



Keith Pruitt

# Model Kit Report

## Keith's Choice: New Kits of the Month

**A more detailed look into a variety of new kit releases.**

### **Italeri 1/32 BO 105 Police Helicopter - My First Model Kit**

Italeri has released its Italeri 1/32 BO 105 Police Helicopter #12003 in the My First Model Kit series. The BO 105 is one of the most popular multi-role helicopters in the world. Designed primarily for civil use, it was used as an air ambulance and for police surveillance by a variety of corporations and countries all over the world. Developed by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the BO 105 is a light utility helicopter, with twin engines and a rigid rotor that remained in operational service for more than four decades before being phased out in favor of more modern designs.

The kit contains 83 plastic parts, molded in white and clear plastic with nicely molded surface detail. Even at 1/32 there are many small parts that add greatly to the potential detail of the finished model, but it also leans the kit toward more adult builders. The finished model will be a fairly large display at almost 12 inches in length and a 12 inch rotor span. Included in the kit is a sprue cutter for removing the parts from the trees, a file for rough shaping and removing excess plastic from the sprue attachment points, a pair of angled tweezers and a paint brush. Also included are a bottle of Italeri Liquid Cement and three small containers of acrylic paint in Gloss Italian Red, Gloss French Blue, and Flat Gun Metal. The kit is complete with illustrated multilingual instructions, painting and decal guides, and an instructional DVD with a tutorial video for building and painting the kit.

The My First Model Kit series is aimed at a target market of teens and adults. Because the kits include



*The Italeri BO105 is an outstanding introductory plastic kit.*

sharp tools, as well as paint and plastic cement, CPSIA regulations limit recommendation to ages 14 and older. Since these kits provide everything needed to build plastic models they are a good choice to start building and are an excellent re-entry point for adults, who might have built models during their youth.

A product like Italeri's My First Model Kit introduces customers to a great hobby experience. Active modelers will buy many kits during their years in the hobby. If their first modeling experience is a good one, modelers can be counted on for return visits and sales. Using a product like this can be an opportunity to transform a one-time shopper into a customer for life. The Italeri 1/32 BO 105 Police Helicopter My First Model Kit, available from Model Rectifier Corporation, could be the first step your customer takes on a long journey of enjoyment in the hobby of scale modeling.



### **Airfix 1/72 Curtiss Hawk 81-A-2**

Airfix has just released its 1/72 Curtiss Hawk 81-A-2 #A01003. One of the most iconic fighter planes used by the US Army Air Corps, the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk was the front line air superiority fighter at the outbreak of WW II. Developed from the radial-engine P-36 Hawk, the Warhawk had a more powerful Allison inline engine, upgraded armor and weaponry. Serving in almost every theater during the war, it gained its greatest notoriety with the "Flying Tigers" American Volunteer Group in China during the months before

*Airfix has released a 1/72 Curtiss Hawk, the airplane made famous by the Flying Tigers during WW II.*

the U.S. officially entered the conflict.

The Airfix Curtiss Hawk 81-A-2 represents the P-40B variant commonly used by the Flying Tigers. The kit features excellent detail, with engraved panel lines and separate cockpit detail like the pilot seat, control stick, and instrument panel. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal guides, and decals for one aircraft from the Flying Tigers. A newly tooled kit, molded in a manner suggesting future kit releases of other variants, the Airfix 1/72 Curtiss Hawk 81-A-2 is one of the better available Warhawks in any scale.



Revell's 1959 Chevrolet "land cruiser" is bound to be popular with modelers who fancy classic automobile styling.

### Revell 1/25 '59 Chevy Impala Convertible 2 in 1

Revell has released its 1/25 1959 Chevy Impala Convertible 2 in 1 kit #85-4944. When you think "land cruiser", the one car that comes to mind immediately is the '59 Chevy Impala and those wide flat tail fins.

The '59 Impala was the epitome of the "longer, lower, wider" styling of the late 50's era. It had a new X frame chassis, which was a transitional step between the traditional H frame build and the modern uni-body chassis. It was available with several engine choices from an inline six cylinder engine to a big block 348 cubic inch V-8. The body styles varied from four door sedans, two door coupes, or a sporty convertible.

The Revell kit includes the car body, six sprues of plastic parts, a sprue of clear parts, a small sprue of transparent red parts, three sprues of chrome parts, four soft vinyl tires,

a large sheet of decals, and illustrated instructions for a stock or custom version.

One special feature is the convertible top and boot. They need not be glued in place, but can be changed depending on the choice of display. While most scale modelers would enjoy the Revell '59 Chevy Impala Convertible kit, the classic car enthusiast will love building this for the collector shelf.



Hasegawa has packed a lot of features into its 1/72 Junkers Ju88G nightfighter aircraft used by Germany during WW II.

### Hasegawa Limited Edition 1/72 Junkers Ju88G-6 "Schonert" Kit

Hasegawa USA recently released its 1/72 Junkers Ju88G-6 "Schonert" kit. The Limited Edition kit is the nightfighter version flown by the Luftwaffe ace Major Rudolf Schonert, who scored 65 aerial victories during WW II. Schonert was noted as a proponent of upward-firing armament in nightfighter aircraft. Since most nightfighter pilots preferred to attack from below and behind their enemies, it made sense to have weapons that fired upward. Nicknamed Schrage Musik (Jazz Music), the concept was initially rejected by the Luftwaffe but gained acceptance when Schonert successfully tested the weaponry on his own aircraft. Surviving the war, Schonert flew a total of 376 combat missions, during which he downed 65 enemy aircraft and was awarded the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves. The kit includes new SN-2 radar parts, photoetched detail parts, and markings for Luftwaffe NJG5 Kommodore Major Rudolf Schonert. Hasegawa packs a lot of features into this scale kit, and they make the Ju88G-6 shine like a full moon on a cloudless night. **HM**

*For The Precise Model Miniaturist*

Alpha Abrasives  
Professional Welding System  
Order ONLINE  
Or Call Toll Free 800-506-9618  
WE SHIP WORLDWIDE  
www.alphaabrasives.com  
www.flex-i-file.com

**AIRFIX**  
Model Kits  
Humbrol Paints & Accessories  
Airfix-USA.com