



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Interesting New Kits

A variety of selections for all interests.

Airfix

Airfix 1/72 Avro Lancaster B.III (Special) Dambuster. During WW II, there were a few unique missions that required special people, equipment and planning. One of these missions was carried out by the RAF Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron in May of 1943. Officially known as Operation Chastise, the mission was to bomb a number of dams in the Ruhr valley industrial region causing widespread flooding with the intention of completely devastating the German industrial effort.

The specially designed barrel-shaped "bouncing bomb" was dropped from the aircraft, skipped across the water to the dam where it sank to the bottom of the river and



Airfix has released a newly tooled 1/72 version of the famous Lancaster bomber of WW II, this time it's the Dambuster.

exploded at the base of the dam. This daring mission made the Lancaster one of the best known bombers of the war.

Airfix recently released a newly tooled 1/72 version of the Lancaster called the Avro Lancaster B.III Dambuster. The striking boxart depicts a Lancaster pulling up from its target on a moonlit night. The kit contains 265 nicely molded parts found on six parts trees and one clear parts tree. The kit features detailed fuselage interior, wheel wells, bomb bay, and flap areas. The exterior detail is impressive with engraved panel lines, a separate bomb trolley suited for a



The AMT 2009 Corvette pace car will be a hit with Indy fans. diorama scene, and separately molded flaps and control surfaces. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, a 24-page booklet with 110 assembly steps and painting and decal placement guides. The decals are printed by Cartograf, and include stencils, national insignia, decals for the instrument panel, and even maps for the navigators station.

AMT

AMT 1/25 2009 Chevy Corvette Convertible. The Indianapolis 500, one of the premiere events in the world of motor sports, is often referred to as "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing". Since the first race in 1911, it has grown to the point that it draws 300,000 plus [*the exact figures are unknown-Ed*] people to the Memorial Day race, with millions in the television audience. In 1957, the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade was added to the event and has grown to rank among the top parades in the country. The 2009 parade presented the 33 starting drivers sitting on the backs of Chevrolet Corvette convertibles.

AMT has just released its 1/25 2009 Chevy Corvette Convertible kit #AMT814L. The model features beautiful 5-spoke chrome wheels, red accent stripes down the sides of the car, along with the 2009 Indianapolis 500 logo. The kit contains a set of highly detailed low-profile directional-tread tires for the chrome wheels, as well as seats made of black vinyl. This Showroom Replica is a curbside kit with the simplified suspension and engine molded into the chassis plate. The kit also contains bonuses of a 5in x 7in photograph of the actual 2009 parade car, suitable for framing, and a 2in x 3.75in official Indy 500 sticker. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides.



Dragon has released a 1/35 model of the M48A3 Patton, the last of the battle tanks to bear the famous general's name.

Dragon

Dragon 1/35 M48A3 Mod.B. Dragon has released its 1/35 M48A3 Mod.B kit #DRA3544. The M48 was the third and last US tank to be named after General George S. Patton. It was an upgraded redesign of the M47, to be used until the American Main Battle Tank M60 became operational. The M48A3 Mod.B variants had upgraded fire control systems, a diesel engine, increased armor, and a raised commanders cupola with vision ports all around. The M48 served in combat during the Vietnam War, the Indo-Pakistani Wars, and the Arab-Israeli Wars.

The kit contains seven sprues of plastic parts, one sprue of clear parts, a set of tracks, and braided wire for the tow cable. This kit features options for open or closed hatches, variable gun elevation, and the position of the commanders machine gun. Regular model glues and paint will work quite well on the full length styrene tracks. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides for four different vehicles. Detailed enough that experienced modelers can enjoy the kit, yet simple enough for a beginner to build, virtually any armor modeler will appreciate the Dragon 1/35 M48A3 Mod.B kit.

Hasegawa

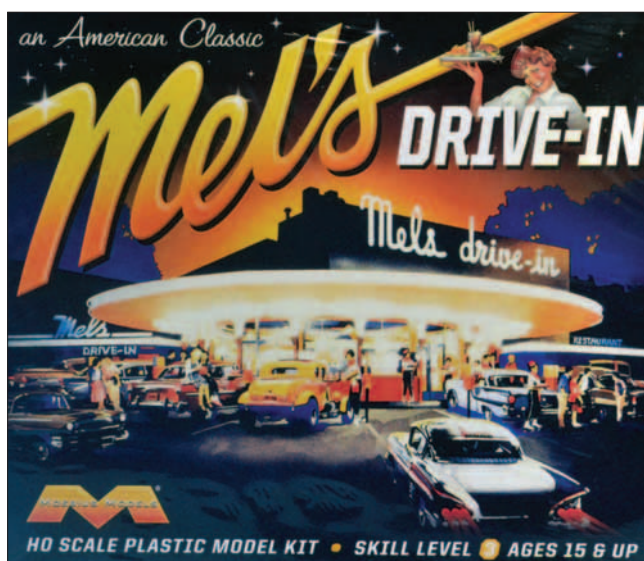
Hasegawa 1/48 P-400 Airacobra Shark Teeth. Hasegawa has released its 1/48 P-400 Airacobra "Shark Teeth" kit #HSGS7324. The Bell P-39 Airacobra was one of the principal American fighter aircraft in service when the United States entered WW II. Two hundred of the aircraft, intended for British service, were adopted by the USAAF as P-400s, named for the top speed of 400 miles per hour. Like most American air-



Hasegawa's 1/48 Bell P-400 Airacobra is a highly detailed model of this unusual design that played a key role in WW II. The aircraft, the P-400 was heavily armed and armored. Its unusual design placed the engine in the fuselage behind the pilot, which allowed a powerful 37mm cannon to be mounted in the nose. The aircraft, lacking a turbo-supercharger on the engine, was somewhat slow for air-to-air combat at altitude but became a mainstay in ground attack roles in the Pacific theater. This Limited Edition kit features options for different exhaust stacks, open or closed cockpit doors, and optional bomb or drop tank. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two different USAAF aircraft operating in the South Pacific during 1942.

Moebius Models

Moebius Models 1/87 Mel's Drive-In. Moebius Models has released its 1/87 Mel's Drive-In kit #935. Mel's Drive-



Moebius Models has captured the nostalgic feel of Mel's Drive-In, a prominent fixture in the 1973 movie American Graffiti.

In is an American restaurant chain founded in 1947 in San Francisco, California. A common hangout for teenagers in the 50s and 60s, the restaurant became famous when it was chosen as a prominent feature location for the George Lucas 1973 film *American Graffiti*. The movie was a nostalgic remembrance of teenage life and featured such future superstars as Harrison Ford, Richard Dreyfus and Ron Howard. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture of the year, ensuring Mel's Diner a place in nostalgic history.

Moebius Models' Mel's

Drive-In kit features 64 nicely molded plastic parts, clear and thin plastic sheet for the windows, and the base which includes the exterior sidewalks. For ease of assembly, the interior booths and the various signs are printed in color on paper stock. For collectors, fans of the movie, or model railroaders, this kit could be an excellent choice for a quick and easy build and an impressive model for the display shelf or railroad table.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter 1/32 A-1D AD-4 Skyraider. The Douglas A-1 Skyraider was a large aircraft, capable of carrying up to 8000 pounds of externally mounted ordinance and delivering its weapons with precision. The Skyraider was originally designed during WW II as a single seat low-wing torpedo-bomber, but arrived too late to see action. Later it was used for ground attack, bombing, night-attack, Airborne Early Warning, target towing and many more duties. Used by the US Navy, Marine Corps, and later the US Air Force, the Skyraiders flew missions in Korea and Vietnam, but were eventually being phased



At 1/32 scale, the Trumpeter A-1D AD-4 Skyraider is a large model that is bursting at the seams with a number of intricate details.

out in the early 70s. The AD-4/A-1D variant had a more powerful engine, stronger landing gear, redesigned tailhook, and stronger armor for the pilot.

The kit includes twelve sprues of gray plastic aircraft parts, two sprues of clear parts, rubber tires, a fret of photoetched metal detail parts, as well as six sprues of ordnance, including M117, Mk81, Mk82 bombs, AN-M64/500lb bombs, AN-M66/2000lb bombs, LAU-3 Rocket pod, 5-inch rockets, SUU-14a dispenser and both centerline and wing-mounted fuel tanks.

The aircraft engine is a kit unto itself, with more than 35 parts and can be seen through the optional open cowling panels or through the side panels which are molded in clear plastic. The kit features detailed landing gear bays, optional position control surfaces, folded or extended wings, open or closed airbrakes, and open or closed gun bays which contain detailed 20mm cannon. The kit includes a 24-page

instruction booklet, with full color painting and decal placement guides, and decals for two aircraft, one US Navy and one US Marines. **HM**

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