



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2023



1/35th vs. 1/16th

By **Mike Maloney**

A while ago I was asked why I lately preferred 1/16th armor over 1/35th. At first I just shrugged my shoulders. But after some soul searching, I came up with a couple of reasons.

Firstly, let me explain there is nothing wrong with 1/35th armor. I know because I have plenty of them in my stash with plans of building them one of these days in one form or another. Aftermarket items in this scale abound in modifications from exterior to interior that can turn a basic build into a complicated never-ending project.

After doing my first scratchbuild vehicle in 1/16th a few months back, this scale

seems to be taking off with the releases of Classy Hobby's early and late M5A1 Stuarts, Das Werk's Panzer III and StuG III, and Trumpeter's King Tiger. I saw the potential for not only exterior detailing but superdetailing on the interior as well.

You may not realize but large scale modeling also demands a higher level of attention in the area of interior such as wiring and engine compartment. Also, modifications to change from the base kit to another variant involves going back to the "basics" of scratchbuilding, which I believe might be a lost art with the abundance of aftermarket in the smaller scales.

Secondly, with my arthritis and failing eyesight, 1/16th scale allows me to

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **November 1 - AABS Club Meeting**



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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

Well, it's September already and even in the Northeast the kids are back at school! I hope those of you that went enjoyed the IPMS/USA Nationals at San Marcos, TX. Preliminary figures are that there were over 3,100 models on the tables!

CONGRATULATIONS to our member **Mike Maloney** for his *Sturm Haubitze 42* which won the **The Large Scale Legion Award** for "Excellence in Large Scale Military Vehicles."

While our "USMC Vehicles" did not take home any awards, it was a very impressive display, and I want to thank all of you who make a contribution to our collection entry. Also, a big thanks goes out to our member **Kevin Hutchinson** for putting together the awesome model display stand!



Our USMC Vehicle Collection.



Mandatory Sherman photo!



Built by Robert & Bernard Kempinski. Bernard is also a Civil War Railroad modeler!



Star Wars AT-AT is also armor, right?

Also, congrats to **Greg Beckman** for getting his model on the cover of *AMPS Boresight*.

Our show is in the middle of this month (Sept 16th). Unfortunately, I will be up at my 50th HS reunion. At this month's meeting, we will be asking for volunteers to judge, work the registration tables, and the door prize table, etc. We will also have a review of AMPS judging rules and will be planning an evening to pre-judge some of the models!

See you all this Wednesday!

Chris Chany
President

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build what I really want to do the kits in my stash in the smaller scale without too much cussing (yeah, right) and aggravation.



As I write this, Das Werk's new 1/16th Sd.Kfz 251 Halftrack is on its way where I will do a slight conversion job to covert to the telephone cable laying variant (251/11).

If you ever had the thought of building a large scale kit, pick one up and give it a try. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Mike

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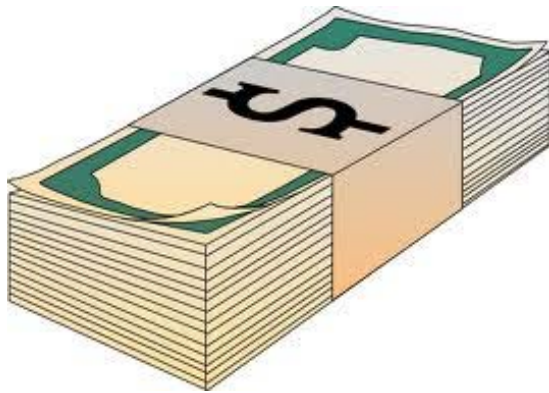
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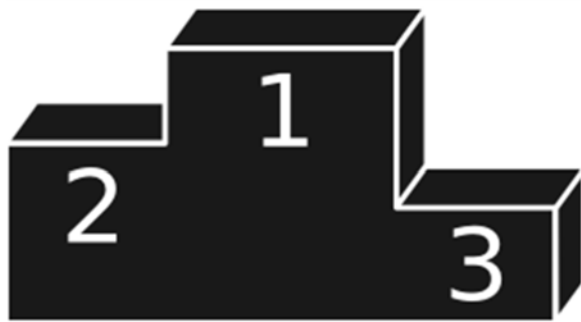
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OR



Quarterly Contest This Month!

Bring in your finished **Armor Classic Kit** (Monogram/Revell) model to enter our third quarterly contest of 2023!

To enter in any of our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing. i.e. You need to pay your 2023 dues!!!

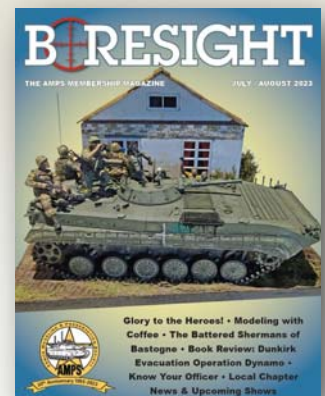
The prize for the first place winner is USD \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of CSM's latest 1/35th Italian armored car 1ZM.

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

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)



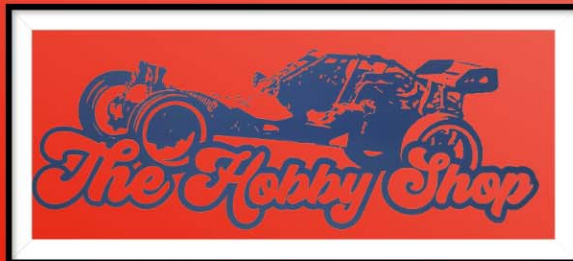
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Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
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*For 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.

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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Not one but two 1/16th scale Sd.Kfz. 251/D came to us in the last 30 days (top: Das Werk, bottom: Trumpeter). Can somebody (Maloney?) do a comparison review for us so we know which one to get?



Tamiya has re-released its 1/35th Type 16 MCV. This time it's the C5 version with a winch.



The origin of IJA 28cm howitzer L/10 is kind of convoluted. Designed by the British company Armstrong, the gun was produced by an Italian subsidiary in Osaka for the Italian Navy! Some 220 examples were procured by Japan for coastal defense. They also saw services during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) and WWII in China. Step aside Pit-Road! Border Model has just released its 1/35th version of the L/10.

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. 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