



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2018



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Building Tamiya's M1046 Humvee Tow Missile Carrier

By Ted Anderas, Jr.

When my unit deployed from Germany to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield in 1990, we did not have any Humvee to go with us. Soon after Desert Shield

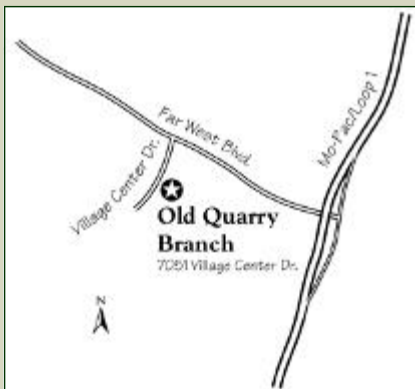
evolved into Desert Storm, we did start receiving some. We gladly turned in our GM produced CUCVs (Editor: military versions of Chevy Silverado/GMC Sierra) for Humvees as they proved far superior in desert terrain operations. The CUCVs had served us well in Germany, but in the sands of Saudi, the Humvees were far superior.

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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, 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

- ◆ July 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ July 14 - Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day, Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin
- ◆ August 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 1 to 4 - 2018 IPMS USA National Convention, Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ
- ◆ September 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 8 - SuperCon 2018, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington, 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*	Eric Choy	Bob Bethea
April	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
May	Aaron Smischney	Greg Beckman
June*	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Joe Fisher
July	Alex Gashev	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
October	Kit Auction	Dave Bourland
November	Russ Holm	Dane Sherry
December*	Bob Bethea	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

Greetings! At the time of my writing these few comments, I am in Virginia taking care of a dog and several cats; Susan's daughter and her husband are on a cruise, and they wanted us to watch the household while they are celebrating their anniversary.

In addition, Susan and the grand-daughter drove down to Florida for a few days. It is all good as I was able to make a few day trips on my own.

On a rainy day I visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps. On a sunny day I was able to see the Fredericksburg Battlefield. The Marine Corps Museum is the best museum I have had the pleasure of visiting so far. As for Fredericksburg, the National Park Service only owns a small portion of the original battlefield, but it is still well worth the time to see it.

I would like to say thanks in advance to **Ian Candler** as he will be filling in for me at the July meeting. Also, I hope several of our members are planning to build a 1/35th scale Sherman tank as part of the group build. Ian would like to have the Sherman models before **2019 Model Fiesta**. I have a kit with me to be started before we head back to Texas. On the way back, we do not plan on eating at the "Red Hen."

As we enter the month of July, it was seventy-five years ago that the Battle of Kursk took place. While the German loss at Stalingrad was a huge setback,

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Tiger tanks from the Das Reich SS Division went into battle as did other Tigers from various units. They inflicted a great deal of damage on Soviet defenders but were not able to carry the day.



Even before the German offensive stalled, Soviet forces counter-attacked. They suffered heavy casualties, but in the end, Russia was able to replace losses better than her German adversaries.



Today Russia has several monuments at different sites around Kursk to honor the success of her military.

(Continued from page 3)

the Battle of Kursk proved to be the turning point of the war. The year 1943 was not a good one for the Axis powers.

I hope everyone has a great 4th of July holiday. In the meantime, keep building!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Veep Talks



Having done a few mid production M4s depicted in NW Europe, I've chosen the Sherman Mk.III in North Africa with British markings. I'm still undecided on the unit, but it'll get there once I commence the build.

It has brought to my attention that we might want to make a list of what each member is planning to build. I'm okay with duplicates, but it might be even cooler with more variants. So I ask that in the next two meetings, please let Ted, Eric, or myself know what you're building so we can keep an updated list.

Thank you all!

Ian



Sherman Tank Group Build

I just want to take a moment and say thank you to the members participating in our club's group build. Although the main goal as discussed at the meeting last month is to create a display that represents the club, getting everyone building is in my opinion even better.



(Editor: Here is one of Ian's Shermans. It won a Silver medal at last year's AMPS International Show in Danbury, Connecticut)

(Continued from page 1)

This Tamiya kit allows for the building of a specialized Humvee, one that is equipped with an effective anti-tank weapon (TOW). It includes decals for four different vehicles: two Marine Corps versions with equipment for fording operations and two US Army options.



I chose to build my model to represent a vehicle of the US Army's 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq (2003) during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Unlike the USMC options, this vehicle will be painted Desert Tan overall. It will also not include parts for fording rivers or other bodies of water. A winch will be installed in place of a brush guard.

When building a model, I personally prefer to build as much as possible before doing any painting. On building a closed turret tank, for example, I usually complete virtually all the construction before doing any paint work. However, I do study the instruction sheets carefully and plan the build for any situations that will require parts to be painted beforehand.

As I looked over the instruction sheet for the M1046, it was clear that it would be necessary to build portions of the kit and do a considerable amount of paint work before completing the construction.

This kit proved to be what we often refer to as 'typical Tamiya.' It goes together well. The instructions are easy to understand, and with a little skill on the part of the modeler, it becomes a great looking miniature version of the real thing. Nevertheless, I found a few minor challenges that required planning. This kit has a full interior (excluding under the hood), and it has six clear plastic panels. It also has clear plastic headlights and turn signal lenses.

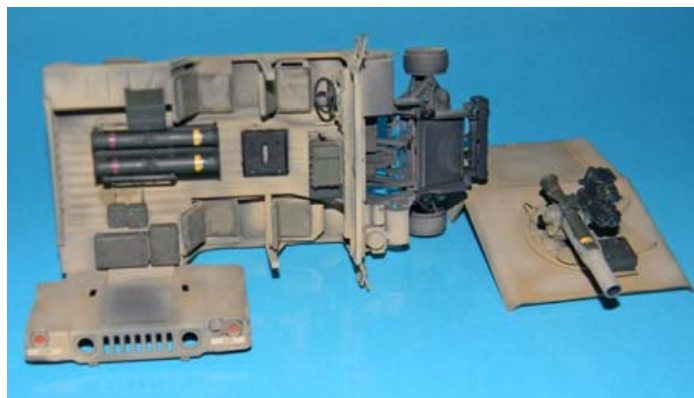
Unlike what the instructions called for, I chose to do the clear plastic work as near the end of the build as possible.



After gluing the suspension to the body, I installed the seats, dash panel/steering wheel, and I placed the recognition panels to the doors and hood, the hatches to the roof, the missile launcher and control panel (plus assembling the missile tubes/rack). I rattle can sprayed the resulting components with Flat Black paint. I then used my airbrush to paint the subassemblies with Model Master enamel US Army/USMC desert tan.

I had very little of the paint on hand, so I thinned out what I had with regular paint thinner for enamel paint. My plan was to replenish my stock from the local hobby store to complete this project. Unfortunately, that paint was not in stock, and it appears Testors is no longer producing that color. I would finish my paint work later by mixing Light Sand (ANA 616) with British Gulf Light Stone, both also being Model Master enamel paints.

Despite this "setback," the improvising worked out.



During the next phase I used Vallejo acrylics to paint the seats, the missile tubes (in the rack and in the launcher), the gunner platform, the radio equipment, and the steering wheel. I then did a little more construction. Decals were also added to the missile tubes.



On the seats I did not really do anything special to give a weathered look other than mix the paints light and darker. The results I believe are reasonably realistic looking.



The TOW control panel required little detail painting; one switch was painted red according to the instruction sheet, and one knob was painted gloss black. The 'box' I had already painted with Vallejo Dark Green.



Before getting to the point depicted above, the rear doors were sprayed with Model Master Glosscote. The decals were added and then sealed with Model Master Dullcote after being set with Walters decal solution. The clear plastic windshields were installed using Elmer's white glue as were the windows in the Humvee doors. The rear doors were glued on along with the roof assembly.

The windshield panels were 'cleaned' with a Q-tip dipped in glass cleaner and wiped with soft tissue on both inside and outside surfaces just before the front doors were glued in place. The vinyl tires were popped on to the wheels and given a brushed-on sand pigment partial coat from the basic Tamiya weathering kit.

I did take artistic license by leaving the winch painted black. The lifting rings that protrude through the hood were painted black with acrylic paint over the airbrushed sand color. Black acrylic paint was also lightly brushed on the hood's top air vent panels to cover overspray.

Note: At one point during *Desert Storm*, we had a battalion commander who wanted the brush guards, bumpers, and whatever readily visible under portions of our Humvees painted black. So this is what it looked like. Some of the vehicles in my platoon also had the lifting rings painted black but some did not. When lining up our Humvees in the motor pool, we would sight down the lifting rings to align all the vehicles in a straight line. Being painted

black made the “alignment sights” more visible for the soldier doing the alignment.

In conclusion, I believe military vehicles should be depicted as ‘weathered’ models. However, I prefer a look that may be considered by many as slightly underdone; that is in preference to a model (in my

opinion) that is overly done. This project did require me to make some adjustments in the way I would normally build and paint. It was an enjoyable project, and at the risk of cliché, “typical Tamiya.”

Ted



AMPS Boresight (Volume 26, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ **USMC M103A1** by Mike Petty.
- ♦ **M40 Series of Vehicles** by John Kirkpatrick.
- ♦ **Communism Stops Here!** by Robert Burik.
- ♦ **Know Your Officer**
- ♦ **WIP: Changing Up Meng's Tiger-Ms** by Greg Beckman.



2018 Second Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:

Bob Bethea

1/72nd USMC Sherman with
Captured Type 94 Tankette



2nd Place:

Mike Lamm

1/35th Soviet T-60



3rd Place:

Ted Andreas, Jr

1/35th M4A3E8
Sherman in Korea



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www.amps-armor.org

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...



At the meeting last month, member Keith Townsend paid us a surprised visit, and he brought along his war-game scale (1/56th) T-34/85.