



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

May 2017



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Basing your AFVs: "I think it rocks!"

By Ian Candler

Since I stumbled back into AFV and figure modeling, finding a base for each of my projects has become a challenge of its own. I have used a handful of 40mm bases for some figures, but I also like to place my vehicles on bases. If you choose to do

groundwork, you can put the model in a setting where it may have served or just simply go with a clean base for a "Presentation" look. At the very least, the base can serve as a handle for your model. I think this is extremely important, especially for traveling modelers and contest participants.

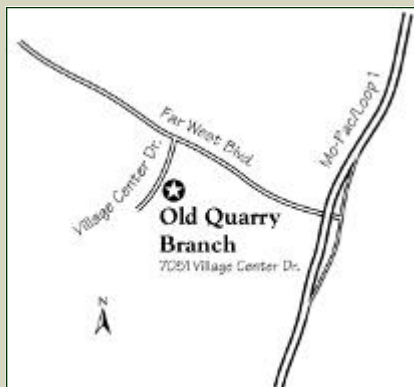
For my Tamiya 1/35th M1 Abrams shown here, I decided to go with a

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

May 3, 2017

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

- ◆ **May 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **June 3 - Scalefest 2017** Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
- ◆ **June 7 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **June 10 - SoonerCon 2017** Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ **July 5 - AABS Club Meeting**



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley
February	Russ Holm	Greg Beckman
March*	Bob Bethea	Eric Choy
April	Randy Bumgardner	Bob Bethea
May	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
June*	Dave Bourland	Andrew Bodin
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Greg Beckman
October	Kit Auction	Kevin Hutchison
November	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney
December*	Greg Beckman	John Talley
January 2018	Chris Chany	Chris Chany

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 wants any time. 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. John Talley's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

It's already May? I guess I ignored Kenny Chesney's words of wisdom and blinked... all the way through the month of April. I've been working more than usual, but to miss an entire month takes some skill.

Speaking of skill, or rather knowledge, holy cow, did Randy Bumgardner provide us with a core dump on glue last month. At times I felt like I was back in chemistry class! It was great information to have for those occasions when you need just the right bonding agent. So thanks Randy!

In the historical inspiration department, I found a fun tie-in between the two major tank battles that occurred 75 years ago this month. Those battles were the Battle of Gazala and the second Battle of Kharkov. The interesting fact is that there were British Matilda tanks used by both the Russians and Germans. Of course, that would be the Germans at Gazala and the Russians at Kharkov.



A German Matilda preparing for the Gazala offensive, May 1942

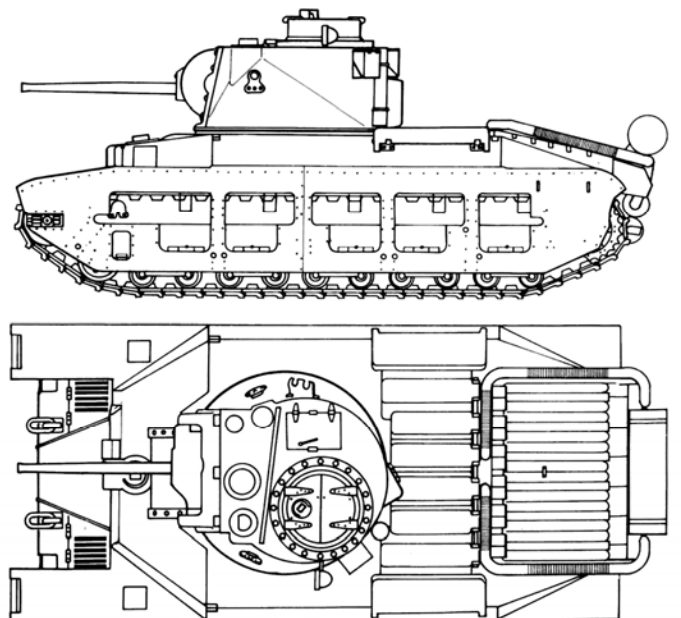


A Russian Matilda knocked out near Kharkov, May 1942

As always, I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone has been up to for the last month at the club meeting on Wednesday. Unfortunately, it will be May 3rd, so we'll just miss being able to geek out with a "May the fourth be with you" greeting!

On the other hand, it's probably saving most of you from a lot of groans!

John Talley
President





(Continued from page 1)



simple base with no ground work. The base was ordered through Hydra Models from Italy (www.hydramodels.com). It took some time to arrive, but the quality and service were fantastic! Before ordering, I made sure to measure the vehicle. The base ends less than an inch on the sides to allow a little more space on the ends so the barrel did not have too much overhanging.

There are certainly other base makers out there with the tools and know-hows. Our own Bob Bethea has a friend "Big Al" who makes great bases. I have also discovered Allen Thomas bases are just incredible, but they can be troublesome to acquire.

Another great option is your big box hobby stores that offer plenty of plaque type shapes. They certainly require a little work like sanding as most of them have a rough finish. Also a little bit of wood stain and/or paint will go a long way to make them more pleasing to the eye.



Should you feel adventurous, you can also utilize "Granny's decorative signs" found at arts & crafts stores. One thing I like to do is to use elevation for different heights and widths to allow more room to cram models on my shelves (otherwise I have to blow up the older models to make room for the new ones! See my tongue-in-cheek on the next page).



Below is a "Granny Sign" that once read "You are my sunshine!" Now it is a base for my Tamiya Easy Eight.



The last base idea is the classic picture frame. These can be found anywhere from thrift stores, dollar shops, to high-end craft stores. They are not nearly as fun as granny bases, but you can use these as a way to add to the story of your model.

For my WWI British MK.IV, I used a natural looking picture frame that had some knots and other dings in the wood. I used a cherry stain to make it look a little darker. Then I used a 1918 trench knife (replica) to

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engrave the base with these words: "First in War, First in Peace, First in the Hearts of his countrymen." Although it is a quote from Henry Lee III at Washington's funeral, I did find (via a google search) some trench art that carried this quote. I thought they suited the mood of the model.

A base is the best thing to give your model a home and a safe place to be, whether it is on the shelf or on the display table of a show. In my opinion, it looks way cooler than sitting on top of a contest entry form!

Ian



Ian's Humor: if you haven't blown up the Orange Box Firefly, you really haven't lived...





2017 First Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Bob Bethea
"Afrika Korps Swimming Party"



2nd Place:
Alex Gashev
1/35th US M12
Gun Motor Carriage



3rd Place:
Mike Lamm
1/35th DAK
Sd.Kfz 223





AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo

September 16th, 2017

Georgetown Community Center



Show Theme "Odd Ball Armor"

Any unusual limited production (10 or less) AFV that has engaged in actual combat is eligible for the show theme award. e.g. Neubaufahrzeug, Char 2C, M3 Stuart with PaK40, T-34/57 "Exterminator," T26E4 "Super Pershing"



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NEW ON THE BLOCK



Tamiya's latest 1/35th Matilda "Red Army" is not just a reissue; it comes with new parts and late "spud" type tracks.



More Leopard anyone? Tiger Model's 1/35th Revolution I is a modular upgrade for Leopard IIA4 series MBTs. Similar to M1 Abrams TUSK system, Revolution provides improved overall protection for urban warfare and low-intensity conflicts.

Yes, even Tamiya is into Valentine these days! This new 1/35th arrival should give MiniArt and AFV Club a good run for the money.



At last an 1/35th BergeHetzer in plastic! Rumor has it this Thunder Model release is based on Mirror Models' earlier all-resin kit.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 2)

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

- ◆ **Colors & Shades** by Ian Candler
The B&W method twisted.
- ◆ **In Loving Memory of Jeffrey McKaughan**
by Stephen "Cookie" Sewell.
- ◆ **Combat Pigeon Loft** by John Kirkpatrick
Building an "APC" for WWII US Army winged warriors.
- ◆ **NACM Heritage Foundation "Memorial Paver Program"**
Donation challenge by AMPS Central SC "Wildcats."
- ◆ **Building of the M110A2 8" Howitzer in Operation Desert Storm** by Mike Del Vecchio.
- ◆ **A Visit to The Tank Museum "Fury" Exhibit** by Chuck Aleshire
- ◆ **2017 AMPS International Convention Update**
by Mike Del Vecchio.





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."



AABS is the only scale model 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 modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

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

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We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com

Greg Hanchuk's "Purgatory - New Year's Eve Assault on Grozny" won the Best Vignette Award at AMPS 2017 Int'l Convention last month.

