

Feb 16 Meeting

This month we have arranged something for the armor interests in the group. We've asked Steve Cozad to give a demonstration/discussion on armor finishing. Steve's been building tanks since the heresy was invented so we can certainly learn a lot from him, although "knowing something about mud" was all he'd admit to over the phone! We want to especially encourage the novice armor builders to attend this one to discuss particular questions and problems with finishes. Also, to help us organize more productive meetings and to help us work out some future plans, we will be asking you to fill out a questionnaire at the next meeting. Hope you can make it!

Winners of the "Model of the Year" contest (finally) held last month were:

- 1st Matt Hargreaves Mistel 5 (He-162B with scratch built Arado E-377A lower component)
- 2nd Three-way tie:
 Sekou Osborne White M3A2 Half-track (Tamiya)
 Doug Groesbeck Panzer IIG Diorama (Tamiya)
 Scott Taylor K5E German RR Gun (Hasegawa)

Also, Earl Otto was the winner of Terry Elmore's Small Airforce recognition contest. Congratulations to all of you.

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Those of you who have paid for this new year will find your 1980 membership card enclosed. We urge the rest of you to renew promptly. We won't carry slackers on the mailing list very far. If you can't attend the February meeting or send your dues in by proxy, try mailing them directly to: Bill Hawkins, Membership Secretary, 1502 NE 73rd St, Seattle, 98115. If you are a new member that joined in the last half of 79, your dues are only \$1.00 (your mailing label is checked if this is the case), \$2.00 for everyone else. What a bargain!

Rumormonger's Corner

AHM: LVR Boeing People Mover
 AIRFIX 1/48: Hurricane, Mosquito, 1/72: MiG-23, F-15A/B, F2H-2
 Fat Albert C-130, Alpha Jet, 1/144(?): Braniff 747, E-4A
 AMT 1/12: 1937 Cord (reissue)
 ESCI 1/48: A-4E, A-4F, A-1H, AD-4, AD-6, F-86E, FJ-2, FJ-3
 1/72: F-18, Tornado
 HAWSEGAWA 1/32: TA-4J, 1/48: Lear Jet 25, Citation I, Falcon 10
 1/72: F11F-1, F-18, 1/200: DC-8, DC-9, DC-10, L-1011
 727, 737, 747
 HELLER 1/48: F-84F, 1/50: Jet Ranger, 1/72: SE 535 Mestral
 SBC-4, 1/125: DC-9 KLM
 ITALAGERI 1/35: Bergpanther, Strumtiger, 1/48: MiG-3, F-18, F-15
 F-105
 MATCHBOX 1/12: Harley Davidson Electraglide, Suzuki RG 500,
 Vincent Black Shadow, 1/32: Citroen Ligier Cabriolet,
 DH Venom/Sea Venom, 1/48: AD-5, FJ-4, Kanan Seasprite, 1/72
 Fiat G.91, SBC-3, P9F-5, EA-6B, F-101, Privateer, Heyford,
 Halifax, Wellesley, B-17, F-16, 1/76: 105 Priest, Montgomery's
 Caravan, Japanese Army Figures, ANZAC Figures, 1/700
 HMS Kelly, HMS Duke of York, Bismark
 MONOGRAM 1/48: F-89D, A-20, A-26, F-100, A-1H, F-4, F-15
 1/72: F-18
 NOVO 1/72: Anatra DS, MiG-3, Lagg-3, Yak-3, P-82
 REVELL 1/72: Kfir, Tornado, Skyhawk, F-18
 Great Eastern (reissue), Jeep Golden Hawk, Porche 928 Rally
 Trans Am, Visible Wankel Engine
 TESTORS 1/48: V-1, Baka, Me-163 (reissues)
 VERDAY 1/72: Fokker D-VIII, Avro C.30, BE.2C
 CROIX de SUD: Has gone bankrupt

New in Town

To offset the volume of rumors above, we offer this brief survey, taken just a few days ago, of the latest goodies that are actually in the shops now.

CAMPUS HOBBIES: 4 new sheets of Microscale decals, shaded USAF alphabet, Korean War Aces #2, Korean War sheet #3, F-8E/J; Nova 1/72 F-105F/G conversion; Testors 1/24 Mercedes 540K 1936 - 1939 "Staff Car", 1/35 Sturm IV w/ 7.5cm Stu K 40, 2 1/2 ton GMC 6x6, M101 105 Howitzer; Airmodel 1/72 RF-4, Mirage IIIR F9F-8, He-178 Lockheed Lodestar, Douglas C-117 (R4D-8), Ju-160A
 AMERICAN EAGLES: More Airmodels, BV-155 (excellent), RF-8/TF-8, FH-1 Phantom I (very nice), F-86H/K, HH-43 Huskie, He-111B; New Airfix 1/48 Me-109F (good); ESCI 1/48 Storch, MS.500 Griquet Fiat G-91, Alpha Jet

B-36 SIGHTED IN CALIF.

Long clouded by conflicting rumors and speculation exceeded only the Loch Ness Monster and the Second Coming, Monogram's prophesied 1/72nd B-36 has actually materialized, apparently out of the sheer force of will of 10,000 glue-crazed modelers. The recent outbreaks of B-36-chanting among plastophiles must have had some substance this time as the fabled star did appear: over the Hobby 80 Trade Show in California last week. Our own Fern Danley, of Campus Hobbies, witnessed the apparition. It took the form of a built up test shot displayed with its box art. Fern returned with photographic evidence to allay doubting Thomases.

Now that Monogram has been hoodwinked into producing this turkey for us, it's our duty to each buy one so they don't go bankrupt. The \$15 kit isn't expected to make its rollout until July so you have plenty of time to make house alterations for that 38" wingspan.

821-5875 GREG REYNOLDS PRESIDENT
 525-7673 BILL HAWKINS MEMBERSHIP SEC.
 334-8732 TERRY ELMORE CORRESPONDING SEC.

Reviews

HELLER Arado Ar-196A, 1/72

This is another masterpiece for Heller. The moldings are delightfully clean and crisp, trailing edges sharp, canopy crystal clear and small detail parts finely molded. Particularly impressive is the treatment of the fabric surfaces, no excessive sagging and no simulated burlap covering. The raised surface detail is a bit overstated but within reason. While Heller has chosen a method of joining the strut/float assembly that will guarantee proper alignment and be quite strong, it will sacrifice some surface detail on the floats. The kit scales out exactly for every dimension I could check.

There are, however, a number of small faults that will need attention. The vertical fin is too broad at the tip. Trim off a wedge from the leading edge, 0.05" at the tip and nothing at the base. The canopy is too square. The corners where the top panels turn down to meet the side panels should be rounded, so sand off as much as you dare without breaking through. The fuselage MG-17 gun with its curved trough and ill-defined exit hole in the cowl needs help, as do the undersized wing gun ports and misshapen rocker-arm bulges in the cowl. If you study photos of the real machine, you'll notice Heller omitted the two very prominent magnitos from the engine. You'll also want to add the exhaust stacks on either side of the oil cooler and put the hoisting cables in those curious grooves in the fuselage sides below the windscreen.

Decals are for German and Rumanian planes. Unfortunately, they are a disappointment, rather thick, heavy on the black and the Rumanian crosses should have a thin blue outline instead of the wide dark purple one given.

REFERENCES

Dirty Plastic no. 53-55, Fall 76. 5 pages from the German tech manuals, interior info, includes Ar-196B. Indispensable.
 Air International v16n1p25, "An eye for the Kriegsmarine". Good text, cutaway drawing and tone drawings.

Air Enthusiast v5n2p96, Model Enthusiast color plate. Includes both of the Heller color schemes.

Luftwaffe in Action Part 4, Squadron/Signal #8. Many good photos
 GR

VEB PLASTICART Sukhoi Su-7 (1/72nd scale)

The Su-7 is another one of those fascinating Soviet airplanes with little reliable info available. There are drawings from both East and West, but are they accurate? Reviewing this kit has some elements of shooting in the dark, but bear with me while I collect all of my photographs and give one modeller's opinion.

By the way, the practice of referring to the East German manufacturer of this kit as "VEB" is like calling Airfix "LTD!" V.E.B. is the abbreviation for "people's company" in German communist-speak. The box and instruction sheet do not mention the manufacturer at all; the name and address appear only on the little sheet for complaints.

There is a lot wrong with the kit, but there seems to be enough right to make correcting the beast a sporting proposition. All of the information to do this needs an entire article (with decent drawings!), so I will just list the problems here.

OVERALL SHAPE: The outlines seem to be close; the vertical fin taper and the aft body taper are the only obvious problems. The fin is easy to correct, but the body isn't. The coke-bottle effect is a bit off, but not badly.

DETAILS AND DETAILING: These suffer from the usual Plasticart treatment - a bit crude. The panel lines are raised, and not too accurately located. The auxiliary inlets are missing or the wrong shape. The tailwarning radar and drag parachute housings aren't even close. Trailing edges are much too thick, as are inlet and tailpipe lips. The inlet cone is the wrong shape (but probably close enough). The canopy is shown as hinged, while it (and the headrest fairing) actually slides rearward. Cockpit detail is laughable.

LANDING GEAR: Pavel Sukhoi was a student of the great Polikarpov, so I am devoting a whole paragraph to these complicated wonders in the tradition of the I-16. The gear is of the "trailing arm" type (the axle is not connected directly to the oleo), with additional links to kink things up for retraction. The main gear doors are equally complicated. Needless to say, the kit isn't very close. Links must be added to the gear struts, and a new hole-in-the-wing must be cut, with doors to match. SOME (not all) Su-7s have a weird doohickey just outboard of the main wheels that require a bulge in the doors (and wings) to cover; modelling those versions will require a lot more effort.

HARDWARE: The droptanks are bad, and the ordnance is junk.

DECALS: Markings are provided for bare-metal USSR, Czech, and Polish machines, but they're not very good.

Trying to make a decent model from this kit will be difficult, but not insanely so. The number of really nifty schemes that can go on the result should make it worthwhile.

REFERENCES: Plans: MAP Plan 2877, Typy Broni Uzbrojena #54 (Polish), Modelarz (date unknown - Polish). Photos: Aviation Week (9.8.76), Skrzydlata Polska (14.10.79), Letictvi Kosmonautica (18/1979-Czech), Flight International (13.3.75).
 VWM

Helicopters! One last note; Fujimi has apparently decided there are some helicopter builders and with the success of their two 1/72 scale Westland Lynx helicopters, they have just released FIVE additional new 1/72 copter kits. This new flood of kits fills the considerable gap in the enthusiasts area of giant eggbeaters and in fact only required two basic airframes which have been cleverly designed to create five aircraft with only minor surface exterior pieces being added to produce the other variants. From my early "clip, hold and zoom" observations, they all appear to be very nice kits and with the recent AEROPHILE look at Cobras, can provide the basis for many hours of building or conversion enjoyment. There are two Navy a/c, the SH-2F Seasprite and YSH-2E LAMPS version of the Seasprite, both of which produce impressive models -- as witnessed by Norm Filer's recent completed Seasprite at our November meeting. The other three kits are of Bell's widely used helicopter gunship, the Cobra, including the Marine Corp AH-1J Sea Cobra, the export version AH-1S Cobra (with the IR suppression mask) and the Army's AH-1S Tow Cobra. These latter two kits, as well as the Sea Cobra, are quite different from the older Monogram Cobra, and provide highly accurate models of the weapons platform including the new armored canopy. That's a lot of helicopters from Santa, but they are very welcome additions to the growing availability of modern aircraft represented in 1/72 scale. (By the way, these review samples were graciously provided at full cost by Brookhurst Hobbies in the L.A. area, who are generally able to supply a very wide range of imported kits in about five days by mail. While a bit expensive, from \$4 to \$6 each, I don't believe we will see these kits in our local market in the near future.)
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