



SPRUE



EXAMINER



Vol 20 No. 9

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2011 IPMS/USA Website of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year

2011 / 2009 IPMS/USA Region 6 Webmaster of the Year

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year



**Eduard's 1/48 Fw-190 A-7
by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
IPMS # 26266**

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The FW-190A-7 was one of the last versions that *Eduard* had not covered directly, the other being the A-9. You could always build one from their Royal Class kits but never as a stand alone kit. Well *Eduard* has stepped up to the plate and has hit another home run.

I've built the A-5, F-8, A-8, and D-9 so I have some experience with this series of kits. That said, this kit is just as good as those kits and why shouldn't it be, it contains the same parts.

The kit contains six sprues of RLM 02 plastic with minimal flash. One sprue of clear parts, two frets of photo etch, one of those being pre-painted, and a set of masks rounds out the parts. Of course, there are two decal sheets which contain markings for four aircraft. The instructions are printed on high quality paper stock. I found the instructions to be easy enough to understand.

The cockpit is the starting point and it is an easy assembly process. I paint and weather my cockpit prior to adding the pre-painted photo etch parts. Before you know it is time to assemble the fuselage. I found no fit issues.

The key here is to make sure that parts I4 and H3 are squared and dried before you add I21 which also should be at a right angle to H3. This is the first KEY point in assembling the model. The fuselage required no filler.

The next KEY point is the assembly of the wings spar. Ensure I16 and K20 are vertical and completely dry prior to doing any work. Now is the time to open the holes for the drop tank. I added the drop tank mount at this time because I could clamp it.



(continued on page four)



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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

AutumnCon 2012 Regional Convention, Clarion Inn, Covington, LA.	9.15.12
www.northshoremodelers.com	
Austin Scale Model Show 2012, Norris Conference Center, Austin, Texas	10. 6.12
www.austinsms.org	
ConAir 2012 Model Show/Contest, Kansas Aviation Museum, Wichita, Kansas	10.13.12
www.aircapitalipms.org	

Local Club Meetings

CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	9.20.12
www.centextmodelers.com	
Austin Armor Modelers Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	10. 3.12
www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	10. 4.12

Other Events

Wings Over Houston Air Show, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas	10.27/28.12
www.wingsoverhouston.com	
Fall Fly-In & Picnic, Old Kingsbury Aerodrome, Kingsbury, Texas	11.10.12
www.pioneerflightmuseum.org	

IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter

Several IPMS members have since 2009 been managing the Warrior Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas. The center is located at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

Troops are sent to BAMC for treatment and rehabilitation, some staying for up to 12 months. BAMC and the Center for the Intrepid are known as being among the elite medical facilities in the world for treatment

and injuries received in combat zone.

Through the generosity of hundreds of IPMS members, IPMS chapters, and modelers the Warriors stationed at BAMC have received models, tools, books, movies and other hobby related items through the IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter. Donations can be sent to IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter contact person, Dick Montgomery,

[\(dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net).

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the second Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family).

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Odds and Ends

The Nationals are over and it would appear from reports that a good time was had by all. Lots of models (apx. 2700) and oodles of vender goodies. (Good thing Jeff took his trailer as he does like to "stock - up"!) There is an unconfirmed rumor that Angela Forster garnered an award for her Dragon figurine. Which if true is good, as I believe that that makes it ineligible for our quarterly contest. Gives the rest of us a better shot at garnering something. I'm only kidding, Angela. Congratulations!



This is a photo of the Peoples Favorite. A massive diorama, to say the least. I've include a photo with some 'figures' to give you a since of scale.



There are a number of videos and still shots of the entries available on IPMS/USA website www.ipmsusa.org. Just follow the links on the Convention logo. Some of the walk-thrus are more like run-thrus but there were lots and lots of models. Plus there are gobs of still photos.



Speaking of videos, Mike Poole has a suggestion for our club regarding our contest. We, or one or two of us, could make a short video of the entries at our upcoming contest. Post it on the website and possibly generate more interest in the show for 2013. I suspect that Mike will have a few more details to flesh this idea out at our next meeting. Something to think about.

While your doing that, please give some thought to becoming an officer in *your* club. Those positions will be becoming available sooner rather than later. I believe the vote is scheduled for January, but don't quote me on that. The various positions are listed elsewhere (see page two) in this newsletter. This gives you plenty of time to get your flyers, posters, and other campaign literature in order. Or not!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Of a more pressing matter. Volunteers are needed to staff our contest. Everything from setting up, assisting the venders to registration. As well as manning the raffle table to picking up the pieces when all is said and done. So come one, come all!

If your still deciding what constitutes "Made in Hollywood" check Brad's article on King's Hobby Shop blog. www.kingshobbyshop.blogspot.com



Editor

Don't forget to open up the outer gun holes which for some reason are not addressed by the instructions. Make sure that the wings are aligned all the way around. Again this will save you work. I wanted my airplane closed up so I had to carve out the upper wing part before adding it to the bottom wing.

One other thing that the instructions don't address is the inclusion of part I3 and I7 for the closed option on the wing root guns.

The engine is a nice little kit in itself. Pay particular attention to the alignment of the cylinders. You should be able to align the cylinders so that they would allow airflow. This will ensure that the exhaust parts will fit as designed. The engine cowling is easy enough to put together if you take your time and start at the top piece and then the sides. Line up the panel lines on the upper piece, Part H10. The tail assembly fit like a champ.



The wheels appear to be a little narrow but I decided to use them anyhow. I elected to use the smooth tread pattern.



Care must be taken in assembling the landing gear to wheels as there is plenty of slop in there. I used Blue Tac to hold the struts in place and then used 5 minute epoxy to set the wheels. The wheels were kept straight with the edge of square Gunze bottle. Once the wheels are dried completely I used my CB Landing Gear alignment tool to ensure the struts sit perfectly. The Eduard landing gear is actually quite robust and ensure a good alignment out of the box.

I added the wing covers and the upper cowling panel. For the upper cowling I had to cut the guns off of the mounts to get a good fit with the panel closed. This is no problem as you won't see anything under it. You just need the end of

the gun barrels and I took this opportunity to glue them in place.

Now it was time to wash the model with grease cutting dish soap. Then the model was masked up to allow me to wipe it with *Plastic-Prep*. A coat of primer of *Alclad* grey primer was used to find any spots that needed reworking.

Next I used *Alclad* white primer on the nose. I was going to paint the stripes as opposed to the decals provided by *Eduard*.

This wasn't too hard to do. Once the white had dried I used *Tamiya* tape and masked off the stripes and a circle where the JG1 emblem would go. A coat of flat black was added to the cowling. Allowing it to dry overnight, I masked it off and painted the under cowling yellow. I painted the tail band and trim tabs *Tamiya* flat red. This was easy enough to pull together. All these areas were masked and pre-shading was done, especially to the fuselage as it would be without mottling. A *Tamiya* mix of RLM 76 was added to the bottom and the fuselage sides. *Gunze* RLM 75 was sprayed and *Polly-S* RLM 74 was added with both colors being lightly mottled on the tail area. Both colors were lightened up with a little flat



white for some variation. All the masks were removed and *Alclad* aqua gloss was sprayed over the entire model in preparation for the decals.

Eduard's decals are thin and react really well with setting solutions. I did notice that the red was slightly out of register

on the numbers and the swastika was also out of register. That was funny as the other black and white crosses were perfect. I elected to use the *EagleCal* decals for the number for the same airplane and the swastika. All the decals performed extremely well. I'd recommend and use *Eduard's* decals again, the stencils were perfect.

A coat of *Alclad* aqua gloss was used to seal the decals and this was followed with *Alclad* flat.

Weathering was kept to a minimum as the photos show the airplane being very new and only slightly used. A slight wash of burnt umber highlighted the panel lines. Some *Mig* pigments were used to replicate the mud. A silver pencil was used sparingly to represent chipping. A *Tamiya* flat black and dark earth was highly thinned and used to represent the exhausts. A final coat of *Alclad* flat was added to seal everything.



Removing the masks from the canopy and adding the head armor and this model was almost done. Some minor details, such as the lower antennas and wire antenna on the tail and the model was finished.

I've built quite a few of these *Eduard* kits and they all fit really well if you take your time and make sure everything is tight they are beautiful. If care is taken the model builds up easy enough with just a touch of filler here and there, even with the cowlings and hatches closed. Try it and take your time. You'll be glad that you did. Just follow the instructions.

Thanks to *Eduard* and **IPMS/USA** for the review copy. You can obtain yours by contacting them directly at www.eduard.com or at your local hobby shop or online retailer. Let them know that we sent you.

HINTS AND TIPS:

There are a few keys to a successful *Eduard* FW-190 kit. The first is to ensure that part I4 and L16 are 90 degrees as well as part I21.

Hint 2- glue part K20 into its mount on the wings, ensuring it is vertical and thoroughly dry. When that piece is dry add the wing center spar and ensure that it fits in the cutout and



attached to K20. This will keep the spar vertical and ensure that the landing gear and other pieces fit perfectly. Piece J18 will have no problem fitting.

Hint 3- Glue part K18 to the indent in the top of the wheel well and then add the support structure, J25, J34, and J35.

Hint 4- Glue the gun trough (part L3) to the mid cowl ring (K25) and let it dry thoroughly. Then add the side engine cowl panels. This will ensure the cowlings are perfect and require no sanding.

References:

Walk Around 22- Focke-Wulf FW-190A/F, Malcolm Laing and E. Brown Ryle, Squadron/Signal, 2000, ISBN 0-89747-414-7

Aero Details 6: Focke-Wulf FW-190A/F, Shigeru Nohara and Masatsugu Shiwa, Dai Nippon Kaiga Co., 1993, ISBN 4-499-22603-1

Focke Wulf Jagdflugzeug, Peter Rodeike, ISBN 3-923457-44-8

Photo Hobby Manual #1501-Special Drawings Focke Wulf FW-190 Part 1, Radek Vavrina, CMK, ISBN 9-788090377844

Floyd

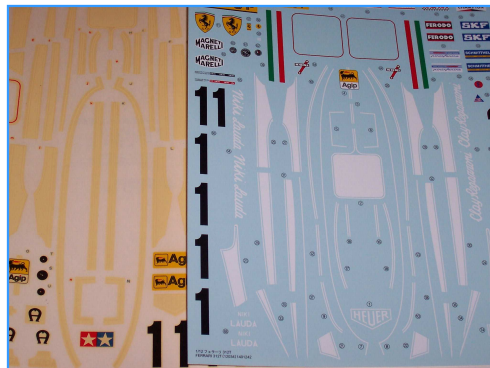
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Yellowed Decals Giving You The Blues?

By Mike Poole

Most of us have more models than we realize. They sit on shelves patiently waiting for the day when we enthusiastically pull the lid off and make that model the center of our attention for weeks (months). Unfortunately, after many years of storage, some of the decal sheets begin to yellow while others continue to look pristine. Not only does it hurt the kit's value, some of these decals are unobtainable at any price.

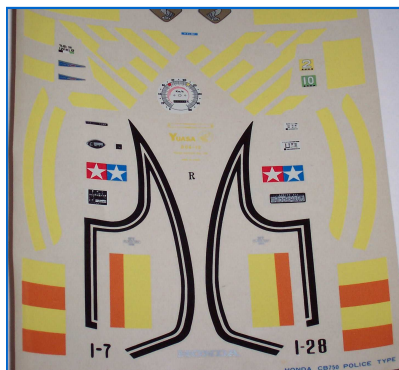
Despite years of tinkering and on-line questioning, I haven't got a clue why some decals yellow. I've tried storing them separately in binders, sealing them away in air-tight bags, etc. Bottom line: some yellow and some don't.



Perhaps the worst offenders in my stash are the older Tamiya decals. The left picture below is an original 1/12th Fer-

rari 312T decal sheet released in 1976 next to a 2007 issue of the same sheet by *Cartograph*. It's difficult to see but both the clear carrier layer and the white dye have severely yellowed on the 1976 sheet to the left. In the photo to the right I have a decal sheet for the Tamiya 1/6th Honda CB750 Police Type that was printed in 1970 and still looks new after 42 years.

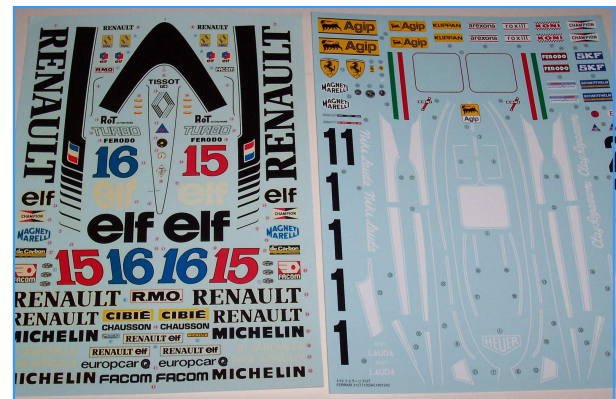
Both decals were printed by the same manufacturer!



So, is there any remedy for bad decals other than filling them away in the nearest recycling bin? Yes, sort of.

It's an old technique known as sun bleaching. Unlike our skin, exposure to UV rays actually makes decals whiter.

The decal sheet below on the left is a sheet for a 1/12 Renault RE-70 printed in 1974. The left half of the sheet was



covered with a solid object while the decal was left in the hot Austin sun for three days. Looking closely at the white "Elf" logo's in the center the one on the right which received the radiation treatment is several shades whiter (eggshell vs. taupe), though still not as bright white as the *Cartograph* sheet used as a reference. It's hard to see in the photo but the carrier film on the bleached side is more transparent, as well

I intend to leave the decals out for a month and see how much whiter I can get them. If you decide to try this technique, realize that taping the decals to the inside of a window will work but taping them outside to something horizontal will give them more UV exposure and lighten them much faster.

But the burning question is will the bleaching be permanent or will the yellowing return? In my experience the yellowing will gradually return if the decals are returned to storage so not a permanent solution.

It's conceivable that building the model and displaying it in a brightly lit room could help stabilize them but I haven't tried that. I'm instead replacing my Tamiya decals with new *Cartograph* sheets whenever the opportunity arises.

Mike

Bare Metal Technique

by Ron McCracken

When I first got serious about the model airplane hobby, one of the biggest challenges was so-called "bare metal" paint schemes. The solution, 40 or so years ago, was to dedicate considerable research to finding paint schemes that didn't involve bare aluminum, as the state of the art in aluminum paint at the time was *Testor's* "silver". Or, if you wanted something better, the local arts-n-crafts store offered a product called "*Rub-N-Buff*", which offered a more metallic-looking finish, but, being wax-based, also created problems with decal adhesion.

Today, there are much better alternatives, and my personal favorite is *Testor's* buffing metalizers. The problem with these metalizers is, masking media such as tape cause problems with the final appearance, so masking the metalizer doesn't work too well. The solution is, do all the masking work before applying the metalizer.

But this leaves the problem of how to simulate the slightly different "colors" of aluminum found on real aircraft. The solution lies not in colors, but in surface texture. Basically, you can use gloss, semi-gloss, and flat paint undercoats to yield three different panel textures--enough for a convincing effect.

The key to getting a blemish-free finish is to allow plenty of drying time between coats of paint. I'd recommend at least a couple of days, and as much as a week. Otherwise "soft" paint picks up fingerprints, which will absolutely ruin your end product.

So, the technique is thus:

First, thoroughly clean the entire model, then overcoat in gray primer--*Rustoleum*, etc., right off the shelf of the local hardware store. Such primers dry with a satin, or semi-gloss, finish. Why gray? Because you can get away with a very thin coat! Next, mask off and apply any markings you intend to paint, e.g. invasion stripes, ID bands, etc. Once these are thoroughly dry, apply masking over them.

Second, mask off a few panels, then paint the entire model a high-gloss black. The key is not so much the color, but the high gloss. You achieve this by thinning the paint to a water-like consistency, painting a thin coat, then, while it is still tacky, going back over that coat with a "wet" coat. This technique helps avoid "runs" in the very thin paint.

When this dries, it should be very glossy. Let this coat thoroughly dry, like two or three days! From this point on, wear gloves when handling the model. Gloss paint picks up fingerprints like crazy. Third, mask some more panels and paint the few remaining unmasked panels with flat black paint.

Once all this is dry, remove all the masking tape except that over the painted markings, and spray on a THIN coat of *Testor's* aluminum buffing metalizer. Try to just barely cover. Better too little, than too much. You can always go back and add another coat. Let it dry for the recommended 10 minutes, then buff the entire model with a soft cloth (an old cotton T-shirt works perfectly).

The result is a subtle difference in appearance of the various panels. And I do mean subtle--differences in lighting make a major difference in appearance--much like a real aircraft. Once the buffing is done, unmask the painted markings and apply decals, if any. Remove the masking over the painted markings, and decal the model.

With the basic painting done and decals applied, you might want to emphasize the panel lines with black artists gauche (water color paint). Finally, the model can be over coated with *Testor's* sealer for metalizer, if desired. For my own part, I find this sealer tends to reduce the bare-metal effect slightly, giving a slightly-oxidized effect. So you'll have to judge whether durability or appearance is more important to you.

If you are worried about durability, I have a *Revell* F-89D I finished at least ten years ago, using metalizers, and without any sealer. It still looks fresh, no decals lifting, no bare spots. If you intend to weather the aircraft with exhaust or gun smoke stains, these should be air-brushed on last.

Ron

Quarterly Contest Schedule

by Ron McCracken
Vice-President

Our clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for the remainder of 2012.

Date	Theme
September	Dragons: Dragon kit or dragon model
December	White Elephant/Gift Exchange

**In Box Review: Meng 1/35
VS001 Pickup w/ZPU-1
VS002 Pickup w/Equipment
MSRP \$39.99 each**

by Jack Johnston IPMS #34934

I am mainly an aircraft modeler; props, jets, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Army, Coast Guard; doesn't matter. Next I fall (not in a bad way) to automotive and armor. Although I have some, I'm not a big tank guy. I prefer rubber-tired soft skin "armor". I like the trucks (armed or transport) and their many variations. So when Meng released their injected molded



pickup, a.k.a. "technical", I was interested as this fell into both my auto and military truck vein. MIG Productions had released all resin versions which are not for me.



These kits are cool/fun/interesting. They are used worldwide in many theatres and uses. They are used by American Special Forces and yes, the bad guys. Looking at photos of the real thing, there are some pretty good modeling subjects as far as condition and armament. There's some pretty wild stuff.

The trucks seem to resemble a late 1990's 4X4 Toyota Hilux 4 Door SR5. There are no manufacturer/model markings, probably to avoid licensing fees. There is a plain oval badge in the grille begging for the Toyota "brand".

The kits are pretty much identical with armament, equipment and figure differences. They each come with two black sprues containing frame, chassis, suspension, disc brakes, wheel rims, grilles and cab detail parts and grey sprues containing floor pan, interior parts and the figure.

VS001 has an additional black sprue for the ZPU-1, a cab molded in white and a white sprue with truck box and engine hood.

VS002 has an additional grey sprue with guns, coolers, water/gas cans, etc., a cab molded in dark red and a red sprue with the truck box and engine hood. They both include a clear sprue with cab window, head/taillight lenses, etc.

VS002 comes with an additional clear sprue for 1 and 2 litre plastic bottles. They both come with photo etch parts for mud flaps, tailgate parts and roll bar mounting plates. VS001 comes with photo etch parts for the ZPU-1.



Both come with nicely detailed rubber tires (5 w/VS001, 6 w/VS002). The photo etch parts and the bagged tires are packaged in their own nicely padded compartment in the box. The cabs are also packaged nicely in a plastic bag in an enclosed box nestled in its own compartment in the main box. Both include a nicely laid out 16-18 page instruction booklet, clear with well done exploded illustrations. A simple color painting guide is included. Paint references are for *Hobby Color*, *Mr. Hobby* and *Vallejo* paints.

A generic decal sheet is included with both kits. This sheet contains a decal for the dashboard, 4WD mud flaps decals and black & white block letters for your modeling pleasure.

VS002 includes a decal sheet for the plastic 1 and 2 litre bottles with labels for *Pepsi*, *Coke*, generic and flammable. The molding of the parts is generally good; no flash and few pin marks or blemishes to clean up. The model is well detailed and the detail is crisp and clean.

The chassis/suspension is well detailed. The frame looks straight (not warped).

It includes the underside of the engine and transmission. One disappointing feature is the lack of an engine as the kit does have a separate hood which could easily be displayed in the open position. To the frame add separate front suspension parts, rear suspension, exhaust, fuel tank, shocks and disc brakes.

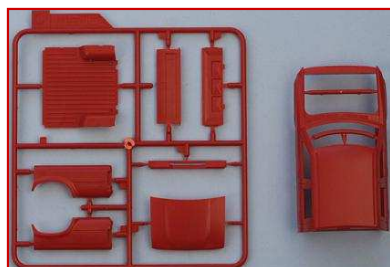


The interior floor includes the front fender wheel wells.

Separate parts include bucket seats, rear bench seat (needs seat belts), console, gear levers, interior door panels, instrument panel with gas, brake and clutch pedals, and steering column with control levers.



The 4 door cab is molded as one piece with the exception of the engine hood (again, no engine). There are some fine seams which need to be removed, but they are very light. The large clear part for the cab is one piece for windshield and side windows. Sun visors and a roof lamp are molded in. The rear window is a separate part. The glass is thin and molding is clear. Additional parts are the external mirrors, windshield wipers, front grille and bumper in which the openings are actual openings. Again, clear lenses are included for the lights. Some clear red and clear yellow paints will be needed for the taillight lenses.

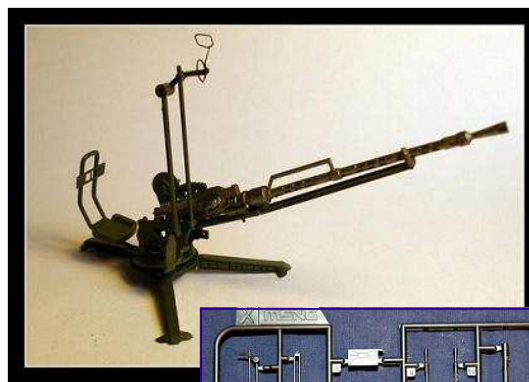


The truck body/box is five pieces; floor with inner fenders, outer fenders, front and tailgate. There is a roll bar in each kit, although if you use the gunner seat with the ZPU-1, the roll bar must be left off.

The wheel rims are nicely molded but seem to be the more upgraded SR5 wheels rather than the higher profile off road ones that might be on the technical vehicles vs. stock. But who knows. The tires are well done. Some seem to have a bit of flash on them. They have a well done tread pattern, but if you look closely they don't say "Dunlop". They say : Donlop". (Licensing fees?)



The ZPU-1 gun in VS001 is pretty much a kit within itself. It is a Russian gun which first entered service in the late 1940's. It is very popular in many countries, especially African and Middle Eastern, used as depicted in this kit. It is made up of several black plastic and photo etch pieces. You have a choice of round or oval hole cooling jackets. Detail is excellent. There are three outrigger legs and the seat comprises five plastic and photo etch pieces.



VS002 includes a Barrett M82A1 12.7mm semi-automatic rifle and M240B 7.62mm GPMG molded in light grey



These guns have some separate detail for the lifting handle and bipod legs. Equipment includes three Coleman coolers, lids open and closed, small cans, "jerry" cans and plastic drink bottles and additional spare tire.



The VS001 gunner figure is made up of six parts, dressed casual with sneakers and a "bandana" over his face. The VS002 figure is eleven parts, looking like a thug (IMHO). He could be a good thug or a baaad thug. Still looks like a thug. He is likened to a private security contractor. He is featured with military style pants, boots, bare arms (the guy works out!), beard, vest with equipment and a ball cap, backwards.

There are some aftermarket sets that have been released:

Def. Model #35021 is a Technical pickup truck sagged wheel/tire set. It is resin, 5 pieces (4 plus 1 spare). *Voyage Model #35459* is a photo etch detail set for the ZPU-1.



Overall these are nice kits. They offer a myriad of build possibilities and are an interesting alternative to the many interesting subjects we enjoy. These can be built as a stock vehicle parked in a neighborhood driveway or as armed 'technical's. Even the equipment of coolers and drinks can be used in a civilian setting. The well detailed interior is also subject to further detail if you desire. Seatbelts and other items that would collect inside; guns, sleeping bags, ammo, boxes, trash. etc.



Check out photos on the internet of the real thing. They're pretty interesting.

Jack

Some photos in this review are of modelers partial builds taken from the internet.)

Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Who/Subject
September	TBA
October	TBA
November	Bobbie Wilson/ ruined and wrecked

If you're interested in making a presentation at our club meetings please contact Ron McCracken at rmccrack@austin.rr.com

"I know there's an article around here somewhere!"

Searching for Newsletter Articles!

Any Size, Shape or Subject



Submit your articles to
benmorton@grandecom.net
Assistance is available.

Thanks to Tamiya/USA and Revell Inc.

I was the winning bidder for a *Tamiya* kit at our most recent auction. There were a couple of things missing but most importantly, the kit assembly instruction. More precisely it had instructions but for another kit. I putted around on the interweb looking for a replacement when it occurred to me that maybe the company could help. Low and behold they have a customer service link for just such an occasion. I sent out my request.

Their website notes that it can be weeks before anyone could respond due to the number of request for this sort of thing. Well, much to my great surprise and glee *Tamiya* sent me a replacement set of instructions the very next day as a PDF. Too cool. Now if I can find replacement decals, I'll be all set.

On a related matter and thanks to Tim Robb's thoughtful reminder, I was in need of a few replacement parts for a 1/48 Monogram B-29 kit I've had for...well, a long time. So long in fact that *Revell* has re-issued the kit with a new number. Once I discovered this, it was no trouble at all for *Revell* to send me the aforementioned parts. Of course, it is now incumbent on me to finish the darn thing. Careful what you wish for!

My great thanks to both companies, *Tamiya* and *Revell*, for supporting our hobby and giving me something else to do.

Editor

Old Rumors and New Kits 2G

by Aaron Smischney, Jeff Forster, Mike Poole
Randy Bumgardner & Rick Herrington

Armor

(Any problem caused by a tank can be solved by a tank.)

Howdy once again armor fans and welcome to you armor curious folks out there. Let's see what's new...

Bronco, one of my favorite kit makers, has some really cool announcements. First up is a jeep or more specifically: CB35106 US GPW 1/4 ton 4x4 Utility Truck (Mod. 1942) w/10-CWT

Trailer & Airborne Crew. Check out the box art. Is that the "Duke" on the phone? This one is pretty exciting. Will it unseat the *Tamiya* jeep from its throne? *Dragon* tried and failed. I bet it will at least have more parts. No word on a release date.



Also of note is a brutal looking Soviet SU-152 and a cool British Humber Armored car, Mk. II.

For you Chaffee fans they are exploiting their excellent Chaffee kit to the fullest with a 'Korean War' variant. If you ever feel the need to paint a kitty face on the front of your tank, this version is for you.

Just released by *Meng* is their "Tortoise" super heavy tank. It never saw action but still has a menacing presence!



For you Braille modelers, *Dragon* has announced a (deep breath) 1/72 Panzerfähre Gepanzerte Landwasserschlepper Prototype Nr.



That's the highlights for this month.

'til next time!

Aaron

Aircraft

It's been a long time since our last column... at least for the aircraft section.

A lot has happened since then, many releases, and more rumors. The biggest news to 1/72nd Luftwaffe fans was

Eduard's release of their 1/72 Me 110E.



This is a ProfiPACK release and it contains all of the usual bells and whistles: photo etch, masks, and markings for some pretty cool

airframes. It almost makes me want to venture into that very tiny scale...almost.

In keeping with the smaller scale, and Luftwaffe stuff, *Zvezda* has released a series of Me 109F's – a 109F-2 and a 109F-4. The F-2 is available now and is produced as a snap-together, a very well detailed snap-together kit. Compared with the *Fine Molds* kit, this *Zvezda* offering holds its own. The F-4 should be out in the next couple of months.



Moving up the chain of scales, *Trumpeter* has just released a significant aircraft for all of you Cold War Soviet jet fans. Their 1/48 MiG-23M Flogger B hit the shelves in July, and is a very nice kit. It looks to be a down-scaled



version of their 1/32 scale kit. True to form, *Trumpeter* put a lot of parts in the box – over 260 parts in this one.

Also up for release from *Trumpeter* in

1/48 scale, is the MiG-21F-13/J-7. Is there no end to the Cold War Madness...? :-) The kit is due for release in October, and some outfits are already accepting pre-orders. The build up of a pre-production sample at IPMS/Philippines looks very nice. I might just have to get one and compare it to *Eduard's* MiG-21's. *Eduard* hasn't released that version yet, although some CAD shots have been released.

Also slated for release from *Trumpeter's* second cousin, *Hobby Boss*, is their 1/48 F-14D Tomcat. A scaled-down version of Trumpy's 1/32 F-14D kit, this one packs all that detail and parts count into this 1/48 scale kit.



Unfortunately, we know where

Trumpeter's Mad

Riveter ended up – at *Hobby Boss* in the 1/48th kit department. If the F-14A and B kits are any indication, this kit should build up into a nice representation of the Tomcat.

From *Kinetic* it looks like we will be getting an early Freedom Fighter. Yep, the Northrop F-5A Freedom Fighter is in the hobby shops right now. Make sure to call King's Hobby and reserve yours!

It's got some nice detail that some reviewers have called *Kinetic's* finest detail to date. The bonus is that the kit comes with markings for half of the world. Well... maybe



not half of the world. The markings cover six different countries that operated the F-5A and there are 16 possible markings options given the multiple

serial numbers included on the sheet.

For our big scale brethren, *Aerotech* released a resin kit of K5054. If you don't know what that is, you probably won't spend the \$200+ for the kit.

For those that aren't Spitfire boffins, K5054 is the first of the line – the Spitfire prototype. Cast in grey resin, and white metal, this is the first true kit of this aircraft. There have been conversions available in the past, and if you're a fan of esoteric aircraft kits in resin, this is the kit for you!



'til next time...

Randy

Automotive

In recent years plastic kit manufacturers have been frugal with their car releases. When we have gotten a new offering it has often been lacking in detail and missing a drive train. But with gradual market acceptance of higher prices, newcomers are challenging the old guard.



Aoshima seizes the spotlight yet again with their lavish new tool of the Lamborghini Aventador, captured recently at the Shizuoka Hobby Show by HLJ.com.



With movable doors and front wheels, a full engine bay, opening and closing movable engine hood, and a beautiful interior this one makes this super detailer's heart go all aflutter!

I'm not sure why they picked this subject however, since *Fujimi* just issued an admittedly less ambitious new tool of the same car a couple of months ago?



Mike

Editor's note: there is a YouTube video highlighting this release.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPcQM9VUwRY

Shipping News

With a very few new releases for this newsletter I thought I would let you know what kind of extras are in the works for your 1/200 scale Bismarck.

From *Artwox Model*, a deluxe wood deck and photo etch set including scale anchor chains. *Master Models* provides brass barrels for the main guns, *Blue Ridge* has a set of Swastika decals for the deck and *North Star* rounds things out with a 3D figure set for the Bismarck.

These "extras" are not cheap. After plunking down \$250-\$300 on the basic Bismarck kit the *Artwox* Wood Deck kit will run you right at another \$180.00.

Here are the upcoming releases. In 1/700th scale; *Samek Resin Models* - USS Texas Battleship (1942).



1/350th scale; *Trumpeter* Soviet Navy Project 6 Nuclear Submarine.



Airfix has the HMS Daring air defense destroyer.

Finally, *Trumpeter* is releasing an HMS Eskimo, a Tribal-class destroyer. I'm hoping this is the first of several British releases. Dare we hope for a Norfolk or Ajax cruiser in 1/350th? It sure would be nice to see.



That's it for this month. Happy modeling!

Rick

Editor's Note:

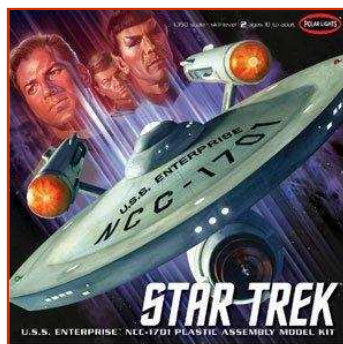
With the reintroduction of the new release column in our newsletter there was an empty slot or two in our field of stalwart correspondents. Someone to carry on Milton Bell's fine tradition of bringing you the latest and greatest in each of the modeling categories. Of note was our lack of a fearless reporter for *Figures* and *Science Fiction/Science Fact*.

I'm happy to introduce to you, the one and only "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts"...no, wait a minute. Let me look at my notes again. Oh, here it is! I'm delighted to proclaim that Jeff Forster has joined a remarkable group of correspondents that will be featured each month in your newsletter.

Mr. Forster will be reporting on the newest releases and odd rumors in the genre of Science Fiction/ Science Fact as well as Fantasy and Graphic Novel (that's comic books to me!) *Figures*. Welcome, Jeff!

Science Fiction/Fact & Fantasy Figures

Kits of interest coming out in the near future include the following from *Polar Lights*. C-57D forbidden planet saucer in 1/144th scale due out Dec. 2012. A Cylon Centurion 1/6th scale due in Oct 2012. Both are new kits. Robby the Robot w/ Altaira from Forbidden Planet in 1/12th scale is due out sometime this year.



Coming out in Oct. 2012 will be the 350th scale USS Enterprise NCC-1701 (TV). Something I am waiting for impatiently!

Moebius Models is releasing a new tool of "The Creature from the Black Lagoon" in 1/6th scale. Also coming out as a new kit will be a Dark Knight figure in 1/25th scale. This will be accompanied by the Dark Knight Batmobile in 1/25th scale. All these are due by Oct 2012.

For October is the newest item from Ironman. It will be the new Ironman Mk.III in a new pose, along with War Machine. Finally the *Pegasus*, Battlestar from Galatica, out in Nov. 2012. All these kits are new tools.

AMT is releasing its Deep Space 9 kit which is supposed to be a new kit but I suspect is a re-release of the original.



Aoshima is releasing its Fireflash (Thunderbirds) in 1/350th scale, Oct. 2012.

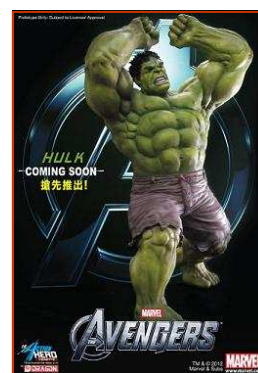


DML is releasing its NASA 747 w/Shuttle in 1/144th scale, no release date as yet. Dragon has released 2 new kits based on the Avengers movie, first is Ironman Mk.VII in 1/9th scale.

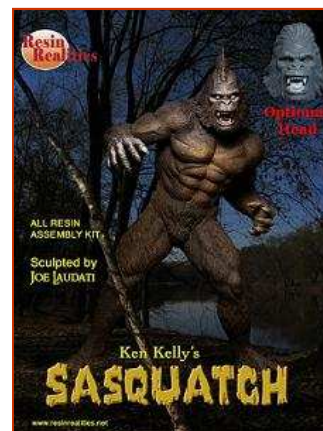
I received mine today and it has quite a few parts, all molded in color. Next is the Hulk in 1/9th scale. It does not have that many parts so it will be a simple build. Also molded in color, both run around \$65.00 each.



complete with the damsel sculpted so like the original actress. This 1/7th scale kit is \$175.00. Well worth the money for a fine resin kit.



For those of us into the Horror figures lines *Headless Horsemen* is offering "Der Schrecken von Amazohas", this is a German import of the Creature of the Black Lagoon, which happens to be my favorite movie monster. It comes



Another great kit to watch for is the Sasquatch resin kit. This kit is 1/6th scale and comes with two different heads to choose from. It comes from *Resin Realities*.

Jeff

P.S. We could still utilize the talents of someone who would be interested in reporting on new figure releases. Plenty of room on the ole masthead! (That's cool publishing talk!)



In the latest issue of...
IPMS/USA Journal

- **Fighter from the Funny Pages** - Creating the Blackhawks' Lockheed-inspired jet in 1:72 scale, by Dan Thompson.
- **The Last Jagdpanzer** - Building Germany's last tank destroyer using the Revell Germany kit, by David Bridges.
- **Lauda's Loser** - Building Tameo's BT 48 as the ill-starred 1979 ground-effects pioneer, by Wolfgang Meindl.
- **A Hero's Steed** - Building a childhood idol's P-51B Mustang, by T. Garth Connelly.
- **Loading up for the Landings** - The logistics of a sprawling 1:72 D-Day minus three diorama, by Mike McFadden.

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Next Meeting:
September 13, 2012
at
Austin Old Quarry Library
(7051 Village Center Drive)
7PM to 8:45PM



2012 Austin Scale Model Show
October 6, 2012
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For the latest info., please visit
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