

>> **KITBASH AN ACCURATE A-1E SKYRAIDER**

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November/December 2021

p. 38

>> **WE SHOW YOU HOW TO
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ON THE ROAD**

AUTO WEATHERING



SURFACE RUST



FADED PAINT



WORN METAL



p. 32

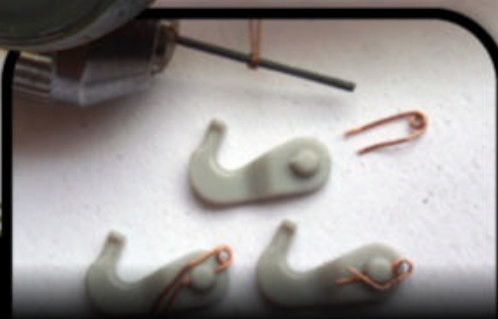
Rafał Zbigniew Lebioda turned Heller's 1/24 scale Renault 4 into an everyday car with subtle wear.



**PAINT
A MECH WITH
ACRYLICS** p. 12



**MASTER
AIRBRUSHING
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**SCRATCHBUILD
DETAILS FOR A
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**BONUS
ONLINE
CONTENT
CODE
PAGE 3**

HOBBY BOSS DOES IT AGAIN!

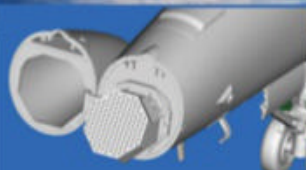
1/48 F/A-18E

Super Hornet-single seat,
twin engine, carrier-capable
multirole fighter
(85812)

Often called the backbone of the U.S. Navy carrier wing, HobbyBoss captures this battle-proven Super Hornet with more than 500 parts, including 23 photo-etched upgrades. Impressive when complete, the finished model is nearly 15" long with an almost 11" wingspan.



Detailed engine



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to reveal radar assembly



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nozzle



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1/48 CH-47A Chinook (81772)

The workhorse and prime mover for the U.S. Army for decades, its missions are varied and include transport of troops, artillery, ammo and battlefield equipment, as well as disaster relief, construction, search and rescue. Finished model is more than 12" in length with rotor diameter of nearly 15".



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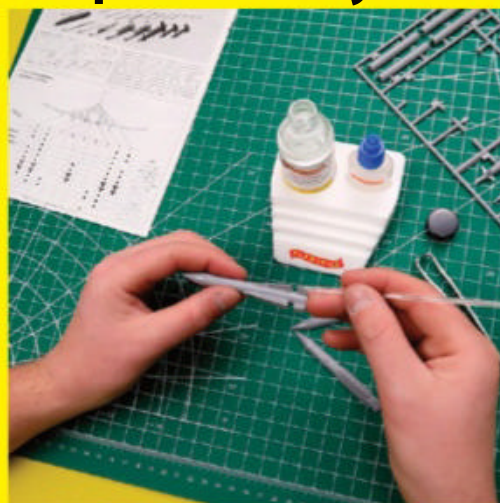
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By Aaron Skinner

Always striving to be better

When I start a model, my goal is always to make it better than the last one. It may be as simple as making the paint even smoother or nailing a complex camouflage scheme that has always eluded me. Or maybe scratchbuilding something that makes it unique. Whatever it may be, I want to keep improving.

It's something we strive for at *FineScale Modeler*. Our mission is to bring you the best of scale modeling each issue with tips and techniques you can use on your next project. The magazine's aim has always been to make you better modelers.

This issue brims with stories from new and old authors showcasing some of the best the hobby has to offer. Check out *FSM* newcomer Don Suratos' stunningly weathered "Gunther" mech. Big 'bots may not be your thing, but he offers some terrific tips and ideas for painting and weathering with acrylics that easily translate

to regular armor, such as the German tanks that inspired the mech's design.

Rafał Lebioda, who has become a regular over the last few years, shows how to add character to a car model with restrained wear and tear.

Darren Roberts kitbashes his way to a better A-1E Skyraider, and John Maher discovers a new way to paint mottled camouflage on natural-metal finishes.

Master scratchbuilder Karel Sutt offers some nifty ideas to upgrade a basic tank model.

And that's just the print magazine. Head to FineScale.com to see even more exclusive build stories and how-to info.

Happy modeling, and here's to your next build being even better!


editor@finescale.com

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

FOR 40 YEARS, FINESCALE MODELER has been — and will continue to be — the essential resource for scale modelers. But over the course of those years, the publishing business has undergone massive changes. Paper, printing, and postage costs have all risen exponentially. Readers of every age and interest level are increasingly looking for content online. The scale modeling hobby has changed, too, and we must continue to change with it.

Beginning with this issue, *FineScale Modeler* will be published six times per year. All current subscribers will receive the number of issues published in a year term. The amount of time remaining on your subscription will not be altered. The publishing schedule going forward will be January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December.

Despite the reduction in print issues, we will still produce the same amount of content you have come to expect from *FSM*. More of that content will now be published on our website for registered subscribers only. So, if you haven't registered on FineScale.com, be sure to do it now so you can enjoy the full range of how-to stories, in-depth kit reviews, videos, building ideas, and painting tips we create for you. Rest assured, we remain committed to giving you, our loyal core of dedicated scale modelers, more and better content both in print and online. We love scale modeling as much as you and look forward to serving you and the hobby for many years to come.

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On canopies and paint

I've read that you can paint canopy edges with flat black to minimize reflections that make clear parts seem less realistic. After painting the edges of the clear parts and the cockpit sills or cowls they attach to, what glue should I use? Also, since Testors Model Master Acryl is no longer made, which acrylic is better: Mission Models, AK Interactive, or Vallejo? I'm getting ready to plunk down money for a new paint system.

— Lloyd Hackett
Huntsville, Ala.

Ed.: To attach clear parts painted or unpainted, use a clear part cement such as Microscale Micro Kristal Klear. These kinds of adhesives are not solvent-based like traditional model glues, so paint won't interfere with them as they work. Avoid using superglue around clear parts because the fumes can cloud clear plastic. If you can't get one of the glues specifically made for modeling, you can also use white glue. However, out of the bottle, it is often too thick for precise application, so I recommend thinning it with a little water.

As far as an acrylic to replace Acryl, any of the options you mentioned will do the job. I've used all three and can recommend them. AK Interactive's acrylics can be airbrushed with little preparation. Vallejo paints are pretty sturdy and hand-brush beautifully. But they are fussy to thin for airbrushing. If you go that route, be sure to get Vallejo Model Air colors. Mission Models paints may be the most complex of the three, requiring two additives to airbrush, but the results are worth the effort.

I can't recommend one over the others, but I will say that whichever brand or brands you settle on, take time to get to know the paint, how to thin it, which pressures work best for airbrushing, etc. Unlike enamels and lacquers that perform pretty much the same regardless of brand, acrylics vary much more.

Interested in general aviation

Why don't we see more of the current and new private aviation aircraft out as plastic model kits?

— Mike Lipford
Longview, Wash.

Ed.: That's a good question, Mike. Obviously, military aircraft make up the bulk of the kits produced, but given how many countless Cessnas, Beechcraft, Pipers, Pilatus, Piaggio, and more take to the air every day, there must be some interest from modelers. Perhaps your letter will see a change in the pattern.



Rather than tape, Aaron used copy paper to fill the expanse of the wings while painting Hasegawa's 1/72 scale He 111.

Paper for masking?

What is the best masking paper to use for masking models (cars, mostly) prior to painting? I've used newspaper, magazine paper, and other papers with fair results, but they are mostly too stiff. What would you recommend?

— Dave Geisler
Yakima, Wash.

Ed.: I'm not sure I have a definitive answer for you. When you say you are using paper to mask, I assume you mean to cover large areas in between tape that you use to mask edges. I usually use copy or typing paper cut to fit the space and tape down. I hesitate to use anything with print on it like newspaper or magazine pages because I have had these things transfer images or type onto the model's surface. If needed, I cut the paper into smaller sections to help it go around curves.

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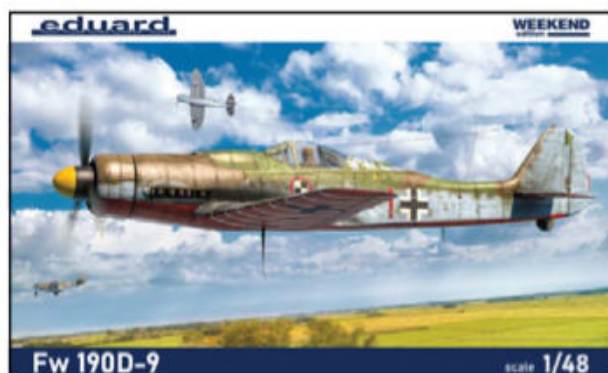
Compiled by Monica Freitag & Aaron Skinner

AIRCRAFT

1/48 SCALE



Eagle's Call from Eduard, No. 11149, \$99.95.
Dual Combo Spitfire Mk.V in US, RAF service.



Fw 190D-9 from Eduard, No. 84102, \$29.95.



Tempest Mk.II early version from Eduard,
No. 82124, \$59.95.



Spitfire Mk.IX from Eduard, No. 84175,
\$29.95.

MiG-21MF from Eduard, No. 8231, \$59.95.

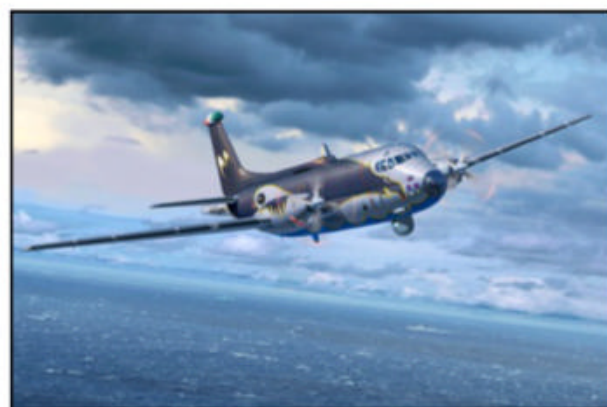
1/72 SCALE



Dornier Do 27 German, Spanish and Belgian Service from Special Hobby,
No. 72327, \$22.70.



A.W. Meteor NF Mk.14 The Last of Night Fighters from Special Hobby, No. 72364,
\$25.90.



Breguet Atlantic 1 Italian Eagle from Revell,
No. 03845, \$43.

ARMOR

1/35 SCALE



Austin Armoured Car 1918 pattern, British Service, Western Front interior kit from MiniArt, No. 39009, \$TBA.



T-55A Mod. 1970 interior kit from MiniArt,
No. 37094, \$TBA.

1/72 SCALE



Marder III Ausf. M from Revell, No. 03316,
\$24.



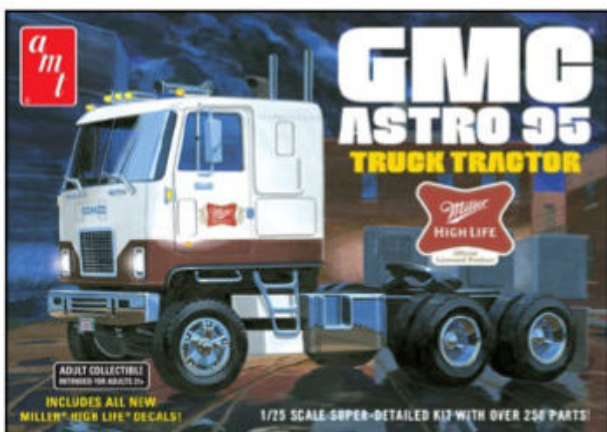
7.5cm PaK 40 (German Anti-tank gun) from Special Hobby, No. SA72025, \$12.75.

AUTOS

1/25 SCALE



International Harvester Scout from AMT,
No. AMT1248M, \$31.99.



GMC Astro 95 Semi Tractor from AMT, No. AMT1230, \$50.99.

SHIPS

1/700 SCALE



HMS Glory from Imperial Hobby Productions, No. 7003, \$64.95.



HMS Triumph from Imperial Hobby Productions, No. 7002, \$64.95.

SCIENCE FICTION

1/1000 SCALE



Star Trek USS Voyager clear edition (SnapIt) from Polar Lights, No. POL902M, \$50.99; **Star Trek USS Voyager (SnapIt)** from Polar Lights, No. POL980M, \$50.99.

REAL SPACE

1/144 SCALE



Space shuttle with booster rockets, 40th Anniversary from Revell, No. 05674, \$62.

SCI-FI DETAIL SET

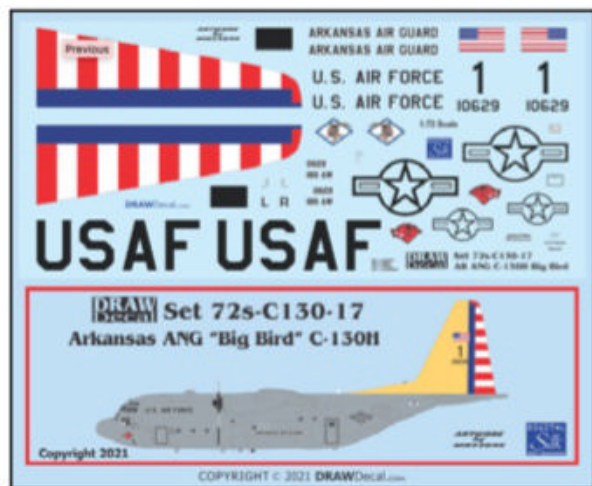
1/350 SCALE



Star Trek: TOS USS Enterprise Light Kit from Polar Lights, No. MKA048, \$212.99.

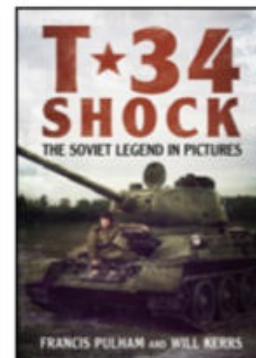
AIRCRAFT DECALS

1/72 SCALE

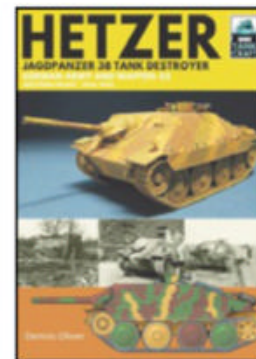


Arkansas ANG Big Bird C-130H from Draw Decal, No. 72-C130-17, \$14.

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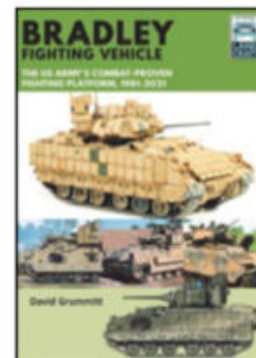
T-34 Shock \$55 by Francis Pulham, hardcover, 496 pages, 672 B/W photos and 28 color, ISBN: 978-1781-5584-61. From Casemate Publishers.



Hetzer - Jagdpanzer 38 Tank Destroyer – German Army and Waffen-SS Western Front, 1944-1945 \$24.95 by Dennis Oliver, soft cover, 64 pages, 200 color and B/W illustrations, ISBN: 978-1526-7911-84. From Casemate Publishers.



German Tank Destroyers \$39.95 by Pierre Tiquet, hard cover, 192 pages, 250 color and B/W illustrations, ISBN: 978-1612-0090-63. From Casemate Publishers.



Bradley Fighting Vehicle \$24.95 by Dave Grummitt, soft cover, 64 pages, 200 color and B/W photos. From Casemate Publishers.

MISCELLANEOUS

1/35 SCALE



Fruit Cart from MiniArt, No. 35625, \$TBA.

Halftrack to the rescue

Makeover a SdKfz 251 as an ambulance

BY GLENN BARTOLOTTI

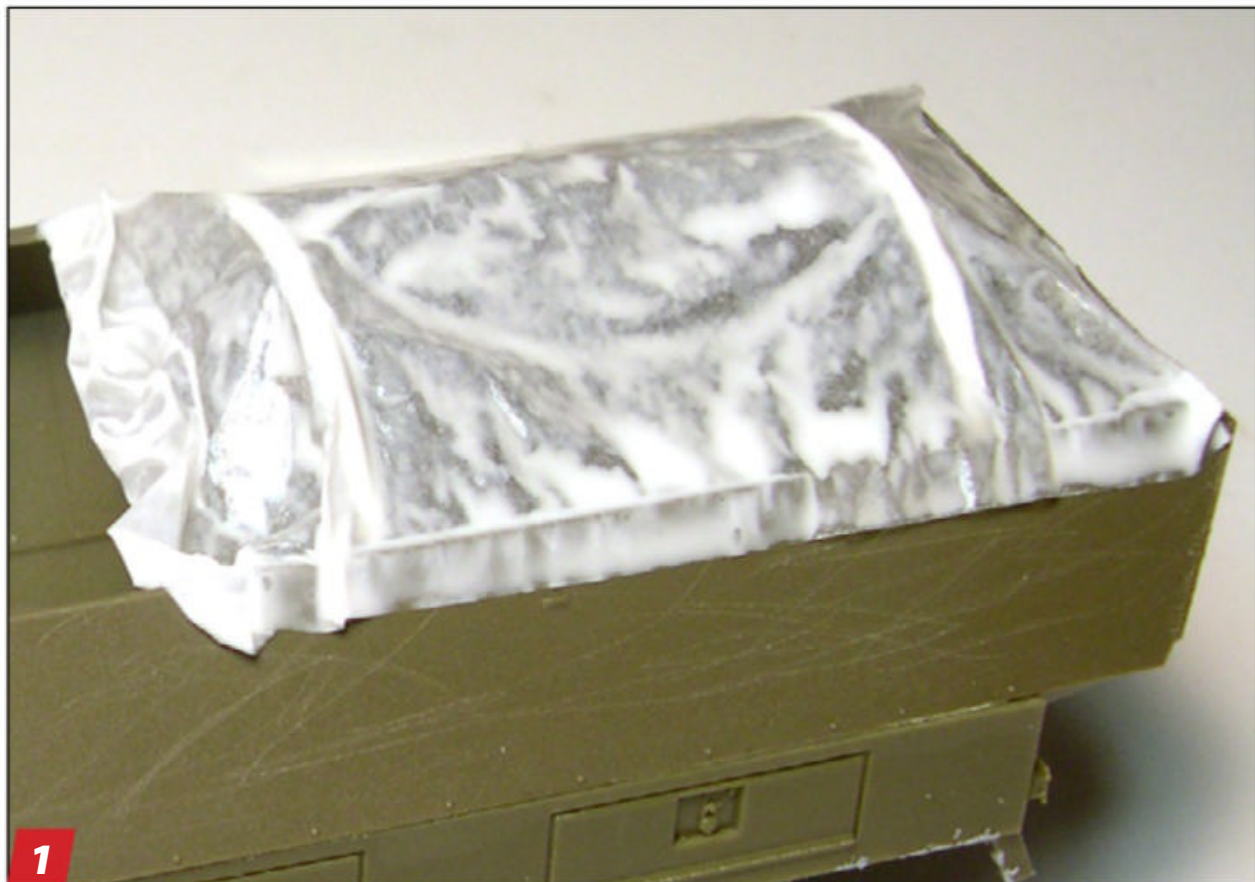


Working from a photo, Glenn made a few additions to AFV Club's 1/35 scale SdKfz 251 to turn it into a German army ambulance.

Produced in large numbers and widely available, the SdKfz 251 halftrack served German armed forces throughout World War II. Designed as an armored troop transport, or schützenpanzerwagen, the vehicle's versatility saw it repurposed for a variety of roles. They included pionierpanzerwagen (engineer vehicle), self-propelled antiaircraft and artillery vehicles, and, in the case of the SdKfz 251/8, an ambulance (krankenpanzerwagen). The last could carry two stretcher cases and four seated wounded.

Looking to do something different with an AFV Club 1/35 scale SdKfz 251/22, I discovered a photo of an ambulance version serving with the 1st Fallschirm-Panzer Division Hermann Göring in Italy, 1944.

I left the 7.5cm PaK 40 out and built the detailed kit pretty much out of the box. The only thing I replaced were the kit's vinyl tracks with a set of Dragon Magic Track individual-links leftover from another project.



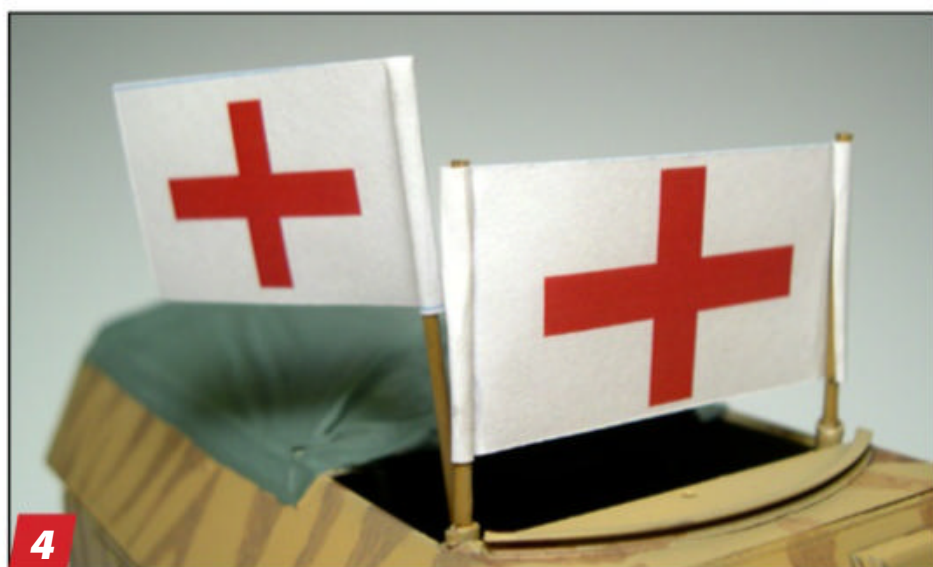
1 To make a canvas cover for the crew compartment, I first attached a pair of support bows made from styrene rod. Then I cut gift-wrapping tissue to fit the bed and attached it to the supports with a generous application of white glue mixed with water. The paper stiffened as the glue dried.



2 After pre-shading the lower hull and chassis as well as panel lines with Testors Model Master Acryl Burnt Umber (No. 4605), I airbrushed thin layers of RLM79 Sandgelb (No. 4789) and a light dusting of Radome Tan (No. 4722). The brass-rod flag poles mount in styrene tube supports.



3 I hand-painted the camouflage pattern with Model Master Acryl Rotbraun (No. 4861) and the canvas cover with Fieldgrau (No. 4860).



4 I designed the flags on my computer and printed them on both sides of a sheet of paper. After cutting out the flags, I superglued them to the poles and let the glue dry.



5 Before weathering the flags, I applied just enough water so they would droop into the shapes I wanted. Brown and black washes as well as wet pigment applications weathered the halftrack and flags. **FSM**

Award-worthy

Paint, weather, and finish without the trouble of enamels, lacquers, and artist oils

BY DON SURATOS

Let's face it, using acrylic paints and finishing products — like weathering powders and washes — is different from using enamels, oil paints, or lacquers. You can produce similar effects, but the processes and methods vary slightly. However, once you have them down, you can use water-based acrylics on anything, from armor to sci-fi models and everything between.

In 2008, I won the Gunpla World Championships using only acrylics and went on to win multiple other awards afterward. During that time, I continued to develop my process and came to fall in love with Acrylicos Vallejo paints — to the point that I use them almost exclusively. That isn't to say you can't apply my techniques with other acrylic paints, but you'll have to modify your approach to suit the brand. But that's modeling: always refining, always learning, always making a path that works for you.

For this Dust Studios 1/35 scale Schwere Panzer Kampf Läufer 1-A "Gunther" (No. D35002), I wanted to capture the appearance of historical World War II panzers and apply it to this German walker from the alternate-history Dust 1947 universe, including weathering. I collected many reference photos of German tanks and chose to paint my Gunther gray with red markings. Unless noted otherwise, all paints are Acrylicos Vallejo.



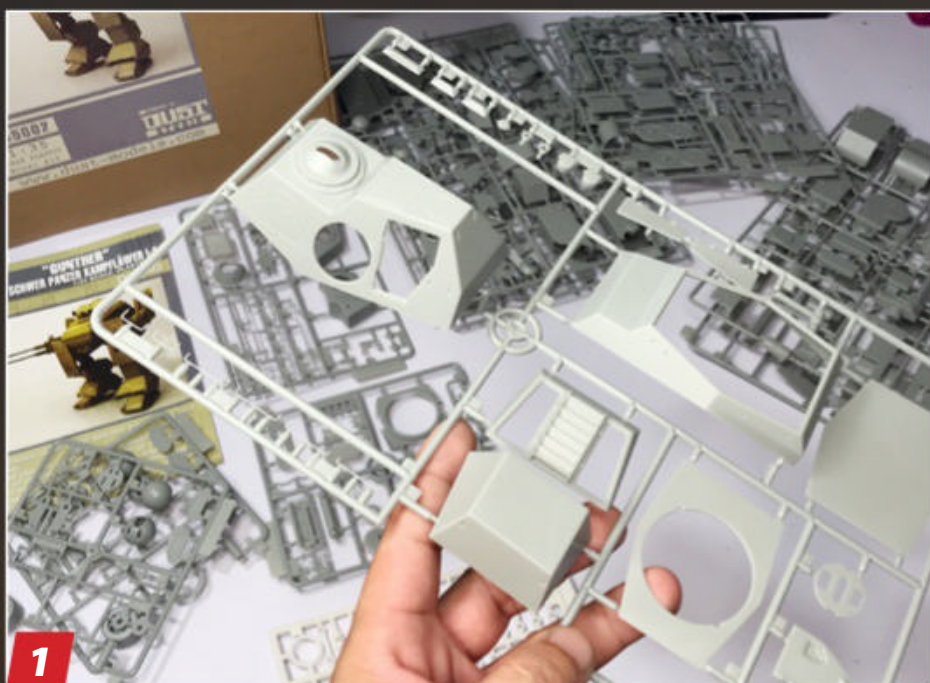
CRYLICS



Don Suratos' first book, *Maquina*, teaches you all the skills you'll need to finish mecha (giant fighting robots!) with Acrylicos Vallejo paints. You can order it now at KalmbachHobbyStore.com.



Background: ©Andhika Zanuar/Dreamstime.com



1 The Dust Studios Gunther is a plastic kit and went together well with Tamiya thin cement. I was happy to see it included details like tools to help dress up the exterior.



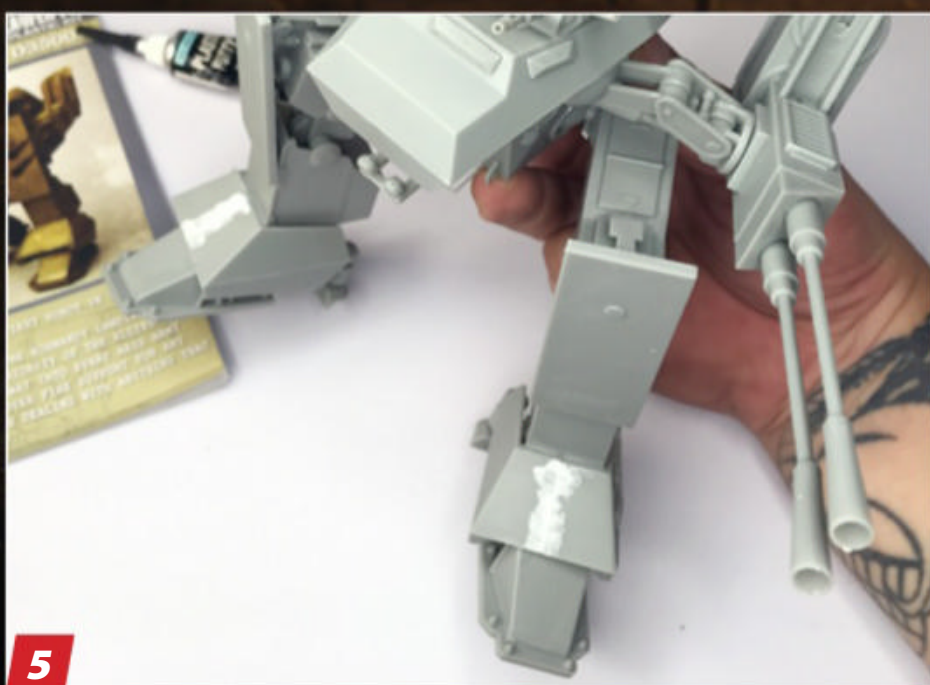
2 Unlike models of real-world armor, the Gunther is a walker, with legs and arms. The joints for these employ rubbery parts that use friction to allow posability. I don't move a model's appendages once posed. Doing so can loosen the joints and then nothing stays in position.



3 The polycaps for the Gunther's hips were too loose, so, with no intention of moving them once posed, I glued the plastic joints. I also reinforced the hips with small pieces of sprue glued well out of sight.



4 Most of the parts required only minimal cleanup, and the joints were often along panel lines or hidden by angles. The lower leg halves required some plastic putty to eliminate a seam right down the middle.



5 Sanding with progressively finer grit sanding pads smoothed out the lines of the front of the lower legs and cleaned up any uneven or rough spots that I was unhappy with.

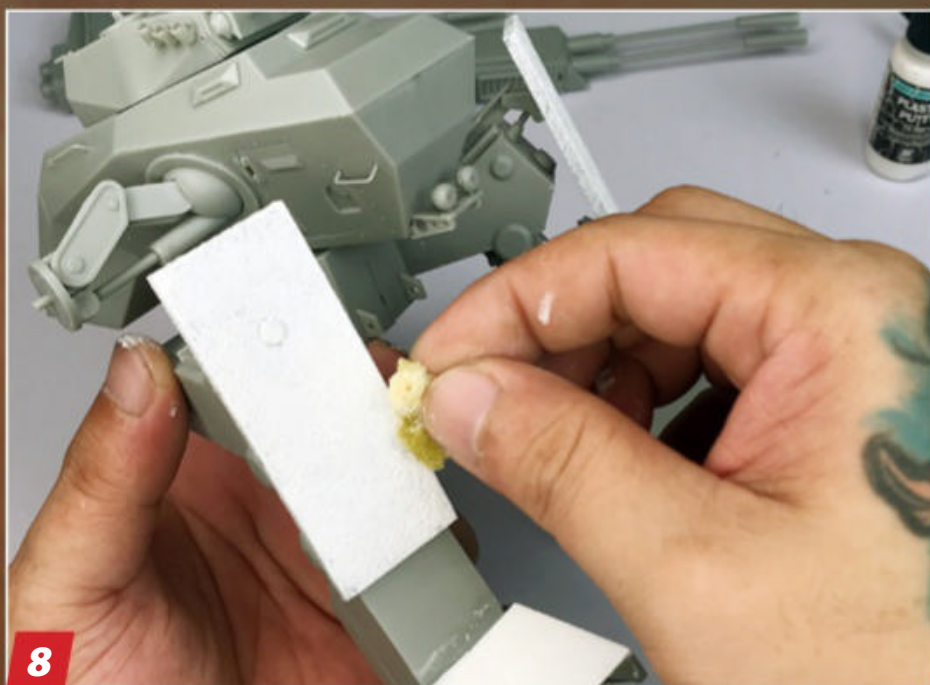


6 Taking stock of the exterior, I reached for some DUA 3D-printed plastic parts, typically used on Gundam models. Nothing too overwhelmingly sci-fi — just enough to add some interesting details for the exterior that could allow a little more rust and weathering.



7

You're able to use Tamiya thin cement to attach DUA plastic parts. I placed handles, raised details, and the number 23 on the hull, arms, and legs. Why 23? It's my birthday and, maybe unsurprisingly, my favorite number, too. So why not?



8

Try as I might, I could not get the seam on the lower right leg armor to disappear. My answer was to create a cast-iron effect on both legs with plastic putty dabbed on with a chunk of microfiber sponge. I applied three thin layers, waiting at least 5 minutes between each application.



9

I primed the Gunther in four subassemblies — the main hull and legs, two arms, and the turret — with Mecha Color Black Primer (No. 70.642). Keeping separate subassemblies allowed me to achieve total coverage. (Vallejo formulated its Mecha range specifically for articulated model kits; it covers well and is extremely durable.) Then I went over the primer with a thin coat of Game Air Black (No. 72.751).

Acrylics Vallejo Mecha Color

YES, I'M BIASED, but I highly recommend the Vallejo Mecha Color primers and varnishes for all kinds of model kits and figures. The primers and the paints dry to a satin finish (to match the plastic of Gundam models), so the range may not be everyone's cup of tea. A thin coat of matte varnish easily remedies this trait.

To thin Vallejo paints, I made my own mix I call "thinning sauce" from 2-parts Airbrush Thinner (No. 71.061) and 1-part Flow Improver (No. 71.362). Premix a bottle, label it, and keep it nearby when airbrushing with Vallejo acrylics. Typically add an equal amount of thinning sauce to primers and varnishes; for Game Air paints, mix 3-parts paint to 1-part thinning sauce; spray with a .5mm airbrush nozzle at 25 psi.



10

As soon as the black was dry to the touch, I applied Mecha Color Phantom Gray (No. 69.040) to the top and front right areas, looking for a zenithal effect simulating a natural light source from the top right. To achieve the effect, paint downwards and concentrate on the upper areas of the model.



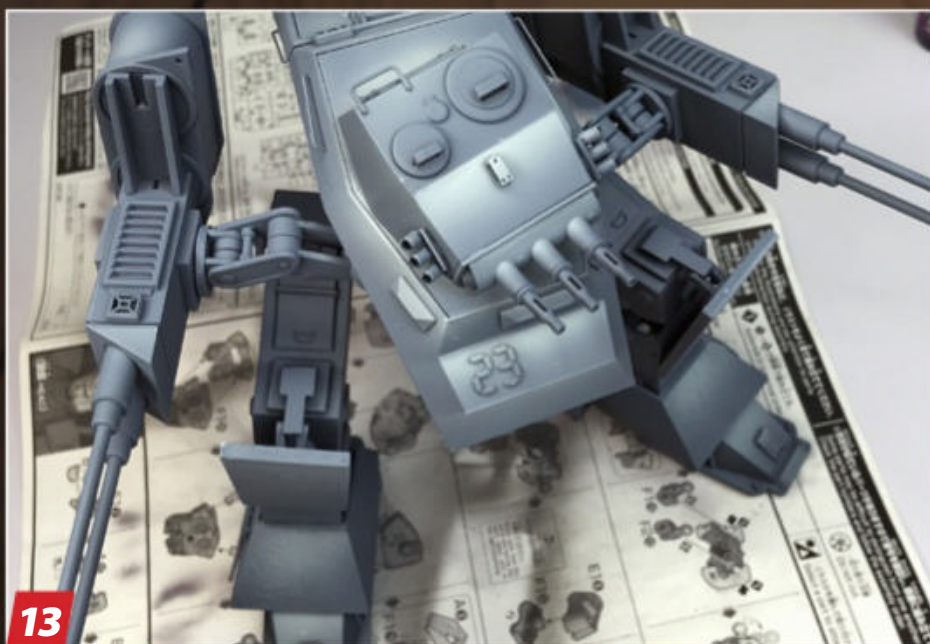
11

The crevices and undersides remained black primer after the first two passes. Then everything received a couple of mist coats. This left only the deep crevices black. Top areas are solid phantom gray and the undersides appear dark gray.



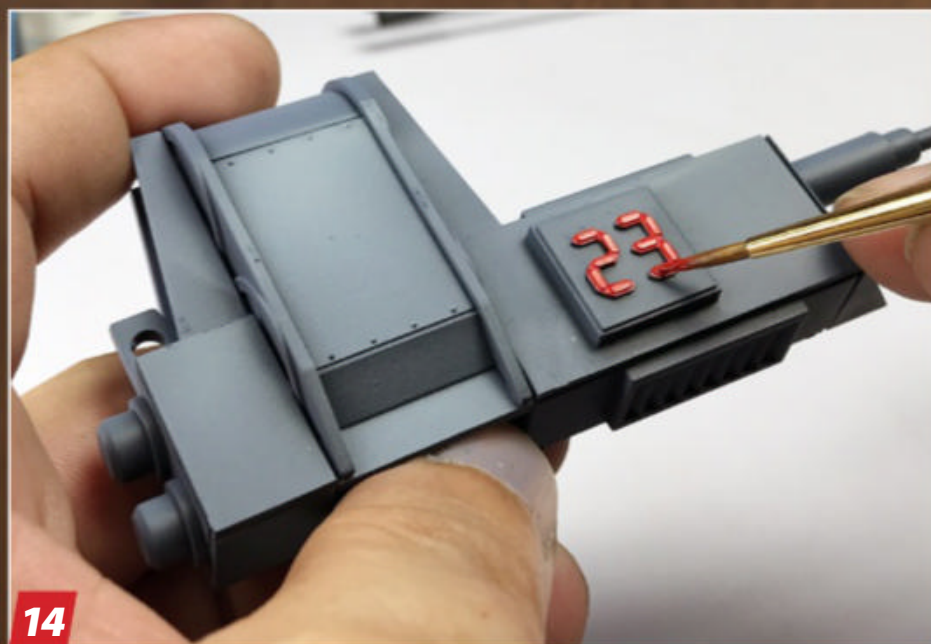
12

To create basic color modulation, I covered areas with a section of styrene sheet and airbrushed Game Air Sombre Gray (No. 72.748) followed by Mecha Color Medium Gray (No. 69.038). Both were thinned 3:1 paint to thinning sauce. I changed to a .2mm nozzle and sprayed at roughly 20 psi.



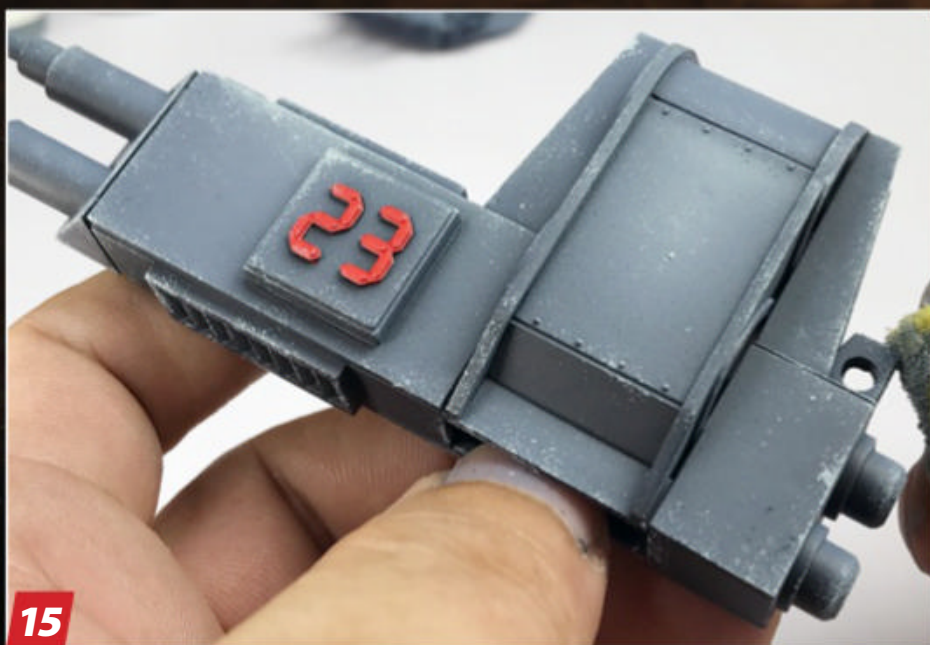
13

The effect zenithal and color modulation is striking. Medium gray is very light, but I intentionally airbrush colors that are lighter than intended because weathering always tones them down, and I don't want them to be too dark when finished.



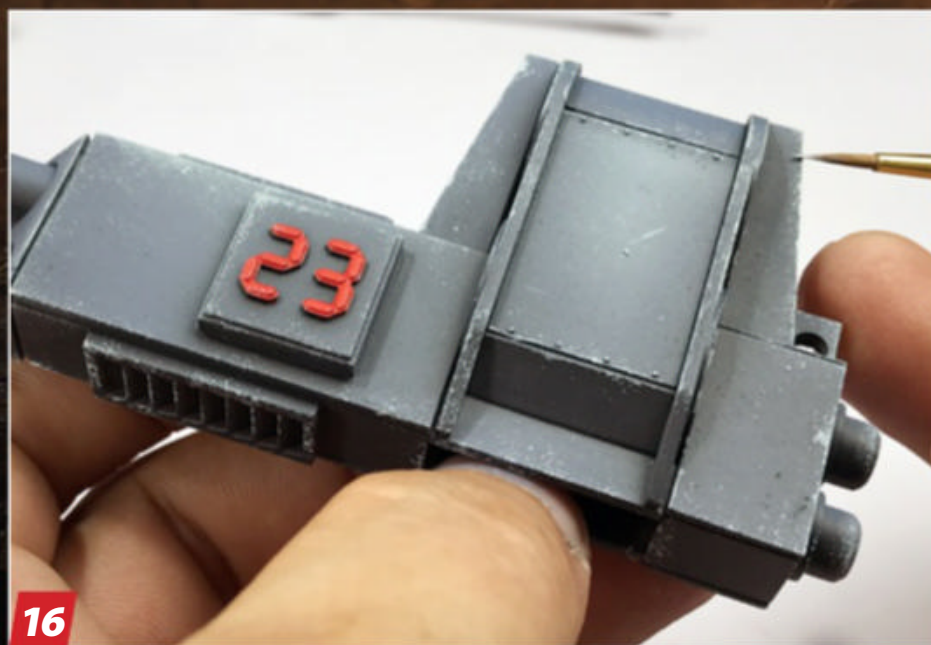
14

I hand-painted the number 23 first with a Model Color Pale Blue Gray (No. 70.907) undercoat. A couple of thin coats were enough. White would have worked, but also would have required more coats. I followed with Mecha Color Red (No. 69.008) but wasn't happy with it, and finished with Dark Vermillion (No. 70.947) instead.



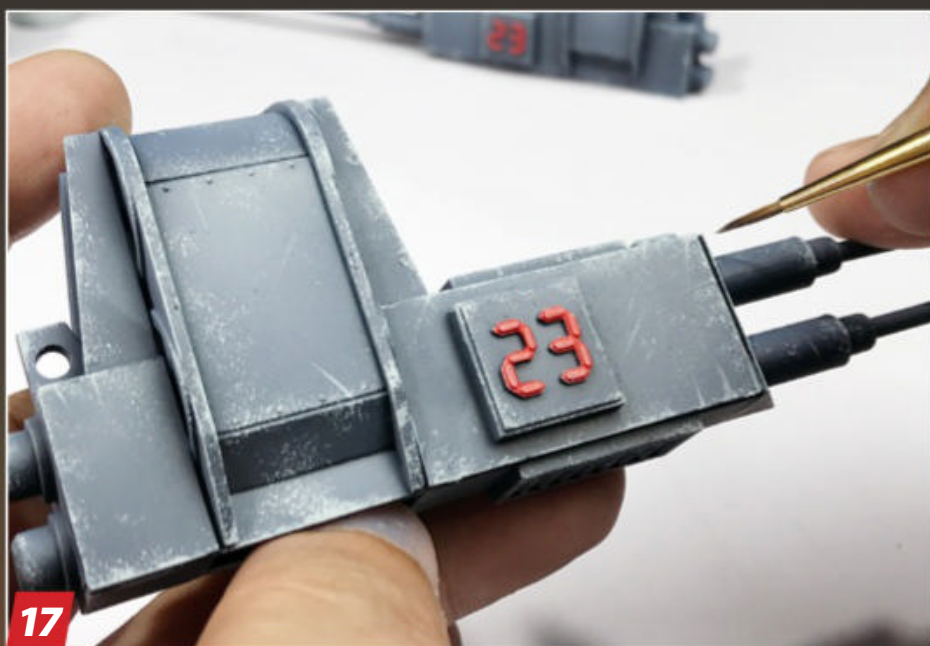
15

Chipping began with a sponge dipped in Model Color Field Blue (No. 70.964), which is not too dissimilar to from the base color. Obviously, weather according to your tastes. In this case, because the field blue wasn't too bright against the base color, I added a bit more than usual.



16

I connected the random chipping made by the sponge along the edges with a paintbrush and the same field blue. These signs of wear add realism, just like they do on a model of a real German tank, and you can start to imagine the Gunther having been in the field.



17

Pale blue gray made lighter paint chips, again applied with a sponge, but I applied less than with the field blue. I focused painting these chips mostly on the top areas to complement the zenithal effect. I also painted scratches with the same color.



18

Using German Grey (No. 70.995) for the darker chipping colors is mighty fine and may look more realistic, but my sci-fi and fantasy background says paint with more contrast. Everything so far is tinted blue, so the deep chips are Hull Red (No. 70.985) for greater contrast and visual interest.



19

With all the previous paint dry, it was time for washes. I started with Model Wash Rust (No. 76.506) applied to the "chipped" paint. I call this "rust juice": Surface gone wet, bleeding from a few deep gouges in the metal, and the chipped areas are the main source.

REMEMBER,
acrylic washes dry faster
than enamels and oils.
Work in small sections,
apply thin layers, and blend
edges with thinner
or water.



20

I painted Model Wash Dark Rust (No. 76.507) near the chipping and blended the edges while wet. Once the dark rust wash has dried, I painted over it with thin layers of Model Wash Light Rust (No. 76.505) and blended it with the base colors to create a smooth transition. I applied more on the vents because heated metal tends to rust faster.



21

A thinned filter of Model Wash Blue Gray (No. 76.524) went over the darker armor areas and was blended toward the lighter areas. The filter gave more contrast to the base colors and toned down the chipping effect. Minimal to none was applied on the lighter areas of the vehicle.



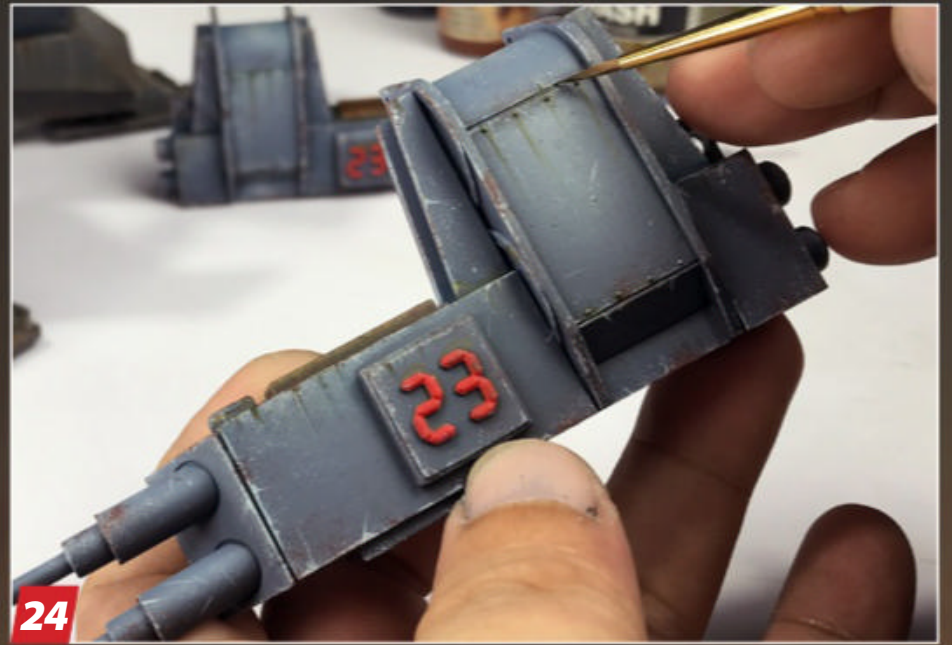
22

I stippled Model Wash Desert Dust (No. 76.522) on select horizontal areas and pulled the color down some of the vertical or angled panels. The color is very subtle and took up to five applications. Better to apply thin coats and be happy rather than a single, disappointing heavy coat.



23

Inner workings and functioning mechanisms like joints and hydraulic pistons were detailed with Engine Grime (No. 73.815). This simulates grease build up and the dirt that would accumulate around such places, and it makes more sense than rust colors on a maintained machine. This wash can be combined with Diesel Stains (No. 73.816) to great effect.



24

Prominent bolts, corners, and other select raised areas received Streaking Grime (No. 73.824). I thinned the paint for the first pass and used it undiluted for the second pass, applying less. Always pull down from the source for a naturally tapered streak.



25

I drew a flat brush wet with Splash Mud Light Brown (No. 73.804) across a needle-point scribe to create spatters of dried mud. I toned it down with Model Wash Dark Brown (No. 76.514) and then applied a liberal amount of European Mud (No. 73.807) to the foot armor for fresher, recently accumulated dirt and mud.





FINAL THOUGHTS

I'LL SET ASIDE A PROJECT for up to a week before doing finishing touches. It gives me time away to think about any subtle changes I may want to add. With the Gunther, I gave the whole model a thin coat of Mecha Matte Varnish and let it stand for 24 hours. Then I went back to pick out little details like fuel and oil stains, additional streaks from rain, a little more streaking grime. Then it's done! I think painting and weathering with acrylics is fun, and you can achieve the same results as you would with solvent-based paints. Plus, they're non-toxic. If you haven't already, you should give them a try! **FSM**



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PER

Building and painting Tamiya's 1/72 scale Ki-61

BY JOHN MAHER

The Kawasaki Ki-61 Hein (Swallow) certainly belongs in the covey of sleek aircraft. Japan's only mass-produced fighter with a liquid-cooled in-line engine — it used a licensed copy of Germany's Daimler-Benz 601 — making the Hein appear similar to the Italian Macchi, so the Allies code-named it "Tony." Heins left the factory unpainted and were camouflaged in the field without any standard pattern. This makes the Tony a

challenging subject because it combines two of the trickiest finishes: natural-metal and mottling.

Compared to many Allied or German subjects, the Hein is not well documented. But available photos suggest

SEEKING SLEEK FECTION

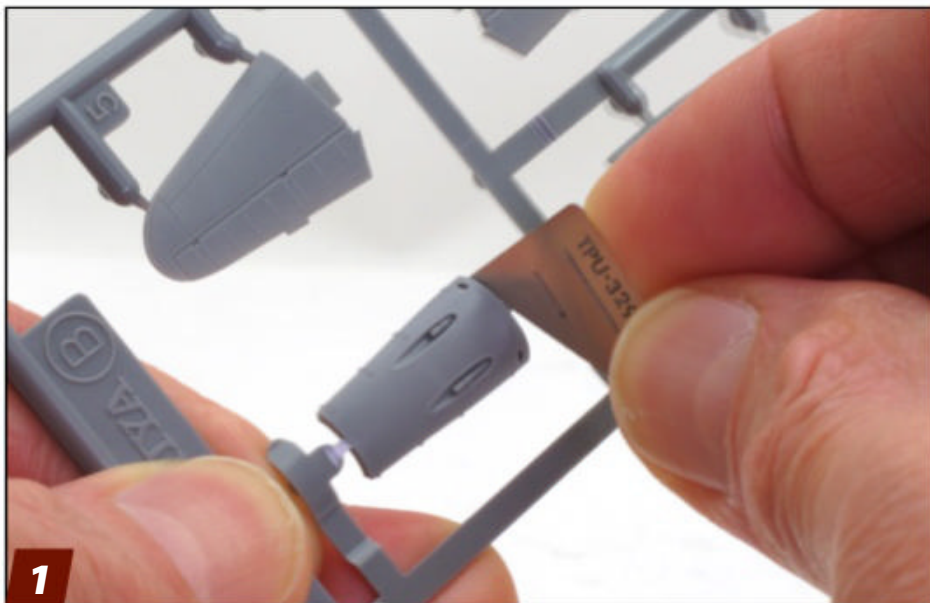


In the field, Ki-61s were camouflaged by paint crews with limited resources and varying ability, leading to uneven results. John Maher took advantage of that fact to learn and develop airbrushing and clean-up skills. Taking on difficult subjects in 1/72 scale is a great way to develop new techniques as they will naturally translate well on larger scales.

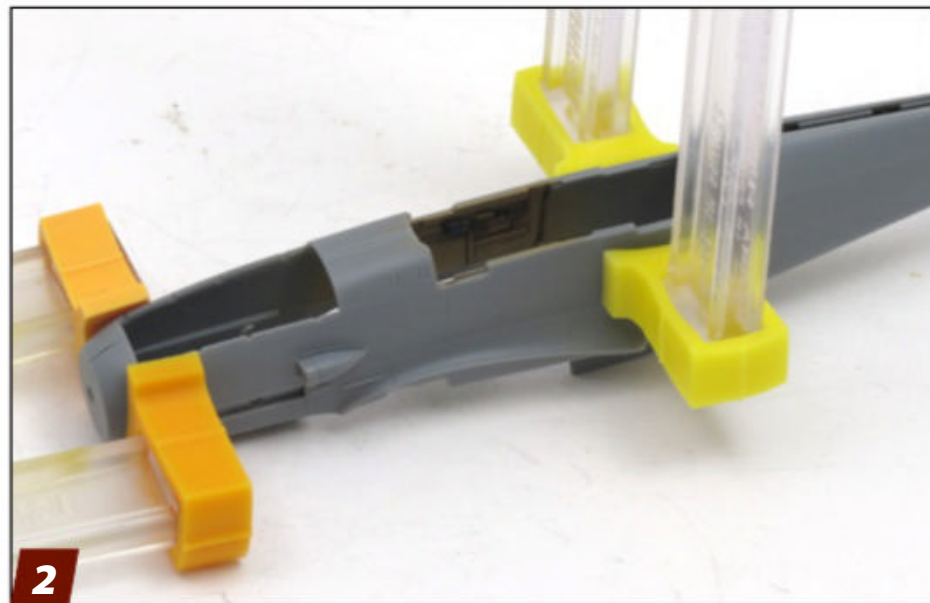
the skills of paint crews varied. Those flown by aces or senior pilots have beautifully consistent mottled camouflage jobs. Many more examples were hastily done and clearly

painted by more than one person and show inconsistencies from one side of the airplane to the other.

Tamiya's state-of-the-art 1/72 scale Ki-61-Id (No. 60789) presented me with the opportunity to try mottling on natural metal. As I often do, I decided not to model a specific subject so I had flexibility in the final pattern. Along the way, I discovered some new techniques to improve airbrushing freehand patterns.



1 Metallic paint shows any imperfections, so a high standard of assembly is required and that begins with parts removal. I use a Hasegawa Trytool photo-etched metal (PE) saw to trim part from the trees. This reduces the sanding needed to eliminate burrs and the risk of fit problems.



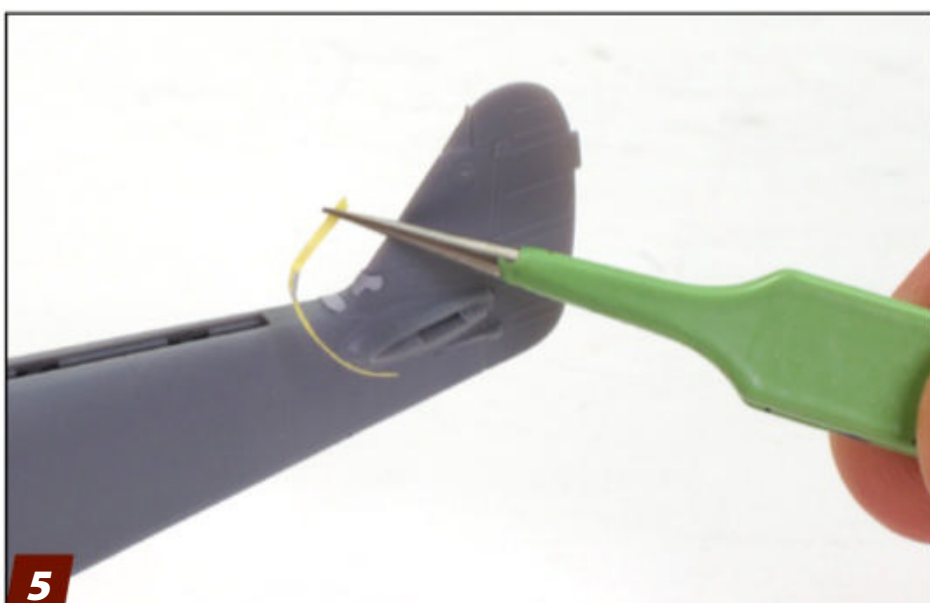
2 Although Tamiya kits are renowned for their engineering and fit, I still use Berna clamps to hold parts, such as the fuselage halves, together as I flow in liquid glue. This ensures optimal fit and prevents the parts from shifting during glue application, making for tighter joins that require less cleanup.



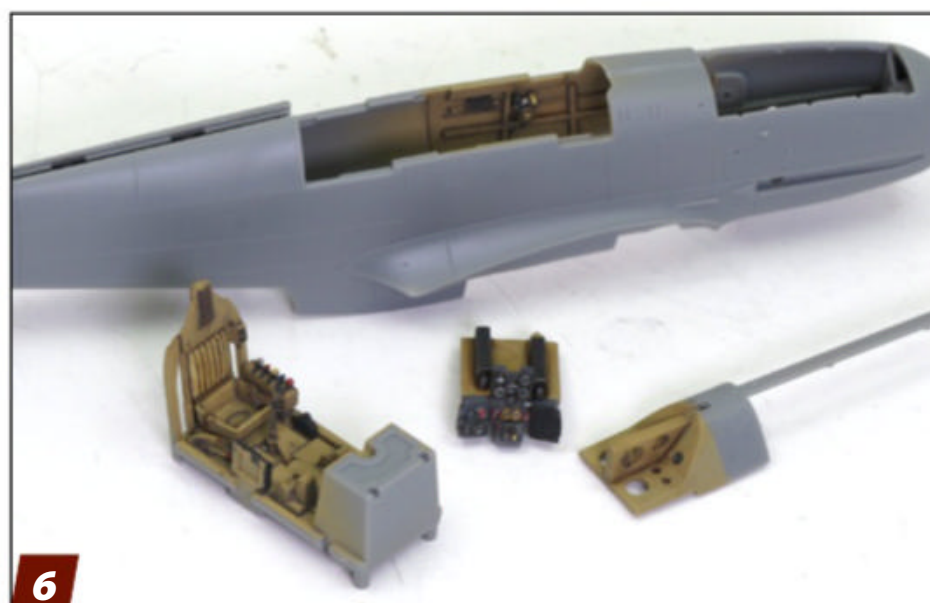
3 I needed to clean up the areas where fuselage inserts fit. For tight spaces, like those inherent to 1/72 scale, Precision Stix are perfect. They are available in grits from 120 to 1500, and the hard, flat surface makes quick work of evenly smoothing mating surfaces.



4 The sharpness at the edges of the fairing where the tail fin joins the fuselage softened as I sanded the seam. A fellow modeler showed me how to restore these details: Apply thin strips of Tamiya tape on each side of the fairing and brush Mr. Surfacer 500 along the edges.



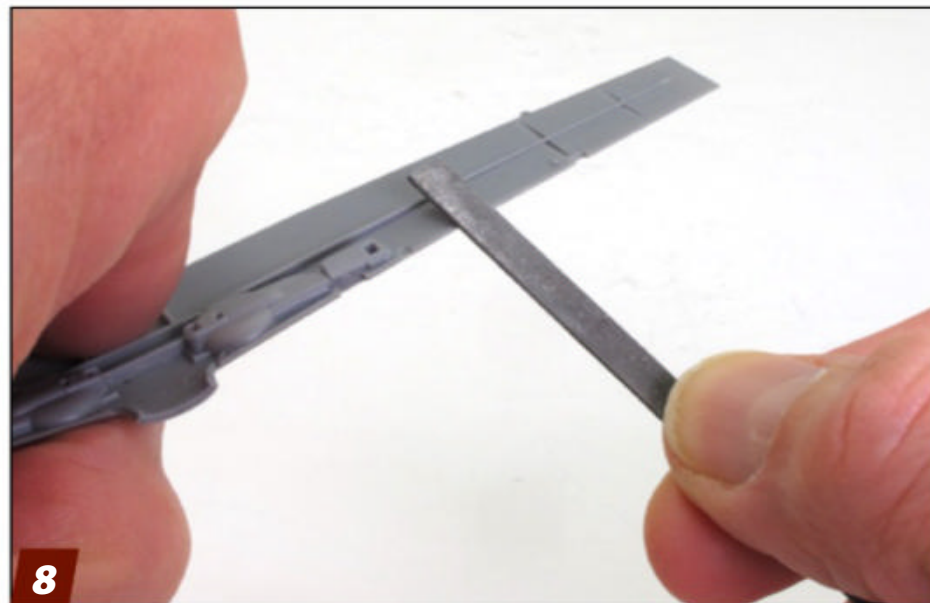
5 The tape acts as a dam for Mr. Surfacer, so when you remove it, the edge of the fairing is neatly restored. It took multiple coats of Mr. Surfacer and some cleanup with 1000-grit sandpaper to finish the job.



6 The cockpit is broken down into three main subassemblies. After applying a base coat of 75% Tamiya Dark Yellow (No. XF-60) and 25% White (No. X-2), I picked out details with Vallejo acrylics. I intended to keep the canopy closed on this small-scale model, so I flowed on a heavy application of Mig Productions Brown Wash (No. P221) to really accent details.



7 To ensure the rear cockpit fairing is joined to the fuselage as cleanly as possible, I used a Berna clamp to hold it in place while I applied Tamiya Quick-Setting Extra Thin Cement from underneath through the opening for the wing.



8 I didn't want wing seams to pop open. To prevent this from happening, I slightly beveled each of the leading edge mating surfaces slightly.



9 Then, in advance of using gap-filling superglue to join the wing leading edges, I ran accelerator along the leading-edge groove created by bevelling the surfaces.



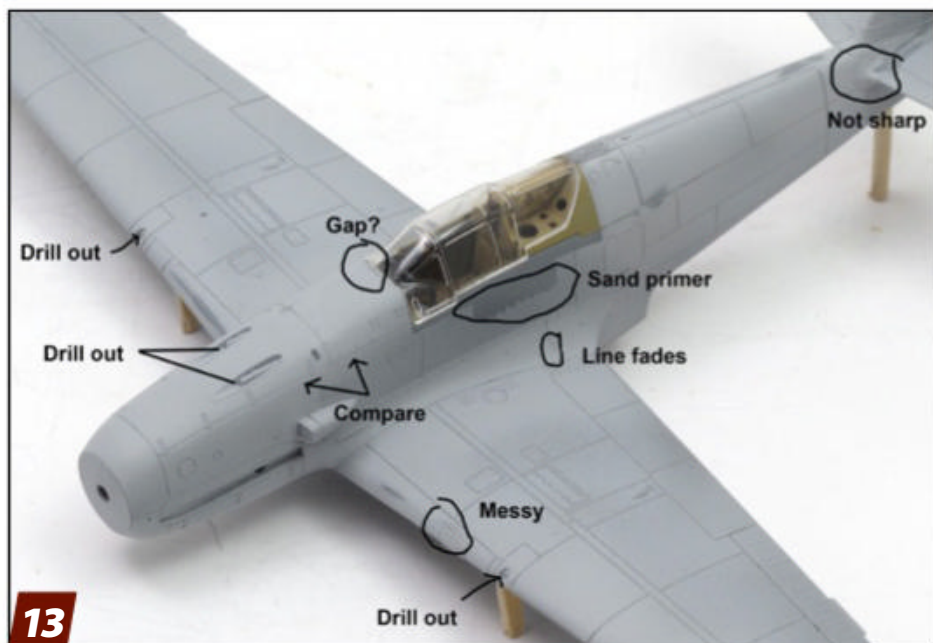
10 I applied medium viscosity superglue to the leading edges with the eye of a needle ground down to form a U. For 30 minutes, the superglue will be softer than the surrounding plastic making the seam easy to blend with 1000-grit sandpaper.



11 To finish the wings, I restored panel lines across the leading edges with a Hasegawa Trytool PE saw.



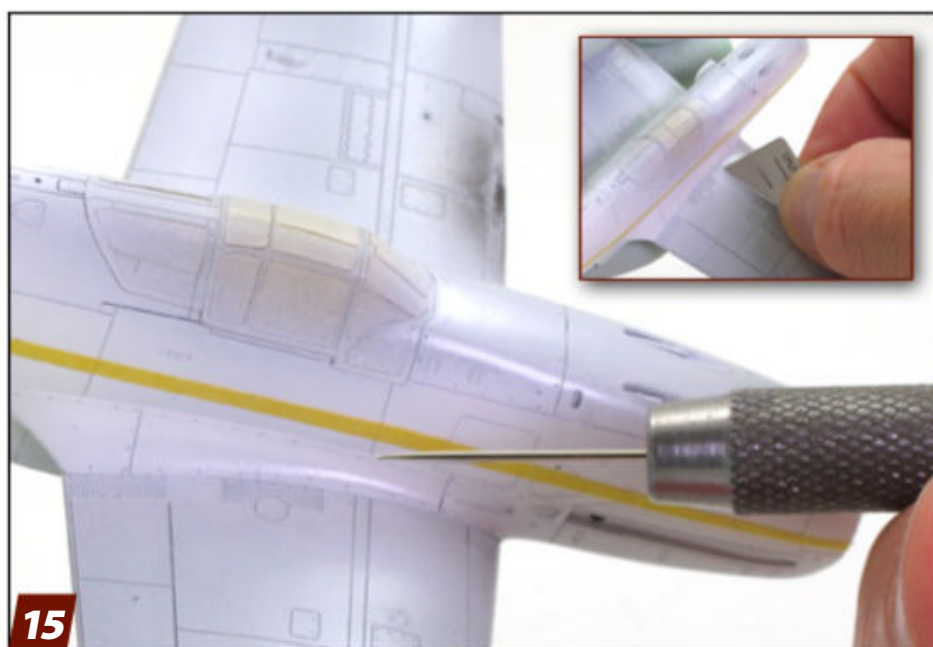
12 I made a jig from Lego blocks to align the horizontal stabilizers. Blocks fore and aft of the wing and behind the central radiator hold the model steady and level before I built blocks to support the tailplanes. Once everything was in position, I applied liquid cement to the joins on the model.



Like many modelers, I circulate in-progress pictures to friends online and, more often than not, they find inconsistencies that I miss. As you can see here, a friend took time to point out what he saw. This exercise is especially important when prepping for a natural-metal finish.



Thinking I had completely “deglitched” my Tony, I started painting with Tamiya White lacquer (No. LP-2) for the fuselage band and stripes. I masked them with Tamiya tape.



But the white paint identified new problems at the wing roots. I restored rivet detail with a needle chucked in a pin vise; the Hasegawa PE saw sharpened panel lines at the wing root.



Tamiya’s new lacquers include Silver (No. LP-11), which is by far the best silver paint I have ever used. It takes the stress out of natural-metal finishes; as long as you have a perfectly smooth surface, you’re guaranteed good results.



One of this lacquer’s qualities is that it can be sanded to a feathered edge. This came in handy because I was able to smooth roughness at the wing roots with Micro-Mesh 3200-grit sanding cloth and then easily blend it with more silver.



Satisfied with the metallic finish, I masked the control surfaces, which are fabric-covered, and the antiglare panel. To mask the tricky shapes in front of the windscreen, I used 1/64-inch pin-striping tape from Line O Tape.



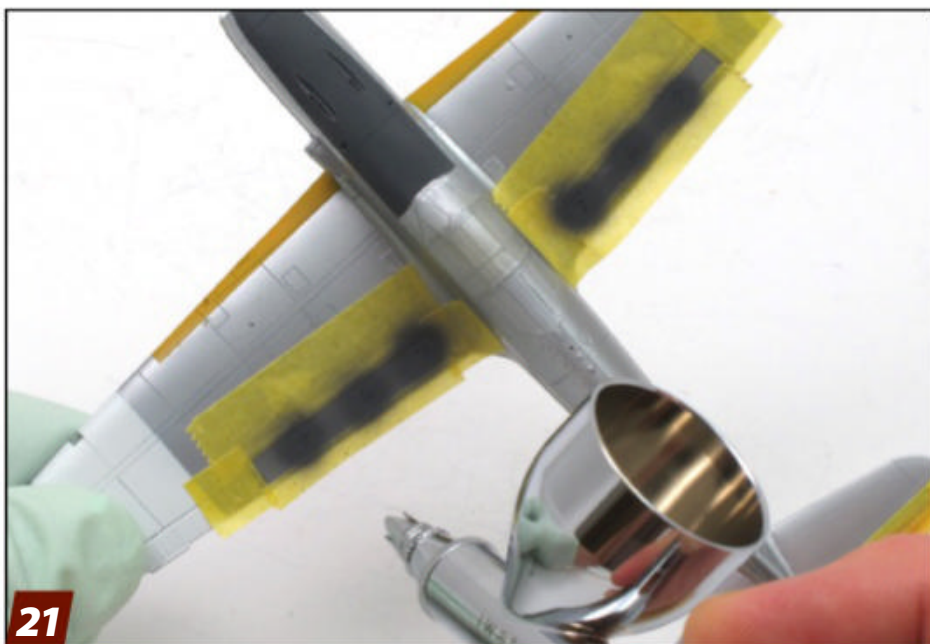
19

I painted the antiglare panel with Tamiya German Grey (No. XF-63) rather than black for scale effect. To paint the Hein's doped-linen control surfaces, I used Tamiya Royal Light Gray (No. XF-80).



20

The identification bands on the leading edges of the wings were painted Tamiya Flat Yellow (No. XF-3) mixed with a couple of drops of Flat Red (No. XF-7); I painted the rudder pure flat red.



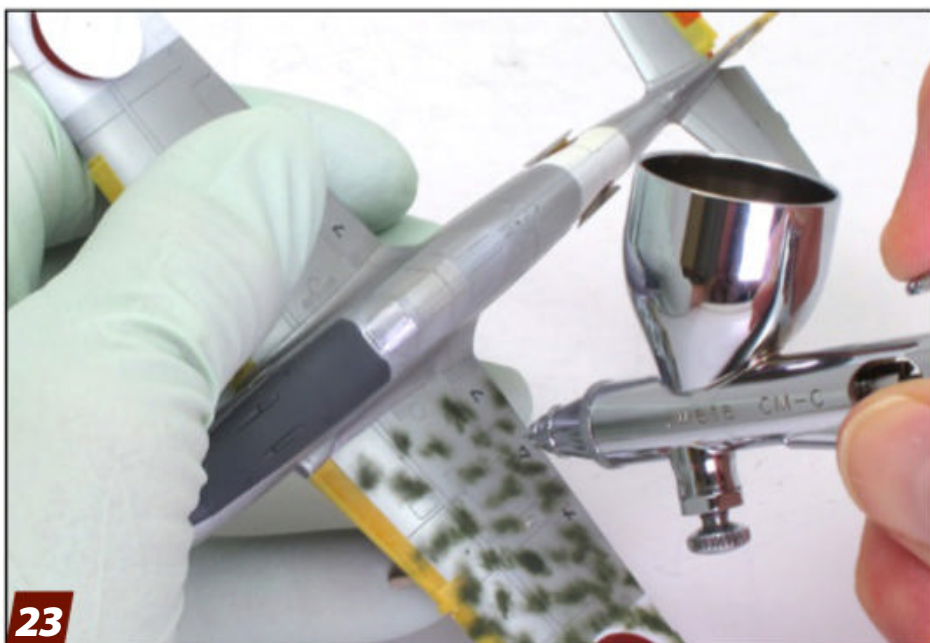
21

The Ki-61 featured prominent wing walk warnings. For these and the rest of the markings, I used custom masks created by a friend.



22

To paint the national insignia, I mixed Mr. Hobby Red Brown (No. H47) and Tamiya Flat Red. Note the aircraft number on the main gear covers and how the ID bands extend onto those covers. I masked the red rudder as well as the starboard aileron to represent a replacement.



23

For the mottling, I used an Iwata Custom Micron with a .18mm nozzle and mixed 2 parts Tamiya NATO Green (No. XF-67) with 8 parts Mr. Color Leveling Thinner. This was applied at 12 psi.



24

I immediately ran into problems with excessive paint spatter, a common problem when applying mottling because paint dries at the tip of the airbrush and gets blown onto the model. This would be easily fixed on a non-metallic finish with oversprayed touch-ups. But that won't work here because the silver will look different over the green.



25

To save this model, I needed to remove spattering surrounding the splotches. I hit upon the idea of using Windex, reasoning that Tamiya's lacquer silver would be impervious to the ammonia-based glass cleaner. Using a fine Tamiya cotton swab dipped in Windex, I effectively cleaned up the acrylic green spatter.



26

Following a suggestion from a friend, I switched from Mr. Leveling Thinner to 99% isopropyl alcohol. Thinning Tamiya acrylics with this made for better mottles with softer edges and reduced spattering. But it accelerates the buildup of paint at the nozzle. To extend working time, I left off the crown tip protector, so I could easily remove dried paint with a cotton swab dipped in lacquer thinner.



27

It took more than two dozen airbrushing sessions before I finally achieved a result I was happy with. Before weathering, I painted the guns with AK Interactive Strong Dark Blue (No. AK11187).



28

I picked out the landing gear bays by hand with AK Interactive Green Ochre (No. AK11122). Before applying panel line washes, I sealed the model with Tamiya Satin Clear (No. X-35).



29

On the upper surfaces, I applied Mig Brown Wash around the engine; green-toned 502 Abteilung Industrial Earth (No. Abt090) went everywhere else. I laid on these washes liberally, then cleaned up with a fine brush and fine cotton swabs dipped in odorless thinner.



30

Underneath, I used Mig Brown Wash around the engine. Because it has a gray tone, I used 502 Abteilung Dark Mud (No. Abt130) everywhere else.



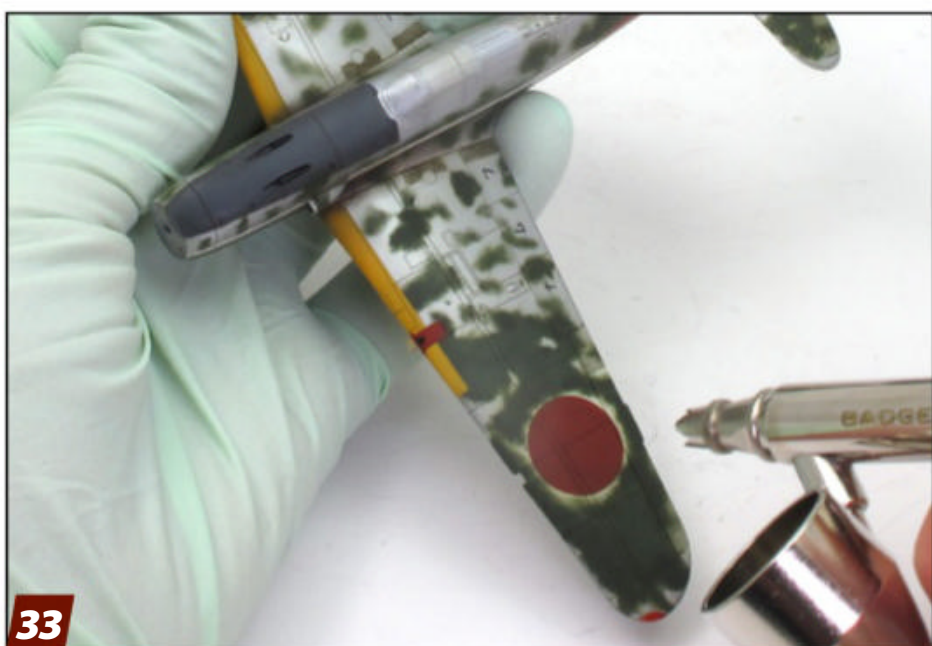
31

The Ki-61's engine, a licensed copy of the DB601 — the same engine as the Bf 109E — leaked oil badly. Before adding streaks with oil paint, I airbrushed a mix of 2 parts Tamiya Flat Black (No. XF-1) and 1 part NATO Brown (No. XF-68) over a masked sharp edge on the panel line aft of the engine.



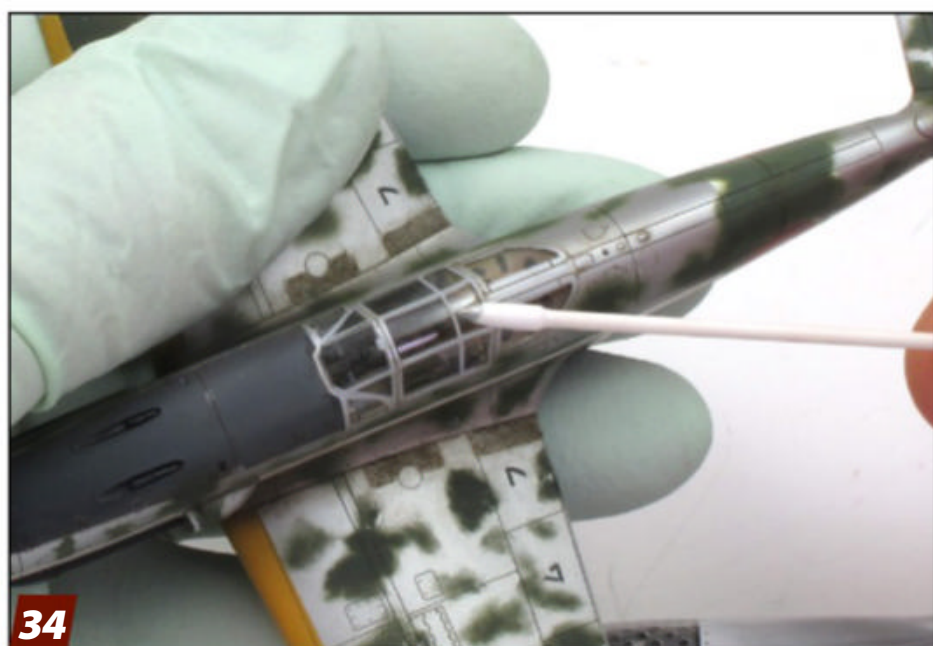
32

I applied oil streaks with a mix of Mars black and burnt umber artist oils and concentrated on the area airbrushed with the black and brown mix. Tiny dabs of the oil paint were drawn back in meandering lines with a fine brush moistened with odorless thinner.



33

To eliminate areas that remained glossy, I applied Tamiya Flat Clear (No. LP-23) lacquer mixed with equal parts hardware store lacquer thinner to ensure it flashed off quickly and sprayed it in tight mottles rather than broad passes to avoid dulling the silver.



34

After removing the Eduard canopy masks, I found one frame that was unevenly painted. I was able to fix it by applying AK Interactive True Metal paste with a fine cotton swab.



FINAL THOUGHTS

AFTER ADDING AN ANTENNA made from Uschi van der Rosten Superfine elastic thread, I was done. I had originally planned on painting much smaller mottles overall, but that proved to be beyond my then existing skills in 1/72 scale. By altering my paint mixture and discovering that Windex can clean up paint spattering on lacquer-based surfaces, I was able to improve my results as I went along. This project was also a chance to hone my natural-metal skills. Tamiya's new silver lacquer airbrushes beautifully and looks perfectly distressed after weathering. My Tony is representative of those in the 244th Sentai, a unit assigned to home defense; the distinctive fuselage stripes and red on its tail make for an attractive model. **FSM**

WonderFest 2021

After the COVID-19 pandemic twice forced the cancellation of WonderFest in 2020, the show was back at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville, Kentucky, June 5-6. Hundreds of people attended and the contest tables were packed with 780 scale creations. *FineScale Modeler* editor Aaron Skinner attended the show and shot these photos. You can see even more photos from the show at [FineScale.com/Wonderfest2021](https://www.finescale.com/Wonderfest2021).

The 2022 show is scheduled for June 4-5 at the same hotel. For more information, go to wonderfest.com.

► **CHANGHUEI YANGS**
SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Changhuei spent 18 months scratchbuilding this 1/144 scale Hammerhead Corvette as it looked in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* using styrene sheet and greeblies from Bandai kits. He painted and weathered the nearly 3-foot long spaceship with Tamiya acrylics, 502 Abteilung artist oils, and AK Interactive weathering pencils.





**CHRIS W. ALLMAN
CINCINNATI, OHIO**

Chris finished a Moebius Models 1/1000 scale USS *Kelvin* from the 2009 film, *Star Trek*, with Testors lacquers and washes made from 5% paint and 95% clear flat lacquer.



**▲ LOU DALMASO
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Lou improved this 1/6 scale 3D-printed model of Rosie, the robot maid from *The Jetsons*, with a scratchbuilt mouth and side antennae. He painted her with Vallejo Mecha Color acrylics.



**▲ CHARLES HAINES
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

Charles dramatically posed NY3DCreations 1/8 scale Black Panther on a scratchbuilt base that includes parts from a metal lamp and PVC decorated with vinyl lettering and paper. He painted the Marvel hero with Tamiya acrylics and iridescent craft paint. A Molotow Liquid Chrome pen finished the claw necklace.

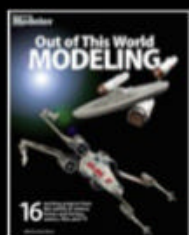


**STEVE SHAFFER
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA**

Using three different shades of red lacquer from MRP with pre-shading and pastel weathering, Steve turned Bandai's 1/100 scale MSN-04 Sazabi Verika into a combat veteran.

Like what you see?

Want to build some of your own? Pick up a copy of *Out of This World Modeling* at KalmbachHobbyStore.com. This 144-page book features 16 step-by-step projects packed with hundreds of tips and ideas.



► **BRAD GUY
WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**

"It's just an old Viper that has been shot up and repaired numerous times," says Brad. He built Moebius' 1/32 scale *Battlestar Galactica* fighter out of the box and posed it on a scratchbuilt stand. The model, including the custom markings, was painted with Testors Model Master enamels and Alclad II lacquers over Mr. Surfacer primer. Brad weathered it with airbrushed streaks, artist-oil washes, and sponge chipping.



◀ **CLIF DOPSON**
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

"She needed to look cold," says Cliff of GarageKits.US 1/8 scale Winter, one of four figures based on Alphonse Mucha's *Four Seasons*. Clif used a white primer followed by a light gray green on her flesh. Then he applied thin layers of a light flesh color for the pale complexion and added a touch of vermillion to her lips, sides of the nose, and eyes. He scratchbuilt the trees, plants, and birds on the base.

▼ **RUSTY CREAMER**
CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

Rusty modified Monogram's 1/48 scale *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* Starfighter by repositioning the seat, adding a 3D-printed resin dash, and lighting the engines and instrument panel. To paint the classic spacecraft, he used Vallejo Model Air acrylics; weathering was done with pastels, Tamiya pigments, and Vallejo washes.



▲ **DAVID COOK**
OTSEGO, MICHIGAN

Working with T's Facto 1/300 scale Godzilla as seen on the 2014 film, David painted acrylics over primer followed by oil washes and dry-brushing. He repeated the process over several layers using juvenile alligators for inspiration. "I always aim to bring out the biological aspects of a creature," he says. "So, I borrow color patterns from nature or existing animals. I prefer Vallejo paints and although large areas were airbrushed, most of the detailing was done by hand." David spent about 100 hours finishing the monster.



WORN BUT **ROADW**



Cars have always been my passion, and I am rediscovering that joy by building scale models of them. One of the automobiles that grabbed my attention is the Renault 4, so I was happy to build Heller's 1/24 scale TL/GTL variant (No. 80759). The kit is simple and builds quickly. I added a few details but focused on finishing. I wanted to represent a slightly worn but not destroyed car.

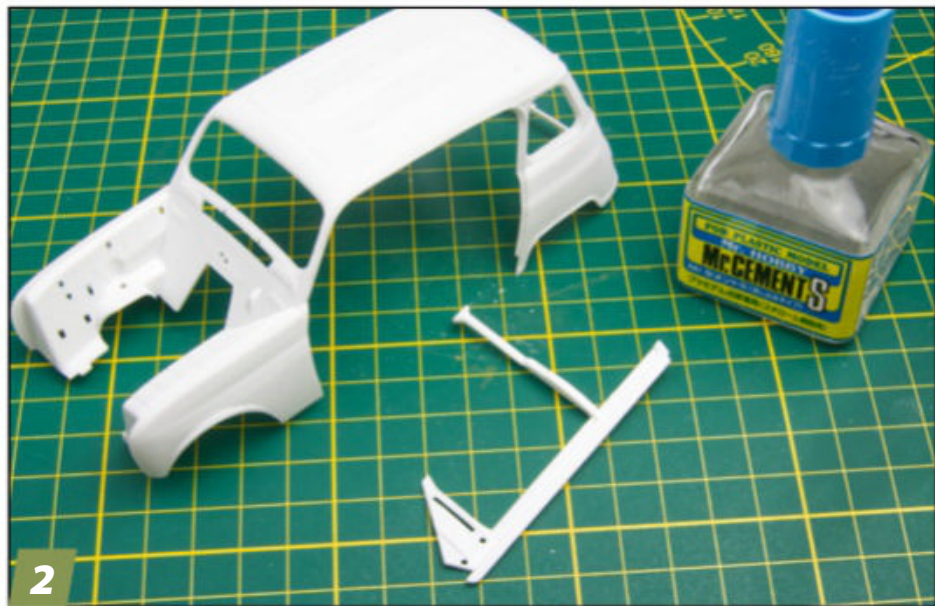
Painting Heller's Renault 4 as a daily driver

BY RAFAŁ ZBIGNIEW LEBIODA

WORTHY



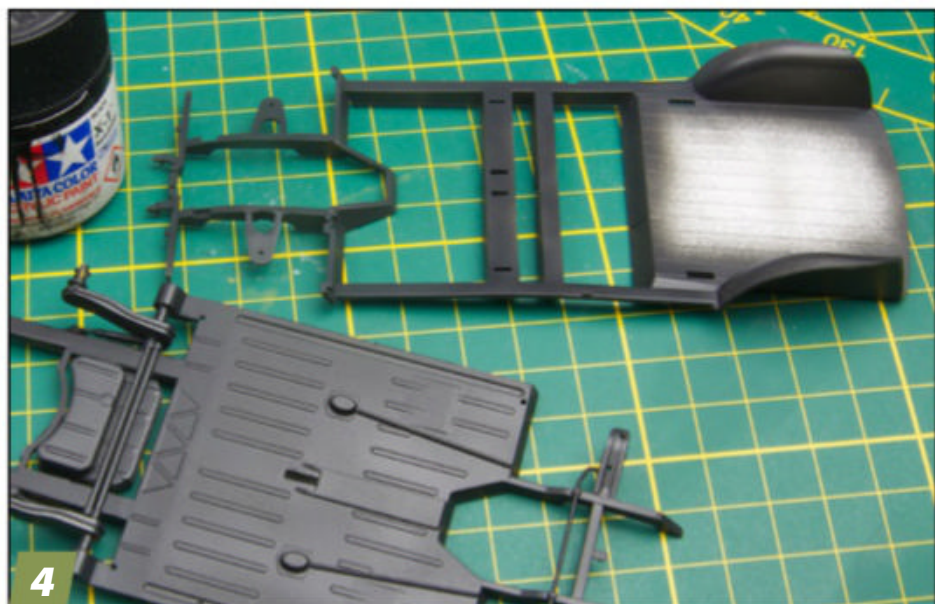
1 Before priming, I sanded the body parts to remove mold seams and smooth other imperfections. Surface prep means everything when painting, even on a worn finish.



2 The B-pillars and sills are separate parts. I joined them to the body with thin liquid cement but left off the doors, hood, and hatch for painting.



3 I primed the subassemblies with Mr. Surfacer 1200 mixed with Mr. Color Thinner. The doors were molded in clear plastic and required careful masking.



4 Over a base coat of Tamiya Black (No. X-1), I airbrushed the chassis and underside of the body with Mr. Hobby Tire Black (No. H77). The bed of the cargo compartment will be painted the body color.



5 I base-coated the interior components with Tamiya Hull Red (No. XF-9), then shaded them with a mix of Hull Red and Red Brown (No. XF-64) to add fading and wear.



6 After assembling the engine and painting it black, I wired the distributor and spark plugs with fine copper wire superglued into holes drilled with a pin vise. The hood is can be opened, so I felt the extra detail work was warranted.



7 For the body, I airbrushed multiple thin layers of Mr. Color IJN Type 22 Camouflage Color (No. C605). I lightened it with a little White Flat (No. C62) and sprayed upper edges and surfaces to fade them, focusing the most intense effects on the roof and hood. A piece of cardboard gave the fading hard edges in some areas.



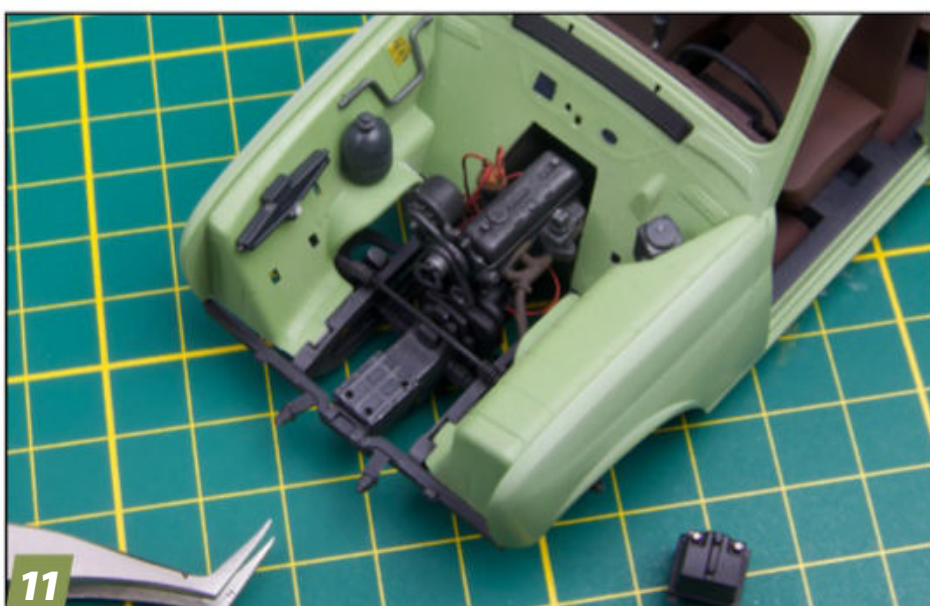
8 I sealed the paint with clear gloss, then smoothed the surface with Mr. Hobby Mr. Laplos 6000- and 8000-grit waterproof polishing cloths.



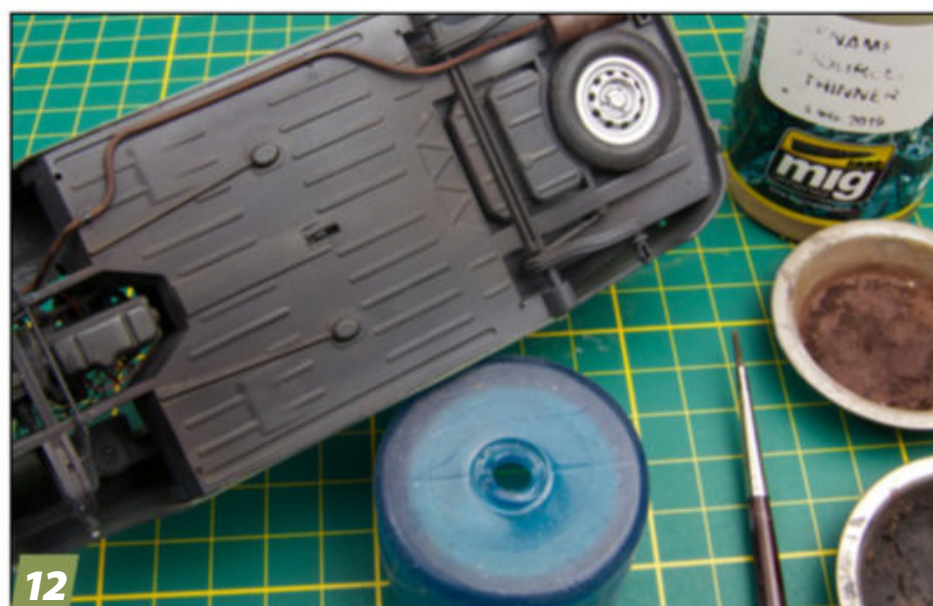
9 I cut the polishing cloths into small sections and wet-sanded small areas. After wiping the model with a soft cloth to check my work, I misted on a semigloss clear to reinforce the worn and faded appearance of the vehicle.



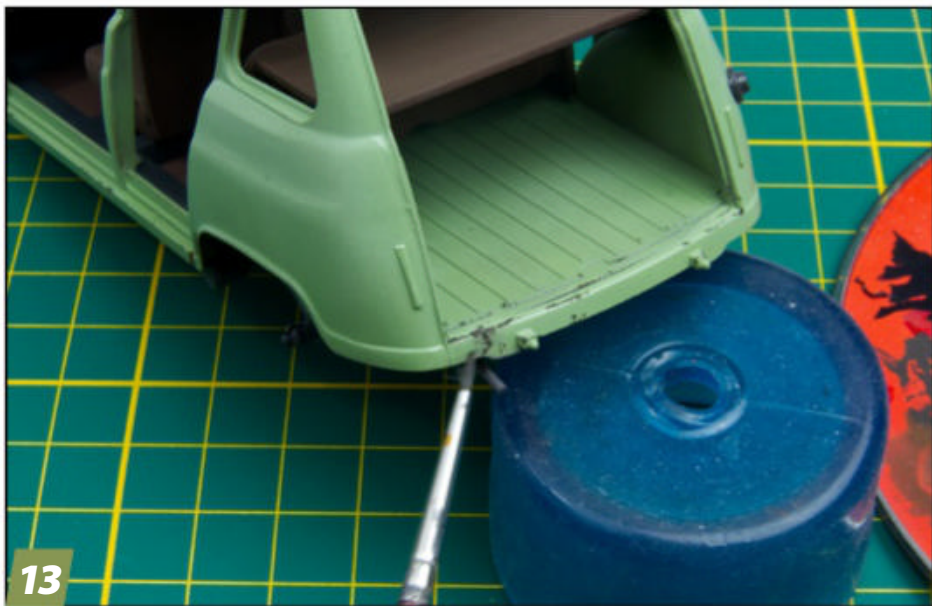
10 Before adding seats and controls inside, I cut floor mats from thick paper and attached them with Revell Contacta clear-part cement. I also added a headliner made from pale blue fabric.



11 After joining the body and chassis, I wired the ignition coil and battery with fine copper wire. I primed the wire with Mr. Surfacer and painted them black and red as appropriate.



12 To weather the underside, I started with Ammo by Mig Jimenez Oilbrusher Dark Brown (No. A.MIG3512) and Rust (No. A.MIG3510) using thinner to blend the effects. I enhanced it with dry earth and sand pigment, fixing them with thinner and removing excess with cotton swabs.



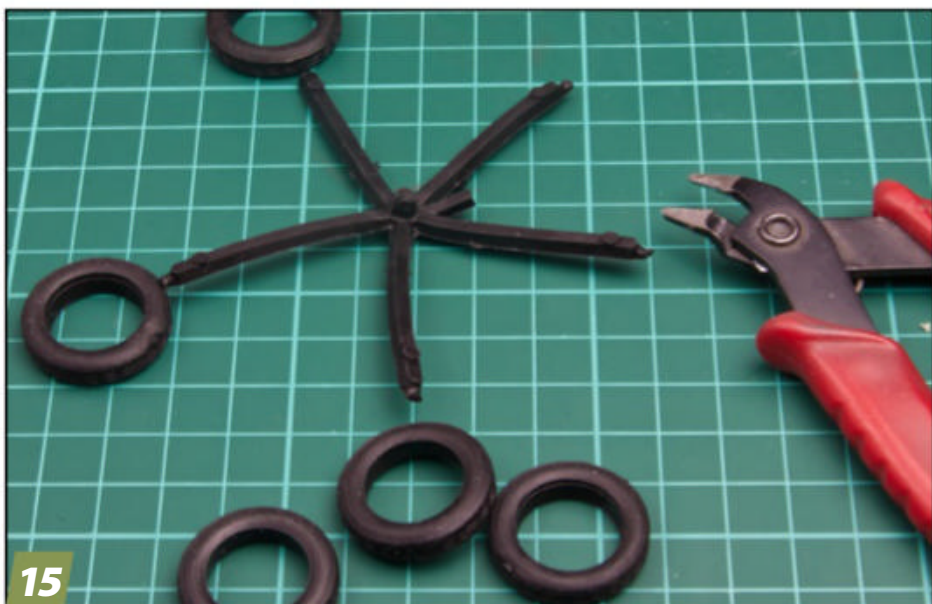
13

Using a fine brush, I applied Vallejo German Camouflage Black Brown (No. 70.822) along the edges of the tailgate and sills, the lower corners of windows, and in the engine compartment to replicate small rust patches. A little Oilbrusher rust blended with thinner added stains to these marks.



14

I painted the radiator grille, bumpers, and side moldings with Mr. Hobby FS36231 Gray (No. H317). After attaching those parts to the painted and polished body, I glued the doors in place.



15

After removing the vinyl tires from the parts tree, I gently sanded them with a 600-grit sanding stick to remove the mold seams and wear them to a realistic sheen. I light gray wash added fading and a layer of dust.



16

I primed the rims with Mr. Finishing Surfer 1500 Black (No. SF288) before spraying them with Mr. Color Super Metallic 2 Super Fine Silver 2 (No. SM201).



17

Once the wheels were attached, I weathered the rims with Ammo Oilbrusher Dark Mud (No. 3508) and Ochre (No. 3515). Thinner blended the effect.



18

The same Oilbrusher colors finished the engine compartment to give it the look of a functional vehicle.



FINAL THOUGHTS

I PAINTED THE INSIDE of the headlights with chrome circles highlighted with white in the center. The taillights and turn signals were painted with Mr. Hobby Clear Red (No. H90) and Clear Orange (No. H92). These lenses and other small details, including the bumpers, wing mirrors, and door handles were attached with Revell Contacta clear-part cement. I added the few decals using Mr. Hobby Mr. Mark Setter and Mr. Mark Softer to settle them over the surface. The license plate decals were applied to aluminum sheet cut from a soda can. After the decals dried, I cut around them with scissors and attached the plates to the car with clear-part cement. My Renault was ready for the morning commute. **FSM**

Re-dress a famous

SKY

Kitbash a better A-1E and
paint it as it was after a
Medal of Honor mission

BY DARREN ROBERTS

One of the best-known aircraft in U.S. aviation is the A-1E Skyraider flown by Maj. Bernard Fisher when he landed amidst enemy fire in Vietnam to rescue a downed aviator. For his actions on March 10, 1966, Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor. That same aircraft now resides at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. But what happened to that aircraft after the famous rescue and before it was restored and put on display?

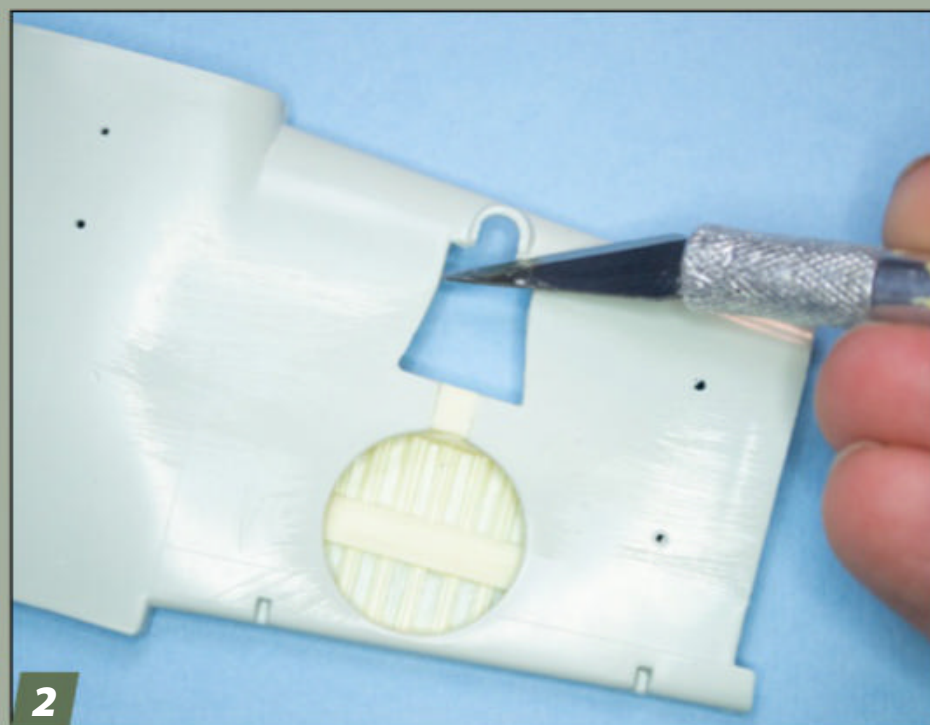
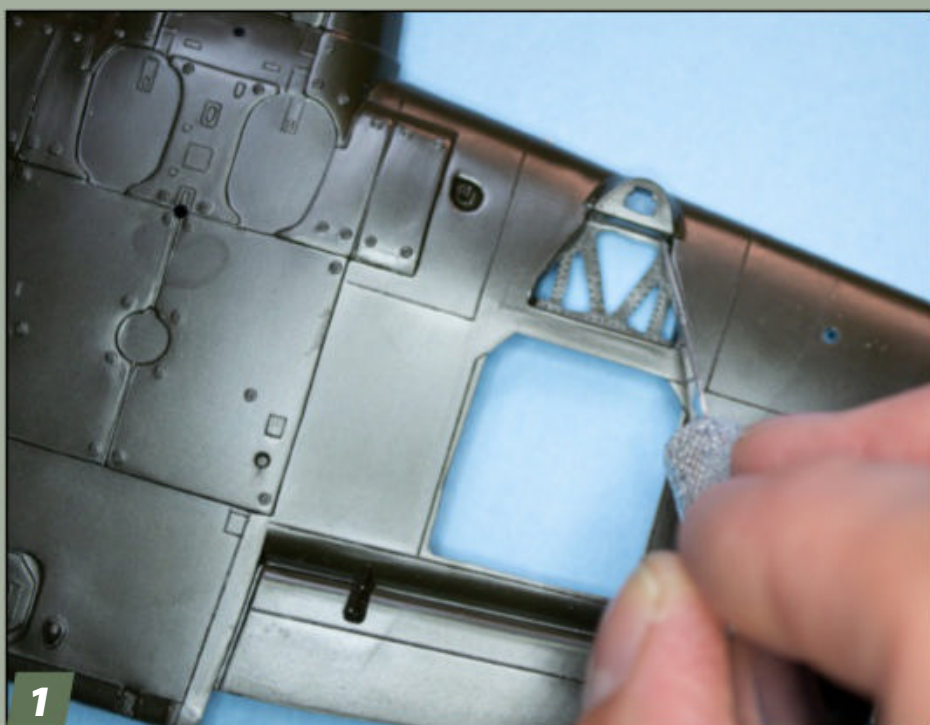
Shortly after the historic mission, the overall Air Defense Command gray Skyraider was repainted in Southeast Asia (SEA) camouflage. In 1967, the plane, reportedly further damaged in combat, was returned to the U.S., retired from service, and turned over to the museum in January 1968. It was restored and repainted as it was during the Medal of Honor mission. Oddly, the museum chose to paint the underside white. All photo evidence shows it to be overall gray, so, if you want your model to represent the Skyraider during the famed mission, don't use the restored airframe as reference.

The starting point for this project was the 1/48 scale Revell A-1E kit (No. 85-5327), originally released by Matchbox in 1980. While the kit provided the basic shapes, it sorely lacked detail. I remedied that by kitbashing it with parts from Monogram's 1/48 scale A-1H (No. 85-5312) and aftermarket resin items. Together, they helped turn a run-of-the-mill Skyraider into something special.



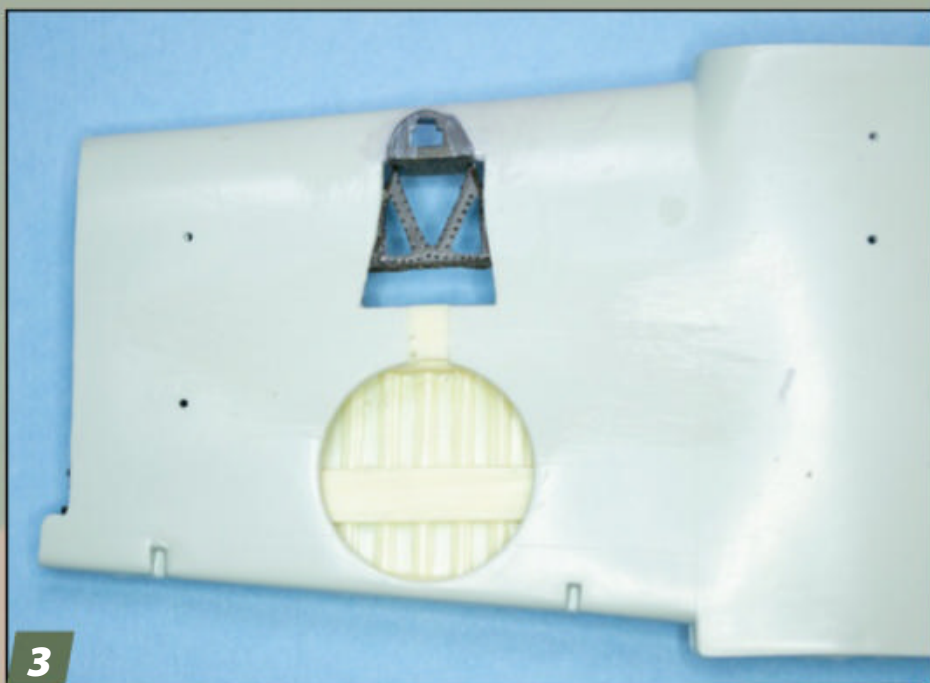
RAIDER





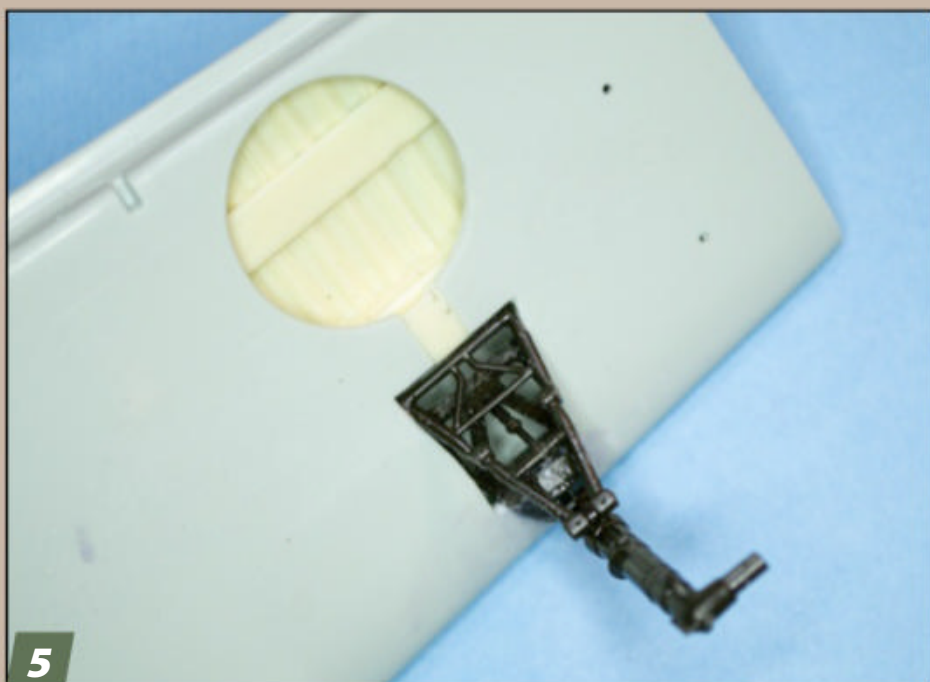
1 There is no detail whatsoever in the wheel wells of the Revell kit. To rectify that, I cut the landing gear mounts and bracing from the Monogram kit.

2 I removed the plastic from the same area on the Revell kit ...



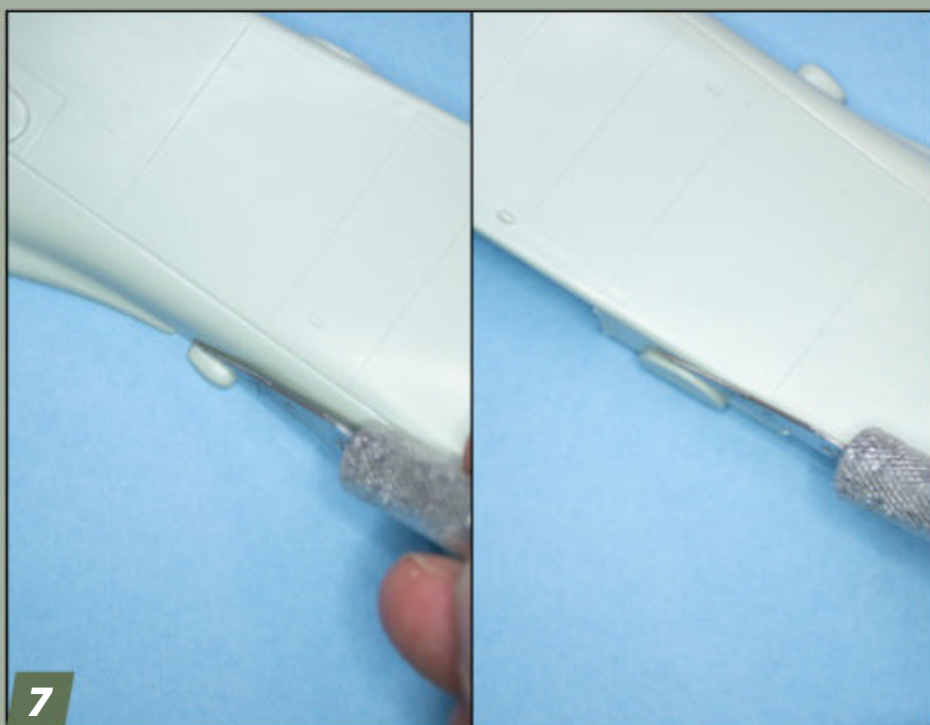
3 ... and glued the Monogram bits in place. At the rear, Steel Beach inserts (No. SB48143) simply glue in place and spruce up the wheel wells quite nicely.

4 I decided that it would look interesting to fold the wings and a test-fit of the Revell kit's outer wings convinced me that was the best option. Monogram provided wing-fold inserts and, with a bit of sanding, I fit them into the Revell wings.



5 After gluing on the upper halves of the wings, I attached the landing gear from the Monogram kit and provided a needed boost in detail.

6 I constructed the outer wings, again using the wing-fold parts from the Monogram kit, and replaced the incorrectly shaped pylons with a nice set from Quickboost (No. QB48537).



7

On the fuselage halves, I shaved off antennas top (left) and bottom (right). Doing this before anything else meant I could lay the fuselage halves flat to make cutting easier.



8

Revell's tailwheel and its bay aren't very detailed, so it's Monogram to the rescue again. I separated the tailhook from the wheel bay.



9

Then I glued the bay and tailwheel assembly into the Revell fuselage.



10

After gluing the fuselage halves together, I added the tailhook.



11

I noticed a couple of sink marks on the underside that I filled with superglue and sanded flush.



12

A Steel Beach update set (No. 48119) provided a vent for the leading edge of the tail omitted from the Revell parts. I cut out the appropriate shape (left) and glued the insert (right).



13

The same Steel Beach set also supplied missing steps behind the wings and under the fuselage.



14

I also added spine antennas from Quickboost (No. QB48495).



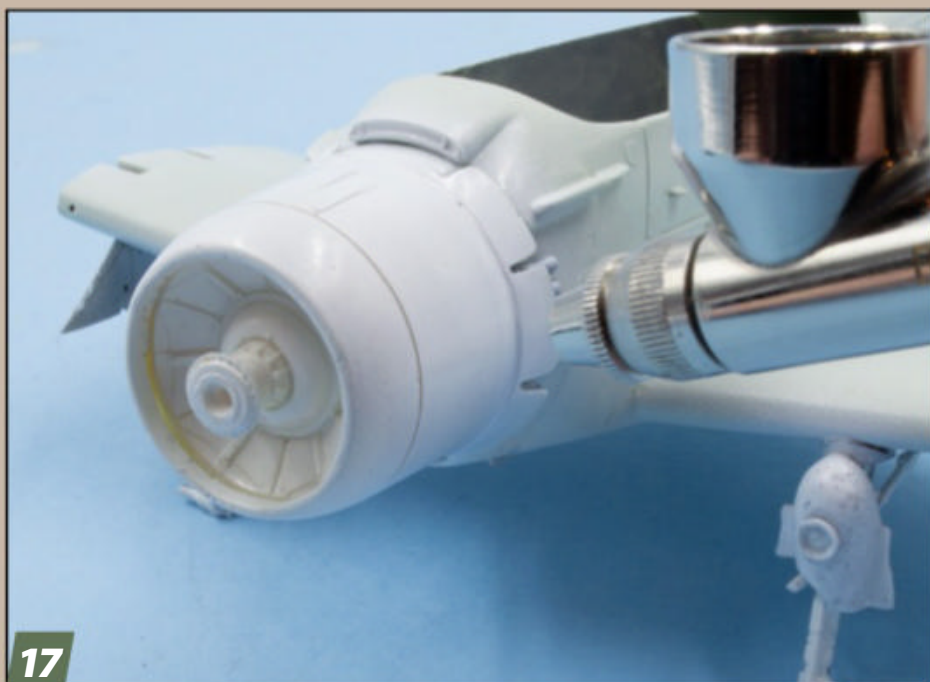
15

The Revell cowling is too narrow and the opening too small in diameter, but Monogram didn't get it quite right either. Wilde Sau Resin produces a correct cowling for the Monogram kit (left), and it fits the Revell A-1E, too.



16

I installed exhaust stacks from the Monogram kit and attached the resin cowling.



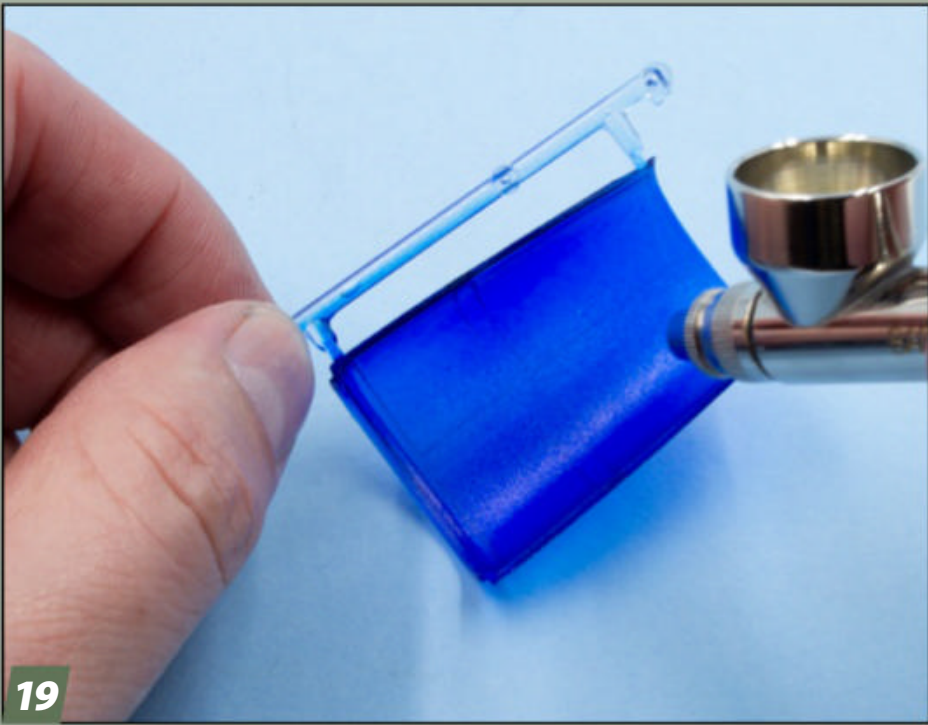
17

The resin set also includes optional engine parts; I installed the closed engine flaps. The cowling was cast in translucent resin, so I primed it before painting.



18

Revell's basic cockpit required an upgrade. I replaced it with resin from Cobra Company (No. 48010). I could slide the cockpit in after basic airframe construction was complete, which helped with alignment.



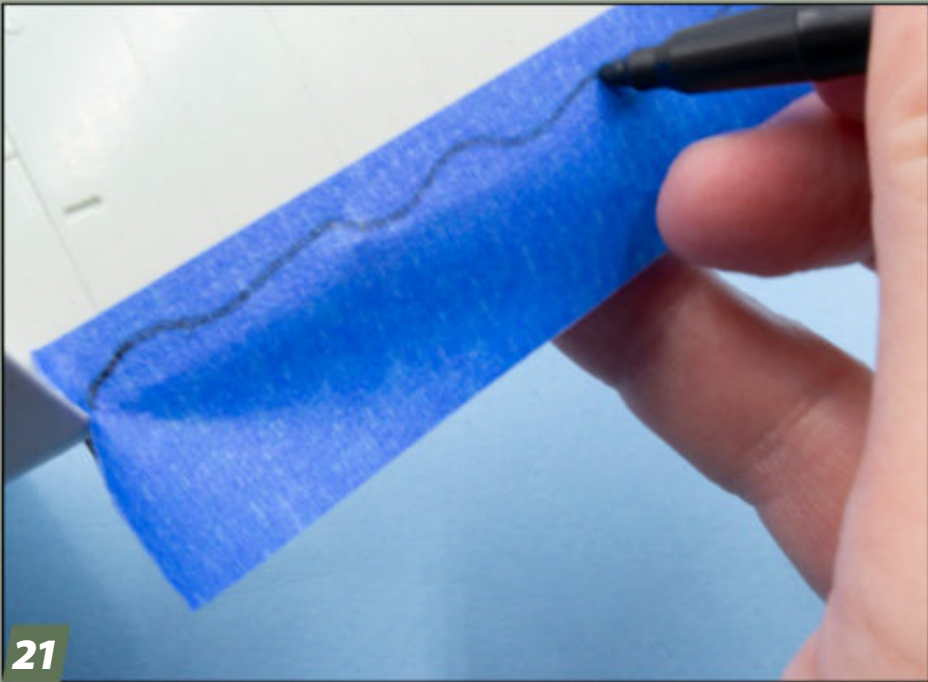
19

The A-1E has a unique, blue-tinted rear canopy that was meant to help keep that area cooler. I replicated the tinting using Alclad II Transparent Blue (No. ALC403) sprayed on the inside of the canopy.



20

The outside of the canopy was masked and glued in place in preparation for paint.



21

After spraying the underside camouflage gray and letting it dry completely, I ran blue masking tape across the demarcation between the underside and topside colors. Using a marker, I drew a scalloped pattern on the tape.



22

After cutting the tape along the line, I reapplied the tape and finished by masking the wing fold and engine areas.



23

I airbrushed the three upper colors of the SEA camouflage freehand. Because I didn't mask, I had to clean up some overspray. In the end, the camouflage had a tight pattern with a hint of a soft edge.



24

There are no decals that replicate the markings after the aircraft was painted in SEA colors, but the markings are simple enough. I used a Scale-Master sheets for the USAF and tail number.



25

The unique rescue arrows were outlined in yellow. I happened to find four arrows on a couple of 1/48 scale F-105 Thunderchief sheets in my stash. National insignia and the 649 on the gear doors came from a Caracal A-1E sheet that also includes the Medal of Honor mission markings.



26

Photos show a Playboy bunny on one of the prop blades, either to indicate the No. 1 blade or honor a squadron member fond of reading the magazine and was killed in action. I couldn't find a decal small enough, so I broke out a thin liner brush and hand-painted the logo; not perfect, but good enough for government work.



27

With painting and decaling complete, I added the outer wings, Quickboost gun barrels (No. QB 48 561), small antennas, and called it done — until it wasn't. Looking at photos, I realized the plane had a scabbed-on landing light on the wingtip. I shaved the landing light from a Steel Beach gear door ...



28

... painted it, and glued it on the wingtip. A drop of Microscale Kristal Klear finished it off. Now, my special Skyraider was done. **FSM**



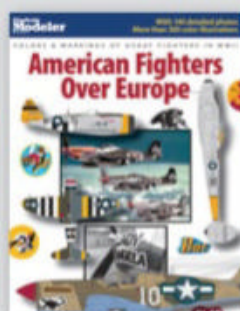


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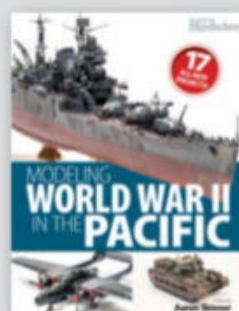
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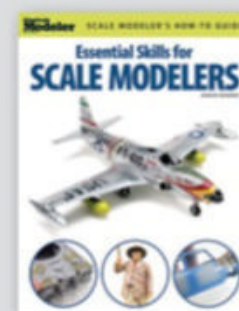
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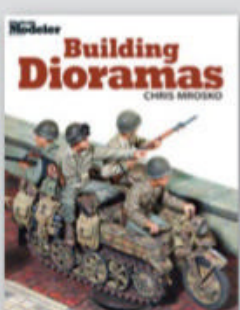
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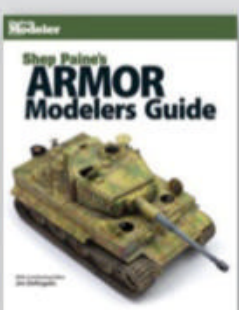
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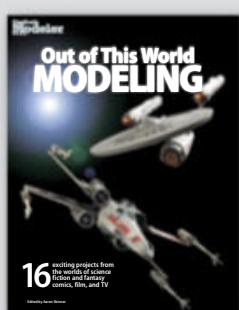
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BATTERING RAM!!

Detail Trumpeter's 1/35 scale Italian main battle tank

BY KAREL SUTT

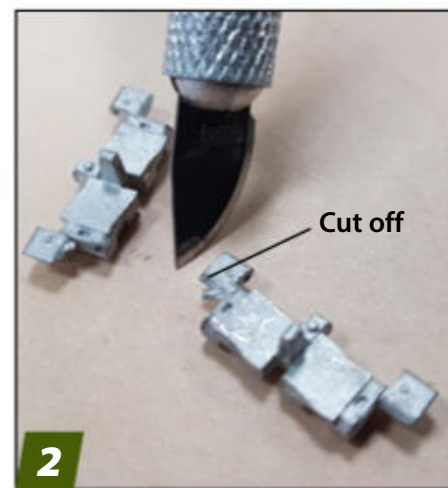


Italy's C1 Ariete tank has been in service for more than 20 years and has seen peace-keeping operations in Kosovo along with deployment to Iraq. But only one 1/35 scale injection-molded plastic kit of the Ariete (Italian for ram) has been produced. Trumpeter has released two versions of the tank: one in standard configuration, the other up-armored with explosive reactive armor on the hull and turret.

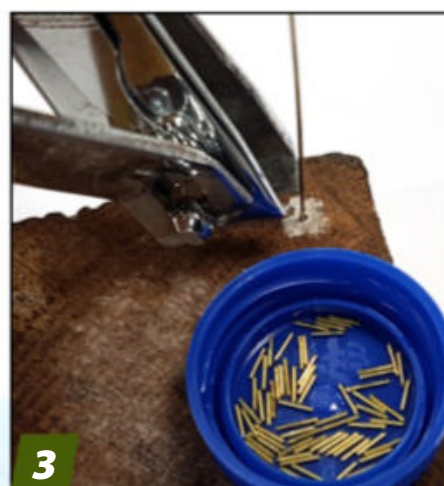
Looking to build something unusual, I picked up the up-armored version (No. 00394). To improve on the basic kit, I grabbed Friulmodel metal tracks (No. ATL-152), an RB Models turned-metal gun barrel (No. 35B117), and Voyager's photo-etched metal (PE) details (No. 35566).



1 I filled ejector-pin marks and sink marks — the bane of many an injection-molded plastic kit — on the suspension parts with superglue. I sanded the filler smooth and scraped the mold seams.



2 The Friulmodel metal track links needed a little cleanup to before assembly. I used a sharp hobby knife to remove the remnants of the molding attachments and ensured the hinge openings were clear by running a .5mm drill through them.

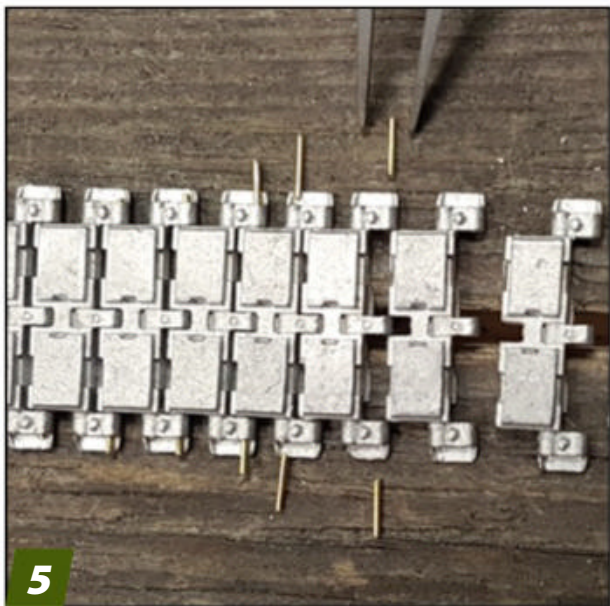


3 To assist making the 3mm track pins, I drilled a 3.5mm deep hole in a block of wood. I inserted the wire, clipped it flush with the surface, and collected the trimmed wires.



4 When necessary, I straightened the wire by rolling it between a heavy metal block and a metal surface.

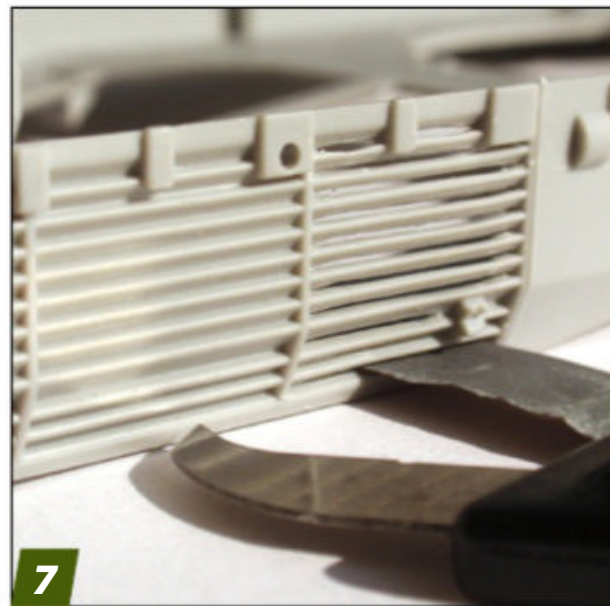




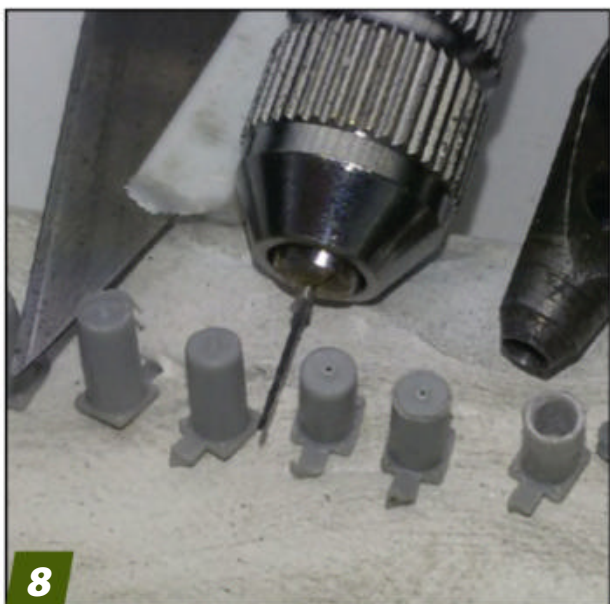
5 To ease track assembly, I cut a groove in a piece of wood to accommodate the guide teeth. After aligning the links, I slipped pins into each side and secured them with a drop of superglue. Both runs required 89 links.



6 I improved the track pins molded on the ends of the links by deepening the outline with a shortened hypodermic needle sanded to a sharp edge.



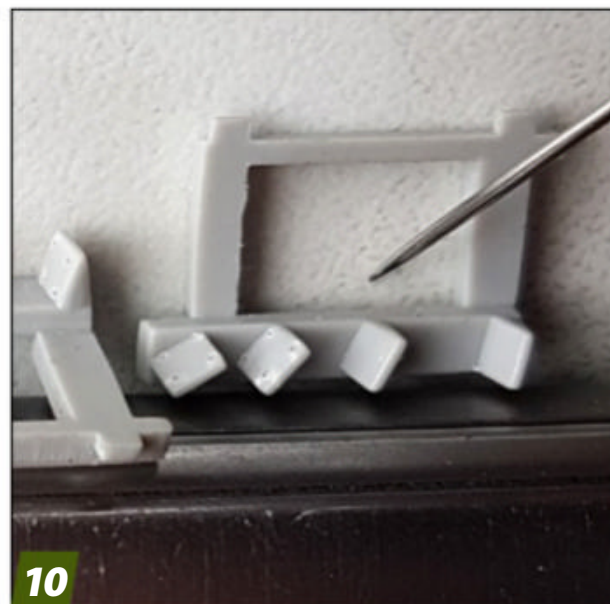
7 To open the solid molded engine louvers at the rear, I first thinned the plastic from behind, then cut through the slots with an engraver. Thin sandpaper refined the edges.



8 The Galix 80mm grenade launchers underwent surgery to remove a rim around the top. After hollowing each with a slow-speed drill ...



9 ... I fitted the open launchers with hanging caps attached with steel wire. I defined the cap edges on the closed launchers with a hole punch.



10 Each of the eight smoke launchers attaches to the rack with four screws. I impressed those fasteners into the back of the base plates with a needle.



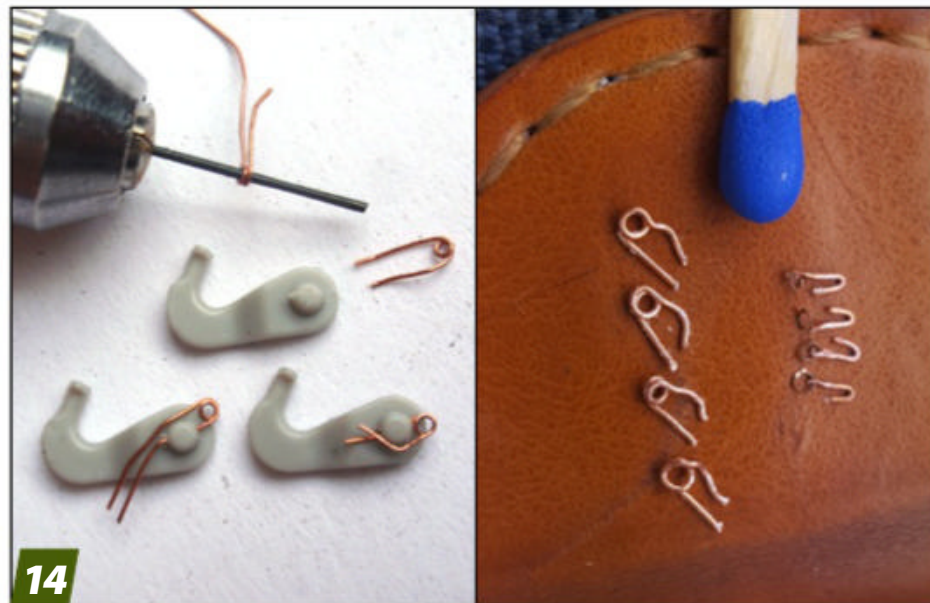
11 I dressed up the reactive armor blocks on the skirts and turret by deepening the engraved lines between the individual blocks ...



12 ... and filling the backs with styrene sheet braced with styrene inside.



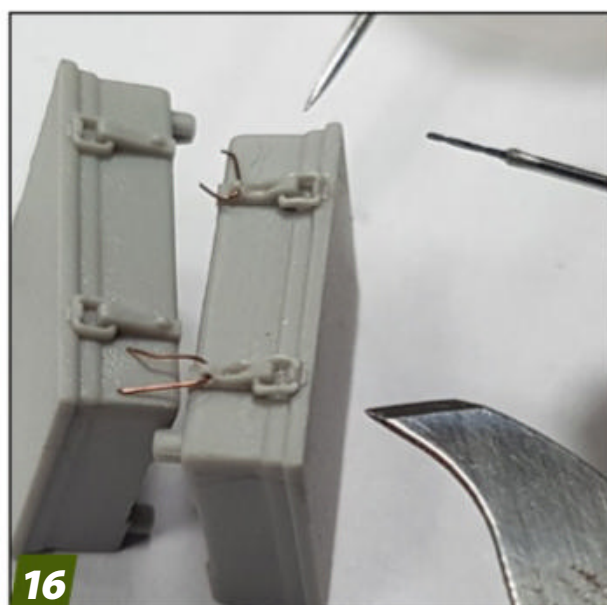
I wasn't happy with the spare tracks provided for the rear plate, so I mounted three extra Friulmodel links in a scratchbuilt rack.



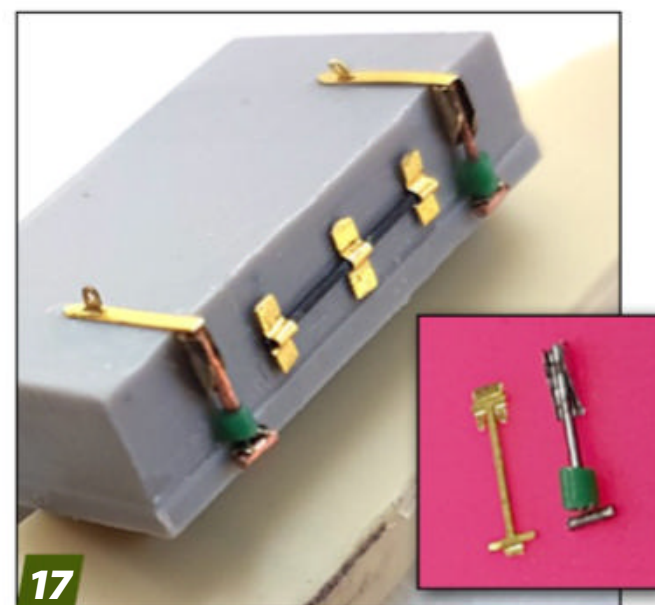
The tow hooks look much better after I added copper wire R-clips and holders for the securing chains.



Improvements on the turret's front: I opened a lifting hook with a fine drill bit, hollowed mounting bosses with a needle, and deepened the gunner's sight slit with an engraver.



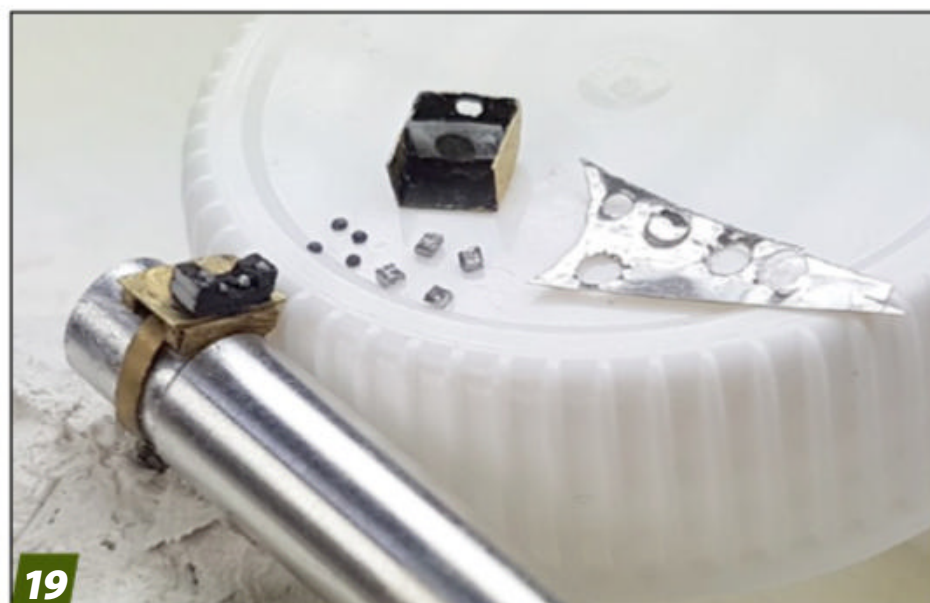
Careful carving, fine holes, and copper wire made the toggle latches on the rear stowage boxes look more realistic.



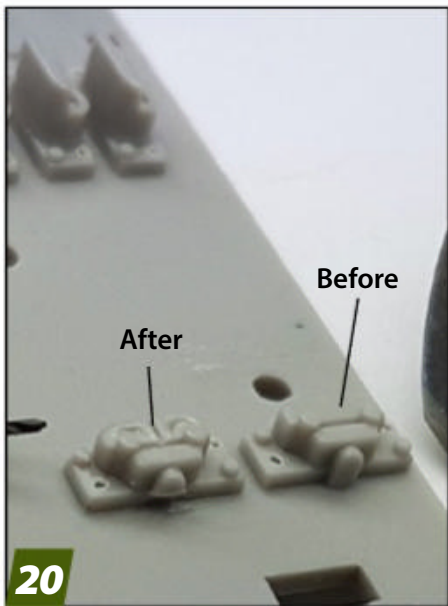
Rather than use the flat Voyager PE latches for a different stowage box, I scratchbuilt new ones from fine wire, plastic wire sleeve, and thin aluminum sheet.



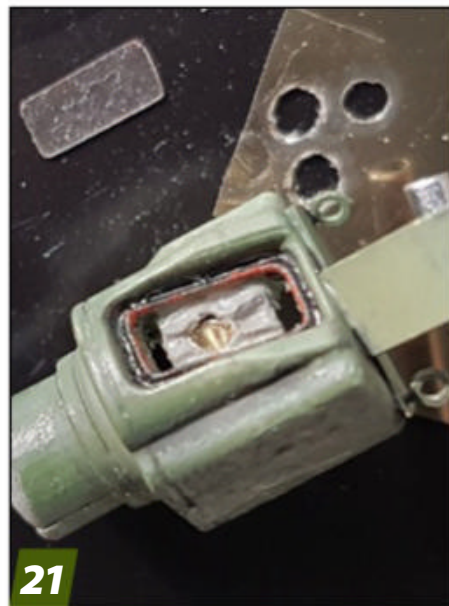
I replaced the fragile plastic grab handles on the turret with copper wire superglued in place.



To enhance the PE muzzle reference sensor on the RB Models barrel, I added lead bolts, bits of aluminum, and styrene sheet. Several applications of clear varnish filled the front lens.



20 Careful carving and drilling made the spare track connectors on the rear plate look more realistic.



21 I engraved detail inside the commander's periscope, filled a hole drilled in the center with gold window tinting film, and used polyethylene transparent binder sleeve material for the cover.



22 For ease of painting and weathering, I left the model in subassemblies: turret, hull, add-on armor, road wheels, gun barrel, and tracks.



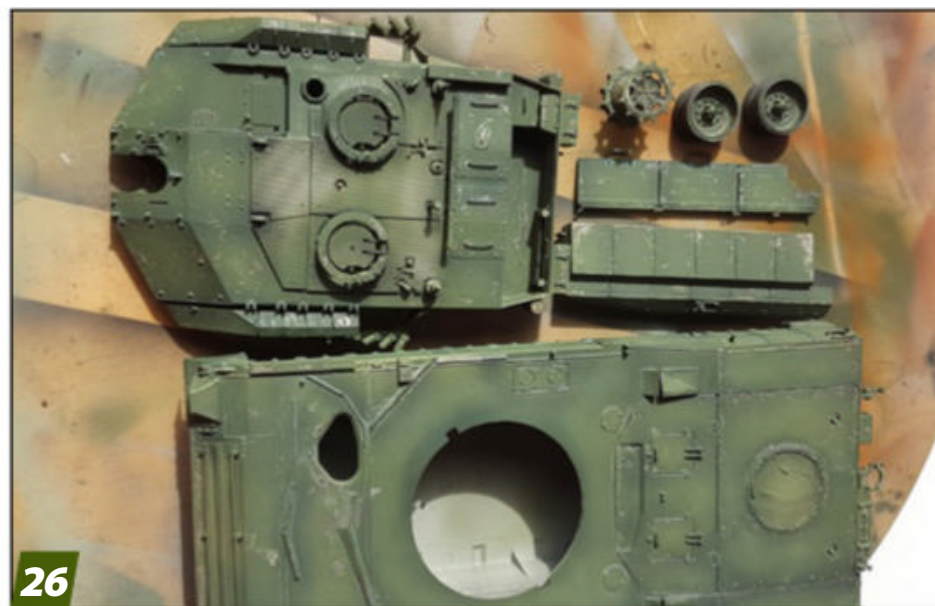
23 Over a primer layer of Mr. Hobby Mr. Surfacer 1200, I airbrushed AK Interactive Xtreme Metal Steel (No. AK476) with a few drops of Tamiya Metallic Grey (No. XF-56). I wanted to replicate the vehicle's metal body before primer and paint.



24 I followed with three layers of paint over hairspray. The first a mix of Tamiya Flat Red (No. XF-7) and Flat Yellow (No. XF-3) with little Flat Brown (No. XF-10). Using warm water and a soft brush I removed some of this to reveal the steel, then sealed the effect with clear gloss.



25 After another layer of hairspray, I airbrushed a mix of Tamiya Sky (No. XF-21) and a little flat yellow as a base for the camouflage. I removed some of this with water and a brush and sealed it clear gloss and added more hairspray.



26 I mixed the final color from 7 parts Tamiya NATO Green (No. XF-67) and 3 parts Field Grey (No. XF-65) and a few drops of Buff (No. XF-57). Adding either Flat White (No. XF-2) or NATO Black (No. XF-69), I post-shaded, then exposed underlying shades with a wet brush.



27

To make the green less monochromatic, I applied filters of blue, yellow, and burnt sienna artist oils thinned with AK Interactive Odorless Thinner (No. AK050), I brushed these over individual panels to subtly contrast neighboring sections.



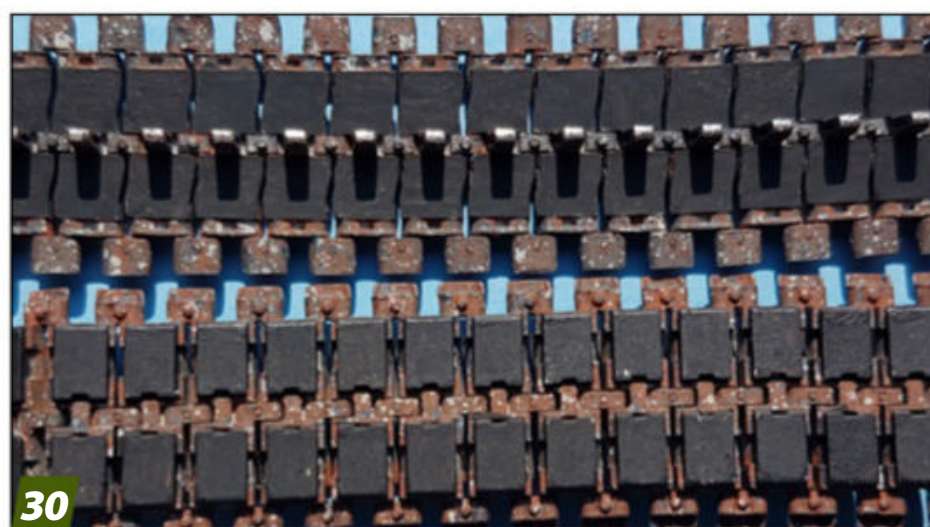
28

Dot-filters — spots of alizarin crimson, white, cream brown, intense blue, light flesh, yellow, cobalt light, and permanent green deep artist oils — applied in a random pattern and gently blended with mineral spirits with a flat brush faded the paint.



29

Over a layer of Tamiya Clear Gloss (No. X-22), I flowed AK Interactive NATO Tanks Wash (No. AK075) into panel lines and corners. Rather than dry-brushing, I lightly applied a mix of silver and iron oxide black oil paints to edges, fasteners, and edges.



30

I painted the tracks with Vallejo Panzer Aces Light Rust (No. 70.301) and flicked on various shade of artist oils to add splashes and speckles to the links. Finally, the track pads were painted with Tamiya Rubber Black (No. XF-85) and a dark wash flowed on.



FINAL THOUGHTS

TO REPRESENT A TANK IN SERVICE, I added chains front and rear and placed several boxes in the turret bustle basket. Trumpeter's Ariete is pretty good out of the box, but a little attention to details and a few aftermarket parts easily lift it to another level. And it was nice to be able to add an unusual subject to my display shelves. **FSM**



ICM AH-1G Cobra

For its first 1/32 scale helicopter, ICM has released the early production AH-1G. A new Cobra has not been seen in this scale since Revell's 1967 offering, which has been re-released several times. ICM's modern kit has beautiful surface detail, good fits, crystal-clear canopy parts, and a bunch of weapons. Later production variants are obviously planned because TOW launchers are included on the parts trees. Four finishing options are included: three in standard overall green and one in a striped tan and green disruptive scheme.

The cockpit features detailed instrument panels with decal dials, flight controls, and sharp seats, although they lack harnesses. Interior details also include the transmission and gear-box bay with posable doors. All the interior parts are easily assembled and painted before the fuselage is closed, but I finished the cockpit after the tub was glued in place and the exterior completed to avoid awkward masking. I left all the details (like the seats and controls) out of the cockpit until the final stages. Reference photos online supplied detailed information for painting the transmission bay.

The early-production left-handed tail rotor mast is supplied in two halves with substantial tabbed surfaces for alignment. The bulkheads for the transmission bay fit well but check them closely because some scraping may be needed on the base plate to clear the stub wing recesses.

I added the small intake screen above the cockpit after the fuselage was glued together for precise alignment. You can install the engine exhaust recess after closing the fuselage if you have not installed the lower fuselage plate. All fuselage panel additions fit beautifully; the only filler I used anywhere on the build was a touch around the skid mounts where a swipe of

Deluxe Material Perfect Plastic Putty wiped off with a damp finger did the job.

Just before attaching the lower fuselage plate, I added weight to the front to ensure the Cobra didn't rock back on its tail. (I may have added too much; the skids look a bit squatter than they should.) The skid mounts are substantial and align perfectly.

The stub wings, pylons, and weapons went together without issue, but I ran into trouble with the chin turret. The twin slots seem too wide making it difficult to align the weapons. Also, there is no internal structure to mount the weapons, so I glued them to the bottom of the slot to give them enough purchase area. I painted and decalated the ordnance separately.

While test-fitting the center canopy section, I noticed it was floating free at the rear where it should attach to the fuselage just below the transmission housing. To fix the tenuous fit, I added a styrene strip "shelf" for the glass to sit on. Unnoticeable when the canopy is in place, it adds significantly to the sturdiness of the attachment. I painted the beautifully clear and thin canopy off the model.

The main and tail rotors and the rotor head are beautifully detailed. I assembled the blades and left them separate for painting. The arms that connect the transmission to the rotor head require care because alignment is critical, and the connections are fragile.

I finished the seats and instrument panels separately then installed them after painting. The decals worked well over a gloss coat, even conforming to the raised rivets on the boom. But be careful with stencils and long decals; they tend to fold, and, once folded, they are extremely difficult to recover. Weathering and a flat coat



finished the build before I added the canopy, weapons, and rotor.

I spent almost 27 hours on my AH-1G — a bit more than I expected — but this is a bigger kit than I thought! Luckily, it won't take up a huge amount of room with the rotor stowed in line with the fuselage. Modelers with some kits under their belt will have no issues with ICM's Cobra, just be careful of the decals and give the glass a bit of attachment help.

— Chuck Davis



Kit: No. 32060 **Scale:** 1/32 **Mfr.:** ICM, icm.com.ua (Sample courtesy of mfr.)

Price: \$107.99 **Comments:** Injection-molded plastic, 276 parts; decals

Pros: Great fits; exceptional clear parts; beautiful surface detail **Cons:** Lack of mounting surface for canopy center section; no harnesses



AMT Hot Wheels 2010 Camaro

Chevrolet's fifth generation (2010 – 2015) of the Camaro nameplate mixed throwback styling with modern amenities, and you can definitely see the 1969 Camaro in there, peeking out. The 2010 Camaro could be had as an LS or SS model with the RS package available on both. The image on the box is of an RS/SS coupe powered by a 6.2-liter V8 producing 426 horsepower mated to GM's six-speed manual transmission.

AMT's 2010 Chevrolet Camaro has seen a bunch of variations, like a stock RS/SS coupe, police car, and Indy pace car. However, a version based on a 1/64 scale Hot Wheels car styling is a first.

As you might expect, the parts inside the box are bright and colorful, including metallic blue, black, silver, and orange chrome five-spoke wheels that absolutely scream Hot Wheels. Even though there is a separate hood, the curbside kit does not include an engine. The kit basically presses together with very little glue required. Occasionally, you may need to open an attachment point, but the parts fit well. And the instructions act as a reliable guide.

You'll start with the wheels and chassis. The front and rear tires are different sizes, so keep a close eye on which tires go on which wheels. The tires fit the rims well and the chrome remains

unmarred because the tires cover the sprue gates. Bravo, Round 2! The rest of the chassis consists of 11 black or silver parts, not including the metal axles. The metallic blue plastic mufflers and tailpipes need to be painted. I painted the chassis a cast-iron color to represent something that would look like the 1/64 scale version. The brakes were painted silver with red calipers, and the tailpipes received a coat of Alclad II chrome.

In my sample, it seemed the plastic Round 2 used for the interior was different than what was used in the rest of the kit. It had a rubbery quality, and lacquers or enamel paints did not dry when applied to it. Therefore, I recommend acrylic paints for the interior parts. I detailed various parts with black and blue accents along with the kit's decals for the radio and gauges.

Obviously, Round 2 targeted this Hot Wheels version of the 2010 Camaro toward a younger audience. As such, I wanted to see how the body would look without paint. I lightly polished the blue plastic to a fairly good shine and applied the decals directly to the unpainted body. The decals laid down beautifully and followed the contours of the muscular body panels without any trouble. After letting them dry fully, I went over the body and decals with a light coat of automotive wax to seal everything.

The front and rear fascias fit cleanly; all windows and clear parts installed without any issues. The body fit the chassis with little effort and required no glue to stay put.

You can build this kit with nothing more than a sprue cutter, hobby knife, and a small tube of plastic cement. It is perfectly suited to novice builders who can basically reproduce what is on the box top exactly. The AMT Hot Wheels 2010 Camaro all but guarantee a successful build. I would recommend this kit to anyone, young or old. Even if you didn't play with Hot Wheels cars as a kid (and who hasn't at some point?), this kit is sure to make an enjoyable couple of hours. You know a modeler somewhere will build a diorama of a scaled-up Hot Wheels track with a 2010 Camaro on board.

– Tom Valenta



Kit: No. AMT-A1255M-200 **Scale:** 1/25

Mfr.: Round 2, round2corp.com

(Sample courtesy of mfr.) **Price:** \$29.99

Comments: Injection-molded, 57 parts (2 metal, 4 vinyl), decals **Pros:** Good body proportions; nice decal sheet; fun, orange chrome wheels; well-engineered **Cons:** Rubbery interior parts do not react well to enamels or lacquers





Kit: No. 84555 **Scale:** 1/35

Mfr.: HobbyBoss, hobbyboss.com

(Sample courtesy of Model Rectifier Corp., modelrectifier.com) **Price:** \$51.99

Comments: Injection-molded, 301 parts (18 PE), decals **Pros:** Detailed moldings; good fits; nice individual-link tracks

Cons: No detail inside hatches; headlight lens not clear

HobbyBoss T-60

Molded in tan plastic, HobbyBoss' T-60 features fine detail with no sink marks or ejector-pin marks in visible areas. The main barrel is slide molded and the tracks are individual links. A small photo-etched metal (PE) fret includes fender brackets, screens for the engine cover and air intake, a headlight bracket, and the bullet splash rail in front of the driver's view port. Both the turret and driver's hatches are separate but lack detail inside. The instructions comprise clear assembly diagrams without errors. Markings are provided for two vehicles.

I started by removing and cleaning up a runner of track links. I find that spreading this tedious job over the build makes it easier than doing it all in one go when it comes time to build the tracks.

Then I went to work on the hull. I added the front and rear plate to the tub followed by the detail parts for the sides including the suspension arms. I left the wheels, return rollers, and drive sprockets off to make painting and assembling the tracks easier.

The instructions would have you add all details to the hull top before installing it. I find it easier to glue the top to the hull before adding detail parts. Although the fit of the upper plate was good, I noticed later a slight overhang at the right front side. Had I noticed this during test-fitting I would have glued scrap sprue inside to spread the hull slightly. Instead, scraping and sanding were needed to eliminate it.

The PE engine screens fit perfectly. The PE parts that needed to be bent have bend lines etched on the backside; I bent most with flat-tip pliers or tweezers and only the

long, thin bullet splash rail required the use of a dedicated bending tool. I added the headlight to its bracket but left off the gray plastic lens until I had painted and weathered the model.

The turret was a quick build consisting of just 16 parts. The mantlet is designed to elevate, but once installed, its movement is limited leaving the main gun in a slight barrel-up position. I added details to the fenders but left them removable to aid track building and installation.

Extremely well-molded, the tiny individual track links feature open guide teeth and a tiny hole on each side of the shoe, without an ejector-pin mark in sight. They attach to the sprue in three locations making removal a snap and easily clean up with a few swipes of a sanding stick. I built the tracks in sections that could be removed for painting. I used Tamiya Extra Thin cement to build the flat sections as well as the curved parts that fit around the drive sprockets and idlers. For the upper run, I used Testors Liquid Cement (No. 8872) with the needle dispenser; after 10-15 min-

utes drying time the track links held together but remained flexible enough to form the sag in the tracks.

I painted the tank with Tamiya acrylics and the decals went down over clear gloss with Microscale Micro Set and Micro Sol.

I painted and installed the tracks before attaching the fenders were attached; the headlight lens, painted with a Molotow chrome pen, was installed.

I spent about 18 hours building my T-60. The finished model matches dimensions listed in *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Military Vehicles* by Ian Hogg and John Weeks (Prentice-Hall, ISBN 978-0-13-450817-7).

You'll definitely need experience with small parts and individual-link tracks to build this kit. My only complaints, and they're very minor, are the missing interior detail on the hatches and the lack of a clear lens for the headlight. I think the kit makes an excellent alternative to MiniArt's T-60 if you don't need the full interior.

— John Plzak



Bandai Cup Noodle

I am a beginner, so Bandai's Cup Noodle kit offered a perfect opportunity for me to learn new skills while making a uniquely recognizable model. This 1/1 scale kit from the Bandai Spirits Best Hits Chronicle series re-creates the first commercially available cup ramen released on September 18, 1971. A favorite of sodium-craving people of all ages, the original Nissin Cup Noodle packs plenty of punch in a single cup. Noodles, egg, leeks, shrimp, and, as the kit instructions state, "mystery meat" in a foam cup; all you need is hot water and 3 minutes. The instructions include a warning that assembling the kit in 3 minutes may be difficult, however.

The kit includes 61 plastic parts, a self-adhesive lid and lid-stopping tab, and stickers for fine details. All the components are molded in color for a paint-free project unless you are looking for additional detail — more on that later. Parts are easily identified and grouped into eight categories in the instructions.

Assembly begins with the cup. I removed the parts from the tree with sprue cutters. Be sure to sand off the attachment points; the fits are tight and even small nubs will interfere. Small gold details on the cup fit together with zipper-like teeth, reproducing the detailed pattern. One of my favorite parts was the Cup Noodle logo re-created using white plastic letters nested inside a red border.

It's difficult to convey how much it looks like a printed Styrofoam cup once assembled, but it is truly remarkable.

Larger stickers include the nutritional information, cooking instructions, and the barcode. There's even expiration and batch information for the underside. Tweezers helped with some of the small stickers that add fine details to the plastic logos and text.

The noodle block builds from ten pieces that snap together in layers. To enhance the contrast and realism of the monochromatic

noodles, I flowed on a couple of washes of thin brown acrylic.

The kit provides yellow egg chunks, pink shrimp, and cubes of brown mystery meat, all apparently designed from 3D-scanned bits for detail and accuracy. They certainly look the part.

Two scored wraparound stickers are supplied for each shrimp, but I found them challenging to apply. After "sort of" getting one shrimp decorated with them, I changed course and painted details and texture with contrasting colors.

As an optional step — and a new skill learned — I dry-brushed the egg and meat pieces to enhance the texture. It may not have taken much mystery out of the self-described "mystery meat," but the step makes them look more edible. A thin strip of flexible green plastic gets cut into sections to garnish with leeks.

After detailing the various ingredients, I attached them to the top of the noodle block with tacky glue to prevent them from shifting or spilling.

For a final touch, I added the adhesive lid with its foil lining. It can be posed open with help from the "lid stopping sticker." One of the kit's neatest features is that the front panel can be removed to show the noodle cluster suspended inside the cup. This mimics the real thing where the void helps the noodle "cook" as it fills with hot water.

Created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this food staple, the kit's instructions are filled with facts, history, and humor. If you're looking for a unique and fun model that you can enjoy building out of the box or take to the next level with additional painting, this is the kit for you. I had a blast and learned skills I'll use on my next model!

— Michelle LaPinske



Kit: No. 5060591 **Scale:** 1/1
Mfr.: Bandai, bandai.com **Price:** \$29.97
Comments: Injection-molded, 61 parts, stickers **Pros:** Great details; ease of assembly **Cons:** Shrimp stickers challenging to apply; lid hard to prop open

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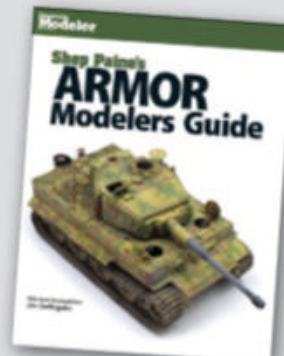
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By Elizabeth Nash

A tale of many tails

Showcase a lifetime of memories with the help of an unbuilt stash



On display are 67 tails, each one with a wonderful memory attached to it. Avid modeler Eric walks us through what this collection means to him.

Like many passionate modelers, Eric Elliott of Skopje, North Macedonia, realized that he had many kits that he might never build. Either the kits were old and had been replaced by newer, better offerings, or they were incomplete with parts lost during many moves — there were also kit boxes with extra parts that seemed a shame to discard.

Along with those kits, he had many, *many* decals (some he'd had for 40 years!). With all those resources, Eric started a unique and nostalgic project. In his own words:

"Taking inspiration from an F-16 fin-flash guide I once saw, I decided to use the tails of some of these older kits and decals I had in stock and create a display that represents key or memorable moments in my life. In all, there are 67 tails, all in 1/48 scale. Each is mounted on a hardwood blank and the stand is made from African bubinga.

"It starts with a Monogram F-100 tail in New Mexico Air National Guard colors from 1966, which represents my entry into

the world. It ends with a Monogram Mi-24 tail from the Air Force of North Macedonia that regularly flies over my house in Skopje.

"The top row is for oversized tails; the middle six rows are mostly chronological from 1966 to 2021; and the bottom row is dedicated to twin-tail aircraft and includes a Hungarian MiG-29 that I encountered on 9/11 and an F-15E from Operation Odyssey Dawn.

"There are tails representing studies in Japan and France as well as the United States from states such as New Mexico and Utah. Another Utah plane from a wedding makes an appearance. And then there's those of children born in Indiana, New Mexico, and Virginia.

"Finally, I included State Department assignments in and deployments to Alabama, Alaska, Virginia, California, New Mexico, France, Belgium, Italy, Korea, Germany, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Algeria, and Afghanistan. And there are still more from other wonderful memories." **FSM**



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1972 CHEVY FLEETSIDE PICKUP (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1231M

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CHEVY SILVERADO MONSTER TRUCK (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1184M

AVAILABLE NOW!



1960 FORD RANCHERO (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1189M

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GMC GENERAL TRUCK TRACTOR (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1179

AVAILABLE NOW!



FRUEHAUF VAN TRAILER (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1109

AVAILABLE NOW!



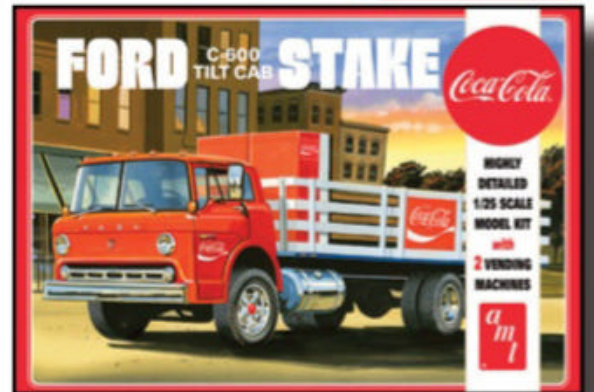
1941 PLYMOUTH COUPE (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1197M

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1977 FORD PINTO "POPPER" (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1166M

AVAILABLE NOW!



FORD C-600 STAKE BED (1:25 SCALE)
#AMT1147

It's summertime in your small hometown. You're walking out of the local hobby shop with your brand new model kit under your arm and an ice-cold bottle of Coca-Cola in your hand. As you take that first refreshing sip you can't help but beam with excitement thinking about all the cool custom renditions you could build with your untouched plastic model canvas.

Now you can capture the nostalgia of Coca-Cola and the satisfaction of assembling your own one-of-a-kind work of art with these AMT and Polar Lights Model kits. Our Coca-Cola theme kits are precision made for easy assembly, highly detailed for historical accuracy and above all fun to build and display. With each kit you'll also receive a selection of Coca-Cola logos and decals to finish off your work of art!

So what are you waiting for? Take some home today!

**GET REFRESHED ON OUR FULL COCA-COLA LINE-UP
AT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SHOP OR ONLINE AT: ROUND2CORP.COM!**



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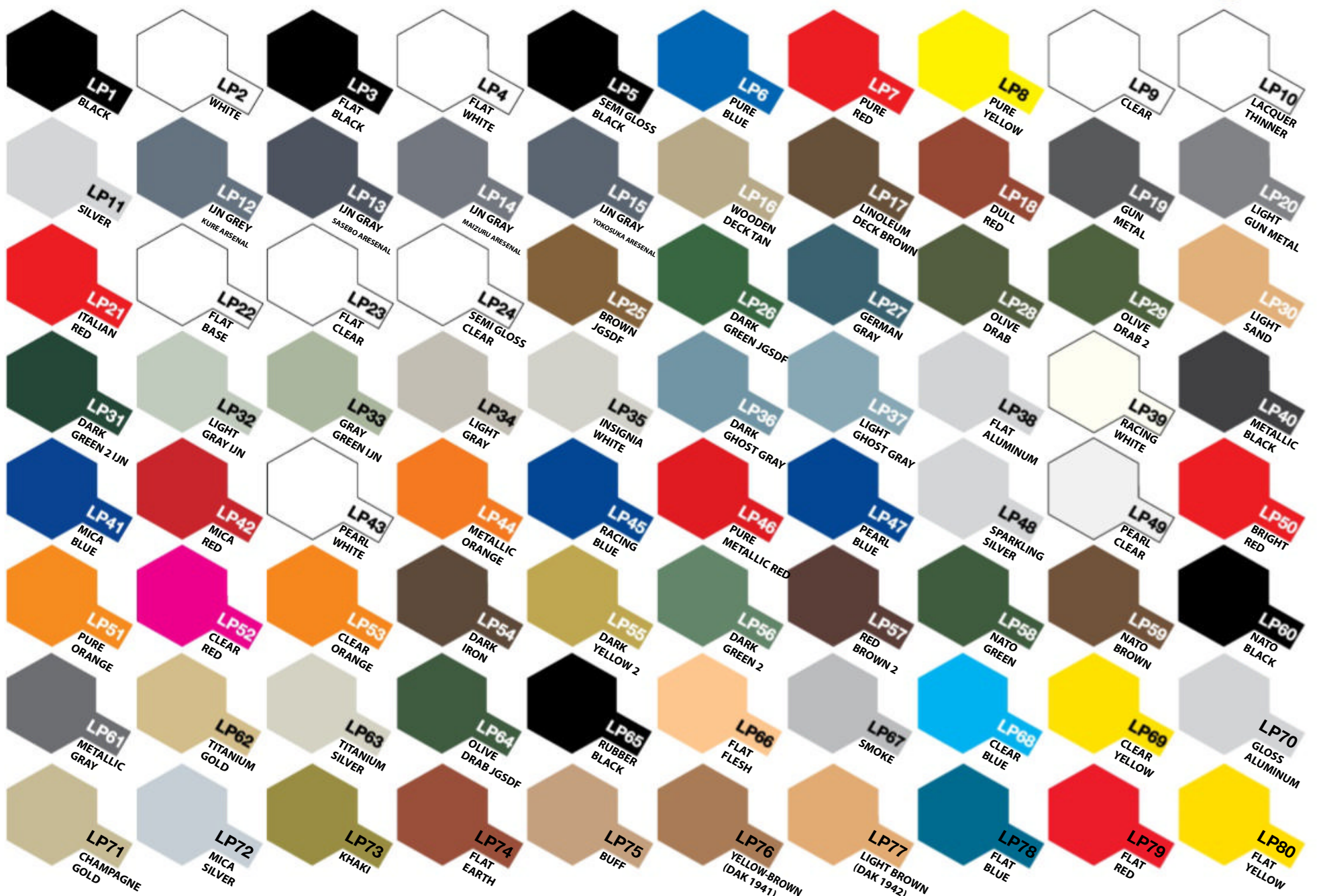
BEAUTIFUL COLORS WITH SUPERIOR GLOSS



LACQUER PAINT

The Tamiya Color range of quality paints, designed specifically for modeling use, has long helped modelers achieve the perfect finish on their scale model masterpieces. Now, existing Tamiya Color bottled acrylic paints, plus lacquer spray paints are joined by the new Lacquer Paint line of bottled Tamiya Colors. Use them as your needs require: airbrush large areas, or pick out fine details using a quality brush. With a tough membrane, and swift overall drying times, but slow initial drying allowing a beautiful unblemished finish we are sure that they will become an essential item in your modeling armory.

The stunning tones and lustrous glossy finish provided by airbrushing Tamiya Color Lacquer Paint are perfect for model car and motorcycle paint jobs, and its tough membrane suits it excellently to treatment with polishing compounds. Colors previously only available as sprays: Pearl blue, Mica red, Pure orange and more, are now in bottled form, removing the need for decanting when you want to airbrush.



TAMIYA COLOR LACQUER PAINT



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