



Sprue Bits

an I.P.M.S. M.O.S.S. publication



June 2013
Volume 5 Issue 4

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Out Of The Box

By Mike Staworski, Vice-President IPMS/MOSS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Out Of The Box
- 2-5 Kit Reviews
- 6 Rusty's Ramblin'
- 7 The Final Piece

“And now for something completely different...”
So started many a Monty Python skit, and that's how we will start this issue of Sprue Bits.

We welcome back another issue of “Rusty's Ramblin'” and two kit reviews. Rusty is up first with his take on a box full of ship; the USS America, that is. Then we have Mike Steenstra's review of one son-of-a-gun kit; the T26E4 Super Pershing (like it wasn't big enough, they had to “super-size” it!).

Don't forget, June is time to renew chapter dues. Those who chose to pay annual dues get a MOSS t-shirt. Those who don't want to pay get to listen to Justin Bieber non-stop for 7 years! It's less painful to just break a mirror. ☺

And finally, Mike Steenstra has extended an invitation for anyone living north of Branson to join him carpooling to meetings. Mike says “We meet at the Mitchum's Jewelers parking lot by the B&B Movie Theater at 5:15 in Ozark”. He can be contacted via e-mail at msteenstra1@yahoo.com for those interested.

*“...today I consider
myself the luckiest man
on the face of the earth.”*

- Lou Gehrig

June 19, 1903 – June 2,
1941

Kit Reviews

By Rusty Hamblin and Mike Steenstra

Italeri 1/720 U.S.S. America aircraft carrier

It's actually not as small as I had presumed it would be despite the odd scale. The hull measures 17 11/16" long. That doesn't mean there aren't a lot of little, itty-bitty parts to install.

The hull can be built as-is for full hull or cut for waterline. There are deep engravings inside the hull showing exactly where to cut for the waterline model. There is even a flat plate for the bottom after it is cut off.

The paint reference on the box is for Model Master paints but they do not list all the colors needed. The instruction sheet lists even more. There are some inaccuracies in the color call-outs as well, I think. It lists that all of the on-board aircraft are to have the undersides painted ghost gray and the upper sides field green. The photographs and artwork on the box do not show green aircraft nor does any of my additional reference material. The call-out for dark gull gray seems a little light to me as my reference shows the flight deck to be almost black. I guess we have to assume scale fading. Another color discrepancy is the flight deck tractor to be painted guards red. My photo reference shows them to be safety yellow.

I am disappointed that the decals do not have spiral that could be on top of the E-2B Hawkeye's Anti-Radar dish. During the Gulf War, VAW-123 squadron, known as the Screwtops, flew E-2Cs from the USS America. Since this is the time period I plan to build the ship as, I will have to somehow paint or print onto my own decals the Screwtop spiral. There are also no decals for the super structure windows, which would have been helpful.

One more small disappointment is the lack of helicopters. My reference materials show several helicopters on board at various times and even the box cover artwork shows a single heli on the flight deck.

Photo-etch parts might really bring some of the small antennas and towers alive so I might search for some, but I won't hold my breath. Actually, I've already started assembly and so far things are falling into place with Italeri's typical excellent quality.

The odd scale actually held me back from buying this one for a while, but I'm glad I did it now. If you like aircraft carriers small enough to fit on a shelf, I'd recommend going ahead and getting yourself one. I may feel differently after trying to paint those sand grain-sized windows, though.

-Rusty Hamblin

Mike's First Look

Hobby Boss 1/35 scale T26E4 Super Pershing Pilot #1

Kit Number 82426



On first opening the box – it is full to the top with lots of parts!



Eleven bags of well detailed parts start us off.



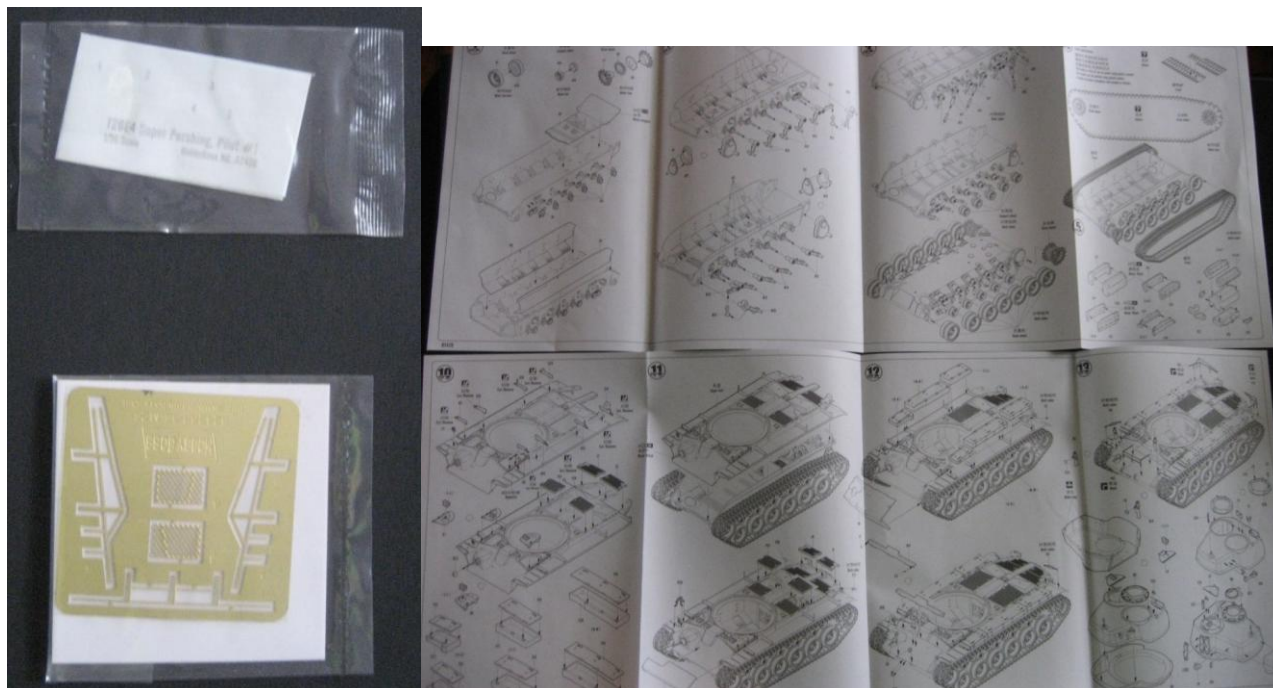
(left photo) Some parts must be very delicate - they are covered with a protective foam sheet.

(right photo) The kit has your choice of individual track links or the one-piece vinyl tracks - the vinyl tracks got a little bent due to the way they were packed into the box.



(left photo) A small decal sheet and a small photo-etch sheet are included.

(right photo) Instructions are on two separate large sheets of paper with a total of fifteen steps for the build.



Another smaller sheet has the color and marking options – there was only one T26E4 Super Pershing Pilot #1 so, of course, only one example is shown. From references – the Super Pershing should have a black camouflage added to the Olive Drab paint and the “A” and “2” markings were added when the vehicle was at the vehicle dump after the war.

Photo on next page

Continued from page 4



I have the Military Miniatures in Review magazine number 53 which has the same Super Pershing kit and I will use the magazine article to help with my build of the kit.



The parts look very good and now with looking at the “conclusion part” of the MMIR #53 article, it states that “Hobby Boss has done a decent job of reproducing the Super Pershing”

Wow, there is even a full engine included with the kit – if the tank is closed-up, it probably would not be worth building though. Overall, this looks to be one of my winter-time projects to tackle.

-Mike Steenstra

Rusty's Ramblin'

By Rusty Hamblin

It's not my fault really. I blame the model manufacturers. The molded plastic is just so beautiful and alluring. I can't help myself. I have trouble staying faithful to just one scale.

As for cars and trucks I have never been too specific regarding scale. There is only a 3% difference between 1:24 and 1:25, hard to notice even when side by side. Most people I know swap back and forth regularly; maybe that's how it starts. I know that if there is no other choice I'll get a car in 1:43 or 1:32 scale. Large scale is cool so I have a few 1:20, 1:12, 1:16, and even 1:8 scale vehicles too. Oh, and I can't forget my weird little Russian 1:28 Skoda Favorit. Any Skoda, no matter what scale, I have to have right?

However, when it comes to aircraft, I'm strictly a 1:48 man. Well, except I really like passenger jets, and they are extremely hard to find in 1:48 so I'll make an exception for 1:144 there. I really, really love F-16's so if I happen across any of them in 1:144, 1:100, 1:72 I'll have to get them too. Oh and how cool are F-16's in 1:32 scale! Hmm, I like F-4 Phantom II's also, so maybe a few of those in whatever scale I can find would be okay. Oh my gosh, a B-52 in 1:72 scale is huge, gimme! Hey a 1:24 Harrier jet would look awesome next to a 1:24 car.

I'll have better luck with ships. I like to see the details so here I'd better go with 1:350. Lots of choices as well. Except I'd like to have a container ship and it only comes in 1:700. I guess one won't hurt. Oh and I have a 1:48 F-14 Tomcat decaled for USS America service, wouldn't a model of that aircraft carrier to go with it be awesome? Darn, I can only find the USS America in 1:720 scale. Wow and there's a 1:800 Airbus A380 that would look outrageous being launched off the deck of a 1:800 aircraft carrier. Yes, I'm weird that way, so I'd better add that scale too. I sure do like passenger ships, how come the AIDAluna comes in 1:400 scale? Why is the SS France in 1:450? I'll have to build those scales too.

I can at least stick to one model railroading scale. Why would I ever want to stray away from 1:87? Except wouldn't that wooden pallet make a great base for a 1:160 layout? I already have one locomotive so I'll only need say, twenty more, plus sixty or so freight cars, buildings, people, automobiles. Oops! Now if nothing else happens to me, like say I would win a new 1:48 scale On30 train set as a door prize... Looks like I'll need a few 1:48 scale locomotives, freight cars, buildings, automobiles, people. Hey, I already have a whole bunch of really awesome 1:48 airplanes! See I knew there was a reason I didn't stick with just one scale.

Building Tip

By Rusty Hamblin

When it is easier to paint small parts while they are still attached to the sprue, I use a color ID system to help me along. After I have washed and dried the parts tree I use Testors paint markers to add a dot of color to the part number that identifies each part and the color it is to be painted. A red part will have the ID number in red, blue parts-blue dot, etc. This sure helps to keep me from missing a part that should have been painted while the paint was out and open.

The Final Piece

By Mike Staworski

Well, here we are. Another issue of *Sprue Bits* is almost in the can. I hope it's been entertaining and informative. There will always be ways of improving, and I welcome your input. Remember, this is *your* model club! We can all be better only if we better ourselves!

Looking ahead, it's hard to believe that MOSS CON 2013 is only four months away. I'll have some flyers at the next meeting if anyone would like to grab a stack and "paper the town". I'm sorry, but I have not been able to update the brochure like I had envisioned.

The next meeting will be Sunday June 23rd from 6-8pm at The White House Theater. If you have a tip or technique you'd like to share, feel free to pass it along.

Until next time my friends. Remember; keep your super glue close, but your debonder even closer!



"We're making it a small world!"

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