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**Model
MAGAZINE**
INTERNATIONAL

**ISSUE
331**

May 2023

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**EASY EIGHT:
BIG IS BEAUTIFUL!**

Andy's Hobby
Headquarters 1:16
M4A3E8 Sherman
begins...


TAMIYA

Model MAGAZINE

INTERNATIONAL

OOH BETTY!

**TAMIYA'S CLASSIC 1:48 G4M BETTY
MAKES A RETURN**



SKYCRANE!
ICM's incredible 1:35
CH-54A Tarhe, previewed

INSIDE

Airfix 1:24 Spitfire Mk.IXC full-build, Tamiya KV-1 diorama, Tamiya Figure Remodeling Contest, plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

**DOOLITTLE
MEDIA**



U.S. HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8



Great Fire Support

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

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.

758th Tank Battalion,
5th Army



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

Length: 92mm, width: 48mm.

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.
★Product may vary from images shown.

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





Model MAGAZINE

INTERNATIONAL

Issue 331 May 2023

EDITOR Marcus Nicholls
editor@tamiyamodelmagazine.com

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IN BRIEF...



AOSHIMA
- 1:12 Honda CB750 FOUR '69
- 1:24 Toyota GSR50 Estima '06
www.aoshima-bk.co.jp



DAS WERK
- 1:35 'KaJaPa/Bebachtungspanzer 2 in 1
- 1:35 Mtl. Zgkrwlg. 8t Sd.Kfz.7 w/crew
das-werk-models.com



FREEDOM MODEL KITS
- 1:16 German Sd.Kfz.2 Kettenkraftrad
hannants.co.uk



LANMO MODEL
- 1:35 Sherman Mk.I 'Crab' conversion
Search Facebook for Lanmo Model



MINIART
- T-34/85 Plant 112 Spring 1942
creativemodels.co.uk



RESKIT
- 1:35 CH-54A resin wheels
reskit-models.com



TAKOM
- 1:72 M1070 Gun Truck
- Israeli AH-64DI Saraf
bachmann.co.uk



COMING SOON FROM TAMIYA

1:20 Porsche 935 Martini

This classic kit from Tamiya's '1:20 Grand Prix Collection' is making a comeback!
www.hobbyco.net



COMING SOON FROM BORDER MODEL

1:35 T-34/85 Composite Turret

The T-34/85 'Factory 112 Composite Turret' is on its way from Border, complete with five resin figures, workable tracks and metal gun barrel.
www.tigerhobbies.co.uk



COMING SOON FROM DEF MODEL - 1:35 3D-printed M113 track set

This new set of printed tracks will be available in both 'new' and 'worn' trackpad versions.
www.defmodel.com



NEW FROM TAMIYA

1:35 Leopard 2A6 'Ukraine'

Tamiya is keeping things topical with this release, which comes with markings for deployment in the on-going war in Ukraine.
www.hobbyco.net

What's coming in 2023? Nuremberg novelties preview



NEW FROM FROM AK INTERACTIVE

1:35 Land Rover 88 family

Series IIA Rover 8, Series IIA Station Wagon and Series IIA AA two-truck are on the way in 1:35.
www.ak-interactive.com



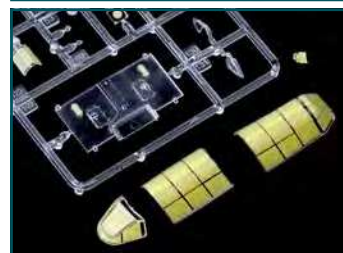
NEW FROM EDUARD 1:48 A6M2-N Rufe

Eduard's WW2 Japanese interceptor/fighter bomber floatplane A6M2-N – Allied code name Rufe – is nearly with us!
www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

COMING SOON FROM EDUARD

- 1:32 Hawker Hurricane Mk.IIb landing flaps (For Revell)
- 1:32 Hurricane Mk.IIb details (For Revell)
- 1:32 Eduard colour PE Hurricane Mk.IIb (For Revell)
- 1:32 Hurricane Mk.IIb TFace canopy masks (For Revell)

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



NEW FROM MINIART 1:35 7.5cm PaK40 anti-tank gun

It's certain that this all-new 1:35 WW2 German 7.5cm Pak 40 anti-tank gun will be very popular with diorama builders.
www.creativemodels.co.uk



NEW FROM DAS WERK 1:35 Schwimmwagen Trippel SG6/38

This unusual vehicle in the 'Schwimmwagen' role is coming soon in 1:35.
www.das-werk-models.com



COMING SOON FROM ITALERI 1:35 WW2 Axis armour

On the way back from Italeri are two classics in the form of the Flakpanzer IV Ostwind and Italian Autoblinda AB41 armoured car.
www.hobbyco.net



COMING SOON FROM TAKOM 1:16 M50A1 Ontos w/ interior

The peculiar M50A1 Ontos was used during the Vietnam War. This new kit comes with a full interior; let's hope they scale it down to 1:35 too!
bachmann.co.uk

NEW FROM REVELL 1:76 Krupp Protze Kfz 69 with 3.7cm Pak

In the box here is a piece of scale modelling history – it's the 1982 Matchbox kit – and it's still a little gem.
www.revell.de



COMING SOON FROM REVELL 1:72 Panzerhaubitze 2000

The Modern German Army's heavy hitter returns to small-scale thanks to Revell.
www.revell.de



TAMIYA FIGURE REMODELING CONTEST 51

**THE TAMIYA FIGURE
REMODELING CONTEST
CONTINUES IN RUDE HEALTH,
WITH THE 51ST RUNNING
ATTRACTING PLENTY MORE
INSPIRED PIECES!**

The Gold Award was won by Kunihiro Sato, for his 3D depiction of a scene from a famous sketch by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. From the facial expressions to their clothing, the figures are imbued with great vivacity. Mr Sato is a veteran of the figure remodeling world, having entered this competition each time since the very first running. The Silver Award went to Shojiro Morio's rendering of ice skater Yuzuru Hanyu's quadruple Axel, a remarkable effort at a highly difficult subject.

Takuya Watanabe won the Bronze Award for his model of Munetaka Murakami, who became the youngest ever winner of Japanese baseball's triple crown.

Other notable creations included a recreation of the Japanese women's curling team (Topical Award), who retain great popularity and a happy-go-lucky image, a piece with removable smart phone frame (Idea Award), an eclectic depiction of bikes and unusual riders (Great Effort Award), and a military field kitchen (MM Award). ●

**GOLD
AWARD**

Hokusai



**SILVER
AWARD**

Quad Axel



**BRONZE
AWARD**

Go! Go! Murakami



NEWSDESK^{Special}

MODEL PHOTO-COMPETITION

**TOPICAL
AWARD**

Keep Smile! Stay Positive!



**IDEA
AWARD**

Smart Snap



Taking Things Literally

**GREAT
EFFORT
AWARD**



**MINI
AWARD**

Field Kitchen





HONOURABLE MENTION

Little Devils



HONOURABLE MENTION

Shinji Mizushima Baseball Museum



HONOURABLE
MENTION

Hayato Ichimonji



How's Kamakura

HONOURABLE
MENTION

Alive

HONOURABLE
MENTION



鎌倉どうでしょう
政子を乗っけてウィリーさ



HONOURABLE
MENTION

Riko on a Sprue

HONOURABLE
MENTION

Onihei

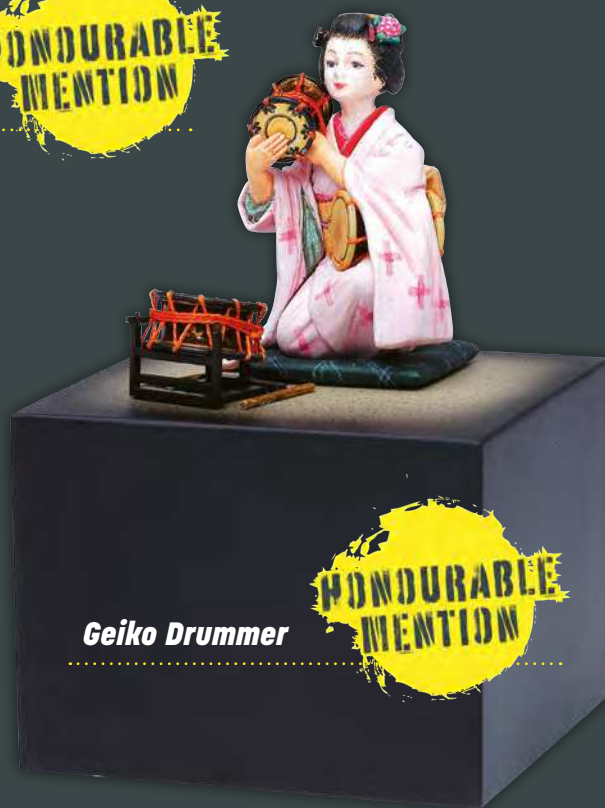


のんびり行こうぜ
TOMOSUKE NODA
and
Gaku



Alien Mefilas

HONOURABLE MENTION



Geiko Drummer

HONOURABLE MENTION



Tomosuke Noda and Gaku

HONOURABLE MENTION



The Milkmaid

HONOURABLE MENTION

Revell

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LEVEL 4

03817 Airbus A300-600ST "Beluga", 1:144

LEVEL 3

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06783 Grogu™ - The Child: The Mandalorian, 1:3

LEVEL 5

PLATINUM EDITION

Includes Photoetch & Resin parts

06788 Razor Crest™ "Platinum Edition", 1:72

LEVEL 3

NEW PARTS

07056 Land Rover Series III LWB (Commercial), 1:24

LEVEL 5

LIMITED EDITION

07717 Jaguar E-Type, 1:8

Available from all good model stockists and online from

hobbycraft

hobbycraft.co.uk/brand/revell

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO IMPERIAL JAPANESE AVIATION

TAMIYA 1:48 MITSUBISHI G4M1 MODEL 11 ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO TRANSPORT (W/17 FIGURES) ● KIT NO.61110



OOH BETT

Kiro Honjo, the lead engineer at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, was the designer of the G4M and previous G3M Japanese medium bombers. Interestingly he's depicted in the Hayao Miyazaki animated film "The Wind Rises" as a colleague of the designer of the Zero fighter, Jiro Horikoshi, going back to their days at Tokyo Imperial University. In reality, however, Honjo was senior

to Horikoshi.

The G4M 'Betty' was a twin-engined medium bomber of WWII. The Japanese, like the Germans, did not foresee the importance of strategic or long-range bombing like the British and Americans until it was too late in the war. The Mitsubishi G4M Betty first flew in 1939, formally introduced in 1941. It was fast and manoeuvrable, with a maximum speed of 266

mph. 2,435 aircraft were built, with the later G4M2 variant being the most prolific. The last versions of the type were designated as the mothership to the Ohka "Cherry Blossom" kamikaze rocket-powered flying bomb.

The crew were an afterthought in the design, given that there was no crew armour. There were no self-sealing fuel tanks either. Like the Zero, the design priorities were around speed

and manoeuvrability. Soon the Americans discovered how easy the Betty was to set alight when hit, nicknaming it the Zippo or the flying cigar, as it resembled one when it was burning. The Betty had another distinguishing feature - the sting in its tail. A 20mm cannon was mounted in the rear of the fuselage, making it quite formidable to attack from behind.

After American



TY!

Carl Robertshaw builds Tamiya's re-released 1:48 Mitsubishi G4M1 Betty bomber

intelligence intercepted and deciphered the Japanese coded messages, they knew the itinerary in the Pacific of Admiral Yamamoto's movements. Yamamoto, commander of the Combined Fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy, oversaw the attack on Pearl harbour and the Battle of Midway. Being one of the most prominent strategists, he was a vital figure for the Japanese and a prize target for the

US. Yamamoto's flight took off to visit the Solomon Islands for an inspection as planned on April 18th 1943. Called Operation Vengeance, the Americans planned and successfully attacked Yamamoto's flight, making it look like he was shot down as part of a regular fighter sweep of P38s 'on patrol' flying out of Rabaul. Following the crash, Yamamoto was found dead alongside the downed plane,

still strapped to his seat, holding his Katana sword. The airframe wreckage still lies in the jungle on Bougainville Island, where the aircraft crashed.

"Betties" have been kitted by many manufacturers over the years. As a Japanese subject, it is no surprise that we have seen a prolific number of offerings, most notably from Hasegawa and in 1:72. In the larger scale of 1:48, though, options are

a little less prolific. Tamiya first released their kit in 1996 as the torpedo version. The updated version we have built for this article, Admiral Yamamoto's transport, is a re-release of the 2011 boxing, which includes additional figures and new parts. There is a healthy choice of aftermarket add-ons to spruce up the base kit, and top of your list, should you want to build this kit, is a set of canopy masks. ▶

● BUILDING THE BETTY

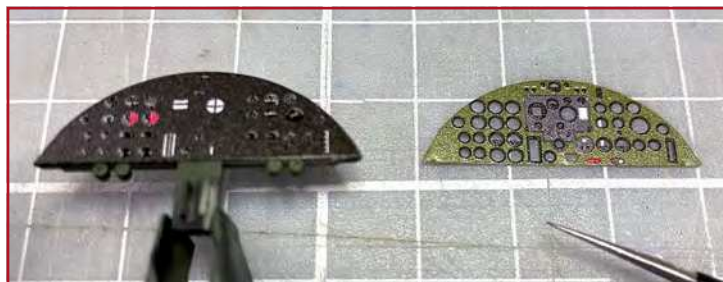
The top opening box displays attractive artwork depicting Yamamoto's Betty being shot at by the P-38 Lightnings over the jungle island.

The plastic sprues are bagged inside to protect them, and the modest 158 parts are cleanly moulded with no flash. Two of the plastic sprues carry mostly the bombs which we don't need, reducing the parts count further. Some seam lines, and some ejector pin marks, are visible from the moulding process. Most of them are hidden on the finished model, however. Talking of the finished model, it measures 52 x 42 x 11cm when complete.

There are two options for the clear parts - painted and unpainted. The painted canopy parts look attractive but are mostly redundant because, in most cases, you will still need to mask the glazing extensively. The instructions are typically Tamiya - easy to understand and clear. They're presented on a folded sheet with only 17 construction steps. A supplementary sheet is provided for the species of this version. Only one decal/colour option is supplied, which is the green scheme we've modelled for this article. Figures are provided for the crew, Admiral Yamamoto, and a group of waving supporters. The ●



The new Putty Surfacer by AMMO boasts it doesn't shrink when applied like Mr Surfacer 500. This is a big claim and is true if you use several thin coats. I tried applying a decent dollop in each eject pin hole on the inside of the fuselage, and the putty did crack and shrink back. It smells like toxic Frangelico, so be aware of this product's fumes. It does sand well when it is set, which is a positive



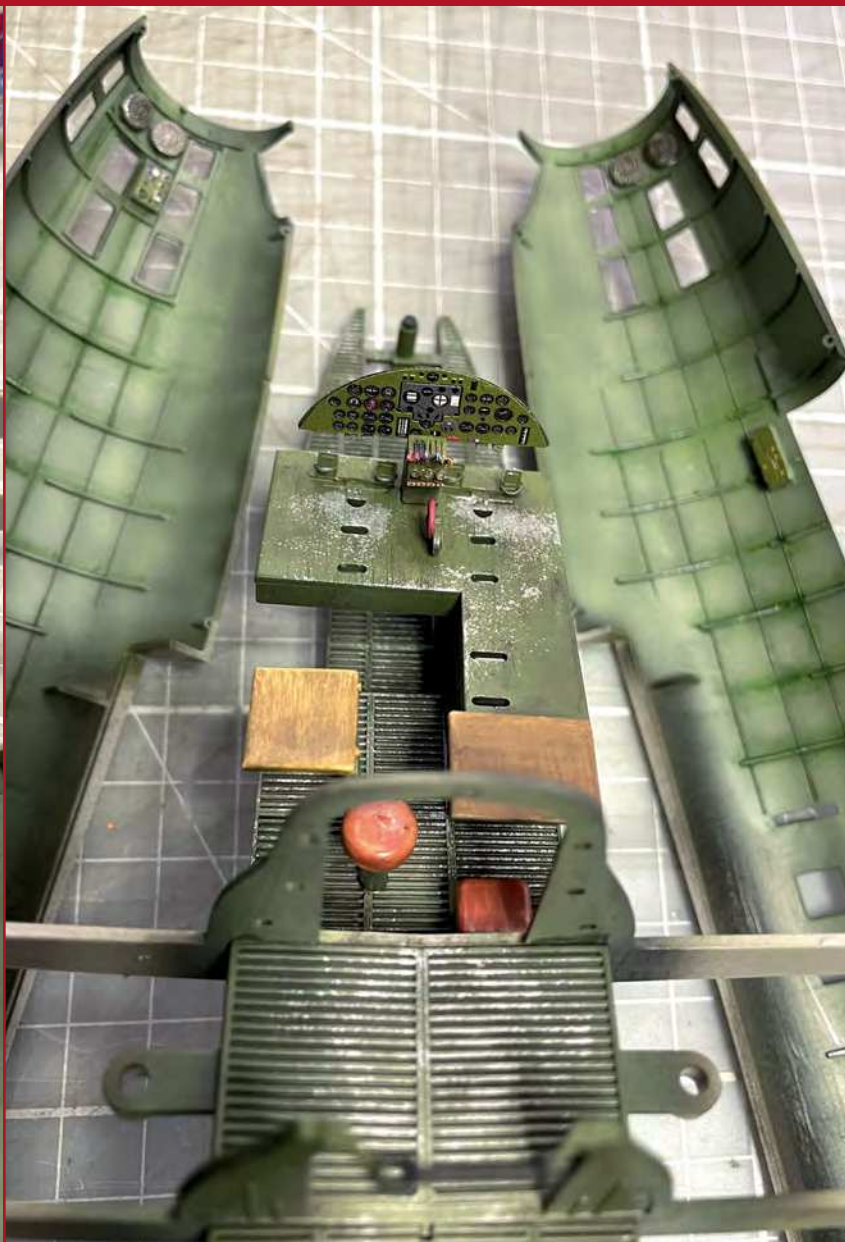
I used Eduard's detail set, which includes the dial fascia. The raised dials moulded into the plastic were first sanded off, and then the two-part pre-printed photo-etched parts were glued onto the plastic



Some photo-etched items are a step up from the kit-supplied parts, but not all. The canopy wheel, for example, is better represented in plastic rather than flat metal. The throttle levers are better represented in photo-etch, though and here (slightly out of focus, below), the plastic is again sanded away, ready to receive the printed metal. The levers are seen on the right of the fret

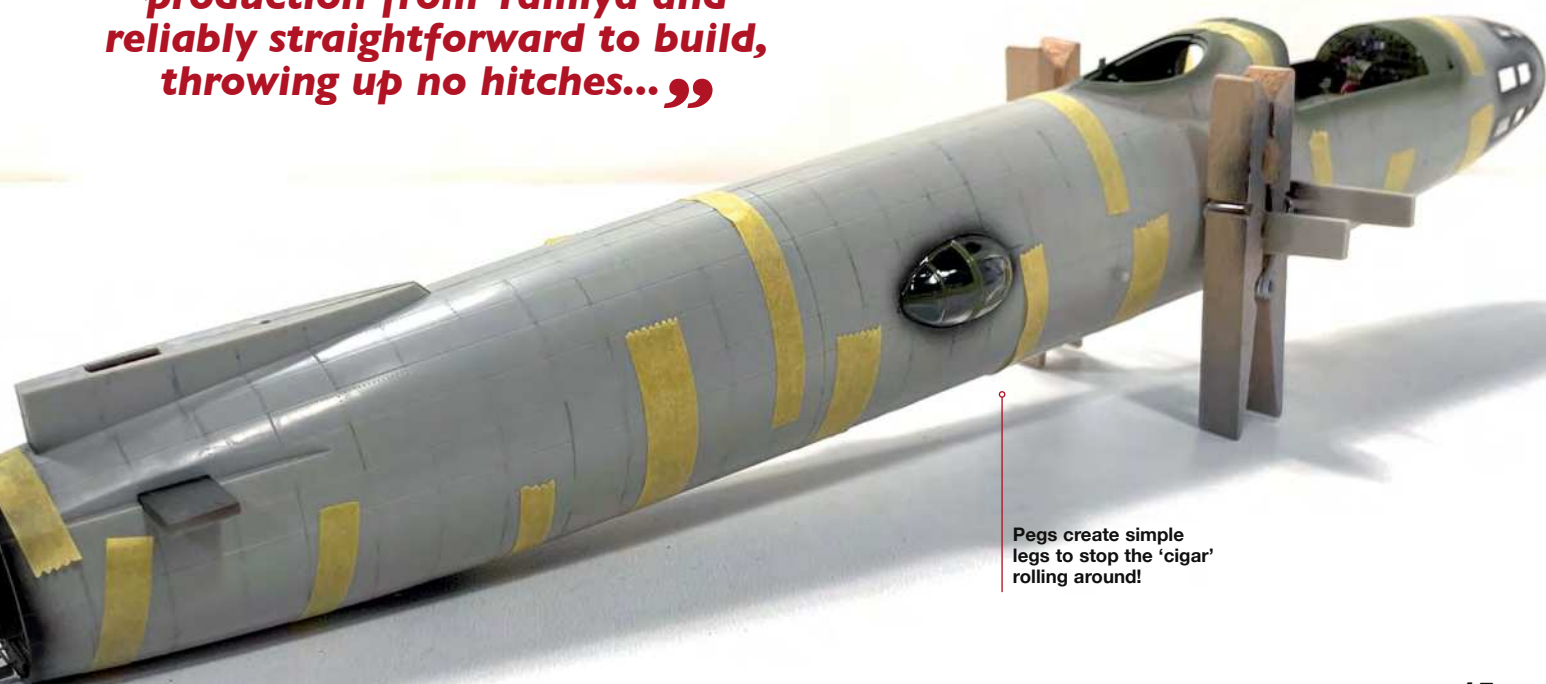


AMMO's Dark Green Oil Brusher was used to add shading around the internal framing in a simple exaggerated way



The few internal parts combine to create a busy enough interior

“This is another quality production from Tamiya and reliably straightforward to build, throwing up no hitches...”



Pegs create simple legs to stop the 'cigar' rolling around!

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO IMPERIAL JAPANESE AVIATION

TAMIYA 1:48 MITSUBISHI G4M1 MODEL 11 ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO TRANSPORT (W/17 FIGURES) ● KIT NO.61110

❶ nicely sculpted entourage is supplied on two identical sprues with whole figures that need no construction. Yamamoto and the crew are sculpted nicely and benefit from careful painting. This is another quality production from Tamiya and reliably straightforward to build, throwing up no hitches. I wanted to exercise a little artistic licence and explore the heavy chipping the Japanese aircraft are so well known for.

CONCLUSION

This is an easy and trouble-free kit to build, reminding me of the pleasure of scale modelling. This is highly recommended for those just starting out making scale models and the more experienced modellers looking for a solid foundation to add detail and advance their weathering repertoire. It also makes the perfect accompaniment to Tamiya's latest wonder - the P-38 Lightning. ●



With the fuselage work done, the wings fit onto their spars without issue. Small lugs are designed into the wing root that helps lock the wings in place



Painting the figures is a challenge, especially at this scale. I used AK Interactive's 3rd Gen paints thinned on a wet palette, with my favourite and faithful detail brush, Tamiya's (expensive but worth it) Pro II brush, Item 87172

In the instructions, Tamiya would have you paint the underside Aluminium, but in all the references I collected, the underside is clearly a light green-blue grey which is well worn and patchy. AK Interactive's worn effects were sprayed onto the model's underside in three thin coats. This turned out to be a little too much. Lesson learned





Only two light passes were made with the worn effects chipping medium over the upper surface this time

I hadn't noticed that the inner sides of the cowlings were also painted black on the real aircraft to reduce glare in the pilot's vision. Nato Black was then sprayed and chipped to match the underlying paint



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Mecha Paints is a range from Zero Paints created to provide a range of pre-thinned airbrush paints for mecha, sci-fi and anime based modellers and kits. Our range is made up of some of the most iconic colours found from the most popular series out there such as Gundam, Macross/Robotech, Star Wars and Transformers.

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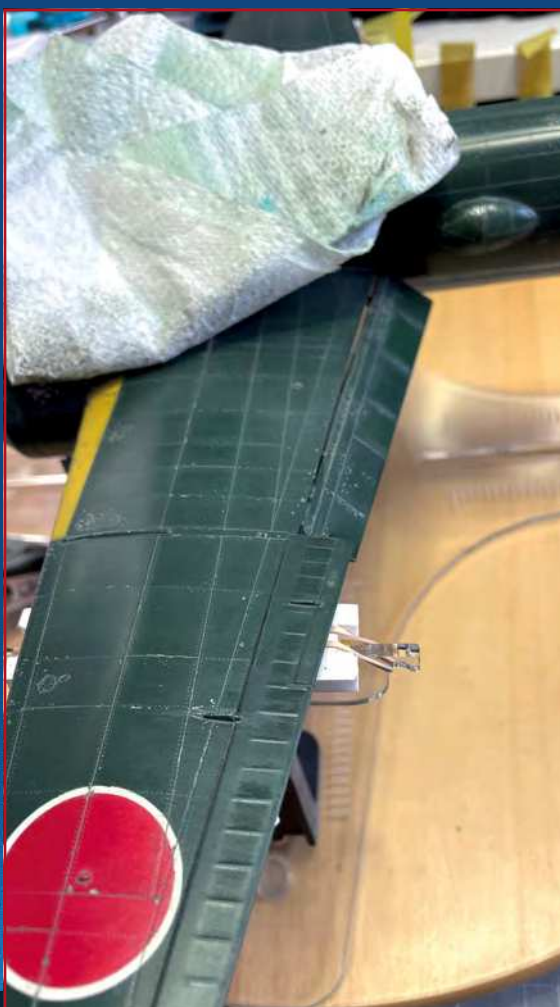
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Mig products Panel Line Wash Storm Grey was liberally brushed onto all the panel and rivet lines on the model's underside. This was left for around half an hour to dry out



The upper surface received the same treatment and was 'polished' using a kitchen towel rubbed in the airflow direction to impart a direction on the enamel wash



AK Weathering pencils were also used. Here Sepia is squiggled onto the yellow to create a random pattern





used to add more texture. Yellow and green in a



Because this is over a gloss surface, the pigment is easy to manipulate, remove and add to achieve any desired result. A simple cotton bud is rolled around to reduce the sepia squiggles, leaving a faint texture. This can be built up as much as you want



I started thinning the kit's plastic antenna to give it a more in-scale look. These external elements on the finished kit all refine its look. I planned to add the photo-etched gun sight on the forward MG, so it is appropriate to refine this antenna too. Cutting off the stub and drilling it out is a delicate task but easy enough when done carefully. A short length of 0.3mm brass rod was wrapped around a paintbrush handle to make the hoop which was then superglued into the stub



The rear gunner has been shielded by a tube of card stuffed with a piece of sponge throughout the painting process. At the end of the build, he's revealed to become one of the model's main features. The Betty had this intimidating and formidable cannon in the rear. Not formidable enough, though, to defend against the P-38s that shot Yamamoto down



FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO IMPERIAL JAPANESE AVIATION

TAMIYA 1:48 MITSUBISHI G4M1 MODEL 11 ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO TRANSPORT (W/17 FIGURES) ○ KIT NO.61110

TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:48 MITSUBISHI G4M1 MODEL 11 ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO TRANSPORT (W/17 FIGURES) KIT NO.61110

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Acrylics: X-6 Orange, X-7 Red, X-22 Clear, X-23 Clear Blue, XF-2 Flat White, XF-3 Flat Yellow, XF-12 JN Grey, XF-16 Flat Aluminium, XF-19 Sky Grey, XF-21 Sky, XF-23 Light Blue, XF-57 Buff, XF-77 IJN Grey, XF-69 Nato Black, XF-70 Dark Green2 IJN, LP-1 Black
- Tamiya Weathering sets: A, B, E, Natural Metal Aircraft.
- Tamiya: Panel Line Accent Color Black
- Mr Color/Mr Hobby: Mr Levelling thinner, Mr Surfacer Black 1500, Mr Color 303 Green, Mr Color 305 Grey, 201 Fine Silver, 204 Stainless Steel,
- AK Interactive: Rubber Black, Gun Metal, Silver, Dark Green, Mahogany Brown, Hull Red, Skin Tone, Basic Skin Tone, Blood Red, Light Rust, Light Flesh, Purulent Yellow, White, Worn Effects chipping Fluid, PLW Storm Grey, Weathering Pencils, Odourless Thinners
- Humbrol Enamels: Matt 26 Brown
- AMMO: Oil Brusher Dark Green & Starship Bay Sludge,

Adhesives and fillers:

Tamiya Extra Thin, Quick setting and White cap cement, AMMO Putty Surfacer Thick, Magic Sculpt 2 Part Resin, Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot CA glue

Tools used:

Infini, Micro sanding sticks, Infini hard sponge sanders 400, Tamiya side cutters, Swann Morton scalpels, RB riveter wheel, Tamiya paper and flexible masking tapes, Mr Scriber wedge, Mr Cement SPB, Tamiya sanding sponges, Dspiae circle cutter, Masterpiece Models model stand, Neo Iwata airbrush, Masking film, Gaianotes foam-tipped sponge

Availability:

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

“I wanted to exercise a little artistic licence and explore the heavy chipping the Japanese aircraft are so well known for...”

eduard

LIMITED



1/48

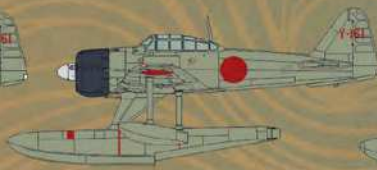
Rufe

**Type 2 Seaplane Fighter
Nakajima A6M2-N, 1942-1945**

- Eduard design and tools 2023
- Focused on aircraft serving in period 1942 - 1945
- Dual Combo - plastic parts, die cut masks and photo-etched details for two complete models
- Decals for 8 marking options



Yokohama Kōkūtai, Tutagi Island,
Solomon Islands, August 1942



5th Kōkūtai, Kiska Island,
Aleutians, August 1942



c/n 15, Lt(jg) Keizō Yamazaki,
Kōkūtai 802, Shortland Island,
February 1943



Kōkūtai 802, Faisi-Poporang base,
Shortland Islands, February 1943



Kōkūtai 452, Bettobi Lake,
shumshu Islands, Kuriles, July 1943



Kōkūtai 802, Emidj Island, Jaluit Atoll,
Marshall Islands, October 1943



Ensign Jin'ichirō Ozawa, Sasebo Kōkūtai,
Sasebo Air Base, Japan, September 1944

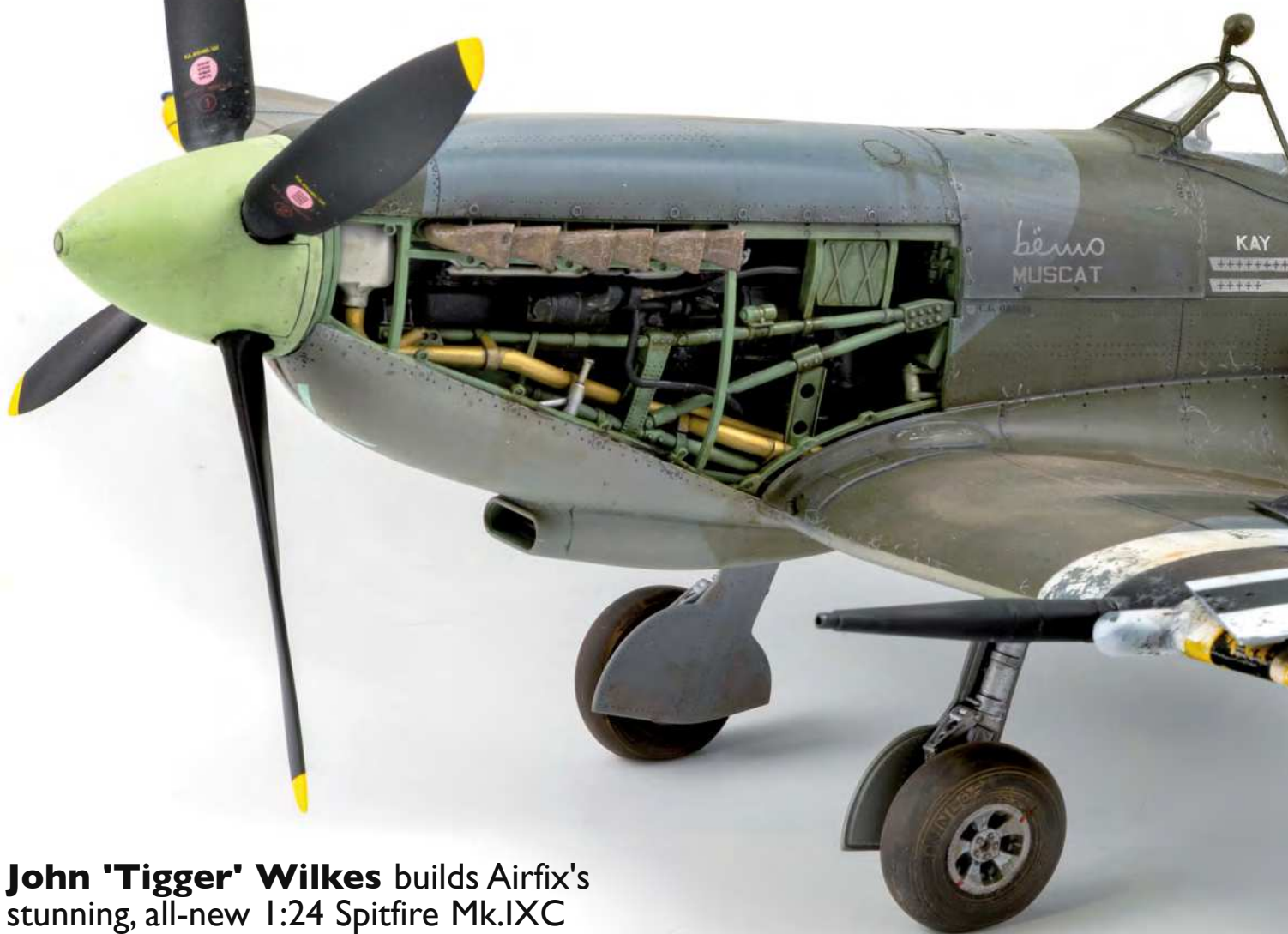


Kōkūtai 934, Ambon Island,
Moluku Islands, March 1944

DUAL COMBO #11171

WWW.EDUARD.COM

THE BIGGER THE THE BETTER



John 'Tigger' Wilkes builds Airfix's stunning, all-new 1:24 Spitfire Mk.IXC

Once again, Airfix pulled a kit out of nowhere to hit the top of the sales charts. When this was announced people automatically began to make comments – some negative – but mostly positive. The naysayers should hang their heads in shame as this is a cracking kit and now, having completed this model, I can say that Airfix has lifted the bar on their kits once more.

From the outset knowing that this was designed in a CAD programme left me with the knowledge that tolerances were likely to be tight. I would much rather have this than sloppy fitting

parts. Any errors in the build were my fault and not that of the model. A few months ago there was a press day where YouTubers and modelling journalists were invited to the factory where this kit is moulded. This is worth looking up and watching as there were some interesting methods of quality control.

CONTENTS

Arriving in a stiff, top-opening box with an impressive artwork, you can't help but be impressed by its sheer size. A little embossed Airfix logo on the bottom is a simple but nice touch. Each

of the sprues are individually bagged, as are the clear parts. Total parts count is an impressive 433, with of course, some not used. A very large decal sheet is provided and this covers four versions; two RAF, one USAAF and one a French machine:

- Mk.IXc, Aircraft flown by Squadron Leader "Johnny" Plagis, No.126 (Persian Gulf) Squadron, Royal Air Force Harrowbeer, Devon, England, July 1944. (A)
- Mk.IXc, Aircraft flown by Flight Lieutenant Ian Keltie, No. 402 Squadron "City of Winnipeg", Royal Air Force Kenley, Surrey, England,

THEY COME, THEY LOOK!




March 1943. (B)

- 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. (C)
- Mk.IXc Aircraft flown by Captain Garth Jared, Commanding Officer, 309th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, United States Army Air Force, Italy, December 1943. (D)
- Mk.IXc, GR 2/33 "Savoie", Armee de L'Air, Luxeuil-Les-Bains, France, early 1945 (E).

Interestingly at the time of writing, Airfix's own website does not show

option 'A'. The markings are well printed with no obvious signs of any issues, colour density being good and they behaved well with suitable setting solutions. Also in the box is a large clear instruction manual covering over 244 steps over forty-four pages. The colour call outs and painting/decals guides are printed on separate sheets and are in colour making things easy. The method of construction is illustrated, with the last part installed shown in red, this helps to ensure that things are correctly placed.

All painting is noted throughout to the Humbrol colours range but I

simply found alternatives preferring Tamiya mostly and AK Interactive True colours where the colour was not available in my stocks of Tamiya. The mid-grey plastic used is similar to that of the Buccaneer being hard, with a little flex. Surface details are mixed with, where appropriate, raised rivets and recessed panel lines. Some stressed skin effects are evident but once painted and varnished they all but disappeared. The breakdown of the kit means that sections to be built are grouped on individual sprues which aids in finding parts. 

CONSTRUCTION

Right from the outset, it was apparent that the designer has considered the best way of joining parts in such a way as there is only one way for things to go, things are clearly explained in the large booklet. All colours are called out from the Humbrol range as we might expect. Assembly of the pilots seat and associated seat belts kicks off the build and the Sutton harness was provided.

This would be a part worthy of replacement, but building from the box I stuck with the provided part. In doing so it was clear that the plastic belts were thick and so some sanding on the back sides reduced this although I could have gone much further. A small padded head rest is in the kit but not pointed or numbered in the instructions and would of course be individual to specific airframes. As I could not see it in any images of the airframe I was building I left it out.

A Spitfire cockpit looks busy, but in fact it's nothing more than a cockpit of its day. Lots of individual small parts are added to a floor and lower side panels making sure it's all painted as we go. I went with the clear part instrument panel but wasn't sure why this was transparent. Over the painted part individual instrument decals fitted with the compass receiving a clear cover, the rest were simply given a drop of clear.

I taped it all up, applied Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement then left it overnight to harden. The first choices of the version the modeller has chosen to build is required at the point of fitting the throttle, as there is a choice of three. At this stage fixing the cockpit sub-assembly to the fuselage sides is completed, as well as the tail wheel surround/mount.

I had no issues as there is plenty of gluing surface area and the fit was faultless. Various pipes were added in the cockpit after they were painted and feeding them through needs a little ambidextrous control. With the rest of the internal parts added another choice of door open or closed needs making. Closing up the fuselage was nice and simple, everything fitted well although there was a very slight gap ahead of the windscreen upper panel. Black superglue sealed the joint before sanding eliminated the seam in short order. Fitting the firewall was a tight fit and a little sanding of its outer edge assisted in the part dropping in. Everything becomes quite rigid at this point. If I were to build another one of these kits, I would certainly consider the cockpit set from Airscale as, whilst the kit instruments are fine this set is another level. ▶



A bulkhead to which the seat and frame attaches could easily have the holes drilled out, once more building from the box I didn't



Modular construction seems to be the best way to allow access to parts for painting and in this case the floor is nice and open to work on



Right hand side panel with associated accessories, nothing to catch the unwary out here and the slots at the bottom will later align with the floor



I am not sure why the instrument panel was clear, the compass below being the only instrument which was behind a clear part



Painted and decals applied the instrument panel looks the part. I added a small drop of clear over each instrument



Side panel and instrument panel with frames all painted, I made a point of later removing paint on joining surfaces to assist with adhesion

Installation of the harnesses was simple and when in place looked fine. I had sanded the back of these parts to lessen the depth of the belts



After appropriate painting things looked a little bland, some weathering was later applied which added significantly to this visual appeal

The floor and side panel all attached and there is a slot system which makes sure everything aligns correctly

To be honest I didn't bother painting the back of the rear frame as it would not be seen, instead concentrating of the seat harness anchor point

I am not sure why the side panels went so far forward as they will have no bearing on construction

Fuselage halves all painted ready to install into the cockpit section, there were further details applied to each half along with hoses and pipes which all add to the sense of realism

Fuselage sealed up and there was a slight gap ahead of the cockpit opening which I filled with black superglue. I think if I had sanded the edges of the previous construction this may have not caused this

All of the tail surfaces fitted well and alignment was assisted by the interlocking slots, seams were clean and did not require any filler, I simply gave a smear of Mr Surfer to ensure things were neat

Tail parts and once assembled the trim tabs were attached by a very small pivot point and I chose to glue them in place instead of allowing them to float

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❶ WINGS AND TAIL

The flying surfaces were constructed in rapid succession with no issues encountered. Fitting the elevators and stabilisers was aided by some clever interlocking slots which makes everything line up squarely. Trim tabs are attached by very fragile pivots and I chose to glue them in position to avoid any issues.

Within the wings are a set of spars which form the mounting for everything including the main gear legs. When not attached to the skins is a slightly more pronounced dihedral but when all glued up, things fit and everything looks correct. The method of construction means that you don't initially glue the spars until all of the ribs and gun bays are fitted.

Due to their shape, the wheel bays

are fabricated from four parts and look more complicated than they are in reality. I chose to paint the sub-assemblies at this stage and this meant careful gluing was needed. Having all the internal structure now sat on the lower wing I clamped the parts and glued them leaving overnight to set. My personal choice was to have one side of the model open and the other closed. This included the engine cowlings and in fitting the wing gun-bay doors, a tiny bit of trimming was needed to get things to fit nicely. This was most prevalent on the long, thin top panels. I left the gun feed out of the closed wing but added the guns to aid in stiffening the wings up.

At this stage, the lower wing construction is indicated to be mated to the fuselage. I deviated from the

instructions and fitted the upper wing surfaces first. This meant that any adjustment needed could be done to the wings or fuselage before committing to glue. I needn't have worried as things fitted nice and tightly. I could have sanded the mating surfaces a little just to ease the upwards stress on the joint. All of the underside accessories such as radiators are well presented in a modular way and there was nothing to catch the modeller out. These once complete, dropped into the lower wings I did paint the radiator grills before attachment along with the area surrounding them to avoid unnecessary masking later on. A little Mr Surfacer sealed any slight gaps caused by me building the radiators off the model and not using the wing mounting as a jig.

Wings are another modular construction with the main gear bays looking complicated, in reality they worked as advertised. At this stage everything is loose

Painting of the parts complete and the open wing is weathered, this time the spar is attached having been glued and clamped overnight, this sets the dihedral

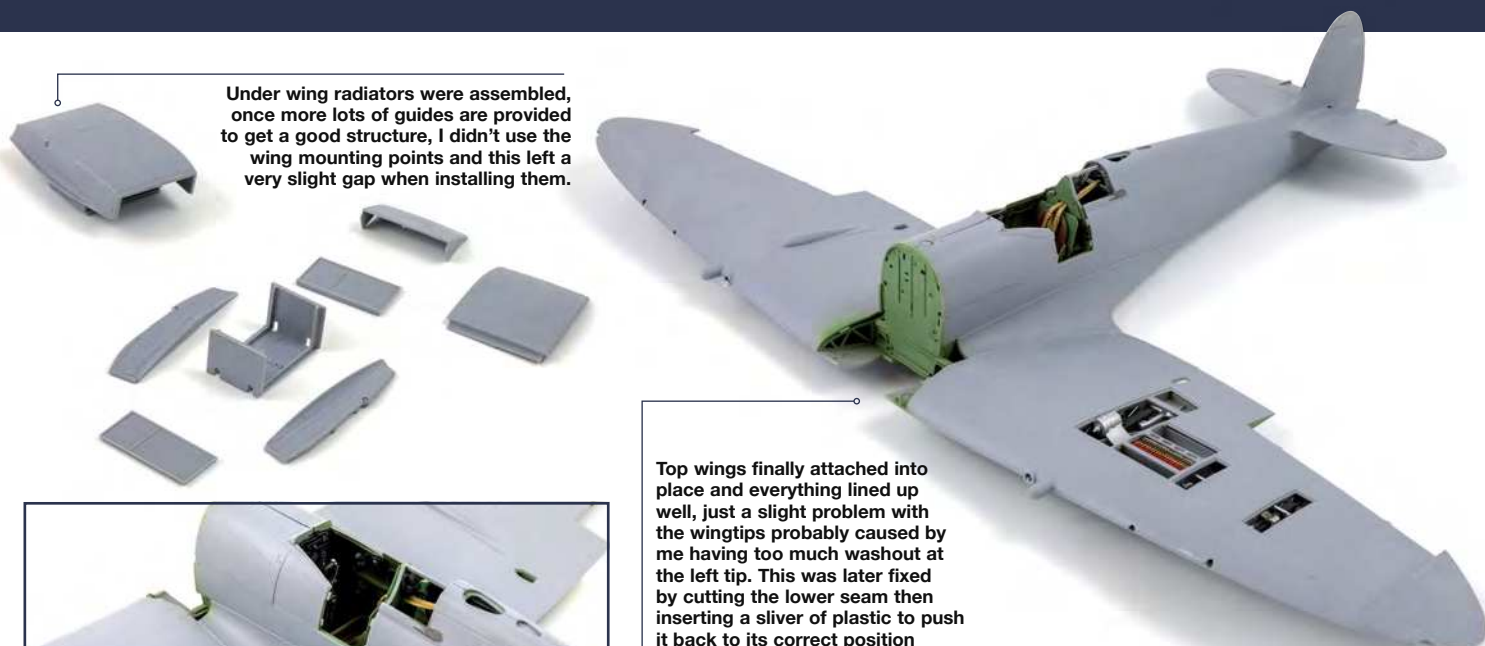


All of the guns and accessories ready to add, it is worth noting if closing the wing then the ammo drum will need to be omitted

Test fitting revealed that tolerances were tight and everything was going to fit as advertised

I painted and assembled the top wing surfaces before installation, with one of the gun covers being slightly too long, a simple fix was achieved by simple sanding before installation

When installing the radiators a smear of Mr Surfacer cleaned up the slight gap, I did paint the radiator faces and surrounding areas before installation to save masking



Under wing radiators were assembled, once more lots of guides are provided to get a good structure, I didn't use the wing mounting points and this left a very slight gap when installing them.

Top wings finally attached into place and everything lined up well, just a slight problem with the wingtips probably caused by me having too much washout at the left tip. This was later fixed by cutting the lower seam then inserting a sliver of plastic to push it back to its correct position



Careful alignment was needed where the wings meet the fuselage fillets. Here a little Mr Surfacer over superglue assisted in giving a slight step which is what I wanted because the fillets sit on top of the wing

ENGINE

Of course, the thing lots of people think of when talking about a Spitfire is that iconic Rolls Royce Merlin. Airfix offers a choice of a basic structure on which to mount the exhaust if the panels are going to be on, or a full engine with associated pipes and accessories, if left open. I went with the full engine, reasoning that I wanted to have one half of the aircraft revealing the engine. This meant I jumped ahead to a section later in the instructions to construct the numerous detail parts. A very reasonable facsimile of the engine is produced in swift order and when painted appropriately, it looks the part. Some of the parts are sub-assemblies and a couple of seams will need filling, nothing too onerous as most will be disguised by where they are located. Some of the brass pipes were painted in Mr Hobby Metal Brass.

Next up is the mounting frame to which the engine is attached and this was set with the engine in place but not yet glued, to set the position correctly.

This was then painted with the SMS Interior Green. One of the pipes on the left side would not feed through the location indicated and this caused some head-scratching. There is a vertical bracket which prevents the pipe feeding through and so I cut through one end where it meets the tubular frame. The pipe was fed through and the bracket re attached, et voilà!

Further tanks, accessories and pipes were added and they all fitted tightly into the bulkhead with no issues. Adding the side outer panel supports left me with a problem. The mounting slots for the engine bearers at the bottom were tight but with the engine mounted as per the kit the nose of the engine sat slightly high (this may have been my doing). In order to fix this I cut through the lower bearers and then removed a small section, bent the nose down then reattached everything. Wing fillets slotted in and needed a little fettling, this may have been a knock-on effect from the previous step. ▶

Assembly went swiftly with no issues encountered. The valve covers have the company Logo cast which can be painted if the modeller wanted

Supercharger and header tank about to be added there is an option to have the spinner axle moveable

Base colours on and the black just absorbs any reflections, I later applied several different shades to give some visual contrasts

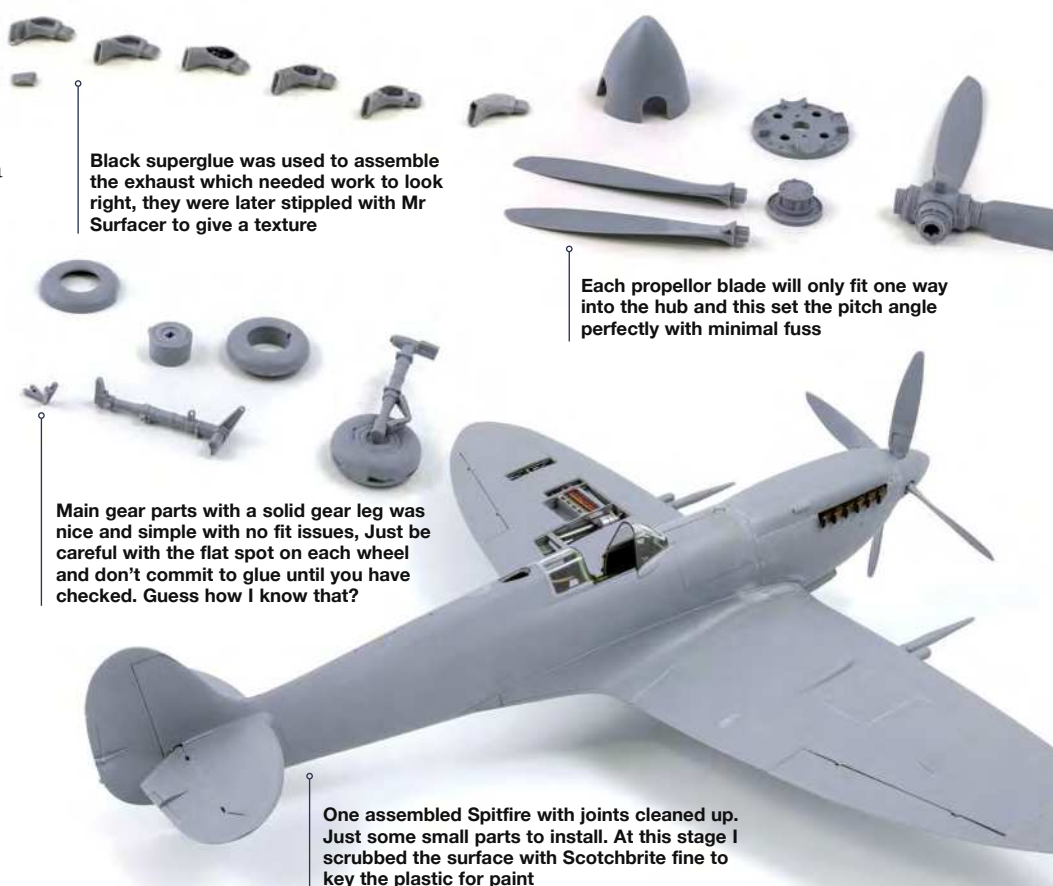
When the engine was installed I didn't realise that the propeller end was sat slightly high, this is caused by the bearers at the bottom not seating deep enough in the firewall. I later fixed this by cutting the bearers and removing a sliver of plastic



❶ As stated I went with the engine mostly covered with one side panel removed, therefore, the under-nose intake for the oil cooler radiator was fitted, creating a slight need for filler at the junction where it meets the wings. Once more this may have been a result of the earlier issue compounding fit further down the line. Some slight sanding of the interior of the side panels was needed to get everything to settle into place.

As the exhaust are a hollow part, Airfix has chosen to break each down into two. They were not the best fitting parts and in order to get them looking correct I sealed them up with superglue then sanded them back to disguise the seam. Each exhaust was then stippled with Mr Surfacer to imply a texture. Each part was then slotted into the hole in the support and through to the engine.

A choice is to be had with the flaps up or down and I went with the retracted position, as I preferred the lines of the aircraft that way. Everything fitted with no fuss. There is a top surface indicator and these when closed were a loose fit, a swipe of Mr Surfacer had this sorted. One final part for the wings is the addition of the ailerons and these have a moveable hinge. I considered this would be a fragile joint and so I attached them and glued them in position.



The rear clear canopy part wasn't the best of fits and a little fairing in was needed. In the end this was not noticeable when hidden under the slid back canopy



Main gear installed as too is the bottom engine cover, where it met the wings section a little Mr Surfacer disguised any small gaps



Before masking and the model is now close to painting, the engine side panel mount needed a little fettling to sit correctly. This may have been a compound issue from the engine bearers not fitting earlier

UNDERCARRIAGE

Options are available to have the gear retracted or extended and separate parts are provided, although it would be unlikely that you could alternate after construction. The way in which the gear has been presented is factually correct, with the pivot-point being the locator for the main legs. These were solid so at least there were no seams to clean up, just a slight moulding mark. As the tyres have a flat spot, care will be needed to make sure that they are correctly seated and there are raised letters inside of the wheel hubs to assist. When attaching the gear legs to the wheel bays care – and a third hand – are needed.

The retraction mechanism was dropped in first and as the cement was setting, some movement was allowed to place the main gear legs, then aligning

them all correctly. This assembly was left overnight to harden. A drop-in panel covers the hole where the leg slots in and this is a clever part which allows the gear to be added at this late stage. I did have a little fit issue as one actually sat a little proud of the wings under surface. A little sanding of the recesses on the back and it all dropped into place. Final assembly of areas and lights as well as the gun sight were completed at this stage.

I also like the fact that Airfix has deliberately left the clear windscreen and canopy until this late stage. Unfortunately the rear clear part wasn't a perfect match for the fuselage shape but with the open canopy hiding it, there wasn't much else I could do. Two canopy options are offered; one with the correct bulbous shape and

there is by necessity, a small seam that needs removing. Alternatively if you don't want to sand clear parts then a slightly less correct canopy with no seam is provided. I chose the former. Removing the seam was a breeze, starting with a Ming glass file I worked through various grades of abrasive pads until I went about it with some polish.

With only the propeller to complete, I encountered another well engineered sub-assembly, as the blades all slot into a keyed hole. When painting the Spitfire's propellers, don't fall into the trap that I did. In reality, they were made from wood, covered with a rubber/resin-like substance, painted black. Therefore, no metallic chipping! This may not be the same with post war replicas and rebuilds so check your references.

PAINTING

After a good wipe down with rubbing alcohol, I applied a coat of matt white as a base layer for the yellow leading-edges. After spraying and masking, the next colour was the Sky fuselage band and for this I used AK Interactive RC290 Real Color which was a slightly different shade to the Sky used in the decals. After masking, a coat of Tamiya XF-19 Sky Grey was applied to the lower surfaces. More masking, then the upper grey and in this case I went with XF-66 Light Grey (which was darker than the other grey). In order to get the demarcation, I applied vinyl flexible masking tape, some Tamiya tape and some 3M brand which is very similar. Behind these masks, further masking was laid down using yellow tape. The top green Tamiya XF-81 RAF Green was then applied.

Everything was sealed with a light coat of X-22 Clear. Jumping ahead, after the decals were on I then came back to do the invasion stripes, which were masked for the white areas then some liquid latex applied with a sponge to create the scratches and wear before Tamiya Flat White XF-2 was sprayed. Last lot of masking to cover the white before the same process was repeated, then Flat Black XF-1 applied. With all of the masking now removed it became apparent the significant amount of tape used on this build. In order to remove the latex an old used fine sanding pad was scrubbed over the stripes, this removed the latex as well as made the surface look well worn.

DECALS

The markings were probably the best I've ever used from Airfix and they all settled down with little fuss. Edges were quite minimal and colour density was very good. I was considering painting the roundels and even painting the white underneath to prevent any obvious shading or demarcation of camouflage, however, I am delighted to report no such issue raised its head. I was a little surprised at how blue the Sky code is as it doesn't quite match the sky I used for the fuselage band. Again a colour often interpreted differently by individuals. ▶

The painting process begins with a base coat of white for the yellow leading edges and sky band, both then masked off for the next colours

Tamiya XF-19 served two purposes one as a primer but also as an appropriate colour for the undersides, this was as close as I could find in the Tamiya range

Masking and then onto the top colour, in this case XF-66 Grey which was as close as I could match from Tamiya paints. All airbrushed thinned with Cellulose thinners

Hard edge camouflage masking with various flexible tapes back filled with Kip tape, then a coat of XF-81 RAF Green, this looks dark in the images but when weathered and flat coated it reduced the hue a lot





Humbrol enamels were thinned with white spirits and applied all over the model. On the grey areas I stuck with a dark grey, on the green a very dark almost black grey. Once dry for 30 minutes or so excess was removed with a damp kitchen towel with white spirits

Further masking and black is applied to the stripes



Further weathering was achieved with various mediums to give the appearance you see. The last coat of varnish was Tamiya semi gloss with some Flat base added

CONCLUSIONS

This is another superb product from what I consider to be 'new' Airfix. The designers have got to grips with the technology in hand and in this case the chief designer used original factory drawings and charts to plot the shapes. The rippled stressed skin effect may not be to everyone's taste, however, on the finished model they are hardly noticeable. Detail abounds and the options throughout the construction are highlighted where appropriate. Decals were very good and where there was any issue with compound curves I used setting liquids and a hairdryer.

The presentation of this kit is good with a nice box art and easy to follow instructions. The price of this kit is I believe about right and the end product is a good size too. Once more, well done Airfix. Fingers are crossed for more future releases to this standard and beyond. I have no hesitation in recommending this model to those who have a few under their belts. Any build issues were not the fault of the kit. ●

TECHSPEC...

AIRFIX 1:24 SPITFIRE MK.IXC KIT NO.A17001

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Other equipment and materials:

- Tamiya Side cutters, Swann-Morton Scalpel, super glue, Mr Surfacer, Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement, sanding pads, tweezers, Tamiya Masking Tape, 3m Flexible Tape, Kip Fine-line masking tape, Micro Sol and Set, Winsor and Newton Galleria flat varnish
- AK Interactive Real Colour: RC290 RAF Sky FS34424
- Vallejo Acrylics: Various
- Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Black, XF-2 White, XF-19 Grey, XF-66 Light Grey, XF-81 RAF Green, X-19 Smoke, X-21 Flat Base, X-22 Clear Gloss,
- Tamiya Lacquer Paints: LP-8 Yellow, LP-24 Semi Gloss Clear

AVAILABILITY

Airfix models and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. www.airfix.com



EASY EIGHT BIG IS BEAUTIFUL!

Part one

Over the last few years there can be no doubt that the scale of 1:16 has gained an enormous amount of ground amongst modellers. Whereas years ago it was seen as an expensive, luxury scale only available to the well-healed, it is now seen as something that many more modellers can enjoy.

Along with the mainstream companies that have over the years kept this scale alive, we now have a number of

boutique manufacturers that are dipping their toes in the waters of this scale to bring us some very interesting kits. The newest of these are Andy's Hobby Headquarters from America. An offshoot of the shop and YouTube channel that has allowed modellers the chance to see new kits being built over the years, this progressive concern looks set to offer plenty of 1:16 goodies over the months and years to come.

Their first kit and the centrepiece of this extended two-part feature, is the Medium Tank M4A3E8(76) W-HVSS Sherman or more pithily, the 'Easy Eight'. This has been followed by an early Tiger I with more seemingly in the wings, but for now, we'll focus on the job in hand... 🎯





Spencer Pollard builds the first in what looks to be an evolving series of 1:16 vehicle kits from Andy's Hobby Headquarters, the M4A3E8 Sherman. With our desks cleared, shall we begin?

❶ BIG, BUT NOT INTIMIDATING

Having worked alongside Takom, this new kit is actually remarkably straightforward despite its size and huge number of parts. Moulded in Takom's familiar pale grey plastic, much of what you will find in the capacious box looks to be little more than an oversized 1:35 kit, but dig a little deeper and the levels of complexity, accuracy and features, soon begin to reveal themselves. Moulding quality is immediately self-evident everything being superbly designed and moulded. As construction progressed, that excellence would surprisingly raise a

few issues here and there, tolerances that had been so carefully finessed, causing parts to be difficult to locate. In places, location pins would be a very tight fit so would require holes to be opened up to allow parts to be slid into place - fine when the parts are small, not so great when those items are large axles for the wheels! It's churlish I know to be critical of such things, but oftentimes it's better to oversize those location points so that they can easily be glued in place, than to have pin and hole, identical, and then find that you have to carry out additional work before moving from part

location, to glue application.

Detail across the board is gorgeous. I was particularly taken with the smaller parts where finely rendered features could be admired, bolts, rivets and foundry numbers all being pleasing inclusions. But the pleasure didn't stop there, delicate weld beads soon popped into view, as indeed did the manufacturer's logos on the tyres, all details that would later be such fun to bring out with paint and weathering.

As a project, you are in for a considerable amount of construction before you ever reach for the paint pot and brush. Your first port of

call will be the instructions, the detailed booklet taking you through the assembly of the model, if not entirely the painting of the details that hold hands with the overall schemes, illustrated over the final few pages. Much like those instructions found in Kinetic kits there seemed to be very little in the way of detailed painting guides, whole pages passing by with little in the way of painterly guidance. I get that this vehicle is a very familiar subject, but some help would have been useful! For instance, do you know what colour the lenses should be in the lights on the rear hull?

Construction began with the drive housing and the mounts for the sprockets. Simple to construct, this large sub-assembly features some very nice cast texture...



...as well as those very delicate foundry numbers. Note how sprue goo has been used to blend the tow shackles in place under the nose of the model



Sprue goo was also used to add some small weld seams over the rear hull where the rear plate meets the rest of that huge, upper hull moulding



The bolt holes for the mudguards (not included in the kit) are moulded as shallow depressions, so these were drilled out with a micro drill bit

AND IT BEGINS...

Happy that you have studied the instructions to the point of familiarity, if not set plan, construction can begin. Most of the model will be little different from a 1:35 kit, with only size likely to a differentiating factor. But that's not across the board. For instance, the running gear, suspension, wheels and tracks, are an insane amount of work that feast on hundreds of parts, repetition and at times tedium, being very close bed fellows. I decided early on that I would allocate set days to deal with these parts of the model, assembling both runs of tracks over one, building those multipart suspension units over another, before then joining the two-part wheels and sanding down their seam lines. I figured that would mean the build of the less-interesting work was out of the way and I would be left with the areas that I was looking forward to!

As mentioned earlier, you will need to be on your toes when it comes to assembly and dry-fitting of each part. Across the board the parts are so well moulded that you need to carry out precious little in the way of clean-up and where parts are surface mounted, everything fits perfectly. I mentioned those axles as an area to be aware of. Having built the suspension units, I had planned to add the axles and wheels later on, but then found that the holes in the swing arms through which they passed, were so tight I had to careful mill them out to allow easier passage. This also proved to be the case as I tried to mount the wheels on the axles, once again, the width of the pin and the diameter of the mounting hole being so close in tolerance, that I had to drill each one out.

It may sound like I'm being overly critical here, but trust me, the work is worth it because the wheels, suspension and tracks look incredible once together. Given their complexity, I choose to keep everything separate and then paint each subassembly individually, ready to bring it all together after painting and weathering. Given the size of the model I was not convinced that I could access all of the detail with the suspension in place so that seemed sensible, as indeed did it prove to be! ▶

The turret is another large sub-assembly that starts out as two sections upper and lower, that you need to carefully glue together



Once dry, the joints can be sanded smooth and then any texture reinstated with a dental burr



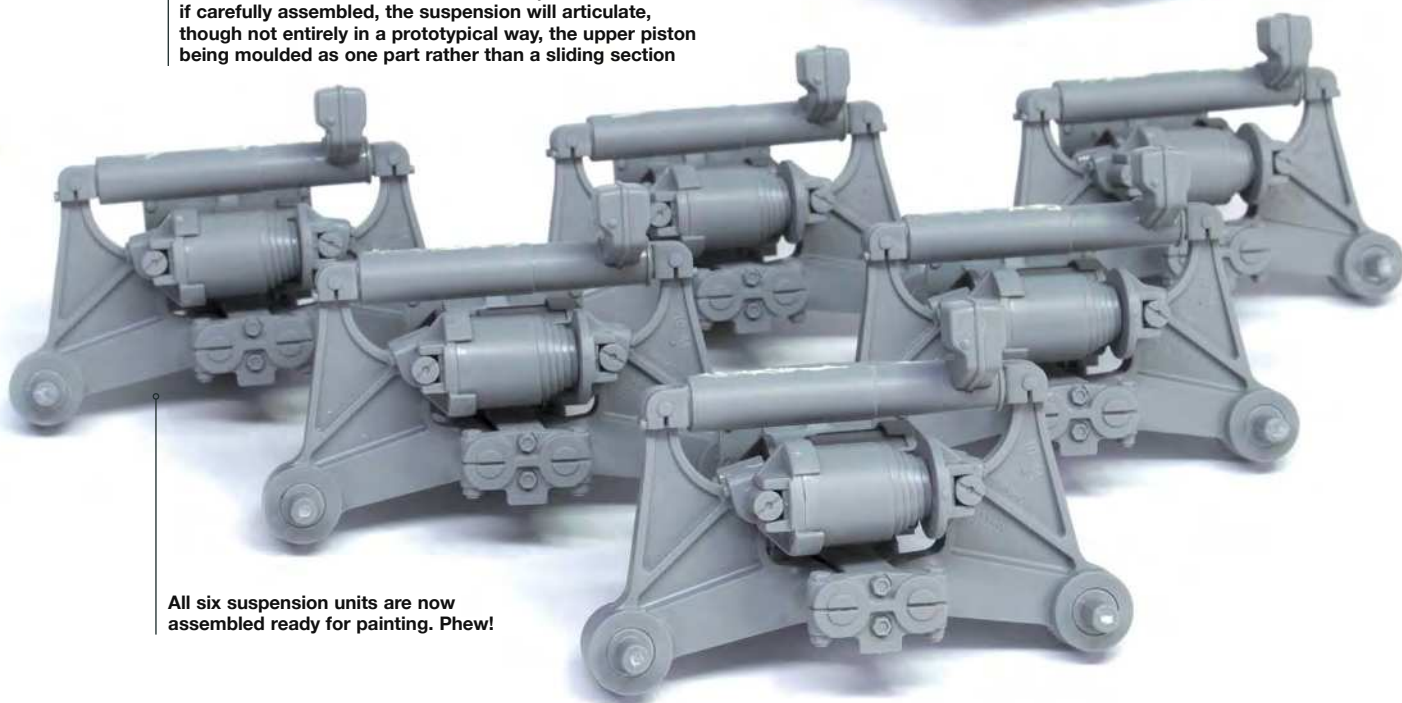
Sprue goo, mixed using a bottle of Tamiya Extra Thin cement and some small pieces of 'sprue', is a very useful material to have on your workbench for builds such as this



With the turret done, attention turned top the suspension. Each unit comprises 18 parts that have to be carefully cleaned up and then assembled. Tamiya Cement and GS Mr. Cement S were used to create solid joints. Note that if carefully assembled, the suspension will articulate, though not entirely in a prototypical way, the upper piston being moulded as one part rather than a sliding section



The fit of the two-part upper piston is a little loose, so some filling and sanding will be required



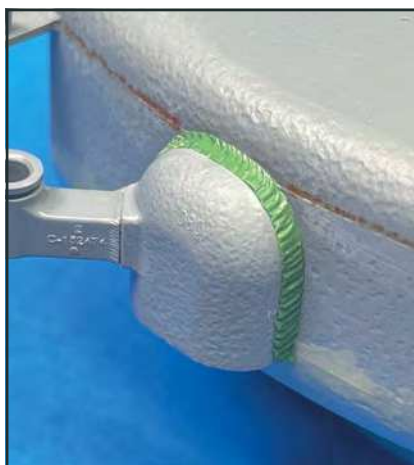
All six suspension units are now assembled ready for painting. Phew!

The rear hull plate with its idler mounts in place. The holes are for the exhausts, smaller details that will be added during final painting and assembly



❶ APPLYING SOME TEXTURE

Moving on, we have the hull and turret, both of which are supplied as large mouldings, decorated with the Sherman's familiar details. We begin with the hull, that stunning upper hull part serving to take your breath away as box is opened and parts examined. Slide moulds have allowed detail to be moulded in situ around the upper surfaces and down the hull's vertical sides. Some armour texture can be found on this piece, but only over smaller, horizontal areas. Given the scale of the model I chose to bulk that out, so stippled the other surfaces with liquid glue to add a subtle texture that looked pleasing under the paint. It should be noted that this was only needed over the upper hull, the turret being a mass of textured goodness! ❷



A bead of Green Stuff was used to add this weld bead. Note the texture over the surface of the turret



Using online reference pictures as a guide, the missing weld seams were added using sprue goo. Note also the textured lower flanks, added once again using those images as a guide

“Across the board the parts are so well moulded that you need to carry out precious little in the way of clean-up and where parts are surface mounted, everything fits perfectly...”



The commander's hatch is a little model in itself that can be assembled and then painted separately, to be fixed in place during final construction



The opening under the hatch are for the individual periscopes that are moulded in clear plastic. These were painted away from the hatch and then glued in place once dry, their lenses having been masked-off to protect the glazing



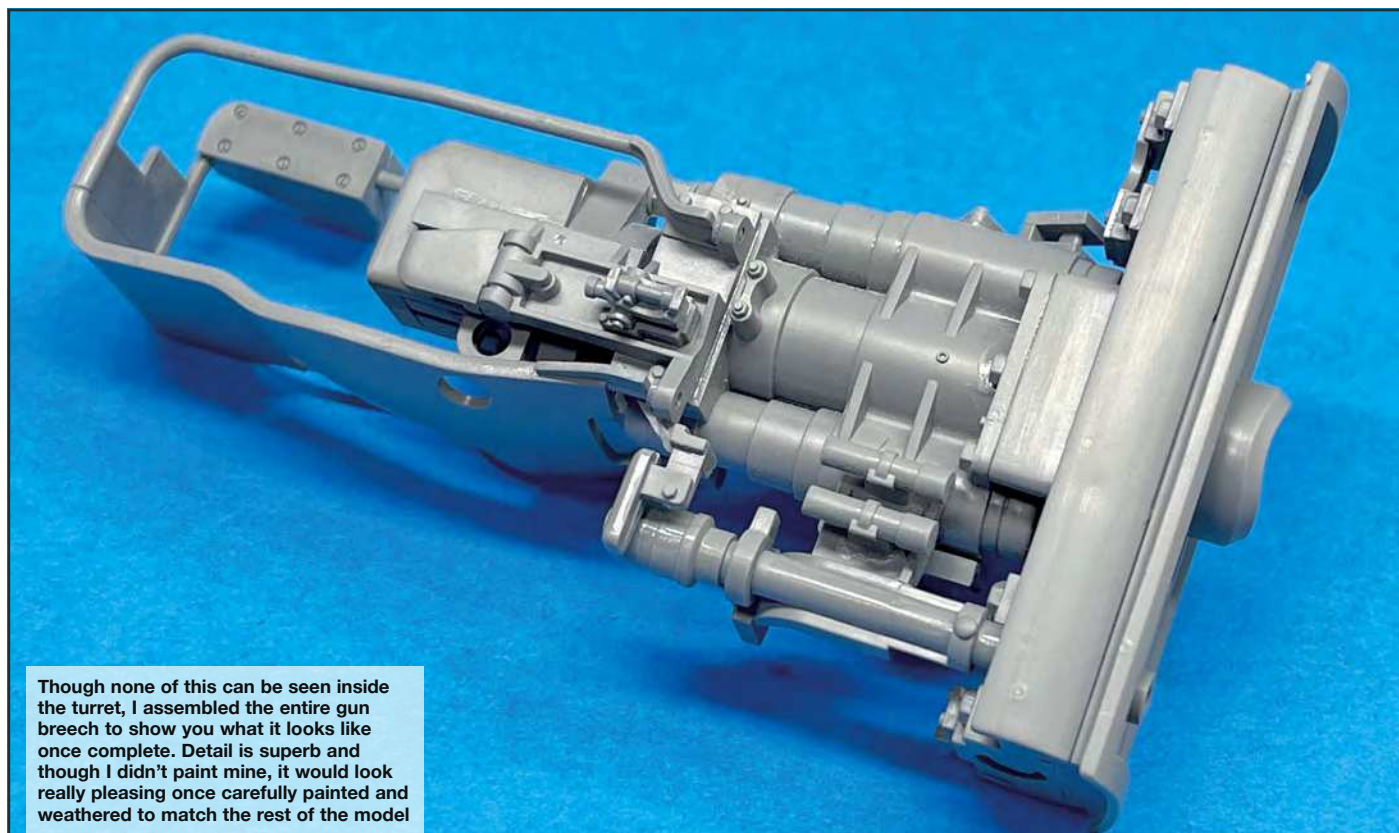
Test-fitting the hatch. This is such a pleasing part of the model!



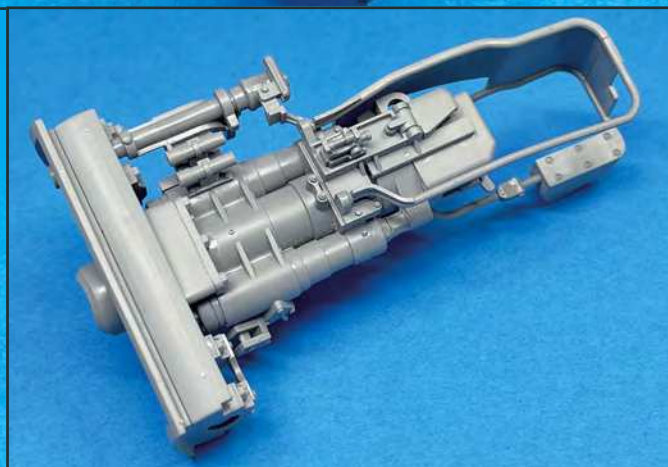
The upper turret features a huge amount of delicate detail, all of which can be accentuated with careful painting and weathering



I initially glued the searchlight in place, only to remove it after seeing that most wartime vehicles seemed to not have it in place!



Though none of this can be seen inside the turret, I assembled the entire gun breech to show you what it looks like once complete. Detail is superb and though I didn't paint mine, it would look really pleasing once carefully painted and weathered to match the rest of the model



“this new kit is actually remarkably straightforward despite its size and huge number of parts...”





The vehicle's filler caps featured looking pins held in place with delicate chains, Master Tools chain being used to replicate the latter feature



A close-up of this superb chains. This was fun to carry out and though not massively visible on the completed model, certainly adds another level of finesse should you wish to take a closer look

◀ The upper hull features separate crew hatches, as well as individual doors for the engine bay. Though there is nothing within the hull, the inclusion of these parts will allow the aftermarket

to get to work with perhaps an engine and some nice crew figures. The crew hatches, much like that for the commander, are gorgeous little models in themselves, being detailed inside and out

and then featuring separate periscopes moulded in clear plastic. I'd love to see this model with a full set of crew, but as mine only had the commander, I was happy to pose them in their closed

position at least for now, no glue being used just in case...

Finer details over the surface of the hull include the superb tools. The Sherman is recognisable thank to the now familiar ▶



Using Concord's 'US Tank Battles In Germany 1944-45' as guide, I began to plan out the additional armour that I wanted to add to my model. Here are two of the turret plates, shown over the image that was predominantly used



I noticed in the images that the turret armour featured some distinctive locking nuts and weld beads that I wanted to add. The latter I created using Magic Sculp, the former being designed and then 3D printed by my good friend Drewe Manton who worked miracles in a very short space of time!



Here is a close-up of that armour. Note that the armour actually comprised two sheets of metal, so that was replicated on the model. Note the look of those nuts and distinctive weld beads



Care was taken to ensure the armour was fixed in precisely the right location in accordance with my reference shots. Some wiggling was needed until that was accomplished, left and right



The armour is in place along with the stowage rail that the engineers also added to these vehicles. Mounted in drilled holes in the armour and turret sides, the rails were further detailed with delicate welds created once again with Green Stuff



The left and right sides essentially mirror each other, only minor details differentiating the two areas of the model



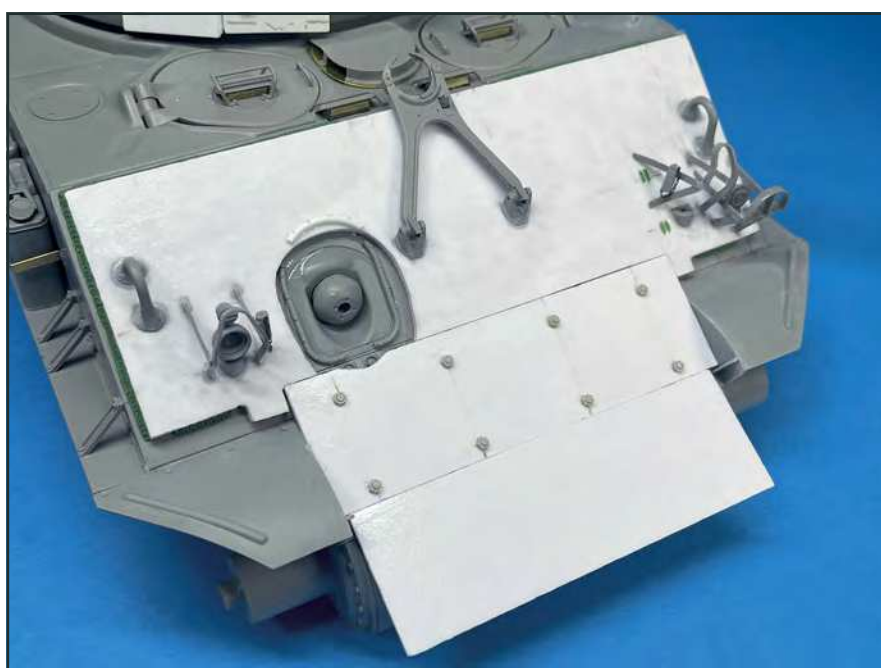
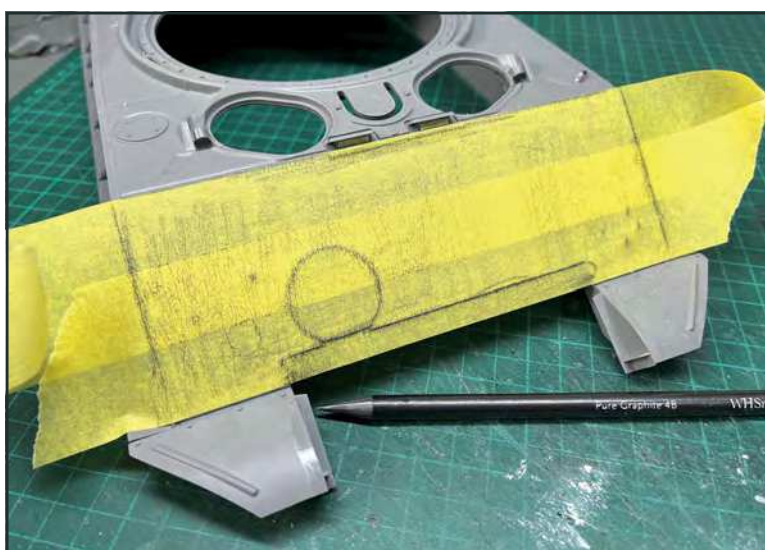
When adding the armour over the glacis plate some of the details needed to be reused to detail the new sections. Here, pilot holes are being drilled around the mounts for the lights so that they can be cut away and then glued in place on top of the new armour



The two mounts for the lights have now been cut away ready for clean-up and reuse

“The crew hatches, much like that for the commander, are gorgeous little models in themselves...”

As the armour on these vehicles was cut from the glacis plates of destroyed machines, I had to essentially replicate the plate from the kit. Here, masking tape is being used to mark out the locations of all of the details so that I could transfer them to the thick plastic card I would be using to model the new armour



New armour in place. It took a little while to replicate these pieces, constant measuring and dry-fits being needed until I was satisfied they looked correct. Texture was added to each piece by stipple the surface of the card with liquid glue, a once-over with wet and dry, bringing the texture down to a more realistic finish. The edges of the large section of armour were textured with a file to create the impression of torch cuts and then each was dressed in place with Green Stuff weld beads



My reference images showed a broken light and deformed guard, so this was replicated on my model. Note how the nose armour is held in place with standard bolts, a detail that contrasts nicely with those locking nuts on the turret

www.creativemodels.co.uk

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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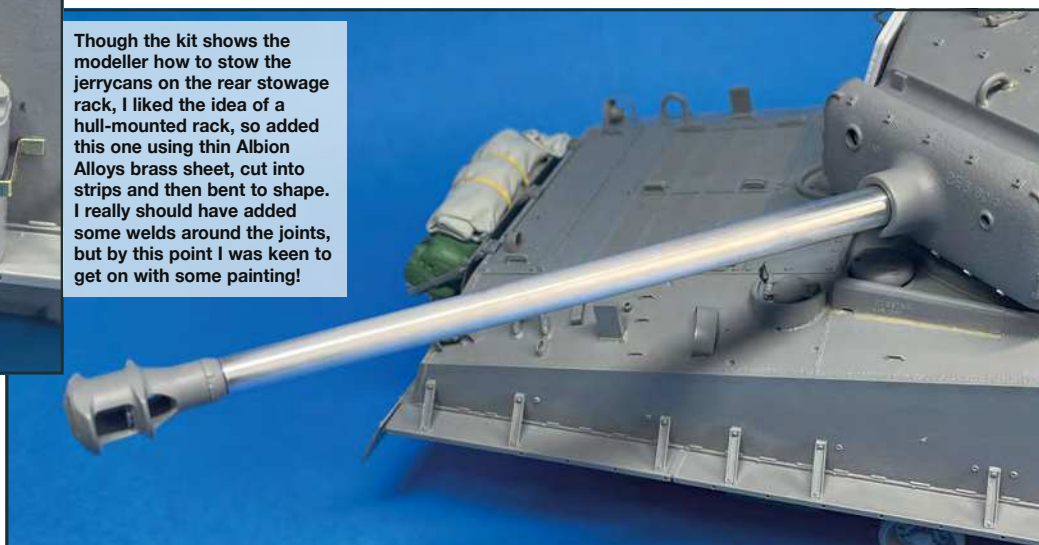
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Though the kit shows the modeller how to stow the jerrycans on the rear stowage rack, I liked the idea of a hull-mounted rack, so added this one using thin Albion Alloys brass sheet, cut into strips and then bent to shape. I really should have added some welds around the joints, but by this point I was keen to get on with some painting!

tool sets that festooned the engine deck, these all be present and correct. Individual tie-downs are also supplied but not the straps that hold the tools in place, these being made here from lead foil. Painting these little tools was a lot of fun I have to say their size allowing much detail to be pulled out with acrylics and in the case of their wooden handles, oil paints.

The turret is your final port of call, two large sections being joined as seen in the accompanying photographs. Decorated with exquisite cast steel texture, this area looks superb with little to no extra work, the kit parts providing everything that you need to create a replica that is spot-on in appearance and dimensions. I was particularly taken by the commander's hatch, as was I the stunning depiction of the vehicle's .50cal M2 machine



The gun barrel is a beautiful turned aluminium part that looks superb once detailed with its plastic muzzle brake



There's no stowage in this kit and though you can buy some from the aftermarket, I decided to bite the bullet and create my own. I began with the items in the rear stowage rack, Magic Sculp, A+B Putty and Green Stuff being used to sculpt simple bedrolls and kit bags. Tamiya masking tape was conveniently used to create some basic tie-down straps



If the rear stowage bundles were relatively straightforward, the kit bags on the turret were anything but! These were made from Magic Sculp and thought not to any particular pattern, size and detail, looked pleasing enough once hung from that brass rod railing added earlier



More stowage, this time around the back of the turret. Because I was laying one item on top of another I had to add the bed roll first, let that dry, sculpt the backpack in place and then add any small straps - a time consuming, but ultimately fun process



Happy with the underlying items, the final bedroll could be sculpted in situ and then the pleasing addition of those delicate straps could take place. Note how the use of a soft material such as Magic Sculp and some basic tools can help to create natural looking stowage, that suits any situation such as this



More stowage, this time wrapped around the rail on the other side of the turret. Care was take here to ensure that the items looked as distinctive as possible. This is the fun part of trying to create your own stage: everything looks unique!



This model certainly looks different with all of those scratchbuilt additions



Sat on my cutting mat, the size of this model becomes more than apparent. Small, it is not!



Periscopes in place, the glazed lenses have been masked-off with small pieces of Tamiya masking tape

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED ARMOUR

ANDY'S HOBBY HEADQUARTERS 1:16 M4A3E8 SHERMAN ● AHHQ001

- gun. Offered as a multipart kit-within-a-kit, the gun is a showstopper once carefully assembled and then painted, details of which I will bring you next time around.

COMMANDER FIGURE

And finally, we come to the commander figure. AHHQ make something of a play of the kit including a figure and rightly so! He's a real stunner, featuring excellent anatomy, sculpting and detail. Add to that the fact that the parts fit like a charm and even figure-phobics such as I are in for a treat when it comes to his painting. Indeed, such was the quality of this little fellow, this might have been the most enjoyable aspect of this kit. When have you ever heard me say that?! ●

TECHSPEC...

ANDY'S HOBBY HEADQUARTERS 1:16
M4A3E8 SHERMAN KIT NO. AHHQ001

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals and photo-etch

Paints used:

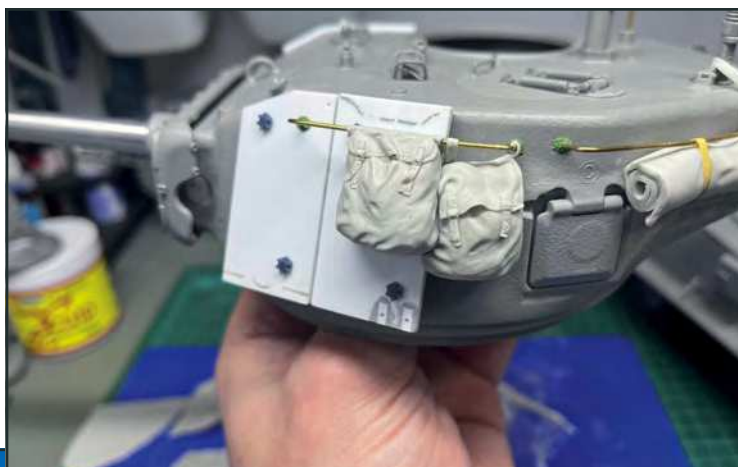
AK Interactive 3G, Tamiya Acrylics and Lacquers, Vallejo paints and weathering materials, AMMO Weathering Solutions

Accessories used:

None

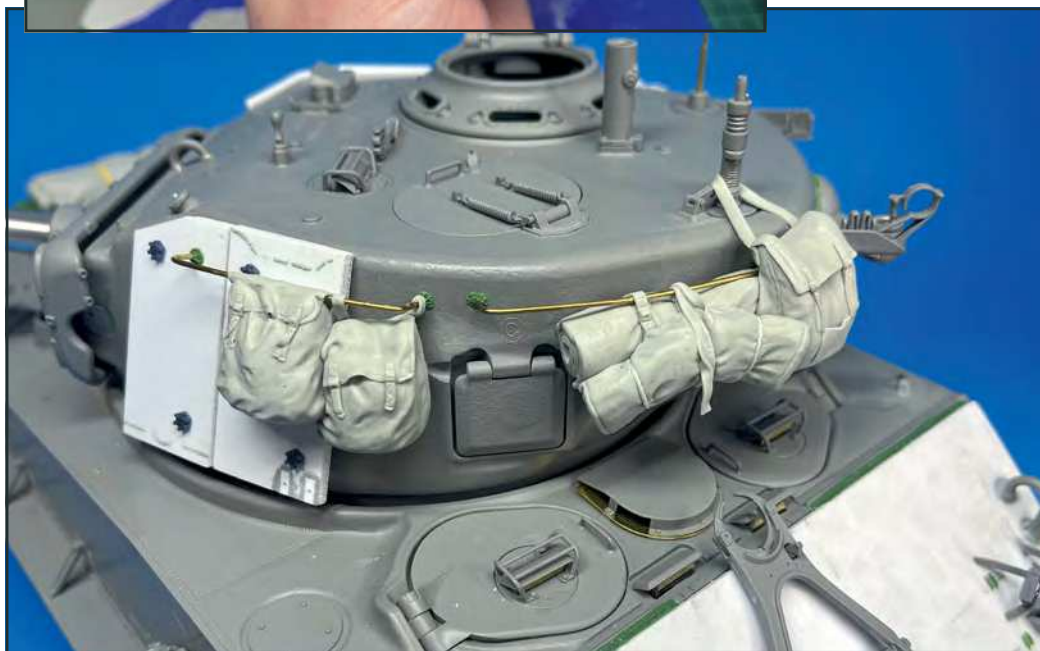
Availability:

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- eModels - www.emodels.co.uk/about-emodels#visit-the-store



Another image that gives you some idea of how large this 1:16 Sherman is, as the turret is sat in my hand

That's it, detailing all done, it's time to apply some paint!



NEXT TIME AROUND...

...We will take a look at the painting and weathering of this mammoth model and perhaps give it a home to live in. See you then!



SCANIA S770 4x2 NORMAL ROOF

1:24
scalascale

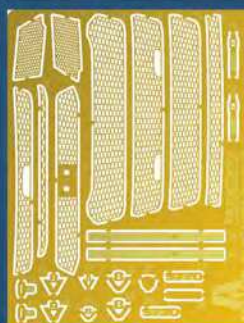
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Openable driver door

Photo-etched parts
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Decals sheet



KIT PREVIEW: WORLD WAR TWO AXIS INFANTRY

TAMIYA 1:35 MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES GERMAN INFANTRY SET (LATE WWII) ● KIT NO.35382



TAMIYA GERMAN INFANTRY

This new set from Tamiya includes five 1:35, injection-moulded polystyrene figures in realistic poses: a non-commissioned officer (NCO) signalling rearwards, a rifleman looking forward with both knees on the floor, a rifleman with anti-tank mine, a grenadier setting up Panzerfaust and carrying MP44 rifle and a soldier in poncho setting up Mauser G43. The late-war small arms parts have been updated.

German Wehrmacht soldier uniforms during WWII are separated into early (1939 to 1940), mid (1941 to 1942) and late (1943 to 1945) periods. Late-WWII uniform was the M43 uniform featuring simplified details – materials and pockets – compared to earlier M36 and M40 uniforms.

Leggings and ankle boots were used in place of leather jackboots and they also, it employed uniform made for actual combat, such as poncho used for camouflage, camouflage helmet cover, and small arms such as Mauser G43, MP44 rifle, and portable anti-tank arm Panzerfaust.

- German infantry are depicted in uniforms typical of the late-WWII period
- Includes newly tooled weapons such as Mauser G43, MP44 rifle and Panzerfaust
- Grenade can be attached to the right hand of sniper instead of anti-tank mine
- Realistically recreated zeltbahn ponchos feature ergonomic parts breakdown for ease of assembly
- Decals for uniform insignia are included

Materials: IM, WS

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



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BRS144050 BTR-60 PU

BRENGUN 1/72 -resin construction kits

BRS72017 SO-122ji Ojinn

BRENGUN 1/72 -accessories

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 (R-4 Skyhawk)

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

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DRAGON, HONG KONG SD.KFZ.251/10 AUSF.C WITH 3.7CM PAK

www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, R, WS • ITEM NO.6983

The Sd.Kfz.251 (which used to be wrongly called a Hanomag) was the main battlefield half-track with German forces throughout WW2 and saw service throughout the war, in all theatres. The Ausf.C version was produced in the middle part of the war, after combat experience in France led to a significant redesign of earlier types. The Sd.Kfz.251 proved highly adaptable and was produced in many versions. The 251/10 mounted the 3.7cm anti-tank gun which was fast becoming ineffective in its intended role and the old guns were fitted to these half-tracks for support of Panzergranadier units. The result was very tall and some guns had a smaller shield, or no shield at all. This kit from Dragon combines their existing half-track and AT gun kits and creates a very eye-catching combination. The kit comes with two upgrades – EZ Tracks of the 'late' pattern (which actually appeared mid-war) and a superb soft plastic canvas cover for the rear of the hull. The basic kits are very good, dating from 2003 and offer lots of opportunities for super-detailing. Some parts, such as the tools, look a little undersized with simplified clips and some interior parts are missing. The box contains the original tracks, which are superb, offering therefore a choice of appearance and the upgrades include etched parts for added finesse. Overall, this is a welcome addition from Dragon, creating a striking model of this support version of the half-track. CLS

-  The upgrades really improve this twenty-year old kit and offer a great new look
-  Decals are very fiddly, having to add tiny individual numbers, three times over

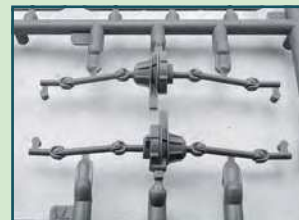




ICM, UKRAINE S.E.PKW.KFZ.70 WITH ZWILLINGS SOCKEL 36

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.35503

The heavy car on the Horch chassis was part of the Einheits programme and is a very familiar vehicle ever since Tamiya produced a kit back in 1975. However, the ICM kit from 2015 is understandably a huge leap forwards and is an incredible kit representing the later type with spare wheel inside the body. The level of detail is frankly remarkable and in all respects this is a superb model built out of the box. The version presented in this particular issue contains all the parts to make a standard heavy car, but in this case there is a Zwillingssockel 36 added into the mix. This is a twin MG34 on an anti-aircraft mount, fitted to many vehicles in the early war period. To make use of available weapons, this mount was very occasionally fitted to later version heavy cars, as in this kit, with minor modifications. The kit requires some filling of holes where the front passenger seat is removed, plus some other minor modifications, but these changes will be easy for any modeller. The end result is a rare version (only one photo to my knowledge, for a Pioneer unit in Tunisia) of a field modification with limited traverse of less than 120°, likely used against ground targets. While this kit is a no-brainer for ICM, combining two existing kits, there are many variants of the Horch car which have yet to appear and they would be good to see! A wonderful kit from ICM, of a rare or unique armed car. CLS



-  An extremely accurate kit of the Horch heavy car with added MG34 armament
-  A very rare field modification, with only one or two examples



TIC 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 UNIMOG S 404

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.35135

The Unimog S404 trucks were designed in the early 1950's and were produced from 1955 to 1980. The 1.5ton 4x4 configuration proved extremely useful for military use and the Unimog trucks were to be seen in service with many nations, all around the world. Over 36,600 were used by the Bundeswehr, but these trucks were also in Swiss, Dutch, Belgian and French use and many different variants were produced. This new kit from ICM is 100% new moulds and reflects the finest moulding standards in terms of sharpness and precision. The 'ladder' chassis is assembled piece by piece and although this gives superb detail, it will be important to keep this straight. As will be expected, there is a full engine and drive train, with only some wiring to add for complete authenticity. The soft rubber tyres have superb tread detail and no sign of a mould line to remove. The cab is fully fitted out and there is a canvas hood provided (though no folded option). The rear bed has an excellent representation of the embossed sides, but no tilt cover is included. The decals give four options, all Bundeswehr, dating from the 70's and 80's. It is a shame that no other nations are included, given that these trucks saw widespread use in many countries and in many colour schemes. CLS



A fabulous representation of an iconic vehicle that saw widespread use



Somewhat limited decal options, all for German units



ITALERI, ITALY FLAKPANZER IV OSTWIND

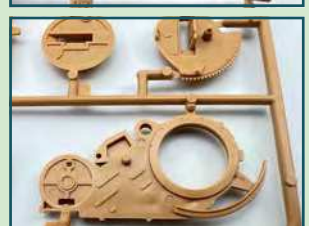
www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.6594

The Panzer IV was a workhorse tank used throughout WW2

and had the benefit of being able to be easily modified for other roles. Indeed, throughout its long production life, the Panzer IV formed the basis of a huge number of variants and this Ostwind is a classic example. This vehicle combined a late version hull with a large open turret mounting a 3.7cm Flak 43 for anti-aircraft roles and this weapon was highly regarded by Allied pilots. The Ostwind was very rare (44 produced), with only a handful seeing service in Germany and Czechoslovakia from late September 1944 onwards.

The kit correctly represents the prototype version, before the turret was moved forwards and bulges were added to the lower turret to adapt it to a larger turret ring. As the instructions point out, to make this model correctly, the hull on this refurbished vehicle would need Zimmerit covering. The Italeri Ostwind kit first appeared in 2000 and this latest 2023 release now includes optional individual track links as well as the rubber-band type, plus improved painting instructions. The kit is actually rather good, despite being a re-release and the mouldings show a lot of finesse. Three standing figures are provided, plus mesh for the shell collection basket. Overall, the kit matches what little we know about these rare vehicles and really looks the part. A very welcome release from Italeri. CLS



A great kit, very easy to assemble and accurate in appearance



This kit accurately represents the prototype vehicles, the later ones being slightly different

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ITALERI, ITALY

T-35/76 MODEL 1943 EARLY VERSION PREMIUM EDITION

www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, M, WS • ITEM NO.6570

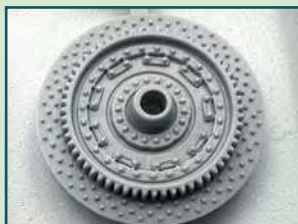
The T-34 tank needs no introduction, but this particular version from 1943 features the hexagonal two-man hard-edge turret without cupola, which was a very common version in the mid to late years of WW2. This Premium Edition kit from Italeri has a number of stand-out features which put it above some other kits. This particular version comes with optional one-piece 'rubber band' tracks, but also has link-and-length tracks in hard plastic, according to preference. This kit comes with a turned aluminium barrel as an alternative to the plastic version and comes with the large box fuel tanks that are typical for this period of WW2. The kit provides a number of parts in etched brass, including the prominent air outlet mesh on the rear deck. Another superb feature is the engine and transmission provided, along with the option to open the rear plate, displaying the internal parts. In fact, a whole range of parts can be assembled on optional positions, which offers a lot of variety. The tank can even be turned into the flamethrower OT-34 version by using the parts in step fourteen of the instructions. Throughout the kit, the moulding is sharp and precise and the accuracy of details is exceptional. To cap it all, there are six options for painting and decals, which again offers great choices. Overall, this kit from Italeri is surprisingly good in all respects and shows the high quality of these kits from this manufacturer. *CLS*



A much better kit than might be thought at first glance, with many features



Turret hatches need to have added interior detail if they are posed open



ICM, UKRAINE

WWII GERMAN MORTAR s.Gr.W.34 WITH CREW

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM • ITEM NO.35715

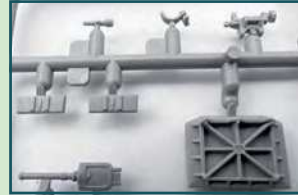
The German 8cm (actually 81.4mm) mortar was a highly effective weapon, used throughout WW2 and respected for its accuracy and rate of fire. Indeed, mortar fire caused many casualties throughout the war, and the Germans were particularly skilled in the use of this battlefield weapon. The mortar was transported in three pieces (barrel, bipod and baseplate) and was quick to emplace and bring into action. This set from ICM includes the mortar, some ammunition and four figures – commander, ammunition carrier, loader and aimer. The figures are extremely well moulded with exceptional sharp detail. Unusually, several figures have separate hands and split arms, possibly to allow better moulding of the parts. Two figures have gaiters, two have rare arrangements where the trousers are gathered at the ankle – but certainly the uniforms and equipment would suggest 1943-44 period. The mortar itself is very slightly crude by modern standards and the barrel is moulded in two halves, creating join-lines to be removed. The ammo boxes are rather thick, and the mortar bombs are very simplified, lacking the firing charges around the tail, and with a reduced number of fins. With a bit of attention, this can be made into a lovely model in its own right, and the set provides a lot of options for a great little vignette. *CLS*



Very sharp moulding of figures and equipment, ideal for 1943 onwards



The mortar is lacking some finesse in the moulding of parts





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**FERRARI
TIMOSSO
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.

**GERMAN BATTLESHIP
BISMARCK**

Kriegsmarine 1941



Item 1614

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

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

**1:200
scale**

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:35 RUSSIAN HEAVY TANK KV-1 MODEL 1941 EARLY PRODUCTION ● KIT NO.35372

CARCASSES OF WAR

DESOLATE, DESTROYED AND DEAD



IRON: SATURATED

Takahiro Sumitomo creates an evocative Eastern Front diorama featuring Tamiya's 1:35 KV-1

For my current project, I chose to make a Tamiya KV-1. I want to finish it as a destroyed example, so I bent the fenders around and warped the wheels.

The tracks that come with this kit are the link-and-length type, so I couldn't easily give them a fully damaged effect, but I managed to partially achieve the effect by cutting into the moulded groups of link. The one on the right side was left off entirely.

FORMING THE GROUNDWORK

This took a long time because the groundwork needed to dry fully. Clay was piled up on the base board, pebbles were scattered on and grass was planted... How long is this taking to dry? It would have been nice to make it all at once, but I could only work one layer at a time, so it took time. The clay protruded from the base and after it dried, it was scraped down, following the outer panels. By doing this, the edges would have the same shape as the unevenness of the ground. To paint the baseboard edges, I sprayed Mr Surfacer (Mahogany) and smoothed it down with a Soft 400 sanding stick. I repeated this three times and finished it with Mr. Color Clear (semi-gloss).

BASIC PAINTING OF THE VEHICLE

Both the vehicle and the base were undercoated in Mr. Surfacer Black. I really like this material because it can be applied by airbrush like any other paint. After spraying with hairspray, I painted the entire hull and turret with Tamiya acrylic paints mixed to create 4BO Russian Green and added some dark yellow to the mix for highlights. I attacked the top colour with tweezers and created scratches in the finish. As it's sprayed with hairspray, it came off relatively easily. The markings are the KV-1 slogan decal set made by Passion Models. They adhered perfectly and there was no danger of silvering, so I felt good about it! 🎯



Here we see the KV-1 set into the groundwork, in its raw, unpainted condition



An overall layer of Mr Surfacer Black creates a uniform surface upon which the colours are gradually applied



The first layer of Russian green has been airbrushed

FULL-BUILD: WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED ARMOUR

TAMIYA 1:35 RUSSIAN HEAVY TANK KV-1 MODEL 1941 EARLY PRODUCTION ● KIT NO.35372

Here we see the model in its decalated and fully weathered state. A remarkable transformation!



VEHICLE WEATHERING

The recessed details were treated to a heavy layer of diluted sepia oil paint and AK Interactive Streaking Grime. Further lighter and dark colour-washes were applied until I was happy with the appearance. I painted the track, the lower parts of the hull and upper areas of the track guards with Tamiya's Texture Paint (brown). Mr. Weathering Color was used, after applying variations with white dust and sandy colour-washes. I'd never made a destroyed tank before, so I was a little worried, but I think it went well. I enjoyed the process so much couldn't choose the right time to stop! I always lose track of when to finish a project.

PAINTING THE GROUNDWORK

Firstly, Tamiya Acrylic XF-52 Flat Earth was sprayed from above. Next, Flat Earth plus Dark Yellow were sprayed randomly, finishing off with just Dark Yellow. I usually airbrush the stones as much as possible, but this time I randomly brushed each one with Vallejo's Light Fresh, Pale Gray and Iraqi Sand.

Acrylics have excellent colour saturation, so they were good to work with. I then applied highlights and shadows. I didn't leave any of the grass green; I airbrushed it with Dark Yellow over a black background so it would look like dry, khaki-coloured grass.

FIGURE PAINTING

After a layer of Mr Surfacer Black, acrylic flat white was sprayed from above and the details then painted with Vallejo and AK Interactive acrylics. I called this piece "carcass of iron". I've never made a destroyed vehicle before so I tried it, while imagining where the damage would be, but it was quite a challenge. I think I was able to reproduce the scene as I had imagined it. Now, onto the next diorama! ●



The figure was finished with acrylic paints



“The markings are the KV-1 slogan decal set made by Passion Models. They adhered perfectly and there was no danger of silvering...”



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TECHSPEC...

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decals

Availability:

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UKRAINE SK

The Sikorsky CH-54A Tarhe US heavy helicopter was later called the 'Skycrane' with good reason. This amazing Vietnam War-era beast can now be built in 1:35, courtesy of ICM. **Marcus**

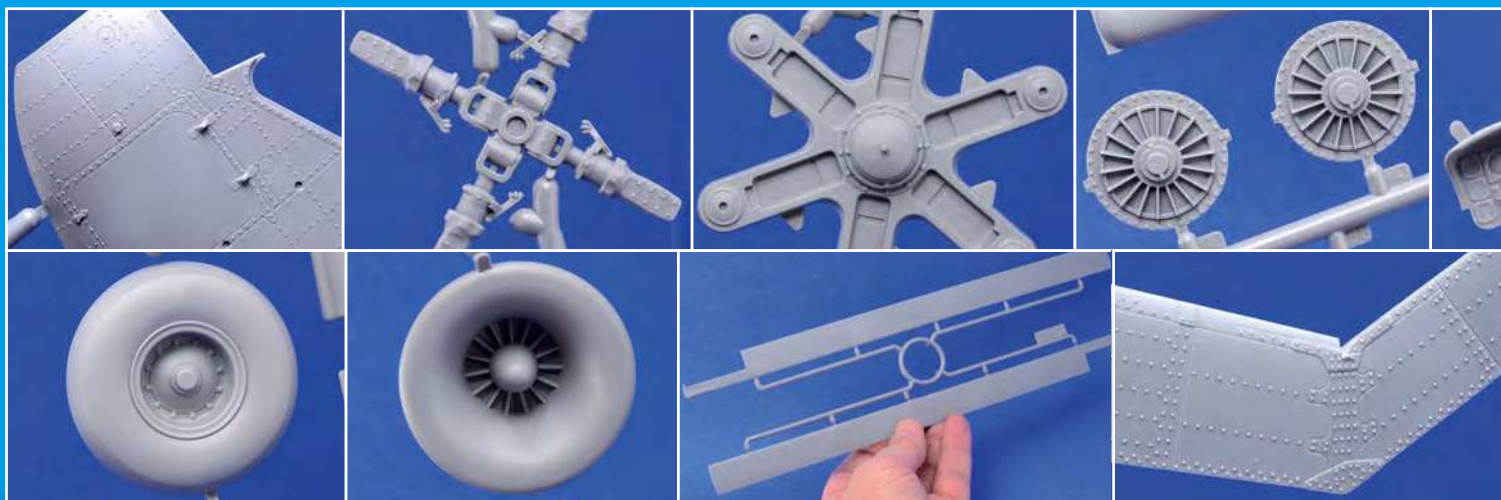
I have to say, I nearly fainted when I received news that this kit was in development. I have long loved this extraordinary helicopter but never had the time or references to build and superdetail the old Revell model, so when ICM began showing CAD images of their 1:35 kit, I was hooked.

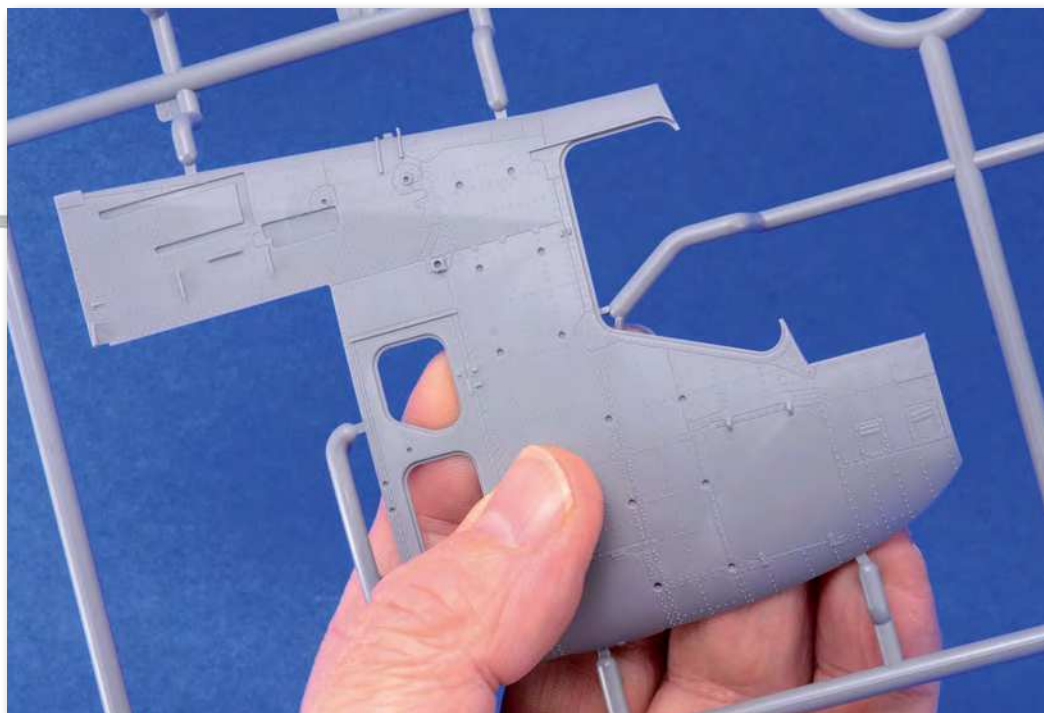
In the long kit box we are presented with a pair of flat cartons that contain fourteen sprues of grey, injection-moulded polystyrene, plus one in clear. It's not an overwhelming boxful

of parts, just enough to recreate the insectile airframe of this machine and cover it with a matrix of finely detailed components; ICM seem to have struck just the right balance of complexity and buildability here (leaning slightly more in the direction of complexity) and while it's inevitable the aftermarket suppliers will come up with all manner of photo-etched and 3D-printed accessories for it over time, if built straight from the box, this will still form an incredibly impressive model.

The canopy parts are some of the clearest I've ever seen and through them, you'll be able to see the nicely executed main cockpit cabin. All the modeller needs to add here are some harnesses for the pilot and co-pilot seats, plus a little cabling if you're feeling ambitious and have good references to hand.

The real CH-54 is a rivety old thing and the kit parts mirror this aspect with a covering of reasonably in-scale raised rivets covering the airframe





SKYCRANE

good reason. In one of their boldest moves yet, **is Nicholls** takes an initial look inside the box...

exterior. Care will be needed to not remove any near cement lines, but if built methodically, this should not be a problem. The vast rotorhead is arguably the focal point of this machine and ICM have done a spectacular job of it, covering the main elements with a bird's nest of tiny detail parts; tweezers at the ready!

To sum up this initial preview, this is a magnificent achievement by ICM. The subject is a dream come true for me and many others I suspect,

and we are sure to see lots of these kits built up and on display at model competitions world wide. Now, let's clear that workbench and get started!

Many thanks to ICM and Hannants for the review sample. ●

Availability;

ICM models are widely available from good model shops and online.
www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

A LITTLE HISTORY...

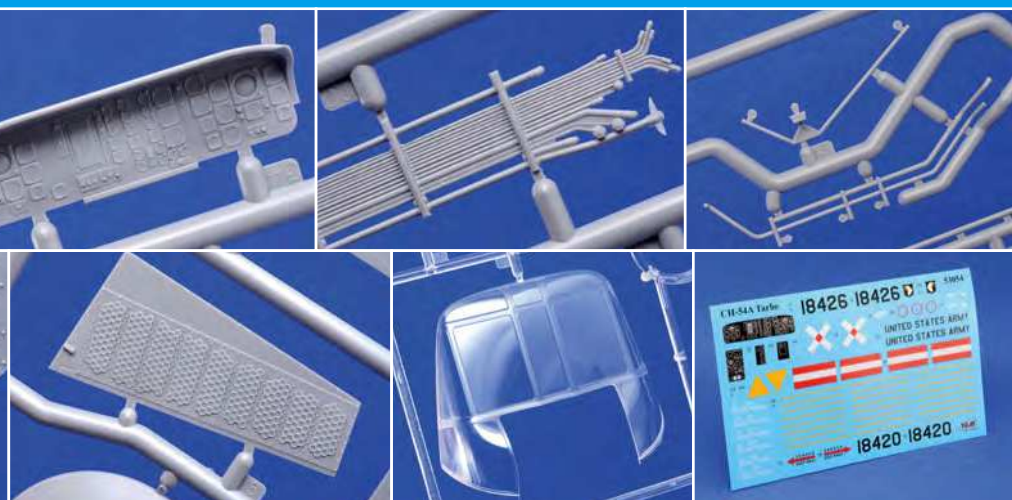
The CH-54 Tarhe helicopter was developed by Sikorsky Aircraft, a company founded by the prominent Kyiv-born aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky. The first flight of the helicopter (originally named S-64) took place on May 9th, 1962. The helicopter was built on a modular principle, which simplified its maintenance and repair. It had a tall three-post landing gear with a front support, which allowed a 'tractor with a trailer' approach in its design.

The helicopter's powerful winches allowed it to pick up cargo in hover mode, without the need to land on the ground. During the Vietnam War it evacuated damaged aircraft and various helicopters, transported artillery pieces, cars, tanks and even combat boats on an external sling.

It was also used to drop high-powered bombs to clear the forest for airfields. This helicopter set ten world records for its class, including lifting a 15-ton cargo to 3,307 meters. The civilian version of the helicopter (Erickson S-64 Aircrane) is still in successful operation today. (ICM website)

CH-54A specs

- Role: Heavy-lift cargo helicopter
- Manufacturer: Sikorsky Aircraft
- First flight: 9th May 1962
- Retired: 1970s (US Army) 1993 (National Guard)
- Status: Retired
- Primary user: US Army
- Number built: 105
- Variants: S-64 Skycrane



Book Reviews

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SIEGE OF BUDAPEST 1944-45

The Brutal Battle for the Pearl of the Danube



SIEGE OF BUDAPEST 1944-45 (CAMPAIGN 377)

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www.ospreypublishing.com

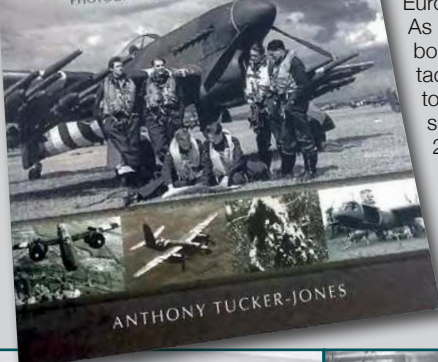
The Hungarian capital city of Budapest straddles the Danube river and when besieged by Soviet forces in October 1944, the German and Hungarian defenders were faced by many difficulties in holding the line. Unable to withdraw, the 50 day siege had only one outcome for the Axis forces and the battle for the city was a slow strangulation of Pest and then Buda. Faced with starvation and defeat, there were ill-fated attempts to break out, but the Russian noose was tight and very few Axis troops reached friendly territory. The book is written in a very readable style and with just enough detail to cover the critical points without immersing the reader in unfamiliar names. The maps throughout the book are a huge help and really explain what is going on at each stage.

Produced in the familiar Osprey format, with nearly 100 pages filled with text, artwork and photos, this publication provides the modeller and historian with enough fascinating information to satisfy most needs. The author, Mihályi, is a respected and reliable authority on the siege of Budapest and the Osprey book is a perfect source. **CLS**



IMAGES OF WAR THE NORMANDY AIR WAR 1944

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WARTIME ARCHIVES



THE NORMANDY AIR WAR 1944, IMAGES OF WAR SERIES

ANTHONY TUCKER-JONES, PEN AND SWORD BOOKS Ltd.

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By 1944, the Allied air forces had gained mastery of the skies over Europe and the Luftwaffe had ceased to be as much of a threat. As a result, the RAF and USAAF were able to add to their strategic bombing campaign with additional support of ground forces, with tactical bombing, strafing and other forms of ground-attack. Added to this, glider troops and paratroops were ferried to battlefields and supplies dropped to friendly forces. This book, originally printed in 2019, is a very comprehensive summary of events, covering the commanders, the aircraft and the types of action undertaken. The 130-page book is profusely illustrated by photos and these are particularly well chosen to show the aircraft and the effects on the ground. Overall, this volume summarises the role of air power to enable the full impact of the Allied armies to be unleashed in North-West Europe and cripple the dwindling German forces as they were driven back towards their homeland. The style of writing is very readable and the photos are clear and informative, making this book an excellent summary for any modeller or general historian. **CLS**



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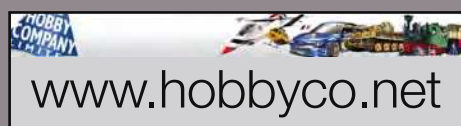


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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of TMMI is June 2023
(No.332), on sale 18th May

BUTTON-NOSED 'BOLT

Tamiya's 1:72 P-47 Thunderbolt
gets a slick build and paint job



VIKING VOYAGES!

TMMI reports from the IPMS Norway SKALA model show

BLITZ BABY

Tamiya's classic
1:35 Opel truck
gets some subtle
weathering treatments



...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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NEWS FROM NORWAY!

Back in March I was very honoured to be invited by the good people of IPMS Norway to attend their annual 'SKALA' model show. The event took place within the wonderful aircraft museum near Oslo's main airport and I had a wonderful time chatting about modelling, aircraft, food, drink, modelling and, oh, did I mention modelling? Here's a quick taster from my trip, much more next month!



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Urine the right place!

Pardon the vulgarity this month, but there's no other way to describe these extremely useful products.. They are 40ml urine sample pots and come with snap-down lids which makes them perfect for mixing and thinning model paints. I get through scores of these during my model builds and they keep the prepared paint remarkably fresh, particularly when using Tamiya Lacquer Paints which, even when thinned, stay useable for months. I buy mine from a well-known online auction website; the price can vary so check out various sellers for the best deal. They arrive, needless to say, unused... Search online auction sites





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Two versions are on offer:

- Hyundai i20 WRC 1st Corsica 2019, Thierry Neuville, Nicolas Gilsoul (BEL014)
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Each kit contains seven sprues plus bodyshell in white polystyrene, one sprue in clear and one in synthetic rubber. Also in the box are photo-etched parts for the disc-brake faces, radiator grilles, wings struts, seat-harness buckles and more, along with five synthetic rubber tyres and two sheets of stunning decals for the bodyshell and cabin.

BEL021

■ HYUNDAI i20 COUPE WRC MONTE CARLO



1:24
SCALE

NEW THINKING NEW POSSIBILITIES!

Belkits all-new 1:24 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC models have arrived!



BEL014

■ HYUNDAI i20 COUPE WRC 2019 NEUVILLE



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LOTUS type 78

1/12 Big Scale Racing Car Series

Lotus Type 78

(w/Photo-Etched Parts) (Item 12037)

**1/12
SCALE**

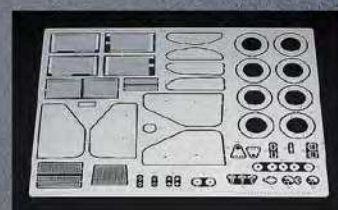
Length: 381mm
Width: 171mm
Height: 76mm



Mario Andretti,
1977 British GP

PHOTO-ETCHED PARTS

Comes with photo-etched parts for radiator cores, brake discs, two different types of wing end plates, seatbelt buckles, cowl fastener parts and more.



A Pioneer of the Wing Car Era

Renowned as one of the pioneers of the wing car era, the Lotus Type 78 debuted in the 1977 Argentine Grand Prix to much acclaim for its sleek, aerodynamic form. The inverted gull wing shaping on the underside of its side pontoons generated significant downforce via the "ground effect," without adding significant drag, giving the Type 78 exemplary cornering speed. That year Mario Andretti and Gunnar Nilsson achieved five wins in total. Although they did not become champion, this car's concept was passed on the next season to the Type 79 which got both Driver's and Team's Championships. Bring back your memory of this pioneer - which gave impetus to the wing car era - with our kit!



Seatbelts use faux cloth and photo-etched components, adding to the cockpit's impressive realism.



Side pontoon undersides have the inverted gull wing shaping recreated with accuracy.

The engine is depicted in style, with numerous fuel pipes and ignition cables.



Semi-pneumatic tires have Goodyear logos on their side.

The complex rear suspension is recreated in detail.

★Features moving coil-sprung suspension. ★The steering wheel turns the front wheels. ★Removable front and cockpit cowl, radiator ducts and induction box allow inspection of the model interior, even after its completion.

Ronnie Peterson,
1978 British GP
Qualifying Race



Choose between two designs of wing end plates. Decals depict drivers' names.



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