



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2021



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Making Camouflage Netting

By

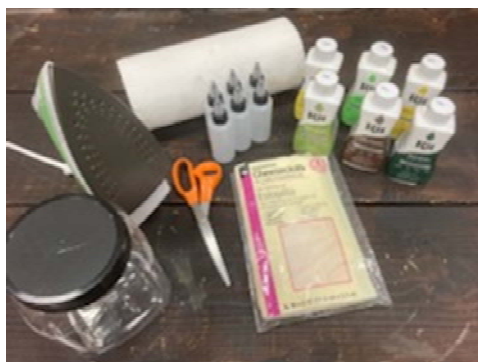
Kevin Hutchison

A well made camouflage net can be a great addition to any diorama. The problem is that they are hard to find and rarely meet the size and color scheme that you need.

The solution, as I saw it, was to learn how to make them to meet my needs. With a small investment of time and money, you can gather the basic materials you will need to produce a variety of netting to meet all your needs.

What you will need:

- Unbleached cheesecloth
- Scissors
- Iron
- Large plastic jar (I used an old mixed nuts jar)
- Various colors of fabric dye (I used six colors on the example netting)
 - A. Apple Green D. Neon Green
 - B. Dark Brown E. Golden Yellow
 - C. Dark Green F. Yellow
- Paper towels
- Small squeeze bottles, one for each color used.
- Optional: protective gloves



(Continued on page 5)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Sept 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 11 - SuperCon 2021, Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington
- ◆ Sept 18 - AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2021, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown
- ◆ Oct 2 - ~~ASMS Capital Classic 2021~~, Travis County Expo Center, Austin **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ¿Oct 6 - AABS Club Meeting?
- ◆ ¿Nov 3 - AABS Club Meeting?



AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

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

Chris Chany, Vice-President
christopherchany@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 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	N/A	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! I hope all is well with our club members and their families. As I am writing this, we are scheduled to meet in-person in September. We are still planning on a quarterly contest and to finalize plans for our show on Sept 18th. Stay tuned however, because the Covid situation is not good. At least not in Bell County. I have not heard much about Williamson or Travis Counties.

There are good and bad news on the show front: the last word I received was that the IPMS Fort Worth's Supercon (Sept 11th) is still ON. Unfortunately, ASMS

Capital Classic (Oct 2nd) is now officially cancelled due to its venue, Travis County Expo Center, being converted into a Covid care center.

I have been in preparation and have completed the build on my Border Crusader. I am just waiting to get in the mood to fire up the airbrush. In the meantime, I have started building Tamiya's Panzer IV early G. Both kits are good. I would give slightly higher marks to the Tamiya kit, but the Border Crusader is probably the best one available.

As a reminder, we need good kits for the door prize booth. Please bring in some at our September meeting. Thanks in advance!

Thanks again to all who make this club one of the best. Keep modeling & painting, and above all else, **STAY HEALTHY!**

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Cruiser Tank Mk.VI Crusader (A15)

When you consider some of the iconic tanks from World War II, the British cruiser tank Crusader would unlikely make it to anyone's list. From various accounts it appears that this was not a hard hitting tank, and it was prone to breakdown. It would be interesting to see how the reliability factor of the Crusader compared to other tanks that also required a great deal of down time for maintenance.

About 5,000 Crusaders were built. They arrived on the battle front in 1941 to help equip armored units of the British 8th Army in North Africa. It was fairly effective against German armor at first, but once the German armor was upgraded, the Crusader's 2-

pounder main gun proved to be totally ineffective. The Mk.III version with a 6-pounder (57mm) gun was the final upgrade of the Crusader gun tank, and it played a crucial role in winning the second battle of El Alamein.



A pair of early Crusader in North Africa.

The service life of the Crusader was short. Once the campaign in North Africa ended in an Allied victory, most, if not all, Crusaders were retired from frontline

service. The rest were used for training for the rest of the war. A few were modified to serve in other roles, such as anti-aircraft and gun tractor.



Crusader AA with 40mm Bofors gun.

The unusual shape of the Crusader's turret was designed to allow for maximum interior room within the limits of a small turret ring. Unfortunately, it also provided a shot trap which sometimes sent AP rounds downward into the hull of the tank.

As a cruiser type tank, the Crusader was quite fast, but it was also lightly armored. It should be noted that even better armored tanks used by the Allies also fared poorly when ambushed by the dreaded German 88mm gun in an anti-tank role.

In spite of its shortcomings, the Crusader played an important role in the North African campaign. The

British massed overwhelming numbers of any type of tank that was available to defeat Rommel's offenses at El Alamein. The Crusader was among those that pushed back the Germans into a corner in Tunisia and forced the surrender of the Afrika Corps.



Crusader Mk.III.

As a final comment, the strengths and weaknesses of British armor in World War II was in a large part due to the military planning at the time. Prior to the war, the British desired two types of tank: a slow but heavily armored type to provide direct infantry support (e.g. Matilda), and a fast but lightly armored type to use in cavalry role similar to past wars. The Crusader is an example of the latter type. In the end, sometimes the products of that kind of planning did not always mesh well with actual combat experiences.

Ted



September Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly contest cash prizes are **\$40**, **\$30**, and **\$20** for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing (i.e. you need to pay your dues). Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to participate.

Note: the **"no sweep"** rule is strictly enforced (i.e. no single contestant is allowed to win ALL THREE cash prizes in any of our in-house contest.

(Continued from page 1)

The Process

The first step is to cut the cheesecloth to 125% the final size that you want. You will learn very quickly that cheesecloth is a tricky material to work with, and there will be waste! The good news is that it's inexpensive and easy to find.



After you have your material cut, you need to heat some water and soak your cheesecloth in it to allow the dye to penetrate much better. This step can be done in a plastic jar. The water should be hot but not boiling.



After soaking the cheesecloth for 30 minutes, take the cloth out and set it aside. Reheat the water in your plastic jug and add some dark green dye to the hot water. What you are doing now is dyeing the background color of your netting. You will need to pay attention to the dyeing process in this step. I mixed the dark green dye according to the instructions on the bottle and let the cloth soak in the mixture for another 10 minutes. If I want a lighter background color, 5 minutes. For a darker background, 20 minutes.

Now that your cloth has a background color you need to set that dye. That's where your iron comes in. Set your iron to the "Cotton" setting, and let it heat up. Sandwich the cloth in between a thick layer of paper towels and iron it until it is dry.



Now it's time to get down to camo business! Take your paper towels and make a pad six to eight layers thick. Lay your dry cheesecloth down and begin the camouflage process. To make this easy, you will need to transfer undiluted dye into your



small squeeze bottles. Be sure to mark them as a lot of these dyes all look the same when undiluted.

I usually start with the darkest color and work to the lightest. When you begin to apply the dye, you will notice that it sits on top of the cloth, you need to use the tip of the bottle to force the dye into the paper towels under the cloth. Don't worry if the cloth seems to lift off the paper towels underneath. The next step will solve that issue.



After you have applied your first color, keep going and add all the colors that you wish. Be random and be creative! There are no rules here.



With all your colors applied, you will now make a blotter out of paper towels and blot the entire surface of your netting, forcing the paper towels, dye, and cheesecloth together. Make sure that you blot the entire surface as this gives you the most vivid colors. After the blotting step, you will again sandwich the netting between paper towels and dry with the iron again.



At this point you have a basic camouflage net. If you are happy with the colors, just trim it to size and you are done. If you feel the netting is too light, go back and add more dye. If you feel that the colors are too bold, simply rinse your net in some warm water and



that will lighten it up. As with everything in this process, experimentation is the key. If you don't get it right the first time, make adjustments and give it another try.



fingers. Then shake off the excess and save it for later use.

Next, quickly lift the netting off the paper towels and place it on a piece of wax paper to dry. After the glue dries, shake again to remove excess spices. If you are

concerned that it will continue to "shed," you can spray the netting with some spray adhesive.

There you have it. The process sounds intimidating, but after you make one or two, you will find it goes very quickly. There are limitless possibilities with this technique, and it should add that little touch to your next diorama. Use them as a actual net or roll them up and strap them to your vehicle. Either way they look amazing!

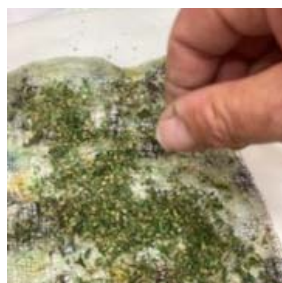
Kevin



Extra

Now that you have the basics, let's take this a step further. Often camouflage netting has small pieces of fabric sewn to them to make them more effective. Since sewing things together in 1/35th scale is not very practical, I have come up with an "out of the box" solution. Using a mixture of parsley, Italian seasoning, and white glue, I have figured out how to imitate these fabric strips.

To get this effect, you will need your basic netting, white glue, and a stiff brush. In this step, speed counts, so have all your materials ready. Lay the netting over a bed of paper towels and saturate it with white glue. Drive the glue into the netting fibers with the stiff brush.



After getting your net covered in glue, sprinkle a generous amount of seasoning mix and press it into the netting with your

**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*



Members Show & Tell

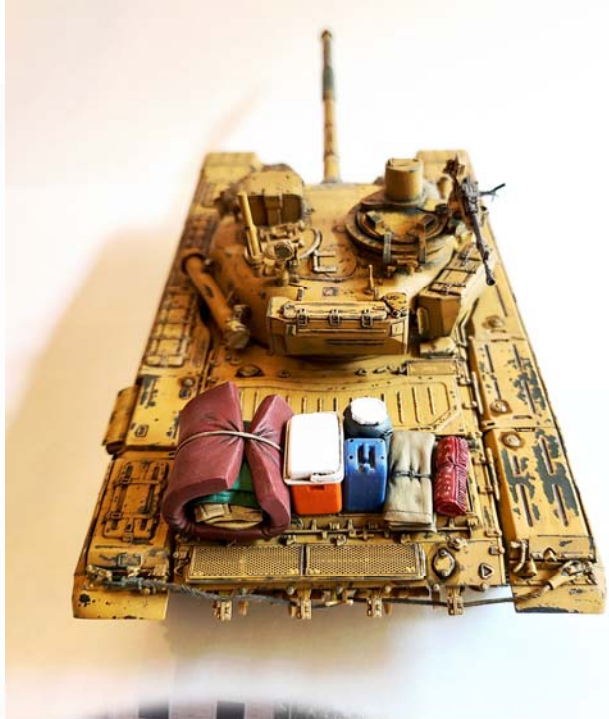
Greg Beckman:

1. T-34 Flametank FOG-1 (DML Conversion)



2. **Syrian T-72M1 w/ Turms-T Fire Control System**
(The base kit is Trumpeter's T-72A Mod.1979 MBT (09546) with SP Designs conversion kit. I used paint from Real Colors Syrian Republican Guards Desert Yellow. The stowage are Red Zebra Syrian

stowage set. The build was influenced by a photo in PLA's latest book "Syrian Armor At War.")



AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ **Fantasia on a Magyar Chief** by Eric Choy
- ♦ **A Visit to the National WWII Museum** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **Wiesel A1 TOW** by Ron Hoague
- ♦ **Scratchbuilding a Military Folding Cot in 1/35th Scale** by Brian Eberle
- ♦ **Fun with Liang's Effect Stencils** by The Editor
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



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MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
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Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
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*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.



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New On The Block



Copper State Models has another 1/35th WWI armored car out. It's a Russo-Balt C type used by the Russians on the eastern front.



Is that even possible? Mounting a 128mm gun on a modified Hetzer chassis? Tell that to I♥Kit that brought us this 1/35th scale Rheinmetall-Borsig Waffenträger!



Have Flak Gun - Will Travel! Trumpeter's latest release in 1/35th is this 4x4 Büssing-NAG L4500A armored truck with 3.7cm FlaK37.



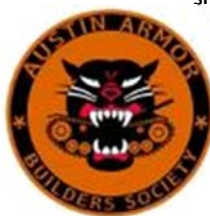
Following the success of their 1/35th IDF Sho't KAL, Amusing Hobby just released another version with a battering ram.



If you enjoy modern armor in 1/72nd, you now have a choice of not one but two M1128 MCS. I'm eager to find out how this kit from 3R Model compare to Dragon's release that came out late last year.

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