



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2017



2017 Show After Action Report

by Eric Choy

Two weeks after the conclusion of our show in mid-September, and I'm still in recovery! I must be getting really really old!

My warmest gratitude to every member of the club who worked at the show. They are the real heroes who made our shindig possible. Kudos also to family members and friends (**Samantha Tally, Ashley Candler, Donna Weinberger-Rourke, Bill and Amy Delk**) who sacrifice their Saturdays to come help us out. And last but not least, all the volunteer judges who saved our

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The Best of Show trophy went to Henry Núñez's 90mm WWII Imperial Japanese Army Sergeant Major.

(Photo by Ian Candler)

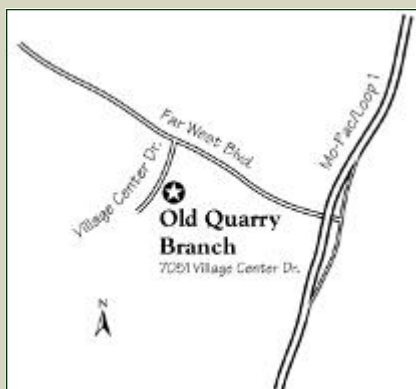
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library**. Our next meeting is on

October 4, 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

- ◆ **October 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **October 14 - Capital Classic 2017**, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ **November 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 18 - Lone Star Military Miniature Society Modeling Day** Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ **December 6 - 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

Our AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo was a great time last month. I hope everyone had fun, and plenty of time for shopping through the awesome inventory from all the great vendors present. There certainly seemed to be plenty of happy faces and a lot of excited discussion about all of the beautiful models entered. The judging appeared to go smoothly and quickly, which could be attributed to the solid response we had in asking for judging volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered for judging or any other of the myriad of roles we need to have executing smoothly to run the show so well. Good job to all!

Looking back in time, we have several interesting events: 100 years ago this month, the Third Battle of Ypres was raging in France. The German defenses ultimately held, but the British did cause casualties that the German's were hard pressed to replace.



A destroyed British tank converted into a make shift bunker near Ypres

The Second Battle of El Alamein kicked off 75 years ago, with the British finally defeating the Afrika Korp and permanently pushing them out of Egypt.



A British Priest resupplying as it advanced during Second El Alamein.

Seventy-five years ago this month also marked the German offensive to capture the Stalingrad Tractor Factory and the neighboring Red October Factory.



Russians inspecting a captured PzKw IV inside the Stalingrad Tractor Works.

Even though it's only been a couple of weeks, I'm really looking forward to catching up with you all again at the meeting. Don't forget this month's meeting will include the annual auction!

John Talley
President

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collective rear-ends from working till midnight to score all the contest entries. *Muchas gracias!*

Once again we surpassed the attendance record of our previous show in the number of entrants (54), entries (230), and general admission. Here is a geographic breakdown of our contestants:

Capital metro (& San Marcos)	16
Houston area	13
San Antonio area	10
DFW Metroplex	5
Outside Texas	5
Killeen/Waco	4
Elsewhere in Texas	1

We also sold out of vendor tables a few days before the show, something I don't recall it has ever happened to us.

Moneywise, we made a small profit again, and I'll go over that with everyone at the October meeting.

On the negative side we encountered a few snafus on determining some of the winners of the special awards. It was entirely my fault since I did not spend enough time on improving the scoring software I salvaged from Rod Bell's backup. My apology to everyone.

All in all, another successful show for the books. Here are some in-action pix for those who missed it and now really wish they were there...



Plenty of vendors for us to shop til we drop...



Look at all the entries that needed judging!



Tom Moon acted as our judging whip.



We managed to field five teams (four shown here) of armor judges and one team for dioramas and figures.



Sam Talley and Keith Townsend at the door prize table.



Oh my. Zee Germans are here!



Chris Chany and Alex Gashev manning registration.



Ashley Candler taking a break...



Bob Bethea entertaining our guest Scott Conner from Kansas City. Scott is the 2nd VP of AMPS Central Region.



While her hubby Ian (right) checking out the chow with member Mike Plangklang (middle).



And finally... a dazed and confused Eric, courtesy of Ian's camera!



Packed For Trouble

by Kevin Hutchison

It has happened to all of us: a friend runs up to you at the sign-in table at a model show with that frantic look on his face asking “do you have any super-glue? I just knocked something off my model!” Shocker! You mean after you spent weeks (months in my case) building a plastic shoebox lined with paper towels didn't protect your model?

No, it didn't, and it never will. After being on both sides of the super-glue exchange, I was determined to come up with an inexpensive, easy to make, and foolproof way of protecting my models during transportation. This is what I have come up with. I hope you find it useful.

Here are the tools and materials you will need:

- 18” long straight edge
- Razor knife with SHARP blades
- Rubber cement
- Dark ink pen
- 120 grit sandpaper
- 1/2” thick hard foam insulation

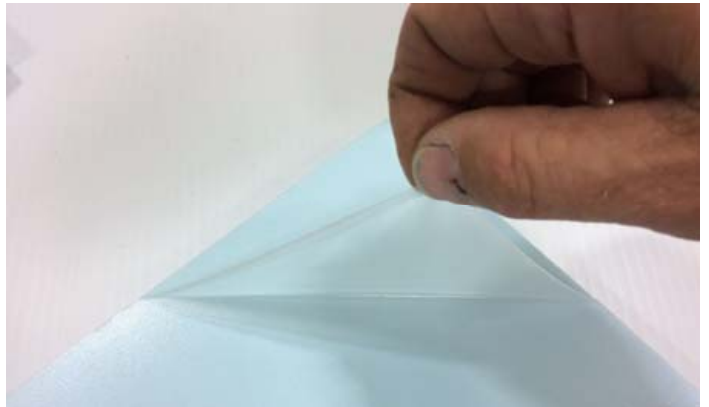


Step 1

The first thing you need to do is determine the size of the box you are about to build. For this demonstration, I will use a base I am currently working on. After measuring the size of the base, I add 3” to each measurement. This will give me the needed room to construct 1 1/2” walls all the way

around my base. In this case, my base is 5 1/2,” so I need to cut two 8 1/2” square pieces for the top and bottom.

Before you start working with the foam, you will need to strip a thin plastic film off the foam. If you don't, the rubber cement will not stick, and your box will have no structural integrity.



Step 2

Next you need to determine the height of your box. This can be done two different ways. The first is to use a scale to measure the highest point on your base. From time to time this method can be hard due to the layout of your base. So I prefer using scrap pieces of insulation and make a stack until I hit the needed height. Simple and easy.

Step 3:

Now you will need to cut the needed strips to build your walls. Armed with the knowledge that our box is 8 1/2” square, we can start cutting strips. My box needs to be five layers high, so I know how many strips to cut and what size they need to be. In this case I need ten 8 1/2” 1/2”-wide strips and ten 5 1/2” 1/2”-wide strips. The reason for the different lengths will become clear in the next step.

The easiest way to cut the foam is by using your razor knife and straight edge. If you have access to a table saw and need to build a big box, you can cut your strips on the saw using a fine toothed blade. It may seem like overkill, but it can speed things up.

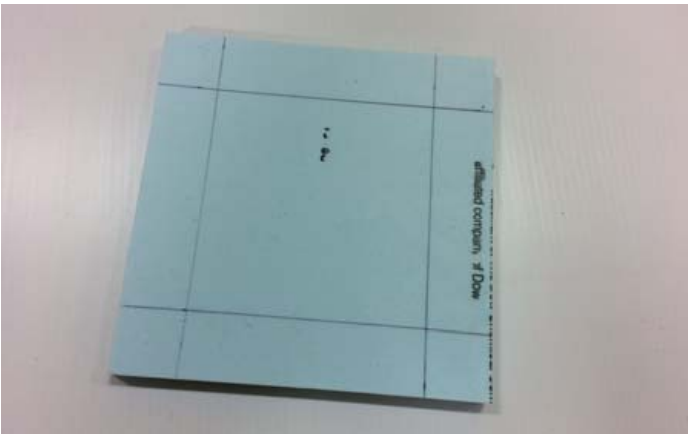
Step 4:

Time to build your box. I have found the classic



“running” or “stretcher” bond pattern (borrowed from brick laying) builds a very strong box. This is the classic overlaying brick laying pattern we are all familiar with. That's why we need two different length strips. The “mortar” we are going to use to bond our strips together is rubber cement.

To get started, mark a box 1 1/2” in from the edge of your base. This will help you place the first layer of strips. Before you start actual construction of the box, use a motor-tool to dig out two finger divots on opposing sides of your box. These divots will allow for easy removal of your base once the box is finished.



Forming the finger divots in the base. Remember not to go to deep!

Next, coat both sides on the base and strips that will be bonded to form the first layer. LET THE RUBBER CEMENT DRY before you stick them together. Failure to let the rubber cement dry will result in a poor bond, defeating the entire reason you are making this box. At this point it is critical to test fit your base. If it's too tight, adjust your base layer.



As each layer goes, make sure that you are staying square in the corners. After you have placed all your layers, test fit one last time and set aside and let dry for 24 hours.



The overlay pattern as seen from the outside corner.

Step 5:

After your box has dried, it's time to cut the slots that will allow you to remove your base easily. Depending on the size of the box and base, you may want to adjust the width of your slot. I usually cut a 2” slot that seems to work well with my fingers.

I first determine the middle of the wall to be cut then mark off my 2”. To cut the slot, you can use your razor knife again. If you are feeling bold and have an electric carving knife, it can speed up the job. But



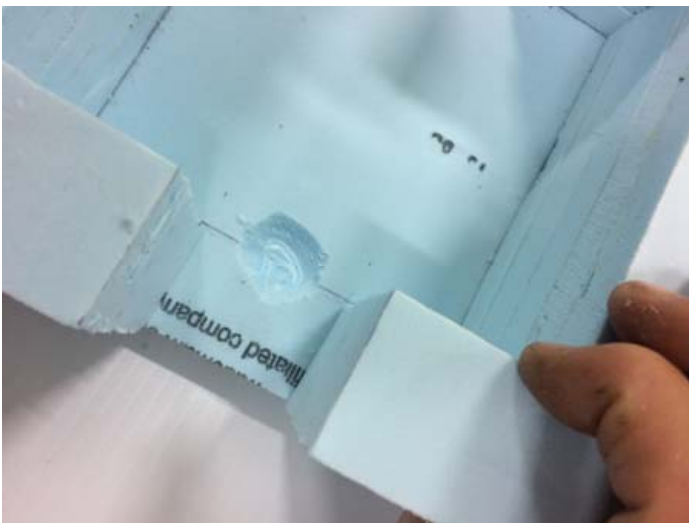
be careful as I have made a few “mis-cuts” that were fatal to boxes under construction.



Cutting the access slot.



Cutting the tabs for the lid, using the material removed to form the access slot.



A top view of finger divot after the access slot has been removed.



Lid tabs glued in place.

Step 6:

Your last step is to make your lid. This step will keep your lid firmly in place and protecting your model.

Place your lid on your completed box bottom and mark where the opening created in step 5. Using the parts of the wall you have removed, make two tabs, and glue them in place to form your lid. From time to time these tabs will be very tight in the slot. If that happens, simply sand them to fit. Remember, less is more, take your time and check to see how much you are taking off, don't over do it!

You can now — if you are “that guy — sand all your edges smooth and give your box that professional look. I usually use rubber bands to hold my boxes closed, but “T” pins also work if the box is too big for the bands you have.



Rough side of box.



Side smoothed out by a little sanding.



Finished Box.

Done!

There you have it. So the next time when your shoe box/paper towel combo let you down, head down to the local big box hardware store and pick up some hard foam insulation. If you don't, find me and I'll have some super-glue for you.

Kevin



Detour to our Facebook page for updates!

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





2017 Third Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Bob Bethea
The Second Barbarosa, 1947



2nd Place:
Greg Beckman

*1/35th IJA Type 4
"Ho-Ro"*

3rd Place:
Bob Bethea

*1/72nd LRDG
Truck & Crew*





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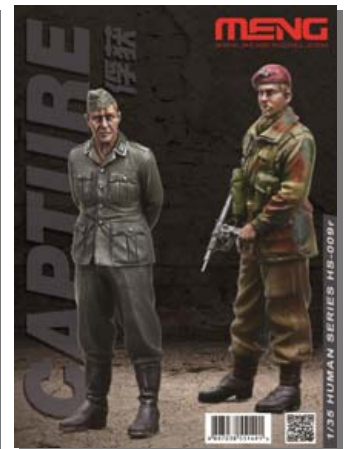
and click on "join *AMPS*" If paying by check or money order, send dues and completed form to the address on the form.



New On The Block



A brand new late production Brummbär in 1/35th. As with other recent German releases, Tamiya offers a self-adhesive (aka "sticker") Zimmerit coating set to go with this kit.

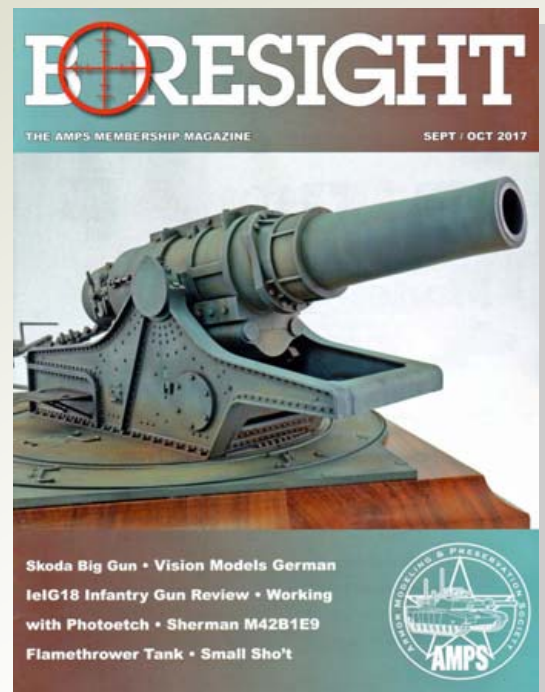


Meng has just released two sets of resin (yes, resin!) figures in 1/35th. The "Hacksaw Ridge" set is obviously based on the characters in the poster of the recent war drama of the same name, and the "Capture" set, according to Meng website, is based on a historic photo. The casting of the figures are really nice and crisp. Job well done.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 5)

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

- ◆ **Skoda Big Gun** by Russ Holm.
- ◆ **Review: Vision Models German IeG18 Infantry Gun with Crew** by Steve Andreano.
- ◆ **Working with Photoetch** by Mike Roof.
- ◆ **Sherman M42B1E9 Flamethrower Tank** by John Kirkpatrick.
- ◆ **Small Sho't** by Sam Morgan.





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.

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New AABS website coming soon...



The US Third Armored Division Special Theme Award went to Bob Bethea's M4A3E8 "Easy Eight" Sherman. He will also be invited to the 3rd A.D. reunion banquet in November.