

Tom Grossman

# Model Kit Report

## New from Dragon Models USA

**Known primarily for its armor kits, Dragon Models USA offers many different subjects in a variety of scales.**

Dragon Models are known for high quality kits depicting interesting subjects. All Dragon Models kits are tooled to a high level of detail and accuracy and injected with precision. Included as part of every kit are well-diagramed instructions with easily to read part numbers and detailed parts map. Decals are crisply printed and colorful. Paint references are for Mr Colour, Aqueous Hobby Colour and Model Master. Known for spectacular armor kits, Dragon Models USA also offers other subjects that will appeal to a wide range of modeling interests.

The USS *Virginia* CGN-38 began as a nuclear-powered guided missile frigate when the keel was laid in August 1972 at the shipyard in Norfolk, Virginia.

Launched in December 1974, the USS *Virginia* was named after Virginia S. Warner, daughter of the Honorable John Warner, former secretary of the navy. The ship was reclassified as a cruiser and designated CGN-38 in June 1975 and received its commissioned in September 1976. Her noteworthy service has been recognized with several Navy Unit Commendations and Service Medals. The *Virginia* was assigned to the US East Coast and participated in training exercises in northern Europe.

Deployed to the Mediterranean in 1980, the *Virginia* provided emergency assistance after the Beirut Marine barracks bombing.

Her single major overhaul was in Norfolk in 1984 when she became the Navy's first strike cruiser. New



*Packed with detail and accuracy, Dragon USA brings the updated USS Virginia CGN-38 to your shelves in 1/700 scale. The Cyber-Hobby Smart Kit of this historically significant ship will appeal to modelers and history buffs alike.*

weapons were the Phalanx CIWS, Tomahawk missiles and the SM-2 surface-to-air upgrade. The aft helicopter pad and hanger were removed and ship was refitted with two Armored Box Tomahawk cruise missile launchers on deck and an engineering training space below. During 1990 another Mediterranean deployment was made in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The *Virginia* fired two Tomahawk missiles from the Mediterranean Sea into Iraq, the longest combat firing of a Tomahawk missile to date. The *Virginia* also directed missile fire from two submarines that were also in the area. The USS *Virginia* was decommissioned in 1994.

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*Known for the good fit and clean tooling of their kits, the Virginia builds to an impressive model and offers a great painting adventure.*

One of the new offerings in the Dragon Models USA Sea Power Series is the Cyber-Hobby Smart Kit #7090 1/700 scale USS *Virginia* CGN-38 post-overhaul strike cruiser. This is the version with two Tomahawk missile launchers on the aft deck. This detailed replica manufactured by using almost 200

gray styrene and photo-etched parts. Included in the parts count is a two-column display stand. The single photo-etched fret holds the many stairs, radar structures and railings. As with all photo-etched parts they come flat, so some folding is required. The hull is tooled in two pieces with the seam at the waterline and a separate fore deck. The superstructure is assembled from highly detailed bulkheads and decks.

Other details are added, including the masts and booms found in various locations around the ships deck. Armaments include two five-inch gun turrets and two Mark 26 missile launchers with SM-2MR medium range surface to air missiles. There is plenty of detail below the water line also, with twin propeller shafts, screws and rudders. This kit will appeal to builders, historians and collectors alike.

### Bf-110 Heavy Fighter

Another new release from Dragon Models USA is the Cyber-Hobby Master Series 1/48 scale Bf-110. This aircraft is often mistakenly called the Me-110. The Bf-110 was a twin engine heavy fighter called a Zerstörer, German for destroyer. The aircraft was originally designed in the 1930s during the transition from biplanes to monoplanes. Bf-110 is an all metal, low-wing cantilever monoplane of semi-monocoque design with twin rudders. The aircraft was nicknamed Eisenseiten, German for Ironsides. Bf-110s completed successful deployments during early Nazi campaigns in Poland, Norway and France. Its lack of agility was evident in the Battle of Britain, resulting in the aircraft being withdrawn from the battle. Bf-110s served as air superiority and strike aircraft in other theaters including the Balkan and North Africa Campaigns and the Eastern Front. They were of valuable support to the German army as a Jagdbomber-Jabo or fighter bomber. Later in the war, Bf-110s became the major night fighting aircraft of the Luftwaffe. The top German night fighter ace, Major Heinz-Wolfgang Schnauffer, flew a Bf-100.

The Bf-110D-3 depicted in this kit was a long-range Zerstörer with a lengthened tail that held a rescue dingy.



*Cyber-Hobby from Dragon USA has produced one of the largest and most accurately detailed kits of the Bf-110 D-3. The kit features engines that are detailed models in their own right.*

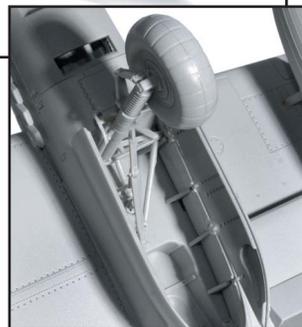
The D-3s were deployed primarily over open water, and their mission was long range search and destroy. Under the wings and belly are either two wing-mounted 300 L (80 US gal.) or 900 L (240 US gal.) drop tanks and two 500 kg (1,100 lb.) ETC 500 bombs. Included with the kit is one photo-etched fret with seat belts and antennas. The kit also includes two completely detailed Daimler Benz DB601 B-1 engines with a separate instruction sheet for engine assembly. Propeller blades have curved cross sections and true-to-scale thickness.

Landing gear and landing gear bays are realistically portrayed and the landing gear can be assembled in either gear down or folded configurations. The clear parts allow for both a closed or open canopy. Included markings are for 6.ZG 76, stationed in Greece during 1941, and 4.ZG 76 stationed in Rashid, Iraq, also during 1941. The control surfaces are separate pieces for more accurate posing. There is a realistic canvas pattern replicating the original's cloth-covered rudder with additional authentic details as part of the tailfin. The cockpit details include both the pilot and gunner seats along with the instrument panel and ammunition for the machine guns. Armament includes a MG-15 at the gun-

ner's station for rear defense, four MG-17 weapons for the nose and two drum-fed MG-FF cannons under the fuselage. All are made using slide modeled gun barrels with hollow ends. This is a truly remarkable model.



*The Dragon USA Cyber-Hobby Master Series Bf110 D-3 also builds to a remarkable display piece. Shown here with the landing gear down and the canopy closed, the kit includes the necessary parts that allows for gear up or open canopy.*



Dragon Models are known for excellent tooling and injection molding. All of its models are rich with detail and accuracy and are available to customers at affordable prices. The smallest of parts are not uncommon. When making a sale of a Dragon Models kit, you

might also suggest Xuron 2175 ET Professional Sprue Cutters. These have always worked well for me.

Besides the great armor offered by Dragon Models USA, there are ships and airplanes available in several scales. The kits are laden with detail and accuracy, promising challenging builds and eye-catching finished models. Dragon Models USA has once again raised the bar. **HM**