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Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter. We try REALLY hard to publish this each month, but sometimes stuff happens, or you know, CRS flair ups occur. Of course, what's published in this newsletter is probably out of date, known by everyone already, or completely off-topic. Maybe everyone will like the pretty colors, but then your ink cartridge will probably run out after only printing a couple pages. This paragraph is what's known as "filler text", which we needed since we added the snazzy table of contents and this area was kind of empty.

Check out the "Classified Ad" section near the end of the newsletter. This section will give you a space to advertise items you want to barter, swap, sale or trade. Or even a request for research material. Check it out. Contact the seller directly. Note personal email addresses are not listed on the public site. Contact the seller directly via his/her email addresses.

Check out our website for more info & photos:  
<http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/>



Visit us on Facebook at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ampscentralsouthcarolina>

**Christmas Party Minutes, 13 December, 2017**

Our last meeting and annual Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 from 5:30-8 pm at the HobbyTown store in the Publix Shipping Center (North Pointe Shopping Center), Two Notch Road, Columbia (NE). There were 34 members in attendance with 31 members participating in our White Elephant Gift exchange. One of our club members who now lives in Missouri, Dave Neumann, sent in a couple pictures of his latest builds. Please see our website for photos of the party, gifts and food that were brought.

- 1) **Tom Wingate** = 1/35 scale German Staff Car "G4", Revell Germany #03235.
- 2) **Dave Cicimurri** = 1/35 scale Soviet Katyusha BM-13 Rocket-Launcher Truck, Revell/Italeri #H-2115
- 3) **Bryan Moeller** = 1/35 scale Neubau-Fahrezeug Nr.3-5 Rheinmetall-Fahrestell, DML #6690
- 4) **Brandon Hollis** = 1/35 scale M1A2 SEP, DML #3536 + Voyager PE & Resin Detail Set + DEF Models M1A2 SEP V2 Resin Conversion
- 5) **Matthew Goodman** = 1/35 scale Sd.Kfz. 251/16 Ausf. C Flammpanzerwage, DML #6864  
[Matthew gave this kit to Daniel Karnes after the gift exchange was over]
- 6) **Robin Evans** = 1/35 scale King Tiger Porsche Turret with Zimmerit, DML #6302
- 7) **Jeff Nelson** = 1/35 scale Leopard 1A3/A4 German Main Battle Tank, Meng #TS-007
- 8) **Kevin Cook** = 1/35 scale Char Mitrailleur FT-17, RPM #35061 + 1/72 scale Sd.Kfz. 223, ICM #72421 + Book: Build & Convert Airfix Military Vehicles, SAM Publications #BAC-1 (SC)
- 9) **Ben Brandes** = 1/32 scale U.S. Lee Tank M3, Monogram #7536
- 10) **Keith Frape (by default?)** = 1/35 scale 3.7cm FlaK 43 auf Fahrgestell, Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.M (Versuchsaufbau), Cyber-Hobby #6771 [Keith can't remember what he ended with on the last round] [Keith traded this kit to Trevor Edwards, who then gave it to John Sherrer, John then gave the kit back to Keith Frape, all after the gift exchange was over]
- 11) **Paul Lovell** = Book: Diamond T 4-ton Truck Walk Around, Squadron Signal #SS27031 (SC) + Special Ops: Vol. 9: Journal of the Elite Forces and SWAT Units (Special Forces): Samuel M Katz #9789623616607 (SC)
- 12) **Tim Darrah** = Books: Vol. 1 Poland 1939 - Steven J Zaloga, Vol. 2 - France 1940 - Alan Shepperd, Vol. 3 Denmark and Norway 1940 - Douglas C. Dildy, Vol. 4 Britain 1940 - Tony Holmes, Vol. 5 Libya 1940 - Byron Latimer, Osprey Publishing (HB)
- 13) **Mike Roof** = 1/35 scale M4A3 Sherman HVSS POA-CWS-H5 Flamethrower w/ Figure Set (Orange Series), CyberHobby #9124 [Mike gave this kit to Morgan Cicimurri after the gift exchange was over]
- 14) **Eliere Tolan** = 1/35 scale JSU-122 Tank Destroyer, DML #6013
- 15) **Tony Kelly** = 1/35 scale M48A3 Mod B, Dragon #3544 [Tony traded this kit to John Sherrer for the M3 Lee & Figures, which Tony then gave the M3 Lee & Figures to Keith Frape after the gift exchange was over]
- 16) **Phil Cavender** = 1/35 scale Krupp L3H163 Kfz.72, WWII German Radio Communication Truck, ICM #35462
- 17) **John Currie** = 1/35 scale German Sturmiger 38cm Assault Mortar, Tamiya #35177 [John gave the kit to Michael Child after the gift exchange was over]
- 18) **Rebecca Hettmansperger** = 1/35 scale German 8.8 CM Flak 18 Anti-Aircraft Gun, AFV Club #AF35088
- 19) **Tom McCoy** = 1/32 scale Panzer IV Tank, Monogram #7861
- 20) **Herb Horvath** = 1/35 scale Marder I 7.5cm Pak.40/1 auf Gw.Lr.s.(f) Sd.Kfz. 135, Panda Hobby #PH-35006

- 21) **Nick Varettoni (?)** = 1/35 scale Sturmgeschütz Sdkfz. 167 75mm German Assault Gun Tank Stuk 40L/48 Gun, Academy #13235
- 22) **Ralph Nardone** = 1/35 scale U.S. Medium Tank M4A3E8 Sherman "Easy Eight" European Theatre, Tamiya # 35346 + Book: SHERMAN: The American Miracle, AMMO of Mig (SC) [Ralph traded this kit to Trevor Edwards for the D9R Armoured Bulldozer, after the gift exchange was over]
- 23) **John Sherrer** = 1/35 scale M3 Lee with Turret Desert Scenery & 2 US Tankers, Tiger Werke #TW-35160 + Contractor Gear: A Collectors' Guide to Weapons, Private-Purchase and Service-Issue Clothing and Equipment, Zammis Schein, Schiffer Military History (HB) [John traded the M3 Lee & Figures to Tony Kelly for the M48A3 kit after the gift exchange was over]
- 24) **Tony Abbott** = 1/35 scale Valentine Mk III and Rota-Trailer, AFV Club #AF35201
- 25) **Carl Wethington** = 1/35 scale Volkswagen Type 82 E, CMK # T35104
- 26) **Noah Brandes** = 1/35 scale U.S. Tank M41 Walker Bulldog, Tamiya #TF35055
- 27) **Dave Varettoni** = 1/35 scale German Horch 1a with 2cm Flak 38, Tamiya #35105 [Dave gave this kit to Noah Brandes after the gift exchange was over]
- 28) **Michael Child (?)** = 1/35 scale German Hanomag SdKfz 251/1, Tamiya #35020
- 29) **Morgan Cicimurri** = 1/72 scale Shorts Tucano T.1, Airfix #A03059
- 30) **Daniel Karnes** = 1/72 scale Sd. Kfz. 161 Pz. Kpfw. IV Fl/F2, Italeri #7514
- 31) **Trevor Edwards** = 1/35 scale D9R Armoured Bulldozer, Meng # SS-002 [Note – this box could not be opened until the end of the Gift Exchange] [Trevor traded this kit to Ralph Nardone for the Sherman kit & Book, and Trevor then traded the Sherman kit & book to Keith Frape, all after the gift exchange was over]

Photo Album on our webpage at: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/club-activities.html>

### **Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange:**

- 1) Many members brought in contributions to our pot-luck dinner. It was quite the spread and no one had any excuse to leave hungry. Lots of wonderful food. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!
- 2) Thirty-one members participated in our White Elephant gift exchange. If this wasn't the largest ever, it was certainly one of the most fun! Between swaps and steals, we played for over an hour and a half which had to be some kind of record.
  - a. The highlight of this year's exchange was the "Mystery Gift" which couldn't be opened until after the final round. It was a do-sie of a 1/35 scale Meng "Doobie D-9 Dozer" put in the exchange by Keith Frape. I think if we repeat the "Mystery Gift" next year, we'll see some real cut-throat swapping and stealing!
  - b. We also had a ton of other really nice gifts this year. You guys have really stepped up your game. See Jeff's rollup of the final results of who ended up with what.
- 3) The Christmas Party ended around 2000.

## Tentative Agenda, Regular Meeting, 10 January, 2018

Our next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 6-8 pm, at the HobbyTown store in the Publix Shopping Center (North Pointe Shopping Center), on Two Notch Road, Columbia (NE). This will be our first regular meeting of the New Year.

### Tentative Agenda Business items:

- 1) Treasurer's Report: \$880 donation to the National Armor and Cavalry Museum (NACM).
  - a. **Total Treasury** = \$4,472.00.
  - b. **Bank Balance** = \$4,407.00.
  - c. **Cash on Hand** = \$65.00 (with treasurer).

**Reminder:** Club annual dues are due this month. Still \$12 for adults with no dues for juniors under 18 years old. New adult member dues are pro-rated at \$1 per month for the remainder of the calendar year, first month's meeting attendance excluded.

**Note:** If you pledged to make a \$25 donation to the NACM paver fund that the club has already paid your donation in advance. Please see Ralph or Mike and make your reimbursement payment to the club. **We have a total of \$400 in outstanding pledges that need to be reimbursed.** The mini NACM pavers for each of the individual donors have already arrived, so once you reimburse the club you will receive your mini paver. Mike will have the mini pavers at the meeting. **Bring your money.**

2) We have been approved to conduct a club visit of the NACM restoration facility at Ft. Benning, GA (Columbus, GA) starting at 9AM on Saturday, 20 January. Many of us are staying at the Holiday Inn Express on Victory Drive on Friday and Saturday nights, 19/20 Jan. If you want to participate, you must be with the group at 9AM when we conduct our entry at the fort. For more information, contact Mike Roof ASAP.

3) A short update presented by the show committee members in attendance on the plans and coordination for our June contest. Note that it's not too early to start soliciting show award sponsorships and donations.

4) It's not too early to start planning for the Atlanta AMPS show in February. There are several of us who have already made hotel reservations. If you're interested in going to the show, speak up at the meeting. Opportunities to travel with someone else or to share a hotel room may still be available.

5) Floor will be open for New Business.

6) Following the business portion of the meeting, we'll take a short break for shopping and social mixing.

**Regular Show & Tell:** to follow the business portion of the meeting. Finished models, works in progress and cool new stuff – Bring it all with you to share!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

*Mike Roof*  
Michael D. Roof

REMINDER: **The HobbyTown store will close at 7:00 pm (1900).** This means that all purchases at the store must be made before then so that the cash registers can be closed.

6:15 pm (1810): Admin business and Show & Tell.

6:50 pm (1850): Break: Shopping & Social Mixer. Cash registers close at 8:00 pm.

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Continue Show & Tell: Builds and WIPs

8:00 pm (2000): Meeting ends (officially)

*Regular meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 pm (1800) at the HobbyTown store, 10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5, Columbia, SC 29223, (803) 736-0959.*

## Up-coming Events

**AMPS Atlanta 2018**, Atlanta Armor, Figure, and Modeling Contest and Exhibition, February 16-18, 2018. Atlanta Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30345, 404-325-0000. **2018 Show Theme: "REFORGER 1969 - 1989"** (Any Tracked or Wheeled Vehicle used by a NATO country during any REFORGER Exercises).

### Again, read carefully!

If you have already made reservations, you are good to go with no further action necessary on your part. If you have not made reservations yet, you will need to make them through the old hotel, the Marriott (see information below), as noted in previous literature. The Marriott will handle, and is handling all reservations through the deadline (31JAN18). After the cut-off deadline passes, all of the reservations will be delivered into the Hilton System where you may claim your room(s) on arrival at the new hotel.

See the AMPS Atlanta Show page for info at:

<http://www.ampsatlanta.org/amps-atlanta-annual-show.html>



**Old Dominion Open**, Richmond International Raceway, 600 East Laburnum Ave, Richmond, VA, 23222. February 24, 2018 - 8:30am to 5:30pm.

This event is hosted by IPMS Richmond. The "ODO" is the best February model show and contest in the mid-Atlantic region. It is the annual "kick off" event for in the mid-Atlantic region in a 30,000 sq. ft. facility. More than 40 vendors, 67+ categories, and some very nice awards. More information about this show can be found at Web link:

<http://ipmsrichmond.blogspot.com/>

IPMS Richmond Presents  
**Old Dominion Open**  
Scale Model Show and Contest  
February 24, 2018

*Old Dominion Open*

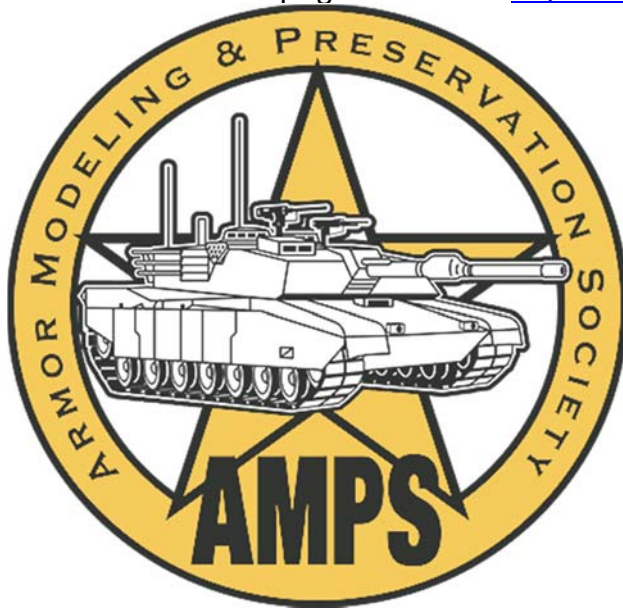
**Richmond Raceway Complex**  
The Henrico Building  
600 E Laburnum Richmond, VA 23222  
Doors open 8:30 Registration closes 12:30

**Over 70 Model Categories  
Hobby Vendors  
Special Awards  
Huge Kit Drawings**

See More about IPMS ...  
Blog: <http://ipmsrichmond.blogspot.com>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/IPMSRichmond>

**AMPS 2018 International Convention**, Hope Hotel and Richard C. Holbrooke Conference Center, Dayton, OH, Phone: (203) 794-0600, May 3 to 5, 2018.  
**2018 Convention Theme: Mishaps (and Oh...).**

See the AMPS Homepage for info at: <http://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx>



**2018 South Carolina Scale Model MEGA-Show**, co-hosted by AMPS Central South Carolina Wildcats and IPMS/Mid-Carolina Swamp Fox Modelers, will be held on June 22-23, 2018.

Location: SC National Guard Armory, 1225 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC, 29201, 803-299-4200.

**2018 Show Theme: "I Want My MTV! ~ I love the '80s"**

See the following web links for more information: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/> and [www.ipmsmidcarolina.com](http://www.ipmsmidcarolina.com).

IPMS/MID-CAROLINA SWAMP FOX MODELERS and AMPS/CENTRAL SC WILDCATS  
present the

I WANT MY

M TV

*I love the '80s!*

SCALE MODEL MEGA-SHOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018 9 AM to 6 PM  
SC NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY AND SC MILITARY MUSEUM  
1225 BLUFF ROAD, COLUMBIA, SC



FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit

[WWW.IPMSMIDCAROLINA.COM](http://WWW.IPMSMIDCAROLINA.COM) or  
[WWW.AMPSCENTRALSOUTHCAROLINA.ORG](http://WWW.AMPSCENTRALSOUTHCAROLINA.ORG)

## 2018 New Releases

- Pz.Kpfw.VI Ausf.B King Tiger (Late Production)  
with Full Interior, ICM, 1/35th scale, kit # 35364.





- **Type 1 Chi-He - Japanese Medium Tank, IBG, 1/72nd scale, kit # 72055.** Release date January or February 2018.



## Members Build Blogs

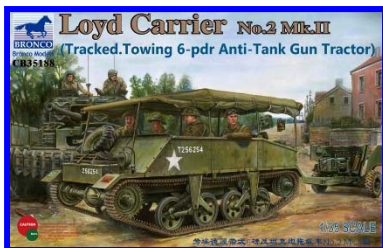
Build Blogs give an in-depth review of the construction process and allow the builders to share their knowledge. We are fortunate to have some of the members in our club with build blogs on modeling web sites. Please note that due to a recent change with Photo Bucket, many build logs have been impacted and linked photos may not show. While some modelers have/are relinking their blogs to a different photo hosting site, many older build logs and postings on various forums will likely never show the original linked pictures again and are lost forever. A posting on Missing-Linx provides a (temporary) work-around for Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome browsers:

<http://www.network54.com/Forum/47211/message/1504035816/PB+-+extension+to+make+photos+viewable+again>

Mike Roof has 2 on Track-Link.com:



MiniArt T-44 Soviet Medium Tank, Kit # 35193  
[http://www.track-link.com/forums/site\\_blogs/27686](http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/27686)



Bronco Loyd Carrier No. 2, Mk II (Tracked Tractor), # CB35188, towing a Riich British Ordnance QF Mk. IV A-T Gun 6 Pdr, # 35042  
[http://www.track-link.com/forums/site\\_blogs/22053](http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/22053)

Jeff Nelson has 1 on Armorama.com:



Fine Molds Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Type 60 APC, FM40  
[http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquadBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic\\_id=213731&page=1#2056793](http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquadBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=213731&page=1#2056793)

Additionally, Jeff did an In-Box-Review of this kit.

<http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Reviews&file=index&req=showcontent&id=9272>

Keith Frape also has 2 on Armorama.com:



Chieftain Mk. 7 ARR (Tamiya + Accurate Armor Conversion)

[http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic\\_id=241027](http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=241027)



Up Armored Scimitar LEP with Bar Armor (AFV Club + Castoff Models Conversion)

[http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic\\_id=212968](http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=212968)

Bryan Moeller has one on Armorama.com:



Flakpanzer IV "Kugelblitz" (Cyber-Hobby's 1/35 scale "Orange Box" Series Kit #09 + Dragon's 1/35 Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf. J Mid Production, Smart Kit #6556)

[http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic\\_id=250681#2120546](http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=250681#2120546)

## Interesting Articles – Why Do We Model?

**Why do we model?** Interesting question. Does modeling bring back some childhood memories of perusing the kits available at the 5 & 10? Just hoping that my \$1.00 a week allowance would get me that all important Model T or a 1954 Chevy. These are the memories I had during the early fifties. Skip forward sixty years to 2014 and that \$1.00 doesn't really buy much in regard to a model kit. Inflation? Must be.

So I asked myself, "*Why do I model?*" History, cheaper than golf?

**Rebecca Hettmansperger:** "*I build to relax and to learn (expand my knowledge of military history) and to have a good time.*"

**Bryan Moeller:** "*Great answer. Couldn't have said it better myself.*"

**John Sherrer:** "*I build to hone skills and to enjoy the camaraderie. I was thinking maybe I should have given a more in-depth answer. For me, it was my dad and mom who introduced me to modeling in about 1976. First model was a Monogram USS Kennedy aircraft carrier. Next was the APC (?) bridge [Editor's Note: MPC] of the Starship Enterprise. Then came my Monogram 1/32*

scale tanks and every conceivable 1/72 scale plane that I could buy at Woolworths and Eckerd's at the old Richland Mall. I did get an Aurora 1/48 scale prime mover, based on the Bulldog chassis that came from an old hobby shop on Two Notch road not far from Keenan High."

**Dave Neumann:** "Because I look amazing." (Dave, not quite the answer I was looking for!!!).

**Stephen Reid:** "I've answered this many times over the years I've been doing it. I've tried to talk anyone who would listen into trying it. I've moved many times and whenever I relocate I'm googling "AMPS club, XXXXXX" and making new friends. I model because I am "wired" in such a way that I need it! I travel with an X-Acto knife in my luggage and some kit parts- Always. I took my tools, a scale drawing, and sheet styrene to Desert Storm.....and came back with a Truck. If I were lost on a desert island, I'd be finding water, food, shelter, and then something sharp enough that I could start shaping wood scraps into parts. Modeling is the fusion of historical research, engineering, art, and craftsmanship. It's a hobby that attracts great people! Many have become my great friends even though we are very different in every measurable way, but for our passion for modeling. My first kit was the 1/72 Scale Boulton-Paul Defiant. My first armor kit was the Airfix Churchill. It's what I think about whenever my mind is at rest. It is the addiction - that does me nothing but good."

**Trevor Edwards:** "Because it gives me a hobby that lets my artsy side show and I'm a history dork."

**Michael David Bishop:** "I guess for me it's what my dad did while I was growing up. He built RC planes and I started building those old gillows WW1 plane kits. Then I started watching the movies that went with them, the blue max comes to mind. He would also get me plastic kits to build on a rainy day. Those days I just built them as fast as I could. Then my dad got me a Bandai 48 scale tank kit. In the box was a diorama of tanks and halftracks that looked really cool. From that moment on I was building tanks more than anything else. Over the years my taste have changed as has my passion for the hobby. These days it seems to run hot and cold."

**Matthew David Goodman:** "Making a replica of a bit of history. My dad made models and passed the bug onto me. It helps me release the hassle of the day and I'm lost in my own little world and.....I love the smell of Testors in the morning...Smells like...victory."

**Ben Brandes:** "I started modeling with my dad when I was around 7 or 8, and at that time it was mostly Monogram or Revell airplanes. I built my first armor kit (Tamiya 1/35 Sdkfz 251) when I was 12, but didn't pursue armor much more until my early college years. Since then armor has been the majority of what I build. I build because it is relaxing, it is a way for me to share common interests with my kids, I love military history, and because building and displaying kits in my home is like having my own mini military museum."

**Eliere Tolan:** "I usually do it to practice my swear words and throwing skills! Modeling is something I've always enjoyed doing. I like the feeling of accomplishment when I finish a kit. I like seeing what everyone else brings to show and I want to learn new things to try."

**John Currie:** "My uncle started me modeling on my 6th Birthday, yes a long time ago 😊. My first model was The Airfix 1/72 DH Tiger Moth, yellow plastic and in a bag, first Armor kit was also from Airfix, was either a Cromwell or a Churchill, why do I model ??? Because I like it... no Warzone ever stopped me, during Desert Storm, 6 hours on 6 off, I would always spend 1 hour of my off time building before hitting the bunk, The Falklands was a little harder to get time. Also a little bit bumpy."

**Mike Roof:** *"I guess I build armor models because the real things are too expensive to collect!"*

**David Varettoni:** *"My uncle started me model building when I was about 8 or 9 I didn't really get into tanks until I join the Army became CAV Scout and then the armor bug just took over from there."*

Phil Cavender  
AMPS # 3060, IPMS# 50085  
Editor, "The Wildcat"

## Interesting Articles – US WWII Tank Antennas for Modelers

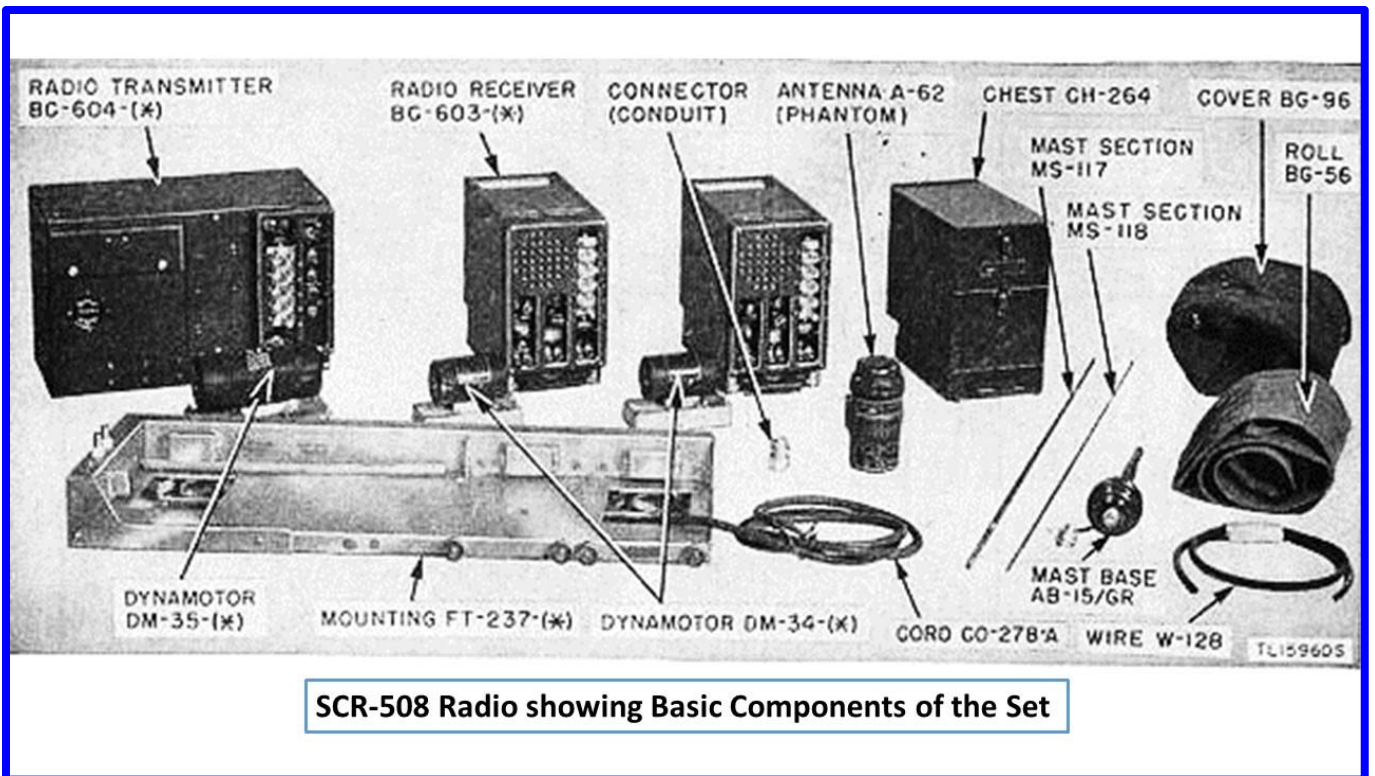
I'm always looking for more details and accurate information for my armor models. In fact, searching out new, obscure facts and trivial details is one of the things connected with the hobby that I really enjoy, and I can find myself falling down the old research rabbit hole sometimes for hours on end.

Recently, as I was finishing up my Tamiya M10 tank destroyer, I started wondering about the details of the radio antenna and how (or even if) I could make it more accurate. One thing led to another, and after a few happy hours with Mr. Google along with cracking some of my own references, I got to the bottom of the US WWII tank radio antenna question. I think I now know what they actually looked like (at least the two most common ones).

During WWII, the US military fielded a bewildering array of radios. Seriously. It's actually hard to sort through what was actually going on. My intention here is not to launch into even a brief review of this subject. It seems that almost every branch had its own, unique radios, and it would also seem that almost none of them could talk to any of the others. (Well, not really... but communication between different systems was not even close to universal.)

In order to keep this article useful, I'll restrict it to the two most common US AFV radio systems, the SCR-508 (or SCR-528) and the SCR-506. These two systems represent at least the most common radios in use in our model subjects. There were many more, and I encourage you to take your own trip down the research rabbit hole if you're confronted with something other than one of the more common US WWII AFV subjects.

The first set, the SCR-508 was a frequency modulated (FM) radio that was installed in most US tanks. It was flexible and could be configured in a number of different combinations of receivers (BC-603) and transmitters (BC-604) to meet the needs of the using units. Tanks could be equipped with one transmitter and one receiver (in this configuration the radio was designated the SCR-528) or two receivers and one transmitter (the SCR-508). However, both of these configurations used just one common antenna which was automatically switched between the transmitting or receiving units.



**SCR-508 Radio showing Basic Components of the Set**

*Slide 1*

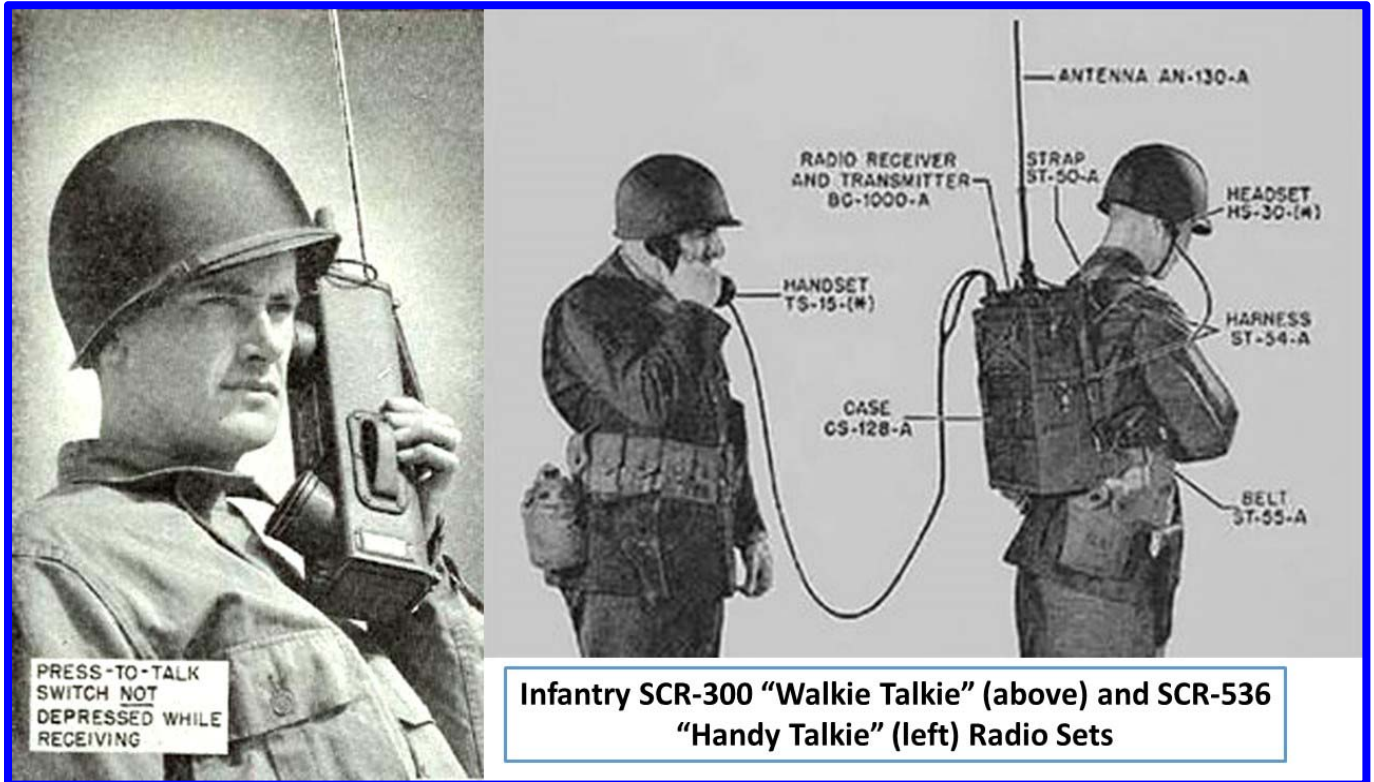
The second set, the SCR-506 was an amplitude modulated (AM) radio that was installed in US tank destroyers and numerous other vehicles, to include US tank battalion command tanks (where it was an addition to the SCR-508). Like the SCR-508, the SCR-506 was made of two major parts, the BC-653 transmitter and the BC-652 receiver. Generally, though, the SCR-506 was only composed of one each of these components. The SCR-506 could not communicate with tanks equipped with only the SCR-508 (-528).



**SCR-506 Radio**

*Slide 2*

**Info Tidbit:** The standard US WWII infantry radio sets at the tactical level were the SCR-300 “walkie talkie” and the SCR-536 “handy talkie.” The SCR-300 was a backpack radio and the SCR-536 was the handheld radio. The SCR-300 could not communicate with either the SCR-508 or the SCR-506. However, the SCR-536 could communicate with the SCR-506, so at least the infantry squad and platoon and the tank destroyers could communicate at some limited level. Oddly enough though, the SCR-300 and the SCR-536 could not talk to each other, either. However, I digress...



Slide 3

Now, a word about nomenclature might be in order here. When trying to discuss US WWII radios, you should understand the differences between “SCR” and “BC.” SCR stands for Set, Complete Radio. That is, the entire radio set falls under the SCR description. BC stands for Basic Component. BCs are the major boxes and other accessories that are put together in various combinations to make up the SCR. It’s quite easy to get confused though, because a lot of references and after-market vendors will discuss or sell these radios using both or either of the two designations. Don’t be confused. The main US WWII tank radio was the SCR-508 and not the BC-603 or BC-604. In the same vein, the command radio was the SCR-506 and not the BC-653 or the BC-652.

Next is a word about the nomenclature of the antenna components. At the time, Signal Corps doctrine only called an antenna an antenna when it was connected to the radio. Until then, the antenna was identified as a collection of parts based around “masts” and “mast sections.” An antenna base was called a “mast base.” Of course, there were a number of additional parts, but when researching these things, you’ll get better results searching the inter-web using the correct nomenclature.

So, now on to the meat of the subject – the antennas (because we’re going to depict them assembled on our models, they’re now “antennas” which will be composed of various “mast bases” and “mast sections.” Still with me...? LOL!)

Both of our radios, SCRs -508 (-528) and -506, used the same antenna “mast sections” until later in the war when the tank radio, the SCR 508 (-528), started to be issued with a simplified set of “mast sections.” We’ll concern ourselves first with the early antenna which was also used by tank destroyers and command tanks throughout the war.

This antenna was composed of five (5) mast sections, MS-49 through MS-53. With the SCR-506, three extra “mast section,” MS-54, could be added if the AFV was stationary to increase the range. (Remember, the SCR-506 was an AM radio and was capable of both voice and CW or “Morse Code.”) Each of the “mast sections” was approximately 39-1/2” long. The sections were tapered from about 3/4” at the bottom to a near point, less than 1/2”, at the top. The full, five section length of the antenna was about 15’. If the three extra MS-54 sections were added, the full length then became about 25 feet. At this maximum length vehicle was supposed to remain stationary, and guy lines were to be used to support the antenna. These sections screwed together with heavy, knurled male and female ferrules on each end of each section (except for the top, MS-49 which ended in a blunt point).



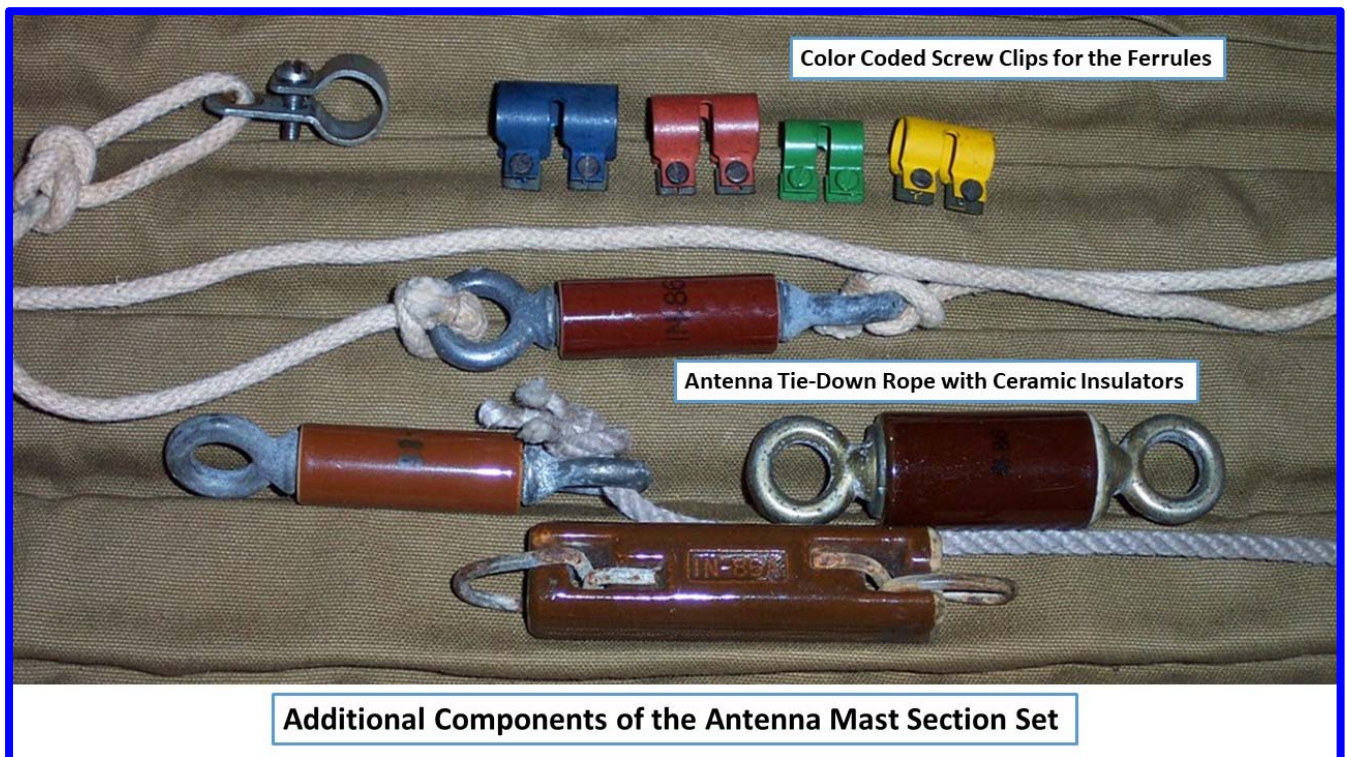
Slide 4

These knurled ferrules were color coded so that the use only had to match the color on the male end of one section with the same colored female end of the next section. The colors used were, starting at the top and going down: green/green; yellow/yellow; red/red; blue/blue; gray/gray (or gray terminating at the “mast base”); finally brown or black (terminating at the “mast base” for the extra length 25’ antenna). The “mast section” rod portions between the ferrules were “satin” black when new, but present day existing mast sections are almost invariably painted OD.



Slide 5

In addition to the colored ferrules, there was a set of colored, screw on clamps that could be fastened over the joints between the sections to prevent them from vibrating loose. If the clamps were not available, the operator was instructed by the technical manual to put two wraps of black electrical tape (winding in opposite directions) over the ferrule joints. The antenna system was also issued with a guy line (called a rope), insulators and hooks to tie it down. The rope was white and the insulators brown ceramic with bare metal eyelets and bare metal antenna hook.



Slide 6

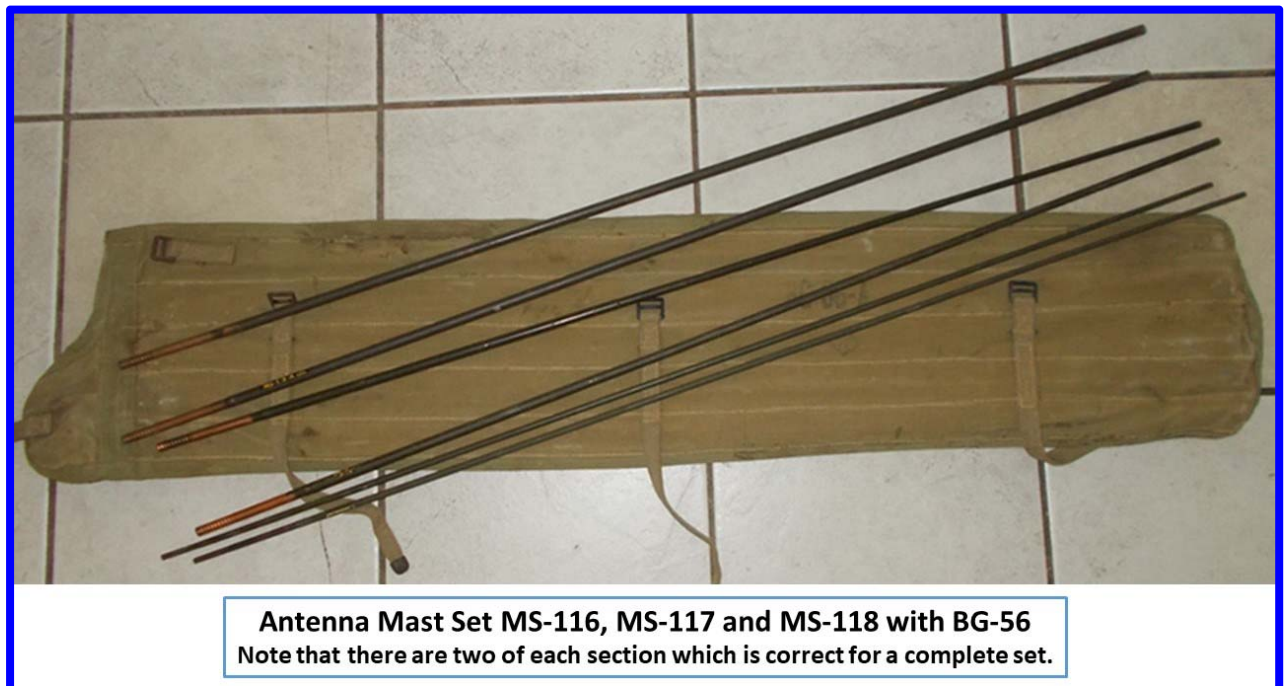


There was a later war green rope that was treated to prevent fungus and rot. Of course, there were also additional guy lines, insulators and stakes to support the 25' long range antenna. All of this was stored in a long OD canvas bag (technically a "roll") BG-56 with a small canvas tubular cover, BG67, for the mast base to be used when the vehicle was out of service.



*Slide 7*

Keeping in mind that the above antenna setup was used throughout the war with the SCR-506 radio (tank destroyers and BN level command tanks), at some point during the war the antenna for the SCR-508 tank radio was changed to a much simpler setup that used just three mast sections that telescoped and screwed together.



*Slide 8*

This new antenna was about 10 feet long when using all three mast sections, and the technical manual warned the operator that all three sections were to be used. The “mast sections” were designated MS-116 through MS-118. Again, the sections tapered from the top which formed a blunt point to the base which was around ½” in diameter.

These did not have the heavy, knurled ferrules used on the initial antenna system, but rather these newer sections were hollow tubes with formed external male threads on the bottom ends and corresponding internal female threads on the upper ends (except the top, MS-118 section which formed a point). The male ends sleeved into and screwed to the female ends. My research didn't disclose the original factory new colors of the sections, but the external and internal threaded portions were unpainted to give good conductivity. All of the existing mast sections that I could find were painted OD. When screwed together, the joints between these new mast sections are nearly invisible, with the antenna giving a smooth tapered appearance.



Slide 9

I could not find an introduction date for the newer antenna and AB-15 mast base, so you'll need to check your references. If you can see the base, telling the MP-48 mast base from the AB-15 is easy, and the AB-15 will always have the newer MS-116 et al antenna.

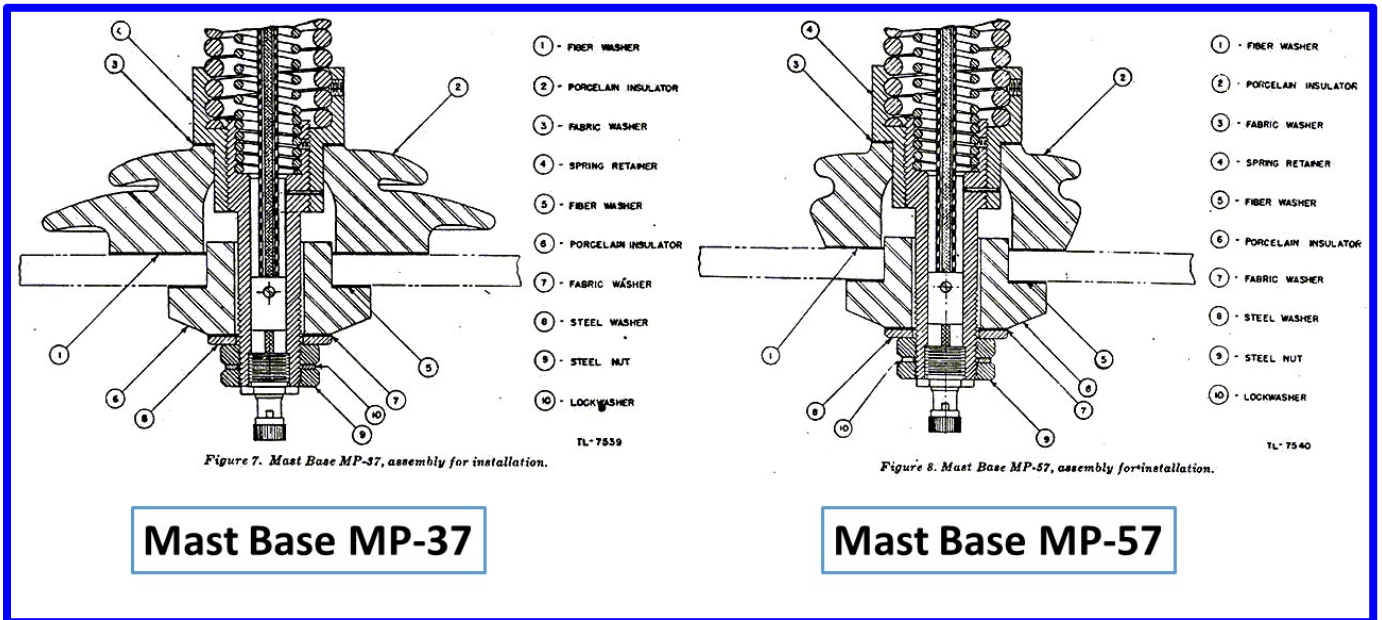
Now we come to the antenna bases. Remember, these are correctly called “mast bases,” and that's the term that I'll try to consistently use.

The SCR-506 antenna used the MP-37 (early) and -57 (late) mast bases. Both of these are nearly indistinguishable, especially in 1/35 scale. The real ones seem to have minor differences in the shape of the ceramic insulators. The photos should give you a clear idea of what these looked

like. When new, the ceramic insulators were glossy brown, the metal spring was satin black, with the remainder of the metal parts OD. It's difficult to say with certainty that the metal springs were not also manufactured in OD, and most surviving examples are OD.



Slide 10



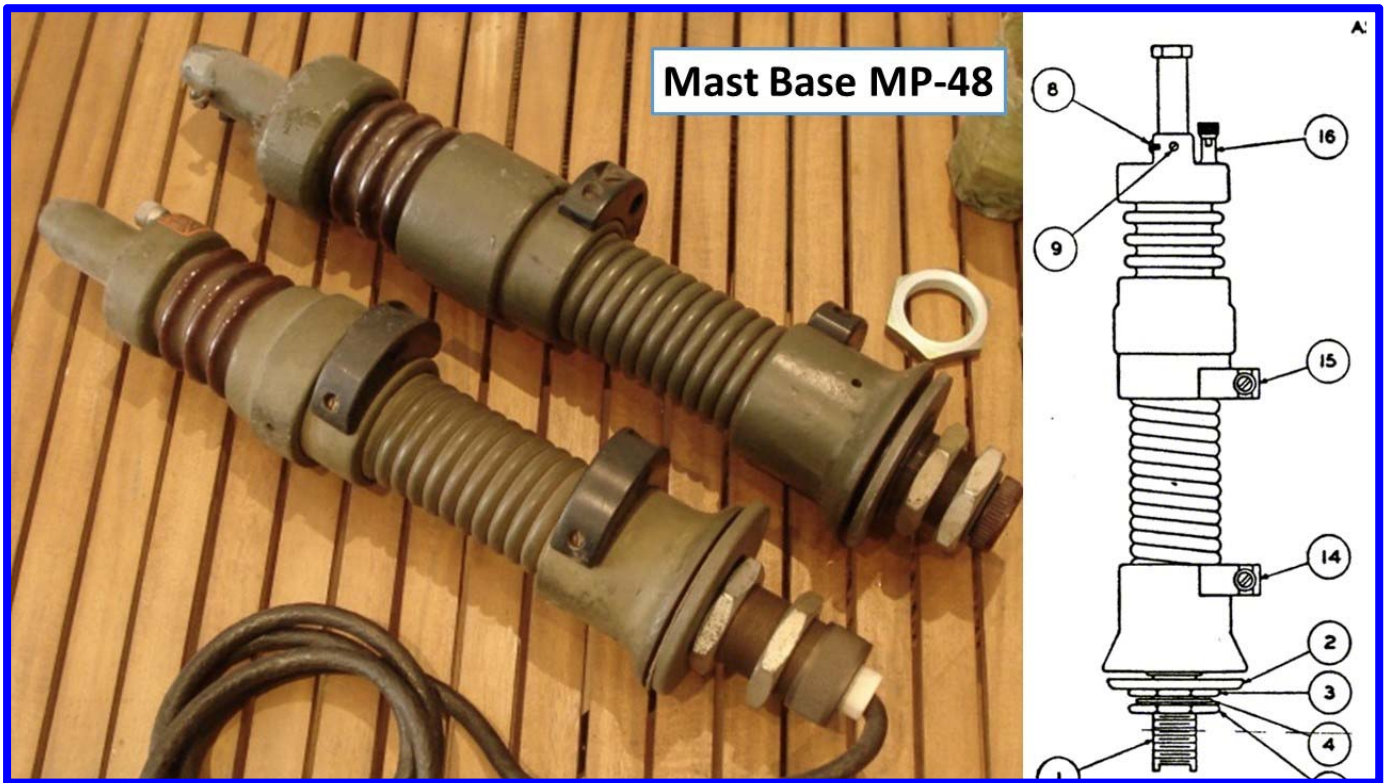
Slide 11

The SCR-508 antenna used either the MP-48 (early) or the AB-15 (late). Either the earlier antenna or the later antenna could be used with either type of base, but the AB-15 was issued with the new, three section, ferrule-less mast sections. The colors for the MP-48 base were the same as for the MP-37, to include the satin black / OD metal spring. Note that when the MP-48

base was used with the new, three section antenna, an external coax wire had to be added to it. Later versions of the MP-48 came with this already installed.

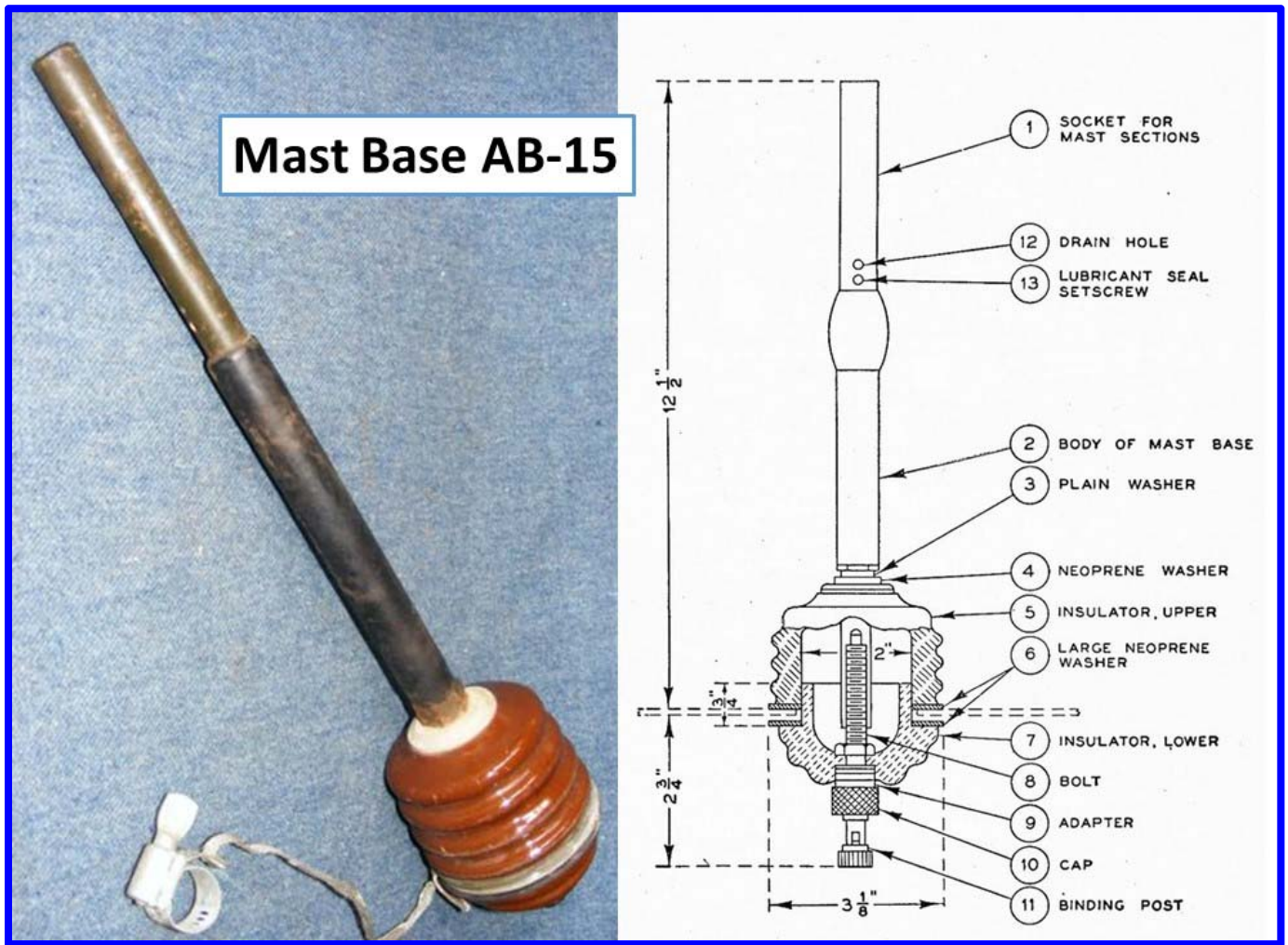


Slide 12



Slide 13

The AB-15 base had a glossy brown ceramic insulator on its bottom, and its top “stalk” portion had a thicker flexible black rubber portion on its lower end with a narrower OD metal top end. The metal parts between the insulator and the flexible “stalk” were OD.



Slide 14

Checking your references should help you figure out which antenna setup that was used on your US tank and tank destroyer models. If you can see any hint of the ferrules at the joints of the mast sections, then you know your reference is showing the colorful MS-49 to MS-54 antenna. If tank / tank destroyer is stationary with a very tall antenna guyed in place, it's also likely this same antenna. On the other hand, if the antenna is slim with no trace of the joints between the sections, it's likely the later MS-116 through MS-118 antenna. If the antenna (mast) base is the AB-15 with the thick rubber stalk, then the antenna is almost certainly the later MS-116 et al setup.



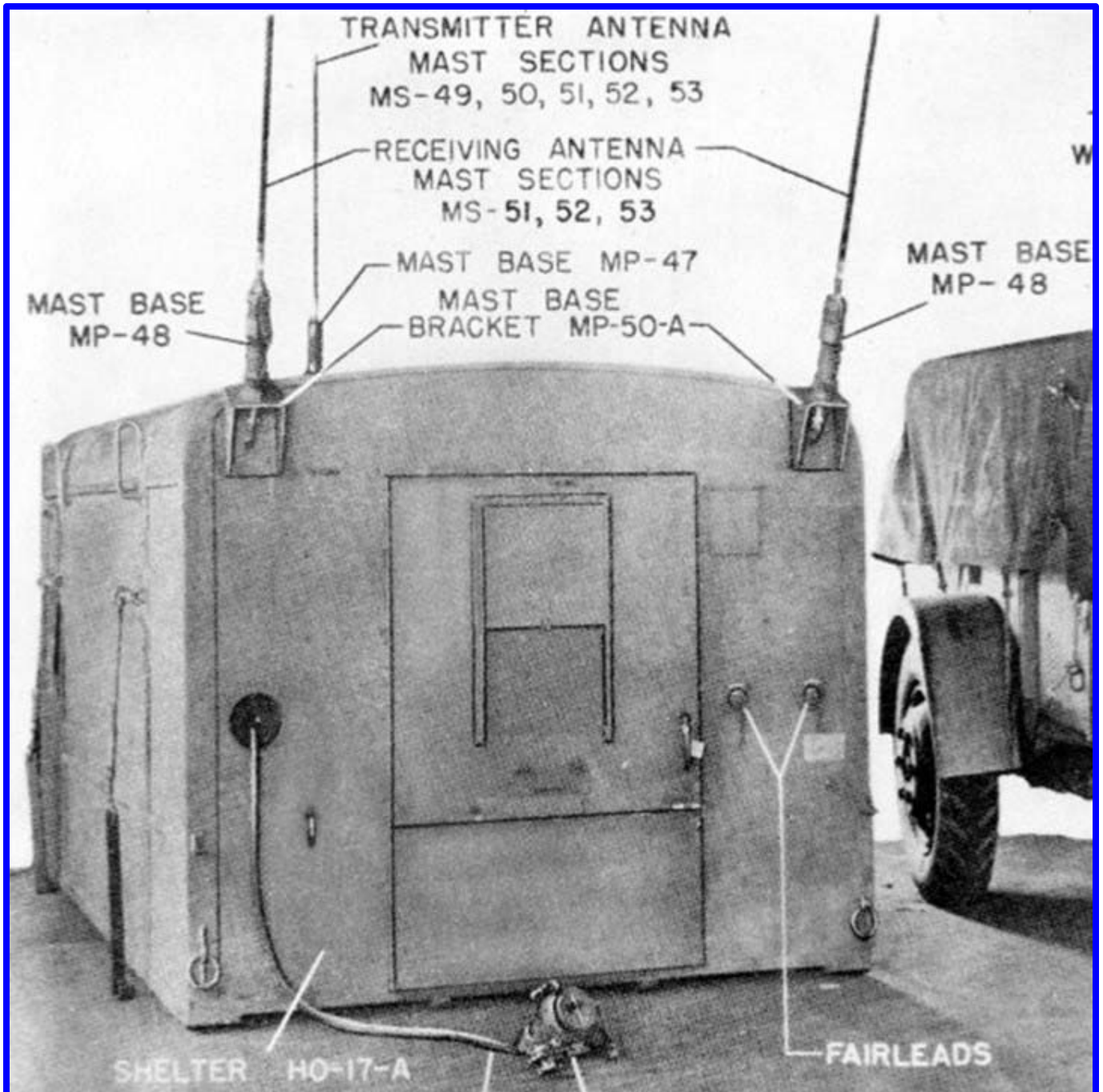
Slide 15

Command tanks with the antenna (mast) base on the right front hull have the SCR-506 radio installed next to the bow gunner, and that antenna set up will be the MP-37/57 with the MS-49 et al setup. However, the turret mounted tactical radio will be the SCR-508/528 which could have either the MP-48 or AB-15 base with either antenna.

Of course, there are exceptions to all rules, and with US WWII tanks, you could see field expedient installations with second turret antennas to either one of the SCR-508 receivers or even an SCR-300 borrowed from the accompanying infantry unit. The second SCR-508 antenna could be either of the standard systems, and if for an SCR-300, the AB-15 base and antenna could be used (the standard SCR-300 long whip antenna, AN-131 was also 10' long). Note that the Sherman tank turret was manufactured with two standard antenna mounting locations because the British No. 19 radio set required two separate antennas, one for Set A and the other for Set B, so no radical work was required to install a second antenna for some US tank crew purpose.

When researching my M10 Tank Destroyer build, I noticed that in many photos the antenna extends past the edges of the photo making it impossible to see or judge just how long it was. A close examination of the photos that did show the entire antenna showed that about half of the antennas only had two mast sections clearly ending at the top with an open ferrule. The remainder clearly had only three sections, with about half of those ending with the tapered MS-49 section and the rest ending with an open ferrule. I could not find a single photo that clearly showed all five mast sections assembled into a 15' antenna. Of course, some of the photos where the antenna extended past the edge of the picture could have been of full antennas. On my own build, I opted to show a three-section antenna topped by the tapered MS-49. When I measured it out, even in 1/35 scale, the full 15' antenna looked crazy long.

In the end, this little research project led me to a little known and quite colorful detailed addition. The colored ferrules are hard to see, but they do add a little spark that I've never seen on another US WWII model.



Slide 16 – Parting Shot: a wartime photo of the SCR-399 Radio installed in a HQ Shelter HO-17.

Note that the antennas are made up of MP-48 and MP-47 Mast Bases and the same MS-49 thru MS-53 Mast Sections. Just think how colorful this would be now that you know about those color-coded mast section ferrules!

Happy modeling!

Michael D. Roof  
AMPS #1632

## The USA Historical AFV Register

Mike Roof has provided us with a great link he found that may be of interest to all.

"For those who are interested in preserved AFVs or photographing them for research, here's a link to the latest issue of the AFV Register Organization's "The USA Historical AFV Register."

The register is broken down by state and city, with the AFVs listed along with their exact locations (to include GPS lat/long coordinates). This is a good list to keep saved on your computer.

If you travel around you can plan accordingly (look up your travel destination or itinerary stops to see what interesting AFVs might be there), and if you need reference material on a particular vehicle, you can often contact one of your "virtual" friends online who lives near an exhibit to take some pictures for you".

<http://afvregister.org/Downloads/The%20USA%20Historical%20AFV%20register%204.0.pdf>

### The USA Historical AFV Register

*Armored Fighting Vehicles Preserved  
in the United States of America*

V4.0

March 2016

**Michel van Loon  
Neil Baumgardner**

For the AFV Association



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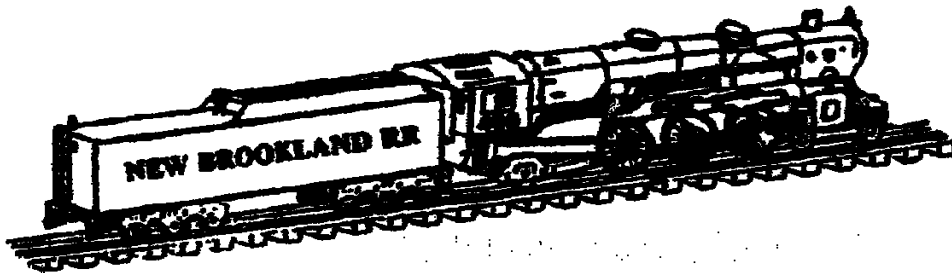


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### Classified Ads

All submissions for entry into the Classified Ads section should be submitted to the editor two (2) weeks prior to the monthly AMPS meeting. Next submission deadline will be August 30, 2017.

**Wanted:** I am looking for the Eduard (35 233) 1/35 photoetch M110A2 SPH update set for the Italeri M110/M1102, and M107 kits. As with the Hobby Fan resin Kit, I kept waiting to buy one until it also was gone! -- Are you picking up a recurring theme here? **Contact Carl Wethington.**

**Wanted:** I am looking for the Hobby Fan (HF001) 1/35 resin M110A2 SPH update set for the Italeri M110/M1102, and M107 kits. As you can tell from the item number it was the first resin detailing kit make by Hobby Fan. It was an excellent set that replaced much of the traditional Italeri soft detail, and included an outstanding loader / rammer section. I kept waiting to buy one -- until, well, it was gone! If you come across one, I would be glad to "rent" the set to make resin masters for my M110 and M107 kits. Thanks for any leads you can offer!

**Contact Carl Wethington.**

**For Sale (Cheap):** I have several kits for sale. I made the mistake when I started modeling to buy anything I thought was cheap. In looking over my stash the following are items I want to get rid of. All have been opened but no parts removed. Price maybe negotiable. **Contact Phil Cavender via e-mail.**

| <u>Kit Description</u>               | <u>Kit #</u> | <u>Scale</u> | <u>Manufacturer</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| M51 Israeli Med Tank (Parts missing) | 1373         | 1/35th       | Academy             | \$5.00       |
| M3A1 Stuart                          | 1398         | 1/35th       | Academy             | \$10.00      |
| USAF F-16 A/C                        | 12259        | 1/48th       | Academy             | \$15.00      |
| M1A1 with Mine Plough                | 3516         | 1/35th       | DML/ Dragon         | \$15.00      |
| T26E3 Heavy Tank                     | 6032         | 1/35th       | DML/ Dragon         | \$15.00      |
| M4A3 HVSS POA-CWS H5                 | 6807         | 1/35th       | DML/ Dragon         | \$15.00      |
| M-8 Greyhound                        | 364          | 1/35th       | Italeri             | \$6.00       |
| US Marines M4 Sherman                | 6389         | 1/35th       | Italeri             | \$10.00      |
| M-16                                 | 81           | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$5.00       |
| KV-II                                | 3563         | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$5.00       |
| M3 Lee                               | 139-850      | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$5.00       |
| M3 Grant                             | 35041        | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$5.00       |
| King Tiger Separate Track Links      | 35165        | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$5.00       |
| Centaur C.S. Mk. IV                  | 35232        | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$15.00      |
| M10 Tank Destroyer                   | 89554        | 1/35th       | Tamiya              | \$10.00      |
| Austin Mini Cooper 1275S Mk. 1       | 24235        | 1/24th       | Tamiya              | \$15.00      |
| M1 Panther II Mine Clearing Tank     | 346          | 1/35th       | Trumpeter           | \$15.00      |
| M1127 Stryker                        | 395          | 1/35th       | Trumpeter           | \$20.00      |

### **“The Day Room”**

*In the US military, most company-level units have a “day room” in the barracks where the troops hang-out, relax, and BS. When you want to learn the latest in “rumor control,” you swing by the day room and chat-up the Joes and Janes hanging out there. They might not always get it right, but they’re always willing to tell ya just what they think! So, welcome to “the Day Room...”*

Don't forget about the upcoming events to show our support.

Also don't forget to send me your favorite techniques you've learned through the years. We all would benefit. I'll include them in our next newsletter.

Finally, if you aren't a member of AMPS, now is the time to join. **Join AMPS Now!**

<http://amps-armor.org/>

Happy modeling,

*Phil Cavender*

Editor, "The Wildcat", AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"