



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2022



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## Building Meng Models' R-R Armored Car Or...

### How to Try and Salvage Two Plastic Disasters and Live to Tell about It!

by Craig Bland

Let me begin this adventure in plastic by saying that my other hobby is restoring old cars. Real Old Cars. I have a 1931 Model A Ford pickup that has been in my family for over 50 years. And I've done a lot of the work on this beauty myself: rebuilt the engine, repainted the body (Hell, if I can airbrush models, I can spray real

*(Continued on page 5)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ July 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 17 - SuperCon 2022, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington, TX



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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*	Eric Choy	Ian Candler
July	Bob Bethea	Craig Bland
August	Dave Bourland	Bob Bethea
September*	Rick Herrington	Bill Menzie
October	* KIT AUCTION *	Ted Paone
November	Mike Maloney	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	Mike Bird	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*

**G**reetings! I hope all is well with our members and their families. I would like to thank everyone who made purchases from my stash of most excellent models. Susan and I surpassed our goal to help put a roof on a church in Romania. Every dollar raised has been sent and received. However, I still have plenty of unsold goods that someone could consider buying for Christmas exchange gifts.

At our last meeting, it was decided that the next club build project would be **USMC Military Vehicles**. Eric will most likely supply the details. After a bit of reflection, I realized that the USMC theme is a really good one. I hope we get a high level of participation.

One thing we did not bring up in our meeting was that we still have at least one more opportunity to enter our AA mobile weapon systems in a competition. The Austin show is coming up on the first of October. I would be more than willing to haul the Berlin FlaK Tower to that event if we can reassemble our collection again. Also, anyone who did not finish his model in time for the Houston show, he now has another chance to add his to our collection.

In 2023, the IPMS-USA Nationals will be in San Marcos. If we can put together the USMC collection, we may be able to compete at that venue. If nothing else, we could use it as a club display.

Susan and I are still planning on attending this year's Nationals at Omaha. My goal is to find the best way to run the door prize/raffle table. Also, I hope I can make contact with manufacturers or suppliers for donations to the show in San Marcos. Wish us well!

We are looking forward to the July meeting. 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 IV

**F**or July, I decided to feature the German Mk. IV as the tank of the month. As mentioned last month, the Panzer III and IV were intended to be the mainstays of the German Army.

Originally, the designated role for the Panzer III was to combat opposition armor while the Panzer IV with its short barreled 75 mm main gun was to provide infantry support. As the war progressed, the roles were reversed simply because the Panzer IV was able to be modified to use a more effective main gun while the Panzer III was only able to be

upgraded to a 50 mm main gun or the short barrel 75 mm main gun.

Many commentators have described the Panzer IV as the "workhorse" of the German army. This is quite



*Panzer IV ausf. A in 1939 (Wikipedia)*

accurate even though the Tiger series of tanks, along with the Panthers, would become more notorious. Nevertheless, the up-gunned Panzer IV would serve well right up to the end of the war.

Essentially the Panzer IV was classified as a medium tank. It would have a crew of five tankers.

In the early stages of the war, like most German tanks, it would be fielded in Panzer Gray. Afrika Korps vehicles would often arrive in North Africa in that scheme but would be over coated with desert colored paint, or even coated with mud.



*Panzer IV in 15<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division Markings (Wikipedia)*



*Panzer IV captured in Italy 1943 (Wikipedia)*

Later versions of the Panzer IV would be fielded in a Dark Yellow paint scheme. In the field, additional camouflage effects would be created with red brown and/or dark green paint.



*Panzer IV of the 12<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division in Russia 1944 (Wikipedia)*

Shortly after the Battle of Kursk in 1943, the Germans applied *Zimmerit*, an anti-magnetic mine coating, on their gun tanks. Vehicles already in service would be coated in the field while newly manufactured tanks would be coated in the factory. This practice continued until late 1944.



*A Panzer IV in Musée des Blindés (Wikipedia)*

Over 8,000 Panzer IV tanks were built from 1936 to 1945. This tank served in Poland at the start of the war and the streets of Berlin during the final battle of the war. Surviving examples would reemerge in various foreign armies and see combat again in the Middle East as late as the 1960s.

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*My 1931 Ford Model A Pickup Truck.*

cars... or similar words of wisdom), re-upholstered the interior, changed the electrical system from six to 12 volt, etc. So the Meng kit of the R-R Armored Car really got me pumped. A great history of a car with the great name of Rolls Royce! And it was, as the Brits say, armoured!

Approximately 120 of these beauties were built, each with a six-cylinder engine yielding 80 horsepower. Weighted 4.7 tons and measured 16 feet long with 12mm rolled steel armor, the rotating turret had a water-cooled Vickers .303 cal machine gun as its main armament.

The Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) was the first to use these armored cars in Dunkirk for scouting and other "sorties" with considerable success during the early stages of the Great War. In 1915, the armored car division of RNAS was disbanded, and many of the cars were sent to the Middle East theater where they distinguished themselves in Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and Iran operations. T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia fame) once said his squadron of vehicles was "more valuable than rubies."

After WWI, the cars soldiered on in Ireland during the Irish Civil War. Later the type returned to North Africa where about 70 saw action against Benito Mussolini's Italian forces in 1940. Up-gunned with another machine gun for anti-aircraft protection and a Boys anti-tank rifle, they were finished in a spiffy Caunter camo scheme featuring unique stripes of Midstone (either a very light Blue or Blue Green) and Dark Gray, giving the chassis of these almost 30 years old cars a visual improvement as well.

So now to my construction, destruction, and re-construction of this kit.

Being an "old car guy," I wanted to depict my model in the early days of WWI with etched wire wheels and a colorful Great War camouflage scheme that looks like being painted by a graphic artist on crack!



*A restore Rolls Royce Armored Car Mk.I.*

So off I go! The chassis is rather simple, and it went together smoothly as it should. Make sure you select the right instructions for either the WWI or WWII version and double check the diagrams.



Then on to the tires and the wire wheels, which turned out to be so miserable, so infuriating, and so God-awfully horrible that I decided to do the simpler solid tires and wheels with the lovely WWII Caunter camo scheme instead.

I started the painting process by carefully masking the individual Caunter horizontal stripes. I used the new AK series 3 (AK3) paints, which I really like, along with a couple of Vallejo colors. When one of the colors didn't come out the way I wanted, I dabbed on AK's Paint Stripper and watched in horror the paint curdled and then burped a blister! The car's body was now a science project from hell. And the fumes! This was the stuff from Chernobyl!



Reading the label on the back of the bottle, I realized AK's Paint Stripper is "highly flammable, harmful if inhaled, and (oh yeah) may cause drowsiness or dizziness!" So, needless to say, I put



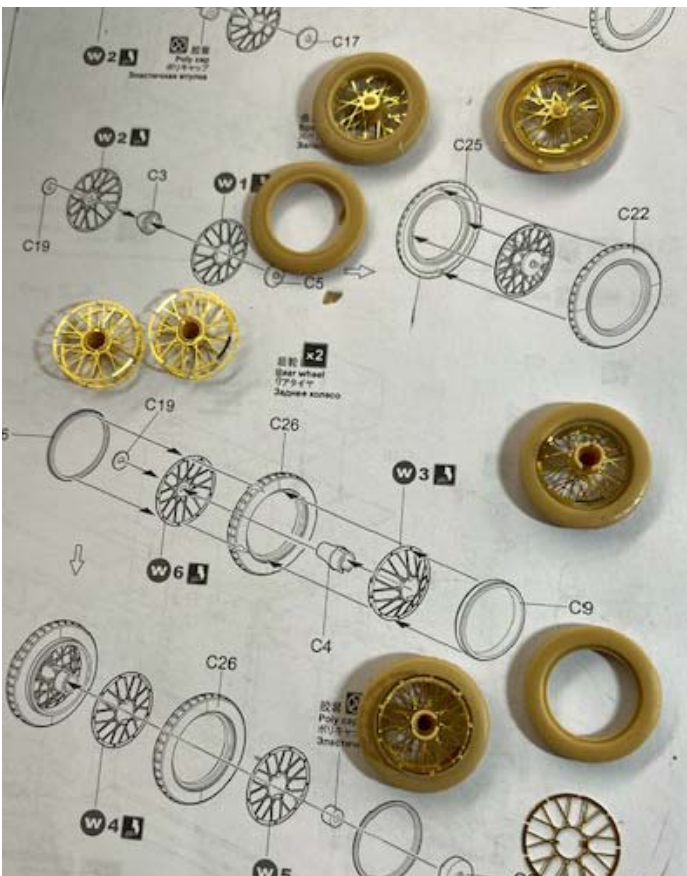
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this bottle where I keep my hazardous waste and small nuclear weapons!

The model was toast, literally. Since I had this deadline I promised your editor I would meet for our club's newsletter, I had no choice but to start over with a new kit. But to show you how smart I am, this new, improved, and better Rolls Royce Armoured Car would be the 1914-15 car with wire wheels and groovy graphic camo scheme.

I figured I had learned a lot and now could handle those damned wire wheels. Well, yes and no! The secret is READ THE INSTRUCTIONS (I know, I know, but every once in a while it pays off!) and carefully massage each side onto the little spindle and then insert those damn wires into the damn tire. By doing so, it will result in a close, but not perfect, caricature of a 1914 tire and wire wheel. The rear axle has dual tires together on each side. The wire wheels there are really intricate and look neat.



Oh yeah, the tires were painted almost white (an off-white light gray color by mixing AK3's Grimy Grey and Off-White) because the real ones were made of natural rubber. Black tires weren't made until a couple of years later in 1917.



The car was ready for primer. For the base coat, I mixed AK3 Medium Olive with some Mustard Yellow. The light camo colors were Sand Yellow, Grimy Grey, and a touch of Olive Green. For the gray "splotches," I used Basalt Gray. When I tried to draw the black outline that was used to highlight each camo color, my advancing age doesn't give me the steady hand that I used to have, so the lines were less than satisfactory, in my opinion. A case of too many Scotch over the years (or not enough)?

So, the car is finished. Is it one of my better works? No. Did I enjoy building it? I'll tell you once I get over the effects of the paint stripper fumes!

**Craig**





## Members Show & Tell

**Greg Beckman:**

**UAZ van (Zvezda) with Russian 'Z' markings. Abandoned and utilized for cover for Ukrainian infantry.**







## AMPS Boresight (Volume 30, Issue 3)

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

- ◆ 2022 International Convention Final Notes by Ashley Abernathy
- ◆ Skill Level Promotions & Masters Honor Roll
- ◆ Complete Winners Listing
- ◆ Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows



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# New On The Block



Kits from China are getting bigger by the day! The latest release from I♥Kit is this 1/16<sup>th</sup> scale Early Easy-8 Sherman.



Does our hobby really need yet another 88mm FlaK36 in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale? Apparently Border Models seems to think so!



Gecko has just released a limited edition "Well known" K2/Y ambulance in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale. It comes with a figure of young HRH Princess Elizabeth during WWII as an ambulance driver.



The new Tamiya 1/35<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Scout set is just as good as many limited edition resin releases. No doubt this product will be as hot as the weather this summer.

## 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](http://www.austinamps.org)