



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2022



## Building A Battle Damaged Stucco Wall

by Kevin Hutchison

I have always admired dioramas with well built and destroyed buildings. I have spent more than a few hours trying to crack the code of building realistic buildings. After countless attempts, hours of "YouTubing," and a few lucky mistakes, I think I have an easy way to replicate a battle damaged stucco wall. Here is what I have come up with.

You will need a few basis and easy to get materials (**Photo 1**). The basis are a scale, fine line marker, sharp razor knife, adhesive backed cork sheet, lightweight spackle (stucco), sheet



styrene plastic, and a few craft sticks. The only tricky item to find might be the adhesive backed cork. I found it at my local Dollar Tree store, but it is also available at arts and craft places like Hobby Lobby, Michael's, or JoAnn's. A few other useful items would be some wax paper, a rolling pin (or round dowel rod), and a large soft paintbrush.

The first step is to figure out the basic size and shape of your wall and cut it

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 3 - **AABS Xmas Party**
- ◆ Dec 7 - **AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ Jan 4, 2023 - **AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ Jan 21, 2023 - **WinterBlitz 2023**, Museum of the American GI, College Station
- ◆ Feb 1, 2023 - **AABS Club Meeting**



### AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

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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 Bird              | Ted Andreas, Jr.   |
| December*    | Mike Maloney           | Kevin Hutchison    |
| 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. At times it seems like winter is close by as we are about to bid farewell to 2022. Certainly, times have not been quite the same since the pandemic, but this past year was not so bad, for the most part. At one point it appeared that we had a long-term solution to where we can gather for our meetings. Suddenly, that changed. It is a thankful thing that Eric Choy is ever diligent in keeping an eye out for a place where we can assemble.

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. For those interested, the Cowboys won their traditional match-up. For those who could care less, they still won a game. Whether you follow football games or not, try to get some modeling time for our USMC collection during the holidays. We should be able to come up with some very interesting pieces!

Kudos to our club's secretary **Ted Paone** for his featured AFV from last month! His completed model should make a good start for the club collection that will win honors for us.

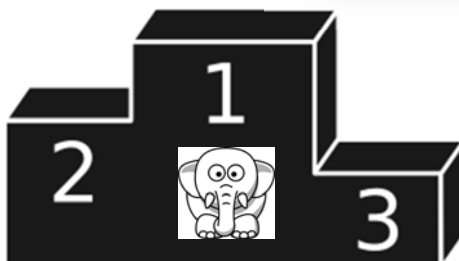
Next month we will have officer elections, and we will be collecting club dues again for the new year. Wow! This year has gone by fast, or so it seems.

In conclusion, you all make our club one of the best. See you at the next meeting. Merry Christmas!

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President



OR



## DECEMBER Is Quarterly Contest Month!

**B**ring in your completed **White Elephant (WE) Model** this month to win either **\$40** cash prize or the drawing of Tamiya's latest **1/35<sup>th</sup> A34 Comet** kit. Any contestant, aside from the cash prize winner, who enters his completed WE kit is eligible for the drawing.

There is also a separate "**naked category**" for those built but not painted WE models. The first place winner will receive a cash price of **\$20**.



## Cruiser Tank Cromwell

The final featured AFV for this year is the British Cruiser tank Cromwell (A27M) tank. Over 3,000 Cromwells were manufactured, and it first saw action during the Normandy invasion in June of 1944.

Firefly tanks would, for the most part, supplement British units equipped primarily with the Cromwell for the duration of World War II. This was true even though the Comet tank (A34) would in part improve the anti-tank capability of the similar Cromwell.

The British armored divisions that fought in the Normandy campaign would equip their reconnaissance units with the Cromwell. However, only the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division would be fully equipped with Cromwells.



Wikipedia image



Memorial for the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division (Wikipedia)

Equipped with a powerful engine by Rolls Royce, the Cromwell had the best combination of speed and armor protection for British tanks up to this point in time. In combat it was comparable to the Sherman but was faster and more maneuverable. It also had the advantage of a lower silhouette. However, the Sherman could be modified to carry a 17lb gun for conversion to a "Firefly." Early attempts to place the more effective gun on the Cromwell failed as the turret ring was not large enough.



Compliments of Wikipedia

Whenever the tactical situation allowed for the Cromwell to use its speed and maneuverability to full



On the move in NW Europe (Wikipedia)

advantage, it could achieve excellent results. As already mentioned, its 75mm main gun was nowhere near as powerful as the 17 pounder.

Like the Sherman, better designs eventually replaced the Cromwell. Nevertheless, also like the Sherman, a

would soldier on well after WWII in the Korean War and the Arab/Israeli War of 1948.

Ted



*(Continued from page 1)*

out of your styrene (**Photo 2**). Next, decide where your windows and doors (if any) are going to be located. For this demo, I opted for two windows and one door.

After marking their locations, I cut the windows and door out, saving the material cut from the door for later use to construct the actual door (**Photo 3**). The next step is to trace out where you want the exposed bricks to show through your wall (**Photo 4**).

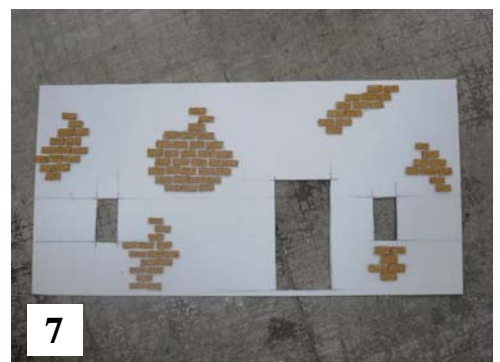
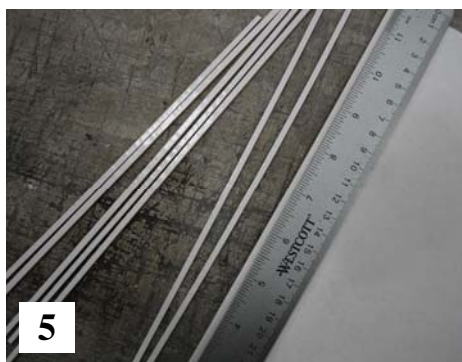
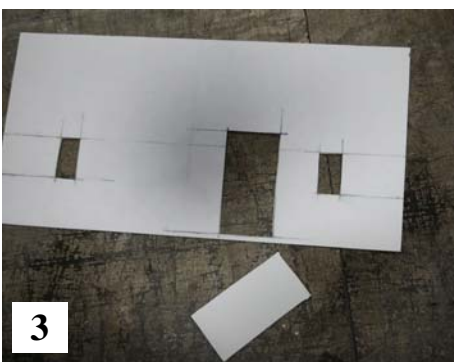
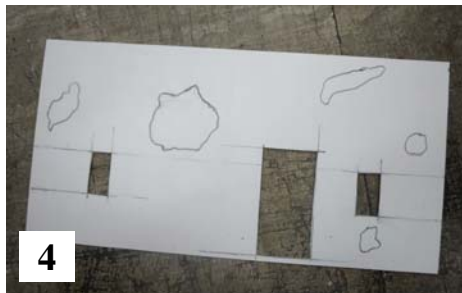
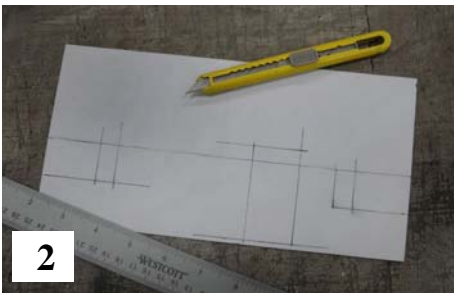
It's time to start cutting your bricks. I find that the texture of cork is a great simulation of actual brick texture, saving you time and effort in this step. The cork has a slick paper backing that is hard to draw on. So if you want to draw grid lines to help you cut your bricks, you will need to draw directly on the cork. I chose to "wing it" and cut my bricks by eye, a

technique that takes a little practice but can produce good results if you take your time.

First I cut long strips of cork, then cut those strips into individual bricks (**Photo 5 and 6**). Be sure to cut lots of extra bricks. They will come in handy later and give you lots of choices for the next step.

Sticking your bricks in place comes next. Using your layout, you want to carefully place the bricks and keep small spaces in between them to simulate mortar lines. This step takes a little practice getting the spacing correct. If you don't get it right the first time, you can always peel up the bricks and try again (**Photo 7**).

Now that you have your exposed bricks in place, you can fill in the rest of your wall with solid cork to bring everything up to the same thickness. You can



use the extra bricks as well as extra strips and uncut cork to fill in as much as you can (**Photo 8, 9 and 10**). Bringing the entire wall up to the same thickness will save you time and frustration when you start to coat your wall with stucco, so take your time on this step and get it right.

Next you will want to paint your bricks. This is the easiest part of the entire process. I usually mix three or four shades of my base brick color and randomly paint my bricks. Being careful not to fill in the mortar lines, they will be colored when you wash the entire wall (**Photo 12 and 13**).

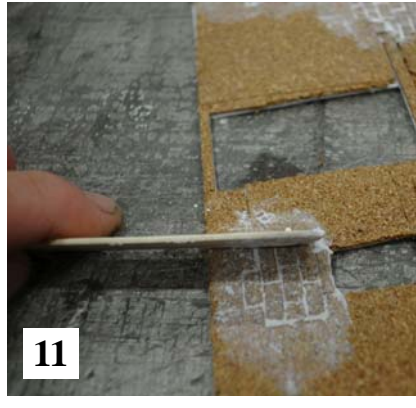
Now that you have your wall ready to stucco, you need to seal it before you start that step. I have learned (the hard way) that the adhesive they use on the cork doesn't like any kind of moisture. So sealing the entire wall with an acrylic flat varnish solves that problem. Your wall is now ready to coat with stucco.

The first thing you want to coat with your stucco are the exposed bricks. This will give you the mortar lines in between the bricks (**Photo 11**).

After the brick's mortar lines are filled in, I give that time to dry, usually overnight. If you need to speed this up, you can use a hair dryer. After your mortar lines are dry, you can start coating the main areas of the wall. Using your craft stick, apply a thin even coat of stucco over the remaining parts of the wall, keeping it as smooth as you can. It will take between two and three thin coats to build up the desired thickness (**Photo 14**).

Painting the wall with your base color is next. I chose a golden yellow color (**Photo 15**) for my base stucco color. I was careful (for the most part) not to get that base color on to the exposed bricks After the base coat had dried, I gave the entire wall a black wash, using a very thinned black acrylic paint. During this step, I paid special attention to the mortar lines and washed them to a nice gray color.

After that base coat and wash had dried, I used my airbrush to highlight the exposed brick areas. If you want to put blast holes in your exposed bricks, now is the time to do it. I made these holes with a simple razor knife. Try and make the holes from the front so





that the bricks chip naturally (**Photo 16**). With your holes made, I outlined the exposed bricks with a thin layer of black paint. I applied this black layer in thin layers. Be sure not to over do it. A little touch up painting, trimming the windows and doors, and you are ready to bring out the details of your wall.

If you would like to see that process, let me know and I can do a part two on finishing out your wall.

**Kevin**



## A Note From Our Friend Terry Lowman...

*Howdy,*

*So today is the day after mid-term elections and still awaiting crucial outcomes here in AZ. This past Saturday was the IPMS annual show and contest in Phoenix. I had several tables in a vendors room and entered three models in the Tracked Vehicles, 1939-45 category. One was an M3 Stuart tank in Canadian markings, and the others were old Italeri German kits: 38(t) and a Panzer I Command tank converted to an ambulance with plated over machine gun position. The category had to be split to German tanks and all others. I got a third place with the ambulance by beating a slew of newer Panthers and Tigers kits... Oh my!*

*Sales were good, and I picked up some nice kits. A blessed day overall.*

*Please tell all hello and hope everyone is doing fine.*



**Terry**

SECOND ANNUAL  
**WINTERBLITZ**  
★ 2023 ★

JAN  
**21<sup>ST</sup>**

**THEME:  
1943 - THE  
TURNING  
POINT**

**MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN GI  
19124 HWY 6 COLLEGE STATION TX, 77845**

**2023 CATEGORIES**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 100 - Youth (all scales all eras)  | 1200 - Paper Panzer/Fictional (all scales)                                    |
| 200 - Classic Kits – (kits before 1979) basic build  | 1300 - Halftracks (all scales and all eras)                                   |
| 300 - Artillery (all scales and all eras)  | 1400 - Armored Cars (wheeled) (all scales and all eras)                       |
| 400 - 1/48 scale (all eras)  | 1500 - Soft-skins (all scales and all eras)                                   |
| 500 - 1/72 and smaller (all eras)  | 1600 - Motorcycles with or w/o Sidecars (all scales and all eras)             |
| 600 - Fully Tracked Origins to 1934 – (all scales)   | 1700 - Misc. Military Vehicles and Support Vehicles (all scales and all eras) |
| 700 - Fully Tracked Self-Propelled Vehicles 1/32 and 1/35 (Open Top) (all eras)                | 2000 - Fully Tracked Full Interior (all scales and all eras)                  |
| 800 - Fully Tracked WWII Axis 1/32 and 1/35 (Closed top)                                       | 3000 - Larger than 1/32 (all eras)  |
| 900 - Fully Tracked WWII Allied 1/32 and 1/35 (Closed top)                                     | 4000 - Friend or Foe (all scales and all eras)                                |
| 1000 - Fully Tracked Post WWII Thru 1990 (Korea, Vietnam, Cold War) 1/32 and 1/35 (Closed Top) | 5000 - Military figures (all scale scales and all eras)                       |
| 1100 - Fully Tracked Desert Shield to Present. (1991 - 2022) 1/32 and 1/35 (Closed Top)        | 6000 - Dioramas (all scales)  |

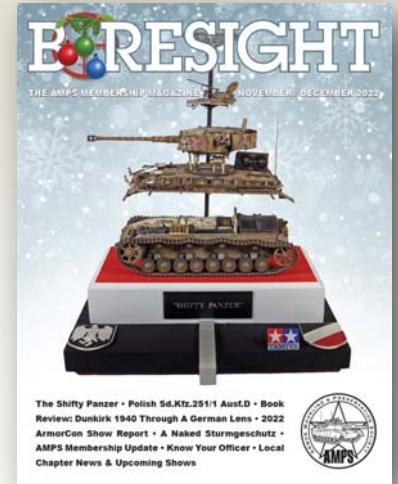
**WWW.WINTER-BLITZ.COM**



## AMPS Boresight (Volume 30, Issue 6)

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

- ◆ **AMPS Membership Update** by Brian Eberle
- ◆ **“How To” Topics Polling for AMPS 2023 Seminars** by Brian Eberle
- ◆ **Polish Sd.Kfz.251/1 Ausf.D** by Tim Darrah
- ◆ **The Shifty Panzer** by Cesar “Manny” Rodriguez
- ◆ **Book Review: Dunkirk 1940 Through A German Lens** by the Editor
- ◆ **2022 ArmorCon** by Chuck Aleshire
- ◆ **A Naked Sturmgeschutz** by Tom Gannon
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Oh, my! Thirty (30) people (members and their families) showed up at this year's AABS Christmas party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>! This has to be a record in our books!



2022 AABS Member of the Year: Mike Bird

As usual, the White Elephant Gift Exchange was the highlight of the evening. Most, if not all, of us were



happy with our gifts. Now we just need to get busy and finish these kits before next December.

Congratulation is in order to new member **Mike Bird** for winning our Member of the Year award with his near-perfect attendance in 2022 and his “sacrifice” as the coordinator of our USMC vehicle collection for the upcoming 2023 IPMS Nats at San Marcos. Way to go, Mike!

# Gifts of Christmas Past

Time to get cranking for our last quarterly/White Elephant Contest to be held at our December meeting on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. In case you have forgotten what you received in our past Christmas parties, here are photos from:

2021:



2020:





2019:



2018:





# JOIN AMPS TODAY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>MEMBERSHIP TYPES</b>   | <b>1 Year</b>                     | <b>2 Year</b>                   | <b>3 Year</b>                    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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.



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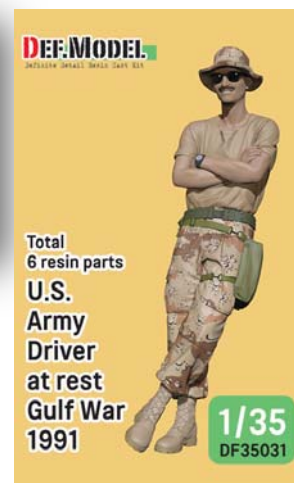
All payments must be made in U.S. funds. **AMPS** accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal. To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)

## New On The Block



Just in time for this Xmas are Takom's 1/16<sup>th</sup> Panzerjäger I B w/ 7.5cm L/48 and 1/35<sup>th</sup> Bundeswehr VT 1-2. Both were one-of vehicles made by Germany during WWII and the Cold War.



**T**alk about seeing double... Trumpeter's new 1/35<sup>th</sup> MB L4500A w/5cm FlaK 41 comes in two configurations: open (top) and close (bottom) cabin.

**F**or braille scale modelers into "large" subjects, Trumpeter has just scaled its Soviet-era 9K52 Luna-M (Frog-7) tactical nuke down to 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale.

If you need a cool figure to go with your Gulf War (1990-91) vehicle/diorama, DEF.Model has a new 1/35<sup>th</sup> US Army driver for you.

### 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)