



THE BIGGEST LITTLE MODEL CLUB IN IPMS

CLUB INFORMATION



IPMS Livonia is a non-profit educational organization created to promote and share the art of plastic modeling. The group meets at 8:00 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

Meeting Place: The Pierson Center, Suite 5, 32625 West Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan.

Club Officers:

President

Ian Dow (734) 762-7704
idow@mi.rr.com

VP

Rick Foyrs (734) 254-9063
rf@r-jweb.com

Treasure

Steve Freeman
(248) 682-5874
stevebfreeman@comcast.net

Secretary

Tim Howell
(517) 861-7775
howelltm@hotmail.com

Bull Sheet Staff:

Editor in Chief Ian P. Dow

Associate Editor Jeff Edge

Club Dues

IPMS US members:

\$12 Non-IPMS US members:
\$15 Juniors: \$5

Web Site :
www.ipmslivonia.org

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Meeting time is at 8:00pm on Tuesday the 9th of September at the Pierson Center. It is contest month so bring out the best you have from the last couple months and any in process model you might be working on that you would like to share with us.



Summer, We barely knew Thee.

By: Ian P. Dow

Gentleman,

Sad to say that this is the September Newsletter. Sad in the fact that this means summer has officially passed for 2014 and winter is on the horizon. Now all clouds have a silver lining, or at least a Paynes Grey liner, and that means that with the falling snow and rainy weather there is more time to build models. I know that this is one of my popular refrains but modeling is much like working out or practicing music. It is a craft that must be honed and cultivated so that it can flourish. The best way to do this is to just keep building and painting and to try and work on your skills with each model.

As an example of this I recently took a couple of figures off the shelf that are decent but not overly complex. It was mainly to get them assembled and painted in a timely fashion. The reason I decided on another couple figures is that I have recently completed a couple figures and thought that this would be a good time to practice some of the skills I have been using. It is said that the only way to get good at a subject is to do nothing but that subject. I do believe there is a lot of merit to this but I also believe you can transfer these skills to other subjects but that works best when those skills are honed. The figure painting is a good canvas to practice shading and color modulation on the fabrics and skin tones of the subject. This can then be transferred to an armor model or plane model and you will have the confidence to try some of these techniques. That is often one of the reasons that figure painting is so useful in practicing color combinations. Subjects like the Samurai, or the Napoleonic, or ancient Greeks and Romans had many color variations of metal, leather, fabrics and furs. This is a great way to use multiple color schemes and try different combinations. Painting a green uniform and then mixing a yellow filter in will really accent a green uniform. It also looks like the skin of a weathered tank or airplane.

I know many do not enjoy figure painting or are interested in it but sometimes I think it is useful to just build a plane or car or tank and then paint it the best you can, add filters, washes and pigments and see what works and what doesn't. You may be surprised the result you get. It is always good to try new techniques and borrow what you like from others works. It is what makes us better modelers. It is also one of the reasons I think we have such a talented bunch of modelers in our club. Hope to see everyone soon and keep building.

Ian

Hasegawa 1/48 F-18D Hornet

By: Bob Laskodi. 1st Reviewed on the Modeling Madness website



THE KIT

Hasegawa “owns” the market when it comes to 1/48 F-18’s! They better, since this kit is one of the most expensive 1/48 kit’s in existence! There is simply no better kit available in this scale. The kit consists of about 207 injected molded plastic parts that are typical Hasegawa quality, and feature nicely done recessed panel lines and finely engraved detail. Also included is a photo-etch metal detail fret consisting of 12 items, and the landing gear are provided in finely cast white metal for strength. Since I was doing a folded wings version (that is not provided for in the kit), pieces were used from a Hasegawa F-18C kit that featured that option (wings are identical between the “C” & “D”). Note that no ordnance is provided in the kit and must be purchased separately. I used ordnance from Hasegawa Weapons Set B&C. The kit decals are nicely done; custom printed by Cartograf, featuring the single option of the F/A-18D flown by the VMFA(AW)-225 “Vikings” from MCAS Miramar. The instruction sheet is an “assembly drawing” type with painting instructions keyed to Gunze Sangyo paints and consists of 18 pages.

In order to spruce up the cockpit (and also to make it a bit more accurate since Hasegawa basically decided to replicate the cockpit from the F-18B!) I used the Black Box (BB) cockpit set for the F-18D (48-014). This set also has some minor accuracy issues (mainly the ejection seat and cockpit display) so the BB F-18D “Multi-Purpose” set (48-037) was also used. Fortunately, the later releases from BB have addressed these issues so only a single set is now needed.

The Cartograf supplied decals are very nicely done, but I had a little accident, spilling decal solvent all over them while they were still on the sheet. I definitely recommend that decal solvents be used after they are on the model and not while still on the sheet! Since I wanted to do the “Vikings” scheme, decals from CAM (48-032) were substituted, and they are far better than the Cartograf decals so I’m glad I screwed up!



CONSTRUCTION

The first job up was to separate and clean up the resin cockpit parts. The interior cockpit surfaces were painted Gunze Sangyo Gray FS 36231 (H317) (Dark Gull Gray). Testors MM Flat Black was used for most of the radio and interior boxes, and individual details were picked out in various colors as seen in the detail pictures to provide a bit of variety. After all painting was completed, all pieces were given a light wash of Tamiya Smoke and then dry brushed lightly with Humbrol Light Gull Gray (#129) to enhance the nicely done raised detail.

There are several areas of assembly that will be quite challenging with this kit. First, the fuselage is split into a top and bottom section and the wheel wells have a large seam that is virtually impossible to fix. In addition, the join between the two pieces is poor creating several gaps. The one-piece seamless intakes are a nice touch, but they fit very poorly into the provided pieces and require some careful sanding and filling to correct. In addition, the engine intake ducting opens into an empty fuselage. The nose section also fit quite poorly and the mating of this part to the fuselage-required lots of careful dry fitting and sanding.

The canopy is the usual one-piece affair with a ridge seam down the middle. However, the fit of the front windscreen is atrocious, and will require a lot of careful work to blend into the fuselage with filler.

The kit provided pylons and sensor mounts fit horribly! I used lots of white glue smoothed into shape with a moist cotton bud to fill the gaps as using Mr. Surfacer and sanding would have destroyed a lot of detail.



CAMOUFLAGE & MARKING

I rarely prime injected molded plastic models before painting, but I had to correct so many ill-fitting pieces that I broke that rule with this model. I used Mr. Surfacer 1000 airbrushed to check all joins. First up was airbrushing the wheel wells and landing gear components with Polly Scale Acrylic Reefer White. The undersides were airbrushed with Gunze Sangyo Aqueous Hobby Color Gray FS36375 (H-308). After drying overnight, I airbrushed the topsides with Gunze Sangyo Aqueous Hobby Color Gray FS36320 (H-307).

After applying a Payne's Gray lightened with Titanium White watercolor based wash to all the surface details, I cleaned up the overruns and then sealed it with a light coat of Model Master Clear Gloss to prepare the surface for decals.

The CAM decals are very nicely printed, in register, and sufficiently opaque. The decals went on beautifully and snuggled down quite well with a coat of Micro Set. After drying overnight, I wiped the decals off with Pollys Plastic Prep to remove any residue. After drying for a few hours, I shot a light coat of Model Master Clear Gloss. I then airbrushed a light coat of Model Master Flat for the final coat.



FINAL CONSTRUCTION

The landing gear, doors, exhaust nozzles, pylons, weapons, and drop tank were all installed. After a final topcoat of Testors Dullcote to provide the final finish, all masking was removed and the final antennae were mounted in place to finish off the model.

CONCLUSIONS

While this model builds up to a very impressive "Hornet", it took quite a bit of work to fix all the ill-fitting pieces and I would only recommend this kit to more advanced modelers. The lack of ordnance is also a real gripe because why would you build a "Strike Hornet" without any ordnance?



The Bullsheet

Painting Realistic Aircraft Finishes by Andrew Dextras

First Published in TamiyaUSA

The Kit

For the purpose of this article I wanted a kit which would be easy to build and present no fit problems as I wanted to get on with the paint ASAP. The Tamiya P-47D Bubbletop (Item 61090) is a perfect choice for this as the kit is up to Tamiya's usually molding and fit quality, plus the engineering on critical areas such as the wing root is near perfect. Additionally, I wanted to use a multicolor scheme with heavy weathering, so a P-47D in SEAC colors fit the bill nicely.



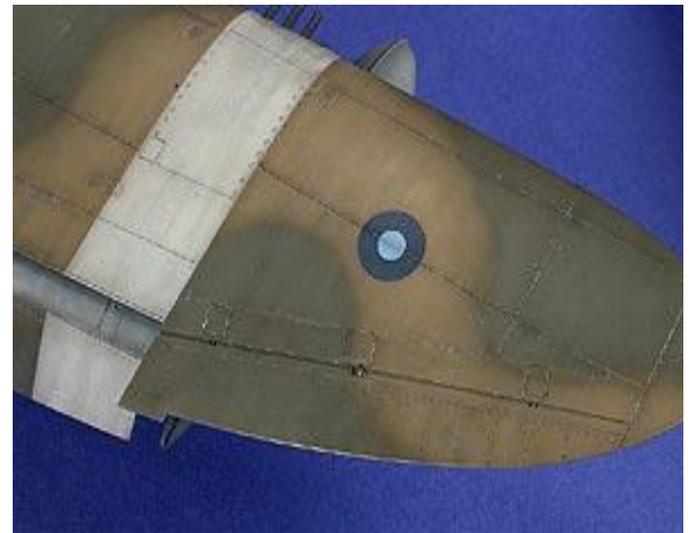
Painting

To add a priming layer to give the following coats a bit of 'grip,' I pre-shaded the model with Tamiya Flat Black XF-1. This also helps the weathering and shading by giving the following paint applications a bit more depth. I followed this by painting the undersides with medium gray in an erratic pattern to simulate wear and tear and the patchiness you will find on war weary aircraft. The upper surfaces were painted with dark earth and dark green in a patchy pattern. I then applied Aeromaster decals using micro sol setting solution.

The Bullsheet

Diffused Shading

Once the base colors and decals were on the model I began the weathering process by post shading. For this I mixed up a blend of Tamiya Flat Black XF-1 and Flat Brown XF-10 thinned with approximately 90% Tamiya Acrylic Thinner. Using my Iwata Custom Micron B airbrush I sprayed this mixture along the panel lines. I also streaked the panels irregularly using the same mixture. A high quality airbrush with a fine tip is essential in achieving a subtle effect. A side benefit of post shading is that an oil wash can be avoided. Oil washes can be tricky and unfortunately are not very subtle if too dark a color is used for the wash. Conversely, if too red-brown a color is used, it can look like rust has accumulated in the panel lines



In my opinion merely fading the panel centers results in an unrealistic weathering pattern. Paint doesn't fade evenly in the panel centers and automatically stay dark just because it's near a panel seam. By varying the amount of paint coming out of the airbrush when fading the paint you will achieve a very patchy and beat up finish instead of obvious cloud patterns painted in the panel centers. A look at period color photos will give you a good idea of how dirty combat aircraft get, so use this as your starting point.

The Bullsheet

Chipping

Once the model started looking suitably weathered it was time to add some chipping effects. Due to the climatic conditions in their theatre of operations, SEAC aircraft tended to get pretty beat up, and chipped paint is an essential part of the realistic weathering regimen. There are several ways to achieve this, enamel paint and a brush is one method, various masking methods also work, or you can use a silver pencil. It's all good mate, the key is to keep it subtle and use the method you're most comfortable with



I used a silver pencil on this model paying particular attention to access panels etc. One advantage to using pencils is that they aren't as bright as enamel paint and only shine when light hits them at certain angles. This can work both for and against you as depending on how your lights are set up when its photo time. You may not get enough reflection in some areas and too much in others. However, in person and under normal lighting conditions it's a more subtle effect than using paint.

The Bullsheet

Pastels

For some added weathering that can't easily be replicated by an airbrush I used ground up artists pastels. These are the 'chalk' type, not the oil based ones. Simply grind them into a fine powder using sandpaper and you have an economical source for weathering powders. These are available in a variety of colors: black, white and a selection of earth tones are a good start. I used black pastel powder for the staining caused by the .50 cal MGs, dark browns around some access panels and medium browns to weather the tires and wheels. Additionally, when weathering a model that operated in desert conditions, the pastel powder is perfect to simulate dust which



For oil staining and 'wet' effects you can mix up a small amount of pastels with some Tamiya thinner and create some interesting muck effects. If your aircraft has been operating out of a muddy airfield, simply add less thinner to the pastel powder and it should form a muddy paste that will look great when dry on wheels and areas where mud would splatter.

Conclusion

Overall, a great kit to build. Painting/weathering the bubbletop was a lot of fun and gave me a chance to try some new finishing ideas.





Upcoming Shows

DAPM kicks off the fall show season next Saturday, followed by SVASM and K'Zoo later in the month. Looking forward to the local shows!

Start	End	Chapter	City/Area
09/06/2014	09/06/2014	Dayton Area Plastic Modelers	Dayton, OH
09/13/2014	09/13/2014	NWVMM (CANCELLED)	Shinnston, WV
09/20/2014	09/20/2014	Shenango Valley Area Scale Modelers	Sharon, PA
09/27/2014	09/27/2014	Kalamazoo Scale Modelers / West Michigan Scale Modelers	Kalamazoo, MI
10/04/2014	10/04/2014	Erie Scale Modelers	Erie, PA
10/11/2014	10/11/2014	Cincinnati Scale Modelers	Cincinnati, OH
10/12/2014	10/12/2014	Lorain County (Swap Meet)	Lorain, OH
11/02/2014	11/02/2014	John H Glenn / Western Reserve	Cleveland, OH
1/17/15	1/17/15	Shenango Valley Area Scale Modelers Free Swap Meet	Sharon, PA
02/07/2015	02/07/2015	Mid-Michigan	Bay City, MI
02/21/2015	02/21/2015	BlizzCon	Columbus, OH
04/10/2015	04/11/2015	Wright Field Scale Modelers (IPMS/USA Region IV Convention)	Dayton, OH
04/19/2015	04/19/2015	Lorain County	Westlake, OH
04/30/2015	05/02/2015	*AMPS International Convention	Auburn, IN
05/02/2015	05/02/2015	Warren	Detroit, MI
05/09/2015	05/09/2015	MMCL Invitational	Louisville, KY
05/30/2015	05/30/2015	Toledo	Toledo, OH
07/22/2015	07/25/2015	IPMS/USA 2015 National Convention	Columbus, OH
09/19/2015	09/19/2015	Dayton Area Plastic Modelers	Dayton, OH
		* Denotes non-IPMS event (shown for info only)	

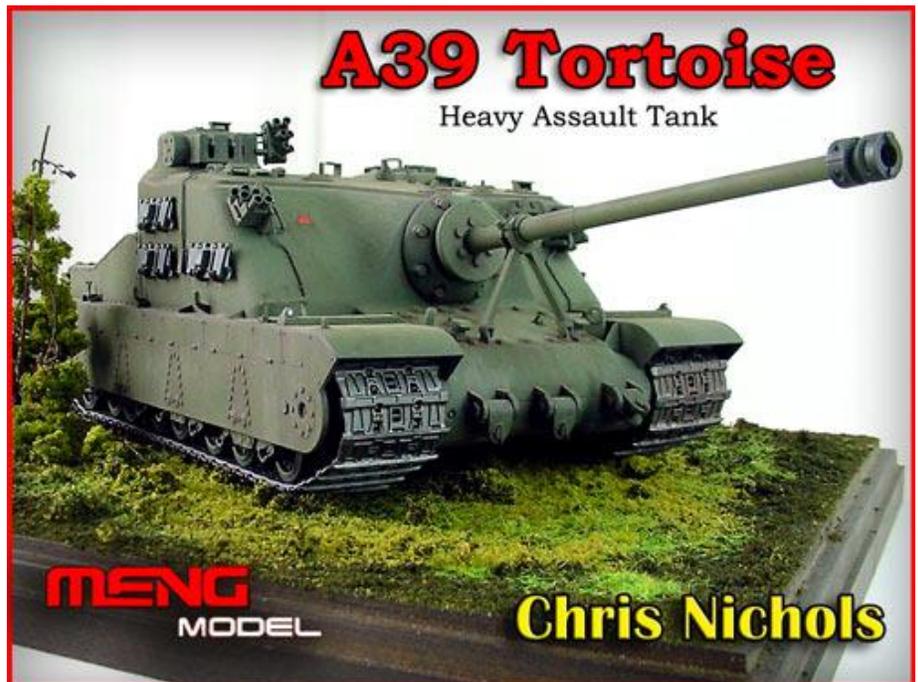
The Bullsheet

Website Spotlight

By: Bill D Plenty

This Month's website feature, Meng's A39 Tortoise by Chris Nichols.

In 1943 the British army requested the design of a new type of armored vehicle, the assault tank, to be used against the heavy German tanks and the fortified positions of the Siegfried Line. A total of eighteen designs were submitted, each being larger and heavier than the preceding one. From these, the AT-16 design was accepted and by February 1944 a mockup had been completed. The War Office followed with an order for 25 vehicles to be known as the A39 Tortoise Heavy Assault Tank.



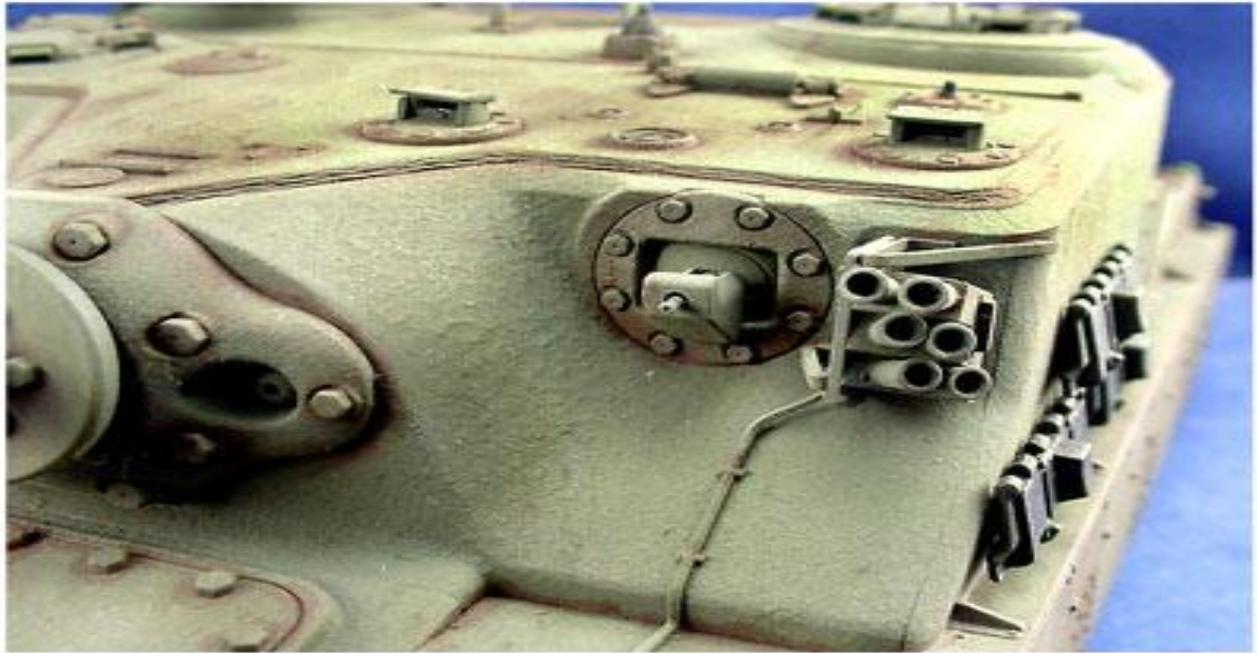


The Tortoise was a massive tank that weighed 79 tons. Armor was a big priority and the shell of the Tortoise was aptly constructed with 228mm thick frontal armor, and side skirt armor that measured 152mm thick. It was hoped that this would provide protection from the dreaded German 88's. The Tortoise's superstructure housed a 32pdr (3.75in / 94mm) gun with the capability to penetrate a Panther's frontal armor at 1000 yards. Secondary armament consisted of a ball mounted Besa MG on the left side of the superstructure, and two more Besas in a turret on the right rear of the top deck. A crew of seven was required in part because the 2-piece ammo of the main gun necessitated two loaders. The Rolls-Royce Meteor V-12 petrol engine produced 600hp, but the weight of the tank was such that top speed on road was only 12mph. Of the 25 ordered only six were produced. One of these was restored to running condition in 2011 by the Bovington Tank Museum in England, where it was publicly displayed during TANKFEST 2011.





The Meng 1/35th scale A39 Tortoise tank is only the second tank kit produced by this new manufacturer. The fact that they can produce such a fine kit on their second try bodes well for the firm's future. Wonderful cast texture, non-existent flash, well-hidden mold release marks and near perfect fit make this kit a joy to build. My only disappointment was a badly warped main gun barrel that has yet to be replaced. I began construction with the suspension, and honestly could have saved considerable time by not building the return rollers, because they are fully hidden once the side skirts are in place. I did however leave off the top rung of the tracks for the same reason. The individual track links were the best I have ever worked with. Simply clean up the attachment points and assemble. Joining the upper hull to the lower hull required the use of clamps for a tight fit. The rest of the assembly sequence was drama free. Read the rest of the story, and see more pictures on the website: <http://www.ipmslivonia.org/ipms/Gallery/Tortoise/CN-A39-Tortoise.htm> .



The Bullsheet

Mess Hall

By: Grunty the Magic Pig

Mile High Nachos

Ingredients

- 1 large bag tortilla chips**
- 1 can refried beans**
- 1 pound pulled pork, shredded cooked beef, or shredded cooked chicken**
- 1 1/2 cups grated Pepper Jack cheese**
- 1 1/2 cups grated Cheddar**
- 3 jalapenos, thinly sliced or minced**
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced (both green and white parts)**
- Guacamole, to taste**
- 8 ounces sour cream**
- Emeril's Southwest Essence, to taste**
- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro leaves**
- 1 quart Homemade Salsa, recipe follows**

Homemade Salsa:

- 3 large ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped**
- 1/2 cup diced white onion**
- 1/2 cup diced yellow bell pepper**
- 1 jalapeno, stemmed, seeded, and minced**
- 1 clove garlic, minced**
- 2 limes, zested and juiced**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro leaves**
- 2 teaspoons hot sauce**
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- Salt**

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

On a large, oven-proof platter, spread 1 layer of chips. Top the chips with 1/3 of the refried beans, 1/3 of the pulled pork and 1/3 of the cheeses, 1/3 of the jalapenos and 1/3 of the green onions. Add another layer of chips and repeat the process two more times. Bake in the oven until the cheese melts and the nachos are warmed through, 5 to 8 minutes. Garnish the nachos with dollops of guacamole, sour cream, Essence and cilantro.

Serve immediately with the Homemade Salsa.

Homemade Salsa:

Combine all ingredients, and refrigerate for at least half an hour before serving.

