



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2017



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What's Left at Patton Museum

By Eric Choy

During my recent trip to Louisville, Kentucky, I had an opportunity to visit the **General George Patton Museum of Leadership** at Fort Knox. Despite most, if not all, of the historical AFVs had been relocated to Ft. Benning, GA, the museum still packs

a few surprises for armor modelers. In my opinion it is well worth a stop if you happen to be in the area.

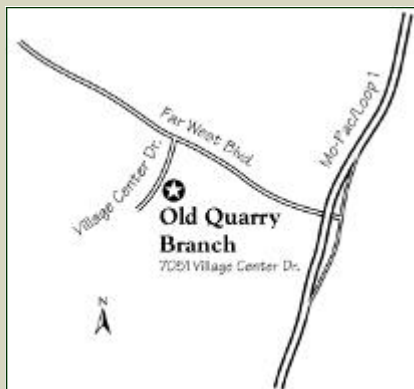
As the museum is situated inside Fort Knox, you'll need to present your valid DoD issued Identification or be prepared to wait a while at the visitors center to obtain a pass to get on post. On the day I was there (Friday), the wait was about 45 minutes.

(Continued on page 4)

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

June 7, 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

- ◆ **June 7 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **June 10 - SoonerCon 2017** Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ **July 5 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **July 7 to 9 - World Model Expo** Chicago Hilton, Chicago, IL
- ◆ **July 26 to 29 - 2017 IPMS/USA National Convention** La Vista Convention Center, Omaha, NE
- ◆ **August 2 - 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

June comes but once a year, so let's all make the most use of it and spend these early summer days indoors working on modeling projects. I'm sure I don't need to provide an excuse to model for anyone in this club though. Based on the great works you guys bring to share every month, I'd say you all have found plenty of reason to model all on your own.

I'd like to thank **Ian Candler** and **Eric Choy** for all the pictures they shared with us from AMPS Int'l Convention last month. There was a lot of interesting models in the slide show they presented, and it also pointed out to me that we really do have some great work being done right here.

Looking back on anniversaries this month for project inspiration finds the expected 75th anniversary of WWII battles in June 1942. As the Battle of Gazala in North Africa was concluding, Case Blue, the German summer offensive in southern Russia, was just getting started. I mentioned Gazala last month, and I'll talk more on Case Blue next month. But now I want to focus on the 50th anniversary of The Six Day War, in which Israel defeated its Arab neighbors in detail.

The Six Day War is an amazing smorgasbord of armor. Both sides had both relatively modern and antique armor from many different world-wide suppliers. A modeler could build a T55, an M48, a Sherman, a T34, an M3 halftrack, and yet remain accurate to the actions in the war. The Syrians had even acquired captured German Panzer IVs from France and Czechoslovakia! It seems almost unreal to see or read about armor from WWII era in action in the 1960's.



Israeli armor during the Six Day War: a French-made AMX-13 with an American M3 halftrack driving past.



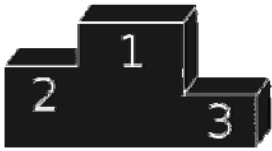
A Syrian Panzer IV destroyed in the Golan Heights during the Six Day War



A remarkable image taken before the Six Day War of Syrian crews for both a Panzer IV and a T34.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all and your projects, so be careful transporting them to the meeting on Wednesday night. We don't need any more broken mirrors, head lamps, or track links!

John Talley
President



June Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly contest cash prizes are **\$40, \$30, and \$20** for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing. Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to win. The **“no sweep”** rule is strictly enforced in these in-house contests.

If you like to participate but haven't paid your 2017 dues, please do so before our meeting or the show-and-tell session.

(Continued from page 1)



Here are pictures of some of the objects of interest that I encountered at the museum:



Sitting right outside the front door is an M4 Sherman in very bad shape.



This “Easy-8” inside the museum is in much better shape.



Some of Patton's weapon collection are on display: (left to right):

1. French Army Sapper or Pioneer Sword, 1798
2. German .69 Caliber Flintlock Rifle (Collected by Patton while in Germany, 1945)
3. Japanese NCO Sword, circa 1932
4. Mexican Army Officer's Saber, circa 1890 (Probably collected by Patton in 1916 during the Punitive Expedition)



Patton's dog was an English bull terrier named William the Conqueror or "Willie" for short. Willie joined his master in England, and the two were inseparable until Patton died in a tragic car accident in Germany 1945. Willie was shipped back to Patton's home in Hamilton, MA and lived there until his death in 1960.

Interestingly, Army canines traditionally outrank their handlers. While Patton in England, Patton was a Lieutenant General, and Willie's collar had the rank of a four-star General!



Contrary to popular belief, Patton did not carry matching pearl-handled pistols. His pistols have ivory handles, and they do not match. On the left is a .45 Colt Peacemaker Model 1873, and on the right is a .357 S&W magnum revolver. Patton had custom grips made for them, so they appeared to match when holstered.

The Peacemaker was purchased by Patton in El Paso, TX in 1916. He carved two notches on the grip for each of the Mexican bandits he claimed to kill during the Punitive Expedition.



A WWI diorama in 1/35th scale



A real StuG III with waffle-pattern Zimmerit! This StuG bogged down in the marshes along Lake Khudobelkino during maneuver in northern Russia in March 1944. The German abandoned it as they retreated westward.

Shortly after the StuG sank to the bottom of the marshy lake and lay underwater for 50 years until recovered in April 1994. It was purchased by a collector and donated to the museum.

The twisted front right fender, according to the museum, was caused by a shell fired from an ISU-152!

Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

June 2017



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The Beauty of Apoxie Sculpt

by Andrew Bodin

Many of the members in this club have already used Aves Apoxie Sculpt before. I hope this article will spark some creative thinking next time when you sculpt something with this product. Now I am no professional by any stretch of imagination, and I don't play one on TV. What I have to say come from many many failures and are the results of what works for me.

Let's get started, shall we?

I'm going to cover how I sculpt rock faces using Aves. The reason I use Aves to do my landscapes/rocks is that most other methods fail to achieve the realism that I prefer. Real rocks are generally not in scale, and I am not a fan of plaster as it tends to be messy and brittle. Insulating foam is too soft and does not work well with other materials. Now Aves may not be the easiest (or cheapest) to get a hold of, but I feel that it has properties that outweighs the disadvantages that one has to put up with.

Aves is a two-part sculpting epoxy resin that hardens over time due to chemical reaction. It can be sculpted with fingers (or tools) and smoothed with water. Once it hardens, it can be drilled, tapped, sanded, or sawed through. Plus if you use it correctly, a little goes a long way.

For making organic landscape rock things, I use tools to shape my sculpt before the curing process begins.



As you can see in (1), I have a few tools:

- Balled up Aluminum foil
- Small container for water
- Steel wire brush
- Old toothbrush
- Old paintbrush

Note I have two shapes for the foil: one that I use to roll for a all-over-texture, and a more organic shape to stab and shape more detail.

For this demo, I am going to sculpt over a structure to give me some random height and depth (2). DO NOT use aluminum foil as a barrier as I learned from earlier mistakes. Aves will stick to it like glue! The only surface that I have found to partially work is waxed paper. Only sometimes does the paper adheres if it is pressed into your sculpt.



On to the first step!

Take equal parts of both A and B using gloves and begin to mix them thoroughly (3). You want to mix it and mix it some more. When you think you've got it mixed good, keep going for a little longer. If the parts are not mixed thoroughly, you will have uncured bits that you can't do anything with and will fail the fingernail test every time. The reason why you want to use gloves is because Aves has a tendency to pick up fingerprint ridges like a magnet to metal.





After you are done mixing, you can start sculpting. I mashed out a pancake like glob of Aves onto my core and started off rolling the overall texture to get some random shapes that I could work with (4,5). I then took my other foil tool and stabbed, pulled, and dragged to emphasize more of those organic shapes to make recesses and ridges (6,7).



04

few sausages and mashed them together to make a rougher edge (8,9). I also added small globs on top of each other to get more variations (10,11).



08



09



10



11

Aves has a special magic trick that really sells it for me: to help get the globs look more rock-like, you can brush on a little bit of water to smooth the Aves (12,13).



12



05



06



07

You can make the initial shape whatever you want. It doesn't have to be perfect in the first go. I made a



13

Next you add texture with the foil and toothbrush, and you are done (14).



14

Once the Aves has completely cured, you can add micro fissures by dragging and pulling a steel wire brush in one direction (NOT back and forth like brushing your teeth).

Quick Tip: If you end up with some leftover Aves, why not make some tiny river rocks???



15

All that is left to do is add some paint and weathering. Then you have rocks that I think look fairly accurate to scale and can be shaped to however you want in your groundwork (16,17).



16



17



18



The base for my Ma.K figure was done all in Aves (18). The concrete, pavement, and rocks were made using the techniques shown here.

Andrew



WORLD MODEL EXPO

CHICAGO ★ ★ ★ ★ JULY 7-9, 2017



THE WHOLE MINIATURES WORLD WILL BE WATCHING!

Held every three years, the World Model Expo is the largest gathering of miniature artists from around the globe. After the last three successful Expos at beautiful sites in Europe—Italy (2014), Switzerland (2011), and Spain (2008)—the 10th tri-annual Expo is returning to the U.S. for the first time since 2005, coming to the Hilton Downtown Chi-

cago July 7-9, 2017. Don't miss the opportunity to exhibit your work among the very best, and for you and your family to visit and enjoy all that one of America's greatest cities has to offer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

we2017chicago.com

[facebook.com/groups/WorldExpo2017](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WorldExpo2017)



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



Takom's has two new 1/35th M47 Pattons out (above and below). Various muzzle breaks and decal options are included in both kits.



Meng's latest is a 1/35th Russian BMR-3M Armored Mine Clearing Vehicle. Based on a T90 MBT chassis, it is said to have a life-support system that enables the two-man crew to remain inside the vehicle for up to two days!



A new company REVOSYS has just released VK3601, Henschel first attempt of a Tiger, in 1/35th.



WWI modelers will be pleased to see ICM's 1/35th Model T 1917 LCP used by the Australian Army.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 3)

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

- ◆ **Judge's Certifications, Skill Level Promotions, and AMPS Masters Honor Roll** by Mike Petty.
- ◆ **AMPS 2017, the Experience of the International Show** by Mike Del Vecchio.
- ◆ **2017 Winner's List**
Photos by Ian Candler, Victoria Del Vecchio, and Editor.

BORESIGHT
THE AMPS MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE
MAY / JUNE 2017

AMPS 2017, The Experience of the International Show • Medal Winners • Judge's Certification, Skill Level Promotions & Masters Honor Roll



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 at 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.

19990424

New AABS website coming soon...



A "futuramor" at this year's Wonderfest:
1/35th M1A5 "Door Knocker"

Title or Name of Entry	M1A5
Remarks	Scratch!!
Builder	Don Knocker
Year	2017
Category	
Vehicle	
Super	
Entry Box:	