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**NEWSFLASH
October 2017**



International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New Renewal IPMS #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Chapter Affiliation, if any: _____

Junior (17 years or younger)	\$17.00	_____	Date of Birth: _____
Adult	One year	\$30.00	_____
	Two years	\$58.00	_____
	Three years	\$86.00	_____
Canada & Mexico		\$35.00	_____
Foreign	Surface	\$38.00	_____

Family (1 set of Journals) _____ ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards? _____

Your Signature: _____

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: _____ IPMS #: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash Amount: _____
Check Check #: _____ Amount: _____
Credit Card Master Card Visa
Card Number: _____
Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Hello Swamp Foxes,

Welcome to the October 2017 Newsletter.

I hope everyone has had plenty of time at the workbench over the last month and that we get to see your hard work at the next meeting, Wed 15th November in Lexington Main Library, 18.00 - 20.00.

The September meeting was opened by Hub, 18 members in attendance, First thing on the agenda was upcoming shows, One being RDUCON 2017 in Raleigh, North Carolina, 11th November 2017, Details are at the end of this newsletter. also the Build days and clinics that Ralph Nardone organizes and conducts, Latest build day was today(Sat 28th Oct), next is a Airbrush clinic on Saturday 18th November.

Welcome to New members Larry Jeffcoat and Andy Townsend.

Then it was around the table covering Members models and latest purchases. Lots of models on the table



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Hobby Town USA

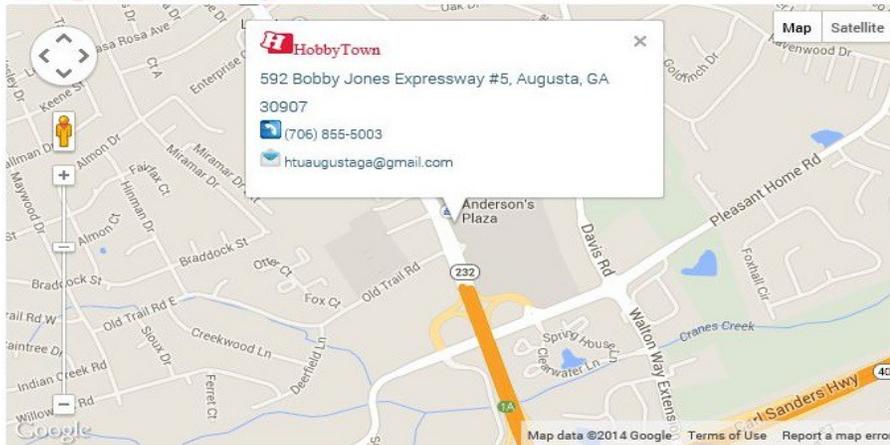
Hobby Shops

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The DShK 'Dushka' Heavy Machine Gun: The Russian 'Ma Deuce'

The standard service heavy machine gun in the western World is the vintage 1933 Browning M2. Those who have used them lovingly call this .50-caliber warlord, the "Ma Deuce". What you may not know is that, on the other side of the fence, the Soviets invented their own equivalent heavy machine gun. Like the 'Deuce, this Russia design, while officially labeled as the DShK 1938, it is better known to the Ruskie as simply *Dushka*.

Why

During World War 1, the German Army introduced the Mauser 13.2mm TuF round, a huge cartridge of more than four inches in length. This Elephant round was introduced to kill British tanks that were just then starting to lumber about in No Man's Land. In 1921 the US Army, with a little help from John Browning, developed the 12.7x99mm BMG round in response, known and loved today as the '50-cal.' The Army, however did not have a gun that fired the round, the 121-pound water-cooled M1821 Heavy Machine Gun, until 1929. At the same time, the German army was secretly developing a new 13mm round that would be used in a new series of heavy aircraft machine guns.



M1921 Heavy Machine gun

With Soviet military intelligence well aware of both these developments, they pressed for a monster machine gun of their own.

Design

Vasily Degtyaryov, the Russian machine gun maker equivalent of John Browning, was scratching his head in 1930. Over the course of a forty-year career this Hero of Socialist Labor personally invented no less than seven machine guns of all sizes, from the PPD-40 sub machine gun to the PTRD anti-tank rifle. He had studied directly under Vladimir Fyodorov, the man who invented one of the first assault rifles in the world: the Fedorov Avtomat.

However, as gifted Vasily was, he had an issue with designing a large caliber heavy machine gun. His efforts led to the creation of the DK (*Degtyaryov Krupnokalibernyi*) in 1930, a huge air-cooled, gas-operated full auto weapon that used the new 12.7x108mm BT-3 round capable of piercing a half-inch or armor plate at 500-meters.



Dushka in technical development

It weighed in at about 75-pounds and fired from a number four, right turn threaded 42.29-inch long barrel with numerous distinctive fins on its surface to dissipate heat. This innovative barrel system saved the gun from having a heavy water jacket to cool it, which made it about 50-pounds lighter than Brownings M1921 design while firing a slightly larger bullet. A large donut shaped muzzle break further identifies the weapon. When firing, a pair of spade grips at the rear of the gun provided a control surface. Fed from a 30-round drum atop the receiver, the gun had a nasty of bending cases, jamming, and other issues. In short, the Red Army loved the gun and the ammunition, but hated the feed system.

Enter Georgy Shpagin. Twenty years younger than Degtyaryov, Shpagin had also studied under Fyodorov and worked in the same programs as his elders. Shpagin picked up the task of modifying the DK gun while Degtyaryov moved on to other projects. By 1938, he had effectively designed a metal link system of 50-round belts that are pulled left-to-right into the DK gun, spitting out brass and links downward through the receiver. This new gun was labeled the DShK "*Krupnokaliberny Pulemet Degtyareva-Shpagina, DShK*"

(Degtyarev-Shpagin, large caliber) and by 1939 was being produced as part of a new Five Year Plan. This soon became changed in the field to “Dushka,” which is a Russian slang word that roughly means *baby*, or *sweetie*.



DShK in current AAA role without ribbs

Use

The Dushka turned out to be very sweet indeed. It was designed with a universal mount that could be fitted to a set of wheels like the Maxim Sokolov machine gun and then pulled into combat by foot soldiers, or set on a pintel mount on a tank, truck, or ship. While it was incapable of penetrating heavy German armor during World War 2, it was brutally effective on any vehicle with less armor than a Panzer. When used against personnel or field positions it was a meat chopper that left the definition of cover and concealment up to review. To low flying aircraft it was a feared anti-aircraft-artillery (AAA) piece, capable of passing through both sides of a Stuka dive-bomber and leaving

a broken plane behind in its wake.



Dushka mounted on tank



DShK with wheeled mount

Some 8,000 of the guns were assembled during WWII alone but it remained in production in the Soviet Union until 1980 when it was grudgingly augmented by the NSV and later Kord machineguns. This didn't mean the Russians threw them away though. On the contrary, Dushkas have been seen in operation in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and May Day parades in Red Square to this day. Taking a page from Carlos Hathcock's time in Vietnam, Soviet snipers converted Dushka's with heavy optics and short belts of match grade ammo to produce extremely long range sniper rifles. These were put to good use in Afghanistan.

The Soviets were great believers of arming like-minded friends and influencing Communism around the world with shiploads of free guns. This usually meant that if you could spell the word CCCP then odds were you could secure your country Dushkas, discounted or gratis, during the Cold War. These guns showed up hard in Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Nicaragua, Somalia, and just about every other third world exotic locale with a toe in the socialist pool. Ironically and on more than one occasion, the Soviets found themselves on the wrong side of the DshK, with the big gun being a favorite of the Muj in Afghanistan. China, Poland, and Yugoslavia in the past and even Iran and North Korea today continue to manufacture the gun new so you can bet the last Dushka gunner's grandfather has yet to be born. In fact, they are so frequently encountered overseas that US troops are often very familiar with their operation from both sides of the muzzle. When mounted on the back of a Toyota pickup truck, Dushkas are a piece of mobile heavy artillery at a bargain price.

Collectability Today

With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, Dushkas were being sold off cheap to enterprising arms brokers worldwide by any less than scrupulous former Soviets eagerly looking to convert to Capitalism. Soon they began washing up here after passing through a deactivation procedure that included a blowtorch and a nearsighted worker paid by the cut. Centerfire Systems and others sold these DShK parts kits with torched bits and pieces for as low as \$400 as recently as 2007. Since then however, the price has been inching up and you would be lucky to find one today for three times that amount in any condition.



DShK parts kits are available in the United States... for a price

The main problem with building these guns to a functional semi-auto or even to non-functional display is the scarcity of the 12.7mm Soviet metal links and rounds on the market here in the US. The ammo, when it's available, is typically at about \$10 a pop when loaded.

Incidentally, the Degtyaryov factory is now an independent company after that whole communism thing didn't work out but still shares the name of its grandfather. It also still produces heavy machine guns alongside motorcycles and mopeds in Russia to this day.

I'll stick with the parts kit.



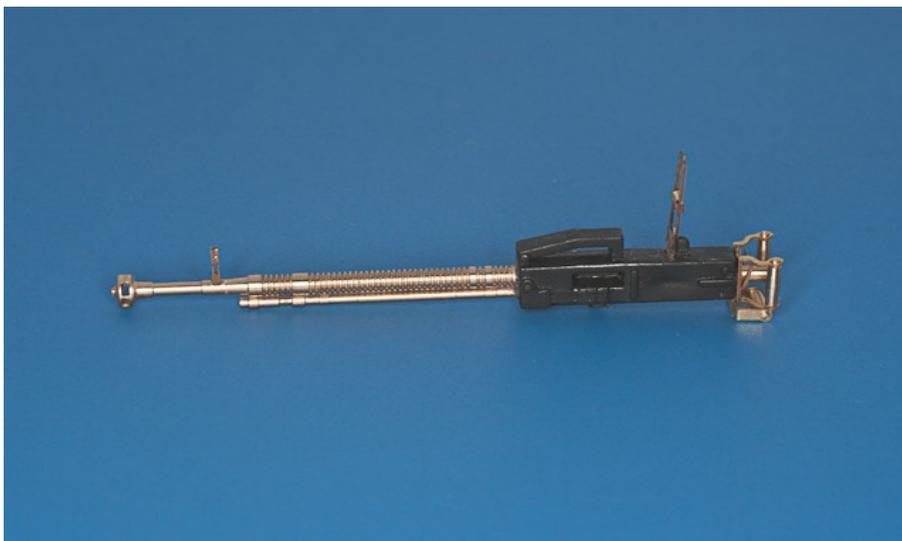
Firing a large caliber at a scary rate of fire, the Dushka is a great option for home defense, but rather improbable as a CCW piece.



This article is by [Chris Eger](#) and taken from

Dushka availability for modelers.

The DSHK/Dushka is available in all the main Armor modeling scales.



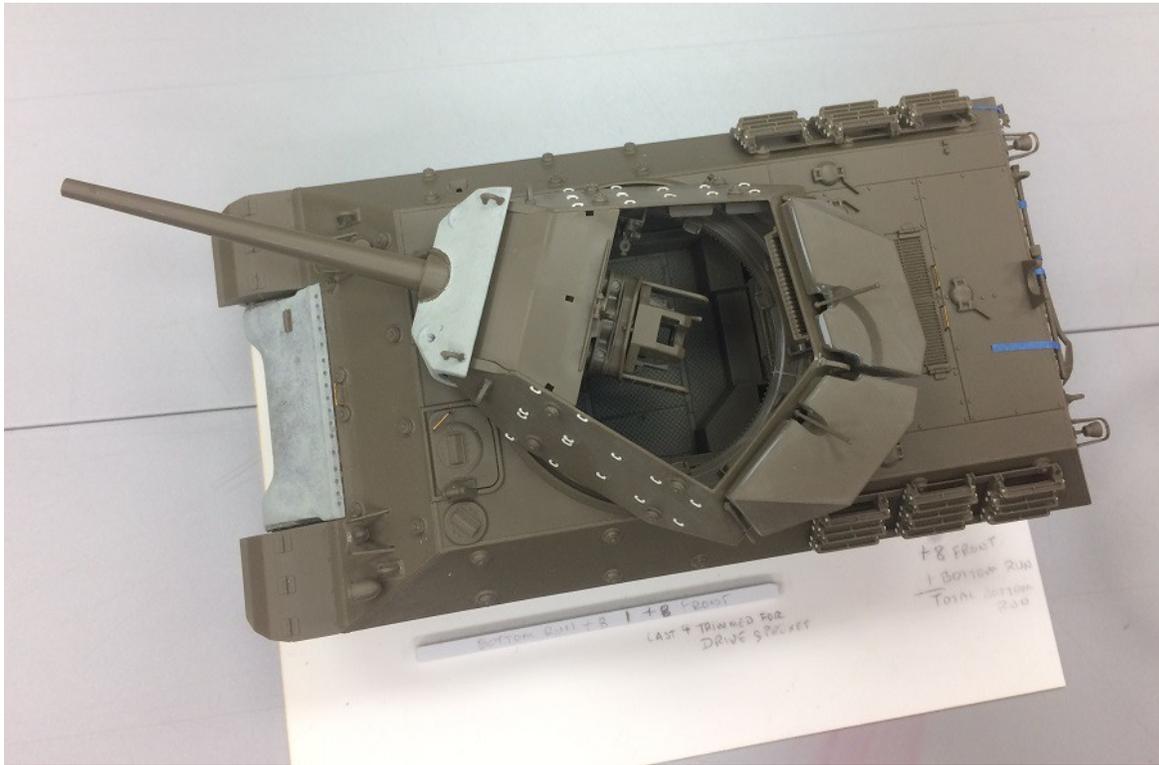
1/35 scale - RB Barrels

Also can be found via 3D designers.



My own 3D printed ones via Shapeways.com, seen on my Syrian T-34/85.

Pics from September Meeting



Mike Roof - 1/35 scale Tamiya - M10 Tank Destroyer - In Progress.



John Currie - 1/700 scale Blue Ridge Models - USS Wolverine - In progress.



David Koopman - 1/700 scale. IJN Kashina x 3, USS Perkins and the German Kriegsmarine ship Deutschland - Various Manufacturers.



John Helms - 1/200 scale, Dragon - B-52G - In progress.



Donnie Greenway - 1/48 scale Revell - F-15E.



Rick Broome - A 1958 Aurora Model - Black Knight of Aurnberg.



Jim Hamilton - 1/48 scale Hasegawa - FW-190A3 - RAF capture.



Darby Erd - 1/72 scale Airfix - Spitfire Mk.Vc - and a Spitfire Mk.Ia In progress.



Mike Gearon - 1/35 Scratchbuilt 1864 Union Mortar Boat.



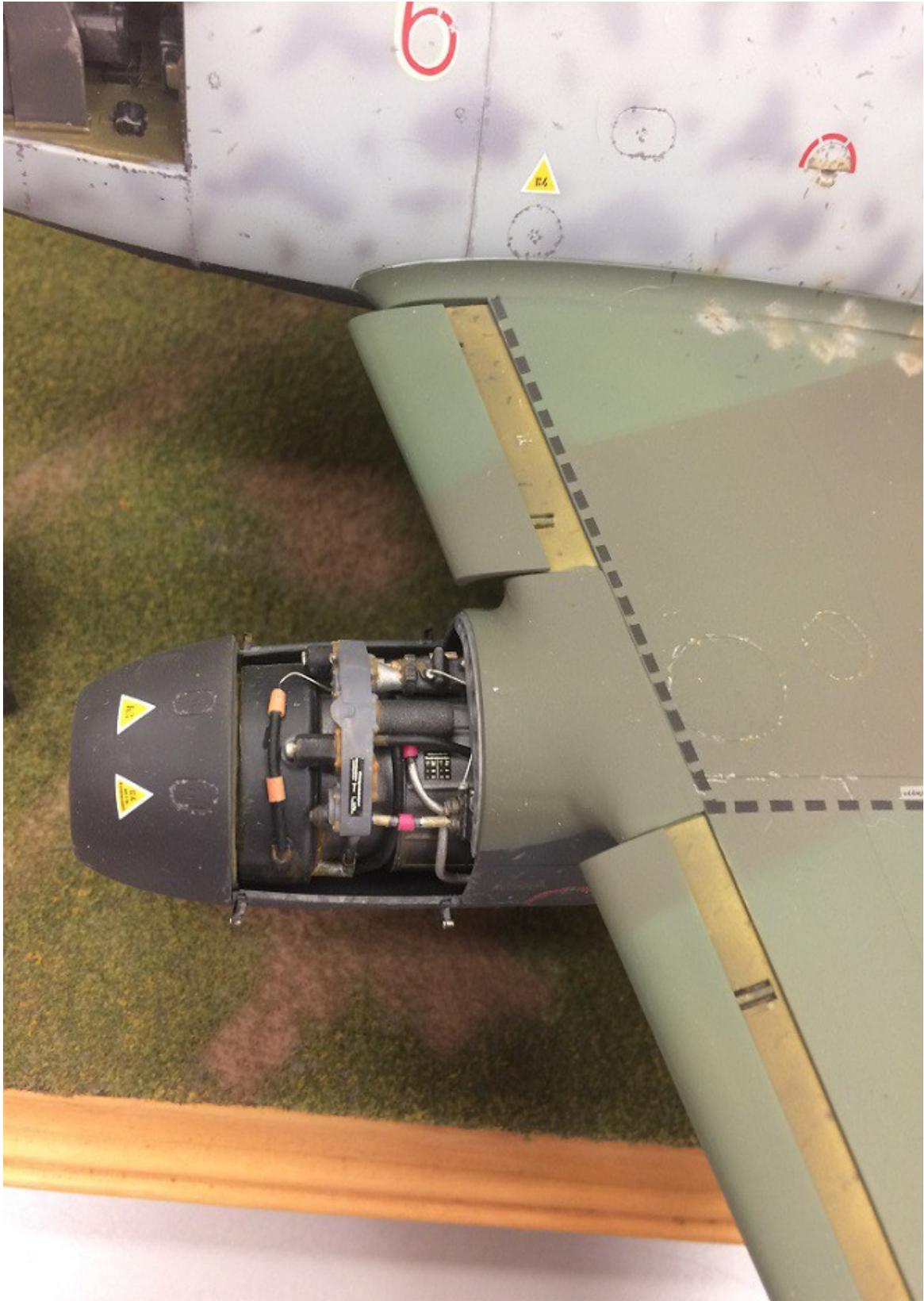
Kevin Cook - various figures.



Tom Wingate - 1/35 scale Tamiya - Schwimm Wagen - In progress.







Tom Wingate - 1/32 scale Revell - Me 262 B1.UA.

RDUCON 2017



Copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<http://ipmseaglesquadron.org/rducon2017/>

Thats all for now folks.....