



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2018



### Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
VEEP TALKS: SHERMAN GROUP BUILD	6
CHURCHILL CROCODILE: AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX BUILD REVIEW	7
JOIN AMPS TODAY	9
NEW ON THE BLOCK	10
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	10
ABOUT US	11
MEMBERS' GALLERY	11

## Zimmerit Made Easy

Photos and Text  
by Rick Herrington

Most armor builders have attempted modeling the anti-magnetic concrete paste *Zimmerit* applied to German tanks during WW2 with varying results.

Cavalier makes resin *Zimmerit* sheets for specific tank kits which you just cut

out and glue on. Eduard and other companies make photoetched products also to simulate zimmerit. My method is simple, and with practice it can give you great results.

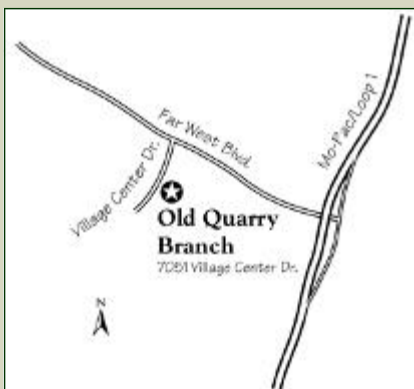
I use Bondo automotive glazing putty for the coating thinned with Testors liquid glue. You can obtain glazing putty at any auto parts store. Just make sure whatever brand you are buying is lacquer based.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

**August 1, 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](mailto: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

- ◆ 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
- ◆ October 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ October 6 - Capital Classic 2018, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX



### AABS Officers May 2018 – Apr 2020

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**, President  
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

**Ian Candler**, Vice-President  
iancandlermedia@gmail.com

**Eric Choy**, Treasurer  
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

**Ted Paone**, Secretary  
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

**Eric Choy**, Newsletter Editor  
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

**Joe Fisher**, Webmaster  
(512) 350-6936,  
fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



## 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

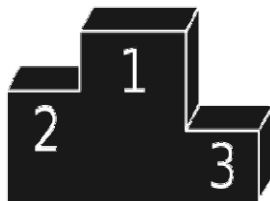
Greetings! At the time of my writing these few comments, I am in the process of finalizing plans to attend IPMS/USA Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona. Texas is just not warm enough! Susan and I will miss the August meeting, but I did give **Ian Candler** a heads up that we will be out of town again. I am grateful for Ian, and thanks again for filling in.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, I was fortunate enough to attend **Bob Bethea's** gathering of talented folks at **Lone Star Military Miniature Society's** Modeling Day. I finally got to meet **Gilbert Moreno**, **Eric**, **Ted Paone**, as well as **Rick Herrington**, and **Henry Núñez** were all there. That of course, is just to name a few.

Bob did send out an e-mail stating that we will not be able to compete our Sherman tanks (to be built) at the San Antonio show since the Alamo Squadron plan to discontinue that category for the 2019

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Rod Bell Contest Coming Next Month

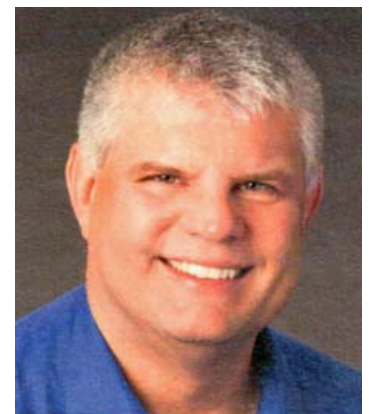


Just a reminder the theme of our next quarterly contest in **September** is any kit that we received from **Rod Bell's Collection**. We are holding this contest to pay tribute to one of the founding members of the club. Rod passed away in late 2016, and his family donated many of his kits to us.

Be sure you have already paid your 2018 dues as this is one of the two (the other being the kit has to

be from Rod's collection) requirements to participate in this contest.

The "revised" **no sweep** rule is strictly enforced. i.e. No single contestant is allowed to win ALL THREE (first, second, and third) cash prizes in any of our in-house contest.



*(Continued from page 3)*

Model Fiesta show. However, even though I have not consulted with Ian, I believe we could still plan on displaying our models on a non-competitive basis. At least that is something to think about and discuss at our next meeting.

In the meantime, my Sherman is ready! Ian stated he plans on building an M4A1 with British markings in North Africa; Rick Herrington is planning to build another M4A1 in U.S. markings with a Cullen hedge row device operating in Normandy. My Sherman is an M4A2 in service with the USMC at Iwo Jima.

'Boomerang' is an OOB built model. I had thought about not using the kit supplied tracks with 'duck bills' but found some examples online that show some of our Sherman tanks on Iwo Jima were equipped that way. At least assuming the pictures, I found were labeled correctly, my Boomerang is an accurate depiction.



Even though much has been written critical of the Sherman, it is my humble opinion that it was a great tank. Despite at a disadvantage going toe-to-toe with a German Tiger or Panther, it had many redeeming features. It was mechanically sound and well suited to exploit breakthrough in enemy defenses. It also was effective in service long after World War II.

Last month I wrote a brief overview of the Battle of Kursk as it occurred seventy-five years ago (July 1943). The Allied Invasion of Sicily also began

seventy-five years ago in July. That battle/campaign lasted until September of 1943 with some of the bitterest fighting ongoing in August. The fall of Sicily was also the undoing of Mussolini. Of course, Hitler would get him reinstated (somewhat), but that didn't end well for Benito either.

During the fighting, the intensified rivalry between US General Patton and British General (later Field Marshal) Montgomery played out. If you don't believe that, I invite you to watch the movie *Patton* starring George C. Scott. (Would Hollywood not keep it factual?)

Interestingly enough, the Sherman tank served as the main offensive weapon of both the American and the British forces.



*The original caption for this picture states that this is a British Mk III Sherman tank in Sicily*



*An early M4A1 used by the U.S. Army in Sicily.*

*The Sherman 'ETERNITY' is also shown in the old Squadron/Signal Sherman in Action. My copy has \$4.95 printed on the cover!*

Keep building and painting! Hopefully, we will soon have some more Sherman tanks in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale ready for Ian Candler to marshal together. Thanks!

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President



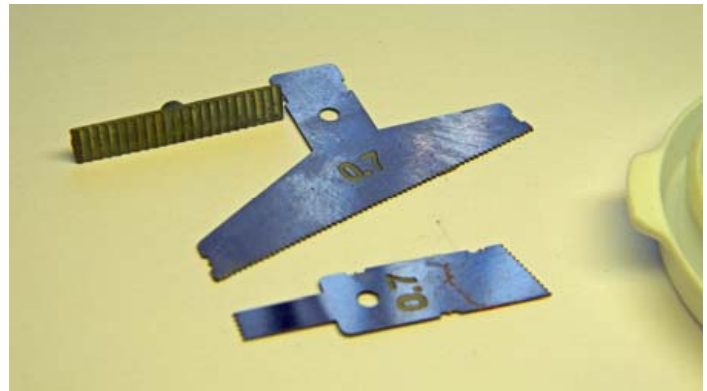
(Continued from page 1)



Mix the glazing putty with the Testors liquid glue until you have a semi-liquid paste. You'll have to experiment with the consistency. Too thin and it won't hold your pattern. Too thick and it won't spread well with your tool. Once you are able to spread the paste like the photo below, you're ready to apply it to your panzer.

There are a number of different tools sold to apply *Zimmerit* patterns. I've spent money on a few of them, but the best tool I've found so far is **Campbell Scale Models Corrugated Aluminum**.

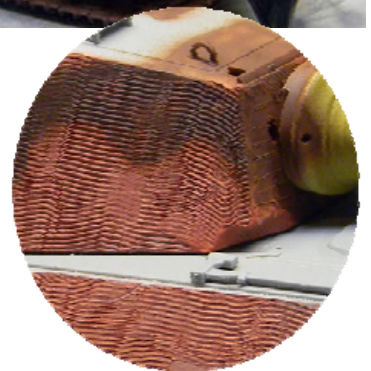
I have a set of **Tamiya Zimmerit Tools** and used these for my latest King Tiger project only because I couldn't find where I stashed my corrugated aluminum. Fortunately the Tamiya tools worked fine.



Scrape the paste up with your tool and apply. It should look like this:

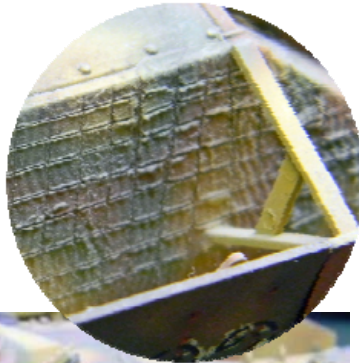


I used an Xacto knife to cut the vertical lines in the *Zimmerit*. Be sure to check reference photos of your tank as patterns vary from vehicle to vehicle.



If you have a photo of the tank you are

modeling, you can use its pattern as a guide. Here are some photos of a *Sturmgeschutz* and a Tiger I that I did with different *Zimmerit* patterns...



That's my method, and it has worked well for me over the years. I hope you can use it as well.

*Rick*



## Veep Talks



## 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.

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*





## Churchill Mk.VII Crocodile

### An Out-of-the-Box Build Review

By Eric Choy

If you ask any quarter scale armor modeler what's on his list of wish kits, most likely he'll say the British Churchill tank (A22). We've been waiting for a proper injection plastic Churchill for 50+ years now! In June this year, Tamiya has finally granted our wishes and released an 1/48<sup>th</sup> Churchill Mk.VII Crocodile. Personally I would prefer an earlier mark (Mk. I or IV). But beggars can't be choosers, so I'm happy with what is delivered.



#### Brief History

Churchill Mk.VII Infantry tank (and its variants) made its combat debut at the Battle of Normandy. It saw action in NW Europe 1944-45 and Korea 1950-52. With the introduction of the Centurion tank after WWII, the British Army finally gave up on the separation of tanks into "infantry," "cruiser," and "heavy assault" categories. Except for the Mk.VII based bridge-layers, all Churchills were withdrawn from service after the Korean War.

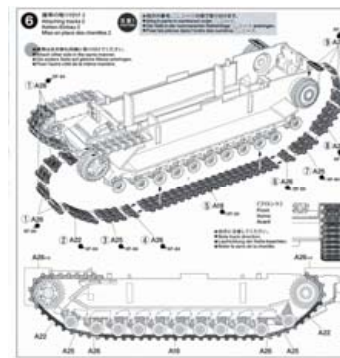
#### The Kit

The new quarter scale Churchill is indeed a scaled down version of its 1/35<sup>th</sup> brother as the assembly and parts layouts are very similar. The only differences that I can tell are the road wheels on each side are now molded in one piece and the absence of the valve control panel inside the fuel trailer. I was somewhat disappointed to find all crew hatches in the new kit are molded closed except for the commander's.

The fit of the parts are excellent. The only filling needed was when I glued the hull sides (C5 and C6) to the upper hull (C4). There was a hairline gap behind the front fender on each side that offended my eyes, so I took care of them easily with putty (see photo).



Tamiya only provides enough individual links and sections to cover the bottom run, drive sprocket, and the idler wheel on each side. Essentially you build only what you can see. It worked perfectly, and it was the best 1/48<sup>th</sup> link-and-length experience I have ever had.



Aside from leaving the front fenders off per most wartime photos, I pretty much built the model straight out of the box. I considered using an aftermarket six-pounder barrel, but at the end I used the kit parts instead.

After raiding my spare parts box, I came up with a few stowage items from various manufacturers (mostly from Black Dog and Verlinden, I think). The big "towel" on top of the jerry cans was made from



# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

August 2018

Page 8

folded up aluminum foil. The same material was used to create the body of the camouflage net and then covered with first-aid gauze dipped in diluted white

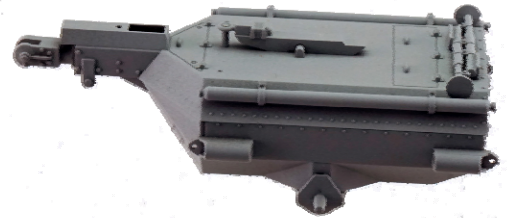
glue. Sometimes the old way of doing things is just better and easier for me.

The model is now primed and ready to receive paints.

### Conclusion

The Churchill Crocodile kit is another fantastic release from Tamiya. Highly recommended.

*Eric*





# JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

1 Year US (\$30)     2 Year US (\$55)     3 Year US (\$80)

**IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM TO:**



***AMPS***  
**MEMBERSHIP DEPT.**  
**P.O. BOX 227**  
**FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719**



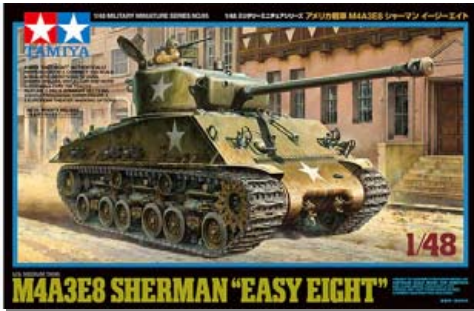
All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

*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](http://www.amps-armor.org)

## New On The Block



No sooner have we received the new 1/48<sup>th</sup> Churchill Crocodile, Tamiya's M4A3E8 "Easy Eight" is here already! The tooling of this little gem is all new and has nothing in common with the previously released M4 and M4A1 kits.



Another 1/35<sup>th</sup> big gun tank from Trumpeter: the Soviet 2A3 Kondensator 2P SPG. Its 406mm gun can fire nuclear shells over a range of 120 miles. Only four vehicles were produced.



If you can't get enough of Modelcollect's jaw-dropping P.1000 Ratte, how about the Norwegian Austratt Fort coastal artillery in 1/72<sup>nd</sup>? The turret "Caesar" was taken from the German battleship Gneisenau after it was decommissioned in 1942.



Gecko Models is making an ambitious effort to release all of the early WWII British cruiser tanks in 1/35<sup>th</sup>. The latest ones that have reached us are Mk.IIA in North Africa (left) and Mk.II captured by the Germans from the BEF in France (right).

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 26, Issue 4)

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

- ◆ **AMPS 2018 Show Report** by Dave Koukol
- ◆ **Judge's Certification, Skill Level Promotions & Master Honor Roll**
- ◆ **Complete Medal Winners Listing**
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **Local Chapters News**



## 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.”



AABS is the first 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.

19990424

## New AABS website coming soon...

**Greg Beckman continues to impress us with his modern day armor vignettes. The 1/35<sup>th</sup> “technical” is a truck from Diopark, and he added a recoilless rifle typical in the battlefield of the current Syrian Civil War.**

