



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2023

Working With

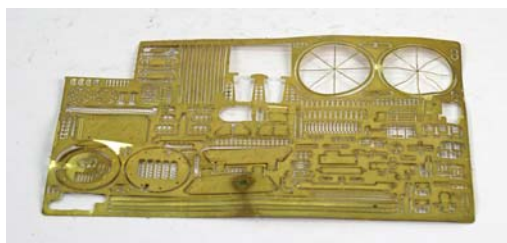
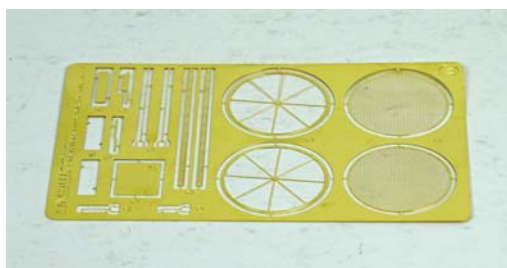
Photoetched Parts

## FOR MODELERS AFRAID OF PHOTOETCHED PARTS

by Bob Bethea

Many outstanding models that we have seen at model shows or on the Internet are basic kits enhanced with photoetched (PE) parts. In the past PE sets were mostly aftermarket upgrades offered by Eastern European cottage industries. Nowadays almost every kit that we buy come with some PE parts. Often intimidated by the vast number of tiny parts, many modelers give up on using them.

DON'T BE AFRAID! Rule number one for using PE is use ONLY the parts that matter to you. Never feel obligated to use everything on the fret, even when the kit-provided parts are more detailed. A good example is the PE grab handles that come with many sets as 2-D parts. Use wire which is 3-D and round like the real thing. Throw away the flat stuff. Depending on the type of metal and thickness, they can be very delicate and require extra care to handle.



Typical kit supplied PE fret (top) and aftermarket PE set (bottom).

PE parts are great for replicating engine grills and other thin details that are impossible to depict in plastic. Another fine attribute of PE parts is that they can be bent (or beat up) to show wear and tear or battle damage (e.g. *Shurtzen* on WWII German tanks). However, the teensy parts can definitely be fodder for the carpet monster. Many parts need to be folded which can also scare some of us. Some companies like Aber even go overboard in making WORKABLE tool clamps!

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ April 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ May 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ May 4 to 6 - 2023 AMPS International Convention, Camp Hill, PA
- ◆ May 6 - Modelmania 2023, Stafford Center, Stafford
- ◆ June 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 17 - OKC MetroCon 2023, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK



### AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

**Chris Chany**, President  
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**Eric Choy**, Treasurer  
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## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney
February	* Cancelled *	Eric Choy
March*	2023 Winterblitz Pix	Kevin Hutchison
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Martin Hebda	Greg Beckman
June*	Eric Choy	Martin Hebda
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Mike Bird
August	Mike Maloney	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Mike Maloney
October	Bill Menzie	Craig Bland
November	Glen Stevens	Kevin Hutchison
December*	Bill Zych	Chris Chany
January 2024	Chris Chany	Ted Paone

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*



**G**reetings and Happy April! I will not be at the meeting this month as I will be flying home from babysitting the grandsons in San Diego. So I am putting the meeting in our veep **Bob Bethea's** capable hands! Speaking of Bob's hands, he will be showing everyone how to use those hands to bend small little pieces of metal (photo-etched) parts.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> I went to the **Museum of the American G.I.** at College Station for its Living History weekend. I had never been, but had heard years ago that if you wanted to see a lot of tanks in motion, I should go. Well, it did not disappoint! The best part was watching the Ontos tear around the battlefield. If you have never been there, you should go!

While there, I took a few photos. First is a British Dingo Scout Car. The only time I had ever seen a Dingo is when I built the Tamiya kit many years ago.



Next we have the mandatory picture of a Sherman. Then we have our own **Mike Maloney** as a living historian (thanks for the passes, Mike!). AND since our



April meeting falls on the first day of Passover, we have a Jewish chaplain's Torah.

Finally, after 45½ years as a forensic scientist, I have retired on March 31<sup>st</sup>. One of the ladies I work with has connections in high places (her brother), and she gave me this retirement card...

Well, that is all for this month. See you all in May!

**Chris Chany**  
President



*AFF: All For Freedom, motto of USAF 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron.*



(Continued from page 1)

Folding PE parts is where most of us cringe and back off. There are multiple methods, some of which can be very time and effort consuming. Long folds are best done with a clamp-down tool and a razor blade to fold it up.



Tamiya makes a nice flat jawed pliers that works well on most smaller parts. I recently discovered by trial and error my new favorite method for folding: most PE parts have a slight scribed line where a fold should be made. A DULL X-Acto blade can be lightly



drawn along the scribed line two or three times to break the rigidity. Then press downward with the dull blade onto something soft, such as your hand. A perfect fold every time!

Annealing by passing the photoetched part over a flame such as a candle will soften the part, but be careful not to melt the metal or make it too soft. Its best use is when you need to roll the part into a cone or tube.

PE parts cannot be glued onto the model or onto each other with styrene cement. You must use epoxy, cyanoacrylate (superglue), or acrylic gel medium (e.g. Gator Grip.) Epoxy is too messy, and most superglue is too brittle. However, acrylic gel medium remains flexible when set, although it takes a long while to set. My go-to cement is Super Weld by JB Weld. It is a bit more flexible than most superglues; this can avoid the PE part from "pinging" off at the wrong moment.

A good coat of primer over the whole completed model with its PE parts already attached not only sets a great base for painting but also adds a second adhesive coating.

PE parts can add great detailing to models, but they can be intimidating to work with. Don't be afraid to use them. It's only a hobby, after all. Work smart, not hard.

**Bob**

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 31, Issue 2)

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

- ◆ **IS-7 Tank** by Eric Reinert
- ◆ **A Siege Gun Challenge** by Bob Bethea
- ◆ **AMPS 2023 International Convention Update** by Peter Espada
- ◆ **Americans in Wartime Experience 2022 Open House** by Thomas Dinackus
- ◆ **About Flaking Time!** by The Editor
- ◆ **Book Review: Weathering Pencil Techniques** by The Editor
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





## 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Contest Winner



**Bob Bethea**  
Cuban Comet Tank



It is club dues time again. At our December meeting last year, the membership voted in favor of raising our annual dues slightly to counter recent inflation. Dues are 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](mailto: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 check/money order payable to "AABS." DO NOT send cash in the mail!



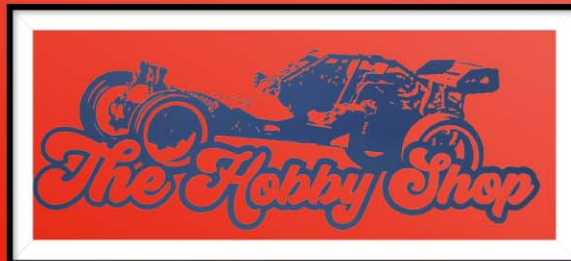
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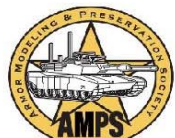


**Opening Hours**

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm



# AMPS 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



## The Pacific

### Armor From 1940 – 2023

May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Penn Harris Hotel

1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA

*Join Us To Celebrate Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*



## Members Show & Tell

**Stuart Wetterschneider:**  
Korean War USMC Jeep (Takom 1/16<sup>th</sup>)







## Eric Choy:

Diorama "Road Closed!" (Takom 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Soviet Object 279; this close 🍷 to finish!)



## Bob Bethea:

Battle of the Bulge Shadow Box (Tamiya 1/35<sup>th</sup> M18 Hellcat and US Infantry Scout Set, DML 1/72<sup>nd</sup> King Tiger, Coastal Kits Winter Forest background, and scratchbuild shadow box; work in progress)





**Greg Beckman:**

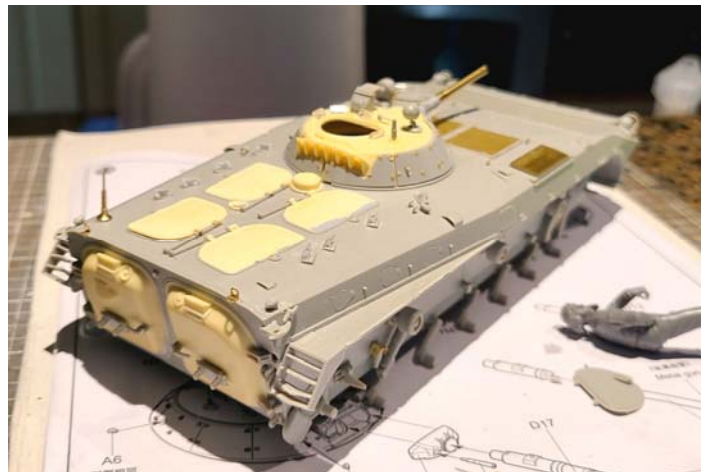
**1. War in Ukraine diorama (Trumpeter 1/35<sup>th</sup> T-80BVM)**



**2. War in Ukraine Russian 1V13M Battery Fire Direction Center Vehicle (SP Designs 1/35<sup>th</sup> full resin kit)**



**3. Ukrainian BMP-1 (Trumpeter kit with SP Designs resin updates; work in progress)**







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

# OKCMetroCon 2023

**Saturday, June 17th, 2023 9am-4pm**  
**Council Road Baptist Church**  
Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building  
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008

Theme:

## "Call Of TheWild"



MODELS PAINTS TOOLS ACCESSORIES ROCKETS

**STORE HOURS:**

**MONDAY:** 10:00 - 6:00  
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**WEDNESDAY:** 10:00 - 6:00  
**THURSDAY:** 10:00 - 6:00  
**FRIDAY:** 10:00 - 6:00  
**SATURDAY:** 10:00 - 6:00  
**SUNDAY:** 12:00 - 5:00

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**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)

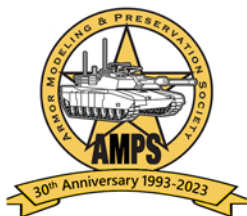
\*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.

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

**AMPS**

**ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DEPT.**

**P.O. BOX 807, 1140 THORN RUN ROAD  
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](http://www.amps-armor.org)

# New On The Block



Finally! A plastic M-84A in 1/35<sup>th</sup> from Amusing Hobby. Anyone modeling one in the First Gulf War (1990) or the Yugoslav War (1991-99) will be delighted.



Heavy Hobby of China just released a T34 "Calliope" Rocket Launcher add-on set. According to instructions, it will fit any 1/35<sup>th</sup> Sherman kit in the market.



Another popular modeling subject from Vespido Models: 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Royal Australian Armored Corps Centurion Mk.5/1 in South Vietnam. Be sure to get the "Deluxe Edition" as it comes with a 3-D printed mantlet canvas cover.



Need some surrendering Germans for your WWII diorama? Stalingrad's latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> figure set "I'll Question Him..." should come in handy.

## 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)