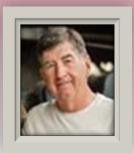


THE ALAMO SQUADRON

NAVIGATOR JULY 2024

http://www.alamosquadron.com/



On a personal note, I sold my golf cart to make room in my garage for another painting set-up. I have built a work table and now have an area for spray can work (David Auth is LOL!) and 2K Ure-

thane Clear Coat airbrushing (a product that requires a mask, gloves, and plenty of ventilation). How far will some of us go for this hobby?

The next model contest is the Space City Shootout (Automotive only) July 27 at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Road One, Seabrook, TX, 77586. This contest is hosted by the Houston Auto Modelers. After that, it's the IPMS Nationals in Madison, Wisconsin July 17-20.

Model Fiesta is our premier event of the year. We have secured the entire New Braunfels Civic Center for our January 4, 2025 Model Fiesta 43. Chris Menold and the Model Fiesta team continue to work towards an expanded and successful Model Fiesta 43.

Chris Menold has been in contact with Hobbytown and they have enthusiastically offered a space for us to meet and build, socialize, and generally "bs" about models. This takes place every Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00 at Hobbytown, 1309 N. Loop 1604. All are welcome.

At Joe Bianco's request, Dana Mathes has taken over the Head Judge position for Model Fiesta

43 in addition to his leadership of Alamo Squadron's Judge Training Program. Dana has been in contact with other modeling clubs in the area and they have expressed interest in our judge training program. Dana is working with these potential judges. The Judge Training committee has committed to the Gold, Silver, Bronze (GSB) awards format for Model Fiesta 43. This format is where models are judged not against each other, but against a standard, as we have discussed at our monthly meetings. We will have our first Judge Training session of the Monthly Club Contest after the mid-meeting break at our upcoming July 11 meeting.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 11, starting at 6:30. The meeting is at Jordan's Ford facility at 2411 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, TX 78148. This is Jordan Ford's ancillary facility. The Demonstration will be Doing Commission Work by Lee Washburn. The Monthly Contest theme is Open. And of course, we will have WIP (Work In Progress).

See Ya', Keith

this issue

President's Corner by Keith Rule

We Will Miss You Rene and Vince by Alan Larrumbide

Model Fiesta 43 Update by Chris Menold

Changes to Alamo Squadron Monthly Contest Format by Dana Mathes

Preparation & Painting of Aircraft Canopies by Lee Forbes
Dragon 1/35 Scale Egyptian T34-100 SPG by Mike Williams
Curtiss BFC-2 Goshawk Walkaround by Devon McCollough
Thinking *Inside* the Box by Herb Scranton III

We are sad to report that in June the Alamo Squadron lost two of our beloved members. Rene Faulk and Vincent Benevidez both passed away suddenly at their homes.

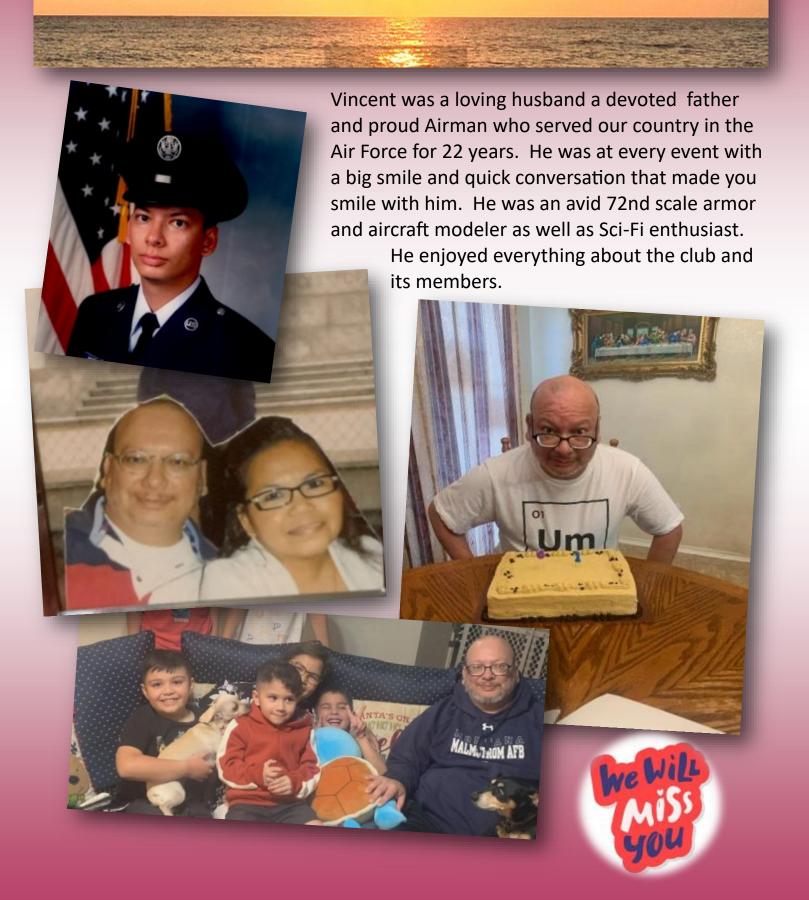
Rene was an avid Sci-fi modeler, as well as anything that came out in a movie or tv-show. A walking trivia / anecdote database on those subjects. Always tagging along for whatever event or plan he could attend, his presence was always noticeable and you had a good laugh with his stories.







We are sad to report that in June the Alamo Squadron lost two of our beloved members. Rene Faulk and Vincent Benevidez both passed away suddenly at their homes.



Model Fiestards

Greetings from the Model Fiesta 43 team!



After months of planning discussions and taking lessons learned from other regional contests, we are going to implement a Gold-Silver-Bronze (GSB) awards format to replace the traditional 1st, 2nd and 3rd win-

ners format. Dana Mathes, who has striven at the national level to bring fairness and consistency to judging, has taken over as head judge to guide us through this change--we're in good hands but he will need everyone's help along the way...we'll need judges! We have promising other tweaks to the show that I'm excited about. We're bringing back make and take, with a bit more variety for the kids to choose from than possible under the old IPMS program. Our raffle will have hourly drawings and will post tickets on a board to avoid cramming a crowd into the foyer. (We'll save some of the best goodies for last as a finale while judging is completed.) Speaking of judging, every model will be judged and given feedback, so to manage the workload we'll start judging as soon as models hit the table. We are also exploring two options to automate registration: one is the IPMS system that will be used the at the Nats and another is a development project by our very own Mario Fernandez and his brother. If we can prove the benefits and reliability of either, we will use that technolo-



gy. There's a lot of promise in making registration easier, getting contestants results faster and making our volunteers job's easier. However, I won't recommend moving forward if there's unacceptable risk... good old paper and pencil still works for me.

I hope you're as excited about these changes as I am. Building models means trying new things and taking risks to get better. We're going to do this with MF 43, and I have confidence we've got the right team to make our show shine.

Chris Menold

Model Fiesta 43 Director

Changes to Alamo Squadron Monthly Contest Format - July 2024

By Dana Mathes



Alamo Squadron members, please note that the club will be making some changes to its monthly contest format beginning at the July 11, 2024 meeting. These changes were discussed at the May and June meetings.

Thank you for your adaptability and willingness to help the club improve its judging process.

Why are we making these changes?

One of the purposes of our club is to help our members improve their modeling skills. Detailed feedback on your work is perhaps the best way to understand where you can focus your skill improvement efforts. Our new judging protocol gives holistic and useful feedback to the modeler. The judges will point out the best elements of the work while specifically noting the type and location of defects. Moreover, the process provides a comprehensive assessment (expressed as a score) of your model's construction and finish quality, overall presentation, and degree of difficulty. In addition, this new procedure will enable the club to train judges for our next Modelfiesta contest in January.

What will stay the same?

Please continue to bring in the models you have finished for competition in our club's contest. The top three winners (1-2-3 based on score) will still be eligible for the club's Model of the Year award. We will continue to use the same table tag entry form.

What will be different?

One of the key differences with this format is that each monthly contest will now be "Open," with no theme or constraints. This enhances the ability of club members to compete each month. Instead of placing your entry by the WIP area, you will now place your model upon a tray on a table by the room adjacent to our club meeting area, our new "Judging Room." Club members will continue to be able to view the contest entries, but the location will now be near the Judging Room and not by the WIP area. Once the club meeting comes to its break time, the judges will begin to evaluate the contest entries. Each entry will be carried carefully on a tray into the Judging Room and remain there only long enough to be evaluated. The judges being trained on our new judging procedure will score each model and provide feedback on a form which will be folded and left by the model for the contestant. The model will be carried on the same tray back to the contest entry table. The model will not be lifted off of the tray or handled by the judges. The winners (1-2-3) of the monthly contest will now be determined by their scores rather than by club voting.

As a contestant, what should I do differently?

This new format does not require any changes from you as a member contestant other than placing the model in a different place than where you have for the past few months. Hopefully the feedback you receive will help you accelerate your skill development.

Dana Mathes, Model Fiesta 43 Head Judge



Preparation & Painting of Aircraft Canopies

By Lee Forbes, IPMS # 2297

Carefully painted canopy frames are the "crowning glory" of a finished aircraft model and greatly adds to the realism of any aircraft subject whether the canopy is displayed open or closed. There are a number of ways to prepare for the painting of aircraft canopies. They range from brush painting, using aftermarket masks designed for specific aircraft subjects and available in a variety of scales, to use of Bare Metal Foil applied to the canopy and carefully cutting away the foil with a knife with a fresh # 11 blade exposing only the canopy framing when completed. This is a risky proposition and requires not only experience but a very steady hand. The method I prefer is applying masking tape in small pieces and strips of tape sized to the scale of the aircraft model that you have chosen to build.

Tools and Materials Needed.

The tools and masking tape that you will need for the process are: new #11 blades and a hobby knife; steel straight edge for cutting masking tape; a hard surface (plate glass, marble, or self-sealing cutting sheet) for cutting the masking tape; and a small curved point tweezers for carefully removing and applying masking tape. The masking tapes I prefer are TAMIYA Masking Tape (tan in color) in whatever size you select

and SCOTCH 3M BLUE painters masking tape with the orange color on the inside of the roll. The TAMIYA masking tape is normally available at most Hobby Shops and the Painters tape is available at Home Depot, Lowes, and most hardware or paint stores. For best results use the TAMIYA tapes for masking canopy frames and the SCOTCH 3M tape for blocking "overspray" on the already painted surfaces of the model when you spray the canopy frames.

Getting Started

STEP 1: Before starting any preparation to attach the canopy on the model, complete all the painting of the model. Do not apply FUTURE/PLEDGE to the model or apply any decals to the model at this time.

STEP 2: Carefully remove the canopy from the clear parts tree and carefully sand and remove any residual "rough edges" on bottom and sides of the bottom canopy frame and test fit as needed.

STEP 3: Apply FUTURE/PLEDGE to the inside of the canopy using a Q-TIP dipped in the solution to brighten the inside of the canopy and set aside to dry. Do not "dip" the canopy in FUTURE/PLEDGE because the paint may not stick to the outside of the canopy when you attempt to paint the canopy frames. I learned not to do

this the hard way. NOTE: At this stage you might want to carefully brush paint the bottom of the canopy the matching color(s) of the painted model. This will prevent "refraction" which is light picking up the clear plastic when you look down on the canopy after it has been painted.

STEP 4: Attach the canopy to the painted model using your favorite canopy glue. I prefer to use MICROKRISTAL KLEAR. After "test fitting" the canopy, cut two narrow (more if needed) strips of the TAMIYA Tape overlapping each side of the canopy. This will hold the canopy in place while you carefully apply the glue to the bottom edge of the canopy to attach it to the model. NOTE: I used to apply the glue with a tooth pick. But this often allowed too much glue to seep under the canopy and I'd have to start all over. I now use a fine tipped paint brush and have better control of applying the glue. Apply the glue sparingly or capillary action can cause the glue to seep inside the canopy and you may have to start over.

STEP 5: After the glue starts to set up carefully remove the strips of masking tape from the model and fill in the gaps with the glue. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly and when it's clear, remove the excess with a damp Q-TIP. After glue residue is removed and the painted area is completely clean you are ready to start masking the canopy frames in preparation for painting.

STEP 6: Start with preparing the bottom canopy frame first. Cut and apply small pieces of TAMIYA making tape to all exposed parts of the canopy that are above the bottom canopy frame. Apply the SCOTCH 3M tape to all areas of the model that could be affected by "overspray" when the exposed canopy frame is

sprayed. When completed, spray the canopy frame the matching color(s) of the already painted fuselage. NOTE: Paint only the bottom frame of the windscreen. This will be the last step in painting the completed canopy.

STEP 7: If your canopy has vertical frames, these will be prepared next for painting. Cut



and apply numerous thin strips of TAMIYA tape ensuring that only the vertical canopy frames are visible. Next, using the SCOTCH 3M tape, cover all of the pieces of TAMIYA tape that extend below the bottom of the already painted canopy frame. This avoids having a patchwork of paint ridges on the side of the fuselage. Using the SCOTCH 3M tape cover any areas of the model that could be affected "overspray." NOTE: If your canopy has a hole in it for a

radio antenna, insert a round toothpick in it to prevent any "over spray" getting inside of the canopy.

STEP 8: If your model has horizontal canopy frames repeat Step 7 ensuring that all areas of potential "overspray" are covered with the SCOTCH 3M tape.

Step 9: The final step is to mask the canopy frames that appear on the windscreen. Using small strips or pieces of TAMIYA tape carefully cover all areas that should not be painted. Again, use SCOTCH 3M tape to cover all areas that could be affected by "overspray." Spray with the matching color(s) of the already painted model. Now you have a painted canopy on

your model that you can be proud of!

STEP 10: At this stage you can spray your model with FUTURE/PLEDGE in preparation for decaling. Cover the painted canopy with SCOTCH 3M tape to avoid any "overspray" of FUTURE/PLEDGE. After the FUTURE/PLEDGE has dried, apply FUTURE/PLEDGE to the outside of the painted canopy using a Q-TIP and let it dry. Now you are ready to apply the decals and assemble the landing gear, weapons stores, etc. to finish off your model.

This is the technique that we used to teach students who enrolled in the initial version of the Alamo Squadron created Adult Building Course (ABC) program to mask and paint the canopy of the Tamiya 1/48 scale, A6M-2, Type 21 Zero. It may take a little extra time, but I believe you will be very pleased with your next build if you give it a try. It's just one more "Tool" you can put in your modeling kit bag. And for you "jet

builders," this technique will work on "clear" canopies also.

POST SCRIPT: To make a "long story short," the Adult Building Course (ABC) mentioned above, led to the IPMS/USA E-Board endorsing our Alamo Squadron program for Chapter-wide use in recruiting and retaining Chapter membership, as well as increasing IPMS/USA membership, and resulted in Alamo Squadron being selected as the 2003-2004 IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year with the award being presented to our then Chapter President, Tony Ivone, and me at the 2005 IPMS/USA National Convention in Atlanta, GA. The back story will be the subject of a future article for our Club Newsletter.





Dragon 1/35 Scale

Egyptian T34-100 SPG

by Mike Williamson





My build of the Egyptian
T34-100 SPG.

A little background on the vehicle. Around 1960, Egypt decided to modify some of its T-34-85 tanks into tank destroyers by arming them

with a more powerful 100 mm gun. This modification resulted in the creation of the Egyptian T-34-100. Unlike the Soviet T-34-100 (which was a short-lived effort during the latter stages of World War II), the Egyptian version was extensively modified to accommodate the 100 mm gun. The T-34-100 was essentially a T-34-85 with a new gun. It retained many of the same design features, engine, and performance characteristics.



The main difference was in the armament and turret design. The original T-34-85 turret was heavily modified to accept the Second World War-era Soviet BS-3 100 mm field gun.

The turret's rear, upper sides, and front armor were removed, and extended armor plates were welded in their place to accommodate the breech of the large BS-3 gun. The front and top of the turret were also extended, forming an enclosed turret. The BS-3 gun protruded far forward from the T-34-100 due to its larger size.



Overall, it was an interesting adaptation of the T -34, combining historical elements with modern firepower.

Kits used for this conversion: all 1/35 scale.

- Dragon NVA T-34/85M Nam Series #3318
- Accurate Armor T34-100 SPG Conversion kit #C70
- ICM Soviet 100-MM Field Gun BS-3 #35141





Starting the build was straight forward using the lower hull running gear and track from the Dragon kit.

The lower hull was not mated with the hull top until late in the build due to building the Accurate armor portions for the interior. The drivers compartment and crew area are all from the AA #C70 kit.



Next was building the ICM BS-3 field gun. The gun was built as a field gun per the directions; minus the gun shields, left & right trails, and wheels.

The turret was built following the #C70 instructions with the ICM kit being mated to the AA kits molded in trunnion.

Overall, the instructions from the Dragon and ICM kits were easy to follow and 99% accurate. The Accurate Armor kit instructions were somewhat vague, and the parts listing did not always match the reference photos. The photoetch kit and tow cables provided from Accurate Armor were very nice, especially for the two part engine cover screen.



The turret grab rails were scratch built using brass wire. The tracks are individual link waffle



type tracks from the Dragon kit. If I were to build this again, I would go with a better aftermarket set due to the amount of time and effort to get the kit tracks to fit correctly. The rear drive sprockets are weak and required reinforcement to maintain the proper spacing from the fifth roadwheel.

The paint was Vallejo model air and was a 3 to 1 mixture of Vallejo beige and desert sand to create the base color for the T34-100. The in-

terior color is Mission Models Elfenbein Interior White. The tarp on the turret is scratch built from tissue paper soaked in white glue. The rolled tarp is from Value Gear. The antenna is made from .005 music wire.

Weathering was completed using Tamiya panel liner, and AK weathering products.

ACL red earth was used for the for the mud on the running gear and then painted with Tamiya flat earth, dry brushed using Vallejo desert sand, and washed with Vallejo game color washes Sepia & Umber.

The groundwork was AK Interactive Light & Dry Crackle Effects which was dry brushed using Vallejo desert sand and washed with Vallejo game color washes Sepia & Umber.

Overall, the conversion was a fun and challenging build combining the three separate kits for the T34-100 SPG.

Mike











Curtiss BFC-2 Goshawk Walkaround



By Decon McCollough



The Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola Florida has an outstanding collection of rare aircraft on display. One of the unique features of this museum is the ability to get up close to the subjects, allowing a great opportunity for taking walkaround pictures. As a modeler, the myriad small details that become evident with a close examination of the subject always fascinates me. These are a just a few of the shots I took of the Curtiss BFC-2 Goshawk while visiting Pensacola for a week in the summer of 2018.



Overall view of the left side of the aircraft.



The layout of the tail section with the stitching of the fabric on the rudder particularly evident with the reflection of the light.



Left side of the tail. Note the light on the leading edge of the horizontal stabilizer as well as the radio antenna attach point on the top of the rudder.



Left side of the fuselage and sliding canopy.



Cockpit interior. The optical sight can be seen protruding through the windscreen.



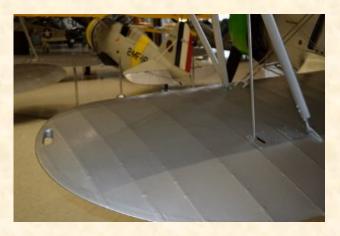
Details of the forward fuselage. The exhaust stacks coming directly off the engine cylinders can be clearly seen in this view.



The cabane struts and bombsight. Note the protective cover on the front of the sight with a cable running along the top to open it in flight.



The N strut on the left wing and the actuating rod for the aileron which is located on the top wing.



The left lower wing tip



The left wing bomb



The left main landing gear. The black area on top of the wheel fairing appears to be a rubber step



The left upper wing showing the strut arrangement and maintenance access panels on the lower surface of the upper wing. Also note the blue fairing on the bottom of the lower wing covering the aileron actuator mechanism.



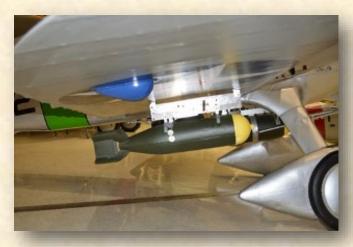
The fuselage bomb rack incorporates a trapeze mechanism for swinging the bomb clear
of the propeller arc when dive bombing. Note
the bungee cords running along the underside of the fuselage.



1920s US Navy Pilots's Wings



Details of the bomb trapeze



The right wing bomb rack.



The right side of the forward fuselage.
The wooden spreader bar on the flying wires can be clearly seen along with the short exhaust stacks on the engine.



Another angle of details on the optical sight.



The left side of the cockpit showing the engine controls.



Right side of the forward fuselage and bomb trapeze. The attachment point for the inertial starter crank can be clearly seen between and slightly below the red cowl latches.



Right side of the cockpit and sliding canopy. The radio antenna wire can be seen running up from below the canopy.



The right side of the fuselage showing the latches for the turtledeck as well as another view of the radio antenna attach point just above the white B.



The right horizontal stabilizer and tailwheel. Note the light on the leading edge of the horizontal just as on the left side.



Elevated overall view from aft.

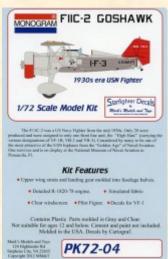


The seat back and headrest area.

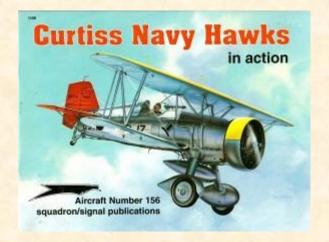
















Classic Monogram Spitfire Mark IV

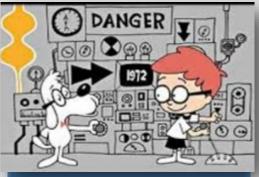
by Mr. Herb Peabody III

Greetings Alamo Squadron, Mr. Peabody and Sherman here, I'm afraid Herb couldn't make it this month. This month we are going to use the "Wayback Machine" for this month's model review. "Where are we going Mr. Peabody?" "Sherman set the Wayback Machine to 1962, Morton Grove, Illinois."

"Wow what is this place and did you see the price of gas on the way here, it's only 26 cents a gallon." "Sherman wel-

come to Monogram model company and we are here to look at their new for 1962 the Supermarine Spitfire Mark IV."

The new for 62 Spitfire comes in a beautifully done box art. The suggested price for this model is \$.98 which includes the model, decals and instructions. The Spitfire is molded in gray and silver. There are 30 cleanly molded parts with no flash and no pin marks. The fuselage and wings have finely molded raised panel lines and rivets and the clear canopy has raised framing that should be easy to paint or mask. Most aircraft models start with the interior, the interior in this model is sparce to say the least, it includes the seat back/armor and a pilot fig-



Mr. Herb Peabody III and Sherman at work on the Wayback Machine.

Herb is a regular Navigator contributor reviewing new model cars and aircraft on the market. He will also write on some old and rare cars and trucks as well.

ure. The pilot is well done and will look good with some careful painting. There is a total if 15 building steps not counting any painting or decals. The instructions include pictures with well written instructions typical of Monogram. The last page gives painting and decal instructions, there is only one version in the box. As mentioned earlier the model is molded in gray so you only have to paint the green camouflage on the top surfaces. The decals have good color and are in register. This model has an

optional belly tank and retractable landing gear.

I was 10 years old and this was the very first aircraft model I ever built. It was an easy build and everything fit beautifully. By todays standards this is a very basic kit lacking a lot of detail, but for a 10-year-old kid in 1963 this was an awesome kit, it built into a very realistic Spitfire and I had hours of fun playing with it. I built one just a few years ago, and besides bringing back a flood of memories, the kit still builds up quite nicely. I'm thrilled to have an original version of this model and the parts of cleanly molded plastic and the box are is beautiful. I'm so thankful for all the old Monogram

kits I was able to acquire from the Austin stash

Just one more thing, while I was going through the Monogram models, I acquired I found a gem in one of the models. I found an original tube of Testors Plastic Cement and it's still good. This was far better than the later orange tube Testors glue, it set up quick and dried fast. I'm tempted to use it just for the memories, but I think I will just display it in my model room.

Oh well it's back to 2024 and \$3 gas. See you next month with another revies.

Cheers, Mr. Peabody, Sherman and Herb III











Galaxie 1/25 1947 Chevy Fleetmaster Lowrider By Keith Rule







1/48 Tamiya P-51B

By Rob Booth



1/72 Italaerei B-25C Mitchell
By Lee Forbes





On the Horizon

Date	Event	Location
July 17-20	IPMS National Convention 2024	Monona Terrace, Madison, WI
July 27	2024 Space City Shootout Model Car Contest and Scale Automotive Expo	Seabrook, Tx
Sep 14	SuperCon 2024	Arlington, Tx
November 9	Austin Scale Modelers Society 2024 "Capitol Classic"	Williamson County Expo Center 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor TX
January 4 2025	Model Fiesta Cuarenta y Tres MF (43)	New Braunfels Civic Center 375 S. Castell Ave New Braunfels, TX.

The International Plastic Modelers' Society National Convention 2024 July 17-20, 2024

Monona Terrace, Madison, WI



Convention Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 17th

Thursday, July 18th

6:30am - 1pm vendor-only setup.

9am - Facility and Registration open.

10am - Seminars commence.

1pm - Vendor Room opens.

5pm - Registration closes.

7pm - Model room closes.

9pm - Facility closes.

9am - Facility and Registration open.

9am - Vendor Room opens.

10am - Seminars commence.

5pm - Vendor Room closes.

5pm - Registration closes.

7pm - Concert on the rooftop.

8pm – Model room closes. 9pm – Facility closes.

Friday, July 19th

9am - Facility and Registration open.

10am - Seminars commence.

12pm - Registration closes.

5pm - Vendor Room closes.

5pm - Model room closes.

9pm - Facility closes to public - except judges.

Saturday, July 20th

9am - Facility open.

10am - Seminars commence.

4pm - Model Room closes.

5pm – Vendor room closes.

6pm - Dinner on rooftop

7pm – Awards ceremony.

9:30pm - Model room re-opens.

11pm - Facility closes.

The Grand Terrace area will be open for social activities from 8am - 9pm Weds.-Fri, and 8am - 11pm Saturday.

Local Hobby Shops

Dibbles Hobbies

1029 Donaldson Ave, San Antonio, TX 78228 (210) 735-7721

Hill Country Hobby

9355 Bandera Rd Ste-118 San Antonio, TX 78250 (210) 681-2007

Hobby Town

1309 N Loop 1604 W Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101 San Antonio, TX 78258-4769 (210) 236-5527

Anime Tokyo

3333 Wurzbach Rd Ste 105, San Antonio, TX 78238 · (210) 519-5752

Toy Hunters

14910 Nacogdoches Rd Ste 106, San Antonio, TX, United States, Texas

(210) 598-0034



Model Fiesta Cuarenta y Tres (43)Website

http://www.modelfiesta.com



For IPMS Membership information please visit: https://myipmsusa.org/
Go to membership page



Alamo Squadron Website

http://www.alamosquadron.com/index.html



Alamo Squadron Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/114044928625406



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