



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2017

Duplex Drive Sherman — A Conversion Build Project

By David Bourland

At least in terms of subjects available, we are certainly living in a golden age of model building. We have choices of kits in styrene (not just small run resin kits) of machines that existed in only single digits, even some that existed only on paper or by speculation.

Yet, I find the lack of a Duplex Drive (DD) Sherman a surprise. It is an exceptionally well known subject in the media; every kid that has seen any

book, movie, or youtube video on D-Day knows about the swimming tanks. Modeling a DD Sherman should be relatively easy. After all, almost every major manufacturer has a M4 kit, so most of the work has already been done. Also, it is a subject that begs one to buy two examples, one screen up and one screen down.

Less numerous and obscure swimming tanks have been produced already, so it can't be a lack of interest in amphibious vehicles. We already have Wading Sherman by Italeri and Academy, and DML has produced the

(Continued on page 4)

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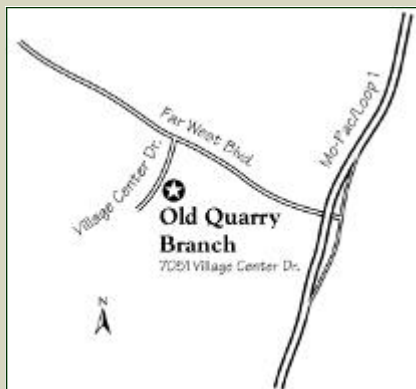
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library**. Our next meeting is on

July 5, 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

- ◆ 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
- ◆ September 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 9 - SuperCon 2017, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington, TX
- ◆ September 16 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo 2017, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown, TX



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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

Last month we were treated to a download of information on modeling Duplex Drive (DD) Shermans by **Dave Bourland**. You won't find DD Sherman models sitting on the shelves of hobby stores, so some scratchbuilding is necessary. Crafting the canvas skirts to look appropriate is not easy, but if we should ever take on this difficult task, Dave has saved us a lot of time through his many attempts.

It occurred to me that when I mention my appreciation for monthly meeting presenters in this column, I don't give credit to the "Sabot Away" article writers with similar appreciation. Part of the reasoning there being that the content of the article is already preserved in the newsletter itself. That said, I am very grateful to all the club members sharing their knowledge and experience through writing the great articles contained in this newsletter. We have a great group of people in this club, and all forms of participation are highly appreciated.

Looking back for historical inspiration this month, we find the 75th anniversary of the German offensive to



German soldiers hunkered down behind a wrecked Soviet tank and a German half-track.

capture the Caucasus with *Case Blue*. There are many well-known photos from this event, and I will share one of my favorite here, but also of interest is the German capture of the fortress city of Sevastopol in early July 1942. There are some very dramatic scenes from this event, and I'm sure we can find inspiration here as well.



A German half-track passing the wreckage of the city of Sevastopol in July 1942.



The German 80cm Schwerer Gustav Railway gun made its debut firing on fortifications and ammunition dumps inside Sevastopol.

I hope you all are having a good time with your current projects. I know I'm looking forward to seeing what you've been up to the last month!

John Talley
President



(Continued from page 1)

IJN Type 2 Ka-Mi. There are some complete resin DD Sherman available, but so far no conversion kit.

About 700 Shermans were converted; 293 based on the British Sherman III (M4A2) and 400 on the Sherman V (M4A4). Almost 300 embarked from England for the Normandy invasion. On D-Day, 129 were launched and 80 or 85 reached shore. The 35% loss rate generally attributed to the high seas that morning. They were much more successful in Operation *Dragoon*, the invasion of Southern France, where the sea conditions were much more favorable. Twenty were launched, and only two were lost.

DD Shermans were also used in small numbers in several river crossings with the Rhine being the most well known. One sank due to a torn screen but seven crossed successfully.

I have read somewhere manufactures might be reluctant to take on the subject fearing they could not do the screen justice. That does not make much sense to me. It has been done in resin, and companies have been simulated canvas covers on trucks since the beginning of the industry. Regardless of their reasons, I have given up waiting for one to come out. I decided to make my own conversion. A quick search on the Internet revealed that I am not alone; I found two web articles, one in RC 1/16th scale and the other in 1/72nd scale, but none in 1/35th scale.

In simple terms, the conversion has three elements: **the Sherman, the screen, and the base for the screen.**



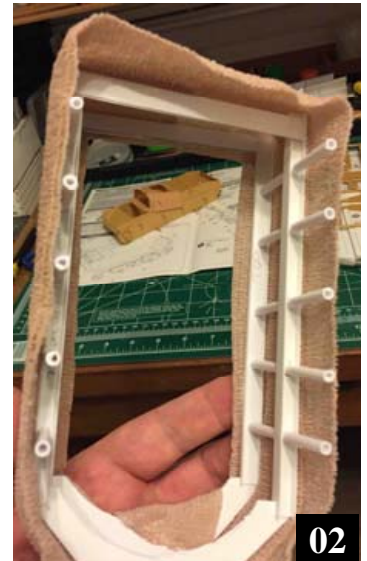
01

I made the base using Evergreen products (**photo 01**). I considered using brass for the structure, but I have never used it before. I thought it best to stick with materials I knew for this experiment.

I used U-bars to better define the edges and

help me line up the bones of the screen. I used Evergreen products for the structure of the screens, too. The raised version was made with a U-bar facing down and an I bar in the middle with holes drilled for tubes to go from top to bottom (**photo 02**).

The lowered screen structure was made with tubing laid lengthwise. This is a compromise to ensure structural strength (**photo 03**).



02



03

The key choice of the project was how to simulate the canvas screen. I tried tissue hardened with white glue, a method I have seen to make tarps and sandbags very successfully. I rejected this as I did not like the look of the results. I thought about rolling out AB putty, but I did not think I could get the texture to look right, and it would either be too thin and fragile or too thick and heavy. I could learn how to sew and make my own screen, but I rejected this too.

Then someone suggested I try bandages. This is what I have done. It took quite a bit of glue and clamping to secure this to the structure (**photo 04**).



04



The final results look pretty good (**photo 05**). The biggest disadvantage I believe is trying to make the strips look like one continual sheet. On the plus side, the material takes paint and remains pliable and easy to



05

shape. Most importantly, the texture looks good (**photo 06**).

Someday I might try it again with brass and putty. Hopefully some company will take it by then!

Dave

Reference:

Swimming Shermans: Sherman DD amphibious tank of World War II by David Fletcher (Author), Tony Bryan (Illustrator), Osprey Publishing, 2006.

Website:

http://the.shaddock.free.fr/sherman_minutia/duplexdrive/duplexdrive.html



06

Special Third Armored Division Theme Award

*Charles D. (Don) McFetridge
Colonel, US Army (Ret.)*

The U.S. 3rd Armored Division will be holding its annual reunion in Austin this year. The reason I am writing to you all is that AMPS Centex Armor Expo 2017 (see page 9 for more details) will be just a few weeks before our reunion. I think there is an opportunity for collaboration between the 3rd AD folks and the Austin Armor Builders Society.

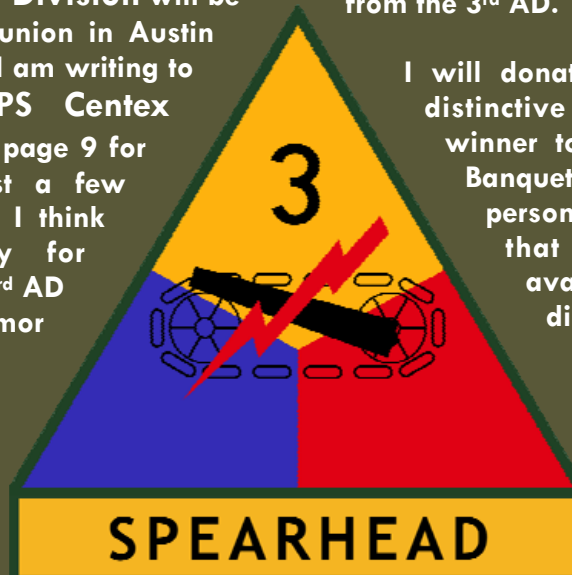
I am sponsoring a one-time only, special theme award. Any entry that is 3rd AD related is eligible. Since the Division was

formed in 1942 and continued until 1992 with only a short interruption, any vehicle, figure, helicopter, etc. that was in the US inventory during that period would qualify. That means WWII, Cold War, and Operation Desert Storm inclusive. The only restriction is that the entry must have a visible connection – sleeve patch, bumper marking, or other identifying feature from the 3rd AD.

I will donate a cash prize of \$100, a distinctive plaque, AND invite the winner to attend the Division Grand Banquet Saturday evening as my personal guest. I would also request that the winning entry be available for viewing at the dinner.

I will defer to the judges at the show to select the winner as I know they are competent to do so.

Don





2017 Second Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Ted Andreas, Jr.
1/48th Jagdpanther



2nd Place:
Bob Bethea
*1/35th US Army
Bulldozer*

3rd Place:
Ian Candler
*1/35th Valentine
Infantry Tank*





Modelers Helping Modelers

by Ted Andreas, Jr.

“Even if a person is primarily an armor builder, a well painted figure can greatly enhance the visual appeal of an armor model.”

Bob Bethea

On the 20th of May 2017, **Bob Bethea**, **Kevin DeLashmit**, and **Darren Tice** put on a figure painting workshop at the request of several members of the **Killeen IPMS Club (CTSMS)**. Bob and friends demonstrated the art of painting faces with emphasis on painting the facial shadows and highlights. They also presented techniques to get the ‘eyes’ to look correctly done.

The workshop was held at Copperas Cove, TX in the Fellowship Hall of the Trinity Lutheran Church. We were fortunate that the Men’s group of the church had plenty of breakfast food left over from their meeting to share with our presenters and participants. So we had a great breakfast while setting up in preparation for the day’s event.

Bob began the workshop with a facilitated discussion on what parts of the face would normally have shadows and highlights. After emphasizing the need for “exaggeration” when painting figures (the smaller the scale, the more exaggeration), Bob



diagrammed the areas of focus and talked about the techniques to paint the eyes.

At this point the aspiring modelers of CTSMS (and guest **Rick Harrington**) began their individual projects. The first step involved applying a base coat of paint on the face of each model figure or bust. While this was taking place, Bob, Kevin, and Darren roamed about observing the progress being made. They stopped often to see if anyone needed assistance.



With the base coats of the flesh tone were mostly dried, some of us began applying the highlights and shadows, while others tackled the ‘eyes.’ Our progresses varied: many were steady, but a few required extensive reworking. Through it all, Bob and his associates encouraged and assisted.

Lunchtime rolled around in no time, and a stack of pizzas was delivered. Does it get any better? After lunch, we continued to work on our projects. Bob was going strong as he showed several



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participates how to blend the base paint for highlights and shadows. Some modelers needed help with getting the eyes to look right. Whatever the issue, Bob, Kevin, and Darren helped with tips and/or hands on demos.



After the workshop was over, I got several comments from fellow participants. **Mike Haar** e-mailed: "Thanks Ted and Susan for setting this up. In all the years I have built models, Saturday was the most fascinating experience ever. I was amazed at how Bob made it all look so easy. I learned a lot."

Several others simply stated, 'we need to do this again!' I have to agree.

Using this article as a forum, I would like to make a few points:

First of all, modeling should be fun (as **Floyd Werner**, owner of Werner Wings, has always insisted). It can be frustrating sometimes when a modeler cannot achieve the results he or she desires. That's where other modelers can step in and help by



demonstrating how to do certain things. In regards to figure painting, Bob, Kevin, and Darren taught us a great deal.

Secondly, my personal belief is that modeling is primarily problem solving. Even though the modeler usually has a kit with instructions, a collection of paints, and a multitude of modeling tools, it still remains for the modeler to figure out how to get the desired end result. The workshop helped several modelers gain skills that will be useful in solving the problem(s).



Last of all, and most importantly, modelers should be willing to teach others. If this hobby is to stay alive, advanced skills should not become extinct when modelers retire from the hobby or pass on altogether. The modelers of CTSMS are greatly indebted to Bob, Kevin, and Darren. We thank them and wish them great success in the future.

Ted



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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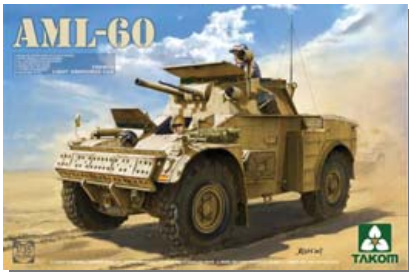
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NEW ON THE BLOCK



Another pair of similar subject from Takom. This time they are French: 1/35th AML-60 and AML-90 armored cars (above and below).



Oh my! What's with these "World War Toons" tanks from Meng? The latest releases include a KV-2 (left) and a King Tiger Porsche Turret.



ModelCollect's new 1/72nd E-100 with 128mm Flak40 Zwilling sure looks like something from the Gundam universe!



DML's 1/35th M752 with MGM-52 Lance Tactical Ballistic Missile should be due any day now.

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.





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 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.

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.

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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New AABS website coming soon...

Your editor finally finished something! This is Tamiya's old 1/35th Matilda in Red Army Lend-Lease dressing.

