

USS IDAHO (BB 42)

Maddog Monthly

The Official Newsletter of IPMS Boise May 2004



Hello Maddogs! Seattle was a blast and the troop returned home with an armload of photocopied trophies. If memory serves, the group collection of BF-109's garnered second place. Congratulations guys!

I think that most, if not everyone who entered individually took home an award. I didn't get the particulars, so I shant say more to keep from leaving anyone out. Just bring your trophies to the meeting!

I guess last months meeting was a little light, so be sure to come this month. There should be plenty to see with the Normandy Invasion theme this month.

See ya at the meeting!

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Check out our website at:

www.maddog.delta-v.org

Minutes for the meeting of the Mad Dog Modeler's Club, April 17, 2004

The meeting was called to order by president Wayne Keith at 6:05 pm.

Attendance was 24 members, with several missing due to the Seattle Trip and Competition.

New Business: Paul E. suggested a demo on new techniques of using and applying photo etch seat belts, etc. Anyone capable is welcome to bring this to the meeting.

Wayne K. discussed the progress on the F-51 ¾ scale project plane at the Idaho Military History Museum. People are still needed for assembly and set up.

Gary M. showed his Fuji photo capability at Walgreen Drug. This allows you to create digital repros for calendars, books, etc. Contact Gary for further information.

Show and tell was limited, yet Tom H. came through with several fine autos and artillery.

Note: The D-Day competition is set for our May meeting.

The meeting ended with several good discussions regarding techniques and methods of modeling, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Keith, President.

C57D Starcruiser Part 2

Well, here it is 10pm Sunday night And I'm just starting to write this review. Yep, nothing like leaving it to the last minute I always say.

Last month when I left off, I was just getting ready to mate the upper and lower saucer sections together. Before I did that I reinforced the bottom saucer subassembly with some spray-in foam insulation. This helped make the finished saucer a little less wobbly. The foam was strategically placed to avoid interfering with the fit of the upper saucer support braces.

After the foam had dried, I installed the interior and entry stairs I had prepainted. I then glued the two halves together. I used a mixture of tube glue Tenax 7R and super glue. I wasn't being picky, I wanted the thing to stay together. It was at this point I noticed a problem I'd read about on StarShip Modeler. The saucer sections come with a slight warp to them. If, after you glue them together you notice a wavy pattern emerging along the outside of the saucer, they instruct you to place the subassembly on top of your refrigerator with the outside edge hanging over the top of the icebox. Then you're supposed to weight it down with a few books and leave it for a couple of weeks. Anyway, I'd still be doing that if I'd tried. The waviness wasn't too bad so I decided to leave it be. Now that everything's together, I notice that I have one spot on the outside edge that comes to a peak. As Homer says, "Oh well, what're ya gonna do?"

Afterward, I started filling seams. And boy, were there some seams. The way the kit is designed you get six huge panel joints on top and six on the bottom. Plus there are three unused hatches on the bottom that need to be covered over.

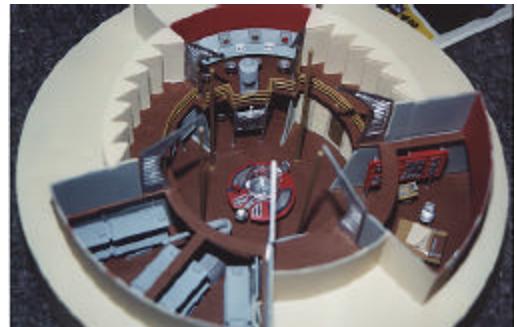
I started out by filling the gaps with extra thick super glue. This would give me a strong bond between the panels. Next, I used about half a tube of Micro-Stain auto body filler to feather in the seams. I didn't have very much time, so following the suggestions from Starship Modeler I employed the heavy power tools. I found that 220 grit on the random orbit sander made quick work of the Micro-Stain. That stuff dries rock hard after about a week!

Finishing up with 600 grit paper left a reasonably smooth surface. This afternoon I sprayed the first gray primer on the upper surface. Other than a few spots where the putty didn't quite cover, it don't look half bad, considering I was using power tools on it and all.

Dealing with deadlines sucks, so unless I come across something on the lower half I can't ignore, I'm going to leave well enough alone. I guess I can always come back at a later date and do some more fillin' and sandin'.

The finish coat is going to be Testors Chrome Silver with some steal highlights if I have time. The beauty of this kit, (yes, there is beauty here) is that there are no decals or flashy paint scheme. Just solid silver, with a band of steal around the outer saucer.

That should just about cover everything. There is now a giant grey pill looking thing sitting on the floor behind me, so I need to try and find a safe place for it. TTFN.



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