

Mold Lines

DECEMBER 2017



AN INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC
MODELERS' SOCIETY CHARTER
CHAPTER.



IN THIS ISSUE...



Revell 1/48th B-29

PLUS...



Club News brings us all the coverage of past and upcoming events from the Sonoran Desert Model Builders

In **Behind the Model** - we get to interview our club Treasurer, Kent Weeks



In **Tips & Tricks** - we show a simple way to make headphones in 1/35 scale

Mold Lines

WHAT IS IT?

Mold Lines is the official publication of the Sonoran Desert Model Builders Modeling club. We publish it on a monthly basis and it is your source for Club news, interviews, model reviews, photos or our member's modeling work as well as articles on modeling techniques and other articles of interest to our members.



WHO ARE THEY?

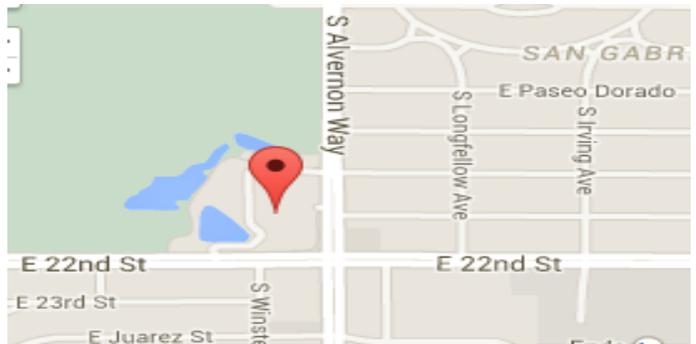
The Sonoran Desert Model Builders is a chartered IPMS model club in Tucson, Arizona dedicated to advancing each others skills through tip sharing, encouragement and, most importantly, hands-on building. Our members enjoy a deep camaraderie and level of respect for each other as well as a passion for model building. We build it all... cars, airplanes, armor, ships, figures, sci-fi...

Our mission is simple... LET'S BUILD!

MEETING DATES 2018

JANUARY	.....	4
FEBRUARY	.....	1
MARCH	.....	1
APRIL	.....	5
MAY	.....	3
JUNE	.....	7
JULY	.....	5
AUGUST	.....	2
SEPTEMBER	.....	6
OCTOBER	.....	4
NOVEMBER	.....	1
DECEMBER	.....	6

WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?



We meet at the **Northwest corner of Alvernon and 22nd** from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.
1100 South Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ

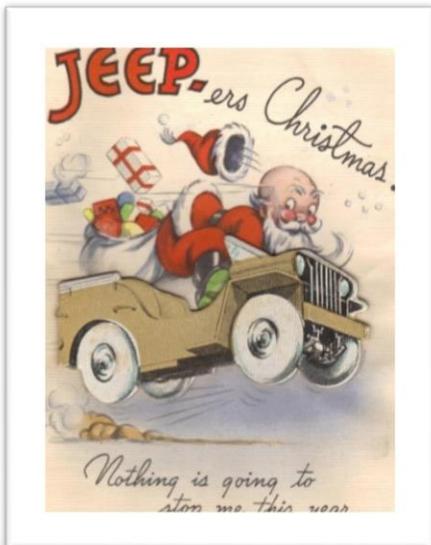


Editor's Workbench

Hello fellow modelers and dear friends.

Sometimes life catches up to you. It has been a while since our last newsletter went out. I have been struggling with some health issues since September that like most things of this nature are, came about quite unexpectedly. Thank God I am alright now, so we can get back publishing more editions of Mold Lines. I am very grateful for all the support from the guys at the SDMB lately.

Now, on with the show. The past several months have been very exciting for our club. We participated in Modelzona back in November and we had an amazing time. The quality of the entries was superb as always and the Craig Hewitt staff were wonderful hosts to this yearly event. Our club auction was held during our November meeting and while I missed the meeting I was told it was loaded with fun and laughter and those are always welcome news.



During our December meeting we held our annual SDMB Model of the Year contest. This is a contest where club members get to enter, the only rule is the model has had to be finished during 2017. I will not divulge more about it, we will bring you the details of the winning model on our January edition.

This month we bring you an awesome article about a very big airplane that consequently makes for a very big model. Bob Duke walks us through his build of Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29. We also bring you an interview with our current Treasurer and long time SDMB member Kent Weeks. Kent is one of those modelers whose motivation is contagious, every time I meet him his energy toward the hobby is more intense and also with every project he completes his work gets more and more impressive. Check out what motivates him in our Behind the Model section. In our tips and tricks section we show you a simple method to scratch build headphones in 1/35 scale to add to your armor models.

As we near the end of 2017 I have to admit I am looking forward to a new year. This year was very challenging for some of us and I am very grateful that we have such an awesome group of friends to share our hobby and our challenges. Merry Christmas to all of you and keep on modeling.

Until next year.

Model on!!

*Dave
Diaz*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Make and Take at the Pima Air and Space Museum** - This event is designed to introduce children to the hobby of model building and the math and historical research used to build accurate scale models. It will be held on January 6th, 2018 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.



- **Support our Monthly raffle!** Each month during our club meeting we hold a raffle with new and used kits. For every 10 tickets sold one model will be given away. Tickets are only \$1 each.



UPCOMING EVENTS



SDMB 2017 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 23rd from 7-9 PM

@ the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

3445 N Dodge Blvd

Tucson, AZ 85716

RECENT EVENTS

- **Monthly Club Meeting** – The SDMB held their monthly meeting on December 7th, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This month, as is our club tradition we voted on the SDMB Model of the Year. Each year we get more and more entries for this contest and this year we had over 30! Amazing work by all our club members. We will bring you the winner of our contest on the next issue.



Derek Campbell's Roman Centurion
by Pegasso



Mike Bilcik's /72nd Russian Su-34



Damon Blair's T-33 ▶

RECENT EVENTS



Bob Duke's 1/400 Queen Mary



See more awesome model photos from our meeting at: www.sdmb.yolasite.com

"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

By Bob Duke

I always wanted to build this kit due to its size. So I finally purchased the kit and on opening the box, I felt that I had gone off the deep end. The massive size of the darn thing already had me second guessing myself. I only have limited space and this kit was going to be challenge for that reason alone! I thought, man, this beast is going to over hang my workbench during assembly. Then when it's ready to paint I obviously can't use my spray booth (too small). Once she's finished, what do I do with it? If I can't display it anywhere, I'll have to construct a storage box. So you can see why a lot of these kits remain unbuilt and I joined that sentiment for a couple of months. But, I wasn't going to be denied! I finally pulled it off the shelf and went to work.



"...on opening the box, I felt that I had gone off the deep end. The massive size of the darn thing already had me second guessing myself."

"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

Once out of the box, the first thing I noticed was "raised" panel lines. Decision time:- .Do I sand all of them off and re-scribe, or do I live with them? Decision made:- Live with them.

I started the cockpit assembly which was fairly straight forward, lots of detail in there, but I had to proceed carefully because there will be a lot of "glass" to see through when it's all together.



After completing the forward cockpit area it was time to move on to the bomb bay and crew tunnel assembly. Lots of bombs to build and with Revell's notoriously poor molds in their older kits, it took quite some time filling seams etc. Then on to the central fire control bay and bunk areas aft of the bomb bays.

This area went together pretty straight forwardly. The only disappointment is the bunk area. After having spent time to detail the beds etc., it dawned on me that this area would be totally "closed in" and not viewable once the fuselage halves are glued together.



"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

This kit is unusual in that as the fuselage halves go together, the main wing "center box" is also sandwiched in prior to gluing. This center box has actual wing spars emanating out through some slots in the fuselage halves. I finished the wing box and glued it into the R/H fuselage half. Now I'm ready to start making this look like an airplane.



Not so fast, having been told this model is the mother of all "tail sitters" and not wanting to use the clear plastic prop rod in the back, I had to now add some extra weight in the nose section to rectify this. I used lead shot BB's from one of our ballast bags which broke open here at work. I filled every nook and cranny I could find with the BB's and super glued them in place. I didn't weigh what I used but I guess it's around 30 ounces.



"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

Now I'm ready to glue the fuselage halves together. I had some minor "warping" to contend with but overall they fit okay with the exception of a lot of seam filling. I used super glue as a seam filler due to size and weight of the beast. I didn't want any cracking going on with standard putty type fillers.



After the fuselage was complete I went to work on the wing and horizontal stab assemblies. The L/H wing had a warp in it and I was able work that out with a hair dryer and section gluing while clamping with clothes line pins. The horizontal stabilizer was attached along with the wings to the fuselage. I made sure everything was aligned prior to allowing the glue to cure. Now the time consuming part. I was fitting the cockpit glass



to the fuselage and commenced to "break" the part due to the radius on the part not matching fuselage. I emailed Revell and they promptly had a replacement at my doorstep within 5 days, no charge... Kudo's to Revell. I masked the canopy with all those windows using Bare Metal Foil and glued it to fuselage with Kristal Clear adhesive. After assembling the kit wheels I decided to pitch those and ordered a set of True Details resin wheels from Squadron. The kit wheels come in 2 halves and the

"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29



diamond pattern, which would have been difficult to deal with while cleaning up the seam. In addition I needed to "flat spot" the wheels and the True Details wheels already come that way. I will say though even the True Details wheels have an issue, a hideously under-inflated profile, I left them as is. I guess I'll pretend we have a full load. Now on to the painting, like I mentioned earlier I couldn't use my spray booth as this kit has a 33 inch wingspan. I quickly deter-

mined I would have to paint outside on my patio with the aircraft hanging from the rafter. Of course I had to wait for the perfect day, no wind, low moisture etc. but in Tucson, AZ that's not too hard. I wanted to replicate the best I could a natural metal finish so I chose Alclad 2 paints. As we are all aware, to get this finish correct it requires some meticulous preparation prior to priming. I did about as much as I could stand and pressed on, I wanted to see this through before I turned too old to enjoy it! Alclad 2 NMF polished lacquer paints require a "gloss" black primer base. I skipped the usual white primer step first and went straight into applying the gloss black.



"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

After doing some internet research I picked up a tip to use Krylon Fusion Gloss Black. After several light coats over 4-5 days with curing time in between I had a respectable glossy black finish. I was very happy in the way the Krylon paint worked out. After a week passed, to allow the gloss black primer to cure completely, I commenced with the Alclad.



The first shade was Polished Aluminum. I airbrushed everything with that color (airplane, gear doors, nacelles), using light strokes at a distance of 3-4 inches using 12-15 psi on my airbrush. Alclad is really cool because it dries so quick. After 1 hour I was ready to tape selected areas and move on another shade. I used Chrome on the fuselage forward of the wing and the prop oil domes; then went to Stainless Steel on various selected panels on the fuselage, forward part of the engine nacelles and gear doors. The B-29 had fabric covered control surfaces, for those I used Tamiya Bare Metal Silver. I opted to sand the areas where the fabric is depicted due to it being a little over done in fabric texture. I painted the props Tamiya Satin Black and the main landing gear Tamiya Bare Metal Silver.

Moving on to decals, I opted with the "Humpin Honey" version because I liked the history behind the aircraft. The decals are too thick. I had difficulty trying to get them to lay down even with Micro-set and Micro Sol, but eventually they became acceptable.

"HUMPIN HONEY"

Revell's 1/48 Boeing B-29

After the painting and decaling was completed, it was on to final assembly. I installed the main gear struts and wheels (using bare metal foil the for strut pistons), installed the landing gear and bomb bay doors, machine gun turrets, etc . I now found an issue with the navigators astrodome bubble. The kit crew tunnel which runs directly on centerline right underneath the bubble is not "opened up" to allow access by the navigator to the astrodome equipment. In lieu of modifying the tunnel by cutting it out etc. I just put a disc painted matt black right on top of the tunnel, installed the astrodome, and it looks great. Finally I installed the communications antenna wire (made from copper wire).

Then a BIG surprise, the aircraft was STILL tail heavy. Now I hadn't installed the engine nacelles with the props yet but I didn't think even that would be sufficient to allow the aircraft to sit normally on the gear. What could I do to help that? Fortunately I found some "lead" washers 1/2 inch diameter and glued 2 in each engine nacelle behind the engine plate, hidden and a perfect fit!. Voila!! Aircraft sitting on all three main gear now, still a little light on the nose but none the less sitting correctly.

That's pretty much it, all done and no place to put it!! Ha! Ha!



Editor's Note: This article first appeared in DH Scale, the de Havilland Scale Modelers newsletters in September 2013. It was reprinted here with their permission.

Many times as we admire a model at a modeling event, magazine or online website questions come to our minds. Most of the times these questions are the usual like, what technique did he use? But often we find ourselves wondering not about the model, but about the modeler. Who is the modeler? What does he or she like best about the hobby? Or, how did he end up scale modeling to begin with? In this section we will try to get a glimpse of these elusive artists behind the pieces; because as is often the case, the story behind the modeler is more interesting than the story of the model itself.



This month we bring you an interview with our Treasurer and long time SDMB member Kent Weeks. Kent has provided our newsletter with many great articles about his superb modeling work and here he is to tell us the story of his modeling journey.

DD - Kent, welcome. Tell us about your journey into Scale Modeling. What got you started?

KW - I became interested in scale modeling because of the Apollo space program. As a young child in the early 1970's, I was enthralled with the Apollo moon missions. I absolutely loved anything space, including real space and science fiction. At some point during my early childhood, my father purchased me a model of an Apollo moon lander. I honestly don't recall who manufactured the kit, but I suspect that it was probably a Monogram kit. I really didn't build any kits after that for a few years, but when I was about ten years old, I discovered that an older cousin was very adept at assembling and painting Tamiya 1/35 scale figures. That moment triggered an almost nonstop love of history, world war history and especially scale modeling.





DD - We all have our favorite parts of this hobby. What is it for you?

KW - I really enjoy all aspects of the hobby. For most of my time in the hobby, my favorite aspect was just the buildup of the piece. I grew up in rural Wyoming and scale modelers were few and far between. Model clubs were and are non-existent. Many years later and several years as a member of model clubs, I am hopeful that my abilities have much improved. I suppose that today my typical answer to this question would be I most enjoy painting and/or rigging biplanes. But, honestly, my favorite aspect of the hobby is spending time with fellow scale modelers and talking everything models, techniques; struggles and successes.

“...my favorite aspect of the hobby is spending time with fellow scale modelers...”

DD - What is your favorite subject?

KW - For the longest time, my favorite subject was WWII armor and aircraft; especially Tiger I tanks. With the advent of Wingnut Wings kits, my favorite subject is now WWI aircraft. While I will still delve into other subjects, I suspect that WWI aircraft will remain my favorite subject for many years to come.





DD - What piece do you considered your greatest achievement, and why?

KW - This is a tough question. I really feel that as a scale modeler, with every new model I build, there is some form of new achievement. Ultimately, I would say my greatest achievement to date was winning a medal at Modelzona 2016 with my Albatros D.Va. While this may not be a big deal to most, coming from where I came from and being able to place a biplane on the table against some absolutely outstanding competition and take home a medal was special. It really has provided me with the confidence to know that I can take a box of plastic and make a piece of art I can be proud of.

DD - Do you have a goal in mind when you are working on a model?

KW - My goal when building a model is always the same. I want to have fun. I don't mind challenging kits, but I despise kits that are poorly designed. I'm not a scratch builder and I never want to be one. Scale modeling is my only hobby, but for me, it is so much more than a hobby. Scale modeling is my stress relief valve; it is my art; it is my piece of history; it is my passion. If I'm not having fun while I'm working on a model, it will go on the shelf for years. For me making a model that looks good and looks "right" is fun. The process of research, assembly, painting, weathering and showing off the final product is, to me, the most fun you can have in a hobby. I find all that in scale modeling, so, therefore, fun has become my goal every time.

"My goal is always the same. I want to have fun."



DD - What are some things you do different now vs when you started as a modeler?

KW - There is not much that I do now that I did when I first started building models. I'm not a huge fan of doing a lot of research. Back then I did none; today I do much more. Building WWI aircraft has really forced me to do more research than I thought I ever would. What has really changed for me is the build and the finish. When I started, it was all about getting the kit together as fast as I could. Fit was not an issue back then; if I could get the pieces to stick together, I was okay. I didn't even care if there were globs of glue present. And, painting was pretty much the same. As long as I got paint on, it was good. I didn't even know what an airbrush was when I started, so all I did was brush paint; if I even painted it. Today the build takes much longer; sometimes a couple of months. I spend a lot of time cleaning up parts and removing seem lines. Today painting is much more serious. I now know what an airbrush is and I actually own a few of them. The jury is still out on whether or not I know how to use one. I spend a lot of time masking and making sure that the paint job is as close to how it should be as I can make it. While I like mostly clean models, I firmly believe that the paint job can make or break a model.



DD - How did you become part of the SDMB?

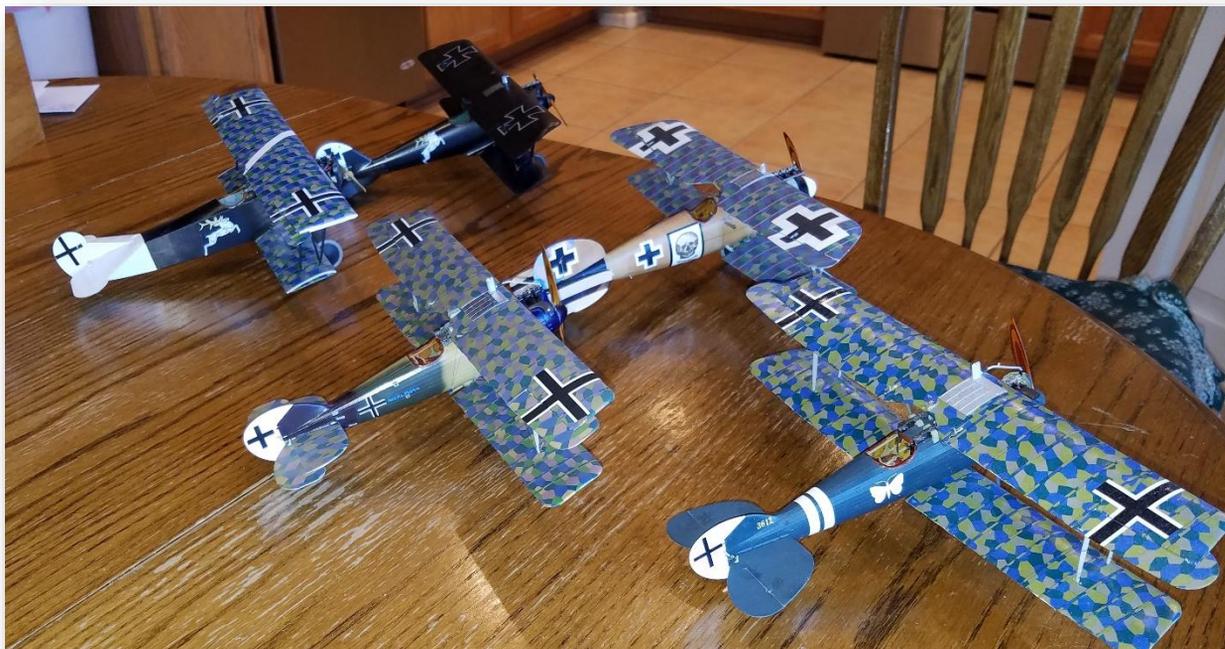
KW - I became a member of SDMB when I moved to Tucson from Albuquerque. I researched SDMB on the internet prior to my move. Once I settled in, I attended a couple of meetings and joined. I knew from my very first meeting that SDMB was an amazing club.

DD - What do you like the most of the SDMB?

KW - There is one thing that I will say about SDMB that I have not experienced anywhere else. That one thing is camaraderie. Members of SDMB are always friendly and are always willing to share techniques, tips and tricks. In my six years as a member, I have learned more from the membership of SDMB than I learned in the previous twenty years.



“The one thing I like about the SDMB is camaraderie.”



DD - What has been the build you have enjoyed the most?

KW - Two years ago, I finished Dragon's 1/35 Tiger I command tank (kit 6253). This build was just fun from the start. The kit itself is well manufactured with clean parts (all 1000 of them) and great fit. I opted to add aftermarket resin zimmerit, Friulmodel tracks and an aluminum barrel. The zimmerit and the barrel were all new items for me. On top of this, I decided that I would weather the tank and to do this I utilized the hairspray technique for the first time ever. This build consisted of many firsts for me, but I was and am thrilled with the result. The kit was an absolute joy from the moment I removed the first piece from the sprue until the moment I attached all of the antennas.

DD - Well that was great Kent. Thank you for your time and for all you do for our club.

KW – My pleasure Dave



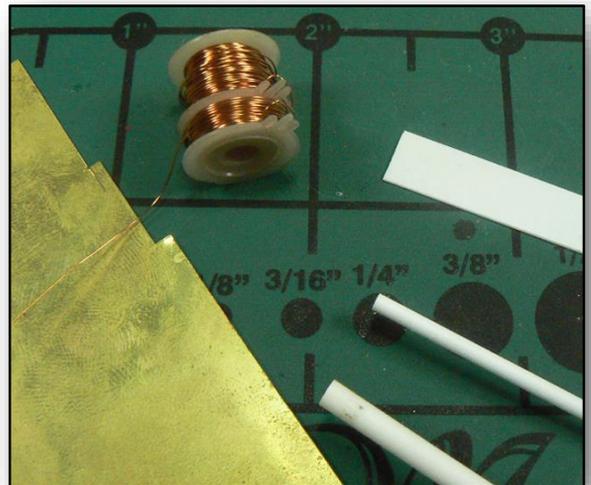


Making Headphones in 1/35th Scale

Headphones are one of those details that bring a lot of life and interest to an armor model. Whether the headphones are hanging from somewhere in the interior of an armored vehicle or being worn by a crewmember they provide a human connection with the vehicle. This month I will show you a simple way to make headphones for your armored vehicles.

The materials needed are:

- 1/8" evergreen styrene hollow tube
- 0.040" styrene sheet
- 0.010" styrene sheet
- 0.005" brass sheet
- Some fine copper wire.



First, using “the chopper” to maintain dimension consistency I cut two discs out of the hollow tube 1/8" styrene tube to create two rings. The rings are about 1mm thick.



A round punch and die set (the one I use is from MMU-USA Models) I made two discs from the .040" (1mm) thick styrene plastic sheet. We can see the parts laid out.



2

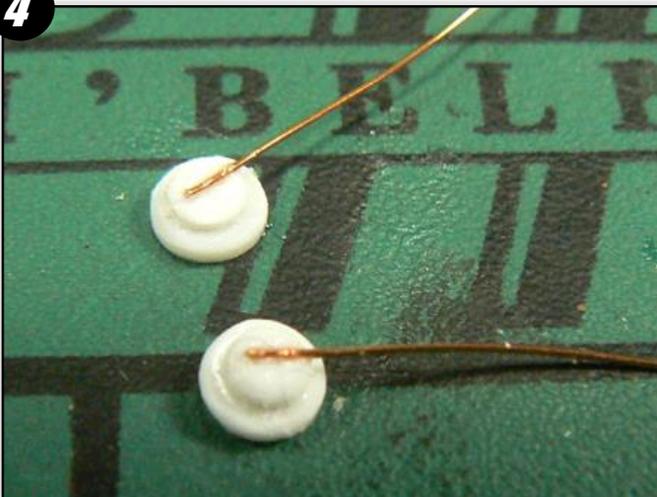


3



The small discs are glued on top of the rings using plastic cement. A fine sandpaper was used to slightly round the edges.

4



Two lengths of about 1 ½ inch of 30 gage copper wire were cut and glued to the side of the outer discs

I used a knife to make a groove along the diameter of the small disc. The two wires were glued to the discs using CA glue.



5

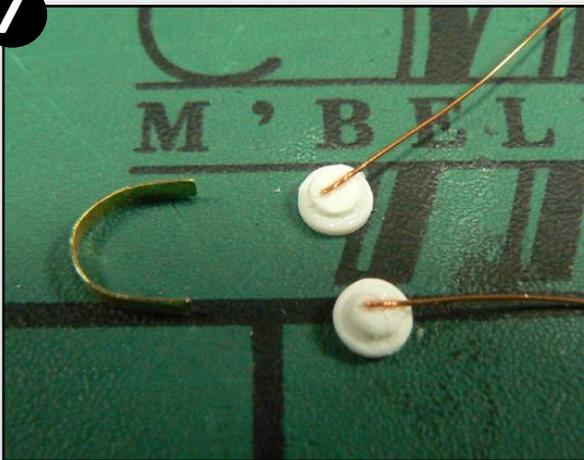


6



I cut a strip of brass 1mm wide by 13mm long was cut and bent into a semi-circle using a pair of metal bending pliers.

7



8



Above are all the parts ready for the final assembly. Using CA glue I assembled each earphone to the brass strip and place a small piece of styrene at each end. With that the Headphones are ready to be painted and placed in your armored vehicles or diorama.

HOW CAN I JOIN THE SDMB?

Test the water before you join!

Here's how: Drop by and say "hello" at one of our monthly meetings (see our Next Meeting page for date and location details). If you like what you see and hear then drop by again the next month and be sure to bring your questions and we'll help you get started! The first two meetings are free so drop on by! After your second meeting we would appreciate you joining our club. Our club dues pay for various things such as community programs and sponsorships of trophies in contests. We are happy to have visitors but even happier when you join our club of award winning modelers.

Visit our website at www.sdmb.yolasite.com

You can also find us on Facebook.



Find us on
Facebook



SDMB is an affiliated club of the International Plastic Modeler's Society

www.IPMSUSA.org

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