



# Sabot Away!

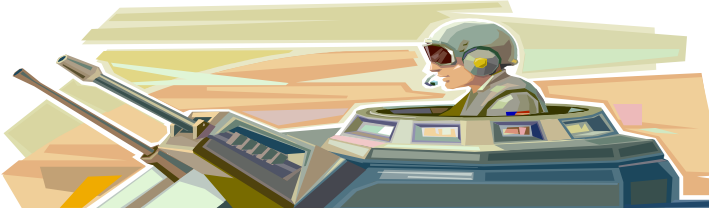


AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 13, Issue 8

August 5, 2009

## From the Turret



Here is a M4A4 Medium tank at the Imperial War Museum in London. This tank is in British markings. The British called this tank the Sherman V. Photograph by **Megapixie**.

I never thought I would say this to anyone: **Building a Sherman is fun!**

A month ago I started this

ambitious project of building ten (10) Sherman tanks in 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale. Initially the reason for doing it was to chal-

lenge **Bob Bethea's** lead in this year's "**Most Prolific Modeler**" award. But as I spent more time researching on the subject and planning what kits to use, I became fascinated with the tank that led us to victory in WWII. As with "zee" Germans' constant tweaking with their Panzers, the Sherman tank went through numerous modifications and enhancements as well. Each subtype can also be traced back to a particular factory building for a specific purpose and user. One can argue a modeler will have no trouble modeling nothing but Sherman's for his entire life!

**Continued on Page 2**

### Special points of interest:

- ◆ NAME THAT TANK
- ◆ SHERMAN III DIRECT VISION TYPE
- ◆ OPERATION: BUILD A DONOR
- ◆ MODELER OF THE MONTH: DAVE EDGERLY

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## 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.



# Sabot Away!

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## From the Turret - Continued

While I have no intention of doing so, I do want to build at least three models of each major variant (M4A1 to M4A4). Hopefully I'll have most of them finished by the time of our show in October.

Now that I have announced my plan here in black and white, I guess I can't back down from it. In a way that may be a good thing. When was the last time you give yourself a good challenge?

**von Erich (Eric Choy)**

Sherman for the show

2. Firefly Ic (M4)
3. Firefly Ic Hybrid (M4 w/ Composite Hull)
4. Firefly Vc (M4A4)
5. M4A2 USMC
6. Early M4A1 w/ M3 Suspension
7. M4A3E2 Jumbo
8. M4A3 Calliope
9. M4A1 76mm
10. M4A3E8 (Early)

### Editor's Note:

If you are wondering what 10 Sherman's Eric will be building here is his list:

Eric's assembly line already has tanks 1 through 6 in progress.

1. M4A2 (Late): Soviet

## Calendar of Events

- ♦ **August 5, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by: **Rick Herrington**
- ♦ **August 22, 2009** - **Club Auction @ Pat Rourke's House**
- ♦ **September 2, 2009** - Club Meeting; **Club Auction (If we need it)**
- ♦ **October 7, 2009** - Club Meeting; Presentation by **Roderick Bell** - **"How to use the Testors Custom Decal System and other Decal making tips"**
- ♦ **October 24, 2009** - **AMPS Centex 2009**
- ♦ **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"**

## Name this tank

By Roderick Bell

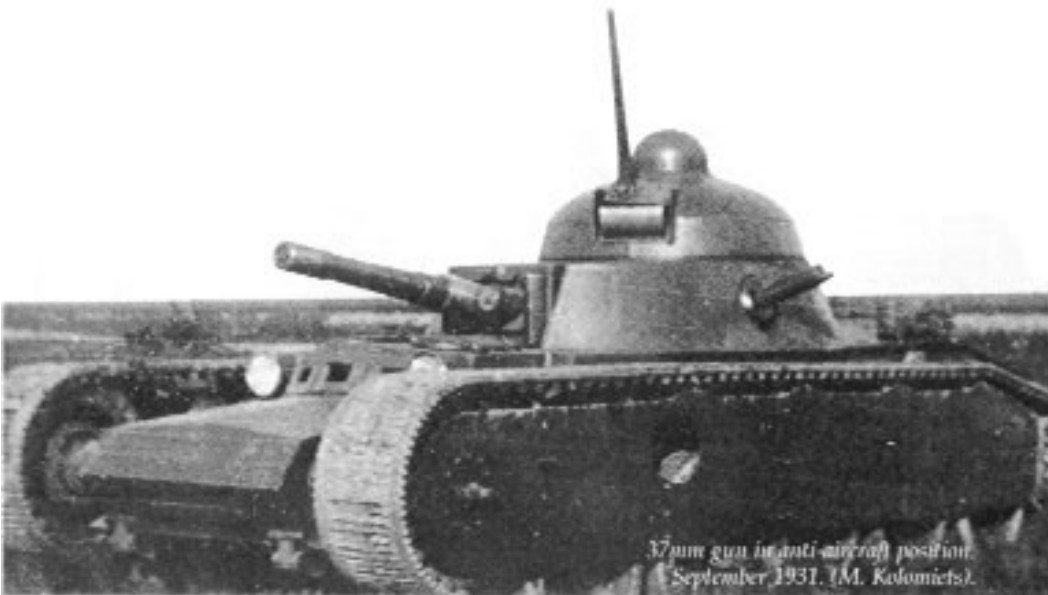
Here is this month's "Name that Tank" entry. Two photographs were provided by Eric Choy. Here is a hint, it is from the early 1930's.

So write down your answer with your name on it and bring it to the August meeting and we will see who found out what this tank is.

The answers will be put in a hat and drawn until we get a winner! Please make sure you identify the Country and the name of the tank.

Maybe you will win the prize! See you at the meeting.

**Roderick Bell**

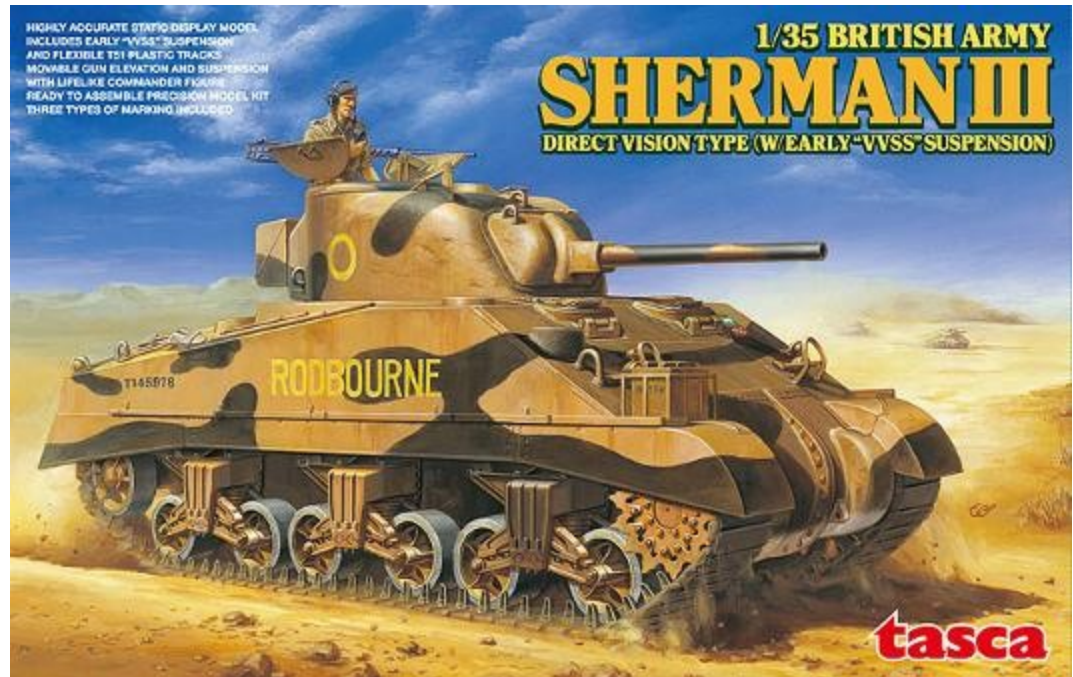


Here are two photographs of the mystery tank. Can you name this tank?

"SO WRITE DOWN  
YOUR ANSWER  
WITH YOUR NAME  
ON IT AND BRING IT  
TO THE AUGUST  
MEETING AND WE  
WILL SEE WHO  
FOUND OUT WHAT  
THIS TANK IS."

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## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type



“THIS WAS MY FIRST REVIEW FOR THE AMPS WEBSITE AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO DRAW THE TASCA BRITISH ARMY SHERMAN III DIRECT VISION TYPE (W/EARLY “VVSS” SUSPENSION).”

By Roderick Bell

### Introduction

This was my first review for the AMPS website and I have been lucky enough to draw the **tasca** British Army Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Early "VVSS" Suspension). The kit is 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale and is **tasca's** 8<sup>th</sup> of 9 Sherman tank kits to be released by them. If you have not built one, yet you are in for a treat.

**tasca** 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale Sherman Kits:

35-009 - British Sherman VC Firefly

35-010 - U.S. Medium Tank M4A1 Sherman (Mid Production)

35-011 - British Sherman VC Firefly with cast cheek-armor turret

35-012 - U.S. Medium Tank M4A1 Sherman (Late Production)

35-014 - British Army Sherman II Direct Vision Type (El Alamein 1942)

35-016 - British Army Sherman V (M4A4)

35-L27 - U.S. Medium Tank M4A1 Sherman Direct Vision Type - Limited Edition

35-017 - British Army Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Early "VVSS" Suspension)

35-L28 - British Army Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Initial "VVSS" Suspension) - Limited Edition

These kits are considered the best Sherman kits on the market with the **Dragon/DML** kits coming in a close second. I now own five out of the nine **tasca** Sherman kits.



## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type - Continued



### Box Art

I like to provide the box art with and without the kit wording in my reviews. Here is the box art without the wording. You can almost frame it and stick on your modeling room wall.



Here is an actual Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Early "VVSS" Suspension) in Italy in 1943.

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## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type

### The Kit

This kit is almost the same kit as the 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale British Army Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Initial "VVSS" Suspension) 35-L28 (Limited Edition). Two very nice reviews of this kit by **Roy Chow** can be found on the AMPS website <http://www.amps-armor.org>.

Here is what comes with the kit:

Qty	Part
1	Instruction sheet for kits 35-L28 and 35-L017
1	Instruction sheet for kit 35-L017 for the Suspension Arm Assembly and Camouflage & Markings
1	Tank Commander Figure Sprue
1	Gas or Water cans Sprue (This is the 35-L14 kit from <b>tasca</b> U.S. Jerry Can set)
1	.50 cal. MG and mount Sprue (This is the from the 35-L09 kit from <b>tasca</b> - you only get 1 MG)
2	Sprocket Drives and rear idlers (A)
3	"VVSS" Suspension parts (B)
1	3-piece transmission cover parts (C)
2	Hull details, fuel caps, Light guards (D)
1	Lower hull parts (E)
2	Turret and Hull details (G)
1	Upper hull and Turret (H)
1	Transmission cover and parts, turret mantel, 75mm gun, additional turret parts. (J)
1	75mm gun, Fenders, Direct vision slots, additional hull detail (M)
1	Commander figure (N)
1	Rear deck and rear hull parts and detail. (O)
2	Periscope and headlights - Clear parts (G)
1	Rubber sheet for "VVSS" bogies
2	Track blocks (4 pieces)

"DOING A QUICK REVIEW OF THE SPRUES I DON'T SEE ANY FLASH. THERE ARE INJECTOR PIN MARKS BUT THEY ARE ON THE INSIDE OF PARTS THAT YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE. THERE ARE THREE FAINT INJECTOR PIN MARKS ON THE COMMANDER'S HATCH. HOWEVER, THESE ARE LIGHT MARKS AND CAN BE EASILY FIXED IN SECONDS WITH A SANDING STICK. "

Doing a quick look at the sprues I don't see any flash. There are injector pin marks but they are on the inside of parts that you are not supposed to see. There are three faint injector pin marks on the commander's hatch. However, these are light marks and fixed easily in seconds with a sanding stick.

The tracks are 2 part vinyl pieces that need to be cemented together. These tracks represent the T51 block tracks used on the early Sherman tanks. The tracks are fine and go well with the

### Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type - Continued

subject. Personally, I would like to have seen **tasca** provide **WE210 "Double I"** pattern tracks. Dragon did provide their Dragon Styrene (DS) WE210 "Double I" pattern tracks in their Sherman MK III "Sicily" kit. Again, that is my preference and it should not take away from the



Here are the T51 block tracks used on the Sherman III. Cementing these two pieces together will make one track. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

review of the kit.

As mentioned the primary difference of the **tasca** 35-017 kit and the 35-L28 kit are the suspension arm assemblies. The 35-L28 kit has the initial "VVSS" suspension assembly and the 35-017 kit has the early "VVSS" suspension assembly.



This is the Early "VVSS" suspension assembly that comes with kit 35-017. Photograph from **tasca**.

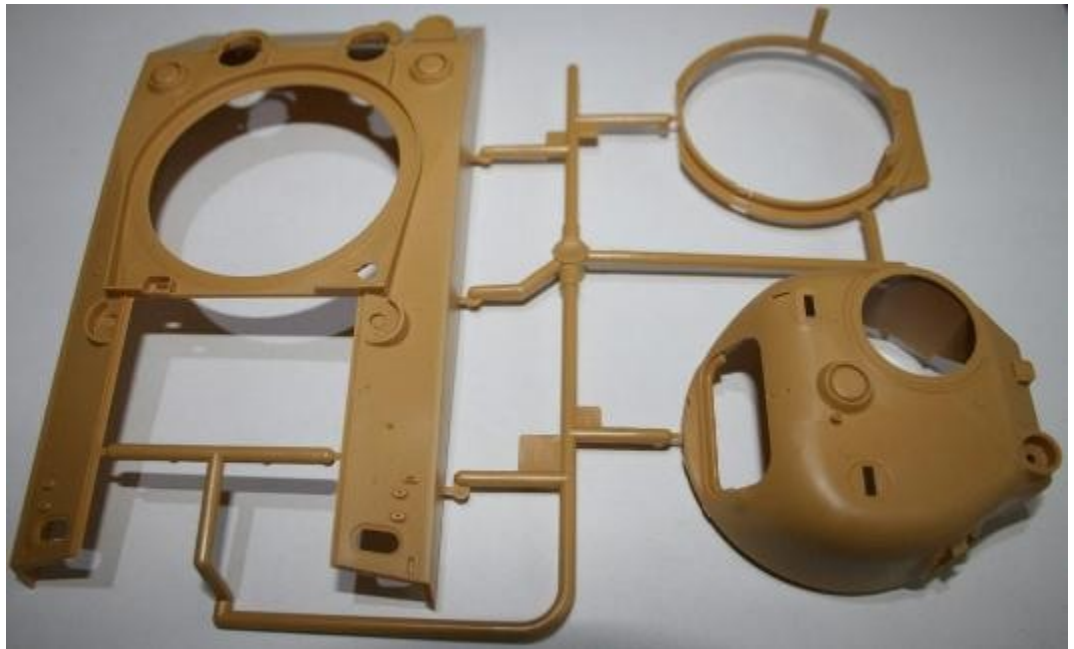


Here is the **tasca** Initial "VVSS" suspension assembly that comes with kit 35-L28. Photograph from **tasca**.

"PERSONALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN TASCA PROVIDE WE210 "DOUBLE I" PATTERN TRACKS. DRAGON DID PROVIDE THEIR DRAGON STYRENE (DS) WE210 "DOUBLE I" PATTERN TRACKS IN THEIR SHERMAN MK III "SICILY" KIT. AGAIN, THAT IS MY PREFERENCE AND IT SHOULD NOT TAKE AWAY FROM THE REVIEW OF THIS KIT."

# Sabot Away!

## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type



Here is a shot of the upper hull and the turret. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

### Instructions

The instructions are well done (I will comment on them more thoroughly in my build review). The instruction sheets overall have 20 sections with several sections having additional steps. Instructions are in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and English. Thank goodness I can read English!

“THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE WELL DONE (I WILL COMMENT ON THEM MORE THOROUGHLY IN MY BUILD REVIEW). THE INSTRUCTION SHEETS OVERALL HAVE 20 SECTIONS WITH SEVERAL SECTIONS HAVING ADDITIONAL STEPS.”



Bogie Instruction Sheet. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.



## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type - Continued



The kit instruction sheet. A very detailed section by section, step by step instruction sheet. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

### Paint Schemes and Decal Placement links

**tasca** provides a two-fold handout that contains instructions on how to build the Suspension Arm Assembly and painting instructions for the commander figure as well as the vehicle camouflage and decal placement. **tasca** provides very nice links to color images of the vehicle camouflage and decal placement in PDF files on their website. Color plates with decal placement for three different vehicles are provided. Here are the two links for the Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Early "VVSS" Suspension):

[PDF #1](#)

[PDF #2](#)

The colors referenced for the camouflage are **Light Mud (Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow)** and **Blue Black (Tamiya XF-63 German Grey)**.



“TASCA PROVIDES A TWO-FOLD HANDOUT THAT CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BUILD THE SUSPENSION ARM ASSEMBLY AND PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMMANDER FIGURE AS WELL AS THE VEHICLE CAMOUFLAGE AND DECAL PLACEMENT.”

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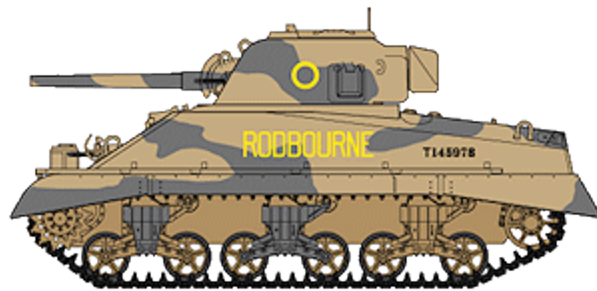
## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type

As mentioned above there are decals for three different units / vehicles.

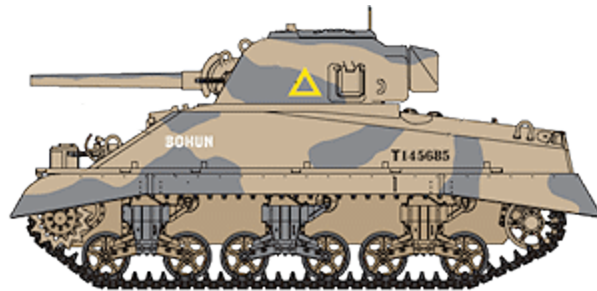


“DECAL SHEET CAN  
BUILD THREE TANKS.  
THEY ARE PROVIDED  
BY CARTOGRAPH.”

Decal sheet for the 1:35th British Army Sherman III Direct Vision Type (w/Early “VVSS” Suspension). Printed by Cartograph. Photograph by **tasca**.

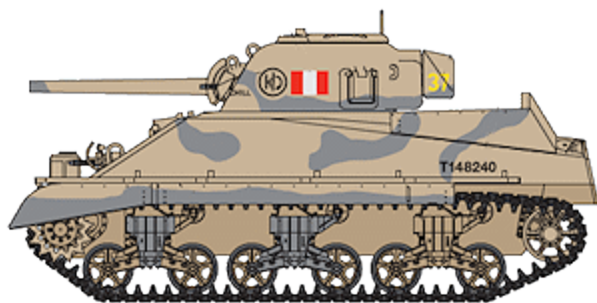


C Squadron, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade, Syria Aleppo. Photograph by **tasca**.



1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Krechowicki Lancers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tank Brigade Fall 1943, Palestine. Photograph by **tasca**.

## Tasca Sherman III Direct Vision Type - Continued



3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry, 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade, July 1943 Sicily. Photograph by [tasca](#).

### Recommendation

This is a first look review and I like what I see. If you haven't noticed by now I really love the Sherman Kits from [tasca](#). I highly recommend this kit. If you are into British Armor or into Sherman tanks, this kit is for you. Please note that I will be doing a construction review on this kit in the near future and I reserve the right to change my recommendation based on that review. However, I do not think that will happen.

I want to thank [tasca](#) for providing the excellent review sample.

**Roderick Bell**

## Operation: Build A Donor

By Eric Choy

**Operation: Build A Donor.**

**Objective: Raise money for the club.**

**Action Plan:** Donate any of your "less desirable" finished model so the club can sell it at the **Austin Scale Model Show** (September 25). All proceeds of the sale will go directly to fund **AABS** activities like our biennial show, Christmas/summer parties, and future field trips.

*Your finished model does not have to be of "competition quality." As long as it is completely built and painted, we will gladly accept it. We will also take any pre-painted model as well.*

*You can bring your donation to the meeting or I can meet you at your convenience to pick up your model. Call (554-9595) or send me an email ([aabsco@austin.rr.com](mailto:aabsco@austin.rr.com)).*

**Eric Choy**

"IF YOU ARE INTO BRITISH ARMOR OR INTO SHERMAN TNAKS, THIS KIT IS FOR YOU. PLEASE NOTE I WILL BE DOING A CONSTRUCTION REVIEW ON THIS KIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE MY RECOMMENDATION BASED ON THAT REVIEW. HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN.

## Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly



By Roderick Bell

This month's Modeler of the Month is **Dave Edgerly**. Dave is another example of an excellent model builder that the resides in the Austin area. Dave was gracious enough to answer some of the modeler of the month questions for us:

**What is your hometown or where are you from?**

- ♦ Pflugerville, Texas and Bangor, Maine.

**How old were you when you began Modeling?**

- ♦ I started building at age 7.

**What was your first model you built?**

- ♦ A Revell DC-7 in American Airlines markings.

**Who has influenced your modeling building the most?**

- ♦ First it was an Army buddy named **Tom Owens** who showed me that chopping up kits to make things that weren't in kits was possible and then I would say a tie between **Russ Holm** and **Bob Bethea**.

**What is your favorite type of modeling?**

- ♦ I actually enjoy 1:700<sup>th</sup> ships out of the box.

**What is your biggest turn off with modeling?**

- ♦ Bolt counters and color snobs. I mean who really cares how many screw heads or bolts are depicted on a 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale M4 Medium tank? I can't stand snobs who go ahead and try to prove that a modelers color interpretation is all wrong. It's how well the model is constructed and painted that matters to me.

**What do you like most about modeling?**

- ♦ Seeing an interesting subject, be it human, animal, or machine, in miniature.

**How many modeling clubs and organizations do you belong to?**

- ♦ Just the two here in Austin (**Austin Armor Builders Society** and **Austin Scale Modelers Society**). I do not belong to any of the national clubs.

**Why do you travel so far to be part of the Austin Armor Builders Society?**

- ♦ I don't travel that far, actually it is on one of the ways home from work and I get to visit King's Hobby on the way. (**Editor's Note: This question shouldn't have been asked to Dave but he answered it anyway! Thanks Dave!**)

**What scale is your favorite medium to model?**

- ♦ I have 7 favorites depending on the subject: 1:700<sup>th</sup>, 1:350<sup>th</sup>, 1:144<sup>th</sup>, and 1:72<sup>nd</sup> for Ships. 1:35<sup>th</sup> for Armor and 1:144<sup>th</sup> and 1:48<sup>th</sup> for



Here is a Syrian Panzer IV by **Dave Edgerly** in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. The kit is by Dragon. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.



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### Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly - Continued



Here is Dave Edgerly's 1:35th scale Dragon Wagon and JagdPanther both from Tamiya. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

#### **“WHAT SCALE IS YOUR FAVORITE MEDIUM TO MODEL?”**

I HAVE 7 FAVORITES  
DEPENDING ON THE  
SUBJECT: 1:700<sup>TH</sup>,  
1:350<sup>TH</sup>, 1:144<sup>TH</sup>,  
AND 1:72<sup>ND</sup> FOR  
SHIPS. 1:35<sup>TH</sup> FOR  
ARMOR AND 1:144<sup>TH</sup>  
AND 1:48<sup>TH</sup> FOR  
AIRCRAFT. ”



Dave Edgerly's WC-57 Command Car by Skybow in 1:35th scale. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

aircraft.

### Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly - Continued



Dave Edgerly's Dragon Sturmpanzer III in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by Eric Choy.

***What is your favorite tank model?***

- ♦ The Dragon PzKw VI Tiger 1E initial production.

***Are you a builder or collector?***

- ♦ I guess I'm more of a builder but I seem to collect faster than I build.

***Do you build for accuracy or build for fun?***

- ♦ I build mostly for fun. The accuracy bug tends to take the fun away from me.

***How much research do you do before building a model?***

- ♦ Not much for tanks and aircraft but quite a bit for ships.

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## Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly - Continued



**Dave Edgerly's** AFV Club M-41 Walker Bulldog Light Tank in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

***What tool or technique could you live without having?***

- ♦ The etch-mate.

***What tool or technique would have the most negative impact if you could not use it?***

- ♦ The airbrush.

***What do you think about modeling magazines?***

- ♦ Some of them are very good with good tips and great photos but some are fairly mundane. I have noticed that some of the very expensive European ones run the same builders models so I gave most of them up.

***What do you think about modeling websites?***

- ♦ I don't really like them because there is too much flame throwing on the forums (true for any special interest) but I do lurk oc-



### Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly - Continued



**Dave Edgerly's** Tamiya M4 Medium Tank "Sherman" in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

asionally. I only belong to one and it is for ships.

#### ***What other hobbies do you have?***

- ♦ I spend a lot of time on motorcycles. We have three in the household. I also enjoy throwing .270, 7.63, and .45 down range quite a bit.

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

- ♦ This is a tough one. I find that building a good looking replica is so easy from the modern state of the art kit but ... it sure is a lot of fun building Revell re-pops of my childhood favorites. They don't look quite as good but boy are they fun.

Dave is a very interesting guy to talk with. I enjoy the stories he has about his past experiences in the army and life in general. Now you know a little bit more about Dave. If you don't know Dave, don't be shy, tell him hello and introduce yourself to him. As mentioned before, he is an excellent local modeler and a great guy to know. Thank you Dave!



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## Modeler of the Month: Dave Edgerly - Continued

Roderick Bell



Top: **Dave Edgerly's** Dragon Tiger I Ausf E initial production in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale.

Bottom: **Dave Edgerly's** Dragon Porsche JagdTiger in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. Photographs by **Eric Choy**.



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# JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

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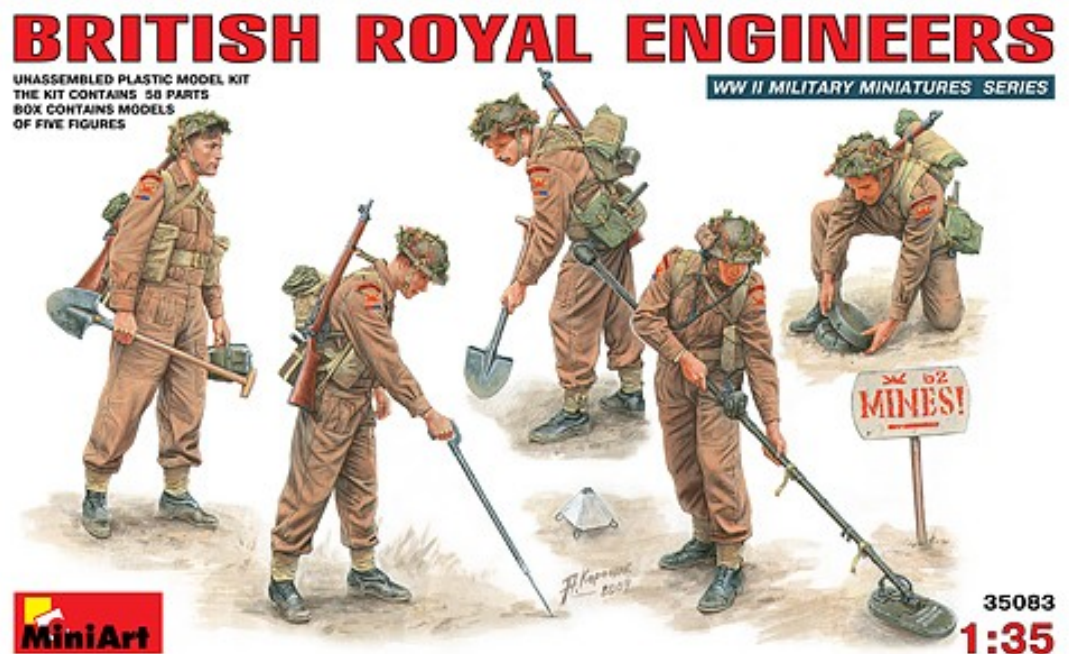
## New Kits

By Roderick Bell

Two new figure kits from **MiniArt**. Both kits are British. The first kit is 35071 **British Soldiers Tank Riders**. These guys can be used for North Africa or Italy. Supposedly, they will be riding a Valentine Infantry tank... at least that is the rumor and wishful thinking.

The second kit is 35083 **British Royal Engineers** clearing mines. They look like they are ETO troops.

Roderick Bell







**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](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)**

**Support our Troops**



A United States Army M-60A3 Patton tank at the 1st Cav museum at Ft. Hood, Texas. Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.