



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2015

Volume 19, Issue 10



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Building A Jagdpanther by Bill Menzie

The kit I used for this build was Dragon's 1/35th scale Sd.Kfz 173 Jagdpanther ausf G1 Early Production with Zimmerit. The model consists of 596 grey plastic parts, DS

tracks, one photo-etched sheet, and decals.

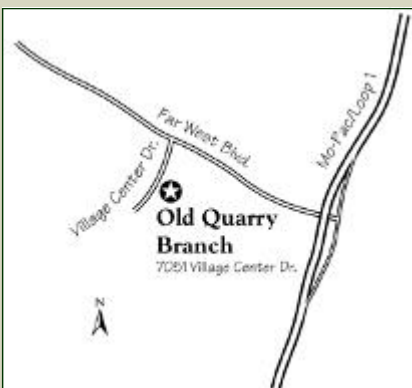
The kit's Zimmerit is very fine and scaled perfectly. At first look it is quite subtle, but a dark wash will make the texture stand out. The bow MG34

(Continued on page 4)

Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

October 7, 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

- ♦ **October 7 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **October 10 - ASMS Capital Classic 2015** Norris Conference Centers, Austin, TX
- ♦ **November 5 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **December 2 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **December 5 - AABS Christmas Party**



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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	Milton Bell
May	Jake McKee	Jake McKee
June	Dave Bourland	Aaron Smischney
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	John Talley	Rick Herrington
September	AMPS Judging Review	Zach Talley
October	Kit Auction	Bill Menzie
November	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
December	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
January, 2016	Ted Paone	Ted Paone

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

Last month we wrapped our **AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2015**. The show was a lot of fun. We had many great models registered, great vendors and materials to purchase, and great company from attendees and club members alike.

October 2015 brings us to the 75th anniversary of a strange and lesser known chapter of Word War II, the Italian invasion of Greece, or the Greco-Italian War as it is known today. Although the Germans ultimately entered the conflict and quickly conquered Greece, the Greeks made a good showing during the months following the initial invasion by the Italians.

Before WWII started, the Greek military had begun expanding in an effort to create a show of strength and avoid going to war at all. As tensions grew with Italy, there were attempts to purchase tanks from both France and England, but both efforts failed to procure any armored vehicles before Italian soldiers crossed into Greece from Albania.

When the Italians invaded, their primary armor support was in the form of L3/35 tankettes, hardly armor at all in most respects, but still more than the

Greeks had. The Greeks did manage to capture about 40 of the Italian tankettes and attempted to build the 19th mechanized division around these vehicles and truck borne infantry support. All of the captured L3/35 vehicles were destroyed during the German invasion the following April.



Ironically, more L3/35 tankettes were supplied to the Greeks at the end of war, and these vehicles were used in the Greek civil war. Somewhere in all of this drama there has to be a great story around which to build an interesting L3/35 model.



Greeks in captured Italian L3/35 tankettes.

This month we are holding our **annual auction**, so remember to bring both money and models to offer for the auction. See you all on Wednesday evening.

John Talley
President

Annual Kit Auction @ October Meeting

Our annual kit auction will be held at our October meeting this year. All monies collected go straight into the treasury for our biennial show and other club activities.

To participate in this auction, please bring:

1. A few unwanted kits in your collection that are complete and haven't been started.
2. Your checkbook or cash-filled wallet.

Remember, your friends and fellow modelers will be bidding on these items. Be considerate and don't bring a kit that has missing parts or has been partially glued/painted!



(Continued from page 1)

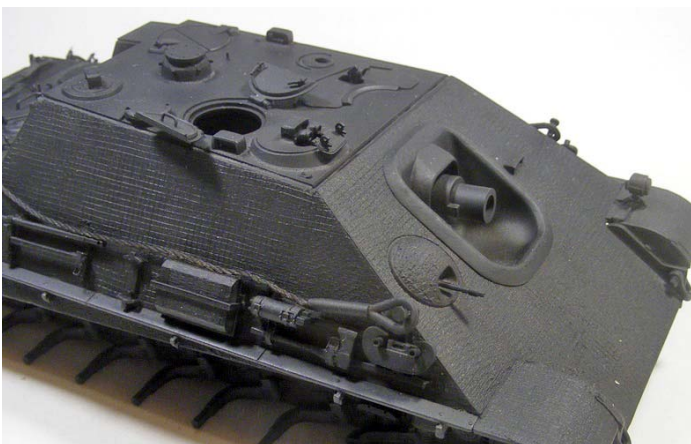
machine gun is exquisitely detailed. Since only the barrel is visible, I saved the internal parts for future projects. The DS tracks have excellent details including the hollow guide horns.

The Build

The various pieces fit together very well except where the upper and lower hull join at the front. Testors contour putty was used to cover an offset seam. I deviated from the kit instructions by cementing the main road wheel axles against their stops. I also used the kit tool parts, but replaced the molded clamps with PE. The wheels were left off for painting. The rear idler axle arms were also not installed so that the idlers could be adjusted for proper track tension.

Painting

The model was painted Flat Black from a spray can. This was used as a primer and provides a uniform color for subsequent paint coats.



Next, the components were painted with Tamiya's Flat Earth (XF-52). The wheels and hull were then sprayed with Dark Yellow (XF-60) mixed 60/40 with Flat White (XF-2). The mixture was thinned and lightened further by adding more whites. This was applied to the upper surfaces that would tend to reflect the sunlight. I lightly painted both of the yellow shades under the hull sponsons as these areas should be dark.

Camouflage

The camouflage scheme is red-brown and olive-green streaks applied in the field. This was quite common on late-war *Jadgpanthers*. I used Tamiya Olive Drab (XF62) and Red Brown (XF-64) with Flat Red (XF-7) added. All of the camouflage colors were thinned with Tamiya Thinner (X-20A) as I wanted the colors to appear faint and almost transparent.



Decals

The kit water slide decals were used. The numbers are individual decals which allow the builder to select any combination of unit marking. After the application of decals, I used liberal amounts of Micro Sol to soften the decals. A stiff brush was used to push the softened decals into the *Zimmerit*.

First Wash

I mixed Burnt Umber and Cadmium Yellow artists oil paints for the first wash. The oils were thinned down with fast drying Zippo Lighter Fluid, and I wet brushed onto all surfaces, including wheels. Then I dabbed off with a paper napkin and drybrushed. The result was a slight darkening of the paintwork and a greater emphasis of the *Zimmerit* details on the hull.



Tools & Details

The wooden tool handles were painted with Vallejo Yellow Ochre as a base. The darker grain was then painted using Vallejo colors Leather Brown and English Uniform. The shovel blade, ax head, and hammer head were given a flat black basecoat followed with a Chrome Silver and black mix. The wooden jack base was painted by varying shades of black, brown and tan starting dark and finishing light to pick out the wood grain.



Second Wash (Pin Wash)

A pin wash using black artists oil was used to pick out protruding details (like the many wheel bolts) and also to darken outline of the hatches, vision blocks, and weld points. I also pin-washed the tools and jack base to produce shadowing effects.

Chipping

Paint chipping was done with a very tiny brush and an artist sponge purchased at Jerry's Art-a-Rama. I prepared a dark mixture of Tamiya black, brown, and red. This was randomly sponged and brushed on the rear deck and roof where the crew would have walked (hobnailed boots). Special attention was given to chipping high points and work areas. A truly unique feature of this chipping process was the highlighting of spots on and around the chips where the basecoat of dark yellow was exposed by wear, but not enough to expose the underlying metal.



Mud Effects

A mud mixture was obtained from artist oil daubed to the undersides of the sponsons and hull bottom. I sprinkled pinches of 0.5mm dry sand medium onto this wet layer to create a gritty look. The wheels were also coated with the oil mix (without the grit) and wiped with a napkin. A darker oil mixture was used to make dark areas on the wheels to simulate oil leaks.

Tracks

This was my first encounter with Dragon DS tracks. The kit instructions offered no details on how to join the ends. I found out almost any plastic cement would work, and I used Tamiya Extra Thin Cement with good results. The tracks were treated with the same muddy oil mixture and sandy grit as the lower hull.

Mounting the tracks was simple. I inserted the rear idlers last and found that they both needed to be carved to get more angle. This was needed because



the tracks seemed too loose. To reproduce the correct track sag, I glued the track down and pushed the track down into contact with rolls of newspaper until the glue set.



Figure

The resin figure is from an unknown source in Thailand. I like to include a figure to give the model a sense of proportion. The one piece camo coveralls were painted as Waffen-SS planetree summer.

Note

As a painting reference, the article by Lukasz Kapelski in Vol.2 of *Supermodel International* was very useful, especially the many excellent photos.

Bill

A Blast From The Past!

Don Jones, our club's founder, recently sent me this photo of an outing of AABS' founding members at Fort Hood circa 1999 or 2000. Most of them are still with us, I think. Can you recognize who they are?

Editor





2015 Third Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Rick Herrington
1/35th Leopard 1 A5



2nd Place:
Ian Candler
1/35th "Mach Schell!"



3rd Place:
Ian Candler
1/35th LRDG Truck





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2016 AMPS International Convention

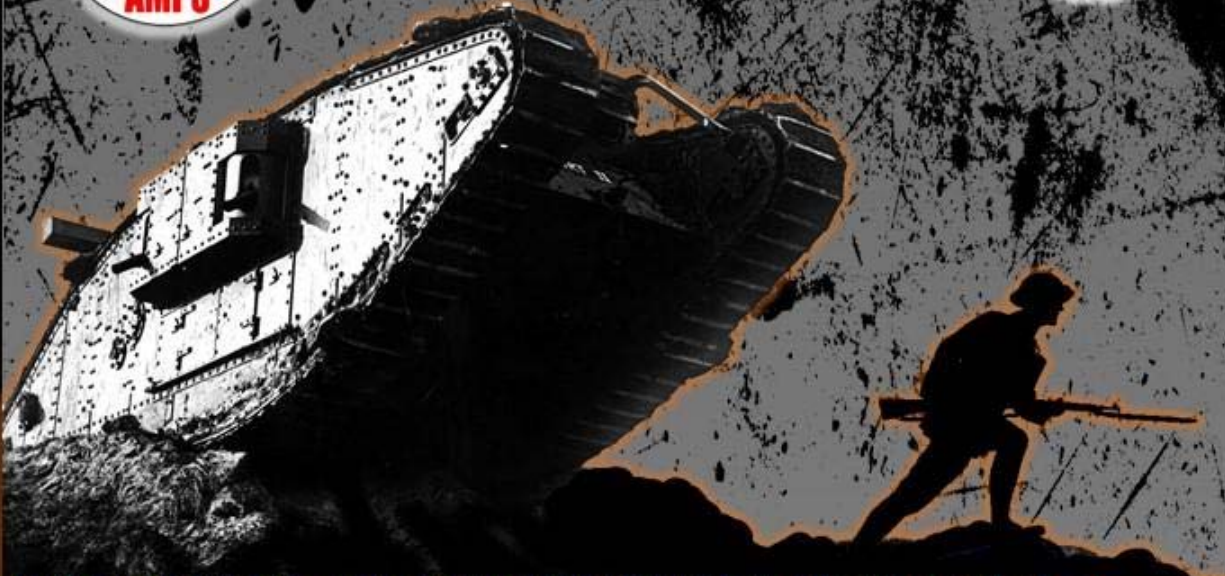
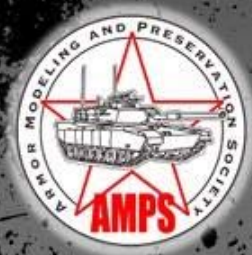
Scale Model Exposition: Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations,
Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!

Show Theme: *The Great War*

April 7-9, 2016

**Sumter County Civic Center
700 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150**

Hosted by:



For more information, contact Tim Darrah (Show Chair), tttimmy@earthlink.net
Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), semperfi03732@msn.com
or visit us online at www.amps-armor.org



NEW ON THE BLOCK



Oh my! Not one but three "accurate" 1/35th Chieftains from Takom: Middle East Mk.5/5P, BAOR Berlin Brigade's Mk.10, and British Army's ultimate Mk.11. What have we done to deserve such a treat?



If the full-length 1/35th Horsa is too steep for your wallet, Bronco now offers just the wings and rear fuselage for diorama modelers.



Who would have thought Trumpeter and Meng's 1/35th Russian Long Range Rocket Launcher SMERCH both come out at the same time!



AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 5)

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

- ♦ **Tunisia Tiger** by Eric Choy
Building an initial production Tiger in quarterscale.
- ♦ **U.S. Army Crash Truck** by John Kirkpatrick
Scratchbuilding a WWII standard 110 airfield firefighter.
- ♦ **Water Effects For Modeling** by Bob Bethea
How to add water to your scenic base.
- ♦ **2016 AMPS International Convention Update** by Tim Darrah
- ♦ **Weathering Magazine 1945** by Chuck Aleshire
A thumbnail review.
- ♦ **A Visit To Museum of Battle Glory** by Nitka Nikitov
Hidden treasures in Yambol, Bulgaria.
- ♦ **Local Chapter News**



Tunisia Tiger • U.S. Army Crash Truck
Water Effects For Modeling • AMPS Local Chapter News
AMPS 2016 International Convention Update
A Visit To Museum of Battle Glory





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 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

ASMS

IPMS/Austin Scale
Modeler's Society
presents

The
Capitol Classic
2015

FASTER THAN FAST!

Any subject having to do with high speed, or a subject that is
recognized as fast for it's type and it's era.

Saturday, October 10th 2015
Norris Conference Centers
2525 W. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757

Support our fellow bros in
arms on this second
Saturday of October!