



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

March 2016



USMC Joyride, Luzon 1945 by Bob Bethea

Like most of us, historic photos inspire me to model WWII subjects. I have always been interested in German, American, Russian or Japanese "floating tanks." I never thought we'd ever see a kit of

any, especially the rather obscure Type 2 "Ka-Mi" amphibious tank used by the Imperial Japanese Navy. But DML recently released kits in 1/35th and 1/72nd scale, so I bought both.

Of course, tanks should be shown in their natural environment, and I contemplated making my "floating

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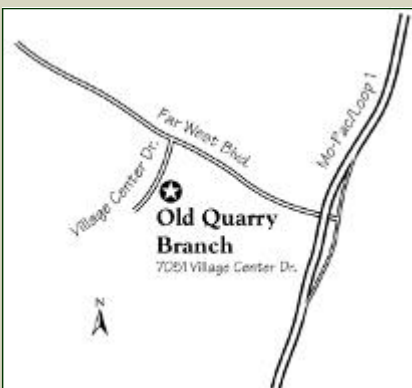
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

March 2, 2016

Annual dues for full membership are USD \$12 to be collected at each January meeting. Upon receipt of payment, a membership card will be issued. This card is valid for one year, and it entitles holder to discounts at various local hobby shops in the Central Texas and San Antonio areas.



Sabot Away! is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email aabsco@gmail.com.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ♦ March 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ April 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ April 7 to 9 - 2016 AMPS International Convention
Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter, NC
- ♦ April 23 - Modelmania 2016 Stafford Center,
Stafford, TX



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2016	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
February	Kevin Hutchison	Ted Paone
March*	David Davis (Guest)	Alex Gashev
April	Aaron Smischney	Rod Bell
May	Dave Bourland	Russ Holm
June*	Bob Bethea	Greg Beckman
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Eric Choy
August	Kit Auction	Ian Candler
September*	Rick Herrington	Ted Andreas, Jr.
October	Ian Candler	Joe Fisher
November	John Talley	Greg Beckman
December*	Eric Choy	Bill Menzie
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at our monthly meetings.

Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he wants any time. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure we have at least one article in the newsletter each month.

Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Rick Herrington's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

I hope everyone had a great and highly productive February. The club meeting was well attended and the presentation by **Kevin Hutchison** provided quite a bit of good information on creating props for your models and scenes. We are very blessed to have so many club members with expertise in such diverse areas of our hobby. I'd like to thank all of the members that present at the meetings and write articles for the newsletter. Passing on your knowledge and techniques to those of us with less experience in your areas of expertise is highly appreciated.

I found a couple of good sources for subject matter on potential new projects this month:

Seventy-five years ago the Afrika Korps crossed The Marble Arch, a monument in Libya built during the days of Italian colonization, as they started the Axis counter offensive in Cyrenaica.



The Afrika Korps at The Arch in March 1941.

Sixty-five years ago this month, in March of 1951, the Eighth Army recaptured Seoul in its' counter-attack that began in late January. This was the last time Seoul was to change hands during the strategic see-saw battles that defined the first year of the Korean War.



A British Mk III Centurion, painted with US markings, runs off the road north of Seoul. The Centurion never met the T-34 in combat in Korea. Note the HE blast marks on the side skirts.

I hope you will all be able to make the meeting this month. I'm looking forward to seeing what you've been working on, and we should have a very interesting presentation from David Davis, a World War II re-enactor from Killeen.

John Talley
President



(Continued from page 1)

tank" actually float. I reviewed my photos of the vehicle and found a series of photos taken on Luzon in 1945 after it was liberated and several of the tanks were captured. In addition to close-ups that we all love, they showed some photos of a group of U.S. Marines who actually took one out on the bay for a joyride and were enjoying themselves immensely while taking their lives in their hands. I thought that it would be more interesting than just a tank floating in the water, and I got deeply into the engineering.

I had worked with Plexiglas in the past and decided that a box would lift the vehicle, support it, and allow the viewer to see the sagging, useless tracks while it was being propelled through the water by the propellers. I built the box with sheet Plexiglas bought from Lowe's and the churning water above from clear "cracked ice" panel designed for florescent light covers. A hole was cut for the tank, and it was suspended above the base. The edges were filled with gloss acrylic medium. This not only filled the gaps, but showed the water splashing up onto the sides of the vehicle.

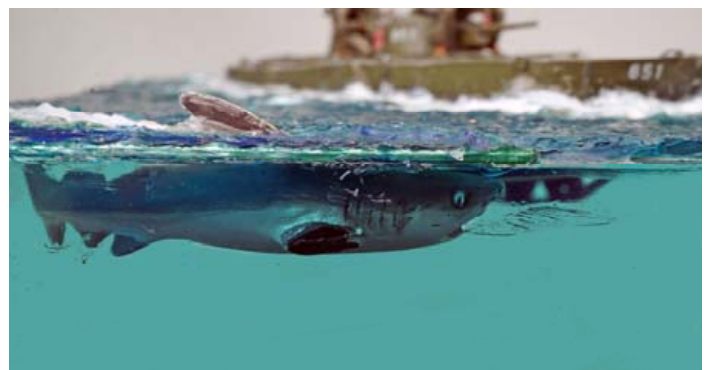


When showing this project to my friends, they mentioned that the ocean floor seemed empty and boring. To remedy that I bought a 1/72nd scale Hasegawa Japanese airplane, cut it in half, and built it as a wreck. I bent the propeller and thinned the edges of the fuselage where it was torn apart, and left the canopy and rudder off. A slumped over dead pilot fills the cockpit. Various groundwork items were used to show the coral and other ocean floor plants.



The inside of the Plexiglas box was painted to simulate the ocean with a blend of Tamiya clear blue and green thinned with Tamiya's lacquer thinner. Lacquer thinner was used after some less than satisfactory results using water and acrylic thinner with those paints.

Reaper, a miniature gaming company, makes a set of sharks that fit the bill perfectly for this project, and I used two of them. One is prowling above the plane wreck (you can see its fin and bubble trail), and the other is cruising in front of the float tank.



The "Ki-Mi" amphibious tank was built straight out-of-the box, and Prieser 1/72nd scale Luftwaffe figures were converted into excited Marines on board. Since it was just for fun, one of the Marines just had to be from Texas! So I added our state flag to the antenna.

My good friend **Gilbert Moreno** of San Antonio artistically prepared the name plate, which was added to the base. The base is an old model show award.



The project was fun and appropriate to the history and venue of the vehicle. I learned a few things, such as how to paint with Tamiya Clear paint, how not to work with Plexiglas (some stress fractures developed after assembling the display box), and how to build a destroyed Japanese plane. Therefore, I term the project a success as a learning exercise. I hope others enjoy it as well.

Bob



March Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly contest cash prizes are \$40, \$30, and \$20 for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing. Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to win. The "no sweep" rule is strictly enforced in these in-house contests.

If you like to participate but haven't paid your 2016 dues, please do so before our meeting or the show-and-tell session.



**Houston's Largest
Finescale Model Show**

April 23rd



Beachbound Centaur

By Eric Choy

Part I: Construction

Among all the marks and variants of the British A27 series cruiser tank, I am particularly fond of Centaur IV, a Cromwell look-alike with a 95mm howitzer.

Developed for the Royal Marine Armoured Support Group (RMASG) to provide fire support in the initial assault on Normandy, the original plan was for the Centaurs to fire their guns off shore in their landing crafts. During the invasion preparation, RMASG trained with no engine or driver in their tanks. Somehow the Marines changed their mind after an inspection by King George who was unaware of the role of RMASG and asked when to expect the Centaurs to go into action on the beaches! In haste engines were reinstalled and drivers were "borrowed" from Royal Armoured Corps to make the tanks mobile again.

Upon landing on D-Day, the Centaurs attacked German gun emplacements but soon ran out of things to shoot at as resistance was light in the British sectors. So they regrouped and drove inland to attack any target of opportunities. Once the beachhead was secured, RMASG was disbanded two weeks after D-Day (D+14), and its Centaurs were passed on to Canadian and Free French units. A few survived the war and ended up as monuments and in museums in the UK, France, and Belgium.

It's a shame that Tamiya offers the Centaur in 1/35th but not in quarter scale. Fortunately, converting one from the 1/48th scale Cromwell is relatively painless. Scotland's **Accurate Armour** makes things even easier as it makes a Centaur wading conversion (C48003). I'm all for easy, so I promptly ordered a set.

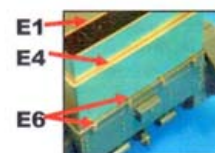
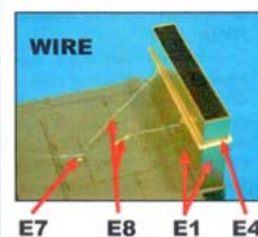
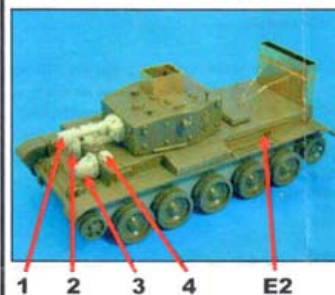


1:48th
SCALE
MODEL

**accurate
armour**
C48003

1:48th
SCALE
MODEL

Cromwell 75mm Deep Wading Set



1	GUN BARREL	1	E3	HULL SIDE SCREEN RIGHT	1
2	DRIVERS APERTURE COVER	1	E4	WADING TRUNK COLLAR	1
3	HULL MG COVER	1	E5	HATCH TRUNK	1
4	HULL PERISCOPE COVERS	3	E6	HATCH DOOR SUPPORT	1
			E7	DECK BRACKET	1
E1	WADING SCREEN	2	E8	TURNBUCKLE	2+
E2	HULL SIDE SCREEN LEFT	1	E9	TRUNK LOCKING PIN	4+

ACCURATE ARMOUR LIMITED
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Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland
PA14 6TD
www.accurate-armour.com
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Lower and Upper Hull

Cromwell (A27M) and Centaur (A27L) are almost identical externally except for the older Crusader style road wheels (right) on the latter. If I had the

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patience and skill, I could drill out all the vent holes with the help of the template provided in **Aber's** PE set 48027. But I don't, so I took the easy way out by "nicking" the wheels from Tamiya's 1/48th scale Crusader kit. Why re-invent the wheel when you can steal it (literally)?



The rest of the hull was put together per Tamiya's instruction. Centaurs did not carry a bow machine gun, so I plugged the hole with a part I found in my spare parts box. The driver's periscopes and aperture were removed to fit the resin wading covers. The inside paddings on his hatches were done by applying several layers of Gunze Mr. Surfacer.



The Accurate Armour conversion includes a photoetched wading stack to go on top of the engine exhaust. Putting it together was not hard, but I had to remove some excess glue marks. Our veep **Greg Beckman** got me hooked on using a fiberglass "PrepPen" by **Philmore** (available at Fry's Electronics soldering tools section) for pinpoint sanding and superglue removal on brass surfaces. It works great. The only drawback is fiberglass can cause skin itch, and splinter is a female dog to remove



once attached to your finger! So handle the PrepPen with care.

No mesh screen is provided for the opening at the top of the stack, but luckily I have plenty of leftovers in my spare parts box. There are hinges around the base of the stack that are missing on the PE fret also. So I scratchbuilt them with sheet styrene and rods according to photos of a Churchill in wading configuration. The tank may be different, but the construct and installation of the hinges are the same.

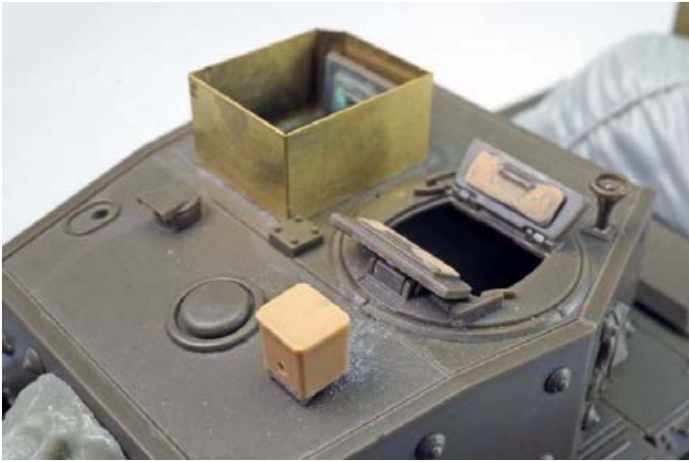


The last item I added on the hull was an one-piece resin stowage from **Black Dog's** Cromwell Accessories set (48002). The tarp covered stowage is a perfect match for my wading tank; as in real life the tank crew would do the same to avoid their stuff getting wet on the beaches of Normandy.

Before mating the two hull halves, I had to install the tank driver or else he would not be able to get in later. The half figure came from Tamiya's latest Dingo Scout car, and it was painted with Reaper acrylics. Notice his beret is neither Green (Royal Marine Commando) nor Dark Blue (Royal Marine but not commando-trained) but Black to show he is a tank driver "borrowed" from the Royal Tank Regiment!

Turret

Beware not to install the 95mm howitzer and the four lifting hooks (C13) on the sides of the turret as they will interfere with the placement of the 360° fire-control markings. The tall and squarely box on top of the commander's periscope came from my spare parts box.



Last but not least was the wading stack on the turret for the tank crew. It makes no sense that the loader has one around his hatch but none for the tank commander! I guess the skipper doesn't need one because he is supposed to die in his tank observing

the naval tradition of going down with the ship he commands, but I digress...

To be continued next month.

Eric





2016 AMPS International Convention

**Scale Model Exposition: Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations,
Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!**

Show Theme: *The Great War*

April 7-9, 2016

**Sumter County Civic Center
700 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150**

Hosted by:



For more information, contact Tim Darrah (Show Chair), tttimmy@earthlink.net
Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), semperfi03732@msn.com
or visit us online at www.amps-armor.org



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NEW ON THE BLOCK

T-44 SOVIET MEDIUM TANK



The wait is over! No small thanks to Miniart, we now have an affordable 1/35th T-44 in injection plastic!

Ex-Soviet 2P19 Launcher w/R-17 Missile (SS-1C SCUD B) of 8K14 Missile System Complex



Early Scuds were mounted on ISU-152K based Transporter-Erector Launchers (TELs) instead of the eight-wheeler TELs that we are familiar with in the first Gulf War. Trumpeter now makes both versions of TELs available in 1/35th.



Another strange looking 1/35th modern armor from AFV Club. This is Husky III, a mine removal vehicle used by US Army combat engineers.



TOTS rules! Tamiya's new 1/48th British 7ton Armored

Car (aka Humber IV) should be here any day now.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ Oldie But Goodie Project by Cesar "Manny" Rodriguez Building a Tamiya's Panzer II from the 1970s.
- ♦ IS-4M: "Screaming Mini," Soviet Style by Cookie Sewell Part I: History & Development of the IS-4 Heavy Tank.
- ♦ Disaster In Pink by Ted Paone Having fun getting plastered.
- ♦ Maschinengewehrswagen 36 Walk Around Photos by Steven Andreano.
- ♦ War Stories of the Tankers Book review by the Editor.
- ♦ 2016 AMPS International Convention Update by Tim Darrah





About Us

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) started in 1999 when Don Jones, a member of the local IPMS chapter, decided "what a good idea to get out two nights a month, and on least one night talk tanks."



AABS is the only scale model club in Central Texas devoted solely to armor modeling. We don't build planes because they are just plain! Our passion is armored fighting vehicles and military figures. Subject of our interest ranges from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent Gulf War Conflicts.

At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques and tricks. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town field trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

To find out more about AABS, please visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

19990424

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com

*Here's Bob Bethea's latest: 1/72nd Panzer I Ausf.F.
Bob built this FlyHawk kit straight out-of-the-box.*

