



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2022



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PAINTING TRACKS & WHEELS ON A COMPLETED MODEL

by Bob Bethea

Most logical modelers when building their tank kits engineer their completed sets of tracks so that they can be painted separately from the tank and added AFTER the tank is constructed and fully painted. That is fine, but I find that process to be above my engineering skills. Also I notice gluing painted parts can be extremely weak and subject to failure (unless they are Fruil tracks). I hate building white-metal tracks and usually prefer plastic single link or link-and-length provided with the kit.

A lazy modeler like me prefers to build the ENTIRE kit with strong joints and THEN paint the whole kits as one piece.

This method tests your painting skills rather than engineering skills. Most tank modelers like their tanks weathered to look realistic. Weathering also minimizes the need for perfect differentiation between the colors of the track and of the tank, so it can cover less than perfect brush work.

The procedure I use starts with a black primer over the completed lower hull, including wheels and tracks. The lower hull and wheels are airbrushed with the tanks basic color with highlights. Don't worry about overspray on the tracks as we'll clean that up next.

As tracks in use usually show some rust, I next airbrush Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown (a light red brown) CAREFULLY over the track where they are visible.

Application should be somewhat haphazard to allow a lot of the black



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ August 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 17 - *SuperCon 2022*, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington, TX
- ◆ Oct 1 - *Capital Classic 2022*, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ Oct 5 - 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 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

Greetings! I hope all is well with our members and their families. Susan and I made it to 2022 IPMS/USA Nationals (Nats) in Omaha and other points further north of the state of Nebraska. One of my goals is to visit all forty eight states in the continental United States. On this trip we added five more (eight left to go).

Our goal at this year's Nats was to observe how the Omaha club ran the door prize and raffle booth. Susan and I plan to shamelessly copy what they did. We also noticed the Nats contest had a group build category that may be suitable for our USMC collection. I'll have to find out more from Tom Moon, the contest contact person for the next year's Nats at San Marcos.

At the Nats one surprise development was that we met a vendor there raising money for the Ukrainian

War Relief. In talking to him I mentioned that the camp that Susan had helped fundraising for is now being used to house Ukrainian refugees. He then asked Susan about her contacts in Romania. To shorten the story, the camp received a donation of \$777 from this vendor, and the money was used to purchase food for the refugees.

After the conclusion of the Nats, we traveled to North Dakota. While there, we experienced a brutal high temperature of 82°! As we departed for Mount Rushmore, the temperature had cooled down a bit to 53°! We also experienced some water drops falling from the sky. We forgot what it was called...



While at Mount Rushmore, Susan and I took a helicopter ride. Even though I was in the front seat, the pilot, an officer in the North Dakota National Guards, insisted that he would do all the flying. Nevertheless, he was a pretty cool dude.

As a final plug, we still have a few shows in Texas for the rest of 2022. The Capital Classic at the Travis County Expo Center on October 1st is one of them. If you can add to our anti-aircraft collection, please let Eric know.

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

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President





U.S. M3 Lee/Grant

The tank I decided to feature for our August centerfold is the M3 Lee/Grant tank. Although this tank will not likely make anyone's list as the best tank of World War II, it did serve as a critically needed weapon system as the U.S. entered the war.



Chrysler Plant (Wikipedia)

I recently viewed a History Channel video posted on YouTube. It told of how our country's government had created policies unfavorable to big business before WWII. When the attack at Pearl Harbor led our nation into the war, restrictive regulations had to be lifted, and the big business folks created an incredible system of mass production.

Simple designs helped mass production. The Lee tank was relatively easy to produce in large numbers. While the war in Europe established that the pre-war standard of a 37mm anti-tank main gun was obsolete, yet in the U.S. it took a while to develop the ability to mount a larger gun in a revolving turret.



Grant & Lee (Wikipedia)

With these factors in play, it was decided that the Lee tank would have a side-mounted 75mm gun in addition to the turret-mounted 37mm. Even as the Lees and Grants were rolling off the production lines, the Sherman was in development to replace the M3 medium tank.



A Lee tank In Tunisia (Wikipedia)

The Grant version of the M3 was developed to meet British specifications. A large portion of our tank production was being shipped to British forces in North Africa. In some ways the Lees and Grant did match up well with German armor. However, once the Afrika Korps started being armed with improved Mk.IV tanks, and even some Tigers, the M3 was clearly outclassed.

After the conclusion of the North Africa campaign, the Lee and Grant tanks were withdrawn from front line service against the Germans. Yet this tank had a new lease of life in the China-Burma-India theater against the Japanese. At that point in history, it was still useful against the Japanese army.

Sahara starring Humphrey Bogart as Sgt. Joe Gunn, a tank commander fighting in North Africa.



A British Lee in Burma



(Editor: A remake of that movie, also titled *Sahara*, came out in 1995. This time it features James Belushi as Sgt. Gunn!)



The Lee tank was also sent to the Soviet Union under the lend-lease program. Of the 1,300 shipped, just under 1,000 arrived due to U-boats attacks.

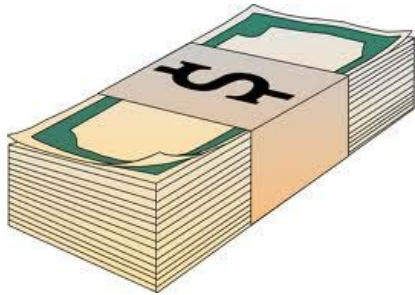


Soviet Lees at the Battle of Kursk

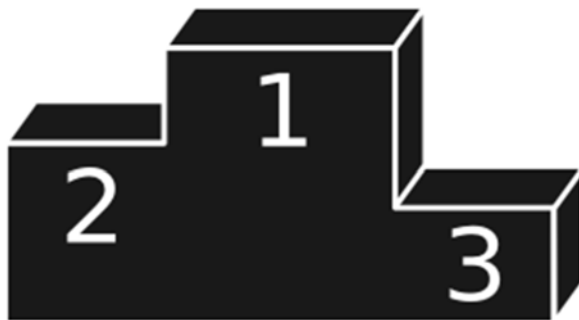


Field Marshal Montgomery's Command Tank in North Africa (Wikipedia)

Some M3s also made their ways into Hollywood. A Lee tank "Lulubelle" was featured in the 1943 movie



OR



Quarterly Contest Coming Next Month!

The theme of our next quarterly contest in **September** is the ongoing **War between Ukraine and Russia**. Let's see some Javelin actions against evil Russian 'Z' machines!!!



To enter in our quarterly contest, you must be a member in good standing (i.e. you need to pay your 2022 dues!!!) The prize for the first place winner is USD \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of a "very nice kit" (TBA).

There is no limit to how many model you enter as long as your entry wasn't placed in our previous quarterly contests.



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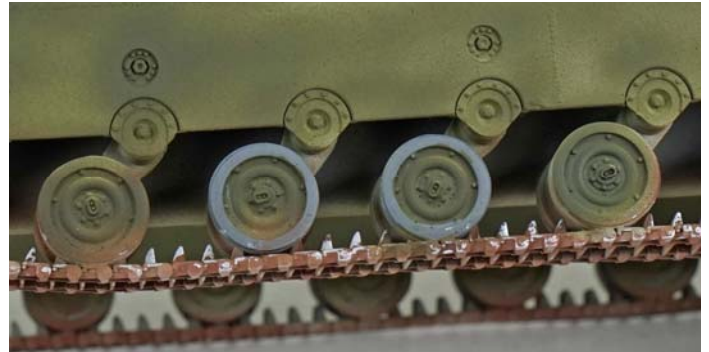


shadowing to show through. This is when we address the overspray.

Next, I brush paint the rubber tires with a brownish medium gray. Look at real tanks and photos of them:



Tires start black but immediately fade with use and weathering. Again, a little overpainting onto the wheels can be address by brush painting the original tank color on errors.



The last part is irregularly drybrushing Scale75 Heavy Metal, a steel color, onto the track faces, the visible guide horns and on the teeth of the drive sprockets.

Weathering follows which blends the various parts into a cohesive whole. Filters and pastel dust applied to both the tank and the base hide a lot of painting imperfections a make the project a more complete historical reproduction of the real vehicle.

Bob

AMPS Boresight (Volume 30, Issue 4)

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

- ◆ **The Best of Luchs** by Bruce MacRae
- ◆ **O Sprue Brothers, Where Art Thou** by Editor and Richard Kern
- ◆ **Book Review: English Sources on Japanese Armor** by Steven Andreano
- ◆ **A Long Overdue Kit Review of Tamiya's 1/48th Scale Churchill Crocodile** by Eric Choy
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



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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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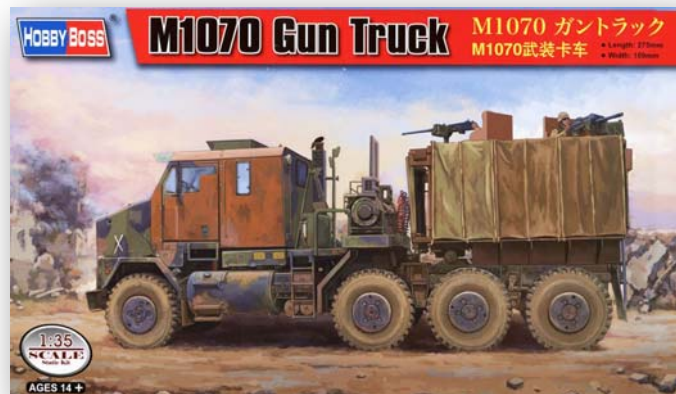
NEW ON THE BLOCK



Talk about getting a buzz from buzz bombs... Takom just released two 1/35th V-1 Flying Bomb kits: one with interior and another with launch rail (above photos).



Amusing Hobby's 1/35th Caernarvon is a model of an up-gunned Centurion that took part in the heavy tank selection trial in the 1950s. Deemed too costly to produce, the Conqueror (FV214) was chosen instead.



Hobby Boss continues its 1/35th M1080 series with a new gun truck version.

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