



Keith Pruitt

# Model Kit Report

## Time to Get Caught Up

*The kits are coming is so fast it's hard to keep current.*

**A**irfix has released its 1/72 Messerschmitt Bf109E-7/Trop kit #A02062. The Messerschmitt Bf 109, a German World War II fighter aircraft, was one of the first truly modern fighters of the era, with all-metal construction, closed canopy, retractable landing gear, and it was powered by a liquid-cooled engine. The Bf 109E-7 had the added capability of carrying a bomb under the fuselage, and some were tropicalized, modified with added air intake filters and survival gear, for desert warfare service in North Africa.

The newly-tooled Airfix kits offer outstanding quality and exceptional detail. The Messerschmitt Bf109E-7/Trop kit features nicely engraved surface detail, detailed cockpit, and with a removable cowling section, some nice engine detail too. The kit also offers options for a pilot figure seated in the cockpit, open or closed canopy, bomb or fuel tank attached underneath, extended or retracted landing gear, positionable rudder, and optional deployed or retracted wing flaps.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two aircraft, one serving with the Luftwaffe in North Africa in 1941 and one serving with the Royal Bulgarian Air Force in 1942.

**Cyber-Hobby** has released its 1/700 USS *Chicago* CG-11 kit #CHC-7121. The USS *Chicago*, a Baltimore class cruiser, was launched on August 20, 1944 and saw action in the Pacific during WW II. In 1958, the USS *Chicago* was reclassified to CG-11 and began a five-year program where it was converted into a guided missile cruiser. The entire superstructure was



*The newly tooled Airfix Bf109E-7/Trop offers outstanding detail, including engraved surfaces and a removable cowling.*

removed and replaced with new aluminum compartments, modernized electronic systems and an improved combat information center. Representative of the new technological focus on guided missiles, the *Chicago* was refitted with Mk-11 Tartar and Mk-12 Talos Surface to Air Missile stowage, loading, launching, and guidance systems. Additional modifications included two triple torpedo tubes, an ASROC launcher, two five-inch guns and two antisubmarine helicopters.

The Cyber-Hobby 1/700 kit is molded in light gray plastic, and can be built either as a waterline or a full-hull model. The kit features detailed superstructure, bridge and funnels, fore and aft missile launchers, five-inch guns, gun directors, ASROC launcher and the ships boats. Also included are photoetched metal detail parts for building the radar mast and antenna, lifeboat mounts, ladders and railings.

Included are illustrated instructions with full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals that include markings for the flight deck, hull and flags.

**Hasegawa** has released its 1/48 Nakajima A6M2-N Type 2 Fighter Seaplane (Rufe) Yokosuka Flying Group kit #HSGS7325. The A6M Zero was the premier fighter aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy at the beginning of WW II.

Quick and maneuverable, the Zero initially took the Allies by surprise and ruled the skies in the Pacific Theater.

The Nakajima A6M2-N Type 2 "Rufe" was developed from the Zero, with floats attached so that the aircraft



*Cyber-Hobby has released a 1/700 USS Chicago missile cruiser can be built in either a waterline or full hull version.*

could operate from land-based naval stations such as the Yokosuka Naval Station, located near Tokyo on mainland Japan.

The Hasegawa A6M series of model kits, which have been released in several different variants, are outstanding in both detail and fit. The latest kit release features a highly detailed cockpit, with decal instruments, as well as finely engraved surface details, floats and outriggers, and a beaching trolley.

The limited edition kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decal markings for two different aircraft that served with the Yokosuka Naval Air Group.

Hobby Boss has released its 1/32 P61B Black Widow kit #HY83209. During WW II the P-61 Black Widow was the first and only American fighter aircraft designed specifically as a nightfighter. Entering service in 1944, the P-61 was heavily armed with four 20mm cannon and four .50



*The Hobby Boss 1/32 P-61B Black Widow builds into an extremely large and highly detailed aircraft model.*

caliber machine guns, and carried the most advanced radar technology of its day. The P-61 served with United States Army Air Forces squadrons in all theaters of operation.

The 1/32 Hobby Boss kit builds into an extremely large, and highly detailed, model of the extended nose P-61B variant. The kit features excellent molded surface detail, along with details cockpit, gunner and radar operator stations, as well as a SCR-720A radar. Also included are two detailed R2800-65 engines, with open or closed cowl flaps, detailed weapons and bays, and detailed landing gear bays and boarding hatches. Special bonuses include clear plastic radome and cowlings, vinyl tires,

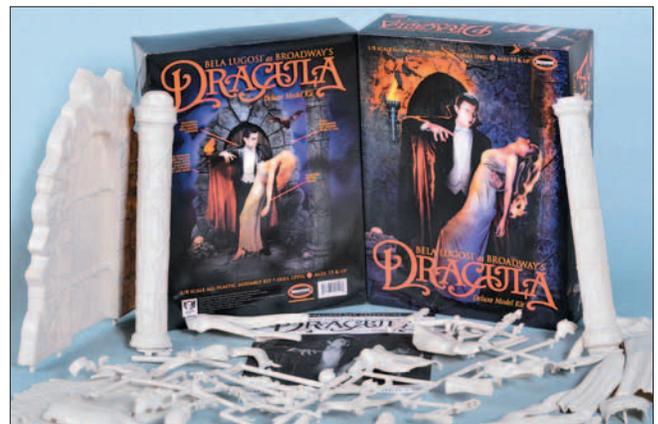


*The Hasegawa A6M Zero has been released in several different variants, the latest is a Rufe, which was the floatplane version.*

hoses, and ammunition belts, photoetched metal seatbelts, engine intake screens and baffles, and metal nose weights and landing gear struts.

Additionally, there are illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides. Decal markings are for two different aircraft, Sleepy Time Gal II and Lady of the Dark, which is the aircraft credited with the last Allied air victory of WW II.

Moebius Models has released its 1/8 Broadway Dracula Deluxe kit #904. In 1927, Bela Lugosi first took on the stage role of Count Dracula, and he made the role his own by giving Dracula an aristocratic bearing. He developed the deliberately halting and rolling speech pattern that has defined the voice of Dracula to this day. Since then, any portrayal of Count Dracula has been, and always will be, compared to the incomparable Bela Lugosi. Based on the previous standard kit release, the Moebius Models Deluxe kit recreates Lugosi's depiction of his most famous role in scale with the added bonus of his latest victim. Standing outside his castle door, Dracula has used his evil powers to seduce and capture a beautiful woman, who has succumbed and collapsed into his arms. Knowing the fate of this victim, the scene is made even more horrific with details such as a bat and human skull. The kit parts are



*Moebius Models has released its 1/8 Dracula Deluxe kit which features Count Dracula hovering over his latest victim.*

molded in gray, and feature parts for the two figures, detail parts, and the base floor and wall. The kit includes illustrated instructions, which also contain written assembly instructions and painting guide. On the back of the box is a photo of the completed model, built by David Fisher,

which also includes finishing tips.

Revell has brought back another classic with its re-release of the Renwal 1/32 Military Wrecker Truck kit #85-7816. The United States Military used several types and models of wrecker trucks, including the Model M816, a five ton 6x6 truck. First produced in 1970 by AM General, the truck was powered by a Cummins NHC-250 6-cylinder diesel engine and was perfectly suited for heavy military use. The vehicle could lift up to 20,000 pounds and had a towing capacity of up to 45,000 pounds. The wrecker boom could be extended from to 18 feet, elevated 45 degrees and rotated 270 degrees.

The Renwal kit contains 156 parts, including five crew figures, and features operational details like positionable front wheels, elevating crane boom, rotating crane platform, extendable or stowed outriggers, and a working winch. The hood can be removed to display the detailed engine and the cab doors can be positioned open to display the interior.

The 16-page illustrated instructions clearly depict the step-by-step assembly and include painting and decal placement guides. The decals include national markings and stencils, as well as the instrument gauges for the dashboard.

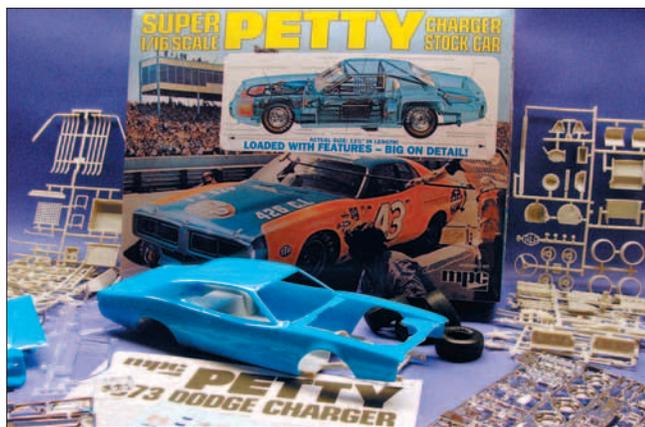


Revell has brought back another classic with its re-release of the Renwal 1/32 M816 Military Wrecker Truck.

Richard Petty Charger Stock Car kit is as spectacular as Petty's career. The box is covered with historical photos, detailed descriptions, and colorful graphics. This kit is a modified reissue, with the body molded in "Petty" blue plastic rather than clear plastic like the previous release. The kit contains parts molded not only in blue, but chrome, gray, and clear plastic along with

hollow black vinyl Goodyear tires.

Also included are vinyl tubing and wire for realistic added detail. Other options include a clear valve cover for the right side of the engine, jack stands, and a working front and rear suspension. The 16-page illustrated instructions include extra details, descriptions, and fine drawings which include distributor and engine wiring diagrams, as well as fit and assembly tips. The decal sheet contains the colorful graphics that will help the modeler recreate an authentic replica of the full-scale vehicle.



MPC has released its eagerly anticipated 1/16 Richard Petty Charger Stock Car.

MPC has released its eagerly anticipated Richard Petty Stock Car. In the sport of stock car racing, Richard "The King" Petty is one of the most recognized and respected names associated with NASCAR. With seven NASCAR Championship titles and seven Daytona 500 wins, Richard Petty has been given the distinction of being the first stock car driver to be inducted in to the racing "Hall of Fame" in Indianapolis. Statistically, Petty dominated the sport, and the early 1970s were no exception for the bright red and blue #43 Dodge Charger that Petty raced on tracks all across the country.

With fine detail and molded in super 1/16 scale, the



The Xuntong Model 1/48 Tu-2T is the torpedo bomber variant of the Soviet Union's twin engine bomber of WW II.

Xuntong Model has released a 1/48 Tu-2T Soviet Torpedo Bomber kit #B48003. The Tupolev Tu-2 was a twin-engine medium bomber aircraft developed by the Soviet Union during WW II. The Tu-2 was designed with a large internal bomb bay and speed similar to that of a single seat fighter. Fast, maneuverable, and rugged, the Tu-2 was built in bomber, torpedo bomber, interceptor and reconnaissance versions. The Tu-2 played a key role in the Soviet military aviation during WW II. Built from 1941 to 1948, it served with the USSR Air Force until 1950 and with the Chinese PLAAF into the 1970s.

The Xuntong Model 1/48 Tu-2T kit builds into the torpedo armed version. The kit features 278 parts molded in light gray and clear plastic with finely engraved panel lines and detailed cockpit consoles with individual control levers.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals with markings for six different aircraft, including two Soviet, one Chinese, one Polish, one North Korean, and one Bulgarian. **HM**