



► Shows! p.17

Great Scale Modeling[®] 2022

SPRING 2022

► **READER GALLERY**
EXTRAVAGANZA!

Models submitted
by *FSM* readers from
around the world



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► **Cars and trucks** p.72



► **Military vehicles** p.35



► **Sci-fi and more!** p.51

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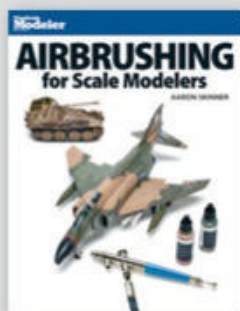
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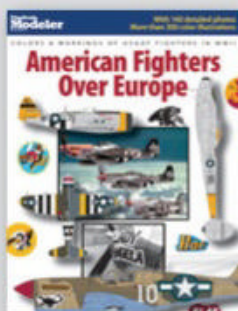
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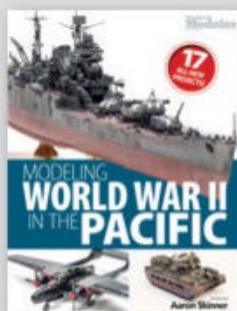
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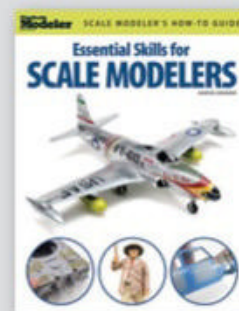
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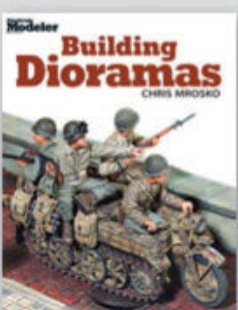
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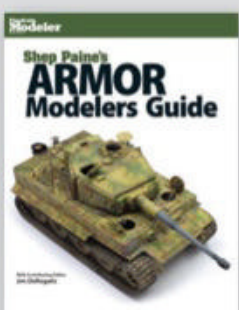
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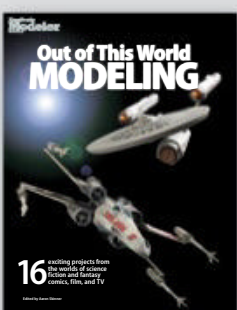
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PETE MALAGUTI



By Aaron Skinner



WOLFRAM ZIEGLER
HOLZGERLINGEN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY

Wolfram built Trumpeter's 1/32 scale A-6A out of the box and armed it with spare ordnance. He painted the Intruder Tamiya and Mr. Hobby acrylics.

Galleries to delight & inspire

To say the last couple of years have been unusual might be regarded as an understatement. Until June 2021, I hadn't traveled to a model show since November 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of many contests and events, sometimes twice. That left *FSM* lacking shows to cover and resulted in a dearth of galleries in the magazine's pages and the kind of coverage that fills the pages of *Great Scale Modeling*.

Still, you kept building, shared your models in online forums and social media, and many of you sent images of your models to *FSM* for inclusion in Reader Gallery just as readers have done for decades. As a result, we had a bunch of great models looking for a home.

The collision of those two circumstances has produced the unique *GSM* you hold now. While we were able to attend and shoot a few shows in late 2021, the bulk of the images here were sent in by *FSM* readers. As always, what impresses me is the creativity and skills displayed by modelers. Whether it's a perfectly camouflaged fighter, a tank in a nifty diorama, a showroom glossy car, a ship festooned with perfectly applied photo-etched metal, or a picture-perfect figure, there's plenty of inspiration in these pages thanks to you all. Enjoy!

Aaron Skinner

editor@finescale.com



▲ LARRY C. BROWN
TRENTON, OHIO

In Larry's diorama, "Out of Fuel, Out of Ammo, Out of Time," the Battle of the Bulge has just ended and scout units probe for retreating Germans. One unit has found a German rear guard vehicle abandoned by the road. While watching for Germans the lieutenant sends a man to check for maps and papers.

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Kalmbach Media



How to photograph your models

Want to see your models in *FineScale Modeler's* Reader Gallery?

Read our tips and tricks to get the best photos and maximize your chance we'll feature your scale creation. Images are like building models: There are no shortcuts to good ones and those good ones really stand out. The higher the quality of the image, the more likely it will be published and not passed over in the editing process.



This photo was shot at f/22 with the focal point on the corner of the mantlet nearest the camera. The entire Leopard tank is in focus.

PLEASE DO:

Provide plenty of information: Put yourself in the reader's place. If you see a nice model, what do you want to know about it? Which kit is it? How did you modify it? What type and brand of paint did you use? What does the model represent and why did you build it? The more information you give us, the more likely we are to publish it. Don't forget to give us your name and the place you live.

Use a high-quality digital camera: While phone cameras have come a long way in the last few years, they rely in digital focus and white balance that simply aren't as good as DSLR or good-quality point-and-shoot digital cameras. They're fine for selfies, but not so good for publication. You will need f/11-f/16 to get most subjects in focus from nose to tail, bow to stern, headlight to taillight, or wingtip to wingtip. Set the camera to the highest resolution and least image compression. RAW format images are preferred; and please, don't retouch the images. Use as much light as you can get and an ISO of 60-100. When focusing, find a point about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ way along the fuselage, body, or hull.

Vary the camera angle: Give us several shots of each of your models from different points of view. This gives us plenty of choices for publication. Please be sure to show the entire model in the image; don't clip things like wingtips, gun barrels, masts, taillights, and rotor blades.

Shoot on a clean background: A seamless white or light gray background, sometimes called a sweep, is best. If you don't have one, grab a piece of construction paper or thin poster board and curve it — no folds or creases — so that what is behind the model has no lines.



This image was shot at f/4 with the camera focused in roughly the same spot. Very little of the tank is in focus rendering this image unusable.

PLEASE DON'T:

Use a phone camera or low-resolution point-and-shoot: The image quality isn't good enough.

Send us poor quality images: Photos that are dark, are blurry or out of focus, or clip parts of the model will be rejected.

Shoot photos on a textured background: Avoid taking photos of models on blue, yellow, red, or textured backgrounds. A plain, white background is best. Do not use paper towels, bath towels, or bed sheets. Remember, you want people to see your model, not your linens.

Don't shoot on your workbench: If yours is anything like most modelers', it is cluttered with tools and splattered with paint. In the worst case, you may be revealing your beverage preferences to the *FSM* readership. If you want to show your model in its best light, take the time to set up a dedicated space to shoot photos.

Use direct flash: Although many DSLRs and point-and-shoot cameras feature on-camera or pop-up flashes, they make models look flat and boring. If you must use a flash, figure out a way to bounce it off a ceiling or wall. Or better still, use off camera lighting from the sides or top.

A few minutes of prep work and attention to detail can greatly improve your images. Please review this guide and help us present your models in the best way possible. Find more information under the "About FSM" tab and "Contribute to FSM" link at FineScale.com. If you have questions, email editor@FineScale.com.

Aircraft



▲ **MASSIMO SANTAROSSA**
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

Massimo built Revell's 1/144 scale BAe 146-200 straight from the box, painted it with Testors Model Master enamels, and adapted Airline Hobby Supplies decals intended for a de Havilland Canada Dash 8 to mark it in the livery of Air Atlantic, a feeder carrier for Canadian Airlines.

► **FREDRIK STROM**
ÖSTERSUND, JÄMTLAND, SWEDEN

During the Malayan Emergency of the 1950s, Royal Australian Air Force CAC-27 Sabres flew from RAF Butterworth. Fredrik converted Hasegawa's F-86-F30 to build one of these aircraft using a Red Roo set, Eduard wheels, speed brakes, and bombs, and a Quickboost seat. He painted the aircraft with Alclad II and Mr. Color lacquers, and lightly weathered with Ammo of Mig Jimenez products.





WOLFRAM ZIEGLER
**HOLZGERLINGEN, BADEN-
 WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY**

To improve Trumpeter's 1/32 scale Su-27, Wolfram added Zactomodels nose cone and intake trunks, and an Aires cockpit. He painted the Flanker with Testors Model Master enamels and Alclad II lacquers before applying Linden Hill decals.



◀ **JAKE HOLSHUH**
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

To build a U.S. Navy OS2U-3 stationed at Corpus Christie, Texas, in 1942, Jake painted Revell's 1/48 scale Kingfisher with Testors Model Master enamel intermediate blue, Vallejo light gray, and Polly Scale CSX yellow.

► THOMAS MUGGLI

VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK

The Swiss air force operated a unique reconnaissance variant of the de Havilland Venom with cameras in the belly and modified wing tanks. Thomas built CMK's 1/72 scale kit of the Venom Mk.1R and painted it with Testors Model Master acrylics. Based on years of reading *FSM*, he weathered the plane with pre- and post-shading, washes, and pastels.



PAULO AYRES MUSELLI DE MENDONÇA

PORTO TROMBETAS, PARÁ, BRAZIL

Paulo says he enjoyed building Academy's 1/48 scale P-40C because he used it to develop some weathering techniques. He finished it as an American Volunteer Group fighter.

SEND US YOUR PICTURES!

Shouldn't your model be in Reader Gallery? *FineScale Modeler* is always accepting new material from around the world.

Upload high-resolution digital images (preferably unedited, RAW format) with complete captions at www.Contribute.Kalmbach.com, or burn it all on a disc and mail it to *FineScale Modeler*, Reader Gallery, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.

Be sure to tell us the kit manufacturer, model, scale, modifications, paint and finishes used, and reason for choosing the model, along with your name and address. We look forward to seeing your work!



▲ CHRISTOPHER WHITFIELD DENVER, COLORADO

Christopher painted a Tamiya 1/48 scale F4U-1A with Vallejo Model Air acrylics and weathered with Vallejo washes and Tamiya pastels. "I really wanted the paint to appear natural with hue and tone changes caused by weathering and lighting," he says.

◀ ALVIN WERNER COCHRANE, ALBERTA, CANADA

Inspired by the book *A Higher Call* and painting by John D. Shaw of the same incident in which a German pilot guided a severely damaged B-17 out of German airspace, Alvin built Revell's 1/72 scale B-17F and Airfix's Bf 109G. He set them on short posts in the snow — doubling her as high clouds — for a photo shoot.

► BRAD SHINN

HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA

To build this sharp DC-9, Brad started with a resin kit from Authentic Airliners and scratchbuilt flaps and slats from styrene and added landing lights to the wingtips. He painted the bright Air Jamaica livery with Tamiya spray-can lacquers and used Authentic Airliners decals for the windows and Liveries decals for the titles and registration.

▼ MAX LACOBARA

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Hundreds of U.S. Navy pilots did their seaplane training in Curtiss N-9H biplanes. Max built Olimp's 1/72 scale kit of the pioneering aircraft and marked it as one based at NAS Pensacola in 1918.



► TOM BECKING

TAYLORS, SOUTH CAROLINA

Working with a Tamiya 1/48 scale F4U-1A that included a motor, Tom built Maj. Greg "Pappy" Boyington's Corsair. After adding rivets with a pounce wheel, he painted with Testors Model Master enamels and combined markings from Fundekals and the kit before weathering with pastels. Other improvements include scratchbuilt brake lines, tension springs, exhaust pipes, engine wiring and plumbing, and radio antennas.





JOHN EATON
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

John converted Hobbycraft's 1/48 scale YP-59 Airacomet to the prototype XP-59A by vacuum-forming a new canopy and moving the pitot tube from the tail to under the left wing. He also cast a custom nose weight. He painted the seminal jet fighter with Testors Model Master colors and airbrushed the markings through masks made on a vinyl cutter.





▲ MIKE PABIS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mike used a technical pen to apply the black camouflage to a Revell 1/144 scale HC.1 Chinook to model a helicopter from the Royal Air Force No. 7 Squadron in Desert Storm.

► GEORGE CLOVER

CATHEYS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

George detailed the cockpit of Hasegawa's 1/48 scale P-51D with Eduard photo-etched metal and painted it with Alclad II lacquers to finish it as ace Bud Anderson's *Old Crow*.





◀ **AOLA TOTARO**
GOLFO ARANCI,
SASSARI, ITALY

Looking at this photo of Aola's 1/32 scale Roden Albatros D.III dressed in FCM decals and fronted by Model Cellar's figure of Verner Voss, you'd be forgiven for thinking it's a colorized image from World War I.

▼ **SHINKEUM KANG**
YONGIN, GYEONGGI, SOUTH
KOREA

After adding masking-tape seat belts to a Hasegawa 1/72 scale F/A-18F, Shinkeum cut off the wing flaps and rudders and repositioned them to show the Super Hornet set for takeoff. He marked the fighter for VFA-103 Jolly Rogers and combined it with Fujimi's U.S. Navy Flight Deck Crew and Carrier Tractor on a scratchbuilt base.



► **DAVIDE MACCAGNI**
SALERNO, LODI, ITALY

To build Kinetic's 1/48 scale EA-6B Prowler, Davide added an Aires resin cockpit and painted it with Testors Model Master enamels.



◀ **CHRIS WARREN**
HUNTINGTON STATION, NEW YORK

Looking to model the Fairey Gannet's unique bat-like folding wing, Chris fitted Trumpeter's 1/72 scale kit with Alley Cat's conversion set. He finished it as West German antisubmarine aircraft.



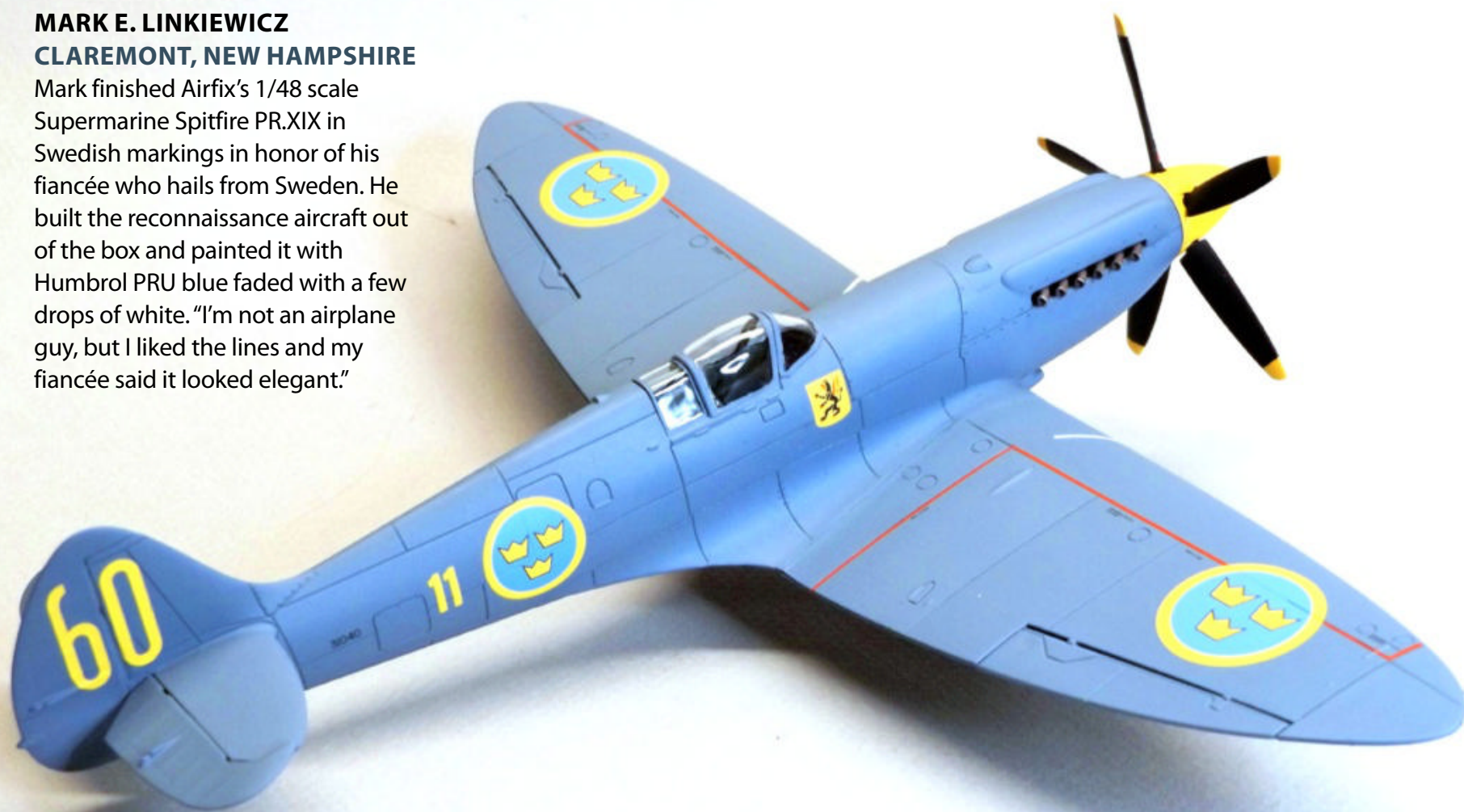
► **ANDY COOPER**
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

To build a Royal Australian Air Force Hawk 127 trainer, Andy modified a Kinetic 1/32 scale Hawk 100 with Kinetic's photo-etched metal Hawk 127 cockpit set as well as drop tanks and a gun pod from Hamilton Hobbies. After painting with Tamiya and Mr. Hobby acrylics, he marked it for RAAF No. 79 Squadron with Ronin Decals.



MARK E. LINKIEWICZ
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mark finished Airfix's 1/48 scale Supermarine Spitfire PR.XIX in Swedish markings in honor of his fiancée who hails from Sweden. He built the reconnaissance aircraft out of the box and painted it with Humbrol PRU blue faded with a few drops of white. "I'm not an airplane guy, but I liked the lines and my fiancée said it looked elegant."



◀ JASON VUKOVICH
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

The U.S. Army uses heavily modified Beechcraft King Air known as RC-12 Guardrail to collect signals intelligence (SIGINT). Jason built one of these unique aircraft from RVHP's 1/72 scale resin kit and painted it with acrylics. "There were lots of little antennas to place, some which were replaced by me with wire and tape for durability," he says.

RiverCon X

Hundreds of modelers headed for Shreveport, Louisiana, on March 20, 2021, for RiverCon X. Hosted by IPMS/Red River Modelers, the show doubled as the IPMS Region 6 Regional. *FineScale Modeler* contributor Kenneth Childres attended and shot these photos.



▲ **RANDY PAVATTE**
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Modeling German troops about to leave their trench with Andrea 54mm figures, Randy wanted to capture the fear and apprehension of soldiers going over the top in World War I.

**J.R. BOYE
BURLESON, TEXAS**

J.R. hand-painted the skull on the nose of Chorozsy Modelbud's 1/72 scale Farman MF.11 bis to model a Belgian aircraft flown by Lts. Ferdinand Jacquet and Louis Robin during World War I. He lengthened and reshaped the fuselage, upper wing, tail surfaces, and landing gear, added interior detail, revised the engine, and scratchbuilt the open visor.



**VINCE BARRALE
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

Vince built Master Box's 1/24 scale Satyr out of the box then placed it on a scratchbuilt base.



**▲ JOHN CRAFT
PIEDMONT, OKLAHOMA**

John dressed up Tamiya's already nice 1/48 scale P-47D with a Quickboost engine, True Details cockpit, seat belts and rivets from HGW, gun barrels and gunsight from Master, and Ultracast wheels. He finished the Thunderbolt as *Snafu* flown by Lt. Severino Calderon from the 84th Fighter Squadron.

**TRAVIS FLOWERS
BENTON, LOUISIANA**

Inspired by a YouTube video about Jagdtigers at the Battle of the Bulge, Travis built Takom's 1/35 scale kit of the German tank destroyer. His improvements include a turned-metal gun barrel, Friulmodel metal tracks, and Voyager photo-etched metal details.

**▲ CHRISTOPHER WOODSON
ALEXANDER, ARKANSAS**

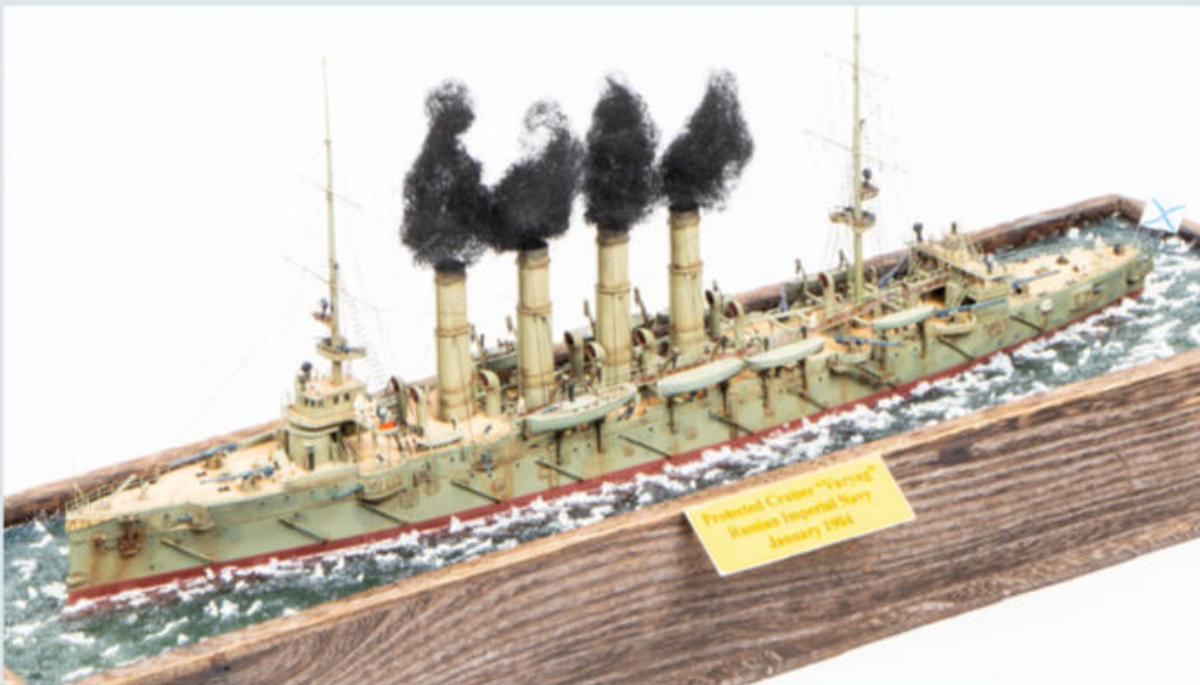
"I like the lore behind the Space Wolf Chapter set in the Warhammer 40K universe," says Christopher. He enhanced the Space Marine with alternative armor plates from Legio Models.

**▲ GREG KITTINGER
TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

To improve Airfix's 1/72 scale Petlyakov Pe-2, Greg scratchbuilt interior details for the cockpit and gun positions, including metal barrels for the guns and tape for seat belts. He also drilled and opened the dive brakes under the wings.

DAVID GREEN
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

Expressing his fondness for Indy cars, David built Tamiya's 1/20 scale Lola T93 out of the box and finished it with Tamiya paint.



▲ ED RAINS
HOUSTON, TEXAS

There's a ton of extra detail aboard Ed's Zvezda 1/350 scale *Varyag*, including Master Model's brass masts, yardarms, and gun barrels, Eduard and Gold Medal Models photo-etched metal, a wooden deck from ArtWox, and a crew of Northstar figures. He painted the ship with enamels before putting launching it on a sea of Envirotex Lite Pour-on High Gloss Finish, Liquitex Acrylic Gel Medium, thin white paint, and Pledge Floor Gloss.

► DANA LEKER
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

To enhance McDevitt Studio's 1/10 scale Hulk Frankenstein bust, Dana added free-standing graphic novels. The figure was finished with acrylic paint and colored pencils.



► **MATT BOND**
SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS

"I loved the idea of a tank turret being added to an armored car," says Matt. To that end, he built Bronco's 1/48 scale Staghound Mk.III pretty much out of the box — he added a radio antenna — as a late-World War II British armored car.



RICHARD KERN
MAGNOLIA, TEXAS

Inspired by the movie *The Hunt for Red October*, Richard built Trumpeter's 1/700 scale Typhoon-class Russian sub out of the box.

► **JAMES RICE**

RACELAND, LOUISIANA

As an experiment in painting object light source, James placed Blacksmith Miniatures' 70mm Keykeeper in a scratchbuilt shadowbox.



▲ **BRYAN TUCKER**

MIDLOTHIAN, TEXAS

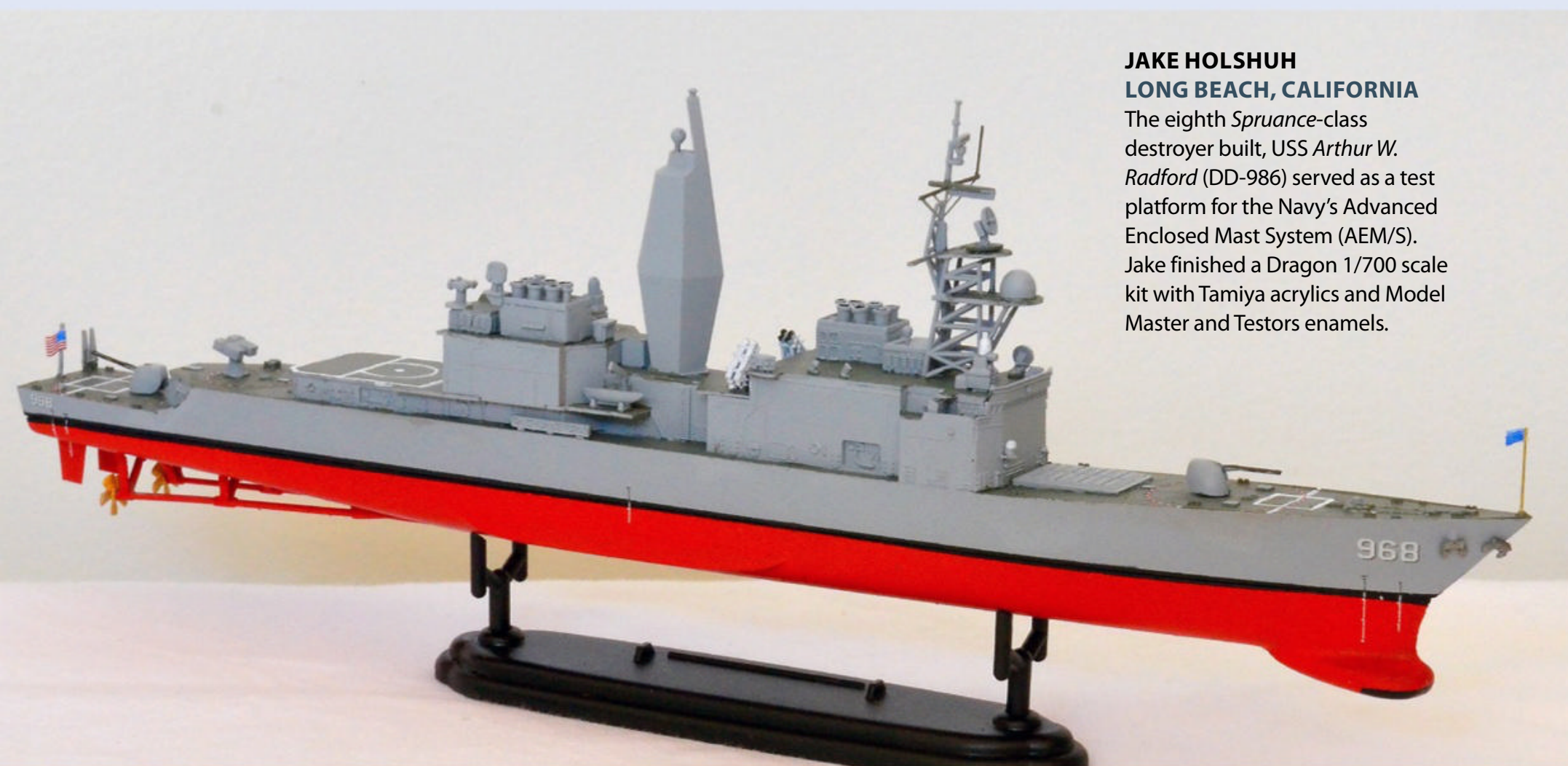
Bryan describes Wingnut Wings' 1/32 scale Hansa-Brandenburg W.29 as a wonderful kit that is highly detailed out of the box. So, that's exactly what he did, building it out of the box down to dressing the German floatplane with lozenge decals included in the kit.

Boats & Ships

► **NORM SHEPPARD**
SACKVILLE, NEW
BRUNSWICK, CANADA

After adding Verinden stowage, Norm painted Tamiya's 1/35 scale PBR 31 Mk.II patrol boat with Mr. Color lacquers and acrylics from Tamiya and Vallejo. He weathered the Vietnam War vessel with washes and pigments, then drew tattoos on the crew with Sakura .005mm markers.





JAKE HOLSHUH
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The eighth *Spruance*-class destroyer built, USS *Arthur W. Radford* (DD-986) served as a test platform for the Navy's Advanced Enclosed Mast System (AEM/S). Jake finished a Dragon 1/700 scale kit with Tamiya acrylics and Model Master and Testors enamels.



◀ **BENJAMIN KONCZAL**
BROOKFIELD, ILLINOIS

After enhancing Dragon's 1/350 scale USS *Independence* with Eduard photo-etched metal and painting the ship, including most of the markings with Model Master enamels, Benjamin beefed up the air wing with extra Wildcats from Trumpeter. The figures? "What a fiasco!" he says. "In the end, mostly what you see are 1/350 scale figures from North Star Models and Tamiya. I believe there are around a 100 or so on the ship. Honestly, it took so much work to get them painted and in place, I have no idea how many are on deck. So, if you are looking for a specific number, roughly, a lot, is my answer."



▲ STEVE LUCKINBILL

MERIDIAN, IDAHO

"Here is my rendition of the launching of the USS *Puffer* (SS-268) at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, November 1942," says Steve. "The boats were launched sideways in the river." His model is based on Trumpeter's 1/144 scale *Gato*-class kit on a base of insulating foam with acrylic gel water and cotton splashes.

► WILSON MANSON

NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND

After dressing a Revell 1/72 scale PT boat with a 40mm Bofors gun from Atlantic Models to replicate *PT-579*, Wilson put it to sea on a base of insulation foam, modeling paste, and clear gel with foam made from cushion poly fill.

SEND US YOUR PICTURES!

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Be sure to tell us the kit manufacturer, model, scale, modifications, paint and finishes used, and reason for choosing the model, along with your name and address. We look forward to seeing your work!





► **MIKE WARNER**
PENN YAN, NEW YORK

Mike spent five years building his 1/700 scale diorama of the battleship USS *Colorado* in floating drydock with USS *McCord*, PT boats, and other support vessels alongside. The *Colorado* is from Trumpeter, the *McCord* from Skywave, and he scratchbuilt the drydock using wood and styrene with photo-etched metal railings and cranes from Five Star Models. The work paid off when the model won Best in Show at IPMS Rochester's ROCON 39.

A seven-year journey

Scratchbuilding a 1/72 scale escort destroyer

BY RENÉ HIERONYMUS

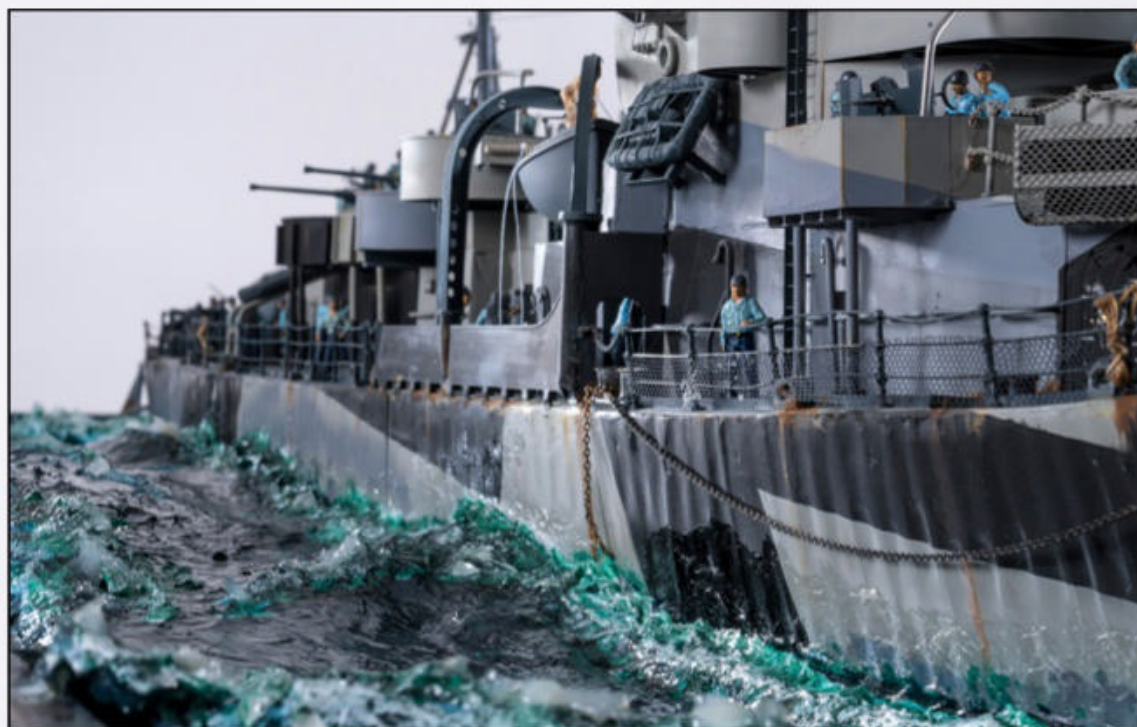
Between late-1942 and the end of World War II, the U.S. built more than 500 escort destroyers in five classes: *Evarts*, *Buckley*, *Cannon*, *Rudderow*, *John C. Butler*, and *Edsall*. Smaller than typical destroyers, they were equipped with less powerful engines and weaker armaments. All, except the *Evarts*-class ships, shared the same hull with the engines and superstructures differentiating the designs.

The USS *Brister* (DE-327) was an *Edsall*-class escort destroyer powered by four Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines churning out 6,000 horsepower. Fully loaded, it displaced 1,490 tons and measured 306 feet long — a sizable project in 1/72 scale. I wanted anyone looking at my model to drown in the details, whether they were viewing the

ship's complement of officers and enlisted men, the .50-caliber guns, or the open bridge. There needed to be almost too much to see.

What I didn't realize at the outset was that the project would take me seven years to finish.

Logically, I began by building the hull. It's primarily constructed from wooden frames and stringers covered with cardboard. In photos of escort destroyers and other ships of the time, you can see slight indentations along the entire length of their hulls. This wear, called oil canning, is the result of water pressure against the hull day-in and day-out, over-ambitious tug captains, or perhaps a too optimistic coxswain trying to impress his commander by mooring the ship especially fast. To recreate this look, I glued several tiny



René created the oil-canning effect by gluing thin strips of wood vertically along the hull, covering it with .75mm aluminum foil, and then slightly warping the space between with his fingertip.



wooden strips vertically onto the cardboard hull and covered them with heavy-duty aluminum foil. When the glue dried, all I had to do was create the dents with my fingertips.

The basic superstructure didn't take much time to build, and I made most of it with styrene sheet reinforced with wood. What took a long, long time were the details.

The *Brister's* main armament came from White Ensign Models. The company's 3"/50-caliber gun aftermarket guns were good, but I enhanced them even more with homemade photo-etched metal (PE) parts. The depth-charge racks and tables took several months to complete, and the open bridge turned into a challenge that, at times, seemed insurmountable. Remember my idea for overwhelming detail?

After nearly 18 months of work, I lost interest in the project. Two-thirds of the way to my destination — a finished USS *Brister* — I put it in a large box and stored it in my basement.

Almost six years later, I found myself thinking about my stowed *Brister*. There wasn't really that much left to do. I could finish it. Just a few details and it would be done: Some work along the stanchions, the crew, rigging, and, of course, a base with water.

Taking a deep breath, I dove back in, starting with PE details. Next, I bought 3D-printed figures from Shapeways and went all the way, placing a total of 153 sailors on the ship. After rigging, I added washes and pastels to the ship to get it exactly right.

I was moving, now! It may sound strange, but my supplies for the base were toilet paper, wallpaper glue, acrylic paint, and plenty of white glue. When the first layer of paint was dry, I laid down a thin layer of white glue over the entire base and let it set up. I painted the glue with Tamiya Clear Green and Clear Blue, let it dry, and then added another layer of white glue. I repeated the process 11 times, allowing each layer to dry crystal clear before applying the next. At the end, I sprayed more than a dozen coats of gloss clear on the base. All of this to lend a sense of depth to the water.

Roughly speaking, I spent almost 1,700 hours on my USS *Brister*, and more than seven years from start to finish. While it's good to finish projects, remember, you can set one aside, even for years, and still return to complete it. **FSM**



The open bridge became a focal point for René, and he insisted that it be as detailed as he could make it. To that end, there were more than 700 individual parts that went into it plus figures to give it a semblance of wartime activity.



While some of the ship's armaments came from aftermarket sources, like this White Ensign 3"/50-caliber cannon, René improved them with scratchbuilt details and homemade PE parts.



The stern roller racks and tracks for the depth charges were among the most complicated details of the build, with many identical parts made again and again assembly line fashion.



Just another Tincan
USS Brister DE-327

Military Vehicles

► **ALBERT TURECZEK**
AARHUS, DENMARK

Albert backdated CyberHobby's 1/35 Tiger I 1943 to be one of the first operational Tigers at Leningrad in early 1942. The changes included a revised exhaust system, the spare link holder on the front armor plate, and relocated tool holders. He took the photo in black-and-white to emulate a period image.



DAVID LEWIS
LEAWOOD, KANSAS

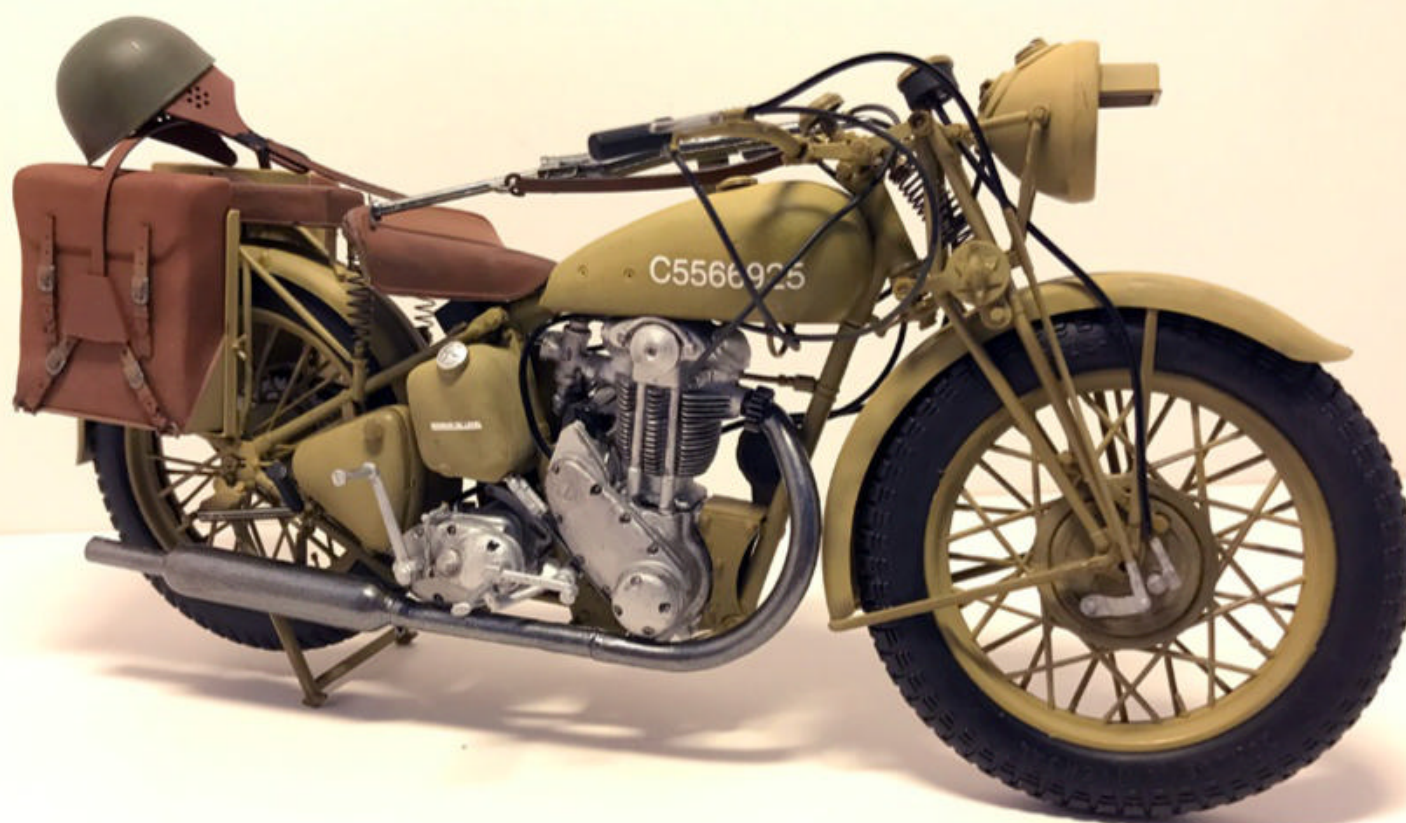
David built a Meng 1/35 scale Bradley M2A3 kit straight from the box. He relied mostly on Tamiya paints supplemented by Vallejo metallics for the tracks and brown pastels for weathering.





**MIKE FLECKENTEIN
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA**

Mike combined a Dragon 1/72 scale Churchill AVRE and a Lonewolf fascine conversion for this little beauty. The model represents a vehicle with the British 82nd Assault Squadron, 6th Assault Regiment, 79th Armoured Division. Mike scratchbuilt turret stowage boxes and the fascine bundle cable release and drilled the machine-gun barrels.



**LUK VANSTAPPEN
MECHELEN, BELGIUM**

"What a challenge this Italeri kit was!" Luk says. A self-diagnosed Tamiya addict, the 1/9 scale Triumph 3HW seduced him. "What a great motorcycle this is," he says, even though building it brought him "to the very edge" of his modeling skills. He painted with — what else? — Tamiya acrylics.



**RAÚL RODRÍGUEZ
GONZÁLEZ
FUENLABRADA, MADRID,
SPAIN**

To improve Italeri's 1/35 Willys Jeep built as an airfield "Follow Me" guide vehicle, Raúl scratchbuilt many details, including the canvas roof, fire extinguisher, radio, and engine.

► **LOTHAR LIMPRECHT
BAD WILDUNGEN, HESSE,
GERMANY**

This Tamiya 1/35 scale French Char B1 bis from Lothar wears the unusual camouflage of No. 251 *Fantasque*. He painted the overall colors with Vallejo acrylics. "The leaves and trees were drawn with Faber-Castell Pitt artist pens," he says.



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Shouldn't your model be in Reader Gallery? *FineScale Modeler* is always accepting new material from around the world.

Upload high-resolution digital images (preferably unedited, RAW format) with complete captions at www.Contribute.Kalmbach.com, or burn it all on a disc and mail it to *FineScale Modeler*, Reader Gallery, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.

Be sure to tell us the kit manufacturer, model, scale, modifications, paint and finishes used, and reason for choosing the model, along with your name and address. We look forward to seeing your work!

▼ KEITH SHILSON NORTH HOLMWOOD DORKING, SURREY, ENGLAND

Mike only lightly weathered his Heng Long 1/16 scale Challenger 2. He changed the color from desert yellow to European two-tone with Tamiya spray paint and modified the road hazard lights to flash. Mike reports they look fantastic when seen in the dark.

WILLIAM HORTON WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

The French AuF1 self-propelled gun mounts a 155mm gun in a turret on the AMX-30 chassis. William built Meng's 1/35 scale kit out of the box and painted it with Tamiya and Ammo by Mig Jimenez acrylics. "I've wanted to build this kit since it came out," he says. "The turret interior is very well done and looks real. You can tell this one is a real beast!"





▲ **TAMAS ERDOSI**
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

T-55 tanks captured by Israel during the Six-Day War underwent numerous conversions which resulted in the redesignated Tiran 5. Tamas based his Tiran 5 on a Takom 1/35 scale T-55A, added aftermarket resin and photo-etched metal parts along with turned metal barrels.

► **ROBERT SHVEYTSE**
FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY

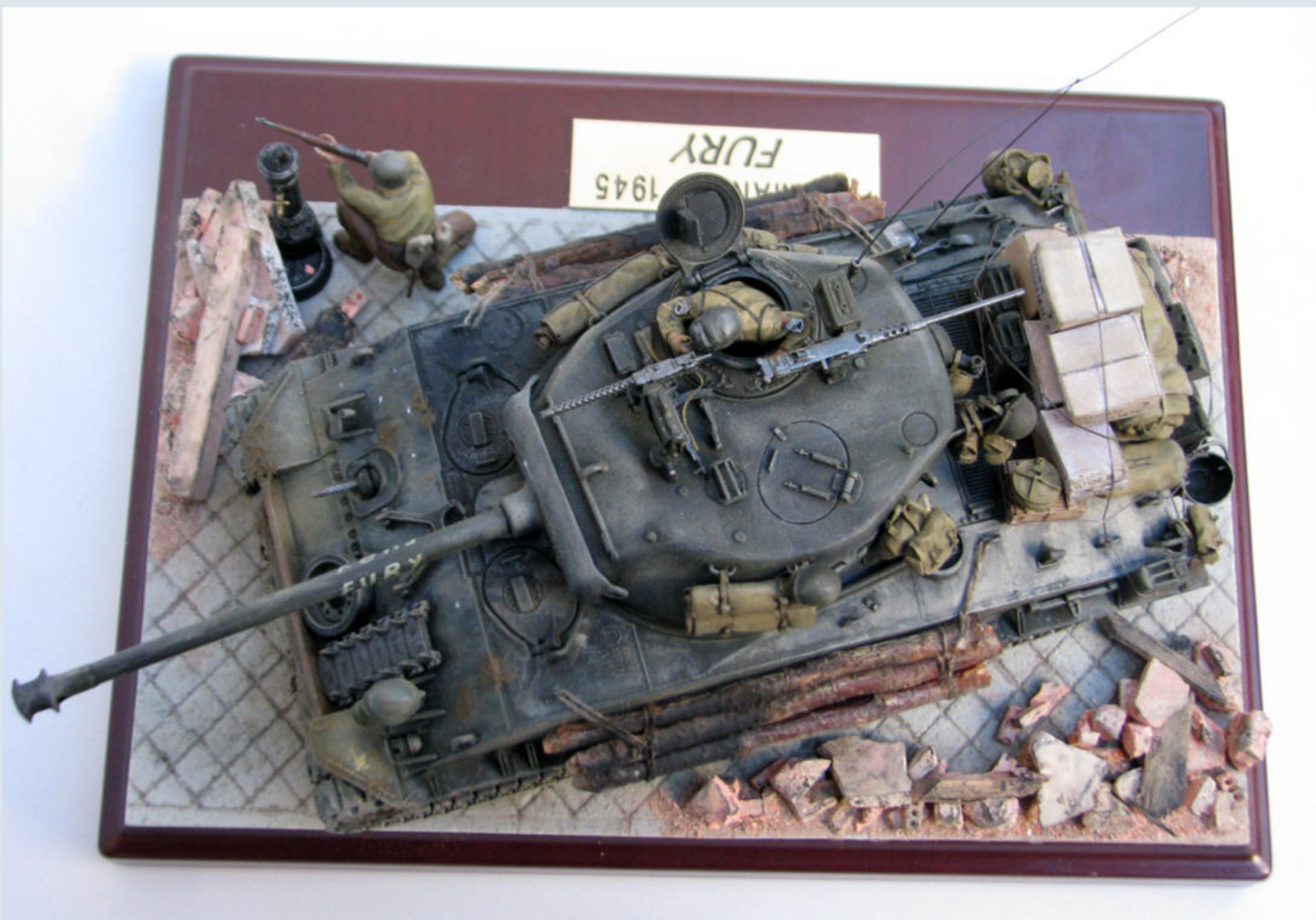
Robert modeled a Tamiya 1/48 scale Matilda III/IV as a Lend-Lease vehicle in Russian service. He painted with Tamiya acrylics and artist oils and made chips and scratches with colored pencils. The tow cables were made by Karaya.





◀ **DUSTIN WAKEFIELD**
NAMPA, IDAHO

Dustin thought to show a KV-2 prototype as if it had fought through World War II and entered Berlin in 1945. He referred to photos for battle damage, removed fenders, and added unditching logs to the Trumpeter 1/35 scale tank. A hot pen helped replicate ricochet marks, and Dustin detailed with a Voyager KV-2 main production photo-etched metal set. He painted with AK Interactive, Vallejo Mecha, Citadel, and Tamiya colors.



▲ **RICCARDO MERLONI**
PESARO, PESARO E URBINO, ITALY

Riccardo modeled the M4A3E8 Sherman from the movie *Fury*. To make his scene, he brought in a Tamiya 1/35 scale Easy Eight kit, Verlinden "Fury" stowage set, an Aber .30-cal. turned-metal barrels, and a Royal Model drinking fountain. Tamiya and Vallejo acrylic paints and pastel chalk helped him pull the scene together.

► ANDY COOPER

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

It makes sense that Andy, an Australian, would be interested in Australian AFVs. Here, he's modeled a 1/35 scale Australian Light Armored Vehicle (ASLAV) called *Tobes* serving in Afghanistan. Andy took a few parts from the lower hull of a Trumpeter ASLAV and built the rest with resin from Arms Corps Models, including the wheels, tires, hull top, turret, and crew. "The vehicle is modeled from ... personal photographs [taken by] blokes who had actually crewed the vehicles," Andy says. The model won gold in its class at the West Australian Model Exhibition 2015.

▼ DEAN SUMMERS

KELLER, TEXAS

Dean said building the full interior of Takom's 1/35 scale King Tiger was challenging, and it seemed a shame to seal it up. But the big exterior gave him a chance to try some of the techniques he read in *FSM* about acrylics. "I had just read the September 2017 issue, and the article by Adam Wilder showing step-by-step instructions on how he achieved such a fantastic finish on his T-26 tank inspired me," says Dean. "I tried to emulate his techniques on this tank. I was happy with the results and have learned some valuable techniques in the process."



► DAVE WARD

ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

Somewhere in Europe during the early stages of World War II, before what remained of the M3s were retired, *Kentucky* rolled through. At least, that's what Dave imagined when he built and based his Tamiya 1/35 scale M3 Lee. "The kit decals were the only ones available to me, and the instructions didn't identify what company, battalion, regiment, or division this tank belonged," Dave says. "So, who knows where *Kentucky* saw service — if it ever did!" He experimented with plumber's putty for the base and to model the gunk caked in the running gear and tracks.





◀ **VICTOR SANTOS**
EDISON, NEW JERSEY

"This was my first try at a winter scheme," Victor says of his Italeri 1/35 scale Jagdpanther. He painted with Model Master enamels protected under a clear flat coat. He mixed tempera and guache, applied it to the model for the whitewash camo, and then sprayed it with water. Victor repeated the process until he achieved the desired effect. "I think it came out well." So do we, Victor!

Nimcon 9

Delayed a year because of the pandemic, the IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers held the Northern Illinois Model Contest on September 18, 2021. The show doubled as the IPMS Region 5 Convention and drew modelers from across the Midwest to McHenry County College. *FSM* editors Tim Kidwell and Aaron Skinner headed that way and here's a selection of the models they saw.

► **PHIL KIRCHMEIER**
WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN

Working with a 75mm figure from FeR Miniatures, Phil painted it with Vallejo acrylics to model Union hero and Medal of Honor recipient Joshua Chamberlain before the Battle of Gettysburg.



ED NOWAK
BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS

After superdetailing the cockpit and wheel wells of Hasegawa's 1/48 scale P-40E, Ed painted it with Mr. Hobby acrylics. Weathering was applied with a combination of artist oils and pastel chalks. The model replicates a Warhawk flown by Dallas Clinger in China in 1943.





JOHN HEALY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Looking for alternative markings for AMG's 1/48 scale Hawker Hart, John found decals for an Irish Air Corps Hawker Hind, a simple conversion that involved adding a tailwheel. He painted the camouflage with Xtracolor and Humbrol enamels masking with Silly Putty and tape.



▲ ROBERT RAVER
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

"This is just a dirty vehicle that was a lot of fun to paint," says Robert of his out-of-the-box build of the HobbyBoss 1/35 scale M35 Mittlere Panzerwagen ADGZ-Steyr. To show the armored car in winter, he used hairspray technique and a wet brush to selectively remove the whitewash and reveal the standard German gray camouflage underneath. Artist oils and pigments added more wear and tear.



◀ **ANTHONY LICHWA**
ALLENTON, WISCONSIN
 Making his build of Revell's 1/72 scale PT boat a little different, Anthony painted it as PT-167 in dazzle camouflage that was applied to disrupt enemy angle and speed calculations. He finished the model with Testors Model Master enamels and extensive masking. Anthony started with white, followed by black, and then green for the decks. The last was applied over hairspray so it could be chipped to reveal the wood base coat.

▶ **JERRY BEN**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Jerry built a HobbyBoss 1/35 scale Škoda PA-2 Turtle out of the box and hand-painted the sharp 1930s camouflage with Vallejo acrylics. To weather the armored car, he applied artist-oil washes to panel lines and pastels mostly focused around the lower hull. The model sits on a foam base with a styrene sidewalk and a street of cobblestones carved from Durham's Rock-Hard Water Putty.



◀ **AUSTIN PAXTON**
EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS

To animate his out-of-the-box build of Bandai's 1/12 scale Boba Fett, Austin built a base from spare parts so he could suspend the *Star Wars* bounty hunter in the air over a Jawa encampment on Tatooine. He painted the scene with Vallejo and Ammo by Mig Jimenez acrylics.



◀ **JEREMY OLSEN**
MILTON, WISCONSIN

Snowplows take a beating in Wisconsin winters, as Jeremy's model shows. His modifications to Revell's 1/24 scale '78 GMC pickup snowplow include scratchbuilt window cranks, door handles inside and out, key plate, CB radio antenna, new plow chain and hydraulic lines, acetate rear and side windows, and details in the bed. After layering on red oxide and black Krylon primers, he sprayed the body with hairspray so he could effectively "chip" the subsequent coat of Tamiya acrylic with water and a stiff paintbrush. More weathering was done with artist oils for the extensive rust and dirt and exhaust stains at the back.



▼ **DAVID FUSSICHEN**
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

David amazed attendees with his superdetailed and lighted Tamiya 1/32 scale F-15E. He loaded the big Strike Eagle with plenty of aftermarket and scratchbuilt parts; the lights come from Magic Scale Modeling. Over a black base coat, he airbrushed the camouflage in modulated layers of mostly MRP lacquers and weathered with artist oils and pencils. The wooden base topped with a styrene tarmac hides the power supply that is connected to the LEDs through connections in the landing gear.





▲ **MATTHEW DILLON**
AURORA, COLORADO

Just having some fun building The Paddy Wagon, a classic Tom Daniels design from Monogram, Matthew painted it with enamels.



◀ **JOHN WERWIE**
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The curious hellos from a couple of Russian children can't distract the Soviet troops in the SU-76M from their mission in John's 1/35 scale diorama. He painted the Tamiya self-propelled gun with Vallejo acrylics. The house was built using wooden coffee stirrers with an aluminum-foil gutter hung with stretched sprue coated with Woodland Scenics Water Effects for icicles. He collected vegetation from the shore of Lake Michigan to add foliage to the scene; the snow comes from Hudson & Allen Studios.



▲ **CHRIS CHAPMAN**
NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS

Wanting to depict an abandoned Finnish tank, Chris put Tamiya's 1/35 scale BT-42 on groundwork made from insulation foam covered with Celluclay, kitty litter, and clumps of scenic grass. He airbrushed Tamiya acrylics over Silly Putty masks for the three-color camouflage, and weathered it with artist oils, Ammo of Mig Jimenez washes, and artist pigments.



◀ **MARK DANKO**
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

After detailing ICM's 1/48 scale Junker Ju 88A-11 with Eduard pre-painted photo-etched metal and seat belts in the cockpit, Mark painted the Mediterranean Theater camouflage freehand with Mr. Hobby acrylics.

Ready for launch!

An old kit and scratchbuilding come together for an incredible model

BY FREDERICK W. GORE

Inspired by “Modeling a U.S. Navy catapult in 1/48 scale” by David Hodges in the August 1987 *FineScale Modeler*, I planned to build a Monogram 1/48 scale OS2U Kingfisher along with a scratchbuilt deck-mounted catapult. However, a friend of mine returned from visiting the Battleship Texas State Historical Park with *Warship Pictorial 4 USS Texas BB-35* (Classic Warship Books, ISBN 978-0-96548-293-6). Inside were photos of the catapult mounted to the top of the No. 3 gun turret, and my focus immediately shifted — to the top of the gun my catapult would go!

All it took to get the blueprints for the firing mechanism was a conversation with the museum staff at the historical park over the phone. Between the blueprints, the plans for the aircraft carriage from the August 1987 *FSM*, and photos from the picture book, I was set to begin.

I made the ship’s deck from .030-inch styrene sheet scored with a hobby knife to make the planks. The deck hatches are .020-inch styrene sheet, and I fashioned clasps and bolts from .010- and .020-inch styrene rod. Similarly, I cut nuts from .030-inch hexagonal rod. My magnifiers were in perpetual use just to see my work!

For the turret, I scanned and scaled the color plan and elevation views from *Warship Pictorial 4*. Some dimensions written on the sectional views didn’t match other dimensions on the same drawing. So, I fudged a bit to keep the visual proportions as accurate as I could. To make the rotating drum, I shaped .030-inch styrene sheet into a circle and added “spoke” bracing inside to reinforce the top, which became the base for the gun housing.

The owner of a local woodshop thought turning the barrels would be a unique experience from the usual colonial chair or bookcase. I brought my plans to him, and he made both barrels out of maple on a lathe. He even hollowed them, which I filled with oak countersink plugs to make tampions.

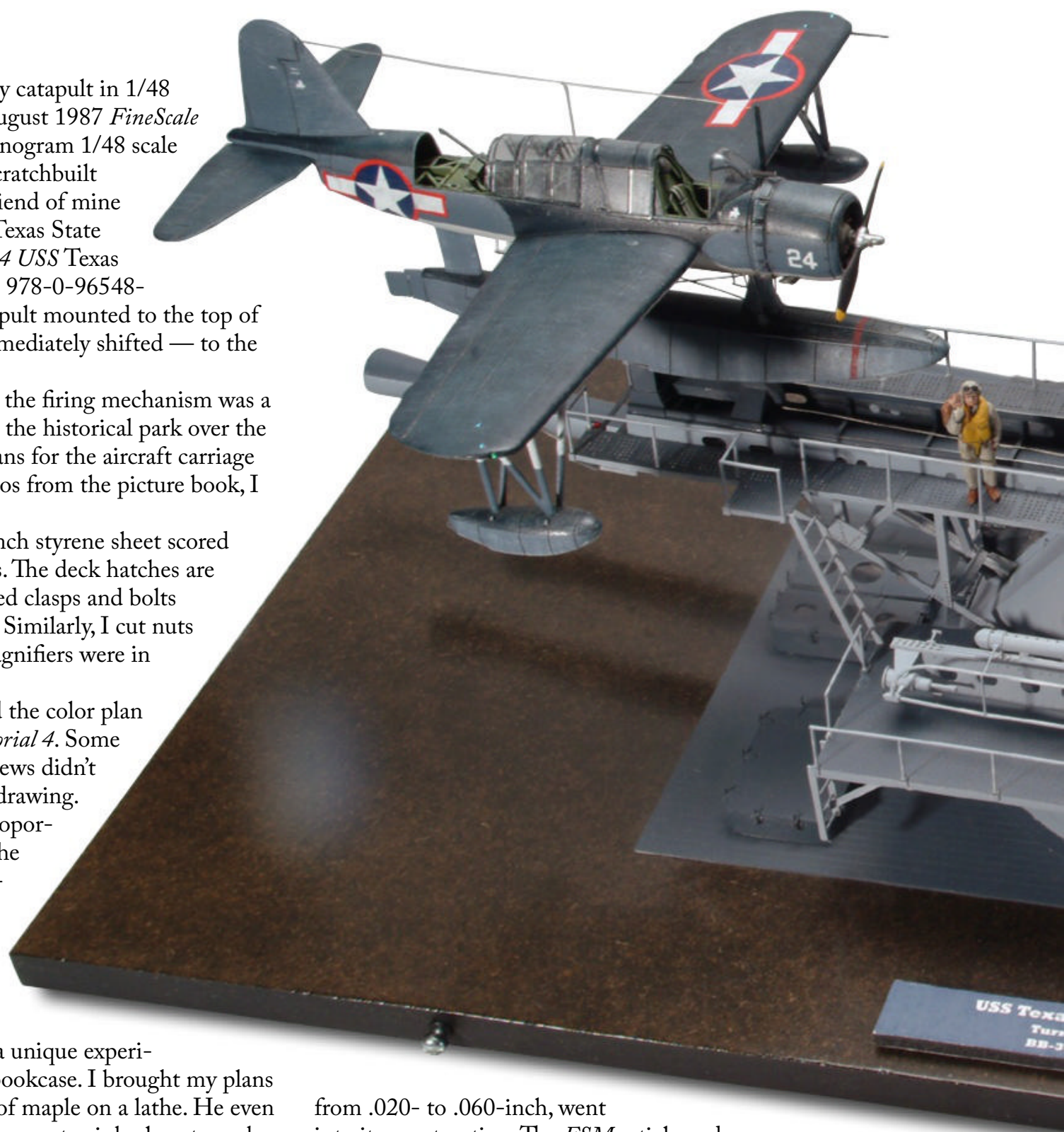
The turret housing was difficult because of its compound curves and sloping form and took me several tries to get right. I built a skeleton from .030-inch styrene rod and glued .020-inch styrene sheet for the sides and top. I scored the lines for the armor plates according to references. To make the blast bags, I repurposed foil from empty wine bottles.

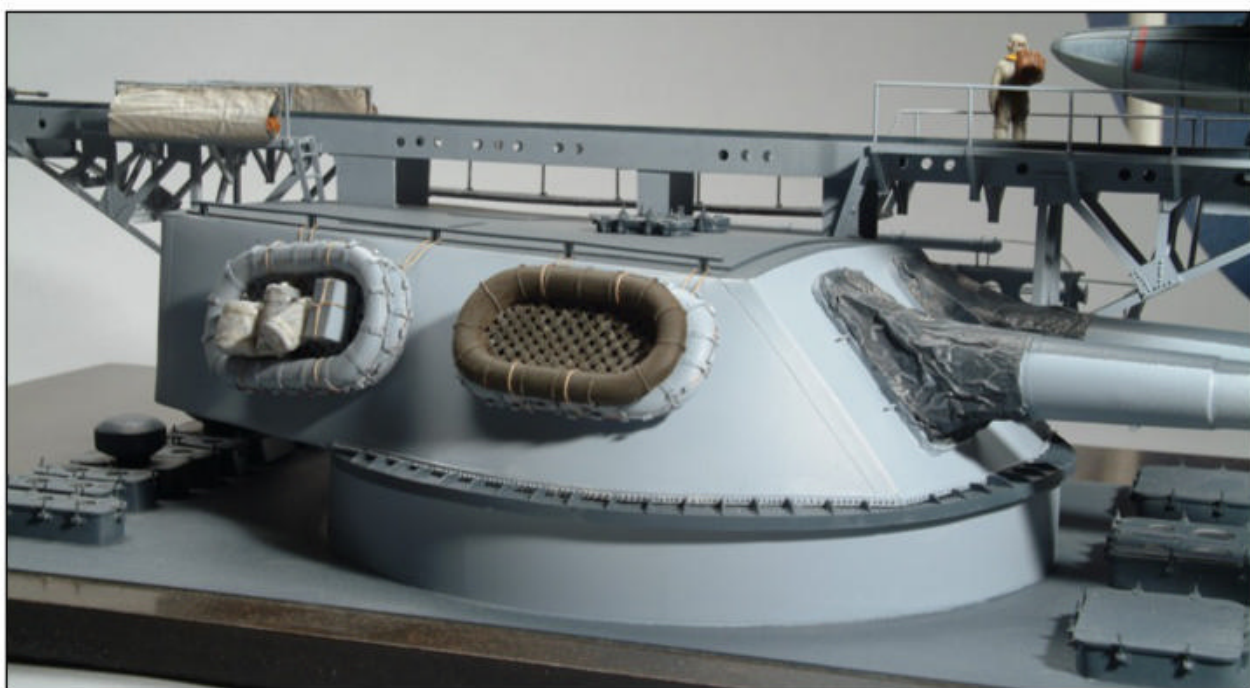
Without reliable diagrams and only grainy photos to guide me, I built the catapult rail and structural bracing relying on my training as an architect. All manner and size of styrene strip and rod,

from .020- to .060-inch, went into its construction. The *FSM* article and photos of the *Texas* proved invaluable to building the catapult’s aircraft carriage. I made the walkways from styrene sheet and angle for bracing and drilled each hole individually with a .018 bit. Not a quick process!

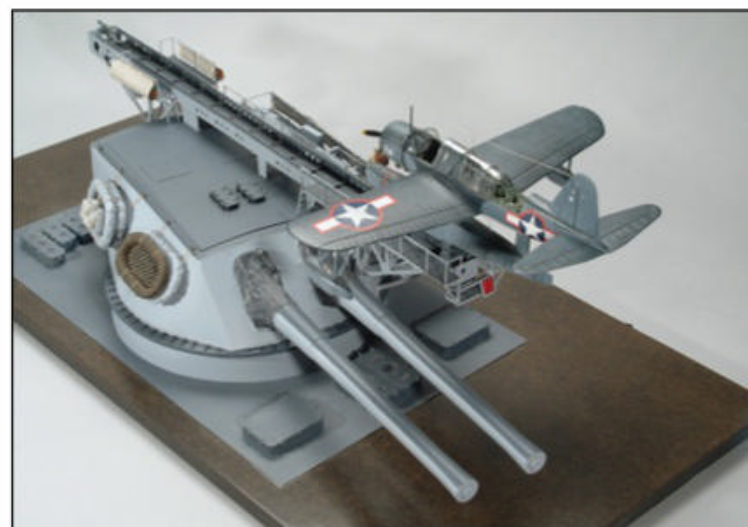
I carved the life rafts from basswood and made the webbing and floater net bags from wine-bottle foil.

For the Kingfisher, I replaced the cockpit, cowling, and main-wing floats with parts from Cutting Edge. Brass wire braces run from the fuselage to the Edo float. After too many accidents, I replaced the pitot tube with brass rod and the radio aerial strut in

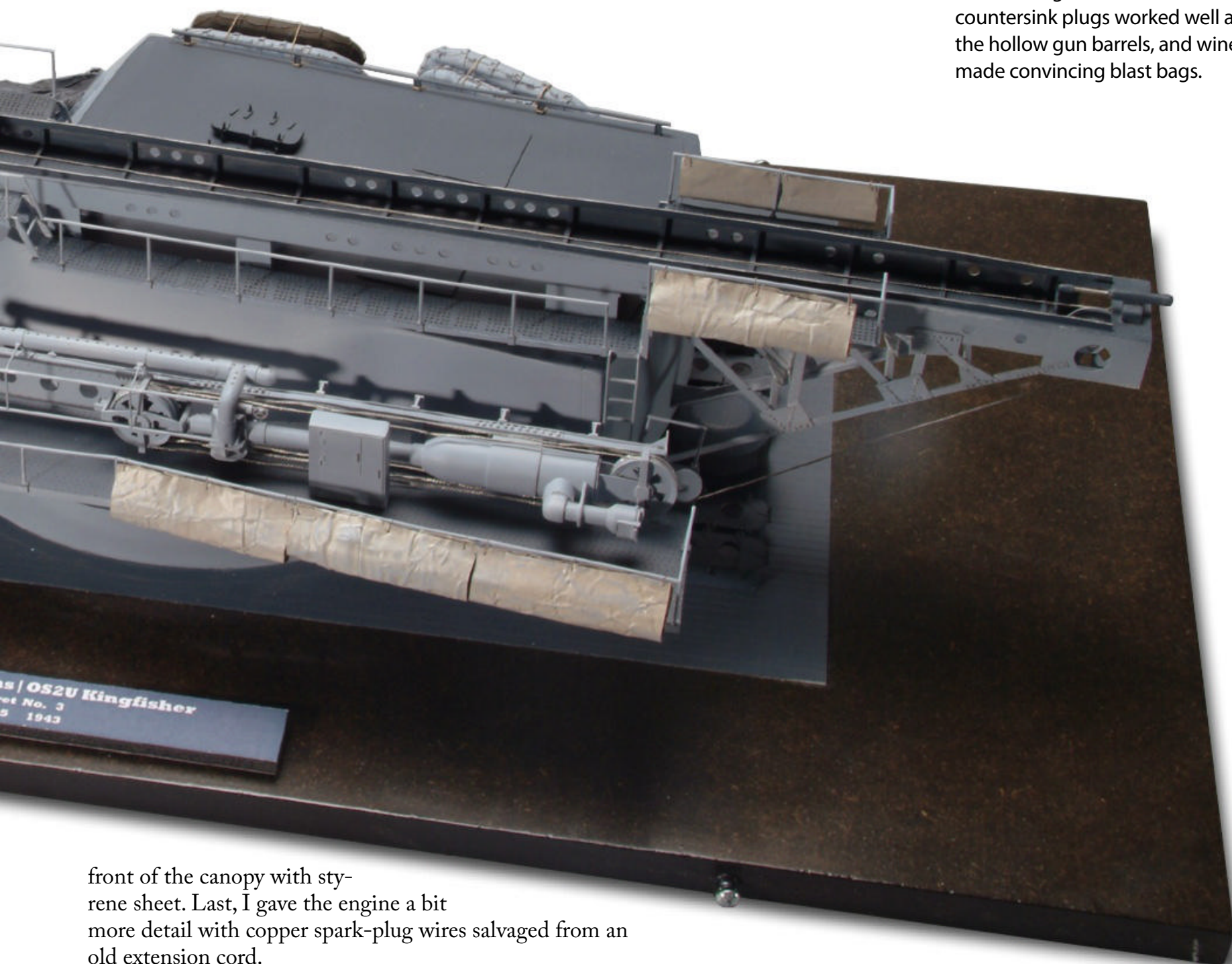




Frederick carved the life rafts from basswood and practically everything else on the gun turret from styrene sheet, strip, and rod. The turret's compound curves took him several tries to get right. The joints for the armor plates are scored into the styrene sheet and give a sense of the steel's thickness on the real battleship's gun housing.



A local woodworker helped Frederick and turned the gun barrels from solid maple. Oak countersink plugs worked well as tampions for the hollow gun barrels, and wine-bottle foil made convincing blast bags.



front of the canopy with styrene sheet. Last, I gave the engine a bit more detail with copper spark-plug wires salvaged from an old extension cord.

I nearly gave up four times thinking I had bitten off more than I could chew. With my limited research materials, I had to intuit a good deal of the construction. But patience, stamina, and trusting my gut won out. **FSM**

NordicCon 2021

NordicCon 2021 model show and contest was once again a success with plenty of stunning scale models on display. Organized by the Twin City Aero Historians, RPM Model Club, Oddball Modelers Group, Minnesota Military Figure Society, and Minnesota Scale Modelers on Saturday, Sept. 25, the theme was Legends of the 20th Century.

BY JIM KAMPMANN AND BOB MADERICH II
PHOTOS BY SEAN BRZOZOWSKI

► **JEFFREY CAMPBELL**
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

Jeffrey's 1/72 scale A-6A Intruder won gold. A Fujimi kit, Jeffrey mounted it on a "ground blur" base.



STEVE GUTHMILLER
HAWLEY, MINNESOTA

Steve's unique 1964 Pontiac Grand Prix showcases his many modeling talents and captured gold in the Replica Stock Automotive category.



ROB ZIELINSKI
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

Rob's Eduard 1/48 scale Spitfire Mk.IXc features a resin engine and detailed gun bay. This beautiful model earned Rob a first-place award.



DEAN KUITUNEN
HANOVER, MINNESOTA

Dean weathered his 1965 Chevy Pickup to replicate a daily vehicle from the Iron Range. His talents were rewarded by receiving first place in the Best Truck category.





**▲► BOB MADERICH II & BILL READ
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

Two Copper State Models 1/35 scale Minervas were entered in this year's show, and both won gold! Bob's rendition features lots of detail, and Bill's pale blue entry sits atop a cobblestone street.



**KEVIN RICKBEIL
RICE, MINNESOTA**

Kevin did a wonderful job on his Tamiya 1/48 scale Kawasaki Ki-61 Hein.

DOUG LONG
BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA

Beautiful paint and decal work on this Jaguar race car won Doug gold in the Racing Closed Wheel Automotive category.



◀ **STEVE SHAFFER**
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

Steve's nicely done Tamiya 1/48 scale P-38F/G earned him a first-place award.

**CHUCK BAUER
NORTH OAKS, MINNESOTA**

Chuck picked up a gold award with his 1/350 scale Italian heavy cruiser *Zara*, which features many scratchbuilt parts.

**◀ ERICK ZABEL
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

This year's theme award was won by Erik and his masterful Mickey Thompson *Challenger I*.

**▶ PATRICK EDWARDS
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS,
MINNESOTA**

This replica of President George Bush's TBF Avenger was built by Patrick from a 1/48 scale Accurate Miniatures kit.





**TOBY HALLIDAY
WACONIA, MINNESOTA**

This year's Best Automotive Engine Award was won by Toby and his replica stock 1969 Dodge Dart.



**◀ CURTIS KNIGHT
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS,
MINNESOTA**

Curtis won gold with his 1/72 scale Macchi C.200. He stated with a HobbyBoss kit and scratchbuilt the landing bays and cockpit.

Sci-fi & Real Space



▲ **ANTHONY QUARTARO**
MANTECA, CALIFORNIA

Other than repositioning a hand so the trooper is giving the thumbs up, Anthony built MPC's 1/11 scale *Star Wars* speeder bike out of the box. "The base was made from saw dust!" he says. "I brushed Mod Podge over Styrofoam glued to a base of wood, sprinkled saw dust over it layering it a few times, then sealed it with watered down Mod Podge and painted it." He added static grass and made leaves from paper, glue, and wire, then painted and attached.



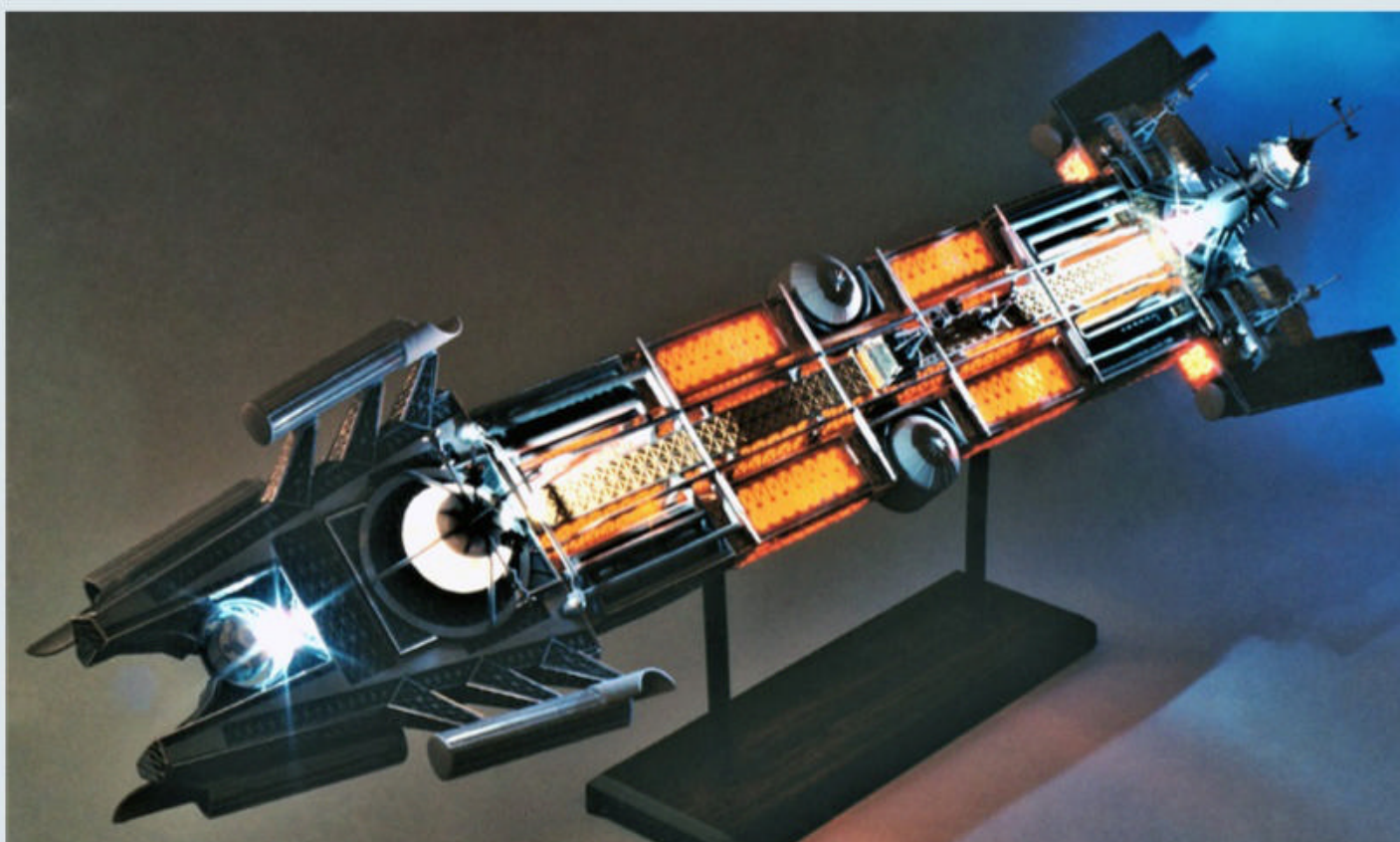
◀ **KEVEN HAGEN**
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

To detail Bandai's 1/144 scale Real Grade Zaku 2, Keven added photo-etched metal parts, replaced the standard tubing with paracord, and subbed in a reflective jewel for the eye. He painted the Gundam mecha with Vallejo Model Color acrylics and Mr. Color lacquers.



BILL PLUNK
EL PASO, TEXAS

Bill spent a week building a Moebius Battlestar *Galactica* as a gift. He finished the out-of-the-box project with Testors Model Master enamels.



▲ MIKE WALSTON

HIGHLANDS RANCH, COLORADO

Mike modified MPC's 1/4225 scale USS *Cygnus* from the 1979 movie, *The Black Hole*, by cutting out sections of the ship and replacing them with 1/32-inch thick plastic pieces he designed on CorelDraw and backlit with LEDs. Engraved black and chrome gold aluminum plates detail other areas, with unlit parts painted flat black and Bauhaus gold. "Unfortunately, this model was nearly destroyed when it fell into the black hole of a moving van when we came to Colorado," Mike says. "But I am hoping to restore it to its former glory soon."



◀ PHIL PUCHER

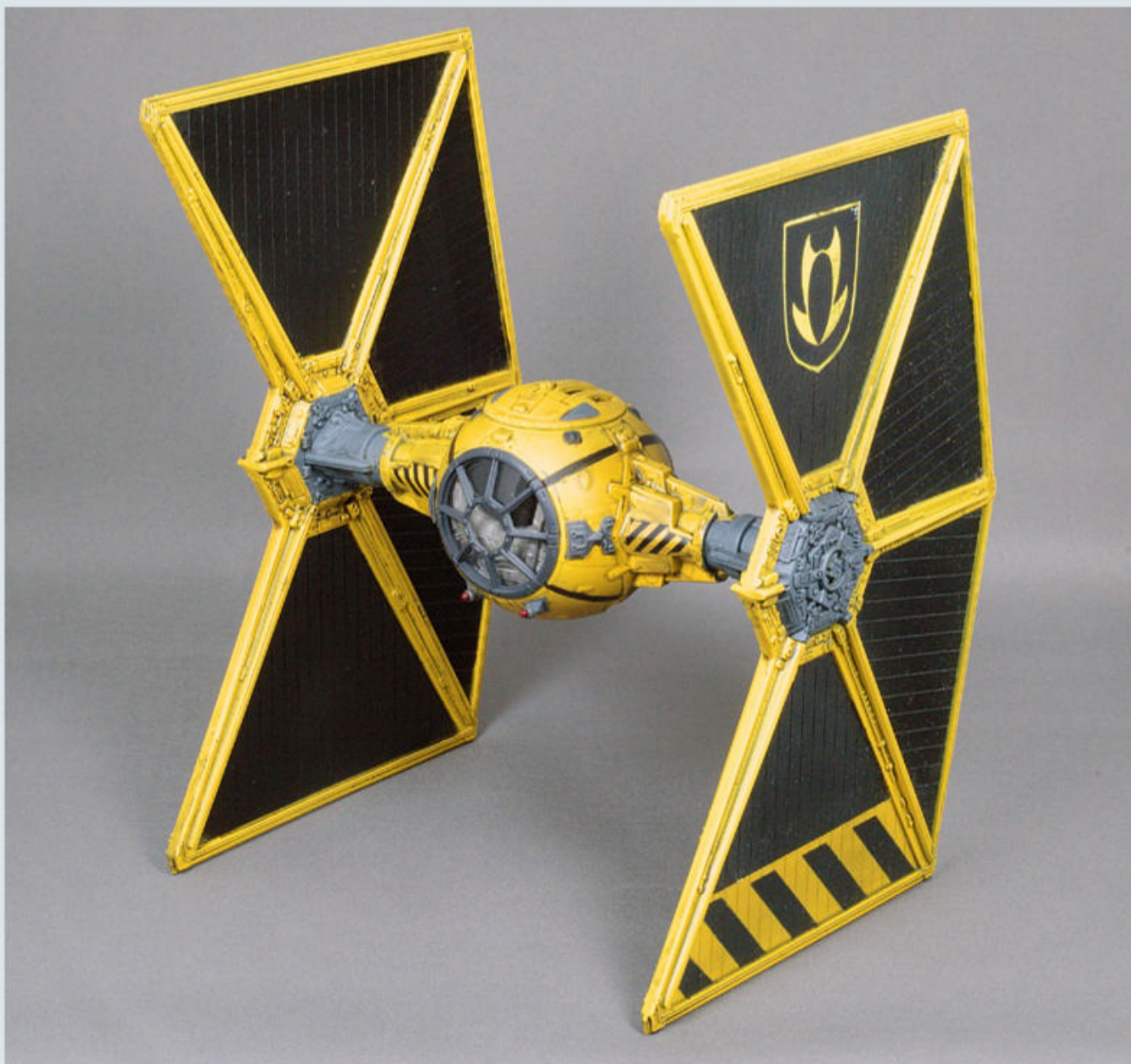
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

In Phil's diorama, "The One That Got Away", an experimental Navy submersible became ensnared in a heavy duty fishing net. The sub was able to free itself, but was brought to a remote location to have the remains of the net and cable removed. Phil built the scene around an Industria Mechanika 1/35 scale Fantastical Fish-shaped Submersible painted with Testors Model Master enamels and weathered with artist oils. "I modified the head to form a hinge so it could be opened and the detail in the control room could be seen," he says. After drilling holes for brass tubing, Phil built the cradle from Plastruct styrene on a rail car from Sabre Models.



**▲ HAGEN MILLER
WINSOR, COLORADO**

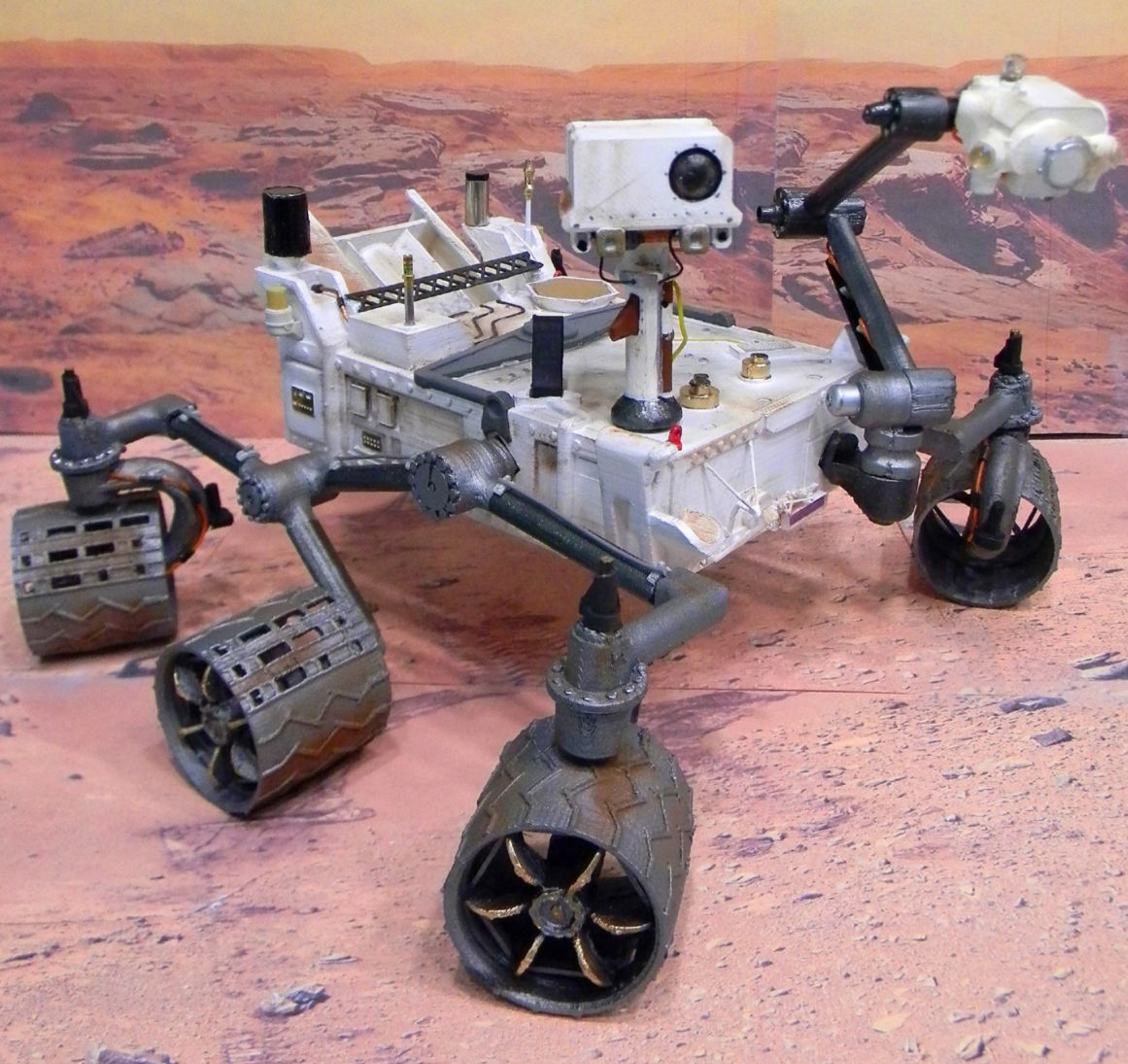
Hagen spent 11 months lighting and detailing Polar Lights' 1/350 scale *Star Trek* USS *Enterprise* refit and finished it as USS *Endeavour*. He says it is by far the most involved and detailed kit he's built.



◀ **JOHN KLEIN**
KING CITY, ONTARIO,
CANADA

"I modified one of the TIE/LNs from the old AMT 1/51 scale 2-pack to represent the Mining Guild variant of the Empire's front line starfighter as seen in *Star Wars Rebels*," John says. "This variant had two forward solar panels removed to increase pilot visibility, but the diminished power, coupled with the added drain of a life support system, left this ship drastically underpowered. This, as well as changing the ship's center-of-mass, made it difficult to control and maneuver in a dogfight."





◀ **JONATHAN CAMPBELL**
WHITE, GEORGIA

Inspired by a shot in *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, Jonathan converted a Fine Molds 1/144 scale *Millennium Falcon* into one of the famous ship's earlier guises, *Stellar Envoy*. In addition to painting the blue Republic Senate markings with Polly Scale acrylics and lots of masks, he changed the quad turbolaser turrets to standard twin mounts and added lights.

▲ **STEVE WELLMAN**
ELLENTON, FLORIDA

"I got a Dremel Digilab 3D20 printer as a gift," Steve says. "After numerous failures, I was able to get my computer and the 3D printer to talk to each other to print this *Curiosity* Mars rover. It has artistic license, so it is not exactly accurate." He painted the robot explorer with Model Master, Floquil, and Alclad II colors, and weathered with pastels and powders. "I believe there will be more and more 3D-printed models presented at shows and in magazines," he says. "It was time consuming. Printing the parts took close to 50 hours. Then there is creating the detail from wire, sheet plastic, and raiding the spare parts box. Never throw anything away if you are a model builder."

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, 2021. Hundreds of people attended, and the contest tables were packed with 780 scale creations. *FineScale Modeler* editor Aaron Skinner attended and here's a taste of what he saw.



▲ **BRIAN DUDDY**
DAYTON, OHIO

We can abide Brian's model of The Dude's car from *The Big Lebowski*. He modified Revell's 1/25 scale Ford Torino with damage, bullet holes, suitcase, bowling bag, and "The Rug" license plates. He painted it using Tamiya acrylics. Hairspray helped finish its "green with brown rust coloration." A scratchbuilt base and sign puts the car at the In-N-Out Burger on Camrose.

◀ **MARK FRALEY**
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Going for the classic TV show look, Marc painted a Blackheart Enterprises 1/7 scale bust of Lily Munster in grayscale using Scale 75 acrylics. He airbrushed the base colors and hand-painted details.



▲ DAN GORDON
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

"Robots are cool!" says Dan. That's definitely true of his 1/20 scale Krote that he painted with acrylics using hairspray to distress the winter camouflage over multiple shades of gray. Plenty of oil washes and streaking, chipping, and more weathering followed. "So much fun," he says. To display the Hasegawa Maschinen Krieger model, he sculpted the terrain with mud and snow.



▲ DOUGLAS SCOTT
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Interpreting what Hera Syndulla's A-wing would have looked like after *Star Wars Rebels*, Douglas painted Bandai's 1/72 scale model with Vallejo acrylics and used decals from Cosmos Models. Salt masking adding chipping to the paint. "I used Aves Apoxie Sculpt to create the [lekku] (head-tails) on Hera's head," he says.



JOHN ROSS
BROOKLYN PARK, MINNESOTA

For a realistic paneled finish on Polar Lights' 1/1000 scale USS Enterprise NX-01, John painted it with Testors Model Master Metalizer Steel and applied Acreation decals for the Aztec pattern.

► **CHRISTOPHER HAYS**
O'FALLON, MISSOURI

Christopher enhanced a Cretaceous Creations 1/6 scale troodonts with cactus on the base and grass in the nest. He painted the dinosaurs with airbrushed acrylics, washes, and artist-oil blending.



▼ **GREG DOMIAN**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Working with Jeff Yager's 1/6 scale gillman from *Revenge of the Creature*, Greg re-sculpted some details lost in molding and airbrushed it with acrylics. Washes popped the skin texture and he dry-brushed the anchor and chain.



► **RANDY VAN DYKE**
ADA, MICHIGAN

To give a Filmy's Girls 1/5 scale Allura a metal-look spacesuit, Randy applied Alclad II lacquers and used SMS flip-flop for the colored panels, masking with Silly Putty when needed. The model originally came with a solid base. "I ... replaced it with 1/4-inch thick translucent blue Plexiglas to light the base," Randy says.





◀ **CHARLES HAINES**
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

"Sole Survivors" is the title of Charles' *Alien* diorama. He combined a NY3DCreations figure of Ellen Ripley and the *Nostromo's* cat, Jonesy, with a base scratchbuilt using PVC and plastic with a flashing red warning light. To enhance the figure, he detailed the flame unit and added a microphone. The model was painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with pastels.

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▼ **JOHN EVERETT**
PARKER, COLORADO

A fan of *The Expanse*, John scratchbuilt a 1/72 scale *Rocinante* using styrene sheet, resin castings, and brass. He primed the 2-foot replica with Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black before painting the individual tiles on the body five shades of gray (mixed from Tamiya acrylics) using masks made on a CNC cutter.



Figures

JOE SALAMIDA

CLARK MILLS, NEW YORK

Using epoxy putty, Joe converted a Verlinden bust of Banastre Tarleton into an officer of the British 16th Light Dragoons during the American Revolution. He finished the piece with Jo Sonja and Vallejo acrylics and Humbrol enamels.



▲ LUKASZ ZIOLKOWSKI

LODZ, LODSKIE, POLAND

Feeling inspired, Lukasz bought a Sigurt the Slash resin bust from Ścibor Miniatures. He finished the fearsome dwarf with artist oils and a smattering of acrylic paints.



▲ **JAMES DE PIETRO**
WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY

"I chose Severax, Legions of the Black Sun, from Black Sun Miniatures mainly because he looked so cool and had great detail," James says. He painted the 75mm resin figure with base coats of Testors and Tamiya acrylics followed by artist oils to finish.

► **DANIEL DUNA**
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Daniel finished "Leader of the Plains," a 200mm resin bust from La Meridiana Miniatures, with Citadel and Vallejo acrylics. "The fit was a struggle, but the results were worth it!" he says.



▼ **JAMES DELMAR**
MURRYSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

This bust from SK Miniatures sculpted by Carl Reid depicts a Vietnam soldier carrying an M79 Grenade launcher. James painted it with Andrea and Vallejo colors and added some grit with Ammo by Mig Jimenez pigments. He mounted the miniature on a replica of an M79 Grenade. "I was a Grenadier in the Vietnam era," James says. "When I saw this miniature, I just had to paint it."



▲ **ALAN CROCKETT**
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

Alan finished an Alpine Miniature 1/16 scale MG 42 gunner figure with Acrylicos Vallejo paints. "I chose this figure due to the detail and craftsmanship," he says.

MMSI 2021

FineScale Modeler editors Aaron Skinner and Tim Kidwell visited the Military Miniature Society of Illinois contest in Schaumburg, Illinois in October 2021. Hundreds of fantastic painted military, sci-fi, and fantasy figures, dioramas, and vehicles graced the tables giving *FSM* plenty to shoot. Feast your eyes on these incredible models!



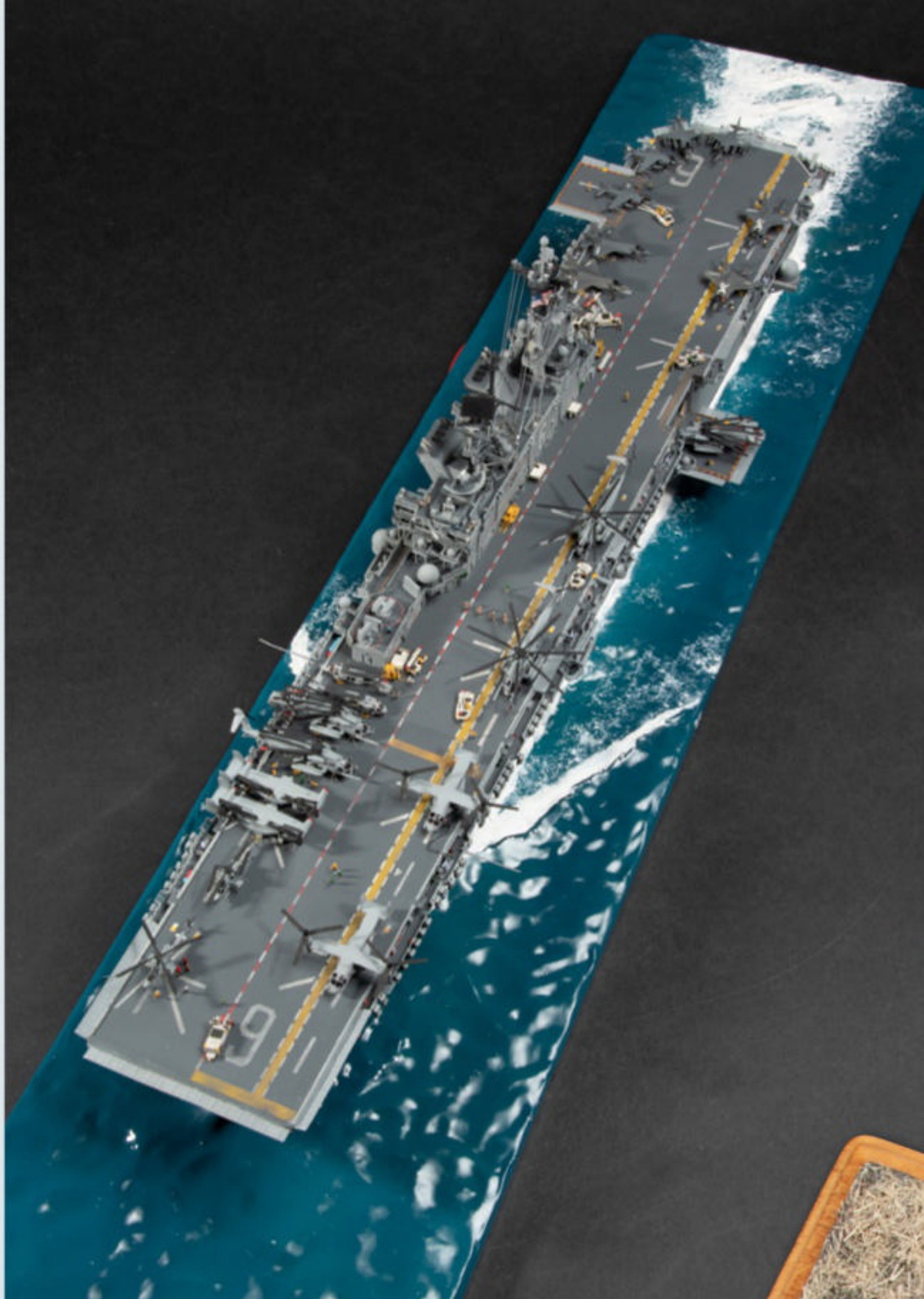
▲ **DAVID ACKER**
LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

To finish Young Miniatures 1/10 scale Roman cavalry commander, David hand-painted Vallejo and AK Interactive acrylics.



▲ **KENNETH CHILDRES**
SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS

Modeling a German officer lost in the snow, Kenneth painted an MJ Miniatures 75mm figure with acrylics from P3, Vallejo, and Tamiya. After roughing out the shading with an airbrush, he refined the effects by hand. Pigments added dirt to the knees, boots, and cuffs. The groundwork is Woodland Scenics snow over Apoxie Sculpt.



▲ **JOHN LEYLAND**
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

After opening the deck doors on Orange Hobby's 1/700 scale USS *America* (LHA-6), John scratchbuilt interiors for the hangar and vehicle decks and lit them with LEDs. He also scratchbuilt replacement masts. The amphibious assault ship was mostly painted with enamels over Mr. Surfacer 1500 primer; blue and brown washes break up the basic gray camo. For the base, he sculpted waves on Plexiglas with Liquitex Gel Medium.

► **STEVE HUSTAD**
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

Inspired by photos from the Battle of Britain, Steve posed a 1/72 scale Bf 109E-4 crashed in sheep paddock. The fighter was kitbashed from Tamiya and ICM Messerschmitts. The farmer is a modified Preiser figure and Steve scratchbuilt the flock of a sheep.



▲ **RICH ERICKSON**
MILAN, INDIANA

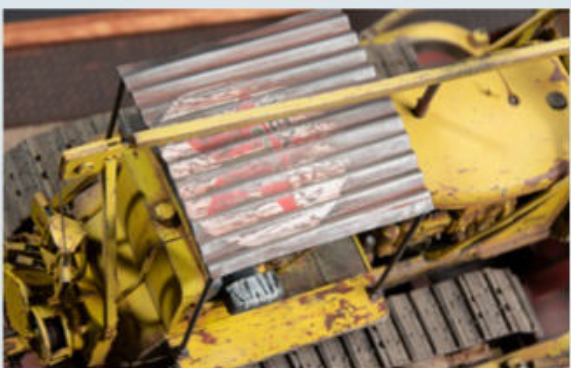
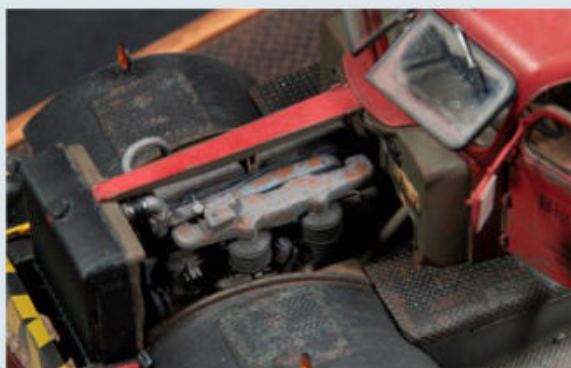
For his realistic take on Lisa Hayes, a character from the 1980s anime TV series *Robotech*, Rich created a computer image and produced the model on 3D printer. He painted her with acrylics, airbrushing base coats and hand-painting shadows and highlights.


▲ BOB MASON
LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Bob painted Young Miniatures' 1/10 scale Templar sergeant with acrylics for the clothing and artist oils for the face.

BOB HICKL
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Bob improved Revell's 1/6 scale Flash Gordon by replacing the two-part clear helmet with a Christmas ornament and shaving off the molded hoses in favor of braided stainless-steel wire. He placed Flash on a base carved from balsa foam.


▼ ROBERT RAVER
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

After World War II, a lot of surplus equipment found its way into civilian hands, something Robert depicted with a Merit 1/35 scale M19 tank transporter and MiniArt bulldozer. There are too many modifications to mention as he adapted the vehicles for civilian use, but he painted the distressed finishes using the hairspray technique for chipping.





▲ **SCOTT PRIMEAU**
HARRIS, MINNESOTA

Taking a different tack with Bandai's 1/12 scale Star Wars Stormtrooper, Scott damaged the helmet to reveal a resin head he placed inside. He modified the full figure into a bust, painted it with artist oils over acrylics, and then placed it in front of a hand-sculpted Galactic Empire flag in a frame.



JOHN JEFFRIES
FREEPORT, NEW YORK

John sculpted a 90mm medieval knight hunting boar and painted it with acrylics.



▲ **KRESTON PECKHAM**
MENASHA, WISCONSIN

Kreston combined Copper State Models' 1/35 scale Minerva armored car with Model Cellar figures for his World War I scene set on the Belgian Frontier in 1914. He painted the vehicle with acrylics and used artist oils on the figures.

► **PHIL KIRCHMEIER**
WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN

To put Jeff Shiu Miniatures 120mm Marines in a Pacific War environment, Phil embedded their feet in resin water on a round picture frame. He replaced the gun barrels with brass tube and painted the figures with Jo Sonja acrylics.



▼ **DAN TISONCIK**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Dan's two dioramas captures scenes from both sides of the Battle of Stalingrad, the Germans in Air War Over Stalingrad and an the Soviets in Village on the Volga. Both are built on Celluclay groundwork with balsa wood, plaster, and foam board structures. He recruited both armies from Warriors, Evolution, Verlinden, and Stalingrad Miniatures.





▲ **WENDY RAFALSKI**
DORR, MICHIGAN

Wendy finished the bust, Cursed, from Creepytables with Vallejo, Andrea, and Golden acrylics using layering and wet blending. The figure is based on a Polish legend.

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BOB SARNOWSKI
SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

During the 1811 Battle of Barrosa, Sgt. Patrick Masterson of the 87th Regiment of Foot, an Irish unit of the British army, captured a French eagle. Bob painted a Stormtroopers 1/16 scale figure of Masterson with Winsor & Newton artist oil paints over acrylic base coats.

Is it a model or the real deal?

Photographing models outdoors produces stunning results

As model builders, we work to make our projects look as real possible,” says John Adelman of Peosta, Iowa. While shooting models in a studio can create impressive results, what if you don’t have that controlled environment? You can still get excellent photos, and maybe even better ones by “shooting images outdoors, with puffy clouds and natural sunlight.”

For his outdoor photo sessions, John uses a 2- x 2-foot base of plywood with sheets of fine-grit sandpaper glued to it, that he air-brushed shades of gray, sand, and white to simulate tarmac. He ran a fine-tipped black marker along the sandpaper joins to look like caulking tar.

John levels the base with the horizon at an airport local to him, sometimes even including the buildings in the background. Making sure the sun is behind him, he positions the camera lens to simulate a person’s point of view to capture what they would see as they approach the aircraft. John locks his tripod in place, manually sets his camera’s aperture to f/22, and then just waits for the clouds to drift into position before snapping his shots.



A studio shot: John says he couldn’t resist building this Tamiya 1/32 scale North American P-51D. After construction, he painted flat black, coated with Pledge Floor Gloss (PFG), and pre-shaded panel lines, machine gun bay doors, and some access panels with Alclad II Dark Aluminium. He followed up with Alclad II Aluminium. A thin dark gray wash brings out the details. The markings came from Eagle Editions, and John painted an Ultracast resin pilot figure to go with it.



This Hasegawa 1/32 scale Bf 109G-14 was painted with factory splinter camouflage colors RLM 74 and RLM 75 on top and RLM 76 underneath. John applied the decals and protected them with PFG before airbrushing thinned off-white, gray, and light brown for the winter camo. When dry, he scuffed the paint with a 3000-grit sanding pad to replicate wear on raised surfaces. Note the intentional overspray from the spinner on the prop blades.



For another studio shot, John painted a Tamiya 1/32 scale F-16 Block 30 a combination of Model Master Dark Charcoal Black, Light Gray, and White — perfect for an Alaska snow-bound camouflage scheme! He finished the exhaust blades Alclad II Aluminium. A wash of dark charcoal accentuated recessed details and the afterburner's interior surfaces. He simulated the static dischargers with fishing line thinner than the kit's metal rods.



To get the natural metal finish on this Hobbycraft 1/32 scale MiG-15, John painted the airframe flat black, sanded, and then glossed with PFG. He airbrushed Alclad II Aluminium vertically to conform with the fuselage contours, creating a subtle streaking effect. A black wash brought out the recessed details.



John masked and painted the yellow on this Hasegawa 1/32 scale North American P-51D's empennage and cut the black squares from the kit's decal sheets to add them one at a time. **FSM**



Scale Autos



**▲ DAVID CAMPBELL
YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA**

Built straight of the box (with the exception of a 1932 Ford coupe air cleaner), David's Revell 1/25 scale 1966 Ford Bronco would make any one green with envy. He finished with Tamiya Light Green and applied a single kit decal on the hood. "I have always liked the first-generation Broncos, so, when this came out, I had to get one," David says.



▲◀ **D.J. WILLIAMS**
BROOK PARK, OHIO

D.J. wanted to build a '57 Chevy gasser that looked tough and had the correct stance. He detailed an MPC 1/25 scale Spirit of '57 kit with watch parts for carb linkages, copper wire brake and fuel lines, beads for line fittings, and many parts from his spares box. After modifying the hood to open and close with the fuel tank in the grille, he painted with Rust-Oleum Orange and Tamiya Pearl White.

▶ **TED BUNN**
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

Feeling nostalgic for a model he built as a kid, Ted decided to have another go at a Monogram 1/25 scale Beer Wagon. This time, he modified it to be an RC Cola Truck, which, not surprisingly, he used to drink as a kid. He painted with Alclad II Cobalt Blue Candy Lacquer, and AK Interactive and Vallejo metallic paints. He achieved the wood grain for the bed and barrels with Tamiya paints and artist oils. He punched the headlights from Bare-Metal Foil and made the taillight lenses with red decals from his spares box.





CHARLES THOMPSON
ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Inspired by Jeff Gordon's blue No. 24 NASCAR ride, Charles turned his attention to a Revell 1/24 scale Ferrari F430. After building the model box stock, he painted its exterior Tamiya Metallic Blue and Semigloss Black inside. He waxed and polished the body and colored the window surrounds with black marker and black paint.





◀ **RAPHAEL TRUFFI BORTHOLUZZI**
SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

To make his "Rusty Ranch" diorama, Raphael customized an AMT 1949 Mercury coupe and a Maisto die-cast 1903 Harley Davidson. He distressed the balsa wood used on the fence and scratchbuilt the metal gate and mailbox from styrene. For the Mercury's rusty patina, Raphael painted with acrylics and artist oils and followed up with rust-colored powdered pigments.

▼ **CHRIS FILTZ**
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

In two days, Chris build a Hasegawa 1/35 scale Zaxis 135US Excavator out of the box. He painted it Rust-Oleum Fire Orange, weathered with craft acrylics, washes made from the same, Tamiya weathering powders, and tile grout.



▲ **HANS DEWALD**
SPRINGS, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA

Hans paired an Italeri 1/24 scale Mercedes-Benz 2238S tractor with an Italeri Topas heavy tank trailer to build a BP tanker rig. He hand-painted both with Humbrol enamels.



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▼► WILLIAM HORTON WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

"I was fascinated by all the food items and wanted to try my painting techniques on them," William says of building Ebbro's 1/24 scale Citroën H mobile kitchen. "The basic truck is rather simple, but the food items make it interesting!"



► MASSIMO SANTAROSSA CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

This 1972 Chevey work truck started as an AMT/Ertl 1/25 scale kit. Inspired by a photo of his father-in-law's pickup, Massimo painted with Model Master colors and dirtied it up by airbrushing a very thin mixture of brown paint and tacking on some grass bits with diluted white glue. He made hay bales made from styrofoam blocks covered in dried grass clippings. He followed advice from an article in the February 2000 issue of *FSM* to make the rust holes. We definitely like seeing how-to modeling advice put to good use!





◀ **MIKE WODKA**
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Part of a series of motorcycle models he's working on for The Barber Motorcycle Museum, here's Mike's 1967 Honda 350cc six-cylinder bike. Along with its 250cc cousin, it won all but one of the GP races that year. The model began life as a Protar kit. Mike's modifications include fabricating upper and rear fairing supports, lacing the wheels, fully detailing the engine, fabricating the chain, and adding mounts to make the fairing removable.

▼ ▶ **SCOTT GLATSTEIN**
MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

Scott not only built Hubley's classic 1/18 scale metal 1932 Duesenberg SJ Phaeton, but he piled on improvements including functioning hinges to display the hood open or closed, photo-etched metal screens in the hood panels, scratchbuilt tribar headlamps and rearview mirrors, a plumbed and wired engine, wood accents on the roof struts, and chrome trim on the fenders. The interior is upholstered with real leather, and Scott scratchbuilt the trunk using wood covered with red leather and added scratchbuilt hinges and clasps. He painted this luxury ride with Splash Tungsten Silver and Gravity Ferrari Rosso Mugello topped with Splash 2K clear.



38th Butch O'Hare Model Show

There were plenty of incredible finished model airplanes, cars, figures, and ships on display at the annual Butch O'Hare Model Contest on November 13, 2021. We can't fit them all into a gallery but here's selection of the offerings *FineScale Modeler* editors Tim Kidwell and Aaron Skinner photographed.



RANDY DIECK
WEST BEND, WISCONSIN

Randy's build of Trumpeter's 1/32 scale MiG-21 features an aftermarket resin seat and missiles, but it's the natural-metal finish that makes it stand out. He says the paint is his own recipe, and he used both masking and freehand airbrushing to differentiate panels on the North Vietnamese fighter.





JOHN WENDT
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS

Building ESCI's 1/35 scale M60A1 as an Israeli Magach 6B, John added Eduard photo-etched metal, a Def.Model cupola, AFV Club T-142 tracks, Eureka tow cable, Live Resin M240 machine guns, an AFV Club M2 .50-caliber machine gun with solder wire connection for remote operation, and a Meng Models Israeli tank crew. He painted the camouflage with Ammo by Mig Jimenez Sinai Grey acrylic over automotive lacquer primer.



▲ PATRICK KANAVERSKIS
WILLOWBROOK, ILLINOIS

Patrick's Ford Econoline van started as an AMT 1/25 scale kit to which he added a custom interior. To finish it, he primed with gold, then sprayed two coats of green, followed with a coat of multicolor glitter clear, and finally capped everything with two coats of Testors high gloss. After smoothing the paint with four progressively finer sanding pads, he got the shine with polishing compound and auto wax. Groovy!

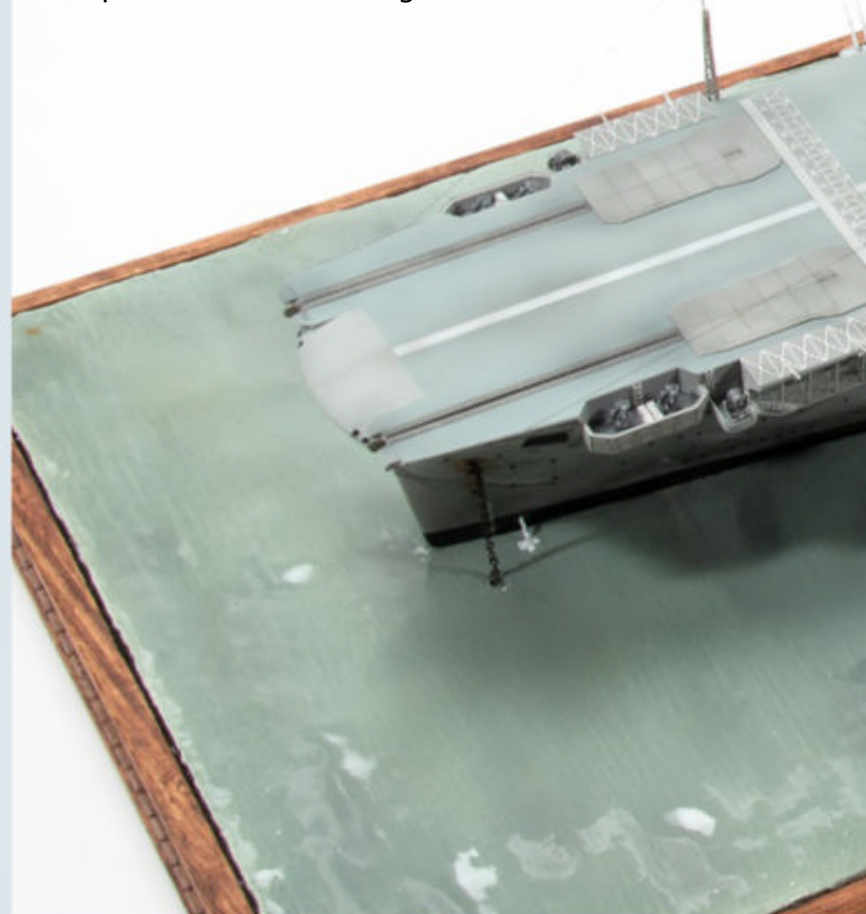


▲ **ROBERT RAVER**
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

Other than improving the base with edge molding and a 3D-printed Rebel Alliance symbol, Robert built Bandai's 1/72 scale X-wing out of the box. Using images of Red One from a book about *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, he painted it with Tamiya acrylics and used liquid masking to create the chipping. Oils gave the fighter the right weathered appearance.

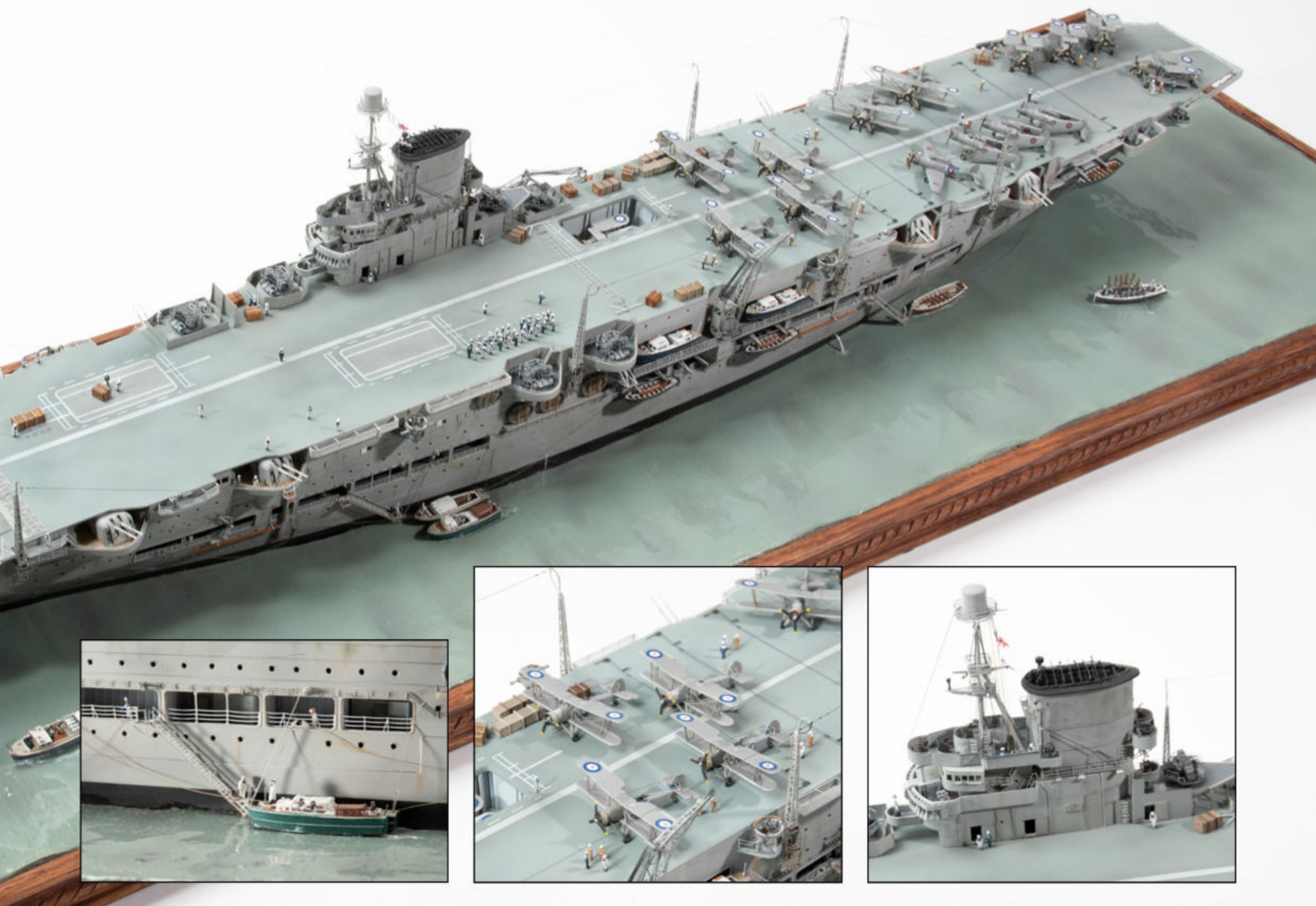
DAVE MEZERA
HOBART, INDIANA

There is something to see everywhere you look on Dave's 1/350 scale HMS *Ark Royal*. He detailed Merit's kit of the carrier as it appeared just before World War II with Tetra photo-etched metal and crowded the flight deck with Swordfish torpedo bombers from Trumpeter. He painted with Vallejo acrylics before floating the carrier on a sea of Liquitex Gel Medium and gesso on foam insulation.



▲ **GEOFF DOCHERTY**
MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS

Believe it or not, the purple on Geoff's '71 Plymouth Duster 340 is a craft-store acrylic. He wired and plumbed the engine compartment on the 1/25 scale AMT kit and flowed a black wash over the engine and wheels to pop details.



CHARLES THOMAS
BURNS HARBOR, INDIANA

Wanting to model something different, Charles built Fine Molds' 1/48 scale Nakajima Kikka, Japan's first jet fighter, as an operation aircraft. Only one prototype actually flew before World War II ended. He added gun pods and a radar antenna and airbrushed the camouflage with Model Master enamels.





▲ **DAVID WOLINSKI**
ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS

David painted the Southeast Asia camouflage on his out-of-the-box build of Hasegawa's 1/48 scale F-4E Phantom II freehand with acrylics and lightly weathered with enamel washes.



SCOTT BISCHOFF
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

There is a '53 Studebaker under all of Scott's racing modifications. He chopped the top on AMT's 1/25 scale kit, then set the modified body on completely scratchbuilt chassis, gas tank, and interior. For the sharp finish, he used Tamiya German Grey and Black spray paint topped with Model Master clear gloss.

◀ **VICTOR HERNANDEZ**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Victor's improvements to Tamiya's 1/48 scale StuH 42 include scratchbuilt side skirts, Legends stowage, and an RB metal gun barrel. He painted the German assault howitzer with Tamiya acrylics before weathering with oil washes and pigments for dust and grime.

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JOHN HEALY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

John built Airfix's 1/48 scale Tiger Moth as a Royal Australian Air Force trainer attached to No. 8 Squadron in Malaya in 1941 with Humbrol paint and EZ Line rigging.



Cutaway space shuttle

BY PETE MALAGUTI

For a long time, I wanted to see what the guts of the NASA space shuttle orbiter looked like, and that curiosity prompted me to build a model of it. A couple of years earlier, I scratchbuilt a pair of the space shuttle main engines (SSME) to see what I could do with bent styrene and aluminum rod and tube. After that, the whole shuttle was just a simple launch away. The base kit was the Monogram 1/72 scale space shuttle, and although I picked up a Real Space Models aftermarket set for it, there was no way to avoid scratchbuilding.

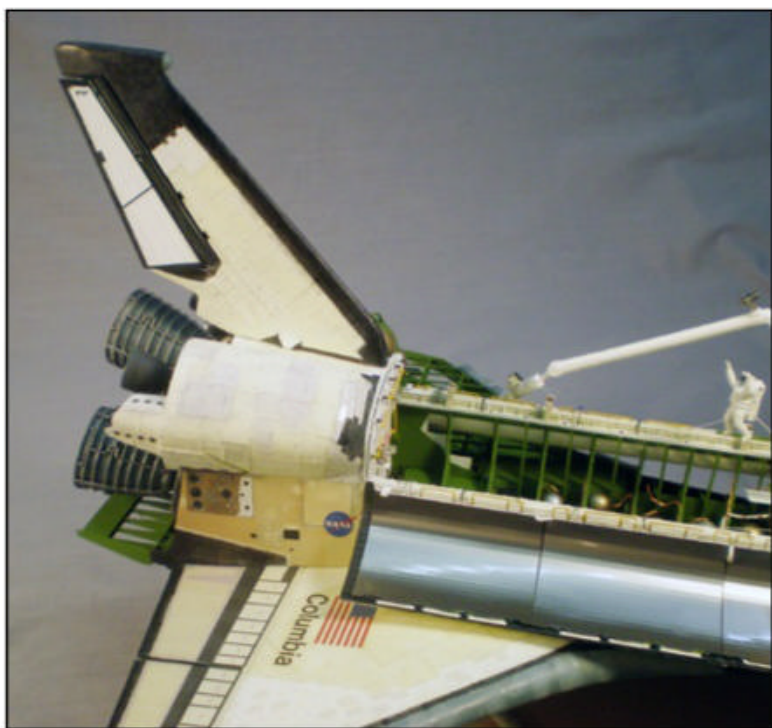


Scratchbuilt crew module, astronauts, and airlock

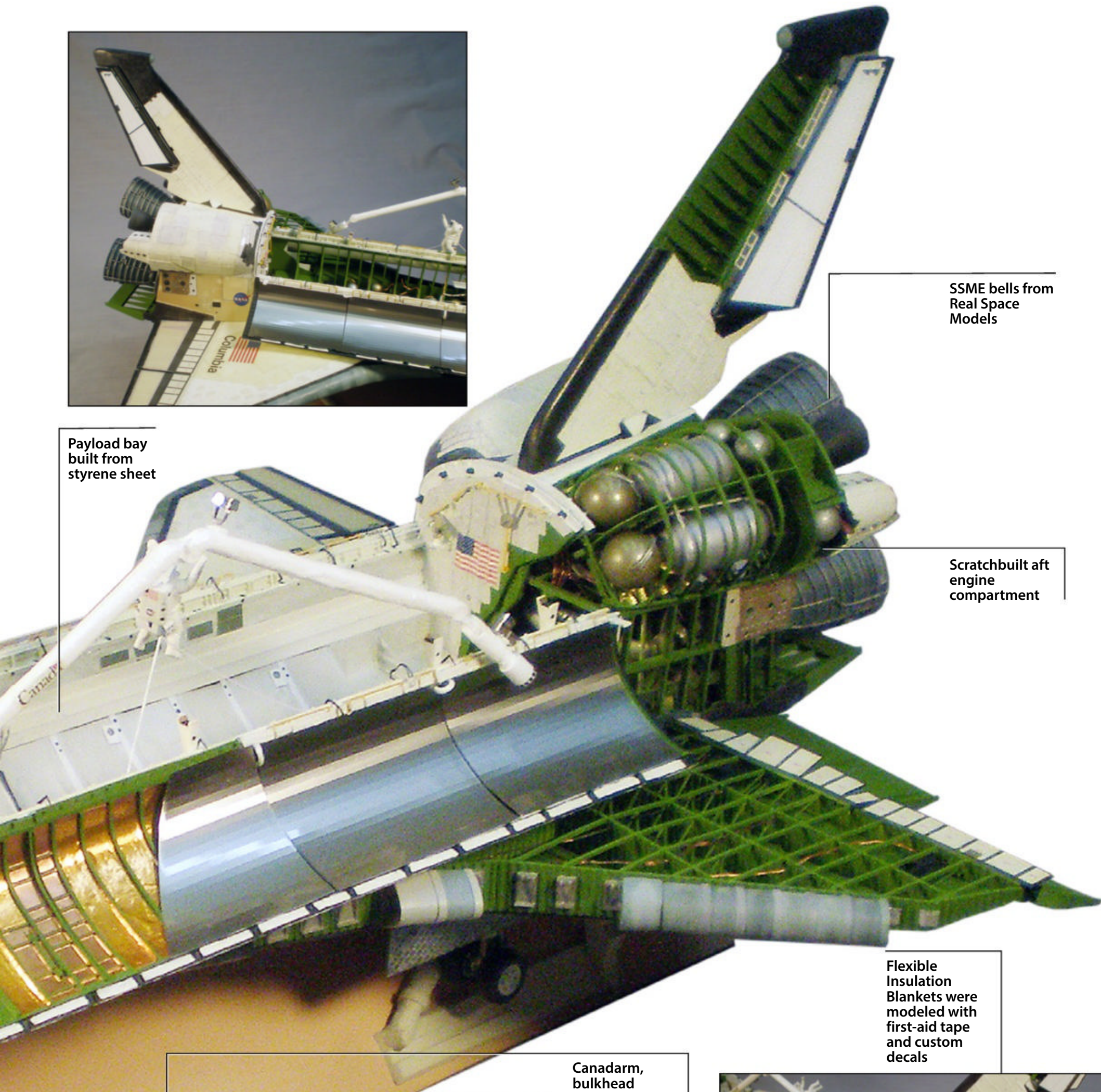
Scratchbuilt Front Reaction Control System thrusters and fuel tanks

Over 2,200 parts, and only 19 from the original kit

Took more than 900 hours over 15 months to build



Payload bay built from styrene sheet



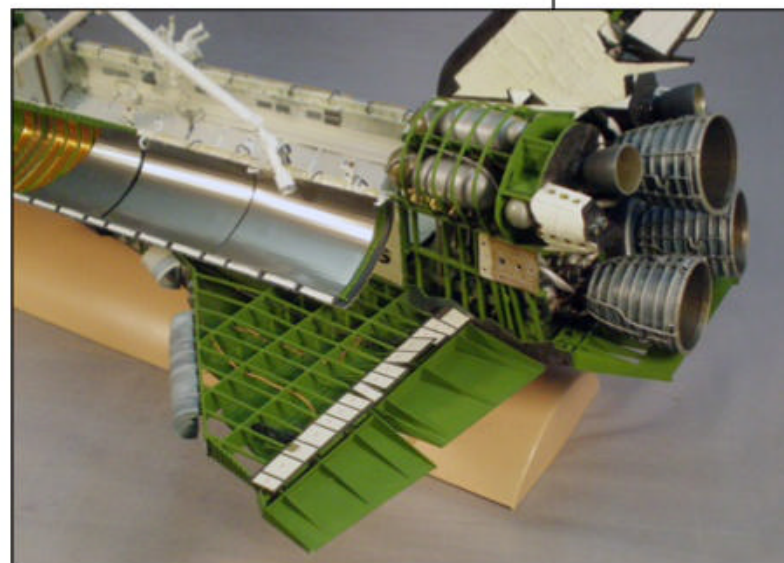
SSME bells from Real Space Models

Scratchbuilt aft engine compartment

Flexible Insulation Blankets were modeled with first-aid tape and custom decals



Canadarm, bulkhead cameras, Ku-Band antenna, and bay door details came from Real Space Models



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