



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks For The Month

A nice variety of kits to please every interest.

Airfix

Airfix has released its 1/72 Gloster J-8A/Gladiator Mk.II #A02063. The Gloster Gladiator, a single seat aircraft powered by a 9-cylinder radial engine, was the last biplane fighter to enter service with the Royal Air Force. Immediately outclassed by the newer monoplane designs such as the Bf109, it epitomized the best of the biplane era. With its four .303 Browning machine guns, enclosed cockpit and 257 mph top speed, the Gladiator saw combat in nearly all theaters during WW II.

The kit features plenty of detail, with fine recessed panel lines and appropriately stretched fabric effects. The model can be built as one of two versions, and each version is indicated throughout the assembly steps. The kit features options for tires or skis for the landing gear, as well as open or closed canopies. The kit has a detailed engine and cowling, cockpit, and seated pilot figure. Also included are illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as a set of rigging instructions for the wing wires. The decals include markings for two aircraft, one with the Swedish Voluntary Air Force and one from the British Royal Air Force.



The Gloster Gladiator was the last fighter to see service with the Royal Air Force and Airfix replicates this aircraft in 1/72 scale.

Aoshima

Aoshima has released its 1/12 Kawasaki Police 1000 California Highway Patrol kit # AOS-003336. In 1975, the California Highway Patrol adopted the Kawasaki 900



Aoshima has released its 1/12 Kawasaki Police 1000 California Highway Patrol to the delight of many motorcycle modelers. as its standard motorcycle, adding its own police package. Kawasaki soon began building a specific police version in its factory and later increased the engine size to 1000cc. For over two decades, from 1982 until 2005, the KZ1000P was the standard motorcycle for the California Highway Patrol along with many other police departments.

The Police 1000 was available with either a half-fairing or a windshield, with the windshield version depicted by this kit. The kit consists of nine sprues of plastic parts, six sprues of chrome parts, three sprues of clear parts, two rubber tires, vinyl tubing, and metal screws. The kit features chrome sprues that have separate parts with the standard high luster chrome and parts with a flat finish for the aluminum parts. The windshield is very thin and crystal clear plastic which adds to the realism of the finished model. The kit comes with

illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for one CHP motorcycle.

Hasegawa

Hasegawa has released its 1/72 F-111E Aardvark “Nose Art” #HSGS2060. Developed in the 1960s, the F-111 was designed to meet the requirements of a medium-range tactical strike aircraft US Navy, but it was a complete failure when used for that purpose. However, the F-111 did meet the USAF requirements of strategic bomber, reconnaissance aircraft, and electronic warfare craft. The F-111 entered service with the 474th Tactical Fighter Wing in October of 1967. The F-111A incorporated several new technologies, including variable-sweep wings, afterburning turbofan engines, and automated terrain-following radar for low-level, high-speed flight. With an internal weapons



The Hasegawa F-111E Aardvark “Nose Art” Limited edition kit features special nose art decals of an Indian Chief in headdress.

bay capable of carrying several types of ordnance, including nuclear weapons, the aircraft was also equipped with four underwing pylons capable of carrying rockets, bombs or drop tanks. The F-111E, had upgraded avionics, improved TF30-P-109 engines and improved air intakes.

The Hasegawa F-111E Aardvark “Nose Art” Limited Edition kit features special nose art decals depicting an Indian Chief with full headdress. The kit also features detailed cockpit, landing gear bays, engine intakes and exhausts. In this kit, the cockpit canopy is closed and the wings can only be built in the extended position, but the wing flaps and slats can be assembled in either the retracted or extended position. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides for two aircraft with the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, both in Southeast Asia camouflage with black undersides.

Monogram

Monogram has re-released its 1/35 Eager Beaver 2½ Ton Truck #85-6457. This kit depicts the M-34 deuce and a half truck, which is easily identified by its six road tires. These vehicles had all-wheel drive, and while they were rated to carry 5000 pounds of cargo off-road or 10,000 pounds of cargo on improved surfaces at speeds up to 62 mph, they were often known to carry up to twice their rated cargo weight. Designed in 1949 by the REO Motor Car Company, the M-34 (and later M-35) family of vehicles remained in production until 1988. Although they are



Monogram has re-released its 1/35 deuce and a half cargo truck that features a removable canvas cover for the cargo bed, now being replaced by more modern tactical vehicles, many M-35s are still in service today. The nickname “Eager Beaver” came from the trucks ability to cross bodies of water up to six feet deep.

While not very detailed or terribly accurate, the kit is typical for the time of its initial release, with five sprues of plastic parts, seven vinyl tires, and acetate film for the cab glass. The kit includes a removable canvas cover for the cargo bed and six figures. The kit also includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides. The Monogram Eager Beaver 2½ Ton Truck is an excellent choice for a novice, or a trip down memory lane for an experienced modeler.

MPC

MPC has released its 1/25 Hot Rod Magazine Ford Mustang Funny Car #MPC801/12. In the National Hot Rod Association, the Funny Car is one of four professional categories of drag racer that competes in events. The Funny Car is held to exacting standards regarding construction of the frame, weight and wheelbase, engine size and the special one piece molded carbon-fiber bodies which tilt up giving full access to the engine and drivers compartment.



The MPC Hot Rod Magazine Ford Mustang Funny Car does not depict an actual car, but is nonetheless a beautiful rendition.

While the MPC 1/25 *Hot Rod Magazine* Ford Mustang Funny Car does not depict an actual car, it is a beautiful and accurate representation of this type of dragster. The kit features a one piece tubular frame and a Chrysler 426ci Hemi with chrome valve covers and supercharger intake system. Mounted on the front wheels are a set of narrow tires with the manufacturer and tire specifications embossed on the sidewalls. On the rear, the wide chrome wheels are provided for a set of pre-printed Goodyear racing slicks. The kit includes a one-piece roll cage for the drivers seat, as well as two braking parachutes that can be added in the deployed configuration as if the car just crossed the finish line.

The finished model can also be posed, if assembled with the packed parachutes, with the body shell tilted upward for a full view of the engine and interior. The kit contains illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as an extensive decal sheet including the front grill, rear taillights, sponsor names, and body graphics. Additionally, MPC includes a bonus one-year subscription to *Hot Rod Magazine* with the pur-



The Russian Ural-4320 Truck entered service in 1976 and is still in production and used by many Eastern Bloc military forces.

chase of the Mustang Funny Car kit.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/35 Russian URAL-4320 Truck #01012. The Ural-4320 is a general purpose 6x6 utility truck that entered service in the Soviet army in 1976.

Produced at the Ural Automotive Plant in Miass, Russia it is still in production today and is in service with many Eastern Bloc military forces. Rated to carry over five tons of cargo, the chassis has been adapted for use in many special purpose military and civilian vehicles.

The kit includes seven sprues of detailed plastic parts, one sprue of clear parts, seven vinyl tires, and two small frets of photoetched metal detail parts. The detailed chassis features a frame with separate side rails and cross-members. The drive train consists of the transmission and a full engine assembled from over twenty parts. The suspension system includes the differential, detailed wheel hubs, and wheels. The doors include separate interior panels which, like the hood, can be positioned open or closed. The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides. **HM**

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