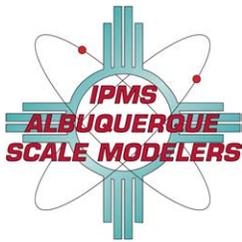


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



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

July 2006

REPORT FROM SCALE MODEL MANIA 2006 JOHN TATE

Offenbach-am-Main, Germany
10 – 11 Jun 06

While on a business trip to Germany, I was curious about the local scale modeling scene so when some web-surfing turned up a weekend scale model show near Frankfurt, I decided to check it out. It was hard to know what to expect beforehand, since the website was entirely in German, but travel is adventure so I headed toward the venue in Offenbach-am-Main.

The show was being held in the town's "Stadthalle," which turned out to be a mid-size municipal auditorium. Admission was 3 Euros, about \$4. The event itself was unlike any model show I've seen in the U.S., since there was no contest. Instead, picture the vendor room at the Nationals with large model club display tables set up in the middle of the hall. I started checking out the vendor

John kindly mailed in a package of twenty photos from this event; three are shown here, and the entire set of photos can be seen on the ASM web site.



tables and found an amazing selection of model kits, reference material and aftermarket products. I like to think I'm current on the hobby, but about half of the products on display were completely new to me—it was an alternate universe of modeling! In the U.S., we are used to a Japan-dominated hobby, but Europe has its own hobby industry with an outstanding selection of kits, aftermarket products and reference books. I spent a half hour just looking at all the new products before buying anything. The show's primary focus was armor, diorama and figure modeling, but there were also plenty of aircraft kits and aftermarket items for sale.

The model displays were first-rate, representing about a dozen local model clubs. Aircraft, armor, figure and diorama models dominated the displays, but some nice car, ship and card models were also on hand. Particularly interesting was a card model display with some incredible ship and Zeppelin models—I couldn't believe these models were made of paper! After seeing some of these great models, all I can say is that I'm glad there's an ocean between us and Europe or we would be in serious trouble at our Regional and National contests. Overall, the show had a friendly, business-like atmosphere,

with participants shopping the vendor tables, admiring one another's work and sharing historical tidbits and modeling tips; similar to an American show, but without the high-pressure competition.

But some things took some getting used to. For example, smoking was allowed in the lobby and there was beer on tap at the venue's snack bar, something you don't see at an American modeling event. Another curious note—no WWII Luftwaffe models had swastikas on their tails. They were left off, covered or only partially applied. This was in keeping with

German law banning public display of the swastika. I know this is controversial to some American modelers but the Germans took it in stride. The only downside to the show was the exchange rate—no bargains here for Americans, since the dollar was only worth about 75 cents against the Euro.

Having a chance to visit a German model show was a worthwhile hobby experience. I enjoyed seeing a lot of new products and models on display and was interested to see a different approach to organizing a hobby show. If any ASM members find themselves in a foreign country, take an opportunity to check out the local scale modeling scene—you might be in for a treat.

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

Earlier this week I had a mental block as to what to write this month. You say, not surprising considering the source... Anyway, after thinking about next month's clinic on Zimmerit and after doing some practice pieces, it got me to thinking about experimentation.

So how did all these great model making techniques come to being? That's right, Tommy Boy, by experimentation. Like one of my history professors in college once said, "you have to show up." I think this is meaningful with respect to model making also. If you don't try or think of different ways of doing something you become stagnant.

I'm not saying you must go out there and invent the next weathering technique, but you could try out a possibly new way of doing a current technique. For example, I have tried many types of washes and dry brushing techniques on both armor and figures. Hoping to find the happy "best way" for me has made me see that many of the techniques out there just don't work for me. The reasons why they don't work are just as important as why. Think of how many attempts people like Edison and others like him did before they got the proverbial light bulb to work.

All I'm saying is don't be afraid to try something new. It doesn't have to be on a \$50.00 kit, but points to you if it is. Try out something new on some scrap styrene. I know when I was planning the Zimmerit clinic I was thinking that the roller method would be my new "best way." Well, guess what, it isn't. Not wanting to give away the whole clinic, I'll just say that when it comes to Zimmerit I don't think there is just one perfect way. All I know is that I love

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)
Sponsored Contest: Fighters of the Fifties (Stan Johnson)
Workshop: Weathering (TBA)
Workshop: Zimmerit (TBA)
- 4 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 8 Sep** **Armies of the 1900s**
Workshop: Figure painting (TBA)
Sponsored Contest: Best Viet Nam Subject (Tim Estes)
- 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!

to experiment and even though it's mostly with armor, dioramas, and figures, this month a ship sits on the workbench. I tried a plane once and it didn't do anything for me. Maybe again sometime, but for now the Revell S-100 Schnellboat is my break from armor for this month.

Now go out there and try something new.

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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.