



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

January 2023



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DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

by Mike Maloney

There are plenty of wonderfully built tank kits with very little to major damage to the model depicted. As of late I have noticed one small detail has been overlooked by many modelers (myself being one): the wear and tear on the rubber blocks of the track links and the rubber rimmed roadwheels.

Armor weighs a lot, and that weight transfers down to the roadwheels and tracks. They take the brunt of damage from the terrain they travel on. Any rock or foreign object that is stronger than rubber will nick and chip the rubber portions of the wheels and tracks. Debris will get caught between the roadwheels and tracks and of



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Jan 4, 2023 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 21 - WinterBlitz 2023, Museum of the American GI, College Station
- ◆ February 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 11 - Modelfiesta 41, New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels
- ◆ March 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ March 11 - KC CON, First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, MO



AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Jan 2023

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 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney
February	TBA	TBA
March*	TBA	TBA
April	TBA	TBA
May	TBA	TBA
June*	TBA	TBA
July	* KIT AUCTION *	TBA
August	TBA	TBA
September*	AMPS Judging Review	TBA
October	TBA	TBA
November	TBA	TBA
December*	TBA	TBA
January 2024	TBA	TBA

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. Mike Maloney's article for January is due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! I hope all is well with our members and their families. As I am writing this article, we have 13°F of cold weather outside. The wind chill brings it below zero. However, by the time this column gets published in the newsletter, we will probably be unseasonably warm. Oh well, what can I say about Texas weather!

Just before Christmas, Susan and I made it to Fredericksburg to enjoy the lights in the city park. We could have had German style cuisine but instead went to Mamacita's Mexican Restaurant. We highly recommend the place.

Hopefully, everyone had a great Christmas and stared off the New Year in good health. Susan and I lost our next-door neighbor just before Christmas. That was an unpleasant surprise. And it highlights we

probably take too much for granted. He had just returned from a cruise and had another one planned for the summer of 2023.

Elections are to be held at our meeting in January. I am looking forward to that. I believe we have some good candidates who are ready to serve.

We are fortunate to have **Mike Bird** at the helm with the USMC project. Let us support him with our best efforts.

Anyway, Happy New Year! Our members make this one of the best clubs around anywhere. Thanks for all you do.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



It is club dues time again. At our December meeting the membership voted in favor of raising our annual dues slightly to counter recent inflation. Dues is now **\$15** (instead of \$12).

Due to the library's "no money exchange hands" policy, please send your dues by **PayPal** to **payaabs@gmail.com**. Be sure to use the "Send Money to Friends/Family option" to avoid PayPal surcharge (or add a \$1 processing fee if you can't find that option.)

For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive, Austin TX 78729

Please make your payment payable to "**AABS**." **DO NOT** send cash by mail!



Tank Destroyer Marder III

Up to now the AFVs that I have featured were all traditional tanks with a revolving turret and fully tracked. For this first month in 2023, I have decided to feature something a little different. My selection is the German *Marder III*.

As mentioned in previous features, the Germans started off with great success in the early stages of *Operation Barbarossa*. However, they soon found out that the Soviets had better tanks than those being used by the German army.

Berlin! We have a problem!

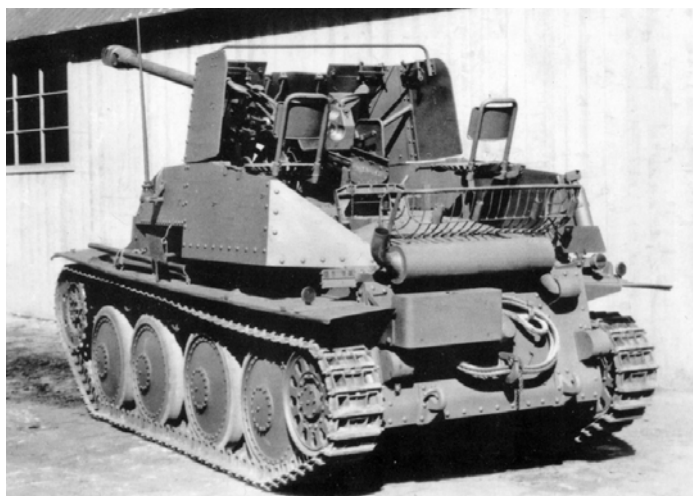
At the time the main anti-tank gun being used by Germany was a 37mm gun. It was almost useless against Russian KV-1 and T-34 tanks. Fortunately, for the Germans, they were able to capture a large number of Russian 76.2mm field guns that also made effective anti-tank weapons.



By using captured Russian guns, designated as *PaK36r*, with the chassis of the now obsolete *Panzer 38(t)*, the initial *Marder* III*s were produced.

Production of this version of the *Marder III* started in April 1942. A total of 344 were produced. It was used mainly on the Eastern Front, although some of this version made it to North Africa.

The early production *Marder III*s kept the same basic chassis arrangement as the *38(t)*; the engine was located at the back of the vehicle. The turret and turret ring were removed and the replacement gun was fitted onto the chassis. The result was a high profile AFV with light armored protection for the crew from the side view and no top protection.



Rear view of the *Marder III*.

As more German 75mm *PaK40* anti-tank guns were produced, some were used to form the *Ausf.H* version of the *Marder III*. Like the version mounting the *PaK36(r)* gun, this version also kept the engine in the rear of the AFV.



Marder III Ausf.H version (Source: Wikipedia).

Production of the *Ausf.H* version began shortly after the initial *Marder III* production started and ran concurrently for part of its manufacturing span. A total of 275 *Ausf.H* *Marders* were built. It would be superseded by the *Ausf.M*, the final version.

The "M" model would have the engine compartment moved to the center of the AFV. The empty engine compartment would be rearranged to become the gun crew fighting station. This arrangement provided for a better center of balance and made a more stable firing platform. A total of 942 *Ausf.M Marder III*s were built.

*Marder III*s served on all fronts from 1942 to the end of the war. In February 1945, according to *Wikipedia*, 350 of them were still operational. The German Army (*Heer*), the *Waffen SS*, and the *Luftwaffe* ground units all used the *Marders*. It was operational in *panzer*, *panzergrenadier*, and infantry divisions.



Marder III Ausf.M version (Source: Wikipedia).

*Marder III*s would never be effective in the role of an assault gun or a tank replacement. It was an invention out of desperation after the shock of initial contact with Russian tanks like the previously mentioned types. *Marders* were useful in defensive roles, especially from ambush placements.



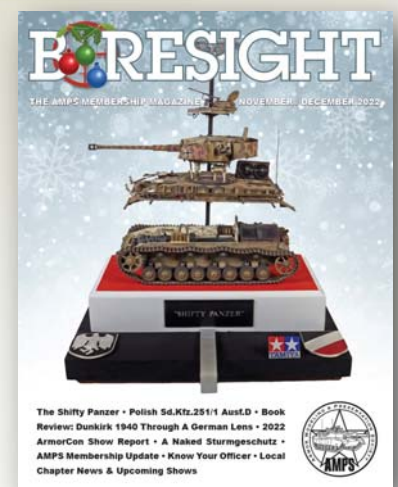
*Marder, German for marten, is a agile, short-legged, bushy-tailed, medium-sized carnivorous mammal in the weasel family. Largely nocturnal, they can be found in forests across the colder parts of the Northern Hemisphere (Source: Wikipedia).

Ted

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**



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course the tracks travel on the same. Even travelling on a hard paved road, an armor vehicle will get some sort of damage to the rubber pads of the tracks.

In combat, the road wheels and tracks will take the most damage as the ground surface is never the same, and hard debris like rocks are plenty. There will never be a combat-worn veteran tank with pristine roadwheels and tracks unless all were just replaced at the maintenance depot.



ROAD WHEELS

The chipping of the rubber on the road wheels can be quite easily replicated by using a hobby knife gently cutting out little nicks. Using a Dremel tool with a small round burr bit can also achieve the same results.



TRACKS

For plastic and resin track links, the effect can be brought about in the same manner as the roadwheels. Rubber band tracks, on the other hand, take a little more care. A hobby knife heated over a candle flame and gently touching the pads can result in decent looking nicks. A pair of nail cutters will work nicely too.

Scuffing of the pads can be achieved by sanding the pads with a very course sandpaper. The best results can be obtained when both techniques are used. Use what best works for you.



On rubber band track, I highly recommend experimenting first on the bottom side of the tracks (the area that will be touching the ground) so any effects that you are not happy with won't be seen.

Granted, it is a bit easier in 1/16th than 1/35th scale, but it can be done.

Mike

2022 White Elephant Contest Winner



Bob Bethea
"WWI German A7V"



Members Show & Tell

Ian Candler:

1. A34 Comet Cruiser Tank (Tamiya; work in progress)



2. Soviet Matilda (Tamiya; work in progress)



SECOND ANNUAL WINTERBLITZ 2023

JAN
21ST

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

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
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.



IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM TO:

AMPS

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DEPT.

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MOON TOWNSHIP, PA 15108-9998**



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

New On The Block



The latest 1/35th Churchill variant from AFV Club is the Mk.IV AVRE with Small Box Girder (SBG) bridge.



Hobby Boss also has a new 1/35th bridgelay out: it's a modern Bundeswehr Iguana PSB-2-28(m) AVLB.



Just like the real tank, Tiger Model's new 1/35th T-90M comes with RPG metal net to protect the lower part of the turret.



RFM has just released a 1/35th Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), the eventual replacement of HMMWV.



An unexpected release from Takom: M247 Sergeant York SPAAG 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