

ASMS



SPRUE EXAMINER

The Puzzling Revell
Mini-Concorde
By Douglas Brown



Airfix's New 1/48 P-40B

By Dave Bottger

PJ Productions 1/48th scale
pilots: A review by Rick Herrington

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July 2021

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

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. It is intended for educational purposes only.

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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



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Hello Members,

Welcome to the July Issue of our monthly offering.

It's getting hot out. 'Nuff said.

It might be time to talk to your sweetie about paint booths. I recently got myself a little portable one (read, cheap) but I realize that it's perfect. I can get a quick blast of a spray can or extended, comfortable airbrush sessions in AC rather than a trip out to the garage (with a towel for the sweat). It comes with a duct and thin air out port that closes up in the window and when turned on it's no louder than the low setting on the fan over the stove. Since it's only about 10" x 12", it's probably not recommended for our bigger entries, but it does make it more fun to sit and spray and not have those pesky particles floating around. I know a lot of us don't have much room to squeeze into, so think about an inexpensive option during these dog days in Texas.

It's been announced that the Alamo Squadron has relocated their show venue to New Braunfels, and I'm so happy! Honestly, it's not that far to San Antonio, but New Braunfels is just so much closer and a beautiful town. Something to look forward to in the new year.

Just a reminder to everyone that Bill Delk holds a Zoom meeting every Sunday at 4:00 PM and it's just a lot of fun. If you haven't had a chance to tune in, I urge you to take the time and give it a try. Who knows, you just might learn something!

Stay cool everyone,
-Ian

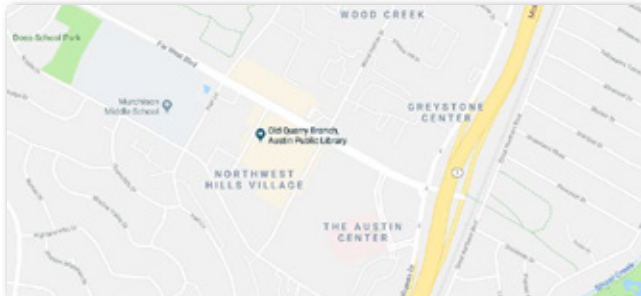




HOUSE CLEANING



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!



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



Events

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.

Upcoming Paint Day at Bob Bethea's.

July 31, 2021 from 10 AM till 5 PM at the usual loca-
tion, the Shady Hollow Community Center at 3033
Doe Run, Austin, Texas 78748.

Bring some cash if you want to share in the Pizza that
we will order (as usual).

The room now costs us \$75.00 for the 7 hours which I
will absorb, but donations will be
accepted.

Club Quarterly Contests

Meetings

Suspended

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings

Suspended

Building Airfix's 1/48th P-40B

A build review by Dave Bottger



I have spent most of my modeling life wanting to build a decent P-40B in American Volunteer Group (A.V.G.) markings. I can now report that I have succeeded. I hope this description of my journey will help others successfully build this kit.

I began by filling and re-scribing the Matchbox-worthy panel lines above the wing roots on either side of the fuselage. I started here because this had been my downfall in two prior attempts to build this kit. Learning from my previous failures, I cut lengths of fine sprue, set them into the offending trenches, flooded them with Tamiya Extra Thin cement and when dry, sanded them flush. I then re-scribed the lines, being careful to begin each stroke in the middle of the filled area rather than the ends so that my scribe did not catch on the ends of the sprue, as on previous attempts. I also filled the spurious diagonal panel lines on each side of the cockpit with Tamiya putty and sanded them flush as well.

Having overcome that hurdle, I was ready to assemble the cockpit.

Early on I decided to use as few aftermarket parts as possible, since I've found that this approach is more fun and less frustrating (aftermarket parts don't always fit well for me). I did use an aftermarket seat and lap belts, both from Eduard I think, because I could not scratch build anything nearly as good. As befits an A.V.G. aircraft, the seat has a horizontal rather than rounded seat back and no shoulder belts.

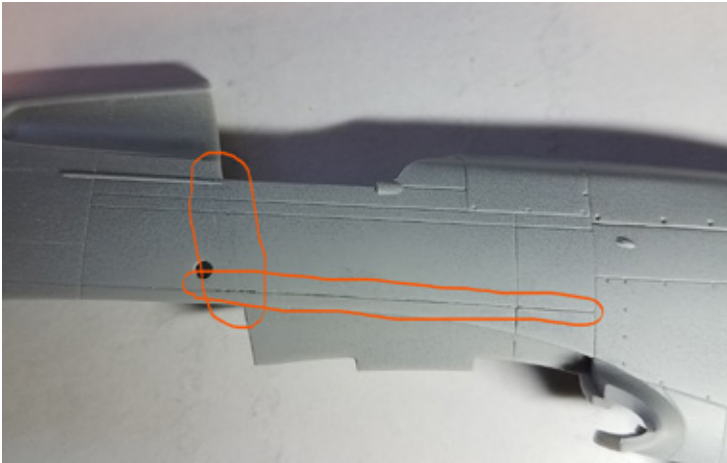
With one exception I'll describe later, the decals in this kit are excellent, especially the one for the instrument panel. The panel has appropriately raised detail, around which the decal settled perfectly after a few applications of setting solution. To my eye, the result is much better than a two-dimensional aftermarket panel.

I added detail to the sidewalls in the form of a few boxes and panels from plastic stock and throttle linkage, radiator cowling control lever and gun charging handles from fine wire. I found spare decals and bezels for the fuel gauges on the floor, although once the seat is installed only the forward one can really be seen. Paint: Lifecolor UA 004 Interior Green, a wash of Tamiya smoke and thinner to add depth and some tan pastel dust to dirty it up and the cockpit was done.



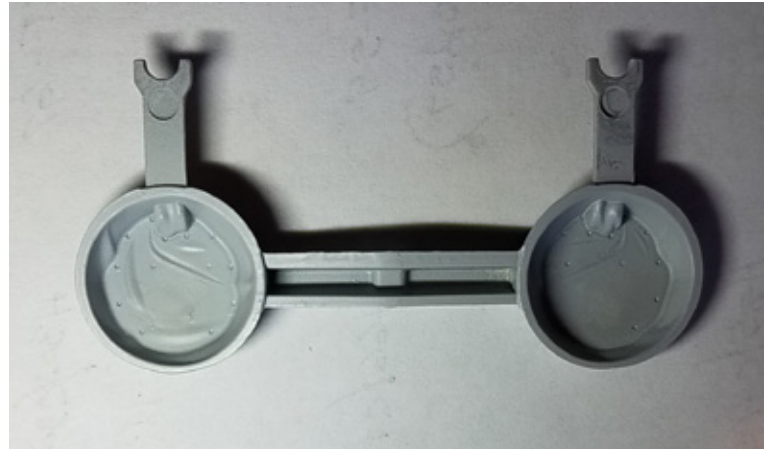


Before gluing together the fuselage halves I tackled the upper nose. I had heard from others that the fit of the upper panels, parts C04 and C05 (where the nose machine guns are) was problematic. To make adjustment easier, I decided, contrary to the instructions, to glue them to each fuselage half before gluing the halves together. This allowed me to glue and clamp one side of each panel at a time and resulted in a decent fit, requiring only a little Perfect Plastic Putty filler.



The fuselage halves went together without any major issues. It was then time to tackle the lower nose. In the kit, the intake is broken down into two parts with a seam in the middle that is almost impossible to eliminate. Fortunately, Quickboost has produced a one-part replacement. Unfortunately, it's still necessary to eliminate the L-shaped joint on either side, just above the actual intake. After many sessions of filling, sanding and priming, I achieved a decent result. Next, the wings. It is first necessary to glue the wheel wells to the lower wing section. On the plus side, this part, B06 (wells connected by a substantial spar). guarantees proper wing dihedral. On the minus side, each wheel well has a substantial punch-out mark which is a bear to eradicate. I punched out plastic discs of as nearly the same size and depth as the marks as I could, glued them in place, applied filler around the outside of each and then began the tedious sanding, priming, re-filling, sanding sequence. The depth of the wells makes the process harder.

I'm surprised that some enterprising after-market company hasn't made a replacement. Oh well, if it were easy, everyone could do it.





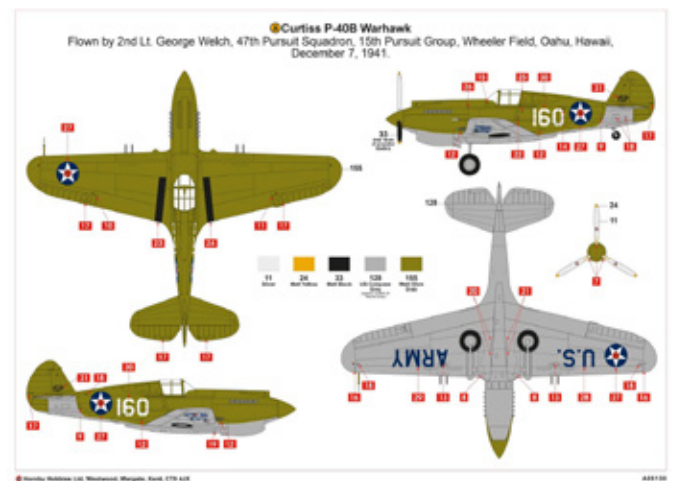
Behind the fuselage intake are two oil drain pipes. Rather than try to drill them out, I removed them and made replacements from Albion Alloy's tubing. I stuck a ball of two-part epoxy putty into the opening and pushed my replacements into the putty. In my mind, it's a significant improvement for little effort.

Although the instructions don't mention it (nor do the instructions for the Tomahawk Mk. II version), the kit provides the clear landing light (part 08 on the clear sprue) for the underside of the port wing and there is a raised circle on the inside of the lower wing showing where the hole for the light should be drilled. I can't say whether all P-40B's had this but the P-40 Warhawk Detail & Scale book (vol. 61) shows it in a photo on page 74. More importantly to me, the few photos I've seen showing the underside of A.V.G. P-40's show it as well, so I drilled out the hole and installed the light.



Then it was time to attach the wings. The instructions direct that the wing roots be attached first to the fuselage sides, then the upper wing halves to the roots, then the lower span to the upper halves and fuselage. I've never liked this sequence, preferring to glue the upper and lower wing parts together first as I think this makes it easier to dress the seam between them. Then I glued the wing roots to the fuselage and the wing assembly to the lot. This was a tight fit and I'm still not completely satisfied with the fit between the roots and the upper wing halves. If I build this kit again, I may try Airfix's way.

There are two hatches, one round and one shaped like a half oval, on the undersides of the wing root – at least I think there are. I haven't seen any photos showing them (photos of the underside of P-40's are hard to find) but Eduard provides them on their photoetched sheet for the kit and they add a bit of interest to an otherwise bland area, so I scratch built them and added them.





I decided not to use a lot of aftermarket, the kit's wing guns are clunky at best, so I replaced them with Master's metal ones (AM-48-136), which are much better detailed. Since they are much smaller in diameter, I had to glue round sprue lengths into the kit openings, sand them flush, and then drill holes the size of the Master parts. For the same reason, I cut the kit blast tubes off the fairings for the nose guns, drilled them out and installed lengths of metal tubing, also from Master.

The rudder (C06) is a separate part. This is fortunate for three reasons. First, it can be painted separately. This mattered to me because on the aircraft I was building, like most A.V.G. P-40B's, the demarcation between the camouflage colors on the rudder doesn't match the demarcation on the vertical stabilizer. Apparently the rudder was painted before it was installed. Second, it's easier to pose the rudder at an angle, although according to the photos I reviewed, it's not that way on parked P-40B's.



Third, the rudder needs some corrections. The trim tab is scribed on the starboard side but not the port. The trim tab actuator is rather prominent so I added one and drilled a hole forward of it for the corresponding cable. The kit rudder has hinges on both sides but according to my Detail & Scale book, there should only be one on the port side. I removed them both and scratch built a less clunky one.

Speaking of the tail, the one-piece elevator has raised detail representing the trim tab actuators. Now you know.

The tail wheel strut has a rounded indentation on the port side (photos on page 71 of Detail & Scale book). It's easy enough to reproduce this with a round needle file. There are also arms from the strut to the tail wheel doors to open and shut them (same page). I added these as well.

The kit's larger main landing gear doors (parts A39 and A40) are rounded on the inside when they should have flat pieces spanning them width-wise. Another easy improvement is the addition of brake lines, which I added nearer the end of the build.



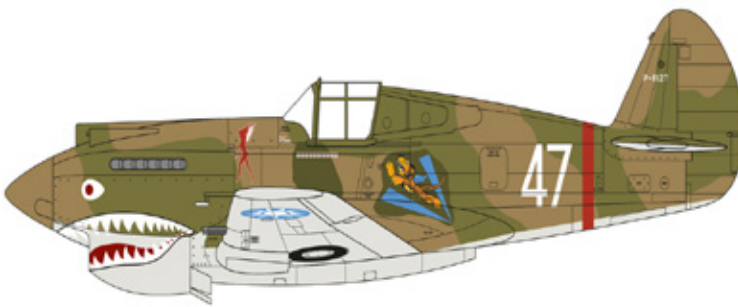
Finally, ready to paint! The A.V.G. P-40B's were originally destined for the R.A.F. Accordingly, the upper surfaces were painted in DuPont colors closest to the British early war colors of dark earth and dark green. DuPont 71-009 was nearly identical to dark earth and DuPont 71-013 close to dark green, although a little bluer to my eye. Then there's the underside, which is more problematic. DuPont 71-021 was close to British Sky Type S and was even called Sky-Type S Gray. However, the color photographs I've seen show a light gray with no hint of green.



I realize that it can be risky to rely on old photos, but the topside colors in these photos match the DuPont colors mentioned above. (For a detailed analysis of wartime photos, see “Curtiss camouflage on A.V.G. Tomahawks,” by Rato Marczak [2009] at ratomodeling.com.br/articles/AVG_cammo/).

The references I consulted suggest either aircraft grey (FS 16473), non-specular light gray (FS 36642) or sky grey (FS 36620) which are very similar. The kit instructions specify Humbrol 28, camouflage gray (FS36622), but it looks way too blue compared to those same photos. I went with Tamiya sky gray (FS 36620). To be honest, it looks darker on my model than in the photographs. I can't say whether this is scale effect, the photos are washed out or the color is simply too dark. At least no one can prove me wrong, not yet anyway.

I applied the green (Medium Green 42 Lifecolor UA 008) straight from the bottle and then post-shaded it with a 25% white mixture. Because the brown (Tamiya Flat Earth, XF-52) tended to fade faster, I lightened it 25% with white for the base coat and then post-shaded with a 5:4 mixture of brown to white. I used Tamiya sky grey on the underside, post-shaded with a 25% white mixture.



On to decaling. Airfix made a simple but glaring error – the stars on the kit's Nationalist Chinese markings have only 11 points when they should have 12. Fortunately, I had a sheet of AeroMaster decals (SP 48-07) with correct stars. As a bonus, AeroMaster provided slightly lighter national insignia for the top of the wings, since these faded more than the underside. I had decided long ago to build Chuck Older's aircraft #68 because I liked its Hell's Angels and Flying Tiger markings and because there are several photos of it. The latter turned out to be a mixed blessing.



Both AeroMaster and Kits-World (KW148058) make decals for this aircraft, and both have the inside of the shark's mouth filled in with blue, probably the same blue used for the Nationalist Chinese insignia, since it would have been readily available. The problem is that while some photos appear to show this area filled in, some clearly show the demarcation line between the upper and lower camouflage colors. This demarcation would not be visible if the mouth were filled in.

I concluded that it was filled in later. I decided I would build the earlier, unfilled in version, mostly because it would make decaling easier. How do I know? I tried using the AeroMaster shark mouth decals for Older's plane and they simply would not lie down (probably my fault). So I bought the Kits-World sheet, which also has the filled-in shark mouth, intending to carefully cut out the blue insides. In the end, it was too fine a job for me. I ended up using decals for a different aircraft whose shark mouth was similar to Older's. If anyone notices, they are smarter than I am.

In the same category of esoterica, the lettering on the first aid stencil for Older's aircraft should be red, not black, but no one (to my knowledge) makes a red one, so I used the kit decal.

Airfix's stencil decals went on fine although the instructions are vague regarding placement. Lacking better information, I made my best guesses. Several photos show that the propellers on A.V.G. P-40B's had yellow stenciling on the front of the blades but not the Curtiss Electric logo, so I did not apply the latter.

Older's aircraft had a red stripe around the fuselage just forward of the tail, common to 3rd Pursuit Squadron planes. I simply could not get the decals (I tried a couple) AeroMaster provided to look right, again surely my fault, so I ended up masking and painting it. This would have been much easier if I had painted it before painting the camouflage colors. Live and learn.

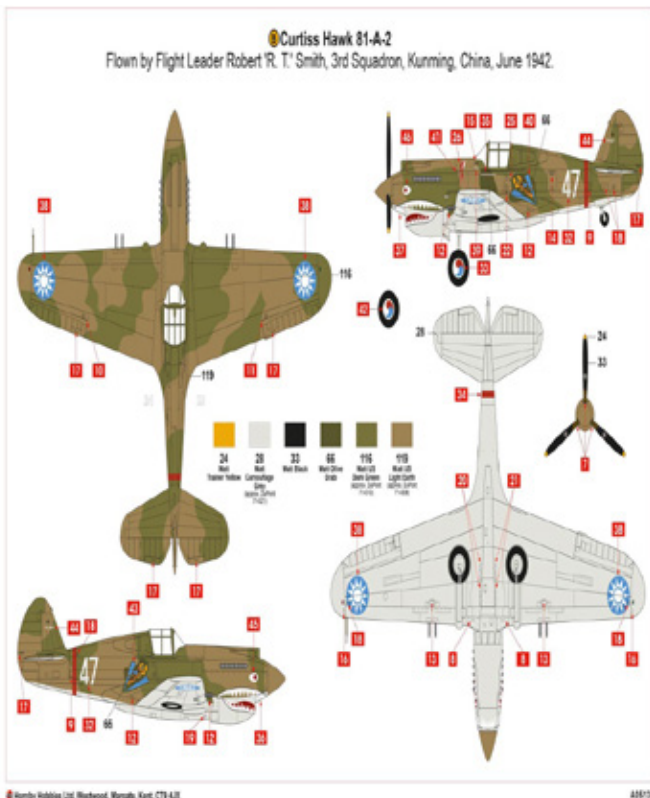
Time for weathering. The wing walks show significant wear down to the bare metal. I decided to try to replicate this with a silver PrismaColor pencil. I was not at all happy with the results. I think the problem was that the underlying paint wasn't smooth enough so, rather than bare metal, it looked like silver gravel. Fortunately, the pencil washes off with water. I then applied Testor's silver enamel (small bottle) with a piece of sponge. To my eye, it looks much better although too bright. I hoped that subsequent steps will tone it down. The photos I examined don't show any significant scratches or chipping elsewhere. Either the paint was very good quality or the mechanics were very careful.

A coat of gloss coat over the silver and then time for a panel line wash. I used Starship Filth oil paint by Abteilung thinned with turpenoid, starting with the underside.

Whoever said modeling is about correcting mistakes had me in mind. At this point I noticed that some of the paint had chipped off the leading edge of the wings, revealing the silver enamel I had used to check for seams. The acrylic paints I used for the camouflage colors didn't stick well to the silver and when I removed the tape masking the underside, it pulled off chunks.

I considered calling it paint chipping and leaving it alone, but as I mentioned above, I didn't see any of this in photos, so I decided to fix it.

Paint alone didn't do the trick – the chips were too deep. So I filled them with Tamiya white putty, sanded them smooth, masked off the decals (being careful to reduce the tack of the Tamiya tape, or so I thought) and sprayed the underside gray.





When I removed the tape, part of one of the underside Nationalist insignia came off with it. No big deal, I thought, I'll just remove the rest of the decal and put on another one (I had spares). To my surprise, the rest of the decal would not come off. Why a part came off so easily and part stuck like glue I can't explain. In the end, I had to sand off the remaining decal, which of course damaged the surrounding paint.

Lesson learned – don't use silver enamel to check seams, or if you do, be sure to sand it all off.

After several sessions of carefully masking the remaining decals and the upper/lower demarcation (mostly with Post-It Notes, not tape), cutting out stencils to match the camouflage pattern, repainting the leading edges where I had removed the national insignia, and putting down a new one, I was back to gloss-coating and applying the panel line wash.

I usually don't do much weathering because I'm not very good at it, or maybe vice versa, but the plane I was building had to be weathered. Rather than risk ruining my work to date, I decided to test various techniques on a scrap sheet of plastic that I painted with the camouflage colors. I tried mist coats of tan and gray, oil paint dots and pastel chalk. The oil dots didn't work at all for me but the other methods looked pretty good, so I decided to use them.

I started by misting a 1:10 mixture of light gull gray and thinner on the top of the fuselage, wings and tail plane to tone down the decals and replicate fading. Then I used Tamiya white weathering chalk (Tamiya calls it "snow") to create some streaks in the top colors and black chalk for the engine exhaust and behind the shell cartridge slots under the wings. I did not reproduce smoke behind the wing machine guns themselves because I couldn't see that in the photos I had.

Next I unmasked the port rear window, pressed it in place without gluing it, and sprayed a thin mixture of light gray down the side of the fuselage to represent the fuel stains visible on many A.V.G. planes, including Older's.



I then sprayed a 1:10 mixture of Tamiya deck tan and thinner on all surfaces to represent dust and to blend everything in. After that, a few coats of flat varnish.

On to the "fiddly bits:" landing gear, clear parts, antenna wire, wing guns, pitot tube and ring and bead sight. I'll spare you a recitation of all the mistakes I made and largely corrected.

At last I was done. Is it perfect? Far from it. Is it a contest winner? Doubtful. But at last I had built an A.V.G. P-40 and actually finished a model.



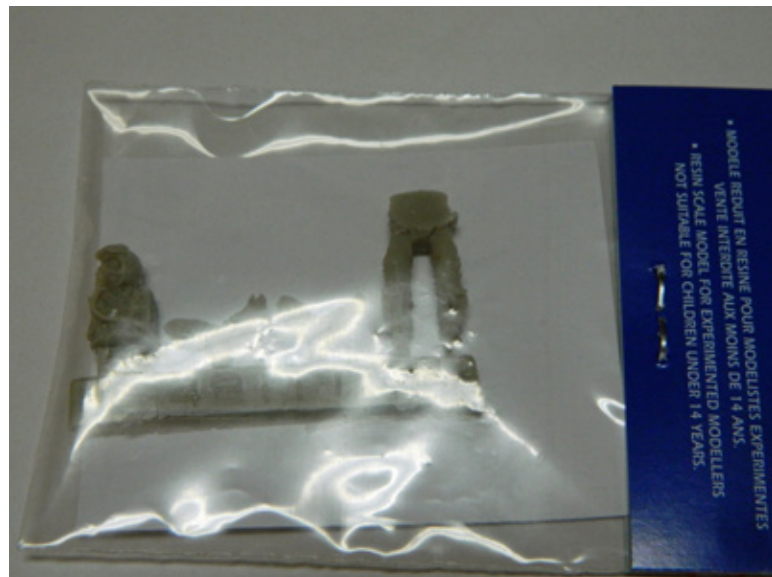
PJ Productions 1/48th pilots

By Rick Herrington



Remember the pilots you used to get included in the kits you built when you were first starting out in modeling? The ones with the 20mm holes in their chests.

If you planned to use the pilot, it took a good bit of Green Putty to fill that hole. Most of them ended up in the parts box to gather dust. Recently I have been building 1/48th Tornado models. Some of these had great cockpit detail and ejection like the Revell kit and others such as the Airfix kit had almost none. In the case of the Airfix kit I was searching for something to cover up the lack of cockpit detail, PJ Productions to the rescue.



PJ Productions is a Belgian company that produces after-market aircraft accessories. Their main focus is providing high quality resin pilots for 1/72nd, 1/48th and 1/32nd aircraft. I got mine on E-bay for a reasonable price and was pleased when I received them. The figures were well cast in several parts with no bubble holes that needed filling and minimum clean up. They came in several parts consisting of an upper body, arms and lower torso with legs. Assembly is straight forward using Super glue. I did some minor re-positioning of the arms to make them look a little more natural although the poses are quite good building them without modifications.





If you are in need of a good WW2 or modern jet pilot for your model aircraft I suggest you check out PJ Productions pilot figures.



The Puzzling Revell Mini-Concorde

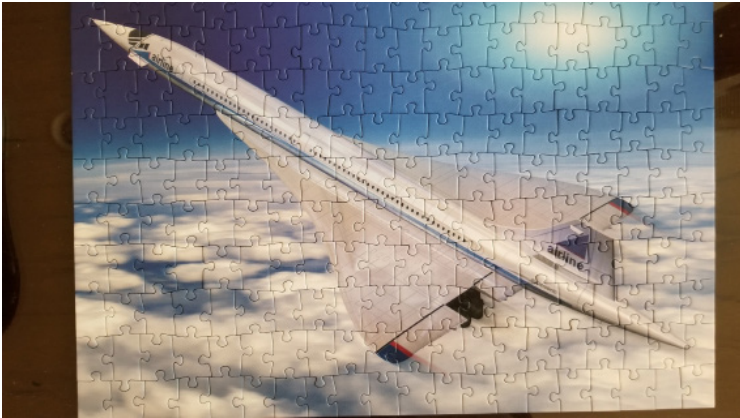
By Douglas Brown

Here's a blast from the past. After building the Revell 1:144-scale Concorde earlier in the year, I discovered online what seemed to be another small-scale Revell Concorde. But I quickly realized that the box wasn't a Revell model, but instead a puzzle based on Revell box art. Since we have built many, many puzzles during the past year, I added it to our collection.

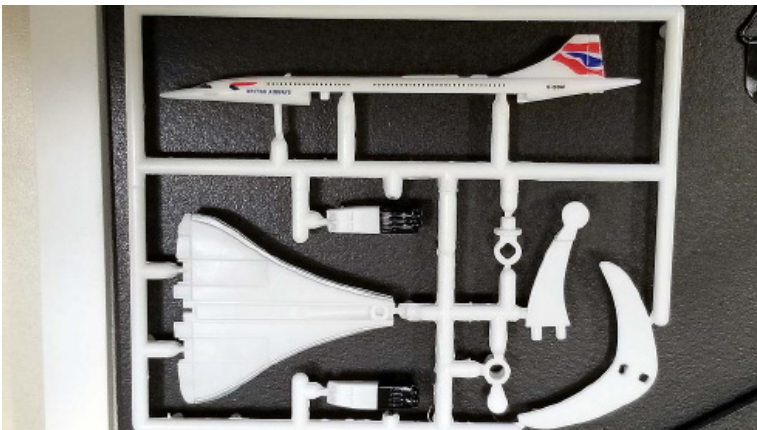




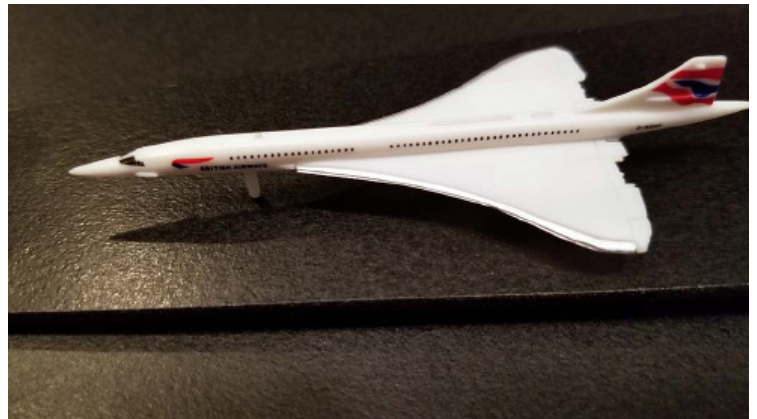
The puzzle itself was produced about 2010 and Revell and Schmidt, a well-known German source of high-quality puzzles. The Concorde puzzle (product 55471) is a typical example. It has 200 pieces, all well-fitting and engineered to fit together well. The final puzzle size is about 11x16 inches (29x43 cm), and it took about 2 hours to complete.



But the box contained more than the puzzle- it also included a Revell "mini kit" version of the Concorde. The scale is 1:635, and the kit only contains 8 pieces. But the detail on such a tiny kit is quite well done.

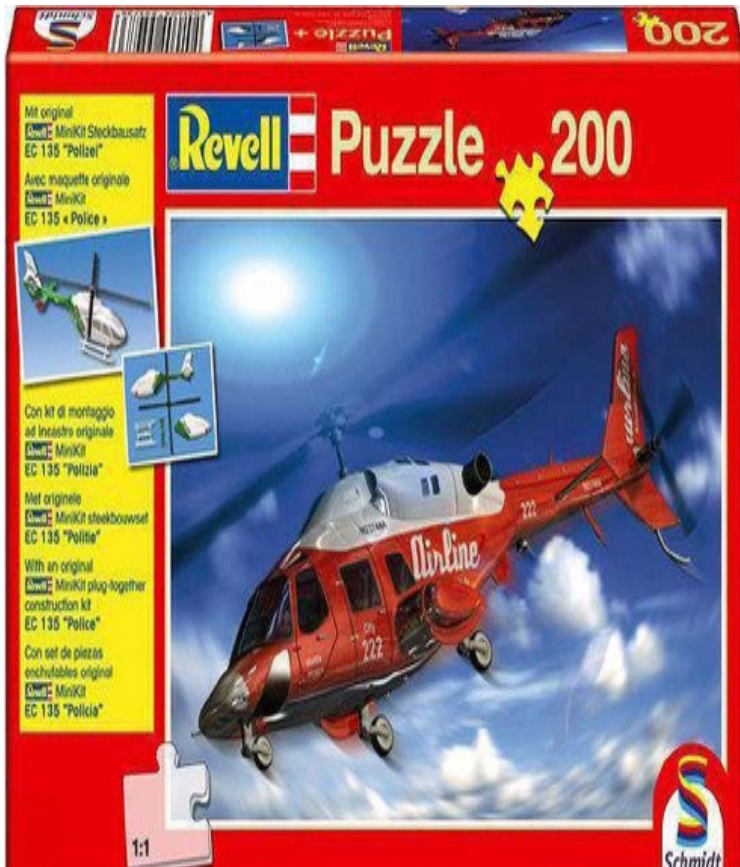


The body is provided painted in the British Airways Chatham livery, complete with each window darkened. The completed kit is only 3.5" (87cm) long.



Revell/Schmidt produced four puzzle/kit combinations in this product line: the BA Concorde, the LZ 129 Hindenburg (product 55470), the Airbus A380 (product 55472) and the Eurocopter EC-135 (product 55473). Most of these are available from the usual sources.





In summary, the Revell/Schmidt Concorde puzzle and minikit were a lot of fun.

Finally, for comparison here is a picture of the Revell 1:635 Concorde and the Revell 1:144 Concorde kits.

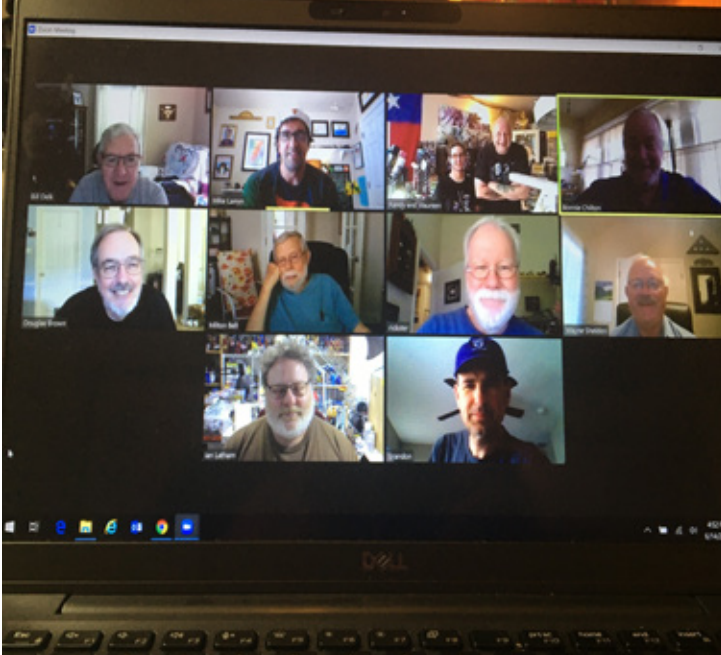


More research found that the individual Revell minikits were available as well. The Concorde was produced in three 1:685 versions (Revell 06590, 06547, 06530), Airbus 380 in 1:685 (06582), EC-135 (06587), and Hindenburg in 1:2600 scale (06700)





What's Zip 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.

Bill Delk is up first with his 1/48 Kinetic Pucara.





The editor made a trip down to Bob Bethea's this past week to drop off the Marder I painted up for him and came back with photos of his latest and greatest. Thanks Bob for sharing. First up is Takom's 1/16th scale Pzkwf 1 Ausf B4.



Next from Bob is Tamiya's newly released Marder 1 in 1/35th scale.

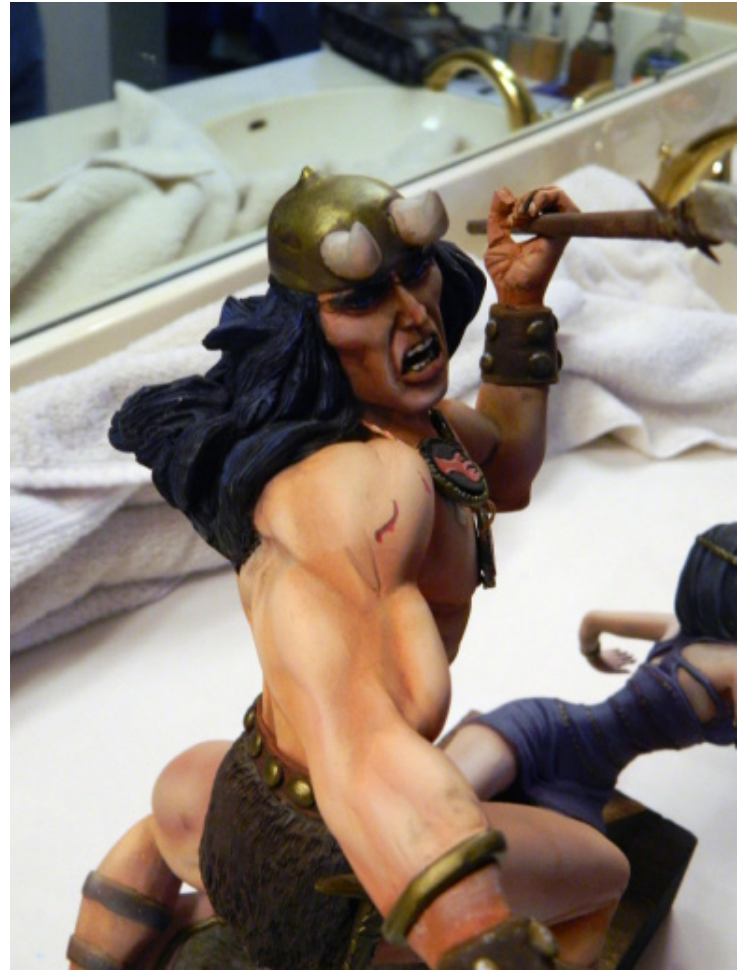




Another armor project from Bob, this one a work in progress is a Trumpeter 1/35th Stridsvagn 122. This is the Swedish version of the German Leopard 2A5. Bob was attracted to the Swede's camouflage scheme.



Bob has some figures to share also. The first is a commission Conan figure.





Last from Bob this month is a figure of a Viking in the snow.

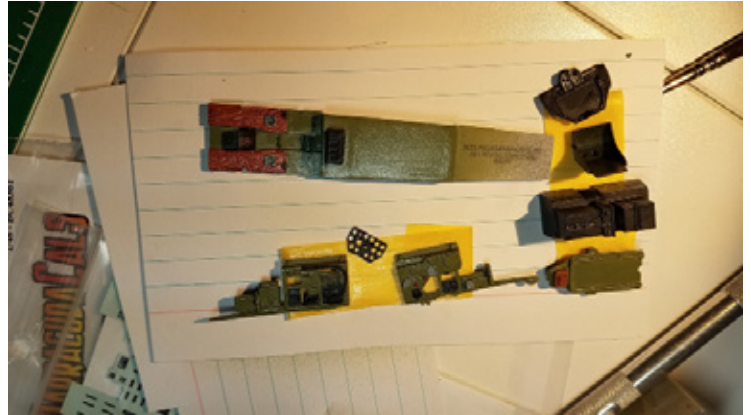
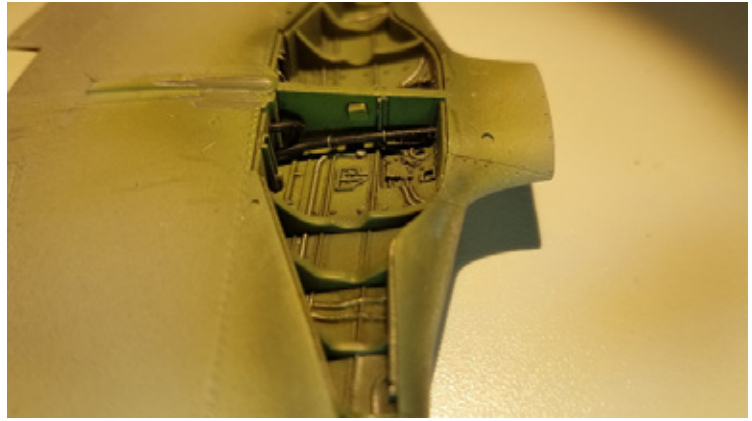


Milton Bell did a great job on Arma's 1/72nd Hurricane Mk 2C.



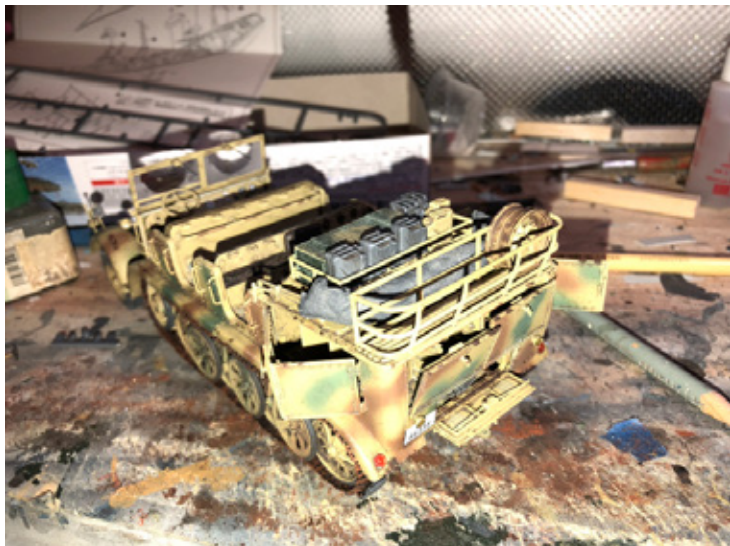


Dave Bottger shared some pictures of the P51-B he's working on now.



Rick Cotton shared some pictures of his completed Sdkfz 7 half-track.

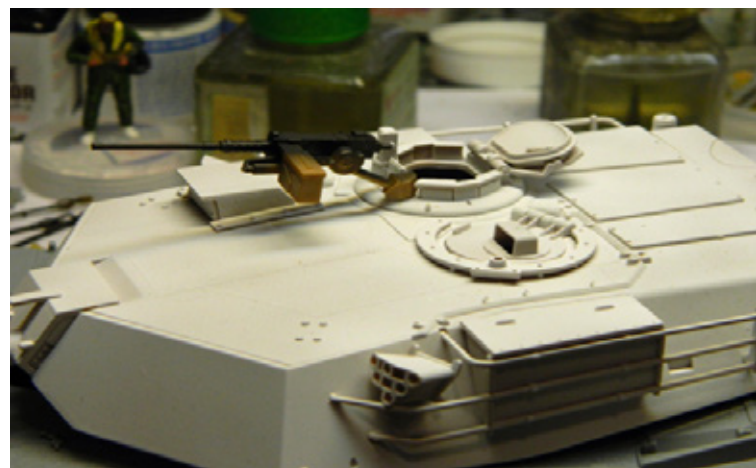




Dave Edgerly just finished up Tamiya's new F-4B in 1/48.



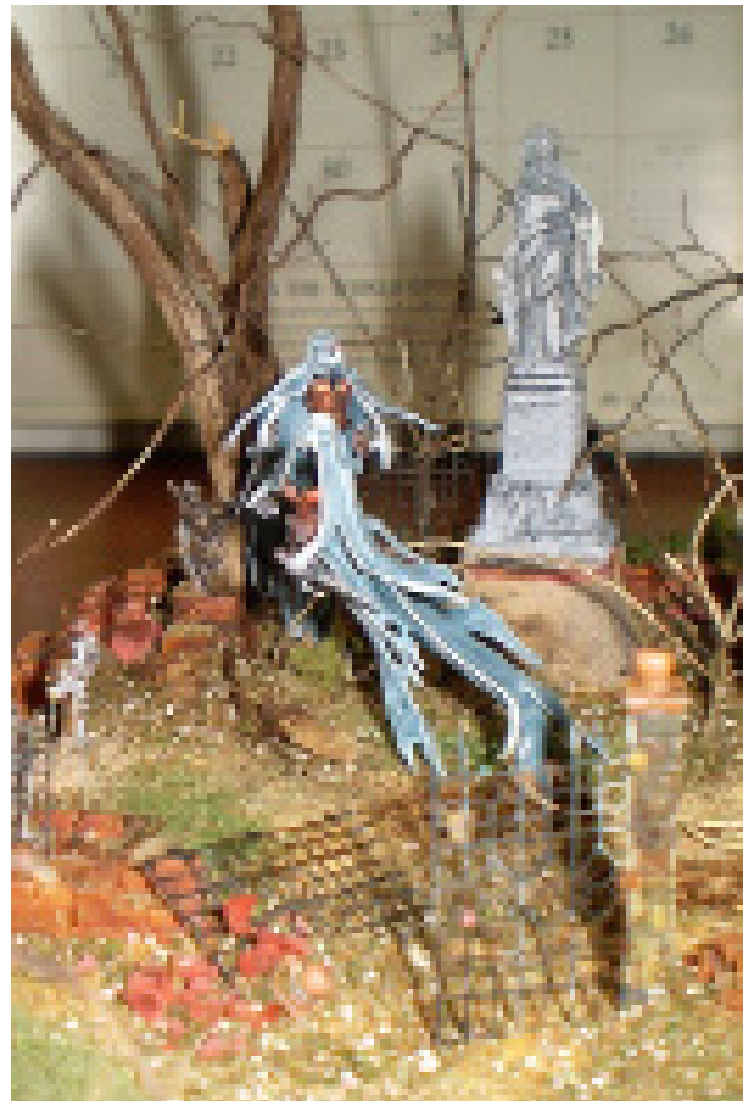
Rick Herrington is trying to construct an early version M1 Initial Production (IP). He's using the DML hull of a Panther 2 and the turret from the Tamiya kit. Rick is also building the Panda M1 IP kit at the same time.



Ben Morton has a couple of projects he's sharing this month. the first is a Leopard 2A4.



Second from Ben is his graveyard diorama with Mymourn Banshees.





Last up this month are two Gunpla models from Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner. The first is a High Grade Dom.



The second is a Gundam Mark 5





That's it for this month. Thanks to everyone that shared his work.

The Birth of Winterblitz by Rick Cotton

Sorry I have not written anything in a while. It's not that I do not have the time, or have the inclination. It's just that with the lessening of the Wuhan Crud finally letting us get back to work, to go out of our houses, and...thank God... go back to our hobby and the occasional show, I have just been busy.

But, in all of this time, I had no idea what was waiting around the corner, courtesy of a couple of modeling friends. Big doings, as they say. You know I love shows, and have written scads about past events, the love/hate relationship we all have with competition and big vending rooms. That was from the perspective of participant, judge, and even a vendor once. That was then. This is now.

My good armor-modeling friend, Bandon Jacob approaches me with a seriously wild idea: maybe WE could put on a small armor show in January, when nothing's going on?

Ha! Craziest thing I ever heard....hey, wait a minute. He's right – nothing IS going on in January. Our friends in Lake Charles are still bailing themselves out from a hellish series of storms, and as of this writing, are JUST NOW getting back to organizing their show, God willing. The next Cal-mex will not be in January, so the month is full of nothing but returning awful Christmas presents and watching football playoffs. None of which will involve my Texans, apparently.

A small show would be fun. Brandon takes the idea and runs with it, enticing our good friend Eric Choy from Austin into the mix, and then goes one further by arranging with the Museum of the American GI in College Station to put the show on in their facility...FOR FREE no less. That's a coup, no doubt.

This boy Brandon is some schmoozer. Wonder if he told the Director he would take her to dinner, drinks, and dancing in return? Probably not. I mean, we go a LONG way for model shows, but.....anyway, what a coup!

Now came the fun part. We had to come up with a name, a flyer, categories, awards, volunteers, sponsors, publicity, prizes, on and on and on. The name, Winterblitz comes to me while watching reruns of "Great Tank Battles" on the Web, I run it by the others, and they agree. Talks about the time of year and tanks. Perfect. Catchy. Rolls off the tongue. Fits on an award medal easily. Would make a swell t-shirt. Done. Winterblitz it will be!

Being show veterans of long standing, we decide to keep everything small for this first event, to make sure it all fits in the venue and our budget...budget? What's a budget? 15 categories, modeled mostly on other successful shows, and with an eye to getting as many models in a category as possible without calling a plane a tank. We hash those out, and work it down. Is it a perfect set? No. Will it work for the first show? Yes, I am pretty sure it will.

I use a lot of good work time to develop the flyers, the entry blanks, the registration paperwork, etc., run it by Brandon and Eric, and we clean that all up. Ready to go.

I dial up good old Andy Bloom from the Red River Modelers, and we discuss their lovely "challenge coin" awards – some of the most attractive, yet cost-effective awards out there. He advises me, and after some shopping, I locate an outfit in New York that will make the coins to our specs, and ship them, for something less than the price of a used 1972 Yugo. Beautiful heavy, gold, silver, and bronze-colored challenge coins emblazoned with "Winterblitz" and our group's logo (which I designed!).

Ah, yes, our group. No club here, just a loose collection of show-loving individuals – hence the name – the Texas Independent Military Modelers.



We are all from Texas, we are Modelers, and this show is independent of IPMS, AMPS, HAMS, SWAMP, GBASMA, the CIA, the AFL-CIO, NOW and ANTIFA, and all other assorted abbreviations. We are NOT A CLUB. We are just a bunch of guys who want to have a simple, fun armor show. So now comes the fun part – enticing others into our little circle. There are minimal requirements- you must be breathing, like models, and not be a blithering idiot, escaped felon, serial killer or extortionist. Other than that, we are not particular. We need others. We need judges (of course). We need volunteers. We are all 3 sponsors of the event, and we need more to sponsor. We need someone who will walk around the show floor and smack little kids' hands when they reach for the models. We need entry table help. We need cleanup help. We need folks to help the vendors in (this is a great way to PREVIEW the bargains!). And we need vendors, too. Looks like we already may have a couple of industry-type ones lined up, but we will need more.

But, without a doubt, what we need most is for YOU to participate, come to the show, enter something, shop the vendors, chitchat with your peers, have a great time and enjoy yourself. If THAT is what mostly occurs, then the show will have been a rousing success.

Will it happen? We hope it takes off, grows, eventually spreads to planes, cars, ships, sci-fi, figures, Gundam, whatever. But that's down the road.

For now, it's just armor, and it's just for fun.

Winterblitz! January 22, 2022, at the Museum of the American GI in College Station. Be there!

Or....go return some Christmas crap at the Walmart. Your call.



Thomas das Tank Engine

Old Rumors and New Kits

New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

July brings a mix of the new and oldies-but-goodies, with a half-dozen new-tool offerings along with revised or enhanced releases of both very old, and fairly recent kits. Fans of 1/72nd scale have a lot of new stuff to look at. The 1/48th fans, on the other hand, have the largest selection of offerings this month.

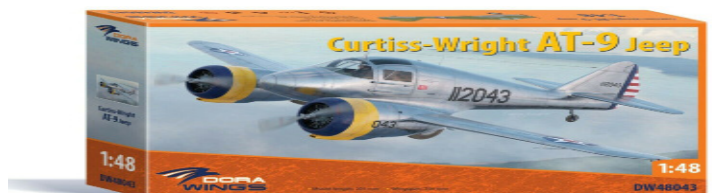
1/32nd Scale

ICM is re-releasing its 2020 new-tool DH.82A Tiger Moth with the addition of four (based on the box art) RAF Cadet figures.



1/48th Scale

DoraWings is releasing a new-tool Curtiss AT-9 Jeep, which so far as I know is only the second time this aircraft has been kitted – the other is an aging Pavla kit in 1/72nd.



Eduard is re-releasing their Bf 109G-14/AS Wilde Sau (Wild Boar) as a dual combo kit. These aircraft were early single-seat night fighters that were directed near to targets by ground controllers and dependent on visual sighting to complete the intercept.



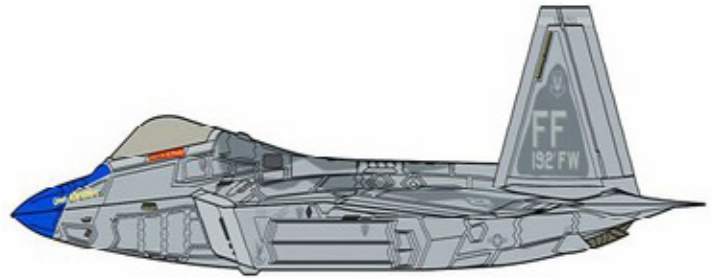
Great Wall is re-releasing their 2018 new-tool Su-27 Flanker B with some new/updated parts



Hasegawa is re-releasing an A-4M Skyhawk, which if Scalemates has their story straight originated as a Monogram kit back in 1977 – so an “oldie but goodie” for sure.



Hasegawa is also re-releasing their F-22 Raptor in a Blue Nose Detail Up Version with new decals.

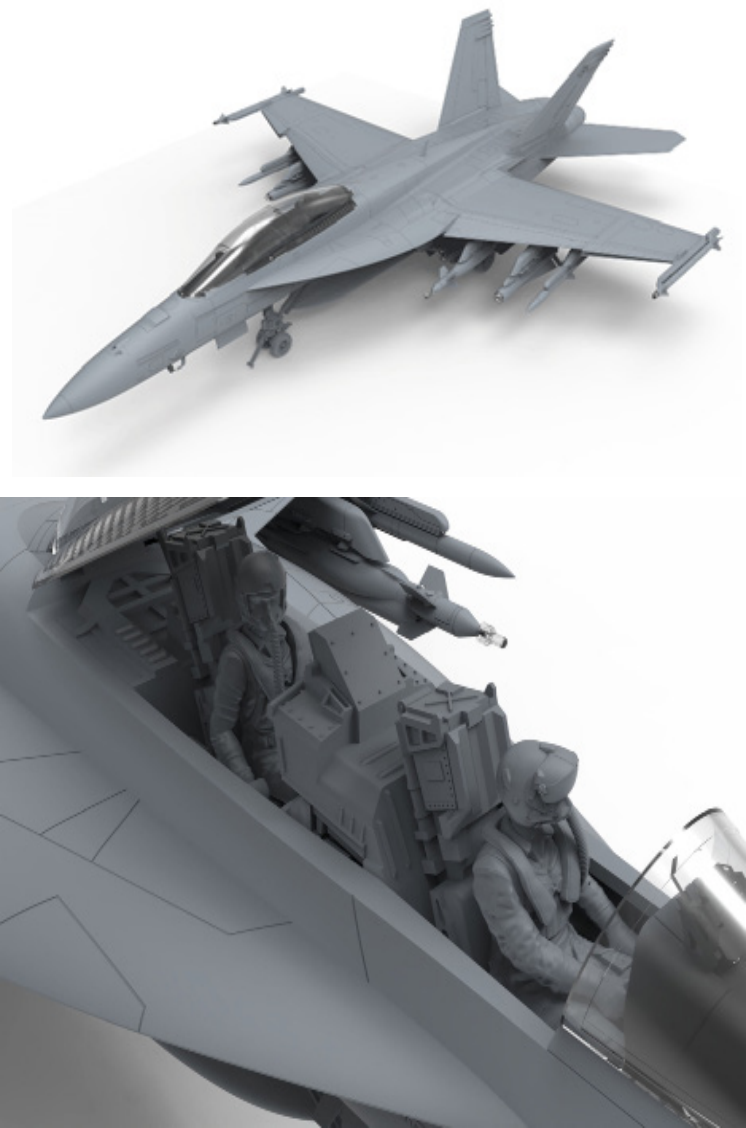


ICM is re-releasing their Q-2A Firebee (recently reviewed in this newsletter) as a two-fer kit with suspension pylons in place of the ground handling dolly. According to the box art, this is suitable for use with their A-26 Invader kit.



Meng is re-releasing their 2020 new-tool F/A-18F Super Hornet with new decals and some updated/new parts.





U.S. LASER-GUIDED BOMBS & ANTI-RADIATION MISSILES
美国激光制导炸弹及反辐射导弹
1/48 SPS-072



MENG
WWW.MENG-MODEL.COM

Modelsvit has announced a new-tool Yak-9D.



Tamiya is releasing a Ki-61-IId Hien (Tony) in a Silver-Plated version with decals for the mottled camouflage.



Trumpeter has announced a new-tool Mi-24V Hind E.





Zvezda, not to be out-done, has re-released their 2020 new-tool Mi-24P Hind F with some updated/new parts.



1/72nd Scale

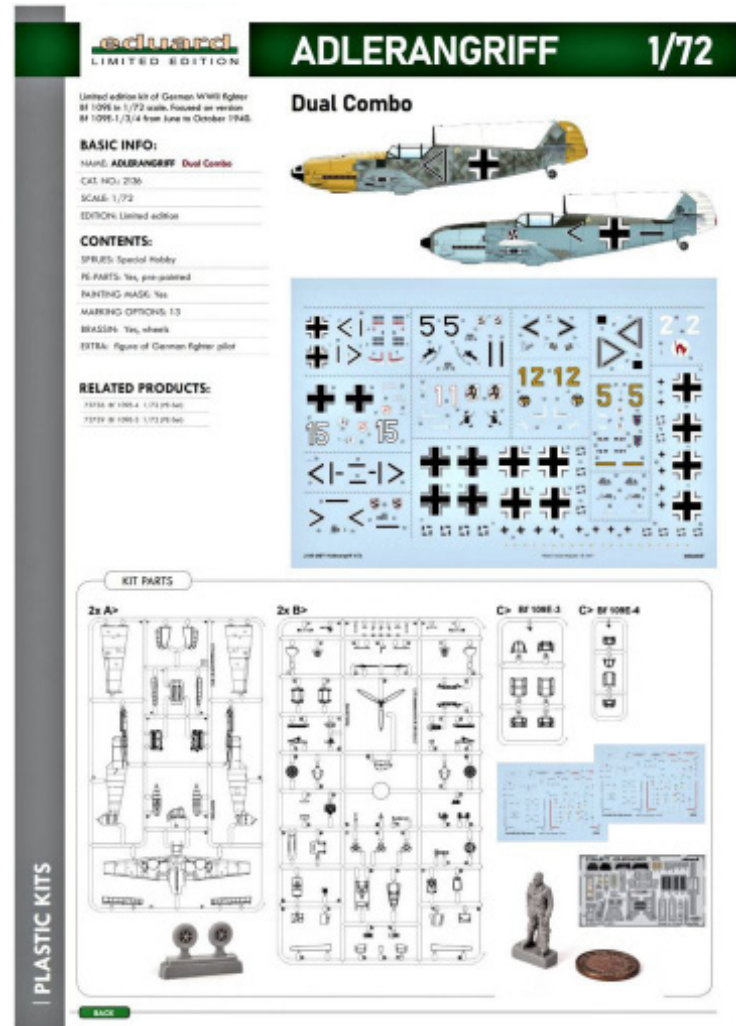
Airfix has announced a new-tool Vulcan B.2. Even in 1/72nd scale this should be an impressive model.



Airfix is also releasing a mini-diorama in a box. They are releasing D-day Air assault. The kit includes a Hawker Typhoon several vehicle and ground crew.



Eduard is re-releasing their Bf 109E in an Adlerangriff Dual Combo Ltd Edition, with new decals, photo-etch, and masks.



HobbyBoss has announced a new-tool U-2A Dragon Lady, which so far as I know is the only recent kit of this subject in this scale.



Zvezda has announced a new-tool Hurricane Mk.IIc.



Airfix is also releasing a Mosquito B16



1/144th Scale

Zvezda has announced a new-tool 757-200

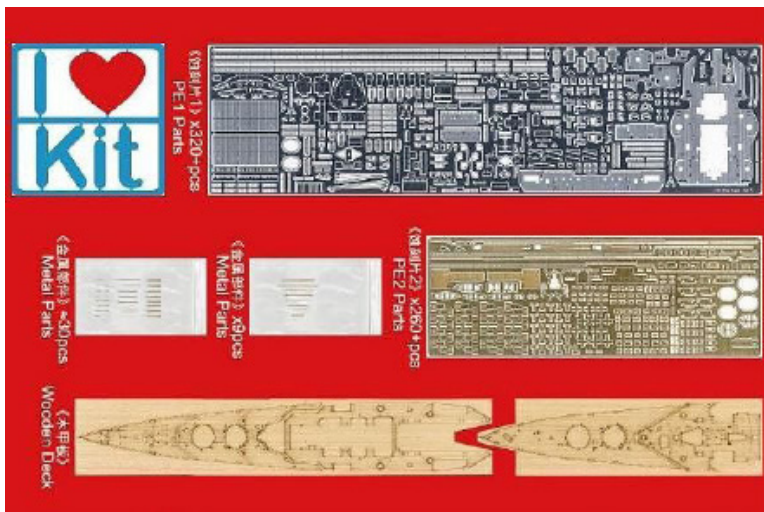


So, there you have it, a nice mix of re-pops plus some interesting new-tool kits. Enjoy!

Shipping News

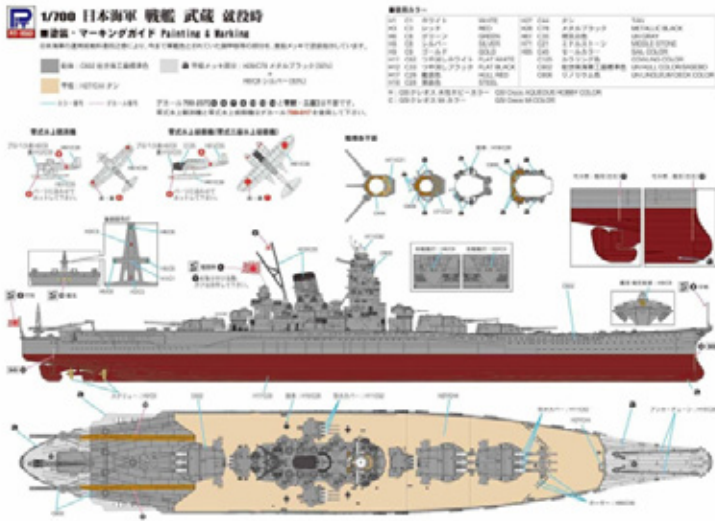
by Rick Herrington

Ahoy marine modeler enthusiasts! Let's start off with 1/700th scale. The manufacturer I Lovekit is releasing HMS Hood.



Pit Road has two new releases for us in 1/700th. The first is IJN Musashi. Yep, another Musashi, as if we didn't have enough of them already.





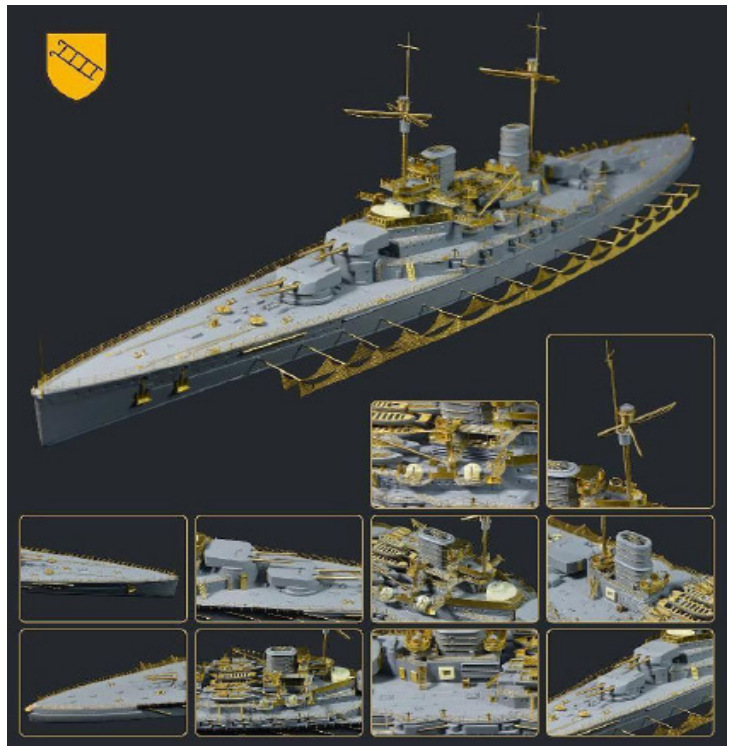
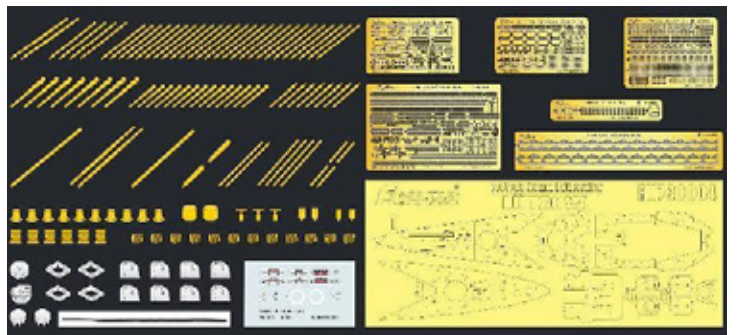
Next from Pit Road is the JMSDF destroyer DD-120 Shiranui.



Fujimi is releasing the IJN heavy cruiser Tone.



Flyhawk has turned out to be a powerhouse in 1/700th scale modeling. They have the SMS Lutzow as she appeared in 1916.





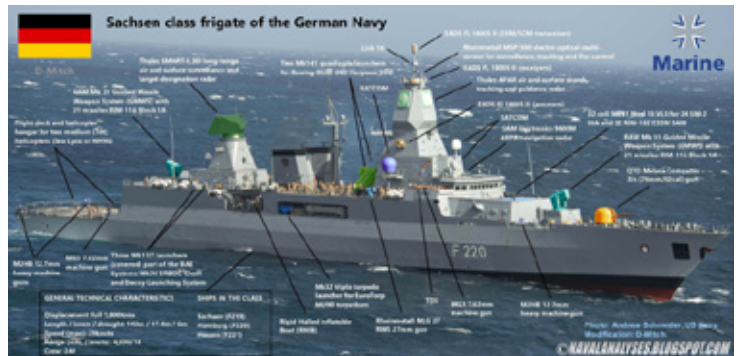
Last in 1/700th we have Trumpeter releasing a 1/700th scale Scharnhorst. I remember when Trumpeter released their first Scharnhorst. It was a direct copy of Tamiya's model. If this one is a copy I hope it is of Flyhawk's.



Moving on to 1/350th scale we have Hobby Boss up first with a USS Gato (1941).



Our friends at Takom have decided to venture into 1/350th scale ships. Their first release will be a Bundesmarine Type 124 Sachsen class Guided missile cruiser. Thank goodness it's not another Yamato.



Moving on to 1/35th scale I know I said I was thankful that Takom's first ship wasn't that Japanese behemoth, but Takom is not going to leave us without something from the Yamato. Last month it was an anchor, this month it's the Type 60 secondary turret from Yamato.



That's all the wind in the sails for this month. Until next month grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Let's get started with the space savers... 1/72nd scale. Special Armor is releasing a Pak 36.

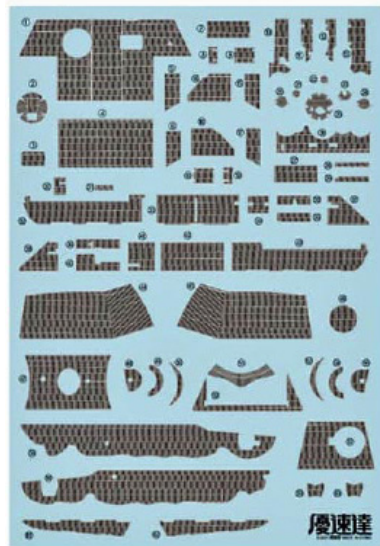


A new manufacturer to me Vespido is releasing a Panther Ausf G.

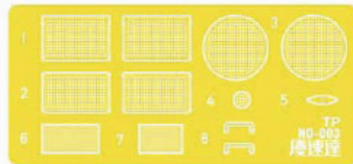




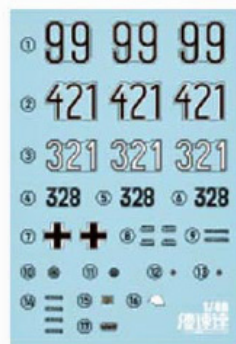
In 1/48th scale Suyata is releasing a Panther A. This looks like a pretty good kit from the pictures I found on the Interweb. Can't be to bad Eric already has one.



ZIMMERIT DECALS



PE



DECALS



On to 1/35th scale. First up is Copper State Models with another WW1 armored car. This one is an Italian 12M.



ICM is releasing two sets of WW2 trucks in 1/35th scale. The first is British and contains three complete kits, a W.O.T. 6, a W.O.T. 8 and a Leyland Retriever.



The second set of WW2 trucks from ICM is German. It looks like three different versions of a le. PKW kfz.1

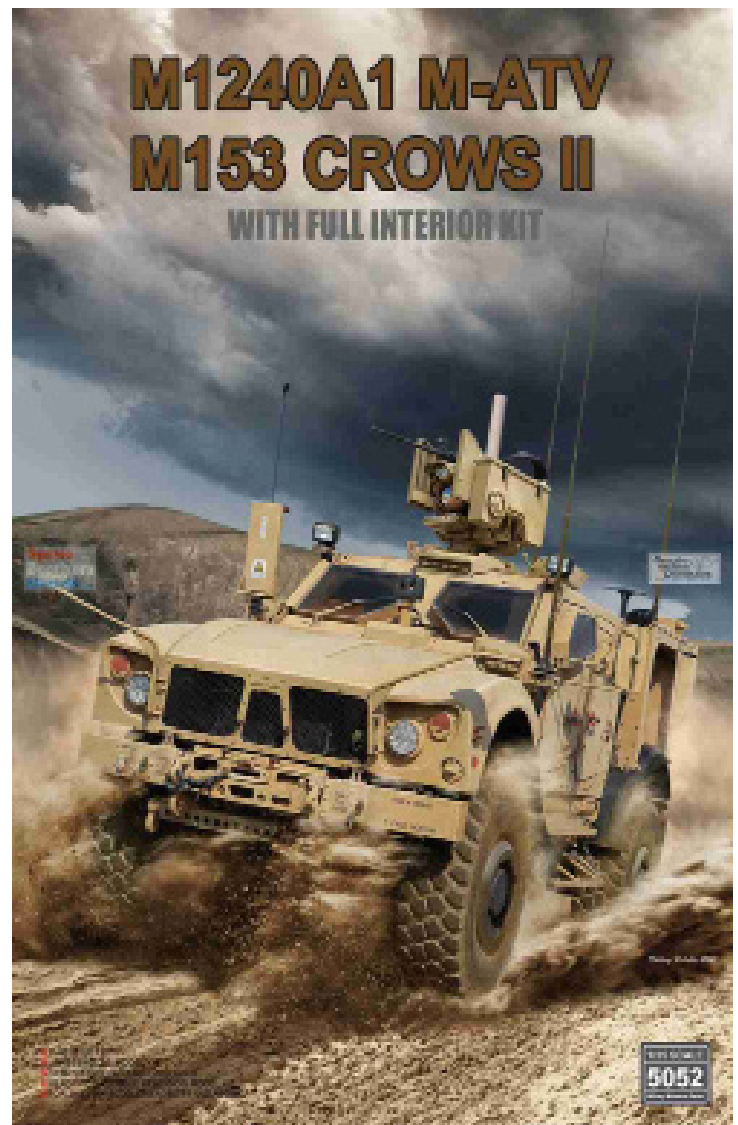
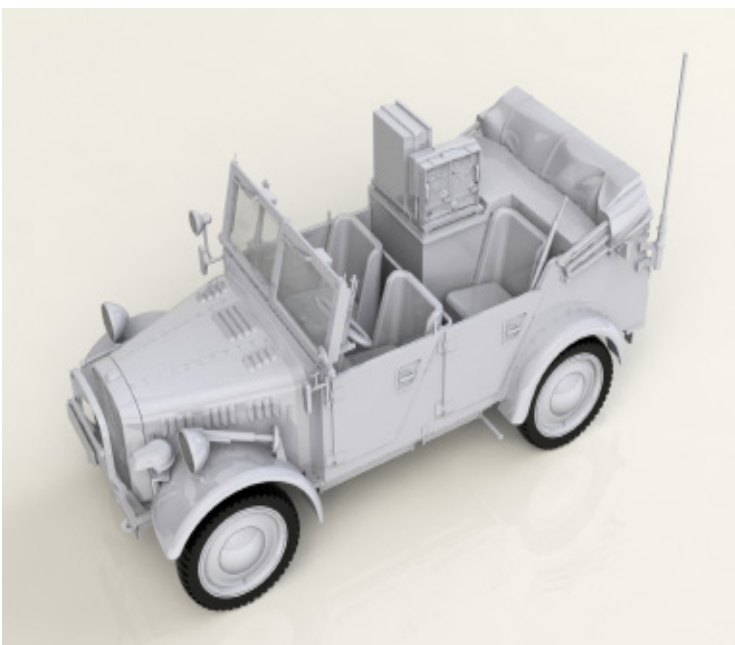




Hobby Boss is releasing an MRAP MATV



RFM has an M1240 A1 with a CROWS 2 mounted on it.





Trumpeter has a Russian BTRK1 APC. Perfect for those early cold war dioramas.



Moving on to tracked vehicles AFV is releasing an Australian M113 T 50 APC.



Amusing Hobby has two for us this month. The first is a Swedish Stridsvagn 104.



Next from Amusing Hobby is a T-72AV.





Meng is releasing a Chinese (PLA) ZTQ15 Black Panther light tank.



中国人民解放军ZTQ15式轻型坦克

PLA ZTQ15 LIGHT TANK

TS-048



MENG
WWW.MENG-MODEL.COM

MiniArt has two new releases this month. The first is a Pzkw 4 Ausf J mid production 1944.



The second is a T-34 85 mod 1960.



Trumpeter has a T-80BV for us.





RFM has two new releases. The first is PzKpfw 4 Ausf G with interior. The second is a Canadian Leopard 2A6 (Afghanistan version) with a couple of update sets to add bells and whistles to it.



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Canadian LEOPARD 2A6M CAN

Upgrade set for RM-5076

- Metal chain x1 piece
- 3D printed Support frame x10 pieces
- 3D printed Hexagon nuts x26 pieces
- Tank not included

2021

RFM
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1/35 SCALE WORKABLE TRACK LINKS

LEOPARD 2A5/ A6/ A7

1/35 SCALE
5057

W/12 PIECES ICE CLEATS

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THIS IS NOT A TOY •
TANK KIT NOT INCLUDED •
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UPGRADE SOLUTION SERIES

Canadian LEOPARD 2A6M CAN

FOR RYEFIELD RM-5076

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3D PRINTED WORKABLE TRACK LINKS

LEOPARD 2A5/ A6/ A7

63+ pieces Standard effects

20+ pieces Wear effects

- Easy to assemble
- High resolution 3D printed
- 63 Tracks per side

2022

RFM
RYEFIELD MODEL





Last in this month's armor column is Takom's announcement of a 1/16th scale Weisel Mark 20.



The two offerings would go well with a Panzer III, to show the crew bailing out of a crippled tank, or you could use the 3 soldier set for a Panzer II.



that's it for this month. Looks like the next few months are going to be rich in releases, enough to keep you and I busy for a while. Until next time Auf Wiedersehen.

It Figures

By Michael Lamm

Hello fellow modelers! Hope everyone is well and enjoying this cooler than normal July. Just because it's been "cooler" than normal, don't let that trick you into thinking you need to be spending more time outside. Make sure to spend enough time indoors to focus on our figure painting skills. Here's some new offerings to get you started.

<http://danmodels.org/>

A relatively new figure company from the Ukraine has produced five 1/35th scale figures in two separate offerings. First up are 2 German tankers, bailing out of their tank. The radio operator crawls out of the escape hatch, while another soldier covers his exit. In the second offering, we have 2 soldiers and the commander bailing out of the top of the tank.

DANmodels

DM35104

Set included
3 figure.

Sculpted by
Sergey Alekhno.

SCALE: 1/35



German tanker Evacuation
1940-43 years



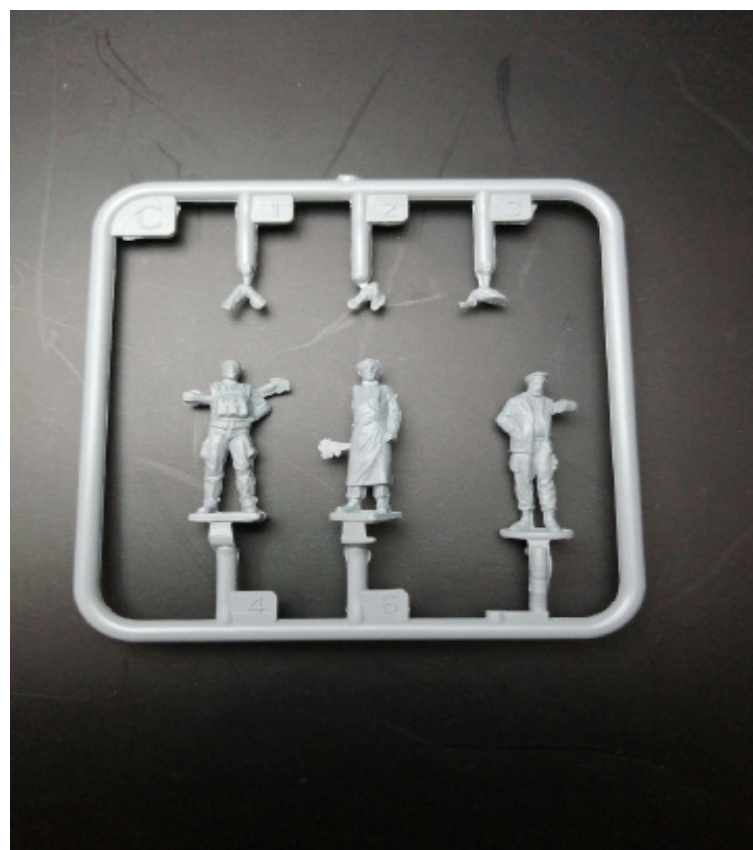
<http://nutsplanet.com/>

Nuts Planet has a new 1/16th scale U.S. machine gunner figure coming out. The resin figure looks great, with nice details and based on an actual photo from WW2.



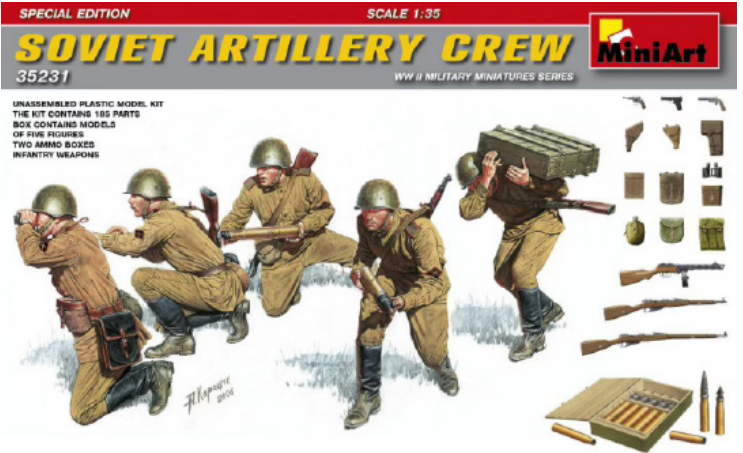
<https://www.facebook.com/molds.termin.31>

From Termin Molds, aka T-Model, comes a set of 1/72 middle east "military" men. The set includes 25 figures in 5 basic poses, with 5 sprues of weapons. The figures look to have a bit of flash on them, but clean up well.

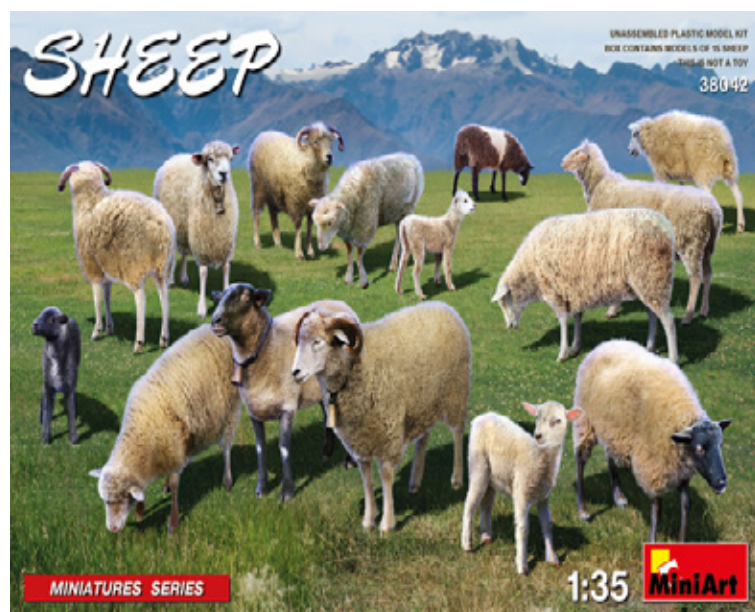


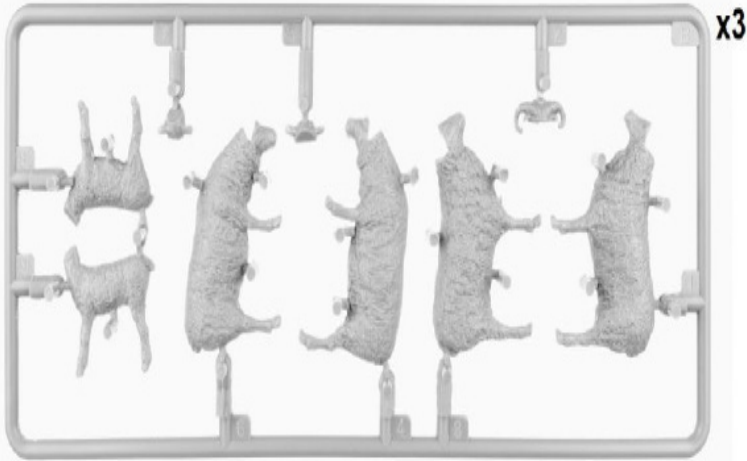


Miniart has released a set of Soviet artillery crewman as a special addition. What that normally means is that they're releasing an older set of figures with some new sprues, normally weapons and other gear. Which is exactly what this appears to be. I'm pretty sure they artillery crew are the figures from Miniart's very nice artillery diorama set, which included a gun, figures and a base featuring city ruins. Now, you get 4 additional sprues which contain a variety of weapons and gear for the soldiers. Considering how important a role Soviet artillery played in their push to the west, ultimately Berlin, it's surprising to me that most of us modelers focus almost exclusively on the armor. Now, you have some nice figures to rectify that.



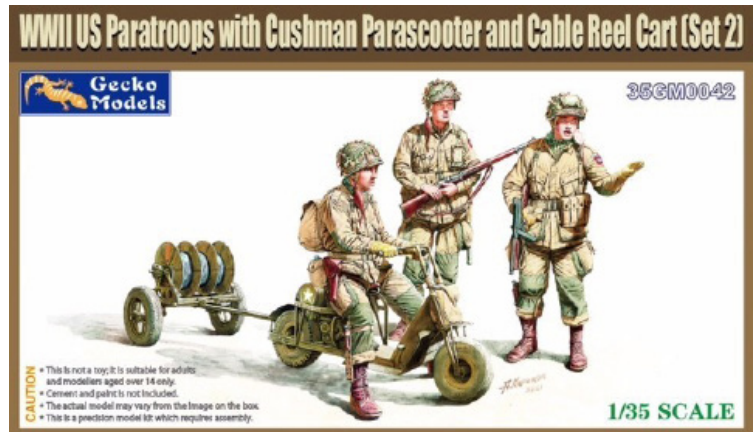
Speaking of nice figures, check out Miniart's new set of sheep!



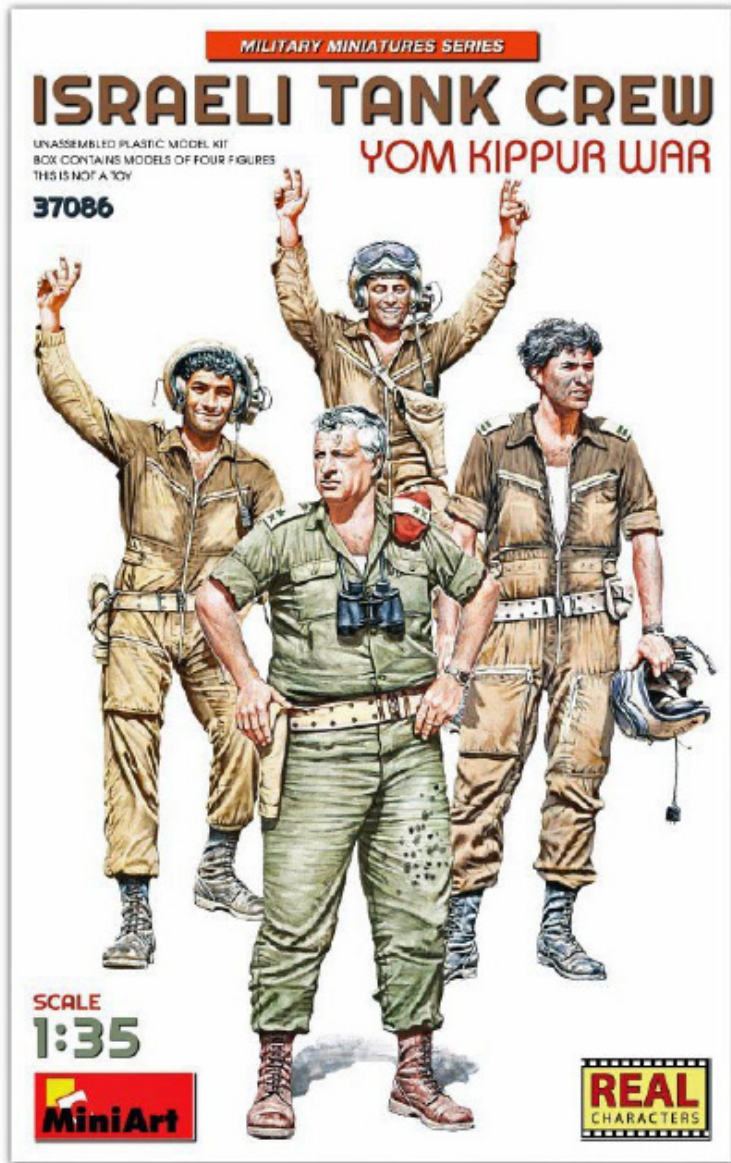


MiniArt is also releasing a set of Israeli tank crew circa 1973. It even includes a figure of Ariel Sharon.

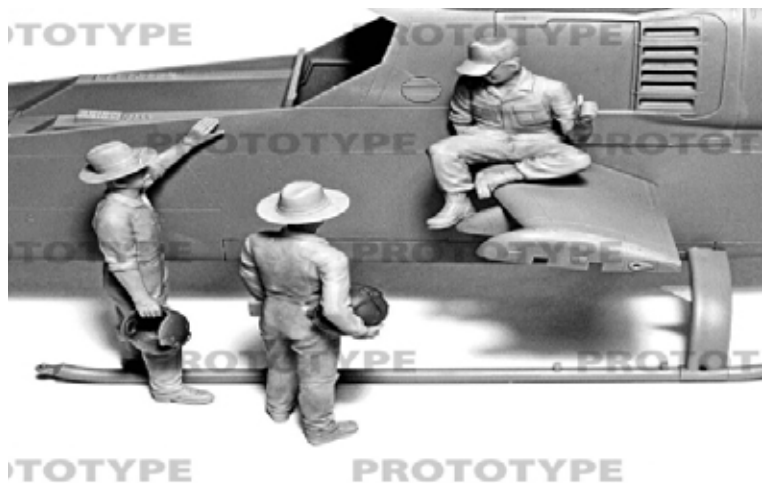
Gecko is releasing 3 US paratroopers with a parascooter.



Last up is two releases from ICM. The first is a British policeman (Bobbie).



Last up from ICM is a set of 1/32nd Vietnam era helicopter crew.

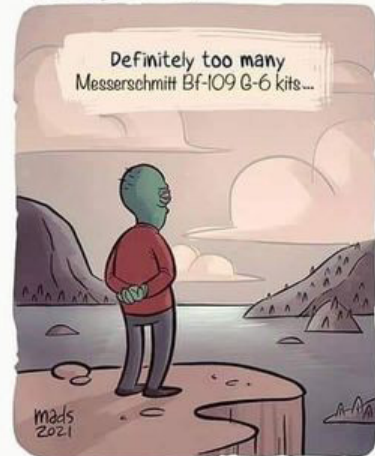




Stalingrad is coming out with a set of tank rider in 1/35th scale. It is a set of 13 figures.



That's it for this month. So, let's all continue to stay safe and spend some time working on our figure skills.



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Friend

Ad in IPMS Journal

Facebook

Ad in other magazine

Internet search

IPMS web site

I'm a former member rejoining

Other _____

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Three years \$86.00 _____

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