



# SPRUE



# EXAMINER



Vol 22 No.4

40th Anniversary(1973-2013)

April 2014

2011 IPMS/USA Website of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year

2010 IPMS/USA Webmaster of the Year

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

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA Region 6/ Chapter of the Year



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### Monogram's 1/48 F-5F Build by Tim Robb, IPMS# 34705

Sometimes I look at model kits in the box. That doesn't sound very exciting does it?

Well, listen here! When my Mom was a little girl in rural Arkansas during the depression she would go to the barber shop and watch haircuts for entertainment.

Looking at un-built kits in the box has got to be more exciting than that. "Watchest thou not haircuts when you might better lookest at thine unbuilt kits and thou shalt be numbered among the righteous, and thusly thou shalt be spared the rod." (That's in Proverbs...somewhere.)

Well, one day there was this kit I was looking at and on a whim I started it. I thought it would be a quick and easy build and it was.

Construction is straightforward. There are only a few parts. The fuselage is split into top and bottom halves with the wings and tail planes molded integral with the top half.

The cockpit tub is all one piece, seats and seatbelts molded in, with very few other parts to add. You only need to add the instrument

panels and control sticks and paint it all up. It does not look as good as

separate seats and seat belts would but it IS fast and easy.



I scribed most of the panel lines on the fuselage and all on the wings using the kit's raised lines as guides. Now put it together, finish the seams, and it's ready for paint very quickly.

The seam between top and bottom fuselage halves on the side runs right through the blow-in doors for the engines that are on the side of the plane behind the wings.

*(continued on page four)*



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[iwata.media.com](http://iwata.media.com)



Phil Brandt	Rick Willaman
(in memorium)	Jack Johnston
Eric Choy	Mike Kizin
Angie/Jeff	Mike Poole
Forster	Aaron
Russ Holm	Smischney

## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

ModelMania 2014, IPMS Houston, Stafford, Texas	4.26.14
<a href="http://www.ipms-houston.org">http://www.ipms-houston.org</a>	
Prairie Wind 2014, IPMS Region 6 Convention, Wichita, Kansas	5.16/17.14
<a href="http://aircapitalipms.org">http://aircapitalipms.org</a>	
SuperCon 2014, IPMS/Ft. Worth, Arlington, Texas	9.13.14
<a href="http://www.fortwothscalemodelers.org/#">http://www.fortwothscalemodelers.org/#</a>	
IPMS Prison City Modelers Contest, Leavenworth, Kansas	9.20.14
<a href="http://leavenworthmodelersclub.org/">http://leavenworthmodelersclub.org/</a>	

### Local Club Meetings

Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading Club, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	5.10.14
Austin Armor Builders Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	5.7.14
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	5.1.14
CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	4.17.14
<a href="http://www.centexmodelers.com">http://www.centexmodelers.com</a>	

### Other Events

Texas Military Forces Open House, Camp Mabry, Texas	4.26/27.14
<a href="http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org">http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org</a>	
Pioneer Flight Museum 2014 Air Fair, Kingsbury, Texas	5.3.14
<a href="http://www.pioneerflightmuseum.org">http://www.pioneerflightmuseum.org</a>	

### IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities.

The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country.

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is: [www.models4troops@gmail.com](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.com)

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

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<b>Tim Robb</b> , Membership Coordinator	512.392.0611, <a href="mailto:tim.robb@mccoys.com">tim.robb@mccoys.com</a>

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**t's May in Central Texas and that means spending every free moment outside enjoying the mild weather. But good things don't last and neither does Spring in Texas! As fast as you can say "80% off model kit sale" we will be sealed up with blinds drawn tight and electricity meters whirring for our southern version of the "winter" build season.

When I do get time to work on a model I try to take a few pictures along the way. I love to add a lot of extra detail that often becomes obscured as assembly progresses. So when I finish something interesting I pause to photograph it on a piece of white foam board to concentrate focus on the subject and eliminate a cluttered background. Taking pictures along the way can be really helpful. In addition to finding mistakes it helps document the construction process for others wanting to tackle the same kit. Every kit has problem areas like poorly fitting seams or highly visible parts that are hopelessly out of scale. Builders usually only get one chance at a kit and looking at others work in progress can give us insight into these problems with sufficient time to better plan for them. I also enjoy reminiscing about past projects clicking through old construction photographs. Without these mementos the crisp and colorful memories of each project would fade with time.

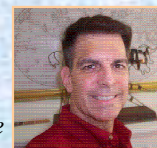


In addition to this month's 30 minute business meeting we will have a show-n-tell segment and a special presentation. The presentation will be a techniques talk called **6 Steps To A Mirror Finish** by your long suffering president.

I've written the presentation to include three distinct parts: surface preparation, spraying base/clear coats, and polishing techniques. In my experience, 80% of a person's success in this area is simply knowing which products to use and which ones to run and hide from so there will be many product recommendations as well.

So go build something and bring it to the meeting to show us. See ya there!

Mike



## Fiddly Bits

**Frank Seibert**

**I**n last month's Sprue Examiner, there was a notice about Chili-Con 3 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Due to a scheduling conflict (hotel screw-up) the event is now scheduled for July 11th and 12th, not the 6th and 7th as originally mentioned. Plan accordingly. There might be a room discount from the hotel if you 'whine' just right! It never hurts to ask. The club's website is: [http://www.abqscalemodelers.com/Region-10\\_Chile-Con-3\\_Home-Page.htm](http://www.abqscalemodelers.com/Region-10_Chile-Con-3_Home-Page.htm)

Our annual BBQ/Model Auction plans are being formulated, as we speak. The event will be at the home of Jack and Lisa Johnston. A firm date hasn't been chosen (last year's was in July) but it isn't too early to start going through your model stash and selecting items for the auction. You know, kits you're just never going to get around to building. **Please** make certain that whatever you select is a complete kit. You don't wanna get stuck with a missing canopy, which happened to one hapless bidder...

Your club dues are past due. The cutoff date (March 31) for the reduced membership fee has come and gone. ASMS club dues for 2014 are \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family. Please make every effort to get your dues to Jeff just as soon as possible. (You know how he gets.) Either bring a check, cash or money order (No bitcoins) to a club meeting or you can remit your dues to Jeff Forster, 1503 Cherry Creek, Cedar Park, Texas, 78613.

Frank



I lost most of this raised detail in sanding the seams. I replaced it at the end of the build by drawing it on with a sharp pencil, using the little bit of raised detail still left as a locating guide. Quick and easy.

The markings came from a very old *Micro Scale* sheet that has been in my stash for at least 15 years, and depicts an adversary aircraft from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School at NAS Miramar, CA in the 1970's.

For me, the most difficult step in the whole build was mounting the front canopy. I glued it in place with *Elmer's* and propped it up with various bits of foam and toothpicks and left it to dry overnight. The *Elmer's* is put directly on the inside of the clear transparency and I worried that it would not look good when dry, but it is OK.



I enjoyed this build and will probably build some more *Monogram* F-5s, most likely single seat F-5Es. Did I say it's a fast and easy build?

It's fast, easy, inexpensive, makes a handsome addition to my collection, and there are many markings options for the F-5 to choose from.

Go Build a Model!

*Tim*





**Web At Night : Rewind**

Compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne

**B**on Jour! My apologies for being somewhat remiss in not having my column in last month's Sprue Examiner. I had to journey to France for the elections this past month and that necessitated my absence. Viva la France!

In my absence, Milton Bell submitted a couple of items for your enjoyment. One is a link to rather extensive catalog of aircraft photos. Due allow adequate time to view these photos. You don't want to be late to *travailer*.

<http://acepilots.com/index/html>

**A**nother offering from Milton is an interview with a SR-71 pilot. This is a wonderful interview with some tidbits of which I was previously unaware. At the end of the interview is a collection of comments from readers of the article. Everything from 'wonderful job' to 'How could you so stupid as to...'. Clearly some of us take things a tad too seriously.

<http://www.sbnation.com/2014/3/7/5447310/sr-71-blackbird-pilot-interview>

**F**or those that may be unfamiliar, Flory Models is a British concern that produces finishing supplies for plastic modelers. They market a line of sanding sticks and polishing sponges, in particular. Their line pf polishing sponges has been improved and those are now available at your favorite stockist.

They have several tabs on their web browser that will take you to some tutorials. Case in point is the one on making a wet pallette for all you users of acrylic based paints. A wet palette was first introduced to me by Eric Choy during a presentation he made at an ASMS club meeting.

<http://www.florymodels.co.uk>

Jean-Michel



**Support Your  
Local Hobby Shop**

**Quarterly Contest Schedule**



**O**ur clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each quarter. Here are the dates and themes for 2014.

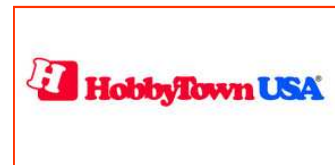
Date	Theme
June 19	Open
September 18	'Bondo' Special
December 18	White Elephant

*Editor's Note: Our club's next quarterly model contest will be at our June meeting. This contest is an open contest. Any type/any era model is eligible to win. In past club contests, 'prize money' has been generously provided by King's Hobby Shop. We applaud their continuing support our club and our hobby.*

*Due to the escalating costs of everything from kit prices to a bottle of paint, ASMS has chosen to match the gifts from King's Hobby Shop and raised the overall awards for our in-house contests.*

*Beginning in June, the new award structure will be as follows: 1st prize/\$40.00, 2nd prize/\$30.00 and 3rd prize/\$20.00.*

*We're talking real money! So go build and/or finish the your model!*



## Working With Acrylic Colors by Rick Herrington

I've been modeling since I was 10 years old and I've seen modeling go through a lot of phases.

The phases I speak of are in finishing (painting) your model. Most of these trends are introduced by modeling magazines or web sites where we see a particularly well done model and want ours to look the same way.

As an armor builder there are a lot of products to finish and weather the kits I build and if I were a lotto winner I could have drawers full of them. I'm not, so when a new trend/method of finishing models is introduced I'm a little skeptical and like to hear from other modelers who have had experience with them to give me a brief on the pluses and minus of the product.

I am working on a Zvezda T-90 and am just about to the painting stage. At the recent Lone Star figure show there was vendor (Last Cavalry/<http://lastcavalry.com/>) that had a Mig acrylic color set just for modern Russian tanks.



My primary method of painting is by airbrush. I asked the vendor if the colors were good to use in an airbrush and he said they were designed for airbrush and if further thin-

ning was needed to use alcohol.

I had a spare M60A3 turret to experiment with and started with the paint straight out of the bottle. Here's the result after 12 hours drying time.



The lighter green is meant to be used as a highlight color

for the darker green (Olive drab) but I wanted to see it in a color band.

The paint covers well and the sand and dark green colors appear to be pretty close to the color pictures of the colors on a Russian T-90 I've seen.

I tried thinning it with lacquer thinner and alcohol and it performed well with both.



Here's a close up of the finish.



The Israeli IDF Sinai Grey looks pretty good out of the bottle also.



Here's how it looks on the opposite side of the turret.

The paint appears to be durable and I've been handling the turret a lot.

We'll see how it holds up to oil washes and filters but so far I can recommend the colors.

Rick

**Black Ops 1/35 Little Bird MH-6M Conversion**  
 by **Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS # 26266**

MSRP: \$65.00

- Aerials
- H-6 Blade Rotor Hub

The MH-6M Little Bird is the latest transport version of the MH-6 family. Used solely by Task Force 160<sup>th</sup>. What sets the MH-6M apart from the previous versions of the helicopter is the six bladed main rotor and four bladed tail rotor.

An enlarged rear door opening and internal fuel tank makes



this an ideal 'operator' delivery system. Typically you will see four to six 'operators' sitting on the side plank seats with fast

rope supports to rappel. This is the fastest way to get them to precise location on the target.

Until now we couldn't do this helicopter without considerable scratch building. Thank God for *Black Ops Models*. They have come to the rescue and boy, have they ever.

Based on the *Dragon* AH-6J kit, this conversion comes packaged in a sturdy cardboard flip top opening lock box.

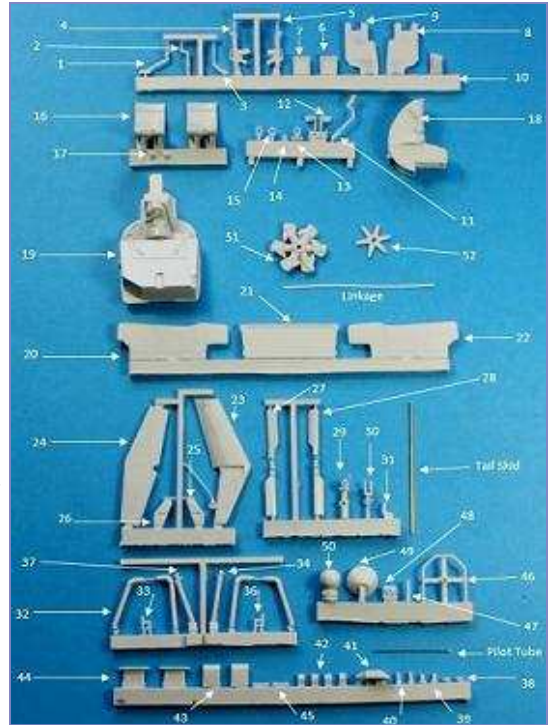
My MH-6M arrived perfectly packed with foam peanuts to protect the contents. Upon opening the box you are treated to EIGHT separate small zip lock bags. This will help them when it comes time to do the AH-6M.

Each bag is labeled:

- Interior Details
- Instrument Console
- Rear Bulkhead
- Operator Bench Seats
- 4 Bladed Tail Rotor and Wide chord Tail
- Fast Rope Brackets

The resin is perfectly cast in light grey resin. The separate bagging safeguards the parts and none of my parts were damaged.

There were no bubbles or blemishes anywhere. The pour stubs were very small and will prove easy to clean up.



The instructions are on ten 8.5 x 11" pages with large photos and descriptions. There is an inventory list that shows 52 parts.

There are 69 parts in all that need to be applied to the conversion. There are some spares as well, just in case the carpet monster strikes. The H-6 series is not that big of an aircraft. What an amazing level of detail.



The instructions are some of the best I've ever seen. They offer parts breakdowns, tips, and measurements for each step. The instructions incorporate the *Dragon* drawing instructions with their parts.



Very nice and easy enough to understand.

The opening of the rear door area could be daunting if it weren't for the accurate measurements that *Black Ops* provides. This will alter the look even more than the six bladed main rotor. A nice touch is the inclusion of the M4 rifles on the inside of the front doors.



This is an all encompassing conversion for the latest transport version of the Little Bird.



The level of detail and professionalism is evident in all aspects of this conversion. Everything about this conversion screams quality.

I also can't wait to get the AH-6M conversion that *Black Ops* has announced. This is an excellent product of a SpecOps helicopter we are not likely to see any other way.

It is not for the beginner but an experienced modeler can make this into a jewel of a model.

Highly recommended.

Thanks to *Black Ops Models* ([www.blackopsmodels.com](http://www.blackopsmodels.com)) for the review copy.

Let them know you heard about it here.

Floyd



**Monthly Program Schedule**  
by Ron McCracken, Vice-President

Month	Presenter/Subject
April	Mike Poole/ Gloss Finishes
May	TBA
June	Quarterly Contest/Open
July	Bob Bethea/ Figure Painting Essentials
August	TBA
September	Quarterly Contest/ Bondo Special
October	TBA
November	TBA
December	Quarterly Contest/ White Elephant

If you're interested in making a presentation at one of our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at: [ron\\_mccracken@att.net](mailto:ron_mccracken@att.net)





### ASMS Holds Quarterly Model Contest by Roy Lothbrok

As is our custom, ASMS held one of our four (per year) in-house model contests at the March meeting. The most recent contest was an ‘open’ contest, in that any type of model from any era was eligible.

There was quite a sizable number of entries to entice the assembled multitude and judging was fierce. From David Mack’s beautiful ’62 Corvette to Russ Holm’s T-26 tankette. Even in 1/35th scale, that thing is tiny. Thus the ‘tankette’ appellation, I suppose.



Other notable entries came from Pat Rourke, Ron McCracken, Tim Robb, David Edgerly, Rick Herrington, Milton Bell and Eric Choy, who showed not only a small scale Tiger I nearing completion but a non-nude



figure(?), as well.



As is often the format for these contests, each member was given three votes with the top three finishers gar



nering the coveted prize money.

That prize money (gift certificates) was generously supplied by King’s Hobby Shop. Much thanks for their continuing support of our club. As the maestro is often heard to remark...“Support your local hobby shop!”



The following members were the winners for this event: David Edgerly came in third with his Fokker Eindecker,

Pat Rourke came in a second (after a tie breaking re-vote) with his Panther early A.



Rick Herrington came in first with his ‘Mars Attacks’ Martian.

Congratulations to all!

Another feature of the evening’s activities was a short talk by Joe Luther. Mr. Luther was a C-123 pilot during the Vietnam Conflict and had more than one interesting story to impart. The bit about the 55gal drums of napalm was very illuminating.

Unbeknownst to me, the C-123 started life as an un-powered assault glider. The aircraft also seems to have been the only aircraft in the US inventory that was powered by turboprops,

reciprocating engines and was at one point, a pure jet (YC-123A).



With *Roden's* C-123 kit those in attendance may have gotten an idea or two for modeling their latest creation. Mr. Luther provided some insider tidbits about specific details for this aircraft. Almost all Vietnam era aircraft were sans main gear doors. Mr. Luther also remarked on the placement of various antennas and pitot tubes.

Flying The C-123 seemed to be just oodles of fun what with a cruising speed of 132 knots...135 at full throttle! Hold on to your iron jockey shorts! Landing was accomplished with flaps at 60 degrees, normally pilots use only 40 degrees.

Developed at the tail end of WWII, the C-123 was declared obsolete three separate times prior to being deployed to Vietnam. The C-123 was used a bit by those flying emergency combat re-supply and was the aircraft used to develop the Fulton Recovery System. (You'll need to look that one up on your own, if your unfamiliar.)

The aircraft was also flown by pilots that participated in the 'Det One' operations, being active in North and South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and (shssh) rural Southern China.



Our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Joe Luther for an informative and entertaining talk.

*[Photos courtesy of Milton Bell]*

Roy



## Newsletter Articles!

### Any Size, Shape or Subject.

Editor's Note: The newsletter contest continues in full force through out the remainder of this year.

For those that might be unawares, this contest pits club members against one another to determine which of you can send in the most stuff for publication in the newsletter. Whomever submits the most stuff (published or not) over the course of 2014, will have their club dues paid for by our erstwhile editor.

Tidbits, reviews, build articles, websites, modeling tips, etc., etc., etc. all qualify as legitimate entries.

P.S. There is an error (not punctuation/spelling) in this newsletter. Be the first to identify same and that will count as an entry. [Hint: It's an image and it's on page one.]

All submissions to : [benmorton@grandecom.net](mailto:benmorton@grandecom.net)



## Lifelike Decals 1/72 Republic P-47D Thunderbolt, Part 6

by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS # 26266

The P-47 just begs for nose art with that big cowling out front. That is exactly what ground crews did and *Lifelike* has captured in this latest release.

Designed for the *Tamiya*, *Hasegawa*, *Academy* or *Revell/Germany* kits, the decals and instructions are packaged in a 6"x 9" inch zip-lock baggie. The instructions themselves are printed on two A4 pages with full color profiles and plan views. They also include a reference section so if you want to see the real aircraft all you have to do is find the book or website. There is another half sheet that has the stencil locations on one side. I love the instructions. A little history of each aircraft and the markings are included for each aircraft.

*Lifelike* has no problem letting the modeler know what is known and what is conjecture. That is a very unique approach to decals. I personally like that. They are not afraid to make an educated assumption for the sake of including a peculiarly unique aircraft.

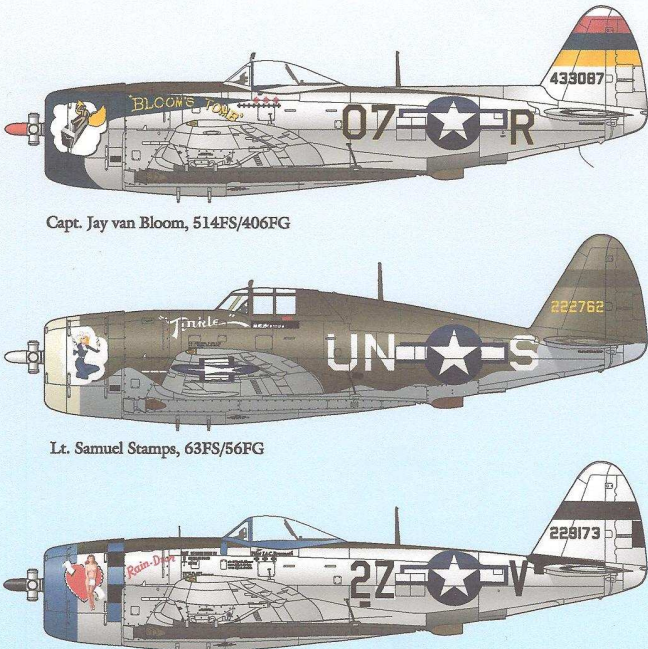
The decals themselves are printed by *Cartograf* and *Microscale*. The actual nose art is printed by *Cartograf* while all the other markings are printed by *Microscale*. The nose art is a very small sheet with the white backgrounds and nose art. The shading looks very realistic. The other decals are also nicely rendered with perfect register. The stencils are particularly nice. Not sure if you can read them but they look great.

There are three Thunderbolts on this sheet. The first is a D-30 and named "Bloom Tomb". Now I'm not sure I'd want to

fly anything with Tomb in the name but this 406<sup>th</sup> FG aircraft has the sweeping blue nose with a casket with wings on a white background. It is overall natural metal with the OD ant-glare panel. There are three color bands on the tail of red, blue and yellow indicate the separate squadron colors. The aircraft carries three kill markings in red and a row of German crosses underneath. No one knows for sure what each means, maybe air-to-air kills and air-to-ground kills.

**Lifelike Decals**  
*Limited Edition!*

72-033  
**Republic P-47D  
Thunderbolt Part 6**



Capt. Jay van Bloom, 514FS/406FG

Lt. Samuel Stamps, 63FS/56FG

Lt. Clarke Bresmeth, 510FS/405FG

Recommended kits: Tamiya, Hasegawa, Academy or Revell  
Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.  
Fax: +81-3-5680-6733, e-mail: [lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp)  
<http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/>

The 56<sup>th</sup> FG is world renowned as the premier P-47 unit. This Jug is olive drab over neutral grey with the usual white squadron codes. "Tinkle" is below the canopy of this razor-back Thunderbolt. The nose has a pale green cowl band was only used from Feb-Mar 1944. This in itself is unique. On top of that there is a cowgirl pinup on a white back ground.

The last aircraft on the sheet is a D-28 from the 9<sup>th</sup> AF. The forward cowl band, canopy framing and every other cowl flap are painted in a light blue. The other cowl flaps are black making for a very interesting look. There are black bands on the tail planes and various panels. The "Rain Dear" markings are in red below the cockpit. There are three kill markings below the cockpit.

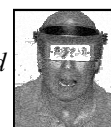
The world class research conducted by *Lifelike*, excellent printed decals by *Cartograf* and *Microscale* along

with interesting subjects makes this a great value for the modeler.

Highly recommended. Thanks to *Lifelike Decals* (<http://www.16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/>) for the review copy.

Let them know you heard about it here.

Floyd





# Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

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

## Shipping News

In 1/350th scale from *Gallery Models* is the USS Intrepid. This is the one with an angled deck.



For those with a taste for the petite, in 1/700th scale, there is lots of WW2 IJN stuff.

From *Fujimi* comes some new toolings of several Kongo Class battleships: the IJN Battleship - Hiei, IJN Battleship - Kirishima and IJN Battleship - Kongo.



There are some of aftermarket kits available (wooden decks, etc.) that will turn these kits into real jewels.

Fujimi is also showing a full hull kit of the IJN Destroyer Matsu and IJN Destroyer Sakura.

From the confines of Shizuoka, Japan, Aoshima has the IJN Destroyer - Kanmusu and the IJN Light Cruiser - Jintsu.



For something completely different and from *Foresight Models* is the HMS Endurance - Icebreaker A171.

Additionally and doubly different, *Foresight* is soon to be releasing a SM100 Snow-Cat. The Snow Cat model is a resin/white metal affair.

*Dragon/Cyber Hobby* has a 1/700th of the USS Enterprise CVN-65 (1969).

In 1/48th scale...Yes, I said 1/48! *Merit International* has a Elco PT Boat (late type). This is a somewhat limited release.



The kit is about 20 inches long, with 450 parts including photo-etch and decals. The suggested retail price is \$93.00 USD.

In 1/72nd, *Special Navy* has a Type IIA U-boat. This kit seems to have been a long time in coming but better late than never. With plastic, resin bits, white metal and photo-etch it should build up into an impressive model. Space considerations aside.



Rick

## Miscellaneous

First up and as a salve to Cesar Herdez and his predilection for all things small scale, we have a couple of items.

*Brengun Models* has some nicely done 1/144th scale canopies for your detailing enjoyment. For those that aren't that familiar with models in this scale the idiosyncrasies of the plastic molding business are such that kit supplied canopies are ...how shall I put this...REALLY, REALLY THICK!

This solves one of the bigger issues when modeling in this scale. You may search their website for more details on these small scale items: <http://www.brengun.cz/e-shop/1-144-accessories-19>



USAF B450 tractor and a Coleman MB-4 Tractor. These kits will be available in 1/144th, 1/72nd, and 1/48th.

Moving on and with something for whatever scale you prefer is *Aircraft in Miniature* with a couple of new aircraft accessories/diorama bits. A



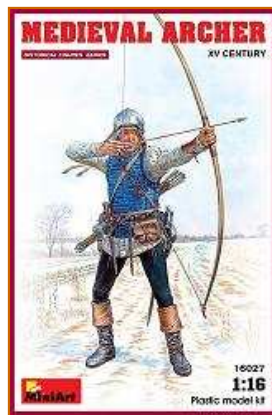
There are a couple of new *Mini Art* thingies coming your way soon. These ‘guys’ do a lot of kits of buildings and such but do have the occasional full vehicle kit.



Just such an offering, in 1/35th scale, is a complete kit of a GAZ-AAA with Quad M4 Maxim’s.

With 669 parts and a figure ‘manning the guns’ this might just keep you off the streets for the foreseeable future.

Mini Art is also expanding their extensive line of 1/16th scale figures and the latest entrant is a XV Century Medieval Archer.



If figures aren’t your forte and you really are looking for something that will be quick and easy why not try *Paper Pro Modeling’s* paper models?



These are pre-cut, colored paper models. The company has a line of seven aircraft (Aero Hero) and eleven armor models (Palm Army).

These models are the insert tab “A” into slot “B” type. A construction technique that you may recall from a late evening building your kids Christmas presents, many moons ago.



If not, and as the company states, “anyone with a static hand and normal vision” can easily build these models.

Of course, the ‘normal vision/static hand’ thing might just rule some of us out!

Golzar



## Automotive

1/24<sup>th</sup> McLaren F1 GTR by *Aoshima* is finally shipped. Yes, I admit it. I never thought this project would see the finish line.

The kit features opening doors, full engine and suspension, and a complete race ready interior. Some who preordered the kit have already received theirs and begun building. They report finding the fit and finish excellent and much more accurate than the recent *Fujimi* release of the exact same car.

I’m holding out for the Gulf livery version to be released eventually.



With the kit priced reasonably at \$38-50 dollars there will be room for the usual orbit of detailing must haves like photo-etch and carbon fiber decals to be out soon. After 17 years with no model of an F1 we now have no fewer than *four* different kits. When it rains, it pours.

1/24<sup>th</sup> Ford F-350 by *Meng* hits the shelves. Being a Texas native you’d think I’d know a lot about pickups. Nope!

I recall my first job in high school rotating inventory at a local dealership. We had a lot of Ford F-150’s and a big boy called an F-250 would show up from time to time. That means a Ford F-350 must be one *really* heavy-duty pickup truck.

*Meng* is known for highly detailed armor kits and looking at the impressive sprue shots I can see they’ve applied that knowledge to this beast. Despite all the details (and Ford licensing) the kit is reasonably priced around \$50 retail.

I’m sure that’s sufficient to send the truck lover’s into a salivating nirvanic state.

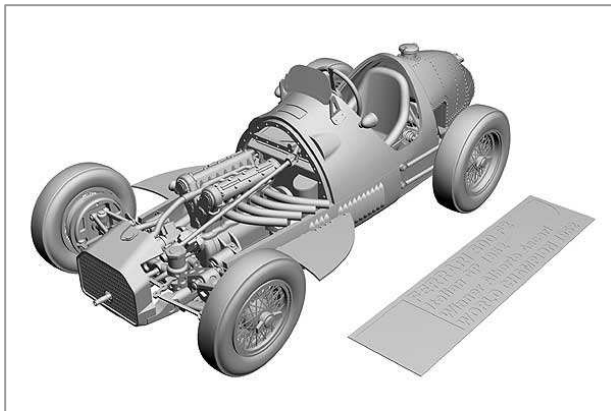
For sprue shots follow this link: <http://www.modelcarsmag.com/meng-ford-f350-super-duty-crew-cab/>





1/43<sup>rd</sup> Ferrari 500 f2 will be issued by *Tameo Models* in their high detail WCT Series. Oh my! There's another new gorgeous Ferrari kit. My wallet begins to vibrate at the mere mention of a new Ferrari offering and this one has an especially severe resonance.

The CAD elves at *Tameo* only do a WCT kit every few years and they are always spectacular with numerous micro-machined components, intricate white metal castings, stacks of photo-etch frets and a part count well north of 300 components.



They are also some of the most pleasurable, well-engineered models I've ever built. The only disappointment for me is that I just bought the same car in 1/20<sup>th</sup> scale a few weeks ago. Their first version to be confirmed will be Alberto Ascari's 1952 World Championship Driver winning car with stubby exhausts. Look for it this summer retailing around \$140 at the usual places.

That's it for the automotive roundup this month. Keep the right pedal on the metal!

Mike



### Armor

Greetings armor fans and Hello to all you armor curious fans! Sorry I have not been to the meetings lately, but the (temporary?) change in days messed with my schedule. I hope to see you guys again soon, and pay my dues :) Ok, on to the good stuff.

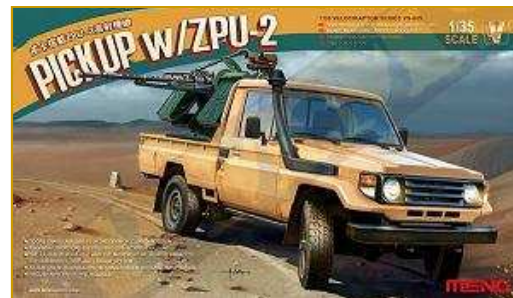
Guess what? I'm leading off with my old friend *Meng!*

A new FT-17 variant! SWEET. This is the one I really want to do as a Russian version. Super excited about this!

Expect it very soon!



Next from *Meng* is a new "technical". This one will fit in in many Middle Eastern countries, love the snorkel. :)



You could even remove the ZPU-2 and use it as a special forces vehicle.

Ok, lets move on to a new one from *Panda Hobbies*... the BMD-1. Another one I am pretty excited to see in "modern" plastic. I will say *Panda* is a bit hit-or-miss but it can't be worse than the *Zvezda* version.





Now let's check in with *Takom*...a new Leopard! So far *Takom* is knocking them out of the park, so here's hoping they keep it up with this release!



This one comes with a really cool looking figure 'Volunteer sniper in Yugoslavia'. Kind of wish it came with

a modern German figure but what they give you is still very welcome.

Let's check in with *Bronco* and see what they have...in 1/48 scale the KV-14 based SU-152!



This looks awesome!

I saw additional images on [www.perthmilitarymodelling.com](http://www.perthmilitarymodelling.com) and it looks extremely detailed. Any fan of 1/48 scale armor should add this to their collection, no add-ons needed!

Those are my highlights, 'til next time!

Aaron



**IPMS/USA Region VI Convention  
"Invasion Stripes"  
May 16-17, 2014  
Wichita, Kansas  
For more information:  
[www.aircapitalipms.org](http://www.aircapitalipms.org)**

### Camp Mabry Open House/Muster Day April 26-27 2014

This event is held in conjunction with the American Heroes Air Show and features many activities for all ages Saturday and Sunday 8 am to 5 pm on Camp Mabry (Austin, Texas.)



There will be first responders demos, activities for kids, food and vendors and the parade ground, a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial, helicopter demos and much more.

As part of this event the museum will be hosting a Living History trail showcasing re-enactors from Texas Revolution through Vietnam including weapons demos at 1 pm both days.

In addition we host a WWII battle reenactment both days at 2pm which features 200 re-enactors and numerous original and restored WWII vehicles and equipment.

Call the museum at 512-782-5659 for more information.



## This Month In History by Mike Lamm

**A**pril 1948 a sleeping giant of a model company is awakened.

Originally, Mr. Yoshiro Tamiya opened a lumber company in Shizuoka, Japan in 1946. As the demand for wooden model ships began to grow, Mr. Tamiya created a model ship department within the saw mill and began selling wooden model ship kits in April 1948.

While I'm not sure if any of us have one of the original wooden model ship kits created by Tamiya from the late forties to the early sixties, I'll bet there might be a few of their first plastic model kits in our collective stashes out there.



*If this one's in your stash, you should probably insure it...not build it.*

In 1960, Tamiya produced their first plastic kit, a 1/800 scale of the Battleship Yamato. At the time, a competing company also had a Battleship Yamato model out there, so the competition was tough and the profit margins were thin.

Tamiya went back to focusing on their popular selection of wooden model kits; however, about that time, the market for plastic models was really starting to take off.

In 1961, Tamiya introduced the first 1/35 scale plastic tank, the German Panther Tank. Like many of their early models, this tank was motorized.



*The Panther in the cover art is doing it all: running over a demolished vehicle, protecting infantry, AND shooting down a plane.*

Due to the need for a Type 2 battery, similar to the type of battery popular in cordless home phones, to

power the motor, it was determined that 1/35 scale would be the best fit. Eventually, 1/35 scale became an industry standard for tanks and other military vehicles.

Throughout the sixties, Tamiya continued producing more plastic models and expanding their subject matter and scale sizes. This included 1/72 scale planes, 1/24 scale luxury and race cars, 1/35 scale tanks, military vehicles and figures, and the ever popular 1/21 scale Sherman tank (was 1/21 scale ever popular?).

Obviously, some model subjects and scales have become more popular than others over the years; however, as the company produced more kits, Tamiya became known for making accurate models, that were easy to build, fit well, and looked good.

Over the years, the same factors for the kits' popularity also are the origin of some of the complaints about the kits. They're known as "shake and bake" kits by some modelers, and totally inaccurate by others. I guess there's no pleasing some people.

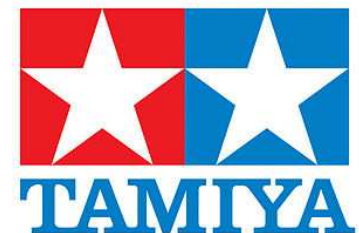
Tamiya has certainly expanded their reach into the modeling world since the days of their early wooden ship models.

The company now produces everything from plastic and resin models, to modeling tools and paints, to static and radio-controlled models, and even game apps for your mobile device.

We built them as kids, and we're probably still building them now, and I know everyone has one or many more waiting to be built in their stash today.

So go build a Tamiya kit and celebrate 66 years of modeling.

Actually, just build ANY model, or just finish one of the 10 you've got started already!



*Did you know: The Tamiya "Star Mark" was designed by Yoshiro's son-in-law? Or that the red star represents passion, and the blue star represents precision? Well, now you do.*

Mike





In the latest issue of...

**IPMS/USA Journal**  
 January + February 2014  
 Volume 26, Number 01

- **IPMS/UK 50th Anniversary Tour** - Celebrating half a century by seeing the sights, By Ron Bell
- **The IPMS/UK 50th Anniversary National Convention** - Putting the "International" in IPMS, By Randy Ray
- **Taking Her Deep** - Riich Models' 1:200 scale Late War Gato Class Submarine, By Mike Fleckenstein
- **Heavy Helo Hauler** - Building a Winning 1:48 MH-53E Sea Dragon from the Academy kit, By Kelly Quirk
- **New Kit, Old Crow** - Examining the details of Zoukei Mura's new 1:32 P-51D Mustang, By Tim Schubert
- **Boeing, Boeing, Done!** - Putting the Finishing Touches on AMT's ARIA RC-135 kit, By Richard C. Engar

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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](http://www.ipmsusa.org) and click **Join IPMS/USA!**

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Austin Scale Modelers Society  
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San Marcos, Texas 78666

[www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org)

Next Meeting:  
**April 17, 2014**  
at  
**Austin Old Quarry Library**  
(7051 Village Center Drive)  
**7PM to 8:45PM**  
**Program: Mike Poole/Automotive  
Gloss Finishes**



IPMS/Austin Scale  
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**Saturday, October 4th 2014**  
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