

Newsletter



The
Winners
Circle

Fourth of July

July 2017 Theme Contest Winner:
1/32 F-86F Sabre by David Anderson

Photo by Paul Tomczak

by David Anderson

My model of the F-86F Sabre “Skyblazers” is a 1/32 scale kit by Italeri. The model is box stock using the Skyblazer decals that came with the model. This was an excellent kit with good instructions, minimum flash and good fit and

finish. Hard to believe but the silver paint that I used on the kit is by Rustoleum. I have painted many real car rims and have found that the Rustoleum provides the best finish. The rear portion of the fuselage can be removed and placed in the engine cradle to reveal the jet engine.

NEXT MEETING

**August 4
Theme Contest...
“Guns of
August”
World War I
Subjects**



Photo by Paul Tomczak

I thought that the Skyblazers red, white and blue paint scheme was an excellent candidate for the July club theme of “4th of July”. The story of the Skyblazers is as follows: In the spring of 1949 the first flights of the

Continued on page 11

Visit the DVSM website: www.dvsm.org

President's Corner

by Paul Tomczak

Welcome to summer folks! It is certainly hot out these days and I hope everyone is staying cool. I can't believe it's almost August already. As I am writing this I am planning to take the last week off in July. It's a bit of a stay-cation, with a couple of day trips with the family. It will be a little more time to spend with my daughter who will be leaving for college mid-August (Yikes!). It will also give me time to finish off my Shelf of Doom project. I have already dusted her off and started the paint prep. Well at least that is the plan, we'll see as the week progresses.

This month I completed two models which I built almost simultaneously. I normally work on no more than two builds, usually leapfrogging the process with one being built and one being painted and they move down the line to decalling, weathering, etc... with the second build a step behind. As I moved both builds forward I realized one was turning out much better than the other. For example, the post-shaded paint job on my F4F Wildcat came out exactly as I wanted. The pre-shading on my Me-110 just disappeared under my first light coat of paint. Ugh. Coming back and post shading just made it worse. Well, at least, not better.

When I moved to decalling, my Starfighter "Battle of Midway" Wildcat decals set perfectly in each panel line. The decals on my Me-110 were older Superscale decals, and would not respond to Micro-Sol and silvered after the flat coat. I applied Mig Panel Line Wash (PLW) and it worked great on the petite Hasegawa panel lines on my wildcat. On the Me-110, with its huge Airfix panel lines, it all but disappeared. Two models with virtually the same process applied with completely different results.

I guess I could have parked my Me-110 on a Shelf of Doom, but I am more inclined to finish what I started – good or bad. In the end, my Me-110 was an OK result made for a group build on the Airfix Tribute Forum. Some good photography hid the warts (somewhat) and I had my group build posted. My Midway Wildcat will be at PennCon in September, maybe as a collection with my other Wildcat builds. I just hope I can duplicate the paint job on the next Wildcat I build. Two models, same build process I have always done, two very different results. Thirty years or so of building models and I still have more to learn...

See you all in August. Don't forget your WWI build as the monthly theme is "The Guns of August". Any model from the WWI era can make the theme table.

Happy Modeling... ■

THEME CONTESTS 2017

January "Big & Small"

Winner: USS *Kearsarge* by Howard Rifkin

February "What If?"

Winner: 1/72 Bf-110T by Paul Tomczak

March "Delta Wings & Giant Fins"

Winner: 1/48 Convair F-106 by Marty Blum

April "Wild Thing"

Winner: 1/72 Grumman X-29 by Mark Webb

May "A Day at the Beach"

Winner: 1/32 OS2U Kingfisher by Glenn Hoover

June

No theme. Judged Gold, Silver, Bronze Contest.

July "Fourth of July"

Winner: 1/32 F-86F Sabre by David Anderson

August "Guns of August"

Model must be of a subject from the WWI era.

September "Rising Sun"

Model of a Japanese subject.

October "Scratch-built/Vacuform/Resin"

Model must be a scratch-built or vacuform kit, or be a completely resin kit.

November "Dungeons & Dragons"

A model in orange and black (Halloween) color scheme and/or with a spooky name, e.g., "Spectre", "Banshee", "Phantom".

December

No theme. "Shelf of Doom" (pictures of entrants taken through March meeting) & Favorite Five contest.

QUESTIONS about DVSM's Contests should be directed to Mike Turco at MATurco@aol.com

August Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



"Fourth of July" theme F9F Panther Jet, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



"Fourth of July" theme YF-16, 1/72, by Mike Turco



"Fourth of July" theme X-29, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



"Fourth of July" theme F-100D, 1/48, by Logan Brown



Space Borne figure, 120mm, by the late Vince Buonfiglio



Big turret KV-1, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak

August Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Boeing "Bird of Prey," 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



"Alien Fighter," by Paul Keefe



Custom Chevy Pickup, 1/25, by Rod Rakos



Frog/Revell Germany Fiat G-55, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



"Star Wars" Walker, by Frank Tiewski



1957 Ford stock car, 1/25, by Dave Anderson

August Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



"Mk-1 Presidential Escort," by Mike Turco



Revell P-40E Warhawk, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



S3A Viking, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



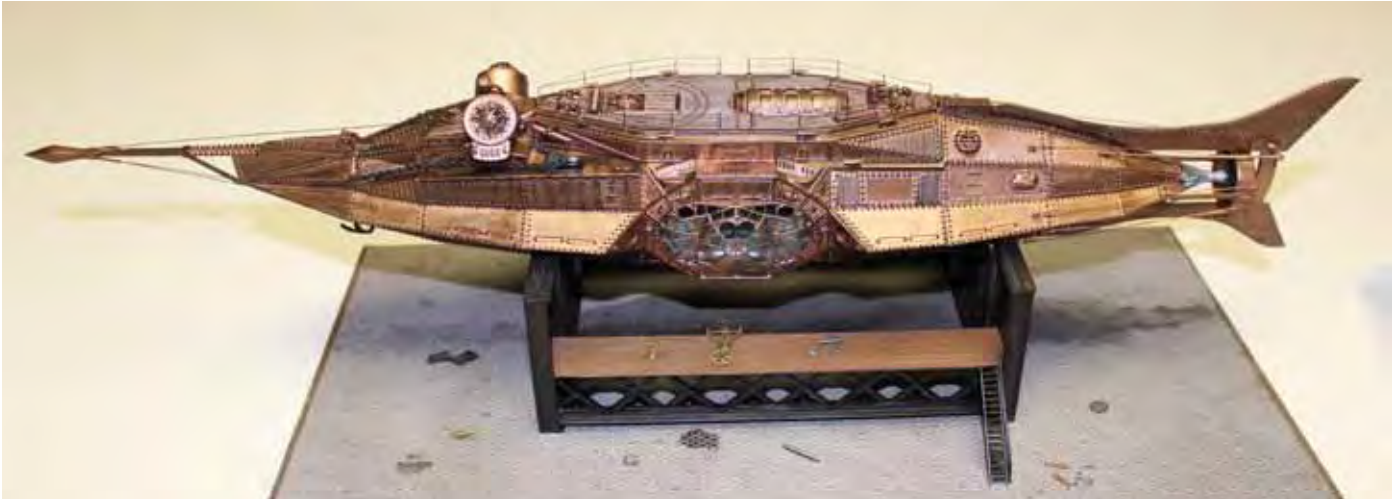
USS/SS Munrio, 1/700, by Mike Turco



TACC Figures, by Paul Keeffe



X-29A Lifting Body, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



"Nautilus," by Keith Jones



Titan III C Launch Vehicle, by Mike Turco



"Nautilus," by Keith Jones



"Nautilus," by Keith Jones

“A Piper’s Touch”



Converting a Military Miniatures Warehouse 120 mm. Scottish Highlander Cobbler to a Piper

by Joe Vattilana IPMS 4375

This 120 mm. Scottish Regimental Cobbler resin figure is one of three in a series available through Military Miniatures Warehouse (Figure 3). The series is called the “Old Contemptibles,” a name given to the British Army in World War I. Per Wikipedia,

“**Emperor Wilhelm II** of Germany, who was famously dismissive of the British Expeditionary Force (during World War I), allegedly issued an order on 19 August 1914 to “exterminate the treacherous English and walk over General French’s contemptible little army.” Hence, in later years, the survivors of

the regular army dubbed themselves “The Old Contemptibles.” No evidence of any such order being issued by the Kaiser has ever been found.”

In addition to building model aircraft and the occasional figure, I play the bagpipes, so when I saw this particular figure, it piqued my interest. After walking by a vendor’s table three times, I decided to dive into the wallet (about \$45.00) and take the plunge. My goal was to convert this figure to a piper who is sitting on a park bench preparing to do some pipe chanter reed maintenance. This should not be a problem: scratch build a bagpipe box, scratch build a park bench, scratch build a set of bagpipes, and do some surgery on the figure, and make it all look believable. No problem!

The figure was originally a Scottish Highlander Cobbler holding a shoe in one hand and a hammer in the other. He was sitting on a crate with his feet resting on some equipment. I first thought about using the crate, but I would not have place to lay the bagpipes or the box. Hence the idea of a park diorama. I was hoping, however, that the casual observer would understand the intent of the display, rather than, “what is he doing with that knife?”



The Pipe Box

I knew this would be a daunting project, so I first completed the smaller projects before working on the figure to keep the interest up. I thought that the pipe case in the early 1900’s would



simply be a box with a lid (similar to one I build some years ago). I first tried using model plywood, however the look was too bulky and the edges were very ragged. I estimated the length of the case that would fit a set of model bagpipes, and built it out of sheet plastic. The lid was built the same way with some small strips for hinges. I glued the half strip to the box, bent them at an angle, then glued the box lid so it's open. I added a "clasp" to the front. The carrying handle was a bit of a challenge. I first tried flattened brass wire, which didn't work. I then took a plastic strip, curved it up a bit to create a bow above the box and added another small strip to the top of the loop for the handle. Once completed, I painted the case a light tan overall to imitate the wood finish. It wasn't convincing, so I took some raw umber oil paint with a sponge and lightly streaked the box giving it a grain effect. Since a piper usually has music, I scanned a couple of bagpipe tunes and placed them under the box lid (pipers always have music with them!). Project 1 complete.

The Park Bench

This was the easiest part of the project. I wanted a flat, 2 large plank bench with no seat back. I used the figure to determine the height, and built the bench out of bass wood. I used a bit of artistic license by adding a bit of the curve to the base of the supports. To give the bench a worn look, I sanded down the edges, and added some scrapes for a weathered look.. I achieved a better look by first painting the boards with Floquil Mud, then, when dry, I streaked it with Raw Umber to give the wood a weathered look. It came out the color of weathered pressure treated wood. Project 2 done.

The Pipes! The Pipes! Do ye' hear them?

Nothing frustrates me more than to see a scale piper with a magnificent paint finish, beautiful tartan, and holding/playing what is supposed to be bagpipes but looks like anything but. Bagpipes

have not changed in design since the 1700's, and photographs and paintings are easily available on the internet. A piper blows into the bag through the blowpipe, and plays the melody on the chanter. The three drones (one bass drone- the longer one, and two tenor drones) provide the harmony. The drones are constructed with two "tubes" (bass drone has three), which fit a smaller "tuning slide." The upper "tubes" slide up or down to match the sound to the chanter.

The intent was to display the pipes resting on the park bench, so the bag needed to be flat with the drones laying on top of the bag. (Figure 4). I first made the drones using Plastruct rod that fits inside a Plastruct tube. I added "projecting mounts" which are the round disks at the bottom of the drones and the top. The drones were painted Humbrol #10 dark brown (bagpipes are made out of African Blackwood).

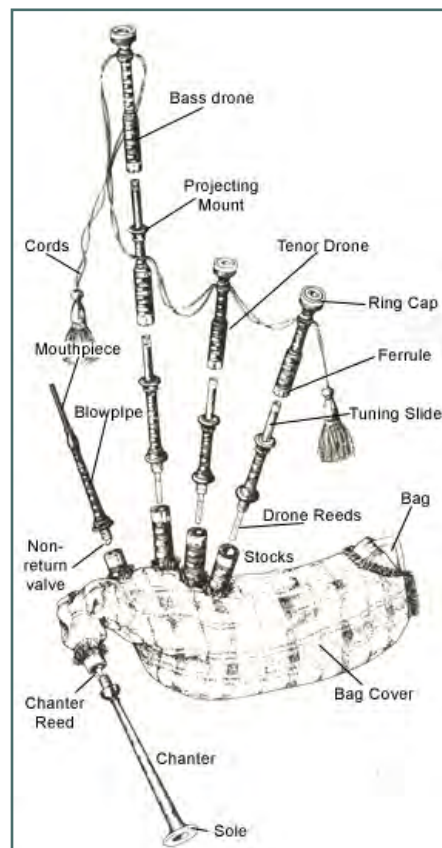


The projecting mounts were painted Model Master Ivory, with other ornamentation silver. The blowpipe was made the same way.

The bag was made out of Milliput using my pipes as an example. While still formable, I placed the drones in the Milliput to get the look I wanted. I added the blowpipe, and a plastic tube where the pipe chanter would be fitted (the piper will be holding the chanter for maintenance). I then removed the drones so I could paint the bag when it was dry. From what I could determine the regiments used their tartan colors for their bag covers. In this case, my piper is from the Gordon Highlanders, whose tartan is like the Black Watch (dark blue and green), with a thin yellow stripe. The drones are held together with drone cords that I made out of a dark green and blue intertwined thread. These are tied across the top third of the drones.

The Scot

The figure comes with two head options: one wearing a Glengarry (like an overseas cap), or a Balmoral (also called a "Tam o' Shanter"). Both are nicely sculpted, so I decided to go with the Balmoral head since I determined the cap badge insignia was the Gordon Highlanders. The kit suggests the Glengarry figure can be painted with the Black Watch figure. However, if you are so inclined, you could trim off the cap badge and create another insignia based on any of the other Scottish regiments. Back to the figure, a little trimming was needed to have the head fit snug in the collar.



Overall the figure has some good detail, especially the kilt pleats in the back of the figure. There was a bit of a mold line along the sides that had to be taken care of. I thought the surface was a bit rough, so I smoothed down parts of the kit with sandpaper.

My plan was to have the piper hold a pipe chanter in one hand and holding a small knife in the other. The arms were separate items, so I was able to modify them. There was a lot of trial and error to get the positioning correct by cutting a wedge from the inner elbow to get the left arm into a angle parallel to the body. The one glaring weakness of the kit is the hands. They are quite bulky so I could not use them for this project. Fortunately, I had some Verlinden hands and found two that fit perfectly and gave me great detail. After the hands were glued and into the wrists, I cut off the left arm at the elbow so I could paint the tartan on the kilt when it was time.

The legs were separate items, so I was able to modify the left foot so it laid flat on the ground, rather than an angle when it originally rested on some equipment. Since the leg is stretched out, I used to Milliput to cover the gap between the stocking and the boot.

Painting the Figure

The standard procedure is to first paint the face, then the rest of the figure. However, I was undecided as to what technique to use: Sheppard Paine's oils, Bill Horan's enamels, or something else. As with all decisions like this, I avoided painting the face and painted the clothing instead.

I used Humbrol's Khaki Drill for the Balmoral and the stockings (hose), which I thought was a great color for this. I highlighted the top of the bonnet with a dry brush mixture of white and Khaki Drill, and used black and Khaki Drill underneath. I dry brushed with Testors silver the regimental badge worn on the left side of the Balmoral.

The hose are held up by flashers. There are elastic bands that wrap around the ankle that include two



pieces of cloth that drape down below the hose. They are usually red in color, but I decided that since the tartan was blue and green, I used Humbrol's Dark Green for the flasher. The hose and flashers were highlighted as well.

Checking World War I re-enactor websites, I found the shoes were brown leather. I painted these Humbrol Leather with some white highlights. I also flattened the sheen since with was more of an "informal" setting rather than having spit shined shoes.

I was perplexed with the color of the shirt and suspenders. The picture of the kit shows a kind of light grey with the suspenders a lighter color. Going on the internet revealed the shirt was actually a wool undershirt used by the regiments that was part of the uniform for a number of years before the war. The color is a dark grey, which I used Humbrol British Equipment Grey (MC 20). The suspender color, also found on the internet, was painted Humbrol Light Grey (HN1).

I decided to try my own paint combination for the flesh: 3 parts Testors 1170 Light Tan, 2 parts Model Master Sand, and about .5 part Model Master British Crimson. Obviously the

"parts" would vary depending on the shade you want. I painted the eyes first (white, with a blue pupil), then painted the face with the above mixture. Using Sheppard Paine's technique, I highlighted/shadowed the appropriate areas (the nose, chin, etc.) for highlights by adding white, and under the chin, etc. for shadows using a touch of Leather brown. The knees and arms were painted with this mixture as well.

To paint the kilt and the bag cover, I used Model Master Insignia Blue (FS 35044), Humbrol HM3 Dark Green, Model Master Medium Green (34102), and Model Master Marker Yellow. The trick to painting a tartan is to remember all of the stripes are parallel and perpendicular to each other. I first painted the blue overall since that is the primary color. I then painted Dark Green stripes both horizontally and vertically, making sure they were of the same width. Where the two (dark) green stripes cross I painted a medium green square. This shows the "double green color" where the horizontal and vertical stripes overlap, giving it a different color. The challenging part of this painting is to remember to keep the

stripes parallel, even when the kilt drapes over the pipers legs. Once that is complete, a thin yellow line (for the Gordon Highlanders) is painted both horizontally and vertically down the middle of the green stripe. The challenge is to paint the stripe as to how it would flow around and down the seated pipers kilt. The technique is easy: find your finest detail brush, get it pointy, dip it in a bit of yellow, and paint a fine line while holding your breath for five minutes. To paint the deep shadows between the kilt pleats I used India ink.. Once this is done, I re-glued the right arm and cleaned up any seam issues.

Bringing It All Together

The display itself is the usual decoupage board purchased from

Michaels Arts and Crafts. I stained the edges with dark brown, then varnished. Since this was a park, obviously I needed grass. My intention was to have some higher grass under the bench, but I couldn't do it, so I used two layers of Woodland Scenics grass. I first brushed some white glue (thinned with water) onto the board, then sprinkled the grass. I thought the grass wasn't "thick enough, so I sprayed Testors Dullcote over the first layer and sprinkled a second coat. It seemed to give me a thicker coat of grass. Once I glued the bench down, I added some dirt around the outside of the bench to show some grass wear. I then glued the pipe box on the ground and the pipes on the bench, making sure the pipe cords had a natural drape over the edge.

The final steps were to glue the piper on the bench. The kit had a knife that I filed down the knife blade to a narrower edge and painted it silver. This was glued to his left hand. The chanter was made from a rod and disk, painted brown and ivory like the drones, and I cut an actual piece of bagpipe chanter reed to glue it on top the chanter. Obviously the pipe reed is now unusable, but it went to a good cause. The final project was to add a small label "A Piper's Touch" using a Word file and a some scale plywood.

In conclusion, I think I accomplished my goal for this project. It took about 5 1/2 months to finish this, but once done, I stepped back to look at the finished product, and thought to myself, "THIS WAS FUN!" That's what modeling supposed to be. ■

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#18

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Skyblazers F-86F

continued from page 1

Skyblazers Air Demonstration Team took place in the skies over Europe at the airbase in Furstenfeldbruck, Germany. The pilots were part of the 22nd fighter squadron from the 36th Fighter Wing as part of the USAFE (United States Air Forces in Europe). The team was instructed by the USAFE headquarters to create an aerobatics team using F-80B aircraft and perform demonstrations throughout Europe. Soon afterwards the team was given modified F-84E Thunderjet aircraft. The 50-caliber machine guns were removed from the front of the aircraft for better handling. By the summer of 1952, the team had performed more than 260 air demonstrations in more than 12 countries. In 1953, the team came under the command of the 48th Fighter-Bomber Wing based in Chaumont, France. Soon after they moved onto the F-86F Sabre jet for the next 3 years. During this time, the team continued to perform air demonstrations throughout Europe using the F-86. In 1956, they were moved back to the 36th Fighter Wing and stationed at the airbase in Bitburg, Germany. During this time, a new air demonstration team based in the United States, call the "Thunderbirds" had been formed. In 1962, with the development of mid-air refueling , the Thunderbirds were able to make the trip to Europe and the Skyblazers were officially disbanded.



Dave used the 1/32nd Italeri kit for this build.



A restored Sabre in Skyblazers markings.



Though Dave chose to build his model out-of-the-box, the kit provides plenty of opportunity for the detail freaks to get busy with its removable rear fuselage and detailed engine. – Photo by Paul Tomczak.



Dave used Rustoleum enamel from a rattle can to achieve the smooth finish on his Sabre. – Photo by Paul Tomczak.

The North American F-86 Sabre, sometimes called the Saberjet, is a transonic jet fighter aircraft. Produced by North American Aviation, the Sabre is best known as the United States' first swept wing fighter that could counter the similarly-winged Soviet MiG-15 in high-speed dogfights over the skies of Korea (1950-1953). Considered one of the best and most important fighter aircraft in that war, the F-86 is also highly rated in comparison with other fighters of other eras. Although it was developed in the late 1940s and was outdated by the end of the 50's, the Sabre proved versatile and adaptable and continued as a front-line fighter in numerous air forces until the last active operational examples were retired by the Bolivian Air Force in 1994. The Sabre was by far the most-produced Western jet fighter, with the total production of all variants at 9,860 units. ■

2017 Theme Contest *Point Standings to Date*

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Totals
Tomczak, P.	3	5	1	4	2	2					17
Turco, M.	2	4	2	3	2	4					17
Anderson, D.	3	4	2	2		5					16
Rifkin, H.	5	1	1	1	2	3					13
Brown, L.	2	2	1	1	3	2					11
Leonetti, J.	1	3	1	1		3					9
Lockhard, C.	4	3									7
Blum, M.			5	2							7
Ursino, L.	3		3								6
Goschke, J.	1		4								5
Hoover, G.					5						5
Rakos, R.	2	1		1	1						5
Webb, M.				5							5
Lacey, L.					4						4
Turner, R.				4							4
Senner, D.	1		1								2
Volz, J.	2										2
Benner, J.		1									1
Schur, G.	1										1
Tiewski, F.				1							1
Vattilana, J.		1									1

Monthly points are awarded as follows: Each person who enters a model into the theme receives 1 pt. 1st place = 4+1, 2nd = 3+1, 3rd = 2+1

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