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LAST MEETING

March 24:

17 members and a guest met at the Teamsters' Union Hall in Springfield for our March meeting. The Meeting theme was "Done in time for the Show."

Nick Kimes brought in 1:32 Academy Starcraft Space Marine figure that is nearing completion. The emblem on the base was sprayed using a homemade stencil.



Michael Steenstra brought in his in-progress 1:35 Tamiya Panther, and his in-progress Normandy diorama that includes an Asuka British Sherman, Verlinden building and street, and Dragon British Infantry with resin Ultracast heads.



Dwain Cunningham brought in two 1970's era 1:35 Tamiya kits that his brother purchased for Dwain while vacationing in Florida. One was the Tamiya Tiger 1 motorized kit, and Panzer III. Both kits were purchased for \$12.95 each!



Gary Sanders brought in three models that he built over the past month: the Meng USS Lexington, 1:35 Tamiya M5A1, and the 1:72 resin Hunley Confederate Civil War submarine.



Guest, **Vince Neil** brought in two in-progress kits. Vince typically builds dirt car racers.



Darren Gloyd brought in three recently finished model cars. MPC Vega that he finished is metallic black, and added "Outer Limits" decals from Slims Decals. A 1953 Chevy that he finished with Pearl Blue paint and "Bojangles" decals. And an AMT Rat Rod with "The Bandit" decals from Gopher finished with Champagne Gold paint.



Phil Jurkowski brought in a recently finished Warhammer 40K Game figure that his son gave him for Christmas. Phil used Citadel paints to finish the figure, then put a small magnet in the figure base and the display base, that way the figure can still be used for gaming!



Steve McKinnon brought in an in-progress Italeri 1:48 AC-130 Gunship that he recently purchased and started. Steve looked for the aftermarket photoetch detail set, but could not find it, so he started work on the cockpit anyway.

Mark Mahy brought in his giant Ed Roth "Rat Fink" resin figure kit, and a 1:1 scale non-functioning Thompson Sub-Machine Gun that his buddy, Marty Denny, painted with some Looney Tunes cartoon mobster characters.



Go to www.ipmsmoss.com and check out the Gallery for more pictures!

LAST MEETING

April 7:

17 members, 3 wives, and a guest met at the Teamsters' Union Hall in Springfield for our April meeting.

Gary Sanders brought in two Ban-Dai 1:48 and 1:144 scale X-Wing Fighters, and a 1930's vintage metal Studebaker car that Gary plans to restore.



Gary's wife, **Donna** brought in her homemade (scrapbook style) Easter Bunny candy holder!



Darren Gloyd brought in his in-progress 1969 Chevelle Stock Car that he is kit-bashing from 3 or 4 other model car kits; the frame is from the Rat Trap Vega kit. This build is inspired by a challenge from his modeling buddy, Vince.

Paul Drinkall showed off his recently acquired AMT 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 XL. The kit was previously started (nearly completed) by another modeler and comes with a couple neat accessories (racing helmet in the back seat), but Paul plans to strip and re-build the kit!



Michael Steenstra brought in his in-progress 1:35 Normandy diorama; it's getting closer to completion! Michael airbrushed the Sherman and got some more paint and details on the figures and base.

Guest, **Robin Crotser** brought in a model of his real life 1977 Pontiac Grand Prix. The kit started out as a “Super Dave” car, but after lots of body and detail work, plus a few parts from other kits, it ended up painted and detailed like his own vehicle. Robin also brought in two Anime figures that he built years ago, and placed on a diorama base. It took two separate Comic Con visits for him to get the autographs of the ladies who are the voice actors for these characters; both actors signed their names on the diorama base. Robin also brought in a recently purchased kit that he has been wanting for year – the Grumpy’s 1972 Vega kit.



Mark Mahy brought in his recently purchased Meng 1:35 Vskfz 617 *Minenräumer*. This prototype 55 ton mine clearing vehicle was designed by the Germans in World War II and only one was known to be built in 1942. It was later captured by the Russians in 1945, and is now on display in the Kubinka Tank Museum near Moscow. Mark said the subject was so ugly he couldn't pass it up!



Mike Mangan brought in the frame for another in-progress, custom made steam engine. This one is more complex than any of his previous builds. It will be a beam engine, similar to what is found in oil fields.



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WORK IN PROGRESS

Airfix 1:48 Messerschmitt Bf-109E-4 by Art Miller, Part 2



READY TO PAINT

I have an Iwata Revolution CR airbrush. This is a double action brush I use it with a twenty pound CO2 tank. Most paints will spray well at 10 to 15 psi. I have my best luck with Tamiya paints using the Tamiya X-20A thinner. Keeping the brush clean is the big secret to happy results when finishing my models. Luckily I have a Staedtler ultra-sonic pen cleaner. Not only does it do a great job when the brush is disassembled for cleaning but I use it briefly between color changes. Cleaning fluid in the ultra-sonic is med-temp lacquer thinner. I use the lacquer thinner

because I spray a lot of enamels. A gallon of this stuff costs about sixteen bucks. I have watched videos where guys using water based paint use plain water or Windex in their cleaner. Most airbrushes will give years of service with minimal care and cleaning. My airbrush is about fifteen years old but recently I decided to replace the tip, needle, air valve spring and related packings; the brush is now good for another few years. It may have not been necessary but I do know a talented modeler who replaces the tip and needle every few projects.

Most models I build have a version of shadow shading. I try to keep the application limited so as not to overdue the effect. Usually I shade the engine area and the first third back of the leading edge of the wing. The top of the fuselage also receives attention. For most paint schemes the base color is dark enough to highlight the panel lines. Navy gull grey schemes I use a dark grey to pick out the panel lines.

This step is where the “scale effect” I mentioned earlier, helps the visual appeal of the model. By spraying thin coats of lighten paint to the center of the outlined panels, the effect of subtle weathering begins to come out. Only by layering light coats of color back and forth with darker shades do I get the amount of weathering I am searching for.

Sometimes the line between the various shades is too stark. I will use the lighter shades over sprayed lightly to blend the paint. I spray with the brush held about twelve inches above the model. The effect is more of a “fog” than a spray. This method works well for me when blending multicolor schemes like those on the Spitfire

FINISHING AND DECALING

The next step in my build depends on the amount of surface detail the kit has. If it has an abundance of rivets and access doors, I will spray a coat of Minwax Fast Drying Polyurethane over the entire model. Sometimes, the wing and fuselage need to be done separately to allow for handling. The coat of Minwax also is really good as a base for decaling. But before the decaling I use a thin wash of artist oils to the panel lines and other bits of surface detail. I need to add here that the Minwax should cure at least overnight before the wash. Same for the oil wash. The glossy surface of the Minwax allows the dried oil to be wiped off cleanly to areas where it is not needed. At this time I may have to redo the wash to some panel lines that did not “take” well. Some panel lines are not



deep enough to accept the wash. The problem can be avoided at the outset of the build by an inspection of the wings and fuselage. A gentle over scribing of panel lines may be necessary before the build begins.

I always use the Minwax prior to washing or applying decals. Minwax applies much more evenly than Future Floor Wax. When decaling, I avoid the use of Solvaset depending on how well the decals are settling down to the surface. If I do use a softening agent I do so sparingly. If I have a pond anywhere on the decal I use the edge of a tissue to mop the excess. I try to avoid an uneven application that might cause a decal to lift resulting in silvering.

Sometimes to hurry the completion of a build, I spray the decals with a thin coat of Future and proceed to the application of Testor's Dull Coat. When all is dry I wash with very thin oil paint. If enough depth is not visible another thin wash can be applied. Taken together, the "fogging," Minwax and dull coat gives the surface of the finished model a smooth, uniform finish. Sometimes the shadow shading loses definition after all is done. Select areas can be touched up and dull coated without damage to the finish.

Some modeler's dry brush the model as a finishing touch; I have never been that confident in my dry brushing ability to do much of that. Mainly I do small areas like wheels, landing gear and drop tanks. Things that I dry brush are parts can be repainted if I get carried away. When I do use a dry brush, again I use oil paint. I put a small amount on a paper towel and sometimes have to leave it overnight for the excess oil to be absorbed into the paper. The drier the oil the better for dry brushing. Again small amounts of very dry paint work best. Several thin applications can be built up to the effect I desire.

Painting canopy framing is the very least enjoyable part of the build. The best way to do this is to obtain pre-cut painting masks. If these are not available I use the old frustrating and time consuming method using Tamiya Tape or better yet, a .005 Frisket paper. This paper is clear and allows me to see the framing underneath. I prefer the matt finish paper as that seems to be easier to see through. A steady hand and a sharp Xacto blade is all that is required.... easier said than done. Tamiya tape cut into strips are sometimes useful as a guide when cutting.

There are many new products to use to paint and



weather models. My building process is old fashioned, but it works for me. The longer I model the less attention I pay to fine detail. This lack of motivation to excel has resulted in more enjoyment of the hobby. Without getting hung up on some minor error that is difficult to repair I find that moving on allows me to finish more kits. Even so, the height of the stack of "unbuilts" does not seem to lower much, if at all.

My apologies that this article has turned to be much longer than intended; don't ever ask a modeler to talk about his models if you do not want to hear a long and probably boring monologue. All of the things I have talked about can



be found on endless varieties of YouTube videos, but since Nate asked, I was happy to share my version of the hobby with you. Happy modeling! ~AM

NEXT MEETING

May 26, 2019 – Sunday, 6pm at Branson Hobby Center!

5's and 'Toons

Theme: "5's and 'Toons" - anything related to "5" or cartoons, comics, or the funny builds (i.e. egg planes, Ed Roth, Weird-Oh's, etc). Bring a model, tip or technique to share and discuss! And remember your chair!

Happy Modeling!



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