



IPMS Seattle News Seattle Chapter IPMS USA September 2023



Letter From the President

Hi All! The last meeting of summer is coming this Saturday, and we will be continuing with our estate model sale – most likely for the last time this year. While the club certainly needs the donations, we also need to support our local Hobby Shops, like Skyway Models, and other sales opportunities in other local clubs and individual member sales. We all love to buy models, and there are plenty to go around.

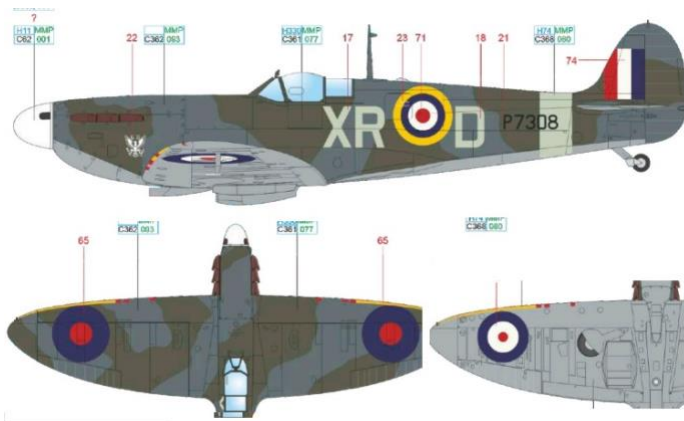
Finding the Right Color... a Fool's Errand?

German Grey, Desert Yellow, Olive Drab, Ghost Grey, Forest Green... these colors, and many more, are the grist of endless debate and conjecture (this very debate, of course, is all part of this wonderful hobby we enjoy).

Some of us will spend as much time researching the specific FS, RLM, RAL, etc. color information as we spend on the painting itself. Others will use a photograph, image, or a model of the real thing to arrive at what we feel is the right color for the job at hand. Regardless, often we look at what we have done and think, "whoa – that's not right". It can be frustrating. What we conjure up in our mind's eye is often at odds with what is accurate for the subject.

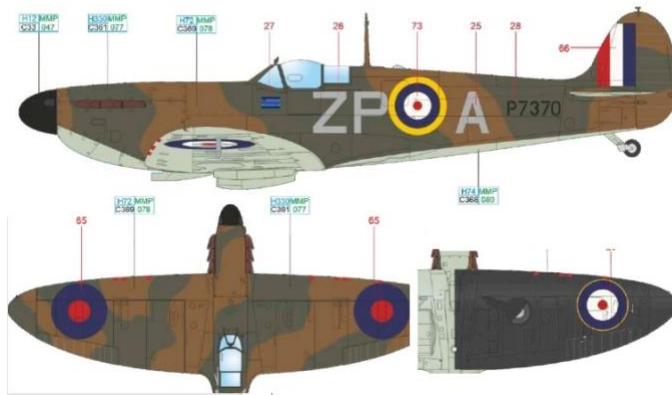
On my workbench right now are a couple of Mk II Spitfires; one will be brown and green and the other will be gray and green – two easily identifiable color schemes for this ubiquitous, single-seat WWII fighter. Everyone knows what a Spitfire looks like, so getting the colors 'somewhere in the wheelhouse' is important. And this is where accuracy can collide with what is stuck in our brains.

Consider the following two sets of images:



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The Eduard instruction callout's, even if I just use the paint suggestions and ignore the printed images, are much darker, in both color and hue, and are certainly not the same as what I see in my mind as 'right'. It's a personal thing - I really like the lighter, 'scale effect' colors as shown in the model images on the right, which I am using as my go-by's for this project.

(Continued on Page 20)

IPMS Seattle Chapter Contacts

President

Eric Christianson

425.591.7385

ModelerEric@Comcast.Net

Vice President

John DeRosia

425.353.2488

johnDeRosia2015@gmail.com

Treasurer

Fuzhou Hu

412.215.7417

fhu.ipms@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Elbert Lin

971.227.6272

elblin@comcast.net

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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. 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.

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We need your content! You are encouraged to submit material for this newsletter to the editor. Anything related to our hobby, be it model reviews, tool reviews, subject stories, museum tours, let's see it! We 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. Any Word or text document is suitable for publication. Please do not embed photos or graphics in the text file, submit as single, separate files. Articles can also be submitted via e-mail, to the editor [email address](#). Deadline for submission of articles is generally twelve days prior to the second Saturday of the month - earlier would be appreciated! Please email 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.

Seattle IPMS Website and Facebook Page

[IPMS - International Plastic Modelers Society - Seattle Chapter \(ipms-seattle.org\)](http://ipms-seattle.org)

[Facebook Page \(https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPMSSeattle/\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPMSSeattle/)

IPMS Seattle Apparel Now Available for Order!

It has been many years since the club last made IPMS Seattle logoed shirts and apparel available. Sam Croft graciously volunteered to work with our vendor to select the apparel and set up the website. Thank you Sam!

The link below is our online store for IPMS Seattle Apparel.

[IPMS 2023 | Risan Athletics, Inc. | powered by OrderMyGear \(itemorder.com\)](#)

Please use the link to view available apparel options and to place your order. Each order is considered an individual order that is paid for online using your personal credit card.

The link will close on September 30th, 2023 at 11:59 pm. You will not be able to order after that date, so don't procrastinate, order today!

Risan Athletics will contact Sam toward the end of October when all the orders have been completed. Each order will be individually packaged with a receipt for ease of distribution.

Sam will pick up all the orders and bring them to our November IPMS Club meeting for distribution.



ATTENTION: TERRY MOORE ESTATE SALE

Saturday September 23, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: [7014 Lake Grove St. SW, Lakewood WA 98499](#)

With the loss of long-time IPMS member and club president Terry Moore at the beginning of this year, friends and family have been sorting through his massive collection of models/figures (Many WW2 planes, the occasional battleship, sci-fi and historical), books (many reference), magazines, tools, paints, DVDs, CDs, equipment, swag etc.

Many items have been priced to sell with most at half price and would like to go to good homes as this constitutes decades of work to refine the craft (no pun intended), as well as many models he never was able to get to as there were a couple lifetimes worth. Those items that have not been priced; reasonable offers will be accepted.

Additionally, there will be built models available to those who would like a remembrance.

While there are some who are newer and may have not met or even heard of Terry, just know that he was very good at what he did, was obsessive of the "Flying fortress" B-17 as well as all things sci-fi B-movie, was very kind and dedicated decades of his life to IPMS.

So please come get stocked up while simultaneously assisting his family part with these items.

Any questions, please contact Jill Moore at terryandjill@comcast.net.

15cm sIG 33 auf Fahrgestell PzKpfw II "Bison II"

By Eric Christianson



Introduction: Occasionally I have such a good time building one of my own kits (as opposed to a review kit for IPMS) that I want to take the time to write about it. The relatively rare Bison II kit from Dragon is one of those modeling experiences.

This kit was originally released way back in 2011, and again re-released ten years later with new parts. Since both boxes contain Dragon 'MagicTrack' I am not sure what the 'new parts' tagline represents? Nonetheless, it is an unusual variant of the German PzKpfw II main battle tank. The turret has been removed and the superstructure heavily modified; first to hold the German Infantry support field howitzer (sIG 33); and then lengthened by one wheel on each side to provide a stable platform for the weapon. Altogether, the Bison II represents a pretty cool one-off AFV, and a must-have for German WWII enthusiasts.

History: The *15cm sIG 33 auf Fahrgestell Panzerkampfwagen II (Sf)*, sometimes referred to as the *Stürmpanzer II Bison*, was a German assault gun used during World War II. The dozen vehicles produced were assigned to the 90th Light Infantry Division in North Africa during the war.

The 15-centimetre (5.9 in) sIG 33 gun was used as direct-fire artillery in support of assaulting infantry. To improve its mobility, 38 guns were mounted on a Panzerkampfwagen I chassis in February 1940.

The 15cm sIG 33 (Sf) auf Panzerkampfwagen I Ausf B that had participated in the Invasion of France in 1940 had proven to be too heavy for its chassis, as well as being *enormously* tall.



The same gun was mated to the Panzerkampfwagen II chassis in an attempt to drastically lower its height while using a stronger chassis. The prototype used a standard Panzer II Ausf. B chassis when it was built in February 1941, but this was too cramped for use. The chassis was lengthened by 24 inches, which required adding a sixth roadwheel, and widened by 13 inches to better accommodate

the gun while preserving its low silhouette. Half-inch armored plates formed the front and sides of the open-topped fighting compartment, which was also open at the rear. Its sides were notably lower than the front, which made the crew vulnerable to small arms fire and shell fragments. Large hatches were added to the rear deck to better cool the engine. The vehicle carried 30 rounds for the gun which could traverse a total of 5° left and right.

Twelve were built between December 1941 and January 1942. These were shipped to North Africa later that year, where they formed ("Heavy Self-propelled Infantry Gun Companies") 707 and 708. They were used as close support mobile artillery, with the former assigned to Schützen-Regiment 155 and the latter to Schützen-Regiment 200, both part of the ("90th Light Afrika Division"). Both companies fought until the Axis surrender in Tunisia, in May 1943.

Opening the Box: The Bison II kit is typical of Dragon armor kits – stuffed to the brim with sprues from several previous offerings, plus a few new sprues. The lengthening and widening of the main hull, however, means that very few parts from their Mark II kit are used – the rest of the parts from these sprues being destined for the spares box. The same goes for the SIG 33 howitzer – which is a cut-down assembly of their towed version of this gun.

The parts themselves are highly detailed, crisp, and molded with no flash.

One item of note: Dragon has thoughtfully stamped each section of each sprue with the sprue letter (A, B, C, etc.). For example: Sprue 'A' has six separate sections, which are all stamped with 'A'. If you do not 'tag and bag' your kits beforehand, this little addition provides tremendous help in distinguishing the many sprue sections, especially when you are well into the build and the sprues have become barely recognizable. Bravo Dragon – great idea!

The contents of the box includes:

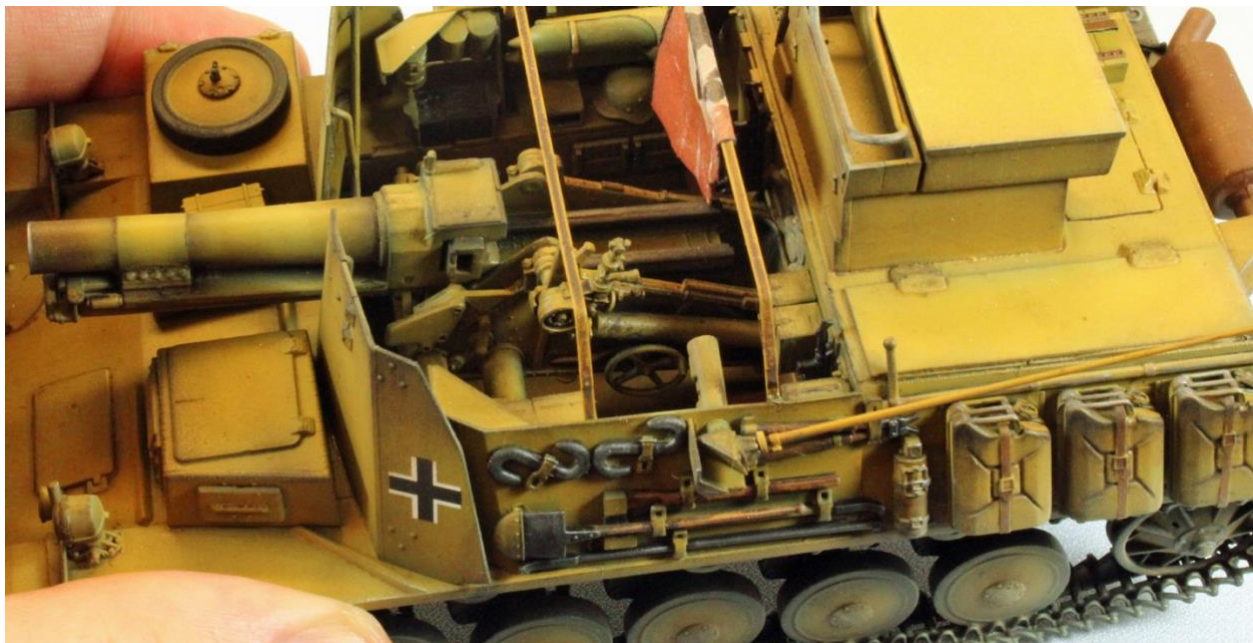
- Lower hull, packaged separately.
- 25 sprues in soft, light grey plastic, packaged separately.
- 2 clear plastic sprues
- 2 photo-etch sheets, incl. detail for jerry cans, air-filter screens, equipment straps, etc.
- 2 bags of (sided) MagicTrack

- 1 turned aluminum barrel
- 1 16-page blue and white instruction sheet with 21 steps

The kit comes with six color schemes represented, using blue-and-white ink three-view drawings; and a small (but perfectly registered) sheet of decals from Cartograph of Italy. These units include:

- (2) s.I.G Kp. (mot.S) 707, DAK, Libya 1942
- (1) s.I.G Kp. (mot.S) 708, DAK, Libya 1942
- (1) Unidentified Unit, DAK North Africa 1942
- (2) Unidentified Units, German 1942

The Instructions: This is a 'fortified re-box' so there are sprues from a variety of Dragon kits included in the box. Consequently, there might be inaccuracies in the instructions. Based on what I see, however, the entire set of instructions has been reworked from previous releases of the Mark II, so perhaps Dragon has addressed some of the issues here.



Things to Consider Before Building: Most readers know how to build a model, so I have focused on the unusual aspects of building this particular kit.

The lower half of the Bison II is a straight-forward rework of the Mark II main battle tank, with an additional wheel added to each side. Chassis, fenders, main deck hatches – it's all there. The same goes for the sIG 33 main gun, which drops the main trailing arms and wheels so it can fit in to where it goes. There are relatively few build options (for Dragon) so there are few up-front decisions to be made. The hatches can be modeled open (with decent interior detail) or closed, the antenna stowed or deployed, and you have a choice of gunsights to use. Dragon (thankfully) provides two sets of tools and other detail; one set with molded on clasps, for example, as well as a second set with the clasps missing but sporting PE replacements – something I wish other manufacturers did. So, if you are PE-adverse, Dragon has got you covered.

The area beneath the fenders is un-obstructed so the MagicTrack track can be attached late in the build, without any problems, but I find adding it early makes MagicTrack easier to paint. More on that later. The Bison II has an interior, and therefore must be finished carefully, in steps, like an airplane kit. No 'build it and paint it all black' approach can be employed here. Still, the assemblies you create are

relatively easy to plan for, and finish. Step 21 in the instructions gives you an idea of how the main subassemblies come together.

I essentially finished the interior of fighting compartment, the two side walls and the gun assembly, dropped the rear superstructure down, and masked everything off before finishing the busy exterior.

Magic Track: The Bison II kit comes with *Dragon MagicTrack*, which are individual track links that come pre-cleaned and bagged (no sprues). The individual links allow you to re-create the ubiquitous droop and sag of real German tank tracks. Now, there are certainly modelers who take one look at the 200 or so individual links and say... NOPE, and I can understand that. But I believe this is because these modelers do not know how to use this wonderful, and patented, Dragon product. I can create two perfectly drooped track runs in just over an hour, even while I am at a friend's house (I have witnesses!). So - here is the secret, in steps:

1. Using a string or twine, get a rough idea of how long each run (left and right) will need to be. Rough is ok. Find a styrene glue-proof surface of some kind that will be long enough to accommodate the runs, left to right. I use a cheap polyethylene, self-healing kitchen cutting board that I have just for this purpose.
2. Tape some kind of straight edge to the cutting board. I use a 15-inch, thin metal ruler for this, but any straight edge will work. Leave one of the edges free - this is what you will line the individual links up along.
3. Lay down a double-sided piece of WonderTape along the edge, about a half-inch of space between the tape and straight edge. This will hold the links in place as you go. You can find WonderTape at any craft store, or use a thin piece of double-sided scotch tape if you can't find WonderTape.
4. Dump out a baggie of MagicTrack for a single side of the tank - if all the links come in a single bag, move half of them into a separate pile. With a nice pair of tweezers, lay out a single run of MagicTrack links along the straight edge. The links are so perfectly molded that each one will fall right into the one next to it - they really are magic. Sort of. :)
5. Once the run has been laid out, get some long-setting glue (I use Testors 'Black Bottle' Liquid cement with a needle nose applicator, but any liquid glue that gives you working time will suffice), and drop one or two drops between each link. Work carefully - it is important that you do not miss any links. If the track is very small, like with the Bison II, a single drop will suffice. A larger tank, like a Tiger or Panther, will require two drops between each link.
6. Once finished, start the timer. The glue must be given time to set up - 45 minutes, in most cases, or longer, if needed. You can start on the second run from Step 2, or do something else.
7. In 45 minutes, use a razor blade (or some other edge) to carefully separate the track run from the double-sided tape. Once that is done, carefully lift the run up, make sure you have the links pointed the right way on the tank, and slowly wrap the entire run around (first) from the bottom of the first wheel in front and up around the drive sprocket, (second) along the top (making your sags and droops along the way, and (third) down around the return roller, and along the bottom, meeting up front again. Apply glue to the wheels as you go so that the run stays where it is supposed to. If you have too many links at the end, carefully pull off as many as you need to make the run connect. Easier to do than explain, I promise!
8. And that is it. Just repeat the process for the second run. I use two straight edges, so I can have the second set curing while I wrap the first set on the model.

Finish: The best part about building and finishing a model from my own stash (as opposed to a kit review) is the additional time I have to really get into weathering and detailing the built model. No rush, no skipped corners - everything that I *want* to do, I have time to do. The Bison II is such a busy little guy to look at that I knew it would come out nice if I did not have to rush.



I decided to finish the Bison II in the darker, more intense yellow colors of the early German DAK scheme. I used Tamiya acrylic-lacquer paints throughout, mixed 50/50 with Gunze Self-Leveling (lacquer) thinner, through a Pache H airbrush set at 20lbs and a #3 tip.

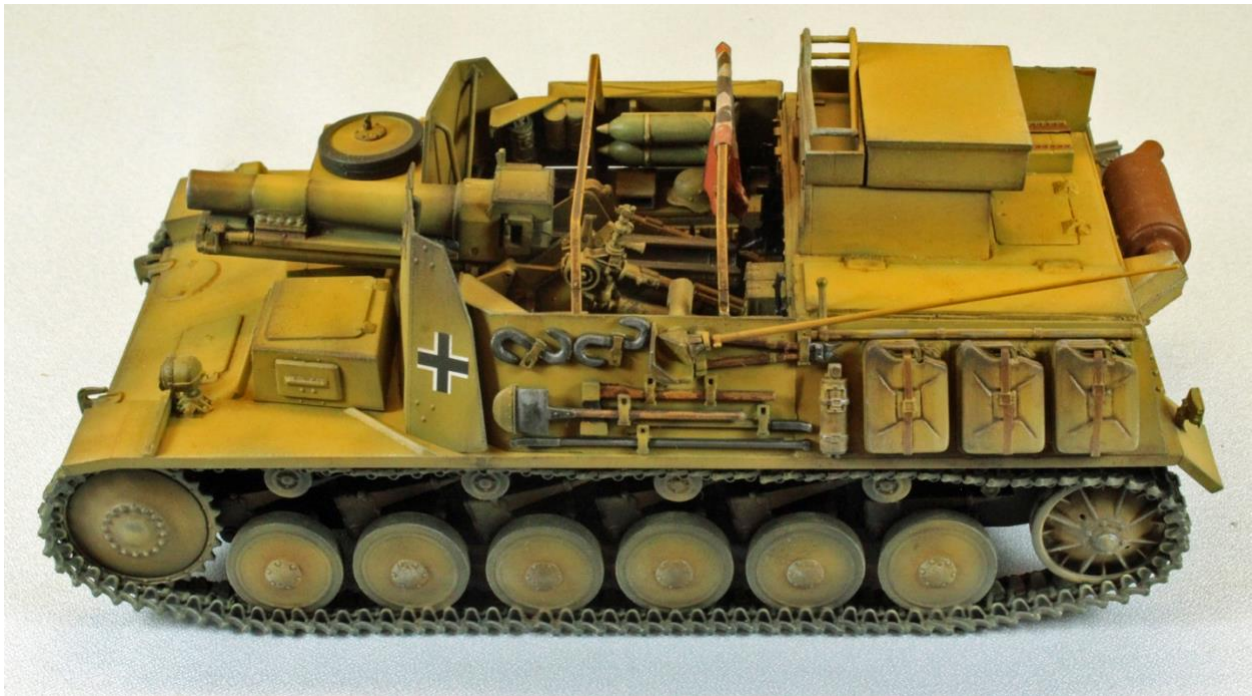
Primer and Pre-shade – (Gunze Mr. Surfacer 1200 Black) While a tank with an interior involves several sticky boards and sub-assemblies, the ‘normal’ painting techniques still apply. Every painted surface starts out (flat) black, with the camouflage ‘brought out’ later as each color is applied. So even though many of the parts start on a sticky board, they, too, are first painted black. This will fill the nooks and crannies with what looks like shadow, but is really just black paint. Your eyes see what they want to see; you expect to see shadow, even though the light source you have would never produce that particular effect on its own.

Base Coat – (Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow) This more vibrant and intense version of German Yellow was applied in layers so that the underlying pre-shade still showed through in the recesses and edges of various panels

Post Shade – This step was skipped – normally this would be a lighter shade of the base coat to introduce scale-effect, but I wanted to preserve the darker yellow of the base coat.

Detail Painting – The still-flat surfaces give paint applied by brush a good surface to adhere to. Here are the colors I used on the Bison II:

Pioneer Tools and Detail	(Wooden portions) Mix of Vallejo Model Air 71.075 Sand Ivory and Panzer Aces 311 New Wood. (Steel parts) Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black followed by Chrome Uschi pigments.
Seats and Jerry Can Straps	Mix of Vallejo PA312 Leather and Vallejo MC70.913 Yellow Ochre
Muffler	LifeColor UA701 Rust Dark Shadow from the Rust Set



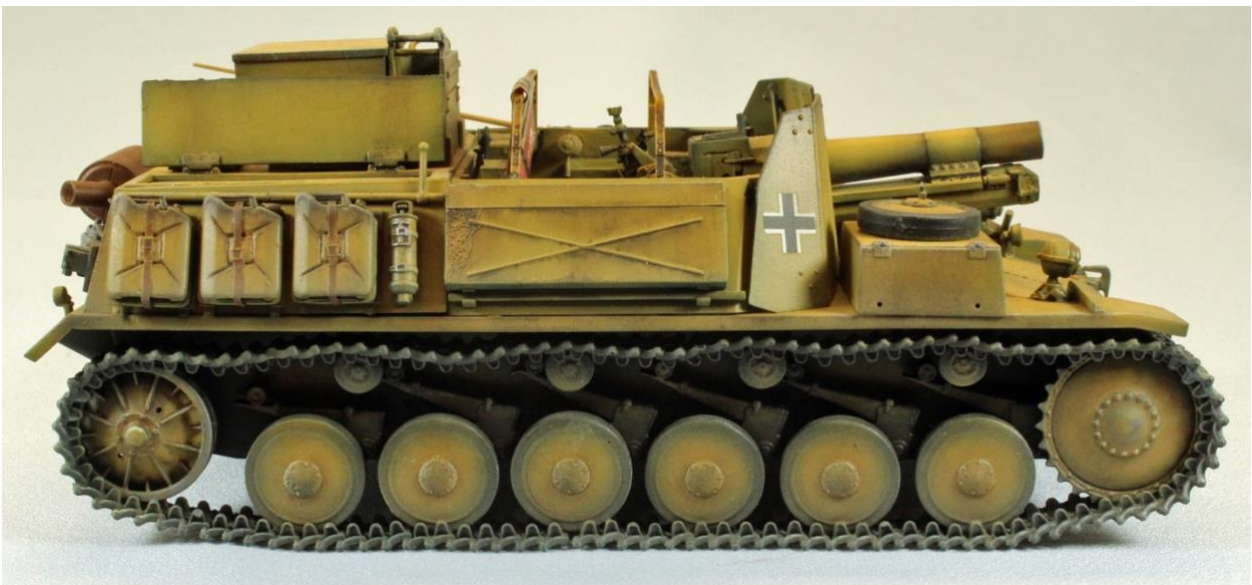
Filters – (Mig 502 Abteilung Aby080 Wash Brown) The last step before a gloss coat was applied, was an overall of a filter to tie all the paintwork together, made of oil paint heavily thinned with Mona Lisa white spirit.

Decals – After several gloss coats (Future floor wax - undiluted) to create a smooth surface for decals and weathering, I applied the kit markings using the blue and red MicroSol and MicroSet decal solution with no issues. Once these were dry, I laid down an additional coat of Future to seal the decals.

Pin Wash – (Old Holland Sepia Extra Oil Paint) I applied a pin wash to all the panel lines and other recessed detail using a heavily thinned mix of oil paint and Mona Lisa white spirit.

Wood Treatment – With the glossy surface, I carefully brushed on a heavy coat of Mig Wash Brown Oil to all the wood surfaces on the model. After letting this paint dry for several hours, I wiped off the excess paint using Q-tips until I had the dirty, wood-grain effect I was looking for.

Dry Brushing – (Old Holland Sepia Extra) I squeezed out a dab of this oil paint on to a piece of cardboard and let the linseed oil leech out for several hours. I then picked up a little on a long-bristled brush and off-loaded most of the paint on to a paper towel, leaving just enough on the brush to flick across the



edges of the model to highlight all the protruding detail, such as the Jerry cans. This age-old technique tends to 'pop' the raised detail after applying the wash to the recessed areas.

I then carefully applied a tiny line of oil paint to specific areas, such as the joints on the main barrel. Using a different, dry paint brush, I carefully pulled the paint away from the joints. The thick oil paint feathers into the background on its own, creating the effect seen in the images.

Pigments – (Uschi Chrome Polishing Powder) – This was applied along the edges and other protruding 'metal' detail, including the front edge of the main gun.

Road Dust – (Vallejo Model Air Light Brown) – I airbrush this great color on to nearly every model I build. I think the slightly tan/yellow color perfectly represents road dust, and the Vallejo paint clings to just enough of the protruding detail, such as the track, to do the job. The thinned paint also tends to tone-down bright and distracting detail such as the decals and other markings.

Flat Finish – (Vallejo Flat Varnish) – this is the last step I take to eliminate the shiny areas. I try to miss those areas that (should) retain a semi-gloss surface, such as machine guns and other areas that I used the chrome polishing powder on.



Finally – Paper Shaper.

I picked up a new product that is being marketed by Vantage Modeling Solutions (VMS) for forming ANY type of paper over complex surfaces. Historically the domain of tissue paper and white glue, Paper Shaper allows you manipulate much thicker mediums by magically dissolving the material without altering the structure (or pre-existing color), thereby opening up this modeling technique to printer and/or construction paper.

I wanted to drape a German aerial recognition flag over a delicate frame on my Bison

II, but I could not roll epoxy putty thin and light enough, and the texture of tissue and Kimwipes didn't look right. Plus – I am not skilled enough to paint the flag even if I did find the right medium. I found a perfect (weathered!) flag in a coffee-table book about 'Spiegel', the popular German wartime propaganda magazine. After cutting the image out of the book, I darkened the edges with a black Sharpie and dropped it in a little puddle of Paper Shaper. After soaking the flag cutout in the fluid, I was able to drape it where I wanted, prodding and poking it to settle down where I wanted it to. While this does not work as easily as tissue paper and diluted white glue, it does a pretty good job nonetheless. You can find the product here, and watch a nifty how-to video to boot. <https://www.vms-supplies.com/vms-paper-shaper>.

This was a fun build of an unusual German WWII subject – an experience that is exactly what this great hobby is all about.

Vargas Scale Models Christie 1919 Interwar Tank

By Rick Taylor

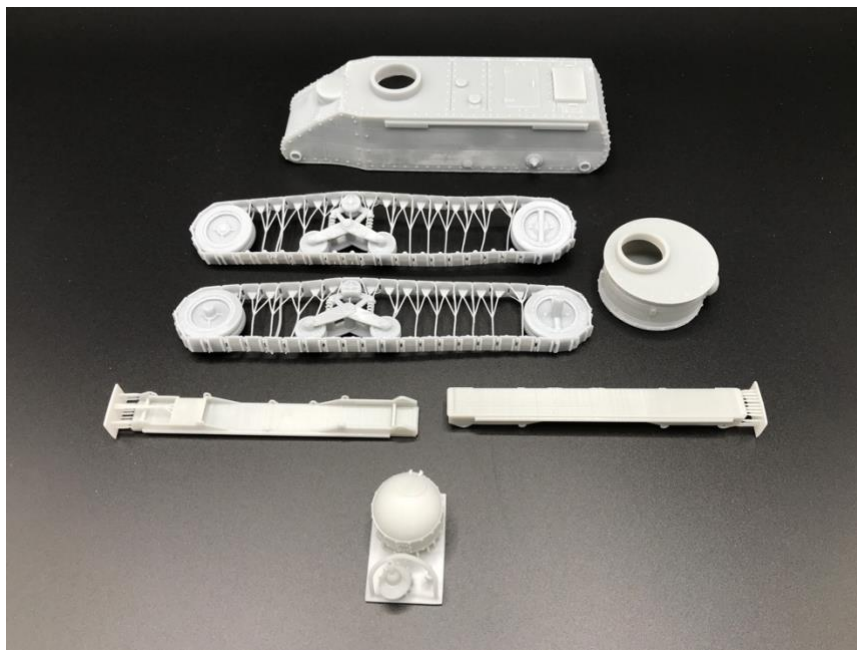
Introduction

Walter Christie was a talented and experienced American engineer and auto racer. He submitted a design and working prototype of a revolutionary tank to the US Army in 1919 as part of the US Army's quest for a modern, domestic tank to replace its WW1 French FT-17 light tanks and Mark VIII "International" heavy tanks. These tanks were slow, lumbering beasts. They were so unreliable that they were transported to the start point on trucks and required frequent overhauls. His design was a remarkable departure from existing designs and tried to solve these problems by running on wheels at speed on roads and switching to tracks for cross-country mobility. It could reach speeds of 7mph (11 km/h) cross country on its tracks, and 13mph (21 km/h) on its road wheels and was armed with a 6-pounder (57mm) gun, and a co-axial .30 caliber machine gun in a round turret. Testing revealed several problems and Christie requested that the evaluation be halted so that he could improve the design. This began a decade long cycle of innovation, prototypes, and conflict between Christie and the US Army.

Review

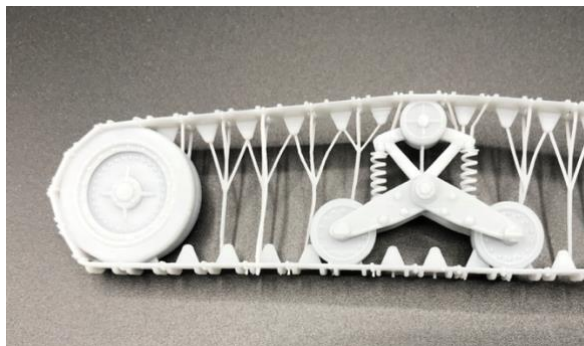
Vargas Scale Models from California USA specializes in interesting and unique subjects from World War One and the Interwar periods in 1:35th scale. All are CAD designs and 3D printed in resin.

The kit is packaged in a small stout corrugated cardboard flip top box. Inside are the instructions, and zip-lock bags with a whopping eleven 3D printed resin parts cushioned in bubble wrap. The instructions



are one page double sided printed in color. They consist of photos to highlight the assembly. There is no parts list or painting instructions. Period photos of the prototype show it all dark, assumed to be olive drab, with no markings. No decals or PE are included or needed.

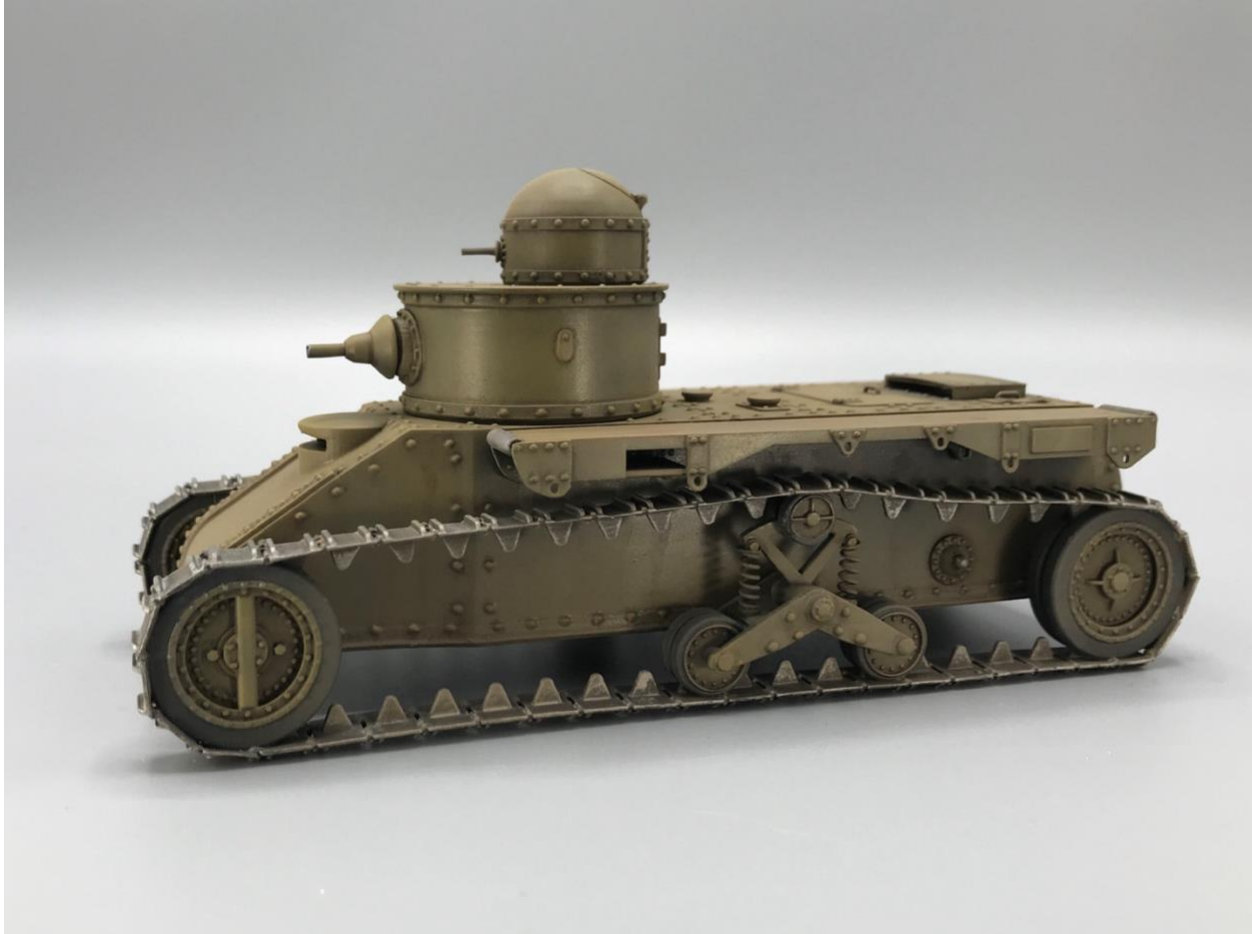
The parts are printed in a gray, brittle resin, so care is needed in working with it. The 3D printing process allows a surprising amount of detail to be represented on a single large part that might require



dozens of parts if molded in styrene. The hull is printed as a single piece. The running gear and tracks are a single piece – no road wheels to clean or individual link tracks to labor over. The turret and cupola are four parts. The fenders and engine cover are very thin and delicate. The level of detail is good, and it is reasonably sharp. 3D printing allows things

that are not possible with other production techniques like functional coil springs.

3D printing does introduce a couple of new steps in the build process. Instead of sprues, the parts are printed on rafts with supports that connect to the part. Vargas uses very fine supports. These can be removed with a sharp hobby knife or a sprue cutter. The attachment points are easily cleaned up with a fine file or sanding stick. The parts require thorough cleaning with a toothbrush in hot soapy water followed by rinsing in warm water and blow drying with your airbrush. To ensure that the resin is fully cured, lay out the parts in direct sunlight for several minutes. Too long in the sunlight will cause the resin to get brittle. Some of the parts exhibit 3D print striations. Priming with a sandable, self-leveling automotive or hobby primer (like Mr. Surfacer 1200 in a rattle can) will fill most of these striations. The remaining striations are sanded out. Once the parts are cleaned up, the assembly is trivial. The instructions are minimal but adequate. Although the parts fit is good, dry fit everything before using CA glue to assemble. Once assembled, I use Mr. Surfacer 1500 Black rattle can primer to highlight any areas needing attention before proceeding to paint and weather as normal.



Conclusion

This is the only kit of this subject available in any scale or medium. The kit builds into an excellent replica out of the box. Due to the need for CA glue, it is more appropriate for experienced modelers. I highly recommend the kit and hope to see more new Great War and Interwar kits from Vargas. Vargas Scale Models offers their kits for sale on at vargasscalemodels.com. Thanks to Vargas for providing the review kit.

Cactus Air Force Deluxe Set – F4F-4 Wildcat and P-400/P-39D Over Guadalcanal

By Scott Hollingshead



Introduction

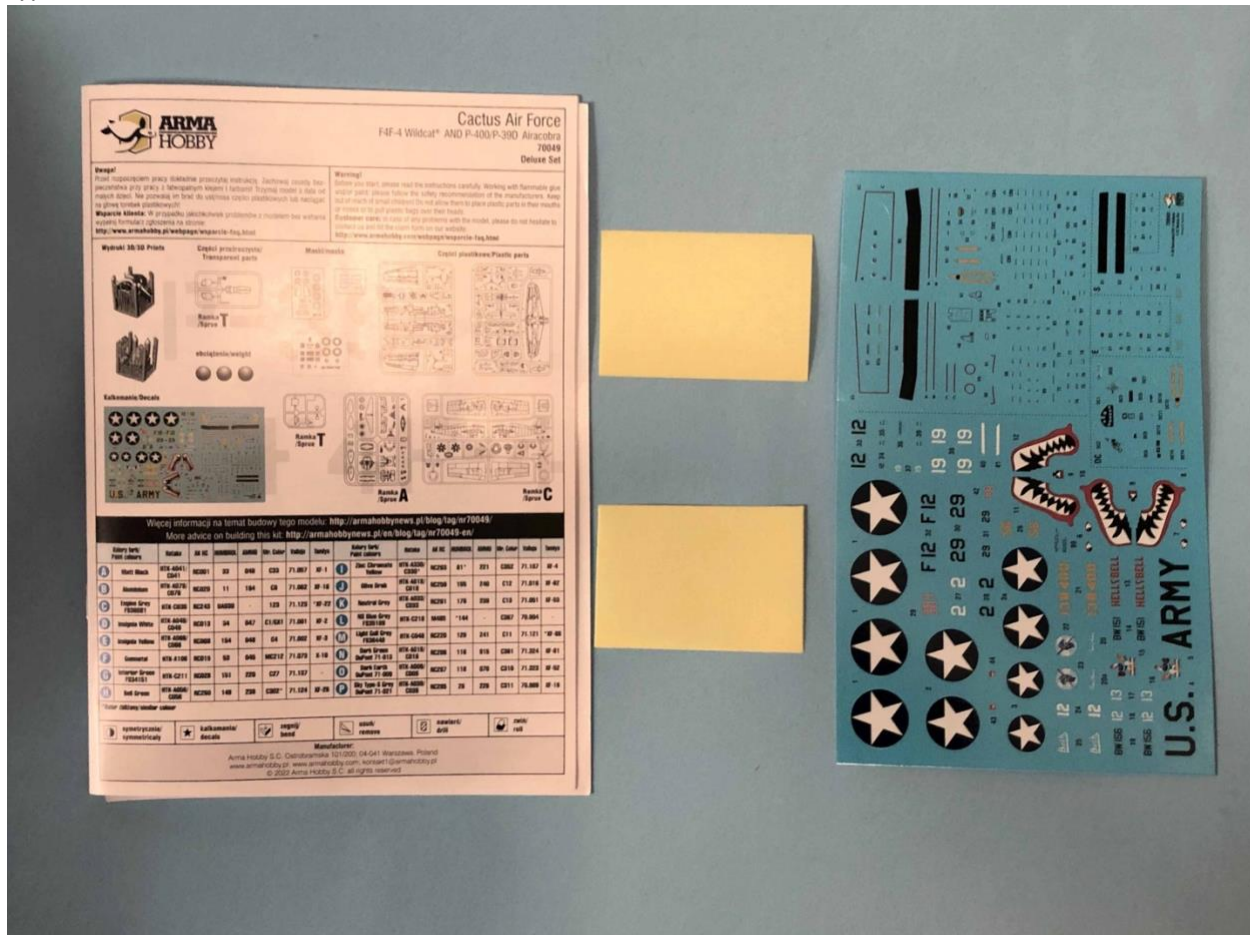
Arma Hobby continues to build on their 1/72 scale inventory with the release of this [Cactus Air Force Deluxe set](#). I have previously had the pleasure of reviewing their F4F-4 Wildcat Expert Set (kit 70047) as well as their P-39Q Airacobra (kit 70055) and this release essentially combines the two kits albeit with a different version of the Airacobra. With the addition of 3D printed parts for both aircraft, the already great level of detail is improved for some key areas. I highly recommend this kit to modelers experienced in handling small parts looking to represent the Cactus Air Force planes between August 1942 and February 1943.

The “Cactus Air Force” was the name given to a combination of Marine, Army Air Force, and Navy planes that operated from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal between August 8, 1942 (the airfield was captured from the Japanese roughly 36 hours after the Marines landed on August 7) until the last remnants of the Japanese forces on the island were evacuated or defeated on February 8, 1943. The F4F-4 Wildcat entered service in 1942 and was armed with six 0.50 caliber machine guns and could also carry bombs. The P-400 Airacobra was to be an imported version of the P-39 for the Royal Air Force but were declined as the US Army required Bell to remove the supercharger from these planes. This aircraft was armed with four 0.30 caliber machine guns in the wings (they would have been 0.303 caliber for the British), two 0.50 caliber machine guns in the nose, and a 20mm cannon (replacing the typical 37mm cannon

used in the P-39) that fired through the propeller. The Airacobra could also carry a single bomb or external fuel tank.

The Kit

Upon opening the box, you will find two light gray plastic sprues for the Wildcat, a single large sprue for the P400/P-39 as well as masks for both planes, three steel balls for the Airacobra, two 3D printed part sets, color instructions, and a nice sized decal sheet. The box shows markings for four aircraft of each type as follows:



- P-400 Airacobra, white 13 "Hells Bell", serial number BW151, 67 Fighter Squadron/347 Fighter Group, pilot Lt. Robert M. Ferguson, Guadalcanal, August – November 1942.
- P-39D-2 Airacobra, white 12 "Beth", pilot Cpt. Paul Bechtel, 12 FS commander, Guadalcanal, December 1942.
- P-400 Airacobra, white 12 "Fancy Nancy", serial number BW156, 67 FS/347 FG, pilot Lt. Richard Johnson, Guadalcanal, August-September 1942.
- P-39D-1 Airacobra, yellow 56, serial number 41-38400 67 FS/347 FG, pilot Lt. Vernon Head, Guadalcanal, December 1942.
- F4F-4 Wildcat, black 29, pilot Lt. Samuel Folsom, VMF-121, Guadalcanal, November 1942.
- F4F-4 Wildcat, white 2, pilots Mjr. Marion Carl and Lt. John L. Smith, VMF-223, Guadalcanal, February 1943.
- F4F-4 Wildcat, black F12, Bureau Number 5192, pilot Lt. James "Pug" Southerland II, VF-5/USS Saratoga, August 1942.
- F4F-4 Wildcat, white 19, BuNo. 03417, pilot Lt. Stanley W. "Swede" Vejtasa, VF-10/USS Enterprise, October 1942.



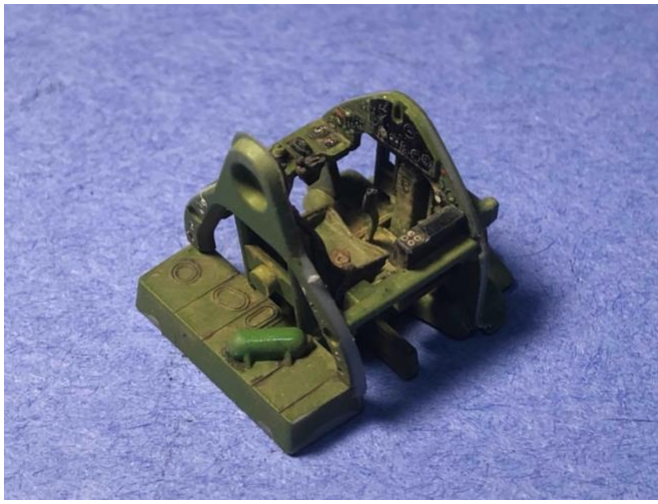
Being a Deluxe Set boxing, I mentioned the inclusion of 3D printed parts for both planes. The prints each have a base of 5/8 inch square and the two have corresponding pins and holes to allow the prints to lock together as an ingenious way to ship the parts safer and only requiring one piece of bubble wrap to provide the final protection. From the base rise the printed parts consisting of 17 total for the Wildcat and 13 for the Airacobra. While the instructions provide information for



installing the printed parts during the applicable steps, a single sheet of paper is also included showing one plane on each side with all of the printed parts shown along the top edge and placement of the parts shown below. Referring to this sheet along with the directions was helpful in some instances.

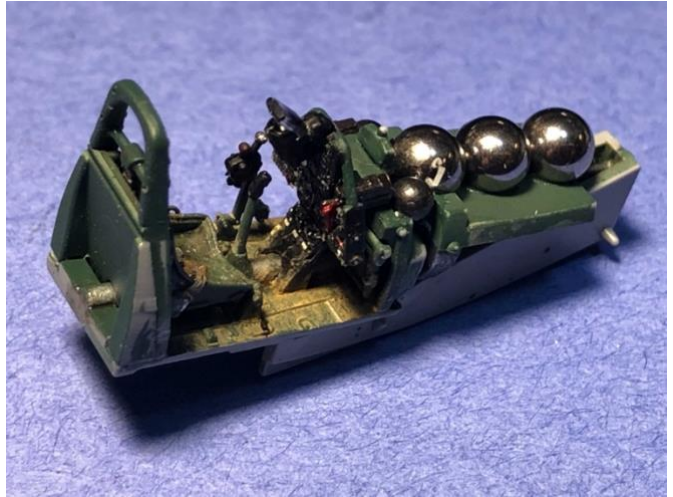
Having built the planes previously, I had some operating experience to use building this kit. The 3D printed parts are beautiful, and greatly enhanced





both planes. The printed chains for the Wildcat landing gear worked much better for me than the photoetched ones in the Expert Set kit as they did not block installing the landing gear legs to their posts on the firewall. The printed seats include the seatbelts, and they look great installed in both planes. The Wildcat includes a printed ignition ring for the engine, but no mention of the wires between the ring and the cylinders. I personally used UMM 0.15mm Copper-Silk Wire (product UMMC015) to represent the 28 ignition wires on the Wildcat engine. The Airacobra exhausts

include openings on the ends of both the 6 and 12 stack options and they both look fantastic. I learned during this build that 3D printed parts are incredibly fragile especially as I immediately broke three of the four 0.30 caliber machine gun barrels after gluing the wing halves together (I replaced them after painting was completed with 0.5mm OD brass tubing).



There are some 117 or so decals in all for the Airacobra (depending on the squadron markings chosen) but only around 18 total for the Wildcat. While most reacted well to Micro Set and Micro Sol, I needed to apply multiple coats of Solvaset to the larger decals to get them to set properly, and this was also my experience during previous reviews.



The instructions provided paint recommendations for both planes including the color name and applicable Federal Standard (FS) number (in some cases a DuPont number) along with the applicable Hataka, AK Real Color, Humbrol, Ammo by Mig, Mr. Color, Vallejo, and Tamiya products. I used a combination of Ammo by Mig, Vallejo, and Model Master Acryl paints (all of which were specified in the paint chart) for my planes along with Stynylrez Black and White primers.



As far as my hits are concerned, the molding detail is again fantastic for 1/72 scale, and these are again two of my finest WWII planes in this scale. The canopy masks worked well and were appreciated; I did elect to paint the wheels by hand, so I did not use those masks. The main wheels are molded with a slight flat spot and bulge, which again shows detail that is not typical for this scale. The 3D printed parts are all phenomenal and were a pleasure to add to the planes to raise the level of detail.

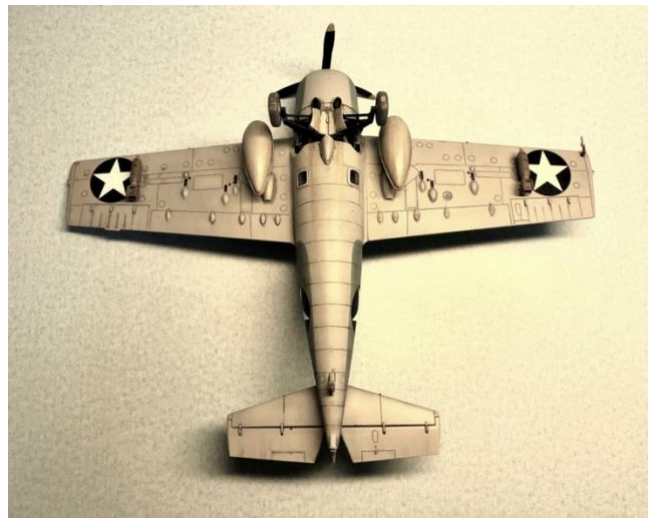


While not misses necessarily, I do have some items to watch for during construction to aid modelers in their enjoyment of the kit. First, I will again comment that some of the attachment points on the sprues were large, which I have noted on previous reviews. This just requires some planning when removing parts from the sprues to prevent creating indentations on the removed parts. On my sample, I did note some flash being present on a few of the plastic parts which I do not recall seeing previously on Arma kits. As mentioned earlier, I ended up using Solvaset over the larger decals to get them to settle (this was after trying Tamiya Strong and Ammo by Mig Decal Fix solutions). Finally, as with the P-39Q, the three steel balls were not adequate to prevent

the Airacobra from being a tail sitter so I added four very small steel balls in the nose section before I attached the 3D printed nose gun cover.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this is really a fantastic kit, and I highly recommend it to experienced modelers (due to the number of small parts) wanting to add a pair of Cactus Air Force planes to their collection. The detail is incredible, and the kit allows you to produce two great looking planes out of the box. My thanks to the folks at Arma Hobby for providing this kit to the IPMS USA for review, and to Phil Peterson for allowing me to perform this evaluation!



Letter From the President (Continued From Page 2)

This is a first-world problem, no doubt, but a lot of modelers get hung up on this part of the build. And many times, as demonstrated at shows, models finished in the colors from the instructions, *just do not look right*. Beautifully-built aircraft, armor – and especially blue-water ships – often suffer at contests from this. Judges are not supposed to consider *color* when selecting winners, but bias is human in nature, and it is tough to eliminate first impressions when presented with something like this:



Scale Effect' is a well-known concept that describes how to lighten colors to simulate what something would look like if you looked at it from the distance dictated by the size of the model itself (my definition here). For a much better discussion on this idea, look here [[The Scale Effect of Color and other considerations | IPMS Prison City Modelers \(leavenworthmodelersclub.org\)](https://www.leavenworthmodelersclub.org/)]. Achieving scale effect, however, is a lot more than just adding white to the original color to lighten things up. For some colors, that works, for others not so much – you end up with a 'dead', washed-out version of what you really want. It's another one of those things that is hard to describe, but you know it when you see it.

And so, as I did with previous builds of British combat aircraft, I will ignore what Eduard suggests I use. Instead, I will look to a rather large collection of paint swatches I've amassed over the years to find the base colors I am looking for, and I will adjust things accordingly, using thin filters, until I achieve what I see in my mind's eye.

Will it be accurate? Who cares. But it will be what look's *right* to me.

Thanks, and Model On!

Eric



2023 IPMS National Convention Seattle Chapter Winners

San Marcos, TX

Tim Nelson

2nd - Small Aircraft: Single Engine, Prop 1/72: US/Allied Radial (non-naval split) - **P-47C Thunderbolt, Hub Zemke, June 1943**

3rd - Civil, Sport, Racing, and Air Taxis, 1/144 and 1/72 - **Bell P-39 "Cobra II"**

2nd - Airliners, Airliner Types, and Airships, 1/72, 1/48, and 1/32 - **Lockheed Orion Model 9**

1st - Vacuum-formed, All entries - **Curtiss F Boat, Sperry Autopilot**

1st - Dioramas, Vignette, 1/144 and 1/72 - **Hanriot HD-2, U.S.S. Texas 1919**

Rick Taylor

1st - Artillery Pieces – **US WW2 M1918 155mm Howitzer (Schneider)**

1st - Basic Kit Build 1:35 Closed-top AFV's through Korea, Axis – **Oberschlesien 1918**

1st - Basic Kit Build 1:35 Closed-top AFV's through Korea, Allied – **Bob Semple Tank No. 1 New Zealand 1941**

Aile Nikolic

2nd - Pre-teen Aircraft - **SR-71 Egg plane**

1st - Pre-teen- Military Vehicles - **T-28 tank**

Elisia Nikolic

1st - Pre-teen Automotive - **Toyota GT2000**

Djordje Nikolic

3rd - Small Jet BKB 1/72 - **Me-163B**

3rd - Tracked German 1/48 - **StuH**

2nd - Wheeled 1/48 - **Schwimmwagen**

2nd - Fully tracked post Korea 1/72 - **T-10**

2nd - Soft skinned 1/35 - **Jeep Willys RCAF**

3rd - Armored Cars, Halftracks and Soft Skinned Vehicles BKB 1/48 - **SS-100**

2nd - AFV Open and closed Top BKB 1/72 - **SA-6 Yugoslav Army**

Ken Murphy

3rd - Aircraft (Civil, Sport, Racing & Air Taxis 1/48 & 1/32 scale) - **Ford Model 2A "Flivver"**

Other Modeling from Around the Sound...

Local Shows Coming Up

IPMS Palouse Area Modelers Present the 25th Annual
"Show off the Good Stuff!"
Scale Model Show & Contest

Saturday October 5, 2019
The 1912 Center, 412 East Third Street, Moscow, Idaho



Model Registration: 9 am to Noon
Awards Presentation: 2:00 pm
Best Viewing: 11 am - 1 pm
Show Ends at 2:45 pm

Unlimited Model Entries: \$7
Youth (16 and under): Free
Admission without Models: \$1

Door Prizes, Raffle, Silent Auction, and Free "Make 'n' Take" for Kids
Show profits donated to the local "Christmas for Kids" charity

Judged Categories
With Best of Class Awards for...

- Aircraft
- Military Vehicles/Artillery
- Civilian Vehicles
- Ships
- Dioramas
- Figures
- Gaming Miniatures
- Science Fiction/Fantasy
- Junior (age 16 and under)

Sponsored Awards for Best...

- WWI Subject
- WWII Allied Aircraft
- WWII Axis Aircraft
- Modern Aircraft
- WWII Allied Armor
- WWII Axis Armor
- Modern Armor
- Ford or Chevy Auto
- Competition Auto



Judges' Best of Show Award
Wally Bigelow Memorial Award (Popular Vote)
Jack Cooper Memorial Best Figure Award



For more information, contact Scott Rowland: scottrow@earthlink.net

This years theme: Italy 1943



51st

IPMS VANCOUVER

ANNUAL FALL SHOW

October 7, 2023

9:00am - 4:30pm

Bonsor Recreation Complex

6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby

\$5 Admission

FREE 16 and under

\$10 Registration*

\$2 16 and under

*Registration closes at 12:00pm

www.ipmsvancouver.ca/fallshow

This year's show dedicated to Warwick Wright

Link: <https://www.ipmsvancouver.ca/fallshow>

Northwest Scale Modelers (NWSM)

The Northwest Scale Modelers meet monthly at the Museum of Flight in Renton. Modelers of all genres are welcome to attend. Please see their website for more information: [NorthWest Scale Modelers \(nwsm.club\)](http://NorthWestScaleModelers(nwsm.club))

Seattle Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS)

The Seattle Chapter of AMPS holds monthly meetings and occasional build sessions that modelers of all genres are welcome to attend. Please see their Facebook page for more information.

Galaxy Exiles Sci-Fi Modelers

The local Sci-Fi modeling community is served by this club located in the North End. Modelers of all genres are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact John Morel at johncmorel@gmail.com or see their Facebook page for more information.



Upcoming Meeting Dates

The IPMS Seattle 2023 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.

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

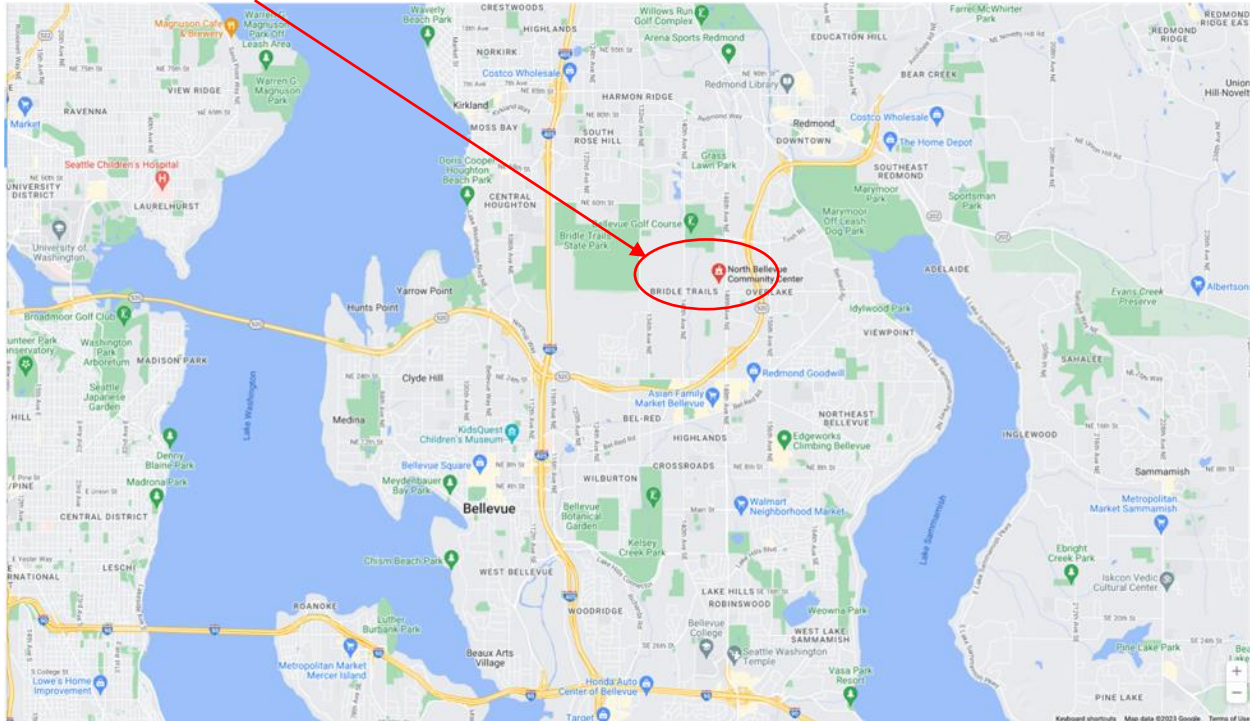
Next Meeting: September 9 – 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

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

Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/RSGcMggWNBmTUe6T9>

Site Link: [North Bellevue Community Center | City of Bellevue \(bellevuewa.gov\)](http://North Bellevue Community Center | City of Bellevue (bellevuewa.gov))

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.



Why Join IPMS/USA?

IPMS/USA is the United States Branch of the International Plastic Modelers' Society, whose roots can be traced to the startup of the first IPMS National Branch during the 1960's in Great Britain. In 1964 a US-based modeler applied for a charter to start the US Branch. In the ensuing five decades, IPMS/USA has become a 4,600-member, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the modeling hobby while providing a venue for modelers to share their skills in a social setting, along with friendly but spirited competition in the form of local, regional, and national contests and conventions. As this is written, there are over 220 active US chapters (including groups in Canada and the Philippines as well as one "cyber-chapter" existing entirely on the internet). These chapters are organized into 13 geographically-determined Regions, overseen by Regional Coordinators. The IPMS/USA Executive Board, made up of elected and appointed members, serves as the overall governing body for IPMS/USA.

Join Online (<https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>)

MODEL PAINT SOLUTIONS

Model Paint Solutions specializes in tools for handling, storing, mixing, spraying, and finishing model paints. We carry quality scribing tools, abrasives, Mission Models Paint, the full line of AK Real Colors, and German-manufactured Harder & Steenbeck airbrushes and parts. All Seattle IPMS members can take advantage of **5% off** and **Free-Shipping** on any orders delivered during the monthly IPMS meetings. Details provided at the meetings.

Model Paint Solutions (<https://modelpaintsol.com/>)

Member Wanted/For Sale



Compressor Available-Bob LaBouy: Here's a great compressor that's available for a Seattle Chapter member at a great cost. And for the lucky Seattle Chapter member, I probably forgot to mention, the price is **FREE!** Just come over and pick it up at our home in Redmond. Please see me at the September Chapter meeting or give me call at 425-868-9706.