

Maddog Monthly

The official Newsletter of IPMS Boise March 2004



Greetings all! With warmer weather a man's thoughts turn to picnics and air shows. Big, shiny, loud, air shows.

Well last month's theme contest was a smashing success. As I like to call it "Anything Floats". There were over a dozen models on the table for competition and nearly the same number for show and tell. Great job everyone!

I was just reminded that this month is our Modeler of the Year contest. So everyone who won Modeler of the Month last year can enter a kit for a chance at bragging rights this year. Since we aren't doing MoM anymore, I believe this will be the last MoY contest?

The Kurt Vandervoort Memorial Auto Contest is this April. The Seattle Spring Show will be on the same day, so if your going and have an entry for the auto contest please make arrangements to have your car delivered to the meeting. Last year's contest was big, and I understand that the award this time might be extra special. So this year's contest should be huge. As for me, my Ecto 1 is rapidly nearing completion and should be out bust'n ghosts soon.

Editor-in-a-straightjacket Randy Hall

Stay tuned next month when Wayne's World will return with all new commentary.

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Check out our website at:

www.maddog.delta-v.org

Meeting Minutes For February 21st

Meeting started at 6:00 pm sharp

Minutes taken by Bill Miller

New Business:

- a. The Warhawk Air Museum is doing a Viet Nam war Memorial. Any donated kits would be welcome.
- b. Thunder Mustang restoration at the Go wen Field Idaho Military History Museum needs volunteers, and a place to build. If anyone can help, please contact Wayne Keith at the next meeting.
- c. Kent passed out new Info cards for all attendees. Members were asked if they would rather receive the newsletter online or via snail mail.

Model Theme: Anything That Floats

1. Jim Burton, 1/48 Monogram Catalina on water (SNAFU Snatcher). Beautiful diorama. Well done Jim!
2. Terry Faulk, 1/48 Duck red and white fire bomber. The real one is at the Tillamook Air Museum as of today. Great job!
3. Marshall Sanders, 1/72 Airfix Grumman Duck-2 Candy Clipper. It was the last Duck out of the Philippines.
4. Tom Vogt, 1/144 Minicraft Boeing Clipper, beautiful airplane.
5. Howard Carpenter, 1/144 Minicraft Howard Hughes HK-1 Spruce Goose. Finished in a gloss gray color. Very nice.
6. Ian Robertson, 1/48 Hasagawa 1/48 Rufe A6N2-M on the beach. Great diorama.
7. Brian Geiger, 1/48 Tamyia Seran. Very nice.
8. Bill Bailey, 1/72 Ertle C47 with RVHP resin float plane conversion kit. Yes, that's right a DC-3 on FLOATS! Really nice!
9. Randy Hall, 1/570 Britannic hospital ship. Built from the Revell Titanic kit. (The only ship model I might add. Ed)
10. Bob Olson, 1/48 Monogram Kingfisher.
11. John Welch, 1/48 Monogram Kingfisher.

And the winner is...

- 1st Ian Robertson, 1/48 Hasagawa Rufe
2nd Jim Burton 1/48 Monogram Catalina
3rd Bill Bailey 1/72 Ertle C47 on floats

Congratulations and a great job to all!

Show and Tell

1. Rob Haveson, 1/48 Hasagawa BF 109 G-6. Beautiful job!
2. Ian Robertson, 1/32 109 G-6. Slovakian markings. Very nice.
3. Brian Geiger, 1/35 Tamyia late war Panther. Part of the camo pattern used the red oxide primer coat due to the lack of paint at the end of the war. Very well done.
4. Wade Middleton, 1/20 Tamiya BMW FW 24 car 2002. Really, really beautiful! Also the 1/48 Sword T-38 Talon.
5. Terry Faulk, 1/72 Ford Trimotor with a drop system they used for fighting fires.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

Formations M4 A1 Conversion

1/35th Scale - \$55.00

Dan Shepard

Something I should have mentioned in the first part of the review is the instructions. There are seven 8-1/2 x 11 sheets that cover the construction of the conversion. The first sheet is devoted to the kit required for the base, tools and a few hints on construction techniques. All the tools are fairly basic and are probably in your collection now. The call for a "fair amount of patience" is probably a general rule in our hobby. The other main hint to use a razor saw was very helpful, as I have mentioned in part 1. The rest of the sheets have large drawings that are fairly good in positioning parts and what to do. A little familiarity with M4's will be helpful.

I had two glitches when attaching the upper and lower hulls. First, a small corner of the transmission housing snapped off. Not too big of a deal, a little CA glue and some putty put it right. The rear hull panel had a large air void in it and cracked when fitting the two halves together. It too was an easy fix with CA and putty. The cast steel texture works well with a little light sanding when finishing up blemishes. For such large resin castings, I was amazed at how well Ron had compensated for shrinkage and how few air bubbles and voids there were. In many ways, this was easier to assemble than an injection molded kit.

I used a couple of after market sets on this kit. As Formations only does resin, you are left with the choice of using Italeri's light guards or using an etch set. I used the old Verlinden set, small but inexpensive. It has the basics and that is really all I needed. Light guards for the headlights and taillights were about all I used. I quickly gave up trying to form their periscope guards. First, they fell apart before I could begin to glue them down and they were made of flat stock when the real items are round. So I made my own from 10 thou lead wire and a homemade jig. I think they look better and was actually easier to put on. I like using lead wire, it is easy to form and flattens out well. You may think it would not make good guards but they don't take much stress and so they hold up very well. I also used the lead wire to make weld beads for the attachment points of the light guards. You can form the weld bead texture with a Xacto knife and it also adds just a little more strength to keep the delicate parts from popping off. The other set was some link to link tracks. When Italeri released their M4 A1 thirty years ago, the tracks were the rave. They are still well detailed but are also still made out of the stiff vinyl that Italeri insists on using. This means the tracks take a life of their own and will unrealistically hump up and pull up on the ends of the lower suspension. It is only natural that I would select after market tracks, right? The tracks I used are the AFV Club rubber block track, used by the Sherman family from the beginning to the end of WWII. AFV Club has you assemble the tracks in the accepted manor for Vertical Volute Spring Suspension (VVSS) Sherman's. That is a track block with an end connector on each side. There are about 70 track blocks per side and the assembly goes along easier if you take the time to make a jig to hold your track links in place. Since I figure to make several Sherman's, I took some time to make a nice, sturdy jig. It works well but, as Ron suggests, a "fair amount of patience" is helpful. Looking for the tiny, odd shaped, end connectors in your carpet is not all that fun on the 47th try. Oh, I forgot to mention each track block has a knockout mark on the inside face that simply must be taken out. I started on mine with the Dremel tool and a fair amount of patience.

Okay, so now some paint prep! I gave the model a good wash to clean off any mold release agent, finger grease, scratches snot, etc that might effect paint adhesion. I used Tamiya XF 52 (I think) as this is what Military Miniatures in Review's Sherman guide said was close to the probable color used by WWII Sherman's. There were a lot of nooks and crannies on this model! I didn't use a base coat and I am not sure if that would have ensured total coverage. There were not a lot of parts I could leave off so I tried to think out how to best hold the model so I could get good coverage. Usually I leave off the turret and hold it through the turret ring. I actually broke the painting into sections starting with the bottom. I always like starting with the bottom because if there is something wrong with the paint, it is easier to stop here and clean up. I then worked thoroughly through the lower hull and all of the running gear turning the model at all angles to see any missed areas. After I am sure everything is cooking, I like to switch to the turret and give is a coat, usually starting with the gun and then from the bottom up. That way I can set it aside and go back to the hull. The reason I set aside the turret, it gives the paint a little time to set up and dry. This makes it easier to see any light areas that need an overcoat and the paint is not so tender and it is easier to handle. I continue to go back and forth between major components until I am satisfied with the coverage. Back to the hull, I go around the upper hull, sides, front and back and then do the top. Always remember to keep turning the painting subject back and forth to make sure you are picking up all the "shadow" areas. Shadows? Like where you paint a lift ring from the side and it leaves and unpainted "shadow" on the opposite side. I was very impressed after painting how well the model looks. Without and weathering or highlights, it already has that "tank" look. The surface texture that Formations puts on is very nice, the best I have seen.

Okay Dawgs, that is where it sits now on my table, no tracks, decals or weathering. Hopefully all that will be corrected by the 20th!

I want to thank my fellow Mad Dogs for helping to pay for this kit so I could do the build/review!



Temporary Winter Camouflage on WWII Aircraft - by Ian Robertson

Winter camouflage on German, Russian, and Rumanian aircraft represent some of the most interesting schemes for the WWII aircraft modeler. Although some aircraft received permanent winter camouflage at the factory, many were hastily treated in the field with winter distemper, a water soluble mixture applied either by spray, brush, mop or rags. As such, the coverage of distemper was often uneven, and it quickly showed its age under tough combat conditions.

Here I provide a brief description on how to apply and weather winter distemper. My description is based on an Accurate Miniatures 1/48 IL-2 Shturmovik, but can be applied in a similar manner to other aircraft.



Step 1 - Basic Camouflage. Paint the aircraft in its normal summer camouflage colors, which in this case is olive green and black-green over light blue. Do not bother to weather - that comes later. In this example Polly Scale acrylics are used.



Step 2 - Using a 3mm wide flat-edged brush, apply white paint straight from the bottle to the areas you want covered in distemper. Make no effort to apply the white evenly on the model. Gently sand the surface once the white paint dries to remove any surface texture. Note that at this point the model looks terrible!



Step 3 - Airbrush white paint (with a touch of gray) over the areas that were roughed-in with the brush. Make sure to leave a hint of the uneven coverage produced by the brush (otherwise why not just skip the brush step, mask the model, and apply white paint evenly with an airbrush?).

Step 4 - Weathering. To remove the “clean and fresh” look of the white paint, spray a *highly thinned* mixture of black and burnt umber paint unevenly over the model's surfaces. Once the paint is dry, use medium and fine grain sandpaper to scuff the distemper and in some places expose the camouflage beneath. Make sure that the scuffs move primarily in the proper direction - vertically on the fuselage and front-to-back on the wings and stabilizers. Additional washes can also be applied with a soft brush at this time. However, knowing when to stop weathering can be difficult. The best rule of thumb I have heard is that when you model looks like it needs just a bit more weathering, it's time to stop. Subtle tends to be better, although the Shturmovik below is pretty heavily weathered because of the brutal conditions in which it operated. Check reference photos if you have them. Also note that if at any time you screw up you can always go back and touch up with the base camouflage colors and repeat the process over small areas.



Other Examples of Winter Camouflage



IL-2 Shturmovik (2 seater) - Accurate Miniatures



Yak-1b - Accurate Miniatures



Ju.87G-2 Stuka - Hasegawa



Fw.190F-8 - Tamiya

For additional images and descriptions refer to the following links on Hyperscale:

Anything Floats

February was the theme contest, Anything Floats. We had a great turnout with about eleven entries. I have here photos of some of them. I apologies if you don't see your model pictured here. Somehow I missed a couple.



Awards were presented by popular vote for First, Second and Third Place. And the winners were...

1st Place
Ian Robertson, 1/48 Hasagawa Rufe



2nd Place
Jim Burton 1/48 MnGm. Catalina



3rd Place
Bill Bailey 1/72 Ertle C47 on floats



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