



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks For The Month

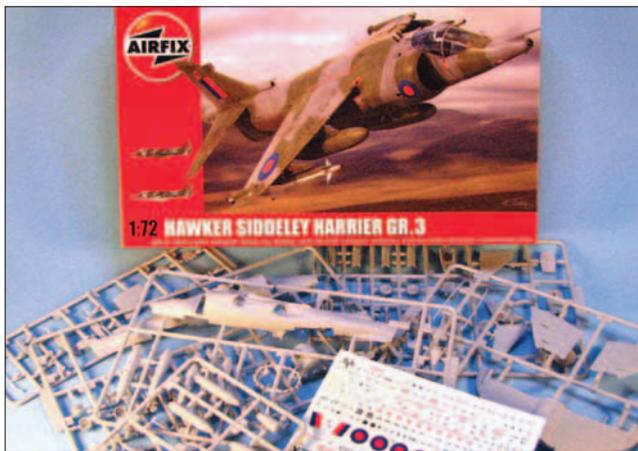
As always, a little something for everyone.

Airfix

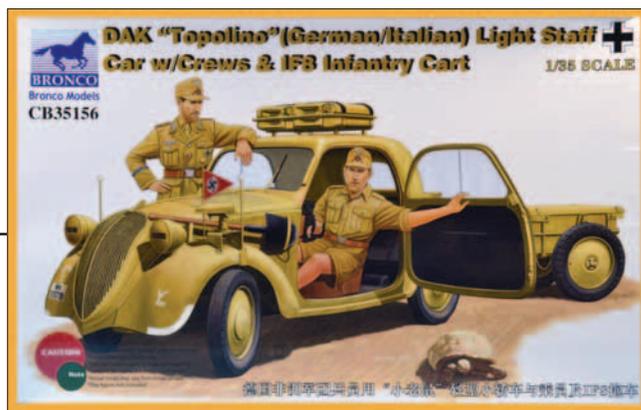
Airfix has released its 1/72 Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR.3 #A04055. After work began on the Harrier in 1957 there were numerous design changes, requirement changes and conflicting requirements. The Harrier GR.1 finally entered service in 1969. Using vectored thrust, the Harrier is the only practical VTOL (Vertical Takeoff or Landing) aircraft that ever became fully operational. Primarily used for ground attack, the aircraft's maneuvering abilities make it very effective in short range air-to-air combat. The upgraded GR.3 version includes a more powerful engine, improved sensors, laser tracker, integrated aircraft avionics, and lift improvement devices.

The kit features a detailed cockpit, with a multipart Martin Baker Mk.9 ejector seat, control column, instrument panel, gun sight, and decals for the instrument panel and side consoles. The kit also provides optional auxiliary intake doors with a fully closed set for inflight display or open set for static display. Weapons and underwing stores include AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, a set of drop fuel tanks, MATRA rocket pods and 30mm ADEN cannon pods. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and Cartograf decals for two different aircraft in British service.

For fans of aviation history, one set of decals depicts an aircraft that served aboard the HMS *Hermes* during the Falklands War. This particular aircraft flew on the last bombing mission of the war and was recalled after the Argentineans surrendered the islands.



The Airfix 1/72 Hawker Siddeley Harrier features a number of detail parts and includes decals for two different airplanes.



The Bronco Topolino Light Staff Car can be built either as a commandeered civilian vehicle or as a full Afrika Korps version.

Bronco

Bronco has released its 1/35 DAK Topolino (German/Italian) Light Staff Car with Crew & IF8 Infantry Cart #CB35156. In 1937, Fiat introduced the compact, two-door Model A 500 Topolino equipped with a 569cc four-cylinder, water-cooled inline engine. At the start of WW II, many of these cars were pressed into military service as light staff cars for the Italian and German armies operating in Europe, North Africa and Russia. Although small, the car was rugged enough to last through the war and many were captured and used by the Allies during the invasion of Europe.

The kit can be built as a commandeered civilian vehicle, with nothing more than a repainted body, or as a full Deutsche Afrika Korps version with various military equipment, tools, and an IF8 Infantry Supply Cart. The kit contains a one piece body, detailed full engine, a separate frame and chassis, interior details with open or closed doors and hood, separate suspension with steering linkages that allow the front wheels to be positioned, and Fiat hubcaps. Included are photoetched metal detail parts for the windshield wipers, grill emblem, hood latches, door handles tool mounts, Jerry Can roof rack straps and trailer tub.

The infantry cart is nicely detailed, with two different types of wheels and a separate molded canvas cover allow-

ing it to be built open or closed. The kit also includes two figures with separate bodies, legs, arms and heads with separate caps. Both are clothed in DAK uniforms, with the driver figure in short pants and the officer in long pants. The only equipment provided is one MP40 weapon. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals for three different vehicles, one DAK, one medical unit, and one captured US Army vehicle.

Hasegawa

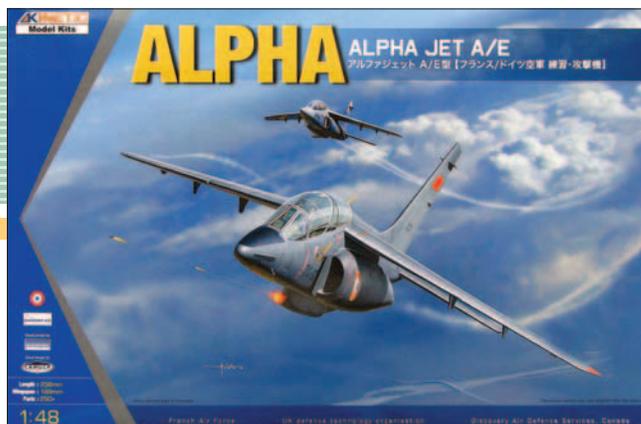
Hasegawa has released its 1/48 Aichi B7A2 Attack Bomber Grace 752nd Flying Group Limited Edition #HSG07345. During WW II, the Aichi B7A “Ryusei” (Shooting Star) attack aircraft was developed for operation from the larger aircraft carriers of the Imperial Japanese Navy. The design included a mid-fuselage wing attachment point that allowed for an internal bomb bay, which provided dual-role capability as a dive bomber or torpedo bomber. The inverted gull wing configuration was required for the large propeller, as well as the shorter and stronger landing gear needed for carrier landings. Code named “Grace” by the Allies, the Ryusei saw limited



The Hasegawa Aichi B7A2 Attack Bomber has the option of being built with either a two bomb or single torpedo load.

action from land bases, as the larger carriers had been virtually eliminated by the time it was operational.

The kit features a detailed cockpit and bomb bay, with the option of two bombs or a single torpedo as the weapons load. The cockpit includes rudder pedals, bomb-sites, oxygen bottles, finely molded seats, as well as finely detailed decals for the instrument panels. The canopy is five parts, which allows it to be assembled in either an open or closed configuration. The limited edition kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides for two different aircraft operating with the 752nd Naval Flying Group in April of 1945.



Kinetic Models 1/48 Alpha can be assembled as a trainer or light attack version of this jointly produced European aircraft.

Kinetic Models

Kinetic Models has released its 1/48 Alpha Jet A/E #K48043. Developed jointly by France and Germany, the aircraft was designed to function as both a trainer and light attack jet. The German Luftwaffe used the Alpha primarily as a light attack aircraft through the 1980s and into the late 1990s, with the last leaving service in 1998. The French employed the Alpha Jet primarily as a trainer, and continue to use it in that role today. With many Alpha jets exported to other countries, it is still in service in both roles as trainer and attack jet.

The kit consists of three sprues of gray plastic parts, one sprue of clear plastic parts, and one fret of photoetched metal detail parts. The kit can be built as either the E (Trainer) or the A (Attack) version. The kit features a detailed cockpit with multipart Martin-Baker ejection seats, as well as detailed landing gear and bays assembled from multiple parts. There are options for stowed or deployed wing flaps, open or closed speed brakes, large or small ventral gun pod, open or closed canopy, and underwing auxiliary tanks. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as Cartograf decals to build one of three different aircraft.

MPC

MPC has re-released its 1/24 1978 AMC Pacer X #MPC802. Produced between 1975 and 1980, the AMC Pacer was quite unique in its design. The rounded and aerodynamic styling and huge glass area has made the Pacer a dubious classic.

The kit is a modified reissue with added parts for either a stock or street machine version, giving modelers the option of combining for their own custom version of the Pacer X. Molded in white, transparent red and clear with chrome plated parts and soft black tires. Featuring options that include rear and side sport slats, a roof spoiler, a roof rack, custom wheels, front air dam, roll cage, and rally lights. Both vinyl off road tires and stock tires are included, as well as full color decals for the stock and street machine.

The kit contains a detailed engine with a simplified drivetrain molded into the chassis. Designed from official fac-



The AMC Pacer has become something of a dubious classic and the MRC 1/24 version can be built stock, or as a wild custom.

tory blue prints, the MPC 1978 AMC Pacer X kit will be appealing to replica stock and customized car enthusiasts who wish to revisit a unique design and styling of the past.

Revell

Revell has re-released its 1/25 '70 Plymouth Hemi Cuda #85-4268. With only 652 vehicles produced, the 1970 Plymouth Hemi Cuda has become one of the most valuable and sought after collectors' items. For the third generation E-Body Barracuda, Plymouth stuffed a massive 426 cubic inch 425 horsepower Hemi engine into the sporty compact platform and created a tire-shredding American muscle car.

The Revell kit has been highly anticipated by model-

ers and is highlighted by new tooling. The Special Edition kit features 149 parts molded in white and clear with chrome plated parts and soft black tires, and can be built in either stock or custom configuration. There are two hood designs, one for the shaker scoop and the other in R/T style, as well as a stock or lowered suspension for the



The much anticipated Revell Plymouth Hemi Cuda is highlighted by new tooling and includes a number of desirable features.

chassis. The interior and exterior features include a clear instrument panel, door handles, rear and side view mirrors, windshield wipers, and hood pins.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as full color decals with numerous graphics choices and colors for exterior patterns, pin striping, and body emblems. **HM**

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