



# MADDOG MONTHLY

The Official Publication of IPMS Boise, Idaho

[www.maddog.delta-v.org](http://www.maddog.delta-v.org)

July 2005

.25 Cents



“It is my pleasure to serve, sir.”

## Calendar of Events

July: C. V. Auto Contest

August: “She”

Sept. 17: McMinnville

Sept. 17-18: M. H. Air Show

Sept. 23-24: The Gathering

November: “Heavy Haulers”

## Executive Board

President: Brian Geiger

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# June 2005 meeting minutes

- The meeting officially started at 1800, with Brian presiding.
- There were 24 members present, a nice number for a June meeting. Ian and Kent were in Hamilton Montana. Visiting Jerry Crandall and gathering more info and decals on ME-109 and Fw-190! Bill was somewhere flying his RC planes. As we can see he is back in full form.
- Brian reminded us about the display at the Warhawk museum in Nampa scheduled in August, the weekend before the meeting.
- We Had a visitor from IPMS Vancouver who shared some of his experiences as a modeler, and talked about some of the club activities such as the barbecue that they will hold in late August (check their website).
- I like to remind everyone that the next meeting is the Curt V. Auto Contest, but you can bring anything that has wheels. Just use your imagination.

## Model of the month

1. A Grumman Albatros in 1/72, Monogram kit by Ray Sweet. Ray used some Floquil Lacquer for the painting.
2. Herb Arnold presented a Lockheed F-117A in 1/144 by DML.
3. Another kit from Herb was the Tachikawa KI-36 "IDA" in 1/72. A Fujimi kit.
4. Tom Vogt brought us a 1/72 Dewoitine 500, a 1/72 kit by Heller. Tom used Model Master paint throughout.
5. Tom also brought us a DML 1/350 German submarine, a type XXI which was the last type build by the German. The last one survived as an experimental submarine, the Wilhem Bauer.

The winner for the model of the month were;

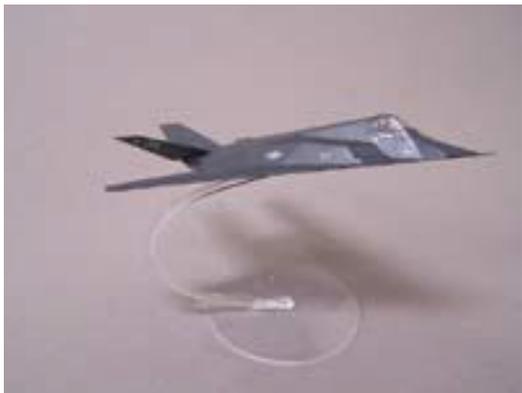
1<sup>st</sup> place Ray Sweet and his Albatros.

2<sup>nd</sup> place Tom Vogt with the German submarine.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Herb Arnold 's F-117 Stealth.

- Brian Geiger brought us several aircrafts on a string as part of the show and tell. They included a 1/72 Strike Eagle by Academy. A F-16 by Revell, also in 1/72. And finally a Su-25 Frogfoot also from Revell and in 1/72 scale.
- I would like to publish a list of E-mail addresses in one of the future newsletters. Any members that are interested please let me know. It would facilitate communication between members without have to use the ever intrusive telephone.

# June Photo Gallery



## *1/72 scale is for homos*

by Brian Geiger

How many times have you heard that? Now that I have your attention let me clarify. Dick Engar often refers to 72 scale as the “true & manly scale”. Others stick by the adage that bigger is better. What's the source of these scale wars & who's the real homo? I may not have all the answers but permit me to ramble on a bit about scale.

The name of the game is scale modeling and most of us interpret that as building miniatures. For the scope of this newsletter, I'll skip the freaks that enlarge things or make 1:1 copies. For most of us, the trick is to make something teeny-weeny that looks like it's full size counterpart. In general, the bigger the object - the smaller the scale. Subjects like sci-fi spacecraft, dinosaurs, & fantasy figures often come in a jumble of different scales. Aircraft, armor, automobiles, & ships have developed standard scales. There was a time when I used to jump around to any scale that offered the subject. I found that certain subjects look more authentic in different scales & that sticking with one scale lets you combine modes in one setting. It's easier to compare different vehicles in the same scale.

Ok, you already knew that. Let's get down to some specifics. WWII fighters were popular in 1/32 twenty years ago. There was a fairly good selection of available kits & the finished kit had a good presence. Complicated paint schemes with mottling or scribbles were more attainable. The problem was that most of those kits were a bit soft on detail, especially in areas like the cockpit. It seems that virtually all 1/32 required a lot of improvising by modelers. Fit problems like wing/fuselage joints could easily become major engineering projects. The bigger scale only made the problems more apparent. I steered clear of

1/32 scale and settled on 1/48. The last twenty years have been good to the 1/48 aircraft modelers. You're also aware that the quality of injection-molded kits has really improved lately. It occurred to someone at Hasegawa to produce a new 1/32 kit with the current molding technology. We now see the resulting line of new 1/32 kits with a growing compliment of aftermarket decals and parts. This time, breathtaking kits can be made right out of the box with relative ease. The large scale was so successful that other companies like Trumpeter followed suite in 1/24.

So, has everyone converted to a bigger ideal scale? No. Emerson wrote, “Every individual has its own beauty...and each mind hath its own method.” The world of armor seems to be experiencing the exact opposite with new product lines appearing in 1/48 and 1/72. Go figure. A few Maddogs have recently shown very impressive models and dioramas in beensy 1/144 scale.

### ***Some reasons to build a bigger scale are:***

Easier to do complex paint schemes.  
More life can be added by using figures and larger figures convey more emotion.  
Larger subjects can be more detailed.  
Larger subject replicate weight and mass better.

### ***Reasons to build in smaller scale:***

Fewer parts and smaller seams can make it faster. (Note: The exception is the freak faction of modelers that superdetail in small scale.)  
Cost: smaller kits are usually less expensive. They require less glue, putty, & paint.  
Availability of subject – 1/72 still holds the record of available kits for jet aircraft.  
Shelf space – smaller kits take up less space and permit larger displays of collections.

So where do you sit when it comes to scale? Are you sticking to a certain scale because you've amassed a large stockpile of like kits over the last few years? Do you yearn to build something different because of the current buzz of a new kit release? Or do you just stick with 1/72 because that's what Paul Boyer likes. I suppose the key is that you find a scale that you're comfortable with and works for you.

Photos can be deceiving but see if you can match the following pictures with their respective scales of 1/72, 1/48, & 1/32. Then go build something!

Brian



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# The Future is Clear

by Ian Robertson

Modelers are a creative bunch, often making use of cheap and ordinary household items to advance their hobby. Take for example, Future floor wax - what could be more ordinary than a water-soluble clear floor coating? Well, for the modeler it can be an extraordinarily useful product. Here are some ideas to try out:

## 1) Gloss coats

Future is excellent for producing clear gloss coats on models. A gloss coat is essential for successful application of decals, otherwise small air bubbles become trapped between the model and the decal, leading to unsightly silvering.

Before applying Future to your model it is important that the model be clean and free of any oils such as fingerprint, and that all coats of paint are fully cured (wait 24-48 hours, perhaps longer for enamels).

Future can be applied directly from the bottle either by paintbrush or airbrush, and cleaned up using an ammonia-based cleaner like Windex (simply shoot it through your airbrush). For airbrushing I typically apply several light coats of Future over the span of a few minutes. No need to flood your model with it, that will only lead to pooling. Allow the model to dry overnight in a dust free area. Once the gloss coat has dried you can apply decals using your preferred method. Note that decal solvents (e.g., Mr. Mark Softer, Micro-sol) can eat away at Future, so use them sparingly. Also, setting solutions in will react with Future that has not cured fully and create a white haze. Do not despair, this haze will disappear when you apply a second coating of Future. Nevertheless, remember to allow Future to cure for 24 hours before applying decals (although I've done it successfully after 6 hours - attempt at your own risk).

Smaller decals such as stencils are notorious for silvering, even when a gloss coat is applied. For these decals you can remove

them from the backing paper as usual, dip them in Future, and then apply to the model. Use a paint brush to soak up any excess Future around the decal.

Once your decals have dried completely (wait at least 24 hours), you can safely apply another coat of Future or a clear flat finish such as Testors dull coat or Polly Scale clear flat. Note that Testors Dull Coat is a lacquer so it should be applied in light coats to avoid scarring the surface of the gloss coat.

Finally, because Future is a true acrylic coating, washes that are oil based will not affect the finish as they would on lacquer or enamel based coatings. Good news while weathering.

## **2) Crystal clear canopies and windshields**

Clear parts, as well as the more common "sort-of clear" parts, dipped in Future become crystal clear when dry. Future also helps to hide minor abrasions and makes clear parts more resistant to scratching. Simply pour Future into a small cup and dip your canopy or other clear parts into it. Using fine forceps (tweezers), remove the clear parts and set them on a tissue or paper towel to allow the excess fluid to wick away. Then move the wet clear parts to a clean surface in a dust-free area and allow them to dry for at least 24 hours.

Once the Future has cured the clear parts can be masked for painting. If you mess up the painting, no problem. Simply dip the clear part in Windex and rub the Future away. This will remove the Future as well as the paint on top of it. You can now start the dipping process all over - "Back to the Future" you might say. Hey, stop rolling your eyes - at least you didn't ruin your clear part!

Another bonus of dipping canopies in Future is that you can use CA glue to attach the part to the model without risk of fogging. (CA glue reacts to untreated clear parts and often causes them to fog.) The quick-setting nature of CA glue allows you to attach canopies quickly, securely, and without fuss. Just don't get any glue on your fingers.

*Untested tip:* I've heard that if you leave a small piece of sprue attached to a clear part, dip it in Future and let dry, and then remove the sprue, it stop's the splintering that sometimes occurs.

## **3) Realistic instrument dials**

A drop of future in an instrument dial creates the impression of a glass face plate - a nice touch to an instrument panel.

## **4) Dioramas**

Future can be used for making mud puddles or standing water when doing a diorama. It's not as thick as epoxy, but it's easier to work with, and it doesn't take nearly as long to dry as resin type clear mediums. Pastel powders can be mixed with Future to create grime, mud, guck, yuck, or whatever.

## **5) Filler**

*Untested tip:* I've heard that you can add talcum powder to Future to make quick drying seam filler that is hard, but sands easily.

## **6) Transparent colors**

If you want to create your own shades of transparent colors, food coloring can be mixed with Future for the desired effect. For tinted canopies on contemporary jet fighters try adding a few drops of Tamiya acrylic gold to a couple teaspoons of Future. I'd recommend practicing on a spare clear part.

## **Troubleshooting**

When airbrushing Future you may occasionally have problems with it not leveling out and imparting a 'pebbly' finish. The solutions are:

- Apply a second coat. Many times this will solve the problem.
- Add a couple drops of a liquid dishwashing detergent to the cup holding the Future to be sprayed. This helps the Future 'break' it's natural surface tension and level out faster.
- Add a few drops of Windex to the paint cup to reduce the surface tension of the Future.
- Sand the surface of your model with 3200 or even 6000 grit sandpaper. You might want to experiment on a less visible area before going to town all over your model.

Regardless of these options, minor pebbling will not affect the application of decals and in most cases disappears once a final dull coat is applied.

### **Next Months Issue**

Coverage of the C. V. Auto Contest.

Article: U.S.S. Alabama

# It Came From The Internet!

These pictures came from a Russian language web site. They are of the St. Petersburg Naval Day in Russia. Check out the hovercraft!



I didn't know the Russians had a hover craft like this one.



Comradeskis!

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