



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2023



DRILL OUT THAT BARREL!

By **Chris Chany**

This article came about when I was building the German SdKfz.232 8-wheeled armored car for the club's 1/32nd Monogram Classic Kit challenge. The model has a 20mm gun in the turret that is molded solid that I decided to drill out. First, I had to figure out what size drill bit to use. After converting 20mm to inches and then to scale inches, I determined the bit I needed was a 72. When I drilled out the barrel, the hole seemed a little small which leads me to believe that the barrel itself was molded larger than it should have been. I did not have an 88 drill bit to drill out the MG34, so I left it solid. This gave me the idea to look at what size drill bits are appropriate for the different calibers of weapons commonly used during WWII.



I also figured it would be easy to put a spreadsheet together not just for 1/35th (which is the scale I model) but for the other common modeling scales. On the following charts, please note that both the actual inches and scale inches are truncated at 4 decimal places. Most of the actual sizes of the drill bits do not match exactly to scale inches, so the nearest size drill bit was selected. Any empty cell on the chart means that the drill size is smaller than 0.0059" (0.1499mm).

	caliber		Inches Equivalent		Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size
					1/72		1/48	
NATO	5.56	mm	0.2189	in	0.0030		0.0046	
Warsaw Pac	7.62	mm	0.3000	in	0.0042		0.0063	96

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 3, 2024 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 20 - Winterblitz 2024, The Museum of the American GI, College Station
- ◆ Feb 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Feb 10 - Modelfiesta 2024, New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels



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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.

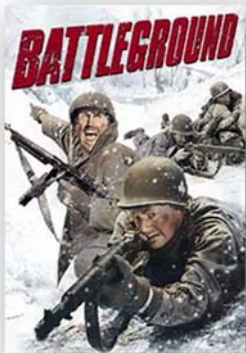
Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Mike Maloney's article for January is due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Well, it's December already! By the time you read this, our Holiday party will be over. I hope everyone who participated in the model swap got a kit they would like to build. This month's meeting you are all expected to bring in the model you got from previous Christmas parties. It should be built of course.



One of my favorite war movies is **Battleground!** Set during the Battle of the Bulge, it follows Item Company, 327th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne. Glider Regiments only had eight companies, so Item Company is fictitious. Shot in B&W with an all-star cast and some new faces that went on



Even before they arrive, a German propaganda leaflet welcomes them to Bastogne!

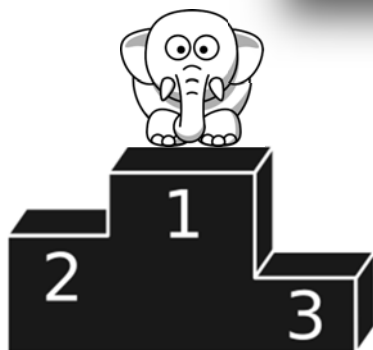
to become stars. It is a gritty portrayal of the siege of Bastogne. Van Johnson with his boy-next-door-looks plays the main character, a soldier just back from recuperating from a wound and looking forward to the three day pass he just got for Paris. However, his leave is cancelled, and he ends up with the rest of his unit at Bastogne. James Whitmore plays the grizzled sergeant whose military experience enables most of the men in the unit to survive the encirclement.

My two favorite scenes are the Christmas service where the chaplain gives a sermon using the common phrase from the American home front "Is this trip

(Continued on page 4)



OR



DECEMBER Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your completed **White Elephant (WE) Model** this month to win either **\$40** cash prize or the drawing of Das Werk's latest **1/35th Rammtiger** kit. Any contestant, aside from the cash prize winner, who enters his completed WE kit is eligible for the drawing.

There is also a separate "**naked category**" for those built but not painted WE models. The first place winner will receive a cash price of **\$20**.



(Continued from page 3)

necessary?" He tells the men "yes" and "don't let anyone ever tell you that you were a sucker to fight against fascism."

My other favorite scene is right at the end of the movie when the company is being relieved from the line. As they are marching along, their replacements are marching towards them. Even though they are war weary and bedraggled looking, they immediately dress up their ranks and get in step. "Pop" even puts his teeth in and starts a marching cadence!

The business portion of our December meeting should be short, and **Bill Zych** has our program. Hopefully there will be a lot of models on the table to talk about.

To everyone and their families I wish you a joyous Christmas, a Happy Channukah, and a Happy New Year. I will see you at the meeting, and if you're not there, I'll see you next year!!!!

Chris Chany
President

p.s. Since I wrote this column before our Christmas party, two things have come up. First, being a New Yorker, I always loved when it snowed, even though sometimes I did not love removing 22" of partly cloudy from the driveway and walkway! Here is why I loved snow:



It really does become a quiet and peaceful winter wonderland. Of course I can also

imagine Panthers and Shermans moving down this road...



The second thing that has come to my attention is that two people contacted me to tell me that they got partially started kits in the White Elephant Gift Exchange. If we are going to keep up this tradition, it behooves us to follow the guidelines!

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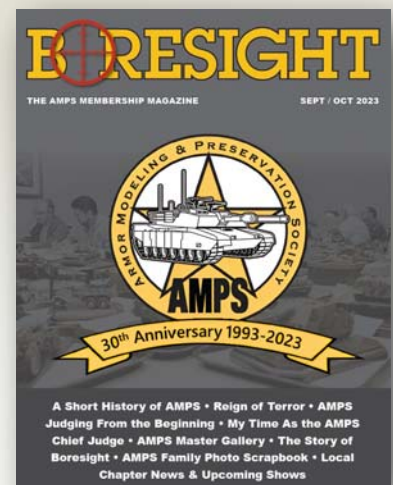
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AMPS Boresight (Volume 31, Issue 5)

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

- ♦ **A Short History of AMPS** by Cookie Sewell, Mike Petty, and Neil Stokes
- ♦ **Reign of Terror** by John Charvat
- ♦ **AMPS Judging From the Beginning** by Steven Andreano
- ♦ **My Time As the AMPS Chief Judge** by Mike Petty
- ♦ **AMPS Master Gallery**
- ♦ **The Story of Boresight** by the Editor
- ♦ **AMPS Family Photo Scrapbook**
- ♦ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





(Continued from page 1)

	caliber		Inches Equivalent		Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size
					1/72		1/48	
WWII								
Japanese	6.5	mm	0.2559	in	0.0036		0.0053	
Soviet	0.31	in	0.0122	in	0.0002		0.0003	
US M1	0.3	in	0.0118	in	0.0002		0.0002	
British Enfield	0.303	in	0.3030	in	0.0042		0.0063	96
German	8	mm	0.3150	in	0.0044		0.0066	95
German	7.92	mm	0.3118	in	0.0043		0.0065	95
US Tommy gun	0.45	in	0.4500	in	0.0063	96	0.0094	89
US HMG .50 caliber	0.5	in	0.5000	in	0.0069	95	0.0104	86
Common Tank Gun Calibers	20	mm	0.7874	in	0.0109	85	0.0164	78
	37	mm	1.4567	in	0.0202	76	0.0303	68
	75	mm	2.9528	in	0.0410	59	0.0615	1/16 th
	76	mm	2.9921	in	0.0416	58	0.0623	1/16 th
	88	mm	3.4646	in	0.0481	1.2mm	0.0722	49
	105	mm	4.1339	in	0.0574	1.45mm	0.0861	44
JS-II	122	mm	4.8031	in	0.0667	51	0.1001	39
Jagdtiger	128	mm	5.0394	in	0.0700	50	0.1050	37
Long Tom	155	mm	6.1024	in	0.0848	44	0.1271	30

	caliber		Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size
			1/35		1/32		1/16	
NATO	5.56	mm	0.0063	96	0.0068	95	0.0137	80
Warsaw Pac	7.62	mm	0.0086	90	0.0094	88	0.0188	77
WWII								
Japanese	6.5	mm	0.0073	93	0.0080	92	0.0160	78
Soviet	0.31	in	0.0003		0.0004		0.0008	
US M1	0.3	in	0.0003		0.0004		0.0007	
British Enfield	0.303	in	0.0087	90	0.0095	88	0.0189	77

WWII Cont'd	caliber		Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size	Scale Inches	Drill Bit Size
			1/35		1/32		1/16	
German	8	mm	0.0090	89	0.0098	87	0.0197	76
German	7.92	mm	0.0089	89	0.0097	88	0.0195	76
US Tommy gun	0.45	in	0.0129	81	0.0141	79	0.0281	70
US HMG .50 caliber	0.5	in	0.0143	79	0.0156	78	0.0313	1/32
Common Tank Gun Calibers	20	mm	0.0225	74	0.0246	72	0.0492	55
	37	mm	0.0416	58	0.0455	56	0.0910	43
	75	mm	0.0844	45	0.0923	42	0.1845	13
	76	mm	0.0855	44	0.0935	42	0.1870	3/16
	88	mm	0.0990	40	0.1083	37	0.2165	7/32
	105	mm	0.1181	33	0.1292	30	0.2584	F-drill
JS-II	122	mm	0.1372	29	0.1501	24	0.3002	19/64 or N
Jagdtiger	128	mm	0.1440	27	0.1575	22	0.3150	8mm
Long Tom	155	mm	0.1744	17	0.1907	12	0.3814	W

I have never seen drill bits smaller than 80 (0.0137" or 0.348mm)*, but the drill chart I have has them going down to 97 which is 0.0059" or 0.15mm.

Chris

*Editor: Tamiya offers 0.2mm (0.0079") diameter bits in both straight and pivot drill bit (bottom left). The smallest drill bit in DSPIAE's Tungsten Steel set (DB-03, bottom right) is 0.3mm (0.0118").

Both Tamiya and DSPIAE drill bits are available at your local and mail-order hobby stores.



Item 74090 (2pcs)

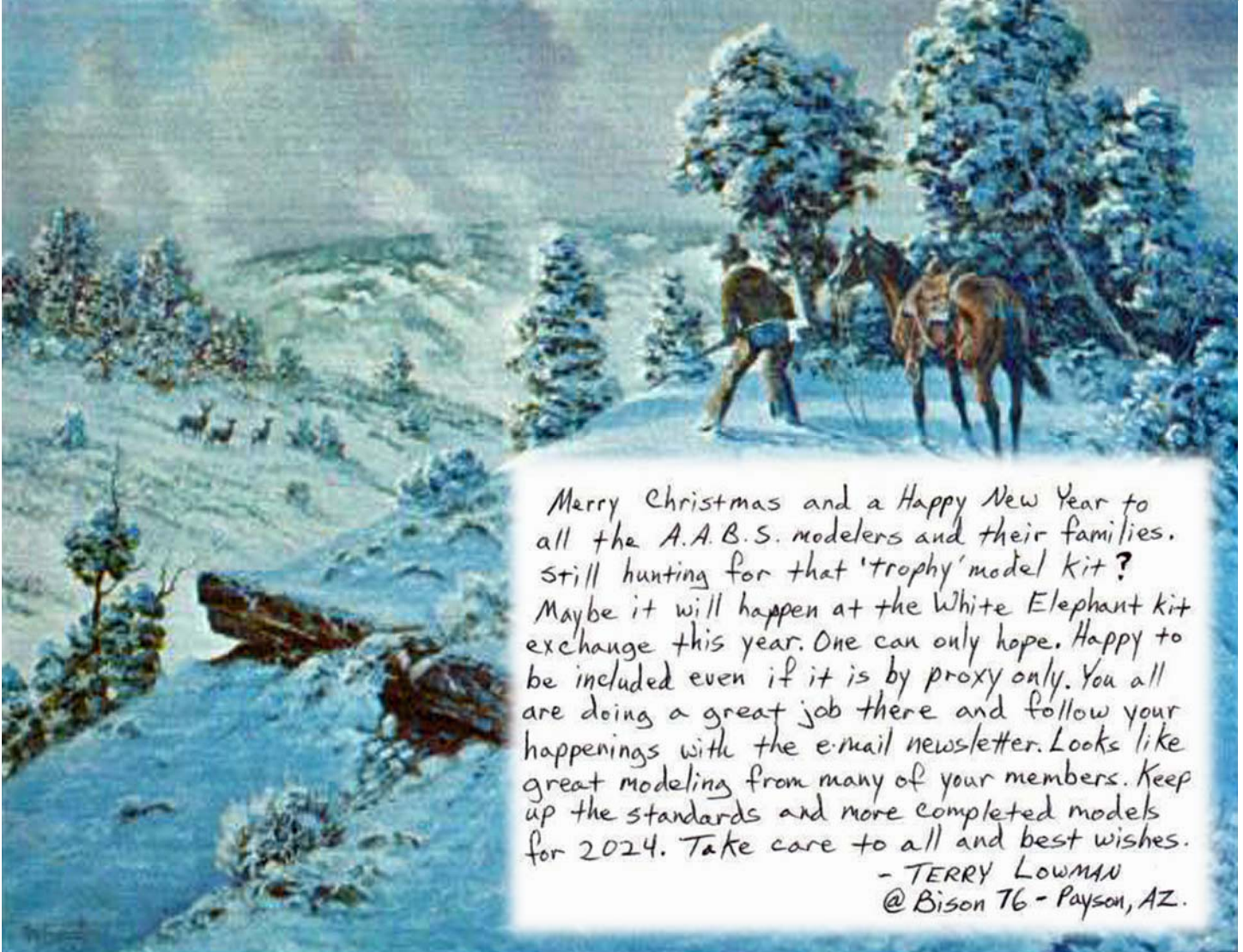


0.2mm Item 74113



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the A.A.B.S. modelers and their families. Still hunting for that 'trophy' model kit? Maybe it will happen at the White Elephant kit exchange this year. One can only hope. Happy to be included even if it is by proxy only. You all are doing a great job there and follow your happenings with the e-mail newsletter. Looks like great modeling from many of your members. Keep up the standards and more completed models for 2024. Take care to all and best wishes.
- TERRY LOWMAN
@Bison T6 - Payson, AZ.



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Winterblitz 2024



WINTERBLITZ 2024 The Battle of the Bulge 80th Anniversary

Saturday

January 20, 2024

The Museum of the American GI

19124 Hwy 6

College Station, Texas 77845

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.winter-blitz.com

Gifts of Christmas Past

Time to get cranking for our last quarterly/White Elephant Contest to be held at our December meeting on Dec 6th. In case you have forgotten what you received in our past Christmas parties, here are photos from:

2022:



2021:



2020:



2019:



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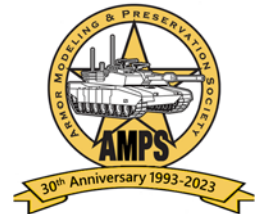
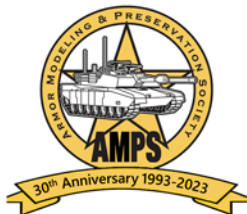
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New On The Block



Now that's a surprise release from Tamiya: 1/48th K2 Ambulance! As far as I know, this kit has absolutely no "patient's shelter" interior! But it is still a nice addition to anyone who models in quarterscale.



Just in time for this Christmas is RFM's 1/35th Russian T-80U, a brand new tooled kit.



Also new in modern armor is Academy's 1/35th Polish K26F MBT. This kit is a re-release of Academy's previous 2017 South Korean Army offering with new decals.



Stalingrad has a new BIG 8-figure set out: German halftrack crew 1943-44 in 1/35th. As usual if you don't need all eight figures, each one is available individually.



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.ampscentex.org