



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



August 2025

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, August 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Billerica, MA. The church is located on Concord Road, just as it meets Route 3A (Boston Road) at the Billerica Town Common. The August meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show-and-Tell, and a raffle.



This is our first opportunity to feature something by Tim Sistare, who has been with the club since October 2024. Here is his 1/35 M3 Stuart "Honey" (Academy). Tim built the model OOB and painted it with Tamiya acrylics using AK enamel effects and pigment filter to finish. Decals are from the kit; markings are for "Bellman," 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, 7th Armoured Division, Libya, May 1942. Tim writes, "These tanks were delivered to the British in OD with markings, then masked and painted over in the British desert camouflage scheme, so I replicated this and applied a liberal coating of AK Chipping Fluid in between the OD and the camo. I also painted the red and white stripes instead of using the decals, which was a good decision. Overall a nice kit with some decent detail, but also a few fit issues. It was a great project for my first tank with an interior."

In This Issue

From the President	2
July Meeting Minutes.....	3
Show-and-Tell List & Raffle Report	3
Show-and-Tell Gallery	3
Upcoming Events	22
IPMS/USA Membership Form.....	22

Early July was bittersweet as my daughter Mia participated in her final “dance nationals.” Mia has been a competitive solo and team dancer for over a decade, taking part in multiple competitions in Jazz, Contemporary, Lyrical, and other categories. Her last hurrah was a competition in Maryland where, happily, she shined, placing high in both solo and group dances. She received a few specials too, including a Best Choreography award for a dance she created. I’m damn proud of her and though I’m glad we’ll no longer have a monthly studio bill, I’m definitely going to miss being a “dance dad.”

As is how I operate, I found myself thinking about the similarities between dance and scale model competitions. There are of course the obvious ones such as appreciation for the art and the awards ceremony pomp, but there were other deeper ones as well.

It was obvious that the dancers who put in the most prep work were the ones who came out on top. Their moves were crisper and tighter due to intense rehearsal time prior to the competition. In scale modeling, it’s the same; the time and effort put into eliminating nubs, cleaning and removing seams and gaps, carefully laying down paint, and finely applying scale-accurate weathering, all these will lead to a modeler producing a better finished, and a more likely to win, model.

It’s been wonderful to watch how much my daughter and the senior dancers have improved year over year. They were on top of their game during nationals, consistently earning the highest awards. They didn’t get there overnight; their techniques were refined over many years of practice and working through failures. Similarly, scale modelers don’t become expert at

seam removal, airbrushing, scratchbuilding, decal application, hand-painting, etc. the first time they sit in front of a model. They fail and improve, fail and improve until one day, they cross the threshold into being skilled. Continuing the “skills” journey leads to expertise and perhaps even mastery.

The level of support each dancer received from fellow team members, parents, and competitors was extraordinary. Everyone was applauded especially during the awards ceremonies, irrespective of what studio’s team they were on. I’ve seen the identical type of support at every IPMS and other model competition I’ve attended, where each modeler was cheered by fellow modelers and friends when receiving an award. Even if you were bested in a category, you were happy for and congratulated the winner. All competitors deserve nothing less.

Lastly, it’s important to remember why we participate in creative activities. My daughter and her teammates love to dance. My Patriot colleagues and I love to build models. We do them because they’re fun. Sometimes less so when the effort put into learning a dance move or into a painting session feels like work, takes much longer than expected, or yields less than desired results. Or when an external influence like the desire to win at a competition trumps the joy of dancing on stage or completing a great model. As long as the focus remains on enjoyment, the fun factor should stay high and keep the passion in place.

Keep practicing, keep learning, be supportive of others, and just have fun, whatever your creative outlet. ‘Nuff said.

Happy modeling,
George

Minutes from the July Meeting

The meeting was chaired by club president George Lellios.

1. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer was not present at the meeting, but messaged that last month's accounts were typical for the club on an ongoing basis.

2. Club shirts: An option has been proposed using an online provider, and links were sent out with the regular meeting invite email. Although various options were discussed, the suggested option was for a single style polo shirt in light blue with black embroidery. No exact cost was given, but with light volume (10-30), cost per shirt is expected in the \$60-80 range. The club is proposing to offer club members a shirt at a fixed cost of \$20 and will subsidize the remainder from club funds. Alternatives may be considered in the future. One of the club members indicated that his wife works for a company providing embroidery service, so it may be worth investigating that as an alternative. A motion to accept the proposed shirt was seconded and approved by member vote. Members will need to pay for their shirts in advance and should let the club know soon if they want one.

3. Patcon: The committee has started meeting. News so far: Setup for the show will be the same as last year. We are looking to provide more vendor and competition/display tables than last year. People wanting to book vendor tables should talk to Mike Hirsch before booking online—this is now available through the club website—so he can manage their allocation. We will have at least one food vendor this year. A “shuttle” cart will be available to transfer people between the upper and lower levels if needed. We will need a rota of volunteers to drive throughout the day. We intend to run a make and take ,but last year's supervisor is not available this year. A member suggested that Atlantis models had make/take bundles available as a possible alternative to the Bandai Gundam products from last year; we will most likely repeat the Gundams.

4. The first Brewery Social took place and was reported to be subject to teething troubles. There will be a July event at the SpyGlass Brewery in Nashua, and an August event is booked. Organizer Chris Kizik has said that unless attendance improves, it's more effort than worth, and it's debatable if we proceed beyond August. There was a sign-up sheet at the meeting and an email is to be sent out soon with an invite.

5. With new members present there was a quick overview of the meeting raffle. We pull for a prize with every 20 tickets sold. With every pull after 6 (i.e. 7-10) we add a 'speciality' prize to the raffle prizes, typically a collection of items around a theme model (such as paints sets, books, figures, etc.).

—Richard Price, Secretary

Show-and-Tell

Tom Warchal..... 1/100 Zaku FZ (Bandai)
John Walker 1/72 F7F-3 Tigercat (Monogram)
Tim Sistare.....1/35 M3 Honey (Academy)
Dave Ruete 1/56 (28mm) Sloop of War (Frelock)
Richard Price1/144 B-52H (Academy)
Stan Phillips 1/35 IJA Type 94 AT Gun (Pit Road)
Pip Moss1/48 F-5E Aggressor (AFV Club)
Shivam Midha Keyboard “Killer Whale” (Taro-Hayashi)
Jamie Michaels 28mm Aklyss (Steam Forged Games)
28mm Trikhymaerax (Steam Forged Games)
28mm Vallyx (Steam Forged Games)
28mm Dusk Spectre (Steam Forged Games)
28mm Mercenary Totem Hunter (Steam Forged Games)
George Lellios..... 1/48 “Batman 1935” (Dora Wings)
Kurt Kunze 1/72 P-51D (Airfix)
Chris Kizik..... 1/72 Sd.Kfz. 7 diorama (Hasegawa)
Cade Harris..... 1/144 Boeing 307 Stratoliner (Rodent)
David Hamel.....1/48 Polikarpov Il-16 UTI-4 (Kitbash)
Tom Flaherty 1/48 P-51 (Tamiya)
Mason Fitch 1/16 Halo Master Chief (Bandai)

Raffle Report

July winners:

Lukas Petrosky, RX 76-2 Gundam bundle
Daniel Lovering, Italier 1/48 AH-64D Apache
Kurt Kunze, Tamiya 1/48 Corsair combo
Austin Clark, Hasegawa 1/48 D3A “Val”
George Lellios, Bandai Zaku II Type 6
Dave Ruete, Tamiya 1/35 M60A1 bundle
Ken Fields, Tamiya 1/35 Sherman
Roy Medina, Eduard 1/48 Zero combo
Bart Navarro, AMT 1/25 1969 Chevelle
Tom Warchal, Hasegawa 1/24 VW Micro Bus



Tom Warshal: 1/100 Zaku II FZ Gundam

Tom's model features custom paint work and finishes, completely dressed and painted with airbrush, mesh, and hand brushing. He used a number of different paints: Mado primer and colors (lacquer), Mr. Hobby clears and silver basing details under colored clears, Tamiya enamels for small details, and Tamiya black and medium gray washes. Decals are from Bandai, Delpi and HiQ Parts. Markings are for the Principality of Zeon standard and miscellaneous grunt suit styles. Tom writes, "Did black base and gray bases, some mesh silver and gold mid-tones, and opaque and colored clear accents. The model still has full articulation despite gluing several seams and panel joints. Also did some basic panel line work and opening previously closed details."



John Walker: 1/72 F7F-3 Tigercat (Monogram)

John added a seat, control stick and antenna, replaced the 20mm guns with bell wire, removed the rocket launch rails under the outboard wings, and replaced the nose wheel that was missing from the kit. Paints are Vallejo Model Air with pastels for weathering. Decals are from another copy of the kit. Markings are for BuNo. 80462 as it was photographed over Long Island, NY during its inaugural flight as the first Tigercat with the enlarged fin and rudder. 80462 was later converted to a two-seat F7F-3N and eventually reached Okinawa in the summer of 1945.

This kit came from the Kirk collection.



Dave Reute

1/56 (28mm) Sloop of War (Firelock Games)

Dave added custom laser-cut rigging components. Paints are mostly Vallejo and Citadel. This model is actually a piece from Firelock Games's historical wargame "Blood & Plunder," which, as its name suggests, revolves around piracy at sea. Firelock Games offers several alternative rigs for the ship including sloop, brigantine and frigate.

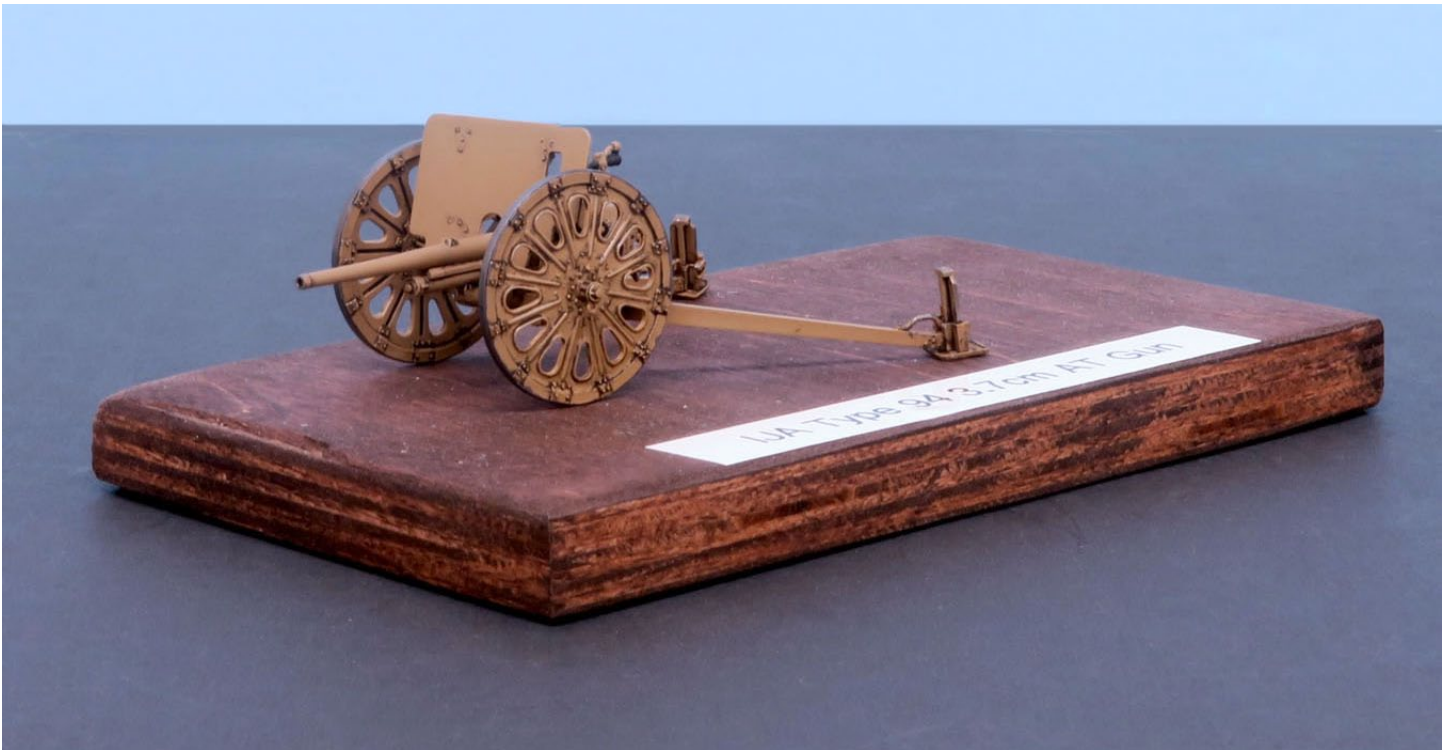


Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Richard Price: 1/144 B-52H (Academy)

Richard built the model mostly OOB, but he refinished the main landing gear and replaced the hydraulic rams with Albion tubing after removing surplus plastic. Paints are Vallejo Air Gunship Gray and Basalt Grey with a Winsor & Newton Galeria matte finish. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for "Loko," s.n. 61-0012 of the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, 2018. Richard writes, "The panel lining is a bit heavy in places. The model was originally built with bomb bay open since the interior detail is nice, but bombs and bomb racks were too difficult to align so I closed it up."



Stan Phillips: 1/35 IJA Type 94 37 mm anti-tank gun (Pit Road)

Stan built this cast metal model OOB and painted it with Mr. Color acrylic lacquers. For weathering he used Mr. Color washes and graphite for bare metal areas.

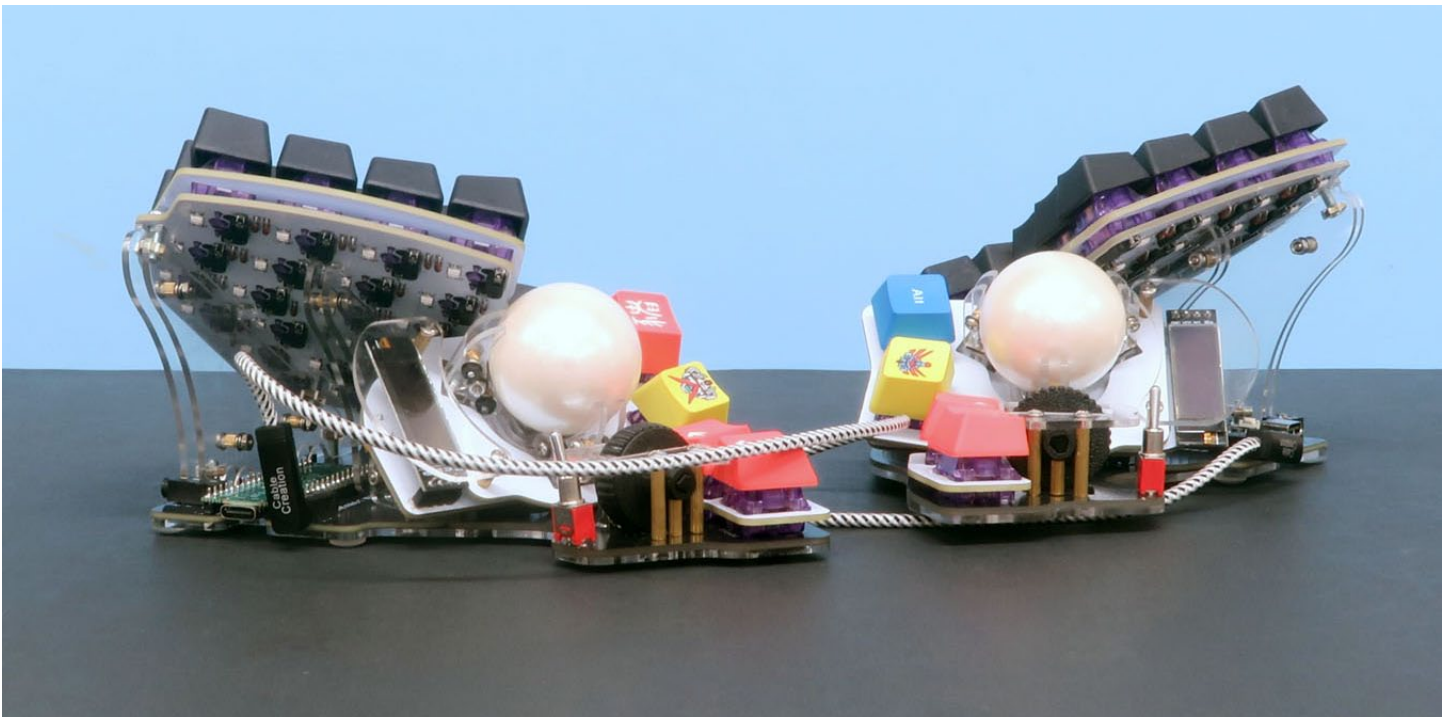
The Type 94 37 mm quick-firing gun was developed by the Imperial Japanese Army and was used in the Second Sino-Japanese War and World War 2. It was first introduced in 1936, though it retained its original Type 94 designation, referencing the Japanese imperial year 2594 (1934 in the Gregorian calendar), the year it was accepted into service.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Pip Moss: 1/48 F-5E Tiger II (AFV Club)

Aftermarket items include a Quinta Studio 3D decal cockpit set, a Quickboost resin ejection seat, and Eduard Brassin resin wheels. A Master Models brass pitot tube and gun barrels arrived after these photos were taken. The three primary camouflage paints are all from AK Real Colors. These were first applied using raised masks, but the demarcations looked too stark, so they were gone over with freehand airbrush. The cockpit was painted with Mr. Color Neutral Gray, the boarding ladder with Mr. Color Orange Yellow, and the CATM-9 with Model Master FS Blue and Mr. Color Flat White. The landing gear and bays are all Alclad Aluminum; various shades of Alclad were also used for the aft fuselage and exhaust nozzles. The model depicts s.n. 74-1668 as she appeared around 1980 in the 64th Aggressor Squadron at Nellis AFB as part of the USAF's Red Flag dissimilar aircraft combat training program, where it was used to simulate the Soviet MiG-21. Aggressor planes were painted (and often repainted) in a variety of Soviet-inspired schemes. This one was called Snake.



Shivam Midha: Killer Whale Keyboard (Taro Hayashi, designer)

Not exactly a scale model, but definitely an involved construction project. Shivam hand soldered everything. He writes, "First soldering project in 10 years. It was an absolute bear, but built a lot of confidence in my soldering skills."

The Killer Whale, a split keyboard with versatile thumb cluster options designed by Taro Hayashi, is making waves in the Japanese community. Originally, it's a 28-key one-handed (right/left) device (the kit contains parts for one half only) with a three-dimensional shape defined by acrylic pillars. However, by connecting two, you get a split keyboard.

In an interview, Hayashi states, "Killer Whale is directly inspired by Dactyl Manuform. That thing looks cool. Killer Whale would look similar if you'd remove the ADD Unit. Also, there are so many people in Japan who use Keyball tilted on a stand, so I thought it would be simple and fun to have a tilted version from the start."

As to why "Killer Whale," Hayashi states, "Took it from the name of a song by Smallpools. I like indie rock bands. My other keyboards use song titles and band names too."



Jamie Michaels
28mm Khymaera Trikymaerax
(Steamforged Games)

For this wargaming figure and the two shown on the next page, Jamie used Vallejo Glaciel-Blue, TurboDork colored metallics, Vallejo Metals P3 Arcane Blue, and Vallejo washes.

All three figures are from Warmachine, a tabletop steampunk wargame. They are part of the Khymaera Shadowflame Shard army. The Trihymaerax measures 120mm, the Aklyss 50mm, and the Vallyx 40mm.





Jamie Michaels
Kymaera Aklyss (left) and Vallyx (right)



Jamie Michaels
28mm Mercenary Nissak,
Totem Huntress
(Steamforged Games)

Another Khymaera faction figure. Jamie painted her with Vallejo acrylics. The cobblestone base was hand sculpted.



Jamie Michaels

28mm Dusk Ghosts of Ios
Spectre
(Steamforged Games)

One more Khymaera faction figure, Jamie used Privateer Press P3 Pearlescent Metallic White as well as Vallejo Show White and Blue-Gray.





George Lellios

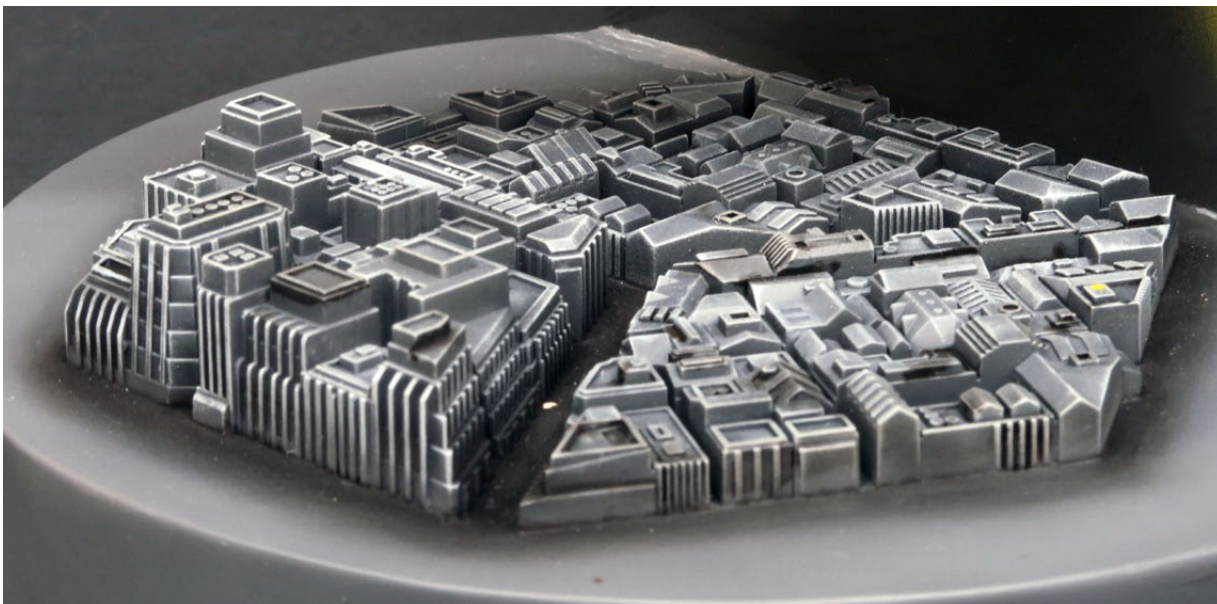
Gee Bee Racer "Batman 1935" (Dora Wings)

George added a Japanese pilot figure from a set purchased on Aliexpress, modified with "ears" cut from .25mm strip styrene. He also added a cape made of PVA-doped paper, and masking tape seat belts. He added Master Model Spandau MG-08 machine guns with scratchbuilt stock and base, greebled with miscellaneous PE pieces including ammo belt. The original sights on the MGs failed and had to be replaced with other PE parts, which in turn broke off and had to be replaced. Final count of sights used: 11. The fuselage ribs were depicted with large raised lines – completely inaccurate. These were aggressively sanded down to the appropriate shape.

Painting started with Mr. Surfacer 1500 gray primer, then AK Real Colors and Tamiya lacquer paints for base colors, followed by Future for decal prep. Final clear coat is VMS Satin. The model was weathered with various Vallejo acrylics for detail and chipping, and Winsor & Newton and Gamblin oil paints.

George writes, "It's the Batplane ... if Batman were around in 1935 and stupid enough to acquire and fly this death trap. But it does look cool! Wing markings were painted on using the kit masks, but moved back to create a larger black wing area."

"Vignette consists of Bandai Customize Scene Base 04 (city), Styrofoam base and back formed via hot wire foam cutting table, and styrene sheet layered over Styrofoam. Clouds and bat signal airbrushed. All in all, not a great kit, with lots of work needed to get it to look good, but a fun project with a good looking end result."





Kurt Kunze: 1/48 P-51D Mustang (Airfix)

Kurt replaced the control stick with brass wire after the original one broke off. Paints are Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for the Dominican Air Force, 1984. This was the world's last operation P-51 Mustang.



Chris Kizik: 1/72 Sd.Kfz. 7/2 (Hasegawa)

Chris built the halftrack model OOB and painted it with Vallejo Panzer Grey with some washes and dusting. The diorama features a 1/72 European church building from Perfik.



Cade Harris: 1/144 Boeing 307 Stratoliner (Roden)

Cade built the model OOB and painted it with Tamiya metallics over a Mr. Color Gloss Black base coat. He also used Tamiya Panel Line Accent. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for Zuni, s.n. NC19907, flying for TWA.

Derived from the B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, the Boeing 307 entered commercial service in July 1940. It was the first airliner in revenue service with a pressurized cabin, which, with supercharged engines, allowed it to cruise above the weather. Zuni was one of five 307s procured by TWA in 1940. In 1941 all five were pressed into military service as C-75s. After the war, the planes were updated and returned to the airline. On April 1, 1945, the first post-war civil commercial flight was made by Zuni from La Guardia to San Francisco via Pittsburgh, Saint Louis, Kansas City, Albuquerque, and Burbank.



David Hamel: 1/48 Polikarpov Il-16 UTI-4 (Kitbash)

David combined parts from three kits to create this model: The fuselage and cowling came from an Eduard Il-16 Type 10. The wing came from a Clear Prop Il-16 Type 5 (late wing). The interior, exterior area around cockpit and windscreens are resin from AML. David also added a trim tab to the starboard aileron, cut and added hinges and control rod through the tail cone, and repositioned elevators and exhaust pipes. Paints are AKAN (Russian). Decals are from the kit. Markings are for a plane based at Varena airfield in 1941.



Tom Flaherty:

1/48 P-51D Mustang (Tamiya)

Tom added an Eduard photo-etch set and aftermarket decals from Lifelike. He used a plethora of paint products: Mr. Metal Primer, Stynylrez primer, Tamiya lacquers, Alclad metallic lacquers, Mr. Color acrylic lacquers,, AK varnishes, Extreme Metal and 3rd Generation acrylics, Vallejo Model Air and Metal Colors, MRP acrylic lacquers, and Abteilung oils. The model depicts "Mrs. Bonnie" flown by Lt. Col. Bill Dunham, Deputy CO of the 348th FG, le Shima airfield off the coast of Okinawa during the spring and summer of 1945.



Mason Fitch: 1/16 Halo Master Chief (Bandai)

Mason built the figure OOB. For paints he used Mr. Color acrylic lacquers airbrushed, Vallejo acrylics hand painted and sprayed, and Tamiya weathering powders.

Master Chief Petty Officer John-117, colloquially known as Master Chief, is the protagonist of the *Halo* video game series and its spin-off media. The Master Chief is a towering supersoldier known as a "Spartan", trained from childhood for combat. A pop culture icon, it is widely regarded as one of the greatest video game characters of all time and has been seen as a mascot for *Halo* and the Xbox brand.

Upcoming Events

- August 6–9.....**IPMS National Convention**, Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA
Log on to <https://ipmsnationals.org/>
- September 28.....**Patcon 2025**, IPMS Patriot Scale Modelers, American Heritage Museum, Hudson/Stow, MA
Go to ipmspatriot.org
- October 19.....**GraniteCon 32**, Granite State Modelers, Weare Middle School, Weare, NH.
Contact Rodney Currier: nickmatt2@roadrunner.com or 603-726-3876
- October 25.....**HVSM Show 2025**, IPMS Hudson Valley Scale Modelers, Elks Club, Lodge Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY.
Contact John Gallagher: ggallagherjoh@gmail.com or 845-462-4740.

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