



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2023

## Saving Time at the Modeling Table...

By **Craig Bland**

**N**ot too long ago, I celebrated a birthday that a friend said it certified me as “older than dirt.” Okay, I’m now a REAL senior citizen, but what really got my attention was at the modeling table where my growing lack of organization was really getting in my way of enjoying this amazing hobby.

Like many of you, I’ve been at this hobby for dozens of years, spread across so many different eras and kits from cars, airplanes, boats, HO trains, and now armor and figures. My stash is now beyond stash. My tools, paints, and supplies has now become assortments and boxes of “WTF is that for?”

So, bear with me on three little projects that have really helped me get my modeling table together.

My first project was to minimize my confusing assortment of Vallejo, AK, Andrea Color, Scale75, and the other 17ml bottles of “just the right color” that I had to have. But all those little white caps all look the same, and the damn description of the colors are too small for my eyes.

So now when I must have the latest shade of *Olivgrun* 1944, I paint the top of the cap that color from the bottle. It takes a second or two to

squeeze a drop of color on the cap top, and using one of those cheap brushes I paint away, clean the brush, and paint the next cap.



Now I know the color (and shade!) that is in the bottle, and it’s easier to find in a drawer or on the paint shelf. This has saved me a lot of time, reduces duplicates, and my “go-to” paints are, well, easier to go to!



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Oct 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Oct 7 - Capital Classic 2023, Travis County Expo Center, Austin
- ◆ Nov 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 7 - **AABS Xmas Party**. Location TBA



### AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

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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

Congratulations are in order! The club ran another successful show! I'm sure Eric will have all the statistics for us at the club meeting. **Mike Maloney** was the show's biggest winner: his 1/16<sup>th</sup> scale StuG (see photo below) won the Best of Show award. **Frank Stumpo** of Houston took home the People's Choice award with his "Pour It On" diorama.

Kudos also to **Richard Kern** who entered the most (29) again this year. In fact, folks from Houston brought all together 90 entries, a little over 2.5 times of the Austin modelers and almost half of the total numbers of entries!



Best of Show judging by (left to right): Lonnie McIntosh, Bob Bethea, Ed Rains, and Bill Zych.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members who showed up at Eric's house to do prejudging. I believe a good time was had by all, and the food was very good. We appreciate all the volunteers that helped out at the show, especially **Ashley Candler** (Ian's wife) and **Amanda Bolinsky** (who works with Kevin Hutchison and Terri Couteau at WeLogoAnything). I'm sorry I couldn't be there as I had already made a commitment to attend my high school reunion. The biggest THANKS should go to Eric for all his work running another successful show!

I will not be at the meeting this month because I will be back up in New York for the wedding of my nephew and godson. It's **Bill Menzie** turn for a presentation.

Don't forget ASMS 2023 Capital Classic is on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Travis County Expo Center. The doors open at 9AM.

See you in November!

**Chris Chany**  
President



## Quarterly Contest Part Deux!

**B**ring in your finished **Armor Classic Kit (Monogram/Revell)** model to enter the part deux of 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 CSM's latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> Italian armored car 1ZM.



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TABLETOP GAMES PUZZLES CHESS RPGS CCGS

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My second time-saver is a little more involved. But it's worked so well for me that I've made three of them.

I literally have two large kitchen drawer dividers full of emery boards, sanding sticks, sand paper, and sanding tools. Most of which I haven't used in months (years?) and are cluttering my work area. I recently bought a new re-chargeable toothbrush, retiring my old Oral-B brush. The Oral-B has a circular oscillating head. I noticed that if I cut all those little brush thingies off the head, it might make a neat little sander. So, I cut the brushes all the way down to the plastic, then sanded those down as far as possible for a smooth base.



I then ordered from **Micro-Mark (micromark.com)** **Sanding Pads** (15 of each shape in each package). There are separate packages for 180 grit, 240 grit, 400 grit at \$6.95 each. Note there are circular pads included but different shapes also. Obviously, the circular shape is the main one. They stick very well to the "bald" Oral B brush head.

I now have three re-chargeable brushes (with charging stands) on my table, each with its separate grit. This tool saves time (it's fairly fast, lasts a good time, and is easy to change pads), and I like the way

they work easily on my figures. I reduced my other sanding tools down to just one smaller kitchen divider. So if you've got an Oral-B in your bathroom that's a little worn, try "re-purposing" it for your modelling table. And new replaceable heads are available at Costco and Sam's. Easy-peasy.



Lastly, my recent transition to figure painting (thanks to **Bob Bethea!**) has made me search for a better way to hold the figures during assembly and painting. I tried clothes pins, cut dowels, even thread thimbles, and small alligator clips. For me, these didn't quite do the trick. A friend asked me to paint a WW2 US GI for him but I couldn't find a base that I use to hold the figure and serve as a decent display base.

One day while at Hobby Lobby looking a potential diorama bases, I noticed a bag of "Woodpile Fun" one-inch cube (16 in a bag) for \$4.49. I bought a bag, and when I got



home, I drilled a small hole off center, then drilled a same size hole in the bottom of foot (no harm was done to the figure during this procedure...). A small florist green wire was cut and inserted in the foot, glued, then inserted into the block. For me, this block makes it easy to hold and paint the figure, set it



down, and best of all, it looks nice as a semi-finished/semi polished display base when the figure was finished.

If I need to airbrush or spray the figure while it's pinned to the block, I take a piece of card, slice it to cover the block but not interfere with the paint application. That finished figure and simple little wooden block has led me to do all my figures this way.

I hope these little ideas help you as much as they did for me. Now, about that stash that's beyond stash...

**Craig**



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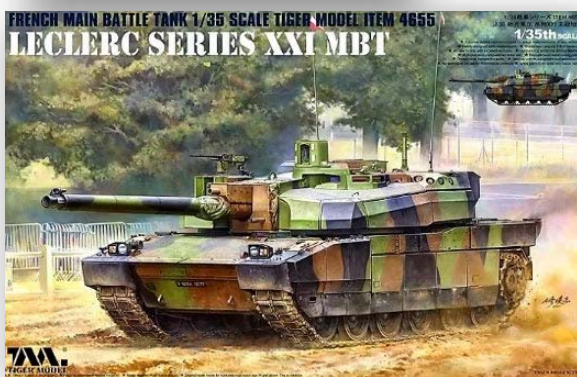
## NEW ON THE BLOCK



Heavy Hobby has two new RP-3 "Tulip" 3-inch rocket accessory kits out for 1/35<sup>th</sup> British M4 Sherman and Cromwell Cruiser tank. Both kits are not kit specific, so they should fit almost any Sherman or Cromwell kit on the market.



Something weird is happening... Tamiya has gone back to making 1/35<sup>th</sup> livestock again! The original set (#1) was released in 1984, and now set #2 is out almost 40 years later. The new set has no chicken this time, but it has sheep!



Tiger Model has released the latest French Leclerc Series XXI MBT in 1/35<sup>th</sup> 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. 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](http://www.austinamps.org)