



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

"In space no one can hear you scream" had audiences on the edge of their seats.

Airfix

Airfix recently released its 1/72 Dornier Do17Z (#A05010). The Dornier Do17 was a twin-engine bomber used by the German Luftwaffe during early World War II. It was designed to be light and fast so that it could outrun enemy fighters. Design elements included a shoulder-type mounting for the wing and twin vertical stabilizers/rudders, with a thin cylindrical fuselage which led to the nickname "Flying Pencil." The Do17 made its combat debut in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War, and was one of the three initial bomber types used by Germany in every major campaign theater as a front line aircraft until the end of 1941, when its limits on bomb load and range reduced its effectiveness.

This kit most accurately represents the Do17Z-2 version, which included more powerful engines, an increased bomb load of 1000kg, and an additional pair of machine guns. The kit contains 170 parts molded in light blue-gray and clear plastic. The surface details feature crisp, recessed panel lines as well as the variable incidence horizontal stabilizer. The detailed cockpit and interior feature two different types of pilot seats, seats for the bombardier and gunners, as well as the nicely molded figures. The interior also has molded stringers and longerons, sidewall details including spare ammunition magazines, and detailed bomb bay.

Options include retracted or deployed landing gear and open or close bomb bay. The open bomb bay can be fitted with a combination of twenty 50kg bombs, a pair of 500kg bombs or an additional fuel



The Airfix 1/72 Dornier Do17z accurately represents the famous German WW II bomber known as the "flying pencil."



Atomic Annie depicts the M65 gun developed by the U.S. military during the Cold War to lob nuclear weapons at the enemy tank in the forward section of the bomb bay and half of the 50kg bomb load.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides, as well as Cartograf decals for two different aircraft.

Dragon

Dragon has released its 1/72 M65 Atomic Annie Gun Heavy Motorized 280mm kit (#DRA-7484). Prior to advances in rockets during the Cold War, the M65 Atomic Cannon was chosen by the US Army as the fastest way to field tactical nuclear weapons. Nicknamed "Atomic Annie" by its crews, the M65, which included the T131 cannon and its two specialized transport trucks, was designed for mobility with substantial field artillery range and could fire a 15 kiloton atomic projectile. The published range of fire was 20 miles, but reports from the field indicated that striking targets at a distance of 35 miles was possible.

While the gun and transport trucks weighed 47 tons, the M65 unit could travel at 45 miles per hour, and the design allowed the crew to deploy and fire the weapon in as little as

twelve minutes. In May of 1953, one of the units successfully fired an atomic warhead seven miles during a scheduled nuclear weapons test at the Nevada Proving Ground, the only time a live nuclear payload was delivered by the M65.

The kit contains over 200 parts molded in gray plastic, with clear plastic parts for the truck windows. The parts include the slide-molded one-piece 2800mm gun barrel, hydraulic shell rammer, detailed breech and recoil unit, gun carriage and lifting forks, and the circular firing base plate. The two tractors featured a detailed exterior with winch and exhausts, and interiors feature steering wheel, instrument panel and seats. The chassis is molded with the transmission, transfer case and driveshaft with detailed suspension parts and wheels.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for three different vehicles.

Italeri

Italeri offers its 1/35 DUKW Amphibious Truck (#ITA6392). Early in World War II, a need was identified for a vehicle to transfer cargo from ship to shore after an amphibious landing. The solution was a vehicle based on the existing GMC 2 1/2-ton 6x6 truck, with the cab and body being replaced with a watertight hull. Powered by the original GMC 270 cubic inch engine, the two powered rear axles and transmission were retained, while an underwater propeller and rudder were added.

Designated DUKW, the vehicle was capable of 50 mph on the road and 5.5 knots on water. The DUKW first saw combat use during an amphibious assault on Sicily, and went on to participate in the D-Day invasion of France as well as other operations the European Theater. The US Marines used them extensively while island-hopping across the Pacific Theater. Even now, seventy years later, many



Italeri is now offering a DUKW. Used extensively during WW II, the vehicle was basically a 2.5 ton truck with a watertight hull.

DUKWs are still in use by civilian police, fire departments, and rescue units.

Another in the series of Italeri kits released to recognize the 70th anniversary of D-Day is the amphibious DUKW. The kit is a re-release of the 2002 kit with a few new parts.

Cleanly molded, the plastic parts are contained on four

sprues, three in olive drab and one in clear for the windshield and windows.

The kit features nicely molded surface detail, including rivets and weld seams. Inside the cabin, there are the seats, steering wheel, control levers, controls and instrument panel. The floor of the cargo area has molded hatch covers, and the underside of the hull includes a number of molded drain plugs. The plastic wheels and tires are molded in two halves.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including

painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for three different vehicles, two used in the European theater in 1944 and 1945, and one from Iwo Jima in 1945.

Monogram

Monogram has once again released its iconic 1/32 Phantom P-51D Mustang (#85-0067). The North American P-51 was one of the most effective and beautiful fighter of World War II. Originally designed to meet a British fighter-bomber requirement in 1940, the Mustang was eventually fitted with the Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, enabling

it to become a true air superiority fighter. Operating in nearly every combat zone during the war, the bubble-canopy P-51D is the definitive version of the Mustang. With the K-14 gyroscopic gun sight and armed with six .50 caliber machine guns, the Mustang destroyed approximately 5,000 enemy aircraft during the war.

A favorite subject with modelers around the world, the Monogram 1/32 Phantom P-51D Mustang kit was issued by Monogram Models in 1961. Monogram has



Monogram has re-released its iconic kit of the P-51D Phantom Mustang as part of the company's Select Subjects Program.

released it once again in the original package design as part of their Selected Subjects Program. The kit features a transparent fuselage, wings and empennage so that the interior parts such as the engine, gun bays, structural members, pilot and cockpit are all visible. The interior structural aircraft parts are molded in interior green, silver, and black and the base pedestal/control module is molded in red.

The kit is loaded with action, as two D-cell batteries power the electric motors that drive the propeller and raise and lower the landing gear. The display base has control buttons for the propeller and landing gear, as well as controls for dropping the wing mounted bombs. While the molding technology tends to be outdated, the sheer fun of building and operating the various moving features make up for any soft detail.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as a set of generic late-war decals.

Polar Lights

Polar Lights has released its Alien Executive Officer Kane (#POL912). The movie *Alien* was a huge hit at the box



Polar Lights has released its Executive Officer Kane, from the 1979 sci-fi classic *Alien*, as an intricately detailed cast resin kit.

office, with its tagline “In space, no one can hear you scream”. But, in 1979, there were screams heard in theaters around the world as the science fiction horror movie played out for terrified audiences. Returning to Earth, the crew of a commercial space freighter was awakened from stasis by a distress signal from a nearby planet. When they land to investigate, Executive Officer Kane is attacked by a “facehugger,” an embryonic larva from an egg-like cocoon, which wraps its legs and tale around his head.

Returning to the ship, the crew cannot remove the creature from his head, but the creature unexpectedly dies and falls off on its own. As the crew sits down to dinner, Kane screams and writhes in pain as an alien bursts from his chest. The creature quickly grows into an adult and begins to stalk the

crew, killing them one by one.

The Polar Lights kit is actually a full resin kit depicting the scene just seconds before the alien attacked Executive Officer Kane. By the nature of resin-casting, these types of kits tend to capture the intricate details in fewer parts than could be done with injection-molded plastic.

The kit contains fifteen parts molded in white resin and

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six crystal clear plastic parts. The resin parts will have to be attached with either cyanoacrylate or epoxy glues, as regular plastic cements do not work to bond the joints, while acrylic based glue would be more suitable for the clear plastic parts. The level of detail molded into each part is exquisite, from the environmental suit to the alien facehugger and egg to the large resin base.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions. There is a painting guide on the sides and inside the box, which also has placement instructions for the decals on the space suit. Also included in that guide are suggestions for weathering using drybrushing, washes, and pigment techniques. For the more advanced modelers, the kit is also engineered to allow for a lighting system to produce realistic effects.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/48 Soviet Su-9 Fishpot (#02896). After the intense jet air-to-air combat over Korea experienced by the MIG-15, Soviet aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi attempted to improve capabilities with a number of projects, one of which was the Su-9. Code-named "Fishpot"



Trumpeter's 1/48 Soviet Su-9 Fishpot fighter aircraft includes seven sprues of gray plastic parts and one sprue of clear parts.

by NATO forces, the aircraft is characterized by a thin tubular fuselage and delta shaped wings. The Su-9 had a single jet engine, fed air through the round intake on the nose which also housed the radar equipment, and used a tricycle landing gear arrangement.

Operated by a single pilot and armed with air-to-air missiles, the SU-9 could also carry two large fuel tanks under the wings. Unlike many Soviet designs, the Su-9 was never exported to any USSR-allied

countries, but spent its entire career in the Soviet Air Force as part of the air defense.

The kit includes seven sprues of gray plastic parts and one sprue of clear parts. The model also features engraved panel lines, detailed cockpit with sidewalls, engine turbine structures, and detailed landing gear and bays. The canopy and speed brakes can be built in the open or closed positions, and the control surfaces can be positioned. External stores include two drop tanks and two air-to-air missiles.

Included with the kit are illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two different aircraft that operated with the Soviet Air Force. **HM**

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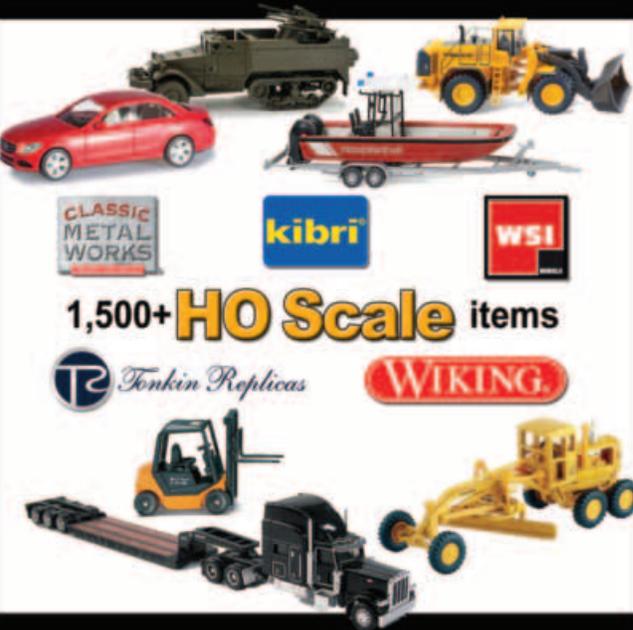
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