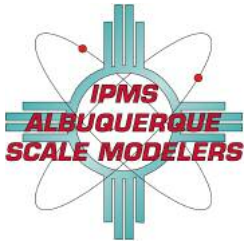


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

May 2009

JIM'S ARMOR CORNER JAMES GULD

Last month I went over a couple of builds I had started and I figured I would continue this month.

Well, the Bronco CV-33 kit is stalled for the time being. Right after I did the last article, I put the tracks on. They look like crap! Between operator error and the poor design of how the bogie units mount, they look terrible. One side is passable but the other side has all kinds of twists. I almost "binned" this kit, as Tony Humphries would say. I haven't decided as yet what to do but for now it's consigned to the back of the model display case.

The Staghound kit, on the other hand, came out rather well. I'm just putting the finishing touches on the weathering right now and I still have a couple of figures to do for it along with a small base.

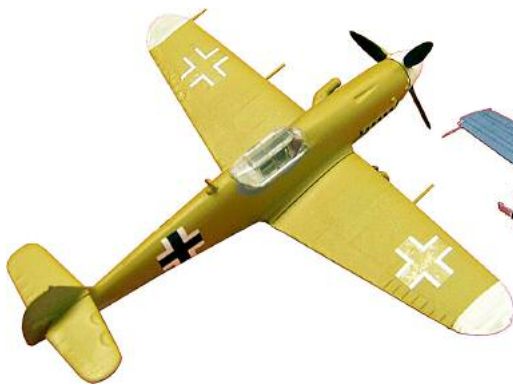
Since last month I also wanted to start another project before jumping back to my M16B diorama. I

April meeting highlights, left to right: the business meeting in progress, members milling about beforehand; a good turnout at the Display Only table.

decided to do tackle the Tamiya 1/35 Pershing kit.

Like most Tamiya kits it goes together flawlessly and only needs a little filler here and there to hide seams that wouldn't be there on the real tank. These include the front and rear corners where the sides meet the front and back hull plates, and the other area that needs the most attention is the turret. The fit is fine but on the rear tank, where the side pistol port is, Tamiya has you add this part and you need to blend it in to the rest of the casting. The other area on the turret that needs fixing is the seam for the turret halves. You need to put a slight flat here since in real life there is a casting seam here. I also added a bit of Mr. Surfacer to some parts of the turret to give it a slightly more cast look.





Best of Show winners from April, left to right: Sean Hayes's *Bf-109F-2*, Frank Randall's *AC-130H*, Gregg Hayes's *M-36*, and Victor Maestas's *CH-53E*.

I was given some pictures by a friend of my online and saw a modified M26 from the 3rd AD. It was apart of the first 20 "Zebra Mission" tanks and thus had some minor differences from the Tamiya kit. On the rear final drive covers, Tamiya has a reinforcing strip. On these early tanks they didn't have this. I had to remove it and add on a drain plug to the casting.

I also added in casting numbers to the parts using Archer Transfers' resin impregnated decals. These are super cool. I also added casting numbers and symbols to the front lower hull, front hull hatches and on the mantlet face. This is another area where Tamiya missed the boat on detail. The Pershings had a small canvas cover that went in between the mantlet and the turret and was held on by a heavy strip with bolts. Luckily the Tank Workshop makes a replacement mantlet with this cover. The fit isn't perfect and I'm not sure if it was designed for this kit or for the M-26 kits from Dragon. A little bit of Apoxie Sculpt fixed it along with some Mr. Surfacer.

The tank in the photo I'm modeling mine after has been modified in that it is missing the side skirts and has the front and rear fenders bobbed. They then added an L-angle brace across the front glacis to keep the fenders from sagging and storage racks on the back fender corners and the rear of the turret. It has a bit of the "Beverly Hillbillies" look that late war US armor had. That's actually what I like about US armor from this period. It adds some interest to the vehicles.

I added the long right side camo net out of Apoxie Sculpt and textured it with a piece of embroidery fabric which had the right kind of square pattern that the real camo net had. I made the straps out of lead foil with Aber photoetch buckles and also added some of the missing footman loops to the side stowage boxes and fenders.

The other major item I changed out were the handles for the fender stowage boxes. I replaced these with resin handles from Tiger Model Designs and had to remake the stops out of Evergreen styrene.

Other minor tweaks I did are as follows: thinned out the front light guards and added the tube holders with Aber photoetch chain, added styrene strips for where the front fenders would have attached, weld bead detail around the tow hook mounts and rear pintle mount, drilled out the side fenders where the skirts would be bolted, added retention straps

to track mounts on the side of the turret, added the small catch to the bottom side of the gun crutch, added the tow cable hasp to the rear plate, made covers for the .50-cal mount and for the foul weather hoods that were stored on the right side of the turret along with the footman loops that were on top of the holder, added hatch catches to the front hull hatches and loader's and commander's hatch, and replaced the kit commander's hatch for one from Caliber 35. I also added the interior detail to both the loader's and commander's hatches. The covered muzzle brake is from Tiger Model Designs. I went with T-81 tracks from WW2 Productions. These are snap-together resin items.

One other item of note: with this kit, the suspension is movable up and down. So I haven't decided if the tank will be going over an uneven surface or just displayed on a flat surface. So that's where it stands now. Just about ready for the spray booth.

CHALLENGE BUILD BRIAN PECK

Greetings ASMs!

If you remember a few months ago I issued several challenge builds. Well, Sean and Gregg Hayes, Adrian Montano,





and Keith Liotta accepted. Sean, Gregg and Adrian are pictured with their complete kits and Keith's project is in progress so we'll have pictures of it soon. Thanks to you guys for accepting the challenge! I'll have a few more of these again this year, so come to the meetings because you never know when another one will be issued. Model on, Dudes!

MODELING AT STARFEST JOE WALTERS

The annual Starfest sci-fi convention was held again in Denver this past April 17 - 19, and despite a surprise blizzard, attendance was once again in the thousands. Guests included Battlestar Galactica's Katee Sackhoff (Starbuck); Star Trek's Brent Spiner (Data), Ethan Phillips (Neelix), and Robert Picardo (Voyager's Doctor); Babylon 5's Patricia Tallman (Lyta Alexander); William Katt (Greatest American Hero); and more.

As always, among the many many activities offered at this convention, modeling plays a major part. There are two main modeling events: Vern Clark's Model Show and Tom Grossman's modeling workshop.

A combination airbrush training session, modeling how-to, and make-&-take, Tom's venue is always busy. Tom tells me he never gets to attend any other convention events, as he's tied up in this activity room basically from start to finish. You can see in the picture below how his hands stay full, and everyone manages to have a good time!



The Model Show is a contest and a chance to display one's sci-fi modeling skills to other fans. Over 100 models were entered this year, in just about every conceivable subject. Entry costs a couple of bucks per model.

In the photo at right, you can see about half the models that were entered. Most were sci-fi / fantasy entries, but a few mundane items like tanks and airplanes snuck in. We modelers always like to see good work, even if the subject matter doesn't necessarily fit in!

Also present in this room was a display by a club that builds full-sized functioning replicas of the Lost in Space robot; you

Year 2009 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 9 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 6 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 6 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 3 Apr** **3 or More Engines**—any kit/subject/scale/era.
Sponsored Contest: Tank Destroyers of WWII (James Guld & John Tate)
- 1 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
THIRD WORLD—Army, Navy, Air Force, etc. No Warsaw Pact, no NATO.
Sponsored Contest: Battle of the Bulge (Fred Franceschi)
- 12 Jun** **Italiano**—Any kit/scale/subject/era built or operated in or from Italy.
Sponsored Contest: Show Your Stripes!—Best invasion-striped WWII D-Day aircraft (Don Smith)
- 10 Jul** **Armored Cars**—Any scale, era, manufacturer.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Panzer IV & Variants" (ASM E-Board)
- 7 Aug** **1/48 Single-engine Props**—Any kit/scale/subject/era
- 11 Sep** **Sharkmouths**—Plane, Tank, Car, Truck, etc. Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Hellcat F6F" (Frank Randall)
- 2 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
BEST COMPETITION RACER OR ATHLETE FIGURE)
Sponsored Contest: "Best Porsche" (Patrick Dick)
- 6 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Vietnam Subject '64 - '75" (Tim Wood)
- 4 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**
XYZ PROTOTYPES
Sponsored Contest: Best Mirage III, IV, V, 2000 or Variant (Rick Carver)
Plus Model of the Year competition!





can just see one at the upper right corner of the photo. Model entries ranged from Star Wars to dinosaurs, Star Trek to Babylon 5, scratchbuilds to figures, and on and on. For Star Wars fans, a meticulously-detailed Republic Star Destroyer (above) drew a lot of attention, as did a pair of Millennium Falcons, one of which is shown below (the other



was not only nicely detailed, but also fully lighted). Many other Star Wars subjects were present, as were many Star Trek starships. Below is an outstanding Thunderbolt StarFury from Babylon 5; I've never even seen one of these kits, assuming it was a kit...



Starfest is always a great time, for modelers and non-modelers alike. The guests are always top-notch, many attendees come in costume (we rode an elevator with the Joker; a brilliantly-costumed General Grievous left many wondering how he pulled that off; Shaun of the Dead was about—he even had some red on him; Seven of Nine, the Penguin... the list goes on!), and there are more events and panels than you can attend.

I highly recommend this excellent and professionally-run convention; if you are interested, monitor the web site (<http://www.starland.com>) for ongoing news of this and the next convention.

Oh, and you might want to get working on that sci-fi model for the show!

Master

Victor Maestas	416
James Guld	281
Dave Miller	275
Brian Peck	252
Mike McNichols	125
Glenn Bingham	100
Mike Blohm	31
Don McBryde	25
Ken Liotta	8
Patrick Dick	4
Keith Liotta	2

Intermediate

Frank Randall	485
Adrian Montañó	472
Tony Humphries	410
Ken Piniak	325
Rick Carver	275
Gil Johnson	275
Josh Pals	139
Don Smith	6
Tom Perea	4
Danny Williamson	4
Jeff Frickstad	2

Basic

Gregg Hayes	650
Jeannie Garriss	100
Gordon Pegue	2

Junior

Sean Gregg	325
Chelsea Perea	325

ASM 2009 MODELER-OF-THE-YEAR POINTS

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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.

BONUS PAGES!

JOE WALTERS

For our electronic newsletter recipients, here are some additional model photos from Starfest!

For those really interested in this, just click on this link <<http://tinyurl.com/JWstarfest09>> and see all the photos I took at the show (in full resolution), including several photos of the main guests, the costume competition, and more; there's a 60MB video from the costume competition of a group entry, the cast of the Narnia films (complete with lion), coming onto the stage to accept their award.

Below, another angle on Tom Grossman's model workshop; below that, the same room as seen from outside (this room overlooked the atrium).



