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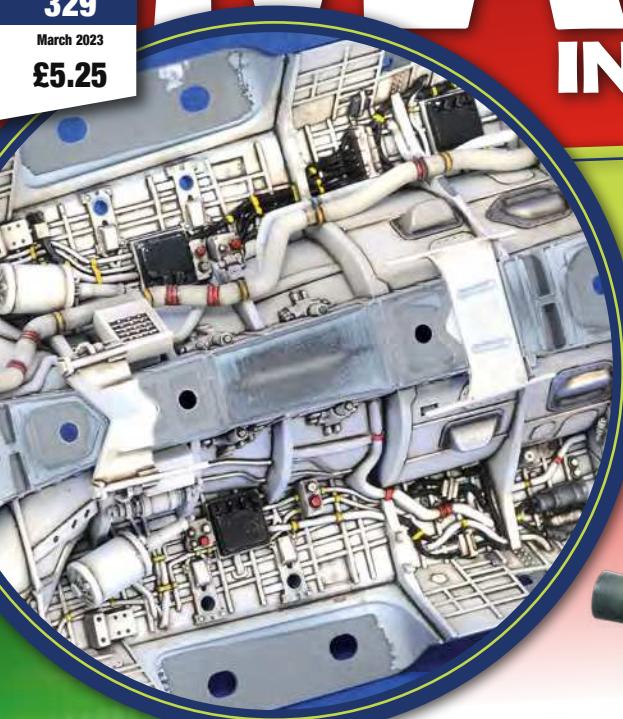


Model
MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE
329

March 2023

£5.25



GET YOUR SKATES ON M8!

Tamiya's new 1:48 M8 HMC takes shape

INSIDE...

Dragon 1:700 USS Gabrielle Giffords, Tamiya 1:35 Jagdpanzer IV/70(A)
previewed, plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

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Nissan Fairlady 240ZG
(Item 24360)

1/24
SCALE



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Japan spec

NISSAN Z

Traditional Yet Cutting-edge Sports Car

1/24 Sports Car Series Nissan Z

(Item 24363)

Nissan's Z-Car has been a global hit since the 1969 introduction of the first generation S30 model, and the new Nissan Z - which has the model designation RZ34 - was announced as the U.S. spec Z in New York in August 2021 and then as the Japan spec Fairlady Z the next January, a new design incorporating traditional Z-Car features. Under the hood lies a powerful 3-liter V6 twin-turbo engine which is capable of an impressive 405hp and has no need of an electric motor. The rear-wheel drive system features a choice of a 6-speed manual transmission or 9-speed automatic transmission. Now, check out the attractive form inheriting traditional Nissan Z-Car features in Tamiya 1/24 scale!

- Four-piece split seats allow ease of painting.
- Chassis underside is authentically recreated with separate components such as transmission and front/rear suspension arms.
- Metal transfers depict side mirror surfaces and emblems.
- Choose from Japan spec or U.S. spec.



Features four-piece split seats to depict color scheme of the actual car.



U.S. spec



Roof edge silver color sections are separate components.

Sporty interior is realistically rendered with separate instrument panel underside and door trim parts for easier painting.

Separate parts depict outer panels of body and roof.

Length: 183mm, width: 84mm.

1/24
SCALE

Legendary Nissan Fairlady Z models from the 1/24 Sports Car Series

Our 1/24 Sports Car Series has a wealth of Nissan Fairlady Z models including the top grade of the initial model S30 type - Fairlady 240ZG. Enjoy exploring the Z-Car's evolution with our kits.



Nissan Fairlady 300ZX Turbo (Item 24087)



Nissan 370Z (Item 24315)



Nissan 370Z Heritage edition (Item 24348)

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

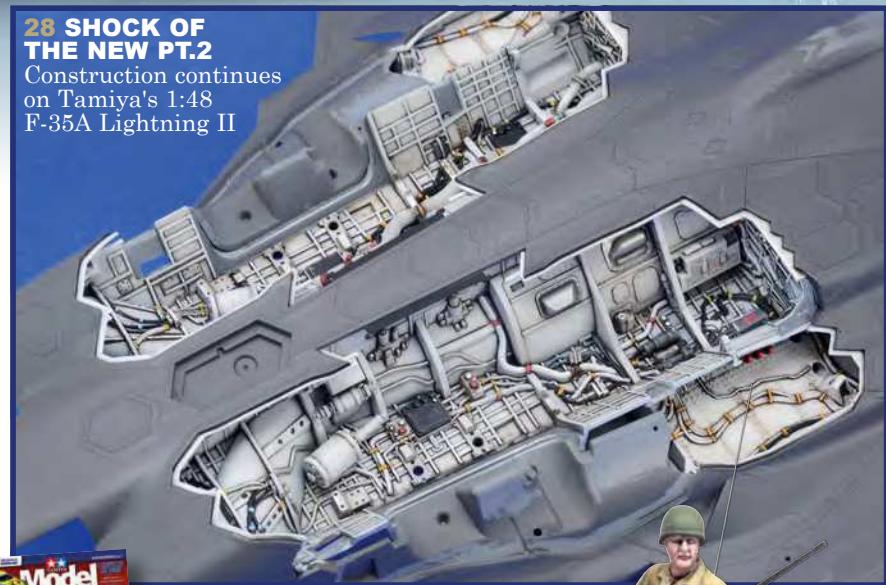
Check Tamiya's homepage for the latest releases! www.tamiya.com


TAMIYA



**28 SHOCK OF
THE NEW PT.2**

Construction continues
on Tamiya's 1:48
F-35A Lightning II



COVER STORY

8 GET YOUR SKATES ON M8!
Tamiya's new 1:48 M8 HMC full-build

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TAMIYA
Model
MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL

Issue 329 March 2023

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NEWS FROM TAMIYA AT THE NUREMBERG TOY FAIR

In a slight change to the usual format, here is a quick look at the key items coming from Tamiya in the coming months. The models were announced at the Nuremberg Toy Fair which was taking place as this issue was being finished, so enjoy the photos - we'll be bringing you a more in-depth look at the Toy Fair next month!



1:24 GMA T.50 (image shows prototype)

www.hobbyco.net



1:10 RC BBX BB-01 (image shows prototype)



1:14 RC Scania 770 S 8x4/4



1:10 RC Porsche 911 GT3 992 TT-02 (image shows prototype)



1:10 RC The Boomerang (2008)



1:10 RC Novafox



1:10 RC Fiat Abarth 1000 TCR Berlina Corse MB-01 (image shows prototype)



1:10 RC Toyota Celica GT-Four (ST165) (TT-02)



1:10 RC 2002 Mercedes-Benz CLK AMG Racing Version



Monorail Train



1:35 Scale

1:35 German Panzer IV/70 (V)



1:35 German Infantry

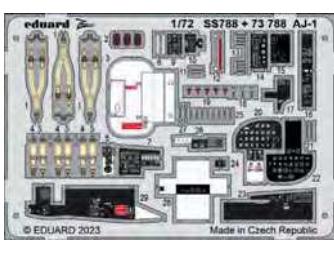
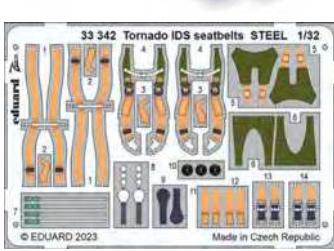
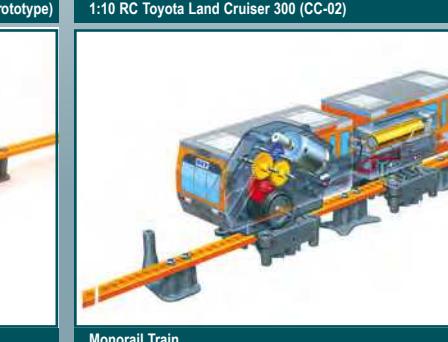
REMBERG TOY FAIR '23!



COMING SOON FROM EDUARD

- 1:32 Tornado IDS seatbelts STEEL (Italeri)
- 1:35 Jagdpanzer IV (Border Model)
- 1:350 USS Alaska (Hobbyboss)
- 1:48 Beaufort Mk.I undercarriage (ICM)
- 1:35 WWII German axe
- 1:72 AJ-1 Savage Zoom (Roden)

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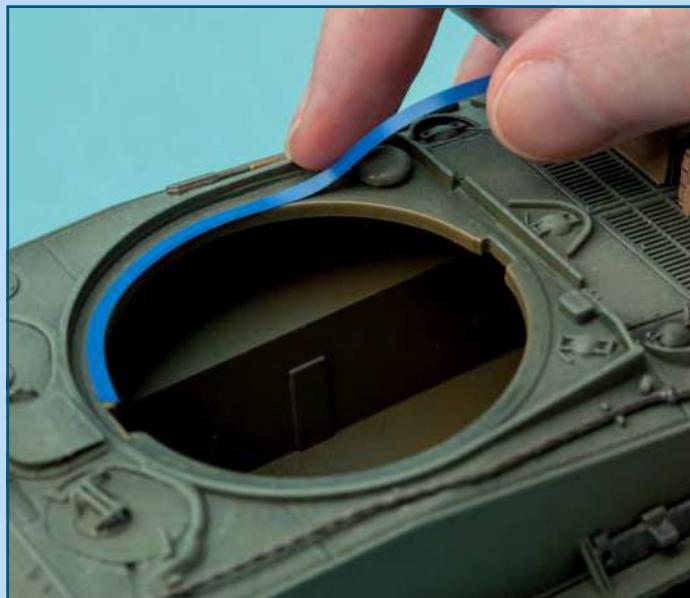
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GET YOUR SKATES ON M

Spencer Pollard builds Tamiya latest 1:48 armour kit, the diminutive M8 HMC

The M8 Howitzer Motor Carriage was an attractive little artillery vehicle based on the running gear of the ubiquitous M5 Light Tank. Operated all over Europe during WWII, this is a vehicle that fits in perfectly with Tamiya's other 1:48 vehicle kits and thanks to its size, ease of assembly and plain colour schemes, it offers a perfect weekend project. What's not to like!

Having built Tamiya's 1:35 kit many years ago, I was keen to see how this new kit would compare. The answer as it turned out was very closely! Sure, the running gear is more complex thanks to those link & length tracks, but the rest of the model is very similar, right down to their approach to the interior of the fighting compartment, but more of that later.

Moulded in Tamiya's familiar dark green plastic (a colour that I have always found very difficult to work with) the model is cleanly moulded, sensibly broken down and given the scale, neatly detailed. Anyone that has built any of these 1:48 kits will see much that is familiar here. From the complex running gear through to the inclusion of weights to add some heft to the completed model, it all seems to be reassuringly recognisable. ▶

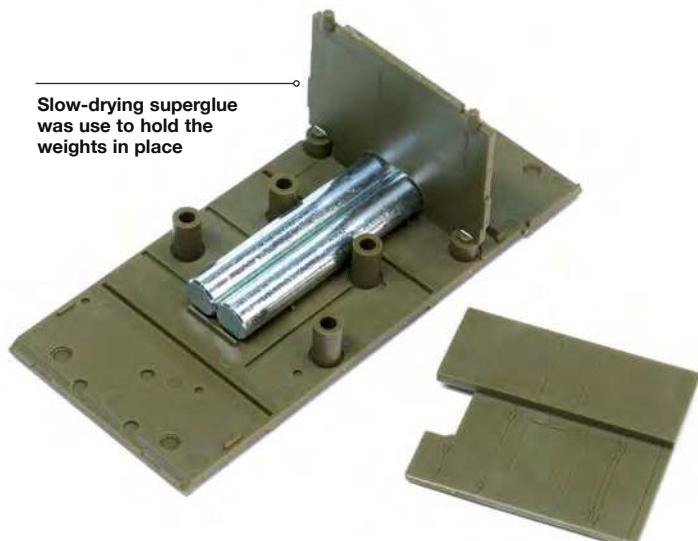


8!



FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 • KIT NO.32604



Construction begins with the lower hull and its additional weights



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

The first thing that strikes you about this kit is its size. In 1:35 it's small; in 1:48 it's positively tiny! Though in the main that doesn't really make its construction any more difficult than any other kit, it does increase the fiddly nature of the running gear, the link and length tracks demanding care and attention during assembly and painting. Thankfully, the fit is so precise that you can happily bring them together and with the removal of a small number of hidden guide teeth under the upper run, remove the tracks to allow them to be painted separately.

Detail is neat and tidy without actually blowing your socks off. Externally, everything seems to be present and correct - at least over the horizontal surfaces, if not those that drop vertically into the moulds. Mirroring the 1:35 kit, this means that some screw detail is missing from the hull sides as are some mudguard brackets that were visible on some of the M8s that found their way into service. No doubt these omissions will raise an eyebrow or two but I can understand the compromise, complex moulds being needed to create the missing detail with an increase in cost being the result. Here, missing detail was added from scratch, a fun diversion from basic, constructional chores, that typified the rest of the project. ▶





Four parts are used to create the upper hull. Fit is impeccable



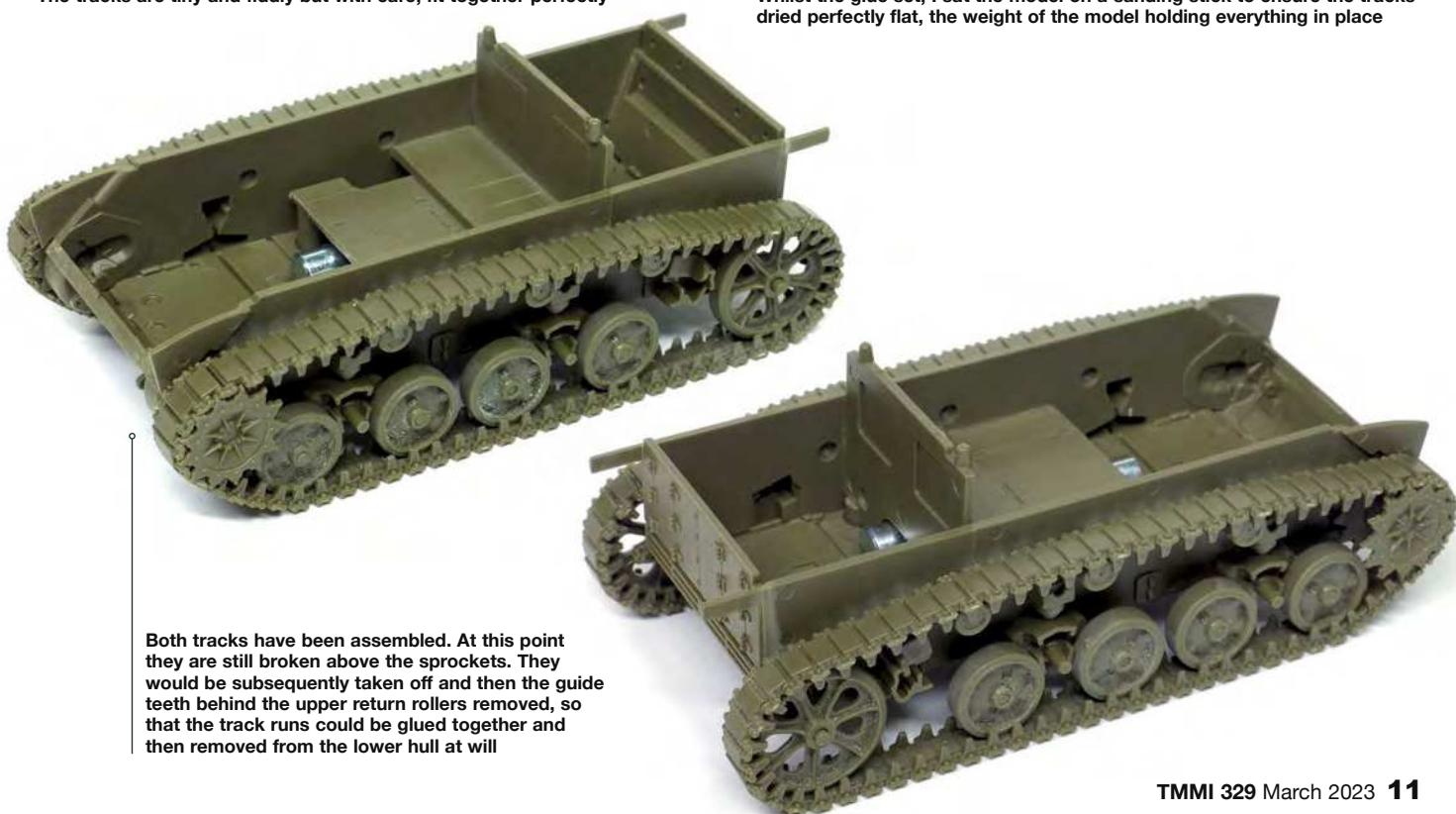
Upper hull, assembled and then test-fit onto the lower hull. This would be fixed permanently in place once the running gear was complete



The tracks are tiny and fiddly but with care, fit together perfectly



Whilst the glue set, I sat the model on a sanding stick to ensure the tracks dried perfectly flat, the weight of the model holding everything in place



Both tracks have been assembled. At this point they are still broken above the sprockets. They would be subsequently taken off and then the guide teeth behind the upper return rollers removed, so that the track runs could be glued together and then removed from the lower hull at will

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 • KIT NO.32604

Here you can see the removed track and those missing guide teeth. This allowed the addition of weathering products such as those seen here from AK and Vallejo, to be added with ease

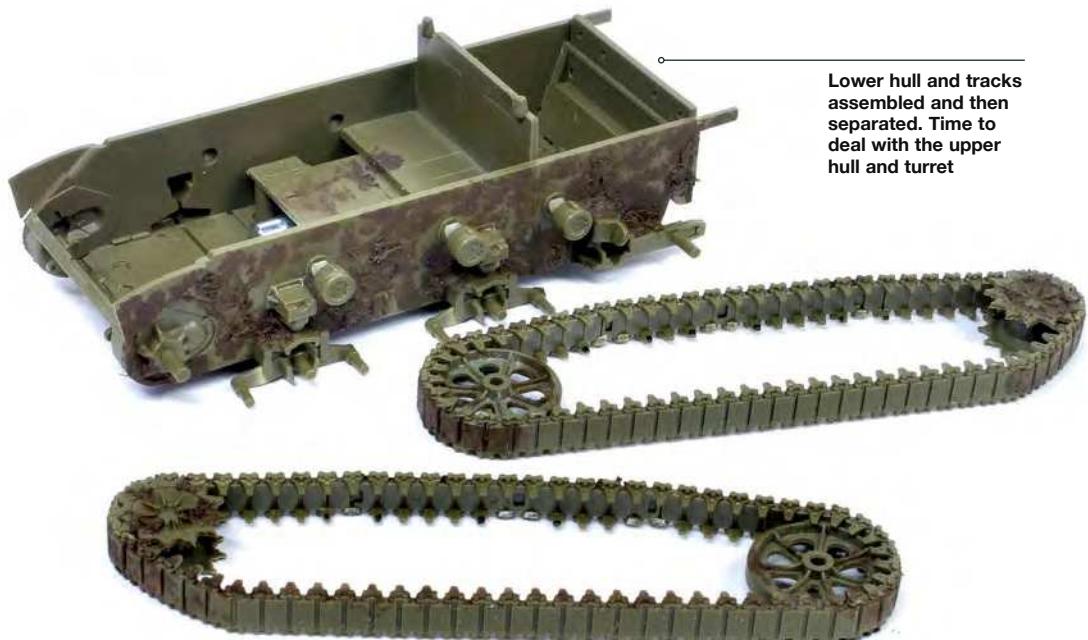
LIMITED INTERIOR

If the external detail is in the main comprehensive and perfectly acceptable, the interior is more of a compromise. Though the interior of the open turret with its 105mm armament is well-done with neat detail, the interior of the lower hull, all perfectly visible, is almost completely empty. Sure, there is a rear bulkhead and floor, but that's it. Again, the lack of an interior within what is essentially a 'curbside' kit is understandable. Tamiya see these kits as a cheaper, less-complex alternatives to their 1:35 range, so adding in that kind of detail sits outside of their approach, rather than being a fundamental part of it. No doubt we will see this lack of detail being addressed by the aftermarket, a simple, one-piece 3D printed part being a perfect solution to the problem. I look forward to seeing if that does indeed come to fruition!

Smaller details fare reasonably well in this kit, with items such as the M2 .50cal machine gun, tools and spare track links, all being superbly detailed and moulded ready for use. That said, you will be in for a little work should you wish to finesse details such as the headlight guards these being a little thick for the scale and in need of work with diamond files and the tip of a scalpel blade, before you can fix them in place. None of this is difficult but makes a huge amount of difference to the look of the model, as indeed does the drilling out of the lifting eyes on the sides of the turret and the drilling out of the headlights so that their lenses can be painted in and in the case of this model, glazed with Kristal Klear. ☀



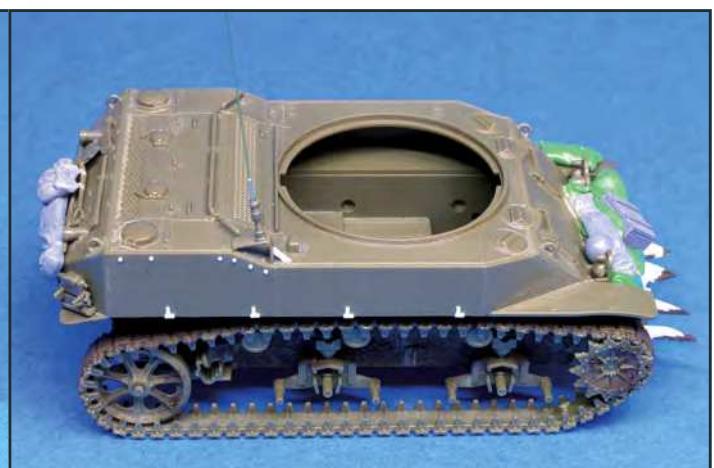
Groundwork materials allowed me to add some much-needed texture around the lower hull



Stowage added to the glacis plate. This included some sandbags and tarpaulins from Duro Green Stuff, packs from the Tamiya Jerry Can Set and then a scratchbuilt Culin hedgerow cutter, built from thin plastic card cut and sanded to shape



Tamiya stowage fixed to the rear hull. Note the use of 'sprue goo' to blend the parts together



Mentioned in the introductory text, there are some details missing from the sides of the hull including screw heads and brackets for the mudguards that could be — but often weren't — fixed in place. These details were carefully added using fine plastic strip and rod, the latter sliced-up to create the tiny screw heads. They are small additions that make a lot of difference to the look of the model!

The turret interior includes the basics, but could be improved with some additional detail, all of which can be seen in Tankograd Publishing's superb 'Technical Manual' on this vehicle (No.6014, Verlag Jochen Vollert)



Turret sub-assemblies ready to bring together. Mr. Surfacer 500 was used to create some armour texture over the front of the turret and gun mantlet

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 ● KIT NO.32604

All assembly and detail done. It's time to paint this little fellow!



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FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 ● KIT NO.32604



The model was base-coated with a 50/50 mixture of Tamiya Flat and Semi Gloss black to create a finish that was satin enough to reveal detail and point to where highlights needed to be



AK Interactive's superb 3G acrylics from their Adam Wilder WWII & Modern US Colours box-set. These were mixed and then thinned with AK's Acrylic Thinner, ready to be airbrushed on using my Iwata Takumi Eclipse



The delicacy of AK's paint allowed me to build up delicate layers of colour over the hull, turret and running gear



Happy with the basic Olive Drab finish, details were picked out with acrylics, the packs on the turret as seen here being painted with AK's Canvas Tone



Vallejo Acrylics were also brought into play to add some variation over the surface of the model. Grey Green was particularly useful for bedrolls and packs



Neat AK 3G Olive Drab was used to pick out smaller items such as helmets

Artis Opus' superb Drybrushes were used to apply lighter shades of green over the surface of the model, including the engine deck as seen here



The track units were left in their basic black colour, only the faces of the sprockets and idlers being airbrushed in Olive Drab. Once dry, the initial layer of weathering was added using a wash of Tamiya Flat Earth mixed with Buff and then thinned with tap water



The texture on the lower hull was roughly painted with a dark brown shade mixed from AK Earth Brown, darkened with Vallejo Flat Black. It looks rough in this shot, but would blend back with the additional layers that would be added as painting progressed



The stowage on the glacis plate has been painted with acrylics, ready for 'weathering'. Additional work on these details would change their look quite considerably as the model was completed

The hull has been painted and all details picked out. At this point the model looked really pleasing, but I knew that I would have to push the weathering with additional layers. As it turned out, that would mean lots of additional layers that would double the time I had planned to finish this small, but engaging model...



FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 ● KIT NO.32604

IN COMMAND

The final plastic part of the kit worthy of comment is the crew figure. Not always part of the 1:48 packages in this series, it was good to see a commander figure included in this release, especially as he is so nice! Following on from the quality of recent figure releases from Tamiya (in both 1:35 and 1:48) the figure is sculpted in a relaxed pose that exhibits superb anatomy and detail. The folds in the uniform are particularly impressive, making the painting a real joy (it's so much easier to paint a well-sculpted figure than one that is poor!).

Decals complete the package. Here you have a choice of two fairly anonymous vehicles, both finished in overall Olive Drab. In order to allow me the chance to add imagined stowage, I used the sheet to create a fictitious vehicle, but if you want to see what one of them looks like in reality, Concord's 'US Light Tanks At War 1941-45' has a picture of that vehicle (from Troop E, 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, February 1945) on page 65, so you can use that you model accurate stowage and some extreme weathering! ➤



When painting stowage
it's important that each individual piece is distinct with colours that not only pop them against the vehicle's camouflage, but also their neighbouring bags and packs. Here, the stowage on both the glacis plate and turret sides is easy to pick out and though this would also blend back under weathering, it would still be a distinct and interesting part of the completed model

Having sprayed a layer of Tamiya LP-9 Clear over the sides of the hull and turret, the model was ready to be decalled, Mr. Mark Softer and Setter NEO being used to apply each design





The model has been decalled and left to dry out. Happy that everything had settled down, the model was sprayed with a further layer of gloss and then a final coat of Vallejo Matt Acrylic Varnish, before being left to dry overnight

Basic weathering included some thin washes that added both depth (Raw Umber and Black) and dust (Ammo Dry Steppe Medium Density Mud Splashes) before adding specific areas of dirt such as these fuel spills created using Abt.502 Engine Grease oil paint, thinned with Odorless Thinner



As weathering progressed, details were 'refreshed' with drybrushed layers of AK 3G acrylics drybrushed on using an Artis Opus Medium Drybrush. Details were also picked out individually, using a size 1 sable paintbrush



Drybrushing was also used to further degrade the paintwork over the larger panels, thin layers being applied to mute the Olive Drab down to a more scale tone and hue

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 ● KIT NO.32604



The tracks are on the model and all of the suspension units glued in place. Heavy washes of Tamiya earthy colours thinned with water, as well as AMMO's enamel solutions, added that much-needed weathering before adding some metallic sparkle with a 9B graphite stick



Graphite was also used to add wear and tear around edges, both externally and inside the turret



AMMO's Medium Density Mud Splashes solution is one of the most useful materials in my workshop. It's so easy to apply and then blend-in to create very realistic dust layers as seen around the tracks...



..and rear hull

MINI REVIEW...

CENTURION MK.5 AVRE CANVAS COVERED MANTLET SET (DM35126)
www.defmodel.com

AFV Club's new Centurion is a masterpiece and DEF Model's new, 3D-printed mantlet dust-cover will be the icing on the cake. The folds in the 'fabric' (resin) are perfect and will be great fun to paint and weather.





Multiple dust layers were needed around the running gear until the effect was pleasingly realistic. Along with light colours such as that seen here, darker shades such as AMMO's Africa Korps Wash, was used to add depth and imitate the look of damp mud deposits

A close-up of the almost completely weathered model. Subtle paint chips were added using Vallejo German Camo Black Brown, applied with a fine brush or where random clusters were needed, a small piece of sponge. Dirt streaks were replicated with Abt.502 Starship Filth dabbed on using a No.1 brush and then dragged down using a soft, flat brush, moistened with Odorless Thinner



FINAL THOUGHTS

I really enjoyed this kit and love to look at the completed model in my display case. Having built four of the kits from this 1:48 series in the last year or so, I remain convinced that they are almost a perfect project for those looking for a simple build that allows quick assembly, but enough detail and features to result in a very pleasing little model once complete.

Having seen the kit and built the contents I'm sure we will see another kit based on this chassis, an M5 being a distinct possibility. I for hope that that is indeed the case, because I would love to build another of these diminutive little models.

A lovely kit, then and one that I can wholeheartedly recommend! ●



The figure is a very nice inclusion that repays careful painting, in this case using AK's 3G paint. Photographed against the bottles, you get a real sense of just how small this little fella really is!



A close-up of the commander. Blown up like this my paintwork looks a little rough, but in reality, I was happy with the progress I'm making with acrylic painting techniques and their use on models such as this!

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO US ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 ● KIT NO.32604



**“a perfect project
for those looking for a
simple build that allows
quick assembly...”**

TECH SPECS

TAMIYA 1:48 U.S. HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 KIT KIT NO.32604

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

AK Interactive 3G, Tamiya Acrylics and Lacquers, Vallejo, AMMO Weathering Solutions

Accessories used:

Tamiya 1:48 Jerry Can Set

Availability:

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

NEW
MOULD

1:24



Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXc A17001



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
Aircraft flown by Squadron Leader "Johnny" Plagis, No.126 (Persian Gulf) Squadron, Royal Air Force Harrowbeer, Devon, England, July 1944.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
Aircraft flown by Flight Lieutenant Ian Keltie, No. 402 Squadron "City of Winnipeg", Royal Air Force Kenley, Surrey, England, March 1943.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
Aircraft flown by Wing Commander James Edgar "Johnnie" Johnson, No. 402 Squadron "City of Winnipeg", Royal Air Force Kenley, Surrey, England, Summer 1943.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
Aircraft flown by Captain Garth Jared, Commanding Officer, 309th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, United States Army Air Force, Italy, December 1943.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
GR 2/33 "Savoie", Armée de l'Air, Luxeuil-les-Bains, France, early 1945.

Length 397mm Width 469mm Pieces 433

The Spitfire Mk.IXc was arguably the most important mark of Spitfire in the entire production run with it initially being conceived as a stop-gap fighter to counter the German Fw190 whilst the Mk.VIII was being developed. The Mk.IX is considered by many to be the ultimate Merlin powered Spitfire, coupling the iconic lines of the early Spitfires, which defended the skies above South East England just a couple of years earlier, with a two-stage Merlin.

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TAMIYA 1:35 PANZER IV/70(A) ● KIT NO.35381



LOW-SLUNG ZWISCHENL

Tamiya's newest 1:35 armour model depicts the WV 'zwischenlösung' or interim solution Jagdpanzer

Towards the end of the Second World War, the German military tried to improve the firepower of the Panzerkampfwagen IV, and the Panzer IV/70(A) was developed, following this doctrine. In order to shorten its development term as much as possible, the hull was based upon the Pz.IV Ausf. J which was then under production, combined with a fixed fighting compartment that mounted the L/70 7.5cm long-barrelled gun of the IV/70(V) Lang. The Panzer IV/70(A) also featured stiff wire mesh panels that became known as 'Thoma Schürzen'. Around 280 produced were manufactured, seeing service on both Eastern and Western Fronts.

It's hard to believe that Tamiya's 'new' 1:35 Jagdpanzer IV/70(V) Lang (35340) is nearly ten years old – it feels a lot more recent than that – but it was released to much acclaim in 2014 and builds into a fantastic replica of

this low-slung tank-killer. Now, we have the 'sister' vehicle to this VOMAG (Vogtländische Maschinenfabrik AG) machine in the form of the Panzer IV/70(A), sometimes referred to as the 'zwischenlösung' or interim solution, manufactured by ALKETT (Altmärkische Kettenwerk). With the side-skirts off, the two are immediately distinguished by the taller casemate of the 'A' version and a closer look also reveals the first four roadwheels on both sides are of the solid steel disc-type on this variant. With the 'Thoma Shields' or more properly, the 'Drathgeflechtschürzen' in place, the difference is even clearer.

As a testament to how good the kit was, Tamiya have incorporated the lower hull tub from the 1994 Pz.IV Ausf.J kit (35181) plus drive-sprockets, roadwheels and return rollers from the 2014 Jagdpanzer IV/70(V) Lang (35340), but aside from these, everything else

is a new-tooling for 2023. The new fighting compartment is covered with a beautifully subtle rolled-steel texture on all sides and you'll find a cast-steel texture on the running-gear final-drive housings and gun mantlet parts. This effect doesn't really come across in photos but it's very well done.

THOSE SIDE-SKIRTS...

The key challenge for Tamiya's designers was how to replicate the schürzen stand-off armour panels, which in reality were made from thick steel wire, woven and mounted in steel frames which hung from the vehicle's sides on a system of brackets. They chose photo-etched steel which is rigid enough to withstand handling while thin enough to look in-scale. The schürzen's frames are formed from kit plastic, so there's no need for tricky folding and gluing of metal parts; all the modeller needs to do is fix the PE



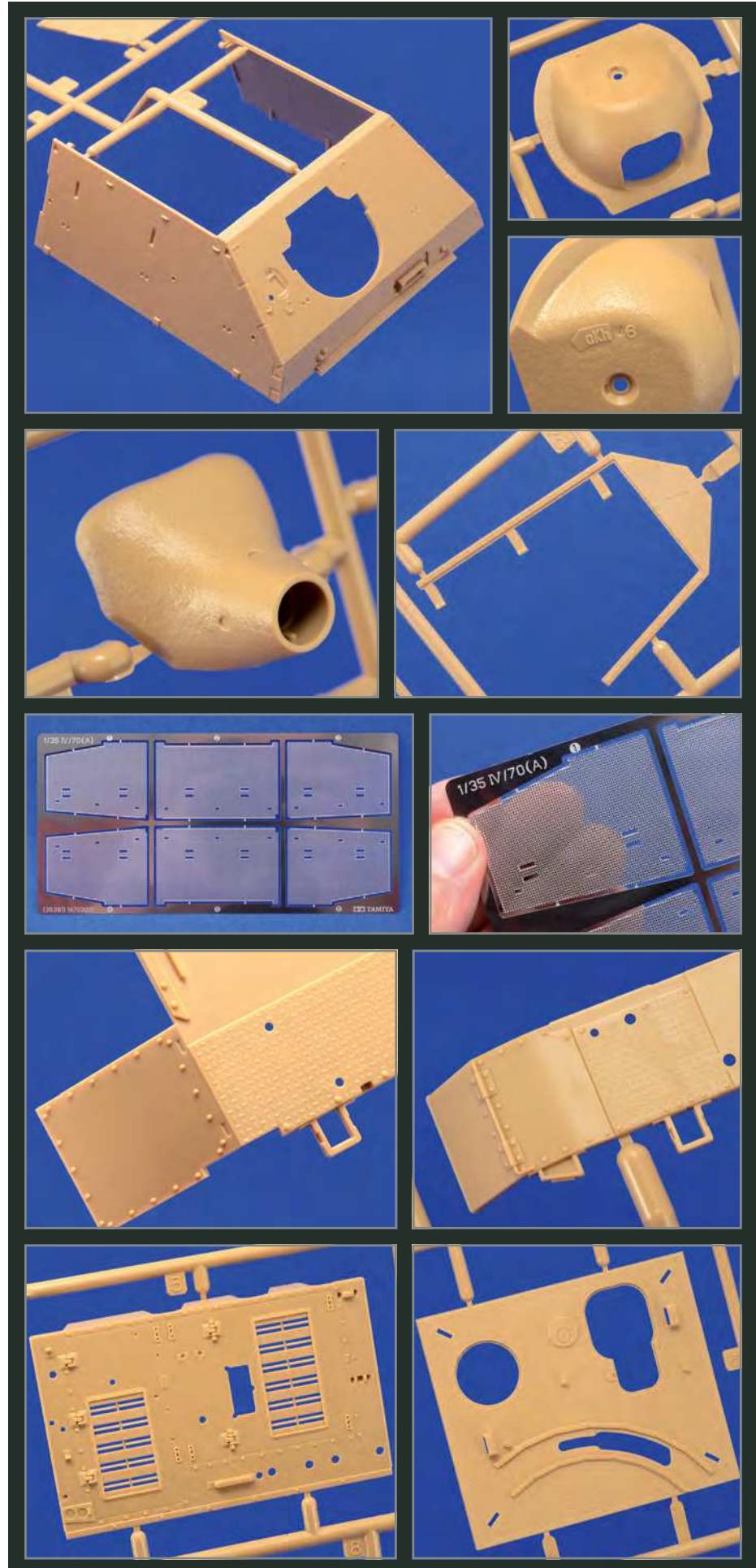
ÖSUNG

W2 German Panzer IV/70(A)

panels (three on each side) into the injection-moulded polystyrene frames, securing them with small dots of CA (superglue). Follow the instructions to the letter and it'll work perfectly!

The tracks come in the form of 'links and lengths' moulded from kit plastic, a style that Tamiya has capitalised on in recent releases and is a good compromise between the individual link approach – which many modellers hate – and one-piece flexible parts, which many modellers also hate and which struggle to offer the 'sag' of top runs that is apparent on many armoured vehicles, this one included.

With this release, Tamiya have yet again struck the ideal balance of buildability and detail, offering both the relative beginner and experienced modeller a rewarding project with masses of superdetailing and weathering potential, or just a clean 'out-of-the-box' build. Superb!



KIT PREVIEW SPECIAL

TAMIYA 1:35 PANZER IV/70(A) ● KIT NO.35381

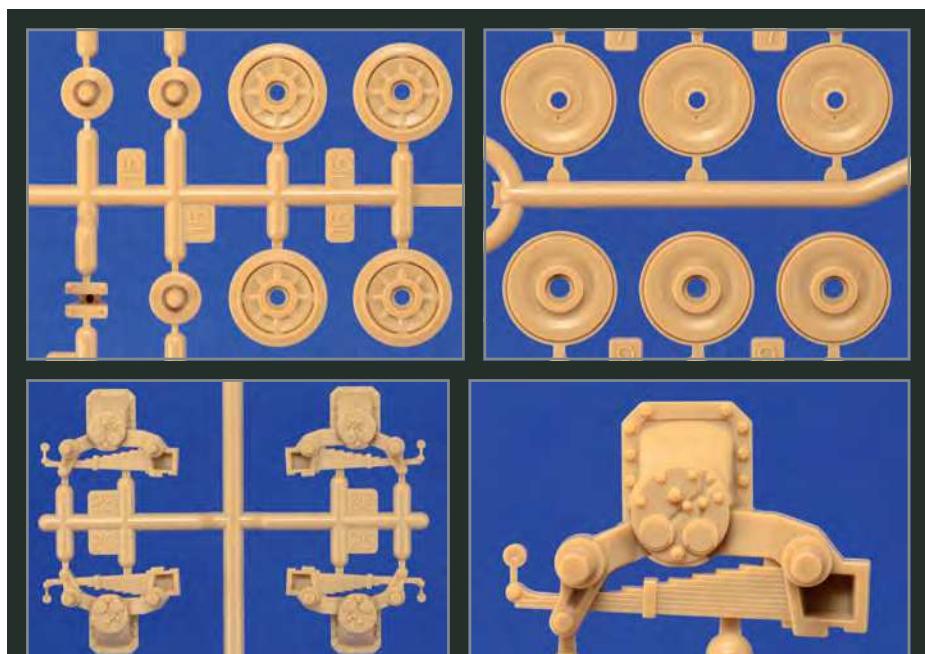
● KIT FEATURES:

- Kit is based on extensive research at the Saumur Armour Museum in France
- Assembly-type tracks with one-piece straight sections
- Opening commander and loader hatches
- Large photo-etched parts authentically capture the mesh schürzen
- Includes one commander semi-figure
- Comes with a choice of two marking options to recreate versions at the Eastern and Western Front
- Separately-sold 1:35 Jagdpanzer IV/70(V) Lang Metal Gun Barrel Set (12660) can be used
- Main gun moves - elevation/ depression and traverse ●

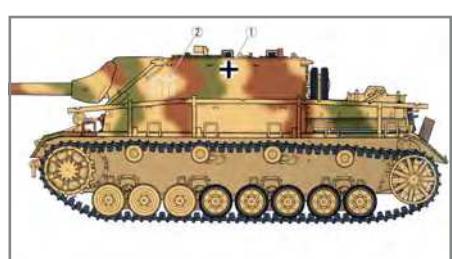
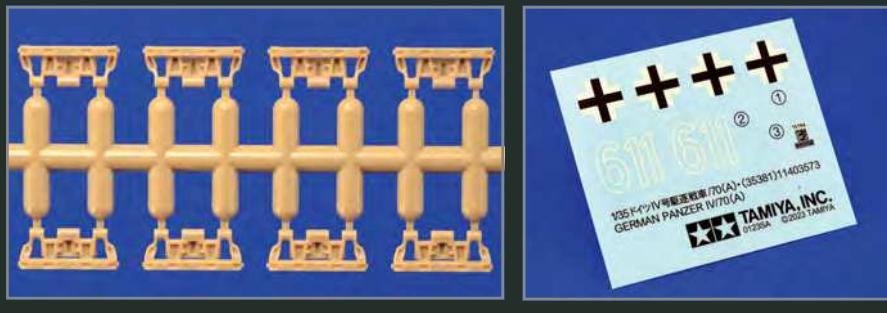
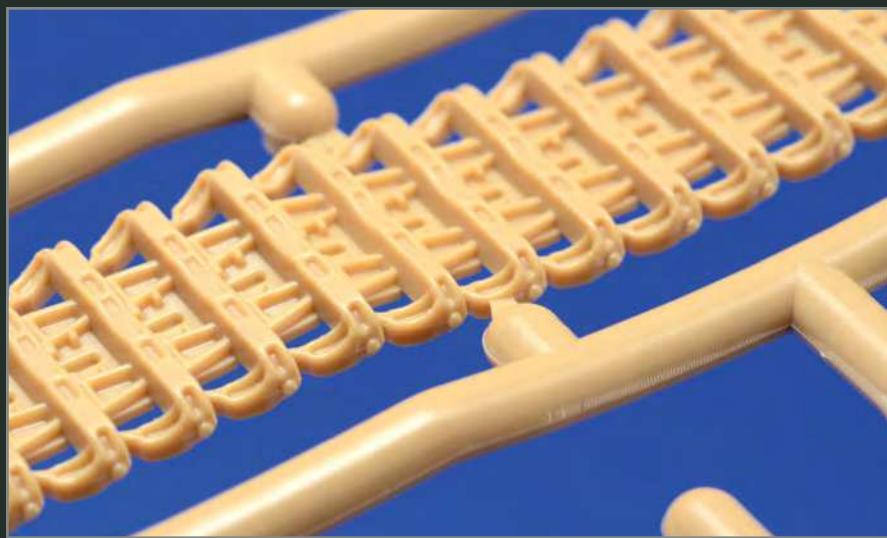
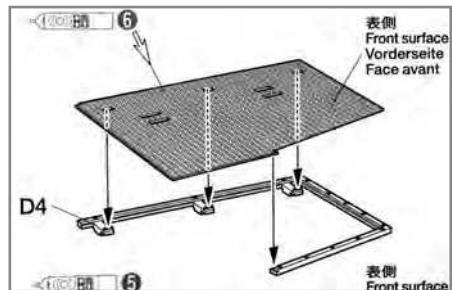
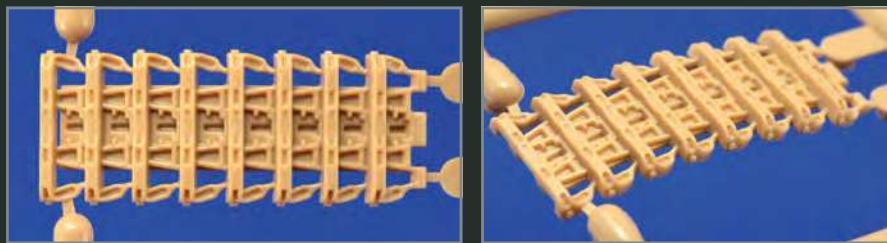
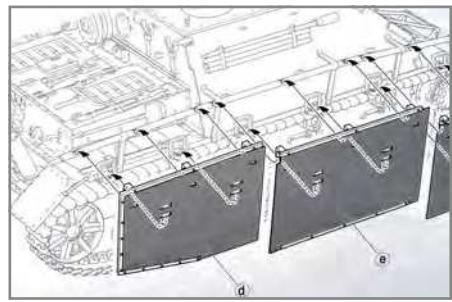
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Availability:

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“With this release, Tamiya have yet again struck the ideal balance of buildability and detail...”





1/72

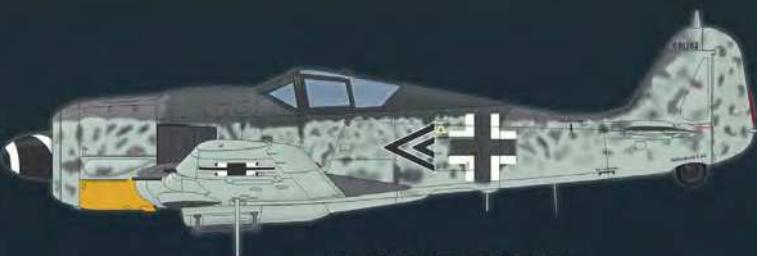
WEEKEND
edition

Fw 190A-8/R2

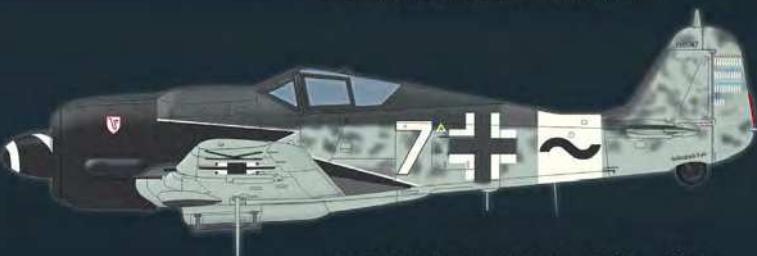
Weekend edition kit of German WWII fighter aircraft Fw 190A-8/R2 in 1/72 scale. The kit offers Sturmbucks served in JG 3, JG 4 and JG 300.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES:

72611	Fw 190A-8 (PE-Set)
72612	Fw 190A-8 landing flaps (PE-Set)
SS557	Fw 190A-8/R2 Weekend (PE-Set)
672080	Fw 190A wheels late (Brassín)
672081	Fw 190A-8 cockpit (Brassín)
672085	Fw 190A exhaust stacks (Brassín)
672086	Fw 190A propeller (Brassín)
D72018	Fw 190A-8/R2 national insignia (Decal Set)



WNr. 681382, Hptm. Wilhelm Moritz,
Stab IV/JG 3, Schongau, Germany, August 1944



WNr. 680747, Oblt. Hans Weik, CO of 10.(Sturm)/JG 3,
Memmingen, Germany, June 1944



Hptm. Gerhard Schröder, CO of II.(Sturm)/JG 4,
Welzow, Germany, September 1944



Fw. Adalbert Koch, 6/JG 300, Löbnitz,
Germany, fall 1944

#7467

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THE SHOCK OF THE NEW:

PART 2

Marcus Nicholls continues the construction of Tamiya's new 1:48 Lockheed F-35A Lightning II



Tamiya factory photo

Well, here I am again, apologising for not having completed another model... I had the best intentions to finish Tamiya's Lightning II for the issue you are now holding, but a thousand other things got in the way and I managed to get as far as the weapons bay and undercarriage only. It does, however, allow me a little more space to show these areas in detail and they really are worth seeing in close-up, because Tamiya has done an extraordinary job of moulding the bay not only in one piece, but free from those dreaded ejector-pin marks that are the bane of modeller's lives.

Last month, you might remember I had applied the initial coats of flat white (Tamiya LP-4) over a black undercoat in the weapons bay (part F30) and in the intervening couple of weeks I built this layer up to full density. Over that, I applied a colour wash to accentuate the remarkable detail, but after posting a few photos in the Tamiya Model Magazine Facebook Group, I received feedback that was

not 100% in favour of what I was doing. "The F-35A is spotlessly clean in all areas" they said, and they were mostly right. I chose to work this way, however, to really make the structure, pipes, junction boxes, cable, hydraulic lines and other greeblies 'pop' and I must say, I rather like the effect. It's not so much 'dirty' as 'contrasty' and when buried in the belly of the aircraft, it looked great!

For the colour-wash, I mixed equal parts of Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color black and dark brown, which formed a gloriously smooth and opaque liquid, but still thin enough to flow into all the detail with ease. The excess was cleaned up with white spirit-soaked Q-Tips and the highest points of detail then 'brightened up' by drybrushing them with Vallejo Model Color White (70951) which works very

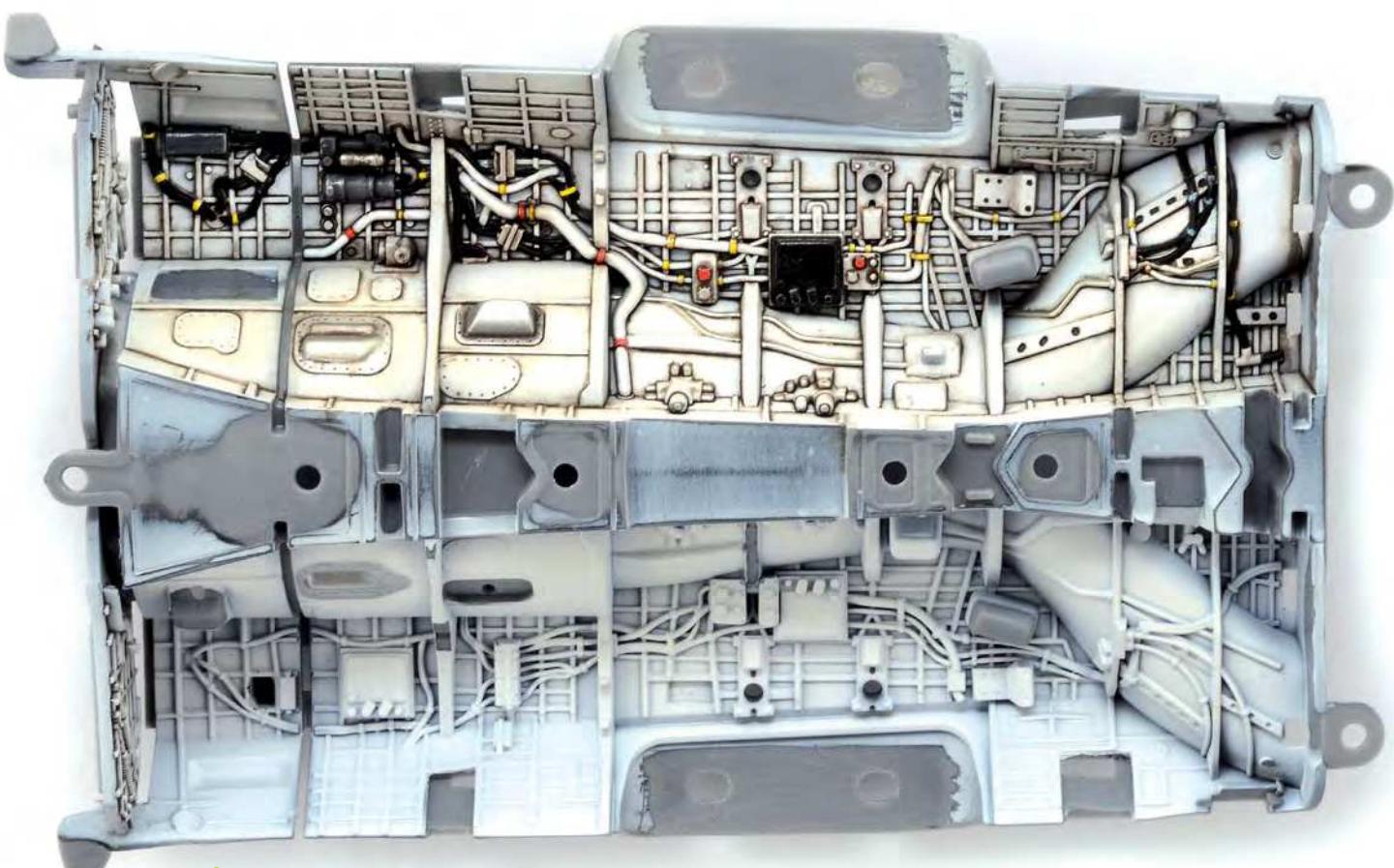
**“The F-35A is spotlessly clean in all areas”
they said, and they were mostly right...”**



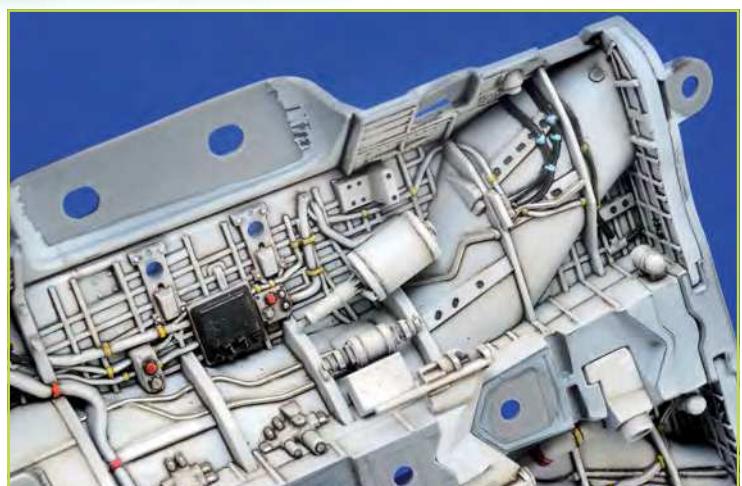
With the white base colour on (Tamiya LP-4 Flat White) an opaque colour-wash was applied, using Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color



With the excess colour wash removed, the bay was given a drybrushing with Vallejo flat white acrylic. Then, detail painting could begin

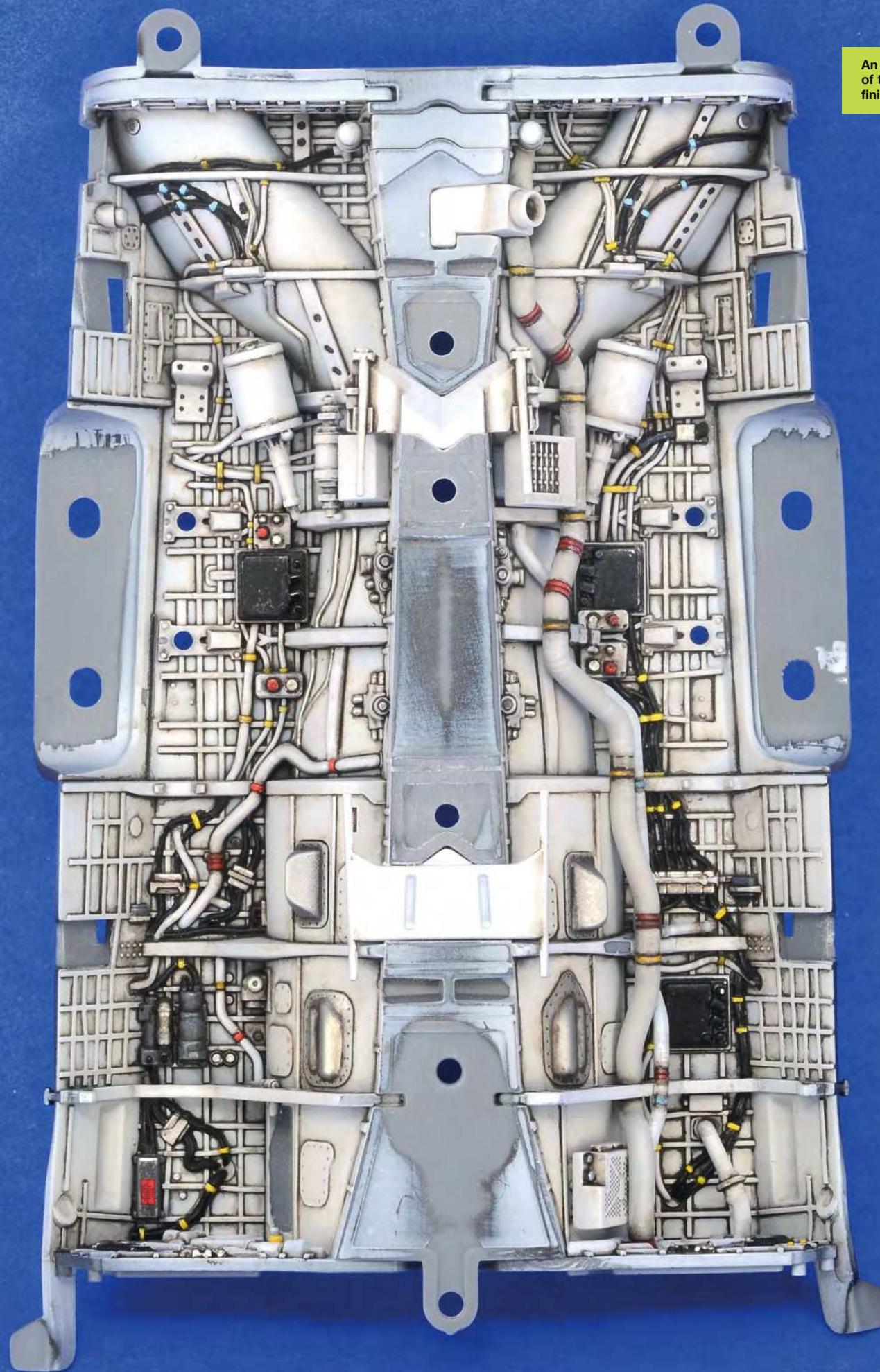


Here we see the right-side of the weapons bay has been colour-washed and detail painted, contrasting with the bland untreated side

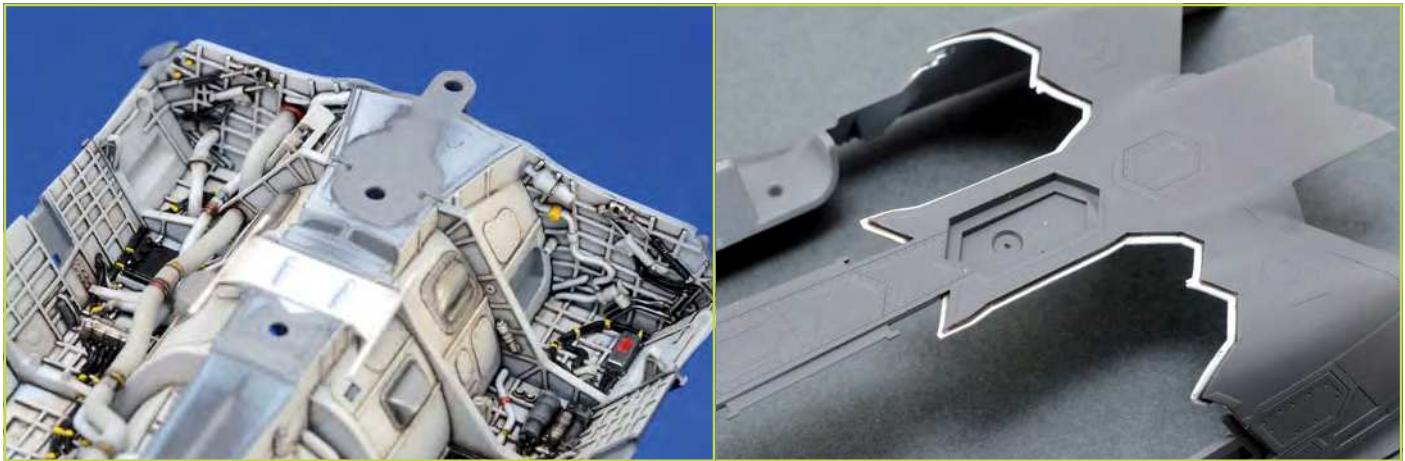
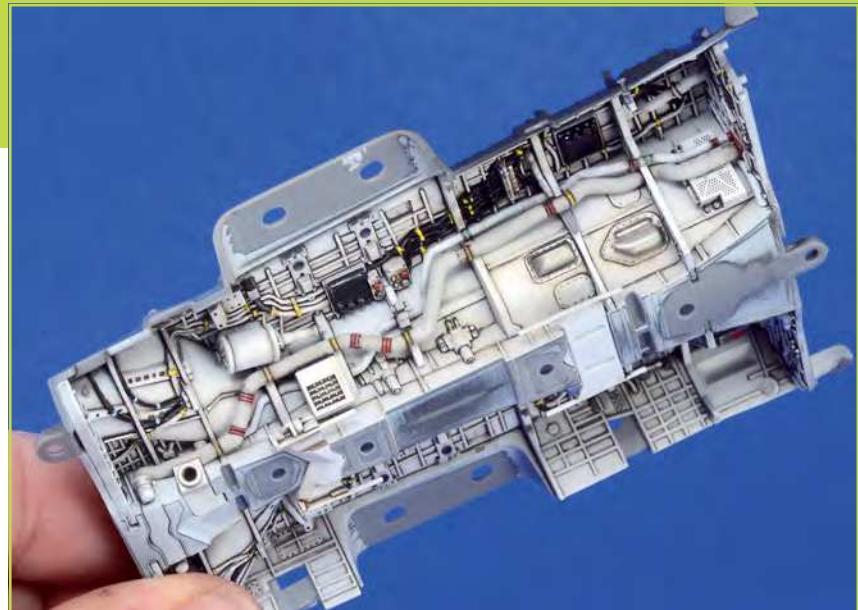


Further acrylics from the Vallejo ranges were employed when hand-painting the mass of plumbing in the F-35's inner bay

FULL-BUILD: MODERN MILITARY AVIATION
TAMIYA 1:48 LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35A LIGHTNING II • KIT NO.61124

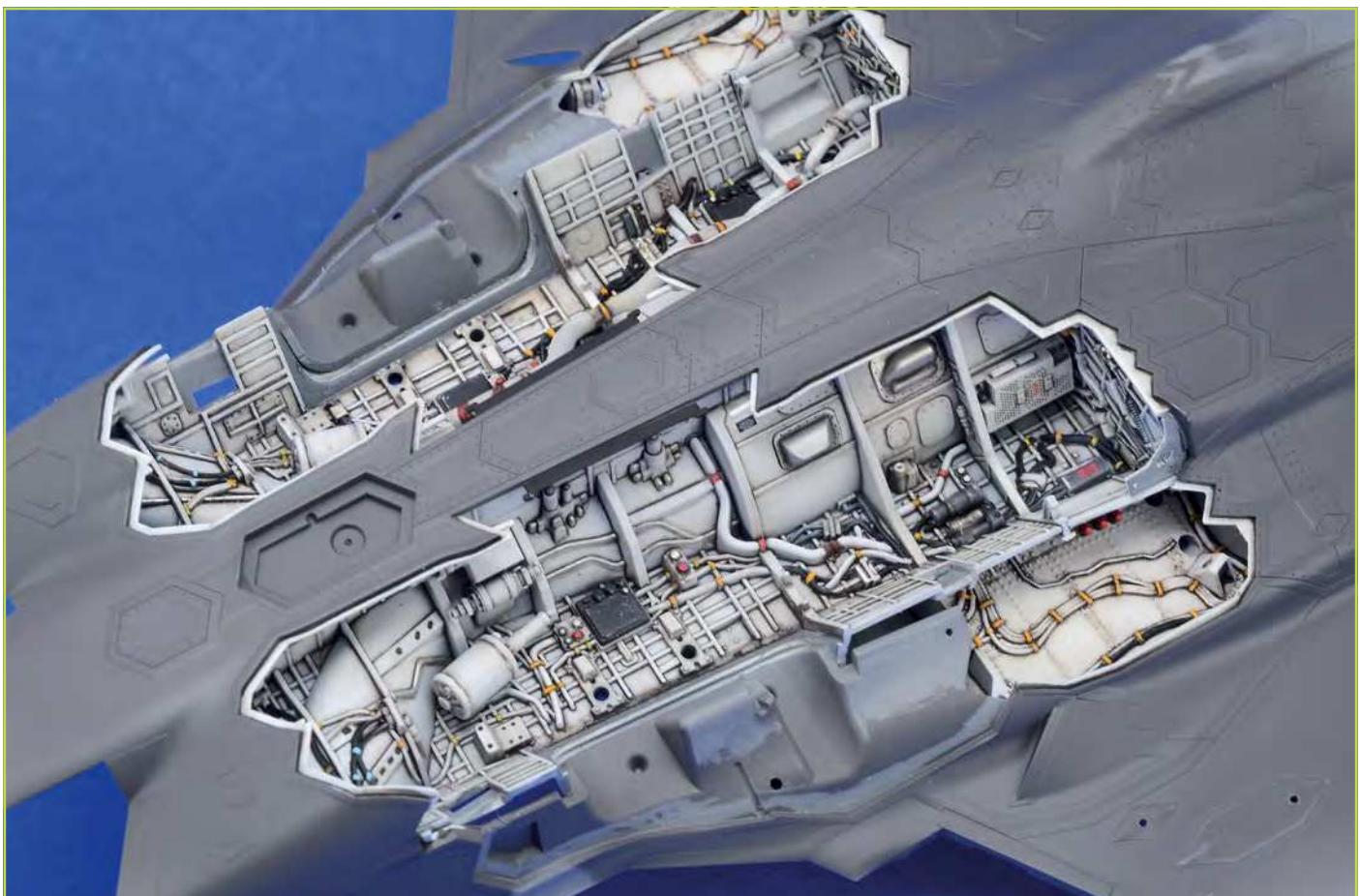


An overview
of the almost
finished bay

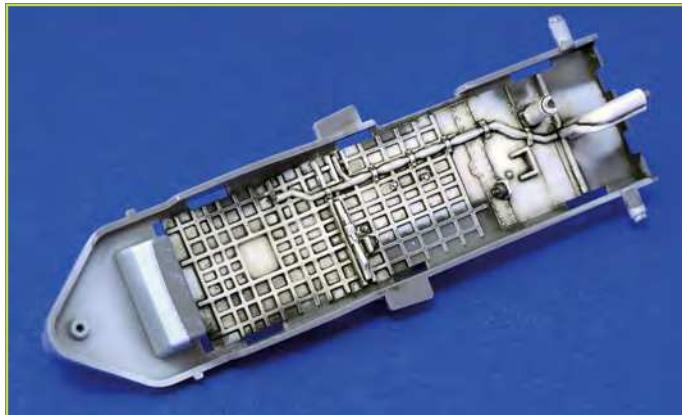


The bands of yellow, red and light blue all need to be applied over white so they really pop out from the background

The lower fuselage half after an application of the main grey shade, the inner edges having been painted white and masked off for airbrushing



The big bay moulding has finally been installed within the lower fuselage half and we can now see how effective it looks!



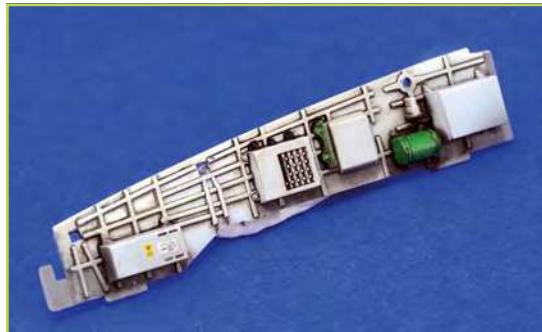
Here we see the roof of the nose undercarriage bay (M3) which has been spray-painted white and given the dark colour-wash treatment

Well for this technique, even though it is an acrylic. Sometimes the older methods are the best for the job and here, drybrushing was the key to reinstating those all-important highlights.

With the background white established, I then got to work hand-painting the black pipework and dabbing in the yellow and red mounting clips, following the guide in the instructions closely. Again, Vallejo acrylics proved to be the best product here, with any corrections made with the Model Color white, its heavy white pigment covering any rough edges with aplomb.

FRONT UNDERCARRIAGE BAY AND ITS CLEVER LEG

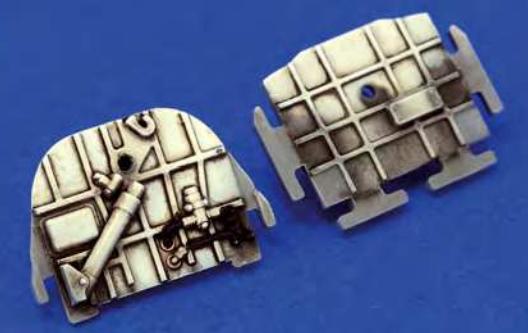
The front undercarriage bay was painted and treated in the same way as the weapons bay, dry-fitting the side and end-panels to the 'roof' of the bay (part M3) when spraying the black undercoat and white top colour. It was then disassembled for the colour-wash application, detail painting and nose-leg installation. Tamiya direct you to fit the latter part early on in construction and this can often be problematic, because a protruding undercarriage leg will usually get in the way when constructing the rest. ◇



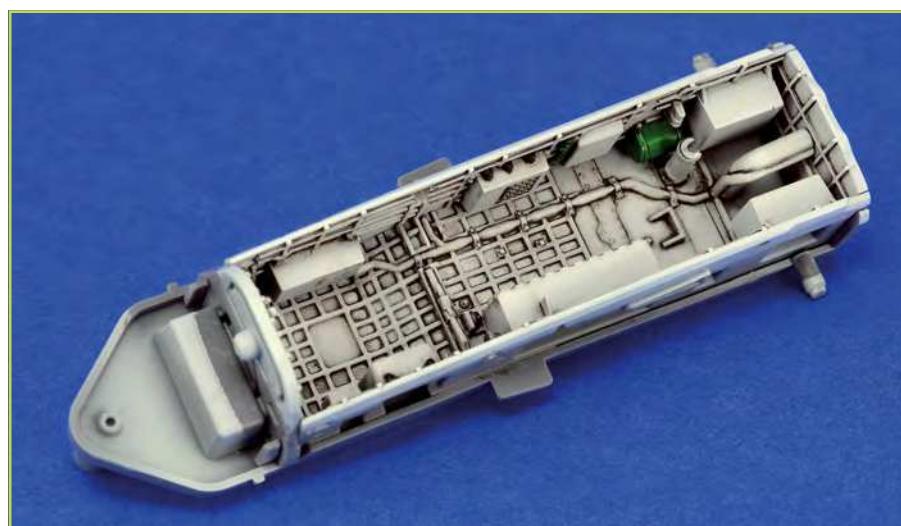
The left undercarriage bay wall with X-28 Park Green oxygen bottle



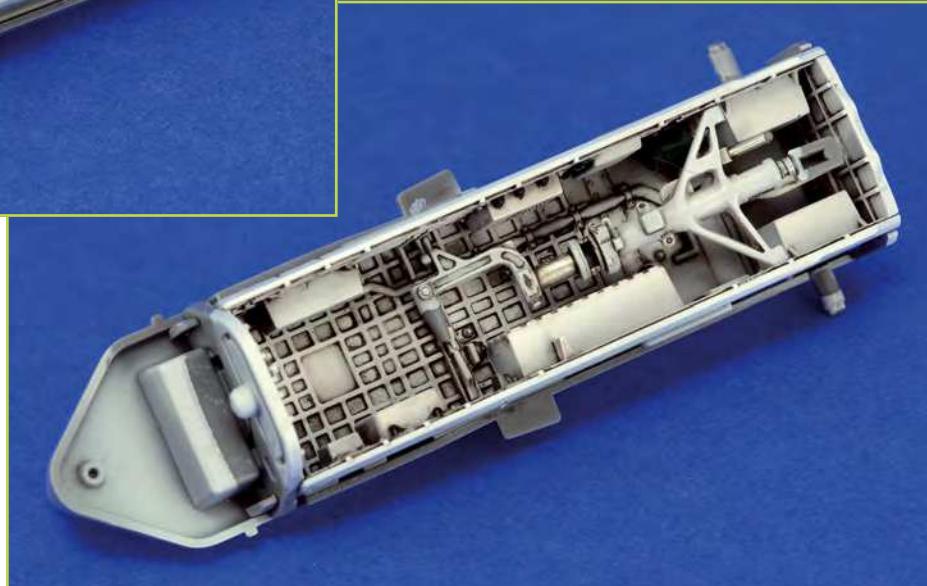
The right undercarriage bay wall with kit-supplied decals applied



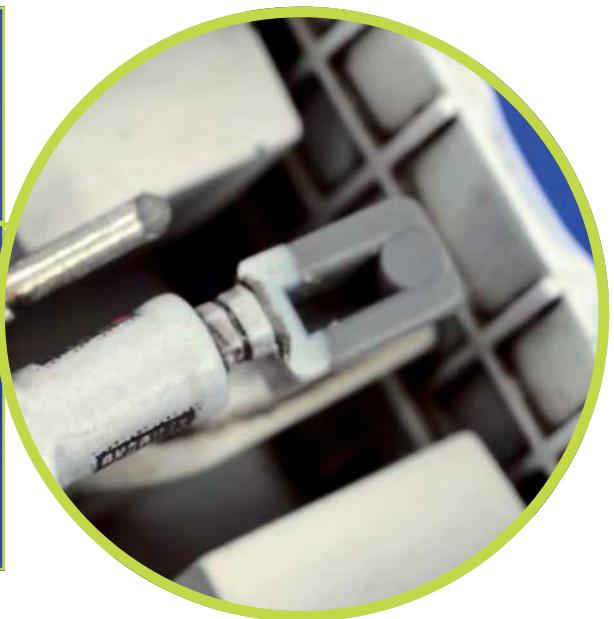
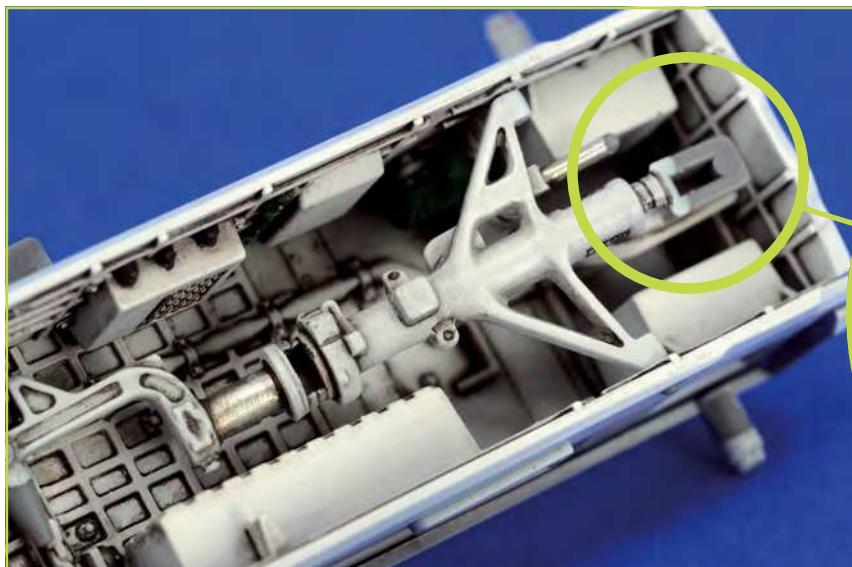
Front and rear nose undercarriage bay panels, again treated with the Panel Line Accent Color 'wash mixture



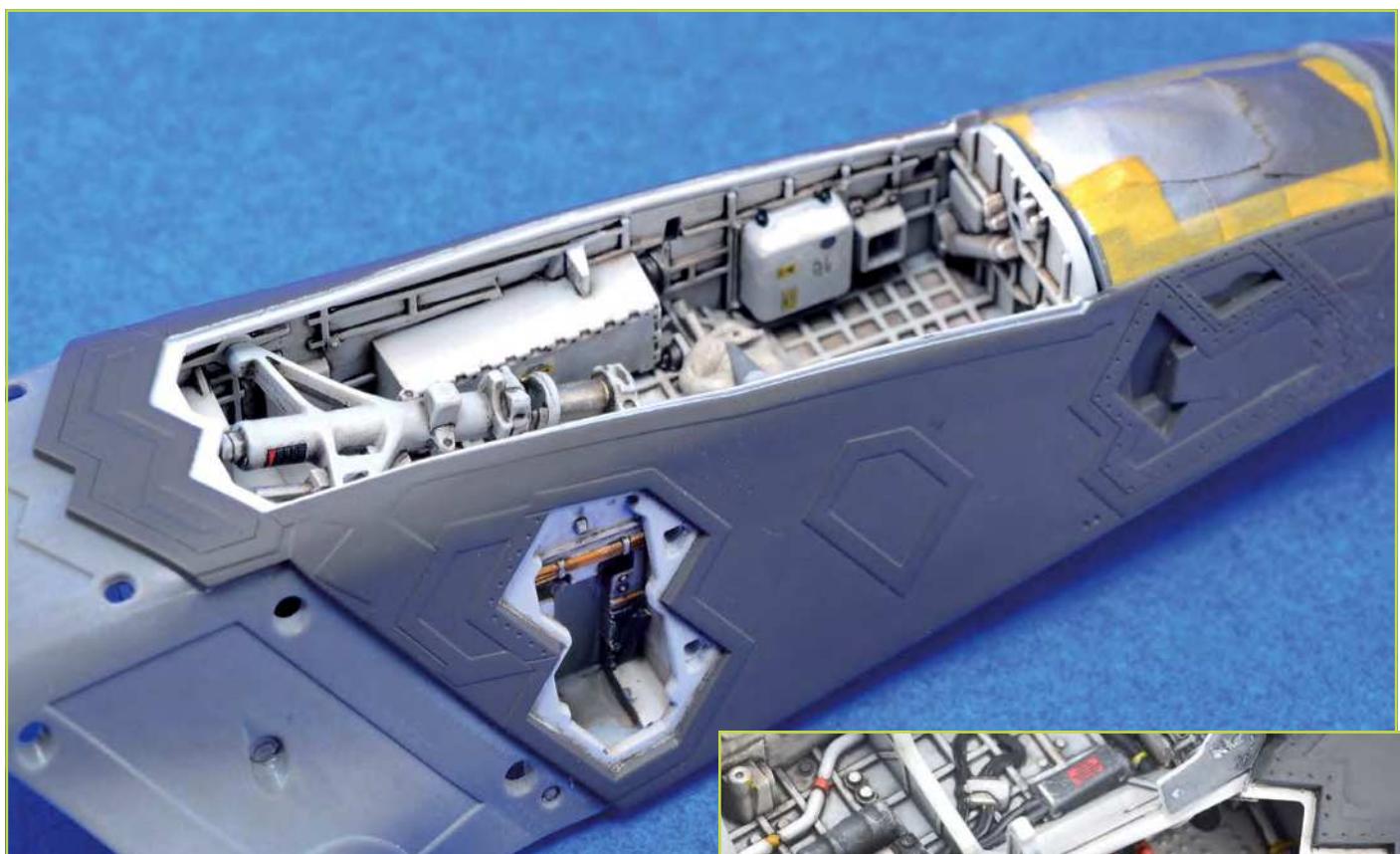
A quick test fitting before cement is applied...



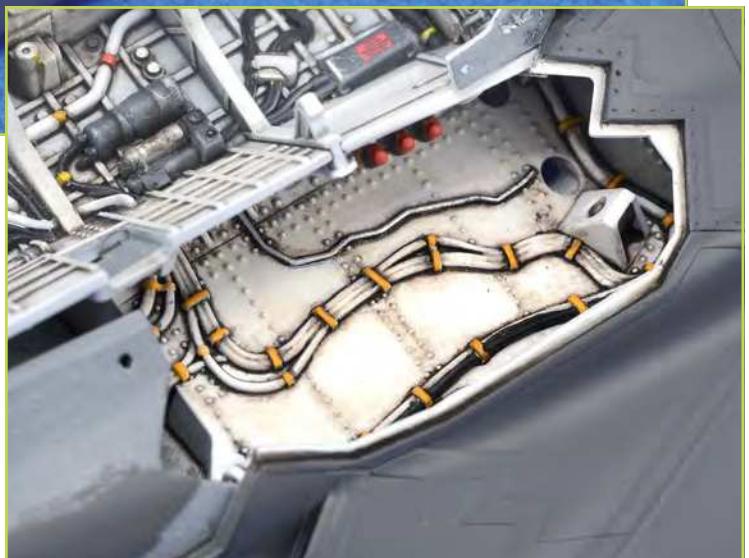
...not forgetting to trap the nose undercarriage leg before gluing



At the top end of the leg, we can observe an unpainted rectangle of grey plastic; this is the tab that will be snipped off in step 24 to free-up the leg so it can swing into place



With the lower fuselage half inverted, we can see the front UC bay cemented securely in place, as well as the housing for the pilot's telescopic steps



Compared to the front bay, the main undercarriage housings are much simpler affairs

FULL-BUILD: MODERN MILITARY AVIATION

TAMIYA 1:48 LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35A LIGHTNING II • KIT NO.61124



Here we see the assembled air ducts, for which an intake fan is provided, with separate 'hub'. A nice touch but totally hidden on the finished model!



The intake sub-assembly awaits mating to the lower/front fuselage unit in which the front undercarriage bay has already been installed

of the airframe. Not here though. The F-35A's leg is designed to lay flat at this early stage, keeping it safely tucked away until needed. It's not until step 24 of the instruction booklet that the modeller is directed to snip off a small tab that holds the leg horizontal inside its housing, allowing it to swing down into place, secured with its retraction brace. It's a brilliant idea by the F-35 model's design team and a touch of pure Tamiya magic.

With the fairly bland finish of the F-35's exterior, the jet exhaust does allow the modeller a chance to impart a little colour in the form of the mildly heat-stained afterburner petals and their white (ceramic?) interiors, pretty much the only area of a

Lightning II that exhibits any obvious 'weathering'. The kit's afterburner is broken down in a manner that greatly eases the painting process; the white inners and dark metallic outers of the petals are moulded individually and are brought together onto the base part (G14) to create the finished unit, which is then pressed into place on the rear of the aircraft once it has been fully painted, decalled and – dare I say it – weathered! Another lovely example of Tamiya's forethought and very helpful for the modeller. So, I'll let the photos and their captions explain these and the other things I accomplished this month. Wish me luck in getting the model finished for the next issue! ●



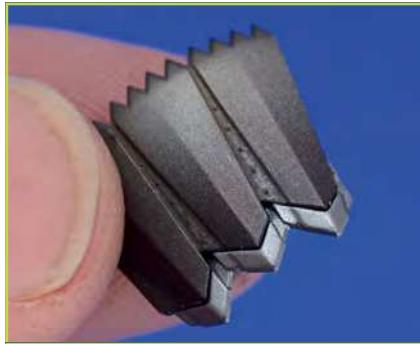
Considering the complex angles of the structure, it fits pretty well, leaving a panel-line where the parts meet

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After cementing tightly in place, that joint closes up nicely





Alclad 2 paints were used to create the burnt steel effect of the outer afterburner panels



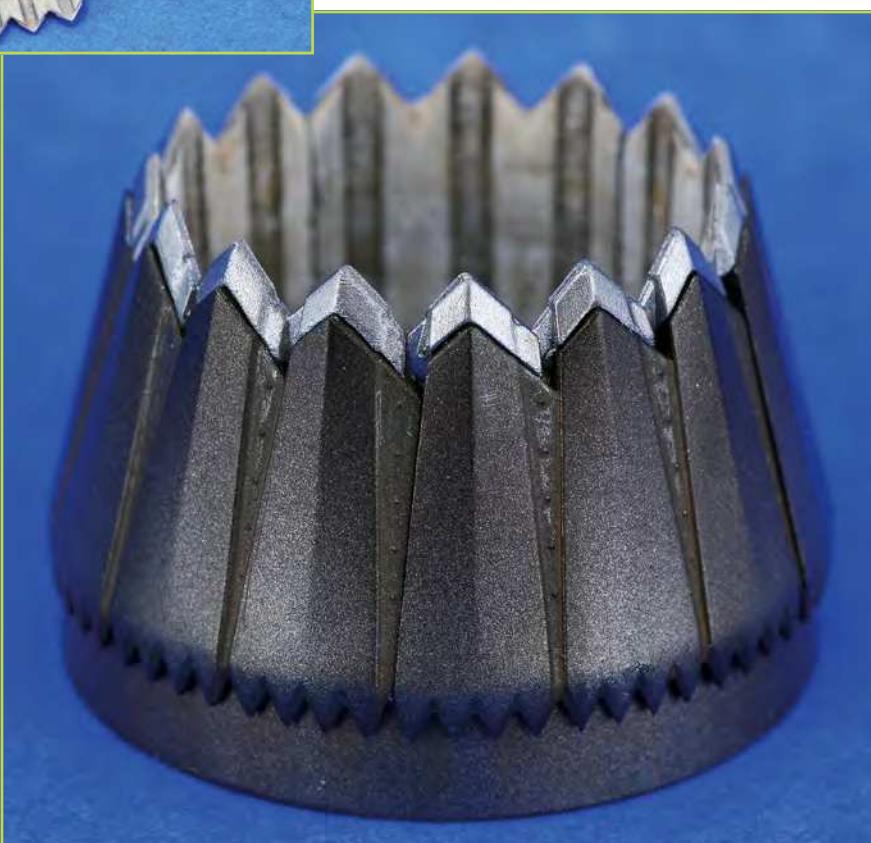
The inner faces were sprayed flat white and then given various treatments to create the stained look you see here



A dab of Revell Contacta cement was applied to each 'stub' to secure its petal in place



The five petals are ready to be fitted to the base ring, a perfect push-fit



The finished nozzle looks very accurate and can be placed to one side, to be fitted towards the end of assembly

TECH SPEC...

- Wingspan: 222mm
- Fuselage length: 326mm
- Realistically depicted Radar Absorbent Material (RAM) panels
- Weapons bay inside details including depictions of wiring
- Engine nozzle, cockpit, and landing gear bays
- Martin-Baker US16E ejection seat (multiple-piece design)
- Ladder which extends from nose left side
- Nose undersurface side details
- Y-shaped air intakes
- Engine nozzle (five-part design)
- RCS (Radar Cross Section) enhancers affixed to top and bottom sections (two for each, four in total) during basic training exercises
- Choose from open or closed weapons bay covers and canopy (the latter is interchangeable), up or down flaps, and extended or retracted boarding ladder

Paints used for this stage:
Tamiya LP-3 Flat Black, LP-4 Flat White

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 TURNER FOR THE BOOKS!

Douglas Weir uses aftermarket decals to enhance NuNu's 1:24 BMW M6 GT3



The full size BMW M6 GT3 debuted onto the race scene back in 2016 after being announced during 2015. The car's inaugural race was to be the 2016 24 Hours of Daytona with BMW Team RLL.

NuNu's kit was first released back in 2017 and since then has come in various box offerings with new parts and decals. The kit I picked up was the 2020 release of with the 2018 Macau GP GT3 race winner livery, although I had other ideas for the livery I wanted to go on the model. At around the same

time I was looking for a decal set for the Mustang GT4 I built (see TMMI Issue 325 Nov '22 for the build article). I came across the Turner Motorsport livery for the car entered in the 24hr of Sebring 2019 event. With the livery now settled and the decals purchased it was time to start planning the build.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

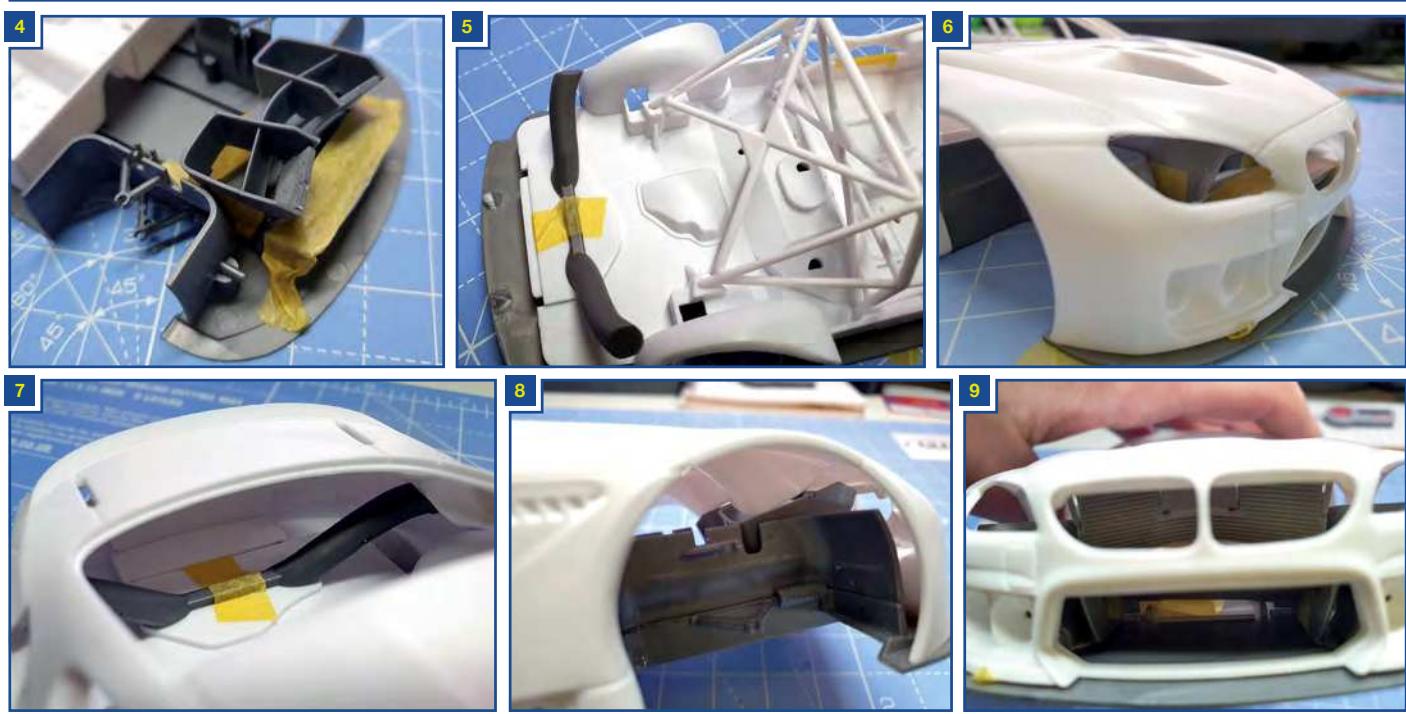
I've built a couple of NuNu kits prior to this one (namely the Audi R8 GT3 and the ex-Beemax BMW E30 M3) so had a rough idea of what the quality would be

like. Upon opening the box, it was clear to see that on the whole the plastic looked good, a few areas would need a bit of attention, but the mouldings were nice, and the body shell looked good. I also had purchased the detail set available for this kit which comes with a fret of PE, some ribbon for the seat harness and a fair few sheets of carbon fibre decals for the chassis and other parts. The decals from Racing Decals 43 looked superb and after building the Mustang GT4 I knew they would be a treat to apply. ▶



FULL-BUILD: SCALE MODEL MOTORSPORT

NUNU MODEL KIT 1:24 BMW M6 GT3 2018 MACAU GP WINNER ● KIT NO.PN24008MSK



● BODYWORK

Even though the body looked great there was still some basic clean-up to do in way of seam lines and making sure that everything was nice and clean so that there would be no issues further along the build process. This kit comes with separately moulded front and rear bumpers, again after a bit of clean up these were offered up to the bodyshell and checked for alignment/fit. When ready these were glued in place using some Tamiya white cap cement and left overnight to cure [pic 1].

Next for the body was to add the ducts that sit on the rear three quarter panel. The two that sit above each rear wheel arch are supposed to be glued

onto the internal cooling duct work according to the instructions, however I suspected that these wouldn't sit nice with the body and would leave a gap, therefore I elected to glue them on to the body and deal with the seam line to smooth it all out.

Any gaps were filled with some 'sprue glue' and once cured sanded back until there was no visible seam, the same was done for the duct just in front of the rear wheel arch [pic 2]. The last thing to deal with on this car was to fill the bonnet release that sits on the centreline of the bonnet just behind where the BMW badge would eventually go [pic 3].

One thing I had noted from a few

folks I'd spoken to who had previously built this kit, was the poor fit around the bonnet cooling vents when mating the body to the chassis. In order to see what issues there were I decided to mock up the front end along with the rear cooling ducts to make sure there was no interference in these areas [pic 4]. My idea being that I could deal with any issues now prior to any paint and not have to potentially struggle later while trying not to damage finished parts. With the internal parts all temporarily taped to the chassis I put on the body and checked for clearance around the various parts, all seemed to be fine so I was happy to move on and start painting [pics 5 to 9].





PAINT

The body was primed with some Mr Surfacer 1500 white as the base colour for this livery is Turner Motorsport yellow and I was expecting coverage to be bit woeful if I'm honest. The primer was then left overnight before it was wet sanded back to give a smooth finish for the yellow. The paint came from Gravity Colors in Spain and looked fantastic once built up after several light coats to prevent any issues with the paint on the plastic. This was again left overnight to fully cure before making a start on the decals [pic 10].

DECALS

When it comes to cars – and particularly racing cars – it's always the decals that bring it to life for me, up until that point they're always a bit of a blank canvas crying out to be made more interesting. As I was expecting after using the excellent Racing Decals 43 on the Mustang GT4 (TMMI Issue 325, November 2022) there were no issues at all, they conformed beautifully around the various curves and with some good decal set and soften solutions (plus a little heat from a hairdryer) they settled into all the awkward parts happily enough [pics 11 to 14].

Since I was doing a full carbon effort on the chassis with the sheets supplied in the detail set, I thought it a bit rude not to add some carbon detail to the bodywork. Some of the decals as supplied by Racing Decals 43 were just plain

black and after looking at a few images of the real cars I surmised they would be bare carbon sections.

In order to help me with this task I scanned the decal sheets and used Adobe Illustrator to trace the outline of these decals. This was then transferred to the software for my cutting machine and I used this to cut a set of carbon decals from a sheet of Scale Motorsport 1:20 Twill Weave [pic 15]. These carbon bits were then applied where required and the whole body was left for a day or so before giving it a panel line wash with some Tamiya light grey panel line accent colour. Once the decals had fully dried the body was cleared using my now go-to gloss 2k from Gravity Colors [pic 16].

CHASSIS

This is a really basic kit, even by GT car standards so there isn't that much to do. The upper sections of the wheel arches were fitted at the front; the upper sections of the rear being part of the interior tub. As I had previously dry-assembled the front radiator assembly, this was broken back down for paint [pic 17]. The suspension parts were cleaned up, along with the hubs and the part that represents the rear drive shafts/diff and which are buried never to be seen again! [pic 18]. They were all primed and the chassis set aside for the carbon decals, the rest of the parts were detail painted as called for in the instructions. The biggest job on the chassis was applying all the various bits

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FULL-BUILD: SCALE MODEL MOTORSPORT

NUNU MODEL KIT 1:24 BMW M6 GT3 2018 MACAU GP WINNER • KIT NO.PN24008MSK



of carbon decal supplied in the NuNu detail set. This carbon is really nice to work with having previously used it on the Audi R8 chassis; it goes on well and nicely conforms where needed. There is quite a lot of it so it is a case of taking your time and enjoying the process.

Once the carbon decals were down and dry, I could assemble the few parts that make up the chassis. With being aware of the previously mentioned issues around body fit on the chassis I decided to glue the front radiator assembly in place with some Tamiya Extra Thin, rather than my more normal superglue. I had two reasons for this, firstly CA can be brittle if things need flexing and the previously secure item will pop off meaning more (and more) CA and secondly, I view CA as more of a 'spot' weld as I don't like using it in large quantities, whereas the Tamiya Liquid Cement will secure the parts along the whole joint. I would need to wait until later in the build to see if my theory would be correct.

INTERIOR

The interior again follows the same basic but functional theme of the kit [pic 19]. In order to try and lift things a little, beyond using the bits and pieces that come in the PE detail set, I added some carbon to the dash and centre console, added my usual micro-balloons to the seat and dash top to mimic an Alcantara finish. A bit of detail painting of the various boxes that are moulded into the interior tub and a bit of a wash around the cables that are also moulded in does at least mean they are noticeable. The hatches that are present around the fuel cell were hand painted and the pipework added with a final dry brush of some grey to highlight edges and take away from the 'black blob' look [pic 20].



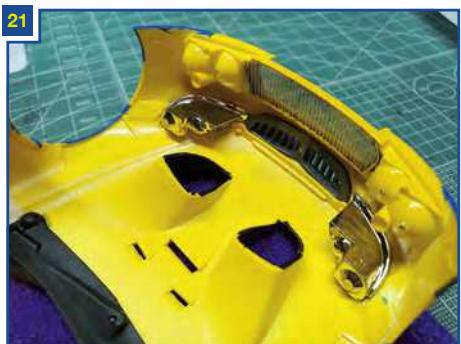
EXTERIOR DETAIL

Next up was to finish up the exterior details. The rear wing was assembled using the PE struts and end plates. This was then primed, and the carbon-fibre and sponsor decals applied. The front grille was carbon'd using a couple of pieces of Scale Motorsport decal and this was a long process with a fair bit of patience required to let it all settle in properly, but the result was well worth it.

The wheels were painted metallic black and once the tyres were fitted the tyre logos could be applied. For that bit of extra detail, I hand painted on some chalk markings with a small brush and thinned Vallejo white – these were loosely based on the tyre marking decals I had from Blue Stuff for the Mustang build.

FINISHING UP

The final parts of any of my builds is the flattening and polishing of the bodywork. I always try and be careful when spraying 2k as it can quickly build up and look quite thick. I usually aim to have it looking as smooth as possible with as few thin coats as required. It's a bit of a balancing act but can save on a lot of elbow grease when it comes to flat and polish. The body was flattened back with some Micro-Mesh before moving on to compound and polish to finish things off. With the polishing out of the way it was time to deal with adding all the trim work to the body, firstly the ducts in front of the rear wheel arches needed to be painted black, to achieve this I made a mask and then sprayed some LP5 semi-gloss black.



Next the windows were masked using a mask set from Decalcas, once painted they were set aside to dry while I fitted the light clusters, PE grilles and light lenses [pics 21 to 24]. I typically use a UV-curing glue to install these parts as it's less prone to issues when compared to CA while giving more working time if required before being set with a UV light.

Once the windows had been installed [pic 25], the body could be finally fitted to the chassis [pic 26]. Fingers crossed I'd have no issues... I have to say it all went together well, once things were located it all just clicked into place. I think the liquid cement used to glue down the radiator assembly was a good idea and probably saved anything coming loose, but I had no interference issues thankfully.

The one area that I deviated from the instructions was to keep the wheels off until I had the body on, which gave a bit more wiggle-room and I could see how things were going through the wheel arches. The last few bits to deal with were to add the side mirrors, rear wing and the windscreen sun stripe decal to call the build complete.

CONCLUSIONS

It's a great kit of a car that has a multitude of options available for liveries. It does have a few quirks and issues although I never really had a problem. The kit is basic but it still looks like a BMW M6 GT3 at the end of the day and one I'm happy to have sitting on my shelf. I do have another one to build on a future date but I haven't decided what livery that one will be yet. ●



FULL-BUILD: SCALE MODEL MOTORSPORT

NUNU MODEL KIT 1:24 BMW M6 GT3 2018 MACAU GP WINNER • KIT NO.PN24008MSK

TECHSPEC...

NUNU MODEL KIT 1:24 BMW M6 GT3
2018 MACAU GP WINNER

KIT NO.PN24008MSK

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, synthetic rubber tyres, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Mr Surfacer: 1500 White (Primer)
- Gravity Colors: Turner Motorsport Yellow (Base-coat)

Accessories used:

- Racing Decals 43: BMW M6 GTD 96 Sebring 12h Of Sebring 2019 (RDE24/026)
- Scale Motorsport: 1:20 Twill Weave carbon-fibre-effect decal
- NuNu: BMW M6 Detail set

Availability:

- Nunu: www.hiroboy.com
- Gravity Colors: www.gravity-colors.com
- Racing Decals 43: www.racingdecals43.com
- Scale Motorsport: www.scalemotorsport.com



“it all went together well, once things were located it all just clicked into place...”



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NEW from the 'HOW TO BUILD...' series



How to Build... TAMIYA'S 1:48 LOCKHEED P-38F/G LIGHTNING

By Marcus Nicholls

The book includes four complete builds, covering the following topics:

- Adding photo-etched parts
- Using resin upgrade components
- Extending the nose undercarriage leg
- Upgrading the cockpit detail
- Weathering the airframe
- Alternative decal sets



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BRL72208 Arado Ar-396 (RS model kit)

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

BRL72210 He-115 (Revell kit)

BRL72211 A-4C conversion (Airfix kit)

BRL72212 Rato rockets (A-4 Skyhawk)

BRL72213 Mirage Ladder

BRL72214 P-47N Wheels (3 type of pattern)

BRENGUN 1/48 -accessories

BRL48133 AIM-9X (2pcs)

BRL48134 MKXVII Depth Charge

BRL48135 F/R-18 Wheels

BRENGUN 1/32 -accessories

BRL32040 RGM-45 Shrike



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EDUARD, CZECH REPUBLIC

www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk
Tamiya's Lockheed P-38J Lightning receives a whole new cockpit this month and all the resin parts are now fully 3D-printed for maximum detail. Impressive stuff and the model can be taken ever further with the use of Eduard's raised rivets and surface detail set (ER48003) which is also available for the P-38F/G/H (ER48004). Top all this off with Eduard's decal set for the 'J' (D48107) for we have a winner!

I:48 3D-printed Brassin sets

- P-38J cockpit (648812) for Tamiya

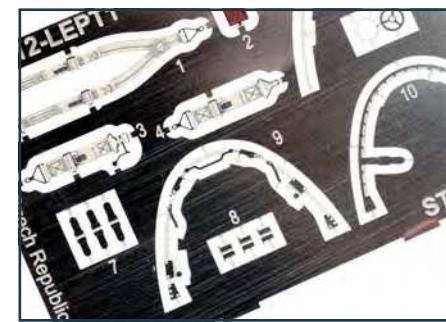
I:48 Löök set

- Mosquito B Mk.IV (644188) for Tamiya

I:35 3D-printed Brassin set

- WWII German clamps Type I (635017)

P-38J cockpit (648812) for Tamiya



Mosquito B Mk.IV (644188) for Tamiya



WWII German clamps Type I (635017)



Accessories

C 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 ALLOY, PER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WS; WATERSLIDE (DECALS)

DW30065



DW30066



DW35153



DW35130



DEF MODEL, KOREA

www.defmodel.com

The new wheels from DEF Model include a set for Gecko's recent Daimler armoured car and the distinctive tread pattern is captured to perfection. For the I^{Love}Kit (I Love Kit) 1:35 JLTV we have a set of marvellously chunky wheels with weighted flat spots and masses of hub detail. If you're building a burnt-out T-34 DEF's set of wheel rims without tyres will be the ideal addition and if you are depicting a modern US military vehicle on manoeuvre, the US machine gun blank adapters will add the perfect touch of detail.

1:35 resin wheel sets

- T-34/85 burnt roadwheel set (2) spider type (DW30065)
- Daimler armoured car Mk.1 sagged whee set (DW30066) for Gecko
- US JLTV sagged wheel set (DW35153) for I^{Love}Kit

1:35 resin detail set

- Modern US machine gun blank adapter double set (DW35130)



ALPINE MINIATURES, USA

www.alpineminiatures.com

The newest pair of figures from New Jersey-based manufacturer depicts two WW2 US infantrymen dressed for cold weather. One carries his M1 Carbine reversed in his right arm, the other has his M1 Garand rifle slung over his right shoulder. As always the detail is eye-popping and the pair will add a lot of character to a vignette or as a stand-alone display. Each figure is supplied with a choice of heads as shown.



1:35 resin figure set

- WW2 US Infantry Set (35305)

New Releases Accessories

A selection of the latest full kits in plastic, resin, metal and more!



ROYAL MODEL, ITALY

www.royalmodel.eu

New from Royal Model is a stunning 1:32 figure of a WW2 Japanese pilot, in flight suit and katana at his side. A choice of heads – one in flight helmet and one bare-headed wearing a hachimaki – is provided. The detail is absolutely astonishing as hopefully you can see in the photos here; perfect to stand alongside a Tamiya 1:32 A6M3 Zero. Also new and very welcome is a set of fourteen resin hands – seven left, seven right – to replace standard kit hands which can often be little more than amorphous blobs. Various 'poses' are included and they are incredibly lifelike.

I:32 resin figure

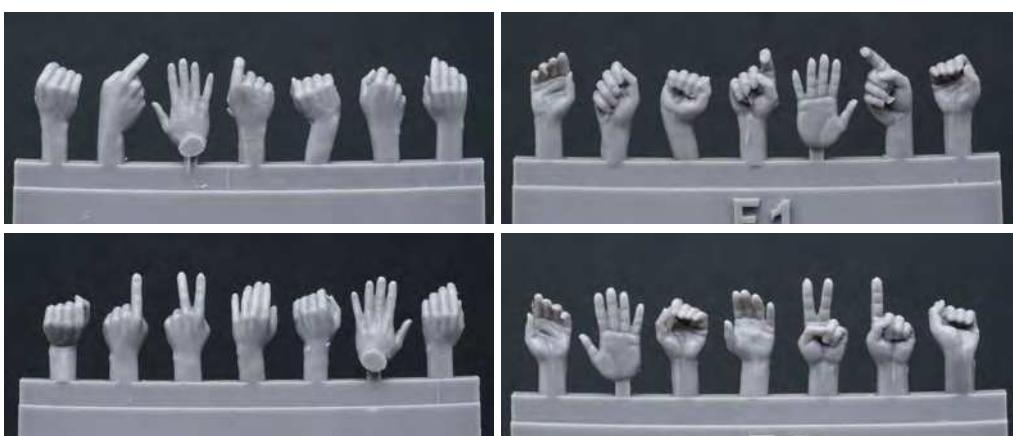
- Japanese pilot
WWII (978)

1:35
accessories

- Assorted hand set No.5 (959)



59



EURO DECALS, UK

www.fantasyprintshop.co.uk

www.jantzsprintshop.co.uk
Euro Decals continue on their F-100D Super Sabre theme with three new decal sets for a 1:32 model, Trumpeter's kit specifically. All are beautifully printed with saturated colours and perfect register and they will look stunning on the finished model. Check out the website for the specific aircraft covered.

1:32 decal sets

- North American F-100D Super Sabre Collection Pt.1 (ED-32131)
- North American F-100D Super Sabre Collection Pt.2 (ED32132)
- North American F-100D Super Sabre Collection Pt.3 (ED-32133)





AMATI
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**FERRARI
TIMOSSI
RACER** **1:8 scale**
Length 79 cm.

This new kit, produced as a special *Limited Edition*, includes ready made fiberglass hull, completely planked with mahogany wood ready to be varnished. The superstructure is pre-made in one piece in matt white fiberglass ready to be painted. The seat, cabin padding and headrest are hand made and covered with red simulated leather, ready sewn. All fittings, accessories and exhaust pipes are in solid brass and chrome plated. This kit includes very detailed photo-etched parts to complete this realistic model.



**LIMITED EDITION
ARNO XI**

Item 1610

**CIWL Orient Express of 1929
SLEEPING CAR N°3533 LX**

Item 1714/01



1:32 scale
Length 73 cm.

Carriage frame and bogies in photoetched brass and pressure die-cast fittings, pre-cut acetate windows, decals sheet and adhesive strips, walnut and lime wooden strips for boiserie, laser cut walls made in birch plywood, fine paper to reproduce wall cover and seats set fabric, 6 technical plans, 2 color sheets and building instructions in two volumes.

Item 1614

*Plank on frame
Wooden decks
2266 photoetched parts included
16 plywood laser sheets
Building instructions in 2 colour volumes*

**GERMAN BATTLESHIP
BISMARCK**
Kriegsmarine 1941



*Length 127 cm.
Height 29.2 cm.
Width 18.2 cm.*

1:200 scale

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AK INTERACTIVE, SPAIN FJ43 PICKUP WITH DShKM

www.akinteractive.com

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO.AK35002

As a scale modelling topic goes, 'modern era' warfare is a fascinating if gruesome subject that is packed with vehicles that are wide-ranging, with 'technical' gun trucks being one of the most 'modellable' of all. Many different vehicles have been pressed into service for this role, with Toyota's bomb-proof pickup trucks often being favoured by their militia owners. With this in mind, AK Interactive has created a trio of Toyota FJ43 Land Cruisers in 1:35 that fit the bill perfectly. This tough little truck was manufactured from 1960 to 1984 and has become somewhat a cult classic, but our interest lies with their use in guerilla wars in Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere. We received the FJ43 Pickup for review and it comes with a Soviet-era DShKM 12.7mm heavy machine gun on a pillar mount in the rear. The other kits depict the pickup with an SPG-9 Recoilless Gun and one with a hard top, all on the same chassis. They are all-new toolings from AK and are moulded to a very high standard; fine detail is everywhere. The chassis is a one-piece item (thankfully) but the drivetrain is built up from individual parts for enhanced detail. No upper engine is provided but that's what the aftermarket is for. Three sets of steering linkages are supplied for left, straight-ahead and right-turning poses to be represented, an excellent idea. It's a wonderful target for creative paint job and weathering and figure sets are already on the way for it. A brilliant choice! **TMMI**

 Superb detail, great subject choice, just the right amount of parts

 Hard to find fault here



FLYHAWK, CHINA HMS FORMIDABLE 1941 DELUXE EDITION

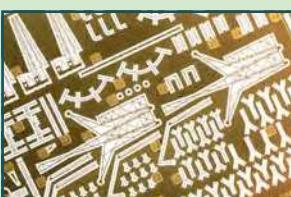
www.flyhawkmodel.com

SCALE: 1:700 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, MR, WS • ITEM NO.FH1152S

HMS Formidable was an Illustrious-class aircraft carrier and her aircraft played a key role in the Battle of Cape Matapan in early 1941. Assigned to the Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean in 1942, she covered Operation Torch, the invasion of French North Africa in November. Formidable made several attacks on the German battleship Tirpitz in Norway in 1944 as part of the Home Fleet. She was placed in reserve and sold for scrap in 1953 (Wikipedia). Flyhawk has firmly established itself as a premier producer of small-scale naval models and even if you're not naturally a ship-kit builder (like this reviewer) you will nonetheless be impressed by their models. The detail they manage to cram into the injection-moulded polystyrene parts is absolutely incredible; they barely need any extra detail work, but with this release there's a mass of minuscule photo-etched brass items to install too. The plastic parts provide easy solutions whether you choose to build your model as a full-hull or waterline depiction, with no tricky sawing needed at all, allowing you to get on with the fun of building and painting. This kit is one of Flyhawk's 'Deluxe Editions' and as such the box contains a pack of photo-etched brass that include railings, cranes, walkways, antennae and more, plus struts and propellers for the Fairey Albacore, Fulmar and Swordfish airwing which will be found amongst the plastic sprues. The Swordfish even come with a wing-fold option which in 1:700 is a rather amazing achievement! Another set included in this special edition provides lengths of brass rod for the cranes plus turned brass for gun barrels, a really nice touch. **TMMI**

 A very important Royal Navy vessel and a stunning kit in every respect

 Modelling skills required



ATIC 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 ALLOY, PER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WS; WATERSLIDE (DECALS)



ICM, UKRAINE

BRISTOL BEAUFORT MK.IA WITH TROPICAL FILTERS

www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:48 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.48311

The Bristol Beaufort (manufacturer designation Type 152) was a British, twin-engined torpedo bomber designed by the Bristol Aeroplane Company and developed from experience gained designing and building the earlier Blenheim light bomber. At least 1,180 Beauforts were built by Bristol and other British manufacturers.

The Beaufort was adapted as a long-range heavy fighter variant called the Beaufighter, which proved to be very successful and many Beaufort units eventually converted to the Beaufighter (Wikipedia). ICM plough on with model kit production despite the well-documented horrors in their home nation and what they are making is simply remarkable. One of their latest models to arrive at TMMI is this Beaufort Mk.IA in 1:48, an attractive variant of this World War Two British machine. It is provided with a decent cockpit that built as standard will more than satisfy the eye when peering through the canopy glazing. Eduard have created photo-etched details for this model that will take it to further heights. Both of the kit's Bristol Perseus radial engines are highly detailed and the double-bank powerplants are provided with exhaust systems as a finishing touch. The undercarriage is impressively complex-looking and all you need to do is file a pair of flat spots to create a slightly weighted appearance. The airframe is moulded with very fine recessed panel lines and raised panels where appropriate but there are no rivets. These could be added by the modeller with a suitable rivet-roller tool but if not added, the model will still look very handsome. Those good looks will be further enhanced by the markings options offered, the Mediterranean schemes being the most 'weatherable', from a scale modelling perspective. **TMMI**

+ Fantastic subject choice and attractive markings options

- An Eduard PE brass set will add an extra touch of delicacy



ICM, UKRAINE

UNIMOG S 404 KOFFER

www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, SVT, WS • ITEM NO.35136

Mercedes-Benz's 'Unimog' (UNiversal-MOTOR-Gerät) 404, also called the Unimog S and Unimog 404 S, was produced in the Unimog plant in Gaggenau from 1955 to 1980. Marketed as Unimog U82, and later Unimog U110, 64,242 units of the two Unimog 404 types 404.0 and 404.1 were built, which makes the 404 the Unimog model with the highest production figure of all Unimogs. ICM have recently created a superb 1:35 kit of this post-war little beast and it's a wonderful production. It comes on six sprues of grey polystyrene plus two in clear, five black vinyl tyres and sheet of waterslide decals. The ladder chassis is a part-by-part structure with tubular crossmembers all present and correct; careful alignment during assembly will be vital here. The kit comes with a nicely detailed representation of the 2.2 litre straight-six engine/gearbox and along with a full exhaust system, fuel tanks and a detailed drivetrain/suspension, it brings an air of pleasing busy-ness to the model's underpinnings. So much so, the first forty-six steps of the instructions are concerned with its assembly. Impressive! From there, the cabin is built up and fitted and in an instant, covers much of your hard work, because the Unimog is a cabover design! One could always leave the cab loose. The kit being reviewed here is the 'Koffer' variant with a box-type rear body; ICM also offer the open cargo deck version (35135), both kits featuring fabric cabin roofs. It's a superbly well detailed model that will keep you busy for quite a while, in a very good way! **TMMI**

+ Fantastic subject - let's hope for a whole Unimog family

- Don't worry about the lack of an MB logo on the grille in the boxart, it's moulded on the kit part



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ITALERI, ITALY LAND ROVER 109 LWB

www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:24 • MATERIALS: IM, SVT, WS • ITEM NO.3665

Arriving on just one large sprue of black polystyrene, plus a chassis, bodyshell, soft-top, four tyres, decals and window parts, Italeri's 1:24 Land Rover 109 LWB kit is an exercise in elegant and efficient model kit design. All the more impressive considering the model's origins as an Esci release from the 1970s; it looks thoroughly modern with all parts very nicely detailed and just a modicum of flash to contend with. Italian maker Esci were way ahead of their time and this alone more than justifies the issue of this kit now; the body shape is spot on and somehow the production style suits the utilitarian feel of the real vehicle. It just kinda works. Evolving from its 1947 beginnings in the form of the Series I, the Series III Land Rover was introduced in 1971 and manufactured in great quantities; it was a workhorse for farmers and the military alike and its off-road ability was legendary. This kit depicts the eighty-eight-inch long wheelbase version which is a handsome thing and from an aesthetic viewpoint, is more attractively proportioned than the somewhat dumpy short wheelbase machine. The kit can be built in left and righthand-drive versions and the cabin is well appointed with all driving controls included, plus the famously spartan dashboard(s). No engine is included and the bonnet is moulded in with the cabin, but the chassis and drivetrain are well detailed all the same. An excellent rendition of this British motoring icon, even after all those years. **TMMI**

+ Flawless subject, excellent proportions, remarkably fine detail

- Just a like flash to remove, no big deal



KINETIC, HONG KONG F-16A MLU NATO VIPER

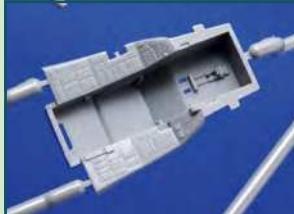
www.luckymodel.com

SCALE: 1:48 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO. K48100

In 1989, a two-year study began regarding possible mid-life upgrades for the USAF's and European Partner Air Forces' F-16A/Bs. The resulting F-16 Mid-Life Update (MLU) package was designed to upgrade the cockpit and avionics to the equivalent of that on the F-16C/D Block 50/52; add the ability to employ radar-guided air-to-air missiles; and to generally enhance the operational performance and improve the reliability, supportability and maintainability of the aircraft. Aircraft receiving this set of updates are designated F-16AM or F-16BM. Development began in May 1991 and continued until 1997; however, the USAF withdrew from the MLU program in 1992, although it did procure the modular mission computer for its Block 50/52 aircraft. The first of five prototype conversions flew on 28th April 1995, and the installation of production kits began in January 1997 (Wikipedia). This is an all-new kit from Kinetic, completely replacing the earlier F-16 the company produced in 2009. To quote Raymond Chung, Kinetic's owner; "For years, I have a wish to revisit our first iconic subject; F-16 series. We need to explore until we gain sufficient experiences and technical resources to achieve the standard of what customers really expected. Now, after six years of hard work, with the help of our global team of contributors and supporters, we are proud to present our new generation tooling of 1:48 F-16 kit (Gold Series). I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all customers who support us throughout the years, bear our imperfect products, and yet expect us to do better for each new release. We will continue to offer more exciting products, just as this time, the Kinetic Gold F-16 series to the market in return for your kind support for Kinetic". **TMMI**

+ Fantastic detail and a big advance from Kinetic's original F-16 of 2009

- All looks good from here



ATIC 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 ALLOY, PER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WS; WATERSLIDE (DECALS)



REVELL, GERMANY

AUDI RS E-TRON GT EASY-CLICK SYSTEM

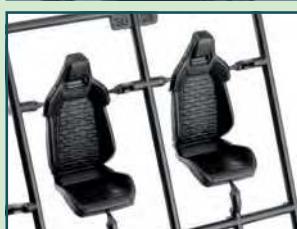
www.revell.de

SCALE: 1:24 • MATERIALS: IM, SVT, WS, SAS • ITEM NO.07698

Before anything further is said about this kit, it's essential to state that you should not be put off by the Easy-Click System logo on the boxtop. Upon seeing that emblem, you may be forgiven for thinking this is a simplified model with sacrifices in detail and refinement to make it easier to build. And while Revell's designers have certainly rationalised construction in some areas – mostly notably the suspension, or lack thereof – the key elements of bodyshell, interior and wheels are all extremely well executed, allowing this model to potentially look fantastic when built and painted. The body's proportions look spot-on and capture the low-slung lines of this electric-propelled rocket ship perfectly. The real thing has almost 600bhp giving it a neck-straining 0-60mph time of 3.3 seconds which is pretty amazing. It shares its underpinnings with the Porsche Taycan 4S, which gives a clue to just how performance-oriented this machine is. Although Revell's kit is perhaps aimed at modellers newer to the hobby, you'll get the best result from it if you take your time and give it the care it deserves. The bodyshell really is nicely done and with the use of modern-generation paints such as Tamiya's Lacquer Paint range, it has the potential to look magnificent. Treat the interior with similar respect and you'll have an excellent replica of this improbably powerful autobahn stormer for your display cabinet. **TMMI**

+ Excellent proportions, great detail and top value at around £30

- Don't worry about that Easy Click logo!



MAGIC FACTORY, CHINA

IRON DOME AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

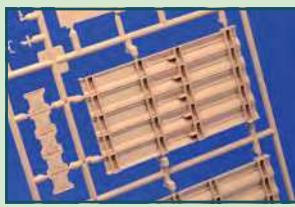
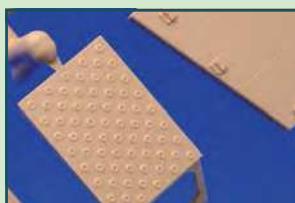
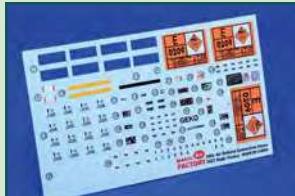
www.frommodelcentre.com.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, MW, MT, WS • ITEM NO.2001

'Iron Dome' is a mobile, all-weather air defence system developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries. The system is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of four kilometres (two and a half miles) to seventy kilometres (forty-three miles) away and whose trajectory would take them to an Israeli populated area. From 2011 to 2021, the United States contributed a total of \$1.6 billion to the Iron Dome defence system, with another \$1 billion approved by the US Congress in 2022 (Wikipedia). This is an all-new kit from newcomers (to TMMI at least) 'Magic Factory'. The box includes one Iron Dome launcher whose parts are spread across nine sprues of sand-coloured polystyrene. The kit also includes a fret of tableless photo-etched brass parts, metal tubing, a roll of wire, a sheet of rather nice matt finished data stencils plus a sheet of carrier-film-free markings for the side of the missile tubes. With these, the modeller is directed to apply the decal in the conventional manner with water, leave for twenty-four hours then peel off the top film, leaving just the tiny data stencils in place. Interesting! The moulded parts are very nicely done, exhibiting detail of the standard we'd expect from the like of Dragon or Trumpeter. US Army and Israeli Defence Force options are provided, in dark green and desert sand respectively. It is certainly a topical and fascinating subject and would look great in a small diorama. **TMMI**

+ Very interesting subject and something rather different for the workbench

- Nothing negative leaps out here



FULL-BUILD: MODERN US MILITARY SHIPPING

DRAGON 1:700 USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS LCS-10 W/NAVAL STRIKE MISSILES (NSM) ● KIT NO.7147

USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS LCS-10

Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan creates some authentic-looking weathering effects on Dragon's 1:700 kit of the US Navy littoral combat ship 'USS Gabrielle Giffords'





I've been modelling ships for fourteen years and 1:700 is my favourite scale. So far I've built a few vessels from the World War II period, because they seemed the most interesting

to me. Ship models from this period are characterised by lots of small parts and with the addition of photo-etched elements they turn out to be a pile of minute details. There comes a time in a life of a modeller when you simply get tired of it and need a rest! That's how I got the idea of building 1:700 scale USS Gabrielle Giffords LCS-10, made by Dragon

[pic 1]. USS Gabrielle Giffords is a modern warship with a simple hull shape and so there's not a lot of armament or other attachments like in the World War II period vessels. That's why I decided that it was perfect to take a break from microscopic parts and focus only on painting.

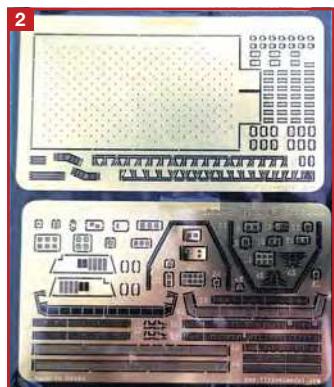
I wasn't disappointed after opening the package. Just like I've assumed, the model didn't come with a lot of parts and the hull could be built either with the bottom or down to the water line. At first I hesitated about building it on the water, but

because it was supposed to be a quick little project I decided to build it with a full hull and place it on a stand. There was a small metal sheet with photo etched elements containing two railings and nets placed on the flight deck.

Unfortunately, I came to the conclusion that it wouldn't suffice so I decided to enhance the model with a set of photo-etched parts made by Flyhawk **[pics 2, 3]**. Luckily, the set didn't contain a lot of parts and they were mostly of the bigger kind. With all of this to hand, I started to build the model. I began by attaching the bottom of the hull to the rest of the model. It fitted almost perfectly, but I had to use putty to cover some gaps. 

FULL-BUILD: MODERN US MILITARY SHIPPING

DRAGON 1:700 USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS LCS-10 W/NAVAL STRIKE MISSILES (NSM) ● KIT NO.7147

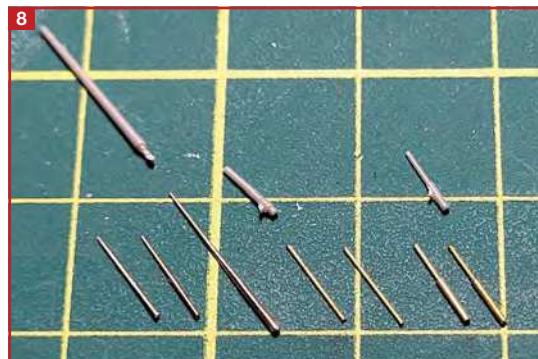
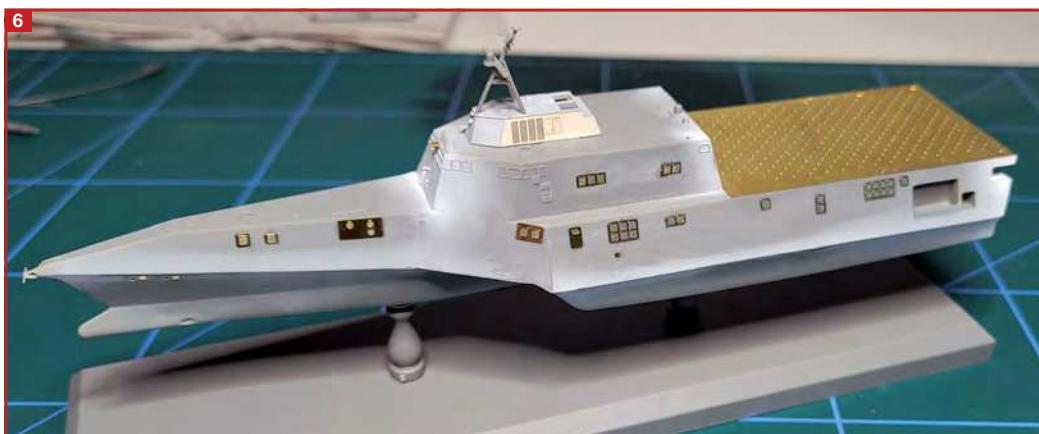
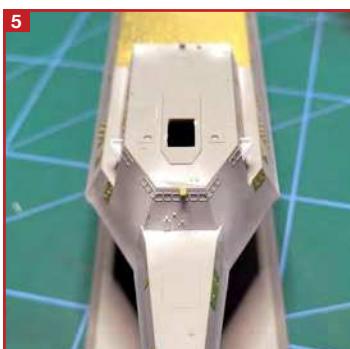


1 The biggest issue turned out to be joining the frontal part of the bridge, at the windows. Unfortunately the windows on the front didn't match with the windows on the port side. It bothered me so I decided to make the front windows out of photo-etched parts left over from a different project [pics 4, 5]. Further processes of building the model and applying the photo-etched parts went without any problems [pic 6].

FABRICATING A CRANE

I have no idea why the model manufacturer didn't supply the crane and motorboat to be placed on the port side of the vessel. Luckily it wasn't a big issue; I made the crane using pieces of plastic and photo-etched parts and took a motor boat from the Pit-Road NE10 set [pic 7]. Additionally I chose to replace the antennae placed on the mast and for this purpose I used 0.3mm diameter copper tubing [pic 8]. For the pointed antennae I used 0.4mm wire. I placed a piece of wire in a grip, rested it on a piece of wood and using a steel file, filed it down to a pointy shape. I sanded down all rough edges with a piece of sandpaper and I had my antennae (which were not included in the set).

Although there were various helicopters included (Sea Hawk among others) I chosen to replace it; in this scale, Trumpeter's 03455 Sikorsky SH-60B Seahawk turned out to be more finely detailed. The rotors included in the set were definitely too thick though, so I replaced them with a set I made out of a piece of photo-etched metal [pics 9, 10].



PAINTING THE MODEL

Just as I expected, assembling the parts went quick and mostly without issues. Now I could begin the most important part, which is painting. For a modern vessel, this one has an interestingly coloured hull. There's a lot of discolouration and streaks, which is rare for a modern vessel. It is probably the desire to recreate these patterns and play with colours which enticed me to choose this model.

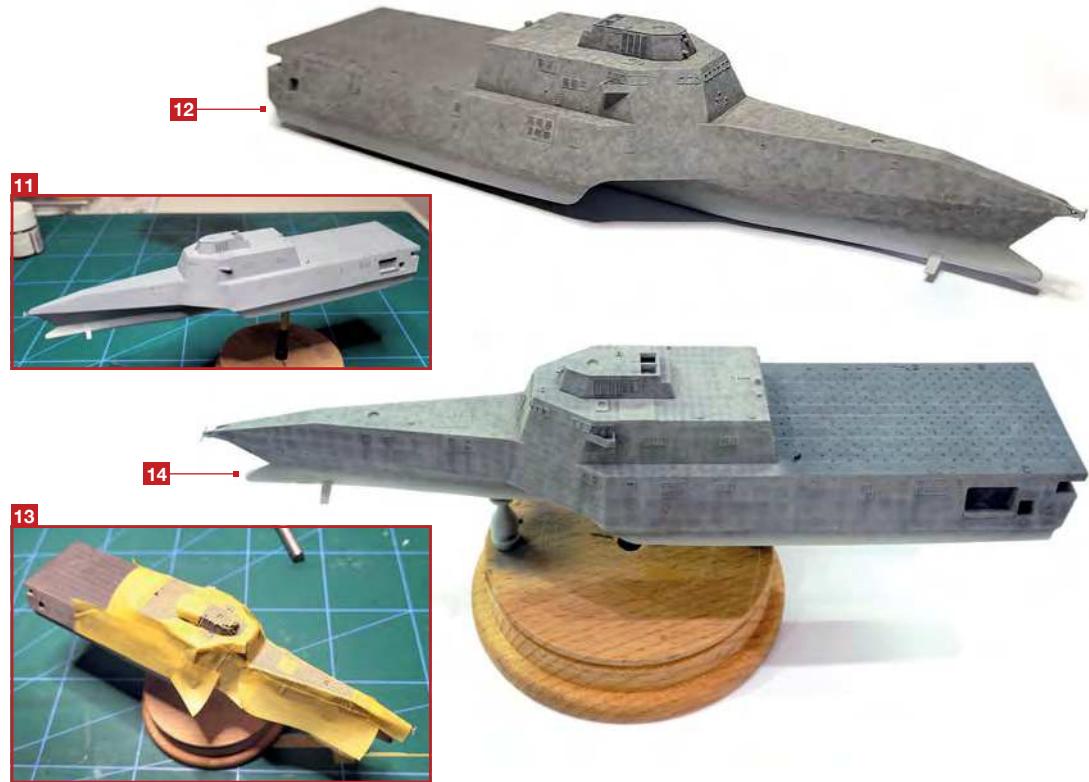
I started the painting process by applying Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer. Following this I covered whole hull with Tamiya XF-53 Neutral Grey, lightened with XF-2 Flat White in 1:1 proportions (pic 11). Next step was to get a marble-like effect on the whole hull. Firstly I painted the model with XF-63, lightened using XF-2 1:1

(pic 12). Next, I repainted it, but using pure XF-63. The hull turned darker, with lots of contrast, so I painted the hull excluding the flight deck with a transparent layer of XF-20 Medium Grey diluted 10:1 (thinner to paint). I used the same method on the flight deck, but the surface was covered with XF-63.

TIME TO GET DIRTY

Now it was time for the hardest part, applying the discolouration effects across the hull. At first I had no idea how to approach this, because the transitions between colours were too fluid and the hull was quite small, which made painting more difficult. I couldn't use masking, because transitions between colours would be too regular and sharp. Finally I decided to paint it without masking, only using an airbrush and painting small squares and rectangles. This solution turned out to be the best one. Using XF-63 mixed with a little of XF-10 I started to apply the paint. At first, I painted all of the squares and rectangles so they were barely visible.

Afterwards I increased their contrast, so they would appear darker and with different shades from each other. Now, after achieving high contrast, I had to lower it a little bit. Like before I've



covered it with a transparent layer of XF-20, so the previously achieved contrast would lessen a little.

MASKING FOR THE WALKWAYS

Subsequently I've started to paint the walkways on the hull. Dragon provided walkway decals with the set, but they didn't exactly match what I've seen on the real vessel. Because of that I've used thin strips of tape to mask the decks, so I could paint on square walkways. I've used XF-69 for this (pics 13, 14).

I painted the armament using XF-53 lightened with XF-2 1:1. Then I had to paint the bottom of the hull. Firstly I painted a black

strip along the water line using XF-1, then XF-69 was applied to the bottom of the hull. To get a more realistic look as though like the paint had been exposed to water, I chosen to apply the paint through a thin piece of sponge held next to the hull surface. This way the finish would be irregular and patchy. I used a few different shades of grey and brown so the effect was as varied as it could be. I secured the whole hull with additional elements with X-22 Clear. With a surface prepared like this I could go on to the next step. I applied the decals which I secured

with an additional layer of X-22. Then I applied a dark grey colour-wash using oil paints made by Van Gogh. Next step was to apply some dirt and grime to the flight deck and here I used AK Interactive Naval Ships Weathering Colors AK301, 302, 303 and 305 (pic 15). I applied them at the same time so they could mix together. ▶



FULL-BUILD: MODERN US MILITARY SHIPPING

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17

When they dried, I removed the excess with a Q-Tip and repeated the process. After the third time the flight deck was as dirty as I wanted it to be. I had to do the rest of the hull and the bottom next. I also used paints from AK Interactive, making all of the streaks and scratches with AK303, 305 and 306. Finally I applied a layer of matte lacquer made by AK Interactive.

All that remained was to fit rigging for the signal flags and the crew. I started with rigging, making it out of stretched sprue in a beige colour. Next I cut it into small sections and affixed it

to the mast and deck so they were a little loose. Using a burning incense stick I tightened the loose threads. Be careful if trying this at home! I was then able to glue on a flag to the rigging.

CREW ABOARD!

The final part was the crew. Unfortunately there's not a lot of choice when it comes to 1:700 figurines. Luckily, some time ago, the Polish company 'Ion Model' released a series of 3D-printed figurines in 1:700 and 1:350 scales which depicted Japanese, American, German and British sailors from the World War II period – at

the moment there are none available for the modern period – but I hope the will be sometime soon. Due to the fact that we're dealing with 1:700 scale and the figurines are so small, I decided to use the American sailors set. After properly painting them it shouldn't be visible that they're from the incorrect time period. As far as working with this set goes, I was pleasantly surprised at the beginning [pics 16, 17]. Well thought-out placement of the figures on the 3D-printed baseplate allowed me to paint them before cutting them from the base. Due to the fact that they're made

out of slightly flexible resin I didn't damage them during removal from the base plate. In my opinion they're the best 1:700 scale figurines I had the opportunity to work with so far.

A QUICK AND SATISFYING RESULT

Just as I'd planned, the model was finished quickly and I was pleased with the results. Building went smoothly and most importantly it allowed me to relax and rest a bit. I'm really happy about the way the painting turned out and I'm sure that I'm going to build another modern period model soon! ●





TECH SPEC...

DRAGON 1:700 USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS LCS-10 W/NAVAL STRIKE MISSILES (NSM) KIT NO.7147

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Acrylics: XF-53 Neutral Grey, XF-20 Flat White, XF-63 German Grey, XF-20 Medium Grey, XF-10 **, XF-69 **, X-22 Clear, Surface Primer
- AK Interactive: Naval Ships Weathering Colors AK301, 302, 303 and 305
- Van Gogh: oil paints

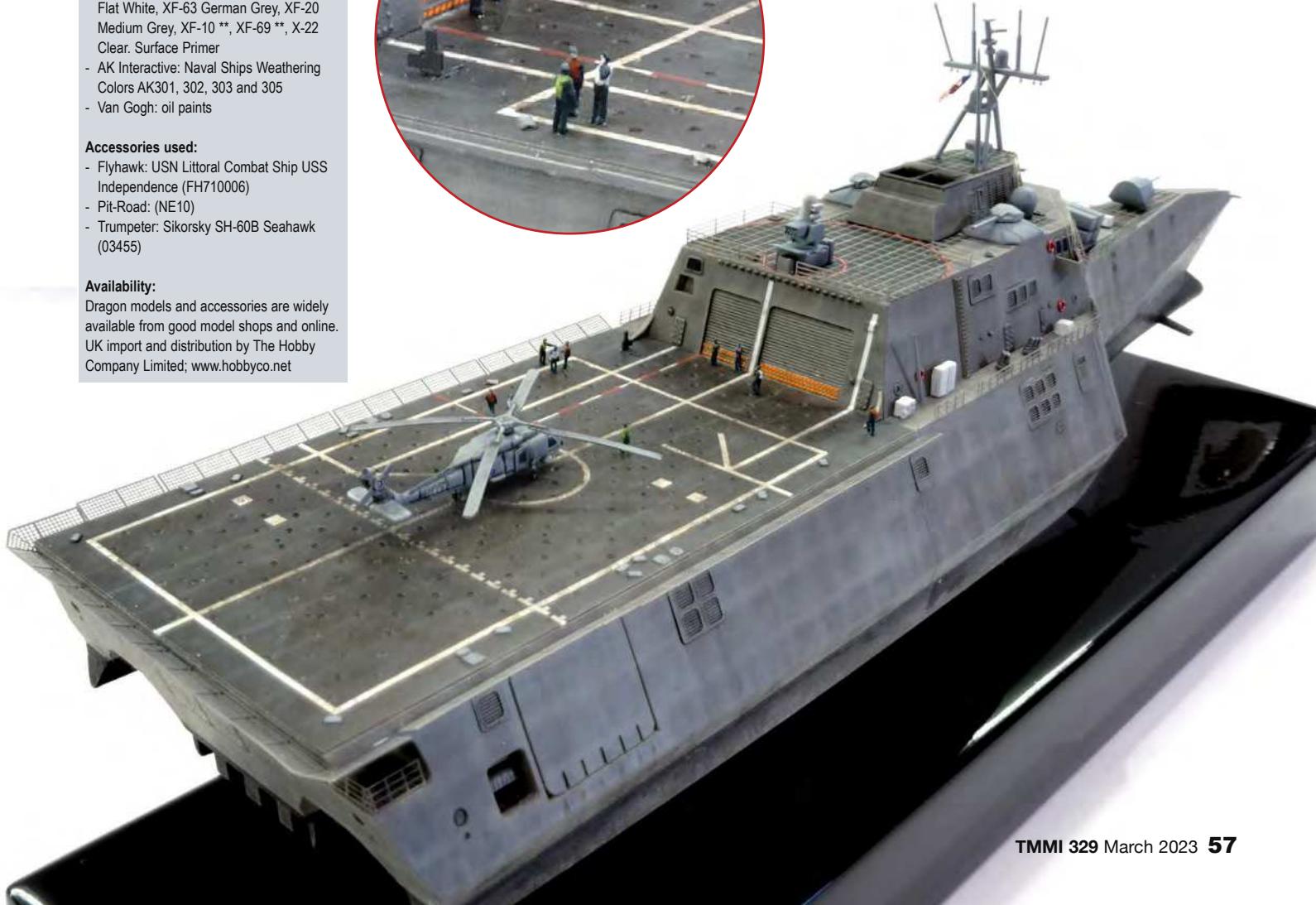
Accessories used:

- Flyhawk: USN Littoral Combat Ship USS Independence (FH71006)
- Pit-Road: (NE10)
- Trumpeter: Sikorsky SH-60B Seahawk (03455)

Availability:

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

“the best 1:700 scale figurines I had the opportunity to work with so far..”



USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS (LCS-10)

USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS-10) is an Independence-class littoral combat ship of the United States Navy. The ship is named after former United States Representative Gabby Giffords, who was shot along with eighteen other people during a 2011 shooting in Tucson, Arizona. The ship's name was announced by then-Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus on 10th February 2012. Gabrielle Giffords is the 16th US naval ship to be named for a woman by the United

States Navy and the 13th U.S. naval ship since 1850 to be named after a living person.

Construction on Gabrielle Giffords began with her keel laying on 16th April 2014 at the Austal USA shipyard in Mobile, Alabama. Rep. Giffords, still recovering from injuries sustained in the 2011 assassination attempt, attended the ship's keel-laying ceremony and with the assistance of an Austal welder, welded her initials into a plate that would become part

of the ship's hull. Gabrielle Giffords was launched and then moved from her construction facility to drydock, on 26th February 2015. The ship was christened in a ceremony held at the Austal USA shipyard on 13th June 2015 and Second Lady of the United States Dr Jill Biden served as ship sponsor at the christening. The ship was delivered to the US Navy on 23rd December 2016 and commissioned the following spring on 10th June 2017 in Galveston, Texas. ●

History edited from Wikipedia



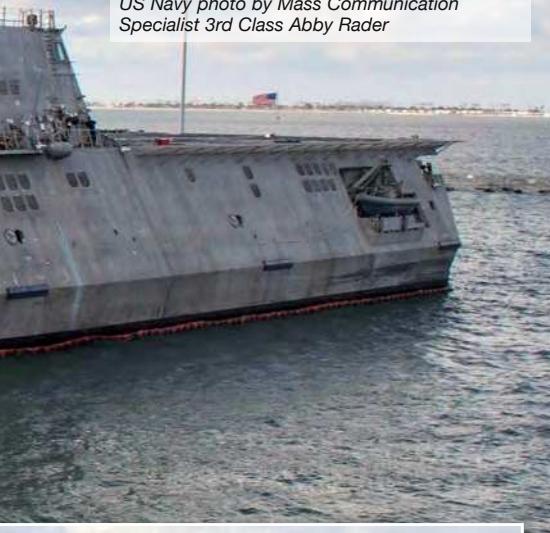
US Navy photos





US Representative Gabrielle Giffords (retired) after whom the vessel was named

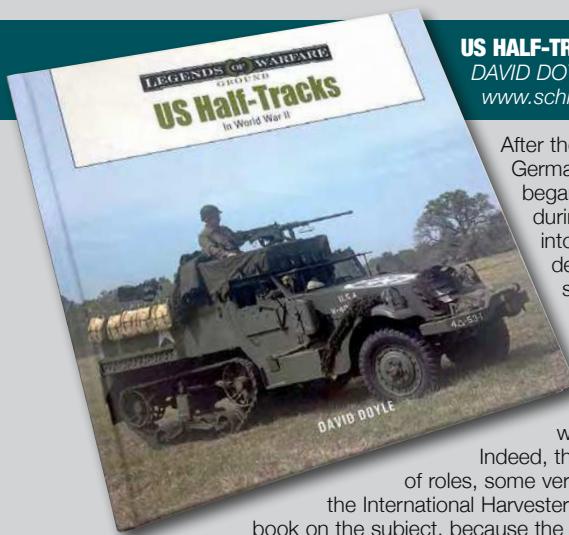
The US Navy Independence-class littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS-10) pier-side at Naval Base San Diego, California (USA), on 20th October 2017. She was preparing to conduct final contract trials (FCT). The trials, conducted by the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), serves as the final in-depth assessment of newly constructed ships prior to official delivery to the US Navy, ensuring the US Navy's standards and requirements are met. US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Abby Rader



US Navy photos

Book Reviews

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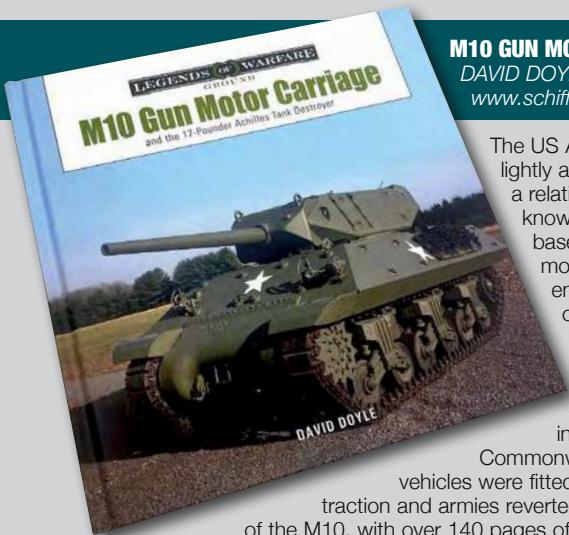
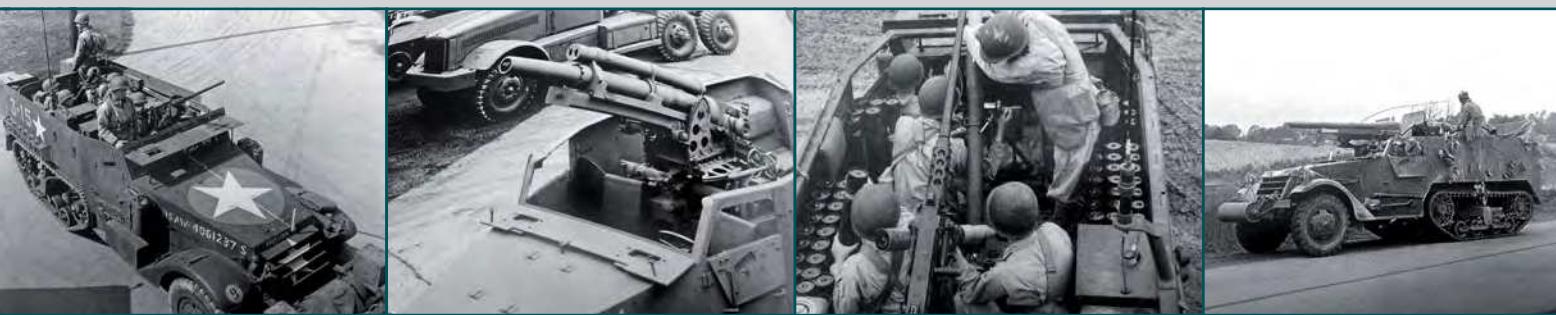


US HALF-TRACKS OF WW2: LEGENDS OF WARFARE

DAVID DOYLE, SCHIFFER PUBLISHING, LTD
www.schifferbooks.com

After the success of foreign and in particular German half-track vehicles, the US Army began to explore this type of vehicle during the 1930's and by their entry into WW2 the American forces had developed the M2 and M3 half-track series. These flat-sided vehicles were resistant to small arms and they were very mobile thanks to their driven front axle. As a result, they were able to accompany armor units and bring troops or weapons to the front of the action.

Indeed, the half-tracks were used for a variety of roles, some very specialised. In addition to the White vehicles used by the US forces, there is a section covering the International Harvester vehicles which were used by Allied nations. This book by David Doyle is not just 'yet another' book on the subject, because the photos have been carefully chosen to help modellers in particular and the text is very informative for giving a basic understanding of each variant. The photos are all extremely sharp and clear, providing the sort of detail that is useful to add to a kit. For anyone making a model or simply interested in half-tracks, this 112-page hardback book is an inexpensive route to get into the subject. This is definitely an excellent guide for modellers. **CLS**



M10 GUN MOTOR CHALLENGE: LEGENDS OF WARFARE

DAVID DOYLE, SCHIFFER PUBLISHING, LTD
www.schifferbooks.com

The US Army doctrine in WW2 called for lightly armoured tank destroyers, mounting a relatively powerful gun. The most well-known of these was the M10 GMC, based on a Sherman chassis and mounting a 3" gun. Starting at the end of 1942, production of the M10 continued through 1943 and a number of variants appeared with modifications to the turret and the engine. A significant number were given to Allied nations, including France and the British Commonwealth. A number of the British

vehicles were fitted with the 17pdr gun, making them even more potent. The Tank Destroyer concept did not gain traction and armies reverted to Main Battle Tank as a better way forward. This book is largely filled with outstanding photos of the M10, with over 140 pages of clear pictures, scale drawings and illustrations. While the first part of the book concentrates on factory shots and interior views, the bulk of the pages are devoted to excellent 'in action' photos of the M10 vehicles fighting their way through Europe. In addition, the informative captions give a clear understanding of what each picture shows. There are few books around that have this superb blend of detail shots and wartime usage and as a result the book provides everything that a researcher or modeller could hope for. **CLS**



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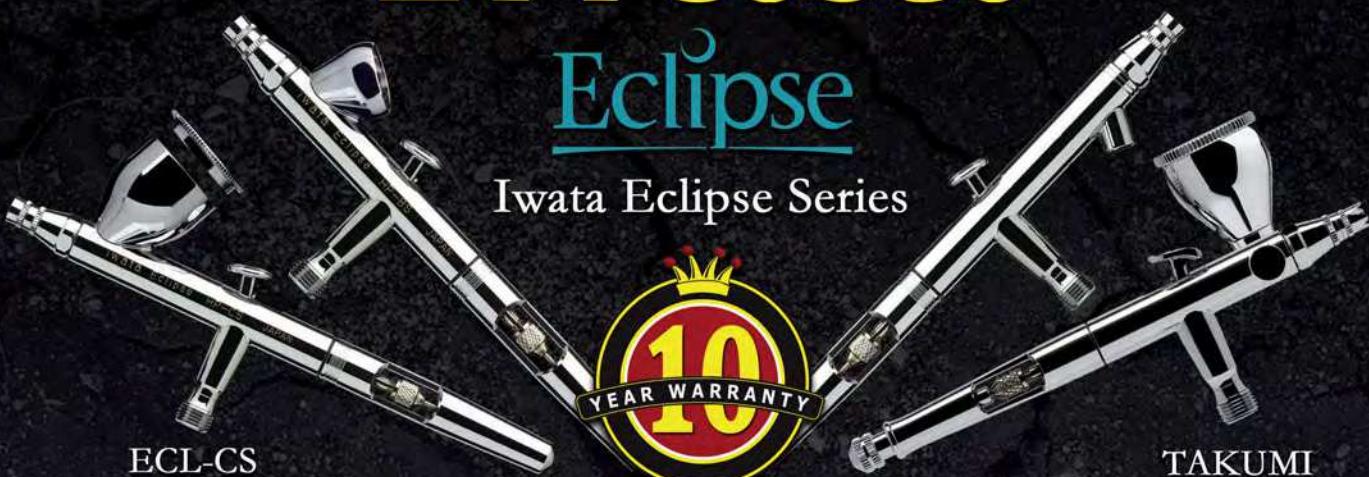
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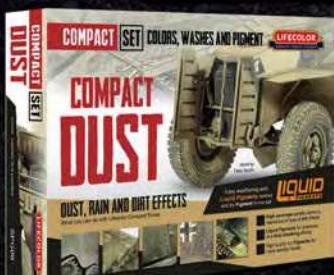
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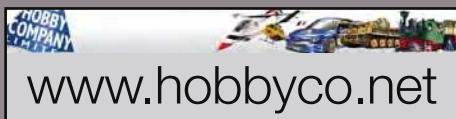
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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of TMMI
is April 2023 (No.330),
on sale 16th March



ETTORE'S MASTERPIECE

Italeri's 1:12 Bugatti Type 35B built to perfection by Gennaro Zappa

BACK TO BAVARIA!

After a three year break, TMMI returns to the Nuremberg Toy Fair for beer, sauerkraut and model kits!



FERRARI ON TWO WHEELS...

Tamiya's 1:12 Ducati Superleggera V4 arrives...

...AND MUCH MORE, OF COURSE!

Due to the many factors that can influence the appearance (or non-appearance) of a model in TMMI, the items shown above are shown on a provisional basis. We endeavour to bring you these articles, but please be patient if they do not feature! Thank you for your understanding.

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ISSUE No.329 MARCH 2023 PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 16th 2023

Editor; Marcus Nicholls **Publisher**; Alan Harman **Graphic Design**; Alex Hall

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Administration; Gordon Angus **Public Relations Officer**; Miss Anne Thropby

Distributed by; Seymour Distribution, 2 East Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PT **Tel**; 020 7429 4000

Newstrade; Select Publisher Services, 3 East Avenue, Bournemouth, BH3 7BW **Tel**; 01202 586848 **Email**; tim@selectps.com

Tamiya Model Magazine is published on the third Thursday of each month by Doolittle Media Ltd. **Editorial enquiries**; editor@tamiyamodelmagazine.com

All other enquiries to; enquiries@doolittlemedia.com Tamiya Model Magazine, The Granary, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK.

Telephone; +44 (0)1525 222573 **Back Issues**; From £5.25 Inc. P&P. are available from the UK address below, or online at www.tamiyamodelmagazine.com

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Subscription rates are; 1 year (12 issues); £55 UK, £69 Europe, £84 Worldwide **Binders**; P&P - UK-£13.40, Europe-£15.40, Worldwide-£17.40 (Including P&P)

For all orders, please call (UK) +44(0)1525 222573 or visit www.tamiyamodelmagazine.com Digital subscriptions available from www.doolittlemedia.com

TAMIYA
Model
MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL

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The Editor's Page...

Bavaria is back

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NEWS FROM NUREMBERG!

As this was being written, I was packing my bag for the 2023 Nuremberg Toy Fair which is back on after a three-year break. Here we can see some of Tamiya and Italeri's new items - much more news next month! ●

Photo of Tamiya items by David Joos.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

COZMIC SCALE MODELS LASER-ETCHED LIGHT UP DISPLAY www.cozmicscalemodels.com

It's not a modelling product as such, but as a die-hard Blade Runner fan I just had to have this wonderful neon-style, laser-etched light up display from Cozmic Scale Models. It plugs into a USB socket and changes colour from red to green - what's not to love! It now sits proudly above my modelling workbench. Also available with Star Trek, Star Wars and Superman emblems - £20 each.



1/48
SCALE

1/48 SCALE AIRCRAFT SERIES NO.124
WINGSPAN 222mm,
FUSELAGE LENGTH 326mm.



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34th FS, 388th FW,
U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command,
Hill AFB, Utah

Here Comes the Fifth Generation Fighter!

1/48 Aircraft Series Lockheed Martin® F-35®A Lightning II® (Item 61124)

The F-35 Lightning II has been delivered since 2015, mainly for the U.S. armed forces. It possesses not only highly advanced stealth characteristics but also network connectivity, plus superior situational awareness developed from information provided by numerous integrated sensors. Now, Tamiya welcomes this cutting-edge fifth generation fighter into the legendary 1/48 Aircraft Series! The F-35A conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) aircraft is authentically recreated based upon extensive research of the actual aircraft. The distinctive form is realistically captured in style with excellent detail in areas such as weapons bays. Unitized interior components are also one of the highlights, which ensure precision assembly, and it is an ergonomic assembly process you will want to experience. Check out our new masterpiece on your own workbench!

★Features refined molded depictions of radar absorbent material (RAM) sections on the surface.
★Highly accurate renderings of the internal Y-shaped air intake ducts. ★Parts are included to build up separate open and closed canopy units, which can then be swapped in and out after assembly. ★Build with the boarding ladder retracted or extended. ★The engine nozzle features five separate pieces, for a crisp look. ★The cockpit and landing bay interiors are also captured in detail. ★Includes a part to depict the drag chute container unique to the Royal Norwegian Air Force. ★Comes with masking stickers for the canopy.



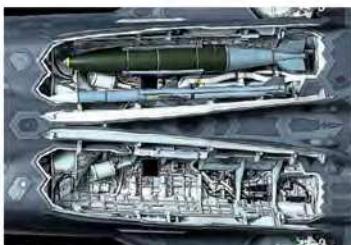
302nd Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing,
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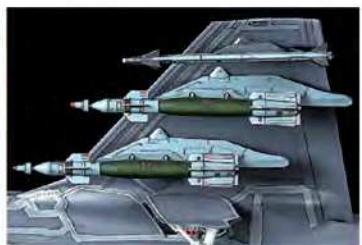
Includes a pilot figure depicted with helmet mounted display (HMD).



The nose landing gear bay has realistic inside details such as ribs and side boxes.



Fuselage weapons bay doors can be assembled open or closed; interior has various cables and lines.



The "Beast mode" - with ordnance attached to all six of the weapons stations on the belly of the aircraft - is also on offer.

LOCKHEED MARTIN® F-35®A LIGHTNING II®

Painting the Lockheed Martin® F-35®A Lightning II® (Tamiya Color Lacquer Paints (LP))

LP-14 IJN Gray (Maizuru Arsenal) LP-15 IJN Gray (Yokosuka Arsenal) LP-36 Dark Ghost Gray LP-59 NATO Brown



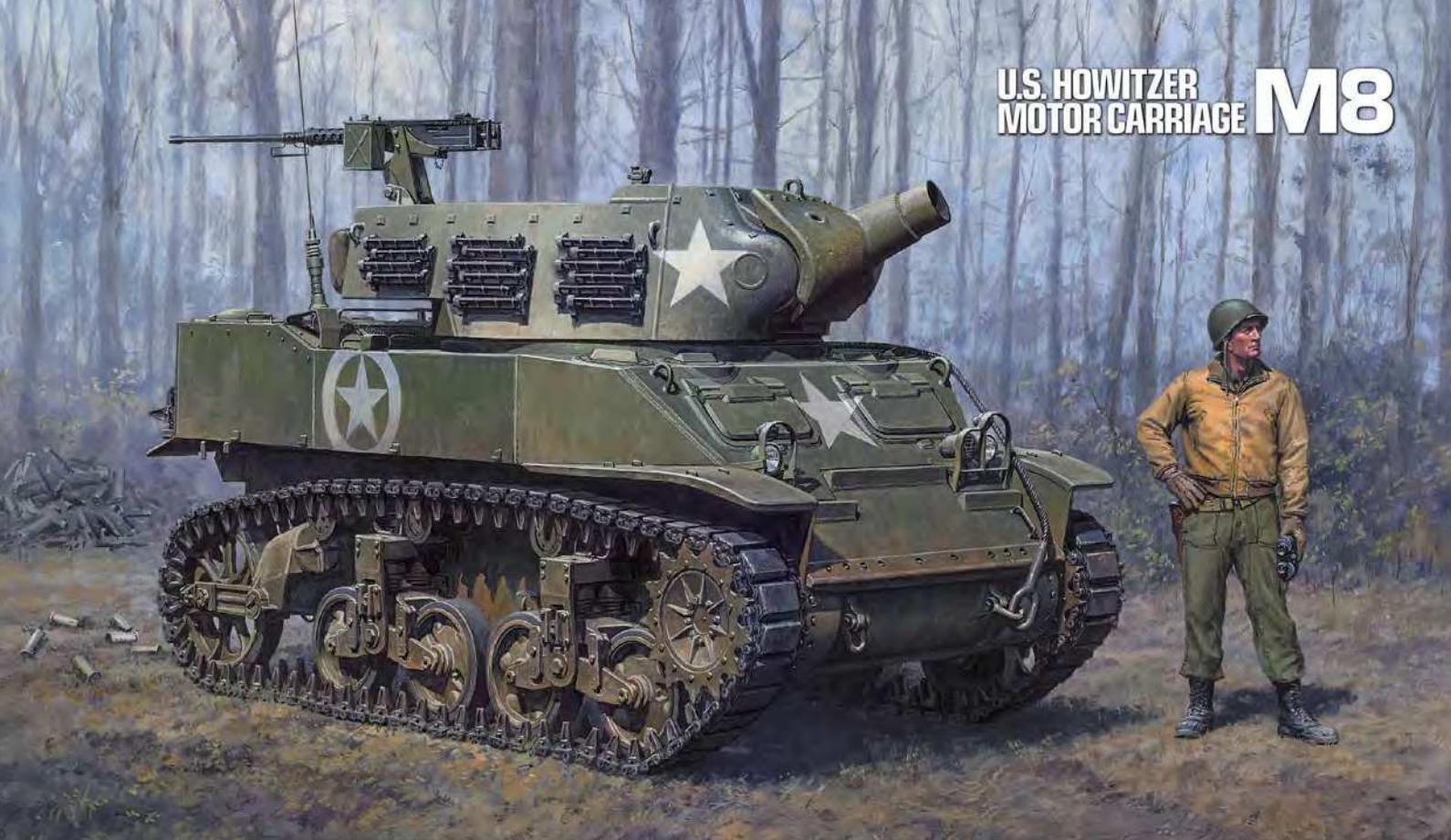
F-35®A Lightning II®

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TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

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

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Great Fire Support

1/48 Military Miniature Series **U.S. Howitzer Motor Carriage M8** (Item 32604)

1/48
MM
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

During WWII, the U.S. Howitzer Motor Carriage M8 was developed as the first full-track self-propelled gun from the United States Army, and a successor of existing half-track self-propelled guns. Based around the M5 light tank chassis, an open-top turret and 75mm M3 howitzer were employed. Its powerful howitzer provided valuable supporting fire and superior mobility helped it perform reconnaissance missions. Now, Tamiya welcomes the M8 - which was a reliable friend for the infantry – into the long-running 1/48 Military Miniature Series! The unique form is succinctly depicted based on extensive research. Its eye-catching turret has realistic depictions of cast surfaces and a finely detailed interior. The diminutive yet eye-catching form also features detailed weld lines. Enjoy making dioramas with U.S. Infantry sets in this series!

Features a realistic rendering of howitzer covered by a distinctive sleeve.



106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group

Comes with one full body, standing commander figure.



Interior details such as sight and breech are succinctly depicted.

Length: 92mm, width: 48mm.



Assembly type tracks have one-piece straight sections.

★The M2 heavy machine gun mounted on turret rear is faithfully recreated. ★Turret rotates right and left, and main gun moves up and down. ★Includes metal chassis weights for a realistic heavy feel. ★Comes with two marking options to depict vehicles which were in service in Germany and Italy.

Painting the U.S. Howitzer Motor Carriage M8
Tamiya Color Spray Paints (TS) / Tamiya Color Lacquer Paints (LP)

TS-5/LP-28 Olive Drab

1/48 Military Miniature Series



U.S. Medium Tank
M4A3E8 Sherman "Easy Eight"
(32595)



U.S. Tank Destroyer
M10 (Mid Production)
(32519)



WWII U.S. Infantry at Rest
(32552)



WWII U.S. Infantry GI Set
(32513)

★Images show assembled and painted kit.
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Check Tamiya's homepage for the latest releases! www.tamiya.com

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