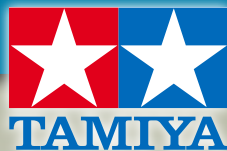


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**FANTASTIC
PLASTIC**

Tamiya's re-invigorated
Lotus Europa in 1:24

**Model
MAGAZINE**
INTERNATIONAL

**ISSUE
312**

October 2021

£4.95

Model MAGAZINE

INTERNATIONAL

**RIDERS
ON THE
STORM**

Tamiya's 1:35 US Navy
PBR 'Pibber' in a
Mekong Delta setting



INSIDE

Type-97 SPG conversion, Eduard 1:48 Fw190A-8, Revell 1:24
Jaguar E-Type, plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

**DOOLITTLE
MEDIA**



F-4B PHANTOM II™

1/48
SCALE



A Legend has Arrived



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1/48 Aircraft Series **McDonnell Douglas™ F-4B Phantom II™** (Item 61121)

Tamiya's 1/48 Aircraft Series is a demonstration of our passion for aircraft of all types, and it now welcomes a true legend in the form of the F-4B Phantom II, crammed with supremely realistic 1/48 scale recreations – the complex fuselage design, details on the folding wing hinge section, and a busy cockpit to mention just a few highlights. The tailplane uses integrated left and right sides for coordinated motion just like on the full-size jet, while engine nozzles are broken down into six parts each and even feature interior detail. Combining Tamiya's uncompromising commitment to detail and our trademark smooth build, this latest addition to the 1/48 Aircraft Series is one you definitely won't want to miss.



Fuselage length: 370mm
Wingspan: 244mm*
*with wingtips extended.

- ★ Comes with two figures, canopy masking stickers, plus 1/48 scale full-color painting and marking guide.
- ★ Choose folded or extended wingtips.

- ★ Three Vietnam War marking options included.



McDONNELL DOUGLAS™
F-4B PHANTOM II™

1/48 Scale F-4 Phantom II™ Access Door Decal Set A (Item 12692)

Also on sale is this new set with additional access door notices and stencils, canopy seals and decals for nozzle sections.

Produced under license from Boeing. Boeing, McDonnell Douglas, F-4 Phantom II, the distinctive Boeing logos, product markings and trade dress are trademarks of The Boeing Company.

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★ Images show assembled and painted kit. ★ Product may vary from images shown.





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COVER STORY

8 RIDERS ON THE STORM

Tamiya's classic 1:35 US Navy PBR in a Vietnam War diorama



Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

Issue 312 October 2021

EDITORS Brett Green, Alan Harman
editor@tamiyamodelmagazine.com

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IN BRIEF...



TAMIYA

- 1:35 Semovente M42 da75/34 German Army
- 1:14 RC Man TGX 26.540 6x4 XLX (Light Metallic Blue Edition)
- 1:10 RC Ford Zakspeed Turbo Capri Würth (TT-02 chassis)
- 1:10 RC Lotus Europa Special (M-06)
- 1:10 RC 1992 Audi V8 Touring (TT-02)
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Jolly Joker Premium (AR Chassis)
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Sunny Shuttle Premium (AR Chassis)

hobbyco.net

AIRFIX

- 1:32 Beach Buggy

airfix.com

ALPHA MODEL

- 1:24 McLaren P1 resin kit

hiroboy.com

DAS WERK

- 1:16 StuG.III Ausf.G Early

migjimenez.com

JET MADS

- 1:32 Saab Viggen

jetmads.com



MINIART

- 1:35 US Soldiers rainwear
- 1:35 US Army G7107 4x4 1.5t truck

creativemodels.co.uk

PONTOS

- 1:700 IJN Yamato 1945 full kit

pontosmodel.com

REVELL

- 1:48 Tornado ASSTA 3.1
- 1:24 Gift Set Rammstein Tour Truck

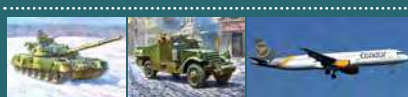
revell.de/en



RODEN

- 1:35 GMC PD3701 Silverside Bus Greyhound Lines

roden.eu



ZVEZDA

- 1:100 Soviet M-3 Scout Car with machine gun WWII
- 1:144 Airbus A321ceo
- 1:35 Russian main battle tank T-80UD

hobbyco.net



NEW FROM TAMIYA - 1:35 US Tank Destroyer M18 Hellcat

We are delighted to announce the release of the WW2 American M18 Hellcat tank destroyer in the 1:35 Military Miniature Series for the first time! The Hellcat first appeared in the last years of the Second World War. Featuring torsion bar suspension, the M18 was armed with the 76.2mm gun and around 2,500 units were produced. The vehicle was a fearsome opponent of the Axis forces until the end of the war from its introduction on the Italian Front in early 1944. The vehicle also served in the Korean War.

Tamiya's all-new kit will feature link-and-length tracks and a detailed turret interior with depictions of the main gun breech, shell rack, transceiver and traverse mechanism. The gun shield canvas cover surface texture is realistically replicated. One figure is included to depict a standing tank soldier and two markings-options are provided for Italian Front vehicles. Due for release early 2022.

Full review soon in TMMI! www.hobbyco.net



COMING SOON FROM REVELL - 1:48 SR-71 Blackbird

Revell's new-tool, 1:48 SR-71 Blackbird is nearly with us! More news soon. www.revell.de/en



NEW FROM AMALGAM - 1:18 1971 Porsche 917K

You'll need to take a deep breath when looking at the price of Amalgam's new 1:18 Porsche 917 Le Mans Martini (£690) but for that money, you get an exquisite model of one of the coolest cars of all time. Credit cards at the ready! www.amalgamcollection.com



COMING SOON FROM DEF MODEL 1:48 F-4 Phantom II FOD Cover

Designed specifically for Tamiya's new 1:48 F-4B Phantom II, this FOD (foreign object damage) set contains two covers in resin plus 'remove before flight' tags.

www.defmodel.com



NEW FROM EDUARD New Spitfires in 1:48

'Eagle's Call' is a dual-combo set that provides two kits in one box: Spitfire F Mk.IX is a 'Weekend Edition' release for a swifter than usual assembly.

www.eduard.com

www.creativemodels.co.uk



COMING SOON FROM GECKO MODELS

In 1:35 comes 'Famous K2/Ys - Katy and the Princess', a limited edition release including a figure of a certain young princess...

tigerhobbies.co.uk



COMING SOON FROM ICM 1:48 OV10A Bronco

The North American Rockwell OV-10A 'Bronco' served during the Vietnam War in the light attack and observation role. Now, ICM have tooled up for an all-new 1:48 kit of this fascinating machine. On sale soon. www.icm.com.ua



ON THE WAY FROM ICM

The ungainly-looking but interesting French Laffly V15T, artillery towing vehicle is incoming from this prolific Ukrainian manufacturer.

www.icm.com.ua



NEW FROM ZVEZDA

1:350 Arktika (Project 22220)

Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker

The newest Russian icebreaker 'Arktika' is the lead ship of a new class and was commissioned in October 2020 in Murmansk. Its main task is to keep the Northern Sea route open and to conduct expeditions to the North Pole region. The kit comprises 525 parts, giving a length of 495mm and a height of 146mm. Helicopter and stand included.

www.hobbyco.net



COMING SOON FROM QUINTA STUDIO 1:48 3D MiG-15 printed interior

Designed for Tamiya's still excellent kit, Quinta Studio's MiG-15 bis 3D-printed and coloured interior provides amazingly realistic three-dimensional dials, side-consoles and more.

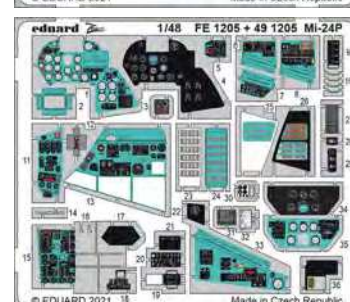
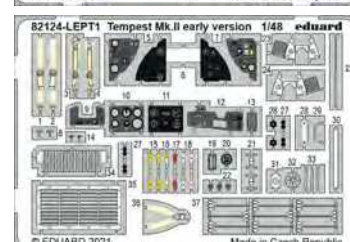
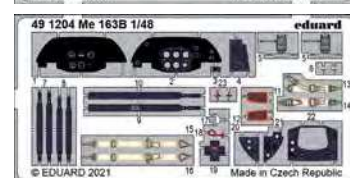
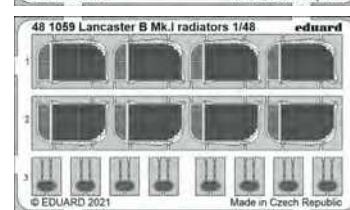
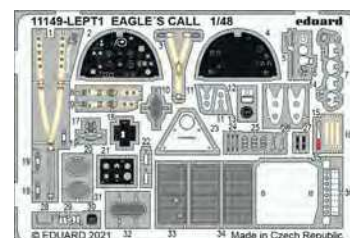
www.quinta-studio.com

COMING SOON FROM EDUARD

- 1:32 photo-etch AH-1G Cobra (for ICM)
- 1:48 photo-etch 'Eagles Call' (for Eduard)
- 1:48 photo-etch Tempest Mk.II early version (for Eduard)
- 1:48 photo-etch Lancaster B Mk.I radiators (for HK Models)
- 1:48 photo-etch Me163B Komet (for Gaspach)
- 1:48 photo-etch Lancaster B Mk.I (for HK Models)
- 1:48 photo-etch Mi-24P Hind (for Zvezda)

www.creativemodels.co.uk

www.eduard.com



NEW FROM GWH 1:32 Curtiss Hawk 'Flying Tigers'

An all new Curtiss Hawk 81-A2 is on its way in 1:32 from GWH, formerly Great Wall Hobby.

www.migjimenez.com

MUSTANG, THIS IS MAVERICK, REQUESTING FLY-BY...

Tamiya's epic 1:48 F-14A Tomcat has been modified to recreate a pre-launch scene, complete with carrier deck 'shooter' figure

This kit recreates the Grumman F-14A Tomcat (Late Model) US Navy fighter, famous for being the first mass-production and the most-produced model of the F-14 series. The aircraft was in service from the late 1980s to the early 2000s. It is based, naturally, on the F-14A released in 2016 (61114) but with some significant new inclusions. New sprues are provided, carrying the necessary parts to depict the aircraft in take-off mode: wings swept fully forward (supported by an impressive one-piece moulding) flaps and leading-edge slats extended plus new front undercarriage leg in the compressed 'kneeling' position. Please note: this model can not depict the wings at their neutral 'swept back' position.

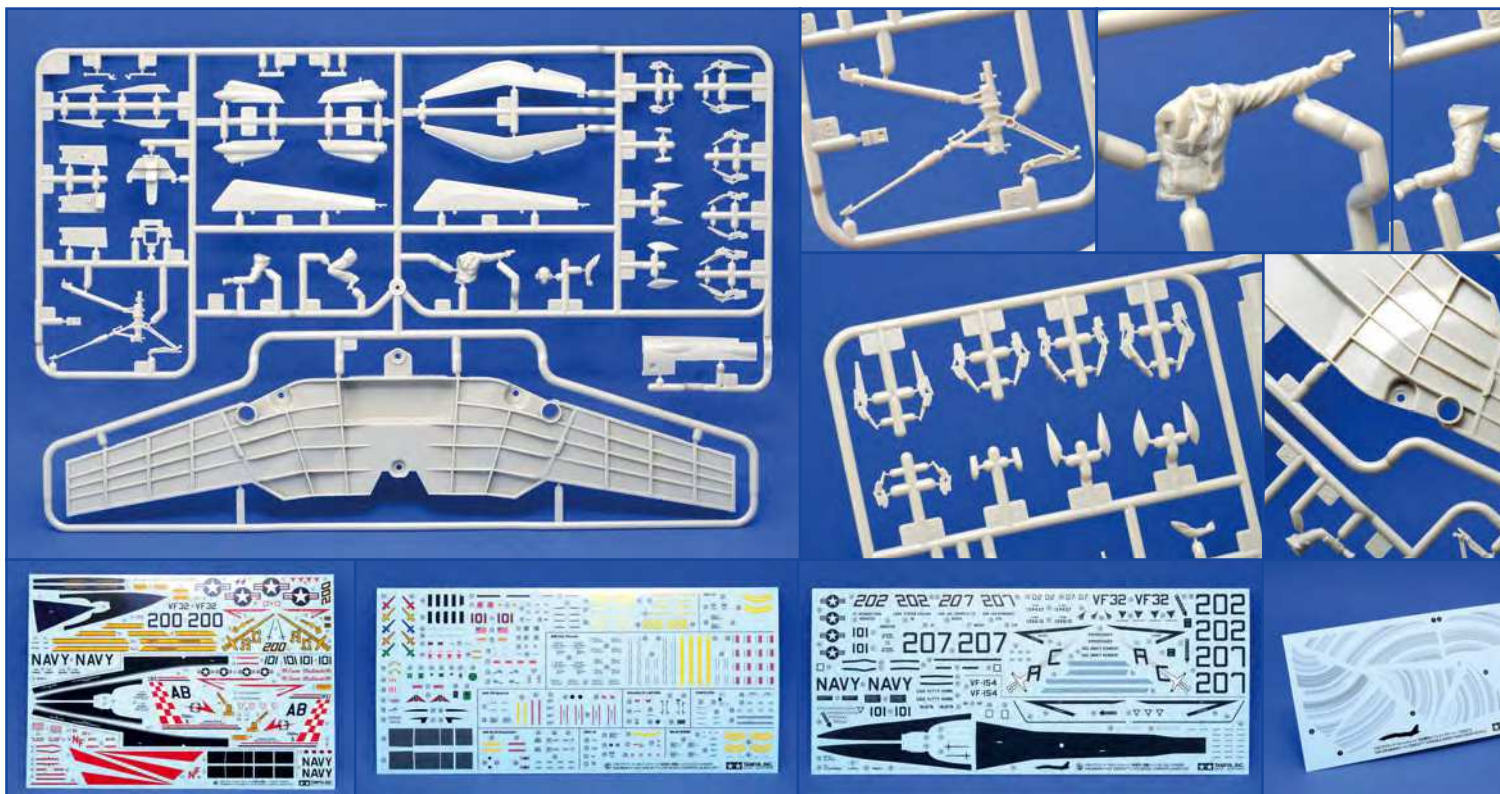
New features include AAX-1 TCS telephoto camera pod, underwing ALR-45 radar warning antenna and four Mk.82 500lb LDGP (Low-Drag General-Purpose) bombs. The cockpit interior exhibits late-model ejector seat cushions, instrument panel and side console panels.

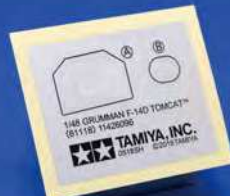
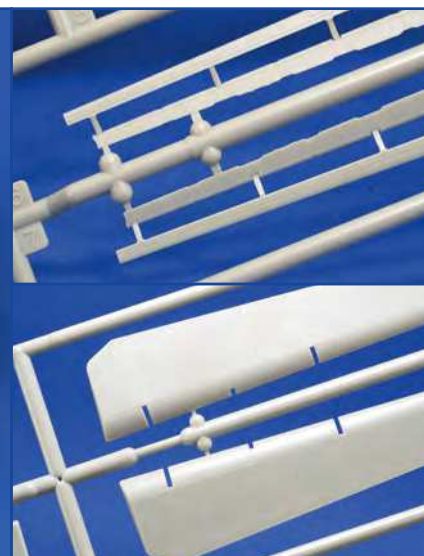
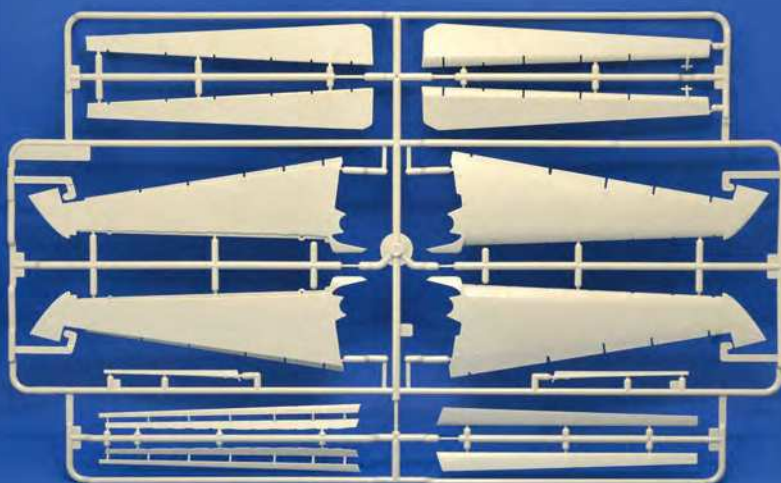
The kit now comes with a catapult officer figure (called 'shooter') who gives the 'okay' for the operator to release the shuttle plus a printed paper flight-deck sheet. Tamiya provide a decal sheet to help modellers realistically recreate the arcs of dark staining on the upper rear fuselage caused by the wings sweeping backwards, a very cool touch! Of course, these effects can be simulated with paint and weathering materials if the modeller prefers.

The model comes with four markings options: two for F-14As from the VF-32 'Swordsmen', one VF-211 'Fighting Checkmates' plus one VF-154 Black Knights. Overall, this is a very welcome addition to Tamiya's 1:48 F-14 Tomcat range and there will be a full, in-depth article in TMMI soon! ●

Availability;

Tamiya models, accessories, paints and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net





FULL-BUILD: VIETNAM WAR MODELLING

TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II PATROL BOAT RIVER ● KIT NO.35150

RIDERS ON THE STORM

As a salute to Francois Verlinden, **Javier Redondo** creates an atmospheric Mekong Delta dioramic scene for Tamiya's 1:35 'Brown Water Navy' PBR MK.II 'Pibber'



From the beginning of the intervention in Vietnam, the geographic, tactical and economic disposition of the extensive inland waterways of South Vietnam were for the North American strategists a strategic factor of vital importance. With approximately 39,000 km² of rivers, canals and streams, the lush Mekong Delta region south of Saigon had the highest percentage of population and produced most of the rice crop.

Since the land

communication routes were rudimentary, it was the waterways that allowed easy access to the most important resources in the region. It was obvious that whoever could control the rivers and canals of the Mekong would control the heart of South Vietnam.

Such a mission was assigned to the US Navy, which established a plan in December 1965 to patrol and monitor the area under Task Force 116. Consequently, in March 1966, the Navy

began acquiring Patrol Boat River (PBR) as well, known as Pibber, built in the United States by Modutec Marine. The training of the future crews of the Brown Water Navy took place in the training centre of USN Coronado and Mare Island (California). This term was coined by the Navy during the Civil War to name the naval forces that carried out their operations in rivers, lakes and coastal environments.

These units operated

from bases established along strategic rivers, or from Navy ships anchored in the vicinity that served as floating base facilities for each PBR section and in turn, a helicopter detachment. The mission of the PBRs employed during the conflict, from March 1966 to the end of 1971, was primarily to intercept and disrupt enemy arms shipments, but they also took part in infiltration and recovery missions for Navy SEAL commandos. ►



FULL-BUILD: VIETNAM WAR MODELLING

TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II PATROL BOAT RIVER ● KIT NO.35150



Once I had the final measurements of the base, I cut a 38cm x 25cm foam sheet and with the help of a sharp cutter, I shaped the hole where the Pibber would later be inserted. On the right margin I simulated an elevation with the same material and positioned the Buddha's head. With modelling putty, I gave some the shape to the water



Once the putty was dry, I applied a couple of coats of Vallejo Black Primer, ensuring that it completely covered the entire surface. In addition to providing a primed base, being acrylic paint, it would leave a waterproof film that will prevent the resin from infiltrating the foam later and dissolving it



With two-component epoxy resin, tinted with a few drops of Vallejo 879 Green Brown, I applied three coats of about two millimetres, allowing the resin to dry between each of them



When the resin had completely cured, I checked that the boat fitted perfectly in the hole where it would be located. If for any reason the protective tape that has served as a bathtub had given way, allowing the resin to leak, I carefully cut it with a blade and removed it, until it fitted without forcing

❶ Two versions were built, the Mk.I and the Mk.II, which differed basically in dimensions and the improved performance in the second version. With a fibreglass hull and aluminium gunwales to resist wear, it mounted two 180hp Detroit Diesel 6V53N engines and Jacuzzi Brothers 14YJ water pump-jet with thrust buckets for reverse thrust that provided a maximum speed of 28.5 knots (53 km/h). The light weight of 8.9 tons allowed it to operate in shallow and overgrown waters.

The armament consisted of a rotating turret armed with twin M2HB .50cal Browning machine guns, a port

or starboard-mounted M60 machine gun and a Mk.19 40mm grenade launcher, as well as a crew of M16 rifles. The ceramic armour was only installed on the gun shields and bridge as these boats were fundamentally designed to exploit their rapid acceleration, manoeuvrability and speed, to escape difficult situations.

The PBR had a four-man crew. A first-class noncommissioned officer who served as a captain, a gunner, an engineer, and a sailor on board. Each member of the crew was trained to stand in for the other in case of need. They were withdrawn from active duty by the United States Navy immediately after the Vietnam War in the early 1970s. ➤



Previously I had painted the Buddha to simulate aged stone and created the vegetation with the help of different specific commercial products

With the base set aside and kept in a protected place to avoid dust, I could then focus on the PBR. I worked in stages: the hull, cockpit and finally the turret with the twin .50cal guns



With Vallejo Surface Primer 28011 in the airbrush, I applied a coat over the entire surface of the hull. This product is very good for unifying plastic and metal surfaces, providing an excellent base for painting



The olive green standardised during the Vietnam War by the USA had a darker tone than the one used previously. The instructions on the model recommend XF-62 Olive Drab, to which I added a couple of drops of XF-11 JN Green, applied by airbrush



I faded the tones with oils and finished by applying splashes and stains on the horizontal surfaces using various dry pigments and Model Wash 76521 Oiled Earth



To the cabin I added the radar tensioner wires, plus the electric cable of the position light with stretched-sprue. Later, I would paint it in the same way as the hull

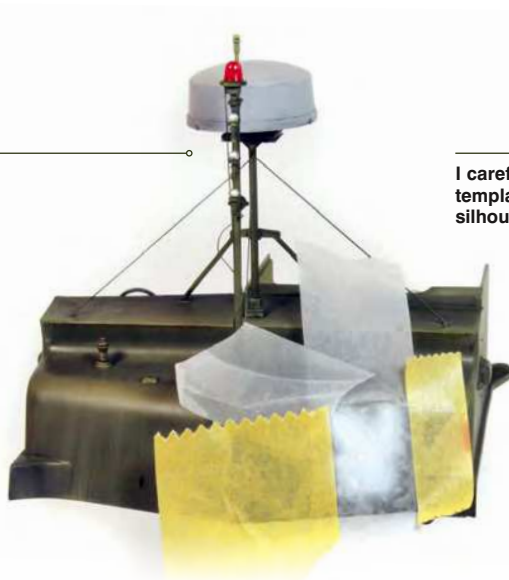


The interior areas of the cabin, although hardly seen later, were up-detailed using reference photos of the real thing. They were painted with a brush using different colours from Vallejo Model Color. Once this was done, it was carefully glued into position

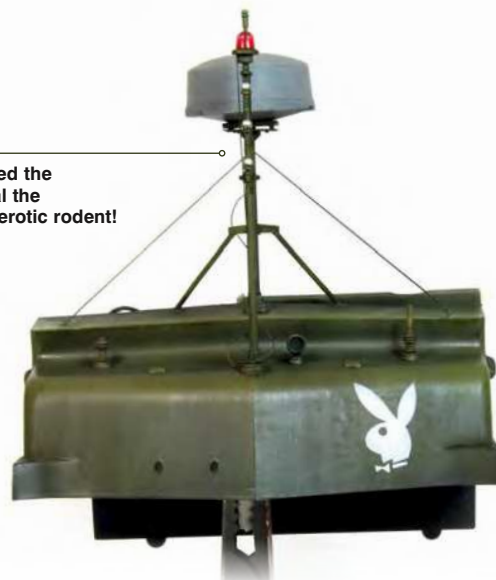
FULL-BUILD: VIETNAM WAR MODELLING

TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II PATROL BOAT RIVER ● KIT NO.35150

I personalised my PBR by adding the then popular Playboy bunny logo. To do this, I made a template by drawing on transparent masking film, then cutting it out. I applied the template and then airbrushed a layer of Vallejo Model Air White 71001



I carefully removed the template to reveal the silhouette of the erotic rodent!



With dry-transfers, I added the nickname: White Rabbit. Then I applied a couple of coats of gloss varnish to protect the work. Later this would be matted down



The revolving turret requires a pair of new machine guns using the better-detailed Asuka items. Only the barrel tubes from the Tamiya model were retained



Mini Review...



AMMO BY MIG LEATHER COLOR RANGE FIGURES SET (A.MIG-7036)
www.migjimenez.com

This pack of six acrylic paints provides the shades necessary for the realistic reproduction of a leather surface, whether on a WW I flying coat as per the box-art, or on vehicle seats, soldiers' webbing, rifle slings etc. It will take some skill to perfect the effects but it's a good start!





Rope was added to the anchor, which was shaped by moistening the thread – supplied in the kit box – with white glue diluted in water. Once dry, it was painted by applying ochre-toned colour-washes



The canvas that covered the rotating turret when it was not in service was modelled with Magic Sculp and above right, a close up of the name of the boat



The magazines are provided by ETA Diorama Accessories. The cassette tapes are included on Eduard's photo-etched sheet for the PBR



The shield of the .50cal. machine gun on the stern was decorated with an old decal from the scrap box plus various graffiti painted by brush



I tied the tyres in position with fine white sewing thread, later painted with gouache



I applied dry pigments, some filters and various splashes to the awning that covers the cockpit, painted in Tamiya XF-49 Khaki. I improved the detail by adding a lens



I detailed the life ring by adding the rope and its anchors. I painted it with Red 957 from Model Color and applied some chips with a brush using Black 950



I simulated wet areas with Vallejo Wet Effects, applied by airbrush and brush



I shaped the printed paper flag included in the kit by moistening the surface with white glue

FULL-BUILD: VIETNAM WAR MODELLING

TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II PATROL BOAT RIVER ● KIT NO.35150

THE SCENE

Many years ago I saw a Verlinden diorama in one of his magazines with the then recent Tamiya release; the PBR Pibber MK II. I loved the scene and since then create something similar never left my mind. And if we add to that my predilection for the film 'Apocalypse Now', it was logical that sooner or later I would have to do it.

It was precisely in this past year, during the hardest part of the pandemic, and given the impossibility of getting on with other issues due to confinement, that I finally decided to build it. For this I had been collecting and saving different references over the years for when I decided to start. And this is the result.

This work serve as a tribute to the master Francois Verlinden. Those of my generation will never forget everything that he created so that we could begin our projects when there was little or nothing to offer on the market. Even today that particular smell of his resins evokes very pleasant memories... ●



The water lilies come from an excellent set by Model Scene on die-cut paper



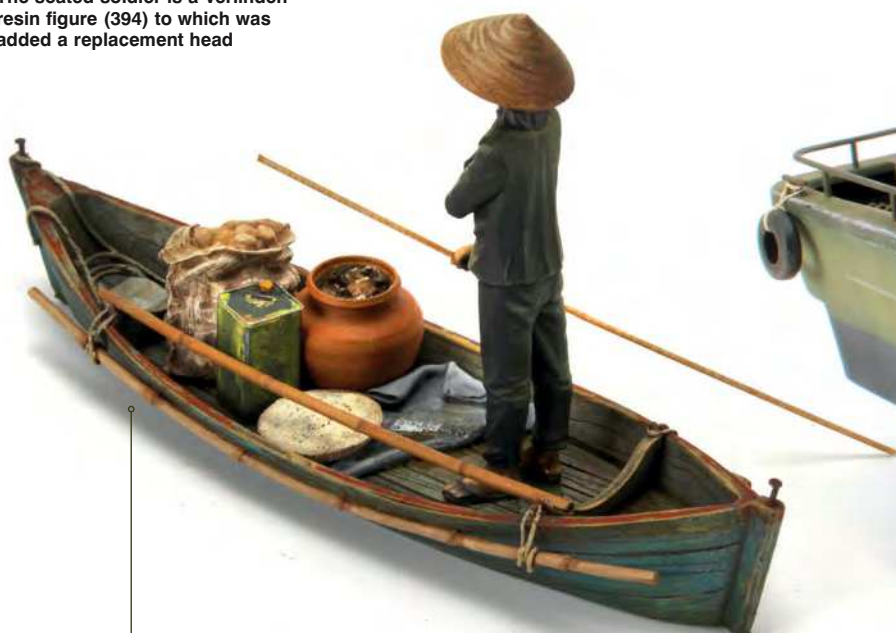
To achieve some chromatic variety within the undergrowth, I applied different green tones on the plants. Later, I added gloss varnish to the leaves, simulating the humidity typical of jungle vegetation



I brought in a touch of wildlife by adding a Vietnamese horned dragon atop Buddha's head



The seated soldier is a Verlinden resin figure (394) to which was added a replacement head



The sampan is part of a Verlinden set (570) to which were added accessories of various origins. The female Vietnamese figure that is included with the Master Box kit (3599) was slightly modified to adapt to her new position in the sampan



TECHSPEC...

**TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II
PATROL BOAT RIVER KIT NO.35150**

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Acrylics: XF-62 Olive Drab, XF-49 Khaki, XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-63 German Gray
- Vallejo Model Air: US Light Green 71137, Black 71057, White 71001,
- Vallejo Model Color: Red 957, Sky Grey 989, Black 950
- Vallejo: Wet Effects 73828
- Vallejo Model Wash: 76521 Oiled Earth

Accessories used:

- Eduard: PBR 31 MK II Pibber 53010
- Verlinden Productions: US Platoon Vietnam (393), GI Cleaning Rifle Vietnam (394), Vietcong in Small River Boats (570)
- Master Box: US Marines 'Patrolling' Vietnam War Series (3599)
- Yen Models: Buddha Head (PTX158)

Availability:

- Tamiya models, accessories, paints and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net
- Eduard: www.creativemodels.co.uk www.eduard.com
- Verlinden Productions: check online sources
- Master Box: www.creativemodels.co.uk
- Yen Models: www.yenmodels.be
- Vallejo: www.creativemodels.co.uk



FULL-BUILD: VIETNAM WAR MODELLING

TAMIYA 1:35 US NAVY PBR31 MK.II PATROL BOAT RIVER ● KIT NO.35150

**“The crew were mostly kids;
rock and rollers with one foot
in their grave...”**





Angel of Mercy

1/72



B-25J Mitchell

- Decals for 10 marking options of B-25J in the 5th, 10th, 12th and 13th AF of USAAF service
- Hasegawa plastic parts, Eduard photo-etched details and die cut masks
- Eduard Brassin wheels



B-25J-10-NC, Apache Princess, 43-28152, 5th AF, 1944



B-25J-11-NC, Nasty Nancy, 43-36001, 13th AF, 1945



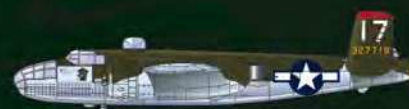
B-25J-5-NC, No. 952, 43-27952, 5th AF, 1944



B-25J-1-NC, Battlin' Betty, 43-27708, 12th AF, 1945



B-25J-10-NC, Reina del Pacifico, 43-36020, 5th AF, 1945



B-25J-1-NC, Shit House Mouse, 43-27716, 12th AF, 1945



B-25J-10-NC, Angel of Mercy, 43-35982, 12th AF, 1945



B-25J-1-NC, Milk Run, 43-3890, 82nd BS, 10th AF, 1945



B-25J-1-NC, Watch Copier, 43-27540, 12th AF, 1944



B-25J-1-NC, She's Engaged, 43-27559, 12th AF, 1945

No. 2140

Limited Edition

eduard

September 2021
www.eduard.com



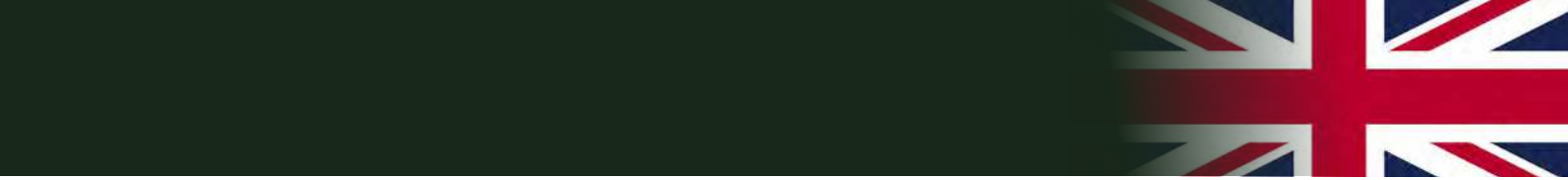
Lionel Albecker builds the new 1:24 Jaguar E-Type Coupé from Revell, the car that Enzo Ferrari said was the most beautiful in the world

Presented at the Geneva Motor Show in 1961, the Jaguar Type E was developed by the British manufacturer on the basis of the Types C and D competition models. The Type E was, for the time, a very modern design. It was the aerodynamicist Malcolm Sayer who designed it, under the control of William Lyons. The evolutions and modifications would be numerous throughout the life of the model, to improve performance, safety, comfort, or even for regulatory issues, particularly in the United States, its main market. One of the major changes was the abandonment of the inline six-cylinder engine in 1971 in favour of a new Jaguar V12 engine.

In 1975, the Type E would give way to the XJS, less sporty and less expensive to build. 72,584 E-Types were produced, constituting one of Jaguar's greatest commercial successes. Its looks and performance, which set it apart from other cars in the same segment, have today made it an automotive myth symbolising the 'Swinging Sixties'. (source Wikipedia). ▶



A VERY BRITISH COUPE



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The body and chassis are moulded in red plastic. A quick dry-run shows that Revell has captured the characteristic shapes of the car extremely well

● REVELL'S ALL-NEW KIT

The general impression of Revell's 2020 release is good, with correctly moulded parts, clear transparencies, very thin chrome and a good level of detail. After studying the instructions, the modeller must immediately choose a left-hand or right-hand drive car, because very early in the assembly a differentiation of parts appears. I advise you to cross out the steps that do not correspond to the option you have chosen, which will avoid many potential mistakes.

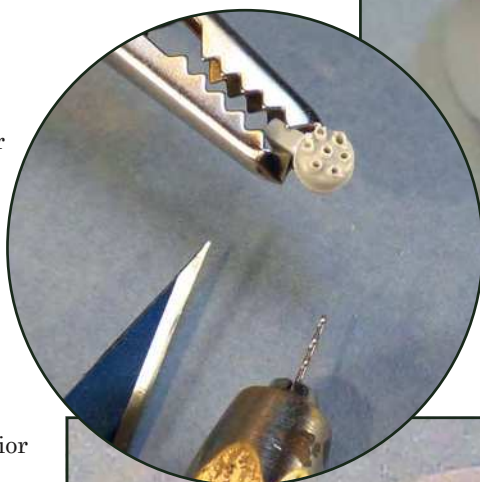
The body is made up of four sections: passenger compartment, hood, front sill and rear sill, the latter being moulded with the chassis. After studying the instructions, I quickly understood that I would have to paint these four elements separately, because they are attached gradually, rather than in one piece, so I would be unable to 'slide' the body into place once the chassis and interior are assembled.

A quick dry-fit made sure that these elements fitted together well. I then covered them with a coat of grey primer. A gap in the rear wing had to be filled, but nothing serious, especially since the bumper will hide this area. After the primer was dry, I sprayed the first coat of Tamiya TS-9 British Green. There would be four layers by the end, separated by sanding with 1,000-grit then 2,000-grit sandpaper. The parts representing the structure of the bonnet, nose gear and the engine mount were also painted in TS-9. All these items were left to dry, protected from dust. ●



The parts that make up the bonnet..

...and here they are assembled. The radiator grille will remain visible at the bottom of the air intake. The bonnet has already received its grey primer coat



The distributor cap was drilled out to take the ignition leads



An assembly test of the chrome parts shows that the paint layer must be thin, otherwise it will no longer be possible to fix these parts correctly



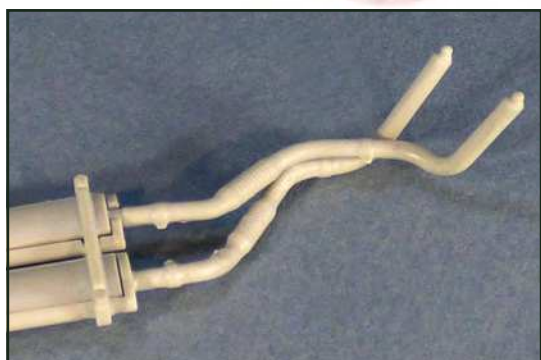
The body received its first coat of British Green TS-9, applied directly from the aerosol can (gently warmed beforehand)



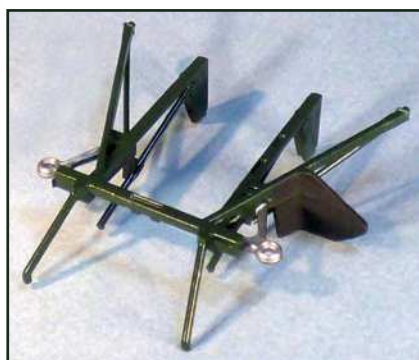
Temporary reassembly of the body to verify colour uniformity throughout



After forty-eight hours of drying, the chassis was masked up and then sprayed with LP-5 Semi-Gloss Black to represent the protective layer of paint on the parts concerned



Be careful when fitting the exhaust! The two pipes must cross as seen here. It's not very clear in the instructions



The front auxiliary frame was assembled and painted in the same colour as the body. The upper wishbones were painted by brush in steel-coloured acrylic paint

Revell

Build Your Dream!

LEVEL 5

NEW PARTS



03838 P-51D-15-NA Mustang (Late Version), 1:32

LEVEL 4

NEW PARTS



03842 Tornado ASSTA 3.1, 1:72

LEVEL 4



05671 Gift Set - NATO Tiger Meet 60 Years, 1:72

LEVEL 3

NEW TOOL



07688 Porsche 911 Carrera 3.2 Coupé, 1:24

LEVEL 4



07696 Ford GT40 Le Mans 1968 & 1969, 1:24

Available from all good model stockists and online from

hobbycraft

hobbycraft.co.uk/brand/revell

ENGINE TIME

The famous six-cylinder, 3.8-litre, in-line engine is provided in its entirety by Revell. I applied a matt black undercoat to the engine-block parts as a base for the application different metallic hues to follow. The slightly too-flashy chrome rocker cover was toned down with a coat of matt varnish applied via airbrush. A more realistic polished metal effect is thus obtained.

Making the leads between the ignition distributor and the spark plugs is more tedious than really difficult. You only need to drill 0.3mm holes and then enlarge them to 0.5mm to route sections of 0.5mm electronic wire. I chose yellow, more for aesthetic reasons than historical. There was no set colour for this type of wiring, and other artistic license, I didn't care about the cylinder firing order!

PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

Revell's designers have done a good job in the reproduction of the interior. In agreement with the Editor, I opted for the right-hand drive to be 'British' all the way. In addition to the selection of the corresponding parts by studying the instructions, it is also necessary to make sure to drill the chromed centre console on the correct side to place the handbrake. Once everything is done, we can embark on the assembly of the 'bathtub'.

In fact, the floor of the passenger compartment is moulded onto the chassis, so the first painting phase therefore begins with a long masking session, in order to paint only the appropriate parts in beige. After masking off the edge of the body and the firewall, then preparing the door cards, seats and the large parcel shelf, I airbrushed AS-15 Tan, which I had decanted from the aerosol can. I then sprayed TS-46 Light Sand over the top of the seats and the centre of the parcel shelf to lighten them up and add some relief to these parts.

MOLOTOV CHROME

To finish off the chrome strips on the rear shelf, Revell provides decals to be affixed to raised detail moulded in the part, but applying these thin decals on protruding parts is not very easy, so I painted them with a Molotov Chrome paint-pen; the procedure is explained in photos accompanying this article. I did the same for the vertical part of the parcel shelf and the door cards.

The floor carpets were reproduced with beige flocking from the Ukrainian brand 'USCP' but the shade was too light for my liking and I sprayed over AS-15, just in a light coat so as not to compress the fibres. The preparation of the dashboard does not call for any particular comment, you just have to make sure to use the dial decals corresponding to the chosen driving position. The interior design ends with the addition of two seat belts made of Tamiya masking tape and painted with TS-46, plus with photo-etched buckles from my spares box.

BODY ON

After securing the engine and passenger compartment to the chassis, I installed the main body, without much problem. The final part of the assembly, and not the least, consists in fixing the chrome elements (rear-view mirror, bumper elements, windscreen and headlight surrounds, etc.) and the glass parts to the body.

The chrome parts were fixed with 'decanted' cyanoacrylate glue. It is simply a matter of leaving a drop in the air for about fifteen minutes so that the vapours that cause fogging can evaporate. After removing each part from the sprue, I test-fitted it to check the fit and precisely determine the location on the body where the glue will be applied. This avoids traces of glue if the part moves during its installation. ☐



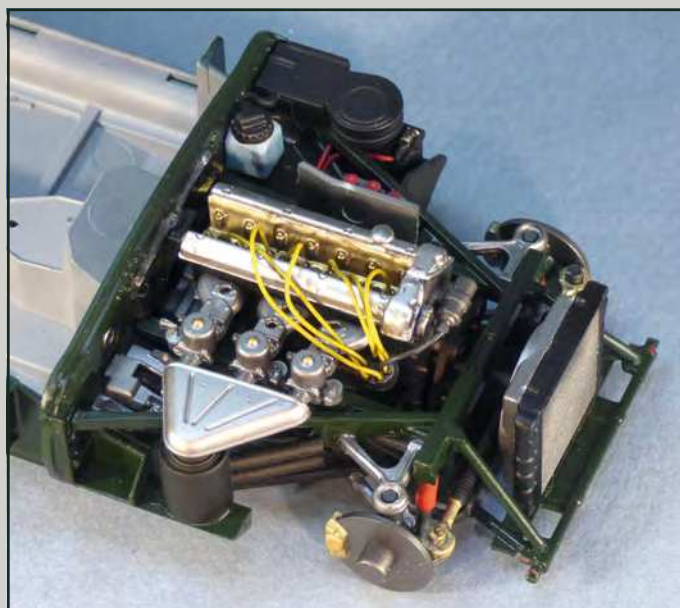
The rear axle has joined the chassis. Note the red shock springs



The engine in place in its mounts. Note the added ignition cables and the subtle burnt-metal look of the exhaust manifolds



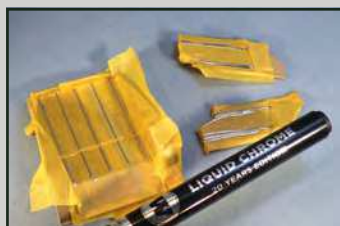
The firewall is well detailed, all touched in with a brush after application of the body colour



The 'nose gear' has been installed and details have joined the engine compartment. All the space is taken up under that big bonnet!



The cockpit was painted with AS-15 Tan (USAF) and TS-46 Light Sand: decanted and airbrushed



After allowing the base paint to dry, the entire rear shelf was masked off and the strips left exposed receive a coat of chrome (Molotow marker). The two door frames were treated in the same way



Beige USCP flocking sprinkled over white glue simulates the texture of floor carpeting. A light coat of AS-15 was then sprayed to darken it slightly



The gluing of the door-cards was removed with a small file



The spoked rims are very nice, the tyres a little less so because of their too square profile. The spokes were helped to stand out with a wash of Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color (Black)



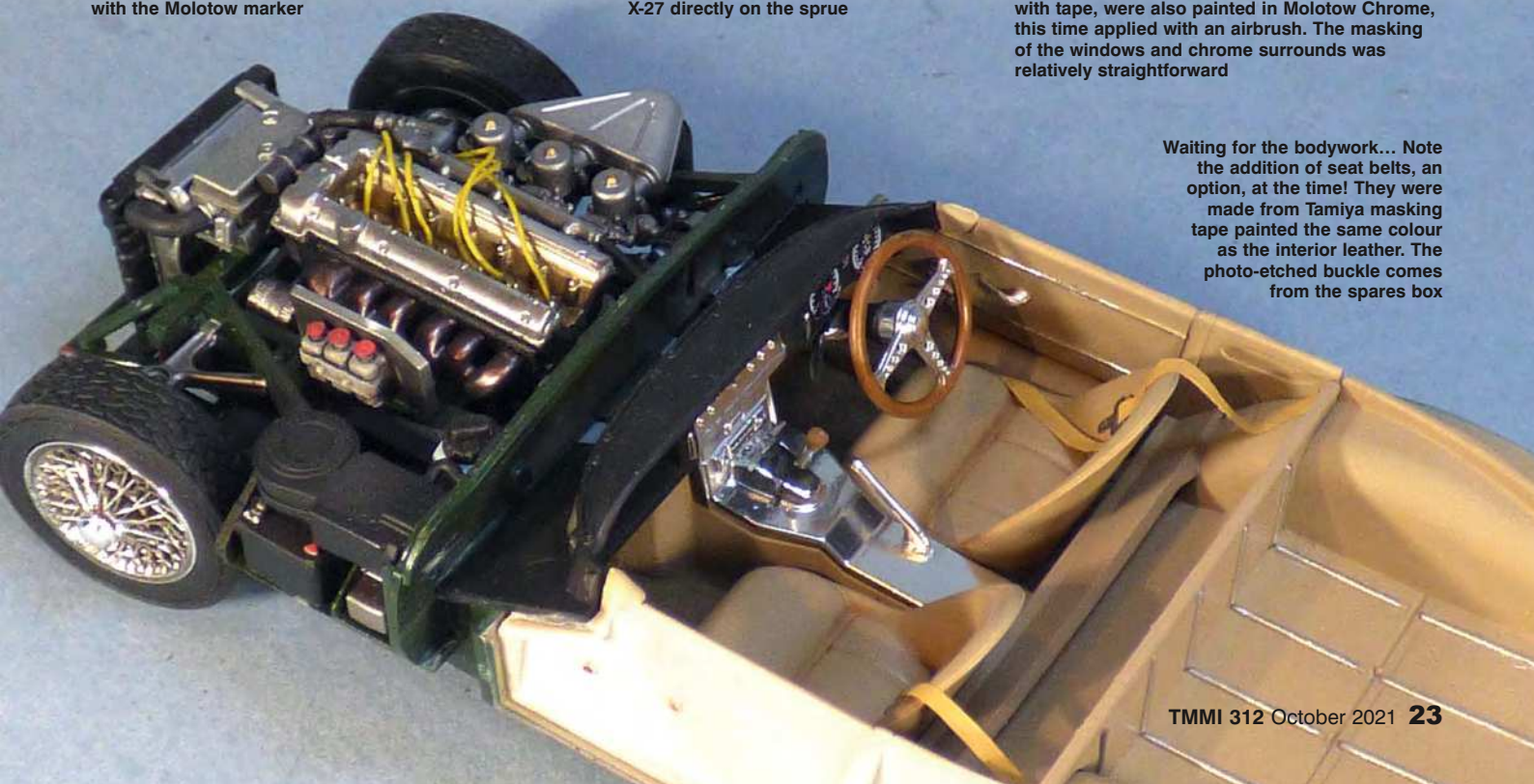
The two chrome rods on the bonnet were simply highlighted with the Molotow marker



The tiny tail lights were painted in X-26 and X-27 directly on the sprue



The window surrounds, previously masked off with tape, were also painted in Molotow Chrome, this time applied with an airbrush. The masking of the windows and chrome surrounds was relatively straightforward



Waiting for the bodywork... Note the addition of seat belts, an option, at the time! They were made from Tamiya masking tape painted the same colour as the interior leather. The photo-etched buckle comes from the spares box



FINAL STEPS

After painting the window surrounds in chrome, the latter were glued in place. No problems were encountered here despite the delicacy of these components, but care must be taken with the rear window, which must be

glued along its edge. After sanding the edges of the glass at the top and bottom, I put it in place dry, before flowing in – by capillary action – Zero Paints gloss varnish using a fine brush. This method avoids traces of glue on the glass, but does result in a more fragile bond

than with cyanoacrylate.

If one follows the assembly instructions carefully – and despite the rather high number of parts – this kit is easy to assemble. In addition, it provides a faithful and detailed reproduction of the Jaguar E-Type. The magnificent

lines of this monument of automotive design are particularly well rendered. This model therefore replaces all its predecessors, and should, definitely appear in the collections of car enthusiasts. ●

TECHSPEC...

REVELL 1:24 JAGUAR E-TYPE COUPE
KIT NO.07668

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, plated parts, synthetic rubber tyres, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Sprays: TS-9 British Green, TS-46 Light Sand, AS-15 Tan
- Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-16 Flat Aluminium, XF-56 Metallic Grey, XF-2 Flat White, XF-69 NATO Black, X-27 Clear Red, X-26 Clear Orange
- Tamiya Lacquer Paints: LP-2 White, LP-5 Semi-Gloss Black, LP-7 Red
- Vallejo Acrylics: Matt Black, Matt White, Red
- AK Interactive Xtreme Metal: Duralumin, Chrome, Aluminium
- Alclad 2: ALC112 Steel, ALC107 Chrome, ALC102 Duralumin

Accessories used:

- USCP: Fine beige flocking 24A036

Availability:

- Revell models are widely available from good model shops and online.
www.revell.de/en
- USCP: www.uscp-ua.com
- Vallejo: www.creativemodels.co.uk
- AK Interactive: www.akinteractive.com
- Alclad 2: www.alclad2-online.co.uk



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Spencer Pollard builds Tamiya's re-issued and re-invigorated Lotus Europa in 1:24 and adds his own special touch

FANTASTIC

The Europa Series 2, or Lotus Type 54, was introduced in April 1968. The S2 used the same 1,470cc Renault engine and mechanical components as the earlier Series 1, but added a number of key refinements including opening electric windows, adjustable seats, a new fully carpeted interior and a polished wooden fascia panel for the dashboard. The most significant change was the switch from fully

bonded construction to the use of bolt fasteners to attach the fibreglass body to the backbone steel frame. While reducing the torsional and flexural stiffness somewhat, the use of a separable body was welcomed by the automotive insurance industry as it greatly reduced the complexity and cost of making repairs to the vehicle.

Early examples of the S2 were externally almost identical to the S1 with the exception of the new

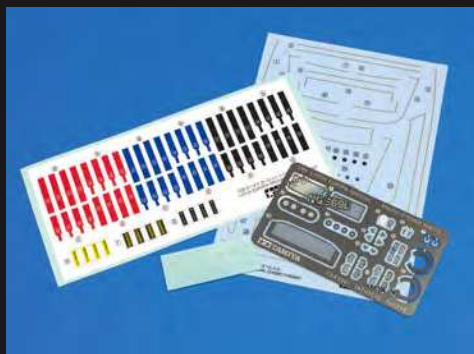
windows. From early 1969, secondary front indicator lamp nacelles were added between the headlights, and larger door handles were used in place of the S1's push-button items. During 1968 a number of Europas (and Elans) were produced bearing black-and-silver Lotus badges on the nose and steering wheel in place of the customary yellow-and-green ones. The official Lotus Cars website states these 'black-badge' vehicles

were to commemorate the death earlier in 1968 of Jim Clark, Lotus's champion Formula One driver, however this is debated by other sources.

Contemporary road tests for the Europa S2 recorded a top speed around 120 mph (195 km/h), 0-60 mph acceleration times of 9.3 seconds, standing 1/4 mile times of around 16.7 seconds, and an overall economy of around 30 mpg (9.4 L/100 km). (Wikipedia) ▶



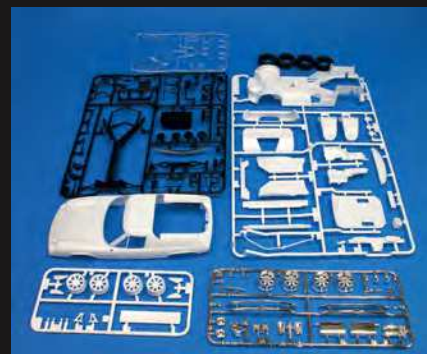
C PLASTIC



The kit contains a number of improvements over that seen in the earlier release, including new decals, seat straps and etched details



The body shell is a glorious one-piece moulding



All plastic parts laid out. Despite including an engine, this is a very simple kit and the number of parts is remarkably small

IN MINIATURE

Tamiya's latest incarnation of their Lotus Europa kit was released earlier this year. First available in 1999 as the 'Lotus Europa Special' the kit was widely praised for its accuracy, detail and ease of assembly. Now, twenty years on, Tamiya has taken the time to update their offering slightly with new decals and then the addition of printed seat straps (with a choice of three maker's designs) complete with etched buckles. Along with the straps, the new additions include etched screens for the nose and engine hood, as well as metal air funnel parts for the engine and then, alternative standard wheels or eight-spoke RS Watanabe designs on which your completed car can sit. You'll also find in the kit a small sheet of chrome 'stickers' that allow the 'LOTUS' name to be added to the rear engine hood, as well as small maker's marks, wing mirror glazing and other superficial details. The only thing missing, though I can understand why as it would only be used on the small rear window, is a masking sheet for the windows - a small omission that does little to dampen the enthusiasm for the rest of the kit. Detail is as you might imagine,



Construction around the body shell, including the addition of the under-nose fairing, was carried out using Mr. Cement S



There is a joint around the lower nose, here being highlighted ready for filling and sanding

superb and assembly, very easy. For a relative novice to this type of model, seeing a kit that is so easy to build is certainly welcome. Indeed, I would recommend this as one that a beginner could get to grips with, the relative lack of decalling often prevalent within racing car kits, allowing easy finishing with very few colours being needed. Here, that collection was little more than the interior brown and buff shades, some black, pale blue for the outer body shell and a few metallics for the remaining features. Though I used a little masking here and there to aid my progress, that is by no means essential which points further towards the beginner end of the spectrum with this kit!

CLEAN-UP TIME

As assembly progresses you will find a number of areas that will need to be carefully prepared before paint is applied. The first will be the body shell. All car kits needed to be cleaned up and this is no different, delicate mould lines having to be removed from around the shell before you apply your final finish. You will also need to deal with the car's nose. Here, there is a panel that fits under the nose, one that is smoothed over on the real car. As this is a separate part in the kit, some filling and careful sanding will be required to ensure that any joints are invisible under the paint. For this build, superglue was used to both glue the parts together and then fill any unwanted gaps,

wet 'n dry paper and then Micro-Mesh pads being used to create a perfect finish.

Whilst in the mood to deal with moulding flaws and a little filling here and there, please pay attention to some ejector pin marks that you will find on a number of interior surfaces. The most notable of these are those that are found on the outer face of the engine/cabin bulkhead. Though painted black, this face needs to be smoothed out to remove a number of these unwanted visitors, a curved scalpel blade being used to scrape each away, before sanding the surface smooth with wet 'n dry paper.

The rest of construction really is a breeze, the instructions guiding you effortlessly through the various steps on the path



The floor of the car is a single-part moulding that sits on top of the lightweight chassis. Though combining a number of small parts that need to be carefully aligned, the chassis is easy to assemble and straightforward to line up



The chassis was sprayed satin black and then weathered with the products shown here, each being either washed in place, or flicked over the paintwork to create the illusion of road dirt and dust

A close-up of the weathering on the chassis. This really was very simple and quick to do, with washes around detail followed by flicked paint being the order of the day. No care was taken, as random a result as possible being needed, not a carefully applied finish



Body prep required the use of the now familiar Scotchbrite pads...



...Which always end up like this after use!



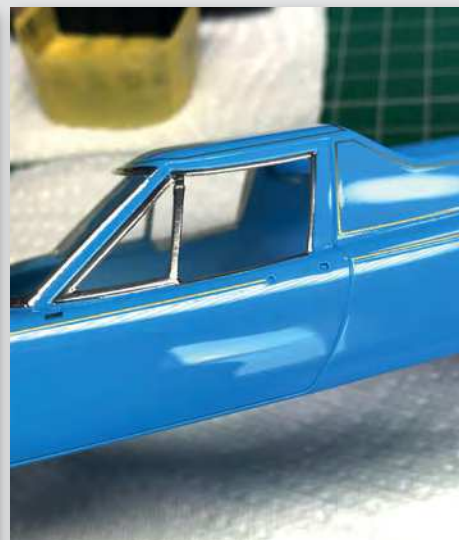
Care is needed to ensure that the surface of the body shell is as smooth as possible, wet 'n' dry paper, followed by a polish with Scotchbrite, being needed to remove the mould lines that flow over the wings and edges of the roof and rear quarter panels



The Olympic Blue paint that I applied to the model was mixed from Tamiya Royal Blue, mixed with Sky Blue and Gloss White



This is the result of several dust coats, overlaid with one heavy 'wet' coat, the latter thinned with around 70% Mr. Color Leveling Thinner



Having left the paint to set for a week, the surface was carefully polished with Micro-Mesh and then Novus Plastic Polish. A final once-over with a one-coat car polish, created this amazing finish. The chrome window trim was added using Bare metal foil. Though the finish is really nice, if I was to do this car again, I would mask the trim and spray it in place, because the foil is soft and very easily damaged

to completion. As with most auto kits, this one is moulded in a number of different colours, white, black, chrome and clear. The three standard colours needing little in the way of explanation. The use of white for the body shell is a most welcome aspect of the kit, all chosen colours being easily applied over the top of such a sensibly neutral plastic. The chrome though, does perhaps need a little further work...

CHROME SWEET CHROME

I have a love-hate relationship with chrome-plated plastic. Though I like the way that it

allows detail to pop, it never really looks that realistic, though admittedly, Tamiya get closer than most. In this case the plating is done well, the surfaces being smooth and seam lines, that *bête noir* of most plated parts, are unobtrusive and hidden in the main. Gluing the parts in place is also a trial, care needing to be taken to ensure that location holes and pins are sized perfectly, especially those on a body shell that subsequently receive details. Here, fit is good enough, but even so I spent time dry-fitting everything until I was happy that the fit was perfect and then used superglue

— carefully — to hold parts in place. You'll also see that every part was reworked with overlaid paint to create a more realistic and some cases, weathered, finish. This is certainly something that I can recommend, those plated parts looking more at home if not used as-is.

Along with the plastic parts, the kit includes some metal items, both etched and turned, the latter dealing with the super-delicate air funnels used on the engine. This is a real bonus in this kit, as they allow a wonderful degree of delicacy to be incorporated within the finished model. Be warned though, the seat straps

are a real trial of patience! Combining those etched buckles with straps that you have to cut out, they certainly caused a few curse words within my workshop, the tiny size of some of the hardware causing more than a little consternation! As it was, I decided that I would do them all in one go, so persevered until each strap was complete and ready to use. By working like this, a system was developed, tools being used to smooth the path to the finish line. They look great once assembled and in place, just be aware that this is certainly the most trying part of this kit's construction! 🎯



Having painted the lower floor with satin black, the interior was masked and then airbrushed with Tamiya Wooden Deck Tan and then the darker areas with Desert Yellow mixed with a little Clear. This created a satin finish that contrasted nicely with the flatter floor, and surrounding panels

❶ WHITE, RED AND BLACK. OR BLUE?

Along with the parts needed to build the kit, the box contains all you need to finish it as well. In terms of basics, Tamiya suggest three different colour schemes that work alongside the two basic interior finishes and then that choice of standard and RS Watanabe wheels. The choices are Cirrus White (TS-26), Gloss Black (TS-14) and Regency Red (TS-8), the interior then being painted in either black, or mixed beige and buff. Each scheme is then trimmed with some superb gold pin striping that really looks gorgeous in place, this trim also being used to decorate the rear fin

that you can decide to use, or in the case of my model, not. Though I liked the choices in the kit, I set out to build something a little different, so hunted for an alternate scheme.

Choices are limited, but given that my favourite colour is French Blue, I was delighted to find a car that was finished in a similar shade, Olympic Blue. In fact, research showed that Europas were finished in a huge number of colours, so you have plenty of additional scope to create something unique. For this build, rather than buy an off-the-shelf colour, I mixed one using Tamiya acrylics, thinned with Mr Color

Leveling Thinner, the paint being applied in thin layers and then one wet coat, all being left for a week to set before sanding smooth and polished with car polish and a soft cloth.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING? INDEED...

Though I like to build model cars, over the years the number that I have completed can be counted on the fingers of two hands. Part of the reason for this is that I've never really settled on a look that I like, and although I admire those that can build and paint perfectly crafted replicas with flawless finishes, I simply don't have the skill to go down that

road. That being so, of late I've tried to recreate cars that look more used, more prototypical if you like, with finishes that reflect their life on the road, warts and all. This model was no different, so although time was spent trying to paint it with a smooth, shiny finish, that was soon dealt a blow thanks to the application of dust and dirt over its lower surfaces and then inside, with washes that impart a feeling of use without it looking like a junkyard dog. Overall, I think that I achieved my aim, the finished model though not perfect, looks to be used, if not entirely, abused! ➤



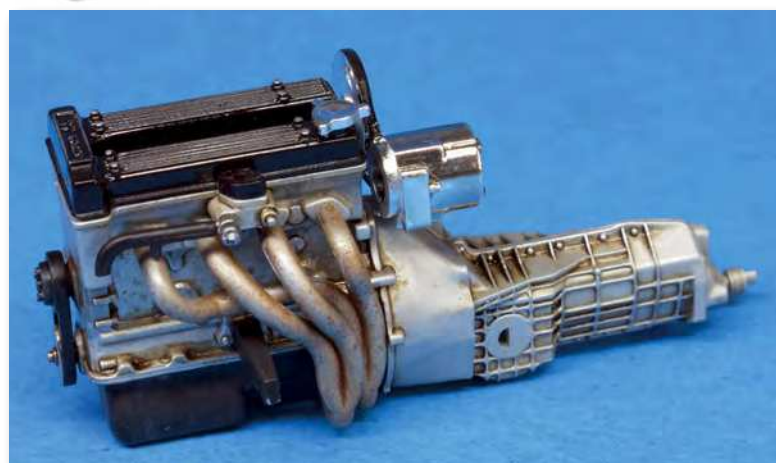
The dashboard is a complex little sub-assembly that needs to be carefully painted to bring out the detail. It was initially airbrushed with XF-55 Wooden Deck Tan and then the different materials hand-painted with Vallejo and AMMO acrylics, wooden for the fascia and then flat black for the plastic surrounds

This is certainly not the neatest finish that I've ever applied to a model, but it looks fine within the car. Decals are supplied for the dials, each one being sealed in place with Clear to create the illusion of glass

The Renault engine is a neat little affair, with fine detail in evidence. Its basic finish is Tamiya LP-38 Flat Aluminium with details picked out using Games Workshop and Vallejo acrylics. Oil paint colour-washes and then AMMO weathering solutions added a neat level of grime around the detail, especially that found on the gearbox



Most of the basic engine components are assembled, painted and weathered. Though little of this detail can be seen within the finished model, I tried to create as detailed a finish as possible. A couple of the parts in this shot were not used on the completed engine, but were painted nonetheless. Hey ho!



With the rocker cover and exhausts in place, this little engine is really starting to come together. The cover is actually finished in chrome in the kit, so needs to be carefully oversprayed with satin black and then the detail drybrushed with chrome to bring it out once more. The exhausts were sprayed with Flat Aluminium and then weathered with rusty oil colours, both washed on and then flicked over the surface of the pipes, each layer being blended in with a soft flat brush



Turned metal parts are supplied for the intake funnels, these being used as-is alongside the etched plate that separates each one from the carburettor

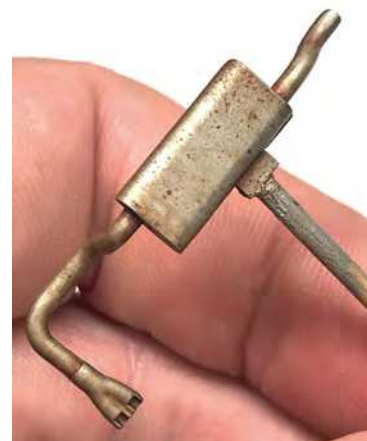


The boot liner, such as it is, was painted satin black, masked and then a metal panel added using Flat Aluminium. Washes of Humbrol Khaki Drill and Dark Earth were applied to impart the illusion of use. I may fill this with junk at some point...

The fuel tanks are finished in chrome. I initially planned to strip and repaint them, but instead elected to weather their surfaces to create the illusion of use. This was done by spraying them with flat varnish, some of which was removed with a cotton bud to replicate the look of chrome that had worn away - very simple, very effective! The surfaces were then weathered using the same ideas used over the exhaust pipes, the results being seen here



Though very little of the exhaust can be seen under the completed model, I had a lot of fun painting and weathering this little fellow!



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With all of the interior detail now in place, this model really is starting to take shape. The lighter interior certainly suits the look of this car and is the one I would desire if I had the money to buy one!



The engine bay is complete. Though I added no additional detail to this model, the look of the engine especially once painted and weathered, is remarkably pleasing



Though I wasn't massively happy with the dashboard, it looks okay once glued in place



The seats were a lot of fun to paint. The same cannot be said of the seat straps each being a very fiddly exercise in careful assembly! The results though look great and certainly repay any frustration you may experience whilst bringing them all together



The underside of the model reveals the weathered exhaust, to be forever hidden once the model was on its wheels!

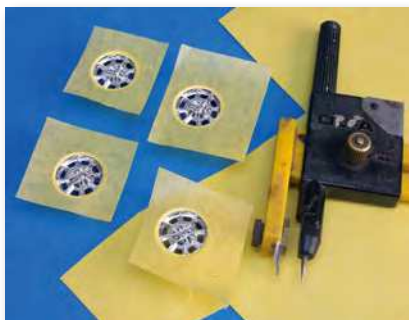


Almost there. Seats in place, all that remains are the door liners and we are ready to fix the body shell in place and complete our model



FINAL THOUGHTS

This is the second classic car that I've built from Tamiya within the last year or so and much like the Honda S600 that I completed last summer, I really enjoyed putting together the kit and painting the results. Of course being Tamiya, you expect it to be simple to build and in the main that proved to be entirely so. Detail is similarly impressive and now once finished, the model looks every inch the Lotus Europa Special that it replicates. ▶



The spoked wheels need to be carefully painted with gunmetal areas between each one. This was done by masking off the hubs, spraying them with Tamiya LP-19 Gun Metal and then removing the paint from the upper edge of each spoke, as seen to the right



As mentioned in the main text, the model was weathered to recreate a car that had been looked after, but had perhaps seen better days



The weathering on the outer surfaces of the body was another step that was remarkably easy to complete, airbrushed layers of dirt (Tamiya Flat Black, Dark Earth and Medium Grey mixed to create a dull dust colour) being sprayed on and then worked away from a cotton bud moistened with white spirit. Oil paints, thinned and flicked on added another layer, with neat oil paint, in this case, AMMO's Starship Filth, being used for the dirt splashes and rainwash



FULL-BUILD: MODERN AUTOMOBILE

TAMIYA 1:24 LOTUS EUROPA SPECIAL ● KIT NO.24358

❶ From a personal point of view though, I'm sure that if I built another, I would do things differently. I've mentioned a number of the things in the captions, that rather scruffy dashboard being a particular bone of personal contention. Though hardly visible within the cabin of the car, the images of it make me wish that I had been more careful with the paintwork and maybe masked and sprayed it, instead of painting the trim and detail by hand. Similarly, the close-up images of the Bare Metal trim around the windows reveal just how easily damaged it is and how many times I've had to repair patches that have worn away. I would definitely use paint for these areas should I build another! And finally, though not visible in the images, there is a patch of paintwork where I was a little heavy-handed with my polishing, partly as a result of the softer acrylics that I used, and partly as a result of inattention. Again, that's something to learn from. Overall though I really enjoyed this project and I am now looking forward to building a small vignette for it to live in. If you are looking for something a little different to build, maybe give one of these cars a go. I'm sure that you won't regret it! ●

Thanks very much to
The Hobby Company
Limited for the sample
built for this feature.

TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:24 LOTUS EUROPA SPECIAL
KIT NO.24358

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, photo-etched metal, self-adhesive fabric, polycaps, machined aluminium, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Acrylics: X-3 Royal Blue, X-14 Sky Blue, X-2 White
- Tamiya Lacquer Paints: LP-38 Flat Aluminium, LP-19 Gun Metal
- Humbrol Enamels: Khaki Drill 72, Dark Earth 29
- Mr Color: Leveling Thinner

Availability:

Tamiya models, accessories, paints and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net



A beautiful example of a Europa at the 'Northern Load Car Festival' in Wakkanai City, Hokkaido, Japan. Photo: 100yen via Creative Commons





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EDUARD, CZECH REPUBLIC

www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

Tamiya's amazing 1:48 F-14A Tomcat gets not one, but two cockpit upgrade sets from Eduard in the form of the resin-cast, pre-painted Löök set which comes with a sheet of photo-etched metal carrying the seat harnesses and ejector pulls. In the 'SPACE' line we have 3D printed decals for the instrument panels and consoles, plus a slightly larger photo-etched set which includes canopy mirrors. Spoilt for choice!

1:72 BRASSIN

- Spitfire Mk.Vc wheels (672249) for Airfix
- Spitfire Mk.Vc exhaust stacks (672250) for Airfix

1:48 BRASSIN

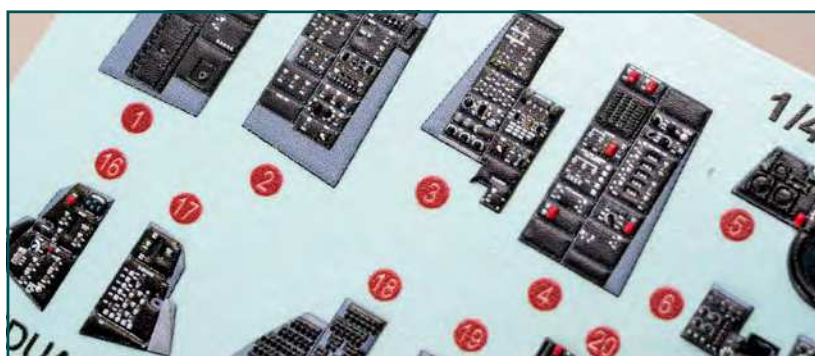
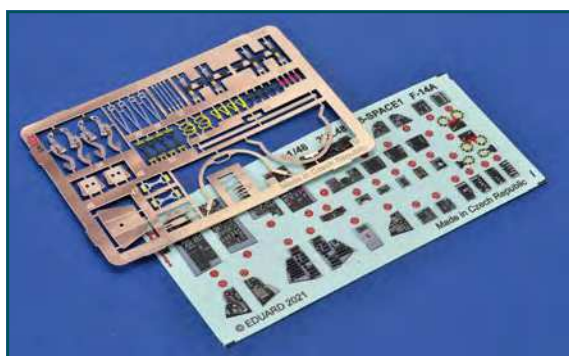
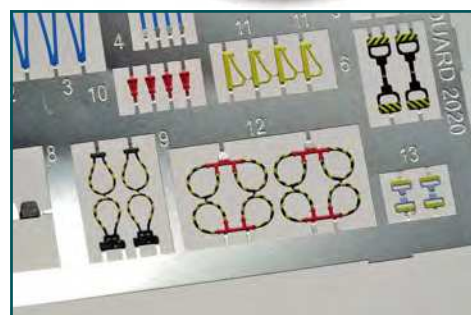
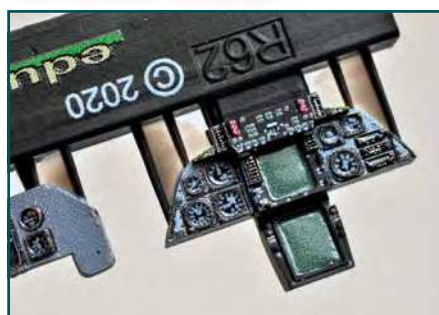
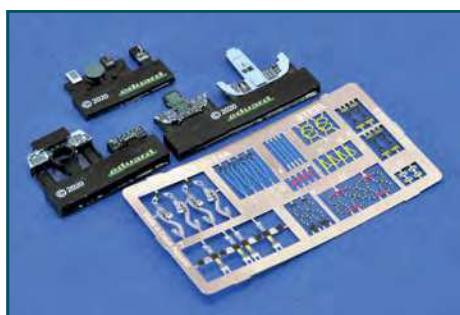
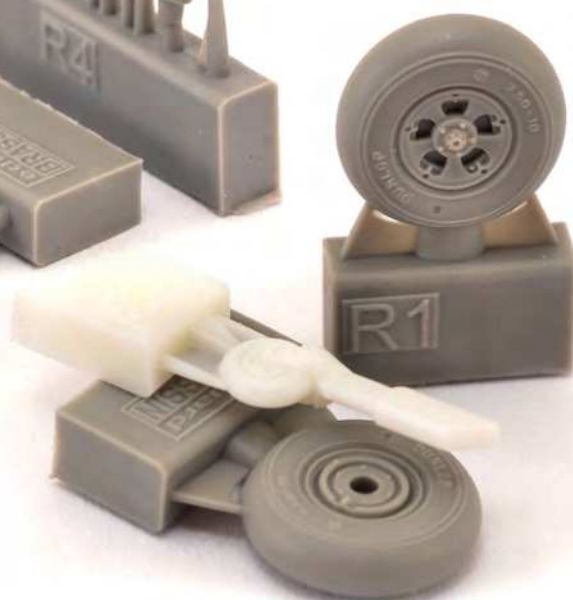
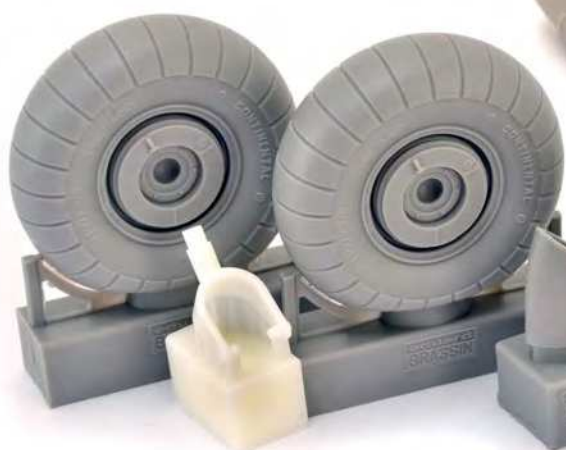
- Bf110G-4 exhaust stacks (648606) for Eduard
- Do17Z wheels (648608) for Eduard/ICM

1:48 LÖÖK

- F-14A (644040) for Tamiya

1:48 SPACE (3D-PRINTED DECALS)

- F-14A (3DI48015) for Tamiya



Accessories

PLASTIC SECTION, F; FABRIC, IM; INJECTION MOULDED (PLASTIC), ITL; INDIVIDUAL TRACK LINKS, LCC; LASER CUT CARD, LLT; LINK AND LENGTH TRACKS, MC; METAL CHAIN, MMA; MACHINED METAL PARTS), PS; PAPER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WD; WATERSLIDE (DECALS), WS; WOODEN STRIP

BRENGUN, CZECH REPUBLIC

www.brengun.cz

Brengun continue their line of drone helicopters with the Bell 407-based MQ-8C, a resin kit with photo-etched details and 3D printed rotorhead. In 1:32 we have a pair of AGM-88 (air-to-ground missile) HARM (high-speed anti-radiation missile) weapons, cast in resin with data-stencil decals and photo-etched brass. In 1:48, a set of eight AGM-114 Hellfire missiles with two racks is on release and in 1:144, a fascinating Mark IV tank converted to an airship tug! Wonderful subject choices as always, with great detail.

1:144

- Mark IV airship tug

1:72

- MQ-8C (Bell 407) full kit (BRS72021)

1:48

- AGM-114 Hellfire missiles X8 on X2 racks (BRL48153)

1:32

- AGM-88 HARM missiles X2 (BRL32043)



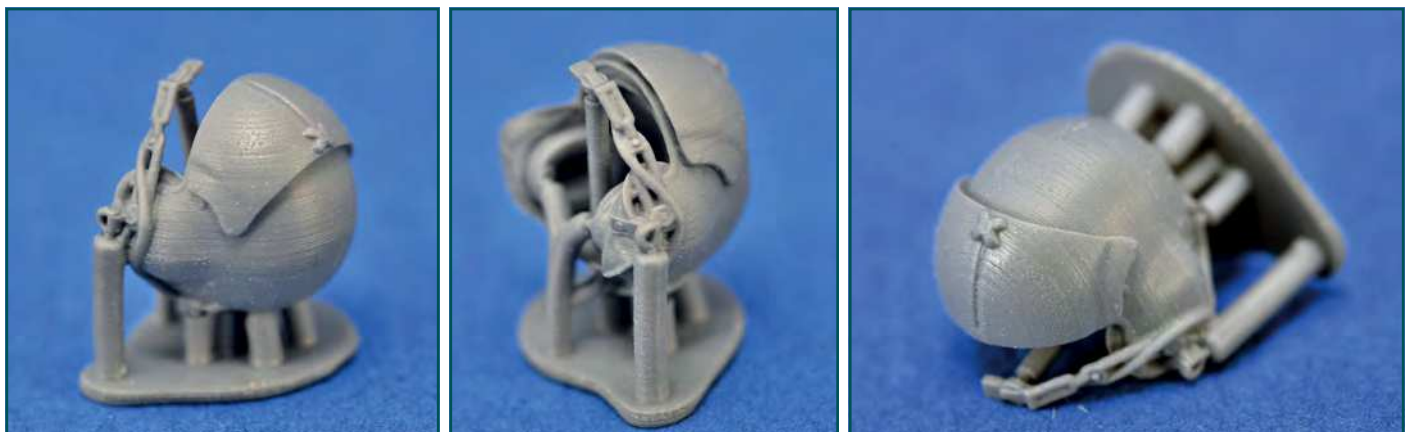
REEDOAK, FRANCE

www.reedoak.com

The French manufacturer Reedoak has been quietly creating some incredible 3D-printed figures and accessories over the last few years and we have received their new 1:32 helmet for review. It depicts the Vietnam War-era US Army helicopter pilot SPH-4 helmet and comes with microphone boom and cabling, plus full internal details. At the magnification of these photos, some faint build-lines can be seen but they will disappear under a coat of primer and a layer of paint and weathering. Astoundingly well detailed and perfect for ICM's new 1:32 AH-1G Cobra kits.

1:32

- Vietnam-era US Army helicopter pilot helmet SPH-4 (RRC320151)



New Releases

The latest photo-etched sets, resin parts, figures and accessories to enhance your scale models...

DEF MODEL, KOREA

www.defmodel.com

New items on release from this top quality Korean accessory maker include a beautifully rendered muzzle-brake cover for Tamiya's M26 Pershing tank, designed in 3D and cast in resin, plus a mantlet cover for the same vehicle, also in resin. For Tamiya's M151A1 Mutt we have two sets of four wheels/tyres (early and civilian-style tyre tread) plus the all-important suspension elements that were missing from Tamiya's kit. Perfect castings and fantastic quality as always and the wheels are 'plug and play'.

1:35

- US M26 Pershing covered muzzle brake (DM35112) for Tamiya
- US M26 Pershing mantlet canvas set 1 (DM35110) for Tamiya
- M151A1 Mutt early sagged wheel set 1 (DW35123) for Tamiya/Academy
- M151A1 Mutt early civilian sagged wheel set 2 (DW35124) for Tamiya/Academy



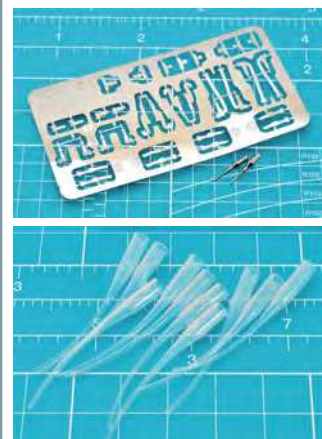
TAMIYA, JAPAN

www.hobbyco.net

Tamiya's sublime 1:48 F-14 Tomcat is the recipient of this modest super-detail set, which comprises harnesses for the twin ejector seats, canopy mirrors and machined metal pitot tubes. Minor but significant detail upgrades. Also new is a set of ten, 2.5mm nozzles for the precise application of CA glue.

1:48

- Grumman F-14 Tomcat Detail Up Parts Set (12693)
- Micro Nozzles for Tamiya CA Cement (87212)



HAULER, CZECH REPUBLIC

www.hauler.cz

Hauler and Brengun come from the same manufacturer, but we have separated them here for clarity. Hauler focuses more on ground-power but here we have a set of eight Hellfire air-to-ground missiles plus their two racks. These can be mounted on a US attack helicopter such as the Cobra in the more military-leaning scale of 1:35. Beautiful detail throughout on these. For small-scale diorama builders, Hauler's new brick-built well (in resin, of course) will be a delightful addition to a bucolic scene.

1:72

- Well (HLH72125)

1:35

- AGM-114 Hellfire missiles (HLU35120)

LIFECOLOR, ITALY

www.airbrushes.com

Italian uniforms from the First World War might not be the most common of modelling topics, but if you need to get the colours just right, Lifecolor have a pack of six, high quality acrylic paints that will help. Arguably, a slightly more in-demand paint set might be Lifecolor's six shades for WW2 United States Navy and United States Marine Corps aircraft. The important colours are all present, in a satin finish.

ITALIAN INFANTRY UNIFORMS WWI (CS50) USN & USMC WWII COLOURS (CS46)



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BRL72209 Morane-Saulnier MS.225 (Heller/Smer kit)

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HOBBYBOSS, CHINA

JACKAL 1 HIGH MOBILITY WEAPONS PLATFORM

www.creativemodels.co.uk

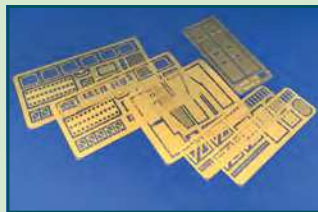
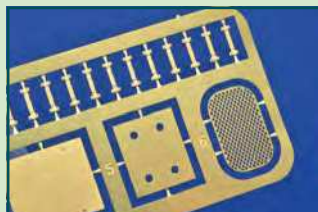
SCALE: 1:49 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, SVT, WS • ITEM NO: 84520

The Jackal or MWMIK (pronounced EmWimmick) or Mobility Weapon-Mounted Installation Kit is a family of vehicles designed and developed by Supacat Ltd at their factory in Honiton, Devon, UK, for use by the British Army and Royal Air Force Regiment. The vehicle is powered by a 185bhp, 5.9-litre Cummins diesel engine and was procured to provide British forces with an off-road patrol and fire-support vehicle with increased performance. On the 8th of April 2008, it was announced that the MWMIK had been deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (Edited from Wikipedia).

Nine substantial sprues of sand-coloured polystyrene, upper and lower body halves, one sprue in clear, five vinyl tyres, a waterslide decal sheet and no less than six frets of photo-etched brass comprise this impressive 2020 release from Hobbyboss. The resultant high parts-count is necessary to accurately replicate the Jackal's complex and exterior and interior structures, most of which are on show thanks to the vehicle's open-roofed design. The suspension builds up from a host of small mouldings and will require some concentration to assemble correctly, but the detail this creates is fantastic. The 'interior' is bustling with detail and again, there are a lot of parts that go into its construction: close following of the instructions will be essential. The end result will be fantastic: the only compromise being the vinyl tyres, but as always, DEF Models have the answer in the form of a set of weighted resin wheels/tyres with greatly improved detail and realism. **TMMI**

+ Great to see a British subject treated so thoroughly and in such fine detail

- Consider a set of DEF Model wheels a must-have item (www.defmodel.com DW35125)



HOBBYBOSS, CHINA

CH-47A CHINOOK

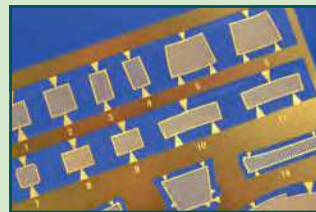
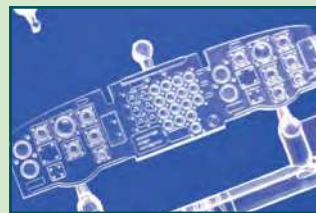
www.creativemodels.co.uk

SCALE: 1:48 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO: 81772

The Chinook needs no introduction here: it must be the most unmistakable helicopter ever made, in both appearance and sound and it has distinguished itself in conflicts worldwide, from the Vietnam War to the present day. It has undoubtedly saved the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of soldiers, whether evacuating the injured or replenishing supplies in combat zones. By this token, any new kit of this extraordinary machine is welcome and when it looks as good as this recent offering from Hobbyboss, the welcome is all the more hearty. The model represents the early CH-47A variant that served in South East Asia and as such, it comes with two decal options for US Army machines during the Vietnam War. The painting/decalling guide does not specify which units these markings represent, so a little research by the modeller will be useful here. The kit's cargo bay interior comes with a detailed floor, covered with tie-down points: the ceiling panel and sidewalls are covered with a quilting pattern so there are no 'bare' areas. Naturally, more can always be added by the enthusiastic modeller with a set of good references to hand, but straight from the box, it's good enough for a quick look inside. Each engine is included and again the builder might wish to add pipework and cables. One big plus factor is the provision of photo-etched parts for the intake filter, a big improvement on moulded mesh effect. **TMMI**

+ Superb subject choice, subtle exterior panel lines and rivets, excellent canopy glazings

- Not a criticism: masses of potential for superdetailing and aftermarket decal-makers



ED PLASTIC SECTION, F; FABRIC, IM; INJECTION MOULDED (PLASTIC), ITL; INDIVIDUAL TRACK LINKS, LC; LIQUID CEMENT, LCC; LASER CUT CARD, LLT; LINK AND LENGTH TRACKS, MC; METAL CHAIN, MMA; MACHINED METAL PARTS, PS; PAPER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WD; WATERSLIDE (DECALS), WS; WOODEN STRIP



AIRFIX, UNITED KINGDOM WESTLAND SEA KING HAR.3/MK.43

www.airfix.com

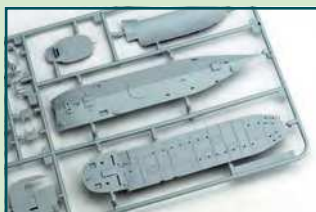
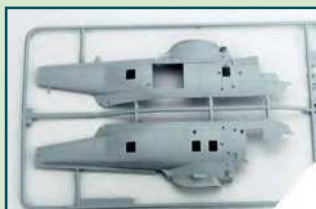
SCALE: 1:72 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO: A04063

The Westland Sea King really is an iconic helicopter. First produced back in 1969, production of the aircraft continued with upgrades

and variations all the way up to 1995. Used all around the world and for different missions, the Westland Sea King really did prove itself to be a reliable and worthy aircraft. Airfix first released this new tooled model back in 2015, initially releasing the HC.4 variant of this vehicle. Skip to 2018 and we now have the HAR.3/Mk.43 version which was a search and rescue aircraft for the Royal Air Force with the Mk.43 being the search and rescue Sea King for the Royal Norwegian Air Force. This kit really did stand out for being one of the nicest moulded kits released by Airfix, everything just seems to be right, panel lines and surface details don't look heavy, and design looks very well thought out. The model features a fully detailed rear compartment with seating and floor details. What puts a lot of modellers off from building helicopters is the large span of the propeller blades, Airfix have thought of that and allowed the modeller to have the propeller blades in the stowed position, not taking up much display space. Along with the stowed propeller blades, the tail can also be in the folded position. The clear parts are clear as crystal, allowing for the modeller to show off all the hard work put into the cockpit and rear compartment. Airfix really have thought of everything with this kit. Let's just hope that there will be a few more versions of this kit on the way from Airfix. **IJT**

+ Very modular design and lots of details on the interior and exterior

- None



DRAGON, CHINA STUG.III AUSF.E NEO SMART KIT

www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO: 6818

The German Sturmgeschütz will be familiar to every military modeller around the world. This particular version, the Ausf.E, was

the last type produced with the short 75mm Stummel gun, and 272 were manufactured between September 1941 and March 1942. This release by Dragon adds to their extensive range of Stugs, and maintains the excellent reputation of the range. In particular, the quality of moulding on this kit is absolutely exceptional, with some of the finest and sharpest detail to be found on any comparable kit. This particular release, termed a NEO Smart Kit, is noteworthy in several respects. The tracks are not the 'rubber band' or individual link style, but instead are 'link and length' with runs of links joined by separate links to conform to curves. This has the advantage of speeding up assembly, but sadly there is a lack of sag that is so often seen on these vehicles. Another feature of this kit is the inclusion of the gearbox and differential as a bonus feature, to add to the fairly complete interior of the fighting compartment. The differentials can be seen if the front hatches are left open. The remaining interior can be seen through the superstructure hatches, and this includes the gun, radios and ammunition stowage. The kit includes basic markings for three vehicles, and some modellers will regret that there is not more variety. Overall, this is an exceptional kit straight from the box, and the quality is mind-blowing. **CLS**

+ Extremely accurate kit, with fantastic detail and moulding quality

- Modellers may wish to bend track lengths to create sag



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ICM, UKRAINE

MARDER 1 ON FCM36 BASE, WW2 GERMAN ANTI-TANK SELF-PROPELLED GUN

www.icm.com.ua

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO: 35339

Hot on the heels of ICM's release of the FCM36 tank, used by the French army to oppose the German invasion in 1940, we now have the version as modified by the Germans and used in Normandy in 1944. The Baukommando Becker, led by a German officer Alfred Becker, built a number of conversions based on captured French vehicles, including ten of the type in this kit. The conversions were largely done over the winter 1943/44, and equipped parts of 21st Panzer Division which defended the Caen area. This particular conversion consisted mounting a 7.5cm Pak 40 on top of the tank chassis, and surrounding it with a massive box structure. The crew had to crouch on a deck, and could not get shelter inside the tank, therefore being very exposed and working in a difficult environment. The kit from ICM uses most of the parts from the FCM36, with additional parts for the conversion. The kit does not include some of the interior detail, such as the radio set, and arguably the model would benefit from a bit of TLC if a modeller wanted to go for the ultimate Marder 1. Some of the weaker parts of the base kit (eg. the tools) are not required, and the new parts give a real sense of the brutal ugliness of the conversion. The tracks consist of lengths of flexible plastic material which can be glued – although muck of the track is hidden on this vehicle. A set of paints is included in the box. **CLS**

-  A very unique vehicle, used in small numbers in Normandy to oppose D-Day
-  The interior lacks some details of stowage and equipment.



ITALERI, ITALY

PANZERJÄGER 1

www.hobbyco.net

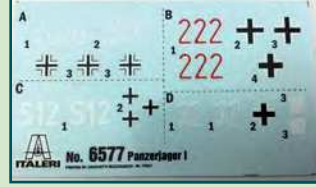
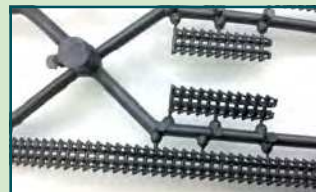
SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO: 6577

The Panzerjäger 1 was an excellent attempt to combine the effective but already outdated Panzer 1 chassis with the Czech 4.7cm anti-tank gun which became available after the Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia in 1938. There were two batches produced – 132 in the first batch which were in time for the invasion of France in 1940, and 70 produced between November 1940 and February 1941. These batches had different shields, and the kit provides the later style with seven sides – suitable for action in North Africa and the Eastern Front, but not for France in May 1940.

The original kit from Italeri dates from the end of the 1990's, but has been upgraded with an etch set to vastly improve the rear hull mesh and the screen around the exhaust. The basic kit is very sound, with good detail and easy construction, but in some respects is showing its age. Along with the single-piece flexible tracks which are glueable, this release would provide a quick model that provides the modeller with an excellent basis for further detail. In particular, the open interior would benefit from extra details if desired, but the kit is perfectly adequate if built from the box.

Because this is the later version, the box art and one of the decal options would not be correct, but the kit would make a great model set in the desert of North Africa or the frozen waste of Russia in 1941. **CLS**

-  Quick and easy construction of a late-batch vehicle.
-  One decal option is not appropriate for this kit.



ED PLASTIC SECTION, F; FABRIC, IM; INJECTION MOULDED (PLASTIC), ITL; INDIVIDUAL TRACK LINKS, LC; LIQUID CEMENT, LCC; LASER CUT CARD, LLT; LINK AND LENGTH TRACKS, MC; METAL CHAIN, MMA; MACHINED METAL PARTS), PS; PAPER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WD; WATERSLIDE (DECALS), WS; WOODEN STRIP



REVELL, GERMANY A-34 COMET MK.I

www.revell.de

SCALE: 1:76 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO: 03317

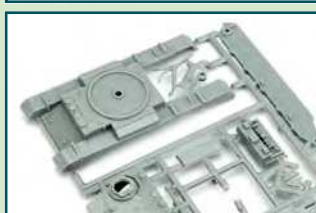
Sometimes, all you that is wanted from a model kit is to be a simple build with a small part count. Revell have answered that call with this release of the A-34 Comet MK.I British world war two tank, and not only have they provided the modeller with a small replica of the vehicle but they have also provided a detailed base for model to be displayed on, nice touch Revell. The kit is presented in a side opening cardboard box with some splendid artwork depicting the tank in a battle. The kit comes out of the box in a plastic bag which contains two grey plastic sprues and a set of rubber band tracks. For the scale, the details are sharp and crisp. The main hull features details such as moulded on towing cables, bolts, and hatch hinges. It is also refreshing to see a one piece moulded main gun barrel. Wheels, thought there are many, are all beautifully moulded and feature nice bolt head details on each wheel. The modeller is provided with the option to make this model with two different camouflage patterns. An overall dark green camouflage and a green and desert yellow camouflage are options from the box. Revell have really done well to put this nice little package together that can be displayed on its very own little base. These are the kits that are great for introducing new modellers to this wonderful hobby. **IJT**



Included display base and crisp details



Rubber band tracks



REVELL, GERMANY M109A6

www.revell.de

SCALE: 1:76 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO: 03331

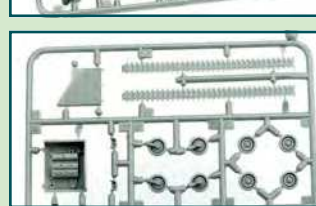
If there is one modelling subject in the armour family that is becoming more popular with time, it is the Howitzer. In the year 2020 Revell released the M109A6 Howitzer, a vehicle that has a very long service history and something that many modellers have been waiting for, for a while. The M109 Howitzer first saw service in The Vietnam War. Nicknamed the "Paladin" this vehicle has seen service with many nations, including the USA and NATO. This kit comes in a side opening box, bagged, and includes four grey plastic sprues. Some areas that jumped out straight away was the turret section, with individual hatches that can be modelled opened or closed and even included moulded anti-slip texture on walkways, impressive for the scale. The turret and main gun can be positioned and moved after the model is complete so that it can be displayed in whatever position the modeller sees fit. The main gun barrel and breach is all single piece moulded. The modeller should not have a hard time with the running gear due to their clean moulding and simplistic design. Link and length tracks are way that Revell chose to design the track system on this kit, a good choice due to the natural sag that the tracks would have on the real vehicle. This looks to be a super little release from Revell once again. **IJT**



None



One decal option is not appropriate for this kit.



KIT PREVIEW

REVELL 1:24 PORSCHE 911 G MODEL COUPÉ ● KIT NO.07688



AN ALL-NEW NEUN-ELFER!

Revell have an all-new Porsche 911 on the way, and it looks superb

The 'G' model of the 911 is considered by many Porsche cognoscente to be the purest expression of the car: built from 1973 to 1989 with a total of nearly 198,500 made, it encapsulates all the iconic features of design. Revell have created all-new moulds for this 2021 release and from an inspection of the kit's parts courtesy of Revell UK (this is a test-shot and is thus subject to change before its production release) we can say we are impressed. The model depicts a 1984 car and comes with a fully detailed engine, very nicely detailed from top to bottom and including the intake manifold with its intake duct and air filter, individually moulded cooling fan and drive-belt plus an excellent

representation of the exhaust system. The suspension is depicted in detail too, with steerable front wheels and lovely replicas of the classic Fuchs wheels.

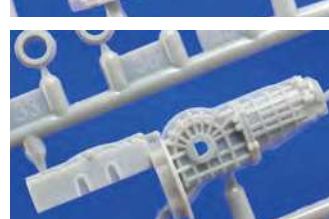
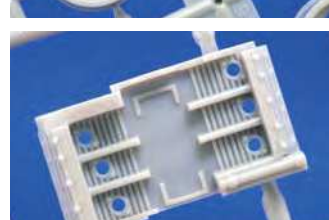
In the cabin we are offered the choice of a left or right-hand drive dashboard and foot pedal positions: a pair of small location holes in the cabin floor must be opened up for either option, so don't forget to drill them out before assembling this area! The interior is well detailed with excellent miniatures of the seats and hand controls. We didn't have the decals yet for this preview, but the instructions show each dashboard dial is represented by an individual marking, a nice touch.

Hopefully it comes across in the photos here, but

Revell have done a superb job of capturing the outline of the body, crucial to the success of any car model. It looks spot-on from all angles which is extremely encouraging. Revell are also to issue the gorgeous Targa version of this universally desirable sports car and together, they will look great in one's display case. ●



Revell models are widely available from good model shops and online. www.revell.de/en



www.creativemodels.co.uk

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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Everybody has that one subject that tickles their fancy more than any other and for me that is the Fw190. I built several Tamiya Wurgers but steered clear of the previous tooling of Eduard '190s due to their complexity. When they announced a simplified new tool I was thrilled and couldn't wait to try my hand at one. I've been wanting to do 'White 6' from JG300 with its late war patchwork look for quite some time, and here was the perfect opportunity.

Roy Sutherland of Barracuda Studios released his Cockpit Snapshot Upgrade set and it was just the nudge I needed to get this thing on the bench. I love these snapshot sets as they add a lot of detail and interest to the cockpit with minimal work compared to a full resin cockpit. The cockpit was painted up with Tamiya acrylics, details picked out with Vallejo, and a few Airscale placard decals added for extra interest. ▶

LATE WAR WURGER

Jason Brewer applies some subtle but effective up-detailing to Eduard's superb 1:48 Fw190A-8



FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO AXIS AVIATION

EDUARD 1:48 FW190A-8 ● KIT NO.82147

The BarracudaCast Cockpit Snapshot Upgrade is an excellent way to add a lot of detail in the most important areas without all the work involved in a full resin cockpit

- ❶ Assembly was straightforward and pain free. The only issue I had was needing to add a small shim of plastic card between the lower wing and bottom of the rear fuselage. So much better than the previous tool Eduard Fw190s! I added BarracudaCast exhaust and wheels for some extra accuracy and detail and replaced the spinner/prop with one from Ultracast. The spinner was designed for the Hasegawa kit so some modification was necessary, but it was worth the effort. I also opted to replace the kit sliding canopy with a spare from Tamiya because it's more accurately shaped.

The Ultracast spinner required some modification to fit, but was worth the effort for the extra accuracy and detail

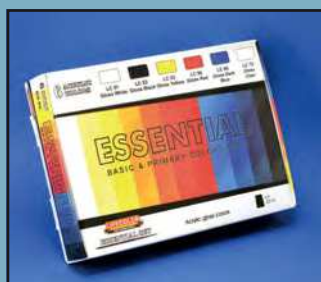
The cockpit painted up looks the part! Shame so much of it is hidden on the finished model with Fw190s

Mini Review...

LIFECOLOR ESSENTIAL BASIC AND PRIMARY COLORS SET 3 (ES03)

www.airbrushes.com

Here we have six bottles of acrylic paints in basic primary colours, which is actually an extremely useful thing to have in this age of hundreds of varied shades of olive drab, dark yellow and others. All are gloss finishes which adds extra versatility: you can easily turn a gloss paint to matt, but not vice-versa. White, Black, Yellow, Red Dark Blue and Clear are provided.



Paint was next, and I've been using the new AK Interactive Real Colors paints lately. These spray as easily as Tamiya Acrylics and dry to a nice satin finish like Mr Color lacquer without the smelly fumes. The RLM shades are spot on to my eye, they are my new favourite paints. The major markings were all sprayed on with custom masks from Miracle Paint Masks. I used the

cowl emblem decal from the spares box plus BarracudaCast's stencil decals.

Weathering was minimal since this plane was likely to have seen little service, so I limited myself to some minor scratching and chipping plus subtle colour-washes with AMMO's Panel Line Wash. Exhaust stains were always prominent so I didn't hold back there. The final finish was AK's Matt

Varnish which dulls things down but still leaves a nice sheen that doesn't hide the highlights and shadows on the curves and bulges of the airframe. Eduard's new tool Fw190 family is fantastic and I look forward to building many more. I certainly have plenty on my to-do list, and I'm stashing away many kits in the closet! ●



AK Real Colors were used for all of the paint work and the markings were sprayed with custom masks from Miracle Paint Masks

Decalced, colour-washed, weathered, matt cleared and ready for final assembly

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO AXIS AVIATION

EDUARD 1:48 FW190A-8 ● KIT NO.82147

TECHSPEC...

EDUARD 1:48 FW190A-8 KIT NO.82147

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, photo-etched metal, waterslide decals

Paint Used:

- Tamiya Acrylics, AK Real Colors, Vallejo Model Color,
- AMMO of Mig: Panel Line Wash
- AK-Interactive: Matt Varnish

Accessories used:

- BarracudaCast: Cockpit Snapshot, exhaust, wheels, stencils
- Ultracast: spinner/prop
- Master: gun barrels
- Miracle Paint Masks
- Airscale: cockpit placards
- Airbrush used:
- Iwata HP-B Plus

Other items used:

- Tamiya: Extra Thin Liquid Cement, Masking Tape
- AK Interactive: Modelling Grey Putty
- AMMO by Mig: Ultra Glue
- Sprue-cutters, tweezers, cyanoacrylate glue, Future floor polish

Availability:

- Eduard models and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. www.creativemodels.co.uk
- www.eduard.com
- BarracudaCast: www.barracudacasts.com
- Ultracast: www.ultracast.ca
- Master: www.master-model.pl
- Iwata: www.airbrushes.com
- AMMO by Mig: www.migjimenez.com
- AK Interactive: www.ak-interactive.com
- Miracle Paint Masks: www.miraclemasks.webs.com
- Airscale: www.airscale.co.uk



“The RLM shades are spot on to my eye, they are my new favourite paints...”





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FULL-BUILD: WW2 AXIS ARMOUR CONVERSION PROJECT

DRAGON 1:35 IJA TYPE 97 MEDIUM TANK CHI-HA EARLY PRODUCTION ● KIT NO.6870 (BASE KIT)



If a model is not available... make one! This article will describe my journey on combining scratch-building with some simple modifications to a commercial kit, to create a unique vehicle in Japan's desperate last days of World War 2. While one of the major Axis Powers in World War 2, Japan did not embrace the potential of armoured warfare as other combatants did in terms of effective designs or manufactured numbers. This misjudgment was due in part, to the early adoption of armoured vehicles purely in the role of infantry support

as opposed to direct tank or anti-tank engagements. As a result, there were no suitable hulls available when it became necessary to develop effective large calibre self-propelled gun (SPG).

Japan did deploy SPGs, albeit in limited numbers during WW2 (eg., the 75mm Type 1) compared to her allies such as Germany's Nashorn or Italy's Semovente SPGs. With the need to effectively oppose heavier Allied armour, there was experimentation with larger calibre self-propelled vehicles. As the war neared a potential invasion of the

home islands, the Japanese Navy developed one such vehicle that went beyond the drawing board - the Imperial Japanese Navy's 120mm SPG in April 1945.

Given the designation "Long Barrel Navy 12cm Self-propelled Gun Carrier", this SPG mounted a Naval Type 10 120mm gun onto the venerable Type 97 Chi-Ha chassis. This gun was a proven anti-aircraft weapon already used aboard IJN Cruisers, and was a reliable coastal defence weapon. The crew consisted of five men: commander, driver, loader, and two gun

crew. The gun could elevate 20 degrees, and decline to -10 degrees, although the recoil would no doubt be an "experience" for the crew on this small hull, particularly if fired broad-side! Speed was very slow at a maximum of 25mph due to the excessive weight of the gun. Only one was built and deployed with the Yokosuka Special Naval Landing Force. The fate of this vehicle is unknown. There is only one photo I have seen of this vehicle, which is widely on the internet if you google "Naval 120mm Chi Ha". (chi ha 12cm SPG) ●

DESPERATE MEASURES AS THE SUN IS SETTING

Harvey Low converts Dragon's 1:35 Type 97 Chi-Ha
into an esoteric late-war IJN 120mm gun carrier



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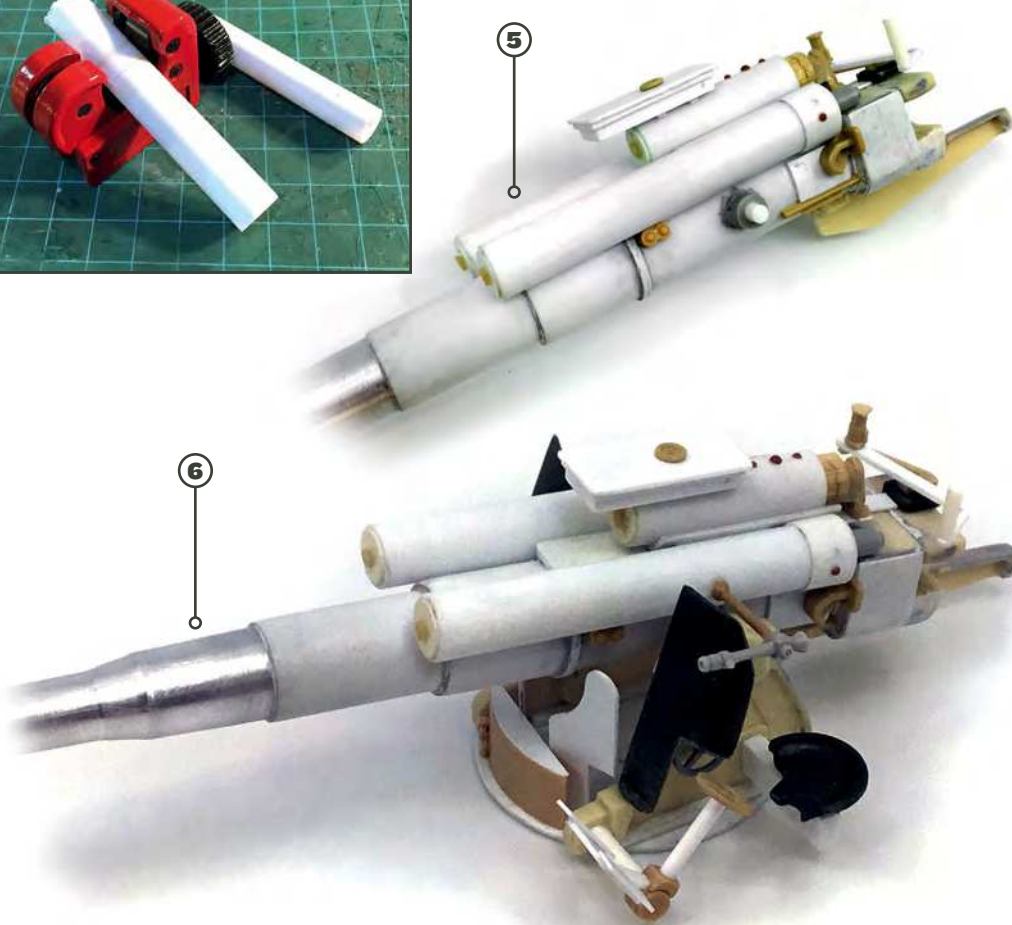


THE KIT(S)

Only one kit of this single SPG exists – the equally rare 1:35 resin conversion kit from Yellow Cat. This kit is hard to find, but still comes up on auction sites from time-to-time (photo 1). Shapeways currently makes 1:72 and 1:35 3D-printed models of the Type 10 gun, which could be mated onto a Chi-Ha hull, but I still prefer working with styrene. Otherwise no other injection or resin kits exist. Due to the rarity of the Yellow Cat kit and its rather soft details, it was decided to use a 'borrowed' Yellow Cat kit as a basis to instead replicate the details by scratch-building the necessary parts onto Dragon's Type 97 Chi-Ha in 1:35.

MAIN GUN SUB-ASSEMBLY

I started with the main gun sub-assembly itself, given it was the most complex part of this project, and if done right would set the mojo for the rest of the model. Some specifications on the gun are important in knowing how to model it. The barrel itself was held in a sleeved cradle mounted on a pedestal which permitted a full 360° traverse. The gun used a hydro-spring recoil mechanism attached to the sleeve cradle, with three



Mini Review...



EDUARD BRASSIN 1:72 C-130 WHEELS/TYRES (672263)
www.creativemodels.co.uk
www.eduard.com



Zvezda's recently-released 1:72 Lockheed C-130H Hercules is a magnificent model kit but as good as it is, there is always room for improvement. Eduard stepped in with sheets of photo-etched brass details and now there's a set of beautifully detailed, weight wheels/tyres. Very highly recommended.



large recoil cylinders located on top of the breech with the two outside cylinders housing the recoil springs and the centre cylinder housing the hydraulic recuperator. The elevating hand-wheel was on the right side of the seated gunner, while the traversing hand-wheel was on the left side.

Work began on the central gun pedestal, which was made using .030" (0.75mm) styrene sheet, cut using Shadow Hobby's Thinner Line Circle Cutter. You can also use an Olfa Rotary Cutter, but the Shadow Cutter is much more accurate and a sturdier cutting platform (**photo 2**). Another circular styrene part was made from .020" sheet, representing the outer guiding ring surrounding the gun pedestal. Rivets were added to this ring using sixteen .030" Tichy Train Group sized bolts (#8019). As a tip, the easiest method I use to make circles from sheet styrene, is to scribe the circle outline using the cutter, (scribing is necessary due the thickness of the plastic) and then scribing several random radiating cuts which will make it easier to assist in the breaking-away of excess plastic leaving circle part remaining. The pedestal has a rod underneath it that is inserted through the hull top and secured by a locking part to allow the pedestal to rotate freely (**photo 3**).

BIG BARREL

The main gun was scratchbuilt as the Yellow Cat details were too soft, while missing key details of the Type 10 gun. The resin barrel that came in the Yellow Cat kit was pretty much useless due to the uneven diameter and warpage of the barrel. The barrel was the only commercial after-market part used on the gun, with it being replaced with a metal barrel from Magic Models 122mm barrel for the ISU122 (#A-19S). The forward part of the breech was made from two inter-leaved styrene tubes from Evergreen Styrene #232 and #234, with the gun itself inserted into the end of the smaller tube

and re-enforced with tiny circular parts (1:72 wheels from spares box!), to ensure a strong join given the uneven weight caused by the metal barrel. These are some things one must think about when working with different materials of different weight! (**photo 4**).

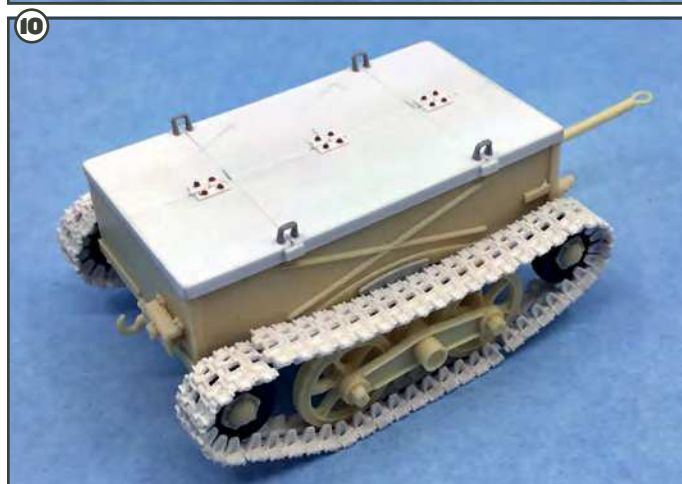
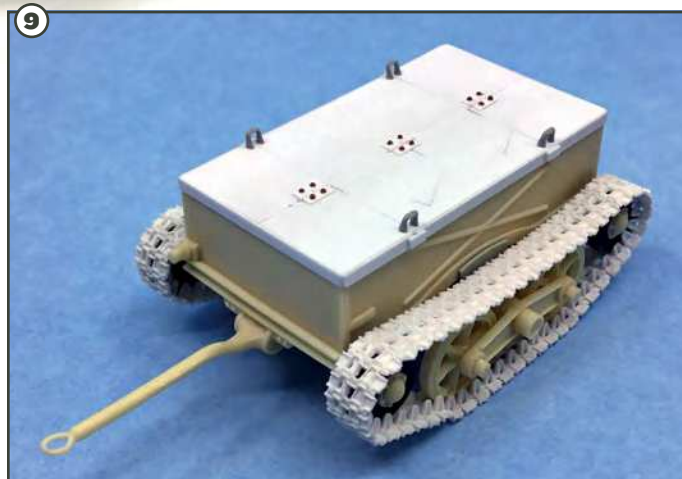
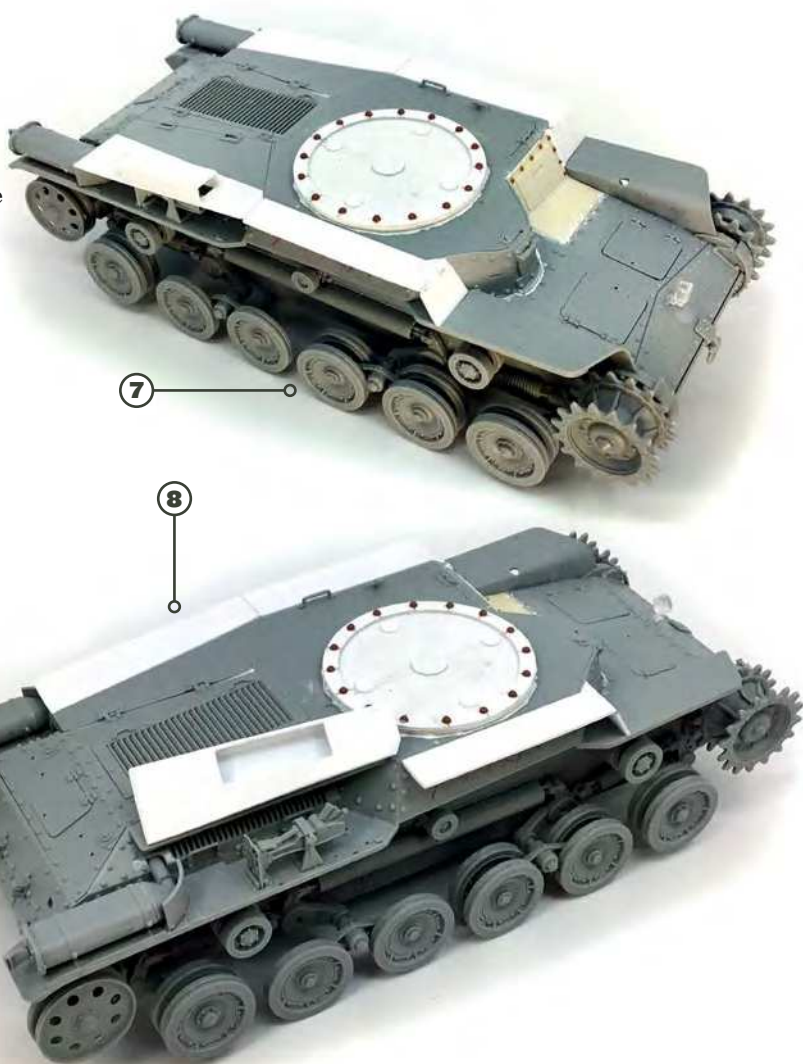
The breech was sandwiched with slightly smaller tubing for the top hydraulic recuperator, and two side tubes for the counter recoil springs (Evergreen #227 and #228). The top recuperator tube #227 required another sheath at the rear, made from .010" styrene, glued and held in place with a tube cutter. (**photo 5**). The breech's rear portion was made from square blocks of styrene, with scratch-built details and some 'gizmology' from the spares box. The cradles were re-cast in resin with added styrene details such as bolt details, and additional framing.

Final details include the loader's platform bracket, yoke locking device, hand wheels and sighting scope, which were a combination of scratch-built and gizmology from the spares box. It should be noted that the gun also elevates by use of polycaps where the barrel attaches to the cradle sides, along with counter weights hidden in the breech and cradle, to compensate for the length and weight of the metal barrel. The final gun/barrel modifications are reflected in **photo 6**.

HULL DOWN

While not as complex as the main gun to build, there are required modifications to the Dragon Chi-Ha hull. The turret was obviously not needed as the 12cm gun platform took its place (save that turret to the spares box!). Since the hull machine gun, radio equipment, and other interior pieces were stripped to accommodate internal ammunition storage, the hull modifications were straightforward using the Yellow Cat kit parts as a guide for dimensions:

1: The hull coaxial machine



FULL-BUILD: WW2 AXIS ARMOUR CONVERSION PROJECT

DRAGON 1:35 IJA TYPE 97 MEDIUM TANK CHI-HA EARLY PRODUCTION ● KIT NO.6870 (BASE KIT)

1: The gun area was replaced with a re-cast resin flat cover with vision port. Rivets were added from Tichy .025" bolts (\$8018).

2: Due to the size of the gun mounted atop the tank's deck, a bigger working-area for the gun crew was necessary. Three deck platform extensions were added along with two front armoured enclosures, all made from .020" styrene sheet.

3: A fourth platform extension with a raised box to accommodate the height if the jack when lowered, was built on the vehicle's right-rear side, and displayed in the raised position. Hinges were made from photo-etch and small styrene rod.

4: All rear towing cables on the Chi-Ha were omitted, but smaller details were added such as the tiny Anchor (taken from 1/700 IJN Ships anchor part); and new tools and brackets added near the jack location.

The hull modifications are reflected in **photos 7 and 8**.

AMMUNITION TRAILER

Although the shells were stored inside the vehicle itself, I made an assumption that a standard Japanese ammunition trailer might have been used. The Type 94 Tankette Trailer from Mr. Modellbau (Kit #35323) was used. It was built mostly out-of-box, with the only modifications being as follows:

1: A postulated top-lid and hinges that was scratch-built.

2: New towing bar from .080" (Evergreen #212) styrene rod.

3: New drive sprockets/idlers from the spares box.

4: Bolt detail and tow hook added.

5: Handles were from the spares box.

6: Replacement of the Mr. Modellbau resin tracks (which were of such poor quality), with narrowed-down tracks from Techmod's Track Link Set for T40, T60, and T70. While not accurate, I decided it was better to take this option rather than a display a questionable set of tracks on the model.

The trailer modifications are reflected in the **photos 9 and 10**.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

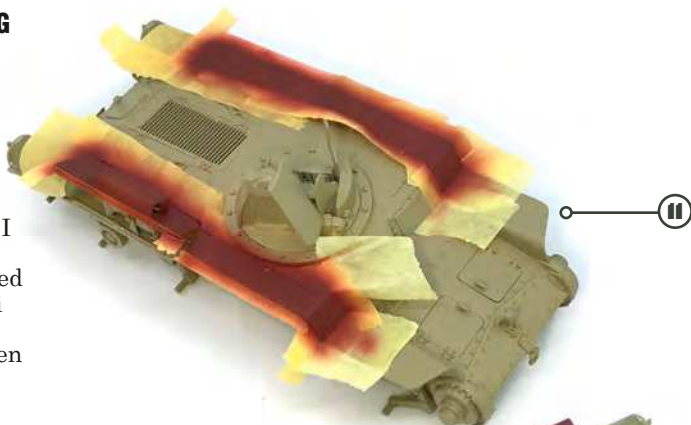
This tank was painted in olive green (the exact shade is unknown). It was not painted in Navy Grey or camouflaged with any known pattern, and no information was available as to the undercoat colour. I hypothesised that the olive green may have been applied over an earlier Army khaki tan base colour, but this is my artistic assumption given no other information.

I first primed the model with Tamiya Fine Surface Primer White right out of the spray can - necessary given the different materials used on this model. After the primer and some seam issue corrections, I gave the model a coat of Tamiya Dark Yellow TS-3. The deck expansion plates were airbrushed in a primer red-brown (Tamiya Hull Red XF-9), if only to add interest (**photos 11, 12**). Since I wanted the green to appear distressed and interesting, I used the hairspray technique to distress the deck area of the vehicle. The hairspray was applied using L'Oreal Studio Silk & Gloss in two light coats right from the can.

Once dry for a few hours, the olive green is applied over the hairspray using Tamiya's Nato Green XF-67, adding black and white to create a lighter tone and darker shade (**photo 13**) for a modulated effect. I let this layer dry for about 20 minutes or so, and then "have at it" with a wet stiff brush to simulate wear. Tip: To ensure easy distress of the top colour, I thinned the top paint coat with some Tamiya Retarder to slow the drying time and thus make it easier to distress!

An enamel filter (MIG Green Filter #1508) was used to tone down the contrast along with mist coats of Nato Green followed by an oil-wash of Winsor Newton Raw Umber #884. The effect makes the base less drastic and ready for final weathering with a protective coat of Model Master Acrylic Semi-Gloss (4637).

The vehicle served in the home islands and never saw actual combat. Consequently I kept the weathering modest. The only area where I concentrated most of the





weathering was on the hull deck where crew operated the gun, and the lower running gear. Weathering consisted of four enamel washes and three powder pigments varying from light to darker colours. Finally, the fantastic AMMO by Mig Shaders were used to tighten up the colour depth. These Shaders are pre-mixed and sprayed right from the airbrush to provide a very subtle glaze effect that does not alter the original colours. They are excellent! (photo 14)

As for the gun, close examination of the period photo has led me to believe that the barrel was a different colour with what appears to be some camouflage on the barrel itself. Since the gun was removed from a ship, I concluded that it was painted in Navy Gray (Tamiya IJN Yokosuka Gray XF-91), and may have been camouflaged with a dark green (or brown) colour I again used Tamiya Nato Green XF-67 for the barrel's camouflage. These tanks were devoid of any markings with the exception of the license plate which was taken from the Chi Ha decal sheet as a 'filler' having no other knowledge of the actual plate number. For operational effectiveness, the gun had almost no weathering except modulation and a wash of Raw Umber.

THE TRAILER

This was painted in a base of Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60 lightened with a bit of white. It is weathered slightly differently than the vehicle consisting of two filters, three washes, and three powder pigments varying from light to dark. (trailer filters, trailer

16



17

18

Here we see the various products used in the painting and weathering of the SPG and its trailer



FULL-BUILD: WW2 AXIS ARMOUR CONVERSION PROJECT

DRAGON 1:35 IJA TYPE 97 MEDIUM TANK CHI-HA EARLY PRODUCTION ● KIT NO.6870 (BASE KIT)

❶ weathering products) The final detailed painting was done as follows:

1: The rubber-rimmed wheels were hand-brushed with Panzer Aces Dark Rubber (#306) – an excellent paint that leaves no brush marks. (photo 15).

2: The tracks were sprayed Maroon TS-11, pre-modulated with random vibrant colours, and then blended with washes and pigment powders, leaving the underlying vibrant

pattern slightly showing through thus giving some colour interest to otherwise mundane dark brown tracks! MIG Dark Steel powder added the final metal wear effect (photos 16, 17).

3: The Jack was painted with AK Japanese Brown.

4: The muffler/exhaust was weathered with Dragon Weathering Powders with the screen airbrushed with MIG AMMO Shader Light Rust.

5: Brass shells are from RB Products 122mm ISU-122 rounds (35P29), coated with Model Master Flat.

6: The rear reflector on the trailer is from MV Lenses and over-coated Model Master Flat Clear to off-set the gloss then weathered along with the rest of the trailer

The finished model is reflected in the accompanying photos. All in all, this project was a worthy effort, in order to have a

unique one-of-a-kind model of a one-of-a-kind vehicle in my collection of 1:35 Japanese WW2 Armour! I hope you enjoy this model as much as I did making it. ●

Dragon models and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net



I have not found any publication on this vehicle and only in grateful input from Japanese Armour expert 'Taki' and his web page on Imperial Japanese Army vehicles at TAKI (plala.or.jp)



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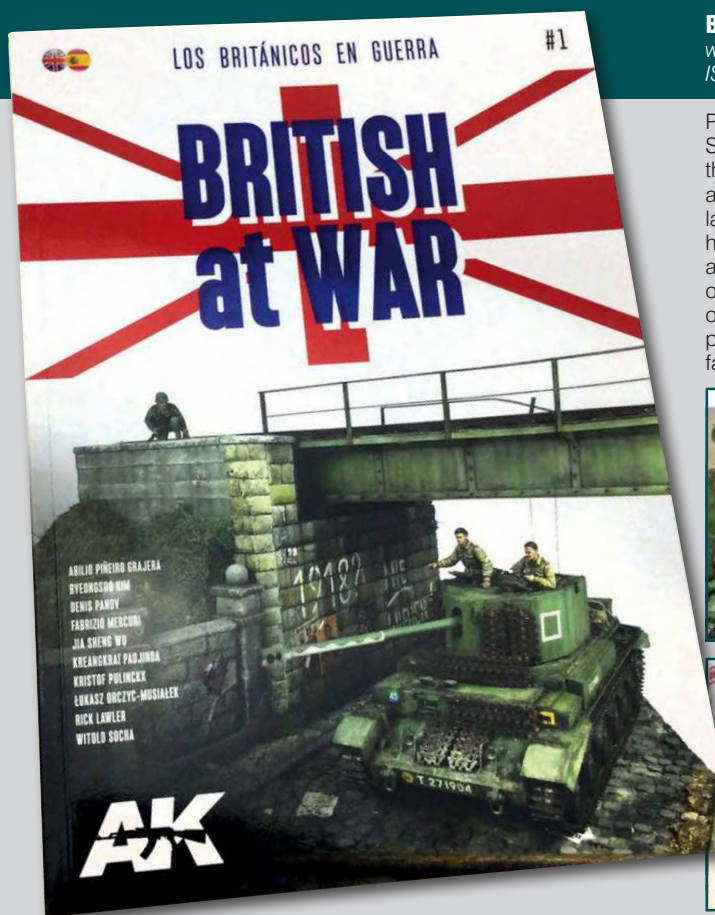
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BRITISH AT WAR (LOS BRITÁNICOS EN GUERRA) #1

www.ak-interactive.com
ISBN: 8435568314443

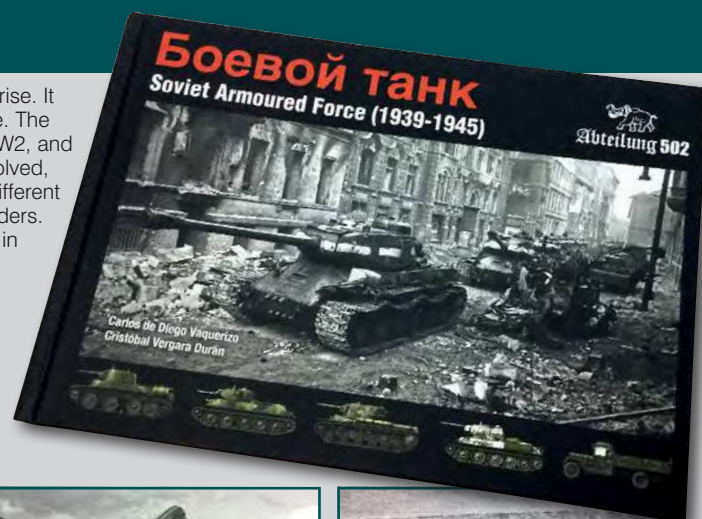
Printed at A4 size, this 168-page softback book is in English and Spanish, and essentially uses extremely clear photography to illustrate the work of ten military modellers. In each case the modeller shows how a vignette came together, in much the style seen in magazines, but with larger and very clear photographs. The ten respected authors show how they painted, finished and weathered their models, and this will be an inspiration for the reader to produce something similar. In addition, other models by each writer are showcased, to illustrate a wider range of subjects. The vehicles are all British, and there is a second volume planned to continue this theme. Overall, this is a great source of ideas for fans of British armour – or indeed for any military modeller. **CLS**



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This 130-page landscape hardback book by Vaquerizo and Durán is a real surprise. It looks like so many other similar publications, but turns out to be a real goldmine. The aim of the book is to chart the use of armour by the Soviet forces throughout WW2, and it does this very successfully, with information about particular actions, units involved, and the strategies employed. The book also covers the production of tanks in different factories and generally gives a great overview that will satisfy the majority of readers. There are colour side profiles throughout, and the artwork is extremely accurate in showing the actual appearance of weathered colour schemes. These are some of the best profiles available. However, the absolute marvel of this book is the selection of photos throughout. Each picture has been chosen for the quality of focus and detail, unlike the somewhat fuzzy photos in some other books. The images are full of interest, and provide the reader with a lot of ideas for models and dioramas. The text is very readable, and despite being translated from Spanish, it contains only a few technical errors or proofreading slips. Overall, this book is frankly unexpectedly good and is definitely a 'must-have' for anyone interested in WW2 armour and history. Very highly recommended. **CLS**



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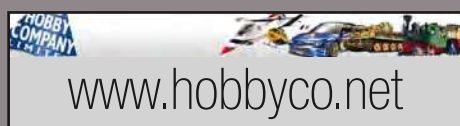


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AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD

Kinetic's 1:48 AV-8A Harrier in USMC colours



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Italeri's 1:9 Triumph 3HV gets a makeover



ESCAPE TO THE GARAGE

Tamiya 1:12 cars and bikes lurk in a collector's garage

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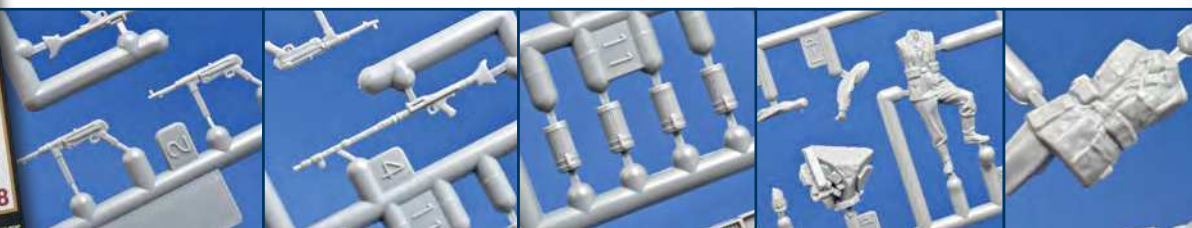
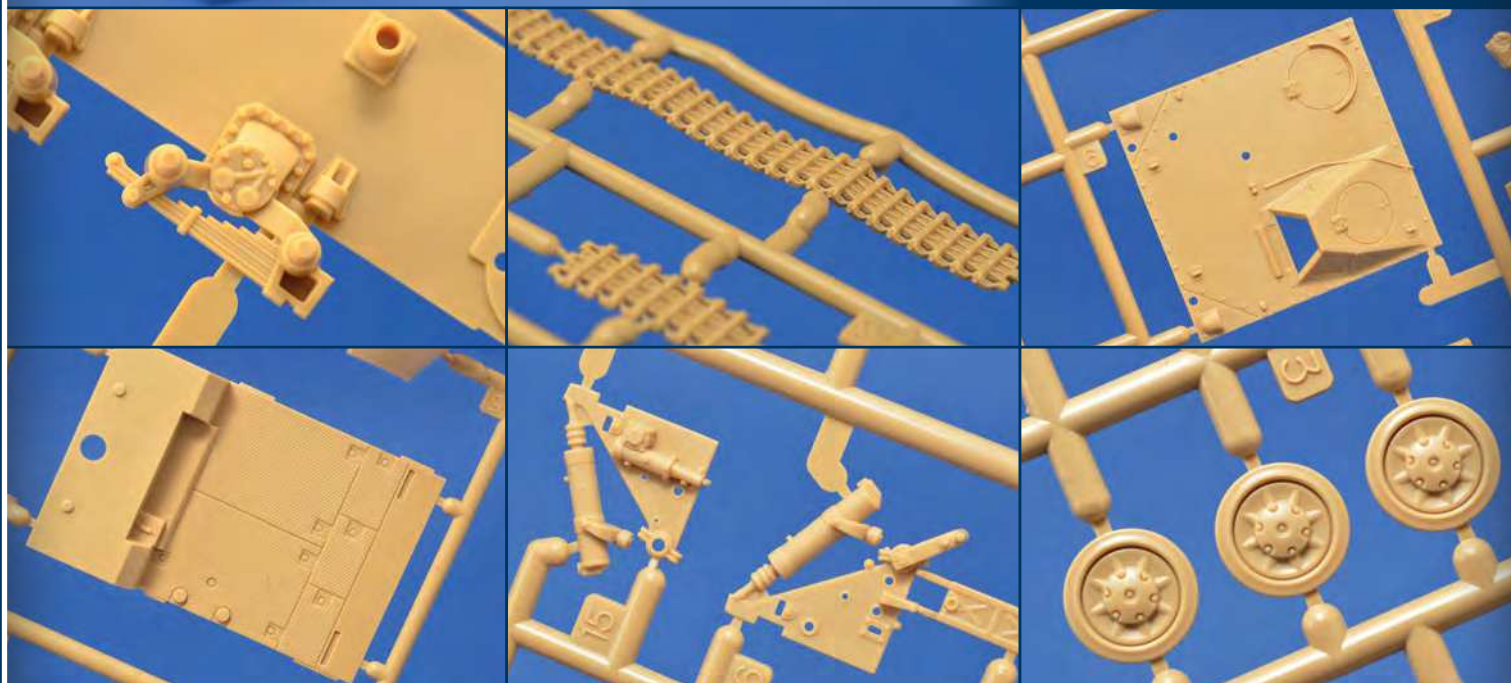


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Tamiya's all-new 1:48 kit of the WW2 German 'Nashorn' tank-destroyer (32600) has arrived at the TMMI office. Here's a few sprue-photos to wet your appetite... (Full-build review coming).

Tamiya's 1:48 WWII German Wehrmacht Infantry Set (32602) issued at the same time, comprises ten full figures along with weapons and personal kit. ●

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Spectacular Long Barrel Gun

1/35 Military Miniature Series German Tank Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.G (Early Production) (Item 35378)

After the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, the German Army found the overpowering Russian T-34 and KV tanks waiting for them, and then developed the Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.G with L/43 7.5cm KwK40 gun as a counter-measure. The Ausf.G achieved success on the Eastern Front and the North African Front, and earned itself the nickname Mk.IV Special from British troops. Now, Tamiya welcomes this battle tank into the long-running 1/35 Military Miniature Series! In-depth study of the actual vehicle ensures that this is a highly accurate depiction of the powerful form equipped with the L/43 7.5cm KwK40 gun, plus the rounded single-perforated muzzle brake and other early production tank features. Varied accessories such as jerry cans, sand bags, and spare tracks are also included to recreate a modified version seen at the African Front. Figures matched with the tank add extra realism to this model. Enjoy comparing it to the Ausf.F. with a short barrel gun, or the Ausf.H and Ausf.J, which had longer barrel guns, and check out the German Tank Pz.Kpfw.IV series' evolution with your own eyes.



12th Panzer Division,
Northern Russia,
Autumn 1942

Included accessories can also
recreate a standard tank.

Comes with two types
of decals: North African
and Eastern Front.

★Length:187mm
★width:82mm



Large cylindrical muffler
and spare road wheels
give the back realism.



Tank crew figures are
in Africa Corps uniform,
and are designed for
natural pose and inter-
action with the tank.

1/35 Military Miniature Series (35374)

German Tank Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.F

The final short-barreled Ausf.F
which was a base for the Ausf.G.



Assembly type tracks feature one-piece straight
sections and recreate center guide piece lightening
holes. Jigs help realistically depict upper run 'sag.'

Painting the German Tank Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.G (Early Production)

(Tamiya Color Lacquer Paints (LP) / Tamiya Color Acrylic Mini Paints (XF) / Tamiya Color Spray Paints (TS))

● LP-77/XF-93 Light Brown (DAK 1942) ● LP-27/XF-63/TS-4 German Gray

★Images show assembled and painted kit.
★Product may vary from images shown.

Check Tamiya's homepage for the
latest releases! www.tamiya.com

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