



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

April 2017

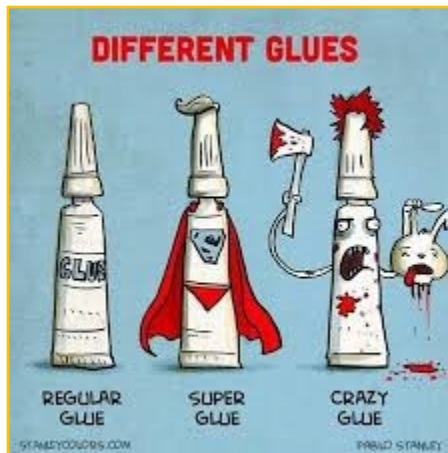
Adhesive Wonderland by Randy Bumgardner

In the pursuit of this hobby, we all use one tool that we can't do without. It's so ubiquitous, we can't even perform the most basic task in modeling, joining two parts without it. We all use some type of glue as we undertake the enjoyment of our hobby.

At some point, on some model, you will be reaching for the adhesive of your choice. We all have a basic understanding of what to use and when to use it. If we are unsure, we'll ask someone. Either online, in our favorite forum, at a club meeting, or at our favorite hobby shop.

I'm willing to bet most modelers don't ask, or even think, about how or why a certain adhesive behaves the way it does. For example, why is one adhesive perfect for a specific application and completely unsuitable for another?

We simply go on about our model building using whatever was recommended by someone we trust. Certainly, that's not a bad thing. However, the goal in writing this is to give you the knowledge to make these decisions for yourself.



And by extension, free up your time to have a beer and chat about the latest kit you just threw in your stash. And knowing is half the battle...

So, to begin our journey through this adhesive wonderland we must start with the problem. We want to join two or more parts. By and large, most of our modeling endeavors concern joining parts that are composed of similar materials.

[continued on page four]



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. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

www.austinsms.org

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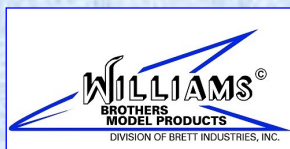
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Phil Brandt (in Memorium)

Eric Choy	Angela Forster
Jeff Forster	Russ Holm
Rick Williaman	Jack Johnston
Mike Krizan	Mike Poole
Aaron Smischney	
Rick Herrington	

Upcoming Events

IPMS/USA Region VI Model Shows

Houston ModelMania 2017, Stafford, Texas	4.29.17
http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11	
ScaleFest 2017, Grapevine, Texas	6.03.17
http://www.ipmsnct.net/	
SoonerCon 2017, Bethany, Oklahoma	6.10.17
http://www.ipmsmetrookc.com/soonercon-2017.html	
IPMS/USA National Convention, Omaha, Nebraska	7.26-29.17
http://www.ipmsusa2017.com/	

Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	5.04.17
http://alamosquadron.com/meetings.html	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	5.03.17
http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	5.04.17
CenTex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	4.20.17
www.ctsms.org	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	5.06.17
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Austin, Texas .	4.22.17
https://www.facebook.com/groups/LSMMS	

Other Events

Wings & Wheels, Pioneer Flight Museum	5.06.17
http://pioneerflightmuseum.org/news/index.shtml	
Build-n'-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	5.20.17

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.

models4troops@gmail.com

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Hokum Abatement Director,
Lifestyle Coordinator, and Master of
Ceremonies

Peanut Brittle

Randy Bungardner

Hello everyone and welcome to April!

I hope all of you are enjoying the warm temperatures and longer, sunny days. We've got a few things on tap for the meeting this month. Of course we'll have the usual business stuff to discuss, and the show-n-tell as well. In addition, we have the next installment of our bimonthly contests. This time we are featuring the Pat Rourke Memorial Contest.

For everyone that received a started kit from Pat's collection, now is the time to finish it up, bring it in, and enter it for a chance to win a prize. The model that finished in first place will also win Model of the Month and a chance to compete for Model of the Year. So, hurry up and build, paint, and decal your entries. Times a wastin'!

This month also brings us the latest installment of ModelMania hosted by IPMS Houston. Occurring on April 29th at the Stafford Center, this show is always one of the Big Three in the region. The vendor room is always hopping and the contest entries are always sublime. Unfortunately, your faithful President can't make it this year due to work commitments. I want to see lots of pictures of the show.

Last, and certainly not least, I want to thank Ben Morton, his wife Bonnie Chilton, and the rest of the editorial staff for the great job they accomplished with our award-winning newsletter. They have entertained and informed us over the last few years with a high quality publication that has been the *crème de la crème* of the region, if not IPMS/USA.

I guess that means Roy, Golzar, and the gang will also be headed off to greener pastures, but perhaps we can coax them into some guest commentary every so often.

With that I would like to welcome our newest editorial team, Rick Herrington and Ian Latham. I have the utmost confidence they will take up the banner and continue the ASMS tradition of award-winning newsletters. I have seen the prototype newsletter, and it should be an interesting change of pace for us. I'm sure everyone will be pleasantly surprised.

That's all I have for now. Go build something!

Randy



Fiddly Bits

Frank Seibert

With apologies to Lyle Lovett... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpM8FjO4Vko>

Kiss my ass. I bought a boat, I'm goin' out to sea.

Frank



Occasionally however two dissimilar materials must be joined. To address these problems, let's start by taking a look at how this works via the different types of adhesion.

Types of Adhesion

Adhesion is the tendency of dissimilar materials to cling together. At the same time, cohesion is the tendency of similar materials to cling together. By "cling together" I'm referring to the molecules or surfaces of the material to attract each other. For example, solids have high cohesive properties and generally retain their shape and do not stick to other surfaces, whereas gases have low cohesion.

Surface tension in liquids is a form of cohesion or adhesion dependent on the makeup of the liquid and its environment. In a drop, cohesive forces are dominant and, in a container, adhesive forces are at the heart of the attraction of the liquid to the surface of the container. Mercury is an exception, and that's a topic for another article. Suffice to say, you won't be using much of that in your modeling endeavors.

This is not a rigorous treatise on the science of adhesion. Much has been researched and written about it, and much more has yet to be. We are generally sticking to some general ideas with some science-y stuff thrown in for fun. So, you're probably wondering why we are discussing this. Yeah, great, plastic parts will retain their shape due to high cohesiveness. What about sticking them together?

Well, let's look at the types of adhesion, and see if we can piece more of the puzzle together. To join two things together, we need to enable the cohesive or adhesive forces to do their thing. Generally, we're talking about taking two separate entities and bringing them together along a joint boundary. There are a few methods to do that, and only a couple are of interest to us.

Mechanical: The adhesive material fills the voids and pores of each surface being bonded. The filling creates an interlocking matrix, thus bonding the materials.

The underlying idea here is that nothing is smooth, at least, not at a microscopic level. There are pores, voids, and scratches covering the surface. Stuff we can't see, but the adhesive will find, and it will creep into them on both surfaces.

A few types of adhesives use this mechanism. Cyanoacrylate and polyvinyl acetate are two such examples. This type of joint relies on adhesive forces to join the boundary between the surface of the glue and the surface of the material.

Chemical: The two materials form a compound at the joint due to ionic or covalent bonding. This type of adhesion necessitates a very small joint – on the order of nanometers and, as a result, can be brittle.

The strength of the bond is also dependent on the materials involved in the bond. We don't care about this mechanism. When was the last time this happened at your workbench?

Diffusive: At the joint, the molecules of each material are mobile and soluble in each other. This is particularly effective with polymers.

One end of the polymer chain will diffuse across the boundary into the other material. This creates an interlocking network of polymer chains. In this case, van der Waals forces (van der Waals force is an intermolecular force between two (or more) molecules) apply between the polymer chains as they do in dispersion.

Polystyrene is simply many (poly) styrene monomers chained together. And our solvent cements are just the ticket to enable this mechanism. The solvent actually dissolves the polymer chains allowing the soluble parts to become mobile on a molecular level. As the solvent evaporates, the polymer chains reform across the joint boundary forming a single, highly cohesive piece.

Dispersion: The primary force for adhesion are van der Waals forces. For polymer chains, the molecular structure may have varying polarity across the chain. In the trivial case, the simple molecule is polar with respect to the average charge density. In complex cases, the molecule may have areas of more positive or negative charge resulting in multiple poles. We don't care about this mechanism either.

There's a lot of chemistry in the above paragraph. Break out your old Chem 1A textbooks if you've forgotten any of it. I'll leave further research on this as an exercise for the student. And again, we don't really don't care about this mechanism.

Electrostatic: Conductive materials will swap electrons across the joint boundary forming an electrical charge at the joint. Well, again, we don't care about this. It's not applicable to constructing models.

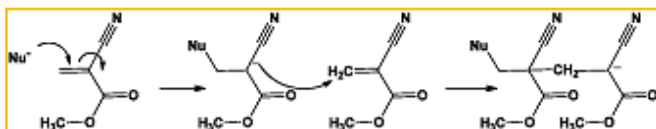
So, there are some of the major types of adhesion. There are more, and some variation on those mentioned above. For the most part, we are only concerned with mechanical and diffusive adhesion. Now that we've got the types of adhesion covered, let's see what kind of glues we have on our benches.

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgCVR2pjXc0>

Types of Glues



Cyanoacrylate: This is a very popular choice on workbenches around the globe. It's available everywhere, it's easy to use, and it's quick to use as well. Also known as superglue, this adhesive cures quickly and creates a very hard surface. The reaction is caused by the condensed water vapor on the surfaces.



In general, cyanoacrylate is an acrylic resin that rapidly polymerises (anionic polymerization) in the presence of water (specifically, hydroxide ions), forming long, strong chains, joining the bonded surfaces together.

This is an example of a mechanical adhesive and can be used when joining both similar and dissimilar materials. The joint holds up well to tensile forces. However, it is very brittle under shearing stresses and should not be used in application that will be subjected to any shear forces.

Because the presence of moisture causes the glue to set, exposure to normal levels of humidity in the air causes a thin skin to start to form within seconds, which very greatly slows the reaction.

Because of this, cyanoacrylate should be applied thinly, to ensure that the reaction proceeds rapidly for bonding. The viscous, or gel super glues utilize fumed silica as an additive to increase the viscosity. Other additives, such as rubber, give the joint a better resistance to shear stresses.

Cyanoacrylate adhesives are ideal for attaching photoetch parts to plastic or resin parts. They can also be used to bond detail parts of similar materials to a substrate (plastic to plastic, resin to resin). In other words cockpits, or attaching tools to armor, or bridge details on a ship.

When added to baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), cyanoacrylate glue forms a hard, lightweight adhesive filler (baking soda is first used to fill a gap then the adhesive is dropped onto the baking soda). However, this reaction also hardens the adhesive extremely quickly – much harder than the surrounding materials.

The reaction between cyanoacrylate and baking soda is very exothermic (heat-producing) and also produces noxious vapors.

Epoxy: Epoxy is also known as polyepoxide. It is a thermosetting polymer created by the reaction of a resin and a hardener, where the resin is an epoxide and the hardener is a polyamine. Epoxy resin and epoxy hardener are mixed together in different ratios depending upon the needs of the user. The more the hardener is added, the more time it takes to set. Generally, a one to one ratio is used with good result, and sufficient working time.

Similar to the cyanoacrylate adhesive, epoxy is also a mechanical adhesive that stands up well to many stresses and can bond both similar and dissimilar materials.

General uses for epoxies on the bench are for landing gear strut joins, or more commonly, butt-joints such as the wing to fuselage joint on the old Monogram bombers. Anywhere you would need a strong joint, this will work. A couple of brands that can be found almost anywhere are JB Weld and Loctite.



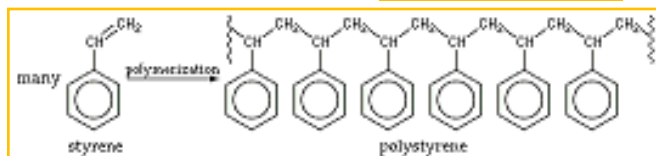
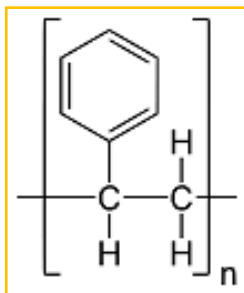
Solvent Cement: Solvent cements work by breaking down the polymer chains in the joining surfaces. As the monomers are soluble, and now mobile, the boundary is blurred and the monomers begin to reform the polymer chains as the solvent evaporates.

These chains form across the original join boundary, forming a network of polymer chains increasing the cohesiveness of the part(s). Solvent cements are individually formulated for specific plastics such as polystyrene, PVC, or ABS.

Speaking of polystyrene, it is a long-chain hydrocarbon that can be thousands of molecules long. It's formed by the polymerization of styrene, also known as phenylethene. It's properties are determined by short-range van der Waals forces.

When acting across the entire chain, the total force can be quite large. When heated, the chain becomes quite conformational and moves past each other easily. The inter-molecular weakness enables the material to be highly flexible and elastic. This allows the material to be deformed and molded quite easily.

When an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is applied to an area of the polystyrene, the area dissolves and the polystyrene breaks down.



However, due to its resiliency, polystyrene will reform as the solvent evaporates.

Thus, the application of a solvent cement will dissolve the polystyrene at the joint, the polystyrene chains are mobile and soluble in each other, and, as the solvent evaporates, the chains reform across the joint. This is an excellent example of diffusion. The styrene monomers, and shortened polystyrene chains, are soluble in the solvent and are very mobile.

Some examples of solvent cements are Testors tube glue, Tamiya Extra Thin Cement, and Gunze Sangyo Mr. Cement. Depending upon the solvents used, the evaporation rate may be faster or slower.

Gunze Sangyo Mr. Cement S and Tenax 7R are both "hot" solvents with high evaporation rates. It is necessary to have the parts lined up and in place before using them. Capillary action will draw the solvent into the joint. For larger joints, a lower evaporation rate is more desirable. This allows the modeler to align the parts as needed or develop a more thorough joint boundary.

Tamiya produces a solvent cement with an orange cap that is fairly viscous and slow setting, or you can use the Testors tube glue.

If you are feeling adventurous, you can head to your local hardware store and pickup a can of Butanone, also known as methyl ethyl ketone or MEK. Make sure you use it in a well-ventilated area and keep it away from flames.



PVA Glues: White glue is an emulsion of poly(vinyl acetate) and water. Poly(vinyl acetate), or PVA, is a polymer of vinyl acetate which is a ubiquitous adhesive and can be found everywhere from classrooms to woodworking shops.

It is generally used to bond porous materials, and can also in the manufacture of latex paint and drywall primer. Poly (vinyl acetate), when mixed with water, becomes a milky white emulsion that forms a strong, flexible film that adheres to many kinds of surfaces when it dries.



Because water is the solvent, these types of glues are easy to clean and have a low toxicity. Due to the low evaporation rate of water, the glue must dry before strength is significant and the project often requires clamping to hold it in place until the glue is completely set and dry. The glue dries clear and is somewhat flexible.

This glue can be used to secure clear polystyrene such as aircraft canopies, windshields, or any other clear application. PVA glues can also be used to attach photoetch to models. Elmer's Glue is probably the most recognized product, however Aleen's, Formula "560," and a host of others are all available in stores.

That wraps up our whirlwind tour of adhesives and the (very) basic science behind them.

The next time you reach for the glue of choice in your toolbox, you'll know what's happening within the molecules. Even better, you can solve your adhesive issues with the knowledge you've gained by reading this article.

Randy



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index.html](http://www.hillcountryhobby.com/index.html)



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Bi-Monthly Model Contest Schedule

The schedule and themes for the 2017 bi-monthly contests are as follows:

April 20



Pat Rourke
Contest

June 15



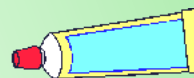
Procrastinators
Contest

August 16



Gundam/
Macross
Contest

October 19



Bondo
Special

December 21



White
Elephant

A special thanks to King's Hobby Shop
for their continuing support of ASMS.

Web At Night: Rewind compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigné

I think it is safe to say that Milton Bell has a fascination with the Spitfire. He never misses an opportunity to highlight that aircraft in whatever guise it may appear.

Case in point is this story and tribute to an Old Lady that flew the aircraft those many moons ago. The Air Transport Auxiliary veteran Mary Ellis returns to the skies to celebrate her 100th birthday.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4191976/Woman-flew-spitfires-WWII-celebrates-100th.html>

The latest issue of National Geographic magazine highlights the diorama work of Lori Nix and Kathleen Gerber. The duo has been creating unique dioramas for several years focusing on faux landscapes and gritty urban interiors that have gained them wide acclaim in both the U.S. and Europe.



Their Tiny Ruins are incredible dioramas and well worth your time

<http://www.lorinix.net/the-city/2ayjw40jtuahclyclr3ncti22i2w89>

From the PBS NewsHour website: World War I was a cataclysmic, world-shattering and world-shaping event.

Today we can relive the visceral human effects of World War I through a new exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which showcases myriad iconic images and art for and against the divisive conflict.



Some of the art on display includes the iconic image of Uncle Sam by James Montgomery and the *Flag* by Georgia O'Keefe.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/american-artists-captured-great-war-close/>

Many remember the Concorde. The first supersonic transport operated from 1967 to 2003. The British/French SST was the only commercial aircraft to enter passenger service.

What is less widely remembered are the Russian and American efforts at an SST. The Russians introduced the Tuplov Tu-144 with Boeing (with the 2707) and Lockheed (with their L-2000) entering the fray, to no avail.

This video from Curious Droid should get you up to date on these ill-fated aircraft and their development.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cG2cxdTfASw>

Our last item is not so much about modeling but noteworthy nevertheless. *Genius* is a new film by Brian Grazer and Ron Howard that will air on the National Geographic Channel (NatGeo) beginning on April 25. NatGeo is the same channel that does *Wicked Tuna*.

This four-part film chronicles the life of Albert Einstein with Geoffrey Rush as Einstein.

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/genius/videos/genius-teaser-trailer1/>

Au revoir pour le moment.

Jean-Michel



Renaissance by Ben Morton, Rick Herrington, Bob Bethea

As a casual observer, scale figures are having a bit of a renaissance. More and more companies are offering more and more figures. From injected molded to resin, the variety and scale of these new generation figures abound. There are more and more specific individual figure models available than ever before, too. No more generic poses like those once offered by Tamiya or Dragon.

There is also a trend toward more apropos poses: WWI figure vignettes with opposing forces locked in hand-to-hand combat. ICM, Mini Art, Arma Hobby, and Masterbox are all offering inexpensive scale figure sets often of unusual groups (e.g. Scandinavian riflemen with a pack reindeer) to enhance a diorama or as a stand alone vignette.

When I first encountered scale figures, they were, to say the least, rather crude and often had giant holes in their backs from the molding process. Think Renwal or early Revell and Testors figures. Those days are long gone.

Now it seems that just about any figure from any era can be had. The selection has gotten so good that should you want a specific, historic figure it can almost certainly be had. As an example Arma Hobby is marketing a 1/48th resin figure of Boleslaw Orlinski, a famous Polish test pilot for the 1930's. Want a Russian pilot standing next to his aircraft, it's out there. Or maybe a Russian, German, American, French, Canadian, or Kiwi pilot sprinting to his plane? You can get one of those too.

Rick Herrington remembers the tin soldiers he used to get as Christmas presents.

They were painted up in usually accurate colors. Rick first started trying to paint miniatures seriously in the late 1970's.

Working with 54mm metal figures, the preferred scale, he remembers one figure he was working on in a class on figure painting was of Joachim Marseille.



Figure painting and miniatures have morphed into a different animal these days. I'm not sure whether the hobby has enjoyed a renaissance or whether I'm just re-noticing the hobby that has been going on all around us.

With Andrea Miniatures, a Spanish company, having moved into our area and, through the auspices of The Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, has definitely focused attention to the hobby. It's changed with the advent of manufacturers such as Reaper which produces 25 mm figures for war gaming, some in metal and some in plastic.

Rick echoes the sentiment about the plethora of figures available. Most of the figures currently produced are out of resin and plastic and they vary in subject matter. Almost any subject can be found now to fit whatever use you need, from Chasseurs to US Marines in Grenada.

With a little imagination, stock figures can be converted to other subject matter. Ben Morton recently produced some fine replicas of Fallout 4 video game characters by re-purposing some Dragon stock figures to do so.



Although I still use figures to augment my vehicles, tanks, and airplanes to give the model a sense of scale, they can be fine stand-alone models in and of themselves.

Texas is blessed with some of the finest figure painters in the nation, and fortunately, they are willing to share their knowledge with those less talented than they are. Among them is Ian Candler and Bob Bethea.

With the huge amount of subjects available to the painter, there's something out there to inspire you to enjoy this genre of our hobby.



Dreams of Long Ago by Ian Candler

Bob Bethea recalls there was a time when all 1/35th scale figures were molded out of plastic. These figures were produced by the 1/35th scale tank companies such as Tamiya, Italeri, and Bandai, to supplement their armor kits.

The figures were rudimentary, crude, and usually of a shorter Asian bone structure. As they were the only game in town, we loved the opportunity to work up dioramas and set the scale and scenario of our tanks.

Then came Verlinden with their specialty, resin figures that completely changed the market. Some were good, some not, but all were better than the available plastic items. Warriors copied their business plan by producing multiple issuances per month and massive advertising. People loved the sharper detail, better anatomy, and greater choice of subject, despite the significantly higher cost.

Plastic companies responded with their own new business plans.



Tamiya continued to occasionally issue marginally better figure kits, but Dragon went all out with lots of new figure kits.

The first were typically crude, but they progressively improved the quality of newer releases. Just like resin figures, the quality of the kit depends on the skill of the sculptor. Some of theirs were better than others. Their several Fallshirmjager kits were fantastic, others not so much. Finally, we had European body shapes for European subjects. The major complaint has been the poor facial features, but more on that later.

MiniArt, from the Ukraine, jumped in with a lot of very nice, in scale, well proportioned figure kits in action poses. The heads are sometimes not so hot. Masterbox also broke into the market with lackluster figures, most of which scaled out closer to 1/32 than 1/35. As time passed, they constantly improved detail and scale and now they are a contender in the plastic figure market. Faces can be a problem here, too.

Italeri has not produced new figure kits in quite a while and theirs are uniformly very poor and should be avoided.

The competition has finally gotten to Tamiya and their latest tank kits contain excellent crew figures which compare well with their resin brethren. Even the faces are very well sculpted and cast. The best are in the kits of the SU76, the M10 tank destroyer, the Easy 8 Sherman and the new Panther D. All are very useful and paintable right out of the box.



Most of the newer plastic figure kits have excellent weapons and acceptable bodies but poor faces. There is light at the end of this tunnel, as Hornet of Great Britain makes substitute resin heads with excellent facial features and almost any modern headgear along with hatless heads. They improve almost any plastic figure to acceptability.

ICM has recently started improving their figure kits as well. Like the others, their first kits were crude, but recent releases are terrific. Their newer 1/48th scale figures to accompany airplanes are my favorites in that scale. They recently started a line of WWI figure sets with fantastic weapons sprues (that are available separately) and very good torsos. The faces are okay if you do a little surgery on them, but a Hornet head makes the figures top notch.

Zvezda also started poorly, but several years ago improved their sculpting immensely with several very imaginative sets such as their Russian Sniper team and their machine gun team. Their heads are also poor, but Hornet heads save them.

I just bought and built the ICM WWI US marching infantrymen and, after some work on their faces, I am most impressed and will be painting them for a vignette soon. I love resin figures for their superb detail and sculpting, but sometimes you can only find what you want in plastic. Don't be afraid to use them with a substitute Hornet head and you'll have figures of which to be proud.

Scale figures have progressed from rudimentary facsimiles of people to beautifully detailed representations of real people.

The variety of options available can be daunting for the new figure modeler as well as the more seasoned among us.



Dr. Who by Rick Herrington

Bob Bethea has often remarked to those just entering this aspect of our hobby to select a figure that really interests you. It will aid immensely in your completing the project.

With the quality and quantity available, scale figures not only add a sense of scale to your project but are excellent projects themselves.

Ben



Fred's Fun Facts April 20

Manfred von Richthofen shoots down his 79th and 80th victims, his final victories before his death the following day in 1918.

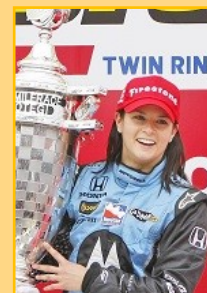


In 1611, the first known performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth is held at the Globe Theatre in London.



The first mobile home (horse drawn) is used on a journey from London to Cyprus on this day in 1879.

Danica Patrick wins the Indy Japan 300 in 2008. She becomes the first female driver in history to win an Indy car race.



Steve Marriott died on this day in 1991. He is one of the founding members of Humble Pie along with Greg Ridley and Peter Frampton.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rxz_qNx1q8W

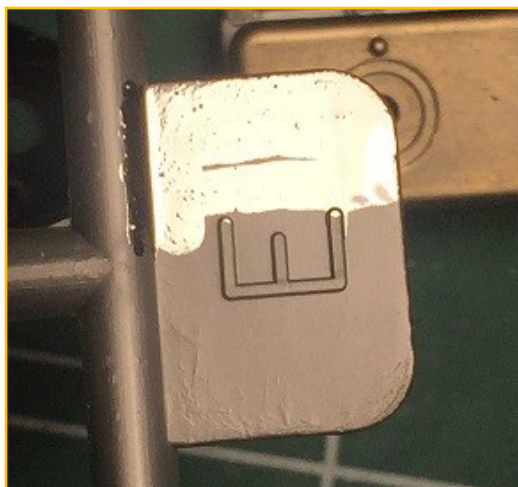
[Inspired by Fred Horky, Information by Wikipedia]

Molotow Cocktail by Dave Edgerly

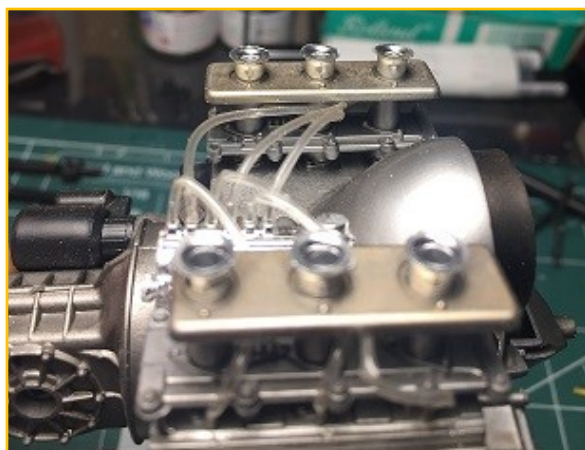
This is a quick review on the Molotow Liquid Chrome paint pens. These are available at King's Hobby Shop in Austin.



As can be seen in the photos, the results are rather amazing.



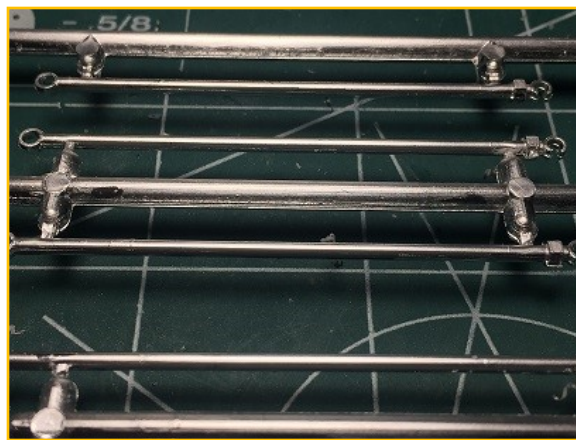
I am assembling a 1/12th scale Porsche 910/6. The intake trumpets are molded in dark grey but the car that I am building had highly polished ones.



I purchased the 4 mm Molotow Liquid Chrome paint pen to give it a try. These are the results. Quick and easy! Excellent results in my opinion.

The suspension components are next up as they are Chrome plated by Tamiya but the molds are slightly misaligned. So, after cleaning that up, the factory plating is gone.

These suspension arms have had the seams cleaned up and the Liquid Chrome applied. I think this product is great.



Just remember that it does take about an hour to dry to the touch. The paint pens come in 1mm, 2mm and 4 mm tips. Cost is \$11.99, \$12.99 and \$13.99, respectively.

Dave



[Editor's Note: I have included a short video from Scale Model Workbench that shows the Molotow paint pen in action. As Dave mentioned, these paint pens look to be awesome. Maybe we *can* say bye-bye to Bare Metal foil?]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUzXqg1U4d4>

Pioneer Flight Museum Wings & Wheels



Old Kingsbury Aerodrome

<http://pioneerflightmuseum.org/news/index.shtml>

2017 IPMS/USA National Convention



Omaha, Nebraska

<http://www.ipmsusa2017.com/>



IPMS/USA NEWS

The minutes for the executive board meeting in March are posted. Everything from recognition pins for long time members finally being available to some fun thoughts on finalizing the search for a new forum administrator. (I missed the part about them looking for one.)

http://www.ipmsusa.org/executive_board/minutes/2017/minutes_17_03.shtml

IPMS/USA has been providing liability insurance, on our behalf, for sanctioned chapter contests. The insurance provider, after some arm-twisting, has also done the same for club meetings. I think it's liability insurance for club meetings. There is precious little in the way of detail in these minutes and no information at all on exactly what the extent of the insurance coverage is.

Another interesting item is the membership recruitment program. As mentioned on the website, "One time that clubs have access to a large audience all at one time is at a local contest. If clubs could sell national memberships at the show at a reduced rate, more people might join the national and then be more inclined to join the local club as well."

At an IPMS/USA recognized model show, currently chartered Chapters may sell new, yearly IPMS/USA National Memberships at a discounted rate of:

- ☐ \$25.00 for an Adult
- ☐ \$12.00 for a Junior

The local host club collects the completed forms and payment, then sends all that to IPMS/USA for processing."

http://www.ipmsusa.org/member_services/membership_recruitment.shtml

Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

As is our wont, ASMS held an informal model contest at our March club meeting. To encourage members to bring in their completed work, the winner of each monthly contest is afforded the opportunity to return in December and compete for Model O' The Year honors. Now this is where it gets interesting, the winner of the yearly award also receives a gift certificate to King's Hobby Shop for their shopping enjoyment. On with the show!

Roy



P.S. As this is my last foray with this newsletter, så länge och farväl. I am returning to Sweden to pursue some other interests...mostly keeping warm.



Ian Latham didn't have many nice things to say about Hasegawa's 1/48th scale P-38. Aside from poor fitting booms and crappy decals, this is an easy build.

On the other hand, Bruce Burden showed his Pak Krote from Wave. Bruce notes that the 1/20th scale kit has some nice detail but does require the odd bit of filler here and there.



Mike Krizan lugged in his 1/24th scale 'Tiffy.' The Airfix kit has some scratch built items and photo-etch added.

Mike noted that the kit supplied gear struts are too weak to carry the weight of the model and had to be re-enforced. He also lamented the poor fit of the nose cowl.





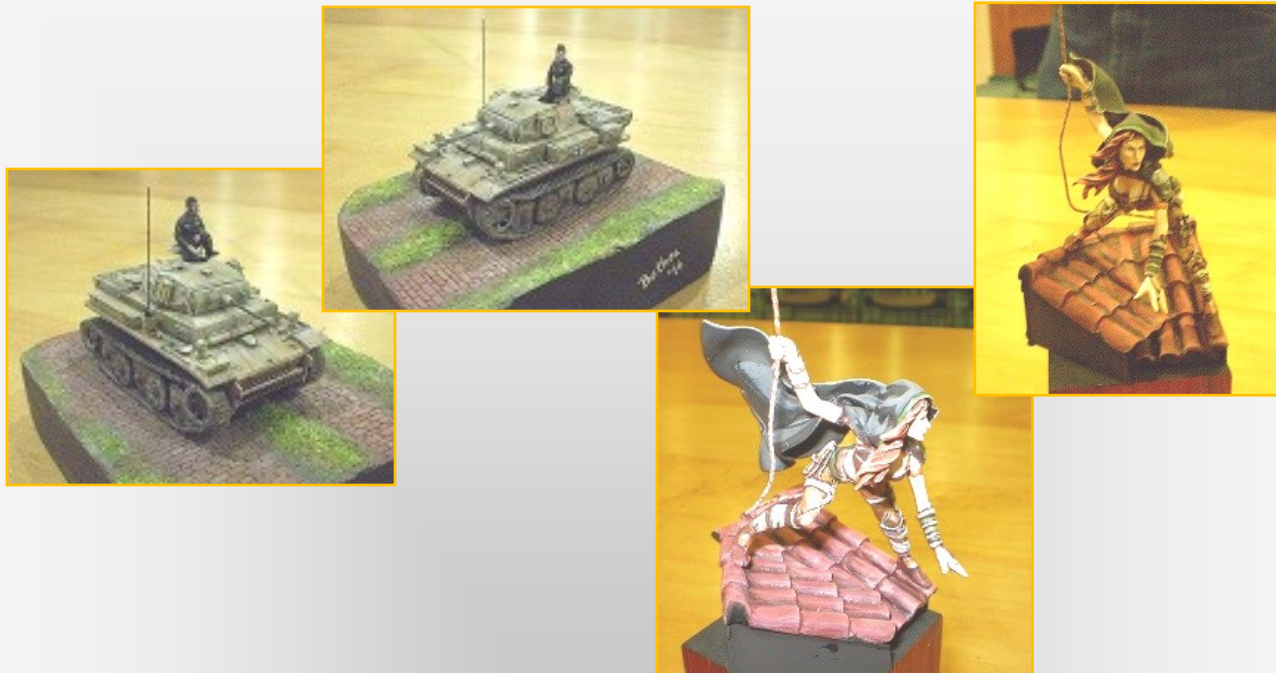
To say that Rick Herrington has varied interests when it comes to scale modeling may be an understatement. He arrived with a 1/700th scale Trumpeter kit of the Z-7 (German destroyer) with added photo-etch from Gold Metal.

The waves are fashioned from facial tissue, a technique that Rick plans to demonstrate at a future meeting. He also brought along a 1/550th scale Aura ship from Bandai. The *Zelerna* has some added crew members that are actually 1/350th scale. But this is a sci-fi subject so maybe the crew is just a bunch of husky lads.

Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner has not given up on Gundam kits. The kit on the left is the RGX-79S G.M. Sniper Mk II, the one on the right is the Gat-XO I Duel Gundam. Both of these Bandai kits are in 1/100th scale. That flowery thing in the middle is a 1/144th scale N8-666 Kshatriya, also from Bandai.

Ziggy noted that the G.M. Sniper is the best fitting Gundam kit he has built with good color separation for the parts and sprue attachment points that are hidden after assembly. Do be aware that the Kshatriya (flowery thing) is way too top heavy. But the anime version does employ the latest in psycho-brain technology.





Bob Bethea must have built every one of the 1/72nd scale Panzer II kits that Flyhawk has released. But who can blame him? These are wonderful kits. The added figure is from Caesar. Among Bob's other offerings is this 54mm Pale Thief from Andrea Miniatures.

It is advised to be on the lookout for Nazi crop circles. The UFO (1/87th) is in late war Luftwaffe markings. Bob added the acrylic rod and HO scale corn rows. The 1/35th scale Landvasserschlepper is from Bronco with some Masterbox figures. The landthingy has some cut down resin bumpers and the heads on the figures have been replaced with some from Hornet. The water effect is a Woodland Scenics product with gloss acrylic medium. No idea where that shark came from.





Milton Bell had a couple of 1/72nd scale aircraft on display. The first is the Tamiya Seiran. This is the aircraft that was developed by the Japanese during WWII. The idea was to carry this plane aboard a submarine and bomb the Panama Canal and west coast of the United States. The rear canopy was vacu-formed due to fit issues. The P-51B is the Academy kit built out o' box.



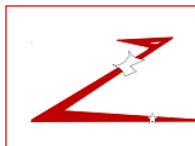
The Northrup F-5A is the 1/48th scale Classic Airframes kit. Tim Robb built it just to see if it could be done. (If you have ever built a Classic Airframes kit you know of that which he speaks). Tim notes that the resin bits fit really well and all that's needed to produce a nice, finished model is some patience. The instructions on these kits tend to be a bit vague. The markings are from Azrtec Decals and depict an aircraft of the Botswana Defense Force. This particular one is designated OJ I. It represents an aircraft specifically adorned for a visit by O.J. Simpson. Allegedly! Either way, Tim did win **Model O' The Month** for his efforts. Congratulations, Tim!

Model O' The Month



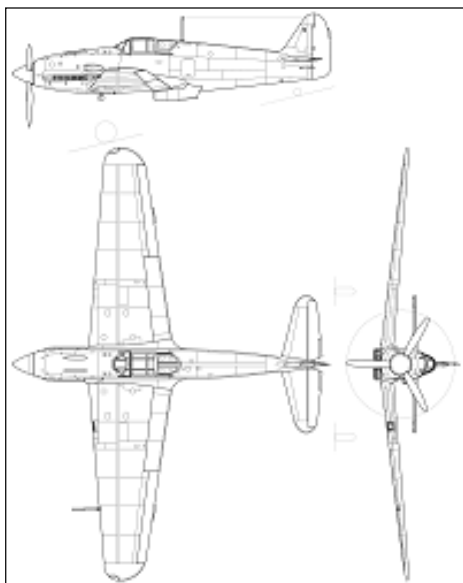
Lifelike Decals 244th Sentai by Floyd Werner Jr. IPMS/USA # 26266

The 244th Sentai (squadron) has some of the most colorful markings of all the Japanese aircraft. They took part in the war beginning in 1942 in the Defense of the Japanese Homeland from Allied bombers, particularly the B-29.



They flew the Type 97 fighter and the Ki-61 Tony and markings for both aircraft are provided on three of the four new decal sheets. The fourth decal set is exclusively for the Ki-61 Hein (Flying Swallow).

Lifelike Decals produces the most accurate decals that I've seen. Even when they aren't sure, they let the modeler know what is known and what is based off of educated information. In the event that they are wrong they release correction decals. I've never seen anyone do that before.



These sheets come in zip-lock bags to ensure they are safe from moisture. The instructions are printed in full color on two single sided A4 sheets. The profiles are on the one page and then notes, colors, and stencils are discussed on the other sheet. There are two other A4 sheets that discuss the information about each aircraft. The references that were used to develop the sheets are included so you can make your own determination, if you wish.

The actual decals are printed by Microscale. So you know they work with the Microscale setting solutions. The colors are vibrant. The decals are still thin with minimal carrier film.

Lifelike has never been shy about making educated guesses when it comes to colors or markings. They provide the modeler with the references and the logical reasoning behind the color options. Often times they will offer a variety of decals so the modeler can decide.

Part One:

The decals are printed on three sheets. The first, and largest, contains all the individual aircraft markings and stencils. It is printed on a 5 3/4 x 8.5 sheet of decal film. The second one has all the red markings on a 6 x 4 1/2 sheet. The third one contains all the yellow markings which include the prop tips and identification stripes on a 6 x 1 sheet.



The first aircraft belongs to Captain Kobayashi, the Commander of the 244th, in January 1945. This is the most colorful aircraft on the sheet and probably the most famous of the 244th. The aircraft is a natural metal airplane with green splotches. What sets this aircraft apart is the horizontal blue and white line. The vertical Chutai band is red.

The 244th Sentai red tail and unit markings just adds another splash of color. The kill markings on the side of the aircraft are white and there are markings for two different time periods.

The second aircraft is another aircraft from Captain Kobayashi in March. This aircraft carried external fuel tanks in grey, not the incorrect yellow tanks. This aircraft carried 10 or 14 kill markings below the cockpit. Both options are provided.

The tail carries the inscription "Be sure of Victory". The prop spinner also carries the green splotches. This particular aircraft has red identification markings on the wing leading edges, not the usual yellow. That makes this aircraft really stand out.

Lieutenant Takashima's aircraft is the third Tony on the sheet. This plane has blue horizontal and vertical stripes. This aircraft was handed over from Captain Kobayashi to one of his students and, as such, the aircraft carries the 14 kill markings. All the armament was removed from this aircraft at this time.

Corporal Ishioka does not feature the common red tail but has the Sentai marking in red instead. Since the rudder is a replacement, the Sentai markings don't quite line up. This is supplied as a unique, stepped decal. The spinner has a yellow tip, which is uncommon.

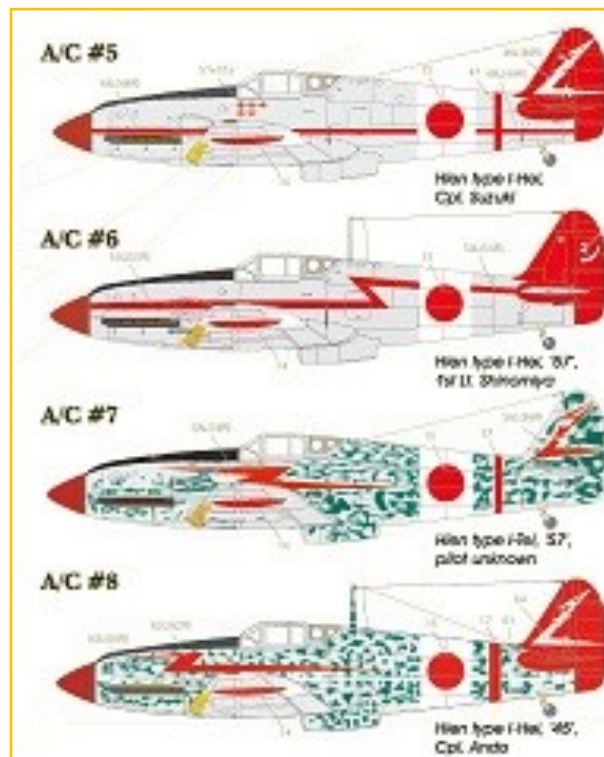
A lightning bolt is applied to the engine cowling back to the cockpit. The green splotches are smaller in color than the previous three aircraft. The aircraft did carry the Defense of the Homeland white bands around the fuselage and wings, but they are toned down with green splotches on the upper surfaces.

Aircraft five is a natural metal airplane with the Home Defense white bands applied to the fuselage and wings. The red Sentai tail is included as are a lower red horizontal stripe and vertical stripe. The yellow identification markings on the front of the wing adds a splash of color. Five kill markings are included below the cockpit, making this quite a colorful aircraft.

The sixth aircraft is another natural metal airplane. This time the pilot is 1st Lieutenant Shinomiya in December 1944. This Tony has the Home Defense white bands and red Sentai tail. The red lightning stripe runs from the tail to the nose. This aircraft was used in a body attack (ramming) to down a B-29 and landed with half the wing missing.

A Hein Type 1 is the seventh aircraft. This aircraft has green splotches in conjunction with the white Home Defense bands. A red lightning bolt is in front of the Home Defense band. The tail is not the typical red but it has the Sentai markings on the tail in red. The upper wings have green overspray.

The last aircraft on the sheet is of Corporal Ando in January 1945. A red lightning bolt is on the sides above a very thin white band. The red tail completes the white Sentai marking making this a very interesting aircraft.



The aircraft on this sheet are quite colorful and that accompanied with a very sleek machine, makes this a winning sheet.

This is the first of three 244th Sentai markings from Lifelike. They will work great with the Hasegawa and Tamiya kits. They are thoroughly researched by Lifelike and expertly printed by Microscale. This sheet is a great value for the money. You can't go wrong with this or with the other decal sheets in this series.

Part Two:

There are two decal sheets. The larger one is 7 1/4 x 6 inches and contains all the markings and most of the stencils. The second sheet is smaller and consists of the red and white markings. Also, there are some white outlines that will require you to add the number markings over the white. This sheet is printed on 6 x 2 3/4 inches.

The aircraft on the sheet cover the Ki-27 Type 97 and the Ki-61 Tony. The first aircraft is a Ki-27 from 1942. The aircraft is painted in light greenish gray with white bands around fuselage and wings. The blue forward cowling and red and blue fuselage bands gives just a splash of color to the aircraft.

The second aircraft is a natural metal airplane flown by Captain Kobayashi in February of 1945. This aircraft is missing its antenna mast. The red tail has the Sentai marking. The yellow leading edge band is on the fuselage. This is broken up with a red patch over the guns.



The third aircraft is another Tony of Captain Kobayashi. This aircraft is a late version of the Tony which is painted in Yellow Green #7 which makes for a very unique looking aircraft in the Sentai. The red tail and white Sentai markings along with the white bands and kill markings makes this a colorful machine.

The fourth plane was flown by Corporal Suzuki in January of 1945. This airplane wears what I think is the quintessential Tony markings. Dark green splotches over a natural metal airframe with white bands around the fuselage and wings. It has a yellow band around the fuselage in addition to the yellow leading edge markings on the wings.

The next Ki-27 is another one from early 1943. This aircraft was typical for the Sentai and the aircraft of the time. It is light greenish gray in color with the white bands around the fuselage and wings. The stylized Sentai marking is in red on the tail. A yellow fuselage band identifies this as part of the 3rd Chutai.

The aircraft of Corporal Nakano is a Type-1 Otsu Tony. It was flown in late February 1945. This aircraft was used to successfully ram a B-29. The all green aircraft has the Defense of the Homeland white bands and red tail. Kill markings are below the cockpit.

Aircraft seven is another Tony in natural metal. White bands are present on the fuselage and wings. An all red tail with Nakano on the tail adds a splash of color to the aircraft. This aircraft rammed a B-29 by "riding over" it. I'm assuming that it chopped up the B-29 with its propeller.

The last aircraft was a Type-1 Otsu of Sergeant Itagaki in early 1945. This aircraft is very similar to the previous one. This one actually survived two ramming attacks on B-29s.



Part Three:

The actual decals are printed on three sheets. The largest sheet contains the majority of the marking options in red, white, and blue. It measures 8 1/4 x 5 3/4. The second sheet is a 6 x 2 inch sheet that features more red and white markings. The white backgrounds are provided for the aircraft numbers.

The final sheet is a little 6 x 1 inch sheet that has all the yellow options, including the wing leading edge identification markings and prop tips.

The first aircraft is a common theme for the 244th. This aircraft may have been used for propaganda purposes. It is an over-painted overall green with the previous white markings showing through the new paint. The fourteen kill markings are present under the cockpit. The tail is red with the Sentai emblem.

The second aircraft is an aircraft of Lieutenant Hiranuma. This aircraft sports the splotches of dark green over the natural metal airframe. The white Defense of the Homeland bands are present with blue and red vertical stripes on the fuselage. This aircraft has kill marks on the starboard side.



The third aircraft is painted up in Yellow Green #7. Equipped with grey drop tanks and crew member names this creates a beautiful variation on the traditional Tony paint scheme. This aircraft has an overpainted white horizontal stripe. The prop blades are even Yellow Green #7.

Aircraft four is another aircraft painted in Yellow Green #7, including the prop blades, but in this case the white fuselage and wing bands are overpainted. Unique to this airplane is the mural on the side. The Tony is shown diving on a B-29. This is a very unique looking airplane.

Yet another aircraft from Captain Kobayashi, this aircraft went through four marking changes. The one represented by the decals indicates a well worn overall green finish, typical of Japanese paint peeling. The white stripe and red tail stand out on this paint scheme. There are no white bands on the wings or the fuselage. Four kill markings are on the side of the cockpit.

Aircraft six was flown by Captain Shono in January 1945. It features three kill markings on the side, but instead of airplanes they are more typical American kill markings with Japanese flags. The camouflage is dark green splotches over the natural metal. White bands surround the fuselage and wing markings. The Sentai marking on the tail is in red with blue "stars."

Another Captain Shono aircraft is aircraft number seven. This one is overall natural metal with the white bands on the fuselage and wings. A red lightning bolt goes from the band forward and the Sentai emblem is red on the tail.

The final aircraft is a Yellow Green #7 aircraft which is actually a pretty plain Jane looking Tony. Markings are limited to Hinomarus and a thin white fuselage band. The Sentai emblem on the tail is red with white stars. The only splash of color is the yellow leading edge identification markings. Even the propeller blades are Yellow Green #7.



Eight aircraft, one model kit. Do you see a problem here? Time to stock up on Tonys!

Part Four:

You get two A-4 single sided full color pages in this set. The instructions have the history and side profiles, as well as a common marking/stencil drawing.

The references are included should you want to see where Lifelike got their pictures and information. This sheet has markings for four Ki-61 marking options.

One page is 5x7 with the majority of the markings on it. The other is a very small sheet with the two blue markings on it.

The first aircraft is a Hein flown by 2nd Lieutenant Takeo Adachi of the 55th Sentai in January 1945. There is speculation about the type of Sentai emblem on the tail. And this is where I think Lifelike far surpasses most decal manufacturers. They take what they do know and are not afraid to say what is not known.

They provide the argument for the selection of the markings, but they allow the modeler to decide how they want to do the markings. This particular airplane is a *nmf* aircraft with red markings. Lifelike makes the argument for the tail markings based off their knowledge.



The second aircraft is also a Type 1 Hein but is flown by Sergeant Shuichi Kaihou of the 39th Fighter Training Kikotai in March 1945.

There are no actual photos of this aircraft but the drawing is based off of the personal accounts of men from this unit. This aircraft is mottled green over the natural aluminum finish.

The third aircraft is a dark green Hein Type 1 flown by 2nd Lieutenant Tomihiro Tohda of the 55th Sentai in Feb 1945. This aircraft features four kill markings on the mid fuselage. The green upper surface and natural metal undersurfaces make for a dramatic aircraft. The white outlined red Sentai and Hinomaru add a splash of color.

The fourth, and final, aircraft is a Type 1 Hein of the 18th Sentai in early 1945 flown by 2nd Lieutenant Takeshi Nakamura. This overall natural metal machine features a blue B-29 kill marking on the mid fuselage.

Superior research, world class artwork and decals are all hallmark of Lifelike Decals. These decal sheets are in keeping with that tradition.

The Tamiya and Hasegawa kits of the Ki-61 will make great canvases for them.

All are highly recommended!

Floyd



Thanks to Lifelike Decals for the review copy. You can obtain your decals by contacting Lifelike Decals at

<http://lifelikedecals.sakura.ne.jp>

Let them know you heard about it here. While there, check out all their decals. There is something for everyone!



Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington, Goltzar Shahrzad

Shipping News

There are some interesting releases this month. Let's begin with the 1/700th scale ships.

Revell has the Russian Kirov class missile cruiser Peter Velikiy.



For auxiliary ship fans, Pit Road is releasing the IJN Food Supply Ship Irako. This has wooden decks and photo etch. They also will be releasing a 1/700th scale version of the DKM Battleship Bismarck. Pit Road is the manufacturer of record for Trumpeter's version of the Bismarck.



Fujimi is releasing two IJN naval vessels: the IJN Battleship Ise (1941) and the IJN WW2 Aircraft Carrier Shoho.



Pit Road has the lion's share of small scale ships this month. Two of these are US flagged ships, the USS California BB-44 and the USS Pittsburg CA-72.

The battleship California was sunk at Pearl Harbor. The Pittsburg was a US heavy cruiser. This kit comes with photo-etch railings.



Modern warfare modelers will appreciate the JMDDF DD-132 Asayuki Modern Japanese ASW destroyer/ frigate that Pit Road is bringing forth.



Niko Models is issuing the USS Terror CM-5 (1942). This is the only minelayer specifically built during WWII. This is a resin kit.



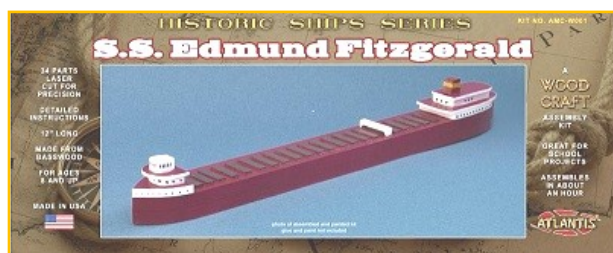
Moving to 1/350th scale, Fujimi has the IJN Battleship Haruna. This kit comes with wooden decks.

Pavla will soon have available the British X-craft midget submarine. These are the submarines that attacked the Tirpitz in Norway. This resin kit is in 1/72nd scale.



Last but not least, we have a kit of the ill-fated SS Edmund Fitzgerald. Atlantis Models has released this kit and it is box scale.

This kit is made of wood and measures twelve inches in length when completed. The company notes that you can have this thing done in an hour and the kit can be assembled with white household glue.



Take something from the stash and build it!

Rick



Aircraft

Alright, it's April and the year is cruising by us. It seems to happen faster every year. We've got a few things this month, not as many as previous months, but that's how it goes sometimes. Let's start with our friends at Special Hobby.

Special Hobby is releasing a 1/32nd Fokker D.II this autumn. Following their recent release of the Bristol M.1C, this kit will follow a similar production pattern.

The main components will be short-run parts while the detail parts will be designed by CAD and molded in full metal molds. Perhaps it can be re-used for another Fokker in the future? Time will tell.



Special Hobby have also acquired the ex-Classic Airframes molds and are re-releasing some of those kits. The next kit to be released is the 1/48 IMAM Ro.37bis.

This kit is due out this summer and isn't just a re-boxing of the Classic Airframes kit. It contains several new parts that were redesigned on CAD for the Ro.43, namely the engine, engine cowling, and cockpit.

The new markings will be a nice sampling of the service this aircraft saw starting with the Spanish Civil War and throughout the Second World War.



Special Hobby is also planning to release a Lloyd C.V (WKF) series 82 in both 1/48th and 1/72nd scales.

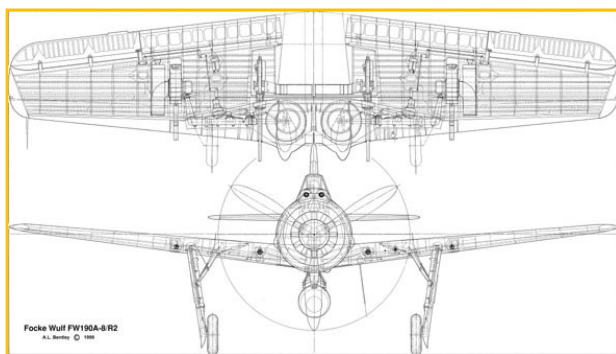
They have posted images on their website of the 3D-printed masters of the engine and cockpit details to be cast in resin for these kits. These kits are a follow-on to their previous releases of the Lloyd aircraft, including the C.V series 46. I haven't heard of a release date for these kits.



Hot on the heels of their 1/48th scale F-4J Phantom II, Zoukei-mura is releasing a 1/48th scale F-4S this summer.

It's sure to be another hit from them. Their rendition of the "J" is a very nice model. It fits well, it has lots of detail, and the quality is second to none. Given their track record, I would bet the "S" will be of the same quality.

Also from the Zoukei-mura blog, the 1/32nd Fw 190A series is coming along nicely. They have released some CAD images of the internal framing and the



BMW 801 engine.

From the looks of it, they will release the Super Wing Series (SWS) kit first, followed by the standard edition at a later date. Remember, when Zoukei-mura announced the 190A series, they intended to release both SWS and standard versions of each. So, we should see a version with all sorts of internal details, and another without all of the internal stuff.

Zoukei-mura are also preparing to produce two new twin engine Axis aircraft. They will be releasing a 1/32 Kawasaki Ki-45 "Toryu" and a 1/32 Henschel Hs 129B. There is no mention of a release date for either, but I would guess 2018.

HpH is set to release their latest large scale resin gem, a 1/32nd Grumman F7F Tigercat. The latest I've heard on this is HpH is looking at an April release.



They are also readying a 1/32nd Aviatik Berg D.I for release. The tentative release date was March of this year. Well, it's April so they must be close. Their website mentions they are preparing the final details.



HpH is also readying for their 1/48nd B-36. Rumor has it this model is set for departure in April of this year.

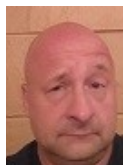
They are also in the process of preparing a 1/32nd Lockheed SR-71 and a 1/32nd Westland Wyvern. (Don't tell Ian.) Both of these are the standard resin fare we've come to expect from HpH.

For our small scale Cold War fans, Valom is set to release a North American B-45A Tornado this month. Not bad, considering your other choice is the Mach 2 kit.



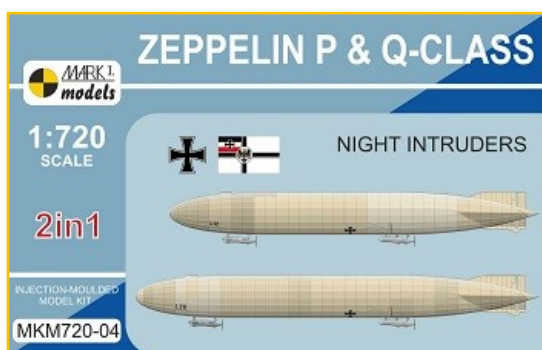
Well, that's it for this month. Now, go build something!

Randy



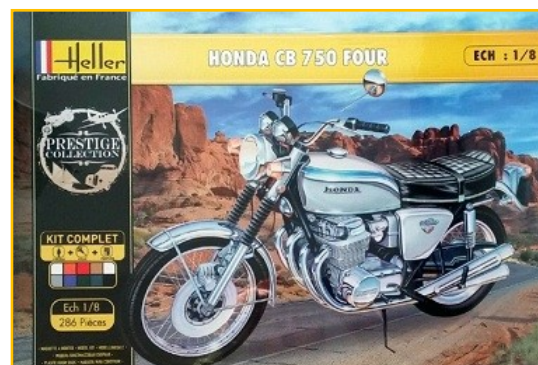
Miscellaneous

April 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of America's entry into WWI. What better way to commemorate than with some indiscriminate bombing with a couple of Zeppelin kits. In 1:720th scale, these are from Mark I Models.

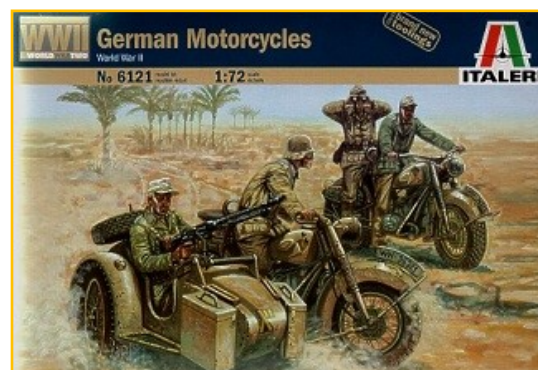


Mark I Models has released the P-class and O-class Zeppelins before but now you can get one of each in the same box. The twenty-nine injected molded parts that make up each P-class Zeppelin measure about nine inches long, when completed and decals are included for both.

There is a lot to build if you fancy motorcycles. Among the latest are some re-issues from Heller. Heller released a series of 1/8th scale injected molded kits back in the day. They are now back among the living and include the Laverda 750, BMW Police bike, Yamaha's 125, and the Honda CB750. The detailing on these kits is pretty good and similar to that found with the Protar kits.



Italeri has a new 1/72nd scale set of German motorcycles from WWII. The kit includes sixteen figures and four motorcycles, two of which have sidecars.



This a fast-build kit, so construction is simplified. As you might suspect, this release is geared toward the war gamer in you.

If that doesn't float your boat, how about a capsule motorcycle? Bandai has a snap-fit, injected molded kit of the Bulma Capsule Motorcycle from the Dragon Ball anime series.



Bandai is also releasing several other vehicles from that series: the Ox-King's car and Sun Goku's Jet buggy.

For flying stuff, look no further than Academy. Academy is soon to release a 1/72nd scale, injected molded kit of the F2H-3 Banshee with markings for the VF-41 **Black Aces**.



Another airborne thing there is a new Bell UH-1D Iroquois. This 1/48th scale Huey from Kitty Hawk Models is injected molded.



Micro-Mir Models has made an interesting choice. They have a 1/72nd scale injected molded kit of the Miles M-57 Aerovan. This was a British twin-engined, short haul, transport aircraft that first flew in 1945.



PST has a new 1/72nd scale ADMS NEVA-SC available. This is a limited edition model of a SAM system that looks totally wicked. This was a Polish modification to a T-54 tank chassis.



If rocket ships are more your speed, Pegasus Hobbies is re-issuing Rocket Ship X-M. Relive your misspent youth with this 1/144th scale kit as you embark on the first manned mission to the moon in 1950.

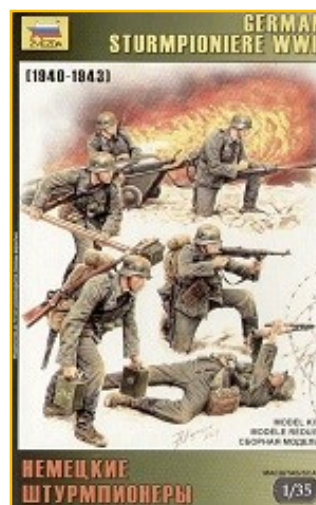


Included for your viewing pleasure is the trailer from the 1950's film *Rocket Ship X-M*. Among the films actors were Lloyd Bridges (*Sea Hunt*), Noah Beery (played the father of James Garner on the *Rockford Files*) and Hugh O'Brien.

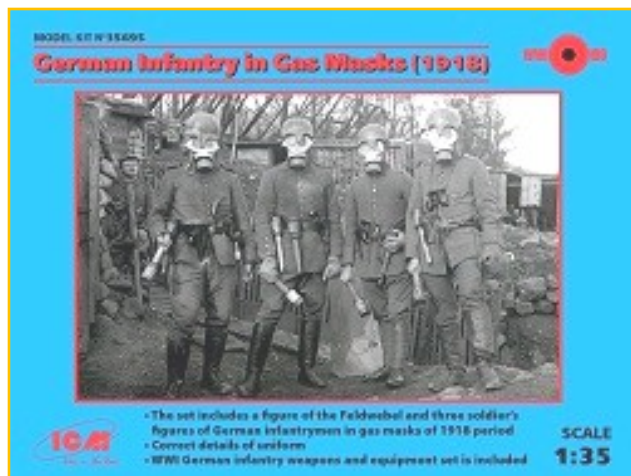
You might remember Hugh O'Brien from *The Shootist*. He played the professional gambler in John Wayne's last film.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG9RD1lje_s

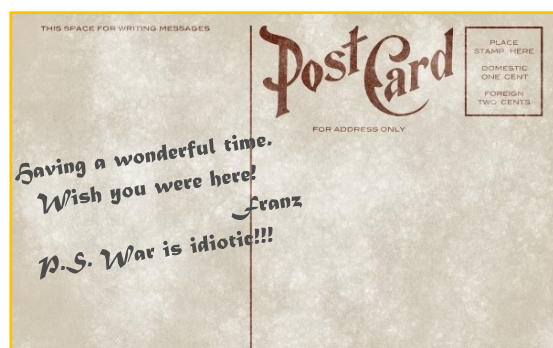
I'll leave you with a couple of figure releases. One is from Zvezda. It's a 1/35th scale injected molded kit of six German WWII-era Sturmpanziere's (assault engineers).



Zvezda has been getting better and better with their releases. This set provides some interesting poses for your next diorama.



Finishing with WWI, ICM has a new figure set of German WWI infantry, in gas masks. The injected molded kit includes four figures with separately molded infantry weapons. I love the box art. They seem to be posing for a postcard-type picture for the folks back home.



With this writing, I leave for Istanbul. I see an Iskender kabob in my future.

Çok uzun, şimdilik.

Golzar



ASMS Monthly Program Schedule

Each monthly meeting, an ASMS club member is scheduled to do a presentation on a modeling technique or subject. The current schedule for presentations is as follows:

April - Mike Lamm /
IPMS/USA Reviewer Corps

May - open

June - open

July - open

August - Rick Herrington /
Making Waves

September - Jeff Forster /
Northeastern Forts

October - Tim Robb / Fillers

November - Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky /
Modeling the He 219

Contact Aaron Smischney for more information or if you would like to give a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Presentations can be on any modeling subject, technique, or arranging for a guest speaker. Aaron will select a name from those that do a presentation and that person will win their 2018 ASMS club dues. With only three dates left, don't delay!

vicepresident@austinsms.org

Tanks A Lot

Greetings armor fans and hello to all y'all armor curious!

Tamiya has recently graced us with a superb little kit of the Valentine tank. Bob Bethea has his built already and Ian Candler has paint on his. Mine is started and it's a cracker of a kit!

Following up on the Valentine, Tamiya is releasing a new variant of their wonderful Matilda.



This is the same kit that came out a few years ago, but this edition has been newly tooled, updated, and contains new parts to make a Russian version!

This kit comes with a new cupola, return skids instead of rollers, a new nicely molded crew, and a set of workable tracks. I already have mine on order at King's Hobby shop. I expect this bad boy in a month or so!



People that have seen the test shots of this kit say it has indications of an Australian version, so expect to see it sometime in the very near future. Both kits are in 1/35th scale.

It looks like we have a new kit manufacturer. Gecko Models has debuted with a neat 1/35th scale tank: the Cruiser Tank Mk. II.

I'm a sucker for early war tanks. This kit has tons of rivets, which really gets me excited.



Gecko Models will also be releasing a German-captured version of the tank as well. The artwork looks good. Let's hope the plastic is as nice.

Since we are talking about new companies, there is a new player on the 1/72nd scale scene. T-Model has announced their first kit: a modern HUMVEE.

The CAD drawings look great with tons of detail. But guess what? They are also showing off plastic!

This looks superbly detailed for such a small scale. It looks like it has a nicely detailed interior and posable/workable doors!





Fine Molds has a new 1/35th scale JGSDF Type 60 with recoilless rifles. Developed in the late 1950's as an anti-tank vehicle you could also use it to fend off Godzilla. It looks like a neat kit. If you want one, you will probably have to purchase it from an importer.



On the WWII front, Fine Molds is releasing some other interesting stuff soon, one of which is a self-propelled gun in 1/35th scale.



Once again, if you want one, you will need find an importer, but if you build one, you may find that it is the only one at the model show.

Trumpeter has announced a very interesting 1/35th scale vehicle. It's big, ugly, and Russian: a BTM-3 high speed trench digger. I already love it! We only have box art right now but it looks too cool!



I really could have used one of these when my wife asked me to dig potato rows in our rocky Texas soil.

Those are my highlights. Until next time!

Aaron

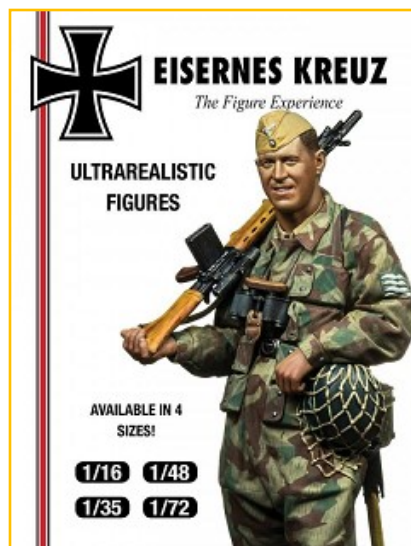


It Figures

Andrea Miniatures has been putting out some outstanding figures lately. One of which, in their "Eisernes Kreuz" (iron cross) line, is this superbly sculpted Fallschirmjäger.

This will be available in several scales, from a true 1/72nd scale all the way up to 1/16th with several stops along the way.

Bravo Andrea!



I hope they do well enough to see them put out some allied figures with the same attention to detail.

On the plastic front, MiniArt has announced a new 1/35th scale Finnish tank crew.



WWII Finnish figures always look interesting to me, their gear is like a strange, mutant mash-up of German and Soviet gear. I love the giant snow boots on the guy second from the right!

Qing Yi has two very nice 1/35th scale IDF female soldiers coming out pretty soon.



I like them because they are not some stupid pin-up, fantasy piece but real female soldiers. You could very easily paint these up to be post-apocalyptic zombie hunters/survivors. The figures are sold separately.

I mentioned a new armor kit maker on the scene, Gecko Models. They are also releasing some 1/35th scale British troops along with their tank kits. They look like the same squad: one set up for action, the other going to or from their target.



Now on to something a bit bigger in scale. ASR has announced a new 1:9 scale bust of Arnold and the likeness is superb. From the first Terminator movie, this is a very accurate depiction of that character.



Those are my highlights. Until next time!

Aaron



How I Met A Member Of The Commemorative Air Force by Chris Chany

Mention CAF and most Texans who are aviation aficionados and they will immediately think of the Commemorative Air Force. Or, if old enough, its previous incarnation as the Confederate Air Force.



That, however, is not the CAF I am talking about. But before I divulge the words behind the acronym, let me start with the beginning of the story.

I had a chance to take my first trip to New Orleans in February of this year. Now, most of you, upon hearing that you would be going to NOLA, would immediately think of the National WWII museum. Not me. As soon as I heard I was going I remembered that there was a great Civil War museum there. After looking up the website for Confederate Memorial Hall I noticed that The WWII Museum was across the street.



The first day I had some free time I walked over to the Civil War Museum. (You will just have to be patient for my article on that). At my next free moment, I walked back over to The National WWII Museum.

This museum has expanded since it first started as the D-Day Museum into a huge complex with more expansion in the works.

When you buy your ticket, the museum gives you a plastic credit card sized dog-tag that has an RF chip in it.

This chip links you to a real life WWII veteran's story. By happenstance, my veteran served in Europe the same as my dad. In fact, my dad's army specialty was the same as the veteran on the dog-tag.

The museum is laid out in two timelines, one for the European theatre and one for the Pacific theatre. At each kiosk as you go through the museum, you swipe the dog-tag to hear the veteran's experiences at a particular time during the war.

The museum is awesome! The first stop is the station platform where you board a train to go to boot camp. After getting off the train, I hurried over to the movie *Beyond All Boundaries* narrated by Tom Hanks. (A must see.)

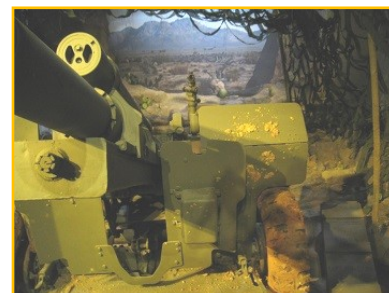


I then resumed my journey through WWII, first in Europe and then more through the Pacific.



At the end of the museum, in the well-stocked gift shop, you find out what happened to the veteran that was associated with the dog-tag.

My veteran actually became rather famous in Austin, especially to UT fans. His name is Frank Denius.

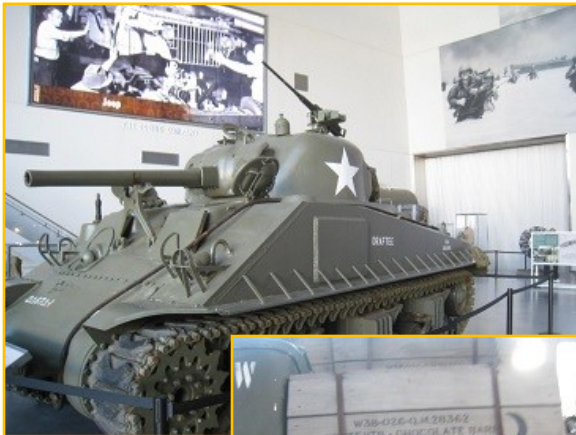


For more on Frank Denius click here:

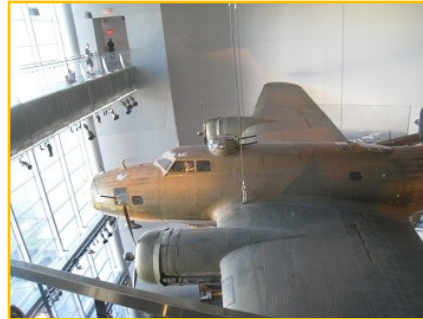
http://texassports.com/news/2007/5/28/052807aaa_381.aspx

While going through the timeline, there are various pieces of heavy military equipment. However most of the American equipment is by itself in the Boeing building.

The building has 4 levels. On the lower level are a Dodge Command Car, a B-17 cockpit, a CCKW hardtop, a Stuart tank, a White half-track, a Sherman carrying a box of chocolates (like how I worked that in?), and the nose of a B-24!



There is also a collection of aircraft mounted from the ceiling that includes a B-17 with full crew, a solid-nosed B-25, a Dauntless dive bomber, Corsair, P-51, and an Avenger.



So by are probably saying to yourself right now "Chany, get on with the CAF story!" Okay!

When you enter the museum there is a sign mentioning that there are WWII veterans who volunteer as docents at the museum.

As I exited the elevator on one of the catwalks overlooking the planes, there was a gentleman sitting in a chair reading the paper looking very dapper in a jacket and bow tie.

A quick glance showed that he had a nametag that said WWII veteran and his name was Dick King. After looking at the planes, I returned to the elevator and decided to ask where he served.

He said in the Marines and he then told me that he was on Guadalcanal. I thought to myself he must really have some stories! He had served as a navigator/radio operator/rear gunner on an SBD Dauntless.

I thought for a second and said "So you were a member of the Cactus Air Force (CAF)?" He smiled and said that he hadn't heard that too often.



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He related that after Guadalcanal he was shipped back to the states and learned to be a B-25 pilot and flew the gunship version in the Pacific.

I told him I belonged to Austin Scale Modelers Society in Austin and that I would like to use his picture in the newsletter. He agreed and we decided to take it in front of the Dauntless.

So, here is a toast to Dick King: "Here's health to you and to the corps."

Chris



[Editor's Note: More information on the Smithsonian associated museum is available via their website.]

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/?referrer=https://www.google.com/>



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IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE IPMS/USA JOURNAL



- Quick Tip - Getting a Better Bond Between Photoetched Parts, by Len Pilfer
- IPMS/USA Business Meeting - August 6, 2016 Columbia, SC
- A Girl and Her Bike - Brightening up Nuts Planet's 1:20 GC-B1 Motorcycle and its Driver, by David Kimbrell
- Post-Apocalyptic War Wheels - A Spare-Parts Mashup of Speed Racer and Mad Max: Fury Road, by Ro Annis
- Scratch-built Scout - Creating a Marmon Harrington Mk. II Armored Car from Styrene, Plans and a Little Work, by Bill Powers
- Captured By Canucks - Takom's 1:35th Krupp 21cm Morser 10/16, by David A. Kimbrell
- Maple-Leaf Mustang - Turning Airfix's 1:72 P-51D into a Royal Canadian Air Force Mustang 4, by Jim Bates
- From a Styrene Sheet to the Fleet - Building a 1:72 scale vacuum-form Fairey Gannet AEW.3, by Joe Vattilanathe

contact us

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San Marcos, Texas
78666

on the web

www.austinsms.org



Modelmania 2017
April 29
Stafford, Texas

http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11

Happy Trails to you, until we meet again.

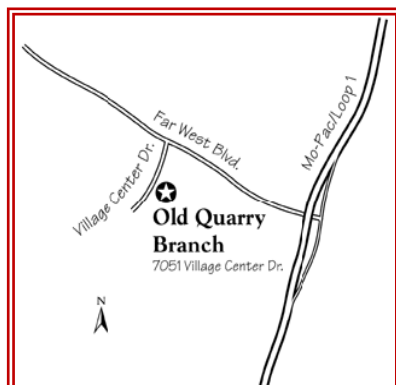
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJrFmL4lz7Y>

Next Meeting:

April 20

Austin Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas

7PM to 8:45PM



Austin Scale Modelers Society presents

The 2017 Capitol Classic

October 14, 2017
Travis County Expo Center
Austin, Texas

Show theme: Old Dog/ New Tricks

[The dog is named Sprue.]

For complete details visit our website

<http://austinsms.org/contest.php>