



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

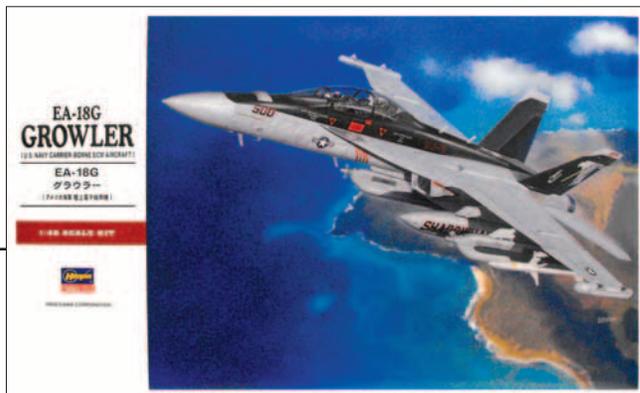
Hasegawa Growler

A great build comes to an end.

Welcome back to the final installment of building the new Hasegawa 1/48 EA-18G Growler. Last time, we were assembling the fuselage and wings and preparing to paint the airframe. While the kit's modular fuselage design has many advantages, including making complicated shapes easier to mold, it especially makes future releases of different variants easier to produce. The only real disadvantage of this design is that there are sometimes a lot of seams to fill to better replicate the full-scale aircraft. Beginning modelers may skip this step, and it's not really necessary if one builds the kit as just a shelf model. However, to create the most realistic appearance possible, most experienced modelers will fill the seams with putty and sand them smooth prior to painting.

Probably the most daunting task for this particular kit is removing the mold seam that is located right down the centerline of the canopy. Mold lines on clear plastic parts cannot just be sanded smooth, as that leaves a scratched and foggy appearance, and the Growler canopy is a huge focal point on the finished model. The canopy has to be crystal clear, or it will look terrible. After the mold line was removed with 400 grit sandpaper, the canopy was sanded with progressively finer grits, with each one removing the sanding marks from the previous. Finally, it was polished with Novus Plastic Polish to bring it back to the clear molded luster.

Once this was done, the canopy was glued in place with Testors Clear Part Cement and the "glass" was masked with tape. The canopy frame was painted with Model Master Flat Black



for the interior color, and while the airbrush was loaded with paint, the panel lines were preshaded. Preshading involves tracing each of the panel lines with a dark paint, which will show through the color coats to help represent paint fading on the full size aircraft. It also helps to break up the bland monochromatic look on the larger model when there are only two camouflage colors, Model Master Light Ghost Gray and Dark Ghost Gray. The VAQ-129 "Vikings" squadron markings on the fins were sprayed with Model Master Insignia Red.

After the color coats are cured, the model is sprayed with a clear gloss, as decals will adhere much better on a smooth surface. Once the decals are applied, another light coat of clear gloss seals the decals, and a wash is applied to highlight the panel lines. The wash is Model Master Acryl Flat Black, thinned with water and a drop of liquid dish soap. When the wash has dried, the final clear flat coat is applied to even the sheen and seal the wash. The masking is removed, and the landing gear, underwing stores and weapons, and smaller details can be attached, completing the final assembly. Now, the model is ready for the display case or contest table. While the Hasegawa 1/48 EA-18G Growler kit is well within the skills capability of most beginners, the more experienced modelers will truly be able to build the Navy's newest electronic warfare weapon as a masterpiece in miniature, and any modeler can have a lot of fun building it. **HM**



Flat black was used to pre-shade the canopy and panel lines.



The wheel wells are painted white in preparation for final assembly.



Red squadron markings were painted on the vertical stabilizers.

Keith's Choice: New Kits of the Month

Dragon Models has released its 1/144 Bell Sonic Breaker X-1 kit #DRA4630. The X-1 design incorporated several unique features, including an overall shape that was based on a .50-caliber machine gun bullet, which was known to be stable at supersonic speeds, straight wings that were very thin but exceptionally strong, and a four-chamber rocket engine. Dragon's 1/144 dual kit of the famous airplane features fuselage parts that are produced in clear plastic allowing the modeler to showcase the model's interior, although the model can be painted. Since there are two full kits in the box, one could be finished painted and one can be left unpainted to show off the interior components. Other features include the cockpit, fuel tanks, and rocket motor all molded with exquisite detail, as well as the option of building the model with the landing gear down, or stowed for display on the included stand. The box



The Dragon 1/144 Bell X-1 includes two complete models in one box.

includes color diagrams on the back of the box depicting two different X-1 paint schemes. The display stand can be configured to hold a single model or both models flying in formation.

Round2 Models has recently released the Polar Lights 1/8 Captain America #POL856. Created by Marvel Comics during the early days of World War II, Captain America was the star-spangled avenger, fighting the Axis powers, as well as Hitler's personal henchman, the Red Skull. Produced in the same pose as the original Aurora kit from the 1960's, Polar Lights Captain America is slightly larger at 1/8, and features more detail and modified facial expressions. With colorful "Comic Scene" packaging, the kit includes the figure with his trademark shield, a base with a stone wall, water splashes molded in clear plastic, a cardboard back-



The Polar Lights Captain America includes a comic book style instruction manual.

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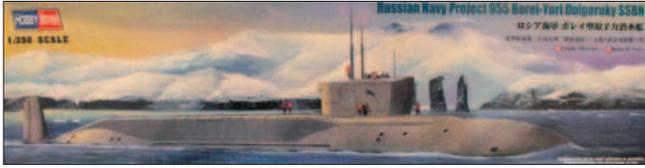
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ground, and a comic book style instruction booklet.

Hobby Boss' recent releases include the Squadron Products 1/350 Russian Navy Project 955 Borei-Yuri Dolgoruky SSBN #HY83520. The Borei class is the Russian Navy's newest nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine. Named after the founder of Moscow, the *Yuri Dolgorukiy* is



Hobby Boss' 1/350 kit of the Yuri Dolgoruky is a great way for Russian naval fans to model the country's current submarine. the first SSBN submarine of the line. Hobby Boss' new kit features a two piece full hull with nicely molded surface detail, separate rudder and stern planes, and a multipart propulsion unit. Included are a display stand and options for submerged or surface display with projecting periscopes, masts, and snorkel. The propeller blades, antenna, and nameplate are represented by photoetched metal parts. The kit also contains illustrated instructions, with a color painting and decal guide. The Hobby Boss 1/350 Russian Navy Project 955 Borei-Yuri Dolgoruky SSBN is a great opportunity for fans of Russian naval subjects to build an outstanding model of Russia's most current submarine.

Trumpeter has released its 1/25 1964 Falcon Sprint Hardtop Street & Strip kit #05208. Building on the success of its previous 1964 Falcon Sprint Hardtop kit, Trumpeter has released the next installment with this Street & Strip version. The engine has several options, including a dual carburetor or a Hilborn fuel injection induction system. The interior detail has dual bucket seats, rear bench seat, center console, floor shifter, and the sport instrument package with a three spoke steering wheel. The chassis includes options for a single or dual exhaust, factory steel wheels and four stock tires, as well as two larger rear tires for drag strip use. The crisply molded body includes the radio antenna, windshield wipers, rear view mirrors, chrome bumpers and front grille. Also included in the kit are illustrated instructions, painting guide, and decal sheet. **HM**



Building on the success of the Falcon Sprint Hardtop, Trumpeter has now released a Street and Strip version.



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