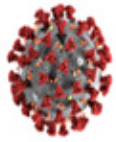
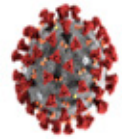


# SPRUE EXAMINER



## Life in the time of Corona The Social Distancing Issue



**Runpla Madness!**  
Ziggy's Master Grade  
Bandai Hazel



scale 1/144



Ben Morton's 1/144th  
Brengun BTR-60 APC review

austinsms.com



May 2020

***The Cotton Report • What's UP? • Old Rumors & New Kits***

***News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug***

# CONTENTS

- Page 3 The President's Soapbox
- Page 4 House Cleaning
- Page 5 Gunpla Madness! Ziggy's Master Grade Hazel  
By Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner
- Page 11 Brengun 1/144 BTR-60 APC by Ben Morton
- Page What's up - by Flanged End Yoke
- Page 17 Rick Cotton Report
- Page 18 Old Rumors and New Kits:
- Page 18 New and In View- by Ron McCracken
  - Page 26 Shipping News – by Rick Herrington
  - Page 27 Tracked Topics – by Panzer Lehr
  - Page 30 It Figures – by Mike Lamm

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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



Hey there happy campers!

Welcome once again to the thrilling tales of ASMS. Since group meetings are limited at the moment this is still a wonderful connection to our local group.

The good news this month is that the IPMS Nationals are still a go this year down in San Marcos and Len Pilhofer is doing an amazing job getting everything together for a fantastic show.

Only a few of you have come forward to take advantage of volunteer positions and I'm sending out the call again to contact me and offer your help. We have a wonderful opportunity to enhance ASMS's position in the nation and to benefit financially from our involvement. I will do my best to share the news on any developments as they come available.

I encourage all of you to join a group Zoom meeting on Sundays at 4:00 PM hosted by Bill Delk. As the weeks go by the groups have been getting larger and it sure is good to see the members faces again. Now that the barber shops have opened up again it might not be as scary as you think.

Depending on what happens with the local libraries we might consider this as an alternative to the meetings for a bit. We'll see. Until then please join up, it's easy. If you have any questions please contact Bill (Falconfyre@austin.rr.com) and he will make sure you have what you need to get going. I look forward to seeing more of you this week and sharing what we all have been up to on our model tables.

Here's a photo from this Sunday's Zoom meeting. Fun time! Stay safe  
Ian



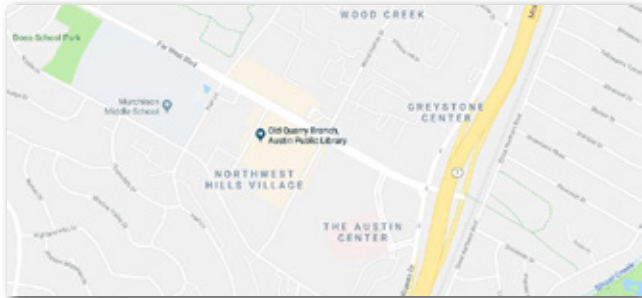




# HOUSE CLEANING



## ASMS MEETING



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

***Meetings suspended due to Covid-19***

**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](mailto:latham.ian@yahoo.com) for  
more information.***



## Events

**IPMS Nationals -Come and Make It  
July 29 thru August 1 2020**

## ***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

Meetings  
Suspended

## Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings  
Suspended



## Bunpla Madness!

# A Review of the Bandai Master Grade Hazel

By Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner

### Mobile suit background:

The Hazel units were developed during the rise of the Titans in U.C. 0084. They were meant to test the Titans' mobile suit development into Gundam types, hoping to build upon and improve based on data from the RX-78-2 used in the One Year War (this would later lead to the creation of the RX-178 Gundam Mk-II).

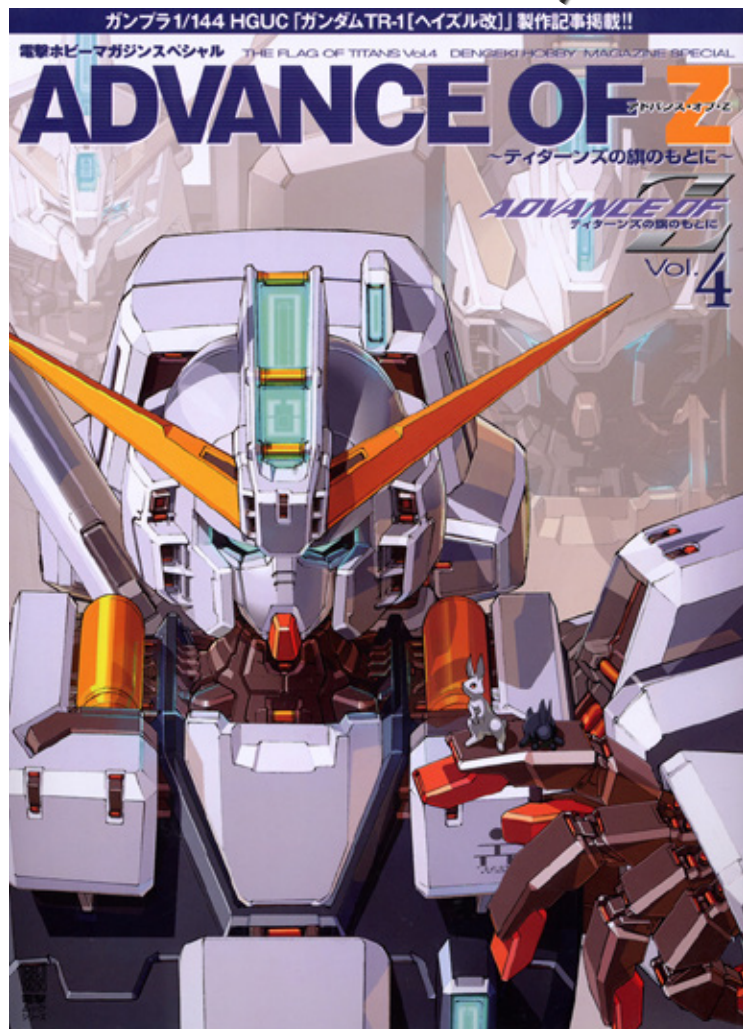
The original units would be built off the RGM-79Q GM Quel. It later was fitted with a Gundam type head to see if it could invoke a psychological response from the Zeon remnants. Though the RX-121 Gundam TR-1 "Hazel" was an effective unit, the Titans sought to build a mobile suit to invoke the same fear in Zeon that the original Gundam did, wanting to produce another "White Devil". After one of the early Hazel units was heavily damaged in a fight, it was improved using parts from a GM Quel as well as gaining new, more bulky armor to create the RX-121-1 TR-1 "Hazel Custom". This new, more bulky design became the standard for the TR-1 line of Hazel units.

Soon several more units were produced and different armor variants were produced. One being the RX-121-2 TR-1 Advanced Hazel. This unit was modified to house 2 sub-arms placed in front of the front skirts along with a new backpack. The backpack was modified to house 2 shield boosters instead of the Hazel Custom's 1. A long range optical sensor was also placed on the head, replacing the standard "eyes" and head camera to improve visibility. It had small height boosters placed on the bottom of the feet, though their function wasn't really known. The Advanced Hazel was optimized to help the unit house the several booster units such as the FF-X29A G-Parts "Hrududu" and "Hrududu ii". It was deployed in combat during the end of the Gryps Conflict, used as a heavy assault type unit. It was given a high density beam rifle and told to try and take out the enemy ships as well as enemy mobile suits.

The RX-121-1 TR-1 "Hazel Custom" and RGM-79Q GM Quel along with data collected from the RX-78-2 Gundam during the One Year War would serve as the base to develop the RX-178 Gundam Mk-II.

### Advance of Zeta and the AOZ kits

Advance of Zeta is a photonovel converted into a manga shown in several Hobby Japan issues in the early 2000s. It's set just before the events of Mobile Suit Zeta Gundam in U.C. 0084 through the end of Mobile Suit Gundam ZZ (Double Zeta) in U.C. 0088. The series followed the "Titans Test Team" which was a team of test pilots for the Earth Federations special operations unit "Titans" (an elite task force with the sole purpose to seek out and eliminate Zeon remnants).



Throughout the manga and photonovel, many “Mobile Suit Blueprints” show up, showing the schematics and concept art for many mobile suits developed by the Titans. The lead suits being the several Hazel units along with the Woundwort and Hyzenth’lay units, as well as the mobile armors that accompany them. The artwork and mobile suit designs shown throughout the books is really amazing. The amount of detail they put into some of the artwork is just incredible, i could do a whole article on it (Which isn’t a bad idea... i need to write that down).

The original line of Aoz kits came out in the early 2000s (About 2005~2006). The kits released were all High Grade kits. These included the HG Hazel Custom, HG Advanced Hazel, HG Hazel Mk-2, HG GM Quel, HG Gaplant Hrairoo, and some re-colors of other kits

(Like the HG Marisai). After 2006, the Aoz kits died down, very few being released after that, until about 2018 when there was a large resurgence in Aoz kits.

Bandai kicked it off with the MG 1/100 Hazel Custom, which was a Premium-Bandai (P-Bandai) release. Soon Bandai released a titans’ color version of the Hazel in MG form. Soon after, though they were all P-Bandai, Bandai started producing more Aoz kits.

They updated the old HG kits and started producing entirely new molds like the HG Woundwort and the latest HG Hyzenth’lay II and Hyzenth’lay II [Rah].

People are eating these kits up (me included). With this being a P-Bandai exclusive, which means it’s only in some stores if they stock it 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, especially for a pretty substantially sized Master Grade kit.







## The model:

The MG Hazel was a kit that I've wanted for a long time. The only real thing holding me back was that it was a Premium Bandai release, and there was no easy way to get a hold of one without pre-ordering one. But then we moved to California, where down in Redwood City, there is a Bandai distributor called "NewtypeHQ" that lets you go to the warehouse and actually walk around and buy things in store. It was like a giant hobby shop that had almost entirely Bandai products (aside from tools, glue, paint, etc). On my birthday that year, I wanted to go and see what they had.

I was basically in heaven, there was Gunpla everywhere. They had a section labeled "P-Bandai" which held all of the Premium Bandai kits. I saw they had an MG Advanced Hazel and grabbed that thing as fast as I could, like it would grow legs and run away or something. So I got that and several other kits that day and went home happy.



The build of this kit is pretty standard for a Master Grade kit. You start out with the torso, then move to the head, then arms and legs, then the waist and finally whatever weapons it has. The kit's frame is heavily based on the MG 1/100 Gundam Mk-II

Most of the arm frame, upper legs, and waist frame are taken from the Mk-II. The torso has a new frame, but only to hold onto the Hazel's more bulky armor.

The only real gripe I have with the frame's design are the hips. The Mk-II isn't that large of a mobile suit, it's relatively thin all things considered. The Hazel is not. It is a very bulky, very thick suit, especially in the legs. The way the hips are made are it has a large polycap that a ball joint pops into on the waist unit with a 3mm peg sticking off the bottom that plugs into the thigh, giving it a nice swivel for easier posing.

In theory, this works fine, and for the MG Mk-II, it worked, because there wasn't that much going on with the Mk-II's leg, however, the Hazel has very chunky legs from the knee down. There is a lot of frame and a lot of armor that goes onto the MG Hazel's lower legs, which weighs the legs down a lot, so if you want to swing the legs out to the side for some kind of flight pose, the legs will sag back down.



They can kick to the front and back and stay up fine, it's just out to the side the leg's weight becomes an issue. (There are ways around it, but right out of the box it is an issue).

It can stand up fine, it's only when the kit is in the air on an action base when the feet aren't in contact with something that it gets annoying. The kit's armor is almost entirely in a dark/mid-night blue color, minus the white on the shield boosters and front sub-arms, tops of the feet, and the yellow vents and thrusters around the kit, similar to the Zaku I wrote about before, with it being mainly dark plastic. 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 avoid those marks is cut 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 on this kit is pretty decent. The main colors are all separated well. All the yellow thrusters and little cylinders around the kit are the correct color, which was a thing the HG struggled with. All the cameras in the head are actual clear green pieces, even the little mono-eye inside the head visor.



The color separation on this kit is pretty decent. The main colors are all separated well. All the yellow thrusters and little cylinders around the kit are the correct color, which was a thing the HG struggled with. All the cameras in the head are actual clear green pieces,

even the little mono-eye inside the head visor. In terms of color inaccuracies on the kit, there aren't very many, but the sad thing is that the ones it does have are slightly big. Advance of Zeta suits are known for having a billion camera sensors all over them. But sometimes Bandai is cheap and doesn't want to take the time to make the 3 or 4 extra clear parts that would make up those lenses. So what they give you for the cameras that aren't for the head or the gun's sight are foil stickers. Usually these look ok, because they're fairly small or just for the eyes and head cameras. For this kit, you get fairly large ones that fill in a large camera on the bottom of the backpack and 2 for the cameras just beneath the shins.

Paint can easily fix those issues, but for a 2018 Master Grade, it is slightly disappointing to see. Another inaccuracy is in the large yellow vents/thrusters in the knees and the back of the legs. There is a small square on the inside that is either supposed to be black and/or show the frame to represent the hole left by the thrusters/vents. The parts the kit comes with are just solid yellow pieces, and they give you black stickers to put inside the small indents.





They look ok, but I recommend painting them or even carefully carving them out to reveal the frame. If by some miracle I get another MG Hazen, I will definitely be fixing those.

The nub marks aren't that bad, again, it's more they just leave a mark on the dark plastic. There aren't very many seams with this being a Master Grade kit. The only real seams that this kit has are on the top of the front subarms, though with a little modification, you could easily hide them as panel lines. There are also seam lines that go down the middle of a part of the shoulder that hangs down over the upper arm. There is also a seam down the middle of the gun, but that is pretty normal. The only time the guns don't have a seam is if the design allows for

to do some of their wizard magic and make it have no seams.

There aren't really any gimmicks on this thing like other Master Grade kits. The only few that it has are an opening cockpit hatch. Inside you can see a small little 1/100 seated pilot figure. The little yellow grenades or extra beam sabers (or whatever they are) on the top of the top of the torso can also flip up so you can make it look like the Suit is grabbing it. The visor on the head also opens up a little, revealing a small little mono-eye inside. You can mostly convert it into a normal Hazen Custom. It has the extra pieces on the runners. The only pieces you don't get is the normal hazen V-fin and the stickers for the eyes (There might be a little more, but I haven't built the normal MG Hazen so, as far as I know that's all that's missing)

In terms of weapons, it only comes with 1 beam rifle and one beam saber. Both the beam saber and the beam rifle have a small slot in the handle that a tab in the palm of the hand plugs into. The weapons are held pretty securely, especially since they don't weigh too much. If you also get the P-Bandai MG Hrududu, you can connect the booster blade rifle onto the standard beam rifle which extends the barrel. Along with the other smaller weapons that come with the Hrududu booster. It also comes with 1 standard curved shield and 2 shield boosters. All of the shields have an adapter piece that allows it to connect to the arm. However, the shield boosters are meant to be mounted up on the suit's backpack as extra thrusters.

This kit's articulation is fairly impressive for how bulky it is. The head can do a full 360 and can look up and down with ease. The shoulders can spin in a full 360, as well as swing forward slightly. The elbows have a full bend, and in the forearm there is a small armor panel that shifts down to make sure the bend isn't interrupted.



Due to how the torso is built, there isn't really any movement other than a swivel at the ball joint that plugs up in from the waist frame. The waist/hip mount has this swing down joint meant for more movement, but it EITHER can't really support the weight of the legs or is extremely tight, there is no in between. I recommend just gluing it and forgetting it exists.

The backskirt is this big brick with thrusters poking out of it, so it doesn't move. The side skirts move, however they are small enough to where they don't need to be moved because they won't impose on the articulation at all. The front skirts move up out of the way, however they do get blocked by the sub-arm unit mounted on the front of the kit.



The sub-arms can swivel up and down at the base, along with a 180 pivot just below that. There is also a 180 degree bend at the sub arm's "elbow". At the end of the sub arm once fully extended, there are 3 small claws that can hold onto both the beam saber and beam rifle. The hips I already touched on earlier when mentioning the frame. The knee bend is very good. It has a full knee bend up until the vents/armor on the calves clashes with the back of the thighs. There is a bit of inner armor on the front of the knee when the leg is fully bent. The ankles are double ball joints, having a socket in the actual foot and a socket at the bottom of the leg. On the front and back of the ankle are a set of pistons that actually "work" when the foot is flexed forward or backward.



The foot does have a bend at the front half, however with the Advanced Hazel, since it has the height boosters on the feet, the motion is locked still.

### In conclusion:

This is a fairly good kit. There are a few flaws, but they are relatively easy to fix. This kit is harder to get your hands on since it is a P-Bandai kit, but I would definitely say get it if the opportunity presents itself. You can order Premium Bandai kits at NewtypeHQ's online store, but I'm sure Kings or any hobby shop near you can special order it if you ask. If this specific design isn't your taste, there are plenty of other Advance of Zeta kits out there for you to choose from!

And remember, space belongs to the Spacenoids! Sieg Zeon!

-Ziggy

## BRENGUN 1-144th BTR-60 APC REVIEW

BY BEN MORTON

Brengun has an extensive line of 1/144th accessories (engine starter carts, boarding ladders, etc.) as well as resin construction kits (US/German staff cars, aircraft, V-1, etc.) in their catalog. Most if not all of these 1/144th scale construction kits come with photo etch details and appropriate decals. One of Brengun's newer offerings is a 1/144 scale resin BTR-60 Soviet Armored Personnel Carrier.

The kit is cast in light gray resin and is accompanied by a fret of photo etch (grab handles, rear view mirror brackets, etc.) and a decal sheet with markings for either a Czechoslovakian, Polish, East German,



or Soviet vehicle. The decal sheet also has six, complete numeral sets, in two sizes. Removing the wheels, main gun, and headlights from their respective pour stubs (resin sprues) shouldn't present any problems. I would caution patience when removing the pour stub from the APC. The wheel axle stubs are molded on the main body of the vehicle and removing the excess resin from that part could prove to be problematic. It was for me.



In the process of removing that pour stub I managed to lose (hack off) three of those axle stubs. Nothing that couldn't be fixed with some bits of wire and super glue but why bother when you really don't need to. Just exercise the caution that I should have.

Assembly is straight forward and the model really looks the part with nice, molded details. Including some great detail on the tires and rear of the vehicle.





The BTR-60 is amphibious and has a propulsion unit (large, shrouded propeller) that is covered by clam shell type doors when not in use. Brengun has molded that detail beautifully. Those protective doors are molded closed but someone more clever than I could open up that area and scratch build a propeller unit. (Just something to think about.) You might wish to pay attention when attaching the wheels/tires owing to the distinctive tread pattern.



The photo etched details are pretty extensive for a kit in this scale. Included are lots of little bits for the lifting lugs on the turret, grab handles / equipment stowage on the main body, boarding stirrups along either side of the vehicle, and a stowage rack on the rear deck of the vehicle.

The assembly instruction don't suggest any colors when it comes to painting this beast but most Soviet vehicles were issued in some shade of dark green. there are oodles of reference photos on-line of this vehicle,

, so you may choose one of those for a paint scheme.



When all said and done this 1/144th scale is a neat kit of a ubiquitous Soviet-designed vehicles that should find its way into all manner of dioramas and vignettes. My thanks to Brengun and IPMS/USA for the review copy

Support Your Local Hobby Shop.

## What's Up wid You?

Corona Virus...Thank you China for the gift that keeps giving.

Yep, we're all stuck inside with a lot of time on our hands and a closet full of unbuilt kits....Hm-mmmm...What to do?

This is the second month we've not been able to share our work in person with our fellow models. What's the next best thing? Pictures of our fellow modelers in-progress and finished gems.

Let's get started with Ben Morton. The text accompanying the images is going to be the modeler's own words.

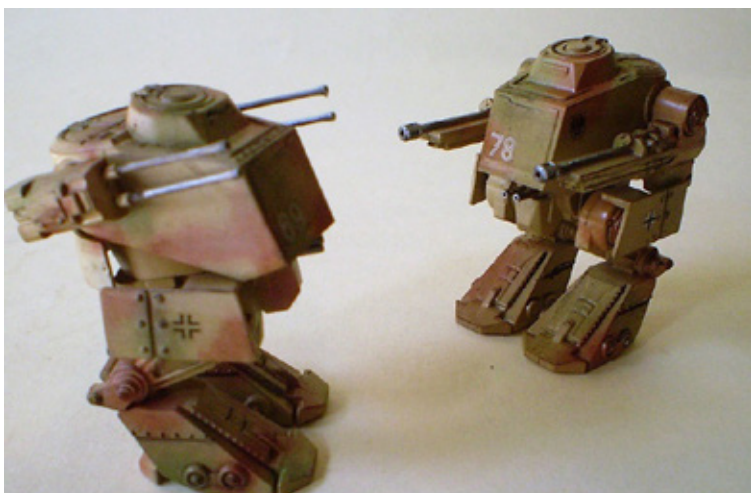
Attached are four images of a completed thingy for a larger project.

These are two BLF-100's.

BLF-100 are individual fighting vehicles. (Think Star Wars walkers/Gundam suits)



One is armed with twin 2.0cm Flak guns, the other with twin 7.5cm Pak (anti-tank) cannon. The battle bot thingy's are from Model Collect in 1/72nd scale (?). They are part of a German Armored Transporter or "Tragerkreuzer". One is armed with twin 2.0cm flak cannons, the other with 7.5cm PAK anti-tank guns.



All made up and from Model Collect's Fist-O-War series of "what if kits". The transporter is still under construction.

All in 1/72nd scale.

The female figure is from Master Box (plastic) in 1/24th scale, part of their 'Vagabonds at the Space Port' series, or something like that.







The two military types are from Black Dog (resin) in 1/35th scale.



**BUYING EVERY AVAILABLE ACCESSORY  
FOR MY MODEL EVEN IF IT MEANS  
SPENDING 3 TIMES OF ORIGINAL MODEL ON THEM**



From Tim Robb,  
Well gee. There is always a lot on or near my work bench. I easily have twenty kits started. The one I'm concentrating most on now is my procrastinator, Czech Model 1/48 Curtiss A-8 Shrike. Next will be the Bondo Monogram 1/48 F-100D.





Next will be the Bondo Monogram 1/48 F-100D. I've already completed nine this year including six Minicraft 1/144 DC-3s. Photos of those are posted on the ASMS website. The yellow wing tipped Queen Charlotte Airlines DC-3 is the one not done this year. In progress pics to follow.



Tim Robb's P51-D's in progress



Brandon Wood

My son has been hiding out with me through all this. We decided to do a dual build so I grabbed two 1/72 Eduard F6Fs out of the stash and we are building them side by side. He did Warhammer for about 5 years then high school, football, girls (the usual distractions) interrupted. This is his first time back at the bench in 6 years and I think he is still a better brush painter than I am!





Brandon's entry into the Bondo Classic, his F3-H2.



Mike Gilsbach

Just wrapped up Revell Germany's 1/144 British Airways Concorde. Not a bad kit. The detail is nice. The fit with the wings was a little tricky. Really nice decals, which is good because there were a lot of them - way more decals than plastic parts for this one. It was a fun build.

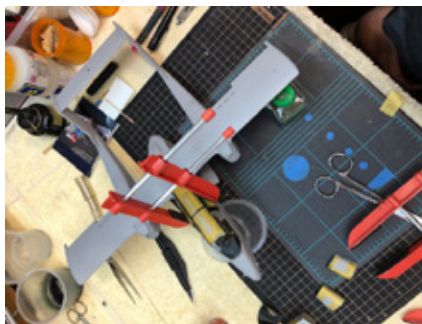


Up next: Tamiya's 1/35 M1A1 Abrams.



Bill Delk

Here's my contribution to on the bench. Just need to find a decal for the right side of the fuselage and weather it a bit. Working on the Kitty Hawk OV-10 in the meantime. Had a bit of a problem with the cockpit canopy, but finally got it sorted out.



Once I finish with the canopy it's time to break out the airbrush.







Dave Edgerly:  
N Scale buildings. All from wood with the exception of the one without the knife for reference. That's plastic and it's a passenger station. The red one is a tavern, tan one is an Interlocking Tower, the Blue one is a Chain and Link manufacturing shop.



Next is the Moebius Funny Car and the Moebius 2001 Orion III.



Finally, turning the original Monogram 1/32 F3F-3 into a more accurate one with resin parts from Mike West. The upper wing was badly warped and full of air holes. Fixed that! The F3F-3 wings are longer span than the kit has. From the box, one gets a nice -2 version.



Rick Cotton shared a couple of in progress photos of his 1/32nd HE-219 UHU. He didn't say if it was the Revell kit or the Zoukei Mura kit. Look out Nationals!





Adam Coleman shared a couple of pictures of his in-progress Bulgarian T-11.



The editor has been busy with his own projects. Rick has the new 1/72nd Airfix Buccaneer and a Meng pick up in 1/35th scale in progress....and he just received a MiniArt modern British Tank Crew.







Our Presidente Ian has been busy with a project other than a Zoom meeting. He's managed to crank out a Dragon KA-50 Russian attack helicopter.

Good job Ian!





Finally our resident aircraft afficianado Ron McCracken has been working on converting P-40's, two to P-40 L's.



Thanks to everyone that shared their in progress and finished peices.

## Nose Art

by Rick Cotton



I remember as a young boy, strolling the aisles...or aisle... of Grant's Model Shop, in lovely downtown Pasadena, Texas, back in the early 70's, looking for something to blow my three dollars on. Hmmm, so many choices, so little money.

There were Monogram SBD's and Zeros, TBFs and Wildcats galore, but my nine-year-old eyes settled on the Curtiss P-40. The Flying Tiger P-40, replete with big, red mouth, and shiny, white shark's teeth. If ever a plane and a set of markings were made for each other, this is the one. I yanked the box off the shelf, plunked my allowance down, and happily went off on my bike with my new possession.

I LOVE nose art and big, flashy paint schemes. To yours truly, there is nothing more boring than a gray airplane, with the possible exception of several gray airplanes, or a gray airplane with several grays on it. Snnzzzzzzzzzzzz. If I want gray, I'll just look in the mirror.

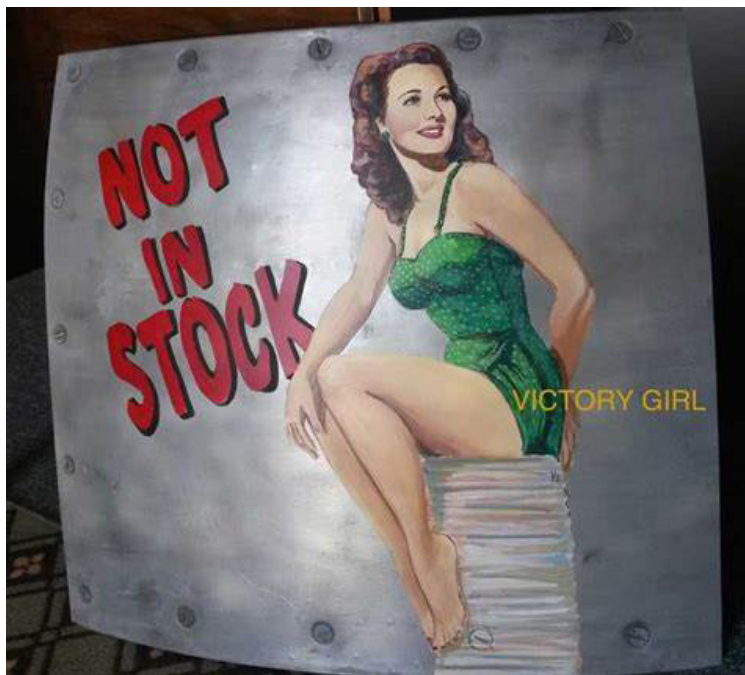
Remember when the aftermarket decals first started coming out, and you could get other markings for the venerable B-17? It was a whole new world! There before my adoring twelve year-old (yes, I was getting older) eyes were cartoon characters, and gobs of kill marks, and....Oh, my....something else.

### Girls.

Girls who were...uh....big. In outfits that were small. Or partly missing. Or just missing. Yes, nose art was suddenly, very, very important, and the subject of much deliberation ("Hmm, the hot blonde, or the hot brunette???"). I'm truly surprised that my mother never caught on. My Dad sure did!

Some historian somewhere (this is what we writers say when we are too lazy to actually research) once pointed out that you could tell a lot about the two sides who were the main antagonists in WW2 by the art on their airplanes. The Germans had lots of geometric symbols, Death's Heads and Teutonic knights, and demons with pitchforks, and stuff. We had Mickey, Goofy, Donald, and hooters. I don't mean the chicken wing place that Vince frequents.





The Nazis were out to conquer the world...we were out to get it over with, and get back home for....uh...reunion with our loved ones, and Hollywood. Says a lot, doesn't it?

Funny, the Brits had very little nose art. Were they just bored with the whole thing? Or were they just red-faced embarrassed when a P-51 with a 44DD nose happened to taxi by?

They must have thought we were a bunch of passion-crazed hot rodders. Hmmm...maybe we were.

Sometimes it can be a little much even for us jaded Yanks. Remember the F-105 with the lovely young lady hanging out over the refueling receptacle? The one named after the James Bond character? Supposedly it did make the refueling boom operators concentrate, but you know what I mean. In fact, some time back, there was a movement to actually sanitize and censor the nose art at model contests. There was much email, and posturing, and complaining by one particular central Texas woman, and so forth, that there was just too much of that sort of thing going on, and we should "clean up" our nose art act.

Fortunately, cooler heads eventually prevailed, and the furor finally died down... although I DID have to display my '105 with a strategically-placed maintenance tarp over the nose. And yes, lots of guys tried to peek under the tarp.

But the point of all this is that nose art made the sale that long-ago day in the '70's. Nose art says a lot, about the crew flying the bird, about the guys commanding that crew from the ground, and about the modeler and his choices.

I love nose art, and I will flat say it out loud, proudly: I like girls, too. In fact, I prefer them to models. I'm neither as stupid, nor as old as I look.

But it's art, my friend...put what you want on there.

Like gray airplanes? Do gray airplanes. Like invasion stripes? Stripe away! Like birds with huge, bulging bomb racks?

Not a big bomb rack guy myself, I like nice landing gear, but go right ahead. Do what you want.

Oberleutnant Schmitt was just about to squeeze the gun button on the stick, when the P-51 suddenly rolled hard, and presented a full-on view of Betty Grable, skillfully applied in glorious color by a technical sergeant, on the port side of the nose. Schmitt saw it, and hesitated, staring at the Hollywood bomb-shell.





## Old Rumors and New Kits

### *New and In View Aircraft* by Ron McCracken

May has a nice mix of the old and new, with a couple of older kits being re-released with alternate parts that allow previously unavailable versions to be built. Unfortunately, some of even the web-based outlets are advising that they cannot access their warehouses due to CV-19 restrictions, so getting your hands on some of these kits may be an even bigger challenge than usual.

#### 1/32nd Scale:

DoraWings has released a new tool Dewoitine D500.



Eduard has re-released their Bf 108 in a Profi-pack edition with updated/new parts.



#### 1/35th Scale:

Academy is releasing an AH-64A Apache in 'South Carolina National Guard' markings. Some reliable sources say it'll be just a rebox from the old Hapdong Tech/Kangnam/IMEX kit



#### 1/48th Scale:

Eduard has announced a re-release of their Lysander Mk.III. According to Scalemates, this is a rebox with new decals of a kit originally produced in 2001 by Gavia.







Eduard has announced a re-release Spitfire Mk.VIII Weekend edition of their 2013 new-tool kit.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their A6M2a Zero Fighter Type 11 with new decals for the "12th Flying Group".



Hasegawa is also re-releasing their OH-6D Cayuse in 'Akeno Special 2019' markings with some updated/new parts, including I believe a crew figure.



ICM is releasing an A-26C-15 Invader based on last year's new-tool A-26B. New parts include the clear nose of the A-26C. Three markings options are provided.



ICM is also e-releasing its He 111H-3 in Romanian AF markings with some new parts.



Kinetic has announced an RQ-4B Global Hawk drone. One source suggests this may be a re-release of the 2011 kit from Skunk Model Workshop.







Zvezda has announced a new-tool Mi-24V/VP Hind attack helicopter.



**1/72 Scale:**

Eduard is releasing a Profipack version of their Fokker D.VII [Alb], a new-parts edition of a 2019 kit.



Eduard is also re-releasing a VBS Kunkadlo, an ultralite aircraft only one of which was ever built – a rare bird indeed.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their 1982 A-10C Thunderbolt II in 355 FW D-Day commemorative Markings.



Hasegawa is also releasing a two-fer combo kit of the D.520 and Bf 109E in 'Battle of France' markings.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their EA-6B Prowler in 'VMAQ-2 Last Prowler' markings. This is the first re-pop of this kit in several years, so it is a good thing.







Hasegawa is reboxing their Su-35 with new parts to allow construction of a UAV (drone) variant. So, although not strictly a new kit, you can build a previously-unavailable variant.



Modelsvit is re-releasing their 2018 Mirage 4000 in Prototype markings, with new parts. From the box art, those appear to be a selection of external stores.



### 1/100th Scale:

Atlantis is releasing the vintage Monogram PBY-5A Catalina.



### 1/144th Scale:

Airfix is re-releasing their aging Concorde Prototype in BOAC markings.



Eduard is re-releasing their MiG-21bis with several new decal options.







Last up, Hasegawa is re-releasing their YS-11 1 Prototype kit with markings for prototype 1 and 2.



## Shipping News

By Rick Helvington

Slim pickings for new releases this month.

Let's start off with 1/700th scale.

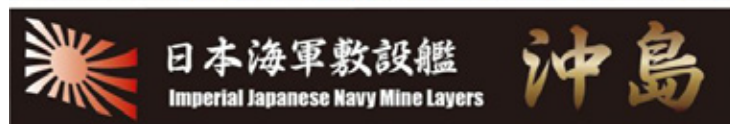
Aoshima has a couple of new Royal Navy releases. The first is J-class destroyer HMS Jervis.



Aoshima continues their quest to release every Royal Navy cruiser sunk by Japanese aircraft with the release of HMS Cornwall. HMS Cornwall was sunk with HMS Dorsetshire by Japanese carrier borne aircraft southwest of Ceylon.



Fujimi is releasing the mine layer Okinoshima. The kit includes a brass name plate for the ship.



Hasegawa is releasing the JMSDF escort carrier Kaga.



Pit Road is releasing the JMSDF DD-110 Takanami. The kit includes a photo etch fret for the superstructure masts.







Moving on to 1/350th scale Trumpeter has two new releases. The first is the Austro Hungarian battleship SMS Virbius Unitis. Virbius Unitis was sunk by Italian frogmen after she had been transferred to the allies during WW1.



Next up from Trumpeter is the USS New York (LPD-21). USS New York is a Landing Ship Dock that includes steel from the twin towers in her construction.



Last up from Academy is the RMS Olympic. Olympic was a sister ship to the Titanic. She had a long career and even served as a troop ship in WW1.



That's it for this month. Grab a kit from that stash, put on some Sergio Mendez and get building!

## Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Let's start with the small stuff this month.

Some great releases in 1/72nd coming up. Zvesda is up first with two releases. The first is a modern Russian MBT the T-90MS.



Zvesda also has a WW2 release. This one's a T-28 Soviet medium tank.







Dragon has Pzkwfw 4 Ausf H coming up.



Galaxy Hobby, a company I'm not familiar with is releasing an M1224A1 MaxxPro MEAP. MEAP means Mine Resistant Armor Protected Expedient Armor Protection. The kit comes in several versions depending on which accessories you want to pay extra for.



1/35th scale is up next. Looks like the coming months are going to be good for armor builders.

Dragon is releasing yet another Pzkwfw 3 Ausf N. This one includes markings for a unit in Tunisia circa 42/43.



Border models is releasing a Pzkwfw 4 Ausf F.



**Scientists: The coronavirus is transmitted via human interaction**

**SCALE MODEL MAKERS:**







Amusing Hobby..The laughing boys at Amusing Hobby are releasing a British FV4005 self-propelled gun. This was a 50's era development by the Brits and was based on the Centurion chassis and mounted a 183 mm gun.



Pit-Road is releasing an IJA Type 97 motorcycle Rikuo



ICM is releasing a RNAS (Royal Naval Air Service) Model-T Armored Car. Circa WW1.



Takom has two releases coming up. The first is a Sturmgeschutz Ausf G Early production. Hopefully Takom will knock our socks off with this release as there are plenty of good kits depicting this version of Stug.



Takom's second release is a cold war warrior, the M60A1.



Next up is Trumpeter with two new releases also. The first is a biggy. This is a Russian tank transporter MAZ-7410 with CHMZAP 5247-G trailer. This is a real shelf-buster. At last...something to display that T-80 on.







Speaking of T-80's Trumpeter is releasing a T-80UE.



Last up is Rye Field Models. The Challenger 2 TES (Megatron) has finally hit distributors. If you want one King's has it in stock for you.



That's all the news that's fit to print for this month. Grab a kit out of that stash and be ready for Nat's when it rolls around. Auf Wiedersehen.

## It Figures

By Michael Lamm

Hello fellow modelers! I hope this issue of It Figures finds you well, and healthy, and properly distanced from other regular-sized people, as we stay home and stay safe. Let's make some lemonade out of these lemons and improve our figure painting skills, and here are some great opportunities to get started!

<https://blackarmymodells.com/>

First up, some nice resin 1/72nd German tankers in winter dress. These guys look pretty nice in a scale that's not that easy to find good figures. They're dressed in a mix of uniforms and coveralls, and each is wearing their fur-lined winter hats. They're posed in relatively relaxed poses and would go well with most German armored vehicles due to their generic nature.

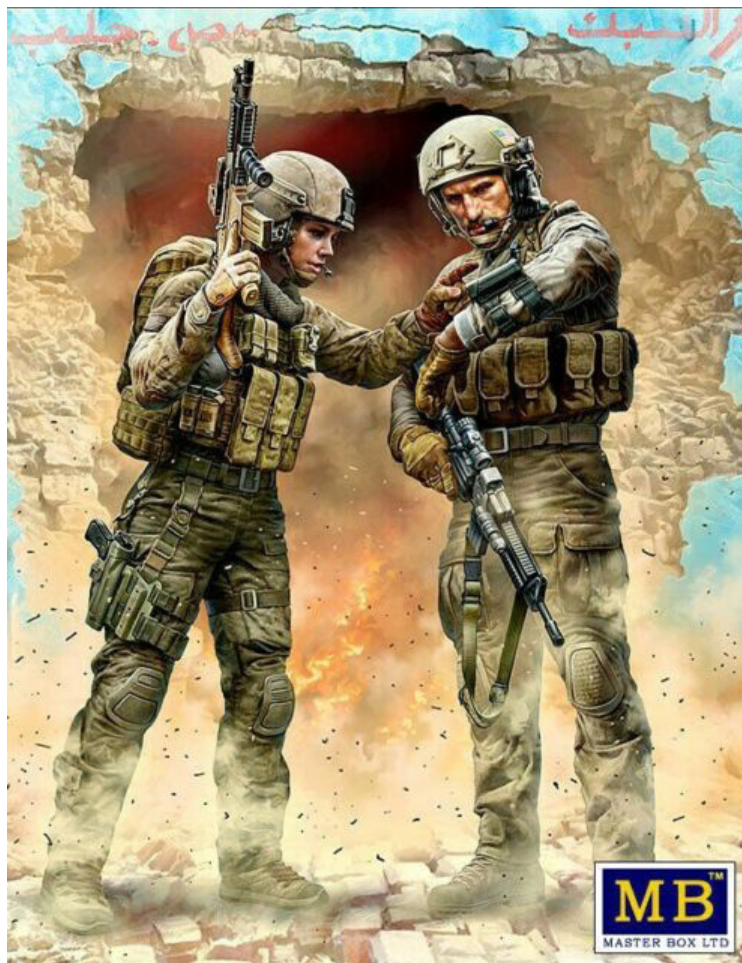






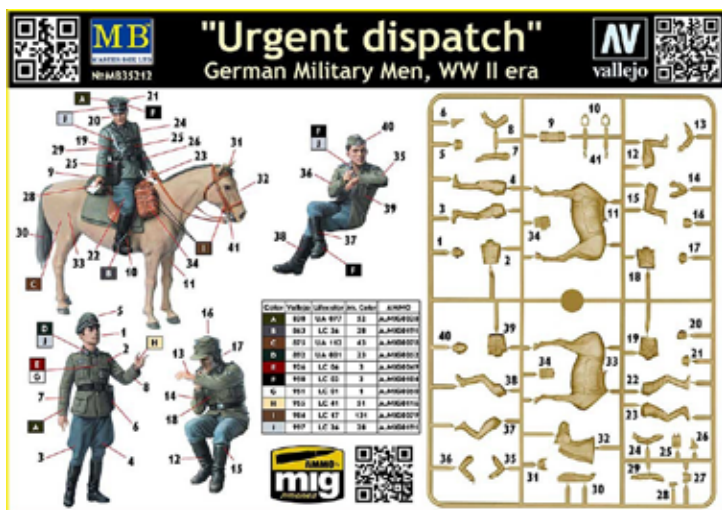
<http://www.mbltd.info/>

Masterbox has a couple nice sets of plastic figures coming out too. First up is a pair of 1/24 modern infantry soldiers. Typical of Masterbox, their figures are normally packaged in a setting. This one is called "Our route has been changed", and has two soldiers consulting a wrist mounted GPS/map pouch. One soldier is a female, which is nice to see for a modern look to the pair, and both are armed and wearing modern gear.





Next is a set of four German figures, and a horse, in a scene called "Urgent dispatch". It comes with each figure in a realistic and different pose, this set of 1/35 figures will be super useful. Obviously intended to go with a model kit of a German reconnaissance vehicle, the figures include an officer receiving a dispatch from a horse-mounted rider, while one figure works a radio and another sits by watching the exchange.



Masterbox figures come with their assembly and painting instructions on the back of their side-opening box, and these two sets are no different.

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

Now for a set of figures I'm really excited about. Lately, Tamiya has been updating their line of figure models, with the latest addition to their new figures being the German Infantry Set (Mid-WWII). This box is an obvious replacement for their old set of the similar name, and comes with figures in similar poses, thankfully minus the ubiquitous officer looking thru spy glasses. The set comes with 5 figures in static resting poses, which are so much easier to add to a realistic looking scene than the guys firing their weapons, or firing from a prone position.

One figure even includes a bit of rubble that he has a foot up on! Be still my heart!

Seriously, these guys look awesome. Their gear comes separate with attachment points for, in typical Tamiya fashion, easy assembly. Of course, if you want to pose a figure without all the gear, or with different stuff than what is provided in the box, it's going to take some work, but these improvements will make assembling realistic gear much easier. Their clothing has detailed and realistic folds, wrinkles and gear straps.







These are really some of the best looking plastic figures in 1/35 scale, and are a welcome addition. Now, I just hope they update their American, British and Russian infantry sets.

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

Last up, is Miniart's latest addition to their recent releases of civilians from the 30s and 40s. This time a set of French civilians. The set includes some stereotypical "French" figures, including a Gendarme, and a baker with a basket of breads. There's also a middle-aged fellow and an elderly one. Rounding out the set is something you don't see too often, a priest. Anyway, these guys would make excellent additions to any street scene from the period. Miniart appears to have updated their hand sculptor because the hands on these models look pretty well defined, instead of some of the blobish looking hands we've seen in the past.

If you don't want to add them to a diorama, you can always use them to illustrate your favorite nursery rhyme with a Butcher, a Baker, a Candlestick Maker!



Last up from Masterbox is a set of post-apocalyptic figures. This group is part of their Skull Clan series. This is similar to one of Masterbox's previous releases which included zombies. This set seems to illustrate the fate of an unfortunate traveler who has been captured by the clan.





Anyway, that's all for now! Build a figure, stay safe, and Rub-a-Dub-Dub!

### Finishing projects

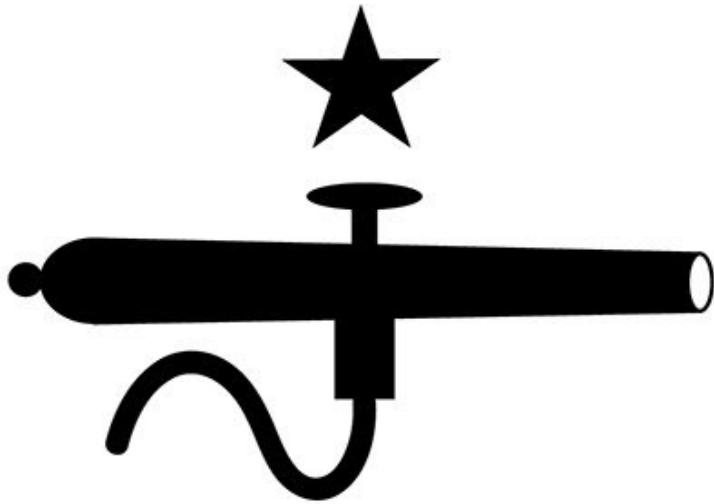
### Abandoning projects

### Starting a new project before finishing the

### Continuously coming up with new ideas without doing anything







**COME AND MAKE IT**  
IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
**SAN MARCOS, TEXAS**  
JUL 29 - AUG 1, 2020

## Convention Update -May 2020

The IPMS/USA Executive Board and the 2020 National Convention Planning Committee are still moving forward with planning and on-time execution of the 2020 convention. We are well aware of the plethora of challenges ahead of us in the next 90 days. There are many more unknowns than "knowns" at the moment. However, with the facts on-hand we feel the convention can still be held. The #1 consideration in planning is the health and well-being of all of our members. Some of you have reached out to me stating that since you are in a high-risk age or health group you are not willing to risk being exposed to COVID-19. We fully understand this and agree that if you are in a high-risk category, we feel that you are probably better off not coming even if all restrictions are lifted by late July. I have read many opinions on public forums over the past several weeks regarding the status of this summer's convention.

As a convention planner, the biggest item I pay attention to is the contract that IPMS/USA committed to with the hosting hotel, Embassy Suites, and their parent company, Atrium Hospitality. These contracts are generally written in favor of the hotel, i.e., the financial burden is on the guest (IPMS/USA) to produce the numbers expected for the hotel to make a profit. We could have balked at the contract when it was presented in 2018 but then the week we picked would have went to the next organization looking to host a convention. In other words, we have to play by the hospitality industry's rules. If IPMS/USA were to back out of the contract without cause the financial burden on our society would be very substantial. Luckily, Embassy Suites in San Marcos is fully aware of the current COVID-19 situation - and in fact they are taking it in the shorts like all other hotels around the country - and have verbally agreed to work with us to execute a successful convention regardless of the contract language. This is good news for IPMS/USA. I am committed to working with Embassy Suites since they have been so good in working with us during the past couple of years to make our show a success.

The biggest wild card that both the General Manager (of Embassy Suites) and I see at the moment are government-imposed restrictions on crowd sizes and public gatherings. This is the biggest factor we are keeping an eye on and is what will eventually dictate if we are FORCED to cancel. If there are public gathering restrictions or reductions in maximum occupancy rules in the local city and county, we will assess if we can still execute a convention based on the details of potential restrictions. **AS OF RIGHT NOW THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS EXTENDING TO THE DATES OF THE CONVENTION.**



There may be many opinions and conjecture regarding restrictions in-place during the convention but as of today, they remain conjecture. I am not planning a convention based on conjecture and opinion...only facts.

A lot of what the committee will plan in the coming months will be based on the numbers we see for pre-registrations and other convention related purchases. If we see low numbers - like we are seeing so far - we will scale back what we are spending money on. I have no more details on this other than we are looking at options that may produce a smaller-size convention than others in the past. It pains me to plan this way because I think I am the most excited IPMS member regarding this convention but I have to face the reality of what is happening in the world today. It's not fair but it is happening. We will deal with it.

Refunds: If you have spent money so far or if you want to spend money registering in the short-term be assured that IPMS/USA will refund any money if we are FORCED to cancel due to the public gathering restrictions I mention above. Unfortunately, there remain many more questions than we have answers for at the moment. I wish I had a crystal ball that could tell me/us exactly what the conditions on the ground will be this summer...but I don't...the team has to plan with the best information it has at the moment. This is what we will do.

I stand by to answer any questions any one of our members have regarding the 2020 convention. Please e-mail me at: [director.nats2020@gmail.com](mailto:director.nats2020@gmail.com)

Best Regards

Len Pilhofer - IPMS# 49932  
Director, IPMS/USA National Convention 2020

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

David Lockhart  
IPMS/USA  
Director of Local Chapters  
678-620-8417  
[dlock3155@gmail.com](mailto:dlock3155@gmail.com)







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Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our

World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

Visit us at: <http://www.ipmsusa.org/>

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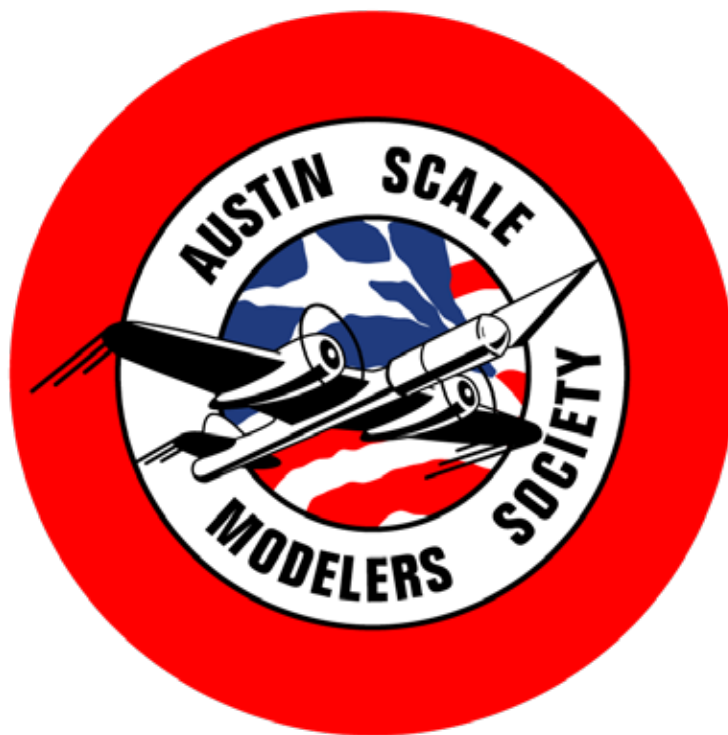
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