



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

March 2024



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# INSOMNIA

## A Modeler's Best Friend?

By **Kevin Hutchison**

Insomnia is a common sleep disorder. With insomnia, you may have trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or getting good quality sleep. This happens even if you have the time and the right environment to sleep well. It can get in the way of your daily activities and may make you feel sleepy during the day.

Now that being said, what does insomnia have to do with modeling? Having dealt with it for a lifetime, I have learned to lean into it and use it to my advantage. The house is quiet, no one calls or texts, and it's open season on the snacks!

All kidding aside, I have been dealing with our move to Arkansas and late night modeling has been a God's send. After assembling five or six 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale kits, I thought that it might be time to tackle something I have avoided and when better than in the dark of night. I break out Fujimi's 1/76<sup>th</sup> SdKfz.222

*(Continued on page 5)*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **March 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 11 to 13 - AMPS International Convention,**  
Century Center, South Bend, IN
- ◆ **May 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **May 4 - Modelmania 2024,** Stafford Center, Stafford  
(Houston)



### AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

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## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2024	Chris Chany	Ted Paone
February	Bill Zych	Eric Choy
March†	Eric Choy	Kevin Hutchison
April	Mike Reeves	Stuart Wetterschneider
May	Mike Bird	Greg Beckman
June†	Bob Bethea	Mike Bird
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Bob Bethea
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September†	Martin Hebda	Martin Hebda
October	Craig Bland	Craig Bland
November	Mike Maloney	Bill Menzie
December†	Chris Chany	Chris Chany
January 2025	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	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. Ted Paone's article for January 2024 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2023).

† Quarterly contest month

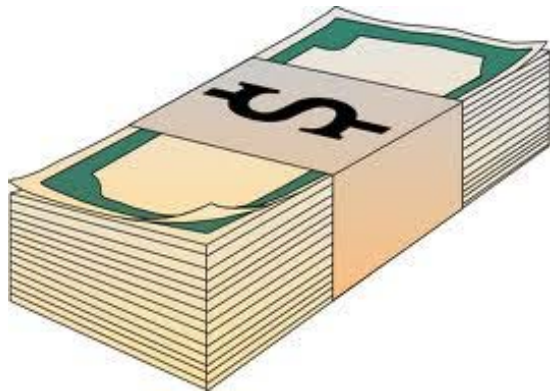


## ***From the Turret***

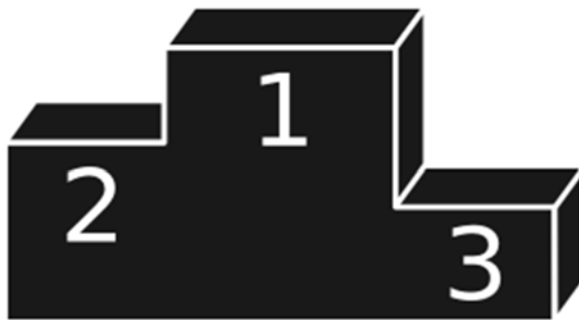
**G**reetings! It's March already, and I will be flying to California to watch the grandkids when the meeting is happening. Eric is back from his Far East tour, and he'll have a program for us on his trip.

Bring some finished models for the quarterly contest and in-progress for show-and-tell. I'll see you in April.

**Chris Chany**  
President



**OR**



## **Quarterly Contest This Month!**

**B**ring in your finished model to enter our first quarterly contest of 2024!

To enter in any of our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing. i.e. You need to pay your 2024 dues!!!

The prize for the first place winner is \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of Das Werk's 1/35<sup>th</sup> Schwimmwagen Trippel SG 6/38.

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

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## AMPS Boresight (Volume 32, Issue 1)

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

- ◆ *Fragezeichen* by Bob Naing
- ◆ **Going From Beginner o Advanced In A Year** by David Morris
- ◆ *Desperation* by Bob Bethea and Henry Núñez
- ◆ **The "Rolling Trains" of Port Arthur** by Chuck Aleshire
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



(Continued from page 1)

armored car. This is a somewhat detailed journey through that build. I apologize in advance if some of my observations are a bit basic, but I know that some of you out there have been intimidated, like me, of small scale kits. Lets roll out of bed and get started.

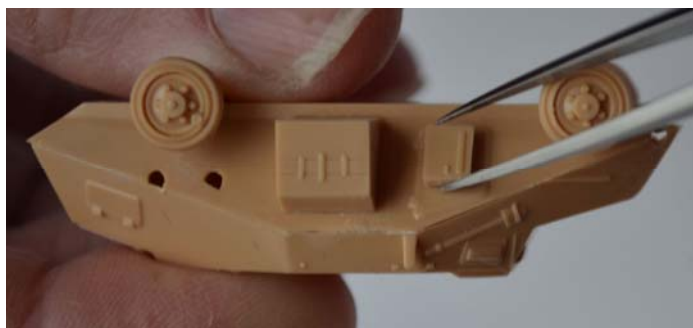
First thing I did was to lay the kit out and make sure all the needed parts are there. This kit was purchased at a show, and those are always suspect.



After making sure all the parts were there, I assembled the needed tools. All the basics were used: sprue cutters, CA glue, Tamiya Extra Thin cement, sanding sticks, and most important, a good, no, a great pair of tweezers! These will be priceless during the entire build.

The basic build was much like a larger scale build except on my reliance on those tweezers. I needed them to hold parts while sanding and for positioning

and adjustments, which seemed to be endless. My advise here is two fold: take your time and make sure that every mold mark and seam line really seems to stick out on the smaller scale kits. The second, and maybe most important, is make sure you are working over a clean floor that contrasts the part color you are working on. Parts will be dropped and dropped again, and the smaller scale makes them that much harder to find. I found that a good flashlight helps things stick out. Keep one handy!



After the basic construction was done, it was time to prime my model. Much like my larger scale builds, I primed in black, but due to the fine details, I airbrushed on the primer rather than using a rattle can.



After priming came the base coat. In this instance, it was Tamiya Dark Yellow (XF-60). After a quick spot undercoating of gloss,

the decals were applied. You will notice from my photos that I screwed this step up and did it out of sequence. Do as I say, not as I do!

The next step was a thin oil pin wash. To do this I used Burnt Umber and Black artist oil paints, but before I could use them I needed to drain out the excess oil from the paint. This was easy; I just dropped a little of each color on a piece of cardboard, tipped the cardboard at a 45° angle



and let them drain for an hour or two. I then mixed a small amount of each color with some white spirit. Start off slow and add more white spirits until you get the consistency you want. I washed the entire model while paying extra attention to raised details. Excess were removed with a fine Q-Tip or a brush. If you overdo it in an area, you can use a clean brush and some white spirits to start over. Like most applications of oil paints, you will need to let the model dry overnight.



After I got the wash the way I wanted it, it was time to do some chipping and weathering. All I can say here is take it slow and easy. A little chipping goes a long way here. I used straight XF-60 for the larger part of the chip and a dark rust color for the “inside”

of the chip. As far as other weathering goes, that will be determined by the setting you plan on displaying your model in. I plan on a cement road scene so the actual weathering was kept to a minimum.

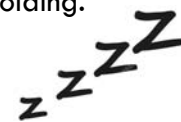


The last step on this kit was adding the rubber wheels. Obviously the blacker than black rubber needed to be toned down. This was done with multiple, thin, washes of XF-60 and Tamiya Buff (XF-57). As with everything in small scale, take it slow and use multiple coats.



So, there you have it. Next time when you can't sleep, go over to your stash and dust off that small scale kit you have been avoiding.

Sweet dreams, my friends!



Kevin



Last month while shopping at Tamiya Plamodel Factory in Tokyo, I encountered and bought three new finishing products. Here's a first look at them:

### 1. Chipping Liquid (87225).

Everyone is making chipping fluid these days, so it doesn't come as a surprise that Tamiya is getting into the game also.



According to the Tamiya's website, this is what recommended:

- i. Use Tamiya Color lacquer-based paints (LP, TS, AS series) as the basecoat (1). Note: Gloss and Metallic colors cannot be used. Matte Metallic colors are OK.
- ii. Apply Chipping Liquid with a brush or an airbrush. Dilute with water if necessary (2).
- iii. Apply a top coat of Tamiya Acrylic Paint.
- iv. Brush water onto areas where you want to chip away the topcoat (3), then wait a few minutes.
- v. Use a toothpick or similar implement to chip the part (4), then let it dry. Chipping Liquid drops in effectiveness the longer a part is left after its top coat. Tamiya recommends chipping within a week of applying the topcoat.



### 2. Decal Adhesive (87176).

According to Tamiya's description, this adhesive is designed to "apply to decals which have been left too long in water and lost their adhesion. Simply apply to the surface of the model, and use water to remove any excess adhesive." It comes in a 10ml bottle with a built-in brush for application.



### 3. Decal Adhesive Softener Type (87193).

This 10ml bottle (also with a built-in brush) combines Decal Adhesive mentioned above with Tamiya's decal setting solution **Mark Fit Strong (87135)**. It is formulated to help avoid the silvering of decals.



All three products mentioned here are priced **MSRP USD \$5.50**. Don't pay more than you are supposed to for them on eBay or Amazon!

Eric

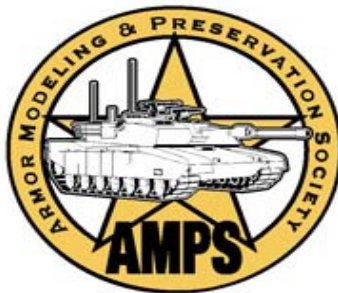


# AMPS 2024

## International Convention

**South Bend, Indiana • April 11-13**

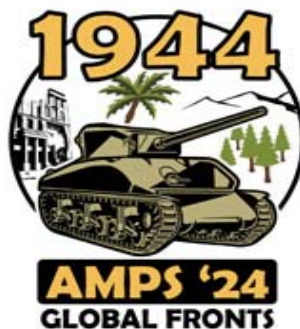
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The convention theme is "1944." It was a year the world was at war and Armor units played a huge part in the titanic struggles that were occurring all over Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific.



From the steppes of Russia, the hills in Italy, to the far off shores of tropic Islands, mechanized battles raged that would change the course of World War II and tighten the noose around the axis powers.

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Visit the AMPS website for more details: [AMPS-Armor.org](http://AMPS-Armor.org)



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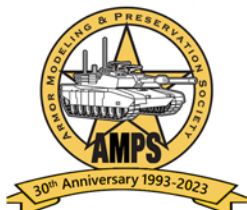
Regular and Junior Memberships include a subscription to two printed issues *Boresight* magazine per year and all six online issues of *Boresight* magazine per year. Regular+All Printed Issues Membership includes a subscription to six printed issues of *Boresight* magazine per year as well as access to the same issues online. This is only available to members within the United States.

International Membership includes all benefits of a Regular membership except for printed issues of *Boresight*.

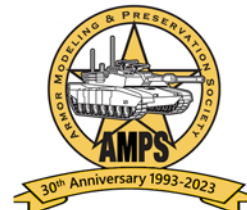
Family membership does not receive an individual printed copy of *Boresight*, but can enjoy the online version of *Boresight*.

To join using PayPal, visit AMPS website: [www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)

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## NEW ON THE BLOCK



What used to be Kitty Hawk Models is now ZimiModel. The latest release is a 1/35<sup>th</sup> USN 40mm Quad Bofors AA Guns.



Another modern 1/72<sup>nd</sup> release from Foreart: M142 HIMARS, the light multiple rocket launcher system that made headline in the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict.



Das Werk's 1/35<sup>th</sup> 88mm FlaK auf 9t Vomag is here! The Vomag was not a small vehicle: the length of a model of it in 1/35<sup>th</sup> is longer than a Tiger tank! The 88mm flak gun is a completely

new design by Das Werk, not a refurbished one from AFV Club or DML.



Cheese, anyone? Miniart continues to deliver civilian accessory kits 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.ampscntex.org](http://www.ampscntex.org)