



# Sabot Away!

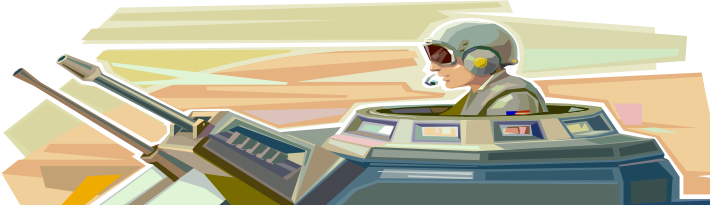


AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 12, Issue 9

September, 27, 2008

## From the Turret



Here is rear angle shot of Rick Herrington's AFV Club Centurion Sho't in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by Rick Herrington.

As I'm writing this, ASMS's annual show has just concluded. It was a fantastic event, and hats off must be given to Kenny Roady and

his gang for a job well done. And I couldn't be any happier to report our **"Road to Berlin"** club entry finished first in the Miscellaneous

category. Thank you all for your participation, and I sure hope we can do this again in the near future.

In our last meeting, we have chosen **"Armor In Foreign Services"** - any AFV in used by the ally or enemy of the country of origin (e.g. Panzerkampfwagen T-34(r), Su-76i, Lend Lease Sherman, etc) as the theme for our 2009 show. A departure from our usual theatre of operation show theme, this should inspire many interesting subjects to model. What we must have now is a commander to coordinate our effort for the show.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Austin Armor Builders Society Membership Dues

Dues are collected in January. This will make it easier for us to track and easier to maintain the membership cards.

As always, membership is \$12.00 USD per year. The membership cards will be presented to members at the January meeting.

The card will be valid for one year and a new card will be created each year as long as your club membership is in good standing.

New members will be given a card after they pay their dues. Dues will be prorated based on the month they join.



### Special points of interest:

- A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM COALITION FORCES.
- ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION RESULTS.
- AFV CLUB 1:35<sup>TH</sup> SCALE CENTURION SHO'T BY RICK HERRINGTON
- TAMIYA 1:48<sup>TH</sup> SCALE M4A1 SHERMAN BY RODERICK BELL

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# Sabot Away!

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## From the Turret - Continued

von Erich (Eric Choy)

“SEEING OTHERS  
WINNING IN SHOWS  
ALWAYS MAKES ME  
WANT TO SPEND  
MORE TIME AT THE  
BENCH. I HOPE YOU  
WOULD DO LIKEWISE.  
SO MANY MODELS,  
SO LITTLE TIME... “



Bob Bethea mounting the “Stealth” tank at Fort Hood, Texas. Bob Bethea, Russ Holm, and Roderick Bell toured Fort Hood in early September 2008. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

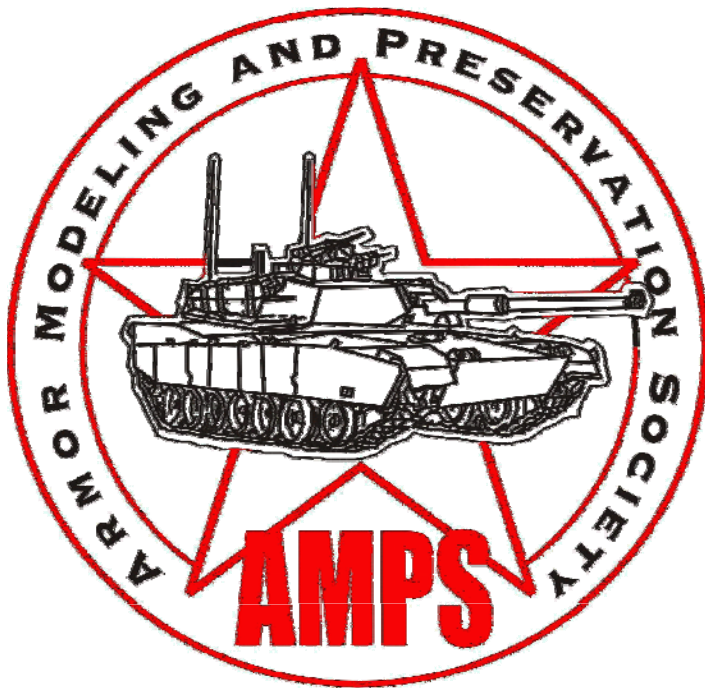
The job is not as difficult as you think. If you have leadership and duty delegation skills or experience in managing shows before, please don't hesitate to volunteer.

Seeing others winning in shows always makes me want to spend more time at the bench. I hope you would do likewise. So many models, so little time...

## Calendar of Events

- ♦ **October 1, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Worth Haggerton**
- ♦ **November 5, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Ted Paone**
- ♦ **December 3, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Bob Bethea / Quarterly Contest (TBD)**
- ♦ **December 6, 2008** - Club Christmas Party
- ♦ **January 7, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **John Hernandez**
- ♦ **February 4, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ♦ **March 4, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ♦ **April 1, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ♦ **April 17-18, 2009** - AMPS International Convention, Havre de Grace, Maryland
- ♦ **May 6, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**

## A Special request from Coalition Forces



**By Roderick Bell**

A special request from our Coalition Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan: M1 Tank kits and modeling supplies.

The AMPS organization has

sent over 1500 model kits to the coalition forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of you have already donated kits to this cause and we thank you.

This is the first time the Soldiers and Marines have

asked us for kits and supplies. They are looking for M1 Abrams kits, Hummers, Strykers, Bradley's, sanding sticks, paint brushes, cement, and acrylic paint, and M1 Abrams tank kits. ☺

You can send the kits to the following AMPS representative (2009 show chair):

John Gazzola

188 Laurel Point Road

Dayville, CT 06241-1522

(860) 617-1413

Jgazzola12@aol.com

Or you could bring the kits to the club meetings and I can send them to John. Again, these guys want to model their ride.

**Roderick Bell**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President AMPS, US Central Region

"THE AMPS ORGANIZATION HAS SENT OVER 1500 MODEL KITS TO THE COALITION FORCES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN."

## Annual Club Auction Results



**By Roderick Bell**

We held our annual club auction on September 3, 2008 at our club meeting. We had a lot of kits donated to the cause and I want to thank

everyone who donated kits and who purchased kits at the auction.

Remember, this is the clubs primary fund raising event and we have done very well in the past.

So how did we do? We did pretty good. We brought in \$487.00!

Again, I want to thank everyone who participated in the auction and I want to give special thanks to our auction-

eer Russ Holm!

Remember, these funds go directly to our checking account and is used for club business. Which usually means it is put towards our biennial AMPS Centex show.

**Roderick Bell**

# Sabot Away!

## AFV Club 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale Centurion Sho't



“FOR THE \$56 PRICE TAG CHARGED FOR THE KIT I EXPECTED IT TO BE UP TO TODAY’S STANDARDS OF DETAIL AND ENGINEERING. I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED IN THE LEVEL OF DETAIL OF THE KIT, BUT THE OVER-ENGINEERING GOT IN THE WAY OF WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A FUN MODELING EXPERIENCE.”

### By Rick Herrington

I was glad to see AFV come out with a new Centurion model, especially depicting an early Israeli Centurion (Sho't). The Tamiya kit put out in the late 70's is a bit long in the tooth and compared with most of today's releases is really showing it's age.

AFV Club is known for it's detail and usually being well worth the price you pay for one of their kits. For the \$56 price tag charged for the kit I expected it to be up to today's standards of detail and engineering. I was not disappointed in the level of detail of the kit, but the over-engineering got in the way of what should have been a fun modeling experience.

### Instructions

The kit includes parts to make a Mark 3 and a Mark 5 version. Pay close attention to the instructions and decide which version you want to make.

The instructions call out which part numbers are used where

but are not often clear about how or where to place those parts.

Most kit manufactures put related assemblies on one part tree. This makes it easier for the builder to find parts for related sub assemblies, such as the suspension or the turret. AFV has decided to take a different path here spreading parts for assemblies all over the 10 part trees included in the kit. You'll spend a great deal of time

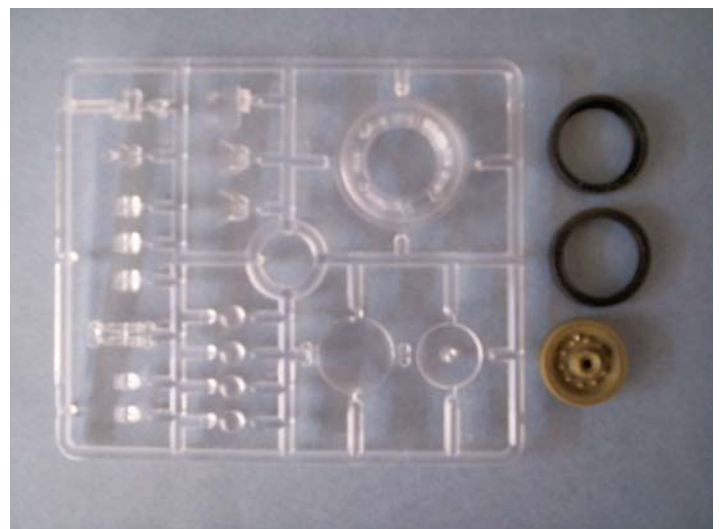
looking for parts on the trees.

### Flash

Most of the releases we see today from major kit manufacturers have no flash. Sadly AFV Club's centurion has plenty of it. Sink holes are in prominent places such as three each to be filled on each driver's hatch.

### Over engineering

A typical example of the over-engineering of the kit is the road-wheels. There are 5 pieces to complete each road wheel. Two plastic inner dishes, two vinyl outer tires which will only adhere to the plastic by using super glue and an inner ring that is trapped between the two plastic dishes. The vinyl tires don't have any inner stops to indicate their position so check your reference photos to get an idea before you



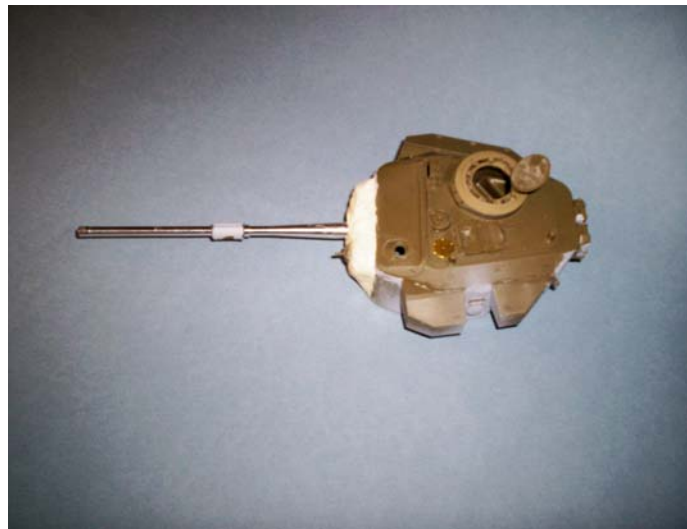
Here are some of the parts to build the road wheels and periscopes. Photograph by Rick Herrington.



### AFV Club 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale Centurion Sho't - Continued



A top angle view of Rick Herrington's AFV Club Centurion Sho't in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by Rick Herrington.



A completed shot of the Centurion turret with scratch built gun mantlet cover. Photograph by Rick Herrington.

start super gluing them.

The upper hull construction is broken down into 6 pieces where one would have done nicely. The instructions weren't clear on the placement of the parts so I pulled out my Tamiya Centurion to determine the placement of the parts.

The tracks are the vinyl and the fit is very tight. They also have some flash to be removed. AFV has come out with some after market plastic link to link tracks for the Centurion which probably would have been worth the investment.

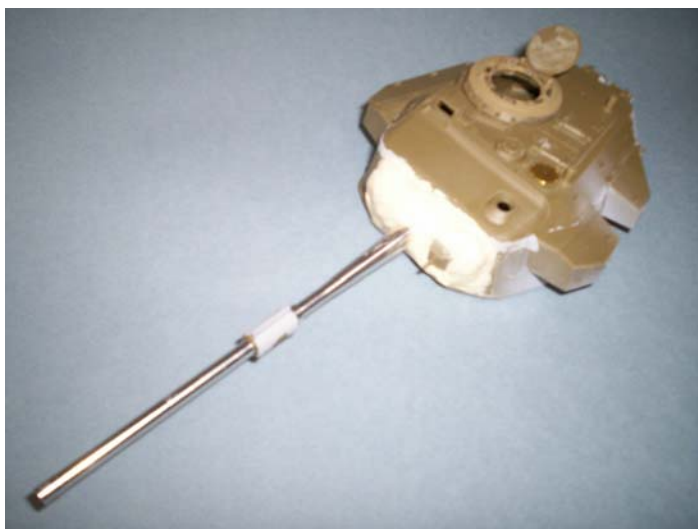
The front idler wheel position has two positions, a lower and an upper position. Make sure the idler is in the top position. Glue it into place before attempting to put the tracks on.

#### Photo etch sheets

One set of small photo etch was provided with my Sho't. It was not until I was well into the construction of the lower hull that I realized there should have been two provided in the kit. The prominent front fender braces, called out as part G-8 in the instructions, were not there. The 73 version of the kit

which I purchased after this one, came to the rescue by providing a pattern for the braces. I cut the braces out of thin sheet styrene which actually worked out better since I didn't have to use super glue to attach them.

#### Dust cover for the gun mantlet



A closer shot of Rick's scratch built gun mantlet cover. Photograph by Rick Herrington.

# Sabot Away!

## AFV Club 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale Centurion Sho't - Continued



A side view of Rick Herrington's AFV Club Centurion Sho't in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by Rick Herrington.

"AFV CLUB CONTINUES TRYING TO BE LIKE THE BIG BOYS BY SELLING THE MANTLET COVER AS AN AFTERMARKET ACCESSORY. FOR THE PRICE OF THIS KIT THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE KIT. I DON'T AGREE WITH TRYING TO SQUEEZE ANOTHER \$12.00 OUT OF THE MODELER AFTER THE INITIAL PURCHASE."

I have a personal thing about buying extra parts to finish a kit that should have been included with the kit. Tamiya started the practice with the LeClerc where you had to buy an after market piece to complete the kit. AFV Club continues trying to be like the big boys by selling the mantlet cover as an after-

market accessory. For the price of this kit this should have been included in the kit. I don't agree with trying to squeeze another \$12.00 out of the modeler after the initial purchase. I made my cover out of A&B putty and Kleenex tissue.



Here another side view shot of Rick Herrington's AFV Club Centurion Sho't in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Note the scratch built Dust Cover. Photograph by Rick

### Tow cables

There are two kinds of tow cable ends included in the kit. The instructions have a picture of the correct type illustrated. Be sure you select the correct one for your version before cutting and gluing the nylon strings to make up the cable.

### Finishing up

Once I completed the construction the painting went well. I used Testors

Israeli Sand for the base coat which is more of a light olive and their Afrika Korp brown for the Israeli sand color. From my reference photos the color Should be more on the yellow side, but I'm happy with the finish.

Decals are typical AFV Club. They are to thin and fall apart if moved too much. After my first attempt to put one on and destroying it I went to the left over decal box and selected some Academy decals that worked just fine.

### Conclusion

I have another AFV Centurion sitting in my closet (73 version) but from all the complaints I've been hearing from Dave Edgerly about the build I may just let it sit a while longer in my closet.

### **Rick Herrington**

## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman

By Roderick Bell



### Introduction

This will be my first 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale kit build I have done since the 1970's. I believe it was the Swedish S-Tank or a SU-85. So what prompted me to build a 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale Sherman? Two things: 1) Eric Choy's White Elephant Sherman MK III and 2) Procrastination!

I really enjoyed Eric's "When in Doubt ... Brew up" M4A1 conversion to a Sherman MK III. I donated that kit for the white elephant and I was so happy Eric received it. He did a wonderful job on it and it inspired me to build the base kit. Check out Eric's "When in Doubt ... Brew Up." Article in the Sabot Away! June 2008 Newsletter. So the second reason for building the Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman was procrastination. The Austin Scale Modelers Show is September 27, 2008 and I volunteered to enter my Dragon 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale SU-100 in the "Road to Berlin" club entry. The problem is I haven't had time to work on it... more like I haven't made the time. So, I had the bright idea of building something smaller... surely I could finish that in a couple days before the show.

So I selected the 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman from Tamiya. The Clock is ticking!!!



Here is a nice shot of Eric Choy's Sherman MK III conversion he built as part of the Christmas White Elephant contest. Eric's work inspired me to build my 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale Sherman. Photograph by Eric Choy.



# Newsletter Title

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## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued

### The Kit

The first thing I noticed about the kit was that it had the die cast hull. I really don't like building kits with die cast hulls. They seem to be very "Toy Like" to me. Again, this is my opinion and lets see if I change it after I finish my build. Other than that it looks like a typical Tamiya kit... just smaller.

### Construction

The kit has ten sections and as with most tank kits the first sections usually deal with the tank hull and chassis. The first thing I had to do was determine which type of tank I wanted to build. The options I had mainly dealt with the transmission cover and the gun mantle. I chose to build the kit with the earlier transmission cover and the later Gun mantle. The kit doesn't show decals for a type of tank like that but looking on the internet at M4A1 Sherman tanks I see several of them with that combination. Below is a picture of a M4A1 Sherman that I will be depicting. Note the size of this compared to my daughter Erin.

“THE FIRST THING I NOTICED ABOUT THE KIT WAS THAT IT HAD THE DIE CAST HULL. I REALLY DON'T LIKE BUILDING KITS WITH DIE CAST HULLS. THEY SEEM TO BE VERY ‘TOY LIKE’ TO ME. “



Erin Bell stands in front of a M4A1 Sherman at Brent Mullin's Open house in 2002. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### **Section 1**

This section included building the transmission housing and attaching it to the die cast hull. I used Testors Non-Toxic cement. Lets see if it holds.



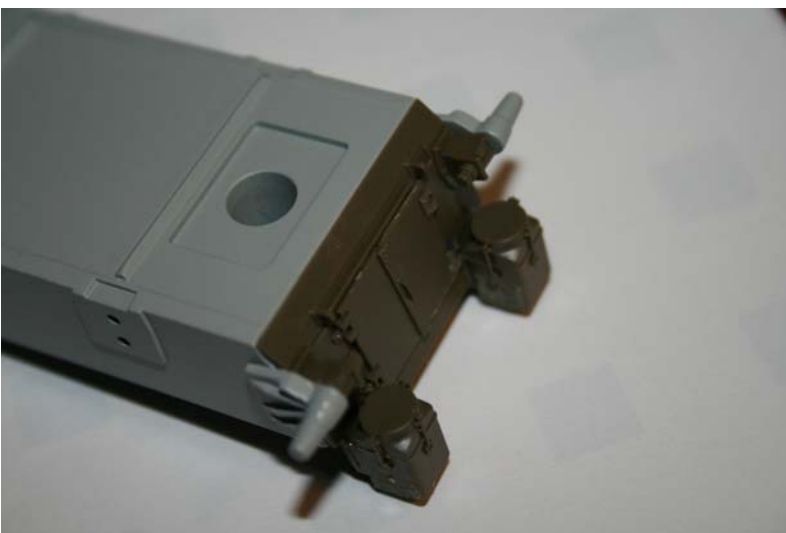
## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



Here is a shot of section 1 of the instructions completed. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### **Section 2**

Section 2 deals with putting the appropriate equipment on the back of rear panel. Here is where I encountered my first problem. There were supposed to be optional air filters early style vs. a later model. The early style parts were not in the kit. Part number R5. What else is missing? Anyway, assembly was straight forward and easy. The last step was to attach the rear panel to the hull. The fit was good.



A photo of Section 2 completed. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

"HERE IS WHERE I  
ENCOUNTERED MY  
FIRST PROBLEM.  
THERE WERE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
OPTIONAL AIR  
FILTERS EARLY STYLE  
VS. A LATER MODEL.  
THE EARLY STYLE  
PARTS WERE NOT IN  
THE KIT."

# Newsletter Title

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## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued

### Section 3

In this section I build out the drive sprockets and the running gear. Again, optional parts were not found for the drive sprockets. You have to be careful that you place the return rollers in the correct direction. I did this on one of the suspension units and realized it fairly quickly so I was able to pull it apart before the cement dried.



“MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GLUE THE DRIVE SOCKETS. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO POSITION THE TRACKS IN SECTION 5.”

Here are the completed Drive sprockets, boogies, and idler wheels that were created in Section 3.  
Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### Section 4

The fourth section is where I need to attach the running gear and drive sprockets and return rollers to the hull chassis. Make sure you don't glue the drive sockets. This will allow you to position the tracks in section 5. Also, make sure that you attach the assemblies to the hull with the hull upside down. Make sure the assemblies are aligned so you will not have an issue when you attach the tracks. Make sure you test that all the assembly wheels touch the ground after the cement has cured for a few minutes. Once this is done, turn the hull upside down again until the cement dries.

## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



Section 4 was attaching the Drive Sprockets, Boogies, and Idler wheels to the chassis. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### Section 5

In this section we attach the tracks. The tracks length to length for the up and lower runs and individual track links around the drive sprockets and return rollers. I decided to paint the tracks prior to installing them. I delayed this step until the end due to painting the tracks. Also, this is where I wished I took more time to clean up the tracks and to get them positioned properly... but I was in a rush to get it finished.

### Section 6

We will focus on the upper hull in this section. Actually, we will focus on the rear upper hull and sides. When attaching the tools be very careful. They are thin and are easily broken. I accidentally broke the wrench with a sanding stick! Disaster? No, but it kind of looks funny if you look real close at it. Anyway, take care when applying the tools and light guards. One more thing... READ the Instructions! The instructions tell you to cut off the dowels on the tools... I didn't and fiddled and fuddle to make them look right. It would have been much easier to cut the dowels off.

“WHEN ATTACHING THE TOOLS BE VERY CAREFUL. THEY ARE THIN AND ARE EASILY BROKEN. I ACCIDENTLY BROKE THE WRENCH WITH A SANDING STICK! DISASTER? NO, BUT IT KIND OF LOOKS FUNNY IF YOU LOOK REAL CLOSE AT IT.”



## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



Here is the rear upper hull after Section 6 has been completed. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

"PLEASE NOTE  
THAT YOU WILL  
NEED A PIN VICE  
AND DRILL HEAD  
TO DRILL OUT  
SEVERAL HOLES  
FOR THE  
OPTIONAL  
PARTS."

### **Section 7**

Now in this section we concentrate on the front upper hull and the left side of the upper hull. Hatches, machine gun, lights and guards are the focus. Please note that you will need a pin vice and drill head to drill out several holes for the optional parts.



A side view of the upper hull after Section 7 has been completed. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued

### Section 8

Finally, my favorite part of a tank ... the Turret! In this section we will build out the main gun and place it in the turret as well as putting the turret together. As mentioned above I am building an M4A1 Sherman that has the later gun mantle and so it is different than the box cover shown above.



The assembled turret from Section 8. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### Section 9

More of the same... finalizing the turret with the Machine Gun, hatches, radio antenna base, and add on armor.

### Section 10

Putting it all together ... screwing the chassis to the upper hull. See the photographs on the next page.

“FINALLY, MY  
FAVORITE PART OF  
A TANK ... THE  
TURRET! IN THIS  
SECTION WE WILL  
BUILD OUT THE  
MAIN GUN AND  
PLACE IT IN THE  
TURRET AS WELL AS  
PUTTING THE  
TURRET  
TOGETHER.”

## Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



Section 10 prior to putting on the tracks and painting. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

"I USED TAMIYA NATO BLACK TO COVER THE BOTTOM OF THE KIT ESPECIALLY THE WHEELS AND TRACKS. I USED TAMIYA XF-62 OLIVE DRAB AS THE BASE COAT FOR THE ENTIRE KIT."

### Painting

I used Tamiya NATO Black to cover the bottom of the kit especially the wheels and tracks. I used Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab as the base coat for the entire kit. There are several items that I skipped painting. For example, the hull and coaxial machine guns, the head lamps, and the rear lights. So, I will go back and paint those a later time. I just don't have the time to do that before the ASMS show.





### Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



#### Decals

I used the kit Decals for a tank in the 7th Armored Division, 31st Tank Battalion. I used Micro Set prior to putting down the decal. I then transferred the wet decal to the tank. Decals are not my favorite thing about modeling... but I managed to get them on fairly straight. I then used Micro Sol to soften the decals up and this helped with positioning as well.

#### Weathering

Here is where I used some new skills that I have learned from some of the DVD's I have reviewed over the. I used the MiG Allied Filters set to apply a filter over the Tamiya Olive Drab. When I applied it I thought I had ruined the model... but after drying it had the effect I was looking for. It had darkened the Tamiya OD as I was expecting.

The filtering and pigments were able to cut time off my build and it worked out just fine for me to complete the kit for the ASMS show.

“TO CATCH THE  
READER'S  
ATTENTION,  
PLACE AN  
INTERESTING  
SENTENCE OR  
QUOTE FROM  
THE STORY  
HERE.”

## Sabot Away!

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### Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued



The kit as it looks after the MiG Filter for Allied Forces was applied.

I then let this dry and I was now running out of time. It was around 3:00 AM Saturday morning and I had to be at the show at 9:00 AM. So, I decided to use the MiG pigments faded OD on the kit. I didn't apply the sealer because I had misplaced it.... So I said the heck with it... I am going to bed. It is 4:45 AM Saturday morning.



## Newsletter Title

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### Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued

#### Conclusion

Overall, this was a very, very rushed build. I am happy with the results. I also, have changed my opinion about the die cast hulls. It actually makes the tank feel like a tank... it adds a little weight to it. One thing I would do next time is to use the proper glue from Tamiya. Anyway, I am happy for my efforts and such a short period but I am not happy with myself being a procrastinator!

“OVERALL, THIS WAS A VERY, VERY RUSHED BUILD. I AM HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS. I ALSO, HAVE CHANGED MY OPINION ABOUT THE DIE CAST HULLS. IT ACTUALLY MAKES THE TANK FEEL LIKE A TANK... IT ADDS A LITTLE WEIGHT TO IT. “





### **Tamiya 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4A1 Sherman - Continued**



Roderick Bell's Tamiya 1:48th scale M4A1 Sherman after painting and weathering applied. Photograph by Roderick Bell.

### New Kits

By Roderick Bell

Here are a few more new kits that have recently arrived or will arrive later this fall.

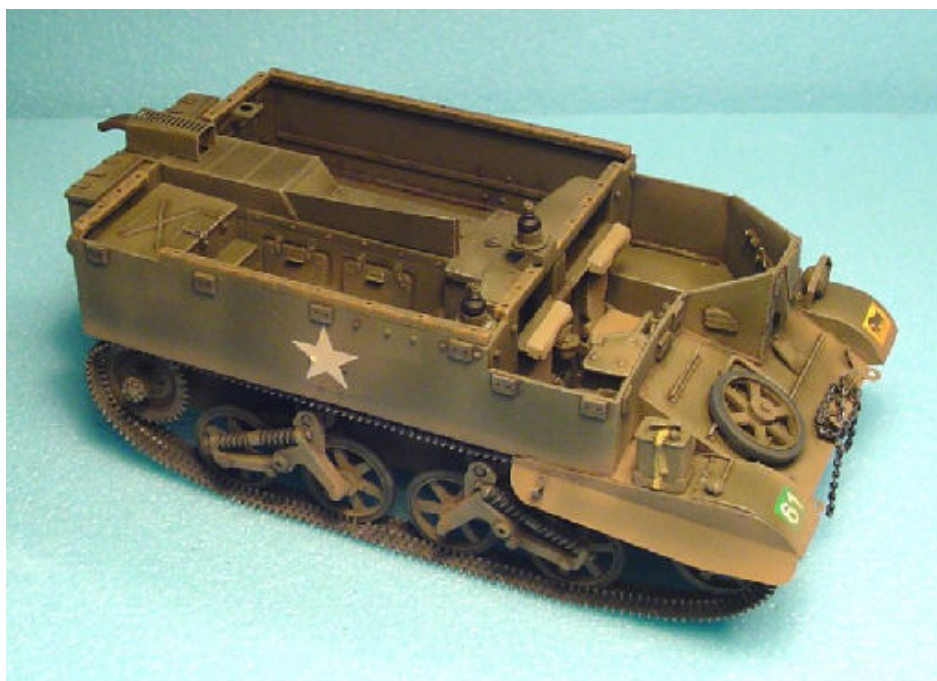
The **Monro Perdu** Water Wheel and Sluice Gate is a laser cut kit..

**ResiCast** has released a 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale British T-16 Carrier.



Latest release from Monroe Perdu. A water wheel that can be used to display figures or vehicles.

The Ford built T-16 from ResiCast in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale.





**Seek, Strike, and Destroy**

## AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

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*The Austin Armor Builders Society is an organization where members gather and share information on building scale armor and figure kits. The Austin Armor Builders Society was founded in 1997 and has about 25 active members. The Austin Armor Builders Society is the local chapter for the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS). Every two years the organization host an AMPS Regional show known as AMPS Centex. This show attracts armor and figure modelers from around the state of Texas and is one of the Premier AMPS Regional shows.*

**We are on the web: [AustinArmorBuilders.com](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)**

## **Support our Troops**



A US Army Stryker with Wire Cage deployed to protect it against RPG fire.

Photograph provided by the US Army.