



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks For The Month

From the cult classic Mars Attacks! to a WW II Russian utility truck.

Airfix

The English Electric Corporation was utilized by the British Royal Air Force to manufacture bombers just before, and during, WW II. The company later designed and built the Canberra bomber, but by the 1950s, there was a legend in the making on the drawing boards, a Mach 2 jet fighter that became the Lightning. With highly swept wings, and powered by two Rolls-Royce Avon engines, the Lightning could fly at twice the speed of sound and had a remarkable climb rate of approximately 20,000 feet per minute.

Airfix has just released its newly tooled 1/72 English Electric Lightning F.2A #A04054. With 92 parts, molded in light gray and clear plastic, the kit features nicely engraved panel lines and superb detail. The kit features the intake trunk with engine turbine faces, twin exhausts with separate nozzles, detailed landing gear bays, detailed cockpit with decal instrumentation, as well as options for open or closed airbrakes, posed slats, and an open or closed canopy.

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

Hasegawa

Hasegawa has released its Limited Edition 1/72 B-25H Mitchell "Nose Art" kit #HSG02058. The North American B-25 Mitchell was a twin-engine medium bomber manufactured by North American Aviation for the US Army Air Corps during WW II. Named in honor of General Billy Mitchell, a pioneer of U.S. military avia-



The limited edition Hasegawa B-25H Mitchell includes fully detailed engines, panel lines plus "nose art" decals for two different aircraft.



Airfix has released a newly tooled Electric Lightning. The kit features 92 parts molded in light gray and clear plastic.

tion, and used by many Allied air forces in all theaters of the war, the B-25 actually remained in service with some countries as late as 1979. As a strafing aircraft, for attacking ground targets, the B-25H variant had an incredible amount of firepower, including nose-mounted .50 caliber machine guns and a T13E1 75mm cannon, a modified version of the weapon used in Sherman tanks.

The kit features engraved panel lines, two full engines, and detailed cockpit and interior, including two 1000 pound bombs. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, and painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two aircraft. The kit includes decals with markings and nose art for "Vikin's Vicious Virgin" of the 12th Bomb Group stationed in Italy in 1943, and "Barbie III" of the 1st Air Command Group stationed in Burma in 1944.

Minicraft

Minicraft has released its 1/48 Bonanza F33 #11670. The Beechcraft Bonanza, a civil aircraft introduced in 1947 by Beech Aircraft Corporation, and still produced today, the Bonanza has been in continuous production longer than any other airplane in history. It

has an all-metal construction design, with retractable landing gear and a flat 6-cylinder Continental engine. Known as the "fork-tail doctor killer," the original design included a unique V-shaped tail, which combined the rudder and elevators for coordinated handling. However, this

design tended to cause amateur pilots to be over-confident and led to numerous flying accidents. This led Beechcraft to change the aircraft configuration to a more conventional tail in 1982.

The kit features a detailed cabin interior and cockpit with six seats in three rows, as well as removable cowling panels to display the engine which has full mounts and exhausts. The kit also contains all the parts necessary to build the aircraft in the original V-tail configuration, as well as parts for the standard tail, to include a rear fuselage fairing, and three-bladed propeller.



The Minicraft Bonanza includes the necessary parts to assemble the model with a conventional tail or original design V-tail.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including specific steps for the modification to standard tail, as well as Cartograf decals for two aircraft from 1998 at the Airline Training Center in Arizona.

Moebius

Moebius 1/8 *Mars Attacks!* Martian Warrior In 1962, Topps Trading Cards released the popular *Mars Attacks!* series. The trading cards made quite an impact on the nation's youth with its graphic depictions of a Martian invasion of Planet Earth. However, the parental outcry caused the company to withdraw the cards only a few months after their initial release.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the trading cards, Moebius Models has released its 1/8 *Mars Attacks!* Martian Warrior figure #936. Featuring artwork by famed artist Earl Norem, the boxart has a brilliant rendition of the edgy trading card series and Martian warrior. On the bottom of the box, there is a colorful photo scene of the



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Topps Trading Card series, Moebius Models has released a *Mars Attacks!* warrior. finished model along with notable features and descriptions. The kit features a detailed ray gun, scary Martian figure with environmental suit and air tank, sidewalk display base, and a clear plastic helmet that reveals the Martian warrior's frightening expression in nicely molded facial features.

The sidewalk base depicts an unfortunate human victim that is detailed in a manner reflective of the graphic card series. The plastic parts are molded in white and gray, with clear parts and a turned aluminum shaft for the streetlight post. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting guide and a short history of the Topps Trading Cards series.

Revell

In the years before WW II, the design and styling process of wood sided automobiles was a major sales feature. In



The Revell '49 Mercury Wagon has the maple trim molded into the body and includes decals for the mahogany panels.

1949, Mercury released a woody option in their new station wagon body. The Mercury wagon featured a new chassis with fully independent front suspension and a

larger 110 horsepower, 255 cubic inch flathead V8 engine. Unlike earlier wooden body framing, the 1949 cars used entirely steel bodies, and then wood outer panels were added using an electro-bonding process. By 1952, the Ford and Mercury wagons were no longer built with real wood, although the look was continued with vinyl decals and plastic trim for another two decades.

The Revell kit contains 135 parts molded in white, clear, and chrome-plated plastic. It features a detailed frame and suspension, interior, and the flathead engine with three two-barrel carburetors. The maple wooden trim is molded into the body, and the kit has decals for the mahogany wood panel inserts. Also included in the kit are four vinyl tires with wide whitewall inserts. Options include a rear-mounted covered spare tire and an external sun visor.

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

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/35 GAZ-67B Military Vehicle



Trumpeter has released a Soviet GAZ-67B Military Vehicle. The kit is nicely detailed, featuring a full engine, drivetrain and suspension.

50 mph.

The GAZ-67B depicted in this kit had several mechanical improvements over the original design and was the most produced version. The kit is nicely detailed, and features a full engine and drivetrain, chassis with suspension, and interior. The kit comes molded with overall green plastic parts, including an optional canvas top, as well as five vinyl tires, clear plastic parts for the windshield and headlamps, and one fret of photoetched metal detail parts.

The kit contains illustrated instructions with painting and decal placement guides, along with decal markings for one vehicle. **HM**

#TSM-2346. When the Soviet Union entered WW II, the Red Army had already begun to develop a replacement for the commonly used horse-drawn carts, which were miserably inadequate for modern warfare. In 1943, the GAZ-67, a general purpose four-wheel drive vehicle, became operational as the primary light vehicle for the Soviet military. The GAZ-67 was powered by a 54 hp four cylinder gasoline engine, and it had a top speed in excess of

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