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## Nate's Notes

*By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS*

When was the last time you built a kit straight out of the box and didn't put any extra detail into it? Was the fit just "off" and there wasn't a good way to fix it? Were there gaps between parts? Did you add putty or spend hours sanding it them

flush? When was the last time you built a "crappy" kit? Last year, MOSS members had a Group Build project based on Revell's 1:72 "Pirate Ship." No offense to the Revell company, but that is a crappy kit.

Nonetheless, I spent a few hours adding extra details and making the kit look a little better.

It's hard to get away from doing that now – taking time and adding the extra details. Before the Pirate Ship Group Build, the last time I built a kit straight from the box was when I was 8 years old and built my souvenir from the Pearl Harbor Memorial museum – a 1:48 Monogram SBD Dauntless kit (you know, the one with the working landing gear and the centerline 500 lb bomb that actually dropped—just not always when you *wanted* it to drop). Ever since then, it seems I have added a little something more to the kits I build. I remember the fun of slapping a model together with a tube of glue and playing with it the same afternoon – my fingers sticking to the model because the paint had not dried. But now part of the fun of building is adding my own little touch – a detail here, an extra part there, a turn of the head, or a different pose for the figure, a dropped flap or turned rudder... so pull that "crappy" kit that's been sitting on the shelf for years and build it! It might be fun – even if you don't add any extra details!



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

## LAST MEETING

**18 October:** We met at The White House Theatre and had a very good turnout for attendance.



**Bill Loden** brought in two of his recently completed models: a Dragon/DML 1:144 scale Air Combat Series F-14A Tomcat, and a Lindberg 1:32 Gee-Bee Air Racer. Bill built the Gee-Bee out of



the box but did add some wiring to the radial engine since it is such a prominent feature of the airplane.



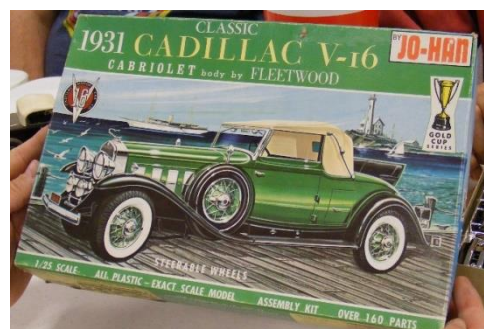
**Michael Steenstra** brought in his recently purchased Great Wall Hobbies' P-61B Black Widow. He found the kit on eBay for a great price and couldn't pass it up; he plans to buy the Eduard Color photo-etch set and build it and its sister kit – the P-61A! The sprues

are loaded with parts and the details look amazing even on the tree.



**Gary Sanders** brought in a 1:25 scale Jo-Han 1931 Cadillac Cabriolet with V-16 engine. The level of detail in the packaging of the kit is superb. Gary plans to build this kit unpainted,

sealing it with a clear coat only, to show off the original plastic colors; should turn out to be a very nice build! Gary also brought in his 1:35 Dragon M48A3 "Patton" tank kit. Gary served as a turret mechanic on the M48 series tanks for the US Army during the Vietnam War.



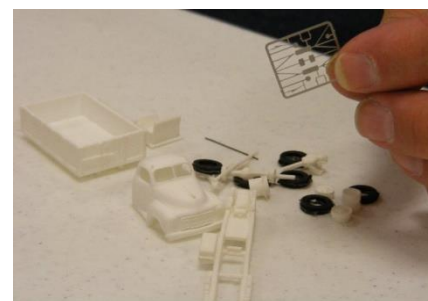


**Brian Taylor** brought in his recently built 1:24 AMT Studebaker Coupe that he modified with opened the wheel wells, flattened steering wheel, and adding a big block Chrysler engine. He finished it using an orange colored fingernail polish that he purchased at Walgreens.



Brian also brought in an HO scale resin Studebaker 2-ton stake truck kit; the kit even includes rubber tires, a clear acetate sheet for the windows, and photo-etch parts!

Brian also brought in



a series of three models that were built in the 1960's by his grandpa, and one model that was built in the 1970's by his dad (and fellow MOSS member) Dusty Taylor.

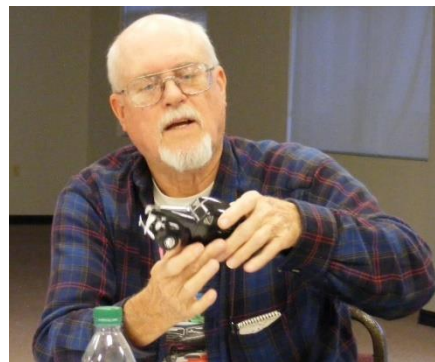


**(Left)**

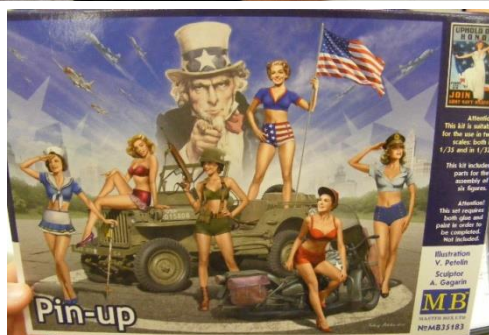
Monogram 1:24 '32 Ford by built by Dusty Taylor in the 1970's. And vintage Monogram Black Widow, Green Hornet, and AMT '32 Roadster built in the 1960's by Brian Taylor's grandpa.



**Richard Carroll** brought in some more of his “what other people have built” collection to show! Through the years, Richard has purchased these from online auctions and at other model shows. He brought a 1940 Ford painted black with flame detail, a light blue 1940 Ford with decals from the 1960’s era AMT kit of the “Ala Carte” 1928 Roadster kit; a red chop-top 1936 Ford, and a black 1940 Ford kit that seems to have been built within the past 4-5 years.



**Rusty Hamblin** brought in some recent purchases, which included the new Master Box Ltd 1:35 Pin Up girls figure set, and the 1:24 Hasegawa Summer 2015 “Egg Girls” Volkswagen van kit. Rusty told us that every year, Hasegawa releases a model that includes decals which are a compilation of the artwork from their “Egg Plane” series of kits. Looks like a fun and unique kit!



**Go to [www.ipmsmoss.com](http://www.ipmsmoss.com) and check out the Gallery for more pictures!**



## WORK IN PROGRESS

### *Wespe Models "German Studebaker Staff Car 1939," part 3 by Gary Sanders*

**(See the July 2015 issue for Part 2.)**

The next step was to complete the chassis, which went together fairly well. The front axle is one piece and glued to a slot on the underside of the floor. The rear axle is glued to the frame and two springs are glued to the underside of the axle. The drive shaft is placed between the engine and the differential.



While the chassis dried, I shifted my focus on finishing interior. The parts included the dash, the steering column, the steering wheel and two panels for the doors. I had to cut windows out of some clear plastic sheets. I did not put "glass" in the four doors, as it was hard enough to get the windshield, back window and back vent windows installed.



Moving to the exterior of the body, the lights were the next focus. The two headlights required drilling out the holes in order to set them in place. I decided to paint them after the glue sets up.

The two hardest parts to deal with were the two tail lights. I thought I was going to have to drill out the holes to install the tail lights, but after looking at it a little more did not have to do any drilling. The parts are

the smallest in the kit. Just like with the headlights, I decided to paint them after gluing them to the body.



Once the glue set up, the headlight and taillight pods were painted body color. The faces of the headlights were painted white, and the taillights were painted red. The two bumpers were added and I am calling the car complete.



Even though the kit does not have many parts, it did present some challenges. Being 1:35th scale made it smaller than the auto kits I am used to building. Like most all resin kits you have flash to deal with and the glue was a problem on a few pieces.

I would still recommend the kit to any Studebaker toy collector. After all how many four door 1930's car kits are going to be released? This would also be a good kit for the military diorama builders out there, as it would be something different than most cars seen in World War II dioramas. ~ Gary Sanders

*Thanks for sharing your Work In Progress with us, Gary! Very nice work! ~editor*

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**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](mailto:ipmsmoss@hotmail.com).**

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## MODEL MUSINGS ~ Guest Article

### *Random Thoughts on 50+ Years of Plastic Modeling by Art Miller*

My first plastic model kit was the Lindberg PT-17 in 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale. It was probably a birthday present along with a boxed set of *Testor's* gloss enamels. Little did I realize at the time, I would enjoy modeling as a lifetime hobby.

The early Fifties saw the continued development of the plastic model but lack of appropriate hobby paint meant that many of the models in the neighborhood wore some pretty wild paint schemes. An ace modeler in those days would present his work with gloss black tires, propeller and have all the decals applied. Sometimes they would even be straight! Lucky was the kid to open his new kit and find two decal sheets stuck together. Then as now, decals could be tricky.

Adding to the interest and popularity of modeling to kids was the fact that WWII was not long over. Most dads were veterans. We were a strong and proud Nation fighting communism in Korea. On TV, if you had one, you could watch the Sunday show named "*The Big Picture*" featuring film from the war zone. What respectable blood thirsty 10 year old war lover wouldn't rush out Monday to spend his allowance on a Sabre or Panther kit? You could buy it, build it and be under the big tree in the front yard strafing enemy positions in just a couple hours.

Many kits of that era were issued in standard sized boxes with classic box art. The illustrators of that time were true artists. What kid could resist the well rendered box art of an American fighter diving from the heavens, guns blazing, to smite the enemies of democracy? I mention this because it has been reported that the lithographed art printed on heavy paper then applied to the box cost more to produce than the contents in the box. The standard box became the reason for so many odd ball scales. In addition, the standard box stacked well on the shelf at the retailer.

My favorite model from those days came from Revell. I always sought out the box ends on the drug store shelf with the yellow S inside the red oval that advertised Revell "S" type cement. This Revell kit was a B-25 with the amazing nose art decal of the Flying Dragon. This model in the standard sized box was, I've learned, in 1/63.5 scale. One inch equals five feet three inches. I still have an unbuilt kit in my stash though not in the original issue but the same box art. Revell had the best box art which includes the present day in my opinion. Later years with a photo of the finished kit took some drama out of holding a kit.



I would have to mention other classic kits from this era. Those would be the 1/48<sup>th</sup> "Famous Fighters" from Aurora. They were large, few parts, easy to build and paint. They included a pilot's head molded into the fuselage, no wheel wells, single piece wings. Best of all to a kid, they were affordable. Each release was molded in its own color plastic. The Hellcat was dark metallic blue, the Mustang was silver or maybe it was the P-38, can't remember. The P-40 was close in olive drab with a really cool shark mouth decal. The Me109 was red. Don't know if it was intentional but the FW190 was black and the Zero was molded in yellow plastic. Could they have been statements about the black heart of the Nazi's and the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor? We will never know.

By 1960 many things had changed in the hobby. Also as teenagers we were more aware of the historical significance of our models other than toys to be blown up on the Fourth of July. Flat paints were available and flat black for tires could now be purchased. Some kids claimed they added talcum powder to gloss black to flatten it. Though I never tried it, this sounded to me like a bad waste of a nineteen cent bottle of paint.

We discovered an indispensable tool....the Holy Grail of modeling....the #11 X-Acto Blade. A lot had changed from the balsa kit models of my older cousins. They would attempt to fashion a reasonable model from a solid block of balsa. They were provided a single edged razor blade with only one instruction. "Carve balsa to look like the picture on the box." Those were the days, of course, before you had to be told that razor blades are sharp! Somehow the first time you picked one up, you just knew it.

The biggest event in my town after the first Smaks Drive-In was the opening of a hobby shop. A true testament to the growth of model kits was that a majority of the shelf space was used to display plastic kits. On a summer day so many bicycles would pile up in front that adults had to step off the sidewalk to get to the drugstore next door. Days spent with friends at the shop were not much different than as an adult I have spent at the hobby shop on Saturday mornings.

Plastic modeling has been a lifelong pleasure. Modeling is full of challenge and the expectation that each new kit you start will be the best one you have ever built. The rewards of a kit well-built are worth the lost parts, sanding and clogged air brushes. Could I borrow from Rock and Roll and state, "long live plastic modeling?"



**ANNOUNCING**

# **MOSS CON 2016**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016**

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

At The White House Theatre (2255 Gretna Road) in Branson, MO

**Special Theme Remembering the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor****Vendor Tables - \$10 each**For more information, contact us at [ipmsmoss@hotmail.com](mailto:ipmsmoss@hotmail.com)

or call Nate Jones at 417-230-6220

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!****SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**22 November 2015 - Sunday at 6pm in the West Wing of The White House Theatre (2255 Gretna Road)** Bring a model and bring a friend to the last 2015 MOSS meeting ! If you have a tip or technique to share, bring it in too! See you there!

***Go to [www.ipmsmoss.com](http://www.ipmsmoss.com) and check out the Events Calendar for upcoming meetings, shows and events!***

**We'll see you at the meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

**Take care, be safe and Happy Modeling!**



*"We're making it a small world!"*

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