

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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

January 2017



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

Charles Stone's Impressive Custom-Painted JA-37 Viggen



48 Days to
ModelFiesta 36!

Lee Washburn shows us the secrets
to master shipbuilding

Craigory's trip to China...and
what found its way into his
suitcase!

Learn how kit figures
have evolved over the
years with Bob Bethea





President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003

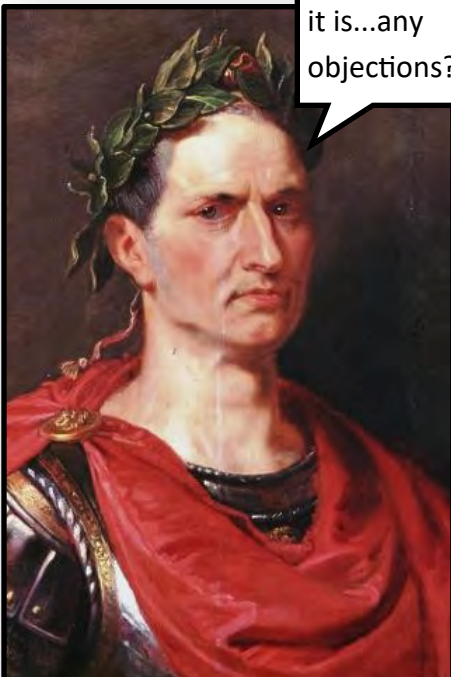


President's Message – January 2017

When you think about it, it is a rather silly thing that we do each year. We celebrate that our home planet has arrived at a location along its orbital path that it was at 365 days ago. Some of us attend social gatherings with friends and family that last well into the early hours of the next day after having long since arrived at “zero” on a countdown to midnight. We set off small explosive devices, light fire to small amounts of material that sparkle and glitter as they are consumed by fire, consume large volumes of food and drink, and wear silly hats. In fact, if one thinks about it, every moment of every day marks a 365-day timeframe in which the earth occupies the same relative position on its orbital path as it did at the beginning of that 1 year period.

What is so special about the orbital location we find ourselves at on Dec 31st? It does not mark a solstice or an equinox. The

January 1st
it is...any
objections?



answer is, “absolutely nothing”. It is, in fact, the date upon which Julius Caesar established that the 1st day of January, named in honor of Janus, would be an appropriate day to start the new year as measured by the Julian calendar.

There's no great “truth”, here, at the root of the selection of January as the

start of a new year. There's nothing special, such as the solstice would provide. It simply came down to a person, in 45BC, making a decision based on his political, social, and religious ideas. And because the Julian calendar has been in use since that time, and since it seems to work well, we continue to celebrate the completion of another orbit based upon the whim of Julius Caesar.

As another political leader, who preceded Caesar by some years is recorded as having stated, “So let it be written. So let it be done”. So, may I take this one moment in time, as the earth plows along, in its very familiar path around a nearby star to wish each one of you a new 365-day period of time filled with happiness, joy, security, good health, and a veritable plethora of plastic overflowing the Hobby Cornucopia in your house.

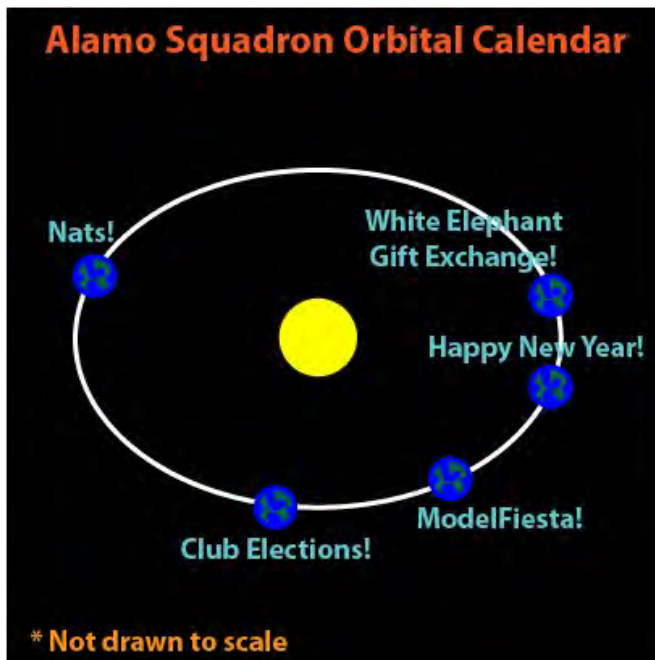
Just a little farther along our orbital path, we will reach that point upon which we celebrate Feb 17 and Feb 18. As you know, our club hosts an annual ritual at that time of year that we call ModelFiesta. As it turns out, of all the similar activities that take place across the United States in any given year, ModelFiesta will have more model entries than most other such events. Back in the day when I had access to such numbers, and kept track of such things, ModelFiesta routinely was one of the top 7 or 8 contests measured by entry numbers. The success of this annual event depends upon the participation of our club members, serving as volunteers at the show. During some years, the number of volunteers has been quite low, and the workload fell (and I do mean “FELL”) upon the shoulders of less than 10 people. I am encouraging every Alamo Squadron member to accept an equal responsibility for the successful outcome of ModelFiesta by not only being at the event, but donat-



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ing the day to working at one of the many “duty stations” that need to be staffed. I have heard, on occasion, a member state that they want time to visit the vendor area and that pulling duty interferes with that wish.

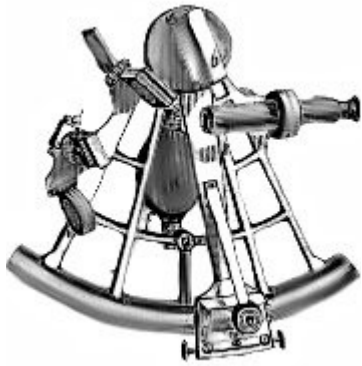
Please consider these points:

1. Being a member in the club carries with it the expectation on the part of other members that you will “pull your own weight” and will contribute to the overall success of the club (and such events as ModelFiesta) by investing your Time and Talent to the event.
2. By not sharing the load, you add to the burden that must be carried by other club members.
3. The event’s success directly depends upon an “all hands on deck” attitude for the vendor setup on the evening of the Friday prior to the show, and then on Saturday during the actual event.

Yes, some must work for a living on those days, and some have other unavoidable obligations, but most members can plan ahead, change their schedules, and make themselves available to serve as part of the ModelFiesta Team on Friday Night/Saturday. For those who make the commitment to be there, I give you a hearty (and early) Thank You. Please see Len Pilhofer at the January meeting and sign up.



ModelFiesta 36!



Club Announcements

ModelFiesta 36

As of January 1st we are **48 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 for its last meeting in 2016 and did a complete test-run of the awards presentation software in about a 6-hour period. It was a huge success and while the team will continue to tweak the software and supporting procedures in the next 48 days we are confident that we are ready to execute this new and improved system.

As Dick mentioned in his President’s Column on the previous page we are getting close to “go” time and now is the time to start clearing your calendars for the night of 17 February and all day for 18 February. Some of you are already identified for key duties and the club very much appreciates the contribution of your time. For anyone else out there thinking about contributing their time we will need help with set-up on the night of 17 Feb as well as Admissions and Registrations during the morning of the 18th. General Admission is a key area that is our first meeting point with the general public...and especially those who are curious about modeling and checking our event and club out for the first time. Please consider manning the General Admissions desk for an hour or two on the 18th...this will greatly help the success of the show. Also, keep in mind your ability to help judge during the afternoon of the 18th. If you are worried about be-

ing a first-time judge and not having enough experience, please push this worry to the back of your mind. You will be teamed up with experienced judges and you will learn a great deal about modeling techniques in general when you look at other models with a critical, yet educated, eye. You will become a better modeler as a result.

The ModelFiesta 36 Planning Committee will be holding a couple more meetings before the show so keep your eyes peeled for the announcements from Len Pilhofer. If you feel you have something to contribute or just want to learn more about the show we encourage you to attend.

Club Internal Contest Themes:

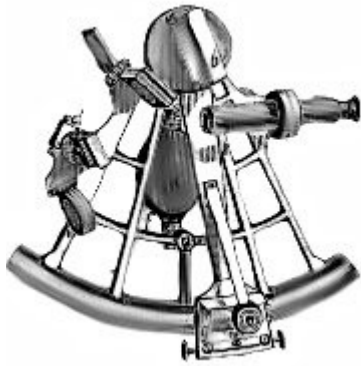
Jan: **Model Of the Year Contest**
Feb: **Ford Challenge**

Club Program

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

January: **Ship Building Tips** by Lee Washburn
February: **Automotive Finishing** by Paul Barrena





Club Announcements

Bachelor Build Nights

For 2017 Craig Gregory and Len Pilhofer will continue to host build nights/meetings for Alamo Squadron members. The focus of these meetings is to build models and comradery with a secondary goal of watching, discussing, and learning different techniques. There will be no official club business at these meetings, only modelers sitting with their kit, building it, and talking about any topic you desire. Each build night will run from 5-9 PM.

Build night dates for the first-half of 2017 are as follows. All dates fall on a Thursday night. If you wish to host a BBN please let Len or Craig know and we can add to the dates listed here:

12 Jan - Craig's
19 Jan - Len's
9 Feb - Craig's
23 Feb - Len's
9 Mar - Craig's
23 Mar - Len's
13 Apr - Craig's
27 Apr - Len's
11 May - Craig's
25 May - Len's
8 Jun - Craig's
22 Jun - Len's

Alamo Squadron Model-of-the-Year

The Alamo Squadron Model Of The Year contest is slated for our first meeting of the new year: Thursday, 5 January, 2017. In this contest, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the 2016 monthly contests are invited to bring their winning models back to the contest table one more time to compete with the best of the best. Alamo Squadron archives (i.e., Len's notes) show the following winners and their models from 2016:

Michael Buckley: C-119 Flying Boxcar, F-86 Sabre

Carl Allsup: Z-39

Pete Ortensie: '56 T-Bird, A-6E Intruder

Chris Lenahan: FW-190A3

Charles Stone: JA-39 Viggen, M-1 Abrams

John Kress: Bullitt Mustang GT

Rick Stanley: '63 Corvette Stingray

Lee Washburn: Liberty Ship

Dana Mathes: USS Montauk

Rob Booth: Spitfire PI XIX

Len Pilhofer: StuG III, Pzr II C, X-Wing Fighter

Since the archives (i.e., Len's notes) have known to be "if-ey" from time to time if anyone knows of a winning model they had on the table that is not listed above then please go ahead and bring it to compete.

Judging will be the same as all other monthly and quarterly contests and the winner will be presented with a "MOY" certificate.





Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

Model and Photos by Charles Stone

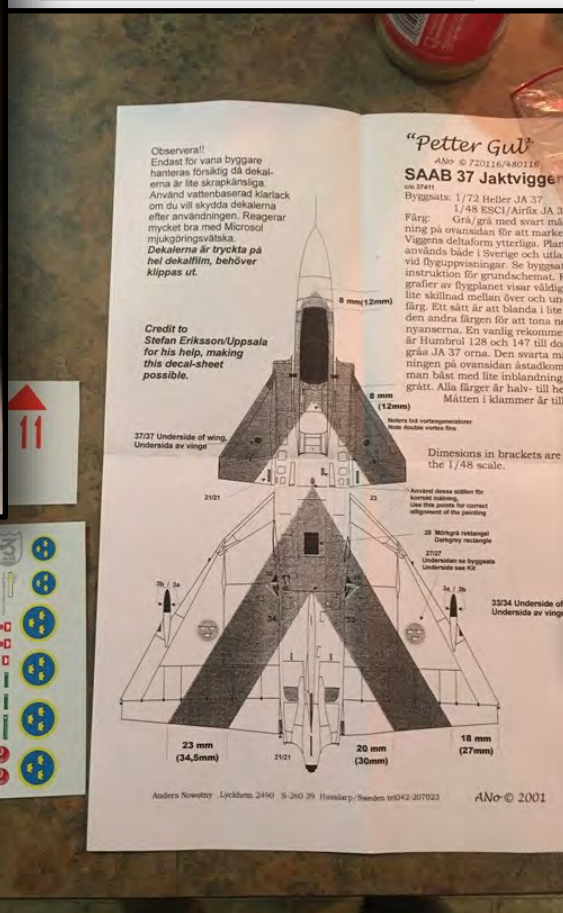


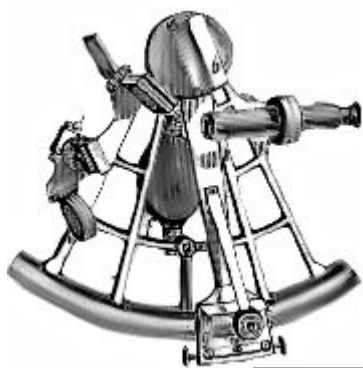
Charles spotted this vintage Airfix 1/48 scale Viggen and fell in love with it...but wanted to execute it with a unique paint scheme fitting for a unique aircraft.

The "Petter Gul" version of the Viggen offered an interesting paint scheme with which to execute.



Petter Gul (Yellow) was the third division at the flotilla, or 163rd fighter division of the Air Force, and the fall / winter 1944-1945 (a likely date is September 1, 1944). Its first director was Captain Tomas Stålhandske. The division followed Petter Red and Blue in flight types, up to the year 1986. When the first division at F 16, retrained to the JA-37 system. The division was dissolved September 1, 2000, and amounted to Petter Blue (translated from Swedish: <http://www.airfighters.com/photossearch.php?reg=37411>)

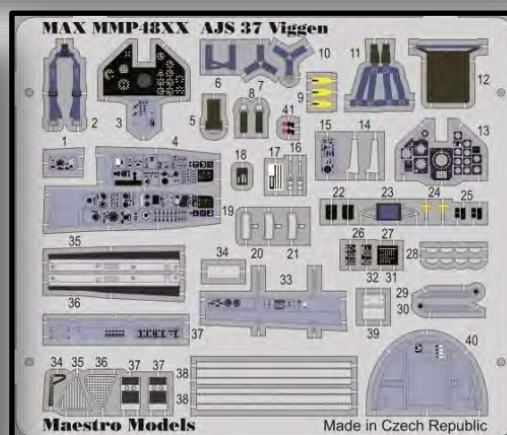




Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

Various aftermarket items used...the most significant being a custom-made vinyl mask for the large insignia painted on the underside of the aircraft.





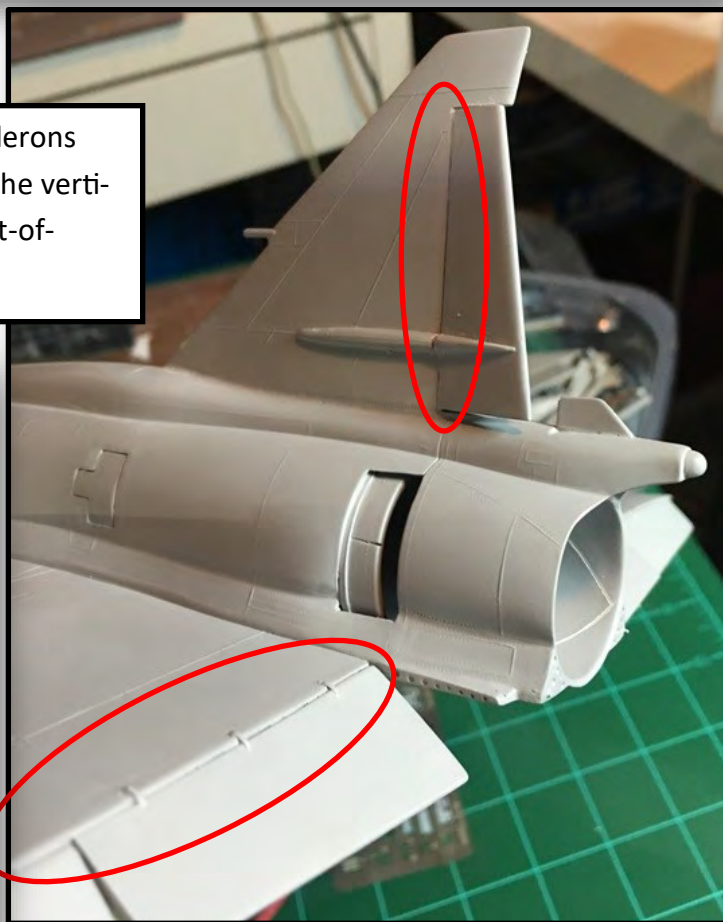
Cover Story

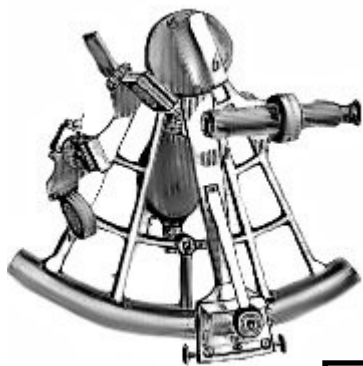
The Venerable Viggen

Typical for the age of the kit, it was riddled with bad seam lines. Charles had his work cut out for him.



He decided to drop the ailerons and flaps as well as pose the vertical stabilizer/rudder in left-of-center position.





Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

He added some scratch-built details to the rear of the aircraft. Before is on the left...after on the right.



A lot of 3M Acryl-Red automotive putty was used to fill the many open and uneven seams on the model.

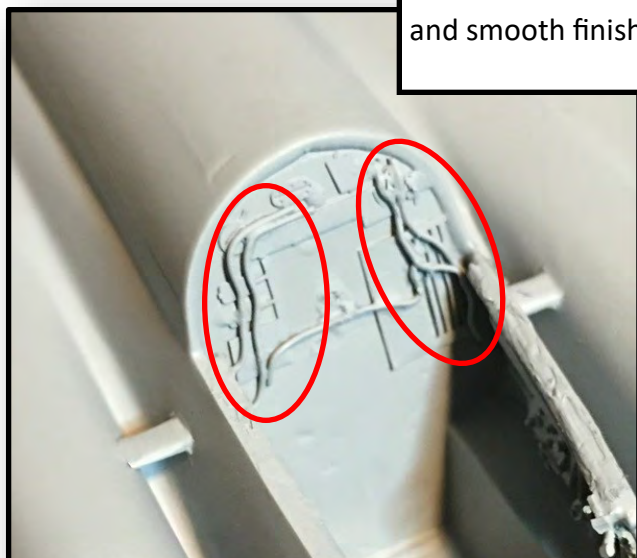




Cover Story

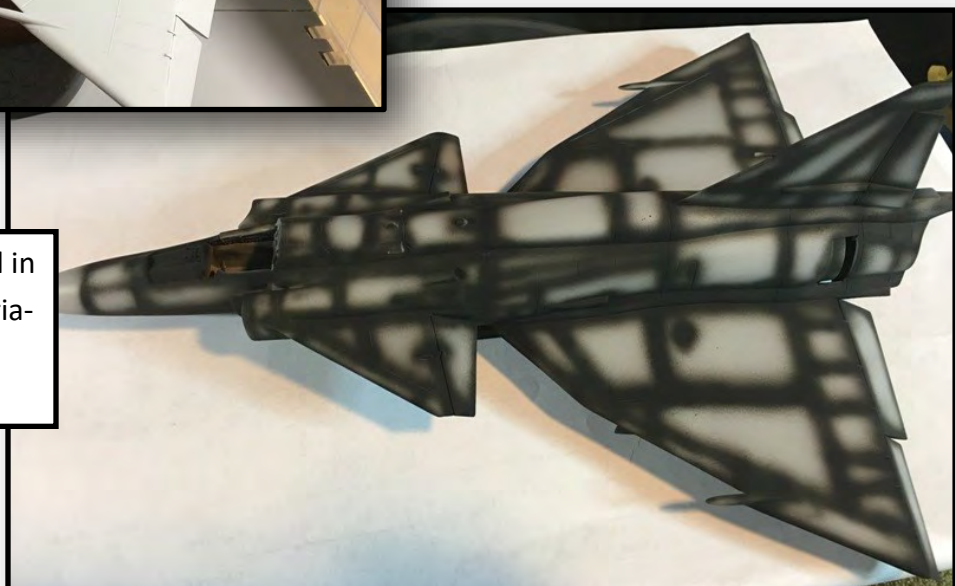
The Venerable Viggen

Some small, scratch-built details were added to the cockpit rear walls and a final scrub before painting was done to ensure a clean and smooth finish of the paint.



Charles utilizes Tamiya primer as it is his favorite...it has a good “bite” into the plastic.

Some pre-shading is accomplished in order to bring some detail and variation to the following tops coats...

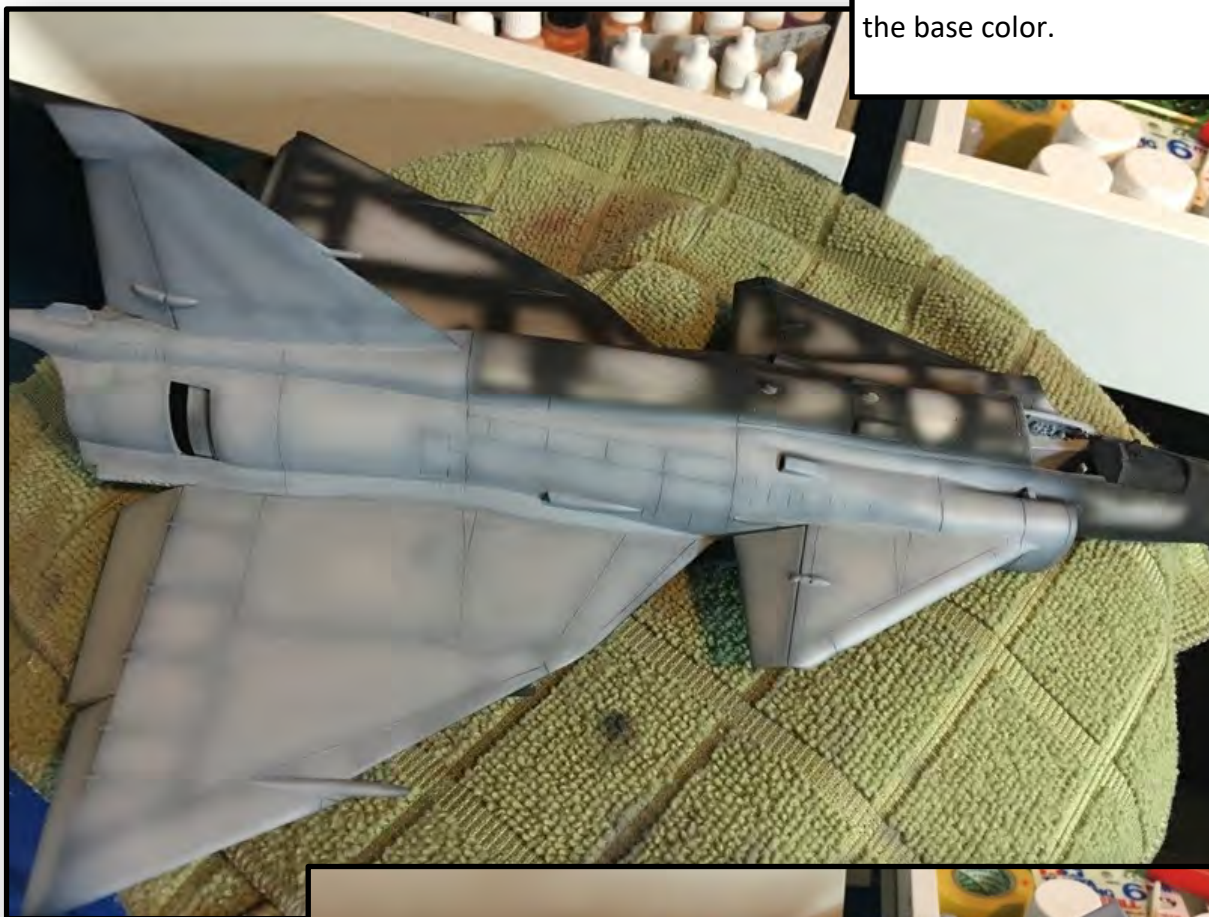




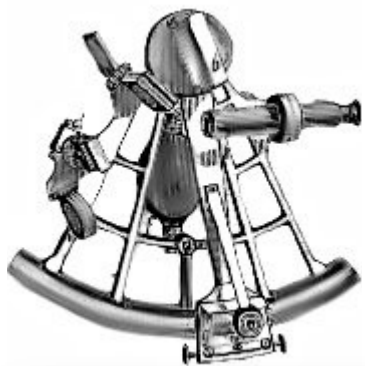
Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

...and then each painted is detailed one at a time with varying shades of the base color.



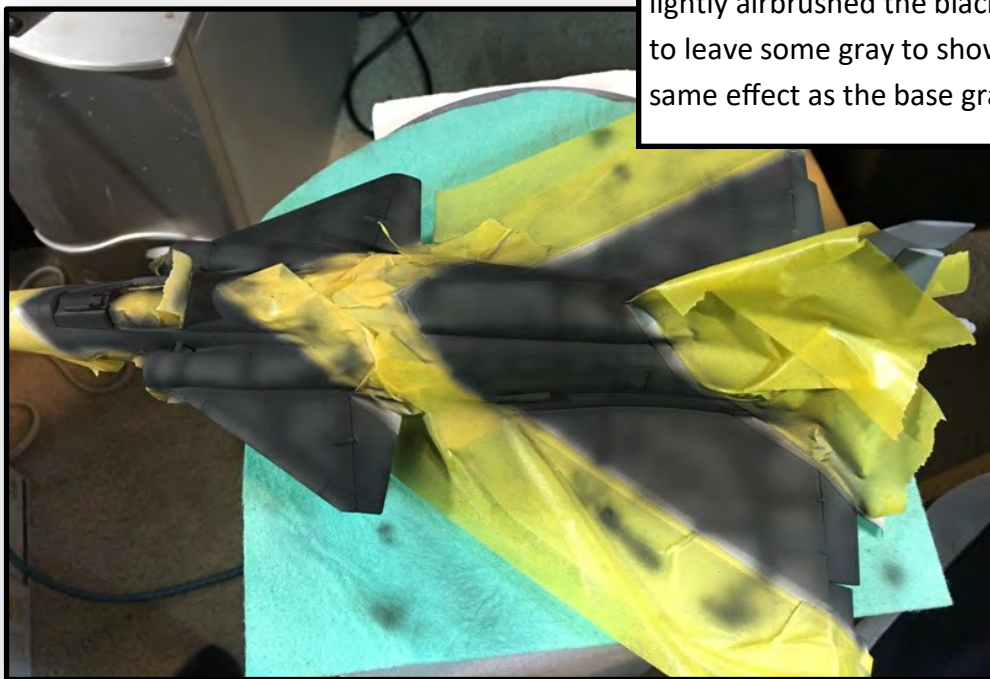
Charles executes the base paint color with 3 different shades of gray in order to give some depth and detail to a otherwise monotone color.



Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

The paint scheme calls for large, delta-shaped black stripes centered on the centerline of the aircraft. Charles masked these off with low-tack tape and then lightly airbrushed the black over the gray making sure to leave some gray to show through thus giving the same effect as the base gray underneath.



Once the paint cures it is time for a gloss-coat and then some color in the way of decals.

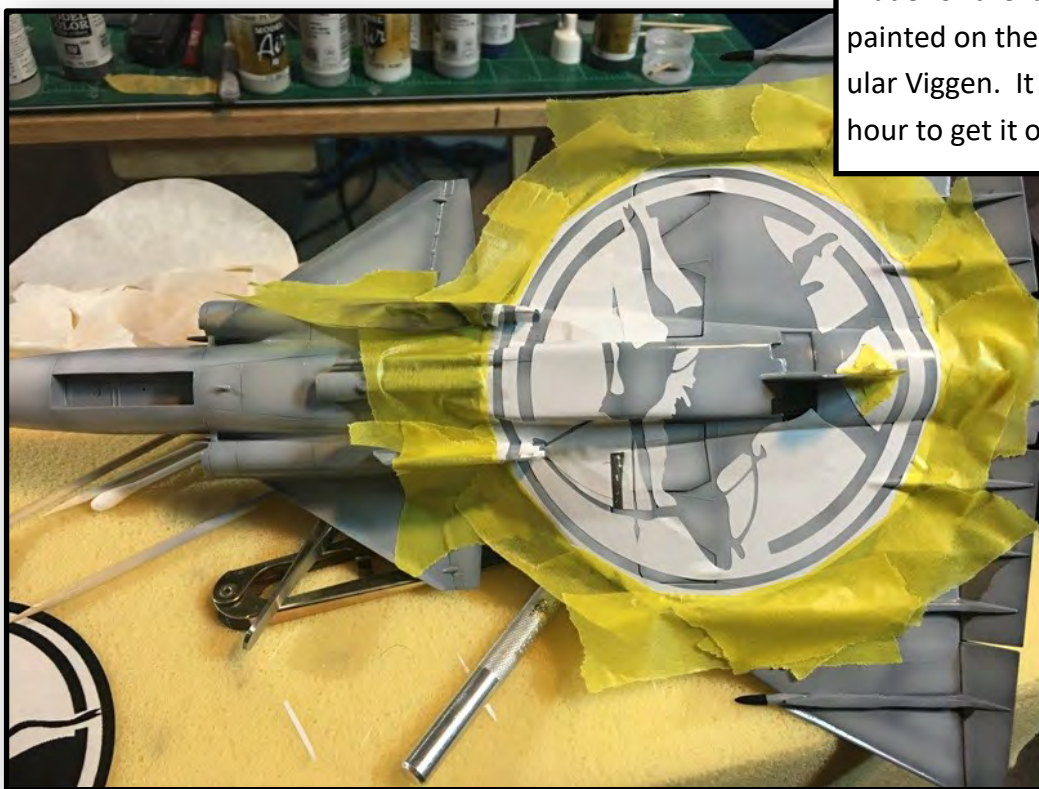




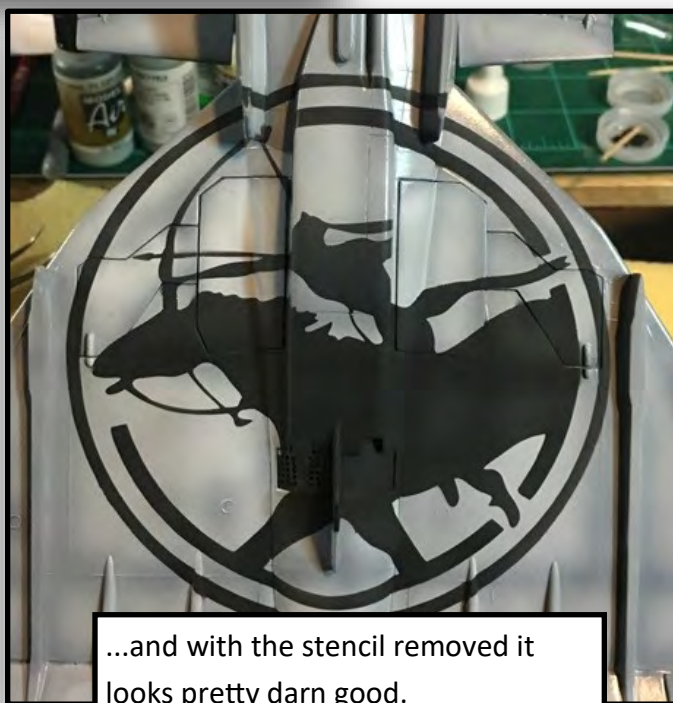
Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

The custom made vinyl stencil was made for the large unit insignia painted on the bottom of this particular Viggen. It took Charles about an hour to get it on just right.



Then some more black over the stencil...



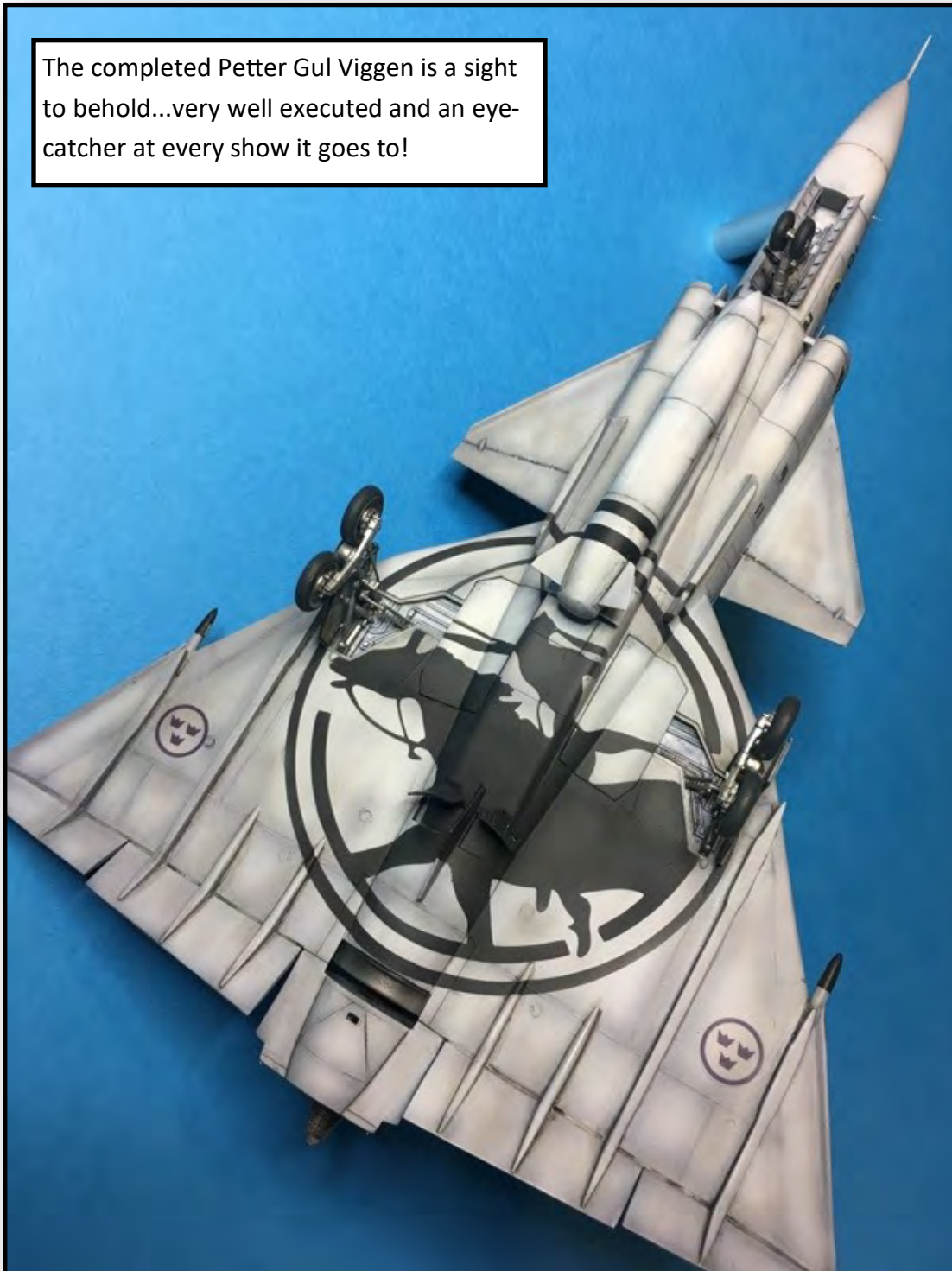
...and with the stencil removed it looks pretty darn good.



Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen

The completed Petter Gul Viggen is a sight to behold...very well executed and an eye-catcher at every show it goes to!





Cover Story

The Venerable Viggen





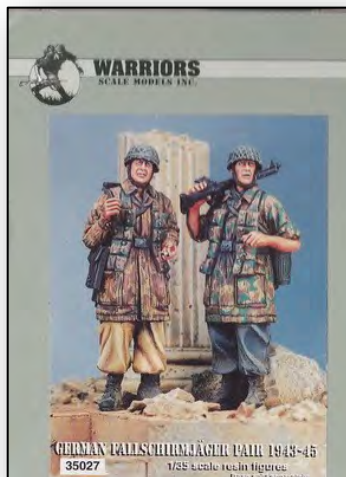
Feature Story

How Plastic Figure Kits Stack Up ...and not a pun

by Bob Bethea



There was a time when all 1/35 figures were plastic produced by the 1/35 tank companies such as **Tamiya**, **Italaeri**, and **Bandai**, to supplement their armor kits. The figures were rudimentary, crude, and usually of a shorter Asian bone structure. As they were the only game in town, we loved the opportunity to work up dioramas and set the scale and scenario of our tanks.



Then came **Verlinden** with their "specialty" resin figures that completely changed the market. Some were good, some not, but all were better than the available plastic items. **Warriors** copied their business plan by producing multiple issuances per month and massive advertising. People loved the sharper detail, better anatomy, and greater choice of subject, despite

the significantly higher cost.

Plastic companies responded with their own new business plans. Tamiya continued to issue occasional marginally better figure kits, but **Dragon** went all out with LOTS of new figure kits. The first were typically

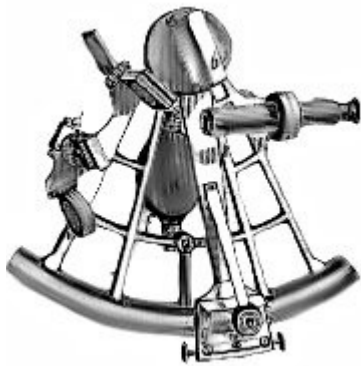


crude, but they progressively improved the quality of newer releases. Just like resin figures, the quality of the kit depends on the skill of the sculptor. Some of theirs were better than others. Their several Fallschirmjäger kits are fantastic, others not so much. Finally, we had European body shapes for European subjects. The major complaint has been the poor facial features, but more on that later.

Miniart from the Ukraine jumped in with a lot of very nice, in scale, well-proportioned figure kits in action poses. The heads are sometimes not so hot. **Masterbox** also broke into the market with lack-luster figures, most of which scaled out closer to 1/32 than 1/35. As time passed, they constantly improved detail and scale and now they are a contender in the plastic figure market. Faces can be a problem here too. Italaeri has not produced new figure kits in quite a while and theirs are uniformly very poor and should be avoided.

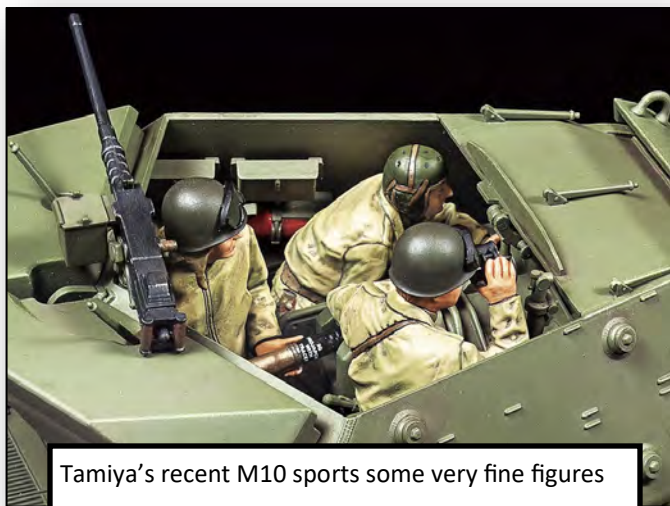


The competition has finally gotten to Tamiya and their latest tank kits contain EXCELLENT crew figures which compare well with their resin brethren. Even the faces are very well sculpted and cast. The best are in the kits of the SU76, the M10 tank destroyer, the Easy 8 Sherman and the new Panther D. All are very useful and paintable right out of the box.



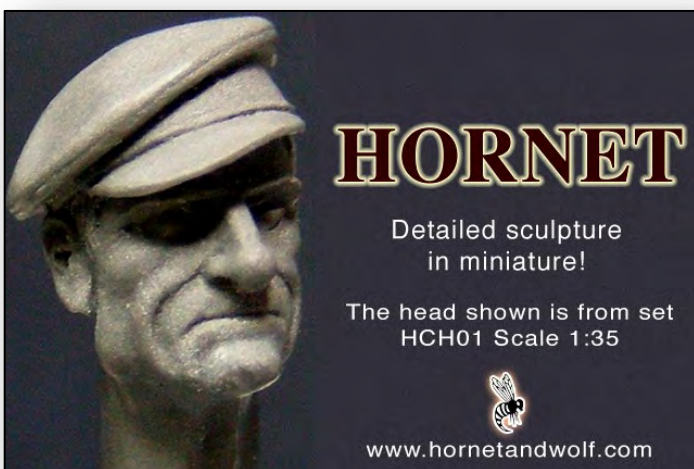
Feature Story

How Plastic Figure Kits Stack Up ...and not a pun



Tamiya's recent M10 sports some very fine figures

Most of the newer plastic figure kits have excellent weapons and acceptable bodies but poor faces. There is light at the end of this tunnel, as **HORNET** of Great Britain make substitute resin heads with EXCELLENT facial features and almost any modern headgear along with hatless heads. They improve almost any plastic figure to acceptability.



ICM has recently started improving their figure kits as well. Like the others, their first kits were crude, but recent releases are terrific. Their newer 1/48 scale figures to accompany airplanes are my favorites in that scale. They recently started a line of

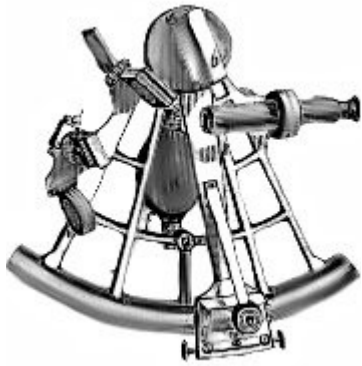
WWI figure sets with fantastic weapons sprues (that are available separately) and very good torsos. The faces are OK if you do a little surgery on them, but a hornet head makes the figures top notch. Zvesda also started poorly, but several years ago improved their sculpting immensely with several very imaginative sets such as their Russian sniper team and their machine gun team. Their heads are also poor, but Hornet heads save them.



1/48 ICM Luftwaffe figures
by Sjon van der Heiden

I just bought and built the ICM WWI US marching Infantrymen and after some work on their faces, am most impressed and will be painting them for a vignette soon. I love resin figures for their superb detail and sculpting, but sometimes you can only find what you want in plastic. Don't be afraid to use them with a substitute Hornet head and you'll have figures to be proud of.





Feature Story

Beijing Model Run: A Travel Journal

Story and Photos by Craig Gregory
The Mobile Modeler
IPMS #49320



My story of plastic modeling in the Middle Kingdom started with my trip in January 2016 and I just recently returned from another trip to Beijing in November 2016. Here is my travel blog from these two visits and an experience I had in February 2014.

My first Chinese plastic modeling experience was in February 2014 when I visited my wife's hometown Zigong in Sichuan province. She refers to it a small city of only 1.2 million. While walking and we crossed a minor intersection using the ever-present underground passageways. Under this intersection was a small plaza lined with simple 10' wide cubby holes with a metal door that was rolled down when closed. Luckily, they were open because there was no signage. Alone one of the walls I spotted several stacks of plastic models. Only a fellow modeler would have spotted them.

I can't really remember what models were there, but after a few minutes of rummaging I found two Hobby Boss 1/72nd modern jet fighters. Of course, and this is typical of these types of shops, there were no prices. My wife approached the shop keeper and inquired, who did a quick Internet search, typed something on a calculator and answered 120 RMB each, or about \$19 at the time. My wife asked me if I wanted to buy them and I said yes, because I knew the negotiation process was to follow. After hearing many words I didn't understand, but seeing body language I did, my wife asked me if 140 RMB was OK. So I purchased both models for about \$22. We passed the shop two other times, but we never found the door open again.

Fangjia Model Shop (01/10/2016)

During my January 2016 trip to Beijing, my wife's cousin and husband were to treat us to Beijing. They picked us up at our apartment and we drove to a local tourist area just north of the Forbidden City. I didn't know that my wife had asked them to search for a street address of a hobby shop I had found on the Internet. So, I was wondering why we began zigzagging thru the streets of Beijing as I knew or destination was a few blocks to the west of us. I was embarrassed when my wife told me what we were looking for. After counting down the street numbers on the buildings, a quick U-turn in traffic and double parking on a busy street to get out of the car, but we had found it.

The only features recognizable of a hobby shop were the boxes of Gundam models in the window. The hours were posted in the window stating that they

should be open. As a peered thru the window of a closed hobby shop, my wife inquired in the adjacent shop as to if the hobby shop was actually open for business. She came back telling me that the shop owner had just had a baby and the store's hours were erratic. As we mulled around in front of the store





Feature Story

contemplating our next move, a young man approached and ask if we were there waiting for the hobby shop to open. We said yes (I guess that is what my wife said.) The young man got out his cell phone, called the store owner and told them there was someone waiting for the hobby shop to open. Within 10 minutes a woman carrying a baby graciously opened the store and invited us in.

Fangjia Hobby Shop is primarily Gundam. The shop was quite small, approximately 20' x 15', but was crammed floor to ceiling with models, modeling paint and modeling tools. I hurriedly made some selections since my wife's cousin and husband were escorting us. I bought seven models totaling 142 RMB or about \$23. I knew luggage space going home was limited, so I bought smaller kits. Oh, and the Beijing Duck was excellent; all-in-all a good day. Better yet, while I was shopping, my wife talked to the owner and learned of another hobby shop.

Xinshi Hobby (01/13/2016)



A few days later my wife and I were on a bus following the information my wife gleaned from the previous hobby shop owner and her search of the Internet. Again I had an address but no confirmation an actual active hobby shop. This must have been about the 5th time my wife escorted me around Beijing looking for hobby shops; most without success.

The Xinshi Hobby Shop is much larger; 25' by 25' and 2 floors. The first floor contained a wide selection of genre with Trumpeter, Tamiya, Hasegawa, Hobby Boss and Meng well represented. The second floor was dedicated to armor but was not yet stocked and contained only about 20 kits. It's hard to describe the density of the models. But by stocking many kits from the same manufacturer, the boxes tend to be the same dimensions and they are stacked neatly floor to ceiling, column after column. I purchased 3 kits for 387 RMB; the equivalent of \$64. And here is a YouTube video of Xinshi Hobby I found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbfRRig-05s>

Xinshi Hobby (11/25/2016)

On my return trip to Beijing on November 2016 I headed to the Xinshi Hobby Shop first. I ventured out on my own taking bus #22 for five stops. The bus stop is directly across from the hobby shop. This was my 9th trip to Beijing so I felt comfortable taking the bus and knew that my few words in Chinese would be good enough.

I had a list of 1/48th scale modern jets I was looking for, I began looking thru the stacks of models and found most of my list. At the top of my list was the new Tamiya F-14A kit. But they did not have it and I noticed that there were very few Tamiya as compared to my January 2016 visit. One of the store's employees spoke enough English to tell me that since there is not a major distributor in China, it's hard to stock Tamiya. They did have all of the Hobby Boss items on my list and the second floor was completely stocked with armor kits. Some of my purchases (in US dollars equivalent) were: Hobby Boss #81711 SU-27 Flanker B (\$37), Hobby Boss #81710 A-6E TRAM Intruder (\$53) and a Bronco #FB4004 J-10/10A (\$18).



Feature Story

Beijing Model Run: A Travel Journal

Fangjia Model Shop (01/10/2016)

Again, I was on a bus venturing out on my own to visit the first hobby shop I found in Beijing. This time it was mostly Gundam. I did find a few items to buy. The jewel of my hobby shop visits was the Bandai 1/144th scale Millennium Falcon; it was a little more than US prices, but I had to have it. My wife was disappointed in me because I did not negotiate during my previous outing. So, I was going to try this time. The total for purchase was 996 RMB, I typed 900 into my iPhone calculator app and pointed to my pile of items; the owner nodded her head up-and-down.





Member Techniques

Master Shipbuilding Techniques

By Lee Washburn

Many of the helpful modeling tips we discuss at our model club meetings cover the waterfront of the subjects and types of models we build. However there are some unique tips that are more appropriate in dealing with ship modeling than say building a tank. My intent is to present some simple and constructive ways to deal with ship modeling issues whether your building a plastic model out of the box or scratch building a multi media square rigger.

Beginning with a typical plastic model kit you might open the box and find that you have two half hull pieces that need to be glued together. Taking a closer look at the halves you notice they appear warped. You could heat them in warm water to force them to shape but chances are they will spring back. Consider adding braces to the hull interior to keep them aligned. The braces can be made of wood, sprue or excess plastic. Be sure your braces allow the decking to fit properly within the two hull pieces.

Continuing with that plastic kit if it is a sailing ship I highly recommend that you throw away that plastic ratline rigging you find in the likes of the Constitution and HMS Victory ship models kits. It is not going to work and it will make your model look like, well you know. Next let's talk about those plastic masts and yard arms that come with the kit. Dispose of them the same place you chucked the plastic rigging. You need to replace the mast and yards and booms with wood or metal rods. Reasoning, the plastic can not carry the strain that is going to be applied to them when you correctly rig the model. In addition to be correct you will need to drill very tiny holes in the mast, yards and booms to rig correctly and that will not work with plastic sticks.

Waterlines and boot toppings are a simple matter that if applied incorrectly can ruin a model at first glance. Yes, the waterline and boot topping are straight lines, however the hull is not, therefore there is an optical illusion that the line bulges or is higher amidships. This is natural. Also remember to keep the boot topping within scale. There are a lot of models out there

where the topping is far to wide.

Perhaps more in ship modeling than other subjects, the concept of building in sub assemblies is crucial. Just think how a real ship is constructed. First the hull is laid out and built up then comes the many sub parts which make it a ship. If your going to paint or stain your model determine what needs to be completed



first as you might not be able to get into those small places after placing something that can not be removed. If possible, paint the deck before adding superstructure or other items. This will avoid the broken up appearance of alter brush strokes the results of painting around something.

If your plastic model comes with molded in anchor chain I recommend you sand it off. You can replace it with real chain found at railroad modeling stores or order it online. Chain for models comes in sizes known as LPI (links per inch). Depending on the scale of your model you may use any size from 42 LPI for slings and yard arm lifts to 19 LPI for your anchor chain. If your model comes with anchor chain included, it will be brass, please do not put bright shinny brass on the model, paint it black and maybe weather



Member Techniques

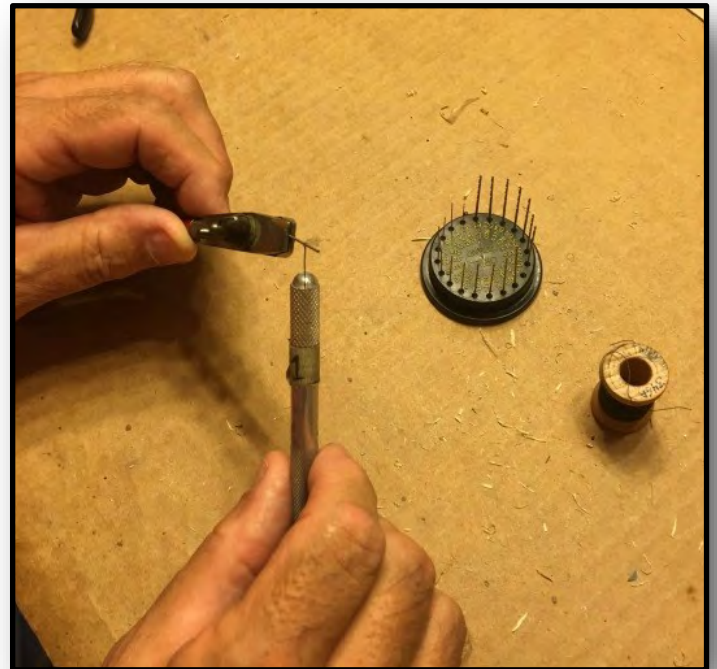
Master Shipbuilding Techniques

it with a little rust, but not brass or copper color.

If your model calls for a planked deck, you can go several ways. The easy choice is to use what the kit provides or purchase some after market scribed decking which is the correct scale for your model.. The scratched built method is to lay individual planks. Alignment is critical in this choice. To simulate the caulking of the deck simply paint the narrow side of each strip with a Sharpie black pen. After all planks are laid, scrap the deck and sand it to a fine finish and the caulking will show perfectly as a dark edge which is as it would appear on a real ship.

Just about every ship on the seas will have some type of a mast. It may be a single antenna from a modern naval ship or up to six sky reaching wooden mast found on a steel hulled barque. Be sure to notice if your model requires that the mast be raked. When you step the mast through the deck into the hull don't guess at the proper rake, make a jig which will determine the exact degrees it should be raked or slanted.

An area that probably turns most modelers off from ship modeling is the rigging portion. I admit, it can be intimidating to a novice, however once you get started I think your going to like it. Lets start with the rigging line itself. Basically one can go any of three choices, cotton, nylon or linen thread. I recommend linen as it is easy to work with and will last. I always stretch my line first for 24 hours before using it. If I need to color the line now is the time to do it while it is stretching. Shoe polish is my choice for this task. Next comes the waxing step. The line needs to be waxed with bees wax to insure the fiber stays compact and does not frizz. Always start with a length longer than you need, save the scraps as they can be used in little chores that will come up. Be sure the wax is completely impregnated into the line by squeezing the thread through your fingertips. In the rigging process you will need to thread your line through some very tiny holes such as deadeyes and blocks. Simply dip the end of the line in super glue, squeeze off excess and let dry. Next take a very sharp single edged razor and cut the line at a diagonal, this will give you a very strong point to pierce



the small hole.

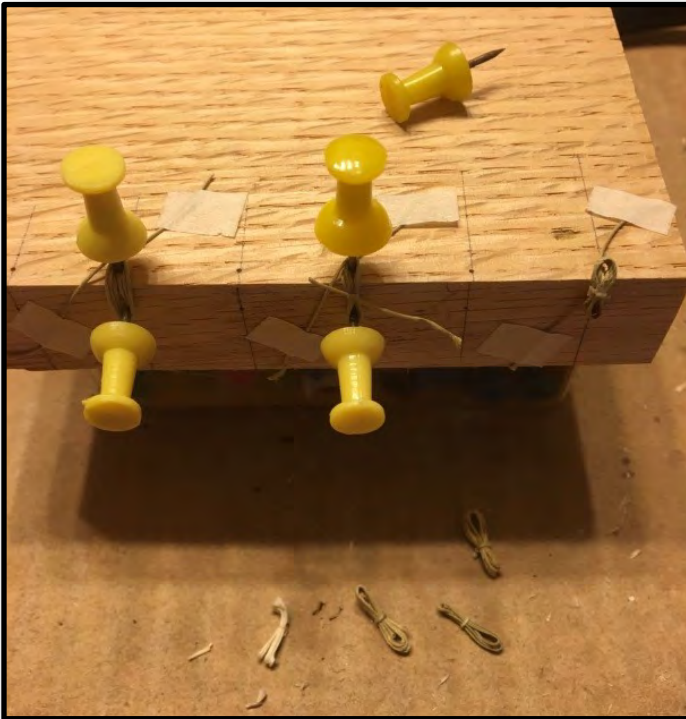
It is very important to sequence the rigging of your model. Most instructions you get with a kit do not address this matter. They might tell you to rig the bowsprit after attaching it to the hull. Don't do it. The simple rule is to rig the ship "UP and OUT" You start amidships and slowly work your way up from the deck and bulwarks to the trucks at the top of each mast. At the same time you are working outward from the main mast to the bowsprit and the stern. The simple reason for this procedure is you will never be able to get your fat fingers into the tight places after the lines are in place and secured. Before you start to rig the ship, study the rigging plan, which should be provided, thoroughly and look at the reference photos. You also have some leeway as most ship captains designed the rigging plans of their ship as they saw the need. Very few merchant ships were rigged identical.

Sailing ship models require a lot of rigging blocks. Some models may require five to seven different size blocks and they should be single, double or even triple. These numbers refer to the number of sheaves in a



Member Techniques

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together and secure them in the throat of an X-acto tool. A few quick turns and I have a tight perfect loop. Cutting to length and a quick filing, it is ready to be seated in a pre drilled hole at the location I want.

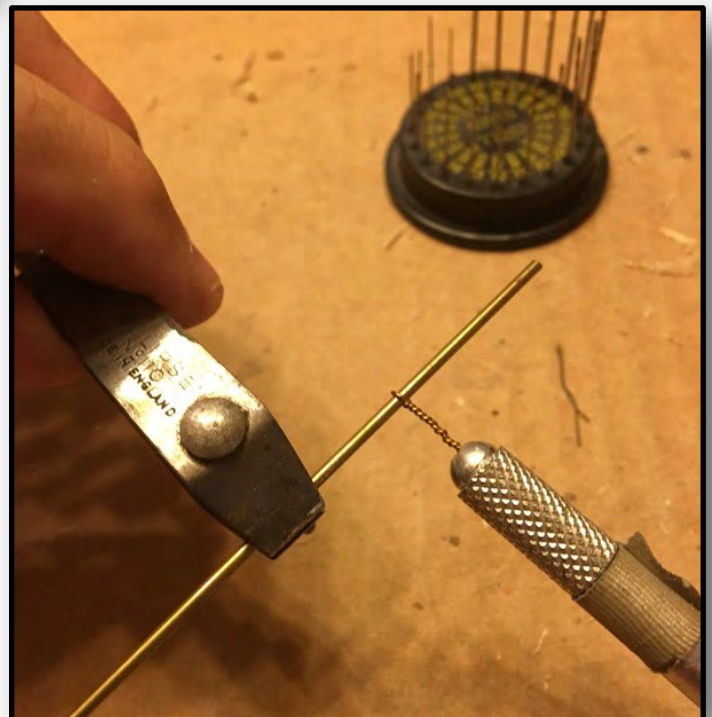
On most quality ship models you will see rope coils, although the word ROPE is not heard aboard ship ever. They will be scattered everywhere, hanging on pins and hooks. To make coils that hang off belaying pins on the rails, you need to make a jig to produce enough to pick and chose the best of the lot. Remember the coil has to bend over the rail and not lay on the deck, so make your jig to scale. I run several loops around each pin shank and tie off with thread of the same diameter and a touch of diluted white glue. Let the loops set for several hours to insure you get the right bend of the lines. Always make half again the total number you need as some just won't come out the way you want.

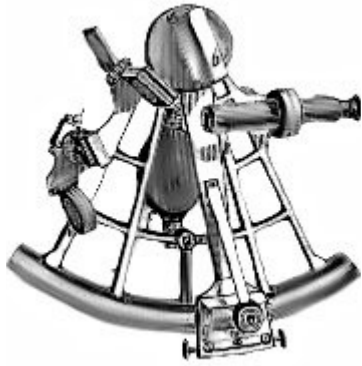
In the future we can talk about how to build ratlines, spiling hull planks, seizing a line, and splicing the

particular block. The blocks found in most plastic kits are usually over sized but can be used by reducing them through sanding. Make sure the eye holes in the block are drilled out for the correct line diameter before you attach them to the model. I suggest painting them as the plastic color just doesn't cut the mustard. Wherever possible substitute the plastic blocks with wood ones either after market or making them yourself.

Lets finish up this discussion with two items found on almost any model ship you will build, eyebolts and rope loops. For both of these items I suggest you make a jig which allows you to make multiple items which will be identical in size.

Eyebolts can be found almost anywhere aboard ship. They are used to secure lines. They come in different sizes and can be mass produced in an hour of bench work time. I use my micro drill set to determine the size of the eyebolt I need. Selecting the correct scale wire, I loop it over the drill shank, squeeze the ends





Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 5th, 2017 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

January 28, 2017
CALMEX XXXI
 1221 Sampson St
 Westlake, LA 70669
<http://www.ipmsswamp.com>



February 18, 2017
ModelFiesta 36
 San Antonio Event Center
 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr
 San Antonio, TX 78227
<http://www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta>



March 11, 2017
RiverCon VI
 Bossier City, LA
<http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org>

April 8, 2017
Super-Invitational 2017
 New Orleans, LA
<http://ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger>



April 8, 2017
Tulsa Modeler's Forum Open Contest
 Bixby Community Center
 211 N. Canbiss Ave
 Bixby, OK 74008
<http://tulsaipms.org/Contest2017.htm>



About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2016-2017



President:
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Vice-President:
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Treasurer:
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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.

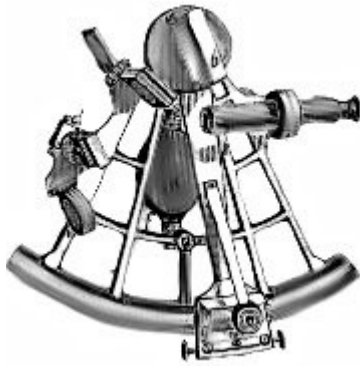


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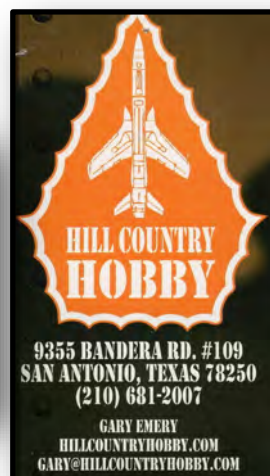
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