

September 2019

Willow Run Bomber Plant Chapter IPMS/USA was established on December 6th, 2018 and is located in Ypsilanti Michigan – home of the Willow Run Bomber Plant and “Rosie the Riveter”.

Our Chapter name proudly reflects the history and heritage of Henry Ford's famous Willow Run Bomber Plant, in Ypsilanti Michigan. This plant built over 8000 B-24 Liberators in WW2.

Meetings

General meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the UAW Local 898 Union Hall. Located at 8975 Textile Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Meeting time is from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

E-mail us at

wrbipms@gmail.com

Web Site

www.wrbipms.org

Officers :

- **Joe Rivers – President / IPMS Contact**
- **James Doeden – Vice President**
- **Jon Cassino – Treasurer**
- **Rob Thurman – Secretary**



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From the President's Desk

Greetings Fellow Willow Run Bombers

Willow Run Bomber Plant Chapter is 9 months old and growing. Attendance is consistently at around 30 per month and we see new faces every meeting. Our members have been stepping forward to fill committee positions and we are making plans for future events.

Fall is almost here and it feels great to have that cool weather back and the nights getting cooler. That means it's time to come back inside and think about those winter projects that have been on the back burner all summer. This means that it's time to clean up the workshop and that work bench that has been abandoned all summer. I often move things around and then I realize that I gain a lot of bench space. All too often, we work ourselves into this little spot on the bench when we spread out our models, boxes, instructions, sprue pieces, glues, paints, tools, all of a sudden, we have no space. It's time to clean it up! You would be surprised at how much more productivity you gain! I would like to propose that we all clean up our shops and maybe have a group discussion in October on how your building improved by reorganizing, or maybe tell about things you found that you thought were lost or forgotten. We all remember having to scratch build that “widget-thing” part that disappeared into the abyss of a workbench...you might even find it with the fall cleaning.

The other place that gets overlooked until something is dropped, is the floor and the dreaded carpet monster. If you have carpet, at plastic mat from an office supply store for desks can save a lot of pulled out hair. Simple things like blocking off dead spaces can limit where items bounce to making them easier to find and sweeping up frequently cuts down on the amount of flotsam and jetsam to rummage through.

For further correspondence the new **IPMS / USA** mailing address is:

IPMS / USA
PO Box 1411
Riverview, FL
33568-1411



If you have not joined the IPMS-USA yet,
Please go to

www.ipmsusa.org

Once you have joined, please contact me with your IPMS Member number and expiration date to enter on the Chapter member role.

- Joe Rivers

Area Museums

While most have heard of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, the Henry Ford and the US Air Force Museum in Dayton, there are many others in the region that are worth your time. So in upcoming issues of the *Quarterly*, we hope to highlight a few each issue. Remember that you can submit ideas to let your fellow modelers know what is available. and what aspect is worth a second look.

The first is the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners Michigan. That is up north of Battle Creek. It has hundreds of cars on 90 acres, some dating back to the 1800s. Don't worry motorcycle enthusiasts, they've got you covered too. My favorite thing was the 1963 Chrysler Turbine. A limited run sedan with what is essentially a jet engine. If you go, remember during winter hours, some of the buildings are closed, so head there in April to November. Admission is \$15 and check the website for directions and details(gilmorecarmuseum.org). You'll need to.

Lastly is the Motts Military Museum in Groveport Ohio. That is south of Columbus. This place is a real gem. Yes it has Vietnam era armor and helicopters, but it also has a crushed fire truck recovered in NYC after 9/11. There is an A-7 in back, but the really great thing is the displays indoors. There are so many small items going back to the 1700s, it blows your mind on sheer volume alone. Admission is \$10 and check the web (mottsmilitarmuseum.org) for details and directions. This one was easy to find.

Tools of the Trade: Epoxyes

If you add aftermarket parts to your models, or even scratch build, you have dealt with white metal, brass and stainless steel. None of which can be bonded with your usual plastic cement. Therefore epoxy is often your best bet. The real question is which one? On Youtube, a site called Project Farm has tested, in some very scientific ways, several epoxies on metal and plastic. Here are the **Metal to Metal** results:

	Gravity (lbs)	Torsion (in/lbs)
Devcon Plastic Steel	25	200
Gorilla Epoxy	17.5	120
JB Weld Original	27.5	185
JB Weld Kwik Weld	10	100
JB Weld Extreme Heat	2.5	5
Loctite Epoxy Weld U	12.5	145

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Here are the **Metal to Plastic** results:

	Gravity (lbs)	Torsion (in/lbs)	Impact (ounces)
Gorilla Epoxy	8	40	36
JB Weld Original	11	75	36
JB Weld Plastic Binder	8	35	23
Loctite Ultra Gel	8	115	31
Super Glue Plastic Fusion	9	90	23

As you can see, JB Weld Original did well in both categories. It might be a good addition to your workbench.

More notes from the President

Here are the results of the Category that we sponsored the National Convention in Chattanooga TN:

Large Prop Aircraft; 1/48 (exceeding 17" length or wingspan) Sponsored by IPMS / Willow Run Bomber Plant

1st • Mistel 2 — Randy Lutz, Stittsville, Ontario, Canada

2nd • H P Halifax — Terry Garrard, Cincinnati, Ohio

3rd • He-111H-4 — Brent Hampton, Thaxton, Mississippi

I would like to reach out and congratulate them on behalf of the WRBP IPMS.

Notes from IPMS/USA to WRBP Members

IPMS/USA has a new program that I'd like us to know about. The Disabled Veteran Membership Program gives a free first year membership to any disabled military veteran who HAS NEVER BEEN AN IPMS/USA member. This is a one time, one year membership for a qualifying individual. If you know someone who qualifies or have someone interested who needs more info, contact me or David Knights at loulaw@aol.com.

For those WRBP members that are not yet members of the IPMS - Please consider joining ! Membership qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, including the National Convention. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online discussion board and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or IPMS in general. Many hobby shops and model vendors around the country offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. I highly encourage all of our members to join!

Also, if there are any IPMS/USA national members who have 25 or 50 years of CONTINUOUS membership, IPMS/USA has a free 25 or 50 year membership pin that will be sent to them. If you qualify, please contact David Knights at loulaw@aol.com

Kit Review: by Joe Rivers

1/24 LITTLE GREY FERGIE TRACTOR from HELLER

With recent completion of my Airfix 1/24 De Havilland RCAF Mosquito, the need arose for some window dressing to go along side of it. After repeated viewings on YouTube of 633 Squadron, I found a few frames of a Mossie being towed across the tarmac by what looked like a farm tractor. After further investigation, I discovered that RCAF units in Canada and Great Britain commonly used commercial Ferguson farm tractors as tow tugs in WW2. With this in mind I discovered the LITTLE GREY FERGIE TRACTOR from HELLER.

THE SURPRISE is not that Heller features a piece of farm machinery - Ertl has been specializing in such for years - but that this French company has released an archetypal British tractor. The Ferguson TE20/FF30 'Little Grey Fergie' was designed and built in Britain by an Irishman, using local manufacturers around the world to make their own versions, including France, so the Heller connection is understandable. The original tractors were painted pale grey, hence the Little Grey Fergie nickname. Heller reflects this by using the French translation, 'Petit gris.'

What you get in the box

The components are molded in 'Fergie' grey, plus vinyl tires in black. There are alternative sizes of tires for the front wheels. The quality and type of plastic used in this kit are very reminiscent of Airfix kits (both Airfix and Heller are now owned by Humbrol). The immediate comparison of this coincidence was that first-ever Airfix kit was the Little Grey Fergie tractor of 1955 in 1/20 scale. Heller has logically opted for the somewhat smaller standard 1/24 scale, and far more detail has been included.

The engine and transmission components do mimic the original Airfix kit - a left and right half . Heller has added separate rocker and transmission covers. The engine components are also composed of separate parts, such as the oil filter, starter and distributor. The original tractor was gasoline-fueled, so you can add detail to the Heller model by wiring the engine with plug leads if you wish.

Some parts are extremely small and VERY DELICATE... such as the various pedals and foot rests, but the molding is good, so you will just need care when cutting them from the trees. The wheels are intended to rotate, but the design is not as efficient as it could be, especially the way the rear wheels fit the axles: the area allowed for cement is far too small to allow the axle to rotate, but as usual with a static kit, rotating wheels could be considered something of a luxury. The same applies to the steering linkage and suspension, which could be made to work, but frankly, it's not worth the effort (well actually, I couldn't figure it out from the instructions).

The fitting of these suspension components is also where the instructions fall down slightly. The outer front axle is intended to fit right up to the end of the inner axle (sections 34 & 36) but there's not enough room to do so. Instead, the outer sections sit halfway along the inner sections and section 53 indicates a tab on the front which fits into the main hood. In reality it doesn't, it needs to be cut off. Having said all that, these are relatively minor irritations which do not spoil the finished tractor.

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There are two basic ways to complete the model. First is the original TE-20 Little Grey Fergie which is overall grey. (Note : This is the version I went with. This version is actually the post War type, but for the purpose of an added piece for the Mossie, it is pretty close to the war time photos I found). Second is the French-built FF30. It had changes that included a different seat suspension and steering wheel, but is mainly distinguished by the fact that the chassis and engine are painted red. Options for either version include added headlamps, optional exhaust setups, and whether a towing hitch or towing bars should be fitted.

Painting instructions include grey TE20 and the two-tone FF30 French version. I opted to paint mine in an RCAF blue color. After a lot of conflicting research and varied options from both sides of "The Pond", I decided to use Model Master PRU Blue. This had the gray tint needed for the RAF/RCAF vehicle color and the larger scale of the model gave it the right color look. Microscale HO Scale white Gothic Style decals were used for the lettering and I used Testors semi-gloss clear coat thinned with lacquer thinner for the finished seal coat.

This beautiful 1/24 scale kit was a true joy to build. I would definitely consider building more of them. Honestly, the biggest surprise was that after building Heller aircraft model over the last million years, this is the first Heller kit that I actually, really enjoyed building. I give it 5 STARS.

1/24 Heller: Ferguson 'Petit gris' TE20 /FF30 Kit #: 81401

Parts: 128

Assembled length: 4.5 in

Price: \$30 to \$40 on line



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