

ASMS



SPRUE EXAMINER

An Ancient Warrior
Rises Again
by Rick Cotton

Gordon Stiemman's
AH-1 Skyraider



austinsms.com



July 2022

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

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug

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ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

Tim Robb - President; president@austinsms.org

Ron McCracken - Vice-President; vicepresident@austinsms.org

Aaron Schmischny - Finance Minister; treasurer@austinsms.org

Rick Herrington - Secretary; secretary@austinsms.org

Rick Herrington - Newsletter Editor; editor@austinsms.org

Show Coordinator; showcoordinator@austinsms.org

Mike 'Hollywood' Gilsbach - Webmaster; webmaster@austinsms.org

Ben Morton - IPMS/USA Coordinator; chaptercontact@austinsms.org



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.

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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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

www.models4troops@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY TIM ROBB



Hi all,

I hope all of you are finding some time this summer to enjoy our wonderful hobby. VP Ron McCracken will lead the meeting this month as I'll be away at the National Convention in Omaha, and very excited to be going.

I'm also excited that we've got Build 'n Bull going again. We have a North meeting at Ground Zero Hobbies and South meeting at Lionheart Hobbies, both currently are set up for the second Saturday of the month and both met Saturday July 9. Your feedback on this is welcome.

We have our show coming up on a first Saturday, October 1.

Come to the meeting! Bring a model, finished or in progress! Have your models photographed by Eric for our website gallery!

Go build a model!
Tim





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

Club Quarterly Contests

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Gordon Stieman will be showing us how he
created his ultra realistic weathering on his
Skyraider



GORDON STIEMAN'S 1/48 TAMIYA AH-1 SKYRAIDER

It's not often that a person joins an organization on his first meeting and wins the monthly contest with the first model he brings. Gordon Stiemman is just such a person. His AH-1 in 1/48th scale awed the members of Austin Scale. Thanks for coming in Gordon! Here are some photos of his fine work.





Revell/Takara 1/32nd Shiden

An ancient warrior rises again

by Rick Cotton



Lt. Crandall pulled his Hellcat's port wing over and dived in behind the Zero – and that's when he noticed it was NOT a Zero – he had never seen this plane before. It was beefier, and heavier. It suddenly rolled and dove under him violently, and before he knew it, the strange fighter was on his six.

"Red Rock 5! Red Rock 5! Someone get him off me!!!"

There is something satisfying about finishing any model...but I must admit, I get a charge out of finishing an odd one, or an old one that needed... shall we say...a bit of work. ANY knucklehead assembler can throw one of today's Tamiyas together without breathing hard and come up with a decent-looking build, but it takes a by-God-MODELER to build an old, crappy kit, and make it look good!

THERE! Blown my own horn, and feel good about it, because I just finished a VERY old, crappy kit, from the 70's yet, and it came out OK.



Our subject is Revell/Takara's ancient 1/32 scale N1K1-Ja Shiden "George" interceptor – yes, the old, rare, mid-winged one whose molds supposedly lie at the bottom of the Pacific, according to modeler lore. Don't know if that's really true, but believe me, Jack, this kit has NOTHING to do with Hasegawa's recent, low-wing version. If you can find this kit at a show, it will run you a C-note...unless you get really lucky like I did – paid 40 for mine, and I consider that a huge steal.

OK, here we go...what's in the box...ye Gods! Raised panel lines and rivets! Gigantic seams! Clunky, simplified details! Ancient, papyrus-looking yellowed decals! A pilot figure! Yeeecchhh! Ok, it isn't that bad. The shape is pretty good. Yes, the pilot and 85% of the cockpit parts go right in the trash. You could rob the newer Hasegawa kit for parts here, as the two planes were similar....sorta...but where's the challenge in that?



I ended up scratchbuilding most of the cockpit. I did use the stick, floor, and rear bulkhead, but most of the rest was fabricated from Plastruct. I drilled out the instrument panel holes, and used some Aircscale instruments, with Future layered over them to replicate glass. Panels, switches, knobs, a throttle quadrant closer to the N1K1 version, and a few other little things. Believe me, it needed it. A nice coat of Kawanishi Interior Green (almost an olive-green color) over most of it, followed by wash, pastel dirt and some Prismacolor pencil silver chipping. Eduard belts and buckles finished it up.

The kit's engine is ok, a little soft on the detail, but since I was building mine buttoned up, it sufficed after careful painting, a wash, and some spark plug wires. Little can be seen with that huge spinner and prop in the way. The cowlings pieces needed clamping, gluing, and swearing to fit, plus a bit of filler where it fought back, and the fairly complex exhaust system was then installed...after a LOT of mold seam cleanup on the parts. This assembly was left off the plane until after main painting for weathering purposes.



Fit of the fuselage was 1970's fair, which means 2022 lousy. Clamp, glue, fill, sand, prime and repeat as needed. Similar for the wing join at the bottom, which is horrendous. The pitot was made from wire, replacing the kit part, and we move on.

Kit wheel well detail is both fanciful and soft. It ALL had to go. Everything was sanded off smooth, and new detail was added with more Plastruct. Wires and plumbing were added, making the whole thing a tiny bit more believable. All wheel well surfaces got a thin coat of "aotake" sealer, made from a Future and blue-green paint mix.



The kit landing gear were just awful – I rebuilt new units with aluminum tubing and bits off the kit gear – notably the little keyed parts at the top that match the holes for installation of the gear in the wing. Brake lines were added, the gear doors rebuilt and attached properly with straps and bracing made from leftover photoetch frets. The retraction arms were made with piano wire and scrap. Overall, VERY happy with the look of the "new" gear – and since she is carrying a full belly tank, I took the opportunity to compress the oleos a bit and make her "sit" more realistically. Said tank got a fill cap and feed line. I really like the look of a Shiden carrying one of these long tanks.



The rudder and ailerons were carefully sectioned off with the “string saw” technique, so I could get around the tiny attachment points and leave them intact. These units were rebuilt with scrap and Plastruct tubing, and then re-attached. The kit’s “combat flaps” are designed to be built either up, down, or halfway between. I selected the latter and getting them in was a chore. They do NOT fit well in any position. Glass bits (which fit well) were applied and masked, and Tamiya gray primer over everything revealed a few flaws to be fixed. The first coat of Tamiya Silver Leaf revealed a bunch more. Nothing like silver to show you where you need to fill/sand/polish a bit more. These flaws were filled, sanded and then polished with 2400 and 4000 grit aircraft canopy polishing cloth.



The yellow ID stripes are Tamiya Camel Yellow, sprayed over white and masked, followed by a full overall coat of Silver Leaf. Hmmm – we are clean. No more flaws. Another good coat of the Silver Leaf, and then the top-side was sprayed with Tamiya IJN Green, which was progressively faded in appropriate areas. The acrylic green is easily chipped, revealing the silver lacquer underneath, during the weathering process. I restrained myself – yes, photos of this bird show heavy wear and chipping, but some judges get all wonky about it, so I held it down some. Used...but not abused.

Cannon barrels were aluminum tubing, and a radio aerial wire with tension spring was added. My good friend Boyd Waechter helped me out with a set of aftermarket Hinomarus, as the kit decals would explode in a thousand fragments if they got near water. Clear flat (on top) finished the bird off.

So, there we have it – an ancient warrior rises from the back shelf again to greet the modern modeling world. A rare kit collector sobs miserably in the distance. A spot in my “Japanese” case is full. It is a good and right thing to do. Every half-assed model deserves to be built. Banzai!





Concrete Texture from Ammo is a relatively new product from their Vignettes Acrylic line. This product is designed for small and medium sized dioramas or vignettes and comes ready to use in a 100ml tub.

Borrowing from Ammo's own description: **The application method is remarkably simple. You can use any kind of tool at hand and the CONCRETE TEXTURE can be mixed with other weathering materials such as pigments or acrylic paints to create a full range of authentic concrete effects. It can be used for any scale ranging from 1/16 to 1/72.**

This month's issue is going to be full of review articles. These are submitted by members who've actually tried the products and can share their knowledge.

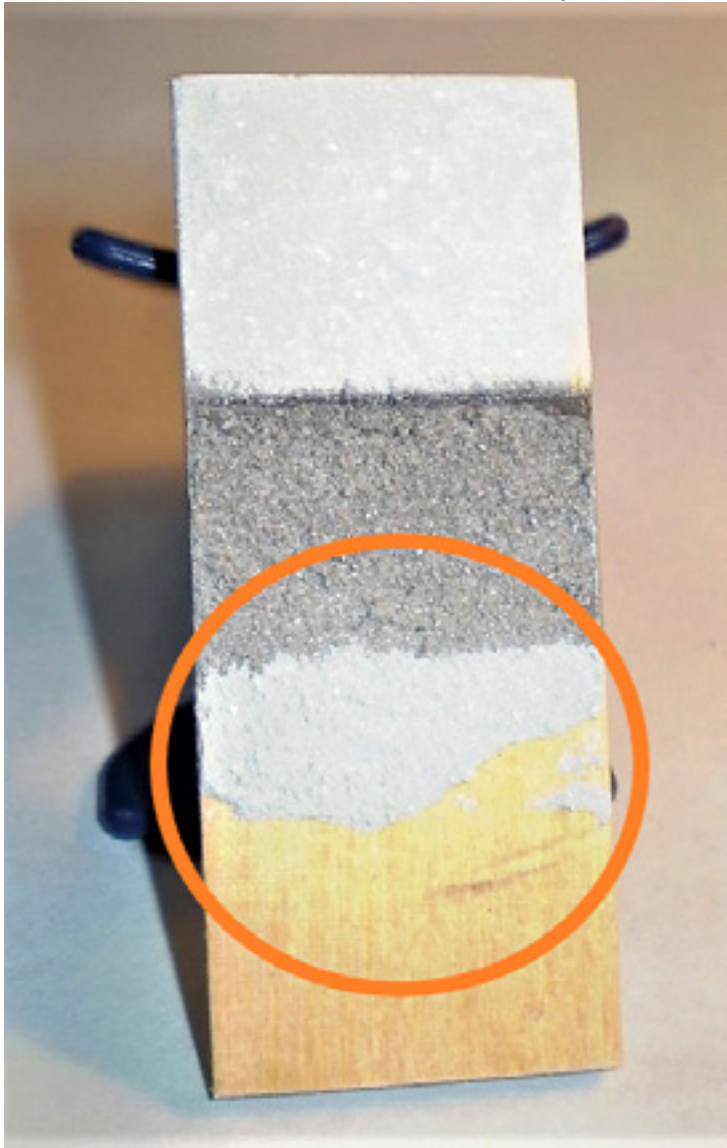
Vignettes Acrylic Concrete

by Ben Morton



The dried surface mimics the look and texture of concrete beautifully. This particular texture can be sanded, after a through drying, to a smoother finish should you so desire. The acrylic base of Concrete Textures allows for easy clean-up and thinning with water as well as being odorless and non-toxic.

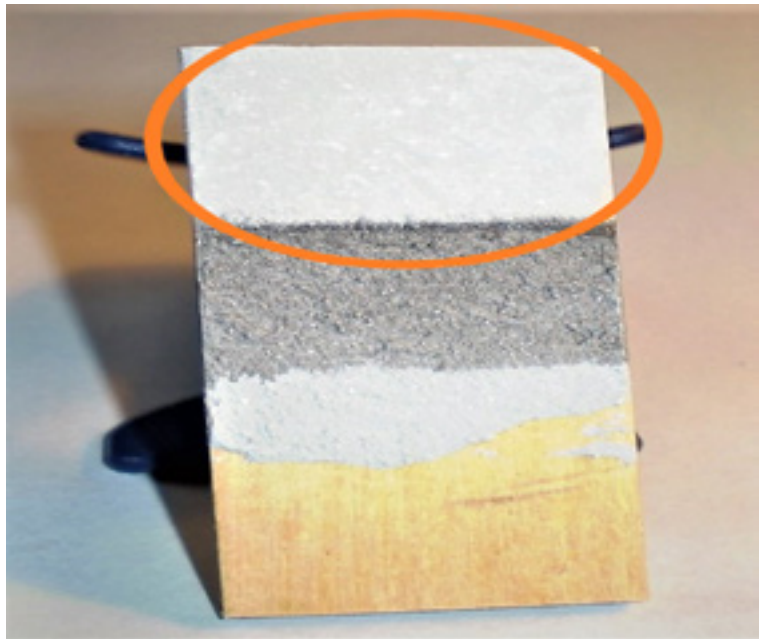




I applied some Concrete Texture to a small strip of basswood. The portion farthest from the bare wood has been sanded with an emery board to give you an idea of what that can look like. The next section has been 'stained' with Tamiya panel liner and the last bit of concrete texture is the raw, unadulterated product.

Concrete Textures from Ammo is pretty neat stuff and holds the possibility for myriad applications for your next project. Aside from Concrete there are eight other colors in this line, some of which are available in 250ml containers.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



Vignettes Acrylic Vietnam Earth

by Ben Morton

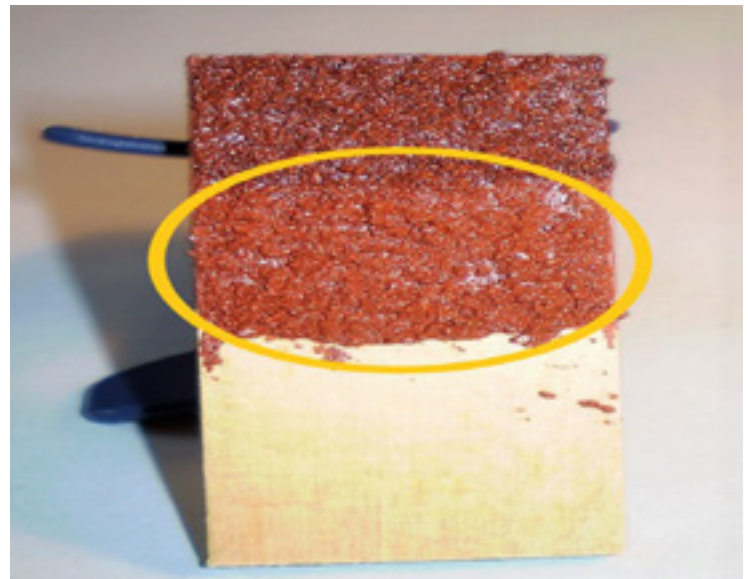


Vietnam Earth texture from Ammo is a newish edition to their line of Vignettes Acrylics. This product is designed for small and medium sized dioramas or vignettes and comes ready to use in a 100ml tub. This particular product has a coarser texture than some of the other textural products (I.E. concrete) in AMMO/MiG's catalog.

Borrowing from Ammo's own description: **The application method is remarkably simple. You can use any kind of tool at hand and the Vietnam Earth Texture can be mixed with other weathering materials such as pigments or acrylic paints to create a full range of authentic earthen effects. It can be used for any scale ranging from 1/16 to 1/72. Using this product, you can obtain a perfect finish in your scenes, virtually mimicking real soil. The new format has been optimized for working on scenes and dioramas, so that the product always remains in perfect conditions for each use.**



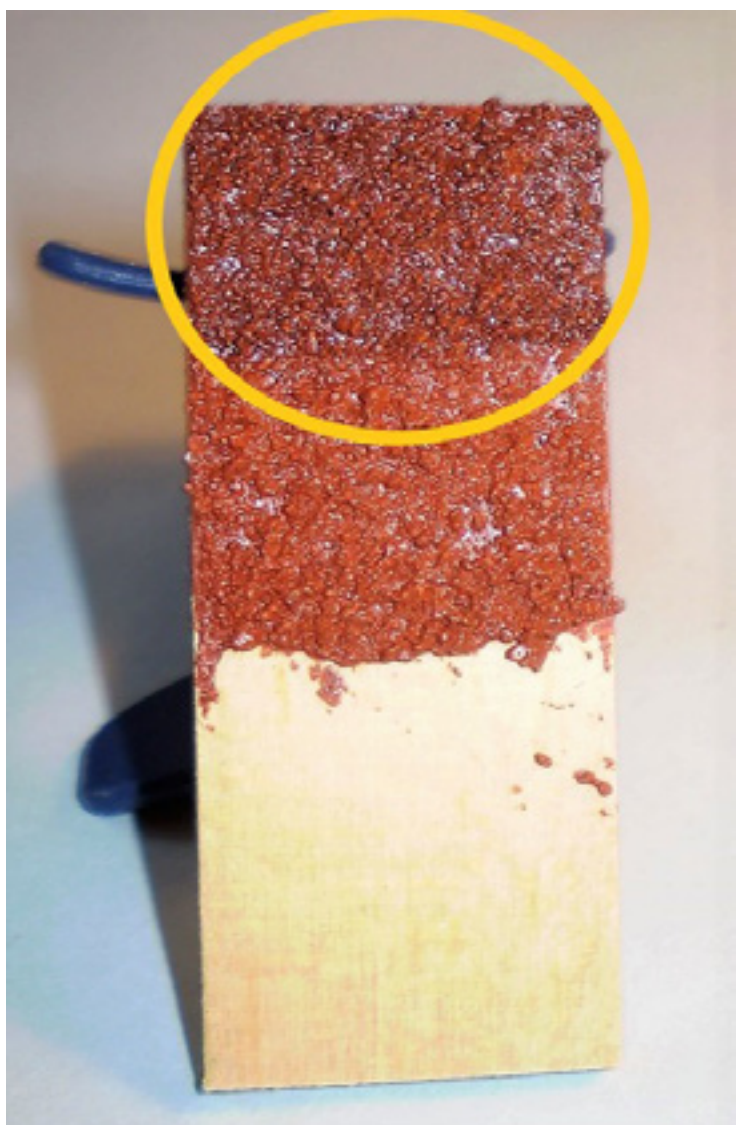
The dried surface mimics the look and texture of an earthen surface with the characteristic tone of Vietnam that is reddish brown. According to AMMO/MiG website this particular texture can be sanded after a thorough drying to a smoother finish should you so desire. I found that to be a bit problematic as all I did was trash several emery boards while trying to soften the look with little effect. Clean up is a breeze as the acrylic base of Vietnam Earth Texture allows for clean-up and thinning can be done with water. The product is also odorless and non-toxic.



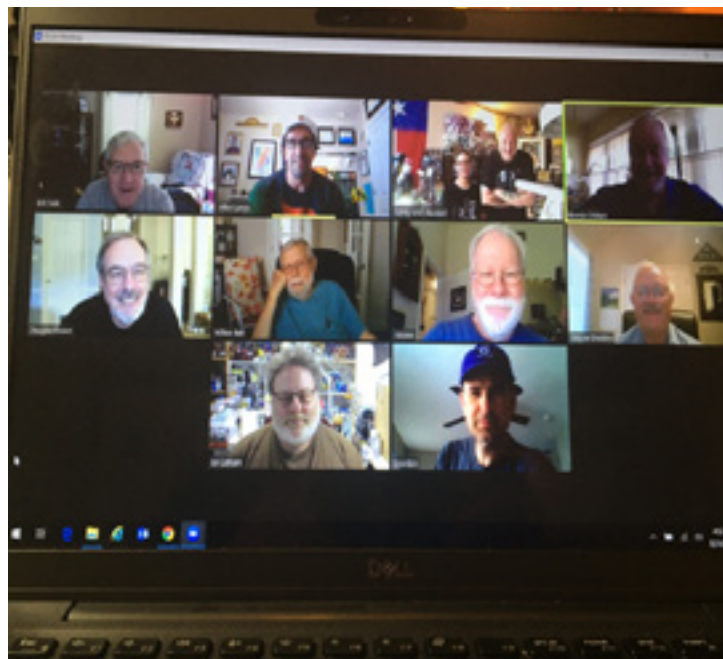
I applied some Vietnam Earth Texture to a small strip of basswood. The highlighted portion has been treated with Tamiya black panel liner and the other bit of texture is the unadulterated product. This texturing product is malleable and can be positioned or smoothed easily with a wet paint brush.

As is the case with the other textures product from AMMO/MiG that I am familiar with Vietnam Earth Textures is elegant stuff and holds the possibility for a myriad of applications for your next project. AMMO/MiG has eight other colors in this line, many of which are available in 250ml containers.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



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.

Last month's meeting was a good one. The tables were full of great models.

What was unusual about the meeting is that we had a new member Gordon Stienen that knocked everybody's socks off with his AH-1 Skyraider in 1/48th scale. Gordon received the most votes for best model.



Mike Figg brought in an Airfix Spitfire FR XIV in 1/48th scale.

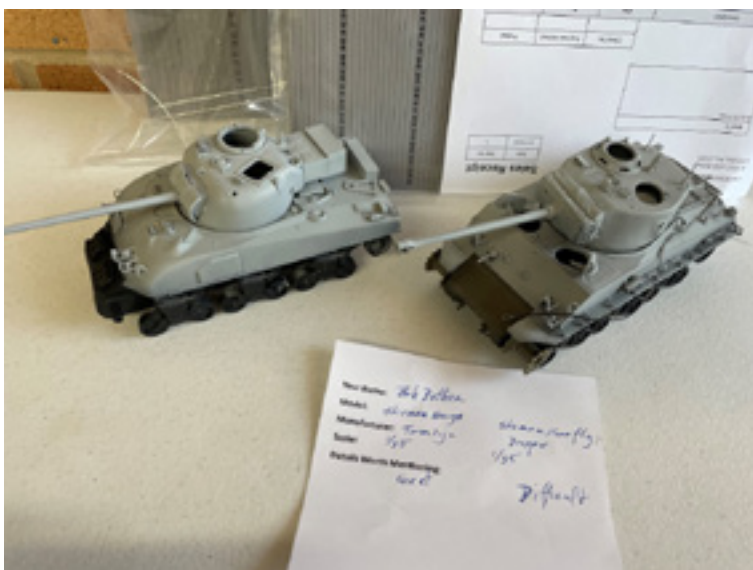


Eric Choy brought in a completed AFV 1/35th Chaparral air defense vehicle.

Ron McCracken brought in his usual awesome work in the form of an Esci YB-49. This was on his procrastinator model list.



Bob Bethea brought in a couple of in progress kits, a Sherman Easy 8 by Tamiya and Dragon Sherman Firefly. Both are in 1/35 scale.



Rick Herrington brought in a completed Zvezda 1/72nd MI-8 Soviet assault helicopter.



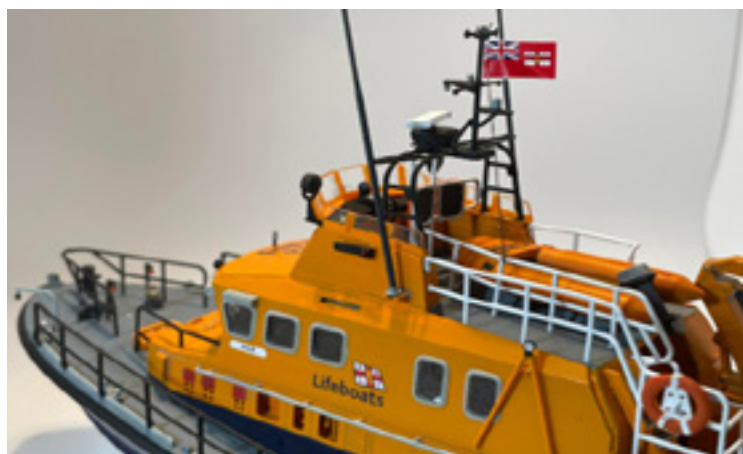
Vince Hutson brought in an in-progress Redstone Tactical missile in 1/144th scale.



Mike Gilsbach brought in several completed projects. The first was a Revell Germany 1/144th scale Concorde.



The second was an Airfix 1/72nd Severn Class Life Boat.



Finally this month Tim Robb brought in a great looking Curtiss A-8 Shrike by Czech Model in 1/48th scale.



Tim Robb presented the program this month. The program was on model masking.



Build and Bull returned this month. One was held South at Lionheart and one North at Ground Zero Hobbies. Here's a photo from the North session.



Thanks to everyone that shared their models with the group. See you next month.

Old Rumors and New Kits

New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

July is going to be a bit of a disappointment for the large-scale modeler – nothing this month in any scale over 1/48th. Mostly a bunch of re-pops, some with alternate parts to allow different variants of previously released aircraft. Nevertheless, some of the re-issues come with some markings variations that might be of interest.

1/48th Scale:

Academy is re-releasing their Dassault Rafale C with new decals.



Eduard is re-releasing their recent A6M2 Zero Type 11 in a Profipack edition with five markings options, color photo-etch parts, and painting masks.



Eduard is re-releasing their P-51D in a Dual Combo "Red Tails and Co." edition. You can build Mustangs either with or without the later dorsal fin extension from any of the four Groups (31st FG, 52nd FG, 325th FG, and 332nd FG) from the 15th AF operating in Italy. Twelve markings options are provided, along with color photo etched parts and painting masks.



Eduard is re-releasing their Z-526AFS Acrobat in a Weekend edition. A reminder, these are basic kits lacking the photo-etch, masks, etc. usually included in more advanced editions.



Kinetic has announced a re-release of their E-2C Hawkeye in colorful French Navy markings.

48122 - 1/48 FRENCH NAVY E-2C



Kinetic is also re-releasing their F/A-18C with new decals for VFA-27 "Royal Maces".



Kinetic has announced an F-16E/F Block 60 in "Desert Vipers" markings. This is a new-parts variant of their earlier F-16 kit.

48136 - 1/48 F-16E/F Desert Vipers Block 60



Kinetic is re-releasing their Grumman S-2 Tracker as an S-2N/S-2A of the Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service. The kit appears to have some new parts that allow conversion to the S-2N variant.

48118 - 1/48 S-2N/S-2A ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVAL AIR SERVICE TRACKER



Minibase is re-releasing their Su-30M Flanker H as an Su-27K Sea Flanker with alternate parts for the conversion and some different armament options.



Modelsvit is re-releasing their F-82 kit as an F-82E/H Twin Mustang with new/revised parts and decals.



1/72nd Scale:

Eduard is re-releasing their Fw 190A-8 Standard Wings in a Weekend edition kit with four decal options.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their F-15E Strike Eagle as an F-15EX Eagle II.



Hasegawa is also re-releasing their G3M2/G3M3 Type 96 "Nell" bomber with new markings.



Modelsvit is releasing a Bartini Beriev VVA-14 "Balloon test" version with new parts.



Revell Germany is re-releasing their A400M in 'RAF' markings.



1/200th Scale:

Hasegawa is releasing an Airbus A321LR in Peach airline markings. A very colorful aircraft.



Happy modeling.



How to build a toothbrush sander by Bill Delk

While attending Wonderfest in Louisville, Ky several years ago there were several seminars which I looked in on one of which one was this gentleman's class on photographing models. He gave out his Web address and it listed several pictorial tutorials. I thought this one was interesting, so decided to check it out. At first I was unable to find the battery operated one, so I purchased the rechargeable one. Later on I found the battery operated one at my local Walgreen's for \$7.99 and the two replaceable heads and the head removal tool for \$7.99 also. Target may also carry them, but I didn't look there.

The first step is to take one of the brush heads and a pair of needle nose pliers and rip out all of the bristles leaving a flat surface to work with.

Next, measure the round part of the head with a circle template and cut out a piece of double stick foam tape (Scotch Mounting Tape) that same size with scissors or your X-acto knife, then cut out a similar circle of your favorite grit of wet or dry sandpaper.

Peel one side of the foam tape and mount the sandpaper to it then peel off the other side and stick it to the round part of the head. (Disregard using the other flat piece as it is not usable)

I took a permanent marker and wrote the grit number on the brush. I made up several heads with varying grits and keep them handy for quick change out.

For such a simple tool it works rather well on seams and such. I've been using mine for several years now and am quite pleased with the results. If you don't like it you can always buy another head and use it as a toothbrush.

filmmkr.smugmug.com/Tutorials





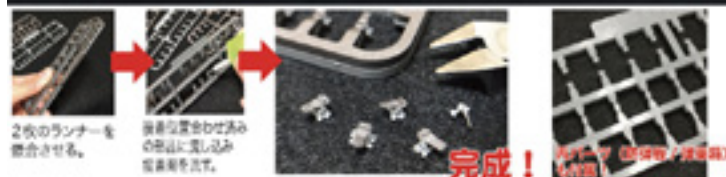
Shipping News

by Rick Herrington

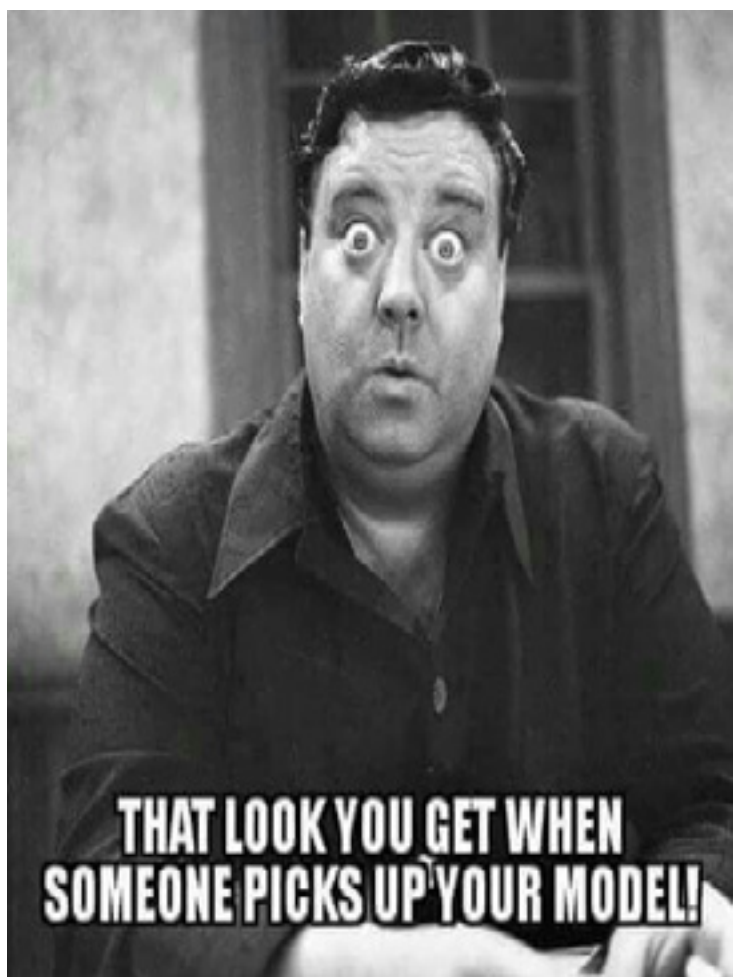
Ahoy mates. A good number of new releases this month with 1/700 being plentiful.

Fujimi has three releases for us. I can't say if these are new tools although all the kits are full hull versions.

First up is the IJN Heavy Cruiser Atago



The second release is an IJN Heavy Cruiser Toriumi.



Last from Fujimi is a release of the Yamato's sister ship Musashi.



Trumpeter is releasing HMS Calcutta, a British light cruiser. Calcutta was an anti-aircraft cruiser and was sunk by German aircraft off Crete trying to evacuate British troops.



Moving on to modern releases Pit Road is releasing a JMSDF DDH-242 Hiei.

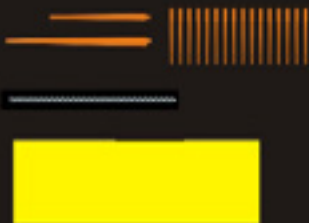
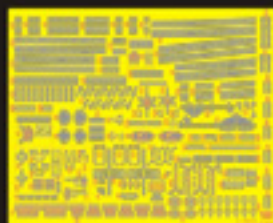


SCALE 1/700 海上自衛隊護衛艦 DDH-142 ひえい Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force DDH-142 "HIEI"

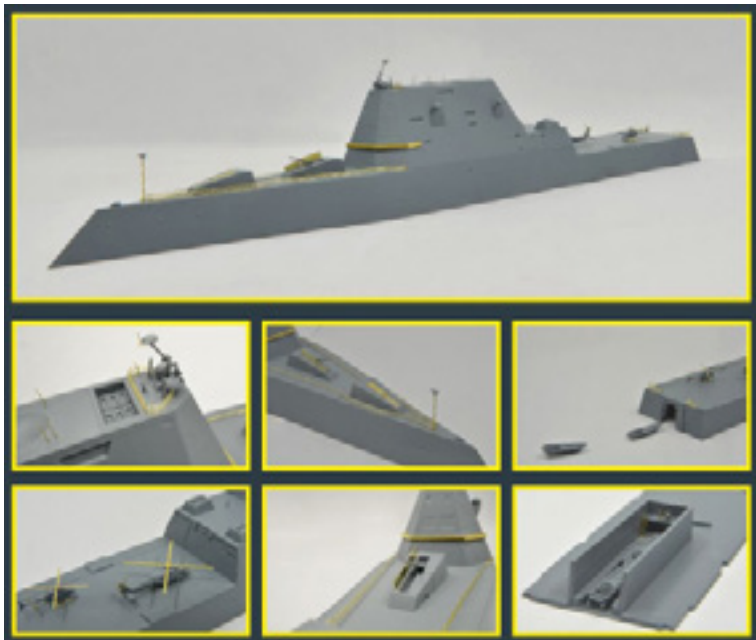


豪華版额外内容

(全周件 全周鉄刻片 全周磁磁 油蓋板)



Flyhawk is releasing USS Zumwalt DDG 1000.



Revell is releasing a Wasp Class amphibious assault ship.



Meng is releasing a PLAN (People's Liberation Army Navy) helicopter assault ship Hainan.



Moving on to 1/350th scale first up is Black Cat Models with the USS Ward.



Hobby Boss is releasing a USN Gato class submarine.



Last in 1/350th Wolfpack Design is releasing the Son Won II class submarine. This is a German built Type 214 submarine purchased by South Korea.



Wolfpack
www.wolfpack-d.com

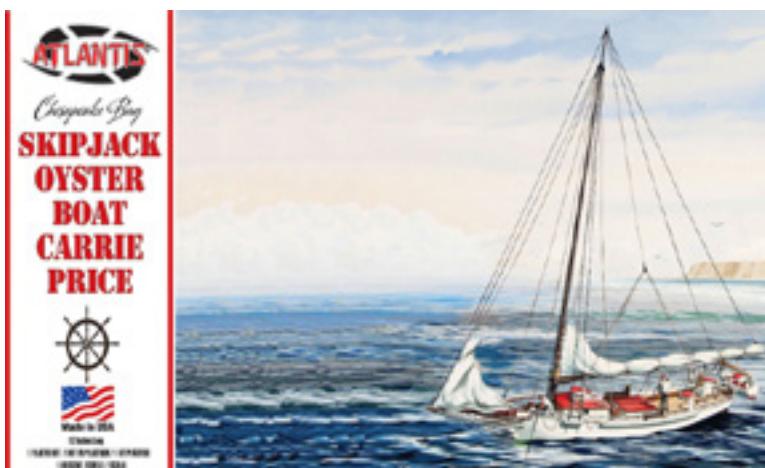
ROKS Son Won-II Class Submarine

대한민국해군 손원일급 잠수함

**1/350
Scale**



Last in the column this month is a release from Atlantis models and is 1/60th scale. The release is of the Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Oyster Boat.



Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

July is a good month for releases, both in 1/72nd and 1/35th with even some shelf-buster 1/16th scale releases thrown in. Let's get started with 1/72nd scale. T-Model has three new releases for us. The first is an MATV with an O-GPK turret molded in sand colored plastic.



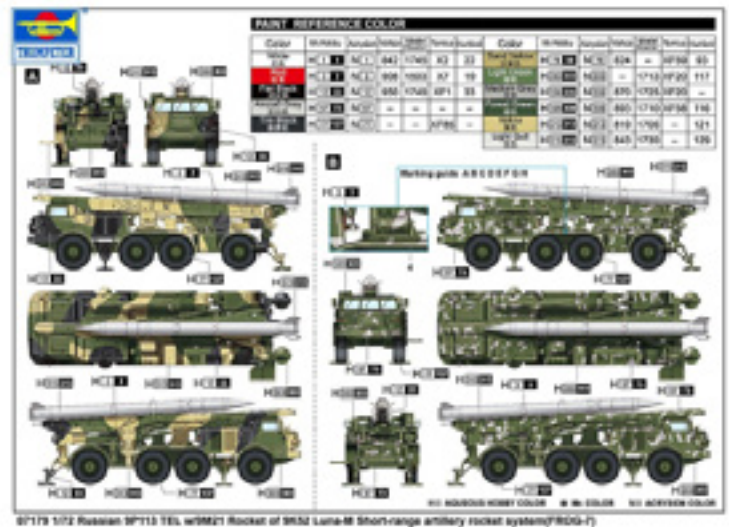
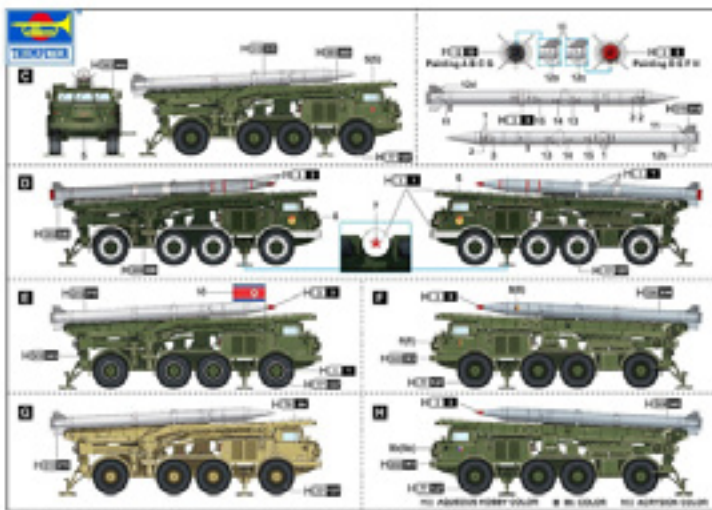
The second from T-Model is an MATV molded in green plastic.



The third release from T-Model is another MATV. This one is molded in camouflage colors and is armed with a CROWS 2 weapon system.



Trumpeter is releasing a Soviet Luna M missile launcher.



Dragon is releasing an AAV7A1 including interior parts.



Hasegawa is releasing a combo kit Tiger 1 and a Panther G.



Hobby Master has an Army and a Marine version of the M48



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Moving on to 1/35th scale Academy is up first with a Pzkwf 4J.



Example Built by Kim Choonhyang
※画像は試作品を組み立てて撮影したイメージです

Dragon is releasing their Michael Wittman Tiger 1 kit without the original release's set of Michael Wittman figures. The kit does include a set of Magic track.



Dragon has another release for us this month, a Flak 37 with a metal barrel included in the kit.



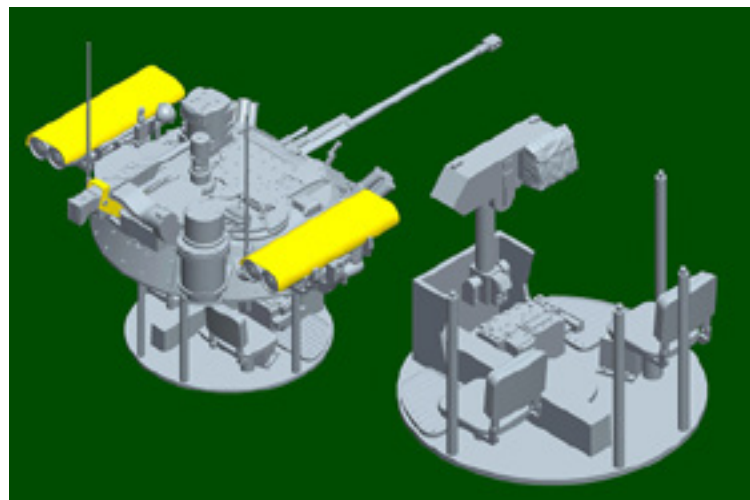
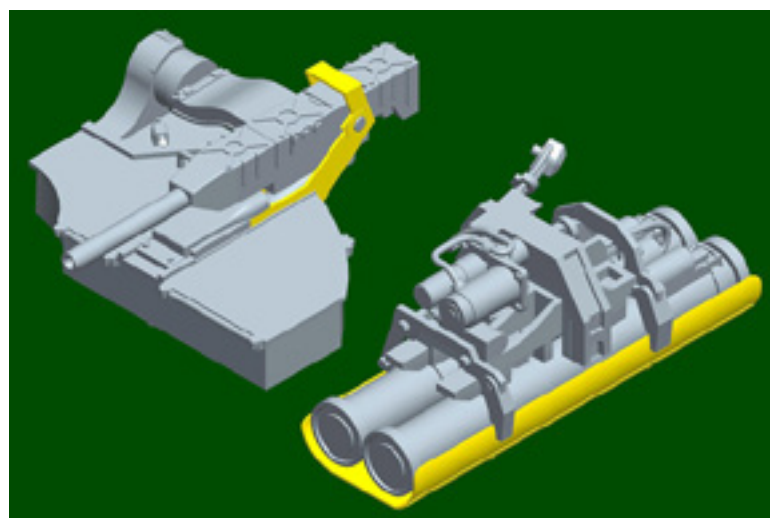
RFM is releasing a Sturmgeschutz 4.



Trumpeter has three new ones for us the month. The first is a German L4500A with a 50mm Flak mounted on the bed.



Next from Trumpeter is BMP-2 with a Berezhok turret.



The third release from Trumpeter in 1/35 is a US HEMTT.



Moving on to shelf buster scale (1/16th) we have one release from Trumpeter and two from Takom.

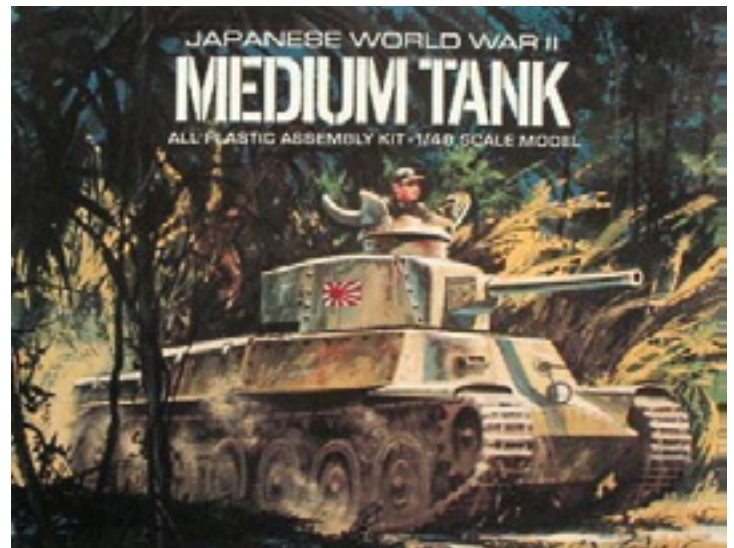
Trumpeter starts us off with a Jagdpanther.



Takom has two releases, both based on the PzKpfw 1 chassis. The first is a Befehlswagen and the second is the chassis with a 75mm gun mounted on it.

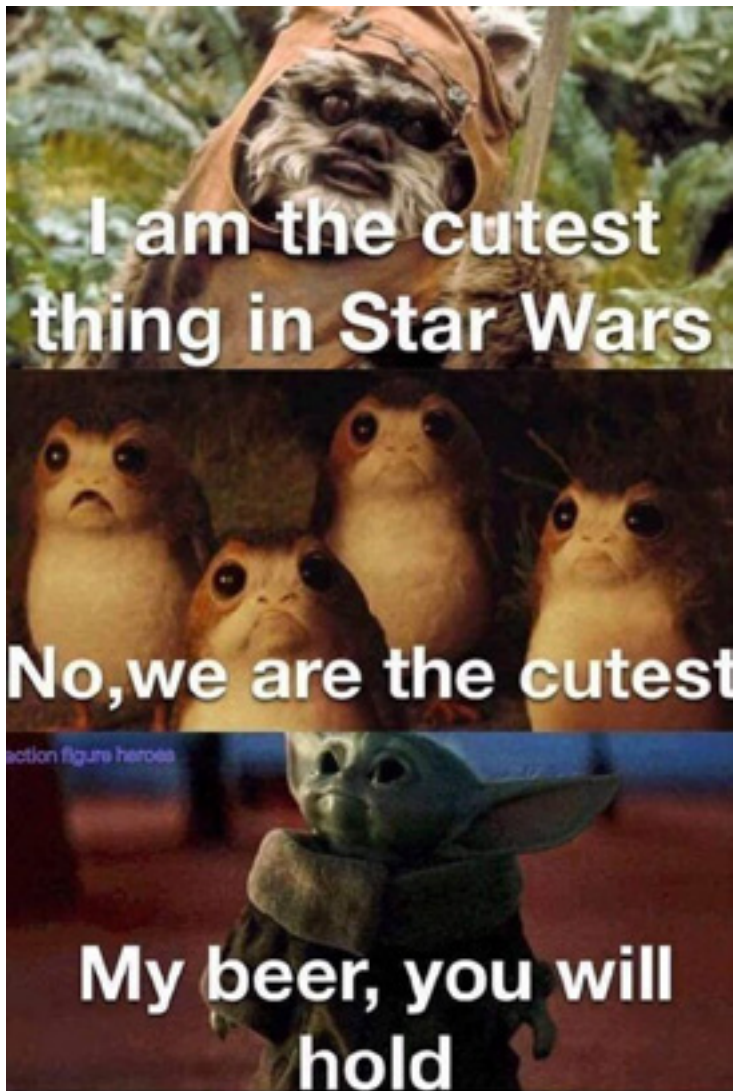


Last in the column is a release from Atlantis Models in 1/48 scale. This is a re-boxing of Aurora's IJA Type 97 Japanese tank.



That's it for this month tread heads. Grab a kit from the stash and build it!





OLYMPIC TANK TURRET TOSSING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS



273 metres

Sgt. Vladislav Andreyevich Davankov
27th Guards Motor Rifle Brigade

256 metres

Sgt. Alexey Vasilievich Gordeyev
1st Guards Tank Army

233 metres

Sgt. Sergey Ivanovich Neverov
35th Motor Rifle Brigade

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!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUILDING

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

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





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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.

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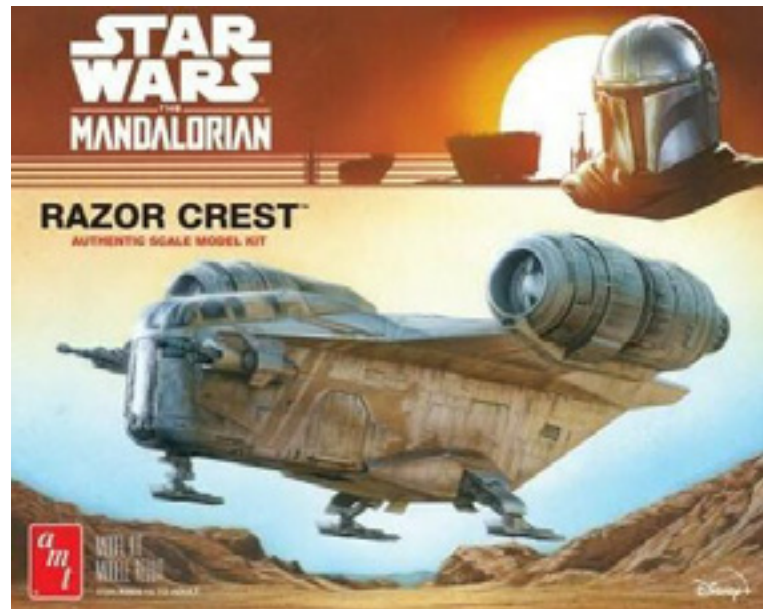
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