ASMS SPRUE EXAMINER





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. Anual 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.

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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



Howdy, modeling fans!

Welcome to this September`s edition of the Austin Scale Modelers Society`s Sprue Examiner. No doubt, your mind will be expanded after you work your way through the thoughtful articles, insightful builds and worldly news that has found its way to you. You may applaud if the mood takes you.

By now most of you should have heard that the 2021 Capitol Classic has been cancelled. We are still reserving the Expo Center for next year, so here `s hoping 2022 will bring better news. Meanwhile, please keep up the great work on your current builds and I`m sure next year will be a bountiful year for shows and competitions. The year will start out early with San Antonio `s Alamo Squadron and their Model Fiesta in New Braunfel on January 8th. Make your plans now!

I've been looking at the endless boxes on my shelf and have decided to double down on things. Instead of the usual single plane, I've got two versions of two different builds going. I know that most of you have more than one (and sometimes several) of a kit that you either love or scored a lucky find. Maybe it's time to challenge yourself to a build-off. Like playing a game of chess with yourself, you can't help but win. And, you'll work through some of the shelf space in time to fill it up again in '22.

Have a wonderful Fall and enjoy the cool air coming our way.

Cheers! -lan









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 for more information.



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.

Capitol Classic 2021 is cancelled

Club Quarterly Contests

Meetings

Suspended

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings

Suspended

Tamiya's Panzer 4 Ausf G an In Box Review from Dave Edgerly



This is the brand-new PZ IV from the boss.
All you Armor pros will already be aware of it and all the nuances of the type and its variances. I am no expert on the PZ IV so I shall be skipping all that. There are multitudes of research materials out there for those who do wish to upgrade and accurize this one. Nuff said 'bout that. This is a new tool that follows closely on the heels of the F model.

There was a lot of praise for that kit. This is no different. It snuck in under the radar due to the excitement of their (Tamiya's) release of the 1/48th F4B Phantom II. A Phantastic kit by the way. I loved it. Back to the armor.



The one thing that really caught my attention and slightly frightened me are the large number of figures shown on the box art. Just can't seem to get the eyes right at all.

No depth perception.

The instructions show two marking versions for the beast: 21st Panzer Division at El Alamein in 1942 (A) and 12th Panzer Division in Northern Russia 1942 (B).

The instructions are typical excellent Tamiya and easy to follow with a separate Tips sheet and Information and color views of the two versions.

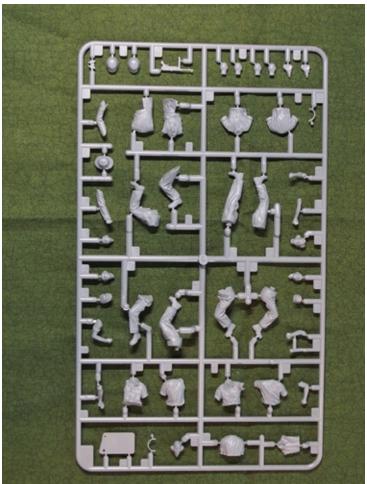


Apologies for the light reflection. Someday I'll get reasonable skill in taking photos. Sure, sure.

There are 41 steps in all including the figures. Now there are differences in detail to the two versions as North Africa and the Soviet Union were very different combat environments.

The assembly varies at the rear superstructure, rear fenders, stowage items, tool placement and hatch positioning. The figures are only appropriate for the Afrika Corps version.





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The track assembly is built up of Link and Length. This is, in my opinion the best method for tracks in 1/35th and smaller scales. I believe that the tracks du jour from mainland Asia and eastern Europe are a bit over complicated and the frustration level too high.

But then again, I'm old.

This new method of Tamiya is a bit different in portraying the upper run sag than they did with their KV-1 kit of a year or so ago. That one was a single length whereas the PZ IV has several links and smaller lengths the accomplish the same effect.

Those of you who have or plan to get the PZ IV F will see the same manner of assembly. Looks pretty good to me.

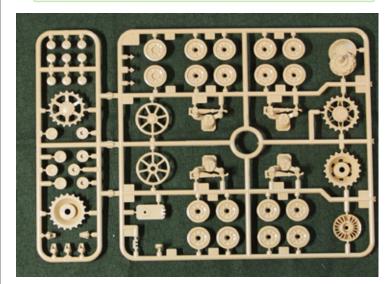
All other assembly is straight forward. The molding of the figures is very good. All five have different facial features and expressions as well as a variety of uniforms and head gear.

All hatches can be open save the forward MG and Radio operators hatch as there isn't an occupant included. One would have a big empty hole there. Nicht sehr gut.

I do think y'all who like the Wehrmachts' main battle tank will enjoy this one. Of course, if'n y'all like the full interior stuff, you will have to go elsewhere or after market. I have noticed that there are no Afrika Corps Palm Tree mit Hakenkreuz decals that would have been present on the vehicle in Nord Afrika.

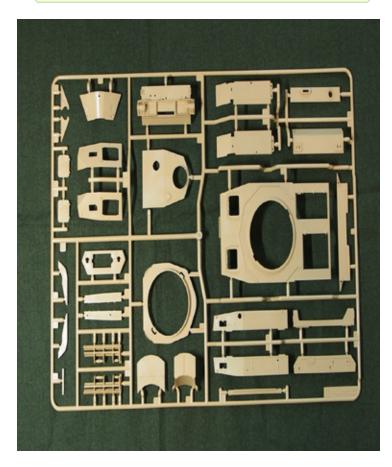
I hope to build this one soon as I clear some other projects off the bench. Again, I'm old.

Here are sprue shots for you.

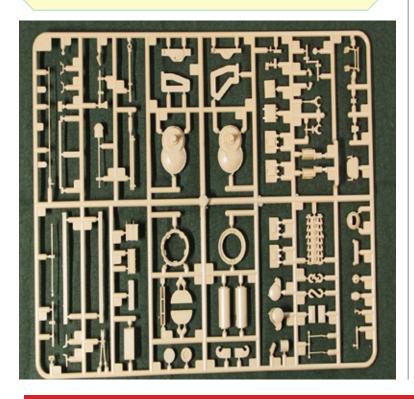


The "A" Sprue is the running gear There are 2.

The "B" sprue is upper hull and turret and well as the rear of the lower hull.

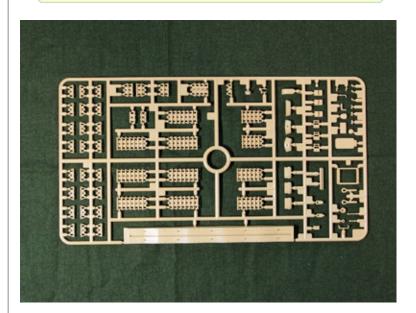


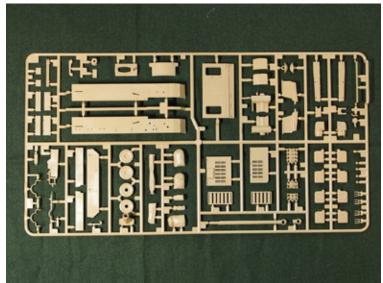
"C" Sprue has the gear boxes and hull stuff and well as the commander's turret hatch assembly.



"D" Sprue is the track components and the assembly jig.

There are two of them as well.





The Figures. Five of them: Commander, Gunner, Loader, Driver and a rider. Perhaps he is the Radio/MG guy getting some fresher air.

All seem to be in very natural poses. Oh, the riders helmet has decals; even the palm tree. Go figure.

That's it from me. Check out our local HS's for this as I do believe it's in stock at them all.

Cheers!

MENG 1/24TH OUETZALCOATLUS SERIES OS-003 FOKKER DR.I TRIPLANE IN BOX REVIEW BY DAVE EDGERLY





First off, this is not a scaled-up version of the 1/32nd Dr.1 that MENG produced previously that was based upon the late, sorely missed, WingNut Wings test shots. This is a beautiful rendering of the beast.



Very nice cover art of Ltn Ernst Udet chasing down a Spad above back lit clouds. There are markings for 4 aircraft: 2 with pre-April 1918 Eisener Kreuz and 2 with post April 1918 Balken Kreuz.

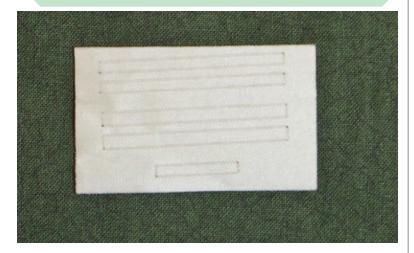
They are Dr.1 152/17 Richtofen, 213/17 Kempf, 577/17 Klimke and 586/17 Udet.



The metal parts are well protected in their own foam and cardboard container.

These all have interesting schemes (Kempf is my favorite) and who knows if anyone will be offering decals for other prominent pilots of this ole bird. The instructions very clear and call out differences for each version that you wish to build. There were many detail differences throughout the Dr.1's production run AND the units made their own modifications as well. Oh, also unlike the 1/32nd kit, one can only build a Dr.1 no F1 parts are included.

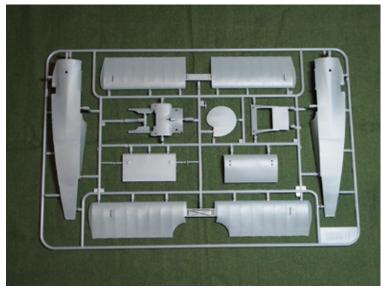
There are 24 steps to the instructions and all color callouts are for AK paints. Sorry, no cross references. The plastic is a light gray and clear and there are brass pre rolled barrel jackets and PE details as well as fabric for the harness.



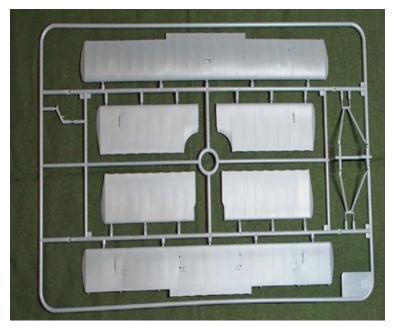
FOKKER Dr.I TRIPLANE | 福克Dr.I战斗机 1/24 QS-DD3



There are two propeller types to choose from. Not all fighters used Axial props contrary to model manufacturers beliefs There were Niendorf and Garuda as well. The non-Axial in this kit looks like a Garuda to me but I suggest you check your own sources to be sure. As another aside, quite a few pilots would mount captured French motors in their craft as they were a bit more powerful and depentable. The greatest of the Dr.1 aces (Jacobs) loved the Fench motors. Be nice to get one of those in a kit.



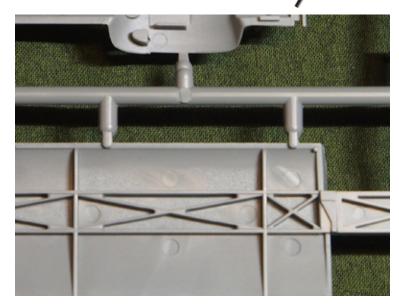
Here we have the fuselage halves, mid and bottom wing, rudder and the early aerodynamic landing gear fairing. Next up is the top wing, the other (bottom half) parts of the mid and bottom wing as well as tail skid and the cabane struts.



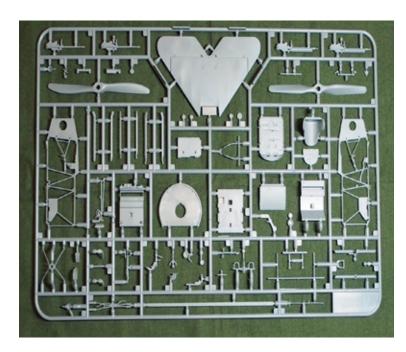
The sprue attachment points are well thought out and provide the modeler with a nice flat gluing surface.

Use those wonderful Tamiya cutters of the Meng ones on this kit. I love my Tamiya ones!

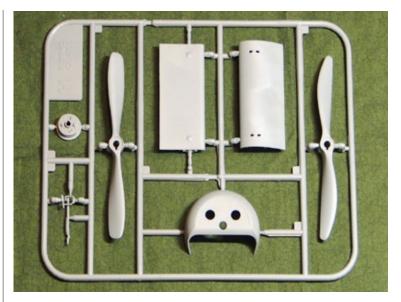
Now if I could get the hang of the MENG set that I have...



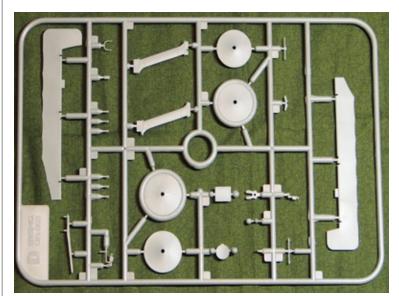
Next up we have the Cockpit sides, a set of props,
Spandau MGs, Horizontal Stabilizer, fire wall and loads of
small details that flesh out the interior of the office.
There are early and late details for the cockpit so pay attention to the version that you wish the portray, having worked
on and run up the Dr.1 Replica with a Le Rhone rotary at the
Pioneer Flight Museum, I can say that this is a great cockpit



Next is the sprue containing an additional set of props, the cowling, late style undercarriage fairing and a late control column.



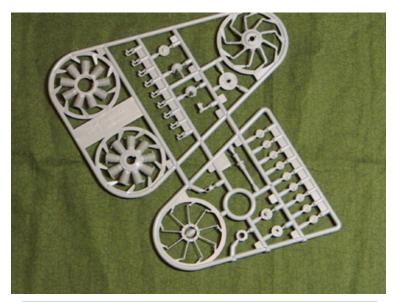
There are 2 of this next sprue. They contain wheels, ailerons, interplane struts and various small details. Notably there are small studs which on the actual craft's wing leading edges were there to protect the LE's when the wings were being stored or in transit by truck or rail. They changed in shape and location as time went on during the production run.



Here is the 9-cylinder Oberusel rotary radial motor commonly mounted to the Dr.1. Good detail and as one can see, a very simple engine in reality. You should see the insides of one of these. Like a watch! I opened a stored 1918 Le Rhone to get it ready for work on the PFM Tripe and it was immaculate! Since it runs on a fuel and castor oil mix, the inner parts are completely lubricated. The exterior of the motor is rather tatty as the castor oil coating does seem to keep all the dirt and grime.

It cleans up easily with mild solvent and elbow grease, however.

As you can see, the spark plugs are molded on but that's fine, these motors used stiff wires to run from the contact ring on the back of the motor to the plug. The Magneto and the Oil pump as well as the fuel air mixture block (Carb,) are also included in this kit.

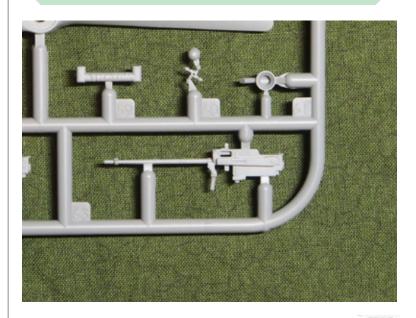


Sorry for the cut off section in the photo of the engine sprue.

Clear parts are as expected, few. A nice touch is the clear part for the inspection slot on the upper wing. The serial number is stamped on the spar so the mechanics can match correct wing to airframe.



Here are 2 shots of the machine guns. One without the cooling jackets and one with them molded. The molded ones are very sharp and with proper painting and weathering would look just fine. But.... Who can resist the already rolled brass jackets for that extra fine touch of detail?

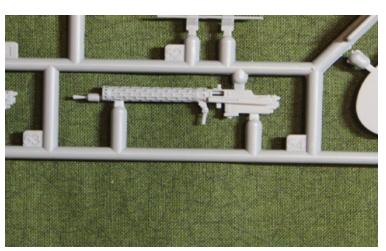


FOKKER Dr.I TRIPLANE | 福克Dr.I战斗机





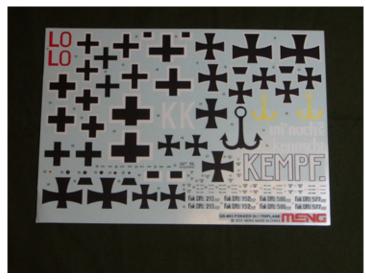




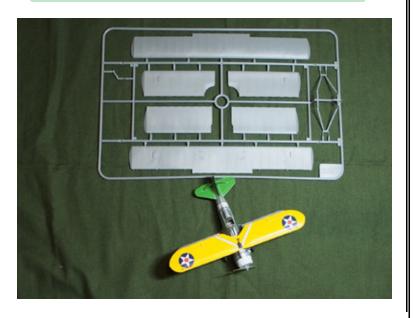
See? The fully molded ones are pretty nice and could be used in a diorama or vignette.

There is a detail on this kit which is often overlooked on the 1/48th WWI kits and that is the ejected brass recovery system and its container. Nice detail.

The decal sheet. It is very complete. There are the proper stencils for each aircraft that can be assembled from the kit. It is great to see that the MvR aircraft is the 152/17 as that is the one in which he got most of his Dr.1 victories and the one that survived the war until the RAF destroyed it in a 1944 raid on Berlin. To me, the overall Red 425/17 is, how shall I say it, BORING!!! And overdone. Only my opinion and does not represent the opinions of this newsletter's editor.



Finally, a picture of the wing sprue with my 1/48th AM Grumman F3F-1 as a size comparison.

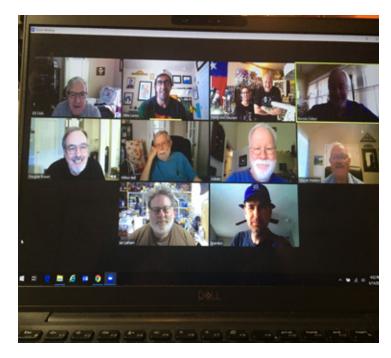


The kit was purchased at Lionheart Hobbies in Kyle,
Texas for \$129.98. There is another version of this kit which
contains a beautiful full-size replica of the Pour le Merite
award for a bit more geld.

Auf wiedersehen....

Dave

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.

First up this month is Ben morton with a couple of projects keeping him busy. The first is a Testor's SR-71. Followed up by a custom decaled Bandai Tie fighter.

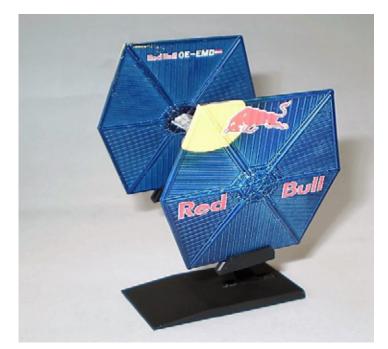




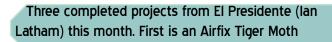




Here's the custom decaled Red Bull Tie Fighter













Next is a Gloster Gladiator.







Finally from Ian we have a Spitfire.







Last this month is Rick Herrington with two 1/48th subjects. The first is Tamiya's JGSDF Light Armored Vehicle and Suyada's new Tigr kit also in 1/48th.











That's it for this month. Thanks to all the members that shared their work.

Old Rumors and New Kits

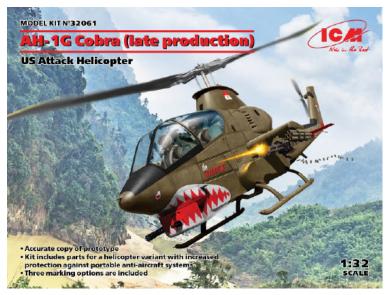
September 2021

New and In View dircraft by Ron McCracken

September brings us an interesting mix of re-pops and new-tool kits, with the new kits concentrated mostly in unusual subjects in the smaller scales.

1/32nd Scale

ICM is re-releasing their AH-1 as an AH-1G Cobra (Vietnam war) with new/revised parts.



Revell is re-releasing their 2017 new-tool P-51D (late) Mustang with new parts and decals.



1/48th Scale

DoraWings is releasing a new-tool Curtiss-Wright CW-22/ SNC-1 Falcon II, thus filling in a gap in coverage of WW II Navy trainers.



Eduard Fw 190D-11/13 Reedice Profipack



Eduard is re-releasing their Mig-21MF in a Weekend edition with new decals. This is a rebox of their 2011 kit.



Eduard is re-releasing their 2019 kit of the P-51K Mustang in a Profipack edition.



Eduard is releasing a new-tool Sopwith Camel Dual Combo kit.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their 2011 EA-18G Growler with updated/new parts and decals.



Not to be out-done, HobbyBoss is also re-releasing their more recent EA-18G Growler kit with new/updated parts.



Hasegawa is also re-releasing an updated version of their 2008 Ki-45 Kai Tei Toryu (Nick) kit, with new/revised parts.



Meng is re-releasing their F/A-18F Super Hornet with updated/new parts.



Revell is re-releasing what appears to be the old '60s Monogram SBD Dauntless as an SBD-5. A true oldie-but-goodie.



1/72nd Scale

Academy is re-releasing their SR-71 Blackbird - just a rebox with new decals but not recently available, so welcome.



Eduard is re-releasing their B-25J in 'Angel of Mercy' markings. It has been a while since they released this kit in a glass-nose variant, so it is welcome also.



Fine Molds is re-releasing their fine Phantom kit as the F-4D Phantom II flown by the First Vietnam war MiG Ace an excellent kit of a famous Phantom.



1/144th Scale

MicroMir has announced a new-tool Myasishchev 3MS Bison B.



Takom is releasing a new-tool Ekranoplan (one of those massive ground-effect seaplanes).



1/350th Scale

And now, for something really different, Takom has released a Zeppelin P Class Airship! Even in this small scale, the model is eighteen inches long!



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



Build the model kit right outta the box



Grab some aftermarket decal sets to make it pop



Shell out for some serious resin detail parts and throw a third of the kit in the trash

Destroy what mental health you had left by springing for every photo-etch detail set you can find for the kit

Spend 10x the cost of the original model kit, develop carpal tunnel folding up PE parts, wife divorces you while you lose your mind fitting resin parts that don't, dump over half the kit original parts in the trash, get evicted

Shipping News by Rick Harrington

Not a lot of 1-350th releases but a good amount of 1/700th scale stuff. Let's get started.

First from Yamashita is the IJN destroyer Take.



Fujimi is up next with a full hull IJN battleship Kongo.





Pit Road is up next with some new releases and some re-releases. First is a re-release of the US aircraft carrier CV-9 Essex.



SCALE 1/700

アメリカ海軍 航空母艦 CV-9 エセックス

US Navy Aircraft Carrier

Second from Pit Road is the IJN Destroyer Escort type C



Next from Pit Road is a modern release the JMSDF DDG-163 Amatsukaze.



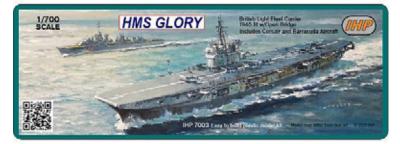
Last from Pit Road is a welcome re-release of the Russian aircraft carrier Kuznetsov.



■ CONTROLL TO THE TIME TO A CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY AND A CONTROL CONTROL OF THE PR



Imperial Hobby Productions has two new releases for us this month, two British aircraft carriers. The first is HMS Glory in her 1945 fit.



Next up from Imperial is HMS Triumph as she looked in 1947.



Combrig is up next with a post war Russian cruiser (1952) the Alexander Nevsky.



Last in 1/700 scale is a release from Takom. This kit has two WW1 German battleships SMS Derflinger and SMS Lutzow packaged with a Q class zepplin.



Interestingly Takom spelled the name of SMS Lutzow as "Luetzow". The kit comes with photo etch and metal barrels as well as a nice extra in the shape of a figure of Admiral Franz Ritter von Hipper.. Both of the ships are going to be released separately.



Only one release in 1/350th scale this month. This one's from Fox One and is more of an accessory than a a kit. It's a funnel cap set for the IJN Taiho.



Not necessarily a ship kit, but related is Takom's new release of a US 5 inch Twinn turret (Mk 38) in 1/35th scale.

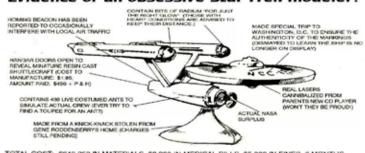


Last in this month's column is a 1/144th release from Trumpeter, a Type VII C U-boat.



That's all the wind in the sails this voyage. Grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Evidence of an obsessive Star Trek modeler:



TOTAL COST: \$646,250 IN MATERIALS, \$6,200 IN MEDICAL BILLS, \$5,000 IN FINES, 6 MONTHS PROBATION, AND A RESTRAINING ORDER FROM MATT JEFFIRES

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

Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

A good spread of releases between 1/72nd and 1/35th with some 1/16th chucked in for good measure. First in 1/72nd scale is from FTF a French light tank the Hotchkiss H-35.







Vespid Models has another WW2 release a German Maus 2.



Fujimi is releasing a Type 99 Japanese Ground Defense Force 155mm self propelled gun.





Armory Models Group is releasing a modern Russian 6X6 military Cargo truck.





Next up from DML is an Australian Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle.





Last up in 1/72nd scale from Border Models are two "technicals" the first being a 4 door pickup with a DSHK machine gun mounted.



The second release from Border Models is a two door pick up with an APU-2 mounted.



On to 1/35th scale. The big news this month is Tamiya's new tool M-10 tank dsestroyer.









Das Werk is releasing a RaupenschlepperOst RSO/01 Type 470.



RFM is releasing a Sturmgeschutz 3 Auf G.



Border Models is releasing a British Crusader Mk 2.





ICM is releasing a Soviet BM-13-16 Multiple Launch Rocket System on a G7107 Body.



Last in 1/35th is from Pit Road a JGSDF Type 87 reconvehicle. This is a re-issue.

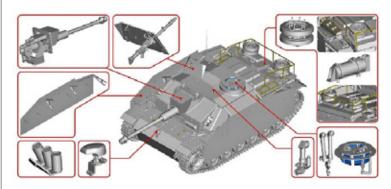


Finally in the column are two new 1/16th releases. The first is from Interallied and is a Sturmgeschutz 3 Ausf G.









Last from Freedom Model Kits a Kettenkraftrad and driver.





X1 Set



ITEM NO



That's it for this month. Til next.



A Figures By Michael Lamm

Hello fellow modelers! Hopefully, everyone is continuing to stay healthy and well. We're finally into September, and football season is here. Here's a few new figures to keep things your hands busy while you're watching your favorite teams.

https://miniart-models.com/

Miniart has really had a productive summer and is releasing a bunch of new figure kits, as well as re-releasing a couple discontinued ones. First up is an Israeli tank crew from the Yom Kippur war. The four figures are in poses celebrating the end of that battle 48 years ago next month. The set includes optional heads for a couple of the figures. Next up is a rather unusual set of figures. Five U.S. infantrymen in raingear. The large baggy ponchos cover up most of the uniforms details and should simply painting somewhat. The next set is also a bit unusual, and features an important, but often overlooked unit, four Royal Engineers working on finding and removing mines. The set is a "special edition", which means it includes a couple sprues of weapons, accessories, and other gear.





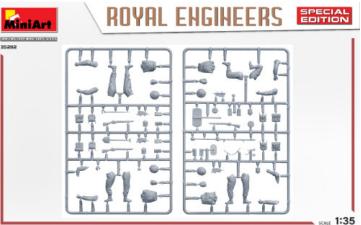












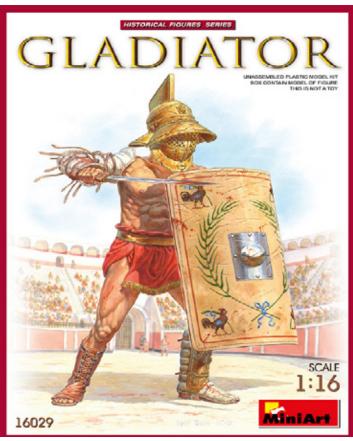
The real highlight of the new releases is a set that combines a few of their smaller recent kits into one big kit. A Panzer IV being serviced in the field. Avid readers of this column will recognize many of Miniart's recent releases included in this box, such as: #35331, Maybach Engine; #35353, German Repairmen; #35350 German Tankmen with Gantry Crane; and #35298, Panzer IV, Ausf H interior kit. Miniart has combined all of these kits into one box, and added a base making this an ideal way to build a scene in a box.



Finally, two re-releases of previously out-of-print 1/16th historical figure kits. The Gladiator and a French Cuirassier from the Napoleonic Wars.









https://alpineminiatures.com/

Here's a couple new figures from one of the premier resin figure makers out there, Alpine has 2 new German tank commanders. The kits are given the generic names of "German Heer Panzer Ace" and "German WSS Panzer Ace". However, these two figures are pretty obvious representations of Otto Carius and Michael Wittmann. Amazingly, Carius fought in the Panzer corps from 1940 until the very end of the war, surrendering to American forces in May 1945. Over that time, he accumulated over 100 victories on the Eastern and Western front. Michael Wittmann is probably the more famous of the two, almost as much for his success in the war, as for his death in the Normandy Bocage in August 1944. Each figure can be purchased individually, or as a set of two, and like every other Alpine release, each figure comes with a choice of two heads.





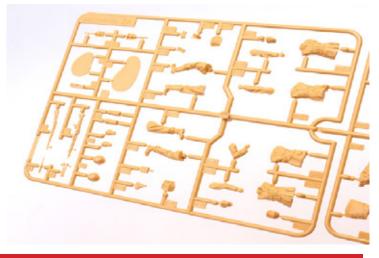


https://www.tamiyausa.com/

Finally, from Tamiya is a new tool of one of a very popular kit, the Kettenkrad with 3 figures. The new figures Tamiya is including in their recent kits have become very popular, and I'm sure this kit will be no different. Even though the poses, and box art are almost identical to the original 1973 offering from Tamiya, don't be confused this kit includes 3 highly detailed figures, and an updated version of the Kettenkrad.









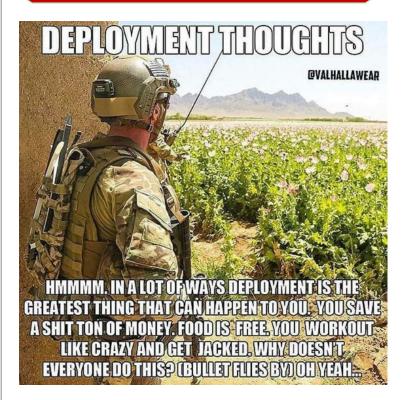
Freedom Model Kirs is releasing their Kettenkrafttrad driver in 16th scale separately.



Hobby Fan is releasing a set of 1/35th scale IDF Zelda (m113) crew.



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





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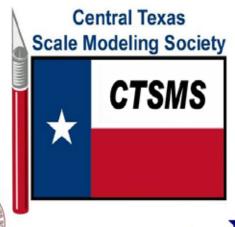
How did you built it?
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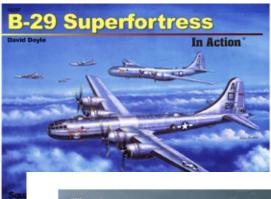


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