



# SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of The Austin Scale Modelers Society

October 2014  
www.austinsms.org

## Finally Finished by Tim Robb, IPMS 34705

**I**nspiration: I have long admired models of WWI aircraft with all their delicate struts, wires, open cockpits, and exposed guns. They have long both fascinated and intimidated me, and I knew I wanted to build some. I have always considered a well done biplane to be the highest form of airplane modeling.

But I was intimidated by getting the wings on in proper alignment and adding all the rigging. My scale of choice is 1/48. Thirty years ago when I got into ASMS and started trying to complete my models to a higher quality level than all the "blow them up with firecrackers" quality models I built as a kid, there were not many 1/48 scale biplane kits around and what was available were mostly crude kits.

Then several years ago Eduard, and Roden started releasing modern quality kits and I started buying them, and looking at them in the boxes thinking "I have got to build some of these".



Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's 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 author. It is intended for educational purposes only. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



1/48 Roden Nieuport 28

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Phil Brandt (in memorium)	Jack Johnston
Eric Choy	Mike Krizan
Angie Forster	Mike Poole
Jeff Forster	Aaron Smischney
Russ Holm	Rick Herrington
Rick Willaman	

## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

GatorCon 2014, Lafayette, Louisiana 11.01.14  
<http://www.cajunmodelers.com>

Calmex XXIX, Lake Charles, Louisiana 1.24.15  
<http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html>

ModelFiesta 34, San Antonio, Texas 2.21.15  
<http://alamosquadron.com/>

### Local Club Meetings

Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading , King's Hobby, Austin, TX 11.01.14

Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas 11.05.14  
<http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com>

Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas 11.06.14

CentTex Modeler's, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, TX 11.20.14  
<http://www.centtexmodelers.com>

Lone Star Figure Modeler's, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, TX 11.08.14

### Other Events

Build N Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas 10.18.14

### 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 and his email address is:  
[www.models4troops@gmail.com](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.com)

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

### ASMS Officers & Chairperson

**Mike Poole, President**  
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**Tim Robb, Membership Coordinator**  
[tim.robb@mccoys.com](mailto:tim.robb@mccoys.com)

*Message from the Prez...***Mike Poole**

I've heard producing an annual model show is like herding a stampede. It's likely the busiest time of year for any IPMS club. The Capitol Classic 2014 event is now behind us and we can catch our breath and celebrate another smoothly run, successful show. This is our new show coordinator's first, and Randy Bumgardner deserves our congratulations for doing a great job.

We still seem to be plagued by technical bugs with the venue's public address system however, and it's been going on now for so long one of our guests thought we do it as a running joke. Of course, we'll go through the numbers at the October meeting but general attendance as well as registrations in most automotive categories was way up from last year. Plane registrations were down slightly and all else was about the same.

Speaking of stampedes, last month we had a special "Build-N-Bull" session at King's Hobby shop to assemble some of our show awards in-house. Despite some early glitches in our assembly line we were able to finish in about three hours, even taking a break for pizza.

We did have one battle casualty. It seems our newsletter editor was caught in a fire fight with a paper cutter and had one of his digits shortened, slightly. Despite this debilitating injury said newsletter editor continued to man his gun station under extreme friendly fire.

Also a side note. If you received a blood-spattered award at the show we deeply apologize and will be happy to exchange it. Jokes aside, we had fun, we saved some dough, and we now have a unique look to our category awards. It seems worthy for next year.

With the show out of the way we can now turn our attention to the final planning of our annual Christmas party. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 13th and will be hosted again this year at the home of Randy and Maureen Bumgardner. There have been some suggestions to upgrade the victuals and we will discuss that at the meeting. We've had a good year so why not celebrate it?

As members are aware, the Christmas party is also the time when we have a model gift exchange which seeds the White Elephant Contest for the next year. Several members have been kicking around ideas for some format changes like better quality kits, a secret Santa drawing, and so on. We'll open it up at the October meeting so be there to contribute.

Of course each time we meet we always bring something we've been working on or a newly acquired, such a deal, couldn't pass it up acquisition for the show-n-tell segment. We'll follow up with dinner, drinks, and plenty of war stories at the local public house.

There's a lot to talk about Thursday night so build it, box it up, and bring it!

*Mike*

(continued on page four)

So I schemed, planned, procrastinated, and settled for less. I built the old Hawk/Testors kit



of the Curtiss R3C racer and I built a Beech Staggerwing.

Those are biplanes but without all the true challenges since both airplanes have upper wings that mount directly to the fuselage without cabane struts and both have a single I-strut for the inter plane struts.

I also built the Accurate Miniatures F3F-2. Again, sort of cheating since the cabane struts are molded integrally with the fuselage halves making the alignment of the upper wing a piece of cake (POC), and the rigging wires are pre-sized and provided in the kit. And I did still



cuss, fuss, and struggle with the rigging on all three of these.

Finally, four or five years ago, I'm not sure how long ago really, I took the plunge and started on the Roden 1/48 Nieuport 28. I chose this as my starter WWI "true biplane" kit for a couple of reasons.

First, it has single flying and landing wires instead of double wires like the British fighters,

and second, the control wires to the tail surfaces are all internal. So the rigging is as minimal as it can be without building a Fokker D.VII. I could have built a Fokker D.VII and hope to someday but I wanted rigging on this one.

I read a review of this kit just the other day on Modeling Madness and the reviewer called it a great kit, a wonderful first biplane model, and a breeze to build. He must be a far better modeler than me!

**Building the kit:** The kit is nicely detailed and molded in a kind of soft, taupe colored plastic. The interior is very nice. There are some photo etched parts, including seat belts. It went together well. I finished up the fuselage, attached the lower wing and horizontal tail, and prepped



it for painting in good order.

Then I commenced with the painting of the model including the tail fin/rudder, the upper wing, and the undercarriage parts, which were still unattached. It was challenging and time

consuming masking a five color camo scheme, six colors including the bottom color.

When that was done, I glossed it up with Future and proceeded to decaling. I had heard horror stories about Roden decals. I found them all to be true. The decals shattered, silvered badly, and the white was translucent.

At this time there were no after-market decals for Nieuport 28's in 1/48 scale. I put the model aside to think on how to solve the decal problems.



Years later I picked it up again and now there



plied new decals.

The unit insignia and number decals did not size up exactly comparing kit markings to the



new sheet. I decaled over some, hand painted over silvered clear carrier film on some, and engaged in Solvaset abuse on some others. I improved it but it but my results are not as good as good decals that work well on the first try. Poop.

But now I am ready for the intimidating parts of the project, attaching the upper wing and rigging it. At this time I paused another year or so. I told you I find this intimidating.

One day, feeling both shame over leaving it lay for so long and determination to get it done, I picked it up again and started attaching struts. Over the course of two or three modeling sessions I devised a way to hold the model steady while turning it all different ways to get at the

strut attachment points with glue and get the wing on.

I pinned the model to a piece of Styrofoam, holding it in place with a piece of paper stretched tightly across the fuselage, and pass-



ing about eight toothpicks through the paper at various angles pinning the model to the Styrofoam.

With the upper wing now on, I was ready for the rigging, and this time the model sat waiting for only about a month before I got the rigging

done in two sessions, using brass wire for the rigging. Yay! The hard parts are done! This model IS going to be finished.

The next step was to put on the undercarriage and it was now I discovered I had lost the axle and tailskid parts. Poop. This is what we call a set-back.

Randy Bumgardner rescued me, providing me with dimensions of the axle part from a set of drawings that he has, and with that I scratch-built the part.

I used sewing thread wrapped around the axle and axle wing to represent the bungee cords that sprung the undercarriage. My replacement part may not be quite to scale put it passes and the bungee cord looks better to me than the kit part did. Now I put on the undercarriage as straight as I could and did the final three rigging wires there.

I put on the prop, the replacement tailskid, the windshield, and it was finished! I did it! The

next one won't be as intimidating.

Maybe I can build it quickly enough that I won't lose some of the parts. I think for my next few biplanes I will still stick to types with single flying and landing wires though.

**Critique of the kit:** In studying the real Nieuport 28 I learned that the four cabane struts are central to the structure of the airplane. They pass all the way from the underside of the top wing through the cockpit and stop on the underside of the aircraft.

The engineering of the kit would have been improved by doing the same thing. The cabane struts and therefore the upper wing would have been easier to attach in correct alignment, and stronger. That is criticism number one.

Criticism number two is the poor decals. Those



two things aside I give the kit high marks. The molding is crisp, the fit is good, and the detail is good, especially the engine and cockpit. The two shortcomings are not sufficient reason to bash this kit, particularly now that an after-market decal sheet is available. This is a good kit.

Go build a model!

Tim

Special Notice: Austin Armor Builder's is holding a model auction on November 5 at 7PM at the Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library. If you have kits you wish to donate contact Eric Choy at: [aabsco@gmail.com](mailto:aabsco@gmail.com).



### Monthly Program Schedule by Ron McCracken, Vice-President

Month	Presenter/Subject
October	Dave Edgerly/ Early Manned Spacecraft
November	Bobbie Wilson/ Fun With Textures
December	Quarterly Contest/ White Elephant

If you're interested in making a presentation at one of our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at: [ron\\_mccracken@att.net](mailto:ron_mccracken@att.net)

### Support Your Local Hobby Shop



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[www.hillcountyhobby.com](http://www.hillcountyhobby.com)



[www.hobbytown.com](http://www.hobbytown.com)

## ***Web At Night: Rewind*** ***compiled Jean-Michel D'Aubigne***

**T**he first offering for this month comes to us via a somewhat round about manner. Bruce Burden brought a paper model to our last club meeting for our amusement.

This specific model is a 1/96th scale Crawler/Transporter used to cart the assembled Space Shuttle to its launch pad. The model is available from Micro Artworks. They do high precision paper scale models. At a mere 11,289 pieces it really shouldn't consume that much of your time. There is an assembled model with enhancements of the company's website.

[www.microartwork.com](http://www.microartwork.com)

Do remember to have plenty of sharp blades for your hobby knife on hand before you begin.

**M**any of you may already be familiar with Mini-Art Models. This company has been releasing some nice 1/35th scale WWI armor and soft skin vehicles albeit with too many parts for some as well as a line of scale figures.

They also have a varied line of structure kits: farmhouses, ruined building, etc. On their website is 'How to' video on assembling and painting one of their structure kits. The painting guide is particularly informative and thorough.

[www.miniart-models.com](http://www.miniart-models.com)

**A**t the most recent ASMS model show, Capital Classic, I chanced upon a Russian SA-6 model kit for just the right price. Whilst doing a bit of interweb research on building the model I came across this fun little video on YouTube.

This is a video presentation produced by the Czech Army showing one of their SA-6 vehicles in-action. There is some nice footage of an A-10 Warthog in it's element.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLVeXDf3cdA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLVeXDf3cdA)

**A**nother offering via ASMS's Capital Classic model show involves the Texas Air National Guard. Tim Robb was honored for his work at helping to produce a complete display of aircraft that have been or are being operated by the Texas Air National Guard.

Major General Kenneth Wisian has instituted an recognition package for the individual that presents the best Texas Air National Guard aircraft at subsequent ASMS model shows. The recognition takes the form of a special trophy, a cash award and a General's Coin.

For those that many be unaware of just exactly what is a 'General's Coin' (as I was) these are tokens that date back to WWI. A commanding officer would recognize superior effort or meritorious service from an individual that might not otherwise warrant a citation or medal.

These coin are highly collectable and much sought after. In other words, it's really a big deal!

One proviso of this contest category is that your model will remain on display at Air Guard headquarters at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas for one year.

Some of you may be balking at having one of your precious gems away from home for that length of time. But if your display situation is anything like mine having somewhere elsewhere to display your work is a blessing.

The Texas Air National Guard currently operates MQ-1B battlefield reconnaissance aircraft as well as Block 30 F-16 C/D. For more information about aircraft types deployed and history go to:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas\\_Air\\_National\\_Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Air_National_Guard)

Did I mention that there is a cash award that goes along with this...?



*Jean-Michel*

## Lifelike Decals 1/32 Fokker D.VII Part 3 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS No.: 26266

Wingnut Wings has set a new standard in 1/32nd scale WWI aircraft. That is not news to model builders. One of the latest releases is the Fokker D.VII series of aircraft. The only thing this jewel needs is more marking options. Enter Lifelike and their exquisite artwork.

Inside a 6x9 zip-lock bag are two single sided A4 instructions. Four brightly colored aircraft are showcased. The decals themselves are on two pages by Microscale. They are in perfect register and opaque. Because they are made by Microscale you know they will react well with all the setting solutions.

The smaller sheet is 5 ½ by 5 ½ inches with all the yellow markings produced on that sheet. The larger one is 5 ½ x 8 with the remaining colors and markings included.

The first aircraft is a Fokker built machine from Jasta "Boelcke" in November 1918. It was possibly flown by Lt. Paul Blunk. What amazes me the most about Lifelike is their research and attention to detail. This aircraft is a perfect example in that they have the engine serial number, as well as, the airplane serial number.

Sure the serial number is easy enough but the engine, that is something else. Featuring a four color lozenge pattern with a white tail and nose. The one horizontal

stabilizer is black. The area around the cowling is green as are the wheels. The fuselage has the Berlin coat of arms making this a rather attractive aircraft.

The second aircraft is a OAW built aircraft. This is my favorite aircraft on the sheet. It is a typical lozenge upper surface but the fuselage is mostly white with black stripes and a yellow nose, wheels and horizontal tail. The wing support struts were a dark green. The fuse-

lage cross is a grey and not black like is normal.

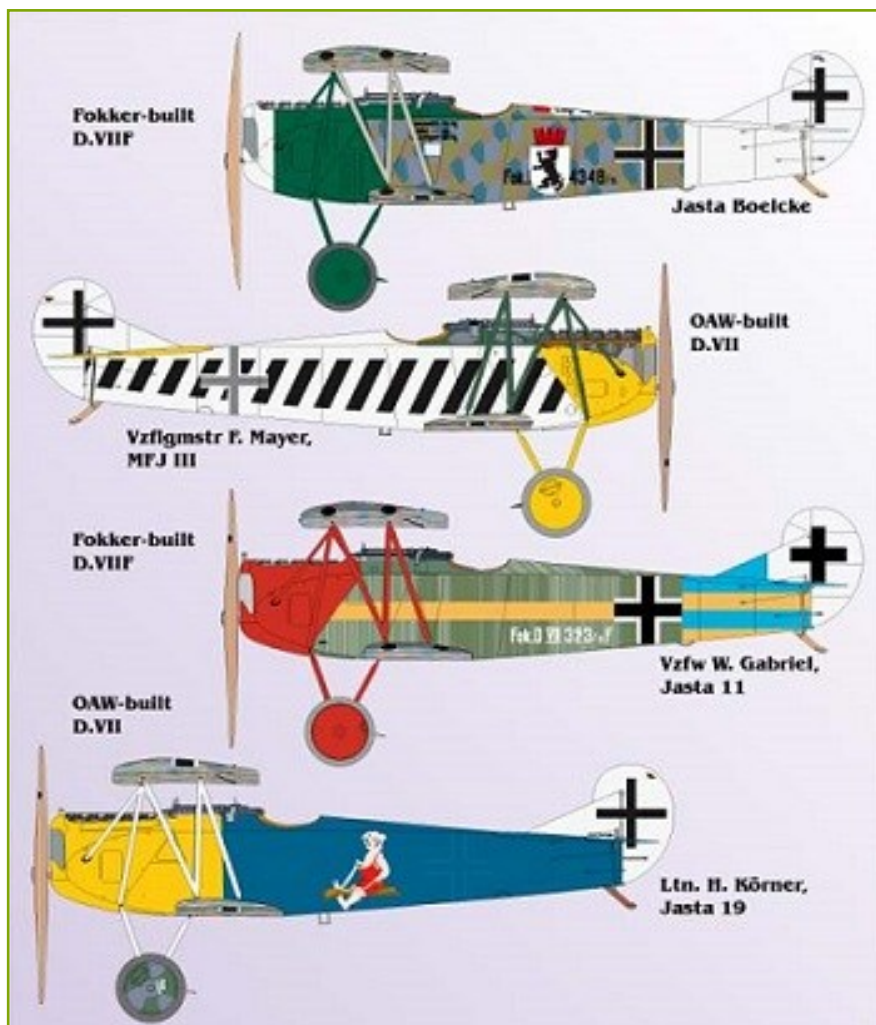
One of the things about Lifelike is that when they don't know something they give you the best educated guess. In this case the fuselage cross may be yellow or grey. They let you, the modeler, decide.

The much sought after D.VIIF with the BMW engine is the subject of the third aircraft. Flown by Jasta 11 by Vizefeldwebel Willy Gabriel in late June 1918. Blue and Yellow striped tail is quite striking.

If that isn't enough color for you there is a

yellow stripe down the fuselage to the red cowling and support struts. The wing crosses look to me to be the same style of WWII Luftwaffe with larger black portions than is normal. This is a colorful aircraft.

The last aircraft is pretty plain but the artwork on the side of the fuselage is 'interesting'. An OAW built aircraft flying for Jasta 19 would be eye catching on any modeling table. The fuselage is predominately blue with a yellow nose, but like I said it is more about the artwork.





On the side of the fuselage, which is devoid of national markings, is a 'Fat Boy on a Flying Carpet'. It is a huge cartoon looking figure. The struts are painted white which will set off the blue fuselage.

Researched by Lifelike, really colorful subjects, printed by Microscale for models designed by Wingnut Wings, what a perfect combination. There are plenty of choices.

The choice may be not be which one to do but how can you afford more Wingnut Wings models to use these decals on.

*Floyd*

P.S. After writing this review Lifelike contacted me to inform me that new information had come to light about Vzfw. Gabriel's aircraft.

It appears that the stripe was orange and not yellow as provided and that the number was slightly smaller than provided so they would be sending replacement decals to me and anyone else who purchased the decals. FREE of charge. Just contact them at [lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp).

### **Lifelike Decals 1/32 Fokker D.VII Part 4 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS No.: 26266**

Wingnut Wings models are just canvas for decal manufacturers. Why more manufacturers don't provide colorful options is beyond me.

Lifelike is one who provides some great looking options for the modeler.

Their latest sheet is designed for the Fokker D.VII, the ultimate Fokker of WWI. A common color for this sheet is red. So there are some really bright examples on this sheet. There are four aircraft included. The instructions are printed on two single sided A4 pages. The instructions not only gives you the color callouts but

some history and best of all how Lifelike determined the colors.

Lifelike is not like other decal manufacturers in that they don't claim to be infallible. They base their decals on the best information available at the time. If there is a question they let you know that in the instructions and often provide alternate decals.

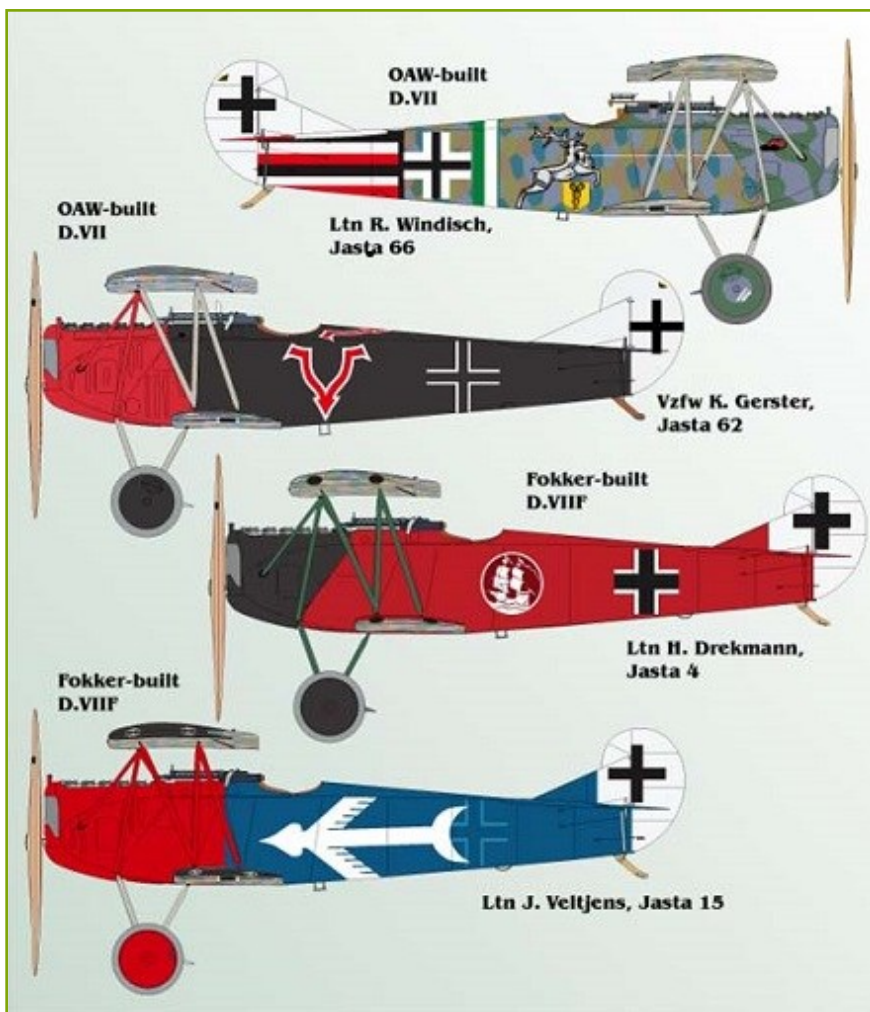
Also unlike other decal manufacturers, if they find newer information they print correction sheets and offer them for replacement.

Do you know any other decal producer that does that? That is a

level of customer service not found anywhere.

The decals themselves are printed by Microscale and are in perfect register. They are printed on three sheets. The first sheet is the largest at 8 x 5 ¼ inches. This sheet has red, black, yellow and grey on the sheet. The second sheet is 6 ½ x 5 ¼ inches. This sheet is black and white with the green striping.

The final sheet is a very small 1 x 1 sheet with some extra black decals that look like they are to extend



some national markings.

The first aircraft is an O.A.W. built machine assigned to Jasta 66 and flown by Leutnant Rudolf Windisch in May 1918. This predominately lozenged aircraft sports a big beautiful stag on the sides, as well as, a black, white and red striped tailplane.

The German markings have larger than normal white surrounds. The aircraft has a green, white, and green fuselage band to add that much more color to a beautiful aircraft.

The second aircraft is a gorgeous black and red O.A.W. built aircraft. Flown by Vzfw.Karl Gerster from Jasta 62 in November 1918 this aircraft has dark lozenged wings but the fuselage is predominately black with a red nose and a white tail.

It in itself would make an interesting model but the inclusion of a downward stylized white outlined red V in three positions gives it a splash of color. The aircraft also has a large windscreen between the guns, which are mounted in the high position.

A Fokker built D.VIIF is the third aircraft on the sheet. This aircraft is one of two BMW F model equipped Fokkers delivered to Jasta 4. Flown by Lt. D R Heinrich Drekmann flew numerous missions with Udet in this machine.

When I think back on Fokker D.VIIs I always think of red aircraft with black noses. This aircraft is a perfect example of just such an aircraft.

The aircraft has a white vertical tail. The wings had a four lozenge upper and lower surfaces. The aircraft has a 'low central' version of exhaust. The circular ship emblem is a slightly darker color.

The last aircraft is really unique. Another D.VIIF flown by Leutenant Josef Veltjens of Jasta 15. The wings are the traditional four color lozenge pattern but the fuse

lage has a red nose, blue fuselage and white vertical tail. The horizontal tail is blue with a white strip on each side mid span. The side of the blue fuselage sports a stylized Indian Arrow. What is unique is that the German national emblem is oversprayed in blue and barely visible. The wings are slightly smaller.

The Wingnut Wings models cry out for options. Here are four more colorful examples to add to the stable.

Well researched by a company who's philosophy is that their products are never done just because they

released them and colorful subjects just makes these decals a value for the money. Printed flawlessly by Microscale you know they are great decals.

As I was finishing this review Lifelike contacted me and informed me that the stag on Windisch's aircraft should be white and not grey so they would be sending out replacement decals with the correct color. FREE of charge.

Just contact them at [lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp) . Now that is customer service that you will not find anywhere else. That is the level of detail and attention to detail that you can expect from all of Lifelike Decals.

Both decal sheets are highly recommended.

Thanks to Lifelike for the review copy. You can only get them from them directly at <http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/> .

Let them know you read about it here.

Floyd



## **Wanted: Newsletter Articles! Any Size, Shape or Subject.**

Editor's Note: The newsletter contest continues in full force through out the remainder of this year. This contest encourages club members to send in stuff for publication in the newsletter.

Whoever submits the most stuff (published or not) over the course of 2014, will have their club dues paid for by our erstwhile editor.

Tidbits, reviews, build articles, websites, modeling tips, etc. all qualify as entries.

All submissions to :

[benmorton@grandecom.net](mailto:benmorton@grandecom.net)

## Silver Spoons by Mike Poole

Being an automotive modeler I've always admired the prewar classics of Rolls, Duesenberg, Cadillac, and Mercedes.

Monogram made kits of these cars back in the 1960's that are very detailed even by today's standards but I've hesitated to try building any. One thing that's difficult to get right on them is the chrome.

The metalized aluminum in these kits is just too harsh to look real so I've embarked on a quest to discover the best "show chrome" products available.



Currently, I'm experimenting with a product from Japan called Kosutte-Ginsan. It's similar in composition and application to S n J Polishing Powder but much shinier and more durable.



They recommend a gloss black base color but I find it a bit too dark for chrome.

By using plastic spoons and different base colors (silver, gray, purple) I've managed to get a range of shades to the chrome effect.



Like S n J it has trade-offs but I think it might work for some subjects.

Mike



## Know Thy Fellow Modeler by Yama Ploskonka

*Your name (include modeling nicknames):* Yama Ploskonka, ATX inventor

*Your birthday (year is optional):* February 17.

*Your day job:* owner, STEMgine.com

*Years spent building models:* 40 years (?)

*Are you a:* "reborn" modeler - one who returns to this hobby after some 10 years of hiatus

*Primary area of modeling interest*

(e.g. airplane, armor, ship, figure, sci-fi): All of the above at some moment, right now engineering structures – bridges, towers, with a strong bent for sailing ships and wood boats.

*Favorite era of your primary modeling interest* (e.g. WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam): Right now early 19th century tall ships and truss structures from the late 19th century to present.

*The number one reason why you like to build models:* Learning tools and techniques for future engineers and for business.

*What other hobbies do you have other than building models?* Electronics.

*Who influenced or inspired you to build models?* "Just happened". :-)

*Who is your favorite "master" modeler?* I admire Chuck Passaro's business models.



*Do you consider yourself a: model builder*

*Size of your unbuilt model collection: 100 kits or less.*

*Does your family (especially your spouse) have any negative opinion on the size and/or storage of your model collection? \_x\_ No \_\_\_ Yes*

*Best and worst excuse you told your spouse (or mother) for buying yet another model kit.: I seldom if ever buy kits. I do have a few I came across by circumstance. What I work on is scratch built. I once got a starship Enterprise that I made a gift of for my wife... It's still NIB.*

*What is the plan for your unbuilt collection when you die or give up this hobby? There's at most a dozen boxes there. No consequence, I guess.*

*First model you ever completed (include year you completed it): I guess a Viking longboat, c.1974?*

*The longest time it took to complete a model (include model name and make).: Been working on this 1/100 scale Eiffel Tower, already for 6 months?*

*Best model you built so far.: There was a biplane in my 'kid years'.*

*Worst model ever built/attempted to build.: Uh, I am glad I have terrible memory.*

*Modeling project(s) you are working on.: The Eiffel Tower thing and some ship models.*

*Dumbest thing you ever did (to your model or yourself) while building a model.: Using what turned out to be plastic solvent to clean a plastic model...*

*Worst thing you did to your model to express your anger and frustration.: Store it forever in hopes of using the parts...*

*Modeling story or experience you like to share with your peers.: I guess my laser cutting skills might come in useful to others.*

Yama

## How Many Is Too Many by Rick Cotton

**W**e've probably all asked ourselves this question. When does a pile of boxes stashed in a closet, or house, or unused airplane hangar go from a collection to a sickness? Well, it all depends on your point of view, now, doesn't it?

First, let's take a test. Pull out a sheet of paper and write down every unbuilt kit you have in your stash....yeah, me neither. Can't do it, there are way too many. But is it really too many?

Let's consider several factors. Models are a hobby, which implies that there is spare time to be consumed.

Do you have spare time? Is your day so jam-packed with activity that you are going from gulping coffee at 5 am to crashing on the couch and sleeping through the late-night news? If so, your collection may be too large. If you are trying to cram your entire hobby into thirty-six minutes on Sunday evening, after all the football games are over, maybe there are too many kits in your stash.

Another factor – money. Are you nearing retirement? If you are using the “I'll be on a fixed income soon, sweetie” argument with your wife whenever she eyes your \$150 heavy cruiser kit with the \$50 worth of photo etch, then you have not yet convinced her of what a great investment model kits are. Cheaper than golf, or whiskey, model building is something she needs not fear. Unless, of course, she wants that closet space back, or any new clothes...ever.

Finally, there is that huge concern of the large-scale modeler – space. I mean DISPLAY space. I know that Mattress Mack down at Gallery Furniture promised to “save me money” when I bought that glass cabinet, but he was may have misspoke.

I paid on it for years and it's now jam-packed full. That, after donating 14 models to the USS Lexington,



abandoned a bunch of them to the ex-wife's house, sold a few, and bought a second case at Goodwill (which is where I should have gotten the first one).

I even traded a four-foot submarine to a friend, and God alone knows where he will display that beast. We will have to rope it to the top of my car to take it to any shows. Where will they all go, after I finish them? Who knows?

How many times have you started a model, only to lose interest, re-box it, and move it to the dreaded Shelf of Doom? "I'll finish it one day", you tell yourself.

Not with all those shiny UNSTARTED goodies lining the wall, all the way up to the ceiling. One day, it will show up on Hyperscale as a builder's special. Or in your estate sale.

But, isn't part of the fun of the hobby just sitting in your model area, gazing up at the stacks and stacks of models waiting for you? If you have just finished something and are trying to figure out what you are going to tackle next...it's like being in the hobby shop (remember those?)

You pull the next box down, cough and gasp as you blow the dust off of it and crack it open. It's like Christmas! Oh, I forgot I stashed some resin in there! Oh, aftermarket decals! Oh, Frui!model tracks!

It's been there so long that you forgot, and the joy of rediscovering it is wonderful. You sit there and think and visualize, and mentally build the beast in your head.

You mentally inventory your paint stock...is it enough? Hmm, should I build it straight, or cut it open and go to town on it? Which markings? Do I need to Google pictures of it?

Of course, by the time you think all this stuff through, the clock has kept on ticking. Before you know it, it's time to shut down the shop and go to bed.

You put the box lid back on and set it down on your worktable. You'll get to it tomorrow. Of course, the show in Podunk is this weekend...maybe I'll get a kit or two there...

Maybe you do have too many kits. Maybe that collection is too big. Maybe you should get rid of some.

Nah!!!

*Rick*



### **IPMS/USA 2015 National Convention July 22-25 Columbus ,Ohio**

The International Plastic Modeler's Society 2015 National Convention website is available for your pursial. There is a lot of information there and it will be added too as the actual event approaches. There are a couple of things to bear in mind if you are planning on attending. The host hotel has a tendency to sell out sooner rather than later. The host chapter also has a couple of tours planned. One to the museum annex at Wright/Patterson Air Force base. Another is to Schmidt's Sausage Haus for a dinner.

As with most things, "he who hesitates is lost!"

[ipmsusa2015.com](http://ipmsusa2015.com)

## Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

Randy Bumgardner, Jeff Forster, Rick Herrington, Mike Poole,  
Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

### Automotive

**1** /12th Lotus 49 by Tamiya: This is the first F1 car to house the super successful Ford Cosworth V-8 and back in 1968 this kit was ground-breaking for it's detail.



Tamiya have announced they will reissue this classic big-scale kit with photo-etch parts and the 1967 factory markings. Although more detailed kits are now available from Ebbro and MFH in 1/20th scale, this is the only way to go if 1/12th is your thing. Look for it in November for around \$100 from your favorite retailer.



**1/25th Pontiac Ventura SD by Moebius:** This "Super Duty" 421-powered 1961 Ventura hardtop is a great example of the benefits of Pontiac's racing dominance during the early 1960s.

There isn't much information available on this model yet except that it's planned to have a full interior and powertrain. Considering Moebius's latest automotive offerings, we can expect some nice tooling, excellent part fit and impressive value for money. This is one to watch!

**1/24th Opel Admiral Cabriolet by ICM :**After receiving such praise for producing their Mercedes W34 kit in 1/24th, ICM has again scaled up another.

This time their 1/35th Opel Admiral has been the subject of the enlargement ray but with even more features. This model will add chrome parts, rubber tires,

and a full interior and drivetrain. It can be built as a prewar boulevard cruiser or take off the chrome and make it a German staff car.



it's out now and available for about \$40.00. Here's a link to an in-box review: [http://www.cybermodeler.com/hobby/kits/icm/kit\\_icm\\_24021.shtml](http://www.cybermodeler.com/hobby/kits/icm/kit_icm_24021.shtml)

That's it for now on the automotive front!

Mike

### Miscellaneous

**F**or those amongst you that prefer small scale armor subjects Academy is rounding out their 'Ground Vehicle Series' with three new additions. These are releases #8, #9, and #10, respectively and all are in 1/72nd scale: US M35 2.5 ton Cargo truck, M997 Oshkosh 8X8 cargo truck, and M1126 Stryker.

If these kits stay true to Academy's form, they should be a pleasure to build with just the right amount of detail.



Going the other direction as regards scale, in 1/32nd Revell is re-issuing the Renwall kit of the M42 Duster-Twin 40.

This is from the Renwall Blueprint Models series. One can only hope that the Sky Sweeper AA gun is not too far behind.





From Wave Models we have a sort of re-issue, the S.A.F.S. Snowman in 1/20th scale. This battle suit model is from the world of Maschinen Krieger. Originally released in 2010, this kit features new markings and a partial pilot figure.

If you check out the link you'll have more information than you may want on Herr Krieger:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maschinen\\_Krieger\\_ZbV\\_3000](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maschinen_Krieger_ZbV_3000)



If you are in a detailing mood, Pavla Models is producing an resin up to date cockpit set for Italeri's Martin B-57B.



There is a rumor that Trumpeter will be releasing addition marks of their Douglas Skywarrior kit in the not too distant future. On their schedule is an A-3B Skywarrior, an EXA-3B and the ERA-3B.

This later mark is the electronic counter measure aircraft.

From S&M Models (insert pun here) in 1/144th scale and in resin, is a Short Shetland flying boat. There is purported to be both a military as well as a civilian version with appropriate markings for each.

ICM Models has a 1/48th scale injected molded kit of the WWI Soviet night light bomber the Polikarpov U-2/Po-2VS. The kit comes with a detailed interior and

markings for four different aircraft.

Staying with Soviet offerings for a moment longer, Modelsuit has a VVA-14 Soviet experimental hydroplane. This kit is in 1/72nd and is injected molded.



Hasagawa Models has a new Egg Plane for your modeling amusement. This go round, it's the Space Shuttle/Orbiter with the 747 mother ship. These kits are limited production affairs but the kit does boast of markings for 3 shuttle's and two transport 747's.

For something completely different, Daiki Kogyo has the SV-001 Metal Slug for your modeling pursuits. This kit is a mere ¥26.100 and soon to be available. If you haven't done the currency conversion, that's about \$240.00 US.



Aoshima continues to produce the latest version in kit form of whatever the Self Defense Forces of Japan are issuing to the respective branch of their armed forces. This

release, in 1/72nd, is of the JGSDF Maneuver Combat Vehicle-prototype.



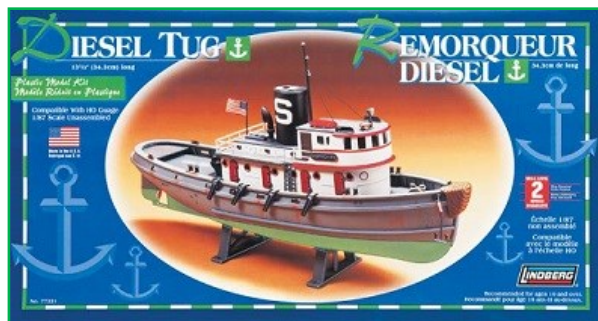
Not to be leave the 'red legs'/artillery folks out of the release schedule, from Ace Models comes a 1/72nd scale cannon de 155c, modele 1917.



And, finally from the recycling/reissuing crowd comes a couple of items.



First, from Moebius is the Moon Bus from the movie '2001, a Space Odyssey'. This is reported to be the old Aurora kit.



Lindberg is back with a re-issue of their diesel tug in either 1/87th or 1/82nd scale. (Depending on how you measure things, I guess.) This is an injected molded kit and is easily convertible to RC. This tug was widely produced during WWII with many of them spending their careers on the Great Lakes.

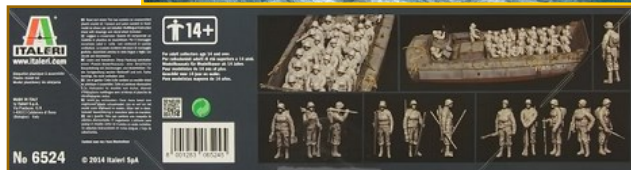
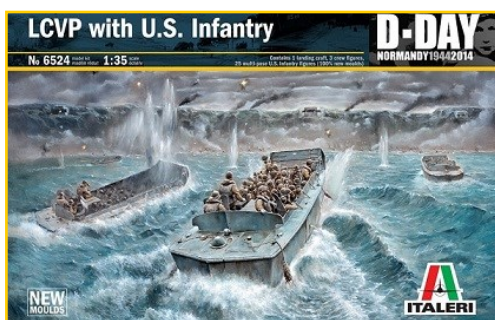
Golzar

## Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

Let's start off with something neat from Italeri, a 1/35 scale LCVP with full compliment of U.S. Infantry!

This is a pretty neat release and comes with



a full crew and soldiers. I would love to see this at one of the shows built up!

How about something a bit offbeat by IBG Models. KTO Rosomak - modern Polish APC. This saw action with Polish forces in Afghanistan and would make for an interesting modern subject.



According to the press release they will be making 4 versions of this APC, which will include a Med-Evac version. The nickname "Polish Green Devil" was given to it by local Taliban fighters because it was a tough opponent.



On to the "did we need two of these" category. Both Dragon AND Amusing Hobby have announced kits for the British heavy tank "Conqueror"

The Dragon kit is in the "Black Label" series that seems to be inspired from the game "World of Tanks". All we have is some rendering of it so far.

The Amusing kit is already in test plas-

tic and looks pretty good.

These big boys were built as an answer to the Soviet IS-3 tanks and served from 1955-66 and were stationed in West Germany.



Those are my highlights, till next time!

Aaron



## Aircraft

**H**appy Halloween everyone! Well, it's almost time for the old Tricks and Treats.

Now that Fall is falling and Summer is in the rear-view mirror, I trust we are building more and especially building more of the great new stuff hitting the shelves in the recent past. We've got a couple of cool things to talk about this month.

Let's kick it off with HpH Models. If you haven't heard, they are rolling out a brand spankin' new 1/48 Concorde. That's right! You read that correctly.

A really big Concorde is heading our way. It's set for worldwide release at Scale Model World in Telford, and it's very tempting to spring for a ticket just to pick one up.



Also set for a surprise release at Telford is the HpH Models 1/32 deHavilland Sea Hornet NF.21. What is HpH doing? Both are resin kits and the Sea Hornet includes some 3D printed parts. Those will be interesting to see.

KittyHawk has just announced a brand new 1/32nd scale kit for their line up. This time it's the Bell P-39Q Airacobra.

This kit is set for an August 2015 release, and I'm crossing my fingers that they didn't use the same drawing that Special Hobby used for the fuselage.



Not to ruffle any feathers, that fuselage just looks short and pudgy. Anyway, this looks to be an exciting release from KittyHawk.

Scheduled for a Fall 2014 release, Silver Wings out of Poland have announced a brand new Fokker D.XXI in

1/32nd scale. Silver Wings, known for their nicely crafted between the Wars kits, will apply their expert resin craftsman ship to this iconic little airplane. Watch for it soon.

Zvezda continues their roll with great kits with a new 1/48 Pe-2. I've seen the 3D renders for the kit and we'll see what the plastic has for us.

Based on Zvezda's previous aircraft offerings, this kit could be a great option to the MPM and HpM kits that are already out there. I believe the release date is set for sometime in May of 2015. That's not too far off ...Christmas is just around the corner...

Airfix is set to release a 1/72nd scale Dornier Do 17Z. The kit, scheduled for a November 2014 release (probably at Telford – seems to be the place to be), is an all new tool model of this speedy little German



bomber.. Perhaps a nightfighter version could be on the way. I'll have to ask Santa.

And last, but not least, is a kit that slipped under my radar. That's not hard to do when anything bright and shiny can, and will, distract me.

Anyway, Must Have! Models have released a new tool 1/48th scale Douglas A-26A Invader. From the reviews I've read, it stacks up well against the classic Mono-gram offering, and edges it out in detail and shape.



That's all for this month, I have to head out to Home Depot and pick up a few Christmas decoration. Move over Labor Day, it's the Christmas season!

'Til next month, go build some models...

Randy



## *Join International Plastic Modeler's Society/USA*

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

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer.

As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts for members.

[http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms\\_application.pdf](http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms_application.pdf)

Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA  
Dept. H  
PO Box 2475  
North Canton, Ohio 44720-0475

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

*In the latest issue of:*

### **IPMS/USA Journal May + June 2014**



- **50th Anniversary Award Winner Vincent Vanhuysee**
- **Planes Members Flew** - Two Huey Slicks at Phuoc Vinh, by Howie Belkin
- **Thunderbolt from the East** - Getting Caught Up in the Details of Zoukei-Mura's 1:32 J2M3 Raiden, by Tim Schubert
- **A Dive Back in Time** - Moebius' 1:350 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea Seaview, by Bart Cusamano
- **World's Slowest Porsche** - Applying aftermarket parts to make an accurate 1:35 prototype Maus, by David B. Bridges
- **Bluegrass Pacemaker** - Modeling Piedmont Airlines' pioneering DC-3 N47V in 1:72, by Dennis Sparks
- **IPMS/USA 2014 National Contest Rules**
- **IPMS/USA 2014 National Contest Categories**

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**Next Meeting:**  
**October 16, 2014**  
**Austin Old Quarry library**  
**7051 Village Center Drive**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**7 PM to 8:45 PM**

