

IPMS Jan - Feb 26
SALISBURY



IPMS SALISBURY



GRAIL KIT

New regular feature starts inside.

Top: Nick's ARMA Sea Hurricane. Full build inside. Main: Sibos's 251 amid light snow. This and other textures covered on Page 11



Happy New Year? We are of course 2 months into 2026 and from a model club view a lot has happened already all of which I hope will be found in the next 16 pages. But what of the Newsletter itself? A couple of subtle changes that I hope the keen eyed have spotted. The cover has been tweaked and no longer will there be a contents strip on the front. It seemed redundant as we have a detailed contents list on this page, the cover can then be given over to even more examples of modelling goodness. As the small picture above shows, with a little imagination all sorts of interesting collages can be created, this one using watercolour paintings with a Flashmod entry to make something unique. So club members if you have a build that you think is a bit special and would like to see it on the cover, let me know through the Newsletter Email. You will also notice that the regular Your Club feature 'meet the modeller' is being rested for a year, but will return (so some of you can expect an email request for content some time in 2026). In it's place as a regular article is 'Grail Kits' that I hope many of you will feel inclined to contribute to. What is a Grail Kit? Turn to page 14 to find out. Lastly a personal thank you for the feedback to my article in the Xmas newsletter, I am so glad it was enjoyed and it spawned some interesting emails and pictures. Below Colin W's model in 1/48, ***EH Dunning making the first landing on a moving ship, 2 August 1917.*** What are you waiting for? Read on and enjoy, best wishes for 2026 – Ed.



Pg2-Editor's hello and Latest: tying up club night info and passing on news gathered.

Pg5-Reviews: Club member's views. Post Xmas, this issue is a bumper crop of reviews.

Pg9-Articles: In depth build by Nick Williamson.

Pg11-Weather report: Weathering reference, products and tips.

Pg13-Events calendar: Club nights. In house and external shows and events.

Pg14-Grail Kit: To kick off a new feature Sibomuses on his grail kits.

Pg15-Comms check: Ask questions, swap info, borrow or buy, plus all those extra titbits of interest.



**MODELS
FOR
HEROES**

IPMS Salisbury supports the aims and endeavours of Models for Heroes. Donations received at Salisbury Model Centre on behalf of M4H or bring to club evening to arrange handover.

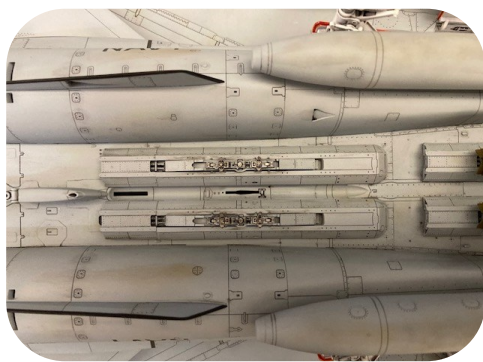


IPMS SALISBURY JAN - FEB 2026 NEWSLETTER

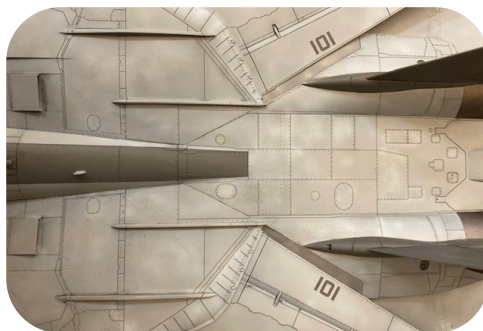
Club nights started on the 6th with resolutions from last year revealed as well as many members showing off their Christmas gifts. Before fresh resolutions were made a light hearted overview was conducted and those who had committed did the club proud. A good selection of pictures are on the club blog ([Club Night – Jan 2026 – IPMS Salisbury](#)) along with a couple over the next page. WIPs appeared too, the break enabling a lot of modelling progress, Nick's completed Sea Hurricane appears in depth later but also of note was a few big sized projects for the club theme night in June. It wasn't just completed resolutions, some new models appeared, doubling up for the 2nd night in Jan as Gallery photos were taken. If you have not checked the Galleries for a while its linked here, a wide range of work [Gallery – IPMS Salisbury](#). A completed model that really caught attention was Rauri's F-14 with the most subtle panel marking and precise paint scheme. As well as a photo of the pointy end here I have taken a couple close

up to show the beautiful effects on the surface of the model he has achieved.





Chris S had his KMS Bismarck on display to support his resolution success and Mick's haul was represented by this AMX Roland 2 Air defence vehicle in 1/35. Left are details of Rauri's F-14 paintwork.

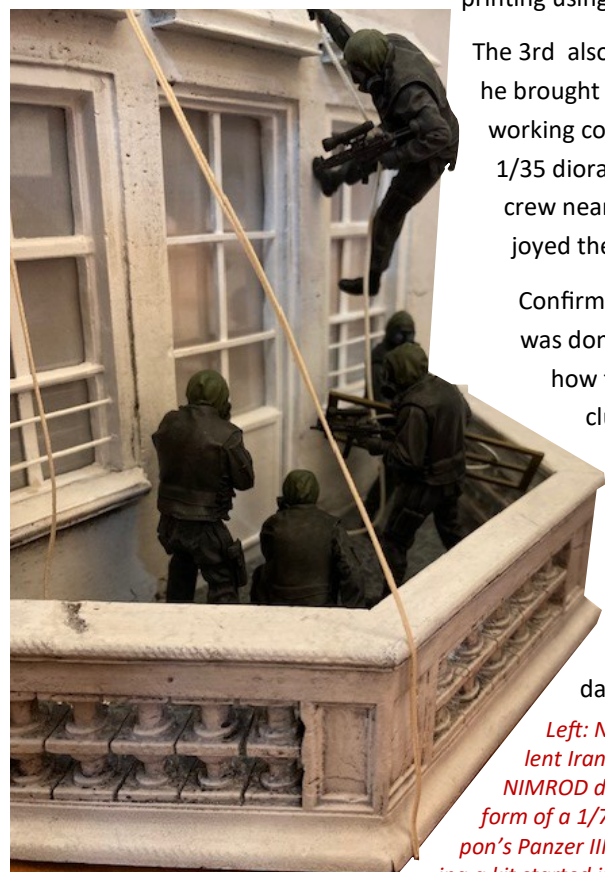


In between January club nights a small gathering took place at the Duck Inn to discuss the IPMS Model Show for May. A pleasant night with no surprises. The following week on 20th the club brought along a wide range of completed models to be photographed in order to update the website galleries, and as noted are online to view in individual members folders.

Works In Progress appeared and the enthusiasm of a fresh schedule was apparent with a lot of 'Big' models under way with a view to showing them at the Theme night in June. Some of these appear on the next page with Phill's huge V2 engine and Paul's

skill on show tackling a 1/16 panzer interior. Richard had completed Airfix's new 1/24 Me-109 G in incredibly quick time and now has another Typhoon underway. A more reserved pace has been adopted by Don B who had much to show of his scratch builds that gained much attention due to the detailed work being undertaken, the components fitting perfectly as dry runs while he adds hundreds of individual rivets.

In what has become a yearly tradition, February saw a discussion and decision on this years group build. It was good to have Colin back in the hot seat to oversee the voting. If your were not present and have yet to learn the out come, Page 12. In addition a few models being worked on appeared. Nick had his Airfix Wellington, Colin a RN Phantom with exposed engine, Rauri a Hasegawa Me109 and Mick with one of his yellow winged biplanes making progress on his resolution though he may have to revisit some of the build after an unfortunate prang on the box. Chris S showed progress on his Christmas gifts but the biggest work in progress at just over 1/12 scale had to be Toz's MLRS all done with 3D printing using his own design work.



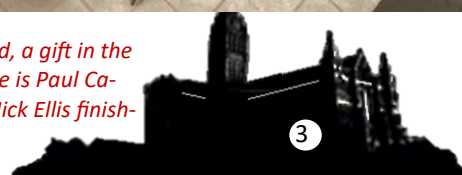
The 3rd also saw a new member arrive, Rob and he brought along a couple of builds to show. A working completed Tamiya WWI tank and a 1/35 diorama featuring a German Tiger and crew near to being finished. Hopefully he enjoyed the evening.



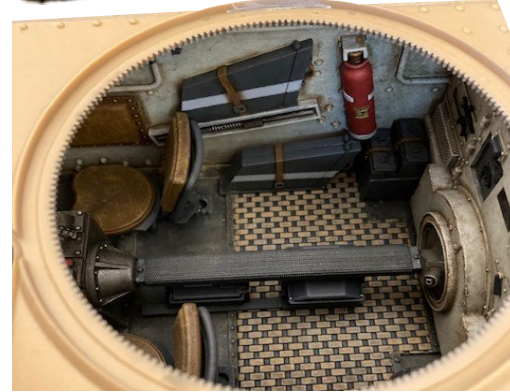
Confirmation of the in house Winter Show was done and it will be interesting to see how this new event turns out, with 12 club members displaying it will be a full hall regardless of how many visitors decide to come by. With cake and brews as well as the chance to model alongside your display there isn't much negative that could be anticipated. The review of the actual day is on page 5.



Left: No longer available, Mitch's Models excellent Iranian Embassy siege break—OPERATION NIMROD diorama, made by Richard C. Also by Richard, a gift in the form of a 1/72 Lancaster with ground equipment. Above is Paul Capon's Panzer III, top a splendid job of rigging in 1/72 by Mick Ellis finishing a kit started in November 2025's Flashmod.



Plastic foremost, but a club for modellers also using Resin, Wood & Card to create Figures, Tanks, Aircraft, Sci-fi & Boats. Pretty much anything!



The final club night on 17th Feb had Chris Southwood deliver a great talk on Chernobyl. Specifically the dump sites for contaminated rescue vehicles. On 26th April 1986, a routine safety test at the plant went catastrophically wrong and triggered the worst nuclear accident of all time, the clear up during and after the event resulted in the creation of numerous vehicle dump sites. These sites contain military and civil vehicles and Chris was able to show these off and tie them to the efforts he described. He also brought along his large diorama of a site featuring an Mi-6.



The night also saw a new prospective member Paul who we hope to see again with some of his models. A large and varied number of models were on display, a few are shown here, and more are set to be seen again once completed.





A conversation while car sharing between Paul Capon and Sibö led to the seed of an idea for a relaxed show at our club hall. We noted that during the main IPMS Salisbury Show in the summer the club is very busy attending to the requirements of others through the day so interaction and modelling chat is often impossible. Ensuring traders gained as much from the IPMS Salisbury Show also meant no under table sales were to be had by the club.

To remedy this the idea was to try out a winter event that had free entry to the hall with our club members displaying a personal table that allowed them to exhibit and engage with visiting modellers and unlimited under table sales should they wish to sell off kits and tools.

so how did it go?



22 Feb Reviewed

As this review is being written just 2 days after the event in order to make the Jan/Feb newsletter it will be a single point of view and one that is solely mine. Others may well have a different opinion about the day, and as I won't be at the next meeting I hope to pick up other views but this was sent via Email on Sunday night from Tom Hindness :



.....it was a really good day out for me, after being away from the club for so long it felt like I was coming out of hibernation. It's really good to see everyone again and talk to honest spruefaring men (and women in Roisins' case) All in all a grand day out, hope people feel like it's worth doing again I certainly do. Thanks again, see you when the sun comes up....

I had a thoroughly enjoyable day, got to really chat with those present and do some modelling while doing so. I was so impressed by all those who attended as everyone brought home made cake, I was worried here wouldn't have been enough, and everything ran smoothly. But if I apply the reasoning that myself and Paul had used when putting this idea forward then I need to be more objective. Despite invites the number of visitors was tiny. There was a small outlay by the club so that has to be balanced too even if we made money on cake sales that will go back into the club coffers. The boxes below give my Positives and Negatives about the day so that you can decide for the next AGM if the Winter Show is worth doing again? - Sibö

POSITIVE

Those in attendance (13 members plus some members who visited plus a few wives who engaged) all enjoyed the event. It was like an extra long club night with tonnes of cake, The 3 visitors were impressed with what they saw and how friendly the club was (2 had travelled from Swindon). Some sales were made. The Winter Show was much less stress than the main show and most enjoyed being able to model and drift around the hall. The single brew cost and cake price was not challenged and in return everyone got giant slices of cake and all were happy that profits were for the Club.

NEGATIVE

Despite 10 local clubs being invited and the Scouts plus a few word of mouth individuals only 3 visitors came through the door, one of whom was a hall user. That was disappointing, and not just because the opportunity for under table sales was lost but the desire was to engage with other modellers who we see attend our show in the summer but don't always get to talk with. That desire went unfulfilled and begs the question why? Without visitors the need for refreshments disappeared so the effort shown by wives and members baking was wasted (though everyone present enjoyed the selection).

So there you have it, my pluses and minuses, but the event and the club are run for the benefit of all so please do respond with your views and desires if you'd like this event to run again.

Review: God Hand Ultimate Nipper 5.0



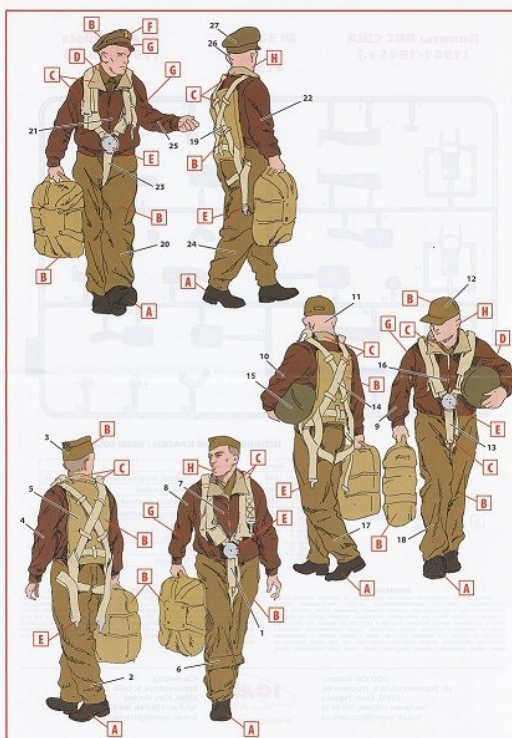
You may remember that a few members bought a pair of these at Scale Model World last November. I was lucky enough to receive a pair as a gift from St. Nick and have now had a couple of months to use them and so I thought I'd write a quick review.

I think the first thing you must mention about these nippers is the price; they are the best part of £50. This brings with it an expectation of the quality which is apparent throughout the user experience. The packaging is all in Japanese but a quick google image translate helps out with some of the instructions. The nippers come with a little leather cover to help protect the blade. The overall presentation is very nice, including etched details on the metal and a grippy blue handle that feels good in the hands.

The nippers are of the single blade type which uses a flat 'anvil' on one side and a sharp blade on the other. This means that they must be precision milled and use tempered steel. This makes the steel more brittle and so care must be taken on how and when to use them. The instructions suggest only using them up to a maximum cut diameter of 3mm and I have also heard suggestions that you shouldn't use them on the more brittle clear plastic. My usual method is to use a two-cut process; the first to remove a part from the sprue and then the second to clean up the nub on the part. For the first cut I go about 1-2mm from the part and then use the anvil blade to make sure I am square to the part and use the single blade to cut the remaining sprue off the part. A few swipes of the sanding stick and you're done. The cutting action feels clean and at no point do you feel like you are tearing or stretching plastic at any point.

Overall, these are by far the best nippers I have ever used. Are they worth £50? I can't fully comment on that having received them as a gift but I think nippers are such a fundamental part of the hobby (normally the first thing you do to start a new kit is cut off the first part) and are used so often that it is worth the investment to have a good pair and these are definitely that. - Phill M

Review: 32104 ICM USAAF Pilots 1941-45



1/32 scale to go along with any of the large scale aircraft kits on the market this set from ICM comes as a single sprue in a very sturdy box that also contains a single sheet of instructions. The plastic parts are good, well moulded and as well detailed as injection figures can be. Faces look similar to each other but with character enough. If you have 1/32 resin heads you may want to swap them out to gain sharper faces but for most these should be adequate. The instructions have all you need yet seem a bit basic, colour call outs and part numbers shown on completed figure illustrations as shown left.

£12.99 before club discount, mine are destined for a Ma.K diorama where the walking pose, baggage and flight equipment will be useful. I aim to swap the heads and use Ma.K helmets. Head dress included in the kit is one officer peaked hat, a side hat and a baseball cap. Note the specific dates being portrayed when choosing what aeroplane to display these figures with.

Sibo



Review: 3D GIZMO products

Chris Southwood brings a tank to life with a 1/35 British crew

Most armour modellers will agree that the easiest way to bring a breath of life and scale to an AFV model is to add crew. In real life a tank is not the most pleasant of places and the only time the vehicle would be completely 'buttoned up' would be, from my viewpoint, when under fire. Crewmen peering out of hatches, trying to spot targets and communicating with others is a very natural part of tank warfare; so much so that model manufacturers are only too happy to sell their AFV kits with figures, like Tamiya, or sell separate sets such as Miniart. More often than not though these separate figure sets have molding lines or are multi part kits, where arms have to be in exactly the correct place or they will have strange seams, or worse, gaps. The multipart nature may also result in separate legs and Torso halves to misalign or 50 other different ways to accidentally spoil a figure.



This is not the case with my recent purchase of a 3D Gizmo British Tank Crew Set. 3D Gizmo have a couple of these sets available: German and British tank crews are routinely seen on their stand at shows and they also scale them into 1/72 and 1/16. At £28.50 for 6 figures they can be a little pricier than a comparable injection plastic set of ICM or Dragon figures, but less expensive than something resin such as Alpine figures. While there are six figures in the set I do not believe they make up a whole crew; just a set of standing, generic figures with some nice realistic poses and different headgear or equipment configurations; allowing you to mix and match them across your vehicle collection. The generic mix of these poses helps to eliminate the 'odd one out' poses you sometimes get in sets where one of the figures is doing something a bit random and you feel like they won't fit the scene.



My set did require a little clean up work, some fine scaffolds were left in delicate places such as the neck but these are easily dealt with by good cutters, sharp scalpel and a gentle sanding. I did find on the lower legs the thicker scaffolding had left dimples where they had been attached. The detail was incredibly good and very crisp; the equipment, straps and cables, faces, clothing and even trouser braces are exquisitely rendered. When it comes to figures it is much easier to do a good job when the figure is of a good quality and has plenty of detail to begin with and these figures have oodles of detail to play with. They come as single piece prints, so no gluing required and the only filling necessary will be to repair any damage from scaffolding removal; you can almost leap straight to the painting stage.

Overall I would say these figure sets are well worth the investment, if you like painting figures, but not necessarily building them, they certainly are the way to go in my opinion. These figures are incredibly life-like and I hope they bring some character to my models. If you don't believe that 3D printed models are 'real plastic modelling' then Fear Naught, a tank crew is not necessarily the focus of your diorama or build, so grab a pack and get painting!

An Alsatian in 1/16 from 3D GIZMO by Sib0.

I am constantly surprised by the increased finesse being seen in 3D prints not in yearly increments but almost monthly, and since my initial disappointment with products and their costs I now happily look for accessories and figures done in this 'new' medium. Titled German Shepard on the packet this model by 3D Gizmo is nicely done with the fur of the dog well rendered while print lines are all but invisible.

The necessary supports are easy to remove with only a few tucked in behind the legs needing careful removal. Extra fine supports are also visible in the mouth that enable the dogs lolling tongue to be portrayed.



As Chris noted, there are tiny nubs and dimples to be dealt with left from the support removal which will require blending back into the fur texture. A fine sharp blade will be useful in this task. If sanding 3D prints do remember that the substance is resin so normal precautions for resin dust should be considered.

Like any figure, make or break for this Alsatian will be in the painting but the start point looks great and it's relaxed but alert sitting pose will look good alongside any 1/16 soldier.



Review: Reverse Flow Cooling parts for Mk6 Saracen FV603

I have to feel sorry for Hong Kong Creation Workshop (HKCW) whose 1/35 resin kits are distributed by Scorpion Miniature models. In Autumn 2025 they announced a hefty resin kit of the FV603 only to see Airfix announce the same in plastic in January 2026.

[Model Accessory Products](#) | [Scorpion Miniature Models](#)

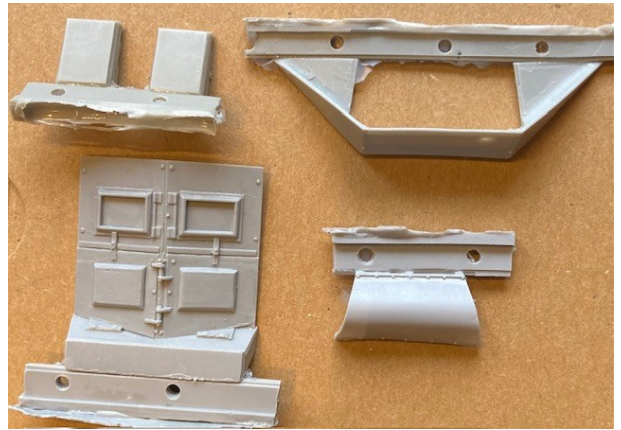
As well as the kit, HKCW do an interior, also unnecessary with the Airfix one as it is included. I have pre-ordered the Airfix plastic kit from Oz at Salisbury Model Centre with the aim of doing a Op Banner version. It is worth checking out Scorpion Miniatures website as they have listed a number of conversions for the Ferret and Stalwart too as well as the item reviewed here to convert the FV603 from Mk.5 to Mk.6

An annoying problem for Saracen operators in hot conditions was exhaust fumes being sucked back into the crew compartment through the vents. This was cured by the adoption of Reverse Flow Cooling.

The rear pair of engine inlets on the bonnet top were replaced by 'beehives', boxes built to top the lids that acted as air inlets made up of slats that gave them the nickname. Air drawn in was blown through the radiator where deflectors ducted it down

and out. When the vehicle was stationary this hot air being exhausted out of the front would blow over anyone standing nearby so a large metal cowl was fitted over the radiator grille with a curved rubber deflector to expel it to the sides. This plus a few minor changes caused the Mk.5 to become Mk.6.

The parts, five in total, look detailed though the bonnet might need plunging in hot water to remove a slight warp. I took advantage of purchasing now as it was only £5 plus P+P. I expect accessories and conversion from HKCW to increase once they realise their base kit will be losing out on sales to the Airfix one. Sibö.



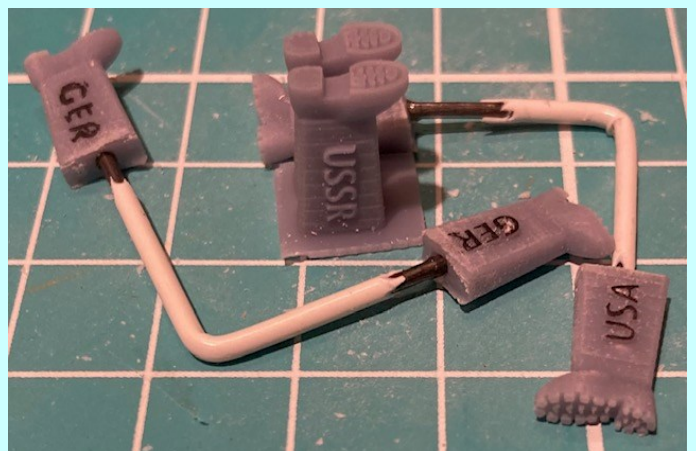
Review: Boot Print Stamps

One of those 'Ooh that's a nice detail' I've seen on a model that quickly becomes over used in the modelling press. Boot marks and hand prints.

However when I saw these 3D printed boot sets for less than £4.00 on E-bay I thought it cheap enough to add to my arsenal of finishing tools.

'Liang Model L0401 WW2 Bootprint Tool USA , USSR, German Scale 1/35 ' was the listing and comprises of a single print of 6 boots, 3 pairs. One set has treads of US style, one of Russian Style and one pair of WWII German hob nail style boots. Other combination are listed too.

You will need to saw off the print frame to free the individual boots to enable easier use, I drilled the boots out and mounted them on either end of a length of wire to prevent loss and aid 'stamping' onto a vehicle hull. The boots come with a raised written area with the country the boot comes from easy to see though I blackened my sets with pen to help it stand out.



Article: ARMA 1/48 SEA HURRICANE

NORTH ATLANTIC STORM by Nick Williamson

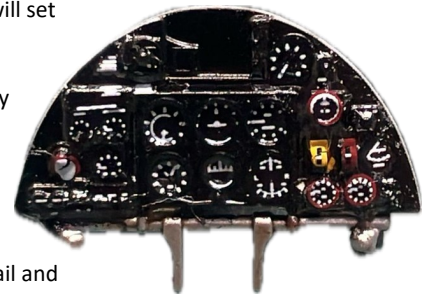


Introduction.

If you are fortunate enough to find yourself with one of these kits in your hands, there will be two things that strike you before you even open the box. The first, positive impression is the box art showing S/Lt Burgham in perhaps the best known Sea Hurricane, NF672 "Nicki", shooting down a Junkers Ju 290 on 26 May 1944 when 835 Naval Air Squadron were operating from the escort carrier HMS Nairana protecting convoys in the North Atlantic. The second, not so positive aspect will be the price tag. This kit of a single seat, single engine, WWII fighter will set you back about £60.

Arma Hobby first released their 1:48 Hurricane Mk II in 2023, to rave reviews about the surface detail, quality of the moulding and fit of the parts. Being a huge fan of the Hurricane, and of course particularly so in it's naval guise, I was quick to buy one and have now had the chance to build it.

So I guess the key question is: does it justify it's considerable price tag? (Spoiler alert - - - - - it does!)



In the box.

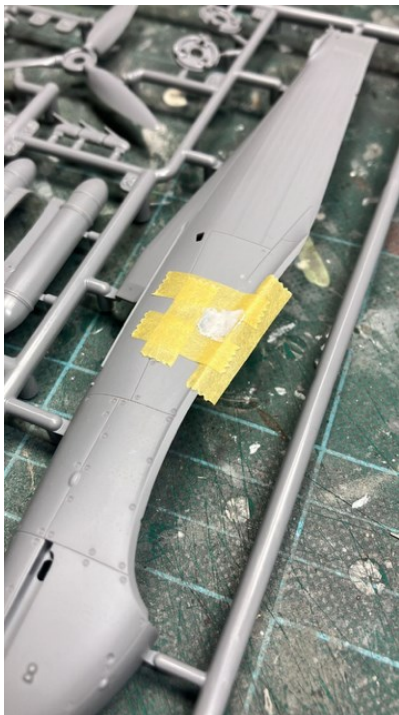
The box comprises a cardboard tray that slides out of the decorated outer sleeve, and the sheer quality, detail and refinement in the surface textures and details is immediately apparent.

The panel lines are thin and totally consistent. There is the most subtle of rivet and fastener detail on the metal sections of the fuselage sides and the fabric effect looks taut and avoids the ridges and furrows that rather spoil the Hasegawa kits. There are a couple of very fine raised strakes that run the length of each side of the rear fuselage that I'm not sure I've ever noticed on a real Hurricane, but I was not inclined to try and remove them.

The wings are covered in rivet detail and, whilst I'm no Hurricane expert, I think Arma have sought to distinguish between areas that, on the real aircraft, are flush riveted (using indentations to represent these) and those that are "dome head" or "mushroom" riveted.

This surface detail may not be to everyone's taste, but as someone who likes to weather their models (and who has recently discovered the joy of riveting on my Whitley), I think it looks amazing.

The lower rear fuselage, housing the arrester hook, is rendered in 3D printed resin, along with the hook itself and an option for the pilot's seat, including the harness. 3D printed cannons and exhausts are also present as options in place of the plastic.



The build.

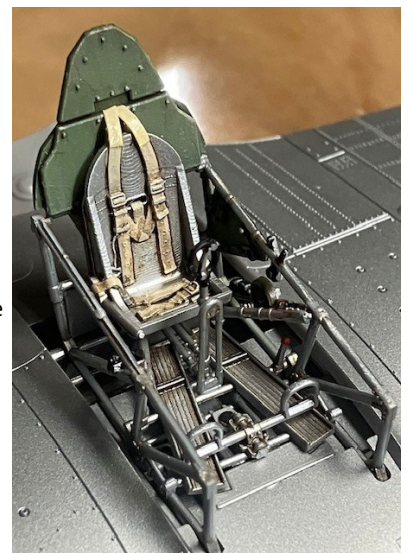
I began construction with the removal of the two small tropical vents that are moulded onto the fuselage halves below the cockpit. This involves shaving the vents off and filling a surrounding panel line. This relatively simple process felt rather precarious as the surrounding detail is so good and I tried to protect it with some tape.

The parts are very tightly packed within the sprues and there are lots of attachment points, many of which go over onto the mating surfaces of the parts. This did present a couple of problems.

Just snipping the parts off the sprues is tricky. Getting my snips into a space to make the cut was sometimes challenging and many of the the parts are very delicate - like the internal cockpit framing. The sprue gates were also often located in such a way that it was impossible to cut the part without putting pressure on it and risking bending or breaking it. This kit was one of the reasons I decided to "splash the cash" on some GodHand Ultimate Nippers at Telford - I think they would have made a real difference to the building of this kit. Once freed from the sprue, parts like the wings then required some careful clean up to ensure that the mating surfaces were flat and true.

The cockpit detail is very good and the fit of the parts throughout the build really was up there with Tamiya. In particular the way the fuselage dropped onto and fitted with the wing roots was the best I have ever encountered on a model aeroplane.

The extremely delicate hook and it's A frame required some very careful removal from the numerous supports that are a feature of 3D printing - it was a bit of a miracle that I didn't break it. The harness of the resin seat also does not reach all the way to the armour behind the seat so some short tape extensions are required. With this much quality, it did not take long for the airframe to come together and I could crack on with the painting.



Painting.

835 NAS requested permission to paint their Sea Hurricane's white to better camouflage them against the predominantly cloudy North Atlantic skies. There is some debate as to whether official permission was ever granted, but white they became, with the exception of an "anti glare panel" in front of the windscreen that was left in the original Temperate Sea Scheme colours.

The aircraft were painted aboard ship and the demarcation around the anti glare panel varied from one to the next. It has also been reported that there were limited stocks of white paint available, and so the undersides were left in Sky - at least to begin with. Certainly there is a good photo of NF672 after a deck landing accident that clearly shows a darker colour on the undersides, with the white wrapping around the wing leading edges. The undercarriage doors, whose lower front corners were often lopped off to avoid fouling the arrestor wires, also seem to be white.



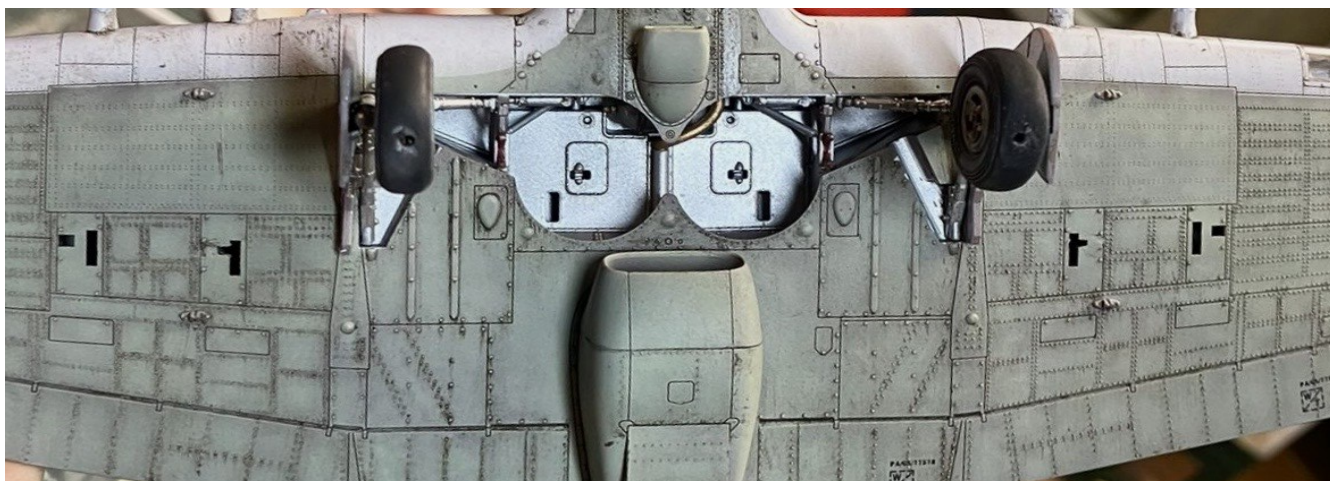
I decided to model NF700. I didn't want to do the same aircraft as everyone else ("Nicki") and there are some good photos of this plane on 2 March 1944 after it suffered a serious deck landing accident that resulted in it being written off and dumped overboard. What is clear from all the photos is that these Hurricane's became very grubby from their hard use in harsh conditions.

Copying my new found technique from the Whitley, I first painted the airframe Tamiya XF9 Hull Red. I pre-shaded the panel centres with XF55 Deck Tan and then applied the white over this, leaving a patchy and dirty finish particularly around the engine. I masked the anti-glare area with white-tak and added the Extra Dark Sea Grey and Dark Slate Grey, then went back over the margins of this area with the white to make it look like the white had been sprayed over the darker colours.

Markings.

I decided to try the kit decals for everything except the registration, for which I used Xtradecal set X48240. These separated quickly and easily from their blue backing sheet and were thin and glossy. They did tend to grip quite quickly which made them tricky to manoeuvre once on the surface of the model.

I would recommend applying plenty of water or MicroSet before placing the decal. I was concerned that the decals would struggle to settle over all that rivet detail on the wings. This fear was partially justified in that where there were rows of raised rivets the decal tended not to settle between each little dome. When I build another of these kits (because I surely will), I will take more care to prick the decals with a needle along these rows of rivets and apply more setting solution.



Weathering.

With the decals on I was able to apply Flory Models "grey" wash to the white and "grime" wash to the underside and around the engine access panels. Characteristic Hurricane exhaust stains were done with black, white and rust coloured pastels after the mat varnish coat had been applied.

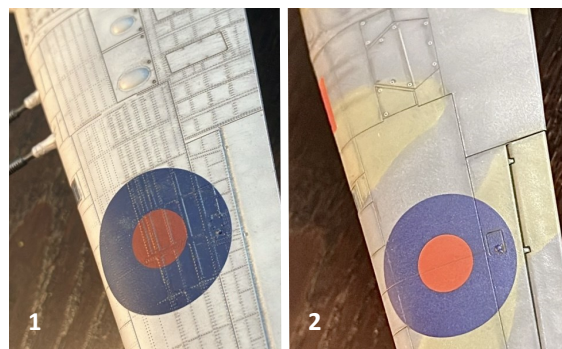
In conclusion.

We all know there is no such thing as a perfect kit. The price and the care needed to remove parts from the sprues means this one is no exception. But for quality of moulding, surface textures and finishes and fit of the parts this Hurricane is difficult to beat.



A final word of caution. After completing this model I took a look at a few un-started kits from the stash with a view to them being my next project. They all seemed rather crude and featureless by comparison with this Hurricane and my enthusiasm to start them waned as a result. Perhaps a future only making Arma Hobby models of Sea Hurricanes awaits me?

(Right 1), the busy detail of the ARMA skin is easy to see (Right 2) and makes the recent and actually impressive Airfix offering seem lacking in detail.



Weather report & simple fixes

A little fun with real world inspiration, tips and useful product information.

5 Five Fixes for 1



DELUXE MATERIALS MICRO BALLOONS are described on their website as a 'Lightweight "free flowing" white powder which is mixed with polyester or epoxy resin to make an easy sanding strong filler'. Correct, but not really telling you what the powder is. As it is white in colour it's most likely micro-sized glass balloons, if it were a yellowish or brown colour, Phenolic resin balloons. Micro balloons are used to bulk-out or thicken resins including epoxy, polyurethane and polyester, reducing their density. As well as lightening a given area it becomes easier to sand. Adding micro balloons to woven laminates strengthens the fabric for less weight, very useful in R/C aircraft, the powder makes a strong filler when added, it will speed up superglue drying and give gap filling results that can be sanded to a feather edge.

Made of micro particles that become airborne as soon as the material is scooped. Always apply caution. Wearing a dust mask when using or sanding this product is advised. Do Not Breathe in or eat.

1



The fine white powder mimics light snow fall rather than the heavy falls that blanket the ground. It can be puffed to create drifts and settle into recesses. It is important to wet the area first with a heavily diluted PVA and water mix, or hairspray. Sprinkle the micro balloons through a sieve at height or puff into place using the bottle. You might want to practice first. Leave to dry and that's it. The powder is so light that trying to spray adhesive after using the powder will just blow it away.

Remember, don't breathe in the powder when applying it. The fine dust is an irritant.

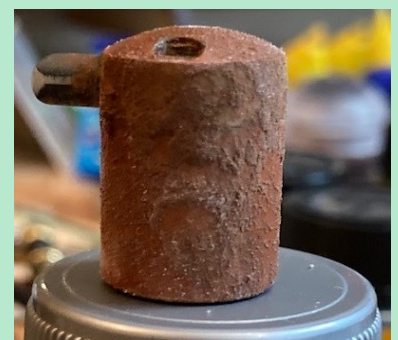


2



To create the effect seen on the exhaust canister of this WWII Hanomag of oxidation on heat damaged paint and metal I used Deluxe materials Micro Balloons. Base coat the part and immediately scatter powder onto the wet paint. Leave it to dry for a few hours then re apply in the same way but only in select areas to give random amounts of texture. Once again let dry then start to paint with rust tones blending into the actual colour of the body work. The texture will enable dry brushing and stains are readily absorbed.

Pastels or powders also take to the rough texture very easily, useful for the sooty deposits around the exhaust opening.



3

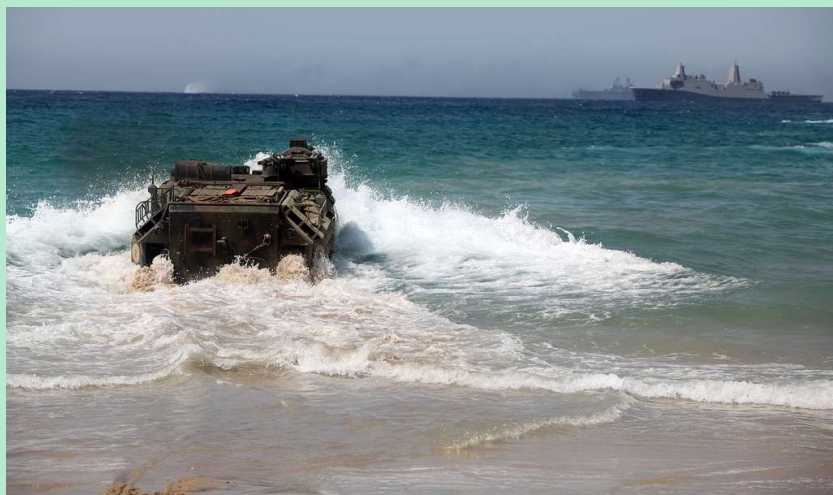
5 fixes with Micro Balloons continued



Applying a felt texture is very similar to the previous method. German soldiers were equipped with water bottles made of metal with tight fitting felt pouches encasing them. This felt could be wetted, and as the water evaporated from the felt it helped keep the contents cool. Once again paint the part, then lightly sprinkle on the powder and leave. Once dry blow of the surface gently (do not rub). Unlike the previous method the powder will appear more dust like as it is not embedded in paint but sitting on the surface. Above right are real canteens, below a 1/16th version under construction. This method can also be used on 1/24 car interiors as a flock for seats, door panels and floors.



4



Wanting to mimic the white froth and spray found at the waters edge as it is churned by waves or amphibious vehicles takes a few different techniques but for the actual white caps, Micro balloons are very effective. On the tips of your formed waves or along the breaking edge of the beach run a thin bead of white PVA or Modge Podge and gently puff the powder into the glue. Second or third beads of glue with more powder application will build the 'foam'. Try to have the beach face abruptly end, but feathered out to sea or away from the vehicle. Reference to photos will help sculpt the 'foam' but don't over work it and leave it to dry for at least 24 hours before deciding if another layer is needed. It is easy to over do the layering, applying it too thick will prevent the PVA drying clear.

5



2026 GROUP BUILD

The range of subjects put forward for this year's GB included perennial favourites such as 'any Matchbox' or 'new Airfix releases' as well as a take on the original club GB of the 1/32 Spitfire but this time an Axis adversary. After a first round of voting three ideas had tied. 'Racers' - any vehicle that shared a racing theme. 'Matchbox kits' and to pay tribute to Mr Shunsaku Tamiya 'Any Tamiya kit'. Another round of voting saw the Tamiya option win with 13 votes, and will please a wide range of members as there is so much to choose from. Don has a 1/35 Matilda tank he is keen to work on, converting it along the way. Nick can still stay on his chosen topic of FAA while tackling a Swordfish or Mosquito. Sibb wants to get the classic 1/25 Tiger out from the stash with Tony L and Steve S looking to make 1/24 autos from the Tamiya stable.

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAR 3rd	Germany Theme night; anything German including VW's.	Theme night
17th	Presentation, Museums of Canada.	Colin Whitehouse presents.
APR 7th	Open modelling night; bring some WIP and spend a couple of hours modelling.	All
12th	Poole Vikings Model Show	Richard C, Chris S, Bob L, Paul C.
21st	Internal kit swap/sales. Bring Cash.	All
MAY 5th	Asia Night, Models with an Asian theme.	Theme night
19th	Annual Memorial Shield Competition and Model Show briefing.	All
30th	IPMS Salisbury Annual Model Show.	To be tasked
JUN 2nd	Model Show debrief.	All
16th	Large Model Night. Big or Models bigger than the 'Normal Scale', Aircraft bigger than 1/48, Military Vehicles bigger than 1/35, Ships >1/350.	
JUL 7th	Open modelling night; bring some WIP and spend a couple of hours modelling.	All
12th	Helicopter Museum model show	Colin W, Mick Ellis
21st	Presentation 'Ost Munster Panzer Museum'.	Sibo presents.
AUG 4th	Club Summer BBQ / Pizza night.	All
18th	Conversions. Anything built not from the box. New decals don't count.	All
SEPT 1st	Quiz Night	All
12th/13th	Tank Museum Model Show, Bovington	Club attending each day.
15th	Open modelling night; bring some WIP and spend a couple of hours modelling.	All
OCT 6th	Final presentation and voting for 2026 Group Build	All
10th	REME Museum model show	Names to Branch Sec.
20th	AGM	Committee And Members.
NOV 3rd	Telford preparation	TBC
6.7.8 th	IPMS Scale Model World Telford	TBC
17th	Telford debrief and goodies night	All
DEC 1st	Night at the model shop & Club Dinner	TBC
15th	Individual Table Model Shows & Mince Pies night. Inc under table sales.	All

Chairman - Colin W: modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk

Branch Secretary - Tony L : secretary@ipmssalisbury.co.uk

Show Organiser-

Newsletter - Sibbo: newsletter@ipmssalisbury.co.uk

Website Custodian - Richard C: webmaster@ipmssalisbury.co.uk

Articles and news are always welcome for inclusion in the club newsletter. Views and information thus expressed are solely those of the author and will only be printed if a name is attached.

Articles and observations do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the club as a whole but as long as not offensive will be published though the editor has final discretion.

Email: newsletter@ipmssalisbury.co.uk with questions, concerns or content. Thanks, the Editor.

GRAIL KIT

What is a 'grail kit'? The term (as in Holy grail) refers to that model that is out of reach (or was) . It's reason for being your personal 'grail' can vary. Maybe a model of something that has never been issued, or a rare issue that you can't track down even though you know it exists. It could be a nostalgia driven kit from your youth that you want to find and do better, or perhaps never received despite asking at every birthday and Xmas?

So a 'grail kit' could be a rare kit or one that is available now but you never expected to ever see. It varies but we all have one or two. Club members are invited to reveal two of their Grail Kits and why.

My Grail Kits until 2025 were easy to list, but after years of dead ends and overly expensive teasers I have now both of my long sought kits. To elaborate for the sake of this article let me recount the why and wants of these two kits. SS Canberra was easy to pick up for little money in 1991, At that time my future wife did not know what a modelling nerd I was and I'd floated the idea of me making her the ship she worked on right before meeting me. It wasn't a 'shake and bake' kit and remained in a half built condition for a while till being discarded when we moved. Many years later Tammy, by now my wife and fully aware of how much of a modelling widow she had become, asked if I'd fulfil my promise. But now the Canberra was impossible to find and chancers on Ebay asked silly money. Luckily Tony Hawkins spotted my advert in the newsletter and we exchanged Sterling for plastic and one of my Grail kits is now ready to be started.



The Tydirium Shuttle appears in 'Return of the Jedi' and is an 80's era kit from MPC that also appeared in an Airfix box. A big kit, dwarfing the Bandai and Revell versions of more recent times. The older MPC kits lacked some detail and were not perfectly accurate, but we should remember that back then the tools were made using film clips and drawings to shape the masters, not the CAD we see today. Maybe because these kits came at a time when I was enjoying modelling with the freedom youth allowed as well as the currency and novel spectacle that the STARWARS films generated back then, I have a soft spot for the clunky MPC kits. I never had the Tydirium but marvelled at the lit versions I saw in 'Fine Scale Modeller' and promised myself; one day! After purchasing more than one 'pig in a poke' second hand I finally went all in on a shrunk wrapped Ebay auction. £80.00 well spent? Watch this (hyper) space.



- Sibö

WHAT SCALE IS THAT?



We are familiar with model scale, it is expressed as a simple fraction so 1/72 scale means the model is 72 times smaller than the real thing. A 1/24 scale vehicle 24 times smaller and so on. You would need 24 Land Rover models parked nose to tail to equal the length of one real Landy. Maths is not my strong suit but I know that any fraction with 1 as a numerator, the greater the denominator the smaller the object, thus a 1/100 building will have tiny details compared to a 1/35 building. But not all models have 1 as the numerator. Lindberg brought out anatomy kits, a tooth for example was 8/1 so eight times bigger than real life and a skull at 1/1.

So what about this? Seen recently outside Kings Cross station is it 1/1 scale as the box contains a real JCB to mark 80 years or is it 32/1 as it represents a Britains diecast JCB?

Comms Check

The club is a source you should be using: Kits you don't want anymore or kits you are desperately looking for. A magazine article or missing decals, even to ask a random question or get it off your chest. All can be done through the newsletter and will be bounced back and forth here. Be brief and to the point. Send your Requests, Answers, Offers and Rants to : newsletter@ipmssalisbury.co.uk



UNUSUAL MODEL RELATED CHRISTMAS GIFT #1

A relatively inexpensive yet unique Christmas gift in 2024 year was repeated by my wife last year and should be considered by every modeller's partner. As we know, modellers do like to show off their creations and (dare I say it), have a little bit of a reputation for showboating so what better gift than a 12 page calendar of models made solely by the recipient? And it's even easier to organise with photos already available on our own club website; a true surprise can be arranged. You could of course arrange it for yourself and keep it in your hobby room with club night themes filled in?

UNUSUAL MODEL RELATED CHRISTMAS GIFT #2

An incredibly generous gift was given to me by a talented modelling friend. He may hope it will enable my own modelling efforts to rise to his standard, we shall see. But the 'GOD HAND' parts clipper is certainly an exquisite tool and seems to have been a popular item judging by the number of club members who gained one in 2025.

However it isn't listed here as 'unusual model related Xmas item #2', but used as an indicator of size. I've preached long and hard to anyone who listens about the magical properties of Lemsip, even bringing one in my pocket to sup at club nights ensuring no sniffles at my work bench the next day. Perhaps my vocal endorsement has been too intense as my daughter presented me with a 1/12 box of Lemsip complete with individual packets. Now that will be a hard diorama challenge to use them in.



Julie Andrews? In the Newsletter?

The fire is on and Christmas snacks are at hand along with a nice glass of something. 'The Sound of Music' starts to play out on the TV. Not my choice but I'm too comfy to complain and it's nice to be cozied up with my wife. I don't really recall watching it properly before so I was shocked and then gutted to see a beautiful 540k on screen sporting the same extras I'd searched ages for in making my 1/24 version. ([Sibos Auto Final Build – IPMS Salisbury](#))

Sometimes the details we seek are in the oddest places and I guess we all need to remember there is more to research than just the internet.



The 1965 musical was inspired by the lives of the real von Trapp family, with Georg von Trapp played by Christopher Plummer and singing nun and matriarch Maria von Trapp by Julie Andrews. This Film was in fact a screen adaptation of the 1959 Broadway musical itself adapted from the German comedy film from 1956 'Die Trapp Family' based on the 1949 memoir by Maria. The film took many liberties compared to prior versions, the children's numbers and sex, the dates and the actual fleeing which was far less dramatic, even altering the timeline to suit, but it's gist is about right. Just like my Mercades 540k model I suppose. - Ed

A PLACE OF YOUR OWN

Now 2026 is in full swing, a whole year ahead to plan, build and finish models, you can take a moment to review your working conditions. I have been lucky enough to be able to utilise some space and gain a bigger working area that is better lit as well as some much needed display shelves too.

Having a dedicated space is almost a luxury, but as we all can attest, it is such a benefit to

enjoying the hobby. I therefore salute the dedication of Phill whose shed set up is pictured below. I spoke with him early in January as the country had a cold snap to find he was airbrushing out in his garden shed. He reported 'I had an enjoyable couple of sessions, despite the cold' which I guess is the reason we model.



Right, Tom at his desk. Notice his use of a length of guttering as a deep 'pocket shelf' for his tools. Clever and neat.



FOR SALE

Colin showed me his 'Jewellers pencil' (not a euphemism), ideal for picking up tiny parts. He has a handful available at £1 each so just ask him at Club. White wax filled pencils that just need sharpening to use, the tip is tacky but gives easy release of parts, ideal for placing PE.



Greetings from Tod

Club friend Tod sends his greetings from Liverpool and informed me he's just finished a 1/48 1914 Mercer run-about, built to go with Eduard's 1/48 Morane bullet from WW1 that is also underway. Hopefully we shall see it once completed.



REVELL: Levels Simplified? Perhaps...



Alongside is the current recognisable Revell box, this one a level 4 military kit. You'll see that the bar below the word 'level' has 5 segments meaning this existing type of box is at the higher end of the scale determined by Revell using a decision based on complexity, number of parts, size of components and cost. Simple as this style is Revell has decided to revue it's boxes, its application of levels and to a lesser degree the types of kits on offer.

The new level 1 is "Build & Play". Made from stronger plastics to allow them to be played with once assembled, construction is either push-fit or via large screws with included plastic screwdriver. No glue is required. Parts are pre-coloured, so no painting is required either. Any markings are either printed directly onto the parts or self-adhesive stickers. Despite their kit form these really constitute toys, some having sound effects but some are in fact scale models with a number of cars and Star Wars vehicles amongst the range that could turn a serious modellers head.



Level 2 represents the "Click System" of models. Manufactured from normal polystyrene plastic but pre-coloured each kit includes both self-adhesive stickers and waterslide decals to suit the skill level of the builder. As the name suggests, parts are designed to 'click' together without glue. Click System kits can be glued with normal poly cement, painted with any of the hobby paints normally used on kits and even modified with putty etc, they are ultimately static display models not toys even if some working features are included such as poseable steering.

Level 3, 4 and 5 indicates model kits that require both glue and paint to complete, sub titled "Build & Paint" equating to beginner, intermediate and advanced. Manufactured from normal kit non-expanded polystyrene plastic with supplied waterslide decals suitable for more than one option in many cases. Revell 'Classics' will fall into the Build & Paint line. These older-tooled kits are intended for the more competent modeller as the models in its kit form will not necessarily have the same level of fit and refinement as a modern tooling and thus need more skill to complete. By my reckoning that means the boxes should be marked level 5?

While not of relevance to club members unless gift purchasing, Revell have added further categories within the Build & Paint line: Model Sets, Gift Sets and Starter Sets.

The relevant logo (Build & Play/Click System/Build & Paint) will start to appear on new/reworked Revell packaging.



Fairey Delta 2 in 1/48 by DORA WINGS

On the intro page Tony's 1/72 Fairy Delta 2 is pictured. Dora Wings has also just released a 1/48 version available from Oz at SMC. The Fairy Delta was a British supersonic research aircraft that was produced by the Fairey Aviation Company in response to a specification from the Ministry of Supply for an aircraft to be used in conducting investigations into flight and control at transonic and supersonic speeds. Features included a delta wing and a drooped nose. The Fairey Delta 2 was the first jet aircraft to exceed 1,000 miles per hour in level flight. On 10 March 1956, it set a new world speed record of 1,132 mph, exceeding the previous official record by 310 mph. The Delta 2 held the absolute World Air Speed Record for over a year. The Delta 2 was the final aircraft produced by Fairey before being folded into what became Westland.

Manufactured by Dora Wings Code Number: DW48064

Scale: 1:48

Price: £30.95

