



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2024



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Does Size Matter?

By Marty Hebda

Now that I have your attention, let's talk about scale. There are four major scales, as far as I can figure, that are most popular in armor modeling: 1/72nd, 1/48th, 1/35th, and 1/16th. I determined this by going online and checking what is carried by hobby shops. I used Andy's Hobby HQ and Kings Hobbies. There are many more shops out there, but my internet skills and patience are limited.

With 1/35th being the most popular, you have to admit it covers the most varied selection of kits and accessories. I have four shelves full of 1/35 to prove it. Question: what do you club members do with your overflow of

built kits? Buy more shelves or a BB gun?

If you have limited space to display your built kits, 1/72nd scale is good. You could stash away twice as many finished models in the space of your 1/35th unbuild kits. Lately it seems this "braille" scale is getting a lot more accurate as far as detail goes. Of course, the price goes up also.

Quarterscale (1/48th) is just right for size and detail from what I have seen on the market. Not as large a selection. But as it catches on, I hope we will see much more.

Now for the elephant in the room: 1/16th scale. The optometrists have to start lobbying the kit manufacturers to

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **September 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **September 14 - SuperCon 2024**, Bob Duncan
Community Center, Arlington
- ◆ **October 2 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 9 - Capital Classic 2024**, Williamson
County Expo Center, Taylor



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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‡	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Mike Reeves	Stuart Wetterschneider
May	Mike Bird	Greg Beckman
June‡	Eric Choy	Mike Bird
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Bob Bethea
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September‡	Martin Hebda	Martin Hebda
October	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	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

Well it's September! Which means the weather should be getting cooler and we cannot use the heat as an excuse to stay at our model workbench all day!

Eighty years ago on September 4th, British forces captured Antwerp but not the Scheldt Estuary. That left the vital port still unusable. It took until November 8th for the Canadians to clear the Scheldt and another three weeks to demine Antwerp harbor. The first convoy carrying Allied supplies could not unload in Antwerp until three weeks later, just in time to get supplies to Allied forces before the Battle of the Bulge! Once Antwerp was opened, it allowed 2.5



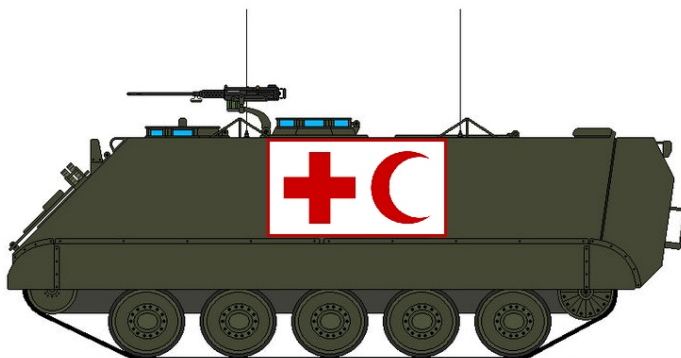
million tons of supplies to arrive at that port between November 1944 and April 1945.

On another note, Sam Houston was elected president of the Texas Republic on Sept 5th, 1836.

Bring your idea(s) for the theme of our 2025 Show as we will have a discussion and vote for the theme. Otherwise, I don't have much for the business part of the agenda. Marty has the presentation and bring your Medevac vehicle for the quarterly contest!

See you Wednesday!

Chris Chany
President



Quarterly Contest Theme:

Medevac Vehicle

The theme for our quarterly contest this month is **Medevac Vehicle**. Any model of a vehicle with Red Cross/Red Crescent/Magen David Adom Magen (Hebrew: מגן דוד אדום)/Star of Life marking (all eras, all scales) is eligible to win the first-place prize of \$40 or the drawing of Border Model's new 1/35th StuG III Ausf.G Late Prod with full interior kit.



To enter in our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing (i.e. You need to pay your 2024 dues!). There is no limit to how many models you enter as long as long as none of them has placed in our previous quarterly contests.

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stop 1/16th scale and build of the other scales. Even 1/35th is getting hard on my old eyes. The only drawback is where do you put all the finished models? Even the unbuilt kits come in boxes that are hard to hide from your spouse! In fairness, there are some exceptionally large 1/35th scale kits that are of the same size.

Recently, I purchased the 1/16th M8 Greyhound kit, and I am getting up the nerve to start it. Because of the size of the parts, I think the carpet monster will lose weight. The figure that comes with the kit looks like I should get the face to look good. There are aftermarket resin and 3-D printed accessories out there if your incline to use them.

So those are my thoughts. Remember, \$5 could get you a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

One last thought... I think at a contest it would be an interesting category where you can enter the same subject in all four scales that I mentioned above. Paint them identically. That would generate some interesting conversations. I guess you could do that with figures too.

Well thanks for reading my ramblings. Go out and build something! I am sure the carpet monster needs feeding.

Marty



Editor: Houston armor modeler **Tom Moon** did exactly what Marty suggested: a collection of five Jagdtigers in different scales (1/35th, 1/48th, 1/72nd, 1/100th, and 1/285th) all painted the same camo scheme!



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AMPS Boresight (Volume 32, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ AFV Club Husky Mk.III VMMD by Brian Eberle
- ♦ A Trip to Andy's Hobby HQ by Mike Petty
- ♦ British Behemoth: 1/35th FV214 Conqueror II by Dana Mathes



Why 1/35th and 54^{mm} ?

by The Editor

While we are on the subject of scales, have you ever wonder why we ended up modeling in oddball scales like 1/35th for vehicles and 54mm for figures?

1/35th

This has to do with **Tamiya**, the world most beloved armor modeling company, of course!

In 1962 Tamiya released its first tank model: a motorized German Panther tank. Why Panther but not a Tiger or Sherman? In Shunsaku Tamiya's book *Master Modeler-Creating the Tamiya Style*, he confessed the choice was "a bit pitiful;" the Panther tank has plenty of straight lines, and that made making the mold much easier. He opted to have it



motorized to give it an edge over static plastic models made in America at the time.

Many model kits released in the 1950s and early 1960s were "box scaled" (e.g. 1/40th!) because the manufacturers needed to fit all the parts in a standard kit box optimized for shipping and distribution. In the case of Tamiya's Panther tank, it was "battery scaled:" the

wide-bodied frame of the Panther provided enough space to accommodate the two B-sized batteries needed for the motor. The model resulted measures to about 1/35th of the original.

After the initial success of Tamiya's Panther, there was a demand for other tank models from different countries in the same scale. Hence, Tamiya was stuck with 1/35th, and so did we armor modelers!

54mm

This scale emerged as a standard in the 1890s by **W. Britain Company**, a British diecast miniature firm, as making toy soldiers became a serious business. Generally, it's 3/8th of a foot (1/32nd) of the average height (5' 8" or 68") armies throughout the 19th Century. If you scale down 68" 32 times and convert the result to metric, it's exactly 54mm!

Editor



Battery size comparison: B (right) and AA (left). (Wikipedia)



Vintage toy soldier kit (Courtesy of W. Britain)

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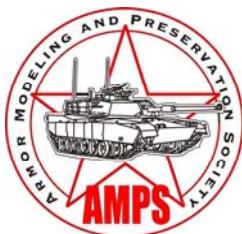
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New On The Block



Braille (1/72nd) scale Leo 2A6 from ICM. This one I like!



The M55 is such a strange vehicle; everything appears to be backward! But I'm glad I♥Kit (Trumpeter) makes a kit of it in 1/35th scale.



I know some guy named Brandon will go nuts with this ICM 1/35th Field Kitchen set!



One has to wonder if it's purely a coincidence that MiniArt's 1/35th Butchers arrive the same time as ICM's German field kitchen set...

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