



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2014  
Volume 18, Issue 8



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## Chip That Funky Wagon by Eric Choy

It is still a mystery to me why it takes so long for a proper injection-plastic SdKfz.263 to come along. IMO Tamiya laid the perfect groundwork with their 1/35<sup>th</sup> release of the 8-rad

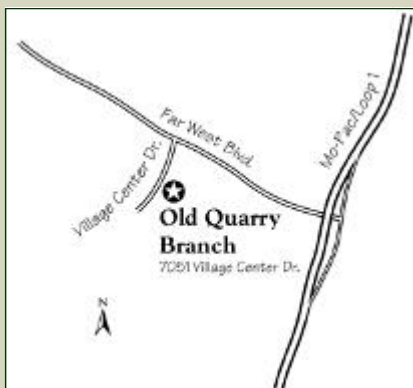
232 back in the mid 1970s. You would think all they have to do is replace the 20mm gun turret with a radio housing superstructure, and voilà a 263 kit is born with minimal effort. Nooooo! We have to wait till 2013 *Anno Domini* for AFV Club's release. Meanwhile, we are

*(Continued on page 4)*

Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

**August 6, 2014**

Annual dues for full membership are USD \$12 to be collected at each January meeting. Upon receipt of payment, a membership card will be issued. This card is valid for one year, and it entitles holder to discounts at various local hobby shops in the Central Texas and San Antonio areas.



**Sabot Away!** is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email [aabsco@gmail.com](mailto:aabsco@gmail.com).

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **August 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **August 6 to 9 - IPMS/USA National Convention**  
Hampton, Virginia
- ◆ **September 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **September 13 - SuperCon 2014**, Bob Duncan  
Community Center, Arlington, Texas
- ◆ **October 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **October 4 - ASMS Capital Classic 2014**, Norris  
Conference Centers, Austin, Texas



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## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
2014 - March	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
April	John Talley	Russ Holm
May	Pat Rourke	Pat Rourke
June	Eric Choy	Robert Mesch
July	Rod Bell	Rod Bell
August	Ted Andreas	Ted Andreas
September	Rick Herrington	Elliot Nowacky
October	Robert Mesch	Greg Beckman
November	John Hernandez	John Hernandez
December	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
2015 January	Tom Pachalos	Tom Pachalos
February	Dave Bourland	Dave Bourland
March	Jake McKee	Jake McKee

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at our monthly meetings.

Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he/she wants anytime. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure we have at least one article in the newsletter each month.

Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Ted Paone's article for March was due on the last Wednesday of February).

**Editor**



## From the Turret

It's already August? Where did the summer go?

If you're anything like me, you find time slipping away faster than ever during the summer. That makes it difficult to get to implementing many of your project ideas. In fact, I always create a lot more project ideas than I ever execute.

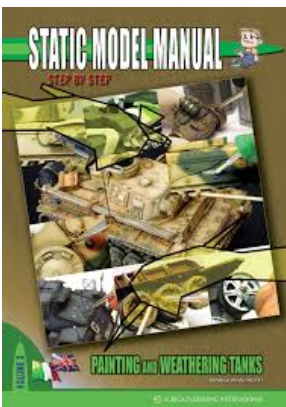
This summer I've been researching historical combat reports and memoirs to find just the right event with interesting scenery, vehicles, and story for my next project. For this project, I'd like to introduce a different approach to modeling dioramas: large size micro armor battles. The "large size" is referring to the number of vehicles and personnel involved, not the scale. Micro armor is typically 1/285<sup>th</sup> or 1/300<sup>th</sup> scale. What I'm hoping to see is just how interesting it will be to see a full size company on company battle at accurate scale distances. Creating details at that scale is the obvious challenge.



What I've found so far is that there are two primary suppliers of decent looking micro armor. These two companies are **GHQ** and **CinC**. The images shown here are examples of vehicles from GHQ. It's actually quite amazing to see the amount of detail on some of these vehicles, and believe it or not, the expert painters use many, if not most, of the same techniques used in painting 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale models.

Whatever it is that you've been reading or thinking about this summer, I hope you're ready to get back into the action and go build and paint your heart away as we roll out of summer and into the fall season. We'll see you at the August meeting, and we hope to hear about what you've been up to.

**John Talley**  
President



### Static Model Manual #3 Painting & Weathering Tanks

By Mario Marchetti

ISBN 88-88711-35-5

MSRP €16.50 (about \$23 USD)

Reviewed by the Editor

Looking for a good armor modeling tutorial on a budget? You might consider this title from Italian publishing company **Auriga**. I found it both informative and reasonably priced.

As the subtitle suggests, the emphasis of this book is on painting and weathering techniques. From priming to camouflages and color modulations,

painting topics are covered with step-by-step illustrations. Interior and engine compartment finishing are included as well. On the weathering side, both concepts and practices are presented in details with lots of examples. The subject of chipping alone receives seven pages worth of attention. I particularly enjoyed the author's explanation of the dot filters method. Equally impressive is the chapter on track weathering, an often overlooked subject in many similar how-to books.

Both Italian and English texts are provided. While the translation is fair at best, there are plenty of photos to help you understand what is going on.

Highly recommended to anyone who is interested in the fun and art of armor modeling.

**Editor**



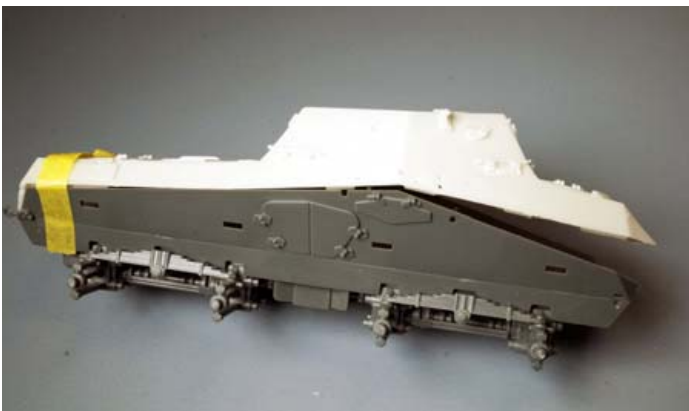
(Continued from page 1)

drowning in a sea of initial-early-middle-late-final production (not to mention paper-panzer) versions of Tiger I. What's up with that?

But then Tamiya did the right thing of releasing a 1/48<sup>th</sup> version of its 8-rad 232 last year. Shortly after we have a 263 conversion kit from Gaso.Line the prolific French quarterscale aftermarket. Here is how I tackle this Franco-Japanese interpretation of a Teutonic Panzerfunkwagen (and any thoughts that crossed my mind along the way).

## Construction

As there was no interior detail to build, I started construction by gluing the resin (Gaso.Line) top and plastic (Tamiya) bottom hulls together. The "mating" was not perfect, so I had to dip the resin half in then-boiling-now-hot water to facilitate a better fit.



The suspension and wheels were then put together according to Tamiya instructions. Each of the nine (eight working plus the spare) wheels had a prominent seam line right in the middle of the tire. After spending a good part of an hour scraping and sanding, the wheels are now more or less presentable. With the help of some mud paint, they should look fine on my model.

All my references show prominent weld lines where the base of the radio housing superstructure meets the hull. Not long ago Archer Fine Transfer introduced a new line of Surface Details waterslide decals, and now raised weld beads are available in different sizes (0.38mm to 1mm) and styles (perfect and arc). Being a junkie of model gadgetry, I

couldn't resist not trying one out. So I ordered the arc weld starter set (AR88006) and paid through the nose for it (\$17.95 plus shipping!) The decal is very easy to work with, but it tends to break apart if you move it too many times. That makes preparing a glossy surface for the decal an absolute necessity. Anyway I am happy with the result. If you do not mind the high price tag (or if you can find someone to share the cost), this is by far the easiest way to simulate weld beads.



Most photos of 263 show the absence of front armor plate *Pakschutz*, but that does not necessarily mean this is a general rule for every vehicle of this kind in the field. I choose to have it installed anyway. IMO the ram-like *Pakschutz* makes my model look meaner than one without. As our good friend Russ Holm told me once, "I'll gladly build it your way if you can prove me wrong by personally checking ALL the vehicles EVER built!" Everybody claims to be an expert of something these days. Is it because we are supercilious or simply we have no clue what **fallacy of accident** means? But I digress.

I did, however, try to replicate from photos the extra stowage all DAK vehicle carry in order to survive the harsh North African environment. Following Rhodes Williams' example on how to attach the jerry cans (MMIR #38 page 53), two simple brackets,



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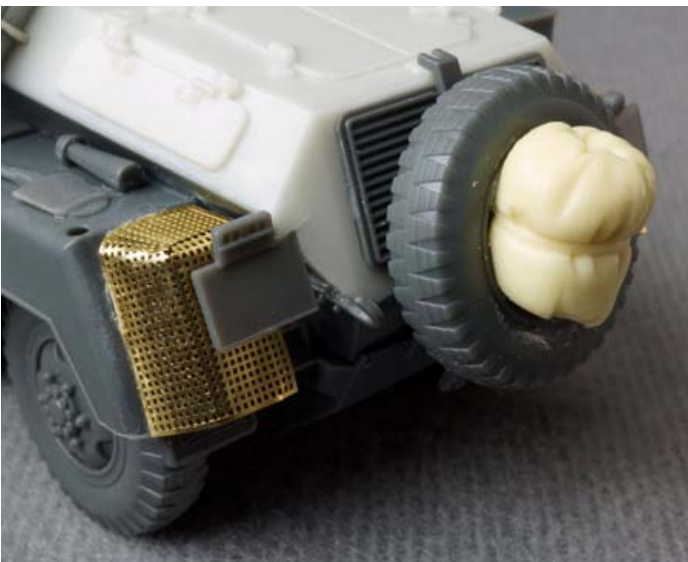


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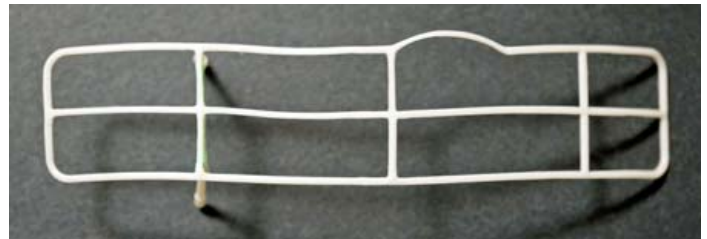
one on each side of the vehicle, were scratchbuilt with paper clips and staples. The result looks just like a typical modification made with whatever is available in the field. The rest of the stowage items were taken from various 1/48<sup>th</sup> Tamiya accessory and aftermarket update sets.



The only photo-etched (PE) set that deemed necessary for my 263 is Hauler's exhaust muffler and shroud set (HLX48337). The plastic kit parts are just awful and devoid of any details.



I had a hard time with the frame antenna and masts as both items were supplied by Gaso.Line in flimsy resin. To make things worst, the antenna deformed in hot water when I tried to shape the front section! I managed to fix it halfway decent, but it was still far from acceptable. Something had to be done, but I did not know what. Instead of wracking my brain for



a solution, I left it along for now and moved on to painting of the model.

## Painting

Growing up I spent a lot of time reading the Time-Life WWII series in the library. My earliest memory of the 263 is a photo in the North Africa volume. You could say I have chosen the paint scheme of my model over 30 years ago.

As usual I started by priming my model with Tamiya Gray Primer. Next I sprayed the areas that paint mostly likely would chip away with Humbrol 67 (Tank Gray). A coat of Future sealed the gray in and prepared the model for decaling.

The German *balkenkreuz*, tactical symbol, and license plate decals were all taken from the Tamiya kit, and they went on easy enough. Finding the right size DAK emblem, on the other hand, turned out to be a challenge. The problem is not the palm tree but the swastika below it. You won't be able to get that from any European company kit, so the solution has to come from the Far East. Mine came from an old Tamiya 1/35<sup>th</sup> *Kübelwagen* decal sheet.

Next I applied another coat of Future to protect the decals. A few days later the model was off to the "chip shop."

## Chipping

I thought my model is too delicate for the hairspray or salt paint chipping method, so I used masking fluid instead. Using bits and pieces cut out from a Scotch-Brite scour pad, I "sponged" Grumbacher's Miskit onto areas that were painted Gray and decaled. The liquid frisket dried fast and left



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a pink colored mask over the surface applied. I then sprayed a coat of Tamiya *Dunkelgelb* (XF-60) over the entire model. Eager to see how the chipping turned out, I removed the frisket with a pencil eraser as soon as the paint dried. It wasn't easy to catch all the masked areas as I applied the frisket gingerly at times. If I had to do it again, I would take photos of the model after masking so I know where to go back to remove them.

The result was good in most areas but not so well in hard-to-reach places where I clumsily applied the frisket. Oh well. Better be more patient next time. I was ready to do some panel fading when I realized the paint chips were in the way. Damn it! Another lesson learnt here: **Don't remove the masks until ALL paintings are done!**



Lately pin-washing has turned into a week long affair for me. I am not sure if this is a sign of getting old or being scrupulous about my work. Anyway it was done with my usual mix of Raw Umber artist oil and Testors enamel thinner. Highlights are painted on with Reaper acrylics.

## Weathering

I made the underside of my 263 muddier than usual to match the groundwork I intend to build. To simulate mud chunk, I used the gunk built up inside the lid of the paint bottle. As it hardened, I stippled repeatedly to create some surface texture. Once the "mud" dried, a darker color (Humbrol 29) was applied. For highlights I used the Light Sand sticky pastel from Tamiya's weathering "makeup" set A.



## When In Doubt, Flag It

With the painting and weathering finished, I turned my attention back to the deformed frame antenna. I reckoned I could hide the worst part (mid section) with an air recognition flag. Unfortunately the Archer Dry Transfer flag that I ordered did not arrive in time for this article. So you all get to witness first hand my glorious mistakes and clumsy fixes!

## Afterword

Despite all the mistakes I made and the poor frame antenna, I am fairly happy with how my 263 turned out. I hate to admit it, but chipping is fun, even when overdoing it. Shh...please don't let Oscar the "chipmaster" know what I have just said!

**Eric**





## The First Cavalry Museum by Ted Andreas, Jr.

The First Cavalry Division was organized in the 1920's and has been in active service ever since. The soldiers of this division have fought in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, 'peace keeping' in Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After the war in Vietnam, the First Cavalry Division was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Their museum is one of two military museums on Fort Hood; the 3rd ACR museum being the other. The museum is located on 761st Tank Battalion Avenue and has been at that location since at least 1982, when SSG Andreas reported in for duty (with the 2nd Armored Division) at Fort Hood.

The museum is open to the general public although you must get a guest pass at the main gate if your vehicle does not have a DOD sticker. The outdoor exhibits are readily accessible at all times; the indoor museum displays are available for viewing:

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sunday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

The admission price is very reasonable (free).

### Indoor Displays

Although the First Cavalry Division was not authorized as a division until September of 1921, by the War Department, several of its subordinate units were in service prior to the American Civil War. Some of the displays depict duty in the Civil War and Indian Wars as well as fighting in the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq.



### Civil War Trooper

Among the exhibits is a huge diorama of scale models depicting American soldiers landing in a rice paddy (Vietnam) from Hueys while being supported by M-113 APC's. It probably would not win high awards from AMPS/IPMS judges but it is nicely done; high school students from Pennsylvania worked on this project years ago and donated it to the museum.

Photography inside the museum is allowed but not flash photography except in the gift shop. Some exhibits are lit well enough to get some decent pictures while others are not so well illuminated. Most of the exhibits of course are behind glass or plexiglass which also presents some photographic challenges.

### Japanese Soldier in Manila

One of my favorite exhibits is the Medal of Honor hall. Recipients from World War II up to the present time are portrayed in photographs while soldiers who served in First Cavalry regiments prior to division organization are listed by name on a large

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poster. Not surprisingly many of the awardees received their Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously.

## Perimeter Defense in Vietnam

For scale modelers, especially figure builders/painters, the indoor exhibits should provide a wealth of ideas. The weapons and uniforms featured allow for some detailed research or casual interest viewing.



## Outdoor Displays

When my wife and I went to the museum this time to do research for this article, I took a pen and notebook. It was my intent to list all the vehicles and equipment on display. I did that and it took a while. Once we went inside, my wife found one of the handouts that listed everything outside! And it was already typed out. It is my intent to copy that handout for club distribution.



The equipment on display includes vehicles, weapons, and even aircraft used by the First Cavalry Division over the years. It also includes vehicles and weapon systems captured from opposing forces up to the present.



On a personal note, at the time of our visit I was working on a 1/35 scale PT-76 (amphibious Soviet tank). I had done some online research about this tank and viewed several pictures available. However the example I found at the First Cavalry Museum had something I hadn't seen before; it had a red lens on the turret searchlight! My Syrian version of the PT-76 shortly after our visit was given a red lens on its search light.



In conclusion, I recommend a visit to this museum. If you have never been to see it, make a trip to Fort Hood. If it has been several years since your last visit



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to the First Cavalry Museum, try to work it into your busy schedule to see it again! You just might see something you could use in one of your model building projects!

For more info please contact the museum at (254) 287-3626 or visit its Facebook page.



Sikorsky CH-54, military version of the Skycrane.



Gamma Goat time!



From the Medal of Honor Hall (the tag under the portrait is inscribed with the word: Posthumous)

Ted

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 22, Issue 4)

The latest issue of *Boresight* is out. Here is a quick look inside:

- ◆ **AMPS 2014 Report**  
Highlights from the National Convention.
- ◆ **The Entries** photos by the Editor  
The complete list of winners.
- ◆ **Masters Honor Roll**  
Getting to the top.
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News**  
What's going on in the AMPS community.
- ◆ **Type 128 Schwimmwagen** by the Editor  
AFV Club makes a splash.
- ◆ **U.S. MBT70 Reference** photos by the Editor





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



## NEW ON THE BLOCK



ICM's latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> Opel Kadett K38 now comes with five German Road Police figures.



Another BMP-3 variant in 1/35<sup>th</sup>. Seventy examples were given to South Korea from Russia to pay off their debt.



Another fine Soviet Cold War subject from Trumpeter: 1/35<sup>th</sup> JS-4 Heavy Tank.



Quarterscale armor fan rejoice! Achilles is the Commonwealth version of the US M10 with the 17pdr gun.



DML continues its Sexton run under the Cyber-Hobby label featuring CDP tracks commonly seen on vehicle built in Canada.



A most welcomed Mk.IV Male tank in 1/35<sup>th</sup>, but why motorized? I suppose only Mr. Tamiya can answer that.



## About Us

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) started in 1999 when Don Jones, a member of the local IPMS chapter, decided "what a good idea to get out two nights a month, and on least one night talk tanks."



Since then AABS is the only modeling club in Central Texas devoted solely to armor modeling. We don't build planes because they are just plain! Our passion is armored fighting vehicles and military figures. Subject of our interest ranges from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent Gulf War Conflicts.

At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques and tricks. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town field trips to museums and model shows.

Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor model show in AMPS South Central Region (AMPS CENTEX). Known as Lone Star Armor & Figure Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come participate.

To find out more about AABS, you can visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

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

*Rick Herington did a fantastic job on his DML 1/35<sup>th</sup> SdKfz.10/5. He scratchbuilt the FlaK38 gun shield with styrene using the kit provided PE part as a template. One can hardly tell the difference.*

