



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2020

MEETING CANCELLED

NO AABS MEETING IN APRIL!

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and the closure of all Austin Public Library branches, the AABS E-board has decided to **CANCEL OUR UPCOMING MEETING IN APRIL.**

Tentatively our next meeting is on **May 6.** However, we will continue to monitor information provided by the City and the Austin Public library to determine the earliest time when it is safe for all of us to gather again.

For those who intend to travel to Camp Hill, PA for **AMPS 2020 International Convention**, the event has been **POSTPONED AND MOVED** to **September 24-26** at **The Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT** (see ad on page 9).

I hope every AABS member and his/her family are doing well. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones. Be sure to follow the guidelines from your local governing and health authorities to avoid getting infected.

In this issue of *Sabot Away!*, I have compiled extra materials to help fight boredom while social-distancing is being enforced. As we have a few club projects coming up (see page 5 for more details), this is the perfect opportunity to get started on them.

So remain calm, stay home, and model on. And for everyone's sake, **DO NOT STOCKPILE** goods, especially food, water, and toilet paper!!!

Eric Choy
AABS Editor



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

May 6, 2020

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

- ◆ ~~April 1 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **April 25 - Modelmania 2020**, Stafford Center, Stafford, TX
- ◆ **May 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ ~~May 7 to 9 - AMPS International Convention~~, Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, Camp Hill, PA **POSTPONED**
- ◆ **June 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **June 6 - Scalefest 2020**, Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
- ◆ **June 13 - SoonerCon 2020**, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2020	Eric Choy	N/A
February	Chris Chany	Greg Beckman
March*	Martin Hebda	Russ Holm
April	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
May	Election of Officers	Ian Candler
June*	Eric Choy	David Bourland
July	David Bourland	Greg Beckman
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ian Candler	Chris Chany
October	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
November	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
December*	Keith Townsend	Eric Choy
January 2021	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney

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. Greg Beckman's article for February 2020 is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! In case you have not gotten the word yet, the April meeting has been cancelled. Hopefully, we will meet in May, and we can vote on club officers for the next two years.

At our meeting in March, we passed several motions, and one of them was a club build of 1/35th scale T-54/T-55 tanks. It appears that we have one club member is well on his way to complete an Iraqi modified T-55 Enigma.

I have just completed drilling out a set of ATL-01 tracks by Friulmodel. My tank will be an NVA/PAVN T-54B. So far the only knock I have on the Takom kit is that it does not have a metal barrel or a slide molded one. It has the two-piece split version with the seams on the top and bottom. When doing that type of a barrel, I really prefer the few kits that have the seams on the sides rather than top and bottom.

As we turn back the pages of history to April, 1945, things were really changing. This month saw the demise of three world leaders. US President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage on the 12th of April. Italy's Benito Mussolini was captured by partisans as he and his entourage were trying to escape to Switzerland. Mussolini and at least three others were executed in Milan, Italy on the 28th of April.

In Germany, after marrying Eva Braun, writing his last will, and appointing Admiral Karl Doenitz to succeed him, Adolf Hitler committed suicide on the

30th of April. The Red Army was virtually in control of Berlin at the time.

On the 2nd of April, the Red Army assaulted Vienna, Austria. The battle for Vienna would last until the Russians prevail on the 13th of April.



Red Army on the way to Vienna.

April 9th was the day the Battle for Konigsberg ended. Again, the Red Army emerged victorious.

Meanwhile, the Canadian First Army took Arnhem, Holland on the 15th of April. It is worth noting that Arnhem was the scene of "A Bridge Too Far:" back in September 1944, German SS troops thwarted an attempt by the British 1st Parachute Division "Red Devils" to take the Arnhem bridge across the Rhine.



Field Marshal Montgomery with Canadian commanders of the First Canadian Army.

On the 16th of April, the Battle for Berlin and the Battle of Seelow Heights began. The fight for Seelow Heights ended on the 19th while fighting in Berlin raged on.



A Soviet armored division receiving operational orders prior to the final battle in Berlin

The Battle of Berlin continued for two more days after Hitler killed himself. The Germans resisted with very young and very old civilians fighting alongside foreign troops of various nations who had cast their lot with the fate of Germany's Third Reich. In the end, the overwhelming power of the Red Army prevailed.



Battle of Berlin

In the Pacific, the Battle of Okinawa began on the 1st of April. During this battle, Japan fully utilized the *Kamikaze* suicide tactic to inflict heavy damages on Allied naval forces supporting the ground assault.



The fighting for Okinawa was long, hard, and bloody. The losses that resulted led Allied strategists looking for an alternate way to win the war without invading the Japanese mainland.



Knocked out Sherman tanks on Okinawa.

So that is a wrap on the history. Keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best! Hopefully, things will start returning to normal soon.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

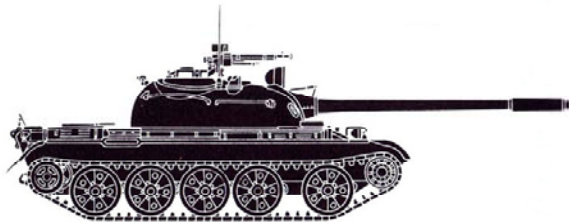


“Loony Toon-Tanks!” June Quarterly Contest

Vive l’amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it’s definitely the “amour” part that gets our attention!

The theme for our second quarterly contest (**June 2020**) is “**Looney Toon-Tanks!**” These whimsical egg-shaped models are fun, easy to build, and perfect for a weekend project! Should you want to make them more challenging, there are all kinds of not-too-serious conversions (e.g. Sherman Calliope, Bergtiger, T-34/85) that you can attempt.

Go build a Toon-Tank now. That’s all, forks!



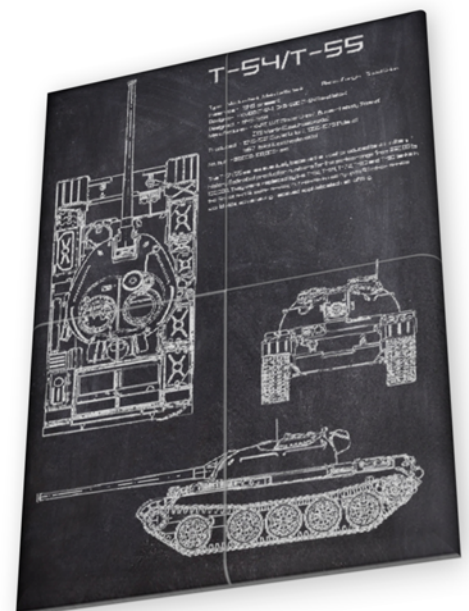
T-54/55 Group Build

Here’s a trivial question for you all tank enthusiasts: what’s the most produced tank of all time? No, it’s not Sherman or T-34, and yes, the honor goes to the Soviet T-54/55! With so many paint schemes and upgrades open for modelers, it is a logical choice as the subject of a group project.

Here are the criteria of this T-54/55 group build:

- 1/35th scale only
- Must have gun (or guns) of caliber 57mm or larger (i.e. ZSU-57-2 and SU-122/54 are okay but NO armored recovery, APC, bridging, or firefighting variant, please).
- No operator restriction (Angola, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, DDR, Egypt, Finland, Iraq, Israel, North Korea, Poland, USSR/Russia, Vietnam, former Yugoslavia states, etc. are all welcomed).
- 4BO is optional! (i.e. feel free to paint your tank any color other than standard Russian Green as long as your color scheme is historically accurate)
- Please close all hatches and DO NOT glue your model to a base!

We are aiming for a group entry in this year’s ASMS Capital Classic show in October 2020. So the rendezvous point for our T-54/55s is the **September club meeting**. That leaves us less than six months to build, paint, and weather our models. If you haven’t started yet, you need to get a move on NOW. *Ura!*



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

BUT STILL SOMEWHAT ARMOR RELATED!

By Eric Choy

Recently during a late night on-line shopping spree, I came across this strange looking product on HobbyLink Japan website. It is made by the Japanese company **Obitsu** whose famous for its "Obitsu Body" doll (not the adult-only but the G-rated kind!) that has freely movable joints. The item has a peculiar name "Effect #8 Dofaaa Fire." According to the description, it's a *generic part that can be used with your dolls and figures!* "Dofaaa" is the sound effect envisioned to go along with this kind of visual effect, to represent the sound of smoke and fire rising up in a rush.

At first I reckoned this was just another "effect" product more useful to gamers and Gundam guys than "serious modelers" like us. But then a light bulb went off in my head: could I use it to show a tank on fire? For just ¥900 (about USD \$8.50), I decided to give it a try.



When my *Dofaaa Fire* arrived, the first thing I noticed was its size. The base measures about 3" (7.62cm) long and 1.5" (3.81cm) wide, which limits its use to 1/35th scale (or larger) models only. The pre-painted soft vinyl is hollow inside, and it looked pretty good when I held it up to the light. But could it do what I

want it to do? Time to put it to a real test in my photo booth.



As you can see from above, the *Dofaaa Fire* did an okay job of depicting my 1/35th Soviet Matilda suffering an engine fire. Next I tried it on one of the finished models, a *Beutepanzer T-34*, I inherited from ex-member Pat Rourke. The deck of the T-34 was a little bit too tight for the *Dofaaa Fire* to sit on. Plus it had a tendency to topple over due to the tail-heavy smoke section. So I stuck some Silly Putty inside, and it helped to keep the Fire on the model somewhat.



So far I was not happy with my *Dofaaa Fire*. But hey, what you pay is what you get! I was about to write it



off when another light bulb went off in my head. What if I use it in the background as a “blur effect” instead of up close front-and-center? Hmm... So I staggered the two tanks and placed my *Dofaaa Fire* on the one in the background. Setting my camera’s f-stop to 16, I took this photo:



Hey, not bad! The next photo was taken with f/6.3 to “blur” out the tank in the background even more:



Just for fun, I added a proper backdrop:



Eureka! That’s how *Dofaaa Fire* can be used: as an extra instead of a star! It is not a complete waste of money after all. Now I don’t feel so bad with my \$8.50 investment!

As far as I know, Obitsu does not offer *Dofaaa Fire* in any other sizes. What I have is it. However, there ARE two other color choices: smoke and dust:



I could sink more money into getting them, but I think I’m done experimenting with *Dofaaa Fire*! As I mentioned earlier, you can find them for sale at HobbyLink Japan (www.hlj.com). All three cost the same, ¥900 each.

Conclusion

Dofaaa Fire works best when it stays in the background and in a blur. It is a toy-like product, and as long as you don’t use (or take) it in a serious manner, it is fun taking photos with it.

Bear in mind you could replicate the effect of *Dofaaa Fire* with software tools like Photoshop. But we are modelers, not photo editors, and this is a modeling article, not a graphics editing tutorial. If you want something simple and economical (i.e. cheap) to show a vehicle on fire, go ahead and give *Dofaaa Fire* a try. It sure beats what we used to do back in the old days: lit up the model with fireworks and took snapshots of it before it burned to a crisp!

Eric

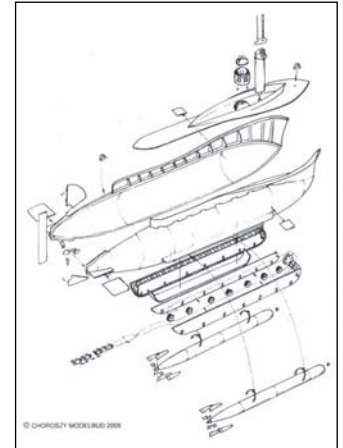


First Look: Mini U-Boat Seeteufel by Russ Holm

World War Two submarines have always held a fascination for me, especially miniature ones. During the war, the Axis powers designed and built some of the most interesting midget subs. Germany's two-man Seeteufel (Sea Devil) was one of them. It was designed to crawl over harbor anti-submarine defenses and then proceed with the planned mission.

My Seeteufel kit is made by Polish company **Choroszy Modelbud**. It is an all resin kit in 1/72nd

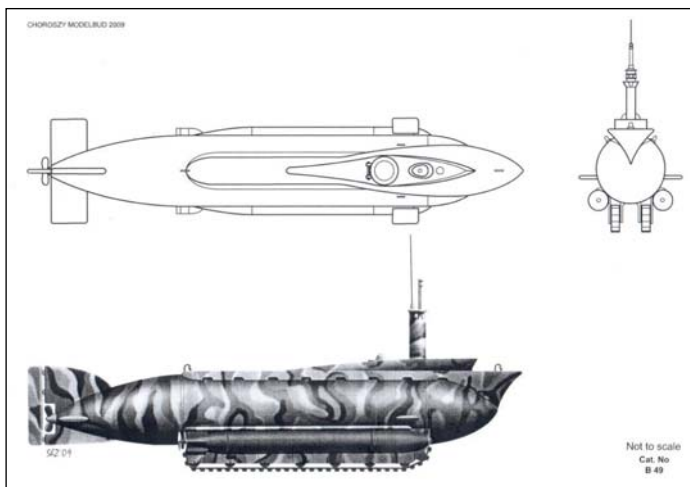
scale. Part count is not too bad (207), but it comes with no decals or transfers. The cool thing about this kit is once it is completed, you can take it to an armor club meeting. Even though technically speaking it is a boat, it has tracks, an armored hull, and it carries a large amount of explosives!



Here is the history of the Seeteufel provided in the kit's instruction sheet:

The unwieldy handling of midget subs during launching operations in the vicinity of combat zones led to a design for an amphibian miniature U-boat fitted with a tracked undercarriage. In the summer of 1944, the team of engineers under Alois Lödige – the head of the design office at the Torpedo-Versuchsanstalt (TVA) - an experimental torpedo unit – presented plans for the prototype of such a boat type, the Seeteufel.

Commonly referred to as the Elefant or Projekt Lödige, the Seeteufel prototype took some four months to design and build. The top of the hull housed a mast with a snorkel, a telescopic



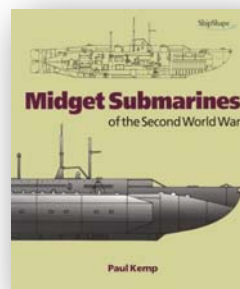
periscope, and an ultra-short wave antenna. The armament comprised of a pair of G7 (or G7e) torpedoes.

Sea trials conducted in the Gulf of Eckernförde by Versuchskommando (Experimental Command) 456 showed the design was generally satisfactory, although some changes had to be made. A more powerful diesel engine with a capacity of 250HP was introduced alongside with a 100HP electric motor. The ground pressure was further reduced by the introduction of wider tracks.

Series production was to be undertaken by the firm of Borgward in Bermen, with the first order of three prototypes and 20 series craft featuring the suggested propulsion and track modifications. However, the design suffered the fate of many similar projects, and the type did not achieve series production status. The Seeteufel prototype was transferred to the Kleinkampfverbände Kommando (Small Combat Command) "Blaukoppel" in Lübeck, where it was blown up prior to the end of WWII.



Camouflaged Seeteufel during sea trials in 1944.



An excellent reference is *Midget Submarines of the Second World War* by Paul Kemp (Naval Institute Press).

Russ

One Trip, Two Shows

Part II: 2020 AMPS Atlanta Show

by Editor

On the AMPS Atlanta side of the display room, there were many very fine armor pieces on the tables. I was able to help judge on Friday night by being the ACJ (assistant chief judge) under the guidance of **Mike Petty**, Chief Judge of the Atlanta Show and AMPS 1st VP. The experience I gained will definitely help us to be better judges at our next local show.

At the award ceremony, every one of the 33 entrants (99 overall entries) received at least one medal. The Best of Show went to **Philip Hui's** 1/72nd M4 High Speed Tractor and 155mm Gun (top right). Philip also won the best Sherman themed subject award with his 1/72nd M36B1 (bottom right).



Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

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2020 First Quarterly Contest Winners

1st Place:

Rick Herrington

1/35th M1A2 SEP TUSK II



2nd Place:

Greg Beckman

1/35th Panzer II Ausf J



3rd Place:

Ted Andreas, Jr

1/35th T-34/85



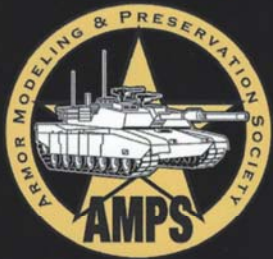
2020 AMPS International Convention

SEPTEMBER 24 - SEPTEMBER 26

At The Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT

SHOW THEME:

LAST BATTLES



HOSTED BY:



For more information contact: Peter Espada (Show Chair) at pespada@icloud.com

Get the latest Event, Registration, Schedule, and Theme information at:

amps-armor.org

Cleaning Your Airbrush

by Kevin Hutchison

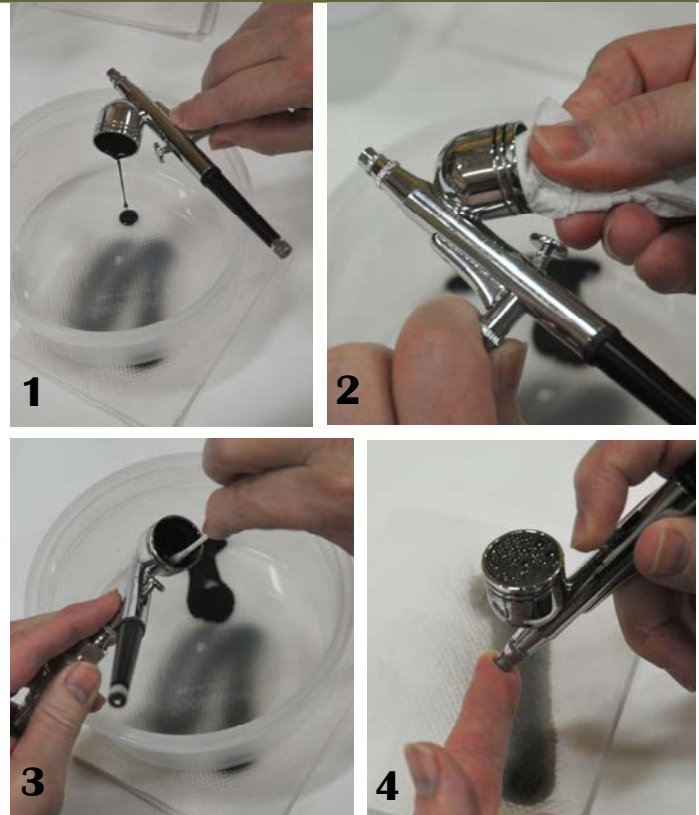
As most of you have figured out by now, I'm CHEAP! If there is a way to buy something at a lower price, or better yet make something, I'm all for it. After years of fighting with low quality airbrushes, I finally realized that this is one tool that you truly get what you pay for, and I decided to buy a quality airbrush. After making that decision, I was determined to make this airbrush last.

The key to that is learning how to maintain and clean it properly. I have spent many hours reading and watching videos on how to properly clean your airbrush. I hope you find the following article helpful.

I want to break this into two parts: **Regular Cleaning** and **Deep Cleaning**. Deep cleaning is for when you accidentally let paint dried in the airbrush.

Regular Cleaning

For regular cleaning, you'll need a few supplies: airbrush cleaning liquid, Q-tips, paper towels, and a waste bowl.

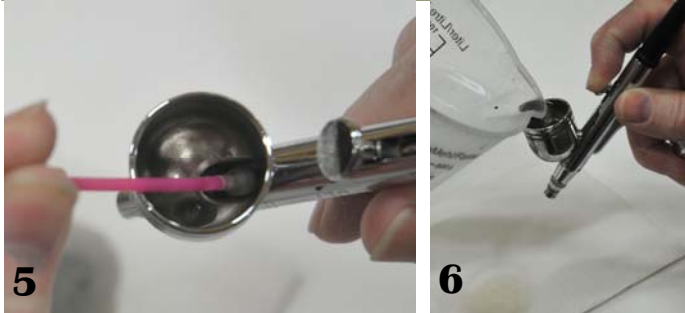


First, dump the paint in the airbrush either back into the paint jar or into the waste bowl (1). Next use a paper towel to remove the majority of the leftover paint (2). Then pour in a small amount of airbrush cleaner and use a regular Q-tip to remove as much remaining paint as you can (3). This may take two or three Q-tips to remove as much paint as you can, but this will save you a lot of time.

Next, fill the paint bowl with cleaner and spray out approximately half of it at "full throttle." At this point, you should see the color fading in the discharge. Next you will want to gently back flush it by covering the nozzle with your fingertip and spraying to create a bubbling action (4). Do this for about 10 seconds, then dump the dirty airbrush cleaner into the waste bowl. Refill it halfway and repeat the process. For some paints, you may need to do this three or four times.

Next, fill your airbrush halfway again with cleaner and spray on a paper towel. The airbrush output



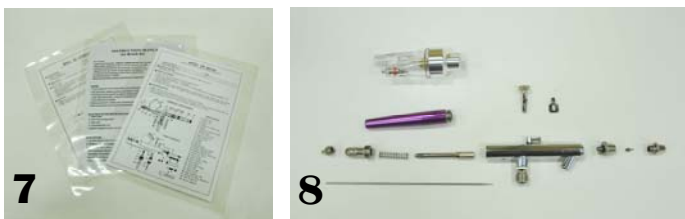


should be almost completely clear at this stage. If there is still stubborn paint in the paint bowl, use a fine tipped Q-tip to clean that out and repeat the back flushing process (5). You should be spraying clear liquid by now.

Once the cleaner is coming out clear, you want to flush it with clean, warm water, and spray until all moisture is gone (6). Let the airbrush stand for three to four minutes and spray again as moisture will settle. It is important not to put it away until it is completely dried.

Deep Cleaning

The most important thing to remember is NO HEROICS! Don't force anything, scratch anything, push anything, etc. If something is stuck with dried paint, let the cleaner soften it before trying to remove it.



The first thing to do is to get the exploded view of your airbrush out (7). This should come with the airbrush when you buy it, along with a specialty wrench to take it apart. Have the exploded view with you before taking the airbrush apart (8). This will show what comes apart and what doesn't.

Then place the parts in an ultrasonic cleaner filled with airbrush cleaner (9,10). Any dried paint on the needle should be easy to clean off. Be very careful with the needle. Bend the needle and it's game over!



9



10

Turn the ultrasonic cleaner on and check it every hour until the paint starts to soften. Once the paint is soft, use the appropriate size brushes to clean. If the brushes are too big, try a pipe cleaner. For some parts you may need to use a sewing needle to clean.

Once everything is clean, lay all the parts out on a paper towel to dry. Check that all o-rings are intact and replace them if they are not. Any parts that screw together need to be lubricated with a light machine oil (e.g. Singer or 3n1).

There you have it. If you get into the routine of cleaning your airbrush thoroughly each time you use it, its lifespan will be greatly extended.

Addendum

In keeping with my cheap streak, I have figured out how to make my own airbrush cleaner and acrylic paint thinner for 1/10th of the retail price. The ingredient list is simple and here are the recipes:

Airbrush Cleaner:

- ◆ 150ml distilled water
- ◆ 100ml Ammonia-free Windex*
- ◆ 50ml 91% alcohol
- ◆ 10 to 15 drops of Glycerin

Acrylic Paint Thinner:

- ◆ 175ml distilled water
- ◆ 75ml 91% alcohol
- ◆ 10 to 15 drops of Glycerin



*The jury is still out on ammonia can damage o-rings or cause corrosion in airbrushes. I don't know whether or not this is a problem, but I err on the safe side by using ammonia-free Windex.

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
Family Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$ 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.



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

AMPS
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DEPT.
P.O. BOX 227, FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
U.S.A.



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

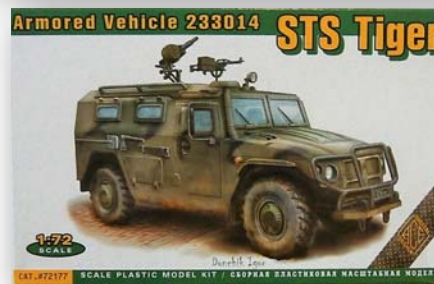
New On The Block



There's a new 1/35th Challenger 2 in town, and it's from Rye Field Models!



Academy's new 1/35th Brummbär (Mid-Prod) kit comes with Zimmerit decals. It remains to be seen how well they work...



If you need a STS Tiger in 1/72nd, look no further. Ace Model from Ukraine now makes one (and another in SPM-2 Special Police marking coming later this year).



Wow! A brand new 1/35th Mid-WWII German Infantry set from Tamiya! The figures all look good, and the poses are very realistic!

AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **Holy Holt!** by Brandon Jacob
- ♦ **Desert Raider Jeep** by Richard Senges
- ♦ **AMPS Atlanta 2020 After Action Report** by Mike Reaves
- ♦ **M4A1 Sherman CDL Toon Tank** by Marcos "Panzer" Serra
- ♦ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**
- ♦ **Book Review: FV4201 Chieftain** by Michael Reeves



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

We are on the web @ austinamps.org

At the 2020 AMPS Atlanta Show, the Best Diorama went to Ken Gutin's 1/72nd "Observation" - a female civilian flashing her "guns" in front of the crew of a Bundeswehr Beobachtungspanzer (Artillery Observation Vehicle)!

