

August 2019

Newsletter



The
Winners
Circle

“50 Shades of Gray”



1/25 1953 Hudson Hornet Club Coupe by Mike Turco

Photo by Paul Tomczak

Barring two old 1/48-scale Monogram Century Series kits, the F-101 and -102, the only other mostly gray model in my collection is the Mobius Models '53 Hudson Hornet. The aforementioned aircraft were done long before I knew that fuselage seams needed to be eradicated, so the Hudson became my entry into the “50 Shades of Gray” monthly contest.

Background Info

The Hudson Hornet was a winner in its day. The body design and construction gave the car a low center of gravity and, although it had a rather bulbous appearance, it was light for its size. The Hudson was powered by a straight six engine that produced 145 hp. In the early 50s they offered a “Twin H Power” option, which included two single-barrel carburetors with individual air cleaners. This option reportedly

increased the horsepower to 175. It was an instant racetrack favorite. The model depicts the two-door Club Coupe with the Twin H Power option.

It is reported in the literature that Hudson was an early proponent of auto racing as a key part of their marketing strategy. The company began backing their racing teams and providing the team cars with racing components. Hudson team drivers included Marshall Teague, Herb Thomas, Dick Rathmann, Tim and Fonty Flock, Jack McGrath, Frank “Rebel” Frank Mundy, and Lou Figaro. Together they accounted for 13 wins in 1951, 49 in 1952, and 46 in 1953. (See Strohl, Daniel (5 May 2014) in www.hemmings.com)

NEXT MEETING
August 2

**Theme Contest
“The Axis”**

continued on page 6

Visit the DVSM website: www.dvsm.org

President's Corner

by Rich Turner

August is here again and the dog days of summer deliver jungle like temperatures in the Delaware Valley. With this arrival I see folks retreat indoors to the a/c controlled life of car/store/home almost like the depths of winter. For me sea and pool temperatures in the seventies and evenings sitting in the garden without a sweater and jacket put rest to many modelling plans, finding that the weather dictating my productive modelling time yet I turn more to viewing online modelling content and forums, perhaps trying to find inspiration for the autumn projects or perhaps trying to evaluate the competition for the Telford show in November. Most recently I've been absorbed by figure painting and the shelf of primed busts are all lined up like a small army ready for the brush only waiting on a commitment to start. How many projects do we all have, just waiting to start? I've been trawling YouTube following figure painters great and small and everything I want to find is a few clicks away and only minutes to digest, quite amazing really considering that it's not that long ago that this was not possible and the only place to learn these skills was join a club.

Woodstock happened in August 1969, long before the Internet and mobile phones made it possible to communicate instantly with anyone, anywhere. It was a time when we weren't able to witness world events or the horrors of war live on 24-hour news channels. Where did we get all our information, perhaps we just did not. Anyway, something to continue thinking about as we keep the Create.Build.Share theme in mind and our conversations about how we may evolve in the future.

Just a reminder of some of the events that are on the horizon

Dave Acker has kindly agreed to host a figure painting workshop at the 6th September meeting. We hope that many of you will participate and maybe have a go at a new modelling genre. This will be followed up over coming months with more sessions. Perhaps even with a DVSM display of figures at the MFCA next year.

We have booked the display /work room at AAA hobbies on the 21st September for a DVSM Open Day/Show. We will be advertising this event so please put the date in your diaries. We will need your help and models to display and talk to prospective members. We have a healthy membership and I have noticed that many events that hold are attending by the same small handful of volunteers and members. The future and success of DVSM is in all members hands and I would encourage you to attend and support our planned future events and activities. The club officers cannot do it all!

December theme "A model of my service" – a model of an item of equipment, ordinance, vehicle or uniform that you served, along with a small presentation (and short talk if you are comfortable) of your service.

Hope to see you all on Friday, but in the mean-time, let thy sprues free.

RichT

THEME CONTESTS 2019

January "The Vietnam War Era"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, F-8U Crusader.

February "It's Cold in Here"

Ironically, cancelled due to weather

March "The Sixties"

Winner: Jack Lynch, Batman

April "Classic Plastic"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, Chance-Vought Kingfisher

May "D-Day"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, HMS *Roberts*

June

No theme. Gold/Silver/Bronze judging.

July "50 Shades of Grey"

Winner: Mike Turco, 1953 Hudson Hornet

August "The Axis"

Model of a subject in any category from, and/or employed by, the Axis nations in WWII.

September "That's a New Kit!"

A build of anything from a kit that was released no earlier than 2014.

October "Big Builds"

Any kit in the large end of its category's scale spectrum.

November "No Big Six"

Model in any category (auto, aircraft, armor, etc.) but one that cannot be of US, British, German, Japanese, Russian or French origin.

QUESTIONS about DVSM's Contests should be directed to **Mike Turco at MATurco@aol.com**

July Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Space 1999 Eagle 1, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



F-16, 1/48, by John Loftus



AP-2H Neptune, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



A-4 Skyhawk (Argentine), 1/48, by Glenn Thorn



Hughes Sea Apache, 1/72, by Joe Vattilana



HMS Valiant, 1/700, by Bob Cicconi

July Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Honda CX500 Turbo, 1/6, by Mike Turco



Ryan X-13 Vertijet, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



USS Laffey, 1/700, by Bob Cicconi



"Berlin: 1910" figures, 54mm, by Brad James



"David vs Goliath," 1/35, by Lance Lacey



F-16XL, 1/144, by Paul Tomczak

July Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



British Napoleonic Grenadier, (in-progress), by Dennis Sosna



Yak-3, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



"Legions of Nagash," by Martin Orlando



"Legions of Nagash," by Martin Orlando



"Legions of Nagash," by Martin Orlando



Model aircraft built in the 1950s by the late John Bell

'53 Hudson Hornet *By Mike Turco*

The combination of the car's light weight due to the advanced unibody construction that Hudson called 'step down' design, allowed Hudson drivers to win various stock car racing events from 1951 through 1954. Drivers "proved it could out-handle and out-accelerate much of its supposedly more powerful V-8 competition." (Arlt, Glenn "Whatever Happened To...the Hudson Hornet?". Historic Vehicle Association, 13 March 2014)



The company used the "Fabulous Hudson Hornet, national stock car champion" description in its advertising.

While the Hudson Hornet was also immortalized in the 2006 Disney movie "Cars", my memory of the Hudson was of my grandparent's dark green 1952 Hornet. I was small enough, and the car was

wide enough for me to lay on the deck behind the rear seat and look up through the rear window on trips to the Jersey shore. "Are we there yet"?...

The Model

Moebius' 1/25-scale '53 Hornet was well received by car modelers. The kit has been highly praised for accuracy and build quality. I agree. I had no real issues with the kit except for the single clear part that incorporates the rear window and rear side windows. It's been a while since I assembled the kit, but I remember that I couldn't get the rear windows into a position where they completely covered the window openings. A slight space was left at the back edge of those windows. If I would build another, I would work out some sort of fix to make the piece fit, or possibly fill in the gap with Testors clear glaze.

I wanted to make a stock version of the car and checked the literature for paint colors for 1953. I found that the kit instructions included the listing of the color options for that year. The instructions, by the way, are a very nicely detailed, six-page fold out in full color on glossy paper.

I opted for Toro Red over Pearl Gray. I did not want to bother to get the specific paint colors for an exact match and I have yet to airbrush a car model, so I went to my stash of Tamiya lacquer sprays for an approximation. Chips of the Toro Red show a very dark color, so I used Tamiya TS-11 Maroon for the roof. For the gray body I used TS-81 Royal

Light Grey. I polished the finished paint job with Tamiya Finish Compound and Tamiya Wax.



The interior of the model is very well done. I really like the dash. The decals for the instruments, glove box radio and ashtray are perfect. As with the outside trim, I used Bare Metal Foil for the inside chrome strip along the doors and two-toned the seats and seat backs with light and medium gray colors.

I rate this kit high up relative to the other car models I've built. It has a very nicely molded and detailed engine and no major flaws such as twisted frames or poor wheel fittings that I have encountered before with other albeit older kits. I recommend it.



I added some extra plumbing and battery cables to dress up the engine compartment.



Model looks like the real thing from every angle.

'53 Hudson Hornet *By Mike Turco*



I like to add real license plates to stock car models. I either scan one of my own and reduce it on computer, or copy a photo from the web, then reduce it to scale and print it on photo paper.

Join IPMS/USA

Why? The International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA, of which Delaware Valley Scale Modelers is a chapter, finances the insurance required for our monthly meetings and for model contests around the country, and offers a make and take program for young modelers. Encourage the enjoyment of modeling in all its forms: aircraft, armor, cars, ships, fantasy, figures, military or civilian, beginner or advanced, join IPMS/USA! "By Modelers, For Modelers"

What do I give? Adult, 1 year: \$30. Adult, 2 years: \$58. Adult, 3 years: \$86. Junior (under 18 years), \$17. Family, 1 year: \$35 (adult + \$5).

What do I get? A membership card with your IPMS number that entitles you to enter the IPMS/USA National Contest, plus the magazine, IPMS/USA Journal, six issues per year, featuring great models and building techniques, kit and book reviews, and activities, plus access to members-only content on ipmsusa.org.

How? Clip and mail the coupon in the DVSM Newsletter or the IPMS/USA brochure, see our IPMS contact, Joe Vattilana, at the next DVSM meeting, or join online at ipmsusa.org. ■

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Ways To Speed Up Your Modelbuilding

By Mike Turco

How often have you seen a shirt on a fellow modeler with the saying on the back that reads “So many models, so little time.” How true is that!

While I love and appreciate the work of a modeler who spends six months or a year building a model, perfectly scratching out the intimate details of the subject, and resulting in a work that can compete for a ‘Best Of’ at a national competition, that’s not for me. I have too much gray hair to do that and get through building my stash, which I want to do. Plus, I enjoy going from subject to subject, across the different categories of automotive, aircraft, real space and armor, while hoping to attack a ship or figure in the future. To spend months on one build wouldn’t be as satisfying.

The back of my shirt would read: “Build them right, build them fast, build them all!” To accomplish that without sacrificing finish quality, I’ve settled on the practices listed below. Some might work for you.

Plan Ahead.

The four principles of management are Planning, Organizing, Leading and Controlling. Although it almost never happens (and is the reason things go wrong), it is taught that planning should take upwards of 65% of overall management time, to avoid waste and mistakes, and meet project budget and schedule. While modelbuilding may not demand it to that degree up front, I find it pays to spend at least an hour or two reading the instructions and planning the build before I start. The more complex the model, the more time spent planning. Make sure all the parts are there and, if off the sprues, get the loose ones in a plastic bag to avoid loss or misplacement. Be sure you know the primary build steps. Check the sequence of construction and alter it, if possible, to save time. Determine what paint colors and types are needed and get them before you start the build. Put explanatory notes in the margins of the instructions as they occur to you, e.g., “attach these pieces first then paint”. Assemble the paints, glues and tools at the workspace before you start assembly. Doing this haphazardly during the build wastes time. And while paint is drying for one step, make subassemblies in the next steps in advance.

Rattlecans Rule.

Spray painting is almost mandatory to obtain the best model finish and almost all my spray painting is done with spray cans. I only use an airbrush when there is no alternative. This is mainly to avoid the hassle of cleaning the airbrush, which is painstakingly necessary, and thus takes a lot of time. I avoid the rigamarole of airbrush setup, paint mixing/diluting, working around the hose and power cord, cleanout of the cup, needle and brush internals, etc., like the plague, simply because it takes long. While rattlecans are not cheap and you may waste some paint that doesn’t fall on the target, time is money, and I will gladly pay the price for spray cans to save the time. Overall, for me, it’s more economical. Buying models you’ll never get to build is the real waste of money.

Also, in the middle of a build, when you need to paint a part not already done, why take out a bottle, shake or stir the paint, brush paint, and clean the brush, when all you have to do is turn on the always-on-standby spray booth fan and shoot it? And spray lacquers, which I use most, dry fastest, yet another time saver. As for results, I’ve had cars, motorcycles, aircraft and spacecraft place at local, regional and national levels, none of which were airbrushed. While most armor and aircraft with multiple paint and camo schemes require airbrushing, I have done a 1/72 B-52 in SE Asia camo scheme using the post-it-note method and spray cans. It is amazing how much time is saved once you learn the technique of using them. I completed a 1/6-scale motorcycle model that had hundreds of parts on 19 sprues in under three weeks.

Pre-Paint.

I pre-paint parts on the sprues whenever possible. I especially like the Tamiya kits that show the sprues and the colors of each part on the sprue in the back of the instruction booklet. This feature facilitates pre-painting and really saves time. Not all Tamiya kit instructions have this feature, but I wish all model kits by all manufacturers did. Spray or brush painting parts on the sprues in advance cuts build time. Since using spray cans for pre-painting may require masking off parts adjacent to those to be sprayed, I use 3M Blue painter’s tape to quickly and economically do the job. Touch up is usually required after cutting the pre-painted part off the sprue,

Ways To Speed Up Your Modelbuilding *By Mike Turco*

but this is done easily with a brush or quick respray after sanding and polishing the burrs down.

Hot Air.

Keep a hair dryer handy to speed up the paint drying process. I have one plugged in to a power strip on one of two workbenches and I use it frequently to fast dry painted parts. Spray lacquers and metalizers can be dried and in workable condition in just a few minutes.

CA.

Use of cyanoacrylate glues and accelerator cuts out the cure time of regular glues. Proper use of CA, i.e., amount and spread, and application of accelerator, significantly lessens build time. You move from one step to another without delay. And you don't need to spray accelerator. I have a large bottle of accelerator and apply it by dipping a dental pick (the opposite end of the one I use to apply the glue) into the bottle and taking a small drop to the parts to be glued.

Copy Decals.

For those with a computer, scanner and an inkjet or laser printer, it pays to scan and store a PDF copy of

the decals before you start building a kit. Nothing is more frustrating than getting to the finish line and having a decal split apart and be lost. Use of a scanned set doesn't work for all decals, since you can't print white and certain metallic shades don't match well when reprinted, but nine times out of ten they can save you from having to get a replacement set from the manufacturer (if available) or worse, another kit. It also can save you if you are building a dated kit and the decals are found to be beyond their lifespan. Keep a supply of clear and white Bel decal paper on hand for this. You'll need both, plus a clear acrylic bonding spray by Krylon or Testors.

Extra Stock.

Keep an extra stock of your most used paints and materials on hand to avoid running out of them in the middle of a build. This should be part of the planning process. In addition to paints, keep a backup of other regularly used items like glues, masking tapes, bare metal foil, and decal solvents.

If you'd rather build than sell your stash, procedures like the above will save time and help you build them right, build them fast, and build them all! ■

2019 Theme Contest *Point Standings to Date*

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Thorn, G.	5		4	5	5		4				23
Turco, M.	3		3	2	4		5				17
Lynch, J	4		5	3	4						16
Loftus, J.	2		3	2	3		3				13
Anderson, D.	2		4	2	2						10
Tomczak, P.	1		3	1	2		2				9
Hoover, G.	2				4						6
Rakos, R.	2		2	1	1						6
Ratcliffe, W.			2	3							5
Cicconi, B.				2			3				5
Rifkin, H.	1			2			2				5
Bailey, E.				4							4
Kopczynski, P.	2			2							4
Leknes, J.				3							3
Vattilana, J.					1		2				3
Lam, S.	1										1
Wardwell, T.					1						1

Monthly points are awarded as follows: Each person who enters a model into the theme receives 1 pt. 1st place = 4+1, 2nd = 3+1, 3rd = 2+1

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