

SPRUE EXAMINER



B-52G U.S.A.F ModelCollect 1/72nd
Stratofortress strategic Bomber
Full interior details PE parts include Cartograf Decals
B-52G Kit Review
by Ron McCracken

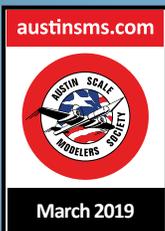
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SCALE

modelcollect
LENGTH: 673MM WIDTH: 783MM HEIGHT: 172MM



Reviewed by Randy Bumgardner

Say Hello to 'What Hump'?



The Cotton Report • On The Table • Old Rumors & New Kits
News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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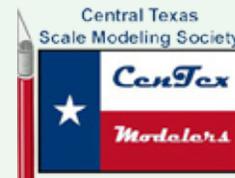
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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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

www.models4troops@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Hello Members!

Welcome to March when Texas gets blue, red and yellow with wild flowers. Does anyone know if there were ever markings with Bluebonnets for Aircraft?

If there were, I'm sure Tim would have built one.

We had a very busy meeting last month and Randy never got to do his presentation, so he'll be stepping up to complete his last performance for our club before he and Ziggy are off to California. That's right! His house sold and they are out of here by the end of the month. I'm sure our having scheduled the BBQ Auction at his house had nothing to do with it, wink wink, but now that that has happened we will need to relocate. We discussed possibilities last meeting, so we will decide on where next meeting.

If you haven't paid your dues, be sure to step up to the mound and lob them across the plate. Mike Lamm will be happy to accept on ASMS behalf and be sure to get your discount card for King's. Also, I'm looking forward to getting a field trip together for the group and Ben should have some option for us, so be sure to show up at the meeting to vote and get in on the fun.

And on a final note, more personal, two wonderful things have happened to me in the past couple of weeks. The first is that I finally have my modeling shop completely set up for the first time in nearly a year at my new house, and I've been building like a madman, relearning and reliving the joys of the hobby. It's wonderful to have all my stuff together in one spot again, ... ahhh the sweet smell of solvent!

The second, and perhaps more wonderful than the first, is the birth of my first Grandchild. Abilene Rose was born a little too early and spent her first week in NICU but now is home and healthy. There ain't nothin' like holding a grandbaby!

Cheers!

Ian

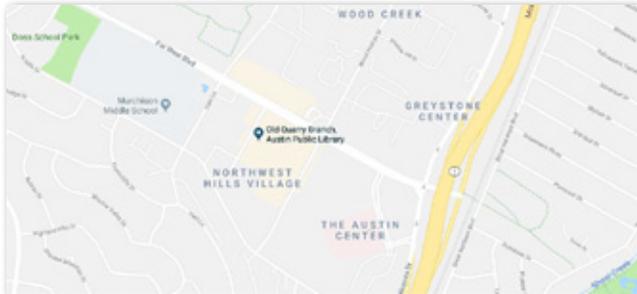




HOUSE CLEANING



ASMS MEETING



Third Thursday each month
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm
at the
Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Dr.

Next meeting March 21st, 2019

No Reservations Necessary!



**Your money is safe with us...
No fooling.**

ASMS Club Dues Are Due!

Annual ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual
or \$30.00/family.

You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same
to Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, TX., 78729.



Events

- 2/16/2019 **Alamo Squadron's 'ModelFiesta 38'**
San Antonio Event Center
8111 Meadow Leaf Drive, San Antonio, TX78227
Show Theme - 'Record Breakers!'
www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta
- 5/11/2019 **Bob Bethea's next Paint Day**

Club Quarterly Contests

- March: Open Catagory (Awarded)
- April: Open
- May: Open
- June: Procrastinator Contest (Maybe)
- July: Open
- August: Open
- September: Bondo Contest
- October: Open
- November: Open
- December: White Elephant/Model of the Year

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

- March: Randy Bumgardner
- April: ?
- May: ?
- June: ?
- July: ?
- August: ?
- September: ?
- October: ?
- November: ?
- December: ?



ModelCollect 1/72nd B-52G Kit Review

By Ron McCracken



Due to popular demand I'm doing a quick review of the ModelCollect B-52G kit in 1/72nd scale. Overall, I have to say, finally, a decent kit of the G model.

In the interest of timeliness, I'm writing this article before completely finishing assembly. But to make up for that shortcut, I'm providing scans of relevant illustrations from the flight manual.

First the basics. The kit depicts a late configuration B-52G, circa Desert Storm. It includes the Electro-Optical Viewing System (EVS) pods under each side of the nose and the extension added to the fuselage behind the tail fins by the Phase VI electronic countermeasures mod, so the earliest B-52G you could model without major surgery is

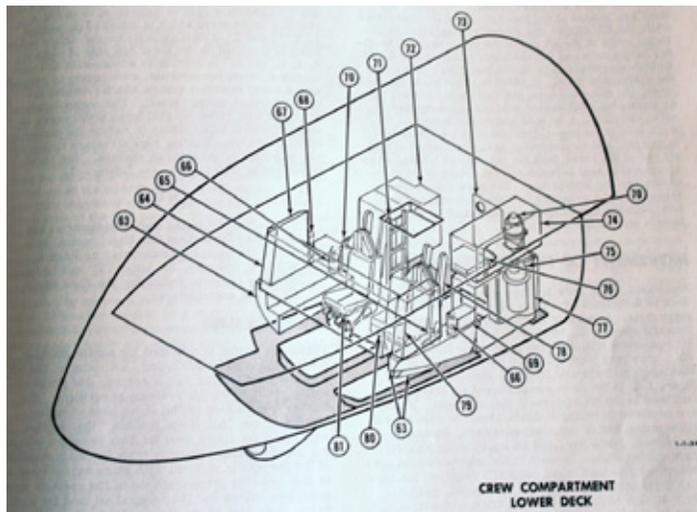
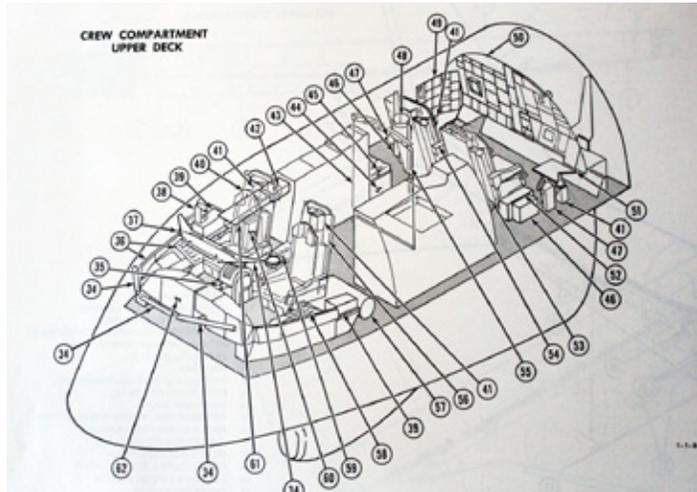
post-1974, because that's when we started seeing these mods in the operational fleet.

In other words, a Vietnam War bird with a conventional bomb load is not an out-of-the-box option. It does NOT appear to have the fillets that were added to the leading edge of the wing roots as a Cold War measure to allow satellite surveillance of cruise missile capability. I do find that curious since the kit quite clearly depicts a cruise missile carrier in all other respects. But perhaps it depicts one that had the "special weapon" capabilities removed and could only carry conventional, high-explosive weapons.

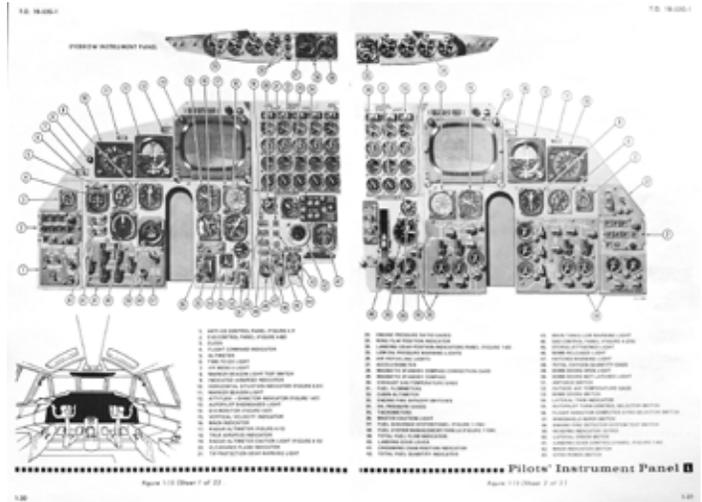
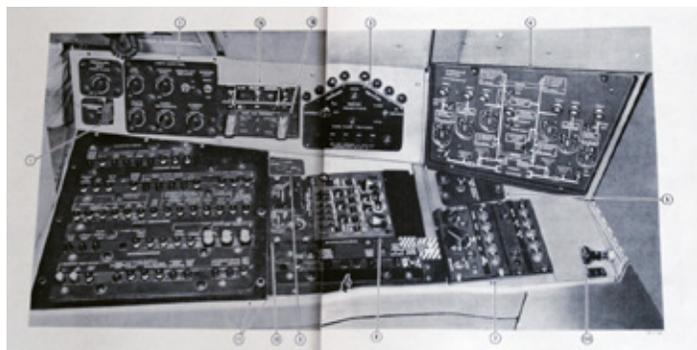
The first impression on opening the box is, there must be 20 pounds of plastic in this box.



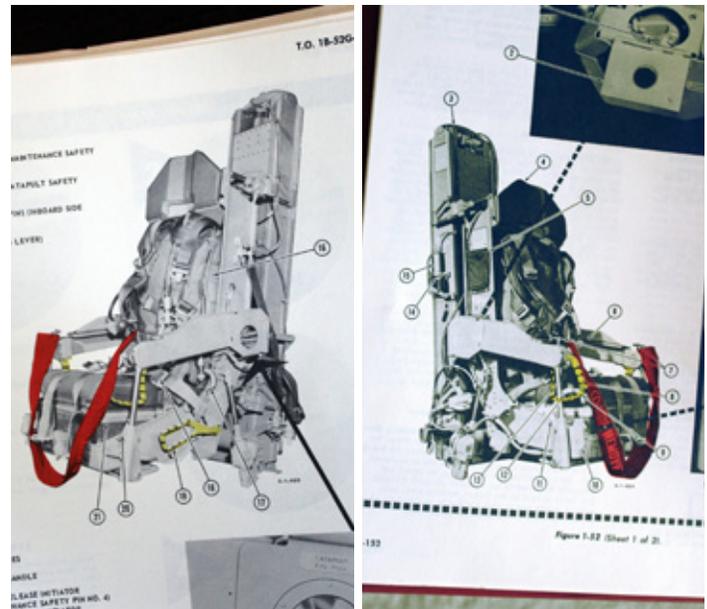
Turns out, five pounds of it are a couple dozen cruise missiles in two varieties with which to fill the open bomb bay and the pylons under the wings. The pylons themselves are also a very late configuration, apparently cooked up specifically to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles. If you want a Hound Dog carrier, you'll have to scrounge the earlier type pylons from another kit.

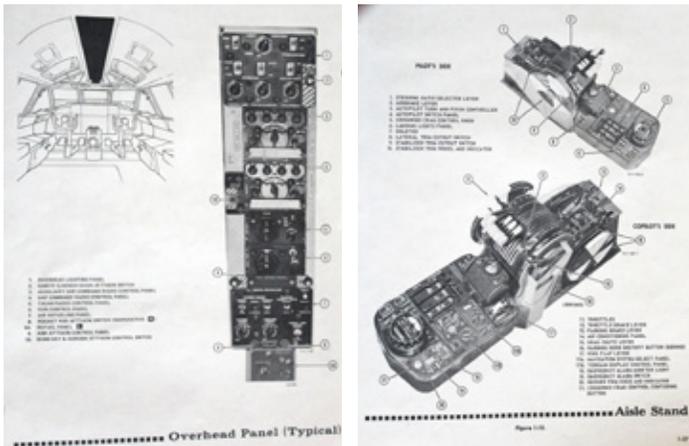


The kit doesn't skimp on interior detail, with the crew compartment, main gear wells, and bomb bay all fully detailed (if not necessarily accurately).

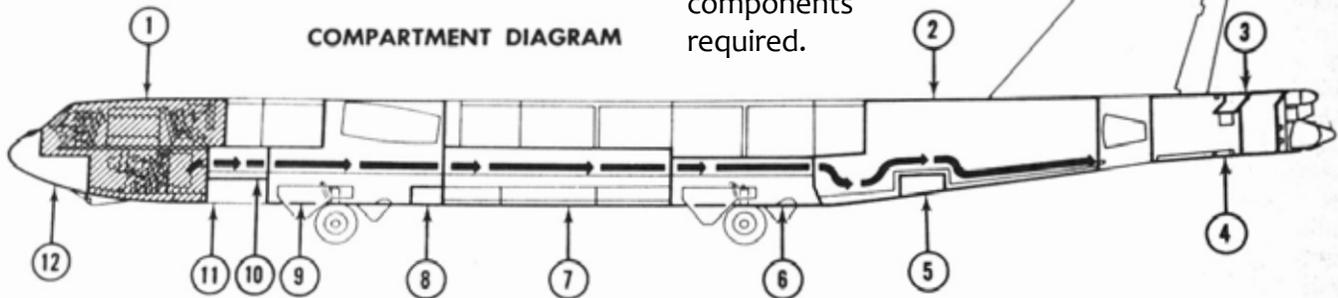


Too bad 90% of that crew compartment detail will be hidden once you close things up. The kit just begs for the old "cutaway" treatment in that regard. Surface detail consists of recessed lines which are a bit heavy for my taste, but otherwise well enough executed.



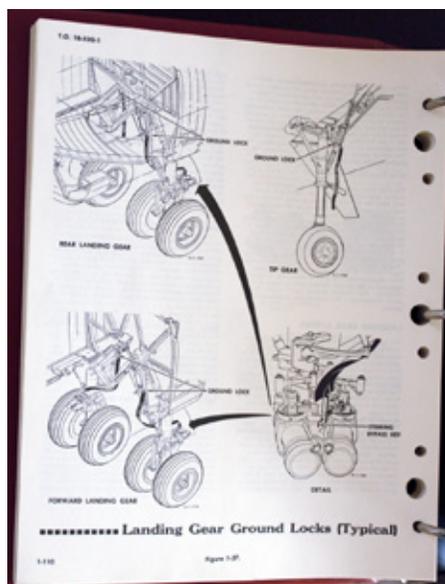


The least favorable impression is the fuselage, which is sliced up into four separate sections – cockpit, mid-fuselage, aft fuselage, and empennage/turret. No doubt the separate turret section is to allow for an H-model, which has a different tail turret.



The good news is, they seem to have the aft fuselage cross-section right, in stark contrast to the AMT/Esci kit, which was far too narrow in the empennage area. Getting those four sections assembled in a straight line is the biggest construction challenge of the entire kit.

The four main gear wells and bomb bay are all mostly walled in, which is essential if you build it “gear-down”, as those barn-door sized landing gear doors are wide open when



the gear is extended. The exception is the missing bulkhead behind the aft main gear well, which on the real thing closes off the “47 section” between the gear wells and the tail.

That’s not too tough to fix, just make your own bulkhead from sheet styrene.

Like the Monogram kit, the wing flaps are separate parts. Also like the Monogram kit, the flap well detail is such that you’d be well advised to just glue ‘em shut – you gotta believe me, re-detailing the wells to allow extended flaps is more work than it is worth. Apparently, ModelCollect thought so too, as that’s what the instructions say to do. If you just have to have extended flaps, Eduard has a photo-etch set that provides the many components required.

For those of you who’ve heard that the wings do not have the characteristic bend – either down on the ground or up in flight, the rumor is true. They are molded straight as an arrow.

Fortunately, the wings are also very flexible at the outer ends before the halves are assembled, so here’s an easy fix. Get two straight pieces of stiff heavy-gauge wire (coat hanger wire is perfect) and epoxy them to the upper wing halves extending out to about the tip of the gear opening. Let this cure thoroughly. Next, “bend” the outer portion of the wing (either up or down, depending on the way you intend to display the model) until the wire takes the appropriate “set” and holds it.

How much set? Well, for a ground display of a fully-loaded aircraft you want the tip gear to just barely touch. The best way to achieve this is to fully assemble the fuselage center section, set it on its tires, then temporarily attach the wings and see how



much droop is required. Finally, cement the wing halves together. I recommend gluing the wing halves together initially only at the wing roots, establish your “bend”, and once that’s cured continue the gluing until you reach the tip. You’ll probably end up with a bit of a mis-alignment (overlap) at the tip end, but a few swipes with a file will fix that, and now you have properly “bent” wings.

Assembly, other than getting the fuselage straight, is pretty conventional. The kit could use a few more alignment pins, considering its huge size, but otherwise goes together fairly well. The sprue gates are a bit heavy in some cases, necessitating a bit of trimming on the mating surfaces of many of the parts.

Now for the things that looked incorrect to this old Buff driver. Take into consideration that I haven’t had a close look at a B-52 for going on 40 years, so I’ll allow that modifications subsequent to 1978 might have made some of my observations out-of-date.

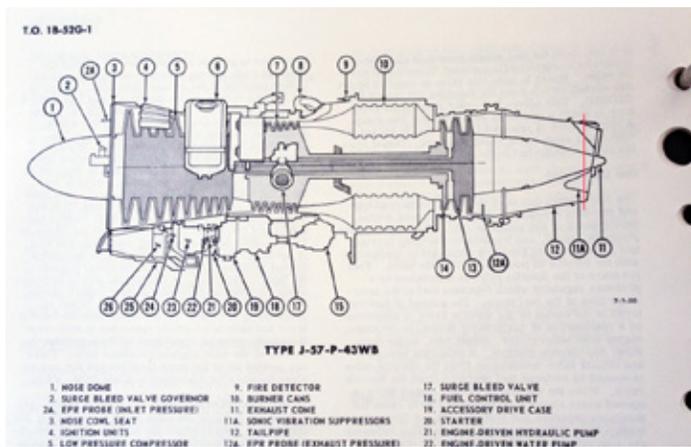
The most visible errors in the kit, to my eye, are the

engines and the spoilers. While the front frame of the J57 engines is nicely done, not so the exhaust section, which on the real thing features a prominent tail cone starting behind the turbine blades and reaching to the exhaust opening, and three equally-spaced triangular sonic suppressors arranged around the interior perimeter of the tailpipe.

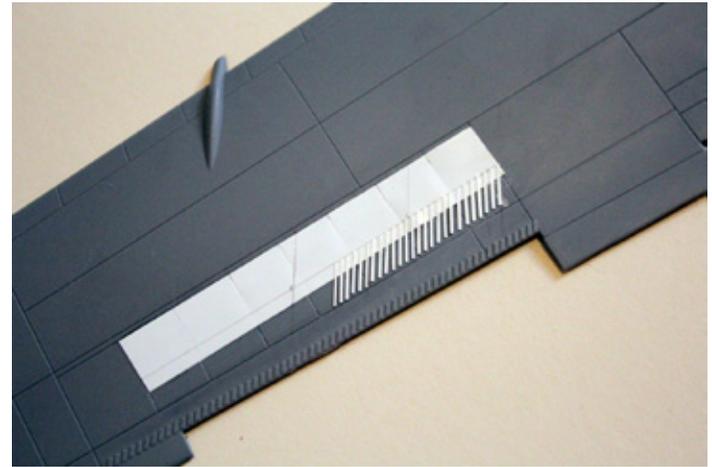
All the kit gives you is a plain tailpipe with no front end, so you can see

all the way through the engine nacelle clear to the front. The kit’s nacelle walls are thick at the rear, whereas they should be of knife-edge thinness, and the tailpipe thickness simply adds to the non-prototypical look. The only possible fix is to Dremel away the excess thickness of the nacelle walls at the rear, and fabricate your own tailpipes – all eight of them. A cutaway illustration of a J57-PW-43WB is provided to guide you should you wish to correct this. The red line across the back is the location of the rear edge of the nacelle. The exhaust pipe, which you will note is cut off at an angle, protrudes slightly.





The other major, readily visible mistake is the spoilers, or as we referred to them, airbrakes atop the wing and just ahead of the outboard flaps. These extendable control surfaces had trailing edges that resembled the teeth of a huge comb. That feature is completely missing and very time-consuming to correct, although not insurmountably difficult. One noteworthy feature of these teeth is that they were arranged parallel to the airflow when the spoilers were retracted, in contrast to those on the earlier models, whose teeth were perpendicular to the spoiler trailing edge. Some drawings I've encountered on the web get this feature wrong. There is a photo-etch brass set available that provides a more accurate representation of the spoilers. The photo shows a detail view of the real thing. These spoilers were remarkably effective, providing both roll control (the G and H models had no conventional ailerons) and when desired a high descent rate. With the throttles back and full airbrakes, a Buff would drop out of the sky like it was on an express elevator going down.



There are a lot of rumors out there that the nose profile is incorrect. I found a good side-view photo of a late "G" nose, expanded it to scale size, and placed a nose half over the photo. The only discrepancy I could see is that the tip of the radome is about $3/16$ " short. So, it isn't perfect but you've really got to look for the error to spot it.

If you just have to correct this, the nose could simply be built out with putty and reworked to a smooth contour. I think the manufacturer may have worked to drawings of an earlier radome, then tried to detail it like the latest one, which appears to my eye to be a bit "pointier" than the older configuration. The kit also misses greatness by failing to replicate the very noticeable stress wrinkles in the fuselage skin ahead of the front gear wells and the slightly less noticeable ones behind the rear gear wells. While not a designed-in feature, it is ever-present on these aircraft and absolutely no kit manufacturer has ever attempted to get that detail right. Again, fixing this is likely more work than it is worth.

The cockpit features something that looks a bit like a crew rest "bunk" on the port side behind the pilot's seat. That didn't exist on the B-52G up through the 70's. The electronics bays on both sides ran uninterrupted from the cockpit floor to the top of the fuselage. In place of the bunk, the so-called "tenth man" position in early G's consisted of a lap belt and webbing seat back bolted to the port side of the floor, where one sat facing rearwards with one's legs stretched out along the floor. Cooling air exiting from the adjacent electronics bay added to the misery by freezing the unfortunate soul



occupying this torture rack. Evidently the anti-torture laws passed by the Congress finally did away with it.

The color photo etch provided for the cockpit is all-black. The B-52G's I flew had grey panels with black instruments. The illustrations provided clearly illustrate the grey panels/black instruments scheme. The crew compartment interior was either painted grey or covered in grey sound-proofing padding, except for the floors which had black non-skid paint. The kit provides all six ejection seats, and those provided for the pilots appear to be an upgrade (Escapac?) from the originals. Two illustrations of the '70s era pilots' seats are provided, should you wish to scratch a couple of seats together to replace the kit parts. If you build the seats, include the parachutes, which were standard back pack style parachutes. These were left installed in the aircraft, being removed only for periodic inspection and repacking. The seat cushion/survival pack likewise remained in the aircraft.

Next let's discuss those landing gear wells. First, for some reason ModelCollect didn't mold the interior structural framing in their gear wells, as they did in the bomb bay. It'll take a bunch of styrene strip to make up that omission. Up to at least 1978 the port forward gear well had no "roof" in the portion just ahead of the landing gear support structure. You could stand in the bottom of the well between the wheels, look straight up, and see the top of the fuselage.

The forward body fuel tank and the water tank for take-off water injection occupied the upper half of the fuselage at the front of the forward gear wells. The illustration of the fuselage bulkhead arrangement clearly shows the location of these tank compartments.

The kit-provided roof for this gear well has some odd-looking components on its underside that didn't exist back in the day, but just omit this stuff and the part is usable. But you will need to fair in the wing root recesses ahead of the gear struts, these followed the general contour of the rest of the fuselage on the real thing.

Moving aft, the "roof" of the starboard forward gear well on the real thing was the center section of

the wing, which ran completely across the fuselage and contained the center wing fuel tank. The kit part is completely inaccurate. This part should be slightly curved to follow the contour of the underside of the wing root. But it is flat, and won't fit where the underside of the wing is located, so this they definitely didn't get right. My recommendation is to cement a piece of .060" square styrene strip to either fuselage side, bending it to follow the underside of the wing contour. Then cement a thin sheet of styrene to these ledges to simulate the wing center section. Remember, this was an essential part of the wing center section structure, and there's no way it would have been significantly modified.

The bomb bay interior itself is pretty accurate, and for an aircraft flying a peace-time training mission, which is the only kind we flew when I was assigned to the Buff, there is no need to add any bomb racks, launchers, etc. as those were only installed for operational missions. Or, include the rotary launcher provided in the kit. Or, build the doors closed. That's how they'd be on a bird pulling alert.

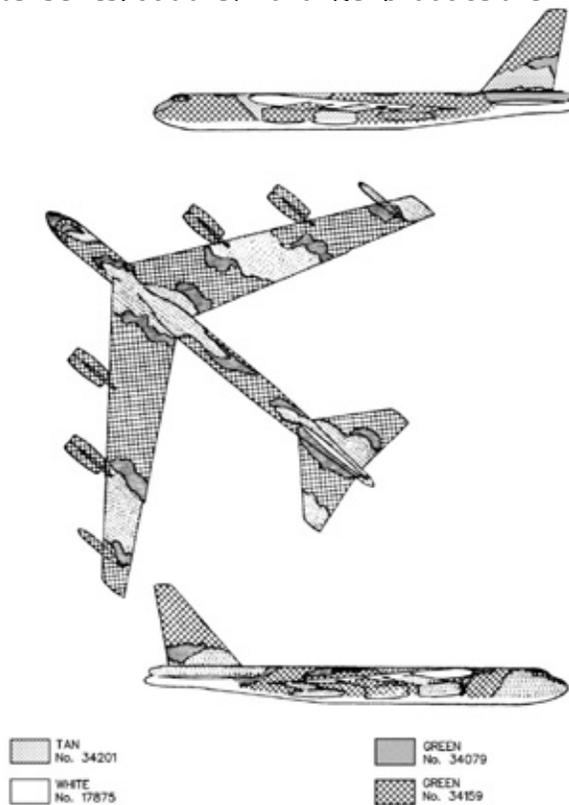
But then we get to the aft main gear wells. The upper fuselage over the rear main gear wells was occupied by the aft fuselage fuel tank. Again, the compartment diagram shows the bulkhead and deck locations. The aft wells did have a roof, and it had big recesses to allow room for the main gear tires. The kit parts are either totally inaccurate, or represent late modifications. And, of course, there's that missing aft bulkhead.

There is another interior feature of all models of the B-52 that the kit gets partially right. Along both lower sides of the fuselage, running all the way from the crew cabin to the aft fuselage is a big triangular cross-section longeron, whose outer side is the fuselage skin, and which has a horizontal upper side protruding into the fuselage interior and a lower interior side pierced by large holes. The kit provides that visible lower side with its holes as a separate part through the bomb bay section, but omits it entirely in the gear wells. You'll have to scratch-build your own parts in the wheel wells using the kit part as a pattern for width and hole size/spacing.

The SAC cold-war era camouflage pattern is



provided straight out of T.O. 1.1-4, for the benefit of those who'd like something more interesting than basic grey. Unfortunately, only the insignia white bottom paint and the dark green color are readily obtainable these days. The intermediate green and greenish-tan used to be part of Testors Model Master series, but they no longer produce them.



Finally, I'd really like to have seen optional parts and decals for a "nuke" strike aircraft – a clip of nukes and a clip of Quail decoys for the bomb bay, a pair of Hound Dog missiles and their pylons under the wings, or alternatively the Short-Range Attack Missile (SRAM) rotary launcher in place of the Quails. The AMT/Esci kit had the Hound Dogs, so if you can lay hands on one of those cheap, that's a possible answer. Oh, well can't have everything. Or maybe you can. Eduard, are you reading this?

To summarize, ModelCollect has produced a good kit of the B-52G, one that with just a bit of extra effort can be brought up to a very high standard of accuracy. There are some detail inaccuracies, but nothing that is beyond the ability of an experienced plastic kit builder to correct. If you want a B-52G in your 1/72nd scale collection, this one is worth the price and effort.

Ron



The Cotton Report:

A Big Fat Pickle

By Rick Cotton

If one looks up the word "diorama" on the Web, and summons up that electronic know-it-all, Wikipedia, one finds the following:

The word diorama /ˌdaɪəˈrɑːmə/ can either refer to a 19th-century mobile theatre device, or, in modern usage, a three-dimensional full-size or miniature model, sometimes enclosed in a glass showcase for a museum. Dioramas are often built by hobbyists as part of related hobbies such as military vehicle modeling, miniature figure modeling, or aircraft modeling.

That's a lot of verbiage for a model scene.

In its loose definition, it's a model scene, not just figures, or vehicles, or buildings. It is not to be confused with a vignette, which in turn, is not to be confused with a beignet, which comes from New Orleans, with a cup of very stout coffee and a lot of powdered sugar. Two, please!

We all have read in the show flyers where the dioramas are to be judged on strength of story, first, and then on technical merit, although it is really tough to get a bunch of typical show judges to give First to a diorama with a great story and half-wit execution over the typical "soldiers marching past a tank" with great technical execution. I've seen that very thing happen, over and over and over again. Story or not, if it's a cr*ppy-looking, poorly-built scene, it will not win, no matter how good a story.

I have never before attempted a "serious" diorama, at least, not until now. I am formally stepping into that ring of competition, with a simple scene, of three Russians capturing a wounded Waffen SS trooper and his Horch 1a vehicle, on a

farm somewhere in Mother Russia.

In the scene, the Russians include a nattily-dressed, Camel-smoking NKVD officer, who is telling his subordinates to “paint his new staff car green”. A tanker officer listens to his order with just a bit of surprise on his face, while an amused automatic rifle-armed soldier stands by, keeping an eye on the Fascist, and awaiting his orders. The title of the piece was suggested to me by my good modeling friend, LCDR USN(R) Paul Sacco, as a bad pun-type joke. It stuck:

“That would be a Horch of a different color! Ha ha ha ha!!!”

A Horch of a Different Color. A brilliant play on words, that one. Thank you, Mr. Sacco. I think it has a pretty good story – the Russians have come upon a piece of intact German equipment, and a somewhat less intact Fascist, and the superior officer, in this case a hard-core NKVD communist, is gloating in his spoils.



We hear the thoughts in the NKVD officer’s head: How will the car look in Red Army green? Will it be more reliable than that GAZ jalopy-heap he has been riding in? Will it have room for his captured... er, liberated... wine stock and his equally-if-not-more liberated Polish girlfriend... plus her luggage? Will that &^%\$ stiff-necked Commissar let me keep it?

We also hear the other two Russians thinking: Do we get to keep the red potatoes in the back seat? Will we have to shoot the wounded Nazi? Can we delegate the paint job to some poor Siberian Private?



And we hear the German thinking: What are they saying? Am I about to die? I have heard nothing good about the NKVD.



Technically, I think the piece is pretty good... at least I used high-quality resin figures, and a Tamiya vehicle... one can never go wrong with that. I was able to create what, for me, is the first really convincing ground cover that I have been able to do, along with a decrepit, Eastern European-looking fence that I am quite happy with, all thanks to the Vince Barrale School of Scale Mud, Muck, and Other Assorted Natural Won-

ders. The base is clean, well-defined, and proportional to the scene depicted. It looks balanced in size, and the placement of items is strategic, triangular, and not haphazard.

But the whole idea is, we are depicting a moment in time here, a story where the major dialogue hides a life-or-death moment about to come. A story, first and foremost.



So, we shall see. No, it isn't a big, blown-to-bits building ruin with 6 tanks and whole company of soldiers. And it isn't just "soldiers marching by a tank" again for the ten-thousandth time. It has a story, and I think it has some technical merit.



On the other hand, it isn't one of Bob Bethea's jaw-dropping and mind-bending masterpieces, either. My figures will not yet challenge Henry

Nunez any time soon for small scale person replica supremacy. Nor will it bring tears to one's eyes like Frank Stumpo's movingly eloquent "A Somber Duty" of a few years back.



But, I think it looks OK. I am getting my feet wet in a new modeling area, and starting something new. Whether it places or not, I am learning and having fun. And there will be others, soon. I will enter it, and see how it does, and see what the judges say... and thus... I will learn.

"Paint my new staff car green, Comrade!"
 "What do you want us to do with the Fascist, sir?"
 "Hmmm...."

Rick





Tru-Color Paints

Paint Review

By Randy Bumgardner



Tru-Color Paint
When you need TRU-Color

TRU-COLOR PAINT



Paint & Accessories

Tru-Color paint was started in 2008 when Rick Galazzo and Scott Cohen, armed with a desire to improve the Accupaint formulas set about to formulate a new model paint. Both gentlemen have extensive experience formulating commercial paints, so they brought their knowledge and experience to bear in the model world. The goal was to produce a paint that was a solvent-based formula with a quick drying time and a glossy finish. The result of their efforts is Tru-Color paint.

Eleven years on, and 600 colors later, they are still expanding the line of paints. The initial batches were targeted at model railroad enthusiasts. These paints are airbrush ready and replicate hundreds of colors that have seen the light of day. In addition to the airbrush-ready paints, Tru-Color also offers matte airbrush-ready paints and brush-able matte paints. As the years have passed, the offerings have expanded to include ranges for other genres of models:

- TCP-005 – TCP350: Railroad colors, airbrush ready
- TCP-400 – TCP-499: Railroad colors, airbrush-able, matte

- TCP-500 – TCP-599: Automotive colors, airbrush ready, high gloss
- TCP-700 – TCP-771: Automotive colors, airbrush ready, pearlescent
- TCP-800 – TCP-899: Railroad colors, brush-able, matte

Military Colors:

- TCP-1000 – TCP-1199: Naval colors, airbrush ready
- TCP-1200 – TCP-1399: Aircraft colors, airbrush ready
- TCP-1400 – TCP-1599: Land forces colors, airbrush ready

These paints are solvent-based paints, so the usual safety precautions apply when using them. Wear appropriate protection such as respirators, gloves, etc. One of the solvents in the paint is acetone, and it states that on the label. So, stay safe out there.

The colors used in this review are from the Tru-Color Naval Colors line and include Ocean Green, Pale Green, and Haze Green. As stated above, the paints are ready to use for airbrushing. Straight



from the bottle to your airbrush. Tru-Color has their own recommended thinner, I suggest you get some if you need to thin the paint for detail applications. Tru-Color advises that thinning with acetone may cause the paint to lose its gloss/semi-gloss finish, and too much acetone will cause the solvent to evaporate to quickly resulting in a rough finish.

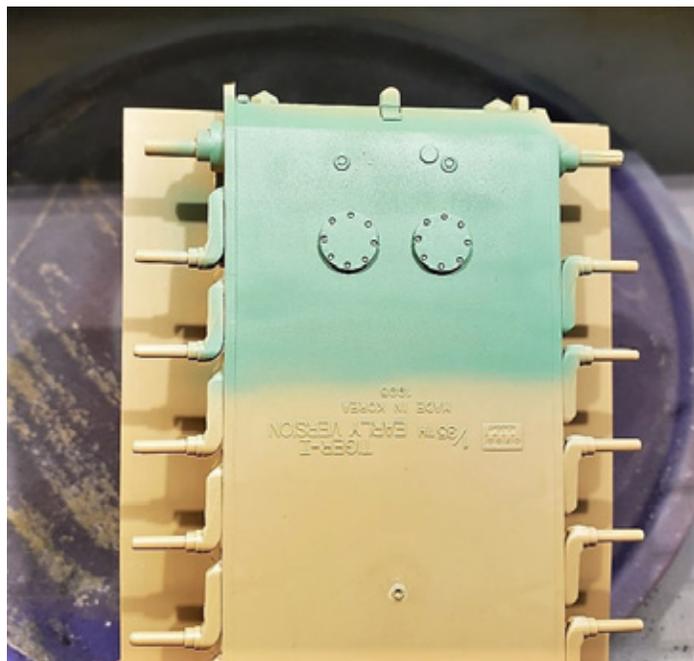


The paint sprays well straight from the bottle. Tru-Color recommends spraying the paint at 28 psi. The optimal range is 28 to 35 psi, which is a bit higher than I use. However, for the purposes of this review, I dutifully followed directions (a distinctly odd feeling) and set my airbrush for 30 psi.



The paint sprays beautifully, and dries pretty quickly to a semi-gloss sheen. It was dry to the touch in about 15 minutes. I let it dry about 30 more minutes before I tested a couple of masking tapes. Both Tamiya tape and 3M blue painters tape responded well, without lifting the applied paint. As far as opacity, this paint covers well and a few light passes is all it took to cover the test piece. Since I'm

used to using a lower pressure, any problems with the application of the paint seen in the photo(s) are mine and mine alone. It's a learning curve...



Overall, I like this paint. It applies easily, covers well, and dries quickly. Definitely use these in a well ventilated area. To some modelers, the solvent-based properties are a deal breaker. Your mileage will vary. To my dismay, cleanup with acetone proved to be a mistake. The paint did not dissolve in the acetone, rather turned into a gooey substance that did cling to my Q-Tips. So there's that. Mr. Color Thinner did clean up the airbrush – is there anything that stuff can't do? I'm not knocking the paint, it might have been my hardware store brand acetone. There could have been impurities, or other things.

Recommended.

Randy



Product/Stock#: Ocean Green / #1089, Pale Green / #1090, Haze Green / #1091

<http://trucolorpaint.com/>



Tru-Color Paint
When you need TRU-Color



On The TABLE

By **Flanged End Yoke**

Lots of great models to discuss from the last meeting so let's get to it.

First up is Bill Kulpa the club's new 1/72nd scale aficionado. Bill brought in 6 of his masterpieces to share with the club. The first was a Hasegawa kit of an F106 Delta Dart.



The second was also a Hasegawa kit of a Japanese Oscar.



The third was Airfix's 1/72nd Skyray.



The fourth was an Israeli Fighter aircraft the Ouragan by Heller.

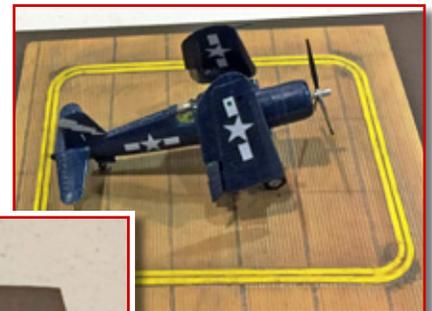


The fifth was a Skyraider with a detailed cockpit.

Last from Bill was an Airfix Corsair II.



Ben Morton is up next with a few completed models of his own, six of them to be accurate.



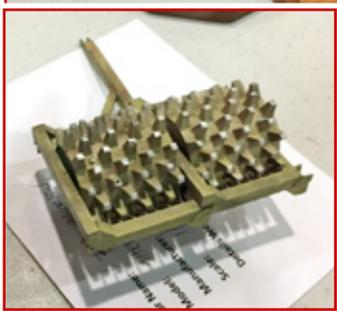
The first two are both Sweet 1/144th kits. A Corsair and a Mitsubishi Rufe.



Switching scales to 1/72nd Ben brought in ModelCollect's E-75 with twin 128mm guns.



Ben shared with us two models in 1/35th scale. The first was Bronco's Rheinbote Long Range Missile.



Next in 1/35 Ben brought in a resin kit of a Sheep Foot Roller.

Last from Ben was a subject of one of his kit reviews and Italeri 1/24 Technokar Trailer with 20' tank.



Mike Lamm brought in the subject of last month's newsletter the 1/35th Panda M-8 Armored Gun System.



Mike also brought in a Games Workshop 28mm Sentinel...



and a PM 1/72nd scale Yak 15.



Mike Poole brought in his multi-media kit 917/30 1973 M. Donahue #6. Looks like a good 6 month's work there Mike.





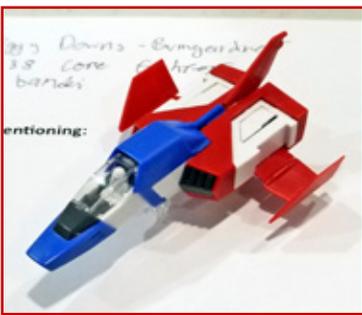
Milton Bell is up next with two 1/72nd scale gems. The first is an Airfix Hurricane Mark 1.



The second from Milton is a Tamiya ME-109E.



Our resident Gundam expert Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner brought in a trio of Gundams.



The first was a CF-38 Core fighter from Bandai in 1/100th scale.

The next was an RX-78-2 from Bandai in 1/100th scale.



Last from Ziggy was a prize winner at the San Antonio show an RX-124 TR1 Hyzenthlay III by Bandai in 1/144th.

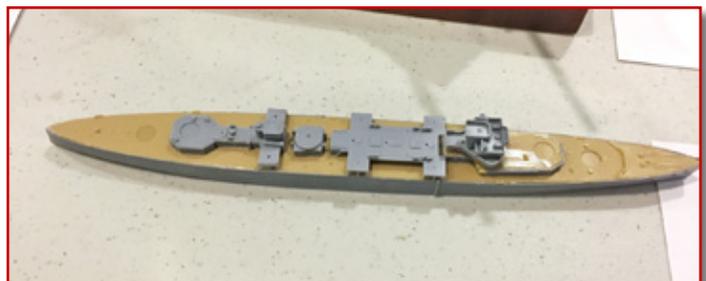


Rick Herrington brought in three of his latest works. The first was a 25mm WizKids Nolzurs Marv adult Remorhaz ice dragon.

The second was his Tamiya 1/35th Type 74 JGSDF MBT.

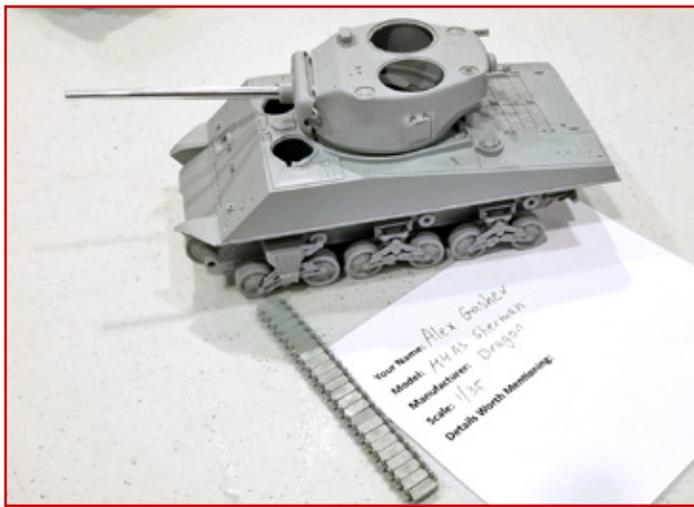


The third was a Work In Progress (WIP) 1/700th HMS Dorsetshire from Aoshima.





Alex Gashev also brought in a WIP, his Dragon M4A3 in 1/35th scale.



Ian Latham brought is something “Completely different” for him, a Sdkfz 253 Greif from Tamiya complete with Rommel and staff.



Tim Robb brought in his completed Esci 1/48 Mig 27.



Dave Edgerly brought in a 1/48 Tamiya Spitfire Mark 1 with some ICM crew figures to go along with it.



Last up with this month’s winner of model of the month is Ron McCracken with his B-25J by Revell. Congratulations Ron!



Whew! That’s it for this month. Thanks to everyone that brought in their work to share with the club.

Flanged



OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

Rick Herrington, Ron McCracken, Mike Lamm

Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

A great deal more to work with as to upcoming releases this month.

Let's start with 1/700th scale.



AJM Models is releasing two new mixed media kits. The first is a British "F" class destroyer HMS Fame.



The second destroyer from AJM is a British "E" class destroyer.

Pit Road is releasing all the rest of the 1/700th scale items. The first of three USN battleships is BB-44 USS California (1941).



All three battleships come with colorized flags and flagstaffs. They also come with a ship nameplate.



The second ship is USS Colorado BB-45 (1944).



The third battleship is BB-46 USS Maryland (1945).

Not to neglect the Imperial Japanese Navy, Pit Road is releasing the Yugumo class destroyer Fujinami with colorized photo etch flags and a nameplate.



Last from Pit Road in 1/700th are two modern Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force kits of the destroyer DD-115 Akizuki,





SCALE 1/700
海上自衛隊護衛艦 DDG-171 はたかぜ Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force DDG-171 "HATAKAZE"

and the guided missile destroyer DDG-171 Hatakaze.



Moving on to 1/350th Trumpeter is releasing the sister ship of HMS Exeter, HMS York. Not much difference between the two ships other than the funnels being angled backward and a taller bridge on HMS York. It'll be interesting to see if Trumpeter gets her right.



In shelf buster scale (1/200) Trumpeter is releasing the RMS Titanic. For you Titanic fans this should be good one. This will not only be a shelf buster but a wallet buster as well. Pre-Orders are around \$400. No details on what extras the kit includes yet.



Last up in 1/72nd scale Revell is re-releasing a blast from the past, the PT-109. In my younger years I built several of these kits. Most succumbed either to Black Cats or BB-guns.



That's all for this month.

Grab a kit out of that stash and build it!

Ricardo





Moving on to Airfix we have a new mold 1-48 Supermarine Spitfire FR Mk.XIV. Continuing the wartime development of the famous Supermarine Spitfire, the Mk.XIV paired the Spitfire airframe with the Rolls Royce Griffon engine. Installation of the new engine in the existing Spitfire airframe required a redesign of both the front and rear sections of the aircraft and the use of a distinctive five bladed Rotol propeller.



Hasegawa has announced a 1/48th TF-104G/F-104DJ Starfighter, which I suspect is a re-boxing of their earlier kit with new markings.



Markings provided are:

- 1) Taiwan A.F. 3rd Group 28th Squadron Code: 4147 (61-3030)
- 2) J.A.S.D.F. 204th Squadron Code: 004 (26-5004)

ICM has also announced a 1/48th He 111H-20. The H-20 was the last major production variant and entered into production in early 1944, equipped with Junkers Jumo 211-F2 powerplants and updated armament and equipment.



Moving on to 1/72nd, Eduard has announced a Limited Edition kit of the MiG-21MF in Czech and Czechoslovak service. Dual Combo style boxing offers two kits - MiG-21MF Interceptor and MiG-21 Fighter-bomber.



Included is a 100+ page full-color book about MiG-21MF service in Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak Air Forces (in Czech). An English translation is available to download in pdf format. The kit includes Cartograf decals for, if you can believe it, 39 variations. Color photo etch parts and painting masks are also included.

Special Hobby has announced a Breguet Br. 695AB.2, a WW2 French ground-attack airplane. The kit consists of three grey styrene sprues, one sprue with clear parts, polyurethane resin details and a full-colour instruction booklet. The decal sheet includes three Vichy-operated machines, one of them as flown in 1941, the other two of the post-armistice period.





In what I am sure will delight the ME-109 fanatics, Tamiya has announced a Bf-109 G-6 in 1-72nd. The canopy can be assembled open or closed, and the cockpit within features excellent detail.

It Includes 2 marking options.



- F-15J Mystic Eagle IV '204 SQ' Part 2
Markings: J.A.S.D.F. 7th AW 204th SQ. 1998 combat competition



Next up from Tamiya is a 1/72nd Kawasaki Ki-61-I Hien (Tony). The announcement features something called silver color plated wings and fuselage, which I suspect is similar to the old Hawk chrome-plated kits. Decals for recreating the mottled camouflage employed by some 244th Air Group aircraft are included. Comes with 3 marking options in total.



- F-4EJ Kai Super Phantom '302 SQ Final Year 2019'
Markings: J.A.S.D.F. 7th AW 302nd SQ
Code: 399 (77-8399) Hyakuri A.B. 2018-2019



Hasegawa has announced several 1/72 scale releases that I suspect are re-issues with new markings. They are:

- F-2A 'Tsukishi Special 2018'
Markings:
1) J.A.S.D.F. 8th AW 8th SQ Code: 508 (13-8508) Tsuiki A.B. Nov.,2018
2) J.A.S.D.F. 8th AW 6th SQ Code: 533 (53-8533) Tsuiki A.B. Nov.,2018



Dekno has announced a 1/72 scale resin Consolidated Y1C-22 Fleetster USAAC VIP transport. This small company has a line of 1930's single-engine transports and racing planes, for example the Howard DGA-6 "Mr. Mulligan" and the Spartan Executive.

You can also put your order via email to: orders@deknomodels.com
Just indicates your name address, phone and models & quantity, then I will send you the invoice with the PayPal money request

CONSOLIDATED Y1C-22 FLEETSTER - USAAC VIP TRANSPORT

1/72 scale model kit

LIMITED EDITION
Only 70 kits will be edited
Delivery will start in March 28

WWW.DEKNO MODELS.COM



ICM is releasing an I-153 in Chinese AF markings.



Last, but certainly not least, Trumpeter is releasing a Tu-128UT Fiddler. This is a re-box of their 2018 release with some new parts.



Ron



Tracked Topics

By Rick Herrington

*I*t's a good time to be alive and an armor modeler, especially if you like building modern armor.

The new releases are all going to be in 1/35th as 1/72nd seems to have fallen out of vogue with manufacturers.



First up is a new Israeli Defense Force tank by AFV. This is a Circa Lebanon war "Peace in Galilee" Centurion Shot Kal Gimel Type II. The Israeli up-gunned Centurions are one of my favorites especially with the reactive armor festooning the sides and front of the tank.





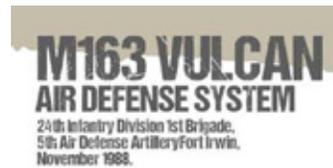
AFV is also releasing a new T-34 85 in 1/35th. This is a late war (1944) version so you could probably use it for your Battle of Berlin diorama.



Next up from AFV is a British Achilles. This was the British version of the American M-10 tank destroyer armed with a 17 pounder gun.



Academy is up next with an M-163 Vulcan Air Defense track.



Amusing Hobby has a couple of new releases to share with us. The first is a British “what if”, the FV 217. This was a proposed self-propelled 120mm armed tank destroyer. The vehicle was designed to be able to take on the German heavy tanks late in the war.



Another “what if” project from the Germans was the Panther II. Amusing hobby is releasing a kit of it. I imagine that these kits are aimed at the World of Tanks community. Whoever they’re aimed at I’m interested in building one.



Asuka, our favorite Sherman folks are releasing an M4A38. This surely will be another quality release.



Bronco is up with a surprising release, not the subject matter because it's a T-34 85 but the scale they are releasing it in which is 1/32nd. Since 99.9% of the model manufacturers adhere to 1/35th in their model releases it makes you wonder where



Bronco is going with this one. It is an interesting release in that it depicts a specific North Korean tank.



Meng has some new releases for us to ogle. The first is the latest Leopard weapon system the Leopard 2A7+.



This is a Leopard 2A7 designed for urban warfare and mounting a Remote Control Close in Weapon System.

Second from Meng is a Russian ZSU-23-4.





MiniArt. The manufacturer who has 5 parts where 1 will do is releasing a new Russian self-propelled gun the SU-122. The kit includes a full interior and engine.



MiniArt also have in store for us a Russian T-44 and a 76mm artillery piece complete with crew and limber.



Not to be left out this month Tamiya is releasing a Marder III M.



Takom has an M46 Patton and a Willys Jeep family for us. Not sure what Takom means by "family" here. They have only released one image on their Facebook Page so we have little information to work with. That being said I have not been disappointed by previous Takom releases and am looking forward to these.

Willys Jeep Family

1/35





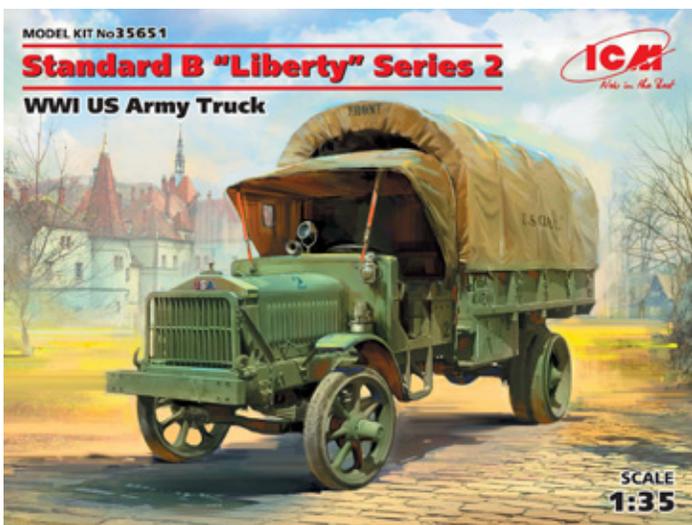
Trumpeter is releasing a 1/35th Pzkwf 8 Maus. This is going to be a big kit with a big price. It looks like it's going to be right around \$150.00



Zvezda is up next with another giant, the T-28.



In the miscellaneous artillery and wheeled section of our column ICM is releasing a WW1 Liberty truck,



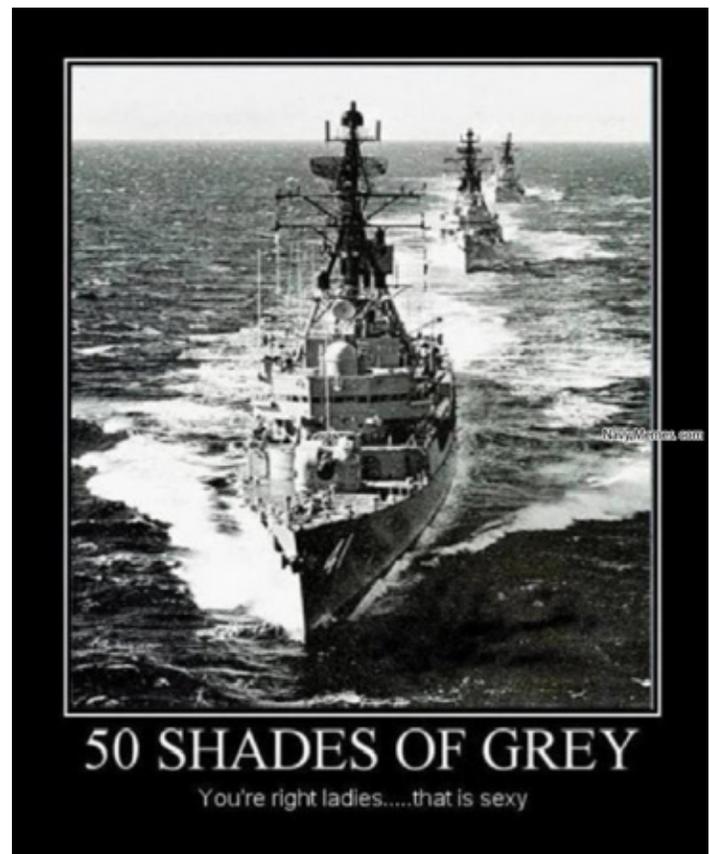
and a company I'm not familiar with Das Werk is releasing a German 30mm Flakvierling. I want to say the 30mm is another proposed wonder weapon that didn't see the light of day.



That's a wrap for this month.

Build a tank. It'll do you good.

Rick





It Figures

By Michael Lamm

Welcome to the March edition of your look into the world of miniature people and things.

Let's start off with a new set of figures from Miniart (<https://miniart-models.com/>) featuring Germans in Kharkov in 1943. Kharkov, now a city in Ukraine, is the name of four different battles along German's Eastern front in World War II. The battles were named after Kharkov, even though for the most part, the battles took place near or outside the city.

When talking about battles on the Eastern front, and providing figures for them, it's important to note when they occurred, because the equipment and uniforms can be noticeably different since many of the areas were fought over multiple times.

First when the Germans pushed East, and then when the Russians counter-attacked West. The Battle of Kharkov 1943, was the third battle in the area, and this

time it was the Russians attacking the city. By this point in the campaign, the Germans had reached their high-water point in Russia and had begun their retreat westward. The battle took place in February 1943, and as such winter gear and miserable conditions were the norm.



The first set of figures is a German tank crew and the plastic figures look nice. They're wearing a mishmash of different winter uniform items,

including a winter hat, scarves, heavy gloves, and a fur-lined vest. Miniart does a good job, of making faces look gaunt, and these ones have nice high cheek bones, sucked in cheeks, and each face has a unique pose. A really nice feature with this kit that you don't always see with figures intended for armored vehicles, is the addition of two small sprues of weapons and equipment.



The second set of figures represent soldiers from the Totenkopf Division in Kharkov. The Totenkopf (literal translation "Death's Head") Division was one of the more infamous Waffen SS Divisions in World War II. Originally made up of former concentration camp



guards, the unit fought in the Battle of France, and then Operation Barbarossa, but at this point in the war, they were being pushed back to Germany by the Russian army, until the remnants of the Division surrendered to the U.S. Army in Czechoslovakia.



The five figures in this set, are posed in various poses that make it look like they are taking a break from hostilities, or contemplating returning to hostilities, or both. The figures are all wearing heavy winter gear over their normal uniforms, and again Miniart has done a good job capturing a group of cold and exhausted troops. One complaint I've had about Miniart in the past, is that their hands tend to look out of scale and bland, but they've taken care of that with this group by putting gloves on everyone's hands. Again, this set comes with a variety of weapons common to German infantry units at the time.



Next up, is a couple more Germans. This time from Bravo 6 figures (<https://www.facebook.com/bravo6figures/>). These resin figures are shown adding kill marks to the barrel of their tank, which was a fairly common practice among German tankers and anti-tank gunners. "Einer Mehr" translates to "one more", and depending on where this tank was fighting, that number could be the first of many. These figures are well detailed, with nice facial expressions, and Bravo 6 does a good job posing their figures in ways that are realistic and not normally done with other figure companies. The set also includes a resin barrel, so these two can be posed separately, or with a model.



In addition to World War II, Bravo 6 has a line of figures focusing entirely on the Vietnam War. This time the figures depict United States Marine Corps soldiers in tropical uniform and flak vests with M-16s cautiously moving through an urban setting. The realistic poses, and great uniform creases really set these two apart. They'd look great moving from behind a tank, or into a street in a diorama scene.





Next up is a company you may identify as more of an aftermarket parts company. CMK (<https://www.cmkkits.com/en/>) has a long line of aftermarket resin upgrades for aircraft in all the standard scales, but they also produce some nice lines of figures in a variety of scales too. Often, they are the only game in town, for certain figures, such as their line of very nice 1/72nd German submarine crews.

Some of their latest releases are some unique figures to spice up some dioramas. First up, is an AJ-37/JA-37 Viggen pilot climbing a ladder into his cockpit. The part is identified specifically for the Special Hobby/Tarangus kit, but I'm sure it would work with other kits, as well as other jet fighters. The resin cast figure comes in two pieces with his separate right arm holding the ladder. The kit comes with a separate injection molded ladder.



In 1/32nd, they have just released a British WWII Tempest mechanic. The mechanic is a generic enough figure that I'm sure he'd work with any British aircraft of the time. The set contains a British RAF mechanic figure from the later stage of WWII, but he's wearing coveralls, so could really work for any period in WWII, as well as a short time after the war too. The figure comes in four parts, the body, head and both arms are separate parts. The details on his face



and uniform look very nice, which is important in 1/32nd since the details are much more obvious.

CMK also offers some unusual parts unique to certain theatres of war. A perfect example is this next item, an elephant. It comes in 1/72nd or 1/48th scale, and there are plenty of photos out there of elephants working hard on the home front and the front lines during WWII.



Specifically, they were used to help pull out wreckage from bombing raids and for plowing fields in Great Britain, and were used to help build airfields in India and China by both the British and Japanese forces there. You can purchase the elephant separately or as a set with a rider, and a British mechanic. Don't let the fact that this is an Asian Elephant (small ears) discourage you, the Elephants in the Belfast zoo in WWII were Asian elephants, and there are plenty of pictures of them at work in Ireland.

ICM has several new WW1 figure sets. Figure sets for WW1 are few and far between so better snap them up now.





It looks like ICM is focusing on Gallipoli as they are releasing a set of Anzac and Turkish infantry in 1/35th scale.

So, enough with the historical figures, we have people that build modern stuff on occasion and we can't ignore them. For those of you who want modern, it doesn't get more modern than this, Live-Resin (<http://www.live-resin.com/>) designs and manufactures resin figures and accessories in primarily 1/35.



thing about their figures is the component-based features, meaning parts from one figure are transferrable to their other figures, so you're not stuck with only one pose offered from the manufacturer. Also, each piece of gear is separate, allowing you to add as much, or as little, as you like. As is becoming more common is real front line situations, many figure companies are now offering female soldiers in combat roles, and Live Resin is no different.



These guys are really cutting edge, and all their products are developed using 3D modeling for a super accurate representation of modern equipment and operators.

Some of their latest releases feature modern soldiers with a TON of gear options. One of the cool

In addition to their modern soldiers, they've got a new line of Special Forces soldiers. These figures sport different equipment, but one thing that really stands out is the beard and long hair on one figure, which has become commonplace among Special Forces operators in country. These figures look great, and it appears the only thing missing is a tin of dip.



with a Tiger also. The set looks to be well animated and includes 3 figures. One looks to be manning the turret ring MG. The other two are a wounded (fallen) soldier and a comrade.



If you're an Israeli Defense Force fan ICM is catering to you with their next release. The release is a 1/16th scale (Big!) IDF K-9 unit complete with snarling German Shephard.

Editor's note: Rye Field Models known for their fine 1/35th scale

armor is releasing a set of figures for your, in this case, Panther but I'm sure you could pose the set



Scale 75 has released a 75mm Mississippi Volunteer. The figure is meant to depict a volunteer in the Texas War of Independence at the Battle Bexar in 1835. He certainly looks happy enough with this jug in hand.



Well, that does it for this month. Now, go build a model and add a figure to it.

You won't regret it!

Mike





Sundries

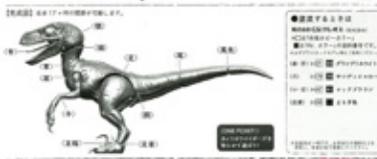
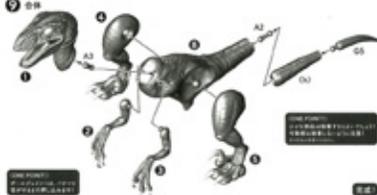
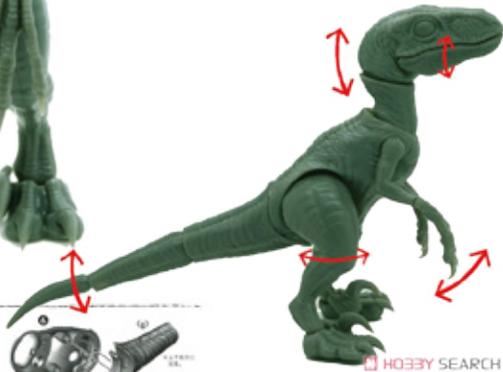
By What Hump?

I know I said we were just going to let this column go bye bye but on my searches for other stuff I came across some other stuff that needed to be shared with modelers.

First up is Fujimi's Velociraptor. Wouldn't this look cool on your desk at work? With a little AVES putty this could be a nice little piece.



ヴェロキラプトル



Next up is that cool submarine from Fantastic Voyage. You know the movie where they shrink a group of scientists and a submarine small enough so that they can be injected into a scientist to do brain surgery on him? Yeah, the one with Raquel Welch.



Moebius has provided us with a 1/32nd scale model of the Proteus and the crew figures to go along with it. Sorry kids, crew members sold separately.



VoodooFX has stepped up and provided us with a lighting kit for the model. Thank you VoodooFX!

Short and sweet.

* If you run across something in your web travels that you think just has to be brought to the attention of your fellow plastophiles send it to my e-mail address or the web site address for submissions and I'll include it.



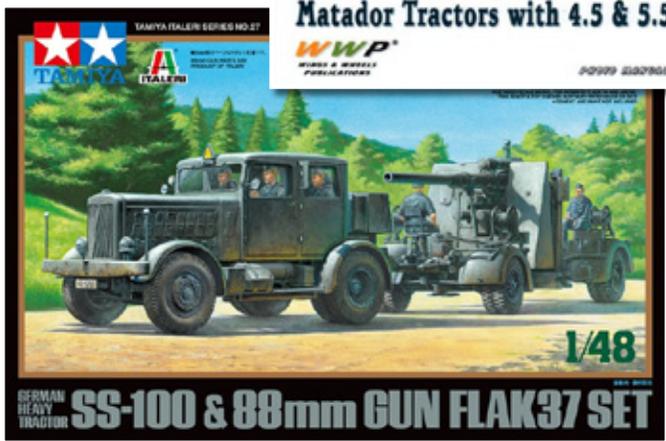
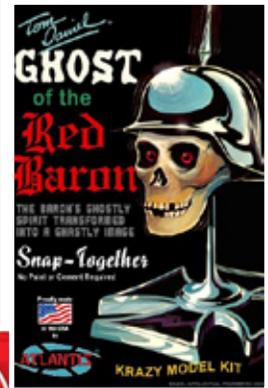
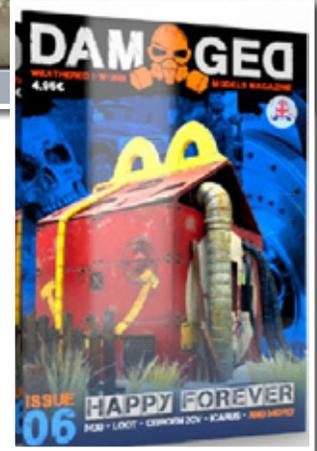
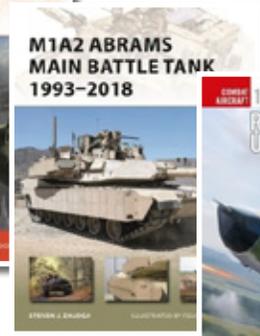
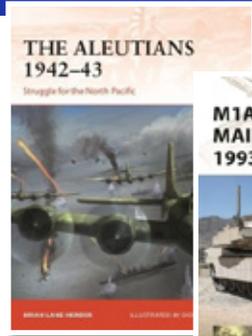


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Phone:	E-mail:		
Signature (required by P.O.) _____			
Type of Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17	<input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals)	How Many Cards? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order		
Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____			
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:			
Name:	IPMS No.:		_____
IPMS/USA		PO Box 56023	
Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org		St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023	

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