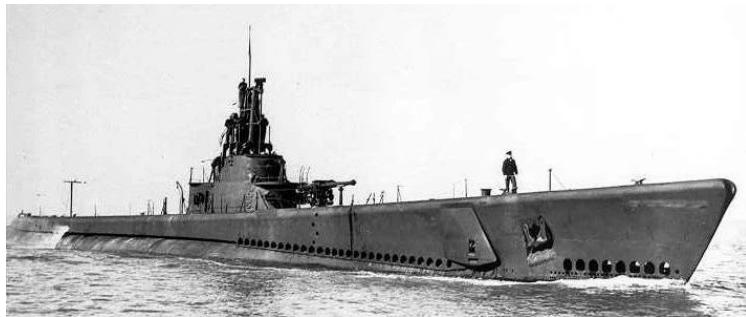




Trumpeter's USS Gato: 1941 Design

By Norm Jordan



Anyone who is interested in World War II Naval history knows that, in the early stages of the War after Pearl Harbor, most of the US offensive in the Pacific was fought using submarines. The Gato class was the preeminent sub for that task.

I started building this Trumpeter kit in 1/144 scale whilst living in a camper; waiting for my home to be built. The kit itself is fairly simple (not a ton of parts) and is nicely detailed. The grey plastic was crisp and clean; with no flash or large attachment points. There were no decals nor were there any clear parts.



After doing my research on this kit, I decided to do what so many others had done; just get rid of the inner pressure hull. You cannot see it anyhow and, according to my research, the hull halves fit together better without it! The assembly went together very well, and any seams were light and easy to clean up. My biggest issue with this kit lies in what it was lacking. The kit gives you the

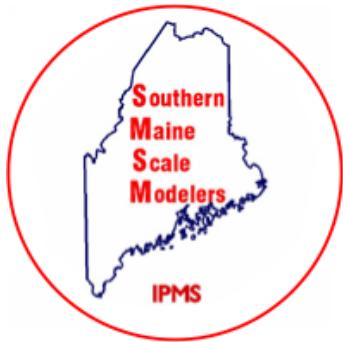
railing posts but no rope or chain for them; nor does it provide placement for it in the instructions! So, back to the research I went! Using old black and white photos, I was able to piece it together well enough.

It was also missing the rails on the top of the conning tower as well as a couple hatches; which I scratch built using styrene pieces of the sprues. I used a rigging line for the rails. According to my research, some had ropes, and some had chains as well as many other features. This was due to the Gato class being upgraded so many times during the war that each one was almost unique to itself!



I painted the Gato in Tamiya Light Grey, Flat Black, and NATO Black. I will be doing some light weathering using Doc's weathering powders. I used dry transfers from Archer for the hull identification numbers.

All in all, I had a pretty fun time building this kit! It gave me a chance to build and to play around with adding some extras. Technically, this is still an out of box model; as I used sprue pieces from it to get it done. The only outside part was the numbers. On a scale of 1-5, I would give this a solid 4.5! If you enjoy building subs, and have the room for it (18" long or so), I highly recommend it!



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Madame Prez Says

By Grace Leavitt

Happy March everyone!

We are into the seoond month of the year, and I hope everyone is staying healthy, and busy working on some models. The May meeting is a club project "civilian first responders" . This should be interesting.



DowneastCon is just a few weeks away and our ad should be in the January/February edition of the IPMS Journal. If you receive it, keep an eye out for it.

Things are moving along for the contest, and I can't wait to see what everyone has been working on.

I don't have much more to report for now, so I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on the 4th of March...and remember, spring is just 3 weeks away!

Until next week,

Happy Modeling!

Hear Ye! Here Ye!

By Norm Jordan

SMSM meeting minutes

4 February, 2025

OLD BUSINESS

- Prez reports that our club is recharted with IPMS for this year
- The IPMS Nationals are being held in Virginia Beach; 8/6-8/9

- Downeastcon preparation is proceeding; tables are ordered, 31 Vendor tables sold and Almost half of the trophy packs. If you wish to sponsor a trophy pack, contact VP Paul Paradis
- The club voted to look into getting a date for the Annual SMSM BBQ, possibly mid-July

Break from approx. 7:34-7:45p

Show N Tell: There were 9 models by 6 modelers on the table. The Model of the Month was Joe Medolo for his Chinese Submarine

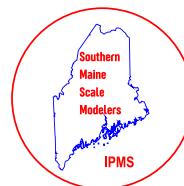
The 50/50 winner for this month was Mike Moreau, who donated it back to the club

Meeting Adjourns at approx. 8:35p

Members Present were George Bangs, Tony Bonti, Ron Garland, Norm Jordan, Kevin Keniston, Steve Laing, Grace Leavitt, Jim Loranger, Dave Moreau, Mike Moreau, Dave Osborne, Paul Paradis, Mike Wescott

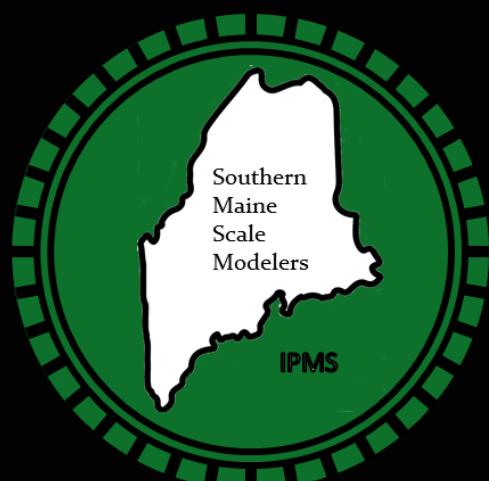
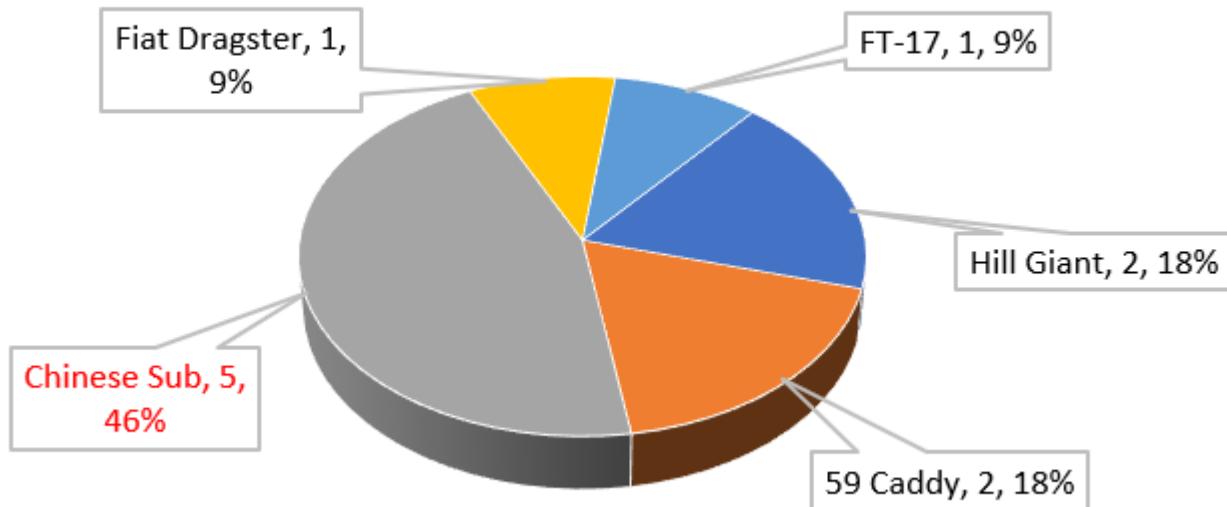
Respectfully submitted,

Norm Jordan, SMSM Secretary



Modeler of the Month

February Model-of-the-Month Voting



Modeler of the
Month

February 2025

Type 336 Chinese Sub

By Joe Medolo





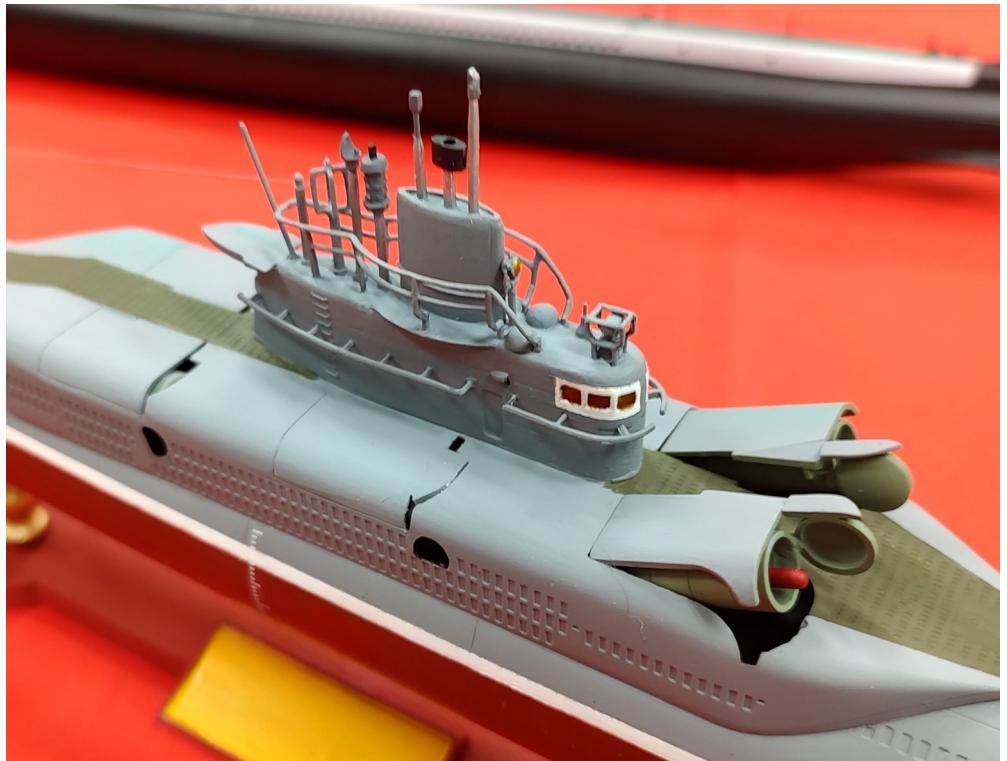
1/144 Chinese Type 336 Submarine (Trumpeter)

By Joe Medolo

Finished with Vallejo Model Air acrylics, Tamiya paints

Pros: Unusual subject, added rigging and parts

Cons: Lot of fit problems





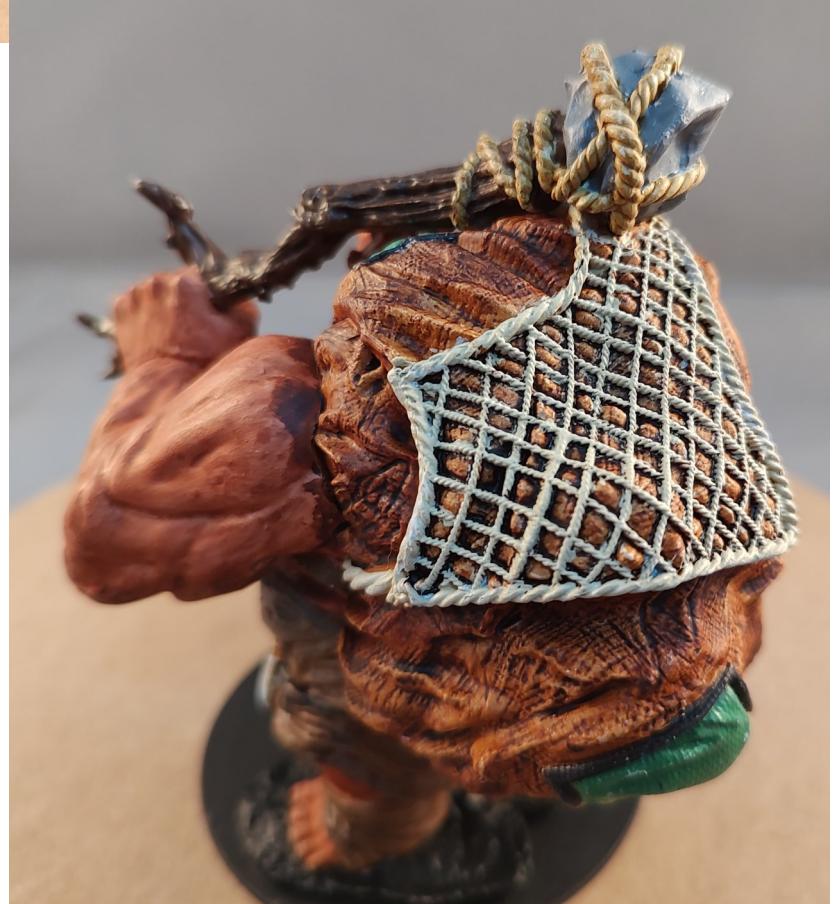
25mm Hill Giant (Wiz Kidz)

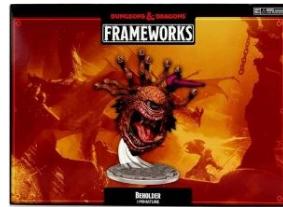
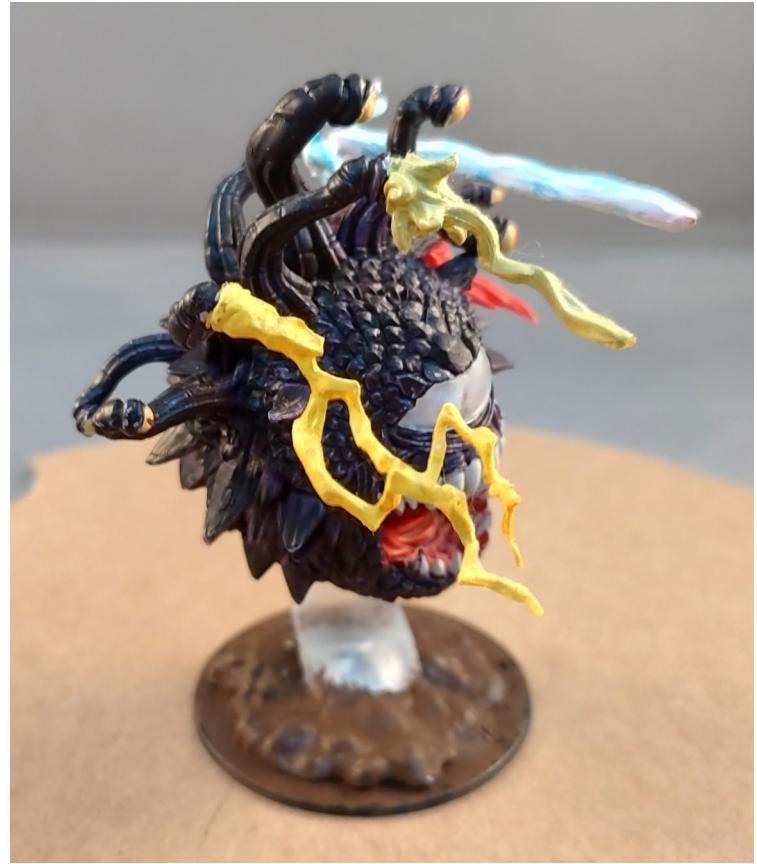
By Tony Bonti

Finished with Army Painter Ruddy Flesh, several different shades of brown

Pros: Excellent figure, well detailed

Cons: A lot of flashing



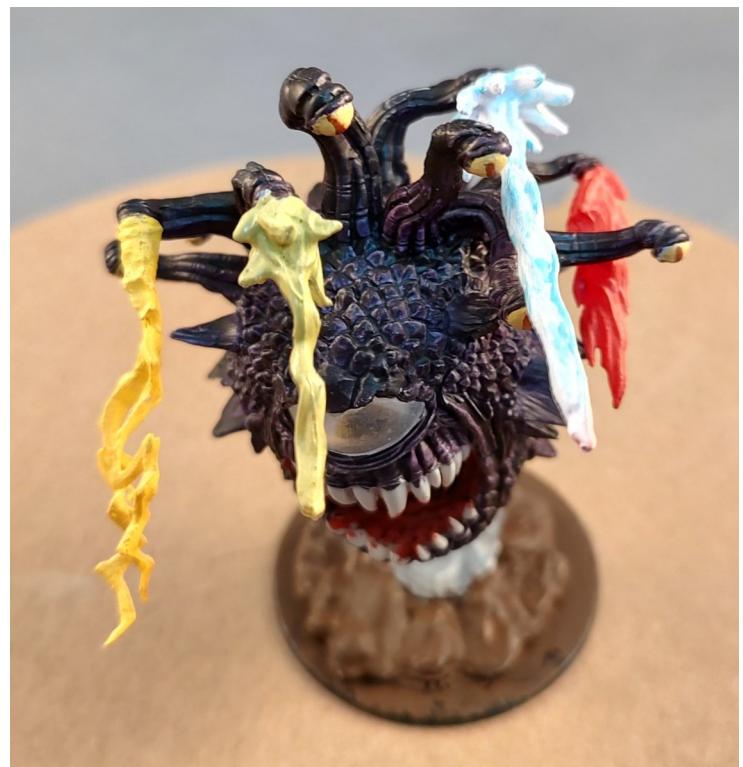
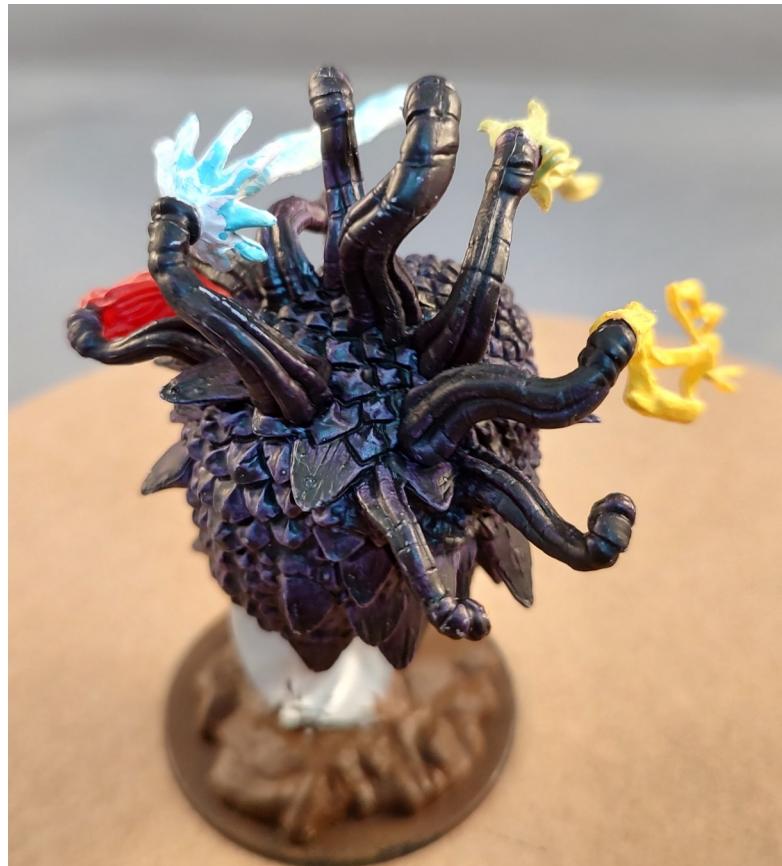


25 mm Beholder (Wiz Kidz)

By Tony Bonti

Finished with Beholder purple

Pros: Can interchange eye stalks



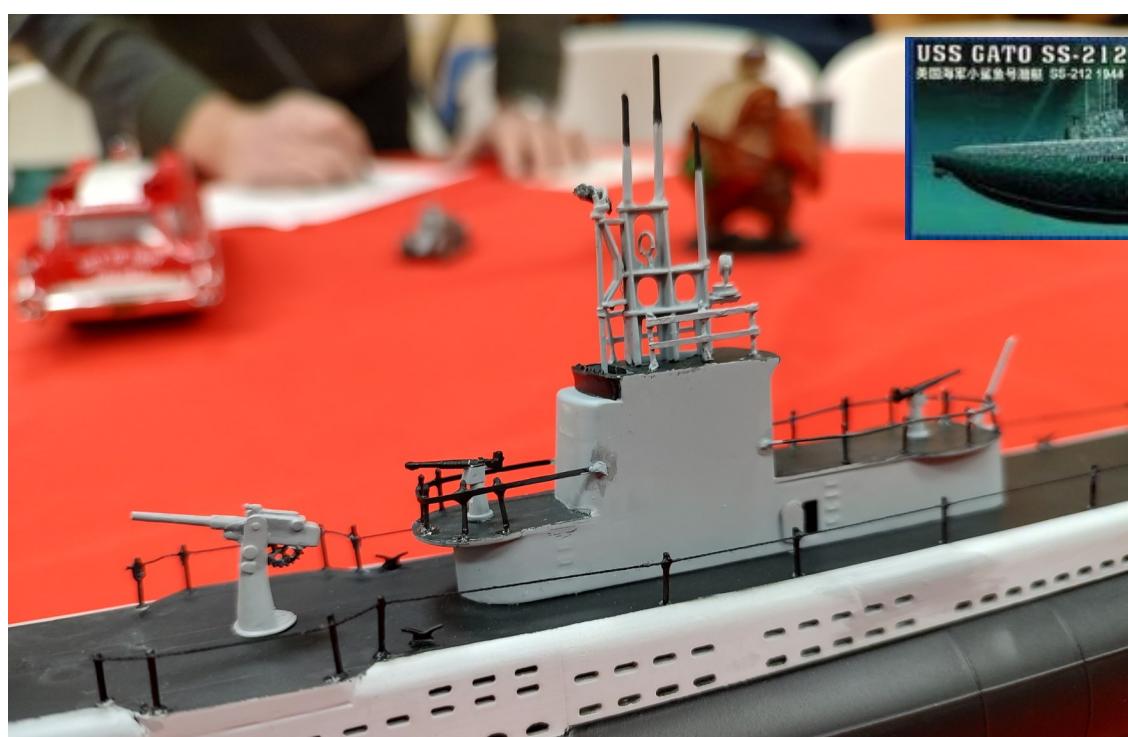


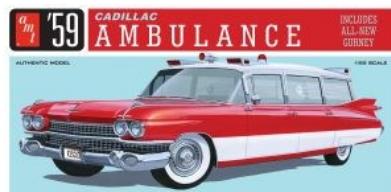
**1/144 USS Gato
(Trumpeter)**

By Norm Jordan

Finished with Tamiya Light Grey, Flat Black, NATO Black. Doc O'Brien's weathering powders

Comments: Added hull iD with Archer dry transfers





1/25 1959 Cadillac Ambulance (AMT)

By Ron Garland

Finished with Project Source Gloss White, Testors Gloss Red

Comments: Curbside kit



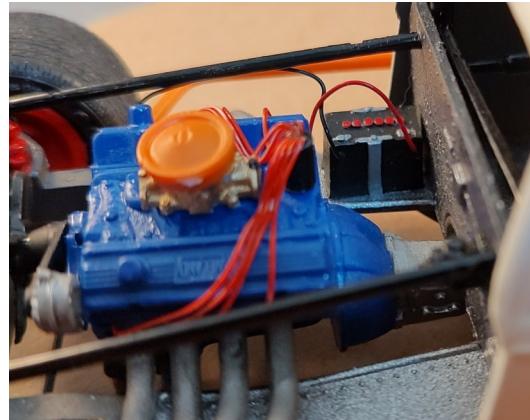


**1/25 1934 Ford Early Modified
(AMT/ERTL)**

By Ron Garland

Finished with Rust-oleum Canvas
White, Apple Red Gloss, Krylon
Gloss True Blue

Comments: Great kit



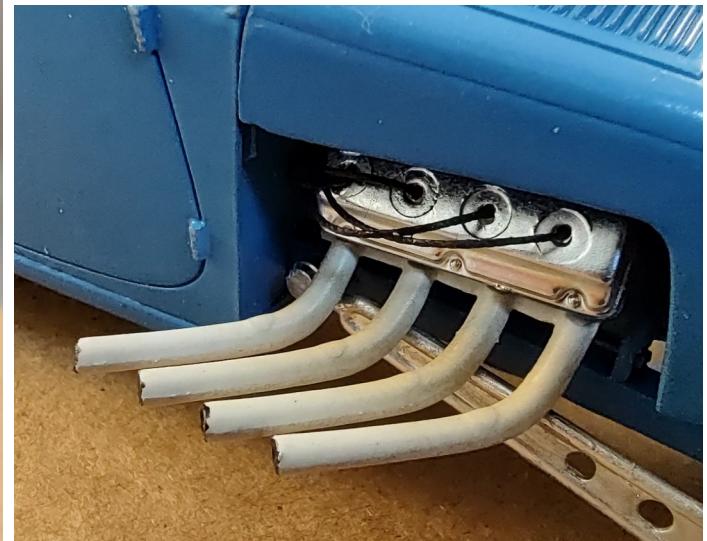
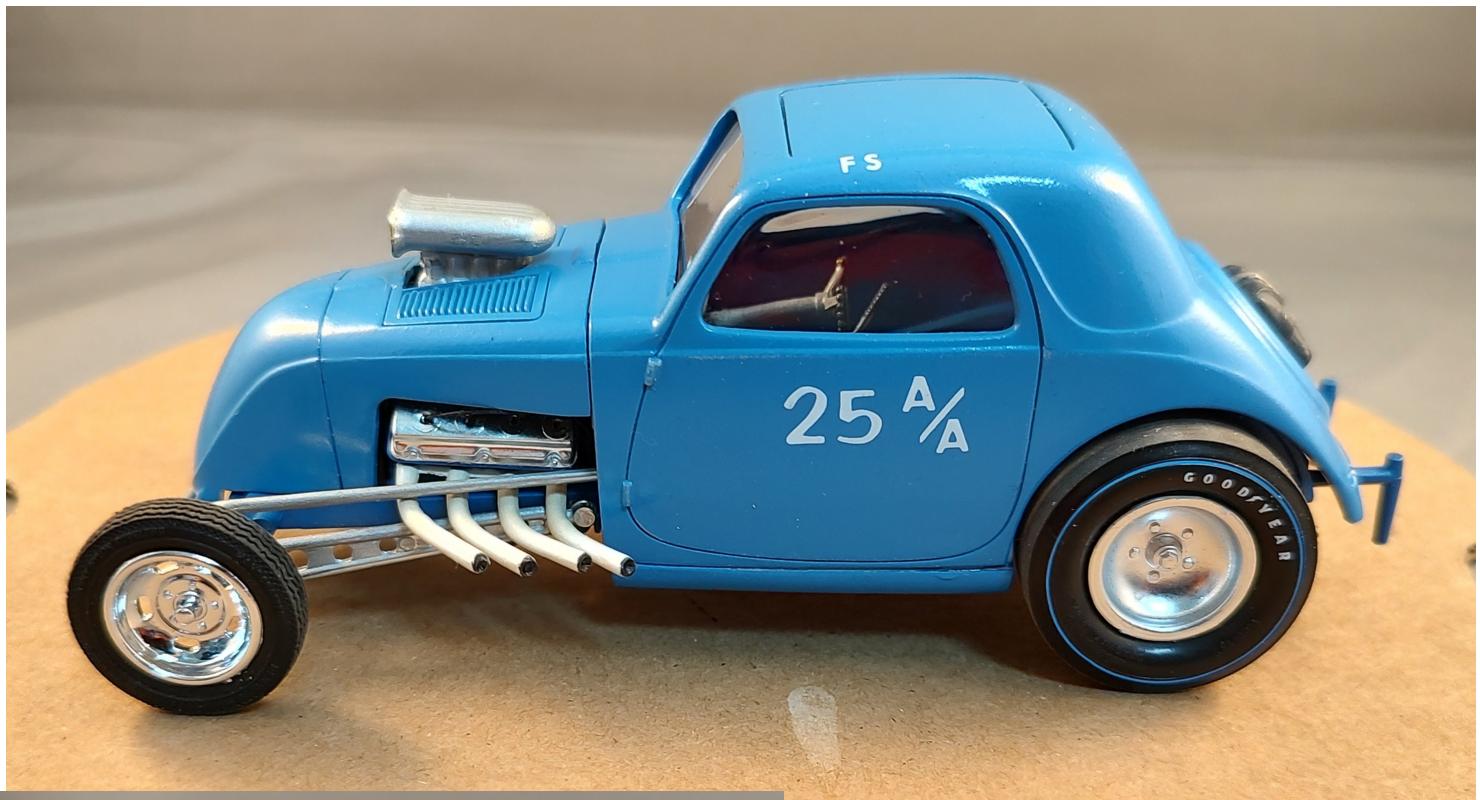


1/35 PkfW II (Tamiya)

By Joe Medolo

Finished with Pactra paints and
pastel dirt

Pros: Very nice kit altogether.



1/25 Fiat Dragster (AMT)

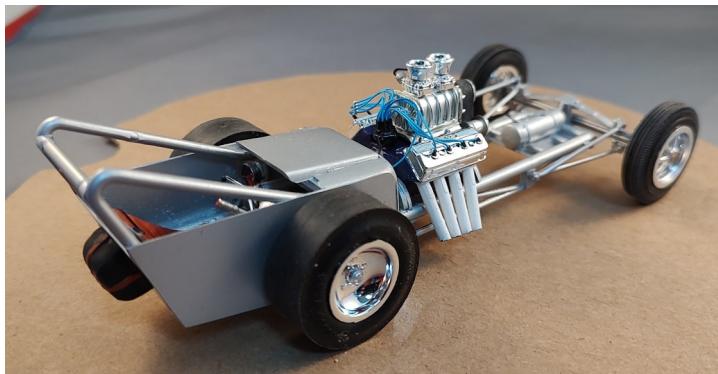
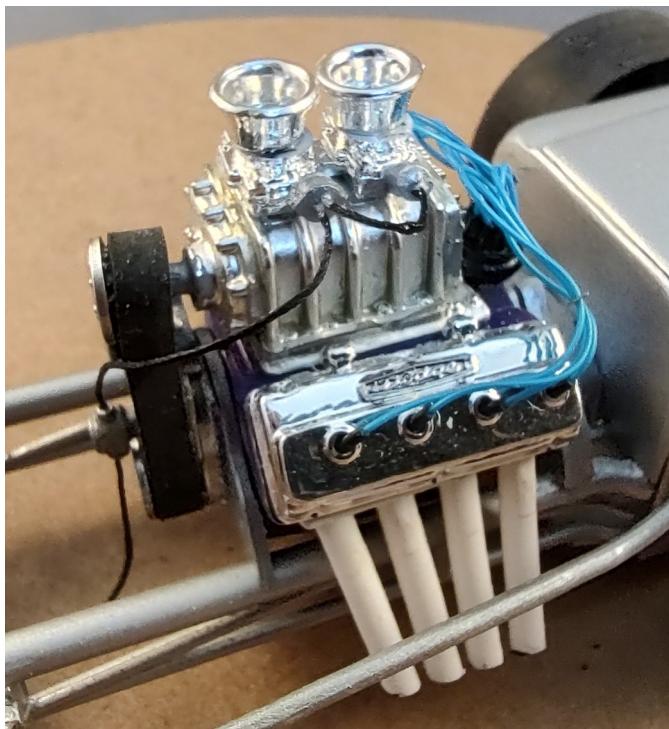
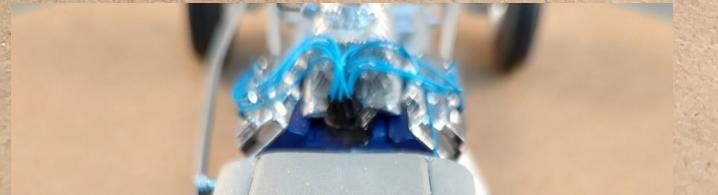
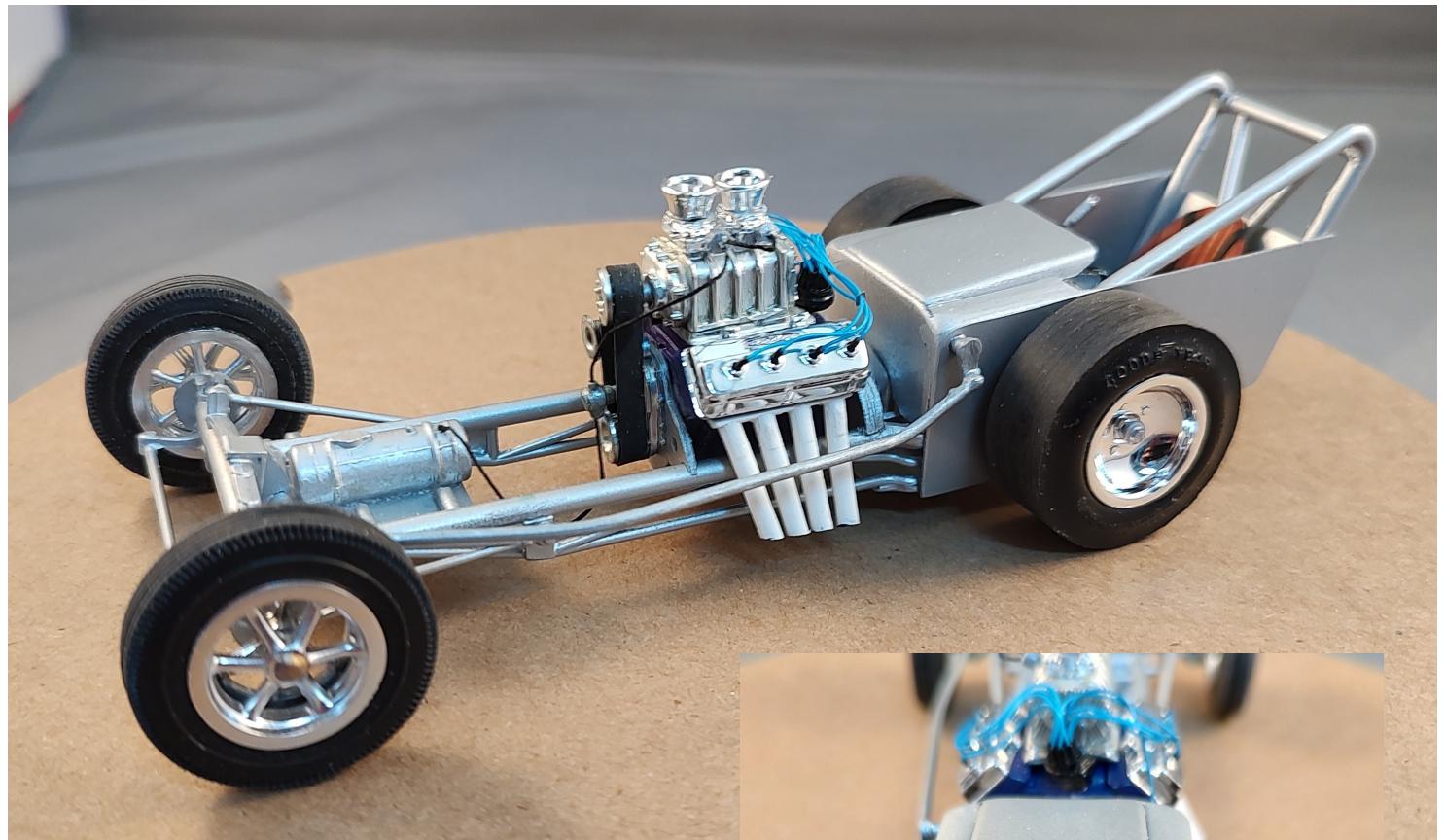
By George Bangs

Finished with Rust-oleum sprays, various Testors brush for details

Pros: Fun, simple build

Comments: Re-release of a 60's era kit



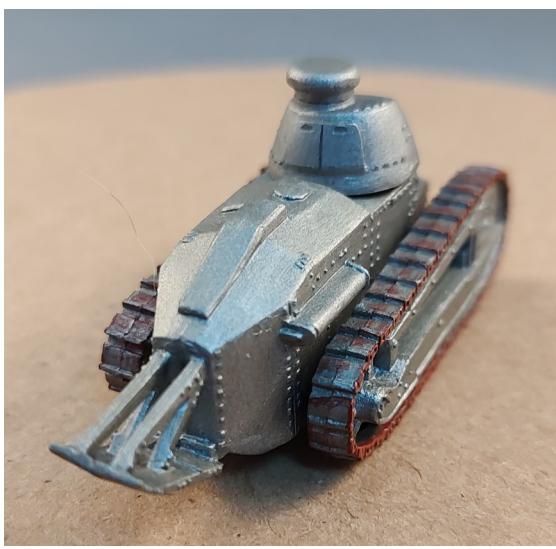
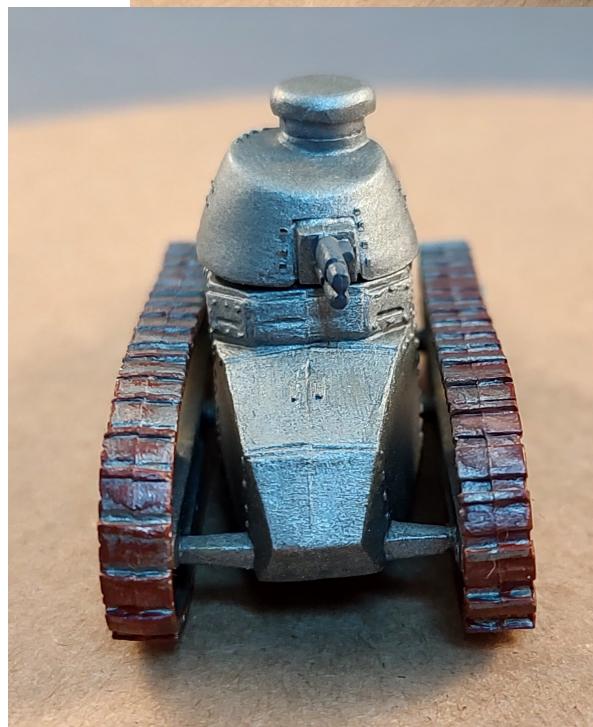


1/25 Rail Dragster (AMT)

By George Bangs

Finished with Testors sprays and brush enamels

Comments: Re-release of a 60's era kit, kit bashed and scratch built pieces to make car from spare parts left over from the Double Dragster kit



1/72 Renault FT-17 w/37mm Cannon (HAT)

By Grace Leavitt

Finished with Acrylics

Pros: Easy to build

Cons: Fit is not great



“Great things are done
by a series of small
things brought together.”

- Vincent van Gogh



OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON TUES-
DAY, MARCH 4, 2025
AT THE MAINE MILI-
TARY MUSEUM,
SOUTH PORTLAND,
ME AND WILL START
AT 7:00 PM

