

ASMS

SPRUE EXAMINER



BEN MORTON BUILDS AND
REVIEWS BRENGUN'S SA-9
GASKIN

RON MCCRACKEN BUILDS AND REVIEWS REVELL'S 1/48TH
F-15E

austinsms.com



February 2023

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 Ron McCracken builds and reviews Revell's F-15E

Page 9 Ben Morton Builds and reviews Brengun's SA-9

Page 11 Dragon's Lair ASMS's new host

Page 12 What's Up Wid You?

Page 16 Old Rumors and New Kits:

Page 18 New and In View by Ron McCracken

Page 22 Shipping News - by Rick Herrington

Page 23 Tracked Topics by Panzer Lehr

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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



Greetings all.

Our must accomplish task at the meeting this week is choosing a theme for the 2023 Capitol Classic.

Please engage your brain cells and bring your ideas Thursday. And..... go build a model!

Tim





HOUSE CLEANING



ASMS MEETING

Third Thursday each month
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm
at Dragon's Lair
2438 West Anderson Lane
Suite B1
Austin, TX 78757
512-454-2399

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, 1928 Dragonfly Loop, Bastrop, TX
78602.



Events

Rivercon XII
March 18, 2023
LSUS University Center
Shreveport, LA

Club Quarterly Contests



Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Mike Gilsbach discusses bases and
landscape

RON MCCRACKEN BUILDS AND REVIEWS REVELL'S 1/48 F-15E



At our October show I stopped by Lion-Heart's table and was introduced to Revell's recent McDonnell-Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle kit. Rudy was kind enough to open the box and allow me to verify that the kit has full intake ducts for the engines. As it is the only 1/72nd kit of the F-15 I'm aware of that has this feature, that was enough to close the deal.

Closer examination of the substantial amount of plastic in the box revealed several things. First, Revell has done a decent job of replicating the complex afterburner nozzles without resorting to resin—the only kit I know of to get this detail correct. Panel lines are recessed, and just deep enough to allow effective use of a panel line wash.

A full load of external stores is provided, but I found them disappointing. The kit supplies six Mk 82 bombs, four GBU-12 laser-guided bombs, and four AIM-9L Sidewinders. The sprues also include four AIM-7 Sparrows, but the Sparrows aren't used if building per the instructions. Every one of these items requires some assembly, and the fins are pretty thick.

I replaced the Mk 82s with aftermarket parts because the kit parts come with shipping covers instead of fuses on the noses of the bombs. Finally, “conformal” fuel tanks (CFTs) on the fuselage sides are the only build option. For the “E” this isn't really a problem – they are usually installed on the E variant. They are less universally used on the C variant, but can be. But it makes a future “A” or “B” model kit improbable, as these variants were not equipped to use the CFTs.

Parts fit is generally very good, although I did find a touch of filler necessary on some of the major component joint lines – especially the seams between the CFTs and the lower wing panels.

The other disappointing feature was the treatment of the wing trailing edge. They could have engineered the kit to present a proper knife-edge, but instead opted for a joint at the trailing edge of the flaps, with the result that the trailing edges are fully 3/64th of an inch thick. Then, they actually cast the aileron trailing edge (which is completely incorporated in the upper wing half and could have been cast with a thin trailing edge) thick enough to match the flaps! So, you will need to use files/sandpaper to make this feature more realistic.

This is a complex kit, and my advice to the builder is to pay close attention to the instructions and follow their assembly sequence (with a couple of exceptions noted below). For example, the lower wing panels are fastened to the intake duct parts BEFORE assembly to the upper fuselage/wing panels – if you get in a hurry and glue the wing panels

together first, you create an assembly problem for yourself later. Also, there are a number of flashed-over holes you need to finish drilling out prior to assembly.



Now for some specifics:

1. Intake ducts have some ejector pin marks that must be filled in or filed out.
2. Be careful assembling front/rear cockpit parts – You need to trim a slight amount of flash from the rear cockpit part where it joins the front, or they don't fit all the way together – and that will cause you problems down the road.
3. The cockpit tubs have raised ledges upon which the ejection seats rest. The Rear cockpit seat mounts need trimmed almost completely away or the canopy won't fit in the closed position because the seat sits too high. Provisions are made to display the canopy open, and that's the option I'd recommend, as the canopy fit to the fuselage top isn't the best. But if you want to preserve the option to build it closed you need to do some trimming and test fitting before cementing the completed cockpit inside the forward fuselage halves.
4. Each ejection seat comes in four parts, a left and right half, ejection rails, and the seat cushions. Make sure the seat halves are snugly fitted together, or the seats will be too wide to fit between the cockpit sides. They are a snug fit even when done carefully.



Even an extra-thick layer of paint will cause fit problems, so airbrush your cockpit tubs and the seats.

5. For some reason the instructions don't specify a color to paint the glare shields covering the cockpit instrument panels. Black, or a very dark gray, would be appropriate.

6. Delay attaching the air data probes (parts D33) to the sides of the nose until after you've finished painting and decaling. You'll have a difficult time applying the checkerboard nose trim otherwise.

7. I'd suggest filing your wing trailing edge down to a knife edge immediately after step 12 in the instructions, if you haven't done it already. It gets harder to access after that.

8. In steps 18 and 19 be sure to attach parts A-65 BEFORE attaching parts E-76 and E-77. Attaching the Conformal Fuel Tanks is a bit of a pain requiring gentle pressure to force them into place, but once in place they fit remarkably well. I needed a wee dab of filler at the extreme front and rear, otherwise the final fit to the fuselage was pretty seamless. Because of the forcing, I recommend use of cement for plastics rather than CA, to avoid cracking the parts. I suggest starting at the aft end and working your way forward, gluing as you go.

9. The instructions, in step 21, call for assembling the intakes to the fuselage before attaching the finished cockpit section in step 22.

In this case I'd recommend reversing the sequence, as the seam between the cockpit and the fuselage needs a touch of filler and you can't get at all of it if the intakes are already in place.

10. Step 23 is the installation of the nose radome. Be sure to add sufficient nose weight before cementing the radome in place. Fortunately, there is enough room in the radome to hold as much as you'll need.

11. Revell evidently used slide mold technology to get the canopy shape correct. Unfortunately, it left a thin mold line right down the center of the canopy, so you'll have to sand that off and repolish the canopy parts – or, just ignore it and hope no one notices.

12. Step 37 details what to do if using the option for an open canopy. I recommend leaving this step for last, otherwise you'll almost certainly break the canopy off during the rest of the assembly, painting, decals, etc.

13. I suggest installing the engine afterburners after the rest of the aircraft is painted. It'll save a painful masking job. However, do some test fitting of parts D18 into the fuselage openings, as they are an extremely tight fit and if you don't take steps to enlarge the openings you'll have trouble installing the finished afterburners without dislodging parts. I discovered one odd thing about the kit afterburners. There should be 15 actuator rods, one for each segment of the variable nozzle. Photos of actual F-15s confirm the one-for-one ratio. The kit afterburner parts have 15 actuator mounting points. But for some reason only 10 parts for each are provided. This is actually easy to fix. Get some .020" X .020" strip plastic and cut 30 pieces of it using the kit parts (D17) as a guide to length.



Since the kit parts are nothing more than .020" square strips anyway, you avoid the effort of cutting them free of the sprue and cleaning them up and you end up with the right number of parts with much less effort!

14. There are six individual bomb racks that mount to the sides of the CFTs. These are molded in two parts, and the instruction's steps 42 through 47 cover the assembly of each bomb rack. On steps 59 and 60, where you assemble the completed racks to the sides of the CFTs, they got the sequence reversed. Steps 42 and 45 should go to the front, not rear, of the tanks. I figured this out because the alignment tabs on the bomb racks didn't line up if I followed the instructions, but if I reversed the sequence all went together nicely.

15. The last thing to go on the underside of the model are the drop tanks/pylons with their Sidewinder missiles. The only attachment provisions are two tiny pins, which are entirely too flimsy, given the weight of the pylon/tank/missile assembly. Cut off the pins on the tops of the pylons, drill holes in their place using a #63 drill (.037") and replace them with longer pins made from 18 gauge wire.

The decals provided are D-Day memorial markings used by the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath. These markings make for a more-than-usually colorful F-15. On the plus side, the decals are just thick enough to be easy to work with, and they respond well to Solvaset to get them to snuggle down into place. Also, Revell thoughtfully provided extras for the numerous “no step” and other small markings scattered over the model, so there’s no need to panic if one goes astray.

Decals are provided for the bomb and missile markings, and in the case of the Sidewinders, two sets of decals are provided, but with no explanation of which to use. So, the markings with the blue stripes are for inert training missiles, the ones with red and yellow stripes are for live missiles.

On the other hand, the editors for the decal section of the instruction sheet messed up in several places on the top view. For example, the part number callouts at the inboard trailing edge of the starboard wing are wrong. They should be the same as those on the port side.

Also, the “D-day” stripes that wrap around the underside of the fuselage are designed to be applied before the weapons rails are added to the CFTs. Then, after assembling the rails and bomb racks to the aircraft, an additional dozen black and white bits and pieces have to be added to finish the decaling job. The only place this is mentioned is a note on the upper right corner of page 19, so I had my model assembled before I even saw this.

My suggestion is to mask and paint those black-and-white stripes once the model is assembled and painted the basic overall gray color.

In my opinion it is actually a lot less work that way. The decal stripes for the wings can be used, but be sure to apply the decals before attaching the drop tanks.

Finally, the decals for the wing stripes on my kit didn’t completely meet at the leading edge, necessitating a touch-up with black and white paint.

In summary, Revell has engineered an excellent kit of the F-15E. It calls for patience in assembly, certain allowances for errors in the instructions, and a bit of enhancement of the attachment points for the underwing stores, but once completed the reward is an accurate representation of an historically important combat aircraft.

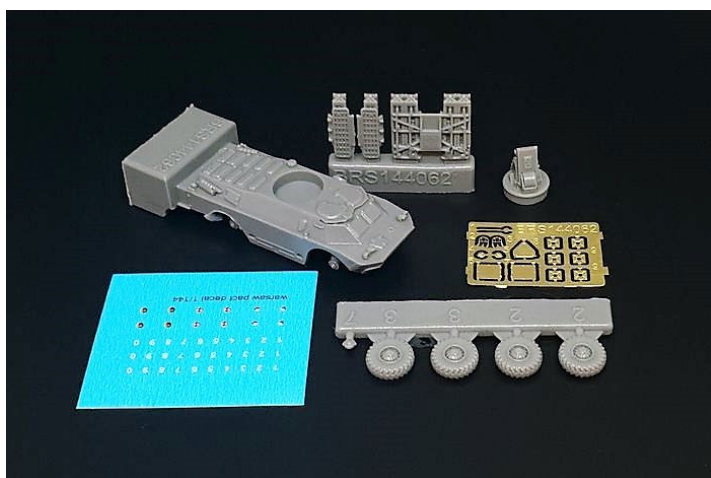


Brengun's 1/144 SA-9 GASKIN: A build and review by Ben Morton.



Hot on the heels of Brengun's 1/144th scale BDRM-2 scout car (item # 144061) comes the anti-aircraft version of the base vehicle. With the addition of some optional parts the vehicle is equipped with the launcher for the Strela-1 missiles and additional ready rounds that mount the outside of the vehicle.

Following on the previous release (the basic BRDM-2) Brengun also includes some photo etch for rear details (propulsion cover and rear stowage lockers), rear tail lights, head-lamp protectors for the front and a chassis mounted rear view mirror.



Putting this all together begins by removing the resin pouring stubs from the appropriate components. The tires are cast as single parts and benefit from drilling out the mounting dimples to achieve a better fit on the axle stubs integral to the main chassis. All of the resin bits cleaned up without any bother. There is nice detail on the all the resin parts particularly on the rear deck, launcher, and the tread pattern on the tires.



After assembly the entire model was primed and painted with Tamiya Nato green . The instructions would have you paint the vehicle in Khaki. I dry brushed the entire thing with Cockpit Green to bring out all the details. This was followed by a wash of black panel liner and the deed was done.

Brengun does provide decals should you so choose to mark your Gaskin in either Russian, Czech or Polish markings. Number sets 0 thru 9 are included and it should be noted that all the decals are printed on a single piece of decal film so be sure to cut them apart before dunking them in H₂O.

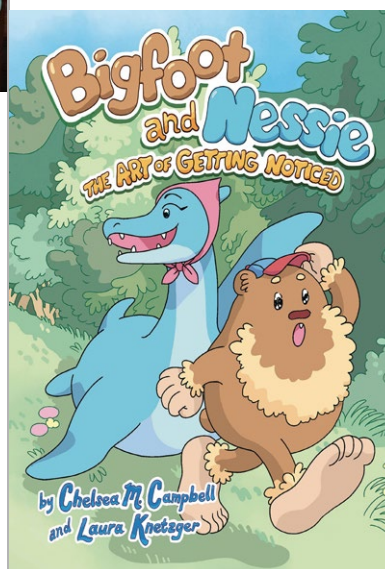


This 1/144th scale SA-9 Gaskin makes up into a neat vehicle for your next table top war game or as a stand alone model. Combined with some of the other 1/144th scale offerings from Brengun a more than satisfactory diorama could also be in the offing.

My thanks to Brengun/Hauler and IPMS/USA for the review copy.

Support your local hobby shop!





Last month was our first meeting in our new venue. Dragon's Lair Comics and Fantasy is ASMS's new home. Thank you Dragon's Lair for hosting us!

If you're not familiar with Dragon's Lair they are Austin's premier source of comics and gaming supplies. They're also host to game players to gather and compete with each other.

Thank you again Dragon's Lair!

What's Up wid You?

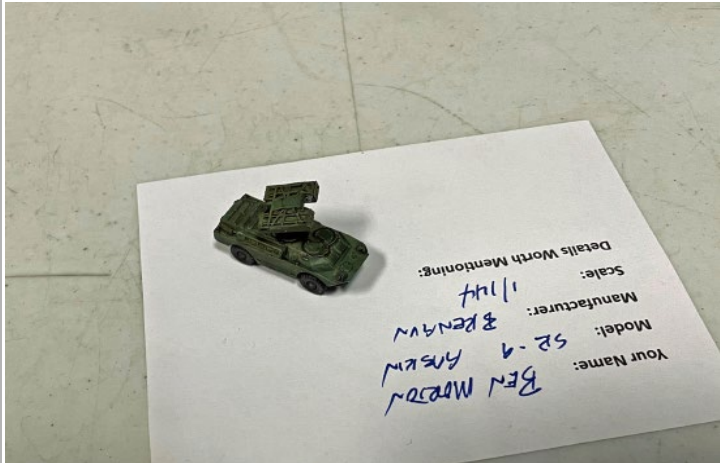
ASMS/Bill Delk sponsors an on-line ZOOM meeting with whoever wants to join us to talk about models and life. It happens almost every Sunday at 4:00.

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

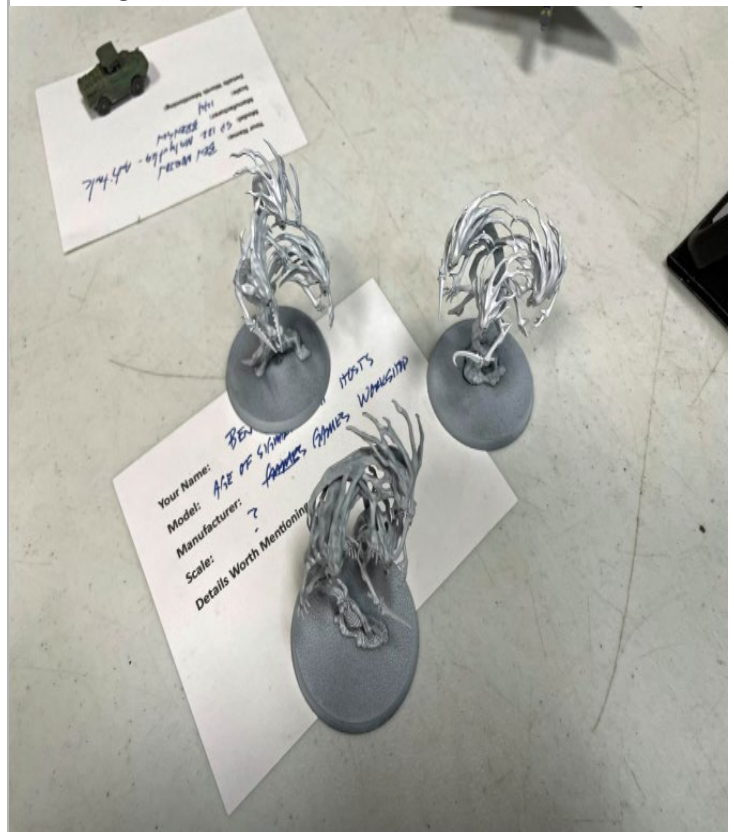
Bill Delk`s e-mail address
Falconfyredeuce@gmail.com.



This month's meeting was our first in our new venue. Dragon's Lair Comics and Fantasy was kind enough to host us. The meeting was well attended. Ben Morton brought in a couple of his Brengun jewels in 1/144th scale. He shared the subject of his article in this month's newsletter and a BRDM.



Ben also brought in some gaming figures he is working on.

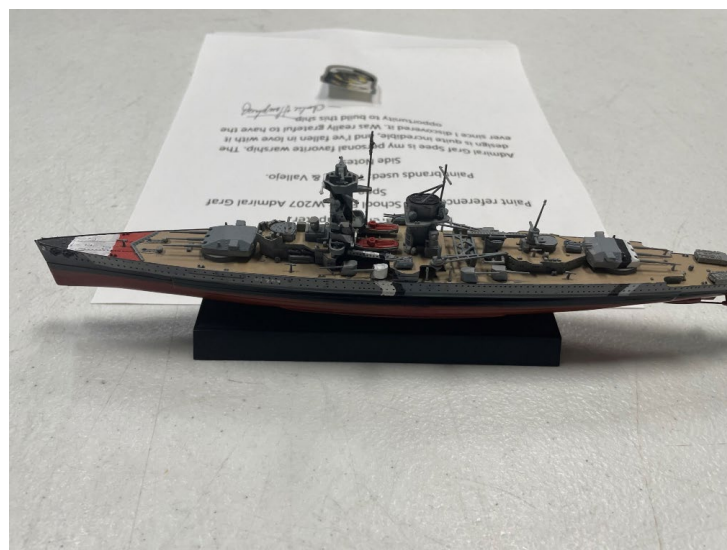


Bob Bethea shared his completed Tamiya Comet and a WW1 German figure with the group.



Vince Hutson and Tim Robb in our new digs.

Charlie shared his Graf Spee with the group.
Nice to see a ship modeler contributing.



Ron McCracken brought in several of his 1/72nd wonders including an A-18 and a Neuport.



Lilly Selestino brought in her completed Warhammer tank.



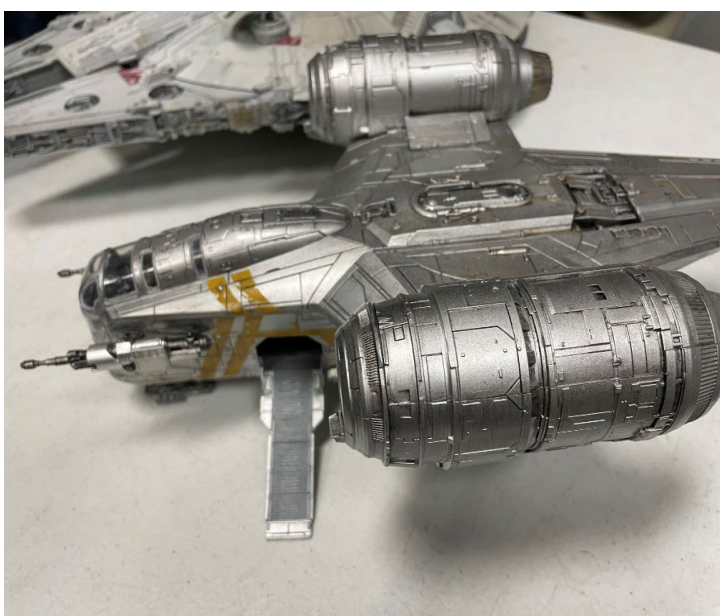
Milton Bell shared a couple of projects, a 1/48 Tamiya Sdkfz 232 and an in progress 1/72nd Arma P-39.



Matt brought in a Millenium Falcon and a 1/72nd Razor crest, both fine peices of work.



A new attendee brought in some Gunpla.



Ziggy, our resident Gunpla expert in California sent in some photos of his Zaku diorama.



Randy Bumgardner sent in some shots of his completed 1/32nd Sea Hurricane.





Tim brought in a couple of aircraft including an AT-6 and a P-47.



Our new venue's decor. Definitely Dragon themed. The winner of this month's best model was Gordon Stiemens. with his B-52.



Thanks to everyone that shared their work with their fellow modelers.

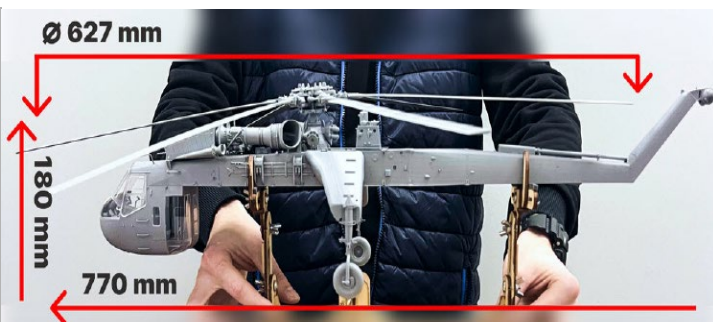
Old Rumors and New Kits

New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

In contrast to January, which had a lot of new stuff, February is mostly re-hashes of older kits, and not all that many of them. A notable exception is ICM, which has a big new helicopter kit coming out.

1/35th Scale:

ICM is releasing a new-tool Sikorsky CH-54A Tarhe (skycrane), which in this scale will make an impressive model.



1/48th Scale:

Eduard is re-releasing their A6M3 Zero Type 22 in a Profipack edition with some new/revised parts.



Eduard has also re-released their Fokker D.VII (OAW) in a Profipack edition.



Eduard is releasing a Mi-24V/Mi-35 Hind E in a Limited Edition, which usually means some extra goodies or an unusual decal selection.



Eduard is releasing a Spitfire Mk.VIII Weekend Edition kit, focused on Spitfires fighting over Italy, Burma and in RAAF over New Guinea. Four decal options.



ICM has re-released their Beaufort as a Mk.IA/Tropical with new parts.



Kinetic has re-released their Harrier GR.3 in Falklands 40th Anniversary edition, with a tow tractor included.



Kinetic has also re-released their Harrier as a Sea Harrier FRS.1 in Falklands 40th Anniversary edition, also with a Navy tow tractor.



Kinetic has also re-released its Super Etendard Modernise with some new parts.



1/72nd Scale:

Aoshima is releasing a Ki-100-I Kou, which seems to be a re-pop of an earlier kit.



Aoshima is re-releasing their Ki-61-II Hien as an Incremental Prototype.



Hasegawa is re-releasing their F/A-18F Super Hornet in VFA-41 Black Aces markings.



Hasegawa is re-releasing its Eurofighter Typhoon Single Seater in 'Luftwaffe Rapid Pacific 2022' markings.



Platz has re-released their F-15J Eagle in 305th Squadron Nyutabaru Base Air Festa 2022 Commemorative Painting.



1/144th Scale:

HobbyBoss is re-releasing its Shaanxi KJ-500 in PLAAF markings.



Revell is re-releasing its A300-600ST Beluga with new markings.

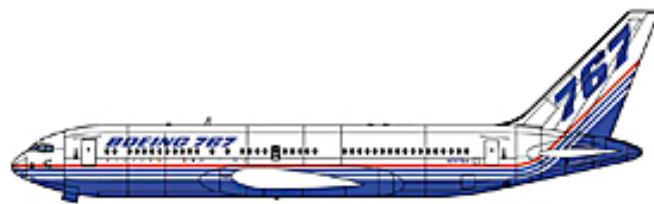


Platz is releasing a Eurofighter Typhoon in Luftwaffe Rapid Pacific 2022 Special Livery



1/200th Scale:

Hasegawa is releasing a 767-200 Demonstrator kit.



So there you have what's New and in View for February. Happy modeling!

Shipping News

by Rick Herrington

Ahoy mates! Not to many releases this month except for Pit Road who keeps cranking them out. The whole column is going to be 1/700th scale with the exception of one lone 1/350th release.

Let's get started with a new guy on the block Kami de Korokoro, They are releasing two Japanese Coast Guard patrol ships. The first is the Hida



Next is the release of the Aso.



Pit Road has five new releases for us this month, all in 1/700 scale. First up is IJN Nisshin, a Japanese patrol boat.



Next up is the Italian battleship Vittorio Veneto circa 1940.



Another IJN release from Pit Road is the destroyer Nenohi.



Next from Pit Road is the IJN light cruiser Yubari.



Last from Pit Road in 1/700 is the JMSDF Aegis class destroyer Ashigara.



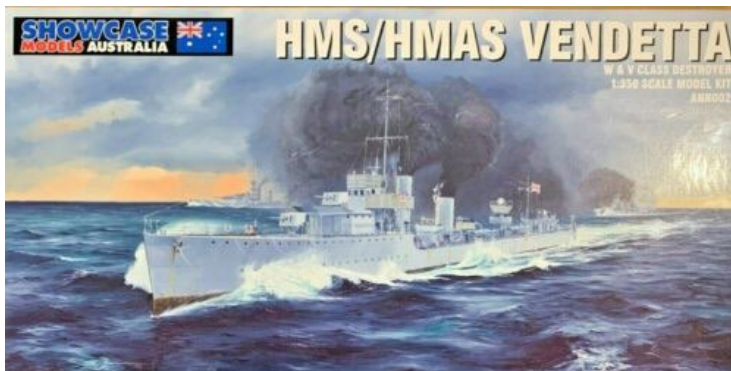
AFV is releasing the guided missile cruiser Oliver Hazard Perry



Aoshima is releasing HMS Kent a British cruiser.



Last in the column this month is the lone 1/350 release from Showcase Models HMAS (Her Majesty's Australian Ship) Vendetta. Vendetta entered service in 1917 and saw action in WW1.



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

Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

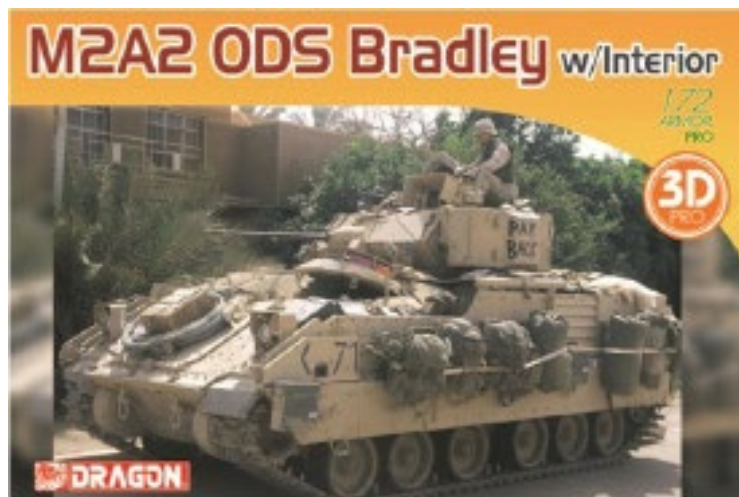
Ola, tread heads! Unlike the ship column we have plenty of releases/re-releases to get to. Let's start off with 1/72nd scale. First from Revell we have a French heavy, the Le Clerc.



AJM Models has two new releases for us. The first is a Japanese artillery tractor WW2 vintage. Second from them surprisingly is a Japanese army 175mm howitzer.



Dragon has a Bradley M2A2 ODS for us.



Finally in 1/72 scale Academy has a T-34 85.



Hobby Boss has a late model Tiger 2 for us.



Moving on to 1/48th scale Atlantis is re-releasing Aurora's IJA Chi Ha.



Lots to get to in 1/35th scale. First from AFV is an M110A2.



Amusing Hobby is releasing a Yugoslavian M84.



Meng is releasing a Merkava LIC (Low Intensity Conflict) with a mine roller.



Hobby Boss is releasing an IDF Puma



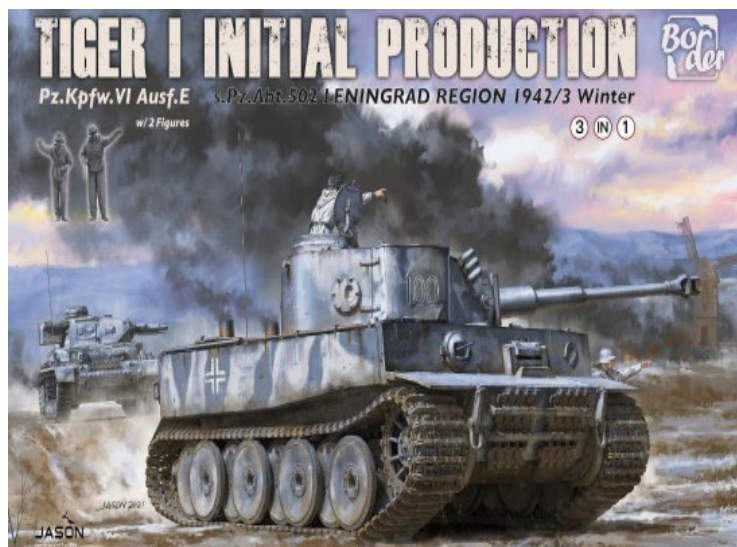
Hobby Boss is releasing a Russian P-40 IS-12 Radar



Hobby Boss is releasing a 9A52-2 Smerch MLRS.



Border Models is releasing an early production Tiger 1



Das Werk is releasing a 7 ton German half track with crew figures.



DML has 4 releases for us. the first is a German tank hunter the Hornisse, also known as the Nashorn.



Border Models is releasing their own Nashorn.



Second up from DML is an M4A2 Sherman.



Dragon also has a composite hull Sherman for us this month.



Takom has a pzkw 3 ausf N with winterketten tracks.



Takom also has a T-55AD Dozd. This was the Russian army's first attempt at AT missile defense



Gecko has two soft skin releases for us. Both are British trucks one of them being a heavy ambulance.



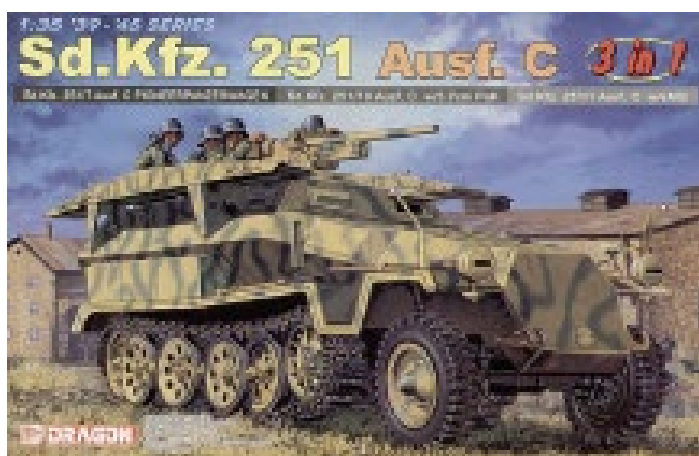
Thunder Models has a British Scammell for us.



ICM is releasing a W.O.T. 6 British truck



Last in 1/35th scale is a welcome re-release from DML of their 3 in 1 Hanomag 251C. This kit contains parts to make 1 of three different vehicles based on the German 251C. You can make a pioneer vehicle, an ambulance vehicle and a version with a 3.7cm AT gun mounted on it.



Usually we don't have more than one release in 1/16th scale. This month we have three. DML starts us off with a Kubelwagen Type 82.



Next is a release from Classy Hobby of an M5A1 British Stuart.



Finally in this month's column is Takom's release of an Ontos including a crew figure.



That's it for this month. Happy modeling.



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!

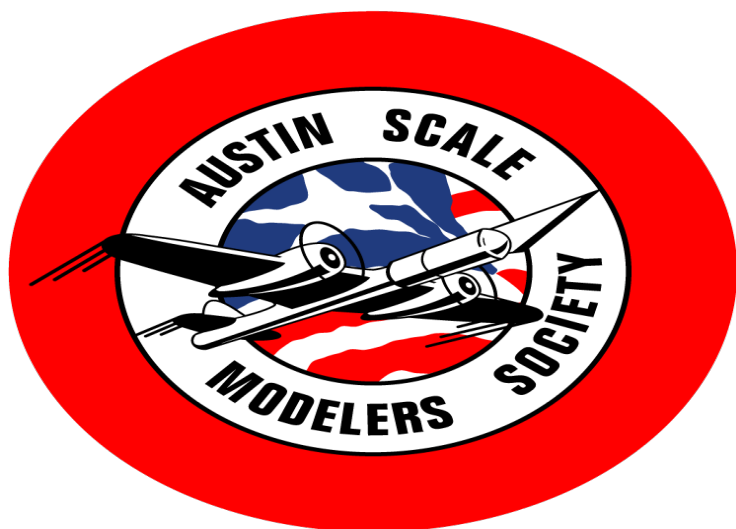
Maybe you build cars.
Or jets. Or figures. Or tanks.
Maybe you slap em' together.
Maybe you count every rivet.

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

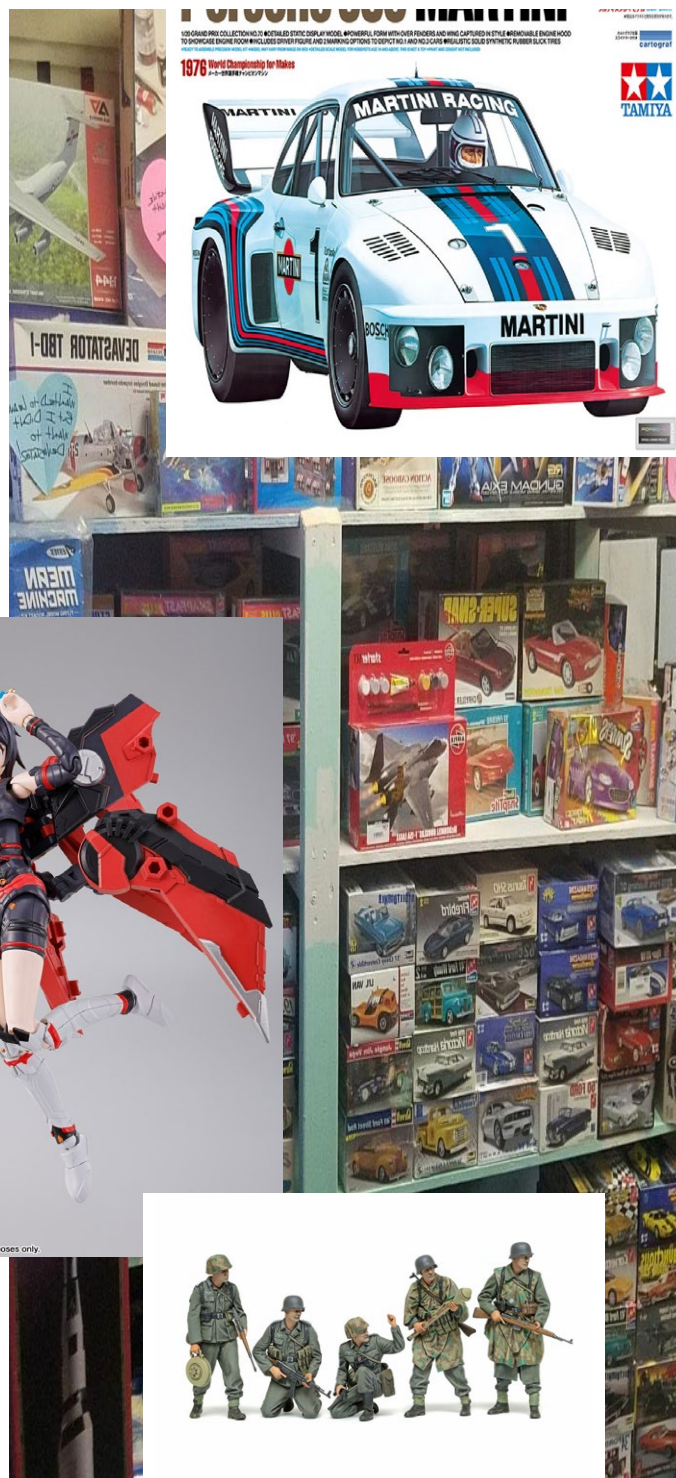


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IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but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

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

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

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

International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA

Membership Application / Renewal Form

New Renewal IPMS#: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Chapter Affiliation, if any: _____

Junior (17 years or younger) \$17.00 Date of Birth _____

Adult One year \$30.00

Two years \$58.00

Three years \$86.00

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Family Adult fee + \$5.00

of cards? ____

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Where did you hear about IPMS/USA? Please check all that apply:

☐ Local model club

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☐ I'm a former member rejoining

☐ Other _____

Applications should be printed and mailed to:

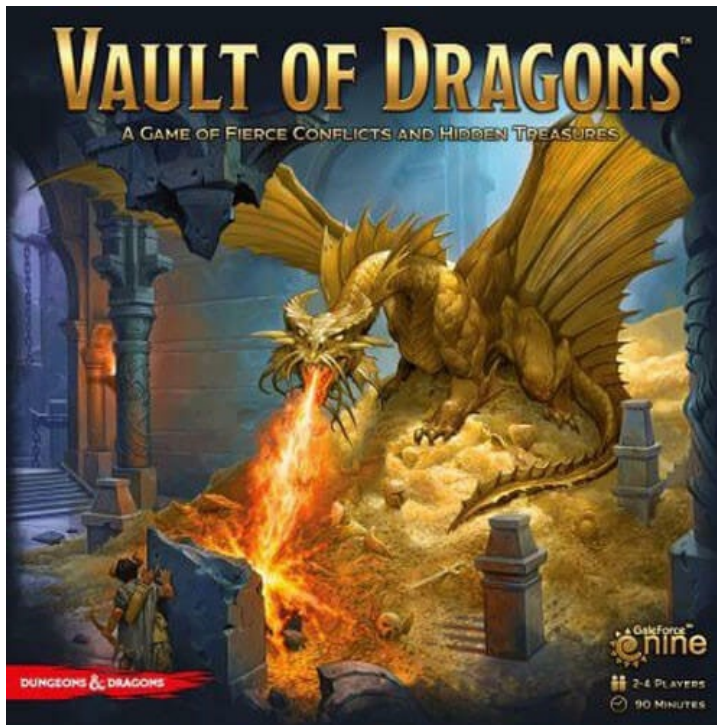
IPMS/USA

P.O. Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411

LIONHEART

— H O B B Y —



5500 Jack C Hays Trail, Kyle, Texas 78640,

(512) 504-3404

10:00 am – 06:00 pm





International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS #:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Chapter Affiliation, if any: _____

Junior (17 years or younger) \$17.00 _____ Date of Birth: _____

Adult One year \$30.00 _____

Two years \$58.00 _____

Three years \$86.00 _____

Canada & Mexico \$35.00 _____

Foreign Surface \$38.00 _____

Family (1 set of Journals) _____ ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards? _____

Your Signature: _____

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: _____ IPMS #: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash ☐ Amount: _____

Check ☐ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411