

Vol. 7, No. 4

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July, 2016

Check FULL
of Modeling
Goodness!

Welcome Wildcats to the latest issue of our newsletter

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



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

Regular Meeting Minutes, 8 June, 2016

Our last meeting was held on Wednesday, 08 June, 2016 from 6-8 pm at the HobbyTown store in the Publix Shipping Center (North Pointe Shopping Center), Two Notch Road, Columbia (NE). We had 24 members in attendance, who brought 18 models for Show and Tell. This month's Raffle Prize was DML's 1/35 scale "Stug. III Ausf. A, Michael Wittman, 'LAH' (Barbarossa 1941)" kit, won by someone, but we've contracted CRS.

1. Kubelwagen vw Type 21 "Kastenwagen" (Academy + JV Models Resin Conversion), 1/72 – Paul Lovell
2. M792 Gama Goat US 6X6 Ambulance Truck (Tamiya), 1/35 – Phil Cavender
3. 15cm Sturm-Infanteriegeschutz 33B (DML + Fruilisimo Tracks), 1.35 – John Sherrer
4. Tiger 1 Late Production Pz.Kpfw.VI Ausf. E (DML + Model Club Metal tracks), 1/35 – Tom Wingate
5. T-54 Model 1949 (Tamiya + Legends Conversion), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
6. Sherman ARV Mk I (DML M4A4 + Resicast Conversion, Resin bits), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
7. French LVT-4 (DML + Value Gear Load, scratch built conversion), 1/72 – Bob Kerfonta
8. British 7 ton Armored Car Mk.IV (Tamiya + some stowage), 1/48 – Bob Kerfonta
9. M8 75mm Howitzer Motor Carriage (Tamiya + LOTS of scratch built parts), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
10. WWII German 12.8 CM FLAK 40 Zwilling (Takom), 1/35 – Bob Spagnola
11. M1 Panther II Mine Detection And Clearing Vehicle, TUSK I (DML), 1/35 – Daniel Karnes
12. M1078 LMTV (Armored Cab)(Trumpeter + Voyager Armor Upgrade, ET Model Weighted Road Wheels, Minor Workable Leaf Springs), 1/35 – Daniel Karnes
13. British Sherman VC Firefly (Tamiya + MiniArt British Tank Crew (NW Europe)), 1/35 – Michael Child
14. M113 ACAV APC (Tamiya ACAV Vietnam), 1/35 – Trevor Edwards
15. T26E4 Super Pershing Pilot #1 (Hobby Boss + Fruel metal tracks, metal barrel), 1/35 – Trevor Edwards

16. Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger I Sd.Kfz. 181 Ausf. E (finishing uncle's 1970s build; Tamiya + self-cast Road Wheels), 1/35 – Dave Cicimurri
17. "Send Me No Wine" Diorama (DML Jagdtiger Henschel Production Type X2, Verlinden Brat Haus & Ruined German Trade House Section & Wine Celler, Verlinden Resin Figures), 1/35 – Robin Evans
18. JGSDF Type 60 APC (Fine Molds + Fine Molds PE, Academy ROK Armor Crewmen, numerous scratch-built details), 1/35 – Jeff Nelson

Photo Album on our webpage:

<http://media5ik1.onlineview.it/FullScreenSlideShow.aspx?gallery=4757476&mt=Photo>

Business items: **1)** Treasurer's report – We have approximately \$4287 in the bank. **2)** We discussed and voted to approve the estimated \$400 expense to update our website using the WebBuilder V7. Jeff Nelson will coordinate. **3)** We discussed and voted to hold another Quarterly Club Saturday Build Day. We will tentatively do this in September, again at Mike Roof's house. Stats from our June build day: 19 members attended; ran from 11 am until 7:30 pm (with members arriving and departing on their own schedule); we had ample "snackage" and drinks (Thanks to everyone who brought something!); we "captured" two new members, David Johnston and George Neumann. Overall, a big success. **4)** New Business: **a)** We will pursue opportunities to get the club involved in volunteer support for the SC Military Museum. **b)** We will begin looking at hosting a local / regional AMPS show, summer, 2017. **c)** Complements to both Phil Cavender and Jeff Nelson for an excellent club newsletter issue. Reminder to everyone that content is based on contributions by members. If you want more content in the newsletter, then please submit your own contributions.

Tentative Agenda, Regular Meeting, 13 July 2016

Our next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 July, 2016, 6-8 pm, at the HobbyTown store in the Publix Shopping Center (North Pointe Shopping Center), on Two Notch Road, Columbia (NE).

Tentative Agenda Business items: **1)** Treasurer's report: Only one significant expense over the last month - \$100 category sponsorship to IPMS/USA for category 720, Armor Diorama, Small Composition. No new deposits. Current bank balance is approximately \$4187. Pending major expense is \$400 to update our website. **2)** Mike Petty will be heading up the AMPS National table at the IPMS/USA Nat's. Mike will setup a SignUP Genius page to get volunteers listed up against specific time slots to man the AMPS National table. Our local club display tables should be co-located with the national table, so we should be able to do "double duty" watching both. Mike Roof will send out a message to all club members when the SignUp Genius page is ready. **3)** We should have two local AMPS club display tables at the IPMS/USA Nat's, so there should be quite a lot of room for members to bring in "display only" works. Please contact Mike Roof before the show to let him know what models you want to bring to put on display. That way he can manage the space available. **4)** Floor will be open for new business.

Regular Show & Tell to follow the business portion of the meeting. All topics and model subjects are welcome – completed builds, works in progress, "new stuff" (kits, books, tools, materials, etc.). Don't forget, if you can make it, the "meeting after the meeting" for dinner and socializing. This month probably at Schianos, but we're open to other ideas...

REMINDER: **The HobbyTown USA 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 2nd Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 pm (1800) at the HobbyTown USA store, 10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5, Columbia, SC 29223, (803) 736-0959.

Up-coming Events



Columbia 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention

"Every Model Tells A Story", The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, SC. August 3-6 2016. See IPMSUSA2016.com for more information. Let's show our support by attending and entering our models.

SC Military Miniatures Society 2016 Annual Toy Soldier Show, 13th August 2016 at the SC State Museum located at 301 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29214. Hours: 10am to 5pm

Club Build Day

Date to be announced.

2016 New Releases

- **SU-85 Soviet Self-Propelled Gun Mod.1943 Mid Production** (Full Interior Kit), MiniArt, 1/35th scale, # 35187. Available in July 2016. See video website for an excellent 3-D graphics video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GFDvWbahSk&feature=youtu>

MiniArt 2016 catalog: Free download at:

http://www.miniart-models.com/MiniArt_2016_Updated.pdf

- **10.5cm StuH. 42 Ausf. E/F** – Smart Kit, Dragon 1/35th scale, #6834, June 2016
- **StuG. III Ausf. E** – Smart Kit, Dragon 1/35th scale, #6688, June 2016
- **KV220 Russian Tiger Super Heavy Tank** (New Tool), Trumpeter, 1/35th scale, #5553, October 2016
- **Soviet JS2 (IS2) Heavy Tank** (New Variant), Trumpeter, 1/35th scale, #5588 October 2016
- **SU-122 Early Production** (No Interior), MiniArt ,1/35th scale, #35181

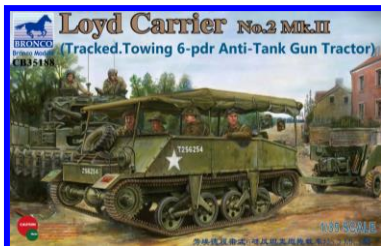
Members Build Blogs

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.

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



Bronco Loyd Carrier No. 2, Mk II (Tracked Towing 6-pdr Anti-Tank Gun 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

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

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 Frappe also has 2 on Armorama.com:



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

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."

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

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".

Glues – Why so Many?

Probably the most important item we use in modeling is glue. But do we know everything about glues. How they work, what they are comprised of, what glue to use for particular items? Take a moment and look around your workbench. How many different types and Brand Names do you see? Ask yourself, "How did I obtain this many types?". Did we learn about it from another modeler, from an article or at a show? Wherever we got the information, our "inventory" of glues seems to mount. But do we really need this many glues? In woodworking I use three types of glues; white glue, wood glue and CA. I have three containers but, in modeling I have 14 different containers of glue. Some the same type and some not. Why do I have so many? For me it was a

matter of listening to other people's recommendations and from reading modeling techniques. However, I found myself using 4 different types now.

On one supply website alone I found 42 different types and brands of glue. Even our local hobby store has over 52 containers in various types and sizes on their shelf. Amazing!

In researching this article I came across numerous pieces of literature explaining glues for modeling and their particular use. Here are some resources I found that may be of use. In the June issue of the "The Wildcat" Jeff gave a great demonstration of some glues used for attaching small parts. A great article to refer to.

- Favorite Technique - Attaching Small Parts, June issue of "The Wildcat Newsletter"
- "Learn all About Glue" article on the Scale Model Guide.com website:
<http://www.scalemodelguide.com/construction/materials/learn-glue/>
- Fine Scale Modeler in their July issue also has an excellent article on glues.

Favorite Technique - Brush Recommendations

The first question to answer with brushes is: What medium are you using? That is, are you painting with hobby enamels, hobby acrylics (Vallejo, Andres or Citadel-Games Workshop: Tamiya acrylics are not recommended for hand brushing) or oils? For hobby enamels or oils, you want round brushes with average length bristles. These kinds of brushes will "spread" the paint, and the paint, being thinned with mineral spirits, will generally and continuously tend to "self-clean" the bristle tips as fresh paint dissolves the previous paint. For hobby acrylics, you want round brushes that have longer bristles - often called "liners" or "liner brushes." These kinds of brushes will allow the thinned paint to "flow" like ink from a nib pen. The longer bristles hold more liquid paint than the shorter bristle brushes, and that paint is thinned more and for larger coverage, applied in multiple semi-transparent layers. I generally prefer natural sable hair brushes for all of my painting (except for the rough stuff on bases and some weathering). Squirrel hair brushes are good for water colors and painting bases, but not very good for models. I generally use Winsor & Newton Series 7 sable brushes and order mine from Dick Blick Art Materials:

<http://www.dickblick.com/>

As to sizes, I generally use #10x0 sable liner brushes for my acrylic painting and oil washes.



I generally used #0, 1, and 2 round sable for oil painting, although I also use smaller sizes for some detail work, especially on figures. I used the same rounds when I still painted with hobby enamels.



The rule of thumb is to use the largest brush that you can for any application. That is, using a #0 where you could use a #2 just means more brush marks and work to get smooth, even coverage. I have a few very small detail brushes that I like from "The Army Painter" series, "Wargamer" brushes, "Insane Detail", "The Psycho", and the "Regiment" brushes.



<http://shop.thearmypainter.com/products.php?ProductGroupId=6>

I get these from a vendor called "Cool Mini or Not" who usually sells at the larger shows. They also do on-line sales:

<https://www.coolminiornot.com/shop/paints-and-brushes/the-army-painter>

These super small brushes (the "Insane Detailer" would probably be classed as a #100x0 brush) are good only for fine details. They don't hold enough paint for doing much with, and acrylics tend to clump up in them fast. They are just what you need sometimes for buttons, buckles, insignia, eyes, etc. I don't use them for general painting and not even for chipping or scratches (#10x0 liners are better for that).

For figure painting I use oil paints (starting with hobby enamels and transitioning to oils-enamels and then just oils). For this medium, I'd recommend Shep Paine's books "*How to Build Dioramas*" and "*Building and Painting Scale Figures*". Another good one is Mark Bannerman's Osprey title, "*Modeling Panzer Crewman of the Heer*" (Don't get tied up with Bannerman's title, he covers his techniques fairly well even if the examples are all WWII German). Paine's old Monogram "*Tips for Building Dioramas*" had some very good basic figure painting (enamels and oils) info. If you want to learn to paint with hobby acrylics, then there are a ton of titles out there. Calvin Tan (a very talented painter) has a whole series of Osprey books on various figure subjects all painted with acrylics.

A few good websites are: <http://www.hfmodeling.com/>

<http://www.timelinesforum.com>

<http://www.planetfigure.com/>

<http://www.coolminiornot.com/>

Be aware though that if you're going to learn any medium or technique other than hobby acrylics, you'll have a hard time finding "how to" info. The classic, old-school technique was artist oils, and some folks (like me) still paint using oils, but most of the info online is for acrylic painters. Table top war games became big money in the late '90s and as that hobby expanded, it blurred over into traditional scale modeling. Now we have all of the acrylic paint lines, like Vallejo, Andres, Reaper, and Citadel-Games Workshop that scale modelers are using for figure painting. This happened at the same time as the internet grew, so most of the info for figure painting online (and in books) is about acrylic techniques.

If you're looking for a recommendation, I would, of course, say go with oils. If you go by just the volume of information and number of products, then acrylics would seem to be the choice

Mike Roof

For detail painting I use "round" brushes in the size range from #2 (largest) to 0000 (smallest). The small brushes may be "spotters". The bristles range from about 1/2" to 1/4" long. I have brushes from several manufacturers, mostly from Hobby Lobby or other craft stores. I normally use sable brushes but there are good synthetic bristles, too. The higher the price the better the brush, but mid-range prices work well. I also have some larger brushes such as #3 - #5 for general painting.

After you clean your brushes clean them in Winsor & Newton Brush Cleaner & Restorer, which will help your brushes keep their points and last for a long time. It's available in the art department at HL.

Carl Wethington



“Maus (Mouse)”

The Panzerkampfwagon VIII (Maus) was Professor Ferdinand Porsche’s response to Adolf Hitler’s request for a super-heavy tank. Only two prototypes were ever built – one with a turret and one without. The Maus weighed 188 metric tons which earned it the title of heaviest AFV (Armored Fighting Vehicle) ever built. Trials for the tank began in 1944. The trials quickly revealed that the engine and transmission were underpowered for the size of the Maus. The Maus was capable of a blazing 12 miles an hour. The Maus was armed with one 12.8cm cannon on the turret with a coax 7.5cm cannon mounted just off to the side of the larger one.



The only surviving Maus is an empty shell that was taken as spoils of war to Russia and currently rests in the Kubinka Tank Museum in Kubinka, Odintsovsky District, Moscow Oblast, Russia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kubinka_Tank_Museum#/media/File:Metro-maus1.jpg

Trevor Edwards
Guest Contributor

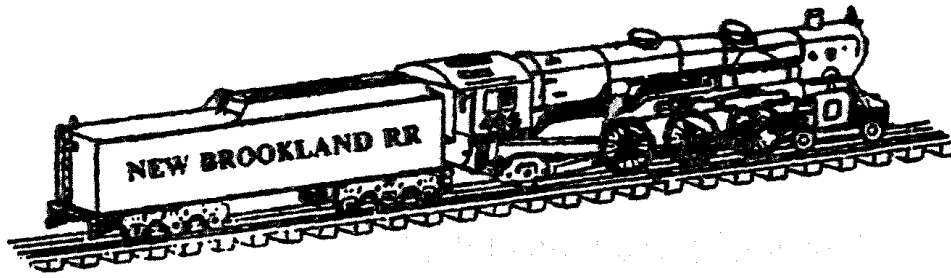
Support Our Local Vendors



10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 736-0959
www.hobbytown.com/Columbia_E-SC
htusasc@yahoo.com

(*) Denotes New Store Hours

*Sunday	12-5
Monday	11-7
*Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	11-7
*Thursday	12-6
*Friday	11-8
Saturday	10-8



405 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 791-3958
Mon – Sat, 10am to 6pm



5633 Broad Street
Sumter, SC 29154
803) 983-5084
Mon – Sun, 2pm to 7pm

Club Build Day, 4 June, 2016

Well we had a great club build day at the Roof's house. Several members attended and with all having a great day either building or eating. A big Thanks to all who brought food and beverages. Below are some pictures from the event.



Our Official Den Mother giving instructions.





Recipe for Cheeseburger Sliders

Who didn't love the Cheeseburger Sliders Jeff brought to the Club Build. Jeff's wife Kim has generously provided us with her recipe.

- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 ½ lb. ground beef
- 1 TBSPN yellow mustard
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- salt & pepper ~ to taste
- 24 slider buns (or dinner rolls) (King Hawaiian~Savory Butter)
- 6 slices Amer. cheese (make 4 squares of each slice) (or shredded Colby)



2-4 tbsp. butter, melted (optional)
 1/4 tsp. garlic powder (optional)
 1 tbsp. sesame seeds (optional)

This step can make the tops very dark and add to the already messy eating aspect. I will skip this step next time.

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a frying pan, cook ground beef, stir to break up finely. When done, drain excess fat. Add onions and garlic in with cooked beef and cook, on low, until onions are a bit soft. Stir in mustard and Worcestershire sauce. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Coat a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. Place the bottom halves of the slider buns in the dish (**also** separate into individual buns). Top with cooked beef mixture. Place a slice of cheese (or shredded cheese) over each slider. Place the top halves of buns on top.

(optional step) Brush the tops of the buns with the melted butter. Sprinkle garlic powder and sesame seeds on top. Bake @ 350° until the cheese melts and everything is warmed through, about 15-20 minutes.

~OPTIONAL TOPPINGS~

If desired, place on top of beef mixture before cheese is added: Dill Pickles, Additional Squirt of Mustard, Cooked Bacon - 1 to 2 inch piece for each slider

SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY MUSEUM

Discover the Palmetto State's Military History

For those of you who haven't visited the SC Military Museum, you're missing out on a great museum. Not only do they have armoured vehicles outside but, inside are numerous showcases and displays loaded with vintage military historical objects.

The Museum is honored to possess one of the largest collections of General Westmoreland's personal items and effects, including his four-star flag when he was later appointed Chief of Staff of the Army.

The museum is located at: 1225 Bluff Road / Columbia, SC 29201.

Their website is: <http://scmilitarymuseum.com/>.

"On February 6, 2007, the South Carolina Military Museum officially opened the doors of its first building to the public".



Some Exhibits on Display inside the Museum



Another Exhibit on Display inside the Museum

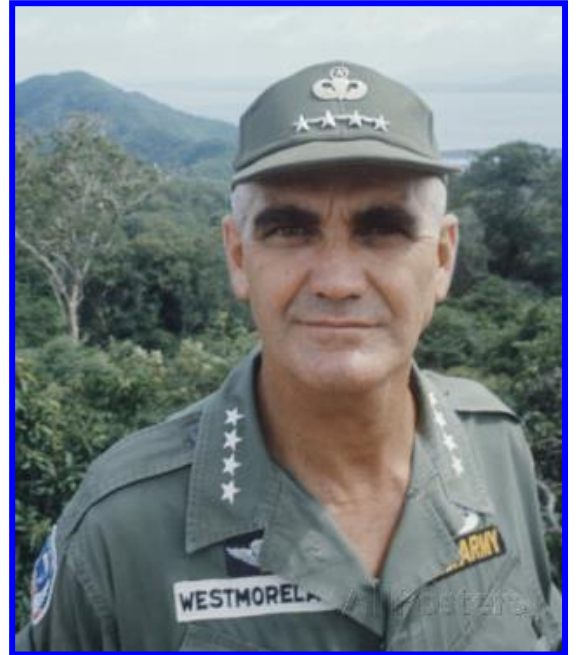


M48A1 Patton on Display outside the Museum, procured from the Rock Hill SC National Guard

General William Westmoreland Display

Born in South Carolina in 1914, General William C. Westmoreland was the Supreme Commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam from 1964-1968. The Museum is honored to possess one of the largest collections of General Westmoreland's personal items and effects, including his four-star flag when he was later appointed Chief of Staff of the Army.

“The U.S. military fought against the North Vietnamese by heavily bombing important targets in the north. It also fought the Viet Cong, a communist militant group supported by the North Vietnamese. Westmoreland's military strategy has widely been described as a war of attrition, quickly diminishing the number of opposing troops before replacements could be found. As a result, success in the conflict was often measured by the number of enemy troops killed. But over time, the public became skeptical of the U.S. Army's reports regarding the Vietcong body count. Many were also concerned



about the growing number of American casualties. Westmoreland was called back to the United States in 1967 to report on the war before Congress. He told Congress that with enough support "we will prevail ... over the Communist aggressor," according to a *TIME* magazine article published at the time. But support for the war and Westmoreland on the home front was already waning.

The South Vietnamese forces and the U.S. military troops were dealt a surprising blow during Tet, the lunar New Year festival, in 1968. Vietcong troops attacked cities and sites throughout South Vietnam, taking over several large cities and provincial capitals. News coverage of battles in Saigon and Hue exposed the people at home to the brutal fighting in Vietnam. While U.S. and South Vietnamese troops eventually drove them out, the conflict was the last straw for many Americans. Concern continued to grow about the United States' involvement in what appeared to be an unwinnable war.

Westmoreland remained focused on achieving victory despite the shifting public and political opinions regarding the war. Weeks after the Tet Offensive, he requested more than 200,000 additional troops be sent to Vietnam. President Lyndon B. Johnson put off his request and eventually decided to call Westmoreland back to the United States to serve as chief of staff for the U.S. Army. During his time in Vietnam, the number of U.S. troops engaged in the conflict grew from less than 20,000 to approximately 500,000”.

<http://www.biography.com/people/william-westmoreland-9528510#vietnam>

Basic Modeling: Mold Seam Profiles

We have a new slideshow entitled “Basic Modeling: Mold Seam Profiles”, by Mike Roof & Jeff Nelson, that is up on the Club’s website. Below are few sample slides to give you an idea of the information it contains.



Special Edition Modeling Reference

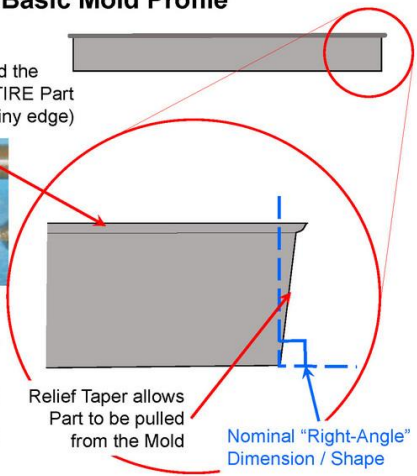
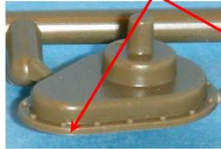
Basic Modeling: Mold Seam Profiles

By

Michael D. Roof Jeffrey A. Nelson
AMPS #1632 AMPS #2102
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"

Basic Mold Profile

A Mold Seam runs around the circumference of the ENTIRE Part (not the flange but the shiny edge)



- Mold Seam around the entire Part with a matching Relief Taper
- The Relief Taper is usually NOT Included in the Part's Nominal Dimensions by the Kit Designer

Techniques and Methods for Removing Mold Seams

A. Cut, Carve, and Trim with a No.11 Blade

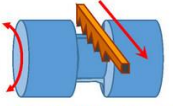
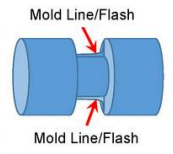
- Use this method to remove large amounts of material quickly and to roughly reshape profiles by leveling Relief Tapers and Mold Shifts.
- Use the very tip of the blade to reach tight areas and to carve into small radius areas. The closer to the tip of the blade the tighter the radius that the knife can cut without "chattering."
- Useful technique to remove large amounts of Flash.
- Be careful not to cut too deeply and note that on curves the edges of the knife cuts will leave sharp lines.



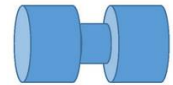
Techniques and Methods for Removing Mold Seams

D. Using Saws like Broaches to remove Seams in Tight Grooves (continued)

- You can use a fine saw in the same manner to remove mold seams that go across grooves and thin channels on parts that are too small to cut into with a knife.
- You will have more control if you orient the saw blade so that you cut as you draw the blade towards you rather than when pushing away.
- Note that on parts with round profiles, using a round Dental Broach will give you a better appearance, but you can also use a square broach by twisting the part as you draw the saw blade across the mold seams.
- A saw can also be used to "square up" and sharpen inside angles as you remove mold seams in them.

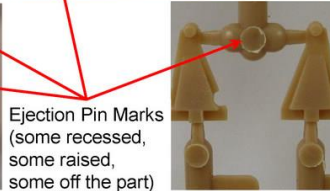
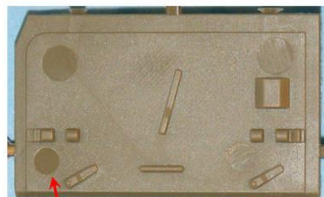
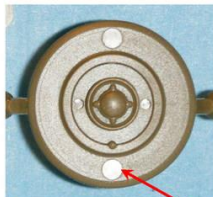


Draw the Broach across the Mold Lines (rotating the part will give a more uniform shape)



Ejector Pin Marks

- Ejector Pin Marks are usually a raised or recessed circle, on the inside or outside of the part

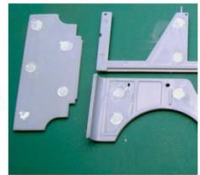
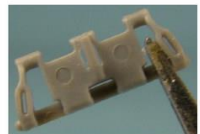


Ejection Pin Marks (some recessed, some raised, some off the part)

Techniques and Methods for Removing Ejector Pin Marks

B. Sunken Ejector Pin Marks

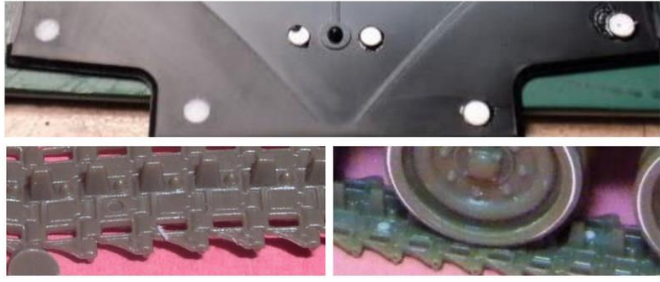
- Usually must be filled and then sanded smooth. Buff with steel wool to eliminate sanding marks.
- However, sometimes very shallow pin marks can be scraped and sanded to blend them into the surrounding area.
- Shallow marks can be filled using polyester putty (Squadron Green Stuff, 3M Acryl Red or Blue, WhiteOut, Mr. Surfacer, etc). However, filler shrinkage can often make the ejector pin mark visible again. Other fillers can also be used, such as 2-part epoxy putty or CA with micro-balloons or baking soda, but subsequent sanding to smooth them out can be problematic since these fillers can often become harder than the surrounding plastic.



Techniques and Methods for Removing Ejector Pin Marks

B. Sunken Ejector Pin Marks (continued)

- Punched styrene plastic disks can be glued into deeper sunken marks to reduce the amount of filler needed, thus mitigating the filler shrinkage issue. Allow styrene cement, if used, to dry completely to mitigate shrinkage that can make the mark visible later. **If CA glue is used, sand it out as soon as it sets.**



Removing Sprue Attachment Points (technically, "Gates")

B. Removing the Part from the Sprues.

- Once the Part is removed from the Sprue Runners, the "nibs" need to be clipped, filed, and/or sanded off without damaging the surface and details of the Part.



"Nub" or Gate Remnant

- High-quality Sprue Cutters and other specialty Cutters can be used to remove nearly all of the "nib", but care must be taken to not cut into the Part itself. A few light passes with a fine grit Sanding Stick should almost completely eliminate the Attachment Gate.
- Polishing with an Emory Board, bit of Steel Wool, or even an old Tooth Brush should be the final touch.

View or download a copy today:

http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/uploads/Basic_Modeling_Mold_Seam_Profiles.pdf

IPMS Book Review

Ampersand ~ The Military Machine Vol. 1 - U.S. Half-tracks Part 2 (HB)

The Ampersand Group, Inc. and David Doyle in conjunction with Hobbylink Japan have published another book on U.S. Army Half-tracks in the Military Modeling Series. Part 2 is a continuation of their previous book, Part 1, with Part 2 covering half-tracked multiple gun motor carriages and gun motor carriages.

What you get is an 8-1/2" x 11" glossy hardbound book covering 448 pages with high resolution black and white glossy, detailed historical photos covering the different variants the half-track based vehicle was used for.

Author: David Doyle

Company: The Ampersand Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-9861127-4-4

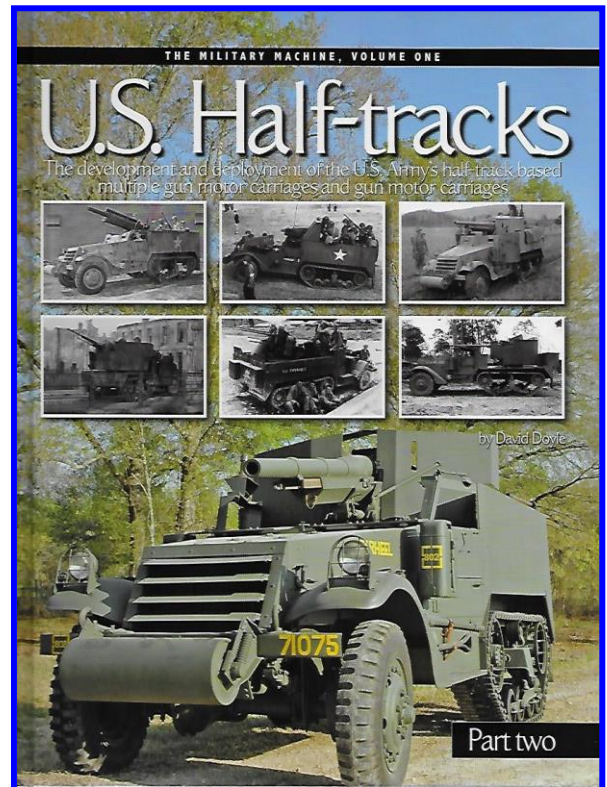
Other Publication Information: 448 pages, hardbound with 700 period photos.

Price: \$49.95

Product / Stock #: U.S. Half-tracks, Part 2

Web Site: <https://www.ampersandpubco.com/>

Product Web Page: <https://www.ampersandpubco.com/the-military-machine/us-half-tracks-part-2>



The book is divided into 8 chapters with Addendums, Appendix and a Bibliography:

- **Chapter 1: 81mm Mortar Carriers**, pages 1-58, covers the first half-track mounted weapons. This chapter discusses the attempt to standardize the 81mm mortar carriage, the crew testing and the orders surrounding the 81mm. One sees in reviewing the pages in this chapter as well as the complete book is the author's inclusion of detailed pictures along with well documented captions.
- **Chapter 2: Gun Motor Carriages** are discussed on pages 59-86. This chapter explains the need for the development and production of self-propelled artillery vehicles. Again what the author presents are detailed and crisp images of the T12 and T48 pilot program vehicles.
- **Chapter 3: Howitzer Motor Carriages** are presented in pages 87-110. This chapter discusses the need for artillery self-propelled weapons which could be rapidly deployed. What the Ordnance Committee decided was the development and production of programs for the 75mm Howitzer Motor Carriage designated the T30 and the T119 using a 105mm Howitzer.
- **Chapter 4: Multiple Gun Motor Carriages** are covered in pages 111-230. In this chapter the author reviews and discusses the M13, M14, M15, M16, M17 and other variants such as the T28, T28E1, T37, M15A1 of the multiple gun motor carriages. Undoubtedly because of the numerous variants, this chapter becomes the largest in number of pages within this book. Like all previous chapters the images presented are well detailed and clear.
- **Chapter 5: Field Modifications** are presented on pages 231-246. This chapter presents pictures and discusses the field unit modifications made by the GI. A field modification made such as the installation of the M45 mounts from the M51 trailers and mounting them on M2s. These were then designated the M16B or Wasp. Additional field modifications are also included.
- **Chapter 6: Field Use 1940-45.** Pages 247-324 discuss the field use of the half-tracked vehicles during the 1940 through 1945 period through the use of images "largely in chronological order".
- **Chapter 7: Field Use Post-WWII.** The author in pages 325-354 writes about the new roles the half-tracked vehicles took on during the post WWII period. Even though most had been declared obsolete many were used by the Allies and in some scenarios they were used at the start of the Korean War.
- **Chapter 8: Three Quarter Tracks.** Three Quarter Tracked vehicles are presented on pages 355-394. This chapter discusses the efforts to increase the load capacity of the half-tracks by installing the suspension and tracks from M2 light tanks. Upon the approval from the Ordnance Committee this vehicle would become the Chassis, Half Track, T3. This reviewer was not aware of the existence of the three quarter tracked vehicles and was thoroughly amazed by the author's inclusion in this book.

- **Addendums A and B:** The author on pages 395-432 gives a brief discussion on topics included in the Part 1 version of U.S. Army Half-tracks and additional information on the M3 Scout Car.
- **Appendix:** The Appendix has pertinent information in table form detailing the motor carriage contract and registration numbers for the vehicles discussed. Shown in these tables include; Qty., Type, Contract, PO, Registration number, Ord. Serial # and make. This would certainly be valuable references during a model build.
- **Bibliography:** Within this section the reader will be pleasantly surprised not only to find references used throughout the book but, also 6 full page color prints of manufacturer advertising material. What a great addition David Doyle has provided.

In conclusion let me start out by saying this is a very large book and contains extremely detailed crisp black/white images. For \$49.95 the value of this book is well worth the bucks spent. Since most armour modelers require detailed images while performing research prior to building, this book does fulfill that need. I would certainly recommend this book for those historians and modelers to add to their arsenal of reference literature. If Part 1 was purchased, without a doubt Part 2 is a must to have. Part 1 will be placed on my next purchase list.

Thanks to the Ampersand Group, Inc. and to IPMS/USA for allowing me to review this book and to Dave Morrissette, (1st VP) IPMS/USA for allowing me to include this review in "The Wildcat Newsletter".

Reviewed by: Phillip Cavender

Panther vs Sherman Survey Question



So how did the Panther perform against the Sherman at the Battle of The Bulge? The Panther was a larger tank, greater horsepower, superior firepower and higher speeds. Was it the higher number of M4A3 76mm Shermans built (9924 vs 2953)? Was it the experience and fortitude of the American and Allied GI? In the end we know the Shermans conquered. Steven Zaloga in his book, (¹Zaloga, Gerrard 2008 74-75), suggest that.....?

In this article I've attempted to wet and stimulate your mind as to why the Allies won at the Battle of the Bulge. In your research, you will find there are quite a few books and articles on the web and in print.

Here's a request: **Send me your comments as to "why you think the Allies were able to fend off the German combatants" and I'll post them next issue".**

Specifications			
M4A3 76mm Sherman		Panther Ausf.G.	
Crew	5	Crew	5
Combat Weight	36 tons	Combat Weight	44.8 metric tons
Power to Weight Ratio	11.3 hp/T	Power to Weight Ratio	15.5 hp/T
Overall Length	24.2 ft	Overall Length	8.6 m (28.2 ft)
Width	8.9 ft	Width	3.4 m (11.2 ft)
Height	11.2 ft	Height	2.9 m (9.5 ft)
Engine	Ford GAA 500 hp 8 cylinder	Engine	Maybach HL 12 cylinder 700 hp
Transmission	Synchromesh 5 sp forward, 1 reverse	Transmission	AK 7-200, 7 sp forward, 1 reverse
Fuel Capacity	172 gal	Fuel Capacity	720 liters (190.2 gal)
Max. Speed	24 mph	Max. Speed	55 km/h (34.2 mph)
Number Produced	9,924	Number Produced	2,953
Main Armament	M1A1 76 mm, Coaxial .30 cal MG	Main Armament	7.5 cm KwK L/70, Coaxial 7.62 mm LMG
Secondary Armament	.50 cal M2HB, .30 cal LMG	Secondary Armament	Two 7.62 mm MG 34 LMG

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M4_Sherman

¹Zaloga, Steven J, and Howard Gerrard. *Panther vs. Sherman: Battle of the Bulge, 1944*. Oxford: Osprey Pub., 2008. Print

"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..."

Well, folks, this is the 4th issue I've had the pleasure to be the editor. Don't forget about the upcoming events to show our support and to our next club build day.

If you aren't a member of AMPS International you're missing a lot of information presented in the May / June 2016 issue. In this issue are articles such as:

- 2016 AMPS International Convention After-Action Report by Tim Darrah. In this article you will see pictures of our own Tony, Rebecca and Sheila hard at work at the show.
- Judge's Certification, Skill Level Promotions, and AMPS Masters Honor Roll.
- 2016 Winners List.
- IS-4M: "Screaming Mimi," Soviet Style by Cookie Sewell.
- Third Time's the Charm by Danny Egan.

Another good reason to join AMPS International. ***Join AMPS Now!***

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.

Happy modeling,

Phil Cavender

Editor, The Wildcat
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"