



Seattle Chapter News

FEB 21 MEET

Everyone seems to have found our new location without difficulty. However, in spite of the large turnout, better than half of you have not yet renewed your dues. Please renew promptly. Remember that our dues are now \$3. The winners from the January contest were:

Aircraft: 1 Matt Hargreaves, 1/72 Tamiya Shinden
2 Larry Baldwin, 1/72 Frog Barracuda
3 Matt Hargreaves, 1/144 Mistel (converted)

Armor: 1 Dan Rowbottom, 1/35 Italaerei Panzer IV/H
2 Kelly Higgins, 1/35 Itataerei SDKPFZ 234 Puma
3 Greg Dantzler, 1/35 Tamiya SDKPFZ 7

Congratulation!

New in Town

AMERICAN EAGLES: Crown 1/144 Zero, E13A1, Ki-61, C6N1, B7A2, Ki-44, F-4E/J, F-104J; Big Planes (various small scales) B-17, C-1, PS-1, C-5A, Tu-144; Otaki 1/144 F-111 F-15, F-105D, F-14, RA-5C, F-102A, F-110D, MiG-23, F-4B, F-8C, F-5A; Tamiya 1/32 F-14; Airfix (all reissues) whirlwind Helo, Wellington, RE.8, Avro 504; USAirfix 1/72 F-2H, Alfa Jet; Matchbox 1/72 Heyford, PB4Y, G-91Y, 1/32 Sea Venom, 1/700 Bismark, 1/76 LRDG Chev Jeep, 45 ton tank transporter, M7 105mm Priest, PZ IV L/70, M40 GMC w/ gun; Nichimo 1/20 Hughes H.500, 1/35 Hunting Tiger, Hunting Panther; Testors/Italaerei 1/35 diorama accessories; Verlinden 1/35 5 diorama accessory packages ESCI 1/48 F-86E/F, F-4E, Mirage IIIC, Mirage 2000, 1/72 A-4E/F, A-4E; New Humbrol Camouflage line.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE: Tamiya 1/35 Famous Generals, 1/32 F-14; L/S 1/144 SR-71, Frank/Oscar, George/Jill, Sam/Sue, Bob/Oscar; Crown 1/144 Zero, Ki-61, B7N2, C6N1, E13A1, Ki-44; Skywave 1/700 D-Day Landing Set, Naval Arsenal, Strategic Airbase, Street Fighting, Iwo Jima Set; Fujimi 1/48 On-1N USAF & USMC, 1/72 Bell 212 ASW; ESCI 1/72 A-4E, A-4E/F, 1/48 F-4C/D, Mirage 2000, Mirage IIIC, F-86E/F, Heller Mirage IVA; Matchbox 1/72 Heyford, PB4Y, Wellesley, Fiat G-92Y, 1/32 Sea Venom, Microscale 2 F-16 sheets (USAF & NATO), P-47 and low visibility letters and markings, New Humbrol camouflage colors; Official Monogram Painting Guide to Luftwaffe Aircraft 1935 to 1945.

CAMPUS HOBBIES: USAirfix 1/72 F-2H Banshee, Alfa Jet; Nichimo 1/35 Hunting Tiger, Hunting Panther; ESCI F-4C, Mirage IIIC, Mirage 2000, F-86E/F; L/S 1 to 1 scale Colt M-16 Assault Rifle; New Humbrol color line.

Material for publication should reach the Editor before the second Saturday of the month. Write or call: Greg Reynolds (821-5675), 12819 98th PL NE, Kirkland, WA 98033

OFFICIAL MONOGRAM PAINTING GUIDE TO LUFTWAFFE AIRCRAFT, BY T. HITCHCOCK

It's amazing that so much has been written on the subject of Luftwaffe camouflage, and that so little of it has been "right". Only in the last few years have we seen any painstaking and thorough research on the subject. Even more amazing is that after 40 years, there's enough evidence left that any sort of "authoritative" conclusions could be reached. Doubtless, this new book will result in a new wave of "experts" dicker over shades of grey. Nevertheless, judging from the depth of research and clarity of presentation, it is easy to see that we now have a new standard, which all respecting Luftwaffe modelers will place in their bookcase.

The most attractive feature of the book I found to be the organization. Each chapter is devoted to a narrow subject, such as "Day Fighters 1935 - 37", "Night Fighters", or "Export Colors". Each chapter is complete by itself, containing all the paint chips referred to therein. This results in some duplication of chips, but in conjunction with the loose-leaf ring binder, is a great convenience in bringing the guide right to the modeling table. The chips themselves are large, about 2x2 inches.

The book naturally contains lots of photos. Most of them are new and many are actual wartime color shots. Several color side view drawings are given, however far more numerous are the Factory Camouflage diagrams which accompany each chapter. Particularly helpful is the opening section, which deals with "color perspective", or how colors should be toned down for scale models. GR

Review

TAMIYA 1/32 F-14 TOMCAT

It is almost poetic justice that Tamiya has released its 1/32 scale giant ten years after the first, and probably least accurate, Tomcat kit by Monogram. In many respects the Tamiya offering is the ultimate kit. If not in its 23 inch length and almost 24 inch span (which makes a display larger than the 32nd scale Phantoms or the 1/24th Airfix kits) then certainly in the high quality features we have come to expect from Tamiya.

The outline is accurate and the surface detail is excellent, with many vents, rivets and metal textures accurately represented. A casual look at the Phoenix missile pylons or the chaf dispensing units under the Cat's "beaver tail" confirms the type of perfection that 1/32 scale can provide the modeler. There are even textured areas to represent the pneumatic rubber wing boots into which the variable geometry wings fold. Steel pivots and screws are provided to support the wing mechanism. As usual, there are some details destined to be lost in most finished kits: engine interiors and the nose radar array.

The decals are generally very good, although the smaller detail markings are a bit heavy in their effect. The sheet offers two colorful attack squadron's markings VF-84 and VF-211, both of which require some painting to complete. For those of you who do not expect to display your model in public, there are decals provided for the Imperial Iranian Air Force, which may still be applicable following the Shah's departure. There is also every reason to believe that we will soon have other choices as well, from Microscale or others, especially when the Revell kits reaches the market.

The boxtop is quite attractive and could easily be framed for display. There is also a nicely done 15 page instruction sheet, providing a detailed graphic summary of how to build this Tomcat. This is very important for a kit where there are 17 pieces for each ejection seat and five more just for the tailhook. Unfortunately, the imported kit contains no English, except in the numbers and decal references.

While the fit and molding of most of the parts is excellent, and I believe that this will be the definitive F-14 kit in a large scale (even though Revell has already announced a similar model for 1981), there are a few disappointments experienced with the kit. I am not certain if it is the most expensive kit I have ever seen but the retail price of between \$58 and \$68 is simply the product of industry greed. The Japanese price is will be very controversial, resulting in much greater sales of the Revell kit (guesses are that this will be in the \$12 to \$16 range) and in my opinion give further support to the argument against large scale kits as well as provide increased insight into the profit motives of the US hobby industry. The kit could also have provided much greater wing detail (eg. slats & flaps) and scribed cockpit details (only decals are given). More ground personnel or deck handling equipment would have been nice (only the pilot, NFO and crew chief are provided), particularly at this price!

The bottom line is that the Tamiya 1/32nd scale Tomcat is excellent and anyone who can afford to buy a copy is encouraged to do so. I don't believe you'll be disappointed, unless you can see your check book from your modeling table!

REFERENCES: Scale Aircraft Modelling, v1n1 (Sept 78)
Koku Fan Specials, no. 83 (March 77)
no. 89 (Sept 77)
Squadron/Signal F-14 in Action, no. 32 BL

NATO AWACS

The first of NATO's 18 E-3A Sentrys is nearly ready to leave Boeing Field. Currently undergoing checkout and flight tests, it will leave for Germany in late March where Dornier will complete equipment installation and checkout before its delivery to NATO in 1982. The color scheme is nearly identical to the USAF AWACS, overall semi-gloss grey with white control surfaces and black anti-glare panel. However, being owned multinationality, it carries no national insignia, where the USAF and star would appear on the wings, "NATO" and the NATO compass rose appear respectively. "NATO + OTAN" is carried on nose as shown. The reverse spelling occurs because the French name "Organisation de Traite Nord Atlantique" is commonly used in Europe. The serial is 90442. All markings are black.

