

# The AMPS Bonus Research Half-Point

or

“How I Learned to Stop Worrying and  
Love the Bonus Half-Point  
For Research”

# What is the Research Bonus?

- AMPS Judging Rules allow for a model-builder to earn an extra “bonus” half-point for research.
- Why? AMPS encourages modelers to go the extra mile and increase the accuracy of their builds by using technical and historical references.
- An “optional” and “bonus” half-point that’s added on top of the regular total score.
- Does not detract from the overall regular score!

# What do the Rules Say?

## *AMPS Rules for Judging:*

### **“Optional Research Bonus (0.5 point)**

There is an additional bonus of 0.5 points for Research, which may be awarded by the judging team. To obtain this 0.5 point bonus, the modeler must document to the judging team the link between the research they performed and the finished model. This documentation need not be extensive (two pages or less), but must address, at a minimum, the following areas:

- **Description of Research...**
- **Research References...”**

# Description of Research

“The modeler should provide a short description of the research they performed to build the model. The modeler must describe in his presentation how or why his model looks, either directly or indirectly, like the vehicles mentioned in the research. **The model could look like the research by applying some of the following: similar paint schemes, markings, weathering, stowage, field modifications, or by using technical drawings to create the model displayed.** The modeler can use pictures as part of this description.”

# Research References

“The modeler should list the research references they used while building the model.”

# What Kinds of Work Should be Documented?

“If the modeler provides a brag book or other description of how they constructed the model, ***without providing a description of their research in the format above, they will not be awarded the 0.5 point bonus.*** The link between the research and the model is established by replication and presentation of one, all or some of the following on the model being judged: **paint schemes, markings, stowage, weathering, historical context, descriptions of similar vehicles or the use of technical drawings** to create the model – based upon the research documentation provided.”

# What do the Judges Look For?

- “1. Does the model, either directly or indirectly, match or look like the description(s), text explanations and/or pictures provided in the research? (paint schemes, markings, stowage, weathering, historical context, descriptions of similar vehicles or the use of technical drawings). **{THE LINK}**
2. Is the research documentation format requirements met? **{THE FORMAT}**

If the answer to both questions is YES, the judging team will award the 0.5 bonus. The Table Captain will add the 0.5 point research bonus after the total score has been determined. This score then becomes the official score for the model entered into the AMPS scoring system.”

# What do I really have to do?

The key, and the two requirements, is to write down an **explicit** "linkage" between something done on or to the model and the reference along with the list of the references used.

“The references that I used to build this model are...”

“My model looks like the reference because I did this...”



# List of References

- “Bibliographic” Data is REQUIRED.
- Simple – Just write down the reference(s) that you used.
- Format – *There is no specified style* requirement to list the references.
- At a minimum all you have to do is list each title.
- I Recommend using MLA, APA, or Chicago style for listings.
- Author, Title, Volume Number, Publisher, Year Published, & City gives enough info for someone else to locate the exact same reference if they want.

# Reference Listing Styles

- **Minimum Required – Title Only:**

Osprey New Vanguard #113, “M3 Lee/Grant Medium Tank 1941-45”

- **Chicago Style:**

Zaloga, Steven J. M3 Lee/Grant Medium Tank 1941-45, New Vanguard 113 (New York: Osprey Publishing, 2005), page 25.

- **MLA Style:**

Zaloga, Stephen J. (2005). M3 Lee/Grant Medium Tank 1941-45 (New Vanguard 113). New York: Osprey Publishing.

- **APA Style:**

Zaloga, Stephen J. M3 Lee/Grant Medium Tank 1941-45. New Vanguard 113. New York: Osprey Publishing. 2005.

# The “Linkage”

- What did your reference guide you to do to your model?
- Could even be something that you checked or confirmed using your reference (re: kit decals, paint scheme, tech. accuracy, etc...).
- **DO NOT IMPLY THE LINKAGE!** State it clearly. Tell the judges exactly why the reference listed is relevant to the model as presented to the judges.

# The “Linkage” (cont.)

- An implied linkage, no matter how “commonsensical” can not be counted on to satisfy the requirement!
- Don’t “bury” your linkage in extraneous information.
- Present your “Research Notes” clearly to the judges. Best to separate them from “build notes” if there is any possibility that the judges might miss them.
- If Research Notes have been included, failing to establish the “linkage” is the usual reason why the bonus isn’t awarded.

# Additional Pointers

- Research Notes can be hand-written.
- Notes do not require photos or other graphics. A clear description of the “linkage” along with the “reference list” is adequate to earn the bonus.
- Make sure that what ever Research Notes you present are LEGIBLE!
- Clearly title your RESEARCH NOTES as such.
- There is an element of “showmanship” and “presentation.” A nice, professional presentation is advantageous.

The number one mistake and the main reason why guys don't earn the research bonus –

***They don't submit any research notes!***  
***No Research Notes = No Bonus Half-Point***

# EXAMPLES

## Appendix 1

## Type 3 HO-NI III

### Kits:

Fine Molds Type 3 HO-NI III  
Fine Molds Type 3 75mm barrel  
Friulmodel Type 97 CHI-HE track  
MV Lenses LS409  
Warriors WWII Combat Cameraman  
Warriors American Soldier

### References:

Japanese Tanks 1939-1945, Steven J. Zaloga, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2007.  
Japanese Armor Vol 5, Andrzej M. Tomczyk, Tankpower, AJ Press, 2006.

### Research Description:

In 1943, the Japanese Army modified some existing Ho-Nis with an enclosed superstructure and rearmed them with the Type 3 75mm gun. The superstructure was a heptagonal welded structure with sloped sides and three roof hatches. The Ho-Ni III was based on the later Type 97 Chi-Ha chassis. Fifty seven Ho-Ni IIIs were ordered from Hitachi; however, somewhere between 31 or 41 were completed. These were assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Division and did not see combat. The US Army captured all known Ho-Ni IIIs at the Hakata Army base on Kyushu.



These are some of the few photographs taken of HO-NI III after World War II. The picture on the left was taken 14 October 1945 at Hakata Army base. The picture on the right was provided by a source in Japan. The time frame of this picture is unknown.

### Construction Description:

This model was built using the *Fine Molds* Type 3 HO-NI III. This kit comes with a small photo-etched fret, which provides muffler covers. This model is detailed with brass wire grab handles, *Friulmodel* Type 97 track, *Fine Molds* 75mm barrel, 0.10 *Plastruct* round and *MV* lens for the headlight (LS 409). This model was given a base coat of *Tamiya* IJA Green with a cammo pattern of *Tamiya* Khaki and Flat Brown. This vehicle was weathered with a light wash of Industrial Brown oil paint and dry brushed with a mixture of Unbleached Titanium and White oil paint. The mufflers were weathered with *MIG* Rust pigments. The tracks were weathered with *Black'n'it* and given a wash of Mars Orange oil paint. Judges Note: I purposely kept the weathering on the light side as these vehicles did not see any field action.

## Appendix 2 – M4A3 in Color M4A3 76W - 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Div. - December 1944



Original: Image from *US Tank Battles in France 1944-45* by Steven Zaloga, page 63.



Color: Author's interpretation from the same book as image #1, page 40.

### Description of Research:

- This model represents an M4A3 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in the Alsace area of France late in 1944.
- **Image #1** shows sandbags on the glacis and at least 4 colors on the hull.
- The model displays fittings seen on other 14<sup>th</sup> AD tanks and few markings due to fresh camouflage.
- **Image #2** is the author's interpretation of the scheme from *US Tank Battles in France 1944-45*.

### References:

*US Tank Battles in France 1944-45* by Steven Zaloga, Concord Publications Co., Hong Kong, 2003  
*Patton's Tanks* by Steven J. Zaloga, Tanks Illustrated No. 11, Arms and Armour Press Ltd, London, 1984  
*Sherman in Action* by Bruce Culver, Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc., Warren, MI, 1977