

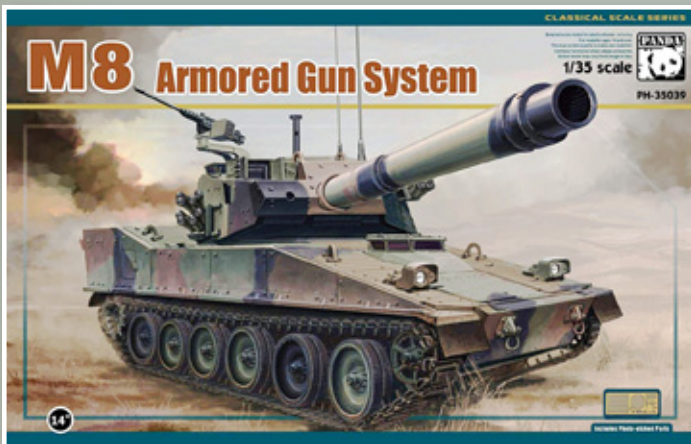
SPRUE EXAMINER

'TANKS A LOT!'



Tamiya's 1/35th M551 Sheridan

by Dave Edgerly



*Michael Lamm Reviews
Panda's 1/35th
M8 Armored Gun System*

Goodbye Golzar?

austinsms.com



February 2019

The Cotton Report • On The Table • Old Rumors & New Kits

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. It is intended for educational purposes only.

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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities. The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country. The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery. Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

www.models4troops@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Welcome members to the February edition of the ASMS Sprue Examiner. Hello, I'm Ian Latham and as newly elected President of this fine chapter I'd like to thank all those who have come before me, or as I like to think of them, the opening acts. Truly this club would not have become what it is without these 'Shoulders of Giants' for us to stand on and wave the sprue rods.

I'd also like to acknowledge the newly elected officers including the Vice President, Aaron Smischney, our new Treasurer Mike Lamm, and finally, in the Secretary spot, we have our very own Rick Herrington. I'm looking forward to leading this merry crew for the next couple of years, perhaps not unlike Brave Sir Robin and his Minstrels.

We'll be heading into the year with the usual scatter of club shows throughout Texas as well as our monthly contests, some with prize awards and some with just a clap or two.

I'd like to see if we can get a Field Trip together sometime in early summer to one of the wonderful hot spots that Texas is known for. I'll be taking suggestions at the next meeting so now's the time to chirp up.

There will also be the ASMS Bar-B-Que mid-summer, so save your nickels and dimes, remember, 'It's for the Children'.

Later in the year we will be sponsoring our own extravaganza, The Capitol Classic, and flyers will be out at the Alamo Squadron's Model Fiesta in mid-February. I'm still looking for a volunteer to take the reins for the show, but if there are no takers I will be assigning the position to one of our lucky members.

I would like to thank Dave Edgerly and Chris Chany for stepping in as Vendor Coordinators, and also Eric Choy for his work with the awards. All of this will be excellent training for the 'Nats' in 2020 hosted by our friends in San Antonio, so now is an excellent time to jump into the soup. Don't miss out on the fun to be had.

I do have a list of stuff to cover at our next meeting so be sure you're there for the hot time. Remember, 'Same Bat channel...', see you then.

'Til next time,

Ian

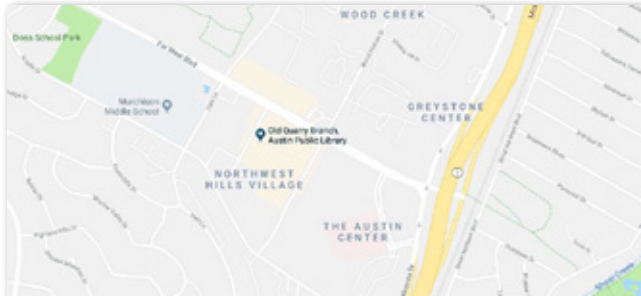




HOUSE CLEANING



ASMS MEETING



**Third Thursday each month
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm
at the
Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Dr.**

Next meeting February 21st, 2019

No Reservations Neccessary!



***Don't be 'That Guy'!
Get into the swing of things
and join today!***

ASMS Club Dues Are Due!

Annual ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual
or \$30.00/family.

You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same
to Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, TX., 78729.



Events

- 2/16/2019 **Alamo Squadron's 'ModelFiesta 38'**
San Antonio Event Center
8111 Meadow Leaf Drive, San Antonio, TX78227
Show Theme - 'Record Breakers!'
www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta
- 5/11/2019 **Bob Bethea's next Paint Day**

Club Quarterly Contests

- Febuary: Open
- March: Open Catagory (Awarded)
- April: Open
- May: Open
- June: Procrastinator Contest (Maybe)
- July: Open
- August: Open
- September: Bondo Contest
- October: Open
- November: Open
- December: White Elephant/Model of the Year

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

- Febuary: Randy Bumgardner
- March: ?
- April: ?
- May: ?
- June: ?
- July: ?
- August: ?
- September: ?
- October: ?
- November: ?
- December: ?



Tamiya's forthcoming M551 Sheridan in 1/35th Build Review

By Dave Edgerly

M551 SHERIDAN

U.S. AIRBORNE TANK
VIETNAM WAR

1/35 ミリタリーミニチュアシリーズNO.365
アメリカ空挺戦車 M551 シェリダン
(ベトナム戦争)

力強いスタイルをベトナム戦争時の姿で再現。
マーキングによって車体前面にワイヤーネットを装備した仕様と、
車長用大型ガンシールドを装着した仕様が選べます。
乗員の人形2体と半身像1体、デカール2種類付き。
接着剤・塗料別売
※このキットは試作品です。

《注意》プラスチックモデルの組み立てキットです。
組立説明書の注意を必ずお読みください。

1/35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.365 *READY TO ASSEMBLE PRECISION MODEL KIT *MODEL MAY VARY FROM IMAGE ON BOX *DETAILED SCALE MODEL FOR HOBBYISTS AGE 14 AND ABOVE. THIS IS NOT A TOY *PAINT AND CEMENT NOT INCLUDED *THIS IS A PRE-PRODUCTION EXAMPLE *NOT FOR RESALE *COMMANDER & LOADER FIGURES PLUS TORSO DRIVER FIGURE & 2 VIETNAM WAR MARKING OPTIONS

株式会社タミヤ 〒422-8610 静岡県駿河区恵田原3-7
TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN www.tamiya.com

ITEM25185・3700
©2018 TAMIYA MADE IN PHILIPPINES
紙 下箱 保護シート
4 950344 251858

The M551 Sheridan was an Air Droppable Recon fully tracked vehicle with a crew of four; Commander, Gunner, Loader and Driver. It employed a 152mm Gun that fired either a Shillelagh Missile or an HE shell. Also, a .50 cal. Gun in a flexible mount for the commander and a co-axial 7.62mm with the main gun-launcher. It was deployed to Vietnam for use as armored recon by Cavalry Squadrons.

The Sheridan was very lightly armored and any round larger than .50 cal. could easily penetrate any part of the vehicle.

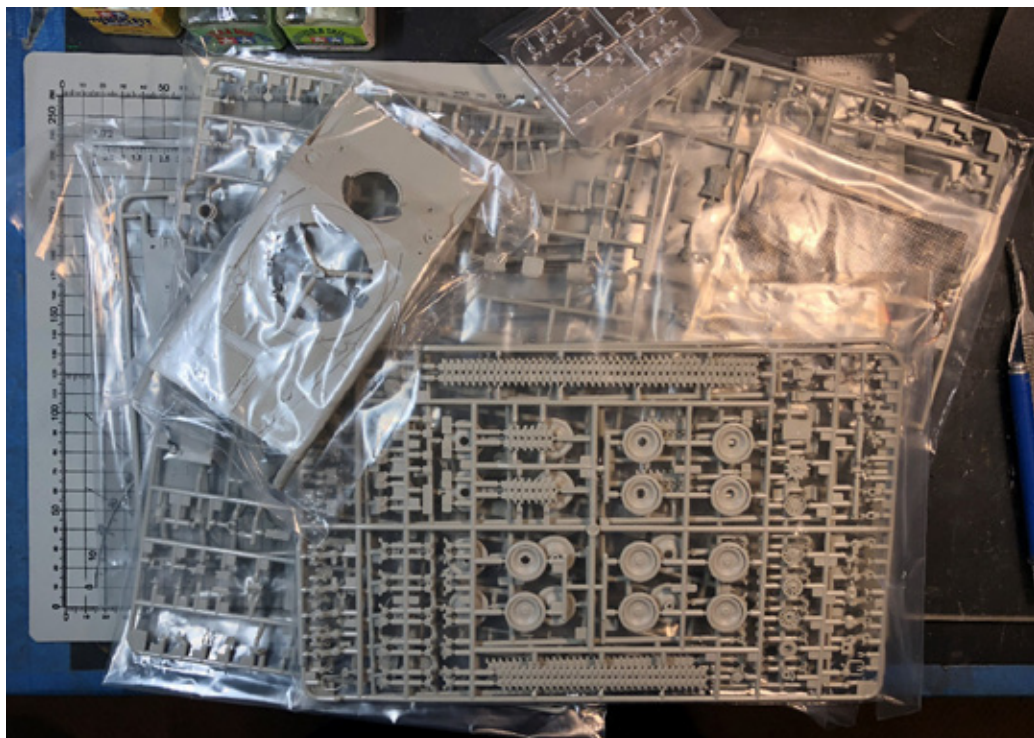
I have seen them in use and saw a LAPES (Low-Altitude Parachute-Extraction System) event at the Hohenfels Training Area in Germany using an 11th Cav vehicle. Quite exciting all in all. Extraction was from a C-130.

The Kit

The kit I built was a pre-production one kindly provided by King's and Mr. Tamiya and consists of the following.



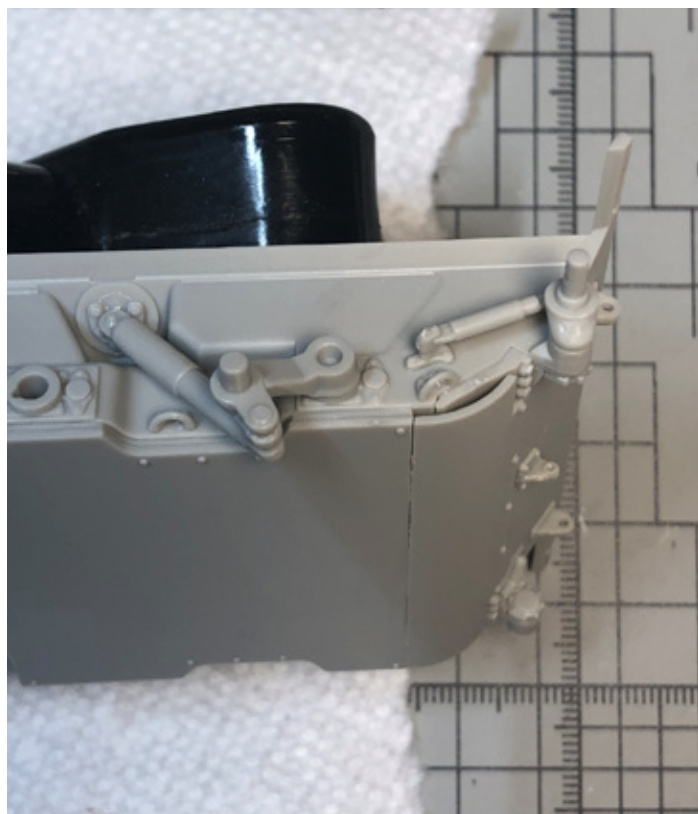
- 5 Sprues Beige Plastic (probably green for production kit)
- 1 clear Sprue
- Plastic Screen Material (a PE and metal barrel Detail Up set will be available)
- Poly Caps, Tubing, Copper Wire and a steel pin.
- 2 Vietnam Marking options: 3rd Sqd, 4th Cav Rgmt, 25th Inf Div. 1st Sqd, 11th ACR.

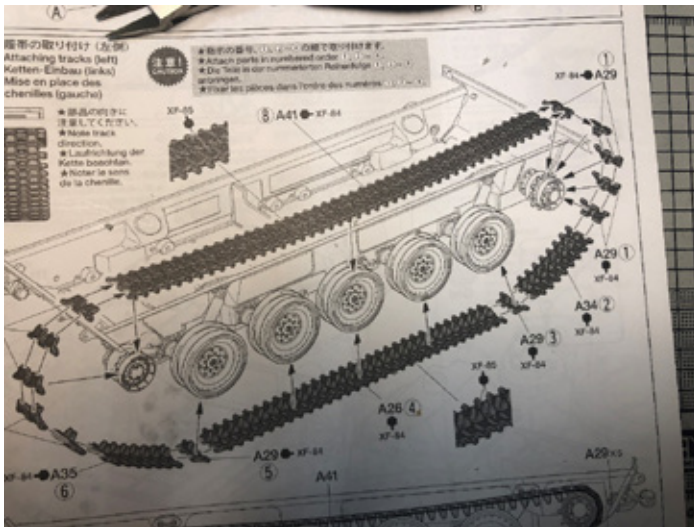


The build is straightforward and starts with the multi piece hull. Let's just say that it fits perfectly together with no issue at all.



The suspension parts, towing points and "airborne" tie down hooks are all separate parts and all location are positive. No guessing here! Here you can see the front suspension assembly and the track tension adjustment components and the added belly armor. (Not that it really helped)





The tracks are Length and Link and fit perfectly. Just need some prior, planning for painting purposes. I assembled the drive, idler and road wheels placed them on the vehicle and assembled the tracks around them being careful with the glue. Everything worked out well and I removed them for future painting.

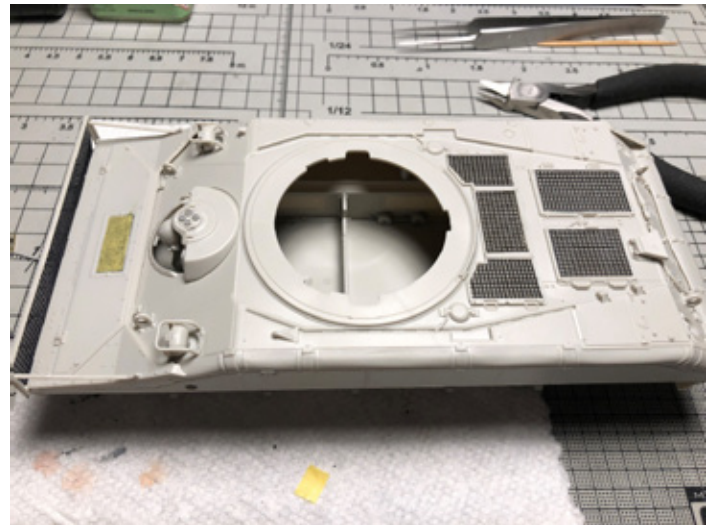


Ejector pins are slight and easily cleaned up. I purchased the Tamiya Cutters and found that the bit left behind after removing from the sprue was virtually nonexistent. Hmmm, another plug for Tamiya I suppose.

We move on to the upper hull now. Here is where I had my one and only issue which is most likely me and not the kit.

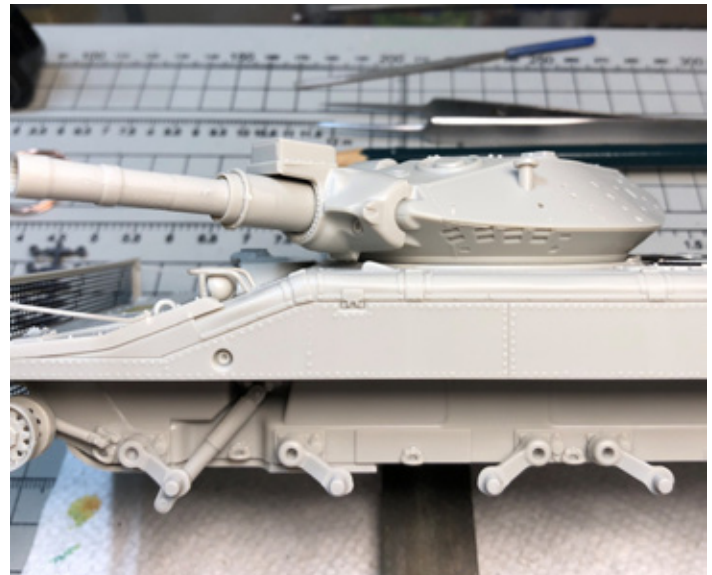
The Drivers hatch on the 551 rotates 180 degrees which allows the driver an unrestricted view.

Tamiya makes this a two-position poseable item. Swing it open and stick the driver figure in on a post or remove him and swing the hatch closed. The pivot point is very small and any excess glue messes it up terminally. This I did, of course. I wanted all the crew members visible so I glued everything together in the open position.



As you can see, all the screens and lights are in place now as well as the anti-RPG Screen in front of the driver.

On to the turret!



I apologize for the lack of construction photos of the turret. It just went together so quickly that I forgot to take any. I don't think one would really need the metal barrel as the slide molded plastic ones in the kit is pretty darn good.



There is a unique device at the back of the gun that employs a steel pin and a couple of poly caps that gives just enough tension that the barrel will stay at whatever elevation one chooses.

To populate the turret sides, one will construct about a million pieces for thousands of ammo cans. Seemed that way, at any rate.



This is just one ammo can. You have .50 cal, 7.62mm and 5.56mm cans to construct.

Eventually they were completed and placed on the turret and the painting could begin. A note on painting- Part of the upper hull is a wave deflector in front of the driver that is deployed for amphibious Operations (right!) that has a window. So, choose your color and paint the upper hull bow area before you attach part 14.

Tamiya does not warn you of this. Or you could just paint over it as some motor pool troops probably did do just that.



I finished the cupola area for the 4th Cav vehicle and assembled the figures, they are great!

The final part to add to the turret is the search light. You can have it I uncovered with the Xenon light exposed (it looks very nice) but I never saw one uncovered in action or on patrol.

On to paint.





I used AK Real colors for the vehicle and Vallejo for the tracks. On the figures, I used Andrea and Vallejo.

I chose the 4th Cav unit as my last 2 years in the Army I was attached to B Troop, 4th Cav on horse. I saw these little ARV's in country and on the East/West German border. Even saw one fire it's gun. The darned thing reared up on its last two road wheels. Now they are used as T72 stand-ins at Ft Irwin Combined Arms Training Center in California.



This is how the little Sheridan compares to the M1A2 SEP2 used by the 4th Cav today.

Dave



The Cotton Report:

A Big Fat Pickle

By Rick Cotton

The 2019 show season is upon us, and all is wonderful and right with the world! Or is it? My good friend Rick Herrington confirmed something for me the other day, which sent shock waves through my model show plans for the year: it seems that somehow, the Austin AMPS bi-annual armor show has been scheduled for September 14th... exactly the same day as Fort Worth's SuperCon.

Ooops.

Two great shows scheduled for the same day. Close enough to each other to drain contestants and visitors off in an alarmingly large percentage from each other's shows. As Vince Barrale says to me "it is definitely a pickle".

On the one hand, SuperCon is a fun show, with a very nice collection of vendors, in a pleasant venue, run by a bunch of very nice guys who have consistently put on a good event. I have been to many a SuperCon, and always enjoyed it tremendously. Brought home lots of bargains, and scored a trophy or two there myself. I like SuperCon... a lot.

On the other hand...

AMPS only happens every two years. It is the show for the serious tread head, and serious tread heads judges AND they give written critiques on the models they judge – an invaluable resource for the modeler serious about the improving of his craft. I have attended three, and had a great experience each time.

I'm neither twins nor clone, nor do I own a



time machine. So I have to pick one. Hmmm. A pickle, indeed.

I personally lean towards SuperCon, as I do more than armor, and would prefer a more well-rounded show given a choice of only two. SuperCon typically has more vendors as well, although AMPS has gotten a couple of bargains into my stash as well over the years.

The heavy-duty armor guys might think otherwise, as AMPS focuses purely on their beloved AFV's, halftracks and other assorted rolling goodies. I get it. If you don't give a flip about planes, cars, ships, and Star Wars, why bother with them? If the show is purely about what makes your heart all flutter, it is a no-brainer.

Travel distance is a wash for me – nearly the same time frame, although the SuperCon route takes me by the Czech Stop in West for kolaches. On the other hand, AMPS means running by Hruska's, also with delicious kolaches. Hmm.

I could “proxy” entry one of them, but, contrary to popular belief, even I am not that big of a “trophy wh*re”. Plus, I would feel nervous as a cat watching over someone else's builds in my possession, so I am not about to put someone else through that to satisfy my burning, all-consuming need for another trophy.

SuperCon has the Enormous Death by Chinese Food Buffet. AMPS is near a Salt Lick BBQ. (That sound is my stomach rumbling at the thought of both of them)

Now, I get that show organizers do the best they can. They have to deal with venues and venue management, not all of whom can be called “cooperative”, and a few who could be called “#@\$%^&\$”, and it's not always easy to get a date scheduled. This is unfortunate, and I wonder how it will play out for the shows. Hopefully, both will make money, thus ensuring that the

clubs have the capacity to run more shows in the future. THAT is the main thing, keep the shows and the hobby well and robust, with events and contests to keep up the energy and interest of builders and spectators alike.

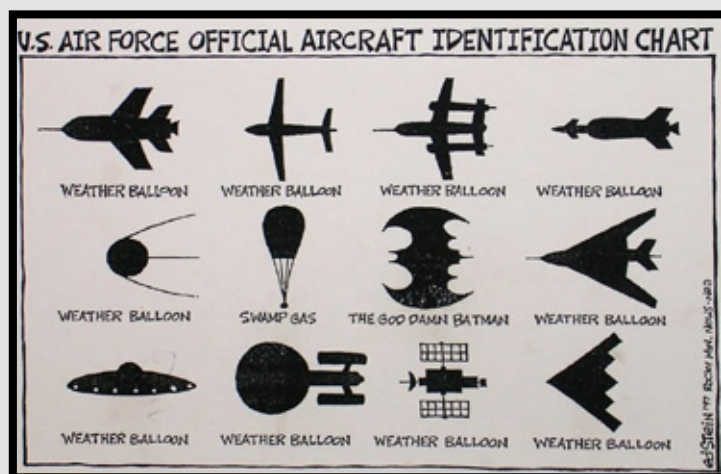
But, I do fear that it will weaken the armor categories at both shows – how much at a given show remains to be seen. I'll do SuperCon, and see if I cannot crank out an extra armor piece or two to fill in some of the gap I fear will exist. I'll do my part.

This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who normally do NOT do armor models to try one, specifically for this SuperCon show. I believe you might have a shot if the armor regulars all attack AMPS instead of SuperCon. Then again, if you do your first armor piece and go to AMPS with it, you will get a useful written critique from experienced armor judges at that show, which will be an invaluable help if you do any more armor in the future.

AMPS, or SuperCon, 2019?

Yes, Vince... it is a pickle!

Rick

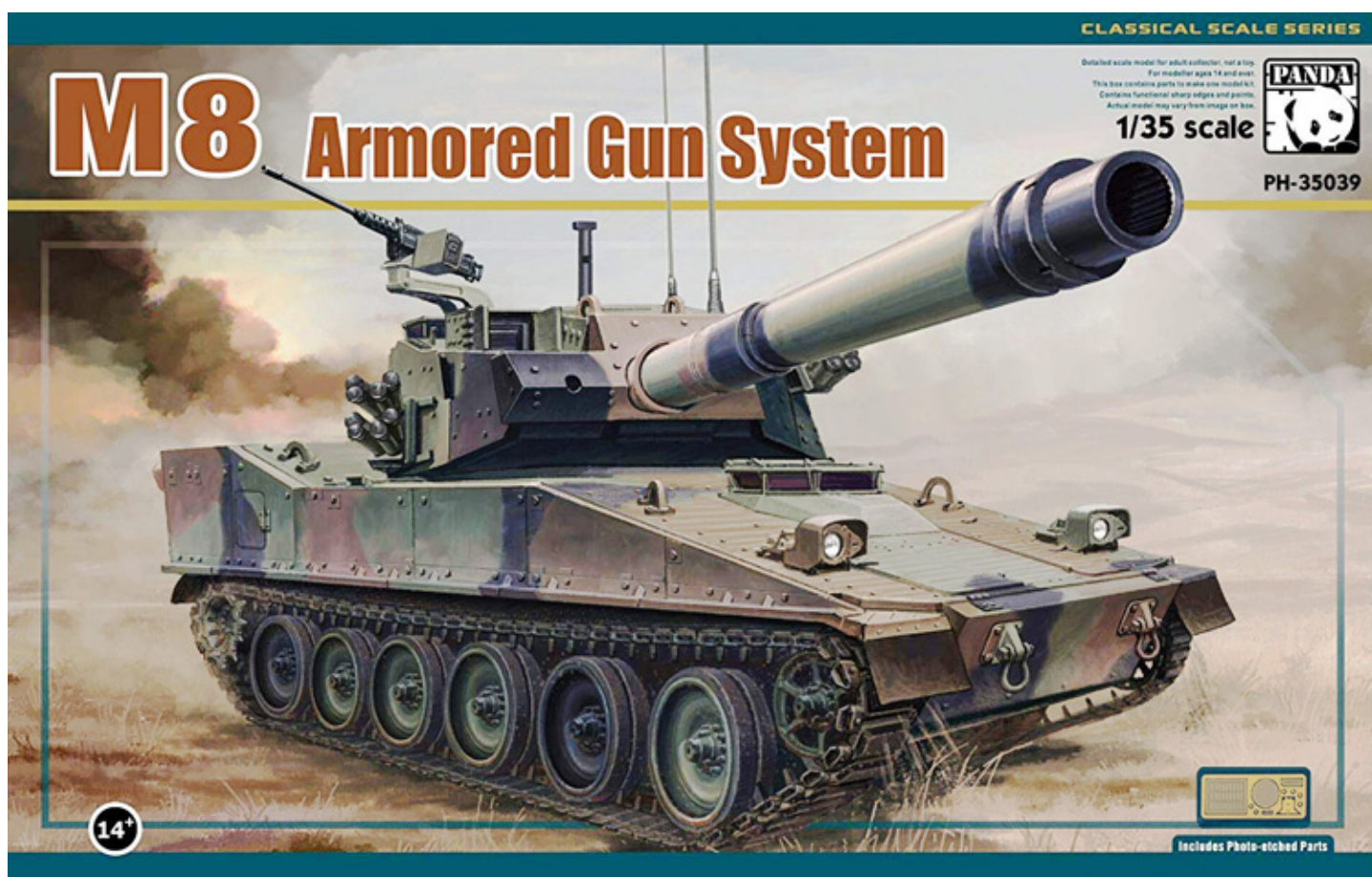




M-8 Armored Gun System

A 1/35th Panda kit review

By Michael Lamm



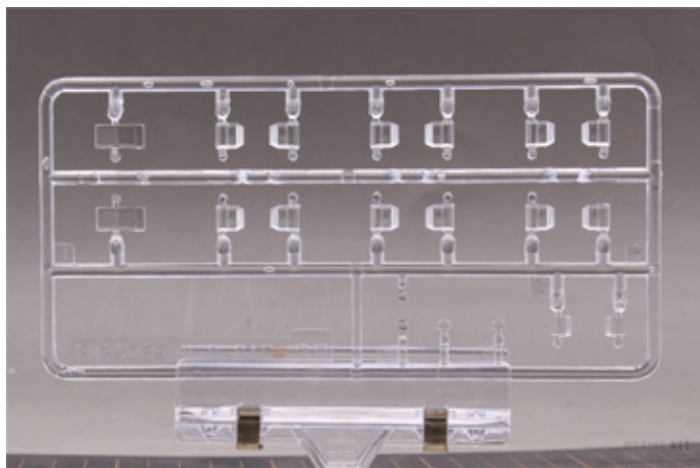
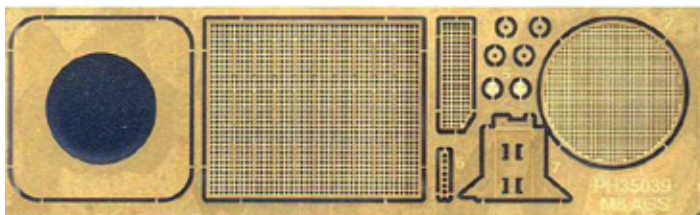
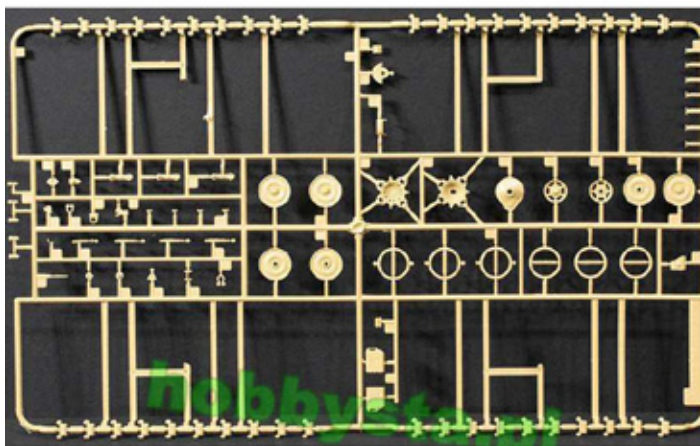
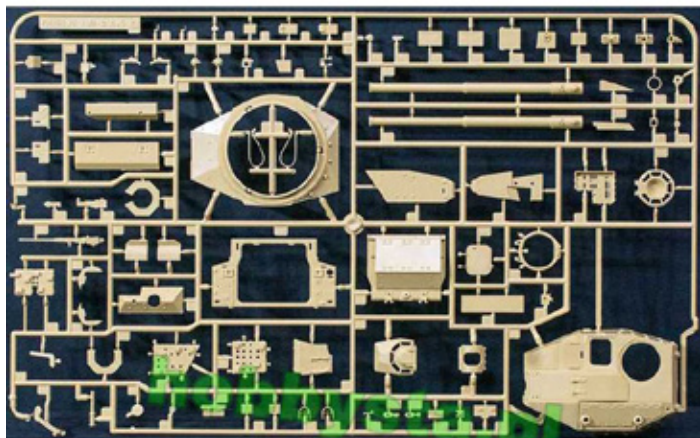
In the 80s, the U.S. Army began to look for a light tank to replace the M551 Sheridan. Specifically, the Army was looking for an air-deployable tank to support its airborne Divisions and to replace their TOW anti-tank HMMWVs. In 1992, the Army selected United Defense's vehicle designated XM8-AGS. Six prototypes were made and the M8 began trials. The basic armor package of the M8 is made of welded aluminum alloy, designed for rapid deployment and was capable of being airdropped from a C-130. There were 2 additional levels of modular armor planned for the vehicle depending on the threat level of the operating environment. Each additional level obviously increased the weight of the AFV, which decreased its "air mobility", but still kept it light enough that at its maximum armor protection, up to 5 could be delivered via air landing on a C-5 Galaxy.

Eventually, the M8 project was cancelled and the M551 Sheridan was retired without a replacement until the development of the M1128 Stryker. However, in December 2018, BAE, who purchased United Defense, was one of two companies awarded a contract to develop an air transportable light tank to assist infantry brigades in forced entry operations. The company submitted plans for an updated M8 with added capabilities and components. Testing of this new vehicle will begin sometime in 2020. Therefore, what may have looked like a kit of a "what could have been" vehicle, could be a model of what will become. It just depends on the timing.

So, what's in the kit? Anyone who has built a Panda Hobby kit in the past, may have the same concerns I had prior to opening the box. Some of the Panda Hobby kits I've built have featured



over-engineered parts where a piece that could be molded in one or two pieces, required me to use 6 or 7 pieces to build.



While I appreciated their attention to detail, much of that detail was completely hidden when the model was completed, and made some parts of the assembly much trickier, and in some cases less sturdy, than necessary. However, upon opening the box, I was presently surprised to see just 5 sprues of plastic with 4 sprues being just a repeat of one sprue used multiple times. Also, the deck of the hull included many molded on details that will take the place of adding some parts.



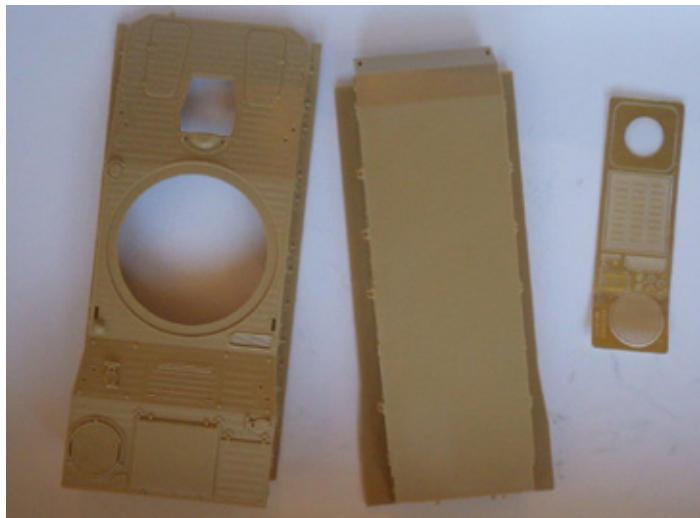
The sprues are clean and crisp, with some very faint flash around just a few parts. One interesting thing to note, is that the individual track links are molded into the outsides of the sprues, and not provided on a separate sprue. This is unusual, but really cuts down on the number of sprues in the box and is a clever space saving design.



Construction starts on the lower hull. The suspension is well detailed and goes together easily. The 12 road wheels consist of four parts each. As mentioned earlier, this is an example of the over-engineering common with Panda Hobby kits, but



the parts go together easy enough, and the front and backs of each wheel are very nicely detailed.



The individual track links have some nice details, and are designed to go together without glue. In practice, I needed some glue when it came to assembling the full run of tracks, and while the instructions don't tell you how many are needed per side, trust me, you're going to need every track link provided. This will be a little confusing later in the build, because you are supposed to have two extra track links attached to the side of the turret. I'll be the first to admit that I'm no expert when it comes to individual track links, but there really wasn't a lot of slack when I attached the tracks. In any case, no extras come with the kit, so make sure you don't lose any!



I've never been that competent with individual track links and these were no different. It took me quite a few minutes, tries, and curse words, but I eventually got the tracks onto the road wheels and

sprockets. I think they turned out pretty well and using all of the individual links provide just a little sag across the top run to make it look like a realistic weight.

My hopes of not over-engineering the build were slowly being dashed as the build went along. Good examples of this include both the driver's, and the commander's hatch. The driver's hatch includes 21 separate pieces, including the 5 clear parts making up the vision blocks. The commander's hatch has 31 pieces, including 6 clear parts and 2 photo-etch pieces. While I appreciate the attention to detail, the number of parts is really an overkill and makes building relatively small parts of the tank much more complicated than necessary. Neither of the hatches include any interior detail, so modeling them open really isn't an option.



A few small markings are provided on a simple decal sheet, and full color examples of 3 tanks are provided. One in desert tan, one in olive green, and another in a 3-color NATO camouflage pattern.

The most common photos you can find of this tank online show it in the green color, which is what I chose to go with.





While the kit can be a little trickier than it needs to be in a few places, and can be a fragile kit to work with during construction and painting, the end result is pretty impressive.

It's a unique looking tank, and an interesting subject matter.



The kit is well-detailed, with some delicate parts that need care during assembly, but the finished model is nice.



I'd recommend this to experienced modelers, with an interest in modern armor. My thanks to Panda Models and IPMS/USA for this review kit.

Mike





On The

TABLE

By **Flanged End Yoke**

January had lots of great models on the table.

Dave Edgerly has been busy. He brought in his completed test shot of Tamiya's M551. Yep, it's the same one that appears in the build issue of this month's newsletter.



Dave also brought in Tamiya's new 1/48th F-14A.



And to prove he's a man for all seasons Dave brought in a completed 1/24th scale Ford GT also by Tamiya.



Bob King brought in his P51-D-5 and a P-47M both in 1/48th scale.





Bob also brought in a 1/72nd Hasegawa F9F built by a friend Bill Kulpa. The model sported the Blue Angel colors from 1954 and was displayed with a dollar bill that had the signatures of two of the Blue Angel pilots Ed McKellar and Chuck Heitt. Bob obtained the signatures from the pilots in 1954. Mr. Kulpa's build was the Model of the Month winner.



Milton Bell brought in a Tamiya 1/48th Mig 15.



Mike Lamm brought in his Games Workshop 28mm Space Marine Bike...



and an Airfix 1/72nd Vampire.





Rick Herrington brought in his 1/72nd FW 190-A8 by Hasegawa...



and a Tamiya 1/35th Type 74 modern Japanese battle tank.



Eric Choy brought in a Japanese Type 95 Ha-Go by Finemolds. The kit was marked in 1947 Chinese (People's Liberation Army) markings.



Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner brought in three Bandai Gundams. The first was a 1/100th RX-93 V2.



The second was a 1/100th Astray Blue. Photos 16 and 17



The third was an MSN-04 Neo Zeon Sazabi in 1/100th scale. Photo 18

Thanks to all the members that shared their work.



Flanged



OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

Rick Herrington, Ron McCracken, Mike Lamm, Golzar Shahrzad

Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

A bit more to work with this month as compared to last month. Let's kick it off with 1/700th scale.

Pit Road has a number of new releases scheduled. First up is the battleship USS Colorado as she looked in 1945.



Next up is a People's Liberation Army/Navy (PLAN) Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) "ZUBR". Originally this was a Russian design adopted by the Chinese.



If you missed the Dragon Release the first time around Pit Road is now offering you Russophiles a second chance to build the Russian missile cruiser Kirov.



Trumpeter is releasing the USS Constellation CV-64 aircraft carrier. The Constellation after a distinguished career was retired and ended up in a scrap yard in Brownsville, TX.



Artist hobby is up next with a series of different oar powered ships. Their latest is a Roman Republic Quinquereme Galley. Artist Hobby makes update sets for WW2 ships also, mostly IJN and British vessels, which include brass barrels, photo etch and wooden decking.





Finally, the ultimate guide book for building your 1/700th scale Yamato/Musashi model has been released by Model Graphix. Model Graphix is a Japanese publication and they are known for their varied modelling subject publications.



1/350th scale is up next. All the releases this month are from our friends at Trumpeter.

First up is the British heavy cruiser HMS Cornwall. HMS Cornwall had the distinction of sinking the German Raider Pinguin. Pinguin was a sister ship of the raider Atlantis. Like HMS Exeter and HMS Dorsetshire HMS Cornwall was sunk by Japanese air power. HMS Cornwall was sunk with Dorsetshire in the Indian Ocean.



Next from Trumpeter is another British ship the battleship HMS Nelson.



Switching to the Axis side Trumpeter has two upcoming releases. The first is the Italian battleship RN Littorio. Littorio was damaged in the battle of Taranto where British Swordfish torpedo planes successfully attacked the Italian fleet.

When later Italy surrendered to the Allies Littorio was hit by a JU-88 launched Fritz-X radio guided bomb and severely damaged. Littorio ended up being transferred to the US as a war prize and was later scrapped.



Last from Trumpeter in 1/350th scale is the DKM Scharnhorst. Not sure what time period this model is going to depict. I guess we'll find out when the kit is released. Dare we might hope that Trumpeter will not skimp on the instructions like Dragon did with their release?



That's it for this month. Grab a kit out of your stash and build it!

Ricardo





New and In View Aircraft

By Ron McCracken

Just to be different, this month we'll discuss new kits in Manufacturer's order. That way you'll have to look at the whole article to make sure you see all the stuff in your favorite scale.)

Eduard Mirage IIIC Profipack, 1/48th scale kit 8103 - ProfiPACK edition kit of French supersonic fighter aircraft Mirage III C., (5 decal options, color photo-etch, and painting masks included).



Eduard Tempest Mk.V series 2 Profipack, 1/48th scale kit 82122 - ProfiPACK edition kit of British WWII fighter aircraft Tempest Mk.V., (6 decal options, Cartograf decals, color photo etch, and painting masks included).



Airfix Sea Vixen, 1/48th scale - The Sea Vixen was a British two-seat jet fighter of the Fleet Air Arm designed by de Havilland, later to become the Hawker Siddeley Sea Vixen.

Number of Parts 227

Dimensions (mm) L340 x W317

Decals for No. 899 Naval Air Squadron, HMS Eagle, 1975

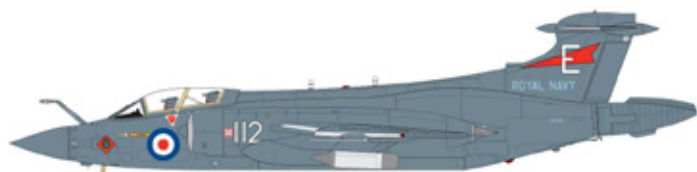


Airfix Blackburn Buccaneer S Mk.2 RN, 1/72nd scale - The Blackburn Buccaneer entered Royal Navy service in 1962 to counter the significant threat of a massive Soviet Naval expansion program. Addressing most of the issues which prevented the early aircraft from realizing their full potential, the Buccaneer S.2 was a much improved platform, boasting a modified wing, increased fuel capacity and a pair of powerful Rolls Royce Spey engines.

This new variant provided the Fleet Air Arm with a truly exceptional strike aircraft, which excelled in the low level environment in which it was tasked to operate. As the Royal Navy retired their larger carriers in 1978, their much loved Buccaneers were transferred to the care of the Royal Air Force.

Number of Parts 141

Dimensions (mm) L268 x W186



NOT FINAL PRODUCT ARTWORK. SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Airfix Hawker Siddeley Dominie T.1, 1/72nd

scale - Providing the RAF with a capable air engineer, navigation and weapons system operations trainer, the distinguished looking Hawker Siddeley Dominie T.1 started life as one of the world's first practical executive business jets, with its speed and cabin space making it an ideal candidate for military service. Used to train crews destined for Britain's V bomber force, or the maritime patrol Nimrod, the Dominie would prove to be one of the RAF's most useful aircraft types and was only withdrawn from service in January 2011.

Number of Parts 66

Dimensions (mm) L214 x W199



Airfix de Havilland D.H.82a Tiger Moth, 1/48th

scale - Coming from a successful line of biplane designs, the DH.82 Tiger Moth made its first flight in October 1931 and was the result of the Company's founder wanting to produce an aircraft superior to its predecessors, whilst possessing enough appeal to attract interest from several different aviation sectors.



From the perspective of the student pilot, the Tiger Moth was a relatively stable and forgiving aircraft to fly, with few handling vices and generally supportive of the odd silly mistake. It has been described as an 'easy aeroplane to fly but a difficult one to fly well', which seemed to have made this the ideal aircraft to serve as a primary/basic trainer for large numbers of future pilots destined for the war effort.

Number of Parts 91

Dimensions (mm) L152 x W184



RS Model E8N1 Type 95 Model 1, 1/72nd scale kit 92224 & RS Model E8N2 Type 95 Model 1, 1/72nd scale kit 92225 - The Nakajima E8N was a Japanese ship-borne, catapult-launched, reconnaissance seaplane of the Second Sino-Japanese War. It was a single-engine, two-seat biplane with a central main float and underwing outriggers. During the Pacific War, it was known to the Allies by the reporting name "Dave". A total of 755 E8Ns were built by Nakajima and Kawanishi, production continuing until 1940.





RS Model Do 17E, 1/72nd scale kit 92235 - The Dornier Do 17, sometimes referred to as the Flieger Bleistift ("flying pencil"), was a World War II German light bomber produced by Claudius Dornier's company, Dornier Flugzeugwerke. It was designed as a Schnellbomber ("fast bomber").



RS Model Yak-11 Moose, 1/72nd scale kit 92229 - The Yakovlev design bureau began work on an advanced trainer based on the successful Yak-3 fighter in mid-1944, although the trainer was of low priority owing to the ongoing Second World War. The first prototype of the new trainer, designated Yak-UTI or Yak-3UTI flew in late 1945. It was based on the radial-powered Yak-3U, but with the new Shvetsov ASh-21 seven-cylinder radial replacing the ASh-82 of the Yak-3U. Pilot and observer sat in tandem under a long canopy with separate sliding hoods. A single synchronised UBS 12.7 mm machine gun and wing racks for two 100 kg (220 lb) bombs comprised the aircraft's armament.



5 decal variants:

1. C-11, LSK/LV, DDR 1956
2. C-11, Display team "Major Seppel", air-parade Cottbus, DDR, 1957
3. C-11, JG7, Luftdienst, Drewitz, DDR 1955
4. C-11, No. 227, Langenleubarn/Tulln, Austria, 1955-65
5. C-11, Romania A.F., 1956

Dora Wings Savoia-Marchetti S.55 'Record Flights', 1/72nd scale kit 72015 - The Savoia-Marchetti S.55 was a double-hulled flying boat produced in Italy, beginning in 1924. Shortly after its introduction, it began setting records for speed, payload, altitude and range.



Editor's note: These are some extra goodies coming up on store shelves. I apologize for not being quite as thorough as Ron... please, bare with me.

For you Tomcat fans Hasegawa is releasing a 1-48th F-14B carrying the livery of VF 103.





Two new releases in 1/32nd scale. Zoukei-Mura is releasing the B-29 buster Kawasaki KI-45 Kai Tei Toryu (Nick).



A Super Hornet is next in 1/32nd. This one is from Revell.



Last up for you fans of large WW2 transport aircraft Great Wall is releasing a 1/144th scale Messerschmidt ME-323 Gigant.



Ron

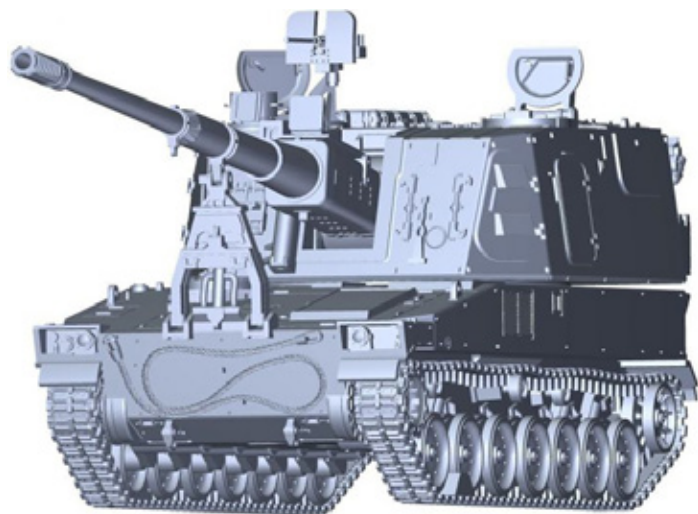


Tracked Topics

By Rick Herrington

Let's start off with braille scale (1/72nd) releases.

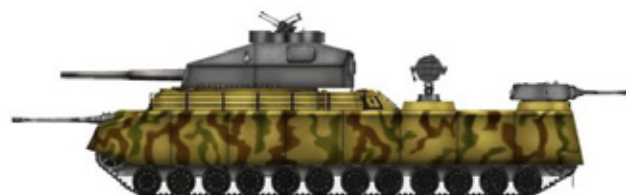
First up is Fujimi with a modern Japanese subject the JGSDF Type 99 155mm self-propelled gun.



ModelCollect is continuing with their series of "What If" German WW2 kits with the release of a German Landkreuzer P 1000 Ratte Scharnhorst 1945. This was the German 1000 ton tank with the main armament of 11 inch guns. Not to many bridges that could support a 1000 ton tank. Luckily Speer cancelled the development program.

modelcollect

UA72303



1/72 SCALE
GERMAN WWII P1000 RATTE
SCHARNHORST, 1945

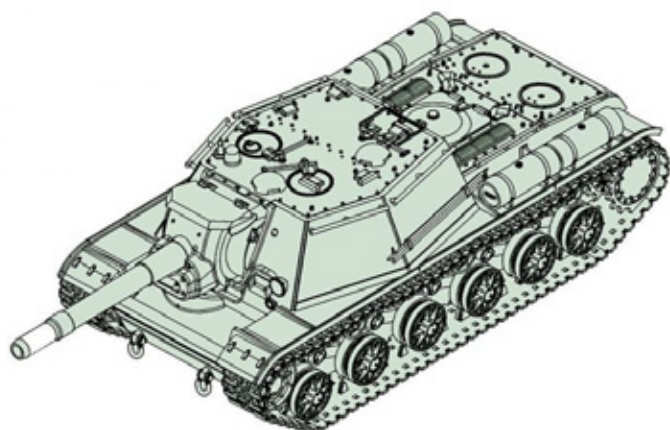
LIMITED
EDITION



Trumpeter is up next with 2 releases. The first is a World of Tanks themed German Jagdtiger armed with an 88mm gun.



Trumpeter is also releasing a Soviet SU-152 self-propelled howitzer.



Tamiya's M551 Sheridan is the subject of an article in this newsletter. This one however is going to take up a lot more room on your shelf as it is in 1/16th scale.



Moving on to 1/35th scale. Dragon has two releases upcoming. The first is a US M7 priest. The M7 was a self-propelled 105mm howitzer that saw service in WW2 and soldiered on into the Korean War.



Next from Dragon is one of their myriad of Pzkw 3 releases. This one comes with parts in the box to build either the E or the F version and probably a ton of left-over parts for your parts box.



If you're an armored car fan Arsenal is coming out with a German ADGZ wheeled armored car with a Soviet T-26 turret mounted on it. These were early war produced vehicles and the T-26 turret mounting was a field modification.



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- Plastic parts
- P/Etched parts
- Resin parts
- Decal sheet

1:35

HEAVY ARMORED CAR

ADGZ

with T-26 turret



Asuka, our Sherman friends are releasing an M4A3 late model. This one has the 75mm gun and is labelled "Cougar".



AFV is up next with a couple of Republic of China modern releases. The first is Taiwan Infantry Fighting Vehicle (TIFV) Clouded Leopard. Looks similar to a Bundeswehr Boxer.



Also from AFV is the Republic of China CM-11 MBT "Brave Tiger". This is an M48 upgraded with M60 features including a 105mm gun.



Meng has two upcoming releases. The first is a Russian T-72 B1.



The Merkava 4 is next up from Meng. This one is going to have the parts for the Trophy anti-tank missile defense system. This is a combat tested anti-missile system that the Israelis developed and is going to be deployed on US M1's as the US Army re-oriens toward capability to fight major land wars.



MiniArt is releasing a Soviet BM-8-24 rocket launcher mounted on a 1.5 Ton truck.



MiniArt also has a Romanian SPG the Tacam. This model depicts the late production vehicle with the solid road wheels. These were Romanian light tank chassis that had captured Russian 76mm anti-tank guns mounted on them.



Border models, is a new company on the block and has a PzKpw 4 Early or late model G for us. The kit appears to be a very complete one and includes photo etch, metal side skirts and smoke dischargers.



Here's a link to the description of the model.

www.how-amps.org/border-model-pzkwiv-ausfg-midlate/

Takom has a few upcoming releases. The first of these is going to be a series of Panther G machines. These will be both early and late war Panthers. One will have steel wheels. One will come with zimmerit and another with anti-air attack armor. Looks



like at least 6 months of modelling fun for you Panther fans.

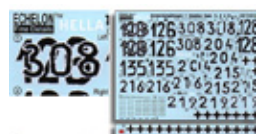
Takom is also releasing a Bundeswehr Bergepanzer 2.



Finally Takom has an M-46 Patton for us. A welcome addition or Korean War modelers.



I don't usually mention decal sets in my armor release column



but Echelon has two new sets of Normandy Panther decals coming out. These look pretty unusual and are based

on Panthers that took part in the battle for Normandy.



Whew! That's it for this month. Thanks for reading, and now, go build a model!

Rick





It Figures

By Michael Lamm

*H*appy Chinese New Year!!! This is the year of the Pig on the Chinese Lunar calendar. According to Chinese custom, pigs are considered very lucky creatures, they are always well fed and allowed to go their way. Children born under this sign are considered fortunate and are thought to always have someone taking care of them. The pig is also considered to be very virile, due to the large litters they have. Considering the size of some of stashes of model collections in our group, I'm going to assume there a few people in our group who were born under the sign of the pig! Here's a few more goodies to add to those litters of kits.



Let's start off with something a little different from Heroes & Villains. Tovald the Dwarf is a 1/12 resin bust that comes in 4 pieces. It's nicely detailed and I really like the braid work on his beard. Also, from H&V is Homo Neanderthal. This is another 1/12 Resin bust of our closest extinct

ancestor and it comes in three pieces. Did you know? The word Neanderthal came from the location where the first fossils were found in 1864. They were found in a cave in near the Neander Valley in Germany, with "thal" meaning "valley" in German.



<http://www.heroesvillainsminiatures.com/>

Scale75 has a new historical figure. This time, one that hits close to home, specifically all of our actual homes. It's of a Mississippi Volunteer at the Siege of Bexar, 1835. The Siege of Bexar was the Texan army's siege and eventual victory over the Mexican Army in San Antonio during the Mexican revolution. This victory was brought about by the weather, which was unseasonably cold, and poor morale rather than by anything the Texas forces did.

The victory led to the Texas volunteers gaining defense of the Alamo and we all know how that ended. Getting back to the figure, it appears to be based on a drawing by Gary Zaboly of a volunteer from the State of Mississippi who is carrying a couple fresh hunting prizes, as well as a jug to celebrate with. The figure is extremely well detailed with his multiple layers of clothes and a blanket to fight off the cold. What's in the jug probably helps keep the cold air at bay also.



Scale75 also has a couple new additions to their Warfront line of WW2 figures. This time, a pair of German Staff figures. The resin figures are offered in 1/72 and 1/48 scale, and I imagine 1/35 will follow shortly. As with previous releases from Scale75,



I'm sure these ones will be very nicely detailed and easy to work with. The figures are versatile enough that they would even work posed next to an aircraft. An officer and an NCO are included in the set.

Finally, from Scale75 is a new 1/10 bust of an interesting subject. The figure represents an Of-



ficer of the Blaue Division (Blue Division). The Blue Division was made up of Spanish and Portuguese volunteers fighting for Germany in WW2. Although, Spain remained neutral during the war, the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco allowed Spanish volunteers to fight on the side of the Nazis, permitted they only fought against the Russians on the eastern front.

Many of these "volunteers" were actually professional soldiers from the Spanish army who had fought in the Spanish Civil War, and others were more or less conscripted to volunteer to prevent threats of harm to other family members. The Division remained in service from 1941 until the end of 1943, when Francisco Franco ordered all Spanish volunteers to return to Spain. Many ignored his order and remained in Germany fighting the Soviets thru the end of the war to the Battle of Berlin.

<https://scale75usa.com/>



ICM has released a nice set of figures depicting Gallipoli 1915. The set of 8 plastic figures includes 4 Turkish soldiers advancing across the No Man's Land, and another 4 ANZAC soldiers awaiting their advance in a trench. The figures are excellently detailed, and both sets of four include one com-



mander figure. In the case of the Ottoman soldiers, the commander is crouched and urging his soldiers on, the ANZAC commander is peering into a trench periscope watching their advance. The entire set is a practically a ready-made diorama in a box. Just add trench.



<http://www.icm.com.ua/index.php>

Editor's note: I found some additional goodies to add to the column.

Let's start off with Bodi's 1/35th German Panther crew. They look well posed and would go great next to your Panther kit.



Alpine has released some new WW2 GI's in cold weather gear. A couple of guys for your Tamiya Jeep and two Joes to stand alongside it





These should be well detailed offerings as Alpine is known for their quality and detail.

Scale 75 also has some GI's. This time a Sherman tank crew. These are in 1/35th and the turret is included as well as the soft drinks



Not to leave the Brits out Scale 75 is releasing a 1/35th British WW2 tanker.

Well, that does it for this month. Now, go build a model and add a figure to it. You won't regret it!

Mike



Sundries

By Golzar Shahrzād

Golzar's Departure

I regret to inform you...

Golzar had to return to Turkey to renew his Visa and was arrested at the airport in Istanbul upon his arrival. It would appear from early reports that he has been implicated in the recent coup and is being held on those alleged charges. As such, he will be unavailable to submit any material for publication for the foreseeable future.

Editor: As you can see from the above Golzar will no longer be writing for the Sprue Examiner. If you have the heart and the will to step up to fill his shoes contact Rick Herrington at lehr3@sbcglobal.net.



Golzar

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Hasegawa 1/35 YT5113A Tractor

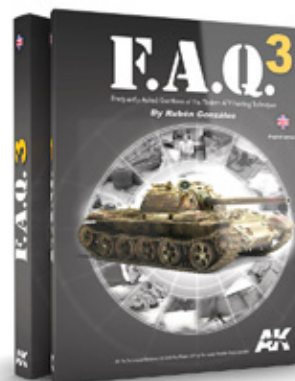
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