

# Tactical Notes

December 2024

**So many kits... So little time...**



## **Our Next Meeting**

Thursday December 19th, 6 PM.  
Year End Meeting & Holiday Dinner

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## Editor's Notes

MMCL Members,

Happy Holidays. I hope you guys are getting some bench time in during this possible busy and chaotic time. I know I sure got a lot of bench time in over the Thanksgiving Holiday. I finished up my "Airfix out of the box" build which I wrote about in this issue. I also mostly completed a 1/48 scale Tamiya T-34-85, down to weathering and decals now.

In this issue of Tactical Notes beside my article on my Airfix Spitfire build, Julia has written a review of the latest Issue of Fine Scale Modeler which is a great issue all about weathering.

I hope to see you all at the **Holiday Dinner on December 19th at 6 PM.**

Happy Modeling and I hope Santa brings you all your modeling wants  
Jason

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



**Membership Renewal:** Please renew as soon as you can. You can renew online (PayPal), in person at the Saturday Workshop or at a Monthly Meeting, or at Scale Reproductions (Please, NO debit or credit cards).

**President's Page**

A Big Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from  
Rich Guetig



## Spitfire Mk. Vb Airfix “Out of the Box”

### Background ...

The Supermarine Spitfire does not really need an introduction to anyone somewhat familiar with WW2 aircraft, but the Spitfire Mk.Vb is classified as early Merlin powered variant, with a Merlin 45 series engine. The Mk.Vb usually had the type ‘B’ wing which had the armament of two 20mm 60 round drum fed Hispanos cannons, and four .303 Browning machine guns. The Mk.Vb also had a few new features, a blown canopy manufactured by Malcom with more head room and visibility, and a new filter by Volks for sandy environments.



### The Model ...

The kit is a 1/48th scale release from Airfix part of a two-kit pack called “Dogfight Doubles” released in 2014 (Kit A50160). This was the first kit I purchased from Scale Reproduction Inc. when I decided to start back in the hobby. The kit is considered a “starter kit” since it came with Humbrol acrylic paints, brushes and two tubes of cement. The paints were not good, but I still use the brushes today.

The kit has a good amount of detail, and the fit was good as well. I only had one issue with the bit behind the engine cowling, had to clamp it down and it still was not 100% the correct shape, but in the end, I think it was good enough. The kit has the options of building wheels up or down, and cockpit open or closed, nice features in a kit in this price range.

This kit is my entry into the MMCL “Airfix Out of the Box” build so I used the kit decals which are printed by Cartograf. The decals went down very well with a little Micro-Sol. The decals are markings for an aircraft that was part of No.229 Squadron RAF at Malta in December of 1942. This aircraft tail code EP641 was last flown by Pilot Officer Sandy Harold Kendall Goodyear, a Canadian from Newfoundland. Twenty-One-year-old Pilot Officer Goodyear failed to return after enemy action over Sicily on February 15th 1943.

I painted the kit with Vallejo Air paints. The interior was painted in a lightened mixture of Fern Green 70.833, the underside was UK Azure Blue 71.108, and the upper surfaces with BS Dark Earth 71.323 and Sand Yellow 71.028. I weathered the kit with Ammo by Mig panel line washes and artist oils. I made the aircraft look pretty dirty, in my mind it was at Malta during the siege, flying a lot of sorties protecting one of the most heavily bombed places on Earth at the time.

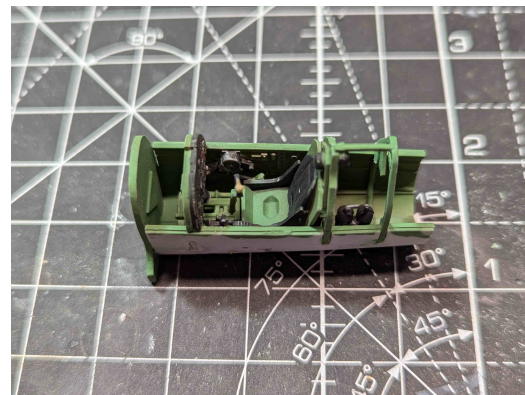
## Kit Pros:

- Good detail, like possible flaps and rudder
- Options for wheels up or down
- Options for cockpit open or closed
- Good out of the box decals.
- Easy to assembly



## Kit Cons:

- Only one decal option
- Part of the cowling in front of the cockpit was a little misshapen
- Paints in the kit are garbage
- The kit come with an inflight stand but it looks pretty cheap and toy like



## Get it While You Can !

Fine Scale Modeler, magazine, January/ February 2025 issue

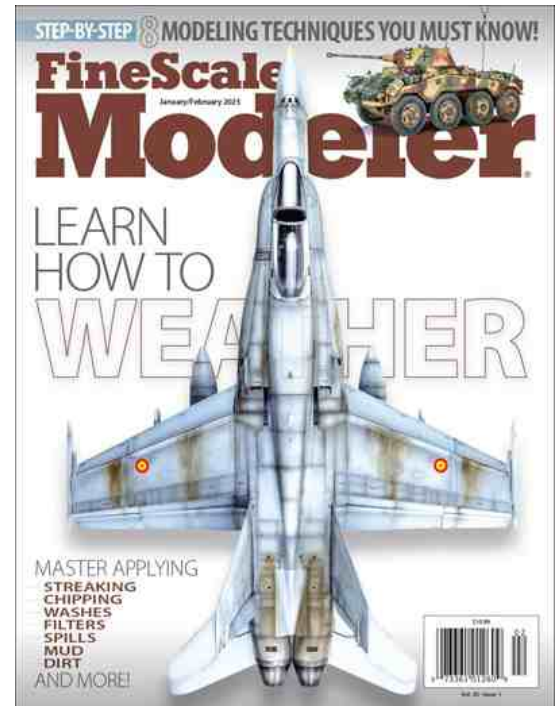
By: Julia Evelsizer, Member at Large

My fellow modelers, a few days ago I went to Scale Reproductions to pick up a kit for the Christmas party. While there this month's issue of Fine Scale Modeler magazine caught my attention. It has a beautifully detailed F-18 hornet jet on the cover with a camouflaged German Puma in the top right corner.

This issue covers weathering in general and then goes into specifics. It shows you how to with detailed instructions and great photography. Covered topics include Shine, Shading, Washes, Streaking, Chipping, Penciling, Filters, Dust and Mud, Stains, and Pigments. The articles are written by Aaron Skinner, Editor and Chief of the magazine. Also, Ivan Momcilovic and Raul Corral are contributing authors.

I recommend you run out and get a copy immediately. This issue is a great and complete mini guide to all the weathering techniques that brings our models to life. If you get this issue you will want to keep it for years as a reference to go back to for every build. There are guidebooks with this information that sell for over \$50 dollars. With a retail price of \$10.99 dollars minus our club discount at Scale Reproductions this is a great value.

\* This article is not sponsored by the magazine or SRI.





Hello MMCL Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform all of you of the passing of Ted Grant. Ted passed away November 20th at Norton Hospital. He was a huge supporter of the MMCL, donating kits for raffles and working General Admission at all of our shows. He regularly attended Saturday Workshop Sessions, MMCL monthly meetings, and our yearly Christmas Banquet. Ted was an avid modeler of British Spitfire's and most recently, Templar Knight busts and figures. One of his busts received a special award at our show in September. Ted will be missed by all!

The following is from Ted's wife Barbara.

I want everyone to remember Ted as he was - vibrant, enthusiastic, happy, funny, an interested friend, and willing to learn the tricks and trades of the members of MMCL."