



Sabot Away!



AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 3, 2011

From the Turret



Eric Choy will be coordinating all the articles for an **Boresight** issue devoted to Texas AMPS. Image by **Roderick Bell**.

Just as this summer of discontent has become absolutely

intolerable, I'm glad that in the last few days the tem-

perature has finally dropped below 100°F. For me it's my signal to start modeling again. I must admit I haven't even come near the bench ever since I returned from my vacation a month ago. But with the approach of two upcoming shows here in town, I need to get busy so I can have something to show on the contest tables. I hope you all are doing the same as we need your help to support the hobby and AABS.

Speaking of lending a hand, here is something that the club will be needing from you all in the not so distant future. **Roderick Bell** got info from **John Robinson** (Boresight editor) there will be an issue devoted to armor modeling in Texas.

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ CLUB PLACE
- ◆ UPCOMING PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- ◆ M36 US 90MM TANK DESTROYER GMC JACKSON WWII TYPE
- ◆ BORESIGHT VOLUME 19 NO. 1
- ◆ AMPS 2011 CONVENTION

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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.



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From the Turret - Continued

Since we are oldest and baddest chapter of AMPS in the Lone Star State, naturally we are going to take the spotlight by the horn and make AABS shine the brightest. If you have a particular article that you would like to publish, please don't hesitate to let me or Rod know. This is our chance to show the world that the talent here in Central Texas is just as good if not better than the folks on the East and West coast!

Our meeting this month will be a busy one. Be sure you bring along your recent masterpieces to compete for **CASH** prizes in our quarterly contest. We'll also have our annual auction during the meeting, so don't forget to bring your donation and

checkbook. I'll see you all there.

**Von Erich
(Eric Choy)**

Calendar of Events

- ◆ **September 7, 2011** - Club Meeting; Club Auction.
- ◆ **September 24, 2011** - **ASMS Show**, Norwood Conference Center. Austin, Texas
- ◆ **October 5, 2011** - Club Meeting; Program by **AMPS Judging Seminar**
- ◆ **October 22, 2011** - **AMPS Centex Show**, Norwood Conference Center, Austin Texas
- ◆ **November 2, 2011** - Club Meeting; Program by **Aaron Smischney**
- ◆ **December 3 or 10 or 17, 2011** - **Christmas Party** (TBD). **White Elephant Gift Exchange**
- ◆ **December 7, 2011** - Club Meeting: Pearl Harbor Day; Program by **Roy Ott**
- ◆ **January 4, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Bob Bethea**
- ◆ **February 1, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Russ Holm**
- ◆ **March 7, 2012** - Club Meeting; **Red Cross Month Contest**; Program by **Greg Beckman**
- ◆ **April 4, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Eric Choy**
- ◆ **May 2, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Worth Haggerton**
- ◆ **June 6, 2012** - Club Meeting; **White Elephant Contest**; Program by **Roderick Bell**

Club Meeting Place

By Roderick Bell

Starting with our January 2011 meeting (January 5, 2011) we will be meeting at the **Austin Public Library - Old Quarry Branch**.

This is a change of venue but there is not much we could do about it. We are looking forward to the new year at

the Old Quarry Branch Library on 7051 Village Center Dr.

The meeting time is still 7PM. I hope to see you all there!

Roderick Bell



Upcoming Programs / Presentations and Newsletter Articles

By Roderick Bell

Month	Program / Presentation	Newsletter Article
2011 - September	Club Auction	Marc Hobbs
2011 - October	AMPS Judging Seminar	Eric Choy
2011 - November	Aaron Smischney	Bill Menzies
2011 - December	Roy Ott	Roderick Bell
2012 - January	Bob Bethea	Bill Johnson
2012 - February	Russ Holm	Roy Ott
2012 - March	Greg Beckman	Bob Bethea
2012 - April	Eric Choy	Thomas Pachalos
2012 - May	Worth Haggerton	Ted Paone
2012 - June	Roderick Bell	Karl Leidy
2012 - July	Bill Menzies	TBD
2012 - August	TBD	TBD

Here is a list of members who are responsible to provide a article for the newsletter and to perform a program / presentation. Please note that you may contribute as many articles as you want anytime. This schedule is to insure that we have at least one article in the newsletter per month.

Please make sure you get the newsletter editor the article as soon as possible. He must have it the Friday before the meeting.

Roderick Bell

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type



By Marc Hobbs

First, a little history

The **M36 tank destroyer**, formally **90 mm Gun Motor Carriage, M36**, was an American Tank Destroyer used during World War II. It was known as **Jackson** or **Slugger** by the British, after the Confederate general **Stonewall Jackson**. American soldiers usually referred to them as **TDs** for 'tank destroyers'. The M36 first served in combat in Europe in September 1944, and served until the end of the war; it also served during the Korean War, and in the armies of several other countries.

Service

It was not until September 1944 that the vehicle first began to appear in the European Theater of Operations. About 1,400 M36s were produced during the war. The need for 90 mm gunned tank destroyers was so urgent that, during October-December 1944, 187 conversions of standard Medium Tank M4A3 hulls were produced by Grand Blanc Arsenal. These vehicles, designated **M36B1**, were rushed to the European Theater of Operations and used in combat alongside standard M36s. The M36 was well liked by its crews, being one of the few armored fighting vehicles available to US forces that could destroy heavy German

M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued

tanks from a distance.

After World War II, the M36 was used in the Korean War. It could destroy any Soviet-made AFV deployed in that theater of operations. One postwar modification was the addition of a ball-mounted machine gun on the co-driver's side, as in many other armored fighting vehicles of the time.

M36s were also exported after World War II to various countries. One of the recipients was Yugoslavia where the engine was replaced with the 500 hp Soviet-made diesel engine used in T-55 main battle tanks. Yugoslavian M36s participated in the Croatian War of Independence (1991–1995) but they are no longer in service with the Croatian Armed Forces due to their withdrawal immediately after the war. M36s were also used by Serbian forces in Bosnia and Croatia, and they



were used during the Kosovo War as decoys for NATO air strikes. The M36 was used by the French army, during the First Indochina War. They were also supplied as part of U.S. military aid to Pakistan in the 1950s and served in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

The Republic of China Army acquired eight ex-French examples in 1955 and had them stationed in Kinmen island group, where they are deemed more maneuverable than the bigger M48A3 and later CM11/12 MBTs while being more powerful than M24 and M41 light tanks. As of April 2001, at least two still remained in service with troops defending

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



Lieyu Township.



Variants

M36 - 90 mm gun turret on 3" GMC M10A1 hull (M4A3 chassis). (1,298 produced/converted)

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued

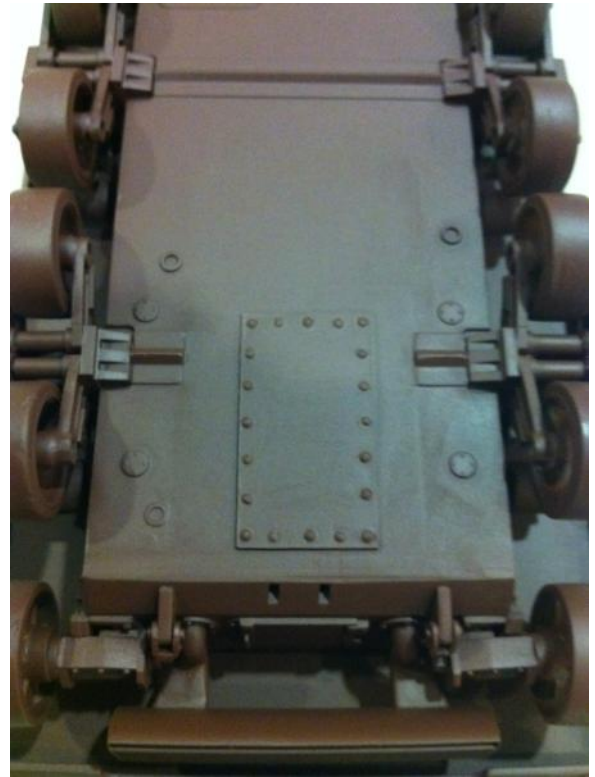
M36B1 - 90 mm gun turret on Medium Tank M4A3 hull and chassis. (187 produced/converted).

M36B2 - 90 mm gun turret on 3" GMC M10 hull (M4A2 chassis, [diesel](#)). (287 produced/converted)

(Thanks Wikipedia!)

So this project started life as a "White Elephant" present from the 2009 AABS Christmas Party. Unfortunately, I like the subject matter so much, I just couldn't bear to put this kit together straight out of the box.

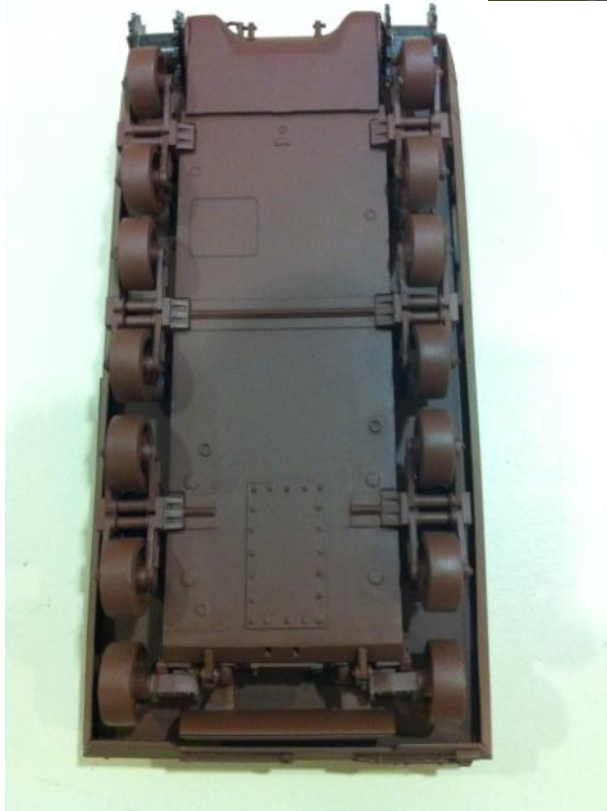
As Wikipedia so thoroughly documents, the M36 (as seen in action in the Fall/Winter of '44), was based on the M10A1 hull. This means it had a single gasoline engine, not the twin diesels used in the M10. I emphasize this because AFV Club did a beautiful M10 a year or so before the M36. They never did an M10A1. What you get in this box is an



odd mix of very nicely molded US AFV parts that don't really assemble into any specific vehicle. However, to make a presentable M36read on.

Let's start with the interior. The large components are there; seats, transmission, flooring, firewall, dashboard. The firewall in particular is very nicely molded. However, it is an M10 interior. The sponson ammo storage is not for an M36. The 90mm rounds used by the M36 were larger than the M10 rounds. The US Army simply removed the ammo storage brackets and stowed the rounds in their cardboard containers with canvas straps. Of course, the rounds provided in the kit are for the M10, so I took 90mm rounds from a Verlinden set and made my own bundles, strapped in with lead foil. Easy.

The dashboard is also for an M10. With twin diesels, the M10 had twice as many dials and gauges. Luckily, in the



M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued

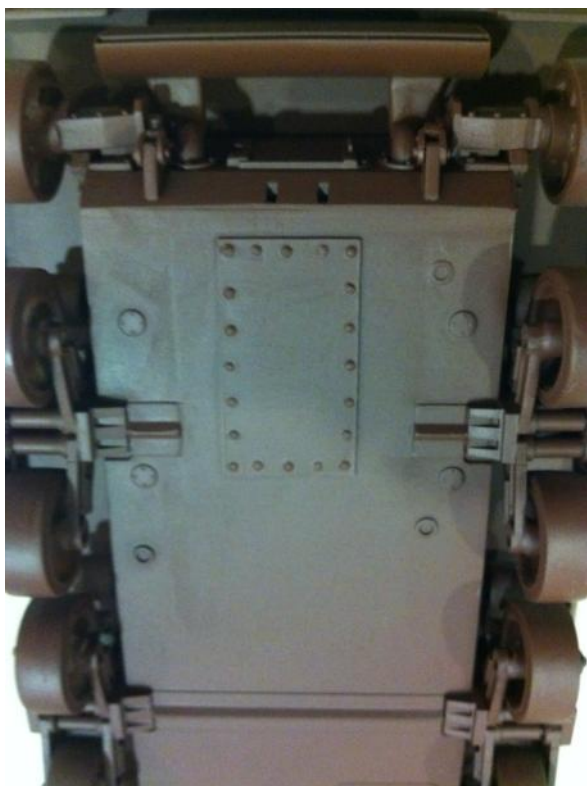
true spirit of mass production, all M4 and derivative vehicles used the same dashboard; any unnecessary instruments were removed and covered over the openings. With a few small plastic disks and a flick or two of the knife, you have an M36 dashboard. Equally easy.

Other details include switching out the radio. AFV Club gives you a SCR 508, but M36's were issued with SCR 610's. Was an SCR 508 ever installed in an M36? Not likely, but it could have happened. I chose to use Formations Models very nice resin SCR610. You can also add control levers, intercom system (some components are provided for the turret), plumbing, wiring, brackets and internal stowage. The Squadron/Signal US Tank Destroyer Walk Around (not "In Action") is an excellent reference for this step.

I painted the interior white. The floor of the fighting compartment, dashboard and radio were painted olive drab. Then I picked out the details in a variety of colors. I gave everything a heavy wash of acrylic grimy brown, pin-washed with oils and then dry-brushed with white, rust and steel.

The lower hull and suspension come next. The lower hull is very nicely done with the sponsons blocked in and lot's of underside detail; but it's for the M10. The twin engine access panels on the bottom should be removed and a new single panel added for the SINGLE gas engine. The hull rear plate is also for the diesel engine even though AFV Club provides a VERY nice set of gasoline exhausts. With a little shimming, I got the rear plate from the classic Tamiya M4A3 to fit just right. Then I used all the AFV Club detail parts. Still relatively easy.

The suspension is another story. (If you're not a Sherman guy, just skip to the next paragraph.) After a fair amount of research, there does not seem to be a consensus on M36 suspensions, so here are my observations. The majority of the European WWII photos show M36's with up-swept return-roller arms. Of course AFV Club provides the flat return-roller arms from the M10



kit. A good comparison is on page 18 of "U.S. Tank Destroyers in Action". The picture shows an M10 and an M36 side by side both from the 703rd TD Battalion; and the difference is apparent. There are pictures of M36's with the flat arms, but they are stateside training and evaluation photos or they are in Korea. Since the gas-powered M36 was sent to Europe and the diesel-powered M36 B2 was retained stateside; it could be deduced that the M36 B2 had the flat arms, and the M36 had upswept arms. However, there is one picture of a 607th TD M36 in Metz that may have flat arms (the suspension is a little obscured by shadow), but further research is necessary to determine exactly what that vehicle may be. Road wheels can be pressed or open. The M36's of the 702nd TD clearly had pressed road wheels; the M36 from the 703rd mentioned above had open road wheels. Drive sprockets vary as well. So before I turn this into a master's thesis, make sure you check your photographs. I

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



opted for a 702nd vehicle, so I used the Tamiya M4A3 bogies with the upswept arms, Formations replacement skids (no seams to clean up), AFV Club pressed road wheels, Tamiya sprockets and Formation idlers (the tensioners are so nice).

M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



Now we start the fun part. The engine deck between the diesel M10 and the gasoline M36 are completely different. Thanks again to the mass-production genius of US industry, this is a relatively straight-forward fix. Take the M10 upper hull and cut along the engine deck panel lines to remove the air intake grate and surrounding engine deck (save the armored gas caps).

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



Do the same thing with your favorite (or least favorite M4A3; Tamiya in my case), and swap them out. I found that with a little shimming, the Tamiya deck fit very nicely. Then you add the five armored filler caps in their new locations and you have an M36. The Perth Military Modeling Site has an excellent article on performing this procedure on an M35 engine deck;

<http://www.perthmilitarymodelling.com/reviews/vehicles/afvclub/afv35s08.htm>

The turret is by far the nicest part of this kit. The 90mm gun is beautiful and very thoroughly reproduced. The barrel is turned aluminum with threading and spring-loaded for that crazy recoil action. The interior of the turret is also very nice. After comparing to photos in the above-mentioned "US Tank Destroyer Walk Around" all I added was some wiring, personal stowage and shells for the ready rack. One note here; paint everything first. Do not try to

M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



glue the top and bottom of the turret together and then add the gun. The breech and surrounding stuff will not fit through the front opening. So build the gun and paint it, build the top and bottom turret interiors and paint them. Then glue the whole thing together and clean up the seam.

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M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



The exterior detail parts; i.e. pioneer tools, 50 cal., brush guards, etc. are as nice as anything on the market. A photo-etch set wouldn't hurt, but I think the kit parts look just fine. However, the tracks are a bit of a mystery. The kit provides rubber band style T51 Rubber Block tracks for the kit and a sprue of T48 Rubber Chevron tracks for stowage?! There are pictures of

M36 US 90mm Tank Destroyer GMC Jackson WWII Type - Continued



703rd TD M36's with the T51 tracks, and AFV Club gives you markings for two 703rd vehicles, so that would be a logical choice. But of course, my 702nd M36 had to have the T54E1 Metal Chevron tracks. I borrowed a set of Dragon Magic Tracks from an M4 and threw everything else in the spares box.

I haven't actually painted the kit yet, so I'll save that for a later article. What I do have at this point is a two-year project, a junk M4A3 and a plentiful spares box. So, in conclusion, the AFV Club M36 is a true white elephant. It will build into a very nice kit, if you are not concerned with the accuracy of the model. Aircraft guys, if you want to try an interesting armor kit, you can probably pick one of these up cheap at a swap meet. It builds like Tamiya and paints up nicely, just don't take it to an AMPS show. For the armor guys, if you're bored with all the new smart kits, have some fun. Otherwise, try the Korean version instead.

Marc Hobbs

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Boresight Volume 19 No. 1



Boresight Volume 19 No. 1 - Continued

By Roderick Bell

The latest issue of the **AMPS Boresight** is out. Here is what is inside the Volume 19, Issue No. 1:

- ♦ **AMPS Review Crew News** by **Chuck Aleshire**, Review Coordinator
- ♦ **Sturmgeschutz III Ausf. G: Detailing the (old) Dragon kit** by **Glen Martin**
- ♦ **Sherman ARV Conversion: Converting the Dragon Sherman VC Firefly with Legend Productions ARV** by **Jim Guld**.
- ♦ **Scout Car M3A1 Reference: Got the new Hobby Boss kit?** by **Glen Martin**
- ♦ **Siapan Sentinel: Forgotten Pacific Warrior** by **Will Synder**
- ♦ **Zimmerit from A+B putty: Step by Step method for making your own** by **John Robinson**

Roderick Bell

AMPS International Convention 2012



By Roderick Bell

The 18th AMPS International Convention will be held at the WW2 Victory Museum in Auburn Indiana from Thursday April 26, 2011 to Saturday April 28, 2012.

The Show logo has been released. In keeping with the Show Theme (Anti-Aircraft), **Matt Deck** has done another fine job on the show logo. Matt has actually done the last three International convention logo's (2010, 2011, and 2012). I asked **Matt Deck** to provide some background on the logo. Here is what **Matt** said:

"The character is based on "Specks" a mascot Disney designed in the autumn of 1943 for the 566th Anti Aircraft Battalion. The unit crossed the English Channel on Christmas Day of 1944. First action was seen on the 28th. They took up positions in and around Reims until early January when the last German offensive was broken. Their role became one of protecting strategic targets at Verdun, France; Differdang, Luxembourg; and into Germany at Trier and Mainz. Leaving Mainz on May 10th, they were stationed at various air-fields."

An advance recon team for the 2012 show was in Auburn, Indiana the weekend of July 23-24, 2012. This consisted of 2012 Show Chair **John Charvat** (Sooner AMPS), **Chuck Aleshire** (AMPS Chicagoland), **Pete Gay** (All-American AMPS), and **Sean Lynch** (AMPS Chicagoland). Early re-

ports are that the AMPS 2012 will be the best convention to date. The recon team has collected data to help make the show flow better than the last two times in Auburn (2008, 2010). Check for more updates next month.

Roderick Bell

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ON THE FORM**

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New Kits

By Roderick Bell

Revell Germany has a new modern subject ready for release this month (September 2011). It is the GTK Boxer (GTFz) in 1:35th scale.

Model Details

- ◆ Production Model (2011)
- ◆ Finely engraved Detailed Surface Areas
- ◆ Detailed Chassis
- ◆ Module Construction as on the original
- ◆ FLW 200 with a choice of either 12.7mm MG or a 40mm Grenade Launcher
- ◆ Smoke Discharge Unit
- ◆ Rubber Tires
- ◆ Modeled Driving Position
- ◆ Moveable Drivers Hatch
- ◆ Authentic Decal set for 4 vehicles

Kit number is 03093.

Tamiya has a new figure set in 1:35th scale depicting World War II Soviet Infantry (1941-1942). Kit No. 35311.

Trumpeter has a 1:35th scale Russian Tractor used by their Air Force. I just found this kit and I am not sure if it is new or has been on the market for a while. It is NEW to ME.



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

Support our Troops



Navy Seal exiting a Chinook CH-47 Helicopter. Photograph obtained from MilitaryPhotos.net.