



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2014
Volume 18, Issue 10



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Monster Mortar by Russ Holm

BIG guns and artillery pieces have always caught my attention. Whether it's because there isn't a plethora of kits out there or it's some subliminal envy, they are way cool!

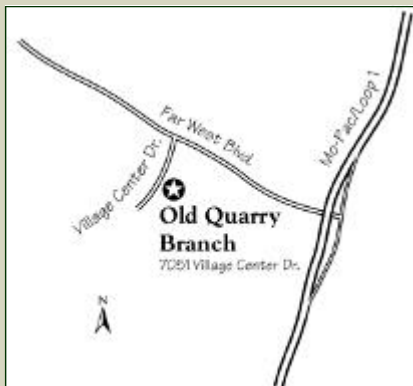
This particular kit is a 1/35th model of an Italian Army 210mm heavy mortar. Conceived in 1891, it was an important part of the Italian siege artillery in the early part of the 20th Century. Various manufacturers produced 970 during the Great War, and 180 were still available when WWII started in 1939. They saw some

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

October 1, 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.

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

- ◆ October 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ October 4 - ASMS Capital Classic 2014, Norris Conference Centers, Austin, Texas
- ◆ November 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ December 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ TBA - AABS Christmas Party



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
March, 2014	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	Annual Kit Auction	John Hernandez
December	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
January, 2015	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

Last month we marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the mobile phase of WWI on the West Front, which led directly to the development of tanks in an attempt to break the static defenses that formed across the French countryside from Switzerland to the English Channel. To honor this event, we made plans for next year's show, now scheduled for **September 26th 2015**, to be themed "The Great War."

Coincidentally, this month marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the successful German campaign to conquer Poland that started WWII in Europe as the last major Polish troop concentration surrendered on October 3rd 1939. Ironically, the vast majority of German Generals remained staunch infantry

supporters even after this lightning campaign was led by the new panzer arm. Even so, history has painted a colorfully brilliant picture for this initiation of *blitzkrieg*, and there are many model kits available to appreciate the victorious armor of this opening campaign of the war.

The campaign does indeed seem well represented in our hobby, but what of the Polish counterpart to the German panzers? How many of us have built a Polish TKS or TP7? Of course, it may be that you haven't ever seen a TP7 kit. I know I haven't seen one myself, but I was able to find one online from **Mirage**



Hobby, along with several TKS variants. I would love to hear more if anyone has any other suggestions for kits from the Polish side of this campaign.

Who knows, I may just pick up a couple of these kits for our auction in November just to give you all a chance to honor the fallen memory of Polish armor development.

John Talley
President

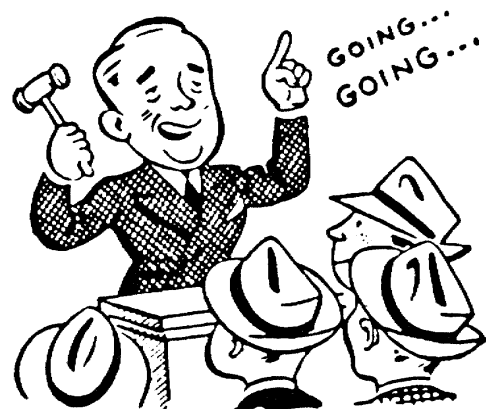
Annual Kit Auction @ November Meeting

Our annual kit auction will be held at our November meeting this year. This auction is our club's only fund raising activity. All monies collected go straight into the treasury for our biennial show and other club activities.

To participate in this auction, please bring:

1. A few unwanted kits in your collection that are complete and haven't been started.
2. Your checkbook or cash-filled wallet.

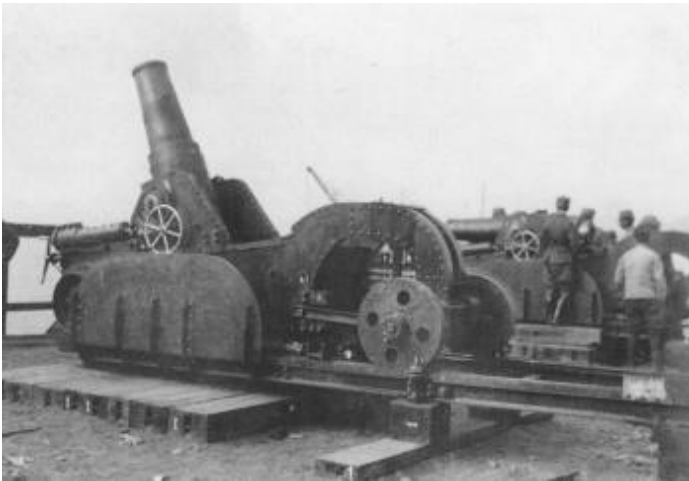
Remember, your friends and fellow modelers will be bidding on these items. Be considerate and don't bring a kit that has missing parts or has been partially glued/painted!





(Continued from page 1)

action against the French, but by August 1943 they were phased out of frontline service.



This particular artillery piece has a simple dual recoil operating mechanism: a hydraulically controlled reduction of the gun cheeks that hold the trunnions, and a hydraulically reduced carriage in track that carries the gun cheeks. Both return to battery on inclines by gravity. For movement, the gun was removed from the emplacement and transported on its wheels. The emplacement components are moved separately.

The Kit

The Italian company **Criel Models** uses resin exclusively for all their products. Air bubbles and voids abound in their kits, so have your super glue and accelerator handy to fill them. Many of the components have a rough "as cast" finish which in some areas are fine, but in others they will have to



be sanded. Poor moldings will have to be carefully removed and sanded. Corners and edges also need crisping up and smoothing. The barrel will have to be

drilled out for a proper appearance.

This kit contains about 28 pieces, and it is very straight forward in assembly. Unlike most plastic kits, much of the detail is molded into the parts instead of separate assembly. The instructions are printed on a single sheet, with separate drawings to show parts placement and the gun in recoil, battery, and towing positions. The platforms that attach to the wheels for towing are not provided in the kit.





Assembly

I used superglue and epoxy to put this gun together. To allow working time for squaring up and alignment, I epoxied the hydraulic reducer platform into the locating slots on the recoil rails. The two rear support cross members were then added. After that, the exterior cheeks were glued in place and squared up. The main carriage front support was then glued in place, followed by the mid carriage frame support, rear axle, and rear frame cap.



Working carefully and taking time to test fit all the parts, the squareness of the assembly affects how the barrel mounts and the wheels ride in the track. The other bits follow in no particular order. I added a tie off point for the shell hoist as none is provided.



Painting

I painted the nicely molded wooden emplacement components with Model Master wood enamel. After a day of drying, burnt umber and burnt sienna were applied in a streaking/drybrush fashion. This was allowed to dry for half an hour or so. Then India Ink, diluted with denatured alcohol to a semi-translucent consistency, was applied and again allowed to dry for ten minutes or so. Finally, I used a "Q" tip dipped

in alcohol and moving with the grain to remove the excess ink. This blends the colors slightly and creates highlights in the wood.

The carriage and gun were painted with Model Master Italian Green and allowed to dry. The green was lightened with Floquil Antique white and thinned (one part paint to four to five parts thinner). This creates the faded effects on the top of the gun barrel, recoil reducers and the sides of the cheeks. Artist oil filters and weathering powders were then applied for final affect.



Conclusion

This was perhaps one of the more pleasant Criel kits that I have built. I would recommend it to anyone wanting to move beyond Verlinden's fine resin artillery products.

Russ



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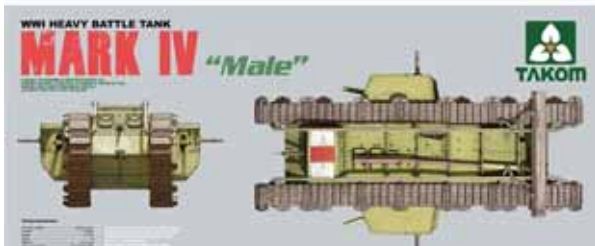
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New On the Block



Keeping up with Tamiya's recent WWI release are Takom's 1/35th Male and Female Mark IVs. Preview and build reports are already out on perthmilitarymodelling.com.



Finally a decent 1/35th Komsomolets from Mirror Models. Coming soon is a T20 based SPG with ZiS-30 anti-tank gun.



Lastkraftwagen 3.5t AHN, a Renault truck in German service, is the latest 1/35th release from ICM.

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





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."



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.

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.

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com

Aaron Smischney's 1/35th Last Ferdinand 150100 (Cyber-Hobby) should be no stranger to most members of AABS.

