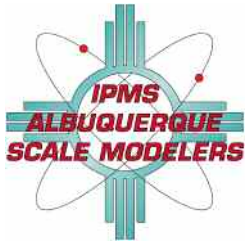


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS

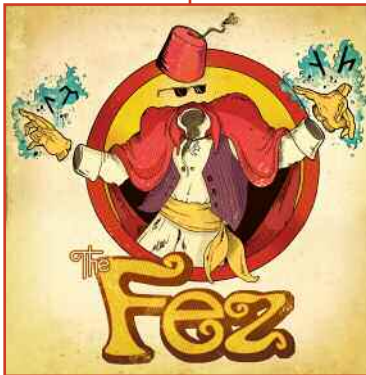


<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

May 2015

THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

Since we have a number of club members who are interested in, and build for, the Sci-Fi genre, I am going to start with a brief mention of two major figures in the world of sci-fi and fantasy that we lost recently. Leonard Nimoy of course needs no introduction and I will not comment further since I am sure that you all know more about him than I do anyway. Terry Pratchett, however, may be unfamiliar to some. Terry was a Colossus of the fantasy/sci-fi genre and wrote well over forty books in his *Discworld* series alone. He wrote with insight, tremendous humor, and a great understanding



of human nature, psychology, and the human condition. If you have never read any of his work, I urge you to do so. You will not regret it. You may wonder whether this is strictly relevant to the world of modeling but figures from his *Discworld* series can and do show up at modeling shows. Especially in the UK, but also I believe, from time to time here. Both of these fine gentlemen will, I'm sure, be sadly missed.

Continuing on, in a hopefully more cheerful vein, I hope that many of you are planning to attend the Region 10 convention in Denver in June (the 11th and 12th to be exact) and that you are already building for it. After all it's only six weeks away now. The folks from Denver always support our events well and I hope that we are going to be in a position to return the favor. Also we'll hopefully come home with a

bunch of trophies too. It's all part of our glorious five-year plan and we need you to do your part too, so if you can, please do. Details of the show are being announced now, so keep your eyes on the website (<http://www.commiesfest.com>) and make

April Meeting highlights, L – R: Members checking out the donated models; Mike Foust runs a clinic; and the business meeting in progress.



the necessary arrangements. You know you want to... The organizers have been rather slow to post information on their website, to be honest, but hopefully all of the necessary info will be there by the time you read this and I'm sure that the show will be a good one.

The theme this time around appears to be Fifty Shades of Green. What this means precisely has yet to be determined (and vagueness here may be entirely deliberate to give the judges plenty of leeway), although at least I think we can safely rule out S&M Kermit the Frog dioramas and suchlike. At least, I sincerely hope so... Presumably we are just talking about totally or at least predominantly green subject matter in any genre. So US and Soviet armor builders should be on to a winner here. Hurrah! Not before time, either...

Also there are apparently some special awards available including a "Squeeee" award. This refers to anything unusually cute or funny I believe. Maybe "squeeee" is a Colorado phrase. Who knows? Anyway, we have plenty of humor within our own club (you need it to live here I suspect) so let's see if we can win this one. Also, if you haven't booked your hotel yet, you're leaving it rather late. Tsk, tsk, etc. Last time I checked, the group block rate for the IPMS show was still available and \$89 a night is a pretty good deal, although I believe that breakfast is not included at that rate. This also only applies to a maximum of two people sharing a room, however, so anyone taking your young 'uns with them (which will include me this time) will need to pay full price, I'm afraid. Either that or find another hotel—and there are quite a number nearby. Well, the clock is ticking anyway, so go forth and build!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT MIKE BLOHM

IPMS Region 10 Contest

We are now one month out for the IPMS Region 10 Contest in Denver, June 12 – 13, so I hope your projects are getting near completion. Again—please consider sponsoring a trophy package for the event. Category sponsorships are going for \$30. You can also sponsor a Special Award if you desire—see <http://www.commiesfest.com> for details .

ASM Super Model Challenge

Here is some additional info on the "ASM Super Model Challenge Build" that got launched at the April 3 meeting. A large amount of model kits were donated to ASM under a specific set of "Rules of Engagement (ROE)." The intent was to have the models be built by the members and to have fun doing so—they were not to be sold by the club or the members. The E-Board mulled over a bunch of options and decided



Year 2015 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 01 May** **May Day**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 05 Jun** **Rotary Wing**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Lockheed Martin" (Patrick Dick)
- 10 Jul** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3: 1945**
Sponsored Contest: "Adversaries" (Mike & Matt Blohm)
- 07 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 04 Sep** **Trainers**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "It's All Greek to Me" (Gil De La Plain)
- 02 Oct** **Nuclear Winters**—Any kit/subject/scale
Sponsored Contest: "Hawker Aircraft" (John Tate)
- 06 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Little Fokker" (Don Smith)
- 04 Dec** *Sponsored Contest: "Steampunk" (Jerry Little)*
Plus 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>

upon the "Challenge Build" approach that we have been doing for years, just in a very large way in this case. There are multiple 2015 ASM contests that the donated models could fit into. So the plan is to offer the kits to the members with the intent to build them for those contests. These included Rotary Wings, 1945, and Nuclear Winters contests. ASM is building models for the Nuclear Weapons Heritage Model Display at Kirtland AFB and there are a large number of kits that can be built specifically for that display.

There were about 77 kits out on the tables for members to choose from, and 27 challenges were accepted. Pictures were taken of the members holding their selected kits. The "ASM Super Model Challenge Build"—info and pictures—can be found on the ASM Website's Meeting Pictures webpage (<http://tinyurl.com/asmp15>). The remaining kits will be brought back to the next several ASM meetings. A couple of items that have come up since the April 3 meeting: These models can be completed and brought in for any contest—it does not have to be at the suggested contests; *i.e.*, at the Rotary Wings contest, if you already had three entries being built for that. The Nuclear Weapons Heritage Model Display is also interested in non-nuclear-related Cold War-era models, so all those Cold War armor vehicles are a player to be displayed there too. Please get with Erik McIntyre to confirm if your kits are desired in the display.

Upcoming Events

Near term Upcoming Events include:

- IPMS Region 10 Convention, June 12 – 13, Denver, CO (<http://www.commiesfest.com>)
- Squadron EagleQuest XXIV, June 19 – 20, Grapevine, TX (<http://www.squadroneaglequest.com>)

- IPMS/USA 2015 National Convention, July 22 – 25, Columbus, OH (<http://ipmsusa2015.com>)
- Star Trek Convention Las Vegas 2015, August 6 – 9 in Las Vegas, NV (<http://www.creationent.com>)
- New Mexico State Fair 2015 Model Contest in September in Albuquerque (<http://exponm.com>)

THE FINER POINTS

JERRY LITTLE

Albuquerque Scale Modelers had another great turnout for the monthly contest. April's Special Contest was "April Fools" (since the meeting was near April 1). Sixteen entries in "April Fools" filled the table with everything from classic Sci-Fi TV models to iconic Jules Verne fantasy. We had models representing armor, aircraft, space and automobiles as well as a great display of Works in Progress and Sci-Fi memorabilia.

Masters class represented the majority of the entrants with the pick for "Best in Category" going to Victor Maestas's fantasy F-117A Stealth Fighter Air Racer in Red Bull livery. He faced competition from one of our more prolific builders who entered several classic Sci-Fi models from television greats like *Jonny Quest* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Stanley Kubrick's 1968 cinematic masterpiece.

In **Intermediate**, Ken Piniak presented a nice model of the "paper" Tiger I Tank from *Kelly's Heroes* that was awarded as "Best in Category." The model represented the quirks of the tank used in the film as it was actually an ex-Soviet Army T-34 that was converted by Yugoslavian Army specialist for another film. As a side note, in the movie, the Shermans used by Oddball and company were ex-Yugoslav Army M4A3E4 Shermans. In addition to the "paper Tiger," Intermediate modeler Mike Clagett presented a nice paper model of the Albatross from Jules Verne's *Robur the Conqueror*, more commonly known as 1886's *The Clipper of the Clouds*.

Representing **Basic**, the "Best in Category" went to Kim Rogulich's Dragon Funny Car. She did a fantastic job on this Fantasy hotrod that was colorful and full of nice details. In fact, the judges spent a bit of time discussing whether the rivets were painted on or part of the kit... they were painted! Also entered in Basic was David Paul's Darth Vader TIE Fighter and figures. Both of these are very nice models.

Finally, the tables were full of models not entered in the Special Contest. The Display and Works in Progress tables were full of models under construction or others that were just fin-

FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

Civilians

Not every picture I've taken has been of a military subject. Occasionally I see something civilian that interests me. And there was a time in my life when I made a few models of Southern Pacific locomotives in HO scale.



The General Dynamics Convair 880 airliner. I got this shot of the first one in May of 1960, while it was being tested at Edwards Air Force Base. That makes the photo 56 years old. The 880 was a competitor to the Boeing 707, but lost the competition. It first flew in 1959. I looked up the plane on Wikipedia, and it is interesting that Elvis Presley had one for his personal jet.



This is a Southern Pacific F7 locomotive. These were from the early diesel locomotive era. Again, this was taken in the mid 1970s. What railroad spotters might go wild over is the other locomotive in the photo. It is an Alco C 415. Only 26 were built, so I'd guess this is considered to be a fairly rare loco. I have more photos of this pair somewhere, including good angles of the C 415. I took this photo at the Saugus California rail junction. Not only is the photo dated, but what the locomotives were doing is dated too. A company there made the plastic for vinyl records. The switchers were bringing in the material for the vinyl. When music tapes and CDs came out, the company went out of business.



A civilian biplane. It looks pretty, but my favorite color for planes and vehicles is Olive Drab.

[Editor's note: The full text of Fred's article and many more photos (larger and in full resolution) are in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

ished. Models ranged from John Tate's Westland Whirlwind to Dave Straub's airship. A nice variety of "doing and done!" Another fantastic display was Andy Rogulich's collection of *Thunderbirds* memorabilia. His collection is based on a British 1960s television series starring marionette puppets and featuring scale model effects in a filming process dubbed "Supermarionation."

All in all, the April Fools Special contest and displays covered a wide range of "What If," "Future Fantasy," "Never Happened," and "Hollyweird." As always, be sure to check out the pictures (<http://www.abqscalemodelers.com>).

The Final Point

scale model [ˈskāl |mäd-əl] (noun)

1. A three-dimensional representation of an object or structure having all parts in the same proportion of their true size.
2. a physical model, a representation or copy of an object that is larger or smaller than the actual size of the object, which seeks to maintain the relative proportions.

(Origin of Model) Middle French *modelle*, from Old Italian *modello*, from Vulgar Latin *modellus*, from Latin *modulus* small measure, from *modus*

First Known Use: 1575

(Sentence usage) In ASM, we love any *scale model*.

Scale modeling is an all-inclusive hobby that covers just about all genres and mediums. Simply put, if it's a model and it is in some scale, it's welcomed in ASM. While we often think of plastic models when we think "scale modeling" but in truth, it's not limited to that. In the last two club contest events we've had two paper or "card models" in competition, James Strickland's Conoco Gas Station and Mike Clagett's Albatross from Jules Verne's *Robur the Conqueror*. Both models were well presented and great examples of what different mediums are

available for scale modelers. It's not just paper either, take a look at Dave Straub's scratchbuilt work and you will see media of all sorts from styrene to cloth!

DAMN YOU, AUTOCORRECT!

JOE WALTERS

In last month's issue, there was a rather odd phrase that appeared in Tony's *The Fez Sez* column; Tony had written of something that had appeared "...as realistic as John Travolta's hair." My spellchecker did not recognize that name, and, since my job involves publishing for a music organization, my User Dictionary includes many musical terms—the spellchecker suggested "Traviata" instead, from the Verdi opera *La Traviata*. Apparently I inadvertently clicked on "Replace" instead of "Skip," and the word magically changed, causing a perfectly fine sentence to suddenly change into a meaningless series of unrelated words which must have confused anyone who read it.

Sorry about that, Tony!

IN THE BONUS PAGES!

JOE WALTERS

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

- Winning models from the April meeting
- The full text and photos of Fred's Foto File
- A New Kit Review from Larry Horyna
- A New Kit Review from John Tate
- A Field Trip report from StarFest 2015
- Information on the 2015 Region 10 contest

Master

Tony Humphries	350
Brian Peck	279
Ken Liotta	268
James Strickland	204
Larry Glenn	179
Josh Pals	125
Mike Blohm	108
Michael Foust	75
Glen Bingham	52
Danny Williamson	25
Patrick Dick	2

Victor Maestas	2
Dave Straub	2
John Tate	2

Intermediate

Ken Piniak	425
Len Faulconer	129
Gil Johnson	125
Frank Randall	100
Partap Davis	77
Bret Kinman	27
Tim Wood	2

Basic

Jeannie Garriss	400
Keith McIntyre	2
David Paul	2

Junior

Josh Kinman	325
Anthony Jackson	150

MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

As of 03 Apr 15

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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!

APRIL CONTEST WINNERS

From April's "April Fool's" Contest, top to bottom: Kim Rogulich's *Dragon Funny Car*, Ken Piniak's *Tiger Tank* from *Kelly's Heroes*, and Victor Maestas's *Red Bull F-117*.



BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

Civilians

Not every picture I've taken has been of a military subject. Occasionally I see something civilian that interests me. And there was a time in my life when I made a few models of Southern Pacific locomotives in HO scale.



The General Dynamics Convair 880 airliner. I got this shot of the first one in May of 1960, while it was being tested at Edwards Air Force Base. That makes the photo 56 years old. The 880 was a competitor to the Boeing 707, but lost the competition. It first flew in 1959. I looked up the plane on Wikipedia, and it is interesting that Elvis Presley had one for his personal jet.

[Editor's note: He did indeed. Named Lisa Marie after Elvis's daughter, this plane used the call sign "Hound Dog I." It is currently on display at the Graceland Museum in Memphis, as pictured below. In the satellite image at bottom right, you can see how it sits next to Hound Dog II, Elvis's Lockheed JetStar. At bottom left, an earlier photo shows clearly Elvis's "TCB" ("Taking Care of Business") emblem on the tail. This plane is no longer flyable, as it had to be somewhat disassembled to facilitate moving it from Memphis International Airport to the museum. Photos blatantly stolen from Google Images and Apple Maps. -JW]





I've always liked the Twin Beech. The two vertical tails were cool, and the Twin Beech looks really neat. And, if I remember correctly, this one was kept at the Santa Paula Airport. I probably took this picture circa 1975.

It may still be there. I checked on Google Earth to see if the airport still existed, and I see what looks like a Twin Beech at 34 degrees 20' 48.40", 119 degrees 03' 47.19". It seems to me that the plane had "Teeny Weeny Air Lines" painted above the fuselage stripe over the three windows.





An amphibian of some kind. I think this was also taken at the Santa Paula Airport. Looks like it is just taking off or landing. The lower photo is the same as the upper, blown up to show some more detail.





This is a Southern Pacific F7 locomotive. These were from the early diesel locomotive era. Again, this was taken in the mid 1970s. What railroad spotters might go wild over is the other locomotive in the photo. It is an Alco C 415. Only 26 were built, so I'd guess this is considered to be a fairly rare loco. I have more photos of this pair somewhere, including good angles of the C 415. I took this photo at the Saugus California rail junction. Not only is the photo dated, but what the locomotives were doing is dated too. A company there made the plastic for vinyl records. The switchers were bringing in the material for the vinyl. When music tapes and CDs came out, the company went out of business.

Below: A civilian biplane. It looks pretty, but my favorite color for planes and vehicles is Olive Drab.



BONUS PAGES! KIT REVIEW LARRY HORYNA

**Super-detailing Tamiya's 1/32 P-51D Cockpit
Using Barracuda Cast Detail Sets and HGW Textile Seatbelts**



Tamiya's superlative 1/32 P-51D Mustang builds into a fantastically detailed model straight from the box. However, for those interested in an even higher level of detail, Barracuda Cast details (<http://barracudacals.com>) offers upgrades and decal stencils and placards that will make this model look like you could climb in the cockpit and start it up! HGW (<http://hgwmodels.cz/en>) offers a textile seatbelt set with resin replacement life raft that adds the finishing touch to one of the best aftermarket cockpit detail offerings available.

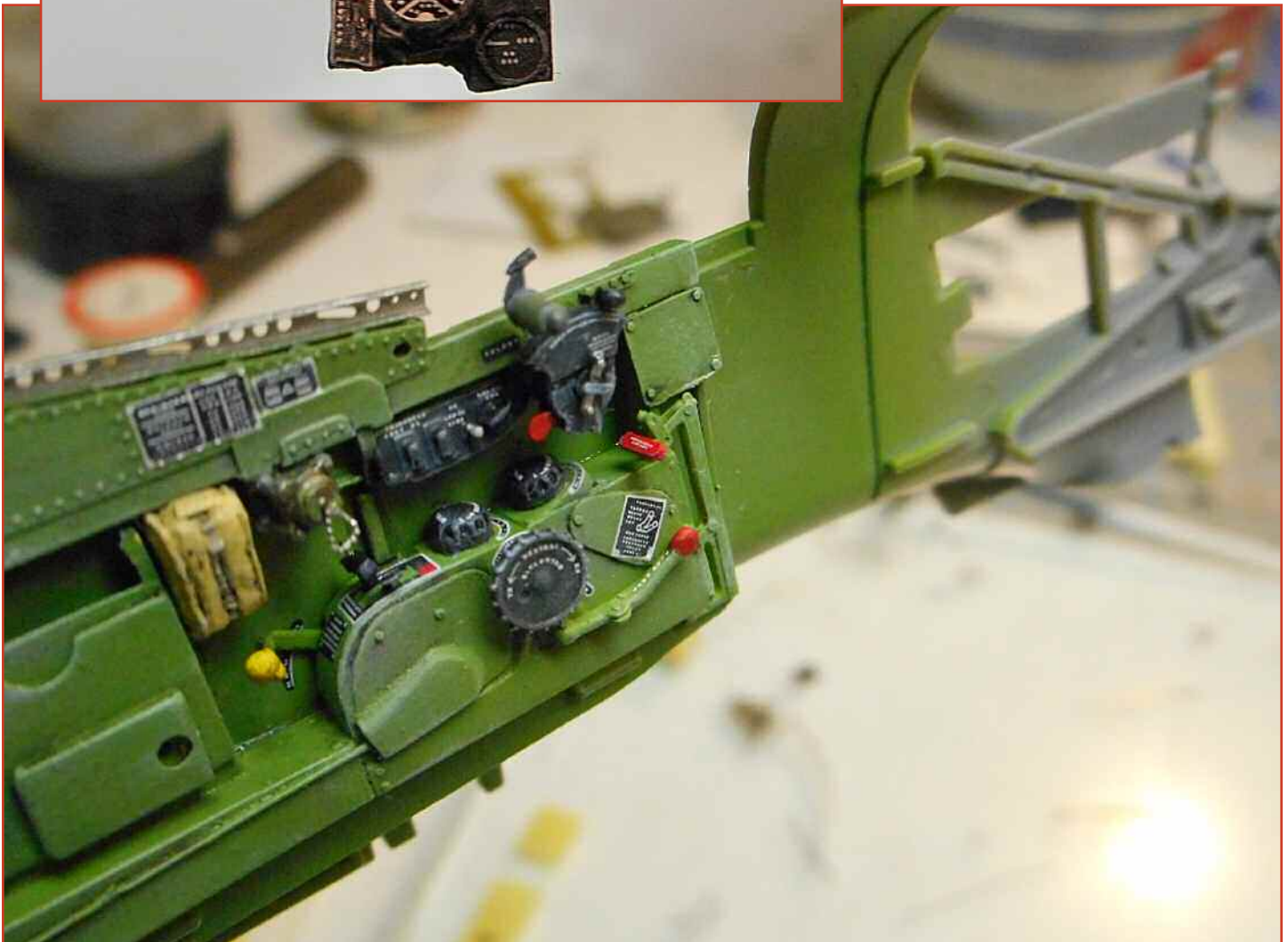


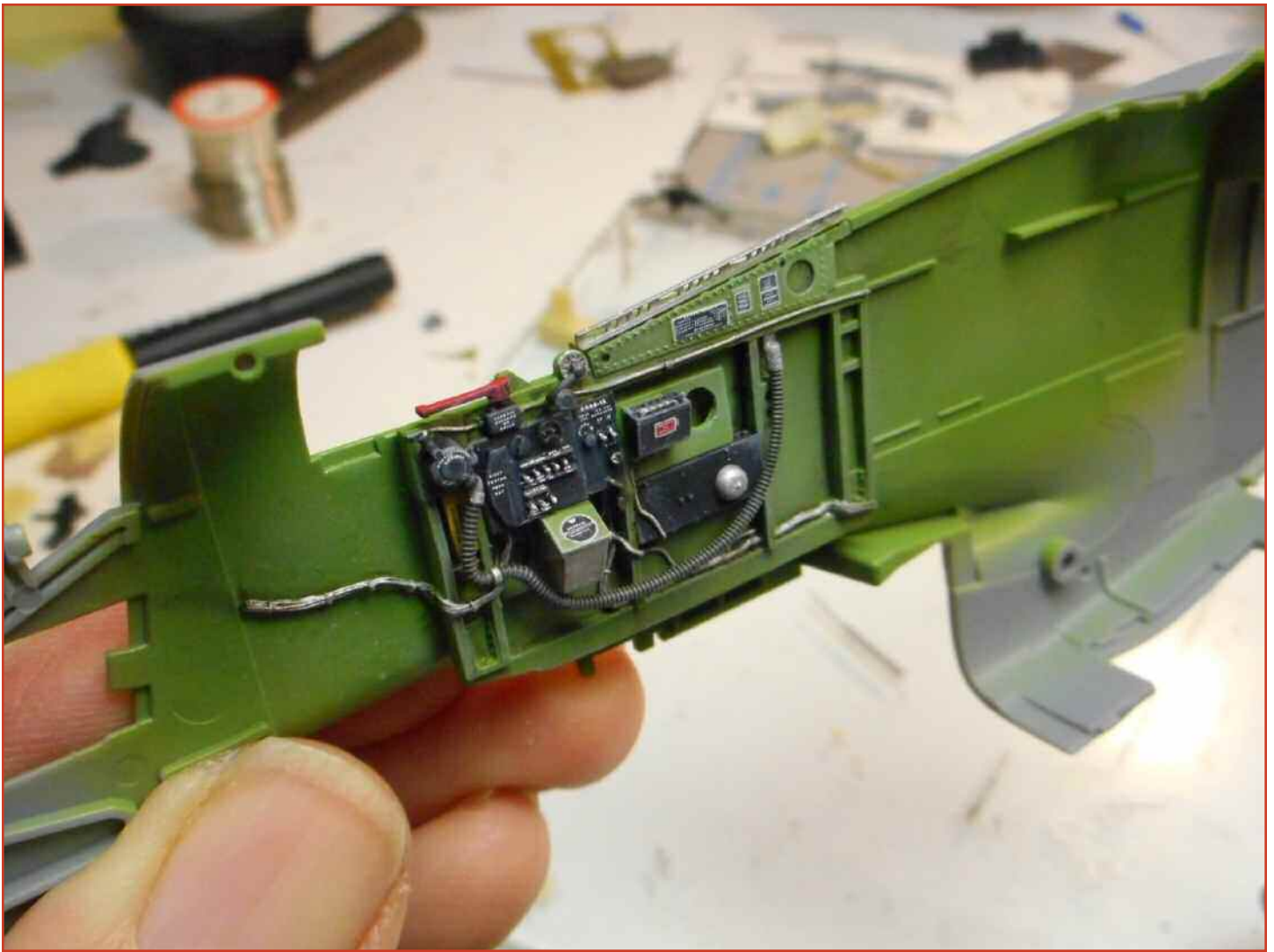
Starting with the instrument panel, Barracuda makes a replacement panel in resin with photoetched bezels and resin details for the “T” handles.



In order to get the most out of this detail set it should be paired with the cockpit stencils and placards from Barracuda. This set includes the stencils for the control panel surfaces just below the main instrument panel. The instruments themselves are on clear acetate and require a white background. A little shading followed by a little highlighting results in excellent visibility of the wonderfully clean castings. I added a coat of Future floor polish over the clear acetate instrument faces to give them just a little more depth and shine.

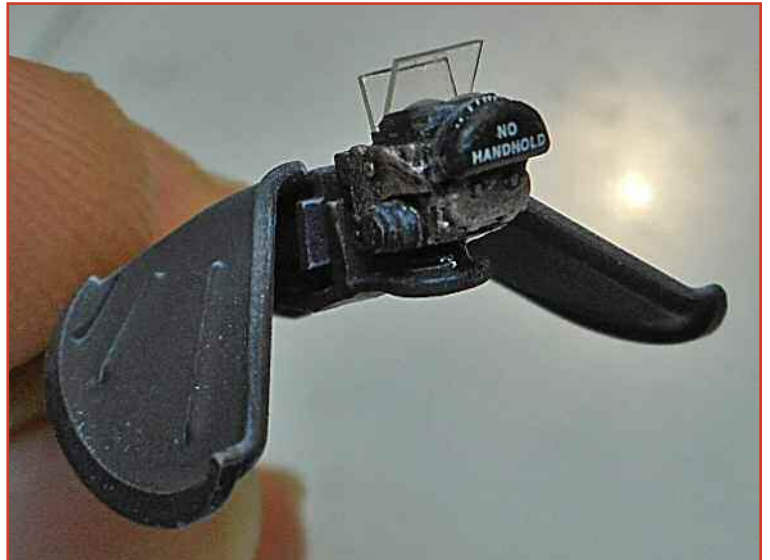
Next up is Barracuda's cockpit sidewall replacements. This is a great set that comes with resin details as well as a photoetched sheet that includes a few “bonus” parts (replacement cooling grills for the forward fuselage and a great little addition, the landing gear lock hooks). Again, Roy Sutherland's eye for detail and skill replicating this detail really shows. As with the instrument panel, the decal stencil and placard set really adds a great level of realism.





To top off our ultimate Mustang interior, Barracuda Cast offers an additional cockpit upgrade set comprised of various cockpit details. A vastly improved gunsight, throttle, battery, and radio with power cables and a control column. Once again, the aforementioned cockpit stencils and placards really enhance these details. All of these detail sets are basically “plug and play,” as they fit perfectly in replacement of injection-molded parts.

All of the decals settled nicely with Micro Sol and were very easy to use. The only suggestion I would give is to cut the decal that goes on the small control panel just below the instrument panel because this was one decal it you will find it difficult to get around the small switches. It was easier to cut it into a couple of sections and apply it.





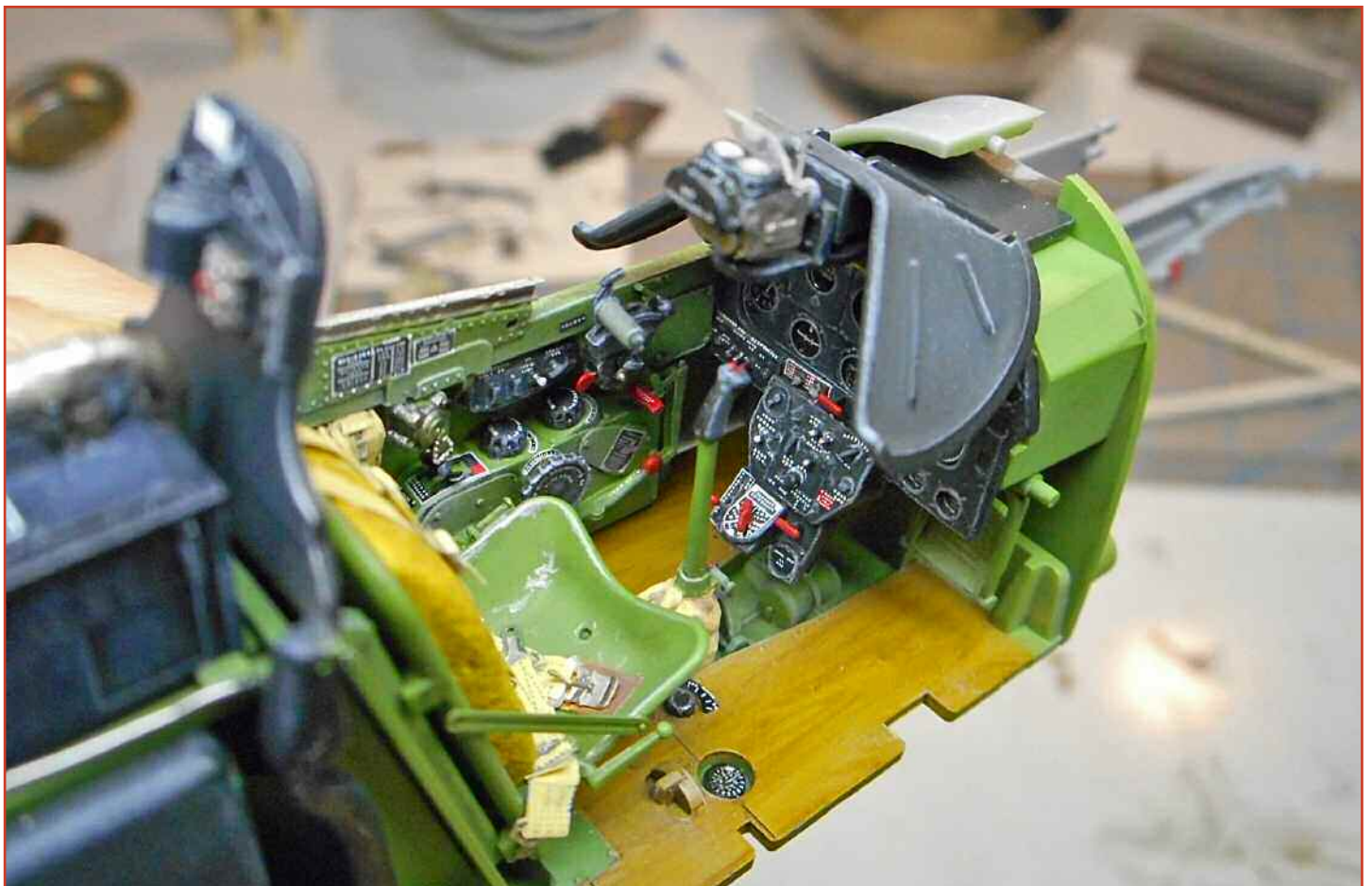
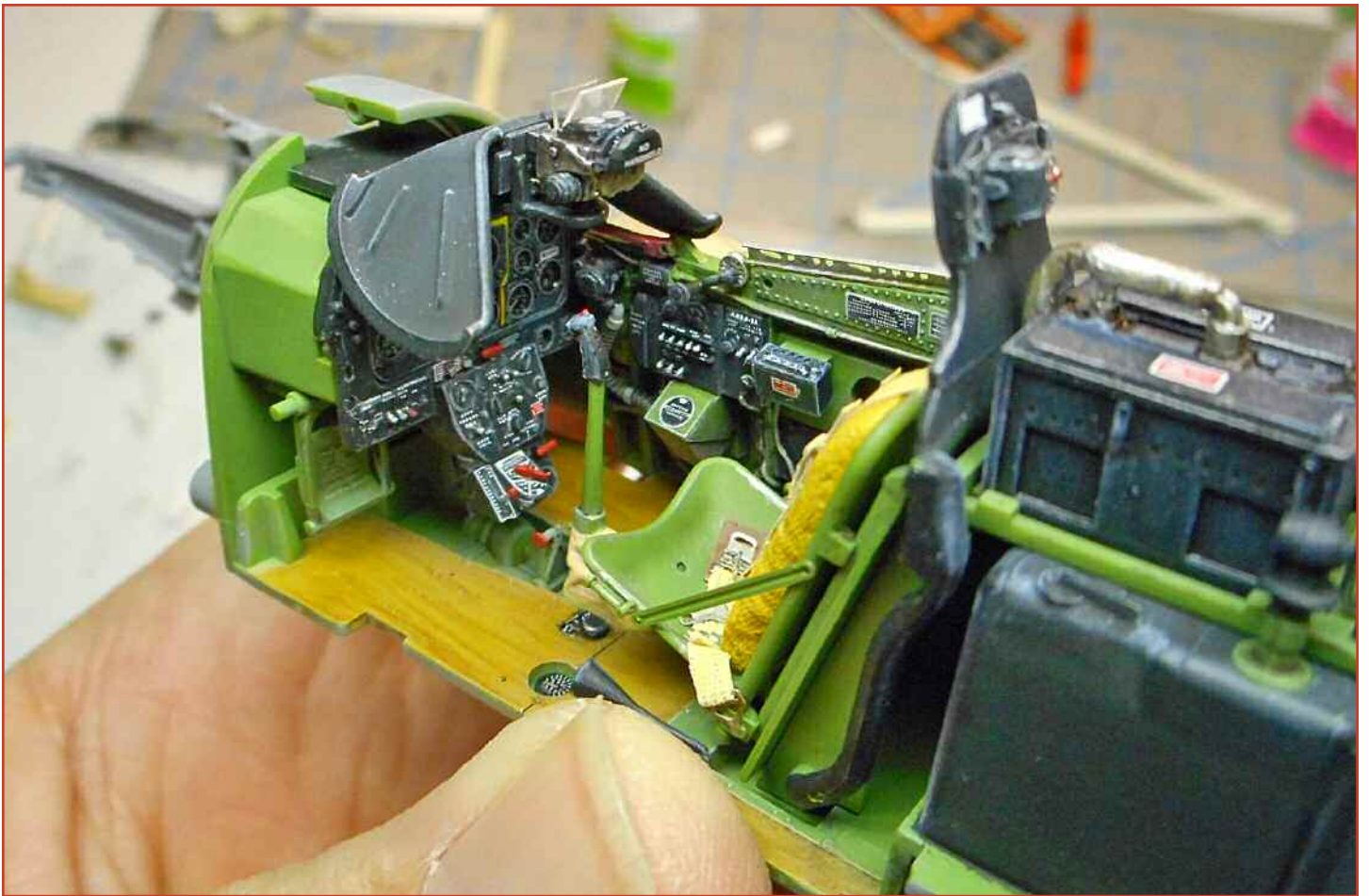
HGW's textile seat belts added the final touch. As well as the belts, HGW supplies a much more realistic shaped and textured life raft for the seat. You will need a several coats of Micro Sol to get the stenciling to conform to the raft cover's texture. But it is a vast improvement over the kit's bulky and smooth surfaced raft.

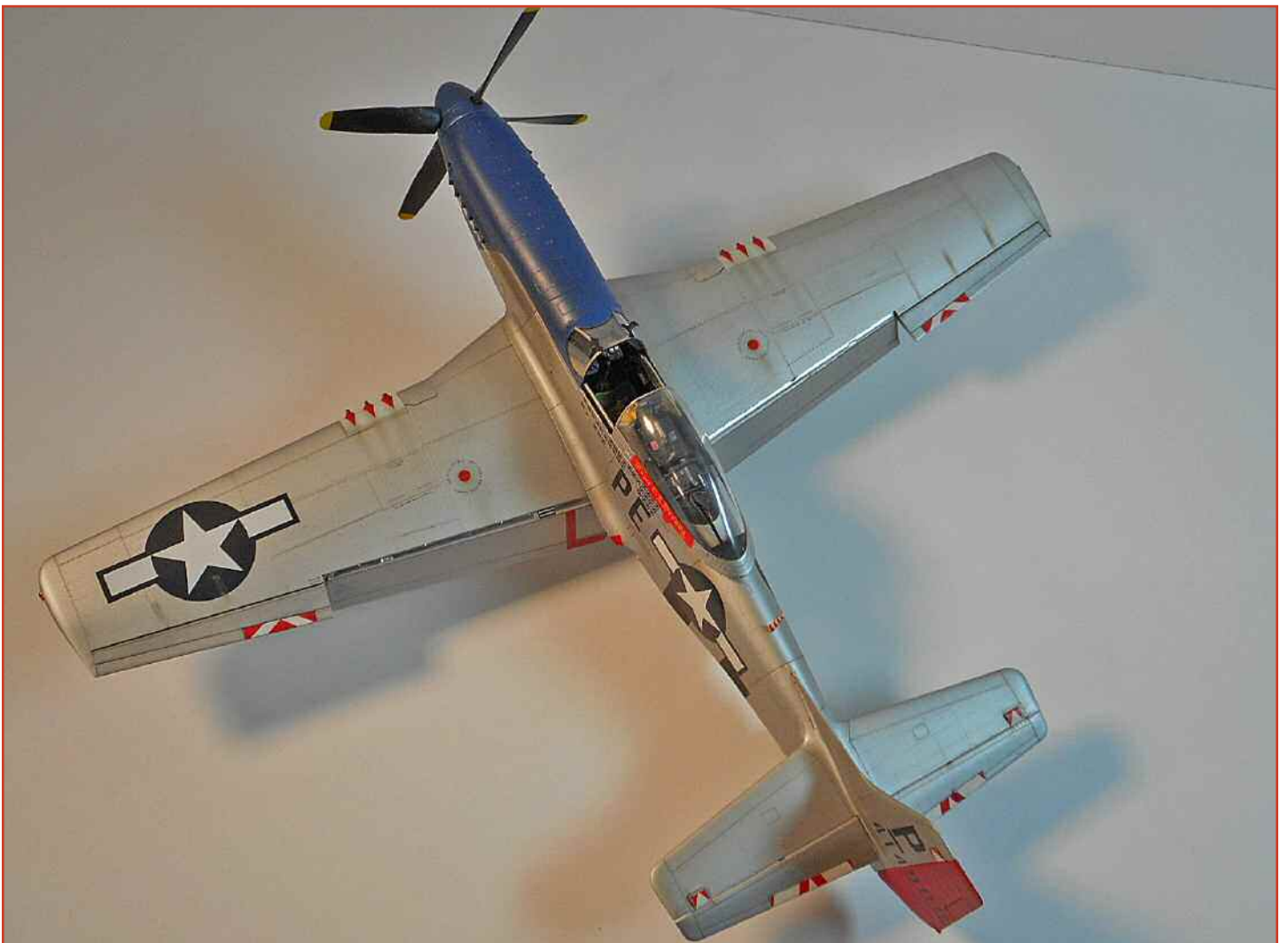




Tamiya's fabulous P-51D is a great kit in its own right, but the scale does allow for some extra accentuation if you like that level of detail. The nice thing is that in the end, the only extra time you will really spend is on adding all the stencil decals. I attacked that like separate link track on an armor kit, tackling it in several sessions. You'll need to re-focus your eyes a few times anyway!

A side note for any hardcore Mustang fans: the floor was usually painted black over the wood. This was a commissioned build and the customer wanted to see the wood floor.





BONUS PAGES!

KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

Westland Whirlwind: A Review of Trumpeter's 1/48 Kit No. 02890

The Westland Whirlwind was one of those revolutionary airplane designs from WWII that could have been a world-beater but ended up a footnote compared to more conventional aircraft. But it did manage to reach squadron service with the RAF and when its Rolls-Royce Peregrine engines were working right, the Whirlwind gave the Germans the business during cross-Channel Rhubarb raids in 1941 - 42.





Although always a favorite with RAF enthusiasts, until now only hard-to-find, limited-edition kits of the Whirlwind were available in $\frac{1}{48}$ scale, by Cooper Details and Classic Airframes, both of which are long out-of-production, very expensive on the second-hand kit market, and tough builds to boot. So Trumpeter releasing an all-new, injection-molded model of this plane in



$\frac{1}{48}$ scale was welcome news. But this new kit also came with a hefty price tag, just this side of \$50, when I picked one up after they hit hobby shop shelves in late June 2014.



As most kits do, this one looked nice in the box, with crisp molding, restrained rivet detail, and everything properly packaged in plastic bags. The cockpit transparencies were beautiful—Trumpeter makes some very nice crystal-clear canopies, the best you will find in any kit these days. But when I started building the kit, I found that it was greatly oversimplified, especially compared to other kits in the \$50 range. Worse yet, the cockpit suffered from the same shortcoming as Trumpeter's P-40B kits—it was too shallow, only as deep as the pilot's knees. Fortunately, once built up and painted, with some photoetched seatbelts added and the control stick shortened, it didn't look too bad as long as the canopy was closed.





Lots of little details were missing everywhere on this kit, such as no cockpit gunsight, a glaring omission on a cannon-armed fighter; I borrowed one from a Hasegawa Hurricane kit. And the rear cockpit area, which on the real plane was an open bay containing the Whirlwind's battery and radio, was instead represented with a simplified cover cap—a little scratchbuilding work here greatly improves the look of the model. The prominent leading-edge radiator air ducts also lacked depth and detail and the antenna mast was too short. And the bomb racks? The less said, the better—I used a couple of bombs and jury-rigged bomb racks borrowed from Hasegawa Spitfire V kits. In the end, the basic kit parts went together okay and aligned properly, although I had a distinct feeling that I had just paid \$50 for a \$20 kit.

Trumpeter has a reputation for sub-par decals and the kit's were wrong in just about every way—the colors on the roundels and code letters were incorrect and the serials were the wrong font—pretty useless if you're interested in accuracy. Fortunately,



veteran modeler Pat Gilmore from Utah came to the rescue and provided some extra decals from a long out-of-production Classic Airframes Whirlwind kit. Sooner or later, Xtradecal or some other decal company will come out with replacements but that will add another \$15 to the \$50 model kit you just bought.



Color schemes for service aircraft were limited to RAF Dark Earth/Dark Green or Ocean Grey/Dark Green; I chose the latter to represent a machine used on Rhubarbs. When finished, the model looked like a Whirlwind, which is all us modelers really want from a kit, but due to the steep price I wouldn't call it good value-for-money. You can do a simple, clean build from this kit but if you're concerned with accuracy, be prepared for a bit of work—otherwise, you might want to wait for aftermarket sources to come to the rescue with photoetch & resin details and new decals.

Bottom line, the ultimate Whirlwind kit has yet to be released, but the Trumpeter kit will let you sink your teeth into a Whirlwind build while you're waiting for that perfect kit to appear.



BONUS PAGES!

FIELD TRIP: STARFEST 2015

JOE WALTERS

The annual StarFest science fiction convention took place in Denver over the weekend of April 17 – 19. It was one of their best shows, which is saying something—my wife Linda and I have been attending these since 1996, and have never been disappointed! We have this odd tradition that whichever half of the journey she drives (we trade off), she invariably encounters snow. This time, we changed drivers at Raton (a good halfway point), and it was already snowing, and we were in snow from there all the way to the hotel parking lot in Denver. The photo below is from our room, where we were *very* glad to finally be, as the snow continued coming down. Intensity increased, and within an hour that dark building in the background was utterly invisible. Fortunately, we didn't have to leave the building for the entire weekend!

StarFest always features many, many events, including celebrity guests (who give presentations in the Main Events room, pose for photos, and sign autographs for fans), movie and TV screenings, presentations, gaming, art shows, reports from NASA scientists, “Trailer Park” movie previews, trivia contests, auctions, debates, art shows, music, a huge Saturday night dance (the Federation Ball), discussion panels, contests, and much *much* more. The CoMMiES group (hosts of the upcoming Regional) put on several model-related events as well: a general model contest, make & takes, and “Modeler University,” basically a series of clinics on various subjects.

In addition, there are concurrent “fests” based on other subjects: ComicFest (held in the hotel across the street), HorrorFest, RoboFest, GameFest, and even KlingonFest this time around. It's all part of the same overall show, and a ticket for one gets you into all of them.

Mike Blohm insisted I include lots of pictures, so I have! I took most of what follows, but I also blatantly stole some from the StarFest website after the show. We will begin with a look at some of the guests who attended this show. We found them all very approachable and friendly, and they all seemed to be having as good a time as we were.





At upper left, Armin Shimerman is always an excellent guest. Known for playing Quark in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and the mean ol' principal from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, he is a very accomplished and versatile actor, and gives a great show!

Terry Farrell, top right, is best known for playing Dax on *DS9*, as well as for her role on *Becker*. For such a sweet delicate flower of femininity, she was easily the most foul-mouthed person at the entire convention!

At left, Richard Dean Anderson, of course, played McGyver, as well as Jack O'Neil on *Stargate SG-1*. An outstanding guest, he was very personable and even spent time conversing with people getting autographs

or photo ops. Above you see my wife Linda getting some stuff signed (I've told her that he's her hall pass). Unlike many major actors, Richard stayed for the entire convention, and signed autographs all three days. He was easily approachable.



This show always brings out incredible examples of costuming. Here are some examples, mostly from the Saturday night costume competition, but also from folks just walking about the hotel dressed out.

Upper left: Abe Sapien from the *Hellboy* movies. Not the only gender switch at this show! And it was a great costume even so.

Upper right: This couple was dressed all in gray, with gray paint swatches pinned all over themselves. That's right, they were dressed as *Fifty Shades of Gray*.

Lower left: Batman Beyond. This young fellow's costume featured wings that not only extended, but retracted as well! I've seen many costumes with extendable parts, but that's the only one I've ever seen that could *reconfigure*.

Below right: Captain Pike from the original *Star Trek* series. Clearly there was a motorized wheelchair under there, and yes, the light blinked with the appropriate "beep" effect. Real crowd pleaser.





Upper left: Captain America. Upper right: X-Men's Dark Phoenix, complete with translucent "Phoenix effect" wings. Bottom right, two conventiongoers each dressed as Groot from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, posing for passersby. They are Groot. Bottom left: the taller of the two Groots entered the contest, and stalked off (ahem) with Best of Show. When he came out to claim his trophy, the techs played "Hooked on a Feeling" over the PA system, and he actually did the dance from the after-credits scene. Just excellent.



Top left: A young Sith Lord (Sith Lady?).
Above, a group entry of the Guardians of the Galaxy. Impressive, but no one knows why they didn't ask the Groot character to join them, or the fellow below. Still, they were pretty darn impressive.
Below left: Don't know what this joker was up to.
Below right: A very impressive Ronan the Accuser from *Guardians* poses with a young fan.





Upper left: Some yellow chick. Might be an anthropomorphized Pokemon character. Ask any nearby teenage boy, they'll likely know.

Upper right: A double gender switch, Tony Stark and Pepper Potts. Tony really pulled off the attitude, and Pepper looked suitably irritated. That's the MC, Kevin Atkins, behind them. He's everywhere.

Bottom left: Superman and Wonder Woman.

Bottom right: A "steampunk" version of Superman and Wonder Woman.

There were many *many* more incredible costumes, but I thought this made a fair sample. Now, on to modeling (finally!).





I attended a “Modeler University” class on lighting. The instructor, Doug (above left), gave an interesting and informative clinic on adding lighting effects to models without even having to delve into things like volts and amps (and I feel the need to call your attention to the fellow on the right, wearing a black and green *Cthulhu* fez).

Doug had built a fantastic Iron Man figure and added lighting with just a few stock LEDs. He also built this gorgeous Star Destroyer (bottom), lit with fiber optics and those LEDs-on-a-strip you read about.

The inset photo shows a demo of using a heat gun on shrink wrap to properly and firmly attach a bundle of fiber optics to an LED.



The true modeling highlight at this convention is the Model Show, a competition that really ought to have some ASM members showing up every year to bring home some goodies! Where are you guys? Come up next year, bring some models, bring home awards and accolades and prizes! Vern Clark, who runs the thing, always gives me grief when I show up without a model to enter, so help me out here, guys!

Here are a few entries from this year's competition. On this page, entries from the recent *Battlestar Galactica* series: the Battlestar *Pegasus*, a Cylon raider, and a frakkin Cylon centurion!

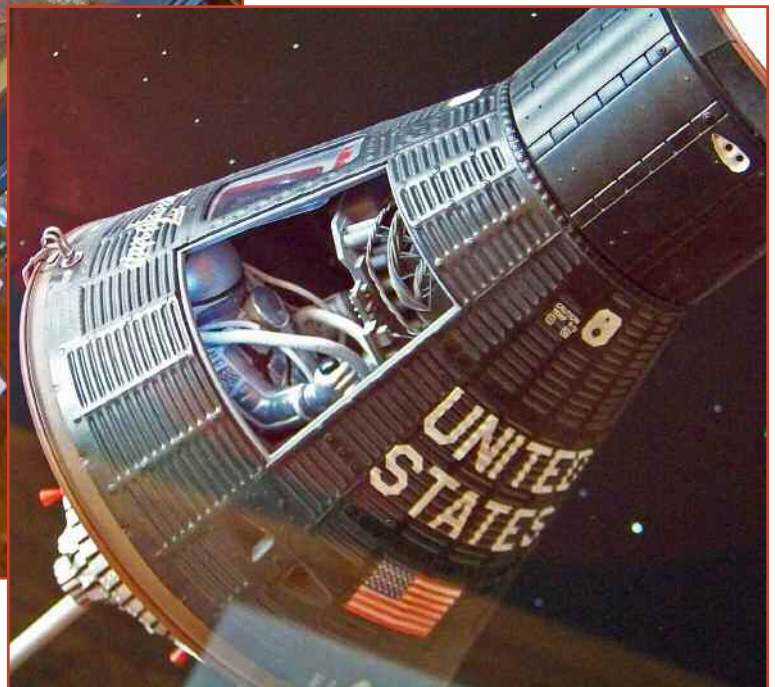
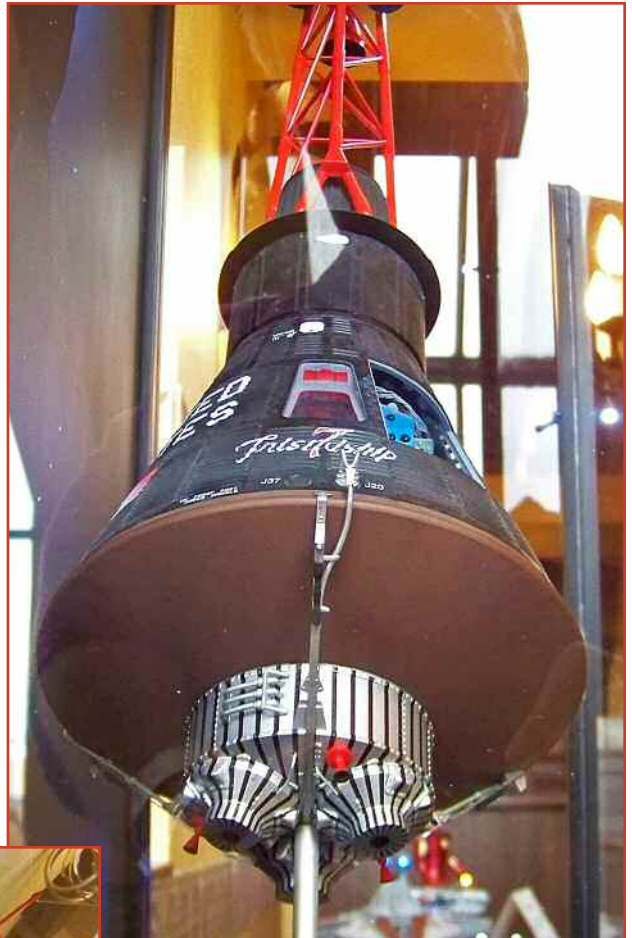




The above "Mirror Universe" ISS Avenger from *Star Trek: Enterprise* had to be seen to be believed. Not only was it fully lighted, it boasted the most subtle and perfect panel pattern effect I've ever seen on a *Trek* model. Darn near made me cry.

Below: This AT-AT has had a bad day.





I showed these pics to the guys at a recent E-board meeting, and they seemed to think it was $\frac{1}{2}$ -scale or similar. It was *big*, and the builder super-detailed it, claiming it was “30% scratchbuilt.” I can believe it. An utterly beautiful build.



Top: The creature from the movie *Relic*.
Center: A distinctive-looking K'tinga-class Klingon Battlecruiser.
Below: USS *Defiant*, from the original *Trek* series.



Above left: A finely detailed and camouflaged robotic battle suit thing.

Above right: Nice little *Star Wars* vignette.

Below: The same Star Destroyer as at the lighting demo. Here you can see the “trench” running along the top of the craft, and those “strip LEDs” at work therein.



These are part of
Machete's
Lighting Class
Here!



A few of the tables showing some of the many models—there were well over 100 entries, including some large groups, and all skill levels were represented here.

And yes, this space used to be a restaurant. It's now the only space in the hotel large enough to house the Model Show, along with tables for Make & Takes and an area for the Robotics club, which brought along three fully-built *Lost in Space* Robots, all of which were lit and speaking over one another.





Top: Space Ark.
Center: USS Voyager.

Bottom: A nice vignette from the movie *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. If you saw this movie on the big screen, you remember this moment vividly.





A few excellent *Star Wars* entries and a very nice-looking Wellsian time machine.





This is one of those “pics or it didn’t happen” moments—*The Rick Sternbach*, looking over the models (that’s Katniss from the *Hunger Games* movies behind him, just passing by).

Sternbach is a professional graphic designer, model builder, special effects dude, and more; he worked on all the *Trek* series except the original, was part of the design team for the *Enterprise-D*, was the designer of the *Deep Space Nine* station and *Voyager*, and much more. He also gave a presentation on his work, which I attended. He showed slides of many of the things he designed including phasers, tricorders, alien ships, and more. It was fascinating to see the evolution of some familiar designs from first concept to final design.

He also showed the graphic at bottom, a piece of artwork he did for *Star Trek: Voyager*. This piece hung in Chakotay’s quarters, and was a “mandala” type design, reflecting the character’s Native American heritage.

Only Sternbach knew it was actually a map of the galaxy, with the black lines showing where the wormholes are. *It was a map to get home*. Had Chakotay known it, the ship could have made it back on day one! An excellent inside joke.

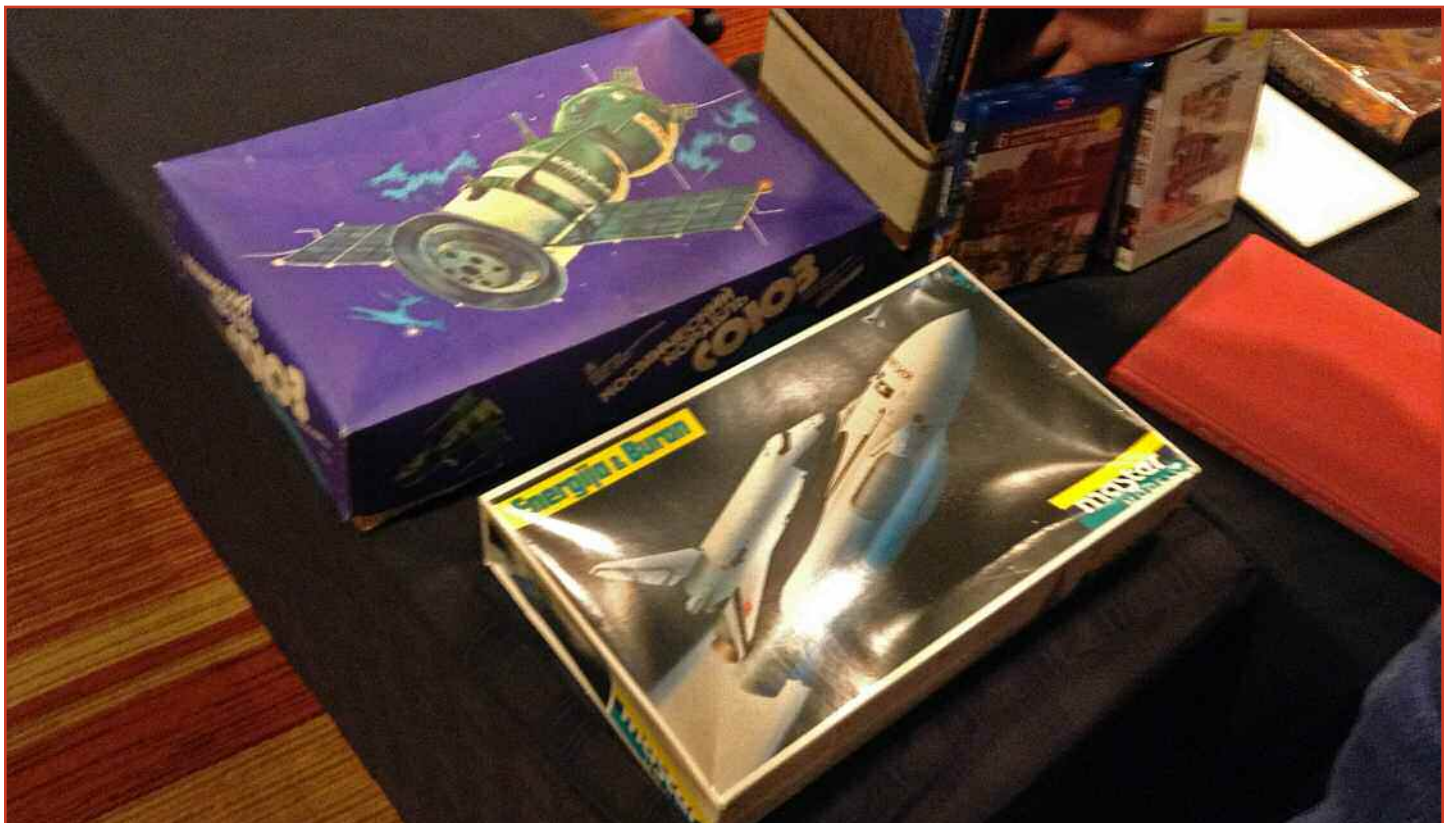
Note that Mr. Sternbach is going to be a guest at the upcoming CoMMiESFest Regional, another reason for attending!





Above is one of the prizes awarded at the Model Show: the starship *Defiant*, still in its box—but this box has been autographed by four *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actors (who were all present at this show) and by Rick Sternbach—who designed the ship. Could have been yours!

In addition to the model show, some vendors in the dealer room also offer model kits and such for sale. I was surprised to see these two kits for sale—and literally seconds after I took the picture, a guy bought them both. I couldn't identify the manufacturers, but the Soyuz kit box is covered in Russian text, and the Buran box uses the Roman alphabet, but appears to be in some eastern European language.





Various dealers stock model kits and items useful to modelers, such as at this booth. Toys and various bits of merchandise can be used to enhance modeling efforts, and actual kits—both the familiar ones we see everywhere and the ones we rarely encounter—can be found in this room as well.





The emblem at left reflects the presence of two of the major guests at this show: Richard Dean Anderson (Jack O'Neil from *Stargate: SG-1*) and Mark Goddard (Major West from *Lost in Space*). Yes, I got the T-shirt!

Below you see a promo piece for next year's show, revealing three guests they've already signed. But beware—there's an unwritten tradition that the guests you see on the year-early preview never make the show! These are working actors and sometimes they get roles during the intervening time that prevent them from attending. In any case, it's a notable starting lineup, and whatever turns out to be next year's slate will surely be excellent.

The hotel where the convention has been held for the past several years (Marriott Denver Tech Center in the south part of Denver) is about to start an eighteen-month renovation, so next year's show will be held at the previous venue up near the airport (details in the photo below). The convention has grown a bit since we left the old place, and that hotel is smaller than the current one, so one would be wise to book early and plan ahead!

Late in the year, start to monitor the convention website (<http://starfestdenver.com>) for details and deals. The convention runs from Friday through late Sunday, and we have learned to drive up on

Thursday to have any chance of finding a parking space, and we drive back Monday since the convention runs into Sunday evening and we quickly tired of returning home at 3:00 in the morning!

Meanwhile, you can visit the StarFest FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Starfest.Convention>) and see many more photos from this convention.

So dust off your best SF models, and/or build something new, and come on up! You'll have a great time.



50 Shades of Green

CoMMiESFest 6
IPMS Region 10
Regional Contest
12th & 13th of June, 2015



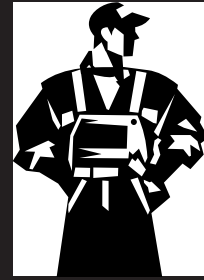
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It's not easy being green, or even defining 'green'. We can specify a wavelength but I'd bet even that would get argued about, additive vs subtractive color, CMYK vs RGB, green hulk vs yellow hulk.

Fifty Shades of Green



CoMMiESFest 6 IPMS Region 10 Regional Contest 12th & 13th of June, 2015

Contest: So how green are you? Categories will be split as needed and we retain the right to merge under-populated categories or to not award anything if deemed so by the judges. Single entries in a category are not guaranteed a 1st place.

Categories: IPMS based categories list.

Check our website (<http://commiesfest.com>) for the latest info and updates!

Vendor Tables Available!
contact Sean Kneeland zaku2ms06@gmail.com

Spectators Welcome!



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