

March 2019

**The OMG I'm out
of articles special
mini-issue!!!!**

Ikea cases



Next Meeting: Friday, March 22nd 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Topic: Friday Night Fights

Tactical Notes

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"**Tactical Notes**" is the Newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Inc. We appreciate your taking the time to read this little newsletter. We'd appreciate it even more if you would write something. **Yes, I am talking to you!**

Cover Photos: by D.M. Knights

Editor's Note

Ok, it has finally happened. I've run completely out of articles. Thanks to Dennis Sparks or we'd have nothing in this issue. So I need the members to step up. Please write me some articles. I've got some other sources I am going to tap, but I see all the modeling going on in the club. There is no excuse for you guys not to be writing articles.

Speaking of articles, congrats to Randy Fuller who had two articles in the last IPMS/USA Journal. Both of those previously appeared in Tactical Notes. Way to go Randy. I think that may put you ahead of Dennis O'Connor and Uncle Daddy for most articles in the Journal.

I would normally tell you what went on at the last meeting, but I didn't make the last meeting. My life continues to be one drama after another. I am afraid that modeling and club issues have gotten pushed to the back yet again. I hope things change in the near future.

Show season is in full swing. Get to a Show. You won't regret it.



President's Page

By Stu Cox

Greetings MMCL Members!

We have our quarterly **Friday Night Fights meeting** this Friday, March 22nd, starting at 6PM at the Kyana facility at 3821 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville. This is an open scale model building and workshop session, so bring your tools, cutting pads and kits and settle in for a long evening of building bliss. The MMCL air-booth will be open and available for painting! Along with all this, the club is also buying **Pizza!** Drinks are also provided. So come hungry as well!

We WILL NOT have workshop or a meeting on Thursday night this week. We WILL have regular Saturday Workshop as scheduled. We'll be back to Thursday "Under The Radar» workshop sessions next week. April will be a regular club meeting. We are finalizing our presentation topic at this time. As always, let us know if you have a presentation or demonstration topic in mind.

Its time to be reviewing your kit stash for possible donations for our **May Invitational show and contest.** Terry has purchased all of the awards, Dave has about sold out of tables, and Bill has tuned up our contest category list. Only thing left is for YOU to finish your Normandy Theme kit entries, bring a handful of new kit/accessory donations for the raffle, and come out to help set-up, and then enjoy a full day of scale model mecca on Saturday, May 18th. Our May Thursday meeting will be committed to getting our facility set up and ready.

Thanks guys, we'll see you at Friday Night Fights this week!

President Stu(g)

Modifying the IKEA Detolf glass display case

By Dennis Sparks

In 2013, DML announced the release of a 1/72nd scale model of the Saturn V rocket. As a teenager in the late 1960s I was enamored with the space race, this five foot tall model immediately rose to the top of my must-have list. While it was allegedly going to be available as either a mostly assembled and pre-painted model or as normal unassembled kit, neither actually seemed to be in stock when I tried to order it.

But three years later, Brian had one on the shelf at Scale Reproductions. It was one of the pre-assembled ones, which was probably a good thing since the kit would have gone directly into my build-it-next queue and would probably still be in the box.

Fortunately, my wife is very tolerant of the hobby, and acquiesced to my desire to display it in our living room. Figuring that others must have already faced the problem of either buying or building a case to fit this particular model, I read a few online reviews and quickly learned that IKEA offered an unassembled glass display case that fit the model (almost) perfectly.

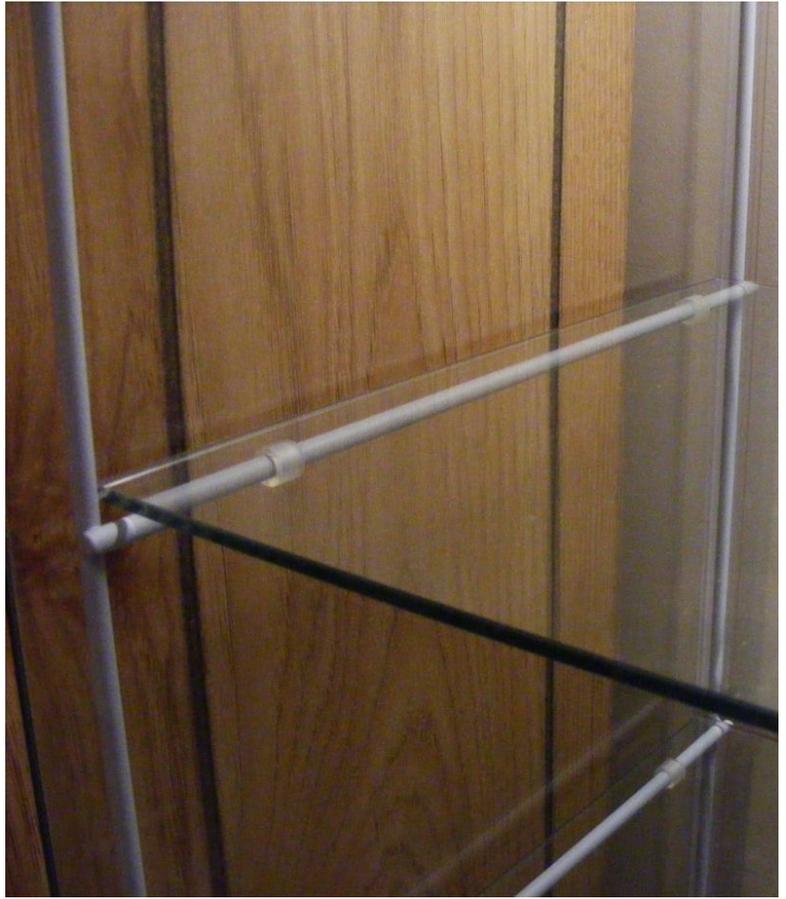
For reasons that I can't determine, IKEA chose the name 'Detolf' for this particular display case, which is reputed to be one of their most popular designs. A Google search located the showcase immediately, but couldn't find anything else bearing this name, so I assume that it's either the designer's surname or possibly it's an invented name, sort of the Swedish equivalent of 'Camry'. IKEA sells the Detolf for a surprisingly low price of \$60, which is less than it would cost to buy the glass needed to custom build a showcase to fit the model.

So during the return trip from the model contest in Cincinnati, I stopped at the IKEA store (conveniently located just



off I-75, a few miles north of Cincy's I-275 beltline). And since I've always striven for quantity over quality in my modeling, I bought three of the Detolfs, figuring I'd build the other two later and use them for displaying some of my other models. Each showcase was packed in two cartons that weighed in at a hefty 37 and 44 pounds each.

All four sides are single pieces of 1/8" glass, with the front side door fitted with two simple hinges and two magnetic clasps. The top and bottom pieces are 1 1/4" thick particle board covered with woodgrain vinyl, which is available in either white or a dark almost-black. These are slotted to hold the back and sides, while two ladder-like affairs made of 1/4" diameter steel bars tie the top and bottom together. The three rungs of the ladder support the three glass shelves that are included, but wouldn't be needed to display the Saturn V. Given the size of the glass sheets, two people are required to assemble the case.



The whole affair struck me as being fairly flimsy as it was being assembled, but was somewhat more robust once it was completed. Internally, the Detolf measures 15 1/4" wide x 13 1/4" deep x 61 1/2" tall. The three non-adjustable shelf supports are spaced 15" apart.

As designed, the case rests on four short plastic pads, which results in the inside floor of the case being perhaps three inches off the floor. Even at five feet tall, the Saturn V model seemed somehow less impressive with the top of the Apollo's escape tower still several inches below my eye level. Modifying a storage cube that I had bought at Big Lots, I built a 16" tall riser for the case. I've tried a couple of different schemes to internally light up the case, but so far I've not been pleased with the results.

The comment about the case being an 'almost' perfect fit for the Saturn V model is due to the large round support base that's included with the model. Since the model could easily tip over, the base has a 10" long aluminum tube that inserts into the first stage to keep it upright on the base, thus providing a bigger 'footprint' to make the model more stable. This base is more than two inches tall, which makes the model just a bit too tall to fit inside the case. I discarded the original base and made a new one from a one-inch thick unfinished pine clock face from Michael's craft store, adding the support tube from the original base. After a couple of quick coats of a gloss black acrylic paint, it was ready to use.

With this first display case finished, I turned my attention to one of the other two unbuilt Detolfs. The immediately apparent problem is that having only three shelves that are spaced 15" apart causes a lot of wasted space when displaying plastic models. There are several non-IKEA shelf supports that are available on eBay that allow extra shelves to be added, but I opted instead to have a talented friend weld four additional pairs of shelf supports to the ladders, reducing the shelf spacing to about 7". I had a local glass shop cut extra shelves for me for about \$7 each. I added a small LED light bar to the inside top of this case, where it looks a little better to me than it did in the Saturn V case, probably due to the sheer density of the models on display. It also makes a nifty night light.

According to IKEA's web page, each of the original shelves can support 13 pounds, so the weight of the models should not pose a problem. Using the floor of the case as an eighth shelf, I was able to cram 45 of my 1/48th scale WWI model aircraft into this second Detolf. But as they say, your results may vary.

Since I didn't want the top shelf to be too far above eye level, I opted to elevate this case by only four inches by attaching a couple of pieces of 4x4 post to the bottom. Since this has a decidedly unfinished look, I'll probably hide them with a face plate.

And since it's visible in some of the photos to the left of this second Detolf, I've added a couple of extra photos of a much larger showcase that I built ten plus years ago. It's made of 3/4" plywood covered with cheap paneling.





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Matthews*

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