

You will notice that I did not mention the wing assembly. They are made of three parts: upper, lower, and wheel well floor. I worked down the trailing edges so that they were only a couple of scale inches thick. Stuck in the landing gear support and glued the two halves together. Not putting the wings on until the fairing of the canopies is a good idea; wish I had thought of it before I glued the wings on.

For some reason the vertical is comprised of three parts: the entire left side with the upper right side half, the lower left half, and a small chunk that must be a fairing of some kind. It all fit well, but the lower left panel lines did not match the upper panel lines. The horizontals are one part per side and have index locator pins.

After you are satisfied that everything is square, it's time to do the landing gear, unless you would rather wait until the model is painted. The gear doors just butt up to the body, so I glued a couple of tabs on each one to make a better bond. The box art shows one antenna mast, while the assembly drawings show three masts. The kit gives you the three masts and I chose that route because they look like horns. In any case I didn't use the kit parts. Any time there are any kind of small things that protrude enough to get knocked off I make them out of brass and bury them as deep in the model as I can.

After a couple of coats of primer and light sanding, I sprayed two coats of clear automotive lacquer as a base for the color coat. There are no built-in antennas shown, so the whole thing was sprayed with two light coats of Alclad II semi-matte aluminum. On with the decals, wheels, antenna wire, wing lights, paint the two recesses on each side of the nose, stick on the rear gun barbette and this ugly critter was ready for the back of the display case.

For those wanting to tackle this kit, the Amodel II-40 is available from Scale Model Kits at <http://www.scale-model-kits.com/index.php>

## Roden 1/48th Scale Fairchild AU-23A Peacemaker

by Gerry Nilles

Originally designed and built by the Swiss firm Pilatus as the Turbo Porter, and subsequently built, under license, by the Fairchild Company as the AU-23A Peacemaker this aircraft filled a unique need in the war in South East Asia. Capable of operating from rough as well as short jungle landing fields, so common in the

the fuselage, the horizontal stabilizer joins the tail section, and around the nose area. In addition, the clear pieces for the cockpit doors required some trimming to get them to fit properly. One other heads-up I should note is that the styrene has a tendency to be a bit brittle so be careful when removing delicate parts from the sprue trees.

Detail wise, the XM-197 tree barrel Gatling gun is quite an interesting subassembly in its own right. It has been described as a mini-kit within a kit. When completed it adds a definite point of interest to what could be said is a less than exciting



area, the Peacemaker not only acted as a light transport but also as mini gunship. Its firepower consisted mainly of the XM-197, a three barrel, lightweight, version of the M-61 Gatling gun. Used by the USAF, the CIA as well as other countries in the area, including the Royal Thai Air Force, the AU-23A was the right aircraft for the type of warfare on going at the time.

Although I would not recommend this kit for the novice, mainly because of the number of small parts, it is a relatively easy build. Overall fit is good with the exception of a little filler needed where the wings join

aircraft. However, there are a couple of things you should be aware of if you decide to use the XM-197. First, the ammunition storage container should be located on the centerline of the cargo bay floor in order to properly lineup with the gun. The instruction sheet has it positioned incorrectly. Secondly be very careful when bending the ammunition feed mechanism, as noted above the plastic is somewhat brittle and easily broken.

Deciding to go with the USAF scheme, obviously both the making and the

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undersides used particularly for identification from below by the Observer Corps until about June of 1940, and graphics of the different kinds of roundels used on the Hurricane and other British aircraft, including the variants of the types A, B, and C, and the blue-on-blue of the Southeast Asian theater: no red in the insignia to confuse Allied gunners looking out sharply for Japanese hinomarus ('Rising Sun' disks).

There are finely-drawn side views depicting the physical differences among the different Marks, including the Sea Hurricanes. Lastly, there's a list of Hurricane squadron codes, with code letter combinations and squadron numbers both for the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

Depicting all this variation in colors and markings was necessary, since Hurricanes served all over the world, over every conceivable kind and color of terrain, in a wide variety of roles, and was flown by pilots of many nationalities. Libraries would be needed to document them all, but this slender paperback (only about seven and three-quarters by nine and a half inches...or should I say, since it was made in France: 24 centimeters by 27) contains a good portion. The hundred and eighty-four profiles in this book ought to keep Hurricane modelers busy with paint and decals for a while!

## Upcoming Shows

Here are the known shows and events for the first half of 2011:

2/19-20 Museum of Flight Small Worlds  
 2/27 Mt Vernon 16th Annual  
 3/12 Vancouver WA Pearson  
 3/26 NNL Portland  
 4/?? Lynnwood Galaxy  
 4/9 Renton IPMS Seattle  
 5/1 Puyallup MCS 22  
 6/11 Fort Worden NOPMS 6

Thanks to Chellie Lynn

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### Roden AU-23A

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painting is very straightforward. For paint, I went with Tamiya's TS-28 Olive Drab 2 lacquer. The kit decals went on well. However, they require an extra dose of Walther Solve-A-Set decal solution after they had dried in order to get rid of the silvering. The photos here show the model before I did that second dose, and so show some of the silvering.

This is an easy kit to build if you have some experience. When finished it looks good with well-done details, especially if you add the mini-Gatling gun. My thanks to Roden for the review sample.

*[Thanks to Chris Banyai-Riepl and [www.internetmodeler.com](http://www.internetmodeler.com) for permission to use his, Gerry's, Stephen's, and Bill's articles. - ED]*

