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From the Editor: Making It Easier to Contribute

One of the challenges of putting together our newsletter each month is sourcing new articles and contributions from members. I know many of you have interesting projects on your workbenches, whether it's a recently completed model, a new kit you've picked up, or a technique you've tried for the first time. And you don't need to write a lengthy article to contribute! A few paragraphs about a recent build, a short kit review, a useful modeling tip, or even a few photos with captions are all welcome. The important thing is sharing your interests and experiences with fellow club members. But I also realize that sitting down to write something can seem like a lot of work, especially if writing isn't something you particularly enjoy.

Over the past year, I've been experimenting with ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence tool that can help turn a few rough notes into a readable article. You don't have to be a good writer, and you don't even have to type everything out. You can simply describe your latest build, what you liked or disliked about the kit, any problems you encountered, and how it turned out. ChatGPT can take those observations and organize them into a short review or article. You can then ask it to make changes, shorten it, or make it sound more like you. Of course, you'll still want to read through the results and make sure everything is accurate, but much of the work of organizing and polishing the writing is taken care of.

In next month's newsletter, I'm planning to walk through a couple of actual examples, using simple prompts to show just how easy the process can be. My hope is that this will encourage more members to share their projects and experiences with the rest of the club. **Contributing is as simple as emailing me a few paragraphs and some photos.** You don't need any special formatting or publishing experience, and I'm happy to help with editing and putting everything together. Even a short contribution can make the newsletter more interesting and useful for everyone. After all, this is *our* club newsletter, and the more members who participate, the better it will be. Stay tuned!

For those who want to get a head start, go to ChatGPT's browser-based app, or Anthropic Claude. You don't have to pay for a subscription, use the free version as it is more than adequate. Give it a try, you will be surprised at how easy it is.

IPMS Seattle Chapter Officers

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Public Disclaimers

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.

Editorial Policy

Our newsletter is prepared with the goal of providing information that educates, informs, and helps expand the skills of our membership about our hobby: plastic scale modeling (including resin, vacu-form, and 3-D printed scale models). All content related to the hobby are welcome. For more detail, please see the complete Editorial Policy here.

Appeals for Newsletter Content and Usage Attribution

We need your content! You are encouraged to submit material for this newsletter to the editor. 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 Microsoft Word or text document is suitable for publication. Please do not embed photos or graphics in the text file, submit as single, separate files (jpeg if possible). 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.

Seattle IPMS Website and Facebook Page

IPMS - International Plastic Modelers Society - Seattle Chapter (ipms-seattle.org)
Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPMSSeattle/)



DXM Hobby Studio 1/48 F-14B Tomcat Decal Review



By Bob LaBouy

Background and Historical Notes

From DXM Hobby Studio's Decal Notes

These decal sheets provide a colorful selection of markings for U.S. Navy F-14B Tomcats of VF-103 "Jolly Rogers," covering the years 2001–2004. The markings include both high-visibility and low-visibility schemes for aircraft assigned to the NAS Oceana-based squadron.

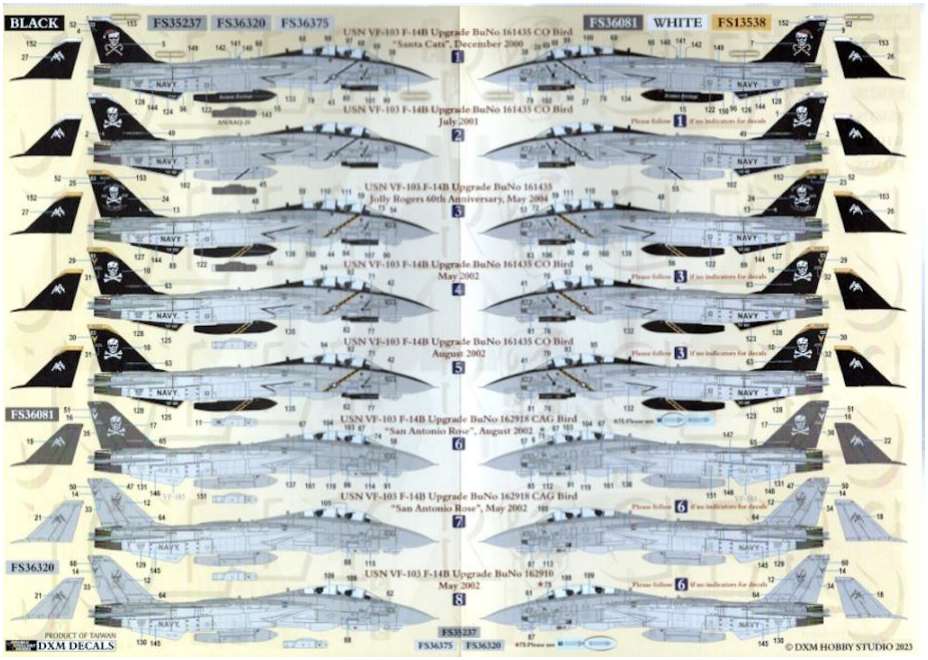
This 1/48 scale decal set is intended for use with the Hasegawa, Great Wall Hobby, or Hobby Boss F-14B kits.

A visit to the DXM Hobby Studio website reveals several items of interest. The company offers a large catalog of decal sheets in various scales, although navigating the website can be somewhat challenging. DXM, which stands for *Double Excellent Model*, describes itself as a Taiwan-based group of "model addiction guys." The website also features a nicely illustrated YouTube video demonstrating the company's recommended decal application techniques.

DXM provides the following basic instructions for successfully applying its decals:

1. **Prepare the surface.** After painting the model, apply a clear gloss coat to provide a smooth surface for decal adhesion.
2. **Soak the decals.** Cut the desired marking from the decal sheet and place it in clean water for 30 seconds to one minute.
3. **Check the decal.** Remove it from the water and gently test whether the decal can slide freely on its backing paper.
4. **Position the decal.** With the decal still on its backing paper, place it near the intended location on the model. Gently slide the decal off the backing paper and into position using your fingertip.
5. **Remove excess water and air bubbles.** Carefully press out any trapped water or air bubbles using a soft, clean cloth or cotton swab.
6. **Apply the final finish.** Allow the decals to dry for at least 24 hours before applying a final gloss, semi-gloss, or matte clear coat.

Initial Impressions of the DXM Hobby Studio Decals



As a longtime fan of the "Jolly Rogers," going back to their earlier days as VF-84, I was immediately interested in this decal set. Based on DXM's artwork and the excellent printing by Cartograf of Italy, my initial impressions were very favorable. The package includes two sheets of beautifully printed decals.

Fit & Finish

The decals fit the model perfectly. I have included five scanned images to illustrate the colorful aircraft represented in this set.

The package provides markings for four F-14B Tomcats assigned to Carrier Air Wing 17, operating from either the USS *John F. Kennedy* or USS *George Washington*. For my application test, I selected several markings from the VF-103 F-14B CAG aircraft, BuNo 162918. Although I only used a few of the decals for this test, I will probably end up finishing my model in the markings of the famous "Bombcat."



I began my decal test by preparing the model surface with Mr. Surfacer 1200 (#B-515), followed by two light coats of Alclad II Lacquers Aqua Gloss Clear (#ALC 600). The decals performed beautifully, settling into place without any problems. Following DXM's recommendations, I allowed them to dry for 24 hours before applying a final coat of Testors Dullcote Lacquer (#1160).

I encountered no issues during application, and the decals added a welcome splash of color to the Great Wall Hobby F-14B kit I am currently working on. Interestingly, the Great Wall kit also includes VF-103 markings, although these represent a high-visibility scheme.

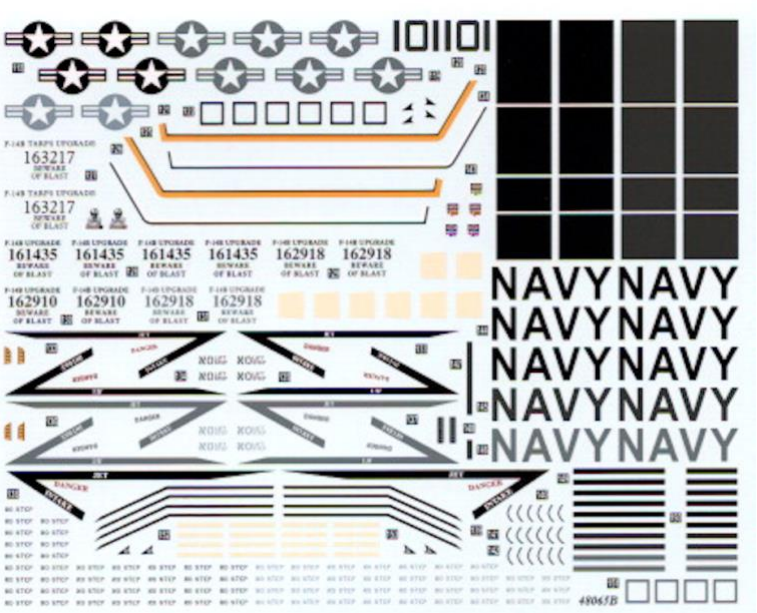
As previously mentioned, these decals are designed for the Hasegawa, Great Wall Hobby, and Hobby Boss F-14B kits. All the markings I tested fit their intended locations perfectly, and I would expect equally good results with the Hasegawa and Hobby Boss kits. If the price of the Great Wall kit is a little "above your pay grade," the other two kits may be more attractive alternatives.

Recommendation

As you can probably tell from my comments, I was very impressed with these decals. They are easy to use, accurately sized and shaped, beautifully printed, and offer some wonderfully colorful markings. They were a pleasure to work with, and I believe anyone building an F-14B Tomcat would be equally impressed.

Highly recommended!

My thanks to DXM Hobby Studio for providing these decals for review.



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Lockheed F-19 Stealth Fighter (Revell, 1988)



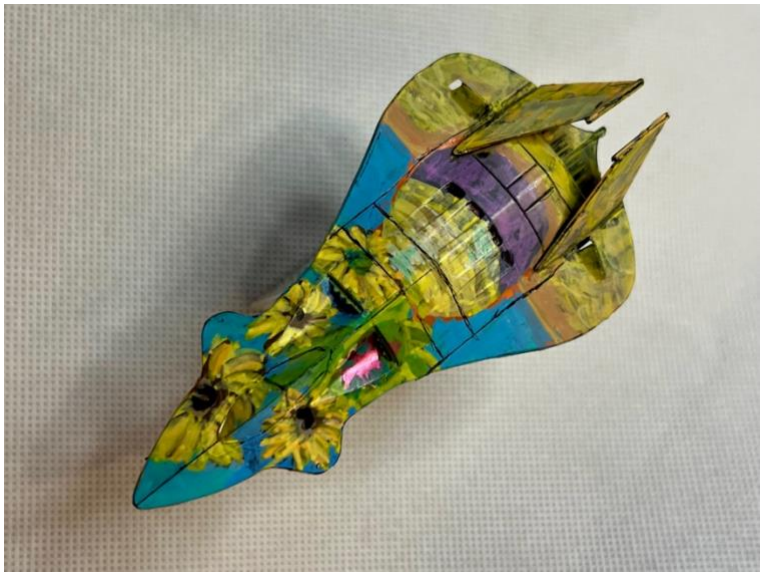
By Nausicaa Au



I have been saying that I wanted to paint Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers on a model kit since I was 10 but never did. (*Editor's Note: She is now 11.)* Thanks to a very nice club member I got this stealth fighter and the shape is perfect for Sunflowers.

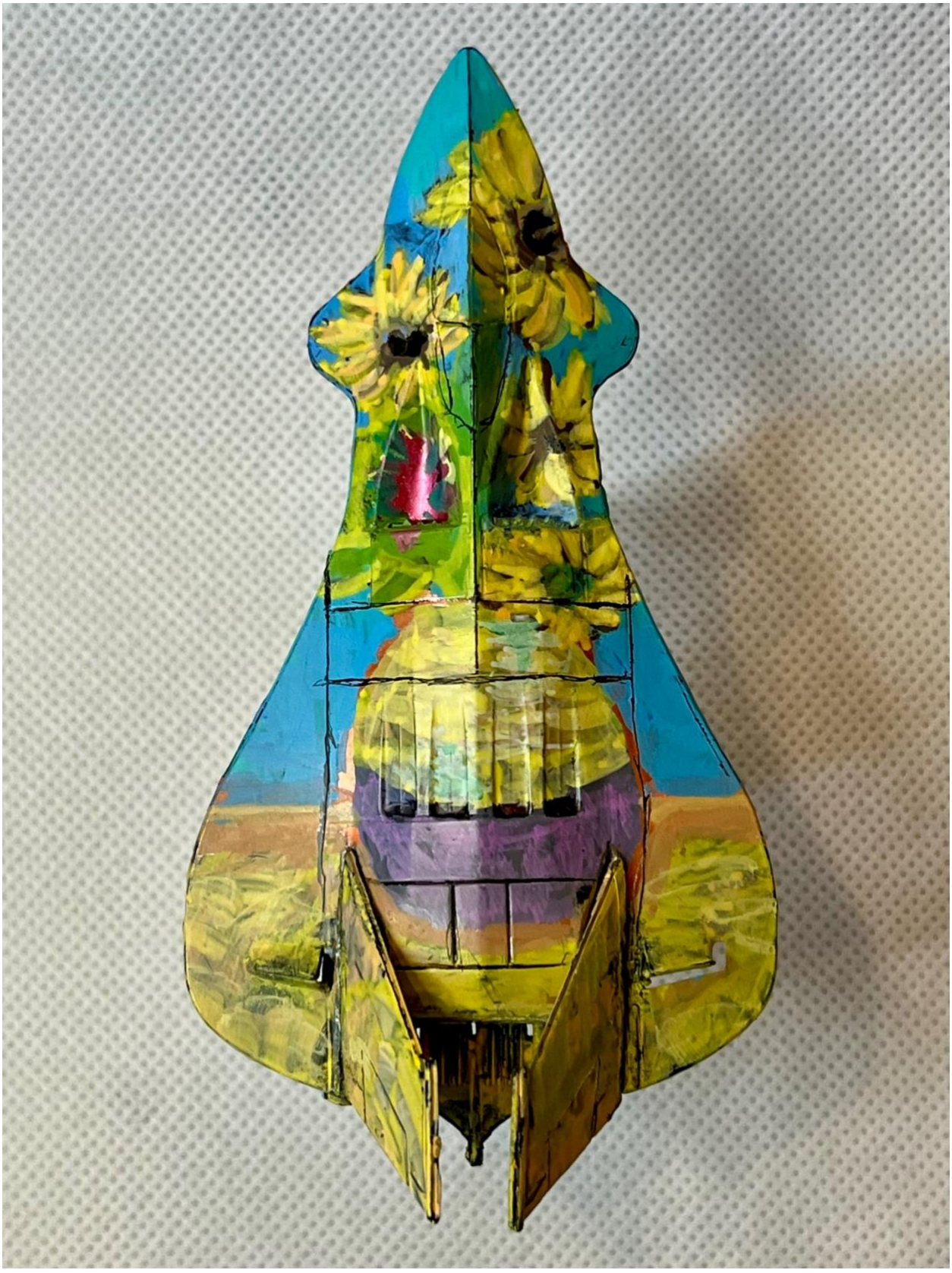
The build was very straightforward since there were about only 11 parts. All I used was Tamiya extra thin cement and it took me 2 days to get it ready to paint.

I used Dreamcosy acrylic markers in small strokes. They dry fast so I could make many layers very quickly. The original plastic color was black, so I used a scribing tool to make the panel lines after the paint dried.





I made the sunflowers on the top side with the flowers on the nose end and the pot on the tail end, but I wasn't able to fit too many sunflowers. On the bottom, I painted it the opposite way and was able to make more sunflowers. The tradeoff is that you don't see the table and the pot is small. Which side do you like better?



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Trumpeter's 1/350th Royal Oak Kit 05378



Tracy White

History

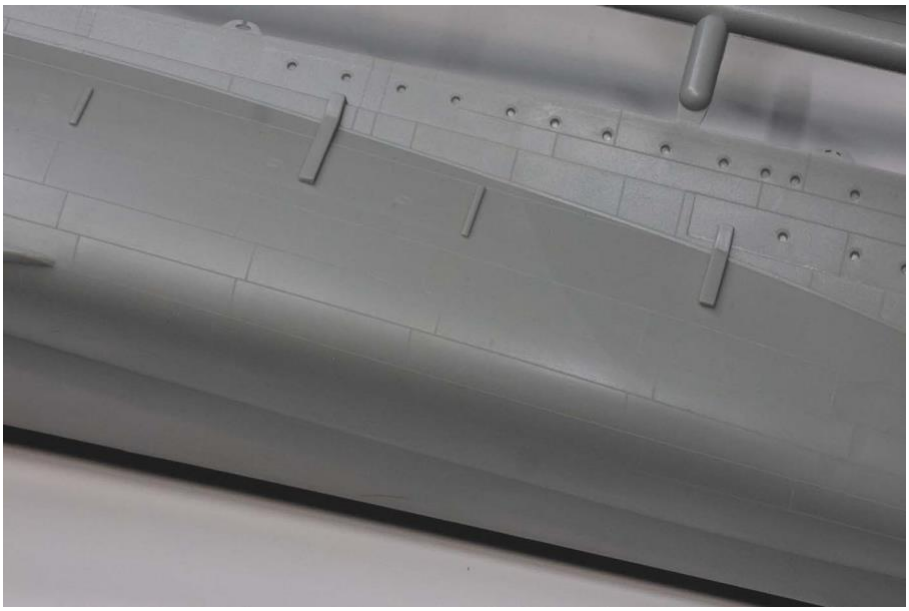
HMS Royal Oak was the third of five ships in the Revenge class of Royal Navy Battleships. The eighth warship to bear the name, Royal Oak was commissioned in 1916 and saw action at the Battle of Jutland where she scored hits on three of the German High Seas Fleet. Although modernized in the 1930's, by the start of the Second World War Royal Oak's age and slow speed had rendered her obsolescent and no longer a front-line ship. Battered by North Atlantic weather during the October search for German battleship Gneisenau, Royal Oak was at anchor at Scapa flow on the night of October 13th, 1939 to bolster the anchorage's meager air defense when the German U-boat U-47 managed to pass through defensive nets and obstacles.



U-47's commander Günther Prien fired two volleys of three torpedoes — of the first only one struck, but all three of the second group found their mark in quick succession and opened up the starboard side of the battleship and put her on the bottom in only thirteen minutes. Of the 1,259 sailors aboard only 424 survived. 134 of the lost were Boy Seamen, under 18 and training for duty in the Royal Navy. Royal Oak was the first Royal Navy capital ship lost in the Second World War and the first of five battleships lost during the war. The scope of death barely a month and a half into the war was a huge blow to English morale that caused much strife and recriminations in the Royal Navy.

Trumpeter's 1/350th Royal Oak Kit 05378

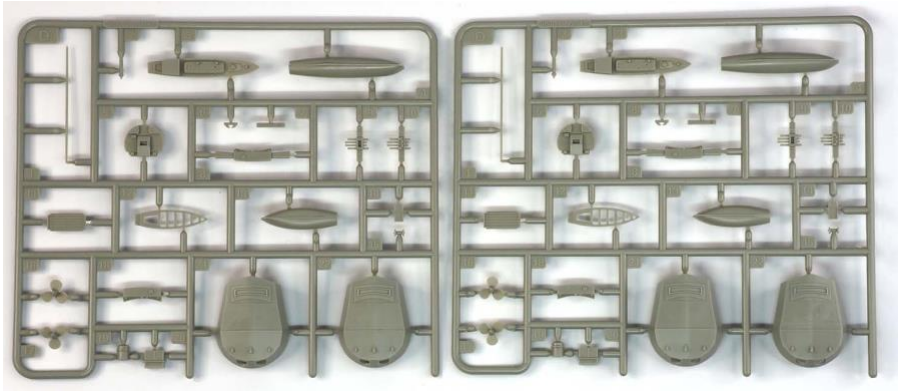
The Trumpeter 1/350 HMS Royal Oak comes in the typical Trumpeter cardboard box with the usual painting of the ship on the top. There are over 500 parts on nineteen sprues (thirteen unique sprues), three photo-etch frets, a separate black base, a booklet of instructions and a separate painting guide, a small decal sheet, and a small length of copper chain.



The kit represents Royal Oak at the time of WWII's start and her sinking. This was early in the notion of defense from aerial attacks and this build should be more enjoyable for people who dislike building many anti-aircraft guns (there are a total of four, plus four 3-Pdr Hotchkiss guns). The photo-etch pieces are both a compliment (railings) and integral without plastic alternatives (crane, platform supports, and pieces of the Octuple Pom-Poms), so those without the desire or dexterity to handle photo-etch should take note.

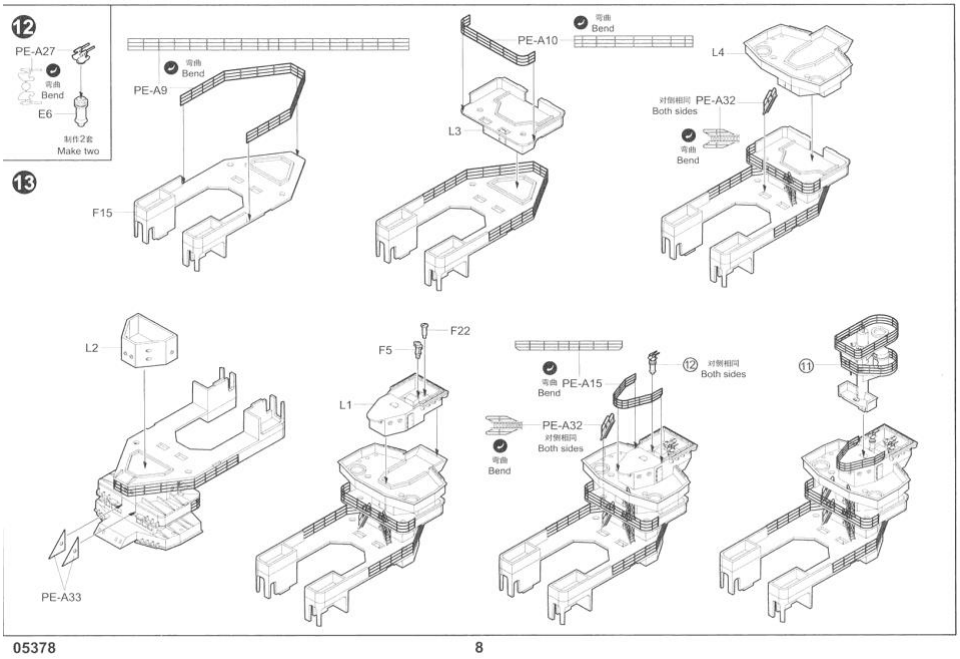
Two pieces (port and starboard) are provided to make a full-hull rendition of the ship. There are no interior guides molded in to aid in cutting away the portion below the boot topping to create a waterline option. There is raised hull plating detail molded on the hull; however, it is rendered in fairly fine raised lines and not actual raised plates that would be a serious amount of work to remove for those who are so inclined.

There is a lot of detail provided in the kit, both molded in and as separate pieces (14 4" ammunition lockers and 20 deck equipment lockers, for example) providing detail and yet parts of the superstructure are provided in single, slide molded pieces for ease of construction. There are certainly enough parts to provide some enjoyable work without having the repetition of multi-piece individual track links.

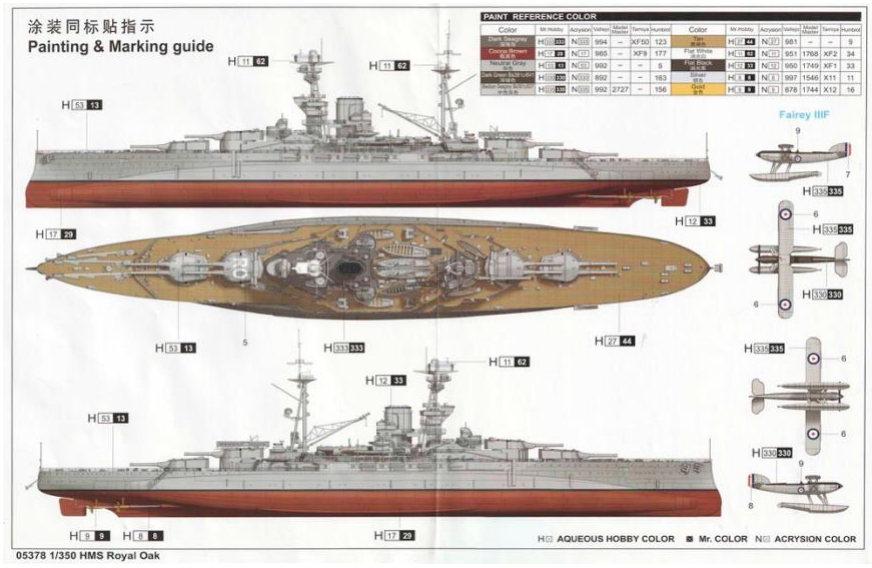


The kit is not without its flaws. Royal Oak had nine different types of boats for a total of 13. There are two instances of stacked boats where the top boat is missing and not provided. In both cases the missing boat is a 27' whaler, which are available from 3D

printing companies Black Cat and Micromaster, so this is far from an insurmountable problem. The deck that the majority of these boats were carried on was known as the shelter deck in Royal Navy parlance and this was a metal deck that Trumpeter rendered with wood planking. As the boat cradles and other details were molded integrally, this would be a lot of work to fill and sand and many just may wish to paint it and move on or render it as wood.

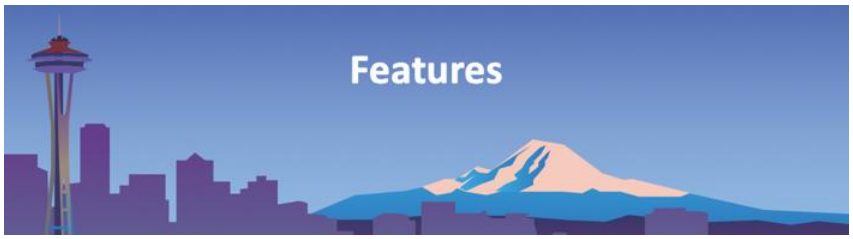


The instructions break assembly down into 40 steps, largely OK in terms of build order (i.e. very little of the "put this incredibly fragile part on first and then do the rest of the heavy construction, sanding, and filling around it!" methodology that some companies delight in). I would hold off on installing the rudder, propellers, shafts, struts until later in the build, but not by more than four or five steps.



The color guide is rubbish. The only color that is accurate is the tan for the wood deck (and keep in mind that metal deck is rendered and shown planked). Color call outs for matching paints from a variety of modern manufacturers, including Mr. Hobby, Vallejo, Tamiya and Humbrol are provided, but no data for actual Royal Navy paint is present. Paint at the time of loss was APC507B above the waterline with metal decks either covered in corticine or APC507A (and wood, of course). Royal Oak's anti-fouling was a slate Gray as per somewhat recent research and not the "cocoa brown" called out for by the color sheet. Royal Navy paints can be somewhat problematic to match in the US - Hataka, LifeColor, and Colourcoats offer matched paint, but otherwise I would consult your favorite color-match site based on the above designations

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Allyn Douglas Navy Skyrocket & Skystreak 1/48 scale 1953 release

By J. Bankston

Allyn was best known for its desktop aircraft models and electrically powered scale outboard motors for model boats. The company marketed its desktop aircraft models in kit form, including two famous Navy experimental aircraft: the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket and D-558-1 Skystreak. These kits were injection-molded in high-quality styrene plastic, rather than the acetate plastic still used by some manufacturers at the time.



Allyn kits featured considerably fewer parts than those of competing manufacturers, as the wings and tail surfaces were molded integrally with the fuselage, eliminating much of the assembly work. For example, the Skystreak consisted of just four pieces: two fuselage halves, a nose air-intake splitter, and a clear plastic canopy. The moldings were exceptionally clean, with no flash to remove and an attractive high-gloss finish. The wings featured remarkably sharp leading and trailing edges, although these were susceptible to chipping if not adequately protected by packing paper. Allyn's aircraft models did not include landing gear; instead, each kit came with a substantial two-piece clear plastic display stand.

Since these kits were sold before tube-type model cement became widely available, the assembly instructions recommended using one of several liquid chemical solvents: perchloroethylene, refined ethylene dichloride, carbon tetrachloride, or toluene. All were effective at bonding plastic, although several are now recognized as serious health hazards.

Needless to say, you wanted to keep the windows wide open when assembling one of these kits!



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LTV A-7 Corsair II Profiles Part 2



Norm Filer

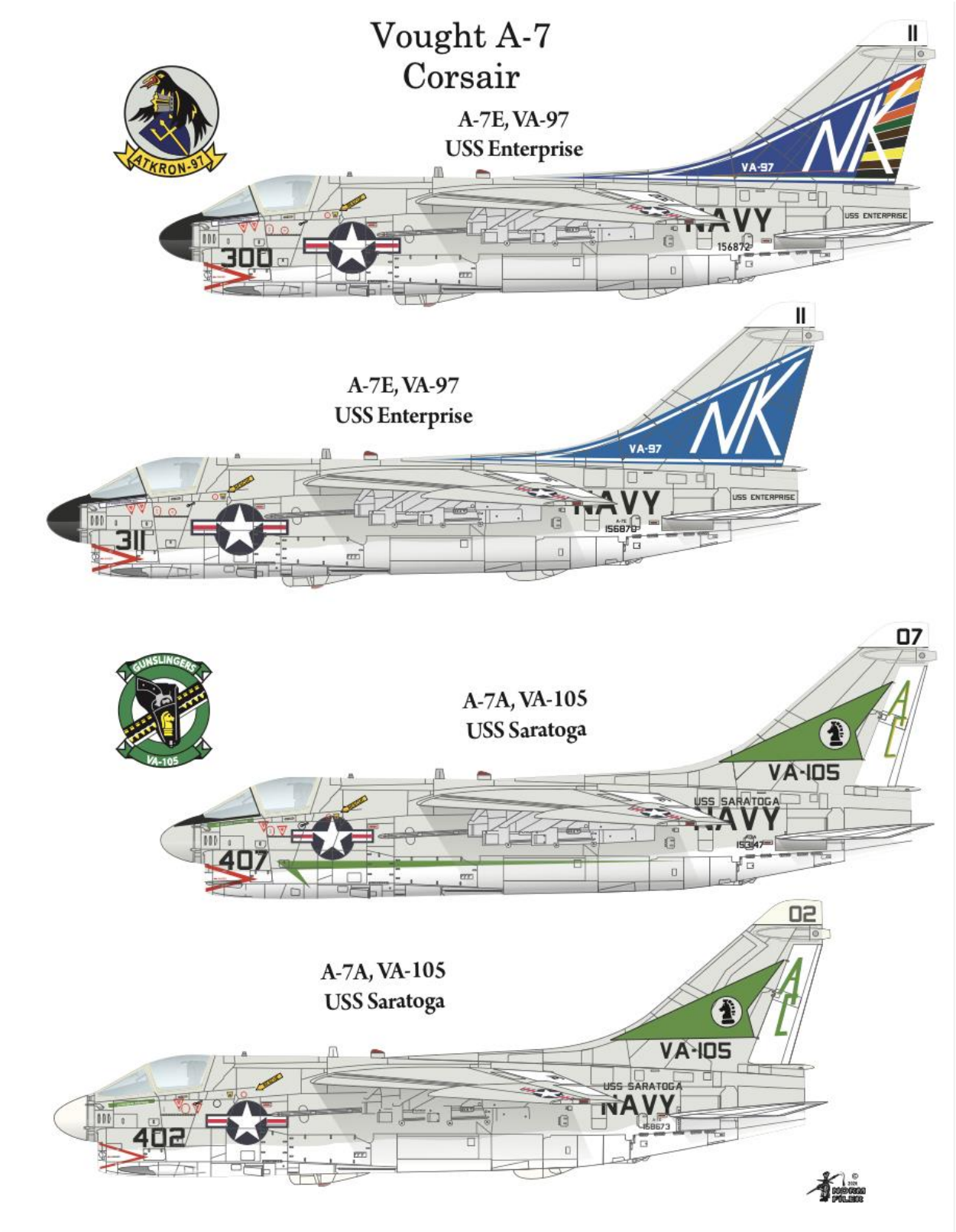
The **LTV A-7 Corsair II** was developed in the early 1960s as a carrier-based light attack aircraft for the U.S. Navy. Derived from the successful F-8 Crusader, the A-7 was designed to provide greater range and weapons-carrying capability than the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk while remaining relatively economical to operate. First flown in 1965, the Corsair II entered Navy service in 1967 and quickly saw combat in Vietnam. Its sophisticated navigation and weapons-delivery systems gave it excellent accuracy in the ground-attack role, and later versions incorporated more powerful engines and improved avionics.

The A-7 was subsequently adopted by the U.S. Air Force as the **A-7D**, while the Navy's definitive version became the **A-7E**. Corsair IIs served extensively during the Vietnam War and later participated in operations in Grenada, Lebanon, Libya, Panama, and the 1991 Gulf War. The Navy retired its last A-7s in 1991, while Air National Guard units continued flying the type until 1993. More than 1,500 Corsair IIs were built, and the aircraft also served with Greece, Portugal, and Thailand, giving the rugged attack aircraft a career spanning more than four decades.

Vought A-7 Corsair




Vought A-7
Corsair
A-7E, VA-87
USS America
A-7A, VA-93
USS Midway
A-7A, VA-93
USS Midway
A-7E, VA-94
USS Coral Sea


Vought A-7
Corsair
A-7E, VA-97
USS Enterprise
ATKRON-97
VA-97
NK
NAVY
USS ENTERPRISE
156872
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USS Enterprise
VA-97
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USS Saratoga
GUNSLINGERS
VA-105
VA-105
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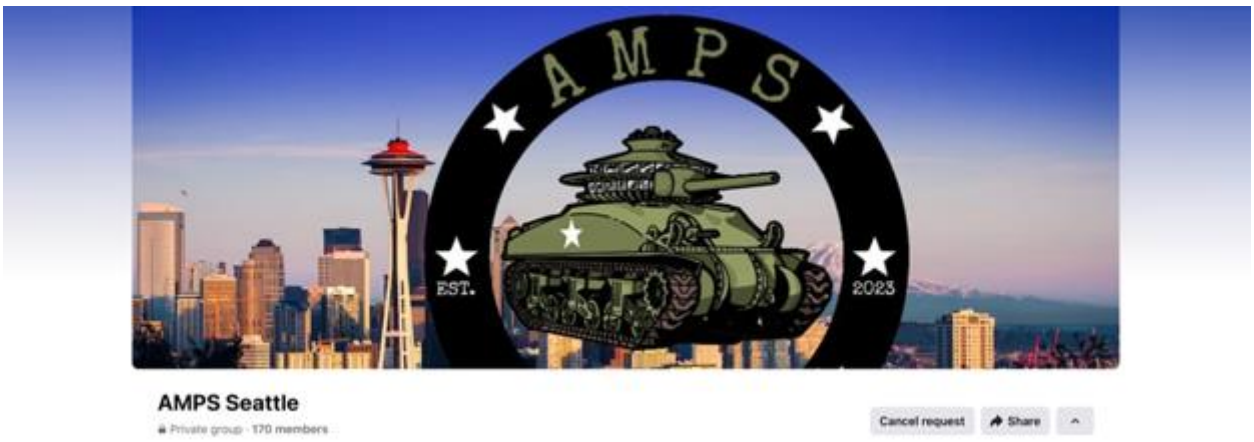
To Be Continued……. *Back to Top*



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)]



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.



Performance Model Club
The Performance Model Club meets every third-Saturday of the month at the Mt Vernon Roundtable Pizza from Noon to 2:00pm. All modelers are welcome to bring their recently completed models (or ones in work) to 'show and tell.' We have several that drive all the way from West Seattle and Renton as well as from Bellingham. We purely talk models, techniques, etc. With an average attendance of 6-10 at each meeting, we are not prepared to sponsor another PMC Model Show yet, but who knows what might be possible if this club grows!
Questions? Feel free to contact David Kaneshiro – kaneshiro.david@gmail.com or call/text 206-601-1351.

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During (and since) the Pandemic, modelers from all over have been meeting online via Zoom sessions. Between our two local clubs, (IPMS and NWSM), the TNI group, the Galaxy Exiles, plus IPMS clubs in Oregon, there are Zoom meetings just about every night. These sessions are joined by other modelers from across the country, as well as overseas – I think St. Petersburg is the farthest away? These are less meetings than simply build sessions where we share ideas, techniques, etc. – like a bunch of little old modeling ladies. We discuss our current projects, how to solve modeling problems, new techniques, tools, paints, and kits. We try to keep politics and religion out of the conversations, and that really makes the sessions fun and relaxing. These Zoom sessions are open to everyone. The Monday/Wednesday/Thursday sessions normally have between 8 and 15 attendees at any given time, and the big (Thursday) build sessions last 7 hours (2pm through 9:00pm). Modelers come and go, break for dinner, or to walk the dog, etc. The build sessions continue in the background, allowing modelers to join at their convenience.

A lot of modelers with a wealth of experience who can help solve just about any model-related issue. And a great group of people!

Joining a Zoom session takes a single click of a mouse, once you are all set up. First, it is recommended that you download a free copy of Zoom and install it on your device first. Having a local copy is not required but makes everything a little easier to use. Once that is done, all you need is a very basic setup that includes camera, microphone, and speakers (normally all built-in, especially with newer devices). Then just click on one of the links below!

Mondays: Seattle. WA IPMS 2pm – 5pm LINK
Tuesdays: Salem, OR IPMS 6pm – 10pm LINK
Wednesdays: Seattle. WA IPMS 2pm – 5pm LINK
Thursdays: Seattle. WA IPMS 2pm – 9pm LINK
Albany, OR IPMS: Odd-numbered Thursdays (i.e., 1st, 3rd, and 5th) from 6pm - 10pm. LINK
Saturdays: Salem, OR IPMS 6pm – 10pm. LINK
Sundays: 4:00pm CDT-5:00pm CDT. LINK

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The IPMS Seattle 2026/2027 meeting schedule is as follows. 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.

November 8, 2026* **December 13, 2026** **January 10, 2026** **February 14, 2027**

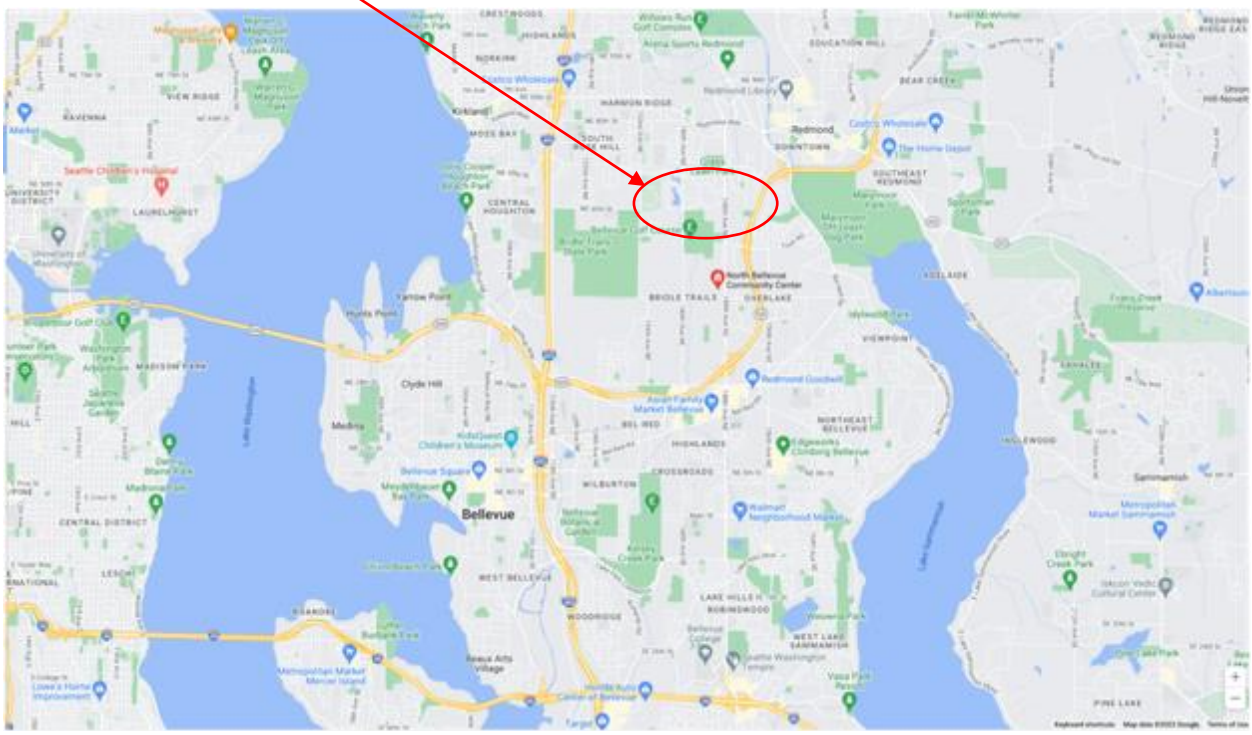
Next Meeting: October 11, 2026– 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

***Note: The November meeting is on the 2nd Sunday the 8th at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Same location as below. 2nd Sunday of the month, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, November 8h.**

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

Map Link Site Link

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.

Join IPMS/USA

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/)

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