

Mold Lines

AUGUST 2017



AN INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC
MODELERS' SOCIETY CHARTER
CHAPTER.



IN THIS ISSUE...



1/35th scale Faun L900

PLUS...



Club News brings us all the coverage of past and upcoming events from the Sonoran Desert Model Builders

In **Model Shows** - The Scorpions bring you a report on the IMPS Nationals show in Omaha, Nebraska



In **Tips & Tricks** - we show you a few quick tips that make modeling a little easier.



WHAT IS IT?

Mold Lines is the official publication of the Sonoran Desert Model Builders Modeling club. We publish it on a monthly basis and it is your source for Club news, interviews, model reviews, photos or our member's modeling work as well as articles on modeling techniques and other articles of interest to our members.



WHO ARE THEY?

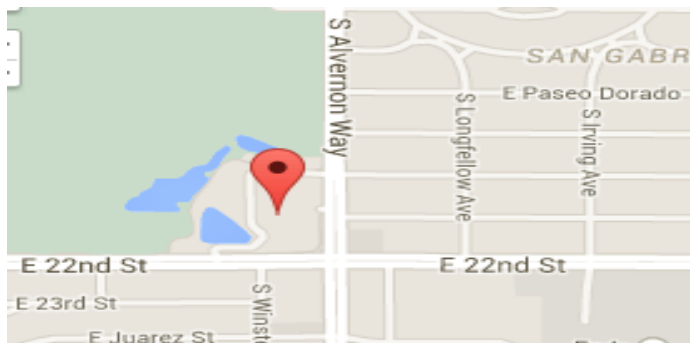
The Sonoran Desert Model Builders is a chartered IPMS model club in Tucson, Arizona dedicated to advancing each others skills through tip sharing, encouragement and, most importantly, hands-on building. Our members enjoy a deep camaraderie and level of respect for each other as well as a passion for model building. We build it all... cars, airplanes, armor, ships, figures, sci-fi...

Our mission is simple... LET'S BUILD!

MEETING DATES 2017

JANUARY	.....	5
FEBRUARY	.....	2
MARCH	.....	2
APRIL	.....	6
MAY	.....	4
JUNE	.....	1
JULY	.....	6
AUGUST	.....	3
SEPTEMBER	.....	7
OCTOBER	.....	5
NOVEMBER	.....	2
DECEMBER	.....	7

WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?



We meet at the **Northwest corner of Alvernon and 22nd** from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.
1100 South Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ



Editor's Workbench

Hello fellow modelers and dear friends.

The "lull between projects." Have you ever been there? You are working on a project and you are getting close to finishing it. You start getting excited and think of what will be next. At this point every single model in your stash sounds like a great candidate for next in line. Then the day comes when you are done with your current project. You place it on your shelf of accomplishments, you clean up your workbench and then... nothing motivates you. You try and try and none of the models in your stash grabs your attention. You even get some out and place them on the workbench where they remain untouched for days. I call this modeling limbo the Lull between projects and it's similar to a writers block. That is where I am right now. I hope I am not the only one to

experience this. So, if this has ever happened to you, how do you get over it?

Anyways, onwards. This month Simon Herbert shares his awesome Faun L900 Heavy cargo truck with us. Simon has the ability to turn "difficult" kits into amazing pieces of art and this one is no different. I hope you guys enjoy it.

We also bring you a report on this year's IPMS National Conventions by Dick Smith, Bill O'Malley and Mike Bilcik. They also shared some photos of the truly awesome models that caught their attention.

I hate to end these lines with a sad note, but recently we had to say goodbye to a fellow modeler. John Nitka passed away last week. I didn't know John as well as many of our club members did, but what I do know is that John was an icon of almost every swap meet here in the Southwest. From Modelzona up in Phoenix to our own Scorpfest. He was always there and always willing to talk to you and give you good deals. May he rest in peace.

Until next time.

Model on!!

*Dave
Diaz*



If someone says that you have enough model kits, stop talking to them. You don't need that sort of negativity in your life!

RECENT EVENTS

- **Make and Take at the Pima Air and Space Museum** - This event is designed to introduce children to the hobby of model building and the math and historical research used to build accurate scale models. It will be held on September 2nd, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.



- **Support our Monthly raffle!** Each month during our club meeting we hold a raffle with new and used kits. For every 10 tickets sold one model will be given away. Tickets are only \$1 each.



RECENT EVENTS

- **Monthly Club Meeting** – The SDMB held their monthly meeting on July 3rd , 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. We had a great time this month with plenty of nice looking models on display.



Dave Faust talks about his 1/16th
scale Greek Hoplite



Derek Campbell's Roman warrior



◀ Clara Tiem's
1/32 RAF SE 5a

RECENT EVENTS



Doug Smith's 1/35 Sdkfz124 Wespe self propelled artillery



Donwook Lee's Russian anti-tank artillery diorama

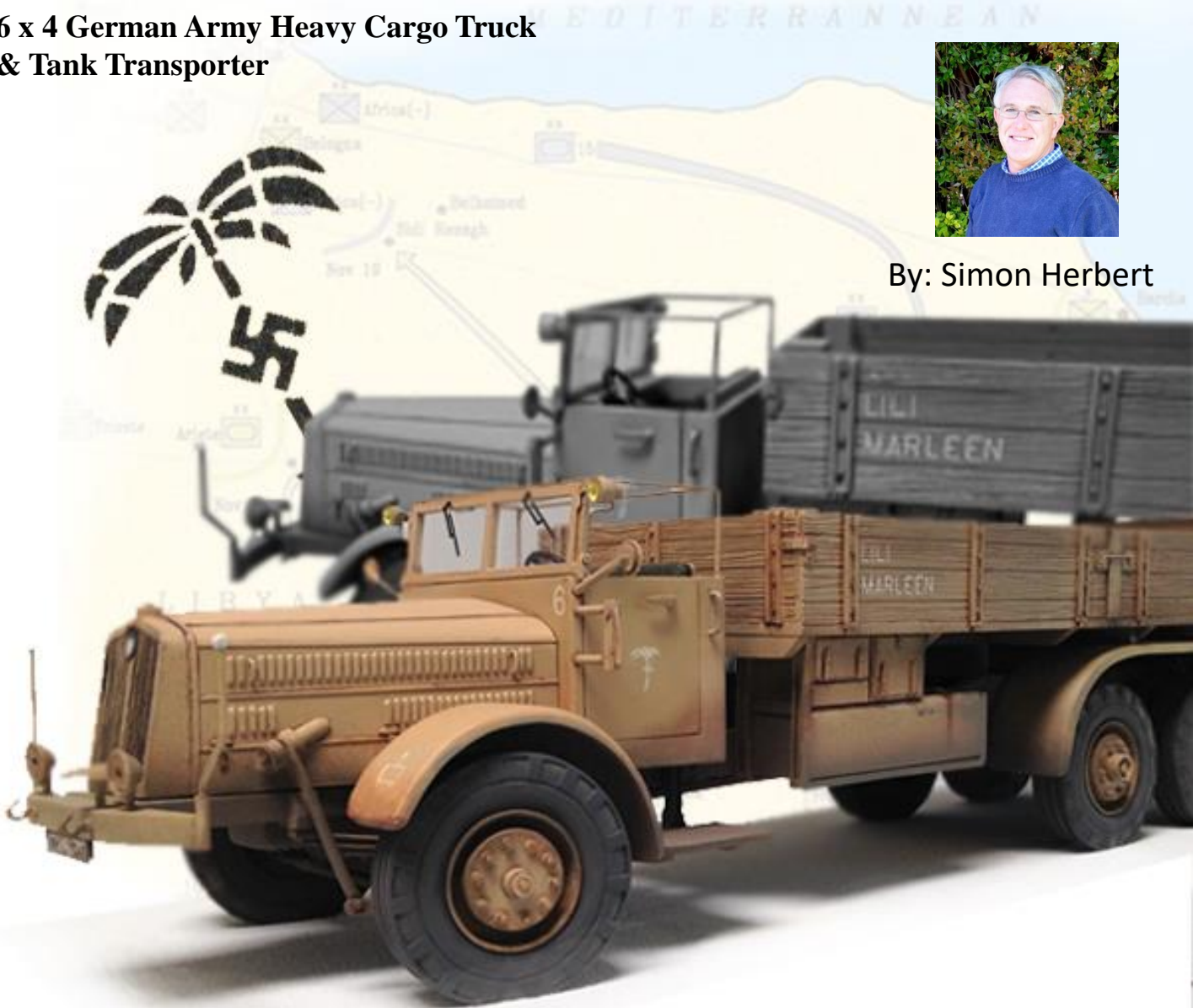


1/35 scale Faun L900

**6 x 4 German Army Heavy Cargo Truck
& Tank Transporter**



By: Simon Herbert

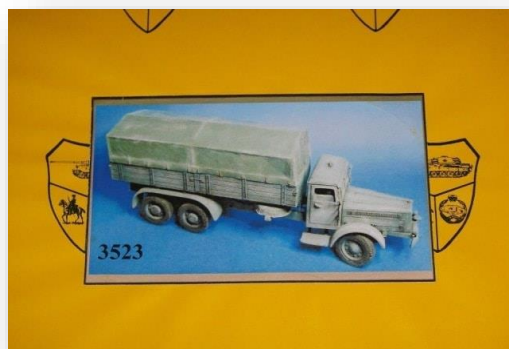


The Faun L900 kit is by Scale Model Accessories and now out of production. It is comprised of both metal and resin parts, plus a few photo-etched details. The instructions were entertaining up to a point, but thereafter just awful - and perhaps the worst I've ever seen. Entirely hand drawn on two sides of a sheet of paper, wispy arrows pointed to vague location points, so a great deal of experimentation and testing was needed before committing to CCA glue.

1/35 scale Faun L900



The parts required only a small level of clean-up, but I was happy at how well they fitted together. The one-piece molded bed is particularly long at 7-1/4 inches, but free of distortion or blemishes and with a fine wood-grain pattern. With all that metal



SMA box art like the one for my Faun L900



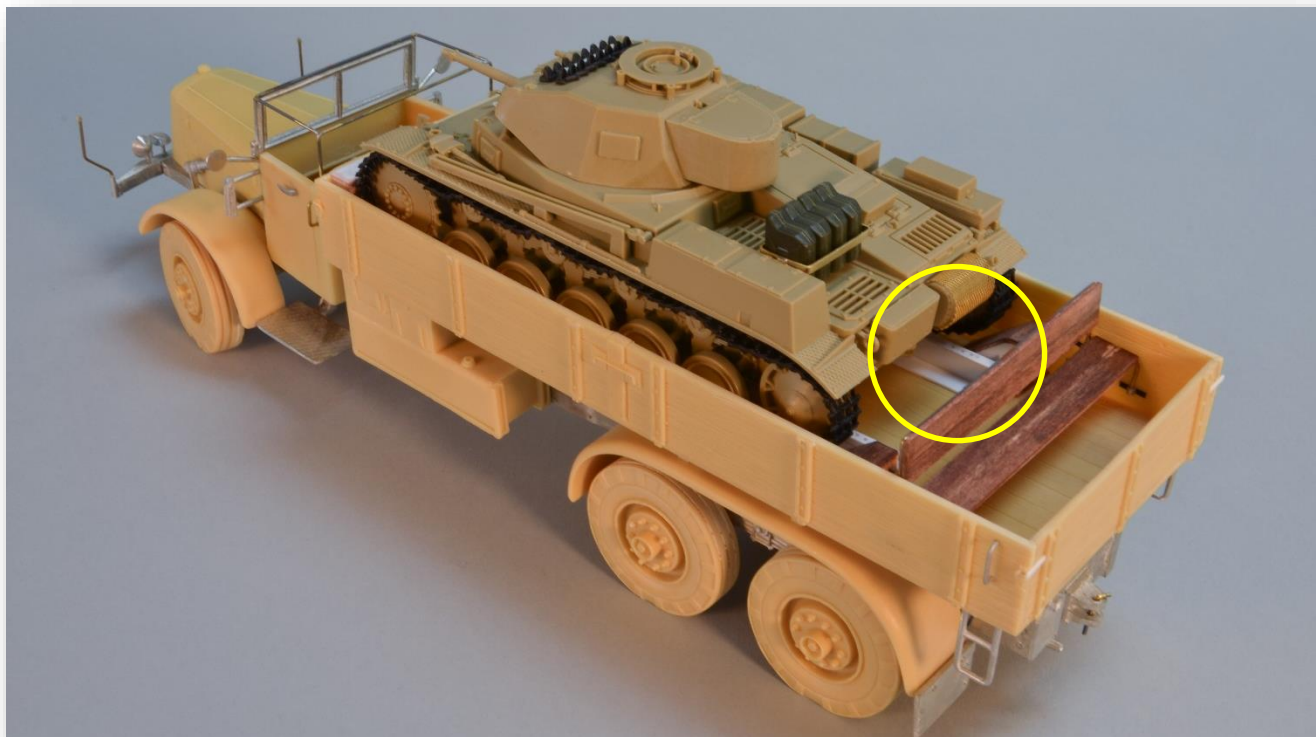
The large Faun L900 cargo truck was a primary heavy hauler for the German Army during WWII. The truck could carry a variety of loads including light tanks up to the size of a Panzer II (as shown here). With a tank in the bed, the L900 could also tow the Sd. Anh 115 transport trailer to carry an additional tank. This trailer also served as a ramp for the first tank in the set to climb up into the truck bed. Later, special trailers were developed for carrying larger tanks, pulled by the massive 18 ton half-track vehicle named the “Famo”. Used on all fronts, I chose to present the L900 with its load in Afrika Korps service.



and resin, the model seems to weigh as much as a brick, and sits firmly on the crisply molded resin wheels which I sanded flat on the bottom for greater realism.

The kit provides options for open or enclosed cab, and I chose "open" for two reasons: the first being cooler for desert operations, and second, it was more interesting to expose the interior. The canvas frame was made using brass wire, bent to shape in a jig and soldered. In this case, having a frame without the canvas was sufficient to suggest the space.





The truck bed needed the addition of tank track guide runners and head-stops for the tank. These were constructed from Evergreen plastic components and bass wood. Some HO-scale bolt-heads gave it added detail. In operational practice, after the tank was secured in the truck bed, a removable bench seat was fitted near the tail gate to give the tank crew a place to sit during their journey, facing rear. I made this from soldered brass rod, bass wood, and aluminum tubing. As with the real thing, the bench is removable.



1/35 scale Faun L900



The tank is Tamiya's 1970s era Panzer II, with no interior and a bit short on detail and cost around \$8.00. The awful vinyl tracks were replaced with a set of injection-molded tracks by Bronco. These were not only annoyingly fiddly, but a poor fit for the front drive sprocket, requiring I cut off some sprocket teeth to make them fit. Still, I was pleased

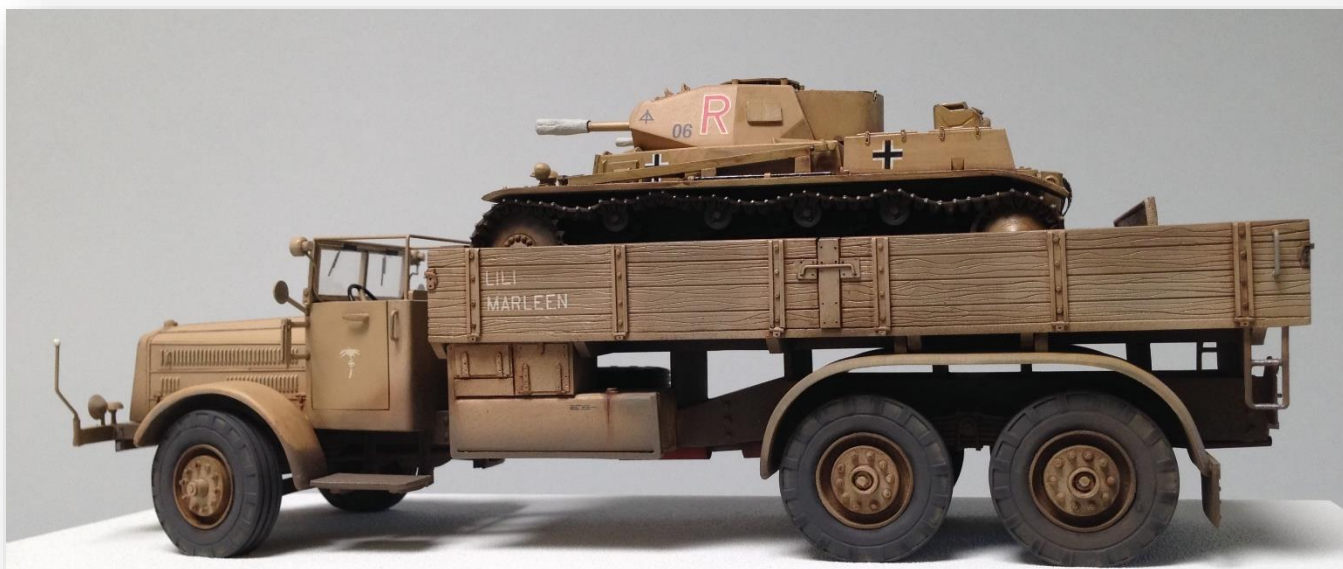


with the worn and sagged look that resulted. Storage boxes received photo-etched latches, and petrol cans were by Italeri.

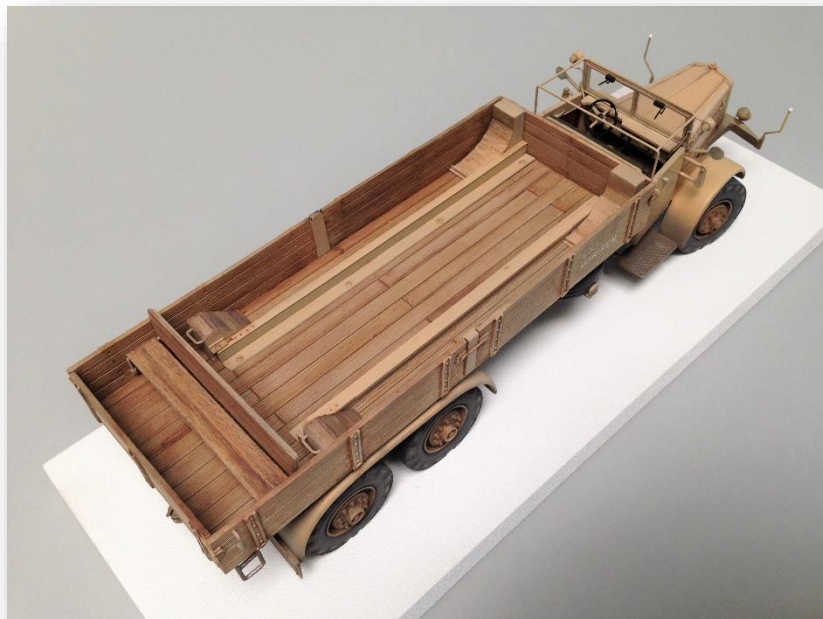




Both models were primed with Model Master enamel primer thinned 50/50 with their thinners. This provides a superbly smooth base-coat that accepts enamels or acrylics. I used mostly Model Master enamels, with washes applied after decaling and sealer coats, and before weathering with artists' oil paints and weathering chalks. I'm still trying to find the right



balance of weathering for a model. Too much or too little doesn't look right to me, but I do tend to stay on the lighter side to give them a "used, but well-maintained" feel. Each vehicle was painted with a different shade of desert tan, and lightened with some white – the logic being that no two vehicles working in the desert environment would end up having identical shades of color or weathering patterns.

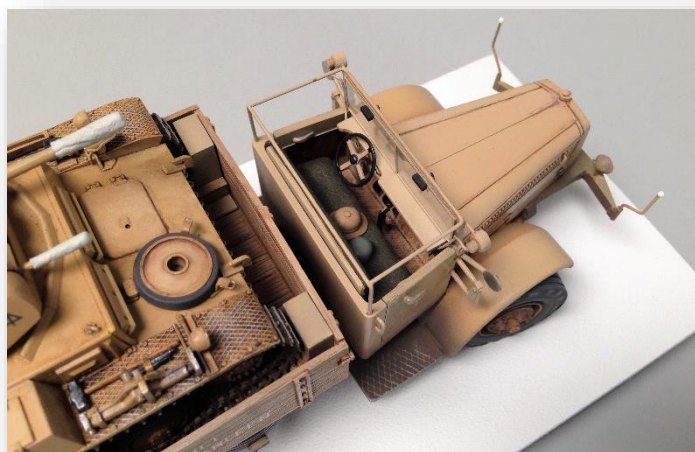


Some crews liked to name their vehicles, and “Lili Marleen” from the popular German love song, was applied to the sides of the bed using dry transfer letters.

“...this model remains one of my all-time personal favorites...”

I primarily build for the sheer enjoyment of modeling, but I was very happy to find I’d won first place with this model at a local IPMS Regional contest a few years back. I’m a slow builder, but this model remains one of my all-time personal favorites, and was well worth the effort. Scale Model Accessories also made a 1/35 scale model of the Sd. Anh 115 transport trailer. If I ever find one, I’ll be sure to hitch it up to the Faun L900 for a two-tank set.

Simon

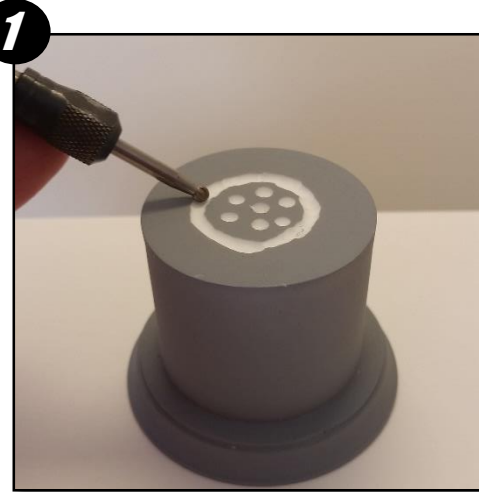




July 2017

Tips and Tricks

Quick Tips



Use a rotary tool to create a groove on a base in the same shape as the scenic base you are using. Also grind some half sphere shapes into it.

Not only this will offer an irregular surface which will give your glue more “grip” but it will catch any expanding glue when you place the figure base. This will prevent any glue oozing out of the edges.



Zero glue oozing out!





July 2017

Tips and Tricks

Quick Tips

2



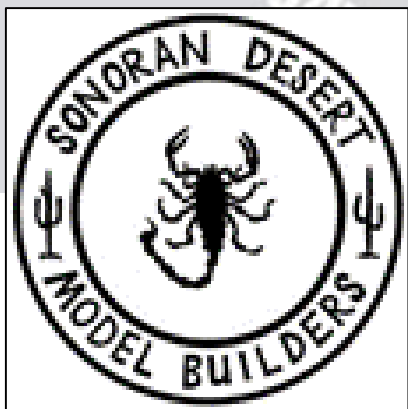
Coating your sculpting tools with a super thin coat of petroleum jelly will prevent the tools from sticking to the clay such as Magic Sculpt or Milliput. This will make it easier to sculpt fine details.

3



When cleaning and preparing small parts, leave them attached to a piece of sprue. This will not only make it easier to handle the part when sanding but it will also make it harder for the Carpet Monster to eat your tiny parts.

Sonoran Desert Model Builders at the IPMS National Convention 2017



The Sonoran Desert Model Builders were well represented at the recent IPMS National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. Mike Bilcik, Bob Duke, Dick Smith, and Bill O'Malley took part in this year's International gathering of modelers, with workshops, tours, banquet, large number of vendors, and of course, the huge model contest.

IPMS National Convention 2017



By Dick Smith

This year's IPMS National Convention in my adopted hometown of Omaha was a chance to introduce my brother and his colleague to the group that I have belonged for more many years. After checking in at the front desk, I was given my credentials and my 25-year pin.

My brother, Dr. Bob Smith, Director of the military museum at Fort Riley, Kansas, and his associate, Captain Robert Cogan, an active duty U.S. Army officer and Iraqi war vet, accompanied me on Friday, July 29. Neither had been to an event like the "IPMS National." My brother is a longtime figure painter and armor builder and Captain Cogan is an armor builder and armor book contributor. In the Convention Center, they were overwhelmed with the amount kits, tools and books for sale. Each went their own way and found members willing to discuss areas of particular interest. After their shopping, they spent hours covering the armor entries. Some of my old friends from the Chicago area, Walt Fink and Mike Hanlon, were on hand and we had considerable time to look over the aircraft tables and comment on the entries. It was an impressive lot. (I think Walt took home Gold.) My brother is planning to visit Tucson in August 2018 and attending the National in Phoenix. He has been converted!



IPMS National Convention 2017



By Bill O'Malley

One of the main attractions of the Nationals is the vendor rooms, giving a chance to meet with model companies to discuss their products. Some of the notable manufacturers and aftermarket vendors in attendance were Tamiya, Zoukei Mura, Revell, Eduard, CMK, Squadron, Sprue Brothers, to name a few. There was something for everyone and just looking at what was for sale took many hours spread out over the three days. Anyone who says our hobby is dying is challenged to say that after going through the vendor area and the contest room at a National Convention.

Mike attended the IPMS business meeting where the Phoenix Club presented their update for next year's convention. Everything appears to be on track for another highly successful event next year in our backyard!



Recently, IPMS started a program for awarding 25- and 50-year membership pins, and both Mike and Dick received their 25 year pins at the Nationals.

We all walked the contest room many, many times for many hours during the three days of the Convention in an attempt to look at all the entries. The quality of this year's entries was amazing. We're always in awe of the talent and amount of work that is extremely well done. The entries are



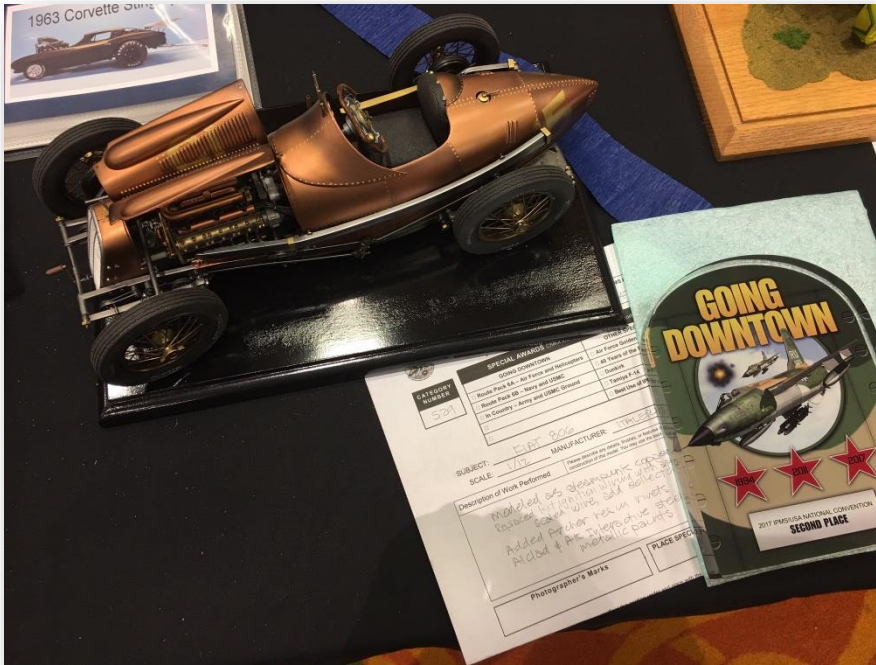
Mike Bilcik's 25-Year IPMS pin



getting better every year. There were over 2,700 entries submitted by 700 modelers from all over the world, including Canada, Mexico, and as far away as Brazil and Australia!



IPMS National Convention 2017

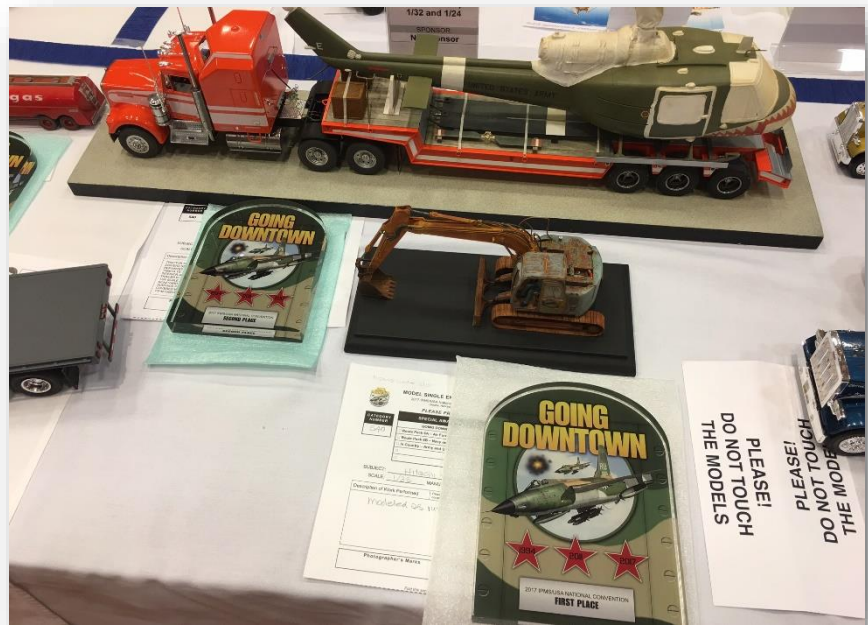


Bill O'Malley's Fiat 806 Grand Prix

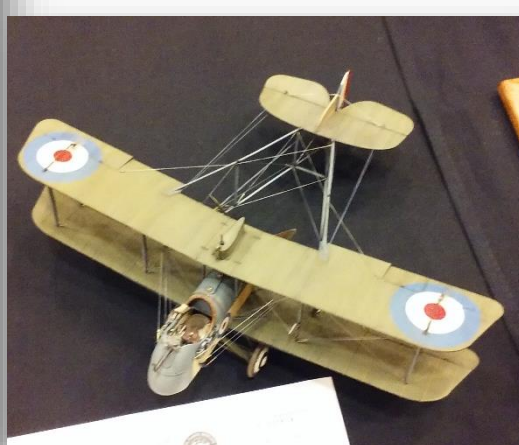
The Saturday night's banquet is the highlight of the Nationals, with recognition of the winners in each of the contest categories. IPMS put on a slideshow of the winning models, then everybody returns to the contest room where the awards have been placed by the models. Scorpions did well in the Automotive Heavy Commercial category, placing First and Second. Bill O'Malley won first place with a rusted Hitachi excavator, and Bob took second with his

flatbed semi and mothballed Huey helicopter. Bill also receive a second-place award in the Large Scale Automotive category for the Fiat 806 Grand Prix race car.

Next year the Nationals will be in Phoenix on August 1 – 4, so many more Scorpions will be able to show off their work and admire the work of modelers from around the world!



Bill O'Malley and Bob Duke take home 1st and 2nd





**Man the
GUNS**
Join the *IPMS*



Over the past 4 decades the International Plastic Model Society has become a 5,000 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 a long time member, I highly recommend joining the IPMS. There is no better environment to learn and share our passion for the small world. Other benefits include six issues of the IPMS Journal per year and being able to participate in the IPMS National Contest. Go check out their webpage at WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG!

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ If Renewing _____ First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature (required by P.O.) _____

Type of Membership: ☐ Adult, 1 Year: \$30 ☐ Adult, 2 Years: \$58 ☐ Adult, 3 Years: \$86

☐ Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 ☐ Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____

☐ Canada & Mexico: \$35 ☐ Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order

Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____

If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:

Name: _____ IPMS No.: _____

IPMS/USA

Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org

PO Box 56023

St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023

HOW CAN I JOIN THE SDMB?

Test the water before you join!

Here's how: Drop by and say "hello" at one of our monthly meetings (see our Next Meeting page for date and location details). If you like what you see and hear then drop by again the next month and be sure to bring your questions and we'll help you get started! The first two meetings are free so drop on by! After your second meeting we would appreciate you joining our club. Our club dues pay for various things such as community programs and sponsorships of trophies in contests. We are happy to have visitors but even happier when you join our club of award winning modelers.

Visit our website at www.sdmbyolasite.com

You can also find us on Facebook.



Find us on
Facebook



SDMB is an affiliated club of the International Plastic Modeler's Society

www.IPMSUSA.org

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