



ADAM COLEMAN'S BEARS OF KINMEN



New and In View • What's UP? • Old Rumors & New Kits

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug

January 2022

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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. **Our Sponsors**

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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



Well, we've burst through on to a whole new year, let's all hope for a better one.

It's time for the ASMS transfer of power. I will be stepping down as President and Mike Lamm will relinquish the reins as Treasurer, so we will need to fill these positions. This will be a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in becoming more involved with ASMS. Please feel free to reach out to me for additional information.

We all need to meet together to vote in a new leadership board, however, due to the unusually high rates of Covid's Omicron variant at the moment, the plans to meet at the end of this month will be postponed until February. I have high hopes that the wave will slow down by then and we will be able to get together for this important event.

The Far West library is still limiting it's service time, so I am currently looking for alternative meeting places. We have an opportunity for space at a church in central Austin, so I will follow up and see if it can be a potential new home for ASMS. I will update everyone next month on what a return to in-person meetings could look like.

Until then, it will be business as usual with Bill Delk (falconfyre@austin. rr.com) hosting the weekly zoom gathering at 4PM every Sunday. It's always informative and even a little entertaining at times, so I encourage all of our members to take the opportunity to join in and see how your peers are doing.

Until next month, have a safe and cozy winter build.

Cheers!





January 2022





ASMS

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 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.

Winterblitz 2022 Presented by Texas Independent Military Modelers January 22, 2022

Rivercon XI March 19,2022 LSU university Ctr www.facebook.com/RiverconIPMS/

Contest Communications:

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Meetings Suspended

Øsprue examiner

Bears of kinmen by Adam Coleman

Today, the issue of China invading Taiwan is never far from the news - but it's a long story, and ultimately why Taiwan is still independent today is somewhat due to the three "Bears of Kinmen". Here is the amazing story of the little Bears... On October 27, 1949, Tank "66" ROC Nationalist Army 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Regiment in company with "64" and "65" were based on Quemoy (Kinmen) island off the coast (of then just turned) Communist China. The Communists began an invasion of Kinmen that night, but events did not go in their favor... first of all, they mistimed the tides, and

second, they had not known about the handful of ex US. M5A1 "Stuart" tanks who were coincidentally lurking nearby.

At dusk the preceding day, Nationalist Tank #66 under the command of Lt. Yang Chan had become bogged down on a sand dune on the beach during an unrelated defensive exercise.



The other two Stuarts in his platoon stayed behind in an attempt to tow out the immobilized vehicle. The tankers were still on the beach, enjoying a snack at 3:00 a.m, when the over 3,000 troops of the 244th PLA (Communist) infantry regiment swarmed ashore from wooden boats on to the now open tidal flats at 4:00 a.m.

The stunned Nationalist tankers opened fire with their three 37mm cannons and machine guns from their Stuarts, at the Communists on the wide open invasion beach.

The fortuitous presence of Lt. Chan's tank platoon managed to contain the PLA landing. While immobilized #66 stayed behind to cover its sector of the beach—only able to fire from its 37mm gun because the hull was facing the wrong way!—the other two tanks left her alone and launched a counterattack nearby. More Stuart tanks and Nationalist infantry soon swept down, and the counterattack overran the Communist invaders—literally, as the tiny Stuart tanks exhausted their ammunition and resorted to charging forward into waves of massed opponents on the exposed sand, blasting the stranded boats and Communist



Kinmen Airport 4.4 *** * * * *** (1,935) infantry. All of the Communist troops who had landed on the island were either killed or captured.

The event was the first major defeat of the Communists in 1949 and resulted in a freeze on invasion moves by the Communists until this day. The story of the now-called "Bears of Kinmen" is celebrated in a museum and memorial on Kinmen island.

KIT: The kit is the AFV Club 1/35 M5A1, with decals for "66" and a suitable coating of beach weathering, just as she was that night on the sand defending her island. "66" ROC Army 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Regiment, October 1949







THE V-12 OFFICER PROGRAM BY DOUGLAS BROWN

Douglas Brown's father was enrolled in the V-12 Officer Program during WW2.

The V-12 program during WW2. The definitive history of the program is: "The V-12 Program: Leadership for a Lifetime"

https://www.amazon.com/Navy-V-12-Program-Leadership-lifetime/ dp/0395419328

During the war there was a need for many more Navy and Marine officers, the colleges were emptying due to the draft, and the V-12 program was created to provide accelerated college programs for potential officers.

The program was implemented in 131 colleges and universities, about 100,000 student/enlistees joined the program, and it is credited with producing 60,000 Navy and Marine new officers. The idea of training 60,000 junior officers in three years seems hard to believe now, but I often think that most people today just don't grasp the scale and scope of WW2.

In my dad's case, he enrolled in the program, went through the University of Louisville in the engineering program, while being enlisted in the Navy for simultaneous training.

He graduated in October 1945 after $2 \frac{1}{2}$ years with a degree in electrical engineering, and was commissioned on active duty as an ensign the same day. He crossed the country by train, arrived in Bremerton, and took a launch immediately out to the CVE-116 Badoeng Strait at midnight. The ship sailed the next day on its initial deployment. They picked up armament from the ammo depot at Port Townsend, WA, proceeded to Alameda, then to permanent base in San Diego for training with Marine air units from El Toro. In February 1946 they traveled to Hawaii to participate in repatriation of US solders and equipment.

Funny story: They were assigned to carry PBY's on deck, aircraft they never usually carried, and the ship was loaded with many more people than usual.

Because of some training he had received, my dad was asked by the captain to calculate the stability of the ship under various conditions (ie, being top-heavy and overloaded). After checking and double-checking, dad told Captain Turner the maximum tilt that he

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ASMS

calculated should be OK, but both of them were very glad that the return from Pearl to San Diego was over.

He always regarded those years as some of the most important of his life. Besides the responsibility of being a junior officer (ensign, then lieutenant) on a carrier at the age of 19, he credited the Navy with his college degree, which led to a 40 year career in engineering, much with Bechtel Corp working on international projects. Here's one V-12 summary:

http://homepages.rootsweb. com/~uscnrotc/V-12/v12-his.htm

"Between July 1, 1943, and June 30, 1946, over 125,000 college-age men were enrolled at 131 colleges and universities throughout the United States in the V-12 program. Fifteen thousand of these men were in the Marines Corps V-12 section of the program. All those in V-12 were on active duty, in uniform and subject to a very strict form of military discipline. Approximately 60,000 of those in the program were eventually commissioned as Navy ensigns or Marine Corps second lieutenants. V-12 schools ran the gamut from the Ivy League and large state universities to small, church-associated colleges in very small towns."

CVE-116 during 1945-46, trained Marine units with Corsairs, Hellcats, and Avengers. The ship was decommissioned into reserve in April 1946 but recommissioned in Jan 1947. It participated the Korean War, including supporting the Inchon landing, and its primary aircraft were Corsairs. During the 1950s, its mission was antisubmarine operations, along with training with Marine assault helicopters. It was finally decommissioned for good in 1957 and scrapped in 1972.

Trivia – the final appearance of CVE-116 was in the final motorcycle chase scenes of Clint Eastwood's "Magnum Force", shot just before scrapping with the other remaining ship in the class.

No kidding!





SPRUE EXAMINER

Using insulation foam for diorama building by Jake McKee



Most of us have seen some remarkable work done with XPS insulation foam. Whether is being used as the base for a diorama or being cut up into individual 1/35 scale bricks, this material is light but strong. You can carve it, cut it, and shape it into some cool shapes. The wargaming crowd has been using XPS foam for years, but we modelers are just more recently discovering its wonders.

XPS foam is used for insulating buildings and comes in large sheets. They typically come in 4'x8' sheets of various thicknesses (1", 2", 3"), although stores may sell smaller cut downs too. If you want thicker construction, gluing several pieces together is going to be much less expensive and radically easier for us hobbyists to find than thicker pieces.

This material is great because you can shape it in so many ways and with so many tools. You can cut it into smaller pieces with a table saw or hot wire table (mine is from Proxxon and is fantastic). You can shape it with a hobby knife, hot wire tool or knife, or even a pair of pliers.

The pink stuff is easily procured at Home Depot and similar stores. You can even buy it online at sites like: https://insulation.supply. What you'll notice at those sites, however, is that there is a lot of options for what you can buy. XPS foam is all the same, right? Nope. There's a ton of "compression strengths" that are more or less "firm". And each manufacturer has different ways of talking about the different types... as well as coloring them differently.



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If you've followed what the European diorama folks have been doing, you'll be familiar with a grey XPS foam called Styrodur. This is simply an extra firm version made by BASF. The pink stuff is made by Owens-Corning. The blue stuff by Dow.

I've been on a monumental search to source the Styrodur foam, and I've learned some things along the way. Buckle up, it's about to get nerdy!



The pink foam boards that home improvement stores like Lowe's and Home Depot sell is Owens-Corning Foamular 150. It's the really soft stuff, but relatively inexpensive. (The blue version is basically the same stuff, but made by Dow)

Owens-Corning sells Foamular in other density (compression) levels too. But these are only sold at insulation supply houses (I'm pretty sure every somewhat big town has one) and some places online. I found a local supply house here in Austin (IDI Distributors) and picked up two density levels:

Foamular 250: it's still soft, but better than the Home Depot stuff. It was also pretty cheap at \$27 USD for a 4'x8'x1" sheet

Foamular 1000: this stuff was like a rock. Cuts perfectly on the hot wire table, resists when you push on it with your finger and probably wouldn't dent when you drop it like the 150 or even the 250 does. I also was able to "draw/ carve" pretty nice bricks and rocks into it without it generating the "crumbs" and tears like the 150. I also used a brick pattern roller to "roll" a brick pattern into it. Worked great. (The 250 was better with the roller than the 150, but still not great). You can even use a wad of aluminum foil to add some rough brick/stone texture.



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If I had to guess, and based on the limited feedback from the foam supply house manager, the Foamular 1000 is likely very close to Styrodur that the Europeans use. These sheets were much more expensive at \$134 for a 2'x8'x2" sheet.

(NOTE: Styrodur also comes in multiple density levels. YouTuber Uncle Nightshift, for instance, told me the Styrodur 2800 is just way too coarse to use)



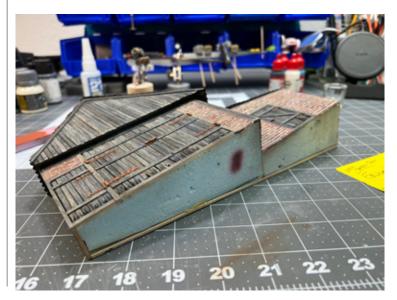
The supply houses are targeting commercial clients and the one I went to here in Austin told me they rarely order the Foamular product. I just 'happened to luck into a bit of stock they had to due to their "ordering mistake". Ha! They said they could reorder it without problem, but... it would need to be a minimum order of 9 (!!) full shipping pallets. Yikes. Same thing, in theory, for getting the Styrodur (a BASF product) but it would take a minimum of 3 months and have AT LEAST those same minimum order quantities.



I also traded emails with https://insulation.supply support and they told me that these two are popular with their scale modeling customers:

Kingspan GreenGuard Type VI XPS
Insulation Board
Kingspan GreenGuard Type VII XPS
Insulation Board

I haven't put hands on either of these or compared the specs. The main metric that we modelers seem to need to pay attention to when shopping for foam is the compression rating.



SPRUE EXAMINER

The gray color Styrodur comes in is just a tint issue. Apparently the grey is more environmentally friendly and some US manufacturers are moving away from their current colors to get more environmentally friendly too.

Hope this helps some other Americans who are trying to get a replacement for the tasty Styrodur.

For folks in and around Austin, IDI Distributors still has a sizeable, but limited collection of Foamular 1000. Get it quick! It's worth it!



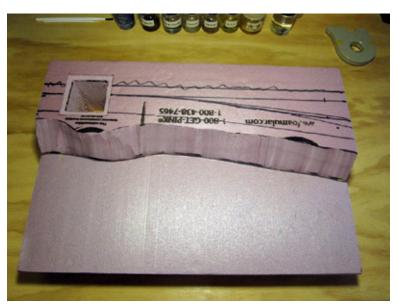


To find out more info, here's a few links:

Uncle Nightshift: a great modeler and YouTuber who has done some remarkably cool foam building/base builds https://www.youtube.com/c/NightShiftScaleModels

North American foam modeling: A Facebook group for folks building with foam https://www.facebook.com/ groups/670784366801948

Example of a HUGE diorama built with standard blue foam https://www.facebook.com/ watch/?v=624014708935279

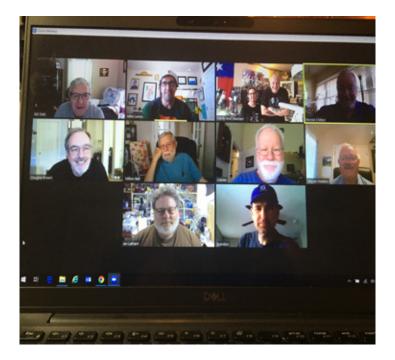








What's Mp wid You?

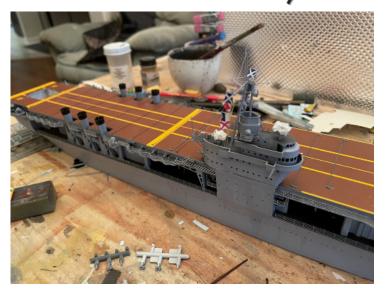


ASMS/Bill Delk sponsors an on-line ZOOM meeting with whoever wants to join us to talk about models and life. It happens almost every Sunday at 4:00. Contact Bill Delk to have him send you a link to be able to get into the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Rick Cotton is up first with several new projects. The first is a 1-350th USS Ranger.



SPRUE EXAMINER





The second is Fujimi's 1-350th IJN Kagero.



Rick shared a picture of the custom case that his wife made for him for his 1/32nd Heinkel 219. Rick used it to transport his model to Modelfieta 40 and won a third place.

Congratulations Rick!





Mike Gilsbach has been working on Revell's 1/48 scale B-17G.

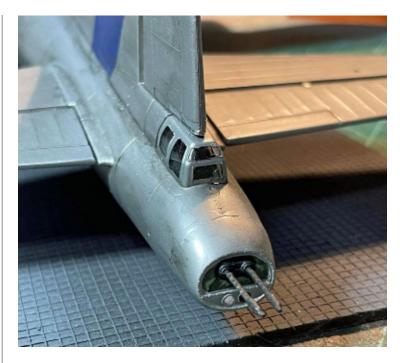


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Mike's next project is Hasegawa's Voyager kit.





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Jorge Martins sent in some pictures of his completed 1/48th projects. The first is a Revell Portugese F-84G.









The next project from Jorge is a Portugese T-38 Talon in 1/48th scale. This one is a Trumpeter kit.







I borrowed some images from the Austin Scale Modeler's Society of Masahiko Nakasone's 1/24th scale Ford GT.

Masahiko is from Japan and is one of their premier auto modelers. He is also a member of Austin Scale Modelers.

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Rick Herrington is working on a Tamiya 1/35th Wirbelwind.





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New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

January looks to be a bit of a slow month, mostly re-releases with one or two being alternate-parts revisions that allow a different version of the subject to be built. Hasegawa dusted off a bunch of old molds and re-popped some stuff that first came out decades ago.

1/48th Scale:

AvantGuard Model Kits (AMK) has reissued their F-14D Tomcat with new markings. The kit is very well detailed, with full engine intake ducts and optional position wings.

F-14D SUPERTOMCAT



Eduard has re-issued their A6M2 Zero Type 21 in a Profipack edition, with five choices of markings, color photo-etch, and pre-cut painting masks.



Eduard has re-issued their MiG-21SMT kit in a Weekend edition with four markings options. The Weekend edition kits do not include the photoetch parts and painting masks found in Eduard's other editions.



Eduard has re-released their Spitfire Mk.Ia in a Weekend edition.



Hasegawa has re-released their AH-64D Apache Longbow in JMSDF markings, with some updated/new parts.



Hasegawa has also re-released its J7W2 Interceptor ShindenKai in markings of the 352 Flying Group.



🖁 Kyushu J7W2 INTERCEPTOR FIGHTER SHINDENKAI `352nd Flying Group' 🚟

Hasegawa has re-released their 1999-vintage T-4 in 'Blue Impulse 2002' markings.



ICM has released an OV-10D+ Bronco based on their OV-10A kit that came out about a month ago.



1/72nd Scale:

DoraWings has released an update of their S.55A, which is based on their 2019 S.55 kit with some new parts and markings.



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Great Wall Hobby is re-releasing their Su-35S Flanker E with some new parts – probably alternate external stores.



Hasegawa has re-released their aging (1980's) F4U-1D Corsair.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their G4M2E Type 1 (Betty) Bomber w/Ohka 11 piloted bomb.



Hasegawa is also re-releasing their H8K2 Type 2 Model 12 (Emily) Flying Boat.



Valom has released a series of C-46 kits over the past year which offer an alternative to the older Williams Brothers kit. They offer a mid-to-late production C-46A and a C-46D, both of which used four-bladed Curtiss Electric propellers. So if you want a C-46 version that used 3-blade propellers (the C-46 and C-46F) you are still probably better off with the Williams Brothers kit, which has these propellers as an option. But The Valom kit is significantly better overall.



SPRUE EXAMINER

And that's a wrap for January. Not that much that's really new and relatively few announcements overall. Perhaps February will be better.

Shipping News by Rick Hannington

Ahoy swabbies! Slim pickings this month in regard to new ship releases. Let's begin with Revell's release of a 1/144th scale Type XXI German U-boat.



This "new" release does not include an interior that their previous release did.

1/700th

Moving on to 1/700th scale Revell is releasing the USS Wasp Amphibious Assault ship. This one comes with helicopters and deck vehicles.



Yamashita Hobby is releasing the IJN destroyer Den as she looked in 1944.



Aoshima has two releases for us in 1/700th scale. The first is the IJN Gunboat Seta/Hira as she looked circa 1920. Japan used these type boats to patrol the Yangtze.



SPRUE EXAMINER

Next from Aoshima ia their release of the IJN carrier Taiho. Taiho was sunk during the Battle of the Phillipine Sea by USS Albcore. Albacore fired a spread of 6 torpedoes at the Taiho of which one hit. Due to poor damage control by the inexperienced crew the ship was lost.



Finally in 1/700th scale Flyhawk is releasing HMS Ajax. You might recognize HMS Ajax from her battle with the DKM Graf Spee. HMS Exeter, Achilles and Ajax engaged the Graf Spee and damaged her.

If this release is as good their previous Scharnhorst and Bismarck kits this one will not be one to miss out on.



The only other release of the Ajax has been by Airfix in 1/600th scale. Flyhawk's release will be welcome indeed. Moving on to 1/350th scale only one kit release from Hobby Boss but some great new 3D printed ship accessories from Bunker Studios.

Hobby Boss is releasing the USS Gato SS-212 (1941).



Bunker Studios has three new releases to compliment your DKM 1/350 scale ship. The first is a DKM 37mm Flak M42-M43.



Although these are titled 37mm flak mounts they look suspiciously like the late 40mm flak guns mounted on Prinz Eugen.

Next up from Bunker Studios is the DKM twin 37mm Doppel. These would be a great addition to an Admiral Hipper, Graf Spee or Tirpitz.

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Kriegsmarine 37mm Flak Doppel C/30 使国海军 C30 37毫米 双联装防空高炮 1/350 3D Print Set ✓ Save time ✓ Highly detailed ✓ Easy to assemble War Ships Series -WS35005-

Next from Bunker Studios is the ship mounted DKM Flak Vierling.



Finally from Bunker Studios is a single, army mount 20mm flak gun. You saw these mounted on German ships during the Channel Dash usually on the bow or one of the forward turrets.



Last in this month's column is in 1/48th scale. What you say? Is that a typo? No, now you can own your own USS Arizona in 1/48th scale for a paltry \$43,000. Here's some pictures of the model. Not sure if it's motorized.



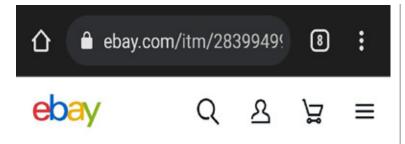
It's around 12 feet long and I'd hate to see what the shipping costs would be, but I guess if you've got a spare \$43K lying around you can cover the cost to have it shipped it to you.



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Collectibles > Collectible Model Military Boats & Ships



USS Arizona Battleship Model (Large) scale: 1/4" = 1'- 0"...over 12 feet long



tennthirtyfive (868 🖈) 100% positive feedback

\$43,000.00

That's all the wind in the sails this month. Until next month's voyage happy modeling.

Trached Topics By Panzer Lehr

Let's start off with the small stuff 1/76 and 1/72nd scale. Revell is up first in 1/76 scale with Churchill AVRE bridge layer. Not sure if this is a new tool or just a re-boxing of Airfix's 1/76 scale kit.



Moving on to 1/72nd scale Revell is releasing a IDF Merkava 3.



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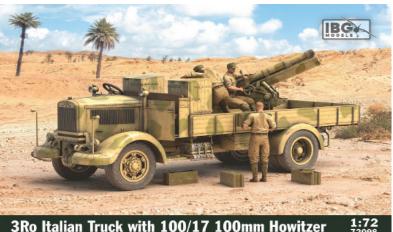
The next three releases in 1/72nd are from IBG. The first is a British Cromwell Mk 4.



Next from IBG is an Italian Lancia 3R0 truck.



Based on the same kit they are releasing the truck with a 100 mm howitzer mounted on it.



Moving on to 1/35th scale Border Models is releasing an 88mm Flak 37. The kit includes a crew of six.



MiniArt is releasing a Sturmgeschutz 3 Ausf G.



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Special Hobby is releasing a Panzer Befehlswagen.



RFM Models is releasing a Sherman M4A3 76mm early type with HVSS suspension.



MiniArt is releasing a Tempo A400 3 wheel delivery van.





Last in this month's column is from Tiger models which is a T-90M 2020.



Until next month...Grab a kit from your stash and build it!



It Figures has been dicontinued until we can find a new contributor. If you are interested in sharing news regarding the figure world contact me at Bozon0592@gmail.com.

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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.

> 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?

ARICLES

WANT

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-g@ipmsusa.org





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7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste B169, Austin, TX 78753 (512) 836-7388

IBG new arrivals at King's, both 1/35th and 1/72nd.











kinginfo@kingshobbyshop.com http://www.kingshobbyshop.com

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Something for Everyone!







Andrea El Cid and Knights Templar





Osprue examiner



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

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January 2022





5500 Jack C Hays Trail, Kyle, Texas 78640,

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10:00 am – 06:00 pm







International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form New Renewal IPMS #:				
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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: Amount: Cash O Check #: Amount: Check O 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