

# ASMS



# SPRUE EXAMINER



DAVE BOTTGER BUILDS SUYATA'S SPAD XIII WITH  
EDDIE RICKENBACKER FIGURE.

[austinsms.com](http://austinsms.com)



December 2022

*What's UP? Old Rumors & New Kits Tracked Topics*

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice •

# CONTENTS

Page 3 The President's Soapbox

Page 4 House Cleaning

Page 5 Dave Bottger builds Suyata's Spad XIII

Page 8 Build and Bull North dos by Rick Herrington

Page 9 ASMS Christmas party by Rick Herrington

Page 10 What's Up Wid You?

Page 17 Old Rumors and New Kits:

Page 15 Shipping News - by Rick Herrington

Page 17 Tracked Topics by Panzer Lehr

## ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

Tim Robb - President; [president@austinsms.org](mailto:president@austinsms.org)

Ron McCracken - Vice-President; [vicepresident@austinsms.org](mailto:vicepresident@austinsms.org)

Aaron Schmischny - Finance Minister; [treasurer@austinsms.org](mailto:treasurer@austinsms.org)

Rick Herrington - Secretary; [secretary@austinsms.org](mailto:secretary@austinsms.org)

Rick Herrington - Newsletter Editor; [editor@austinsms.org](mailto:editor@austinsms.org)

Show Coordinator; [showcoordinator@austinsms.org](mailto:showcoordinator@austinsms.org)

Mike Gilsbach - Webmaster; [webmaster@austinsms.org](mailto:webmaster@austinsms.org)

Ben Morton - IPMS/USA Coordinator; [chaptercontact@austinsms.org](mailto:chaptercontact@austinsms.org)

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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)



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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.

ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

# PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY TIM ROBB



Merry Christmas and thank you to Mike and Leslie Krizan for hosting our Christmas party.

It was much enjoyed!

At this December meeting please bring

- 1) your completed white elephant model for the quarterly contest
- 2) any model that won model of the month for the model of the year contest , and
- 3) your nomination for the member of the year award.

See you at the meeting.

Enjoy the Christmas season and go build a model!





# HOUSE CLEANING



## ASMS MEETING

Third Thursday each month  
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm  
at the  
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
2200 Justin Lane, Austin, TX  
No Reservations Neccessary!

### *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.



### Events

Winterblitz  
01/21/2023  
19124 Hwy 6  
College Station, TX

### Club Quarterly Contests

White Elephant competition this  
month. Any model received as a  
White Elephant may compete.

### Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Ron McCracken will be giving a  
presentation on rigging airplanes.



# SUYATA'S SPAD XIII WITH EDDIE RICKENBACHER FIGURE

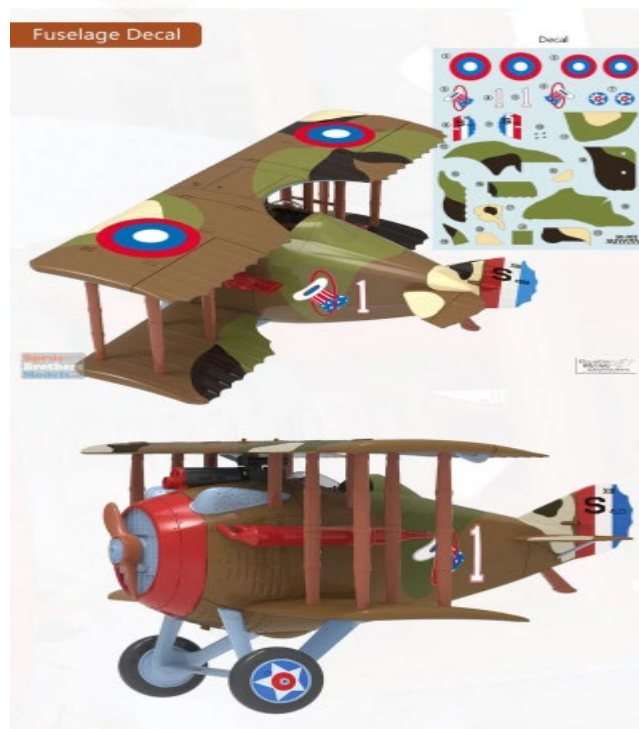
BY DAVE BOTTGER



**SPAD XIII & RICKENBACKER**



**FULL INTERIOR**



I bought this kit on a lark at LionHeart Hobby one day. Rudy said I'd be surprised at the detail for what the box describes as a "cartoon" kit, and indeed I was.

It comes molded in six colors (black, brown, red, flesh, light blue and silver) plus a clear sprue with the windscreen and alternate fuselage halves so the interior details can be seen. The interior includes a stylized but reasonably detailed Hispano Suiza engine, pilot's seat, bulkheads and framework, an instrument panel and nine instruments (unfortunately no detail on the instrument faces or decals for them), a joystick, throttle, compass and magneto.

Exterior detail is raised or engraved as appropriate but overstated, as befits a kit of this nature. Also included are a comic depiction of Eddie Rickenbacker and one of the squadron's lion cub mascots. The decal sheet includes not only markings for Rickenbacker's plane but camouflage decals and eyes for Eddie.

The camouflage decals only add three colors, black, dark green and tan, to the plastic's brown, omitting light green from the French five-color scheme. In addition, the camouflage pattern is largely fanciful, even allowing for the aircraft's exaggerated dimensions.

You can see photos of the kit's contents at <https://www.super-hobby.com/products/Spad-XIII-Rickenbacker-Full-Interior.html>. The box describes the kit as "snap-fit assembly." I'd call it "press-fit," as the parts include pins or tabs to fit into holes or slots. Although the fit needs to be tight to make glue unnecessary, in some places it is too tight and in some the parts won't go together at all without substantial sanding. This was especially true of the prop boss-propeller fit, the wheels-tires fit, the landing gear struts-fuselage fit and all of the wing struts. I had to sand the ends of the interplane struts so they would fit into the pockets for them in the wings.

## SPAD XIII & RICKENBACKER



It was only after I had glued the interplane struts to the bottom wings and test-fit the top wing that I discovered that the cabane struts were about 2 millimeters too long and also too big at the top to fit into the pockets for them in the underside of the top wing. Not a disaster, but another hurdle for anyone expecting a trouble-free build. In the end, I had to do at least a little sanding on almost every part in the kit.

The plastic itself seemed a little odd to me. Although I was careful about removing the parts from their sprues, I still ended up with some gouges at the attachment points. To compound the problem, my filler of choice, Tamiya white putty, did not adhere well to the plastic. On the plus side, Tamiya extra thin cement worked very well, making filler unnecessary for some seams.

The upper wing and lower wing halves are molded in two parts each but not in the conventional way. Instead of simply upper and lower halves split at the leading and trailing edges, the upper halves wrap around at the edges and the lower halves insert into the resulting pocket on the underside.



The advantage of this arrangement is that there are no leading or trailing edge seams to dress. The disadvantage is that the seams on the underside are sizeable and hard to eradicate, especially given the problem with putty mentioned above. After several rounds of putty-sand-prime, I'm still not completely satisfied with the result. At least these seams are all on the undersides.

Apart from the fit problems described above, assembly was a breeze, as you'd expect from a kit like this. I spent some time on the engine before I realized that unless I used the transparent fuselage halves, which I never seriously considered, it would be invisible after assembly. The seat had a large punch-out mark on the bottom which I hid under a piece of thin plastic sheet, since filling it would have been hard.

I made only two modifications to the kit. I sanded off some spurious raised detail on the propeller blades. I'm not sure if this was intended to represent deflector plates, but it doesn't belong and was simple to remove. I also painted the instrument faces and added detail with colored pencils. I decided early on that I would paint the kit rather than relying on the plastic colors and camouflage decals. Eddie and the lion cub are molded in flesh, so not painting them was really never an option.



I'm no figure painter but I was fairly happy with the result, keeping in the mind that this kit was never intended to be realistic in the first place. For the camouflage pattern, I used the instructions from an Eduard Spad XIII in Rickenbacker's markings. Initially I thought to photo-enlarge the painting diagram to match this kit's size but quickly realized that this wouldn't work because the fuselage and wings are "squashed." So instead I simply used the Eduard diagram as a guide to cut out masks from Tamiya tape.

The proportions aren't the same because the kit's proportions aren't the same as the Eduard kit or, for that matter, the actual aircraft, but the pattern is close enough for me. For the underside I used AK 3G buff shaded with grimy gray, both from their clear doped linen set. On top I used AK 3G WWI French milky coffee, green, green 1 (mixed 1:1 with white) and brown and Tamiya NATO black. Painting was not trouble-free, however. After I finished painting the undersides, I decided to use kabuki tape to mask the larger areas. Unfortunately, this tape's adhesion was too good and pulled off a swatch of the paint on one of the lower wing halves. No big problem – I stripped off the paint and repainted the part. Having learned my first lesson, I used only Tamiya tape to mask the top camouflage colors. It worked fine on top of the first color I painted, milky coffee, but pulled up big areas of the French green 1/white mixture (and yes, I had primed the entire plane with Tamiya light grey rattle can primer). At this point, it wasn't practical to strip off all of the paint so I had to try to feather the edges where the paint was pulled off and repaint.

As anyone who's ever done this can attest, it took several sessions of sanding and painting to make the transition smooth. In the hope of avoiding the problem, on repainting I mixed some Future with the remaining colors to improve adhesion. That, plus removing most of the tack from the tape before applying it, did the trick.

Second lesson learned. Although the kit rudder decals cover the entire rudder, these never fit well around the edges for me so I painted it. The kit decals don't include the red, white and blue stripes on the top wing or the landing gear struts so I painted them as well. An old partial Aeromaster decal sheet provided the lettering for the rudder as well as the missing numeral 1 for the top wing. These decals are actually for a 1/48th scale kit, but who knows what scale this kit is. The wingspan is slightly less than Eduard's 1/48th scale Spad XIII while the chord is slightly more than Hobbycraft's 1/32nd scale version.

I used the kit decals for the roundels, hat-in-ring insignia and 1's on the fuselage sides, outer wheel stars and Eddie's eyes, and they worked well. They dry to a matte finish, have minimal carrier film, conform pretty well to the kit contours on their own and react well to Micro Sol and Set. I had some trouble getting the wheel stars to lie down. In retrospect, I should have anticipated this and cut a slit or two in them before wetting them. I particularly liked Eddie's eyes. Who knows – maybe I should have used the rudder decals after all. Although Eddie would stand on his own, he was wobbly, so I decided to mount him on a base alongside his Spad.

A wooden base, stained and covered with fake grass, sufficed.

Despite the issues described above, this was a relatively relaxing and, dare I say, fun build. The fact that it's a comic kit gave me the freedom to build it as I wished rather than worrying about detail or accuracy.

For example, I thought a while about adding rigging and control wires but decided not to because

(1) I didn't want to go to the trouble and

2) Anyone who criticizes the plane on that score is missing the point.



## Build and Bull Bandai day by Rick Herrington

Build an Bull. Excitement and anticipation mounts the closer the day gets. A chance to make actual progress on your kit and to bull with your modeling buddies and maybe learn a new technique or two from folks with skills to share.

This was the first I had attended at Dragon's Lair. I was familiar with Dragon's Lair as they carry a full range of Citadel Colors and occasionally I would stop by to replenish my stocks.

It turned out it was just Max Francis and I sharing the table with some gamers.



Max was working on a Maschinenkreiger model and a Bandai Gundam kit. I was working on a Bandai Mandalorian, so it was a Bandai day.





Both of us got there early when the store was fairly empty. As the day went on the gamers began to fill the store and there was lots of activity going on.

Max and I decided to wrap it up a little after 3:30.

I enjoyed getting to know Max and our Build and Bull and Mando benefited from the time also. It's a fun time, join us if you can next time.



## Asms Christmas Party 2022

By Rick Herrington

Last Saturday was the annual Austin Scale Modelers Christmas get together. Mike and Leslie Krizan were kind enough to host the club at their lovely home.

If you took the guided tour through Mike's workshop you got a preview of Border Models 1/32nd Lancaster. Wow! What a project.

A good time was had by all and the members who participated in the gift giving/stealing had even more fun.

Members selected a wrapped gift from a pile and once opened it could be stolen by other members.

Poor Harold got stolen from 3 times.

Oh, and did I mention there was good food too.

Dave Edgerly announced he's moving to South Carolina at the party. We'll miss you Dave.





# 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.

Bill Delk`s e-mail address  
**Falconfyredeuce@gmail.com.**



This month's meeting was a good one. The tables were full of models and Bill Delk gave an excellent presentation on lighting models with LEDs.

Milton is up first with his Monogram DO 335. The kit is a 1979 vintage and he bought it at Penney's for \$3.50.



Steve Anthony brought in some more of his masterpiece visual aids. this time there was an all paper astronaut and a diorama of the Dust Bowl.







Lily Selestino brought in a Battle Sister squad and a Rhino. These are Warhammer 28mm scale.



Rick Herrington also brought in some figures. These are various configurations of the Thing from the movie of the same name.

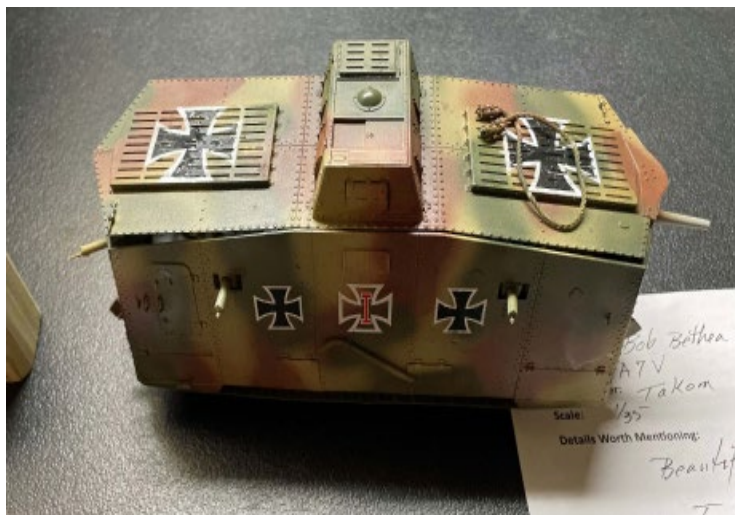




Bob Bethea brought in several projects. First was a 75mm Girl on a Bear.



He also brought in a 1/35 Meng A7V complete with interior.



Bob also brought in an in-progress 1/48 Talley Ho coach complete with passengers.



As part of his demonstration for the club Bill Delk brought in a Mars Attacks model.



Moving on to aircraft and military vehicles Tim Robb brought in a Monogram JU87 D8 and a Hobbycraft ME-109E7.





Gordon Stiemans brought in a P-38 in 1/48th scale and the winner of this month's contest, an SAS desert jeep.



Last in the column this month are two ship builders that shared their work with the group. Charlie Mauptries (sp) is a first time visitor and brought in a fictional Kagero class destroyer, the Marekaze. This was the first time he'd used Infini to rig a ship and as it's almost invisible I think he did a great job. It's great to have another ship person visiting the group.



Gene Myers has been sharing his on-going build of Hobby Boss' 1/350th SMS Srydlitz and a great job he's doing.





The Program portion of the meeting was super. Bill Delk, our resident science fiction/fantasy builder shared some of his techniques to light up scale models.



Thanks to everyone that share their work with the group and especially to Bill delk for his great program. Hope everyone has a great Christmas, see you at the meeting.

## *Old Rumors and New Kits*

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

Ron was unable to get his information to me by publish date, hopefully he will be back with us next month.





# Shipping News

by Rick Herrington

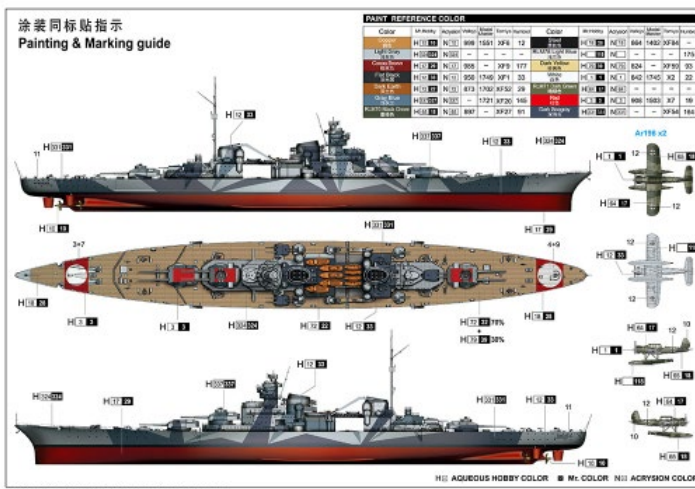
Ahoy mates! Pickings on new ship kits awful slim this month in 700th scale. and 350th. Trumpeter is up first with three new releases. the first is HMS Exeter. You might remember this ship as one of the cruisers roughly handled by the Graf Spee.



Second from Trumpeter is the Soviet destroyer Tashkent circa 1940.



Last from Trumpeter is a what-if DKM battle cruiser- Barbarossa.



Fujimi is releasing (re-releasing?) a full hull special edition IJN Yamato.



Yamashita is releasing two IJN destroyers. The first is a Matsu class destroyer.

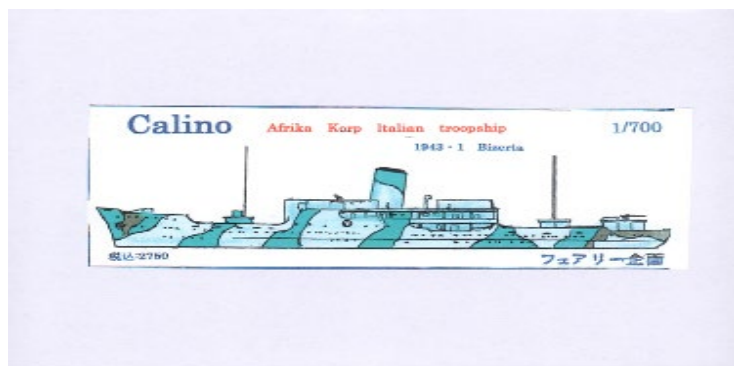


Second from Yamashita is a Mutsuki class destroyer.





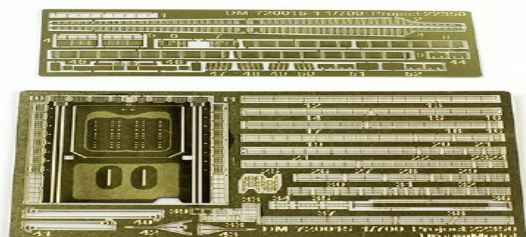
Fairey Kikaku is releasing an Italian troop ship the Bizerta.



Orange Hobby is releasing a 3D printed Tarantul III Soviet missile boat.



Dream Model is releasing a Russian Project 22350 frigate including photo etch.



**FULL SET DETAILED PE-PARTS**



Last in 1/700 scale are some diecast models from Wal-terson's the HMS Hood and th Ark Royal. Both are full hull and look well detailed.





Last in the column is a 1/350th release from Veryfire, the light cruiser USS Atlanta.



That's all the wind in the sails for this month. Hope everyone has a great Christmas and gets some build time in.

## Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Got some small stuff this month (1/72nd). Dragon is releasing three new kits based on the Stryker chassis. The first is an ATGM version.



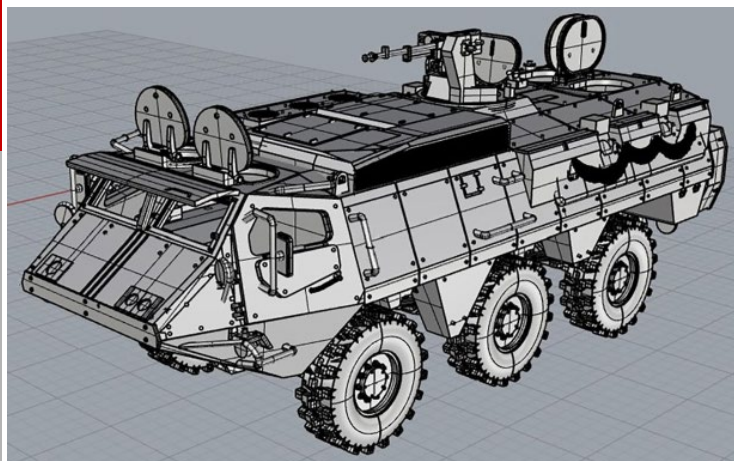
Next is a Dragon.



Third is a MGS (mounted gun system).



Platz is releasing a Finnish 203AMV.

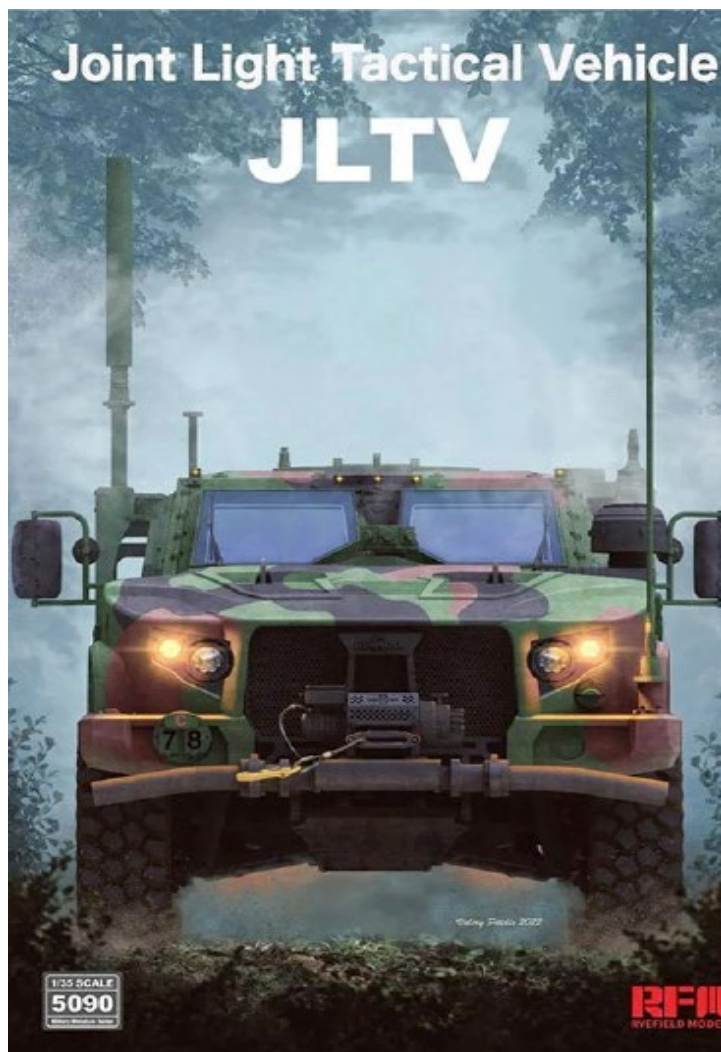


IN 1/35th Academy is releasing a Jagdpanther G.





RFM is releasing a JTLV (Joint Light Tactical Vehicle.)  
The vehicle is meant to replace the aging HUMMV.



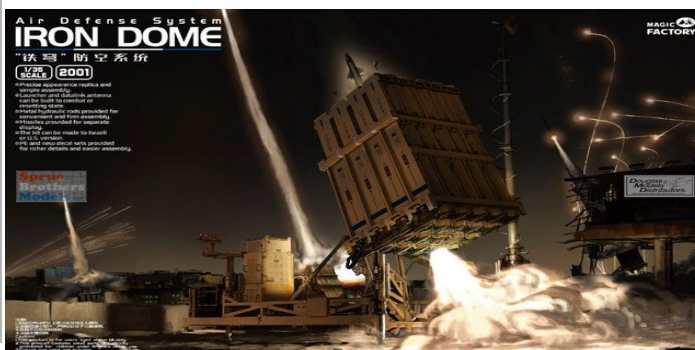
I Love Kit is releasing a heavy gun carrier.



Italeri has two new releases for us, a Fiat 508 CM Coloniale and an M109A2 A3-G.



Magic Factory is releasing an Israeli Iron Dome missile defense system.





Takom has two M48's for us, an A3 and an A5.



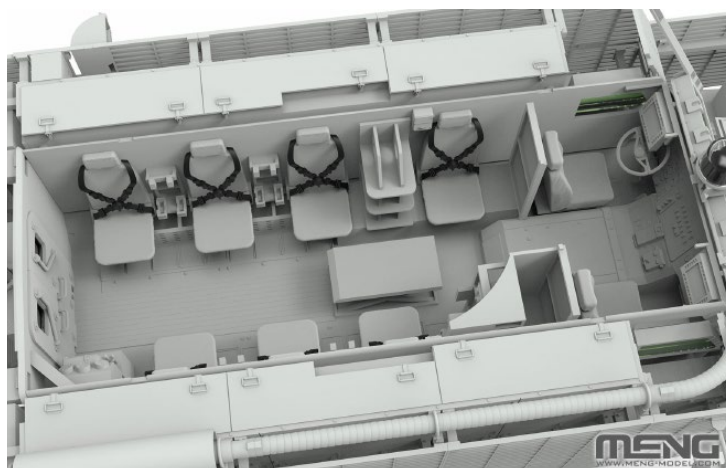
Meng is releasing British Mastiff.



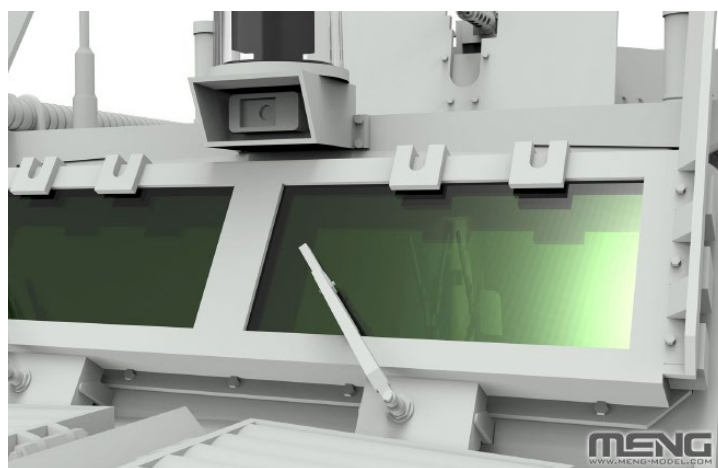
BRITISH MASTIFF 2 6X6 WHEELED PROTECTED PATROL VEHICLE  
英国“獒犬2”6x6轮式装甲防护巡逻车  
1/35 SS-012



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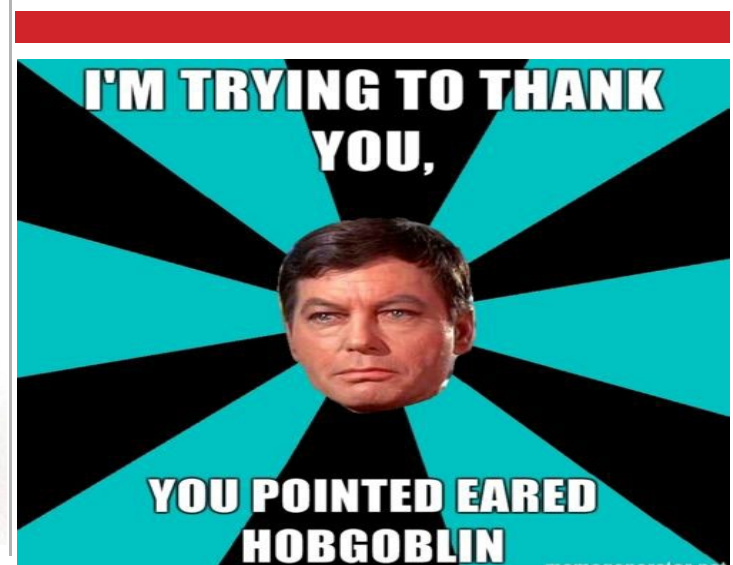
If you're looking to model the Ukraine conflict Masterbox is releasing a set of figures they're calling Defense of Kyiv.



Finally if you're a fan of Toon militay kits Toonkreig has two new kits, an M-20 scout car and a Jeep with a 30 cal,



That's it for this month tread heads. Go out an build a kit!





IPMS USA is soliciting articles. We've got some great modeller's in this area and you can help the mother organization to flourish by submitting an article to the Journal.

# ARTICLES WANTED!

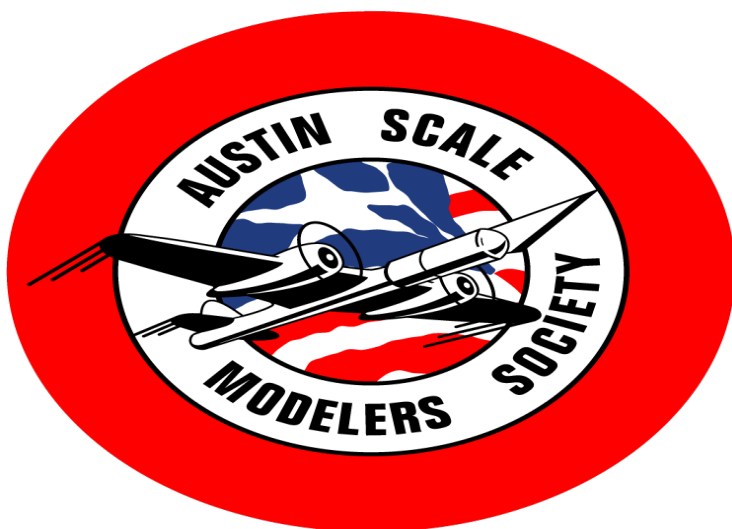
Maybe you build cars.  
Or jets. Or figures. Or tanks.  
Maybe you slap em' together.  
Maybe you count every rivet.

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUILDING

How did you built it?  
What makes this particular subject interesting?  
Do you have any special tricks?

Any IPMS USA member can submit an article on any modeling related topic to the IPMS USA Journal.  
The standard word count is 3000 and it should be well documented with high resolution photos.

Send inquires to: [ipms-q@ipmsusa.org](mailto:ipms-q@ipmsusa.org)



Central Texas  
Scale Modeling Society



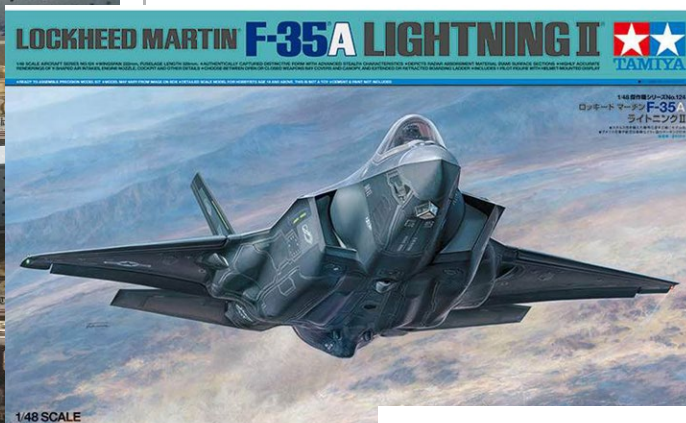


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<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com>



## Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

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

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

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

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

International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA

Membership Application / Renewal Form

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Foreign Surface \$38.00

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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:

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Riverview, FL 33568-1411



# LIONHEART

## — H O B B Y —



5500 Jack C Hays Trail, Kyle, Texas 78640,

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10:00 am – 06:00 pm







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