

Scale Views

The newsletter of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association – Issue 2 2021

Scale Views – Issue 1 2021

Editor: Bill Renfrew

Assistant: David Muir

Scale Views appears as a supplement to APMA, the Association's quarterly magazine. The Editor welcomes contributions from all members.

To submit material for inclusion in *Scale Views* you may contact me by the e-mail address apma.newsletter@gmail.com, see me at a general meeting, send to my personal e-mail wjrenfrew@gmail.com or send correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 464 Cremorne NSW 2090. If you require a reply to your letter send a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submissions for inclusion in the magazine and newsletter are most welcome.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members or committee of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association or of its publications.

APMA MEETINGS

APMA meets monthly (usually on the second Saturday) at
Gladesville Sporties Club, 181A Ryde Road,
Gladesville NSW

For meeting details visit the APMA web site at:
<http://apma.org.au>

Next Meeting: March 13 @ Noon

2021 Committee

President – Lindsay Charman
Vice President – Warren Evans
Secretary – Steven Leslie
Treasurer – Dave Muir
5th Committeeman – Chris Cole

EDITORIAL DROPPINGS (IOAH OM)

Welcome to the second of our Newsletters for 2021. Given the ever changing and unpredictable nature of our lives at the moment we are endeavouring to bring you updates and APMA news on a regular basis over the coming months. Due to increased frequency, issues may be a little smaller than in the past but the more reviews and news you provide, the bigger it will be. Let's all work to bring that about.

As always contributions of news and reviews are more than welcome.

FEBRUARY MEETING

With restrictions easing, February's meeting was both well attended and relatively "normal" – if such a term applies in these weird times. It was certainly good to catch up with other modellers and great to see a really decent collection of models on the tables.

February was scheduled to be an Evaluation day but this was cancelled as it meant too much mingling. Instead we ran an NNL style 'People's Choice' with voting by the attendees. David Muir's little Farman F.370 and F.380 racers received the most votes in a very tight 'race' against some outstanding models.

A couple of attendees have asked when we can return to doing actual modelling at the meetings. The current restrictions are aimed at maintaining distance and remaining seated and assuming that remains in place (or is eased) then we think that doing some modelling is certainly acceptable. We will monitor the situation and check with Sporties and let everyone know by email closer to the date. So, plan on bringing your latest completer and current Work-In-Progress to the March meeting.

If, as we anticipate, restrictions will be further eased we will be endeavouring to return to having full space for the traders and look forward to Ley, Glen and Rob having a full suite of goodies available. So, bring your wallets!

The Australian Plastic Modellers Association is supported by the following:



platypuspubs@y7mail.com



www.creativemodels.com.au



www.starhobbies.com.au

NEWS

UPCOMING SHOWS

The Show season has been scrambled a bit following last year's cancellations and the demand for dated toward the end of this year. The known dates at this point (and all are subject to confirmation closer to their times) are:

NSW Scale Model Competition (IPMA) 15 & 16 of May
Clarendon Classic Rally September 18 & 19

Wagga & District Scale Model Show: 23 & 24 October

Australian Model Expo:(Melbourne) 30 & 31 October

ScaleACT: (Canberra) 30 & 31 October

QT BUNNI COMPETITION

Just a reminder that the QT will be held in August...time to get modelling!



2021– Songs

This year's competition will feature subjects that are mentioned in the title or lyrics of popular songs. Any further clarification may be obtained from the Bunni at meetings.

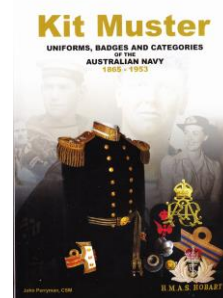
Competition Results

In common with other recent meetings, the only form of evaluation at the February meeting was by People's Choice. The winner was a delightful pair of French racing planes, the Farman F.370 and F.380 by Dave Muir.



Dave's Farmans (SW)

BOOK REVIEWS



Kit Muster

Uniforms, Badges and Categories of the Australian Navy 1865 – 1953

By John Perryman, CSM

Published by Sea Power Centre – Australia, 2012

Reviewed by Bill Renfrew

I came across this book while just generally browsing on the Regimental Books web site. I have purchased a number of books from them and have found their service to be first rate. They stock a wide variety of books, usually on Australian topics and are always worth a look.

This book consists of over three hundred (300) 244x164 mm pages, printed on heavy, glossy paper with stiff glossy card covers. It comprises eleven (11) chapters, a comprehensive Glossary and an Index which has twelve sub-categories.

The first chapter provides a context for the work by giving an overview of Royal Navy Dress in the nineteenth (19th) century. This is followed by six chronologically arranged chapters showing the dress of Australian Naval Forces from 1865 until 1953. The divisions being the Colonial Era, pre-WWI, WWI, Interwar, WWII and Post WWII. In each chapter the Author examines the changes in dress and offers explanations for them. The last four chapters address Reserve Forces, Women's Forces, Naval Bands and the Naval Dockyard Police.

The book is well illustrated by many colour plates of uniforms and rank and rate badges as well as contemporary monochrome photographs showing the uniforms in use. There are also a number of photographs that give a picture of aspects of naval life.

All in all this is an excellent book both in its inherent quality and the information it provides. I understand that the Sea Power Centre – Australia intends to publish a work covering the period 1953 to date in the near future. I'll be keeping a look out for it. I heartily recommend this book to members.

KIT AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

Wonder Wire

Reviewed by David Muir

Devotees of Britmodeller will be familiar with the work of Gabriel Stern (aka 'Moa') who builds exquisite 1/72 aircraft at a truly prodigious rate – his blog (<https://wingsofintent.blogspot.com>) has several hundred completed models. Moa's specialty is oddball and unusual aircraft and colour schemes, often from the golden age of aviation between the two World Wars. As a result he does a lot of rigging and has evolved several unique techniques including using ceramic fibre, aka 'Wonder Wire'.

The fibre is 6'mil' (i.e. 0.006" or 0.1524mm) diameter which roughly translates to a touch under 11mm in 1/72 and 7.3mm in 1/48 scale. As supplied the fibre is very dark grey and needs no further colouring for most applications. It is supplied in 10 foot lengths coiled in a zip lock bag with a sheet of instructions and a sheet of diagrams showing how to use it.

The fibre will take a degree of rough handling but not mistreatment. The instructions include cautionary notes about working with this material and these should be read, understood and implemented: the cut fibre is sharp and the cracking action can ping offcuts at speed over a long distance. In addition to their advice I always wear glasses to protect my eyes just in case.

The rigging process is fairly simple and easily mastered. In essence you measure the required length and mark it on a piece of paper, line up one end to one mark and *crack* (not cut) the fibre at the other mark by pressing down with a sharp blade. The cracked 'wires' can be held in place with any of the PVA based 'white' glues. The so called 'tacky' glues are perfect for the task. Unrestrained it will naturally straighten itself and any bowing caused when using this method can be released by softening the glue at one end with a drop of water.

A better method is to drill a tiny hole at the end locations for each wire and crack the lengths slightly longer. Then slip one end into its hole, bow the 'wire' a little and slip it into the other hole; it will naturally straighten itself. Alternately combine both methods with one end glued and the other in a drilled hole. These two require some forward planning and pre-drilling but have the advantage that they do not need the length to be exactly right. Their drawback is that drills that are fine enough are also very fragile but once the holes are done the rigging process is surprisingly quick and easy.

I know of only one source for this material: Precision Enterprises who are based in Springfield, Vermont in the US. The proprietors do not have a website or use email for orders and to complicate matters will not ship outside the United States. So if you want some you need to phone them (remembering the time difference!) to place your order, pay by credit card and arrange for someone you know in the US to take delivery and redirect your package to Australia. Their contact details are:

Bruce and Marita Johnson
Precision Enterprises.
P.O. Box 97F
Springfield VT. 05156
Phone: 1 (802) 885-3094

At US\$25 per pack Wonder Wire is not a low-cost item and buying it is not straightforward. However, my initial experiments quickly convinced me that Wonder Wire is far easier to use and gives a better result than any of the alternatives I have used for rigging to date. It is much easier to place and stays straighter than normal metal wires, is infinitely easier to place and lasts longer than the "stretchy" rigging products or "invisible threads" on the market and is finer and more dimensionally consistent than traditional stretched sprue. For that reason, I highly recommend it.

Proper Plane Propellers

Reviewed by David Muir

Founded in 2017 Proper Plane is based in the Ukraine; they make a range of 1/32 accessories but their specialty is making scale wooden propellers...by hand. Their range includes sixteen German, ten British and one Italian prop, all from the WWI era and primarily intended to be used with Wingnut Wings kits but now widening to include some of the 1/32 Lukgraph kits. In addition they offer (in conjunction with REXx) a 'Prop & Pipe' series combining a handmade propeller with an electro formed exhaust specific to each of the thirteen subjects in the range. I bought a 'Prop and Pipe' set (Product Code: PR-036-32015) for the WNW Bristol F2B.

Everything about the set, including the packaging and graphics, says "quality" at its highest level. The black/white/red graphics are simple and clear; each copy even has a serial number. The parts arrive nested in foam cut outs, held in place by a card inset, beautifully presented and well protected within a very solid black cardboard box.



The prop itself is a small marvel laminated from eleven layers of veneer, perfectly shaped and finished with a thin, very smooth layer of satin lacquer. The front is bored to take the supplied 3D printed hub and drilled for the shaft and eight bolts should you wish to add them. Being made from laminations of the same species (in this case probably maple) the difference between layers is quite subtle and very much in scale. In short: the propeller is perfect.



PROPER PLANE



PROPER PLANE

It is complimented by two 3D printed hubs that fit the bored hole at the front and the rear face. Both are exquisitely detailed right down to their nuts and bolts and the Hucks Starter bracket and dogs. Removing the front hub is straightforward; just saw it from its casting block. The rear one is a little more challenging as it needs to have its back rubbed down till it is just the thickness of its outer rim; tricky but not impossible using a flat sheet of sandpaper and a bit of care. Alternately you could use one from one of the many available aftermarket PE sets...

My only prior experience with electro forming was with the incredibly thin (and ultra-expensive) nickel bodywork of a 1/43 race car. The technique is not widely used for models largely because it is labour intensive and therefore costly when compared with processes that produce similar (if not quite as good) results at a lower price (e.g. white metal parts). Electro forming involves making a master (known in the trade as a mandrel) from a conductive material (or by coating a non-conductive material) then electrically plating (aka depositing) it with as layer of metal. Once the desired thickness is achieved the mandrel is melted or dissolved away to leave a thin metal shell.

The exhausts for the RR Falcon in this set are simply exquisite: perfectly formed, thin walled and correct down to their joints and flanges. They require no clean up at all and their natural finish is an excellent representation of full size, slightly rusty, burnt metal. Again in short: the exhausts are perfect.

Drawbacks? There are always drawbacks - three in this case. First: these props are made to order and at the moment there is a 20 week lead time. Second, postage from the Ukraine in these weird times takes at least four months as everything goes by sea. Tracking outbound stops at the Ukraine border and only restarts when it reaches Oz so anticipate total tracking silence for about four months. Lastly, these parts are not cheap at around

AU\$60 but they are exceptionally good value for the quality they deliver.

VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



20mm Oerlikon Cannon Mk IV Mount (Royal Navy)

1/350 Scale Infini Models

Reviewed by Bill Renfrew

Some years ago the distributor of Trumpeter kits put extra decals in some of their kits to enable Australian versions of the kits to be completed. To this end, I purchased a kit of HMS Eskimo to make a model of one of the three Australian Tribal class Destroyers. It was rather a disappointment that it was not actually possible to make any of our ships from this kit. The major stopping point was the armament fit. While this may be OK for Eskimo in 1941, it was inadequate for Arunta and Warramunga as built or at any time in their careers. One of the main deficiencies was the lack of Oerlikon guns. So the project was shelved.

I came across this set while blousing the BMA site looking for some other naval accessories, It contains twenty-five mounts and was not much more than \$25 so I thought "give it a go" So what do you get for your fairly modest outlay.

Each gun and mounts consists of three machined brass parts, the barrel/body, the magazine and the conical pedestal and five etched parts that need to be folded. The level of detail is amazing and is not much down on a 1/35 resin Oerlikon that I have. It should be noted that you are dealing with tiny parts here (the completed gun is about 6mm long) so great care will need to be taken but the etched parts are appropriately scribed so I don't anticipate major issues.

I heartily recommend this set to those members who like larger size ships and I wonder what some of their sets are like.

Voisin Biscuter

1/43 CCC Models

Reviewed by David Muir

Citing the trauma his aviation products caused Gabriel Voisin stopped designing aircraft after WWI, switching his attentions to cars. Following a line of pre-war luxury cars in the austerity of the immediate post World War II years he designed a vehicle at the other end of the scale. His 'Biscooter' (sometimes spelt 'Biscuter') was intended to be a vehicle for two that was simple, cheap to own

and to operate. It proved surprisingly successful in his native France and was also license built and sold widely in Spain.



A completed CCC Biscooter (automobiles-voisin.fr)

CCC produce a 1/43 kit (designed by PMA) of this cute little device that is largely built up from flat sheet (in this case photo etched nickel silver) in very much the same way as the original. It is apparently a model of the prototype; there are lots of little differences in the production versions.

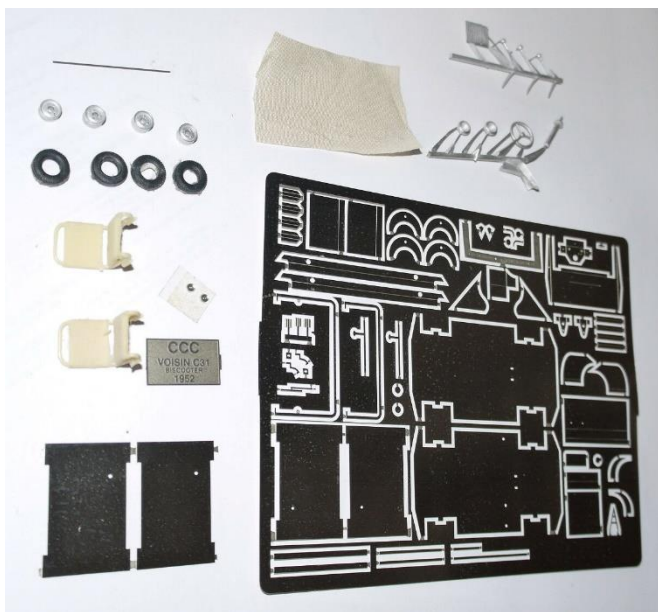


Image courtesy of CCC Model Cars

The kit consists of a large PE fret plus two resin seats, several sprues of white metal castings, four tiny rubber tyres, two red jewels for tail lights, a piece of clear sheet for the windscreen and a piece of cloth for the hood. Decals (black bases and white numerals) are provided for multiple French registration plates along with two minute Voisin logos. The fret comes folded in the typical 1/43 sized box; to avoid any damage I carefully cut mine into seven pieces so they could lay and be stored flat.

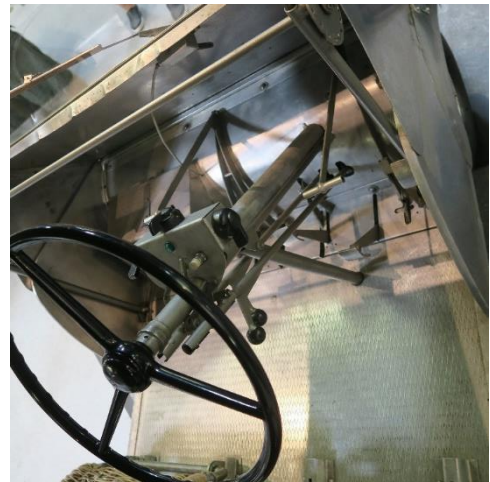
My plan is to do a "Charman" style rescale of the kit using a photocopier to enlarge the PE bits up to 1/24, cut them out from aluminium and stainless sheet then scratch build the rest to match. Hence I have not attempted to build this one yet. However, aside from some rolling and

folding the build in 1/43 looks very straightforward. The RP Toolz PE rollers and a PE folding tool will no doubt be handy here.

The white metal details are beautifully executed with only a couple of bits of easily removed flash on one part. The resin seats are also cleanly moulded and require only the most minimal clean up and some careful painting. Otherwise apart from a little weathering there is not much painting needed on this one; yet another reason I like it.

The instructions have large exploded diagram that is simple to follow. There is also a page of text in French which gives basic if somewhat unnecessary advice about rolling the various cylindrical parts, e.g. use undersized formers (10mm and 22mm are nominated) and let them spring to their correct size.

CCC models are not cheap but this one is both cute and highly recommended. And just in case anyone wants to have a go here is the cockpit...



GENERAL NEWS

From Ley at Platypus come the following:

- From Tankograd book son Soviet High Power Artillery, M65 Atomic Annie, ENOK 5.4, Australian G-wagons and the Last Years of the BAOR
- From Trackpad Alpine Hornets – Swiss F/A-18
- From Valiant Wings Merlin Spitfires (Revised Edition and Me26
- Rom Mushroom Macchi 202 (Revised Edition), WW2 German Cruisers, Polish Wings Spitfire V (1&2) and reprints of Warpaint Volume 3, Pucara and Malta Spitfires
- From Osprey Vehicles of the LRDG, Battle of the Atlantic 942-45, Arado Ar196 Units, Division Leclerc and WW2 Italian Destroyers
- From GB Modelli 1/72 Autocannone da 65-17 su Morris CS8 and Bombarda Italiana da 400mm
- From PhilEditions Mustang III over Italy/Balkans, Bristol Brigand and Spitfire Mk V – The Australians.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Scene at the February Meeting (SW)



Do you really need another kit? (SW)



Chris Cole's Lovely Lotus (SW)



Andrew's very nice figures (SW)



Ian Wrenford's WIP – Norman Fieldmaster, Islander and ZIL rice truck



James Argaet



We did not make a note who built this neat Battle. Please let us know so that we may acknowledge them.