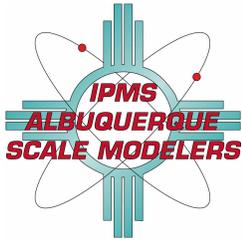


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://www.hobbies-n-stuff.com/ASM-Stuff/asmweb.htm>

April 2006

Two APRIL MEETINGS!

Remember, in order to avoid conflict with the Regional, this year's "May" general meeting will take place on Friday, April 28! Build quickly between the two meetings, and you'll have more to bring to Chile Con!

More are in the works as I write this, so if anyone wants to sponsor one contact me or Brian.

Please try to register early and avoid the last minute crush of registering at the door; it will also make it easier on the door people and your semi-stressed treasurer and the piles of paperwork.

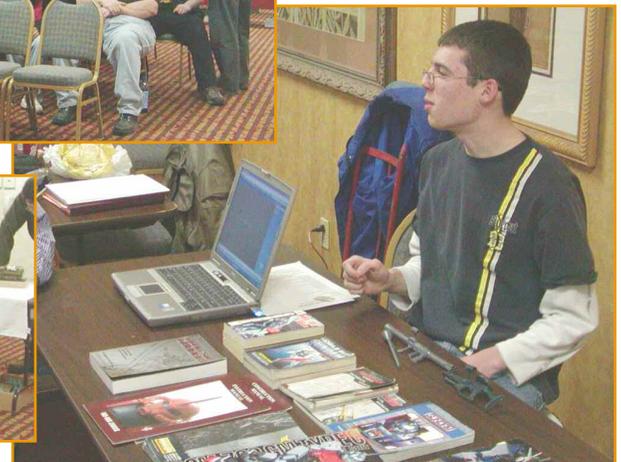
I am still pushing online newsletters. It's easy, quick, and you will get your newsletter several days before the snail-mail version, and it saves the club some expense of postage and envelopes. I like it because I can save it in a folder on my computer with all the others and if it has links to websites, they work. EMail Joe (his address is at the end of the newsletter) to sign up.

Now, if you get both versions, please see me to correct my files of who gets what.

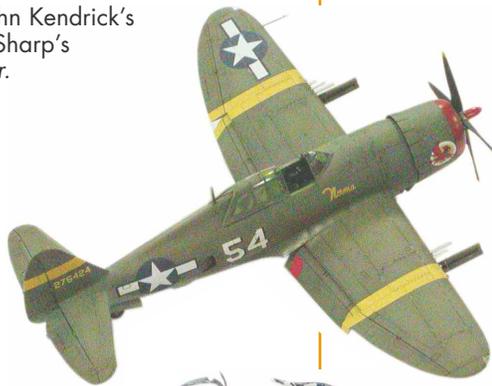
TREASURY REPORT FRANK RANDALL

Well, it's closing in on the last days of March and we have sold 25 regular trophy packages out of 60, 2 of the 5 out-of-the-box trophies, and one special trophy pack.

March meeting highlights, clockwise from top: The members gather for the business meeting, in one of the rooms we'll be using for the Regional; John Kendrick holds forth on the subject of Gundams; and the contest table with several entries for the contest.



March Best-of-Show winners, L – R: John Kendrick's *Gundam*, Mike Franklin's *P-47*, Ryan Sharp's *Velociraptors*, and Tim Estes's *Hummer*.



KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

Citroën Traction 11CV Staff Car

1/48-Scale Kit by Tamiya
(Military Miniature Series No. 17)

Tamiya's all-new kit of the Citroën Traction 11CV sedan is a great new addition to their 1/48 armor series. At first glance, the little Citroën might seem an odd choice for a military model, but it saw widespread military and civilian use during the Second World War and can be adapted to a wide variety of modeling projects, from "stand-alone" model to diorama accent. Car modelers can also enjoy the kit, as the Citroën Traction was a popular and technically-advanced auto design and can be modeled as a civilian vehicle.



The best part of building this model was the state-of-the-art engineering that Tamiya put into the kit. It is no exaggeration to say this is one of the best model kits

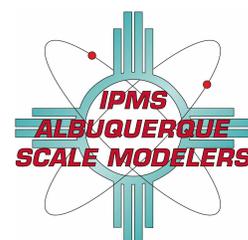
I've ever built—accurate, well-designed and easy to assemble. If you are looking for a fun and easy modeling project that will turn out a contest-winning model, I highly recommend this kit. The model went together beautifully, with no seam problems or construction flaws, and the kit can be built easily in an afternoon.



Tamiya supplied decals for four different vehicles: Luftwaffe and Wehrmacht staff cars in overall field gray from early WWII, a dark green French military staff car from 1940 and a French civilian vehicle from the WWII era. I chose the Wehrmacht vehicle, as it served on

the Eastern Front and offered the best opportunity for weathering.

This kit is a beauty—an offbeat, interesting subject engineered to perfection by the model masters at Tamiya. If you build only one model this year, make it a Citroën Traction!



BOOK REVIEW

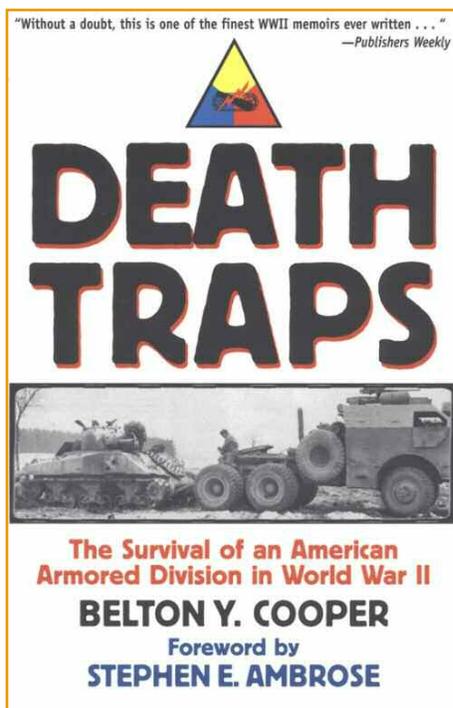
DON SMITH

Death Traps

The Survival of an American Armored Division
in World War II

By Belton Y. Cooper

Due to the number of books out there covering military history, I would like to encourage everyone to write a short book review of noteworthy books (or to root out the stinkers). I will submit a review as I finish books I am reading. I'm not a history expert so my reviews are based on what I like, not what I think is accurate. Please be patient, I'm a slow reader. Thanks. -Don Smith



I'm sure you've seen copies of this book floating around the club; I sure have. This is a book about the U.S. Third Armored Division in World War II. The author of the book, Cooper, is a young engineer who is initially ambivalent about his role in the war because he wanted to be a naval architect. Instead he is an ordinance officer in the army.

Cooper tells about the 3rd AD's role in the war from Normandy to crossing the Rhine. His story is pretty interesting because he is a liaison for the Division's Maintenance Battalion and gets to see more aspects of the war than most junior officers. Among the shocking facts I learned was that the Division suffered over 500% casualties. Cooper

also describes the inadequacies of the Sherman tanks and replacement crew training. Other interesting stories include the dangers of tank recovery in combat, Patton's role in ensuring the Sherman received priority over the Pershing, the 3rd AD's Pershings in combat action, and the reason the 75mm gun was chosen for the Sherman and the 75mm vs. the 76mm gun for the Sherman (neither was adequate).

There are lots of interesting stories that could inspire a modeler to build dioramas depicting American armor in Europe. There are an interesting series of photos of a Pershing tank in action, although you won't see much detail due to the small format. This book is in paperback and I picked up a copy at a used bookstore for three or four dollars. I've noticed it on the shelves of many new bookstores. I would give this book my highest rating of five out of five stars. ★★★★★

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

Balsa Foam: what is it and where do I get it? Well, I will let you know, along with how well it works. It is Phenolic resin foam. It comes in three different densities: 7lb, 12lb and 20lb. I'm currently working with the 12lb density and find it carves easily while still being pretty durable. It glues with white glue, yellow carpenter's glue, or even thick super glue. I've been using yellow carpenter's glue and it has worked fine for me.

The parent company maintains a web site (<http://www.balsafoam.com/aboutbalsafoam.asp>) but you will have to buy it from one of the online retailers; for example, Dick Blick Art Materials (<http://www.dickblick.com/zz331/11a>).

That is where I got mine. There are also others out there.



The downside to working with it is that it doesn't come in large sheets in thin thicknesses. I bought the 1/2" thickness sheets, which comes as two 6x9 pieces. Yes, it can be glued up to make bigger sheets, but it would be nice if it came in larger pieces. Another downside is the 1/2" thickness. For a 1/35-scale building, that translates into an 18" thick wall. Now yes, there are some older stone-type building that would be that thick, but I would also like to see it in 3/8" thickness. For one of the barn buildings I'm working on, I re-sawed the pieces on the band saw and then made a thickness gauge out of wood (screwed to my worktable) and I then took a palm sander and sanded the pieces to 3/8". Make sure you are wearing a respirator while doing this—the dust is super fine.

One other thing you have to do after working with balsa foam is to clean off your tools well. I wiped mine down with some WD-40 afterwards.

The Balsa Foam has some sort of citric acid in the binder glue that holds it together and it will rust metal quite easily. I forgot and left a piece on the

table saw overnight and the next day found a ghost image of rust when I picked it up. Not to worry, a little WD-40 and a Scotchbrite pad and it cleans up the metal fine.

So what do I think of it? I like it, but it is a little pricey; still, it sure does work nicely. I don't think I'd use it for all my buildings, but I heard about it and thought I would give it a try.

CHILE CON



2006

2006 IPMS Region 10 Contest May 5 - 6, 2006

MCM Elegante Hotel and Event Center
2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque NM 87107

Year 2006 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for "Modeler of the Year" Points

- 6 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 3 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 3 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.
- 7 Apr** **Best Kitai** (WWII Japan air forces)
- 28 Apr** **Flying Boats, Amphibians, and Hulls**
Workshop: Brush painting (John Tate)
- 2 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
THE BEST TWO-FER
Workshop: Photo-etch (TBA)
Resin Casting (TBA)
- 7 Jul** **Italian Wonders** (any era/scale/subject)
Workshop: Weathering (TBA)
Workshop: Zimmerit (TBA)
- 4 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 8 Sep** **Armies of the 1900s**
Workshop: Figure painting (TBA)
- 6 Oct** **Eastern Europe 1950 - 1990**
Sponsored Contest: Babefest (Ken Liotta)
Workshop: Homemade tools (show & tell)
Workshop: Attaching "itty-bitty" pieces (TBA)
- 3 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "F-teen" (Ken Liotta, Keith Liotta, Brian Peck, Frank Randall)
- 1 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
BEST ZERO
Plus Model of the Year competition!

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| | | | |
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ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. Submission deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month.