



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2021

The Reading, PA WWII Weekend

by Chris Chany

Every year on the weekend closest to the anniversary of D-day (June 6th), the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum in Reading, Pennsylvania holds its World War II weekend. When it first started, it was just an air show featuring WWII airplanes. It has since grown to include both civilian and military re-enactments.

The weekend starts on Friday when a parade of WWII military vehicles leaves the airport and proceeds downtown to “liberate” the city of Reading, Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, the weekend really gets rolling with the arrival of thousands of spectators and an early morning re-

enactment where the U.S. Army attacks a small French town that is stubbornly defended by the Wehrmacht. At the completion of the exciting battle, the Americans are finally able to throw the Jerries out of the town.

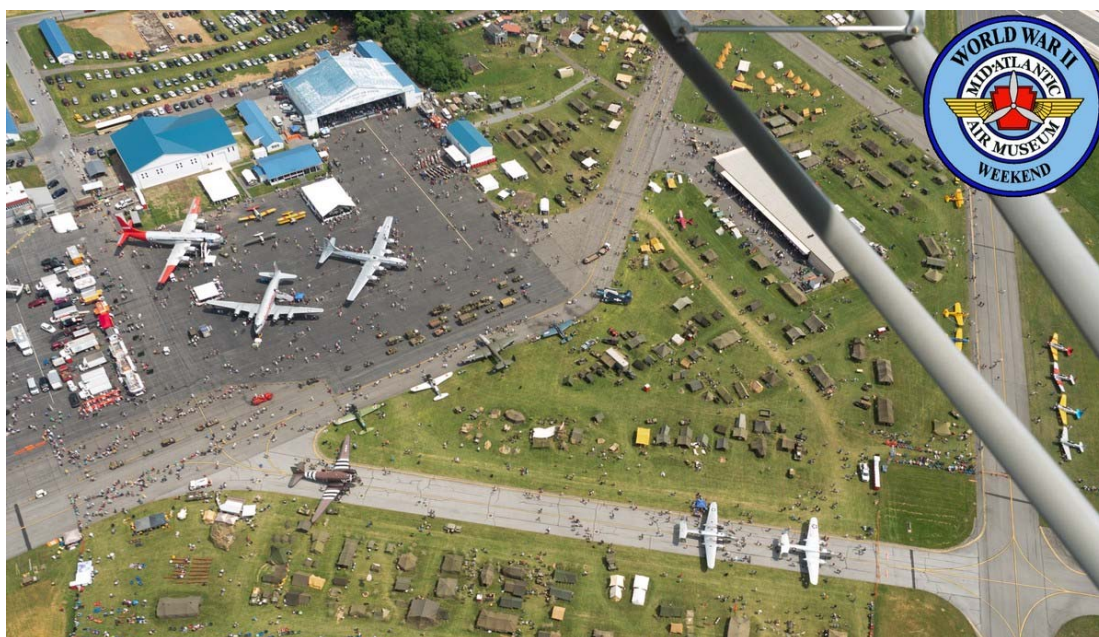
Throughout the day, there are symposia given by historians, and, in some cases, WWII veterans about various battles/campaigns. You can also meet re-enactors who portray FDR, Douglas MacArthur, and good old blood and guts himself, George Patton.

Additionally, there are also many home front activities such as live radio stations re-enacting actual broadcasts from the 40s. You may also run into an air raid warden/civil defense volunteer who will remind you to keep your curtains drawn at night. Inside one of the hangars there’s the equivalent of a WWII trade show. Not only can you buy memorabilia but everyone you

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ ~~July 7 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **July 31 - Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day**, Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin
- ◆ **August 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **August 12 to 14 - AMPS Super Regional**, AMPS/MVPA Joint Show, South Bend Century Center, South Bend, IN
- ◆ **Sept 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **Sept 11 - SuperCon 2021**, Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington
- ◆ **Sept 18 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo**, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2021	N/A	Aaron Smischney
February	N/A	Eric Choy
March*	N/A	Greg Beckman
April	N/A	Ian Candler
May	N/A	Ted Paone
June*	Kevin Hutchison	Bob Bethea
July	N/A	Chris Chany
August	TBA	Mike Maloney
September*	TBA	Kevin Hutchison
October	TBA	Joe Fisher
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Dane Sherry
January 2022	TBA	Rick Herrington

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. Eric Choy's article for February is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! Our last (June) meeting was held at member **Kevin Hutchison** and his wife **Terri Corteau's** place of business. Although the turnout was small, we had a great quarterly contest. Congratulations to **Greg Beckman** for a first place finish and to **Bob Bethea** for a second place showing. Some guy named **Ted Andreas** got third place! Also, we got to print some cool AABS t-shirts with considerable help from Kevin and Terri!

We will not meet in July but do plan on having a meeting in August and in September. Speaking of September, our show, AMPS Centex Armor Expo 2021, is scheduled for the 18th of that month. **Eric Choy**, our show coordinator, has put in a lot of work to make it happen. However, we will need many of our members to pitch in on the big day. Judging preparation also needs to occur before the show. So, if possible, please attend the next few meetings. Based



Getting the table ready for lunch and the meeting.



For all the work Kevin put into the T-54/55 display, he deserves to keep the first place trophy that the club won at Modelmania.



Terri showing our prez how to align a t-shirt for screen printing.

on what has been happening at shows that have been held so far this year, we might have a record turnout. If that occurs, we will need a lot of folks in the trenches to make the show go over well.

Susan and I attended the OKC MetroCon on the 12th of June. This IPMS/AMPS joint show is normally a very small one, but this year it had well over 400 entries! Bob and Eric were also present at the show. Congratulations to both for their awards received!

So, to reiterate my point, anything could happen, and we might be flooded with entries. That would be a good thing if we are prepared!

I do believe we have had a mild early summer here in Texas. However, now that the many days of rain have past by, temperatures are rising to make more "normal" hot Texas days. So, if possible, stay indoors and build models (especially armored ones)! Thanks for making our club one of the very best!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Tiger I

Germany enjoyed a great deal of success in the early days of World War Two. When *Operation Barbarossa* was launched against the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, it seemed as though the German military was unbeatable. The *Wehrmacht* and *Luftwaffe* stunned the unprepared Red Army and inflicted horrendous casualties on the communist forces. Nevertheless, it soon became apparent that if the Soviet military were not knocked out soon, there could be trouble down the road as the Red Army had far better tanks than the Germans did at this point in history.

Although the Germans rapidly upgraded their standard Panzer III and Panzer IV tanks, the Soviet's T-34 and KV-1 tanks were too formidable. Out of this dilemma, Hitler ordered the development of newer types of armored fighting vehicles. One of the results was one of the most iconic tanks of the war, the Tiger I.

During its two-year production run (from August 1942 until August 1944), 1,347 Tiger Is were made, according to *Wikipedia*. The Tiger I was the first tank to be armed with the dreaded German 88mm gun. The Tiger's influence on the battlefield was far greater their numbers would suggest, especially

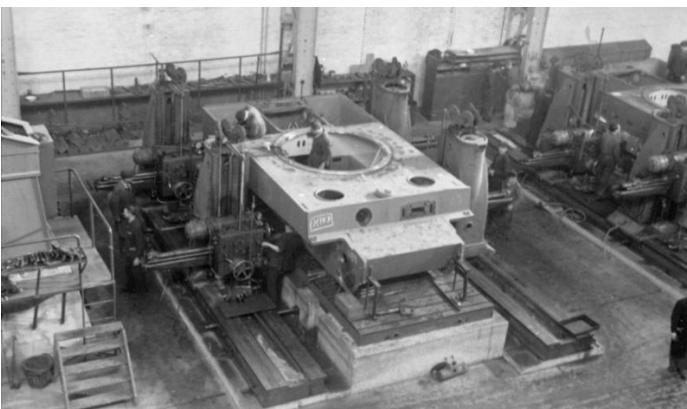
when compared to the number of T-34 tanks and Sherman tanks produced during WWII.



Nearly complete (note transport type tracks).

The Tiger I was a very formidable weapon. It saw action in North Africa, Russia, Sicily, Italy, and Northwest Europe. This tank was normally used in independent Heavy Tank Battalions attached to Corps level headquarters. At different times in the war, some were assigned to tank regiments within a division. For example, as the North Africa campaign was ending, operational tanks from the 501st Heavy Tank Battalion were reassigned to the 10th Panzer Division.

The Allies did not have any tank that could go toe-to-toe with the Tiger I until late in the war. Not only was the Tiger I a heavy hitter, it could also withstand a great deal of punishment and survive. Otto Carius* stated that Krupp steel was superb, and the Tiger I had a thick skin made of that steel.



Production at the Henschel factory.



Examining a hit that did not penetrate.

Being selected as a crew member of the Tiger I tank was considered an honor, as German commanders attempted to select the best tankers available for such an assignment. As in other branches of the military, the best often inflicted disproportionate damage on the opposing forces.



Tank commander in an early type Tiger.

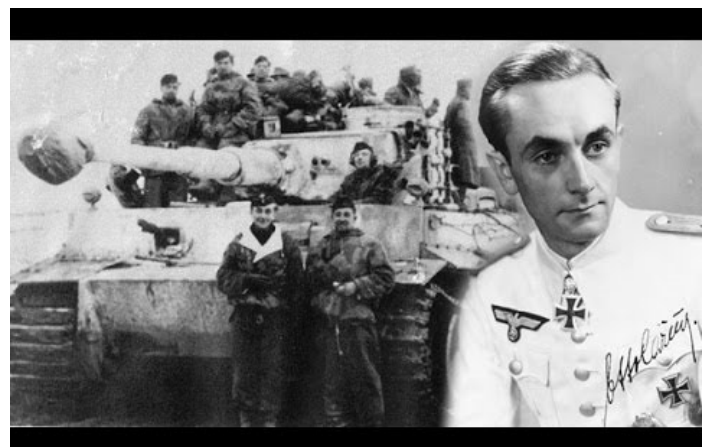
Even though the Tiger was a powerful weapon system, in the end the Allies prevailed. For the most part, the German military was overwhelmed by superior numbers.

From *Wikipedia*: Today, only seven Tiger I tanks survive in museums and private collections worldwide. As of 2020, Tiger 131 (captured during the North Africa Campaign) at the UK's Tank Museum is the only example restored to running order.

Ted



*Otto Carius (born 27 May 1922; died 24 January 2015) was one of the top Tiger I aces of WWII. He survived the war and became a pharmacist in West Germany. He was the author of *Tigers in the Mud*, an autobiography of his combat career. Being a great tank commander, he was a little guy, which just goes to show that size does not always matter!





Sabot Away! The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

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meet is happy to talk to you about their latest book, project, or restoration.

Each unit that re-enacts has its own encampment, and you can go from the Germans to the Marines to the Brits to the U.S. Army without walking more than 1/2 mile. You may even run into some *Kriegsmarine* officers or Japanese Army soldiers. Past the encampments there are vendors selling clothing and equipment to complete your re-enacting outfit.



In mid-afternoon, the Marines assault a Japanese bunker with a flamethrower ending with a cheering crowd when the flag on Mt. Suribachi is raised. If you decide to stay around for the nighttime activities, there is a chicken dinner and then a 1940s dance complete with entertainment by Abbot and Costello and the Andrews Sisters.



The French Village before the battle.

To complete the night, a motorcade arrives at the hanger with FDR riding in his actual car followed by FDR giving his "Day of Infamy" speech. Shortly thereafter, the air raid sirens wail and searchlights light the sky seeking out "enemy" aircraft.

Sunday is a repeat of Saturday's program minus the nighttime activities.



Douglas MacArthur.



Encampment of the Cactus Airforce.



Some German vehicles.



U.S. Army Encampment.



Dodge ambulance.

(Notice the step is painted so that when it folds up, the Red Cross emblem remains.)



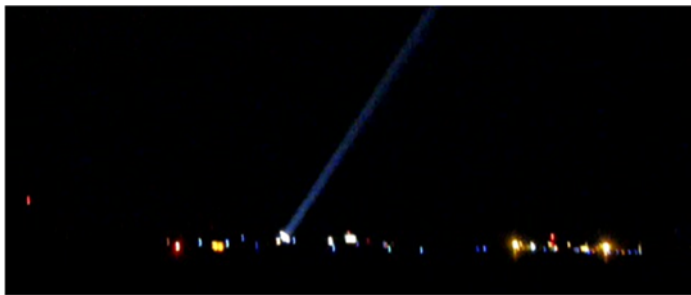
F.D.R.'s arrival to give his "Day of Infamy" speech.



While I know this article is not strictly armor related, this was my Father's Day present that year. I feel that this WWII weekend should be on every military enthusiast bucket list.

For more info, check out maam.org.

Chris



Nighttime air raid.



Still haven't sent us your AABS dues (\$12)? We have ways to make your arrears disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now...

We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (payaabs@gmail.com). 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 **Austin Armor Builders Society** (or **AABS**).

AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ **Fighting Cars** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Rolls-Royce Armored Car** by Roy Francis Perez
- ♦ **Romfell Panzerwagen** by Greg Beckman
- ♦ **An Armored Bathtub** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Tin Lizzie Up-Armored** by The MOFF Squad
- ♦ **Austin Model 1918** by Eric Choy
- ♦ **WWI Armored Cars Resources** by Editor
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



2021 Second Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Greg Beckman

T-64BM Bulat



2nd Place:
Bob Bethea

1/48th Hetzer



3rd Place:
Ted Andreas, Jr.

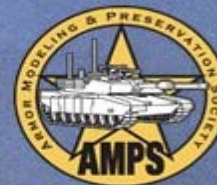
*Korean War
Centurion Mk.III*



AMPS Super Regional



Hosted by:
Military Vehicle Preservation Association
Midwest Region, Armor Modeling & Preservation Society



Century Convention Center, South Bend, IN
August 12-14, 2021

Show Theme: OPERATION DESERT STORM

Registration Fees (includes entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

- **AMPS Members: \$30.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Non-AMPS Members: \$50.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Junior Member/Non Member: \$20.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **SHOW SPECIAL! Renewing/New AMPS Members: \$55.00** USD for one year Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **Renewing/New Junior AMPS Members: \$35.00** USD for a new one year AMPS Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO FIVE TOTAL MODELS/DIOS/VIGNETTES/FIGURES PER ENTRANT, NO EXCEPTIONS** (See AMPS webpage for eligible subjects:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/AMPSJudgingSystem.aspx>)

Walk-in Entry Fees (entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

	Daily	Show (12-14 Aug)
• Adult (17 and higher):	\$10	\$25
• Husband & Wife:	\$15	\$30
• Family (children under 16):	\$20	\$35

For additional show & lodging information see the AMPS Webpage:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx?sid=10107>



FUN WITH LIANG'S EFFECT STENCILS

A Quick Product Review
By Eric Choy

Recently I encountered some 1/35th Effect Stencils from the Chinese company **Liang**. Being a sucker for shortcuts and anything weird, I purchased a few of them to see how they work.

Unlike other similar products that I have worked with before, these stencils are made from heavy stock paper. According to the manufacturer's claim, paper can absorb paint bleed around the edges to minimize any mess as the stencil is lifted. Plus paper stencil bends easier than other materials (e.g. plastic and photoetched fret) to conform to uneven surfaces. There is no adhesive on the stencils, so you can use both sides to double their lifespans. Supposedly each can be reused up to a hundred times (I'll be happy with ten!). A YouTube video on how to clean them is available on Liang's website (liang-model.com).

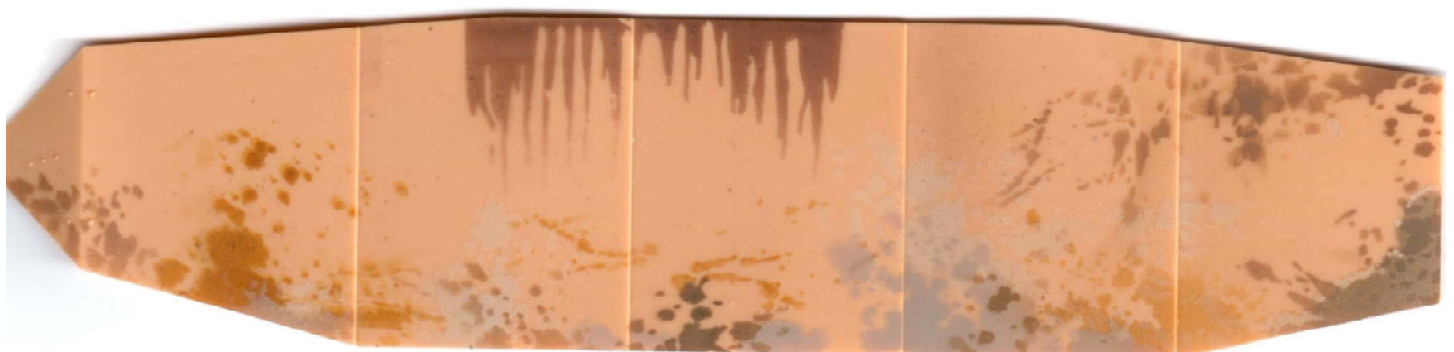


Enough of marketing talks. Let's try out these stencils!

I first conducted a simple spray test on playing cards coated with automotive primer in Medium Gray. As you can see in Card 1, I taped the stencil to the card and sprayed first with a heavy (More) and then light (Less) coat of Tamiya XF-49 Khaki. The hard edge patterns looked great, and as advertised, there was no sign of paint bleed.

Next I held the stencil about 1/3 of an inch (thickness of my index finger) away from the card and repeat the same process (Card 2). It resulted in nice soft edge patterns.

For the ultimate test, I cut out different patterns from the sets that I purchased and placed them on a 1/48th Panzer IV *schurzen* (photo below). I created the streaking with ink from Scale75 (Inktense Wood),





and the rest was done with various acrylics colors by Vallejo. The results looked really good.

The only stencil that I haven't experimented with is the "Splashes Blood" stencil. **Chris Chany**, our club's forensic expert, seems to think the patterns on this set look too big for 1/35th (not to mention they appear more appropriate for zombies than humans!). That's fine with me... I have figures bigger than 1/35th, and not all of them are in any state of living anyway!

Here is a list of effect stencils offered by Liang:

01. Weathering Effects
02. Streaking & Wet Effects*
03. Splashes Mud Effects*
04. Handprint and Shoeprints
05. Splashes Blood
06. Salt Weathering 1 (for naval aircraft)
07. Salt Weathering 2 (for naval aircraft)
08. Paint Crack Effects*
09. Chipping Effects*
10. Tire Track Effects 1
11. Tire Track Effects 2

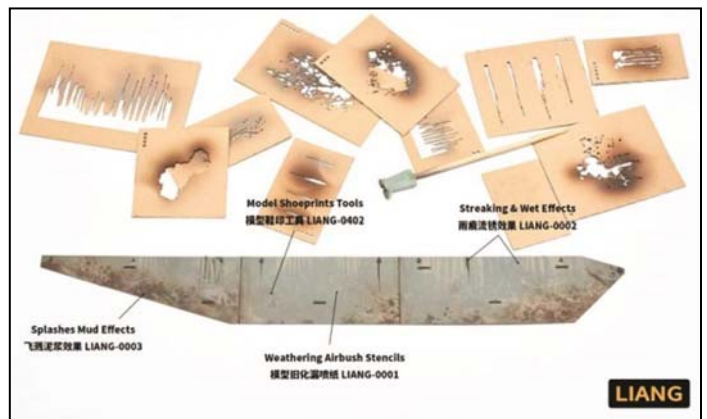
* indicates set that was tested in this article.

Although most of these effect stencils are designed for 1/35th, some can be used on smaller models. I suggest you use all of them as appropriate and not be fixated by the scale they are intended for.

I obtained my Liang stencils from **Hobby Link Japan** (hlj.com). Each costs between \$8 to \$11. **Lucky Model** (www.luckymodel.com) in Hong Kong also has them in stock, but for unknown reason some sets are slightly more expensive (a couple of bucks more) when ordering from Hong Kong (China). Weird!

Recommended.

Eric



2021 AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO

AN AMPS REGIONAL SHOW

**September 18th, 2021
Georgetown Community
Center**

For more info, visit:
www.austinamps.org

or contact show coordinator **Eric Choy**
(email: aabsco@gmail.com)

Show Theme: *Operation Barbarossa 1941*



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



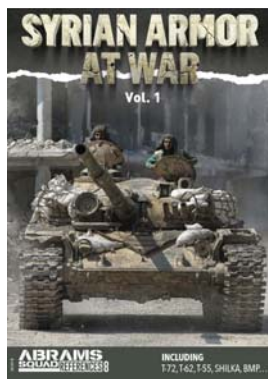
More combo deals from Takom arrived last month: 1/35th T3 & Feldumschlaggerät Fug 2.5t (top) and 1/72nd T-54B & MAZ-537G mid production w/ CHMZAP-5247G Semitrailer (bottom).



A newly tooled Tamiya 1/35th Panzer IV Ausf.G (Early). Cool!



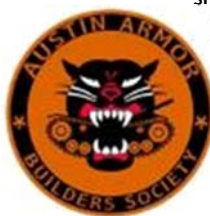
Suyata has also released another 1/48th combo: Russian T-90A & GAZ-233014 'Tiger' Armored vehicle.



Modern armor fan in need of references on the latest Mideast conflict? Don't miss PLA Editions' newest title Syrian Armor at War Vol. 1.

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. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit www.austinamps.org