

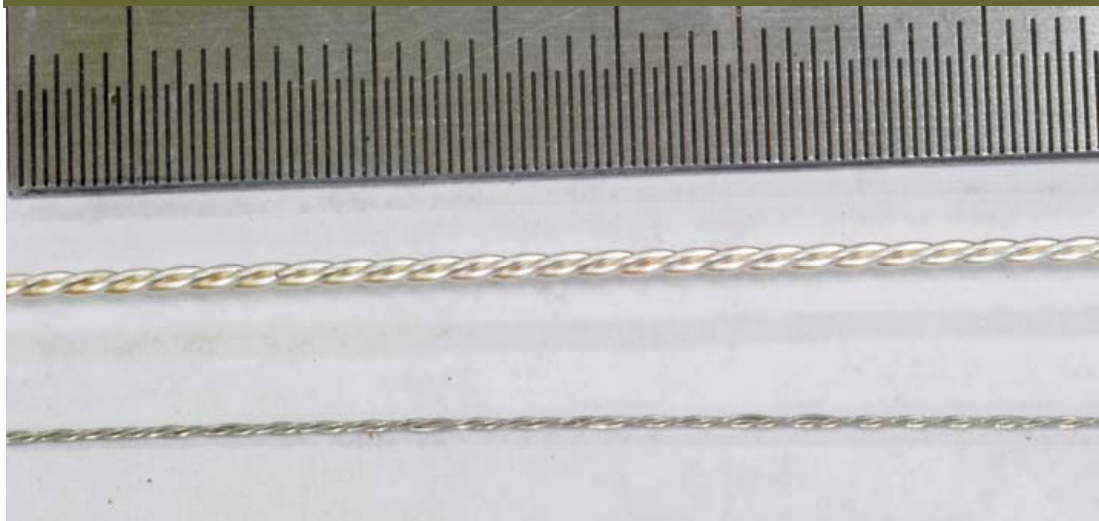


Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

February 2018



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Wire With As Twist (Or How to Twist Your Own Wire)

by Kevin Hutchison

Fly tying has taught me a lot about other things. It has taught me that it is possible to stay up 36 straight hours tying flies to meet a delivery date. It has taught me that it is possible to tie an acceptable fly when you are too intoxicated to walk. But most of all it has taught me to think

outside the box when looking for solutions to recurring problems.

One problem that I have run up against in my modeling is how to simulate, accurately, wire tow cables along with other wires and cables on armor vehicles. Most kits have molded cables, but they usually bare not the best quality. Nor are they normally in the shapes that we want them to be in.

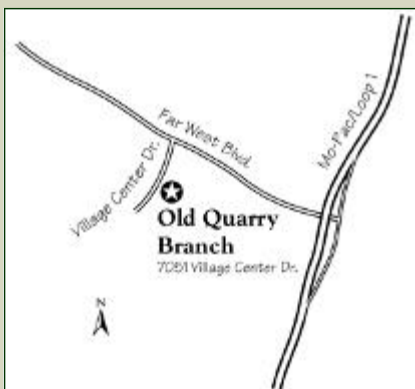


(Continued on page 4)

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

February 7, 2018

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

- ◆ February 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 17 - Modelfiesta 37 San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX
- ◆ March 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ March 10 - LSMMS Modeling Day Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ April 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ April 28 - Modelmania 2017 Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2018	Greg Beckman	Chris Chany
February	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
March*	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
April	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
May	Aaron Smischney	Greg Beckman
June*	Alex Gashev	Joe Fisher
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
October	Kit Auction	Dave Bourland
November	Russ Holm	Dane Sherry
December*	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
January 2019	Mike Lamm	Greg Beckman

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. Chris Chany's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

I couldn't stay for the January meeting due to illness, which I believe was the first time I missed a meeting in over four years. I trust you all had a good and prosperous time without me. I am thankful to those who filled in for me. I may have to have someone fill me in on what I missed, so everyone bring your extra sharp memories.

For inspiration this month I'm going to look at two important coinciding anniversaries in the history of US armed forces: The seventy-fifth anniversary of the **Battle of Kasserine Pass** in WWII, and the fiftieth anniversary of the **Tet Offensive** in Vietnam. Both battles began as a surprise attack on US and allied forces, and both saw the enemy make major gains and bloody our troops in the initial assaults. Both battles also show the resilience and resolve of Americans in that the enemy was blocked after their initial gains and ultimately defeated with great loss.



A Marine M48 in Hue, near the Dong Ba Tower in mid-February 1968

Having missed your faces for a couple of months, I'm looking forward to seeing what each of you have been up to while I was out.

John Talley
President



(Image courtesy of eventstocelebrate.net)



(Left: An M3 captured by the Germans at Kasserine and then retaken by Americans.)



**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES**

It is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (\$12) ready at the January meeting. We accept cash, check, or bit coins (no, not really!).

For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

**Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin TX 78729**

Please DO NOT send cash by mail. Be sure your check or money order is made payable to "AABS."

Some members may notice his dues are slightly higher than usual. That may be a result of the incurrance of last year's White Elephant (WE) contest penalty. As we all aware there is a \$10 mandatory "donation" to the club treasury if one fails to build his WE kit.

If you are interested in joining **AMPS**, our national organization, we are still offering a **50% dues sharing** to each paid local member. Simply bring **\$15** to sign up and AABS will pick up the rest of the tab. Hurry! This limited time offer will expire on **March 1st!**

(Continued from page 1)

This is where the fly tying comes in. In production fly tying, you use a shortcut, called a **dubbing brush** (see picture below), to quickly build up the body of a fly. These "brushes" are pre-made using a simple jig that most tyers make themselves. It holds two wires parallel, the body material is placed between the two wires and they are then spun to produce a durable strand of body material ready to be used. Why not omit the body material, add a few more



strands of wire, and you would end up with is a simple-to-make, realistic, small scale wire cable.

So lets get started. You will need:

- Wire 32, 26 and 24 gauge seem to be the sizes I use most
- Twisting Block or Drill
- Two Cup Hooks
- Ammonia
- White Vinegar
- Salt
- Fine Steel Wool
- Plastic Shoe Box or Similar Plastic Container

As you can see from the photo, the twisting block is just a simple wooden block with a few pins to hold the wire and a bearing at the end held in place with a pipe bracket and a wooden spinning wheel. If you

do a lot of cables, this would be a good setup to build. It's a real time saver and can be easily used by one person, but I'm not going to spend a lot of time here on the block (if you are interested I have a set of plans I can email you). The alternative I am describing here uses the drill and cup hooks. This option is quick but is best executed with an extra pair of hands to help hold things.



The first step is to attach one of the cup hooks to a heavy block of wood or a wall. Next, chuck the other cup hook in your drill. Taking the wire, wrap the end around the cup hook attached to the wood block. I would recommend wrapping it around 3 or 4 times to eliminate slippage.

Next, have your assistant hold the drill about 12-16 inches and string the wire between the two cup hooks. The number of times you do this will determine the size and look of your cable. I have found that 3-5 strands work well depending on the desired effect. Play around with the number of strands until you find the one that works best for you.

Next slowly have your assistant engage the drill. The slower you can turn the drill the better and will lead to less kinks in your wire. Continue to turn the drill until you get the desired effect or the wire breaks off one of the cup hooks. The smaller wire gauges will usually break quickly, but I have found that they usually break at just the right time. So don't panic when they break. If the break too soon, have your assistant move the drill toward the other cup hook during twisting.

Now that you have it, a beautiful realistic wire cable, what's next?

To give your cable that rusted and used look, you have two choices. You can paint them, using standard "rusty metal" techniques or you can use a few household chemicals to oxidize (rust) the wire quickly.

Mix one cup of ammonia, one cup of vinegar, and two tablespoons of salt in a plastic container (I use a \$1 plastic shoe box). Next I cut up, as small as I can, a steel wool pad (use steel wool without the soap impregnated in it. Your local hardware store should have some). After you mix in the steel wool bits, let the mix sit for an hour or so to give the steel wool some time to dissolve.

After an hour, drop in your newly formed cable and let it sit overnight. Most wires will take on a black finish after 12 hours in the brew. Some take longer, and some take shorter, so you will need to experiment to get the desired effect. The longer you leave it in, the more rust effect you get. Better living through chemistry!

To finish off your cables, go back to your kit or "extra parts" bin and find a pair of thimbles (the teardrop shaped loops) and glue them on to your finished cable.



So there you have it, a simple wire cable. Need some rope? This technique works the same with thread with one small addition. When using thread to form rope, you will need to lightly spray the thread with spray adhesive before you twist them.

I hope you find this article useful. If you are interested in building a spinning block, drop me an email (fishhead@texas.net), and I'll send you the plans. In the fly fishing world, we sign off with "Tight Lines!" So I guess I'll bid farewell here with "Tight Wires!"

Kevin

THE 2018 AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION DAYTON, OHIO, MAY 3-5



That's right. THE armor modeling event in the U.S. is heading to Dayton, Ohio, the home of the **U.S. Air Force Museum!** Our theme this year is 'Mishaps and Oh Crap!' Tanks get in all sorts of predicaments, so we hope to see lots of creative entries.

Enter your models in the competition and get the feedback and reinforcement from your peers. You may even be rewarded with a Gold medal or be among the recipients of 14+ special awards.

Our seminars connect you with experts in the field that will inspire you to finish that stalled project. Enjoy presentations on military vehicle history and research.

Modeling vendors come from all over the U.S. and abroad so you will no doubt find that book, accessory or model you've been looking for.

Mike Reaves, Vendor Coordinator
semperfi03732@msn.com
706.594.7109

Glen Martin, Sponsor Coordinator
WalkerBulldogBoy@verizon.net

Dave Koukol, Event Chairman
Dave.Koukol@lpmsdayton.com
937.602.6033

Hope Hotel &
Richard C. Holbrooke
Conference Center
10823 Chidlaw Rd.
Area A, Gate 12A
Wright Patterson AFB
Dayton, OH 45433

Please visit
amps-armor.org for
the latest event and
registration details.



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All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

AMPS accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal.

To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

www.amps-armor.org

NEW ON THE BLOCK



Oooh, 1/35th Hungarian paper panzer from Hobby Boss!



Now here's something you don't see everyday: an amphibious tank carrying a pair of torpedoes! The new Riich 1/72nd kit is based on the IJN prototype built in late 1943.



Meng's latest 1/35th Merkava is the current Mk.4M with Trophy Active Protection System.



DML's new T95 looks familiar? Yes, it's the same T28 released before.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 26, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ **AMPS Officer Election**
- ♦ **Hex Turret T-34** by Greg Beckman.
- ♦ **M41 Walker Bulldog in Vietnam** by Dana Mathes.
- ♦ **2018 AMPS International Convention Update**
- ♦ **Revisiting Tamiya HQ** by Eric Choy.
- ♦ **Working with Photoetch (Part III)** by Mike Roof.



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...



Just in time for this winter season is Rick Herrington's 1/35th USMC M1A2 in a custom white camo scheme.