

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society
A registered 501c-7

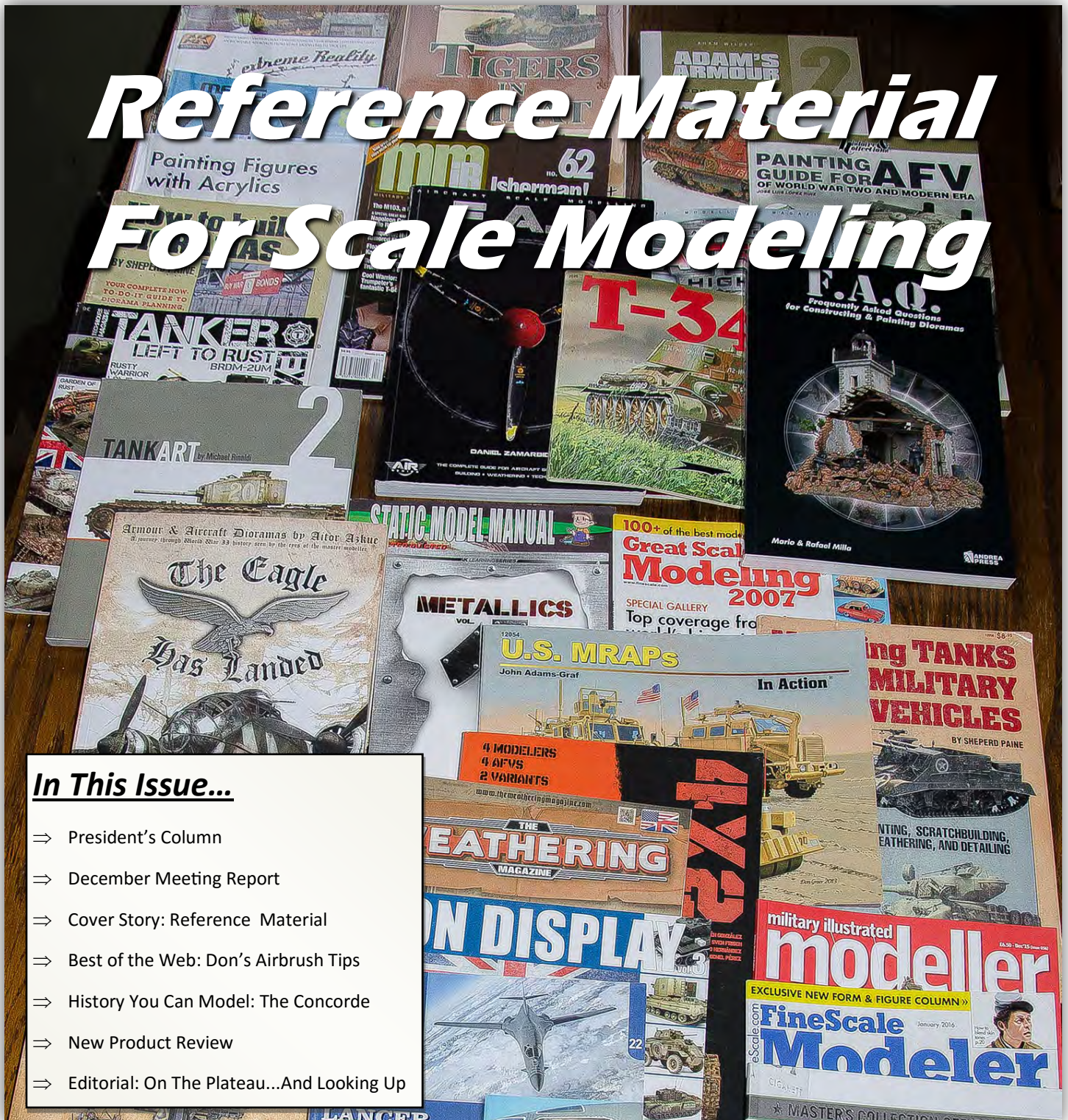


January 2016

IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year:

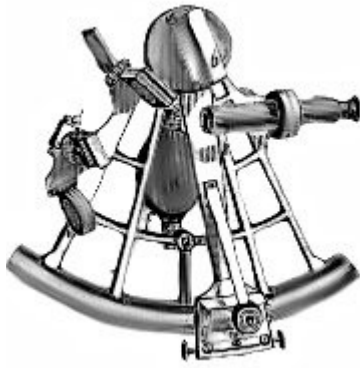
1998-1999 & 2004-2005

Reference Material For Scale Modeling



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President's Column

By Dick Montgomery



January is traditionally the month for the Model of the Year Contest. We invite 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the 2015 Quarterly and 2015 Open contests to bring those models that won awards, and to compete for Best Model of the Year-2015.

Here are the members and models which can compete:

April: 1st- Chevy Double Cab COE = Paul Barrena

2nd- Bird of Prey – Charles Stone

3rd- Cessna Skyhawk – Rick Stanley

May: 1st - Mercedes SLS Truck by Paul Barrena

2nd - XP-55 Ascender by Dick Montgomery

3rd - E-100 by Len Pilhofer

June: 1st Ferrari SUV Diorama by Paul Barrena

2nd P-40 Russian by Jerry Escobedo

3rd A-6 Intruder Egg Plane by Craig Gregory

July: 1st Mercedes by Paul Barrena

2nd PBR-2 by Dana Mathes

3rd Panzer III by Charles Stone

Aug: 1st F-84 by Kent Knebel

2nd 1958 Bulldozer by Dana Mathes

3rd 1957 Mercedes by Paul Barrena

Sept: 1st Pershing M-26 by Dana Mathes

2nd P-51C by Rob Booth

3rd Alfa Romeo by Paul Barrena

Nov: 1st Hypothetical SPG by Dana Mathes

2nd Mercedes Gull-Wing Truck by Paul Barrera

3rd Etendard 1 VP by Charles Stone

The Business portion of the meeting will focus on the club Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL) revisions put forward by the Constitution Review Committee (CRC). The CRC did an excellent job reviewing and suggesting revisions to the current C&BL. The revisions have been available to all members in “The Cloud” since the December meeting and no one has yet to raise a concern or objection to the revised document.

The program for our January meeting is, “Your Favorite Reference Material”. Members are invited to participate as “presenters” in a Round Table fashion, bringing a copy or sample of reference materials that are used most often as they build models. We are, of course, looking for printed matter more than internet materials, but if you have a unique reference site on the “net” we’d like to hear about it.

The meeting is at Northside Ford, 7:15PM, January 7th. See you there!



Craig Gregory's award-winning A-6 Egg Plane



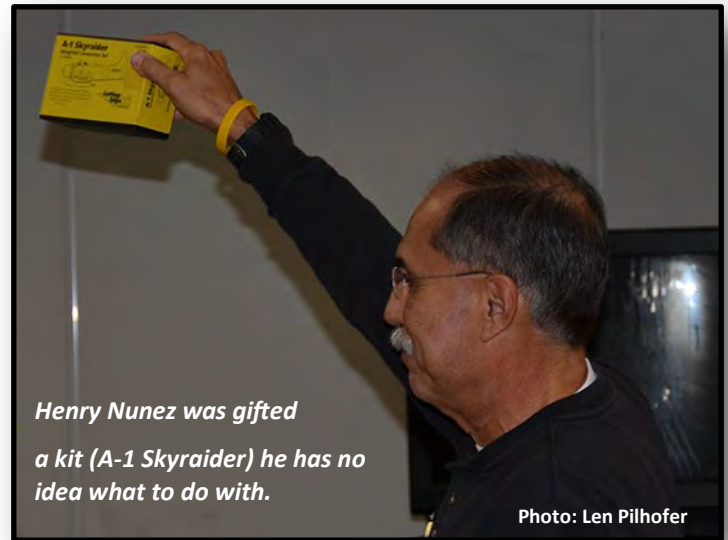
December Meeting Report

Most of Alamo Squadron can attest to the success of our last meeting of 2015 and the main event of the night: The White Elephant Gift Exchange. We had well over 30 of us in attendance along with several family members. Club business went quick and was pushed to the side in order for the fun and games to begin. A shout out to Herb Scranton and Charles Stone for emceeing the gift exchange and ensuring that all kit stealing was done within the “strict” rules and regulations of Alamo Squadron! There were some gems out there as well as some kits that came out of the attic for



Photo: Len Pilhofer

Lee Forbes picked this Hawk kit of a Navy F2H-2. The box art depicts this training jet apparently dropping bombs and shooting-up some unfortunate mid-western town.



Henry Nunez was gifted a kit (A-1 Skyraider) he has no idea what to do with.

Photo: Len Pilhofer



Photo: Len Pilhofer

Emcees Herb Scranton and Charles Stone coach Mike Holsen in cutting open the most well wrapped gift of the night

The Grinch (aka Dick Montgomery) was on-hand to make sure things didn't get too carried away.



Photo: Len Pilhofer



December Meeting Report

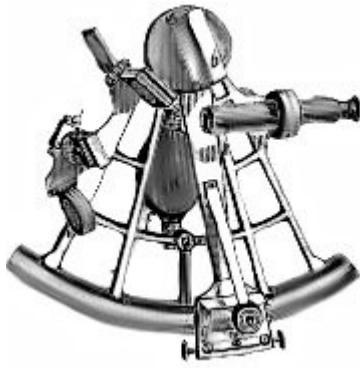
the first time since last year's gift exchange (insert an "lol" here). Some of the most stolen kits were a few P-51s, a Spitfire (Lee Forbes never let his eye off that one) and a Revell 1/48 scale B-1. Many calories were burned by squadron members jumping up and down with excitement and trying to get their recent acquisition stolen so they could pick another gift. It is a good thing we were all well fed by the generous food donations from all the squadron members. In particular, a big shout out goes to Mike Goolsbee whose wife baked a fantastic looking (and tasting!) cake representing all the modeling genres of our great club. Because of this year's successful gift exchange it is probably a good idea to start thinking about next year's and which gem you wish to give away as a gift to a lucky fellow squadron member.



Mike Goolsbee's wife baked for us this special cake. And yes, it tasted as good as it looked. Many thanks to the Goolsbees!



A White Elephant Gift Exchange secret: the further up you hold your gift, the more you want someone to take it.



Reference Materials

For Scale Modeling

By Len Pilhofer



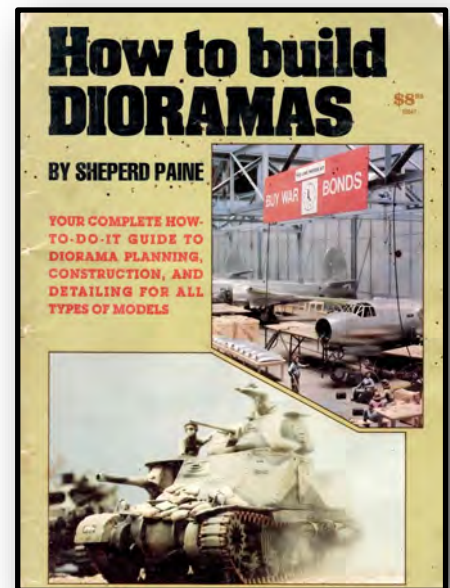
In the world of scale modeling most of us strive to re-create an object that we admire or like and with this recreation we also strive to make it as accurate as possible to the real thing. Most model kits come with basic reference materials created by the model's manufacturer that are usually very accurate and provide a good starting point. However, in this modern world of scale modeling more and more modelers are looking to "up their game", go the extra steps beyond what the kit manufacturer recommends, and take additional steps to make their model resemble the real thing.

This month's Alamo Squadron meeting will focus on reference materials for modeling and specifically, which ones you like or use on a regular basis. The point of my words here are to provide an overview of the topic of scale modeling reference materials from the view of someone who has been modeling for close to 40 years. These ramblings are primarily my observations and of course not the final word on the topic... only a stepping-off point to enable a more fulfilling discussion and discovery session during our upcoming club meeting.

The first thing a modeler needs to ask themselves is: what is the goal of the research? This can be broken down into two major areas: *How* to build the model or *what* the model needs to look like to be accurate. If you want to build a better (a very subjective term) model you will need reference material that shows how to build the model and all the supporting techniques required. For example: *what is the best way to apply decals and eliminate silvering?* The other main area of research is the historical accuracy of the completed build; research about the history of the piece

you are modeling and strive to get to a point of exact resemblance: i.e. *what version of the AIM-9 Sidewinder missile did the US F-15C in Desert Storm (1991) carry?*

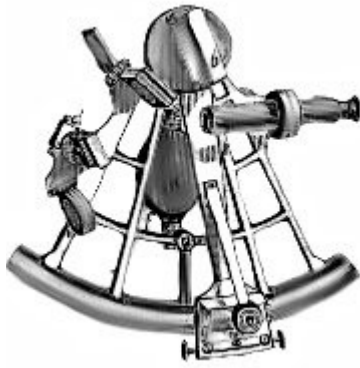
We can further break down the two main areas of research into the various mediums through which research is conducted. Traditional materials comprise of books, magazines and other periodicals that we can pick-up and read... these have, obviously, been around for many, many years. Most of us have some of



Still my absolute favorite after all these years is the late Shep Paine's legendary "How To Build Dioramas"

these already on our shelves at home. The other and very obvious areas of growth in the realm of research is the internet and everything related to it. This includes websites in the form of dedicated content to a single area, modeling blogs where individual modelers write their thoughts and discoveries, and public forums dedicated to scale modeling and its many genres. A growing and very powerful form of reference material is video content such as those found on YouTube.

If you haven't seen it yet I'll let you in on a little secret: this hobby has gone global. This means the



Reference Materials (Cont.)

For Scale Modeling

By Len Pilhofer



amount of reference material now available is staggering. Not only has the internet brought modelers together from across the oceans but the available reference material has grown exponentially as well. Anyone with a solid technique or a great source of historical info is free to post what they know on the World Wide Web. We modelers discover these areas of the web and word of mouth then helps spread the information. Word of mouth is also spread by the same technology that is driving the growth in reference material. I have learned of new techniques or sources of historical info either via online forums or the many modeling blogs out there. A lot of bits of information I describe above come from modelers outside our own continent and in Europe, Asia, or South America.



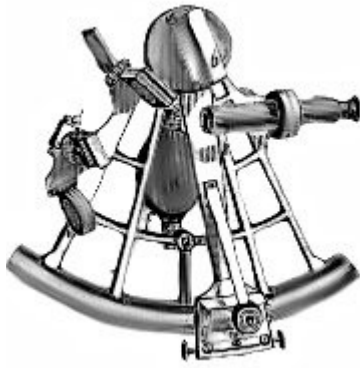
The old stand-by for most modelers are Squadron/Signal Publications' "In Action" series.

This is a good point to take a step back and look at how research has changed in the academic world. While the library is still the center of the academic campus students no longer need to be *in* the library to

get what they need. The internet and related computing & telecommunications technology allow students access to the information they need to fulfill their assignments. At the same time libraries around the world are driving toward a digital presence and expanding their services to more than just the traditional "brick & mortar" presence.

We can look at the same model when it comes to our hobby. Twenty years ago if we wanted to learn more about the FB-111 and how it differed from the several other F-111 models flown by the USAF and several of our allies we would have to find a book at the library or purchase one at a store. Today, one needs only go to Wikipedia to learn the basic differences between these models. With more digging (via the internet) we can find even more details from experts who have studied these aircraft, and even flown them in combat. Books are still the standard but the internet has taken over as the first step in any research project.

I grew up utilizing Fine Scale Modeler in the 1980s, 90s and early 2000s and every now and then when I had some extra money (not often) I would purchase a Squadron Signal "In Action" publication on a particular aircraft. While I still enjoy FSM I tend to turn to YouTube now if I want to learn about a technique that I have heard about. I find that watching the process in motion is much more conducive to learning than reading about it and even seeing still pictures. YouTube and related video content are becoming ever more popular. The power that video has over all other reference material is that you get to see the technique in action and thus your first attempt will be an emulation of what you just witnessed. From there you can perfect your technique and turn it into your own.



Reference Materials (Cont.)

For Scale Modeling

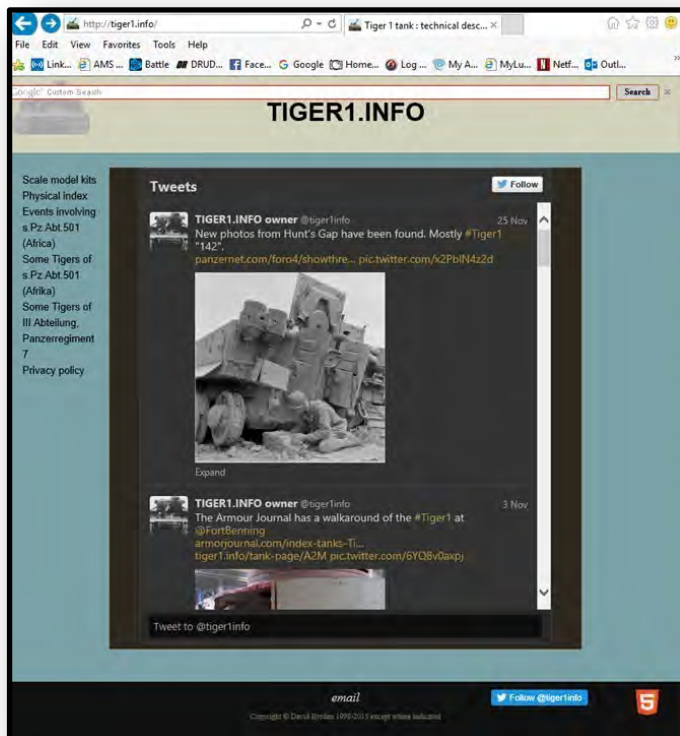
By Len Pilhofer



Individuals who have a specialty in one area now have the freedom to put all that they have learned up for grabs as web content and with the click of a mouse button we can begin to learn what they know. A good example of this is David Byrden's Tiger1.info website. David is considered a worldwide expert on the iconic WWII German tank and has advised on several occasions the production of kits of this tank. He has taken what he has learned over the years and published on a continual basis to his personal website. While a book on the Tiger is still a key part of any German armor modeler's library these web resources are a welcome addition.



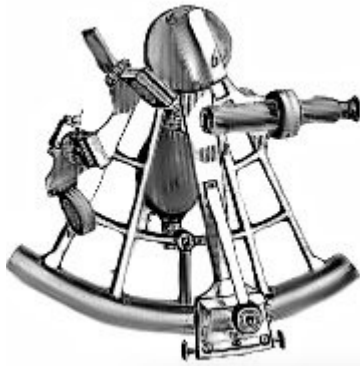
An emerging and welcome trend in the scale modeling reference realm is the growth of YouTube videos. Here is a screen shot of one of Paul Budzik's videos on soldering PE



David Byrden's Tiger1.info website is the ultimate online source for everything you ever wanted know about the Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger Ausf. E

Access and the ability to post content is easier than ever. Modeling blogs are popping up everywhere as well as the ability to create original content and supporting websites. The time of learning HTML is over as there are now programs that operate just like traditional graphic arts programs like Photoshop or PowerPoint and allow a user to build web content without having to know how to program in computer code.

While the internet has ushered in a seemingly Golden Age of research it is also sort of a double-edged sword and sometimes wrong content is published. Wikipedia maybe a great source for quick research into a particular topic but it is not always accurate. This is because the nature of the web that allows anyone access also allows anyone to publish their own words. Maybe their intention is not malicious but sometimes conflicting information can lead to confusion in one's modeling endeavors. Luckily in the scale modeling world, while historical accuracy is a goal of many, it is not a pre-requisite for this hobby's enjoyment.



ModelFiesta 35



IPMS/USA
ALAMO
SQUADRON
Presents



MODELFIESTA 35

The International Contest Of Texas

Show Theme:

“Kit-Bashed”

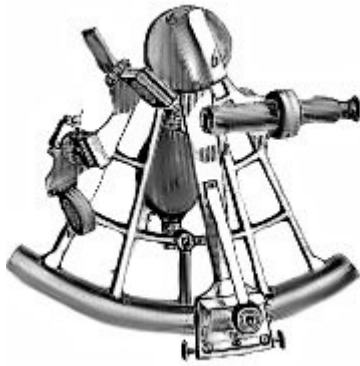
74 Categories! 246 Trophies to win!
“Best-Of” Awards, Individual Awards,
Alamo Sqd Memorial Awards,
Out-of-Box Challenge Awards!

Event Director: Rob Booth
MFDirector@alamosquadron.com

Vendor Coordinator: John Kress
MFVendor@alamosquadron.com

Saturday, February 20, 2016
9:00AM - 5:00PM

San Antonio Event Center
8111 Meadowleaf Drive
San Antonio, TX



Don's Airbrush Tips

Best of the Web

A great little gem of the World Wide Web for us scale modelers is *Don's Airbrush Tips*. Don Wheeler is a retired manufacturing engineer who, according to his own words, "likes to tinker with things". Don started the site as a way of passing along the tips and tricks he has learned from airbrushing but it has blossomed into a really great resource where one can find the ins-and-outs of many of the most popular airbrushes from several manufacturers.

Don reviews 37 airbrushes from 10 different manufacturers as well as a couple of air compressors. Each review is in-depth and starts with an initial impression of the brush (i.e., how does it feel in one's hand) to a parts break-down and ends with a test drive and an example of what the spray pattern looks like. Some of

the initial reviews are of brushes that Don has purchased for personal use but as his site has become popular many of the manufacturers have sent him new brushes for him to review.

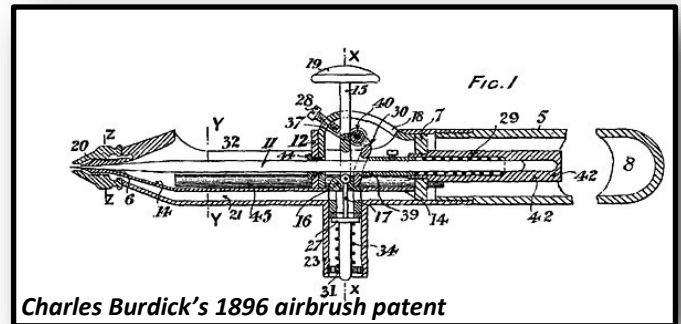


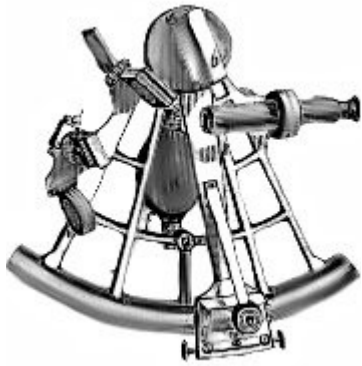
Photo by Don Wheeler

Don test drives the venerable Paasche Model H. He does this for every brush he reviews

In addition to the reviews are tips and techniques for airbrushing. Some of these are "old-hat" for us experienced air brushers but they are nonetheless good reviews for all of us to learn (and review from time-to-time) because even though I probably have several hundred hours of airbrushing under my belt I find it helps to review the basics every now and then. If you are new to airbrushing I highly recommend reviewing these tip and techniques as you begin your airbrushing journey.

While Don has a favorite (and I won't divulge this here) he does a great job of giving a fair review of every brush he puts his hands on. Only if something is really out-of-whack will he dip into the negative end of the review pool and even then he brings up positive ways to make the airbrush better. My overall impression of the site is that each brush does not get a good/bad vote but rather an in-depth overview of each brush. For the scale model hobbyist who is new and choosing his/her first brush this is a fantastic place to start. Understand what you want out of a brush and Don can help vector you to the right choice.

Don's website can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/site/donsairbrushtips/home>



First Commercial Flight of the Concorde

History You Can Model

Aérospatiale-BAC Concorde is a turbojet-powered supersonic passenger jet airliner that was operated until 2003. It featured a maximum speed over twice the speed of sound at Mach 2.04 (1,354 mph at cruise altitude), with seating for 92 to 128 passengers. First flown in 1969, Concorde entered service 40 years ago on **January 21st, 1976** and continued commercial flights for 27 years. It is one of only two supersonic transports to have ever entered commercial service; the other was the Tupolev Tu-144, which ran for a much shorter period of time before being grounded and retired due to safety and budget issues.



Concorde was jointly developed and produced by Aérospatiale and the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) under an Anglo-French treaty. Concorde's name reflects the development agreement between the United Kingdom and France. A total of 20 aircraft were built in France and the United Kingdom; six of these were prototypes and development aircraft. Seven each were delivered to Air France and British Airways. With only 20 aircraft built, the development of Concorde was a substantial economic loss; Air France and British Airways received considerable government subsidies to purchase them.

Among other destinations, Concorde flew regular transatlantic flights from London Heathrow and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport to New York-JFK, Washington Dulles and Barbados; it flew these routes in less than half the time of other airliners. Over time the aircraft became profitable when it found a customer base willing to pay for flights on what was for most of its career the fastest commercial aircraft in the world.

The aircraft is regarded by many as an aviation icon and an engineering marvel.

Concorde was retired in 2003 due to a general downturn in the commercial aviation industry after the type's only crash in 2000, the 11 September terrorist attacks in 2001, and a decision by Airbus, the successor firm of Aérospatiale and BAC, to discontinue maintenance support. (source: www.wikipedia.org)

Modeling Options

The most common model on the market for this iconic aircraft are pre-fabricated desk models and there is obviously not much of a scale modeling challenge to these. If you are up to building a kit Revell has both 1/144 and 1/72 scale kits that are currently available through several outlets/dealers. The exact same 1/72 kit is available from Heller and is significantly cheaper than the Revell boxing. If you are up for the challenge of a big build and working in fiber glass and resin HpH Models out of the Czech Republic makes a 1/48 scale version of Concorde 101 and 102. This monster will put you back about \$500 but they do have 17 in stock!





Upcoming Releases



Italeri 1/35 M4A3E8 Sherman "Fury"

Italeri has announced the release of their own version of the M4A3E8, better known by its moniker "Easy 8", featured in the movie "Fury" (although the Sherman used in the movie was an M4A2E8). The turret and suspension sprues are new while the hull is from the older Italeri Sherman kit. Also new are the tracks with 2 track versions (T66 and T84E) included. They are made with a new material which can be more readily glued and painted.



Dragon "PHASE 1" Star Wars Kits Announced

Dragon has announced their first licensed Star Wars kits under the 'Phase 1' title. Dragon Models states that these kits are to be produced by the same team as their military kit lines emphasizing detail and accuracy. The planned kits will be:



1/35 AT-AT
1/144 AT-AT
1/144 TIE Fighter
1/144 X-Wing T-65
1/144 X-Wing T-70
1/144 Millennium Falcon
1/144 AT-ST and Snowspeeder Set

Yes, you read that correctly: 1/35th scale AT-AT. With a "real" AT-AT at about 65 feet tall that would make this kit about 22 inches tall! Oh-boy!

Ammo of MiG Masking Putty

Mig Jimenez's company has announced the release of a new masking putty. According to their website: "[This is a] universal masking agent for all genre and scales. Specially designed formula for multiple uses and easy clean up. Camouflage Masking Putty easily conforms to all surfaces and details, allowing for both hard and soft edge camouflages. Camouflage Masking Putty is specially designed to leave NO residue on surfaces. It is also very easy to remove. From camouflage patterns both simple and complex, to practical applications such as masking canopies and road wheels, [it] is one of the most advanced masking options available."





On The Plateau...And Looking Up

Editorial—By Len Pilhofer



Modeling is a journey that starts when you build your first kit. My personal journey started when I was in first grade and built a 1/48 Aurora Messerschmitt BF-109...the one molded in maroon styrene. If I were to look at that build today I would consider it a disaster but at the time I was super proud of it. From that point on I was on a building frenzy. I asked for model kits for every birthday and Christmas and every now and then Dad would sneak me a kit when mom wasn't looking. Moving up the learning curve, and to the next higher plateau, I remember applying my first camouflage pattern to a model: a 1/48 Monogram A-4. Looking back it is interesting to analyze how I did it. I



The inspiration for my first camo paint job

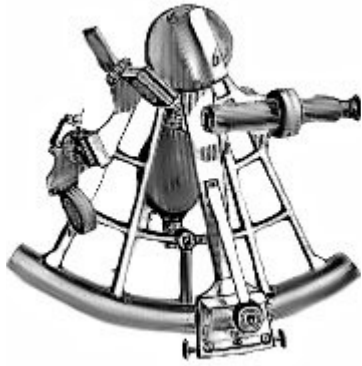
had no sources with which to read, no AK Interactive or MiG publications...not even FSM. There was no internet and no YouTube videos to watch. I was inspired by the box art

and just tried to copy what I saw. I applied it very crudely with a paint brush (well before my airbrush days) but I distinctly remember looking at that jet when I was done and thinking it was the coolest looking model ever. I was all of a sudden on a higher plateau. Speaking of airbrushes, I also remember my first one, a Paasche H and I remember the first coat of paint I put down with it on a 1/48 Monogram C-47. I was amazed at the smoothness of the paint and how the details of the plastic just popped through the paint. Again, I was moving up the learning curve and on the next plateau level.

Fast-forward 35 years and I found myself finishing a model that I am super-proud of and well received and complimented on by my modeling peers. More im-

portantly I felt happy with myself that I successfully completed the most complicated build I had ever undertaken. It was a culmination of new skills learned/practiced combined with skills I had relied upon for many years. But...now what? Where do I go? Do I continue to finish future models in the same style or do I look for more, challenging techniques that will make future models even more of an "eye-grabber"? I found myself in an interesting situation recently: immediately following the complicated and intricate build I yearned to accomplish a straight-from-the-box build; something that I could see results rather quickly and thus keep me motivated. I finished it in a fraction of the time but something was missing; I was actually missing the complications of my previous build but more accurately: I missed the satisfaction of attempting and accomplishing something that was previously out of my range. I missed moving up to the next plateau.

Which brings me to the point of this article: are we happy when we reach our personal plateaus or do we look up at the next level and figure out a way to get there? The proliferation of literature in recent years — especially out of Europe — has kept me looking up at the next level. Sometimes we don't know which direction to the next plateau is. We are happy with our work but something is missing and we cannot put our fingers on exactly what. This is where clubs like ours come into play and we get to see what others are doing and how they are doing it. The internet of course has helped a lot in regards to moving up to different levels. YouTube videos (and related video content) have done wonders in showing me what is possible, but more importantly how it is done. I am thoroughly enjoying this journey and I encourage you to continue along your upward journey as well.



Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan 7th, 2016 at 7:15PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

January 30, 2016

CALMEX XXX

Recreation District 1 Multipurpose Center

1221 Sampson St.

Westlake, Louisiana

<http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html>



February 20, 2015

Modelfiesta 35

8111 Meadow Leaf Drive

San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.alamosquadron.com/>

[ModelFiesta35/ModelFiesta35.htm](http://www.alamosquadron.com/ModelFiesta35/ModelFiesta35.htm)



March 5, 2016

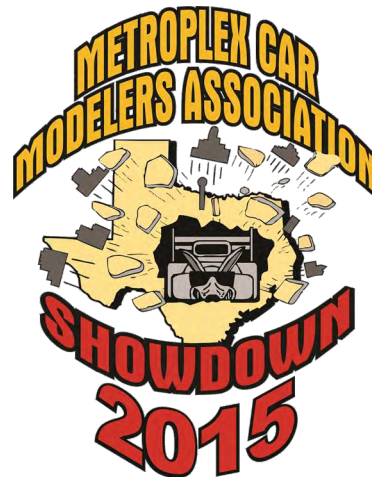
Showdown 2016

12700 N Stemmons Frwy.

Farmers Branch, TX, 75234

<http://www.themcma.net/>

[Club_Contests.php](http://www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.php)



March 12, 2016

RiverCon V 2016

620 Benton Rd

Bossier City, LA, 71171

<http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/>



About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2015-2016



President:
Dick Montgomery
IPMS #14003
president@alamosquadron.com



Vice-President:
Henry Nunez
IPMS# 49498
vp@alamosquadron.com



Treasurer:
Lee Washburn
sec-treas@alamosquadron.com

IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron: The Club was founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members. It is a hobby-centered social organization which, at its core, is focused on scale modeling of all kinds. It is an excellent source of information for those who wish to enhance their modeling skills and improve their modeling techniques, and is open and inviting to visitors and guests. Dues are \$24.00 a year, due to the treasurer on September 1st of each year.

Alamo Squadron has been hosting ModelFiesta since 1981. Locations have included the Wonderland Mall, a Holiday Inn, the Seven Oaks Motel & Convention Center, the Live Oak Civic Center and the new location for 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.

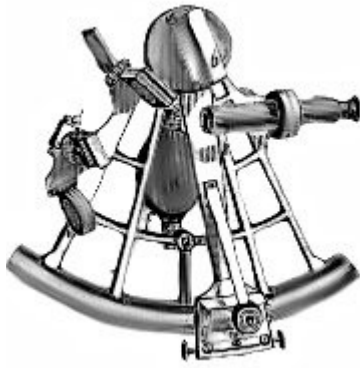


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Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our web site!



QR Code for our Facebook Page
Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our home on FB





Final Words...



IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM	
IPMS No.:	Name:
Address:	
City:	State:
Phone:	E-mail:
Signature (required by P.O.):	
Type of Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86	
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18 years) \$17 <input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult = \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order	
Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (MC/Visa/Discover)	
Credit Card No.:	Expiration Date:
Chapter Affiliation, (if any):	
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:	
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IPMS/USA Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org	
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JOIN NOW

Become a member with the application below
or go to www.ipmsusa.org

The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, for the information and enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, ads to buy, sell or trade, and other contributions are very welcome. Send text file, photos and web sites to the editor, Len Pilhofer: pilhofer@hotmail.com

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