



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

November 2019



## Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
2019 3RD QUARTERLY CONTEST WINNERS	7
JOIN AMPS TODAY	8
NEW ON THE BLOCK	9
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	9
ABOUT US	10
MEMBERS' GALLERY	10

## Taming a Braille Scale Object

by Eric Choy

**B**ack in 2013 when the "Object 279" storm made landfall in the modeling community, it created quite a dilemma for armor modelers: not one but three (Panda Hobby, Amusing Hobby, and Takom) 1/35<sup>th</sup> kits arrived in our hobby shops almost at the same time. There was much debate on the accuracy of each kit, not to mention everyone's opinion on which

one was a better value for the money spent. Being a cheapskate, I waited until the hype was over before I made my purchase, and I ended up getting Takom's rendition at a bargain price. Then I realized it would probably never be built after I counted the number of individual track links (360!) inside the box.

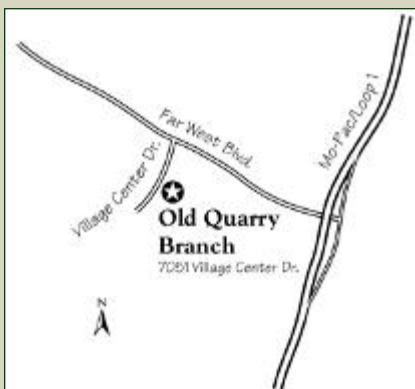
Fast forward to August this year, Takom surprised us all with a scaled down (1/72<sup>nd</sup>) version of the same kit. Link-and-length tracks are used this

*(Continued on page 4)*

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

**November 6, 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](mailto: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

- ◆ November 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ December 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ December 7 - **AABS Christmas Party** - Rattan Creek Community Center, Austin TX



### AABS Officers May 2018 – Apr 2020

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## 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	Kevin Hutchison	Eric Choy
December*	Alex Gashev	Greg Beckman
January 2020	Mike Maloney	Russ Holm

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





# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

November 2019

Page 3



## From the Turret

**G**reetings! First of all, congratulations to... us! Our club collection of Sherman tanks won first place at the Austin show. Some of our club members did exceptionally well at the show also: our VP **Ian Candler** had a very good day as well as **Mike Maloney** and **Bob Bethea**, to name a few of our people. I especially liked the "Rebel Yell" diorama by Bob.

The holiday season is approaching. I would like to encourage everyone to start thinking about the Christmas Party that is coming up fast. Shopping for, or selecting from your stash, an armor model kit for the gift exchange should be on most of our to-do lists. We will soon need to have an accurate estimate

on how many members and guests plan on attending so we won't run out of food for everyone.

Seventy-five years ago, the fighting to free Europe was still ongoing. In November, Canadian troops completed the liberation of Belgium.



Canadian Troops in a Kangaroo APC

Meanwhile, American troops in General Patton's Third Army liberated Metz, France. The biggest part of that operation was handled by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Y**ou still have time to finish the White Elephant kit you received from last year! Here's the photo taken at the 2018 Xmas party to remind you what you got.

# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

November 2019

Page 4



*Soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division with counterparts from the 95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.*

Also in November, the Free French Army liberated Strasbourg, France. Their Second Armored Division under General Le Clerc, was the main unit tasked to take the city.



*Tanks of the Free French Second Armored Division*

These actions were some of the main highlights of the Western Front during November, 1944. Although the war seemed to be going in favor of the Allies, the German High Command was busy preparing a Christmas surprise for the US troops in the Ardennes.

Keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best!

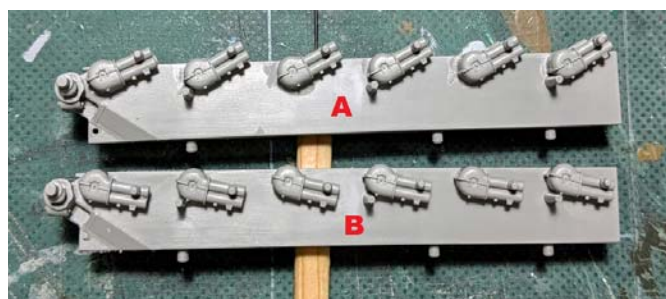
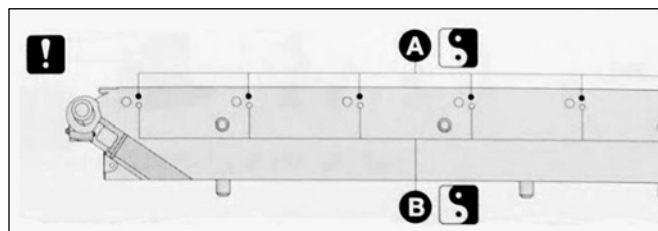
**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President

*(Continued from page 1)*

time to ease construction. Plus you get two “objects” in one box. It was an offer I couldn’t resist! So I lined up a co-conspirator (thanks, Keith) to share the cost and the “plus one,” and I was off to tame a nuclear blast resistant beast.



A fast compare-and-contrast reveals the layouts of the 1/35<sup>th</sup> and 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Takom kits are very similar. Obviously some parts are simplified in the small scale version, but you still have the option of building the suspension in normal (A) or “low-riding” (B) position. However, the instruction for choosing between the two is muddy and cryptical as hell! You can see the illustration I scanned here is the only help provided in Takom’s instruction, and the photo below is what I gathered eventually.



The model has two sponsons under the lower hull, and each contains twelve swing arms to hold the wheels. The left (B22) and right (B23) arms are very much alike, so care is needed to make sure there are not mixed up.

Part D14 is a jig to temporarily hold the drive sprockets in place, and it is not featured in the



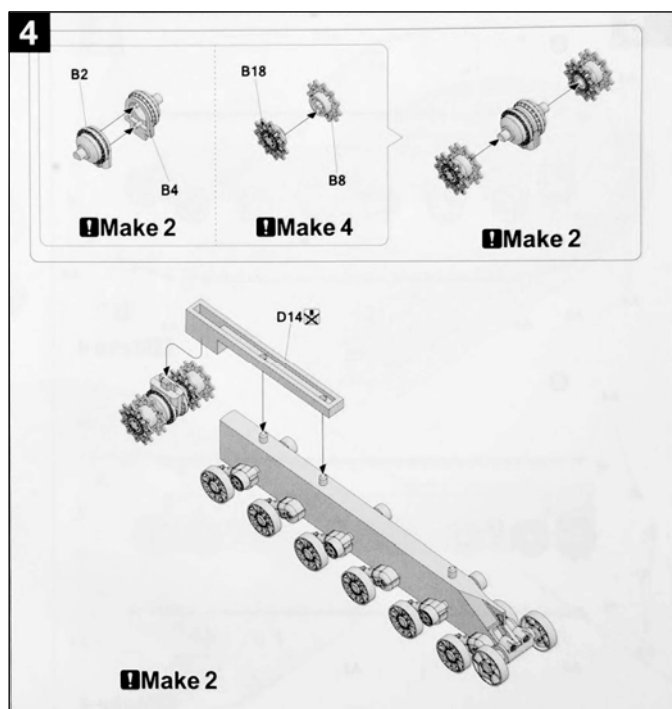
# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

November 2019

Page 5

original 1/35<sup>th</sup> release. I suppose this introduction is Takom's response to modelers' complaint on the difficulty of holding the drive sprockets in position when building the tracks around them. Again, in my opinion, a simple sentence explaining the purpose will work better instead of using a don't-glue symbol.

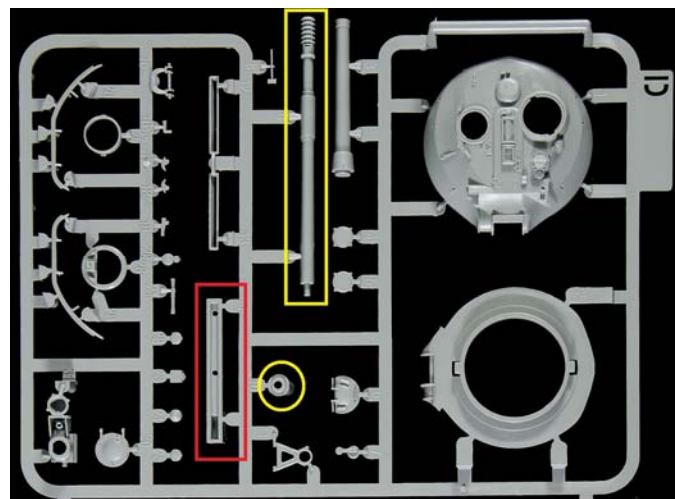
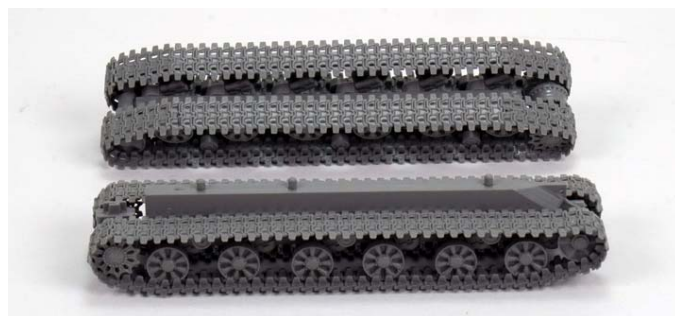


I was thrown into a panic as only one D14 was supplied by the kit when two is needed for the left and right sponsons. Since my co-conspirator already received his "object," I thought I have to make a resin copy of the jig to build my track runs! Then it dawned on me that you don't need two jigs at the same time! You are supposed to use it to complete the right track run first and then reused it for the left run. I must be getting dumber as I grow older!



Once all the track runs were done, I did not glue the running gears to the lower hull as indicated in the

instruction. I reckoned painting would be easier with them not attached until the very end.



The layout of sprue D. Notice there is only one D14 (circled in red) and the two sections of the M65 barrel (circled in yellow)

The turret went together quite well. You have a choice of two barrels: the long 130mm M65 rifled tank gun or the short 152mm ML20SM howitzer-gun. I picked M65, and in no time I regretted my decision: even though the barrel is in one piece, getting rid of the seam line was a chore, especially on the ribbed area of the muzzle brake. To make matters worse, the front and the back sections did not align properly (see red circled area in photo on the right)!



# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

November 2019

Page 6

This is the time I wish I could use an aluminum (or brass) aftermarket replacement. Unfortunately, as far as I know no one makes one for this kit yet.

Just to show the lethality the coaxial KPVT, I drilled out the business end of the barrel. The real thing is of 14.7mm/.58 caliber. Calling it a machine gun (MG) is really a misnomer, in my opinion. It's closer to a light automatic cannon than a heavy MG such as US M2 or Russian DShK (both being 12.7mm/.50 cal).



Doing photo-etched (PE) parts in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> is insanely challenging, but the results are quite stunning. It's a good thing that there are only five items on the PE fret

provided: headlight guards, IR searchlight bracket, and driver's periscope covers. Any more would have driven me completely mental!

As with its 1/35<sup>th</sup> kit, Takom provides a figure in full NBC

(Nuclear Biological Chemical) gear. If you want more guys in blue-green hazmat suits, check out Alex Miniatures ([alexminiatures.com](http://alexminiatures.com)). They make a set of "Troops of NBC Russian Armed Forces" (A13). It contains ten resin figures in various poses. I obtained my copy from Hobbyeasy ([hobbyeasy.com](http://hobbyeasy.com)).



Stay tuned next time on the painting of this braille scale object.

**Eric**







## 2019 Third Quarterly Contest Winners

**1st Place:**

**Greg Beckman**

*1/35<sup>th</sup> Soviet Stalinetz S60 Diorama*



**2nd Place:**  
**Bob Bethea**

*1/35<sup>th</sup> BTR-60PB*

**3rd Place:**  
**Greg Beckman**

*1/35<sup>th</sup> Soviet T-35*



## JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

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MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
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Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
Family Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> ( \$ 5 )	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

\*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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**[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)**



## New On The Block



More 1/35<sup>th</sup> WWI-era armored car kits from Copper State Models: Lanchester "Russian Service" (top) and Romfell Panzerwagen (bottom).



Is Airfix expanding into 1/35<sup>th</sup> armor market? Nah. Their German Panzer 35(t) and British M3 Honey are just reboxed Academy kits!

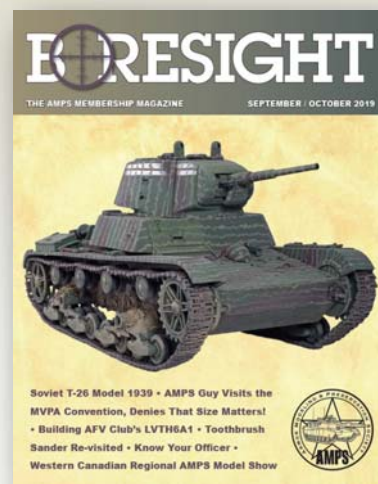


Need something to fill that empty corner of your city diorama? Try MiniArt's latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> Concrete Mixer Set. Aside from the mixer, you get cement bags, buckets, and various construction tools (pickaxe, sledgehammer, scrap, and shovels). Sorry, no water included!

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 27, Issue 5)

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

- ♦ **Soviet T-26 Model 39** by Greg Beckman
- ♦ **AMPS Guy Visits MVPA Convention, Denies That Size Matters!** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **Western Canadian Regional AMPS Model Show** by Anthony Sowards
- ♦ **Building AFV Club's LVTH6A1** by Henry Milton
- ♦ **Toothbrush Sander Re-visited** by Ed Ingersoll
- ♦ **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 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.

19990424

## We are on the web @ [austinamps.org](http://austinamps.org)



**Ted Paone** built this US Army M4 Composite Hull Flame Tank (Okinawa, 1945) for our club's Sherman Display. A very well built and weathered effort!