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Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

Where's your excitement? Where's the fun? Recently, a gentleman commissioned me to build a model of the *USS Cole*, so that he could give it as a gift to his granddaughter who serves aboard that vessel.

Being asked to build a model for someone else was (and still is) humbling; I agreed and went to work. Despite a busy work schedule, I was able to meet the gentleman's deadline. However, during that build, I had the opportunity to branch out into (for me) a new and relatively unexplored scale and subject matter – a 1:700 modern naval vessel. In my earlier days of model building (about 20 years ago) I had built the Revell 1:490 scale WWII version of the *USS Hornet*, and the 1:720 *USS Tarawa*, and the 1:542 1990's era *USS Saratoga*. But little effort went into those ships then, as I was more interested in the tiny aircraft, which I kept loose so I could fly them around the house!

This build was going to be much different; it had to be – after all, it was for someone else. Despite the self-imposed drive toward perfection, I was able to use some techniques that I had never tried before; specifically priming, pre-shading, and modeling larger bodies of water. As the build progressed and details added, my excitement grew exponentially! The scale of the model allowed for some good detail, yet not enough to be burdensome. Aside from a few moments of intense frustration (more on that another time) the simple joy of building a model took over, I was actually having fun! As it had been more than four months since I had worked on a model, it was a refreshing experience! Once the model and the base water work were complete, I was pleased – three new (to me) techniques, a new subject and scale – and it all came together beautifully! My excitement for building models was rejuvenated and I certainly had fun! Where does your excitement for the hobby come from – the build, the subject, the process of building? What makes it fun for you?

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“We’re making it a small world, because small things matter!”



LAST MEETING

22 February: We met at The White House Theatre and had the largest attendance (15) to date! It was great to have so many modelers come to the meeting! In addition to our regular “business” of the monthly meeting, we also had our annual club Swap Meet. The members brought in a large selection of models for swapping!

Tracy Sullivan brought his in-progress Trumpeter 1:35 Krupp/Steyr *Waffentrager* that he is adding some other “what if” details.

Steve McKinnon brought in two in-progress kits – a Zveda 1:35 scale BTR-80A and a 1:48 M60A1 by Zhengdefu.



Gary Sanders brought in an in-progress funny car and chassis, and a Studebaker-based Batmobile that he modified from a die cast car to match the cover art from an issue of *Detectives Comics*. He even added a mobile crime lab in the back! Gary also brought in a vintage Hubley 1:18 scale Duesenberg. He pulled this kit out from his collection after reading an article in the January 2015 *Model Cars* magazine showing Bob Steinbrunn’s amazingly detailed build of the same kit.





Brian Taylor brought his Ted Harbit *Chickenhawk* Studebaker race car and *Chickenhawk II and III* funny car dragsters – all of which sport custom hand painting done by one of Brian's friends.



Larry Krauk brought his custom resin 1:24 "what if" VW bug/suburban conversion for the Revell kit, called the "Bugburban."

Dusty Taylor brought in some of his 1960's era slot cars, including a customized Studebaker log truck, and a Monte Carlo.



Darren Gloyd brought in two of his 1:25 scale customized AMT Peterbilt and White/Freightliner



day cab semi tractors. He cut down the cabs and frames, added plumbing and air lines, and added custom aluminum stacks. The grills were weathered with



detailer purchased at a hobby store, Darren and added “grease” to the fifth wheel area using putty and paint.

Bill Loden brought in his completed box scale Revell U-99 (boxed albeit incorrectly as U-505). He purchased the partially build kit for \$1.00 at MOSS CON 2014 and he revived it in approximately one week’s build time, using pastels and Flory Models washes to add weathering to his *Unterseeboot*.



Nick Kimes brought in his in-progress Trumpeter 1:144 scale Landing Craft Mechanized, or LCM(3), that he is building out of the box. He added a war gaming Sherman for scale reference.



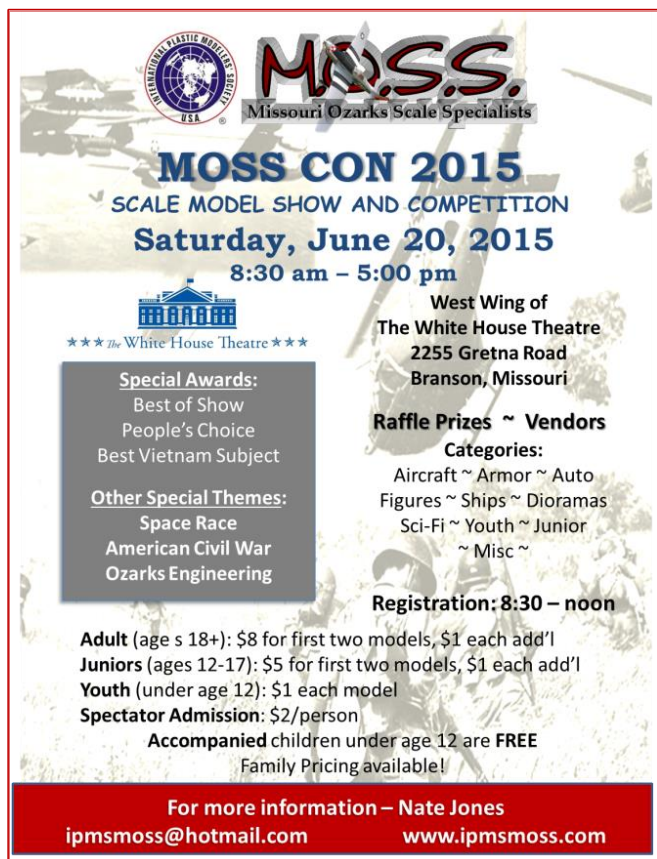
Mike Staworski brought in his brand new Iawata airbrush and, while not a model, his newly home-crafted dog wheelchair made from aluminum and R/C airplane wheels.



Nate Jones brought in a Monogram 1:48 He-111, two Monogram B-25Js (one glass nose, one solid gun-equipped nose), and Monogram P-47D Razorback, two previously completed Bill Mauldin inspired “Willie & Joe” dioramas and an in-progress 1:700 Hobby Boss USS Cole DDG-67.



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



MOSS CON 2015
SCALE MODEL SHOW AND COMPETITION
Saturday, June 20, 2015
8:30 am – 5:00 pm

The White House Theatre
West Wing of
The White House Theatre
2255 Gretna Road
Branson, Missouri

Special Awards:
Best of Show
People's Choice
Best Vietnam Subject

Other Special Themes:
Space Race
American Civil War
Ozarks Engineering

Raffle Prizes ~ Vendors
Categories:
Aircraft ~ Armor ~ Auto
Figures ~ Ships ~ Dioramas
Sci-Fi ~ Youth ~ Junior
~ Misc ~

Registration: 8:30 – noon

Adult (age 18+): \$8 for first two models, \$1 each add'l
Juniors (ages 12-17): \$5 for first two models, \$1 each add'l
Youth (under age 12): \$1 each model
Spectator Admission: \$2/person
Accompanied children under age 12 are **FREE**
Family Pricing available!

For more information – Nate Jones
ipmsmoss@hotmail.com www.ipmsmoss.com

Announcing

MOSS CON 2015



**Need a place
to stay for the show?**

Comfort Inn West

3601 Shepherd of the Hills Expy
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location!

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Call 417-334-8694 to reserve your room today!
**Must reserve your room before May 20th, so
call now!**

WORK IN PROGRESS



Tamiya Cromwell Mk IV (kit #35221), Part 1

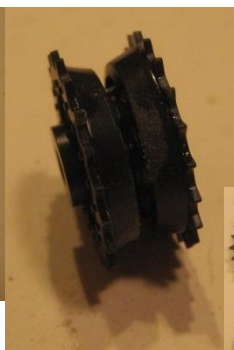
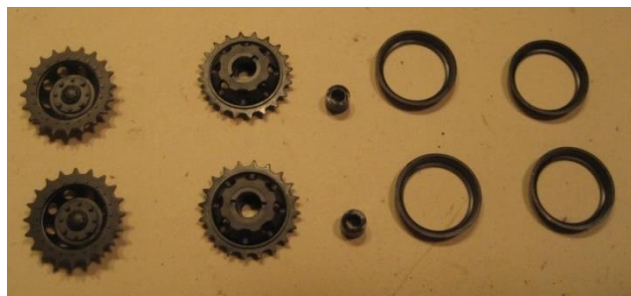
by Michael Steenstra

At the January meeting, I brought in my newly purchased Tamiya Cromwell Mk IV kit to show the other members. I could not wait to build it, and thought this would make a good “Work in Progress” article, so I dug in. To add a little extra detail, I purchased the Eduard photo-etch (PE) set just for the photo-etched screens.

Starting with **Step 1** – this is the rear panel and it consists of 11 parts. It went together very well with very little clean-up. Overall, the kit has very good detail on all the parts.

Step 2 calls for assembling the wheels, drive sprockets and idlers; these have a poly cap inserted inside them. The sprocket was different than what I am used to with the split circular parts but it went together very well. There were a total of 56 parts used in this step.





Left are the parts for the sprockets and a finished sprocket.

Below are the assembled road wheels.



Step 3 consists of adding the suspension arms and the front and rear panels to the lower hull. Not including the rear panel from step 1 – there are 14 new parts.



Left shows the hull with suspension arms added.

Above shows the hull front plate.

Below left shows the rear plate installed on the hull.



Step 4 calls for attaching the side armor plates plus adding the external track tension system parts. As you will see in the photos – it took some clamping for the side armor parts. A total of 4 parts were added to the lower hull.



Above right shows the double armor in place.

Left shows the parts clamped in position while glue dries.



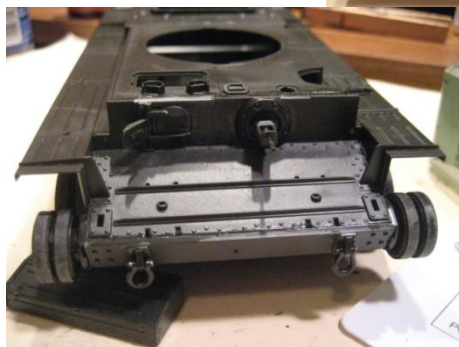
Step 5 indicates adding the wheels, idlers and drive sprockets – the poly caps allow you to take them off for painting later. Also, I added both tow clevises.

Step 6 calls for gluing the upper hull to the lower hull. Note: do not add part A16 unless you are building the Centaur version.

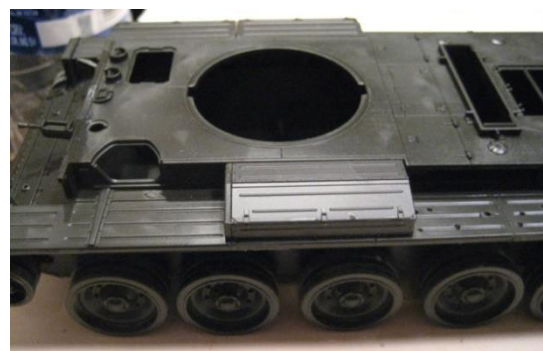
The back upper hull needed a clamp to hold it in place, as shown on the **right**.

Step 7 is the front armor plate assembly. This will include the glacis plate, hull coaxial machine gun and a vision hatch assembly which can be posed closed; a center piece that can be left open (the option I used), or the entire hatch left open. For added realism, I drilled out the coax gun

barrel. Since the hatch was to be posed partially open, I painted the interior portion of the gun. There is a total of 6 new parts for this step.



Step 8 is the storage box assemblies. There are a total of 3 storage boxes and I went ahead and added them to the model.



Steps 9-11 include adding different bits and pieces to the Cromwell's hull. There are fender parts that I left off on purpose since most Cromwells in the reference photos I found had lost them in battle. I also added the PE grills making a total of 43 new parts added to the model.



The photo **below right** shows two of the PE grills in place just below the track-tensioning tool.

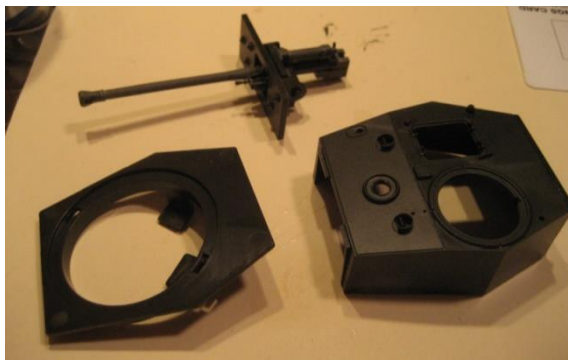


Step 12 is building the gun barrel and the gun breech. I just needed a small amount of putty for the barrel. The machine gun has been drilled out also.





Step 13 is the turret assembly. The parts are partially assembled and then the interior is painted white. I plan to have the hatches opened for a crew.



Step 14 has the side armor pieces added to the turret. There is a total of 4 new parts.



Step 15 is the commander's and loader's hatch assembly. There is a total of 8 new parts.

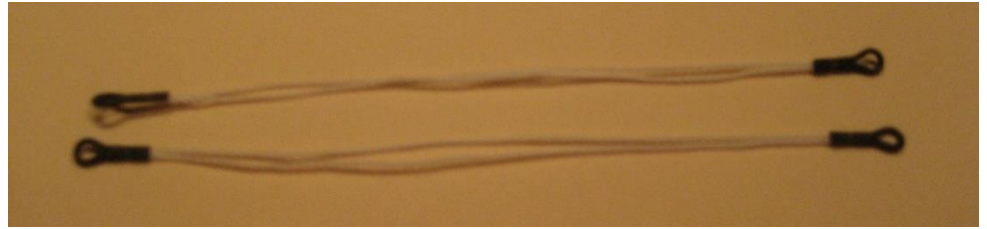


Step 16 consists of attaching the rest of the parts to the turret, plus the hatches from step 15. The only part not added is the clear part for the searchlight.

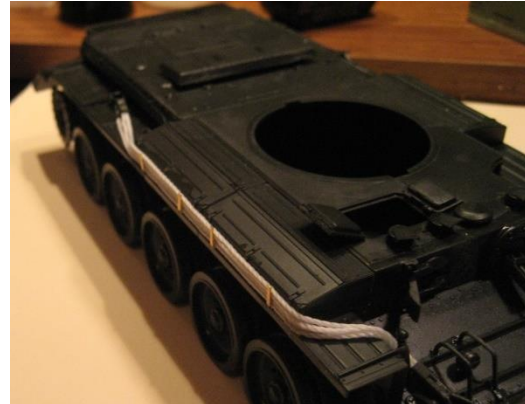
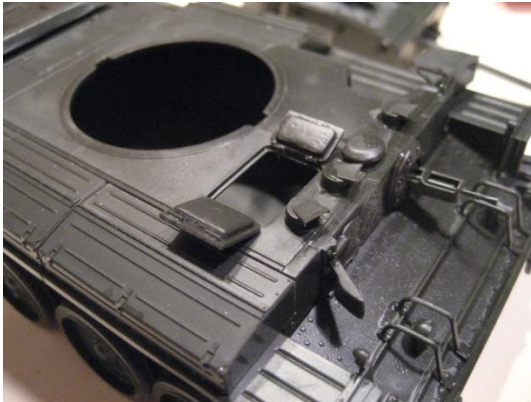


In **Step 17** the instructions call for attaching the turret to the hull, but I will leave that for later. This is also the step for making the tow cables – using string and the molded plastic eyes. I like to use a white glue-and-water mixture to deter the string from being fuzzy. This also helps to keep the ends from fraying when cutting the string to length. The British tow cables are actually

doubled which is interesting. This step is where you also assemble and paint the figure – which I might use later.

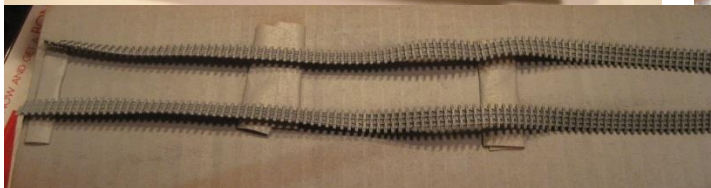
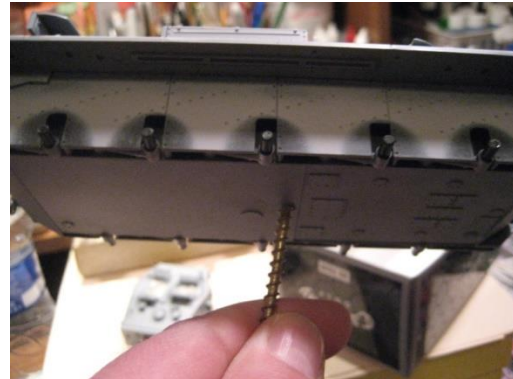
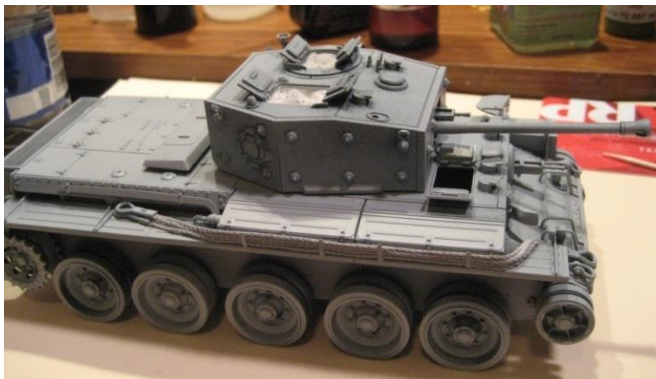


Step 18 starts with installing the driver's hatch; I have left all four hatches open for a future crew. This is also where you add the tow cables. I added some photo-etch brackets that help hold the tow cables on the side of the Cromwell.



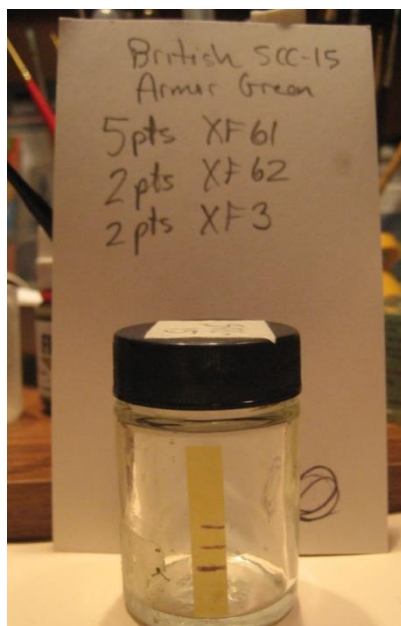
Step 19 includes optional instructions for installing a Hedgerow cutting device and/or the Normandy cowling; I did not do either option. This Cromwell will be used around the Market Garden timeframe so neither of the options would be necessary, nor correct.

Paint time!



Above left and Left show the Cromwell and tracks with a light coat of Tamiya Light Gray primer.

Above: I have added a screw to the bottom of the hull to help hold the tank while airbrushing.



This is the way I measured the paint to make British SCC-15 Armor Green. 5 parts XF61 to 2 parts XF62 to 2 parts XF3 - all Tamiya paint.



Right: The tank and the wheels are all airbrushed with the Tamiya paint mix.

Below and below right: The wheels, idlers and sprockets all getting detail painted.



Here is where I am at right now with model, with the tracks added and some more detail painting. I am planning (once the weather improves), to give it a gloss coat, add decals, gloss one more time and then give it a flat coat. I will then add the searchlight lens, crew figures, some weathering and then try my hand (first time) at adding Hessian Tape Camouflage Netting.

The 1/35 Tamiya Cromwell is a very nice kit to build with no major issues at all. This build started on January 22nd and the last photo was taken on February 22nd.

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.



History In A Box

Commander Alexander Vraciu (USN)

November 2, 1918 – January 29, 2015

Alexander Vraciu was a United States Navy fighter ace, Navy Cross recipient and Medal of Honor nominee during World War II. He once shot down six Japanese dive bombers in eight minutes.



LTJG Alexander Vraciu in his Grumman F6F Hellcat after the "Mission Beyond Darkness" during the Battle of the Philippine Sea (June 20, 1944)

Vraciu's parents had immigrated from Transylvania, Romania at the turn of the century, settling in East Chicago, Indiana. Upon graduation, Vraciu enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve and became a Naval Aviation Cadet. Vraciu was commissioned as a Naval Reserve Ensign in August 1942 and joined VF-6 in March 1943, serving under LCDR Edward "Butch" O'Hare, the U.S. Navy's first ace of the war. O'Hare made Vraciu his wingman and gave him valuable advice regarding air combat. The squadron entered combat in October 1943, flying from the *USS Independence*. Vraciu scored his first victory during a strike against Wake Island on October 10, 1943. VF-6 later transferred to *USS Intrepid*, which was nicknamed "The Evil I" because of a reputation for bad luck. Vraciu, however, began downing Japanese aircraft in

multiples: three Betties on January 29, 1944 and four fighters over Truk Atoll on February 17. With nine victories, he became and remained VF-6's leading ace of the war. Although he had an

opportunity to rotate back to the United States, Vraciu requested additional combat duty and joined VF-16 on *USS Lexington*.

Vraciu's most successful day as an aviator occurred during the First Battle of the Philippine Sea, also known as the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," on June 19. Despite a malfunctioning supercharger, he intercepted a formation of Japanese dive bombers and destroyed six in a period of eight minutes. After Vraciu landed, ordnancemen on Lexington discovered that he had used only 360 bullets; on average, each of these six kills had followed a burst less than five seconds long. The next day, escorting bombers in an attack on the Japanese Fleet, Vraciu downed his 19th victim, making him the foremost USN ace by a considerable margin, although he would hold that title for only four months. For his actions at the First Battle of the Philippine Sea, Vraciu was nominated for the Medal of Honor. However the nomination was downgraded to a Navy Cross.



Lt. Alex Vraciu uses his hands to indicate his downing of six aircraft on June 19, 1944

Soon afterwards, Vraciu was assigned to a war bond sales drive in the US. There he married his sweetheart, Kathryn Horn, with whom he would have three daughters and two sons. Later in 1944, Vraciu obtained a return assignment to the Pacific, flying Grumman F6F Hellcats in VF-20. After two missions with VF-20, he was shot down by anti-aircraft fire during a mission over the Philippines. Vraciu was rescued by Filipino resistance fighters, who appointed him commander of a 180-strong guerrilla unit. Six weeks later he made contact with American forces and was returned to the Navy.

Vraciu ended the war as the United States Navy's fourth highest ranking ace. He subsequently became a test pilot and was instrumental in forming the post-war Naval Air Reserve program. Promoted to Commander, Vraciu led VF-51 from 1956 to 1958, winning the Navy's individual gunnery championship in 1957. He retired in 1964 to begin a career in banking. In his retirement, he continued to be active on the lecture circuit. Alexander Vraciu died on January 29, 2015 at the age of 96.



Adapted directly from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Vraciu



22 March 2015 - Sunday at 6pm at Godfather's Pizza in Ozark, MO (510 E. South Street). Come early and enjoy some pizza! Room is reserved starting at 5pm. Bring a friend! If you have a tip or technique to share, bring it in too! See you there!

Go to www.ipmsmoss.com and check out the Events Calendar for upcoming meetings, shows and events!

We'll see you at the meeting on March 22nd!
Take care, be safe and Happy Modeling!



"We're making it a small world!"

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MOSS CON 2015

SCALE MODEL SHOW AND COMPETITION

Saturday, June 20, 2015

