

# The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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



July 2019

IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1999 & 2005

IPMS/USA Regional Chapter of the Year: 2016

IPMS/USA Regional Newsletter of the Year 2017

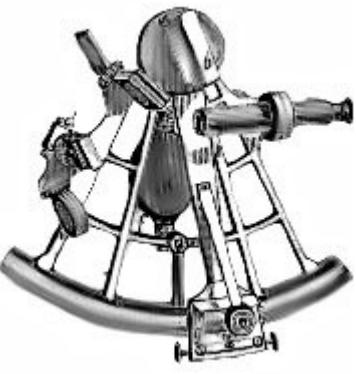
## Building a Budget Mustang: HobbyBoss' Little Gem in 1/48



### Inside This Issue:

- Alamo Sq. Checks Out EagleQuest 2019
- Masking Canopies—Take II
- Build a Pair of Rebel A-Wings—In a Day!
- Upcoming Region VI Shows
- June Club Contest Winners

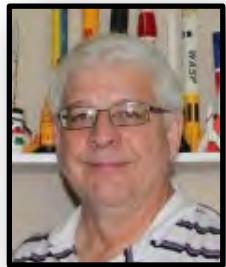




# President's Letter

by Craig Gregory

IPMS# 49320



## President's Letter: July 2019

Alamo Squadron is a great club. I will tell you my modeling story as a justification of that statement; even if you have heard it, or parts of it before.

I don't necessarily remember the dates of events, but I can remember where I was living at the time. I started plastic modeling sometime in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (I can remember the house our family lived in). There was no local hobby shop, but I and my friends would walk about 1 mile to our local strip mall. (Yes, in the day it was safe for kids to be outside...and we could navigate our way around the extended neighborhood without getting lost.) In the mall there was a drug store with a small area of about 15 models. Once a month I would have enough allowance saved to buy a model, hurry home and slap it together with Testors glue. I didn't paint them, no seam repair, no decals.

In college, during my 3<sup>rd</sup> year there was a real hobby shop in town. I purchased a model for the Colonial Fighter of the TV show Battlestar Galactica (the 1970's Battlestar Galactica.) I also bought basic modeling tools, an X-Acto knife, a package of sandpaper in various grits and a Badger airbrush powered by an aerosol can. I finished the model the best I could on my own; no internet, no modeling club. I built a few 1/144 scale models after college with little more than my X-Acto knife, some sandpaper and my Badger airbrush.

My newly married wife and I moved to San Antonio in April of 2013. After a few months, I found out about Alamo Squadron and its ABC course. I was enrolled for the session that would start in January of 2014. The ABC course was great. I was introduced to basic modeling tools and instructed on the simple skills needed to use them; OMG sanding sticks. With

the help and guidance from members of Alamo Squadron my models regularly place at local contests. My dream is to place at an IPMS National. But it is not going to happen without this club and the support and mentorship afforded to me by its members.

There are several core club members that insure that our club continues to improve and grow. The following are some of the hidden goings on of what makes Alamo Squadron great. Please review the role descriptions below and think about volunteering. Maybe you feel you could help, but not take on an entire role alone. That is terrific as well. If you are interested and/or willing to help out, contact any member of the E-Board.

Alamo Squadron needs your help to improve and grow.

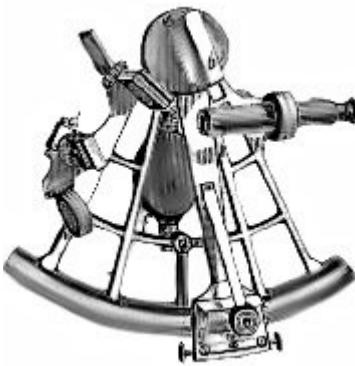
**Club Photographer** The club photographer takes pictures at the monthly club meeting and uploads them to the club's digital repository. The photographer attends each meeting or arranges for a substitute when they can't attend. The photographer should have their own digital camera. The photographer captures the following meeting events:

- Club contest winners
- Noteworthy projects of the WIP
- Demonstrations and/or guest speakers
- Other significant events at the club meeting

**Model Building Summit Award Coordinator** The Model Building Summit Award Coordinator manages the Model Building Summit Award Coordinator program. The primary duties of the coordinator are to organize the start and end of the award period and to gather prize packages for the award winners. During March's regularly scheduled club meeting the coordinator announces the participants who successfully

# President's Letter

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completed the program's requirements and distributes certificates and prizes. During April's regularly scheduled club meeting the coordinator opens the new summit award period. A typical year's responsibility includes:

- Determines the opening and closing dates
- Prints participant's log forms
- Maintains the summit award log book (brings it to every club meeting)
- Announces the start of the summit award program during April's club meeting
- Under the guidance of the E-Board, prepares certificates and gathers prizes
- From the summit award log, determines which
- Organizes and runs the awards ceremony during March's club meeting.

**Multi-Media Coordinator** The Multi-Media Coordinator insures that the content of the club's multi-media information platforms are up-to-date and represent the ideas and opinions of Alamo Squadron by coordinating the efforts of the:

- Newsletter Publisher (The Navigator)
- Facebook Content Manager
- AlamoSquadron.com Content Manager

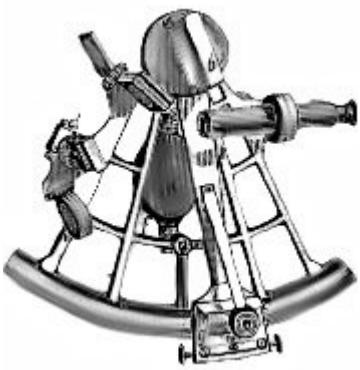
**Education Coordinator** Article II of Alamo Squadron's starts with "The purpose of Alamo Squadron is the educational advancement of scale modeling skills." The Adult Building Course is our flagship skills development program. The Education Coordinator organizes presenters, venues and participants for:

- Adult Building Course (ABC)
- Monthly Club Meeting Skills Demonstration
- Ad-Hoc Skill Days

**Club Event Coordinator** Besides the regularly scheduled monthly club meeting, The Club Event Coordinator organizes other club membership activities. From time to time members of Alamo Squadron has toured the Lewis Air Legends faculties; for example. Currently HobbyTown USA hosts our well attended build day the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. In 2018, several club members setup a model display at a single day event coordinated by Landa Library. Events include:

- Club Build Days
- Tours
- Special Events





# Club Announcements

## Alamo Squadron Build Days

The most recent build day was held on the 1st of June at HobbyTown of San Antonio. The next Build Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th. The intent of these build days is to move more of the social and building aspect of our meetings to a more conducive environment...and what better environment than a hobby store! There will be no set format but if a member wishes to see a first hand demo on a certain technique then this is the perfect opportunity to make it happen. We hope that many club members will take the opportunity to participate. And added bonus is that we will be able to recruit for Alamo Squadron while at this establishment answering any and all questions of passers-by.

## Monthly Contest Themes

July:	<b>Shades of Gray</b>
August:	Open
September:	Open
October:	<b>Cold War</b>

## Monthly Programs:

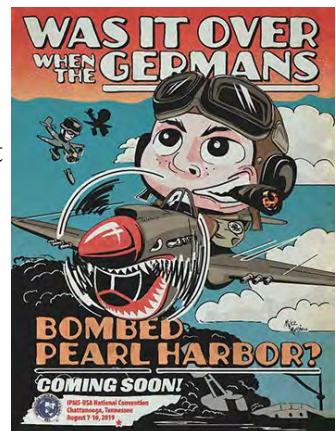
- July: Your Favorite Modeling Tool
- August: Swap Meet
- September: Oil Washes and Filtering – Len Pilhofer
- October: Scribing Panel Lines – Rob Booth
- November: Working with LEDs – Len Pilhofer
- December: White Elephant Gift Exchange
- January: Basic Figure Painting – Henry Nunez
- February: What Judges Look For – Rob Booth
- March: Aircraft Rigging – Dick Montgomery

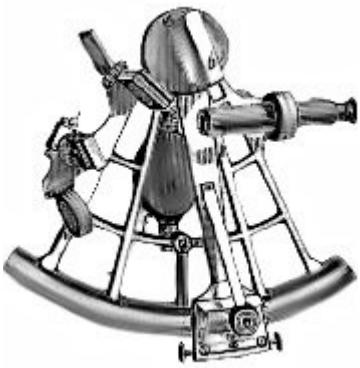
## Navigator Articles!

Alamo Squadron's "The Navigator" is quickly becoming recognized across all of IPMS/USA as a high quality local chapter newsletter. Our success is entirely due to the tireless efforts of all of our members who contribute to its contents. In a few short years we have reached our goal of creating a newsletter that captures the learning spirit of our club and helps foster a learning environment. The contents of The Navigator undoubtedly help all who read it improve their own modeling. The club executive board encourages all members to contribute their work to the Navigator. This can be in the form of a feature article documenting a build and all the steps that went into it or it can be a technique demonstration. Or perhaps a review of a recently acquired kit or the review of a new tool that helps the modeler to the finish line. Members can also document one of the many shows attended by our members through the year. The ideas really are plentiful. If you have anything you wish to contribute please send your articles to Len Pilhofer at [pilhofer@hotmail.com](mailto:pilhofer@hotmail.com)

## IPMS National Convention

With the passing of Memorial Day and schools being out for the academic year we are definitely full-on into summer. With summer comes the biggest IPMS/USA show of the year: The National Convention, aka, "The Nats". This years show is going to be held in Chattanooga, TN from August 7th through the 10th. Many Alamo Squadron members will be attending. Our chapter is also sponsoring the Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle category of the National Contest for 2019. If you have the slightest interest in attending the E-Board encourages you to do so, it is an experience unlike any other in the scale modeling world.





# Club Announcements

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## June Monthly Contest

First Place: MiG-3

By: Eric Syverson

Second Place: US Marine 1945

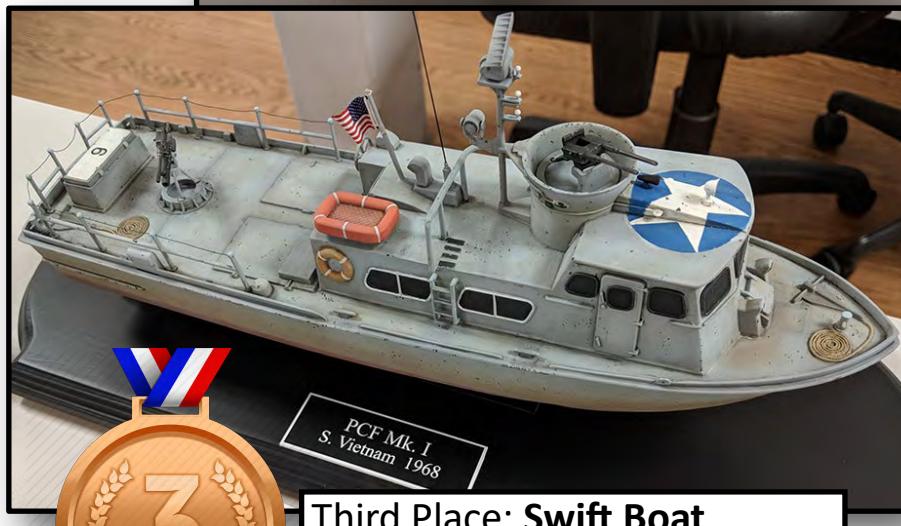
By: Henry Nunez

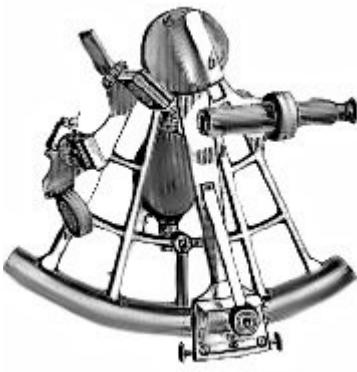


Third Place: Swift Boat

By: Dana Mathes

PCF Mk. I  
S. Vietnam 1968





# Kit-of-the-Month

## HobbyBoss P-51D

Presented by: Len Pilhofer  
IPMS# 49932

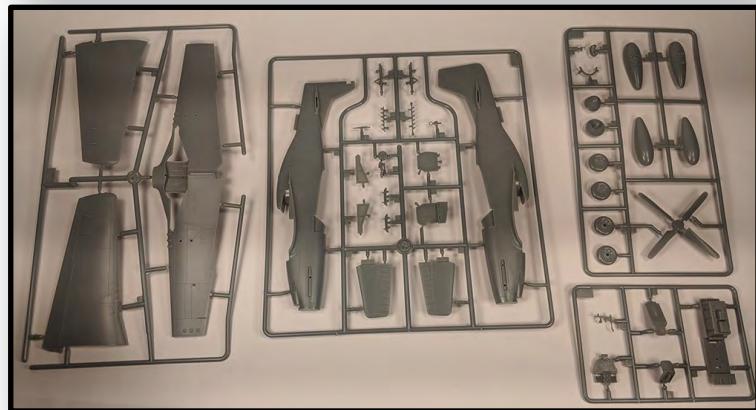
In the sea of ever-growing kit prices there are still a few little gems out there for the getting: The 1/48 scale HobbyBoss P-51D Mustang is one of those. First tooled in 2012 the latest release in 2018 comes in the colors and markings of the "Yellow Nose". Later in this issue of the Navigator I detail my build experience with this kit and it is a very positive one. The kit, for it's price of approximately \$15 - depending on where/how you purchase it - comes with 40 parts, a few clear parts (canopy obviously), three vinyl grommets for the prop and wheels and a well populated decal sheet.

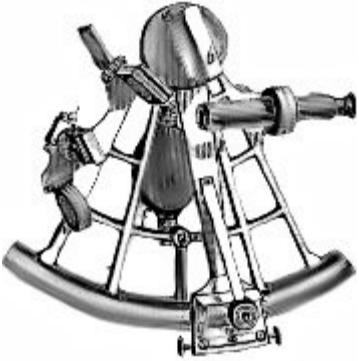
The parts are very cleanly molded and what surprised me the most - for a kit of this cost - is the detail in the scribing on the surface of the plastic. To me, it resembles the work of a kit of \$40 or more...a great achievement for HobbyBoss at this scale and price.

Another positive that I am seeing other aircraft kit manufacturers start to do is the molding of the front canopy/windscreen to the fuselage immediately surrounding it. This enables the modeler to attack the seam between the windscreen and the fuselage a few millimeters away from the clear plastic...and thus save many hours prepping this area as well as greatly reducing the risk of irreparably damaging those precious clear parts.

All-in-all I can highly recommend this kit for what it is...a rare departure from high prices, that while sacrifices are made in parts count and details, it offers enough to be a challenge and a nice addition to anyone's finished model display shelf. From a distance, it will hardly be differentiated from a kit twice or even three times its price. Bravo to HobbyBoss!

<b>Brand:</b>	Hobby Boss
<b>Title:</b>	P-51D Mustang - Yellow Nose
<b>Number:</b>	85808
<b>Scale:</b>	1:48
<b>Released:</b>	2018   Re-box (Changed decals)
<b>Type:</b>	Full kit





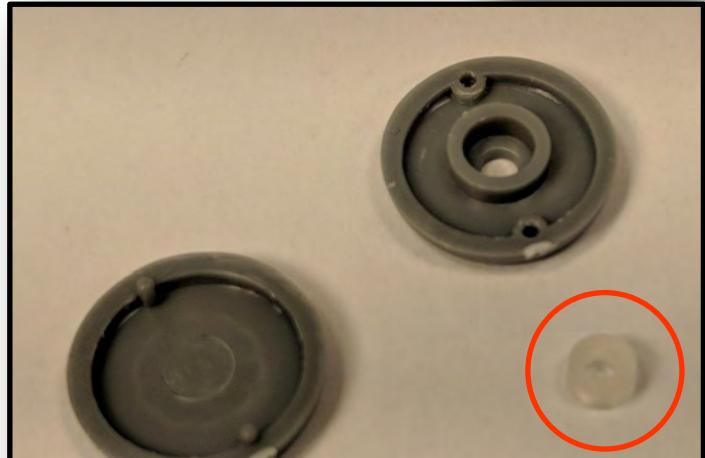
# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget: Surprisingly Fun!

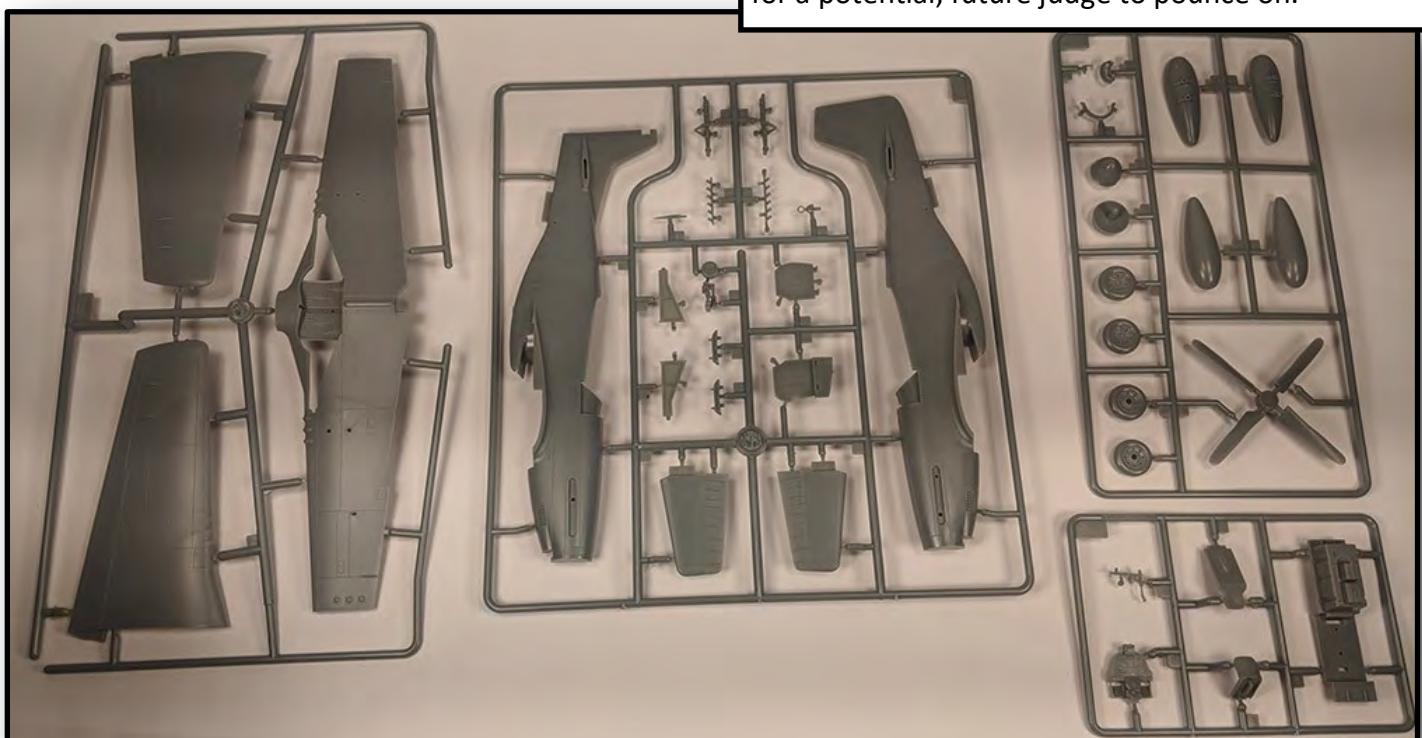
Model, story and photos by Len Pilhofer IPMS# 49932

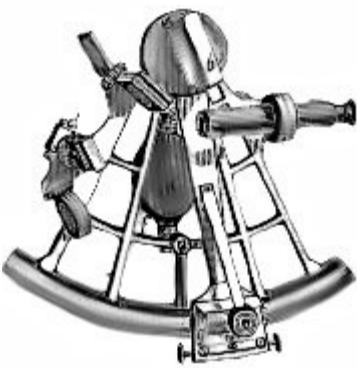


**O**ne day, several months ago, fellow club member Doug Wall sat down next to me at one of our club build days at our local HobbyTown USA. He had just done a “shelf-check” of all the model kits and he came back with this really sharp-looking box: a HobbyBoss 1/48 scale P-51D in “Yellow Nose” markings. The highlight, as he pointed out to me, was the price: \$14.99. “Wow”, I exclaimed, the box looks really sharp for a “cheap” kit...surely it must be hiding a beast of a kit. My curiosity piqued, I myself headed out to the model kit shelves and found a Yellow Nose Mustang for myself. I took it home and began to check it out. My thoughts are detailed in the previous “Kit of the Month” article and now in this article I will describe in pictures and words my experience of building this Budget Mustang.



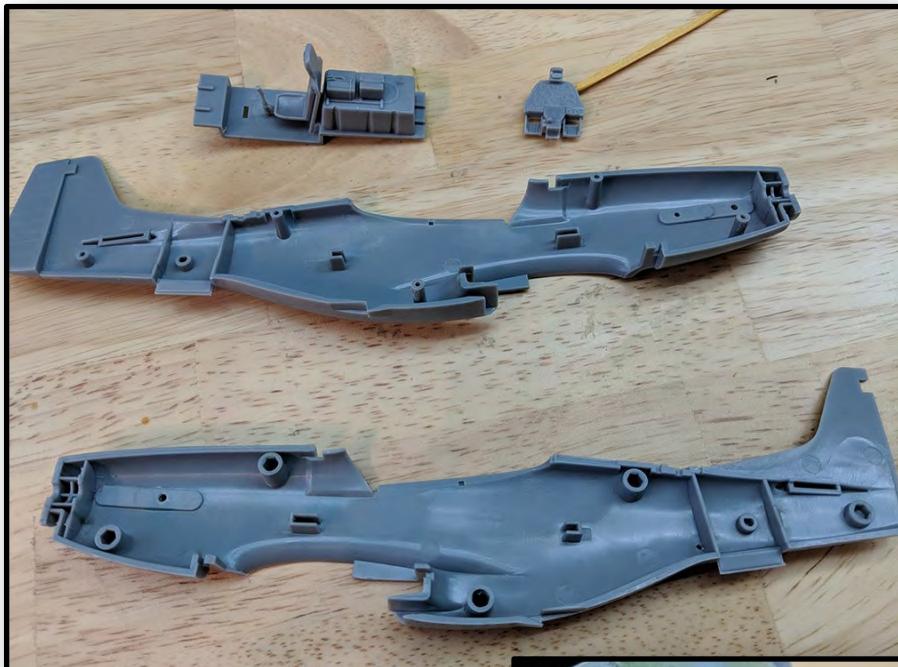
One of the few drawbacks of the kit is the use of vinyl grommets in the wheels - used to attach to the axles on the landing gear struts. This may allow one to roll their landed mustang along the carpet but it makes for a very loose fit and thus wobbly wheels for a potential, future judge to pounce on.





# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget



The cockpit and fuselage are pretty straight-forward. Minimal parts to the cockpit—seat, stick, floor, instrument panel and radios behind the seat - and it fits nicely between the fuselage halves. There is a vinyl grommet that fits in-between the fuselage halves at the nose to hold the prop when the model is complete.

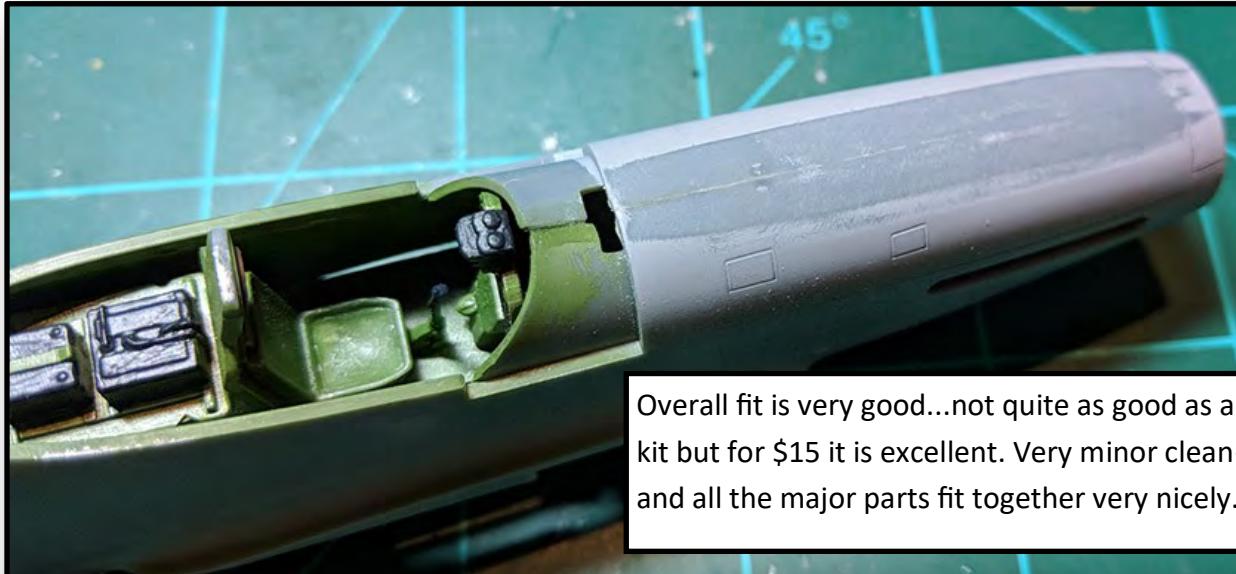
While the cockpit is scarce of details it does include a nicely detailed decal for the instrument panel. Here is a close-up shot of the instrument panel...very convincing for this scale.



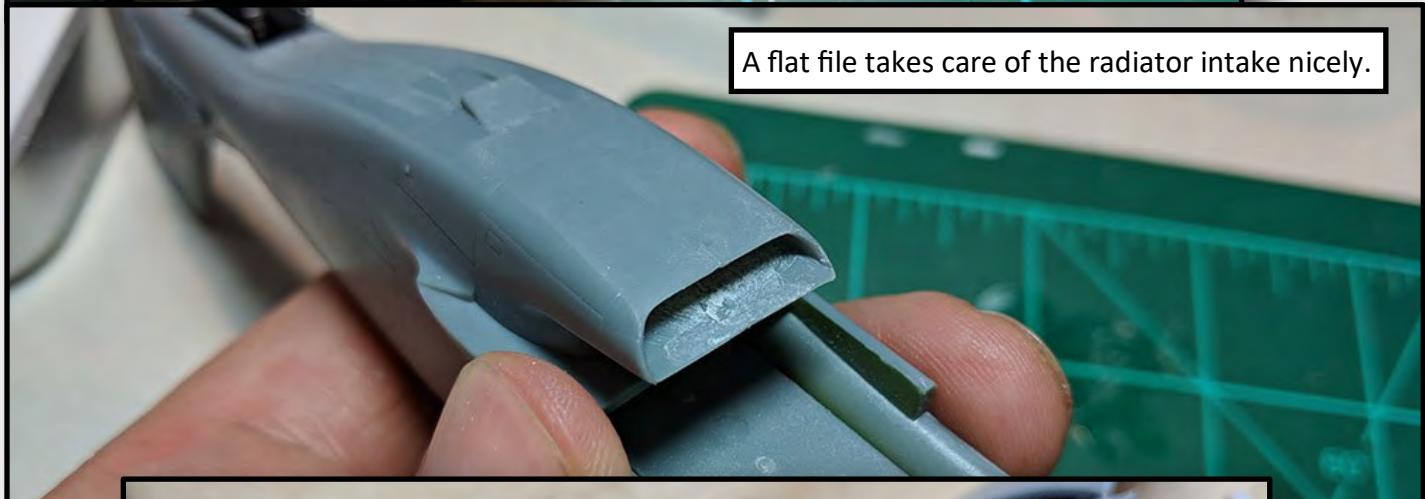


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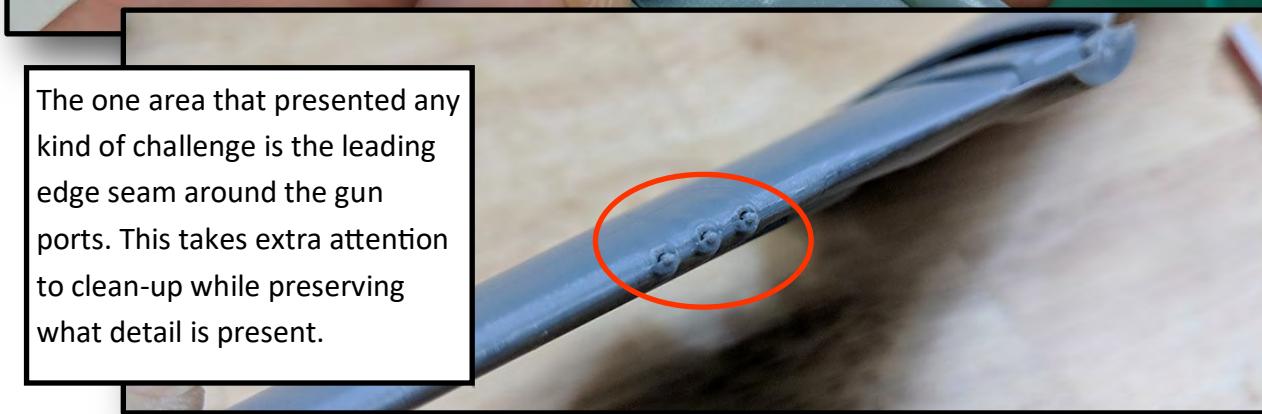
## A Mustang on a Budget



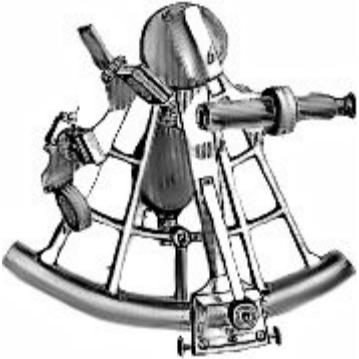
Overall fit is very good...not quite as good as a new Tamiya kit but for \$15 it is excellent. Very minor clean-up is needed and all the major parts fit together very nicely.



A flat file takes care of the radiator intake nicely.

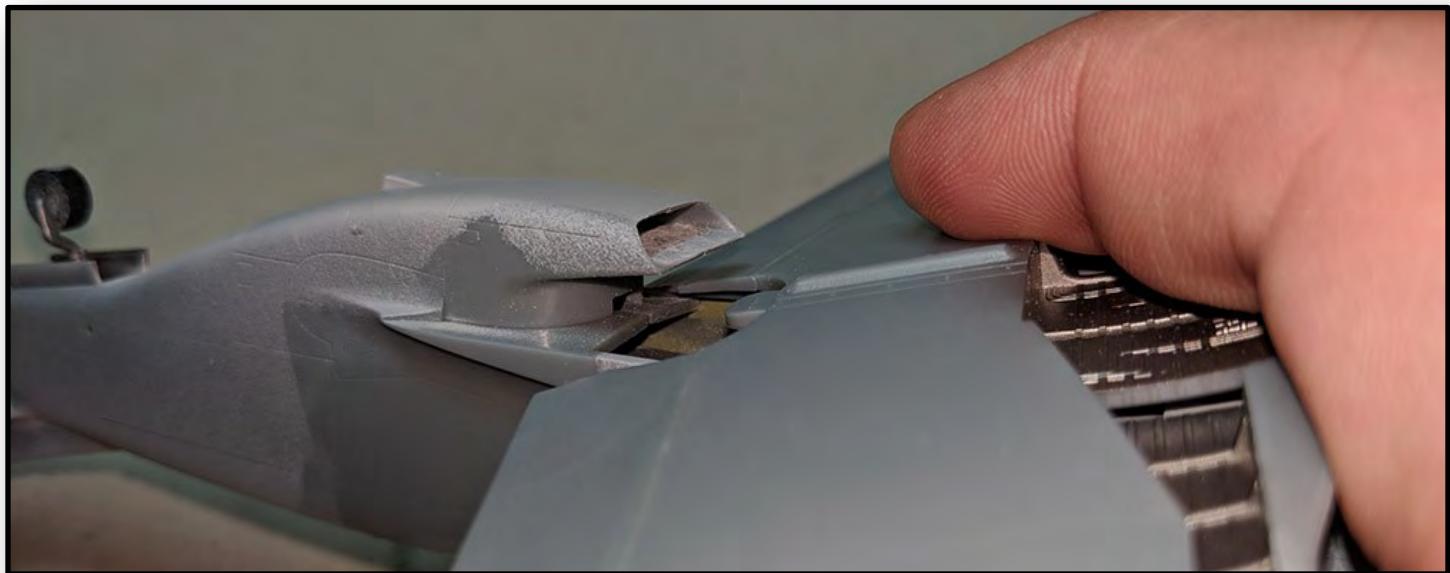


The one area that presented any kind of challenge is the leading edge seam around the gun ports. This takes extra attention to clean-up while preserving what detail is present.

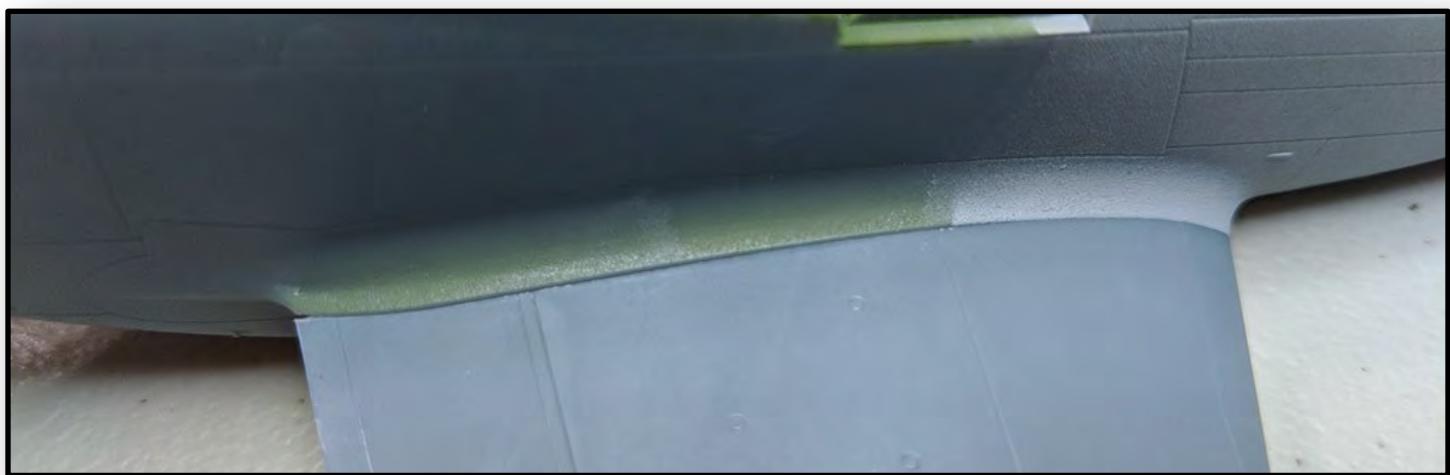


# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget



The wing locks into the fuselage via a secure locking joint underneath the radiator air intake. Once in place the wing is held in place very snuggly.

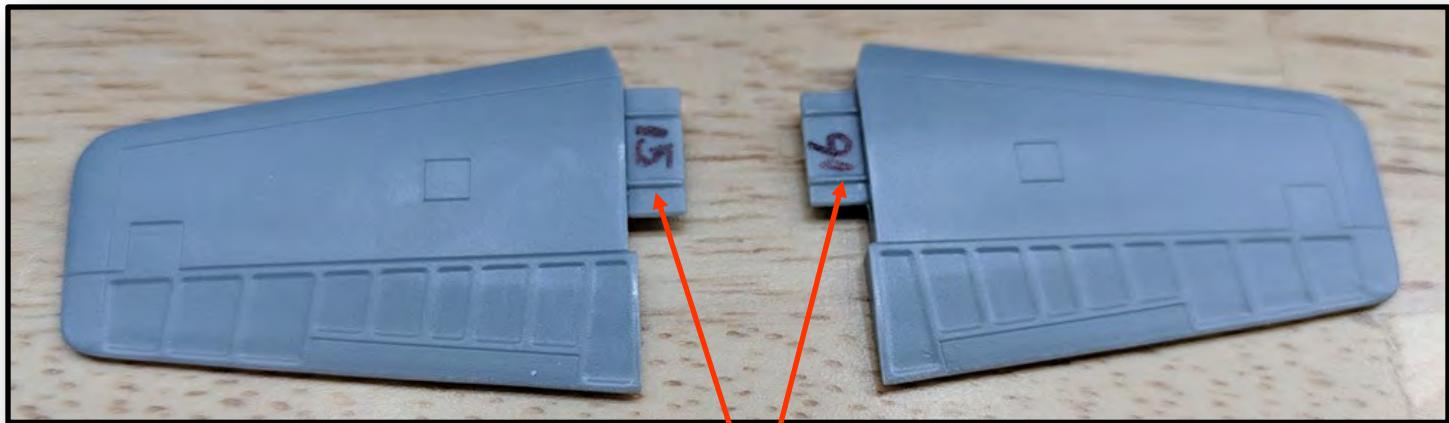


In addition to the secure wing-to-fuselage mating...the wing-fuselage seam is very clean and minimal work is needed to clean it up: just a quick line of Vallejo plastic putty does the trick.

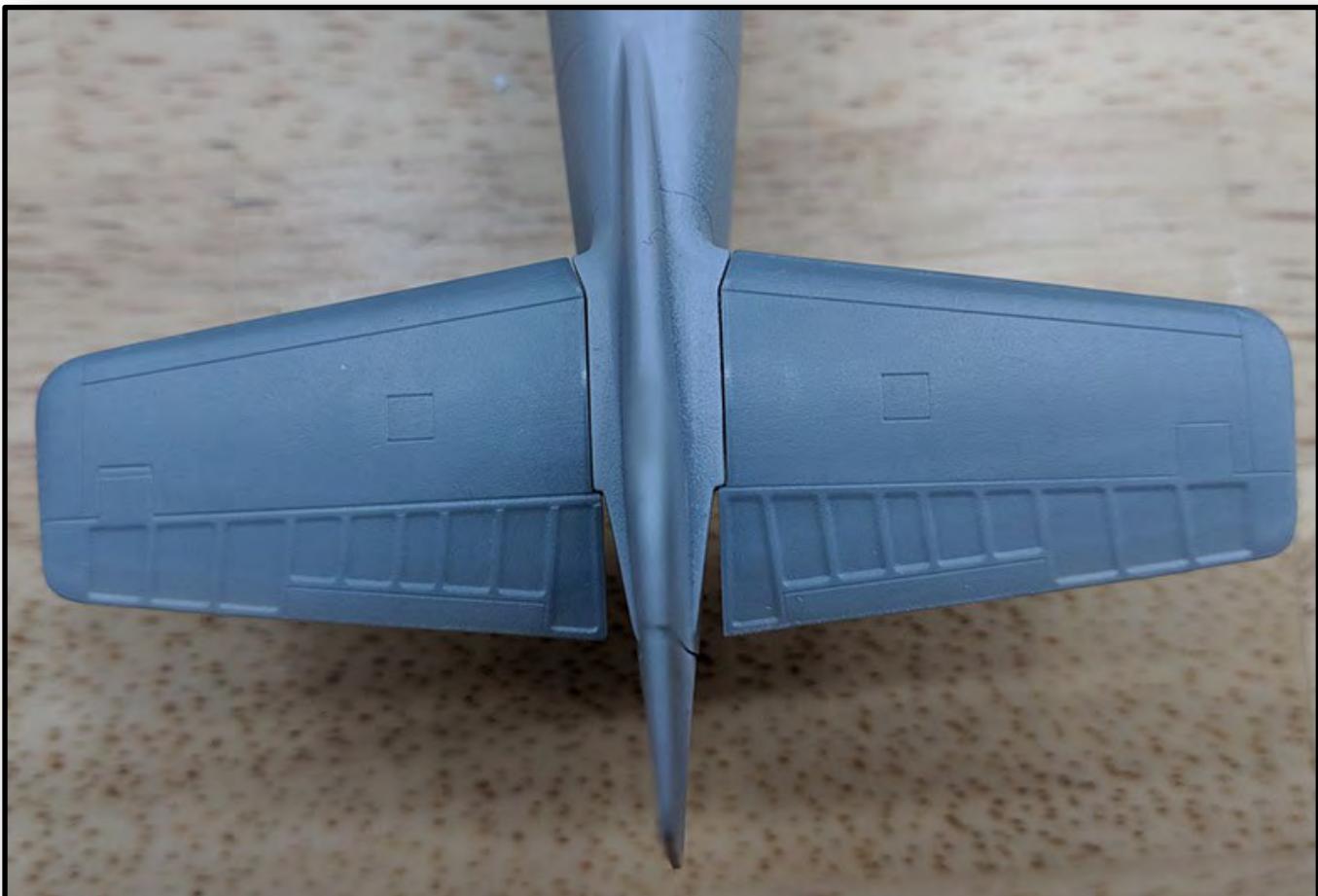


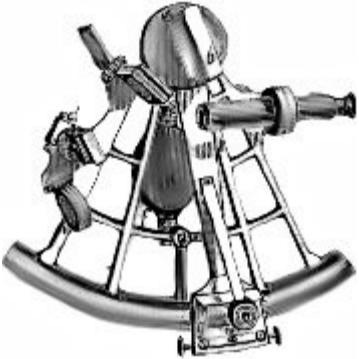
# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget



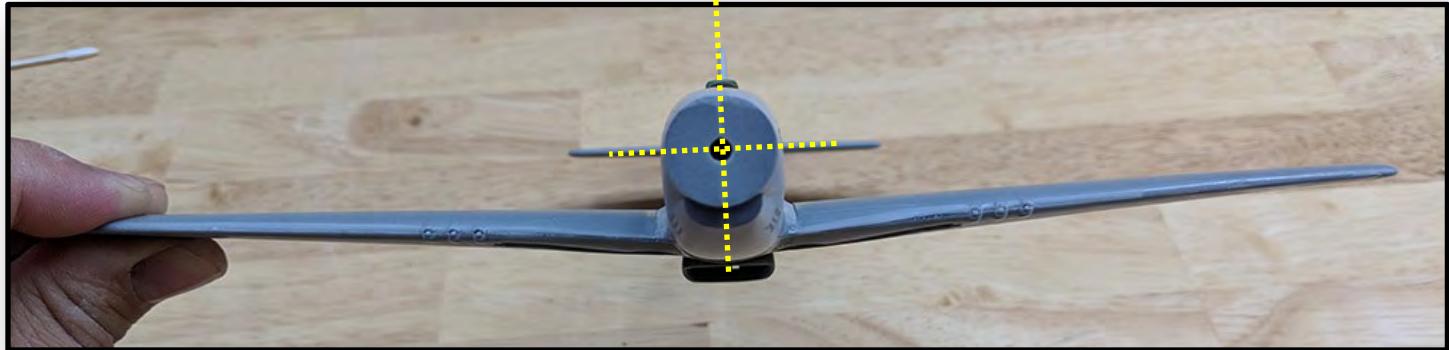
Another nice feature of this kit is the horizontal stabilizer joints. The tabs on each of the stabs has a couple of friction ridges that lock the stabs in the tail very securely and aligned properly.



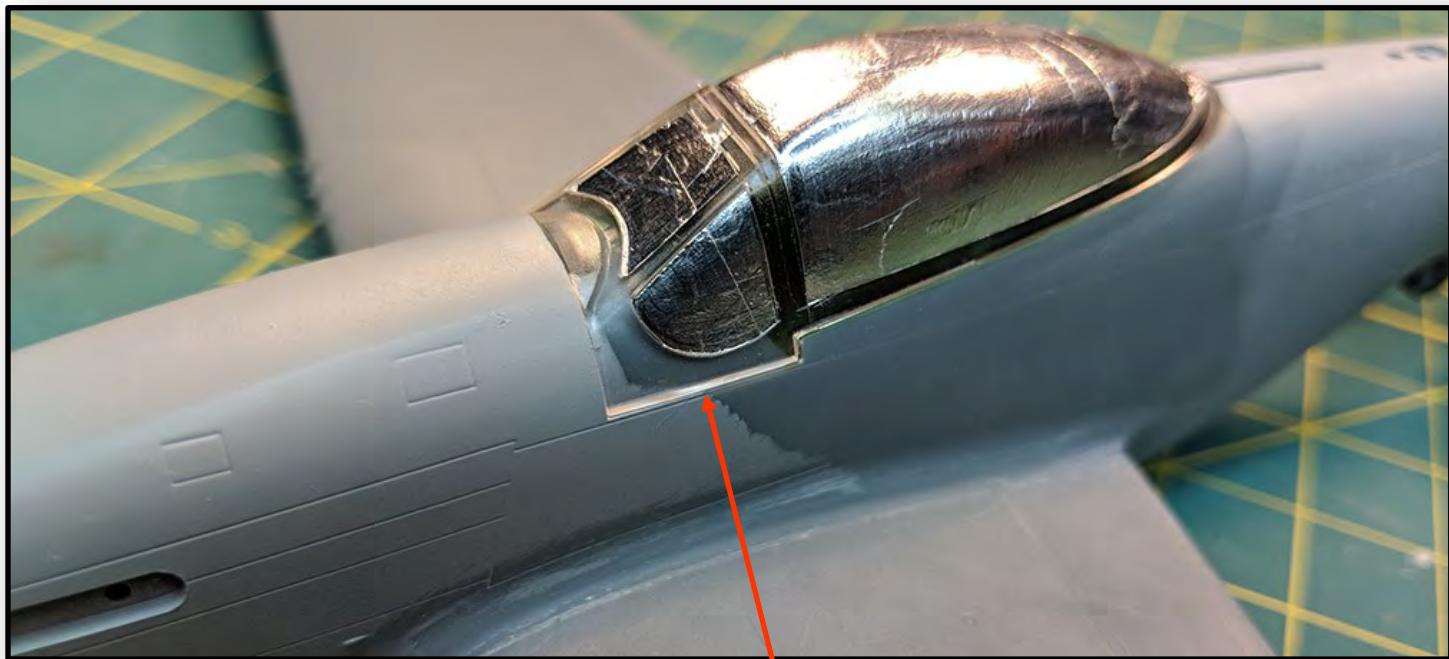


# Cover Story

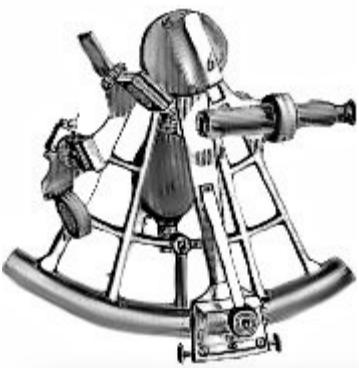
## A Mustang on a Budget



As you can see here the alignment, without any additional work or shimming, looks pretty darn good.



A downside to the model is the canopy being molded in one piece. If you want to pose the canopy open you'll have to do some surgery. However, a feature that I really like is the extension of the front windscreen - a clear piece - in the fuselage. This enables the modeler to tackle the seam away from the clear canopy and thus reduce the risk of damage to the clear parts.

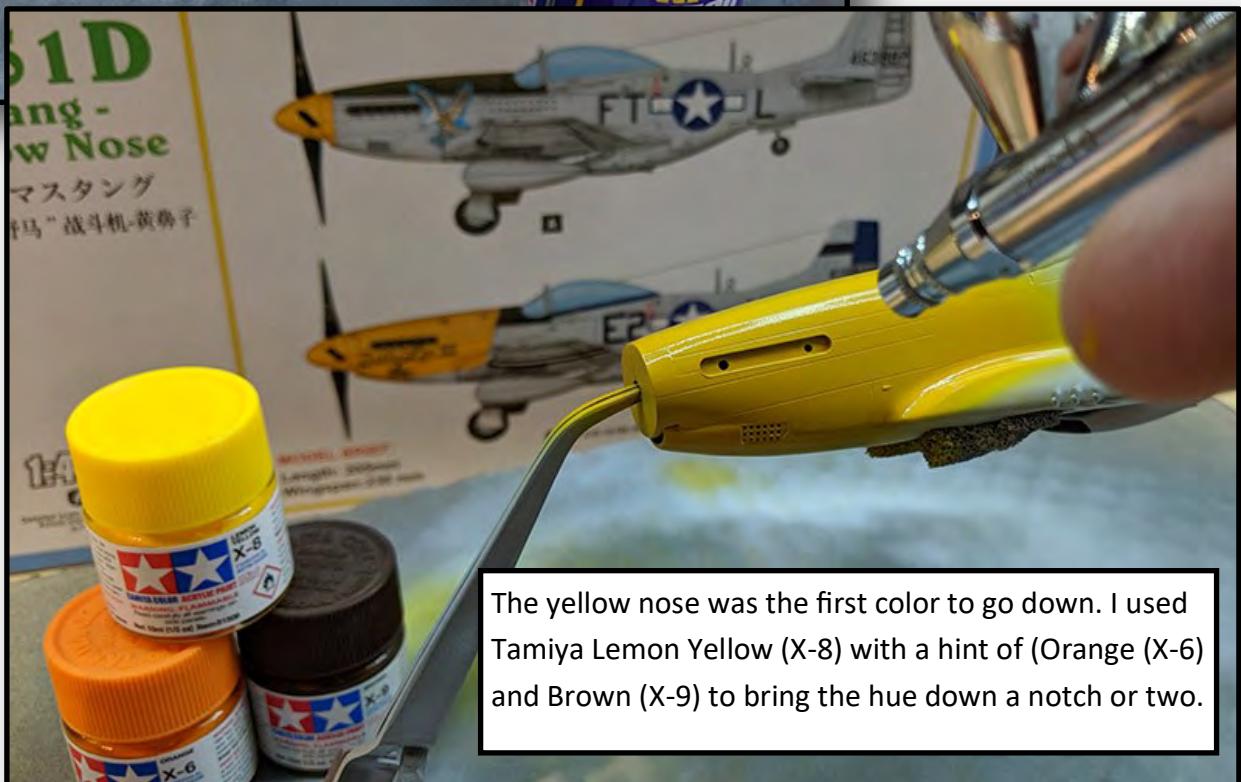


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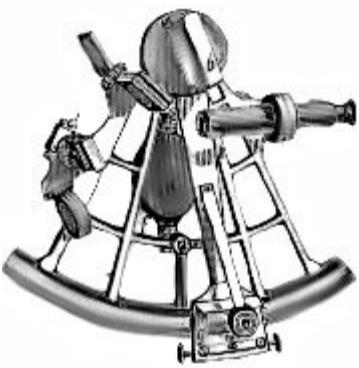
## A Mustang on a Budget



The model was primed with Mr. Surfacer 1500 and then sanded—when dry—with 6000 grit polishing cloth. The goal is to get a smooth a surface as possible.



The yellow nose was the first color to go down. I used Tamiya Lemon Yellow (X-8) with a hint of (Orange (X-6) and Brown (X-9) to bring the hue down a notch or two.



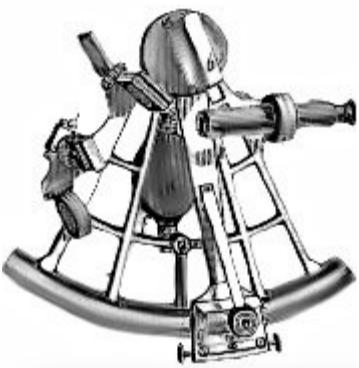
# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget

With the nose masked off I then applied some Alclad Aluminum (ALC 101) to the wings simulating the doped aluminum applied to the real aircraft wings.

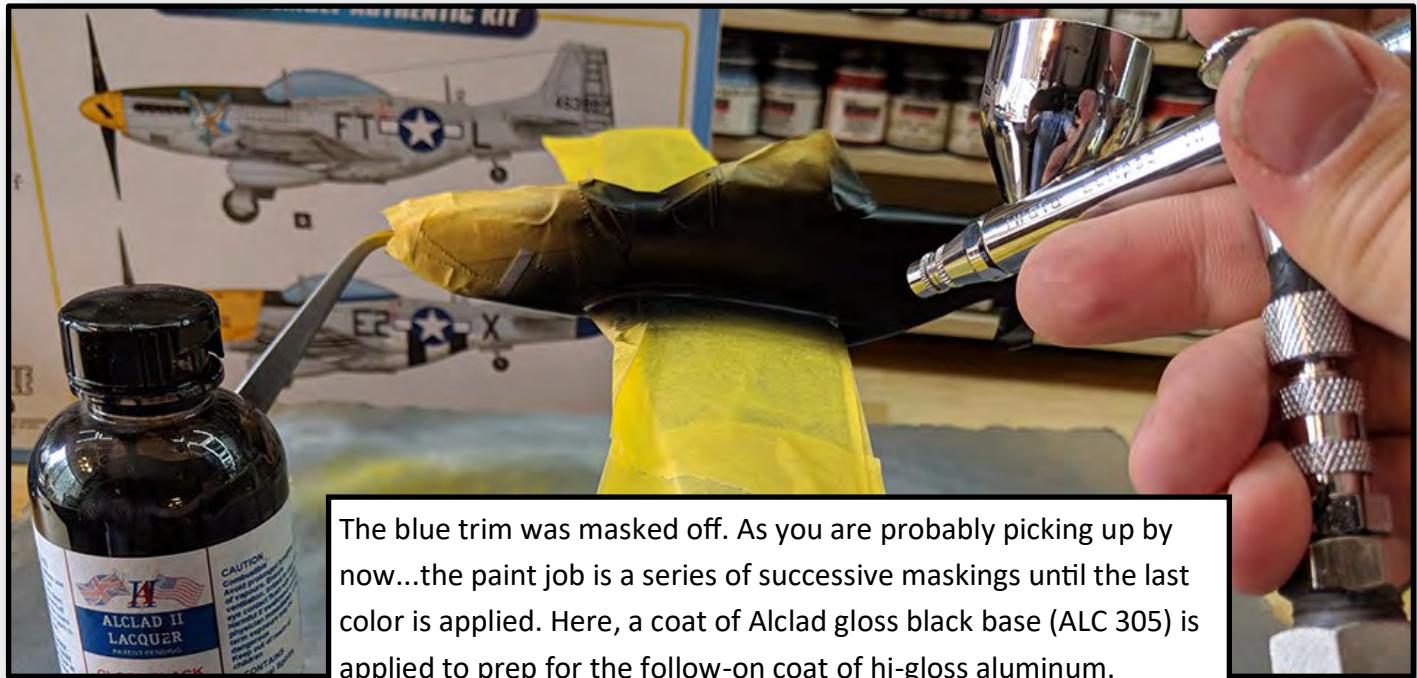


The wings were then taped off and the blue trim on the tail and canopy frame was applied with Tamiya Royal Blue (X-3).



# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget



The blue trim was masked off. As you are probably picking up by now...the paint job is a series of successive maskings until the last color is applied. Here, a coat of Alclad gloss black base (ALC 305) is applied to prep for the follow-on coat of hi-gloss aluminum.



Once the gloss black lacquer is fully cured and sanded with 6000 grit polishing cloth a coat of Alclad Airframe Aluminum is applied. This is a very shiny paint which requires a near-glass like surface in order to bring out the full affect of the aluminum paint.



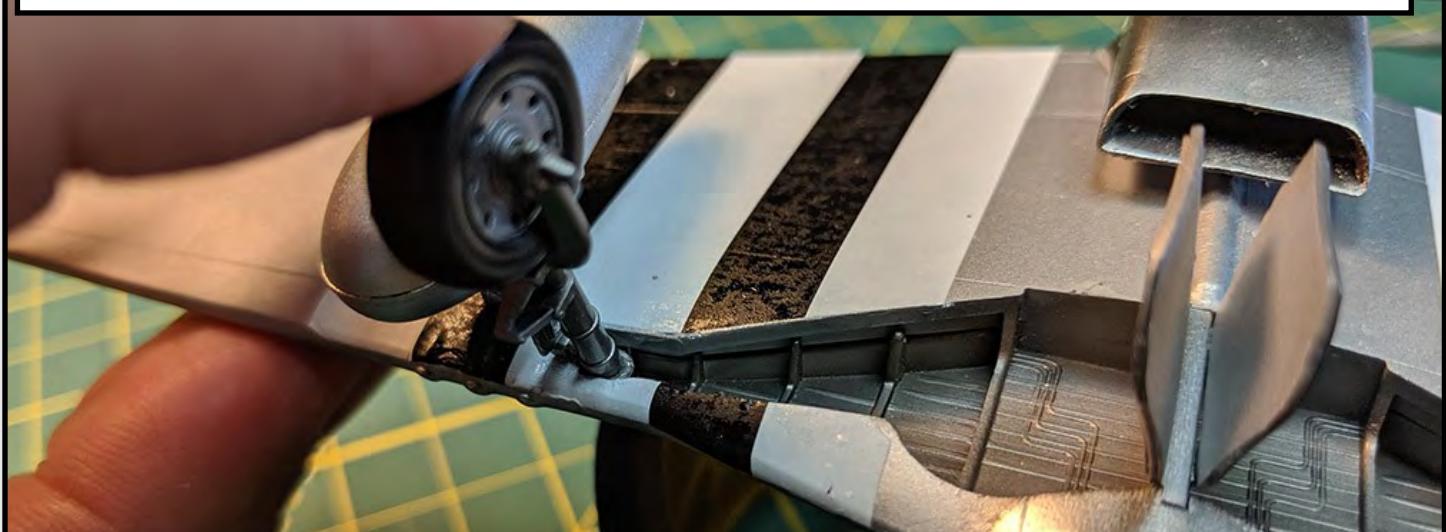
# Cover Story

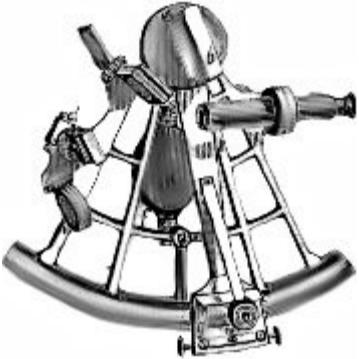
## A Mustang on a Budget

The decals come on 2 sheets and are plentiful. They also go on extremely well and snuggle down in most areas. A few areas needed attention (cutting and reapplication of decal solution).



One of the challenges of this kit is the fit of the landing gear struts into their corresponding sockets in the bays. Bottom line: the fit is not very good. The struts are keyed to fit a particular way but the sockets are much too wide for the corresponding strut to fit with enough snugness to keep it from moving while the glue is curing. A jig is needed or just hold with your fingers for a while until the glue sets-up.



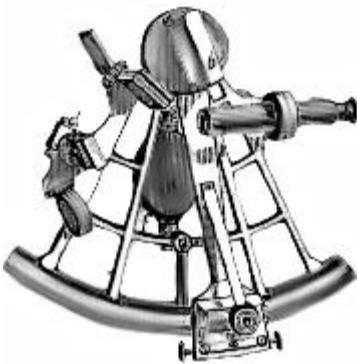


# Cover Story

## A Mustang on a Budget



The completed “Budget Mustang”. In all, an impressive kit for the cost. I highly recommend it and in fact, Alamo Squadron ABC director and instructor is seriously considering this kit for future classes...it is the perfect platform on which to teach beginning modeling skills.



# Club Member How-To

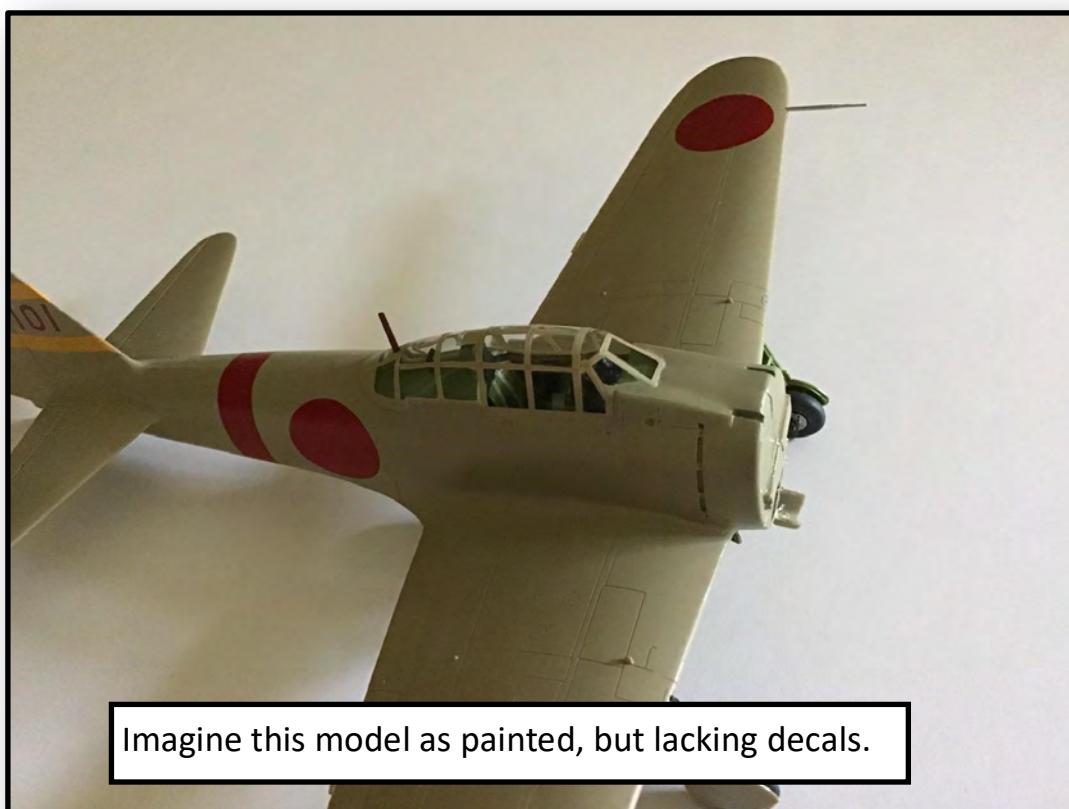
## Prep & Painting of Canopies

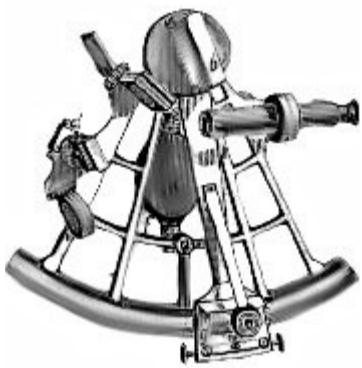
By Lee Forbes, IPMS# 2297



**H**opefully, those of you who attended our June meeting got more out of the accompanying article on this subject that appeared in the June issue of our Club Newsletter, *The Navigator*, than my demo. I was very disappointed in my demo, and I take full responsibility for not having anticipated the time that it would take to properly show the various steps of properly preparing an aircraft canopy for painting. It was certainly, "My" bad! Maybe, I should have stuck to my "tried and true" demo on using FUTURE/PLEDGE as a decal setting agent. Because I think this is such an important modeling skill for aircraft builders to use in perfecting their hobby knowledge, I contacted Len Pilhofer, our *Navigator* Editor, to get his thoughts on this follow-up short article to "re-do" my demo using a series of photos of the painted and

decaled 1/48 scale Tamiya, A6M-21, Zero, that I used for my demo at our last meeting. Len agreed that it would be a good idea. The photos were all taken from the starboard side of the model to best illustrate the stages of getting an aircraft canopy ready for painting starting with the bottom canopy frame and concluding with the wind screen. My idea here is "picture is worth a 1,000 words." Like I said at the June meeting, "You'll spend an hour or more getting ready to paint the canopy frames, and five minutes of air brushing time to paint them." It goes without saying that you airbrush the applicable canopy frames at the conclusion of each masking tape session following the sequence I've suggested. If you have any questions, refer back to my article on the subject in the June issue of the *Navigator*, or catch me at one of our future meetings. Now, let's get started.





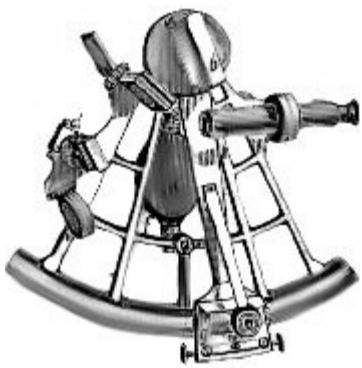
# Club Member How-To

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## Prep & Painting of Canopies



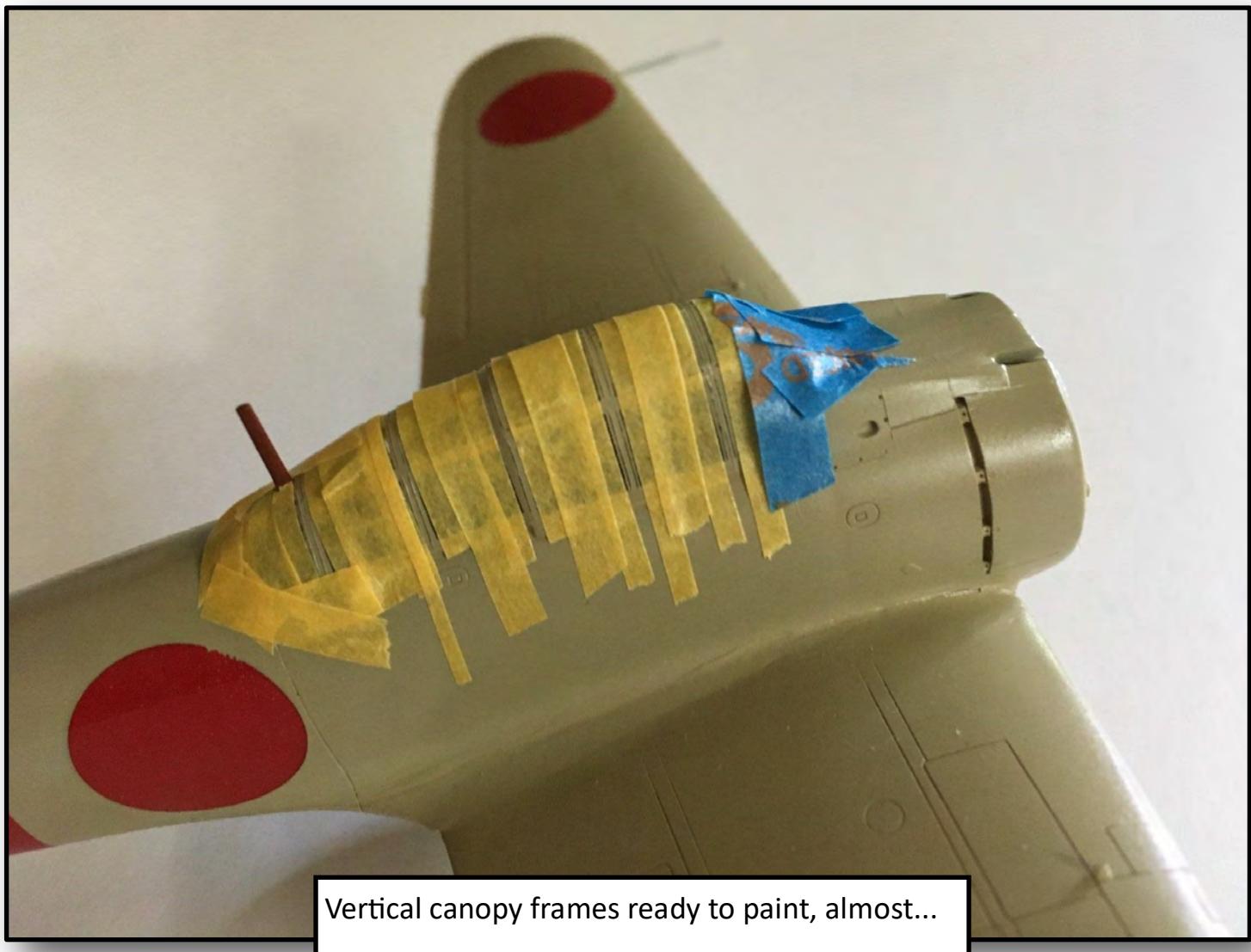
Bottom canopy frame ready to paint. Time spent: 20 min.



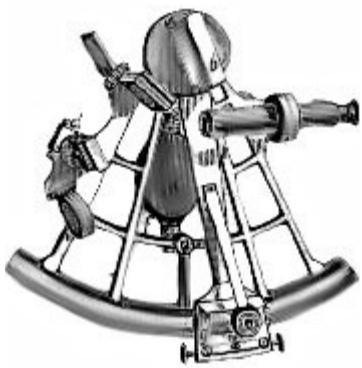
# Club Member How-To

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## Prep & Painting of Canopies



Vertical canopy frames ready to paint, almost...



# Club Member How-To

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## Prep & Painting of Canopies



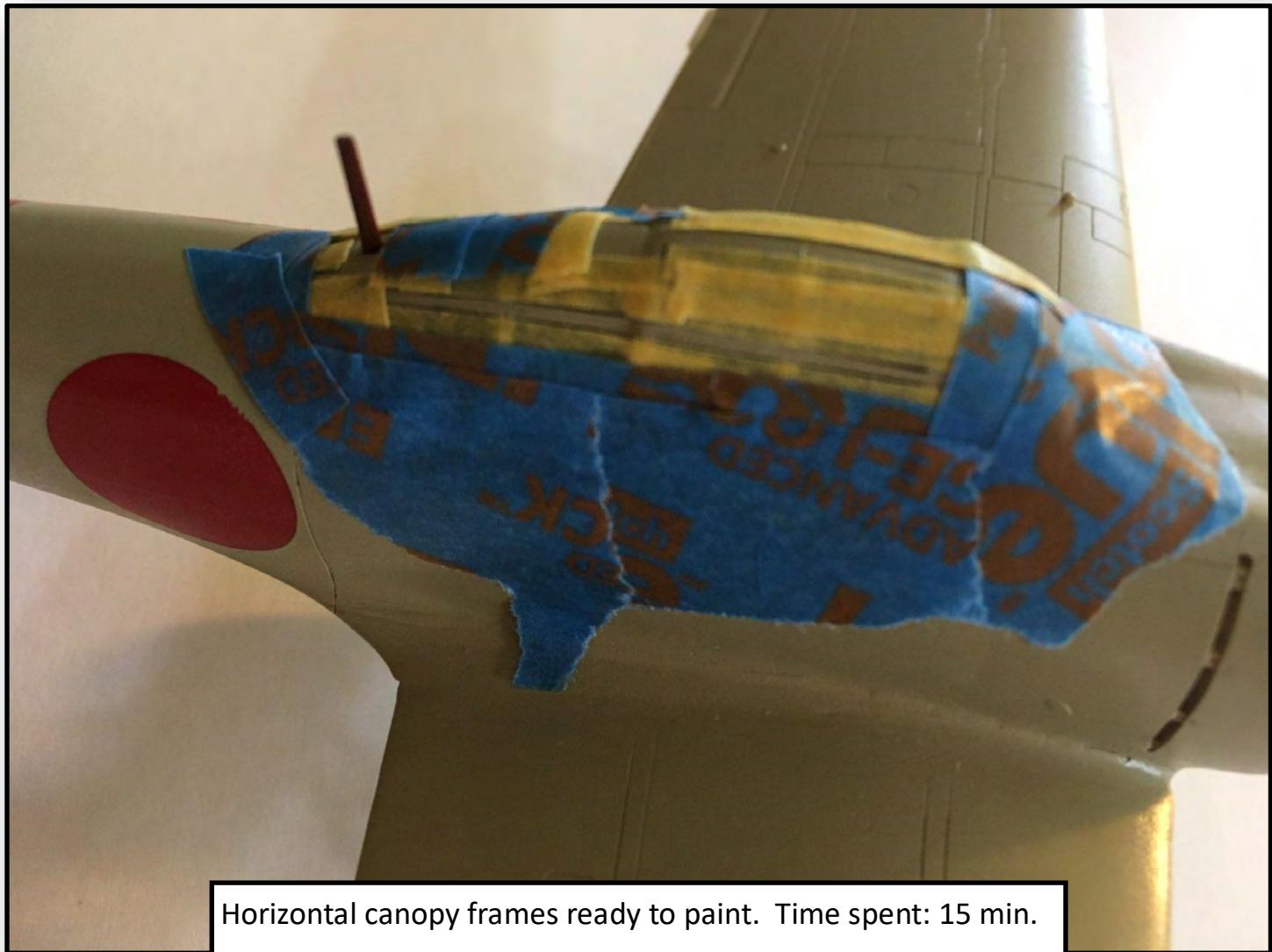
...don't forget to mask off masking tape ridges! Time spent: 20 min.

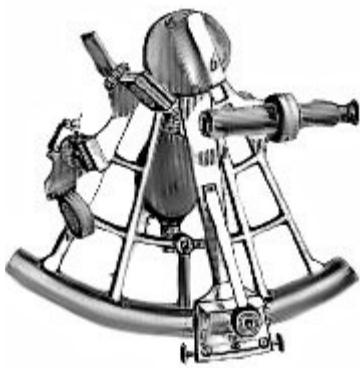


# Club Member How-To

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## Prep & Painting of Canopies





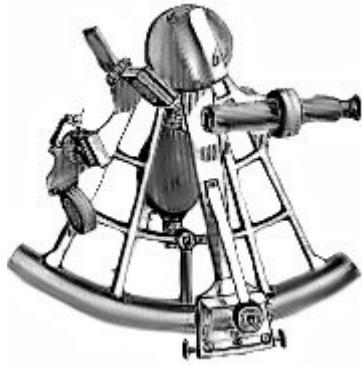
# Club Member How-To

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## Prep & Painting of Canopies



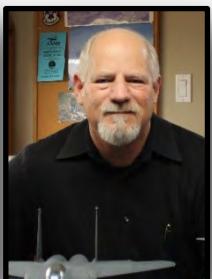
Wind screen ready to paint. Time spent: 15 min.



# Feature Story

## Show Report: EagleQuest 2019

Story by Dana Mathes IPMS# 43781  
Photos by Rob Booth IPMS# 37548



Throughout our modeling careers we've seen advertisements for and heard other modelers talk about going to EagleQuest, a modeling event sponsored by the MMD Squadron online hobby store (see <http://www.squadroneaglequest.com/>). So, this year, we decided that we'd check it out.

The event is held each June in Grapevine, Texas, near Squadron's offices and warehouse. A ticket to EagleQuest costs \$86. This fee includes one lunch and the meal at the awards banquet. Lodging and other meal costs are separate. The venue is an Embassy Suites hotel in Grapevine. Registration begins on Thursday afternoon. When you check in your models are photographed. This caused a long wait time to complete the registration.

About seventy modelers attended the event this year, with the majority of them being returning participants. Some modelers came from as far away as South Korea and the US East coast. The event consisted of five parts: shopping in Squadron's warehouse, educational seminars, historical presentations, a model contest, and an awards ceremony.

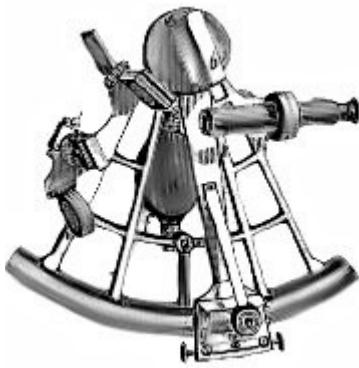


Squadron gave EagleQuest participants the opportunity to shop in its warehouse with a 40% discount off their posted website prices. On Friday, you are provided with a shopping cart and turned loose. The organization of the warehouse was not always clear and it took a while to understand where things were. We'd recommend that you prepare beforehand by looking through Squadron's on-line catalog and price-checking your shopping list against EBay. Squadron is a major distributor for Trumpeter, HobbyBoss, and Vallejo products and those areas seemed to be particularly well-stocked. In other areas, such as their photo-etch product storage, there seemed to be little stock and even less organization.

The education portion of the event included hour-long demonstrations given by Frank Landrus, Jef Verswyel (Squadron's chief modeler), and Kendall Brown on Friday and Saturday. The subjects were slanted towards military modeling and included: panel line highlighting, airbrushing metallics, armor weathering, winter camouflage, alignment techniques, aircraft canopies, fabricating baggage from Apoxie Sculpt(R), and the use of scale drawings. These sessions were informal and very instructive. The dialogues between the audience and the presenters were very useful and many tips were shared. Squadron products were high-



The Houston Gang: Vince Baralle is super excited while we get a rare glimpse of Richard Kern NOT building a model.



# Feature Story

## Show Report: EagleQuest 2019

lighted to some degree, but it did not significantly bias and undermine the presentations. There was also a photo-etch bending demonstration that was very informative.

EagleQuest's 2019 theme was the 75th anniversary of D-Day, so there was a WWII flavor to most of the historical presentations. Former Air Force officer and historian David H. Klause gave a very thorough presentation covering the facts and historiography of the 1943 Ploesti bombing raid. Squadron gifted a free book about D-Day to each EagleQuest participant, as well as an EagleQuest t-shirt with D-Day information on the reverse side. In addition, WWII memorabilia and artifacts were on display. Also, an AH-1 Cobra gunship was parked outside the hotel for inspection.

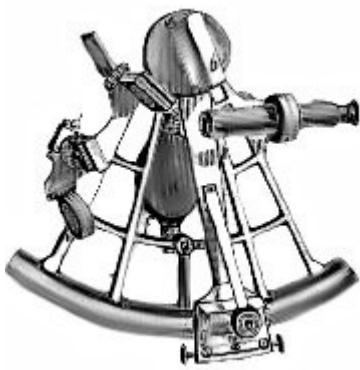
The EagleQuest model contest is somewhat controversial when you ask people about it. It is billed as the largest peer-judging contest in the country because each participant is given a ballot and invited to vote for the best models in each category. The contest categories were organized by skill level: basic, intermediate, open, and master (former EagleQuest best-of-show winners). During the voting period, each ballot-holder walked through the contest area and voted for their top three models in each category. Modelers were strongly discouraged from voting for their own entries. The open division categories for armor and aircraft were heavily populated, consisting of 30-40 models each. In total there were about 250 models in the contest area. Aaron Skinner, of *Fine Scale Modeler*, was also in the contest area beforehand photographing selected models. The average quality of the open division models was probably between what you would see at an IPMS regional and an IPMS national contest.

Critics of EagleQuest complain that the judging is not as thorough as what you'd encounter in an IPMS contest. In general, the judging format emphasized the "looks good at 3 feet away" criteria, but many people took the time to look very closely at the entries. One also needs to understand that the modelers at an event like this are very experienced, with high skill levels,

unlike what we sometimes find on IPMS judging teams. Other skeptics argue that peer-judging encourages voting for your friend's models. Dana did indeed hear people conferring and discussing how they had voted for each other's models. However, that doesn't mean that the models in question weren't legitimate contenders. Friends also judge each other's models in IPMS contests.



The "Big Eagle," a huge 60 lb. statue, the object of the EagleQuest, goes to the contest's best-of-show model. It and the other awards were presented at an awards banquet on Saturday evening. The format is similar to the IPMS Nationals awards banquet, with pictures of the winning entries. Because Squadron is about selling models, raffle drawings were interspersed with the award results. Based on the vote tallies, some models in each category were awarded high gold (category winner), gold, silver, or bronze medals. Runoff votes were conducted at breaks during the banquet to determine the best-of-class awards (small eagle statues) and the best-of-show award. In these cases, the modelers inspected the entries in question as they sat side-by-side. The 2019 Big Eagle was won by a scratch-built, wooden, 18th century British warship that took eight years to build. It was indeed a remarkable model, well-deserving of the enormous trophy.



# Feature Story

## Show Report: EagleQuest 2019

In our opinion, the peer-judging scheme did in fact, in almost every case, select the right models for the category winners, best-in-class awards, and best-in-show trophy. The discrimination between the gold, silver, and bronze medals did not seem as precise. Our results are listed below:



Aircraft, Propeller-driven: Rob Booth, Bronze, Ju88



Military Vehicles, Tracked: Dana Mathes, High Gold, Challenger 2, Bronze, Schneider CA

Ships: Dana Mathes, Bronze, USS Montauk



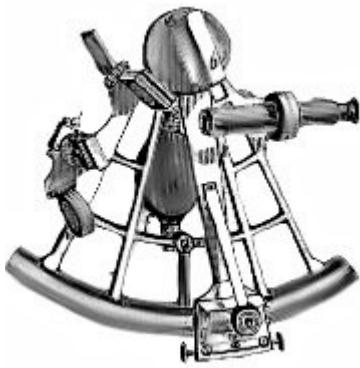
Civilian Vehicles, Non-racing: Dana Mathes, Bronze, Kansas Farm Truck



Science Fiction: Dana Mathes, Bronze, Hypothetical SPG



Out of the Box: Dana Mathes, Bronze, LAV-150

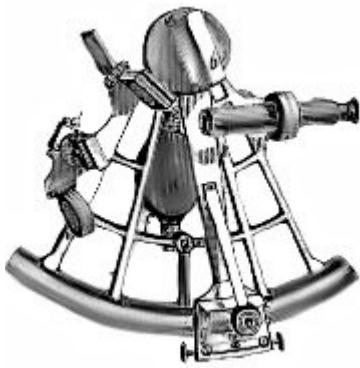


# Feature Story

## Show Report: EagleQuest 2019

So, would we recommend EagleQuest and would we go back? We felt that we learned a lot of tips from the demonstrations that will improve our modeling skills. The contest and voting experience were interesting and unique. The quality of the models in the contest was both humbling and inspirational, much as you would see at an IPMS Nationals. Shopping the warehouse allowed us to get a couple of models at very good prices. The atmosphere was very friendly. All in all, we'd recommend that serious military modelers consider participating in EagleQuest at least once. However, we did not feel that the value was high enough to warrant going back every year. You can probably get the same experience, for about the same investment and more vendor offerings, by attending the IPMS national contest.





# Feature Story

## The Rebel A-Wing: A One-Day Build

Model, story and photos by  
Craig Gregory IPMS# 49320



This would have been Part 4 of the Discovery build, but recently all my spare time has been taken away by work, Alamo Squadron President duties and preparation for the IPMS 2020 NATS. (Alamo Squadron is hosting in 2020, I am the Vendor Coordinator, and we must be ready to sell vendor tables in Chattanooga the first week of August 2010.) I am taking a break from the Discovery, but I had to do something to keep my sanity.

I watch a lot of YouTube videos for build techniques and inspiration. It always looks so easy, and in no time the modeling blogger has completed another project. I know the video is shot in sections and pieced together masking the time it takes the glue and/or paint to dry. But still could I build a model in a single day?

My stash includes a large representation of Bandai's Star Wars kits (very well represented in fact.) And one of the modeling bloggers I follow published on YouTube what looked to be a very simple build of Bandai's 1/48 A-Wing Starfighter. I repeatedly watched the videos, taking notes and planning my one day build. Bandai kits 'snap' together and their fit is exceptional. The A-Wing has a simple 2 color paint scheme and a few weather details would make a satisfying model.

But I was hesitant to start and have yet another unfinished model taking room on my shelf. I was passing thru Hill Country Hobby and on the shelf was my answer; Bandai's 1/144 A-Wing Starfighter for only \$8. I bought it and headed home. I already knew I had the needed paints and other materials because of



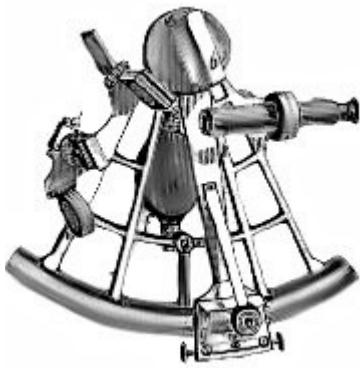
my preparation for the 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale A-Wing build. I would begin the following Saturday.

And now the disclaimers:

I knew I did not have a whole day to devote to a modeling build. But I did have time to split the build over a weekend.

I used a Vallejo red for the second color, and when I began to airbrush the pigment precipitated out and created a disaster. I had to strip the model and with Simply Green and start over.

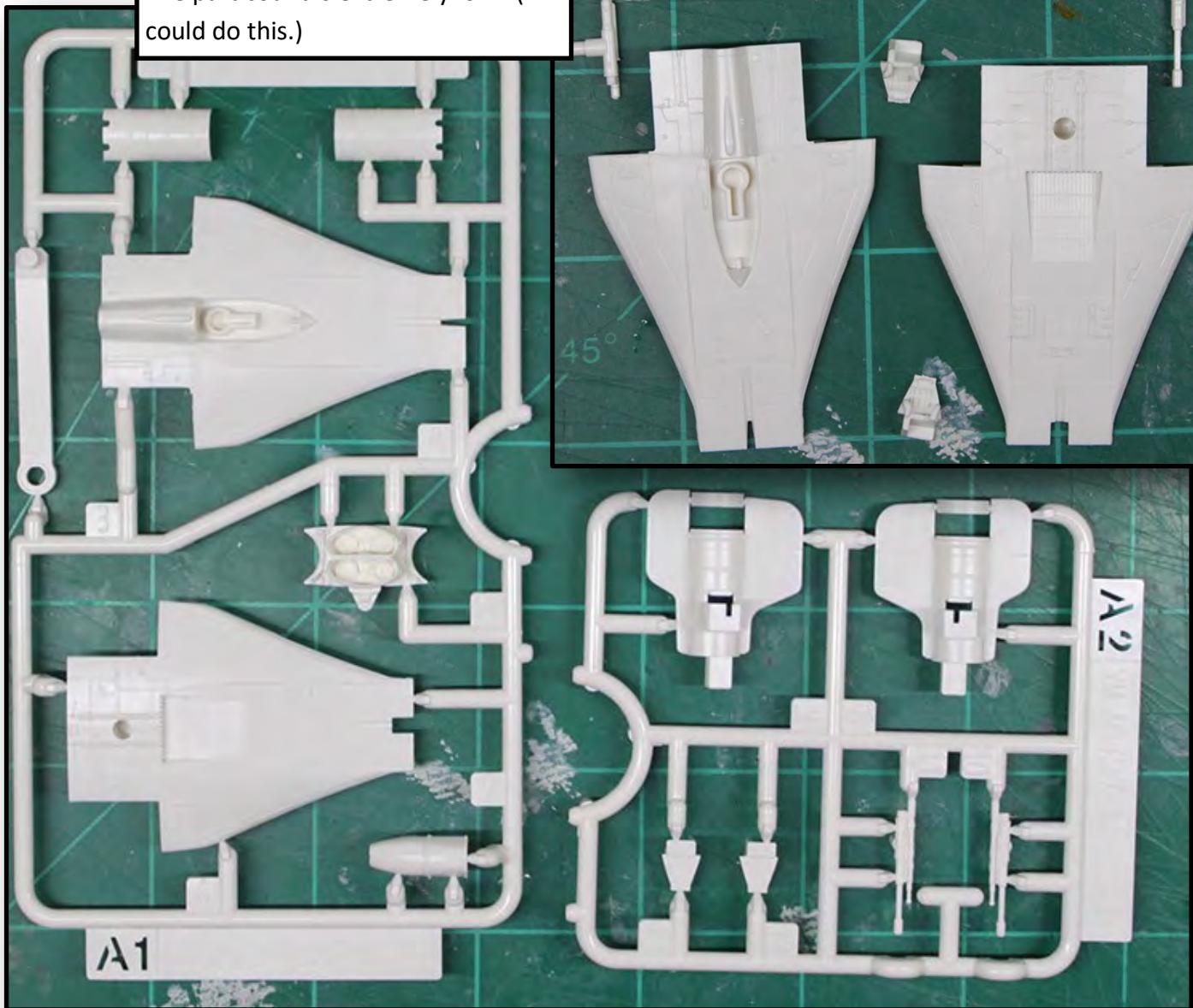
When I opened the box I was surprised to find 2 complete A-Wing kits. A plan came to mind. I would compare black-basing to a standard gray primer coat. I also compared priming on the sprue vs. priming individual pieces off the sprue. I will denote any other significant differences between techniques I used between the 2 models.

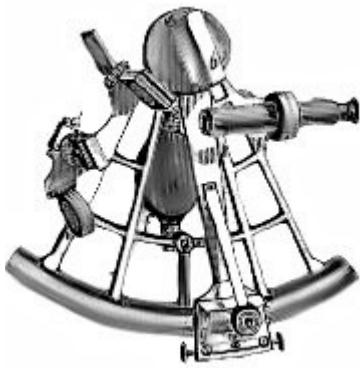


# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing

Bandai #0217623, A-Wing Starfighter, 1/144 scale: the box included sprues for 2 complete kits, stickers instead of decals, a single stand to display both models and instructions. The part count is extremely low. (I could do this.)

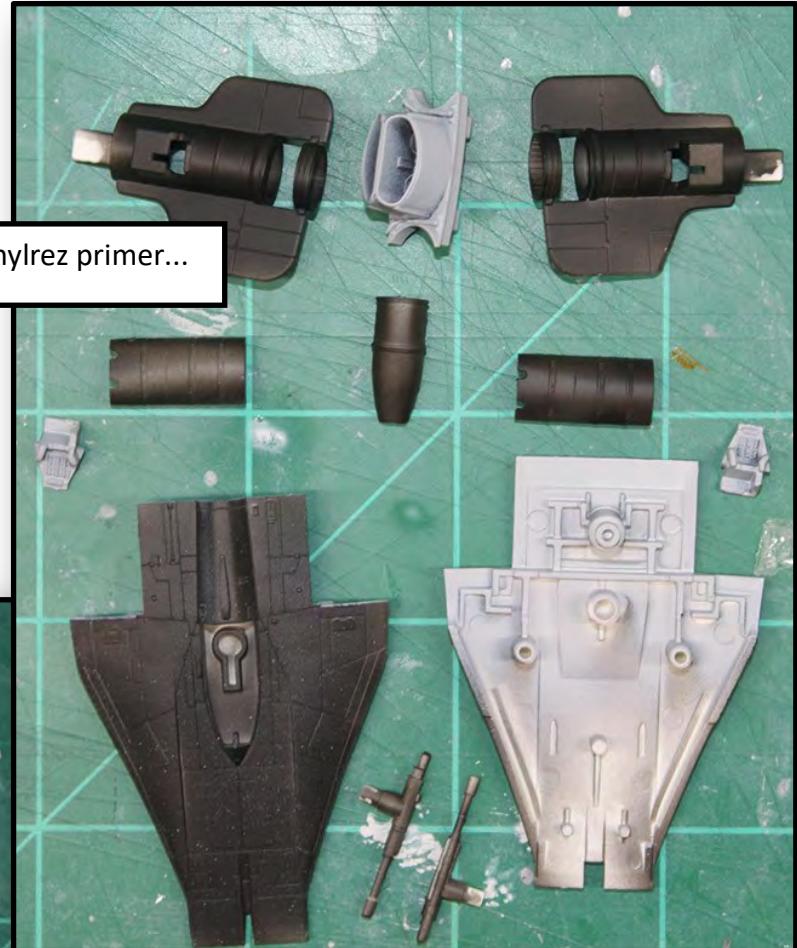




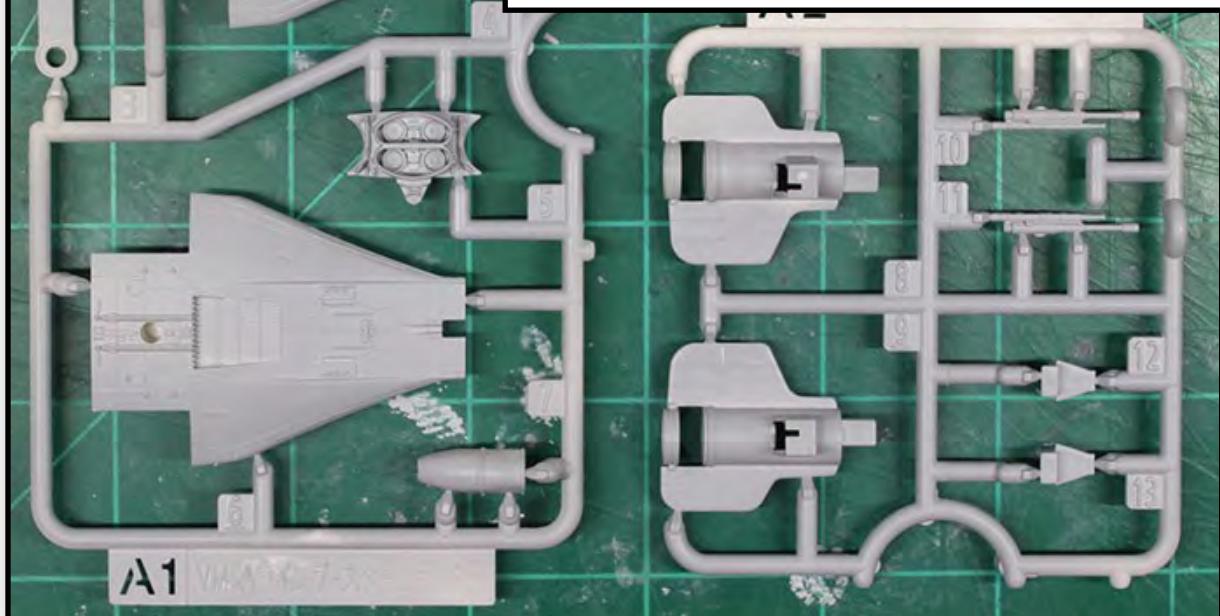
# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing

One kit was airbrushed with Badger's Styrylrez primer...



...while the other was primed with Tamiya gray spray-can primer



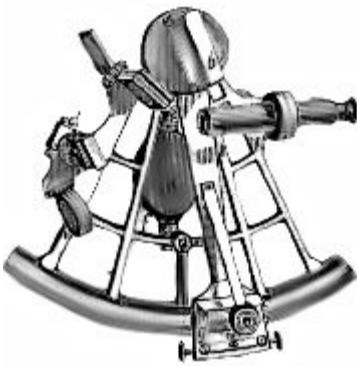


# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing

The primary color was airbrushed. I used my secret Spacecraft White color made from Tamiya white (X-2) with a few drops of gray (XF-54) and buff (XF-57). Careful application allowed details to 'pop' on the black-based model.

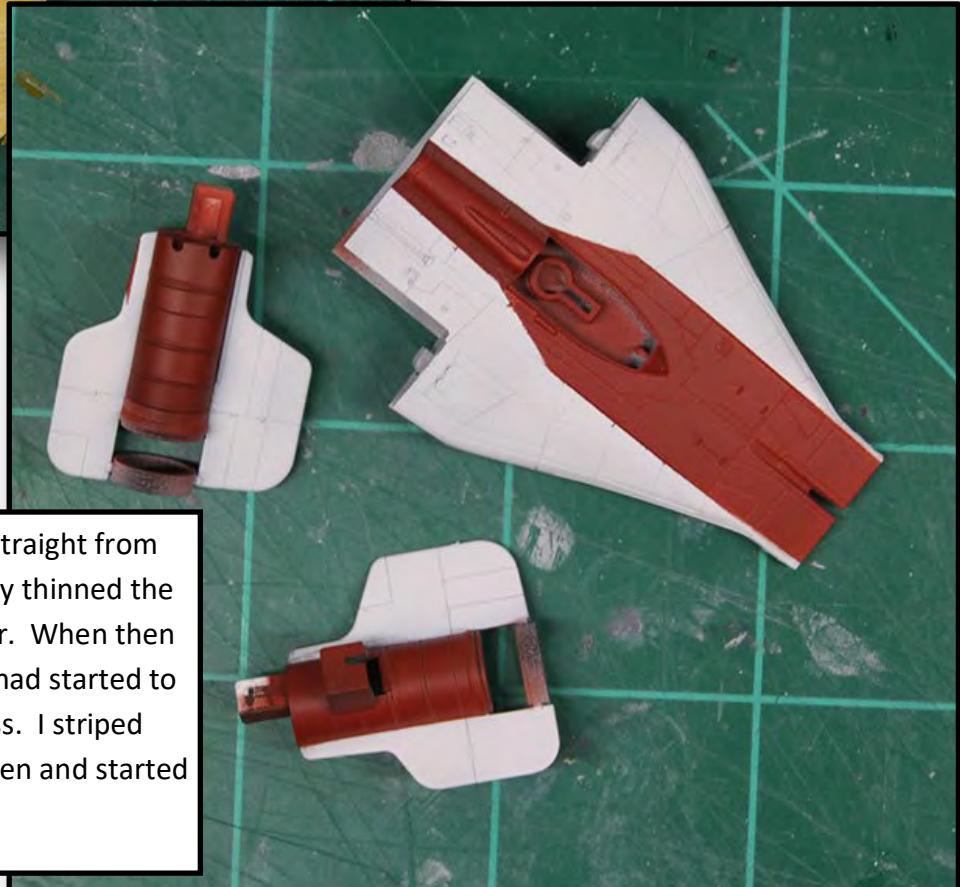




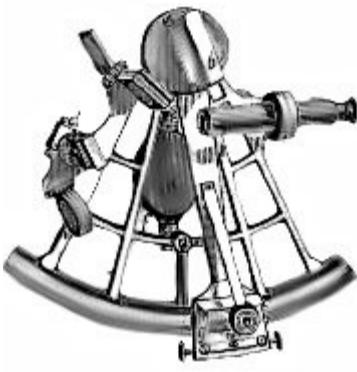
# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing

Masking was the most time consuming task for the build(s).



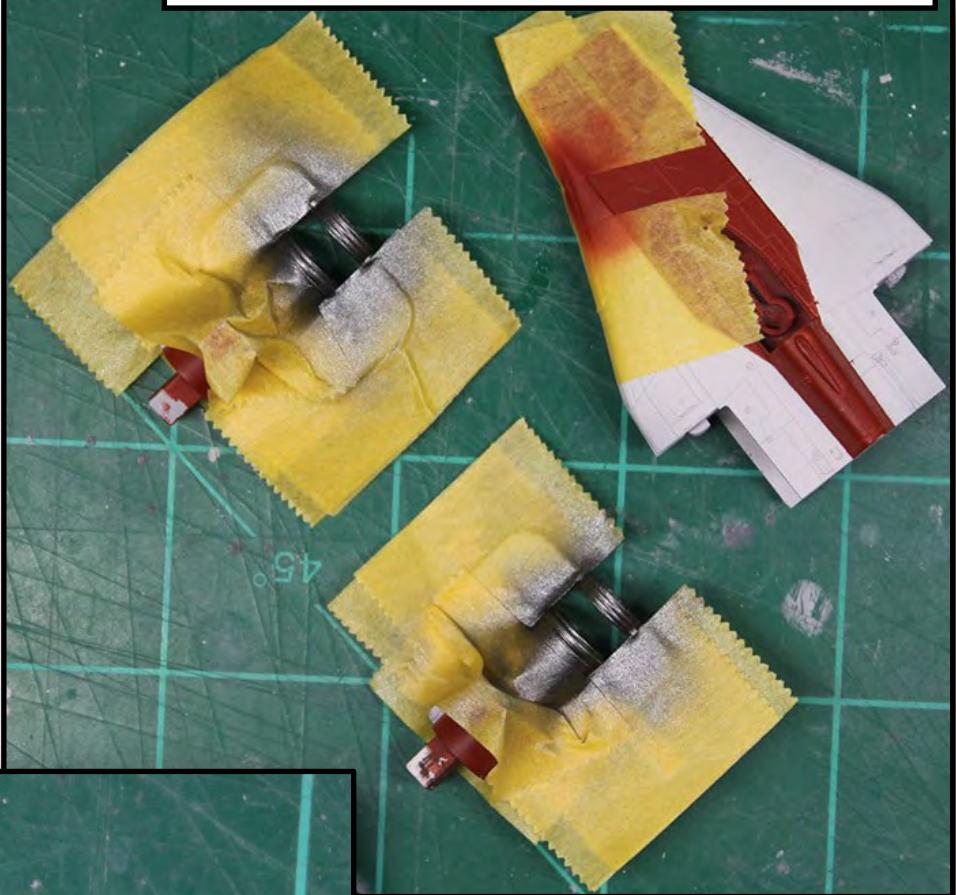
I airbrushed Vallejo red (71.105) straight from the bottle under 20 psi. I originally thinned the paint with Vallejo airbrush thinner. When the paint hit the model, the pigment had started to precipitate out and created a mess. I stripped the model down using Simply Green and started over.



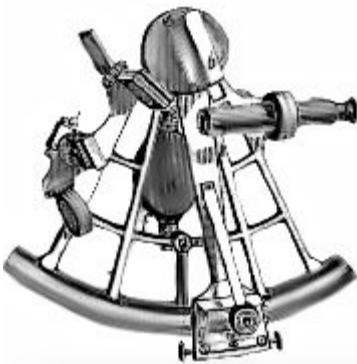
# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing

A little more masking for a shot of gun metal and red.



Masking and more color:  
A splash of pale green.

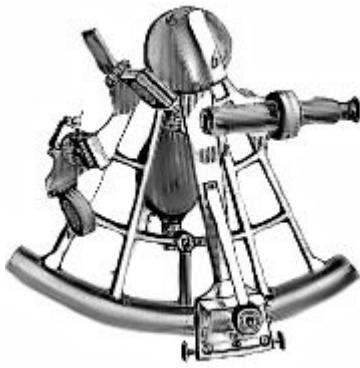


# Feature Story

## Building The Rebel A-Wing



It wasn't a single day build but it could have been. Even with having to wait for primer and paints to dry, with careful planning and execution I think this could be a one day build. More over if one had the fortitude I think the larger 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale A-Wing could be completed in a weekend.



# Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 11th, 2019 at 7:00PM**

**Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio**

## July 20, 2019

13th Annual HAMS Model Car Show & Contest  
Cypress Creek Christian Community Center  
6823 Cypresswood Dr. Spring, TX.  
<https://www.ipms-hams.org/annual-contest/>



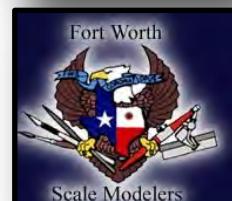
## Aug 7–10, 2019

IPMS National Convention  
Chattanooga Convention Center  
Chattanooga, TN.  
<http://www.ipmsnationals.com/>



## Sept 14, 2019

SuperCon 2019 Hosted by Ft. Worth Scale Modelers  
Bob Duncan Community Center  
2800 S. Center St. Vandergriff Park  
Arlington, Texas  
<http://fortworthscalemodelers.org/SuperCon.html>



## Sept 28, 2019

2019 Sprue Doo Hosted by Central Arkansas Scale Modelers  
(See club website for updated information on location)  
North Little Rock, Arkansas  
<http://www.casmmodels.org/>



## Oct 19, 2019

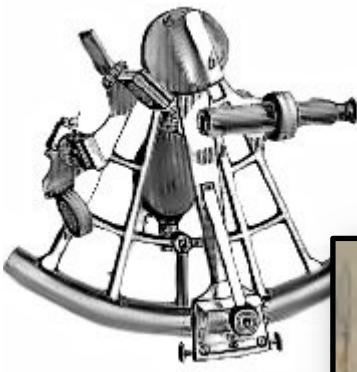
Cajun ModelFest 33 Hosted by Baton Rouge Scale Modelers  
LSU Ag Center's Minifarm Bldg.  
<http://www.brsscalemodelers.com/>



## Jan 26, 2020

CALMEX XXXIV Hosted by IPMS SWAMP  
Lake Charles Convention Center,  
900 Lakeshore Dr. Lake Charles, LA  
[www.ipmsswamp.com](http://www.ipmsswamp.com)





# About Alamo Squadron

## Executive Board 2019-2020



**President**  
**Craig Gregory**  
IPMS #49320



**Vice President:**  
**Len Pilhofer**  
IPMS #49932



**Treasurer:**  
**Chris Settle**

**IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron** was founded on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 in 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.



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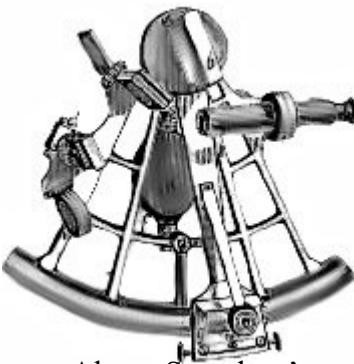


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[www.alamosquadron.com](http://www.alamosquadron.com)



# Final Words ...



Alamo Squadron's newsletter, "The Navigator", is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, Texas for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are very welcome. Send text file, photos, and web sites as well as feedback to our editor, Len Pilhofer: pilhofer@hotmail.com

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

**IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

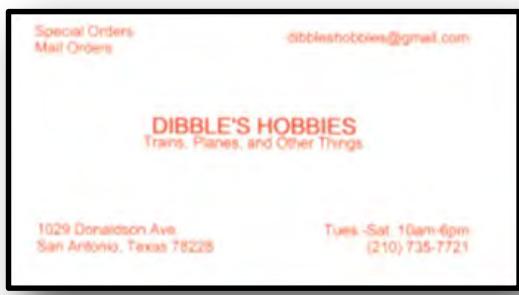
IPMS No.: _____	Name: _____	First _____	Middle _____	Last _____
Address: _____	I'm Renewing _____	State: _____	Zip: _____	
City: _____	Phone: _____	E-mail: _____		
Signature (required by P.O.) _____				
Type of Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86				
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 <input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journal) 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				
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<b>IPMS/USA</b> Join or Renew Online at <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>				
PO Box 56023 St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023				

Come on boys,  
we're busting out  
of the stash!

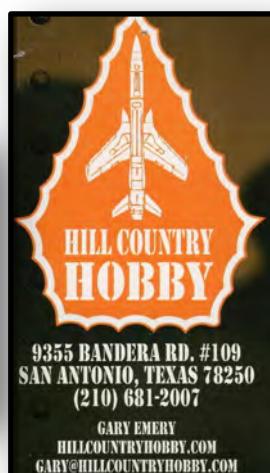


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