

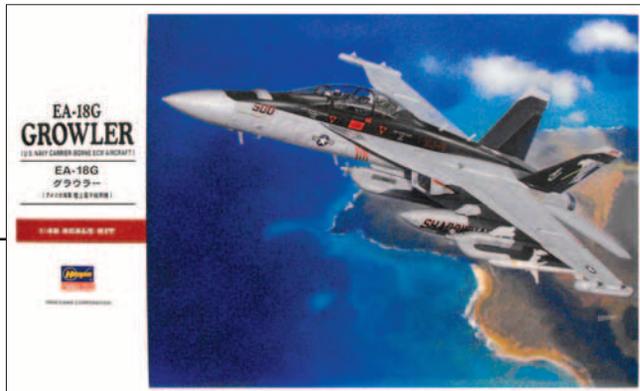


Keith Pruitt

# Model Kit Report

## Hasegawa EA-18G Growler

**Build-Along, Part Two With the tedious work now done, assembly can begin.**



Welcome back to the workbench, where we are building the new Hasegawa 1/48 EA-18G Growler. Most scale modeling projects have two exciting moments. The first one is usually the first step, when glue hits styrene and the kit is started. The second is the final assembly, when the last part is attached and the model is completed. Sandwiched in between are often long hours of work—building subassemblies, painting various parts and then decaling and clearcoating.

To combat the hours spent on assembly steps that don't really show a lot of rapid progress, it is best to consider each subassembly as an individual model. This allows builders to have an incremental sense of accomplishment rather than waiting for that final "hoorah" when the model is finished. That said, it is time to move into the major construction and cover some of the steps that are done in parallel with the build.

The Hasegawa EA-18G kit's fuselage is a modular design, with several pieces assembled together to complete the unit. This type of design allows manufacturers to create different versions of an aircraft for future releases. This kit is actually one of those variants, as it is a modified reissue of the F-18F Super Hornet kit.

To start, the wings are assembled and attached to the top section of the fuselage. The bottom and the sides of the lower fuselage are assembled, with the jet intake trucks enclosed inside. Then, the top fuselage is mated to the bottom. Suddenly, the model starts to look like an airplane. There are several small bumps



*It can become tedious, but items like the under wing stores all must be assembled, sanded and painted before final assembly.*



*The landing gear was brought to life with an application of a flat black wash to fill in all the little seams and voids.*



*The wings have been assembled and attached to the fuselage, and the model is beginning to look like an airplane.*

and vents to attach, along with the wing fences and flap actuators. Most of the really small items, like blade antennae, will be attached in the final assembly to be sure they are not broken off in handling.

While the glue is curing on some parts and paint is drying on others, this is a good time to continue working on the underwing stores like the electronic jamming pods, fuel tanks, pylons and missiles. They were assembled and seams filled in last month's installment. Now they can be painted and weathered, even though they won't be attached until the final assembly. The pods, tanks and pylons are primed with Model Master Light Ghost Gray enamel, then pre-shaded along the panel lines, filler caps, and engraved details with Flat Black to deepen the areas where shadows would be. Then a thin color coat of Light Ghost Gray is misted over the entire surface, blending in the darkened areas and creating a more subtle effect. The missiles, along with the main and nose landing gear, are painted gloss white enamel; decals are then applied and sprayed with a light coat of clear gloss to seal them. This also provides a smooth base for a Model Master Flat Black acrylic wash, which will settle into the lines and recesses, simulating the grease and grime that would accumulate in these locations on the full-scale aircraft.

Next month we will begin the final assembly of the Growler. **HM**

# New Kits of the Month

## FineMolds 1/350 IJN Destroyer Shikinami

FineMolds has released its 1/350 IJN Destroyer *Shikinami* (spreading waves) #FIN38901. Before WW II the *Shikinami* took part in the invasion of

China. During the War, she participated in operations in the Pacific theater including the Battle of Malaya, Battle of Sunda Strait, Midway, Eastern Solomons, Guadalcanal and the Bismarck Sea. On September 12, 1944, the *Shikinami* was torpedoed by the submarine USS *Growler* and destroyed. FineMolds 1/350 scale model kit is molded in light gray plastic with a molded red plastic hull. This nicely detailed kit, with 248 parts, includes the option of full-hull or waterline display. Additional features include black anchor chain for the bow anchors, caps for the turrets and torpedo tube mounts. The instructions are clearly illustrated and include painting and decal placement guides.



*FineMolds 1/350 IJN Shikinami destroyer includes 248 parts and options for either a full-hull or waterline display.*

## Revell 1/48 OS2U Kingfisher

Revell's latest releases include its 1/48 OS2U Kingfisher kit #85-5260. Developed just prior to WW II, the Vought OS2U

Kingfisher was a catapult-launched observation floatplane, with a large central float and two wing mounted outrigger floats. The OS2U was the main

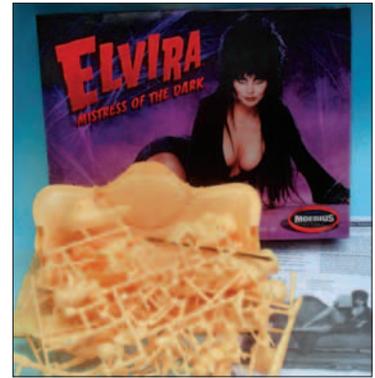
shipboard observation aircraft serving on battleships and cruisers of the US Navy, Marine scouting squadrons and Coast Guard air stations. The Revell 1/48 OS2U Kingfisher kit includes detailed plastic parts, illustrated instructions with painting guide, and decals for OS2U-3 Kingfishers serving in the Aleutian Islands and in Corpus Christi, Texas. The kit features open or closed canopies, pilot and gunner figures, optional wheeled or float version parts and a beaching dolly for modeling the floatplane on land.



*Revell's 1/48 OS2U Kingfisher depicts the famous aircraft that performed search and rescue operations during WW II.*

## Moebius Models Elvira, Mistress of the Dark

Moebius Models' recent released its 1/8 Elvira, Mistress of the Dark kit #918. Created in 1981, she is a quick-witted, cheeky vamp with a Valley girl attitude and delivery, dressed in a sexy black evening gown, heavy make-up and a coal-black bouf-



*Moebius Models' Elvira figure will please fans of the television cult classic Movie Macabre.*

ant hairdo. Elvira was an instant media hit as the hostess of *Movie Macabre*, a local Los Angeles late night television show that became syndicated nationwide. Moebius has given scale modelers an opportunity to enjoy an all-new 1/8-scale figure of Elvira, complete with a diorama base to display Elvira relaxing at home. The sofa sits on a rug with the infamous rug monster peeking out from underneath, and next to Elvira is her psychedelic poodle, Gonk. The plastic parts are nicely done, molded in flesh-colored plastic, with excellent detail.

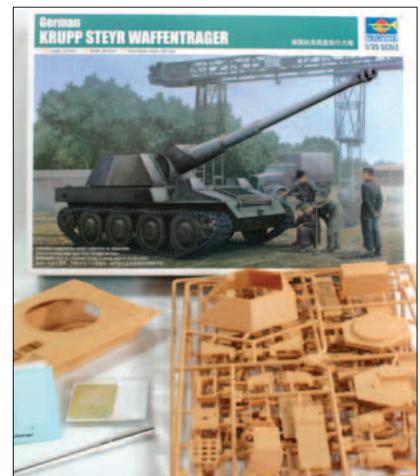
## Trumpeter 1/35 German Krupp Steyr Waffentrager

Trumpeter has released its 1/35 German Krupp Steyr Waffentrager kit #01598.

Throughout WW II, Germany continually tinkered with its armored vehicles.

One such marriage of convenience was mounting a large 88mm gun on a

light tank chassis in an effort to produce a potent but quickly assembled anti-tank vehicle. The kit features an open-top gun enclosure, which allows the equipment and mechanisms to be viewed inside the cramped working environment. Also provided are nice detail features inside the tank chassis including seats, levers and control panel, which can be seen through the open hatches. The kit includes photoetched brass detail parts, individual link tracks, a one-piece aluminum gun barrel, illustrated instructions and decals. **HM**



*Trumpeter's Krupp Steyr Waffentrager includes brass detail parts, individual track links and an aluminum barrel.*