



# Sabot Away!

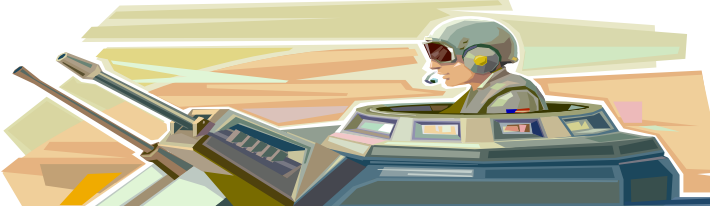


BUSINESS NAME

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## From the Turret



Our next meeting (April 2, 2008) will be a busy one. We will be holding Club Officer Elections, holding the **Red Cross Month** contest, and having a seminar by Dave Bourland.

This will be the last **From the Turret** I will be doing as President of Austin Armor Builders Society. Eric Choy is running unopposed for President and will take over my duties as President. I am looking forward to working with Eric and the rest of the newly elected officers. Next Month you will be hearing from Eric and hearing about some new ideas for the club.

I will still retain my role as webmaster and Newsletter Editor. As webmaster, one of the things I will be doing



Here is Bob Bethea's 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale Trumpeter E-10 Tank Destroyer with 88mm Gun. This model and it's base led to a series of seminar's put on by Bob at King's Hobby Shop. Excellent work Bob! Photograph by Roderick Bell.

will be revamping the Website. It will have a new look and feel and a better gallery section and some other cool features. Also, I look forward to modeling again!

I have several projects that I have going that I want to finish (Yes, I do build models!).

**Continued on Page 2**

## Austin Armor Builders Society Membership Dues

Dues will now be collected in January. This will make it easier for us to track and easier to maintain the membership cards.

As always, membership is \$12.00 USD per year. The membership cards will be presented to members at the January meeting.

The card will be valid for one year and a new card will be created each year as long as your club membership is in good standing.

New members will be given a card after they pay their dues. Dues will be prorated based on the month they join.



### Special points of interest:

- RED CROSS MONTH  
QUARTERLY CONTEST TO BE HELD AT THE APRIL 2, 2008 MEETING.
- AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2008 - AUBURN, INDIANA APRIL 10-12, 2008

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# Sabot Away!

## Officer Election to be held at the April 2008 meeting



Club Elections will be held at the April 2008 meeting. There will be four positions open:

**President**

**Vice-President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

Nominations were opened at the January meeting and will

be open through the March 2008 meeting.

The newly elected officers will take over at the May 2008 meeting. The officers will be in office until May 2010. It is a two year commitment.

If you are interested in any of the positions or have any questions on the responsibilities they require please let me know.

From my perspective, being a officer has really helped me get to know all the other members of the club.

Current Candidates:

**President:** Eric Choy

**Vice-President:** Russ Holm

**Secretary:** Ted Paone or Jeff Forester

**Treasurer:** Don Jones

It is good for different people to participate in running the club. I have enjoyed the last two years as President.

**Roderick Bell**

“THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS WILL TAKE OVER AT THE MAY 2008 MEETING. THE OFFICERS WILL BE IN OFFICE UNTIL MAY 2010. IT IS A TWO YEAR COMMITMENT.”

## From the Turret - Continued

This month we have two great articles by **Jorge Aduna** and **Karl Leidy**. Two excellent modelers. Please check out their articles inside the newsletter. Also, Please remember that the Red Cross Month Contest is this weekend. This Contest is Sponsored by your Local **Red Cross** and **King's Hobby** has donated a prize (Dragon M1A2 SEP Abrams 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale).

AMPS International Convention is next week in Auburn, Indiana. Due to work commitments I will not be attending this year.

**Roderick Bell**



Bob Bethea doing is seminar on ground cover at King's Hobby Shop. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.

## Calendar of Events

- ♦ April 2, 2008 - Club Meeting: Seminar **Dave Bourland**
- ♦ April 5, 2008 - Model Mania: Stafford Center, Stafford, Texas.
- ♦ April 5, 2007 - Scale Figure Face Painting with **Bob Bethea** (Sat. 11:00am—**King's Hobby**)
- ♦ April 10-12, 2008 - AMPS International Show: WWII Victory Museum, Auburn, Indiana.
- ♦ April 19, 2007 - Mud Effects with Jorge Aduna (Sat. 2:00pm - **King's Hobby**)
- ♦ May 7, 2008 - Club Meeting: Seminar: MiG Filters by **Roderick Bell**
- ♦ May 19, 2008 - Cast Textures for Armor Models with **Jorge Aduna** (Sat. 2:00pm - **King's Hobby**)

“SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS WILL BE PUTTING ON CLINICS AT KING'S HOBBY SHOP. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU TRY TO ATTEND THESE EXCELLENT CLINICS.”

## AMPS Gear

We still have AMPS Mugs and AMPS Caps available for sale.

The mugs are \$8.00 a piece and the caps are \$12.00 a piece. There will be a limited number of each (two dozen each).

If you sign up for an AMPS membership you will get to select a cap or mug for free.



Here is the front of the AMPS Mug. It has the AMPS logo on the front and the web address on the back.



Here is a front side shot of the AMPS Cap. Looks nice.

# Sabot Away!

## Friulmodel Armor Link Track Assembly Tips

By Jorge Aduna

Here are some advantages of Friulmodel cast metal tracks:

1. Reasonably easy to assemble
2. Flexible and hang realistically
3. Sets produced for a wide set of AFVs
4. Worth every cent versus other individual link systems

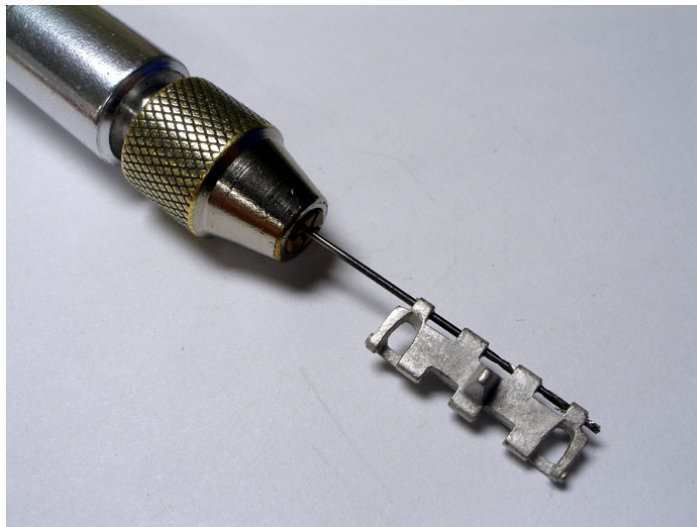


Instead of using the wire supplied with the kit you can use .020 brass rods. This makes a better sturdier track assembly. pen House later this month. Photograph by Eric Choy.

"I BUILD SHORT LENGTHS BY PLACING TOGETHER, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, FIVE TO TEN TRACK LINKS AND INSERT THE PINS, LINK TO LINK, ON EACH TRACK."

- Small imperfections or flash should be trimmed off the tracks. This is rare, but occasionally it happens. For your cleaning process, use a sharp

hobby knife. ready made for the track pins to be inserted. However, the holes need to be cleaned by boring them with a drill bit. This will permit the pins to slide inside more easily.



The tool that you need to be sure to have is a Pin Vise. Here it is being demonstrated on how to bore out any obstructions for the individual track link. Photograph by Eric Choy.

set. Rods of 0.019" or 0.020" will do the trick.

- I trim the brass rods into track length sizes. Allow a little excess.
- I build short lengths by placing together, one after the other, five to ten track links and insert the pins, link to link, on each track. The idea is to connect all the short lengths until you have the total length you need per side, e.g. 82, 96, or 100 links per side.
- Secure the pins (outer ends only) with a small drop of CA glue. I prefer the medium type. Accelerator can be used to speed up the drying time of the glue. Otherwise, just let them air dry.

hobby knife.

- The links come from the factory with holes already
- For the pins, I use brass rods instead of the soft wire provided with the
- Trim the excess brass rods with a side cutter. Wearing safety glasses



## Fruilmodel Armor Link Track Assembly Tips - Continued

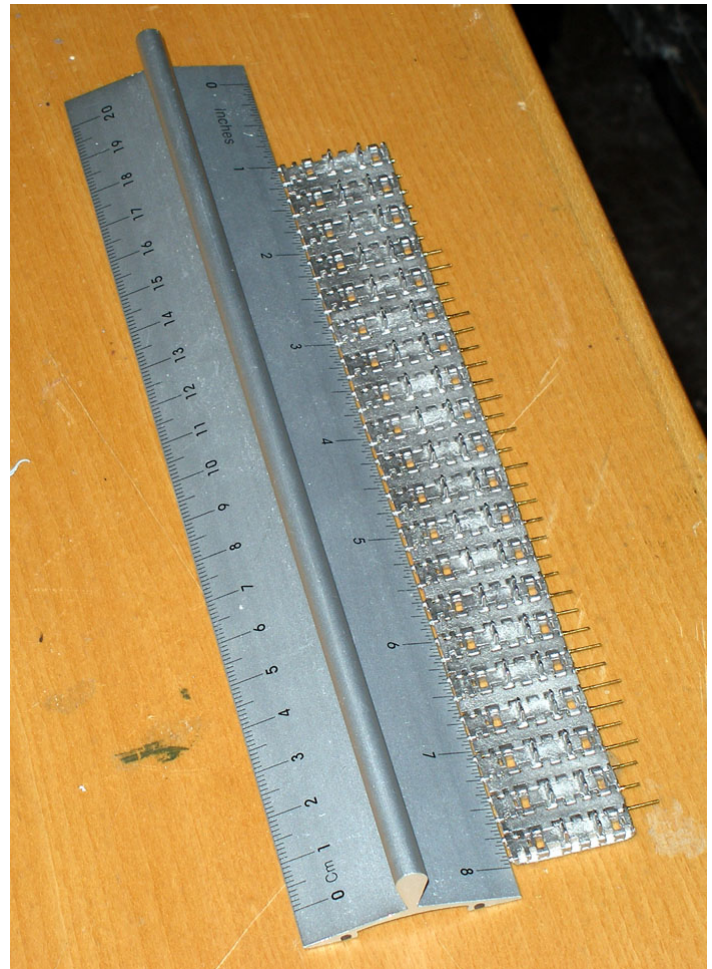
is recommended.

Brief comments about painting and weathering:

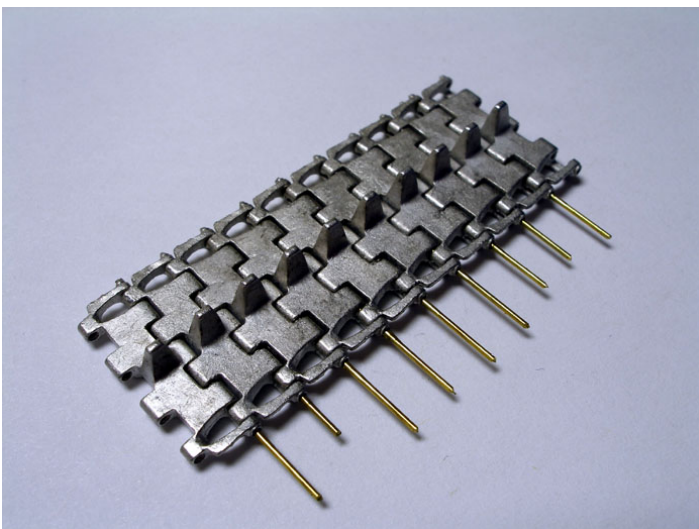
- Generally speaking, the total amount of links indicated above are what you need – per side – for most of the popular AFVs. Cleaning, boring the holes, placement, positioning of the links and trimming the excess takes an average of 2 ½ to 3 ½ hours.
- They are determined by the model you are building. e.g. Is it a Tiger I which saw action at the Russian Front? Or is it a Tunisian Tiger? Bear in mind the terrain condition changes.
- The track can be dipped (2-3 minutes) in **Blacken-It®** or vinegar. Or sand it for better adhesion and then spray it on both sides and edges with earthy or rusty colors.
- Smooth the pins ends of the tracks either by simply sanding or with a flat needle file. The idea is to simulate the solid metal of the real spuds.
- A quick sanding is advisable prior to painting and weathering.

Consider the options and decide which of them to use.

Happy modeling!



Here is a small run of linked of track. The straight edge helps with alignment of the tracks used. Photograph by Eric Choy.



This image shows you an example on how the brass rods look before you trim them down. Photograph by Eric Choy.

**Jorge Aduna**

“A QUICK SANDING IS ADVISABLE PRIOR TO PAINTING AND WEATHERING. ”

# Sabot Away!

## Second Front



Here is a nice shot of Karl Leidy's RSO armed with a 75mm PaK40 anti-tank gun. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.

"EVENTUALLY, ONLY 60 RSO'S WERE CONVERTED, AND MOST OF THEM WERE DEPLOYED WITH ARMY GROUP SOUTH IN RUSSIA DURING ITS SERVICE TRIAL."

### By Karl Leidy

#### Introduction

The *Raupenschlepper Ost* (RSO) started as a transport tractor for the Eastern front (Ost is German for "east"). Its fully tracked drivetrain was designed for operating in Russia's quagmire terrains, and this reliable vehicle was well liked by the troops. In 1943, Steyr Werke, maker of RSO, initiated the RSO/02 program to mount a 75mm PaK40 on its flat bed as an anti-tank weapon. Hitler was most impressed by the demonstration of the prototype, and an immediate production plan was formulated. Eventually, only 60 RSOs were converted, and most of them were deployed with Army Group South in Russia during its service trial.

#### Background

The base for this 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale

diorama actually started twenty years ago when I was stationed in Germany. I was toying with the idea of building an anti-aircraft diorama with Tamiya's *Flakpanzer IV Möbelwagen*. I needed something for a base, and I liked the shape of my ex-wife's old cutting board. So I "liberated" it from the kitchen

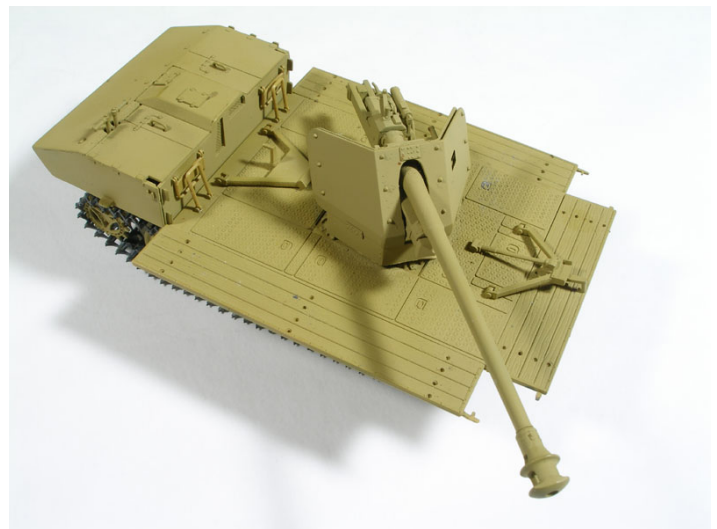
while she was at work one day. In the end, I was not happy with how the scene turned out (nor was she happy with what I did to her cutting board). Later after we separated, the *Möbelwagen* and the base suffered the same fate, and their marriage also ended in dissolution.

A year ago while looking for something in my garage, I found the old cutting board again among my pile of junk. I decided to give it one more go as a diorama base for old time's sake (no chance for my ex-wife though).

Thus, a second front for the base was declared.

#### The Models

The RSO/02 is an Italeri kit I built more or less out of the



A freshly painted RSO/02. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.



## Second Front - Continued



Don Jones — Austin Armor Builders Society Treasurer Candidate. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.

box. The only upgrades I made were adding Friul-model tracks, replacing the engine screen with the fine deck screen from Tamiya's T72 kit, and installing a new PaK40. The 75mm gun provided in the kit is the old model from the 70s. It is not up to par with our "modern" standard, so I chose DML/Dragon's latest offering with the bonus metal barrel.

Everything went together nice and neat with no surprise at all. I sprayed the RSO with Tamiya paints, and the camouflage was done free-handed. To give the model more depth, I applied a burnt umber wash followed by drybrushing various colors for highlights.

The five figures were taken from the same PaK40 kit (#6250 "PaK40 Late Type w/ Fallschirmjäger, Anzio 1944"). They were also box

cations to their poses to fit better with AFV Club's brass shells. I painted them using Vallejo acrylics with help from my buddy Shawn Merrell and the methods prescribed in Osprey's *Modelling Fallschirmjäger Figures*.

Beware most acrylics need something to "bite" into, and priming is absolutely necessary when using Vallejo paints. Tamiya Primer is a good choice, but Krylon Gray Primer gives you more bang for your buck: a 12oz spray can only costs about \$5, and

stock built with minor modifi-



A rear shot of Karl Leidy's RSO Diorama. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.

"EVERYTHING WENT TOGETHER NICE AND NEAT WITH NO SURPRISES AT ALL. I SPRAYED THE RSO WITH TAMIYA PAINTS, AND THE CAMOUFLAGE WAS DONE FREE-HANDED."

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## Inside Story Headline



A front shot of Karl's diorama. Photograph provided by Eric Choy.

"PRIOR TO APPLYING PLASTER OF PARIS FOR THE GROUNDWORK, FALLER'S HO PAPER SIDEWALLS WERE GLUED IN PLACE FOR THE STREET."

it lasts twice as long as Tamiya's 180ml rattler!

### The Base

Prior to applying Plaster of Paris for the groundwork, Faller's HO paper sidewalls were glued in place for the street. I used the old Italeri's ruin street corner with plaster poured into the plastic walls to form the interior surfaces.

The second floor was scratchbuilt with balsa wood, and I made the sandbags

with A+B Epoxy. The bricks were Custom Dioramics items, and the rubbles were made from cat litter (fresh, not soiled!) courtesy of Ted and Nessie, my two feline co-inhabitants.

After all the elements were glued in place, I painted the ground dirt color and then highlighted with different shades of green and gray. The bricks were painted Tamiya Red Brown and fade-washed with Tamiya Buff to give it an old and dusty look.

### Conclusion

After 20 years of neglect, I finally managed to put the old base to good use. I'm happy with how this diorama turned out. Somehow I don't think my ex-wife will ever appreciate what I have done to her old chopping board!

### References

Peter Chamberlain and Hilary Doyle, *Encyclopedia of German Tanks of World War Two*, Arms and Armour, 1993.

Jaume Ortiz Forns and Daniel Alfonsea Romero, *Osprey Modelling 31, Modelling Fallschirmjäger Figures*, Osprey Publications, ISBN 1-84176-896-0.

**Karl Leidy**



## Club Field Trip to Brent Mullin's Open House



A restored M24 Chaffee Light Tank at the Museum of the American G.I. Open House (Brent Mullin's). Photograph provided by Roderick Bell.

### By Roderick Bell

We had seven members meet up and car pool to Brent Mullin's Museum of the American G.I. Open House. **Bruce Burden, Russ Holm, Robert Mesch, Bob Bethea, Karl Leidy, John Hernandez,** and myself (**Roderick Bell**).

We left Austin around 10:00 AM and it started off with a bang... the lead vehicle driven by Club President

(Me) was promptly pulled over by the Travis County sheriff for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. I wasn't able to pull over in time but they pulled me over because I didn't decrease my speed.

Anyway, my good looks must have impressed the officer because I got off with a warning.

Since the traffic stop sepa-

rated the convoy, we all separated. Two vehicles did manage to meet up and once we arrived in College Station we stopped in at the Dixie Chicken and all had a nice meal. The third vehicle stopped off at Hullabaloo diner in Wellborn, Texas. They also had a nice lunch.

All three vehicles arrived at the Museum at the same time. So we were able to meet up and explore the grounds.

We saw a M4A3E8 Sherman, M5A1 Stuart, M24 Chaffee, M2A1 Halftrack, M8 Armored Car, M3 Gun Motor Carriage (75mm), and several other vehicles.

All in all we had a good time despite the traffic stop.

### Roderick Bell

"THE LEAD VEHICLE  
DRIVEN BY CLUB  
PRESIDENT (ME)  
WAS PROMPTLY  
PULLED OVER BY  
THE TRAVIS  
COUNTY SHERIFF  
FOR FAILURE TO  
YIELD TO AN  
EMERGENCY  
VEHICLE. "



A restored M5A1 Stuart Light Tank at the Museum of the American G.I. Open House (Brent Mullin's). Photograph provided by Roderick Bell.



**Your business tag line here.**

## BUSINESS NAME

Roderick Bell  
Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail: someone@example.com

*The Austin Armor Builders Society is an organization where members gather and share information on building scale armor and figure kits. The Austin Armor Builders Society was founded in 1997 and has about 25 active members. The Austin Armor Builders Society is the local chapter for the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS). Every two years the organization host an AMPS Regional show known as AMPS Centex. This show attracts armor and figure modelers from around the state of Texas and is one of the Premier AMPS Regional shows.*

**We are on the web: [AustinArmorBuilders.com](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)**

## Support our Troops



A M1A1 crossing a river in Bosnia.