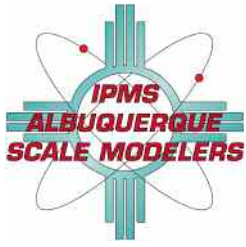


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

March 2017

THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

"Et tu, Airfixo?" It is the Ides of March month, and therefore one must be careful with one's X-Acto knife. For all you ASM members with degrees in Latin, you will translate that as "Even you, Airfix?" Airfix has again put me in an all too familiar position. They have just released their new 1/2-scale B-17G kit, which from the reviews that I've read may be the best B-17 kit yet issued. So what is the familiar position? I already have several B-17 kits in my stash to build, including the last "best kit yet" by Revell-Germany. I'm sure this sounds familiar to a lot of you, too. So, do I need to buy this new kit? Of course I do! But should I? For now I am trying to resist. But as Obi-Wan Kenobi once said: "Resistance is



futile." We shall see.

On to other things. I'm sorry that I missed the February meeting, but from the pictures it looks like it was a pretty good swap meet. Chile Con 4 is now one month closer. So many models to build and so little time. Hopefully you've considered purchasing at least one trophy

package. Patrick Dick is working those, as well as the Vendor tables.

John Tate has completed a whole set of *Star Wars* kit reviews that are posted on the *ASM Website* and in this issue of the *ASM Newsletter*. Please check those

out, and maybe you'll get inspired to build for both Chile Con and the New Mexico State Fair. Thanks to John for

February Meeting highlights, left to right: VP Jerry Little runs the business meeting; a typical vendor's setup; and the Swap Meet in full swing.



authoring those. Please consider writing a kit review of your latest build. All it takes is a couple of paragraphs and a few pictures. If you are trying out a new technique, then other members would love to learn about it.

To wrap up, here is another short ace story. Major Don “Buzz” Beerbower is one of the least-known major aces of the European Theater of Operations in W II. Beerbower flew with the 354th Fighter Group “Pioneer Mustang Group” and became its 2nd ranking ace with 15.5 victories. The majority of those were scored in his P-51B “Bonnie B II.” He commanded the 353rd Fighter Squadron from June – August 1944. Beerbower was killed in action by flak on 9 August 1944 during a strafing attack at Epernay Airfield near Reims, France. He is the 2nd ranking ace of the 9th Air Force, 28th ranking USAAF/USAF ace (tie), and 33rd ranking American ace (tie).

VP REPORT

JERRY LITTLE

Enlightenment

Enlightened... that’s what we all want to be when it comes to philosophy, life, and, well... models. We seek the truth, but we settle for opinion. I was recently excited to learn that a couple of the model manufacturers were going to produce long-sought-after kits in quarter scale. Hobby Boss announced the Su-34 Fullback, a Russian frontline fighter-bomber, and Kitty Hawk announced the Su-17 Fitter, a Soviet era fighter-bomber that became a staple of many Soviet bloc and third-world countries’ air forces. To my amazement, but not my surprise, the kits were panned in the blogosphere... all the while no one commenting had ever seen the kit! Not one person had laid a hand on the model, yet somehow, they were able to determine the accuracy of the kits.

We tend to lose sight of the purpose of this hobby. We need to come away from the experience with a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment for the time and effort we spent constructing the subject. While it may be part of basic human nature to be critical, we’ve done ourselves a great disservice by trying to live in an obsessive world that is in search of constant gratification on a mo-

FRED’S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

Military Vehicles in Downey, California

In the May 2013 newsletter, I had photos that I took in 1978 of some military vehicles at a museum in Downey, California. As I searched through my photos, I found a few more from that museum. Some of these photos could be used to justify modifications to the standard kits.



An M20 Armored Car. I notice that the brackets between the fenders where land mines would be carried is replaced by a covered compartment.



A Kubelwagen, the German equivalent to the jeep. And near it is a British or Canadian truck. Over 50,000 Kubelwagens were made during the Second World War. Volkswagen made a civilian Kubelwagen spinoff (the Volkswagen “Thing”) in 1973 – 74, and sold it in this country. But they would not provide a warranty for the vehicle since it could be used as an off-road vehicle, and they didn’t want to warranty it if it was used off-road. So American sales probably ended after about a year.

[Editor’s note: The full text of Fred’s article, and many more photos of these vehicles (larger and in higher resolution) can be found in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

ment’s notice. We don’t need to fall victim to the trap of getting sucked into the conversation that is the loudest, we need to build it for ourselves and our own education and enjoyment.

And speaking of enlightenment, one of the downsides of getting old is the incredible amount of light needed when building models! On my work desk, there has always been a competition on the battle space for lights, tools, and model parts. I had literally three desk lamps on the small space just to provide enough light to see.



Well, taking a tip from fellow modeler Chris Kurtz, I sought a solution in what is called an “Arch Lamp,” simply, a light bar that arcs over the desk and provides ample light for the desk.



I searched all over for the perfect (read “obsessive”) solution, only to realize I needed to build it myself. It was really quite simple and inexpensive. The basic parts are a one-inch piece of aluminum bar stock from Lowe’s and an LED light kit from Amazon. Both parts came to less than thirty dollars.

My desk is 48 inches wide, so the arch was deceptively long! The total length is about seven feet when you calculate the distance needed. I used self-adhesive strips on the back of the LED strips to attach it to the aluminum (above right). The challenge—okay, obsession—was “wanting” the aluminum strip to be a smooth arch. The solution was to build a temporary “slip-roller” out of



wooden dowels and roll the aluminum into the arch (below). It worked so well, I rolled the aluminum into a hoop! Of course my monumental accomplishment with the homemade slip-roller came back to haunt me later



Year 2017 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 06 Jan SPECIAL CONTEST #1:**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)
- 03 Feb ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 03 Mar Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 07 Apr 100 Years of US Involvement in The Great War**—Any kit/subject/scale involved in WWI.
- 05 May Star Wars, 40th Anniversary**—Any kit/subject/scale from any of the Star Wars universe.
- 02 Jun SPECIAL CONTEST #2: KILL MARKINGS**
Sponsored Contest: "General Motors" (Patrick Dick)
- 07 Jul 1967**—Any kit/subject/scale that represents the year 1967.
- 04 Aug ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 01 Sep First or Last**—Any kit/subject/scale that represents the first or last of anything.
Sponsored Contest: "Knife Fight / Night Light" (ASM E-Board)
- 06 Oct Red Star**—Any kit/subject/scale that represents Communist-influenced nations
- 10 Nov Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Dec SPECIAL CONTEST #3: SUPERSONIC Model of the Year** competition!

Note: The most complete and up-to-date details on the contests, as well as detailed rules, as always, are on the ASM Website:

<http://tinyurl.com/asmsched>

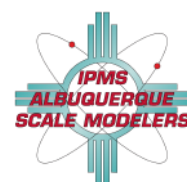
when I unclamped one side of the arch and it sprung back to center and cleaned everything off the desk while doing so...

The light is simply attached to the desktop by small clamps and has a thumbscrew on each end for positioning. This lamp provides an abundance of light for the desk and was simple and cheap to build. The benefit of using aluminum is that it acts as a heat sink and keeps the desk cool. The only real problem now is if the light is on at night, aircraft on approach to the Sunport try to land in my driveway.

IN THE BONUS PAGES!
JOE WALTERS

In this month's **Bonus Pages:**

- The full text and photos of Fred's Foto File
- Not one, not two, but *three* Star Wars Kit Reviews from John Tate!



Master

- Ken Liotta. 6
- Jerry Little. 6

Basic

- Rolf Nitsche. 2

Intermediate

- Partap Davis. 2
- Ken Piniak. 2

Junior

- Chris Kurtze, Jr.. 2

MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

As of 22 Jan 17

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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.

FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

Military Vehicles in Downey, California

In the May 2013 newsletter, I had photos that I took in 1978 of some military vehicles at a museum in Downey, California. As I searched through my photos, I found a few more from that museum. Some of these photos could be used to justify modifications to the standard kits.



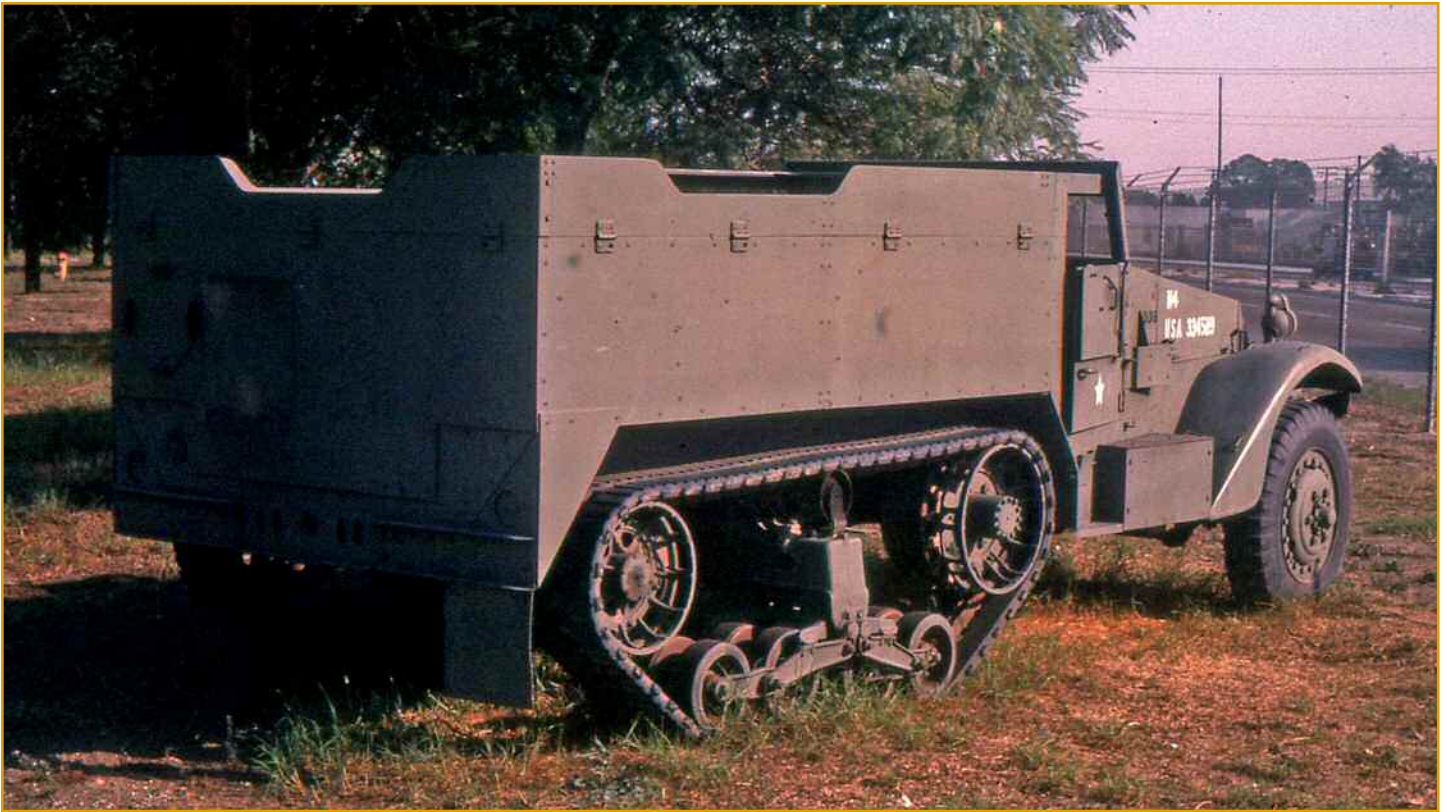
An M20 Armored Car. I notice that the brackets between the fenders where land mines would be carried is replaced by a covered compartment.



The same M20, but with a jeep in the background. But that looks like an extended-frame jeep, as used for carrying medical stretchers.



A DUKW with the splash panels on the top front extended.



This is possibly a halftrack that would have carried the quad .50 mount. The side panels in the crew compartment can be folded down, and I don't see any machine gun mount.



A Kubelwagen, the German equivalent to the jeep. And near it is a British or Canadian truck. Over 50,000 Kubelwagens were made during the Second World War. Volkswagen made a civilian Kubelwagen spinoff (the Volkswagen "Thing") in 1973 – 74, and sold it in this country. But they would not provide a warranty for the vehicle since it could be used as an off-road vehicle, and they didn't want to warranty it if it was used off-road. So American sales probably ended after about a year.



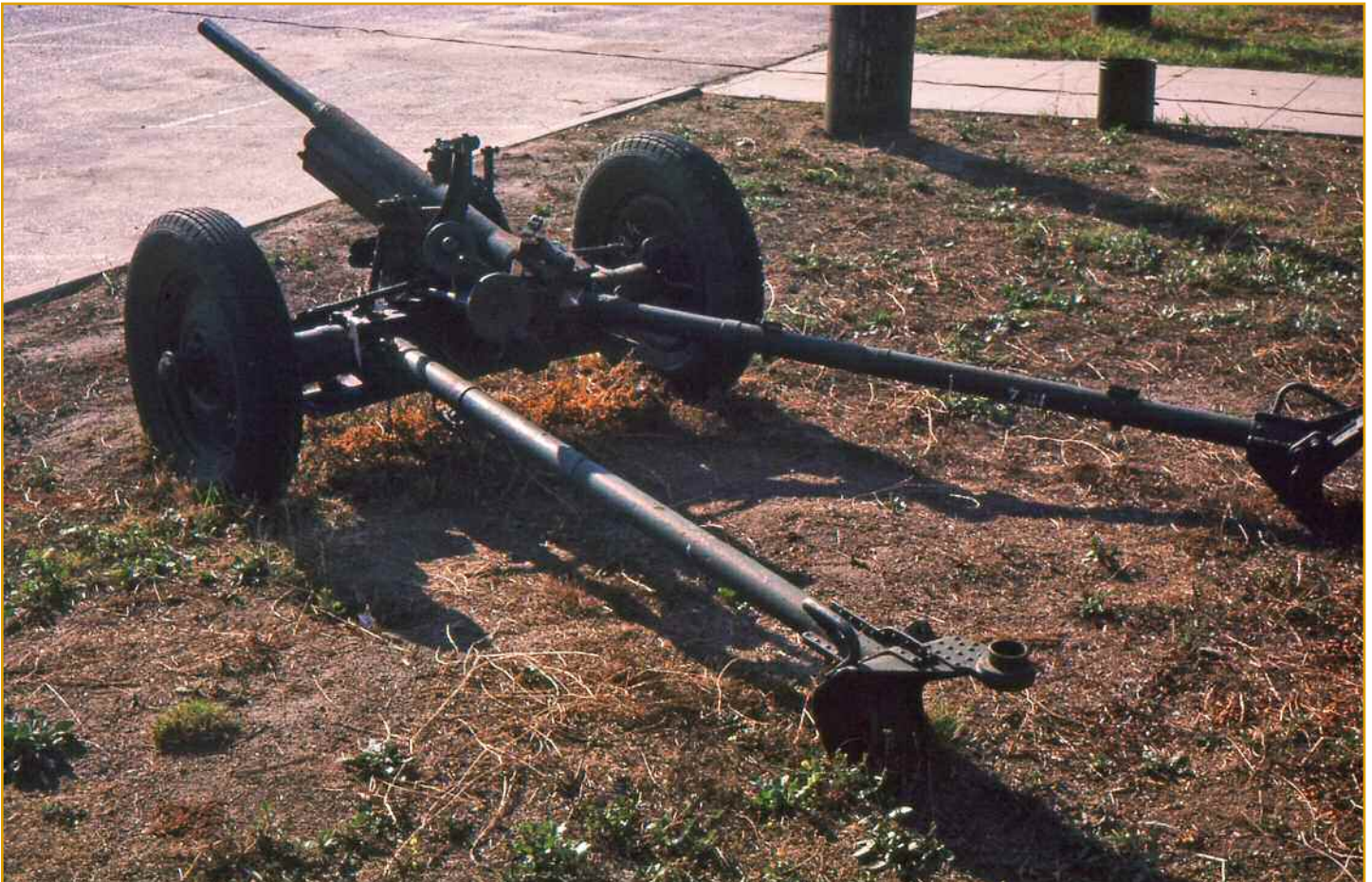
A World War I truck. Although it looks a bit primitive by World War II standards, it has dual rear wheels to provide better traction in the trench warfare conditions.



An anti-aircraft gun, When I look at the tail lights, it appears to be American, but I don't know what it is. The trails, which are extended but not dropped, indicate that the gun could be fully traversed. It appears to be a large caliber, and I don't know what the Mickey Mouse ears on the top are. Comments, anyone?



Another “what is it.” It’s small caliber, so I don’t think it is anti-tank. It can’t rotate, so I don’t think it is anti-aircraft.



Is this a 37 mm antitank gun without the shield?

BONUS PAGES! KIT REVIEW JOHN TATE

Revell Rogue One Imperial AT-ACT Cargo Walker

Revell SnapTite Max Kit

Last year's movie blockbuster *Rogue One*, the final installment in the Star Wars prequel saga (and arguably one of the best *Star Wars* movies yet made), introduced several new machines to the *Star Wars* universe, one of which is a variation of the infamous AT-AT Walker Imperial assault transport, the AT-ACT Cargo Walker. Revell released a box-scale SnapTite model of this vehicle to tie in with the movie release, and when my son saw one on the shelf at Hobby Proz, he had to have it. Turns out, it's a great little kit and a fun build for all ages, and a great way to get into *Star Wars* modeling ahead of ASM's upcoming Chile Con 4 regional contest.



Although the kit is marketed as a SnapTite model, it's well designed and engineered for a precise build, in a way that will appeal to modelers of all ages. The parts are clean and smooth and most fit together with little trouble, and I was impressed by how easy assembly was; everything went together so nicely that a kid could build it in an afternoon. However, I wanted a more finished look for the model so used CA glue on some parts, filled a few seams and sanded mold lines, then gave it a shot of gray primer before adding a wash and dry-brush weathering. The orange cargo panels on the hull sides can be added later, which greatly simplifies painting. And don't be shy about weathering an AT-ACT; these behemoths were Imperial "trash haulers," so presumably would get a lot of the same abuse as our own terrestrial construction equipment.

Modeling observations aside, this kit is designed to be fun for kids, too, so the Walker legs and feet can be articulated and the plastic is tough enough for this to occur without damage to the model. Best part, though, is the battery-powered light-and-sound module in the Walker control head, with the activation button blended in with the surrounding plastic detail so that it is almost undetectable. This module really brings the model to life and with today's technology, should be designed into all sci-fi kits. I added a small red plastic windshield to the control head for realism and to enhance the lighting effects.



Even with scale-modeler enhancements, I finished the model in a weekend and it was a lot of fun to put together. In fact, I would rate this kit as one of the top five model kits I've ever built and it was an enjoyable change from the usual diet of airplane and armor kits. Kudos to Revell, and Disney, for releasing this fun little kit. The only enhancement I would suggest is a set of X-Wing, U-Wing, and Imperial Striker attack fighters to go with it in the same scale, so that a kid could recreate the epic Battle of Scarif with the finished model. Pick up one of these kits and rediscover the fun and adventure of scale modeling. Recommended.





BONUS PAGES!

KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

Darth Vader's TIE Fighter

Revell SnapTite Max Kit

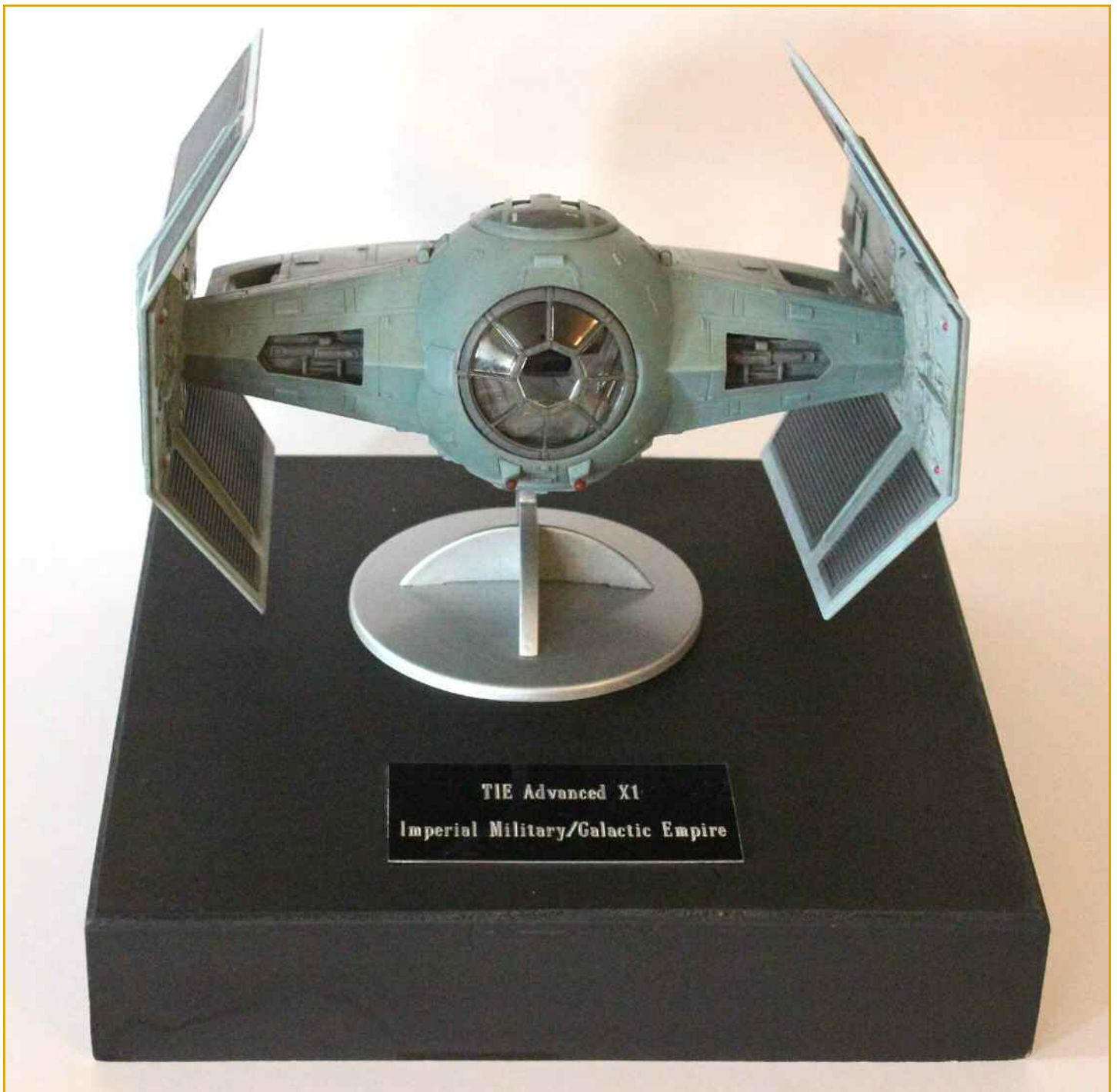
Another subject in Revell's SnapTite Star Wars collection is the Darth Vader TIE Fighter, released to coincide with interest in the movie series generated by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* back in 2015. SnapTite models have come a long way over the years although some still need a modeler's attention to build right; this kit is a good example of that, although it's designed primarily for kids or casual modelers.

Like many SnapTite kits, this one has a low parts count, builds easily and is rugged enough to be used

as a toy when finished. However, it also makes a decent replica, and with a little extra modeling work it's competitive with more expensive Sci-Fi models. One of the neat things about the kit is the pre-painted cockpit and Darth Vader pilot figure, with no further painting or detailing required, especially since little can be seen from outside the once the model is finished. Some CA glue on the cockpit pieces helps hold it together for further assembly. Before placing the cockpit inside the fuselage halves, it's also a good idea to paint the interior of these parts black for a more realistic appearance. The pod hatch supposedly can be made to open and close but I found this to be a problem and cemented it shut for a neater appearance.

The rest of the model goes together smoothly, although the spacecraft's side panels do not fit together well without the application of thin CA

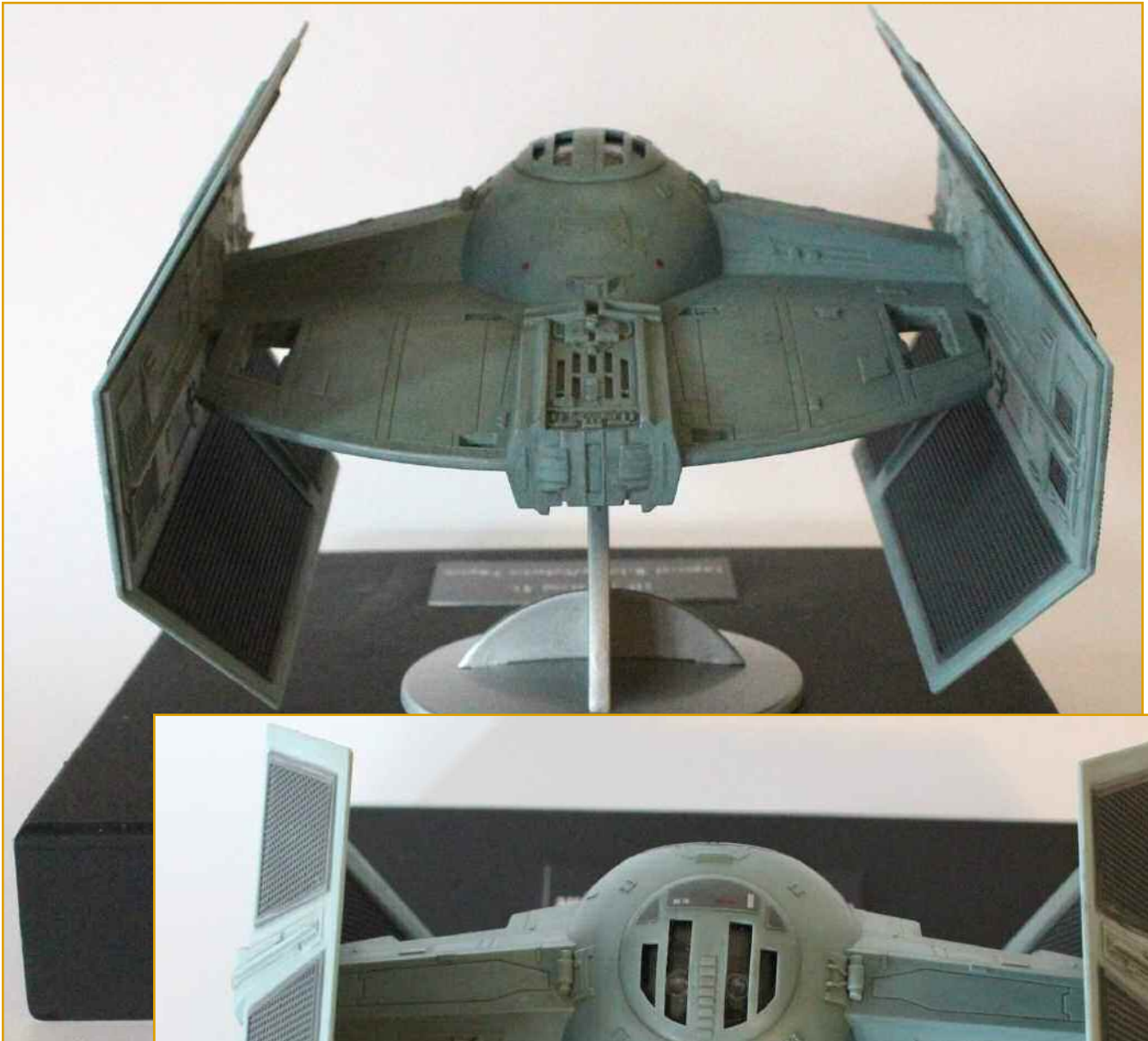




glue to hold the joint. Once the glue sets, however, there is a sturdy bond.

When the model is finished, there are seam lines along the edges of the fuselage halves, which I filled with CA glue and putty. I left the model in the azure blue color it was molded in, although where this hue originated from is a bit of a mystery, since I remember TIE fighters from the first three movies being white or light gray. I gave the model a dark gray acrylic wash to bring out details but I was careful not to overdo it, since the idea was to give the craft a lived-in look without heavy weathering, as Imperial fighters presumably were well-maintained. A little paint touch-up along the filled seams and some dry-brushing, and you have a nice replica of Lord Vader's X1 TIE fighter.

If you're looking for an enjoyable change from military modeling ahead of our upcoming Chile Con contest, give these Revell Star Wars kits a try—you'll have a great-looking model with just a minimum of effort.





BONUS PAGES!

KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

Poe's X-Wing Fighter Revell SnapTite Max Kit

One of the neatest-looking spacecraft to make an appearance in the 2015 film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* was Resistance pilot Poe Dameron's black & orange X-Wing fighter, *Black One*. Revell and Disney capitalized on the popularity of Poe's character by releasing a pre-decorated SnapTite model of his X-Wing, an Incom T-70, an upgraded version of the T-65 X-Wings used in the original trilogy. Like the Rebel T-65s, the Resistance T-70s were hand-me-downs from sympathetic planets and politicians so the subject offers an opportunity for modelers to try some Star Wars-style weathering, in this case on an easy-to-build model that nevertheless can be made into a decent replica.

The kit itself is molded in black plastic with orange and gray stripes and panels, which greatly simplifies finishing. The model is generally a quick build, although it has a few challenges, like seam & mold lines and canopy fit, that require modeling skill to fix. For example, a clear plastic insert is supplied for the rear cockpit windows, but it doesn't fit easily, so I cut off the window panels and cemented them inside the

frames for a neater and more realistic finish. Another shortcoming is the lack of a pilot figure, especially since many kids who buy the kit would want to fly it against the First Order TIE fighter from the same series; the kit does include the BB-8 tech droid, however. Because I wanted to display the model in flight, I turned a $\frac{1}{48}$ F-16 pilot into an X-Wing driver, which worked well with little modification. The model can also be built with gear down, which can turn it into a nice centerpiece for a diorama. The wings are adjustable and a sturdy stand is included for in-flight display. Painting is always a challenge on X-Wings but the overall black scheme makes it an easier and you can use your imagi-





nation when weathering, given the variable planetary environments in which this craft would have operated.

Even with the application of modeling skill, the kit can be completed in a weekend and certainly looks like an X-Wing fighter when it's done. Currently these kits are marked down to around \$20 at local Hobby Lobby stores and at that price represent decent value for money. This is another good subject that can



serve as an introduction to Star Wars modeling and is guaranteed to be the coolest model on your shelf when finished.





BONUS PAGES!

MISCELLANEOUS

Right: Even in active military services, judges can be very thorough, even checking the undersides.



Here's a serious modeler! Not only did he scratchbuild *and light* a model of the Starship *Enterprise* from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, he made it fly by radio control! Click here to check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFzu5ALdS7Q>

Not to be confused with *this* fellow, who modified a kit of a different *Enterprise* to operate under radio control, but not in the sky! And I can see how he controls pitch and yaw with the thruster in the back, but I have no clue how he controls rolling tendencies with this dynamically unstable aerodynamic shape. Still, it moves in a very graceful and elegant manner. Well worth a click!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQEsG4eKIXs>



Hello Admiral. Have you come to tell me the results of the Chile Con 4 Contest?



Yes, my Lord. I'm afraid that some of the contestants did not place as high as they expected.



So - how did my TIE Fighter entry do?



You came in Second because you painted the radiator panels the wrong shade of grey...





US and Canadian officials toured the Dakota Pipeline route recently. Government spokespersons said all went well.

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"ANSWER ME HONESTLY... HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN KIT BASHING?"

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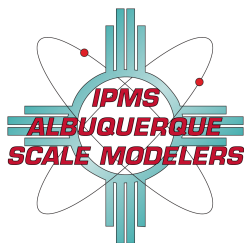
"THE JONES' SAID THEY SAW YOU AT THE HOBBY SHOP AGAIN."

"YOU'VE BEEN IN MY STASH AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?"

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**STAR
WARS**

**FORTIETH
ANNIVERSARY**

"Star Wars" signage, logos, imagery, and all that, are registered trademarks of Lucasfilm, which is now owned by Disney, and we really don't want to run afoul of those lawyers, so we promise we're not attempting to infringe on anything but instead are merely celebrating and honoring and so on and not putting forth anything as though it were in any way official.

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As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Members' Forum, where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the country offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or join online (<http://www.ipmsusa.org>).

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