



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2022



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Space is Important

by Ian Candler

I've been wracking my brain for this article... I'm still a new "old" guy in the hobby, and I've kinda passed through the early phases of "Oh that's cool! I gotta have it right now!" (emphasis on "kinda") That being said, I have a modest stash of things I'd like to build: armor, a lot of figures, and a couple of winky things.

Just a few years ago I built 26 kits in one year. While it was a blast, my prolific exuberance has now slowed to a crawl. I look back at my early builds,

and I don't get a warm fuzzy anymore. Then I look at a few of my newer builds, and I'm like "dang, almost hit the mark but still kinda lack luster." Over the last three or so years, my ability to turn out armor builds has wavered to about two in three years. Currently, I have about seven kits built and in primer.

WHY AM I NOT KNOCKING EM OUT?

One thing that has come to a reason or excuse is space. I have this really cool room with toys, books, and comfort, but

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ June 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 4 - *Scalefest 2022*, Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
- ◆ June 18 - *OKC MetroCon 2022*, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ July 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 3 - AABS Club Meeting



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2022	N/A	Dane Sherry
February	N/A	Rick Herrington
March*	White Elephant Contest	Greg Beckman
April	AMPS 2022 Int'l Show	Kevin Hutchison
May	N/A	Eric Choy
June*	TBA	Ian Candler
July	TBA	Craig Bland
August	TBA	Bob Bethea
September*	TBA	Bill Menzie
October	Club Auction	Ted Paone
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Joe Fisher
January 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney

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. Rick Herrington'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 members and their families. Susan and I have worked our way through another school year. This is the last one for me because I am now retired.

I have decided to put a large portion of my model stash up for sale. There are two reasons for this: I have more than it would be possible to build/paint, and Susan and I have a project for which we are raising money. We are over halfway towards our goal.

We will be meeting this month at **Ground Zero Hobbies**. For those who plan to attend, please think of ideas for our next group project. It seems like we need plenty of extra time to prepare for competition. Perhaps we could come up with something that some of us are already working on.

IPMS/USA Nationals will be held in Omaha, Nebraska in July. Susan and I plan on attending that so we probably will not be at some of the local/regional shows this year. Of course, next year Texas will be hosting a national convention. The venue will be in San Marcos. Hopefully, the cost of gasoline will be down by then so folks can afford to visit us from out of state.

We are looking forward to meeting on the first of June. In the meantime, remember to always keep building and painting. You all make our club one of the best.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



German Panzer III

The featured tank for the month of June is the German *Panzerkampfwagen III*, a.k.a. Panzer Mk III or Panzer III. The development of this tank began in the 1930s, and it was produced well into the middle of WWII until ceased in 1943.

Originally, the Panzer III was intended to be the main tank to be used to combat enemy tanks and the Mk IV (Panzer IV) was intended to provide infantry support. The Panzer III performed well during the Polish Campaign (1939), the French Campaign (1940), the Balkans fighting (1941), and well into the North Africa theatre (1941-1943). It only became obsolete when being outclassed by the Red Army's T-34 and KV-1 during the invasion of the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa).



Early Panzer III in Poland (Wikipedia)

Eventually, the Panzer III and Panzer IV changed roles. The latter was able to be modified to carry an effective long barrel 75mm main gun. The Panzer III, in particular the 'N' variant, was equipped with the short barrel 75 mm gun for infantry support. Other later models used long barreled 50mm main guns to somewhat upgrade the ability to engage enemy armor.



A 2nd SS Division Panzer III at Kursk (Wikipedia)



A command version in North Africa (Wikipedia)

It is interesting to note that the suspension that allows a Panzer III to be readily differentiated from a Panzer IV was not produced until the 'E' model appeared. This variant incorporated torsion bar suspension and larger six road wheels on each side of the tank. Earlier models utilized a leaf spring configuration with different sizes of road wheels, mainly eight smaller ones.

For much of the North African campaign, the Panzer III was the workhorse of the Afrika Korps. At later stages, it would also be relegated to a secondary role when long barreled Panzer IV tanks became available.



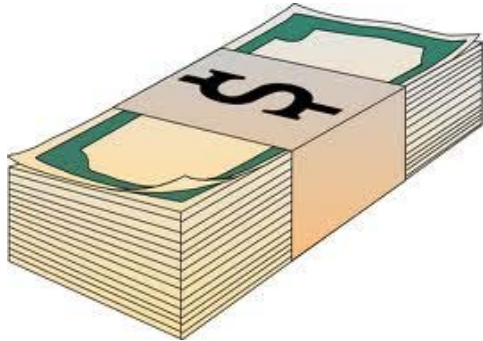
A Panzer III in Greece with a captured Tommy. Note it has two turret-mounted MGs (Wikipedia)



A Panzer III captured in the North African Desert (Wikipedia)

Although the Panzer III was obsolete as a main combat tank after *Barbarossa*, it was very dependable mechanically. The hull would be used to build Germany's highly effective tank destroyer, the *Sturmgeschütz* (StuG) to be featured in later months.

The Panzer III was a significant weapon system and was quite effective in the early stages of WWII. On a personal level, it is one of my favorite tanks of the war, and I have enjoyed building several models of this tank.



OR



Bring in your finished model(s) this month to win either a cash prize (\$40 for the first place winner) or a drawing of Tamiya's latest 1/35th M18 Hellcat kit (eligible to all contestants except the cash prize winner). There is no limit to how many model you enter as long as your entry wasn't placed in our previous quarterly contests.

To enter you must be a member in good standing. i.e. You need to pay your 2022 dues!!!

June Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Don't forget the theme of our **THIRD Quarterly Contest in SEPTEMBER** is the ongoing war between **Ukraine and Russia.**



Now Open Everyday 10am to 9pm!

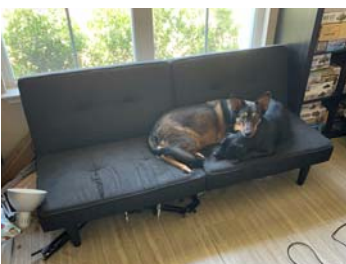
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it only recently has it start to feel like a place I want to play in. So I want to try something to improve it into a more pleasing modeling area.

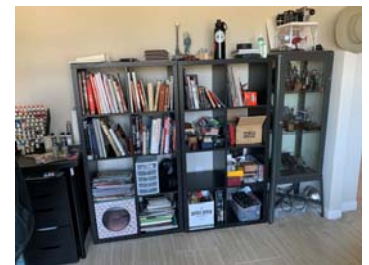
I like everything within reach while painting and building. So that was the first thing I set forth to conquer. With some paint racks and common stencil holders, that was easily accomplished. I also added an extension to my old desk that gave me more space. This has been a huge help with clutter and a place to store more paint and my little photo booth.



Due to some physical issues, sometimes sitting in the office chair takes a toll on my back. So a cheap futon is my answer. It also serves as a place for my dogs to

sit while I toil away at whatever project I am procrastinating on.

Most of us have some sort of entertainment device near by. The computer is everything for me. It plays movies, music, and modeling videos, so it's a must.



Display cabinets are great, and of course some cheap bookcases for references and my modest stash.

Trying to put this together is kinda like a model kit. It's a work in progress. Maybe now I might actually finish some kits in this place.

Ian



IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY
In association with **SOONER AMPS**
Presents

OKCMetroCon 2022

Saturday, June 18th, 2022 9am-4pm
Council Road Baptist Church
Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008

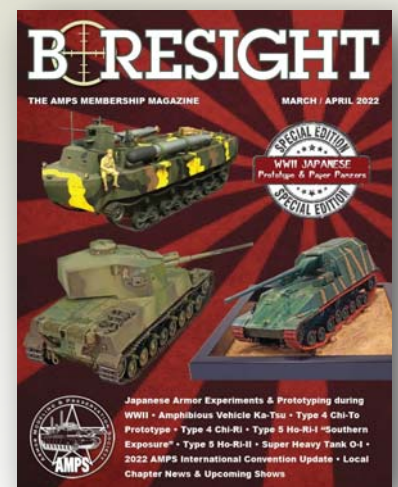
Theme:

1942
"Turning The Tide"

AMPS Boresight (Volume 30, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **Japanese Armor Experiment & Prototyping during WWII** by A.J. Daverede
- ♦ **Type 4 Chi-To Prototype** by the Editor
- ♦ **Type 5 Chi-Ri** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Southern Exposure** by Scott Conner
- ♦ **Ka-Tsu, Japan's Amphibious Vehicle Project** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **IJA 150t Super-Heavy Tank O-I** by Roy Perez
- ♦ **Type 5 Ho-Ri-II** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **2022 AMPS International Convention Update** by Ashley Abernathy
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



(Editor: It's hard to believe the first installment of this article dated back to August 2018! So it took me almost four years to finish this model?" Well, "better late than never," as my mother used to tell me. Here's the entirety of my article, complete and updated.)



Churchill Mk.VII Crocodile

An Out-of-the-Box Build Review

By Eric Choy

Ask any quarter scale armor modeler what's on top of his wish list of kits, most likely he'll say the British Churchill infantry tank (A22).

The last time an 1/48th injection-plastic Churchill available to us was the Aurora kit back in the 1960s! Then in 2018 Tamiya took pity on us and released a Mk.VII Crocodile. Personally I would prefer an earlier mark (I or IV) Churchill, but beggars can't be choosers. I'm happy with what was delivered.

Brief History

In 1942, the Churchill infantry tank was chosen to be used to standardize a flame throwing system actuated by gas pressure with an armored trailer that housed five pressurized nitrogen tanks and 400 gallons of napalm. A pipe running along the tank's

underside allowed the mixture to go from the trailer to the bow machine gun position where the nozzle and igniter were installed. A full tank in the trailer could provide 80 one-second bursts, and the frame had a maximum range of 120 yards.

Over 800 Crocodiles were built during WWII, and most were used in NW Europe and Italy from June 1944 to May 1945. Crocodiles also saw limited services in the Korean War with the 7th RTR. It was withdrawn from British Army service in 1951.

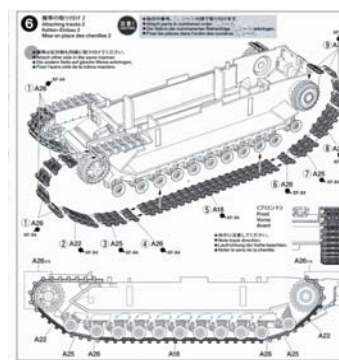
The Kit

The quarterscale Churchill is indeed a scaled down version of its 1/35th 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 was the best 1/48th 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-supplied 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 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.

Painting

I followed Tamiya's recommendation of using Dark Green (XF-61) to replicate S.C.C.15, the British Army version of Oliver Drab. Dark Yellow (XF-60) was added to the green for zenithal light on top surfaces. Using artist oil paints, I did some filtering and discoloration, especially on the bow under the flamethrower nozzle and on top of the exhaust cover. A coat of Future sealed everything in, and the kit-supplied decals went on without any problem.



Next, the model was sprayed with automotive gray primer, and a day later it was ready to receive paints.



Next I painted the camo net with Field Gray and applied shadows and highlights with Reaper acrylics. Once done, I decided to call a time-out and work on other projects. Then the short break of a few days turned into weeks, months, and years... Next thing I knew, my croc model went to sleep for THREE AND A HALF YEARS!



Weathering

Fast forward to April this year, I finally picked up where I left off and gave my model a black pin wash. For weathering I used three different enamel earth colors applied in layers: Earth (AMMO by MIG 1403), Damp Earth (AK 078), and Dark Mud (AMMO by MIG 1405).



The dried mud on top of the fenders were done with Dark Mud (MIG Production P033) and Dark Earth (AMMO by MIG 3007) pigments. The tracks were painted with Tamiya Dark Iron (XF-85) and caked with mud made from tile grout and colored with Fresh Mud (AMMO by MIG 1402). The same mud treatment was repeated on the wheels of the fuel trailer.



Finally, to simulate mud splashes, I dipped an old toothbrush in Fresh Mud and "flicked" the paint onto the sides of the tank with a toothpick.



Groundwork

The base is one of those inspirational word plaques I picked up in the clearance aisle of a local mega craft store. These plaques make great easy bases.

I covered the inside of the plaque with tile grout and made several lines of tread marks of Churchill and Sherman tanks. Once the grout was dried, I coated it with the same Dark Mud color I used earlier on the tank. Shadow color was made using diluted Brown ink, and I highlighted the "raised" tread marks with Damp Earth.



To make the groundwork a bit more interesting, I made a few puddles in between the tread lines. I experimented with two still-water effect products: **Puddles** by AK (8028) and **Water Texture** by Vallejo (26.230). The AK product has the right color and shine but it

shrinks horribly once dried. Vallejo's doesn't shrink as bad, but when dried it hardens to a hazy and dull clear color. Both products have to be applied in thin layers or bubbies will form when too much is used at a time. Instructions recommend no more than 3mm per layer, but I found 2mm on the safe side by trial-and-error.

So which product do I recommend? Both! I used Vallejo's Water Texture to build a puddle to the desired depth and applied AK's Puddles on top for the final finish. Best of both worlds.

Figure

Decent quarter scale figures are hard to come by. I was fortunate to pick up a set of WWII British Tank Crew by ArtofWar before it went out of business.

The figure I chose to use, "Nigel," is nicely sculpted and has a very relaxed pose, but he appears to be on the tall side of 1/48th (closer to 1/45th to my eyes). Bah, who says there are no 6ft+ tankers in the RTRs?



"Nigel" is wearing a late-war Dark Green coverall and a tanker helmet. I painted him with my trusted Reaper acrylics.

Epilogue

The Churchill Crocodile kit is another fantastic release from Tamiya. I highly recommend it.

I must admit this simple out-of-the-box review has taken way too long to complete. But then again, who's counting? My hobby isn't work. I have all the time in the world to finish it... as long as I'm still alive!

Eric

References

- Peter Chamberlain & Chris Ellis, *British and American Tanks of World War II*, Arco Publishing, 1975
- David Doyle, *The Churchill Tank Part Two: Churchill Based Vehicles*, Ampersand Publishing, 2010
- Leszek Moczulski, *Churchill Vol.1 (Gunpower #26)*, AJ Press, 2008
- *Photographic Album No.3: British Churchill Tank*, Tamiya News



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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



It's only logical that a KV-2 follows the still new Tamiya 1/35th KV-1.



A failure and quickly replaced by the 1915 model which carried either an 8mm LMG or a 37mm cannon for fighting both ground and air targets.

Copper State Models continues its WWI armored car line with a 1/35th French AC mod. 1914 (Type ED). Designed as an anti-aircraft vehicle and produced in small quantity by Renault, it was considered a



A new 1/35th Aerosan KM-4 from Trumpeter. The last release (NKL-16) I recall was almost ten years ago!



Redleg modelers now has a choice (aside from the ancient Italeri kit) for building a Cold War era M110 Howitzer: AFV Club has just released one in 1/35th scale.

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