



SPRUE



EXAMINER



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2011 IPMS/USA Website of
the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter
of the Year

2011 / 2009 IPMS/USA
Region 6
Webmaster of the Year

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA
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HMS Belfast: 1/600 and 1/1 Scale

by Rick Herrington

It is not often that one gets to travel to England. But last summer I was invited by some friends to do just that. I did not turn them down.

One of the sites I wanted to see was HMS Belfast which is berthed on the Thames next to London Bridge. She's the last surviving British WWII light cruiser and the Imperial War Museum has put her on public display.

HMS Belfast was launched in 1938 and participated in many actions during her career including the Battle of North Cape in which the Scharnhorst was sunk (1943). She also shelled the German defenses on D-Day and continued her career through the Korean War. She remained in active service until retired in 1963.

When I returned from my trip I wanted to build a model of the Belfast as she appeared during the Battle of North Cape.

I remembered that Marc Hobbs from King's Hobby had given me an old *Airfix* kit (released in 1973) of the HMS Belfast. It had been sitting in my model closet at home. I had cracked the box a couple of times to see what kind of build was ahead but the flash and seam lines all shouted...*"do me later!"*

As the *Airfix* kit is in an off-scale (1/600th) and I was used to building in



1/700th scale I decided to see what after market goodies were out there for this particular kit. I was pleasantly surprised. *White Ensign Models* makes a dedicated set of photo etch just for the Belfast. *Artwox* makes a wooden deck replacement kit that comes with an in-scale anchor chain.

I also located an image of the color scheme she wore during the action at North Cape.

(continued on page six)



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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

TigerFest XX, Flying Tiger Scale Modelers, Kenner, Louisiana rmpaintingmusic14@gmail.com	3.23.13
ModelMania 2013, IPMS Houston, Stafford, Texas ipms-houston.org	4.27.13
ScaleFest 2013, Mesquite Convention Center, Mesquite, Texas ipmsct.net	5.11.13
EagleQuest XXII, Embassy Suites, Grapevine, Texas squadron.com/eagle_quest_a259.htm	6.20/22.13
Houston Automotive Modeler's Society, Houston, Texas ipms-hams.org	8.3.13

Local Club Meetings

Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading Club, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	3.30.13
LoneStar Miniatures Society, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, Texas bobbethea@sbcglobal.net	3.23.13
Austin Armor Modelers Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas www.austinarmorbuilders.com	4.3.13
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	4.4.13
CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas www.centexmodelers.com	3.21.13

IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter

Several IPMS members have since 2009 been managing the Warrior Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas. The center is located at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

Troops are sent to BAMC for treatment and rehabilitation, some staying for up to 12 months. BAMC and the Center for the Intrepid are known as being among the elite medical facilities in the world for treatment and injuries received in combat zone.

Through the generosity of hundreds of IPMS members, IPMS chapters, and modelers the Warriors stationed at BAMC have received models, tools, books, movies and other hobby related items through the IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter.

Donations can be sent to IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter contact person, Dick Montgomery,
dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net.

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family). The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s). It is intended for educational purposes *only*. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Message from the Prez...

Mike Poole

I've spent the past few weeks putting the finishing touches on my paper model of the Frauenkirche Dresden I showed everyone at the meeting in February. I wanted to get it done for our Quarterly Contest this month and it looks like I'm just barely going to make it. I began the project merely as a change of pace from my usual subjects and watching it transform from sheets into a 3D object has been a delight. It's been just the kick in the pants I needed to get myself back into the building mood. Confronted with an assortment of problems and head scratchers has forced me to try some new things that I'm anxious to share. I had no idea paper could be pushed this far. If you're in a building rut like I was, try changing it up a bit. It worked for me.

We had a couple of new visitors at the February meeting: David Mack and Elliot Nowacky. I recall David took several trophies home from the San Antonio Show last month and Elliot is just getting back into the hobby after retiring recently. Elliot was so taken with our club he signed up as a new member on the spot. I can tell from talking with him that he's enthusiastic about the hobby and will fit right in, so let's make him feel at home.

Speaking of new, our website wizard has gone Hollywood! I got an email from Mike Gilsbach this week about a new video tutorial he has created on applying decals. I think he said he did it with his i-phone. Here's hoping he'll share his method soon so the rest of us can give it a go. Here's a link to the video: <http://www.austinsms.org/Applying-Waterslide-Decals.php>

Don't forget to bring your entry for the Quarterly Contest this month!

Mike

Fiddly Bits



There has been some discussion, of late, about a little utilized model category (Best Use of IPMS/USA Convention Decals) at the IPMS/USA National Conventions. Those of you who have attended past conventions will be aware of the 'souvenir' decal sheet that is included with your registration packet/goodie bag. Why not actually use those decals on a model and enter same at this year's convention? There seems to be all kind of subject matter available. If you don't have a convention decal sheet beg, borrow or steal one from a fellow club member. If you have convention decal sheet (s) and will probably never use them, bring them to a club meeting and share with a fellow member. Who knows, if they garner a trophy, you can always claim partial credit!

This month's club meeting program is our quarterly model contest. The category for this contest...well, there isn't any category. Just bring any ole model and enter to win! A special thank-you to King's Hobby Shop for providing the prizes for this and our other quarterly contests. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.



The time has come and is rapidly fading into the rearview for you to pay your dues. ASMS Club dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 per family. You might be a delinquent but your don't want to be considered delinquent! In the immortal words of Jesse James, "Pay Up, Sucker!"

The newsletter contest continues unabated. For those who might be unfamiliar here is how it works. You send me the odd modeling tidbit, kit review, build article, random thought, etc. and your entered into the contest. The individual that sends in the most stuff (whether published or not) wins! Wins what? Your friendly, neighborhood newsletter editor will pay that individuals yearly club dues for 2014. How cool is that?



Thoughts on hosting the IPMS/ USA Nationals by Bruce Burden

First, if you are serious, congratulations. This topic has been discussed off and on for the many years that I have been a member of ASMS.

Second, *are you serious?* The money and manpower needed to host a national contest are considerable!

That being said, the following are some thoughts on going about hosting the IPMS/USA Nationals.

Do all of the legwork outside of the club. Get all of your ducks lined up and then schedule a meeting time to present your proposal. You will need to show how money from vendor sales and pre-registration will keep ahead of expenses.

Consider what attractions Austin offers for visitors. The live music scene/6th Street certainly comes to my mind. That would also seem to mean that you are going to have to find a facility and hotel (s) downtown. Otherwise, you are going to lose some of that attractiveness to the national contest committee.

Once you have decided on what attractions you want to offer, you can start considering the facility/hotel. When dealing with hotels, you need to talk room occupancy to get a better rate on both the facility and the rooms. I believe it is important to have the hotel and facility in close proximity. It is hot in July and August, after all. Plus the closer the facility and hotel, the easier it is for your guests to get their entries to/from the hotel and facility.

Consider what tours you can offer. The more accommodating you can be to the wives/children the better your proposal. That could mean a shopping tour, a trip to Schlitterbahn or any other such activity that will interest visitors. Camp Mabry is a possibility. San Marcos is a possibility for a tour of the CAF wing.

Seminars. Start thinking about them now. Find out how much the speaker charges. Some people don't do these things for free.

Banquet. If you are dealing with a hotel and their facility, the banquet is going to be catered by the hotel. They don't come cheap. Figure out what you are going to offer, generally meat, chicken and vegetarian, and get the cost.

How many guests do you expect to have? Ask the past convention hosts about how many people attended the banquet. Keep in mind that East coast conventions tend to be larger than the Central and Western conventions.

The show isn't over until midnight Saturday/Sunday morning. That possibly means that the facility is going to charge you for 5 days – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Find out, take nothing for granted. The facility rental is probably going to be the single biggest expense.

Consider the trophy package. Again, contact past convention hosts and ask them how many trophy packages they allowed for. Remember, this is the IPMS/USA National convention, so you have to have certain categories, and there will be no deviance from the IPMS/USA judging criteria.

Goodie Bag - yes, you are expected to have one. What is in it needs to be considered. Clearly what will be in the bag will have a large effect on the cost?

Publicity. It isn't free, so find out how much you want, and how much it will cost.

Security. The vendor and contest rooms will need to be secured "after hours" somehow.

Any expense items on past convention balance sheets will have to be accounted for.

At this point, hopefully you have a fairly reasonable idea of what this shindig is going to cost. Now you have to consider how you are going to pay for it.

Austin recently implemented their single use bag ban. You may want to consider how this will impact your vendors. I'm sure nobody will be pleased if the City of Austin decides to conduct an inspection to make sure everybody is complying with their ban. Vendors could be forced to remove their evil single use plastic bags. Your guests won't be amused, either.

Speaking of the City of Austin, somebody will probably show up to make sure all of the vendors pay their sales tax. Many forms will be passed out. I expect a number will *not* be returned. I'd really prefer that the club isn't on the hook for an "anticipated revenue" bill from the City or State.

Which is why it would be good to have a lawyer go over *each and every* document you are presented, or will be presented, to make sure that there are no "surprises" in the document. Hey, I like surprises, but I'm not fond of the legal ones.

At some point, you can put together a plan that shows how the club can host an IPMS/USA National convention and that will keep our club's (ASMS) head above water.

Talk to past national hosts and find out how the money came in, when, and in what quantity. You can start selling vendor tables at the previous year's national event. That will bring in some cash as will pre-registration but again, will it keep ASMS a float?

You need several people that are "24 hour contact" people for the duration of the show. Whatever the issue these people need to be empowered to deal with the situation.

Consider the scenarios. From a vendor that needs to get into the vendor room after hours. A guest needs to withdrawal from the contest and has to retrieve their models (verifying that the models are theirs, of course!) from the contest area, etc.

You need several people on call, and a list to call. Everybody needs to know where the list is including hotel staff and security.

So, you convince the members of ASMS that this is a good thing and that it will work. Now you have to sell it to the IPMS/USA National Convention Committee. It seems that a good place to start is with past convention bid winners and *losers*.

Yes, losers! Ask them to share their thoughts on *why* they lost. Consider if you need to go back and revise your proposal.

Speaking of the convention committee, you do need to have somebody who has some public speaking skills available. They need to know the material forwards, backwards, left, right and upside down! You won't score any points if your response to a question from the contest committee is "ummm..."

The convention presentations are open to all IPMS/USA members. If you have been attending past conventions and the convention presentations you'll have a good idea of what goes on. If not, you'll should attend the presentations beginning with the convention in Loveland, Colorado.

By now you are starting to get the idea that this isn't going to be a "slam dunk". That is good. It's a lot of work, and is probably going to take more than a year to put all of the pieces together.

You will have to make the presentation at the appropriate convention when our region is invited to present.

Or be ready to go if IPMS/USA receives no bids and they open the bid process to all areas of the country.

Let me reiterate my introductory comment. The manpower and money requirements of hosting an IPMS/USA National convention are considerable.

Due to the necessary attention to detail and manpower needed to put on and execute a successful national convention, my feeling is is that our club won't have enough participating members to do so.

Do you really want to attend the convention and *not* attend it? You will be there but you aren't going to have much time to participate in all the festivities.

Bruce

I know you've been building something!



Looking for newsletter articles.

Any size, shape or subject.

Submit your articles to:
benmorton@grandecom.net

All submissions (published or not) qualify for the newsletter contest. Assistance is available, just for the asking.



The HMS Belfast Museum on the Thames.

White Ensign Models also has the correct colored paints for this scheme. There is also a You Tube video of the building of the kit. ([youtube.com/watch?v=43UpJeubNQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43UpJeubNQ))



I was all set to build the HMS Belfast.

My HMS Belfast was going to be a waterline model so the first task was to cut away the lower hull. This done, the rest of the build went together well.

During the entire build I referenced the photo etch set to determine which parts needed to be replaced. The only major thing I did to the kit was to rebuild the bridge with plastic sheet as the original kit parts were a bit malformed.

All in all the kit builds up well considering it's age. The ocean base was made from acrylic gel medium with a top coat of *Future*.

Here are some photos of the completed model.

Rick



Monthly Program Schedule
by Ron McCracken, Vice President

<u>Month</u>	<u>Presenter/Subject</u>
March	Quarterly Model Contest
April	Canopy Masking/ Ron McCracken

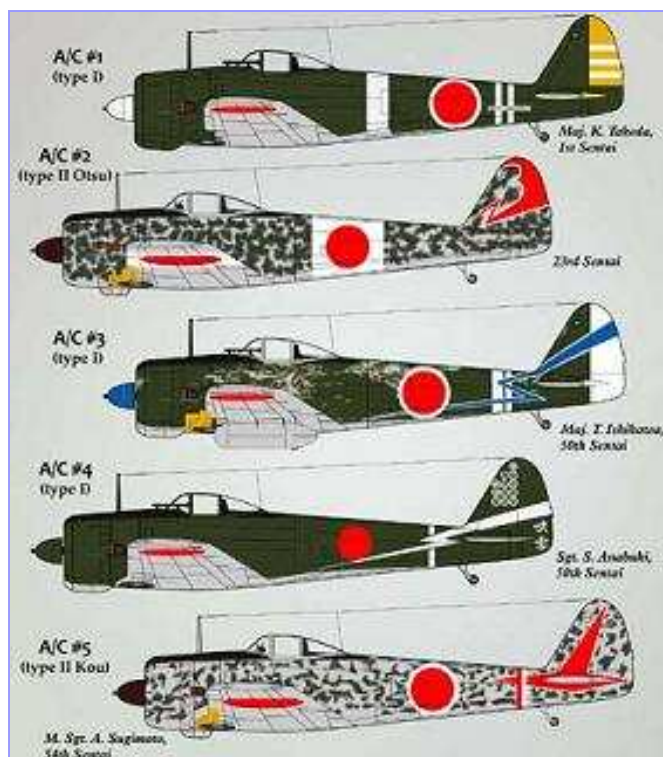
If you are interested in making a presentation at our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at:
rmccrack@austin.rr.com

1/48th Nakajima Ki-43 Part 1
by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
IPMS # 26266

Lifelike has always produced some of the best researched decals anywhere. This new sheet is no different. This time they cover the Ki-43 Hayabusa (Oscar) in a variety of paint schemes.

The instructions are on two single sided 8.5x11 sheets printed in full color. One sheet has the side views and the upper and lower plan views. The other sheet has a description of the paint schemes, history, and discussion how *Lifelike* came to their conclusions on the paint schemes.

That is the one thing that sets *Lifelike* apart from other decal manufacturers, they tell you how they came to the conclusions that they offer. Right or wrong they let you know what they do and don't know. Some things that are speculative they let you know up front. It is up to the modeler to believe it or come to their own conclusion.



The decals themselves are on two sheets. One is a pretty typical 6x9 sheet with the main colors. The other sheet contains the white and silver parts of the markings. The decals are designed for the *Hasegawa* or *Arii* kits. They are printed in Japan.

The color saturation looks great. They are suitably thin.

The aircraft are a Type I Oscar flown by Major Kinshiro Takeda, of the 1st Sentai. This colorful aircraft is camouflaged in dark green over NMF but that is just the beginning. There are white stripes on the rudder, fuselage, wings and horizontal tail. The rudder and elevators are painted yellow. The combination of colors creates a unique looking airplane.

The second Hayabusa is a type II of the 23rd Sentai from the home defense Sentai in 1945. This aircraft is NMF with dark green splotches with yellow leading edge and white homeland defense bands around the national markings. The red Sentai marking on the tail just add that much flare.

The next Oscar is a type I flown by Major Tadashi Ishikawa as flown in Burma in January 1943. This green aircraft has worn areas. The rudder and elevators are white. The flash of blue with the blue spinner is quite colorful. This aircraft carries wing drop tanks.

The next aircraft comes equipped with white kill markings against the dark green background. The flash and fuselage stripe are white. This aircraft is a type I flown by Sgt. Satoshi Anabuki in Burma in 1943. Anabuki was an able ace who became a helicopter pilot in the JASDF after the war. This alone makes this aircraft desirable to me.

The final aircraft is a type II flown by M. Sgt. Akira Sugimoto in 1943. This NMF aircraft sports dark green splotches with red and white fuselage stripes and red tail flash.

The quality of research, beautiful decals, and colorful markings makes this sheet a nice addition to your Hayabusa model.

Highly recommended

Thanks to *Lifelike Decals* for the review copy. You can obtain yours by contacting them at: www.i6.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/

Be sure to tell them that you heard about it here.

Floyd

Support Your Local Hobby Shop

1/72 Hawker Hurricane Part 1 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS # 26266

Looking for something different for your small scale Hurricane? Well, *Lifelike* has just what you need in their latest offering. Based on the *Airfix* or *Hasegawa* Mk I or the *Academy*, *Airfix*, *Hasegawa* or *Revell* Mk II, these decals are anything but 'normal' Hurricane livery.

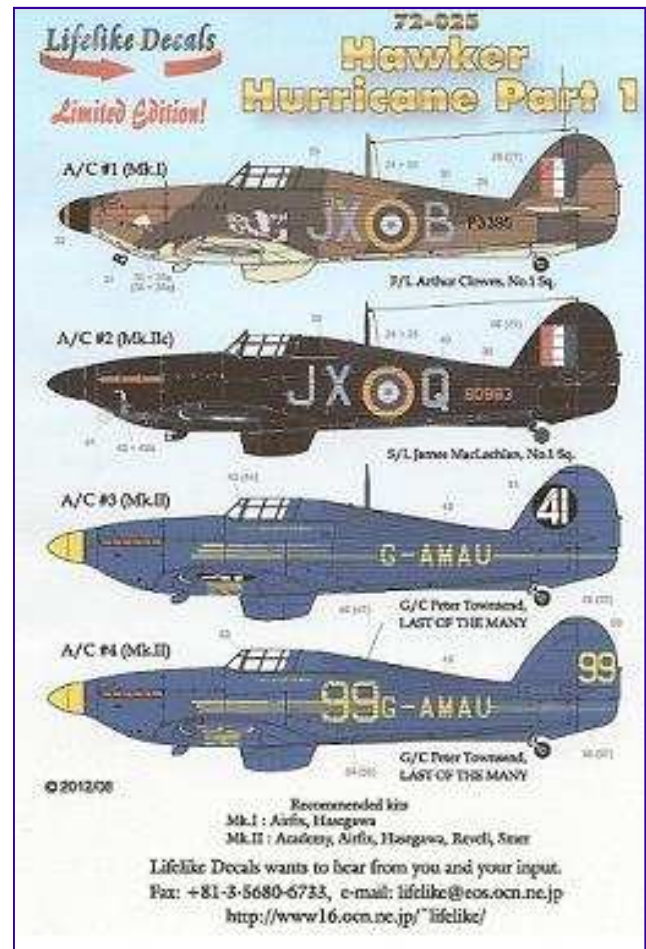
The instructions are on two single sided A4 pages printed in full color. One page contains the cover and the stencil locations. The other contains the history of each machine and the plan views. The history is really neat. Often times a decal manufacturer will present you with decals and say they are the best. Well you don't know the references that were used to develop them or the history behind the pilot or aircraft. Well *Lifelike* does that for you. Not only do they provide the history of both they also tell you where they drew their conclusions from. This is what sets *Lifelike* apart from the rest of the decal makers.

The decals themselves are on two sheets. The decals are printed by *Cartograf* so you know they are the best in the world. The first sheet is 4" x 5 1/2" and includes everything but the nose art. The second, smaller, sheet features the individual nose art designs and white background for them. Both sheets are in perfect register and suitably thin. Because they are printed by *Cartograf*, you know they will react well with *Microsol* and *Solvaset*.

OK, admittedly the first aircraft is a 'plain Jane' Hurricane but it has really cool markings. A Hurricane Mk. I flown by F/L Arthur Clowes of No. 1 Squadron. This famous aircraft has the yellow jacket on the nose with a heavily chipped panel below the cockpit. Bottom line it is still a cool looking aircraft. Painted in Dark Green/ Dark Earth over Sky this aircraft is

The second aircraft is a night fighting Mk II. Painted in overall flat black this aircraft features nose art which for a night fighter is very unique. Flown by S/L James MacLachlan of No. 1 Squadron. The Grey codes add a lot to this aircraft.

The third and fourth aircraft are actually the same aircraft, a Mk. II, just from different time frames. The first rendition is "The Last of The Many". It was bought by Hawker Aircraft Company after the war where it was de-armed and raced. The first rendition is from the 1949 and 1950 air races marked as "41" and the second as "99" is from the 1951 National Air Races. The best thing about this aircraft is the Royal Blue color scheme with gold highlights. Beautiful markings for a brutish looking airplane.



I really enjoy the colorful options that *Lifelike* provides. The history is an added bonus. The quality of the decals and the usefulness of the instructions makes this, and all of *Lifelike Decals*, an exceptional value.

Thanks to *Lifelike* for the review copy. You can get your copy directly from them at www.16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/.

Let them know you heard about it here.

Floyd

ASMS quarterly model contest is slated for our next meeting. This is an open category contest. It's open to any and all models in any scale and from any era.

Model Fiesta XXXII by Ben Morton

Model Fiesta XXXII , sponsored by IPMS/Alamo Squadron in San Antonio has come and gone.

The club is to be congratulated for putting on another fine show. The powers that be reported that there were 147 contestants displaying 607 entries. (More than likely from *those* people in Houston that seem to bring completed models by the trunk full. While I never have time to even finish two...but I digress.)

2013's Model Fiesta was held at a new location: The San Antonio Event Center. Which is on the west side of San Antonio on the way to Del Rio.



The new space provided plenty of room for vendors and model displaying.

The youth categories were well represented and

awards went to a wide variety of modelers and subject matter. I particularly liked the egg plane bumblebee.

Bob King's program on using Alclad paints was well received. (His talk will be the subject of a forthcoming newsletter article for those who might have missed the presentation.)



ASMS 'represented' and a number of club members came home with awards. Tim Robb (who is getting his money's worth out of that Flamingo model!), Mike Poole, Milton Bell, Aaron Smischney, Bob Bethea (with five awards) and Eric Choy (honored with Best Armor). Congratulations to you all!

A first at Model Fiesta this year was the 'Best of the Best' category. These were models that had won first place at other contests throughout our area and now had the opportunity to 'go again'. It was cool to see those past winners one more time.



The Best of Show award went to David Straum for his USS Langley, Seaplane Tender. A remarkable, entirely scratch built model.

Beautiful work!

Ben



(Photos courtesy of Milton Bell)

U.S. Army Attack Aircraft /A-27 by Ron McCracken

U.S. Air Corps/Army Air Force Attack aircraft are a subject largely ignored by the kit manufacturers, yet of considerable historical importance. The "A" designation was adopted for attack planes by the Army Air Corps in 1924 (previously it had been assigned to "ambulance" aircraft) and remained in continuous use until 1947.

At that time, the Air Force became a separate service, and the "A" designation was dropped. During those twenty-three years 44 designations were assigned (A-2 through A-45, A-1 having been used for an ambulance aircraft). 35 of these designations had at least one prototype built. However, only 14 types were ever produced in significant numbers.

And therein is the challenge for the model builder striving for a complete collection, as not even all the major production types have been kitted in plastic. This article is the start of a series that will describe each aircraft, suggest kits where they exist, and offer conversion tips where appropriate. Just to keep things interesting, the articles will not appear in any particular order.

Here is the first aircraft - the North American A-27. The A-27 designation was given to 10 NA-69 light bombers originally purchased by Thailand, that were intercepted en-route and taken into U.S. Army Air Force service.



They were left in their original camouflage (Dark Green/Dark Earth over natural metal undersides). U.S. insignia were painted over the Thai insignia and they were assigned to the 17th Pursuit Group in the Philippines. All were destroyed in the opening days of WW II.

The A-27 was an AT-6 airframe adapted to the Wright R-1820 engine, (the same engine used in the similarly sized SBD Dauntless) with provisions for two cowling-mounted machine guns and a centerline bomb rack. Various references mention wing machine guns, but the few photos I've been able to locate show no evidence of these. My recommendation is to stick with fuselage-mounted guns only.

There is no kit of the A-27 available, however there are some excellent AT-6 kits in both 1/48 and 1/72 scale that can be

converted, without too much difficulty, into a passable representation of the A-27. The conversion is relatively simple; change the rear cockpit into a gunner's position, substitute a larger cowling to house an R-1820 engine in place of the R-1340 and add machine gun fairings to the upper nacelle area.



The under wing bomb rack is a rather simple affair consisting of two Y-shaped combination pylon/sway braces under the fuselage centerline, one attached at the front main spar (the panel line just behind the main gear wells), the second 14 scale inches behind that.

The gunner's position modifications consisted of finding a .30 caliber machine gun from the spares box, and adding a gun mount half-ring cut from Evergreen plastic tube (5/32" diameter for 1/72nd).

As for the engine cowling, I had on hand the spare set of cowlings from an Academy 1/72nd B-17C/D kit, and one of these served the purpose. I merely had to add a bit of length to the cowling. For a 1/48th kit, again the easiest route is to adapt a B-17 cowling/engine.

Basically, you need a cowling as long as the original AT-6 engine cowling, but of a larger diameter without the sloping upper profile line. The R-1820 engine used in the A-27 was 54 inches in diameter, so you need a cowling a bit larger than that.

In 1/72 scale the cowling outside diameter is 3/4 inch. In 1/48th, it is 1 1/8th inches. Also, the prominent air scoop on the port fuselage side of the AT-6 is gone, replaced by a rather boxy air scoop protruding from the top centerline of the cowling, at the rear edge, and curving up and over the cowling.

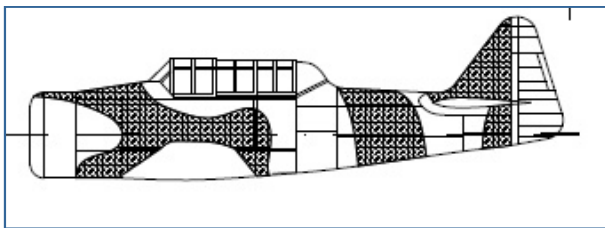
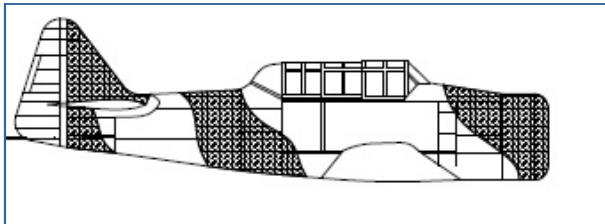
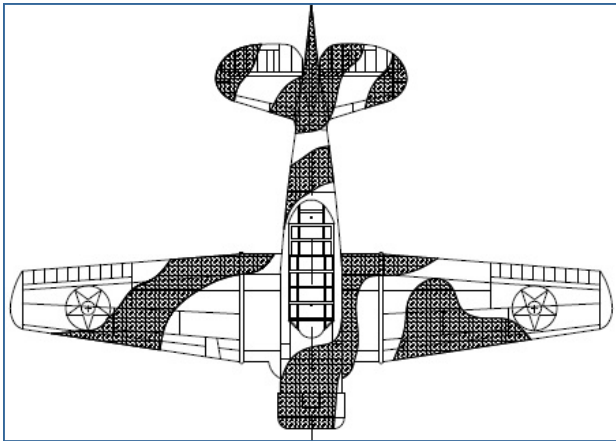
You will also need a three-blade propeller. A tall radio antenna mast extends upward from the forward fuselage, offset slightly to starboard.

A couple of pieces of sprue, carved down to the proper taper, provided the fairings for the two nose machine guns.

You will have to carve out semi-circular troughs ahead of the fairings and add gun barrels.

The canopy is the early AT-6 configuration. You'll probably need a different canopy as most kits represent the late AT-6G, which has single pane side panels.

The big challenge was figuring out an accurate camouflage pattern. Photo of these aircraft are, perhaps understandably, rare. But diligent searching of the web and my paper archives uncovered just enough views of these aircraft to reconstruct a complete camouflage pattern.



Colors are RAF dark green and dark earth topsides, aluminum undersides. The darker areas of the drawings are dark green.

Ron

Newsletter Contest Surges On by Ben Morton

The following are the latest results from the acclaimed newsletter contest. You know the one where you send me stuff for the newsletter, I keep track best as I can and the person with the most submissions has their club dues paid for 2014.

In no particular order:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Tim Robb -2 | Rick Herrington - 5 |
| Jeff Forster -5 | Aaron Smischney - 3 |
| Mike Poole -7 | Randy Barnes -1 |
| Ron McCracken -2 | Eric Choy -1 |
| Dennis Price -1 | John Fisher -1 |
| Mike Gilsbach -1 | Bob King -1 |
| Randy Bumgardner -2 | Floyd Werner -5 |
| Bruce Burden-1 | |

As you can tell, Mike is leading the pack but Rick and Floyd are close at hand. So, keep those cards and letters coming. This really is a situation where the more, the merrier!

Ben

(There is an omission in the newsletter. Small but there, nevertheless. Be the first to notice and win a coveted spot of this roster.)

Your Dues Is Due!

Time for all good women and men to come to the aid of their model club and pay their dues.

Dues for ASMS are \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 per family. Please make your check payable to ASMS and remit to Jeff Forster at 1503 Black Cherry Drive, Cedar Park, Texas 78613 or you may bring the monies to a club meeting.



The timely payment of your dues is needed and much appreciated.

The Staff
and Management

Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Jeff Forster, Mike Poole, Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington

Shipping News

Here's the latest and greatest!

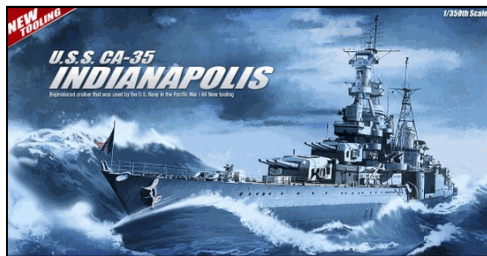
For 1/200th scale Bismarck fans wondering how you can sink more cash into your *Trumpeter* Bismarck kit here are a few items just for you.



From *Eduard* is a catapult kit, around \$30.00. They also have a deck crew set for about \$26.00. *KA Models* has a deluxe pack that includes brass barrels for all the armament, a brass replacement mast kit, photo-etched brass for the ships

boast, and a wooden deck for \$200.00.

In 1/350th scale comes the USS Indianapolis CA-35 from *Academy*. Additionally, in this scale from *Trumpeter* is the HMS Dreadnaught battleship(1915).



Moving down the scale line, in 1/700th is the USS Maryland BB-46 (1941) from *Trumpeter*. The USS Arizona BB-39 (1939) from *Hobby Boss* and from *Pit Road Models* has the JMSDF DD-108 Yudachi, a circa 1950's Japanese destroyer.



I've got the new *Trumpeter* 1/350th scale British Tribal class destroyer on the way. It's my next build.

Have fun and build a ship!

Rick

Automotive

Since I mentioned the trend in January, the Japanese Yen has continued to depreciate, effectively discounting prices on kits from the land of the rising sun. At ¥96 per dollar we've almost returned to the days when you simply drop two zeros to convert the currency to real money.

Starting the lineup this month is the die-cast creator turned kit producer *Ebbro*, with their latest incarnation of the Lotus 72 series of cars.



This month it's the Lotus 72E as raced in 1973. The good news is we finally have a plastic kit of the John Player car in 1/20th scale. The bad news is that in addition to the \$60 kit price you'll have to buy aftermarket decals for \$25 to actually get John Player logos.

If Lotus cars aren't your thing *Fujimi* have just released the Brabham BT46B "Fan Car" in 1/20th scale. The nickname was given to this car because of a large exhaust fan at the rear which evacuated air from under the vehicle giving it a traction advantage a vacuum cleaner.



The car only once was raced before the fan system was prohibited by the race sanctioning authority but has become popular as a modeling subject among the F1 crowd.

More than one member has asked that I mix it up a bit with more domestic car offerings so I have begun keeping track of *Revell-Monogram*, *AMT*, and *MPC* news.

I may not get to every reissue but I'll make space for newly tooled subjects and the 'odd duck' item I think others may find fun to build.

From *Revell-Monogram* this month is the 1953 Chevrolet Corvette in 1/24th scale and costing less than \$20. It features 92 parts and includes a full interior and drive train.



This Corvette has always been something of an anomaly with a straight six engine and two speed automatic. It wasn't the fastest Vette but because there were only 300 built that first year it definitely is the rarest.

If you like a bit of humor in your modeling, *Revell* is also reissuing the famous Boot Hill Express kit this month.

From the website: "This seriously twisted kit is what you get when you combine a dragster with an exceptionally ornate hearse. The beautiful wood lines and ornamentation of a carriage merge with the sheer power of a



fuel-injected engine to create the fastest death wagon out there. Without a doubt, this is one hearse that will make the dead stand up and take notice. Kit features a skeleton figure with tombstone, single piece frame with spring suspension and full engine with injection system." Look for it this month for around \$18.

Gruesome Figures/Sci-Fi

This month there are a few items that are new and some updates on old stuff. First off will be the following items.

From *MPC*, an re-issued Alien figure.



Mike

For your rocketeers, there will be two items available later this year. A Titan II and a Vostock Rocket.

MOEBIUS has a number of kits coming out soon (May.) A Battlestar Galactica from the original movie and a Battlestar Pegasus.

In the figure realm they have a Herman Munster and Grandpa Munster coming our way. Also available soon for you space junkies, a Martian Figure from Mars Attacks and a Robbie the Robot in 1/6th scale from Lost in Space.



In the arena of vehicles, they have a Space Pod/Chariot from Lost in Space in 1/35th scale, the Tumberler from Dark Knight Rises in 1/25th scale, and a Battlestar Galactica Viper MK.1. This is the original kit, due in April.

There are a number of new and previously mentioned kits coming from *Polar Lights*. The C-57D Saucer from Forbidden Planet, a Back to The Future DeLorean, Enterprise NX-01 kits in both 1/350th and 1/1000 as well as another Robbie the Robot with Altira figure.

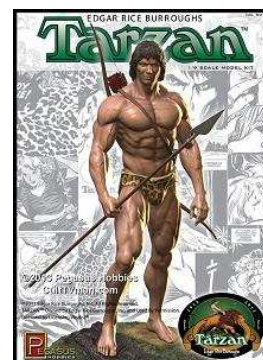
Revell Models is re-issuing a Nike Missile kit in 1/32th scale. A new kit is a 1/30th scale model of the USS Enterprise from the new movie coming our way this summer.

For the Star Wars fan comes a Festos Jedi Fighter, Plo Koons Jedi Fighter, and a 1/30th scale X-Wing fighter. The X-Wing is reported to be a new tooling. *Revell* has these three kits slated for release in October.

Pegasus is releasing a figure kit previously mentioned here that may be of interest. Tarzan in 1/9th scale. An imposing figure! This kit should be available in June.

Last but not least, from *Aoshima* comes Thunderbird 2. This kit should be available in May.

Look to the skies!



Jeff

Aircraft

Well, March is here! Spring has sprung, the model contest season is upon us, and we've got some treats that should be appearing on contest tables in a show near you.

First up, *Eduard* has an imminent release with their new tool 1/48th scale Spitfire Mk.IXc. *Eduard* redesigned this thing from the spinner to the rudder. Pre-release images from the *Eduard* website reveal a very detailed model.

They plan on releasing a few versions of this kit, including some markings for Spitfires that were in Czech service. Rumor has it that *Eduard* plans to produce the entire family of Spitfires.

That well known resin kit guru from California, Paul Fisher has just released a new kit. The 1/32nd scale *Fisher Model and Pattern* Ryan PT-22 looks to be another winner from Paul.



As per his usual standards, the detail is fabulous and the casting is superb. In this large scale (outside of a vacuform kit) this may be the only PT-22 kit around.

Special Hobby has created quite a stir recently with the announcement of their 1/32nd scale Hawker Tempest Mk.V. The markings will include NV969/SA-A, No.486 (NZ) Sqn. RAF among others.

True to a *Special Hobby* boxing, the kit will be injection molded with photo etch details and resin bits such as the cockpit and wheel wells.

Longed for by many a modeler, this kit should sell well, and who knows, could the Mk.II be far behind or perchance to dream, a Typhoon?



Hasegawa is re-releasing their P-40N in 1/32nd scale. Although their initial release of this aircraft was a "limited edition", this kit is a regular edition with everything that comes with that. Take that with a grain of salt as only *Hasegawa* knows what that means.

Moving down the aircraft scale, *Kitty Hawk* has just released their latest offering, the 1/48th scale Dassault Mirage F.1B. The kit looks to be great model with well done detail and crisp moldings. *Kitty Hawk* continues to ship great kits of aircraft that we haven't seen yet or seen in a long time.



Their Jaguar, F-35, and F-94C are great kits. They have announced a JAS=39A/C Gripen and a MiG-25 PD/PDS Foxbat for 2013. Holy cow, I'll be making several trips to King's, even more that I already do!

Airfix, never a company to be idle in releasing kits, has just shipped a new Spitfire. The 1/48th scale Spitfire PR.XIX was released last month and it looks quite nice. These new tool *Airfix* kits have great detail and excellent fit. They are also a great value.

For those of you who haven't heard, *Eduard* is on a PR blitz. No, not their new 1/48th scale Spitfire. I'm talking about the 'Bunny Fighter Club'.



Last year *Eduard* released their 1/48th scale MiG-21 in very garish colors, ala Matchbox, and threw in a "Founders Edition t-shirt" and some other stuff. They labeled it the 'BFC' and offered discounts to "club" members. I wasn't able to get in on the deal when they first offered them.

Well, my prayers have been answered. *Eduard* just re-offered membership to the club. Visit *Eduard's* website for more details. Oh, by the way, the 'BFC' MiG-21 can also be finished in markings found on an actual MiG-21, not just an aircraft from the "Bunny Wars".

So, I know that a lot of aircraft modelers like 1/72nd scale. I also know that some modelers like airliners. The intersection of these two sets may be interested in what *Welsh Models* is going to be releasing.

Soon, I haven't uncovered exactly when, *Welsh Models* will be releasing a 1/72nd scale Boeing 727-100 in Lufthansa livery.

Actually, they are offering two versions of the Lufthansa livery; the full tail design and the partial tails markings.



In the future, *Welsh Models* will also be releasing markings for TWA markings. The kit is a vac/resin combination. The fuselage is vacuformed plastic with the wings, tail planes, engines, etc, all in resin.

I find myself being strangely attracted to airliners with this one and the *BPK 737-200* that was recently released.

'til next month, keep the bench busy!

Armor

[Editor's Note: I'm only speculating here, but Aaron may have run into a problem that a tank couldn't solve. Of course, that's assuming that a tank caused the problem in the first place!]



Aircraft Identification Contest

Be the first to correctly identify this aircraft and have your name submitted along with the other worthy contestants for the highly acclaimed and notable newsletter contest. Hint: The aircraft was featured in a 'Mad Max' movie.

Web At Night : Rewind

by Jeff Forster

One of my favorite web sites to check out would be Federation Models at: www.federationmodels.com.

If you are a sci-fi fan and you love spacecraft then this site is for you! The site is split up in four parts.

- *What's new.* This section is a little outdated.
- *Model kits.* This section lists products from 20 different companies' and one miscellaneous models section. They are heavy on Star Trek kits but also many other movies and TV series kits. Each kit has pictures, scales, and a kit history described so there is no doubt about what you are looking at.
- *Decals.* The decal section is set up like the model section with 8 companies represented.
- *Products.* With 19 companies listed. If you need conversion parts or updated parts one of these companies will have it for you.

Randy I really like this web site as they are great for getting your order out very quickly. If you are looking for Sci-Fi kits of your favorite TV shows or movies, than this site is for you.

Another web site I like is Toadman Tank Pictures at: www.toadmantankpictures.com. You can visit this site and check for pictures on all kinds of tanks and planes. Pictures are clear and crisp and they sell CD's of the material at a nice, low prices that I have taken advantage of. I highly recommend this site for all armor builders.

One of my favorite sites is: www.3rdstada.org. This is a web site of my old Nike Hercules unit I served while in Germany. It is full of pictures from all four battery's and headquarters as well as Ed Thelen's Nike Missile website. That website is rich with Nike info and pictures.

While looking at the pictures you might even see a picture of me in there once or twice.

Jeff

[Editor's Note: This column was originally done by Rafael Powers. The column was a series of recommended websites complete with descriptions that Rafael found interesting. If you have some favorite websites that you'd like to let the rest of ASMS know about, please send in the information with a brief description of the website(s)to: benmor-ton@grandecom.net.]



In the latest issue of...

IPMS/USA Journal

January/February
Volume 25, Issue 1

- **Getting Going on a Big Boeing** - The AMT EC-135 and the Lessons in Teaches in Building Large Aircraft, by Richard C. Engar
- **Focus Stacking** - Bringing clarity to your model photography, by Dan Thompson
- **Apollo Program** - Recreating the giant leaps of the manned lunar landings, by Pete Malaguti
- **Krokodil!** - Building the fictional E-100 Jagdpanzer from the New Connection conversion, by David Bridges
- **McLaren in the Buff** - The thrill of building - but not painting - James' Hunt's 1976 Formula 1 ride, by Jonathan Silverthorn
- **Super-sized Stinger** - The Scorpion's Mechanical Steed, Scratchbuilt in 1:72 Scale, by Dan Thompson

Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas in 1964, there are now IPMS branches all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive *The IPMS Journal* six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer discounts to IPMS/USA members.

To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to www.ipmsusa.org and click **Join IPMS/USA!**

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IPMS/USA

**P.O. Box: 2475
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Check out our web page: www.ipmsusa.org



Austin Scale Modelers Society
 c/o 1228 W. San Antonio Street
 San Marcos, Texas 78666

www.austinsms.org

Next Meeting:
March 21, 2013
 at
Austin Old Quarry Library
 (7051 Village Center Drive)
 7PM to 8:45PM
Program: Quarterly Model Contest



Quarterly Contest Schedule

Our club's quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for 2013.

Date	Theme
March 21	any subject / any era
June 20	any subject / any era
September 19	Bondo Special
December 19	White Elephant