planes designed for this role. The fastest way to obtain such aircraft was the adoption of designs built for the U.S. Navy and foreign governments. One such procurement was the Curtiss A-25A, which was basically an SB2C-1 dive bomber, less the carrier landing equipment.



Long before Curtiss began delivering production aircraft, the dive bomber had completely fallen out of favor with the Army, who considered them too slow and vulnerable to be of much use—based mostly, I suspect, on their less-than-auspicious performance in the Far East, where they were operated sans escort. Consequently, the A-25's that were delivered were either given to the U.S. Marines, or adapted for auxiliary roles such as target tugs. Kits claiming to be A-25s have been released in both 1/72nd and 1/48th scale, and both are object lessons in the difficulty of back-dating an SB2C-4 to an SB2C-1/A-25. The SB2C-1/A-25 had several features unique to that variant:

1. A three-bladed propeller with a large spinner.
2. Unperforated dive flaps.

3. Four .50 caliber wing machine guns, rather than the two 20 MM cannons of later versions.

4. Differences in the cockpit canopies.

5. A single .50 caliber flexible gun in the rear cockpit instead of twin .30's.

I know of only one SB2C-1 kit that started out as that version, and that is the old Matchbox/Revell kit in 1/72nd scale. I wouldn't wish that kit on anyone, having built it in spite of its shortcomings.



So, what else is on offer?

Dragon released a kit of the A-25A in October of 2013 (an extra-parts revision of their SB2C-4), so in this scale the choice of kit is obvious, unless you want to try and convert another SB2C kit.

I wouldn't suggest that, as the better SB2C kits are for late SB2C variants, and you'll need to do a lot of parts substitution to back-date them. Unfortunately, Dragon cheaped out and tried to use mostly SB2C-4 components, so you'll still have some detail corrections to do.

In 1/48th scale, your best bet is the Accurate Miniatures SB2C-1C kit, as it at least has the unperforated flaps and three-blade prop. It uses the same basic approach as the 1/72nd Dragon kit - an SB2C-4 with optional parts, so the same fixes are required for an Accurate Miniatures model.



Hopefully, you can obtain a kit with the correct, three-blade cuffed Curtiss Electric propeller. The Dragon kit provides that for its 1/72nd A-25 kit, as does Accurate Miniatures in its SB2C-1.

If you are back-dating a later model SB2C, you'll have to scrounge a prop and spinner. If converting a late model SB2C, you'll have to eliminate the dive flap perforations. The simplest way is just to cut the flaps off the wings, and substitute flat sheet plastic in their place. This is actually the approach taken by the Dragon and Accurate Miniatures kits, which provide photo-etched brass flaps to replace the injection molded parts.



On my Dragon kit, I found it eased assembly considerably to cement strips of .030 inch square styrene strip to the rear edges of the wing halves to give a ledge to support the brass replacement flaps.

The muzzle openings for the four .50 caliber wing guns are located under the leading edge of the wing, at the outer end of the main gear wells. You'll have to eliminate the protruding 20 MM cannon and add the .50 caliber ports. For a 1/72nd scale kit, drill two .035" diameter holes about 1/8 inch apart and 1/8 inch ahead of the gear well opening. Don't drill all the way through. Then take a sharp blade and/or needle file and carve a groove about 3/16 inch long from those holes toward the leading edge.

The blast tubes for the guns run completely across the gear well and through the wing spar, so the best approach is to drill a large enough hole for each blast tube and insert a piece of small-diameter tubing long enough to reach the spar.

The SB2C had a small, solid rubber tailwheel and a rather large fairing covering the tailwheel strut. The A-25 used a larger, pneumatic tailwheel and dispensed with the fairing altogether, as well as the tailhook, with the hook opening faired over. The Dragon kit provides alternate parts. As best as I could determine from images of the sprues in the web kit review, the Accurate Miniatures kit does not.



Finally, there is the question of the canopy. The A-25/SB2C-1 had side windows behind the moving portion of the pilot's sliding canopy. This is where both the kits err significantly. You'll have to add the extra windows behind the pilot's cockpit. According to a kit review I found on the web, the Accurate Miniatures kit instructions provide templates for cutting the openings. On the Dragon kit, you are left to your own devices. For my Dragon kit, I completely cut away the upper fuselage behind the cockpit and used the cut out portion to make a pattern, which in turn was used to create a silicon mold. The mold was then used to cast a clear section of matching contour to the fuselage top, which was attached and faired in to provide the needed clear section.





Once the windows are added, one can see into the fuselage between the cockpits, which necessitates providing a certain amount of scratch-built detail, specifically the turnover pylon and the fuselage fuel tank. See the photo to see how that's done. Also, the upper portion of the bulkhead behind the pilot's seat needs to be cut away, as that too is a feature of later versions of the SB2C.

Late model SB2C's also had rather prominent, teardrop-shaped housings for the rear canopy's slide mechanism, and both kits have these. They did not exist on the A-25/SB2C-1. So file off the bulges at the lower rear corners of the rear sliding canopy. There is also a raised ledge on each side of the fuselage representing the track that slide mechanism used, and those have to be removed as well.



A feature of the A-25 rear gun installation is that the .50 is stowed with the barrel pointing straight up through the top of the canopy. A slot in the sliding canopy allows it to be moved forward to clear the gun for use. Although the Dragon rear cockpit canopy depicts this slot, you will need to drill out the actual opening for the gun barrel. Also note that if you display the canopies open, the rear edge of the pilot's canopy tilts upward slightly before it slides to the rear on the A-25.

Also, if you decide to do this, you'll need to vacuum-form replacement parts for the moving sections, as they are too thick to be used in any configuration but closed.

Finally, the Dragon kit offers alternate-parts options to display the turtle deck behind the rear cockpit in either the raised (closed) or lowered position. There is a mistake in the instructions for the raised configuration - use part number XX rather than YY to build up the turtle deck.



Having dealt with the conversion items, the next thing is the wing slats. The SB2C (all models except post-war SB2C-5s) featured interconnected main landing gear and leading edge slats, so if the gear is down, the slats are extended, and if the gear is up, the slats are retracted. The two kits suggested in this review have separated slats, so this does not represent a problem with them. However, if you are kit-bashing some other SB2C kit into an A-25, it might be an issue, as most kits of this aircraft do not provide separated slats. Photos of A-25s show that this feature was generally retained on the Army version.



However, I have located one photo of an A-25 where they have been disconnected from the landing gear and fastened closed, so it is possible, with a bit of research, to model the A-25 with the slats closed and gear down.

The predominant color scheme for the A-25 was the standard olive drab over neutral gray, with medium green scalloping around the upper edges of the flying surfaces. Color photos show that the landing gear struts and wheels were also painted OD, rather than the more usual aluminum color, with chromate green wheel wells and gear door interior surfaces. The biggest challenge in painting is masking the many panels of the greenhouse canopies. Get that right and the rest is pretty simple.

So, there you have it. No collection of WW II Army attack aircraft would be complete without the A-25, and thanks to Accurate Miniatures and Dragon, a reasonable model can be made in two of the more popular scales.



## Smoke and Mirrors

by Bruce Witt

Warning! The Models in this story will not stand close scrutiny. Actually, neither will the story.

Seeing Double being the usual state of affairs, it is my intention to encourage others. Especially those with injected plastic in their DNA.

Your last Model build is a Gold Medal, obviously; a fine example of the Plastic Arts. And, Hell to build! Really, no one seems to admit the pain, mental anguish, confusion and screw-ups. Two steps forward, one step back instructions. The, 'went too far, Ooops', scrap.

Experience counts, Right? So, build that model again. Repeat, Reprise, Re-enjoy that beautiful model with the confidence and ease of direct, immediate experience as you build. Why? Cause you just bulldozed thru your mistakes and know exactly what to do whilst assembling the other Doppleganger Mirror Image. Smooth, eh?r

Did Stradivarius make just one Violin? Did Mozart write just one symphony? A fleet of one ship? A squadron of one Plane? Go to the Model store with just one dollar?







The evil dealer in plastic of questionable sources that feeds my addiction is my Brother in Law.

Sad when families infect each other. Anyway, it was an insidious accident that upon opening a "missing parts, \$14." kit, it had in fact the bulk of two models, both missing parts betwixt them.

What can you do but delve into another voluntary attempt to cause yourself aggravation for the good of the historical plastic representation?

It was the most model building fun I had all year! The kits were identical. It was very cool to do each step twice, getting more refined at it each

Doppelganger: the second gets everything done easily without struggle. Especially as that critical evil step number s7even that you just had to rip out and re-do on clone #1 doesn't (neccesarily) have to be repeated.

Be advised that I am a Heathen model maker. I see Toys to play with, and curiosity about the full scale object and how it is made. I over glue, over-paint, and add scratch built stuff.

Build 'em bullet-proof for play. I add lights, LEDs of different colors and/or flashing. Figure how to fit in motors for propellers

on planes, and boats never intended to float, scoot across the local swimming hole.

Smoke & Mirrors if I could.

And, it is all about my childish imagination.

Not for y'all, I know, models are serious performance trials.

Skill sets being what they are, I am certainly not skilled enough to offer professionals advice from the stupid, senseless bad assembly practices that I employ. This idea may not suit most folks, but if a matching set of kits comes within your purview, scoop up both. Start easy with simple smaller scale, inexpensive kits and build lightheartedly. Without a blue ribbon nine month projects as a goal. ping Single, whatever it was, that you built last!

. I will bet that you find that when you have finished your Mirror Image set, it just looks "Twice as Nice" as that Show Stopping Single, whatever it was, that you built last!

## PAVE Way I Mk. 83 slow speed LGB, thermally protected bombs Scale: 1:48

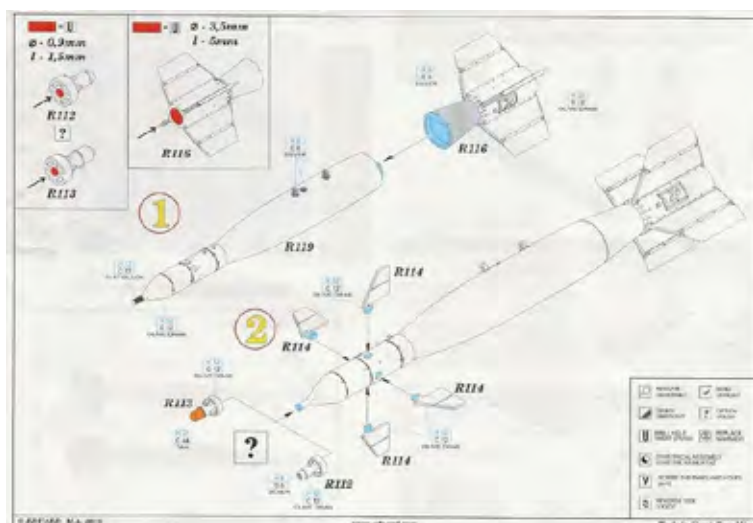
By Ben Morton

Note: Before you begin, click the link to the Tulsa, Oklahoma group The Gap Band. Their hit, "You Dropped A Bomb On Me" is the perfect listening accompaniment for this topic. The DIAZO effects used in the video are kinda cool, too!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17lkdqoLt44&list=RD17lkdqoLt44&start\\_radio=1&t=31](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17lkdqoLt44&list=RD17lkdqoLt44&start_radio=1&t=31)

With apologies to Wikipedia... "PAVE Way is a series of laser-guide bombs (L.G.B.). PAVE, or pave, is sometimes used as an acronym for Precision Avionics Vectoring Equipment; literally, electronics for controlling the speed and direction of aircraft. Laser guidance is a form of PAVE.

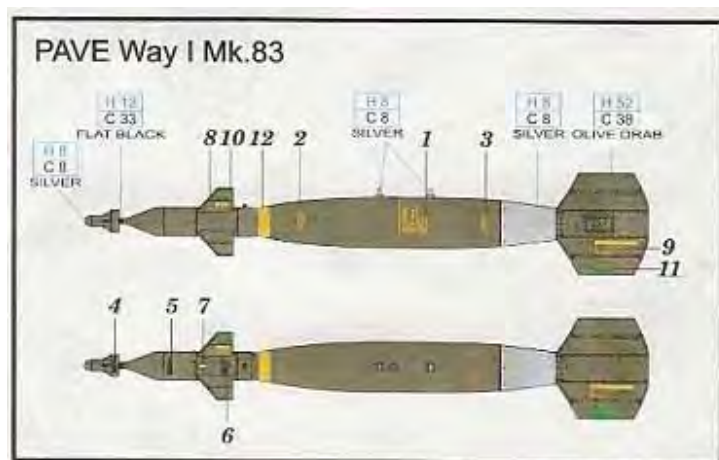
The PAVE Way series of laser-guided bombs was developed by Texas Instruments starting in 1964. The program was conducted on a shoe-string budget, but the resultant emphasis on simplicity and economical engineering proved to be a benefit, and a major advantage over other more complex guided weapons. The first test weapon, using a M117 bomb as the warhead, took place in April 1965.



The original PAVE Way series, retroactively named PAVE Way I, gave way in the early 1970s to the improved PAVE Way II, which had a simplified, more reliable seeker and pop-out rear wings to improve the weapon's glide performance. Both PAVE Way I and PAVE Way II use a simple 'bang-bang' control system (on-off system), where the CAS commands large canard deflections to make course corrections, resulting in a noticeable wobble. This had relatively little effect on accuracy, but expends energy quickly, limiting effective range. As a consequence, most users release PAVE Way I and II weapons in a ballistic trajectory, activating the laser designator only late in the weapon's flight to refine the impact point.

Thermally protected bombs were developed, principally, for use on aircraft carriers. The thermal protection aided with extending the cook-off time and decreased the reaction of bombs when engulfed in a fuel fire. Possibly a result of the fire ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Enterprise\\_fire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Enterprise_fire)) aboard the USS Enterprise in 1969. (?)”

Now having read all that, on to the kit. Part of Eduard's Brassin accessory line these 1/48th scale PAVE Way bombs are exquisite. Molded in light gray resin all of the separate, control surfaces (fins) are appropriately thin and delicate. You will need to exercise due care when removing the excess resin from the parts. Not that that task is all that challenging but just as a precaution. No sense mucking up all that nice detail cast into the parts. Some of that nice cast detail is the well done texture (thermal protection) applied to the body of the bomb.



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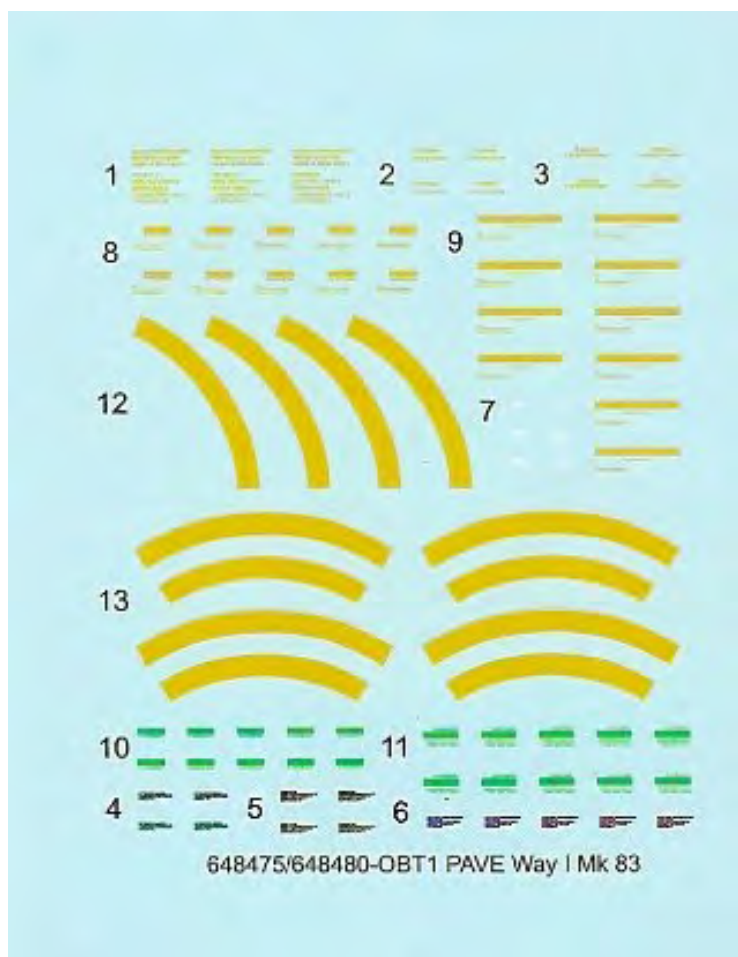
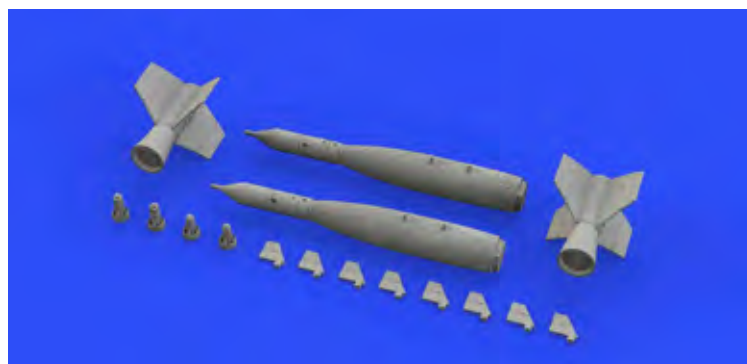


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There are bits for two complete bombs and a decal sheet with all the appropriate markings (stripping, data, and warning placards) common to this weapon. Assembly is simplicity itself. The main body of the bomb is a two piece affair with the only other steps being the attachment of the four control vanes and laser seeker to the forward end on the LGB. The assembly instructions would have you drill out a mounting hole for the laser seeker and the hollowed out detail on the rear guide vane assembly. Getting those holes centered is really the most difficult part of assembling these PAVE Way bombs.

While on the ground, the laser seeker is often seen a bit askew (drooping) on the real bombs. So maybe getting that mounting hole dead solid perfect isn't that big a deal. (?) The hollowed out rear end on the guide vane unit is typical for under wing ordnance, I assume, as a weight saving measure.

Speaking of that laser seeker, Eduard provides two styles of seeker heads. Part number R112 appears to be the newer style laser seeker...so guess what? Check your references for the one that will be most appropriate for your project. But the only person who might notice that difference is the more OCD challenged.



Painting these bombs is beyond easy. Just use whatever shade of olive drab that you wish. Some detail painting (laser seeker head, mounting lugs, and a small portion of the rear, main body) is suggested in silver/aluminum. There are markings (decals) options galore. Along with the data stencils (six per bomb) there are individual decals for the the various markings on the rear guide vanes and canards. Eduard also includes the ubiquitous yellow banding (single and double styles) common to this type of ordnance. I had no trouble at all with applying them.



These LGB's from Eduard are gonna look totally cool on your next project. I do have one caution, however. They are so nice that if you might be tempted to do a full load out for that 1/48th scale project your contemplating. Not that there would be anything wrong with that....

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

Support Your Local Hobby Shop!







## Table Talk

A roundup of last month's models  
By Rick Herrington

Lots of different models this month. Armor, ships and aircraft were all represented. Bob King brought in brought in three jewels in 1/48th scale. The first was a P-47D by Tamiya.



Second was a Tamiya P51-B.



Finally Bob shared his Tamiya Mosquito done up in US livery.



Ron McCracken had three of his own masterpieces all in 1/72nd scale. The first was a Special Hobby C-41A Casa.





Second from Ron was a Nato Camouflaged U125-800



Ron also brought in an MPM C-17 Lockheed Vega.



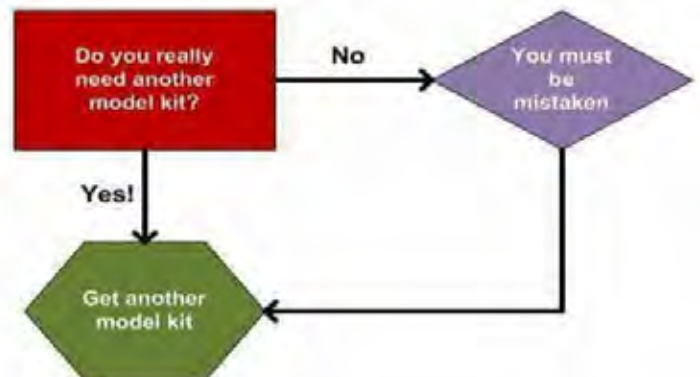
Dave Edgerly brought in his Plan 9 from Outer Space saucer. The kit is from Moebius.



Dave also brought in his Tamiya 1/32nd Corsair. Dave did an excellent job of weathering the Corsair's paint job.



Dave also brought in a WIP (Work in Progress) work stand. Dave wouldn't tell us what the work stand is going to be next to. We'll have to wait and see.







Daniel Brett brought in a vintage Monogram 1/48th scale Fokker D7.



The second was a P-51B from Monogram marked in 51st Fighter Group livery.



Mike Gilsbach brought in his Revell Bell H-13-H in 1/35th scale.



Tim Robb had two nice aircraft. The first was a 1/144th Minicraft DC-3.



Doug Brown shared with us his escort carrier CVE Bogue in 1/700. Doug also gave a great program on USN Escort Carriers.





Bradley also brought in an ICM T-34 85 and a Masterbox Mark 1 WW1 tank



Bradley Becker shared his WW1 Trench fighting diorama.



Bill Delk has become our resident Gundam builder. He brought in a Full Armor Unicorn from Bandai.







Keeping with the science fiction vein Ben Morton brought in his crashed Star Destroyer



Ben also brought in the subject of this month's newsletter his Brassin 1/48th Paveway LGB. If you look closely at the picture you can see that the target of the bomb is the Taj Mahal.



Wayne Sheldon brought in a Tiger 1 Toon Tank from Meng.



Finally Bob Kieras took the honors of Model of the Month with his amazing Revell Viking Long Ship.





## THE COTTON REPORT

By Rick Cotton

It's a warm, springtime, Saturday afternoon in 1970.

9-year-old me, airplane junkie that I am, is wandering down the aisle (there was only one) at Grant's Hobby Shop, in sleepy little Pasadena, Texas, looking at the airplane model kits. My black and gold bike with the sissy bar and extended handlebars (yeah, pretty cool for a kid's bike – my Dad was into motorcycles and helped me accessorize it) is leaning against the outer wall of the shop as I look for something to blow my huge wad of three whole US dollars on. Hey, in 1970, 3 bucks went a long, long way.

At that time, plastic models meant cars, planes, a few odd-scale ships, and a tiny scattering of Aurora movie monsters, and armor in scales other than 1/35. Revell and Monogram ruled the day, along with the quickly fading Aurora items, and Lindberg was there for those who didn't know any better. There might be an Airfix or two – yeah, the old Airfix... yeccccchhh.

The Yellow Model Peril had not yet really made its presence known in the American kid's model world, and we had no idea what was coming in the Second Invasion of the Japanese. It was, as they say...a much simpler time.

No aftermarket...at all. Glue was stringy and came in an orange tube. Paint came from Testors and Pactra, although most kids like me couldn't afford it, or were not allowed to use it by our mothers, lest we spill it on the rug or some other unpardonable place. Yes, guilty here. More than once.

But while we wandered, we looked at the box tops...oh, my. They were lovely!

There were dramatic pictures, painted by real artists, in vivid...if sometimes quite unrealistic...colors!

Always action shots, of P-40's blasting hapless yellow-painted Zeros (yellow?), or Spitfires plunking holes in nasty green Nazi 109's!

The loser, usually somewhere behind and below the main subject, was always going down in glorious, dramatic, technicolor flame and smoke, often with satisfyingly large bits and pieces and chunks flying off his airplane as he zoomed to his doom! The old Airfix Val dive bomber dropping his eggs onto the USS Lexington below! Wow!

This was hot stuff (unless you had already seen your Dad's Playboy stash)! Heck, it was hot stuff even then! This was what determined whether you would be a model nut for life or not –

Playboy killed my brother's car modeling interest, killed it dead, real quick. He left models for girls, and never came back. I too discovered girls, loved them, but never lost my love for the smell of styrene, the sting of the ill-aimed X-acto, and the stickiness of drying gloss paint. Which it never seemed to do.

The box art was a huge investment for the model companies. It drew us in, unerringly, to spend our allowance, and get that kit! But somewhere...not long after the Second Japanese Invasion...the model companies must have gotten together and said to themselves, "Hey guys! We're paying these long-haired smelly cardigan-wearing hippie artist types a lot of our money for these box art paintings! That's OUR money! This has to stop!"

And it did.

Models began coming out, not with beautiful, dramatic, flaming-combat box art, but with a photograph of a completed model on the front. If you look at one of those today closely, you will see how archaically, and by today's standards, amateurishly, built these "box art" models were, too. And almost EVERYONE, from Revell to Hasegawa was doing it! And it was BORING.

But ONE company never did.





Tamiya, in a move that would forever shape the modeling world, introduced all that fabulous (for the time) 1/35th armor into the American boy's market. And yes, the vehicles were on a plain white background with the Tamiya label, the vehicle name in sometimes questionable "English", and a lot of indecipherable Japanese Kanji characters....which were...in their own way... kinda cool and exotic-looking. But the vehicle was a PAINTING, with a detailed, realistic style, and there were realistic PAINTED crew members, often depicted in cool foreign uniforms (the guys who would later become figure modelers noticed this), and it WORKED. Tamiya started selling well and has never looked back.



Over the years, other manufacturers watched the Tamiya business model, and realized the error of their filthy money-grubbing ways, and now a built model on the box front is just not done. It would look stupid (see KIRIN). Hasegawa and others still use a few photos of REAL subjects, and that's fine, but no one in his right mind uses a built model for box art

Now, the art is not only usually superb (except for Trumpeter's recent P-40F, which may well be the worst box art painting of all time), it is ...I cannot believe I am saying this...usually pretty accurate! Big-time, real aviation artists like Koike are doing these paintings, and they are real works of art.

But now, computer-generated art is beginning to make its presence known – how will that play out? We shall see, stay tuned on that one. Zoukei-Mura, we are watching you....

Does the box art matter to the hard-core model junkie?

I think it does. It stirs his imagination, and challenges his brain-airbrush-hand-thought processes...."can I do that camo scheme? That's a COOL scheme! Kern would never try that scheme!

"Cotton would, but he's a damned nut!".



So thank you, model makers, for returning to your senses, and hiring those now middle-aged, ex-hippies and former Bob Ross students who are tired of painting trees, rocks, and snowy mountains to paint planes, ships and tanks. Thank you for bringing back aerial combat with flaming planes, ships blasting through heavy waves, tanks holding off the enemy in a hopelessly dramatic Fury-like scene, and cars with hot babes strategically placed to show off the fine curves...of the car. We love them all!

My 9-year-old hand reaches out and grabs that Monogram Zero, parked so peacefully under that palm tree, in the shade of a Pacific afternoon.





That big, red Hinomaru on the dark green camo. Who could resist it? There goes my 3 bucks!

### *Old Rumors and New Kits*

### *New and In View Aircraft*

Looks like March is another big month for re-pops, but there are some genuinely new kits coming out as well. One of them is truly huge. But you'll have to read further if you want to know which one!

I must express one area of disappointment, and that is Hasegawa. Frankly, I've been writing this column for over a year now, and can't recall a truly new release from what used to be a premier kit manufacturer. Lately, Hasegawa seems to be resting on its laurels and catering to its home audience with yet more "anniversary" editions of various JASDF aircraft. So, I've purposely omitted the Hasegawa re-pops from this edition. There's really nothing new there. Now, if they'd re-release their line of excellent F-111 kits, that'd be worth mentioning, but yet another F-4EJ doesn't seem to me to be worth the space it takes to present it.

### 1/32nd Scale:

ICM has announced a re-release of their Gladiator Mk.II, updated with new parts.



### 1/35th Scale:

Kitty Hawk has announced a re-release of their 2019 kit of the MH-60S Knighthawk.



Kitty Hawk has also announced a re-release of their 2019 kit of the SH-60B Sea Hawk with new parts.







## 1/48th Scale:

Kittyhawk is up again with a Hokum B Russian attack helicopter.



Eduard has announced a re-release of a Bf 109E-1 Weekend edition kit with new decals.



Eduard has also announced a re-release of their 2019 P-51D-10 Mustang in a Profipack edition with updated/new parts.



Eduard is re-releasing a 2014-vintage Tornado GR.1 'Desert Babe' (Revell mold) with new decals depicting Gulf War nose art GR1's



Revell has re-issued their circa-2006 B-25C/D Mitchell as a strafer modification with the nose glazing painted over. That helps with the nose weight problem, obviously, but otherwise nothing new other than the decals.



Tamiya has announced a re-release of their 1996 new-tool Bf 109E-3 in Swiss markings.







## 1/72 Scale:

ICM has announced a new-tool release of the Russian U-2/Po-2VS Light Night Bomber. This is the infamous "Washing Machine Charlie" of the Korean Conflict.



Modelsvit has announced a new-tool An-225 Mriya, a massive six-engine transport. With roughly a four-foot wingspan this is one you need some serious building space for (not to mention a fresh tube of glue). But if really, really BIG models are your thing, then this is the kit for you.



Revell has announced what I think may be a re-release of their aging Albatros D.III.



Revell has also announced a re-release of their 2011 new-tool Ju 88A-1 in Battle of Britain livery, with some new/revised parts.



Not an aircraft but aircraft related Italeri is releasing a carrier deck section. great to display your Hornet or Tomcat on.



## 1/144 Scale:

Eduard is re-releasing their MiG-21MF, a 2017-vintage kit with new decals.

č. 71, 116. středisko bojové přípravy, Prívoľskij, Sovětský svaz, květen 1990



č. 8447, No. 46 Squadron, Egypt, 1973



č. F\_03, Tobruk, Libye, 2017





Roden has announced a new-mold Fw 200C-6 Condor with an Hs 293 guided bomb as its payload. At present this kit seems to be only available as a pre-order; no clear idea how long before it actually ships.



Finally, Zvezda has announced a new-tool MS-21-300 Airliner.



## Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

Lots of new releases to get to this month especially in 1/700th scale. First up is Aoshima with several new releases the first of which is the IJN battleship Yamashiro (1944) with metal barrels. Yamashiro was sunk by US battleships, cruisers and destroyers during the battle of Suriago Strait. Captain Shinoda went down with his ship.



Second from Aoshima is another IJN battleship the Mutsu. (1942) This one is a full hull version



Third from Aoshima is the IJN battleship Nagato as she looked in 1945.





Fourth from Aoshima is HMS Jupiter a British destroyer and the Japanese submarine she sank the I-60.



Last from Aoshima is HMS Illustrious, a British aircraft carrier. HMS Illustrious spent most of WW2 in the Mediterranean. Her aircraft attacked Italian battleships in the port of Taranto.



Fujimi is up next with two IJN heavy cruisers. The first is the cruiser Kumano. Kumano was sunk by US carrier aircraft from the Ticonderoga.



The second is IJN Heavy Cruiser Ibuki. Ibuki was being converted into an aircraft carrier to replace Japanese losses from the Battle of Midway when the war ended.



Hasegawa has one release this month the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force DDH-184 Kaga. Kaga is currently one of Japan's helicopter carriers but is scheduled to be converted to an aircraft carrier.



The first release from Pit Road is the USN aircraft carrier Hornet. The kit includes the IJN destroyer Makigumo which along with the Akigumo finally sank her.





Second up from Pit Road is a dual kit of a couple of IJN Etorofu class escort ships Sushima and Amakusa.



Third from Pit Road they are re-releasing their excellent Bismarck model. The kit also includes four British Swordfish torpedo bombers.



1/700th scale Swordfish torpedo bomber included in the kit.

Finally from Pit Road is a nice accessory for your ship models, a Dry Dock.



Moving on to 1/350th scale. Veryfire is releasing the heavy cruiser USS Salem. Completed shortly after WW2 ended she was the last of the gun cruisers.



Trumpeter is releasing Bismarck's sister ship the DKM Tirpitz.





Mikro Mir is up next with USS Parche a Sturgeon Class submarine with a deep sea vehicle included. USS Parche main duties were to recover Russian and Chinese missile technology after they splashed into the ocean. USS Parche is also rumored to have tapped into a Russian military telephone communications cable on the ocean floor.



Revell is releasing the USN submarine Gato in 1/72nd scale. Still waiting for that S-38 E-boat from Revell.



Last up in 1/35th scale Trumpeter German submarine Molch. Molch was a one man submarine.



That's it for this month. If you're self-quarantining what better time to finish some of those shelf queens? Stay safe and healthy.

## Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Lots to get to this month so let's start off with the 1/72nd scale releases. First is a Jagdpanzer IV L70. early production.

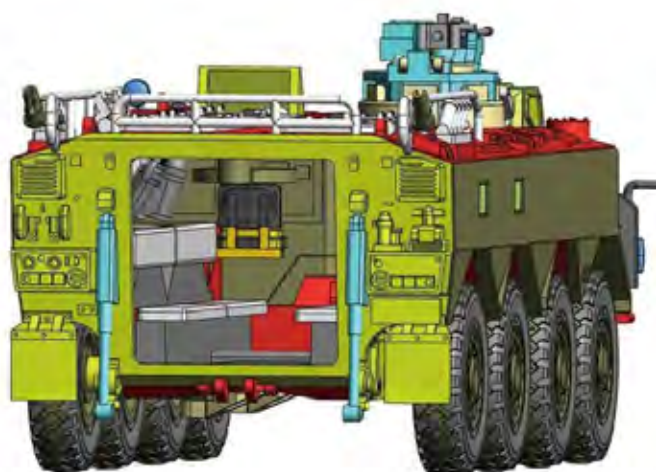


Next from DML are a couple of Sturmgeschutz kits. One is a Sturmgeschutz 3 Ausf G and the other is a Sturmgeschutz IV early production.





Keeping in 1/72nd scale Aoshima known for their ship releases, is releasing a JGSDF (Japanese Ground Self Defense Force) wheeled APC the Type 96.



Moving on to 1/48th scale Tamiya is releasing a T-55.



This month is great for 1/35th armor lovers. Lots to chose from. First up is AFV with five releases. The first is a US Self-propelled gun the M-108.



Next from AFV is a Centurion Mark I.



Vietnam era gun trucks have always been popular with armor modelers. AFV is not going to disappoint with its release of the King Cobra gun truck.





On the subject of meat choppers AFV is releasing the US M-16 half track. This bad boy mounted 4 50 caliber machine guns usually meant for AA work but sometimes employed effectively against ground troops.



Last from AFV is a timely release of the army's latest weapon system the Dragoon. This is the US Army's answer to not having enough M1's in inventory. More gun tubes were needed so the Dragoon was created.



Dragon is up next with their release of a German Sdkfz 232 eight wheeled armored car



Dragon is also re-releasing their excellent early production Tiger 1E kit labelling it a Das Reich or Grossdeutschland vehicle.



Rye Field Models has several new releases coming up. The first is a circa 1944 T-34 85.

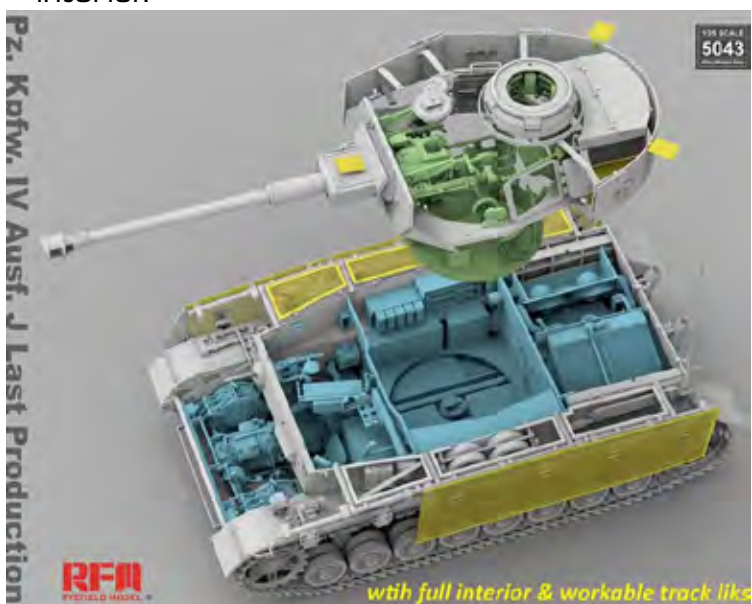




Second from RFM is a KV-1 circa 1942 with a simplified turret.



Third is a Pzkwf IV Ausf J complete with interior.



Tamiya is re-releasing their M-8 Greyhound with a couple of new crew members and some other bits.



Zvesda is also releasing its own Greyhound but this is a modern Russian anti-aircraft machine with guns and missiles.



Last up is a few accessories from Black Dog meant to go with your Pacific M-4.





That's it for this month. Grab a kit from that stash or go down to King's and buy a new one. Auf wiedersehen!

## It Figures

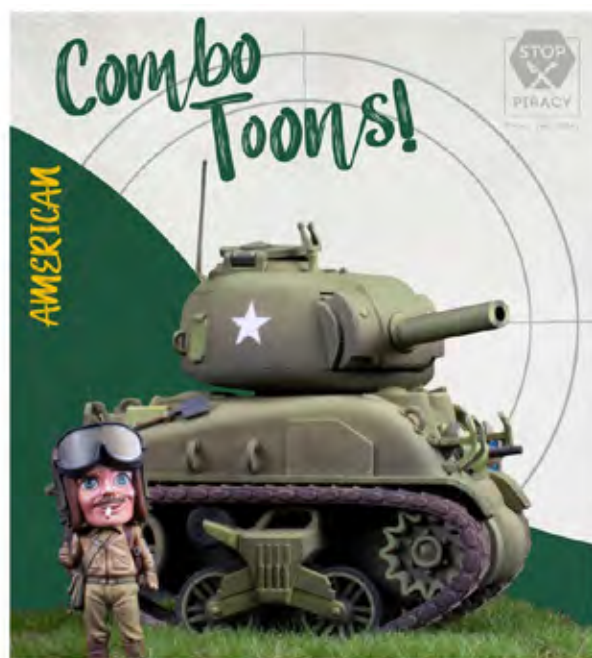
By Michael Lamm

<http://www.icm.com.ua/>

Hello fellow miniature people fanatics to a very special edition of It Figures. Well, Spring has sprung, and soon there will be Easter Eggs hidden across the land and tucked away in Easter baskets, so this month's article is going to focus entirely on egg-shaped figures.

For those who aren't familiar with what I'm talking about, let's go back to the early 70s. As far as I can tell, Hasegawa started this trend way back in Easter of 1972, when they introduced their first model of an "egg plane" in Air Enthusiast magazine. Over the years, as interest in Japanese manga and anime have increased, there has been more and more enthusiasm for these odd shaped kits. While, they're definitely not in-scale, the models maintain the same lines, look and details of their original scale-sized subjects, albeit in a bloated "egg" shape.

As with anything that becomes popular, other model companies have been adding their own versions to the mix, whether it's an "egg" plane, a "cute" model, or a "toon" tank, they all fall into the same mix, and now models lines have expanded from just planes to Space Shuttles, battleships, modern helicopters, tanks and even Gundam and Macross subjects.







On the figure side of things, which we're most concerned about in this little corner of the newsletter, things haven't kept up quite as well. That seems to be changing, with an ever increasing number of figure offerings to go with some of the models.

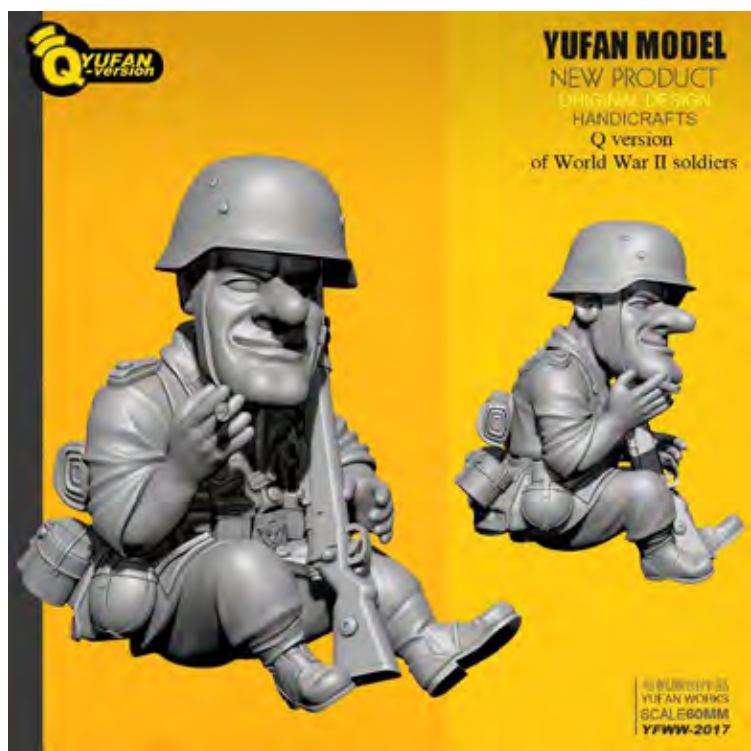
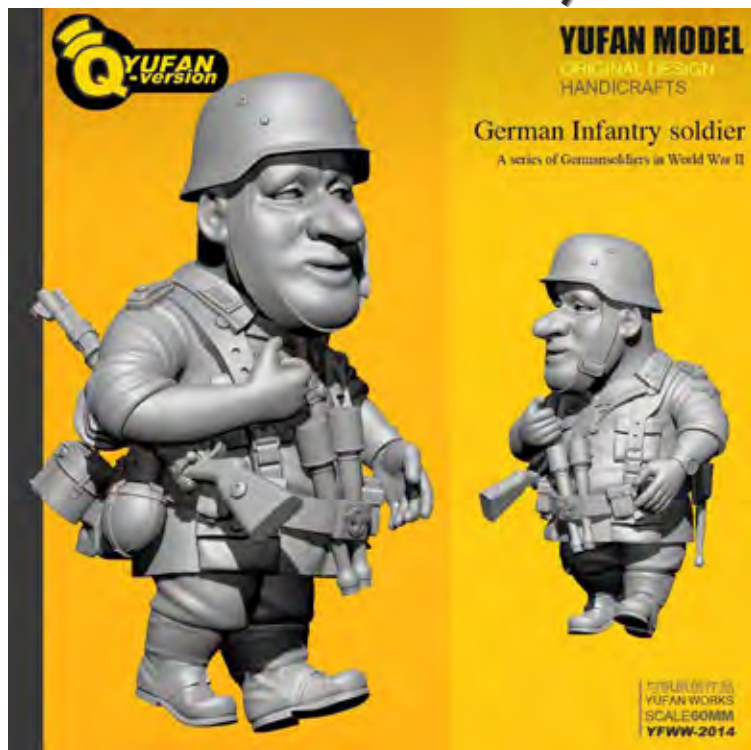
For the record, I've never been a big fan of these type of models, but since we see more and more of these kits on the tables at shows and our monthly meeting, I figured I'd go outside my comfort zone a bit.

<https://yufan-models.store/>

First up, from Yufan Models, comes they're "Q-series". At the moment, this line of figures only includes four German figures and a 1/2 figure tank commander intended to go with their "Q-series" Tiger tank. These are all resin figures, and look very nicely done. They're listed as both 1/35 and 1/32 scale, but I'm not sure how "scale accurate" these really are. The addition of a tank commander, and a tank rider are nice features. These guys are clearly the most "caricature" type of style to them.







<https://www.michtoy.com/>

If you're looking for figures to go with your Meng Toon Tank model, then look no further than Ratnik Miniatures. Ratnik Miniatures is a Russian company run by Igor Karpov who sculpts all the miniatures. There doesn't appear to be a website for Ratnik Miniatures, but I've listed a US-based supplier of Mr. Karpov's figures.

As mentioned, these resin 'Toon' figures are created by Igor Karpov. Each set contains 4 figures in 4 poses, and he has offerings for American, German and Russian tanks. The figures are about 50mm in height, and as seen in the photos, look great next to Meng's Toon Tanks. I especially like the Brad Pitt (aka War Daddy from the movie "Fury") inspired US tank commander, and the Russian crewman with the "toon" sized wrench.

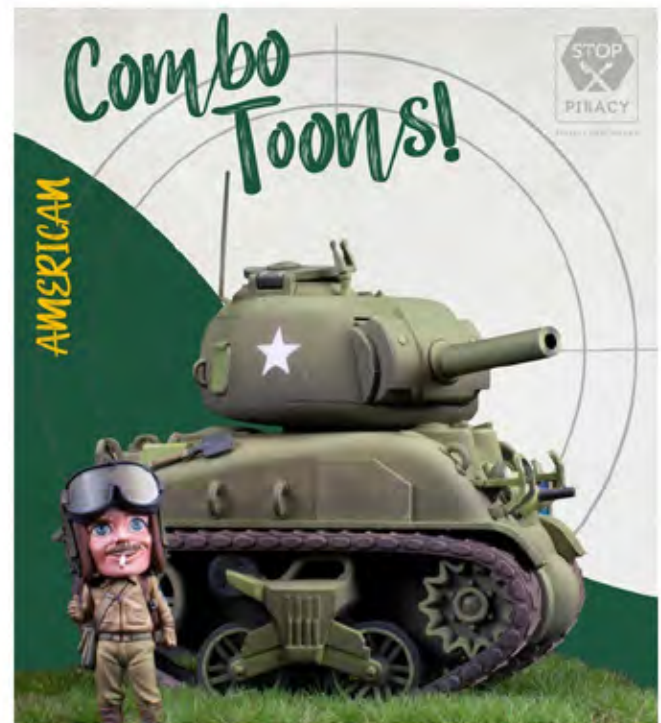






<https://scale75.com/en/111-wwii-little-big-war>

From Tiger Model, we have some combination sets of model and figure. Like the Ratnik Miniatures, these ones were had to find a direct link for, but Scale75 sells them on their website. They have a model from four of the Major powers in WWII, a British pilot and Spitfire, a Japanese pilot with his Zero, and an American and German tank commander with their respective tanks. I wasn't able to find any pictures of the actual resin versions of these, but I've had good experiences with Scale75, so I trust their judgement.







# King's Hobby

Modeling With You  
Since 1973



So, while we're all self-quarantined, let's use the opportunity to go paint a figure and add it to your latest model, even if it's an Egg plane! You won't regret it.





# Something for Everyone!



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# Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

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Finally a message from David Lockhart Director of Local Chapters



### Coronavirus Update

To all fellow modelers,

As the current COVID-19 pandemic continues (it hasn't peaked yet), we request that you follow state & local requests to not meet in any groups and to self-quarantine if possible. This means no monthly meetings or shows.

With limited testing available and no vaccines, it's not worth the risk. Between smart phones, email, Facebook, etc., you should be able to stay in contact with your fellow modelers.

Check with your contest chairmen or the event page on the IPMS/USA website before you get in your car!

Dust off your stash and build some models. As the country music artist Gary Allan sings, "Every storm runs out of rain".

Stay healthy & safe. Happy modeling

Dave

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