



Monogram's Blue Thunder Helicopter

By Norm Jordan

Blue Thunder is an American action-drama television series based on the movie of the same title that aired on ABC from January 6 until April 16, 1984, featuring the Blue Thunder helicopter.



The series revolves around the tactical helicopter being operated by a four-person LAPD Air Support Division team, but partially controlled by APEX, a fictional federal government agency that oversees and monitors (also occasionally assigns missions) its operations and maintenance, which is on loan to the police force for usage against criminal elements and security threats.

Blue Thunder used the converted Aérospatiale Gazelle helicopter and large portions of stock footage from the 1983 film. A ground unit named "Rolling Thunder" backed up the helicopter in the television series. This was a large support van with a desert camouflage off-road vehicle stored inside.

The television series cast includes James Farentino, future Saturday Night Live regular Dana Carvey, and former pro-

fessional American football players Bubba Smith and Dick Butkus.

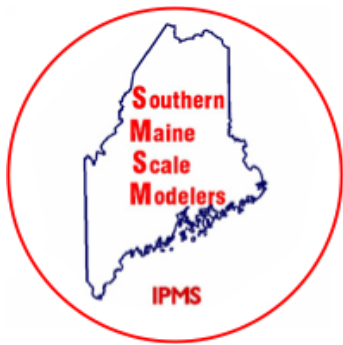
THE KIT



Monogram's Blue Thunder model is molded in what they called in the '80s their blue "metal glow" metallic plastic, which gives it a nice look but is not accurate to the aircraft. The parts were nicely molded in detail and there was only a little flash or seam lines to clean up. The sprues are typical '80s Monogram. The decals are also typical '80s Monogram; thick and need to be trimmed closely to get rid of excess carrier. The instructions were nice and were easy to follow.

Assembly of the kit, unfortunately, was also typical '80s Monogram. The fuselage halves were slightly warped and needed some help lining up properly to minimize seams and gaps. Other than that, everything else went together pretty well! The only other major fit issue had to do with

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Madame Prez Says

By Grace Leavitt

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Welcome to May!

I would like to extend my apologies for not sending out an email regarding the passing of Lee Humiston. He was a great friend to our club, and it was a very big shock to me that he passed so soon after his diagnosis. His absence here will be noticeable. He was the heart and soul of the museum, but it's good to know that his amazing work will go on.

Summer is just around the corner, but hopefully you are all working on models for our upcoming club projects.

DowneastCon went well overall. The only issues we seemed to have were with the location itself. The floor covering seemed to be uneven and several people commented on it. The other was with the lack of handicapped parking spots. These are things we will address for next year.

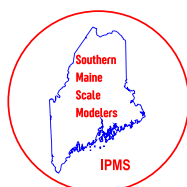
On a better note, our SMSM Cafe seemed to be a success. We heard nothing but good things about it, and that is all due to the hard work of Carol and Jim Loranger, and Sharon Jordan in the Cafe on the day of our event. Thanks to all who made or donated food items for the cafe. All in all, it was a good venture and we are already discussing what worked well and what we can change up for next year!

On a side note, we had a donation jar out for the robotics club, and were able to add a little more to their funds.

NoreastCon is on June 13th. A little late for spring contests, but I'm glad clubs stepped up to put it on again.

That's all I have for now. See you in June Your leader in plastic,

Grace Leavitt, President



Hear Ye! Here Ye!

By Norm Jordan

SMSM Meeting Minutes

SMSM Meeting Minutes--- 5 May, 2026

Location: Maine Military Museum, So. Portland

Meeting opens at 7:01pm with remarks from Prez Leavitt

Our kind benefactor, Lee Humiston, passed away on 4/25. There was a private service, and a celebration of life will be held at the museum on 5/13. The museum board of directors has assured us that our meetings will not be affected.

New Member, Dave LaChance, introduced himself to the club. He lives in Cumberland and builds a variety of subjects; with his favorite being vintage autos.

OLD BUSINESS

Downeastcon Wrap Up: Though there was a slight loss, the contest event was a success! The SMSM Café did very well, thanks to Carol Loranger and Sharon Jordan.

Noreastcon 2026 will be held on 6/13 in Henriette, NY. The club voted to sponsor a Trophy Pack at the event (Ron Garland made motion/ seconded by Ed Bittner)

George Bangs motioned to donate \$300 to museum/ seconded by Tony Bonti. The club voted unanimously to make the donation.

Club Projects: For July 2026: Lands on Water. And for October 2026: Figures

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party Ideas?

The next Downeastcon date has been chosen: 4 April, 2027

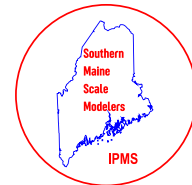
There were 6 modelers with 8 models at the Show and Tell. Tony Bonti won Model of The Month for his figure.

The 50/50 Raffle winner was Dave Osborne, who donated the proceeds back to the club.

Members Attending: D. Osborne, G. Bangs, E. Dyson, T. Bonti, K. Waterson, R. Garland, L. Gaudet, K. Keniston, M. Wescott, E. Bittner, R. Jordan, G. Leavitt, N. Jordan, R. Allen, J. Loranger, C. Loranger, P. Paradis, S. Laird, D. LaChance

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Jordan, SMSM Scribe



(Continued from page 1)

the clear cockpit fitment to the fuselage. It just didn't want to fit down perfectly but a little gap filling clear cement, and some paint touch up, went a long way to making it look right!

I didn't use most of the decals, such as the red lines, as the just looked too thick for the model! Instead I used some Pactra vinyl striping tape for the areas around the cockpit glass and the tail. I painted the model in overall Tamiya Dark Sea Blue over Tamiya Flat Black. The interior was painted according to instructions using Tamiya and Modelmaster paints. The decals I did use went on well and didn't tear like the stripes did.

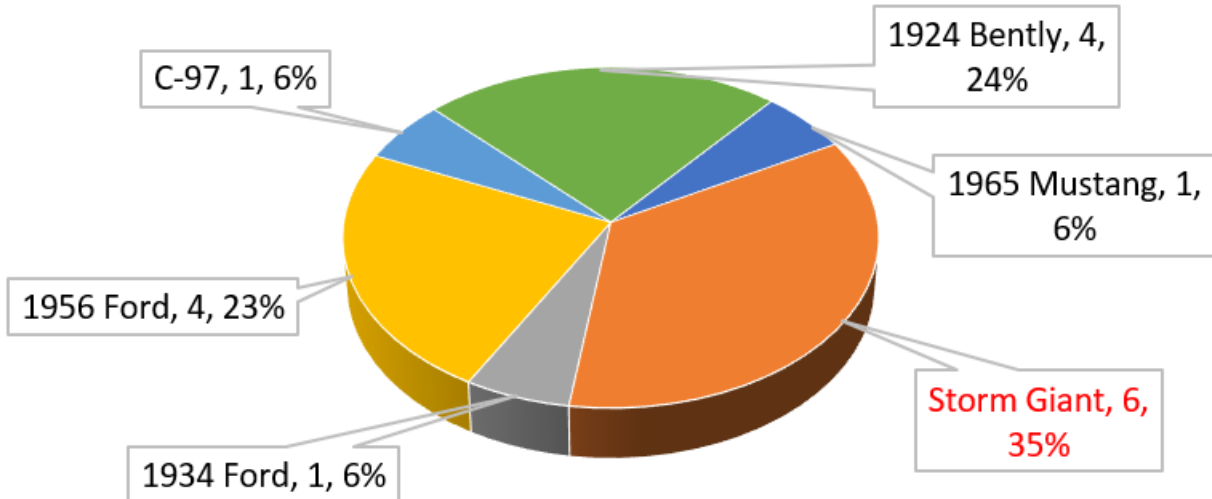
Although it has typical Monogram issues, I like the way

this kit looks! It is a really good representation of one of the meanest aircraft of '80s TV! I'm really pleased with the way it turned out and will really enjoy seeing it on my shelf! On a scale of 1 to 5, I give it a solid 4. If you can find one AND are willing to pay the price for it, I wholeheartedly recommend it!



Modeler of the Month

May Model-of-the-Month Voting



Modeler of the
Month

May 2026

Storm Giant

By Tony Bonti





**25mm Storm Giant
(WizKids)**

By Tony Bonti

Finished with various
Army Painter paints

Pros: Excellent

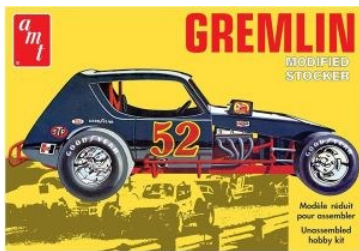




**1/25 Gremlin Modified
Stocker (AMT/Ertl, Model
King)**

By Ron Garland

Finished with Rust-oleum
gloss Deep Blue

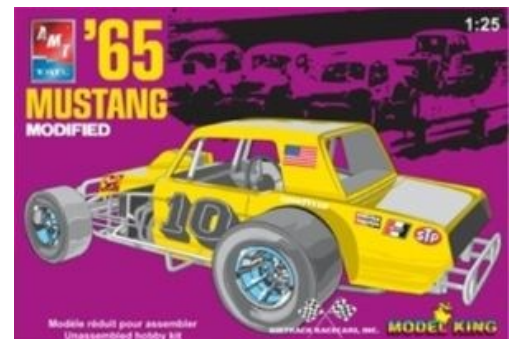




**1/25 1965 Ford Mustang Modified
(AMT/Ertl, Model King)**

By Ron Garland

Finished with Rust-oleum gloss
Golden Sunset



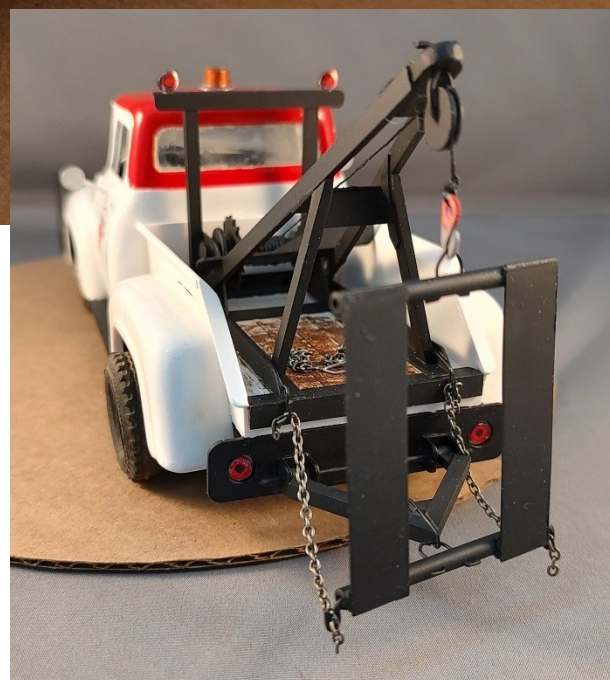


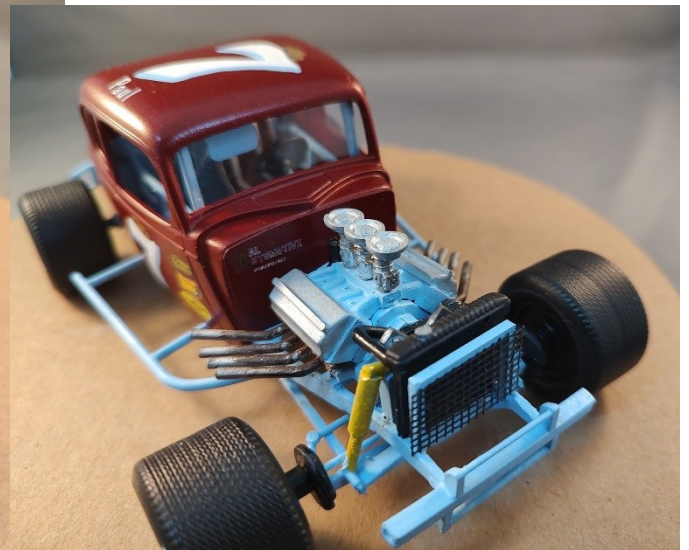
1/25 '56 Ford Tow Truck (AMT)

By George Bangs

Finished with left-over paints

Comments: Reconstructed from salvaged parts and scratch built with Evergreen styrene





1/25 '34 Ford Modified (AMT)

By George Bangs

Finished with Testors spray and brush

Comments: Fun to build vintage stockcars from kit body and Evergreen styrene





1/25 '34 Ford Street Rod

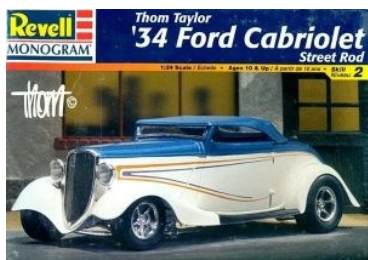
By Rich Allen

Finished with high gloss black

Pros: I like it!

Cons: Windows

Comments: Great kits





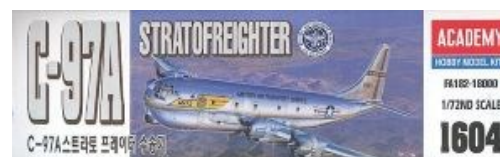
1/72 C-97A Stratofreighter

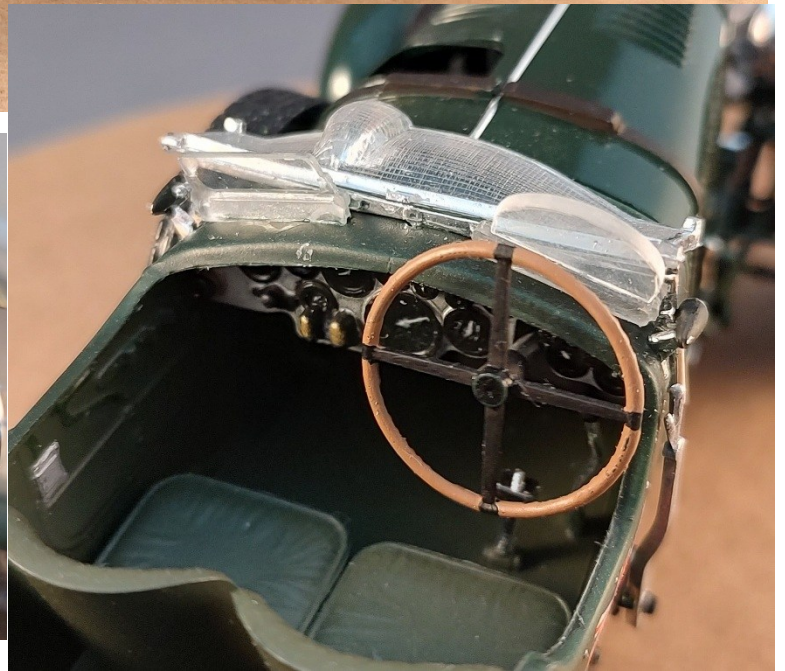
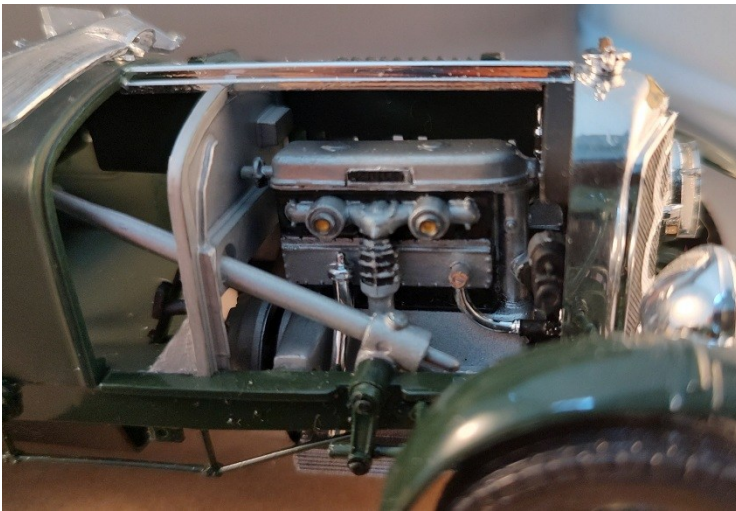
By Larry Gaudet

Finished with Tamiya Flat Black,
Interior Green/Clear Red/Clear
Blue/Flat Aluminum/Aircraft
Grey & Silver

Pros: Assembly, nice instructions

Comments: Great kit, A+





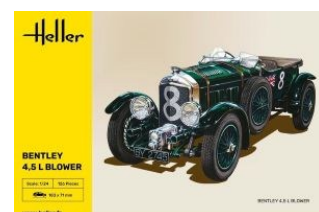
1/24 1924 Bentley 4-1/2 Liter Blower (Heller)

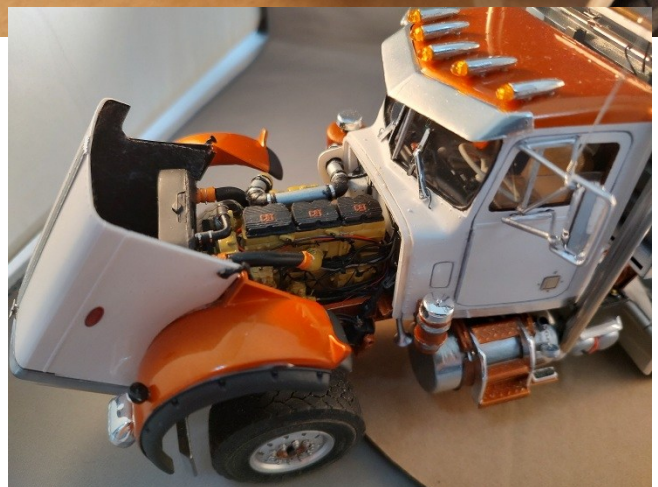
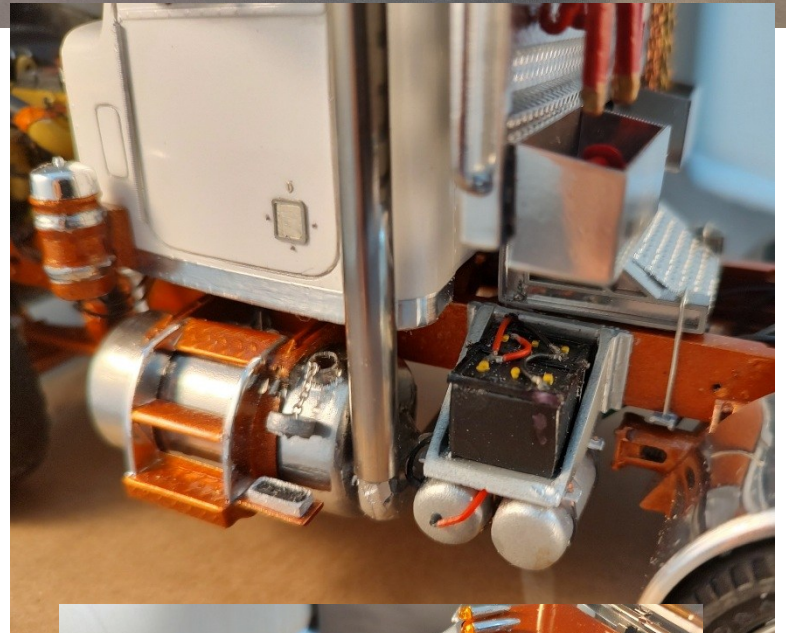
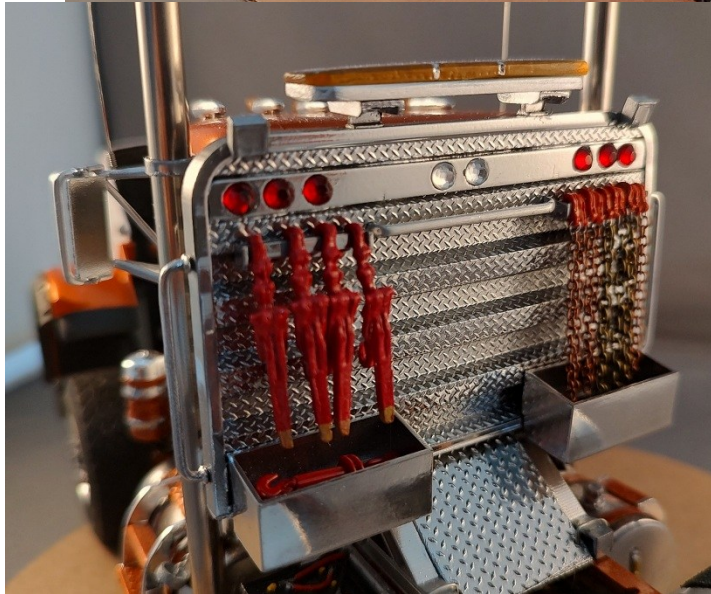
By Dave LaChance

Finished with Tamiya spray cans,
Vallejo brush-on

Pros: Very detailed, went together
with no fit issues

Cons: Fiddly details, particularly
the headlight assemblies





1/25 359 Peterbilt Heavy Hauler (AMT - Revell, Scratch built)

By Paul Paradis

Finished with Tamiya Pearl White, Metallic Orange, (Frame, axles & tank steps): Testors Fiery Orange, Chrome is painted with Revell spray chrome.

Pros: Fun build, came out the way I planned it in my head.

Cons: The hardest part - removing the wire strands from all the vinyl

Comments: A real fun build and challenge

Typical day in the life of a modeller



- Time spent opening box
- Collecting tools
- Kit assembly
- Time spent looking for the part that fell on the floor

OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON TUES-
DAY, JUNE 2, 2026
AT THE MAINE MILI-
TARY MUSEUM,
SOUTH PORTLAND,
ME AND WILL START
AT 7:00 PM

Calendar

June 2—SMSM Meeting

June 13— Region 1 IPMS Show & Contest

July 7—SMSM Meeting—Club Project: Water Planes

September 27—Patcon 2026

October Club Project: Figures

October 18—Granitecon 33