



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2024



## Trumpeter's Big Sd.Kfz.251/D

By Craig Bland

Trumpeter's 1/16<sup>th</sup> scale Sd.Kfz. 251 halftrack interested me when it first came out late last year, and especially so because Squadron had its first batch at a little less than \$100 each. I thought this would be a good start to see if this scale was gonna be my next "big" thing.

Needless to say, this kit is BIG. But it's from Trumpeter, which mean some good

news and some not so good news. The 24-page instructions are not the best with some parts misnumbered or not numbered at all. And, weirdly, there are sprues that include the torsion bars for the suspension, but there is no mention in the instructions on how or where they are to be installed!

### Construction

The kit went together, well, it went together. The fit of most parts was as expected, but those damn tracks were a challenge. After installing the road wheels, I began gluing the individual track in "runs" for the top and bottom and then lightly gluing the tracks around the sprockets and the adjustable "back wheels." The instructions say there are 58 links per side, but I ended up with 59. Having the patience of Job is essential when doing these tracks.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **October 9 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 9 - Capital Classic 2024**, Williamson County Expo Center, Taylor
- ◆ **December 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **December 7 - AABS Xmas Party**. Rattan Creek Community Center, Austin



### 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‡	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

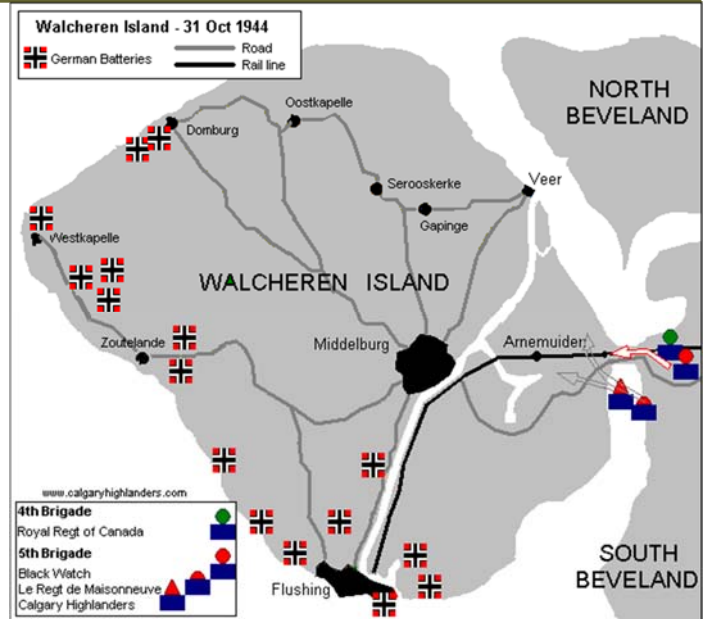


## From the Turret

Well it's October, and our meeting was moved this month because of the library meeting room being booked by **The Society for Financial Awareness (SOFA)** (*Editor: Yes, the SOFA people woke up and robbed our usual time slot!*). Eric was wondering if buying plastic kits is sound financial planning. I said for sure because models are an investment. Look how much an Aurora F4 Phantom goes for these days!

Eighty years ago (1944): In Moscow... British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arrived to discuss the political future of eastern Europe with Soviet leader Josef Stalin and Commissar for Foreign Affairs Vyacheslav Molotov. Polish representatives of the government in exile, based in London, were present for some of the talks. The Moscow Conference ended on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

On the Western Front... Troops of the Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division (part of Canadian 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps) landed at



Breskens on the south bank of the Scheldt, opposite Flushing on Walcheren Island.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued around Aachen and Metz between elements of U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group and German forces.

To quote Monty Python...



This month instead of a program, we are going to have a kit swap. So bring your kit(s) that you don't want anymore and maybe you will find something more to your liking.

See you Wednesday!

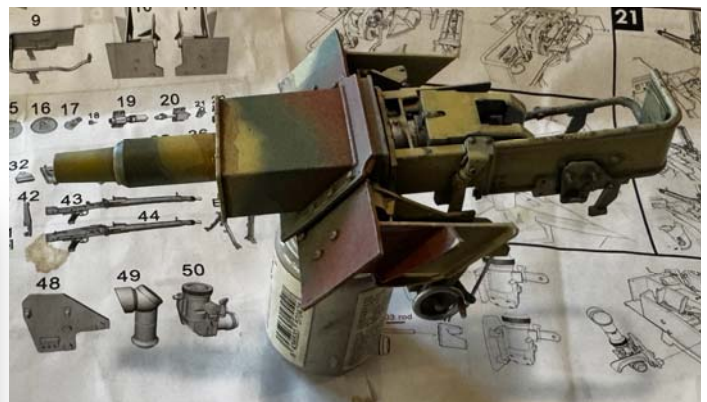
**Chris Chany**  
President

(Continued from page 1)

The body went together fairly well, but I decided to build the model as the /9 *Stummel* variant, which came in two versions, both with 7.5cm KwK37 canon pirated from early StuG tank destroyers when being upgraded to the long-barrel KwK40 gun. The first version was factory built, and it featured a special steel pedestal mount for the gun as well as the front of the crew compartment cut down to permit the gun to “peek” through where the assistant driver sat.

The second version was a redesign introduced in 1944 for fitting the 7.5cm gun on a number of vehicles without major modification. This is the version I built with the help of Panzer Concepts’ 3-D printed 251/9 conversion set. The set includes the 7.5cm short barrel canon with gun shield, MG42, shell storage, shell “ready” locker, and detail parts for the canon (see layout below).

This was my first 3-D effort. Once I got through all the hundreds of little “strands” that hold individual pieces on their formation, the assemble began for the gun. This is an excellent 3-D printed kit, and it went together fairly easy, thanks to well-illustrated instructions. This version of the /9 is a simpler and lighter conversion as the Germans modified several D models with the addition of placing the same canon above the driver using a steel reinforced mounting plate. I’m surprised that this mounting plate with the canon did not collapse onto the driver after several rounds were fired! Apparently more of this model were built/converted, and many were done in the field.



Trying to locate interior photos for my particular /9 model proved difficult. The two Squadron books I have, *Sd.Kfz.251 Ausf D* by Hans-Heiri Stapfer and *Sd.Kfz.251 in Action* by Charles Kliment with illustrated by Don Greer, contain little or no info that I needed. I found a couple of B&W photos online that showed different interior equipment, including shell storage, seating, radios, cases, and crew “stuff.” So, I used what parts I had from the 3-D conversion set and the Trumpeter kit (seating and storage).

## Painting, Weathering, and Beyond

I shot the interior with the dark red primer (*Rotbruan*) that the Germans frequently used and applied a coat of hairspray so that I could scrape/brush off the top color (*Dunklegelb*) to depict a heavily-used floor and interior. More weathering with brown and orange inks came next to give more “pops” to a very dark interior.





I decided to do the 3-color camo scheme as seen during the late war period (1944-45) using AK RAL DG3 *Dunkelgelb*, AK RAL 700B *Graugrün* opt 2, and Ammo RAL 8012 *Rotbraun*. After the camo design was lightly penciled on the model, I thinned the colors with water and sprayed them in light coats. After 24 hours, I sealed the colors with a satin finish and then inked in panel outlines. Another coat of finish was applied to seal in the inks.

Following Bob Bethea's suggestion, I dusted the model with Vallejo Pale Brown on the lower parts and then back to thinned down AK *Dunkelgelb* for a dusting on the top of the model. Next I added mud and grass to the undercarriage, tracks, and the front and rear lower parts of the vehicle. The mixture I concocted was quite messy, but it added life to the model.



Lastly, I found an old diorama base that I repurposed to fit this large scale model. At the last moment, I noticed several period photos of these halftracks covered in tree limbs and foliage. Liking this unusual view, I picked up some bags of the fake scenery stuff, including a nice selection of twigs and brushes, from the floral section at Hobby Lobby.

## Coda

So, it's finished! Taking photos of this beast was a challenge as it is so big. It was not easy to exclude whatever else in the background. Well, you get the idea. I'm rather happy with the outcome, but it's not a "shake and bake" kit by any means.



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As far as will I build another 1/16<sup>th</sup> scale kit, I'll need more room. So probably not. However, if someone comes out with a WWII GMC deuce n' half, count me in!

**Craig**



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### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

## Hobby Tool of the Week

By Allan Romer



Photo doesn't do it justice, but the first two blades are straight. The third is very thin. They are great tools for working/bending PE parts.

A modeler may not need so many blades, but the functionality and variety make them a nice addition to your tool box at a very low price point.

Available at your local HEB for only \$10.38.

Allan

Just what everyone needs is yet another X-ACTO knife set! But wait, these are special! Besides being well crafted and very sharp, among the large selection of blades included, these three really stand out:

## 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: 1/35<sup>th</sup> FV214 Conqueror II by Dana Mathes







2021:



2020:



## 2024 Third Quarterly Contest Winner

**Dane Sherry**

1926 Mack AC "Bulldog" Ambulance



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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)

AMPS also accepts payments by check and money order.

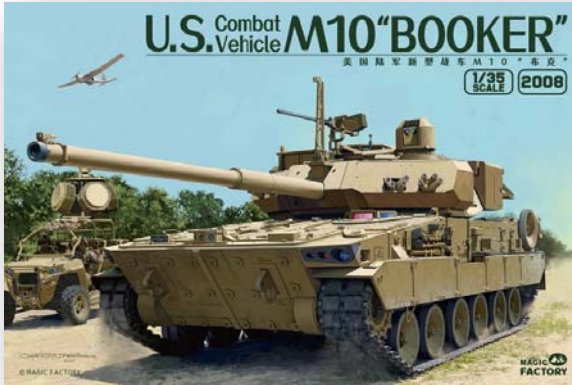
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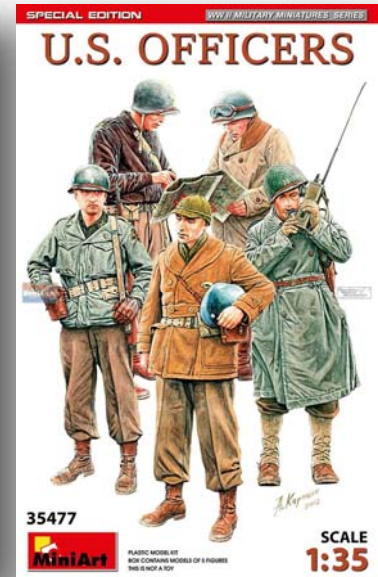
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## NEW ON THE BLOCK



Light tank is back under Pentagon's "Mobile Protected Firepower" vehicle project. Magic Factory has just released a kit of the MPF M10 Booker in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale.



More and more companies are now selling 3-D decals. Two of the latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> offerings from Reskit/Kelik are for Trumpeter's M142 HIMARS and ICM's M1097 HMMWV.

Need WWII GIs for your next diorama? MiniArt has two new 1/35<sup>th</sup> figure kits out: U.S. Soldiers w/WLA Motorcycles and a special edition of U.S. Officers.

### 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](http://www.ampscentex.org)