



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

In the mid 70s, everyone recognized the striped red tomato.

Airfix

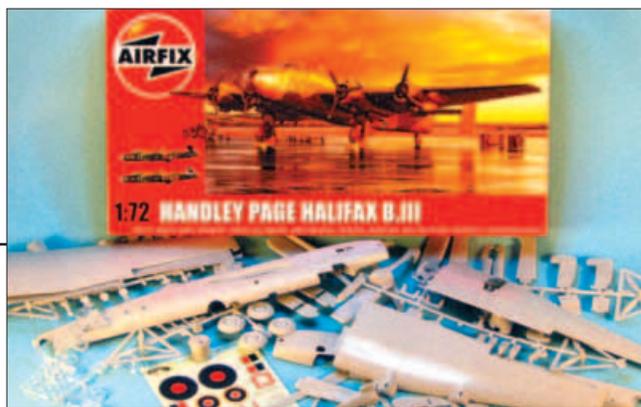
Airfix has released a 1/72 Handley Page Halifax B.III (A06008A). Originally designed in 1937, the early Halifax Marks were fitted with Merlin engines. The Halifax B.III was fitted with four Bristol Hercules XVI radial engines. Equipped with H2S ground mapping radar for navigation and target acquisition, the B.III was armed with a single handheld .303 machine gun in the nose and four .303 machine guns in the dorsal and tail turrets. Capable of carrying 14,500 pounds of ordnance in the segmented bomb bay, the B.III was the most produced Halifax variant.

The kit contains 124 plastic parts, including the left and right fuselage halves, the upper and lower wing halves, four sprues of detail parts and two sprues of clear parts. The landing gear can be assembled in the raised or lower positions, and many of the control surfaces can be positioned.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides for two different aircraft both with nose art. The first has the New Zealand name of "Munga Taipo" and features a Maori figure on the nose, while the other flew with the Royal Australian Air Force named "Lily of the Lamplight" with a large nose art decal.

Italeri

Italeri has released its 1/72 Church Diorama (LXFRHR). Scattered all across the landscape of Europe, in almost every town and city, there are churches of varied sizes. From the ornate, colossal cathedrals in major cities, to the smaller churches



in towns and villages, the architecture of these churches are some of the most beautiful buildings on the continent with some dating back to the 1600s and earlier. The Italeri kit contains 24 plastic parts, molded in dark tan plastic, including the base, walls, roof sections, bell tower with bells and doors.

The kit builds into one of the medium sized buildings that would more likely be seen in a small town or large village in either Italy, France or Spain. The walls depict cut stone in random sizes while the roof appears to be slate, consistent with materials that were usually harvested from the fields near the site. The base features cobblestone



Italeri has released a 1/72 Church that replicates the style of buildings that appear in almost every European town and city.

walkways that surround the church on all sides. A small steeple and cross adorns the top of one end of the roof and the bell tower sits at the other end. The tower has a floor section and open windows all around the top so the two bells can be easily seen. The corners of the buildings have large cut stone blocks, typical of construction through the ages. The main doors can be cut and positioned open for parishioners, but there are no details included for the interior.

This kit would be an excellent choice for playing small scale Wargames or for a 1/72 diorama set during times from the Napoleonic era through WWII.

Master Box Limited

Master Box Limited has released a 1/72 British Armored Car Austin MK IV, WWI Era (MB72008). In August 1914 with WWI beginning, the Russian Army started to form armored car units. As the



Master Box Limited has released a 1/72 version of the British Armoured Car, which was used by the Allied forces during WWI. Russian automotive industry was not able to produce the vehicles, they turned to the Austin Motor Company of Great Britain. Austin designed and produced 48 units for Russia. Capable of 35 miles per hour with a range of 125 miles, the Austin was armed with two Maxim machine guns in twin side-by-side top turrets. The vehicle crew consisted of the commander, driver and two gunners. The Russians used the Austin cars extensively in WWI, and the British used them in the later stages of the war.

The kit features the armored body, comprised of separate sections, a chassis with separate frame, transmission and suspension parts, with two-part wheels. The twin turrets can be built as two versions, the chief difference being the size of the machine gun mounted.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides on the back of the box. The decals contain markings for eight different vehicles, including Russian, Australian and Japanese versions.

Moebius Models

Moebius Models has released its 1/72 *Interstellar Ranger* (960), from the 2014 epic science fiction film of the same name. Centered on a crew of astronauts that traveled through a wormhole in search of a new home for humanity, the movie details the adventures of the *Ranger*, one of three spacecraft featured in the movie, and its crew of four. The simplistic design of the *Ranger* is a result of a novel aerodynamic control system that eliminated the need for controls such as flaps, ailerons, elevators and rudders. The beautiful boxart depicts the *Ranger* in deep space with additional photos, film synopsis and model features being included on the box bottom.



Moebius Models is offering a 1/72 *Interstellar Ranger* from the 2014 science fiction feature length film of the same name.

Based on CGI files from the motion picture, the kit features a low parts count and builds into a model over 10 inches long. The kit features plastic parts molded in white with a highly detailed exterior, undercarriage, engine, upper and lower fuselage and rear hatch. The kit includes illustrated instructions with painting and decal placement guides.

The decals include stencil data and ships markings. With the basic color scheme featuring nothing more than flat black and flat white, the instructions helpfully include tips for subtle weathering and panel detail. As a bonus, Moebius includes parts for a 1/144 *Ranger Launch Module*, suitable for fitting to a Saturn V rocket model for a scale display of the launch from the movie.

Revell

Revell has released its 1/25 *Starsky & Hutch Ford Torino* (85-4023) from the 1970s American cop thriller television series, *Starsky & Hutch*. One of the stars of the show was



Revell has re-released its *Ford Torino* model of the "striped red tomato" made popular during the *Starsky and Hutch* TV show.

Starsky's bright-red, two-door *Ford Gran Torino*, complete with its trademark large white stripe down both sides of the vehicle. From 1974 to 1976, the car was used to chase down dope dealers, muggers and other thugs in almost every episode. Dubbed "the striped red tomato" by actor Paul Michael "Starsky" Glaser, the car remains one of the most recognized vehicles in television history.

The kit contains 88 parts molded in red, black, transparent red and clear with chrome plated parts and soft black tires. The chassis is authentic, with fully detailed separate suspension and exhaust pieces, as well as the slotted Mag wheels and wide profile tires. The engine bay houses a detailed 351 cubic inch engine with dual carburetors. Other realistic parts include the rear and side mirrors, transparent rear

taillights, heater unit, master cylinder, and interior side panels. Unique items included in the kit are the Emergency Light, often deployed in the television show, molded in red transparent plastic as well as parts for a police radio for the interior.

The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and includes the vehicle license plates and the white vector striping.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released a 1/35 Soviet 2S7 Self-Propelled Gun (05593). The Soviet 2S7 is a 203mm self-propelled gun that entered Soviet service in the late 1970s. The powerful gun utilizes a power-assisted loading system, and is capable of firing ordinary and rocket-assisted high explosive, chemical and nuclear projectiles. While the weapon can only carry four projectiles, extra rounds can be carried via a towed trolley or separate truck. The weapon requires a crew of fourteen and takes 40 to 60 seconds to load and fire each round. Due to its long range of 38 kilometers, the unit can fire one or two shots, then move to another location before the rounds target, allowing it to avoid counter-battery fire.



For your armor fans, Trumpeter has released an incredibly detailed model of the Soviet 2S7 203mm Self-Propelled Gun.

Recently the gun has been reactivated from storage by the Russians for use on the Ukrainian battlefield.

The kit contains 20 sprues of plastic parts, along with four additional sprues of individual track links. The kit also includes parts for the vehicle's towed ammunition trolley, with a cargo of three large artillery shells. Options include building the platform in the travel or firing positions, and the gun will elevate freely once completed.

The massive gun and carriage are nicely detailed, with multiple levers, switches, and appendages. The upper deck of the chassis is also well detailed with surface moldings, storage boxes and fine mesh air grates above the engine area. The individual link tracks include a jig which will greatly assist in assembly. The massive rear spade, which anchors the vehicle while firing is also detailed, including the hydraulic arms which would push the spade into the ground.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for one vehicle, which include instrument panel consoles inside the driver/command positions. **HM**



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