

Hello Everyone

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year to all !

Let us all hope that 2021 brings both a return to familiar things that we've missed - and a fresh newness. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all some time in 2021. There seems to be a light on the horizon !

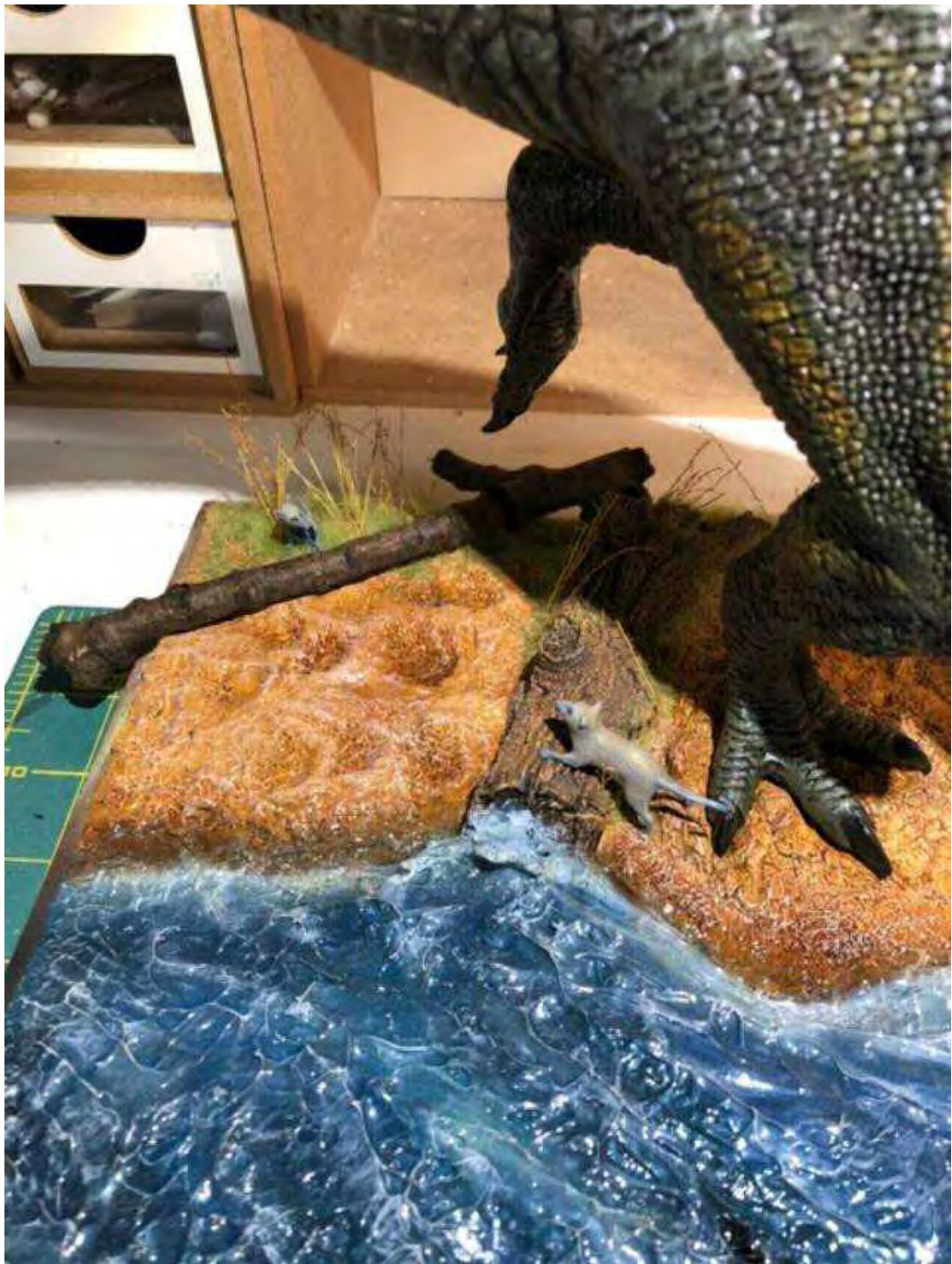
*Hang in there,
Chris*

Patsy Schwab

Just want to send some pictures of the Spinosaurus Dino diorama I finally finished !





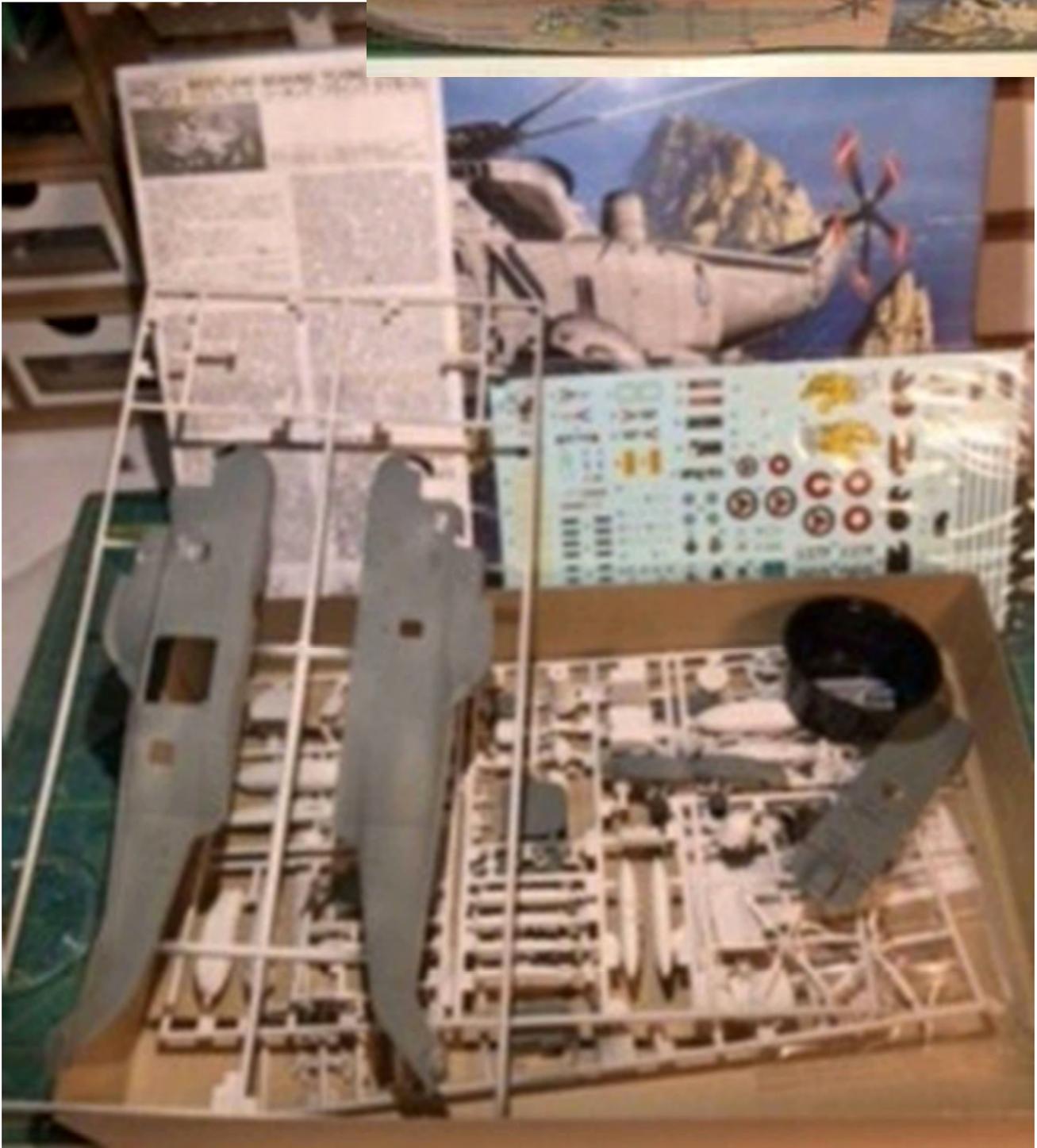




It was very fun to build and create!!

This year is finish what you started year.

I started this Sea King Flying Tigers quite a few years ago and want to get'er done. So far so good !





Grant DeRue

Here are a few of my recently completed kits:

The snowy colored one is a Meng Toons T-34. For kit modifications, I added unused parts from the KV-2 kit in the background, and I removed the external gas tanks while using the mounts as filler. I used Mig masking compound for the stripes with grayish white over a lightened Tamiya dark green. The hairspray technique was used to remove some of the white paint. Touch-ups were done with pastel chalk and white tamiya and dark green tamiya paint. My dog ate the previous build of this kit when it was almost finished.



The green tank is a 1/72 scale Modelcollect T-90 with a TOS-1A (MLRS) turret. It was a 2-3 year shelf queen due to some mild set-backs. The turret had gaps that were filled with a good amount of stretched sprue. This was a fun build. Modelcollect kits are well-detailed but a tad pricey.



John Trippe

John suggested a question for the next newsletter . . .

I would like to know how others mount their work so you can build safely.

The photo of the Knox Class destroyer under construction, shows how you can mount 1/700 without going insane. I am brand new to USS stuff, ships and 1/700... (If this is a common method, thanks for your patience 😊) A double tape over on a paint stick is all you need ! Then I took it a bit further and mounted the work on a uni-clamp. This works great ! A super great help and tip from Ken Brent.



The upside down Fairchild is being held in a foam cradle that normally holds model RR cars and engines. I have found that it helps me "be steady" as I go and be found as I left it when the session is done. You can find these at MicoMark and other elsewheres..



What do you have that works?
Thanks all! John

And here is more on John's builds . . .

I'm pleased to share that the Fairchild, C119 Flying Boxcar is done. Another 10 week weekend project done. It's a Roden kit. 1/144 scale. Testors has had one out for years but I'm accustomed to 1/144 now and have also found a larger selection of aviation types that I'm interested in in 144.

Several layers of coloring were added. Decals were a disaster but, I came out on top of that. First time I fully weathered the subject. The Boxcar was loud, uncomfortable and filthy. I wanted to convey the work horse that it was. Yet, not to overwhelm the subject. Vrooom.



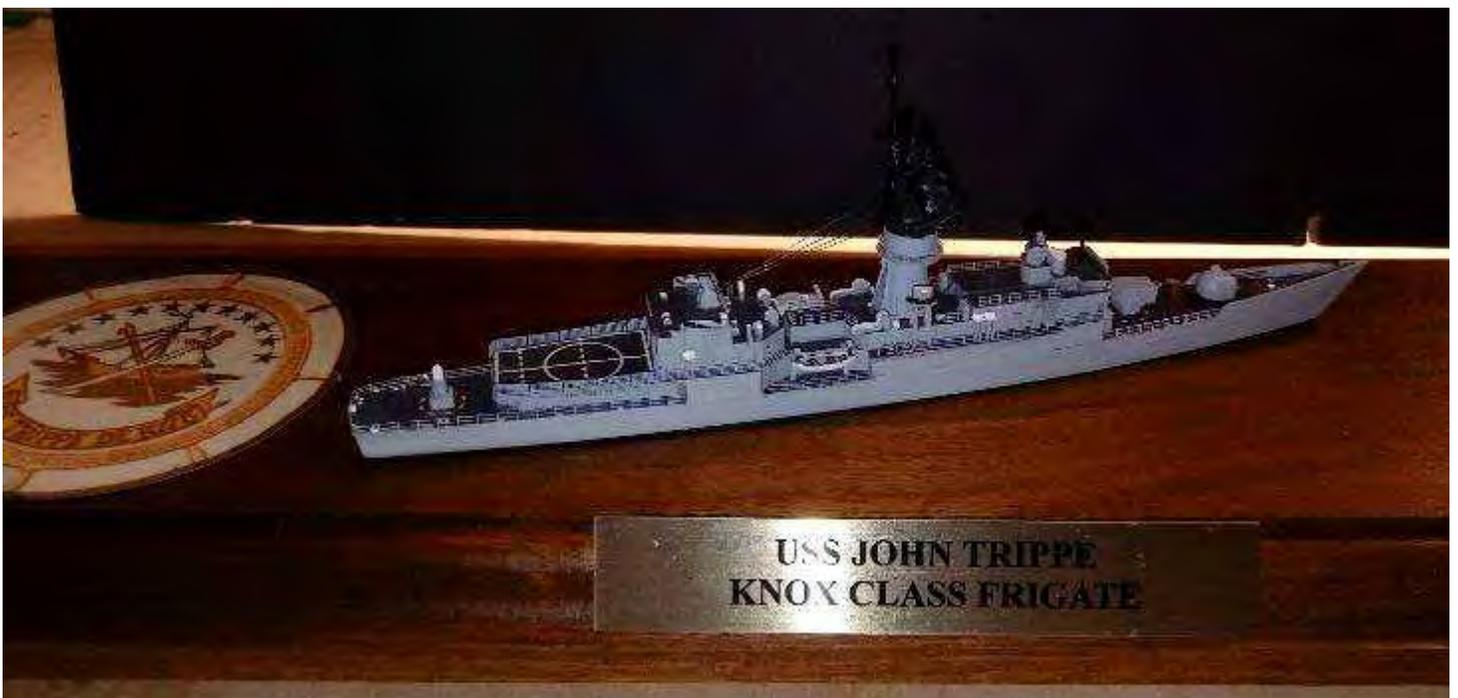


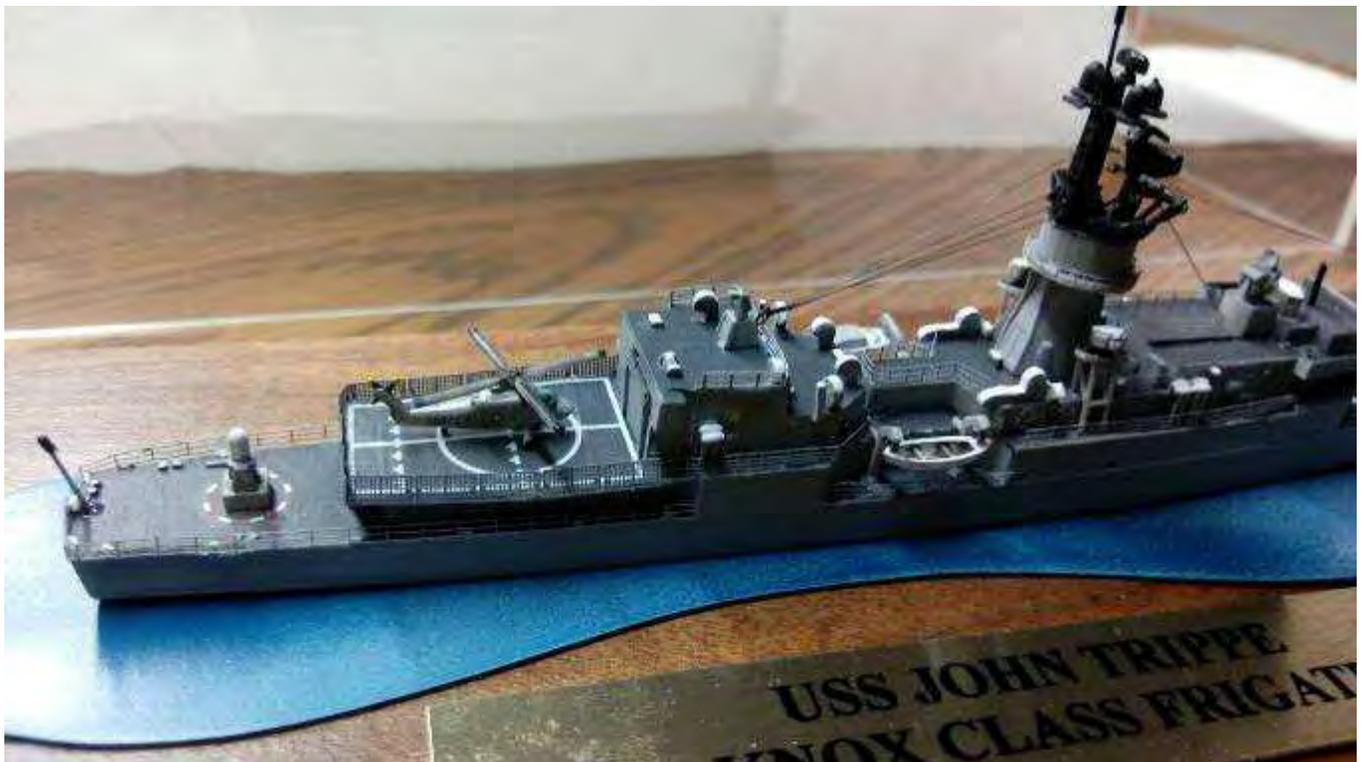
Next is ARV Clubs' 1/700 Knox Class Frigate kit... with a twist.
It is being numbered and done as the USS JOHN TRIPPE.

Yes, that's right - my namesake. Let me explain. During the Revolutionary War there was a young Lieutenant , John Trippe. He did good. Later in the Navy's history (I think the 1930's) the USS Navy started a series of dedications with his name. Currently it is the Knox Class Frigate # 1075. I have Never tried a ship like this. Let alone, 1/700, PE railings and such and oh yes, rigging. At the time of the photos I'm just about done. Couple more strings, decals and display work and I'll have my result!
Thanks all!



other than numeral decals, bow and stern flags and display commitment, it's pretty much done.
1/700 USS Trippe # 1075





And John was able to work on another kit this month as well . . .

This is the (very old) and simple Revell Harbor Tugboat that I've been working on to the goal of a major conversion. The US Waterways Fire Dept. Fire Boat. Been working on it a while now. Since Chris Boss has invited any late comers to December's newsletter I thought "why not?". It's not done yet. I have decals coming, more schnoggles, deebers, chochkey and twickles to put on. I'm having a ball!





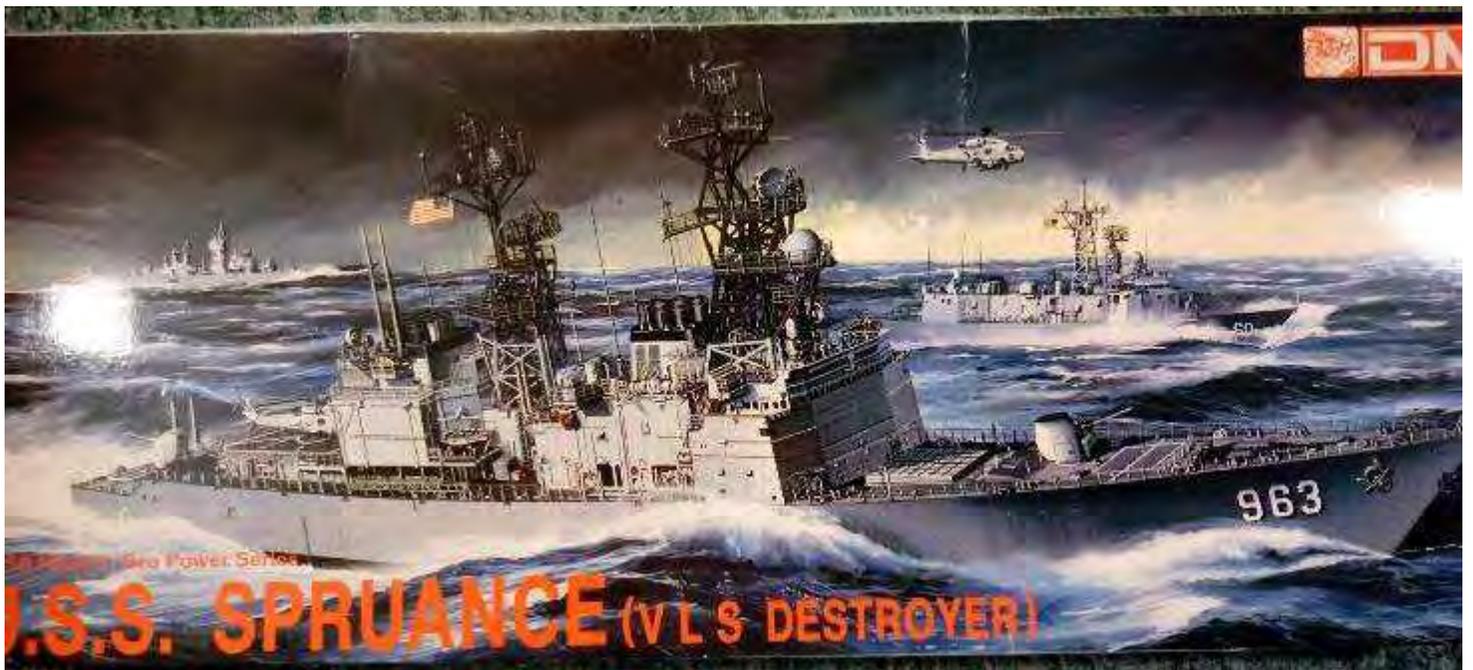
All fire cannons are scratch built. The life raft is too. Along with too many things to tell...but, take a look at the light tower.

Toot toot !

Keep building . . . and oh yes - my dedicated project for 2021 ??

I think the bug has bit: DML's 1/350th USS SPRUANCE (VLS Destroyer)

Nice and big. So I can see it...



Ken Brent

Completion: 1/72 Hobby Boss P-40B/C-81 3rd Squadron in China

Another on my quick build list, kit went together nicely and decals went on with few problems.

The red stripe was from my spares box and used a light touch with the setting solution. The right decal on the wheel splintered on application, so a fine bush touch-up was needed. Paint listings show Gunze Sangyo Aqueous and Mr. Color. I used Tamiya paints for all colors. The final clear flat was Testors Acryl.





Completion: 1/72 Hobby Boss F6F-3 "Hellcat" VF-6 USS Intrepid 1944

The last of my list, until I find more in my storage ! The only fitment problem was the lower section of the fuselage. I cut the locating pins and had to sand to get everything to conform to the upper section. Then a bit of re-scribing. The upper color is Floquil deck blue, the center is Testors Blue Gray and Testors white for the lower. Tamiya interior green was used for the wheel wells and interior. Tamiya tire black was applied on all my model tires. Decals went on after a coat of Testors Acryl clear gloss.





1/350 Trumpeter USS The Sullivan's DD-537 1945

The kit offers two build schemes 1943 & 1945, the plans follow both and I highlighted the one I chose.

The model can also be built as a full hull or waterline. I glued in the section for the waterline version and then changed my mind for the full hull. I spent more time getting the old plastic off than to actually build the kit.

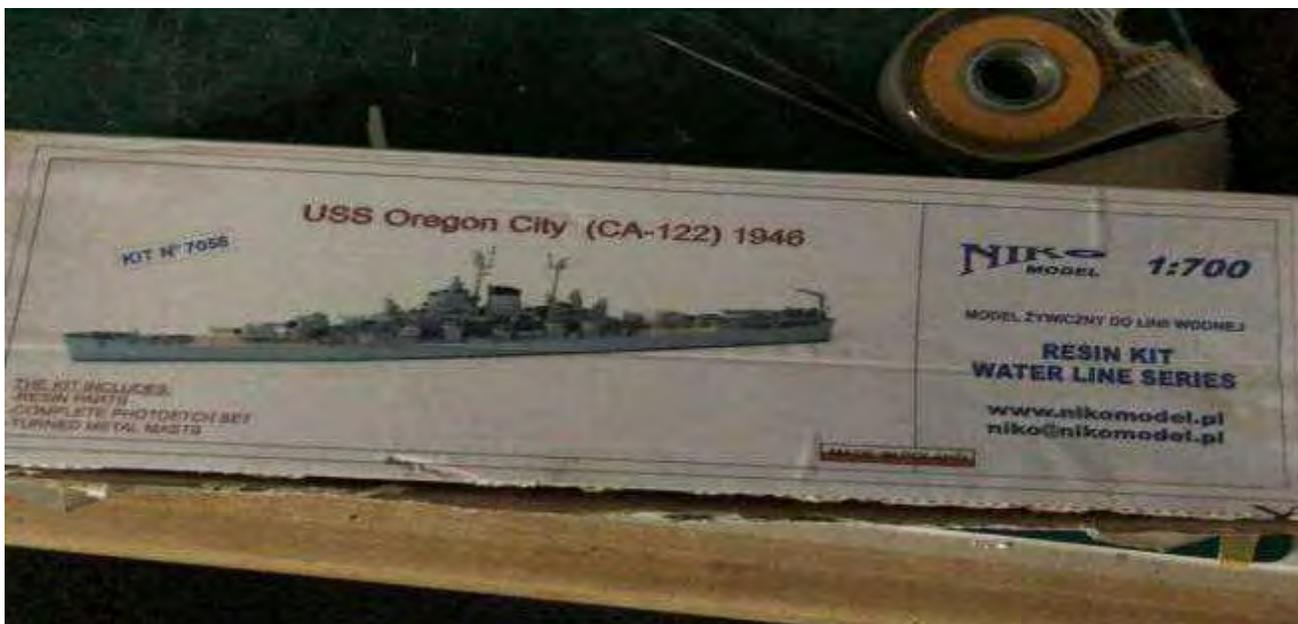


1/72 ESCI/ERTL F-111A

Working in the John Trippi Model Lab, I started on my F-111 collection. Not a bad kit, clean-up is going fast. Some seam work to be puttied and sanded.



Last is my kit selected for 2021, the Niko Model 1/700 USS Rochester (Oregon City class)



John McKeown

I haven't completed anything new in the past month, but I have rehabbed old models that were dusty and broken.

I opened the Me-163 canopy, fixed the missing antennas, guns and little wind generator prop, then painted the tarmac. It is the base for an acrylic cover. That together with the new label makes a nice display and protects it for the future.



**Me163BU41, Ek-16
Maj. Wolfgang Spate
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
May 16 1944**

The TBM needed a good dusting, an antenna and a fuselage door.



I am sure they are both at least 20 years old.

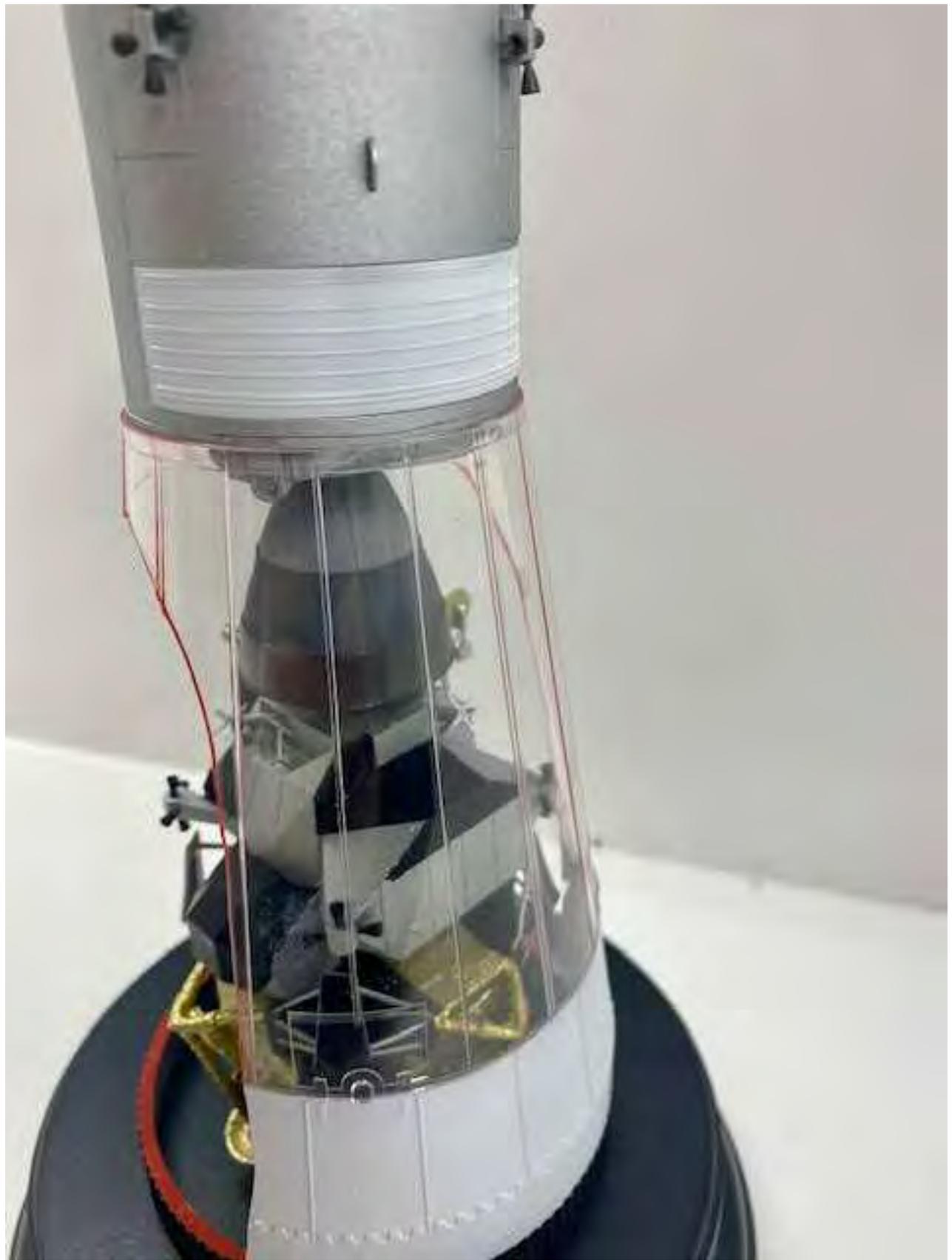
Enjoy.

Paul Stirrup

Apollo X, Dragon 1/72, I cutaway the clear section, don't know why as it's clear anyway doh!
Nice kit, some fit issues, but overall a good kit.







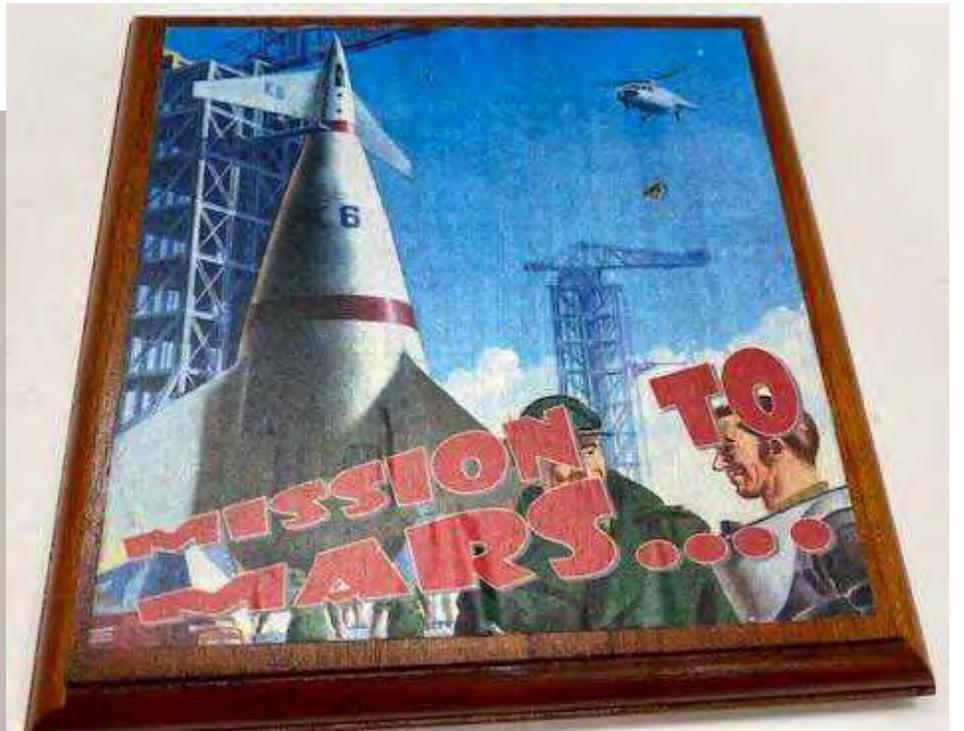


Lindburg Mars Probe, Jim Incavo gave me this sows ear to have a crack at, and frankly I'm pretty pleased with the outcome. I masked the chequers and used old decals to gussy it up a bit. I love 50s SciFi movies and found a poster online to use as a suitable base.









STAR TREK phase has just begun... I have lots of them to do

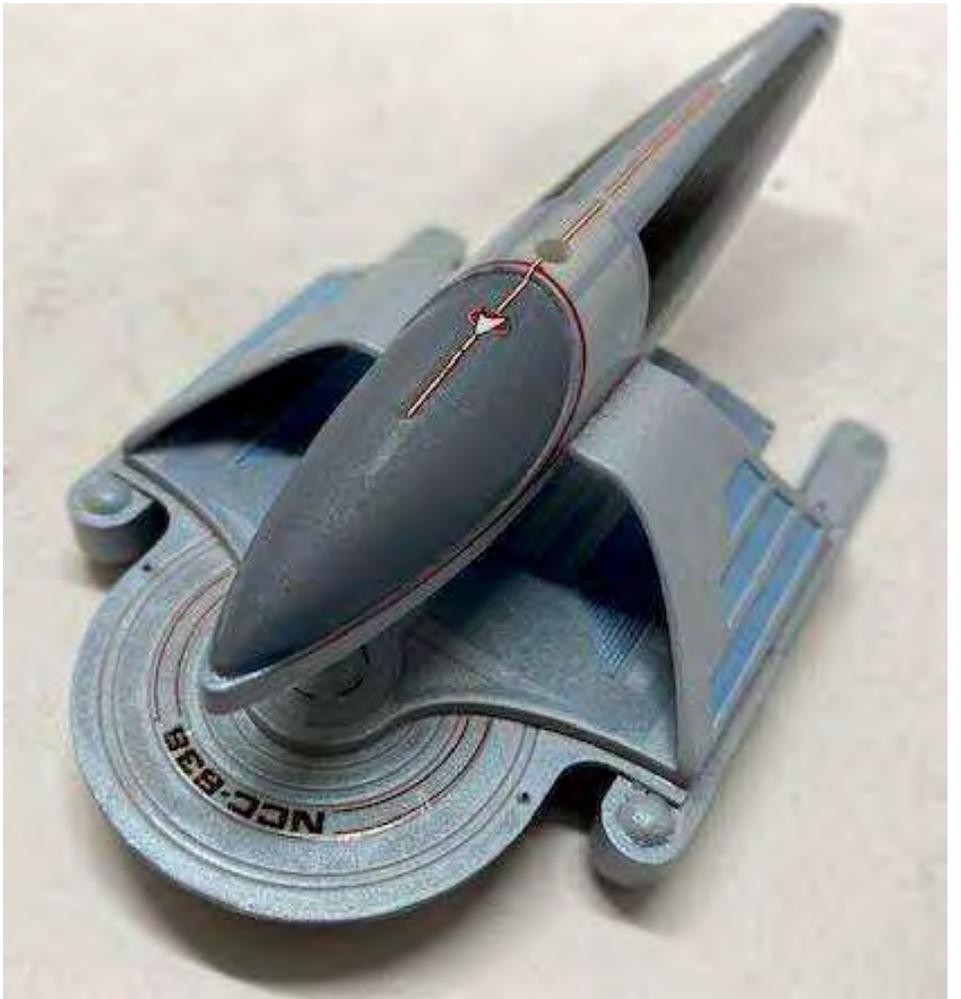


























Making Water with *EnviroTex Lite*

by Richard Senges

A friend of mine was asking what is the best way to make a water scene for his military diorama. I told him I have created many streams and ponds using *EnviroTex* and will describe the process.



The Product

First of all *EnviroTex* or *EnviroTex Lite Pour-On High Gloss Finish* is a two part epoxy. It is manufactured by Environmental Technology, Inc., Fields Landing, CA 95537 (phone 707-443-9323). It can be purchased at *Michaels* craft store. I usually purchase the 32 fl. oz. kit which sells for about \$37.00, but can be bought using the *Michaels* 40% off coupon or the 20% on-line discount.

The Preparation

It is essential that your stream bed or pond bottom is prepared prior to using the *EnviroTex*. All stones, debris, etc. must be glued down and dry. For a good description of stream and pond prep, see the model railroad scenery books by Dave Frary and Lou Sassi.

The Mix

Once your area is prepared, mix one part resin and one part hardener by volume. Follow the detailed instructions contained in the *EnviroTex* kit. I have used paper cups, two small ones for the resin and hardener and one larger cup for the mix. Then use a 4th cup to remix the final mix. Use a cut off wood tongue depressor to stir the mix.

The Pour

After the *EnviroTex* is thoroughly mixed, don't wait, but pour immediately. Do not pour more than 1/8" thick at one time. The *EnviroTex* is very thick, about the viscosity of molasses, so you will have to work the edges somewhat with a stick. I use a wood coffee stirrer and toss it out later.

The De-Gas

After about five minutes, air bubbles will rise to the surface. Gently exhale on the *EnviroTex* and the bubbles will disappear. Or you can use a propane torch, waving it about six inches above the *EnviroTex* in a sweeping motion. (*Be careful during this process.*) It is the carbon dioxide, not the heat that dispels the air bubbles.

The Cure

Depending on the temperature, the *EnviroTex* will be dust free in about 2 – 7 hours and will cure hard in 36 – 72 hours. I usually cover the area treated with sheets of newspapers for 48 hours to keep the dust from settling on the *EnviroTex*.

Comments

The *EnviroTex* will settle absolutely smooth and level – no waves. Some say that one can make waves after about seven hours by picking the *EnviroTex*. Also, it will creep up on pilings and banks, so you may have to add a bit of ground foam along your pond edges.

TANKS A LOT

Model by Michael Converse

Article by Richard Senges

The 17 pdr SP Achilles

The 17 Pounder, Self-Propelled, Achilles was a British variant of the US M10 Tank Destroyer. It was armed with the British ordnance QF 17 pounder (76mm) anti-tank gun in place of the standard 3" Gun M7.

The 17 pdr SP Achilles was the second most numerous armored fighting vehicle to see service armed with the 17 pounder gun, behind the first place Sherman Firefly.

The name Achilles was officially a designation applied to both the 3" gun and 17 pounder versions. However, the name has become identified mostly with the 17 pounder version.

The following pages show images of a model of this self-propelled anti-tank gun. The award winning model was built by Michael Converse of Fairport, NY, and is in the Model Tank Collection of Richard Senges of Victor, NY. Note the excellent craftsmanship and interior detail.

Photography, scenery, backdrop and text by Richard Senges.

Intel

Type: self-propelled anti-tan gun

Origin: UK

Mfr: Converted by Royal Arsenal

Number Built: 1100

Weight: 65,000 pounds

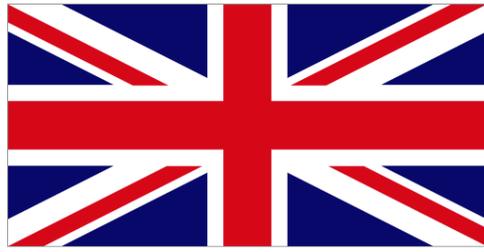
Crew: 5

Armor: .3" to 2.3"

Main Armament: Ordnance QF
17 pounder (76.2mm)

Armament: .50 Browning M2hB MG
Bren light MG

Max Speed: 32 mph





Chris Boss

1/72nd Airfix Boulton Paul Defiant in a night fighter scheme.

This is my first attempt at an all-black paint scheme. I toned down the 100% flat black with a little white and added 100% black panel line washes. Weathering and exhaust staining were added with pastel chalk in various shades of grey.



Some simulated paint chipping was added with a silver pencil.

Because of the turret on the topside, antenna posts and wire are mounted on the underside of the Defiant's fuselage.



Here she is with her previously built sisters . . .

Research tells me that the BP Defiant didn't do very well as a day fighter (the dark green/dark earth Z*PS scheme below) so the Defiant was phased out of day combat and eventually found use in other duties. The night fighter version was a much more successful application of this aircraft, being used against German night bombing raids. It also saw use as a search and rescue version (BA*O), locating pilots that ditched at sea or in the English Channel and dropping dinghies to them.

This is what happens when I buy a really sweet, inexpensive kit - along with an aftermarket decal sheet with 8 or 9 interesting options . . . and then things just kinda multiply. I think I'd better stop here !



And here's one project I have set aside for 2021 -

A Revell 1/72nd Hawker Hurricane Mk IIc converted to a Mk IIId.

The aftermarket conversion set from a company called 3D kits, consists of 2 underwing cannons and a few stencil decals.

It will be done in a North African desert scheme.

I have a reference photo of this desert Hurricane being maintained - potential Diorama material ?



Steve Smith

I'm down to the grueling rigging on the "Fake Maine". Sprue Spasms here I come.



For 2021 I've decided to do a rendition of the HMS Vanguard. I've never seen one entered in any shows I've entered.

And to continue the "Paul" influence, I'm going to break away and maybe do a few armour kits ! And, if the Irish Whiskey allows, a few cars and planes !

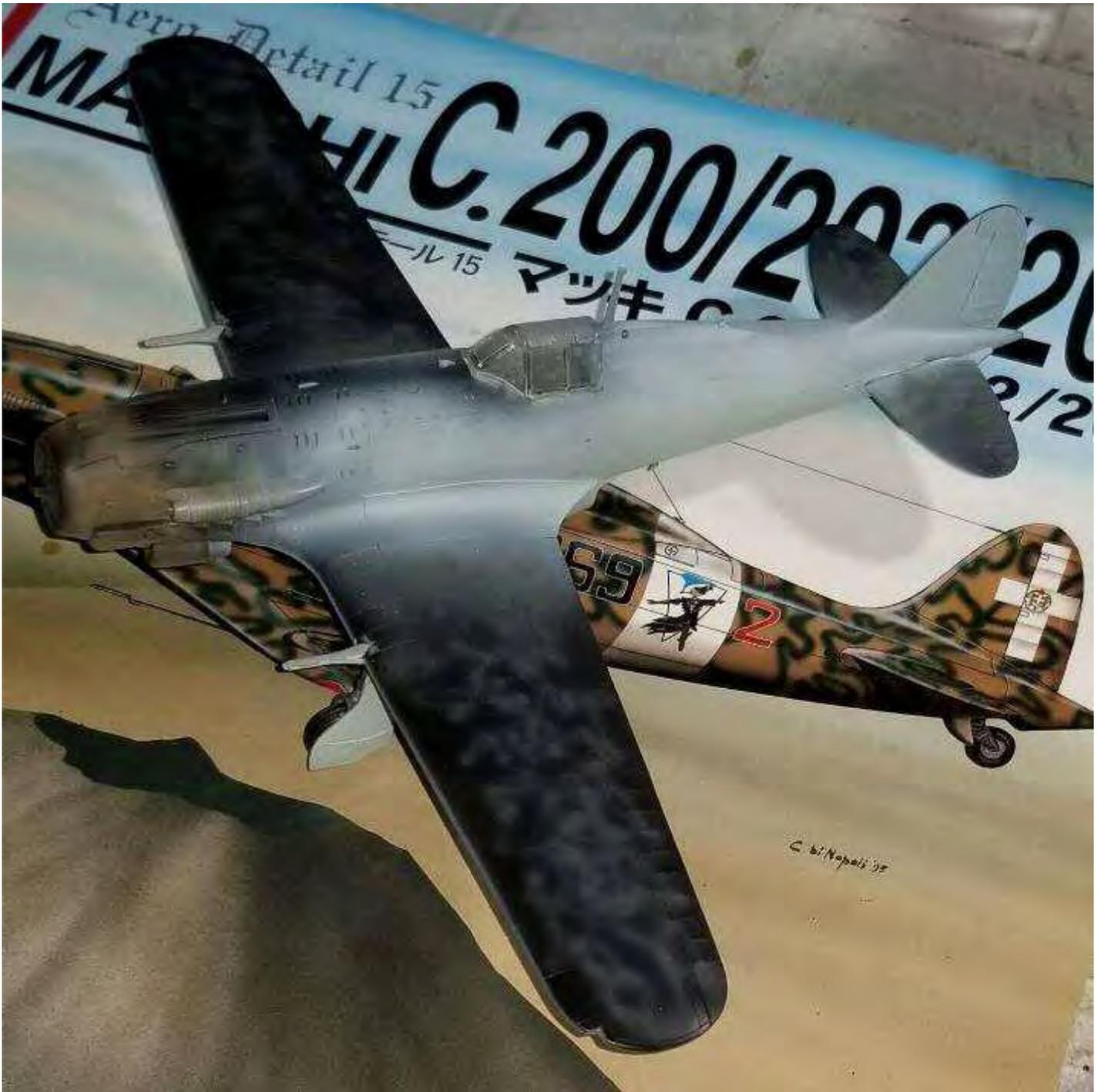


Another addition, best five bucks ever invested. While at Goodwill (best store for ship modelers,- from cheap jewelry for chains to wood products for bases) I spotted this Lazy Susan. Great addition as you do the fiddle bits. Do one side, spin around, complete.



Armand Miale

I'm working on a Hasegawa 1/48th Mc 205 Velcro and using Jaguar resin update for the cockpit, wheel wells and exhaust. This particular Velcro ended up flying with the Germans after Italy surrendered. So, it has some left over Italian camo with German camo that over painted the Italian Herringbone scheme. I will be using Stormo decals for the first time...they look quite nice. Merry Christmas!!!







And a hearty welcome goes out to:

Jason Charles

Jason joined us last spring, just before we shut down the club's monthly meetings due to the virus. He debuts in this month's newsletter with this stunning winter figure. Brrrrrr !

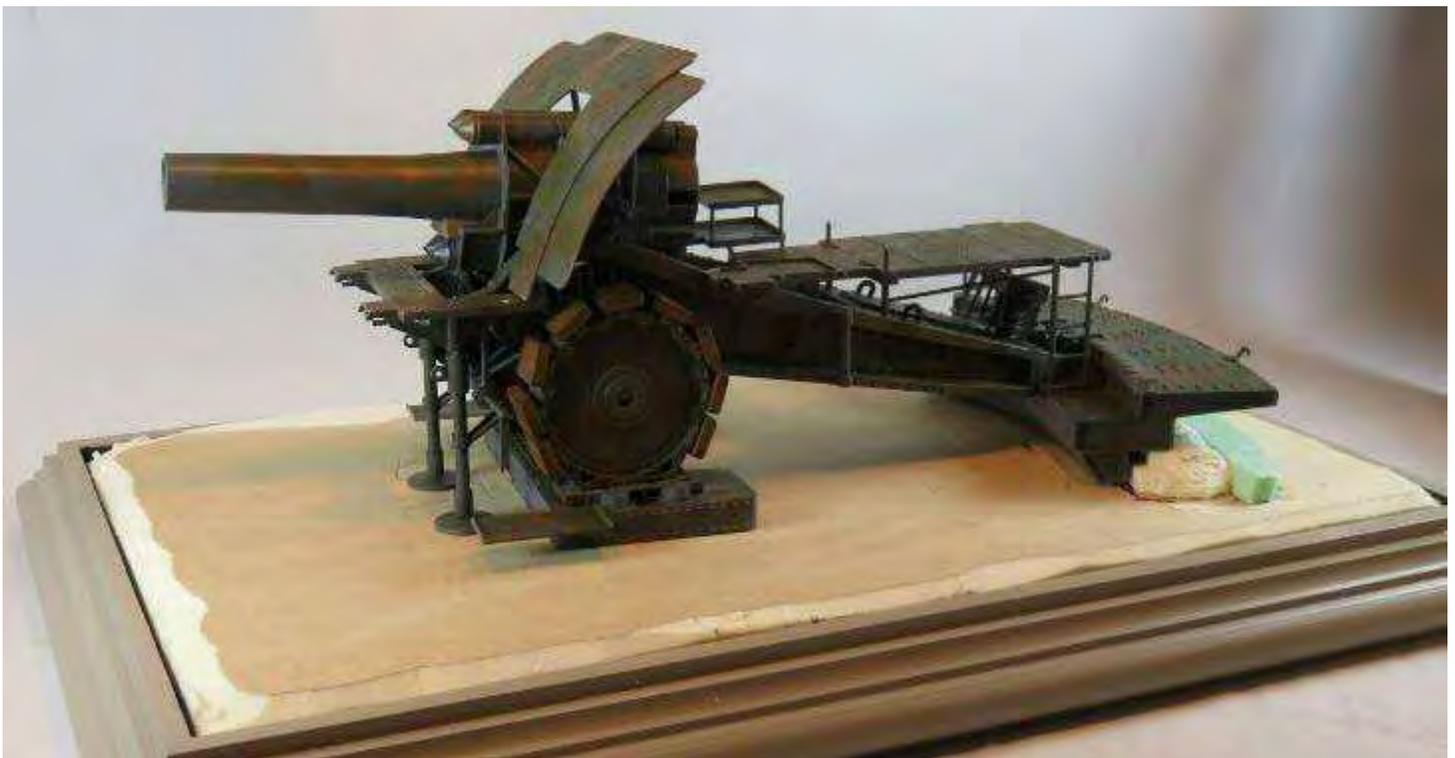
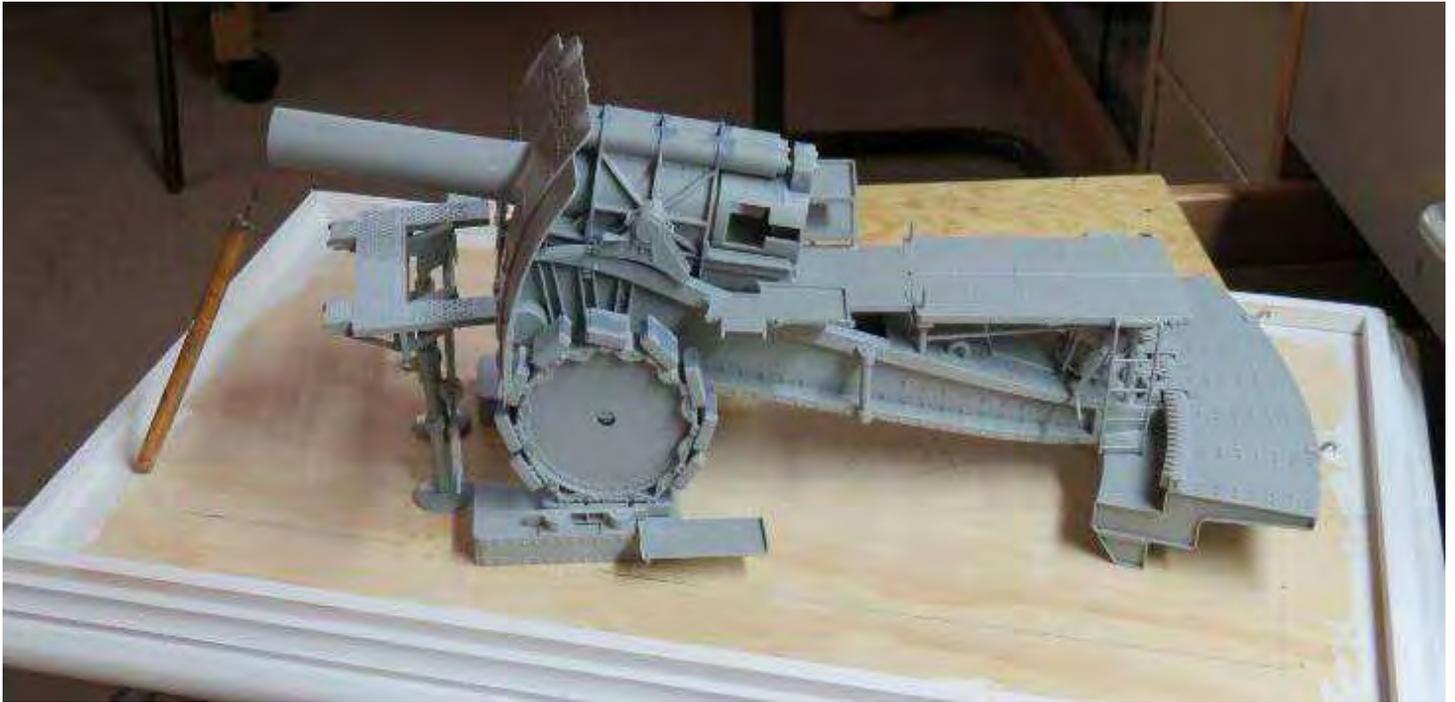


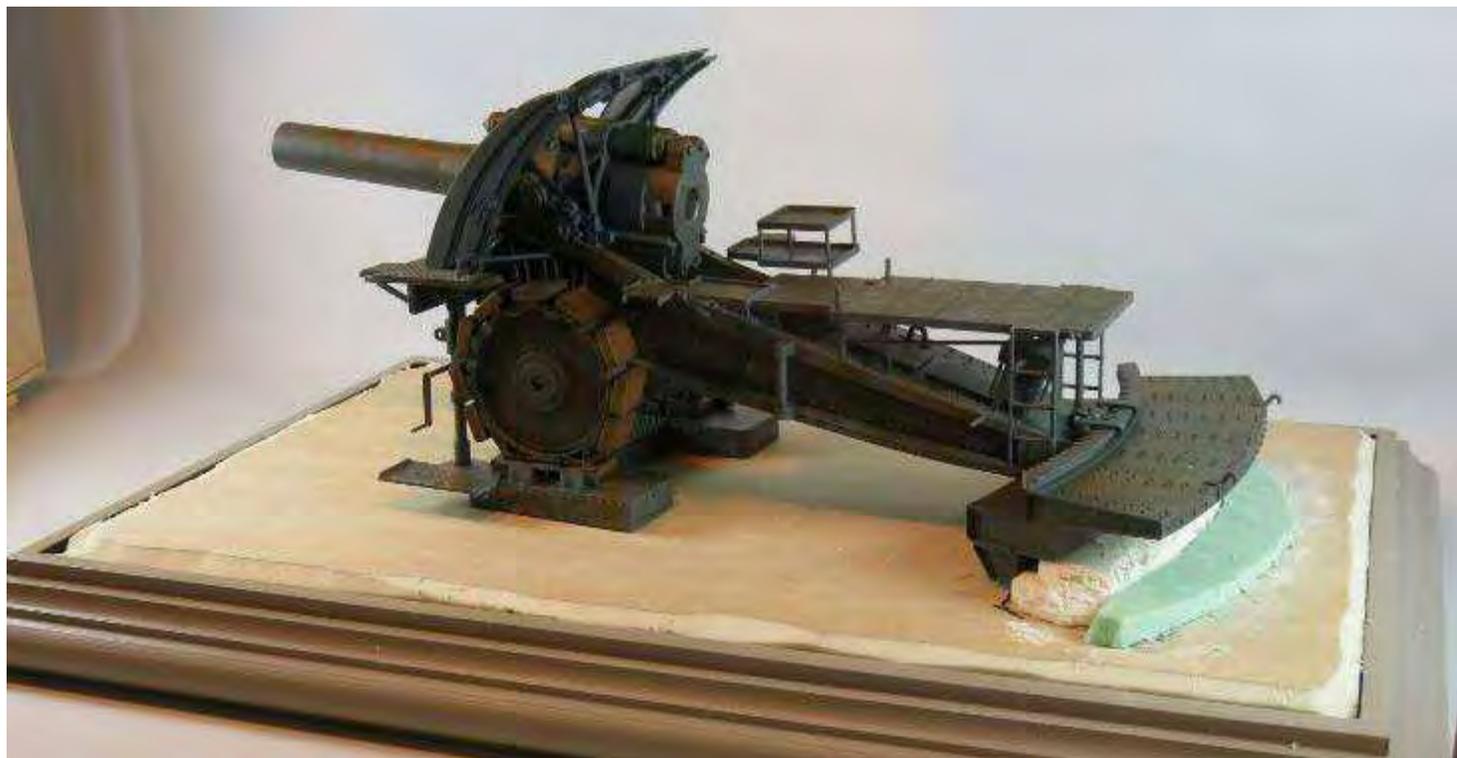


Phil Pucher

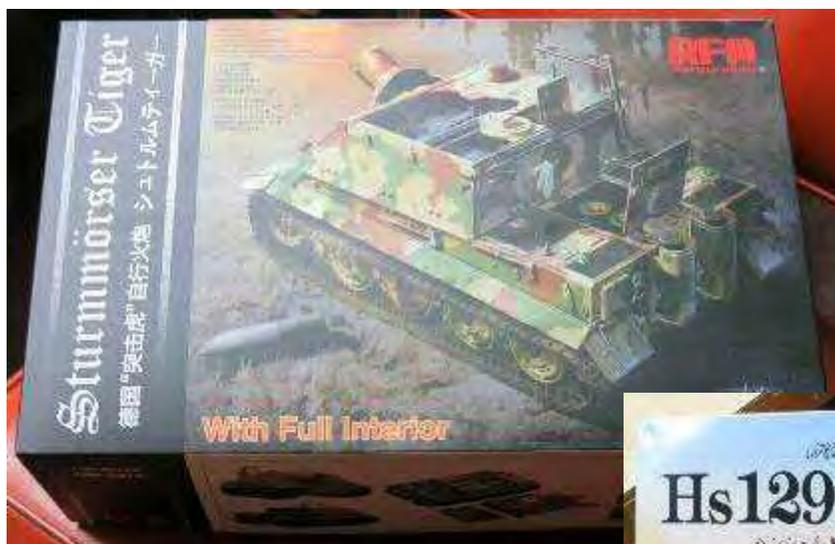
OK, here we go. Have progress report on "Big Bertha".

This is the latest project; a Krupp 420 mm (Big Bertha) siege weapon. The weapon is pretty much done with the exception of some chain railings and some additional weathering. The base needs to be contoured, and soil/foliage added. I'll have it ready next month, along with commentary on the construction.





Phil's first build for the new year will be either the Zoukei_Mura 1/32 Hs-129 or the Rye Field Models Sturmtiger. Both have full interiors, so he's thinking of doing a partial cutaway.



And if you're looking for a bargain, Phil is trying to reduce his stash of unbuilt kits - Soooo, he is offering the following items for sale:

Revell - U.S.S. Sullivans, Platinum Edition, 1/144 scale (not pictured) (List \$ 185) **\$ 125**



Airfix - Supermarine Walrus Mk. I
1/48 scale (List \$ 52) **\$ 35**

Revell - He-219,
1/32 scale (List \$ 66)
Includes Eduard interior (List \$ 30)
seatbelts (list \$ 20)
(Total List \$116) **\$ 75**

Accurate Miniatures – 1/48 scale
B-25C/D **\$ 25**
B-25C/D w G Conversion **\$ 45**

Eduard - Bf-110G-4
“Weekend Edition”
1/48 scale (List \$40) Includes
Aeromaster decals – Birds of Prey
(List \$ 10) (Total \$ 50) **\$ 35**

Tamiya – Mosquito Mk. IV/PR Mk. IV
1/48 scale (List \$ 44) **\$ 30**

If you're interested – please e-mail Phil at: PPUCHER@rochester.rr.com

Bill Gilman

Let's see, this year I've built two resin models. So why not grab a third resin kit from the stash and stick to my theme? After all, 2020 is a goofy year no matter how you slice it, so I might as well swear off injection moulded styrene - resin rules! And maybe, just maybe, all that resin dust will nuke the bioaerosols floating around from that coronavirus thing.

So here is what I found lurking in one of my cabinets: the S.B.S Model kit of the **de Havilland DH.88 Comet** in glorious teeny tiny scale (1:72). Now, way back when this kit came out, @general melchett on Britmodeller mentioned that it had some of the finest resin castings he had ever seen, and darn if he's not right. This is a sweet little kit.

The **de Havilland DH.88 Comet** was a British two-seat, twin-engine aircraft developed specifically to participate in the 1934 England-Australia MacRobertson Air Race from the London to Melbourne. Three Comets were produced for the race, all for private owners at the discounted price of £5,000 per aircraft. The aircraft underwent a rapid development cycle, performing its maiden flight only six weeks prior to the race. Comet G-ACSS *Grosvenor House* emerged as the winner of the race. The subject of my build, G-ACSR, was painted in British racing green and flown by Owen Cathcart Jones, eventually finishing fourth.



On reaching Baghdad, they overshot it in the dark, landing by a village when they ran low on fuel. Leaving at first light, they just made it to Baghdad on empty tanks. On taking off again they found that they had a serious oil leak and had to return for repairs. Repairs were carried out by the local RAF boys. More trouble was encountered on the Darwin leg so they landed at Batavia, where repairs were made by KLM. They reached Melbourne in a time of 108 hours 13 minutes 30 seconds. (They timed it to the second? In 1934?) Cathcart Jones and co-pilot Waller promptly collected the film of the Australian stages of the race and set off the next day to carry it back to Britain. Their return time set a new record.

There were three Comets in the race – red, green, and black. The green one reminded me of Team Lotus back in the 60s, and it has the Union Jack on the tail...so that had to be the one! The only issue I encountered was one fuselage half being shorter than the other. A quick email to S.B.S in Hungary, and in a week I had replacements. That's what I call good customer service! The kit was built 100% out-of-the-box. Really!



OK, sometime in 2021 I plan on building one or more of these way-cool, head-scratching, what the heck is that ?, Oh! No! They're Anigrand ! kits. You see, I've become addicted to resin dust in lieu of scale modeling fellowship. Most likely, the Crusader III will be first up. "The best fighter the Navy never bought" – or so says some Admiral or other. The Crusader III lost its competition with the Phantom II, even though it performed better in just about every category. But the Navy was hung up on having two biological units in the cockpit. Funny, pretty soon there won't be any.



The North American XF-108 Rapier was intended to be the interceptor escort to the XB-70. While the XB-70 was actually built and test-flown, the Rapier never got beyond a wooden mockup.



Same goes for the other two – the Republic XF-103 was a crazy idea for an interceptor that was way ahead of its time with a turbojet feeding air into a ramjet to cruise at Mach 3. But hey, it was 1953 and Flash Gordon could do it, so why not the USAF?



Lastly, the Bell XF-109 was one of those cool ideas for VTOL back in 1961. This baby had eight engines – two turbojets each in the wingtip swiveling pods, and two mounted conventionally in the rear fuselage followed by the last two mounted vertically behind the cockpit to provide the last bit of oomph to get her off the ground vertically. Now this one they really should have built – the EMR (Heinkel, Bölkow, und Messerschmitt) VJ-101 in Germany was very similar and showed the concept actually worked while reaching Mach 1 in the process.



Cheers,
Bill