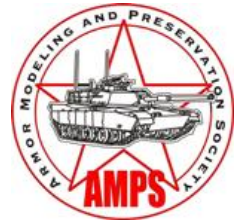




Sabot Away!



AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 6, 2009

From the Turret



This month I do not have much to report except for the status of our show trophies. I

picked up the Show Theme and the Best of Show awards from our vendor in San Anto-

nio three weeks ago, and I took some photos for Rod to post them on our website.

Austin Armor Builders Society Membership Dues

Dues are 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:

- ◆ OUR APPRECIATION OF RUDY, BRAD, ANTONIO, AND DON
- ◆ WORLD WAR II ROYAL ARMORED CORPS FLASHES
- ◆ MODELER OF THE MONTH: PATRICK ROURKE
- ◆ WHITE ELEPHANT CONTEST IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE MEETING
- ◆ KING'S HOBBY 20% DISCOUNT DEAL

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Sabot Away!

"ANOTHER TROPHY IN THE WORK IS THE ONE FOR OUR WHITE ELEPHANT CONTEST IN JUNE. IT'S A DELIGHTFUL PIECE, AND I'LL BRING IT TO THE MEETING FOR A "SNEAK PREVIEW." SO FAR, WE ALREADY HAVE FOUR MODELS FINISHED WITH ANOTHER THREE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF COMPLETION. IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED ON YOURS, UNLESS YOU INTEND TO HOST OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR, YOU BETTER GET CRACKING NOW! "

From the Turret - Continued



A shot of the **Theme Award: Armor in Foreign Services**. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

Take a minute to check them out on the 2009 show page. I firmly believe better trophy can entice more people to participate in our contest, and I dare say these gorgeous plaques can definitely

whet every modeler's appetite. We are fortunate to have three of our members sponsoring these trophies, so the club is getting them free of charge. The rest of the "Best Of" trophies will be ready in the next few weeks. If you are interested in sponsoring any one of them, please let me or Russ know. We need as many sponsors as we can get to keep the costs of our show down. Don't forget to mention it to your employer as well of this inexpensive advertising opportunity.

Another trophy in the work is the one for our White Elephant Contest in June. It's a delightful piece, and I'll bring it to the meeting for a "sneak preview." So far, we already

have four models finished with another three in the final stages of completion. If you haven't started on yours, unless you intend to host our Christmas Party this year, you better get cracking now!

von Erich (Eric Choy)

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **May 6, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by: **Bob Bethea** - "Ground Work"
- ♦ **June 3, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by: **Greg Beckman** - "Modeling on the Road"
- ♦ **June 3, 2009** - **White Elephant Contest**
- ♦ **July 1, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by: **Rick Herrington**
- ♦ **July 11, 2009** - Modeling Day: **David C. Ellis Community Center 10AM - 5PM**
- ♦ **August 5, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by: **Dave Edgerly**
- ♦ **September 2, 2009** - Club Meeting; Club Auction
- ♦ **October 7, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by **Roderick Bell** - "How to use the Testors Custom Decal System"
- ♦ **October 24, 2009** - AMPS Centex 2007
- ♦ **November 4, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by **Jeff Forester**
- ♦ **December 2, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by **Tom Ferris**
- ♦ **January 6, 2010** - Club Meeting; Presentation by **Richard Eaton** - "The Mighty Sponge: How to simulate paint flaking and wear and tear"

Our Appreciation of Rudy, Brad, Antonio, and Don



Eric Choy presents **Rudy Cline** with an appreciation gift from the Austin Armor Builders Society for all he has done for our club and the modeling community in the Central Texas area. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

By Roderick Bell

When we heard the news that King's Hobby might be closing the club voted to give appreciation gifts to the **King's Hobby** staff for all that they have done for our club and the modeling community in the Central Texas area.

Eric Choy, **Russ Holm**, and myself went to **King's Hobby** earlier this month and presented the appreciation gifts to **Rudy Cline** and **Brad Perry**. **Antonio** was off that day and **Don** has moved on to another job managing a restaurant. **Rudy** will make sure **Antonio** and **Don** get their gifts as well.

They were both touched by our club's gesture and



Russ Holm presents **Brad Perry** with his appreciation gift for all he has done for our club and the modeling community. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

wanted to pass on their thanks to all of us.

We also want to thank **Marc Hobbs** for investing in the ownership of **King's Hobby**. We want to wish **Marc** the best of luck in his new busi-

ness venture and we will continue to support our Local Hobby Shop.

Roderick Bell

"WHEN WE HEARD THAT KING'S HOBBY MIGHT BE CLOSING THE CLUB VOTED TO GIVE APPRECIATION GIFTS TO THE KING'S HOBBY STAFF FOR ALL THAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR OUR CLUB AND THE MODELING COMMUNITY IN THE CENTRAL TEXAS AREA."

Sabot Away!

WWII Royal Armored Corps Flashes

By Mark Starmer

Editors Note: the photographs were not provided by Mr. Starmer. They were provided as examples to help the reader.

The colors of WWII Royal Armored Corps (RAC) flash are those historically connected to the English armies of the 13th Century when a red cross on a white surcoat was adopted during the Crusades. English armies wore a red coat with white cross belts for centuries. During WWI, staff officers wore a red/white shoulder flash, and the first tanks were identified as friendly by these colors on them. However, there appears to have been a typo error somewhere in 1942 orders, and the RAC flash colors were reversed. Either no one noticed, or it was too late to change matters, or the predominance of red was less conspicuous against dull camouflage colors, it stayed until 1944.

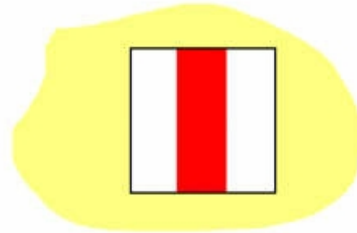
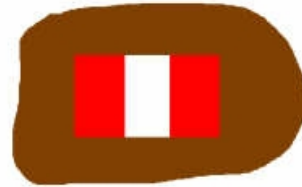
The Red-White-Red Flash

The RAC flash was first introduced about March 1942 and was in widespread use by June of that year. This flash was to be of specified dimensions as set down in the 20th Armored Brigade "Standing Orders for War" dated July 1942 (TNA file WO166/6659):

Recognition Sign

This will be painted on the front, sides and rear of all tanks. It will NOT be painted on carriers or scout cars.

R.A.C FLASH 1942 - 1944;
U.K., NORTH AFRICA,
SICILY AND ITALY



IDENTIFICATION FLASH FOR OPERATION
CRUSADER, NOVEMBER 1941 - JANUARY 1942.
WESTERN DESERT.

This image shows the different Identification Flash used by the Royal Armored Corps during World War II. Image by **Mark Starmer**.

It will consist of RED - WHITE - RED vertical stripes, each stripe being 10" high and 6" wide.

From photographs it may be seen that this flash was most often painted as near as possible centrally on the tank front, along the sides and rear plates although the configuration of the tank influenced the exact location to some degree. On cruiser tanks like Covenanter and Crusader, the front marking

was often applied on the glacis plate near its lower edge towards one side where there was a central headlamp and the unit markings already took up the frontal plate and on later versions between the front lamps. On the sides the flash was painted on the side bins with its lower edge on the edge of the track guard. At the back of a Crusader, the marking was applied centrally to the top plate over the outlet grill or occasionally

"THE RED-WHITE-RED FLASH. THE RAC FLASH WAS FIRST INTRODUCED ABOUT MARCH 1942 AND WAS IN WIDESPREAD USE BY JUNE OF THAT YEAR. THIS FLASH WAS TO BE OF SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS AS SET DOWN IN THE 20TH ARMORED BRIGADE "STANDING ORDERS FOR WAR" DATED JULY 1942.

WWII Royal Armored Corps Flashes - Continued



Here is an example of the R.A.C Flash 1942 - 1944 on a Crusader Mk. I Cruiser Tank. The left image is the photograph with out enhancement and the right image is "doctored" to help you see where the Flash went. Photograph provided by the **National Archives**.

on the auxiliary fuel tank.

On Churchill tank the flash was usually being painted either immediately in front of or behind the rectangular escape hatches or occasionally on them. On the front they were to one side of the tow shackle or on the glacis plate like the cruisers. Where an auxiliary fuel tank was carried the flash was often painted on this rather than the hull. The modeler is advised to look at photographs of the chosen subject for exact placement although these notes will help.

The specified size and locations were maintained for British, Commonwealth and Allied forces AFVs in the UK throughout the period of use till 1944. This marking was not to be applied to horizontal surfaces since it was not an air recognition sign. However, there is at least one exception in that at least one Dingo scout car of the Canadian forces at Dieppe did

carry this sign painted across the top of the engine deck at the rear edge.

When the units that later comprised 1st Army in Tunisia went overseas, their tanks carried this red-white-red RAC flash. This was intended solely as a means by which British infantry may identify friendly AFVs, no more.

The White-Red-White Flash

In early November 1941 whilst planning for "**Operation Crusader**", the relief of Tobruk, the issue of recognition of friendly AFVs for ground forces was again addressed. All participating armored units were ordered to mark their tanks with a large and distinctive easily recognized marking due to a number of factors first of which was a lamentable inability of both infantry and tank crews to recognize or identify our own tanks in clear conditions let alone the smoke, dust and confusing situations that were arising in

actions, the increasing use by both sides to use captured vehicles and in addition the introduction of a new type to the battlefield. An order from the GHQ of the 8th Army was issued about 5th November 1941 immediately applicable to all units designated to partake in the forthcoming operation which commenced on 18th November and continued until 6th January 1942. This order applied to units of both XII and XXX Corps and Tobruk Garrison.

In addition to which I have copies of the pertinent sections of this order to 7th Armored Division, 6th Infantry Division and 32nd Army Tank Brigade. A typical example is below:

Adv. H.Q. 30 Corps. 7 Nov. 41

1. *Ground to ground recognition of AFVs will be standardized throughout the EIGHTH ARMY on the following lines.*

Tanks only. Sign to be painted

"IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1941 WHILST PLANNING FOR "**OPERATION CRUSADER**", THE RELIEF OF TOBRUK, THE ISSUE OF RECOGNITION OF FRIENDLY AFVS FOR GROUND FORCES WAS AGAIN ADDRESSED. ALL PARTICIPATING ARMORED UNITS WERE ORDERED TO MARK THEIR TANKS WITH A LARGE AND DISTINCTIVE EASILY RECOGNIZED MARKING DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS FIRST OF WHICH WAS A LAMENTABLE INABILITY OF BOTH INFANTRY AND TANK CREWS TO RECOGNIZE OR IDENTIFY OUR OWN TANKS IN CLEAR CONDITIONS LET ALONE THE SMOKE, DUST AND CONFUSING SITUATIONS THAT WERE ARISING IN ACTIONS, THE INCREASING USE BY BOTH SIDES TO USE CAPTURED VEHICLES AND IN ADDITION THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW TYPE TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

"

Sabot Away!

WWII Royal Armored Corps Flashes - Continued

“THE ORDERS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRE NOT ONLY TANKS BUT ARMORED OP VEHICLES, THESE WERE USUALLY CARRIERS OR ARMORED CARS MANNED BY FORWARD OBSERVATION OFFICERS (FOOS) OF ROYAL ARTILLERY UNITS, AND CAPTURED TANKS ON CHARGE TO THE POLISH BRIGADE. THIS LAST REFERRED TO AT LEAST THREE PZKPFW IIIS WITH POLISH FORCES. THERE IS AT LEAST ONE PHOTOGRAPH OF THESE TANKS SO MARKED AT A PARADE.”

in positions shown on attached diagram, the sign to be 3 vertical bands, the centre band to be red, the outer bands to be white. Each band will be 6 inches wide and up to 18 inches deep according to available space. Paints and brushes are being sent immediately to Formation O.F.Ps. The sign will be painted on as soon as paint is received. Completion of all tanks will be reported to this H.Q.

In each case the designated positions were both sides of the turret, both sides of the front track-guards and one centrally on the front hull plate. These locations were indicated on a somewhat crude drawing attached to the above order, a copy of which is included here. No

carry two pennants in various positions as prescribed in the order on specified dates. There was a codeword issued as the instruction to adopt these pennant positions.

The orders specifically require not only tanks but armored OP vehicles, these were usually carriers or armored cars manned by forward observation officers (FOOs) of Royal Artillery units, and captured tanks on charge to the Polish Brigade. This last referred to at least three PzKpfw IIIs with Polish forces. There is at least one photograph of these tanks so marked at a parade.

Photographs taken during Operation Crusader clearly show that the following types of British tank were marked

was an old Morris A.C.9 probably belonging to a H.Q. of one of the armored regiments and some Marmon-Herrington cars of the reconnaissance units.

Generally all of the tanks conformed to the position instructions but there are oddities. One such is at least one A13 of 7th Hussars that carried the stripes on the forward facing areas of the front track guards instead of the sides of the track guards, the central front hull marking is not present. On many tanks it may be observed that quite often the flash painted on the sides of the track-guards was the correct width but ran the full height of the metal panel irrespective of the angled edges and height. In many cases too the front hull flash was the full height of the plate but correct width.

From photographs of the Stuarts of 4th Armored Brigade, these evidently carried a variation of sizes and location on their turrets. It may be seen that some displayed the correct size either on the central side turret plate or the foremost one to avoid the tactical marking already applied to the adjacent plate. In both locations it may also be a full height of the turret plate too. In the case of the well-known “Bellman” of the 8th King’s Royal Irish Hussars, the flash had been painted over the pre-existing tactical red square of ‘B’ squadron and an attempt had then been made to scrub off those parts of the white areas that



Here is another example of the Flash for **Operation Crusader** as it appeared on a Valentine Infantry tank. Photograph provided by the **National Archives**.

marking was to be applied to the rear or horizontal surfaces; this was not an air recognition sign. This order was followed by item (b) regarding tanks and armored cars that were to

according to the instruction; a few A9s, and A10, slightly more A13 cruisers, Crusader I, Stuart I (M3A1 Honey), Valentine II, Matilda II and Vickers Light tank Mk.VI and AA version. In addition one

WWII Royal Armored Corps Flashes - Continued



Here is an example of the Operation Crusader Flash in the Western Desert November 1941 - January 1942. Notice that this Matilda II has the flash on its turret and fender. Photograph provided by the **National Archives**.

obscured the square. As an aside, the name "Bellman" had been painted in white on the original Olive Drab No.9 on both sides toward the top edge of the front turret side plate and masked off in the same manner as the WD number when the British camouflage scheme was applied after issue to the unit. On these Stuarts the flash on the front plate has generally been painted centrally beneath the metal strip step fitted to the hull front but there are cases where it has been moved to one side in narrower form to make application easier. This offset feature can be seen on some

Valentines of 8th R.T.R. although these are usually full width and the height of the front plate.

In addition to AFVs carrying the well known but often inaccurately depicted three colored "**Caunter**" patterning so evident on the greater majority of vehicles during "**Operation Crusader**", you will also see the flash marked on Stuart, Crusader and Valentine tanks that are a single overall color. These were new issue reinforcement vehicles hurriedly brought forward in an attempt to make up combat losses, there being insufficient time to apply the full

disruptive pattern although in December 1941 this scheme had been cancelled in favor of a single color only.

Following the successful end of the operation in January, albeit with huge losses of tanks and equipment, the white-red-white marking was cancelled and presumably units were ordered to paint over them. No order has yet been found instructing units to obscure or remove the marking but there are a number of photographs taken in early 1942 of different types of tanks that do show fresh camouflage colored rectangles of paint over those areas where the flash would have been applied. This flash was never used again anywhere in the Middle East on any other type of tank or other vehicle than those listed above.

Mike Starmer

"IN ADDITION TO AFVS CARRYING THE WELL KNOWN BUT OFTEN INACCURATELY DEPICTED THREE COLORED "**CAUNTER**" PATTERNING SO EVIDENT ON THE GREATER MAJORITY OF VEHICLES DURING "**OPERATION CRUSADER**", YOU WILL ALSO SEE THE FLASH MARKED ON STUART, CRUSADER AND VALENTINE TANKS THAT ARE A SINGLE OVERALL COLOR. THESE WERE NEW ISSUE REINFORCEMENT VEHICLES HURRIEDLY BROUGHT FORWARD IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE UP COMBAT LOSSES, THERE BEING INSUFFICIENT TIME TO APPLY THE FULL DISRUPTIVE PATTERN ALTHOUGH IN DECEMBER 1941 THIS SCHEME HAD BEEN CANCELLED IN FAVOR OF A SINGLE COLOR ONLY."

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke



By Eric Choy

A few months ago I sat down with Patrick Rourke at his home and interviewed him for the Modeler of the Month.

What is your hometown or where are you from?

♦ I was born in San Jose, CA. I came to Austin with my parents in 1982.

How old were you when you began Modeling?

♦ Nine, but the first model I saw was “Herbie the Lovebug” when I was five.

What was your first model you built?

♦ It was a Monogram kit. I don’t remember if it was the Sherman or Stug III.

Who has influenced your modeling building the most?

- ♦ No one in particular, although I recall watching a lot of war movies with my dad. That might have influenced my interest in building military models. My mother and my aunt were very supportive of my hobby. My aunt would send me military history books she found whenever she went to second hand bookstores in San Francisco.



Here is **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85 by Tamiya. This kit of Pat's has won several awards at the local and regional club shows. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

Sabot Away!

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke - Continued



Here is a front view of **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85 by Tamiya. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

“WHAT IS YOUR
FAVORITE TANK
MODEL? I LIKE
THE TAMIYA
1:25TH T-34/85 I
JUST FINISHED.

What is your favorite type of modeling?

- ♦ Pre-WWII and WWII armor.

What do you like most about modeling?

- ♦ No people to deal with.



Here is **Pat Rourke's** 1:35th scale Russian Ba-20V in German service. Photograph by **Pat Rourke**.

What do you don't like about modeling?

- ♦ IPMS style judging.

How many modeling clubs and organizations do you belong to?

- ♦ Just Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS).

What scale is your favorite scale to model in?

- ♦ 1:35th.

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke



Another view of **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85 by Tamiya. This time a view from the rear. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

What is your favorite Tank model?

- ♦ I like the Tamiya 1/25th T-34/85 I just finished.

What is your favorite Figure model?

- ♦ I don't do that many figures, but if I have to pick one, it would be the German figure in a captured armor car diorama.

Are you a builder or collector?

- ♦ Both.

Do you build for accuracy or build for fun?

- ♦ Depends on the subject and the model, although I will probably say accuracy because of my Advanced Modelers Syndrome (AMS). I try to build at least two or three models out-of-the-box each year for stress relief.

Sabot Away!

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke - Continued

“DO YOU BUILD FOR ACCURACY OR BUILD FOR FUN? DEPENDS ON THE SUBJECT AND THE MODEL, ALTHOUGH I WILL PROBABLY SAY ACCURACY BECAUSE OF MY ADVANCED MODELERS SYNDROME (AMS). I TRY TO BUILD AT LEAST TWO OR THREE MODELS OUT-OF-THE-BOX EACH YEAR FOR STRESS RELIEF.



A middle top view of **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85. Notice the weathering detail and the tow cable. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.



A side Turret view of **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85. Note the detail on the turret and the added wiring to the lights on the front of the tank. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

How much research do you do before building a model?

♦ Again, depends on the subject and the model. I do most of my research on my next projects when I'm waiting for the glue or paint to dry on the model I'm working on.

What tool or technique could you live without?

♦ Probably panel fading. I'm not a huge fan of that.

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke



Here is **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85 up close view of the front of the tank. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

What tool or technique couldn't you live without?

- ♦ Pin washing. No model will look right without a good pin wash.

What do you think about modeling magazines?

- ♦ Too expensive. Can't afford them.

What do you think about modeling websites?

- ♦ I'm not computer savvy, so I don't know enough to have an opinion about them.

What other hobbies do you have?

- ♦ I have no other hobby other than building models.

Sabot Away!

Modeler of the Month: Patrick Rourke - Continued



Another view of **Patrick Rourke's** 1:25th scale Egyptian T-34/85 by Tamiya. This time a view from the rear. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

“WOULD YOU RATHER BUILD A STATE OF THE ART KIT OR A KIT FROM WHEN YOU WERE A KID? DEPENDS ON THE KIT, BUT GIVEN A CHOICE, I WOULD LIKE TO BUILD KITS THAT I SAW WHEN I WAS A KID.

Would you rather build a state of the art kit or a kit from when you were a kid?

- ◆ Depends on the kit, but given a choice, I would like to build kits that I saw when I was a kid.

I want to thank Patrick Rourke and his family for allowing me to spend time with them to do this interview.

Eric Choy

Sabot Away!

“White Elephant” Contest is scheduled for June Meeting

By Roderick Bell

Our second Quarterly contest is fast approaching. June 3, 2009 is when we will have the “White Elephant” Contest. We have 18 contestants this year and are looking forward to seeing everyone’s models.

Several of the contestants have already completed their models. Here is the list I received from Eric after the Christmas Party back in December 2008:

1. **Jorge Aduna (Trumpeter)** 1:35th scale M1A2)
2. **Roderick Bell (Tamiya)** 1:35th 75mm PaK40
3. **Bob Bethea (Tamiya)** 1:35th M8 Greyhound
4. **Dave Bourland (Tamiya)** 1:35th M41 Walker Bulldog)
5. **Bruce Burden (Tamiya)** 1:35th LVTP7)
6. **Eric Choy (Mirage)** 1:35th Renault UE)
7. **Jeff Forester (ARII)** 1:48th SCUD)
8. **Angie Forester (AER)** 1:35th GAZ-67B)
9. **Worth Haggerton (ICM)** 1:72nd ZiL-157 Command Truck)
10. **Rick Herrington (Tamiya)** 1:35th Quad Gun Tractor)
11. **Marc Hobbs (Italeri)** 1:35th Panzerwerfer 42)
12. **Russ Holm (Tamiya)** 1:35th T-34/76 1943)
13. **Karl Leidy (Tamiya)** 1:48th Flakpanzer IV)
14. **Shawn Merrell (DML)** 1:35th 3cm Flakpanzer IV ‘Kubelblitz’)
15. **Bill Menzie (Roden)** 1:72nd Opel Blitz)
16. **Ted Paone (DML)** 1:35th M1A2).
17. **Oscar Perez (Zvezda)** 1:35th M13/40)
18. **Pat Rourke (Revell - Italeri)** 1:35th StuG IV)

So everyone please finish your “White Elephant” models and bring them into the June 3, 2009 meeting so we can hold our quarterly con-

test.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone’s completed models.

We also need a member to host the 2009 Christmas party.

Roderick Bell

“I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE’S COMPLETED MODELS.”

King’s Hobby 20% Off Discount Deal

By Roderick Bell

Every \$50 you spend at King’s hobby shop you get a 20% discount on your next purchase from Kings Hobby. If you were to spend \$100 you would receive two 20% discounts. If you were to buy \$150.00 you would get three, etc...

I tried it out and I received my 20% discount ticket. I came back a few days later and purchased another \$50.00 worth of kits and received another discount ticket (actually, they just gave back the previous one just gave them). So, I left the building and remembered I needed a reference book, so

I went back in and sure enough I purchased it and some smaller items to get it over \$50.00. You guessed it I got my discount and another 20% discount ticket (again it was the same one I had just used). See King’s Hobby for specific details.

Roderick Bell



King’s Hobby Shop has been in business since 1973.

New Kits

By Roderick Bell

Here are a few more new kits that have recently arrived or will arrive later this year.

The **Tamiya** Matilda II Infantry Tank in 1:35th scale. This is a newly tooled kit and it provides link and length track option and the traditional "vinyl" tracks. Target release is this summer. Kit No: 35300.

Dragon/Cyber Hobby has a new Sherman III DV Initial Production and it will be released later this summer. Kit number: 6527.





Seek, Strike, and Destroy

AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

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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 30 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

Support our Troops



A USMC M1A1 Abrams tank gives a ride to a USMC squad from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in the streets of Baghdad, Iraq. Photograph by **Unknown** (Please note I try to give credit to all photographers / organizations but couldn't in this case).