



ARMOR BITS

Newsletter of the ChicagoLand Armor Builders Society

May 2022





ARMOR BITS



Well, the first AMPS convention in over two years has come and gone. By all accounts it was a great success! Over 117 modelers and 532 entries were there. Judging from the pictures posted, the competition was extremely high. That makes it all the more sweet for Chuck Aleshire's medal finishes. Our old friend Serge also did extremely well.

On the home front, seven of us explored a new meeting venue at Cantigny. Although the Education Center was a very nice room, spacious with good lighting, it was a bit of a hike from the parking lot. This would affect anyone with mobility issues or during inclement weather, which we've been known to once in awhile!

After discussion with Cantigny, we will meet in the McDill room whenever possible. Our fallback will be the Education Center with tram service to and from parking. We might also use the outdoor pavilion behind the museum on a nice day.

I realize that this is a major change for us, but is the best way to enable us to remain meeting at Cantigny. I am also working on an alternative site in case

we might need it in the future.

This month, along with the normal Show & Tell, we have a list of the convention major awards and some pictures of the action. I have also included information about using Vallejo acrylic paint as well as airbrushes that I hope you will find useful.

Since the May meeting will again be at the Education Center building, we will reschedule the club fundraising auction until June. There will be tram service between parking and the Ed center. See the map on Page 3 for the tram location.

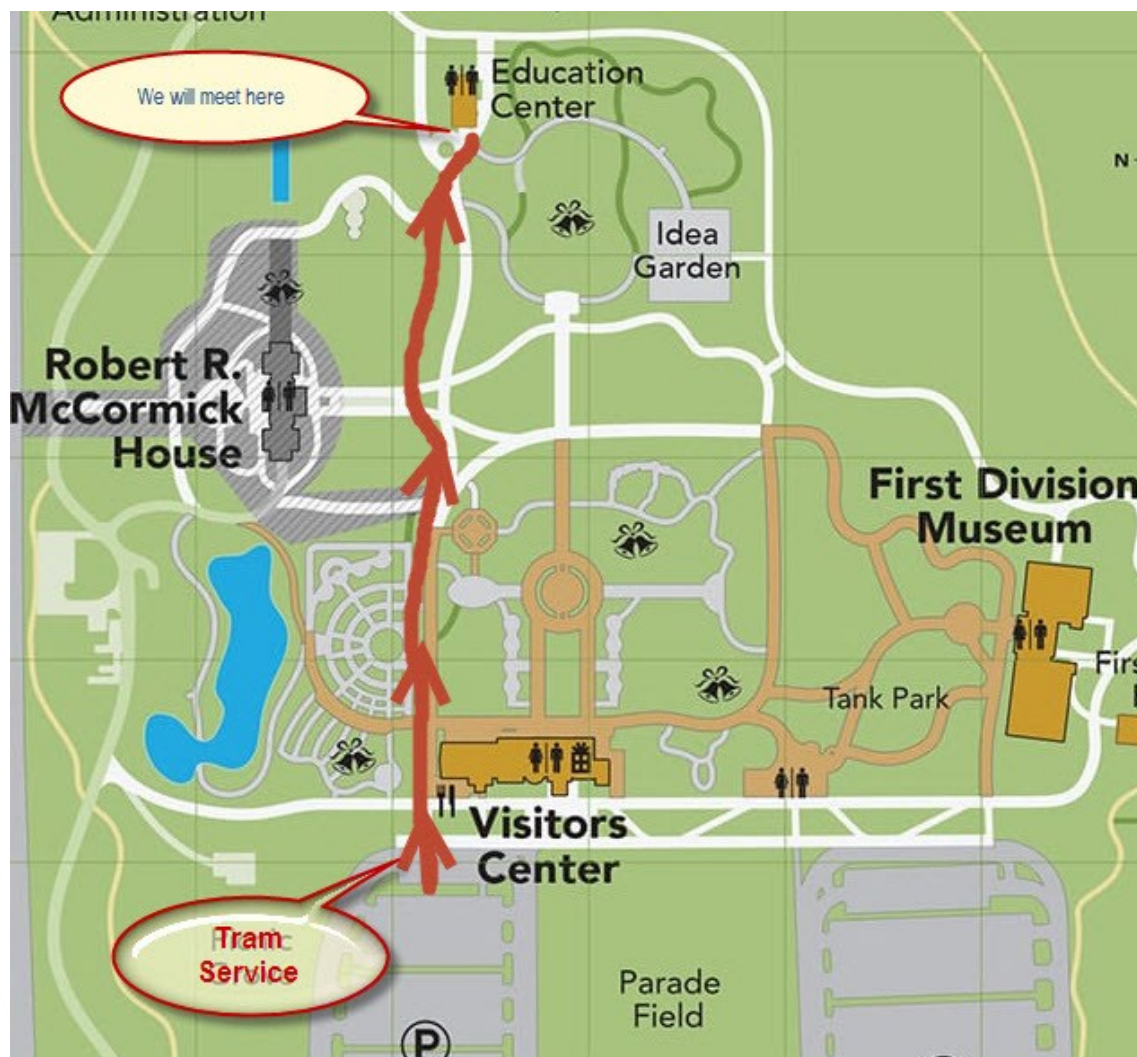
One last note. I had issues with the hyperlinks. You may have to copy/paste them into your browser to view them.

Stan

Our next meeting will be May 14th at Cantigny in the Education Center building. Tram service will be provided from the parking lot. (See map Pg3)



ARMOR BITS



AMPS ChicagoLand

On September 8, 2007, 11 people met for the first time in Pat Keenan's living room, creating AMPS-Chicagoland. Since that day, AMPS Chicagoland has been an active chapter in the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) with members from Southern Wisconsin, throughout Illinois to Northwest Indiana. We specialize in all eras, scales and aspects of building military ground vehicle models.

These subjects include tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles, artillery and figures. Our members consist of novice to master level, so all are welcome in our fun and inviting environment.

The AMPS – Chicagoland Chapter's philosophy is that having a good time and enjoying oneself while engaging in the military modeling hobby is of paramount importance. This means we do NOT take the hobby or ourselves too seriously and its members are expected to "play nice with others". There's just no drama.



For more information about AMPS Chicagoland, please visit our website at www.amps-chicago.org



MEETING NOTES

- The Treasurer's report remains unchanged
- The members approved a request from Rob Raver of Lakes Region Scale Modelers, to sponsor an award for the NIMCON 10 show. The award will be for **Best Fully Tracked Armor** category. \$35
The show is on June 18th at McHenry County College. They will need help judging.
- The National convention was going on in Virginia during meeting time. You can go on the AMPS Facebook page for convention photos. We also have a few pictures in this issue as well.
Next year's 2023 show will be in Camp Hill Pa. outside Harrisburg (10.5hr drive). The show theme is "Pacific War Armor"
- As revealed during the business meeting, the AMPS web site has a link to training videos and is also currently working to have all of the past Boresight magazines available online. They will be asking for volunteer help in the future.
- Our meeting place;
 - * We can no longer meet in the museum library
 - * We have several options
 - Use the education center here, with substitutions in the Medill room or cafeteria for scheduling conflicts. We may be able to have a cart available to convey members between the lot and bldg.
 - Opt for the Medill room but we may be bumped to other locations.
- We may have a kit auction at next months meeting. This will be a fund raiser for the club so please bring in a kit or two to auction off for the club. (**The auction has been rescheduled to June.**)
- .Ronald Damratowski asked to mention a garage sale he will have: (see flyer at the end)
Saturday .. May 21st 9:00am to 3:00 pm
16418 Prairie Dr. Tinley Park Il



Convention Award Results

<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowResults.aspx?sid=10105>

Best Commonwealth

Sponsored by Peel Scale Modelers/AMPS F.F. Worthington, DavidDoyleBooks.com

Winner: **Achillies** by Joe Koenig

Best Russian/Soviet

Sponsored by AMPS Central VA, Wanamaker Hobbies

Winner: **BRDM-1** by Steve Reid

Best German

Sponsored by Sooner AMPS, AMPS Chicagoland

Winner: **Stug III Ausf. G Early** by Robert Riviezzo

Best United States

Sponsored by AMPS Vermont, IPMS Champlain & Mount Mansfield Scale Modelers

Winner: **M44 Howitzer Motor Carriage** by Philip Hui

Best Small Army

Sponsored by John Charvat, Decalcomaniacs

Winner: **BMP-1/ZPU4** by James Guld

Best Figure

Sponsored by New Jersey Historical Miniatures Associates, Minnesota Military Figure Society

Winner: **U.S. Tanker 2nd Armored Division ETO-WWII** by Greg Hanchuk

Best Junior

Sponsored by Chuck Willis, "A Friend of AMPS"

Winner:

Best Vignette

Sponsored by Microworld Games LLC

Winner: **Kurland Pocket** by Tabb Tharrington

Best Diorama

Sponsored by Long Island AMPS, Custom Dioramics

Winner: **Home Alone** by Jeff Feller

Andy Smith Best Basic Model

Sponsored by Mike Petty, AMPS Armordillos-North Florida

Winner: **T-34/85** by Stephen Fitton

Best Master

Sponsored by Denbigh Hobby Center in Memory of Dan Dipiero, DavidDoyleBooks.com

Winner: **BTM-3 Trench digging Vehicle** by Tony Zadro

Best Braille Scale

Sponsored by AMPS Central Pennsylvania, AMPS Central Pennsylvania

Winner: **M37 Howitzer Motor Carriage** by Philip Hui

John C. Browning Memorial Best Wheeled Vehicle

Sponsored by Pierce Browning, Pierce Browning

Winner:

George Edgehill Memorial Best Special Forces Award

No Sponsor

Winner:

Best Specialty Armored Vehicle

No Sponsor

Winner: **D9R Bulldozer** by Chris Graeter

David Harper Best Marine Corps Armor

No Sponsor

Winner: **Battle of Hue** by Michael Trentadue

People's Choice

Sponsored by AMPS Masters

Winner: **ZTZ99A** by Jason Jennings



ARMOR BITS



Richard Sullivan (R&J Enterprises) Memorial Best Eastern Front Vehicle Award

No Sponsor

Winner: **Kurland Pocket** by Tabb Tharrington

2020 Theme Award

No Sponsor

Winner: **Kurland Pocket** by Tabb Tharrington

Theme Award

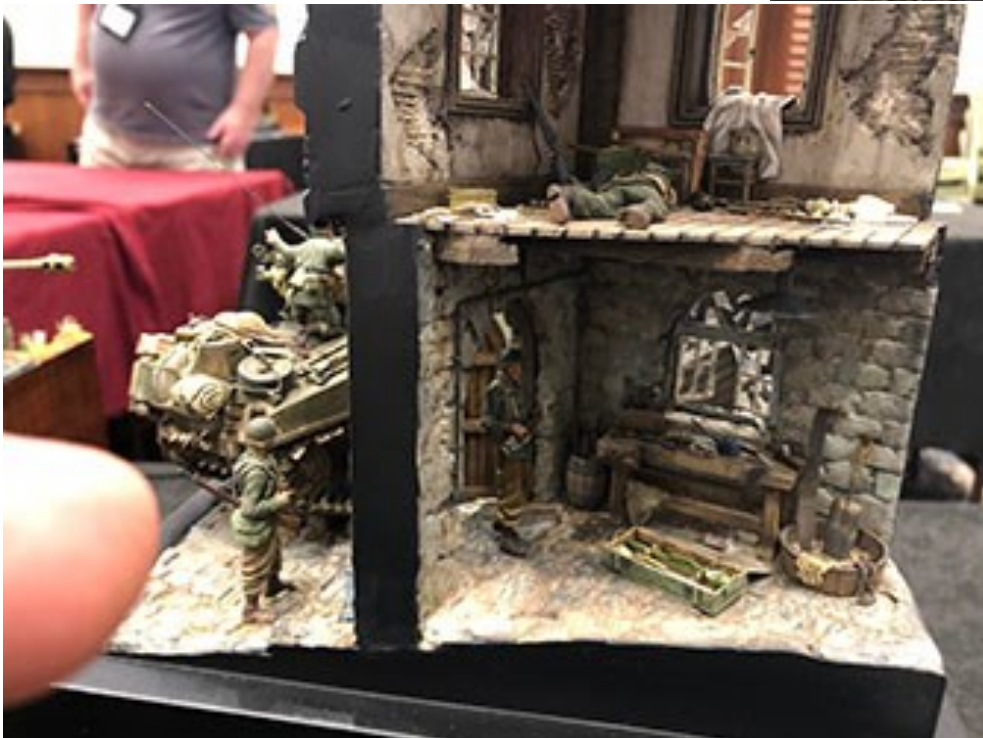
Sponsored by HQ72 Resin Productions, Wanamaker Hobbies

Winner: **M3 75mm Gun Motor Carriage w/ M10 Ammo Trailer**
by Philip Hui

Dave Lockhart Judges' Best of Show *Sponsored by AMPS*

Winner: **Home Alone** by Jeff Feller







Chuck and our old friend Serge also medaled at the convention

068-A	Chuck Aleshire	Japanese Ka-Tsu Amphibious Vehicle - Kure, 1944	Gold
071-E	Serge Nakhmanson	Panzerbefehlswagen Tiger (P)	Gold
068-C	Chuck Aleshire	A Tough Day at the Office - Borgward IV "Wanze" Tank Hunter, Berlin '45	Silver
071-A	Serge Nakhmanson	5cm Pak 38 auf Pz II	Silver
071-B	Serge Nakhmanson	Sd.Kfz. 232 6-rad Poland	Gold
068-B	Chuck Aleshire	Gallipoli Gun - Aussie Arty at Anzac Cove	Gold
071-C	Serge Nakhmanson	152 mm ML-20 howitzer-gun	Gold
068-D	Chuck Aleshire	Berlin Zoo Flak Turm - Jan. 1945	No Meda
071-D	Serge Nakhmanson	Andromech Gothbot "White 8"	Gold

Here are a few pictures from the convention courtesy of Chuck Aleshire.





SHOW AND TELL



Bob Kita

1/35 Vietnam figure

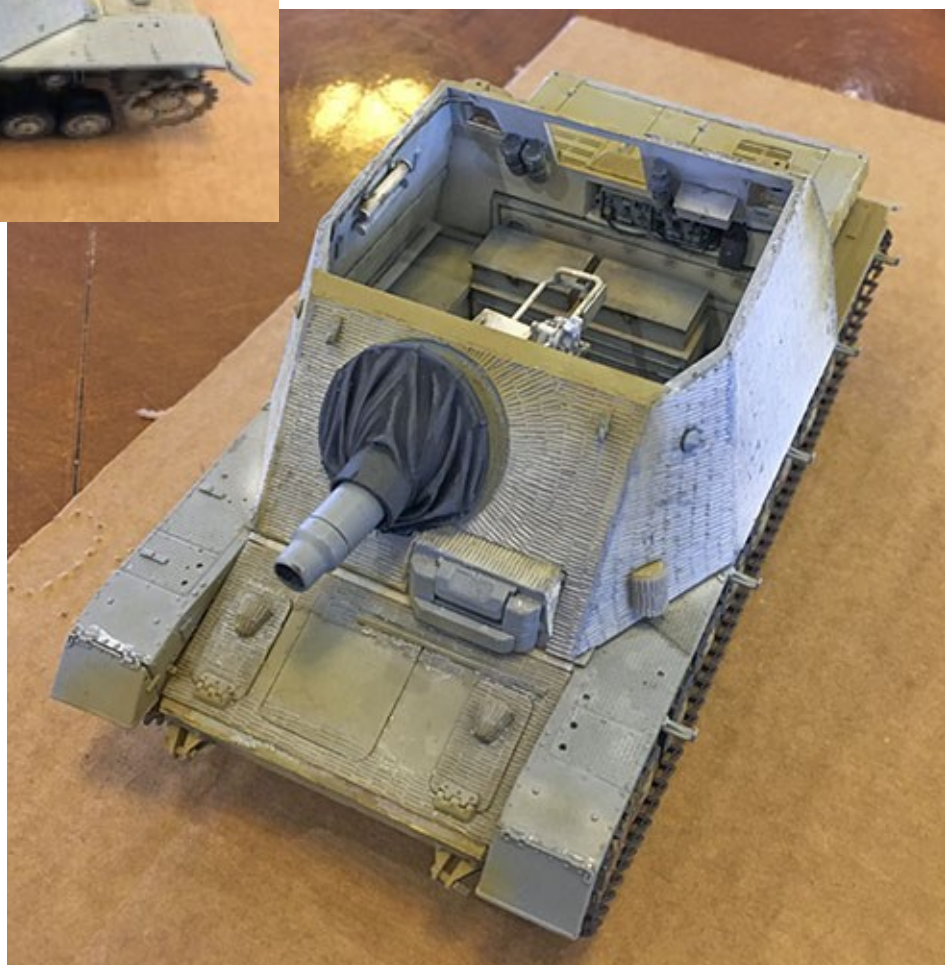


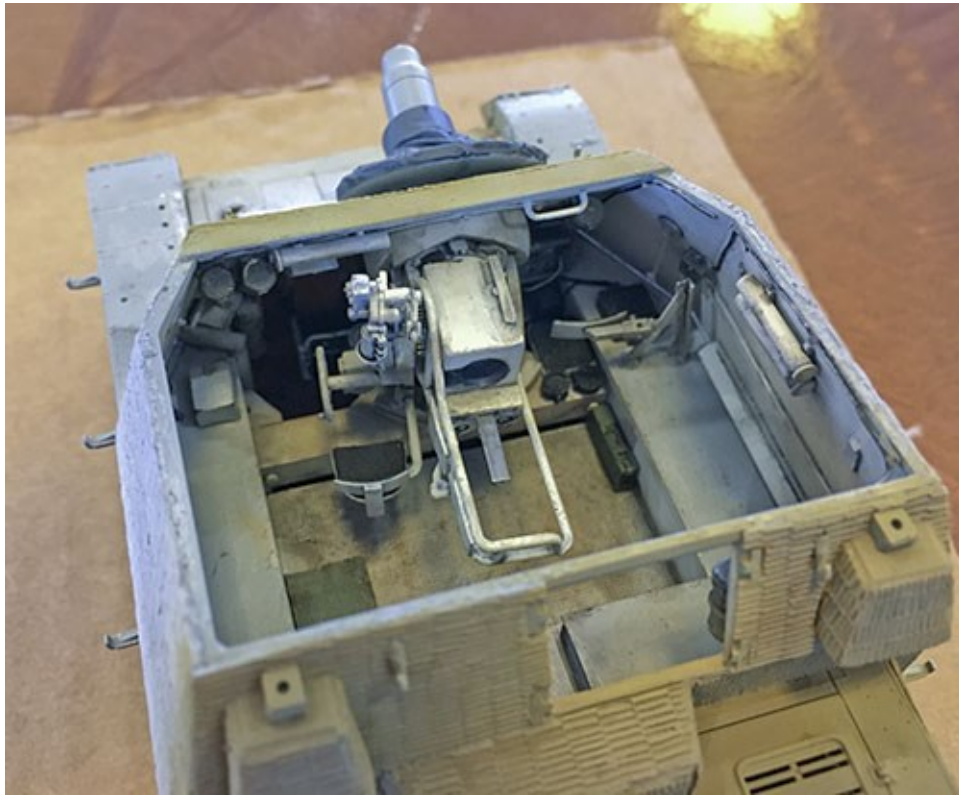
1/35 LOR Flak gun





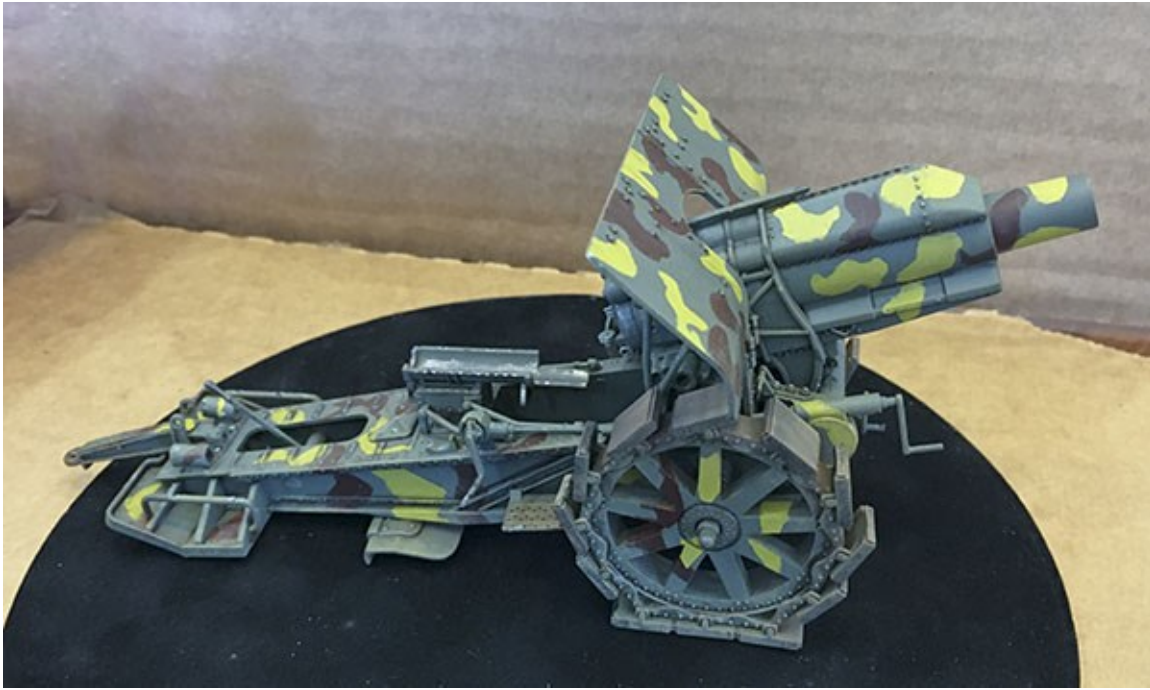
1/35 Brummbär



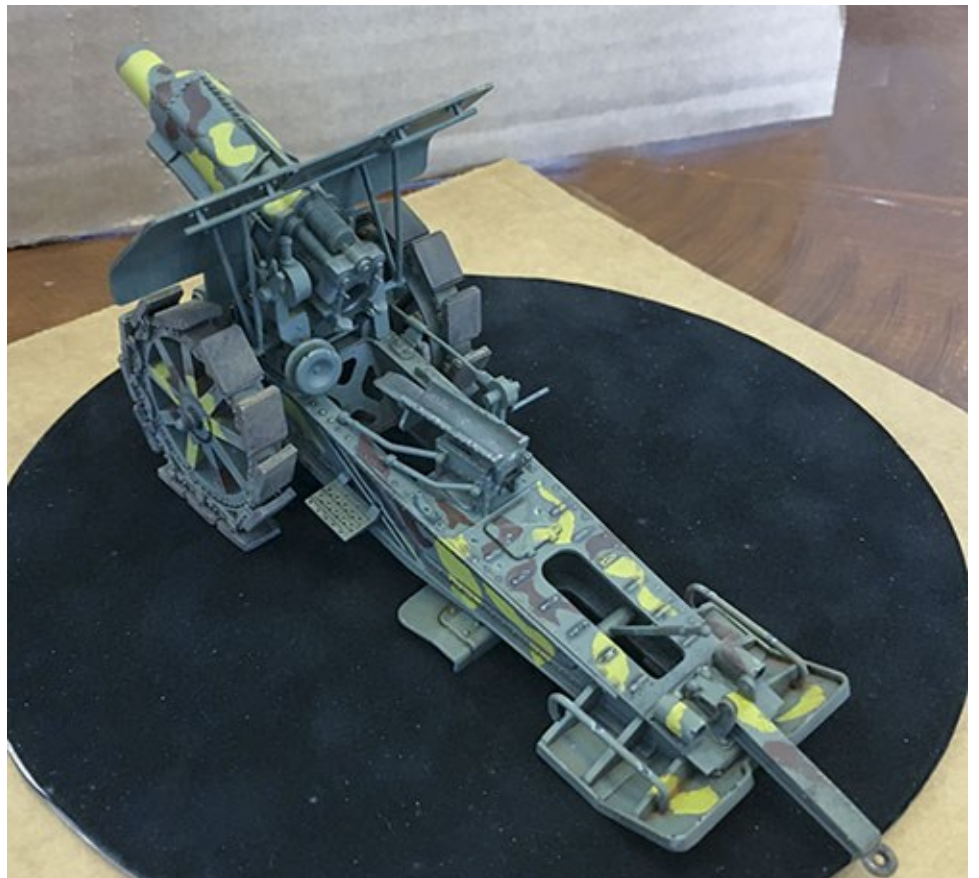


Paul LaRock

1/48 Tamiya M-10 with French
Marines



Paul LaRock— 1/35 Takom German Morser





Scott Graupner

1/35 M-19 Tank transporter by
Merit





Scott Graupner 1/35 Meng M1A1



Articles



Here is a great page about everything concerning airbrushes

Don's Airbrush Tips

<https://sites.google.com/site/donsairbrushtips/home>

A collection of airbrush tips and reviews.

Hi, welcome to my web site. My name is Don Wheeler. I'm a retired manufacturing engineer who likes to tinker with things.

I titled my site Don's Airbrush Tips, but maybe I should have called it Don's Airbrush Adventure. A few years ago I started building plastic kits as a hobby, and it wasn't long before I decided that I needed an airbrush. After some research, I settled on either a Badger 150 or 155 Anthem. I wanted an internal mix, double action brush with good parts availability and not too expensive. Fortunately, I live just a few miles from **Coast Airbrush**. They have good prices and they're really nice to deal with. It was almost a toss up, but after handling both, I chose the 155. I liked the way it felt, and the idea that it can put out a lot of paint when needed, but still do fine work without changing the needle. I'm really happy with it.

I'm not an expert airbrusher, and I'm certainly not an artist. And, as you can see, I'm not much of a website designer either.

But, I have learned a few things about my Anthem and airbrushing during this time, and I'd like to pass them along. This is not meant to be a complete tutorial on airbrushing. However, I hope that you will find something of value here. When I started this site, the 155 was my only airbrush. Since then, I've added a few more. Each time I got a new one, I added a page to review it. I've tried to give as much information as I could so that anyone considering one of these brushes will have a good idea of what they would be getting.

Many of my examples will be of the Badger Anthem. But, most airbrushes are pretty similar and much will apply to other brands and models too. External mix airbrushes are covered in the Badger 250, 350 and Paasche H pages.

I use only enamel paints; ModelMaster and Floquil so far. I may try acrylics eventually, but right now this keeps things simple, plus they are readily available in lots of colors. I also use Testors DullCote clear lacquer. I have been thinning both about 50/50 with lacquer thinner. I spray next to an open door, and always wear an organic vapors mask and nitrile gloves while doing it.

Please note: My reviews are based on the sample I have. Manufacturers can and do change things whenever they feel like it. And, my sample may not be typical. I may have been lucky or unlucky. I cannot guaranty that you would have the same experience.

Most of the output samples I show are done with ink or food colors on paper towels. This is the ideal condition for making fine lines, and shows what an airbrush is capable of. As I stated above, I am not an expert with an airbrush. If I were to use model paint on plastic, the results would not be nearly as good. But, it would be due to my lack of skill rather than the airbrush. I've taken a little flak over this. Some people feel a sample isn't valid unless it is done with paint on plastic. However, I really believe that reducing the skill factor allows a better comparison of airbrushes.

I have added an update log page for the convenience of returning readers. Click here to check it out. Also, if you are a returning reader, you may notice that the site looks different. Google made me do it. I hope you still find it useful.

Army Tanks And Other Vehicles Get New Paint Jobs To Help Hide From Thermal Optics

The new coating will make it harder for opponents to spot and engage them, especially at night.

Joseph Trevithick

The U.S. Army says it has developed a new type of paint for its M1 Abrams tanks and other armored vehicles that can help reduce their infrared signature and make them harder to detect. The coating is also a general improvement over what the service uses now and could have applications well beyond ground vehicles.

The Army's Ground Vehicle Systems Center, the Army Research Laboratory, and the service's Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) program worked to develop what is officially known as the Ground Vehicle Coating System (GVCS), according to an official news item on Mar. 20, 2019. The paint itself is known as "TALON," but there is no definition available yet for what this acronym stands for.



The Chieftain did a video/interview with the curator at the Armor museum at Fort Benning a while ago. It gives you a good overview of the new building. I think they touch on future plans for public access, or at least arranging open days.

https://youtu.be/xCgiW_OHnTQ



A comment was made at the last meeting, about difficulty obtaining good results with Vallejo acrylic.

For best results with Model Air, put 1 or 2 drops of flow improver in your airbrush cup before applying the paint. Then add a couple more drops—stir well and you should get good results.

I have seen good results airbrushing Model Color by using low improver along with AV airbrush thinner at 50/50 or 60/40 thinner to paint ratio. Haven't tried that myself but it looked good in the video.



Ever wondered what it looked like driving an M1 at night?

This past Tuesday was our Driver's Training for OPNET. Upon completion of the Day iterations, Eager Troopers had the opportunity to operate the M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank from the driver's station for Night iterations with field service representatives from General Dynamics Land Systems.

As the members of the crew rotated to assist with guiding the tank from the turret with AN/PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision Devices (MNVDs), drivers operated with Driver's Vision Enhancers (DVEs) installed in the hatch.





The Last Round



I once became stuck in the turret of a M-60A3 "Starship". Watching this video about a T-72 turret makes that look like a wide body jet. I got claustrophobia just watching this video!



<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=377830067577477>

Aircraft

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Misc

FIGURES

BOOKS

ARMOR

MULTIPLE VENDORS

Saturday ... May 21st 9:00am to 3:00 pm

16418 Prairie dr. Tinley Park Il

E-mail rondz28@sbcglobal.net

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THE END

