



The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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



IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year:
1998-1999 & 2004-2005

April 2016



*Inside: Rob Booth
shares with us his
panel-line scribing
techniques*

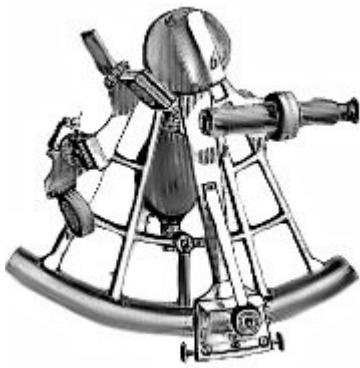
**Charles Stone
Shows Us His
Impressive F-105
Build Step-By-Step**

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Build a Task Force This Weekend



President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003



Most of you have already heard the sad news about Mike Picard. He passed away on the March 25th from cancer. Mike had been under treatment for cancer for some time and seemingly had made some improvements after a round of chemo but then he took a turn for the worst. Throughout Mike's treatment and passing, his very close friends, Marty Martinez and Lyn Julian, kept the San Antonio Armor Brigade members, and the Alamo Squadron members informed of Mike's condition.

Mike was a member of Alamo Squadron for many years before allowing his membership to lapse in mid-2015. His contributions were numerous. He was known as a superior modeler, not only in the armor area, but also in Automotives and Sci-Fi/Space. I have quite a number of Sci-Fi models in my collection that took 2nd place awards to Mike's 1st place winners. I was always very impressed when Mike would share information about his Works-in-Progress, how he was assembling individually linked tracks, correcting kit errors, or just sharing work on a new project. It was always clear that he was, truly, a master modeler. Mike was never slow about sharing

his techniques or demonstrating his skills when asked to do so at an Alamo Squadron meeting. I know that I gained a lot from just listening and watching the man work. To say Mike was generous with his modeling knowledge is an understatement.

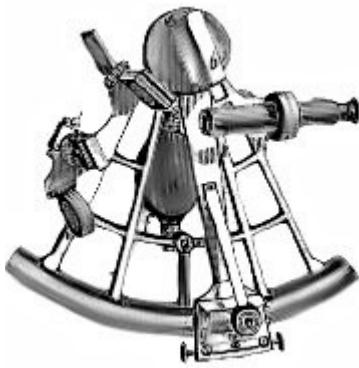
Mike was a "regular" at ModelFiesta, serving as a

judge and also Head Judge, but also as a vendor. He was always very supportive of the club's efforts to put on a good show and he was very unselfish with his time and talent. In fact, Mike attended ModelFiesta 35 on Feb 20, 2015 and operated as

a vendor. Even in poor health and certainly feeling weak, Mike continued to enjoy some aspect of the hobby and continued his support of Alamo Squadron.

How can Mike be characterized? He was a good and loyal friend, supporting his buddies, and displaying a polite demeanor toward acquaintances. He spoke kindly of his friends and didn't bother with speaking ill of those who displayed less than friendly behavior toward him, and there were very few of these people as Mike was universally respected. He had a sharp sense of humor and displayed it frequently, much to the delight and pleasure of those around him. He was honest and trustworthy. He displayed a gentlemanly sense of decorum when disagreeing with someone, but he was not shy in expressing his mind. He was a highly skilled modeler, but it was his artistic nature, as seen through his modeling, that was significant. In short, Mike Picard was a gentleman and a scholar, a friend and cohort, a teacher and learner wrapped up into one person, and he will be missed.





Club Announcements

Elections 2016

Any Member in Good Standing is eligible to vote. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April meeting (7 April, 2016). You may vote at the April meeting or you may cast an Absentee ballot via email at any time prior to April 7, 2016 at 3pm. Emailed ballots received after that deadline cannot be counted. Those who vote via email cannot cast a second vote at the meeting, nor can they cancel the emailed ballot. Once you click the "send" button it is permanent. You may vote for those candidates listed on the ballot, all of whom received nominations during the March meeting, or you may write in a candidate of your choice. Write-In candidates must meet the eligibility requirements for office holders contained in the [C&BL](#). Failure to meet the requirements will result in the vote not being counted. If you decide to vote Absentee via email, please attach a copy of the completed ballot to your email and send it to: Craig Gregory, Election Committee Chairman craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com



Club Shirts

Herb Scranton still has several club shirts that were paid for and ordered. He'll have these at April's meeting and encourages those that ordered one to please pick it up.

Adult Build Class

The 2016 Spring session starts Saturday, April 2nd, 2016. The session will run 6 to 8 weeks on Saturdays at 9:30am to 12pm. For more information please contact our club President at [President @ Alamosquadron.com](mailto:President@Alamosquadron.com) or craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com.

Web Page Bios

Len Pilhofer is still putting together member bios on the club web page. Several e-mails have gone out in past months with instructions and the information we are looking to publish. In no way is this mandatory and only if you wish to share your info with other club members should you participate. Be aware that whatever we post on the webpage is public to the world...there are no security controls on our website. Here is a link to the bios already on the site: <http://alamosquadron.com/members.html>



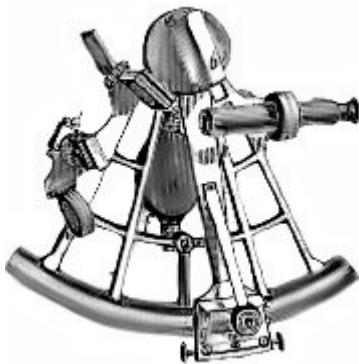
Internal Club Contest Themes

Here is the contest schedule for the remainder of 2016:

April:	Monthly Contest/Open
May:	Quarterly Contest: Experimentals
Jun:	Monthly Contest/Open
Jul:	Quarterly Contest: Movie Props
Aug:	Monthly Contest/Open
Sep:	Monthly Contest/Open
Oct:	Quarterly Contest: Titanic: It's Big!
Nov:	Monthly Contest/Open
Dec:	Holiday Party—No Contest

Model Building Summit Award

Remember to bring those projects you finished since last meeting. Get them counted towards the Model Building Summit Award. Reach the goal of 5 projects completed in one year and earn club recognition, a Hill Country Hobby's discount and other prizes.



Elections 2016

Alamo Squadron Ballot - 2016

You may vote "absentee" by completing this

ballot and emailing it to:

Craig Gregory, Election Committee Chairman
craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com

Voter's Name (required): _____

Phone # (required): _____



President (Candidates listed in Alpha Order) (Check Box or Write In)

Dick Montgomery

Write-In: _____

(Person must have been an active Alamo Squadron member from April 2, 2015 to April 7, 2016)

Vice President (Candidates listed in Alpha Order) (Check Box or Write In)

Herb Scranton

Write-In: _____

(Person must have been an active Alamo Squadron member from April 2, 2015 to April 7, 2016)

Treasurer (Candidates listed in Alpha Order) (Check Box or Write In)

Dana Mathes

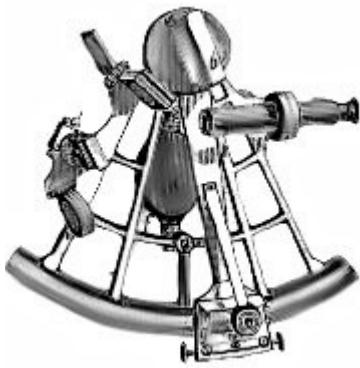
Write-In: _____

(Person must have been an active Alamo Squadron member from April 2, 2015 to April 7, 2016)

Votes for Write-In candidates who are not eligible according to the C&BL will not be counted.

Save this document and e-mail it to:

Craig Gregory, Election Committee Chairman at
craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com



Cover Story

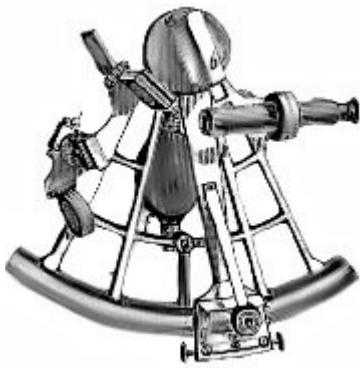
Building a Thud

Model and Photos by Charles Stone



The base kit for Charles' build was Revell's F-105D Thunderstick (T-Stick) II in 1/48 scale (Kit #85-5866). He picked this up at a past Alamo Squadron meeting. To spruce it up he added Legends Production resin cockpit set (LA4814).





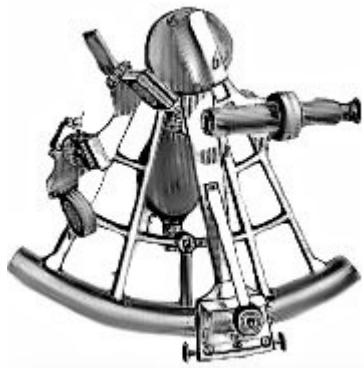
Cover Story

Building a Thud

As most aircraft builders know, models of modern aircraft do not exactly behave like their real world counterparts and many times are tail-heavy. A common practice is to change the physics of the model by adding weight to the nose of the aircraft to keep it tipping back onto its tail. Here, Charles executes a common technique of utilizing common BB's secured in-place with CA glue and sprayed with some quick-dry.



To fill the gaps and seams Charles is a big fan of 3M Acrylic red glazing putty. It is used in auto motive body-work; it dries fast and wet-sands very well. Here you can see some of the red putty in the nose and spine of the Thud.



Cover Story

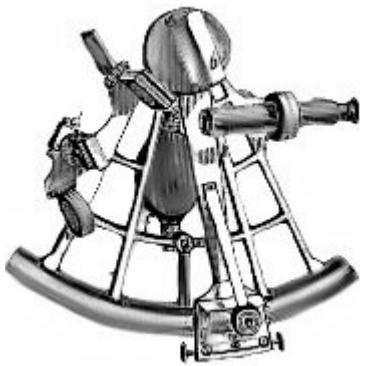
Building a Thud



Charles pre-shades the panel lines after the final primer coat with Vallejo NATO Black. After the pre-shading is done he applies the first of the base coats. Here we see the underside of the starboard wing getting its first coat of (Vallejo) light gray.

After sanding is complete it is on to priming. Charles utilizes Tamiya liquid surface primer in the bottle, thinned at a ratio of 50% primer and 50% Tamiya lacquer thinner and applied with an airbrush. "It bites well into the plastic and wet sands smooth. I always wet sand the first coat then primer, wet sand again then the final coat of primer" reports Charles.

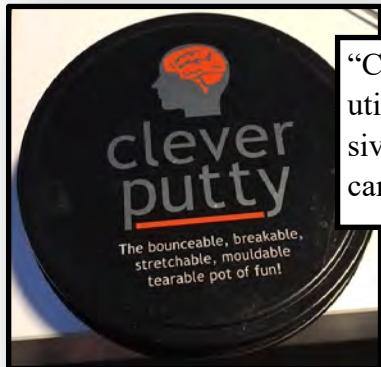
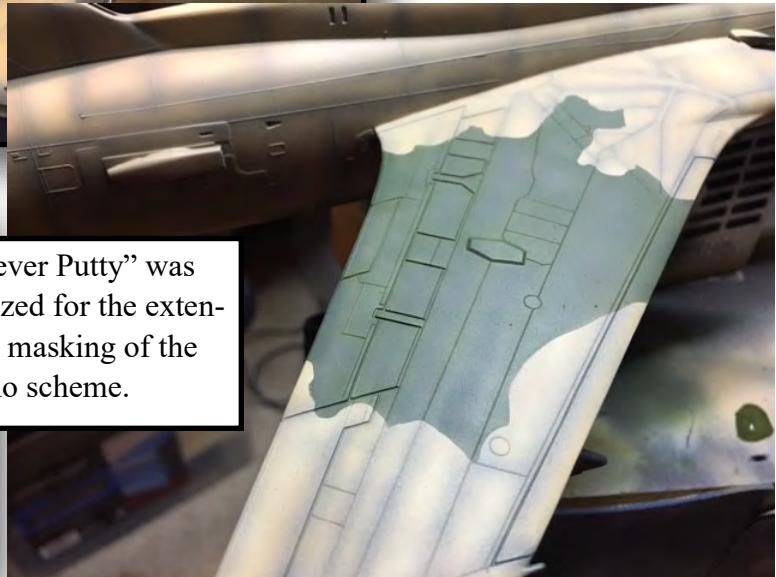




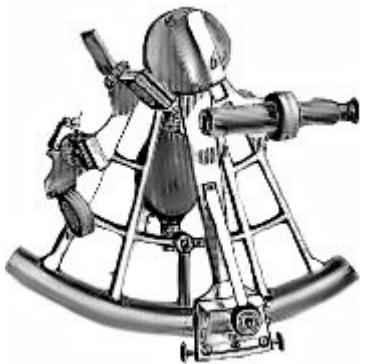
Cover Story

Building a Thud

The USAF's South East Asia camo scheme consisted of a dark tan and two shades of green. When Charles laid down the tan color he used three varying shades of Vallejo tans and for the two dark greens of the he utilized two different shades of green each.



"Clever Putty" was utilized for the extensive masking of the camo scheme.



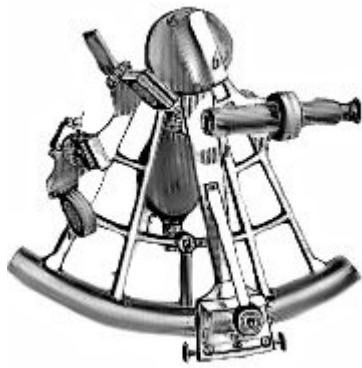
Cover Story

Building a Thud

Before I decal I'll spray two coats of "future floor wax", says Charles, "and another two coats to seal the decals". If you are out looking for Future Floor Wax it is now marketed at "Pledge Floor Care". It is still the same stuff...clear acrylic resin that produces a near-perfect shine. After the future dries Charles applies black and burnt umber artist's oils thinned with distilled turpentine, lets it dry, and wipes it off with a dry, lint-free cloth.



The paint-chipping effect is hand painted silver Vallejo acrylic paint applied before the Future Floor Wax. "I find it to be faster but sometimes I'll use [Vallejo] chipping medium and execute the hairspray technique to simulate paint chipping" states Charles.

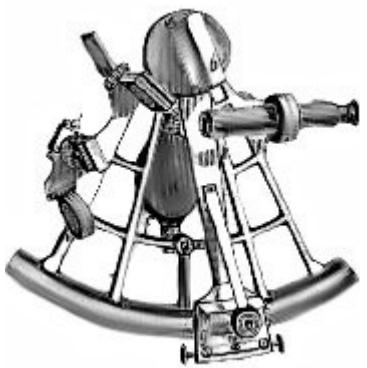


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Building a Thud

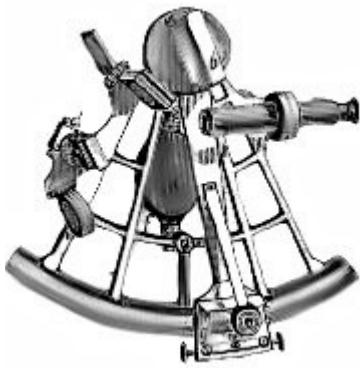
When Charles is done with the weathering and happy with the outcome he'll seal everything with Vallejo polyurethane Matt varnish. He'll then glue the landing gear and weapons as the last step.





Cover Story





Cover Story

Getting to Know the Thud

Text and photos: Wikipedia.org

The Republic F-105 Thunderchief was a supersonic fighter-bomber used by the United States Air Force. The Mach 2 capable F-105 conducted the majority of strike bombing missions during the early years of the Vietnam War; it was the only U.S. aircraft to have been removed from combat due to high loss rates. Originally designed as a single-seat, nuclear-attack aircraft, a two-seat Wild Weasel version was later developed for the specialized Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) role against surface-to-air missile sites. The F-105 was commonly known as the "Thud" by its crews.



F-105D: On Vacation In Thailand

The Thunderchief was the largest single-seat, single-engine combat aircraft in history, weighing approximately 50,000 pounds. It could exceed the speed of sound at sea level and reach Mach 2 at high altitude; the F-105 could carry up to 14,000 lb (6,400 kg) of bombs and missiles. The Thunderchief was later replaced as a strike aircraft over North Vietnam by both the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II and the swing-wing General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark. However, the "Wild Weasel" variants of the F-105 remained in service until 1984 after being replaced by the specialized F-4G "Wild Weasel V".

F-105D

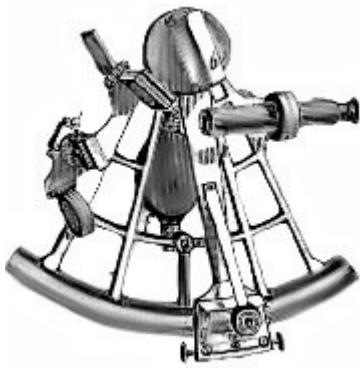
The definitive production model, all-weather capability because of advanced avionics, including AN/APN-131 navigational radar; a total of 610 built.

Thunderstick II

Experience in Vietnam demonstrated the need for a better visual and blind bombing capability. In March 1968, the Air Force ordered development of an upgraded bombing/navigation system, incorporating a Singer-General Precision inertial navigation system, improvements to the AN/APN-131 navigation radar, and solid-state circuitry for the R-14A radar, which was redesignated R-14K. Furthermore, the digital AN/ARN-92 long-range navigation receiver replaced the problematic AN/ARN-85 receiver. The additional avionics were housed in a long, raised dorsal spine. The modified bombing/navigation system was known as *Thunderstick II*. F-105s with this system could achieve a bombing circular error of probability (CEP) of 50 feet (15 m) from an altitude of 15,000 ft (4,600 m). Although the first Thunderstick II aircraft flew in 1969, they were not used in Vietnam. A total of 30 F-105Ds received this modification.



F-105D: Delivering Some Love



Feature Story

Build a Task Force This Weekend

A “*Switching Gears*” Special Feature
Story, Photos and Models by Len Pilhofer



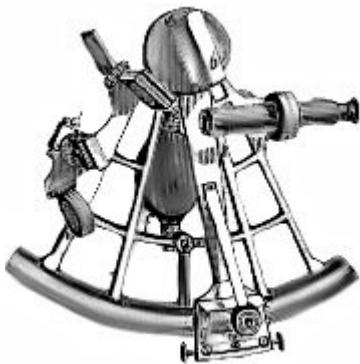
As most of the club knows me as one of those “armor guys” I thought I would switch gears and give a ship build a whirl. IPMS asked me to review this kit for their website so keep your eyes peeled for the review as it will be published soon.



The kit is an old Lindberg kit re-released by Round Two. Round Two has been on an old- kit-tear the last several years buying up the molds from many companies from the 70s and 80s and releasing under their original name. Lindberg of course conjures up images of poor, cheap quality from veteran model builders and even a kid 30+ years ago I knew Lindberg were not the best one could buy. However, pushing those biases aside and leaving all pre-conceived notions at the door – I actually had a really fun time building these ships.



Feature Story

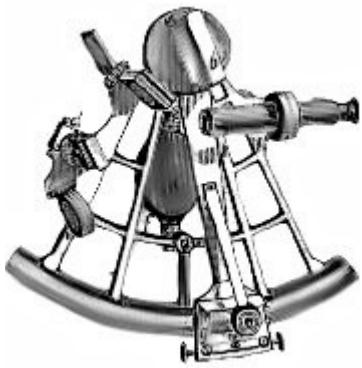


The kit has a sprue for each ship and the parts are minimal: 42 make up the Yamato while 35 parts comprise the Zuikaku. The Yamato is molded in gray while the Zuikaku is molded in a light green. The Zuikaku comes with extensive, yet easy-to-apply, decals to show its elaborate camouflage scheme on its deck. The Yamato comes with no deals. The kit also has a rudimentary cardboard sea surface for displaying the water-line version of these ships.



The build goes quick...a couple of hours for each. As with most kits of this quality clean-up of flash is required and the fit is less-than-optimal...but hey, we're having fun here!

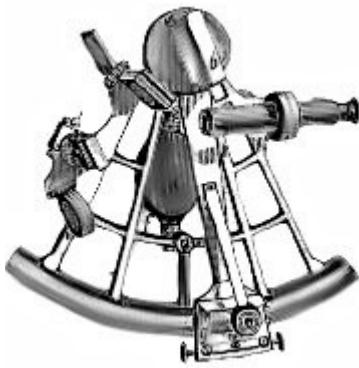
Feature Story



I used Tamiya primers and paints extensively for this build. Here we see the range of colors used for the painting of the Yamato. The main colors used were XF-77: IJN Gray – Saesbo Arsenal and XF-55, Deck Tan. The green and red were used only for the small seaplane on the stern of the Yamato. The Zuikaku was covered with XF-76, IJN Gray Green with features such as the stacks, island, and gun barrel painted with the Saesbo Arsenal IJN Gray. After a couple coats of Pledge Floor Care the decals went on the Zuikaku quite easily. They settled down with an application of Walthers decal setting solution. A quick thinned oil wash brought out the details and a final coat of Vallejo flat acrylic varnish helped seal everything in.



All-in-all these were fun builds and it was even more fun to “switch gears” for a weekend.



Member Techniques

Zen and the Art of Removing and Re-scribing Raised Details on Old-School Plastic Models

By Rob Booth

Sometimes the right kit for the subject you want to model just happens to be an old-school Revelrogram, Hawk, Testor's, Lindberg, or other stone-age kit. It may be an issue of accuracy of shape, or scale. Or ... it may be that there was only one kit of that subject in that scale ever made. What we're talking here is just the difference between tackling a subject, or passing just because the kit you want to use has "old-school" technology raised panel lines and riveting detail.

The process to correct these kits and bring the final result up to today's standards is not really difficult. It is, however, fairly time consuming. If you're prepared to contribute an extra 10-20 hours making your next model into a one-of-a-kind, unique subject, here's how you can do it.

Environment

- ◆ Lots of lighting
- ◆ Plenty of room to spread out
- ◆ Ventilation (sanding dust)
- ◆ Comfortable seating
- ◆ Time on your hands – slow, tedious process

Tools

- ◆ Scribing
 - No. 11 blade/X-Acto knife handle
 - Needle points in pin vise
 - Dental picks
 - Testor's scribe
 - UMM scribe
 - Broken UMM fine saw blade/X-Acto knife handle
- ◆ Rivet details
 - Rosie the Riveter – UMM
 - Pounce wheels
 - Zeus fastener awl (circular punch awl)
 - Template guides
- ◆ Guides
 - Scribing templates – various sources
 - Demo tape
 - Flexible steel rulers
 - Rigid steel rulers
 - Other misc guides

Plastic and its Characteristics

Most will require the process twice. Once for "marking" and once to restore after sanding. Some silver plastic will "show" where the raised detail was after sanding, which may save you a step. Softer plastics scribe well. Older, hard and brittle plastics tend to "micro-spall" at the edges.

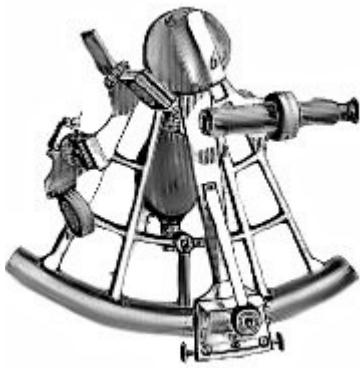
Techniques

Scribing panel lines—You can free-hand after much practice at this, but always be prepared to correct mis-scribes. Look for them and "just do it". They will stick out like a sore thumb if you don't. Better to use guides and go slowly. Sometimes 3-5 light passes work best. Panel lines – err on the side of too small. Sharp side of a #11 blade is almost always plenty for panels, except maybe in 32 & 24 scale. Use heavier scribes for control surface and some operable panel door separations

Restoring rivet detailing—Check the spacing/size against the raised detailing to see which pattern to use where. Again, you can free-hand after much practice at this, but be prepared to correct mis-scribes. Better to use guides and go slowly.

Repairing the "whoops" - Same processes you would use to repair any surface defects, depending on the severity. In most cases, a drop or two of thin superglue cured and sanded, will make the repair. Use care with putties, as they will easily "over fill" the area you want to correct.

When all of your re-scribing work is complete, wash the model with a little soap and warm water, scrubbing with a fine brush (toothbrush, etc.) to remove all sanding dust and slurry residue, and assemble the model as you would any model with recessed detail. Make your seam corrections, and then wash and scrub again. Apply your favorite primer (you do use a primer, right?) and finish your painting as usual. Be sure to use very fine coats of both primer and paint so as not to fill up all your hard work!



The Red Barron

History You Can Model

The month of April brings us the 98th anniversary of the downing of one of the most famous fighter aces of history – The Red Baron. Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen was a German fighter pilot with the Imperial German Army Air Service during the First World War. He is considered the ace-of-aces of the war, being officially credited with 80 air combat victories.

Originally a cavalryman, Richthofen transferred to the Air Service in 1915, becoming one of the first members of Jasta 2 in 1916. He quickly distinguished himself as a fighter pilot, and during 1917 became leader of Jasta 11 and then the larger unit Jagdgeschwader 1 (better known as the "Flying Circus"). By 1918, he was regarded as a national hero in Germany, and widely respected even by his enemies.



Richthofen was shot down and killed near Amiens on 21 April 1918. There has been considerable discussion and debate regarding aspects of his career, especially the circumstances of his death. He remains perhaps the most widely known fighter pilot of all time, and has been the

subject of many books, films and other media.

Richthofen received a fatal wound just after 11:00 am on 21 April 1918, while flying over Morlancourt Ridge, near the Somme River.

At the time, the Baron had been pursuing (at very low altitude) a Sopwith Camel piloted by a novice Canadian pilot, Lieutenant Wilfrid "Wop" May of No. 209 Squadron, Royal Air Force. In turn, the Baron was spotted and briefly attacked by a Camel piloted by a school friend (and flight commander) of May's, Canadian Captain Arthur "Roy" Brown, who had to dive steeply at very high speed to intervene, and then had to climb steeply to avoid hitting the ground. Richthofen turned to avoid this attack, and then resumed his pursuit of May.

209 Sq unit seal depicts the Red Baron meeting his fate

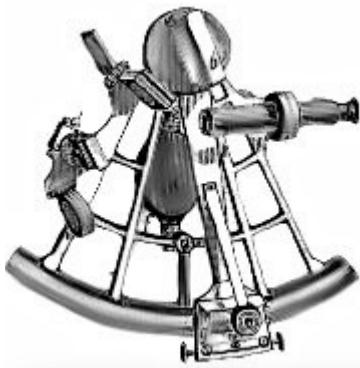


It was almost certainly during this final stage in his pursuit of May that a single .303 bullet hit Richthofen, damaging his heart and lungs so severely that it must have caused a quick death. In the last seconds of his life, he managed to retain sufficient control to make a rough landing in a field on a hill near the Bray-Corbie road, just north of the village of Vaux-sur-Somme, in a sector controlled by the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Several witnesses, including Gunner Ernest W. Twycross, Gunner George Ridgway, and Sergeant Ted Smout of the Australian Medical Corps, all later claimed to have been the first man to reach the triplane and reported various versions of Richthofen's last words, generally including the word "*kaputt*".

His Fokker Dr.I, 425/17, was not badly damaged by the landing, but it was soon taken apart by souvenir hunters. No. 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, as the nearest Allied air unit, assumed responsibility for the Baron's remains.



Richthofen crash site near Vaux-sur-Somme



The Red Barron

History You Can Model



Australian airmen with Richthofen's triplane, 425/17 after it was dismembered by souvenir hunters

The RAF credited Brown with shooting down the Red Baron, but it is now generally agreed that the bullet that hit Richthofen was fired from the ground. Richthofen died following an extremely serious and inevitably fatal chest wound from a single bullet, penetrating from the right armpit and resurfacing next to the left nipple. Brown's attack was from behind and above, and from Richthofen's left. Even more conclusively, Richthofen could not have continued his pursuit of May for as long as he did (up to two minutes) had this wound come from Brown's guns. Brown himself never spoke much about what happened that day, claiming, "[t]here is no point in me commenting, as the evidence is already out there."

Many sources, including a 1998 article by Geoffrey Miller, a physician and historian of military medicine, and a 2002 British Channel 4 documentary, have suggested that Sergeant Cedric Popkin was the person most likely to have killed Richthofen. Popkin was an anti-aircraft machine gunner with the Australian 24th Machine Gun Company, and was using a Vickers gun. He fired at Richthofen's aircraft on two occasions: first as the Baron was heading straight at his position, and then at long range from the right. Given the nature of Richthofen's wounds, Popkin was in a position to fire the fatal shot, when the pilot passed him for a second time, on the right. Some confusion

has been caused by a letter that Popkin wrote, in 1935, to an Australian official historian. It stated Popkin's belief that he had fired the fatal shot as Richthofen flew straight at his position. In the latter respect, Popkin was incorrect: the bullet that caused the Baron's death came from the side. *Source: Wikipedia.org*

Modeling Options

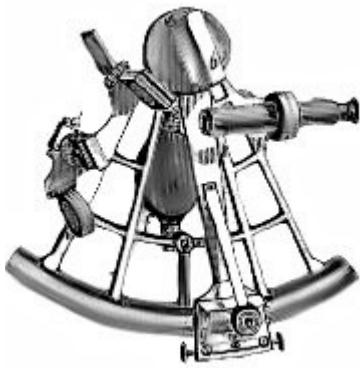
Merit International recently entered the WWI aviation game with the release of the very aircraft the Red Baron was famous for and the one in which he met his demise: The Fokker Dr.I. Online kit reviews included the following: *"The kit was recently reviewed by Fine Scale Modeler, who noted decent surface detail and very subtle wing rib detail. The full steel tube fuselage is represented for maximum detail and the Oberursel rotary engine is nicely represented, although no provision is provided for it, or the propeller, to turn.*

The kit also includes photo etched detail parts for the machine guns and flight control surface horns and two marking options representing 152/17, flown by Manfred von Richthofen, and 213/17, flown by Fritz Kempf (the streaked green factory finish is provided in the decal sets).

This very kit is on the shelf and available at Hill Country Hobby—I spotted it there myself—and can be ordered by any of our local hobby shops.



Merit International Fokker Dr.I



KitMaker Network

Best Of The Web

by Len Pilhofer

Kitmaker Network (www.kitmaker.net) offers a wide variety of scale modeling resources covering a wide latitude of modeling subjects. The site is divided into sub-sites covering different modeling genres. These sites include:

- Aerосale (aircraft focused)
- Armorama (armor focused)
- AutoMaker (auto focused)
- Historicus Forum (figure focused)
- Model Geek (Sci Fi focused)
- Model Shipwrights (ship focused)
- RailRoadModeling (RR focused)
- P47 Heaven (all things P-47)
- British Bulldogs (A UK online club)
- 6th Scale (large figure focused)
- PC War Machine (video games)

One of the best things about KitMaker is the extensive forum section. Many subjects are covered and many experts contribute to the forums here. Yes, there are a fair share of “rivet counters” but these guys know their stuff and if you have a question about a build you are executing the answers are always quick to come back.

The screenshot shows the user profile for 'AnalogKid'. It includes a profile picture, a bio section mentioning 'I have been modeling on and off for nearly 40 years primarily in the military aircraft and armor genres with some dabbling in sci fi & well I also like to play with trains. 3 rail O-gauge in particular. I am retired from the US Air Force and settled down in San Antonio, Texas which has allowed me to not worry about deployments and moves anymore and focus more on this fantastic hobby.', and a sidebar with awards and activity stats.

The homepage features a banner for 'Tamiya Mossie: A Plastic Wonder?' with a build story by Gary Bottoms. Below the banner are sections for 'FEATURES', 'PHOTOS', 'VIDEOS', 'NEWS', 'REVIEWS', and 'FORUMS'. The 'FEATURES' section lists various model reviews and news items. The 'PHOTOS' section shows a grid of images. The 'VIDEOS' section shows a video player. The 'NEWS' section lists recent news items. The 'REVIEWS' section shows reviews for models like Academy F/A-18A+ and Zvezda MiG-29. The 'FORUMS' section shows recent posts in threads like 'Stalingrad Pt. III' and 'Big Bertha from Takom'.

Other features include timely reviews—both inbox and build reviews—where you can get a first glimpse via the web of new releases in a number of modeling genres.

Within the forums there are group builds that when complete, you will receive a ribbon for your participation, much like participation in a military campaign. Along with your profile you receive space within a photo album to maintain your build and WIP pics. When you subscribe (\$3.49/mo) the space for pictures opens up vastly. The benefit to this is if you are active participant in the forums and wish to share your builds and knowledge the ability to share your images is much easier.

Probably the best feature of the website is that if you are so inclined, you may join the staff as it is worldwide and connected via the internet. A webmaster may be in Europe while you can submit a review or a build and it will be posted immediately. You will also get editorial credit for your work and get your name out there in the modeling world.

New Releases



1/35 5cm PaK 38 L/60 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw.II (Sf)

Barcode: 0 89195 86721 6

Case Pack: 20

Box Size: 9.6" x 15" x 3.1"

Second item from the German Exotic Beast! Dragon is releasing a finely detailed 1/35 scale kit of an ad hoc wartime vehicle that was fielded by Germany during WWII. It is labeled the 5cm PaK 38 auf Fgst Pz.Kpfw.II, which, as its name suggests, is a Panzer II chassis that mounts a 5cm L/60 anti-tank gun. In this regard it was somewhat similar to the Marder II, which was also a tank destroyer. The 5cm PaK38 auf Pz.Kpfw.II was an expedient solution. It is unclear how many vehicles were thus modified, but it variously employed Panzer II Ausf.A, B or C chassis.

This 1/35 scale kit has many great new parts to completely represent this tank conversion. For example, the upper hull is new. The appearance of the self-propelled tank destroyer is captured perfectly in miniature, including the new armor panels of the superstructure that are made true to scale. Also new is the gun mount for the 5cm weapon. Large ammunition bin and stowage bin are correctly installed on the engine deck. If a modeler wanted to create this unique and interesting German vehicle, they had to do so from scratch by combining assemblies from several different plastic kits. Now Dragon has done all the work for modelers, creating numerous original parts in the process, and a 5cm PaK38 auf Pz.Kpfw.II can be built accurately straight from the box!

AVAILABLE: June 2016



Caracal Models has released **eight** new decal sheets this month! We will start shipping these decals on March 18, and all are available for pre-ordering now.

CD144001 - 1/144 USAF KC-135R Stratotanker: Our first 1/144 scale decal sheet is a scaled-down version of our best-selling 1/72 scale KC-135R sheet. Intended for the Minicraft kit, this extensive sheet gives you markings for 16 USAF / ANG units. Limited edition of only 300 sets.

[http://caracalmodels.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?
u=b9b7ecdc72c67917a07f3cec&id=0f26fecb10&e=155e49e2e7](http://caracalmodels.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=b9b7ecdc72c67917a07f3cec&id=0f26fecb10&e=155e49e2e7)
[http://caracalmodels.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?
u=b9b7ecdc72c67917a07f3cec&id=51e1f0249d&e=155e49e2e7](http://caracalmodels.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=b9b7ecdc72c67917a07f3cec&id=51e1f0249d&e=155e49e2e7)

**CARACAL MODELS CD144001
USAF KC-135R STRATOTANKER**



TRUMPETER MODELS (TSM)

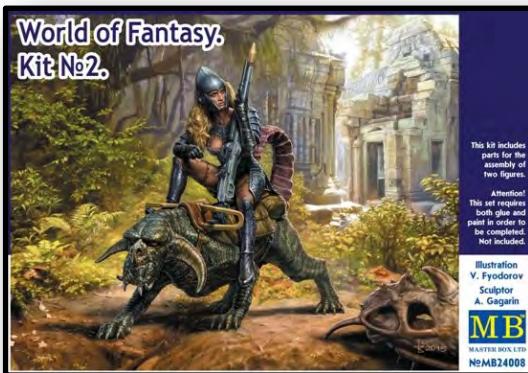
PLASTIC MODEL KITS MADE IN CHINA

NEW TOOL!

APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL: LATE SUMMER 2016

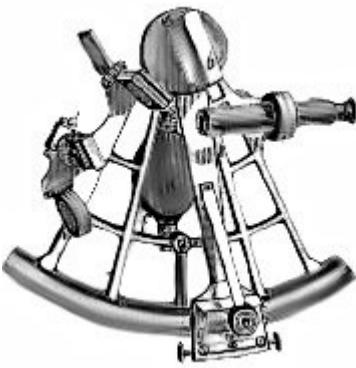
****3710 1/200 HMS Hood British Battleship SRP \$479.95**

HMS Hood was the last battlecruiser built for the Royal Navy. As one of the largest and most powerful warships in the world, the Hood was the pride of the Royal Navy. She was attached to the Mediterranean Fleet following the outbreak of the Second Italo-Abyssinian War. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, Hood was officially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet until she had to return to Britain in 1939 for an overhaul. She was scheduled to undergo a major rebuild in 1941, but the outbreak of WWII in September 1939 forced the ship into service without the upgrades. In May 1941, she and the battleship Prince of Wales were ordered to intercept the German battleship Bismarck and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen. On 24 May 1941, early in the Battle of the Denmark Strait, the Hood was struck by several German shells, exploded and sank. Due to her perceived invincibility, the loss had a profound effect on the British people. Over 1,000 parts including numerous photo-etch and metal parts, and featuring single-piece hull.



1/24 "World of Fantasy" - Kit #2

This kit is part of new a series in 1/24 scale from Master Box. The Fantasy series is being introduced to fill a gap where there is an enormous number of fans of Fantasy books, movies and video games, yet there is a deficiency of figures in this scale. The series is offered with the aim of meeting this demand.



Building a Beast

Editorial—By Len Pilhofer, IPMS# 49932



During the recent building of a less-than-desirable kit (at least in the eyes of the veteran builders) the thought continued to run through my head: why do we put down something that is meant to give us fun and pleasure? I am referring to my article earlier in this issue of building the pair of Lindberg IJN ships. Yes, the obvious answer is that as we grow in our building experience and skill we strive for more accuracy, better fit, etc, etc, that we usually end up paying for in the better engineered kits. But lets step back a moment: If you can knock out a quick build and have fun while doing it, what is the harm? I remember reading in a newsletter from another IPMS/USA club an article that started with an apology for reporting on a Lindberg kit. While I found it humorous on the surface deeper down I found it curious. What if someone else found that same kit enjoyable to build for their skill level? What if a dad wants to introduce model building to a son or daughter (or grandson/daughter)? They shouldn't be expected to build a \$120

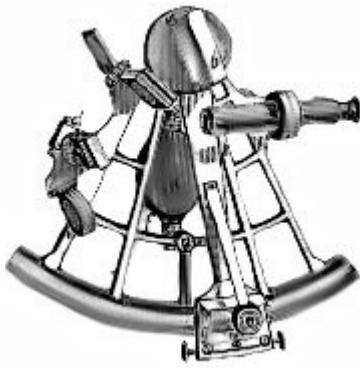


Eagle Transporter as their first build – heck no! I fully recognize this was probably a little sarcastic humor, and I for one am guilty of sarcastic humor from time to time, but it also made me re-think my position on modeling. I will be sure to think about what I'm saying before I poo-poo a model as that very model may be just the right fit for someone out there.

Continuing this thought: would it not be fun to have a contest challenge of building a “beast” of a kit...and see who can do the best with it? I participated in an online group-build last year where the kit price limit was \$20. It was a fun challenge and I am glad I participated. I have witnessed other online group builds where the target was, in-fact, kits that were considered “beasts”. Maybe this is something we can explore in our own club. Everyone who participates starts off with the same less-than-desirable (still a subjective term) kit and at the end we all bring them in for a judging at one of our meetings. Definitely a thought worth exploring.

So, where do you stand? Do you enjoy building beasts? If so, do you think you would be up to the challenge?





Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 7:15PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

April 9, 2016

Great South TigerFest XXIII

St Jerome Knights of Columbus Hall

3310 Florida Ave

Kenner, LA 70064

<http://www.ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger>



April 9, 2016

Tulsa Modelers Forum

Bixby Community Center

211 N Cabaniss Ave

Bixby, OK 74008

<http://tulsapms.org/Contest%202016.htm>



April 23, 2016

ModelMania 2016

Stafford Convention Center

10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477

http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11



May 21, 2016

RiverCon 2016 (Rescheduled!)

Bossier Civic Center

620 Benton Rd

Bossier City, LA 71171

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



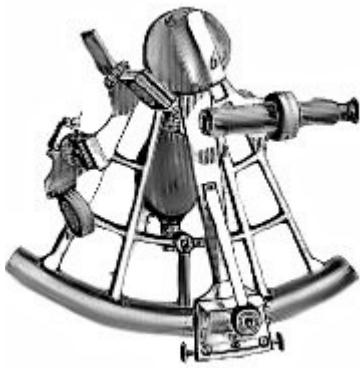
June 4, 2016

ScaleFest 2016

Grapevine Convention Center

1209 South Main St

Grapevine, TX 76051 <http://ipmsnct.net/>

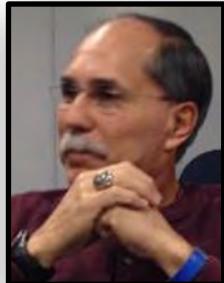


About Alamo Squadron

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 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.

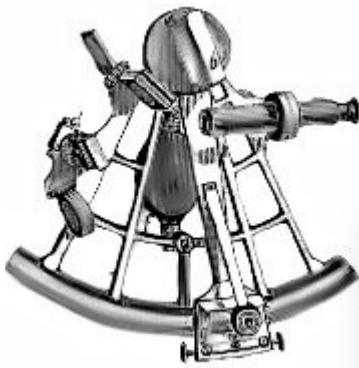


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Final Words...



IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM				
IPMS No.: Address:	Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____			
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	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 Son/Junior) 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/DSK)				
Credit Card No: _____ Expiration Date: _____				
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____				
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number: _____				
Name: _____ IPMS No.: _____				
IPMS/USA Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org				
P.O. Box 2475 North Canton, OH 44720-0475				

JOIN NOW

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

Alamo Squadron's newsletter, "The Navigator", 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

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

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Do You Like to Build Models?

Alamo Squadron, a plastic modeling club located in San Antonio, invites you to join us at one of our upcoming meetings. Alamo Squadron is open to all modelers of all skill levels. Our mission is the *educational advancement of scale modeling skills*. Alamo Squadron is a chartered chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society/USA. IPMS/USA has become a 5,000 member, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting our modeling hobby.



Alamo Squadron's **Club Meetings** are held monthly. Typically, each monthly meeting has a modeling contest, a "Works-In-Progress" segment in which members' current projects are displayed, and a featured demonstration by one of our members of a modeling technique or skill. The purpose of the monthly membership meeting is to have fun and share knowledge; club business matters are held to a minimum.

For the modeling novice, Alamo Squadron offers the **Adult Building Course**. The ABC is for new modelers, or those experienced modelers who wish to enhance and practice their skills. When ABC is in session, participants meet once a week for 2 hours.

Each year our club hosts **ModelFiesta**, one of the largest plastic modeling contests/events in the Southern United States. Currently the event attracts 100+ competitors, 650+ modeling entries, 125+ vendor tables. For one day in February, ModelFiesta is the **largest hobby shop in Texas!**

Contact via e-mail at President@AlamoSquadron.com or visit our home on the web at: <http://alamosquadron.com>



Fill out this form and leave with one of our members; we'll get back with you ASAP on the information you requested

Name: _____	My Interests	Email me information on
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Aircraft	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Meetings
Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Armor	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Building Course
	<input type="checkbox"/> Automotive	<input type="checkbox"/> ModelFiesta
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ships	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Space/Fantasy	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Figures	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

My Interests

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- Armor
- Automotive
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