



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2019



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Building a Desert T-72

By Ted Andreas, Jr.

The kit I used for this project was Tamiya T-72M1 (35160). As far as the construction goes, there are only a few things I need to mention.

I did notice that the road wheel suspension "arms" and the lower hull

did not have locking pins to ensure all the suspension would line up. That missing feature could have easily caused some floating road wheels. In fact, in the instructions there was a warning to modelers to make sure all the road wheels touched the "ground."

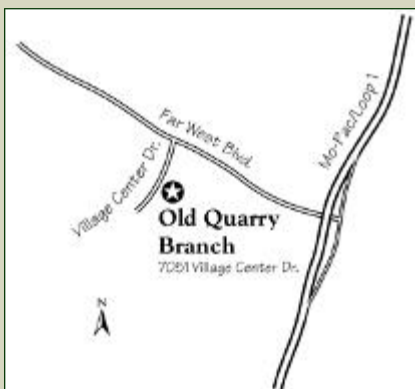
To accomplish that, I skipped ahead a step and assembled the road wheels before gluing the suspension arms in

(Continued on page 5)

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

July 3, 2019

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

- ♦ July 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ August 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ September 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ September 14 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo
Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown, TX



AABS Officers May 2018 – Apr 2020

Ted Andreas, Jr., President
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

Ian Candler, Vice-President
iancandlermedia@gmail.com

Eric Choy, Treasurer
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Ted Paone, Secretary
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Joe Fisher, Webmaster
(512) 350-6936,
fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2019	Mike Lamm	Greg Beckman
February	Ian Candler	Mike Lamm
March*	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Ted Paone	Greg Beckman
June*	Rick Herrington	Ted Paone
July	Ted Andreas, Jr	Ted Andreas, Jr
August	Chris Chany	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Chris Chany
October	Kit Auction	Bob Bethea
November	Aaron Smischney	Greg Beckman
December*	Alex Gashev	Russ Holm
January 2020	Mike Maloney	Kevin Hutchison

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 wants any time. 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. Greg Beckman's article for January 2019 was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! We are well into summer with warmer temperatures now in Texas. So, we should all model inside with the A/C keeping us cool and avoid working in the heat as much as possible.

I would like to acknowledge **Central Texas Scale Modelers Society** in Killeen TX for sponsoring our "People's Choice" and "Tank Buster Challenge" awards for our contest in September.

Congratulations to **Rick Herrington** for winning first place at our quarterly contest last month. **Bob Bethea** took second place with another excellent entry. Third place was also a great piece of modeling built by **Jake McKee**.

For the past few years this column has included some comments on historical events. Usually, I write about things that occurred seventy-five years ago. Well, a lot happened in WWII during the seventh month of 1944. So, I will briefly highlight some of them:

- ♦ In July, the Red Army recaptured Minsk. This was significant because it was the last large German base in the Soviet Union.
- ♦ In the Pacific, the Battle of Saipan ended in July with the elimination of the Japanese stronghold on the Mariana Islands by American forces.
- ♦ On the western front, the Battle of Saint-Lô was fought from the 7th to the 22nd of July. The 29th Infantry Division was one of three US infantry divisions involved in the fighting, and they were

opposed by elements of the German 352nd Infantry Division and the 3rd Fallschirmjäger Division.

- ♦ On the 8th of July, Operation Charnwood was launched. It concluded 24 hours later with British and Canadian troops in control of most of Caen, France.



- ♦ On the 12th of July, Teddy Roosevelt Jr. died in Normandy of a heart attack. He was the son of US ex-President Theodore Roosevelt and the assistant division commander of the US 4th Infantry Division at the time.



- ♦ On July 17th, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was critically wounded when his staff car was strafed by a Spitfire flown by Canadian Lt. Charley Fox. Rommel would not command again and was later persuaded to commit suicide for being implicated in the failed coup against Adolf Hitler.

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- ♦ An attempt to kill Hitler occurred on the 20th of July. The coup was smashed, and in the aftermath numerous German Army officers, active and retired, were executed.
- ♦ *Operation Goodwood* was fought from the 18th through the 20th of July. The British and Canadians achieved partial success only at a very high cost in casualties and lost tanks. The 12th SS Panzer Division *Hitlerjugend* was the main adversary.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-403-3355-23
Foto: Seidel | 1944 Sommer

- ♦ In Estonia, the Battle of Auvere was fought from the 20th of July until the 25th of July. It was a victory for the Germans over the Soviets. However, on July 26th the Germans retreated from the Narva Bridgehead. Four days later the Soviets would claim victory as their Narva offensive ended.
- ♦ As part of *Operation Cobra*, the US 4th Armored Division captured the French city of Coutances on the 28th of July. *Operation Cobra* ended on the last day of the month as a decisive Allied victory in the Battle for Normandy. It also isolated German forces still resisting in the Cotentin Peninsula.

I have only highlighted a few of the events that occurred 75 years ago. Around the globe, the Axis forces of Germany and Japan, with a remnant of the Italian military, experienced mostly defeat. Yet, they



still fought hard and inflicted high casualties on the Allied forces. In Normandy, the Germans were still very adept on defense and at counter-attacking. However, the Allies gained the upper hand eventually and would go on to win in Normandy and the rest of France.



Keep modeling and painting! Stay cool as much as possible!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

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place as the instructions directed. I then inserted the suspension into the road wheels and glued them into the lower hull aligning each component as I went along.



Another decision I made was to replace the tracks provided with Friulmodel tracks. The drive sprockets were also replaced with those from Friul. This resulted in a quite realistic looking sagging track. Unfortunately, most of it would eventually be covered by the model's side skirts.



The photo below shows the kit's rubber-band tracks (top two) and a length of Friulmodel tracks (bottom) that had been assembled from links leftover from two previous projects. So, this project got a head start with a length of track almost long enough to do one side of the tank.



After the tracks were assembled, building the rest of the tank proceeded. The top hull and lower hull fit

together almost perfectly. These halves were glued together after a rattle can coat of black paint.



At this point, these subassemblies were put together and given an airbrushed base coat of Model Master (enamel) Russian Armor Green. I did not use any mixture of paint to highlight/weather the upper surfaces. The green was applied in a thin layer to allow some of the black undercoat to remain visible.



The Friulmodel tracks were airbrushed with a mixture of Model Master Gun Metal and Military Brown. This was a tip I saw in Aaron Skinner's book. I have liked the results of that mix.

The tank model was then sealed with Model Master Dullcote from the rattle can. After the dull coat dried, the tank was given one heavy coat of hair spray.

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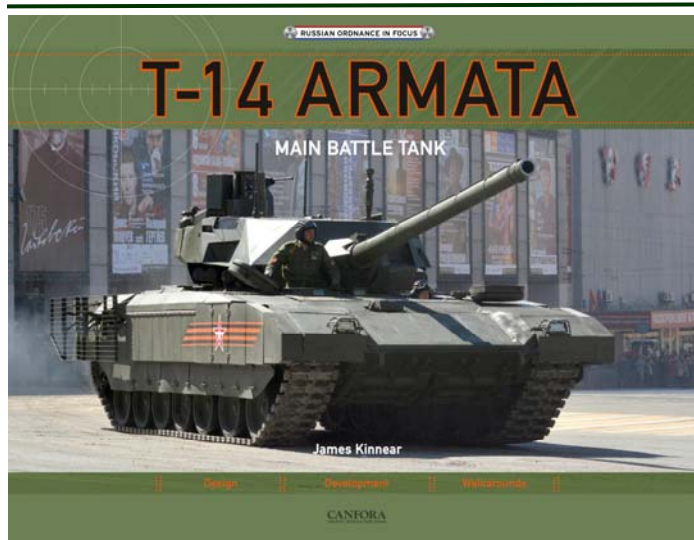
The top coat of paint was provided by air brushing Tamiya Buff (XF-57) acrylic paint over the Russian Green. A stiff bristle paint brush and water was used to chip the top coat. The rubber side skirts were brush painted with Life Color Tire Black thinned with distilled water.

The final assembly took place by connecting the rear fuel drums together with the kit supplied tubing. A sand color pigment (Tamiya set) was brushed onto the fuel lines so that they too would appear somewhat "weathered."

A single decal of Arabic numbers was applied to the turret. This decal also received a light coat of Tamiya sand pigment after being set with Walther's Solvaset decal setting solution.

This project was intended to produce a model of an Iraqi tank that would soon suffer the wrath of Desert Storm from General "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf. However, since the markings are sparse, it could easily be a model of a tank used by other Middle Eastern nations.

Ted



T-14 Armata Main Battle Tank

by James Kinnear

Canfora Publishing [ISBN 789198477511]

80 pages, M.S.R.P. USD \$30

Reviewed by Eric Choy

The T-14 Armata is Russia's latest Main Battle Tank (MBT) based on the Armata Universal Combat Platform — an ambitious modular tracked vehicle platform for Russia's next generation MBT (T-14), infantry fighting vehicle (T-15), armored personnel carrier, combat engineering vehicle, armored recovery vehicle, and several types of self-propelled guns (one of them being the 2S35 Koalitsiya-SV).



Since T-14 made its debut in the 2015 May Day Parade, we have four major* 1/35th kits (Trumpeter, Panda, Takom, and Zvezda) out in the market already. However, references of this new bad boy are still few and far between. So this latest title from Canfora, a Swedish publishing company, is very welcomed indeed to modelers and military historians alike.

The author James Kinnear starts with a brief introduction and covers the development history and description of the new tank in the first ten pages. Then

*Two other "minor" releases are from Revell Germany (RG) and Art Models. According to info on scalemates.com, RG's T-14 is just a reboxed Trumpeter kit with new decals, and Art Models offering is largely based on Zvezda's with a few new parts.

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4.5 Running Gear & Side Skirts



Lower glows, and track fitted with rubber pads for road travel.

4.4 Hull



Dark track links stored on the rear armor plate. Two low cables stored on the rear armor plate. Two cables clamped to the rear armor plate. Two cables and one of four fuel-drum bracket mounting points.

comes 54 pages of walkaround color photos emphasized in five areas:

- General Overview
- Turret
- Armament
- Hull
- Running Gear & Side Skirts

Considering many of the features of the Armata are still shrouded in secrecy, this book is nothing but prodigious. It's no small feat that the author managed to capture every angle of the tank. Obviously he must have the eyes of a modeler (or an intelligence analyst!); who else would go to such great length of capturing details like the engine

grills, side skirt attachment points, antenna mounts, turret bustle, and suspension mountings?

The last chapter of the book, Rehearsals and Red Square Parades, shows various color schemes and markings of the Armata when it appeared in public in the last few years. These photos are a great help for modeling a parade vehicle. Personally I would go for a what-if scheme. But that's just me...

Should you ever consider building a model of Russia's latest T-14 Armata MBT, this book is absolutely essential and quite possibly the only reference that you'll ever need.

Highly recommended.

Eric

4.3 Armament



The current armament of the T-14 "Armata" is the 100mm 2A46 tank gun, which does not feature a bore evacuator but has a bypass valve built into the breech and is constructed of a new grade of steel providing significant increase in gun barrel pressure loading capability. Note the muzzle reference system sensor (star) and immediately behind the turret muzzle sensor.

5. Rehearsals & Red Square Parades



T-14 "Armata" tanks parade through Red Square before the historic "GUM" universal store. 19 May 2016

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2019 Second Quarterly Contest Winners

1st Place:

Rick Herrington

1/35th Panzer II ausf L "Luchs"



2nd Place:
Bob Bethea

*1/35th Finnish
BT-42*

3rd Place:
Jake McKee

*1/35th SdKfz. 251/20
"Uhu"*



2019 AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo

September 14th, 2019

An AMPS Regional Show



Show Theme "Artillery - King of the Battlefield"

Any towed, emplaced, or self propelled weapon that lays **INDIRECT FIRE** (i.e. shell, rocket(s), or missile(s) delivered at a target which cannot be seen by the aimer) is eligible for the show theme award.

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*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.



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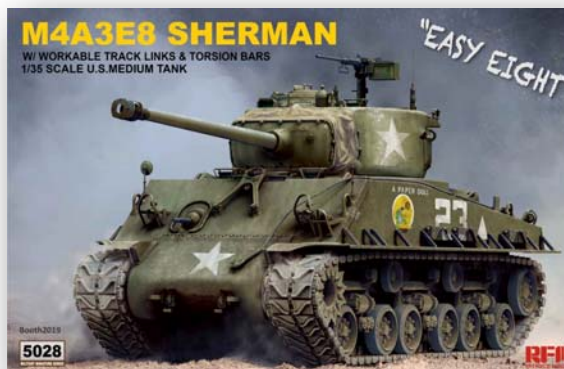
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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



What a treat for the summer! Two new 1/35th releases from Tamiya: German SPG Hummel (Late Production) and British Tank Destroyer M10 IIc Achilles.



Even Rye Field Model is caught on the "Sherman fever" these days. Their latest is an 1/35th M4A3E8 "Easy Eight."



ICM also has two new 1/35th kits out based on their earlier Ford Model T tooling: 1917 LCP and Touring Staff Car, both in WWI Australian Army markings.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 27, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ **IJA Type94 Tankette** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Yugoslav M-84** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **The Overloon (Netherlands) Military Museum** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **Book Review: Israeli Improvised Armored Vehicles & Jeeps (1947-49)** by Fernando Sanchez
- ♦ **Amusing Hobby 1/35th 12.8cm FlaK40** by Steven Andreano
- ♦ **Know Your Officer**
- ♦ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**



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 at least one night talk tanks."



AABS is the first scale model 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 modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

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

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We are on the web @ austinamps.org



Some real fine armor entries your editor managed to capture at this year's SoonerCon in OKC.

