

# FineScale Modeler

May/June 2024

p.30



## ADD BASIC BASES

HOW-TO MAKE SIMPLE  
GROUNDWORK, PAVING,  
AND FOLIAGE



▲ Jari Hemilä got down and dirty with a Dragon 1/35 scale M1A2 and built a base that gives the muddy Abrams context. p.22

## PLUS

**WEATHER  
A RALLY CAR  
& ITS BASE** p.38



**IMPROVE  
AND PAINT  
A WWI SUB** p.16



**CONVERT  
A LIGHTNING  
FOR RECON** p.49



**BONUS  
ONLINE  
CONTENT  
CODE  
PAGE 3**



# FROM ACADEMY-MINICRAFT

Four varied kits, part of Academy-Minicraft's long list of classic bombers, transports, jet fighters and civil aviation aircraft being released by MRC. For more information on Academy-Minicraft's popular collection visit our website at [www.modelrectifier.com](http://www.modelrectifier.com).

Ready  
now from  
MRC!

# ICONIC AIRCRAFT

## 1/144 USAF E-3G Sentry "AEW&C"

- Accurately detailed, airborne early warning and control aircraft (AEW&C) • Assemble with landing gear open or closed • On full-size original, radar and computers can track hundreds of airborne targets simultaneously



## 1/144 Russian Air Force Tu-22M3

- Backfire C** • Supersonic, variable-sweep wing, long range strategic bomber • Kh-22 anti-ship missile included in the kit • Choice of two markings-Russian and Ukrainian • Clear panes for side windows and cockpits



## 1/72 USAAF B-24H Liberator "Zodiac"

- WW II heavy bomber powered by four propeller engines • Called Zodiac squadron because all 12 had signs of the Zodiac painted on their nose • Flew missions over Europe • Choice of two markings



## 1/144 USAAF C-47 Skytrain

- WWII propeller-driven military transport aircraft for troop & cargo hauling, towing gliders • Select from five markings • Nickname "Gooney Bird" • 100 countries operated the C-47 • Adapted from civilian DC3 design



**MRC**



FOUNDED BY ROY C. GELBER

**M O D E L R E C T I F I E R C O R P O R A T I O N**

360 Main Street, Suite 2, Matawan, NJ 07747 • 732-225-2100 • [www.modelrectifier.com](http://www.modelrectifier.com)

■ Train Controls

■ Model Railroad Accessories

■ Plastic Model Kits

■ Scenery

■ Educational Kits

**ACADEMY**

HOBBY MODEL KITS

**MINICRAFT**

MODEL KITS



**CONTENTS**

May/June 2024 /// Vol. 42 /// No. 3

**FEATURES**

- 10 Corral the first Swedish Mustang**  
Put a 1/72 scale P-51B in its place  
ANDERS ISAKSSON
- 16 Sharpen a World War I sub**  
Improve the Das Werk 1/72 scale U-9  
PHILLIP GORE
- 22 Abrams in the mud**  
An M1A2 on maneuvers in Germany  
JARI HEMILÄ
- 30 Best of BMM 2023**  
See the winners of *FSM*'s Build  
a Model Month contest  
KENDRA BELL
- 35 How-to paint Black skin tones**  
Finish a Tirailleur Sénégalais  
BRIAN WILDFONG
- 38 Rally cars play in dirt, dust, mud**  
Weather a Subaru WRC and base  
ILYA YUT
- 44 Fire up a TH-55A Osage**  
Detail AMP kit of training helicopter  
BOB STEINBRUNN
- 49 Build a camera-ready Lightning**  
Convert a 1/48 scale P-38F for recon  
AARON SKINNER



p. 35

**KIT REVIEWS**

- 54 Magic Factory F4U-1A/2 Corsairs**
- 55 HK Models A-20G Havoc**



Scan the QR code for  
more reviews online at  
[FineScale.com/reviews](http://FineScale.com/reviews)

**IN EVERY ISSUE**

- 5 Scale Talk**
- 9 New Products**
- 58 Classic Car Kits**  
Accurate Miniatures McLaren M8B

**FROM THE EDITOR**

By Aaron Skinner

**It's all about the base!**

Typically, model contests and displays are characterized by tables crowded with models. Some categories can be so jammed that picking out highlights is nigh impossible. How do you make your model stand out? How do you get noticed? One thing that helps is placing the model on a base. I'm not talking about a full-on diorama or even a vignette, which have their own categories with particular criteria at contests. No, what I'm describing is usually simpler and, dare I say it, more basic. In many cases a little groundwork on a wooden plaque or block of foam that is big enough to fit the model is all that's needed. Not

only does a base give the subject context, especially if it ties into the weathering, it can physically separate your model from others and literally elevate it if the base has some height. Check out how Jari Hemilä, Anders Isaksson, and Ilya Yut did that in their stories in this issue.

Also, the second Build a Model Month is in the books, and you can see the winners of the BMM Online Model Contest starting with the Randy Derr's 'Vette on Page 30.

*Aaron Skinner*  
editor@finescale.com

**FineScale Modeler**

**Editor** Aaron Skinner  
**Editor, Scale Modeling Brand Group** Tim Kidwell  
**Assistant Editor, Digital** Kendra Bell  
**Assistant Design Director** Scott M. Krall  
**Editorial Associate** Monica Freitag

**ART & PRODUCTION**

**Design Director** Tom Danneman  
**Illustrator** Kellie Jaeger  
**Production Coordinator** Sue Hollinger-Klahn

**REGULAR CONTRIBUTING MODELERS**

Chris Cortez, Marcos Cruz, Frank Cuden, Ricardo Dacoba, Chuck Davis, Walt Fink, Tom Foti, Phillip Gore, Jari Hemilä, Caleb Horn, Ted Horn, Joe Hudson, Anders Isaksson, Jim James, Mark Jones, Mark Karolus, Andy Keyes, Rick Lawler, Rafał Lebiada, John Maher, Ivan Momcilovic, John Plzak, Darren Roberts, Cookie Sewell, Bob Steinbrunn, Don Suratos, Nico Suratos, Karel Sutt, Matthew Walker, Ilya Yut

**KALMBACH MEDIA**

**Chief Executive Officer** Dan Hickey  
**Chief Financial Officer** Christine Metcalf  
**Chief Marketing Officer** Nicole McGuire  
**Vice President, Content** Stephen C. George  
**Vice President, Operations** Brian J. Schmidt  
**Vice President, Human Resources** Sarah A. Horner  
**Circulation Director** Liz Runyon  
**Director of Digital Strategy** Angela Cotey  
**Director of Design & Production** Michael Soliday  
**Retention Manager** Kathy Steele  
**Single Copy Specialist** Kim Redmond

**EDITORIAL**

262-796-8776

**ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT**

888-558-1544  
**Advertising Sales Representative**  
Michael Wieloch, Ext. 625  
[mwieloch@kalmbach.com](mailto:mwieloch@kalmbach.com)  
**Ad Production**  
[adservices@kalmbach.com](mailto:adservices@kalmbach.com)

**RETAIL, TRADE ORDERS, AND INQUIRIES**

Selling *FineScale Modeler* magazine or products  
in your store:  
**Phone** 800-558-1544  
Outside U.S. & Canada 262-796-8776, Ext. 818  
**Fax** 262-798-6592  
**Email** [tss@kalmbach.com](mailto:tss@kalmbach.com)  
**Website** [retailers.kalmbach.com](http://retailers.kalmbach.com)

**CUSTOMER SALES AND SERVICE**

**Phone** 877-246-4847  
Outside the U.S. and Canada 847-313-3921  
**Customer Service**  
[FineScaleModeler@Omeda.com](mailto:FineScaleModeler@Omeda.com)

For the purpose of marketing goods and services to our customers, we may make certain customer information and our customer list available to carefully screened companies that offer products and services that we believe would interest our customers. Please visit our privacy policy at [www.kalmbach.com/privacy](http://www.kalmbach.com/privacy) for more information. If you do not want to have your information transmitted to third party companies that offer products and services to our customers or to database cooperatives, please advise us at Kalmbach Media Data Protection Office, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, email us at [privacy@kalmbach.com](mailto:privacy@kalmbach.com) or call us at 877-246-4847.

**SPECIAL E-MAIL & WEB ADDRESSES**

**Ad Sales** [adsales@FineScale.com](mailto:adsales@FineScale.com)  
**Letters to the Editor** [editor@FineScale.com](mailto:editor@FineScale.com)  
**New Products** [mf Freitag@FineScale.com](mailto:mf Freitag@FineScale.com)  
**Reader Gallery** [fileupload.Kalmbach.com](http://fileupload.Kalmbach.com)  
**Reader Questions** [questions@FineScale.com](mailto:questions@FineScale.com)  
**Reader Tips** [tips@FineScale.com](mailto:tips@FineScale.com)

©2024, Kalmbach Media Co., all rights reserved. This publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission. Printed in the U.S.A. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions and address changes. Single copy: \$8.99 (U.S.). Print + digital subscription rate: U.S.: 1 year \$52.95. Canadian: Add \$6.00 postage. Canadian price includes GST, payable in U.S. funds. All other international: Add \$10.00 postage, payable in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank. BN 12271 3209 RT. Not responsible for unsolicited materials.

**Kalmbach Media**





## EVERGREEN CA ADHESIVES



- Thin, Medium and Thick in ½ and 1 ounce bottles
- 2 ounce Accelerator with pump top
- 2 ounce Remove Debonder with spout top

**Evergreen** scale models

visit us at [www.evergreenscalemodels.com](http://www.evergreenscalemodels.com)  
Toll Free (877) 376-9099  
f /EvergreenScaleModels

Don't miss what's new!  
Watch the  
**New Product Rundown**  
video today!



[www.finescale.com/videos/new-product-rundown](http://www.finescale.com/videos/new-product-rundown)

Order  
**ONLINE**  
[flex-i-file.com](http://flex-i-file.com)



**Speciality Abrasives  
Unique Hobby Tools**



Non-toxic • Non-flammable • Easy to Use • 0% Shrinkage • Waterproof • Superior Strength & Detail

**AVES®** Products will Blow you Away!  
Make sure Apoxie® Sculpt is in your Arsenal!

- Your aid in customization & fabrication.
- Perfect for figurine conversions, original sculpts, kit bashing, tanks, trains, boats & planes.
- Create your own tarps, coats, bedrolls, ground work, rocks, etc.
- Apoxie® Sculpt adheres to: vinyl, plastic, resin, kits, wood, metal, ceramic, glass, polymers, foam, fiberglass & more!
- Ask your hobby shop to carry Aves® products!
- Visit our web site for more information.

**Elefant with Custom Apoxie® Sculpt Zimmerit by Joe Porter**

P.O. Box 344  
River Falls, WI 54022  
1-800-261-2837  
[www.avesstudio.com](http://www.avesstudio.com)

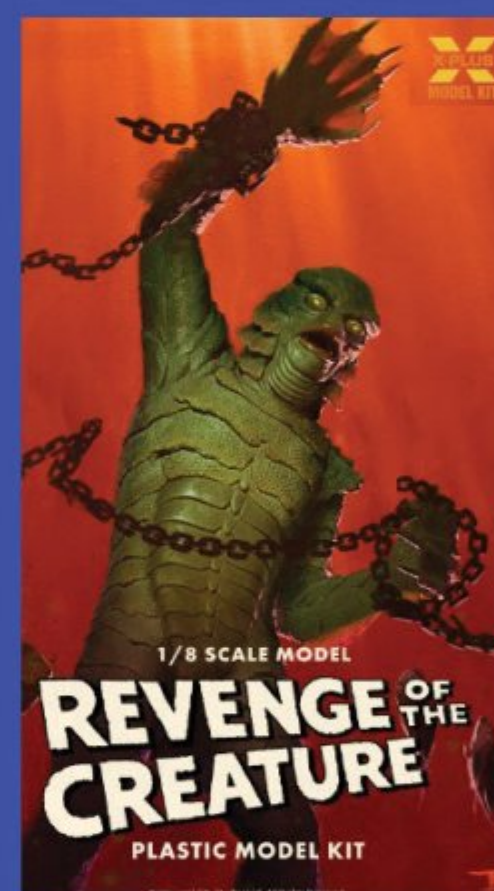
©AVES® 2003



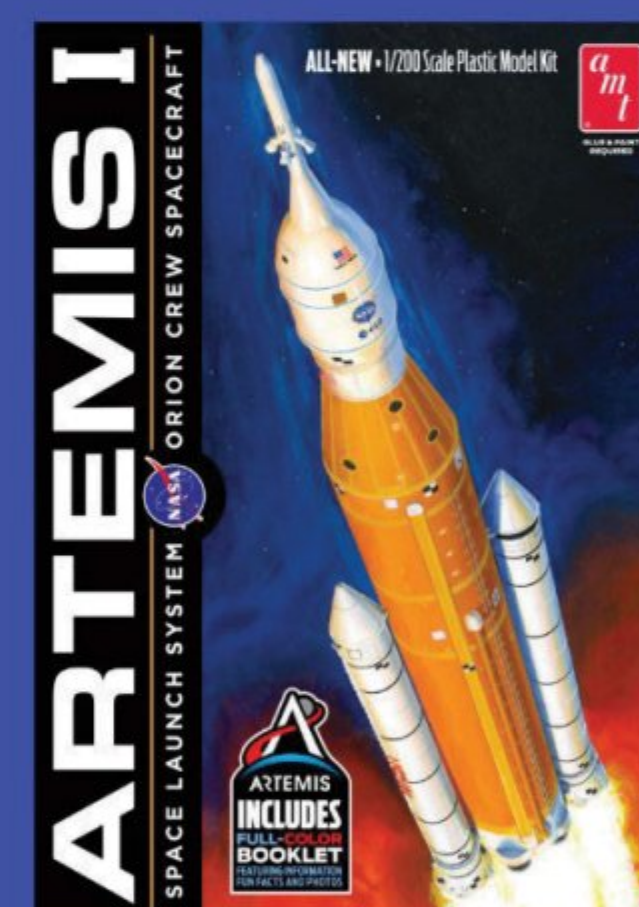
1961 Moon Suit



Star Trek TNG - Enterprise D



The Creature



Artemis I Rocket



Green Hornet Black Beauty

**Join us at Wonderfest!**



**The hobby event for Sci-Fi & Monster model builders!**  
**June 1-2, 2024 in Louisville KY - [Wonderfest.com](http://Wonderfest.com)**

**New Spaceships & More!**

Model kits, detail sets. Star Trek, Star Wars!  
AMT, Polar Lights, X-Plus, Bandai, Atlantis & more  
Order at [CultTVmanShop.com](http://CultTVmanShop.com) or call 770-797-5533





## Finding time to model

*Ed.: In a "FineScale Modeler Weekly" video that went live in January, Tim Kidwell and I talked about how we find time to build and, by extension, regaining your modeling drive. We received a bunch of responses from viewers, including these. — Aaron Skinner*

I am retired now, so finding time is much easier. But when I was working, I found two things really helped with finding time to model.

First, I always have a dedicated and permanent space for modeling, however small. In my case, this [space] has been as big as a 1-meter x 2-meter workbench in a garage or as small as half a desk in the spare room. Having a dedicated space means you can sit down and do even five minutes of modeling without having to set anything up. As they say, eat that elephant a small bite at a time!

Second, at the end of a session I decide what I want to do in the next session and prepare for it. If I find myself with 10 minutes to spare, I can jump on the modelling desk and tackle that task without having to work out where I was last time. A quick bit of planning at the end of the task and I am ready for next time.

As always, thanks for the great mag. It is always a good read, and I learn something from each and every issue.

— Graeme Molineux  
Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

With two grand kids now, it's even harder to find time to get to the bench. So, I schedule it daily. I get up at 3:30 a.m. and spend one hour daily until 4:30 a.m. modeling. No phones, no TV, no noise, and no one else is awake. It's complete silence other than the heater or air conditioner. It's my quiet time when I can zone-out the daily noise of the world and commune with styrene. (I am in bed asleep between 8-8:30 p.m.) It's my time when I get time. Try the silence and serenity of 3:30-4:30 a.m. You'll be amazed at what you can finish! I just wrapped up a Monogram '69 Dodge Super Bee.

— Brad Wolfgang  
Midland, Mich.

One way I keep my modeling mojo is building at work during my breaks and lunch. I have a small assortment of supplies I keep in my desk — a hobby knife, files, clamps, etc. Then, for example, I'll bring some glue and an engine to assemble.

— Ronald Neuendorf  
Waukesha, Wis.

I have been modeling for over 50 years. During this time, I have gone through various phases from building a model in a day to taking a few weeks to complete my model. How do I maintain my modeling mojo?

For me, construction is a joy, which is not to say I don't love painting my models. For many years, I have been in the habit of building multiple models at the same time.

When I build a model and I must stop to let glue dry or [wait for] a part I've ordered to arrive, I simply put it aside and work on something else.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I built my models up to the painting stage and set them aside. With all the lockdowns and no club meetings, I ended up building more than 200 models, all finished in Tamiya white primer — my own "Ghost

## FREE SHIPPING!

On ANY Online Order over \$25 with Promo Code 4642\*

Shop Over 5,200 Items in Our Catalog and Website, Including...



**Introducing the NEW**

**Micro-Mark Acrylic Paint Line**

**FREE CATALOG!**

Scan this QR Code NOW to request your copy

## Micro-Mark®

Your one-stop source for unique tools, supplies, model kits & more!

\*Standard shipping to the 48 contiguous United States ONLY. Additional Freight Charges, where indicated, still apply. Offer cannot be combined. Pre-Order items excluded. Offer ends 5/31/24.



## PRECISION POWER TOOLS FOR YOUR INTRICATE PROJECTS

**Hot Wire Cutter THERMOCUT 115/E. Smooth and easy cutting of Styrofoam. Superior to all other tools - no crumbling as when working with knife or saw.**

Large working surface of Alu Cobond with printed grid and protractor. Adjustable spool holder for miter cutting. Double function fence with lockable feed bar. Variable cutting wire temperature. Including 100ft. of cutting wire.

The PROXXON MICROMOT system features more than 50 high-quality power tools and a huge selection of matching accessories.

**Please contact us for a free catalog.**

**PROXXON**

[www.proxxon.com/us](http://www.proxxon.com/us)

PROXXON Inc. — Hickory, NC/USA — Email: [sales.us@proxxon.com](mailto:sales.us@proxxon.com)





Division,” if you will. Since then, I’ve spent relaxing hours painting each one and placing them on wood bases with appropriate groundwork.

My simple rule is do what you like. If during construction, you lose interest or can’t continue, collect the information you have and shelve the model. Never force yourself as it invariably won’t come out well.

Don’t focus on building the model in one go; instead, assemble it in sections. It’s more rewarding and satisfying.

You do not need to spend hours at your workbench at a time. Spending half an hour here and there at various times during the day or evening will give you the same result if not more than trying to fit a build into one long evening session.

Balance between your modeling, work, and family is key. Doing this ensures your modeling mojo will not suffer and that you will continue to get the enjoyment and satisfaction modeling gives all of us.

— Raymond Attard

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

### Revell vinyl really was a thing

I read Greg Kolasa’s letter in the March/April 2024 “ScaleTalk,” and it instantly brought back memories. Growing up, the only thing I liked better than building that next model was getting things in the mail. The Revell 7-inch promos were the perfect addition to the whole modeling experience. I had visited the USS

*Massachusetts* one summer on a family vacation. Naturally, I picked up the model and when I saw the words “Exclusive record offer,” I sent off the flyer along with \$0.35. Building the model while listening to the story of the battleship’s part in the invasion of North Africa, and the boom of those 16 inch guns, enhanced the build!

— Guy Aceto

Ashburn, Va.

Ed.: What an amazing feature! Thanks to everyone who responded to Greg’s letter. — A.S.



## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT AT FINESCALE.COM



### NNL West 2024 model car show gallery

More than 300 modelers attended this year’s NNL West in Santa Clara, California, exhibiting nearly 1,000 scale-model low-riders, hot rods, customs, gassers, trucks, pickups, and much more. *FineScale Modeler* returned to photograph the models. Visit [FineScale.com/show-galleries](https://www.finescale.com/show-galleries) to see images of some of the best scale models on the West Coast, including the Youth People’s Choice winner, a custom Auburn Roadster, and a crazy Bf 109 VW.



### Scale Model Basics how-to videos

Don’t miss Scale Model Basics Season 2! *FSM* brings you all sorts of how-to advice, from using two-part decal setting solution systems and making sprue goo to painting a World War II airplane cockpit and air-brushing a smooth paint finish every time. *FineScale Modeler*’s editors want to help you make your best models, so head on over to [FineScale.com/videos](https://www.finescale.com/videos) to see tips about tools, techniques, and skills. And be sure to leave a comment!



### Modeling how-to advice just a click away

Wondering how to model realistic plants for your diorama or figure base? Painting realistic hair got you stumped? Don’t let it get you down! Go now and visit [FineScale.com/how-to](https://www.finescale.com/how-to) where you can find more than 65 *FineScale Modeler* Snapshots covering these how-to questions plus much more, like precise masking for a two-tone paint job and repairing clear styrene parts. New Snapshots appear regularly, so visit often!



Kits | Accessories | Books | Tools | Paint | Great Prices & Service

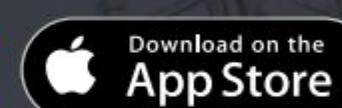
# SQUADRON

Adding To The Stash Since 1968

Newest kits like this new 1/350 Naiad and 1/72 A-6E from Trumpeter or this 1/48 B-26B from ICM!



SCAN THE CODE TO DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP FOR FREE



Call Us 877-414-0434 or [info@squadron.com](mailto:info@squadron.com)



Visit Us Online At

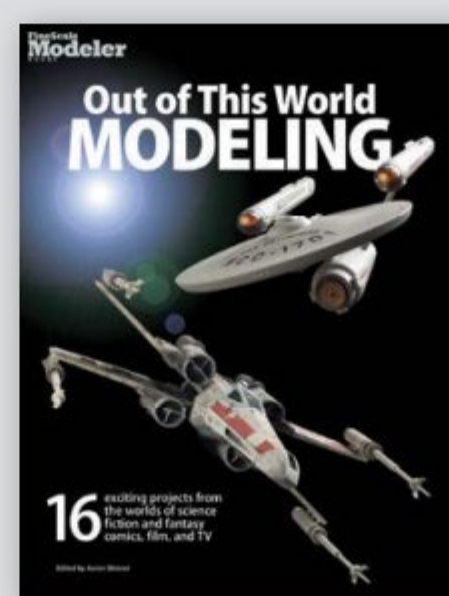
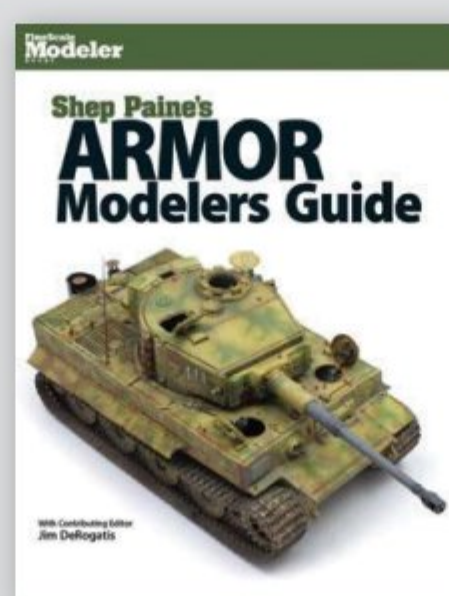
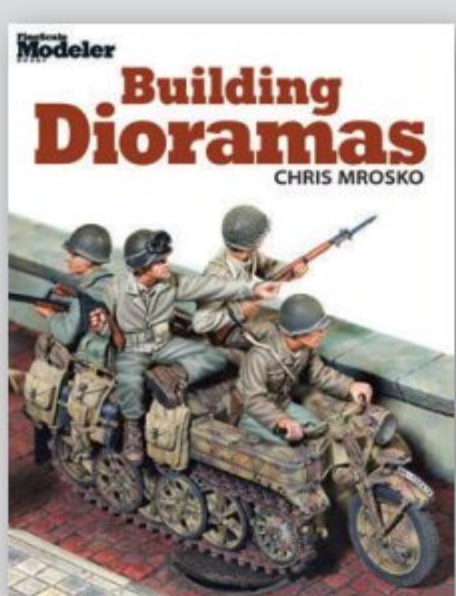
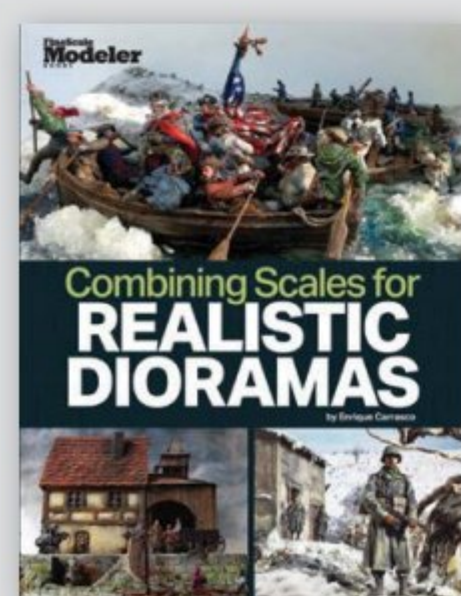
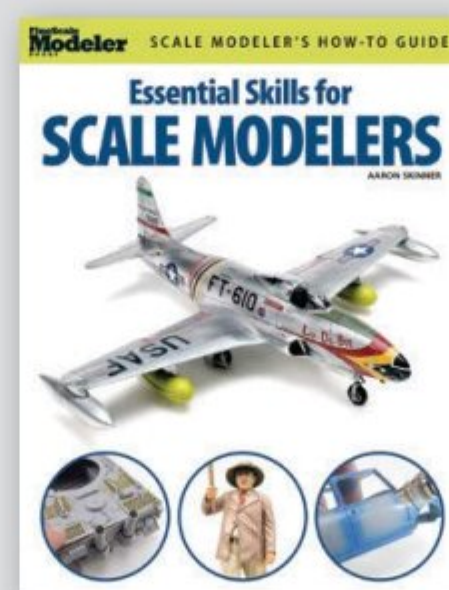
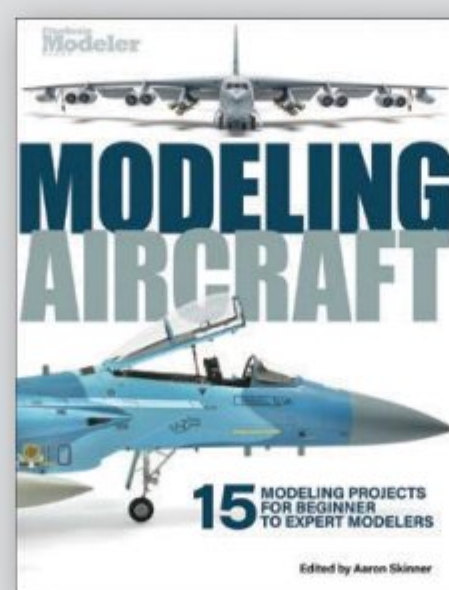
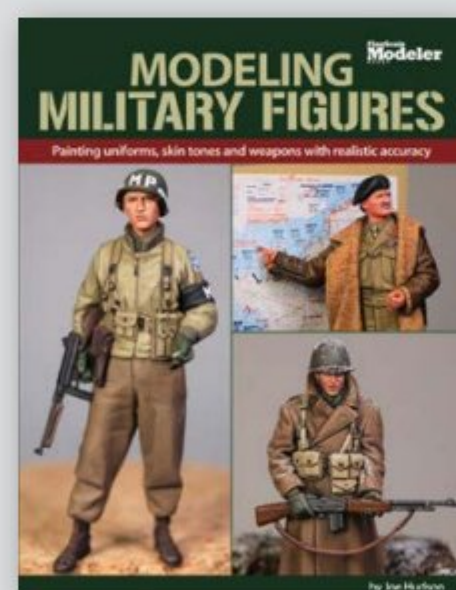
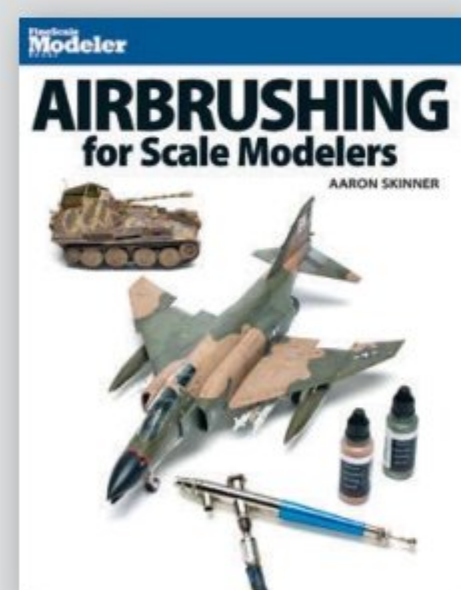
# www.SQUADRON.com

Be Sure To Buy Our 500 Page Catalog!

Now Located in Georgia!

## Essential Scale Modeling GUIDEBOOKS

**Make sure your learning is to scale.** These essential scale modeling books will help you enhance your skills and take your models to the next level.



KALMBACH  
**HOBBYSTORE**

Buy now from your  
local hobby shop!

Shop at

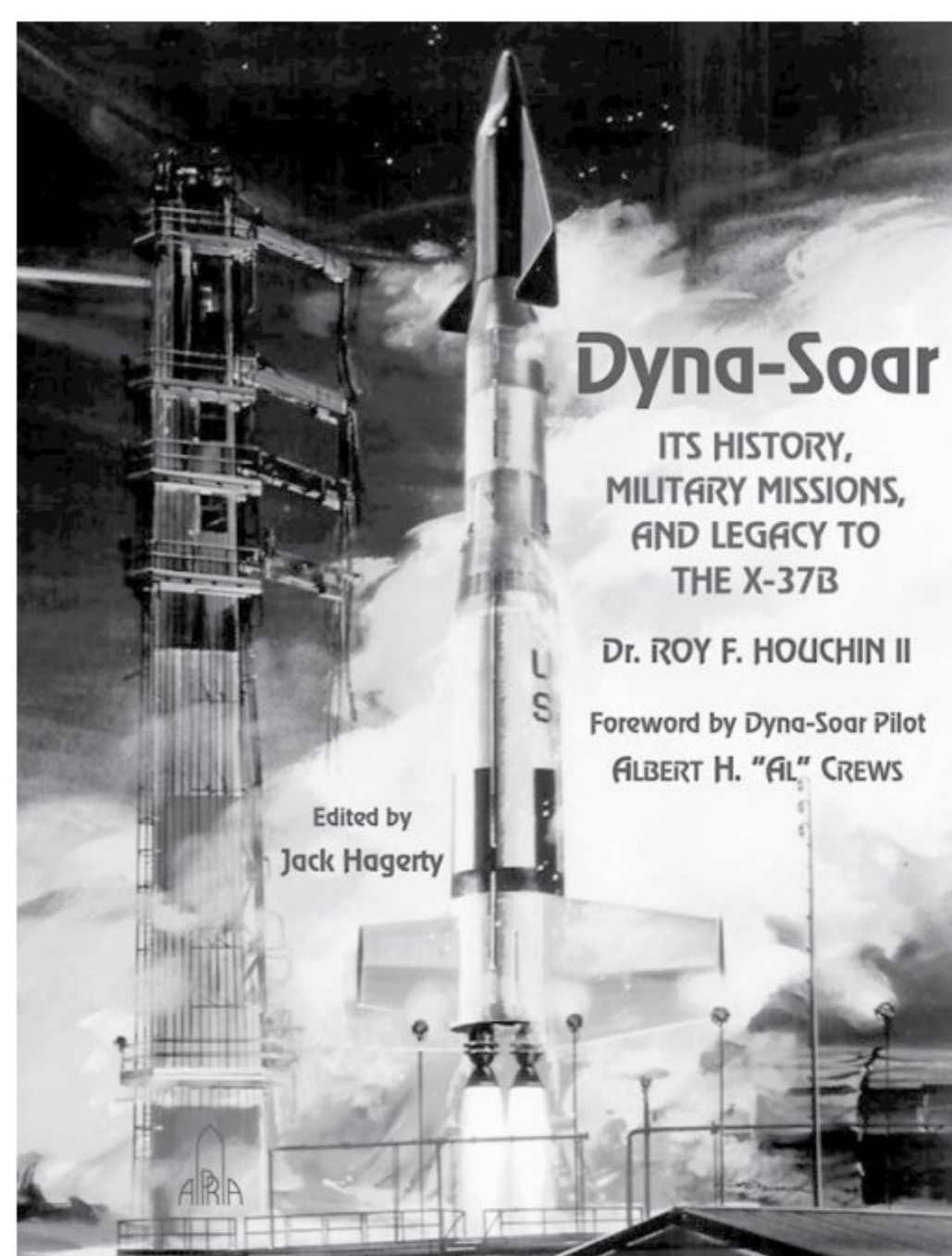
[KalmbachHobbyStore.com/FSMBooks](http://KalmbachHobbyStore.com/FSMBooks)

Sales tax where applicable.



## Dyna-Soar: Its History, Military Missions and Legacy to the X-37B

Five years in the making by Air Force historian Dr. Roy Houchin, with full access to all official documents, this will be the definitive work on the program for some time to come.



- Foreword by Dyna-Soar Pilot Al Crews
  - PART I - THE DYNA-SOAR PROGRAM
  - PART II - THE DYNA-SOAR VEHICLE
  - Glossary of Acronyms and Program Names
  - Appendix - The Modeling World
  - Hundreds of photographs and illustrations, most in color
  - Dimensioned Drawings of the Dyna-Soar and Boosters.
  - 215 Pages, 80 lb. coated stock
  - Smythe-sewn Hardcover binding
- Only \$39.95! (plus shipping)**

Please visit our website to order on-line.  
Credit Cards and PayPal accepted.  
Call or write "info@arapress.com" for shipping options.  
Sales Tax added for CA orders



ARA Press  
785 Jefferson Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 583-5126  
www.arapress.com

## SCALE TALK

### Piper Cub tailwheel correction

I recently read "Detail Hobbycraft's Grasshopper" in the March/April 2023 *FSM* concerning the build of a Piper Cub in Navy colors. It made a colorful model and represented an unappreciated part of military aviation, but it did have an inaccuracy. The springs that control the tailwheel are not attached to the fuselage as Frank Cuden modeled them. Rather, the springs connect the tailwheel and the bottom of the rudder post. I learned to fly in a 1946 Piper J-3 that I helped my father rebuild including re-covering the airframe with fabric.

— Larry Benham  
Holliday, Texas

*Ed.: Thanks for the clarification on how the Cub's tailwheel works, Larry. It's proof that you can never do too much research. — A.S.*

### Always time for tooling around

I enjoy the *FineScale Modeler Weekly* show and the tool section has been especially helpful. In a recent episode, Tim Kidwell talked about clamps. I did not know they made small bar clamps. After I saw the demo, I went to Amazon and soon had a set of five. Two days later, I was in the middle of a project and they were the perfect solution for a clamping situation.

Tim's recent review of the inexpensive airbrush set was also helpful. It resulted in another visit to Amazon, and I have been happy with that product.

Keep up the good work.  
— Bruce Parkes  
San Antonio, Texas

*Ed.: Hi Bruce! Thank you for your kind words and watching FineScale Modeler Weekly. I couldn't be happier that you've found the*

*"Tooling Around" segments helpful. We try to keep the videos fun and loose, but it makes all the difference to hear when our advice helps a fellow modeler. Glad those clamps came in handy and that the Neoeco airbrush is working out for you! — T.K.*

### Love for photo-etched metal

Following my retirement in 2018, I returned to scale modeling. For the first builds, I finished a few kits I had started in the 1980s but set aside for family and career. The first thing I did was search the internet for photo-etched metal (PE) detail sets that would let me spice up 1970s- and '80s-vintage Tamiya armor kits. I approached the PE with some trepidation but once I got started, I fell in love with the challenge.

Although it's sometimes not easy to work with, the level of detail and scale fidelity that comes from PE is worth the effort. I have added bending pliers, smooth-jaw hemostats, metal rulers, and single-edge blades to help with folding and forming. I might even invest in a proper folding tool if I come across a piece too challenging. My builds are slower as a result, but that is okay because it is the part of most projects that I enjoy the most. I have been growing my stash of kits over the last six years, and for every kit I buy, I have added aftermarket PE sets, if available. I won't start a project without PE. Call me crazy, but it adds to the joy I get from our hobby!

— Paul Clarry  
Aurora, Ontario, Canada

*Ed.: All power to you, Paul. I appreciate the same things you do about PE, it just drives me, well, crazy. Although, some will question if that's more of a chicken versus egg thing. — A.S.*

### EVERGREEN WOOD GLUES



- Premium Select Yellow Glue in 2 ounce and 4 ounce sizes
- Premium White Glue in 2 ounce and 4 ounce sizes
- Canopy Glue in 2 ounce bottles

**evergreen** scale models

visit us at [www.evergreenscalemodels.com](http://www.evergreenscalemodels.com)  
Toll Free (877) 376-9099  
f / EvergreenScaleModels



FineScale Modeler

**Watch and Subscribe!**



<http://www.youtube.com/finescalemodeler>





## AIRCRAFT

### 1/32 SCALE

**Spitfire Mk.I Early** from Kotare Models, No. K32004, \$109.

### 1/48 SCALE

**Nord NC-701 Martinet** from Special Hobby, No. SH48200, \$91.99

**Hurricane Mk IIb** from Arma Hobby, No. 40007, \$48.87.

**Hurricane Mk IIc Jubilee** from Arma Hobby, No. 40006, \$48.87.

**Ju 88P-1 Tank Buster** from ICM, No. 48228, \$121.99.

**AH-1Q/S Cobra "IDF Against Terrorists"** from Special Hobby, No. SH48224, \$TBA.

**Latécoère 298** from Special Hobby, No. VT48001, \$TBA.

**P-47D-30RA Thunderbolt** from MiniArt, No. 48029, \$TBA.

### 1/72 SCALE

**P-400 Airacobra** from Arma Hobby, No. 70057, \$29.

**AMX-T** from Italeri, No. 1471, \$31.35.

**Breda Ba.88B Lince "Duce's Bomber"** from Special Hobby, No. SH72397, \$31.99.

**Gloster Meteor TT Mk.20** from Special Hobby, No. SH72487, \$37.99.

**Aero A-11HS "Finnish Export Version"** from Special Hobby, No. SH72464, \$TBA.

**Heinkel He 59B** from Special Hobby, No. SH72428, \$91.99.

### 1/144 SCALE

**USAAF C-47 Skytrain** from Academy, No. 12633, \$15.

**USAF C-118 Liftmaster** from Academy, No. 12634, \$27.

**USAF E-3G Sentry AEW&C** from Academy, No. 12629, \$32.

## ARMOR

### 1/24 SCALE

**Type G4 with MG 34 and German Staff Personnel** from ICM, No. 24024, \$79.99.

### 1/35 SCALE

**US FWD Type B army truck** from ICM, No. 35656, \$71.99.

**M3 Stuart Initial Production** from MiniArt, No. 35401, \$TBA.

### 1/72 SCALE

**French Army Char Leclerc** from Academy, No. 13427, \$17.

## FIGURES

### 1/35 SCALE

**Refugees — chandler family** from MiniArt, No. 38089, \$TBA.

**U.S. Tank Repair Crew with continental w-670 engine** from MiniArt, No. 35461, \$TBA.

**Refugees — teacher's family** from MiniArt, No. 38086, \$TBA.

**Omnibus crew and passengers** from MiniArt, No. 38092, \$TBA.

## AUTO

### 1/24 SCALE

**MAN TGX 18.500 XXL Lion Pro** from Italeri, No. 3959, \$64.

### 1/35 SCALE

**Oil products delivery car, Liefer Pritschenwagen Type 170V** from MiniArt, No. 38069, \$TBA.

## AIRCRAFT DETAIL SETS

### 1/35 SCALE

**AH-1G Cobra upgrade cockpit set** for ICM, from Special Hobby, No. 129-6008, \$25.99.

### 1/48 SCALE

**PV-1 Ventura nose and turret armament (for Revel/Academy)**, from Special Hobby, No. 129-4469, \$TBA.

**A6M2-N Rufe seat (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 648845 \$5.95.

**Anson Mk.I guns Print (for Airfix)** from Eduard, No. 648844, \$9.95.

**A6M2/N Rufe cannon barrels and cockpit guns (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 648847, \$9.95.

**A6M2-N Rufe exhaust Print (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 648846, \$7.95.

**A6M2-N Rufe folding wingtips Print (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 648848, \$14.95.

**A6M2-N Rufe Space (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 3DL48114, \$12.95.

**A6M2-N Rufe Look (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 644205, \$12.95.

**A6M2-N Rufe gun bays (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. 648849, \$19.95.

**U.S. fuel drop tanks and bombs** from MiniArt, No. A 49015, \$TBA.

### 1/72 SCALE

**Fiat 508 weighted wheels (for Ace)** from FC Model Trend, No. 72524, \$TBA.

**External armament for SMB-2 and other IAF planes** from Special Hobby, No. SH72495, \$TBA.

## AIRCRAFT DECAL SETS

### 1/48 SCALE

**A6M2-N Rufe TFace (for Eduard)** from Eduard, No. EX934, \$12.95.

**F-16A/B Vipers of the Caribbean** from TwoBobs Aviation Graphics, No. 48-283, \$18.

### 1/48 SCALE

**BBN Cargo A321F** from Draw Decal, No. 48-283, \$33. Also available in 1/144 \$11.

### 1/72 SCALE

**Edwards AFB F-86F-25 Sabre** from Draw Decal, No. F86-02, \$9. Also available in 1/48 \$11; 1/32 \$19.50.

## ARMOR DETAIL SETS

### 1/35 SCALE

**Fennek LGS weighted tires** from FC Model Trend, No. 37190, \$16.10.

**Leopard 2A5/6 side baskets** from FC Model Trend, No. 37188, \$14.91.

**Ford V 3000 S wheels for ICM and Revell** from Special Hobby, No. 129-3150, \$TBA.

### 1/48 SCALE

**Tiger early cupola** FC Model Trend, No. 48559, \$11.55.

### 1/72 SCALE

**FV601 Alvis Saladin weighted wheels (for Ace)** from FC Model Trend, No. 72522, \$TBA

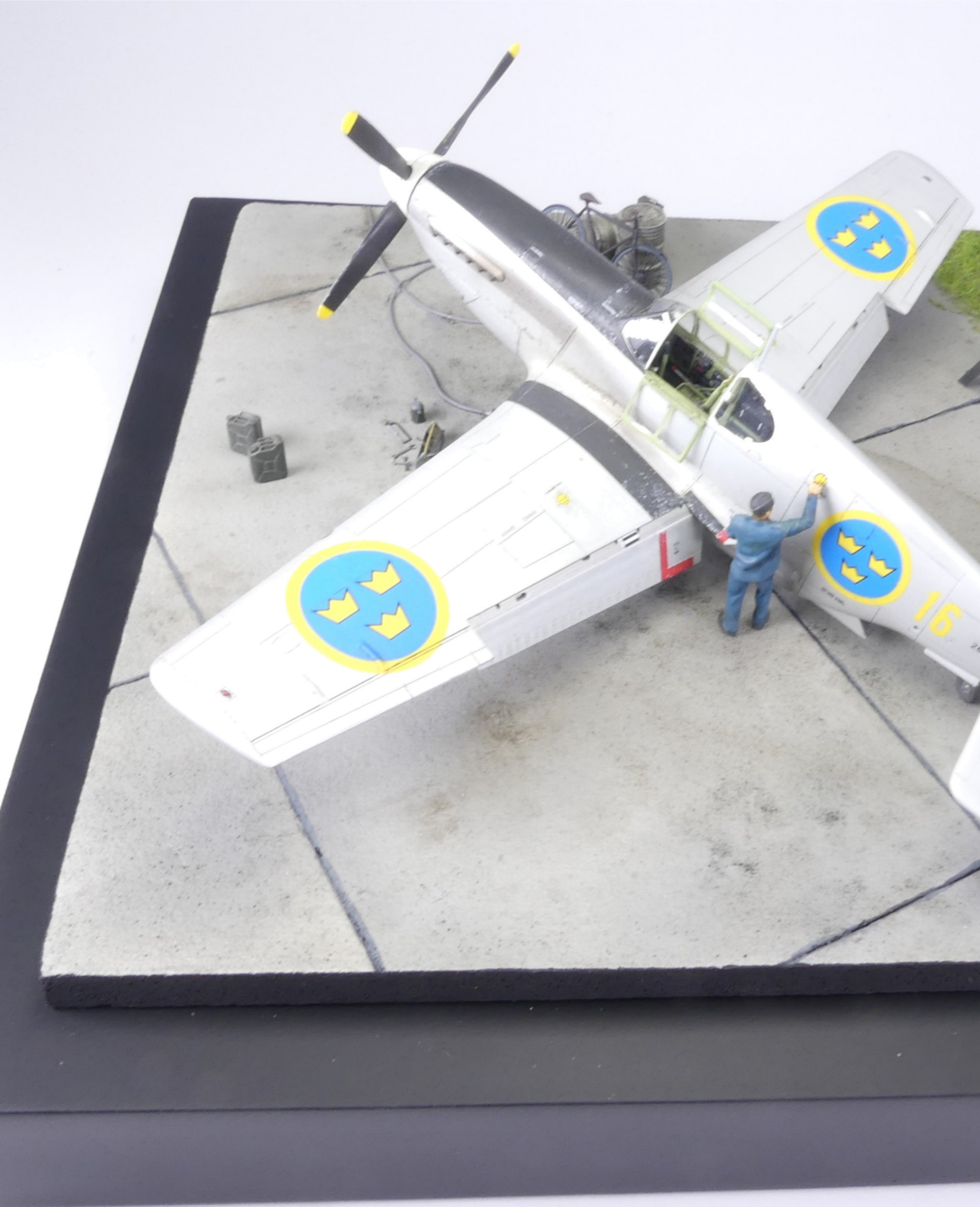
**Panzer III smoke dischargers** from FC Model Trend, No. 37216, \$7.15.

## FIGURE DETAIL SETS

### 1/35 SCALE

**Airborne Mohawk heads** No. 37225; **Woman heads** No. 37212; **Indian heads** No. 37214; **South Africa soldier heads** No. 37217; **New Zealand WWII soldier heads**, No. 37216. All from FC Model Trend, \$11.93 each.









# *Corral the first* **SWEDISH MUSTANG**

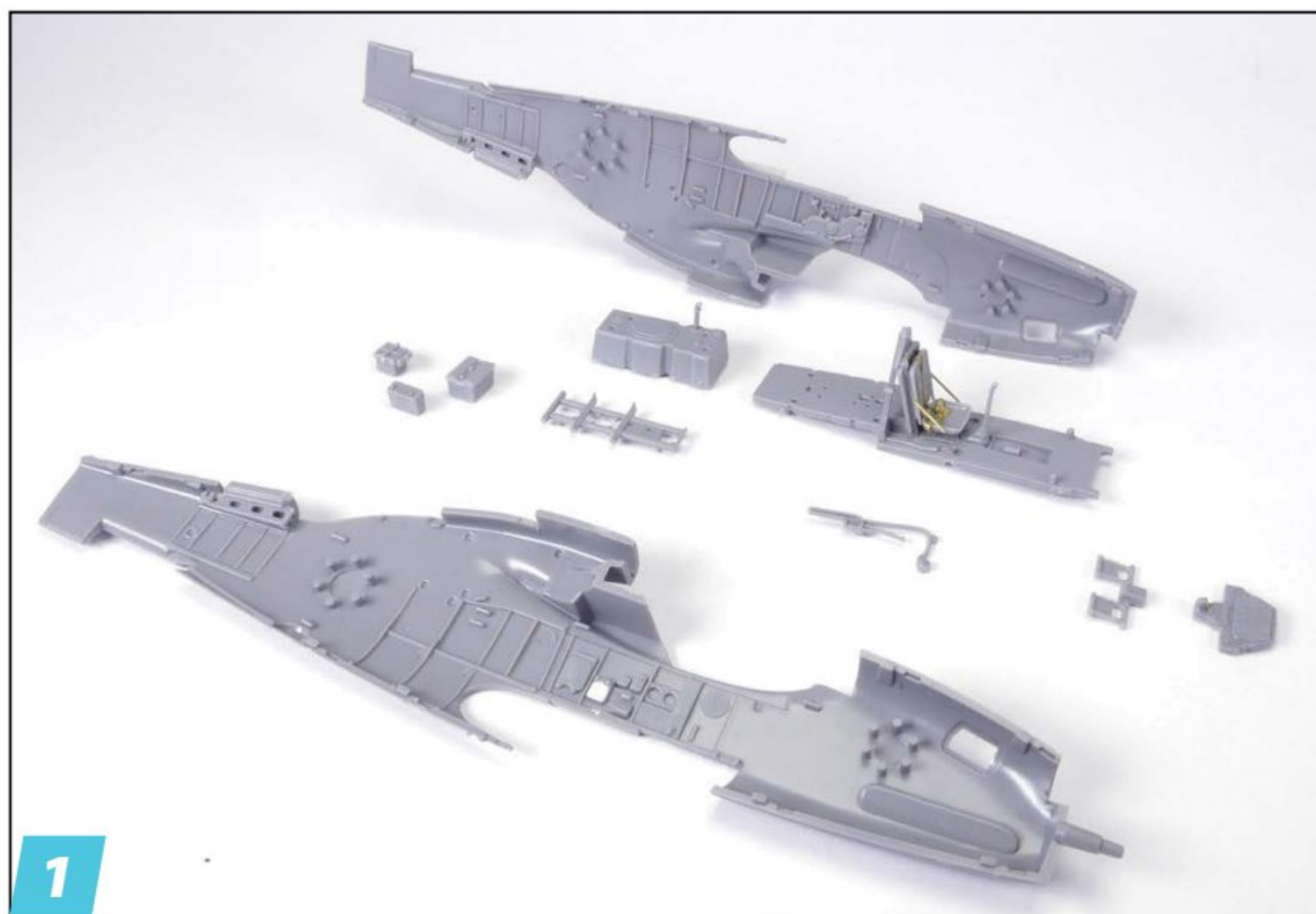
Step-by-step guide to stable a 1/72 scale P-51

BY ANDERS ISAKSSON

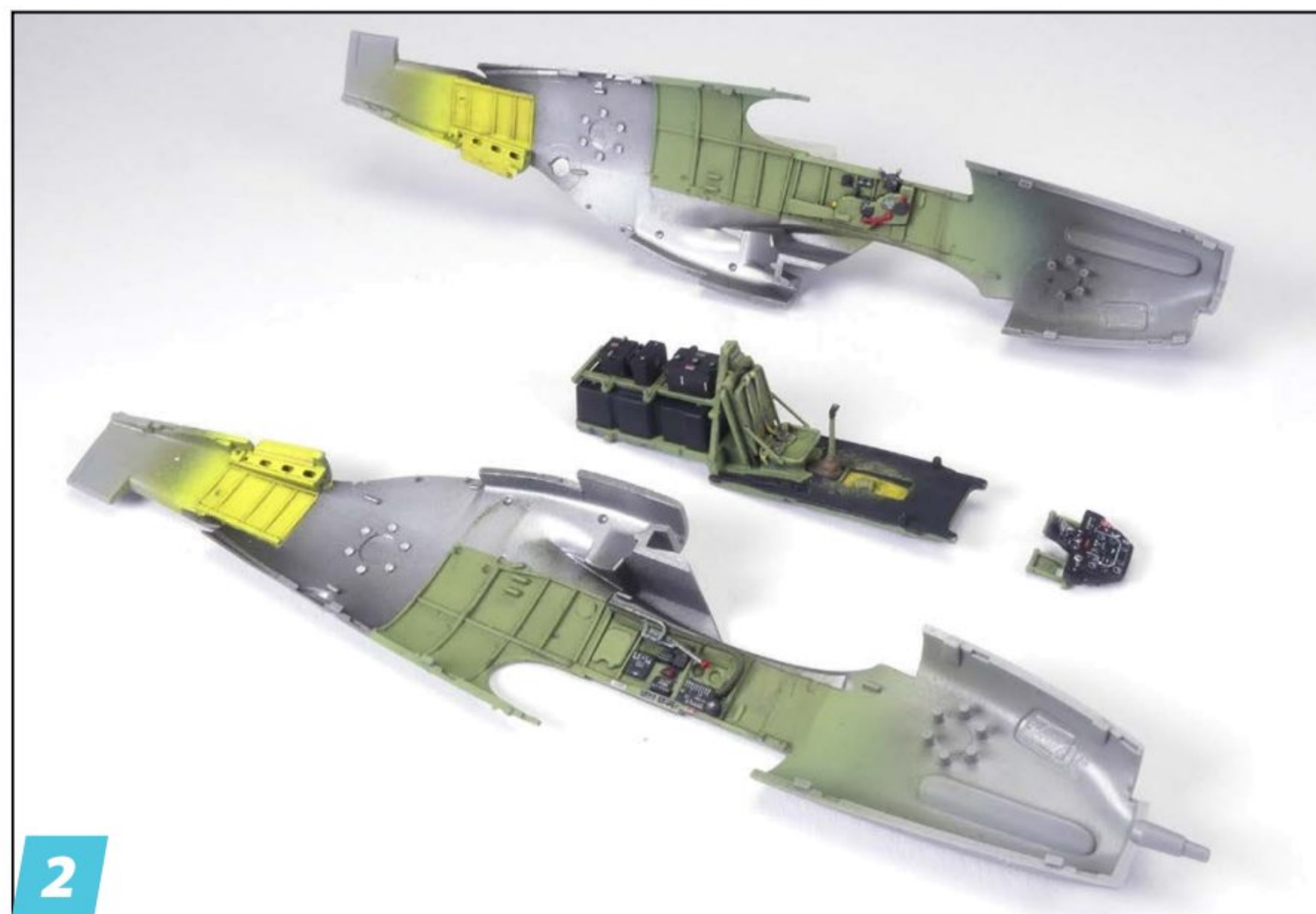
**A**rma Hobby's little P-51B/C is a gem of a kit that includes photo-etched metal (PE) details, precut masks, exquisite surface detail, convincing oil-canning effect in some areas, and optional parts for different versions.

Looking at all of that, I figured it needed a base to do it justice and took the build as an opportunity to venture into the world of 3D-printed accessories to place the Mustang in a diorama. Another change was to finish the plane as a Swedish J 26 using Moose Republic decals (No. 72007). In fact, the aircraft I modeled was the first Mustang in the Swedish air force, a U.S.A.A.F. P-51B interned after making an emergency landing in Sweden in May 1944.





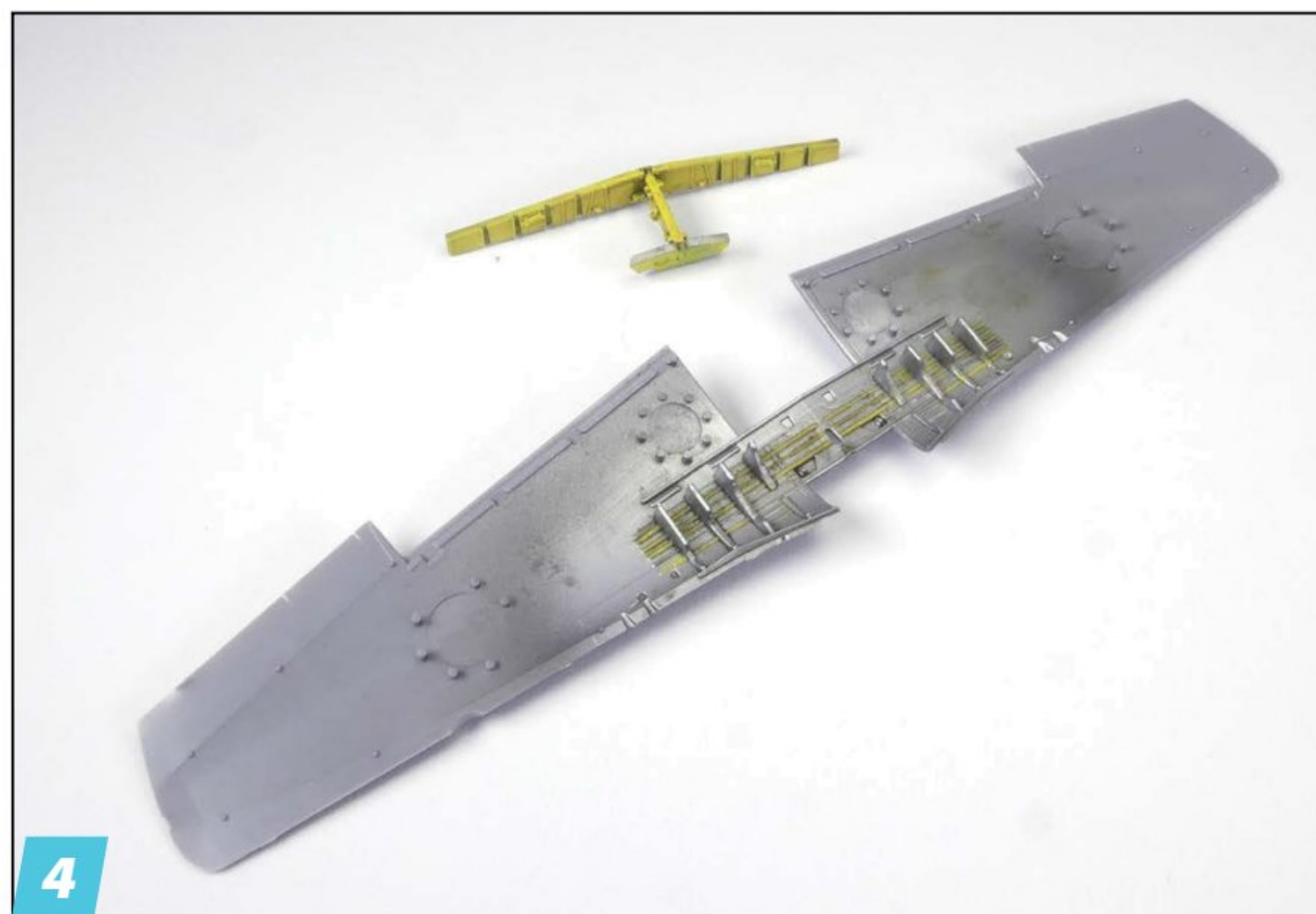
**1** The cockpit is well-detailed straight from the box, but the instructions are intense with several actions happening in each step and a choice of configuration depending on the aircraft you are building. Plan ahead and break each complicated step into smaller, simpler sections.



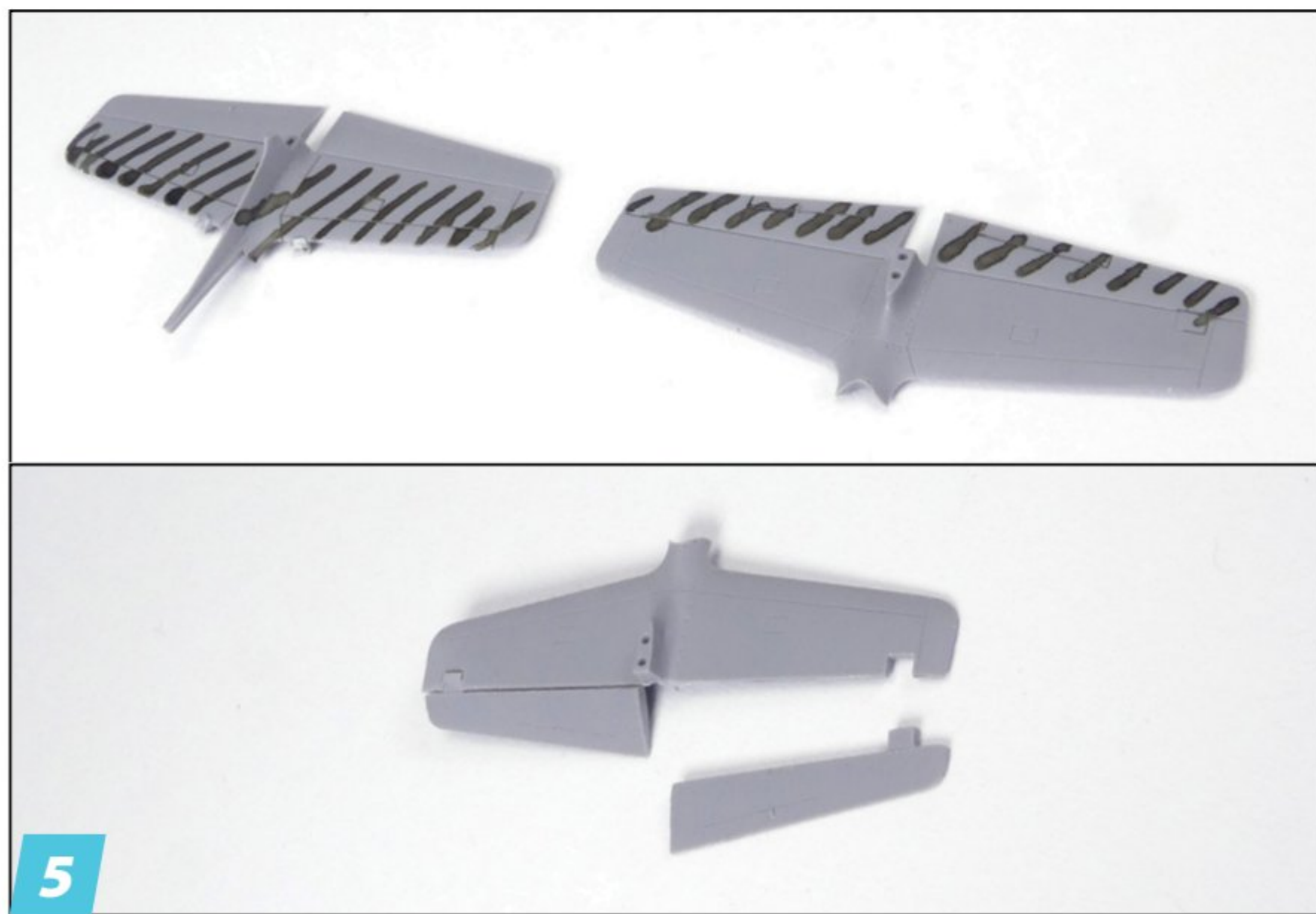
**2** Over MRP Black Fine Surface Primer (No. MRP-085), I airbrushed the cockpit area with AK Interactive 3G US Interior Yellow Green (No. 11859), Zinc Chromate Yellow (No. 111858) for the tail-wheel well, and Aluminium (No. 11208 ) for radiator duct.



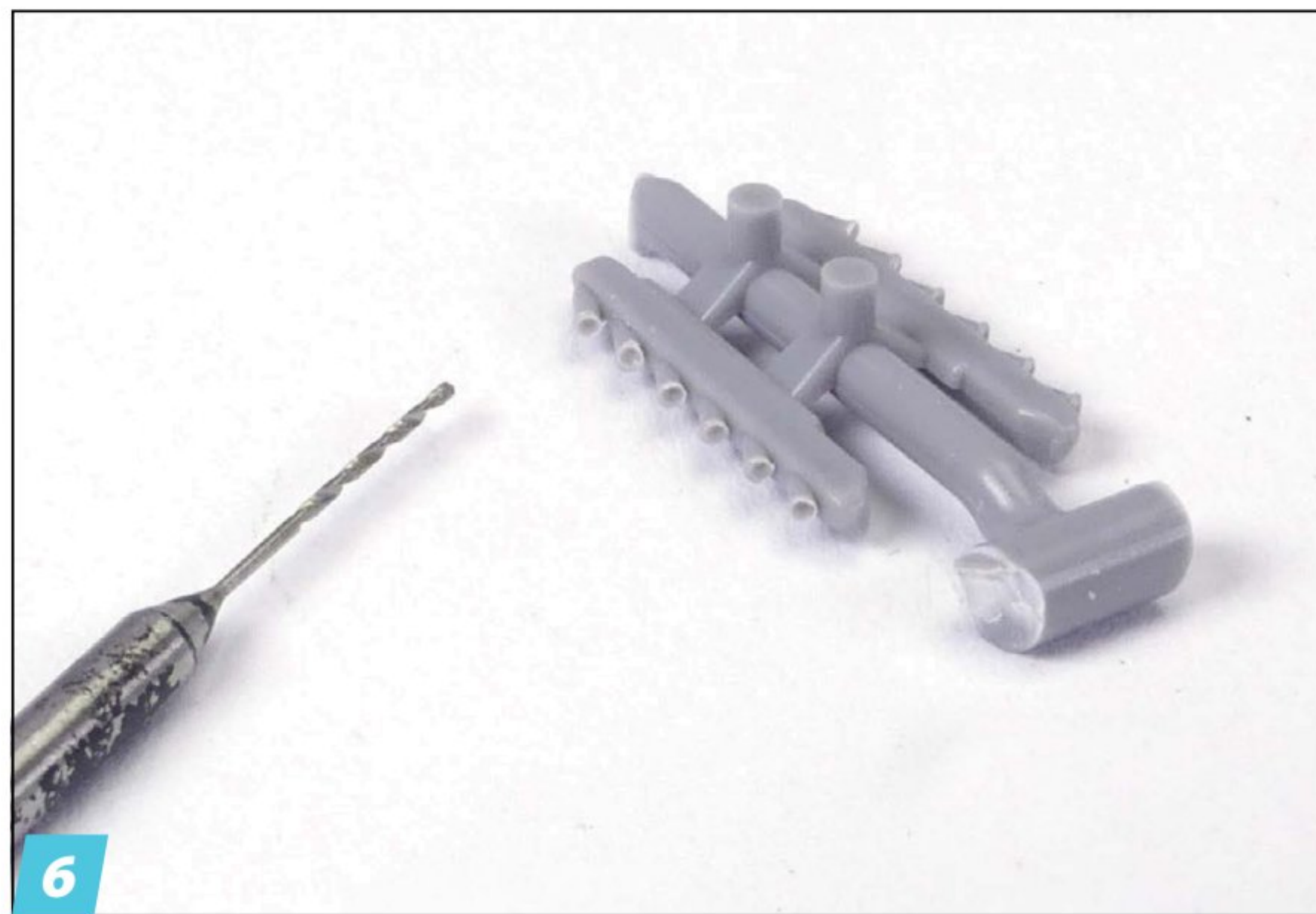
**3** After detail painting and a layer of AK 3G Gloss Medium (No. 11235), I applied the decals, sealed them with Matt Medium (No. 11234), and flowed in a thin, black, artist-oil wash. The radiator and ducting sit under the cockpit, so I test-fitted everything before gluing the fuselage halves.



**4** The main wheel well features the correct straight rear wing spar, and I used a small brush and patience to pick out the thin chromate yellow frames. The airframe I was modeling lacked wing armament, so I filled the muzzle holes in the leading edges with putty.



**5** The model does not offer posable elevators, and the prominent counterweights make it difficult to scribe along the join. Instead, I replaced the elevators on the standard fin base (Part B17) with the elevators cut from an unused fin base (Part B18, left).



**6** For added realism, I used a fine drill bit to carefully hollow the ends of each exhaust pipe by hand.





To reveal any problems and serve as a foundation for the metal shades to come, I base-coated the model with Tamiya Fine Surface Primer Light Gray (No. 87042) straight from the spray can.



After correcting problems, I airbrushed the Mustang with AK Dark Aluminium (No. 11208) and left it to dry. Then I masked various panels on the fuselage and airbrushed them slightly darker or lighter versions of the base color. I left the wings a uniform shade.



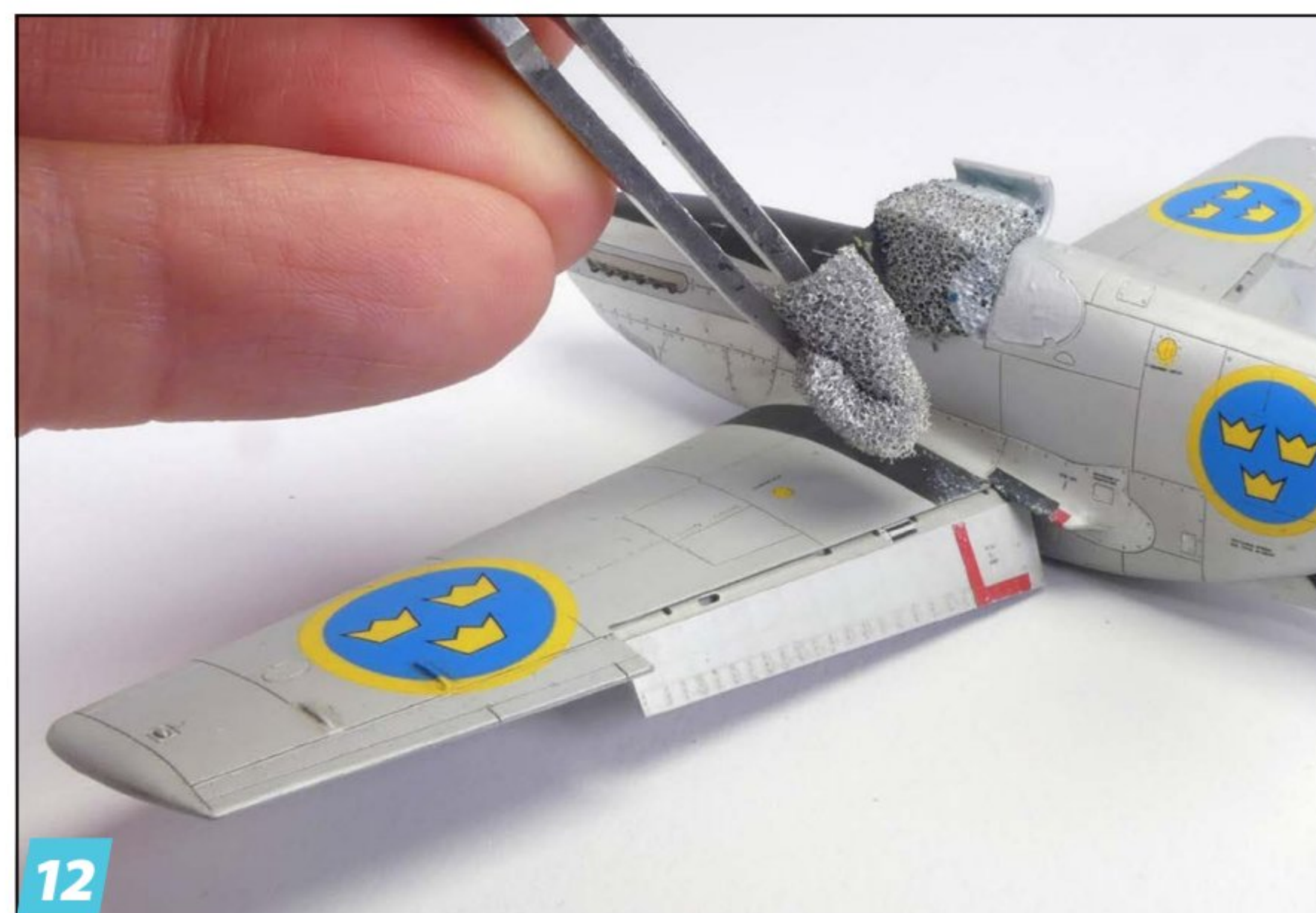
I was unsure whether the antiglare panel in front of the windshield should be black or olive drab. In the end, I painted it and the wing-root walkways with AK 3G Rubber Black (No. 11027). An overall coat of gloss clear prepared the model for decals.



Combining the Moose Republic decals with stencils from the kit, I marked the model, settling the markings with a few applications of Microscale Micro Sol. I sealed the decals with another coat of clear gloss followed by clear flat.

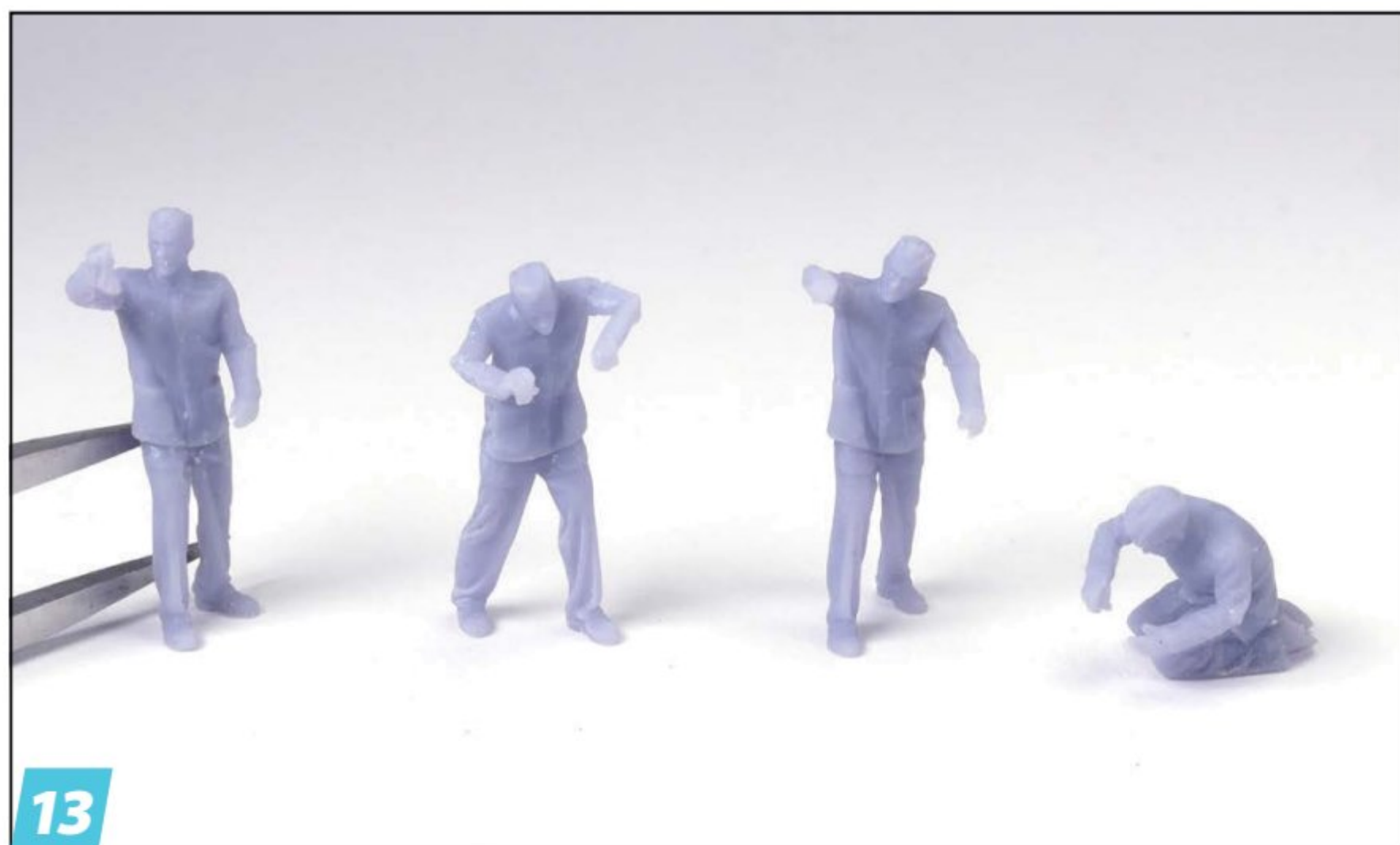


I wanted to keep weathering restrained and started with a light wash of thin, dark gray, artist oil and wiped the surface with a paper towel in the direction of airflow. I airbrushed multiple streaks of thinned rubber black behind the exhausts for staining.

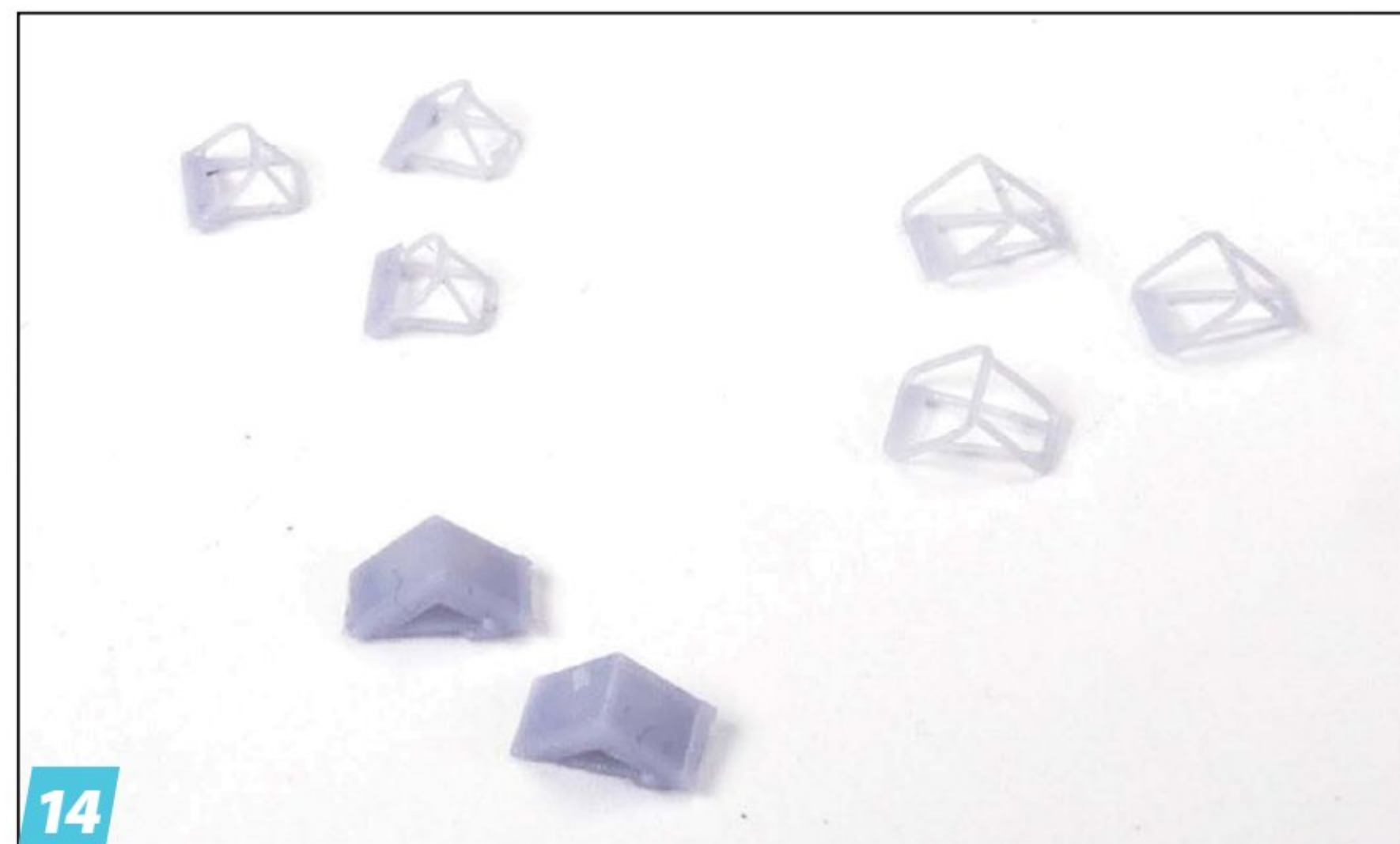


Dipping a chunk of sponge in light gray acrylic and touching it to the antiglare panel and walkways added wear and tear. I dabbed small amounts of AK Dark Streaking Grime (No. AK024) around selected panel joints on the nose and along each wing root with a fine brush.





**13** I wanted the diorama to show the Mustang undergoing maintenance, so I picked up a few accessories. For those who build Swedish aviation subjects, Speira Miniatures ([speira.net](http://speira.net)) offers several 3D-printed Swedish air force mechanics that are finely detailed right down to the air force badge on the cap.



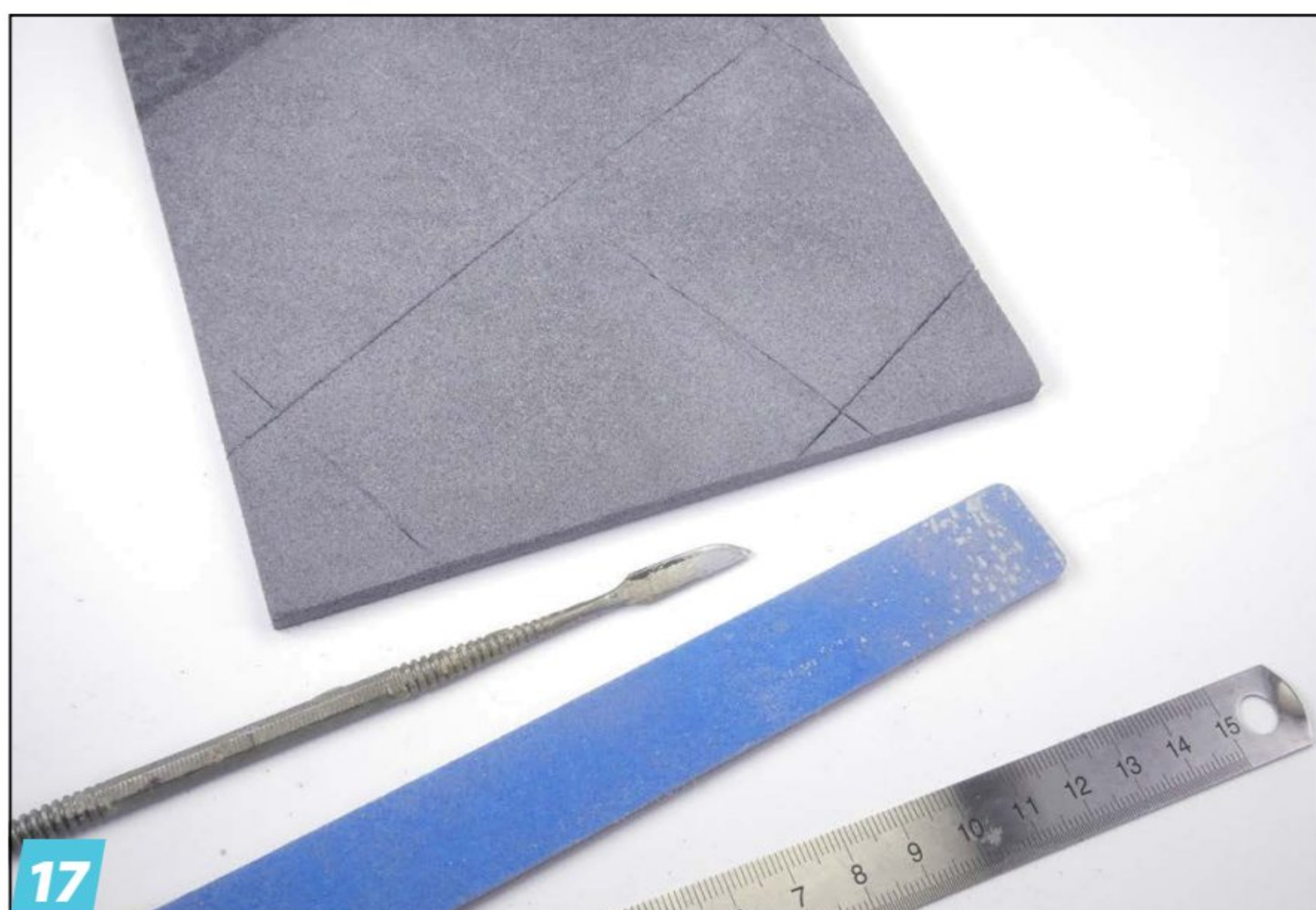
**14** Sticking with 3D-printed products, I acquired a set of wheel chocks from Filip Rudolf. The set includes three style of delicately reproduced chocks.



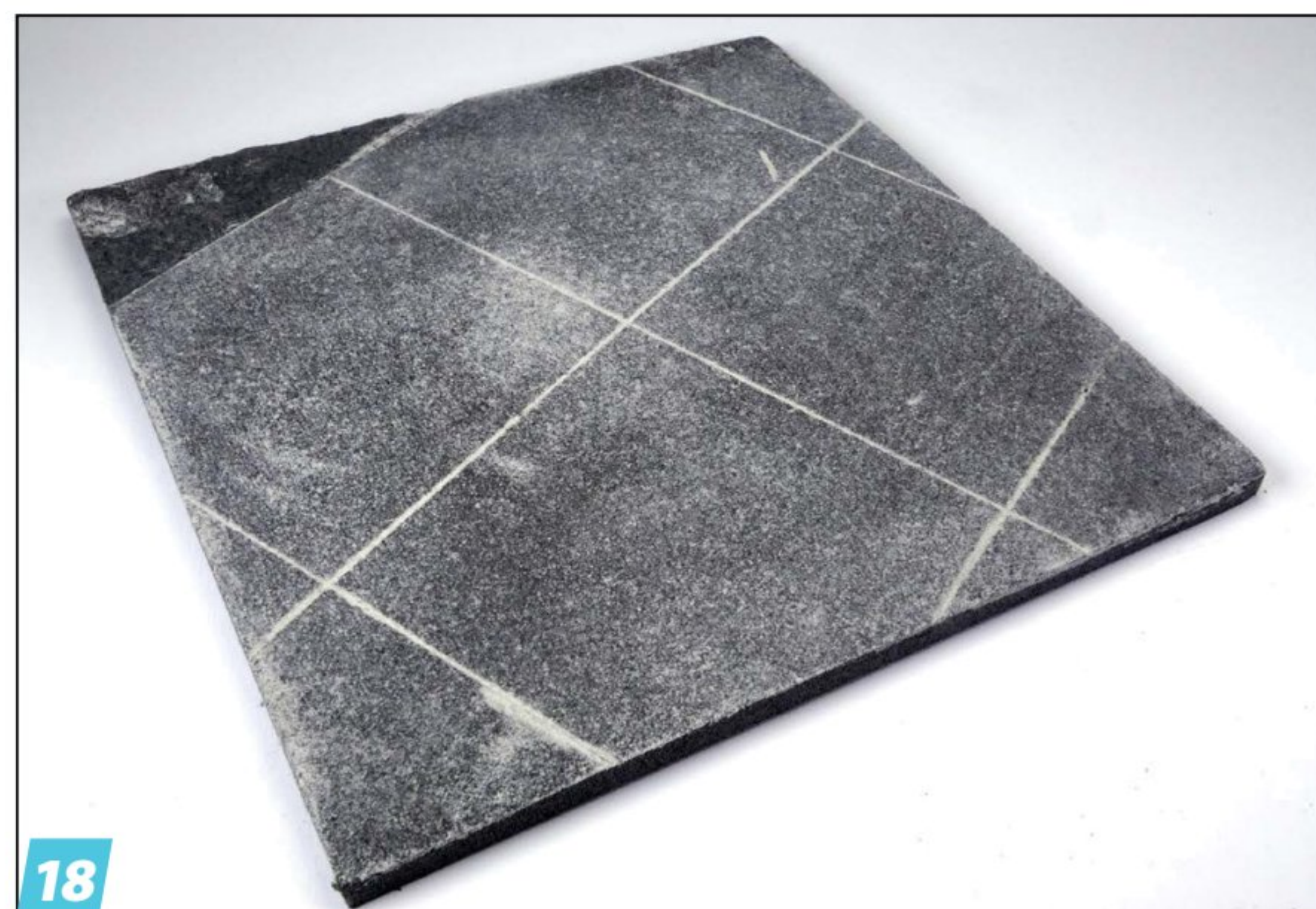
**15** Rummaging through my spares boxes, I found several Hauler 1/72 scale PE details, including a step ladder, toolbox with hand tools, a bicycle, and a few leftover resin oil drums and jerry cans. I painted everything with Vallejo acrylics.



**16** For the base, I started with a square picture frame, cutting a section of AK 6mm Construction Foam (No. AK8096) to cover the opening. I studied photos of Swedish airfields in the 1950s to replicate the apron.

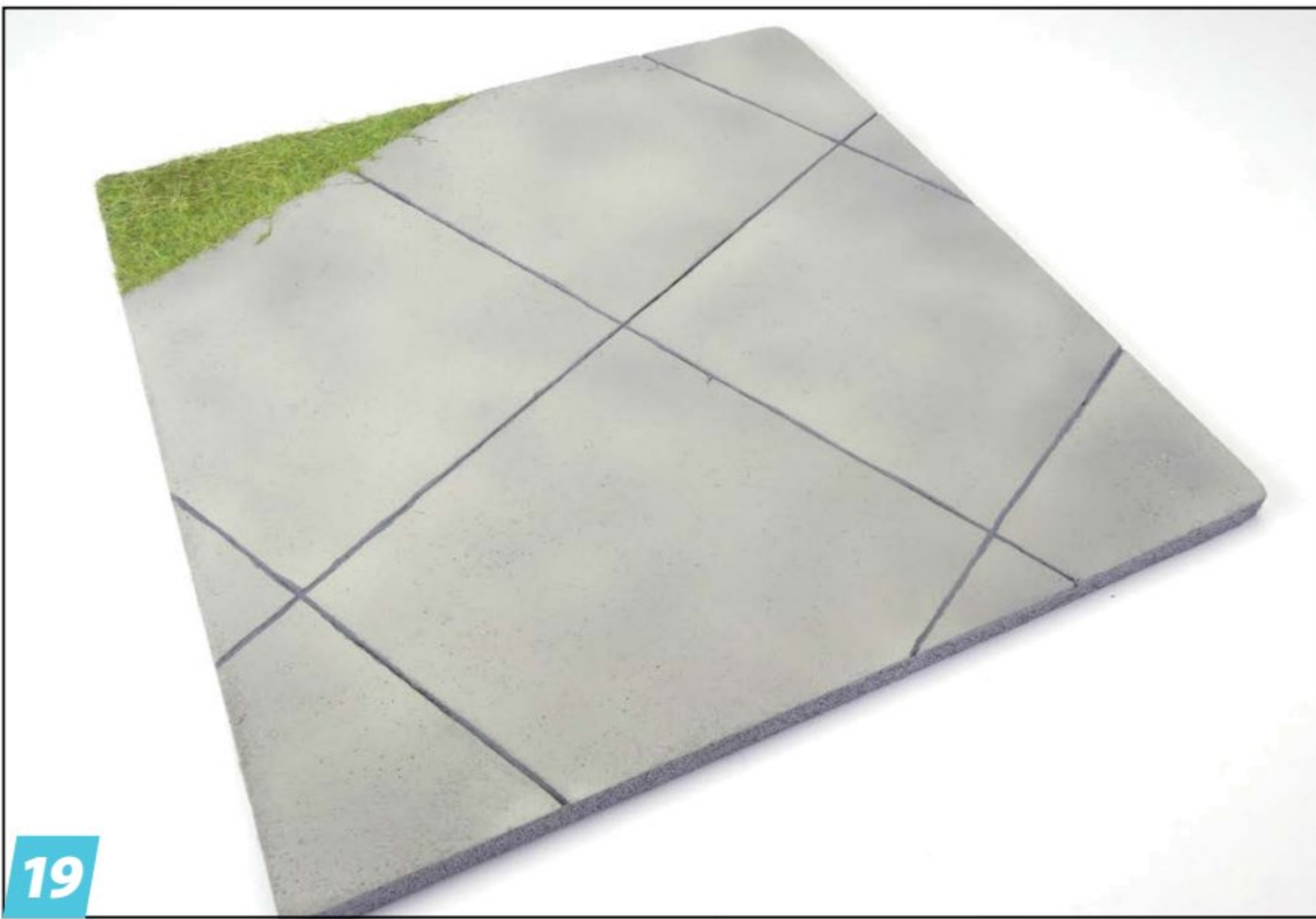


**17** Using a ruler and sculpting tool, I scribed the joints between the concrete elements and flattened one of the corners that would get a layer of grass.



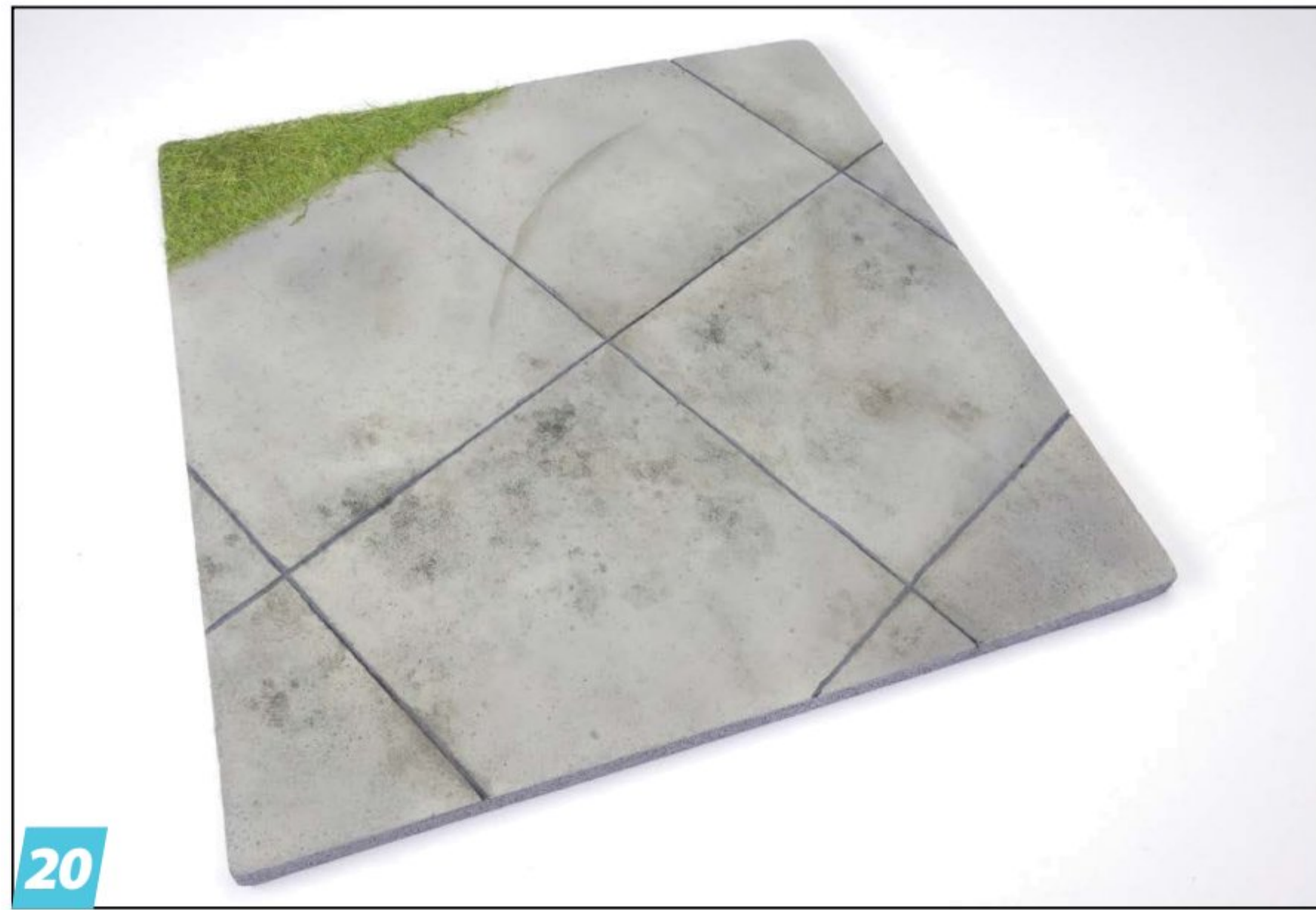
**18** To prepare the surface, I applied a thin layer of wall filler, let it dry, and sanded the surface smooth.





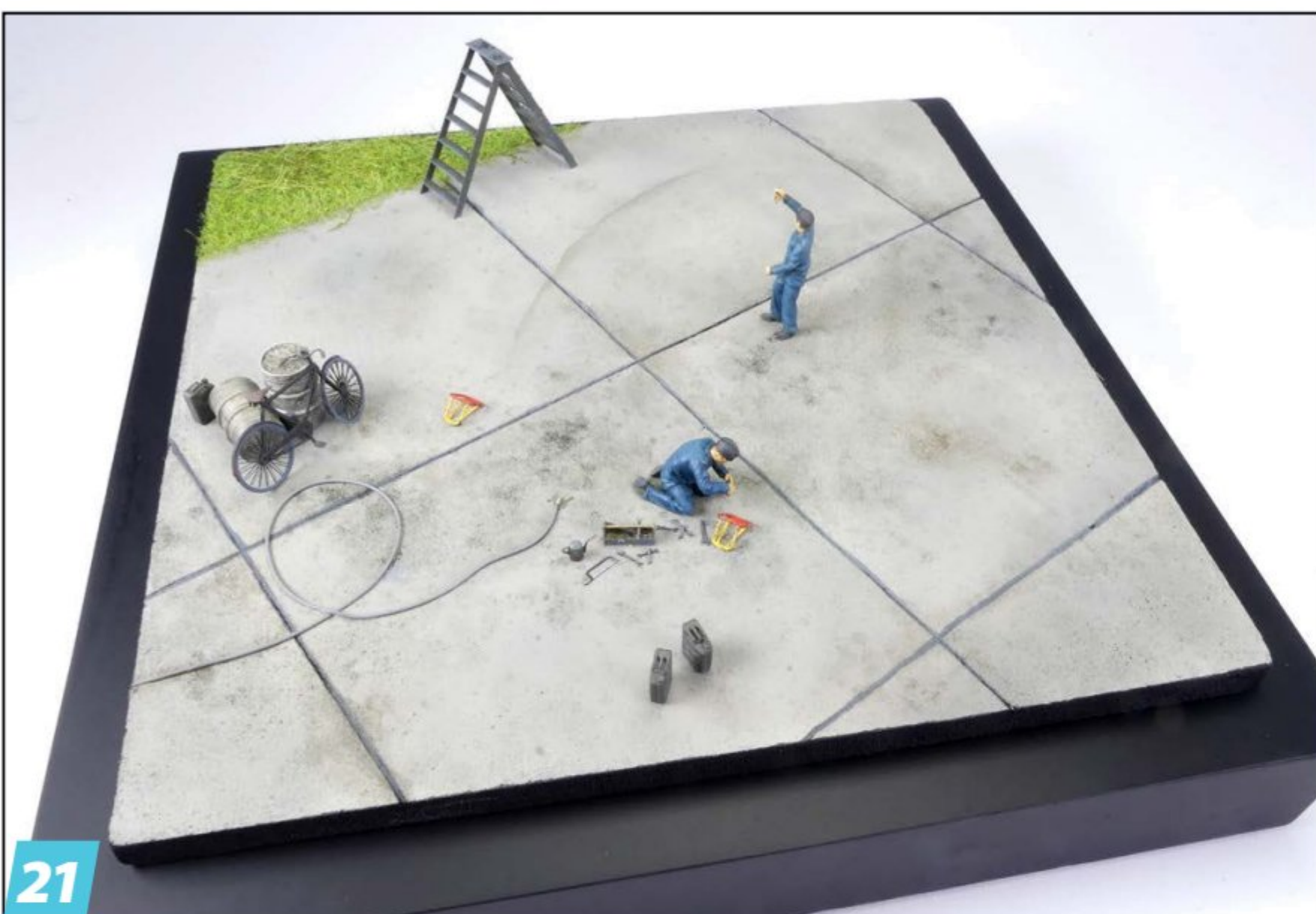
19

I painted the concrete with mixes of AK Rock Gray (No. AK11007) and Grimy Gray (No. A11008) and carefully hand-painted rubber black between the panels for expansion joints. After brushing thin white glue over the corner I painted brown, I sprinkled on fine static grass.



20

Aircraft being serviced always seem to be surrounded with drips and spills of oil and fuel. I added those stains and general grime by dripping thin black and dark gray artist-oil paints over the concrete section, especially where the aircraft would sit.



21

It took testing to find locations I was happy with before I secured the figures, chocks, tools, and equipment with minimal superglue. To fill voids, I added a hose, actually a 1/24 scale sparkplug wire, and an oil can scratchbuilt using leftover styrene.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**AFTER ATTACHING THE PLANE,** the little scene was complete. It didn't take much to build a suitable stable for my Mustang, but even the simplest diorama can do a lot to enhance the overall impression of a single aircraft model. It gives the model context, a sense of scale, and helps it stand out on a table. **FSM**







## Improve the Das Werk 1/72 scale *U-9*

BY PHILLIP GORE

**A**t the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the submarine was an unproven weapon seen as best utilized in a supporting role for battleships and heavy cruisers. That opinion changed forever on September 22, 1914 when, in the span of a little more than an hour, S.M. *U-9* sank three Royal Navy armored cruisers, HMS *Aboukir*, *Hogue*, and *Cressy*. That action made the German crew national heroes, shook British public confidence, and cemented the submarine's place as a potent weapon.

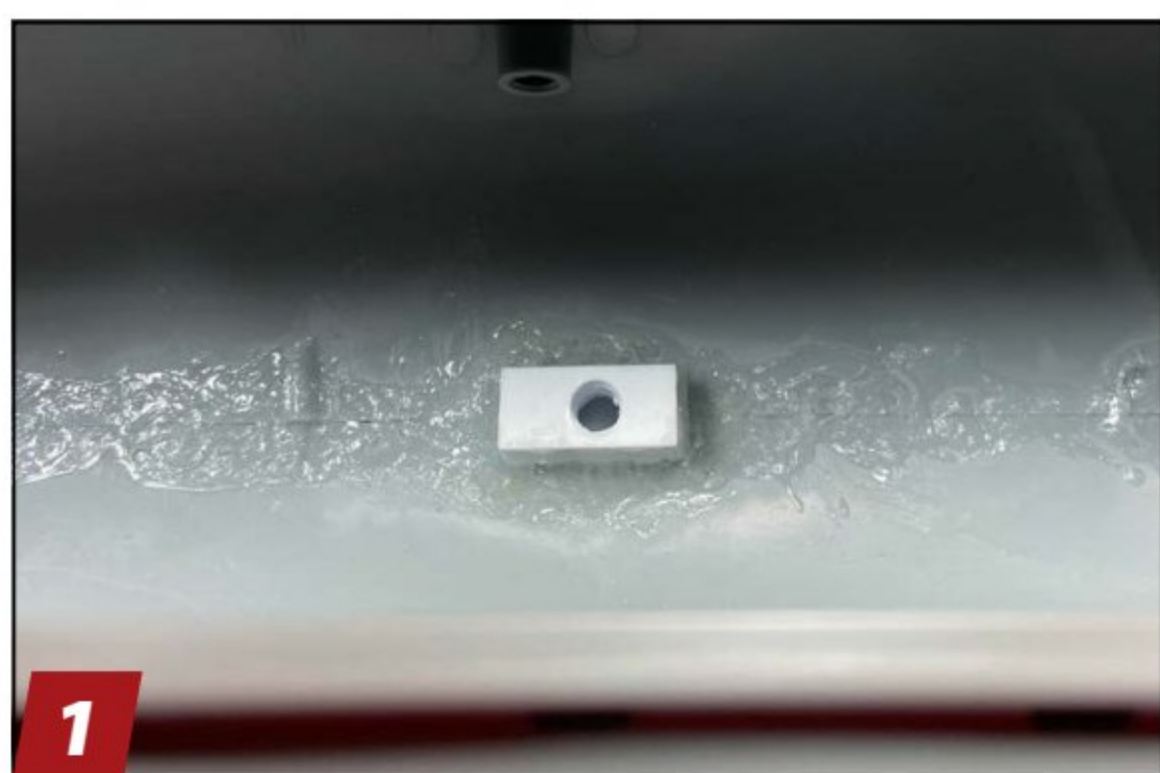
While World War II submarines are well represented in plastic kit form, the same can't be said for their predecessors. That was until 2020 when Das Werk released a detailed, 1/72 scale kit of *U-9*. (For those keeping score at home, the model is a respectable 31 inches long when it's finished.) It doesn't take much to make it even better.



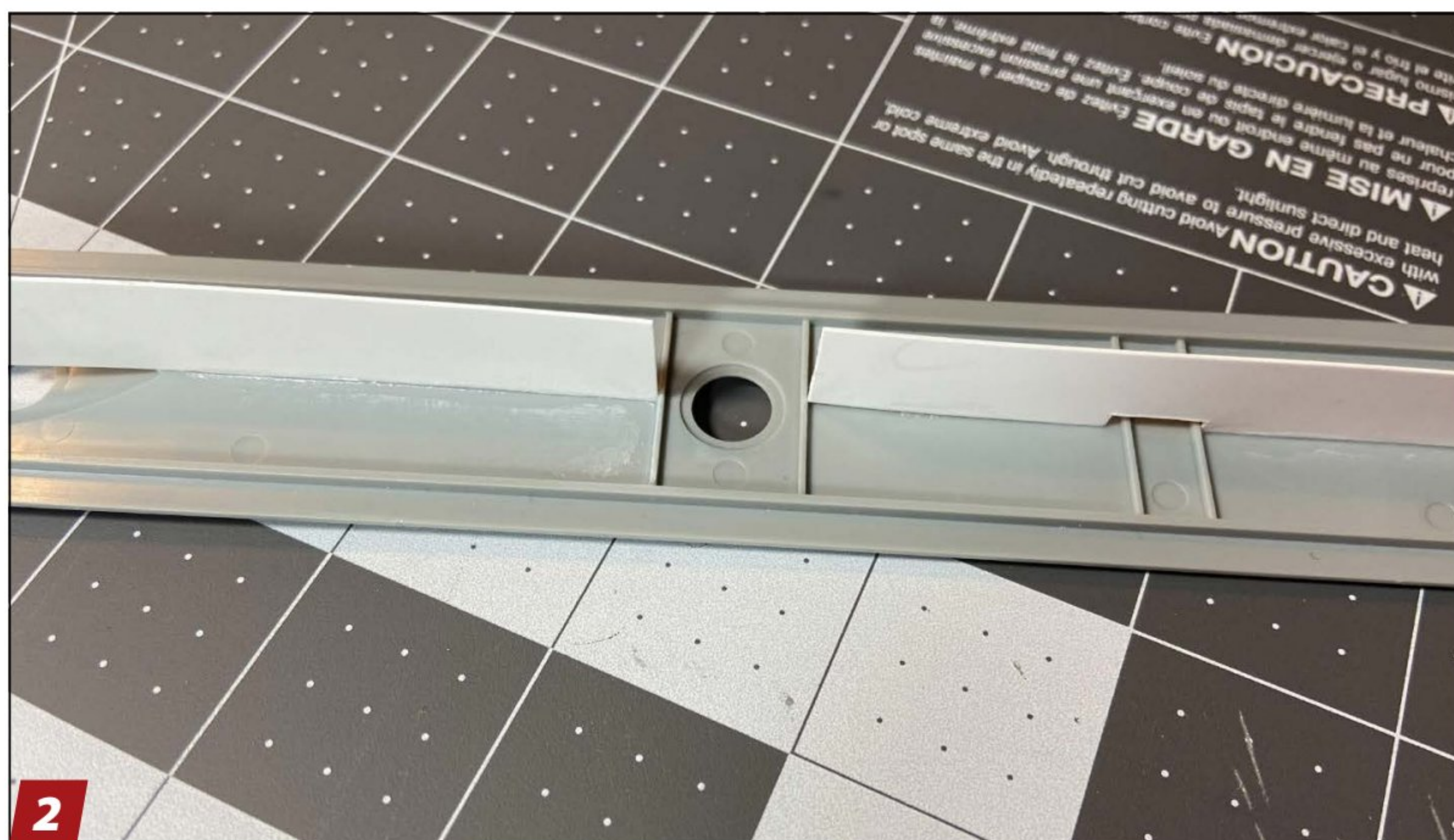
# ***SHARPEN*** *a World War I* ***SUB***



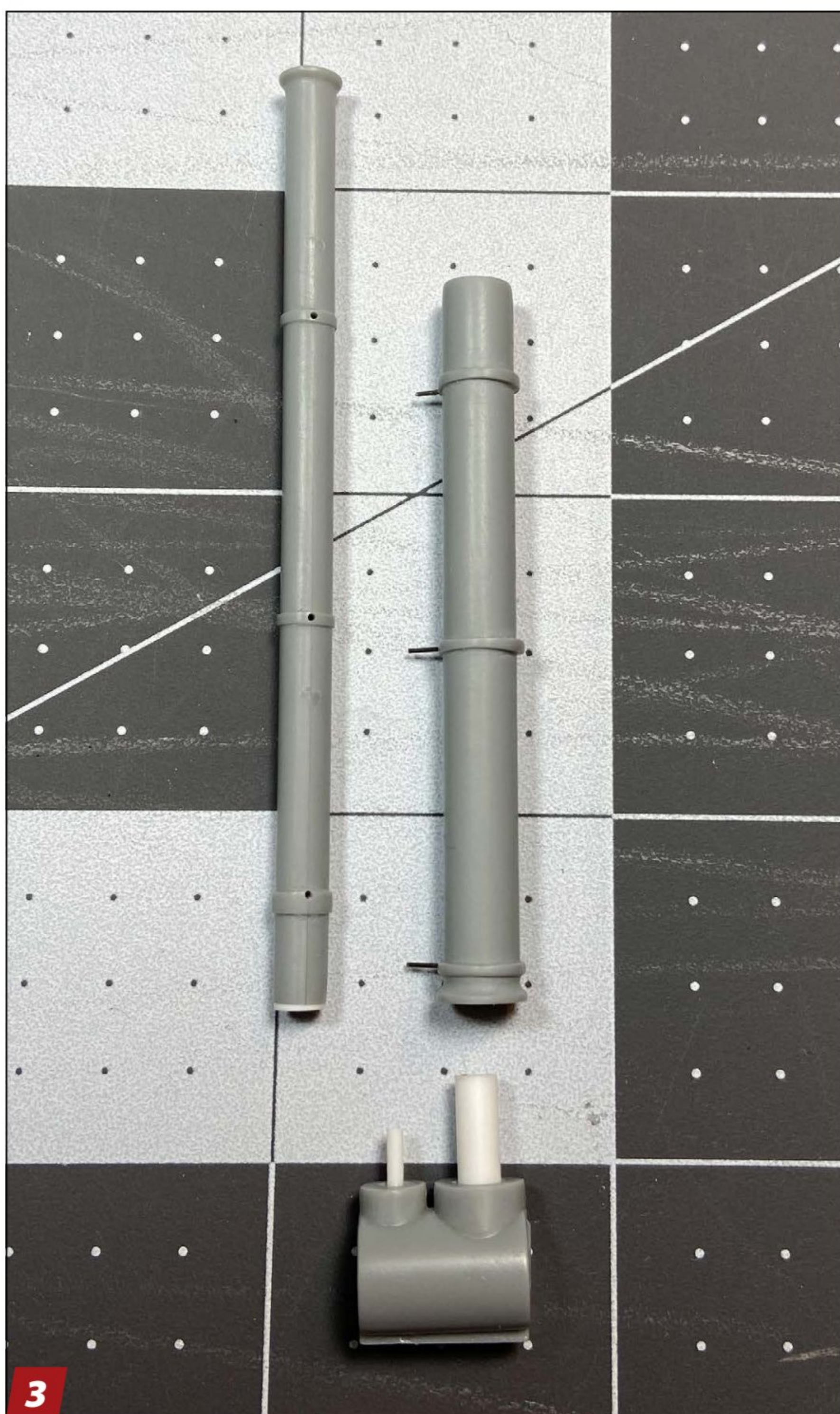




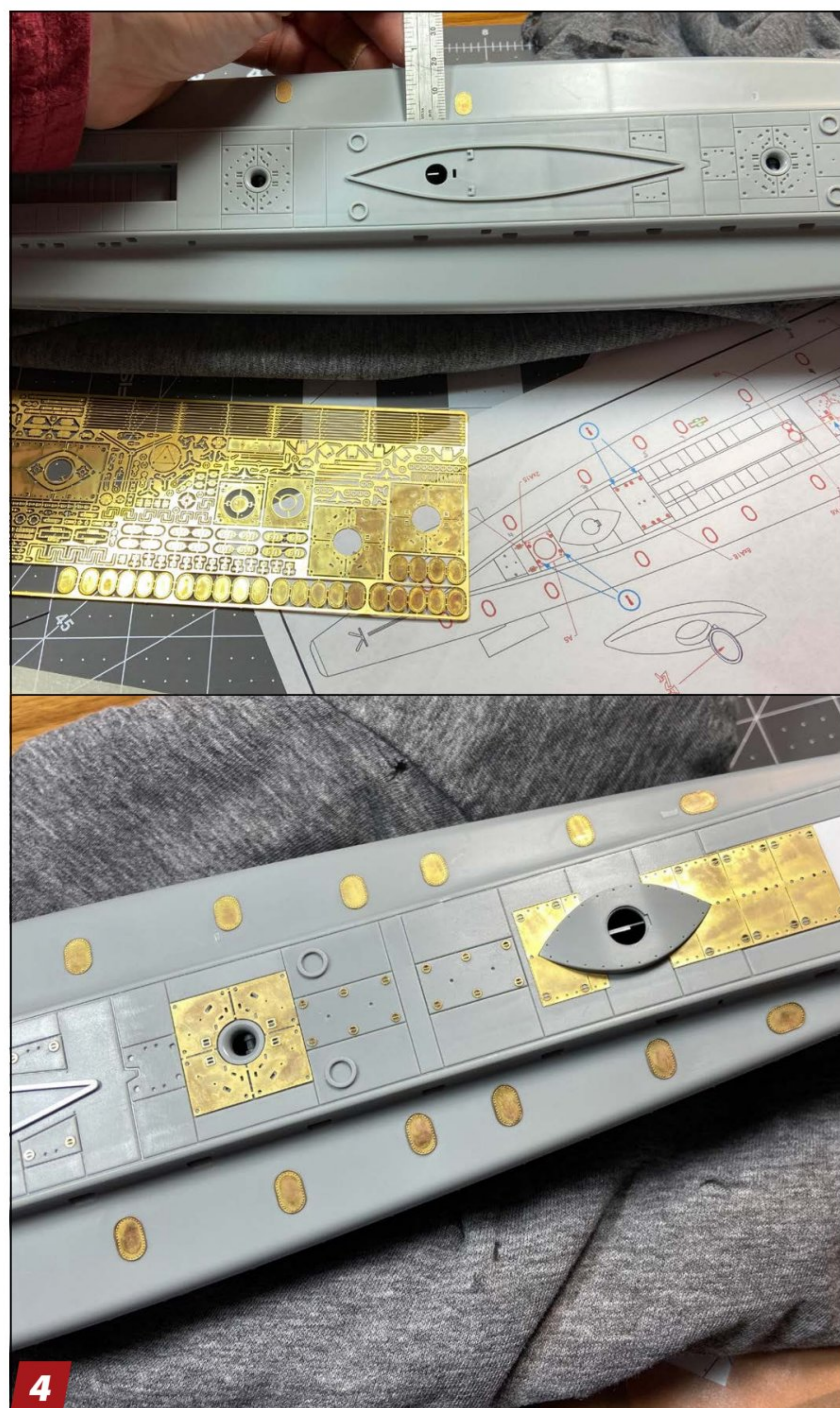
**1** I ran a wood screw through a couple of ¼-inch x ¼-inch squares of .080-inch styrene to thread the holes. These were then glued along the keel inside the hull to provide the finished model support when I screwed it to the wooden base.



**2** Adding thin styrene sheets to the bottom of the deck and painting them dark gray blocked the view through the hull's many vents and gave the impression of internal structures.

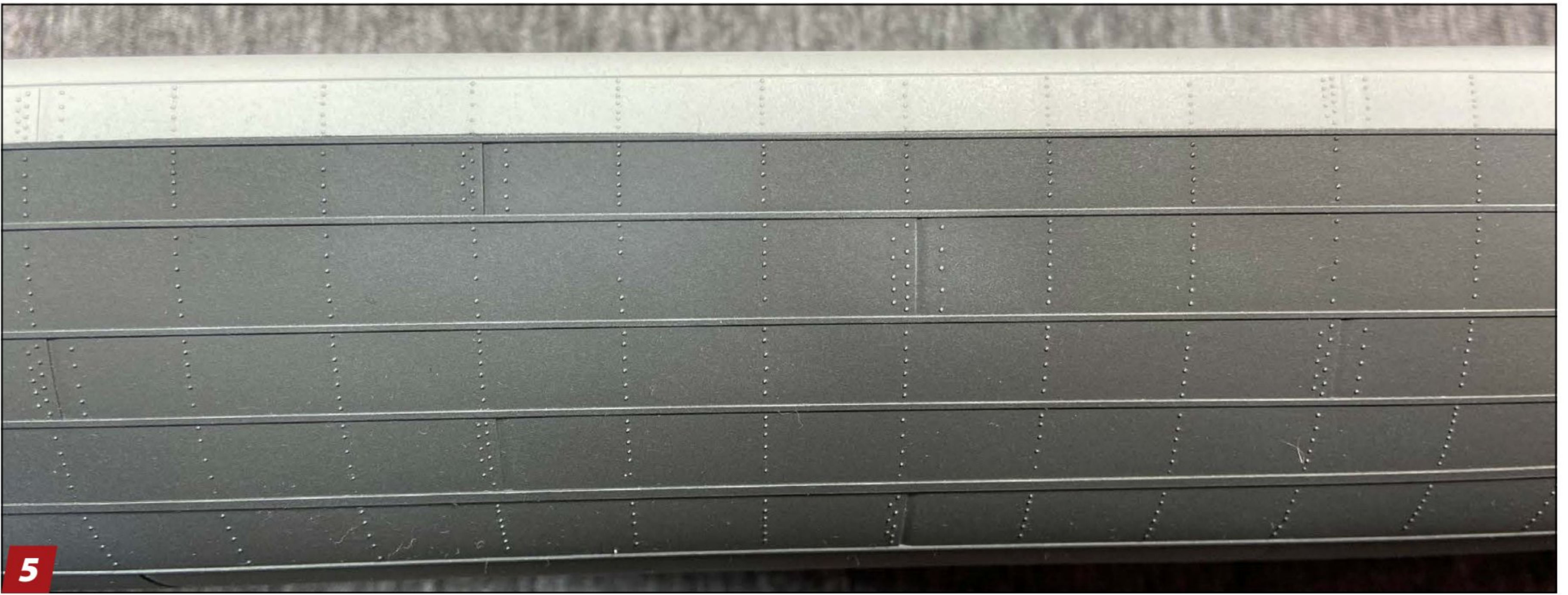


**3** As molded, the fume exhaust/air intake stacks come in halves. To make painting and assembly easier, I glued them together and cut the stacks at the base. Gluing matching styrene rods into the base's holes will make locating the stacks after assembly easy.



**4** To enhance the kit detail, I used a photo-etched metal set (No. 092) from RC Subs (rcsubs.cz). The instructions include measurement and scale drawings to locate things like the saddle-tank covers.





5

I painted the hull below the waterline and decks with Humbrol Dark Grey (No. 39) and vertical surfaces above with Humbrol Light Grey (No. 147). I varied the lower hull by randomly airbrushing wash-thin Humbrol Medium Grey (No. 145) and dry-brushing raised details with flat gull gray.



6

I masked a few sections of the dark gray deck and airbrushed them with Testors Flat Black enamel (No. 1149). As with the lower hull, a random airbrushing of the medium gray wash gave the deck a weathered and worn appearance.



7

The demarcation line between the light and dark gray colors needed to be sharp so wherever removed tape revealed paint that bled, I carefully remasked and repainted the area.



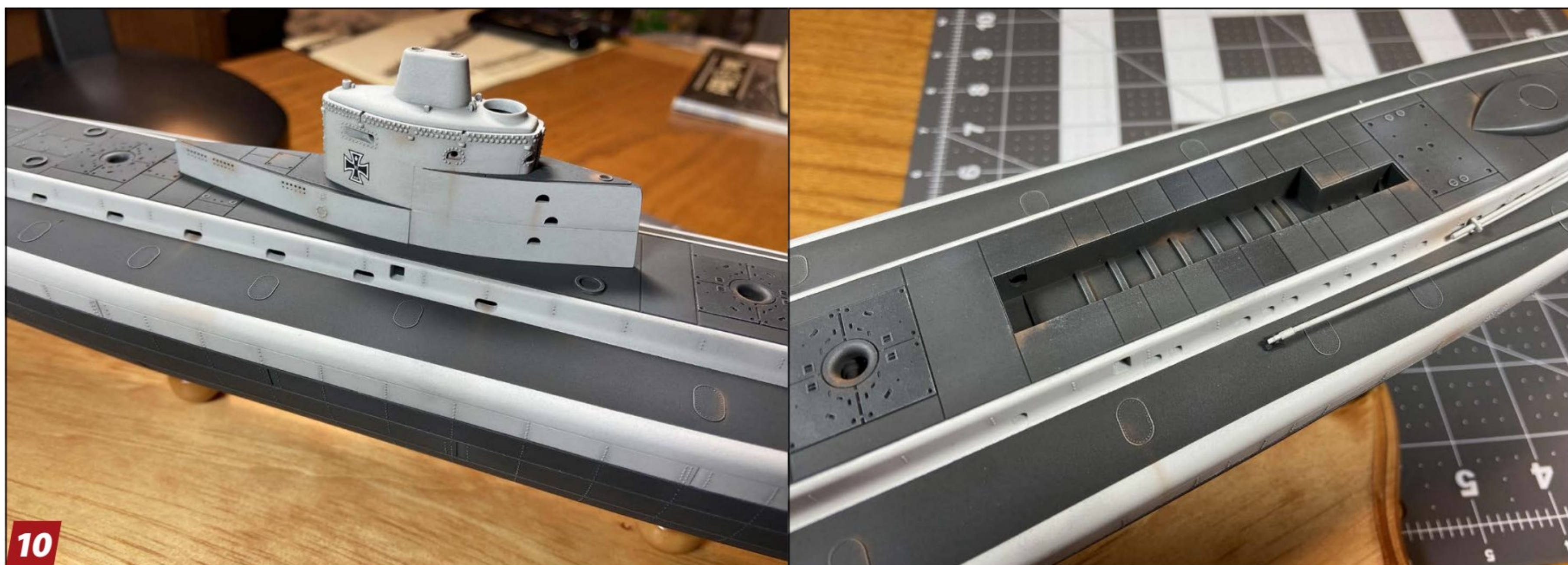
8

Once the touch-ups were done, I highlighted deck details by dry-brushing flat gull gray enamel.

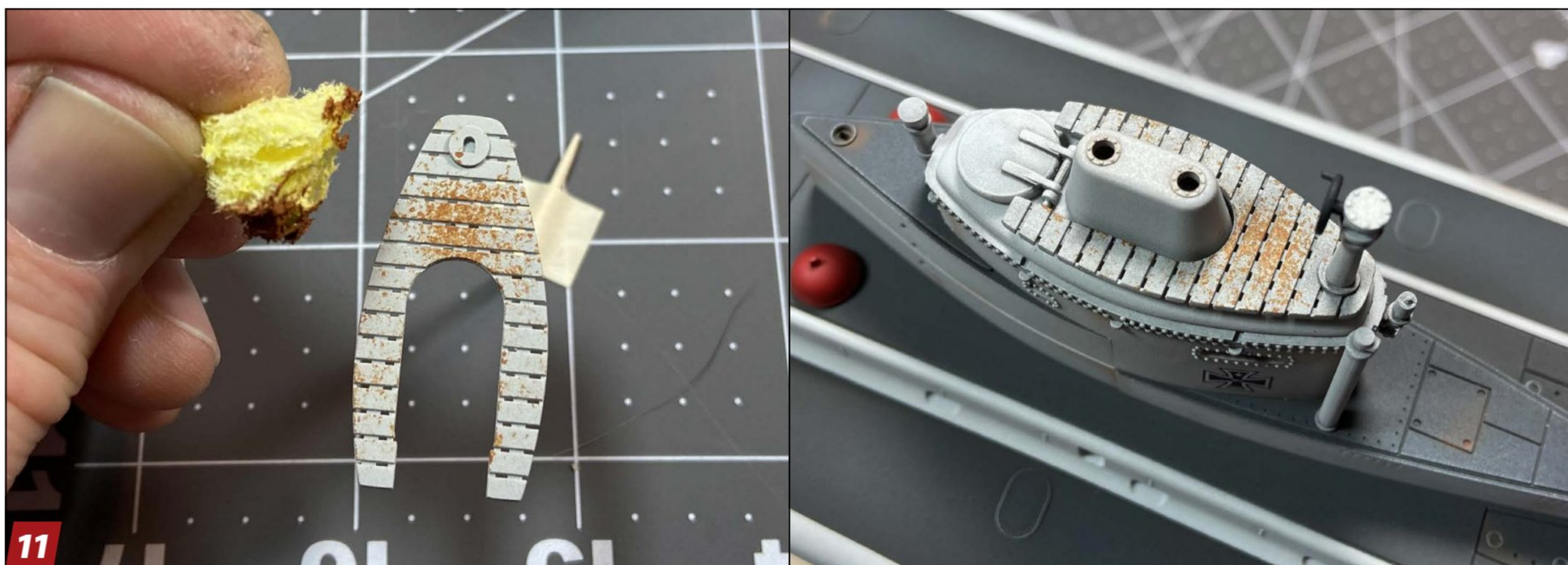




To weather the light gray areas, I used powdered pastels exclusively. In this photo, the far right hasn't been touched, but the middle area has had dark gray pastels applied along rivet lines with a small, pointed brush. On the bow at left, excess pastel was blown away and the remaining color blended with a stiff, flat brush and cotton swabs.

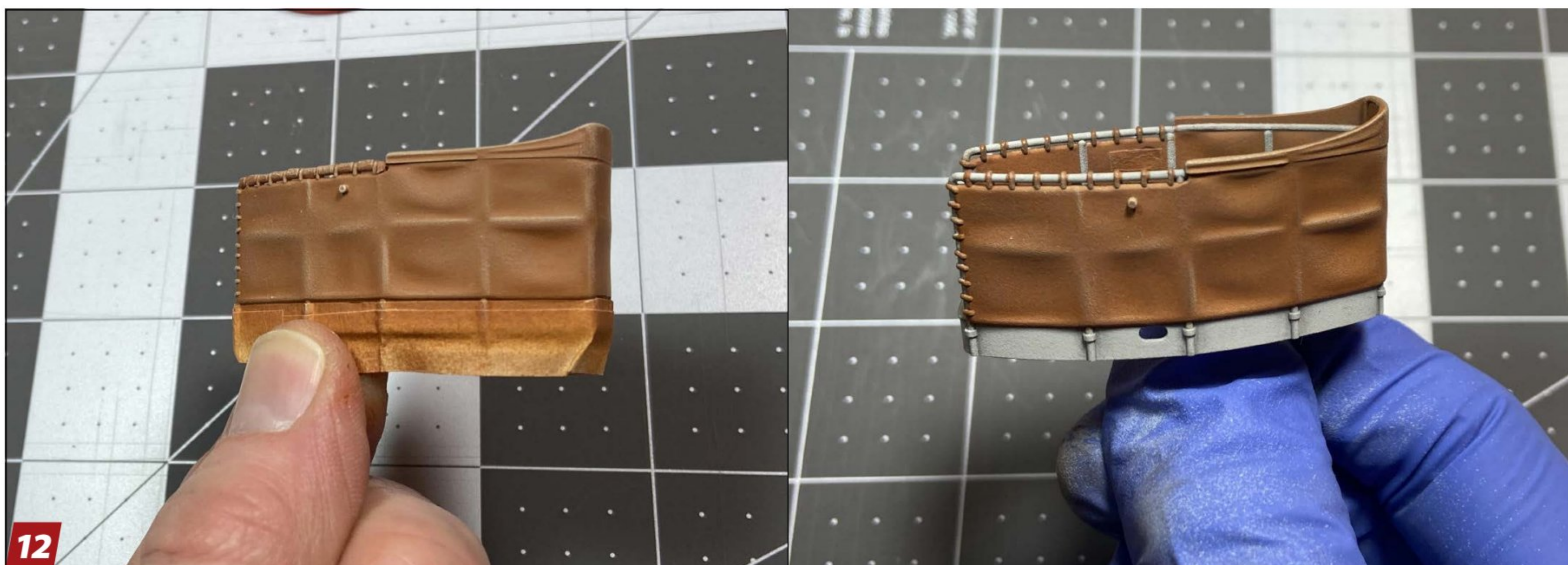


As a final step to weather the hull, I brushed on a few rust stains and streaks with fine pastel powder. The streaks were drawn down surfaces with a small, pointed brush, and the stains were blended with cotton swabs. The key to adding rust is knowing when to stop.



The conning tower of *U-9* was topped with a wooden deck. After painting it light gray, I dabbed on Testors Flat Brown (No. 1166) with a chunk of sponge to represent paint worn to bare wood by the crew. Dark gray pastel powder applied to the deck and mostly wiped off creates the appearance of accumulated grime and dirt.





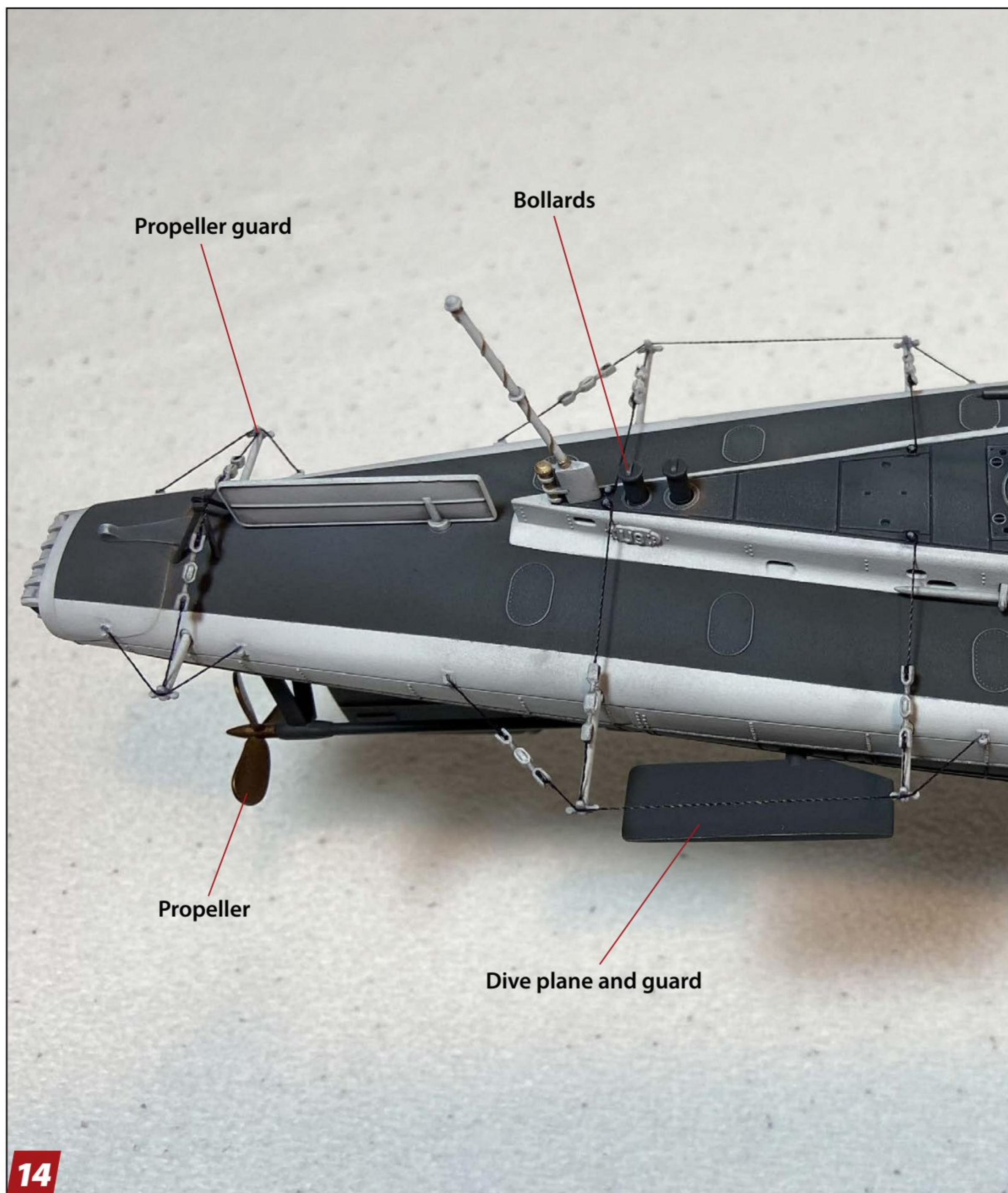
12

I chose the optional, two-piece conning tower railings with the canvas cover, a cool part that adds a lot of character. After assembly, I airbrushed it flat brown and then dry-brushed it with Testors Flat Tan (No. 1167) and radome tan. I picked out the railings with light gray to match the vertical surfaces and weathered with dark gray pastels.



13

I rigged the mast with stainless-steel wire and added support braces to the exhaust stack/air intake with fine brass rod.



14

Fine black thread combined with the kit's flotation buoys produced guards for the dive planes and propellers. After small deck details, such as machine guns and bollards were added, *U-9* was ready to launch. Das Werk's early submarine builds great out of the box, but a couple of tweaks raise it even higher. **FSM**



# ABRAMS

Finish an M1A2 as a tank on maneuvers in Germany

BY JARI HEMILÄ

I'm not particularly fond of modern armor, preferring World War II tanks. But after finding photos of Abramses on military exercises in Germany, I decided to give an M1A2 a go. My inspiration was the mud the images revealed coating the vehicles; it was a lot of mud, leaving muddy tracks on the road. Also, I really liked images of the tank kneeling under the weight of a mine plow.

This project actually started 10 years ago converting a Dragon 1/35 scale M1A2 SEP (No. 3536) into a SEP V2 with a Def.Model set (No. 35030), Orange Hobby antennas, and an Aber brass M2 .50-caliber machine gun. I got through the build, painting, and lower hull weathering, then shelved the project. After a decade, it was time to pull it out of the box, finish it, and add groundwork.

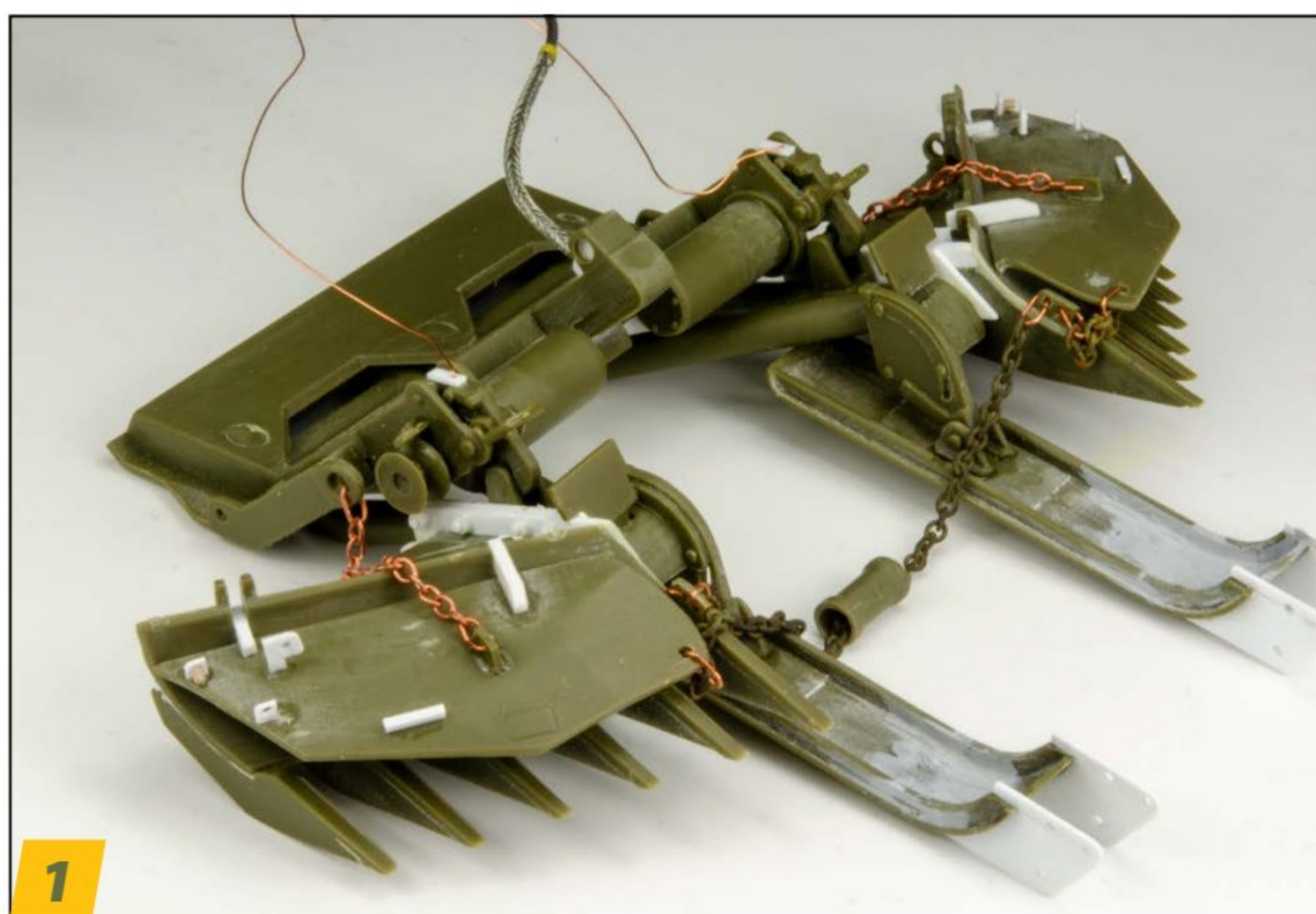




# *in the* **MUD**







**1** I sourced the mine plow from a Trumpeter M1A1/A2 and added details based on references using styrene sheet and strips, with bolt heads and nuts made with a punch-and-die sets. The ski's front ends are modified to represent a later model with attachment points for the center blade.



**2** I started the camouflage with warm, yellowish green mixed by lightening Tamiya NATO Green (No. XF-67) with Flat Yellow (No. XF-3), and Sky (No. XF-21). Some panels are painted with a slightly lighter shade, but I kept the effect subtle.



**3** I lightened Tamiya NATO Brown (No. XF-68) with Flat Earth (No. XF-52), and NATO Black (No. XF-69) with Sky for the other colors and airbrushed them freehand based on official instructions for camouflaging Abrams.



**4** Using references, I picked out details by hand, including the white cover on the equipment box on the rear right corner and the green bolts and surrounds on fixtures. I base-coated all the lights with Citadel Boltgun Metal, a dark steel color that has a nice sheen and dries fast.

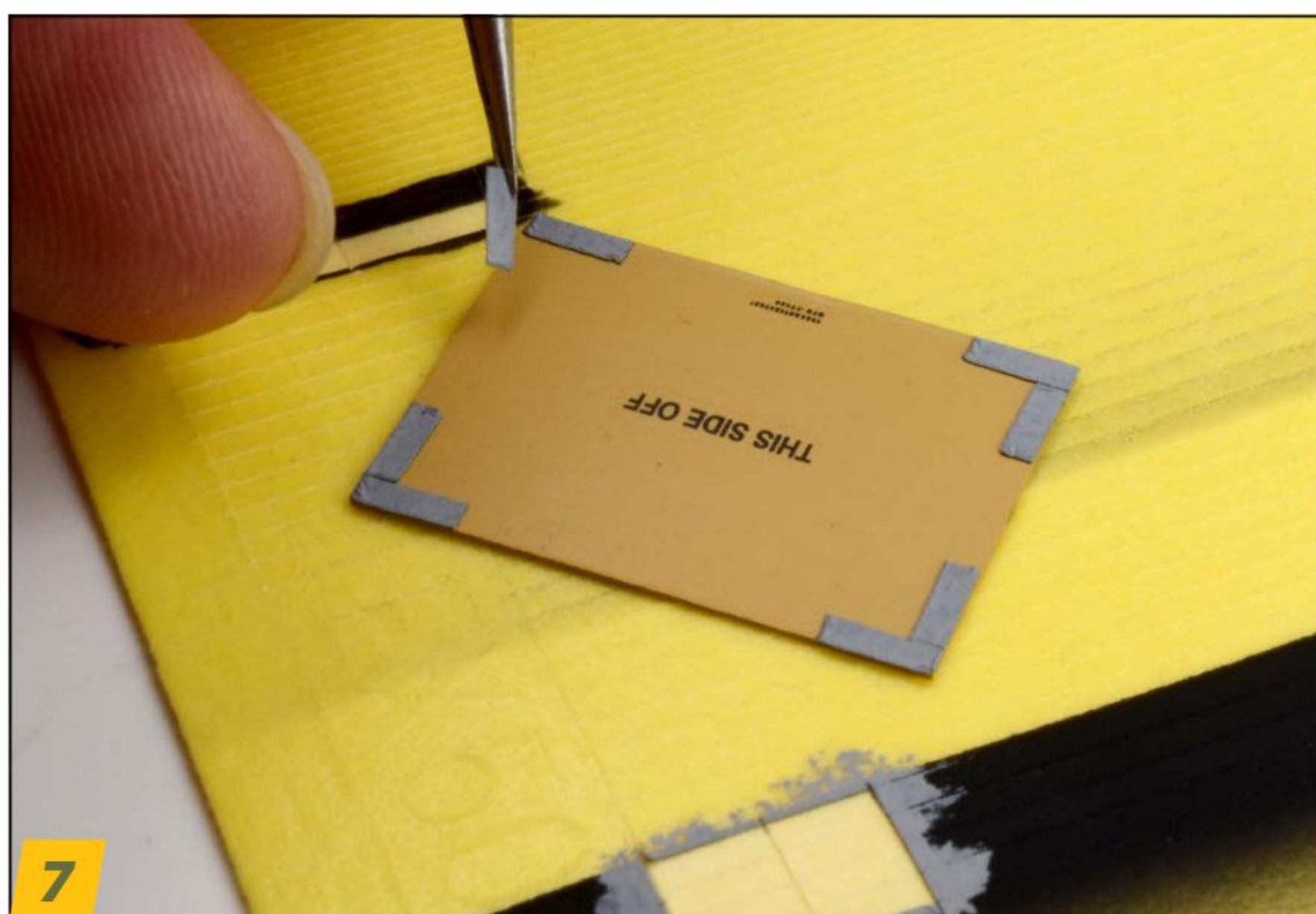


**5** I scratchbuilt width markers for the mine plow with steel wire wrapped with fine copper wire for the spring base and topped with a ball of epoxy putty. I carefully painted them with Vallejo acrylics.

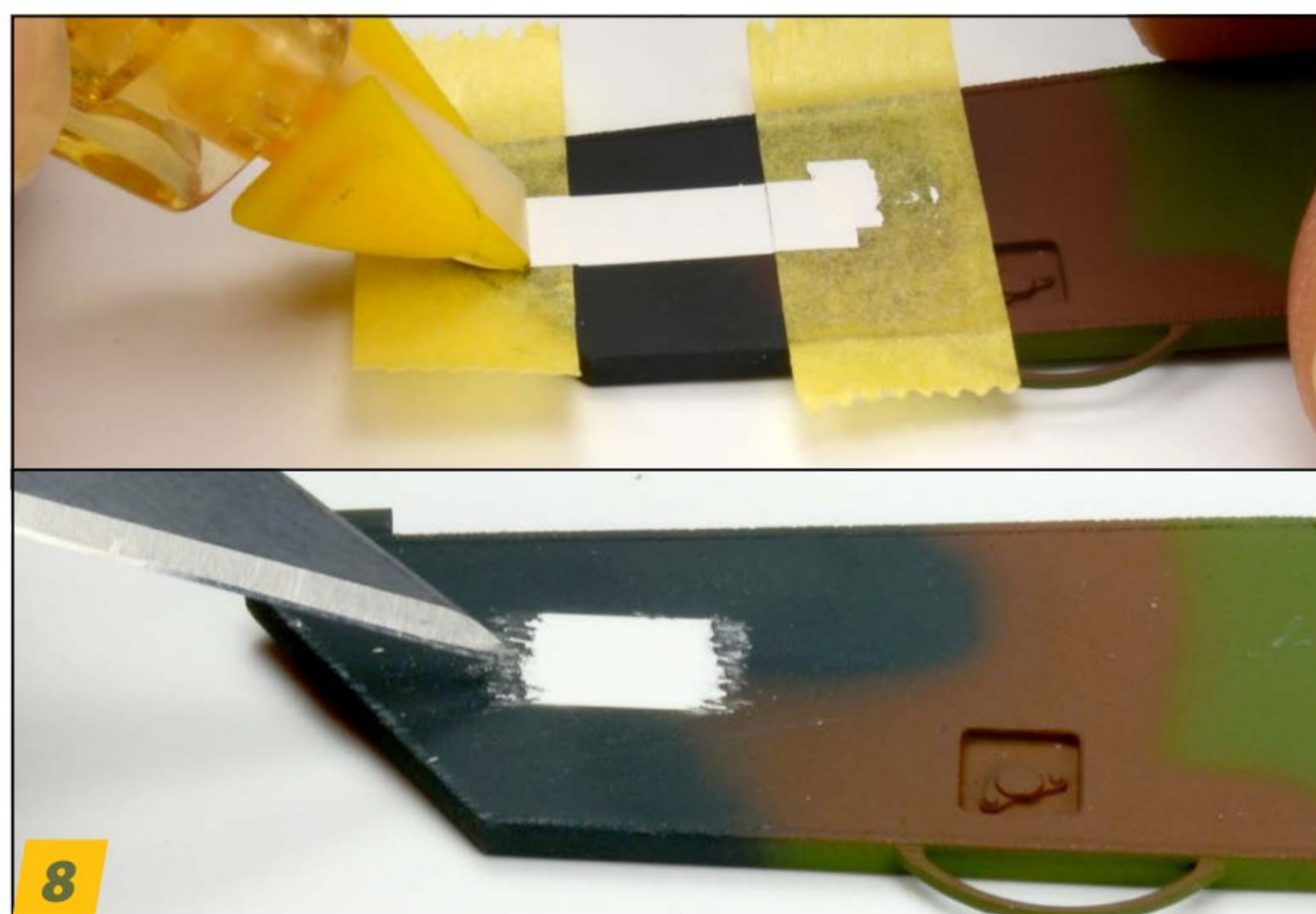


**6** For the Velcro strips on the turret, I painted masking tape flat black, cut it to size, and applied pieces to the model based on photos.





7 The Combat Identification Panels (CIP) were painted light tan before I applied the kit decals. I added duct tape in a similar way by painting tape neutral gray.



8 It appeared the tank wore loading marks made from paper glued to the vehicle. To model the paper, I masked the ends and applied correction tape. Pulling up the masks, I had a neat rectangle that I weathered by scratching the edges with a hobby knife.



9 After priming the mine plow with Mr. Surfacor 1200, I airbrushed the subassembly with progressively lighter rust shades mixed from Tamiya Flat Black (No. XF-1), Flat Red (No. XF-7), Flat Brown (No. XF-10), and flat yellow. I would later reveal this rusty base via chipping.



10 I speckled colors from LifeColor's Dust and Rust set (No. CS10), Rust Base Color (No. UA702), Rust Dark Shadow (No. UA701), Rust Light Shadow 1 (No. UA703), and Rust Light Shadow 2 (No. UA704), by flicking paint off an old, stiff, short-bristle brush. Next, I coated the plow with hairspray.



11 For the plow's CARC tan base color, I mixed Tamiya Buff (No. XF-57) and Deck Tan (No. XF-55) and airbrushed it heavier in some places and thinner in areas where I expected more rust to be visible. To chip the tan, I applied warm water and then hit the surface with stiff brushes.



12 I sealed that with a couple of layers of clear flat and sprayed another layer of hairspray before applying Ammo by Mig Jimenez (Ammo) RAL6011 Resedagrün (No. A.MIG-0003). This was also chipped with water and stiff brushes.





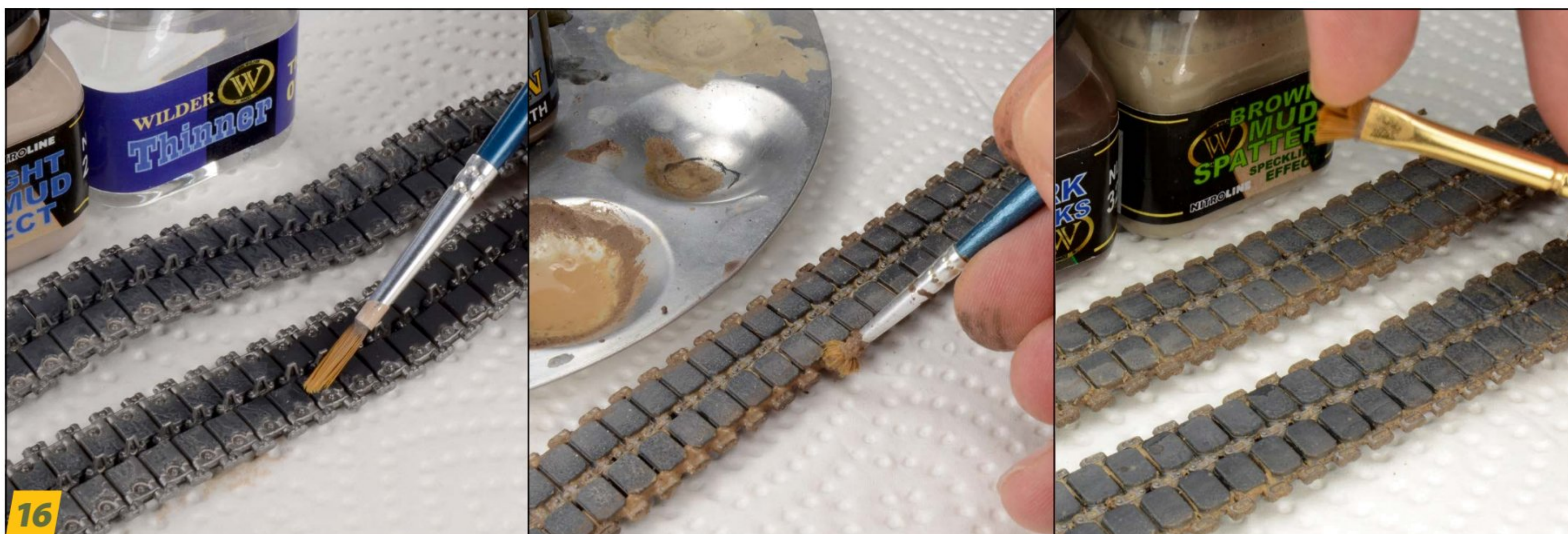
13 I started weathering the lower hull with a heavy application of Wilder Nitroline Deep Shadow Wash (No. NL02). It serves to emphasize details and create shadows. Wilder Light Europe Textured Earth (No. TE11) was brushed and dabbed onto the lower hull.



14 Over a primer layer of Mr. Surfacer 1200, I airbrushed the tires on the wheels with Tamiya Rubber Black (No. XF-85). Masking the tires with a circle template, I airbrushed a few hubs with my custom CARC tan mix and the rest with the NATO green mix used on the hull.



15 After a dark pinwash to pick out details, I dabbed a thick layer of Ammo mud onto the road wheels and enhanced the deposits with Wilder Light Europe Textured Earth. After letting it dry overnight, I added a little Wilder Dark Brown Textured Earth (No. TE03) to represent wet mud, again leaving it to dry overnight. Next, my favorite part, speckling the wheels with Wilder Nitroline Dark Rainmarks Wash (No. NL32) and Brown Mud Spatter Speckled Effect (No. NL29). This blends the previous layers and makes the deposits look realistic.



16 Focusing on the blocks, I airbrushed the tracks with rubber black and hand-painted the track's steel connectors with Citadel Boltgun Metal. A wash of thin Wilder Light Dry Mud Effect provided a base layer of dust. A couple of hours later, I added dark brown textured earth to the end connectors and between the blocks where wet mud concentrates. I finished the tracks with the same speckling treatment used on the wheels.





17 After attaching the running gear, the project stalled for 10 years. Back on track, I painted the plow teeth with Ammo Metal Steel (No. A.MIG-191). Pinwashes of Ammo Oilbrushers Dark Brown (No. A.MIG-3512) and Black (No. A.MIG-3500) emphasized detail on the hull.

18 The mine plough skis and parts of the lower hull were treated to an application of Ammo Acrylic Mud Earth Ground (No. A.MIG-2103), which has volume and texture, and dries hard as a rock overnight. I sprinkled fine sand over the paste while it was wet.



19 Wanting dirt on the upper surfaces, I brushed dry sand into place in corners and around fixtures with a spatula and paintbrush. The sand was fixed in place with Ammo Sand & Gravel Glue (No. A.MIG-2012) applied with an eyedropper.

20 To blend the sand deposits, I airbrushed the areas with a mix of 5 parts Tamiya Flat Earth (No. XF-52), 2 parts Deck Tan, and 1 part German Grey (No. XF-63).



21 The sand was colored with an application of Ammo Splashes Dry Steppe (No. A.MIG-1751) thinned with enamel thinner and flowed randomly into the deposits. After a few minutes, the excess can be removed or blended with a paintbrush moistened with enamel thinner.

22 To add variety to the deposits, I brushed Ammo Splashes Wet Ground (No. A.MIG-1755), applying it sparingly, and then blended edges where necessary before letting it dry for two hours. The final wash was dark brown applied in even smaller quantities than the previous color.





I base-coated the turbine exhaust and its cover with a pale pink color mixed by adding a touch of Vallejo Flat Red (No. 70.957) to White Matt (No. 70.951). Next, I applied Vallejo German Camouflage Black Brown (No. 70.882) with a fine brush and a chunk of sponge for chipping.



The rusty areas received a wash of Ammo Streaking Rust Effects (No. A.MIG-1204) brushed straight from the bottle and left to dry. As a finishing touch on this area, I masked around the exhaust and airbrushed thin Tamiya Flat Black (No. XF-1) for soot stains.



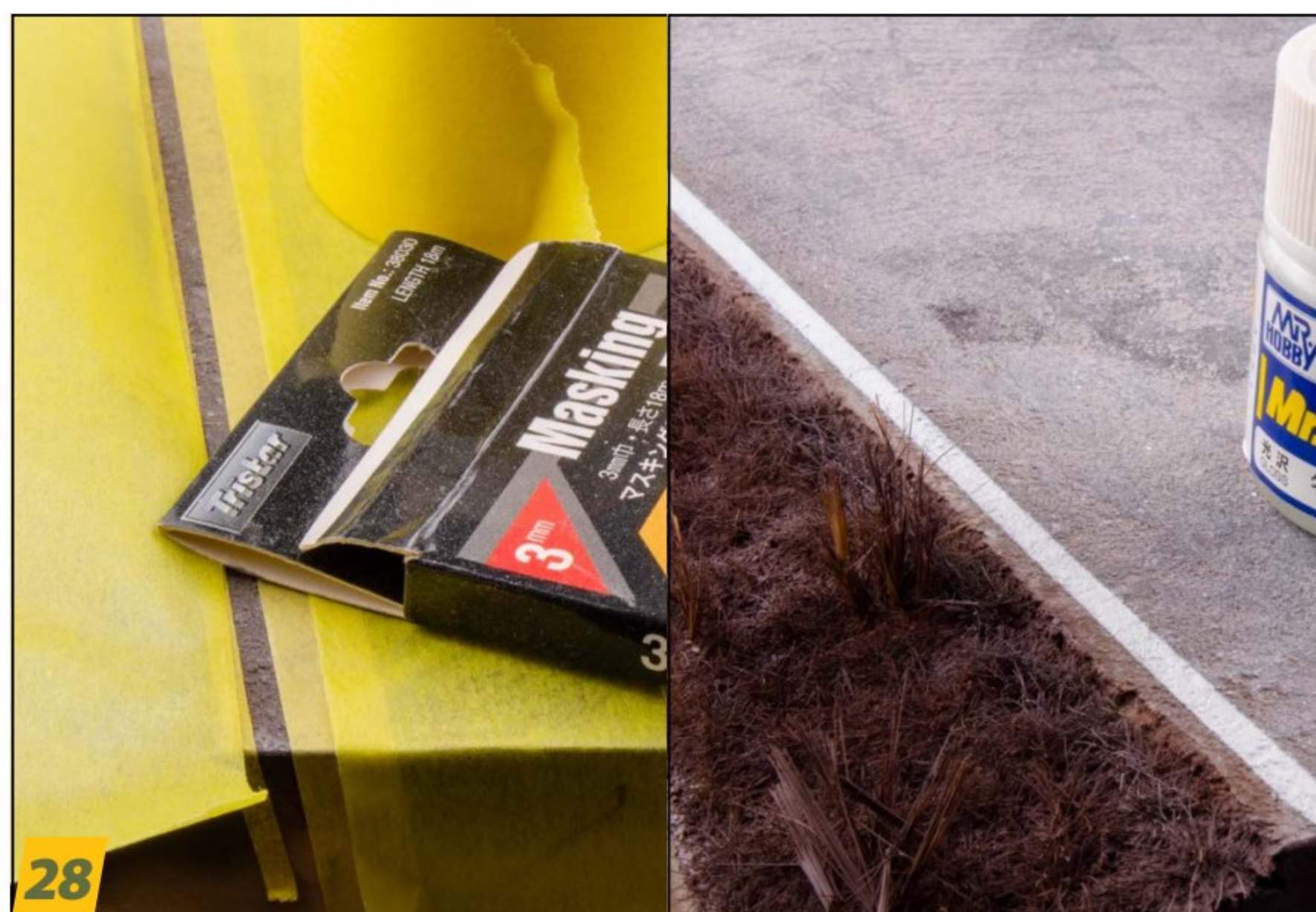
I painted stowage from my spares box with acrylics and, for visual interest, painted the rear bustle rack CARC tan as if it had been replaced with one from a different vehicle. The straps are masking tape painted khaki green.



To base the Abrams, I laminated two 35cm x 16cm pieces of 40mm insulation foam and cut the upper section to give the eventual road a slight slope and form a ditch on one side. After covering the upper area with 3mm corkboard for the road, I framed the sides with thin plywood.



I covered the cork with Ammo Acrylic Asphalt Texture (No. A.MIG-2107) and smoothed it with a metal ruler and added Ammo Dry Earth Ground (No. A.MIG-2101). For foliage, I used a static applicator and white glue to add two sizes of Green Stuff World Flock Nylon.



I primed the grass roadside with Mr. Hobby Mr. Mahogany Surfacer 1000 (No. SF290) and masked everything to paint striping on the road with Mr. Color Off-white (No. C69).



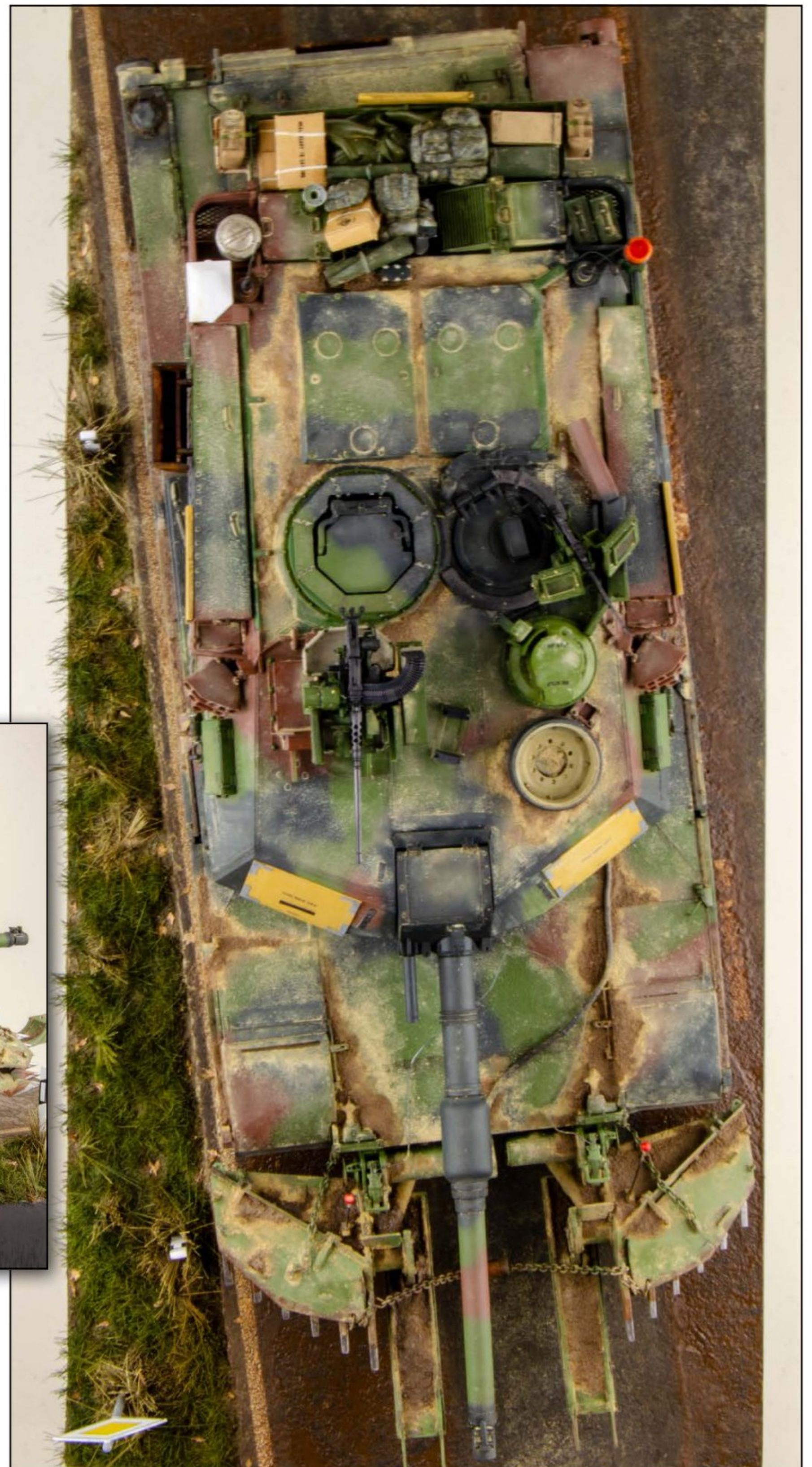


I painted the grass with progressively lighter shades of Tamiya flat earth, Tamiya Dark Yellow (No. XF-60) and dark yellow lightened with Yellow Green (No. XF-4) on the taller stalks, and finally NATO green and NATO green lightened with yellow green on the fresher short grass.

Leaning into the sense of the tank on maneuvers with other vehicles on a wet autumn day, I brushed the areas the tracks hit the road with Ammo Wet Ground Splashes leaving it uneven and heavy. To mark the tank's path, I pressed spare Abrams tracks into the still-wet acrylic paste.



The final touch was a layer of dust on the road applied using heavy washes of Ammo Splashes Dry Steppe. Groundwork done, I painted the wood framing on the base starting with Vallejo Black, hand-painted along the top edge, and Tamiya flat black airbrushed over the rest.



Before adding the M1A2, I installed fog poles made from a pair of 1.5mm x 1.5mm strips of styrene glued together and painted white with a black angled strip; the reflectors are added styrene strips and disks. The traffic sign came from a Tamiya 1/35 scale Leopard 2A6 kit. **FSM**

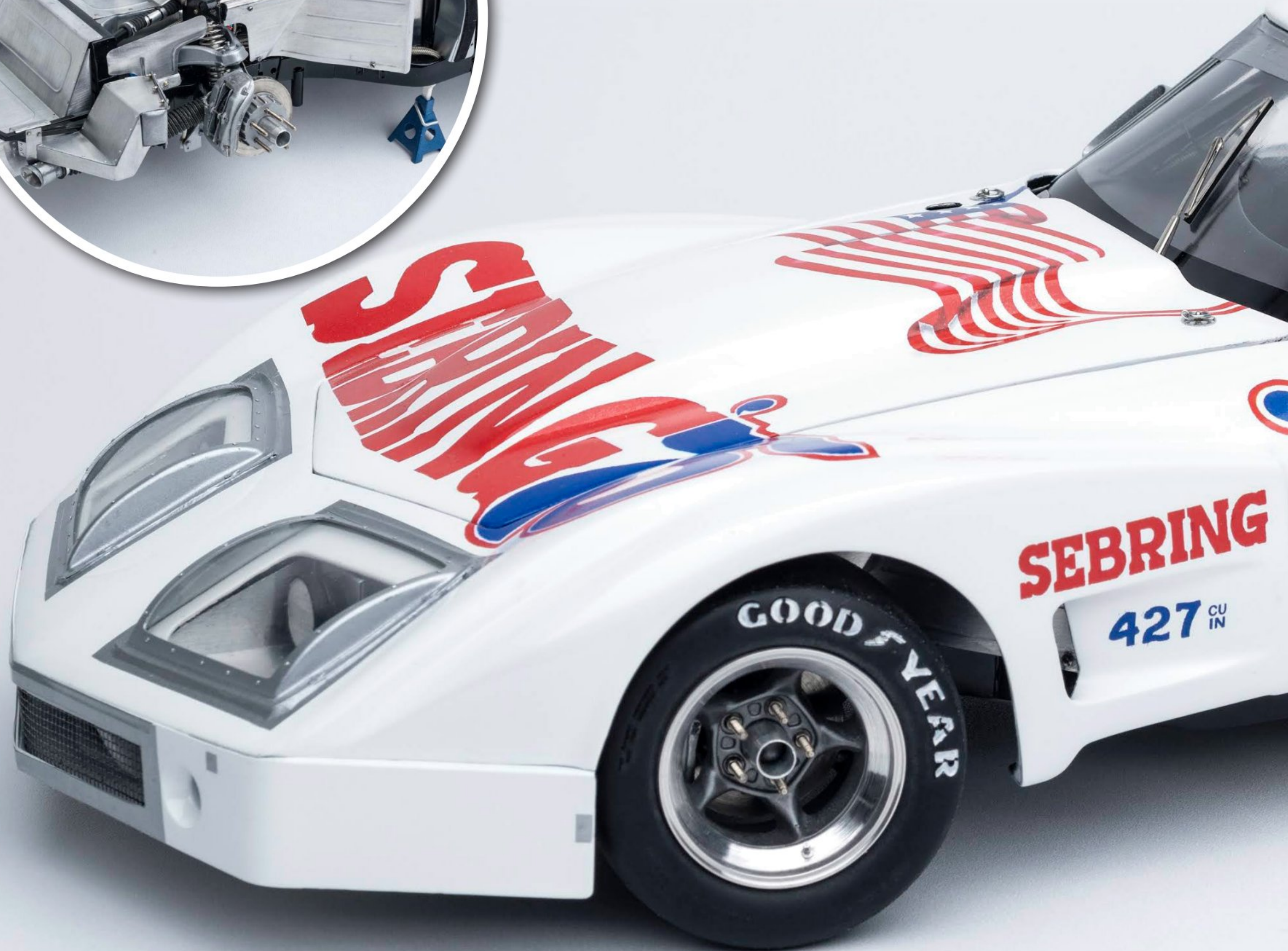
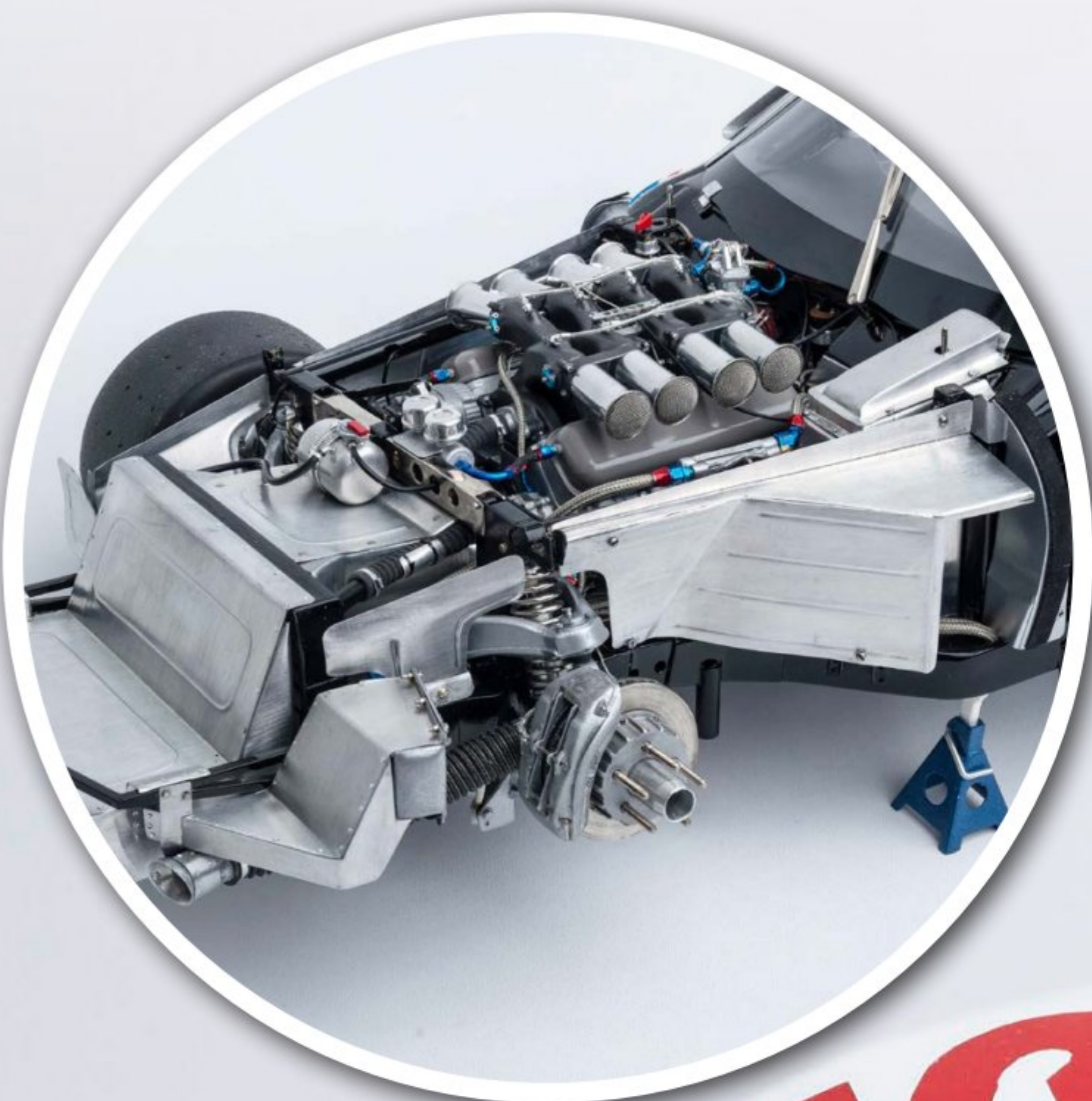




# Best of BAMM

Learn more about Randy Derr and his  
BAMM-winning Corvette

BY KENDRA BELL

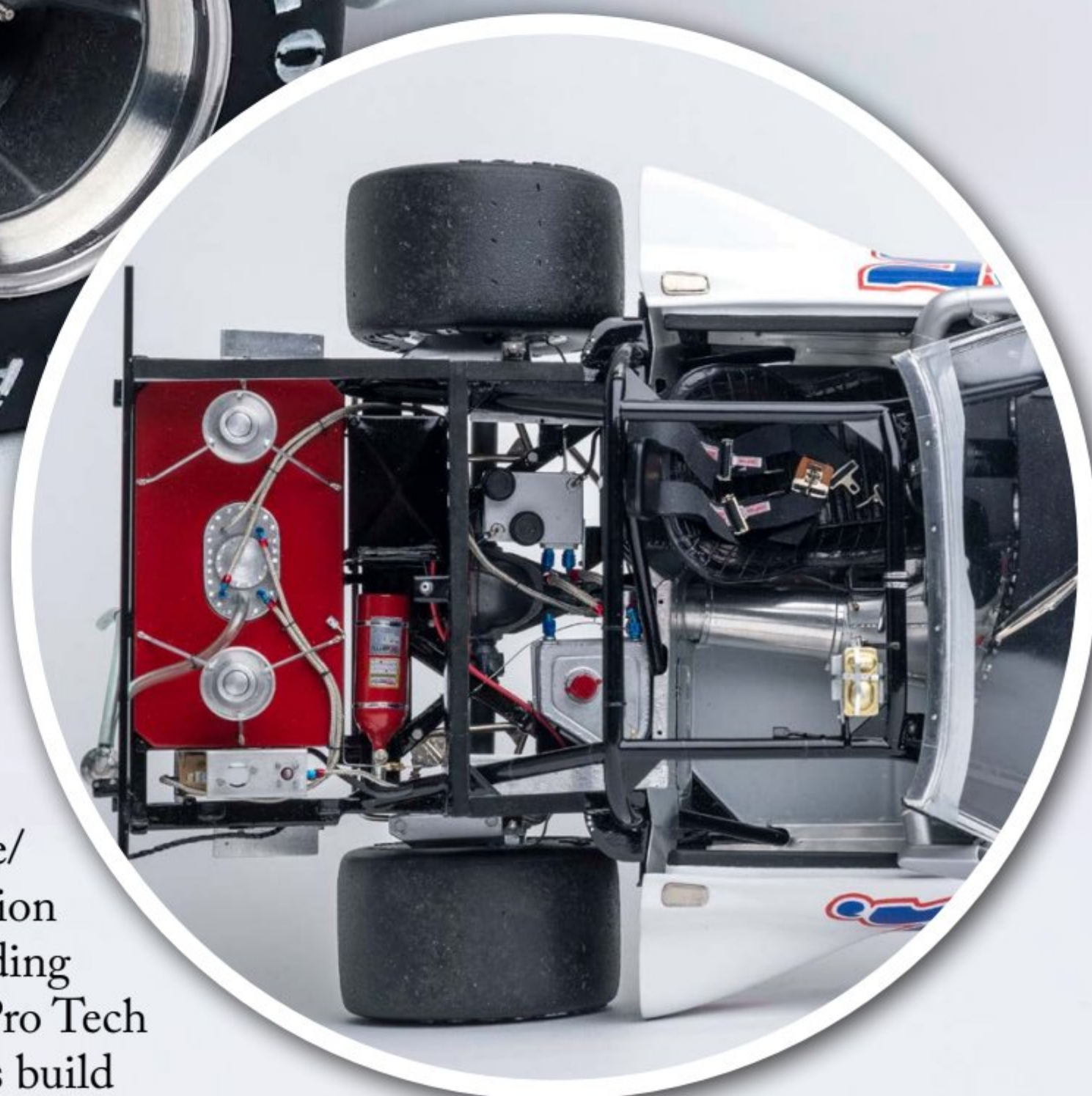




**R**andy Derr started building scale model cars as a kid in the '60s. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering before he entered two model contests and finished second in both. While he worked at Delco Products (now Delphi Chassis), Randy built models in his spare time, which helped him achieve Best of Show in the 1985 IPMS/USA National Convention.

The second Build a Model Month winner, Randy scratchbuilt around 90% of the 1/12th scale "Sebring 75" race car driven by John Greenwood at the 1975 Daytona 24-Hour IMSA endurance race. He began with 18 months of research on the original car, including a trip to southern France to document the full-size racer. This included taking thousands of photos, hundreds of dimensions, and dozens of sketches of the major components and systems of the vehicle. He augmented this with more photos and specifications from the car's previous owners and from the internet.

The model took nearly 3½ years to build, with an interior featuring hand-formed aluminum panels and transmission tunnel and a scratchbuilt seat detailed with pleated upholstery made from two-part epoxy putty. Randy added nylon fabric and photo-etched metal safety harnesses, and machined bezels with photo-reduced gauge faces.



The bodywork is based on a Doyusha 1978 Corvette coupe, which Randy back-dated and converted to the 1974 roadster using sheet styrene and body filler. The fender flares are also sheet styrene and he painted the body with Tamiya Pure White spray lacquer.

Randy made the chassis and suspension using resistance-soldered brass tube/sheet, along with hand-formed aluminum sheet and plastic. The engine, induction system, and transmission are 3D-printed parts. He added tons of details, including all the electrical harnesses and plumbing lines/fittings, using RB Motion and Pro Tech products for the fuel, oil, and coolant systems. A complete summary of Randy's build process can be found using the QR code on page 34.

Photos by Chris Snyder



# 2023 BAMM WINNERS

## ► METIN SÖNMEZ

### NİLÜFER, BURSA, TURKEY

Armor category winner Metin built Academy's 1/35 scale Magach 7C Gimel box-stock, but added Ammo Anti-Slip Paste for realism. Metin chose to build an Israeli tank because he felt very comfortable weathering a modern vehicle. "I don't think any other Western vehicle model [provides] this freedom," he says. Metin also hand-made tarpaulins for the rear the of the vehicle using Tamiya epoxy putty.



## ▼ STEVEN SIMMONS

### NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Figure winner "The Garden Girl" is a 26-piece resin kit that stands roughly 7.5-inches. Steven painted her primarily with acrylics and pastel powders. He painted the flowers freehand but used stencils to outline the butterflies on her shirt and filled in the details with paint and ink.



## ▲ TZU-YU LO

### AUBURN, ALABAMA

Seeing an RMS-099 AOS design draft inspired Gundam winner Tzu-yu to build a Bandai 1/100 scale MG FA MTR-02S Samuel Gundam. The main body uses an RGM-79SP torso with modified proportions and RX-121 TR-1 legs. Tzu-yu increased the thigh structure and redesigned the arms. The backpack builds on the basic skeleton of the RGZ-95 ReZEL TYPE-C. The asymmetrical, multicolor, paint scheme incorporates various surface effects for visual impact.

**THANKS TO THESE COMPANIES** that donated prizes for the BAMM Sweepstakes: Arma Hobby, Atlantis Models, Carrera-Revell of Americas, Doll & Hobby GA, Eduard, ICM, and Tamiya America.





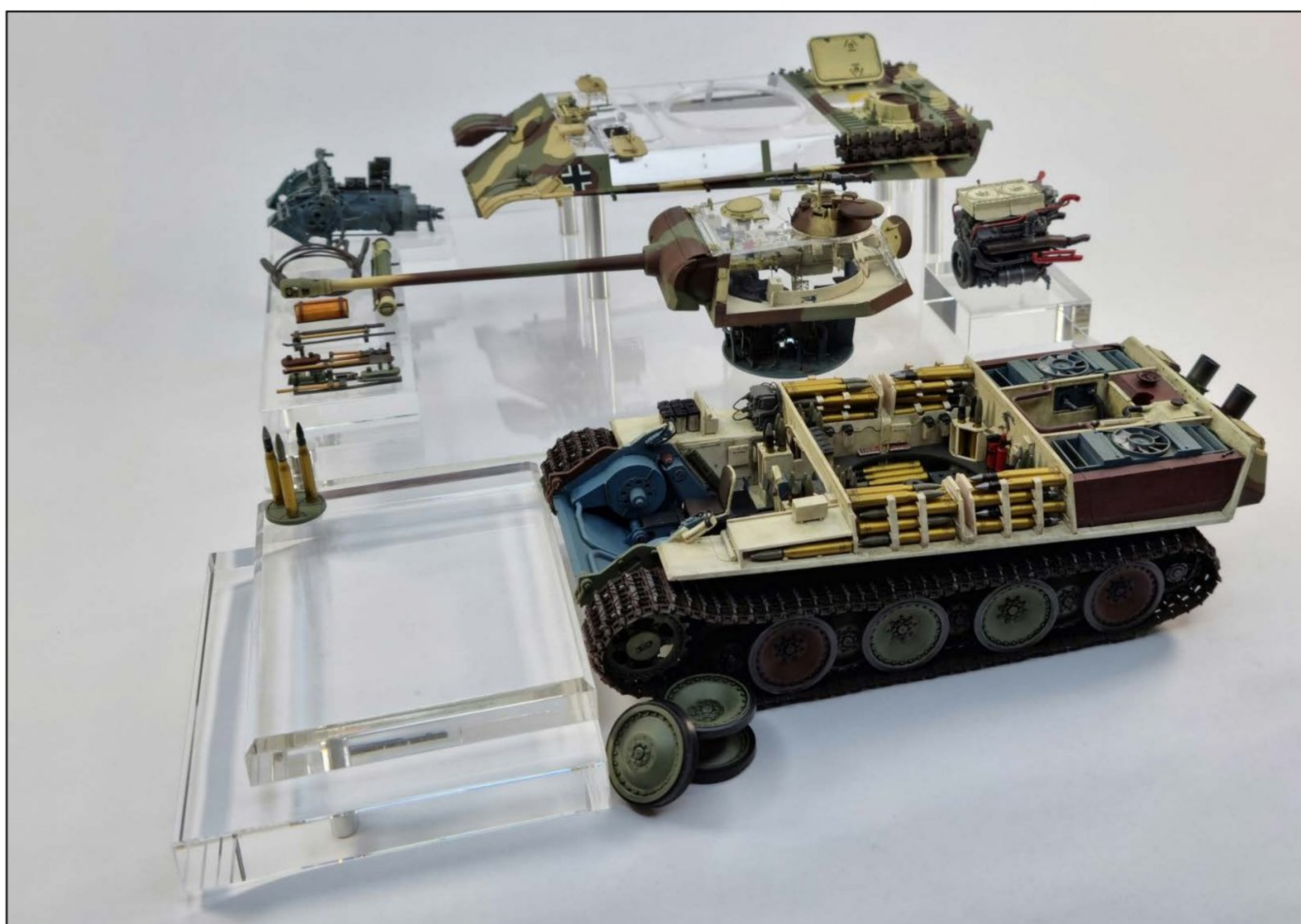
◀ **SOLOMON HOLLOWELL**  
**MONCURE, NORTH**  
**CAROLINA**

Junior winner Solomon combined a Tamiya KV-1, Miniart Russian Tankers 1943-45, and Masterbox Russian Infantry for his "Merry Christmas" diorama. The lighthearted scene shows a group of Red Army soldiers on Christmas day in Kyiv, Ukraine, just days after the liberating the city in 1943. One soldier takes a picture of his comrades posing around a snowman they built while the crew of the KV-1 relax.



◀ **GLENN THORN**  
**MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

For the Ships winner, Glenn spent four months building Trumpeter's 1/350 HMS *Roberts*. He added a full set of Flyhawk photo-etched metal and resin parts to enhance the overall detail and used a Wood Hunter aftermarket kit for the decking and anchor chain. He airbrushed the ship with a custom mix of Vallejo acrylics and weathered with enamels from AK Interactive including dark washes, rust, and light gray for accents.



◀ **ALVIN CHEW**  
**SINGAPORE**

For his first kit, People's choice winner Alvin built the Rye Field Models 1/35 scale Panther G mostly out-of-the-box. Hobbyist friends encouraged him to add wires to the transformers, radio sets, and retaining pins. To create a restored late version Panther Ausf G in a museum setting, he challenged himself with large clear parts kept clean and fog-free by not using superglue and cement. He masked parts of the clear turret and upper hull to simulate cut-away "windows" so that the audience could view the interior. Alvin painted and weathered the tank with mostly Ammo products, closely following the kit's color references. The three-tone camo was another first for Alvin.



## Behind the 'Sebring 75'

**FOLLOW ALONG** with Randy Derr as he reveals the research, design, and build behind the BAMM-winner!



### ◀ VINCENT VANHYUSSE LIGNY, NAMUR, BELGIUM

Aircraft winner Vincent built his 1/72 scale SIAI-Marchetti SF-260M in Belgian air force marking using an old resin kit from EPOXY. The engine, the cockpit, the hood, and other details are scratchbuilt, and he vacuum-formed the canopy. The scene shows an SF-260M in maintenance at Beauvechain air base around 2015. Originally camouflaged when the aircraft entered service in the 1970s, Belgian SF-260s were painted yellow in the late '90s.



### ▲ MIKE NADWIDNY WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

Using MPC's 1/48 scale *Space: 1999* Eagle and Nuclear Waste Disposal Area 2 Diorama Set as well as tons of scratchbuilding, Sci-Fi winner Mike built his "Eagle Pilot Collins in Trouble" diorama. It represents a scene from the first episode, "Breakaway," right after Collins smashes the window due to his magnetic radiation exposure. Commander Koenig and Professor Bergman watch Collins receive medical attention from a medic. Mike lit the headlights on the Moon Buggy and the interior of the scratchbuilt observation building. He watched the episode hundreds of times, but took artistic liberties where he couldn't find clear references. Mike's friend Laurie printed the computer panels inside the room, and Mike built the retractable docking tube. He used Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty, grout, balsa wood, and many bags of sheet styrene and buckets of greeblies to create the scene. The lightswitch is housed in a 3D-printed CommLock. **FSM**



# How to paint **BLACK SKIN TONES**

Finish a 1/12 scale Tirailleur Sénégalais

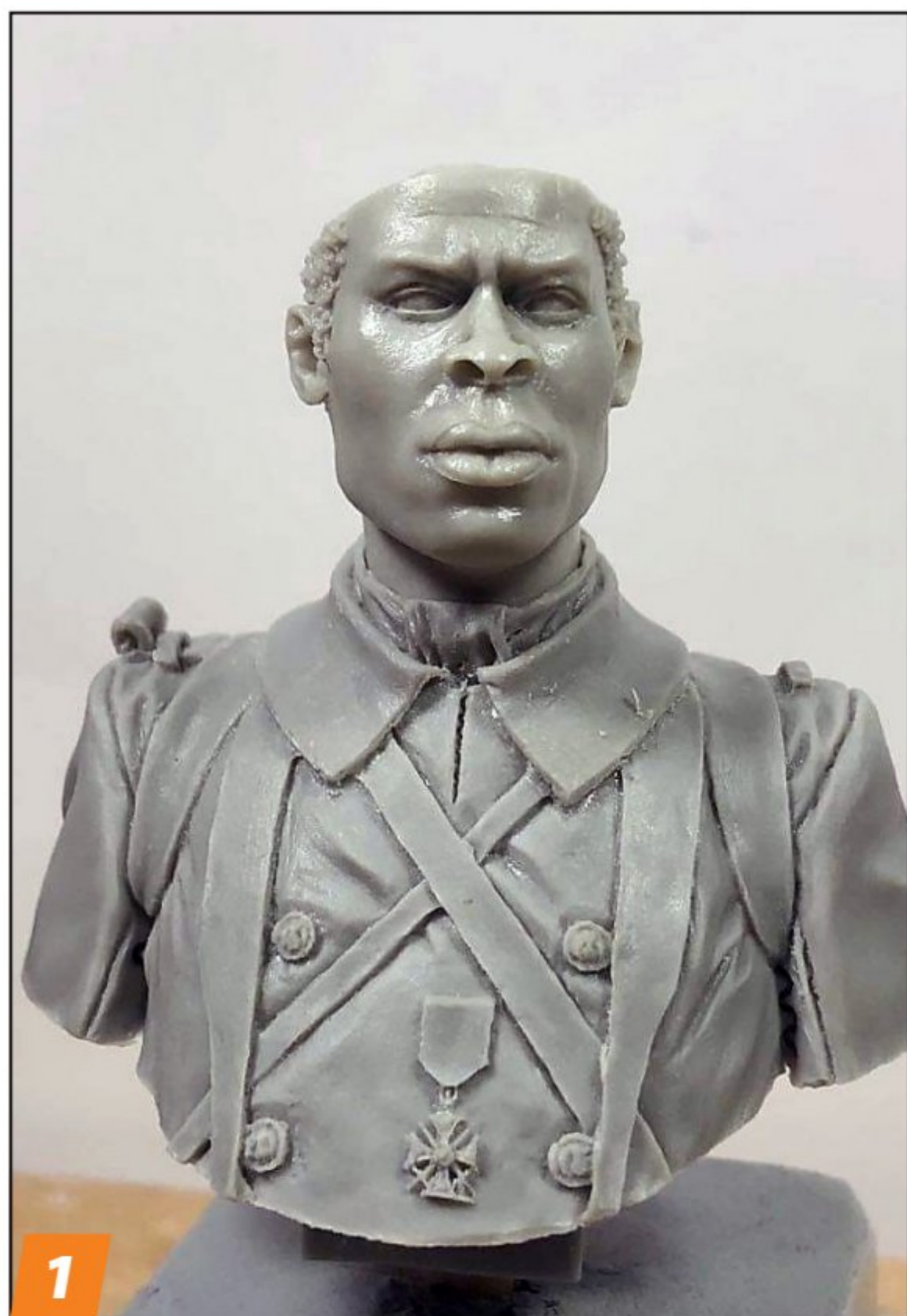
BY BRIAN WILDFONG

**D**uring World War I, many tirailleurs (translated variously as skirmishers, scouts, or infantrymen), a designation given by the French army to indigenous soldiers recruited from France's overseas colonies such as Indochina, Morocco, Algeria, and Senegal, joined the fight. On the Western Front, approximately 135,000 Tirailleurs Sénégalais served with distinction at the battles of Flanders, Verdun, Chemin des Dames, and Reims and 30,000 were killed.

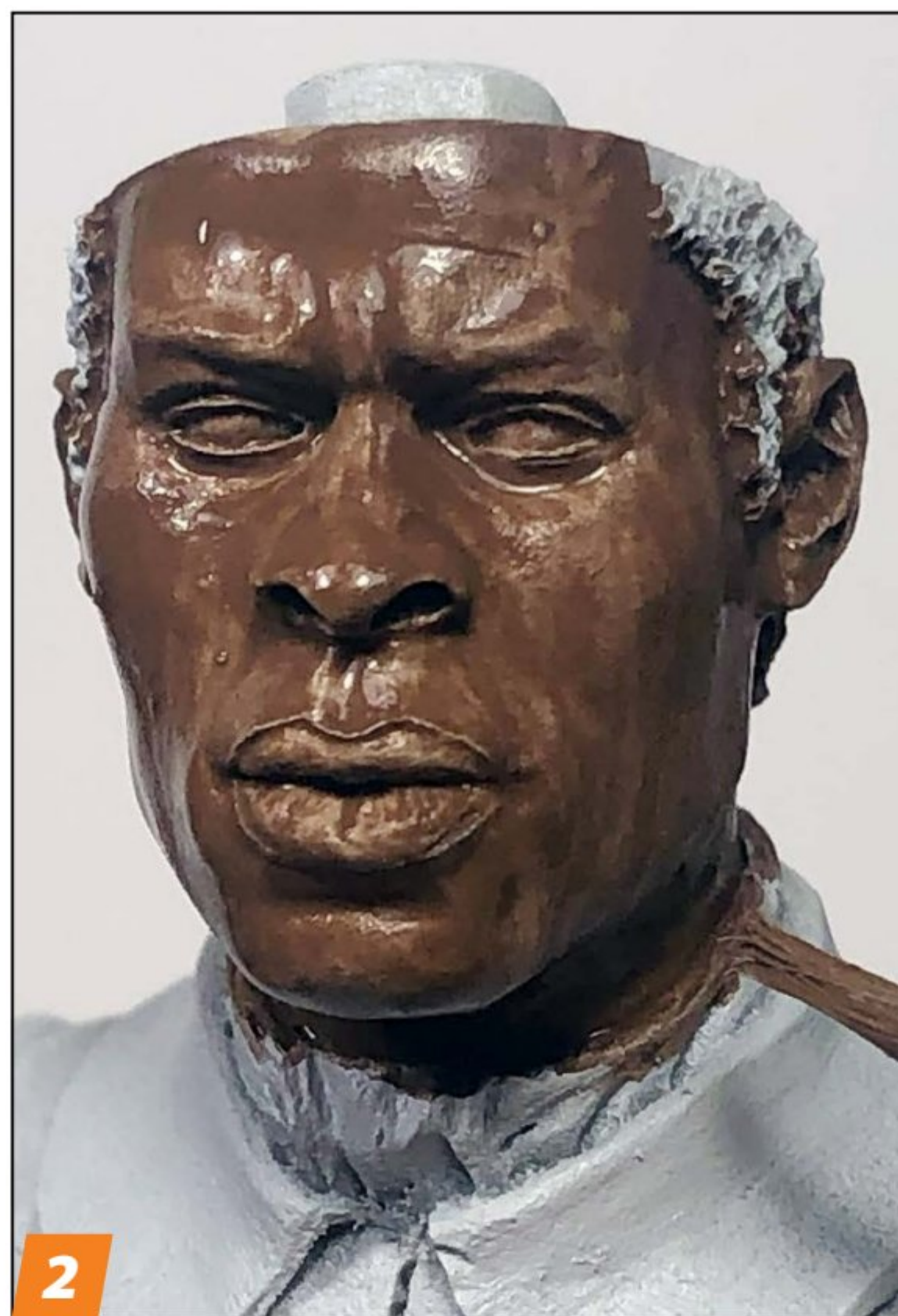
Several years ago, Heroes and Villains produced a 1/12 scale resin bust of a Tirailleur Sénégalais from late in WWI. The sculpting and casting were first-rate. I'd never painted a Black soldier and the challenge for me was convincingly painting the skin tone of a man recruited from French West Africa. It proved to be easier than I thought.



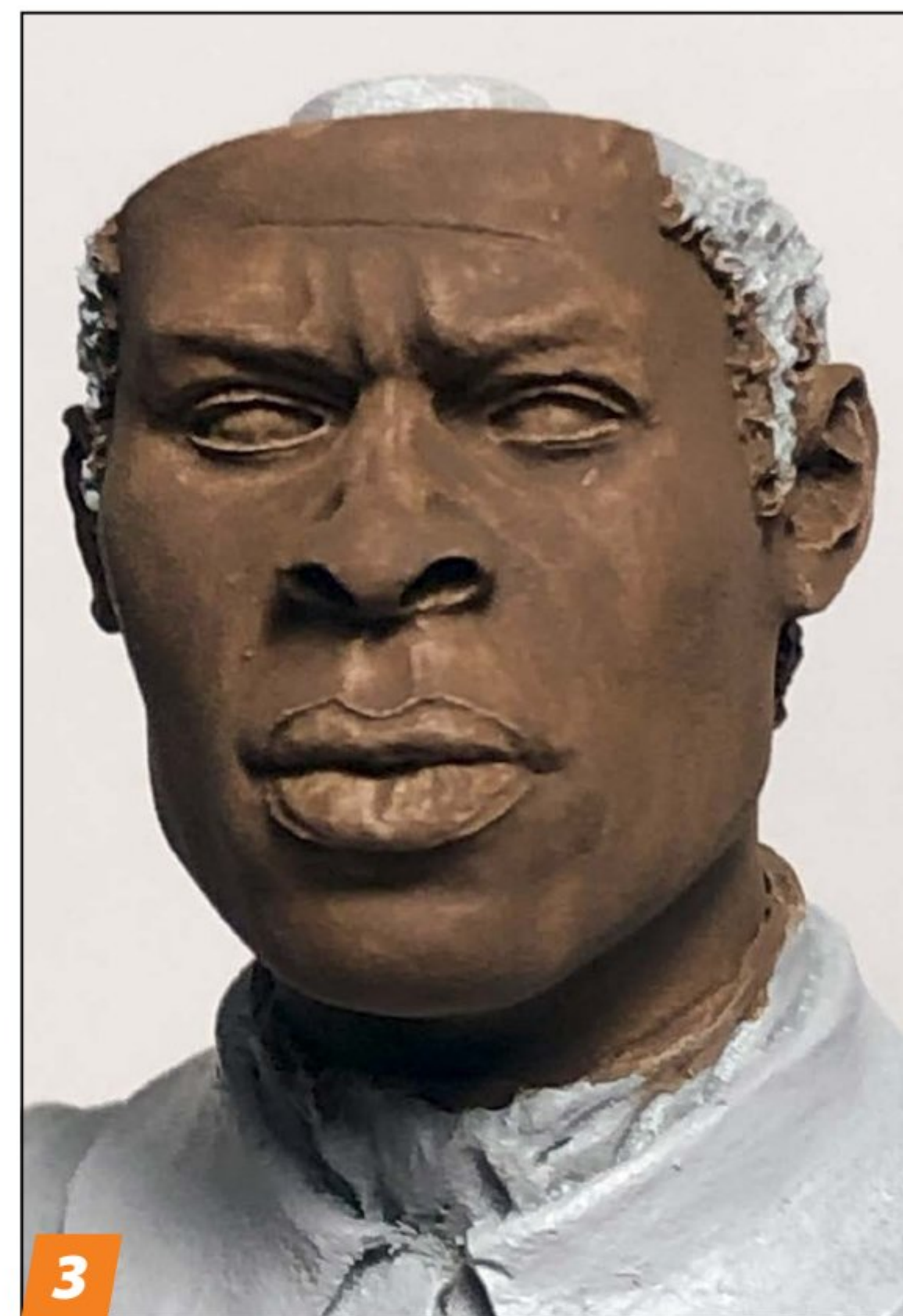




**1** The resin casting was excellent, with sharp details. I gave the bust a quick wash in soapy water to remove mold release and, once it was dry, sprayed it with a couple of light coats of gray Tamiya Fine Surface Primer.



**2** I started by brushing on a base coat for the skin with several thin coats of DecoArt Burnt Umber craft acrylic. I strove to get the coverage as even as possible even though subsequent layers of artist oils will blend any unevenness.



**3** One of the advantages of the craft acrylics is that they dry to a dead flat finish that provides plenty of "tooth" for oil paints to adhere to. This helped as I add shadows and highlights.



**4** I blocked in the shadows with Grumbacher Burnt Umber.



**5** For the first highlight color, I used Winsor & Newton (WN) Burnt Sienna. The effect is crude at this point, but the next step will feather the edges between the colors. To blend the colors, I lightly stab and stipple the brush and blur the border between the burnt umber and burnt sienna.



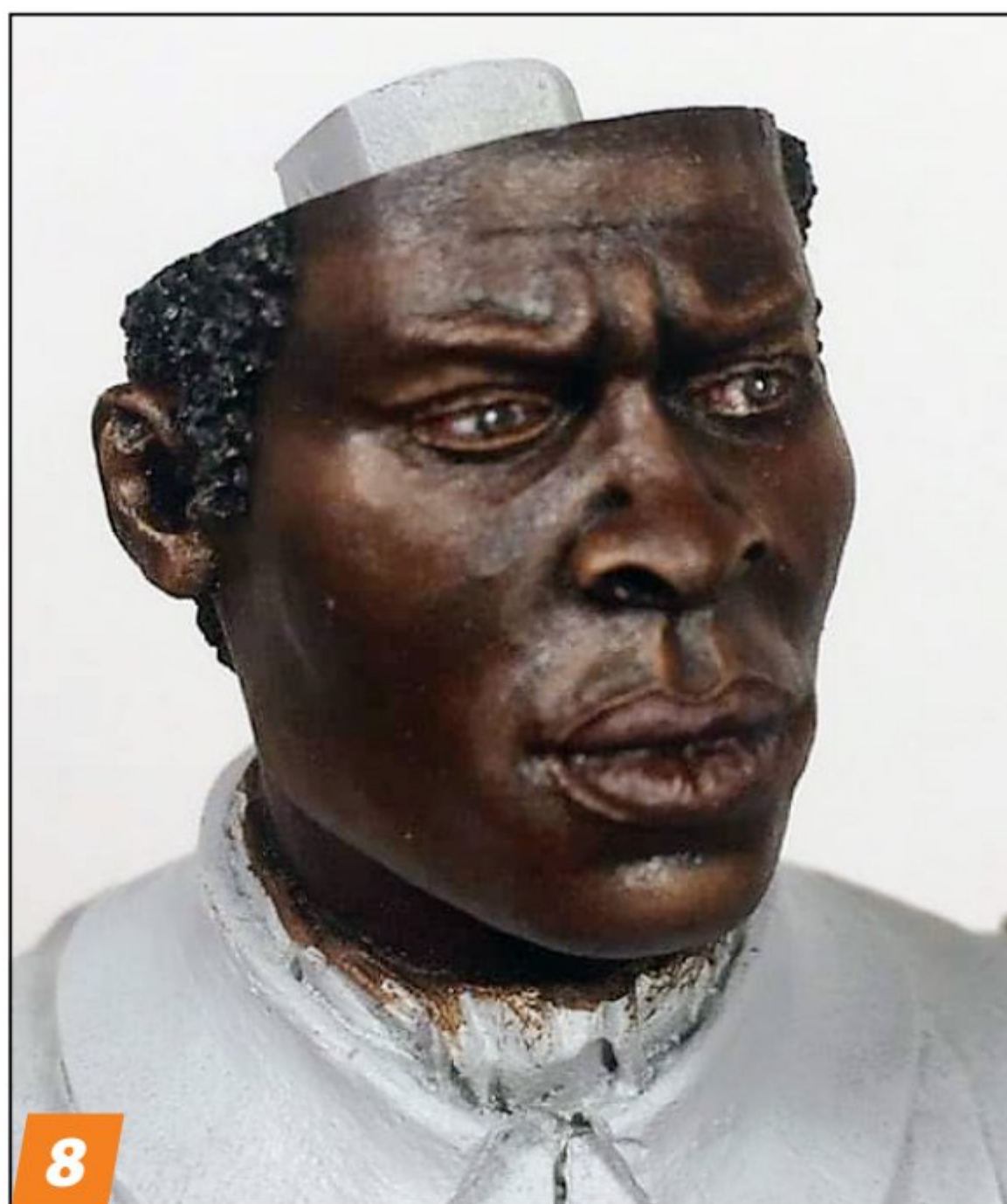
**6** The shadow and highlight blocks have been blended along their edges using a slightly frayed No. 1 brush just damp (not wet!) with mineral spirits. I was happy with the tone of the shadows and decided to leave them alone. However, the blending reduced the contrast between the highs and lows, so it was time to restore some of that.





7

I mixed 1 part WN Naples Yellow with 9 parts Burnt Sienna to produce a coppery hue for highlights. I blended this onto points that would catch light like cheekbones, nostrils, forehead, upper lip, eyebrows, top of the chin, and the tops of the ears.



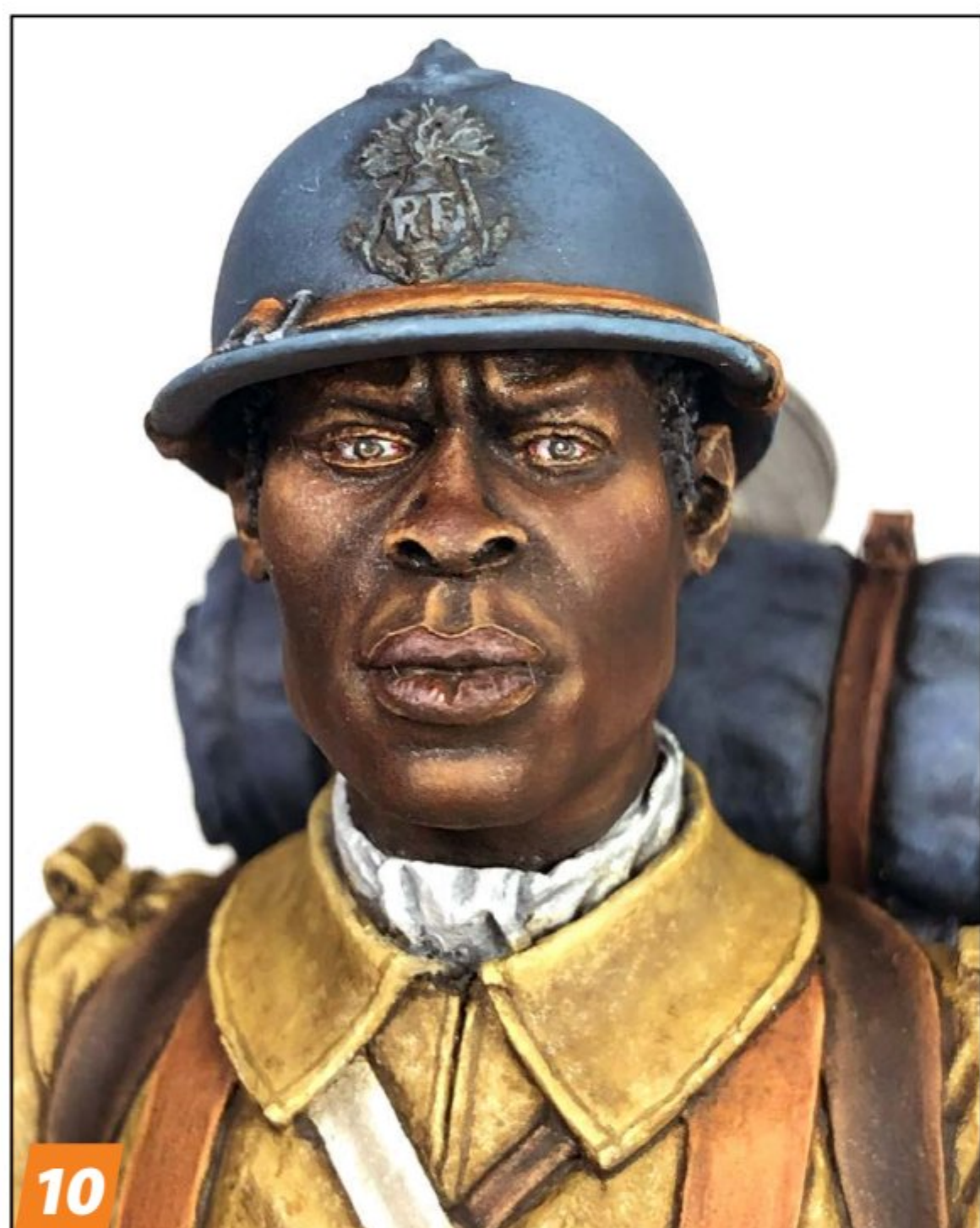
8

Next, I added a tiny bit more — about 5% — Naples Yellow to the copper highlight and added that to the very highest points on the face.



9

The lips have a slightly reddish tone I made by blending 1 part WN Cadmium Red with 9 parts burnt umber. Using a fine-point No. 0 brush, I drew pinkish lines — 6 parts cadmium red, 3 parts WN Titanium White, and 1 part burnt sienna — across the lips to depict cracking and chapping like someone who has been in the elements for a while.



10

I completed the bust including his uniform and equipment before letting the piece dry for four days. Then I sprayed a couple of coats of Tamiya Clear Flat (No. XF-86), which killed the reflective shine of the oils to better reveal the shadows and highlights.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**BECAUSE THE BASIC SKIN TONE** is dark, it is easy to over-highlight the skin and make it appear bleached-out. Strive to keep the highlights subtle yet visible — a balancing act to be sure, but oils make it easy to blend away or add contrast as needed. **FSM**





# RALLY CARS

## *play in dirt, dust, and mud*

How-to weather a Subaru Impreza WRC and build a matching base

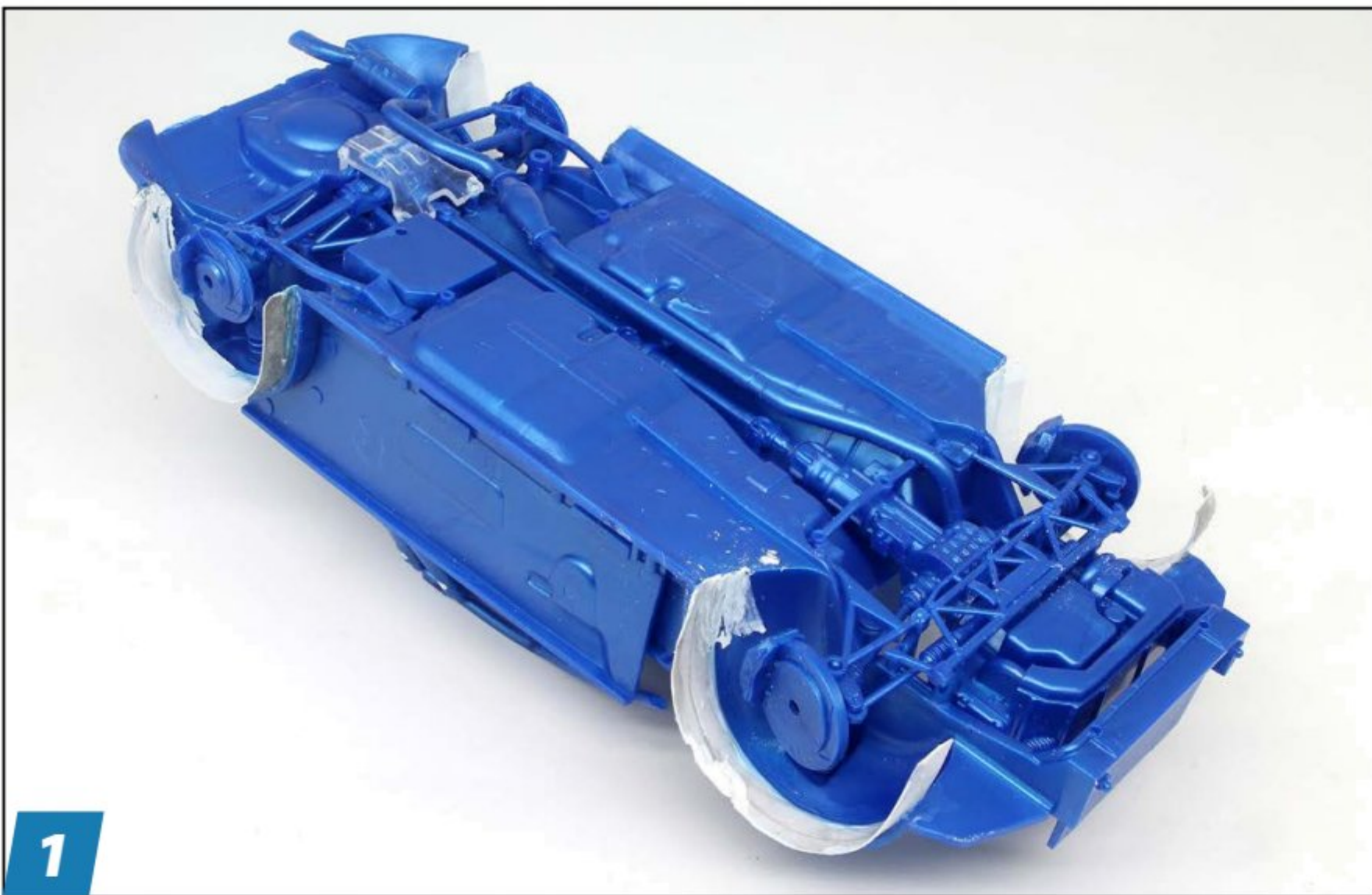
BY ILYA YUT

A few years ago, I started using the weathering skills I've developed over years of building armor models on a variety of other subjects. I like to experiment with different colors, finishes, and weathering techniques across modeling genres.

Such was the case when I turned my attention to a Tamiya 1/24 scale Subaru Impreza WRC '99 (No. 24218). This was my first attempt at a rally car, and as I learned, this genre has some challenges I hadn't faced building military subjects. The aesthetics and highlights are often the opposite to what I was used to from building military vehicles. Obviously, the rough metal texture sought when building a heavy World War II tank is the exact opposite of the smooth finish of a glossy modern car. Dealing with large clear plastic parts was the biggest challenge for me.

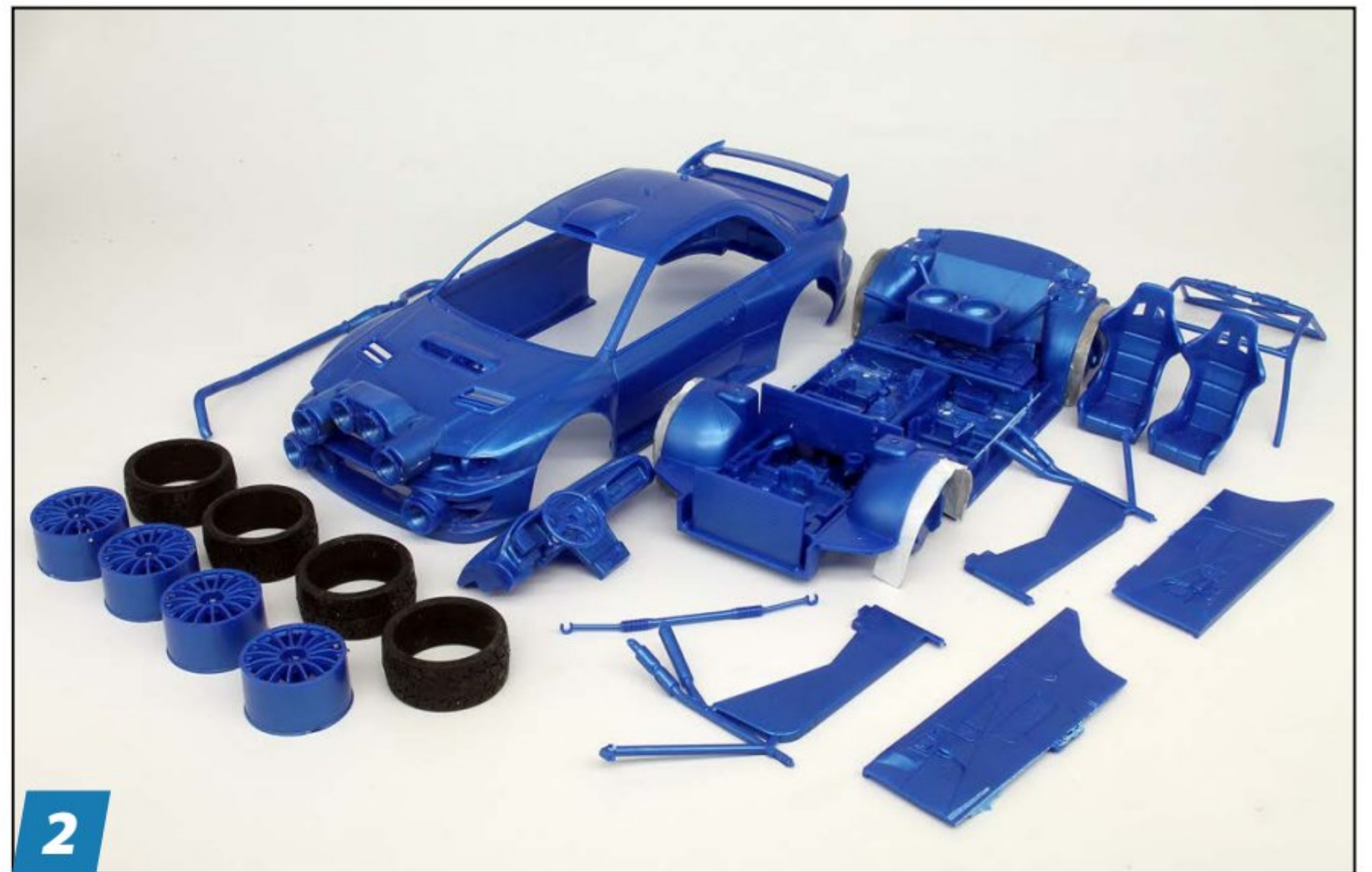






1

Typical of Tamiya, the fit is good out of the box, but the wheel arches were missing — reminiscent of vintage Tamiya tanks where the hull was open above the tracks. And just like those kits, I covered the voids with styrene sheet blended with putty.



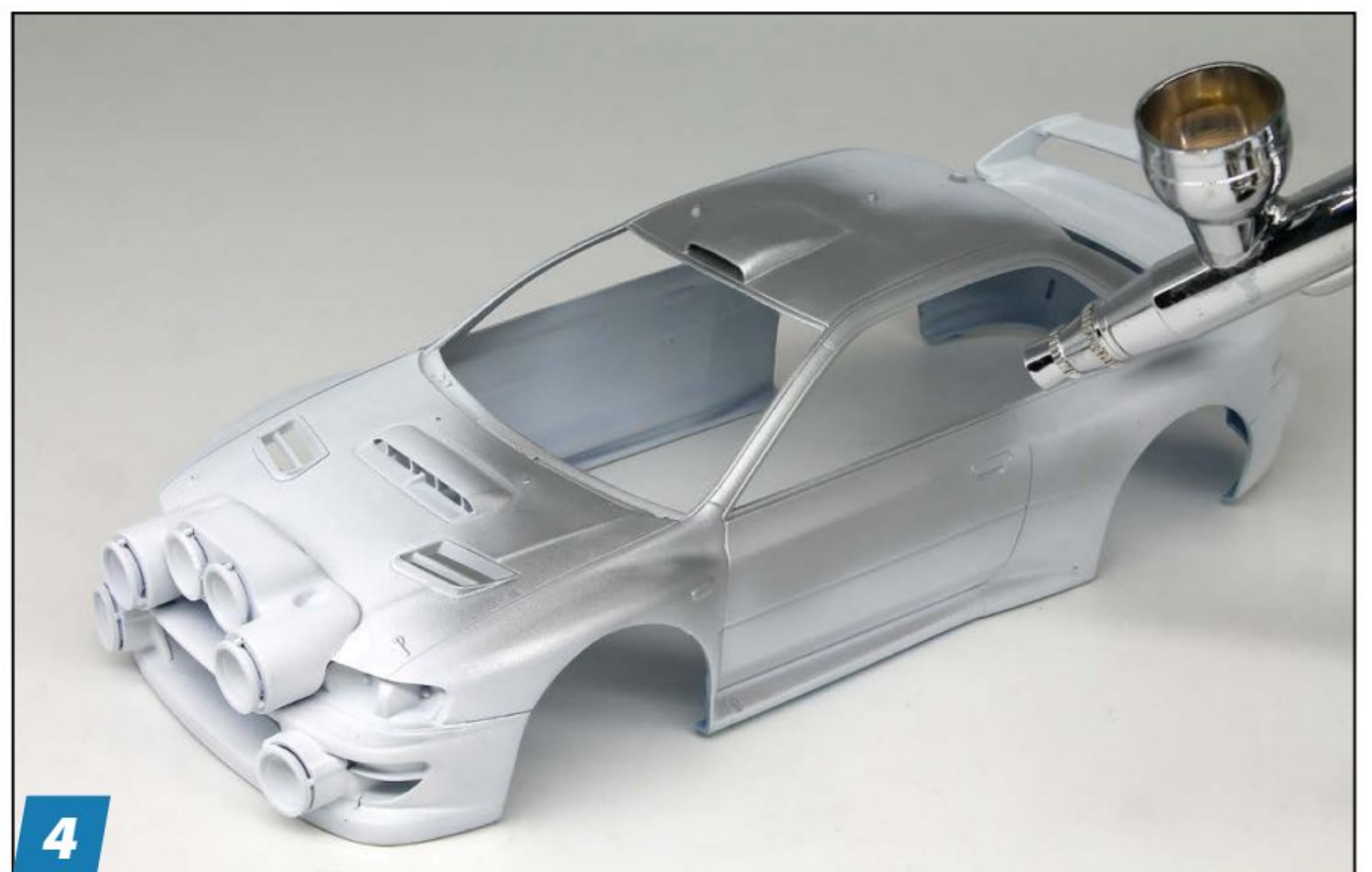
2

The other issue was ejector-pin marks on some of the interior parts in difficult-to-sand spots. Fortunately, the interior is mostly hidden on the finished model. I separated the car into subassemblies for painting.



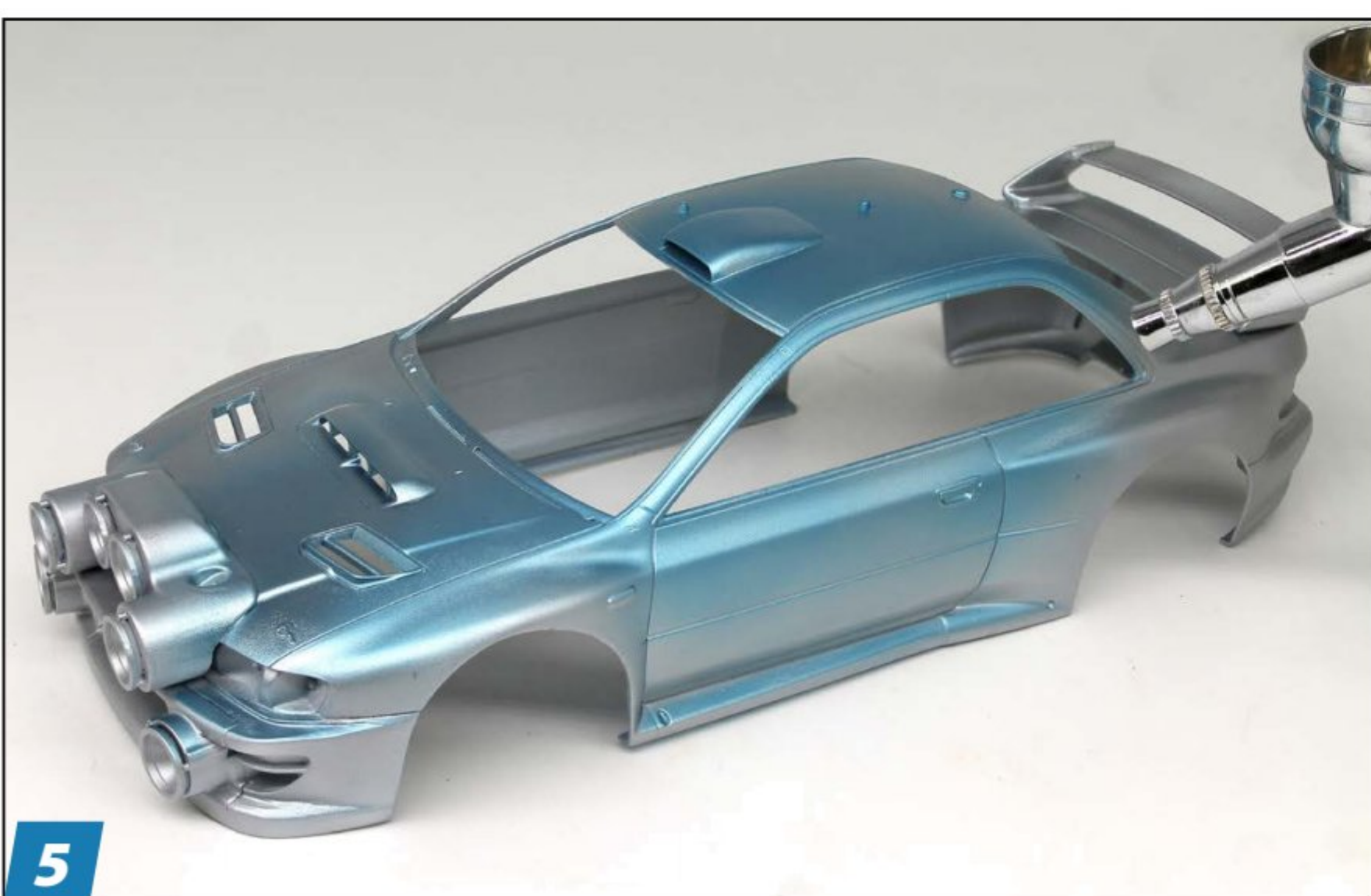
3

In preparation for the top colors, I base-coated the body with several light layers of Ammo by Mig Jimenez (Ammo) A-Stand White Primer & Microfiller (No. A.MIG-2352).



4

That was followed with Ammo A-Stand Polished Aluminium (No. A.MIG-2304) to make the metallic blue more vivid. This turned out to be a wasted step as the paint used for the body color looked great without the metallic base.



5

For the metallic blue, I airbrushed Ammo Cobra Motor Paint Guardsman Blue (No. A.MIG-0350). These acrylic car colors are best applied in thin coats to build the density to the desired shade.



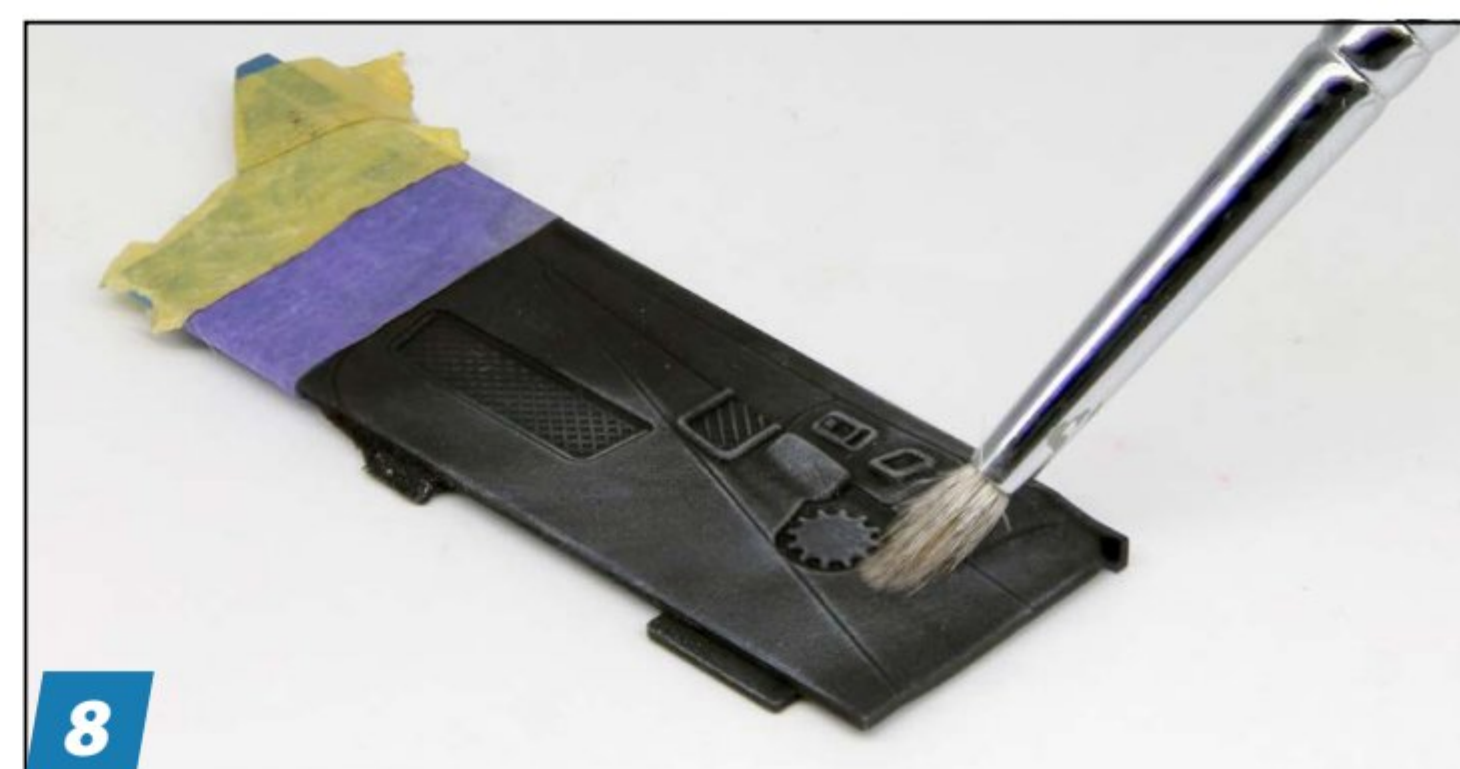
6

While most of Ammo's Cobra Motor colors are acrylics, the ranges includes a 2K Clear Lacquer (No. A.MIG-2261) that combines with a Hardener (No. A.MIG-2262) to produce a glossy and resilient finish after drying for 24 hours. It can withstand almost any weathering product you care to subject it to.





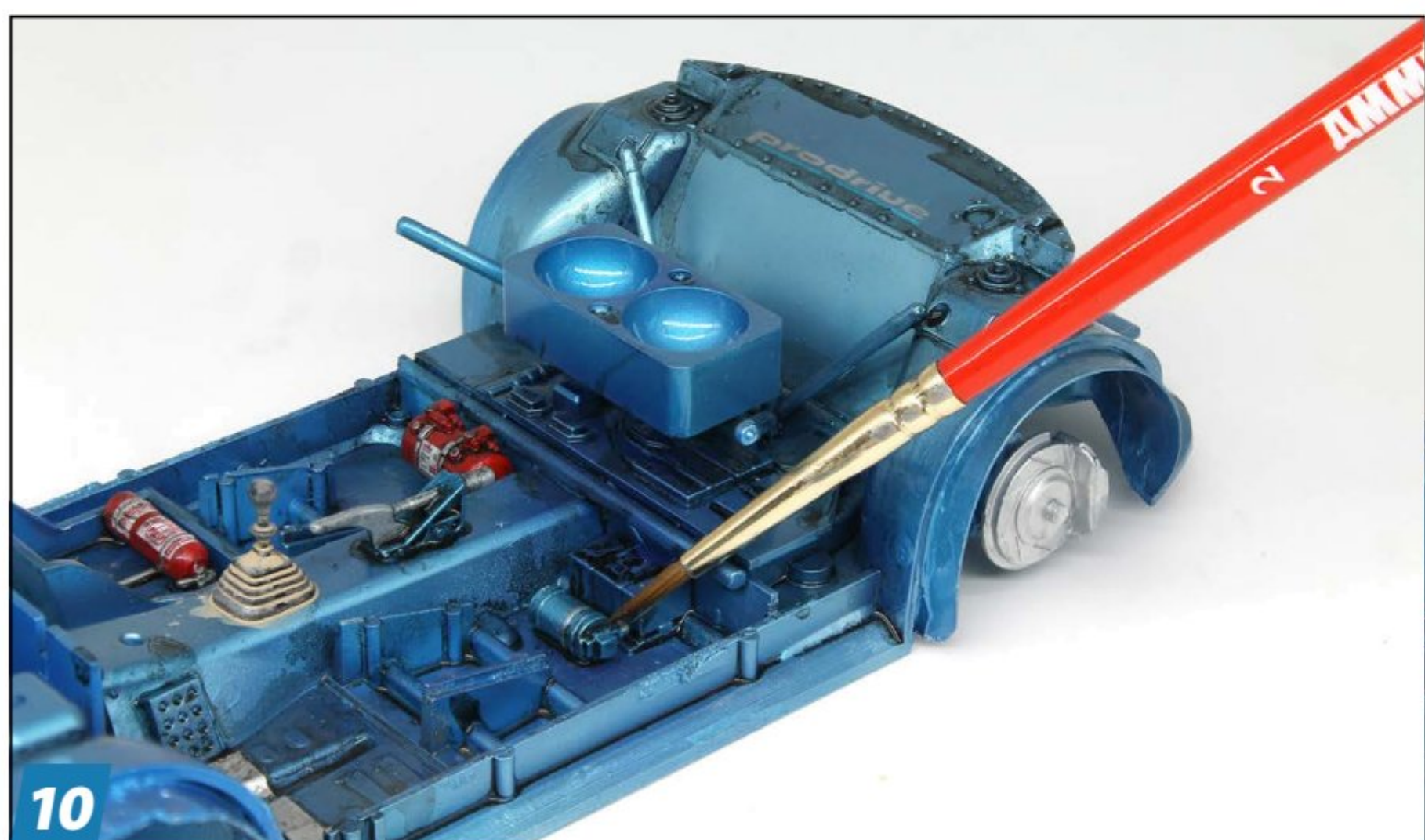
I airbrushed the wheel rims with Ammo Cobra BBS Gold (No. A.MIG-0355), the kit's vinyl tires with Ammo Cobra Rubber (No. A.MIG-0338), and various interior components either Ammo A-Stand Brown (No. A.MIG-2533) or Black Primer & Microfiller (No. A.MIG-2534).



Since the interior is mostly black and would be obscured on the finished model, I wanted the detail to pop as much as possible. So, I dry-brushed them with Ammo Dio Drybrush Paint Basalt Grey (No. A.MIG-0603).



Next, I applied the kit decals for the dashboard, interior, and seat belts with help from Ammo Ultra Decal Set (No. A.MIG-2029) and Decal Fix (No. A.MIG-2030). The decal belts lack volume, but the bright red is a nice splash of color.



I liberally applied Ammo Enamel Black Wash (No. A.MIG-1011) over the interior and refined it with clean enamel thinner on a paintbrush and cotton swabs. Next came accumulated dirt and dust with Ammo North Africa (No. A.MIG-3003) and Middle East Dust (No. A.MIG-3018) pigments brushed into corners and crevices.



After flowing Ammo Panel Line Wash Stone Grey for Black (A.MIG-1615) and Pacific Dust (No. A.MIG-1604) over the black parts, I assembled the interior, including the roll cage.







12



Tamiya supplied masks that made painting the black trim on the window insert a piece of cake. I attached the clear parts, including the lights, with Ammo Ultra Glue for Photo-etch & Clear Parts (No. A.MIG-2031).



13

Ammo's decal solutions helped settle the kit decals, especially the large Subaru logos and racing numbers, over exterior detail. I sealed them under another layer of Ammo 2K Clear and let it dry for 24 hours.



14



Weathering started with a heavy application of Ammo Acrylic washes Deep Grey (No. A.MIG-0714) and Dust (No. A.MIG-0713) mixed with acrylic thinner. I wiped away excess with clean acrylic thinner on a soft cloth. I've had issues using acrylic washes on flat and satin finishes, but they worked perfectly on the gloss.





15 I airbrushed the underside and the sides with varied layers of Ammo Desert Yellow (No. A.MIG-0029), Dust (A.MIG-0072), and Earth (A.MIG-0073). I arced the pattern up and back from the wheel wells as seen on rally cars and used a toothpick to scratch this layer.



16 I speckled the sides and underside by flicking a bunch of Ammo Nature, Splashes, and Streaking enamels — Light Dust (No. A.MIG-1401), Rainmarks (A.MIG-1208), North Africa Dust (No. A.MIG-1404), Dry Earth (No. A.MIG-1750), Fresh Mud (No. A.MIG-1402), and Wet Ground (No. A.MIG-1755) — from an old paintbrush with a toothpick.



17 Before attaching the wheels, I matched the rims and tires to the body with applications of Ammo Fresh Mud and Ammo Pigment Airfield Dust (No. A.MIG-3011).

18 To give the weathered car context, I decided it needed an appropriate base starting with laminated sheets of insulation foam. Wanting to break the horizontal plane for more drama, I used a hot-wire cutter to form an angle rising from a low left front corner to the high rear right.



19 I framed the sides with black styrene sheet and covered the upper surface with DAS air-hardening polymer clay as a foundation for the groundwork.

20 Once the clay dried — it took a couple of days — I brushed Ammo Mud Dry Earth Ground (No. A.MIG-2151) and Beach Sand (No. A.MIG-2106), varying the shades across the slope.





21

After scattering small pebbles across the base and securing them with Ammo Sand & Gravel Glue (No. A.MIG-2012), I sprayed the groundwork with flat black primer and the sides with gloss black. I masked the sides and airbrushed the ground with the same colors used for the dust layers on and under the car.



22

Using a fine brush, I picked out each of the pebbles using various gray, tan, and brown acrylics. The base should look arid but not lifeless, so I planted different scenic foliage products with Ammo Ultra Glue.



23

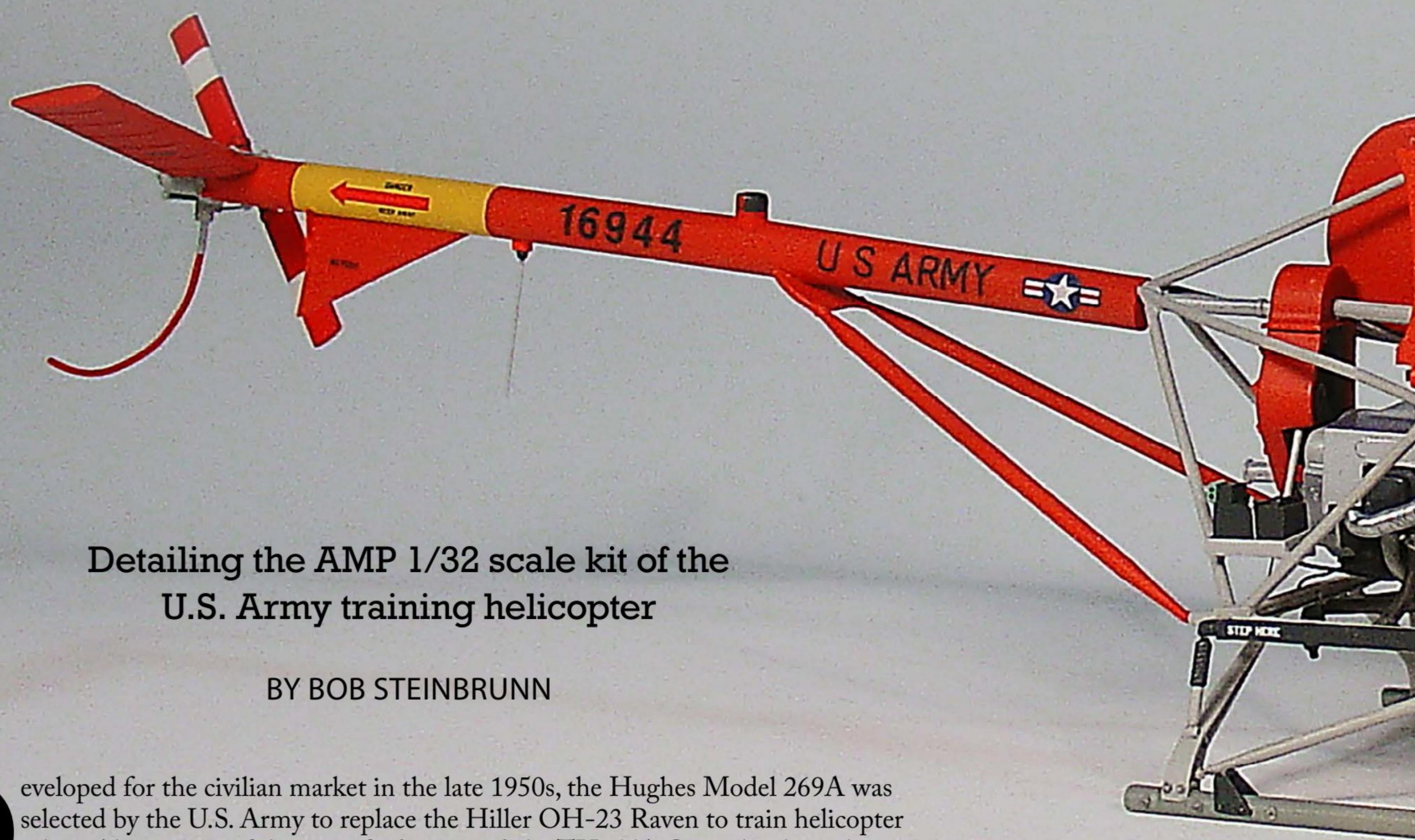
To blend and mute some of the brightest stones, I dabbed and flowed Ammo Earth and Mud enamels into the groundwork. These shades were also used on the car, further unifying the scene.

With the base done, all I needed to do was position the car. This was a fun project and a neat break from my usual stuff that gave me a chance to use many of my armor weathering techniques on a bright, if dirty, racing car. **FSM**





# Fire up a **TH-55A**



## Detailing the AMP 1/32 scale kit of the U.S. Army training helicopter

BY BOB STEINBRUNN

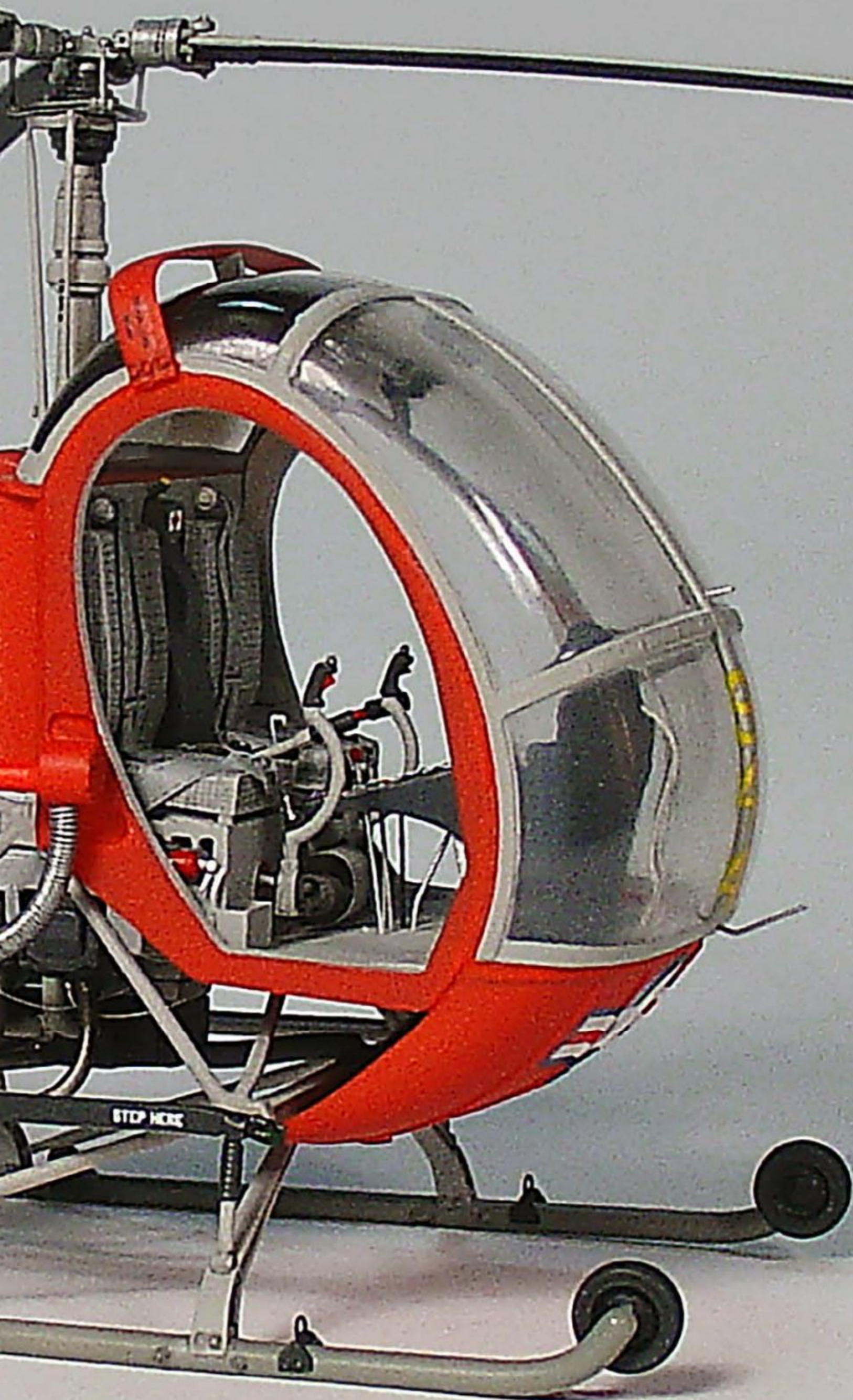
**D**eveloped for the civilian market in the late 1950s, the Hughes Model 269A was selected by the U.S. Army to replace the Hiller OH-23 Raven to train helicopter pilots. Almost 800 of the aircraft, designated the TH-55A Osage by the military, were built. It served for 24 years and more than 60,000 Army pilots trained on it. Students referred to it as the “Mattel Messerschmitt” because of its toy-like appearance despite the military garb.

I learned to fly in the OH-23D, and after a tour in Vietnam, I returned to Fort Wolters, Texas, the Army’s Primary Helicopter Center, as an Instructor Pilot on the TH-55A. (Yes, that’s me in the top photo!) Compared to the Hiller, the Hughes was light, responsive, and quite maneuverable. It was considered a delight to fly, especially in the summer when the Texas sun required flying with the doors off. This was actually “helicopter open cockpit” flying, and it was exhilarating.

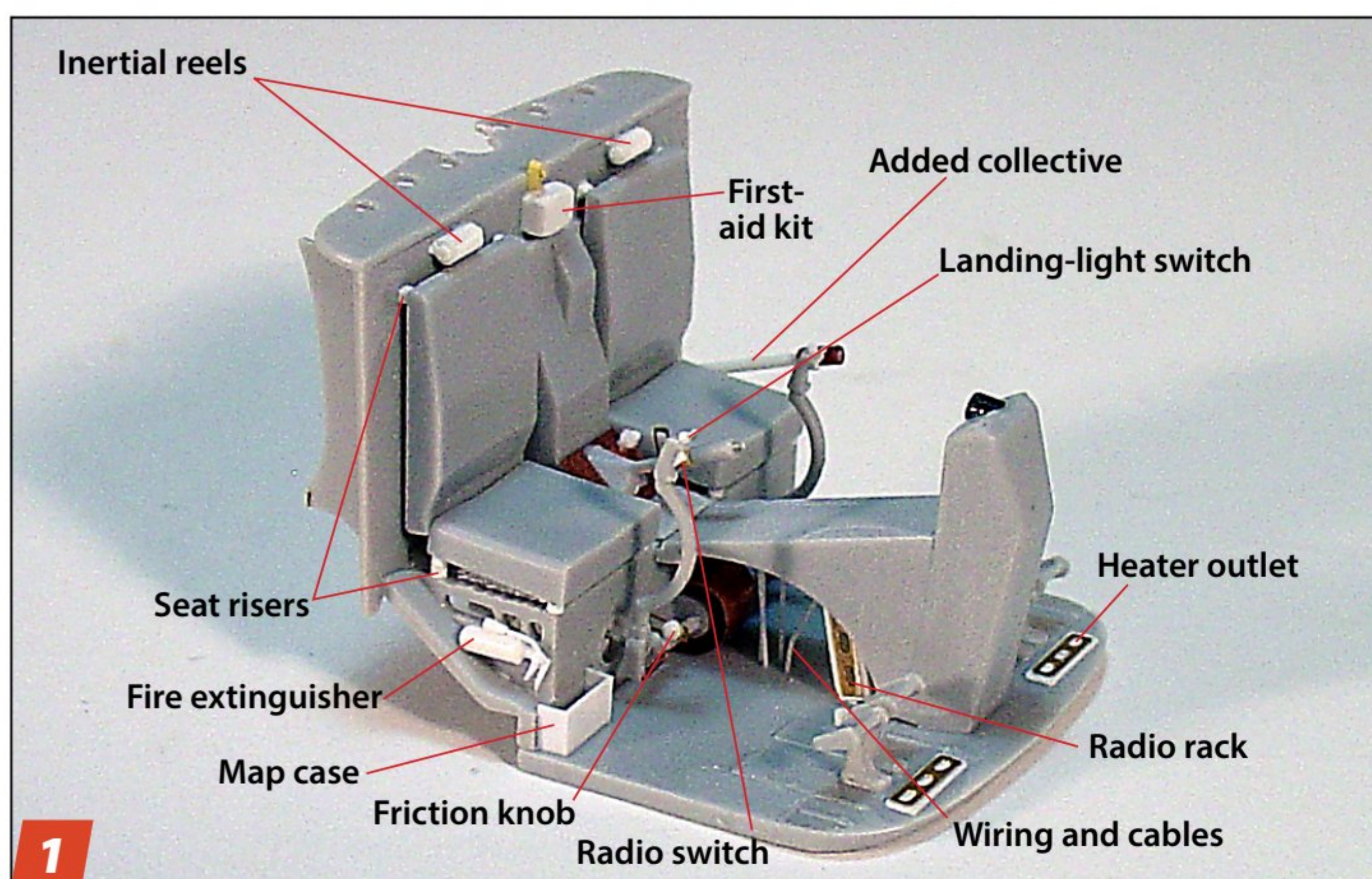
Given this personal connection, I was thrilled when Ukrainian model company AMP produced a 1/32 scale kit of the Osage. The injection-molded plastic parts are supplemented by photo-etched copper (PE) details, cast-resin cylinder heads, and a 3D-printed rotor head. On the other hand, there’s flash and mold seams on every part, sprue nubs on mating surfaces, and the parts are not numbered on the tree, requiring cross-referencing the parts in the directions with the printed parts map where the parts are numbered.



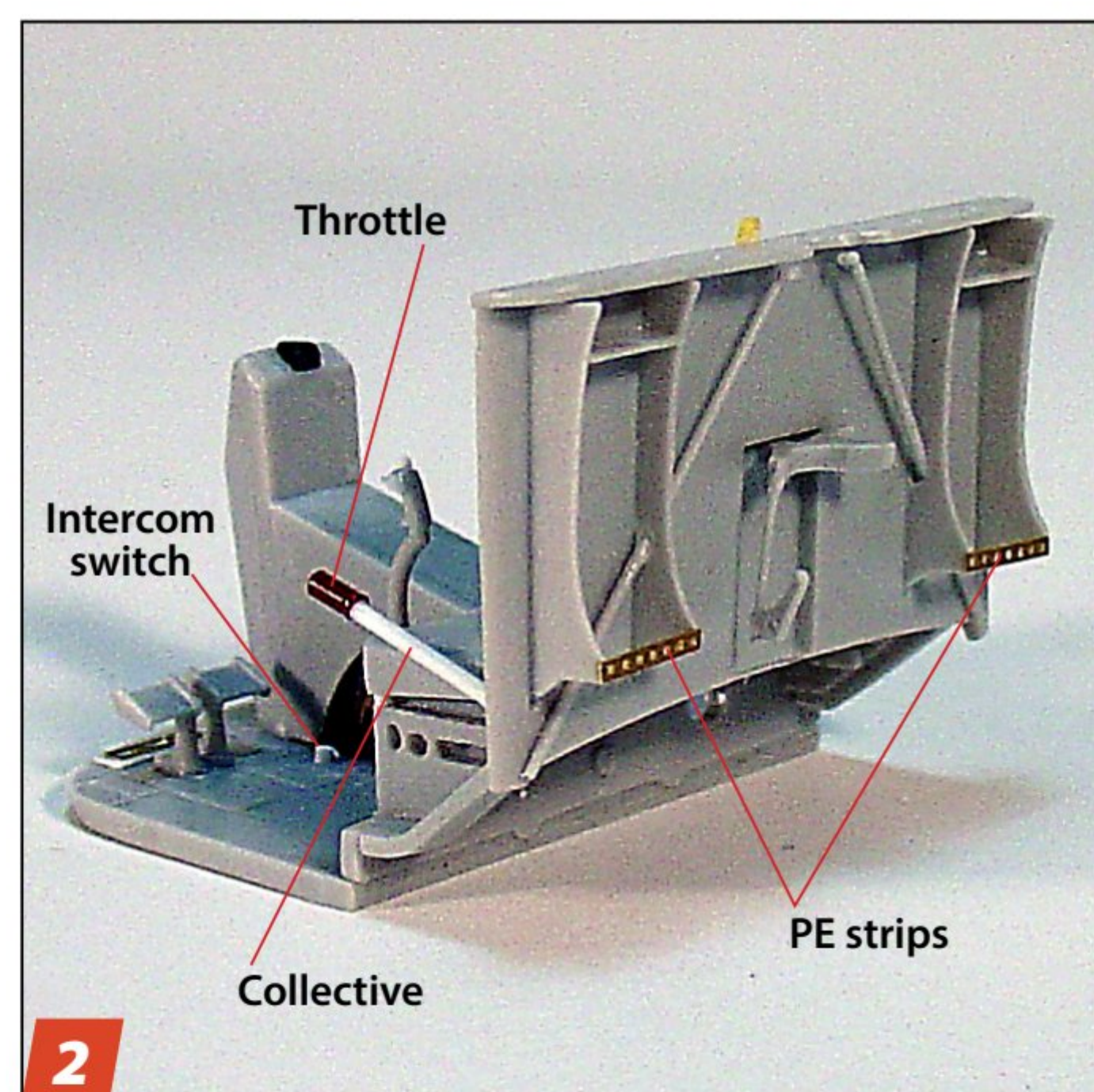
# OSAGE



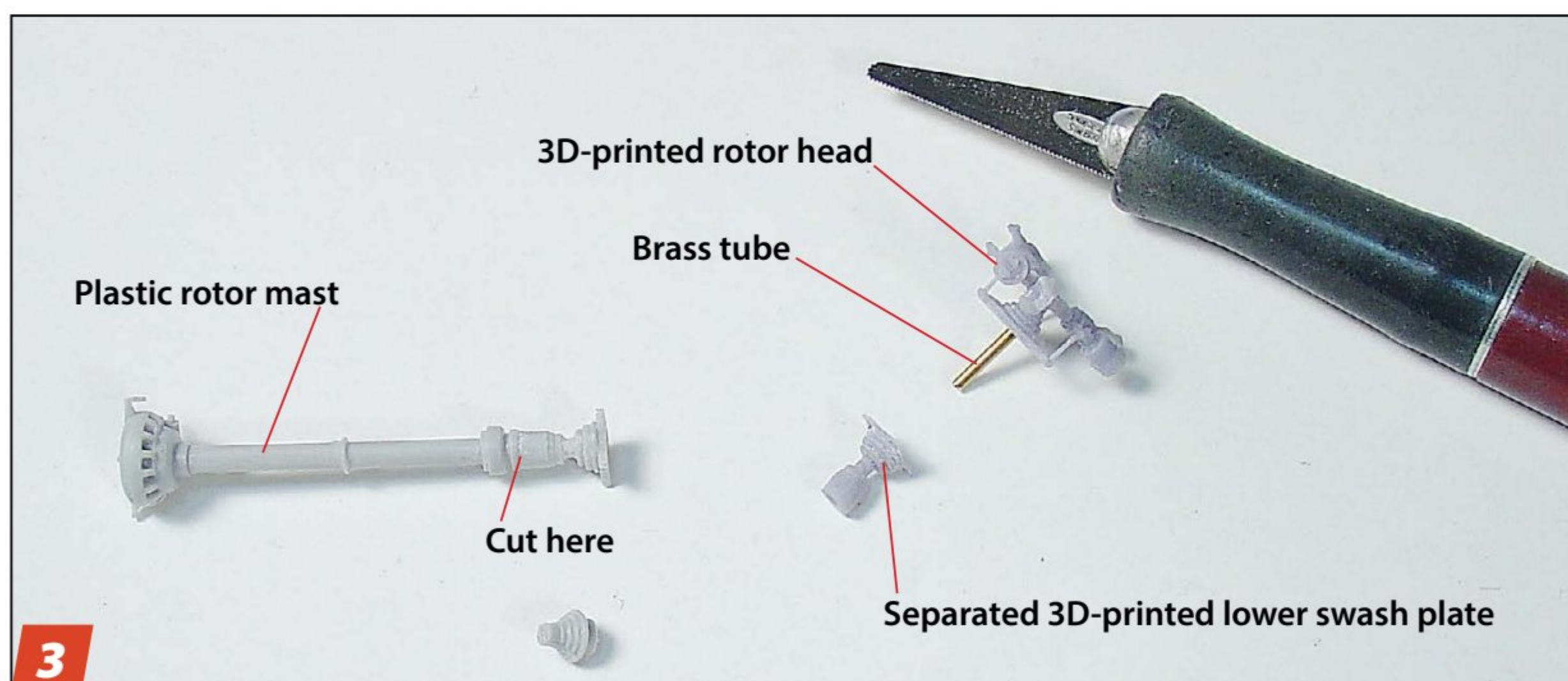




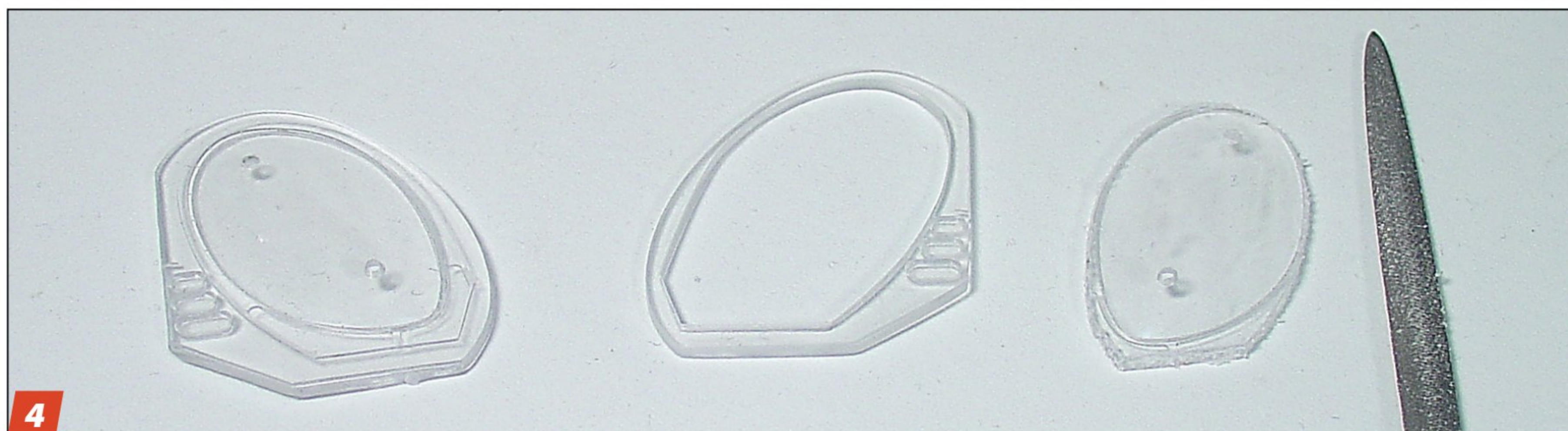
Using styrene rod and strip, I added detail to the cockpit section, including inertia reels for the shoulder harness, a second collective pitch stick with throttle handle for the left seat, radio/intercom trigger switches on the front of the cyclic sticks, landing light switches on top of the cyclic sticks, a fire extinguisher on the right side of the right seat, spacers for the seat bottoms and backs, map case in front of the right seat, heater outlets in front of the pedals, wiring and cables from inside the console down to the floor, a radio rack inside the console, first-aid kit above and between the seats, and the cyclic lateral and fore and aft friction knobs.



On the back of the cockpit bulkhead, I replaced incompletely molded plastic strips with PE from my spares box. Note the styrene-rod collective stick and throttle for the left seat. It wasn't included in the kit, but it was necessary for the instructor pilot's use.

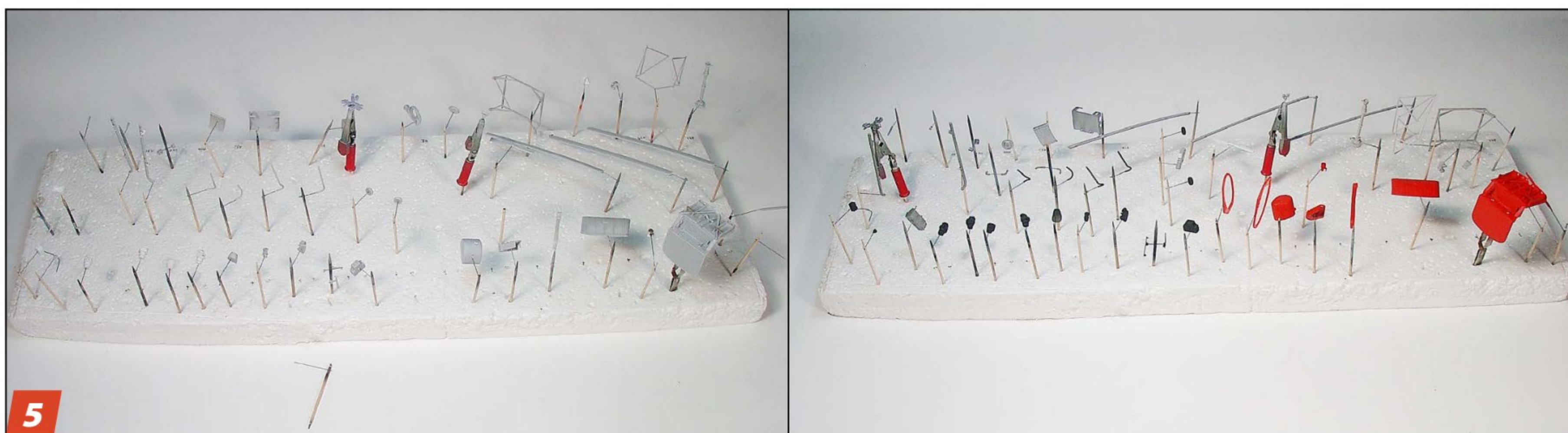


The kit provides a detailed 3D-printed rotor head that replaces individual plastic parts. (These are included on the trees, but not shown in the instructions.) However, since the upper rotating and lower stationary swash plates are printed as a single part, the main rotor won't turn. Having the rotor turn reduces the chance of breakage. Using a thin PE saw, I carefully cut the lower swash plate and upper mast from the 3D-printed rotor. After removing the upper mast from the included plastic part, I glued the 3D-printed lower swashplate to the plastic mast and glued brass tube into a hole drilled into the rotor head, so it would slip into a similar hole drilled in the mast and be free to turn. The rotor head is fragile, so be careful filing open the blade grips, appearing here as large forks, to accommodate the blades.

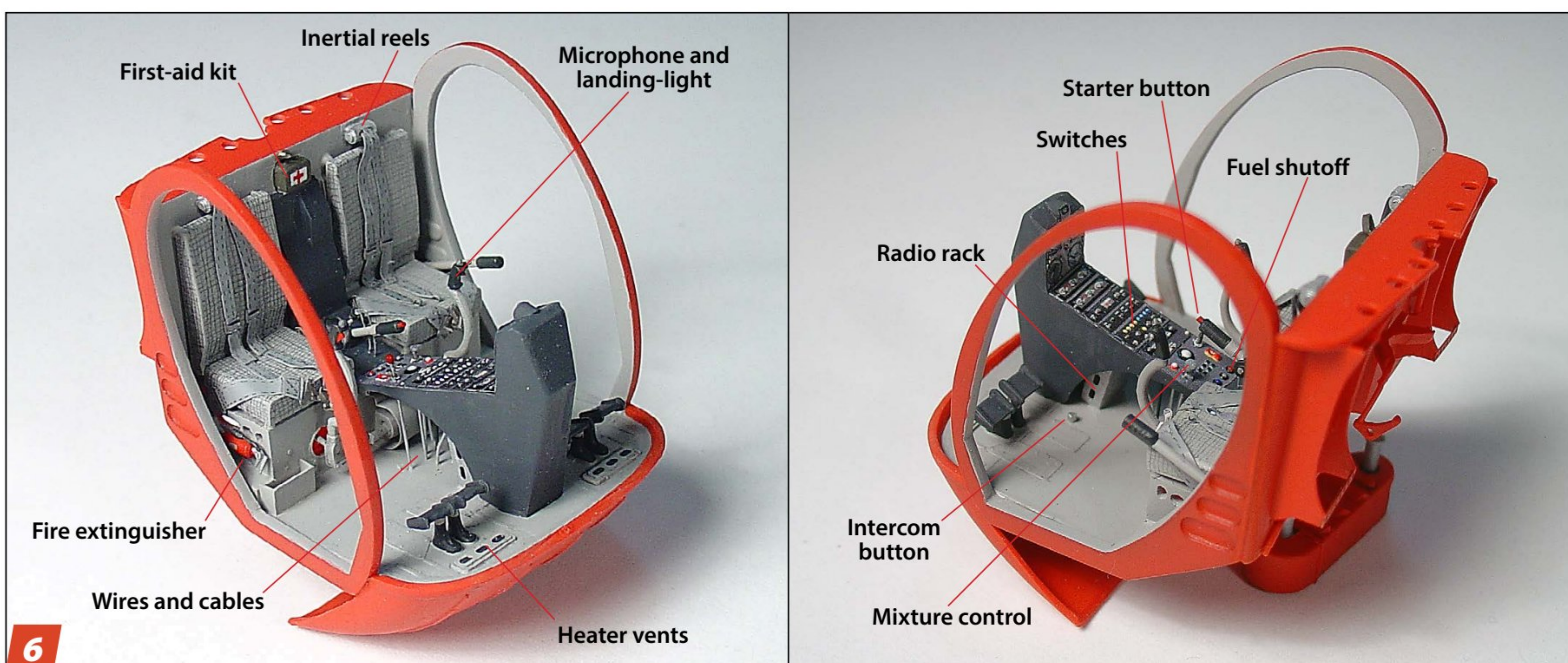


To allow for the large windows, the cockpit side sections are molded in clear plastic integrally with the doors. To replicate the way we flew with the doors removed for the Texas heat, I drilled a series of closely spaced holes just inside of the door outlines and connected the dots by drawing a hobby knife along the holes until the doors popped free. Files and sanding sticks cleaned up the rough edges and smoothed the door outlines.

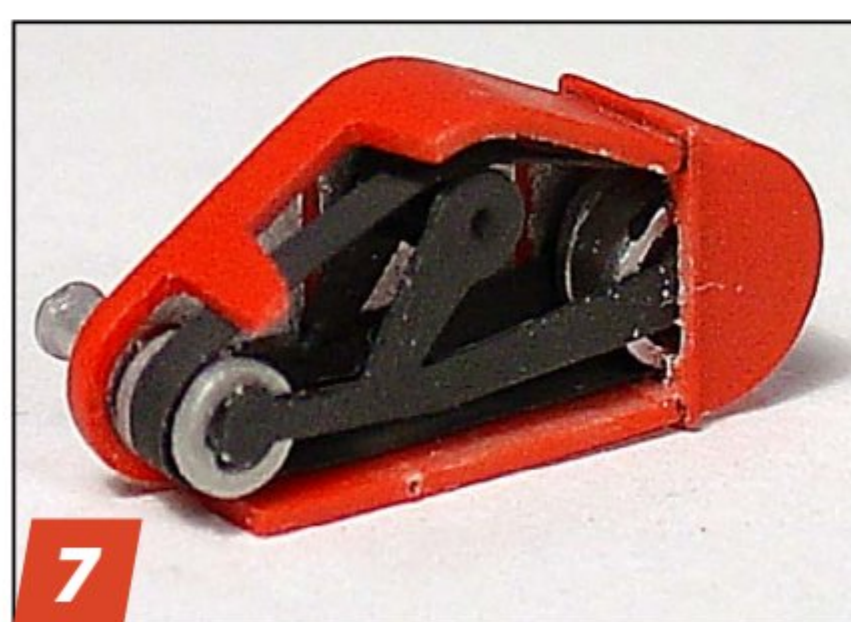




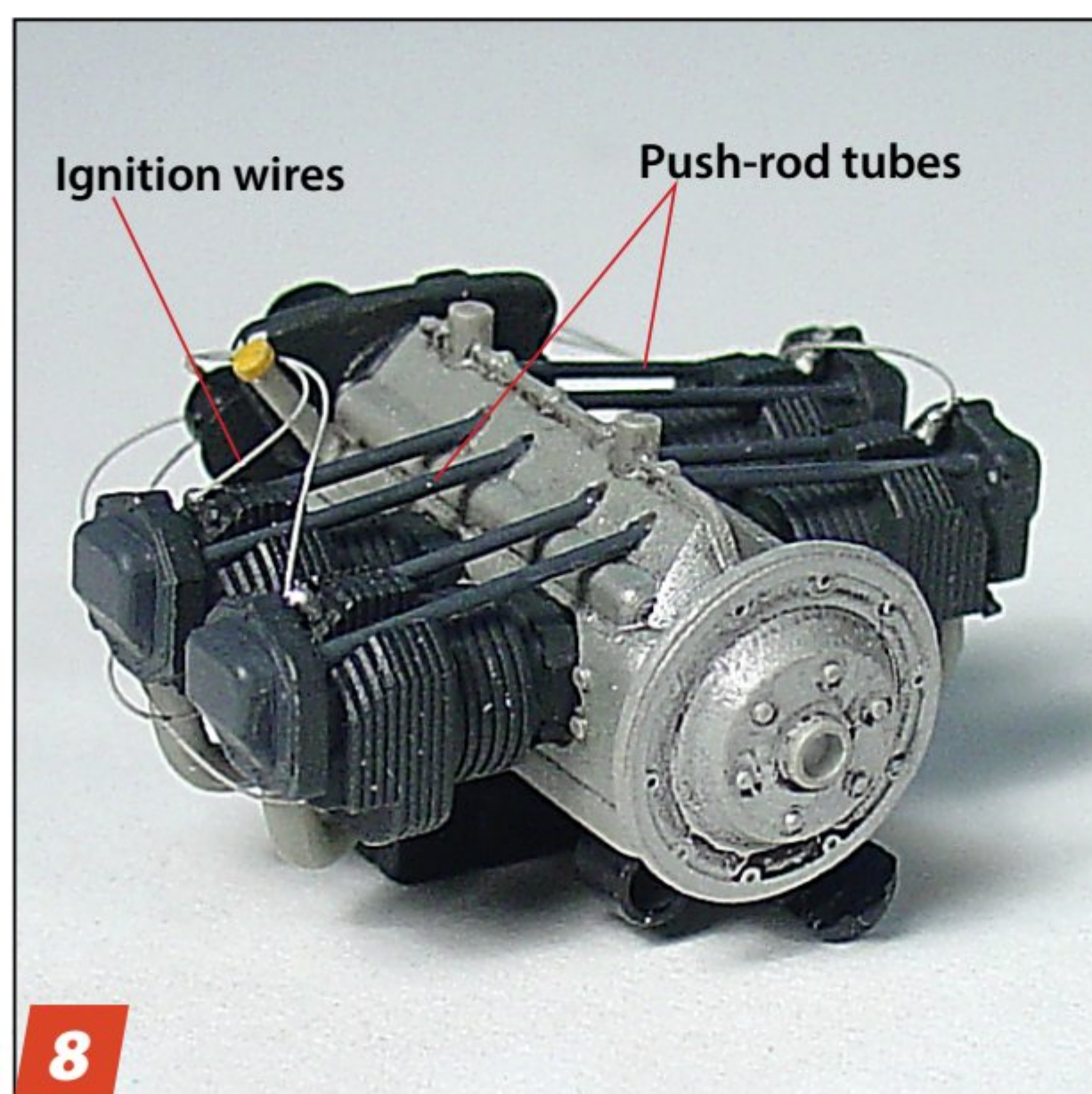
**5** I use styrene foam as a paint stand for airbrushing. To hold the parts, I drill a hole through a toothpick with a No. 78 or .016-inch bit and superglue in a piece of .015-inch steel wire. Dozens of these parts holders can be made in minutes and are handy for holding parts for airbrushing. I drill a .016-inch hole into an inconspicuous spot of each part and attach them to the wire providing a perfect handle to airbrush the parts without fingerprints. After painting, I hold the wire with pliers and slowly rotate the part to release it from the handle. Grouping the parts by color keeps everything straight during painting. The interior was base-coated with Tamiya Medium Grey (No. XF-20), and I mixed Tamiya Flat Yellow (No. XF-3) and Flat Red (No. XF-7) to match photos of the trainer orange exterior color.



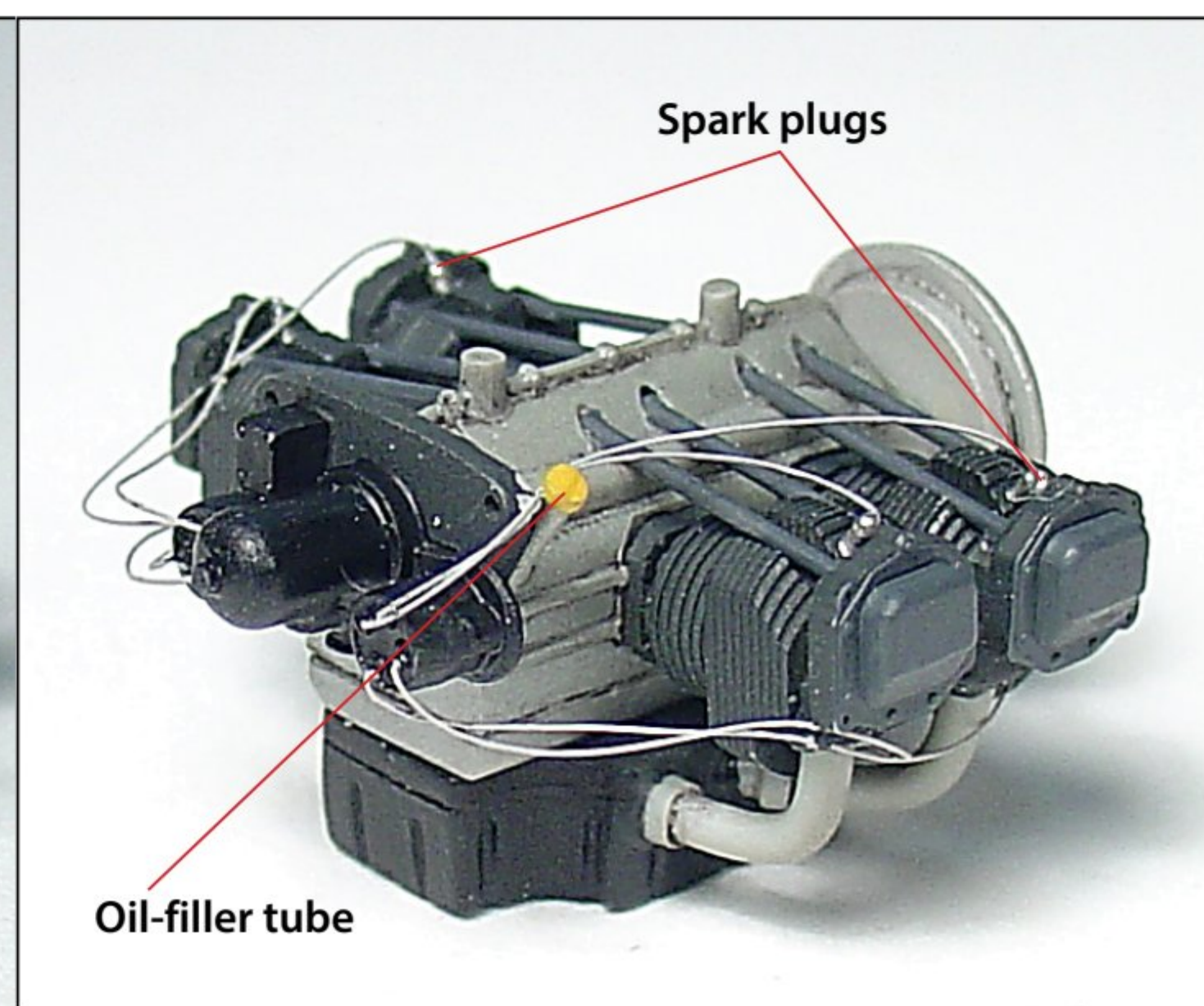
**6** The added cockpit details really pop after painting. I dressed the seats with Eduard PE belts and shoulder harnesses designed for the AH-1G Cobra (No. 33289). The harnesses attach to the inertial reels I added earlier.



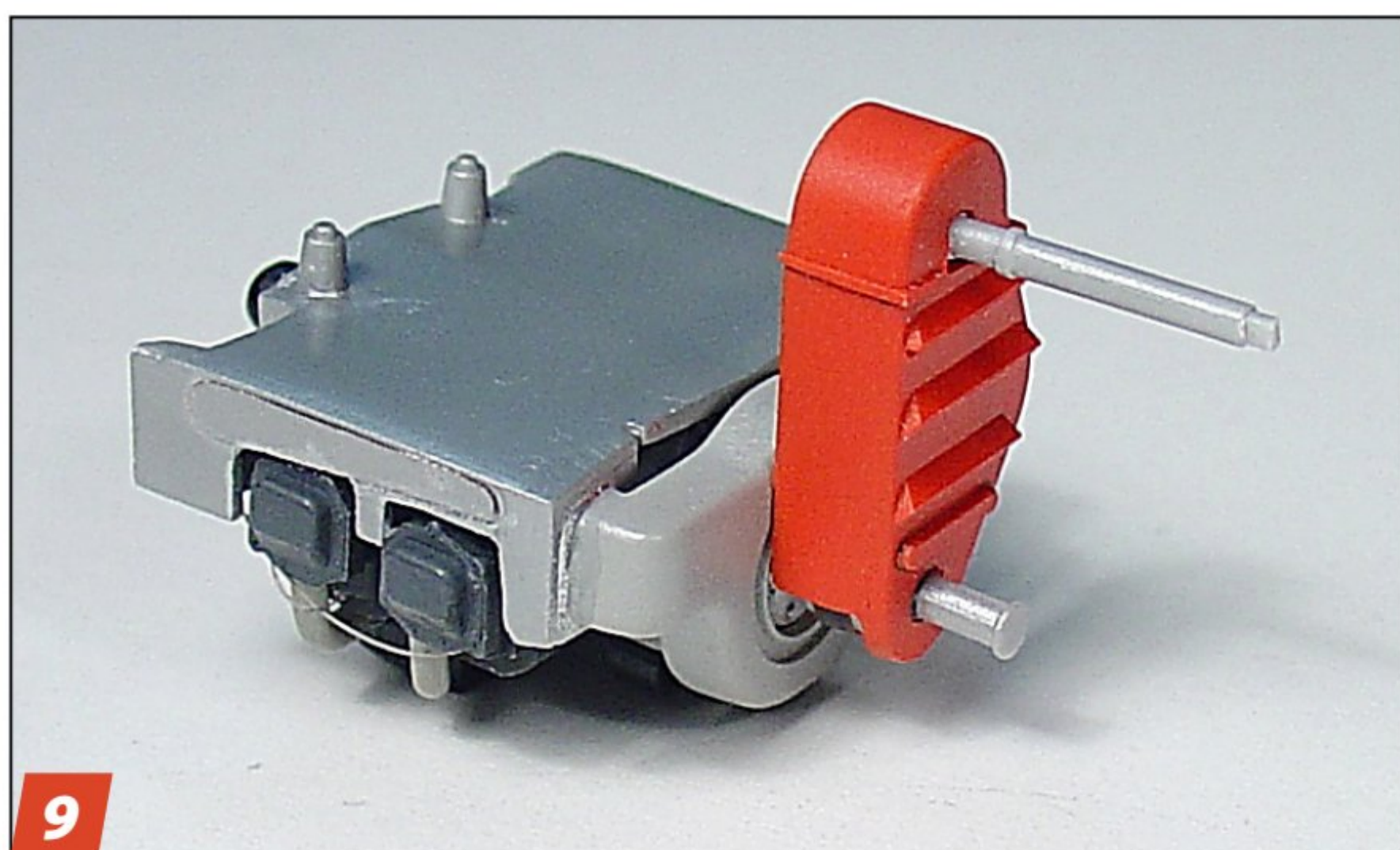
**7** The connection between the engine and transmission on the TH-55A was eight drive belts tensioned with a linear actuator connected to a tension pulley. Despite having eight "fan" belts to drive the transmission, main rotor, and the tail rotor drive, this system was actually quite reliable and gave little trouble. I painted the pulleys aluminum, the belts black, and the cover trainer orange.



**8** The kit's cast-resin cylinders require a little work to fit the crankcase of the Lycoming HIO-360-B1A engine. I added eight push-rod tubes, eight spark plugs with ignition wires made with nylon thread, and an oil-filler tube with dipstick handle.

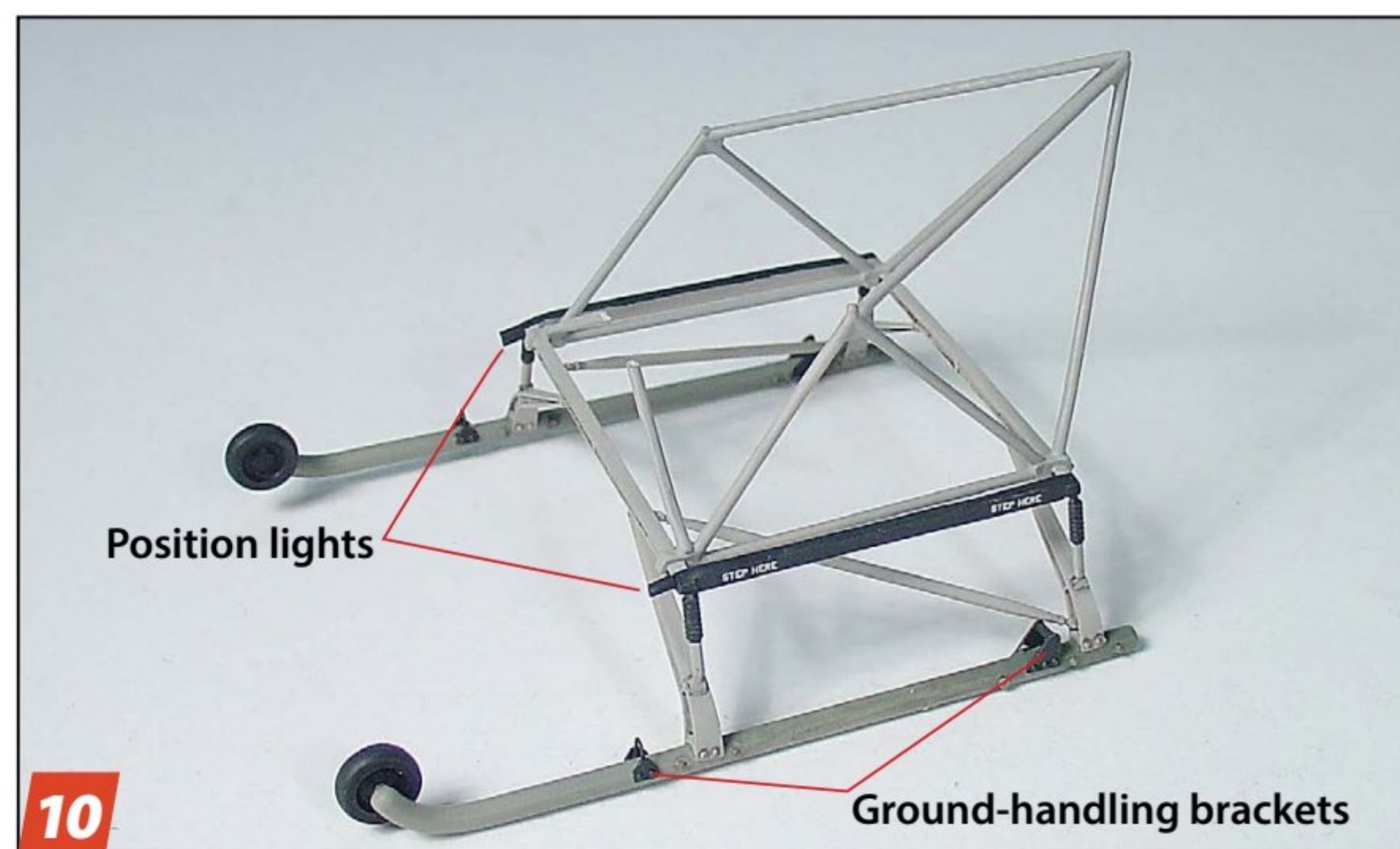






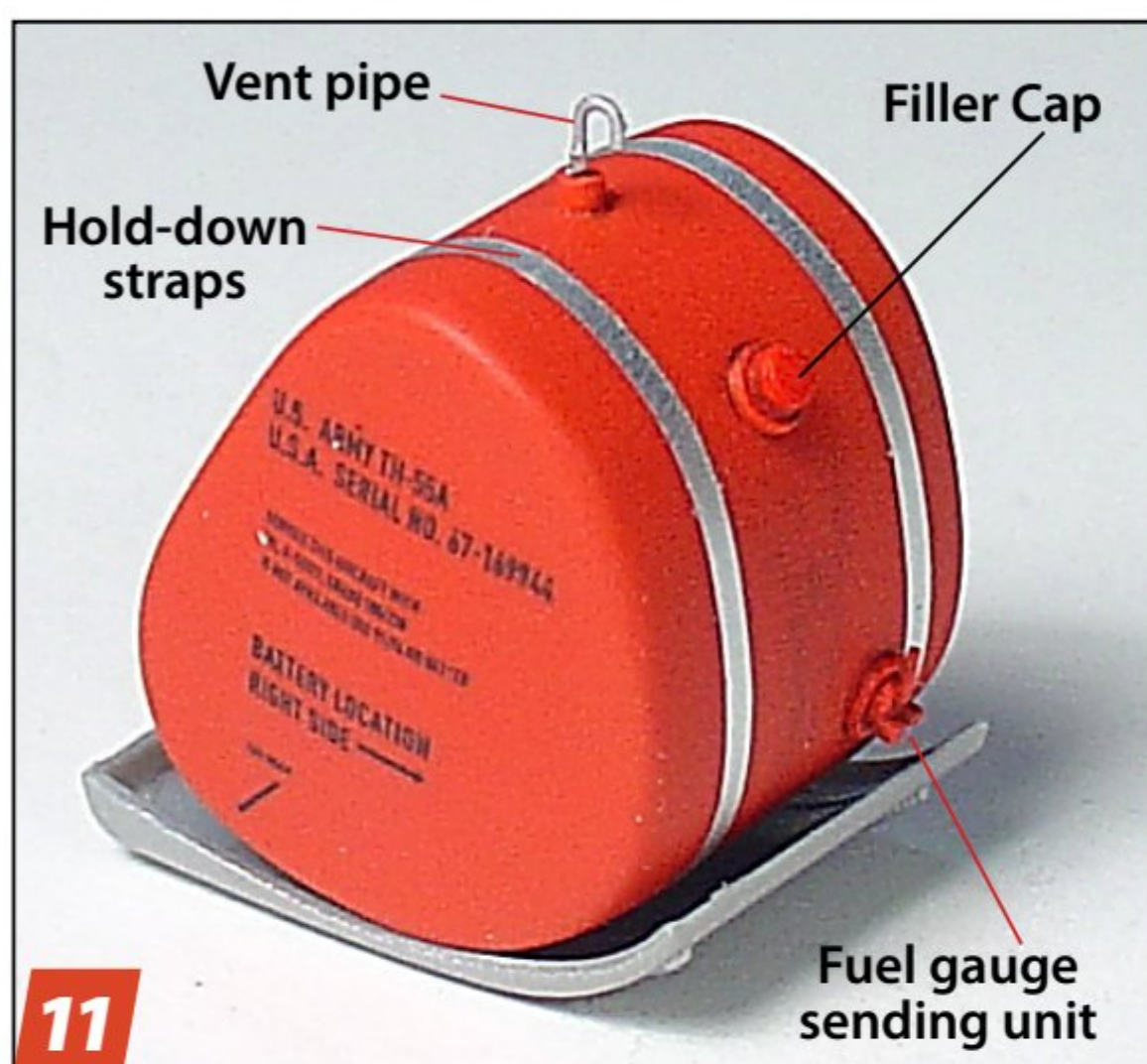
9

Once the engine was finished, I attached the steel cooling shroud along with the clutch, pulley, and belt unit.



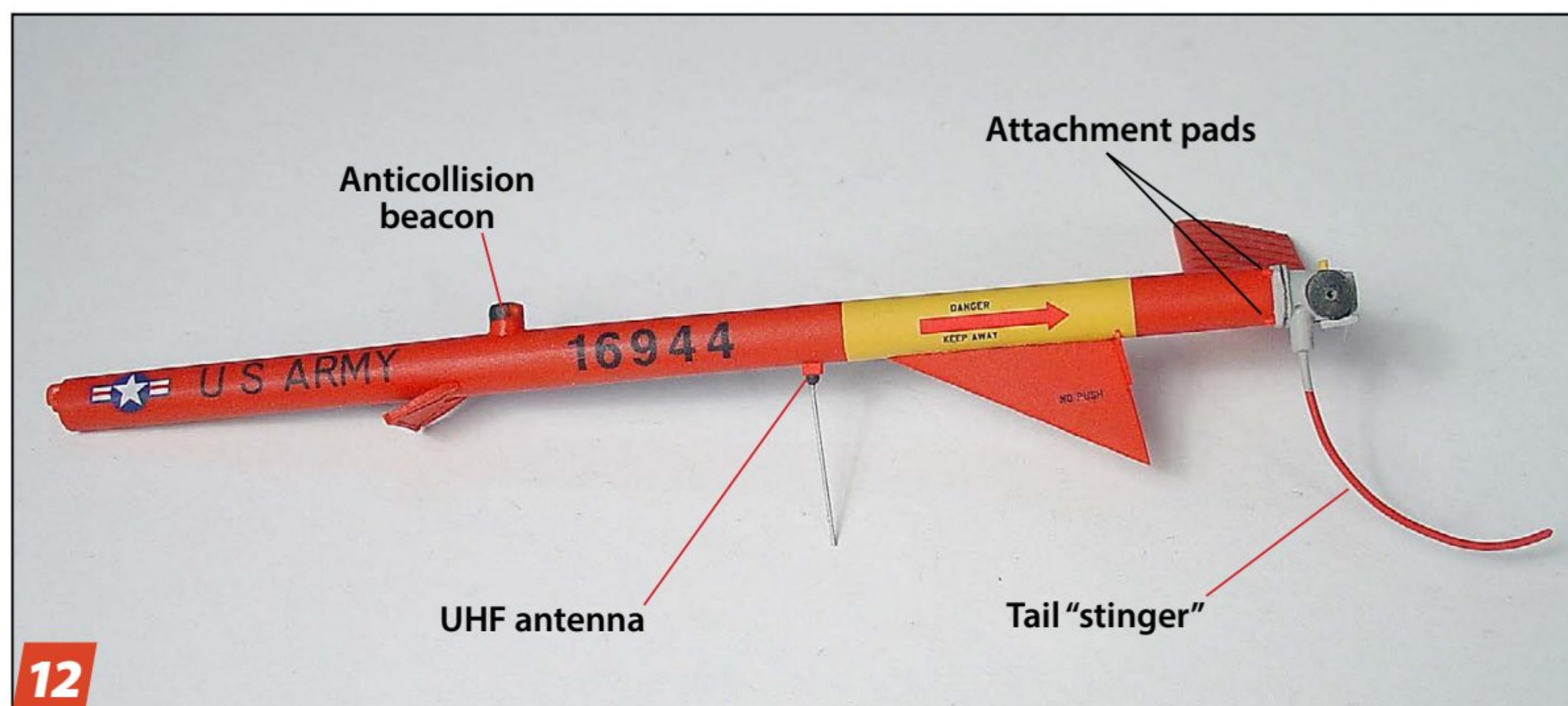
10

Mimicking the real thing, the main frame is spindly, and in 1/32 scale plastic, it is also fragile. I added four ground-handling brackets, here painted black, with 20 Tichy Train Group .020-inch plastic rivets and used leftover PE to make brackets for the position lights.



11

To detail the four-part fuel tank, I added straps with chrome tape, the curved vent pipe on top, the filler cap, and the fuel gauge sending unit pad with terminals using styrene stock and stretched sprue. An airbrushed layer of Testors Dullcote blended the decals into the paint of the tank and dulled the shine of the chrome tape.

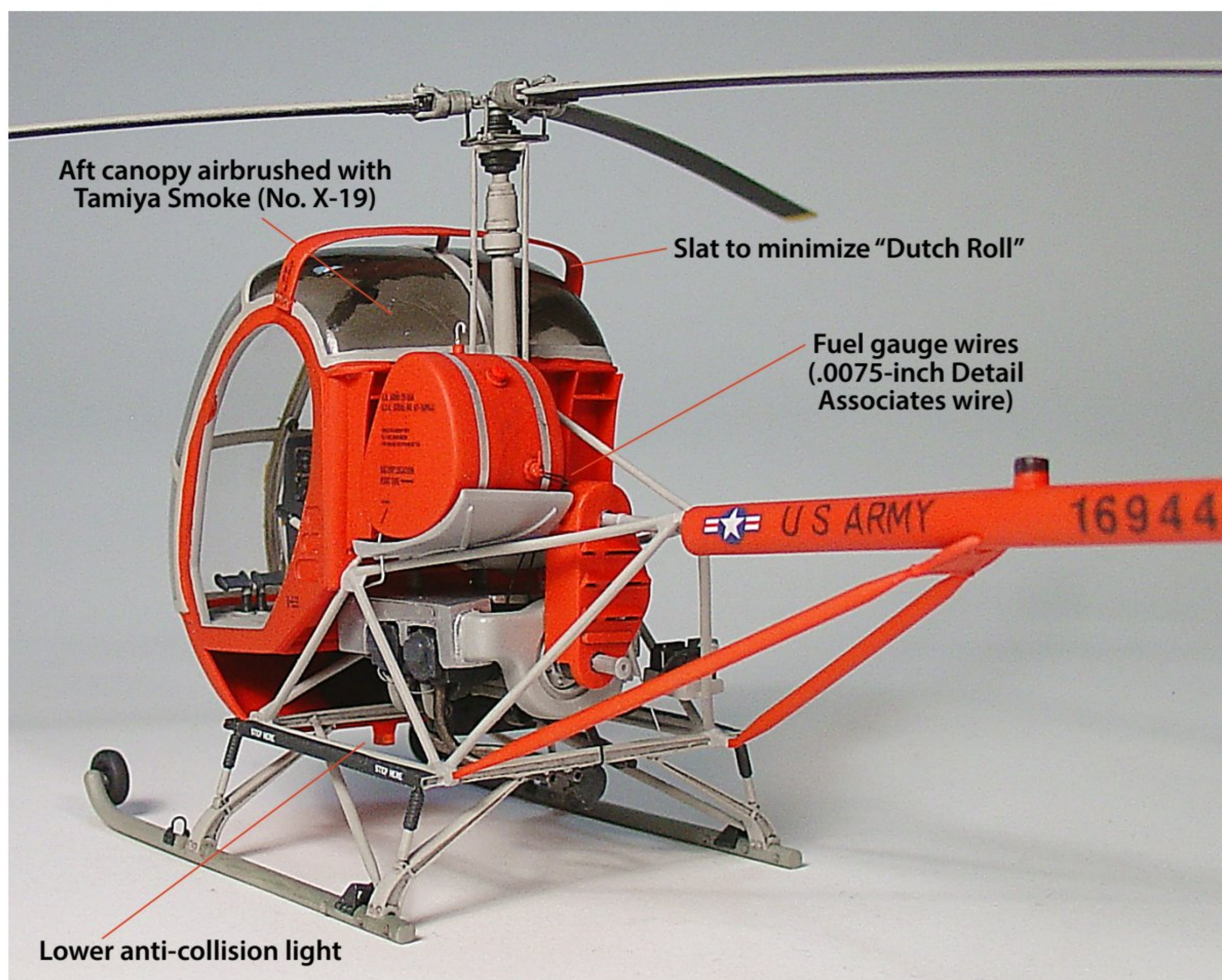


12

I added an anti-collision light to the tail boom, shaping clear plastic sprue to replace the kit's too-big part and painted the forward section black as was done to eliminate flashing in the cockpit at night. The VHF radio antenna, rubber seal, and mounting pad were made from .008-inch brass wire and styrene scrap. I fitted four orange attachment pads for the tail-rotor gearbox and replaced the kit's oversized "stinger," the tail-rotor guard with .028-inch brass rod.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**IN THE END**, the model required 83 hours spread over two and a half months and has 380 parts including decals. This build was finicky and frustrating at times due to the less-than-optimal fit of various parts, flash, and heavy sprue connections to the parts. Yet, when finished, it's a delightful-looking, diminutive helicopter, and it brings back fond memories of being an instructor pilot. **FSM**





# Build a camera-ready **LIGHTNING**



Convert a 1/48 scale P-38F into an Australian recon aircraft

BY AARON SKINNER

**L**ockheed has built some of the prettiest aircraft in history, including the SR-71, Constellation, and F-104, to name a few. To my mind, the Lightning is the cream of the crop. (The original Lightning, the P-38, not its ugly namesake, the F-35.) The sleek, twin-boom fighter exudes grace and power and was responsible for shooting down more enemy aircraft in World War II than any other U.S. Army Air Forces plane.

As anyone who has run into me at model shows knows, I have a strong interest in Royal Australian Air Force subjects. As a Commonwealth nation, the RAAF used plenty of British aircraft. But as one of the bastions against the Japanese forces in the South Pacific, a lot of American types found their way into Australian markings. Such was the case with three Lightning reconnaissance aircraft, designated F-4. I had to have a P-38 wearing RAAF roundels, and when CMK released a conversion set for Tamiya's 1/48 scale early Lightning, I was off to the races. The set included a resin replacement nose and decals for an American plane as well as the RAAF aircraft I built.

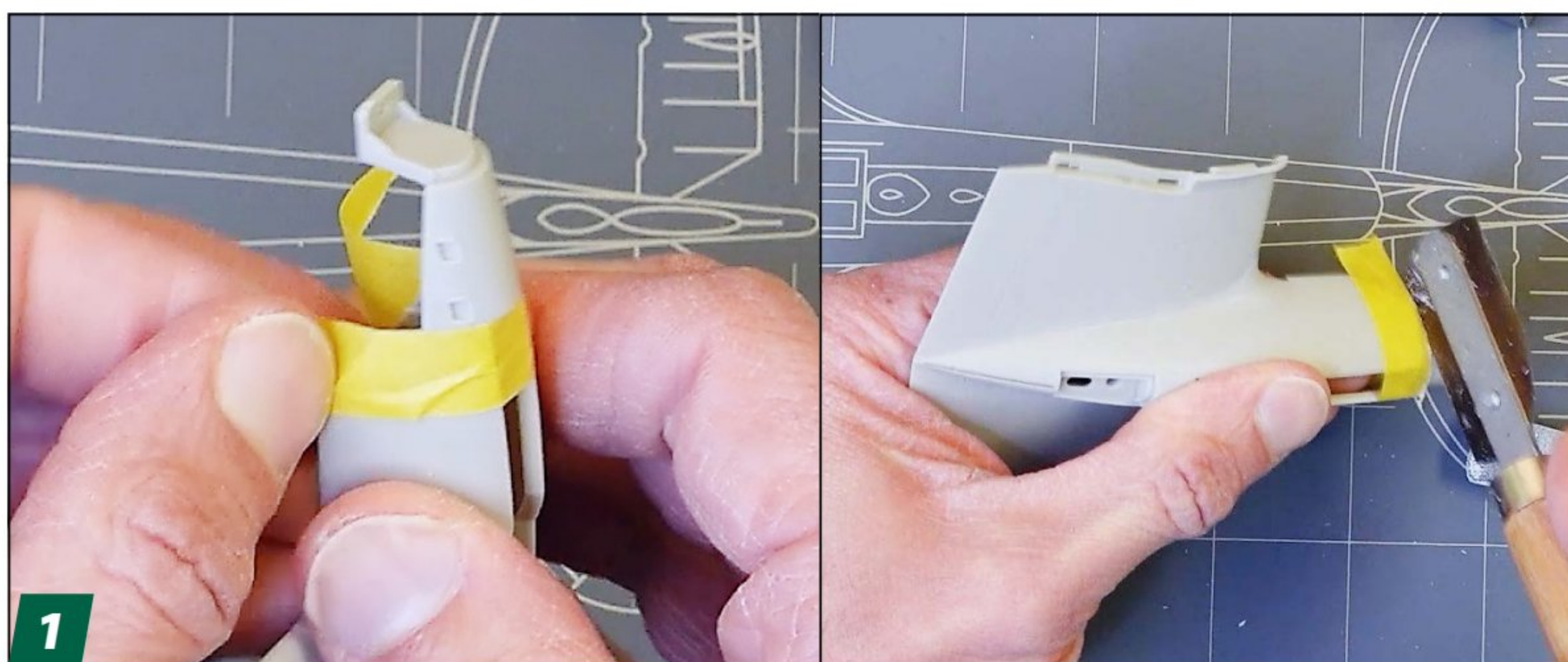
Looking over the set's instructions, it looked pretty easy, but it turned out I was in for some hard yakka — Australian slang for hard work.

**See the  
build  
video**

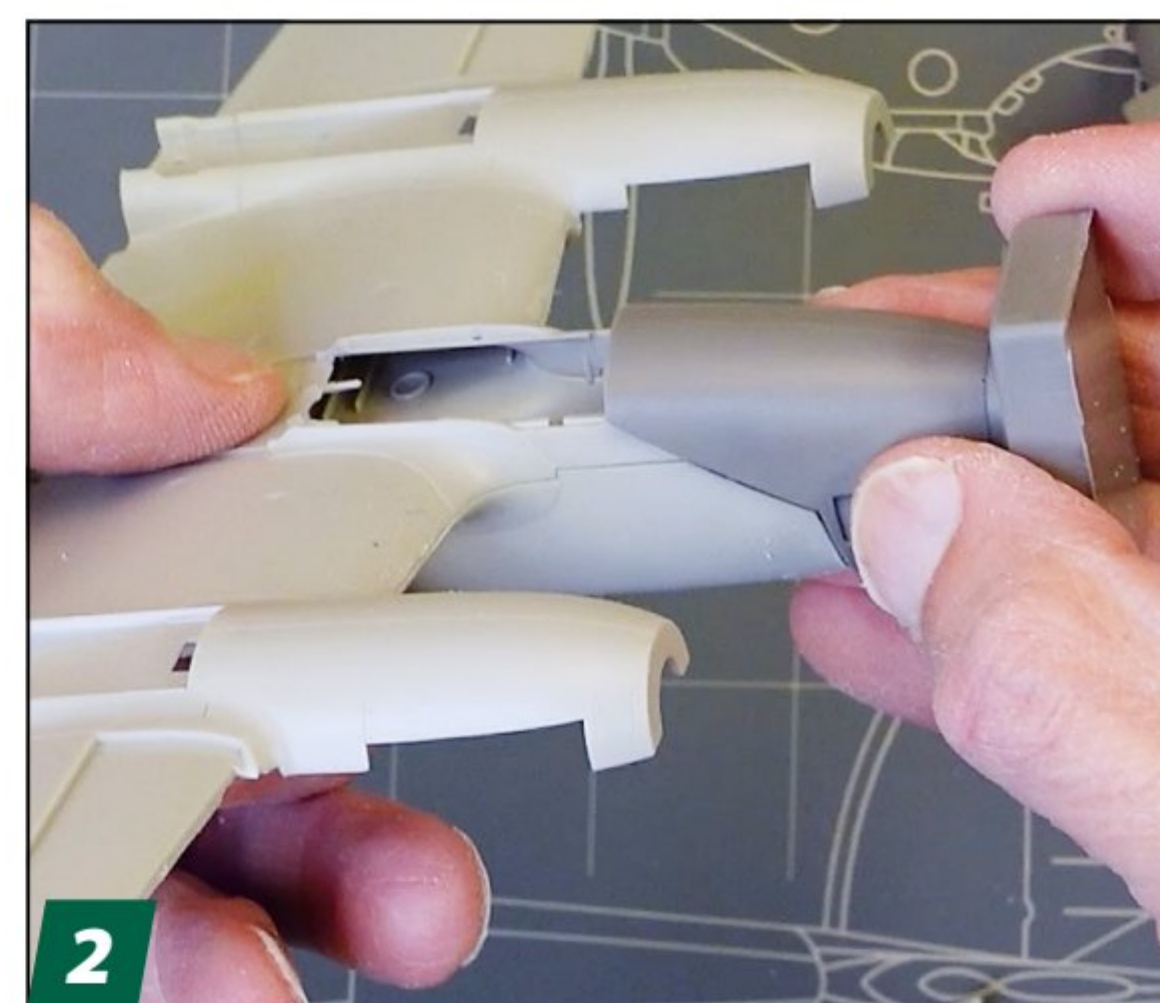


Scan the QR code or visit [FineScale.com](http://FineScale.com) to see the *At the Workbench* video of the Lightning build.





**1** Part of the kit nose must go, easy on the upper half because the separation is a step and easily sawed along. The cuts on the lower half follow recessed panel lines that I placed tape along to guide the cutters. I dragged a scribe along the panel line to deepen it and finished with a saw.



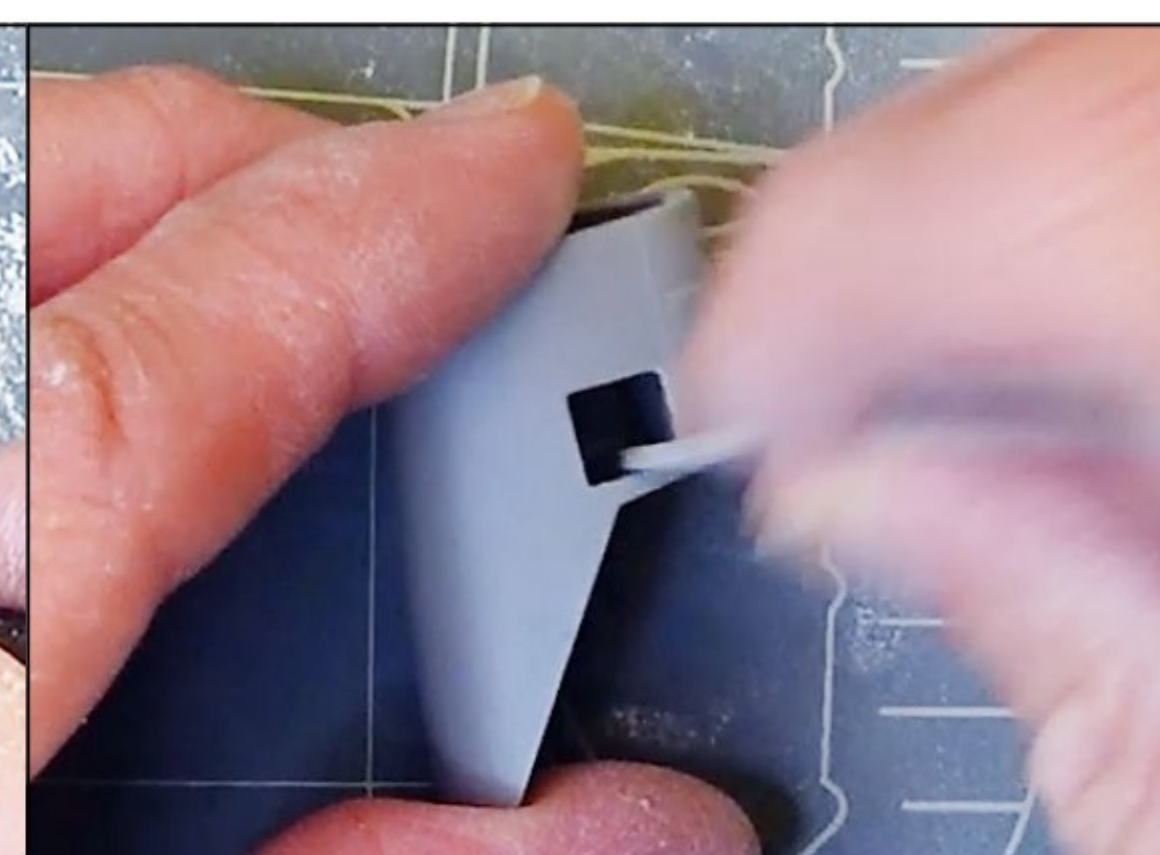
**2** To check my work, I held the resin part against the cut edge. It looks pretty good.



**3** Time to remove the pour plugs. Using a pull saw, I sliced close to the part but left enough room to avoid cutting into critical sections. A coarse sanding stick refined the edge.



**4** The camera port openings were skinned over with thin resin that I easily removed by running the tip of a blade around the edges. I cleaned up the edges with a metal sanding stick, because the hard core keeps the edges straight and corners true.



**5** Test-fitting showed that the lower edge of the resin nose interfered with the fit of the nose-gear bay, so I thinned the lower inside edge of the part with a hobby knife and sanding sticks.



**6** The camera ports are molded in clear resin. I painted the inside of the round part black and inside the rest the interior color. Testing showed a snug fit, and I secured the ports with generous applications of Microscale Micro Kristal Klear brushed inside.



**7** After gluing the fuselage together, including the completed cockpit, I checked the fit of the resin parts. Lining it up along the long diagonal joints revealed small gaps and a step at the lower front joints. I'll fix that later, but first, I have to keep it from tail sitting.



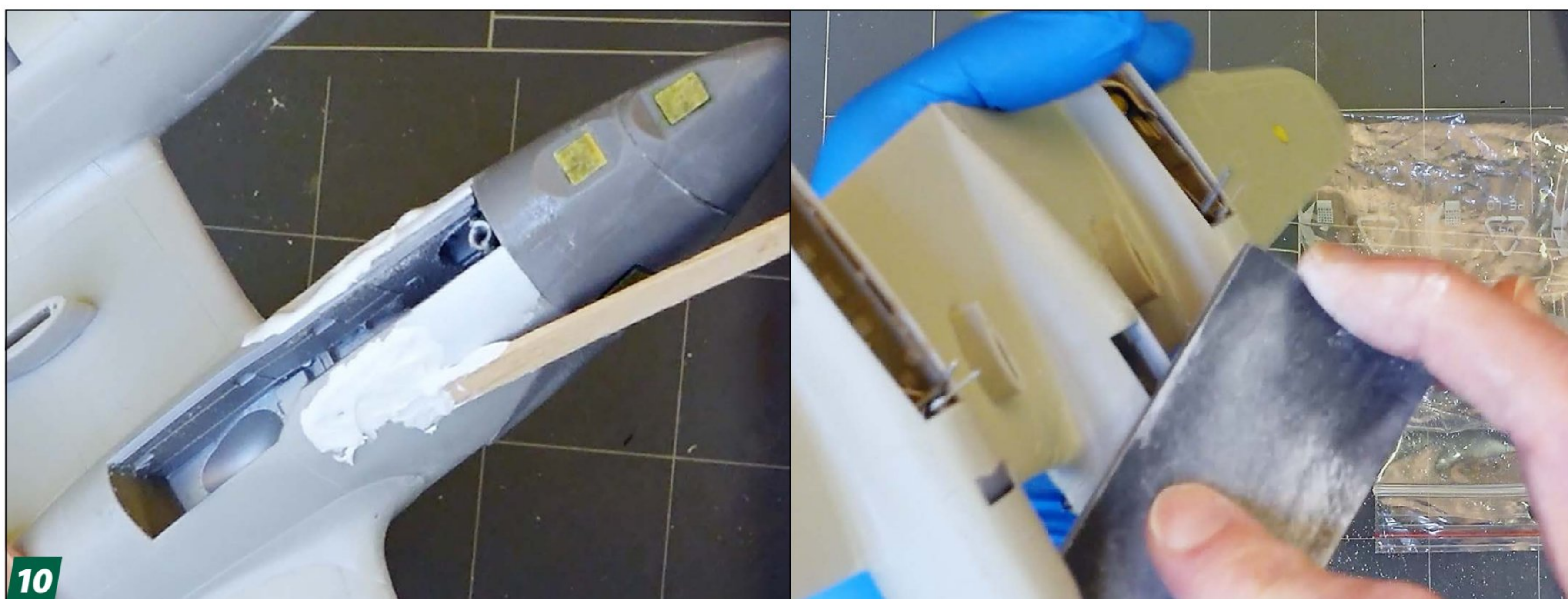
**8** The kit supplies ball bearings to keep the nose down, one in each of the engine nacelles and one in the nose. But the bearing for the nose wouldn't fit inside the resin parts, so instead, I filled it with lead sinkers secured with two-part epoxy.





9

To even out the misfit around the nose gear bay, I glued strips of .030-inch styrene butted against the resin part. After protecting the resin with tape, I contoured the styrene and feathered it into the fuselage with sanding sticks. Gap-filling superglue sanded smooth evened out pits at the edges of the styrene.



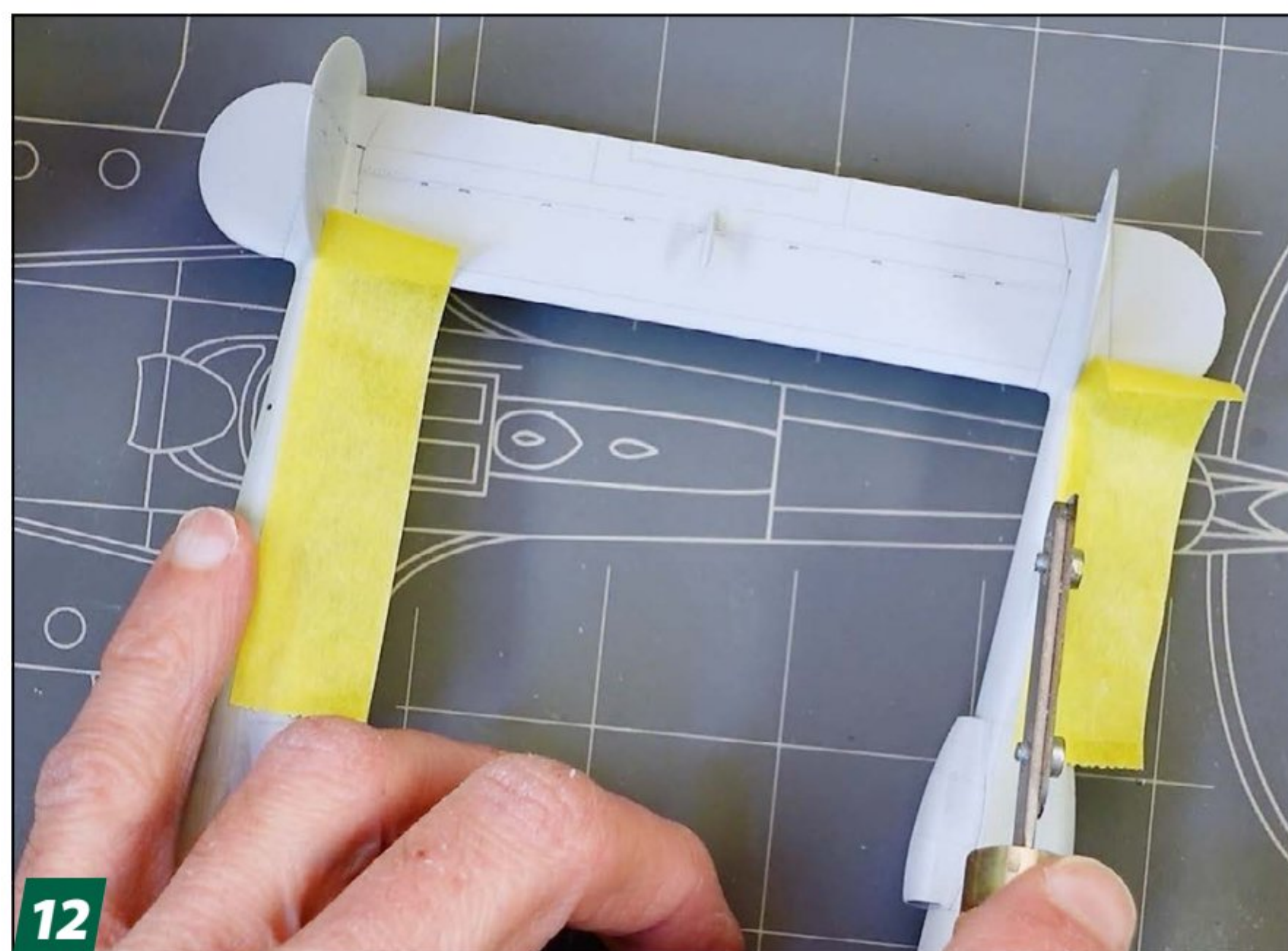
10

The filled areas alongside the nose gear bay were still uneven, so I applied a generous amount of Tamiya putty, spread it well past the margins of the styrene patches, and left it to dry for several days. I smoothed the putty with Goodman Models hard Perspex sanders; the broad, solid backing ensured the contours remained consistent.



11

After applying the Tamiya kit masks, I airbrushed the canopy with the interior color so that frames match the rest seen from outside. This layer revealed a slight step between the resin nose and the fuselage attached to the windshield. I protected the latter with tape and sanded the resin. Then I sprayed the model with light gray Tamiya Fine Surface Primer.



12

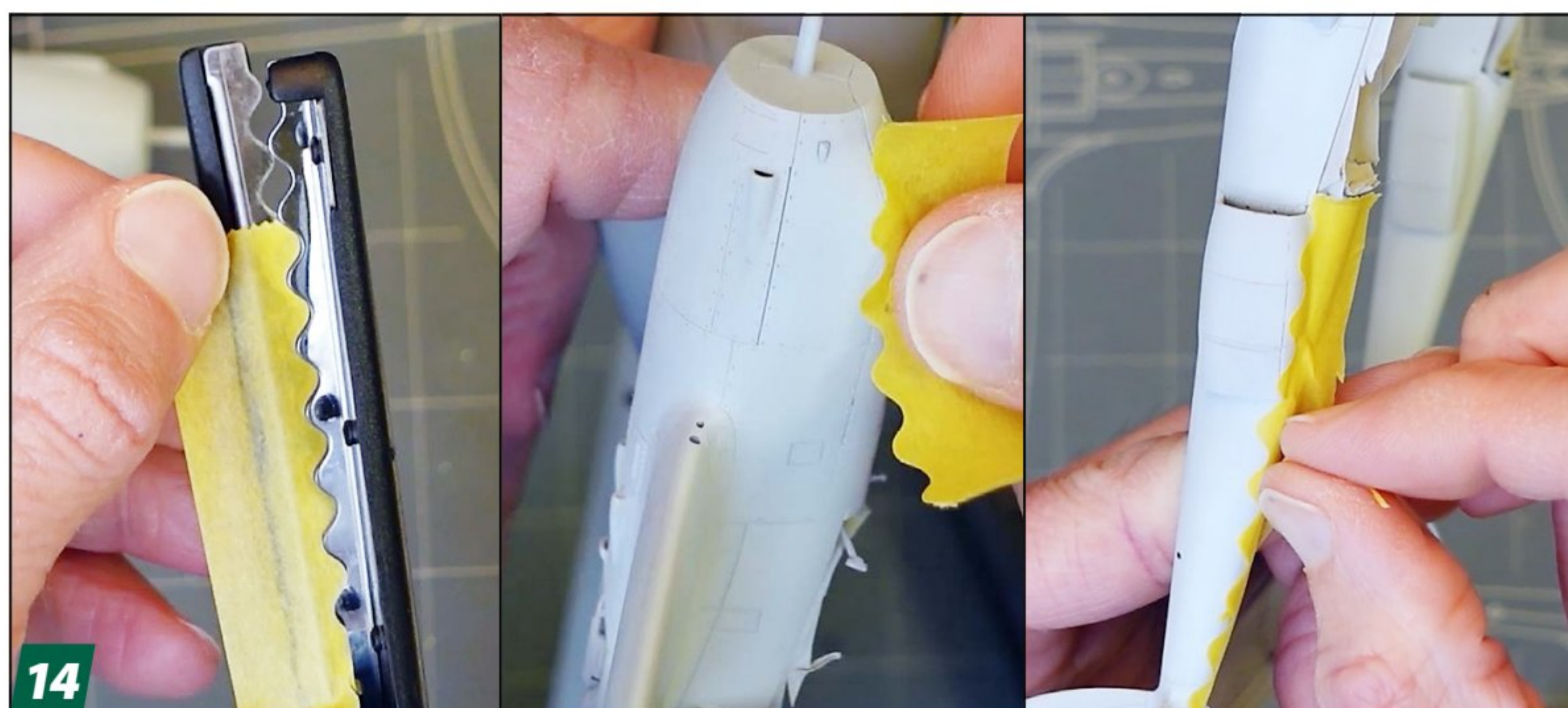
The primer did its job and revealed a few gaps and blemishes. I filled gaps at the leading edges with superglue. Also, with the surface easier to see, I restored panel lines lost in assembly with a fine razor saw guided by tape.





13

Now, it's time for camouflage, starting with the underside, which I airbrushed with SMS Premium RAAF Sky Blue (No. PL156). When airbrushing lower-surface colors, be sure to get the paint high enough on the sides for the scheme and don't forget to spray the outside of gear doors to match. I love how well lacquers cover without obscuring detail.



14

One of the characteristics of the camo on this F-4 was the wavy demarcation between the upper and lower colors. To mask this, I turned to decorative scissors, sometimes called pinking shears. Using one with a wave frequency that matched the scale, I cut Tamiya tape in half and applied it along the demarcation lines. Blade length limited the length of the strips, requiring long lines like those on the booms to be carefully aligned.



15

After protecting the underside of the wings and tail with more tape, I airbrushed the upper surfaces with SMS Premium US Olive Drab (No. PL167), lightened with a little light gray for a sun-faded and weathered finish. (For an explanation of the brown and green undercoat, see the *At the Workbench* video about this build.)



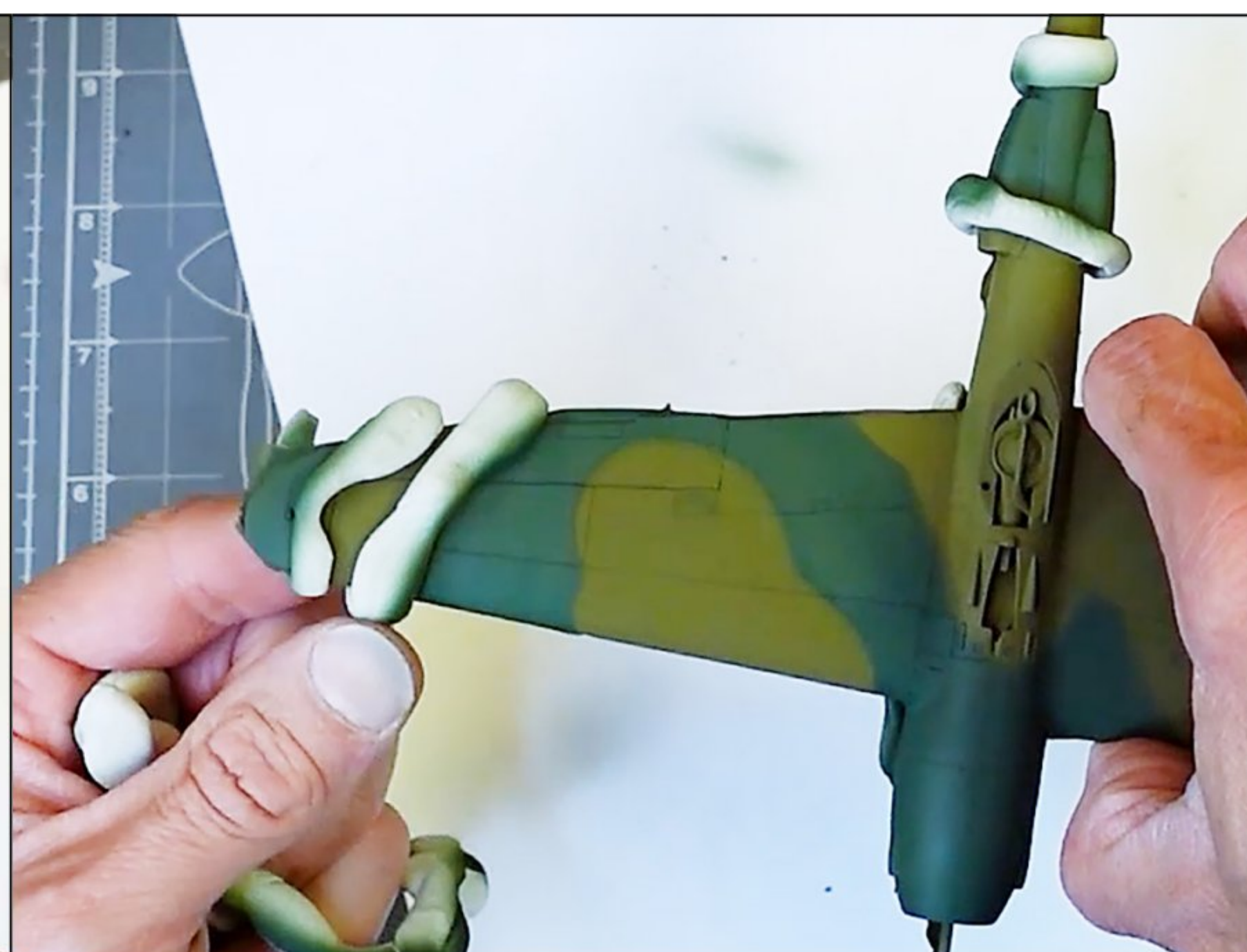
16

Looking at photos, it appeared that the edges between the upper surface color was slightly soft, so I masked them with worms of poster putty. I worked primarily from photos of the aircraft I was building to get the pattern right.

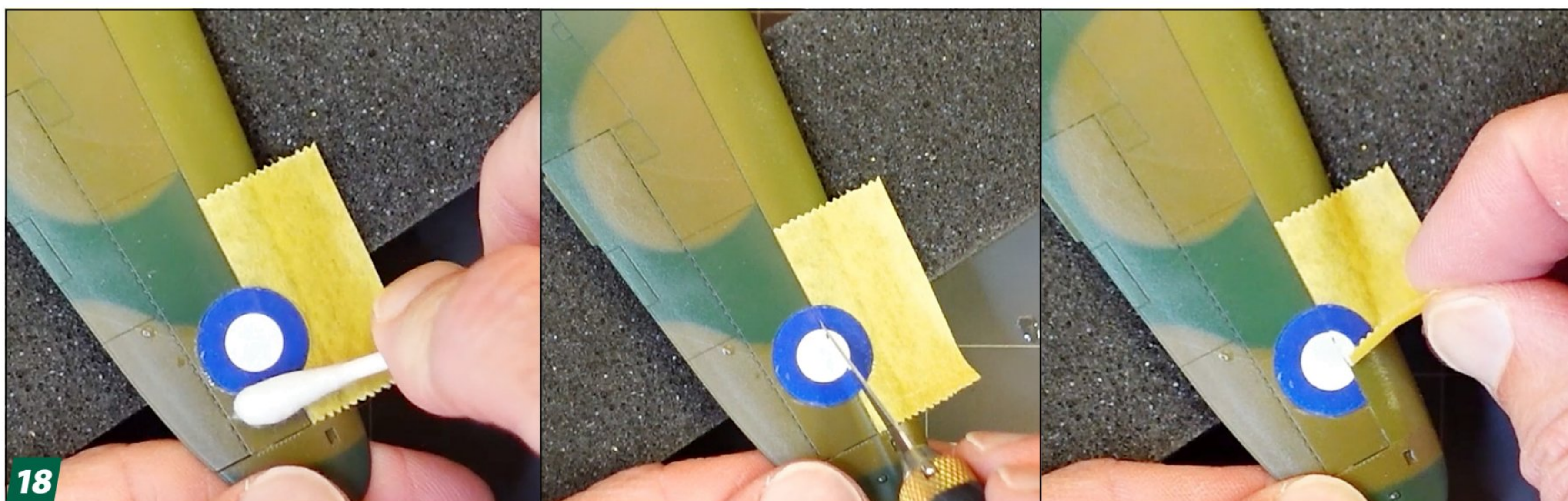


17

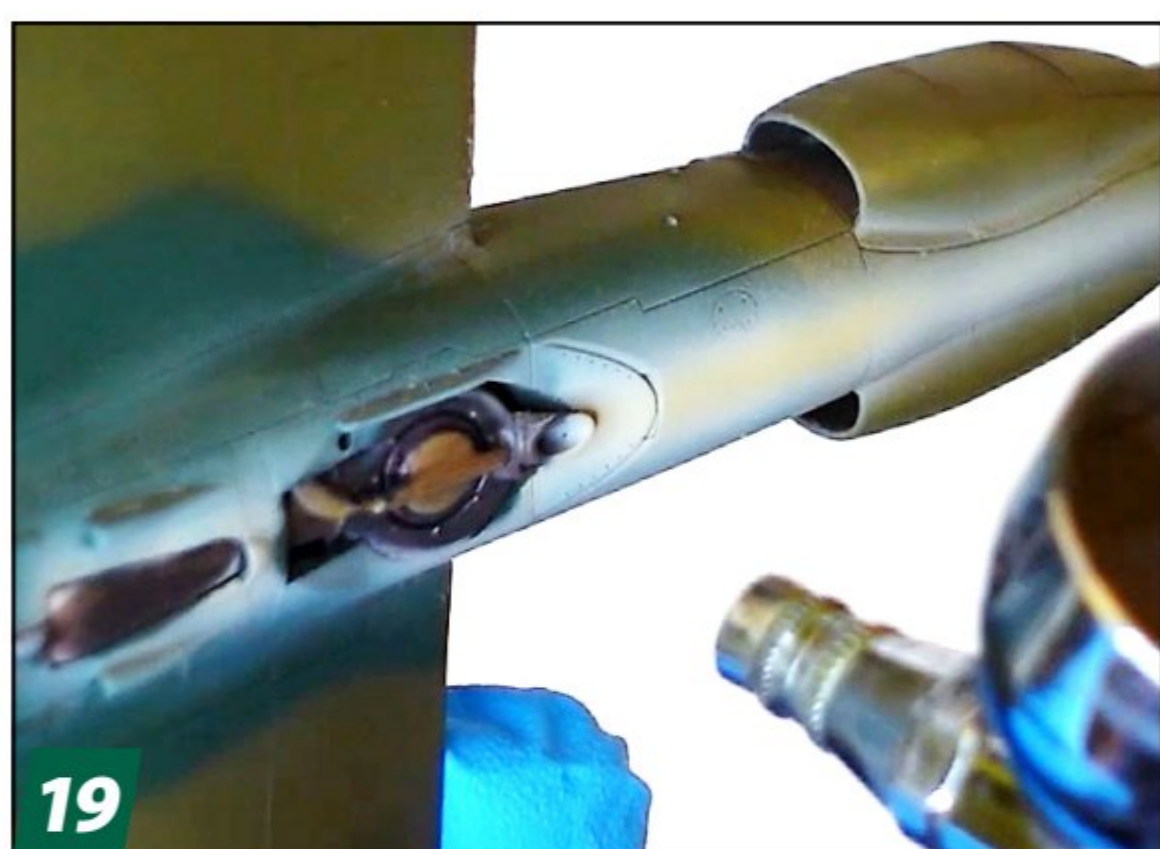
Spraying SMS Premium Foliage Green (No. PL78) directly down over the edge of the poster putty produced a slightly soft edge. Peeling off the poster putty revealed this Lightning's unique camouflage. I masked and airbrushed the starboard leading edge, apparently replaced at some point with from another plane or spare parts, with AK Real Color Neutral Gray underneath and straight SMS olive drab on top.







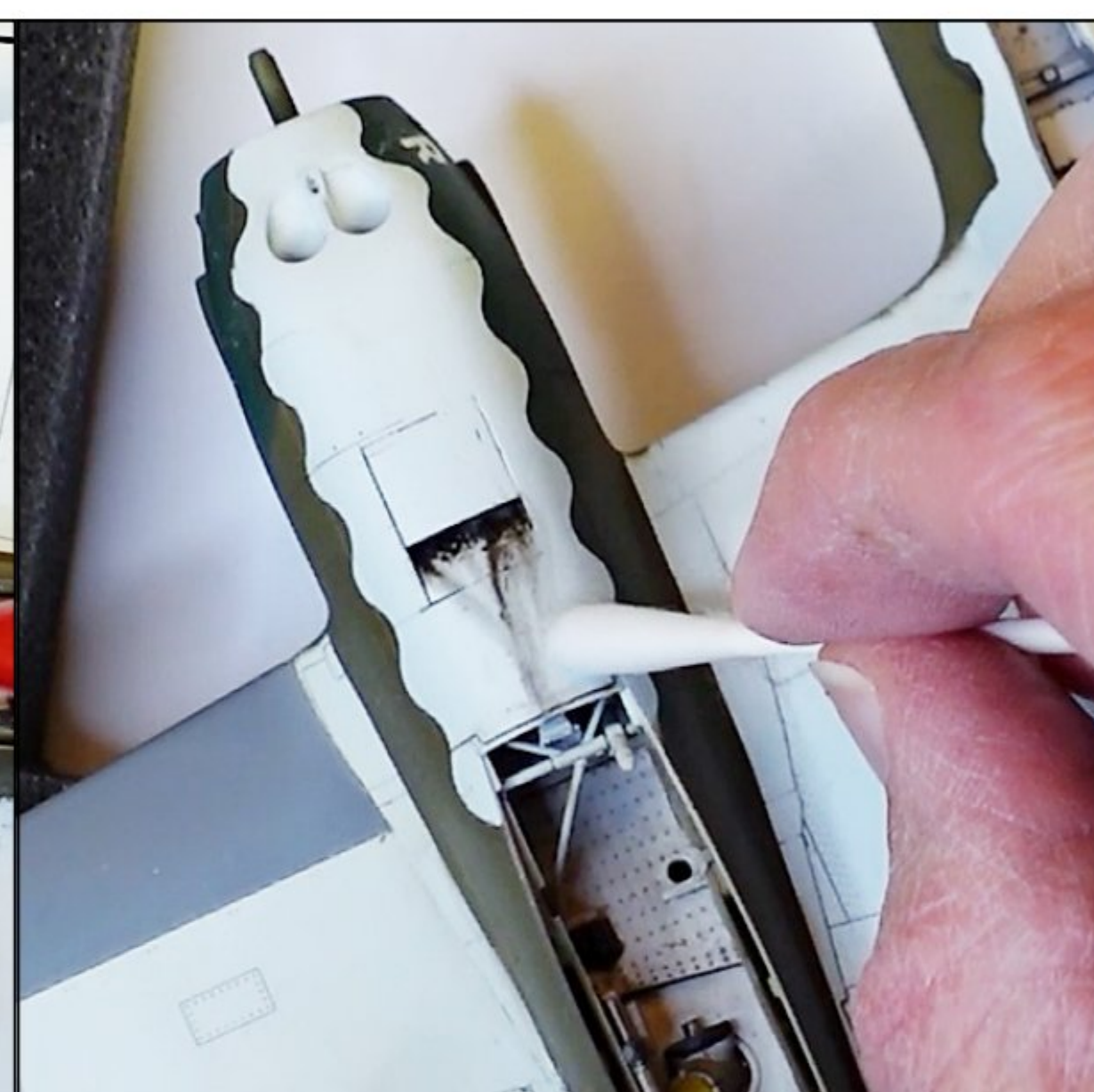
After spraying the model with Hataka Clear Gloss, I applied the markings from the conversion kit and stencils from the Tamiya kit. The roundels on the starboard wing end at the edge of the replacement leading edge. I ran a strip of tape along the panel line and positioned the decal across it. Then I used a sharp, new, No. 11 blade to slice through the decal at the edge of the tape. Carefully pulling the tape off the wing removed the separated decal. It was a little jagged on the upper surface, but a little touch up and weathering made that disappear



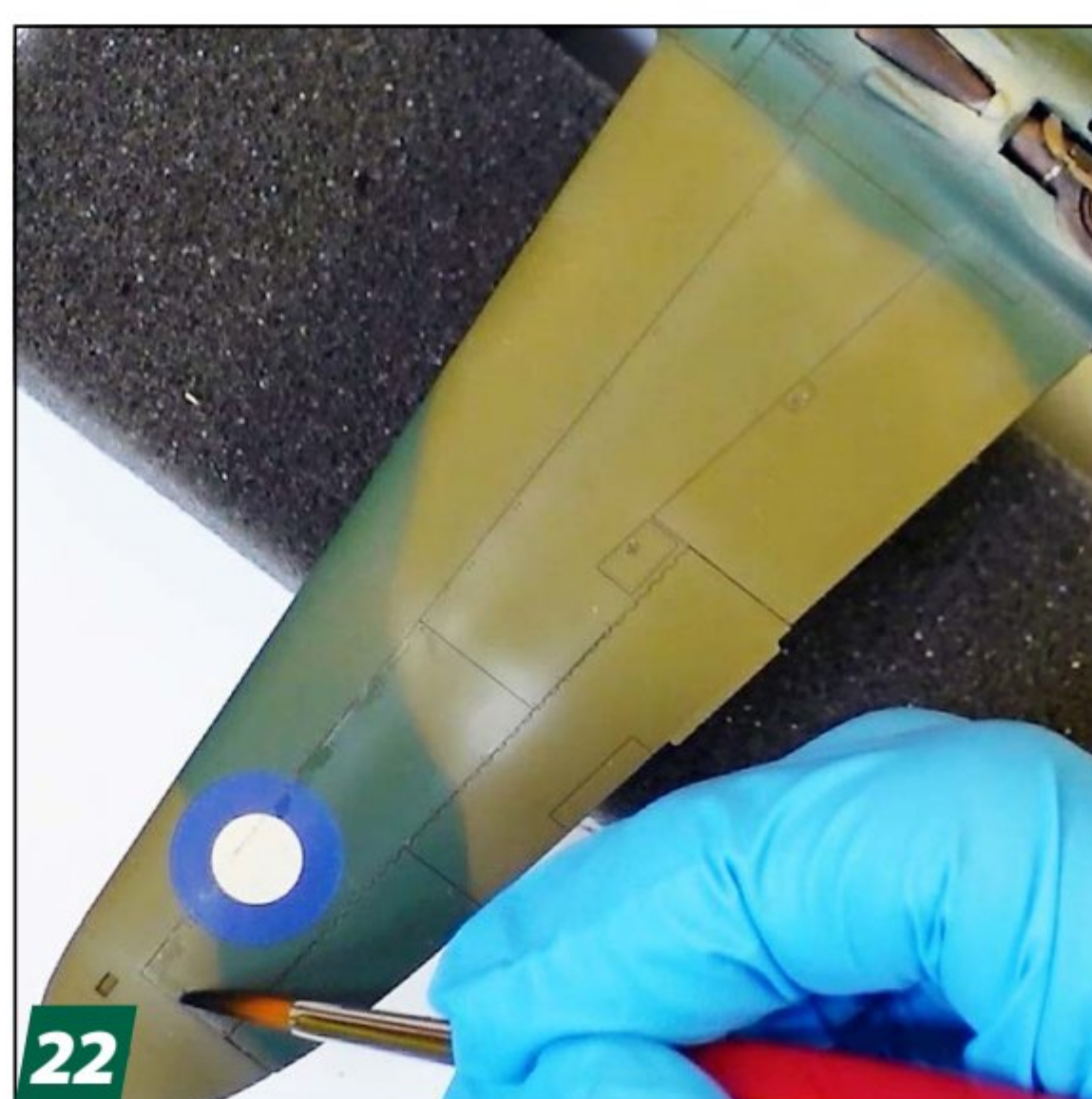
To replicate heavy exhaust stains aft of the supercharger exhausts, I started by spraying a thin mix of light gray and clear flat along the booms feathering it farther back on the horizontal and vertical tails. I finished with red-brown mixed with light gray sprayed in a narrower and shorter pattern in the center of the gray stains.



Photos show heavy oil or hydraulic stains streaked back from vents under the engines. I replicated them with dots of straight black and dark brown artist oils drawn back across the surface with Turpenoid on a clean brush and smoothed with a cotton swab.



AK Interactive Weathering Pencils were perfect for staining and fading the finish. Underneath, I outlined inspection hatches with Streaking Dirt. Applying a little water with a Micro Brush activated the pencils, softening and feathering the color so it looked like grime left when the aircraft was serviced.



To mimic a pattern of fading seen on reference photos of the aircraft, I outlined the upper center wing panels with Buff and used a damp brush to draw the lighter color toward the center of the panels. The effects of these pencils are constantly adjustable with either more color or water.



For chipped paint around the wings, on leading edges, and access panel edges, I drew along them with a silver Prismacolor pencil (No. PC949). Skipping it across the surface and keeping the effect random and realistic.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**IT'S A LOCKHEED LIGHTNING**, so it looks good, but the camera ports and the unique camouflage make it an eye-popping addition to my RAAF collection. It was definitely worth the effort, and a lot of fun to boot! **FSM**





## Magic Factory F4U-1A/2 Corsairs

For nearly 30 years, Tamiya's 1/48 scale Corsair has been the gold standard, so it came as a surprise that Magic Factory's first aircraft kit was the 1/48 scale F4U-1A/2 Corsair Dual Combo plastic model kit. While the box contains two fuselages, it provides only one set of extended wings and one set folded, one late-style "birdcage canopy" and one "raised cabin hood." Appropriate paper masks are provided for each.

The parts are extremely well-detailed, with no flash and only minor mold marks. Photo-etched metal belts are included. Options include open/closed cowl flaps and gun bays with ammo chutes and belts. The folded wing's flaps will be up, while the extended wings are designed with flaps down — that means two whole airplanes!

Construction begins in the cockpit. Not mentioned in the instructions are duplicate consoles and panels without the excellent raised detail for use with the kit's decals.

There is some play in the parts fit, but the details are an exact match to the pictures in the 1998 edition of *Detail and Scale Vol. 55*. Magic Factory even provided the correct seat supports for the early and "raised cabin" seats, and the appropriate internal armored glass. Diagrams are included showing where to drill holes for the

forward antennas and the supports for the folded wings. Only open these when appropriate for the build.

The four cockpit sections do not lock together and want to twist. I used the fuse-

lage sides to clamp them together. Here, I realized just how ambitious Magic Factory has been in trying to eliminate fuselage seams by using separate inserts matching panel lines. The bulkheads don't fit precisely, which leads to play and small gaps along the fuselage. The two inserts immediately aft of the canopy have nothing to set their width, causing additional issues. Rather than following the instructions, you might be better working from the rear to the nose.

The engine is beautiful, only missing plug wires. The exhaust pipes are not designed to reach the front set of cylinders. This will be hidden when the cowl is installed, and Magic Factory has an after-market resin engine set if you want to display the engine with the cowl removed.

The straight wing was next. Once again, the parts have a small amount of play. The ammo belts don't quite reach the ammo chutes, and I needed to modify the shortest chute to get it in place. I used white glue to hold the gun bay doors in place during painting and easily remove them afterward. Separate wingtips indicate the possibility of a British Corsair in the future. The folded wings went together without problems. I waited to push the outer wing panels all the way down the spar until after painting. They are so tight they will not come back off once seated.

I needed to trim several bulkheads and the firewall to get the fuselage to seat correctly on the wings.

All the decal options are for aircraft painted in variants of the tri-color scheme. My decals were slightly out of register with a sliver of white showing on the left side of the insignia. The call number for 042 should be smaller, matching the blue out-

line on the bar of the national insignia. One set of decal stripes on the bomb fit with help from Solvaset, and the other came up a touch short. I used Alclad II Klear Kote Gloss to prevent silvering, but a few of the stencils did anyway.

The main gear legs have some play to them. Make sure they are correctly aligned. The gear doors are easily anchored in place. Antennas, wing braces, and ordnance finished final assembly.

Magic Factory has been extremely ambitious with this kit — maybe a touch too ambitious. While there is some disappointment, it's because they've set the bar incredibly high, and where they've missed the mark, they've missed it by very little. Tamiya's kit may be easier to build, but Magic Factory's level of detail sets a new mark as the gold standard.

— Andy Keyes



**Kit No.:** 5001 **Scale:** 1/48 **Mfr.:** Magic Factory, magicfactory.ltd (Sample courtesy of mfr.) **Price:** \$99.99

**Comments:** Injection-molded plastic (light gray); 444 parts (12 PE); decals

**Pros:** Great detail; folded and straight wing options **Cons:** Complicated and imprecise fuselage





## HK Models A-20G Havoc

Continuing its recent bomber trend, HK Models has graced the market with a 1/32 A-20G Havoc — the solid gun-nose version. The comprehensive kit contains 554 parts, including photo-etched details and cast-metal nose weights that are cleverly designed to tuck between the fuselage and the nose-gear bay. Two types of seat belts are included, with a set designated “RAF Style,” hinting at possible future releases.

The surface detail is outstanding with stressed skin “oil canning” that looks just right. Unusually, the kit includes decals for only one airframe, but at three different points in its service life. The kit’s CAD-derived instructions are easy to follow.

The fully detailed interior may have a bit too much detail because the radio racks behind the cockpit can’t be seen. A decal supplies instrument-panel details and HK finishes the cockpit assembly with the nose-gear bay. I tried to be clever and leave the nose-gear struts until after painting was complete. Don’t! The fit is extremely tight, and I snapped the forward “V” support while trying to wrestle it into place.

The impressively detailed Martin upper turret can wait until after painting.

HK also includes a full bomb bay, complete with dividers to separate various loading options.

However, four 500-pound bombs are the only option in the kit. I was surprised there were no underwing racks supplied because these were often seen on

Havocs in World War II’s European Theater.

I mounted the rear hatch because there was no integral ladder. All interior assemblies fit nicely inside the fuselage halves.

Separately assembled, the gun nose includes access panels, ammo cans, and bulkhead detail. Not much can be seen through the hatches, but it’s all there. The gunsight glass is not molded in clear plastic, so I replaced it (Part H62) with a sliver of clear styrene sheet.

The lower chin guns had the barrels removed past the mounting bushing. I left the gun barrels off all other weapons until after painting. I left the hatches opened on the right side and closed the ones on the left — they fit perfectly. HK includes photo-etched metal supplemental armor on the nose near the gear bay. I annealed the brass with a torch before bending.

The tail surfaces all fit like a glove without filler. Impressive! The wings and engine nacelles also had perfect fits, including the separate wingtips. There was no way around attaching the main gear struts as instructed, which complicates masking. All control surfaces are separate but would require modification to show posed.

One mistake HK made was duplicating the firewall (Part L21) for both sides. This requires the right-hand firewall to have about 1/8 inch trimmed from its inboard side to match the wing dihedral — an easy fix.

The engines are small models themselves with intake trunking and exhaust pipes, and the option of open or closed cowl flaps. Separate cylinder heads allow for greater detail. Although finicky, if you follow the instructions, you’ll be fine — a theme throughout this particular build.

### Exclusive reviews online!

Want more Workbench Reviews? Head to [FineScale.com/Reviews](http://FineScale.com/Reviews):

- AMT 1/25 scale 1960 Ford F-100
- HobbyBoss 1/48 scale MiG-29K
- Trumpeter 1/72 scale A-6A Intruder
- HobbyBoss 1/144 scale Chinese Y-9
- Clear Prop! 1/48 scale D-21A drone
- Magic Factory 1/35 scale MRZR D4 ultralight ATVs
- Takom 1/72 scale M60A1 & M60A3
- HobbyBoss 1/48 scale Panther Ausf A



HK has again utilized its large “tab-and-slot” engineering to attach the wings, and it works well with no noticeable seam. All the transparent parts are crystal clear, and I left off the upper hatch for finishing on its own.

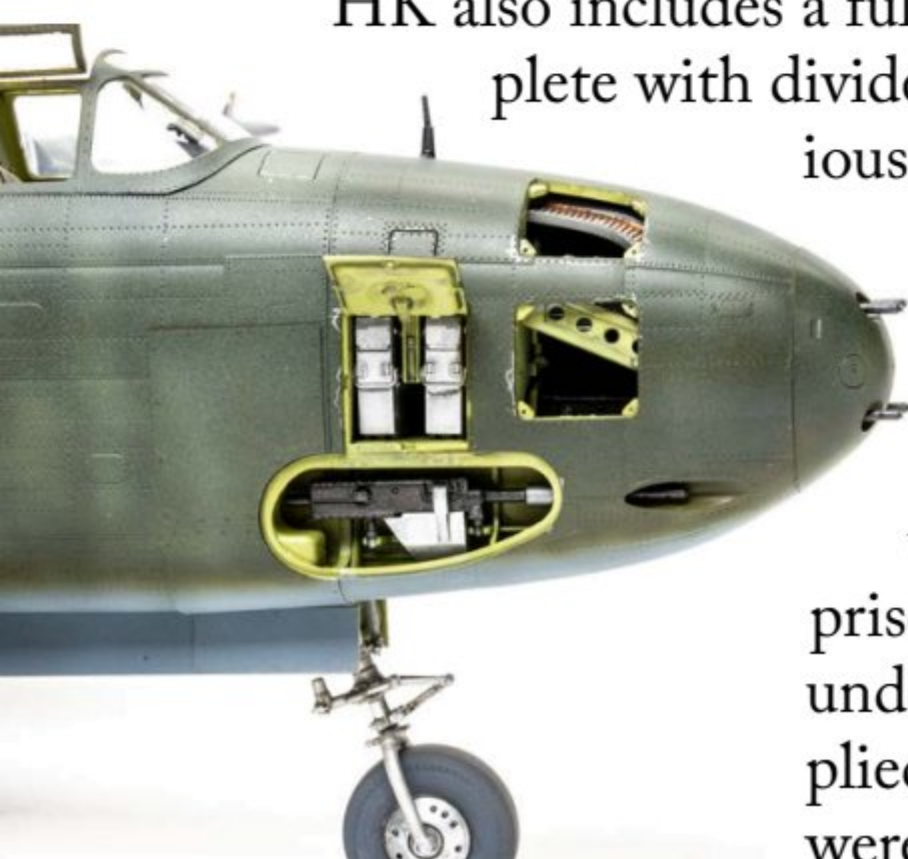
I chose the “middle option” in the airframe’s life when it had the remnants of the D-Day invasion stripes overcoated on the upper surfaces. I used a photocopy of the decals as a template to mask the star and bar gap in the invasion stripes. The decals performed very well, although the white is just slightly translucent.

The HK Models 1/32 scale A-20G Havoc is very detailed and large, requiring care during assembly and a lot of detail painting in the roughly 68 hours it took to complete. I wonder if the company will downsize this to 1/48 scale as it has with some of its other bomber kits.

— Chuck Davis



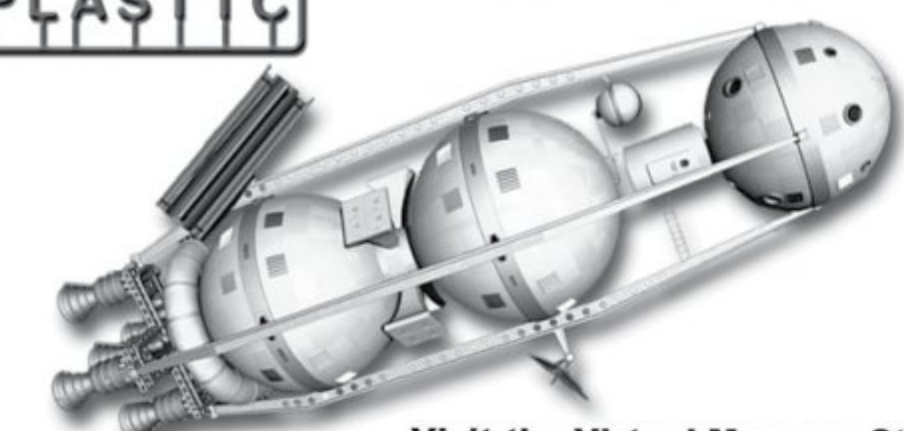
**Kit No.:** 01E039 **Scale:** 1/32 **Mfr.:** HK, [hk-models.com](http://hk-models.com) (Sample courtesy of mfr.) **Price:** \$220 **Comments:** Injection-molded plastic (gray, clear); 554 parts (2 cast metal; 33 photo-etched metal); decals **Pros:** Overall great fit; excellent surface details (stressed skin) **Cons:** Weak nose gear; duplicate firewall sides instead of mirrored





**TOTALNAVY.COM**  
**ALL SHIPS, ALL NAVIES, ALL KINDS**  
 (718) 471-5464  
**www.TotalNavy.com**

**FANTASTIC PLASTIC** Unique Resin Kits for Experienced Modelers



Visit the Virtual Museum Store  
**www.fantastic-plastic.com**  
 Concept Aircraft • Spacecraft • Sci-Fi

**MEGA HOBBY**

The Largest Selection of Hobbies on the Web!  
 Over 40,000 items from hundreds of manufacturers

**FREE SHIPPING ON LOWER 48  
 USA ORDERS OVER \$150**

MegaHobby.com  
 110 Hurlock Avenue  
 Magnolia, NJ, 08049  
 Order securely online or call toll free: 888-642-0093  
**WWW.MEGAHOBBY.COM**

**GLENN HOOVER**



Model Build Instructions

*I do the prep work for you...*  
 Reorganize the model kit instructions  
 Combine aftermarket part instructions  
*...into a seamless, single checklist*

**New Releases - Upgraded Website**  
 See my website for a list of books  
**glennhoovermodels.com**

Don't miss what's new!  
 Watch the  
**New Product Rundown**  
 video today!



**www.finescale.com/videos/  
 new-product-rundown**

## Ad Index

We believe that our readers are as important as our advertisers. If you do not receive your merchandise or a reply from an advertiser within a reasonable period, please contact us with details about your order. Model Railroader magazine, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53186. The Advertiser Index is provided as a service to *FineScale Modeler* magazine readers. The magazine is not responsible for omissions or for typographical errors in names or page numbers.

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| ARA Press                | 8    |
| Aves Studio              | 4    |
| Cult TV Man              | 4    |
| Evergreen Scale Models   | 4, 8 |
| Fantastic Plastic Models | 56   |
| FineScale Modeler Books  | 7    |
| Flex I File              | 4    |
| Glenn Hoover Models, LLC | 56   |
| Megahobby.com            | 56   |
| Micro-Mark               | 5    |
| Model Rectifier Corp     | 2    |
| Proxxon                  | 5    |
| Round 2, LLC             | 59   |
| Squadron Hobbies         | 7    |
| Tamiya America, Inc.     | 60   |
| TotalNavy.com            | 56   |

## KALMBACH HOBBYSTORE

Find More of What  
 You're Looking For

Scale Modeling  
 Garden Railroading  
 Model Trains  
 Railroading  
 Toy Trains

**BOOKS**  
**DIGITAL  
 DOWNLOADS**  
**DVDS**  
**VIDEOS**  
**MAGAZINES**  
**MODELING TOOLS**  
**AND MORE!**

Shop for products  
 related to your  
 favorite hobby!

Visit  
**KalmbachHobbyStore.com**



## Classified Marketplace

This section is open to anyone who wants to sell or buy scale modeling merchandise. FSM reserves the right to edit undesirable copy or refuse listing. For FSM's private records, please furnish: a telephone number and a street address.

**All Copy:** Set in standard format. First several words only set in bold face. If possible, ads should be sent typewritten and categorized to ensure accuracy.

**Coming Events Rate:** \$45 per issue (55 word maximum). Ads will contain the following information about the event: state, city, sponsoring organization and name of event, meet, auction or show, dates, location, times, admission fee, name and/or telephone number and/or email of person to contact for information. Name, daytime telephone number and street address of the person providing the information is also required but need not be included in the ad. Unless otherwise requested, ads will be published in the issue month that the event occurs in. Additional months are available at the \$45 per issue fee. Please specify issue date(s).

**Word Ad Rates:** 1 insertion - \$1.13 per word, 3 insertions - \$1.08 per word, 6 insertions - 99¢ per word. \$30 minimum per issue. Count all initials, single numbers, street number or name, city, state, zip, phone numbers each as one word. Payment must accompany the ad. To receive the discount you must order and prepay for all ads at one time. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

**Send Your Ads To:** *FineScale Modeler* - Classified Marketplace, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612. Phone toll-free: 1-888-558-1544, Ext. 551, or E-mail: classads@kalmbach.com

## COMING EVENTS

**IL, SCHAUMBURG:** The Military Miniature Society of Illinois holds its 49th Annual Chicago Show Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9am-4pm, at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 N. Martin-gale Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173. For more information contact Show Chairman Pat Vess - pat@livezey.net 630-730-2492, or visit our website: military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com

All listed events were confirmed as active at the time of press.  
Please contact event sponsor for current status of the event.

## FOR SALE

**CANOPY MASKING AND MORE! WWW.EZMASKS.COM**  
List \$3.00. Chris Loney, 75 Golf Club Rd., Smiths Falls, ON, Canada K7A 4S5. 613-283-5206, ezmasksg@gmail.com

**FLEET FOR SALE:** 1/350 USS New Jersey, Massachusetts, Alaska, Montana in plexiglass cases on wooden bases. From kits with some aftermarket. Three additional ships also available: HMS Dreadnought, Agamemnon, and Danton all 1/350. \$450 each OBO. Photos available for all ships. Contact: Tobias Philbin, Independent scholar. Lexington, Virginia. Email: Serapis1797@gmail.com

**FRED'S MODEL WORLD** sells model kits too darn cheap! Check us out at www.fredsmodelworldonline.com, Facebook, or contact Fred at fsterns@aol.com or call 716-838-6797. Our address is Fred Sterns, 48 Standish Road, Buffalo, NY 14216

**SELLING AIRCRAFT AND ARMOR KITS.** Academy, Revell, Tamiya and much more! For complete list of items, please email: dddbenniss@msn.com

**SHIP AND AIRCRAFT MODELS.** Built for display. For additional information contact, Ray Guinta, PO Box 74, Leonia, NJ 07605. 201-461-5729 www.modelshipsbyrayguinta.com

## WANTED

**AIRCRAFT, ARMOR, SCI-FI, FIGURES, AUTO, ETC.** Buying kit collections, large or small, worldwide. Top prices paid. Call Jim Banko 610-814-2784 or mail list to 122 Independence Ct., Bethlehem, PA 18020, fax 610-439-4141. E-mail: cth1@prodigy.net

**ALL SLOT CARS WANTED.** Any kind, any condition. Top dollar paid. PAUL at 248-760-6960. E-mail: slotcarguy@slotcarguy.com

**CASH PAID FOR PLASTIC MODEL COLLECTIONS.** Call John in Michigan 248-707-4430. Email: aspectav5429@yahoo.com

**MODEL CAR AND TRUCK KITS.** Unbuilt, started or built. Any size collection. Good prices paid. Please contact: Fred Sterns, 48 Standish Road, Buffalo, NY 14216. Phone: 716-838-6797. Fax: 716-836-6057. E-mail: fsterns@aol.com

**PLASTIC MODEL COLLECTIONS: BUILT ONLY.** Planes, cars, boats. Contact mike@peterson-picture.com or 773-387-1400.

**YOU WILL NEVER FIND TIME TO BUILD ALL THOSE MODELS.** We buy unbuilt model kits, diecast models, books, decals, detail sets. Within 100 miles of Chicago. Milam Models, 519 DiLorenzo Dr., Naperville, IL 60565, jetpilotpaul@aol.com

## MISCELLANEOUS

**1ST AND ABSOLUTELY THE BEST MUSEUM-QUALITY MODELS.** IPMS Nationals winner building aircraft and armor to your specification, including conversions and scratchbuilt. Call BC Models for quote and information at 913-385-9594 or visit www.bcmmodels.com

### Closing Dates:

July 2024 closes April 15

September closes June 17

November closes August 12

## Local Hobby Shop Directory

Local Hobby Shop Directory listings are available for the next six issues for \$165 (payable in advance) or at \$37 per issue (billed to established accounts for a minimum of six insertions). Ads will be set in standard listing typography. All insertions must be consecutive and may be invoiced if you have credit established with us. No mention of mail order business permitted. For information call 888-558-1544, ext. 551. Closing dates listed in Classifieds section.

### ARKANSAS • Jacksonville

Headquarters for scale hobbies. Models; N-HO-O trains; gaming; tools; paints, etc. Discounts & special orders. Open 10-6, closed Sundays and Wednesdays.  
**RAIL & SPRUE HOBBIES**  
1200 John Harden Dr. 501-982-6836

### CALIFORNIA • Burbank

Large selection of plastic kits, paints, and supplies. Special orders no problem. Visit us in person or online www.houseofhobbies.com. Secure online ordering.  
**BURBANK'S HOUSE OF HOBBIES**  
911 S. Victory Blvd. 818-848-3674

### CALIFORNIA • Garden Grove

Rewards program for 10% back on purchases. Plastic aircraft, armor, ships, cars, decals, books, paints, tools, miniatures war-games. Mon-Thur 11-8, Fri 11-midnight, Sat 10-midnight, Sun 11-7 www.brookhursthobbies.com  
**BROOKHURST HOBBIES**  
12188 Brookhurst St. 714-636-3580

### CALIFORNIA • Ventura

Wide selection of domestic & import plastic aircraft, armor, ships, cars, Gundam & rare kits. HO, N, Z, O, G scale trains. Track, structures, scenery & supplies. Also carry Estes rockets. Open 7 days. www.venturahobbies.com  
**VENTURA HOBBIES**  
2950 Johnson Dr., #128 805-658-8138

### COLORADO • Aurora

Large inventory of models from the world over! Detailing accessories, research publications, games, trains, R/C, tools, and supplies. Easy access from D.I.A. http://www.colpar.com  
**COLPAR HOBBIES**  
1915 S. Havana St. 800-876-0414

### CONNECTICUT • Milford

Extensive selection of armor kits & Verlinden accessories. Military, auto & aircraft plastic models. Photo-etched parts. O gauge train sets. Open Tues - Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5. www.HQHobbies.com  
**HQ HOBBIES**  
394 New Haven Ave., Unit 1 203-882-1979

### MASSACHUSETTS • Norton

10,000+ model kits, old and new: Autos, Armor, Planes & Sci-Fi. Reference books & supplies. Th&Fr 12-7, Sat&Sun 12-5. Rt. 495 to Rt. 123E, behind Dunkin' Donuts. www.mymummy.com. Email: mummy@mymummy.com  
**HARRY'S HOBBIES & COLLECTABLES**  
250 E. Main St., Suites 4-5-6 508-285-8080

### MASSACHUSETTS • Wakefield

Complete line of model kits & supplies, plus toy soldiers, figure kits, games, etc. Open 7 days a week. Shipping available. Info: hobbybunker.com  
**HOBBY BUNKER, INC.**  
103 Albion Street 781-321-8855

### MICHIGAN • Traverse City

Let your imagination run wild! Aircraft, ships, cars, armor, special orders, diecast cars, model railroading Z to G and more...  
**TRAINS & THINGS HOBBIES**  
210 East Front St. 231-947-1353

### MICHIGAN • Ypsilanti-Metro Detroit

Your single stop model building shop. Michigan's largest selection of new and vintage kits in all genres plus everything needed to build them. Please call for hours. Visit us on Facebook. www.modelcave.com  
**MODELCAVE**  
103 W. Michigan Avenue 734-316-2281

### NEW JERSEY • Kenil

Full service hobbies, a full line of HO, N, 3-Rail, military, cars, boats, planes, dollhouses, scratchbuilding supplies, plus details-details-details!  
**KENVIL HOBBIES**  
590 Rt. 46 973-584-1188

### NEW JERSEY • Magnolia (Camden)

Huge foreign & domestic model selection all scales. Automobiles, aircraft, ship, books, wargames, scenery, diorama supplies, parts & tools. Open 7 days  
**AAA HOBBIES & CRAFTS**  
706 N. White Horse Pike 856-435-1188

### OKLAHOMA • Owasso

Oklahoma's largest plastic kit, paint & aftermarket inventory. Planes, cars, trucks, armor, ships, trains & sci-fi. Special orders welcome! Tue - Sat 10-5, Closed Sun & Mon. Web site: www.topshelfmodelsllc.com  
**TOP SHELF MODELS**  
119 S. Main St. 918-274-0433

### OREGON • Beaverton

Complete full line hobby shop. Z, N, HO, O, Lionel, and LGB. Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5.  
**TAMMIES HOBBIES**  
12024 SW Canyon Rd. 503-644-4535

### TEXAS • Houston

HO & N, Lionel trains. Complete line of plastic kits, military, architectural supplies, paints and tools. Open Mon-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm. www.gandgmodelshop.com  
**G & G MODEL SHOP**  
2029 Southwest FWY 713-529-7752

### TEXAS • San Antonio

Scale modeling from beginner to expert. Wide selection of aircraft, armor, autos, figures, ships, & sci-fi. Lots of reference material, detail parts, decals, tools, & eight lines of paint. Tue-Sat 10am-6pm www.dibbleshobbies.com  
**DIBBLE'S HOBBIES**  
1029 Donaldson Ave. 210-735-7721

### TEXAS • San Antonio

ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR PLASTIC MODELS! Stocking Aircrafts, Armor, Car, Ship and Sci-fi models and detailing accessories. Full lines of Tamiya, Vallejo, and Aclad Paints.  
**HILL COUNTRY HOBBY**  
9355 Bandera Road, Ste. 118 210-681-2007

### VIRGINIA • Staunton

Biggest scale model kit & hobby store in Virginia! We house over 100 model manufacturers and nearly 20,000 model kits. Open Tuesday-Sunday, closed Monday's. https://frontline-model-kits.square.site  
**FRONTLINE MODEL KITS & HOBBIES**  
18 West Beverley Street 540-569-2903

### WASHINGTON • Seattle

Plastic Model Specialists. Largest selection of plastic models in NW! We have Aircraft, Armor, Auto, SCI-FI, and Gundam, along with great paint selection. Email us at skyway@nwlinc.com or look us up at www.skywaymodel.com  
**SKYWAY MODEL SHOP**  
12615 Renton Ave. S. 206-772-1211

### CANADA-ON • Toronto

Large selection of new & out-of-production kits. Accessories & finishing products. Servicing the hobbies since 1986. We buy kit collections. www.wheelswingshobbies.com  
**WHEELS AND WINGS**  
1880 Danforth Ave. 416-752-0071

### SINGAPORE • Singapore

Old kits & latest releases. Good selection of unusual model kits & accessories. We stock electric trains & slot cars. Open 7 days. The Katong Shopping Centre. www.hobbybounties.com  
**HOBBY BOUNTIES**  
865 Mountbatten Rd #02-91/92 65-6440-1890

Run your Retail Directory ad in the next issue of *FineScale Modeler*!  
Call 888-558-1544, ext. 551 for more information.



By Tim Boyd

# Accurate Miniatures McLaren M8B

Never-before-seen detail and accuracy brought to a scale car model kit

**A**rguably the most detailed automotive kit series ever rendered in 1/24 or 1/25 scale and among the most controversial, the Accurate Miniatures McLaren M8B kits boast phenomenal technical rigor and a reputation for being virtually impossible to assemble as designed.

Although the majority of Accurate Miniatures kits were aircraft, their first automotive foray was the well-received, 1/24 scale 1963 Corvette Grand Sport in three liveries, which the company thought sold reasonably well for such a niche topic.

Well enough that the team planned to follow up with the 1969/1970 McLaren M8B, which dominated the Can-Am road racing series for years. The project was announced at the 1996 iHobby Expo, but it generated little interest from kit distributors, according to Bob Johnson, a former Accurate Miniatures executive.

Accurate Miniatures subsequently faced a go/no-go decision for the project, with the go faction eventually winning the day. The tool was developed with three planned releases, including the No. 4/No. 5 Bruce McLaren/Denny Hulme kit shown here.

Revered commercial artist and scale kit development specialist Tom West engineered the McLaren replica and left no stone unturned in his quest for the most detail ever placed in a 1/24 scale car kit. The initial boxing debuted in 1998 to fawning reviews over design, accuracy, and a fascinating 33-step, 40-page assembly guide that read like an encyclopedia.

The kit included more than 170 styrene parts, with another 30 black and silver parts molded in flexible plastic for all the major fuel, water, oil, and ignition lines. It even included perfectly scaled seat-belt hardware to go with the harnesses.

But a reputation for being extremely difficult to build flourished, and the kits sold poorly. The problems were a result of minimal assembly clearances on some parts and complex assembly procedures for others. The wiring and plumbing harnesses also proved problematic for builders. Several kit reviewers suggested assembling the model in an “exploded view” rather than with the body on or as a curbside model with much of the underbody detail omitted.

However, digging deeper uncovers more nuance. Mike Siegman wrote in a detailed, *Scale Auto Enthusiast* (March 1998) review, “We may never see a 1/24 scale kit like this one again ... [y]ou won’t be disappointed.” And *Scale Auto* “Bench Racer” columnist Andy Kellock wrote in June 2014 that the McLaren is “a highly detailed

**ACCURATE  
MINIATURES  
1/24 SCALE  
MCLAREN M8B**

**Kit No.:** 5002

**First Introduced:** 1998; never reissued

**Current Value:** \$40

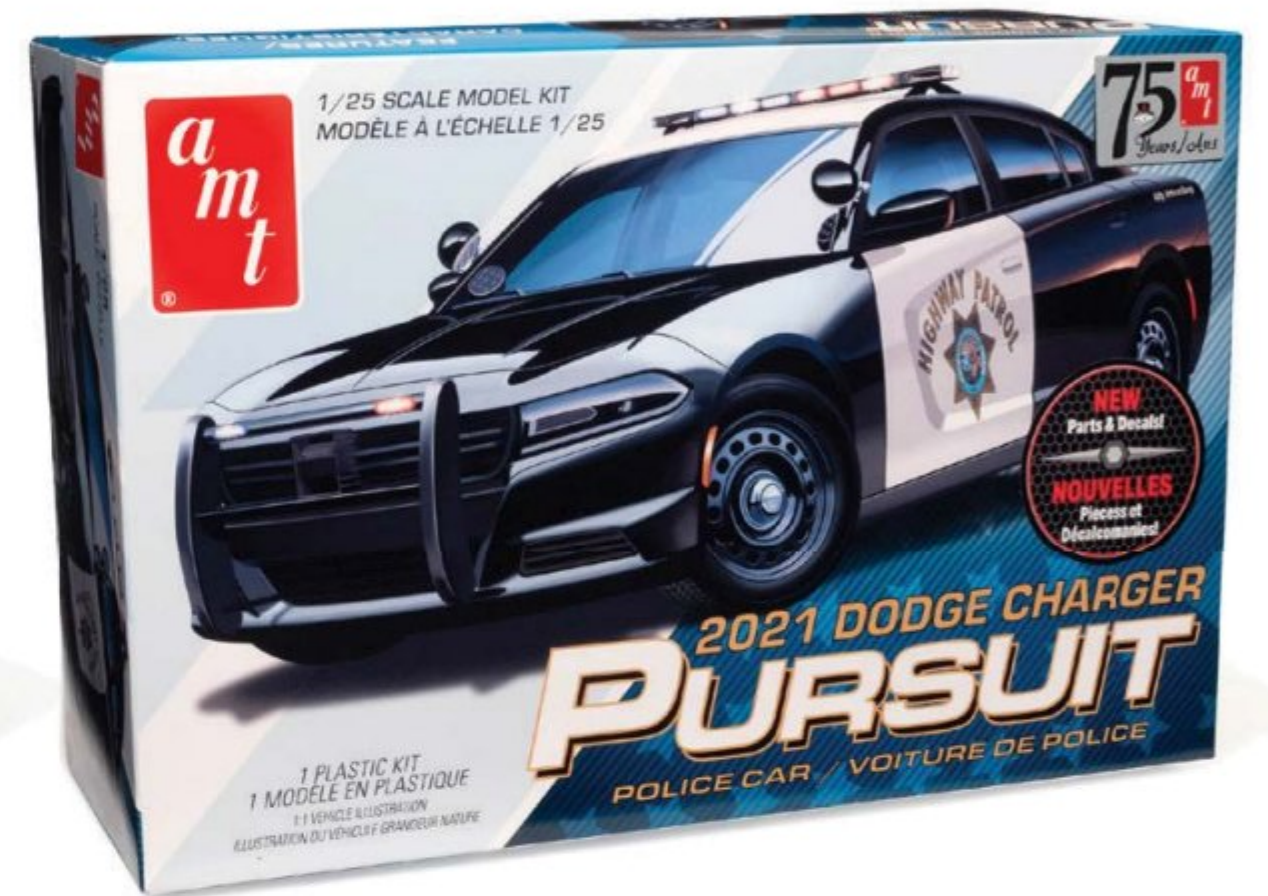
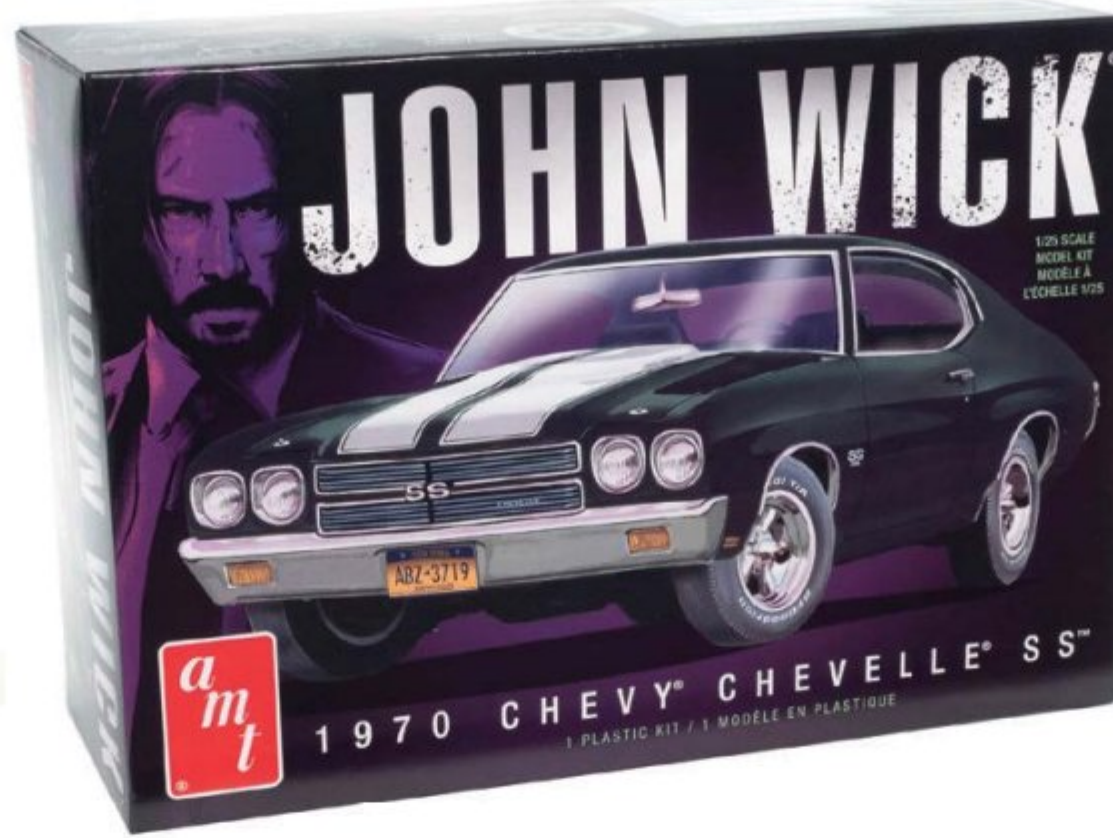
kit that can be built into a beautiful replica of the 1969 Can-Am dominating machine.” Ed Sexton, a former Revell executive and accomplished modeler said, “I think the [Accurate Miniatures] kit is fantastic, one of my favorites.” But he cautions builders really need to take their time with what is a complicated model.

The McLaren M8B tooling for the now-defunct Accurate Miniatures is reportedly in storage in Korea. Sadly, there is little chance the kit will be produced again. All the more reason why this kit belongs in the collections of experienced car modelers and hobbyists who enjoy examples of groundbreaking offerings of scale model replicas. **FSM**





# auto world store™



## Your store for models and more!

Autoworldstore.com is your complete hobby and collectible source offering automotive collectibles ranging from die-cast cars, plastic model kits, slot cars and track sets, books, hobby supplies and more.



**1:18 die-cast**



**1:64 die-cast**



BRE Race Set  
#SRS353

Datsun 510 3-Pack  
#SCM164

**slot cars**



**FREE 80-page catalog  
in your first order!**

**autoworldstore.com**

1-888-910-2889 (Toll Free)

Auto World Store

4073 Meghan Beeler Ct.

South Bend, IN. 46628\*



# GRUMMAN FM-1 WILDCAT/MARTLET Mk.V™



**1/48**  
SCALE

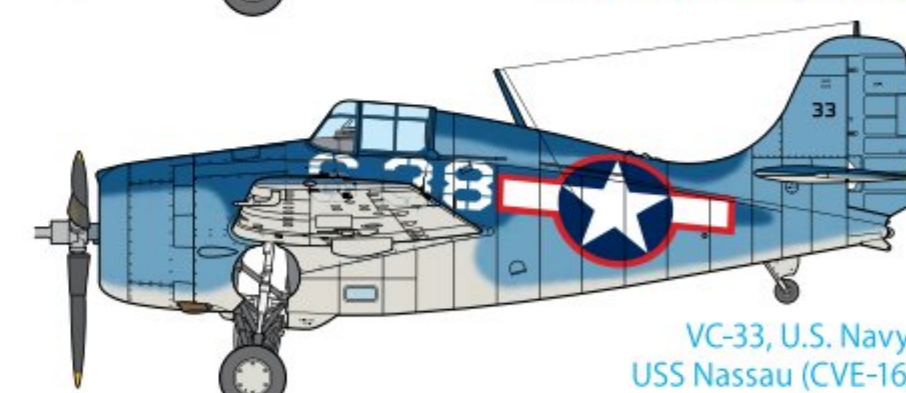
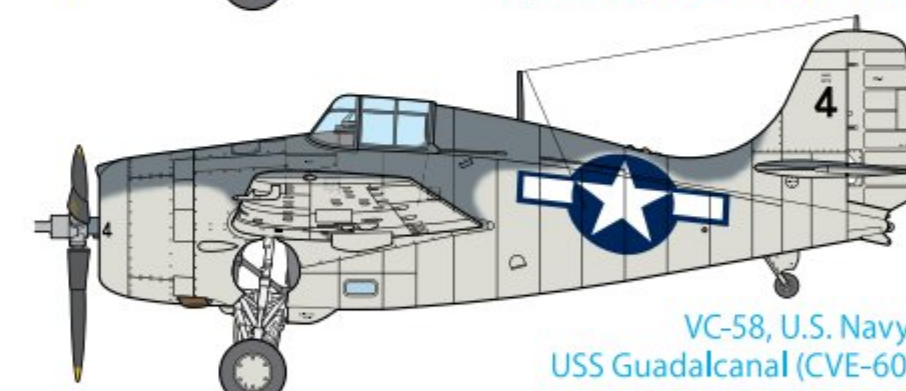
GRUMMAN FM-1 WILDCAT/MARTLET Mk.V™

## 1/48 Grumman FM-1 Wildcat/Martlet Mk.V™

### Carrier Warrior

The F4F Wildcat is known as one of the most successful carrier aircraft designs of WWII. Among its variants was the FM-1, which was manufactured by General Motors' Eastern Aircraft Division; manufactured from August 1942, it had its armament reduced to four machine guns, and was also flown by British Royal Navy units as the Martlet Mk.V. The aircraft was usually deployed on aircraft carriers and tasked with warding off submarines as well as escorting valuable convoys.

3 MARKING OPTIONS TO  
CHOOSE FROM!



1/48 Scale  
Fuselage length: 184mm, wingspan: 242mm

- ★ The powerful form with four 12.7mm wing machine guns is accurately captured, with surface details such as panel lines and rivets.
- ★ Assemble as a U.S. Navy FM-1 Wildcat or a Royal Navy Martlet Mk.V. ★ The model features a succinct rendering of the complex main landing gear, with interior detail. ★ Choose an open or closed canopy. ★ Comes with a seated pilot figure and canopy masking stickers.



FM-1 Wildcat/Martlet Mk.V™ is a trademark of Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation and is used under license by Tamiya, Incorporated.



Tamiya America, Inc. 36 Discovery, Ste 200, Irvine, CA 92618

(800) 826-4922

www.tamiyausa.com