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Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

As I was recently scrolling through Facebook, I came across a humorous meme titled "The Ten Commandments of Scale Modeling."

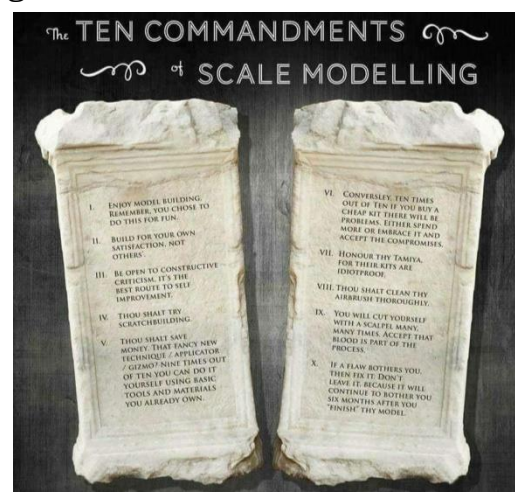
The fourth Scale Modeling Commandment listed reads "Thou shalt try scratchbuilding." As I read it made me think back to years ago when I looked through

Shepard Paine's *How To Build Dioramas* book for the first time. As I flipped through the pages, I was amazed at the photos of the models—many of which were largely scratch built – and thought to myself "I could never build anything like that. I wish I knew how to scratch build and how to paint 1:35 scale figures like that." For years I wished that I had the skill to build models like those in Shepard Paine's book.

One day in 2004, I decided that I was going to build a diorama; it required 1:35 figures and some modeling a building from scratch. I took the steps and tried my hand at figure painting and scratchbuilding.

Vincent van Gogh once noted that "If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced." I did not know this quote until a few days ago, but my first attempt at scratchbuilding worked out very well 13 years ago. I felt complete satisfaction at finishing a project that required more work than the basic out of the box models I had previously built. Since then, I have built nearly two dozen models or dioramas that required some level of scratchbuilding and all to my satisfaction!

So, if you haven't yet ventured into the world of scratchbuilding, give it a try; you might just enjoy the results!



"We're making it a small world, because small things matter!"



20 August: 13 members of the Knights of the Square Table met once again on the first floor of Branson Hobby Center.

Rusty Hamblin brought in his recently finished N gauge Box Car converted to a storage shed. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the roof walks or "running boards" (the brakemen used to run on the boards to set the brakes) were outlawed for safety reasons, and were to be removed by 1974 in order to be compliant. Growing up, Rusty had a neighbor who had a couple old box cars which were converted and used as storage sheds. So, when Rusty obtained this N gauge box car with the running boards, he decided to create a storage shed out of it. He used Plastruct corrugated sheeting for the "foundation," and to represent concrete steps, Rusty glued three popsicle sticks together, then covered them with a thin coat of Tamiya putty.

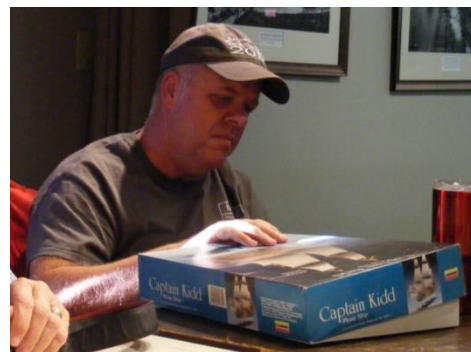


Bill Loden brought in his recently completed Revell Germany Special Edition 1:72 Solo Turk F-16. Representing the Turkish Air Force flight demonstration team known as Solo Turk, Bill built this kit out of the box, adding only the clear acrylic rod to display his work. Bill airbrushed the acrylic rod a clear blue color, then later added the white rings to represent the aircraft in full afterburner, as demonstrated by the Solo Turk team during low and slow flybys. The kit is molded in black styrene which adds some difficulty to the build process by hiding flaws until primed. Bill was pleasantly surprised when the Tamiya Gold paint matched the kit decal colors perfectly!



Gary Sanders found that occasionally scrapbooking supplies can come in handy for scale modeling. Gary found a 12"x12" piece of corrugated card stock and another 12"x12" self-adhesive cork could be used for scale modeling. The corrugated cardstock could be used to make a scale Quonset hut and the cork could easily serve to resemble a sand covered display base.

Dwain Cunningham brought in a Lindberg Captain Kidd sailing ship model that he recently purchased for a very good price at a flea market.

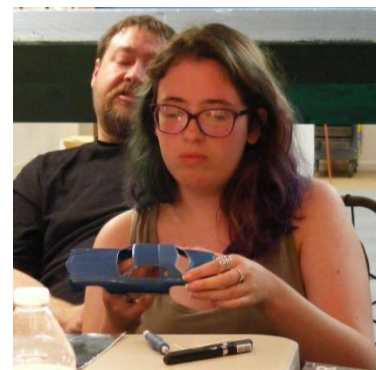


Brian Taylor brought in a Revell 1:25 Peterbilt Wrecker that he recently purchased on a model sale



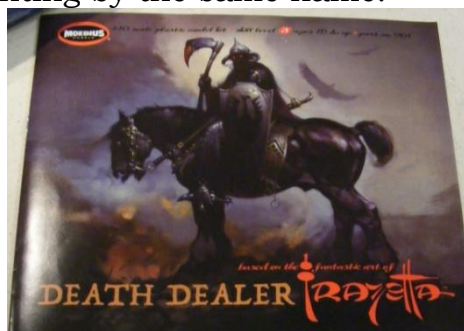
page on Facebook. The kit is the “Can-Do” version of this triple rear axle wrecker truck. There is also a “Will-Do” version of this wrecker as well.

Madison Taylor brought in her method of representing chrome parts on models. She has two techniques: applying Bare Metal Foil and using the Molotow Liquid Chrome pens.



(See the **Tips & Techniques** section on **page 4** for more details.)

Mark Mahy brought in a couple parts kits that he recently purchased at a swap meet, and the new Moebius 1:10 Death Dealer kit inspired by the Frank Frezetta painting by the same name.



Nate Jones brought in his Dragon 1:700 USS Arizona that he plans to build as she looked the morning of December 7th, 1941.



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

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Simulating Chrome by Madison Taylor

Madison has two techniques for representing chrome on her car models: Bare Metal Foil and the Molotow Chrome Pens.

Bare Metal Foil can be a pain staking process, which requires a lot of patience, a steady hand, and stockpile of brand new No. 11 X-Acto blades. Being self-adhesive, the Metal Foil can be easily applied, but as the Foil ages, the adhesive gets weaker and is subject to peeling or being removed with excessive handling. Using a brand new No. 11 blade and only the weight of the blade and X-Acto knife (i.e. not much pressure), cut a small strip of the Bare Metal Foil. Madison emphasizes to work in small increments (approximately 1" or less), especially for complex curves like around wheel wells. It also may require wrapping around to the inside of the model for small edge work. Relief cuts will be required for any corner work. After you position the Bare Metal Foil piece where you want it on the model, use a toothpick or the edge of your fingernail to burnish the Foil down ensuring the Foil's adhesive gets a good grip on the plastic. Frequent replacement of the No. 11 blade is required because cutting through the Foil will quickly dull the blade, and a dull blade will cause the thin foil to tear.



Bare Metal Foil was used for the trim on the driver's side.

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For the Molotow Chrome pens, which are an alcohol-based ink, requires a thorough cleaning of the model before application. These refillable Chrome pens come in two sizes: #1 and #2. The #2 pen tip will work for most of the chrome work on your model. The #1 is a fine tip that works for detail work like emblems, and corner work where the #2 pen tip will not fit. After application to the model, be careful handling the newly applied Chrome; the ink takes a long time to dry (even overnight), and will easily be smudged with handling. Also, any mistakes are not easily corrected, so it will require touch up paint to cover the mistake. Madison cautions though to save the Chrome Pen work until after the clear coat, because any clear coat applied over the Chrome Pen will dull the finish and make your chrome look like dull silver paint.



A #2 Molotow Chrome Pen was used on the passenger's side trim.

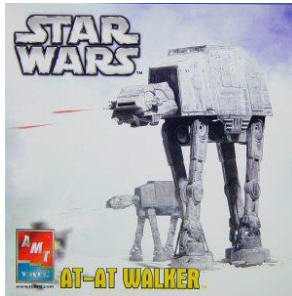


A #1 Fine Tip Chrome Pen was used to detail the emblem.





FREE
Classified
Ads



WANTED:

AMT/Ertl's Star Wars Imperial AT-AT Walker kit, box scale, kit #38271. I think it was last produced around 2005. I only need parts so I won't pay top dollar for a collectible kit. Will consider other AT-AT kits in this same size range. Contact Rusty, 417-335-6624 or jordanfordusa@gmail.com.

If you have a Classified Ad – Wanted or Selling – that you would like included in *Sprue Bits* **free of charge**, please e-mail it to ipmsmoss@hotmail.com



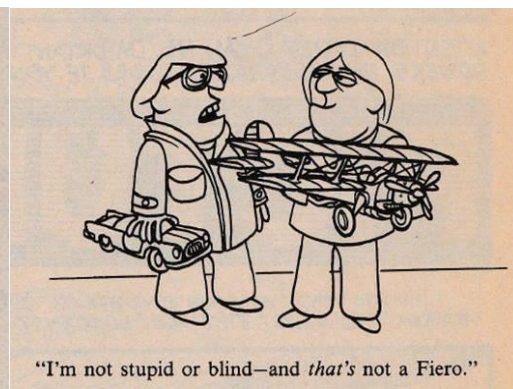
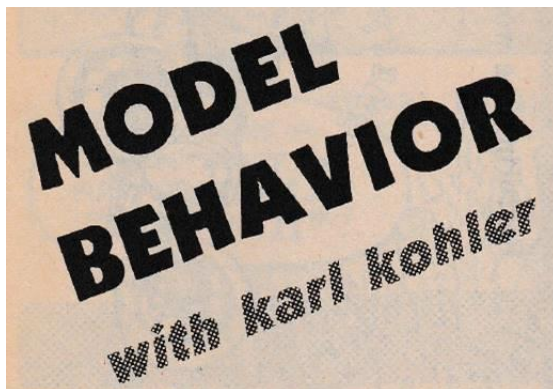
Check out the new look of **Branson Hobby Center's** website at www.bransonhobbycenter.com.

Be sure to check out

What's New

(click for link)

in the store.



Special Thanks to Rusty Hamblin for sharing his Feb 1985 issue of "CARtoons" magazine, which is the source of this Karl Kohler Model Behavior funny!

WORK IN PROGRESS

Bandai Robo Super 4 Kung Fu Tracer by Rusty Hamblin



Because I have so many unfinished model kits I am very selective about the kits I buy. With that said, this Bandai Chopper Robo Super 4 Kung Fu Tracer was an impulse buy and certainly not a kit I ever imagined I'd own. When I saw that box art I just lost it laughing. Much like my beloved Hasegawa Eggplanes I built this just because it is so darn cute. Did I just write that this kit was darn cute? You bet I did and it is even cuter in person.

This kit is similar to other Bandai kits being molded in a multi-colored sprue that they call multi-gate molding.



The kit contains not only styrene parts but vinyl parts and self-adhesive stickers. You could glue and paint things if you want but it is not really necessary. In this delightful afternoon build, I didn't use any paint and only glued a couple of parts together for added security.

Like all Bandai kits I have built so far, this one has the instructions in some Asian language I don't understand, so I have to go entirely by the pictures. Be careful when doing this, as I have learned the hard way, the pictures can be deceiving. I took my time studying the instructions sheet and making notes on it where the decals went and any specific order parts had to be assembled in. I also noted options which can also throw you off.

With instructions reviewed, notes made, and sprue cutters in hand, I went at it. Snip the part, wipe them with a sanding stick, and test fit. Everything fit perfectly, so the kit went together quickly. Since there are several parts on these types of kits that move, Bandai includes a vinyl socket that must be fitted to receive the moving part. These are rather critical and easily put in the wrong way. I made sure to check and double check the instructions so I got it right the first time.

Everything whizzed right along until I got to the self-adhesive stickers. Now I could have just peeled them off and stuck them on, but I have learned that with age the stickers will curl and drop off. To help hold them on, I now use Microscale Industries Micro Metal Foil Adhesive.



This stuff is designed to help adhere Bare Metal Foil to models, especially after Bare Metal Foil has aged a bit. It works perfectly for self-adhesive stickers too. Using a small paint brush, I brushed it on wherever a sticker would sit. The longest part of the build was setting it aside to dry. The fluid goes on white, much like thinned Elmer's glue, but once it dries it turns clear, and sticky. You really want to place your stickers correctly on the first try because once they touch the Metal Foil Adhesive they are down. Using a burnishing tool, I press them down making sure they stick well and are formed to all the little nooks and crannies.

I wasn't entirely sure I was doing things correctly as I noticed an option coming up and the sprue held parts for two different little operator dudes.

I built them both, just in case, and good thing because I was supposed to build them both. One is sitting and the other standing. Now the standing one can go into the Chopper Robo, but I liked the sitting one as the operator better. Besides they each have a different facial expression, there are actually three expression stickers included, and I liked the angry look of the sitting guy. If I want I can slip their heads off and change just that.

The main body of the Chopper Robo had larger more complex stickers, so applying them was the longest part of the build.

Once the stickers were on, the rest of the kit literally just snaps together. Drop in your little driver dude and you're ready to drill and smash things.



Like many Bandai kits, there is plenty to play with and move on this little critter. You can also collect all five of the Chopper Robo kits which assemble together to make the King Brain!

Nothing complicated here; just a quick, fun, little kit to make me laugh. There is a little white sticker on the box that is printed with one word, funimation, and oh what funimation it is too!



***Sprue Bits* is always looking for new articles, pictures, comics, tips and techniques! If you have an article or work in progress build that you would like included in *Sprue Bits*, please e-mail it to ipmsmoss@hotmail.com.**

NEXT MEETING

24 September 2017 - Sunday at 6pm - Branson Hobby Center, first floor. Bring a model, bring a friend, definitely bring a chair! See you there!

We'll see you at the meeting on September 24th!

Happy Modeling!



"We're making it a small world!"

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