

Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

Just some of the many holiday offerings available.

Airfix

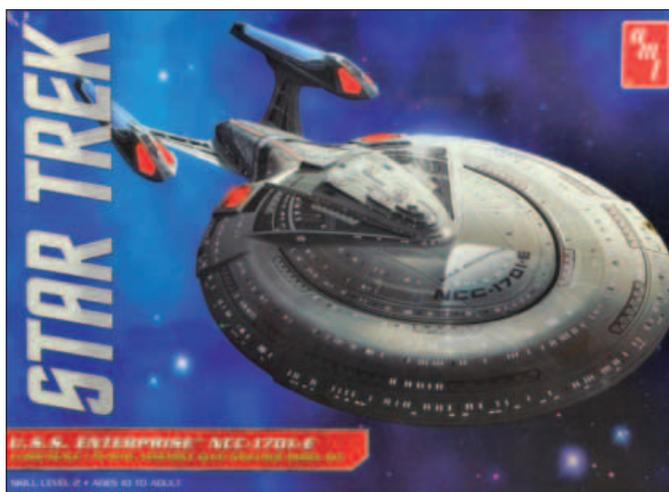
Airfix has released its 1/72 Douglas C-47 Skytrain kit (#A08014). Based on the Douglas DC-3 airliner, the C-47 Skytrain was one of the most influential aircraft of the World War II era. Configured as an air transport, the C-47 delivered troops and supplies all over the world, and was the primary transport for paratroopers landing in France during the D-Day invasion of Europe in June of 1944. The aircraft remained in operation with various countries' air forces through the 1950s.

The new Airfix kit features nice surface detail, and includes a detailed cockpit, navigator and radio operator stations, and optional seating for the troop compartment. The kit features full engines and detailed landing gear and uses a through fuselage spar to aid in aligning the wing assemblies.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides for two aircraft, a camouflaged C-47A "Kilroy is Here" from the 92nd Troop Carrier Squadron used in the D-Day invasion in June 1944, and a natural metal C-47D, with bright red air recognition panels, from the Military Air Transport Service serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during 1949.

AMT

AMT has released its 1/1400 U.S.S. *Enterprise* NCC-1701-E (#AMT853/12). The USS *Enterprise* NCC-1701-E was a Federation Sovereign-class heavy explorer starship that was in service with Starfleet in the late 24th century. She



Highlighting the classic Star Trek design, AMT's 1/1400 scale U.S.S. *Enterprise* NCC-1701-E consists of 35 off-white parts.



was the sixth Federation starship to bear the name *Enterprise*, and was designed to fight the Borg. Launched in 2372, she was the most advanced starship in the fleet. Captain Jean-Luc Picard assumed command shortly after the vessel's christening. The *Enterprise-E* was 2,247 feet long and was armed with twelve phaser arrays and five torpedo tubes. By 2379, the *Enterprise* had undergone a refit, including four additional phaser arrays and five additional torpedo tubes. The *Enterprise-E* was destroyed in 2408 under the command of Captain Data.

The AMT 1/1400 scale model kit consists of 35 parts molded in off-white and highlights the classic Star Trek design with a detailed saucer section, twin engine nacelles with clear parts, main hull and deflector dish. The kit comes with a display stand including a metal support rod. The completed model is 19 inches long.

The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, with a three-view painting and decal placement guide, as well as an extensive set of decals.

Dragon

Dragon has released its 1/35 Panzer III Ausf. L with Winterketten kit (#DRA-6387). The Panzer III was armed with a 37mm gun and was one of the first tanks to use a



Dragon has released its 1/35 Panzer III Ausf. Winterketten kit that contains 12 Sprues of plastic parts and two bags of tracks. torsion bar suspension. The three-man turret, with an extra 20mm of bolted on frontal armor, gave it a tactical advantage against most other allied tanks at the time which had one and two-man turrets. Winterketten were special tracks developed in 1942 to increase grip in the Russian snow and ice.

The kit contains twelve sprues of plastic parts, two clear sprues, the lower hull, turret, two bags of Magic Tracks, and one fret of photoetched metal detail parts. Featured are the Winterketten tracks, which allow the modeler to build a setting for the snowy Russian winters on the Eastern Front. Also included are a molded gun barrel with rifling, detailed turret, and torsion bar suspension that provides the capability of positioning the wheels and tracks for uneven ground in a vignette or diorama.

The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals for three different vehicles operating on the Eastern Front during 1943.

Hasegawa

Hasegawa has released its 1/48 A-4E Skyhawk USS Midway (#HSGS7377).

Douglas designed the Skyhawk as a US Navy light attack aircraft with a delta wing, a single, non-afterburning turbojet, and two 20mm canon mounted in the wing roots. The Skyhawk saw considerable combat with the US Navy during the Vietnam War until replaced by the A-7 Corsair. The A-4 also saw combat with five other countries, including



The 1/48 A-4E from Hasegawa features a special bomb, which was actually a broken toilet dropped during the Vietnam War.

Argentina during the Falklands wWar where it sank two British warships and severely damaged five other ships.

The kit features options for open or closed wing flaps and slats, open or closed air brakes, and an open or closed canopy. Also included in the kit are two drop tanks, a crew ladder and a “special bomb.” This special bomb is really a damaged toilet that was fitted to the right wing bomb rack and actually dropped as ordnance in Vietnam during an airstrike in 1965.

The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals for two different aircraft from the USS Midway in 1965.

Minicraft

Minicraft has released its 1/144 USAF KC-135E kit (#14627). The Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, the US Air Force's first jet-powered refueling tanker, was developed along with the Boeing 707 airliner from the Boeing 367-80 prototype. The KC-135, although it closely resembles the 707, has a shorter and narrower fuselage. Initially tasked to provide in-flight refueling of strategic bombers, the Stratotanker was used heavily in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm to extend the range of US tactical fighters and bombers. The KC-135 has over 50 years of continuous operation, having first entered service with the U.S. Air Force in 1957.

The Minicraft kit contains 76 parts molded in gray and clear plastic and features fine recessed panel lines with detailed landing gear and bays, refueling boom and



Minicraft has released its 1/144 USAF KC-135 Stratotanker, the US Air Force's first jet powered in-flight refueler. Included are decals to mimic the famous “Put a Tiger in Your Tank” advertisement from the 1960s.

operator's position. The boarding hatch and ladder can be positioned open or closed.

The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decal options for two different aircraft, one from the 190th ARW (Air Refueling Wing) of the Kansas ANG (Air National Guard), and another from the 108th ARW from the New Jersey ANG.

Moebius Models

Moebius Models has released its 1/6 scale *Lost in Space* Robot B9 kit (#939). The television series, which ran from 1965 through 1968, is an icon of science fiction entertainment. The story featured the Robinsons, a family chosen to begin the colonization of space. Shortly after takeoff, the mission was sabotaged by evil Dr. Smith, who was accidentally trapped onboard during the launch. A central character to the show, usually only known as "Robot", was the B-9, Class M-3 General Utility Non-Theorizing Environmental Control Robot. The Robot contained a powerful computer, programmed with an extensive database, as well as a variety of sensors to detect environmental conditions or dangers. The robot



Moebius Models has released its 1/6 scale Robot B-9 from the 60s icon of science fiction entertainment, *Lost in Space* television series.

was extremely strong and had grasping claws which contained laser and electrical weaponry.

The kit contains parts molded in gray and clear plastic, vinyl parts, and photoetched metal detail parts. The kit features detailed interior parts for inside the clear head dome, optional interchangeable extended or retracted arms, and a soil sampler that can be displayed in the deployed or stowed position. Also the head and torso can be rotated for alternative displays.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, along with painting and decal placement guides.

Revell

Revell has re-released its Go-Mad Nomad kit(#85-4310). David Deal was a car enthusiast, amateur race driver and artist. Combining his artistic ability with his love of cars, he designed caricature vehicles manned by devilish little people. In the 1970s, he created a line of models for Revell called Deal's Wheels. The Go-Mad Nomad was based on the 1957 Chevrolet Nomad two-door station wagon.

The kit captures the surfing scene perfectly with its large blown hotrod engine and giant air scoop, oversized

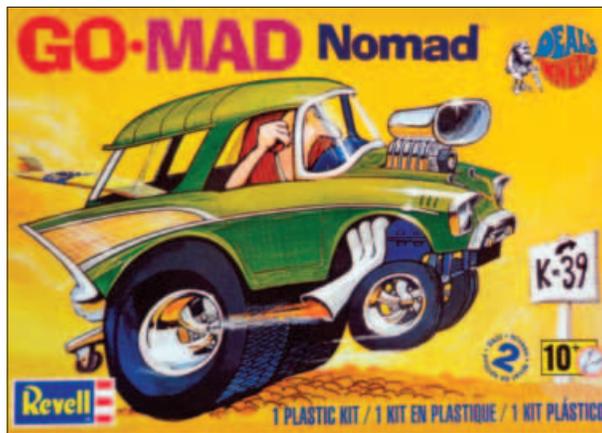
headers, and huge fat rear tires under a shortened body, driven by surfer "Rincon Ron" looking for the next big wave.

Containing 57 parts molded in white, clear, and chrome-plated plastic, the kit features the huge soft rear tires and tiny front tires that exaggerate the look of the car. Chrome is everywhere on this model, with the chrome wheels supported on a chrome suspension, and a large chrome blower intake scoop sticking through the hood.

The kit contains illustrated instructions, with very simple assembly steps, suitable for kids of all ages, to allow almost anyone to have a fun and enjoyable time building a piece of modeling history.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/200 PLA Navy Type 051C DDG-115 *Shenyang* kit (#03619). Part of China's effort to build a blue water navy, the 051C is the latest



The Go-Mad Nomad from Revell is being driven by surfer Rincon Ron and features a blown hotrod engine, huge fat slicks in back and a set of grossly oversized headers.



The outstanding feature of Trumpeter's Shenyang destroyer kit is the slide molded superstructure which results in perfect alignment.

class of guided missile destroyer. Armed with the Russian built S-300FM air defense missile system, it is also equipped with eight Chinese built YJ-83 anti-ship missiles, two triple mount 324mm torpedo launchers, two 30mm Gatling type anti-missile weapons, and a French-based 100mm naval gun.

The kit consists of the hull, two deck sections, seven sprues of plastic parts, eight slide-molded superstructure parts, a display stand, three frets of photoetched metal detail parts, as well as a length of scale chain for the anchor. An outstanding feature is the slide-molded superstructure, as it is a one-piece unit that allows the modeler to assemble these in perfectly square alignment with ease.

The kit comes with an illustrated 24-page instruction booklet, full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two different ships. **HM**

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