



Seattle Chapter News

Seattle Chapter IPMS/USA August 2022



IPMS/USA 2022 National Convention

by Eric Christianson; photos by Eric Christianson and Tim Nelson

A blink of an eye. That's how long it took me to transition from Husband-Father-Programmer to Kid again. A kiss and a hug from Jackie and I was off to the center of the modeling universe – the 2022 IPMS National Convention – the only real Daddy-vacation I ever get. Five days of nothing but selfish, modeling indulgence. Oink!

I had three new modeling magazines loaded on my phone, the latest hardcopy of FSM, and The Expanse's "Memory's Legion" waiting on my Kindle – all part of a 21st-century-version of vacation busywork that would see me though the long flight out to Omaha, Nebraska. That and the witty repartee traded between my fellow traveling buddies and long-time convention enthusiasts.

By the time we flared onto the runway at Eppley Field, my Pacific Northwest life was a distant memory; replaced by the sights and sounds of the Great Midwest as we slowly made our way to the venue...in the wrong Uber. I mean, how many red mini-vans driven by a guy named Mohammed can there be? But that's another story for another time.

Normally the West-East time change would catch us dragging, but this was the Nats, baby. An interesting tour of Cabela's 'gun museum' next door, some sticky wings at Hooter's (of course), and a humid walk back to the hotel preceded what would become a nightly ritual at the Embassy Suites – free drinks and munchies!

Wednesday morning began with our daily ritual; a big, free breakfast, a second cup of coffee, and we were off to the attached venue – a 100-yard trek that we would become quite acquainted with over the following days. The La Vista Conference Center is huge, new-ish, and air-conditioned. Two rooms the size of aircraft hangers sported the model display and main vendor room, with a separate smaller vendor room and two well-appointed breakout rooms to hold the seminars. A quick look-see around to greet our friends from previous conventions; a pass by registration to pick up our bag-o-show-goodies, and into the vendor rooms we went.

I started with the smaller of the two vendor rooms (smaller is a relative term – 24 vendors with 94 tables), and faced my first quandary: spotty Internet access – a problem that would plague the hotel complex throughout the convention, for both the attendees and the vendor's POS systems. Which also meant I could not use my shopping list in DropBox! No worries – world-class tool-maker UMM and 3D-resin armor vendor Vargas would take my money regardless. Every time I talk with the UMM guy, I learn something new about modeling; every time I talk with the Vargas guy, I learn something new about CRAZY – but in a good way! UMM sold me a few new really cool tools, and Vargas knocked a few bucks off of a 3D kit that I've had my eye on for some time. It's always great to talk with owner Luis, who has provided fellow IPMS Seattle member Rick Taylor with test shots and new offerings to build over the last few years. All of Rick's work was on display at the show, no doubt assisting with the company's sales – a truly great relationship that we all have benefited from. A roll through SprayGunner's products and three or four stash vendors left me with my first set of full shopping bags (and nothing checked off of my actual shopping list!). Walking across the hall I entered the main vendor room – whew. More spread out, and with more than twice as many vendors and tables – and, for the time being, Internet access. Modeling paradise.

The first thing I noticed was a commotion and a long line at the Edward booth – many people walking away with the new 1/72nd scale Wildcat – typical for the show where the release of brand-new kits is commonplace. I heard rumors that the company brought 500 Wildcat kits to the show – and sold out. Prolific and ever-busy author David Doyle and his hard-working wife were there with a huge assortment of books and magazines – an always-friendly couple, and a great asset to our hobby.

continued on page 3

In This Issue

2022 IPMS/USA Nationals	1
Bad Kitty	10
The Tanks of Marvel Models	12
AMMO German Erbsenmuster	
Pea Dot and	
Eichenlaubmuster	
Autumn Camo Paints	14
Fred Hutchinson Cancer	
Center "Obliteride"	18
Meeting Information	18

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Public Disclaimers, Information, and Appeals for Help

This is the official publication of the Seattle Chapter, IPMS-USA. As such, it serves as the voice for our Chapter, and depends largely upon the generous contributions of our members for articles, comments, club news, and anything else involving plastic scale modeling and associated subjects. Our meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of each month, (see below for actual meeting dates), at the **North Bellevue Community/Senior Center, 4063-148th Ave NE**, in Bellevue. See the back page for a map. Our meetings begin at 10:30 AM, except as noted, and usually last for two to three hours. Our meetings are very informal, and are open to any interested modeler, regardless of interests. Modelers are encouraged to bring their models to the meetings. Subscriptions to the newsletter are included with the Chapter dues. We also highly recommend our members join and support IPMS-USA, the national organization. See below for form. Any of the members listed above will gladly assist you with further information about the Chapter or Society.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers, and do not constitute the official position of the Chapter or IPMS-USA. You are encouraged to submit any material for this newsletter to the editor. He will gladly work with you and see that your material is put into print and included in the newsletter, no matter your level of writing experience or computer expertise. The newsletter is currently being edited using a PC, and PageMaker 6.5. We are in the process of transitioning to InDesign. Any Word, WordPerfect, or text document for the PC would be suitable for publication. Please do not embed photos or graphics in the text file. Photos and graphics should be submitted as single, separate files. Articles can also be submitted via e-mail, to the editor's address above. Deadline for submission of articles is generally twelve days prior to the next meeting - earlier would be appreciated! Please call me at 425-885-3671 if you have any questions.

If you use or reprint the material contained in the newsletter, we would appreciate attribution both to the author and the source document. Our newsletter is prepared with one thing in mind; this is information for our members, and all fellow modelers, and is prepared and printed in the newsletter in order to expand the skills and knowledge of those fellow modelers.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The IPMS Seattle 2022 meeting schedule is as follows. All meetings are on Saturdays at North Bellevue Community Center from **10:30 AM to 1:30 PM**, except as indicated. To avoid conflicts with other groups using our meeting facility, we must **NOT** be in the building before our scheduled start times, and **MUST** be finished and have the room restored to its proper layout by our scheduled finish time. We suggest that you keep this information in a readily accessible place.

August 13
October 22

September 24
November 12

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM	
IPMS No.:	Name: _____
Address: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____	E-mail: _____
Signature (Required by HQ): _____	
Type of Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86	
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18 years) \$17 <input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journal) How Many Cards? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surfed) - Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order	
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IPMS/USA Nationals

from page 1

Plastic Model Mojo Podcast had a table set up with regulars in attendance. They tapped IPMS Seattle member Tim Nelson into a short 10-minute talk about scale modeling. Just about every type of modeling vendor was there – I ran around like a silly school girl, marveling at all the modeling wonders to be had. I love this show!

Following more free evening drinks, Wednesday night found the group at Farmer Brown's, a steak house about 20 miles away. The rambling, single story restaurant takes no reservations but is big enough to seat our group of ten immediately. When the steaks arrive, we see one BIG one amongst all the other plates – that one's for Woody, of course! He tried, and failed, to finish it all in one sitting, to our collective relief – we didn't want him spending time at the local ER.

Following breakfast Thursday morning, the show proper started; adding modeling seminars and club meetings to the mix, along with the first real influx of models for the display room. By now I had a good idea of the products in the Vendor rooms, so I was excited to see some of the seminars. Among Thursday's 14 sessions, I took in 'Real Space – Modeling Lifting Bodies and Spaceplanes', 'Modeling Water for Ships', 'Armor Model Painting', 'Hillbilly Armor in Iraq and Afghanistan'. Each hour brought two sessions, so the hardest part was deciding which one you had to miss. I really enjoyed the Hillbilly Armor seminar – who knew there were so many in-theater mods made to protect our troops – I thought this was just a Viet Nam thing. I guess the same goes for any war, in any combat theater. Every one of these seminars provides us with some takeaway, some new way of looking at our craft. I love the Nationals!

Back in the Vendor room I somehow amassed two large bags of modeling paraphernalia – mostly free stuff and books and a couple of \$15 used kits. Many of the booths had live demonstrations going on during the entire four days, giving you a place to sit and rest your weary bones, while watching folks work their wares.

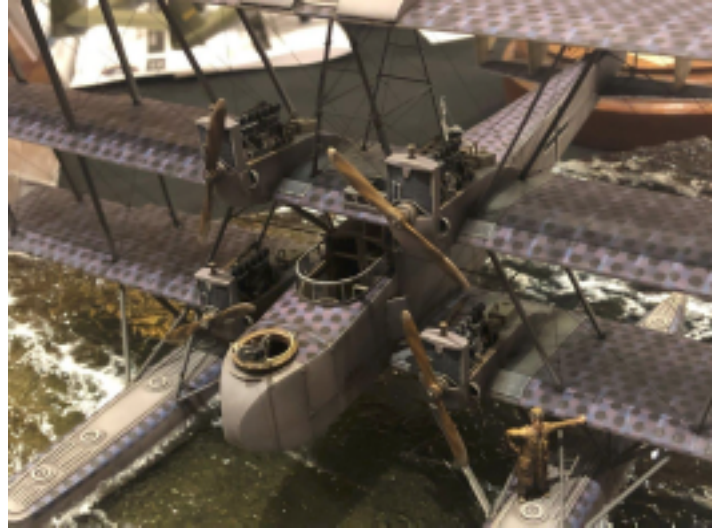
Dinner time found many of our group off to the 'Night at the SAC Museum' trip where the world-class museum stayed open exclusively for IPMS convention attendees. Having been to the museum during the previous two conventions in Omaha, I passed this time around, but I am told that the trip was a lot of fun, as usual. Dinner was included, and modelers were allowed to get up close and personal with the museum artifacts and aircraft for camera-clicking galore. The other convention excursion was a visit to the Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed, over in nearby Lincoln. The show hosts set up nice, air-conditioned transportation to and from, and everything was well organized.

The rest of us stayed back in town and ate at a local sports bar, sampling local beers and burgers. The hotel itself had surprisingly good food with Midwest helpings, and at good prices. We would eat there several more times during the week.

Friday morning found my first real foray into the cavernous model-display room. Wow – what a HUGE room; the rows of model-covered tables seemingly curving over the horizon. I had peeked in there several times prior but having been to these shows before, I knew that the bulk of the models would come in Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, before the cutoff at noon on Friday. Wanting to avoid the general-public mayhem on Saturday, Friday becomes 'photo-day' for me. And what an incredible display to be had. The official count was 2,808 models in competition, with more on display-only tables to the side. As usual, aircraft dominated, with armor coming in next in quantity, but there were also a huge number of automotive, figure, sci-fi/fantasy, and ship models to see. This last category was very impressive this year with a huge variety of subjects and scale. While I was walking along the 36 tables of armor builds, Tim Nelson



tapped me to come over and look at a scratch-built, triplane/floatplane sitting on a water/shoreline base. It was absolutely stunning – and ended up winning Best of Show, Best Aircraft, etc. etc. I will bet that the build soon makes the cover of many magazines. The kind of build that makes the whole trip worth it. Another key display, among many such wonders, was a complete set of U.S. Aircraft Carriers, from the *Langley* to the *Gerald R. Ford*, by one modeler, all in 1/350th scale. Many of the categories had 20 or 30 models in them, making winning in some of the categories quite the feat. Despite those odds, the ‘Seattle-and-Friends’ contingent had many awards among us, as usual (listed below).



Friday evening, we ate at the hotel after drinking (free) again, and doing too much of both! I retired early to rest my weary feet and paw over my collected stash up in my room. I can choose to do that because this is a Daddy-vacation where I get to do what (I) actually want to do – anyone with kids can appreciate just how rare and wonderful that feeling is!

Saturday morning is always bittersweet. It is the last day of the show, but a big day in the vendor room for sales, and the first crack at seeing all the models with the ‘Best of’ awards next to them. This year there were no (modeling) seminars on Saturday so I focused mainly on getting the pictures I wanted and showing up on time for all the raffles and sales occurring later in the day. I topped out at just over 500 pictures this year – I think I got shots of everything I wanted. I will spend the next several weeks examining and categorizing these treasures into my research library. Priceless. This year was also a personal first in the various vendor raffles – I didn’t win anything! Fellow IPMS member Martin Paietta won big though, including Tamiya’s 1/16th scale M1A2 Abrams, which came in a HUGE box.

At 10:00 am the IPMS Convention Bids meeting took place, and there was only one bidder for 2024 – Madison, WI - so more cheese curds loom in our future after San Marcos TX next year!

The final official stop was at the hotel bar where the IPMS Reviewer Corps met for a few drinks and a distribution of kits and modeling accoutrement donated by the vendors for review. We met with about ten other guys, connecting faces to names we’ve seen on the IPMS review web pages. I picked up my second Vargas kit (their new M119/L118 Light Towed Howitzer) to review. That makes (2) Vargas 3D-printed armor kits in my stash. My experience with building this howitzer will be part of a review in the next newsletter.

After the meeting it was back to the vendor room in time to take advantage of the last-minute sales. I scored with another \$15 used-armor kit.

Late in the afternoon, after everything shut down, IPMS held a no-host bar get-together in front of the banquet hall, where we hobnobbed with members from other clubs and the IPMS board, and waited to be seated for the dinner and awards show. At the banquet we listened to a status report from San Marcos, TX, the location of next year’s show, and to the winner of the 2024 bid from Madison. Next year’s show is again at the Embassy Suites, so more free food and drinks! IPMS says the rooms at the hotel go on sale in September – watch the website because they are sure to sell out quick. While there are other hotels to stay at, having at room at the hotel connected to the venue is by far the best option. Like Omaha, it’s HOT in San Marcos, and staying withing the air-conditioned modeling biosphere is golden.

The dinner was excellent, the banter interesting (for modelers at least), and the awards ceremony went off without a hitch. Our table received a bunch of accolades, which is always fun.

All in all, it was a really great trip. And I will say this again and again: If you have not been to an IPMS National Convention, you really need to check that box. These four days in July/August are something that I look forward to all year long. While I spend the rest of my year dealing with everything else life throws at me, these four days are sacrosanct. My true vacation!

List of Winners from the 'Seattle and Friends' Contingent. Congratulations guys!

107B1. Aircraft; Small Prop, Single Engine Aircraft; 1/48 — US / Allied Radial, Vought-Grumman Blue
2nd • Curtiss SB2C-4 — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

121A. Aircraft; Small Jet; 1/72 — US Marked
3rd • FJ-3 Fury — Daniel Carey, Renton, Washington

151. Aircraft; Rotary Wing; 1/144 and 1/72
2nd • Mil Mi-1 Moskvich — Alexandre Bigey, Pape'ette, Tahiti

157. Aircraft; Civil, Sport, Racing, and Air Taxis; 1/144 and 1/72
2nd • Wassmer CE-43 Guepard — Alexandre Bigey, Pape'ette, Tahiti
3rd • Macchi M.33 — Tim Nelson, Kirkland, Washington

165. Aircraft; Airliners, Airliner Types, and Airships; 1/72, 1/48, and 1/32
3rd • Kalinin K-5 — Tim Nelson, Kirkland, Washington

181. Aircraft; Vacuum-formed
3rd • Waco WKC-S — Tim Nelson, Kirkland, Washington

206B. Armor; 1/35 Open-top AFVs or AFVs with Interiors; — Allied
3rd • M43 8-inch Howitzer - Korea — Rick Taylor, Everett, Washington

223B. Armor; Artillery Pieces; — Artillery, Howitzers, and Mortars
1st • M777A2 US 155mm Medium Towed Howitzer — Rick Taylor, Everett, Washington

290B. Armor; Basic Kit Build; 1/35 Closed-top AFVs — through Korea, Allied
1st • Pioneer Skeleton Tank — Rick Taylor, Everett, Washington

501A. Auto; Factory Stock; 1/24 — 1959 and older body
3rd • 1940 Ford Convertible — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

506. Auto; Hot Rods and Street Rods;
1st • 1930 Ford Roadster — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

507. Auto; Street Machines;
3rd • 1957 Chevy Street Machine — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

550B. Auto; Curbside; — non-US Manufacturer
1st • Mazda MX-5 Roadster — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

600. Space; Real Spacecraft, Missiles, and Vehicles
1st • A-4 (V-2) Test Article V-4 — Tim Nelson, Kirkland, Washington

1002. Special; Whizzer White Memorial Award; Navy / Marine Attack Aircraft
• Curtiss SB2C Helldiver — Wayne Holmes, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

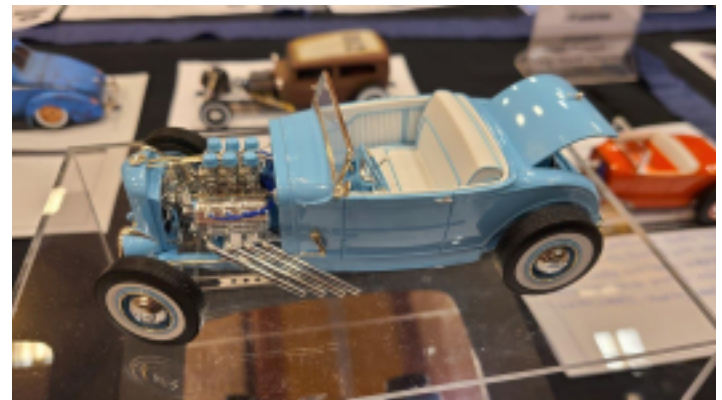






Page 6. Best of Show Winners. Clockwise from top left – two views of Best Aircraft, Friedrichshafen FF.60 by Steve Hustad; Best Diorama, Battle of Amiens by Greg Cihlar; Best Ship, HMS Belfast by Nathanael Jansen; Best Sci-Fi, UDK 38 Schenkel by Bryan Kreuger; Best Military Vehicle, US FWD Type B Artillery Recovery Truck by Mike Tsoumpas

This page. Clockwise from top left – Best Figure, ORC Impaler by Greg Cihlar; STAR WARS 'Razor Crest'; 1930 Ford Roadster by Wayne Holmes; 1957 Chevy Street Machine by Wayne Holmes; 1940 Ford Convertible by Wayne Holmes; A-4 (V-2) Test Article V-4 by Tim Nelson







Page 8. Clockwise from top left - FJ-3 Fury by Daniel Carey; Kalinin K-5 by Tim Nelson; Macchi M.33 by Tim Nelson; Waco WKC-S by Tim Nelson; Mazda MX-5 Roadster by Wayne Holmes; M777A2 US 155mm Medium Towed Howitzer by Rick Taylor; M43 8-inch Howitzer - Korea by Rick Taylor

This page. Clockwise from top left – Rick and Vargas; Mil Mi-1 Moskvich by Alexandre Bigey; Pioneer Skeleton Tank by Rick Taylor

Hurricane Bookshelf: We Modelers Have NO 'Bad Kitties'!

by Scott H. Kruize

Hardly any of us live completely alone. Most of us have a Significant Other...and while - at the age most of us have reached! - we don't actually have children at home, we may have visiting grandchildren, and other youthful friends-and-relations.

Often, there's dogs, which regularly and frequently must be taken out for a walk. Which is just as well, because we ought not to just sit all the time, next to our obligatory one-foot-square work area. Getting up and Taking The Dog For A Walk is to our benefit.

The presence of these other living things certainly impacts our modeling. But perhaps those most impactful are our cats!

Those of us familiar with them are aware that sometimes It's Time To Pet The Cat or even It's Time To Pick Up And Hold And Pet The Cat. When it's such Time, no other activity or concern is allowed to interfere or delay.

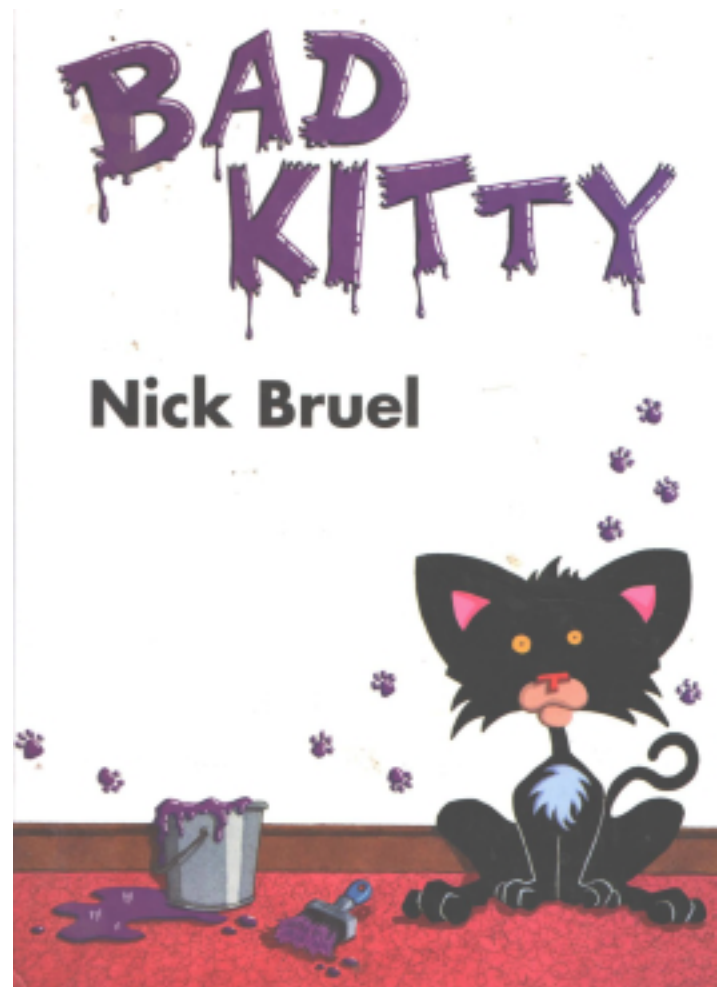
At a recent build session Ken Murphy was hosting, Jon Fincher made some remark about having to briefly interrupt his participation because of something he had to do with his cats. It prompted me to ask whether he or anybody else in the session knew about 'Bad Kitty'. No one did.

Now I want to be absolutely clear that I deny any of us have bad kitties. Ours do only what cats do, given the opportunity: knock around and play with the tools, supplies, and parts in our work area...disrupt builds in progress...gently nudge a completed display model off the shelf to crash satisfyingly onto the floor. (Award-winners are preferred.) Or in my case, enjoying the crunchiness of balsa and the claw-poke- and shred-ability of tissue paper, particularly when that tissue is carefully stretched smooth and glued down over a carefully engineered and assembled lightweight balsa model airframe. This is all just ordinary behavior: no explanation or justification is required. Cats look at you with a completely blank expression if you solicit some such explanation or justification. And they're seriously distressed (briefly) if you catch them at such 'normal' behavior and yell "Git outta there, you dumb DOMSH!" ('DOMestic ShortHair'; I learned the term off the Examination Summary from the veterinarian who treated my own cat, Merlin, so long ago...)

But there is a book, specifically about a Bad Kitty. I believe it's little known among us modelers because it appears as a children's book, so is stumbled across only if reading to one of our youthful friends-and-relations.

Regardless, I unreservedly recommend it. It's organized as an 'ABCs Primer'. It begins by explaining that it all started with a GOOD kitty, until the ghastly realization there was nothing to eat in the whole house, besides delicious healthful vegetables: from Asparagus, Beets, and Cauliflower, through Xigua, Yams, and Zucchini.

Well, of course the poor powerless little carnivore went berserk! Wouldn't you, even though you're an omnivore? Anyway, Kitty instantly turned BAD, embarking on a campaign of mayhem and mischief astonishing in its depth and breadth and variety. She began her assault with Ate My Homework, Bit Grandma, and Clawed The Curtains, then worked her way all the way through the alphabet to eXamined My Diary, Yelled All Night, and Zeroed The Zinnias!



There may have been things she did specifically against modelers in her household but I can't be sure, distressed as I was by having to make the way through such a long list, assaulting my gentle, sensitive nature...

I'm too much a striver for Moral Uprightness... too much a believer in Law and Order... too sensitive to face down Evil...to even bring myself to try keying in what Kitty wrote (in the between-count of "Quarreled With Our Neighbor"). So I enclose a scan of the note he received.

WARNING, THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL MAY BE TOO INTENSE FOR SOME AUDIENCES! VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED!



But just as it appeared that everything in the household would face total destruction, one of her humans returned from the grocery store, bringing yummys starting with an Assortment Of Anchovies, Buffalo Burritos, and Chicken Cheesecake, with entries from the entire alphabet through an eXcess of Tyrannosaurus ReX, Yak Yogurt, and Baked Zebra Ziti.

When she realized this, to her great credit, Kitty became good again, starting with Apologize to Grandma, Bought Me New Toys, Cleaned Her Cat Box, and working through the alphabet to Filed Our TaXes, Gave Me a Yellow Yo-Yo, and Lulled the Baby to Sleep: ZZZZZzzzz... And the book concludes with her being such a good kitty, she was told she'd be rewarded...by being brought a new friend: Puppy!

I'll leave the situation there, with the suggestion that whatever might follow is best Left As An Exercise For The Reader. I do hope none of us, as we live our lives and engage in our precious hobby, encounter such ups-and-downs as those enumerated in this book...A Thru Z!

BAD KITTY, Text and Illustrations Copyright 2005, by Nick Bruel. A Neal Porter Book, published by Roaring Brook Press, division of Holtzbrinck Publishing. 9x11 inches, 40 pages, in color, hardbound.

Afterword:

I thought it was appropriate to send the author-and-illustrator a copy of my article. Mr. Bruel answered:

Thank you for your very kind letter and for sharing your book review with me. I thought your review was delightful. I only wish more of my reviews were as glowing and well thought out as yours. I truly enjoyed it.

My own history with model making is brief. When I was young, I pieced together many of the starships in the *Star Trek* series. I loved the *Enterprise*, but the *Romulan Warbird* was my favorite. More recently, I purchased a kit to put together a doll house for my daughter. It was as if Legos were made of cactus needles. Two years later, and I'm still working on it. But as you so rightly noted, the point is to have fun, and when I spare myself the time the work is indeed fun.

Thank you again for taking the time to review my book and also for sharing it with me. I genuinely appreciate it.

Be well, - Nick

- Which only goes to show that you never know when somebody in the Outside World - whenever they do for a living - turns out to be One-of-Us!

The Tanks of Marvel Models

by Dave Hansen

During World War II, if a guy wanted to build a model tank most likely he would have wound up with a kit made by the Marvel Manufacturing Company. There were competitors - the Strombecker firm offered a model tank at about that time and so did an outfit named Ace - but no one could match the range of Marvel. It offered 14 kits that included examples of armor from all over the world: Italy, Switzerland, Australia, the United States, China, and a few other countries. But wait: Switzerland? China? These were not nations commonly associated with armor production in the war years. What gives?

It seems that Marvel Manufacturing had a marketing gimmick. Every model it offered was associated with a country, whether that nation had anything to do with the manufacture or use of the tank. For example, Marvel's 'Swiss Flame Tank' was the Fiat-Ansaldo L3 Lf, the flame thrower version of the Italian tankette; as far as I know, it was never used by Switzerland. Similarly, the British Vickers 'Valentine' was sold by Marvel as the Chinese 'Fiery Dragon,' although again as far as I know, no Valentines were exported to China.

Judging by the information on the instruction sheets, Marvel produced its kits in 1940 and 1944. The boxes for the first kits carried the slogan "Models that are authentic" with the words "Army Tank" printed across the front. The slogan was dropped in later kits and the words "War Tank" were substituted for the original title; the box art was changed at this time to include a drawing of an M3 Medium, which was odd since it was not a subject of the Marvel line. The business was headquartered at Ozone Park, a neighborhood in Queens, New York, and then relocated to Seaford, Long Island. I haven't found any information that provides further details about the firm.

The kits came in the same size box and at a typical scale of 3/8" to the foot, or 1/32nd scale. A few of the smaller subjects - the Swiss Flame Tank and the M1 Combat Car (referred to by Marvel as the Williams tank) - were rendered in 1/24th and bigger tanks like the Australian 'Hornet' were scaled at 1/48th. There weren't any parts in the same sense that modern kits have parts. There were small blocks and sheets of balsa or card, and at times it wasn't always balsa: as the war years passed, that wood was difficult to come by and as a substitute, Marvel used a mixture of sawdust and glue that was compressed into blocks.

The job of the modeler was to shape the kit contents so that they looked like a tank. A sheet of instructions provided a guide for the work. The actual process and sequence of construction was limited to a few general statements, and the real value was in the four-view drawing of the completed subject. Anyone taking on the job had to be able to figure out what piece of raw material was to be turned into what piece of the tank in order to arrive at the finished product. Some drawings displayed markings for the vehicle, but there were no decals. The instructions always included a color suggestion. Tan, grey, and olive drab were typical shades, although alarming choices for the Canadian Vickers included silver and white.

The Marvel Manufacturing Company disappeared after 1944, leaving in its wake remnant kits moldering away in forgotten attics and basements. They survive today as early landmarks of the hobby, and it is reasonable to ask if they were any good; were they authentic, as the slogan promised? Some were not: Marvel's U. S. 'Liberty' was a crude rhomboid that didn't look like any tank of the Great War let alone the massive Mark VIII that it was apparently intended to represent. And the Australian 'Hornet'? Pure fantasy. However, the others were the best that could be had at the time. If built with care and patience, Marvel tanks still look convincing more than 80 years later.

The Marvel kits that I have in the stash are for the most part well-worn. Boxes are often falling apart, sometimes the instructions are missing, and it is not unusual that smaller pieces like dowels are nowhere to be found. And sometimes there are stray bits in the box that have nothing to do with the model. The instructions are essential because without them it is almost impossible to figure out how all of that balsa is going to wind up looking like a tank. No shake and bake here.

The biggest difficulty for me has been the ultimate acceptance that producing a model that approaches modern expectations of accuracy is not going to happen. There are two reasons. First is the nature of the contents: there is a limit to what you can do with paper and balsa. Second is the nature of the instructions: even the best of them falls short of a faithfully detailed guide. I have learned that to build these models and to remain a happy camper is to understand that the result is an example of modeling in the 1940s and in no way equivalent to modeling in the 2020s.

It is a messy business what with sawing, chiseling, whittling, and sanding; for the most part, I do the work in the garage to avoid tracking balsa debris throughout the house. I build to what is shown in the plans and I don't make many improvements – if I did, I would never finish. A point of frustration is that all Marvel tanks (at least all of those that have roadwheels) have narrow roadwheels running in the center of the track whether that is true of the prototype or not. I overlook such shortcomings for the sake of my own sanity. I substitute some materials when a contemporary choice seems better. For rivets, scale plastic versions are easier to deal with and more convincing than the sewing pins that Marvel calls for, and I prefer hardwood dowels instead of balsa for curved shapes like exhaust lines. I am still looking for a good replacement for the banana-liquid sanding sealer that I used as a kid. I am now using a water-based sealer offered by Deluxe but it is not as effective; it seems to sit on top of the wood rather than soaking into it. The result emphasizes the grain when it should reduce it.

All of this takes more time than I want, usually a month or two, which is a significant investment when the result is more a curiosity instead of something that is admired for its realism. But it is also gratifying in its own way. I get to recall my own beginnings in the hobby as well as brushing up against the early years of commercially available model kits.

I've included a few images of two Marvel subjects. The M1 Combat Car is pretty good for its day and the Australian 'Hornet,' well, what can I say? Call it a conversation piece.



AMMO German Erbsenmuster Pea Dot and Eichenlaubmuster Autumn Camo Paints

by Eric Christianson

The AMMO range of acrylic paints for figures has recently been expanded to include two new sets of paints specifically designed for the late war German Eichenlaubmuster ('Maple Leaf') and Erbsenmuster ('Pea Dot') camouflage schemes.

Opening the Pea Dot Camouflage Paint box reveals a set of six industry-standard 17ml. 'eyedropper' style bottles of high-quality acrylic paint from their Ammo line. The assumption is that the paint set would serve as a one-stop shop for producing the intricate uniform pattern that bears its name. These complex schemes have been a favorite for military figure painters and armor modelers alike.

From the Manufacturer's Website:

"The M44 Dot Pattern - This set includes the colors required to paint the distinctive and complex German Erbsenmuster ('Pea Dot') camouflage pattern, first delivered to the Waffen-SS in 1944.

The different tones were distributed in small dots over larger color patches. The pattern was used on various garments including field jackets and trousers and was used until the end of WWII.

Included in the box are:

AMMO. F-510 Figure Paints Uniform Sand Yellow FS-32555

AMMO. F-533 Figure Paints Dark Brown

AMMO. F-547 Figure Paints Pale Earth

AMMO. F-555 Figure Paints Lime Green

AMMO. F-556 Figure Paints Dark Green

AMMO. F-558 Figure Paints Beige Pink

The AMMO range of acrylic paints for figures has been designed to make your painting sessions a more enjoyable experience thanks to the speed and simplicity of use. New materials for new techniques that are accessible to all modelers.

All of the colors in this series can be mixed with one another and with the full range of AMMO acrylics. This line of colors is perfect for the usual layering and blending techniques used in figure painting as well as the most recent mixed blending techniques. Formulated for maximum performance with both brush and airbrush. Water soluble, odorless, non-flammable and non-toxic.

For the Oak Leaf set:

The Eichenlaubmuster ('Oak leaf') Pattern - This set includes the colors required to paint the distinctive and complex German Eichenlaubmuster ('Oak leaf') camouflage in its Autumn version, worn by units of the Waffen-SS from 1941 (Oak A) and 1943 (Oak B) through the end of WWII. Most garments were reversible, with spring camouflage on one side and autumn camouflage on the other. These colors have been selected through rigorous research to ensure accuracy when creating highlights, adding volume, and define details.



Included in the box are:

AMMO. F-502 Figure Paints Outlining Black
AMMO. F-507 Figure Paints Matt Earth
AMMO. F-533 Figure Paints Dark Brown
AMMO. F-557 Figure Paints Brown Orange
AMMO. F-558 Figure Paints Beige Pink
AMMO. F-559 Figure Paints Orange Rust”

My Experience Using the Pea Dot Paints:

First and foremost, I attach each figure to a wooden dowel or block for better handling, and I use good quality nylon/polyester brushes to apply the paint. I thin these paints using the manufacturer’s recommendation; A.Mig 2000 Acrylic Thinner.

I prime my figures with an acrylic flat black, and then dust them from above using an acrylic flat white to create a modulated effect under the paint to follow. Before I weather my figures, I coat them with an acrylic clear gloss to protect the paint from enamel washes and oil-based dry brushing. I finish each figure with a dead-flat coat using A.Mig 2050 Ultra-Matt Lucky Varnish.

The one critique I have is that I could have used more instruction on which of the six colors are used for the different parts of the complex camouflage pattern – some arrows and color call-outs – that kind of thing. The artwork on the box ends up being just enough, however, with a little experimentation.

Here are the steps I used to produce the figure in the images (Figure is from the TriStar 005 ‘German Panzer Grenadiers, Vol 2 kit):

Primer (1): Rattlecan Acrylic Flat Black
Primer (2), from above: Rattlecan Acrylic Flat White
Base: F-547 Pale Earth
Light Base: F-510 Uniform Sand Yellow
Dark Base: F-556 Dark Green
Pea Dots: All of the above, plus F-555 Lime Green and F-558 Beige Pink

And for the Oak Leaf figure:

Primer (1): Rattlecan Acrylic Flat Black
Primer (2), from above: Rattlecan Acrylic Flat White
Base: F-507 Matt Earth
Second Color: F-502 Outlining Black
Third Color: F-557 Brown Orange
Fourth Color: F-533 Dark Brown
(Dots): All of the above, plus F-558 Beige Pink, and F-559 Orange Rust

Thinning Ratio is 1 drop paint, 4 drops thinner

I clean my acrylic brushes with tap water

Cleaning up Ammo paints is a breeze. These are true acrylics and clean up with tap water just fine. I will also draw my brushes through a cleaner/preserver cake once in a while to keep the bristles supple and the points true.

I am a big fan of Ammo paints, and I have been using them for several years now. The rich pigment has excellent coverage when brushed, and can be thinned to a point of near transparency for laying down thin layers of glaze. The range of their colors, and the use of a subject-orientated naming convention greatly enhances the painting experience for military modelers.

I would like to heartily thank Ammo by Mig for providing these paints for review, and to IPMS USA for giving me the opportunity to use and review them.





Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center "Obliterate"

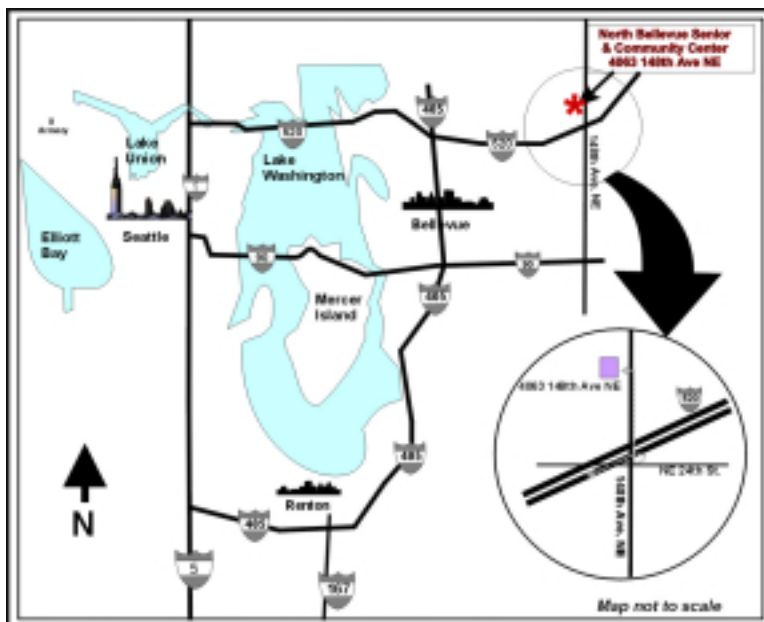
by Gil Vincent

Cancer. No doubt it has taken a family member or friend. It seems that every year a modeler amongst us is lost to cancer. In the last year or so I've lost three to cancer: a co-worker, a childhood friend, and a hobby club member. For the last few years I have been participating in the annual Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center "Obliterate" fund raising event to obliterate cancer. The fight against cancer is not yet won. However, we are making inroads. Another co-worker and friend (mid-30s) was able to fight off the same cancer that took Mark Ford from our community. If you want to help, click here and click my "donate" button, or click on the team link and donate there. Your donation is tax deductible. You can also remain anonymous. Be sure to use the "donate" button on either my page or the team page as my employer will match the donation, doubling the amount raised!

https://secure.fredhutch.org/site/TR/Obliterate/Obliterate?px=1779715&pg=personal&fr_id=2010



Next Meeting: August 13 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM



North Bellevue Community/Senior Center 4063 -148th Ave NE, Bellevue

Directions to NBCSC: From Seattle or from I-405, take 520 East to the 148th Ave NE exit. Take the 148th Ave North exit (the second of the two 148th Ave. exits) and continue north on 148th until you reach the Senior Center. The Senior Center will be on your left. The Center itself is not easily visible from the road, but there is a signpost in the median.