



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2025

Das Werk's PaK40

by Bill Menize

Developed between 1939 and 1941, the high velocity 75mm PaK40 (Panzer Abwehr Kanone 40) was an improvement over the 50mm PaK38. It entered service in late 1941 and proved to be an effective weapon against the sloped armor of the Soviet's T-34 and other Allied tanks.



The German model company Das Werk has become a leader in WWII armor kits. Its 1/16th PaK40 kit has incredible details and a very high part count (over 300!). Many of them are not used as they are optional. Das Werk kits are not easy to build. They could use more locating pins, and the instructions need clarity.

I built the kit as sub-assemblies. This made it easier to do the painting and chipping over an extended period of time. When all the assemblies were chipped, each was individually washed



and detailed. The gun was ready to be put together.



The many assemblies were painted with a mix of Tamiya Hull Red (XF-9) and Flat Black (XF-1), producing a dark brown/red primer coat. Once completely dried, all the pieces were sprayed with hairspray and were allowed to dry overnight.

The next day certain assemblies were selected for a topcoat of Desert Yellow. After waiting 20 minutes, the chipping began. I finished with one batch of parts first before moving on to another. The reason for doing it this way is if I had painted all the parts in one go, the paint would be too hard to chip. Thus I only painted the parts I could handle and over several sessions the entire model was painted and chipped.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Oct 8 - AABS Meeting
- ◆ Oct 11 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown
- ◆ Nov 5 - AABS Meeting
- ◆ Nov 8 - Capital Classic 2025, Williamson County Expo Center, Taylor
- ◆ Dec 3 - AABS Meeting (tentative)
- ◆ Dec 6 - AABS Xmas Party (tentative)



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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

Lights, Camera, Action! It's SHOWTIME! At this month's meeting on Wednesday (Oct 8th) we will be going over the details of the show, getting volunteers for Registration and Model Intake, the raffle table, and judging. The program will be a review of the AMPS judging criteria. And of course, bring those models in for Show and Tell. On Thursday the 9th, we will be doing more judging at Eric's place, so we need volunteers for that.

On Oct. 8, 1915,

- ♦ Actions of the Hohenzollern Redoubt: Five German regiments attempted to recapture the remaining ground around Hohenzollern Redoubt from the British, but foggy conditions and inaccurate artillery barrages proved inadequate, forcing defending British and French troops from giving up their positions. The Germans suffered 3,000 casualties.
- ♦ Battle of Loos: Apart from continued fighting at Hohenzollern Redoubt, the overall British offense faltered due to lack of ammunition, equipment and fresh reinforcements to replenish exhausted units. The British suffered 59,247 casualties, the most of any battle they fought on the Western Front that year. The Germans suffered 51,100 casualties.

On Oct. 8, 1940,

- ♦ A large number of German troops entered Romania to train the Romanian Army and protect the country's oil fields. Romania was now

effectively under German occupation.

- ♦ Charles de Gaulle arrived in Douala, French Cameroons.

On Oct. 8, 1950,

- ♦ Two United States Air Force F-80 fighter-bombers flew more than 60 miles into the Soviet Union and strafed parked airplanes of the 821st Interceptor Aviation Regiment at the Sukhaya Rechka airbase at 4:17pm local time. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and the regiment commander did not pursue the invaders. The United States formally apologized to the Soviet Union on October 18 and offered to pay for the damage, but no response was made to the offer.
- ♦ The day after the United Nations had endorsed the unification of Korea, China's Mao Zedong ordered the creation of the People's Volunteer Army and directed General Peng Dehuai to prepare to involve in the Korean War.

On Oct. 8 1965,

- ♦ The U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team launched the first major American attack on the "Iron Triangle" in South Vietnam, a concentration of Viet Cong guerrillas in an area only 12 miles (19 km) from Saigon.

On Oct. 8, 1970,

- ♦ Soviet author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, but he was not allowed to leave the Soviet Union to accept the award. The Union of Soviet Writers, which had expelled Solzhenitsyn in 1968, said in a statement in the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* that "it is deplorable that the Nobel committee allowed itself to be drawn into an unseemly game... prompted by speculative political considerations."
- ♦ Matt Damon, American film actor and Oscar-winning screenwriter, was born in Los Angeles.

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On **Oct. 8 1975,**

- ♦ Women were allowed admission into the United States Service academies (at West Point, Annapolis, Colorado Springs, New London, and Kings Point) for the first time, as President Gerald Ford signed legislation that included the requirement.

referred to by NATO as FROG (Free Rocket Over Ground). In another attack on Dizful on October 26, another 100 people were killed when Iraq used three more of the Frog-7 weapons.

See you Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday!

Chris Chany
President

On **Oct 8 1980,**

- ♦ More than 150 people were killed in Iran in the city of Dizful by three Frog-7 missiles fired by Iraq. The Soviet-made missiles, 30 feet (9.1 m) long, were part of an arsenal of 26 such missiles,

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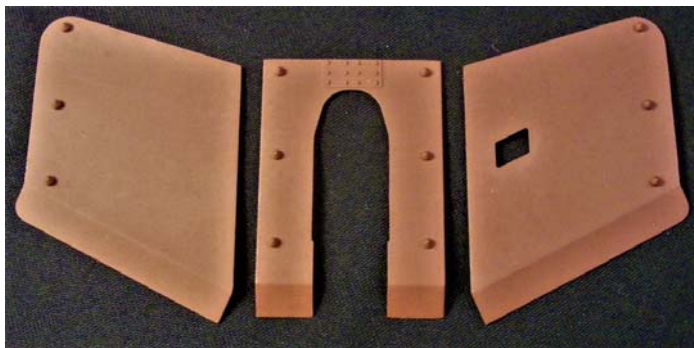
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Below photos show the front shield pieces in three stages:



Unpainted plastic.



Red/brown primer applied.



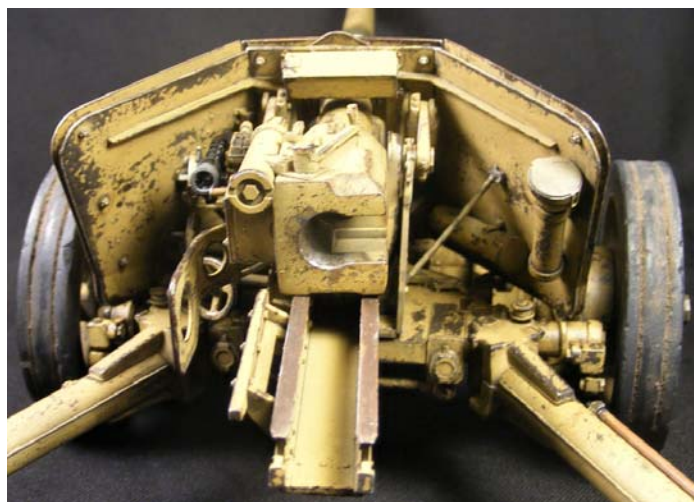
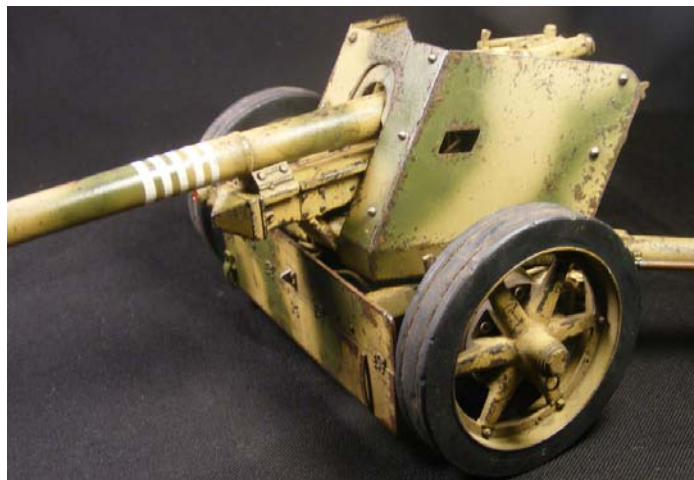
Desert Yellow topcoat with the finished chipping.

Next, Mig Dark Wash was applied to the separate pieces and removed with a paper napkin, taking care to keep the orientation in a downward direction to simulate the streaking effect of rain.

When all of the parts were washed, the gun was attached to the elevating mechanism, and the shield was installed.

Broad patches of Tamiya NATO Green (XF-67) camouflage provided a nice contrast to the yellow paint. The gun barrel was given a set of victory rings. I opted to use Tamiya tape to mask the rings and not use any water-slided decals. I chipped the off-white rings to match the chips and wear of the barrel.

The wheels were prepared with undercoat, topcoat, and chipping as well. To paint the solid rubber tires, I used the bottom of Dixie cup to mask off the wheel center so I could airbrush flat black on the tire without any overspray on the wheel. The two tire sides were painted separately and cemented in place when dried.



The kit provides armor piercing and HE shells as well as wood crates and metal containers.

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I have been experimenting with Paper Mache to create tentage, tarps, and other fabric stowage items. For this PaK40, I used a paper hand towel to make a folded blanket for the gunner to sit on. The gunner often sits on the left trailing arm to aim and fire the gun. It was common to see a shelter quarter or blanket used as a seat cushion.

I used an X-Acto knife handle to mold the wood glue impregnated paper. After several coats of water/glue, the object becomes very hard and ready to be painted. This actually works!!!

Bill



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

★ IPMS Model Contest ★
Gundam Contest ★ Figure Contest
★ Vendor Tables ★
Make 'N' Take ★ Door Prizes

General Admission:

\$5 per person 12 and under FREE.

Contest Entry (includes admission):

Senior (≥18): \$12 for first model, \$3 each additional

Richard Kern Prolific Modeler Discount -Maximum Entry Fee \$50

Junior (≤17): \$5 for first model, \$1 each additional

www.austinsms.org

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A Clear Hack

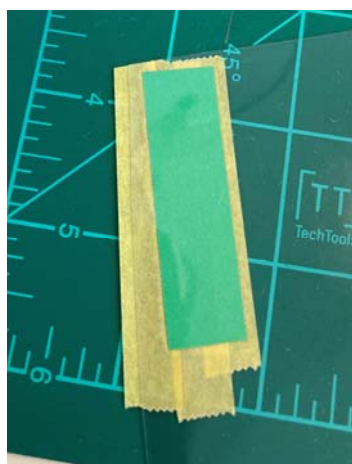
by

Allan J. Romer (a.k.a. "The Rookie")

Imagine my chagrin while building my halftrack, I discovered that I had accidentally thrown the windshield away! Now a vehicle that demands a windshield that doesn't have one looks pretty silly! And there are not a lot of viable options to explain away a missing windshield.

My immediate reaction was to go on the Internet and do a Google Search for a quick fix. No luck! My next idea was to use a clear document report cover. It would work, but the plastic was rather thin.

By chance I recently purchased a small cutting mat. Like many products, the packaging included a cardboard back and a molded plastic covering. A light bulb went off: here was the solution to my missing windshield. The hard plastic shell would be an excellent replacement for the lost styrene tossed in the garbage.

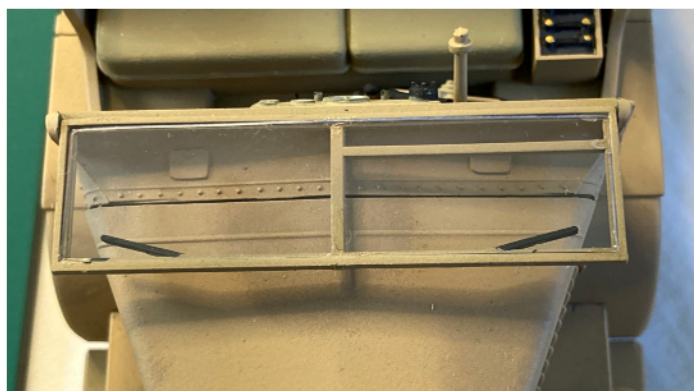


My hack began with the creation of a template with paper. As Ross Perot said, I measured twice (at least) and cut once. Once satisfied with the paper template, I attached it to the plastic shell with tape. Using the template as a guide, I carefully cut the plastic with an X-Acto (hobby) knife.

The result is probably better than the original. Being a bit thinner than styrene, the replacement windshield fits better with no bulging out of the frame. It may be more difficult to represent bullet holes and cracks, but I haven't tried that yet.



I don't have the skills necessary to build a real good diorama with structures. But even with my limited abilities, I can see using hard plastic shells could easily replicate windows. With creative cutting, it seems to me that it would be rather simple to make broken windows. It is also nice to know that I have a pretty good hack to fall back on if I completely mess up installing the windshields and incidents of that ilk.



Happy modelin', y'all.

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

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

2025 3RD QUARTERLY CONTEST WINNERS

Bill Menzie

White-washed WWII German StuG



Eric Choy

White-painted UNFICYP Ferret Armored Car



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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³ Juniors are members aged 17 years or younger.

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New On The Block



In 2010 the US Army deferred further production of the M1128 MGS. Instead numerous fixes and upgrades were implemented to the existing vehicles already delivered. Most of these changes can be found in RFM's latest 1/35th kit.



Miniart has released three versions of the Fordson 9N tractors in 1/35th scale. Two of them are already available at your LHS: Model 1934-36 (top left) and Model 1935 (top right).



The new ICM 1/72nd M2 Bradley IFV is a re-release of Revell's 2001 kit. It contains a new decal option for a 2AD vehicle stationed at Fort Hood during the 1980s.



More 1/16th WWII action coming our way... a four-figure crew set for SdKfz.251/1 halftrack from Jason Studio.

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