



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2025

## ♻️ SPRUE RECYCLING ♻️

by **Bill Zych**

**W**hat are you doing with those sprues when you are done with your project? I cut out and keep any parts not used in the spare bin, but what about the rest? At the very least let's hope they end up in the recycle bin and not the landfill.

Sure, you keep some for making antennas, maybe lights or even bottles and other bits for your dioramas.

Paint stirrers are another option to get the settled pigment moving from the bottom of that Tamiya bottle.

Here are some other options to consider before you toss them out:

### 1. **Make a Filler Putty**

Polystyrene, the polymer in modeling kits, is an inexpensive and malleable plastic dissolves readily in volatile solvents, such as toluene (a.k.a. methyl benzene), which are the active ingredients in plastic cements and

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ April 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ May 3 - Modelmania 2025, Stafford Center, Stafford
- ◆ May 14 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ May 15 to 17 - AMPS 2025 International Convention, Camp Hill, PA
- ◆ May 24 - Scalefest 2025, Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine
- ◆ June 4 - AABS Meeting



## AABS Officers

Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

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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‡	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Ron Askew	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 April 1st! At this month's meeting, we will have an update on the show and what planning we need to get done. We're also looking for sponsors for the various categories and awards. Our presentation this week month is by **Ron Askew** who told me as he was doing his research, he kept uncovering more info (ahh, the rabbit hole). I hope to see a lot of models on the tables.

Not much happened militarily in early April in the modern era. During the American Civil War, Grant finally pushed Lee out of the trenches outside Petersburg, VA.

April 3, 1940: 22,000 Polish officers, policemen, and others were executed by the Soviet NKVD in the Katyn Massacre.

April 4, 1945: The Battle of Buchhof and Stein am Kocher began between German and American forces for territory between the Neckar and Kocher Rivers. This was the beginning of the Battle of Heilbronn, fought by the US 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division "The Sons of Bitche," the last major pitched battle between Americans and Germans in WWII.

April 2, 1982: The beginning of the Falklands War as Argentina invaded and occupied the Crown colonies on the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in the South Atlantic. The British sent a task force to retake the islands and defeated the Argentine forces on June 15. About 1,000 lives were lost in this ten-weeks conflict.

### **I Build Two Tanks!**

With the thought of having these done for All Fools' Day, I set to work on building two tanks kits. It was almost like scratchbuilding as there were no locating pins and most of the parts had to be cut and sanded to fit. However, I was able to get them done, and I think they look pretty good. I even managed to take a couple of photos.

In the first photo below, the tank on the left is finished and painted (left). The unpainted one on the right shows all the different parts by the different colors of the plastic.



The second photo below shows both done with light weathering. I hope you enjoy them.

Happy April 1<sup>st</sup>!



**Chris Chany**  
President

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modeling glues. To make the custom plastic putty, cut up your sprues into very small pieces (to help them dissolve better). Put the plastic sprue bits into a glass jar and add the plastic cement gradually until the plastic is completely dissolved.

“Sprue Goo” makes a good filler for gaps or can even be poured into a mold to create a custom part.

## 2. Figure Bases

Cut a few sprues the same length and glue them together to give you a unique base for a figure.

## 3. Terrain, Buildings, and Urban Scenery

Cut small, or get a cheap coffee grinder, to turn them into small pieces to scatter about as stones, rocks, fences, or tank barricades.

You can also use uncut sprues as a frame for a building that can be covered with other material for walls.

## 4. Recast into a Plastic Card

The inspiration comes from an article that I read on taking your sprues and melting them into sheets that can be used for walls of a building, inexpensive diorama bases, or anything else that you can think of with purchased sheet styrene. The process is straightforward with just a couple of household items.



The tool you need is a **waffle iron with flat griddle plate**. You can find one at Goodwill or Savers for less than \$20. You will also need **parchment paper** as a liner so that the melted plastic does not stick to your iron. I have also acquired a **metal plate** to bring down the thickness of the sheet created by reducing the space in the waffle iron.

Start with a sheet of parchment paper, then a pile of cut up sprues. I use longer pieces as borders and fill in the middle with smaller ones. If a hole is left behind, you can always add more sprues and heat again.



Place another sheet of parchment paper on top, then my metal plate for additional weight and close the lid.



**DO NOT USE HIGH TEMPERATURE FOR THIS!** I have the iron set to a low temperature setting and just leave it running and come back to it after an hour or so. Voilà, a flat plastic card!





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Don't worry about missed spots. Just add more sprues and run the whole process again.

## **WARNING! Always do this outdoor for safety reasons!**

Melting plastic gives off fumes that is bad in an enclosed space. Also, a spillage of melted plastic on the concrete patio is no big deal in the unlikely event of fire or meltdown of that old waffle iron.

I hope this gets everyone's creative juices flowing and maybe generates some additional thoughts for recycling sprues. I end with an offer to all: if you provide the sprues, I will create you a sheet if you are interested!

**Bill**

*Editor: Another possibility for your leftover plastic sprues is donating to **Williams Brothers Model Products** (WBMP) for recycling. Your sprues will be used to cast non-essential parts for its model kits.*

*WBMP is one of very few US-based manufacturers that still produces injection-molded model kits and scale aircraft accessories. Based in Central Texas (Hutto, TX), owner Daniel Brett bought and moved the company from California and has been running it since 2005.*

*Just gather your sprues in a bag and bring them to the meeting. Your editor can contact Daniel for a pickup every few months.*

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**S**till haven't paid your AABS dues (\$15)? We have ways to make your arrears disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now...

We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal ([payaabs@gmail.com](mailto:payaabs@gmail.com)). 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!

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 33, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ **Big General's Little Ride** by Jesse Naughton
- ♦ **Stuart Memorial Tank Association**
- ♦ **Desert Training Center: CA-AZ Maneuver Area** by Roy Chow
- ♦ **M3A1 Stuart: Armored Recon**



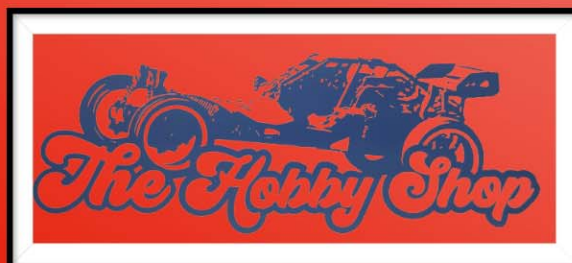
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### Opening Hours

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

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PRESENTS THE  
AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
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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:



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## New On The Block



Hobby Boss latest quarterscale (1/48<sup>th</sup>) kit of a "PanzerBeobWg.V Ausf.A" is now available. It appears the name of this proposed Panther reconnaissance variant has been mixed up with that of an actual vehicle; Pz.BeobWg.V was an observation post tank (41 converted) with a dummy gun!



Another spin-off from RFM's 1/35<sup>th</sup> SdKfz.234 series of 8-wheelers: the open top /3 variant with a short-barreled 75mm K51 gun.



Trumpeter has just "repoped" its seven-years old 1/35<sup>th</sup> M915 kit with new parts for the gun truck version used in Iraq.



A new issue of Weathering Magazine from AMMO is here. The subject is a revisit on rusting technique. Get it while you can as this will be the final issue of the series. Yes, you

heard that right... No more Weathering Magazine!

## 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)