

# Tactical Notes



February 2024

## Tamiya's M18 Hellcat & Vought AU-1 Corsair



**Next Meeting 7 PM Thursday February 15th, 2024**

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## Editor's Notes

MMCL Members,

I hope everyone is doing well, and you have a Hetzer kit you have started working on for our upcoming Smackdown at our monthly meeting on April 18th. I have my kit started, but moving slowly on it. This month's issue of Tactical Notes brings a couple of new articles, and a couple of new features. The articles this month are one on the Vought Au-1 Corsair by club member Dennis Sparks, and a build review of Tamiya's M18 Hellcat by me. The two new features this month are "Tactical Trades", a sort of classified ad for kits or decals our club members may be looking for, and "Tool or Tip of the Month".

Everyone keep building and I will see you at our monthly meeting or a build day.

My email address again to submit content is:  
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Thanks  
Jason

Cover Photo Info:

Privately-Owned M18 Hellcat photographed at  
<https://americangimuseum.org/>

By Benzene at English Wikipedia, CC BY 2.5,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6805010>

Don't Forget to join us on our Saturday Morning Workshops. The Workshop is open most Saturdays from 6 AM to Noon.



# President's Page

Dear MMCL Members,

Our awesome club is now 48 years old! When I was 13, I remember going to the Hobby Center down the street from where I lived to buy some 1/72 armor kits. There was a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in joining a model club. Years later, I discovered it was Terry Hill starting the MMCL. In 2002 (after being out of the hobby for 22 years), I saw this store in the Hikes Point Plaza. After driving past it several times, I finally decided to go in. Needless to say, my interest in the hobby was peaked, again! I hope your enthusiasm for modeling is as big as mine. Recently, I have been passionate about nostalgic builds. It's fun taking an old kit, building it, and adding extra detail. I thoroughly enjoy the old Monogram, Esci, and Bandai kits. I challenge each one of you to tap into your modeling interests and enjoy it. It doesn't matter what your genre or ability level is, have FUN doing it. Try it and bring in your nostalgic build for Show-N-Tell and share your passion.



Currently, I believe we are in the “Golden Age” of modeling. The multi-media kits, aftermarket items, paints, modeling references, and techniques are reaching new levels. And now with 3D Printing, the possibilities are astronomical. Now is the time to get younger individuals involved in the hobby. Having some of our younger members show up at the Workshop and show off their work has rejuvenated this old fart! If you have any suggestions on how we can get more youngsters interested, reach out to me or any of the other officers and share your ideas.

The last topic I want to bring up is supporting your local hobby shop (No, Brian did not ask me to mention this!). We are extremely fortunate to have Scale Reproductions close to home. It is the best hobby shop in the region. The only shop I know of that rivals Scale Reproductions is Mark Twain Hobbies in St. Louis. Definitely too far to drive! I have read several modeling magazine editorials that mention the closing of a hobby shop. Even some well-known, online stores have closed over the past few years. I stop in Scale Reproductions 2-3 times a week. It's fun, rewarding, and my stash has grown exponentially. Where would we go on a Saturday morning after a building session? So, where ever you live, support your local brick and mortar hobby shop.

## Reminders:

- Donate a kit or two for our monthly raffle at the February meeting.
- Bring your completed model(s) for Show-N-Tell
- Renew your club membership for 2024
- Start building your Hetzer for the April Smackdown. Any kit, any scale, anything goes! You can get your Hetzer products from Scale Reproductions. Remember, you get a 10% discount.

As always, relieve your stress level and build a model (not an AFV kit)!

See you at the meeting

Rich

## **Vought AU-1 Corsair      BuNo 129417   86L**

By: Dennis Sparks

The AU-1 was the final production version of the Corsair to be used by the US armed forces. The only prototype was converted from an F4U-5N and flew for the first time on 31 January 1952, with the 110 production examples delivered by the end of the year.

Optimized for the ground attack role for use by the Marines in Korea, a number of additional armor plates were installed to protect the pilot, fuel tanks and engine. Five pylons were installed on strengthened outer wing panels to carry five 100lb. rockets or bombs, with the pylons on the inboard wing sections and fuselage capable of carrying up to six 500lb. bombs. The four wing mounted 20mm cannon as carried by the F4U-4s and -5s were retained. And since higher altitude performance wasn't needed, these aircraft were fitted with the Pratt and Whitney R-2800-83AW, which had only a single stage supercharger that limited the engine to about 2200 hp. at takeoff. Curiously, these engines had been built by Chevrolet for the USAAF and were subsequently bought as surplus by Capital Airlines. The Navy re-purchased them from Capital, refurbished them as needed and added a water injection system.

Originally designated as the F4U-6, these 111 aircraft were later re-designated as the AU-1 to reflect their intended ground attack mission.

Note: The Navy's original aircraft designation system had identified the intended role, the manufacturer, the consecutive type in that role from that manufacturer and the version. Hence, an F4U-5 was a Fighter, the 4th fighter design from Vought, which had been assigned the letter U, and the 5th modification of the basic design. Since this latest Corsair was instead intended for ground attack, the designation was changed to A for attack, from Vought (U), and the first version (1). When the aircraft was the first design for that mission from a given manufacturer, the number 1 for the design was omitted, so this aircraft was designated as the AU-1 and not as an A1U-1.



If the various internet sources are all correct, BuNo 129417 had an interesting career. During the Korean War, It was assigned to Marine Attack Squadron VMA-212 aboard the escort carrier CVE-116, the USS Badoeng Strait. Joe Baugher's web page of US military aircraft serial numbers (joebaugher.com) indicates that after the war the aircraft was sold to the French Navy on 17 April 1954.

There is a photograph of the aircraft on page 48 of Detail and Scale book #56, "F4U, Part 2", while it was assigned to the Naval Air Station Akron, Ohio, with the caption indicating that the photo was taken at Knoxville, TN in September 1956.

Baugher's entry for this BuNo further states that the aircraft was once again sold to the French Navy only a few months later, in April 1957. Other sources indicate that this apparent transfer of ownership back and forth between the US and the French appears to have happened to several of the French AU-1s when they had been returned to the US for refurbishing.

The final entry in Baugher notes for 129417 indicate that it was last reported as being stored at an airfield in Cuers, France in the late 1960s. Several of these Corsairs were later purchased by private owners and returned to the US. Some were restored to flight and continue to be seen at airshows. But it looks like 129417 might not have been one of the ones to have been so repatriated and so was probably scrapped.

The French ultimately used 69 AU-1s, along with 94 of the similar F4U-7s that had been purpose-built for them, before finally retiring the last of them in 1964. One source notes that the last flight of French Corsairs was a 16 plane formation flyover at Cuers on 28 September 1964.

This model was built in December 2010, using Hasegawa's 1/48th scale kit #09437, and using the decals provided with the kit. It's painted overall Model Master enamel #1717 Dark Sea Blue, which I lightened with a bit of white. After applying the decals, I added a final finish of a mixture of Model Master Acryl Semi-gloss and Flat clear. The cockpit was painted with Humbrol enamel #226 green and flat black, with strips of masking tape added over the molded-in seat belts to give them some more depth. I also substituted True Details resin wheels, but sanded off much of the prominent bulges meant to indicate the weight of the aircraft on the tires.



# Tamiya's M18 Hellcat in 1/35 Scale

By Jason Sizemore

## Background on the M18

In 1940 U.S. military planners, having watched the German armored “blitzkrieg” in Europe, were looking for a way to respond to this new kind of war. Their response was the tank destroyer. The first tank destroyer the U.S. Army fielded was the M10. It was a pairing of the already available M4 tank chassis and a 3-inch gun in a rotating turret. The speed of the M10 however was not up to expectations. This led to a new tank destroyer, the M18. The M18 was built on a newer lighter chassis, and used the new 76MM gun, a lighter version of the 3-inch gun on the M10. The M18 first entered service in the Spring of 1944 on the Italian front.

## The Kit

This is a new tool Tamiya kit that came out in 2022. The only two other kits I know of for the M18 are 25 plus years old (Academy and AFV Club). So as is the normal case with new Tamiya kits it went together great. The only place I had any fit issues was the back part of the upper and lower hulls. Used a little Revell Contacta cement and a trigger clamp and it was good to go. The barrel is a very nice slide molded one, but I used a brass one just because. The tow cable is the only real let down of the kit. It is a braided thread that when cut, unravels. I built the kit mostly out of the box. I added stowage from ValueGear, a metal barrel, and a tow cable I made from picture hanging wire. I used the included kit decals and they laid down fine with Microsol.

## Paint

I primed the model in Tamiya red oxide primer from a rattle can. I base coated the model in Tamiya Olive drab XF-62. I then did a top coat of Ammo by Mig Olive Drab light base (A.Mig 0927). I painted the tracks in Tamiya XF-84 Dark Iron. I did some light weathering with AK dark brown wash for green vehicles.

## Gotchas:

- Put your decals on before adding stowage, I didn't so there were some decals I could not use.
- Put the link and length tracks on in the order the directions layout.





## Tactical Trades

Have a kit or a set of decals you have been looking for. Let me know and I will post it here and maybe a club member has or can get it for you.

Club Member and President Rich Guetig is looking for a Italeri SWS with Flak 43 Kit No. 370



## Tools or Tips of the Month

From Jason Sizemore

**Wax Picker Pencil:** This is a tool I think is meant for use in rhinestone crafts or something called "Diamond Painting". What is it? It is a pencil but instead of having graphite or lead inside it has a core of wax. The wax is slightly tacky and when the pencil is sharpened it is used to place rhinestones on artwork. It is great for placing photoetch or small flat model pieces into place. Best part is parts don't ping off and get lost in the carpet.

If you want to buy one online I think you can search for "rhinestones picker pencil" and find them. I know Amazon sales them. They are cheap too, a dozen of them for \$8. This should last any modeler a lifetime.





From Dave Philley

I've only been modeling again for a couple of years... so I don't have the full bag of tricks that a lot of our more experienced modelers possess. That said I ran into an issue with masking tape sticking to the hull of my 1/700 Kitty Hawk Aircraft Carrier recently. I had put a coat of Hull Red down on the bottom of the ship and then masked it to do the Hull Grey and Black water line. When I took the masking off the Hull Red it left a heavy tape residue (maybe I left the tape on too long or put it on while the paint was still damp). I struggled with how to get the residue off. I found a bottle of Goo Gone in my workshop... it helped a little but not well. My wife suggested Isopropyl Alcohol... no luck. Then I did a little Youtubing... found recommendations for the Goo Gone, Olive Oil and WD-40. After finding the Olive Oil ineffective (and having already tried the Goo Gone), I tried the WD-40. WOW! It worked great! I sprayed a little of it directly on the model at first but eventually settled on a process of spraying some into a small paint cup and using a liberally dunked Q-Tip to apply the lubricant to the model. I then used a clean Q-tip to gather up the loosened residue and eventually a clean paper towel to wipe the finished hull clean. I found the to be a very effective process for removing a tape residue. I'm sure I'll be using it again in the future... and maybe it is something that MMCL members will find useful too.

# Military Modelers Club of Louisville

## “Hetzer Tank Destroyer”

### SMACKDOWN



#### Guidelines;

1. Any Kit
2. Any Scale
3. Any Markings
4. Scratch-built models are allowed!!!!!!!

\*\* Must be a **NEW** build and finished by **April 18, 2024** (MMCL monthly meeting).

\*\* Members can have more than one entry.

\*\* Members present will vote on the best entry. Non-entrants will count the votes and determine the winners.

\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Place will win a plaque and a \$25.00 gift certificate, 2<sup>ND</sup> Place a \$15.00 gift certificate and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place a \$10.00 gift certificate.

# 2024 Military Modelers Club of Louisville IPMS Invitational Contest

**New location**

**Paroquet Springs Convention Center  
395 Paroquet Springs Drive,  
Shepherdsville, KY, 40165**

**Saturday Sept. 27th 9:00 AM - 3:30PM**

**SHOW THEME:**

**Models of subjects from the 80's**



**FOOD  
CONCESSIONS  
ON SITE**

Show Contact :

Joe Betz

[jbetz2970@gmail.com](mailto:jbetz2970@gmail.com)

Vendor Contact:

Dave Crouch

[dcrou@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcrou@bellsouth.net)

Website: [MMCL.org](http://MMCL.org)

**Largest  
Raffle  
In Region 4**

IPMS Guideline:

"In light of the current pandemic situation, please be aware that neither IPMS/USA nor its Chapters (Military Modelers Club Of Louisville) are liable for any potential transmission of illnesses.

Those planning to attend events do so at your own risk and should

(A) follow existing safe social distancing and mask use recommendations and

(B) abide by any local or state regulations regarding gatherings."

General Admission: \$5.00

Contest Entry Fee: \$10 (\$8 for IPMS Members)

Includes First two Models, \$1 per additional model,

Juniors (Under 18) \$5 unlimited entries

See [MMCL.org](http://MMCL.org) for

Contest Entry Forms and Categories



**Military Modeling  
Club Of Louisville  
MMCL**

**January**

**2024**

**PNC Bank**

**Starting Cash Balance:** **\$9,022.11**

Cash Receipts		Date	Check Receipts		Date
Workshop			Item		
	\$60.00		Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>		<b>Total Reimbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>\$60.00</b>		

Cash Or Debit Expenses:		Date	Cash Or Debit Expenses:		Date
Kyana September		1/10/2024	Item		
Reimbursement			Item		0.00
Mission BBQ			Item		0.00
	225.00		Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
	50.00		Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
	100.00		Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
<b>Total Cash Expenses:</b>					<b>(\$375.00)</b>

Reimbursable Expenses:		Date	Reimbursable Expenses:		Date
Item			Item		
	0.00				0.00
<b>Total Reimbursements:</b>					<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>					<b>(\$375.00)</b>

**NET Monthly  
Increase(Decrease):**

**ENDING CASH BALANCE:** **January** **2024** **\$8,707.11**  
**(\$315.00)**

**Notes:**