



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2017



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A Procrastinator's Success

by Bob Bethea

There are a lot of interesting heavy equipment that are used by the armies of the world

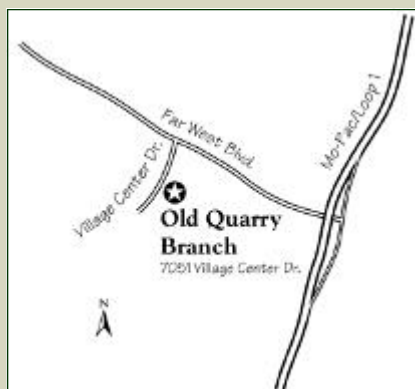
besides tanks. It's fact, not blasphemy. We have been treated to a plethora of trucks and trailers in plastic, but never tracked vehicles. I was always tempted by resin kits until I built one and found the cost and challenges outweighed the fun. That's why I got so

(Continued on page 4)

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

September 6, 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

- ◆ 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
- ◆ October 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ October 14 - Capital Classic 2017, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ November 1 - 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

Summer is quickly rolling toward autumn, and I feel like I've blinked and missed the whole season. Of course, going out of town and missing the last club meeting makes it seem like there's a hole in my memory. Possibly a form of armor-amnesia, or "armornesia" in medical terms!

However terrible that joke was, there is a lot to discuss to prepare for our September 16th Expo in Georgetown. With that date coming up so quickly, I hope you all are preparing your models for the event and scheduling your time to help with setup, judging, break down, and all the other minutia involved in the show.

In our project inspiration way-back machine, we see this month is the 75th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Stalingrad. Early in the battle the Germans attacked in what is commonly called the Battle of the Silos. Initial attacks were repulsed by the defending

Russians, and the grain silos became iconic buildings in the history of the battle and the entire war. At this point in the battle the Germans had complete confidence in victory, and conquest of the city was expected within days or weeks.

Although it is difficult to find images from the Soviet point of view, there are quite a few inspiring images from German photographers.



German armor and infantry planning the move as they flank the silos.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on Wednesday and the show a couple of Saturdays later.

John Talley
President



A German anti-tank gun crew closing in on the grain silos.



(Continued from page 1)

excited when MiniArt announced their series of 1/35th bulldozers. The bulldozer is tracked like a tank, dirty and weathered like a tank, and even painted olive drab like a tank. How cool is that!

MiniArt has released several versions of the U.S. Army bulldozer including one with an armored cab. After reading a great reference on the D7



Tractor from Ampersand Publishing, I decided on the one with the cable running from the winch in the rear over the head of the driver for lifting the plow in the front. It looked interesting and kind of homemade, like many of my home improvement projects.

I had previously build some of MiniArt's kits and a lot of their fine figures. I thought I knew what I was in for. Was I surprised.

The kit is typical of Bronco's and MiniArt's offerings in that virtually every part in the original is replicated on the sprues. It sounds cool but can be a lot of work. I started slowly intending to make a perfect kit. Not to be. The amount of parts along with the severely tight tolerances and questionable instructions made part fit a top issue. I managed, but don't look too close!



The engine is beautiful and a delight to build. However, its placement on the chassis is vague. In my case, it caused some major readjustments to the neighboring parts such as the engine cover, the radiator, and the radiator cover.

The floor of the cab is a multi-part assembly, and it has to fit EXACTLY over the various control rods coming up from the chassis. I didn't get it right, so more "adjustments" were needed. The winch on the rear was another multiple part assembly with photoetched parts, all without positive locations. The string included for the cable was in scale and not fuzzy. However, it was a bit short, and I had to substitute brass rod and curse words. Sigh.

The two major issues of the kit were the plastic and the tracks. MiniArt is located in Ukraine, and we all know what has been going on there in the last few years. In 2014 the company relocated to Kiev and had received numerous complaints on how brittle the kit parts were. My kit was one from the bad batches, and all the rods and bars shattered when I snipped them off from the sprue. I ended up measuring the rods (and other parts) on the sprues and substituting them with Evergreen Plastic. It made life easier, but I lost many detail. I understand that they have since fixed the problem with a new vendor, and their new kits are cast in good plastic again. But that didn't help me in my case.



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The tracks in this kit were the worst I've ever dealt with, including the Mark IV from Takom. Not only was the plastic brittle, each link consisted of four parts with no positive connections. This road block made me throw the partially finished kit back into the box and walk away!

Earlier this year our brothers in ASMS suggested a procrastinator's challenge. It brought me back to this kit with a vengeance. It would not beat me! It just bruised me badly.

Once I had the model together, I thought about how to display it. I like to include a figure for scale and place it in its typical environment. The figure is an old New World Miniatures figure without weapon, so it worked well standing next to my bulldozer.

The base is an old trophy plaque. I removed the brass plate and covered the top side with Earth colored premixed tile grout from Simplegrout (available at most DIY stores like Home Depot). This stuff is great. Not only it is the right color, it is textured with sand, and it cleans up easily with water. Once dried, it is concrete hard because it IS concrete. I found it nice and heavy to keep the model from being top heavy. I spread it evenly on the base and dragged the spade through it appropriately and then set the dozer in it. An hour later it was permanently affixed. I then added piles of grout to the front of the blade and to the side of the dozer's path.



Next I topped them with white glue and ground-up yard dirt. Before I called the project done, I appropriately added grout and dirt to the tracks to hide some of fit issues.

This kit was truly a pain, but I'm proud of the result. The finished model looks like a grimy Normandy bulldozer, and it placed first in the procrastinator's challenge. I hope my next procrastinator kit is kinder to me.

Bob





WIP: Changing Up Meng's Tigers

by Greg Beckman

I am currently working on two Meng GAZ 23315 SPN SPV "Tiger-M" kits and have decided to add a few upgrades to each to reflect Tiger-Ms I have found on the Internet. One will be in Syria as used by Russian Special forces. The other is of a 30mm armed RCW turret that is currently being considered by the Russian Military as a prototype.

To build the first model, which will be the Syrian one, I will be upgrading the base kit with resin sagged wheels from Meng and LiveResin Upgrades for the armament (35308) of the Tiger. I will be changing out the kit supplied 7.62 MG and grenade launcher to a LiveResin 12.7mm Kord HMG. The ammo cans and racks in the interior have be changed out to match the Kord and are supplied by LiveResin (35309) as well. The LiveResin Kord kit actually comes with two HMGs, one with the muzzle break and one without. I will be using the muzzle break one as it matches the photo I have of a Tiger-M in Syria.



The Meng sagged resin wheels are very nice. They fit right up to the kit and actually have a sag. The LiveResin Kord and ammo racks additions are excellent. Based on the photo I have, this Tiger-M is finished in overall Russian Green.



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The second one is of the prototype. For this one, a few things on the base kit will need to be omitted. No smoke launchers but their bases are present, and both front and rear searchlights are omitted. For this Tiger, I have resin sagged wheels from LiveResin (35312) and a 30mm armed RCW turret (35302).



The resin sagged wheels have no visible sag. Otherwise, they look excellent. The RCW turret is a multi-part construction, and again the casting is excellent. The turret kit comes with two alternative 30mm barrels. One has a heavy-duty protective cover and one does not. Both are resin and are straight and true. The LiveResin RCW turret conversion includes some spacers for the turret to fit



any of the Tiger's on the market. It also includes a monitor screen and joystick for the passenger seat area, but there is no turret sub-structure inside the Tiger. So I will be leaving all doors closed and not adding any of the interior seats or ammo supplies.

One issue is that there was no instruction sheet provided. I did search around the LiveResin website and found a download-able/printable instruction sheet.



Once this project is at painting stage, it will be in the current 3-color camouflage scheme: green, tan, and black.

I highly recommend LiveResin products, but would choose the Meng sagged wheels over the LiveResin ones.

Greg



AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo

September 16th, 2017

Georgetown Community Center



Show Theme "Odd Ball Armor"

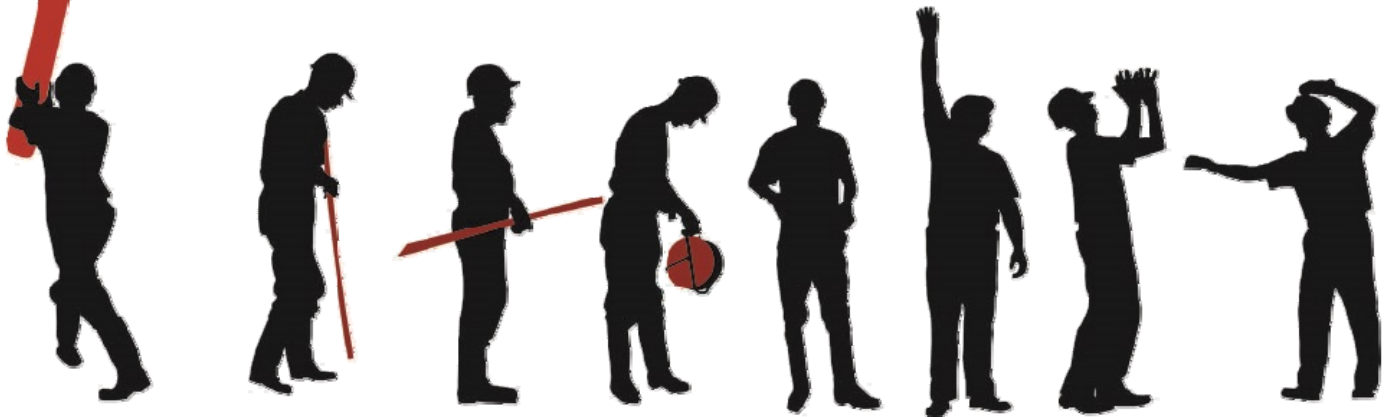
Any unusual limited production (10 or less) AFV that has engaged in actual combat is eligible for the show theme award. e.g. Neubaufahrzeug, Char 2C, M3 Stuart with PaK40, T-34/57 "Exterminator," T26E4 "Super Pershing"



WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Detour to our Facebook page for updates!

<https://www.facebook.com/Austin-Armor-Builders-Society-191876957528149/>



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



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New On The Block



Now that's a surprise! Takom's new 1/35th Lee and Grant.



Here's something one sees every day in construction sites but not so common on the battlefield: an 1/35th high-speed trench digging vehicle based on the AT-T (T-54) chassis.



DML is going all out on the 50th anniversary of The Six Day War! No more resin conversion or kitbashing in order to build an 1/35th Egyptian Sherman with the AMX-13 turret.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 4)

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

- ◆ **M106A2 Mortar Carrier** by John Tapsell.
- ◆ **A Procrastinator's Success** by Bob Bethea.
- ◆ **World Model Expo 2017 - An AMPS Perspective** by Chuck Aleshire with photos by Ian Candler and Eric Choy.
- ◆ **The Soviet 9K52 "Luna-M" Heavy Battlefield Rocket System** by Cookie Sewell.





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."



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...

Here is a look at
Greg Beckman's latest
diorama: a WWII Soviet
BA-10 in a winter setting.

