



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2015
Volume 19, Issue 4



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Tamiya 1/48th Soviet T-34/76 Tank

By Milton Bell

Ok, so it has no wings and way too many wheels. But it's a 1/48th model and is made of styrene, and that's good enough for this old modeler.

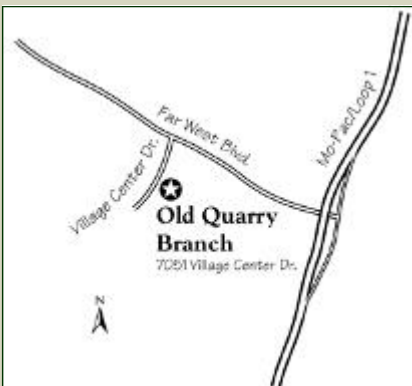
Back when I returned to modeling—must have been the late '70s—there were lots of Bandai kits on the shelves along with special items for those doing dioramas in the "proper scale." There were some good and varied subjects, and they were moderately popular. Unfortunately, Bandai decided to quit the series, and before

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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

April 1, 2015

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

- ♦ **April 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **April 11 - Lone Star Military Miniature Society Model Day** Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin, TX
- ♦ **April 25 - Modelmania 2015** Stafford, TX
- ♦ **April 30 to May 2 - AMPS 2015 International Convention** WWII Victory Museum, Auburn, IN
- ♦ **May 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **May 30 - Scalefest 2015** Grapevine Convention Center Grapevine, TX
- ♦ **June 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **June 13 - SoonerCon 2015** South Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma City, OK



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January, 2015	Tom Pachalos	Tom Pachalos
February	Tom Pachalos	Dave Bourland
March	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
April	TBA	TBA
May	Jake McKee	Jake McKee
June	Dave Bourland	TBA
July	TBA	TBA
August	TBA	TBA
September	TBA	TBA
October	TBA	TBA
November	TBA	TBA
December	TBA	TBA
January, 2016	TBA	TBA

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/she wants anytime. 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. Tom Pachalos' article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).



From the Turret

The March meeting was yet another busy night for us, with our own Eric Choy sharing a great Japan trip with us. Eric described his trip to Tokyo hobby shops and a few other sites, including the highlight of a trip to the Tamiya HQ. There were some very interesting pictures and stories of the company history that he found there.

In my history review this month I found two interesting stories of coincidence. WWII in Western Europe launched with the invasion of Norway in April of 1940, 75 years ago, while in April of 1945, 70 years ago, WWII was all but over in Europe.

Another set of interesting anniversary dates this April comes from Vietnam. April of 1965, 50 years ago, marked the first US offensive operations in Vietnam, while April of 1975, 40 years ago, marked armor from the NVA rolling into Saigon and an end to the Vietnam conflict.

Here are a couple of inspirational images from April

1965 and April 1975 to consider for your next project:



I'm looking forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday night. It'll be April 1st, but you'd be a fool to not attend!

John Talley
President

Your 2015 Dues Are Overdue!



Our club's survival depends on your contribution! Think of the consequences if you don't pay your dues: no newsletter, no voting right, no chance to win CASH prizes in the quarterly contests, no FREE giveaway, and no participation in the annual kit auction. PLUS you get to spend Christmas alone eating TV dinner instead of having free BBQ and partying with the rest of us!

So man up and pay up. Please have your club dues (\$12) ready at the next meeting. We accept cash, check or money order.

For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin TX 78729

Please **DO NOT** send cash by mail. Be sure your check or money order is made payable to "**AABS.**"



(Continued from page 1)

long there were none to be had except for collectors and occasionally from vendors.

But now Tamiya has started the ball rolling again with several releases of very popular subjects. Other manufacturers have chimed in with their own kits, particularly Skybow, AFV Club, and now Hobby Boss.

I had built a few pieces of armor years ago. The old Bandai Ferdinand is still on the shelf along with a Bandai Jeep. The last armor model I started was the Bandai T-34, not a bad kit but I lost interest. I tried 1/72nd, but it was just too small for my old fingers and eyes.

Several months (*editor: years now as Milton wrote this article back in 2006!*) back, the ASMS newsletter ran a story by John Seaman on two of Tamiya's earlier releases. It really whetted my appetite to build another piece of 1/48th armor. I began to buy the Tamiya kits knowing that soon, I would have to start gluing styrene. Then I saw the Skybow's German Tiger I kits, early and late versions. So I decided to do one. At the time I was working on the Yak-3 kit, but I built the late version Tiger I at the same time.

In about a week I was done. It's not a "winner," but I really did enjoy it and like I say, it didn't take long to finish. So now it was time to try Tamiya's T-34/76.

First of all, I had to find out something about the subject. Being an aircraft modeler, I'm surrounded by volumes of armor references. No, not really. But I did have one book given to me from a relative for Christmas years ago for my "modeling hobby". It's called *The World's Great Tanks*. It has some nice pictures but is short on text. Being a real novice on things armored, I had no idea what the suffix 76 meant. Now I know it denotes the gun as a 76mm.

Most, if not all, Soviet armor were painted plain "green". I happened to have a bottle of Aeromaster "Warpac Dark Green", and I was all set! Hey, that's close enough for a subject that will get numerous washes and applications of pastels.

One thing I remember John Seaman complaining about when he did the Tamiya Sherman was a lack of boxed-in sponsons. He added the appropriate strips of sheet styrene to solve the problem. I checked my T-34 and yep, it had the same ailment. So I followed the good doctor's advice and boxed them in.



It seems to be a standard feature of Tamiya's 1/48th armor to supply the lower hull as a metal casting. It provides two locations for the self-tapping screws that hold the top half of the model to the lower hull. The metal really adds heft to the model, and it ensures that the model will "sit" level if you give it half a chance.

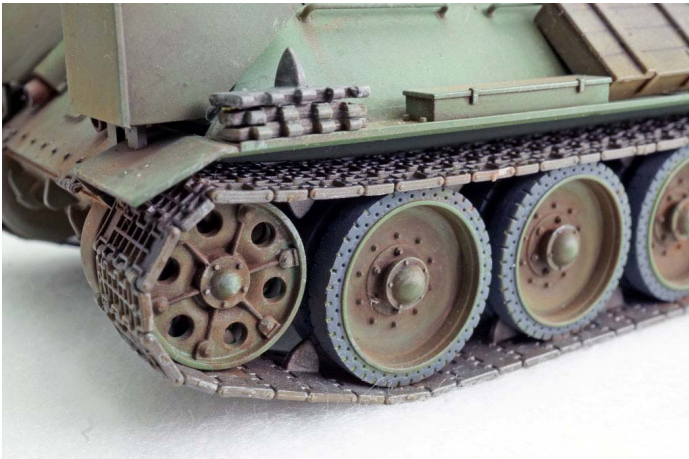
Construction proceeds at a good pace since the major portions are molded as large pieces. The turret however is molded in two sides, a top, and a back hatch. Hatches can usually be shown open but since there is no interior at all, I buttoned everything up.

The road-wheels are two piece affairs with separate hubs. Since I try to find easy ways to do repetitive tasks, I first painted the wheels, front and back with the green paint. When they were very dry, I chucked a small dowel that would fit the center of the wheel into my handy variable speed drill and painted the rubber "tire" with RLM 66.

Doing all twenty wheels took about five minutes. I'm getting lazy in my old age!



The two idler wheels are designed to "float" and actually take up slack in the track. Their mounts are held in place by poly-caps.



The track is link-and-link style, with the longer runs (top and bottom) in sections that run from drive wheel to idler on the top and across the road wheels on the bottom. The top section is molded with the appropriate "bow" built in, so it isn't an unrealistic straight piece. Individual sections generally make up the curved sections that go around the drive wheels and idler wheels.



I have to say that this was the only problem I encountered with the construction. I added the track near the end of the project after the hull had been painted and all the wheels attached. The individual pieces went around the drive wheel with no problem, but in order to get the track on the front idler, I had to push the idler to the most rearward position. Had I known this would be a problem, I would have tried to add two more pieces from the "spares" to make the track a bit longer and move the idler forward for a more realistic pose. Maybe I'll try that next time or with another T-34 chassis.



The main gun has very slight mold marks. To be sure that the gun tube remained round, I chucked it in my drill and "turned" it against a piece of 400 grit wet/dry paper. The mold line was soon gone and the tube is round. As I mentioned earlier, there is no interior detail, so there is no breech for the gun. It is held in place in the turret by two poly caps.

Two tow cables are supplied that are braided nylon cord. I glued them into the styrene cable heads with plastic cement. I clamped them with locking tweezers until they were dry. It made a very tight bond.

All the metal parts, including the tracks, were painted with Alclad steel. This is a very dark metal finish that looks like worn metal and takes weathering very well. After everything was painted dark green, I gave it all a good coat of Future and let it dry overnight. Then I washed most of the surface with burnt umber oil paint dissolved in a bit of lighter fluid (naphtha) and wiped it down.

Just to be sure nothing got wiped off, I waited to install the numerous hand holds, and small details



until I was satisfied with the basic wash. I found out that those hand holds are fragile. I broke two of them in the cleanup process and had to replace them with fine solder. They blend in very well. Can you spot them? I also managed to dislodge one of the wheel hubs and had to rob a wheel from the old Bandai kit for its hub.

Three wooden boxes are supplied in the kit, but I used only two. I painted them Dark Earth, washed with Burnt Umber and then dry-brushed with a bit of Sand.

I added the decals before doing the wash, and they responded very well to the decal set. Stains were added with more thinned oil paint. The rusted and burned exhausts were given a treatment of Mig pigment "rust." Mig pigment was also dissolved in a bit of thinner for rust streaks at various joints and seams. After all the washes, pastels, and clear flat, I used my Waldron punch and made a lens for the single light.

I have to say that I'm not used to screwing models together, but Tamiya's design just about guarantees that all components will align when the two screws are tightened. All parts of the kit fit as advertised, and I don't believe I used any filler other than to fill ejector pin marks on the sponson undersides.

This was a fun project, and it spent relatively little time on the work bench. Now I'm back on another aircraft. But I've already put my money down for the Hobby Boss T-34/85, and it'll be a Korean War scheme for this one.

If you haven't tried one of these little tanks, you should think about it. I certainly enjoyed mine.

Milton



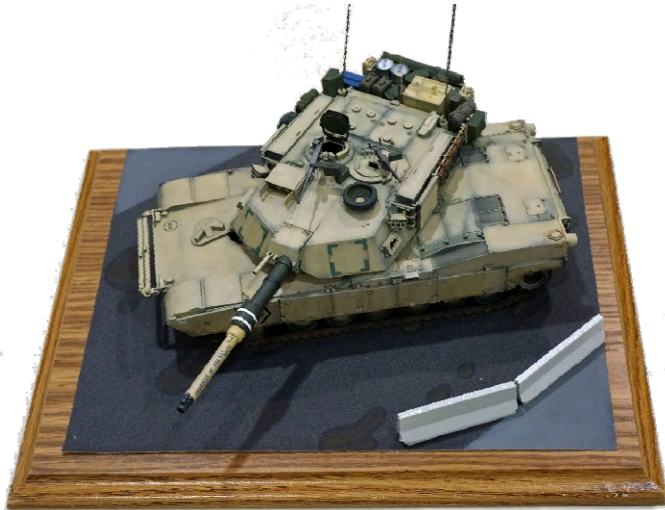


2015 First Quarterly Contest Winners

1st Place:

Rick Herrington

1/35th M1A1 Abrams (Academy)



2nd Place:

Greg Beckman

1/35th KV-1



3rd Place:

Ian Candler

1/35th M10 (Tamiya)





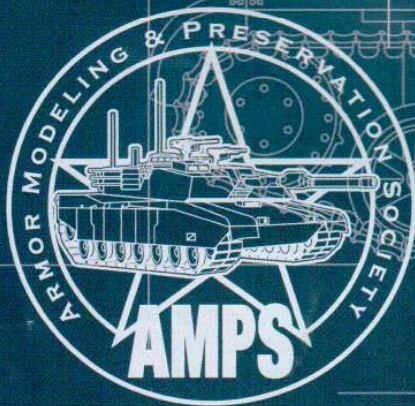
From the
drawing
board
to the
battlefield

There was always a first in line,
a MK.1, a Series A. We are celebrating
that innovative first model – the one
that led the way – with the
AMPS 2015 International Show theme:



Join us at the
WW2 Victory Museum
in Auburn, Indiana
from April 30 - May 2, 2015

Plan to be there!
More information to come at:
www.amps-armor.org





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New On The Block



Tamiya keeps its 1/48th series running with the Panzer 38(t) Ausf.E/F available soon this month.

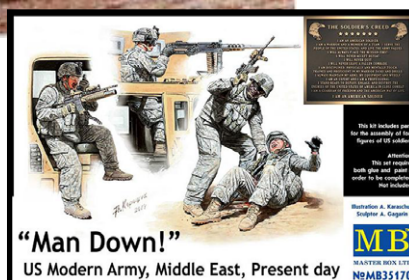
U.S. ARMY TRACTOR W/ANGLED OZER



Have several bottles of glue ready for MiniArt's 1/35th US Army Tractor with Angledozer. There are over 850 pieces inside the box, and each track link alone is made up of eight (8) parts!



Interested in armored railcar but no room to build it? Try Trumpeter's latest 1/35th Soviet PL-37 Light Artillery Wagon on for size. The finished model takes up less than 16" of your workbench's real estate.



MasterBox brings us yet another realistic 1/35th set of figures titled "Man Down!" perfect for any modern Middle East diorama.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **The Italian M13/40** by Mike Roof
How to make an accurate version of Italy's WWII medium.
- ♦ **The RCME and Tiger 007** by Ignace Vangel
Cleaning up the battlefields of France in 1944.
- ♦ **Book Review** by John Charvat
Tiran in Lebanese Wars, published by Ammo of Mig Jimenez
- ♦ **SdKfz.222 in 1:48 Scale** by Glen Martin
Tamiya reboxes the ICM armored car kit and adds a little spice.
- ♦ **AMPS Bulgaria** by Mitko Nikitov
Local chapter growth on the international front.
- ♦ **AMPS Local Chapter News**
What's going on in the AMPS community.





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."

Since then AABS is the only modeling 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 model shows.

Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor model show in AMPS South Central Region (AMPS CENTEX). Known as Lone Star Armor &

Figure Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come participate.

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

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com



New member Ian Candler is quite a prolific modeler. At our last meeting he brought this 1/35th (Tamiya) "flying Bren Carrier" along with his M10 that won third in our quarterly contest. Keep up with the good work, Ian.