



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

February 2025



## The Mother of All Tape Dispensers

by Eric Choy

While Tamiya is known for its easy and enjoyable scale model kits, it has also given us many useful tools that have become absolute essentials to our hobby. ExtraThin Cement and Washi Masking Tapes are just two examples. This article is about how you can utilize Tamiya masking tapes even more efficiently for just a couple of bucks at your local dollar store.

Over the years I have accumulated quite a few Tamiya masking tapes of various widths. Each was stored in its original dispenser. I must admit it never dawned on me to keep all of them together in ONE dispenser! The idea belonged to **Gordon Stiemens**, my saffa modeling buddy. One day while we were at **Daiso**, the Japanese dollar store, he came upon a multi-tape dispenser (photo 1) that looks like an old Sony Betamax video cassette (hereafter referred to as *B-Max*). The price was too good to be ignored (\$1.75+tax), so we each bought one to try it out.



*B-Max* is designed to hold three tape rolls. There is a flap that opens to your left to ease the pulling of the tapes (photo 2). Each of the three tape cores is 18mm deep, so you can actually

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ February 12 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ March 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ March 8 - KCCON 2025, First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, MO
- ◆ April 2 - AABS Club Meeting



### AABS Officers

Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

**Chris Chany**, President  
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**Mike Bird**, Vice-President  
mike@bartonbird.com

**Eric Choy**, Treasurer  
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## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2025	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	Ted Paone
February	Ted Paone	Eric Choy
March‡	Ron Askew	Kevin Hutchison
April	Bob Bethea	Bill Zych
May	Mike Reeves	Greg Beckman
June‡	Eric Choy	Craig Bland
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Aaron Smischney
August	Allan Romer	Allan Romer
September‡	Marty Hebda	Marty Hebda
October	AMPS Judging Review	Bill Menzie
November	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	Mike Bird
December‡	Chris Chany	Chris Chany
January 2026	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 wants at 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. Ted Paone's article for January 2025 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2024).

‡ Quarterly contest month





## *From the Turret*

**H**appy February! Our February meeting is one week later this month because of the library's scheduling conflict, but we are BACK at the Milwood Branch. And we will still have the same great meeting agenda!

I would like to thank you for entrusting me with the guidance of this great club for another two years. I also want to thank Bob for his service as Vice President, and I welcome Mike Bird to the head table.

February 7-22, 1915: On the Eastern Front in Europe, the German 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Armies waged a successful offensive against the Russian 10<sup>th</sup> Army in the Masurian Lakes region of East Prussia, pushing the Russians eastward into the Augustow Forest where they were decimated.

Feb 12, 1940: During The Winter War, a counterattack late in the day by the Finnish 5<sup>th</sup>

Division failed to expel the Soviet forces from their hold on the Summa position. It became apparent the Karelian defense line will not hold.

Feb 11, 1945: On the Eastern Front, Soviet troops of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ukrainian Front began to break out of their bridgehead over the Oder River, near Steinau, and attacked west and north threatening Glogau. Other units would turn south to help surround Breslau. Leignitz was also attacked.

Feb 12, 1945: In Burma west of Mandalay, units of the British 33<sup>rd</sup> Corps established a second series of bridgeheads over the Irrawaddy River.

Feb 12, 1945: In the Philippines, the US 11<sup>th</sup> Corps had closed the neck of the Bataan Peninsula and was advancing southward to clear the Japanese forces from it.



*Battle of the Masurian Lakes*

*(Continued on page 4)*



**I**t is club dues time again. Due to the library's "no money exchange hands" policy, please send your dues (\$15) by **PayPal** to **payaabs@gmail.com**. Be sure to use the "Send Money to Friends/Family option" to avoid PayPal surcharge (or send \$16 if you can't find that option.)

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

**Eric Choy**  
**13213 Marrero Drive, Austin TX 78729**

Please make your payment payable to "AABS." DO NOT send cash through mail!

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*Finnish soldiers exit a bus wearing snow gear for patrolling near the Salla front lines during the Winter War, December 1939 (LIFE Picture Collection)*



*Soviet artillery pounding the Seelow Heights*



*Gurkhas hold onto their mules as they swim across the Irrawaddy River in Burma during the advance towards Mandalay. (Wikipedia)*



*The townspeople of Balanga on the Bataan Peninsula turned out to greet soldiers of the 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 38<sup>th</sup> Division, steadily advancing against the Japanese. The circumstances of this trek, following the route of the infamous Death March of 1942, were quite different from the earlier tragic event that claimed many American and Filipino lives.*

Ted Paone will be our program presenter this month. **Don't forget to bring your ambulance/medevac vehicle(s) for the replacement of our display at The Hobby Shop in Leander!**

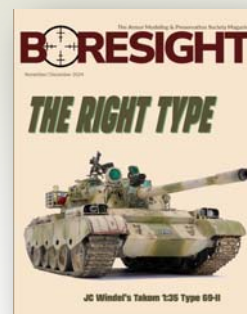
See you Wednesday!

**Chris Chany**  
President

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 32, Issue 6)

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

- ♦ **Iraqi Medium Tank Type 69-II** by J.C. Windels
- ♦ **American Heritage Museum - Spotlight on Preservation**
- ♦ **Taming A Braille Scale Object** by Eric Choy





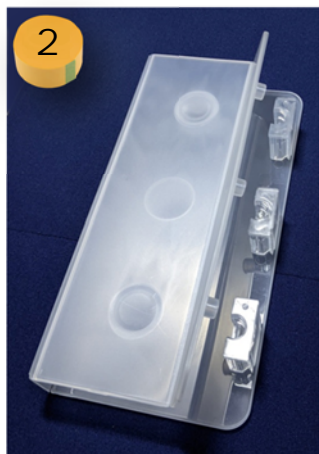
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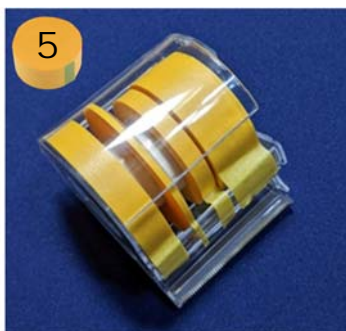
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double up the same or different width rolls together (not to exceed the combined width of 18mm, of course). As you can see in photo 3, I stacked a roll of 6mm (shear with the top jagged edge) and a roll of 10mm (shear with the bottom jagged edge) in the top core, while in the middle core I have just a single roll of 18mm.

Gordon seemed to be happy with his purchase, but I thought there might be a better alternative, so I went back to Daiso several days later. Sure enough on another aisle, I found a “fat” dispenser (photo 4, hereafter referred to as *Fattie*) with four color sticky note tapes. Again I only paid \$1.75 (plus tax) for it.



Bingo! I like *Fattie* even more. It's smaller than *β*-Max, and I can squeeze in four rolls of different widths (photo 5). Now I have all of my most frequently used masking tapes together in one dispenser!

Beware Daiso also sells the same fat dispenser with other sizes/colors sticky note tapes (photo 6). DON'T GET THOSE! For some reason their casings are slightly different and harder to open than *Fattie*. I bought one and cracked the opening side (photo 7) while removing the pink and baby-blue sticky tapes.



So what do you do with the leftover sticky note tapes? You can either trash them or give them to the kids as school supplies. Whichever way you choose to dispose them, SAVE THE PAPER INNER CORES! They can be used as spacers to help separate the masking tape rolls (photo 8). However, if you need thinner spacers, don't bother or attempt to slice them. The paper layers of the core crumble easily as there is no glue between the layers, only on the two outside facings. Consider slicing regular Scotch tape plastic inner core instead.



There you have it. Stop by Daiso and pick up your mother of all tape dispensers: *β*-Max, *Fattie*, or both!

Eric



Note: During a recent visit to Daiso, I discovered *β*-Max now has a bigger brother with triple 30mm tape cores! The price for it is still... yep... \$1.75 (plus tax)!!!



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## Army copter crash kills 6



## Remembering Heroes...

by Allan J Romer

On the evening of February 24, 1988, my wife and her support group of NCO wives organized a night of fun and camaraderie for the families of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division Artillery (DIVARTY), the unit I had commanded for the past 15 months. This particular event was a bowling party at one of the lanes at Fort Hood, Texas. As with anything the Wive's Support Group did, it was a success and well attended. Even the DIVARTY Commander and XO (my bosses) made an appearance.

Unfortunately, First Lieutenant Steve Casteel, my XO, and First Lieutenant Rich Fields, the Assistant S-1 and

a neighbor, had to leave early. They were due to fly out early in the morning for a few days of teaching/training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Both had been previously assigned to Battery A, 92<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery. It was one of the first stateside units to deploy the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System and trained at the Fort Irwin National Training Center.

The morning of February 25<sup>th</sup> started as any other. Physical training, breakfast, roll call, and off to the motor pool. Around mid-morning, we received the first word that the helicopter carrying our soldiers and those of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division had gone down. As can be expected, trying to get a handle on what was happening was difficult with many rumors. It was not until late afternoon that we received word that my two soldiers, Steve Casteel and Rich Fields, had survived. My good friend and fellow Battery Commander Captain Cal Turner had also survived. However, Steve had been flown to the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio in critical condition.

Rich Fields miraculously came out of the carnage with only a broken arm. But the other scars were there, and he left the Army when his six-year obligation was up. Cal Turner shattered his ankle. Despite numerous surgeries and rehabilitation, he could never fully regain full use of his leg. He was medically retired. Steve Casteel survived, but with third degree burns over 50% on his body, his recovery was much slower and more precarious. He too was medically



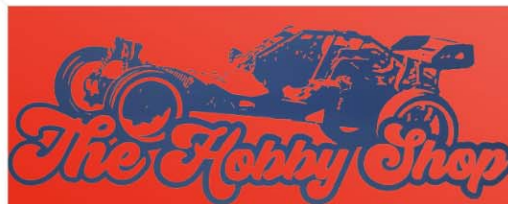
### Address

900 Lacy Drive, Leander, TX 78641

### Contact

(512) 528-4226

info@thehobbyshoptx.com



Find all of your modeling needs in Leander!



### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm



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retired to face more surgeries and rehabilitation through the VA. Eighteen months after the crash, I had the honor of attending his wedding in Arkansas.

We rightfully remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day, and we pay honor to all veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Yet we often forget that even in "peace time" the military is a dangerous occupation. On a chilly Thursday morning 37 years ago, ten soldiers gave their lives and eight were wounded, some grievously, in defense of this nation. Three of those were my good friends and compatriots. Their sacrifice is worth remembering.

For a more complete account, please visit: 30 Years Later: 1988 U.S. Army CH-47D Crash Near Chico, Texas Detailed With Original Video and Newspaper Clippings by Mario G. Adame, whose father was one of the survivors.

*Allan*

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## KC CON 2025

Saturday, March 8, 2025

First Church of the Nazarene

11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114

Registration 9:00am-noon, Hall closes at 5:00pm

**All Armor entries will be judged using AMPS rules**  
**All other entries will be judged using IPMS rules**

### Entry Fees:

#### IPMS/Great Plains:

\$10 total for 1-3 models

\$2 for each additional model

#### KC AMPS:

\$5 per model - limit 2 models

**Juniors** (under 16): FREE

#### Walk-ins:

Adults - \$2 per person

Children under 12 - FREE

### "Best of" Awards

#### Great Plains

Aircraft

Auto

Naval

Space

Mecha

Show

#### KC AMPS

U. S.

German

Russian

Small Army

Diorama/Vignette

Armor

Kit Raffle Tickets \$1 each - Two raffles one for each club

Vendor Tables \$20 each

Visit our websites for more contest information:

[www.ipmsgreatplains.org](http://www.ipmsgreatplains.org)

[www.kcamps.org](http://www.kcamps.org)





# JOIN AMPS TODAY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## E-MAIL:

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular+All Printed Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$105)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$155)
International	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$25)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)
Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> ( \$5 )	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

Regular and Junior Memberships include a subscription to two printed issues *Boresight* magazine per year and all six online issues of *Boresight* magazine per year. Regular+All Printed Issues Membership includes a subscription to six printed issues of *Boresight* magazine per year as well as access to the same issues online. This is only available to members within the United States.

International Membership includes all benefits of a Regular membership except for printed issues of *Boresight*.

Family membership does not receive an individual printed copy of *Boresight*, but can enjoy the online version of *Boresight*.

To join using PayPal, visit AMPS website: [www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)

AMPS also accepts payments by check and money order.

Send your membership dues and completed form to:



**AMPS**  
Attn: Membership Dept  
P.O. BOX 807, 1140 THORN RUN ROAD  
MOON TOWNSHIP, PA 15108-9998



## New On The Block



Leopard 2 A-RC 3.0 is the latest generation MBT with an unmanned turret and a fast autoloader. Amusing Hobby wastes no time releasing a kit of it in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale.



Dynamo Models just released this early WWII French S.A.34 25mm anti-tank gun in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale. Don't miss the Premium Edition that includes a metal barrel and 3D printed wheels.

**GALAXY MODEL X 模倣**



Another gorgeous 1/16<sup>th</sup> figure from Alpine Miniatures: US 3<sup>rd</sup> ID G.I. "Rock of the Marne." Sculpted by John Rosengrant, it comes with two different heads.



What a neat idea from Galaxy Model! 1/35<sup>th</sup> Hand Signals For Numbers! Why didn't someone think of this earlier?

## 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. Subjects of our interest range from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent war in Ukraine.



At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year, AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit [www.ampscentex.org](http://www.ampscentex.org)