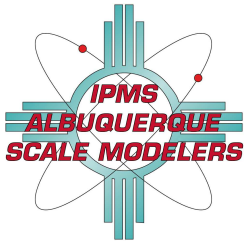


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com> ←NEW!

January 2007

WEB SITE NEWS MIKE BLOHM

ASM has a new web site location with the following internet address: <<http://abqscalemodelers.com>>

Please add it to your favorites list. The web site is currently under reconstruction due to the move. A lot of the page links are down and the thumbnail pictures have to be relinked to the new site address. These will be fixed ASAP, starting with the most recent articles and pictures.

The plan is to keep the 2007, 2006, and 2005 model and meeting pictures posted on separate pages on the site. Articles will be archived after two to three months. Please keep your articles coming! Suggestions on ASM web site improvements are requested.

Our grateful thanks to Stan, Helen, and Callie Johnson at Hobbies 'n Stuff for hosting ASM on their own web site for the past few years.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS JAMES GULD

Now that the holidays are past us we can get back to more important things like modeling. Seriously, now is a good time to make a list of what you want to build this coming year and try and stick to it. One item you can put on your list is a Sherman tank—I'm sponsoring a contest for Best Sherman (date TBA). Any time period, any nation—as long as it's a Sherman tank. One good thing is that there have been a lot of new Shermans released in the past year to choose from. So get cracking! As an incentive, there is a nice gift certificate to "Formations" for the winner.

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS JAMES GULD

I thought I would touch on some of the cool items I've seen or picked up over the holidays. These first two items came from Model Military International, January 2007.

The first is from a company I'd never heard of; *Shinsengumi* makes 1/35 German camo patterns in waterslide decals for seven different patterns (currently, all are SS patterns). They are available online (<http://www.lsamodels.co.uk>).

The second company is also new to me; *Fiba Model* makes diorama products in 1/35 and 1/72 scale. They have a set of laser-cut boxes in thin plywood in 1/35 and a few sets of leaves in both 1/35 and 1/72 scales. They are embossed and have the stems attached and are colored. From the picture it looks like oak and maple leaves to me. Very cool indeed.

I picked up a "Chopper II" from Northwest ShortLine. I have an old Dremel table saw, but sometimes I wish I had something that I could do angle cuts without having to make up custom jigs. So for Christmas I asked for one, but due to the snowstorm it hasn't reached me yet. What I like about it is that you can change out the cutting mat once it gets worn from cutting, and it also comes with some angle guides to make various angle cuts. Looks like it will come in handy in working with scratchbuilding projects.

One other item I picked off of the Missing-Lynx site is to use Future for gluing down photoetch parts. I haven't tried it yet, but plan to. Now get back to the worktable and finish off that Sherman...

BOOK REVIEW DON SMITH

Master Modeler

Creating the Tamiya Style

By Shunsaku Tamiya, Kodansha International Ltd., 1997

This month's book review has nothing to do with military history but is very relevant to our hobby. Thanks -DS

Everything you ever wanted to know about Tamiya, or at least what Shunsaku Tamiya wants you to know about his model company, is in this book. I know this isn't a recently released book—I had it on my Amazon wish list for over a year, and then it laid around for a few more months after I bought it. I wish I'd picked it up sooner. This is a very inter-

esting book about Tamiya Models and how they got to be the best model company in the world. Tamiya's father started the business after doing poorly in the lumber business after World War II. The company then started to offer wood model ships you carved yourself. Then American plastic model companies started to make wood models obsolete. Tamiya convinced his father to get into the plastic model business. Their first effort was a model *Musashi* battleship that failed miserably. Tamiya decided not to fail again and the rest is history for the plastic model hobby.

The book is very interesting to the hobbyist because it discusses Tamiya's history and philosophy. The stories are interesting and my dream now is to attend a TamiyaCon one day. Ever wonder why Tamiya made its tanks in 1/35 scale? The book will tell you the reason.

While reading the book I had to dig out a couple of model Sherman tanks, one by Tamiya and one by Italeri. The Italeri box is the same size except it is about two inches shorter and fits on my garage shelf easier. I wondered why Tamiya spent more money on a longer box. An examination of the model parts tells the story of Tamiya's quality philosophy. The box is bigger so the tracks can be laid flat at the bottom of the box. The Italeri tracks are draped over the model sprues. It's no big deal, but you can appreciate the care and commitment of Tamiya.

This book is in hardcover. I picked up a copy from Amazon.com; the retail price is \$35.00, but costs a little less on the web. I recommend this book if you really want to read

about a model company and especially Tamiya. I'll give it a rating of five out of five stars. ★★★★★

Year 2007 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 5 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 2 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 2 Mar** **Armor**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 6 Apr** **No Points Contest**
- 4 May** **Ships**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Modern US Aircraft Carrier" (Keith Liotta)
- 1 Jun** **No Points Contest**
- 6 Jul** **Automotive** (any era/scale/subj.)
Sponsored Contest: "Best Mustang" (auto or aircraft) (Mark Soppet)
- 3 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 7 Sep** **Figures**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 5 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
BEST SMALL-SCALE MODEL
- 2 Nov** **Aircraft**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Folded-Wing Aircraft" (Ken Liotta)
- 7 Dec** **No Points Contest**
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

Master

John Tate	2265
James Guld	1168
Mike Franklin	450
Dave Boehning	425
Dave Straub	410
Mike McNichols	347
Don MacBryde	295
Juan Benitez	262
Brian Peck	233
Patrick Dick	183
Mike Blohm	130
Ralph Harris	125
Dave Miller	100
Glen Bingham	75
Ken Liotta	10
Keith Liotta	2

Intermediate

Rick Carver	2320
John Kendrick	1470
Hank Petitgirard	805
Jeff Frickstad	472
Kyle Garber	410
Jack Garriss	410
Frank Randall	385
Don Smith	275
Mark Soppet	6

Basic

Wayne Sprong	2450
Tim Estes	1295
Jeannie Garriss	1220
Victor Maestas	575
Gil Johnson	485
Don Blea	125
Alberto Bernal	4

Junior

Logan Carbin	1210
Taylor Liotta	325
Ryan Sharp	325
Brown, Kelly	100
Brown, Shawn	100

2006 ASM MODELER-OF-THE-YEAR POINTS (FINAL STANDINGS)

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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.