



AMPS
The Armor Modeling and Preservation Society

Sabot Away!

Special points of interest:

- Next AABS club meeting to be held on November 06, 2002 at 7:00 PM
- Highlights from October 2002 club meeting
- Simulating Wood with paint by Russ Holm
- German Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Guns by Don Jones
- Kit Review by Michael L. Burns: CMD T-62M Turret Late version
- Kit Review by Terry D. Lowman: S Models Panzer Traeger 38(t)
- Book Review by Tom Terry: Bloody River

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November 2002 Issue

November 1, 2002

What's Up!

I hope all is well with everyone, October has been a great month for model building. At least the last half for sure. All this rain has kept me inside so I have no excuses.

There are so many new kits on the horizon, and the books, my gosh! I have found that books have become my number one priority. It used to be model first and reference second. There is a flood of new information being released along with some pretty incredible photos. There are so many new titles of interest hitting the market. I hope to have several on hand at our next meeting for show and tell. They are coming from all points of the globe so I hope to have a least one on hand. The farthest is New Zealand; Jeff Plowman has a great series of books on NZ armor during WW II.

During the Italian Campaign the NZ forces fought along side the 36th Infantry. This is what focused my interest to this series of books. I have also found the best source for AJ-Press books. Air Connections out of Canada is a great source for all books published from the old Eastern Block countries, now there's a old term from the Cold War. I picked up the Tiger I vol. I and 2. I also ordered Vol. II of the Japanese Armor series. The new Sherman Firefly book is available through S&J out of Staten Island, New York. They have an exclusive import right from Barbarossa Books out of England.

Our next meeting will be November 6th at 7:00 PM, be there or be square. I will give a little presentation on detailing i.e. fixing up that little dumpling on the old workbench. Then we



Don Jones chairing the October 2002 Austin Armor Builders Society meeting.

will have flea market night. See you at the meeting.

Don Jones

Next Meeting

Our next club meeting will be November 06, 2002 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the City of Austin Yarborough Public Library. Street address is: 2200 Hancock Drive, Austin, Texas 78756. Telephone number is 512-454-7208.

Don Jones will be giving a semi-

nar on detailing. AABS Flea Market Day — Please bring any kits you want to sell or trade.

We are looking for people to demonstrate at future meetings the following:

- Ground work for displays
- Buildings for Dioramas

- Adhesives - Different glues for different materials and the best way to apply them, etc.
- Roughing it - Making armor look like cast / rolled metal.

Please contact Ted Paone (Program Coordinator) if you wish to present or have an idea.

Upcoming Club Events

List of upcoming Club events and activities:

Colored Camouflage on AFV.

December 2002

- Open
- Annual Schultz's Beer Garden Party (December - TBD)

January 2003

- Open

February 2003

- Club Contest: Multi-

March 2003

- Open

April 2003

- Open

May 2003

- Open

**“We need
volunteers to
contribute
How-To
articles, Kit
Reviews, Book
Reviews, etc...”**



Terry Lowman discussing upcoming events at the October 2002 Austin Armor Builders Society meeting.

Highlights from the October 2002 meeting



Tamiya FAMO by Dave Edgerly



A side Shot of Dave Edgerly's Tamiya FAMO



Richard Eaton explains tips on how to market your models

**“Thank you
Richard Eaton
for your
outstanding
presentations
on Packing and
Marketing
models.”**



Bill Johnson's BMP



Richard Eaton's T34-Quad 40mm Flak conversion



Richard Eaton demonstrates how to pack models for shipping



LVT4 at the National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas

Highlights from the October 2002 meeting—Continued



1/87th Bundeswehr T-72 tanks



1/87th scale Bundeswehr Leopard I tanks and Bridge.



1/87 scale Bundeswehr Leopard II tank.



Kursk at dawn—Panther D Early version. Combat Mission: Barbarossa to Berlin



Russ Holm's BA-64 with Anti-Tank Rifle



Rick Herrington's Russian Infantry



Bob Bethea's Confederate Artillery (24 pound Howitzer?)

“Another great turnout at the club meeting. Thanks to all who brought their work in for us to see.”



Bob Bethea's Paratrooper bust from the September meeting.



Bob Bethea's Paratrooper bust at the October meeting. More detail has been highlighted on the figure.

Club membership dues are now due

If you haven't already paid your club membership dues, they are due at the November meeting.

The dues will be \$10.00 USD this year.

Please pay Rick Herrington at the next meeting.

Simulating Wood with Paint

By Russ Holm

Painting for the look of wood. One of the things that can detract from a beautifully finished model is to have the pioneer tools, jack block or storage boxes finished in a monotone color; like a light tan or brown. Unlike metal, Wood is multi colored, it has a visual grain and texture. The challenge for the modeler is to try and replicate that look in the minds eye. Here is how I do it. All paints are oil based enamels. You will need to prepare a diluted India Ink solution. I use denatured alcohol (92 percent) and permanent India Ink. The final solution should be like a semi transparent black wash.

1. Paint the object (axe or shovel handle, box, gun stock) with a base coat of Testors "Wood".
2. Let it dry about an hour.



Testors "Wood" applied.

3. Using an older brush (they work best here) paint a streaked effect on the object, on top of the "wood" base coat using Testors "Burnt Umber" or some other VERY dark brown color. Dip the brush in the paint then remove most of the paint on the brush by painting it out on a piece of paper, cloth, or plastic. You want more than if you were trying to dry-brush, less than if you were trying to apply a base coat. When

you get done it should have a streaked look of Dark Brown, with the base color clearly visible on random places. Remember to paint in the direction we want our simulated grain to run.

4. Let it dry about 10 minutes.



Testors "Burnt Umber" applied.

5. Repeat step 3, but this time use an off red color. Something with a hint of brown. Testors Panzer Red Brown works well. You can add a little extra Insignia Red to heat up the color if you like.
6. Let it dry about 10 minutes.



Testors "Panzer Red Brown" applied.

7. Generously coat the object with your India Ink wash until you are satisfied with the dark intensity. This will dry very quickly.
8. Dip a clean Q tip in clean alcohol. Squeeze gently the excess alcohol from the tip. Now carefully, and



India Ink wash applied.

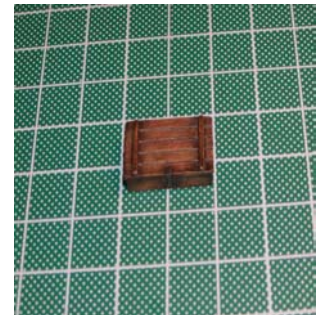
- with a gentle touch, begin to remove the excess India Ink wash that you applied to the object. Rub in the direction of the intended grain, create highlights and variations in color by removing more in some areas than in others. Leave it dark in the cracks and corners. You will notice as you remove the excess wash that the clean alcohol Q tip also gently blends the Red Brown and Burnt Umber onto the base Wood color.
9. When you're satisfied; coat with a clear flat.

Notes: Experiment with drying times, and color intensities and brands of the enamels. Vary the pressure of the Q tip when removing the excess wash. Yes, the paint can be a little sticky, so work carefully. When you first start to remove some of the excess wash to create blended highlights or worn areas, it often appears that you may have removed too much. Wait... it tends to darken back as it dries (15 seconds).

Have fun in modeling

Russ Holm

"Wood is multi colored, it has a visual grain and texture. The challenge for the modeler is to try and replicate that look in the minds eye."



Wood finish is complete!



Another view of the completed Wood finish.

German Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Guns (Part II)

By Don Jones

While researching this subject, I began to wonder about the American doctrine on tank warfare. I know you are saying the title says German da, da, da part II. This is a little seg way... The German army up-gunned their arsenal from the beginning. Their anti-tank guns went in progression with their adversaries tank advancement. The German 37mm anti-tank gun was widely used in the early stages of WW II. This was soon obsolete when it came to the British Matilda and Russian KV series. The use of the 88mm anti-aircraft gun proved deadly and soon found it's way into the anti-tank role. The German advancement of the high velocity anti-tank gun came along with many variants. The PaK 38 and PaK 40 were high velocity anti-tank guns, which were light and very mo-



German PaK38 50mm Anti-tank gun.



German PaK40 75mm Anti-tank gun firing on Russian armor on the Eastern front.

bile. The Germans even developed shaped charges that could be fired from artillery pieces. As I stated in part I of this arti-

cle. These guns were mounted on known dependable chassis's. My point here is that the German and Russian armor grew in size as the war progresses. The 88mm were met with the Rus-



Here is the legendary German 88mm Anti-Tank gun ready for action on the steppes of Russia.

sian 85mm and the 100mm. The Js series came along with 122mm, the Germans have the 128. As the war progressed, the German and Russian technology changed day by day. Where were the movers and shakers on the American side of the plan? Were they not in on the mix, At least the British mounted the 17Pdr in the Sherman (Firefly). It had a great punch, which brought it up in fighting terms with the Panthers and Tigers. It's draw back as in all Sherman's, thin armor. It just amazes me why we were so far behind when it came to tank warfare. The term tank destroyer in US terms actually meant infantry support. Until the American 90mm gun came on the scene late in the war (M36 & M26) we were always second place when it came to tank vs. tank. Mind you, I am just stating statistical facts i.e. armor thickness, gun caliber, maneuverability. The courage of the allied tanker had no match. Can you imagine beebopping down the hedgerow way and along came a Tiger pushing it's snout through the bushes. You fire your bad ass 75 just to see it bounce off.

You throw another down range and it mirrors the first. Reverse may be the next plan of action. Who could blame them? Especially when you were told you were in the finest machine money can buy. One of my favorite American tanker stories was told to me by a M10 driver in the 636 TD battalion. He said that they were slowly moving through an apple orchid when he noticed out to his right a barn right in the middle of the orchid. What struck him odd other than a barn in the middle of the orchid was the fact it had a telephone pole coming out of the front door. As they grew closer they realized this barn proved to be a Tiger II. All five M10's fired almost in unison. All five hit and ricocheted, the second volley was fired and reverse was the plan for the day. A 3-inch gun later took out this Tiger II. The shots were fired into the rear of the tank. Kudos to the crew that out flanked this beast. I wonder where our technology would have taken us if we would have had to fight on the wide-open plans of the eastern front. What tank destroyers development would we have had? Maybe we can open this up for discussion at one of our next meetings.

Part III will deal with the Marder II D and its stats. I have started building mine so I will also begin a review.

Don Jones



German PaK36/37 37mm Anti-tank gun being manhandled by it's crew

“The courage of the allied tanker had no match. Can you imagine beebopping down the hedgerow way and along came a Tiger pushing it's snout through the bushes. You fire your bad ass 75 just to see it bounce off. “



German Tiger II tank.



US M10 Motor Gun Carriage

Kit Review by Michael L. Burns

Chesapeake Model Designs T-62M Turret Late Version (CMD-06)

If you have followed the Internet discussion groups about modern armor modeling, you will have come across the derogatory opinions regarding Tamiya's T-62A kit. The model is hammered harder than Hades for problems regarding its chassis height, road wheel station placement, turret proportions, rear engine deck not being sloped, skinny road wheels with shallow relief, etc. Oh yes, I forgot, the tracks – that's another criticism.

Now that the flak has been thrown, let me remind you this model was kit of the year when it introduced. The two most obvious deficiencies of the Tamiya kit are the turret and the road wheels. I have the CMD replacement road wheels also, but that's another article. Of all the Internet postings I have read, everyone says get a CMD turret, but they have never provided visual evidence to back up their statements. I can do that now.

The CMD turret of this article is what you really wish for in styrene. Cast in cream-colored resin the hollow turret has only very, very, very minute residual flash (around the inside of the hatch openings). No pinholes, no globs of undisciplined resin jutting out, nor are the parts distorted or misaligned. With Bill Miley's CMD products you save time, no huge resin dust-generating plugs have to be sawed off the turret or the gun tube (glue and go). You also save yourself hassle and money (no pin holes requiring super glue filling or Mr. Surfacer and the obligatory sanding).

Kit contents:

- Turret
- 115mm gun tube
- 5 lifting hooks (hooks have been cut from sprue for photo purposes)
- Spent shell ejection port hatch

Remaining turret items you provide from the Tamiya kit



Photo 1: What you get in the

itself (see photo 1).

The gun tube is a complete unit. A thick metal wire is inserted to prevent droop tube. The gun is detailed enough to stand its own against the encroachment of aftermarket metal ones. You don't have to pay extra for this either! How is the turret in regards to vasko proportions? Read on - Vasko Barbic did a very detailed T-62M article complete with 1/35th scale plans in the Sep 88 issue of *Military Modeling*. (See photo 2).



Photo 2: T-62M plans used

Compare the Tamiya turret superimposed against Barbic's drawing (see photo 3).



Photo 3: Tamiya Turret

Notice the turret is not wide enough. The CMD turret fills the top turret profile (see photo 4).



Photo 4: CMD Turret

The CMD turret wins hands down regarding dimensions and it matches the drawings regarding turret height. The Tamiya turret is also too short.

This is an excellent item, let alone an excellent buy. If you want a decent T-62, this turret is obligatory. Cost \$14.00 plus S & H.

CMD products are directly available only from billmiley@yahoo.com.

Bill also carries excellent products by Royal Models, PanzerShop, and other fine manufacturers.

Michael L. Burns



Soviet T-62A

“The CMD turret of this article is what you really wish for in styrene.”



Tamiya T-62A (Kit No: 35108)

Kit Review by Terry D. Lowman

Kit reviewed : S Model, German S.P.G. 88mm Pak 43 L/71 38(t). (www.s-model.com.pl),

**Scale: 1/35th
Retail cost: \$ 67.00 + tax.**

Produced by S Model from Lublin, Poland. This complete kit contains 103 resin parts molded in a dull tan color and 4 trees of VM Models 38(t) individual track links, drive sprockets, rear idlers, chassis components, and detailed front and rear road wheels molded in injected gray plastic. Also called the "Panzer Traeger 38 (t)", there were at least two different prototypes of this vehicle built. Based on the well proven, multifunctional Pz.Kpfw. 38(t) tank hull and

chassis and developed through a cooperative effort of Ardelet and Rheinmetall-Borsig AG in 1944.

Armed with the very lethal Pak 43 L/71 88mm anti-tank gun already in use as a towed version by Panzerjager and Infantry units. It carried no secondary or defensive weapons in its' prototype mode. With the low profile gun platform and chassis and the swept back angled gun shield, this anti-tank weapon system could have been one nasty surprise from a concealed position to many an Allied tank and crew. It's major shortcoming came in the fact that it offered no small arms protection to the gun crew manning it, exposed on the rear deck as they were with only the gun shield offering a minimal amount. Vehicles combat weight would have been around 20 tons.

The resin casting varies from a very thick appearance on the

hull, deck and fenders, front bonnet and glacis, and gun shield, to a well detailed and

crisp delicate parts for the gun and mechanism and other vehicle detail parts. The injected road wheels are nicely done with front and rear details

but appear to be a little wider than should be. Flash, when present, is minimal and transparent and breaks away easily from the resin parts. I didn't

notice any warpage problems not even on the gun barrel. Did I just get a lucky one to review? Building is straight forward with easy to follow, well detailed and descriptive diagrams and blowups. The instruction sheet also includes a parts tree and number of each schematic. Fit overall seems to be good but some pieces will require a little scraping and sanding to fit

properly. No decals are included in kit.

Reference photos can be found which show the prototypes after assembly in the factory and also one in a German vehicle collection yard at the end of

the war. Vehicles appear to be painted in overall Dunkel-gelb" (sand) paint with no other obvious markings. I would highly recommend this addition for anyone's vehicle collection as it adds a really unique yet simple solution anti-tank weapon on a well known and used chassis design.

I would like to personally thank George Lewis, owner of The Village Hobby Shop for allowing

me to borrow this kit and do this out-of-the-box review. Next month I'll be staying with the 38(t) and do a review of the Commanders Series Mod-

els "Hetzer" APC kit. .



S Model's German Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Gun 88mm Pak 43 L/71 38(t)

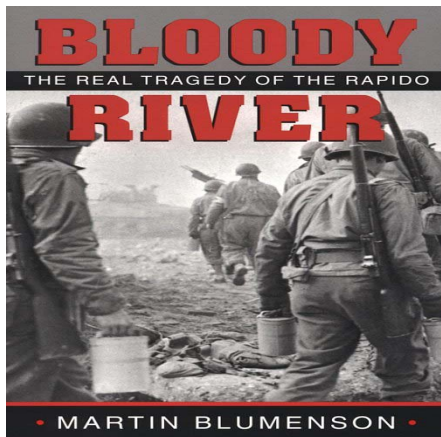
Tracks to ya,
Terry D. Lowman

“With the low profile gun platform and chassis and the swept back angled gun shield, this anti-tank weapon system could have been one nasty surprise from a concealed position to many an Allied tank and crew. “



Right rear angle shot of the 88mm Pak 43 L/71 38(t) Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Gun

Book Review by Tom Terry



Bloody River, The Real Tragedy of the Rapido, Martin Blumenson, Texas A&M University Press, Originally published in 1970 by Houghton Mifflin Co., 142 pages with 2 maps and BW photos.

This book covers the Fifth U.S. Army's crossing of the Rapido River in Central Italy in 1944 and, in particular, the role played by the 36th Infantry Division. There is some lead-in covering the activation, training and deployment of the 36th, and, some strategic overview of the events leading up to the command decision to cross the Rapido. The bulk of the book covers the planning and execution of the attempted crossing of the Rapido and two short chapters overview the aftermath of the battle and its consequences.

Background: The 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard, was federalized in November, 1940 as part of the massive activation of National Guard units in preparation for World War II. After some three years of reorganization and training, the 36th was deployed to North Africa for advanced training. The 36th was the point unit in the Allied invasion of Italy at Salerno where they faced very stiff opposition. Thereafter, the 36th fought its way northward as a part of the U.S. II Corps under Lt. General Mark Clark's Fifth U.S. Army. The Rapido River posed a major barrier to the II Corps' advance and an outstanding German defensive position due to the difficulty of crossing the Rapido and the overlooking high ground on its north side.

My personal evaluation of **Bloody River** is that it is an effort to rationalize and even praise LTG Clark's tactical decisions at the cost of the reputation of the 36th Division and in particular that of Major General Fred Walker, commander of the 36th. In a nutshell, Rome was the first major objective of the Allied offensive up the Italian peninsula. Its capture would be of great strategic and propaganda value to the Allies, and, a big feather in Clark's hat. However, 5th Army had bogged down before the Rapido, some sixty miles from Rome, and efforts to resume the offensive had proven in vain. The Rapido is a very difficult barrier with swift and deep water, steep banks, a wide and muddy approach with little useful cover on the Allies side of the river and high ground on the defending German's side which offered excellent observation and defensive positions.

LTG Clark made the decision to create an "End run" amphibious landing at Anzio, which was behind German lines and closer to Rome. However, there were strong German reserve forces around Rome and in order to help the odds of the landing's success, it was necessary to draw these reserves away from the Rome/Anzio area. Therefore, Clark ordered the forced crossing of the Rapido by the 36th Division as much to draw the reserve forces away from Rome and Anzio as to penetrate German defenses and re-start the 5th Army offensive.

The story of the actual battle of the Rapido is well known and is well, if simply, recorded in **Bloody River**. The attack was a very costly failure, especially to the 36th Division. The British finally rejuvenated the Allied offensive and Rome eventually was captured. To Clark's credit, German reserve forces from Rome were moved to the Rapido area, but the Anzio landings were stalled anyway which resulted in near destruction of the invasion forces. The 36th Division after extensive rest and refit went on to lead the Allied invasion of Southern France and

drive through Germany. The 36th earned an excellent battle record and set the record for continuous days in combat during WW II. LTG Clark dodged blame for the Rapido failures by castigating the 36th and especially its commander, MG Walker who was reassigned in near disgrace to stateside duty at Ft. Benning.

My real problem with **Bloody River** is the author's glorification of LTG Mark Clark as a bright young star among American generals and of his tactical genius and leadership skills. The author asserts that blame for the failure of the Rapido attacks lies squarely on the 36th Division and its leadership. He claims that the 36th Division's senior leaders conceded defeat prior to starting the operation and that a lack of aggressive leadership from the commanding general down to and below the battalion level caused the defeat. I admit to a certain personal bias in favor of the 36th Texas Division, but, I feel that the uncolored facts of the battle prove a terribly ill-conceived strategic plan and an incredible lack of flexibility in forcing the battle to its predetermined outcome. Simply put, LTG Mark Clark screwed up, shifted the blame to the 36th, and got away with it.

Value: **Bloody River** is an easy read and should be of interest to amateur WW II historians, especially those interested in the Italian campaign and of greater interest to those of us with interest in Texas military forces and the 36th Division. This is especially true if the reader maintains an open mind and is willing to stomach an unpopular, and I feel erroneous, conclusion. The pictures are of very marginal value to the modeler. I recommend the purchase of **Bloody River** for those who maintain libraries with emphasis on Texas and/or the 36th and suggest borrowing a copy otherwise.

Tom Terry

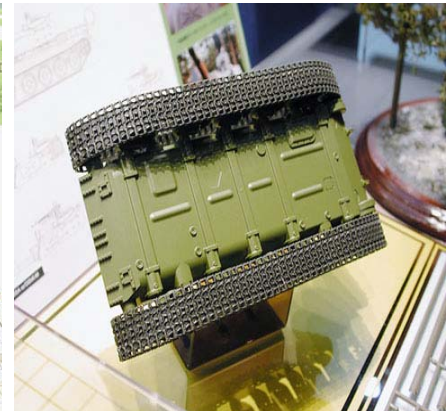
New Kits and Future Releases



Tamiya's new 1/35 scale T-55A (Kit No. 35257)



Another shot of the T-55A. Kit comes with decals for Soviet, Czech, and Polish versions



The underbelly of the T-55A.



New Panther A Late Type from Dragon Models (Kit No. 6168)



New Nashorn Early Variant from Dragon (Kit No. 6165)



Another shot of the Nashorn

Links of Interest



[Http://www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)



[Http://www.missing-lynx.com](http://www.missing-lynx.com)



[Http://www.track-link.net](http://www.track-link.net)

ANGUS CREIGHTON'S MODELLING ARCHIVE

<http://www.anguscreighton.com/index.html>



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We are on the Web:
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.tripod.com

Austin Armor Builders Society

For Sale or Trade / Wanted

Transaction	Contact	Item Description
Wanted	Cary McGaw	Italeri M-978 Heavy fuel Tanker
Wanted	Cary McGaw	Italeri M-977 HEMTT 10 ton truck
For Trade or Sale	Cary McGaw	<u>New</u> Tamiya 35237 Mobilwagen
For Trade or Sale	Cary McGaw	Tamiya Horch 4X4 Type 1a
For Trade or Sale	Cary McGaw	Military Ordnance Special #18 Wespe (I have two)
For Trade or Sale	Cary McGaw	Hummel Ryton Pub. Soft cover
Wanted	Michael L. Burns	The War in Afghanistan 1979-1989 by David Isby.
Wanted	Michael L. Burns	ZSU-23-4 Shilka & Soviet Air Defense Gun Vehicles by Steven Zaloga
Wanted	Michael L. Burns	Armor of the Afghanistan War by Zaloga, Luczak, Beldam
Wanted	Michael L. Burns	Blitzkrieg in the Gulf
Wanted	Michael L. Burns	Sword in the Sand

Support these Vendors

Name	Address	Telephone	Website
King's Hobby Shop	8810 N. Lamar	(512) 836-7388	http://www.kingshobby.com
Archer Fine Transfers	1205 Silvershine Way Knightdale, NC 27545	(919) 266-4181	http://www.archertransfers.com/
VLS/Warriors	1011 Industrial Court	(636) 356-4888	http://www.vls-vp.com/warriors.htm
Tamiya America	2 Orion Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-4200	(949) 362-2240	http://www.tamiyausa.com/
RHPS Models	PO BOX 906	(330) 837-1031	
RZM Imports Inc.	PO Box 995 Southbury, CT 06488		
The Tank Workshop	6110 W. Solano Drive S.	(636) 915-3862	
CRM Hobbies	3326 Watson Rd. St Louis, MO 63139	(314) 645-1117	http://www.crmhobbies.com/



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