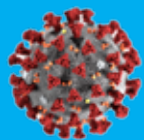


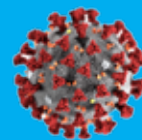
# ASMS



# SPRUE EXAMINER



**Life in the time of Covid-19  
The Social Distancing Issue**



**Avro Lancaster B Mk.I**  
**Nose Art Kit**

**1/32 SCALE**  
01E033

Ben Morton does a build review of HK's 1/32 Lancaster Nose Art kit.

**20 x 68 mm**  
**HK MODELS**

**S**

**Avro Lancaster**

Ziggy Bumgardner digs into Bandai's Gundam Unicorn Perfectibility



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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)



# PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Hola Compadres,

Welcome to September!

That was one heck of a summer, and I'm looking forward to some cooler air. Maybe some of us can get back into the garage for some painting without worrying about your model melting.

Cooler weather often means it's time to leave your den and venture forth to enjoy the wilds of Austin. Normally. This year I'm just opening the window and continuing with the builds. Between the ongoing pandemic and the upcoming flu season, I think I'm just going to do my best to whittle down the piles of boxes I have laying around. Looking at the collapsing towers, I think it was probably a good thing to have a year off from model shows. I know my bank account is happy I did.

The latest IPMS Journal has a plethora of articles backing up the decision for canceling the 2020 Nationals. I'm proud of our leadership and their well-reasoned conclusions. I would also like to praise Len Pilhofer for his efforts and leadership in negotiating the hurdles. There is no way he could have foreseen the complications this year would hold and he certainly rose to the challenge. Next time you see him, be sure to acknowledge your appreciation, or maybe just buy him a drink.

On a more somber note, in a normal year we would be gathering to put the award plaques together and gearing up for another rockin' Capitol Classic. There will certainly be a hole in the beginning of October this year. Let's all take a minute to bow our heads in remembrance of past shows and in hopes of future ones.

Build on.  
- Ian

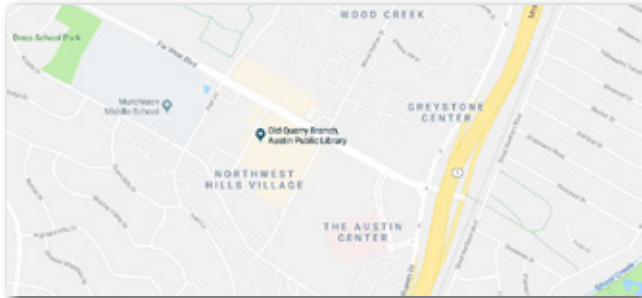




# HOUSE CLEANING



## 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 Necessary!**



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### Events

**Austin 2020 Capitol Classic  
Cancelled due to Covid-19**

### ***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  
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### Club Quarterly Contests

Meetings  
Suspended

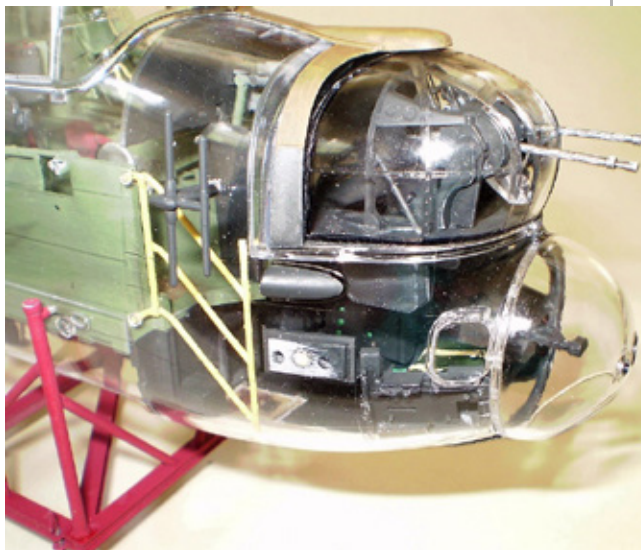
### Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings  
Suspended



# Avro Lancaster B Mk 1 Nose Art Kit

By Ben Morton



Somewhat of a trend in the hobby industry of late has been certain manufacturers releasing detailed, stand-alone models of ship components. Fujimi has a 1/200th scale kit of a main gun turret from the Yamato battleship, Meng has released two 1/35th scale kits of Russian Naval vessel armaments: a 130mm gun turret and the Kasteen Close-In Weapons System.

While naval armaments are fine, what if your modeling interests are aircraft? What's a 'poor boy' to do? Fear not gentle reader, HK Models has come to the rescue.

HK Models is releasing a complete kit of the nose section from their 1/32nd scale Avro Lancaster. This 'Nose Art' kit features all the bits from the full size model, leaving you with a detailed, stand-alone replica of the Lancaster's pilot, bomb aimer/forward gunner, flight engineer, navigator and radio operator positions. (The other two crew members sat in the mid and aft sections of the fuselage.)

Don't concern yourself with not being able to see all the detail when you're finished. HK Models has provided the right fuselage side in clear plastic that will allow for a see-through model of this kit. Additionally, there is a cradle/construction dolly included to appropriately show off your 'Nose Art'.

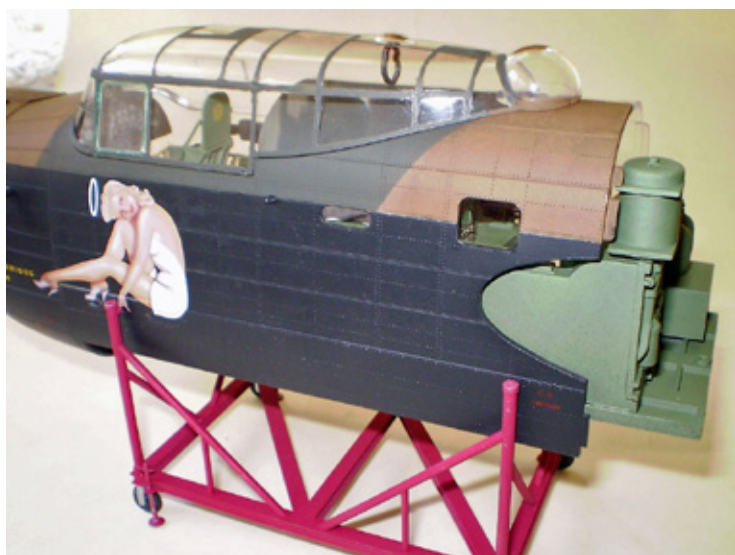
Per Wikipedia: "The standard crew for a Lancaster consisted of seven men, stationed in various positions in the fuselage. Starting at the nose, the bomb aimer had two positions to man. His primary location was lying prone on the floor of the nose of the aircraft, with access to the bomb sight controls facing forward, with the Mark XIV bomb sight on his left and bomb release selectors on the right. He also used his view out of the large transparent perspex nose cupola to assist the navigator with map reading. To man the Frazer Nash FN5 nose turret, he stood up placing himself in position behind the triggers of the twin .303 in (7.7 mm) guns.

On the roof of the bomb bay the pilot and flight engineer sat side by side under the expansive canopy, with the pilot sitting on the left on a raised portion of the floor. The flight engineer sat on a collapsible seat (known as a "second dickey seat") to the pilot's right, with the fuel selectors and gauges on a panel behind him and to his right.

Behind the pilot and flight engineer, and behind a curtain fitted to allow him to use light to work, sat the navigator. His position faced to port with a chart table in front of him. An instrument panel showing the airspeed, altitude, and other information required for navigation was mounted on the side of the fuselage above the chart table.



The wireless operator's radios were mounted on the left-hand end of the chart table, facing the rear of the aircraft. Behind these and facing forwards the wireless operator sat on a seat at the front of the main spar. On his left was a window, and above him was the astrodome, used for visual signaling and by the navigator for celestial navigation."



Assembly begins with the cockpit.

Oh wait! This is a kit of a cockpit so where else would one begin?...

There are 171 kit parts in the box which includes a small fret of photo etch (seat belts, air scopes, etc.) and all the clear bits (canopy, windows and such) plus the afore-mentioned fuselage side panel.

Just to shake things up, I began with the last set of steps and built the construction dolly first. This cradle was used to move the completed, forward fuselage about in the factory. This is a fairly simple construction project although the assembly instructions did get some of the part numbers wrong. (The dolly wheels should be part # 9 and the casters should be part # 7). If you wish to use the dolly to display your 'Nose Art' kit you will need to drill out a few holes in the fuselage sides but that is clearly marked in the assembly instructions.

HK Models doesn't designate a particular color for this cradle and a brief search of the internet didn't reveal much in the way of color photos.

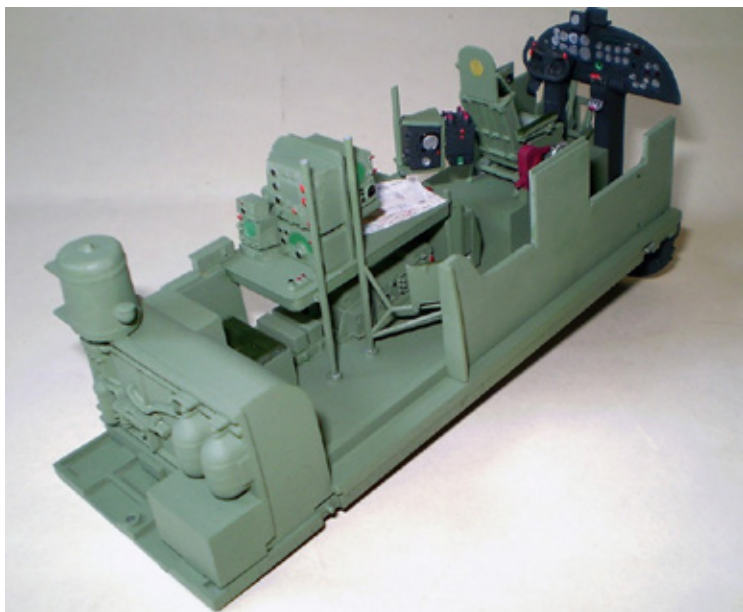


I did manage to find an image of some red/ white scaffolding used in the final assemble stage of the Lancaster, so I went with an overall reddish shade. These things were probably banged around a lot in the factory, so a weathered or well used look might be appropriate.

Now it's on to the actual cockpit and that begins with the pilot seat. But before you dive into building, pay careful attention to the assembly instructions. Make careful note of what needs to be removed and what needs to stay on specific parts. HK Models lists color call outs for the various parts throughout assembly. A handy color guide is included which matches paints from AK Interactive, Tamiya, and Gunze/Mr. Hobby for the 'pacific' color.

The pilot's seat is comprised of fourteen parts (some of which are very delicate) including photo-etched seat belts. Of note is the seat headrest. This armored headrest was hinged and can be modeled folded down behind the seat. The assembly instructions show a large yellow circle painted on the headrest. Allegedly this was gas sensitive paint that would alert crewman to the presence of unhealthy agents. But I like another explanation better. The Lancaster only had the one pilot and this spot was the optional place to whack the seat to awaken the pilot when they dozed off.

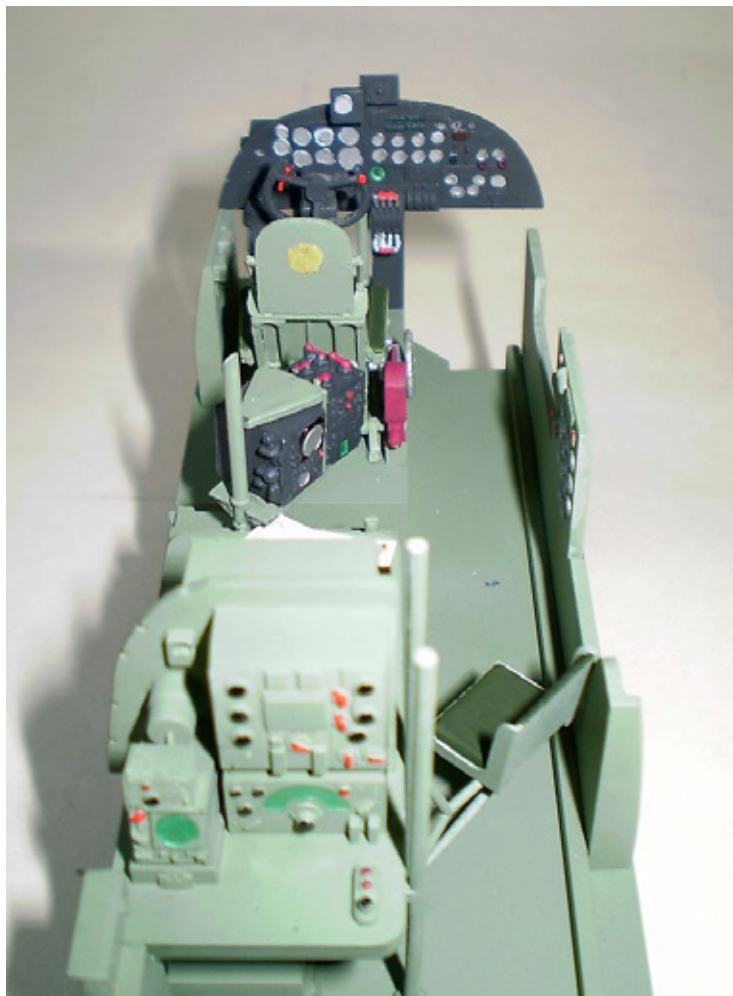
Various components for the bomb aimer, wireless operator, and navigator stations come next as well as some additional detail components for the pilot (rudder pedals, control column, etc.). There are seven parts for the pilot's forward forward instrument panel but, sadly, no decals



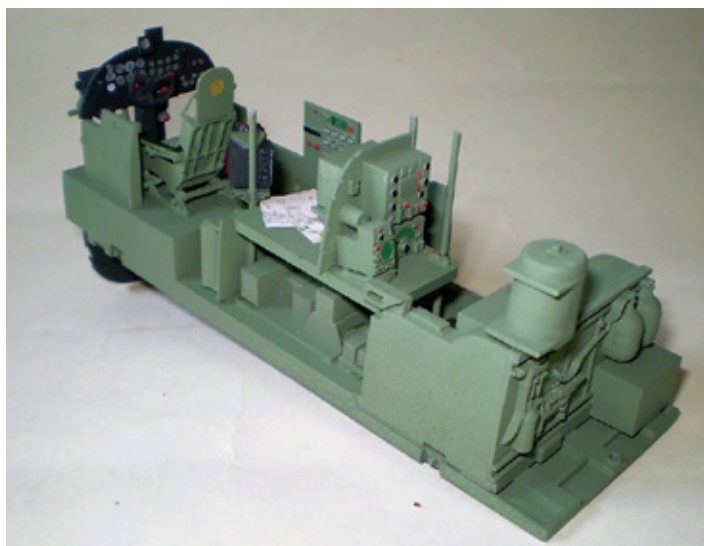
for the instruments. [Shameless Plug: Both Eduard (cockpit details, seat belts, canopy masks) and Airescale (instrument panels) have after-market bits to enhance this area.] I went with 'hand painting' the instrument dials with a silver Sharpie and a toothpick to apply assorted colors to the other instruments. All of these sub-assemblies as well as side walls and additional detail bits get attached to the cockpit floor which is actually the roof of the forward bomb bay. Which gives a whole new meaning to "being on the hot seat"!

There are a number of ejector pin marks on the backside of the instrument panel, bomb bay bulkhead, wireless operators panel and a cockpit side panel (one with the flight engineers instruments molded onto it). That side panel (part # P 1) may be the problematic one as the rear side will be visible through the clear fuselage. Speaking of that clear fuselage side, HK Models has embossed it with their logo and the part number. If you remove those, get out the polishing compound as that removal might leave a mark.

Another aspect of using the clear fuselage side that may present a challenge are the number of parts ( fuse/ instrument panels, etc.) that are added to the inside of the forward fuselage side for the bomb aimer station. One challenge of note are the attachment points on the clear fuselage side. Those attachment points seemed a bit vague. What isn't so vague is the need to paint most of these parts before you attach them to the clear fuselage.



The inside of both fuselage sides have excellent molded detail to which all those previously mentioned extra bits ( fuse panels , controls, etc. ) get added. HK Models even gives you alternative, photo etch bit (mounting bracket) for one of the bomb aimers aiming devices.





Next on the assembly agenda is the twenty-two part forward gun turret. The gun barrels are designed to be added later should you wish to avoid the possibility of knocking them off as you continue your 'Nose Art' model. [Shameless Plug: Master Models has brass, replacement barrels for this kit. (#supportthegnomes.)] This step is the first use of the excellent, clear parts for this kit. Due to the size of this kit you may wish to give some thought to painting the inner canopy framing as you progress through your build. A black Sharpie might ease this task.

Do be careful removing all the clear parts from the sprues, I didn't and wound up with some laborious polishing to remove the sprue attachment points from some of the clear parts.

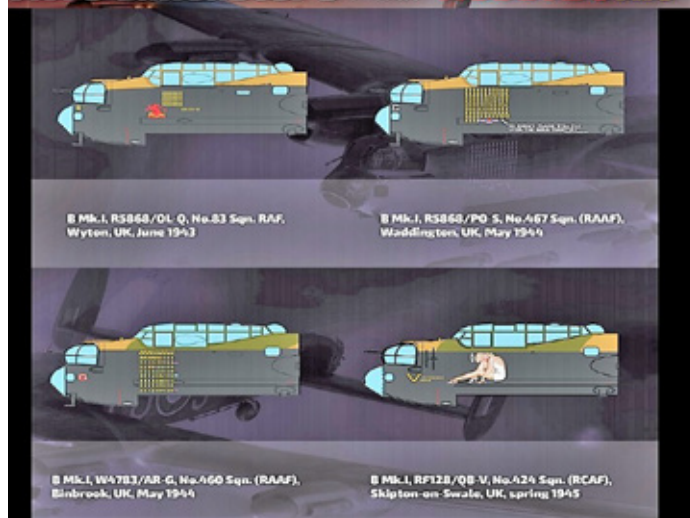


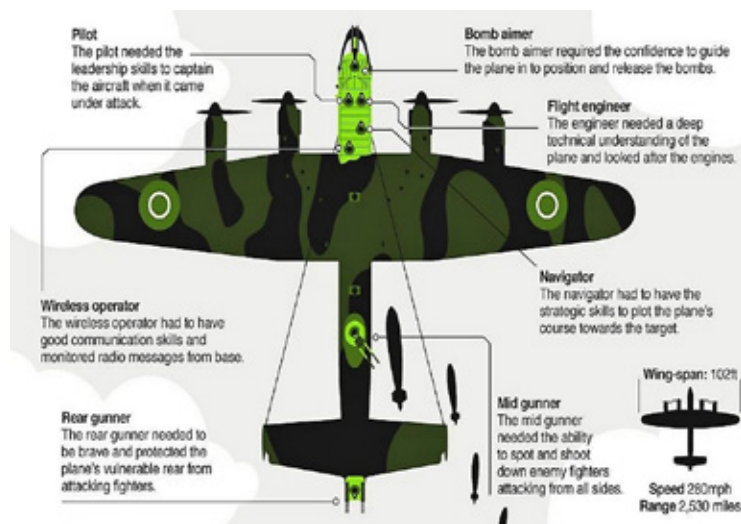
The interior assembly gets sandwiched between the two fuselage halves. Remember you have the choice of either a clear side panel or the traditional (non- see through of course) plastic part. Pitot tubes, cooling vents and some other bits are the last things added to the outer fuselage. I added some maps to the navigator's station just for grins. If you look closely you can just make out the Port of Calais.

HK Models provides marking options for four different aircraft: one from the RAF, two RAAF (Australian) and one Canadian bird (the option I choose). As you only apply decals to just one side, this task is pretty quick and simple. The decals settled down beautifully. Having previously drilled out some mounting holes in the fuselage panels, the 'Nose Art' model gets placed in the transport trolley/shop cradle. The only thing left to do is sit back and admire your handy work.



### Avro Lancaster B Mk.I Nose Art Kit

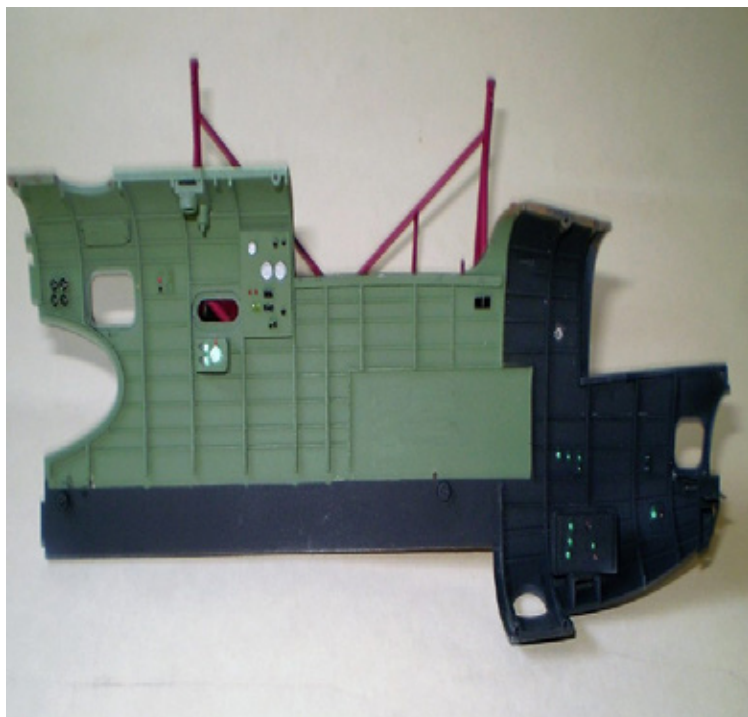
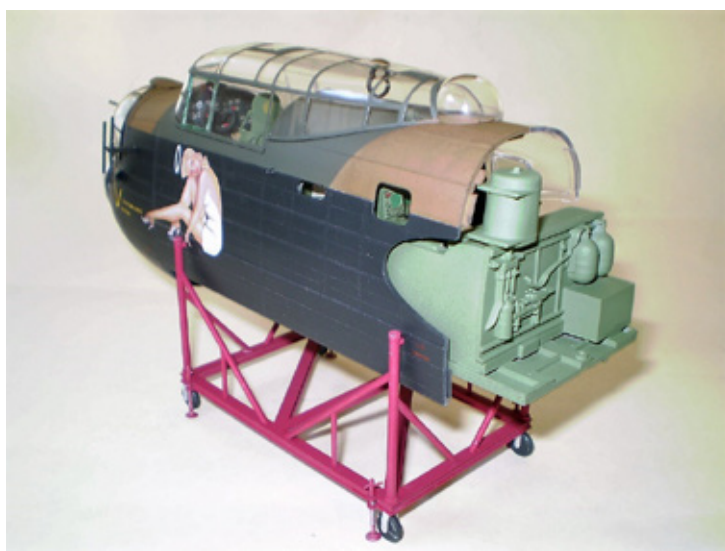
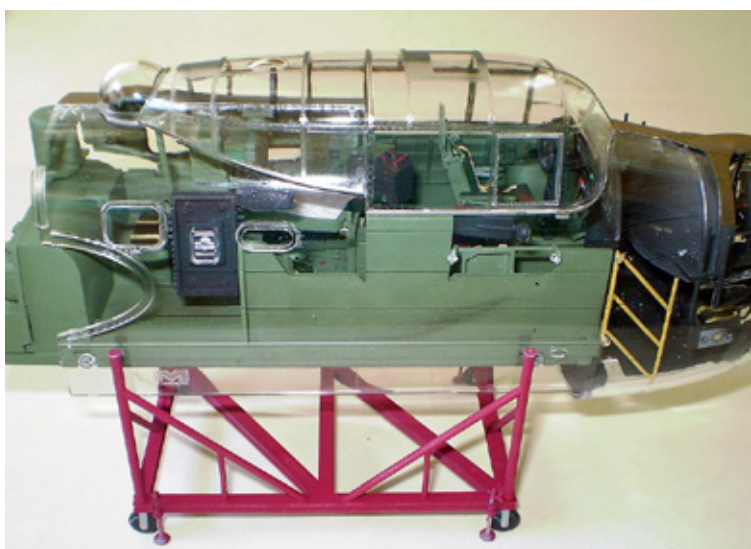




The Avro Lancaster B Mk.I 'Nose Art' Kit from HK Models is a neat, easy to build, space saving model of the business end of that iconic British bomber. For the avid (or rabid) detailer out there, there are ample opportunities to add a plethora of extra bits (wiring, control cables, etc). And the fun part about detailing this kit is that it isn't the entire aircraft. Not only does this offering save space, it will be a real time saver as well. Just be sure to give this impressive kit a place of honor in your display space of choice.

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

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# THE BEAST OF POSSIBILITY: RX-0 UNICORN GUNDAM PERFECTIBILITY

*"It's only you that can fly this new unicorn into the sky"*

BY ZIGGY DOWNS-BUMGARDNER



## The Beasts of Possibility-

The RX-0 line was originally proposed to the Earth Federation by the Vist foundation, an art trading company for Earth along with one of Anaheim Electronics' biggest stock holders. With the oversight of Anaheim, the production of the RX-0 was greenlit.

Under the guise of being for the "UC project" (a reorganization attempt by the Federation to incorporate Psycho-Frame into mobile suits after Char's rebellion and the Axis shock that took place in U.C. 0093), the Vist Foundation heavily oversaw its production.



The true intention of the RX-0 line was to produce a vessel to hold the coordinates of Laplace's Box, a relic from the beginning of the Universal Century over a hundred years prior. Three units were produced in the line, the RX-0 Unicorn Gundam, the RX-02 Banshee, and the RX-03 Phenex. They were all Gundam type machines with Psycho-Frame incorporated throughout the body.

Since Gundam type MS held great meaning to those of the Universal Century, to conceal what they really were, the Vist Foundation and Anaheim created code names for the MS: The White Unicorn, for the suit's white color and single horn. The Black Lion, for the golden color around the neck and the black color. And finally the Golden Phoenix, for its golden color and the 2 Armed Armor DEs mounted on its back, resembling wings (all 3 also known as the Beasts of Possibility).

In order to choose which unit would house the coordinates, special test flights were done when the Machines were completed in late U.C.0095. However, a run in with Neo Zeon remnants turned a test flight into a battle. The Phenex and Banshee were deployed, going up against an AMX-107R ReBawoo with Psycho-Frame incorporated into the cockpit and torso. However, after the Psycho-Frames of the Banshee and the ReBawoo resonated, it created a resonance field, causing the Phenex's to react, turning the unit uncontrollable and leading it to go berserk. The Phenex attacked the Banshee, severely damaging it as the Phenex flew out into space, disappearing, not to be seen till 2 years later in U.C.0097. After that, the only remaining unit that wasn't damaged was the Unicorn Gundam, which soon had the La+ program installed.

Later, in U.C.0096, when Neo Zeon remnants enter the colony "Industrial 7" to make a deal with the Vist Foundation to try and procure Laplace's Box, a fight breaks out inside the colony. The Londo Bell ship "Nahel Argama", refurbished after the Gryps war (U.C.0087-0088), had been pursuing the Neo Zeon ship that had been disguised as a cargo freighter. The Nahel Argama had launched several RGZ-95 ReZel units and RGM-89 Jegan's to combat whatever mobile suits the remnants had. When conflict between the Federation suits and Neo Zeon's NZ-666 Kshatriya, the colony goes into a panic.

Before the fighting, Banagher Links, the "illegitimate" son of Cardious Vist (Current head of the Vist Foundation), ran into a girl named Audrey. Helping her to find the Vist mansion at the far end of the colony behind the construction block. When the fighting lets out, Banagher heads off to try and find Audrey, who soon after is revealed to be Mineva Zabi, the heir to the Zabi family which started the One Year War 17 years prior.



While looking for Mineva, he stumbles into a hangar with a white mobile suit with a singular horn. As he floats to the cockpit, he sees Cardious messing with some of the components of the suit. When confronting Cardious about this, Banagher learns of his family, how his mother took him away to avoid the Vist Foundation's "Newtype Testing". Cardious set the biometric scanner to Banagher, so that the Unicorn only works when he's in the cockpit. The fight inside the colony damages the construction block, causing a large explosion that kills Cardious. Soon after Banagher launched forward inside the Unicorn Gundam. Minutes after confronting the NZ-666 Kshatriya, the Unicorn Gundam emits a crimson glow, initiating the NT-D system and transforming it into its more Gundam like appearance. Afterwards, Banagher and the Unicorn are taken aboard the Nahel Argama, becoming a member of the crew trying to find Laplace's box before Neo Zeon. After a long journey, they finally find where Laplace's box is hidden. Fitting the Unicorn in its "Full Armor" by attaching 2 more shields to the suit along with several super missile launchers.

However, a plan B for the Full Armor Unicorn was also proposed. It attached the twin Armed Armor DEs from the Phenex, along with the Armed Armor XC, Armed Armor VN, Armed Armor BS from the Banshee and Armed Armor HJ. When all the Psycho-Frames from all 6 of the Armed Armors resonated with the Unicorn, it caused the Unicorn's Psycho-Frame to glow a bright blue. This version of the Full Armor was dubbed "Perfectibility", given how it combined all versions of the RX-O into one machine. Another idea dubbed "Perfectibility Divine" was proposed, where they both combined the initial Full Armor and Perfectibility designs. However this idea never came to fruition.





### Perfectibility-

The RX-0 Unicorn Gundam Perfectibility is a combination of all 3 RX-0 units made for the Gundam Base Tokyo reveal of the 1/1 life size Unicorn Gundam statue for Diver City in Odaiba. It debuted in an alternate version of the final battle between Banagher Links in the Unicorn Gundam and Full Frontal in his MSN-06s Sinanju and NZ-999 Neo Zeong. All versions of the Perfectibility are Gundam Base Limited kits, whether they're HG, MG, or RG (There is currently no Perfect Grade Perfectibility, though I wouldn't doubt Bandai cooking one up in the near future). Much like P-Bandai, GBL kits can only be easily purchased in Japan, especially Odaiba, where the Unicorn statue currently stands.

Purchasing them outside of Japan will most likely pull a large chunk out of your wallet if you buy anything more than a HG kit. If you manage to get your hands on a GBL kit, you should consider yourself lucky. Those kits sell out very fast and are resold for a very pretty penny. Newtype-HQ carries

The MG Perfectibility for about \$200, which, counting in the fact it's a limited run kit and a Japan exclusive, is a decent price. Whether it's in stock or not is a different matter altogether. However I'm sure Kings could track down either the MG, RG, or HG Perfectibility kits if you really wanted to have one.



### Warning about the MG Unicorn-

With the exception of the MGEX Unicorn (more or less a 2.0) coming out later this year, the MG Unicorn kits are... really all hit or miss. I have built 4 MG Unicorns (including the Perfectibility), and only 2 of the 4 have really held up, those being the MG (Master Grade) Banshee Ver.Ka, and the Perfectibility. Sometimes you get lucky and the kit is solid in both Unicorn mode and Destroy mode. Sometimes it's just a floppy mess that has loose joints that makes you want to throw it across a room and burn it.

The one thing that is consistent throughout every MG Unicorn, whether it's a solid one or a loose one, is that the ankles are horrible. The ankles, out of the box with no modifications, are 100% without a doubt going to be loose, and I'll get into that later on in more detail, but this is just a warning for anyone wanting the MG Unicorn, of any version (Banshee, Unicorn, Phenex, etc), it's basically a crapshoot on if you get a solid one or not. If you're dead set on getting a Unicorn and you're new to gunpla, I recommend the High Grade or RG Unicorns.



### The Model-

The Master Grade Unicorn Gundam Perfectibility was one of my dream kits. It was something that I always saw people online have, who somehow have enough money to buy like 5 \$200 kits and 1 \$800 kit and still be able to live. On my birthday this year, one of my older sisters got this for me, which really surprised me. In my head this was a kit I would get when I'm all grown up, have a job and take a trip to Japan, not just have it given to me when I'm 18.

Like most Master Grade kits, this had a pretty standard construction. You start with the torso, next the head, then onto the arms and legs, then the waist and finally the weapons/accessories the kit has to offer. The suit having a full 'transformation' from Unicorn mode to Destroy mode means that it has a bunch of clear parts you need to build onto the frame. In this kit's case, they're all a nice blue, which is also UV reflective, so if you had a black light and pointed it at the kit, the Psycho-Frame would look like its glowing.



The torso goes together fine, you start with the cockpit ball and build off that, adding the gray inner frame then adding on the blue Psycho-Frame parts. After that the white armor is added over that, concealing the blue. Like most of the kit, you build this in Unicorn Mode, then once you're finished with the kit, the instructions show you how to transform it. The head is the same, though there isn't any gray frame due to how the head's transformation was designed. They also give you the option for a transforming V-fin or 2 static V-fins (One in the single horn, and one in the normal Gundam V). I chose the static V-fins, because based on past experience, the transforming V-fin (While it's a neat gimmick) falls apart after a while.

One little gripe (more of just me nitpicking) is that the 2 little vents on the Gundam faceplate aren't actually holes, just dents in the face that you have to panel line. Though this mold is from 2010, so I shouldn't really have expected that much detail, even for a MG. It does have an opening cockpit hatch and a little pilot figure inside, however it's hard to see inside the cockpit due to how dark it is and the angle of the opening for the hatch.





The arms and legs were a little tedious to build.

Both have sections that, because of the transformation, you need to have in just the right position in order to have the parts fit. The reason being is because they have small locking mechanisms built in to make sure when the kit is together that it doesn't hyper extend a certain part. However, when building it, they just get in the way or are extremely loose till you have all the parts together.

They also can be annoying to transform, because when opening the panels, some like to be extra tight or extra loose.

The forearms are a good example of both. When in Unicorn mode, they're solid as a rock and almost impossible to open up easily. But when you finally get them into Destroy mode, the top section of the forearm likes to just close back up, since there's nothing really holding it up besides friction.

The hands are the old 2.0 hands from the older Gundam Seed kits and the Zeta and MK-II 2.0 kits. They have a tab in the palm of the hands that tab into a slot in the weapons that most of the time is... ok not great. The heavier the weapon the more likely it is to fall out of the hand.

The legs are more or less like the arms, only they aren't loose when transformed. They have a peg that plugs into the waist that allows them to move about 90 degrees forwards, back, and to the side before they clash with the side skirts.

The only thing bad about the legs are the ankles I mentioned earlier. In theory, the way they're designed works fine, but the second they're moved from a straight standing position, they're loose, and then they stay loose. The waist is solid, all the skirting armor are on ball joints, giving them enough movement to get clear of the legs to pull off a decent pose.

The backpack on this kit for the most part is decent. The thrusters that pull out on the sides for Destroy mode are a little loose, but if you're just careful not to nudge them they're fine. The only finicky thing on this version of the Unicorn's back is the Armed Armor XCs that create a blue "fan" behind the Unicorn's head.



Along with the 2 massive Armed Armor DEs that attach onto the backpack, they add a lot of weight onto the kit. While the kit can stand on its own without help from a stand, if it starts to fall back the weight of those shields will just bring it down. When in Unicorn mode, the twin tails on the shields act like supports for the suit. They prevent it from falling back due to the weight. However, due to the way the backpack transforms, they aren't able to become supported when the suit is in Destroy mode.

#### Armed Armors-

The Unicorn Gundam Perfectibility combines all the Armed Armors from all the other RX-O units. The twin Armed Armor DE (Defence-Extension) "wings" are taken from the RX-03 Phenex. When the NT-D is active, they can be used as shield funnels with 2 mega particle cannons set in the front of the shields.

The Armed Armor XC (Xeno-Connect) is what attaches onto what would normally be the beam sabers. It's purpose is to add Psycho-Frames to boost the Unicorn's performance in combat.

The Armed Armor BS (Beam Smart-gun) is a large weapon mounted on the right arm. Originally intended for the RX-0 Banshee, it flips over the right hand and is capable of predictive firing. The Psycho-Frames embedded into the gun also boost the performance of the weapon.



On the left arm, the Armed Armor VN (Vibro-Nails) are a close range weapon capable of slicing through enemy mobile suits. Much like the Armed Armor BS, it was originally made for the Banshee. The claws vibrate at a high frequency, allowing them to slice through metal like butter. When the claw is closed, it can also be used as a bludgeoning tool in close combat.

The Armed Armor HJ (Hyper Beam-Javelin) has two beam blades, one shaped like a spearhead and the other like an axe, attached to a long handle in a design reminiscent of a halberd. Usable as a double edged weapon, it is embedded with Psycho-Frame and is the prototype of the Armed Armor series. When not in use, it seems to be stored on the Armed Armor DE's backpack connector.

#### Unicorn mode and Destroy mode-

The MG Unicorn has a complete transformation, faithful to its on screen appearance. The only thing different is the head due to the size of the model. The chest opens up and the front flaps flip down. The shoulder vulcans swing up, revealing more Psycho-Frame. The head opens up, the Unicorn face folding into the head while the Gundam face pushes forwards. The sides of the head spin around, revealing the Psycho-Frames on the cheeks. Depending on which V-fin you use, you either open up the transforming one or you replace the static unicorn horn with the static open V.

The shoulder opens up to reveal Psycho-Frames under the armor. Panels shift open on the forearms, though those aren't really seen behind the Armed Armors BS and VN.

The backpack fans out with the Armed Armor XC, while the twin Armed Armor DEs move up higher and splay out, revealing much more blue Psycho-Frame.

Panels open up and shift down on the waist, while the back skirts open to reveal another set of thrusters. The thighs shift down, while the knees open up, along with a section just above the ankles shifting down. The feet open up slightly, gaining what looks like high heels in Destroy mode.

Unicorn mode was more or less a sea of white, the frame and backpack being the only thing to separate the colors. However, in Destroy mode, the white is accented by the clear blue peeking through the armor, creating the look of something that should feel elegant and powerful.

I personally think the Blue Psycho-Frame works much better with the Unicorn Gundam than the red and even green Psycho-Frame versions of this suit. Even when in Unicorn mode, you can see the slight blue hue the white armor takes on from the underlying blue parts.





### 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 Gundam Base Limited kit (and expensive), but I would definitely say get it if the opportunity presents itself.

You can order Gundam Base Limited kits at NewtypeHQ's online store, but I'm sure King's or any hobby shop near you can special order it if you ask.

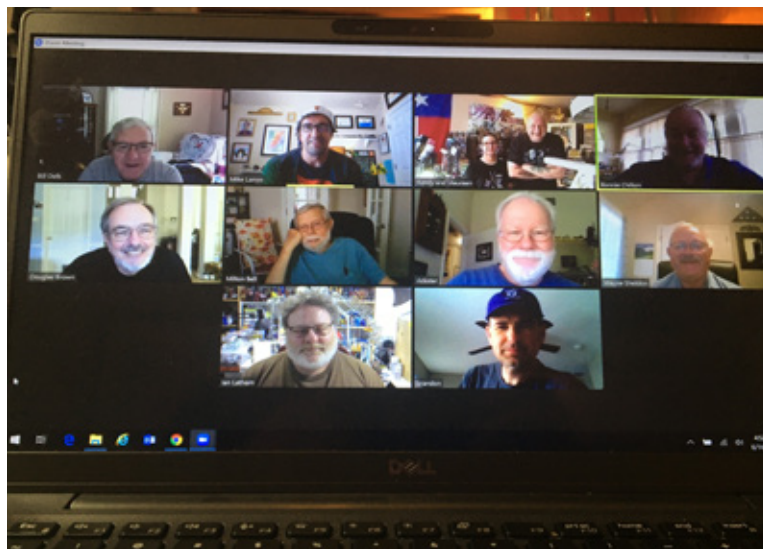
If this specific design isn't your taste, there are plenty of other Unicorn kits and Gundam Base Limited kits out there for you to choose from!

If you're just starting out in gunpla, I suggest staying away from the MG unicorn. The RG is probably a better kit to start with if you're dead set on getting a Unicorn.

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

-Ziggy

## What's Up wid You?

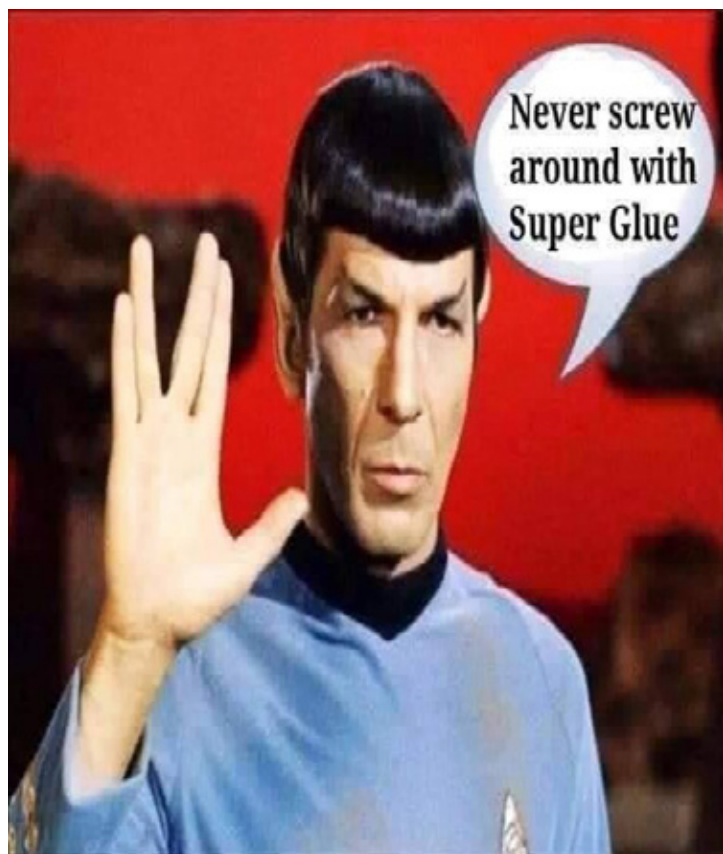


ASMS/Bill Delk sponsors an on-line ZOOM meeting with whoever wants to join us to talk about models and life. It happens almost every Sunday at 4:00.

Contact Bill Delk to have him send you a link to be able to get into the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

First of all let me thank everyone who sent in a photo of his work. It's a great way for the ASMS family to keep up with what the other members are doing.

Let's start off with Adam Coleman who we don't hear from very often. Adam has been busy with a couple of projects. The first is a Bulgarian Skoda T-11.





Second from Adam is a 1/72nd scale IBG Turan 40M.



Bob Bethea is up next with a Cowgirl Flat.



Dave Edgerly is next with an Eduard 1/72nd Hellcat.



Dave is also working on a 1/24th scale Hellcat.

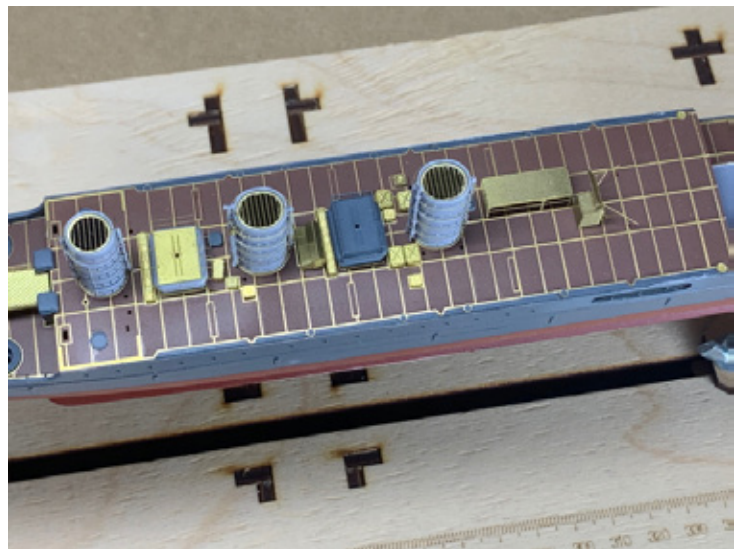
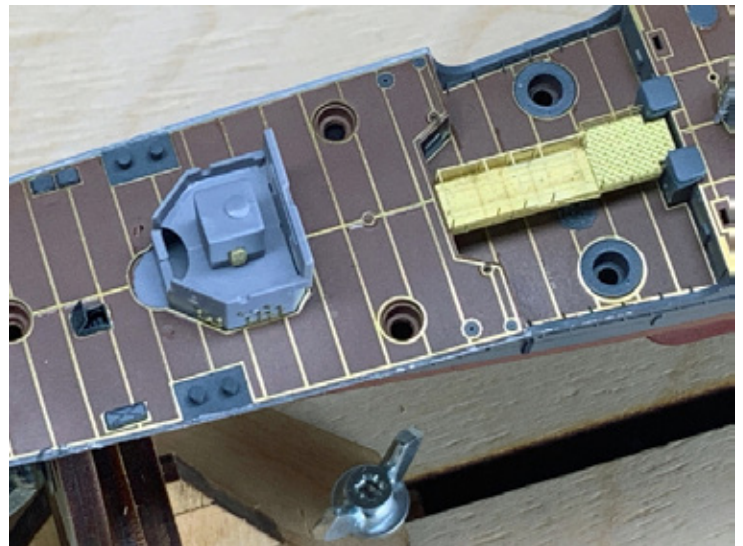


.....and has finished up his Mack B61 dump truck



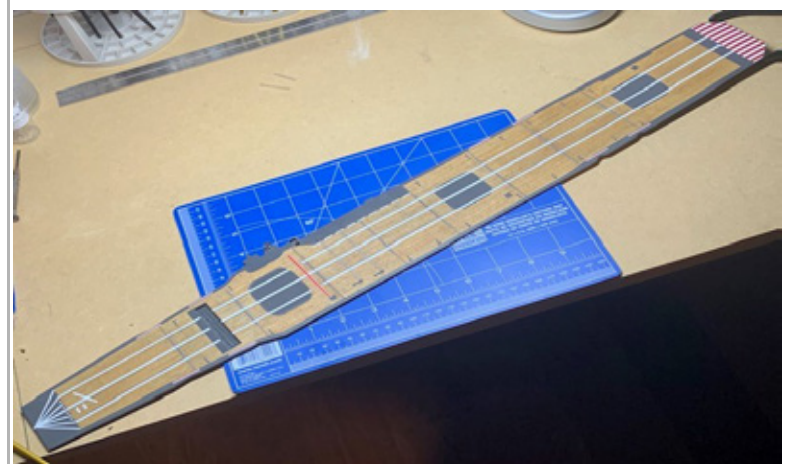
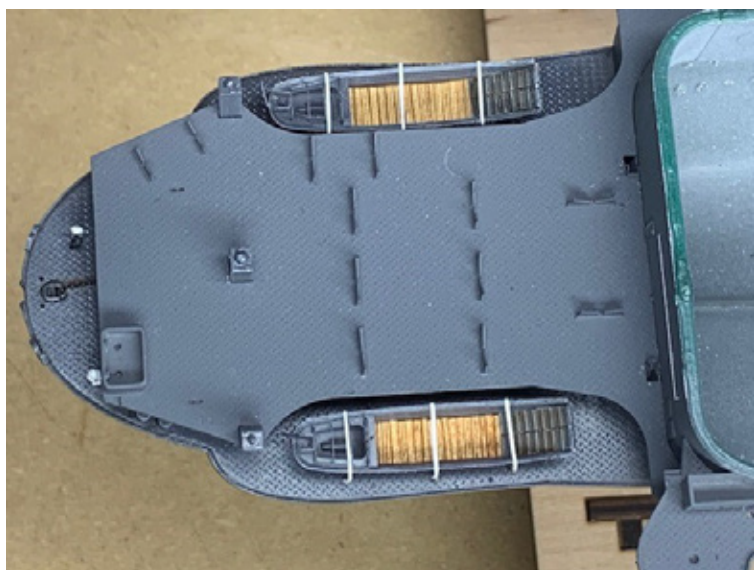
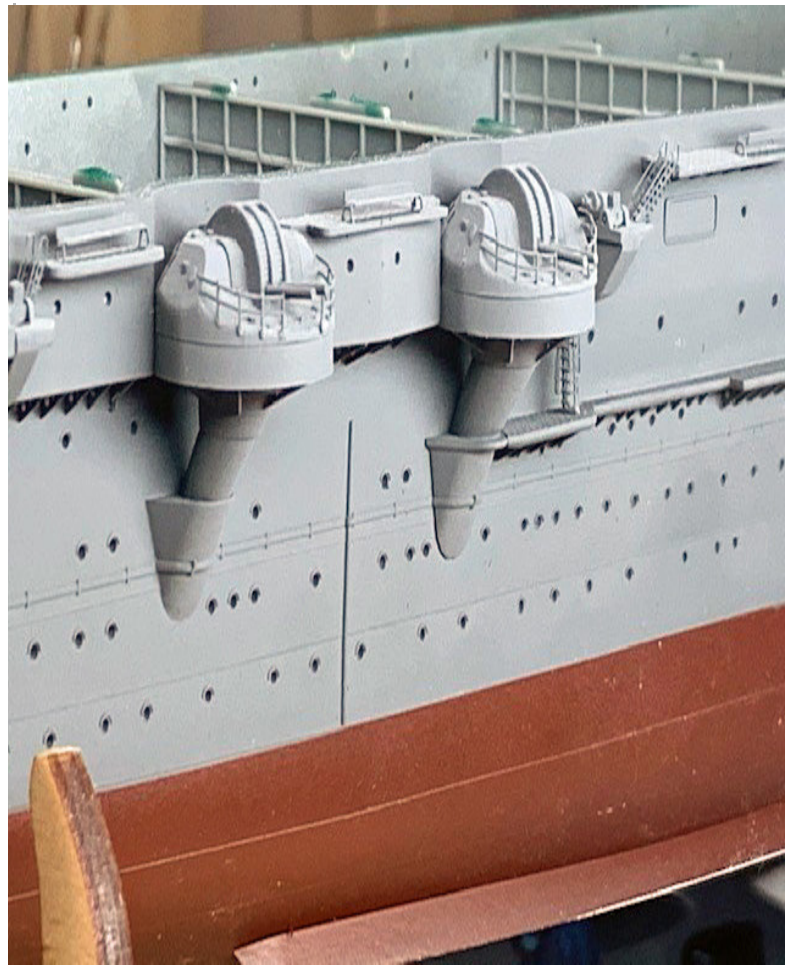


Switching to Naval subjects Dave Foster sent in some pictures of his 1/350 in progress IJN light cruiser Tama and his IJN aircraft carrier Shokaku.



Dave's been working on the Shokaku for two years now.







Rick Cotton shared some of his in-progress 1/350th SMS Seydlitz which is a comission build.



Rick Herrington continues with his Tornado madness by moving from 1/72nd to 1/48th scale. (Revell)





Also by Revell but in 1/72nd scale Rick is working on a modern German air force Interdiction Strike Tornado. This time carrying "dumb" bombs. The kit has components from Escii, Monogram, Revell and Hasegawa.



Keith Townsend sent in two projects he's been working on. The first is a Revell 1999 F-150 Ford pickup.



The second project Keith sent a snap of is a Warhammer figure called Abhorrent Archregent.





Last up from Ron McCracken we have some pictures of his Hasegawa 1/72nd SP-5B.



Thanks to everyone who shared their work with us.  
Until next month, keep building.



## Dog versus Wehrmacht

by Rick Cotton

Lately, in our COVID-forced social isolation, Boyd Waechter has done us all in the Houston IPMS a real solid, by sending his emailed "Blasts" periodically. These "Blasts" are short, entertaining picture features of what everyone in the club is building. It's a great idea. This may well be the only thing holding the entire IPMS Houston together right now, and thank you, Boyd, for doing it. Well done. A recent Boyd Blast in our email piqued my interest greatly, and sent me wandering down memory lane once again.

There was a selection of armor modeler extraordinaire Tom Moon's armor, all very nice builds of this and that, and at the bottom, an old favorite....the Tamiya 1/35 SDKFZ 7 Prime Mover. The big half-track, who's box art pictured it with a load of happy Boche on the way to their doom somewhere on the Eastern Front.

That kit is, of course, old, maybe older than I am, and I remember building it way back in the day when I was young and had a lot of hair. I worked at Warren's Hobbies in Pasadena while in high school, and managed to score one of these kits with my employee discount. I worked hard on that thing, and the many figures that came with it, and I must say, for my limited build and paint skills at the time, it came out looking OK. Nothing like today's models, but I was VERY happy with it, and quite proud of building it....in fact, I was so proud of it, that I placed it atop our family spinet piano in the living room, where I could admire it whilst performing my piano lessons. That plays into the story....

My parents had raised a string of Boston Terriers for many years, and they had just acquired a new puppy, a female named "Jody", who was as wild and rambunctious as she could be, even for a puppy. She was the dog equivalent of ADHD, and constantly moving, jumping, running, playing, barking, etc. She also did not like piano music very much, as, every time I would start my lessons, or just play, she would bark up a storm. I would sit there and play, and she would raise dog h\*ll. This was all quite amusing...for a while.



The piano took up a central spot in our living room, and was a natural focus of attention, with the halftrack and its load of happy-go-lucky storm troopers, and I got lots of comments from passers-by on the thing. It lived there for some weeks, proudly and serenely. You know this part of the story just can't last....

I came in from school one afternoon, dropped my books, and went to the kitchen to get a snack, passing by the piano and....OMG.

The half-track was no longer on the piano. It...or rather, what was left of it...was scattered in a million dog-tooth-marked pieces all across the living room floor. The eight or so unfortunate Nazis who had been aboard had also met the same fate - a violent demise at the hands....or should I say jaws....of an enraged Boston Terrier puppy. I was, to say the least, stunned. Jody, in her fierce hatred of piano music, had exacted total, ruthless revenge for my sin - the crime of offending her ears.

Could I save it? Oh, h\*ll no, there wasn't enough left to make a wrecked vehicle diorama, not a part bigger than a quarter, and they all had tooth marks. I still wonder how much of it Jody actually swallowed. Imagine telling your vet that your dog ate a German half-track.

I spent a very long afternoon picking up bits and pieces, yelling at Jody, and bemoaning my great loss. Minimum wage got blown quickly if one was into Tamiya armor, and I definitely was. When I told old man Warren, he laughed for a week, then told me I could get another one at the same discount. My heart wasn't in it. In fact, I have not built this vehicle since (but I have some in my stash!).

Years later, my family and I would laugh about it, but I would give Jody a sideways look while doing it, and I think she understood me, as she kind of slunk away a bit. It is funny still, even though, at the time, I was furious beyond words. But, it's only a model, right?

I had totally forgotten about the "Dog VS Wehrmacht" incident, but Tom's model brought it all back, in gruesome yet somehow, nostalgic detail. Thanks, Tom.

As Bob Hope might say...."Thanks for the Memories"!

## What Happened On This Day – September 25

2008 China launches Shenzhou spacecraft with 3 astronauts

This was the third human manned space flight mission of China's Space Program.

1992 NASA launches the Mars Observer

The robotic space probe's main goal was to study Mars. Almost a year later all communications with it were lost.

1977 Runners run the first Chicago Marathon

One of the world's six major marathons, which include the marathons in Berlin, Boston, London, New York, and Tokyo, the Chicago Marathon was initially called the Mayor Daley Marathon. The first race was won by Rhud Metzner.

1962 The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is officially created

Ferhat Abbas was appointed as the President of the Algerian National Assembly, and Ben Bella was seated as the country's new Prime Minister.

1890 Sequoia National Park is established by the United States Congress

The park, situated in the state of California is famous for its giant sequoia trees.

1789 - The first U.S. Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution. Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.

1847 - During the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces led by General Zachary Taylor captured Monterrey Mexico.

1882 - The first major league double header was played. It was between the Worcester and Providence teams.



## Old Rumors and New Kits

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

September features mostly re-releases of existing kits, some with new parts, but most with nothing more than a new box and decals. The most interesting, in my opinion, come from Eduard, Kitty Hawk, and AFV Club, whose re-issues include some new items or possibilities for new versions not kitted before. Enjoy!

#### 1/32nd Scale:

Eduard is releasing a Bf 109E Adlerangriff (Eagle Attack) Limited edition kit depicting the aircraft in the period from June to October, 1940 – in other words, during the Battle of Britain. The kit has Eduard plastic, 11 markings options, color photo-etch parts, paint masks, resin wheels and a bonus figure of Adolf Galland.



HK Model is re-releasing their Lancaster B.I Nose section with some new nose art, and according to some sources some updated/revised parts. So if you've been suffering from envy of Ben's Lancaster, you'll have a chance to try one of your own.



#### 1/35th Scale

Kitty Hawk is releasing an updated version of their MH-60S Knighthawk with parts for the M197 gun, along with options for folded rotor blades.



Kitty Hawk is also releasing an update to their SH-60B Sea Hawk with new parts.



### 1/48th Scale

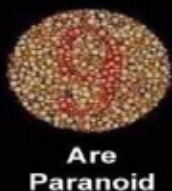
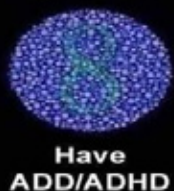
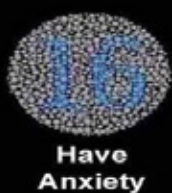
AFV Club is re-releasing their recent U-2C kit as a U-2D w/ IR sensor above and behind the cockpit.



Eduard is releasing a Bf 109E Adlerangriff Dual Combo kit, with features and focus much like their 1/32nd kit described above.



If you can't see the number, you:





Hasegawa, not to be outdone, has re-released their Bf 109G-6 kit in finish markings for the ace Ilmari Juutilainen, and with a bonus pilot figure.



Hasegawa has re-released their F-35 Draken in 'Red Draken' markings. The colorful markings appear to be the only new feature of the kit.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their F-4J Phantom II in 'VF-84' markings.



Kinetic is re-releasing their AV-8A Harrier with two markings options and two ejection seat options.



Kinetic is re-releasing their NF-5A/SF-5A/F-5A Freedom Fighter, the first re-release of this kit since 2015. It is unknown what, if anything, has changed beyond the box and decals.



Kitty Hawk is releasing their Su30 Flanker kit with new parts to produce the Su-30SM variant.





Revell has announced a re-release of their B-29 Superfortress in a Platinum Edition. This was originally released under the Monogram brand. The new boxing reportedly has some new parts and definitely some new decals.



Revell has announced a re-issue of their CH-53G, apparently without changes. But the last release was in 2013, so this is timely.



Last but not least, Revell has announced a Tornado ASST 3.1. This is a Luftwaffe-specific version of the Tornado in demonstrator aircraft markings.

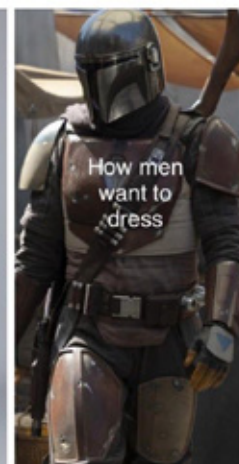


### 1/72nd Scale

Eduard has announced a MiG-21PFM Fishbed F in their Weekend Edition series. This is a rebox with changed decals.



Hasegawa is releasing a combo kit containing one each of the E7K1 Type 94 and E13A1 Type O Recon Sea-planes. If you're a fan of WW II Japanese floatplanes, this might interest you, although both kits have been released before individually.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their aging SR-71A Blackbird w/D-21B. I'm uncertain whether there is anything new about this kit, it appears to be a simple re-box.



SR-71A BLACKBIRD w/D-21B DRONE

Finally, Hasegawa is re-releasing their T-4 trainer in 'Blue Impulse 2020' demo team markings.



Kawasaki T-4 'BLUE IMPULSE 2014'

And, that wraps it up for September. Happy modelling!



## Shipping News

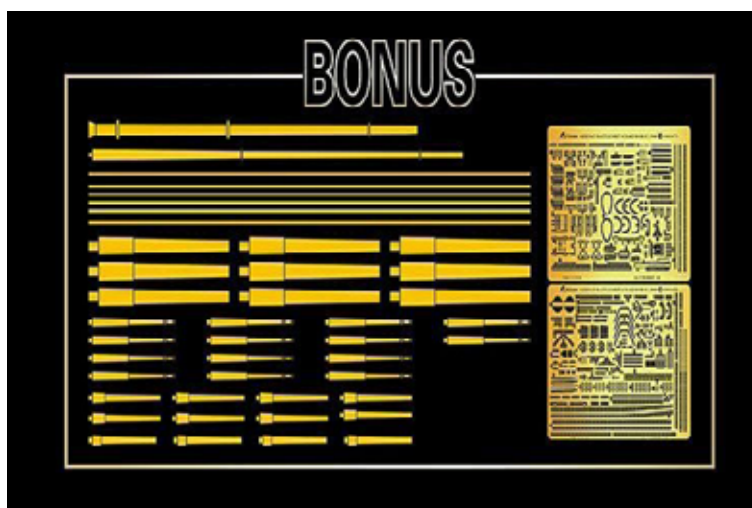
By Rick Herrington

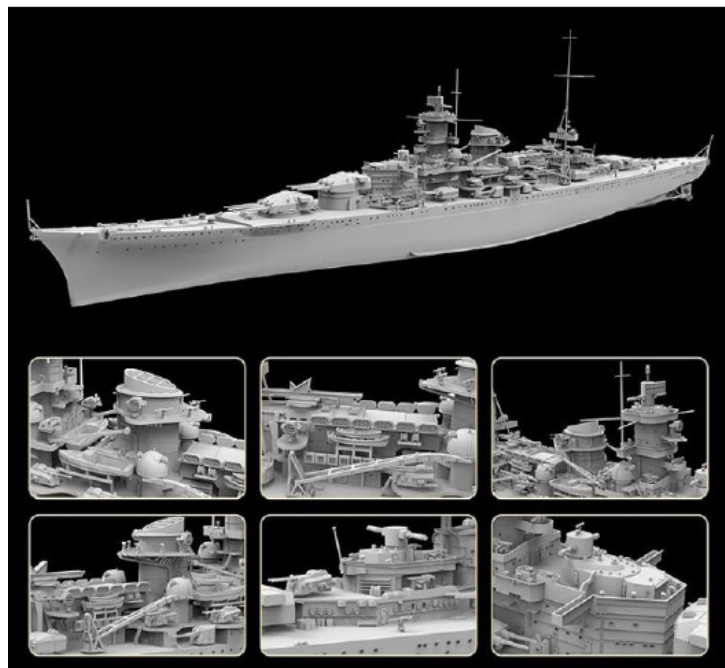
Only one 1/350th release this month but some great 1/700th releases to get to so let's go.

First from Flyhawk is an exciting new release for German Kriegsmarine fans, a 1940 version of the sister ship of the Scharnhorst, the Gneissau.



The version of the kit imaged comes with brass barrels, mast and photo etch.





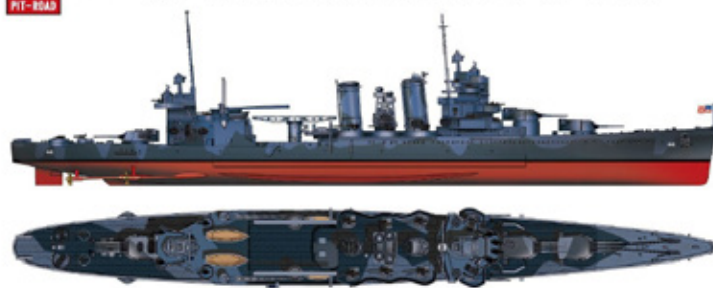
Next up from Fujimi is their release of the IJN support carrier Shinano. with concrete deck. Shinano was converted from an in construction 3rd Yamato class battleship. She was sunk by the USS Archerfish 10 days after her commissioning.



Pit Road is up next with a release of the USN heavy cruiser Vincennes.



1/700 アメリカ海軍 重巡洋艦 CA-44 ヴィンセンス



Pit Road has several more releases next up being a British battleship circa 1939 HMS Valiant.



英国海軍 クイーン・エリザベス級戦艦 ヴァリアント1939

Italian battleship kits are few and far between The Roma is a welcome release from Pit Road. The kit depicts her as she looked in 1943.





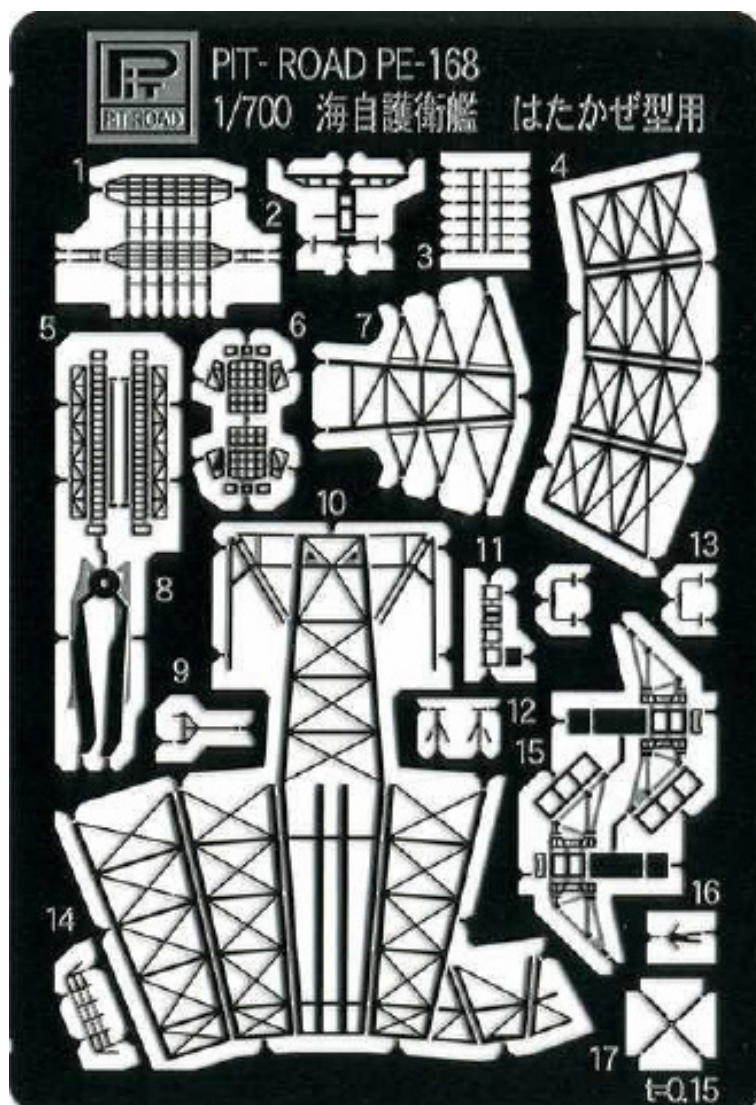
Pit Road also has some modern Japanese Navy releases. The first of these is DD-101 JMSDF destroyer the Murasame. The kit also includes a female figure.



Pit Road is also releasing a JMSDF FFG-177 Atago which also includes a female figure. The figure depicts a female member of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force.



Last up from Pit Road is another JMSDF ship DDG-172 Shimakaze. The kit also includes a photo etch set.



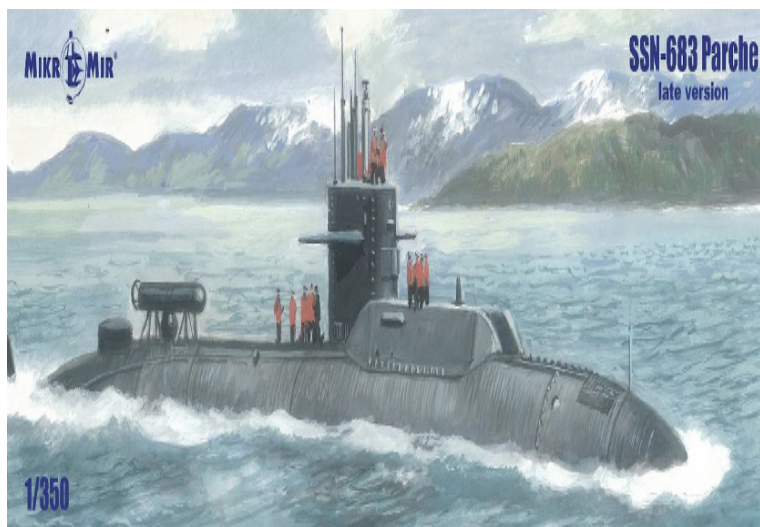
Aoshima has two new releases this month. In their continuing British cruise series they are releasing HMS Kent.



Keeping on a British WW2 theme Aoshima is releasing a "J" class destroyer HMS Jupiter



Finally from Mikro Mir in 1/350th scale we have the SSN-683 Parche. Parche which started off as a Sturgeon class nuclear attack submarine but was converted into an intelligence gathering ship (Signals Intelligence)





# Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

All 1/35th stuff this month and the exciting stuff is with armored car releases. Two of them to be accurate. The first is from Copper State Models The Minerva was an armored car developed around a Belgian passenger car. It saw action in WWI.



Next up from MiniArt is another WWI armored ca. This time an Austin armored car.



Two new releases from RFM. The first is a PzKpfw 3 Ausf J.



The second release should be no surprise to anyone that's built their Challenger 2 TES. It's a standard Chally 2 without the TES stuff.





Takom has their own British stuff coming out with a Cheftain Mark 10 and a Cheftain Mark 11. Having built the Mark 5. I can attest that these kits are well engineered (fit well) and finely detailed.

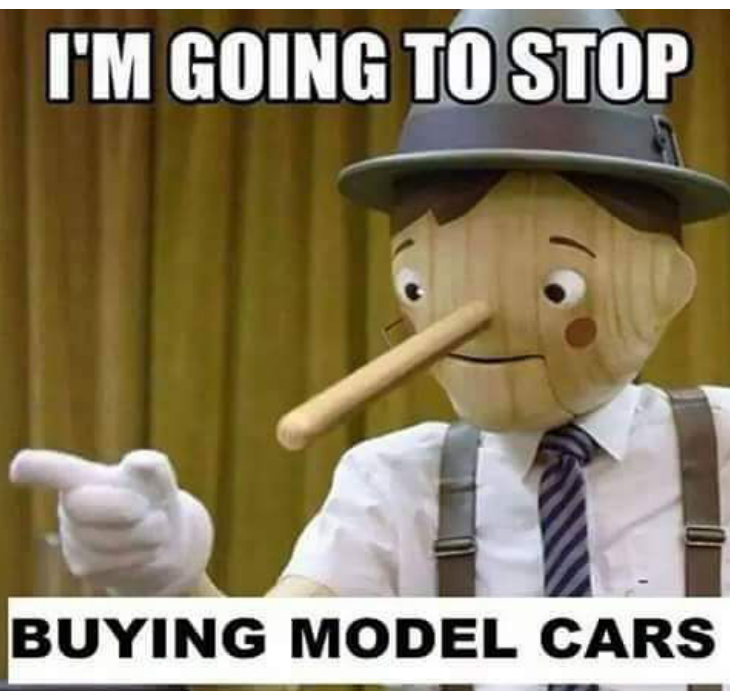




Last up from AFV Club is another British subject. This is a WW2 Churchill.



**I'M GOING TO STOP**



**BUYING MODEL CARS**

# It Figures

By Michael Lamm

Hello fellow modelers! Hopefully, everyone is continuing to stay healthy and well. We're finally into September, and maybe temperatures will begin to cool off. Here's a few new figures to keep things interesting.

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

Miniart seems to be releasing about 5 to 6 new kits every month now. The majority consist of model kits, but they usually have one set of accessories and one or two figure sets. This month, we get two new figure sets. First up is a set of five U.S. Military Police in a variety of poses, including one seated intended to be driving a jeep. They come with a variety of light weapons common to the police units in WWII, and are nicely posed. A nice feature, which seems new for Miniart, is the inclusion of decals for the helmet and unit markings, as well as the "MP" arm band worn by soldiers in the military police. These decals are a welcome addition, because without them, painting these details would be a real pain. They've even included helmet and shoulder insignia for the 29th Infantry Division, the 4th Infantry Division, and the 2nd Armored Division.





SPECIAL EDITION

WW II MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES

# U.S. JEEP CREW & MPs

UNASSEMBLED PLASTIC MODEL KIT  
THIS IS NOT A TOY

BOX CONTAINS MODELS OF FIVE FIGURES  
INFANTRY WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT  
DECAL SHEET IS INCLUDED



1:35

35308  
MiniArt



Next up, is a new set of German infantry. The set "German Infantry at Rest" features four figures seated trying to rest after returning from the front, or trying to get a few last minutes of peace before heading out to the front. As I've said before, any poses without the soldiers "in action" is a welcome addition. These figures look nice, and come with 2 sprues full of weapons and equipment to allow you to build up a nice figure and still add a few pieces to the spares box.

WW II MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES

## GERMAN INFANTRY AT REST

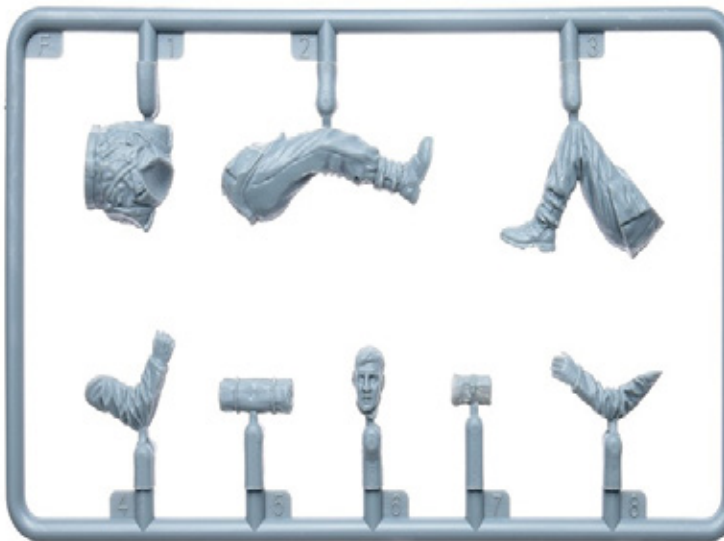


35266

MiniArt

THIS IS NOT A TOY  
UNASSEMBLED PLASTIC MODEL KIT  
BOX CONTAINS MODELS OF FOUR FIGURES

1:35



<https://www.royalmodel.eu/>

Royal Model from Italy has a few new offerings. First up are 2 sets of Italian heads. These 1/35th scale resin heads really look nice, with great facial expressions and a variety of headgear. Now, you'll just need to find some suitable Italian 1/35th scale bodies to go with them, which is not as easy as it sounds.



Next up is a 75mm figure of Italo Balbo, the infamous leader of the Italian "Black Shirts" and Mussolini's heir apparent. Seems like a strange choice for an Italian company to offer as a figure, but here he is, and he has a strange connection to the U.S. as well. In 1933, Benito Mussolini gifted the city of Chicago a stone column from a port near Rome dating back about 2,000 years. This gift was to honor the trans-Atlantic flight led by Italo Balbo to Chicago's World's Fair. The column and modern base it sits on still stands in Chicago today and is known as the Balbo Monument, but not to let their celebration of a fascist government stop at the monument, Chicago also named one of their more prominent streets after Italo Balbo, Balbo Avenue.





Royal Model also has released a new British soldier figure in 1/35th scale. The resin figure represents a "Tommy" from what appears to be North Africa, due to his uniform. The figure is posed smiling and unarmed and appears to look very nice.



<https://en.zvezda.org.ru/>

Zvezda Models has been producing a line of 1/72nd figures for use in their in-house tabletop wargame called "Art of Tactics". They have a variety of German and Soviet infantry sets that generally come in a group of 3 to 4 figures intended to represent different units in the game. The figures are molded in hard plastic, are nicely detailed, and can be used in a variety of settings and scenes. Two of their most recent releases are opposing heavy mortar crews.

First up is a German 120mm mortar crew. The set comes with a crew of 5 figures, with two loaders, a gunner, the fire control officer, and a guy holding his ears. The mortar is a simple design, but with a little work will look nice.

The second set is the opposing Soviet 120mm heavy mortar. Like the Germans, you get a nice set of four figures to crew the gun.





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

Next is a new offering from Tamiya. Their 1/24th scale "Campus Friends Set 2" is a follow up to the original Campus Friends set from 1983. The figures feature updated poses, including a young lady taking a selfie, and new accessories for the students to carry. Instead of a tennis racket, now you get a guitar case among other changes. One thing that remains the same from the original kit is the 1/24th scale motor scooter.

Tamiya seems to be going in a new direction with the addition of new figure kits with updated molds and more realistic features. I for one have been very happy with this new direction.





Last up from Meng Models we have a set of People's Liberation Army (PLA) tank crew. Trumpeter has a whole slew of armored vehicles that these guys would complement and Meng has a ZTZ96B Main Battle Tank that they would be a nice addition to.



That does it for this month's edition. As always, I'll suggest that you go build a model, but take the time to add a figure to it. Also, let's all continue to stay safe, stay home and spend some time working on your figure skills.





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

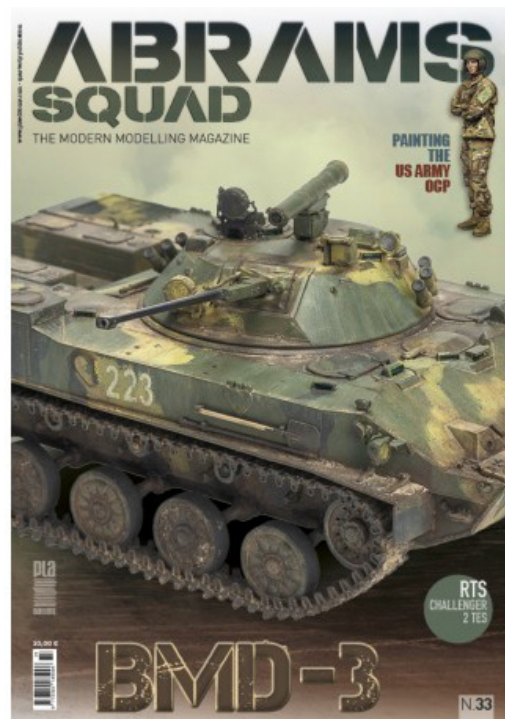
IPMS/USA

Director of Local Chapters

678-620-8417

dlock3155@gmail.com

Central Texas  
Scale Modeling Society





7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste E188, Austin, TX

78753

(512) 836-7388

Here's the new stuff for this week.



## Something for Everyone!



**RUSSIA K-4386**  
"TYPHOON-VDV" ARMoured VEHICLE  
俄罗斯K-4386 "台风-VDV" 装甲车  
VS-014



King's has moved to Suite E-188...come by and see us!!

[kinginfo@kingshobbyshop.com](mailto:kinginfo@kingshobbyshop.com)

<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com>





## Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews.

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/>  
Join up online at: <http://www.shopipmsusa.org/category-s/100.htm>

For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager at [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org)

International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA

Membership Application / Renewal Form

New Renewal IPMS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior (17 years or younger) \$17.00 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Adult One year \$30.00

Two years \$58.00

Three years \$86.00

Canada & Mexico \$35.00

Foreign Surface \$38.00

Family Adult fee + \$5.00

# of cards? \_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS #: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about IPMS/USA? Please check all that apply:

☐ Local model club

☐ Friend

☐ Ad in IPMS Journal

☐ Facebook

☐ Ad in other magazine

☐ Internet search

☐ IPMS web site

☐ I'm a former member rejoining

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Applications should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA

P.O. Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411



## International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New ☐Renewal ☐

IPMS #:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior** (17 years or younger) \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_**Adult** One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Two years \$58.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Three years \$86.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Canada & Mexico** \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_**Foreign** Surface \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_**Family** (1 set of Journals) \_\_\_\_\_ ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS #: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Cash



Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check



Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411