



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2023



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Time\$aver\$

The Value of Value Gear

By **Rick Herrington**

As model builders we're always looking for ways to save time and achieve awesome results. Recently I was introduced to **Value Gear** (www.valuegeardetails.com) products by **Bob Bethea**. If you're not familiar with the company, they make resin stowage for armor vehicles, although that's not all they do.

Anybody who has ever built an armor kit knows that to make the model look realistic, it needs a lots of crew stuff

hanging on it. As stowage is not usually provided with the kit, one has to spend time search through the parts box or pull out the A&B putty and start sculpting. Value Gear has a solution to this.

Value Gear produces stowage in four popular scales (1/16th, 1/35th, 1/48th and 1/72nd). It uses fine quality resin with sharp details. You probably ask how much is this going to cost? Value Gear is just what the name implies: each set ranges from 12 to 16 bucks.

The set I recently used (D26) was designed specifically for the DoMeLater (DML) 1/35th M26 Pershing kit, but it fits perfectly on the Tamiya kit also.

(Continued on page 3)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ July 31 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 2 to 5 - IPMS/USA National Convention, San Marcos Convention Center, San Marcos
- ◆ September 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 9 - SuperCon 2023, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington
- ◆ September 16 - AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2023, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown
- ◆ October 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ October 7 - Capital Classic 2023, Travis County Expo Center, Austin



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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

Happy Blue AABS Meeting! A blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month*. This July, because of the IPMS Nationals, we have a second AABS meeting! We will meet at the Austin Public Library Millwood Branch off Parmer and Amherst on **Monday July 31st** at 6:30PM. PLEASE bring your Marine Corps models for our entry at the IPMS Nationals. **Mike Maloney** will be giving our presentation this month.

Also on the last week of August (**20th to 26th**) is the **2023 National Model Railroad Association National Convention** at the **Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center** in Grapevine, TX. If you are looking for diorama materials, the National Train Show is well worth it.

Last month while we were babysitting the grandkids in California, we took them to see the *USS Midway*. I was able to find one armor related object on board. A tow tractor made from a Jeep!



Have a great weekend, and I'll see you all at the next meeting.

Chris Chany
President

**Editor: Our prez couldn't have picked a better time to mention a blue moon: one is due in our night sky on August 31st!*

(Continued from page 1)



1/35 M26 Pershing Stowage Set "D26" (For Dragon Kit)



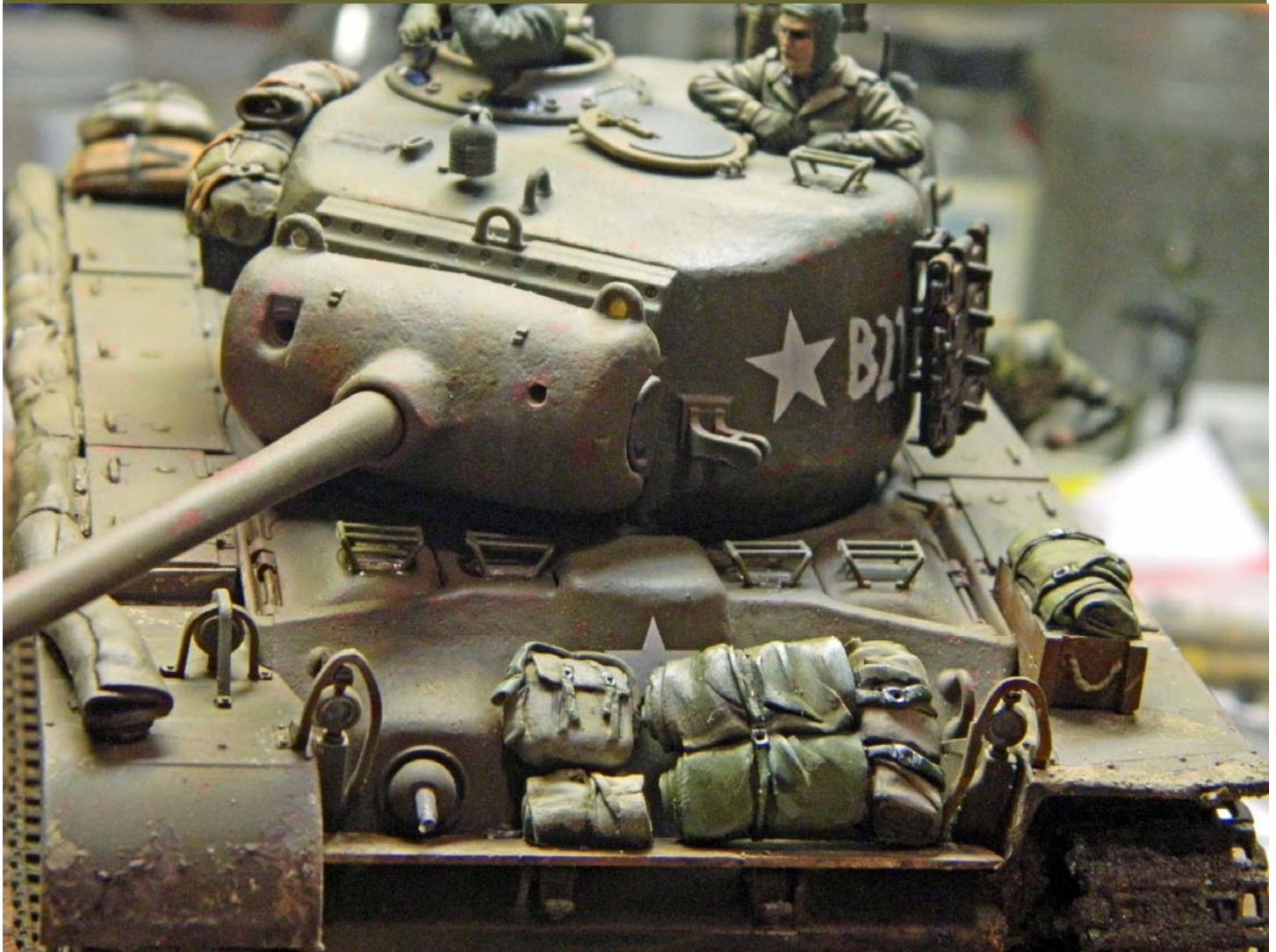
M26 Tank Not Included
VALLE
& GEAR

I used an airbrush to paint up most of the pieces after I had cleaned up the seams of which there were not many.

I highly recommend these gems. They can save you a great deal of time and help you make an awesome model.

Rick





AMPS Boresight (Volume 31, Issue 4)

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

- ◆ **Glory to the Heroes** by Greg Beckman
- ◆ **Modeling with Coffee** by Brian Eberle
- ◆ **The Battered Shermans of Bastogne** by John Kirkpatrick
- ◆ **Book Review: Dunkirk Evacuation Operation Dynamo** by the Editor
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



Show Theme:

U.S.M.C. Armor

2023
AMPS CENTEX
ARMOR EXPO
AN AMPS REGIONAL SHOW

September 16th, 2023

Georgetown Community Center
Georgetown, Texas

For more info, visit:
www.austinamps.org -or-
www.ampscentex.org

Contact show coordinator **Eric Choy**
(email: aabsco@gmail.com)



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Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm



AABS for AMPS @ IPMS Nats

A ABS editor **Eric Choy** and Secretary **Ted Paone** shared a quiet moment during IPMS Nats at San Marcos, TX. Being the nearest local chapter of AMPS in the area, our club volunteered to be the recruiter for our national organization with our T-54/55 model collection display (photo by Rick Herrington).

Among those who stopped by our table and helped out were AMPS

Prez **Mike Petty** and Master **Cesar "Manny" Rodriguez**. For many this was the first time our local members get to meet AMPS top guy and chat with a Master Modeler in person.

Many thanks to these AABS members who worked at the table during the Nats: **Mike Bird, Greg Beckman, Randy Bumgardner, Chris Chany, Eric Choy, John Hernandez, Kevin Hutchison, Ted Paone, and Bill Zych**.

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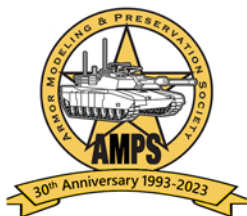
*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.

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

AMPS

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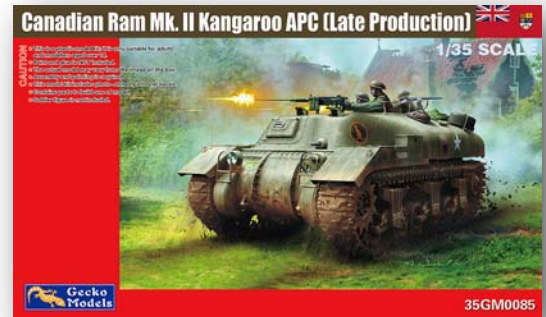
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www.amps-armor.org

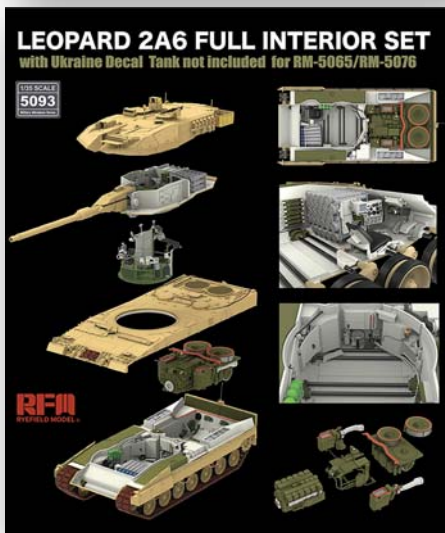
New On The Block



Soaring summer heat does not stop Border Model from releasing more kits! Its 1/35th Kugelblitz FlaK Panzer IV is due any day now.



Kangaroo was a Canadian generic term for APC converted from a tank chassis. There were Stuart (M3/5), Priest (M7), and even Churchill Kangaroos! Most Kangaroos that saw actions were RAM (Canadian M3 Lee) based. Gecko Models now has a kit of it in 1/35th.



Need some interior bits to show off the guts of Leopard? RFM now offers a 1/35th full interior set for its previously released Leopard 2A6 kits. The set also includes decal markings currently in use by the Ukrainian Army.



Sabre Model has a new JLTV out. Together with I♥Kit (Trumpeter) and RFM, there are now three different tooled 1/35th JLTV kits in the market!

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 at 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. Subjects of our interest range 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