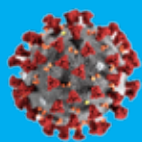


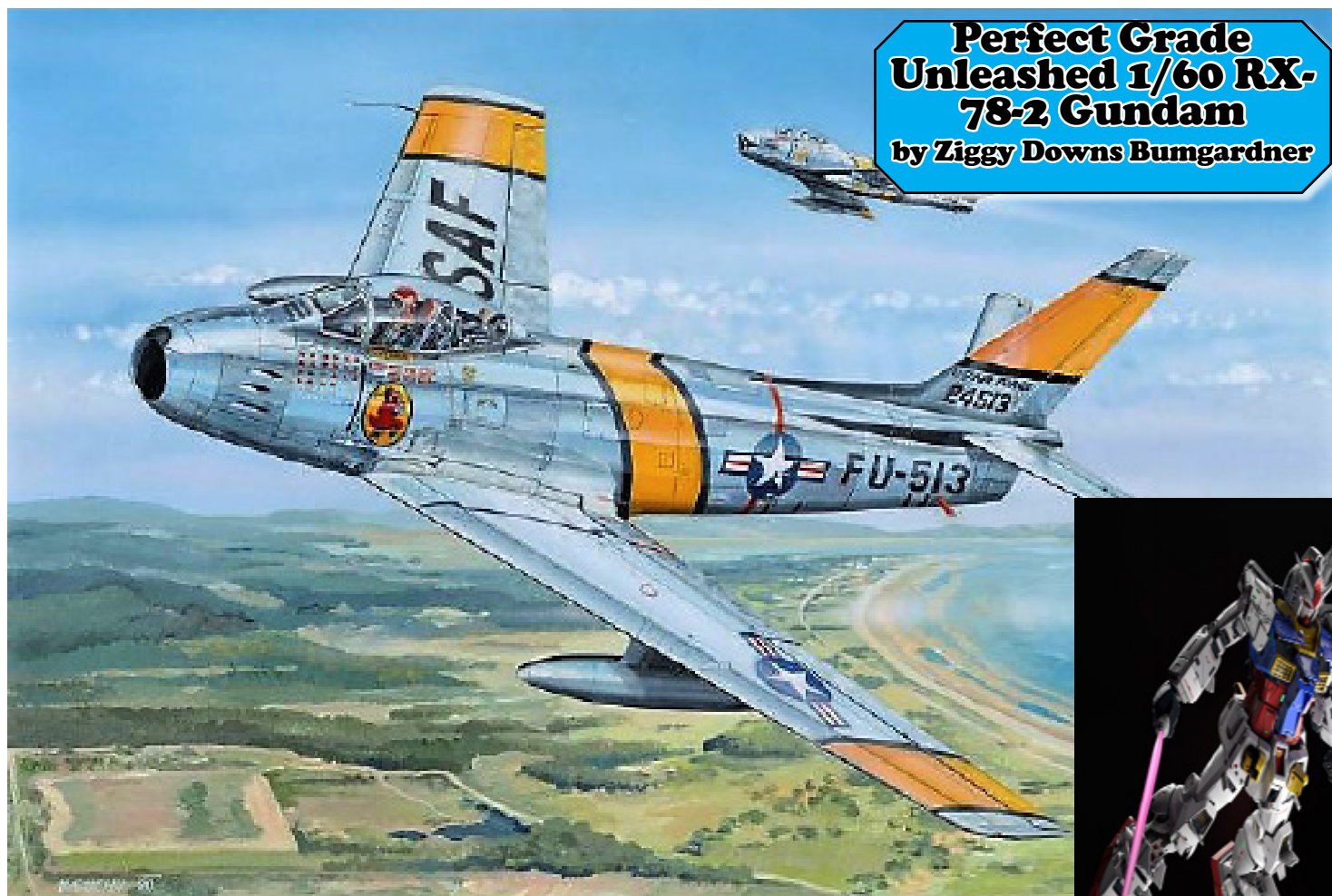
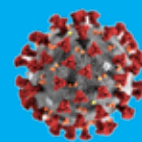
# ASMS



# SPRUE EXAMINER



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



**Perfect Grade  
Unleashed 1/60 RX-  
78-2 Gundam**  
by Ziggy Downs Bumgardner

**Ben Morton builds and  
reviews Hobby Boss's 1/18  
F-86**



austinsms.com



March 2021

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

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



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## IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities. The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country. The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery. Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

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



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

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

ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



# PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Dear members,

Welcome to the March edition of the ASMS Sprue Examiner.

I'm excited! It looks like the Shows are coming back later this year. It looks like Houston IPMS will be starting the Texas shows in May and Capitol Classic will be back in October. This is all good news but to be approached through caution. I'm hoping everyone will be able to get their shots by then and that safety will still be protocol. Time will tell, but I know my piggy bank is getting full and I need to replace some of those kits I've been able to go through in the past year.

I have no answers yet for monthly meetings, but I can assure you they will not be happening until it is safe for everyone to attend. Until then I strongly suggest that those of you who would like to get together attend the weekly Zoom meeting that Bill Delk puts on every Sunday at 4 PM. We always have a nice crowd of zoomers from all over the country sitting in and sharing our adventures.

Short and sweet this month, I'm sure you will enjoy this issue as Rick and the team have been putting out some wonderful newsletters the past year. Sit back, pour a cup and enjoy.

Cheers!

Ian

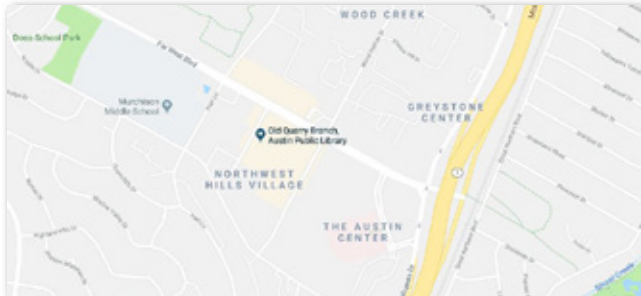




# HOUSE CLEANING



## ASMS MEETING



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

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

**No Reservations Neccessary!**



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



### Events

#### ***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.

**Model Mania  
May 8, 2021  
Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX**

### Club Quarterly Contests

Meetings  
Suspended

### Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings  
Suspended



## Hobby Boss' 1/18 F86 F-30 Sabre

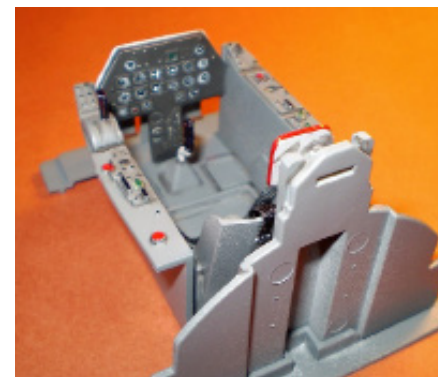
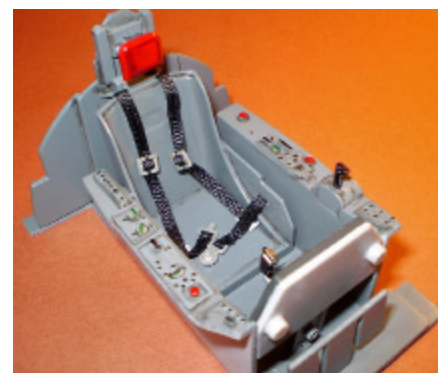
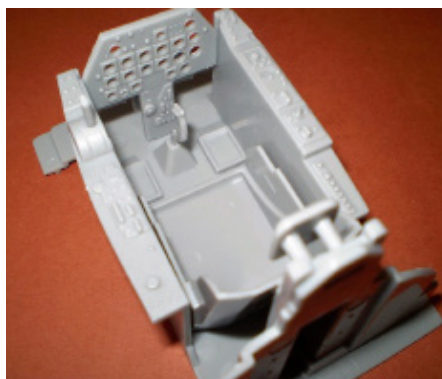
a build review by Ben Morton

Hobby Boss has released another large, 1/18th scale aircraft for your modeling enjoyment. Along with their 1/18th Me262, FW 190, Harrier and Huey we now have the F-86 F-30 'Sabre' to grace our ceilings. (About the only place to display this behemoth.) Some of you may be having flashbacks but these kits seem to resemble those that were once available from Merit International and before that 21st Century Toys.

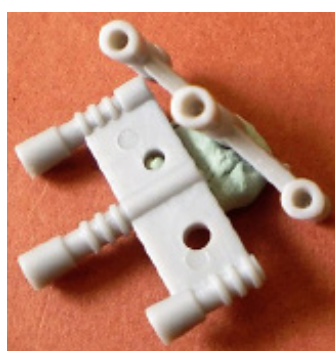


The markings in this kit are similar to those offered by Merit International, so I'm going with the inference that this Sabre kit may once have been marketed by someone else. The kit does contain one hundred ninety plus parts on thirteen light gray plastic sprues plus fuselage. There is, amongst that number, a small sprue of clear bits for the windshield/canopy and landing lights. Hobby Boss has thoughtfully included a counter weight for the non-tail dragging version of the Sabre and a 'cloth-like' material for the seat belts with plastic bits the buckles and such. There is a soft vinyl, multi-part pilot figure included that actually fits in the cockpit. There are color call-outs referenced in the assembly instructions for Mr. Hobby, Vallejo, Model Master, Tamiya and Humbrol paints.

Alas, those color call outs are limited to the cockpit area. You'll need to check references for the color of the gun bays, wheel wells, etc., although some shade of chromatic green is a safe bet. There are some additional color references on the separate marking & painting guide. Construction begins with the forward gear well and cockpit. The supplied nose weight is attached to this assembly and both fit snugly into the forward section of the fuselage. It may be prudent to add some more weight to the nose to avoid the dreaded tail sitting stance common to tricycle landing models. A nicely detailed instrument panel is provided with decals for the instrument faces. The instrument bezels are supplied as a separate part which will definitely aid in painting. A throttle control lever and control column are provided as are sidewall details, these all being separate parts. Purists may wish to embellish this area as any additional details added here (or anywhere for that matter) will definitely be seen and appreciated.



The next few assembly steps are for the jet engine intake and exhaust trunks. The trunks are molded in halves which are split horizontally. You will have a nasty seam to deal with but FOD covers for those trunks are thoughtfully provided with the model. So maybe not the entire seam will need to be dealt with and in the case of the exhaust pipe not at all as the FOD cover is flush with end of the exhaust trunk.

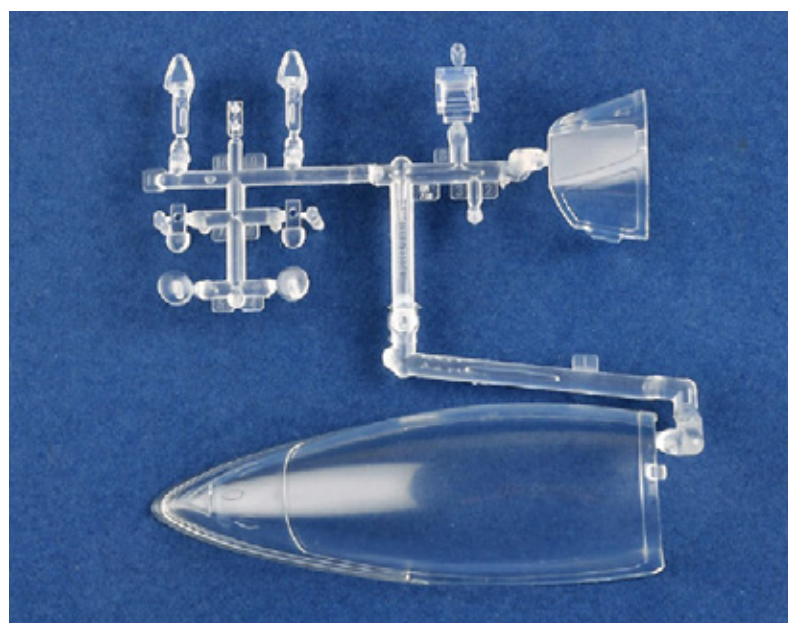


Fuselage detail is next with partial fifty-caliber guns and flexible vinyl ammo belts for both gun bays. The access doors for the gun bays and ammo bins have some nicely molded detail and are pose-able. Dive brake detail is provided with a separate part and an actuator piston for the interior of those doors. The actuator piston 'folds' into a depression on the interior of the dive brake and the entire door can be positioned either opened or closed on the finished model. These doors (gear, ammo bay, dive brakes) all have ejector pin depressions that you may wish to remove with some light sanding. There is a small dimple just to the rear of the dive brake opening and main landing gear doors that facilitates opening the closed doors. Should you not wish to have workable features on your F-86 some filling and sanding may be involved to remove that dimple (see image).

The clear parts seem to be molded in clear polyvinyl. While this is a safer material than clear plastic it doesn't lend itself to a crystal, clear canopy. Some polishing compound (Novus?) might remedy that situation and provide you with a clearer canopy. But the polyvinyl canopy does lend credence to my theory on the origin story of this kit.



Some lovely canopy details (compass antenna, etc.) are molded into the part immediately behind the pilot. The canopy does slide open and closed. The Sabre was equipped with Bolton fusible conductors that were embedded into the canopy glazing. These devices were there to aid in the destruction of the canopy upon ejection and are missing from the kit. Another item that some may find wanting is the absence of degree markings that were used by the pilot to judge dive angle. A fix may seem necessary (printing your own decal) but in Hobby Boss's defense most other kit manufacturers don't include these items either.



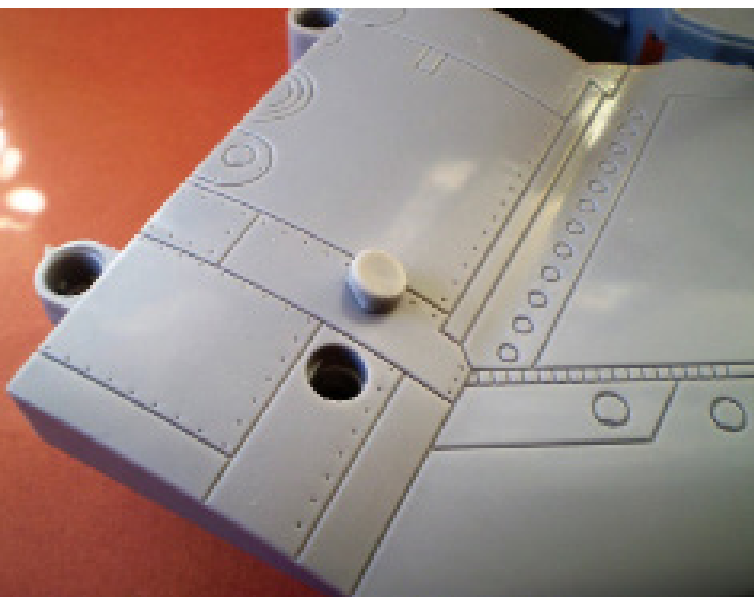
The nose gear and rudder are next up in the assembly sequence, as are the control surfaces (flaps, rudder, stabilizers, etc.). The landing gear struts on this kit are somewhat simplified in design and lack a certain degree of molded detail. They are, after all, designed to be functional. Consequently you may wish to add some bolt heads, brake lines and linkage to the landing gear struts if you wish to have a more realistic looking Sabre. Adding that detail shouldn't present much of a problem as the scale of this kit (1/18th) is going to assist in making that happen. The tires are molded in a soft black vinyl, and while tread-less, do look the part.



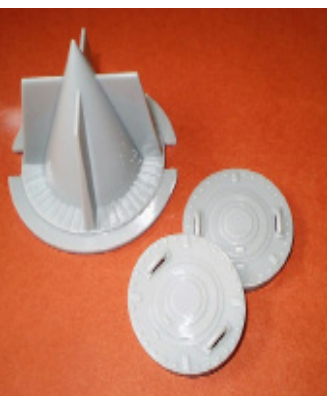


The tires are molded in a soft black vinyl, and while tread-less, do look the part.

The tires get in-fixed between cool looking inner and outer hubs.



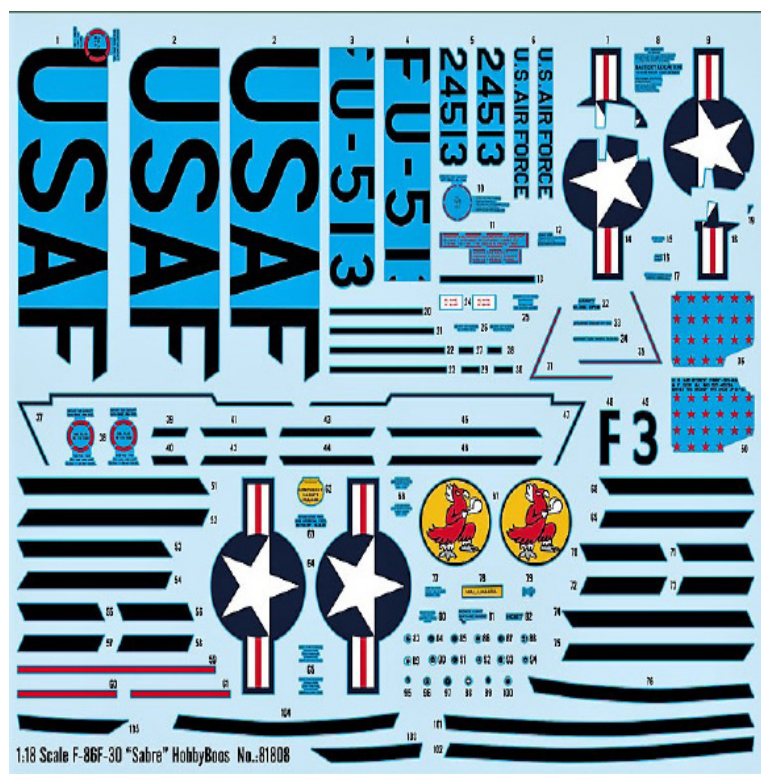
All of the large assemblies (fuselage and wings) are held together with small screws. Plastic bits are provided to plug the screw holes. However, you will need to supply your own screwdriver. Individual flaps and ailerons get sandwiched between the wing halves along with the main landing gear struts via more screws. The two wing assemblies are tied together and that entire unit gets attached to the fuselage with some more screws. (Don't fret, you should be out of screws by now.) Horizontal stabilizers, with their movable control surfaces, are added next which pretty much completes the construction part, except for the under wing stores.

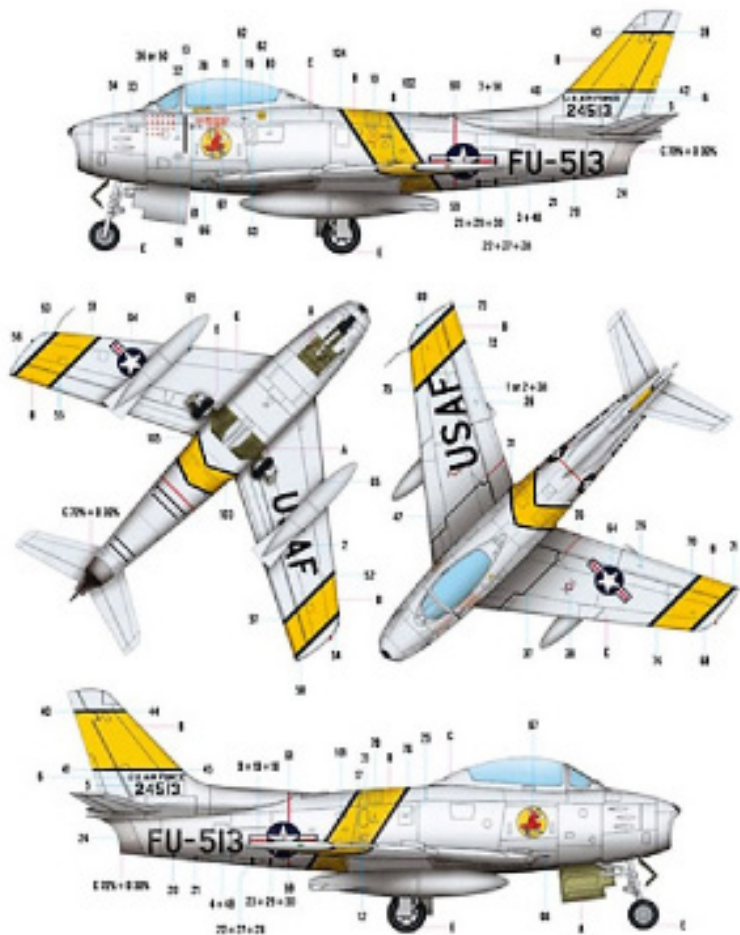


This 'Sabre' kit from Hobby Boss includes your choice of external tanks or Sidewinder missiles on launch rails. While the missiles are supposed to plug into the same holes as the external tanks you may want to set these aside for a Korean War aircraft. For one thing, the Sabre's of the Korean War didn't have the Sidewinder and second, the use of Sidewinder wasn't a tradeoff against the drop tanks. The Sidewinder missile rails were actually mounted inboard of the external fuel tanks. It should be noted that the anti-sway braces for the drop tank pylons are not provided but as it is intended that you can switch the drop tanks out for the missiles, anti-sway braces would just kinda get in the way. Should you build this kit as a display model then the addition of a fuel vent and some guide vanes on the fins of the fuel tanks might be a consideration as those items were not included with items in the box.

The only remaining assembly step is to add the pitot tube and then it is on to painting this beast. Should you be inclined to use Alclad paints for the natural metal finish you may want to get a quart size jar of paint ;)

Hobby Boss only provides one marking option and that is for an F-86F-30 flown by Major James Jabbar during the Korean War. Major Jabbar was the first American jet ace, so maybe not so disappointing to only have one marking option after all. Those decals include a number of stencils that adorned the F-86.





The kit supplied markings are very thin and take almost no time at all to soak off their backing paper. This characteristic tends to make the decals a bit on the fragile side and can contribute to them breaking apart. The only problem area for me involved placing the wing walk striping (#'s 35/47) and the turbine warning strip (#'s 59, 60, 61) around the fuselage. It is worth noting that the marking & painting guide does illustrate the upper wing star and bars (#65) upside down. While most US wing markings on F-86's Sabres were positioned perpendicular to the center line of the aircraft, I chose to place mine canted and parallel with the center line of the wing. You are, after all, the Bruno Mars of where you place your star and bars.

The distinctive, yellow recognition markings on Korean War Sabre's will need to be applied by hand but decals are provided for the black accent banding common to those markings. Sadly, Hobby Boss does not include any detailed measurements or position details for those yellow bands, so best guess or a handy reference may be in order. The problematic one will be the fuselage band as the wing and tail marking kinda follow panel lines. I suppose one could scale up some existing decals and print



I elected to go with a hybrid scheme using the kit supplied markings and lots of artistic license. Remember, this model did begin life as a scale model toy and I for one am delighted that Hobby Boss has brought it back into the light, so to speak.

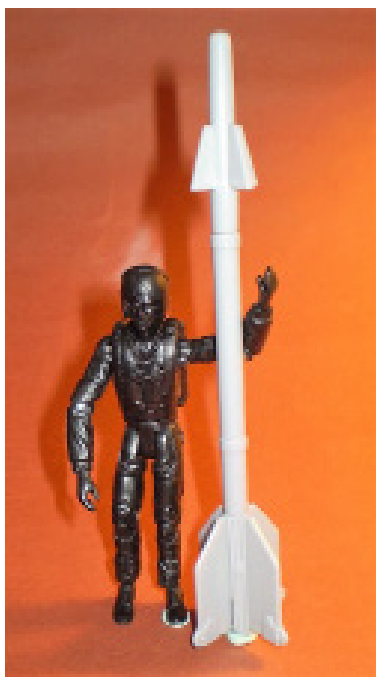
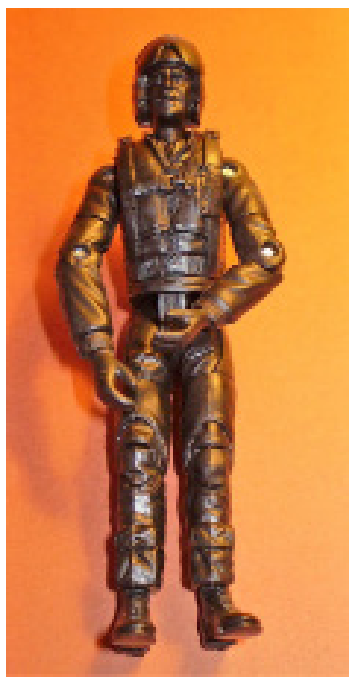


Don't overlook the pilot figure. It is molded in a soft black vinyl and has articulated leg and arm-joints. While the pilot figure may seem a bit toy-like, the crafty modeler could add some putty here and there, do a bit of in-house sculpting and come away with a more than passable pilot figure for this enormous aircraft model.





The figure does have a nicely molded head with a separate oxygen mask.



This is a large model and it could be assembled 'without the use of tweezers'. (Inside joke!) It is also a beautiful model that will impress just from its sheer size. Should you decide to go to town detailing this beastie you will have a real show stopper on your hands. I elected to go with a hybrid scheme from the kit supplied markings.

I was somewhat surprised by the cost of the kit. While the cost is three figures (I thought it would be more expensive), you get a lot of plastic for your money and an excellent opportunity to turn an easy to assemble kit into an award winning F-86 model.

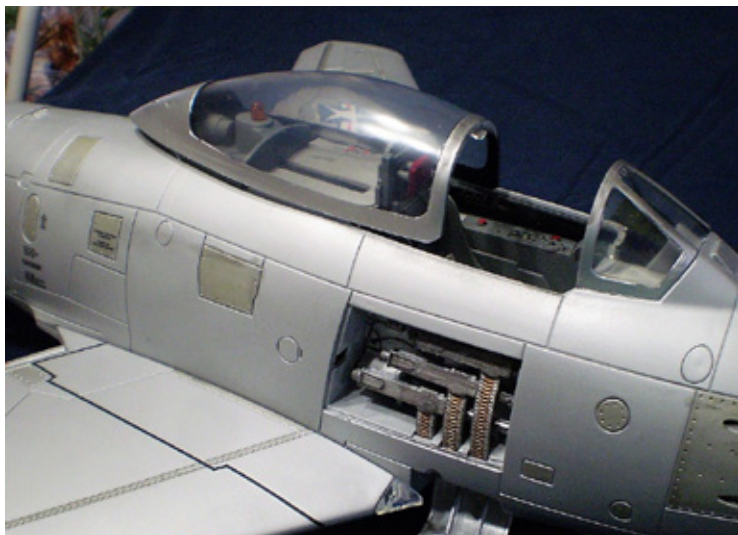




Besides, if you elect to leave the operating features in place you can drop the flaps, take off, retract the gear and 'fly' this F-86 around the house shooting down every MIG you can find, just don't forget the jet engine and machine gun sound effects....

My appreciation to HobbyBoss and IPMS/USA for the review copy.

**Support Your Local Hobby Shop**



## Perfection Perfected: Perfect Grade Unleashed 1/60 RX-78-2 Gundam by Ziggy Downs Bumgardner



"Ladies and gentlemen of Anaheim, behold! I present the RX-78. Code name: Gundam!" - Tem Ray, chief engineer on "Project V", February of U.C. 0079.

### About the mobile suit

#### *The White Devil*

The RX-78 was the Earth Federation's first fully effective mobile suit that could rival and surpass Zeon's MS-06(F/I/S) Zaku II, MS-07 Gouf, and equal the MS-09 Dom/Rick Dom, the MS-14 Gelgoog, and the YMS-15 Gyan. After the utter failure that was the deployment of the RCX-76 Guncannon (First Type), where a squadron of 12 lost to only 5 Zeon mobile suits. Anaheim Electronics finally accepted Tem Ray's proposal using data collected from Dr. Minovsky to invest into "Project V". The encompassing mobile suits within "Project V" mainly consisted of upgraded/perfected variants of the Federation's already produced units. For example, the RX-75-4 Guntank, which built upon data from both the original RTX-65 Guntank [Early type] and the soon to be produced Gundam. Same with the RX-76 Guncannon, which would build upon the original RCX model, however gaining the OS from the RX-78 due to having the same "core block system". The only mobile suit unique to "project V" was the RX-78.



The Initial RX-78-1 model was colored in red, black, and white, and was a lot slimmer than the 02 model. It had a prototype beam rifle and the shield didn't boast the signature yellow cross. This led to the production of the Gundam Local type and the prototype of what would soon be considered the "full armor Gundam"/"heavy Gundam".

The production and testing for the Gundam was held in the colony cluster of Side 7, the colony block farthest away from the Principality of Zeon's home colony cluster, Side 3. The few units that were produced were sent to various EFF bases throughout the colonies and the Earthsphere. The only remaining units left in Side 7 were a test type strapped with prototype weapons, and the RX-78-2 which Amuro would soon pilot, effectively becoming one of the MS that turned the tide of the One Year War in the Earth Federation's favor.

The RX-78-2 Gundam was a close combat Mobile suit that was the crowned jewel of the Federation and project V. It's armed with a Beam Rifle, which uses the suit's Minosky fusion reactor to power the rifle. The rifle was equipped with an E-cap (Energy capacitor), which stores Minovsky particles which form the beams when compressed and triggered, forming into 'mega-particles'. The E-caps work much like a battery, only containing a certain amount of shots before it runs out of particles. Once it runs out, the E-cap will need to be recharged in the mobile suit's mothership or home base. The Gundam is also equipped with a large shield for defense made out of a similar material to the Gundam's armor plating. Able to help deflect both physical and beam attacks, along with deflecting heat away from the gundam incase of atmospheric re-entry. When the Gundam is docked with the G-Armor unit, a secondary shield can be attached to the right arm. The Gundam has twin 60mm vulcan cannons mounted on the front of it's head. The main purpose is to have an effective way to take out an enemy Mobile Suit's cameras in the event of close quarters fighting where other weapons can't be used effectively. However, the Vulcans aren't strong enough to puncture the armor of an enemy mobile suit, so they proved basically useless unless they had a clear target. The only time they proved to effectively work was during anti-personnel attacks on enemy ground soldiers or dealing with enemy aircraft. Mounted on the Gundam's backpack are 2 Beam Sabers. The blade of the saber is condensed plasma, shaped by an I-Field generator built into the saber's handle to maintain its shape.

It was able to cut through almost anything, as long as it's not coated with an anti-beam coating or has an I-Field generator of its own that equals the saber's or is more powerful. They're hand held, and one can be used as a backup, or the Gundam can use both for a double blade attack. They can also be connected onto a long pole and turned into a beam javelin. Later models of the RX-78 (such as the full armor, or heavy gundam) had shoulder mounted beam cannons along with missile pods and large, multi-use arm mounted guns. However, the initial RX-78-2 had no such armaments.

Along with the 3 main Mobile Suits, project V also developed the FF-X7 Core Fighter, a small jet like fighter that became mass produced and standard issue throughout the federation. The Core Fighter is able to transform into a "core block" which can be placed inside the Gundam, connecting to the MS and replacing the standard core block already inside. It can also be used as an escape pod in the event the Gundam sustains heavy damage, purging the top half of the suit and detaching from the lower portion. The Core Fighter and Core Block System would later be adapted into the RGM-79 GM series, however it didn't really survive past U.C.0083, whereafter most mobile suits (both Zeon and EFSF) adopted the "panoramic cockpit", which allowed the pilot a 360° view of the space around them.

### The model itself

#### Frame 1

The PG Unleashed RX-78-2 gundam has a multilayered inner frame. The instructions call each layer a "phase". The base frame contains both phase one and two, which is the base frame itself, then some more detailed inner frame to bulk it up.

The base inner frame is much like a Real Grade's inner frame, where certain sections are pre-built. In this kit's case, the thin internal structure for the arms and legs were pre-built. Once you cut them off their respective runners, you then add the first several pieces of internal frame. For the legs, this meant the base frame for the feet, thighs, and calves. On the vents where the bottom of the knee armor would be placed, it requires you to put on the photoetch included with the kit before putting the vents over it, giving it a layered effect.



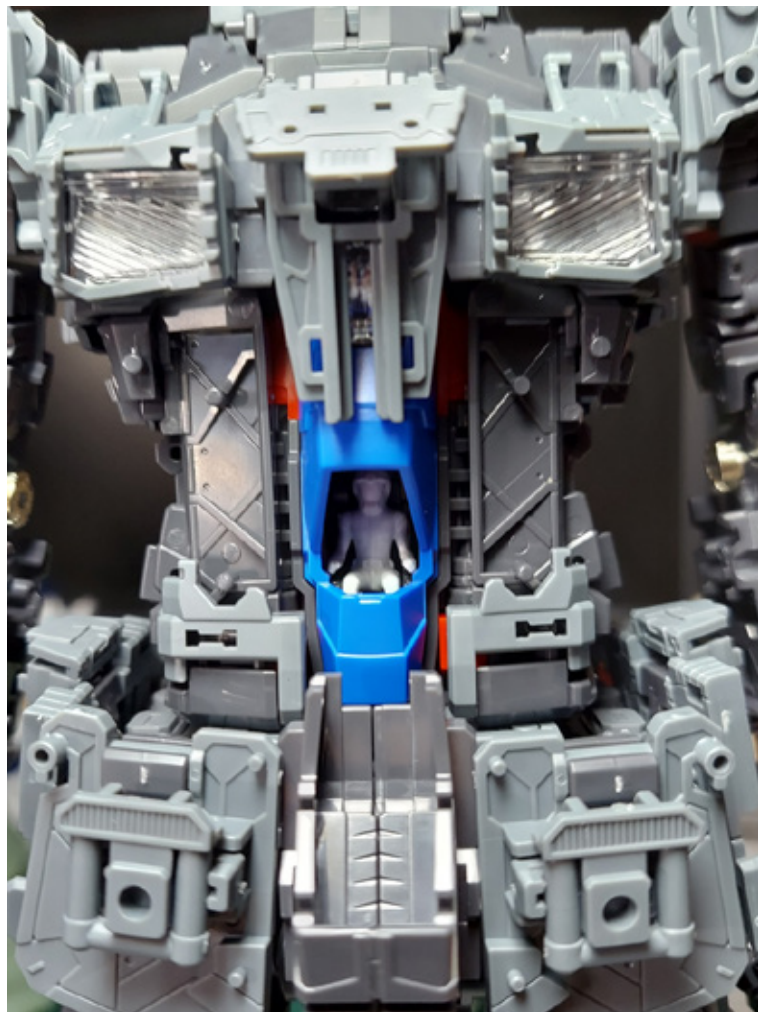


Throughout the legs, you need to put the pistons in the shins, which are actually working pistons which extend when the leg is bent. It also requires you to place smaller chrome and gold plated parts throughout the legs for more detail.

Once the legs were finished, you moved onto the waist and skirting frames. Unlike the legs, there weren't any real pre-built parts. However, much like the legs, this shaped most of the base frame that would be built off of in later steps. On all four front and back skirts, there is a little strip of photo-etch that needs to go on top of a part to simulate a vent. The photo-etch has small notches towards the front that signify what's supposed to be the left or right side. I realized once I had gotten to the armor building stage that I had mixed up the left and right photo-etch for the front skirts and had to redo them. This doesn't do anything to prevent the build from running smoothly, I just needed to fix that or my OCD would haunt me if I didn't.



The torso had a unique build to say the least. The internal frame had many more moving parts than you would think. It also had a core block that you would place within the gundam with an opening cockpit hatch. You first build what would be the top section of the torso, where the vents are located. Once you complete that, you build and connect some support casings onto the chest, which became a "cage" for the core block and/or core fighter (whichever you want to place within the Gundam) The Head was fairly simple, it was more or less 2 halves that you stick the clear pieces for the eyes into then layer detail frame parts on top of. There were several piston details in the neck, which twist as you move the head to the side or up/down.







However be careful while building because they are small. I recommend keeping them in the bag they come in until you need them. The backpack worked more or less the same way, sandwiching frame parts over a clear inner piece followed by some detail frame. Much like the vulcan cannons in the head, the thrusters on the Gundam's backpack are also metal diecast parts and look amazing. The arms worked more or less like the legs, with several working pistons throughout, mostly around the wrist area. The only real difference is that on the back of the arm, you place a small metal plate. This will serve as something that the magnet inside the shield mount can hold onto. There are several gold plated parts throughout the arms along with some pieces of photo-etch that go on the shoulders, serving as vent detail. The hands are made by having a bright chrome inner piece sandwiched between 2 dark gray parts, allowing the silver to poke out on the knuckles of the multiple different hand options.



### Frame 2

Once you finish the base inner frame, the instructions now tell you to put on all the silver and chrome truss-frame details. Like with the base frame, you start from the ground, working your way up. For the feet all you put are some injection molded silver parts that help with stability and allow the armor something to attach to. For the lower legs, they have silver plated parts that cover the shins and the pistons, although you can still see the red poking through thanks to how the part is designed. Then you add some silver details to the knee and the calves. Followed by doing the same thing to the thighs.

The waist skirts don't get that much change, mostly some silver parts that attach on a hinge which is for the open hatch display option. The torso is where a bulk of the silver and gold pieces go, bulking up the torso while at the same time making it more detailed. Photo-etch is placed on the clear parts that hold the chest in place, acting as what would be the back of the chest vents once the armor is placed on. There are also several other photo-etch parts that are placed on the "cage" for the core block and core fighter. The silver parts you place on the top of the chest help flush out the chest into a better shape than the initial base frame. They also are on a double hinge, which is meant for the open hatch mode, much like the front and back skirts. The backpack was already completed when building the base frame, so all I had to do was attach it to the Gundam awaiting the "armor".







The head, much like the backpack, was completed while building the base frame due to how the parts sat in the head. All that was added in this section was the truss frames on the cheeks and sides of the head, since the majority of the detail was already there. The arms didn't have very much detail to add onto them, only a couple of silver plated pieces on the sides. You also add some parts onto the shoulder on a double hinge to help with movement. There is a Silver cap that goes over the front of the elbow which I forgot when building the frame until I started adding the armor. The section where it tells you to do so is very 'busy' so be mindful if you do get this kit.

### Gundam rising!

The next section tells you to put all the red, white, blue, and yellow armor onto the kit. This part goes by a lot faster than the main building of the kit. The only real finicky part about it is with the smaller pieces and making sure you don't accidentally put something for the right side on the left. Once the Gundam is complete, it looks beautiful.

The amount of detail and care that went into making this kit is beyond apparent. This is the perfected love child of every grade of Gunpla that has come out to date. It has the size, gimmicks, and detail of a Perfect Grade kit, it has the stability/solidness of a Master Grade, the metal details like in a HiRM kit, and the perfected prebuilt inner frame of the early Real Grade kits.

This kit was a wonder to build and for a PG kit it is extremely simple yet still complex enough to keep your attention throughout the build. I wouldn't recommend this for people JUST getting into the hobby, though if you have a couple of kits(of any kind) under your belt, I would highly recommend you to get this kit. Though this will take a large bite out of your wallet, being between \$250 and upwards of \$300 (due to the high demand and limited quantity of these things). However, I personally feel it is worth the price given the amount of plastic you get and the extremely high level of detail for these kits. For reference if you have no clue what makes a Perfect Grade kit cost \$\$\$ (aside from their large size), think of them as the WingNut Wings of Bandai's gunpla line. They have an insane amount of detail and a relatively complex build, often having several bits of detail that you will never see once you put the outer armor on.



This kit has easily skyrocketed into being one of the best models I have ever built, beating out the PG Gundam Exia which previously held that title. It is a beautiful kit with so much detail. The customs I've been seeing online have been amazing, there is so much potential for greatness within this kit. Right out of the box, every color on this kit has at least 2 different hues/tones. And the white pieces have upwards of 4 different hues/tones.



The articulation is amazing, though due to its size it can't pull off anything too dynamic without taking up more of a shelf than it already does. But it can pull off just about any pose you can think of, just be careful with the joints. Since they come in the pre molded frames, they can be pretty stiff when you're first posing the kit after it's freshly built. There is a small chance of them breaking if you're too rough (luckily this didn't happen to mine, though I have learned my lesson plenty of times from multiple RG kits which share the same kind of frame).

### Details

The amount of detail Bandai managed to cram into this thing is insane. There are over 50 opening hatches on this kit, and there are even more panels that can just as easily be propped open to reveal more detail. Oftentimes the hatches open to reveal some detailed internal frame, or in the case of the cockpit hatch, a seated figure of Amuro Ray. The use of chrome parts along with silver and gold plated parts throughout this kit is amazing. Oftentimes when bandai uses chrome or plated parts, the kit often times doesn't look its best, more like a cheap figure than anything. However with this kit that is not the case at all, they look amazing. The strategic placement of these parts makes it look like it would in real life. It gives the kit an actually produced look instead of the entire frame being just gray(which isn't bad, it just doesn't look perfect with some kits). The use of photo-etch and metal parts within this kit just make it look even better. The photo-etch is often used behind gaps in the armor or behind vents, to actually put something behind them instead of them being a black void of darkness.

The metal catches beautifully off any light, and the detail on them is amazing. And you don't even use glue! They're what bandai is calling "metal stickers" which is basically just photo-etch, but with a super sticky backing so they can be placed on the part with ease. Though if you put one on wrong they are a pain to get off. Like I mentioned earlier, I goofed on the photo-etch within the skirting armor. Those pieces took me forever to get off. Luckily they were still usable, they're just a pain to move. So make sure you put them on right or else you're gonna have a rough time.

There are 6 metal parts throughout this kit (3 for watch side). The vulcan cannons on the side of the head, the thrusters on the backpack, and 2 plates inside the forearm.

The thrusters and vulcans look beautiful. They have a nice metallic sheen that looks great against the plastic. The vulcans are in a nice gold to mimic the Gundam's usually yellow vulcans(they're a gold color in canon, but it's hard to make gold look... gold in 2D animation. Especially in 1979). They also just fit the general look of this kit. The thrusters are tinted in a nice, shiny midnight blue, which looks beautiful against the mat, dark gray used for the backpack's armor.

### Extras

The kit also comes with the Gundam's signature Beam Rifle, Shield, and Beam Sabers. Much like the Gundam itself, both the Rifle and shield are insanely detailed. The shield actually has a frame of sorts that you build the rest of it off of. The arm mount for the shield actually has an extremely strong yet small magnet inside it. This is what holds the shield onto the arm. There's a small metal plate on the rear of the Gundam's forearm hidden under a moving panel when not in use. The magnet can hold up the shield with 0 problems, it is crazy, because that shield is not exactly light. You are able to use one of the holding hands and put it around the handle, but that's more for show than actual support. The rifle has a 'core' made up of mostly gold and silver plated parts that the black outer parts of the rifle cover. There's even a moving hatch on the back half of the rifle to mimic it when it's being recharged on the SCV-70 White Base (the ship that the gundam is housed in, also made especially for the Project V mobile suits). It also comes with a little transformable Core Fighter that has an opening cockpit and some hatches that open up to reveal some missiles. The kit also comes with 2 small figures of Amuro Ray and Sayla Mass, 2 of the 3 pilots of the Gundam. It also comes with 2 LEDs, one for the main torso and head, and a special Beam Saber with one installed, the battery for the saber is included, however the ones for the main torso are not. Though it just takes LR41 batteries so you can just head down to the store and buy them, not like it needs some Japanese exclusive brand you can only find in this one place in Tokyo. When the saber is stored, it's on a lear peg that connects to a large clear piece within the backpack that the thrusters also connect to. So when you turn on the saber when it's on the back pack, it uses light piping all the way to the thrusters, allowing them to light up.





### In conclusion

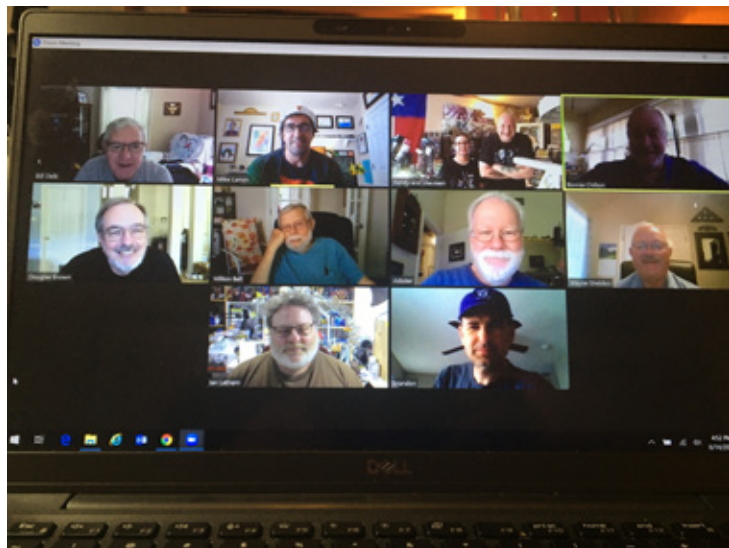
This is an amazing kit, arguably one of the best Bandai has ever made. It fits together perfectly, it is completely color accurate down to the tiny details. It has LEDs included in the kit, and even a battery for one of them. It poses beautifully, it's a simple build for a perfect grade.

I don't know for sure if it's back in stock anywhere or if you can still preorder the April batch, but if you can find it get it. This kit is far too good to pass up. Even if you only build planes or tanks or what have you, I still say get it, it is a fun build and you don't have to paint or fill anything unless you want to!  
And remember, space belongs to the Spacenoids! Sieg Zeon!  
-Ziggy





# What's Up wid You?



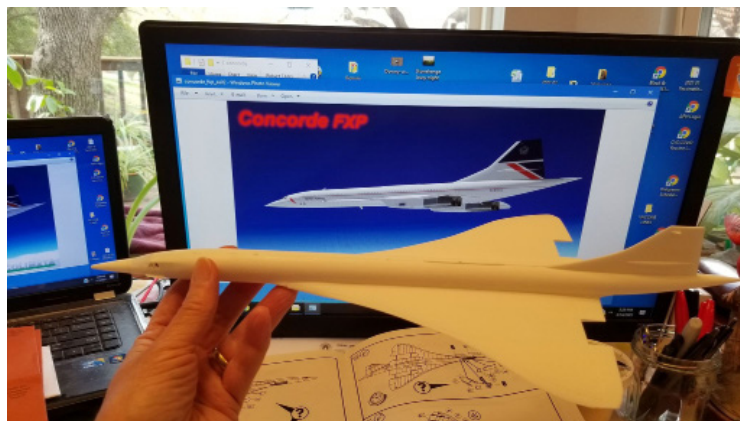
ASMS/Bill Delk sponsors an on-line ZOOM meeting with whoever wants to join us to talk about models and life. It happens almost every Sunday at 4:00.

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

Speaking of Bill Delk, he is up first this month with a Green Goblin and one of Big Daddy Roth's minions.

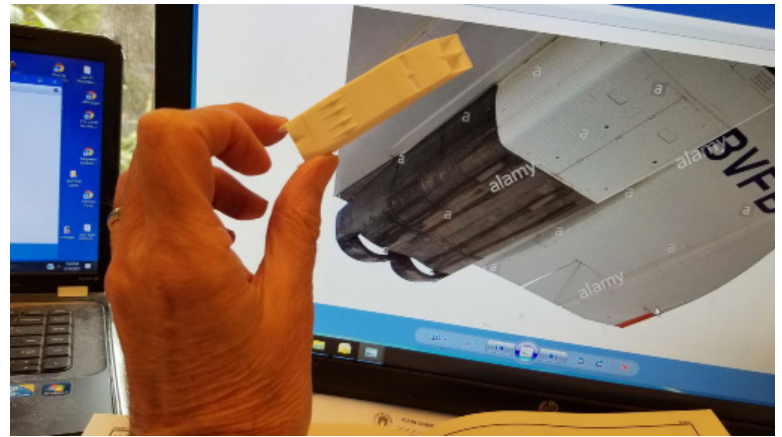
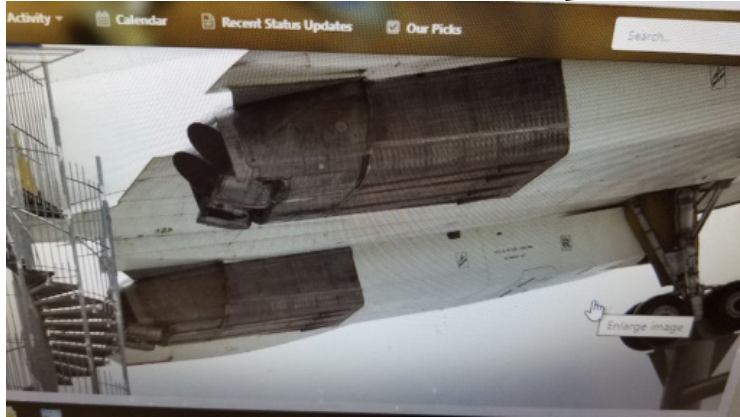


Douglas Brown has been busy with a Revell 1-144th Concorde kit.



Same scale 1-144th Tornado compared to the Concorde.





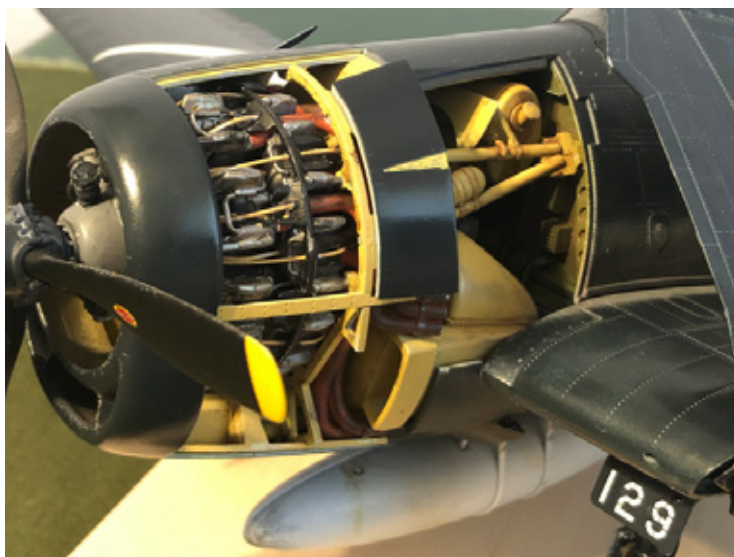
Eric Choy has two 1/48th gems for us this month. The first is a German Hetzer and the second is a Tiran.







Dave Edgerly has been busy super detailing an Airfix 1/24th Bearcat. Definitely a shelf buster but lots of space for eye candy.



Randy Bumgardner is coming along with his Sea Hurricane.







Rick Cotton sent us some in progress pictures of his Veryfire 1-350th USS Cleveland.



Ziggy Bumgardner as well as as providing an article for this month's Examiner has been working on a Gundam kitbash.



Rick Herrington is cranking out yet another Tornado kit. This one is Airfix's GR-1 in 1/48th. With some modifications he turned it into a German Navy anti-ship strike aircraft.







Here's a preview of Mike Gilsbach's upcoming German Afrika Korps diorama article which will be in next month's issue.



Jack Johnson checks in with us with some photos of his Dusenbergs.







Last up this month is a trio of 1/72nd scale masterpieces from our resident aircraft expert Ron McCracken. The first is an Airfix O-1 Birdog.



Next up from Ron is a C-10A Jetstream from Airfix.



Finally from Ron is a Siga AM-1 Mauler.





That's it for this month. Thanks to everyone that took the time to share their work with the group.

## *The Undiscovered Subjects*

By Rick Cotton

There are certain advantages and disadvantages to being a "constant-scale" modeler. In this case "constant-scale" means the modeler sticks to one particular scale for his/her/its subjects, i.e. 1/48th air, 1/35th armor, 1/700 ships and so on.

Maintaining a constant scale has its advantage. Easy comparison of similar items. Attractive arrangement of the built goodies for display. Certain folks love uniformity and order, and that lends itself to everything being in one particular scale.

Not sticking to a particular scale, however, has a HUGE benefit – variety of subject. As a large-scale-only guy (1/32, 1/35, and 1/350 only), there are a million and one subjects that have never seen the light of day in my beloved three scales. Subjects that would fill in historical gaps in my collection, and give me hours and hours of pure joy at finally getting a 1/32 scale Devastator and many others at last. In my chosen aviation scale, 1/32, there are still so many items waiting to be kitted, for the first time, while the mainstream model companies crank out yet another version of the F-16, P-51, Me-109 and FW 190. I don't want to SEE any more F-16s, P-51s, Me-109s or FW-190s. Enough of them already!

Where are my 1/32 Jill, Dinah, Kate, and Judy in 1/32 plastic? Where is the lovely C6N Seiran ("Myrt"), one of the most beautiful aircraft ever built, in that scale? Why, oh why, are there 1/32 B-17s, 24s, Lancasters, Mitchells and more in this scale (can you say JU-52)? I cannot afford to buy a house big enough to house those, let alone find a case they would fit in. How many \$300 B-24's will sell, vs a \$100 Kate or Val? \$65 if it's Hasegawa. Do the math. I DO love the fact that PT-13's and -17's, Gladiators, and Falcos are popping up out there. I hope for more of this trend – there are plenty of other trainers, say, colorful BT-13's that would make super kits, and the new 1/32 pilot and ground crew figures are VERY welcome as well. What do we get? A rehash of the Tiger Moth....yawn.

The Chinese (Veryfire) are taking over the 1/350 ship market, and they are smart enough to figure out that ONE 1/350 Cleveland-class cruiser can be built as any one of TWENTY-SIX of the class.

How popular will that kit be? I have two of them, and believe you me, they are excellent kits, far better than most I have ever seen. The Baltimores cannot be far behind.

Trumpeter has now branched into prewar British cruisers, but leaves Japanese subjects alone...at least for now. The new Italian subjects, however, are quite welcome in their lightly-armored, racing car-like beauty.

But where are the 4-stacker Detroit-class light cruisers? Where are the beautiful Brooklyns, with all the heroic wartime history they hold? Rumors persist of an Atlanta-class CL, but I have seen nothing so far. Veryfire has even sent previews of a fantastic-looking Taiho, with features a ship modeler would want in his wildest dreams.

And then there is Tamiya, already in possession of Yamato-class molds, but with no 1/350 Shinano kit. Where is it? Where is the first flattop Wasp, and the Hosho, and the Soryu, and the Victorious? I'd line up to buy those. And finally, where are the old Grey Ladies, the cage-masted prewar battleships in 1/350? 3D printing finally gets us past the bugaboo of the cage mast's molding. Let's see those, soon, please, and not yet another rehash of Bismarck.

Armor builders may be the most fortunate of all of us, as their creations take up less space at 1/35, and a bewildering variety of kit issues exist, with more coming out all the time. Why? Because these kits are more affordable, vs a 1/32 plane or big ship! The typical armor builder can buy two or more kits compared to a single expensive ship's price tag. They are cheaper to make, and cheaper to price so they will sell.

Tank subjects have been so well covered that many manufacturers are resorting to kits of "paper panzers" that either only reached the prototype stage, or maybe never even reached that. What confounds me, however, is the bewildering variety of Tiger I's, PZKW 4's, Panthers, and T-34's that exist, along with yet more coming every year. ENOUGH, already! How about some more esoteric vehicles? Trucks! Half-tracks! Cars! Flak guns! There are some already, but many more are yet to be kitted.

It's great to see the new guys – Das Werk, Veryfire, Zoukei-Mura, and more come along. One can only hope more come on board in the next few years, while we can all still see, more or less.

With new technology, communication, and easy access to data, I believe we may see many more new firms pop up, with new items abounding to fill our wildest scale dreams. I will try and be patient. You never know what's around the bend. As a good friend I have not seen in many a year once said..."It's a great time to be a modeler!"

\*Postscript – Infini Models of somewhere in Europe is now readying their 1/32 INJECTED Val dive bomber...yes, my debit card is quite ready, thank you, please take my money.

## Old Rumors and New Kits

### New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

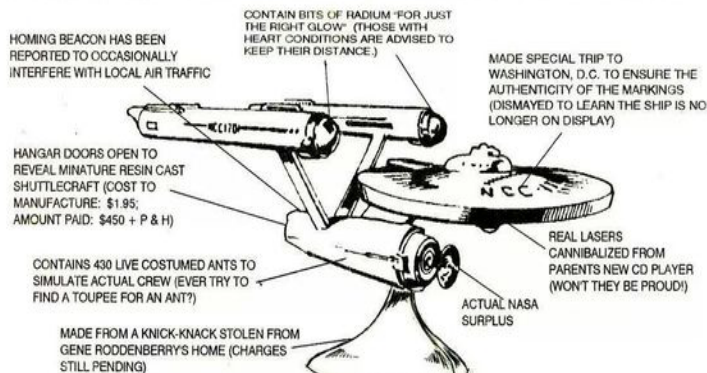
March offers several new-tool kits as well as re-releases, so especially for the 1/48th fans this looks like a promising month. Airfix and Hobbyboss each have two brand-new offerings in 1/48th, Modelsvit has a new tool Mirage in 1/72nd, and Academy is bringing out a 1/144th B-52H, for six all-new offerings.

#### 1/48th Scale:

There are nine new or revised offerings in the ever-popular quarter-inch scale. Leading off is Airfix, with two brand-new releases, a DeHavilland Chipmunk T.10 trainer, and a Canadair Sabre F.4.



#### Evidence of an obsessive Star Trek modeler:



TOTAL COST: \$648,250 IN MATERIALS, \$8,200 IN MEDICAL BILLS, \$5,000 IN FINES, 6 MONTHS PROBATION, AND A RESTRAINING ORDER FROM MATT JEFFRIES

PRIZES AWARDED: A \$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE AT THE LOCAL HOBBY SHOP AND A FREE PAINTBRUSH

2.1.11TIEPAAK 96



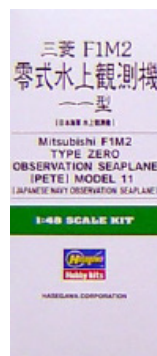




Hot on their heels is Hobbyboss, with a new-tool CH-47A Chinook helicopter. For the Jet fans, Hobbyboss also has an F/A-18E Superhornet coming out.

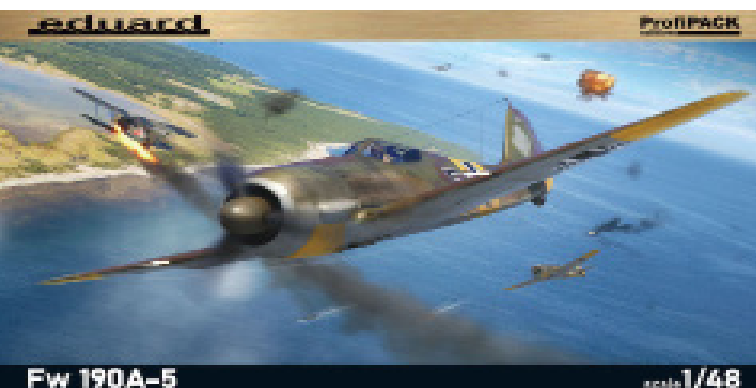


There are a few re-releases as well. Academy is re-popping their 2012 kit of the MD500D TOW attack helicopter. Hasegawa has announced an F1M2 Type 0 (Pete) floatplane, and an F-4EJ Super Phantom with updated or new parts.



F-4EJ Kai PHANTOM II  
"LAST PHANTOM No.440"

Eduard is releasing their P-39 kit in a Weekend edition as a P-39Q. It offers four decal options. They are also re-releasing their FW 190A-5 in a Profipack edition with updated parts.







### 1/72nd Scale:

Leading off with the truly new, Modelsvit has announced a new-tool Mirage 2000C.



The rest of the announced releases in the One True Scale are re-pops with new decals and/or updated parts. Airfix has announced a Ju 87B-1 Stuka with new decals. Eduard is releasing their Z-37A agricultural aircraft in a Weekend Edition with new decals.



Fine Molds is re-releasing a couple of Phantoms, an F-4EJ in new "No. 301 Final" scheme and decals, and an updated RF-4EJ with some new or updated parts.



Not to be outdone, Hasegawa is re-releasing their F-4EJ Kai Super Phantom with new decals for the "Last Phantom No. 440" markings. They are also re-releasing an EA-18G Growler ECM aircraft with updated parts.







Finally, Revell has announced a re-pop of their F-16D Fighting Falcon, with new decals.



**1/144th Scale:**

Academy has announced a new-tool late-revision B-52H.



Airfix is re-releasing their old HP42 Heracles in a Classic Airliners Edition.



Editor's note: I ran across this release on the Interlink from HK Models. It looks like they're releasing a 1/32nd scale B-25H.



**My Child  
Your Scale Model Kits  
Addiction is not Cheap . . .**



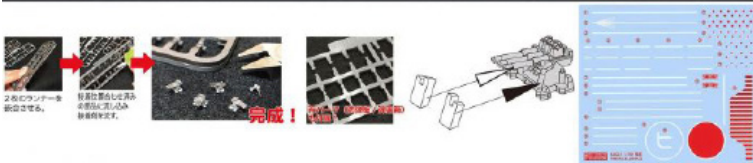
# Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

A good bit of new releases to work with this month so let's get started with 1/700th scale. First up is Fujimi with three IJN full hull carrier kits. The first is the Shokaku.



Second is Hiryu.



Third is the Zuikaku.



If the names of these carriers sound familiar they all participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor and probably have been released by every Japanese kit manufacturer at least once or twice.

Kajika is releasing a model of the IJN Kongo as she looked in 1914.



Aoshima continues with their welcome series of British cruisers with HMS Kent.

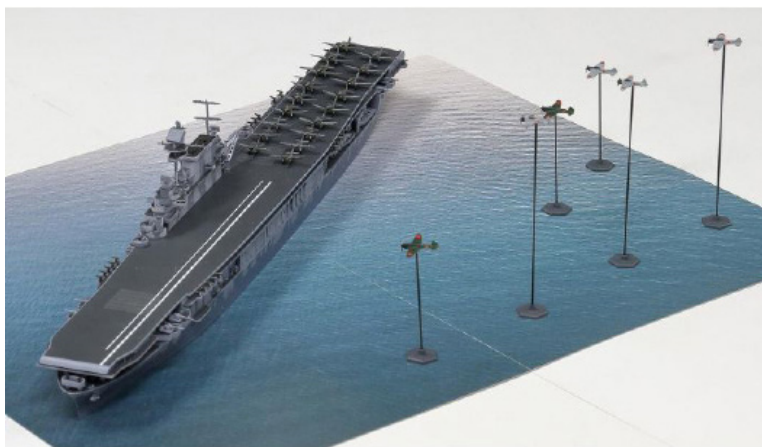


IBG is continuing with their British destroyer releases with HMS Ilex an "I" class destroyer.



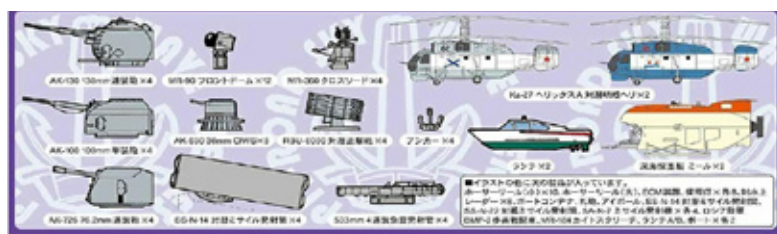


Pit Road has two releases for us. One is new and the other is a re-release. The new one is called the Battle of Santa Cruz which includes a model of the US carrier Hornet CV-8 and the Japanese air group that sunk her. the second release is Equipment for IJN ships part 2. If you are a ship builder you might want to check out these sets. Pit Road makes them to upgrade Modern US ships, Soviet era ships and both US and IJN WW2 ships.



### WWII 日本海軍 艦船装備セット 2

Equipment For WWII Japanese Navy Ships Set 2



現代ソビエト/ロシア海軍 艦船装備セット

Last in 1/700th scale is company called Sphyrna. Their boxing looks suspiciously like Flyhawk but they could be just imitators. They are releasing a Type 055 Chinese missile destroyer Nanchang.



Moving on to 1/350th scale we have a newcomer to the game Black Cat Models. Black Cat Models relies on 3D printing for its products. They are a French company and are mostly known for their 1/350 ship detail parts. Their new release this month is a US Cannon Class destroyer escort. These kits are not cheap at approx \$139 for this one but include photo-etch also.







Trumpeter is up next with an Italian heavy cruiser, the Gorizia. The Gorizia served all the way from the Spanish Civil War through the end of WW2.



Finally in 1/350th Hobby Boss is releasing is the USS Guam CB-2. The Guam was the second and last of the Alaska class cruisers. USS Guam saw some action off Okinawa.



Heller has a couple of re-releases for us in 1/400th scale. If you haven't built any Heller ship kits it's a good place to start. They have an extensive range of subjects and the finished product is just slightly smaller than 1/350th scale. First up is the French carrier Foch.



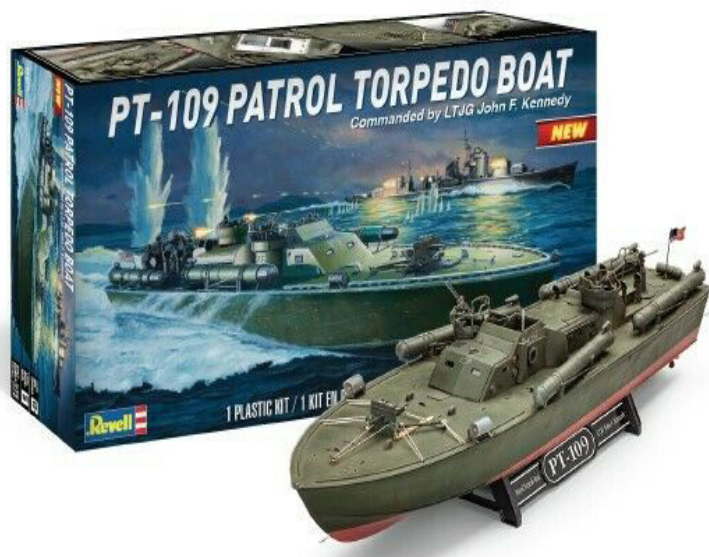
Next from Heller is the Z-31/Marceau. Z-31 had a distinguished WW2 career with the German navy operating with surface ships like the Admiral Hipper and Lutzow. She ended her German career by evacuating troops and civilians in the Baltic. At the end of the war she was transferred to the French as war reparations and re-named the Marceau.







Last in this month is in 1/72nd scale and is from Revell. It's John Kennedy's PT-109. It looks like the kit includes the field modification that Kennedy's crew added to the boat which was a 37mm anti-tank gun added to the bow and two depth charges which she was carrying also.



That's all the wind in the sails for this month. Hopefully this issue finds you healthy and with at least one shot in your arm.

Grab a kit out of that stash and build it!



## Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Howdy tread heads! Let's start off with 1/72nd scale this month. The first new release is from Takom and boy what a release it is! It's a Bundeswehr ST56 Tank Transporter and a Leopard 2A7 to go on it. Even in this scale this one will keep you busy for a few weeks.

### SLT 56 & LEOPARD 2A7

• DETAILED STATIC DISPLAY PLASTIC MODEL  
• LEOPARD 2A7 TRACKS INCLUDED  
• PT & CLEAR PARTS INCLUDED  
• 4 TYPES OF HAWKERS



THIS IS NOT A TOY  
• COMBAT AND RARE KIT INCLUDED  
• INTENDED FOR COLLECTIONS OF AGE 14 YEARS AND ABOVE  
• READY TO ASSEMBLE PRECISION MODEL KIT  
• MODEL WAY FROM IMAGE ON BOX



Trumpeter is up next with a Patriot missile system M983 HEMTT tractor and Patriot missile launcher.

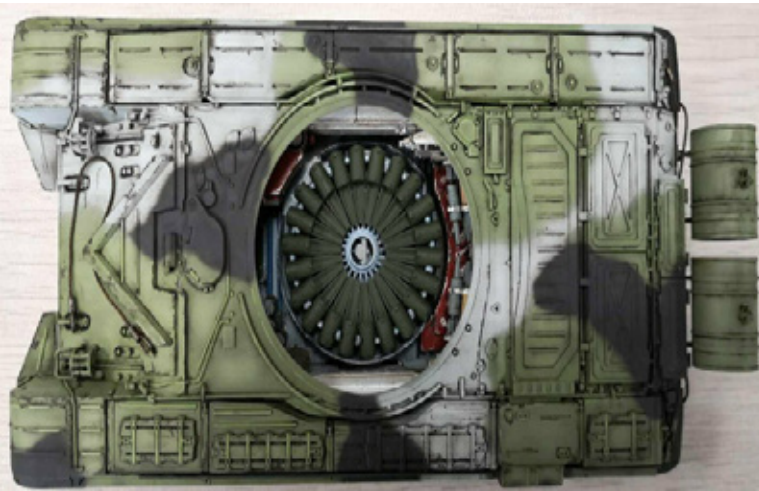


First in 1/35th scale is Amusing Hobby with a T-72M-1. I haven't built any of Amusing Hobby's 1/35th kits but their 1/72nd kits range from outstanding to real dogs. You pay your money and throw the dice to see what you'll get. This one looks like it includes a full interior.





Border Models is releasing a British Crusader Mark 3.





IBG is releasing a Polish 7TP single turret tank.



**7TP Polish Tank - Single Turret**

**1:35**  
**35069**

Hobby Boss is releasing a German late model Panther D artillery Observation vehicle. This was a proposed vehicle and the kit has previously been released by Dragon.



Hobby Boss is also releasing a Type 59D Chinese Medium tank.



Gecko Models is releasing a Vietnam era LARC-V (Lighter, Amphibious Resupply, Cargo, 5 ton).



MiniArt is releasing an Austin Armored car circa 1918 in Imperial Japanese Army colors.







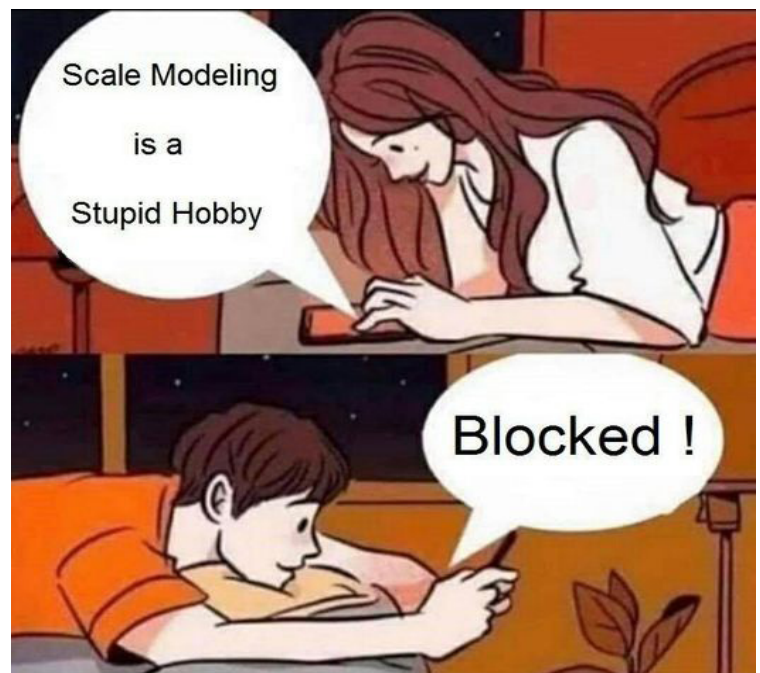
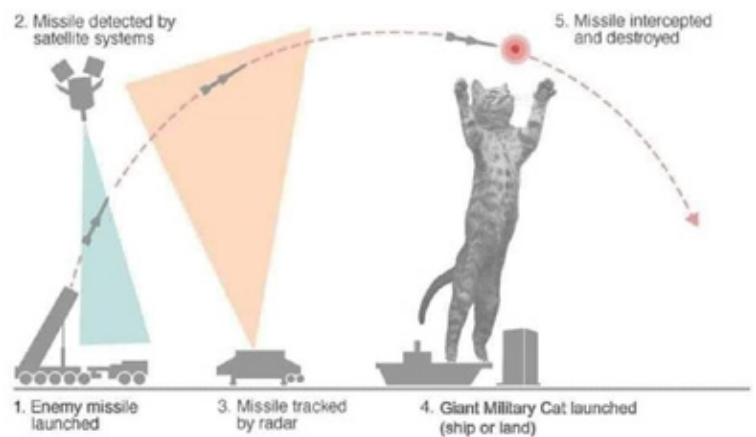
Last in 1/35th scale is a release from RFM. I wish I could say I was excited about this one, but another Panzer 4 G/H? This one does have a full interior.



Stepping up to shelf-buster scale in armor (1/16th) we have a new release from Takom. Pz.kpfw 1 Ausf B with a demolition charge placer (Abwurfvorrichtung).



#### How the missile defence system works





# H Figures

By Tesla Edison

Mike was having some problems getting his column to me this month so Tesla Edison is stepping in to do the column this month.

Up first are some releases from Evolution. If you are not familiar with this line let me recommend it to you. The figures are well detailed and unlike most companies they really appear to be 1/35th in scale.

Recently they've begun to release several individual and sets depicting German soldiers during the battle of Kharkov circa 1943.



Evolution also has some great modern figures also such as their modern Russian tanker sets.



Evolution also has some finely detailed 1/48th scale figures to go with your vehicles in that scale.



H3 Models, a new manufacturer that deals in 3D printed figures looks like they have some interesting releases coming up. The company claims that their figures are designed by scanning real people and using that as the basis for the 3D print.





Masterbox continues their series of Strange Company's Adventures with set #4. These look like they have a steam punk flare to them.



The Bodi has released a set of GI's, an officer and his driver made for a Jeep kit.



SBS has released a bust of the "commando extraordinary" Otto Skorzeny. The bust is in 1/16th scale and yes the scar is there.



Rage resin models has a new release called Crash Landing Girl through AK.



Nuts Planet has an new release called Nest Destroyer Heavy Gunner. This bad boy is 1/35th scale.

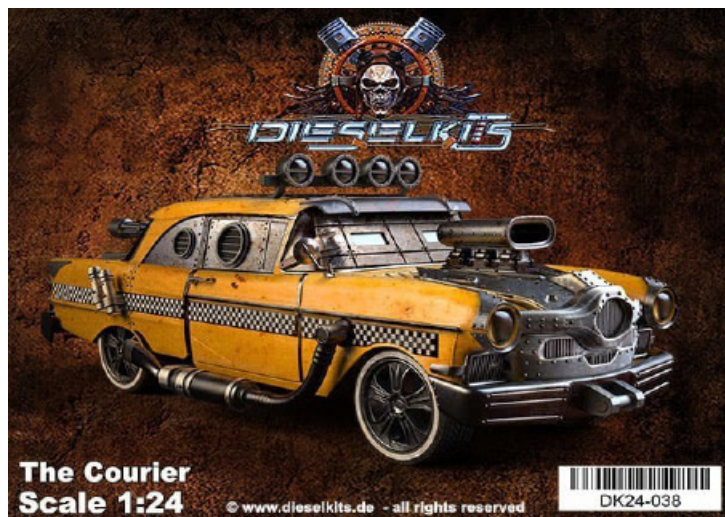




Pegaso has a new 1/9th scale offering. This one's called Smiley.



The next offering is from Dieselkits and isn't a figure but since I'm writing this column this month I thought I would include it. It's in 1/24th scale and is called The Courier.



That's it for this month. Tune in next month for some more figure highlights. Hopefully Michael will be back then.

To all fellow modelers,

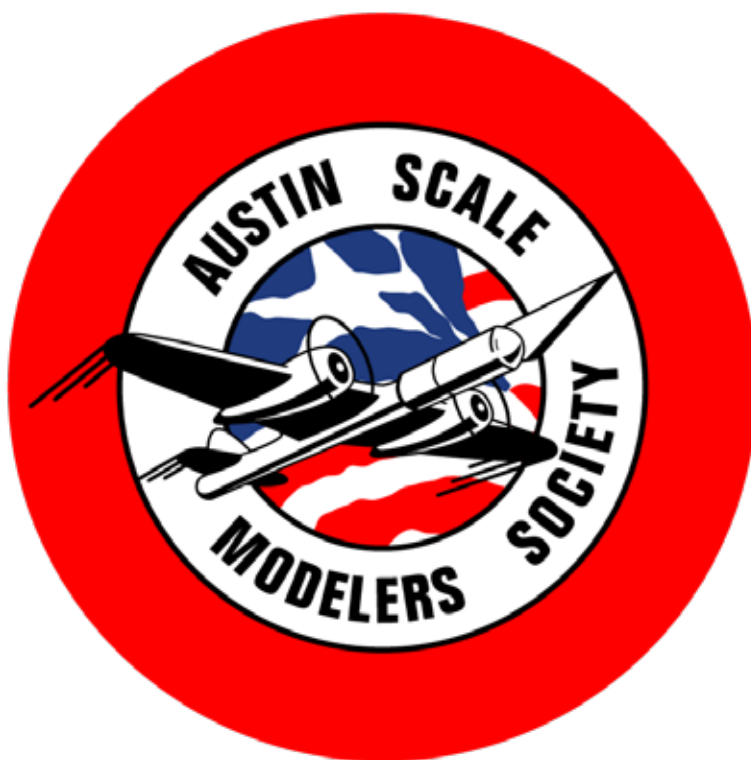
As the current COVID-19 pandemic continues, we request that you follow state & local requests to not meet in any groups and to self-quarantine if possible. This means no monthly meetings or shows.

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





# King's Hobby

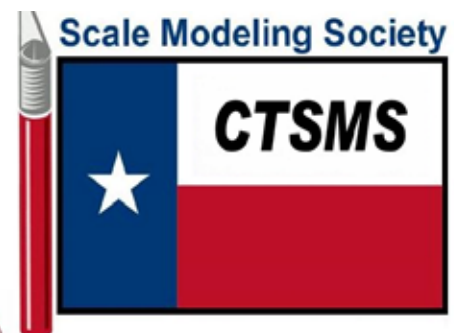
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IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but 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



# LIONHEART

## — H O B B Y —

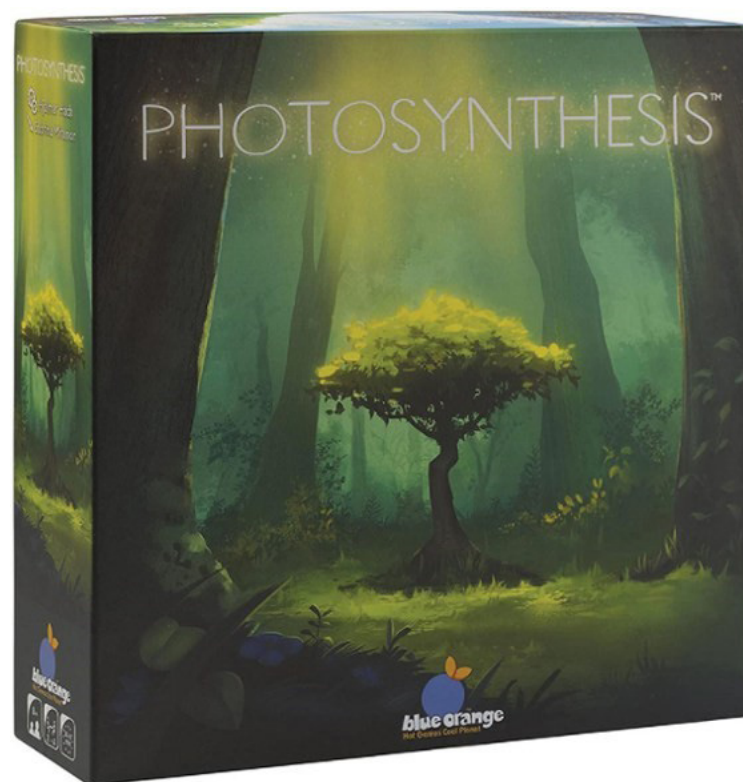
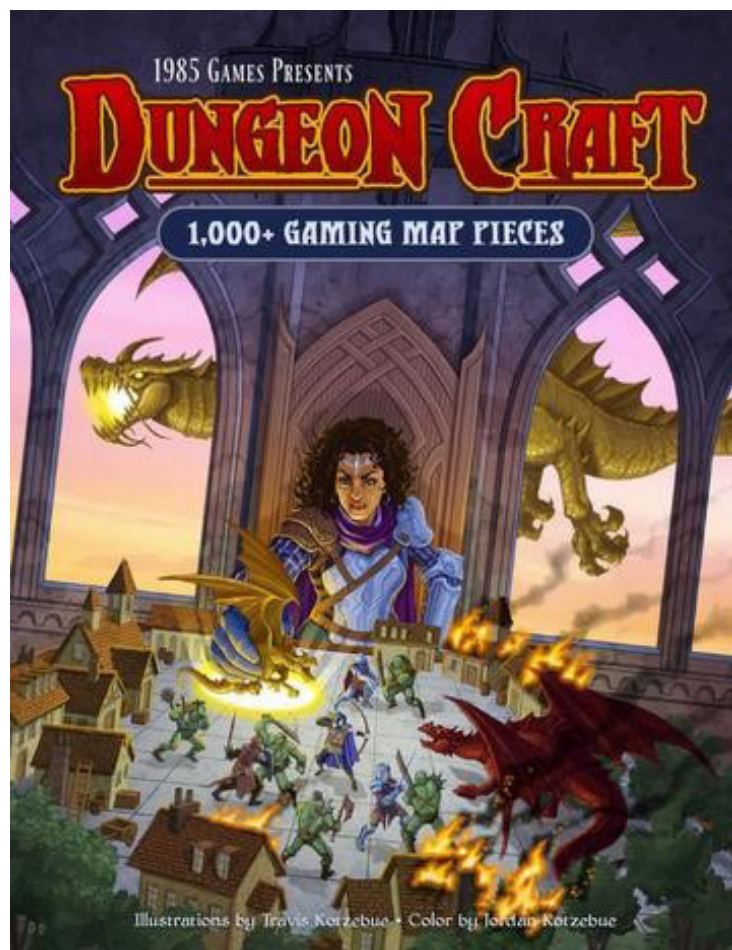


5500 Jack C Hays Trail, Kyle, Texas 78640,

(512) 504-3404

Hours  
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## 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