

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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

August 2016



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

Battle Flag!

Charles Stone takes on Airfix's
1/48 scale Super Étendard



In This Issue...

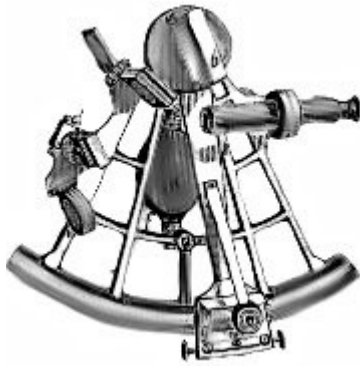
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202 Days to
ModelFiesta 36!



Cool Tool Review:
Len Pilhofer Gives
Tamiya's Electric
Handy Drill a Spin



President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003



President's message – August, 2016

Our August meeting is Thursday, Aug 4th. Please be reminded that our meeting times have changed.

The meeting will start at 7PM and end by 8:30PM.

We want to show courtesy to the staff at NSF by vacating the building so that they can lock up and go home.



If everything works as hoped, Rob Booth will be livestreaming from the National Convention in Columbia starting at about 7pm (8pm Columbia time) and running for a short length of time. Following the report from Columbia Vice President Herb Scranton will preside at the August meeting in the absence of the President.

The Membership cycle begins/ends at the September meeting. While there are a handful of members who have paid for multiple years, most members will need to renew their membership at the September meeting.

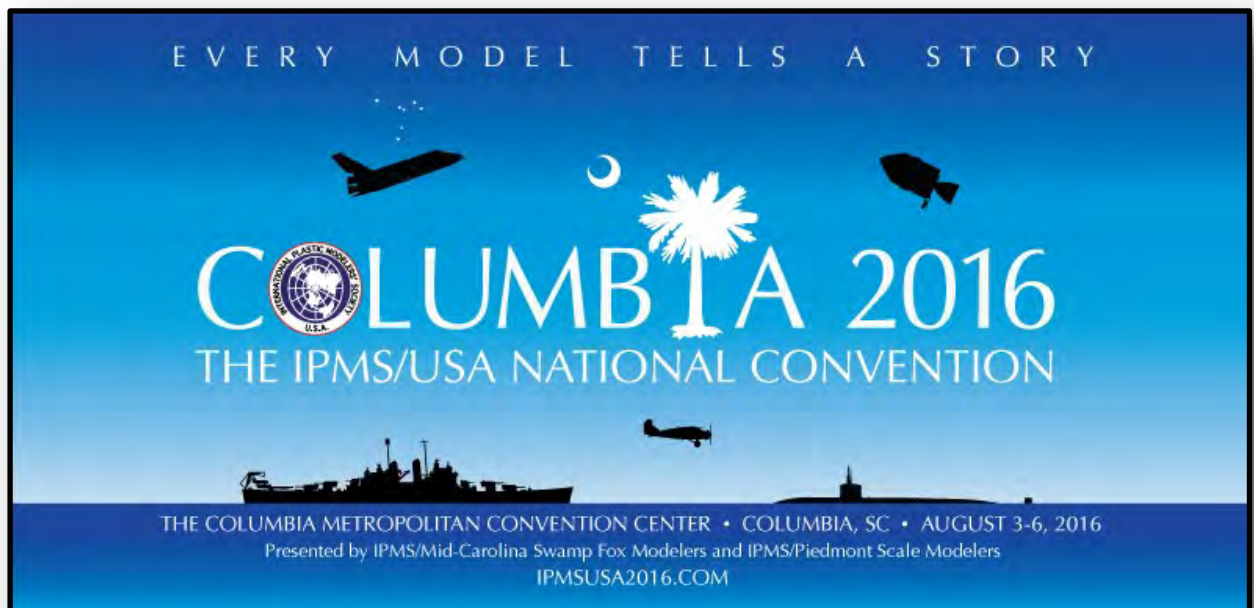
Dues are \$24 per year and you can pay with a check or cash.

Please make sure that you are working with Craig to register your current projects in the Model Summit Program. I think Craig has hit

on a very interesting and enjoyable way to encourage members to build models and to share those projects with the membership. I've got my Ford Challenge model finished and its registered with Craig, but it will have to wait until the September meeting for its roll-out as a finished project.

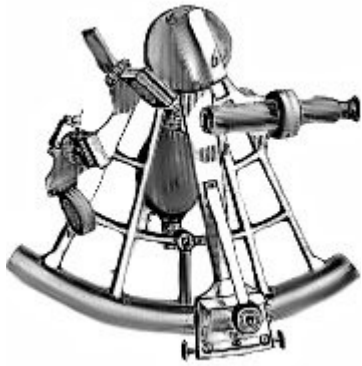
As you know, the "Deep in the Heart of Texas" bid for the 2018 National Convention will be presented to the IPMS E-Board on Saturday, August 6th. The winning bid will be announced at the Awards Ceremony that evening somewhere around 8PM EST. Our bid is a very strong bid. Our prices are well within range of the 5 Year average, our facility is a high quality hotel with excellent rates, and there are quite a large number of modelers in our "local" area (local in Texas means anything up to about a 10 hour drive) that are very enthusiastic about sharing our community, culture, and enjoyment of the hobby with folks from around the country and from a number of different countries. I am quite sure that if you hover on Facebook you will most likely find a post that identifies the winning bids. You can "Friend" the IPMS Facebook page and it will most likely show up there very quickly.

EVERY MODEL TELLS A STORY



COLUMBIA 2016
THE IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER • COLUMBIA, SC • AUGUST 3-6, 2016
Presented by IPMS/Mid-Carolina Swamp Fox Modelers and IPMS/Piedmont Scale Modelers
IPMSUSA2016.COM



Club Announcements

ModelFiesta 36

As of August 1st we are 202 days from ModelFiesta 36, scheduled for February 18th, 2017 at the San Antonio Event Center. The theme for ModelFiesta 36 will be “Everything is Bigger in Texas: A Big Model or a Big Subject”. The MF36 committee met in mid-July and is currently working on finalizing the categories and sub-categories as well as finalizing the proposed budget. Stay-tuned for more MF36 news as we will be seeking volunteers to help test our new contestant registration system in the coming months.



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 discount and other prizes.



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>

Member Idea-Suggestion-Comment Forms

A new way of bringing ideas to the club for discussion, votes, and decisions will be via the Member Suggestion Form. Dick Montgomery has these at each of the meetings and they are available for download here: <http://alamosquadron.com/MISC Form.docx>. While it may seem like additional administrivia it helps club leadership keep things organized and ensure everyone's input is taken into account and addressed.

Club Internal Contest Themes

The contest schedule for the remainder of 2016:

Aug:	Monthly Contest/Open
Sep:	Monthly Contest/Open
Oct:	Quarterly Contest: Titanic: It's Big!
Nov:	Special Contest: The Ford Challenge
Dec:	Holiday Party—No Contest

Club Program

The following is the club meeting program for the rest of the “club year” (i.e., up through ModelFiesta month):

August:	Masking Camouflage by Charles Stone
September:	Masking Canopies by Chris Lenahan
October:	Applying decals using Future/Pledge by Lee Forbes
November:	Ship Building Tips by Lee Washburn
December:	Christmas Party
January:	Swap Meet (to sell the kit you got at December's Christmas Party)
February:	Automotive Finishing by Paul Barrena



Club Announcements

July Meeting Report

A big (and late) congrats to Rob Booth for his outstanding leadership and management skills as Modelfiesta 35 Director. The club presented Rob with a pretty good looking plaque (even better than a Modelfiesta award) for his tireless efforts. Salute to you, Rob!



Modelfiesta 35 Director Rob Booth (right)

During the July meeting we held a swap meet and many members went home with kits they didn't come in with. Good thing it was dark by the time they arrived home so the missus didn't see their new acquisitions!



Tables of Temptation



Michael Buckley's 1/48 scale Monogram F-86 won first place in July's club contest...



...while Len Pilhofer's 1/48 scale Revell T-65 X-Wing took second...



...and Carl Allsup's 1/700 scale Dragon Z-39 placed third. Congrats to all contestants!



Cover Story

Battle Flag!

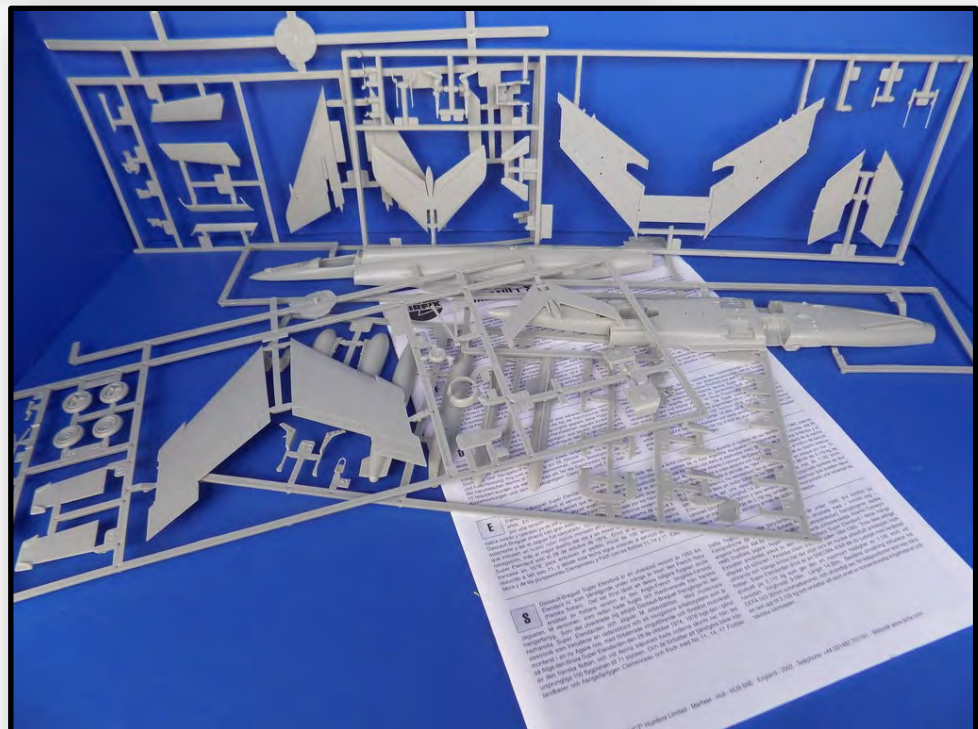


Story, Model, and Photos by Charles Stone



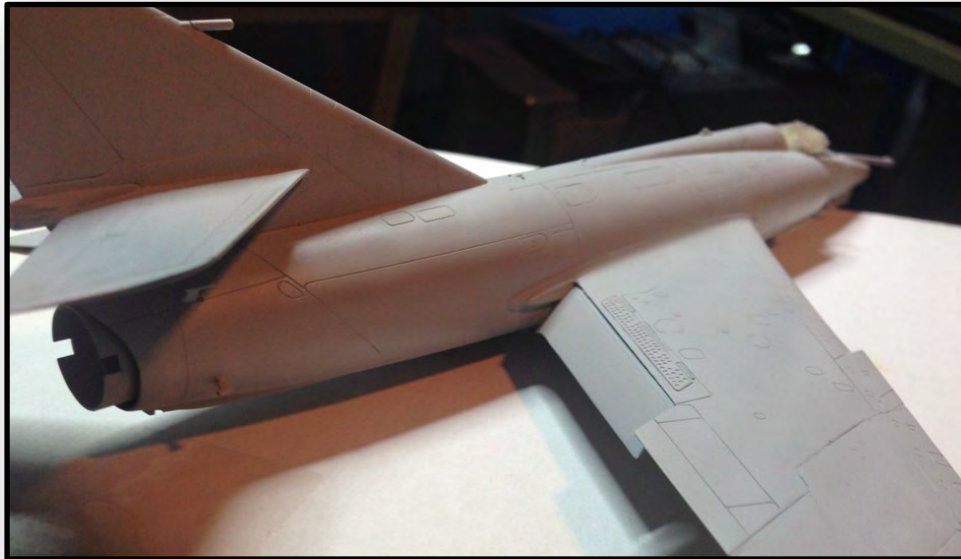
The Airfix kit at the heart of this build is over 10 years old and while out-of-production it can still be found on shelves and online from time-to-time.

Sprue shot by rwsmith14
via International Scale
Modeler





Cover Story



The model is assembled, primer-ed, and ready for paint. Two coats of primer were utilized here.

One of the major issues with the kit is the rear tail fins: they would not align after it was in -place so they had to be shimmed with styrene then filed smooth.





Cover Story



Pre-shading was executed on both the top and bottom of the aircraft.



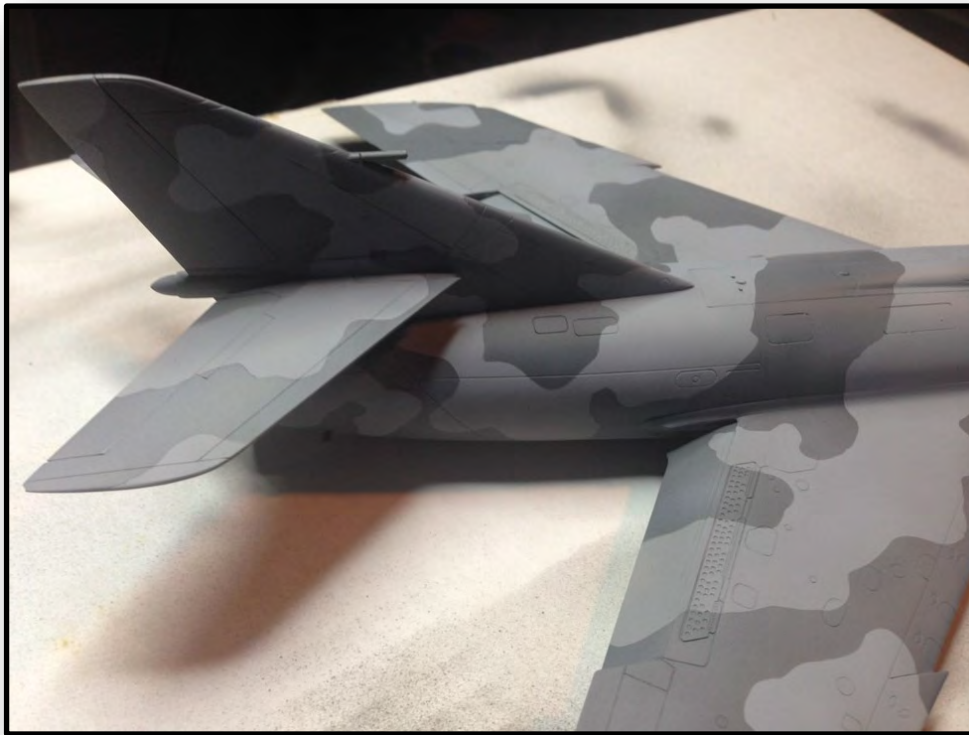
I like to use Clever Putty for my masking jobs—the stuff is great and it settles into panel lines as well as other odd shapes nicely. After using it just ball it up and put it back in the can.

[Clever Putty on Amazon](#)





Cover Story



After removing the putty I check for mistakes and make small corrections before moving on to decaling.



Next step is two coats of Future/Pledge Floor Care. It self levels, seals all the paint beneath, and best of all creates a nice glossy surface for decals.





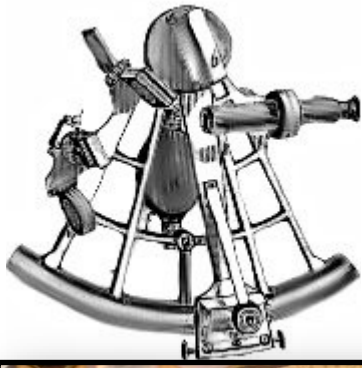
Cover Story



After the decals are on and dry a coat of Vallejo satin varnish will take away the glossy look of the previous gloss coat of Pledge.

Then to give it more a combat-veteran look: paint chipping with a lighter colored acrylic paint over the base coat.





Cover Story



Additional weathering on the underside is sealed with an overall coat of flat.

Overall this was a fun build with the only detractors being the fit of some parts. Once these are tackled the kit looks really good.



This model won third place in the Box Stock 1/48 Aircraft category of Houston's ModelMania 2016!



Cover Story

Dassault-Breguet Super Étendard

The Dassault-Breguet Super Étendard (*Étendard* is French for "battle flag") is a French carrier-borne strike fighter aircraft designed by Dassault-Breguet for service with the French Navy. The aircraft is an advanced development of the Étendard IVM. The Super Étendard first flew in October 1974 and entered French service in June 1978. French Super Étendards have served in several conflicts such as the Kosovo War, the War in Afghanistan and the military intervention in Libya.

The Super Étendard was also operated by Iraq and Argentina, who both deployed the aircraft during war-time. The Super Étendard was used by Iraq to attack oil tankers and merchant shipping in the Persian Gulf during the Iraq-Iran War. Argentina's use of the Super Étendard and the Exocet missile during the 1982 Falklands War led to the aircraft gaining considerable popular recognition. In French service, the Super Étendard was replaced by the Dassault Rafale in 2016.

Deliveries of the Super Étendard to the French Navy started in 1978, with the first squadron, *Flottille 11F* becoming operational in February 1979. In total, three operational squadrons and a training unit were equipped with the Super Étendard. The Super Étendards would operate from both of France's aircraft carriers at that time, *Clemenceau* and *Foch*; either carrier's air wing typically comprised 16 Super Étendards,



Photo by LtCdr. Leenhouts, USN

10 F-8 Crusaders, 3 Étendard IVPs, 7 Breguet Alizé anti-submarine aircraft, as well as numerous helicopters.

The first operational missions took place in Lebanon during Operation Olifant. On 22 September 1983, French Navy Super Étendards operating from *Foch* bombed and destroyed Syrian forces positions after a few artillery rounds were fired at the French peace keepers. On November 10, a Super Étendard escaped from being hit by a Syrian SA-7 shoulder-launched missile near Bour el-Barajneh while flying over Druze positions. On 17 November 1983, the same airplanes attacked and destroyed an Islamic Amal training camp in Baalbeck after a terrorist attack on French paratroopers in Beirut.

From 1991, the original pure attack Étendard IVMs were withdrawn from French service; though the reconnaissance version of the Étendard IV, the IVP, remained in service until July 2000. In response, the Super Étendards underwent a series of upgrades throughout the 1990s to add new capabilities and update existing systems for use in the modern battlefield. Designated *Super Étendard Modernisé* (SEM), the first combat missions for the type came during NATO's *Allied Force* operations over Serbia in 1999; it was reported that over 400 combat missions were flown with 73% of the assigned objectives destroyed, the best performance of all the air forces involved in the missions over Serbia. *Source: www.wikipedia.org*



Photo by Guillaume Rueda



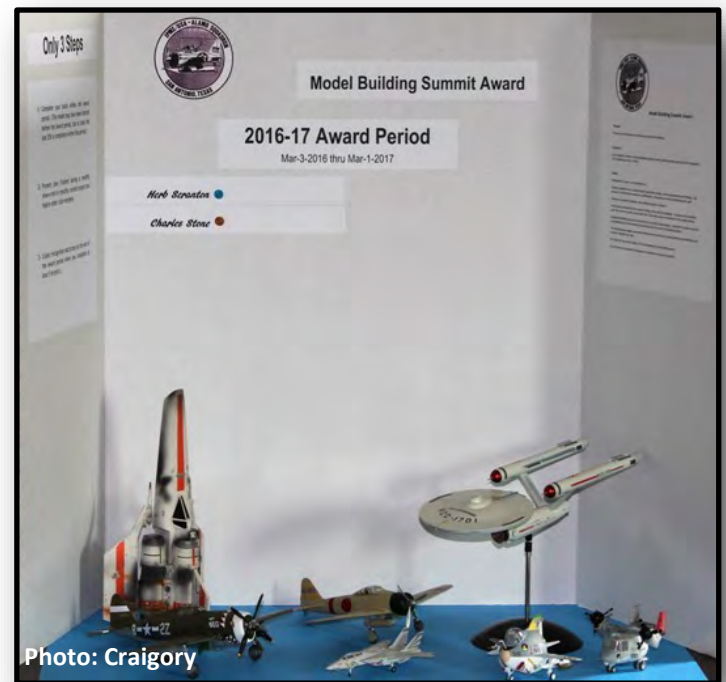
Alamo Squadron

Model Building Summit Program

To promote more model building and enthusiasm amongst club members, Alamo Squadron is sponsoring the Model Building Summit Award. By building 5 model projects within in one calendar year, participants receive recognition and prizes.

The rules are simple:

- This year's building period started on March 3rd, 2016 and ends on March 1st, 2017; coincides with the building season for ModelFiesta.
- Complete 5 modeling projects within the building period to earn recognition and prizes. All modeling genres, subject and complexity are encouraged.
- Eligible models must be presented at a regular club meeting, where a simple entry form is completed.



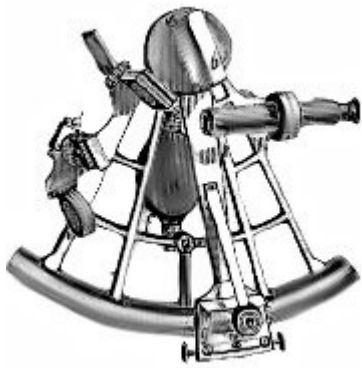
The Wall of Modeling Heroes...be sure to add your name!

A special provision for projects started before the current building period, provides eligibility when at least the last 25% of the modeling effort completes the project within the current building period. Effort is measured in hours.

This is the perfect excuse to finish those neglected projects wanting on your shelves, or to uphold your promises to begin whittling down your model stash.

Hill Country Hobby is sponsoring a 20% discount on any plastic model in stock for each participant achieving the summit of 5 models. There is also a trove of plastic models that will be awarded, along with club bragging rights.

Questions? Hit up Craig Gregory at the next meeting.



Tamiya's Little Drill

Story and Photos by Len Pilhofer

Tamiya makes a handheld drill, the Electric Handy Drill, that is engineered for model making. Yes, one can easily use the famous Dremel tool – I own one myself – and this has been the modeling standard for many decades. However, I have found, even with the variable speed Dremel, that its RPMs are so fast that it will melt the styrene that it is drilling cutting, or sanding. This is the great thing about Tamiya's hobby drill: it rotates at a much slower RPM so it only affects the styrene it is intended to manipulate and not the styrene in the surrounding area. I have found this particularly useful in the cleaning and sand-



ing of tank road wheels (primarily in 1/35th scale). I had read many years ago the use of the Dremel tool to do this: attach the road wheel to the Dremel and spin it against a pad of sandpaper. I soon discovered that I get melted styrene as a by-product and the finished job is actually messier than the start. I tried this technique out with the Tamiya drill. I used the same at-

tachment I used for the Dremel and attached it to the Tamiya drill. It rotates at a perfect RPM for this application: it is fast enough to effectively sand down the seam lines yet it does not heat up the surrounding styrene plastic. After 3 passes with progressively finer sanding pads I get the perfect result. This has cut my usual wheel prep time for a 16-wheeled tank from 2 hours down to 1 hour – fantastic! Add to this that wheel prep is probably my least-favorite part of an armor build, this is a real victory for me.

This neat little drill is available from your local hobby shop. I encourage to you reach out and ask!

Check out IPMS' review of this product here: http://www.ipmsusa.org/reviews/Archive/Products/Tamiya_Mini_Drill/Tamiya_Mini_Drill.htm



I use Dremel's router bit as a mount for my armor road wheels. Most wheels will fit, via friction, onto this bit.

It takes some practice to apply the right amount of pressure and keep the wheels from coming off the bit...but once you do, the road-wheel-sanding process will go much, much quicker.



The drill comes packaged as a kit and took me about 30 minutes to put together.





Feature Story

Bachelor Build Weekend Report

By Craig Gregory

On Saturday, July 9th and Sunday, July 10th I hosted a bachelor build weekend at my house; as my wife was visiting the East Coast with her relatives from China. There were 3 of us on Saturday; one started a new tank project, another a new aircraft build, while I continued working on an aircraft and a starship projects. I also BBQ hamburgers, while others brought the associated sides.

I joined Alamo Squadron for 2 reasons: to learn and improve my plastic modeling skills, the other to meet people. I had built a few models after college, but I had no mentors. I did not know about seam repair or how to mask canopies; my work did not meet my expectations. I still continued to grow my stash waiting for that day I would build models again. In 2013, we moved to San Antonio, I decided that this might be the time to start anew with plastic modeling. I was also new to San Antonio and wanted to meet other like-minded people (well like plastic modeling at least.)

I am of the opinion that meeting once a month for a club meeting is not enough. I am always looking for other ways to learn more about our hobby and meet others. Hosting the bachelor build weekend accomplished both goals. There is no better way to learn than to see it

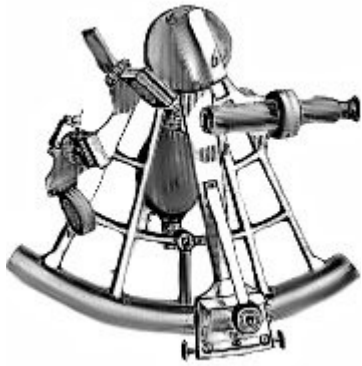


happen; and then to do it yourself. And no better activity that to share with others.

What did I learn? I learned that a tank has a hell of a lot more parts that a typical aircraft kit.

(Editor's note: It was a Dragon armor kit—they always have way too many parts!)



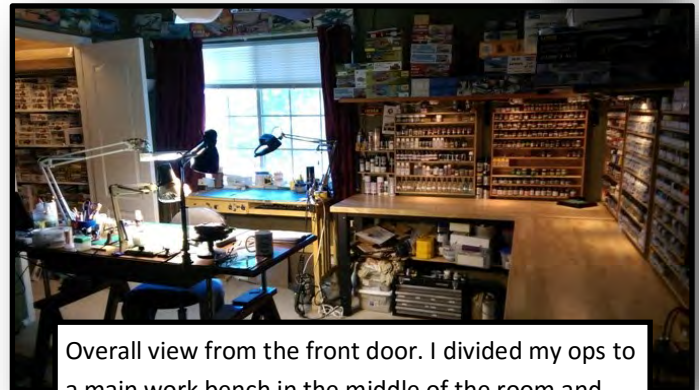


Modeling Caves

Story and Photos by Len Pilhofer



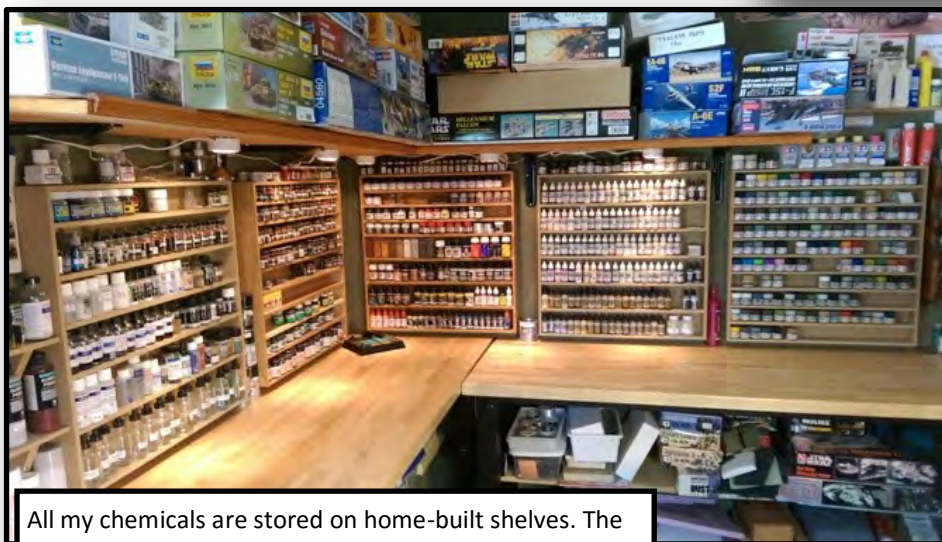
My modeling cave is a spare bedroom in my house. I'm very lucky enough to have some extra space beyond what myself and my sons have in the upstairs of my home. I grew up in the northeast and as a kid my "cave" was in my parents' basement but here in basement-less-land I have to assign a bedroom to this duty. When I first set up my cave a few years ago I didn't worry too much about making it perfect. I just set up a table and got going. I figured that as I worked I would develop needs and comforts that would be shaped as I built models. About six months back I was sitting at my bench and I came to the realization that I really need to spread out and reorganize. What you see in the pics is the result of this re-organization. So far it has been a very productive re-org but there is definitely more to come in the future...I'm just not sure how long in the future...



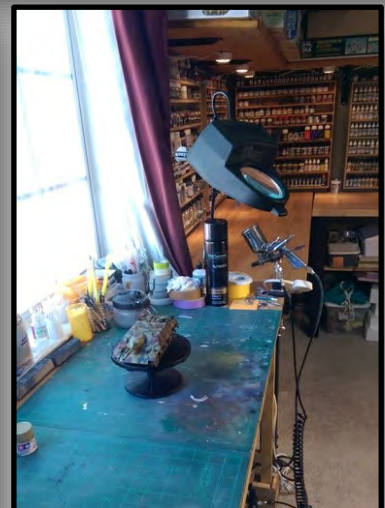
Overall view from the front door. I divided my ops to a main work bench in the middle of the room and my airbrushing to a smaller bench in the back



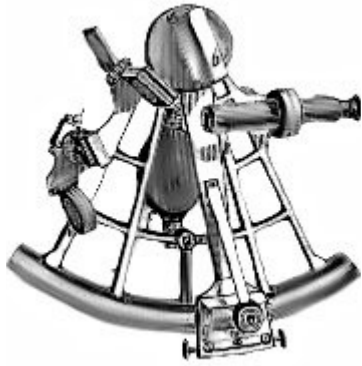
My main workbench. I recently mounted a 43" TV in front of my main bench but I recommend you only watch re-runs or old movies...your model needs your focused attention!



All my chemicals are stored on home-built shelves. The workbenches are for spreading out parts and box contents in order to keep my main bench clutter -free.



Airbrushing is done on a bench against the room's window making venting of that sweet lacquer smell rather easy.



Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 4th, 2016 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

August 13, 2016

51th Annual Display at Bassett Place Mall

Bassett Place

6101 Gateway Blave. West

El Paso, TX 79925

<http://www.ipmselpaso.us/>



September 3, 2016

31st Annual Cajun Modelfest

LSU Ag Center 4H Minifarm Building

Ag Center Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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



September 10, 2016

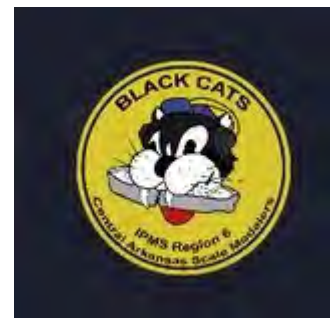
SuperCon 2016

Bob Duncan Community Center

2800 S. Center St

Vandergriff Park, Arlington, TX

<http://fortworthscalemodelers.org/SuperCon.html>



September 24, 2016

16th Annual Spoo-Doo Model Show

Statehouse Convention Center

101 E Markham St.

Little Rock, AR 72201

<http://www.casmodels.org/spoo-doo-2016.html>



September 24, 2016

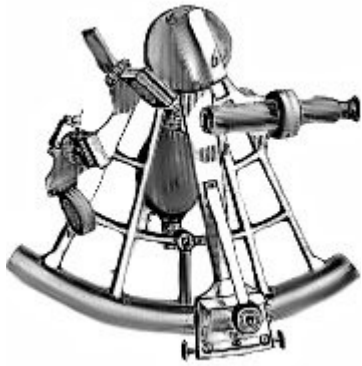
Austin Scale Modelers Society Capitol Classic 2016

Norris Conference Center

2525 West Anderson Lane

Austin, TX

<http://www.austinsms.org/contest.php>



About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2016-2017



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



Vice-President:
Herb Scranton III
vp@alamosquadron.com



Treasurer:
Dana Mathes
IPMS #43781
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.

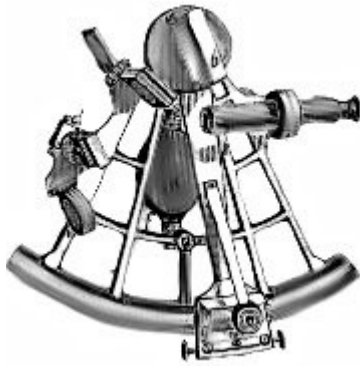


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QR Code for our Facebook Page
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Final Words...



IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM				
IPMS No.:		Name: _____		
Address: _____		First	Middle	Last
City: _____		State: _____		Zip: _____
Phone: _____		E-mail: _____		
Signature (required by PO): _____				
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				
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____				
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number: _____				
Name: _____		IPMS No.: _____		
IPMS/USA		PO Box 56023		
Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org		St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023		

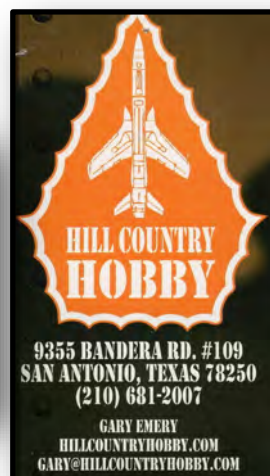
<http://www.ipmsusa.org/>

Support your Local Hobby Shops!

For models, paints, books, decals, tools and more!



eMail: dibbleshobbies@gmail.com



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



<http://www.hobbytown.com/txsa>

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	