



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2025

Sticky

Stuff



by **Marty Hebda**

The other day while working on a foam airplane, I was using a contact glue called **Foam 2 Foam**. A light bulb went off in my head! I wonder how it would work on photoetched (PE) parts?

I then experimented by cutting up some old PE sprues and plastic card stock to see if it would work. I bent up some shapes and went to work.

First I applied a dab of Foam 2 Foam to an L-shaped PE piece and pressed it against the plastic for a second. I let it dry for a minute and placed the part

back into position. It worked! Pressing the parts together made the bond stronger. Although not as strong as a CYA (superglue) bond, there was no concern on my part of having CYA run all over.

I also tried gluing a PE piece on its edge. It worked, but it was flexible. I also bent a Z-shaped piece of PE and attached it on its edge. It was a better bond. The bond of PE to PE was good also. I think some more experiments are needed.

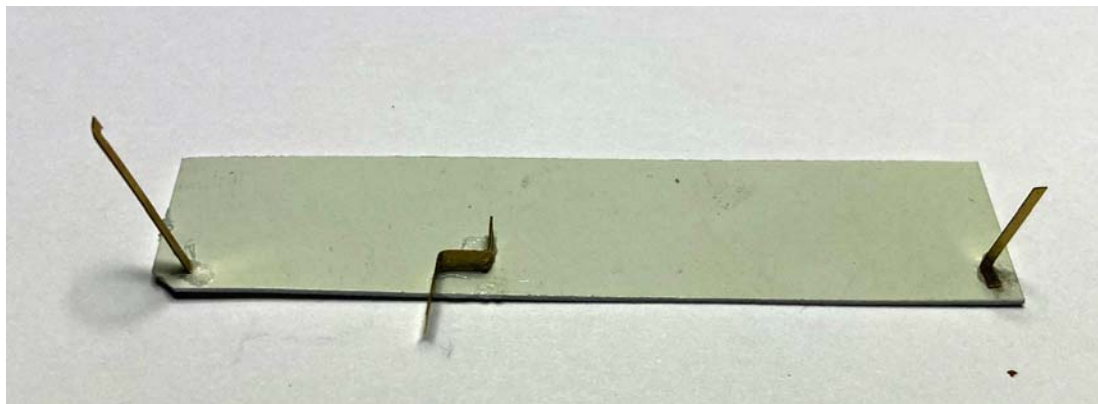
I plan to use Foam 2 Foam in my next project that has PE parts involved. It should be interesting to see the results.

HobbyTown at Parmer and MoPac carries Foam 2 Foam for about \$14. I got mine from a company in England called Micro Aces.

Marty

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ♦ **Sept 3 - AABS Meeting**
- ♦ **Sept 13 - SuperCon 2025**, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington
- ♦ **Oct 8 - AABS Meeting**
- ♦ **Oct 11 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo**, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown
- ♦ **Nov ? - AABS Meeting**
- ♦ **Nov 8 - Capital Classic 2025**, Williamson County Expo Center, Taylor



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Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2025	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	Ted Paone
February	Ted Paone	Eric Choy
March‡	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Ron Askew	Bill Zych
May	Mike Reeves	Greg Beckman
June‡	Quiz Night!	Craig Bland
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Aaron Smischney
August	Eric Choy	Allan Romer
September‡	Marty Hebda	Marty Hebda
October	AMPS Judging Review	Bill Menzie
November	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	Mike Bird
December‡	Chris Chany	Chris Chany
January 2026	Ted Paone	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 at 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 2025 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2024).

‡ Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Happy September! Where I grew up September 3rd was the first day of school. Don't forget this month is our white-washed and white painted vehicles quarterly contest! The business part of the meeting will mainly revolve around finalizing plans for our 2025 show on October 11. **Marty Hebda** has the program. Remember if you won the last door prize drawing, you are responsible for bringing in this month's door prize.

I hope to see a lot of models on the Show&Tell and contest tables.

September 3, 1915: The Mexican rebel faction *Seditionistas* raided the village of Ojo de Agua, Texas, forcing the United States government to deploy cavalry and signalmen to protect the U.S.-Mexican border.

September 3, 1940: Adolf Hitler fixed the date of *Operation Sea Lion* for September 21.

September 3, 1945: General Tomoyuki Yamashita formally surrendered the remaining Japanese troops



in the Philippines to U.S. Army General Jonathan M. Wainwright, the same commander who was compelled to surrender to Yamashita at Corregidor in 1942. A three-day celebration was held in China to commemorate the victory over Japan, marking the end of World War II.



WWII Victory parade in Chungking, China.

September 3, 1950: Communist China's Prime Minister Zhou Enlai sent word to the United Nations and the United States, by way of K. N. Panikkar (India's Ambassador to Beijing), that China would intervene in the Korean War if any U.S. forces crossed the 38th parallel and advanced into North Korea.



September 3, 1970: legendary American pro-football coach Vince Lombardi, who guided the Green Bay Packers to six NFL titles, died from colon cancer. He was 57.

Chris Chany
President



September Is Whites or Nothing! Month

Get ready for another round of face-off at our September meeting! The theme of this contest is **"Whites or Nothing!"** (per our veep's favorite team Leeds United FC) There will be two categories: White Washed Vehicles and White-Painted Vehicles. Each category's first place winner will be awarded USD \$40!

To enter in any of our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing. i.e. pay your 2025 dues!!!



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TABLETOP GAMES

PUZZLES

CHESS

RPGS

CCGS

Hobby Trick of the Month (Or Maybe Just A Stumbled-on Discovery)

by Allan J. Romer

Recently I was working on a kit that called for a canvas covering. Sure enough, the kit has the styrene plastic molded top, and it's pretty unimaginative without any details. I wanted the kit to have a partial canvas covering. So how do you go about such an endeavor?

I read and watched many articles using a mixture of 50/50 slurry of white glue and water on different types of paper. I tried it before (successfully), but I was looking for a better medium that was fairly easy to manipulate and could replicate cloth material. I think I may have found it at **Jerry's Artarama...**

Unryu paper (sometimes called Rice Paper) is a lightweight, translucent paper made from the bark of the mulberry tree where long natural fibers (*kōzo*) can be seen flowing through the sheet. These *kōzo* in the paper are both strong and flexible. There is no need to use a 50/50 slurry prior to painting. You can apply acrylic paints directly. The fibers virtually disappear, and you are left with a natural looking cloth material that can be used in a variety of applications.



It requires, however, at least two coats of paint on both sides for adequate coverage. The paper sucks up the paint without compromising the strength of flexibility. Once dried, you still have the ability to manipulate your paper to the shape you desire.

As an added benefit, you can paint a larger swatch and cut the pieces needed directly from the painted unryu paper.

The photo below shows side by side an unpainted unryu paper next to a painted swatch (test bed). What can't be shown is how the painted unryu paper can be manipulated once painted. Those white specs you see in the upper left corner are actually holes I made after painting with no rips or tears to the paper.



As a rookie, I'm pretty impressed. The ease of creating a suitable cloth material is pretty easy with unryu paper. With the success of my initial attempt of creating a partial canvas top, I can see how you can use this paper to create blankets, tarps, tents, and other cloth accessories.

NOTE: Unryu paper comes in different colors and weights (e.g. 10g, 25g, 40g, and 80g). I suspect the higher the number, the thicker the paper. The specifications for the paper that I used was White-25g/m².

Allan



2025 AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO

An AMPS Regional Show

October 11, 2025

**Georgetown Community Center
Georgetown, Texas**

Show Theme: Halftracks

Visit www.ampscentex.org for more info

Austin Scale Modelers Society

Presents The

2025 CAPITOL CLASSIC



Show Theme

**250th
Anniversary
of the**



**Saturday, November 8th 2025
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Williamson County Expo Center
5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX 76574**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

WINTERBLITZ 2026

Saturday January 24, 2026

**The Museum of the American GI
19124 Hwy 6, College Station, Texas**

Show Theme: "Military Support Vehicles"

*Any military non-combat vehicle in a support role (e.g. transport, engineering, medical)
This can be tracked, half-tracked, or wheeled vehicles. All nations, scales, and eras*

Tank of the Year: "Panzer 38(t) and all its variants"

For more info please visit: www.winter-blitz.com

COWABUNGA



Backdating Tamiya 1/48th M1A2 to M1A1

Part I

by **Eric Choy**

The M1 Abrams tank needs no introduction even if you are not a fan of modern armor. To me painting Coalition vehicles used in *Operation Desert Storm* (ODS) is just not that exciting: mostly overall Light Sand with minimal markings. Somewhat unusual were the tanks of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Armor Regiment. Nicknamed the *Turtle Platoon*, all four Abrams in this unit had names of the evil fighting characters (Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo) from the popular *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* media franchise that most ODS vets grew up with.

The 2nd Battalion of 32nd Armor was stationed in Germany when Kuwait was invaded in August 1990. The *Turtle Platoon* received its deployment order rather late and arrived in Saudi Arabia just three days before the commencement of the ground offense. Assigned to security duties for the 5th Battalion, 5th Cavalry's Tactical Operations Center, to my best knowledge the platoon did not see any action against Iraqi armor during the 100-hour campaign. After the ceasefire, the Turtles spent the next few months patrolling the northern border of Kuwait near Safwan, Iraq. The platoon returned to Germany in late May 1991.

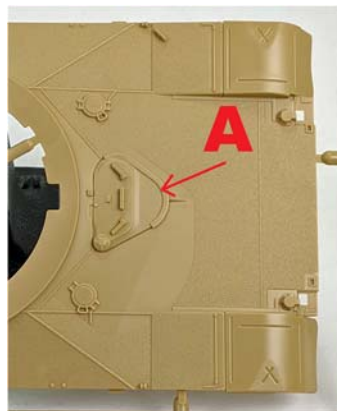
I chose to model the tank "Michelangelo" (bumper number B-12) because my buddy (and fellow AABS member) Randy Bumgardner thinks "Mikey" is the goofiest turtle among the four! Also, the signature

weapon of Mikey is the nunchakus. It makes a humorous parody of the Coalition's inverted 'V' chevron!

As far as I know, there is still no proper 1/48th scale M1A1 kit in the market. The Chinese toy company Zhengdefu (or Kitech) made an attempt in 1990s by offering a gosh-awful motorized version that is still available on eBay from time to time. The kit is mostly crap, but there are a few parts you can salvage from it. More on that later.

Anyway, if you really want a quarterscale ODS Abrams, there are only two options: 3-D printing or backdating Tamiya's OIF M1A2 like I did here. Fortunately, the second option is not that hard. Here's a list of things I did for the conversion:

- A. Removed the bullet splash lip from the driver's hatch. The lip was added some time in the 1990s as a result of small-arms incidents during ODS.

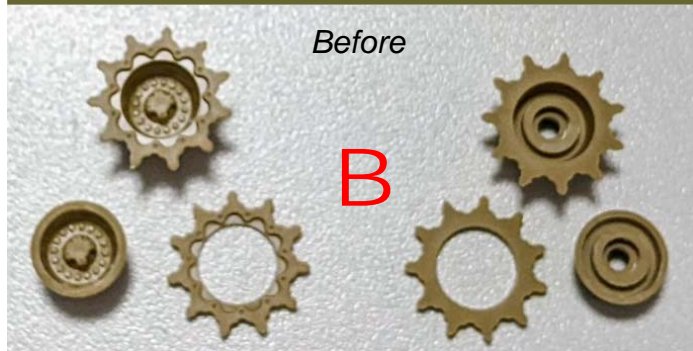


Before



After

- B. M1A1 has the older style drive sprockets without the scalloping on the inside of the outer sprocket rings. The best (and probably easiest) way is by



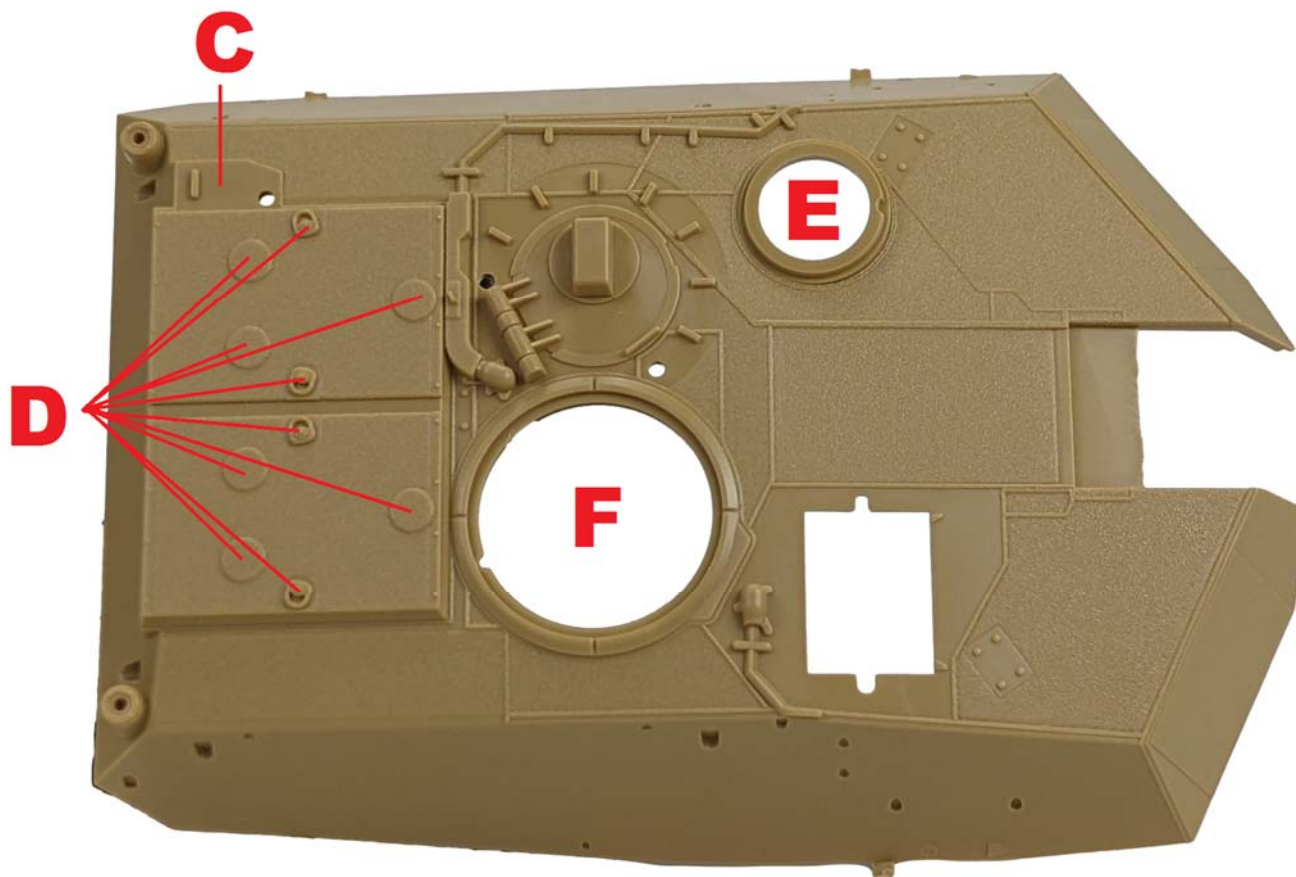
Before

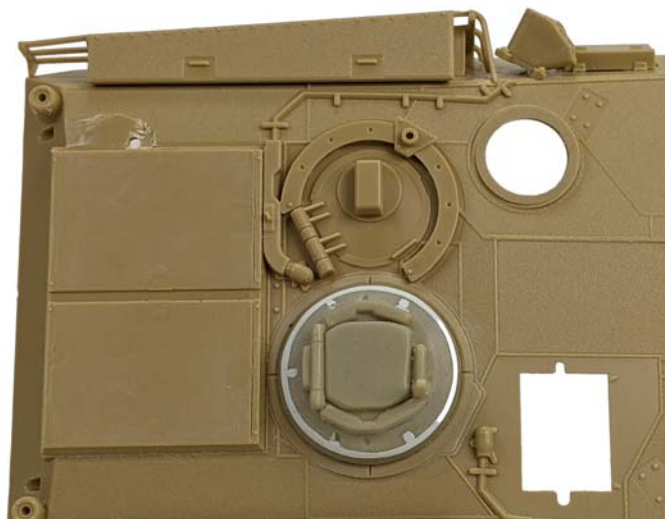
swapping the inner and outer rings of the sprocket hub. The rings were removed with the help of a PE saw, and I drilled a small hole under each tooth to replicate the mounting screw hole.



After

- C. Removed this step thingy entirely. I have no clue what it's and why it's even there! Notice I didn't spend much effort in making a clean cut as I intended to cover the "scar" with stowage.
- D. Removed all the details on the blow-out panels on top of the ammo storage. Those details are applicable only to M1A2s.
- E. Skipped the installation of the Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer (step 13 in Tamiya's M1A2 instruction) and covered the hole with a round plate made from card stock. Then I added 11 bolts from my spare parts box.
- F. Skipped the installation of the Commander's Weapon Station (step 19) and replaced with an older style copula turret. This is where my Zhengdefu/Kitech kit parts came in handy: I just nicked the copula and the hatch instead of spending the time to scratchbuild them!





I debated having older T156 tracks on my model, but at the end I stayed with the kit-supplied T158 “Bigfoot” tracks. I’m pretty sure M1IPs (Initial Production with 105mm gun) arrived in Saudi Arabia earlier during Desert Shield all had T156 tracks. On the other hand, I have seen photos of ODS M1A1s with “Bigfoot” tracks. I suppose it’s also the case of where a vehicle was originated (stateside or forward deployed post).

Next came the fun of piling stuff all over my model! Most of the stowage pieces came from Red Zebra Scale Models (www.redzebramodels.co.uk) Abrams set. The rest were from my spare parts box.

To making things a little more interesting, I added a VS-17 signal panel over the turret roof using a piece of doubled sided tape cut to the right scale size. The high-visibility panel has two colors: fluorescent orange on one side and fluorescent pink (cerise) on the other. Hopefully the panel can add some colors to the dull ODS Light Sand scheme and help avoid any friendly fire to my model!



Stay tuned next time for the finishing of my Turtle tank.

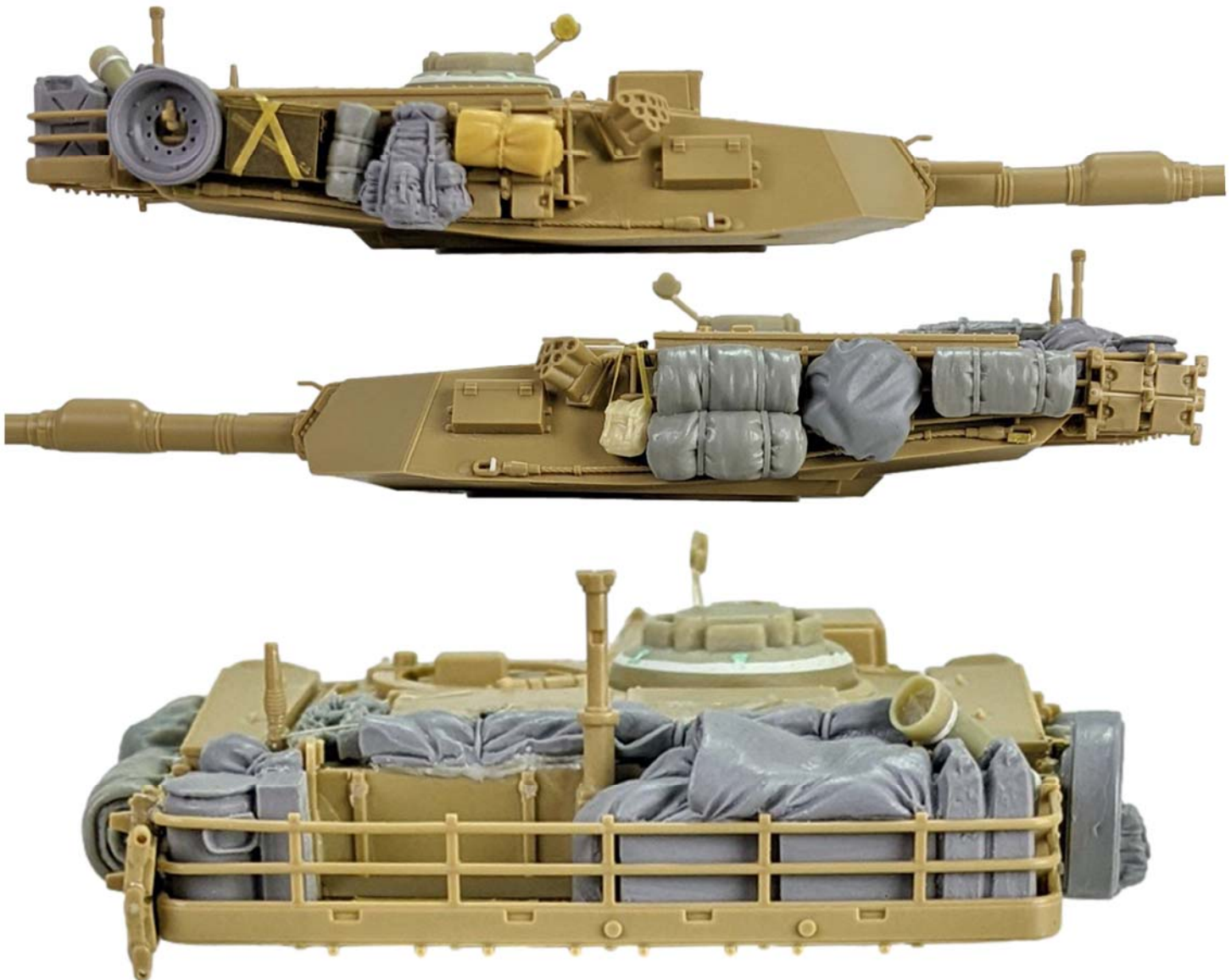
Eric

- G. Skipped the installation of the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) (step 18) that goes on the bustle rack. Again, that is applicable only to M1A2s.

Note: the APU for ODS M1A1 was mounted on the starboard side of the tailgate. Typically installed only on stateside vehicles (to save a few bucks on JP-4*), Abrams coming from Germany did not have them (apparently forward deployed units always have bigger budgets!). Hence not all ODS M1A1s had APUs.



*During ODS, M1A1's gas turbine engine primarily ran on JP-4 jet fuel, a mixture of gasoline and kerosene. Once the U.S. military transitioned to the safer and less flammable JP-8 for aircraft, ground vehicles and support equipment, JP-4 was phased out completely by the end of 1995.



AMPS Boresight (Volume 33, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ **AMPS 2025 Convention Recap** by Peter Espada
- ♦ **2025 Medal Winners**
- ♦ **Best of Awards**
- ♦ **Skill Level Promotion**
- ♦ **AMPS Masters Honor Roll**



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New On The Block



Copper State Models has just released not one but two 1/35th inter-war era British armored tender kits in used by RAF Mid-East service and Irish Free State National Army during the Irish Civil War (1922-23).



Based on Das Werk/Amusing Hobby's 2023 kit of the Kanonenjagdpanzer is a new 1/35th Raketenjagdpanzer Jaguar 2. Armed with first TOW and later TOW2, this anti-tank missile carrier

Gecko Models' FV18001 is the military version of a Land Rover Series I. This 1/35th kit comes with full interior (driving AND engine compartments).

was in service with Bundeswehr for only ten years (1983-93) before being phased out by its older brother Jaguar 1A3 with upgraded optics!

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 war in Ukraine.



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