





# OUR MONTHLY MEETING SPOT

Meeting: Jordan Ford 13010 N Interstate 35, San Antonio, TX 78233

Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:50 PM

Demonstration: "Cutting Machines and Modeling" by Mario Fernandez

Model Contest Theme: Make it Snappy

Health Protocol: Masks Optional





# LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS BY DANA MATHES

Modelfiesta 41 is now in the books with these statistics: 356 model entries, 120 contestants, 50 vendors, 123 tables sold, 548 visitors, 40 club members serving, and a total of about 750 attendees. Folks came from as far away as Mexico, Las Vegas, and New Orleans. Several people I spoke with complemented our club on a well-run event with very friendly and helpful workers. I was very proud of our club's teamwork and efficiency. Well done, Alamo Squadron! Thank you for all of your help to make the event a great success. Mark your calendar now; Feb 10, 2024 is the date of Modelfiesta 42.

The election of the 2023-2024 club officer positions will take place in April, with nominations being made at the March meeting. We have three elected officer positions: President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Please consider taking on a leadership position in our club. The criteria for officers as described in our Constitution and By-Laws document is as follows:

1. The individual must be an active Life or Adult (dues current) member who has been a member of the club for at least twelve months.

2. The individual shall live within a Alamo Squadron – March 2023 150-mile radius of the Alamo Mission.

3. The individual must display the ability and willingness to discharge the duties of the respective Executive Board position.

4. The individual must be a current member of IPMS USA and remain so during the term of office on the Alamo Squadron Executive Board or join IPMS USA prior to the date upon which the election for office in Alamo Squadron is conducted and remain a member of IPMS USA during the term of service on the Alamo Squadron Executive Board.

5. The individual must be an active model builder.

6. Members shall serve no more than three consecutive terms as an officer (either elected or appointed), being eligible for additional service after at least a one-year hiatus.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 2. Bring your current projects for the WIP discussions. Mario Fernandez will be presenting a talk on "Cutting Machines and Modeling" that you will not want to miss. The monthly contest theme is "Make it Snappy," so bring your finished Snap-Tite builds.







First Place by Peter Ortensie



Second Place by Keith Rule

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Third Place By Henry Nunez





# So What Did You get For Christmas? By Don Weaver

With the holidays wrapping up it's time to take stock and see what we got from

<u>Santa.</u> Although I was wishing for a new 1/72 scale RAF Handley Page Victor Bomber to finish my RAF "V" Bomber set, my loving wife said "you have enough, you need to build what you have." So with that in mind, I used my gift cards and headed to Amazon to get some more reference material, something a modeler can never have enough of.

1. First is Legends of Warfare Aviation, C-141 Starlifter by John Gourley and published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. The hard cover book is divided into 5 chapters spanning the history of the C-141 through development, the A, B, & C models, NC-141 test beds and its use in Vietnam and other theaters. It has numerous B&W and color photos of the cockpit and cargo bay areas and in action shots. There are line drawings of equipment layouts, instrument panels, external equipment, and antenna placement. Unfortunately it does not give exact F.S. panel locations for antennas and other external equipment so the modeler will have to judge the exact location. I found the section on the NC-141 Test beds personally interesting because I flew as Flight Test Engineer on two of them (tails 775 & 777) during my assignment to WPAFB and the 4950th Test Wing during the 80s.

LEGENDS (OF) WAREARE

JOHN GOURLEY



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2. Next is Legends of Warfare Aviation, B-58 Hustler, by David Doyle and published as a hardcover book by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. It has 2 chapters; the first covering the development and building of the YB/RB-58. The second covers the B-58A, the production aircraft used by the USAF. Both chapters contain extensive history and many photos, many in color, showing the details of different parts of the aircraft, including the cockpit, the Bomb/Nav, and DSO compartments. It also shows the ejection/escape pods that were used for the aircrew. The only thing lacking is a listing of all the squadrons and their individual aircraft marking, although the photos show many different aircraft markings it would be nice to have a concise list/view. This aircraft was finished in natural metal throughout its service life so the photos will aid the modeler in getting the finish correct.



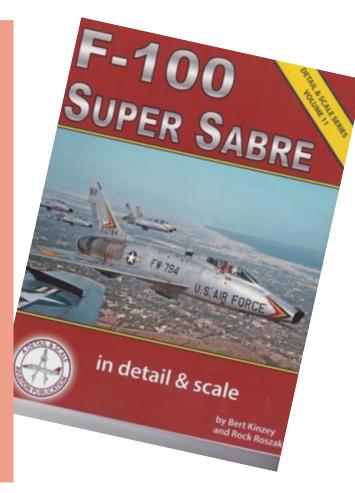
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3. Next is S-3 Viking by Lou Drendel, published by Aviation Art, Inc. This is a 98 page soft cover book chock full of photos and information on the S-3 and its' Photos show it configured for variants. its primary role as a sub hunter (S-3A) and in later roles as a buddy tanker (S-3B) and ELINT collector (ES-3A). Numerous line drawing show equipment location, both external and internal, and includes instrument panels. Lind drawings also show location of antennas and external equipment. Many photos, mostly in color, show the aircraft in action, both on carriers and at airfields, with plenty of photos covering the wing fold, but no photos of the tail fold mechanism. Although the external changes for the S-3B are minor, removal of MAD probe and addition of formation "slime" lighting, the ES-3A required a bit of additional modification. A hump on top of the wing with a dome at the front of the hump is the most recognizable feature and photos of antennas added to the underside and wing are included. Overall an excellent book that I enjoyed reading.



The last book I purchased was Detail & Scales Series Volume 11, F-100 Super Sabre by Bert Kinzey & Rock Roszak. I love the colorful jets from the 50-70s and the F-100 was one of the most colorful in service, but getting the engine area looking right has kept me from building a model. The book is soft cover and is the latest in Detail & Scales' new series with expanded sections on the aircraft from development through its operational use and into retirement and use as a drone by the USAF. Last is an expanded modeler's section with reviews of the released/available kits, both old and newer. The book has separate chapters for each version of the jet (YF-100A, F-100A, -C, -D, -F, QF-100D & F), jets in foreign service (France, Turkey, Republic of China, and Denmark), and a pilot's report on flying the jet. Nearly half the book contains photographic details of various parts of the aircraft. Most are in color which will help the modeler "get it right". Overall, it is enough to keep me a fan of Detail & Scale books and maybe give me the incentive to start building a Sabre model.



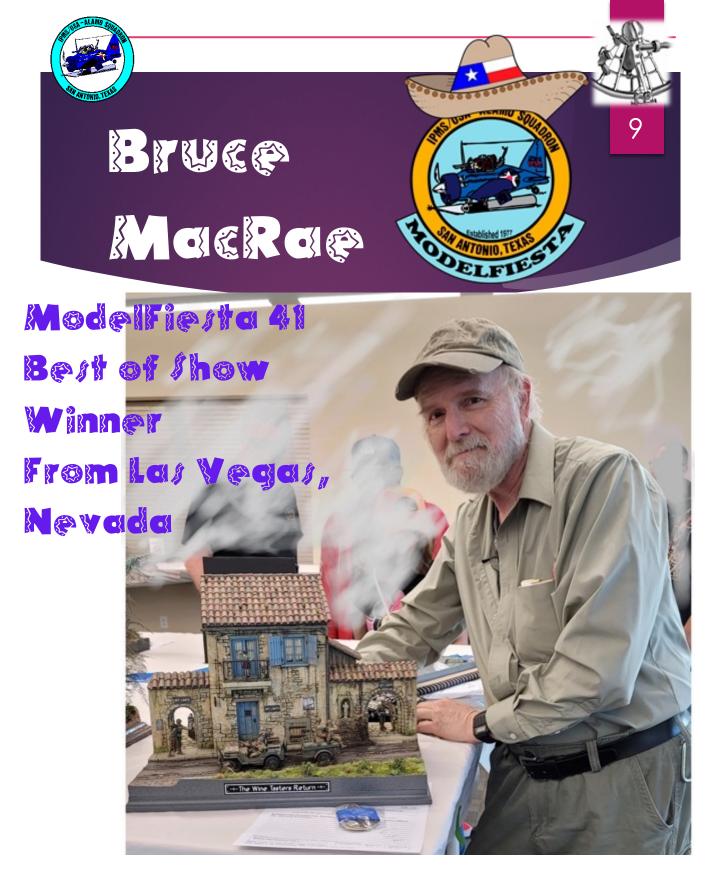




As preparation for the ModelFiesta event in February, our volunteer members were actively engaged in judging training, so all our contestants would have a very fair and balanced rating. В







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USS POPE Alamo Squadron Model of the Year 2022

by Lee Washburn My entry in Model of the Year contest came about with my taking first place in the Alamo Squadron's October contest, where the title was "A Model Built Based on a Photograph". The photo of my model was of the USS POPE DD225 taken in Han Kow China about 1927. After reading the history of this ship, I knew I had to build her. I started research in January of 2021 and construction began in Feb. It took seven months build-time working several hours a day five days a week. With the Oct. 2022 contest history and the Jan. 2023 Model of the Year selection, you can see it has been a lengthy cruise

The Pope was a "Four Stacker, Flush Deck" destroyer. One of 273 built between 1917 – 1922. Constructed in eleven different yards and in three different classes, no two ships were alike. The Pope was built by Cramp Shipbuilding in Philadelphia and commissioned Oct. 27, 1920. Too late for WW I, the Pope would have her moment of glory in WW II. She was 315 ft. long at the weather deck with a beam of 31 ft. 8 ins. Her top speed was 35 knots; and she and her sisters were known as very wet sailors with little comfort for the ship's officers and crew. After a shakedown cruise in the Caribbean, she headed out to her permanent assignment with the Asiatic Fleet on the China Station.

The Pope's day of destiny occurred on Mar. 1, 1942; when she and other vessels of the now 10 th. US Fleet were trying desperately to out-run and hide from the Japanese juggernaut, tearing through the South Pacific. The Pope was simultaneously attacked by four cruisers, an estimated five destroyers and Val dive bombers from the carrier RYUJO.

Moving on to the construction of the model, I was aware that BlueJacket Shipcrafters had produced a 310 destroyer kit many years ago and revised it recently. I was not interested in building the kit but I decided to use the kit's plans. This is commonly done by ship model builders. My build would actually be what is considered a Class B scratch-build. The plans were in 1/8 scale, which gave me a hull length of 39.5 inches, and a beam of 4.25 inches. That is a big chunk of wood. Bass was the wood of choice and it is fairly inexpensive. The plans gave me the station lines; so I made tracings of the lines, copied them onto Bristol board and cut them to shape. In fairing out the hull, I found the bow section the most difficult to complete. As the bow of the ship rises up from the cutwater, there is a definite flare that tapers out at the deck line. The mid-section is relatively flat and the stern ends in a point in the fantail. Bass wood is somewhat porous; therefore I knew I would use a lot of sealant and paint to get the hull hard -shelled and smooth. I follow the same procedure on most of my models when painting. I apply numerous coats and always sand with OOOO steel wool between coats. I find this allows me to identify any wood imperfections, and also gives me the shade of color I want for any given section of the model.





Like most model building, ship models are usually built in subsections or components. The section of the ship determines the material used. I knew the super structure of the ship was going to be quite fragile at the same time, requiring extra strength to support the subsections attached to it, so I used some very thin plywood. The after cabin was built from white pine; and the galley house, which sits behind the bridge, was thin plywood.



Continuing the hull construction, the twin prop shafts and struts made of brass rod and sheet. This required a lot of soldering, brushing and polishing. I find it helpful to a jig if you are required to build than one piece, which must be identical. A prototype also helps in getting it perfect. The prop guards were also of brass.

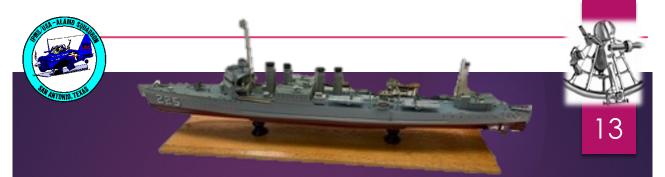




I got a little carried away building the bridge area. The actual structure of the bridge is a series of compound angles and shapes. The plenum, which is attached just below the bridge windows, was designed to keep as much sea spray off the windows as possible. Building this wrap around structure proved too difficult to build on the super structure; so I built it separate and then cut and sanded it to the correct shape.

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The thirteen glass-simulated windows were made up of three separate pieces of clear plastic packing material. One has to look closely to see the Captain's chair on the port bridge with its brown leather cushions. I also placed a very tiny ship's clock on the forward bulkness.

The time on the clock is the hour she wentdown in the Java Strait that fateful day in 1942.

For mast and aerials I use brass. I prefer brass as it supports rigging tension far better than plastic. I highly recommend to those building plastic ship models to replace the kit supplied mast with brass, you will avoid unsightly sags and bending.

The two search light towers on the Pope are completely different from each other. The forward platform sits atop a strange pedestal which I constructed from brass pieces soldered together, bored out, and ground down to scale. The second tower sits slightly aft, midship, between the two large engine room hatches. Referencing photos, I constructed the tower from plastic angle iron. Placing it on the deck, it did not look correct; so upon further photo studies, I added winged gussets at the base. The ladders used for both platforms and other areas on the model were from correct scaled PE parts I had in my bilge stash.



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In building the Pope I made two presentations to the Club. One was a quick class on scratch-building subassemblies; and the other at the Works in Progress (WIP) portion of the meeting. -The class covered the complicated build of four three-tube torpedo units. The torpedo tubes were made from ¼ inch birch dowels. All wiring was brass and copper.



Gunner's seats and steering were from miscellaneous PE parts. Designing the spoons for the front of the tubes presented some problems; until in a moment of inspiration, I took a new #11 X-ACTO blade and sliced a plastic straw to the exact shape required. Ah, ingenuity! The four units were attached to the deck by a pivot pin so they could be swung outboard.





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The Pope carried four 4 inch/50 caliber single purpose rapid fire guns. I brought these guns to the Club's WIP table to describe my progress in building these pieces. Barrels were from old Britannia pieces, cut down, reshaped and extended with brass muzzle cones. Gun framing, sights and pedestals were Evergreen plastic. Along with building the guns, I needed to construct eight 4 inch ready ammo racks. The aligning of the shell tubing was the largest part of the construction of this subcomponent.

The forward mounted gun was an exception to the other pieces; as it was housed in a gun shield consisting of three sides with open back. Getting the form of the shield required some careful bending of sheet styrene. I waited until I had the correct form secured with internal braces and struts, before I cut out the elevation slot in front and the two side-viewing ports.

The next major sub assembly was construction of the depth charge racks on the stern. Again, a lot of photo review and research was needed as the four stackers varied greatly with the arrangement of these racks. A critical consideration in building was the extreme narrowing of the fantail requiring the angle of the two racks to coincide with the stern which tapered to a point. The cans were made from 1/8 inch dowels, and the rack structures were styrene. I enjoy painting with a brush; however, due to the complexity of the depth charge racks, the air brush was the tool of choice.

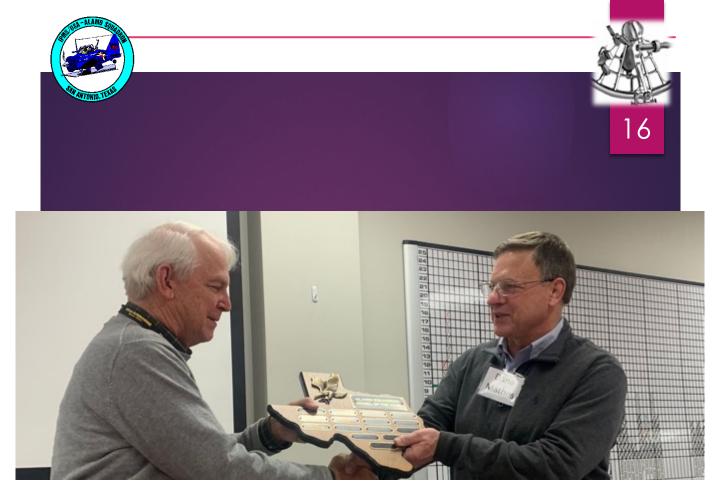


There are three locations on the model which required canvas dodgers. These are canvas wrappings intended is to keep spray from the crew members while performing their duties. It has always been reliably questionable if that intent was ever proven. Over the years I have devised a method of constructing these dodgers out of linen cloth and coating them with multiple layers of diluted white glue.

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Once dried, I paint them the desired color and cut them into the required width and length. They are attached with a drop of CA glue to painted brass stanchions. If there are any ragged edges after cutting, I can seal the cloth with white glue. For the Pope these screens were found around both search light towers and enclosing the bridge top platform.





A great deal of pride in any naval ship is reflected in the appearance of their ship's boats. Even a rusted and dented old destroyer has its Captain's gig, which is going to represent the ship both ashore or when visiting another nearby vessel. Three correct style Britannia metal boats were selected for the model, and they were shaped and sanded to scale. I placed ribs inside each one which I fashioned from thin stripping tape. Flooring, thwarts and gunwales were carved from mahogany scraps and I finished them all bright. The whale boat's canopy covering was made from Sculpey clay and painted sparkling white. The USS Pope was one of the many gallant ships that fought in WW II. She lost only one crew member when the ship was attacked. Unfortunately, she lost 27 of her crew while in Japanese POW camps. Her Captain, LCDR Blinn received the Navy Cross for his action in commanding the ship; and her Executive Officer LT. Antrim received the Medal of Honor for his selfless acts of heroism in the POW camps. The ship was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. A noble ship indeed, and I am pleased that she was selected as **Model of The Year**.



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# Member's Showcase

## P6M-1 Seamaster By John Kress

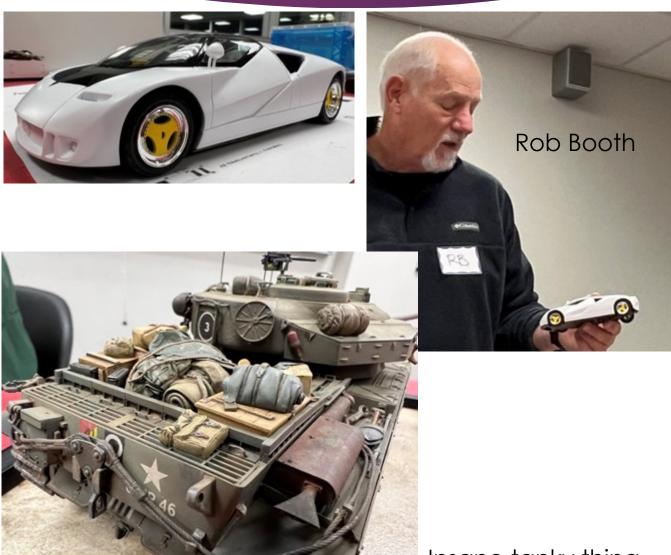


P6M Seamaster By Juio Caro – Check Julio's article in page 22!



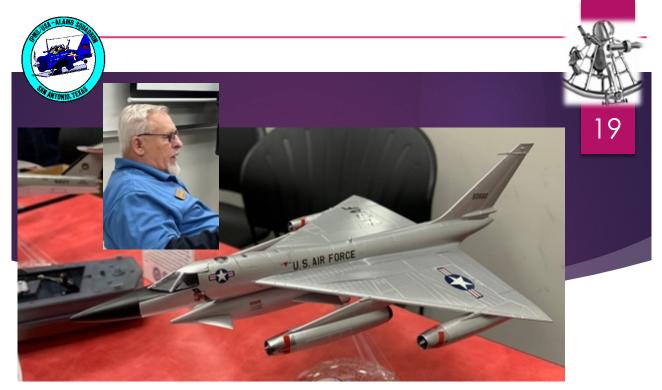


# Member's Showcase



Insane tanky thing



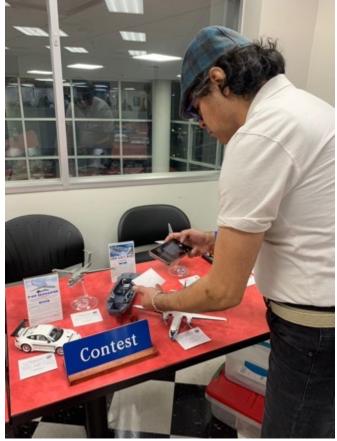




Me (Jerry Escobedo) taking photos for this Newsletter

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## B-58 Hustler by Herb Scranton III



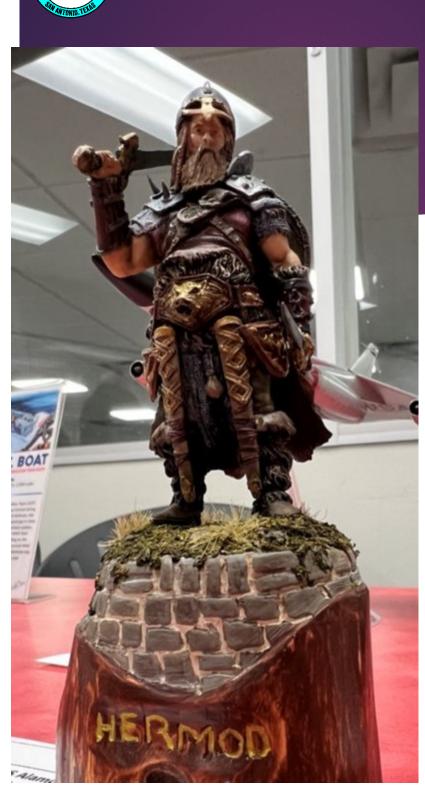




Jonathon Griffith and his Black Mustang 20



Keith Rule giving away his secrets for his awesome truck models



Hermóðr by Chuck Blair (Cultural bit: Old Norse: ['herm oːðz], "war-spirit"; anglicized as Hermod. Hermóðr is a figure in Norse mythology, a son of the god Odin and brother of Baldr.)

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Bint Pr. Bant



## Vincent Benavidez and His Star Trek Spaceship



A 1:1 scale Lamborghini I found in the freeways of San Antonio, Texas





#### The Mistake: A Tale of Frustration and Redemption

By Julio C<u>aro</u>

Greetings, fellow modelers! Today I bring you a delightful tale about a kit that I **built, ruined** and **restored.** The kit in question is the 1/136 scale, **Martin P-6M SeaMaster Seaplane** (kit #H244) from ATLANTIS Models (picture below).



#### First, Some Background

Revell produced a P6M-1 SeaMaster kit in 1/136 scale back in the 1950s. To date, it remains the only injection-molded kit of the P6M-1 design ever produced. When HOBBICO (owners of Revell-Monogram and Revell/Germany) went bankrupt a few years back, Atlantis acquired the molds they had in storage in the United States and they've been re-issuing P6M-1 kits using those same molds since then. Their latest P6M-1 kit re-release (and the one discussed in this article) took place in 2019.

This is a simple and basic skill set kit comprised of only 20 parts. You can build this kit as either the ill-fated dark sea blue XP6M-1 prototype or the more challenging gull gray and white "What if" version that many thought would have been produced had SeaMaster program survived cancelation in 1959. You can see these two versions in the photos below.



Dark Sea Blue XP6M-1 SeaMaster Prototype (Built by John Kress, IMPS Region 6, Alamo Squadron Chapter)



"What If" Gull Gray and White P6M-1 SeaMaster (Built by Julio Caro, IMPS Region 6, Alamo Squadron Chapter)





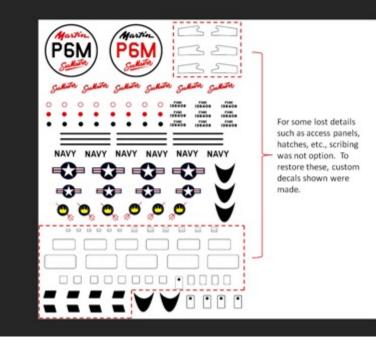
#### PART 1 – The Initial Build

I decided to build the "What If" version. Although simple, this kit turned out to be one of the most challenging and frustrating that I've ever built! Along with a personal review, let me share some of my experiences with this kit.

Although re-released in 2019, this kit is riddled with all the charm and quirks typical of most vintage kits. To start with, the styrene plastic this kit is made of is a bit thin and could break if not handled with some care. The kit itself is not difficult to put together, but it does sport some big gaps requiring a serious amount of filling and sanding, especially on the sides of the fuselage underneath where the wings attach. All that sanding removed a significant amount of surface detail that I had to spend a great deal of time fixing. In fact, I had to create some special decals to replace certain things.



Some parts were bent and/or warped and I had to employ some creative engineering to make them fit properly. Lastly, the decals that come with the kit are okay, but I decided to create and use my own set. Reference the picture below.





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#### PART 2 – The Mistake: Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory



Late one evening after everyone had gone to bed, I decided to do some last minute work on my almost-finished SeaMaster. Rather than just be happy with the model as it was, I decided to make it look better by doing some extra black panel lining with **TAMIYA Panel Line Accent Color.** I let my work dry for a few minutes before starting to clean up some spots with mineral spirits. Everything was going great until I made big and very stupid mistake:

#### I GRABBED THE ALCOHOL BOTTLE INSTEAD OF THE MINERAL SPIRITS BOTTLE!

Now, can you guess what happened to the areas I accidentally applied alcohol to? That's right, **THE ALCOHOL WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE CLEAR COAT AND MESSED UP THE PAINT.** In just mere seconds, I ruined a perfectly good kit and flushed a month's worth of down the toilet!

I bet you're wondering how that happened, right? Well, for starters, I was dead tired and not paying full attention to what I was doing. You see, a few minutes earlier I picked up a bottle of alcohol to clean some brushes. When I was done with it, I placed that bottle next to the mineral spirits bottle without realizing it! That and the fact that the two bottles are identical created the perfect recipe for this faux pas to take place.

After I calming down a bit, I started pondering some ways to fix what my mistake. Deep down though, I knew that my only viable option was to strip the paint off model and start again! So off to the 91 percent isopropyl alcohol bath my SeaMaster went!



This is what the model looked like right before I messed it up. And this is the consequence I paid for being careless! This cartoon says it all!

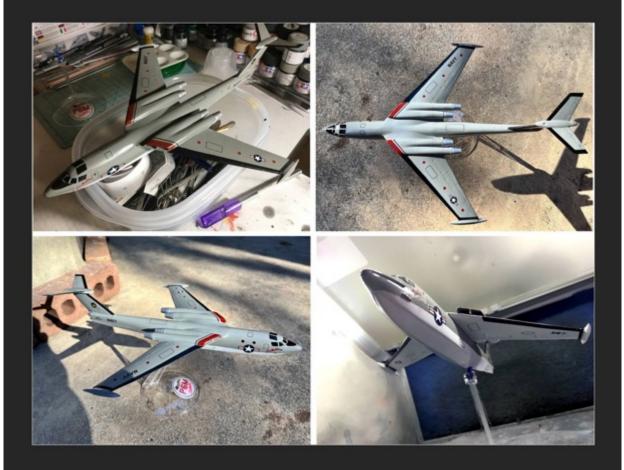




#### PART 3 – Kit Restoration

The following day, I scrubbed as much paint as I could off the model and I set it aside to dry. A couple of hours later, I began to re-finish and re-painted the plane for the second time. I took me three days to paint it; I spent the first day painting the gull gray areas, the second painting the white areas and the third painting the leading edges and engine in-takes. This time though, everything went much smoother as I was able to avoid making some mistakes I made the first time. After the paint dried, I sprayed the whole thing with a coat of clear gloss to protect the paint and get it ready for decals.

The decals I made when on without a hitch. Once the MICRO SET and MICRO SOL solutions worked their magic, I sprayed the kit with two more coats of clear gloss and called it a day. FINALLY, MY SEAMASTER WAS FINISHED AND LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER! What do you think?





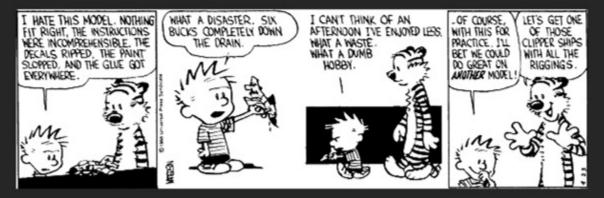


#### PART 4 - Lessons Learned

As the popular American country singer and songwriter John Williams once said, "Lessons that come easy are not lessons at all. They are gracious acts of luck. Yet lessons learned the hard way are lessons never forgotten."

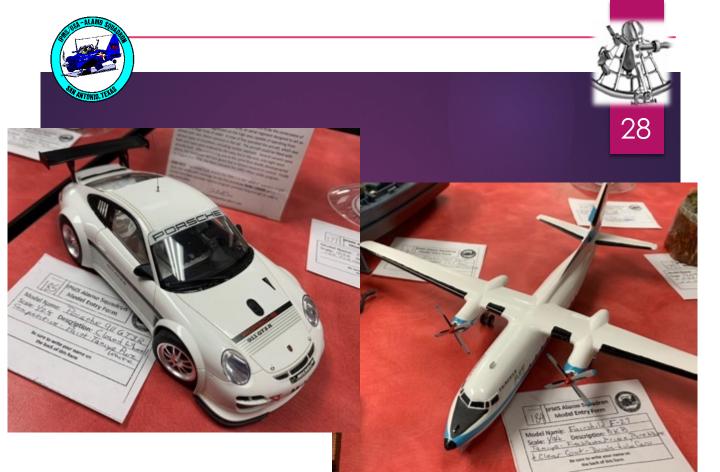
Here are some hard lessons I learned building this kit:

- 1. DON'T MESS WITH WHAT'S ALREADY PERFECT! As the saying goes, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it."
- IF POSSIBLE, USE DIFFERENT STYLE BOTTLES FOR YOUR SOLVENTS TO PREVENT CONFUSION. If this is not possible, don't put your bottles right next to each other for crying out loud!
- 3. DON'T DO ANY MODELING WORK WHEN YOU'RE TIRED OR SLEEP-DEPRIVED. If you do, your chances of making mistakes will increase. That's the price I paid for working on a model at four in the morning!
- And lastly, DON'T CRY OVER SPILLED MILK! WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. Learn from your mistakes and move on.



In conclusion, modeling is a rewarding and sometimes frustrating hobby. Although things didn't go as smoothly as I would've liked with this kit, building it taught me some very valuable lessons that I soon won't forget. At the end of day when everything was said and done, I walked away with a much nicer looking model and great story to share.

I hope that you found this article interesting and that my faux pas can be of some help to someone in some way. Until next time kids, stay awesome and keep modeling!



# John Kress' Big Projects





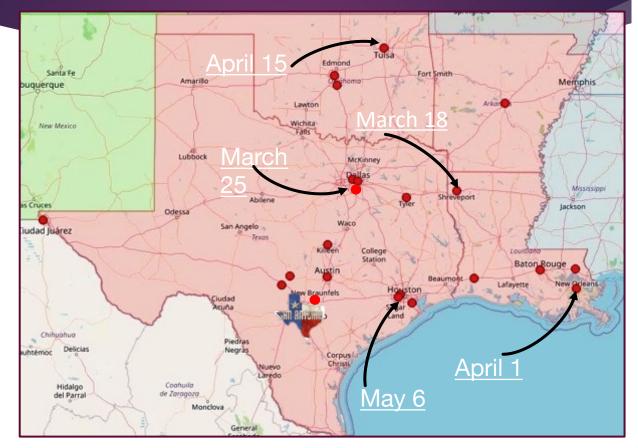








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#### Alamo Squadron – March 2023

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# Club's E-Board 2022-2023 Information

**IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron:** The Club was founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members.

The Alamo Squadron has been putting on ModelFiesta since 1981. Locations have included the Wonderland Mall, a Holiday Inn, the Seven Oaks Motel & Convention Center, the Live Oak Civic Center and the new location since 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.



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Treasurer: Don Weaver dweaver78250@gmail.com

Editor: Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo paperjerry@outlook.com



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Send text file, photos and web sites to Jerry Escobedo: paperjerry3@gmail.com

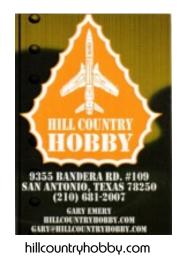




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# THE JUDGES ARE ONLY LOOKING AT YOUR DIORAMA, NOT MOVING IT!









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