

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

IPMS Sep - Oct 26
SALISBURY

IPMS SALISBURY

**'26
GROUP
BUILD
INSIDE**



OH DAMN!

I'm putting this newsletter together without even knowing if I will be able to send it. Microsoft Publisher is set to be retired on the 1st of October and that software is what I produce the newsletter with.

I'm disappointed at the options suggested by Microsoft as it will not allow the current style of the club newsletter to continue. But with no alternative at present (I'm looking at Publisher options but balking at the cost) I will keep up the good work as they say on this issue and see what unfolds.



You'll notice in this issue that the build article takes up a few more pages than most previous articles have. It is not symptomatic of it being the editor's build but due to it being a figure conversion, vehicle build and diorama all in one. Its been discussed at many a club evening, dioramas have a lot going on! **All the Best— Ed.**

Colin was the quiz master for the first club night in September and provides the following report :

"14 members joined in with the annual quiz for the last August meeting. As usual there were 4 rounds based on recognition of various subjects.

These were in 4 categories of Aviation, Army (not tanks), Navy and Miscellaneous. Much groaning and complaining was heard either about the questions being too hard or too easy from various quarters. The quiz master had no sympathy as the deliberately hard questions were universally answered. Most members recognised the Austin K2 ambulance from a picture of the interior of the body. Similarly

while the pile of wreckage created quite a lot of moaning, most members recognised it as a Swordfish (ex). Anyone watching the news about USS Abraham Lincoln should have been reminded of the hull number 72 which was a clue to the carrier in the picture. Similarly the 'class of 1 super carrier in service' had to be the GR Ford.

Most members scored 20 or more which was reasonable. Richard Lane was there to defend his title, held since 2024, but on the night the honours and bragging rights were won by Don with an impressive 29/40. And not 1 Centurion in the whole quiz." Seems like a lot of fun as usual, though I realise I've missed the past 3 quizzes now, pure coincidence, not a fear of coming last.

Editor's hello and Latest: tying up club night info and passing on news gathered including Tamiya GB.



He-162 by Tony Hawkins

Reviews: Club members in box or deeper reviews of kits, products, books and tools.

Articles: In depth build article on M151A2 (M825) TOW MUTT with crew as it appeared on Ex TEAM SPIRIT 1986.

Weather report: Weathering reference. Chipping.

Events calendar: Club nights, in house and external shows and events.

Grail kit: Mr and Mrs Southwood provide interesting considerations for this issue's grail kit articles.

Comms check: Use the club newsletter to ask questions, swap info, borrow or buy from each other. References galore this month.



What a jovial night the 15th of September was, though at one point more club members were stood outside than in. Numbers were down as the Chairman and a few stalwarts were not present leaving Julian to open up. But we were temporarily bolstered by Paul and Paul, two friends who came along to see what the club was about. It was a free build night and there was a lot on the table, but therefore less finished models to view so I hope that the new guys still enjoyed what they saw.



The activity outside all started when Nick Williamson pulled up in his lovely green TR4. Petrol head Tony Levitt was soon outside looking under the bonnet and his enthusiasm was noticeably infectious as he was soon joined by Steve S, Tony H, Ray and Sibbo. After that excursion it was eyes down for some wholesome plastic modelling, though Nick took a little longer before finally cracking on with his Hurricane cockpit masking set, deliberating on what sequence to use for the large scale framing on the clear parts. Roisin and Chris appeared with Roisin continuing her Tamiya dinosaur build– we're expecting to see this at the GB reveal in October. Also being worked on for

the GB, but perhaps too far from finishing, Sibbo had 1/25 tracks that he sought to improve by drilling out every link's guide tooth. Trumpeter kits seemed popular on the night as Toz and Paul C both worked on kits. Paul also has a finished 1/35 Soviet ISU 152– 1 (Object 246) built up and on display. Finally US bombers were dotted around, some being worked on such as Steve's B-29 and others just to show commitment to Chris Southwood's newly revealed 'Memphis Belle' Group Build. This has captured a lot of the club's imagination as Richard Clarke proved with a huge amount of progress on his 1/32 scale HK version. I know that a number of B-17 kits in various scales have been purchased by many of the club.



Chris is the POC for all these builds and will maintain Facebook with up to date progress reports leaving the newsletter to publish an over view in each bi-monthly edition. This edition contains a small nod to one of the other aircraft types that feature in the film on page 15 too. The Facebook B-17 link is:-

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ipms-salisbury-b17-and-8th-air/1636712608055373/>

Once again a very enjoyable night and proof again the having build nights at intervals through the year is really rewarding.



October's club evening was well attended and seemed well overdue as it had been 21 days since the last get together. The main event was the Group Build and this was very well supported, 14 completed entries with 2 additional uncompleted models brought along to show. Other models appeared as well as Paul returning for a second time and another Andy who models post war Jets. Don didn't have a GB but did have an impressive Tamiya kit, a 1/16 Centurion MBT that will dominate any show table once it's done.





Don also had a privately designed and produced 1/35 kit of the anachronistic looking TOG II* which he had not only completed but improved to correctly portray the recessed side doors.

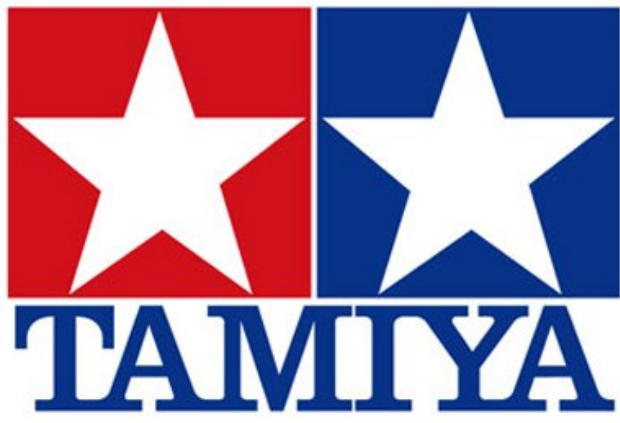
Colin the chairman had a few models along for the night, not just for the GB but a lovely looking 60's aircraft, the Bristol 188 (previous page) which was in an Alclad finish that presently gave the model the look of a metal wind tunnel proof. Colin aim's to replicate the real airframe on show in Cosford. Chris showed his first steps toward the 'Memphis Belle' project, a WIP set to develop

along with others into next year. While the GB was the main event, (some of which appear on the next page, while all appear on the club web site), the important club notices were attended to, with a reminder on the AGM and the need to fill positions (you still have time to Email AGM items for consideration) and also some definite and welcome news about the 2027 show. After a delay, the school has confirmed that the halls will be made available to us. A meeting for the show committee will be held on Tuesday 13th at the Duck to start the planning.

It is worth noting that while the GB's main aim was to just build a Tamiya kit some of the modellers had gone the extra mile in what they produced.

Nick Williamson brought along a sweet 1/48 Austin K2-Y Ambulance in a dark blue finish seen in an online photo. The real thing served in Portsmouth Royal Naval dockyards in 1948. He scratch built new doors and glazing, changed the exhaust, added a bell as well as applying the distinctive colour. The model sat on a scratch built base made from foamboard that hinted at the Naval home of the 2 tonner with rusty capstans. An even more ambitious base was made by Chris to show off his 1/35 Australian Matilda with infantry riders in the jungle of Papua New Guinea. Only two members, Sib0 and Julian missed the deadline but the amount of progress shown on their chosen Tamiya builds should see these models appear finished pretty soon. Julian a 1/48 Mosquito and Sib0 a 1/25 Tiger which has had a significant amount of added internal work added including converted crew figures.





2026 GROUP BUILD

The TAMIYA Group Build of 2026 honours the passing of Mr Shunsaku Tamiya with a GB titled "Build Any TAMIYA kit" . Some of the results are below, the full list with photos is on the club web site linked here :-

Group Build – 2026 – IPMS Salisbury





A selection of Group build photos with even more on the club website.

Previous page clockwise from top left:- Colin W 1/24 Toyota Celica twin Cam 16 Valve. Rauri 's F-14D 'Bounty Hunters' in 1/48. Nick's 'Katie' as described on page 4. Bobs amazing Sky Raider A.1H. Colourful rendition of a Ford Mustang GT4 in Troy Lee Designs scheme. Roisin's 1/35 Chasmosaurus. Mick completed the Classic Sd,Kfz 7/1 with 20mm Flak in winter white wash. Crusader Mk1 in 1/48 also by Colin. This page, in 1/72 by Richard L a P47-C below which is the box for Tony's Salamander on page 2. Andy's Nissan Fairlady 280-Z in 1/24 scale and another Bob build in 1/48, the P-51B.

Reviews in brief : Abingdon 3rd Oct, REME 10th Oct.

On Saturday the 3rd of October Bob Leach along with Mick and Julian represented the club at IPMS Abingdon. The stand had much variety. WWI to modern armour, Toon tanks to figurines with the odd Tuk-Tuk and deck tractor on display too for good measure.

While the show did run a competition none of the Salisbury group entered. During the day as well as manning the stand there was ample chance to look around with IPMS Swindon being singled out for their great display of cars and willingness to chat. Abingdon is always a good show and this year was no exception.



The following weekend the club attended the REME museum this time with Don and his scratch builds to make the group 4. The REME show started busy but sadly by 14.00 things had really quietened with the organisers giving the go ahead to pack up at 15.30. The relatively few traders at the show were disappointed with footfall and trade. From the club's side we had interest in Don's builds, Micks work from photo inspiration and Bob's rigging and panel line techniques. Not as busy as Abingdon but enjoyable none the less.



Thank you Bob for the report and pictures- Ed



Review: "If Carlsberg made Model Shops..."



Obviously we all love Oz at SMC, but let me tell you about a Model Shop I discovered in Volos, a large port dominated town in Greece.

It was seen on Google Maps while looking for another location, I suggested a detour, the address in old town Volos (which was not quaint) placed it on a row alongside a machine shop and fish bait shack so it should have been easy to find.

Arriving at the location we were at first puzzled, perhaps the map info was out of date as all that stood in front of us was a coffee shop with a few outside tables and a chalkboard advertising Frappes, coffee, cold drinks, ice cream, baked treats and Models kits—hold on....this is the place.

Sure enough inside was a combination that according to the young blond haired Greek lady I spoke with enabled the hobby shop to be a success, a hobby shop would struggle without the café element. It was more R/C focused with a number of built R/C spitfires hung from the high ceiling and at the opposite end of the open plan shop an indoor race course with built R/C cars dotted around. This track was a fixture for the local R/C car clubs who met on club evenings. As for regular styrene kits there was 3 decent shelves given over to kits. Some appeared dated and a little faded but the shop must have been doing turn over as the latest vintage classic releases from Airfix sat on the shelves too.

It was extremely hot so perhaps the final element that tipped this into awesome territory was the cold beers in the fridge. What a great way to entice my wife to stay a little longer. The beer went down a treat allowing me some time to look at a collection of made models that included an old 1/12 Airfix Bengal Lancer. In the interests of sustaining international model shops I bought an Academy 1/72 Stuka and ditched a towel in my luggage to get it home. Sibó



Review: 3D Printed wheels sets by SCALEX



ScaleX are a Ukrainian 3D printing company whose work you have already seen when Richard C brought in his 1/16 Burrell steam engine. They seem to be rapidly diversifying in the subjects they offer and increasing availability in the UK with Jadlam stocking, Ebay offering or direct sales via the Web all now active.

I purchased two different sets of 1/35 wheels and was pleased with the high fidelity of the supplied items. The picture here shows the Land Rover set with improved tread, mine will replace the Italeri wheels, but note the ScaleX blurb says it is for the AK kit. I don't expect much tweaking to be needed. The wheel sets are available in bulged (AKA weighted) or plain (AKA un-weighted) versions and include spare tyres where applicable. The support frames are still present but have fine attachment points. The rims have Goodyear logos and data so well detailed but at £16.00ish they may not be everyone's idea of good value. Sibó.



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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.



Article: Academy's M151 MUTT comes ashore.

The M151 has been successful in military service in 15 different NATO countries as well as being sold to many countries like Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, the Philippines, and Pakistan. The M151 is used by over 100 countries worldwide including a large number bought by the UK. On top of this the MUTT is now often seen under civil ownership. Produced from 1969 to 1985 as a successor to the classic Willys Jeep fulfilling the same role. The first version had faults mainly relative to safety issues with its suspension. The M151A2 featured a significant rear suspension upgrade, a self-supporting body, and revised turn signal lights. Other more minor changes from the A1 were evident too.

The A2 version has been produced in kit form, first by Tamiya in the early 80's, it being copied exactly by Academy as the two companies had a mold sharing deal then. A good kit with simplified front suspension and differentials but missing some details, there is no engine at all, a solid front bumper and some softness in places. Tamiya continued to bring out more M151A2 kits with an M151A2 (M825) TOW carrier (35125), a M151A2 with canvas roof and trailer (35130). Academy followed copying and reboxing these also.



These Tamiya (Academy clone) kits were the standard MUTT M151A2 go to kits for about 20 years.

In 2005 Academy massively reworked their M151A2s and introduced what were in effect totally new kits. Improvements in details such as full engines and battery boxes, foot pedals for the brake and clutch, a gas pedal in later releases, separate front bumpers with the proper profile, wheels with lightening holes that go all the way through, separate clear lenses etc. However, they still had some of the earlier errors of simplified front suspension and lacking in underside details.

Tamiya went in a different direction and used their original tooling to create an

Op Urgent Fury version and then backdated the kit to an early A1 Vietnam version. However this has lots of compromises too partly from using the A2, partly from the earlier inaccuracies.

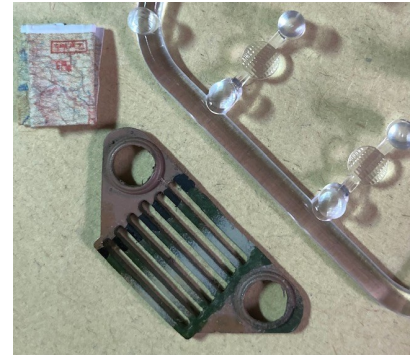
By combining the later Academy kit with parts from Tamiya you can end up with a very good model. However I already had Academy's copy of the earlier Tamiya TOW MUTT and wasn't going to waste it. This build shows the improvements and changes I incorporated and the base it was mounted on. **MUTT = Military Utility Tactical Truck.**

Having ascertained that there is variation in the kits to choose from it should also be said, there is a lot of variation in service MUTTs. Most kits offer the choice of US Marine or US Army vehicles, these mods relate to exhausts and deep wading, decal options and bumper styles. Research soon shows there is far more options out there, some are interservice differences, some stem from different countries needing a different layout. The Luxemburg TOW MUTT below left is based on an A1 version with some European modifications, centre is a Danish TOW armed MUTT with no spare wheel mounts at all. I didn't want to cherry pick details so chose to model a TOW MUTT in use by a US Army unit, that despite being in a beach setting would not have the Marine extended air intake and exhaust. Airbourne and Infantry unit TOW vehicles such as far right became my primary references. MUTT

maintenance instructions also helped with details.



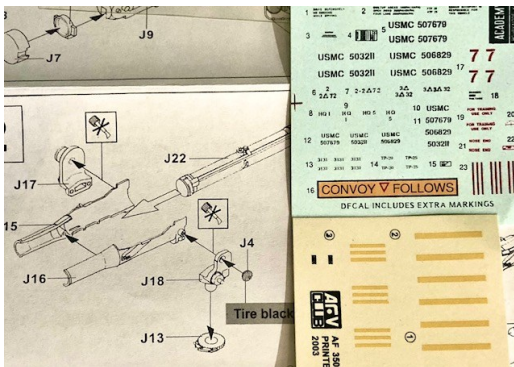
What should be noted though is the TOW armed M151's were supported by Reload vehicles that had extra racks for TOW Missile tubes and no launcher pedestal. At times these are mislabelled in photos online so double check when referencing.



The first stages of the kit were a delight to build, the Tamiya heritage of Academy's boxing is evident in the kit design and parts breakdown though the instructions are not so clear. Once the chassis and tub were constructed I needed to deviate from the kit to incorporate the changes to suit the vehicle I aimed to model. I applied the MERDC scheme at this point even though I knew it would need redoing, my theory being as I added layers of equipment and stowage no area would remain unpainted due to inaccessibility.

Deviations began by drilling holes in the wheel hubs, from the outside in as the indents do not line up. The TOW missile rack was detailed as were the 2x stowed tubes, finished to look like 'Drill' tubes with INERT dummy markings. On top were roll matts made from Milliput. Stowage was added to the bonnet, some resin from Value gear along with my own made from Green Stuff putty. The grille was sanded from behind until the slats opened and a radiator made. Lights were drilled and spare (Airfix Ferret) lenses used.

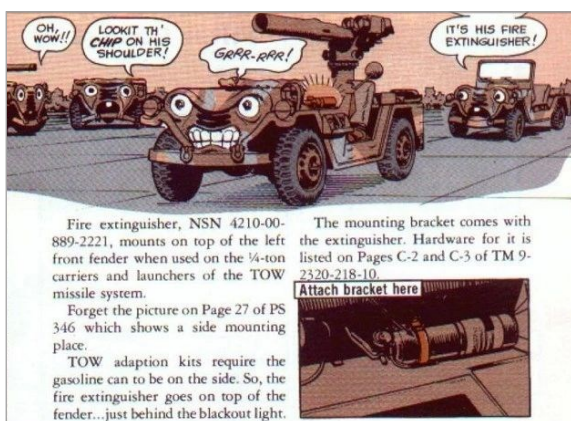
I discarded Academy's TOW launcher and used a TOW from AFV Club as it was far better detailed. The launch pedestal by AFV Club has an open PE basket (see below for real item and the AFV Club being built). As the AFV Club kit is meant to be in the ground role firing position I had to cut the legs off, cut off the rams and also the feet and then reassembled the parts in stowed configuration. The firing tube in the AFV Club kit was the longer version and had the lightening holes present. Oddly the Academy decal sheet was better with more data elements, but wrong colour warning stripes (red, but should be yellow) so both were used. If you are doing



the same do not attach J13 to the launcher but fit it to the tripod, using the Academy TOW mount to provide the same part for the vehicle mounted launcher. Reference pictures showed a flipped over rear seat cushion, also modelled with Milliput, different arrangement for the jerrycan and later fire extinguisher bracket all made with scrap PE. I added maps, commercial clear 1 litre water bottles and the drivers M16 with BFA added in the gap beside the driving seat. A cam net, camp cot and ration box made from folded manila paper filled the rear.

While the body was underway I worked on converting 2x figures to fit, taking time to ensure they sat in harmony with the interior. The third conversion would be a standing figure of a Beach Master. The rear seated Infantryman uses the original driver legs and body. Various US WWII parts for the actual driving figure. (The supplied driver is in a relaxed non-driving pose. Many of you may recall, he has one foot outside of the vehicle resting on the lip of the driver's position). My

wish was a more dramatic portrayal of the vehicle (of which more later) which needed a driver fully engaged so I used an extended arm with a fist added to indicate working the gear stick with his head looking down at the gear shift area.





Parts from Tamiya's US Commanders briefing (circa 1969– 80) were used for the beach master needing Milliput rolled up sleeves and a new thumb to hold the clipboard I'd added. Milliput was used more extensively on the MUTT crew, the wet weather jackets were distinctive so I added the the Velcro flap and two chest pockets with rolled up hoods. On the driver I added trouser map pockets and thickened the body of the gunner as his torso looked too slim. A couple of the webbing pouches were added at this point to get a good nestled fit into the soft putty used to change the uniform.

The Beach masters fatigues were painted OD, a piece of sticking plaster was cut to shape and wrapped around his shoulders. Once painted this became his Hi-Vis vest with 'Beach Master' across the shoulders. While I have no pictures of Hi-Vis wearing beach masters from 1986, all modern pictures of US amphibious exercises show them being worn (Hi-Vis were in common use from 1964 so I'm happy with this interpretation).

Decals of the 'Temperate US Disruptive Pattern Material' (DPM) being introduced at this time were used to clothe the MUTT crew. I undercoated in US Gunship Green which was a match for the green areas on the decals and added them piece by piece, cutting some decals as shapes to match pocket flaps or seam lines to mimic the tailored material, rather than just appearing wrapped. Pin washing helped pick out details on jacket and trousers. After another round of check fitting, thin strips of very thin plasticard were cut and the straps of the webbing made-up onto the figures. Only once the figure were finally glued in place did the last pouches get added. Observed details from photos mean the drivers web belt is open, orange mine tape on helmets and red BFA fitted to M16 for the exercise.

WHY THE VARIETY?

The US soldiers in my Dio' are in two very different uniforms. The US Army's 'Fritz' Kevlar helmet, introduced officially as part of PASGT (Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops), entered service with first combat use in the 1983 Grenada intervention. It became standard issue in 1985 and fully replaced the older M1 steel helmet by the end of the decade. The Infantry have the latest uniform and webbing but the Beach master is in older fatigues and M1 Helmet befitting the 1986 date of the diorama.

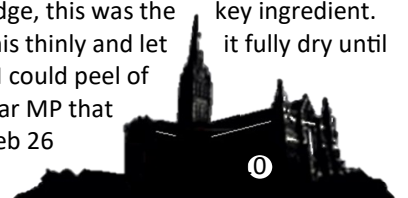


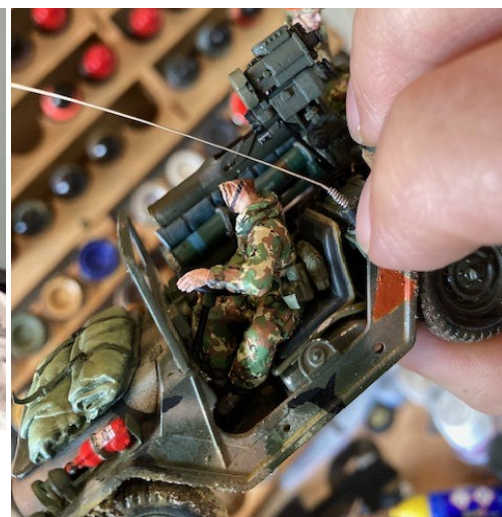
By now work on the diorama had began with opportunities taken to test fit the MUTT and the figures for layout. I had planned to have a discarded life jacket and a radio alongside the beach master but less was definitely more.

I wanted the model to suggest movement, the base would be intrinsic to this even if I knew I'd be experimenting as I went along. I wished to include turbulent water and some sort of indicator of motion from the wheels.

To start I purchased a small circular plate from a market stall, the type that keys or trinkets are placed on. What attracted me was the design on the plate suggested waves with a white leading edge and blue body. With a jigsaw I cut a square from the plate, sized to fit in a deep picture frame. Notches were cut into the white edge in line with the MUTT's rear wheels to allow it to sit rear heavy. From Kingspan expanded foam the beach incline was cut and painted with PVA to protect it from paint solvent. Real sand was used to coat the foam after it was undercoated and tamped down. Within the frame the foam and wooden elements were lined up and glued in place. Now the fun started.

Lines of tiny (1mm or so) clear polyethene beads were glued in slightly curved lines to start the process of creating breaking waves, some were also glued to the rear of where the MUTT fitted. The glue used was Gloss Modge Podge, this was the key ingredient. Over the blue area of the plate I stippled Modge Podge (MP), the important thing is to apply this thinly and let it fully dry until clear. As well as building the texture on the base I applied MP to a clear plastic bag. When dry I could peel off swathes of clear material like skin. Noting that surf has a white foam I also made 'skins' of clear MP that had Microbeads dusted onto its surface before it dried. (see pics above and Simple fix in Jan/Feb 26 for Microbeads). These sheets or skins would be used later as we progress.





Modge Podge (MP) finally was spread onto the plastic sheet again but this time the same sand used on the sloped foam base was sprinkled on and the edge feathered. This to was left to dry to make more thin film sheets to tie the vehicle to the base at the finish.

The finally stretch was laborious but needed to get the water effect as I began layering up the clear film over the blue areas of the base, and lapping it onto the sand, adding more micro beads as required and using neat MP to secure each layer, waiting each time for it to dry clear.

As this went on more final detailing of the MUTT continued, adding the kit tools, radio gear (relocated as per photos) and an antenna from wire with a base fashioned from a guitar string. This enabled the antenna to be flexed with a tiedown as often seen on vehicles during exercises to clear overhead wires. Even the straps were detailed, the holes of the belts filled and sanded as by 1986 nylon straps with quick-release buckles were in use, and curled to simulate movement. Time to place the vehicle in situ and build up the surf effect.

More layers of gloss MP were layered on lapping onto the body of the MUTT, with thin strips also used to indicate water run off. Neat MP was stippled onto the body along the sides and rear. At this point I fired a few photos of my diorama to fellow modellers and the consensus was the sea scape was too blue. I couldn't repaint it as I'd loose the clear effect. Knowing the waves would have churned up the sand in real life I decided to go all in with a fix. With my airbrush on the finest setting I applied tiny swirls with dark sand acrylic that toned down the blue but didn't hide the clear layers. I then carried on adding more MP layers, Microbeads where required and at the front end MP with sand to mimic disturbed and slung up beach. This was very fragile but really sold the idea of movement. Despite the by now fragile nature of the diorama I needed to add the final details such as the rear gunner so his pose would match the vehicle's angle and have him looking at the water as if worried it will get him wet. And the windscreen with Mig Ammo Water effects used to simulate spray. With a clear descriptive title added this model was finished.



I felt the attempt to model motion had worked well, and one of the numerous MUTTs in my stash used in an original way. Some areas are not perfect but as a whole, I'm pleased.



Weather report- Chips with everything

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



5cm German PAK 38 wheel.

Chipping is certainly an in vogue weathering technique both when realising rust chips that result from knocks and scratches as well as the layering that chips reveal when paint becomes worn and flakes off.

There is a difference in how rust chips appear compared to paint chips, with the active nature of rust chips resulting in blooms around the chips and stains drawing downwards from the chip. Here we look at the effect paint chips have and how much contrast can be seen in the layers of colour. Chips will start on any proud edge or raised area but as the chips meld into each other the area of contrast can be immense as the side panel of the Land-rover shows. Also visible is how more than one layer can become revealed.



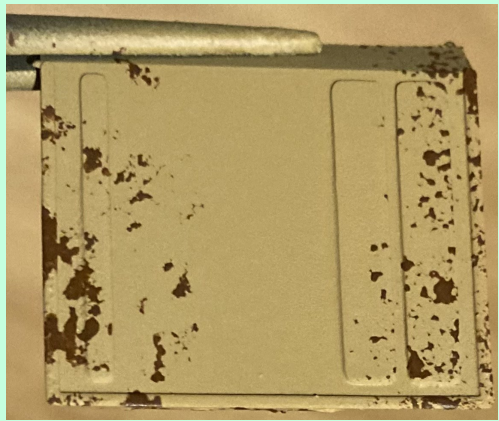
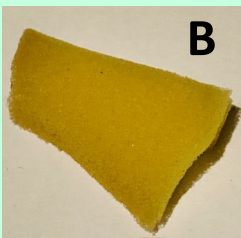
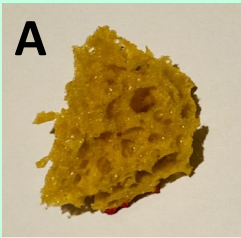
Top: T55. Series 1 Land-rover above

Simple Fix : Chipping check

Chipping can be realised with patience and a very small brush but for speed and consistent results a sponge dipped in suitable colour can be very effective.

Results vary with sponge type. **A** as in the pictures is a natural sponge. The fact that these have grown means the air holes are irregular in size and the ripped edge gives dabs of paint in different sizes. The sponge in **B** is man made, the type found in washing up bowls and this has a tighter, more regular hole size and its ripped edge therefore gives smaller more regular chip effects. Both have uses but do rotate your sponge as you dab otherwise you will notice repeat patterns of chipping appear. Try to apply the chips with some logic so that exposed or heavily abused or trafficked areas get more chips than protected or covered areas.

Try using hair net to dab for even finer paint chips.

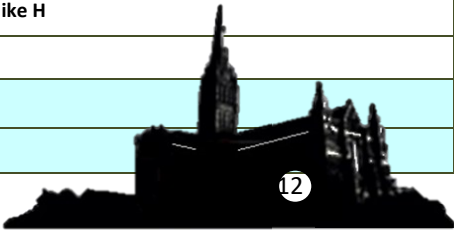


A

B

EVENTS CALENDAR

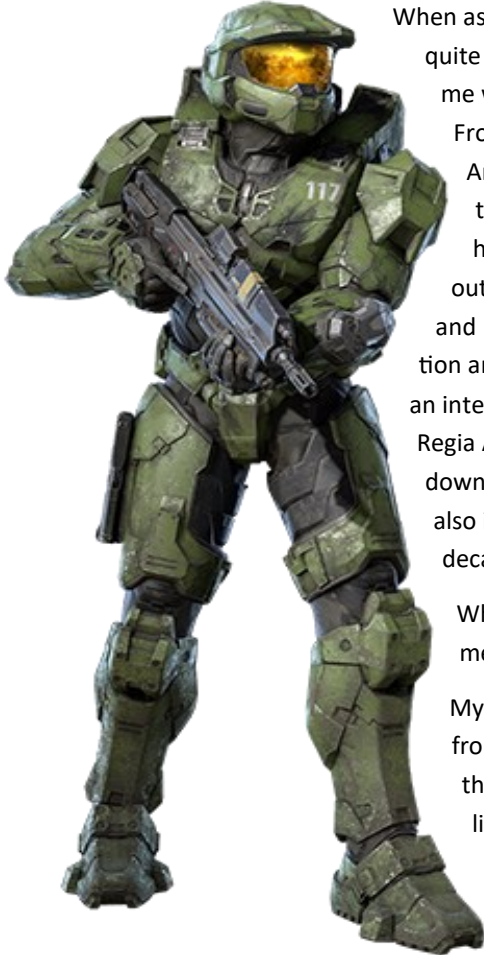
11th	Yeovil Model Show 2026	TBC. Venue is Taunton area.
20th	AGM (report will appear in Nov/Dec Newsletter) Re-new Subscriptions.	Committee and Members.
NOV 3rd	Telford preparation	TBC
6.7.8th	IPMS Scale Model World Telford	TBC
15th	Aircraft Enthusiasts' Fair & Model Show Middle Wallop	Bob, Tony L & Paula, Chris S & Roisin, Richard C, Toz, Poss Mike H
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



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 now 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.



When asked "What is your Holy Grail Kit" I wasn't quite sure how to answer. Any reader who knows me will be able to tell my interests vary greatly. From long-term projects such as my "Arnhem Anniversary Build" and "Operation Pedestal" to the individual builds in between to vary what I have on my bench and keep me from running out of love with a project. I love exotic aircraft and bright colours; as per my Jet Provost collection and I realise I am beginning to settle more on an interest in Aircraft from the Spanish Civil War, Scandinavian WW2 air forces and the Italian Regia Aeronautica. As a result of this hopping around I haven't really had the opportunity to sit down and worry about what is 'missing' from my collection and preventing its completion. I am also in an enviable position of enjoying genres of modelling already well served by existing kits, decals and aftermarket parts.

What is truly a Holy Grail in my eyes? I could simply say "I haven't found one yet" but that means I haven't entertained you for long enough. So if I was to be REALLY greedy:

My first reaction was to blurt out "warships" however if I was to pray for any particular vessel from Operation Pedestal there is a HUGE raft of other ships I could easily add to the list. With that my mind turns to more abstract or esoteric trails of thought; in my non-modelling life I like to play video games, especially revisiting games from when I was younger and one in particular comes to mind; Halo... I warn you now- I will be greedy and ask for a 'set' of holy grail models.

One of my favourite computer games was the Halo series, a great storyline, brilliant Lore and background and some very fun vehicles and weapons. I have recently seen that a table top gaming company has released some small-scale spaceships for a Halo Space Battles style game. The vehicle designs in Halo are not necessarily 'one of a kind' but they do have a certain class and style to them. The Covenant (the hostile alien collection of races hell-bent on destroying humanity) vehicles all float over the ground with a hover technology and are all designed with organic looking bumps and curves and look quite insect-like; an appearance backed up with a chitinous* looking purple sheen such as that seen on the Wraith tank. The human vehicle design is a little more 'grounded' in our reality; the Scorpion Tank features a reliable 90mm cannon situated in a turret which rises over the tank like a scorpion tail and to increase its terrain capabilities features four individual track pods. The Warthog recon vehicle is a mean looking 4x4 vehicle with a chain gun mounted on the back and behaves like a futuristic Humvee. Then we have Marines, loyal troopers with characteristic armour plate and helmets with a folding eye screen that acts like a Heads-Up-Display all the way to the Spartans. The main player Character in the Halo series is a Spartan Super Soldier. Enhanced through medical science and with specialised armour suits the legendary Spartans are humanity's only hope in the War for survival. They are instantly recognisable to a great many fans and I can imagine them on a model show table fighting the war against the Covenant.

I would LOVE for someone to produce a set of vehicle and figures in 1/35th based on the Halo Universe. I can image building a Scorpion Main Battle Tank or a Warthog scout vehicle with some United Nations Space Corps figures to go with them.—Chris S.



GRAIL KIT

What is a 'grail kit'? Has been answered in a double whammy by the Southwood team. Thank you Roisin and Chris.

Being still quite new to the world of modelling, I am not sure if I have yet to work out what would embody a "Holy Grail" kit for me. I have been assured that the growing pile of unpainted minis and diorama kits next to my hobby desk, is still small potatoes compared to other stashes, I had, always been able to find whatever miniature I needed to terrorise a table of D&D players. Or at least that was what I thought.

The deeper I get into this hobby, the more it captures my imagination for what I want to make next, and my imagination has always been a bit too fanciful to be practical in reality. As mind-bogglingly cool as it is to picture a diorama of a dragon tearing a biplane out of the sky, transferring that to reality has been the real challenge: matching the scale of two very different model types, finding a dragon model that looks like it's flying without some elaborate base as a support. I suspect that I may need to try my hand at a bit of kitbashing or exploring 3D print options to bring the vision to life.



Nerdy admittance time but I am also a long-time fan of Japanese anime and manga. This is definitely where I find myself in "Holy Grail" territory! Although anime and manga has exploded in popularity here in the West in recent years, finding merchandise of your favourite properties can still be a bit like hunting for hen's teeth. Model Kits even more so. Japan has a thriving modelling scene, though many of the figures based on anime characters, besides Gundam, are hard to obtain outside of the country. Most figures are pre-painted, snap together kits, unfinished "garage kits" are often made in small, limited runs or by one super fan in their own home. 3D printing has opened things up a little but, I suppose as Japan takes copyright very seriously, figures must be officially licenced which shoots up the prices.

A "Holy Grail" for me would have to be figures of any of the characters from the grim-dark fantasy manga, Berserk. A work that has been ongoing since 1991 (nearly my entire lifetime (*wow, now I feel Old—Ed*)), Berserk is famous for its stunning, meticulously detailed hand-drawn artwork depicting the triumphs and horrors of Medieval warfare. With characters drawn with such painstaking, loving detail, they are the perfect subjects for 3D figures but at a hefty price. Expense aside, there is also the matter of getting shipping to the UK, which I have manoeuvred before for other Japanese goodies, but sadly there are no exports for any British fans of Berserk.



I don't think it will be too difficult to convince Chris to go on a trip to Japan, with an additional, empty suitcase in tow?

* Chitinous



Chitinous, to look like Chitin, a nitrogen-containing polysaccharide that is a tough, protective, semi-transparent substance and is the principal component of certain insect exoskeletons and butterfly wings. Dependent on chemical make up it can be flexible like a caterpillar skin or hardened like a beetle shell. In its pure form it is translucent but refraction in the material gives a wide range of colours.

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



Buchón

While most eyes are on the B17s for Chris's Memphis Belle GB, there are a couple of film star fake 109s in the mix too. The Buchón traces its roots back to the Messerschmitt Bf 109G fighter but has a subtlety different look. The Spanish government in 1942 had arranged for licenced production to enable the Spaniards to build Bf 109 G-2 airframes. Despite pledging to ship aircraft to be copied Germany was unable to supply the engines, full drawings and components such as tail assemblies that were required. Only 25 incomplete airframes were delivered. Due to this shortfall, Spanish manufacturer Hispano Aviación S.A. adapted the design through 4 different variants from 1941 to '54. The final variant was the HA-1112-M1L Buchón. The name "Buchón" comes from the Spanish word meaning a large-throated pigeon or male dove no doubt due to the bulky engine cowling and intake gullet. It first flew on 29 March 1954 with a 1,600 hp Rolls-Royce Merlin engine and Rotol four bladed propeller, both purchased from the UK now that relations between the two countries had improved. The engine required a chin intake and exhausts exiting high on the nose compared to regular Bf 109s and this certainly alters the lines of the 109 airframe. But their availability has seen Buchóns appear in many war films as Bf 109s such as 1969 Battle of Britain, Memphis Belle, Dunkirk and The Tuskegee Airmen, naming just a few. Some have been successfully retro engineered to have Daimler Benz engines and readopt their original lines.

Remote-Controlled Howitzer 155 mm (RCH 155)

With the MOD 'road showing' the new British Army SPG and me getting a photo I thought I'd devote a few lines. The RCH 155 is intended to replace the AS90 tracked artillery pieces gifted to Ukraine in 2023 as well as the current Archer artillery that was only an interim artillery solution to allow the UK to fulfil its NATO commitment. Boxers are already in service with Germany, Australia, Lithuania, Qatar, the Netherlands, Ukraine and after an unnecessary delay in procurement, committed to service with the British Army who are currently being equipped with APC and 3 other versions. The delay did benefit the UK in one way as improvements after extensive use in Afghanistan and trials with the Germany Army meant the UK MOD stated on the A3 version. The RCH 155 variant of the Boxer uses the same gun as the German Army's PzH 2000 in a remote turret fed from an auto loader. First deliveries of the RCH 155 are expected in 2028 aiming to reach deployable capability by 2030.

The AS90 entered service in 1992, a very capable system intended to fight a high intensity war on a battlefield likely contaminated by NBC weapons, While the full capabilities of the



RCH 155 are not known (though Wiki has a lot of stats already) it replaces a tracked vehicle. Both the RCH 155 and the Archer are wheeled showing a modern shift to wheeled platforms. While possibly providing less traction than tracks they are simpler to maintain, cause less damage to training environments, can be repaired or replaced more easily and are more stealthy. The Boxer 8x8 is designed around the drive module (also known as the platform or drive-line module) which consists of the hull mounting, the drive axles, and armoured frontal area where the powerpack and driver are located. The rear then has specific specialised pallets or pods mounted that can be fitted out as an ambulance, mortar, command or other variants. It is unclear if the RCT 155 will have a more dedicated chassis and turret pod set up.

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

VW

's are popular as Andy's part complete Karman Ghia (left) and Tony's Beach Buggy in blue (centre bottom) prove so what better place to put a spread of VW pictures than in the club newsletter? VW Camper Bus Phile Nick Williamson invited me to pop over to the irregular VW gathering held on the Salisbury Market Square in September and just before the light faded I gained a few exotic photos. I hope you like them and look forward to 2027 when the events will start again in the summer.

