



Hello All !

I'm really looking forward to seeing you back at the monthly meetings soon – and being able to appreciate, in person, some of the great work that has been done.

Thank You all for your contributions for this month and for the months past. It has definitely provided me with some entertainment and inspiration throughout this time. It's been even better than any model magazine subscription for me – because its all been made of work from people I know.

Enjoy this last newsletter and see ya soon !

Chris

Paul Stirrup

After weeks of not getting any time to do anything other than the 'Honey Do List', I fancied something different. So I ordered the AMP 1/72 Victory 357 EkranoPLAN... technically a boat.

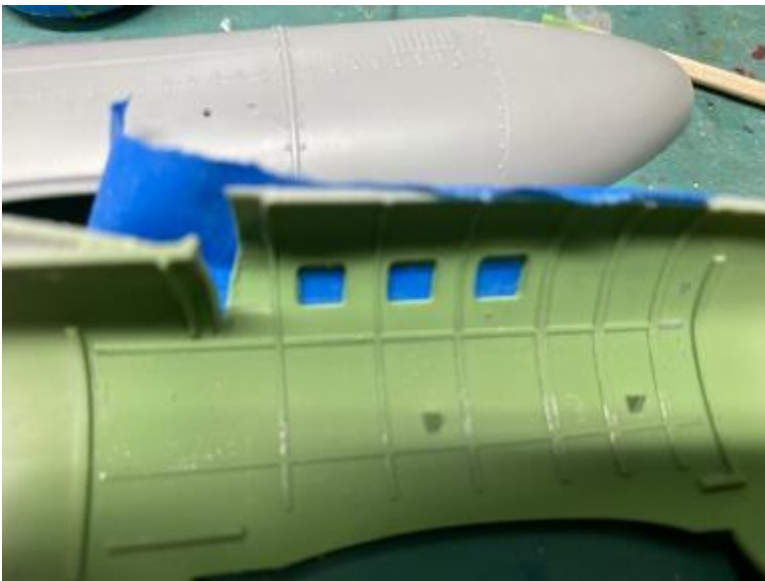


The package came from the Ukraine, and included a small bag of candy. So not knowing how close to Pripyat they came from, I put them inside some lead foil and buried it in the new concrete I just laid.





Fit and finish was a bit flakey, but overall quite good. I replaced the very thick window glass with UV cure glue, and masked after for painting with the masks provided.



The body had some ill-defined details on it so I either sanded it off or replaced it with plastic strip, I added details from plastic stock also to add a little more detail.





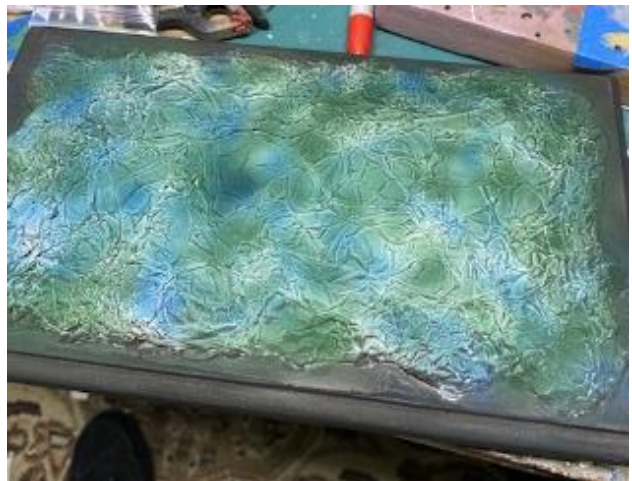








The water is made from crumpled aluminium foil, covered with several opaque layers of blues, greens and yellows, and dry brushed with satin white for wave tops, the sea spray is fibres from a dog toy.





Overall very enjoyable project...







Richard Senges

How Has My Modeling Changed in 2020 and 2021 . . .

About two years ago I decided to write down five ways to improve my modeling room and model displays. I took them one by one and completed most of the items.

1. Re-lamp the model room with T-12 and T-8 sunlight fluorescent bulbs - done.
2. Vacuum the room's oriental rugs and floor - done.
3. Upgrade some of the models - done.
4. Fix one model where the metal chain had corroded to a green color - done.
5. Install and upgrade a white display shelf for some of the tank models - done.

Editor's note: Here are two commissioned tank models that Richard submitted for a previous newsletter. I recently realized that they were never included in the month that they were submitted – so I am including them here . . .



German Tiger – Late Production



Ken Brent

Testors 1/72 F-18 Hornet / a build continuation from April

This two seater is from the VMFA 251 Squadron and is depicted in a night attack configuration. Sidewinders outside pylons, AGM-154 JSOW inside wing pylons, AGM-84E SLAM outside wing pylons. Also has LASER Detector Tracker and Forward Looking FLIR on rear missile mounts. All munitions were built from the Hasegawa aircraft weapons set: V.





Testors 1/72 F-18

This is a Photo Recon version from the Navy VFA-15 Squadron. This version wasn't in wide spread use but on a trial basis. Loaded with extra wing fuel tanks, Sidewinder missiles on outside pylons and HARM missiles on center wing pylon.





And the trio shot with more to come.....



Jason Charles

Greetings Modelers and friends! First my apologies for not contributing to last month's newsletter. As to be expected, things have been crazy at the HS I teach at. We're back at full capacity once again. So I've been quite busy the last couple of weeks.

Okay, back to modeling! This month's contribution is an old Tamiya kit. The date of this kit goes back to 1974. It was given to me by my father-in-law and thought it would be a nice little build. It's a 1/35 German 3.7Cm Antitank Gun. (PAK35/36). I'm sure some of you might of already built it. I purposely built it to appreciate the injection-molded engineering we have today. I also had a vision for how I wanted to display this little project.

To start off, everything was out of the box with the exception of the figure and of course the scratch built vignette. It went together well as one would expect a 1974 kit to go together. Besides, it's a Tamiya and we all love them for their outstanding engineering!! There were a couple fiddly parts, but nothing too crazy after building some Miniart kits. I did end up snagging a figure from my Tamiya Goliath set. Although the gun went together well, the porportions of the figures were terrible. I still ended up modifying the newer figure a bit with my new dremel tool. Here's an example of creating more depth inside the sleeve area. The pic on the right is before and the pic on the left is after:



It would have been too odd having almost a solid sleeve since that area was a focal point. I also did my first scratch built straps for both the helmet and machine gun. Here is an example of that:



I'm not sure why I painted the eye area since they would be covered anyway, but here is the head finished. You'll notice that I did add some stubble to the face. Too bad a majority of his face will be out of site behind binoculars. Either way, I know you guys would appreciate the effort! 😊



Here is a close up shot of the figure ready to go on the vignette. Notice the machine gun's strap too. The instructions would have you literally just glue it on. So that's why I had to include a strap.



Here are the final reveal shots (I've always wanted to say that) of the finished model and base:









All in all the project was fun and a bigtime learning experience. Every model I pick up, I always feel like a sponge trying to soak up more techniques to add into my toolbox. This was one of the reasons I wanted to join IMPS Rochester. I've been working at this medium for about a year and half now and know that there is so much more I would like to learn. Besides, I wanted to give the wife a break from critiquing my models and meet fellow model builders.

Chris asked us a question pertaining to how our modeling hobby may or may not have changed this past year? My response to that is how much you guys have inspired me at the bench! That inspiration will make you accountable for wanting to learn more and exploring new techniques as a whole. I'm bummed that Covid robbed me of the time that I could of spent learning and building friendships with all of you. I guess it's just one of those things... I'm going to remain optimistic that all of us will be showing and talking about our models once again in-person soon! Take care and stay safe!

-Jason Charles

John Trippe

It is my hope that by the time June comes the USS New Jersey will be done.



To share pics of photo etched progress, would be premature. That said, the journey with PE has been steady, but long. I try to get a rail or two installed every day. However, a long somewhat intense build can bring on a fatigue.

To help me keep things fresh, I put together quick builds that are just plain fun. Thus these two subjects. First is from Lindberg. Their Jolly Roger pirate series of calamity. This one is called "Dismay be the End". Just a few sessions of build time. That included more crock teeth, tattered clothing and more wrappings around the head scarf. Kept me delightfully energized. Fun, fun!





The other is a Russian kit of such poor quality, that I had to try and build it. The Roto-copter is the ABTOXNP A-7-3A in 1/72 scale. Haven't a clue to the manufacturer is as it was a literal bag kit.

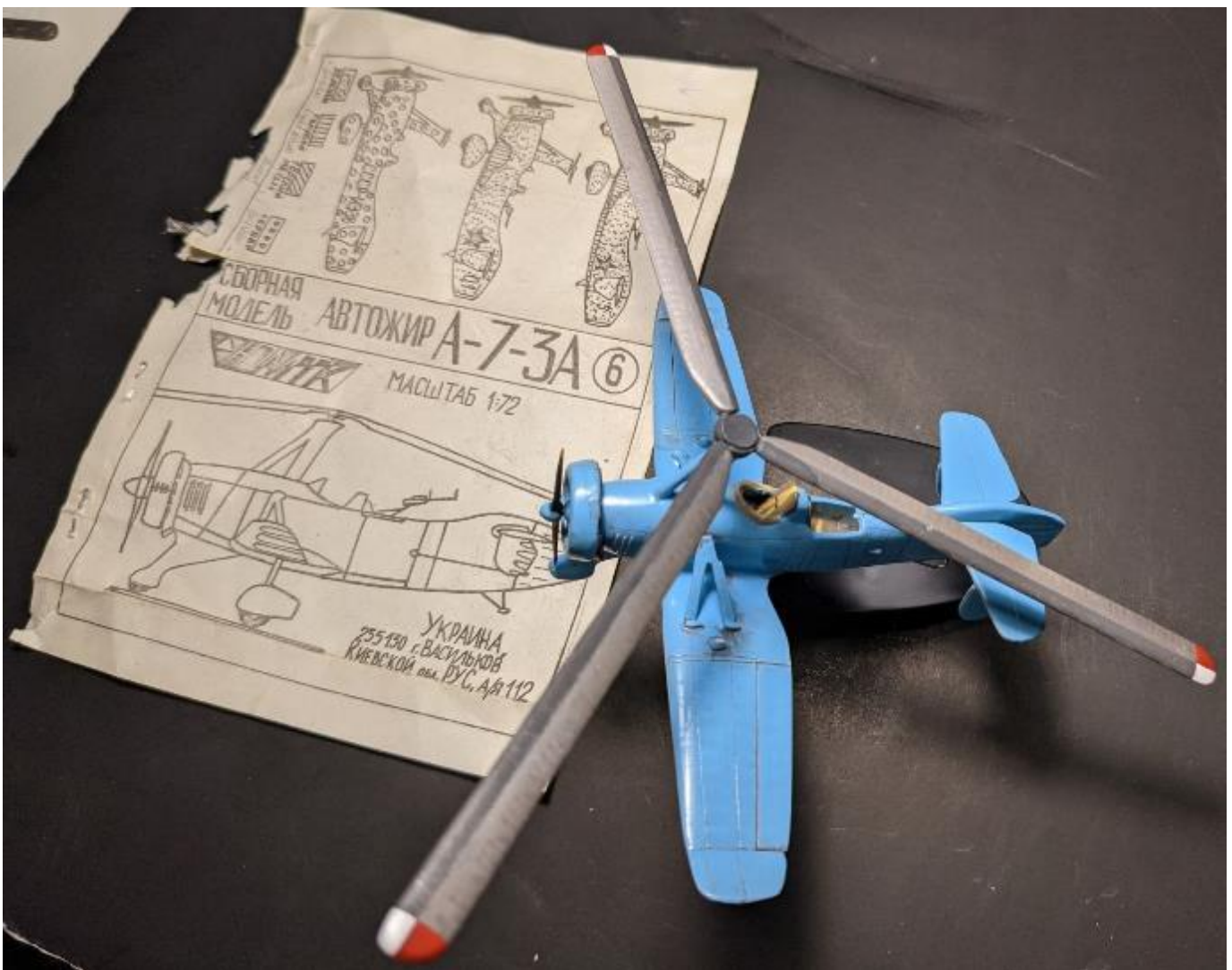


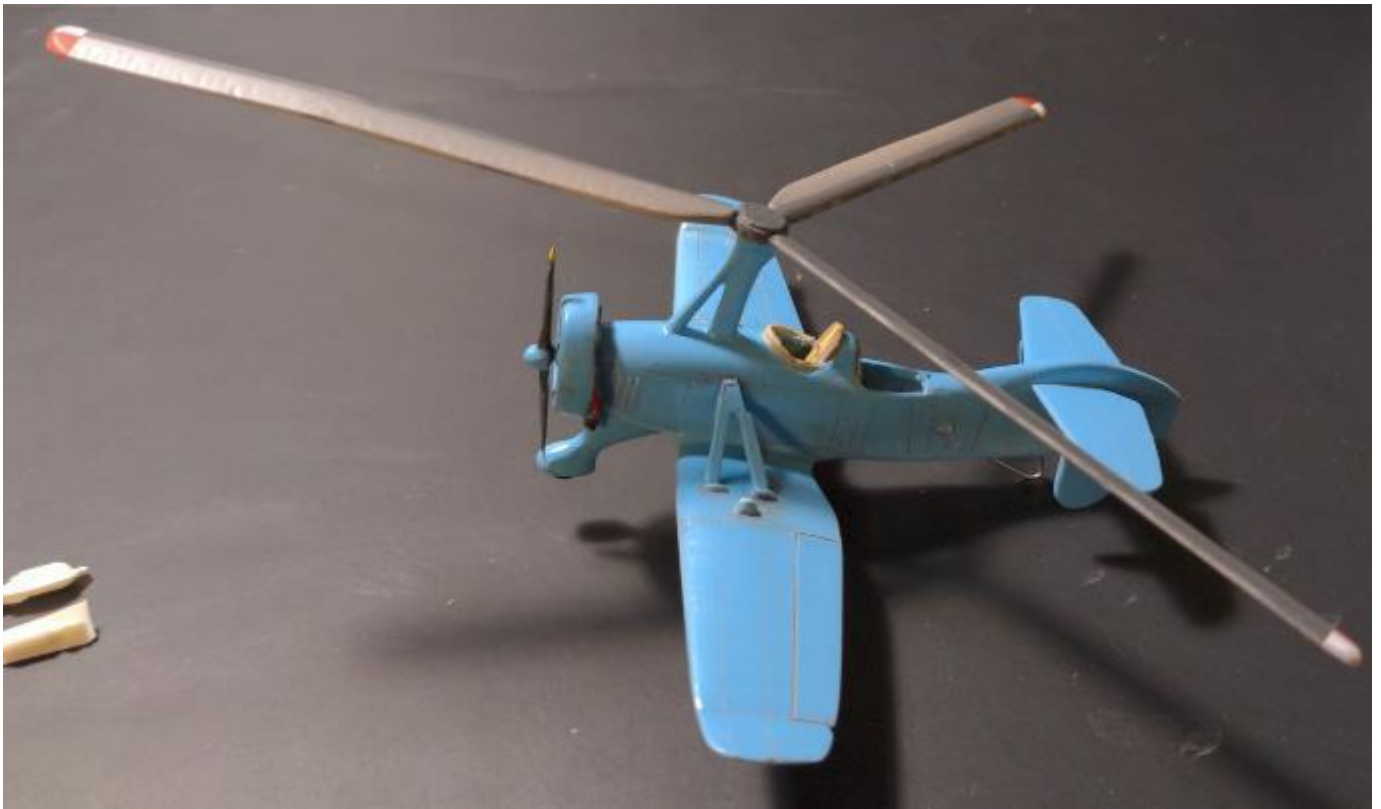
Here are pictures of the "bombs" as they came in the kit.



To call it flash is too kind. The whole thing was pretty much like this. Not resin, yet not a plastic that we know ??

The subject reminds you of those goofy early movie attempts at flight. The 2nd stage with the paint is camouflage. And I have some Ruskie stars in 1/72 on their way. A shelf model at best. But...are you ready?? Yes! It was Fun to get it this far.







Finally...have you ever wondered how big a 1/200 ship model kit is? And then try to build it? We'll, I'm sure going to do my best to find out. Meet Trumpeter's HMS Nelson 1944. Ha ha more to be revealed.



Now, where are those PE pliers? There around here somewhere...

Thanks all! Keep going! Keep building!

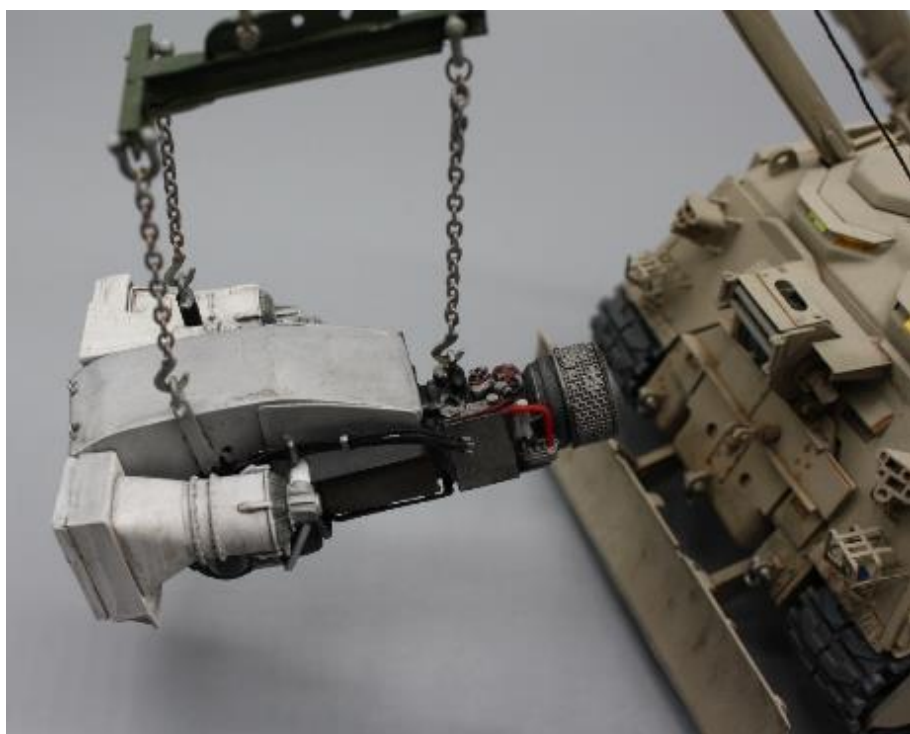
My best,

John

Cliff Wiley

M88A2 with Abrams engine







Phil Pucher

Ryefield Models Pzkw IV (late) w/full interior

This is my first experience with a kit that comes with a full interior. The term “full interior” is no exaggeration; the kit has 28 sprues. Then there are individual track links (98 per side). A clear deck and turret were provided, but I decided to follow in Chris Boss’s footsteps and do a cut away (curse you Chris Boss!!!).



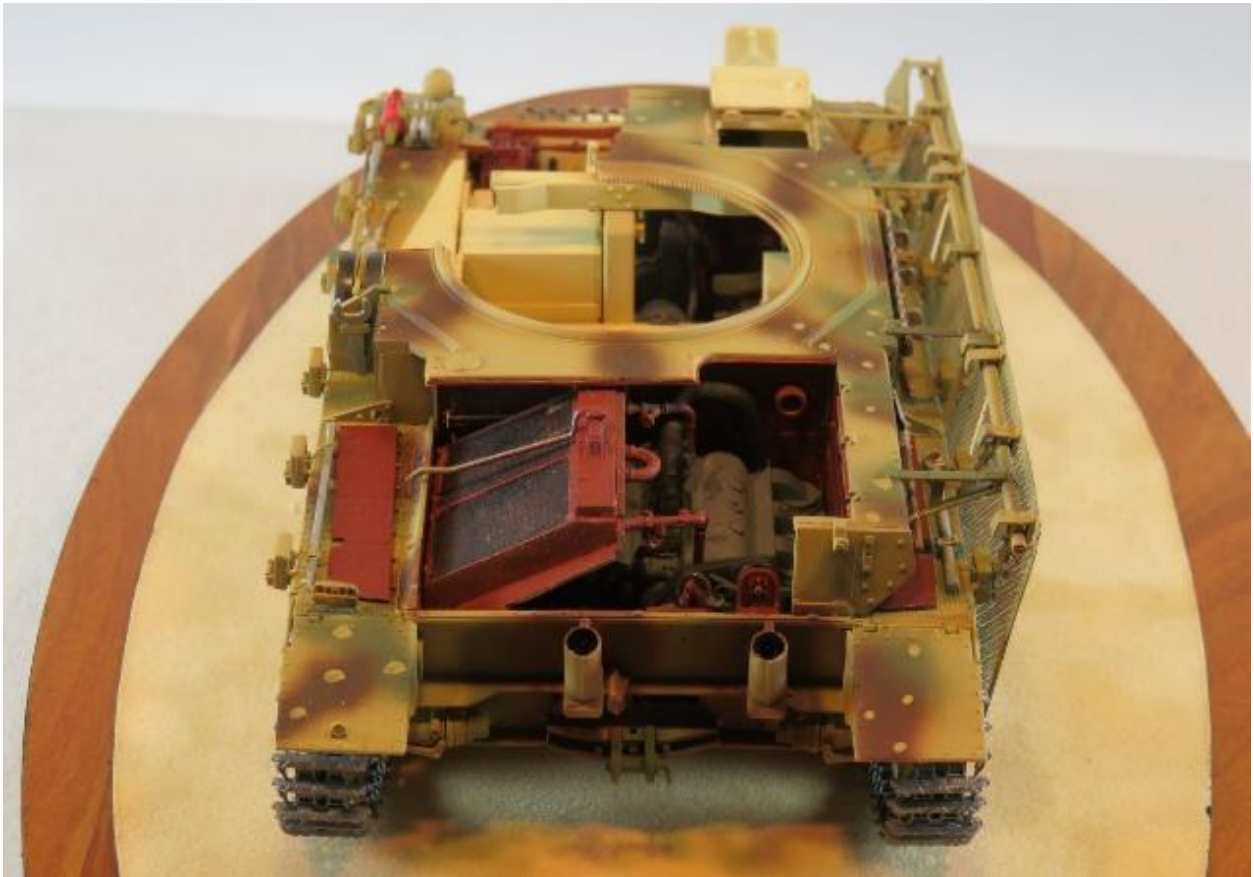


The build. I labeled each sprue and put them in three groups, but I still had to constantly go through them to find the parts I needed. The instructions (38 pages) were vague in many places. Locating holes, pins, slots were hard to locate. Parts fit was tight; many pre-painted parts had to be scraped. There were a lot of tiny parts (I call them "Bill Gilman's"), a number of which either made it to the carpet (RIP) or didn't get installed because you would have needed a magnifying glass to see them. A sprue cutter and tweezers will become your friends.

Before I got too far along, I had to figure out what parts of the model I wanted to cut away. The kit has a full set of Shurtzen and I wanted to install at least part of it, so that meant that one side of the hull and turret had to remain.



Cutting the front of the hull and the side of the turret was easy; cutting the rear deck required more care because it was a large part and I wanted to keep it intact.



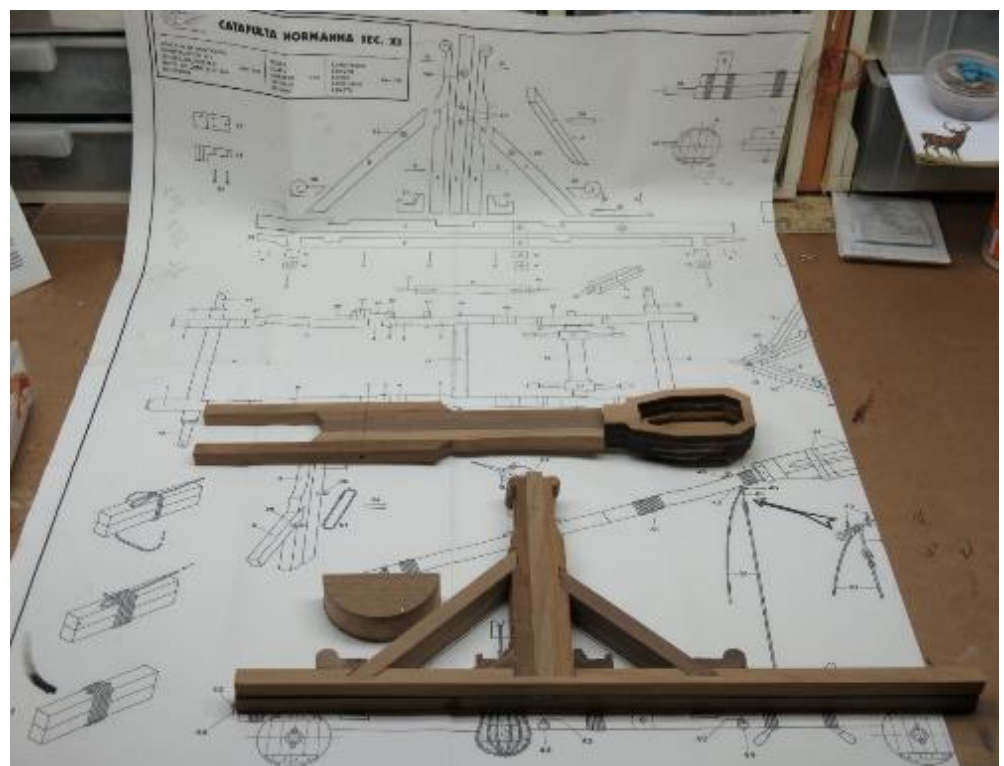
The tracks took some time, but went together nicely. A jig is provided, and it worked perfectly. If you use glue sparingly, the tracks will be workable.



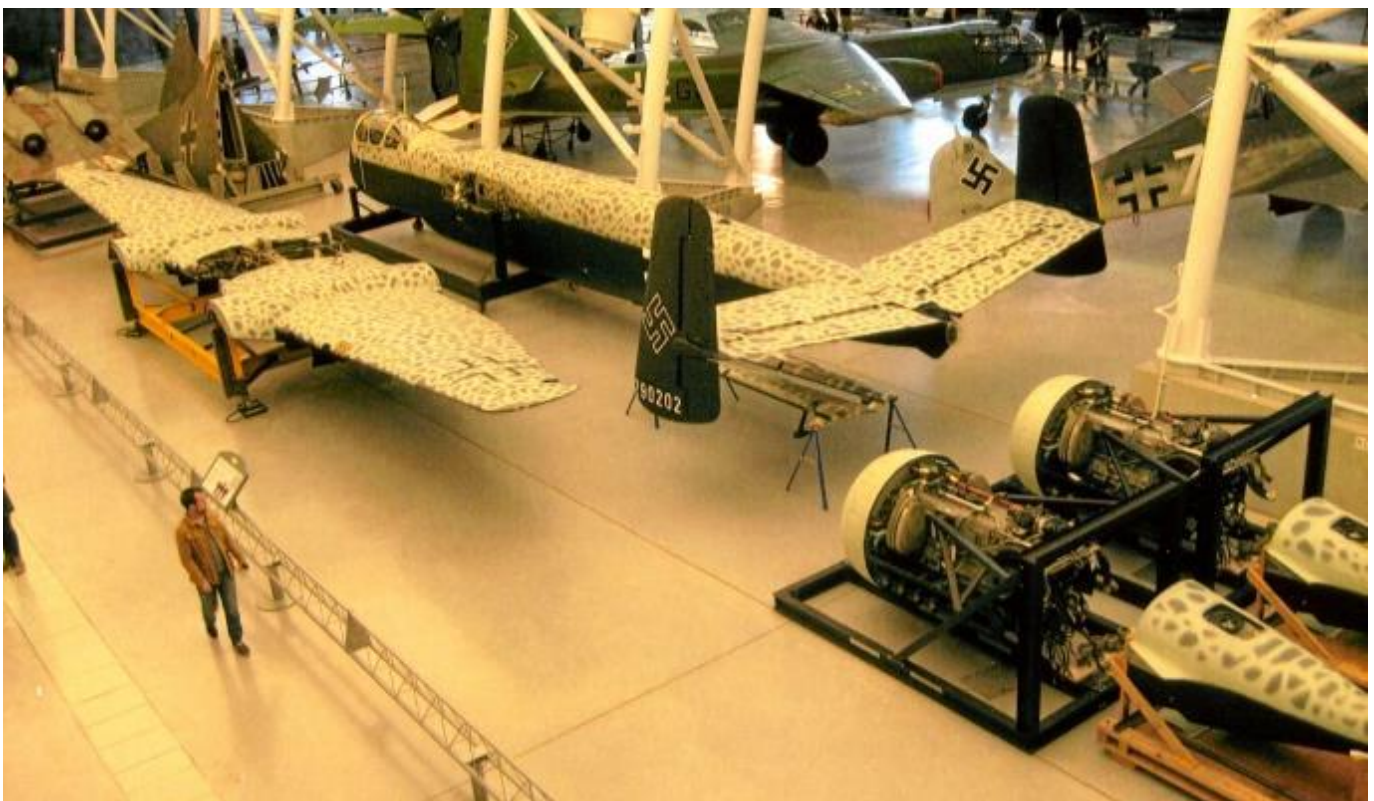
Painting instructions are vague. There are no color callouts, only color drawings of the interior and the external camouflage patterns. Because the model was meant to be a “display model”, weathering was minimal.

Conclusions: Given the number parts and the complexity of construction, this kit will not be an “overnight” build, and will definitely tax your patience. If you don’t plan on using the clear parts or doing a cut away, buy the version without the interior.

And now for something completely different; I am building a Norman Catapult, better known as a Trebuchet. It could throw stones to knock down walls, or rotting corpses to spread disease. The kit is by Mantua Models and contains NO plastic. Most parts are pre-cut, but there is some cutting, drilling, fitting. A nice change from a plastic. Also the oldest kit on the SOD.



FYI. The He-219 at the Udvar-Hazy Museum in D.C. has been assembled (minus props and radar antennae) and is currently on display. Check the website if you want to take a look.



Phil's 1/48 scale He-219



Chris Boss

Revell Willy's '41 Coupe Gasser

After several years of languishing – this one is finally complete !

I can't say I'd recommend this kit as I've heard there are several other Willy's kits on the market that aren't so old and worn out. There were some hard-to-fix fit and finish issues related mostly to the body - and the fact that the hood, doors, and trunk lid were all made to be open-able. There were large clearance gaps around the doors and trunk lid. The gaps were backed with styrene sheet and filled with putty.



Originally the interior was black, but with the small windows not letting in any light, I couldn't see anything in there. So it was re-done in a light brown. Aircraft modelers might recognize the color as RAF "dark earth".

Most chrome trim pieces were left off to keep the appearance rather basic, but it needed some kind of "flash" – so I went with only a few sponsor decals on the front fenders.

The paint is Testors black metallic sprayed from a rattle can.



Even with the issues – this was a fun build. And in all my years of modeling, it's the first Gasser I've built.

MPC 1/25 Datsun 620 Pickup

I saw this kit a while back and had to buy it for sentimental reasons – It was a vehicle my brother owned. I learned to drive in this little truck by putzing around on my brother's farm in Alberta. There were a few unique things about his truck that I will eventually try to work into the finished model.



The first is that the truck was painted with Krylon rattle can green. (The actual truck – not just the model)

The second was that my brother built his own cap for the bed out of plywood. He removed the back window from the cab so that he could reach into the bed (kindof), and he installed that window into one of the sides of the cap.

Then he fashioned some kindof fabric reinforced rubber “tunnel” between the cab and the cap so that the elements were sealed out.

It is painted with the same green color and flattened down with a dullcoat.

I found some images of 1977 Alberta license plates on-line and printed a set for this build.



I've only had a couple issues with the kit. The first was the bed-to body fit. Some significant plastic surgery was needed to close up the gaps. The second was the fit of the rear wheels. The axle and the wheel hubs are too wide, so the wheels stand proud of the wheel wells quite a bit. I was working on the chassis separately and didn't notice the problem till after I put the body on. This will be a pain to fix – but I'll probably have to schedule another surgery because it is so noticeable.



There is still quite a way to go with this one. It will be weathered a bit more and the cap needs to be made.

I think my sister has a picture of this truck with the cap on it.

AMT 1/25 White Freightliner Cabover Tractor. A most challenging build that is testing my meager carving skills and my patience for flash removal. I'd like to do this one as a mildly weathered/used Semi rather than a showroom model.



I have a friend at work that does some restoration and custom modification of larger scale die-cast cars and trucks. He does his own casting and 3-D printing of parts to come up with some very creative one-of-a-kind models. So we talk modeling on a regular basis. Last time we spoke, he asked me if I would be interested (or if I knew anyone else that might be interested) in buying some 1/18 scale Ultimate Soldier brand Aircraft that he would like to sell.

These are basically styrene kits that are sold partially assembled so that you only need to attach a few major sub-assemblies in order to have a finished model. I have seen several examples on-line of people who basically disassemble and re-build these kits while adding detail and re-painting in whatever scheme they chose.

Below are 4 of the kits that he was looking to sell.

If anyone is interested – please feel free to contact me (Chris Boss)

I calculated the wingspans below based on 1/18th the size of the actual aircraft (I did not measure the models) They're pretty big.

P-40 Warhawk Over 2' wingspan



P-47 Thunderbolt 2' – 3" wingspan



F-6F Hellcat 2' – 4" wingspan



Ju 87 Stuka 2'- 6" wingspan

