



"STICKY FINGERS"

IPMS HORNCHURCH - NEWSLETTER

Greetings Model Makers

Well the turmoil of another AGM has passed; it seemed a long one this year, when some of them have been over in 20-30 minutes. The committee for next year has only one change from last year; namely Peter Bagshaw has taken office as the new Assistant Secretary in place of Steve Hubbard. Welcome to the fold Peter.

Congratulations are in order to Mick Pitts for taking the Wally Arrowsmith Trophy for the aircraft competition and to Peter Bagshaw for winning the IPMS Hornchurch Trophy for the miscellaneous competition. It would be nice to see some new faces achieving these positions this time next year, it's certainly not impossible, so its fingers out and get modelling.

The competitions for this year will be spaced out similarly to last time, please check the timetable late on for details. There are some different variations to the subjects, with more open competitions, giving you more options in what you wish to build, rather than being tied down to a theme. There was a suggestion of one competition per month, but the membership outvoted this idea. My own personal idea is "that when a plan is running OK, leave well alone".

For the benefit of those club members who were not at the AGM, Club monthly fees have been increased from £1.50 to £2, this is as a result of club expenditure in purchasing two large trophies for the annual competitions. These trophies are one off buys, so the committee expects the club funds to level out again by this time next year. The meetings fee increase will commence from June.

The invitation from IPMS Bampton to attend their show on 5th September 1998 has been acknowledged more information to you as and when I receive it.

On 28th May I paid a visit to Beatties in Romford to determine whether they would be prepared to allow us to run a Saturday modelling session in their shop. I spoke with a man in the shop and also the Assistant Manager about this idea and they both thought it was a great idea. They could provide us with a couple of chairs, but sadly not a table, we would have to provide our own, maybe a pasting table with our green covering (*Ed - I have some lining paper if that's of any use?*). There is an ongoing 4 week war gaming scheme in operation on Saturdays which has some weeks still to run yet, but I have assurances that all the notice they would need from us is a couple of days. I have the manageress's name & telephone number as contacts. Are Robin Bellamy, Mick Pitts & Alan Carr still interested in this venture, even if they are notified at a very late notice? Is anyone else interested? Has any one got a table that they could provide?

The Quiz this year will be arranged as the membership requested at the AGM on the basis of teams of 4 or 5 modellers in each group, according to how many people turn up. I will attempt to get 20 questions and 20 picture questions into a format where papers can be rotated round the groups.



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Ken

Assistant Secretary

As the incoming Assistant Secretary I would like to thank Steve for all the work he has done for the Club in the past years. Much of this work has been either unnoticed or forgotten, for example he & Robin Bellamy have manned the stand at the IPMS Nationals single handed, in addition Steve has transported models to and from the M.E.E. Much of this work has caused some loss of earnings as he is self-employed and any time off work can effectively mean no pay. I hope that I can contribute at least as much.

On a "Sticky Fingers" note I would like to ask everyone if they could think about writing something for inclusion in the monthly issue, be it a write up of a recent model you have made or even a request for information.

Peter



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For Those Interested In the 8th Air Force

During the weekend of 8/9/10th May, my wife and I stayed at the Mill Hotel in Sudbury, Suffolk. On the Saturday we went shopping into Bury St Edmunds where I always visit the model shop called "Model Junction". I managed to find the last two remaining cans of "Tank Grey" spray. On our return journey we went to Lavenham, a quaint old village of Suffolk. The day was warm so we went into the celebrated pub & restaurant called "The Swan" and had a quick half to cool down. I did know this pub had close connections with the 8th Air Force during the war, and the names all over the pub walls bear evidence of this. One wall had photographs of the 2/3/4th August 1970, the reunion of the 487th Bomb Group (H) from Lavenham, quite a large group attended.

There was also a very nice photograph in a frame of Brig General Frederick Walker Castle 8th Air Force Commanding Officer 4th Combat Wing, HQ Bury St Edmunds June 1943 to Dec 1944, killed in action leading the 3rd Air Division 8th AF at the Battle of the Bulge. There was also a group photograph taken from a local newspaper about that time of several high-ranking officers at the forming of the 8th AF in England. This picture appears in the "Mighty Eighth" book by Roger A. Freeman. There was also a photograph of an F-111F from RAF Lakenheath 495th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, all autographed around the edge.

When I returned home I decided to look through my "Mighty Eighth" book to see what I could find on Brig/Gen. Castle. The following is what I discovered.

Frederick W. Castle

Brigadier General HQ 4th Bomb wing 24th Dec 1944 "Posthumous".
Born 14th October 1908 in Manila, Philippine Islands. Enlisted in New Jersey National Guard as a private on 2nd Oct 1924. Accepted by West Point on 1st July 1926 and commissioned 2/LF in US Army Engineers on 12th June 1930. Accepted for Flying Training and rated as fully qualified Pilot on 22nd Dec 1931. Served with 17th Pursuit Squadron, Selfridge Field until resigning the service on 17th Feb 1934. Remained on reserve status. Joined Sperry Organisation, which manufactured the Norden bombsight. Returned to active service 19th Jan 1942 and was selected as one of eight to accompany Major/General Eaker to the UK. Arrived 20th Feb 1942 and between 23rd Feb 1942 & 19th June 1943 was A4 at 8th Bomber Command with responsibility for planning airbase & depot systems. Promoted to Colonel on 1st Jan 1943 & volunteered to command 94th Bomb Group Jun 1943. Commanding officer 4th C.B.W. 14th April 1944. Promoted to Brig/Gen on 20th Nov 1944. Action for which award was made occurred whilst Brig/Gen Castle was acting as Air Task Force Commander and flying in a 487th B.G. B-17G 44-8444. Other awards D.S.C. – L.M. – D.F.C. (3 OLC) AM (4 OLC) P.H. Belgium Croix de Guerre with Palm, French Legion of Honour, Order of Kutuzov, 2nd & 3rd degree (Soviet) and Silver Cross Virtuti Militari Class V (Polish).

Action



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Third Division 24th Dec 1944 to attack 11 airfields east of the Rhine. Electing to make the trip and lead this force was Brig/Gen Castle Commander of the 4th Wing and a veteran of 29 missions. Riding in a 487th B.G. B-17 from Lavenham that morning he found the weather much as predicted. However ground haze so restricted visibility that the take-off of fighters assigned to escort the forward bomber boxes was delayed, although it was expected that they would overhaul the bombers before crossing into hostile territory. The Luftwaffe however made an unprecedented move in bringing in a fighter gruppe over the Allied lines in the Liege area to meet the lead of the bomber column before Mustangs arrived on the scene. Four 487th B-17s were shot down and 5 so badly battered that they were abandoned after making emergency landings in Belgium. One victim was that carrying Brig/Gen Castle.

Engine trouble had caused the Fortress to abandon its position in the formation at the time of the first pass by Me-109s. Whilst trying to join the rear box the Fortress was hit again, the navigator wounded and the engines set on fire. Castle took control and though the bomber was still under attack he would not jettison the bombs for fear of killing Allied troops or civilians below, nor would he take evasive action as it would endanger the crew whilst they parachuted.

A further burst of cannon fire severed the burning wing and sent the Fortress spinning down, from which there was no escape for Brig/Gen Castle, six of the crew lived.

General Castle was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honour. This incident being the last for which such an award was made to a member of the Eighth. A colourful personality, one of Eakers "Original Seven", who left the safety of a desk job to take over a demoralised B-17 Group in the summer of 1943. Castle was the highest-ranking officer in the Eighth to be awarded the "Medal of Honour".



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Monthly Diary 1998/99

June 15 th	RAF Theme night – Bring along any models relating to the RAF to celebrate the 80 th birthday of the RAF		
July 20 th	Ted Taylor's airbrush clinic – problems with your airbrushing ask your Uncle Ted, he'll sort you out!		
August 17 th	Competition	Aircraft	Carrier aircraft – anything that flew from an aircraft carrier
		Miscellaneous	Green – anything you like so long as the predominant colour is green.
September 21 st	Terry Scott – guest speaker		
October 19 th	Competition	Aircraft	Open
		Miscellaneous	Open
November 16 th	Bill Matthews – guest speaker on vacform kits.		
December 21 st	Quiz night		
January 18 th	Competition	Aircraft	Any 72 nd scale kit detailed using plastic only, i.e. no resin or etched brass (unless supplied with the kit)
		Miscellaneous	Open
February 15 th	Video night		
March 15 th	Aviation Archaeology Group – guest speakers		
April 19 th	Competition	Aircraft	Open
		Miscellaneous	Open
May 17 th	AGM		



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Hornchurch IPMS Balance Sheet 1997/98

Incoming

Balance brought forward from 96/97	261.93
Subscriptions May 97 to April 98	345.50

<u>Total</u>	<u>616.43</u>
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Outgoing

Church Hall fees	226.00
Refreshments	58.71
Trophyland	227.25
M.E.E. Expenses	35.94

<u>Total</u>	<u>547.90</u>
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<u>Balance as of April 1998</u>	<u>68.53</u>
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Attendance

M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	Total	Avg.
15	22	21	18	19	19	22	16	22	25	25	23	245	21

IPMS Members

Total 14 members



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Mike Morris's Monster Sale

Mike is clearing out his stock if you see anything you want please contact Mike on the following number 01702 200929 and haggle! Please note that the prices for the books are suggestions only.

Kits

<i>Matchbox</i>		
Puma	1/32	
Meteor	1/72	x2
<i>Airfix</i>		
Savoia SM-79	1/72	
Meteor F3	1/72	
A-26 Invader	1/72	
Fairey Firefly	1/72	
Kamov Hormone "B"	1/72	
Devastator	1/72	Original box
Grumman Duck	1/72	Original box
S.A. Jetstream	1/72	Plus RAF/RN conversion
<i>Heller</i>		
Mirage III	1/72	
Javelin T.3	1/72	No decals
F-104 Starfighter	1/72	
Saab J-21	1/72	No decals
T-33	1/72	
F-8 Crusader	1/72	Original box
<i>Hasegawa</i>		
"Alf" with Catapult	1/72	No instructions for aircraft
OV-10A Mohawk	1/72	Original box
<i>Novo</i>		
Blackburn Skua	1/72	No instructions
Vulzee Vengeance	1/72	No decals
Martin Baltimore	1/72	No decals
Blackburn Shark	1/72	No decals / No instructions
Sea Venom	1/72	No decals
Meteor F4	1/72	No decals / No instructions
Sea Vixen	1/72	No decals / No instructions
Martin Maryland	1/72	No decals
Hotspur glider	1/72	No decals
Fairey Swordfish	1/72	No decals
Fairey Firefly	1/72	
<i>Dragon</i>		
He-162	1/72	
<i>Mach</i>		
Breguet Alize	1/72	Original kit
<i>Pegasus</i>		
Sparrowhawk	1/72	
FW 44 Stieglitz	1/72	X2
<i>Airmodel</i>		
U-10 Helio Courier	1/72	Injection kit
<i>Fujimi</i>		
Me-110 C/D	1/72	
UH-1N	1/72	No decals
<i>Rareplanes</i>		
MDD Demon	1/72	
Martin Mariner	1/72	
Gotha GO IV	1/72	
KC 97	1/72	
<i>Meikraft</i>		
Vindicator	1/72	



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<i>VP Resins</i>		
XP-55 Ascender	1/72	
<i>Williams</i>		
P-35	1/72	
<i>KP</i>		
Mil Mi-8	1/72	Plus Eduard etched brass set
<i>Playfix</i>		
Beriev Be4	1/72	
Tupovlev Tu-20	1/100	
<i>Italeri</i>		
Caproni CA-13	1/72	
Horsa glider	1/72	
<i>Revell</i>		
HH-53 Jolly Green	1/72	No decals

Books

Title	Author	Publisher	Price
Aviation Fact File – F-111		Salamander	£2
Aviation Fact File – F-15		Salamander	£2
Aviation Fact File – F-16		Salamander	£2
The Vietnam War	R. Bonds	Salamander	£6
The 3 rd World War	Gen. Sir John Hackett	Sidgwick	£2
Crash!	Andrew Brookes	Ian Allen	£4
Verlinden Lock-On F-111		Verlinden	£4
Skyraider	R. Rausa	PSL	£4
Images Of Air War	Chaz Bowyer	Batsford	£3
Pictorial History Of RAF	Bruce Robinson	Hale	£5
History Of USAF	D Anderton	B.C.A.	£6
Air War South Atlantic	J. Ethell/A. Price	B.C.A.	£4
Fly Navy (FAA A/C Since 1945)	R. Williams	Airlife	£4
Out Of The Blue (Role Of Luck In Air Warfare)	Edited By Laddie Lucas	Hutchinson	£2
The American Fighter	Angelucci	Haynes	£10
Great Warplanes Of The 80s	B. Yenne	Gallery	£2
Strategy & Tactics Of The Great Commanders Of WW2		W.H. Smith	£1
US Air Power	A. Robinson	Bison	£4
RAF Airpower In The 90s	R. Jackson	Guild	£3
Encyclopaedia Of World Air Power	B. Gunston	Guild	£5
Illustrated Guide To NATO Fighters		B.C.A.	£2
Vietnam Weapons Handbook	D. Owen	PSL	£1
Aircraft Illustrated Annual 1983			£4
Modern Air Combat No.1	B. Gunston	Ian Allen	£5
Meteor Super Profile	M.J. Hardy	Haynes	£1
Hawker Hunter	F.K. Mason	PSL	£2
Pilot Error	R&L Hurst	Granada	£2
Aero-Detail No.4 Phantom			£5
US Bombers Of WW2	R.F. Dorr	Arms & Armour	£2
Typhoon & Tempest	C. Thomas & C. Shores	Arms & Armour	£4
Aircraft Armament	B. Gunston	Salamander	£4
Unexplained Mysteries Of WW2	R. Jackson	Apple	£1
Janes Aircraft Of WW2		Janes	£10
Navy Attack	R. Francillon	Osprey	£4
Ausburg Eagle (Me-109)	W. Green	Aston	£4
Aircraft Of The Royal Navy	P. Ellis	Janes	£3
Bf-109	H. Nowarra	Haynes	£4
Fighting Me-109	U. Fiest	Arms & Armour	£3
Fighting Colours	R.F. Dorr	Airlife	£4
Meteor	B. Philpott	PSL	£2
Soviet Airforce Since 1918 (Old & Tatty)	A. Boyd	McDonalds & Janes	25p
V Bombers	A. Brookes	B.C.A.	£3
Osprey Men At Arms 130 – Wellingtons Heavy Cavalry		Osprey	£1
Vietnam Warbirds In Action	D. Bell	Arms & Armour	£3
RAF Aircraft Today No.2 Lightning	A. Reed	Ian Allen	£2
Helicopter At War	D. Wragg	Hale	£2
Soldiers In The Air (ACC)	P. Mead	Ian Allen	£2



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The Korean War	M. Hastings	Guild	£2
Hitler's Field Marshals	S. Mitchum	Guild	£2
Encyclopaedia Of Fleet Air Arm Since 1945	P. Beaver	PSL	£5
A-4 Skyhawk	P. Kilduff	Osprey Air Combat	£4
Modern Air Combat	B. Gunston/M. Spick	Salamander	£3
Nato Air Power	R. Jackson	Guild	£3
WW2 Fact Files – Machine Guns	Chamberlain & Gander	McDonalds & Janes	£2
Spitfire At War #1	A. Price	Ian Allen	£4
Eagles Of The Third Reich	S. Mitchum	Guild	£3
Phantom	L. Drendel	Squadron Signal	£3
TAC 1970-1977	L. Drendel	Squadron Signal	£3
Air War South East Asia	L. Drendel	Squadron Signal	£3
Modern Fighting Aircraft	B. Gunston	Salamander	£3
Into Thin Air (Aviation Medicine)	T. Gibson & M. Hanson	Hale	£2
Mighty MAC	R. Francillon	Guild	£3
Wheeled AFVs	B.T. White	Blanford	£2
Battlefield Helicopters	D. Oliver	Osprey	£2
Encyclopaedia Of The RAF	T. Gander	PSL	£3
Fast Jets	Chris Allen	Osprey	£3
Fast Jets #2	Chris Allen	Osprey	£3
Shooting Stars (T-33)	M. Oleary	Osprey	£3
Big Bombers	R.F. Dorr	Airlife	£4
Warbirds Illustrated #25 RAF Air Power	Gething & Peacock		£2
Warbirds Illustrated #39 TAC	Linn & Spering		£2
Warbirds Illustrated #28 World Fighters	M. Taylor		£2
Warbirds Illustrated #30 Strategic Bombers	M. Taylor		£2
Aerial Espionage	D. Van Der Aart	Guild	£3
Hercules	F.K. Mason	PSL	£3
Action Stations #9 Central & South East	C. Ashworth	PSL	£4
Encyclopaedia Of Us Military Aircraft	M.J. Bowyer	Arms & Armour	£3
Illustrated Guide To Airborne Missiles	B. Gunston	B.C.A.	£2
WW2 In Photos	J. Pimlott	Black Cat	£2
Post War Military Aircraft – Vampire, Venom, Sea Vixen	P. Birtles	Ian Allen	£4
Fighter Test Pilot – R. Beaumont	R. Beaumont	Guild	£2
Tanks	C. Messenger	W.H. Smith	£1
Modern Combat Aircraft – Airfix Magazine Guide	B. Gunston	St. Michaels	£3

Magazines

Flypast

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1982											1	
1985								1	1			
1986			2			1	1	1	1	2		1
1987	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
1988	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1989	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
1990	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
1991		1	1			1	1		1	2		
1992	1	1			1				1	1		
1995								1				
1996					1							

Aircraft Modelworld

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1983									1			
1984				1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1985	1		1			2	1	1	1	1	1	1
1986			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1987	1				1							
1988								1				
1989		1					1	1				



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Armed Forces

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1984							1				1	
1985		1		1			1				1	
1986		1								1		1
1987	1		1				1		1			1
1988	1		1									

Also numbers 3 & 6

Air Display

Sept – Nov 1987
March – May 1988
Sept – Nov 1988
Aug – Sept 1994

Air Extra

No.'s 12 24 31 34(2) 40 42 43 44 45 46 49 51
 54 56 57

Air Enthusiast

No.'s 30 35 Plus December 1973

Battle

1974 Oct – Dec
1975 Feb – Mar
Plus No.'s 2 & 6

Tamiya Magazine

No.'s 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
 18 21 25

Air Forces Monthly

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1988				1		1	1	1				1
1989		1				1				1		
1990	1	1										
1991	1				1							
1992			1	1		1						

UK Air Power Special

Air Pictorial

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1979				1								
1982			1									
1983		1					1	1	1			
1984	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
1985	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	
1986					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1988	1	1	1		1	1	1			1		

Air International

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1974							1					
1975									1	1		
1979				1	1	1	1		1			
1980	1						1					
1981	1							1	1	1	1	1
1982												1
1983				1	1			1	1	1		
1984					1	1	1		1	1	1	



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1985	1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
1986		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1987	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1
1988	1	1	1	1	1		1					
1989		1	1			1		1	1		1	1
1990	1		1		1			1				
1991	1			1	1	1	1		1	1		
1992	1			1	1			1	1	1	1	1
1993					1							1

Aviation News

Volume	Issues													
12	6	9	17	20	23	24								
13	2	7	10	15	16	17	19							
14	3	5	8	10	12	17	19	25						
15	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26					
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
17	1	2	3	4	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18												
18	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	11	13	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	26									
19	Complete													
20	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
21	6	11												

RAF Specials 1985 1987



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Full Circle or Earliest & Latest

Many, many, many moons ago when I was a lad, an uncle of mine set me on the road to modelling. For my birthday he gave me a small box and inside was a model ship like you've never seen before. It was a galleon the "Golden Hind" I think. The hull was a pre-cut lump of balsa to the "shape" of a ship which just had to be painted (no Humbrol paints in them days). The mast was a piece of pointed stick and sails a piece of paper with an emblem printed on it.

As I remember the rest was sticky pieces of paper you had to cut out, lick the back and hopefully stick in place. (Decal lovers eat your heart out).

Never the less it was my pride and joy until my two younger brothers decided to find out if it floated, with obvious results.

Now since those far off days I've had it in mind to build a proper model sailing ship but never had the bottle to try something different from my normal theme. That was until a few years ago when one came up in one of our auction sessions and I thought "oh well what hell let's go for it".

In the last six months, with everything else in my hectic life I have reached the finished hull stage but only half painted (does anyone know how to paint planked wood effect ?) *Ed. I have read of some people using the new Dulux woodgrain paints for WW1 wooden laminated propellers, may be worth trying.*

I have set myself the target of trying to finish it before Christmas this year, so wish me luck.

Can you remember your first model you built, can you remember your last model ? If so drop us a line and tell us or do you still have it, if so then bring it up one night.

Laws of Modelling

This fellow Murphy gets everywhere, yes even modelling would you believe. Here are a few of his famous thoughts brought to light recently.

- As soon as you give up looking for a dropped part you will step on it.
- The probability of dropping a part on the floor is inversely proportional to the size of the part (think about it!)
- The closer the colour match of your floor and part the greater the probability of dropping the part.
- A dropped part will bounce to the most inaccessible part of the room.
- If the dropped part is heavy or sharp it will embed itself in your foot before obeying the rules above.

Got any more of your own, please let me know.

Reasons to Believe

I did not finish my last model because :-

- My wife threw it into the kids toy box and I'll never find it again.
- I decided that an F-4 Phantom doesn't look right in pink with purple polka dots.
- I'm trying to decipher those Japanese-English instructions. What does "high glossy chrome finish" mean?

STATEMENT : The Internet is like an unending tree of sprue, linking one component to the next..

REPLY : That's stretching it.



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A half built vacuform kit impresses many people with your skill; a completed vacuform looks like any other model !

Why Do You Model ?

Borrowed from an Internet page

Some build for relaxation, some build for detail, others to create works of art and some just for contests. Some build for combinations of these reasons.

Modelling can certainly be relaxing. It provides an activity which is different from the care filled occupations of the working day. Super detailing is the only mental disease which is its own therapy. Works of art are personal and coupled to each modellers quest for quality.

Building in each of these modes can lead to success in competitions, but building for contests can quickly destroy the relaxation! Different contests and different judges have different criteria for success. Some judges are impressed with detail, or a difficult conversion, or turning an awful sows ear of a kit into a silk purse. Other times, the degree of difficulty is ignored, and the most flawlessly executed version of the best kit wins the day.

In the end it doesn't matter. The key to enjoying modelling is to build to please yourself.

Illusions of Realism

What is a scale model ? A scale model is a miniature reproduction of the real thing. Most scale models are made from kits, others from scratch. Modellers strive to build with care so the result looks like the real thing. Careful research from magazines, books, photos and museums comes first. Some people say that modellers are grown men playing with kids toys, others that we are insane. Well maybe both are right, after all who else would spend tens of pounds on pieces of plastic, buy loads of tools because they need them, buy loads & loads of pieces of plastic in boxes to make one day .. and never do.

They then spend hours and hours meticulously gluing together these bits of plastic then put dirty thinners on the paint, scratch the paint surface, put "bullet holes" in their plastic, actually break parts.....all for "realism". Then if any uninitiated person asks what the hell we are doing we look at them as if they are the idiots and say "Can't you see I'm *weathering* it".

"Weathering" is an all-encompassing term. Modellers refer to almost any special treatment to the surface of their model as weathering, i.e. enhancing the paint finish to heighten the reality. Basically the model is given special treatment to make it look worn, damaged, faded or to look "in service". For as many modellers who prefer to weather, there are those who never do. They will point out that weathering is out of scale, that you can't see panel lines anyway from a distance so why enhance them ? (*In scale terms looking at a 1/72 model, 1 inch to 6 feet, from 2 feet away is like standing 144 feet from the original aircraft*).

The point is that, if we get down to nit-picking, all modelling is out of scale. The modeller is trying to represent the real thing not duplicate it exactly in smaller scale. The trick is to create an illusion of the real thing and to some extent most modellers apply weathering to some degree.

Each month I intend to give you a few basics of weathering gleaned from the Internet, magazines, books etc. In no way are they written in tablets of stone, for each of you may know a different way to achieve the same effect. In fact, if you do, then let me have them on a piece of paper on our meeting nights and I will put them in the next edition.

Ricky