

'The Instruction Sheet'

IPMS / Granite State Modelers Club

Nashua, New Hampshire

Newsletter: October 2021

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Facebook: IPMS/ Granite State Modelers Club

GSMC/IPMS meets the third Monday night (4th Monday in Jan & Feb) of each month from 7 to 9 PM at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street Nashua, New Hampshire. Visitors are welcome to attend. Monthly show and tell pictures are posted on our website. Website maintained by Brandon Clifton.

Club Officers:

President: Mac Johnston (603-648-2244) macatflandersandpatch@hotmail.com

Vice President: Rich Filteau (617-592-4268) r.filteau@comcast.net

Secretary: Rodney Currier (603-726-3876) nickmatt2@roadrunner.com

Treasurer: Edward Mele IV (603-203-9878) emeleiv@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Russell Gosselin (603-858-9052) gosselin2112@gmail.com

Zoom Administrator: Bob Ferri (603-547-7456) ferri@gsinet.net

Meeting Reminders:

October 18, November 15, December 20

Weekend Build Sessions via Zoom:

Saturdays 1-4pm; Sundays 6-9pm

GraniteCon

With only a few weeks to go before show time, there were a few brief topics that needed attention. Ed has confirmed that the tables have been reserved. Rod has acquired the trophy packs (with little to no outstanding payments from patrons). A special raffle was discussed and GSM concluded that it would be better to have gift certificates instead of premium models. Unfortunately, the club has to buy the said kits and hope that the tickets sell. The last GraniteCon special raffle sales were marginally successful, so gift cards it is!

Covid-19 is still among us, so it was brought up by some whether there will be a mask mandate at the show. At present, GSM will be posting signs that will be requesting that people wear a mask if they are not vaccinated. The E-board will be having a last minute discussion regarding a mask mandate. Ed said that he can commandeer a box of masks if a mandate goes through, as some attendees will not have a mask available.

Aviation Museum Display

Most builds are complete and are on display. Rich Filteau is asking that any remaining builds should begin wrapping up, as to meet the deadline.



Sherman Overhaul: Part I

by Russell Gosselin

I'm not sure where I found the kit. Perhaps it was a thrifty model show purchase, a kit swap; or maybe it was from a collection I purchased. What I do know is that I have collected a bunch of Shermans and accessories over the years, and they have been doing absolutely nothing. I was left with a choice – sell the kits and accessories or build them into something that I

could proudly display on the shelf. Besides, I need something to defend the shelves from all those German tanks lurking about.

The kit in question is a 2002 reboxing of Tamiya's vintage M4A3 Sherman from 1981. A Sherman is a Sherman, so they swapped out the main gun with a nicely detailed 105mm styrene barrel and mantlet, calling it a Sherman 105mm Howitzer. Infantry support comes in the form of three figures positioned for the coming assault. The detail of the figures has much improved from Tamiya's earlier years. They will no doubt need little attention towards enhancement.

I'm not known as a stickler for accuracy; however, there are some glaring errors that need to be addressed with regards to the lower hull. After dryfitting the transmission cover onto the chassis, I discovered to my dismay that there were some pesky gaps that needed filling. I opened my tin of Evergreen styrene scraps and picked out what I needed to get the job done. Firstly, I needed to shim the transmission cover so that it would marry with the upper glacis plate. Once I had the proper shimming, it was just a matter of gluing some styrene in place that would support the filler that would follow.



The second and most distressing part of the build was filling the sponsons. What the heck is that, you say? They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I made it a priority to take some shots to help clarify the matter. On a real tank there should be no openings unless they are hatches or open access covers. The sponsons are the sealed metal shrouds that are directly located above the running gear. Tamiya, like many model companies, opted to not include them. Why? I have no idea. Perhaps it was a way to save money or production time.



Regardless, the sponsons needed to be filled. The process is rather simple. I attached some support beams composed of .040 X.100" styrene strips along the outer edge of the upper hull. You can use any material available and they don't have to be placed all the way along the edge as I did. To find the correct position I dryfitted a scrap with the same dimensions as my cover

plate. Once I was satisfied with the position, I marked it and began gluing the strips in place.

The next step is to attach the upper and lower hulls together, and find the measurement for the sponson width and length. When cutting out the sponsons, be sure to use the factory edge of the styrene sheet along the lower hull sides. This will ensure a nice and smooth fit that is appealing to the eye (well, until the weathering powders arrive). I believe it is always prudent to err on the side of caution, so before you make the cutouts, check your measurements. It's not a perfect mathematical equation, and a lot of eyeballing may be required.



My cut wasn't too bad. I did notice that the upper hull tapers inwards towards the rear of the tank. The solution was easy. I took out a sheet of 400 grit sandpaper and gently worked my edges until I had the correct fit. I was also sure to sand off the edges that was cut with my scissors, and not mess with the factory edge. Before gluing the sponsons, I cut some notches to work around some molding that I found was too time consuming to remove with a motor tool.

The last part that needed to be rebuilt before closing the hull together was the fender attachment strips. Ironically, the box art depicts this image with amazing detail only to fall short with poor molding on the actual model. This was easily removed with a file and some various grits of sandpaper. I found a suitable match from my rather large collection of Evergreen styrene strips and sundries.

In the second part of this series I will take a closer look at the challenges and rewards of adding aftermarket resin accessories.



Upcoming Events of Modeling Interest In 2022

April 2	MosquitoCon Region 2 Show	Wayne, N.J.
April 29	NoreastCon Region 1 Show	Latham, N.Y.
July 20-23	IPMS USA Nats.	Omaha, N.E.

Hobby Shop Directory

These are the hobby shops that support us and our efforts year after year. Most give our club members discounts. They support our club contests, and stock the supplies and new kits we crave. Please support them, too!

Hobby Emporium (978-649-5055) 440 Middlesex Rd Tyngsboro, MA 01879
The Spare Time Shop (508-481-5789) 222 E. Main St Marlboro, MA 01752
North East Trains Model Center (978-532-1615) 18 Main Street Peabody, MA 01960
Double Play Hobby (603-582-4224) 187 Elm St. Milford, NH 03055
Hobbies With A Twist, LLC (603-223-0132) 1 Depot St Concord, NH
Elite Hobbies (603-749-0800) 90 Washington St Unit 334 Dover, NH
Granite State Hobbies 20 Pleasant St. Claremont, NH (603-504-5605) ajmsugaring@icloud.com
Minuteman Scale Models 472 Amherst St. Suite 21 Nashua, NH (603-921-5048)
Boomer's Books & Empire Models 273 North Stark HWY Weare, NH

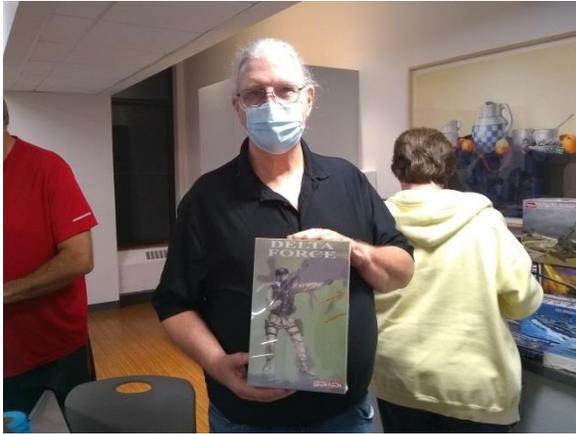
September Raffle Winners



Icie Cook



Thomas Shanahan



Pete Davis

September Show & Tell



Rich Filteau built this Tamiya 1/48 Nakajima "Rufe" Zero floatplane.



Paul Lessard modified this Airfix 1/76 German Opel 3-ton truck. He added turn signals and plates.



Rodney Currier has been wrestling with this Special Hobby 1/32 F2A-3 Buffalo. The biggest hurdle has been unwarping the wings and just trying to make things fit.



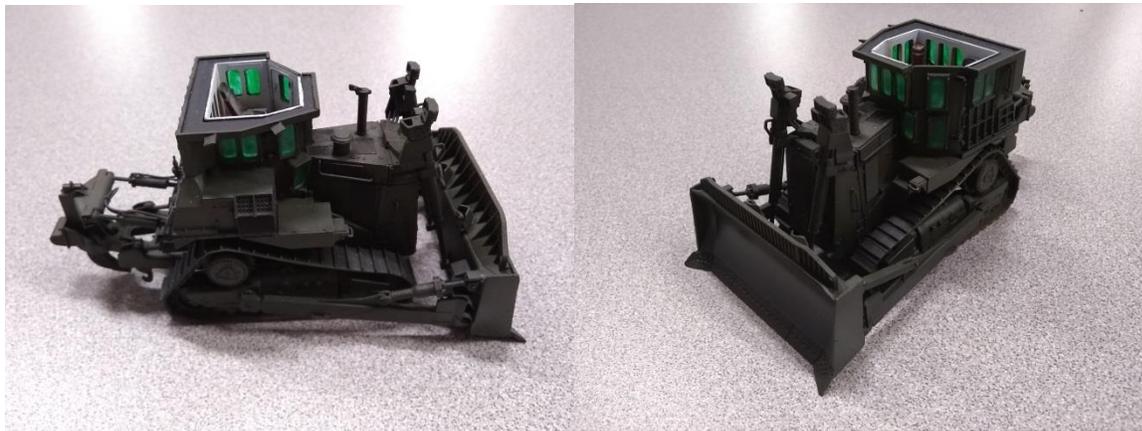
Tony D'Anjou built this Revell 1/350 battleship (late version).



Lyn Cushman finished his second buddy build with Mac. Hasegawa 1/76 T-28 Russian tank. He built it complete OoB.



Lyn Cushman built this ICM 1/35 German Leichttraktor Rheinmetall 1930 tank.



Mac Johnston built this 1/72 D9 Bulldozer from Meng. He added hydraulic lines.



Pete Davis built this 1/35 Panther G from Dragon.



Pete Davis built this Academy 1/35 Magach 6 Gal Batash tank. The fit was so good that it felt like building a Meng or Takom kit. But it was not without some challenges. He had to use extensive amounts of glue to keep the left side sand skirt on, and the figures refused to fit into any of the hatches. He weathered it in oils and powders. He still can't believe how HUGE this tank is.