



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Choice: New Kits of the Month

A nice selection of kits that are certain to entice the military modeler.

Airfix 1/72 Fairey Swordfish

Airfix has recently released its 1/72 Fairey Swordfish kit #A04053. Entering service with the Royal Navy in 1936, the Swordfish was a biplane with massive struts, fixed landing gear, fabric covering, open cockpits, and a top speed just over 100 miles per hour. Antiquated, it was instrumental in sinking several battleships, including the infamous Bismarck, Germany's largest and most powerful battleship.



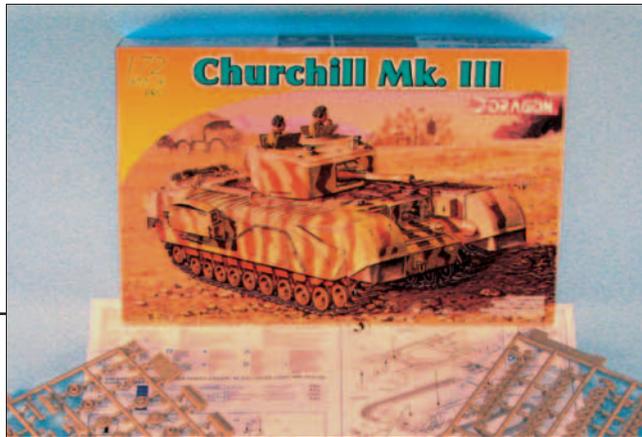
The 1/72 Fairey Swordfish is now available from Airfix.

The Airfix 1/72 Fairey Swordfish features a detailed cockpit, complete with a tubular frame, detailed instrument panel, seats and cockpit side panels. The parts have recessed panel lines, and delicate, yet realistic, fabric panels. The wings can be displayed extended or folded. The kit includes a full load of bombs, torpedo with a trolley, small stores carriers and an extended range fuel tank. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, and a decal and painting guide for two aircraft.

Dragon Models USA 1/72 Churchill Mk III

Dragon has recently released its 1/72 Churchill Mk III #7396. The Churchill Mk III, with 675 produced, had a welded turret and a 6-pound gun in the turret. The Mk III was successfully used at the battle of El Alamein.

The kit consists of the lower hull, upper hull, a set of



The 1/72 Churchill Mk III is a new release from Dragon. styrene tracks, small sheet of decals, and illustrated instructions with color profiles, painting and decal placement guides for three different vehicles. The tracks are easy to assemble, all types of paint adhere well, and regular styrene glue can be used to cement the connections. The kit features slide molding to create very detailed three dimensional parts.

Hasegawa 1/72 Fw 190A-8 & Ju 88G-1 "Mistel S2"

Hasegawa has just released a Limited Edition 1/72 Fw 190A-8 & Ju 88G-1 Mistel S2 kit, #HSGS1975. The Mistel, which is German for Mistletoe, was a composite aircraft developed by the German Luftwaffe during WW II. The Germans fitted a two-ton explosive warhead into the nose of a Ju 88 Bomber which had an Fw 190 Fighter aircraft attached to a frame atop the bomber. The pilot flew the



The Mistel was an extremely unique Luftwaffe composite design. Mistel to the target then disengaged the unmanned bomber while the fighter flew back to base. There is currently one surviving example of the Fw 190 component, which is on

display in the Imperial War Museum in London.

The Limited Edition Hasegawa 1/72 Fw 190A-8 & Ju 88G-1 “Mistel S2” features two complete kits to create a scale replica of the fascinating German superweapon. The Mistel S2 variant, the training version of the aircraft, did not have the warhead attached to the Ju 88G-1. The kit includes photoetched metal detail parts for the mounting strut framework, as well as a boarding ladder to reach the top cockpit. The instructions contain painting and decal guides for two different Mistels. The Limited Edition Hasegawa 1/72 Fw 190A-8 & Ju 88G-1 Mistel S2 kit will give modelers an opportunity to build one of the strangest of Germany’s advanced weapons of WW II.

MiniArt 1/35 GAZ-AAA Cargo Truck

MiniArt has released its 1/35 GAZ-AAA Cargo Truck kit #35127. Many Ford products were licensed for production in various countries around the world, including Europe,

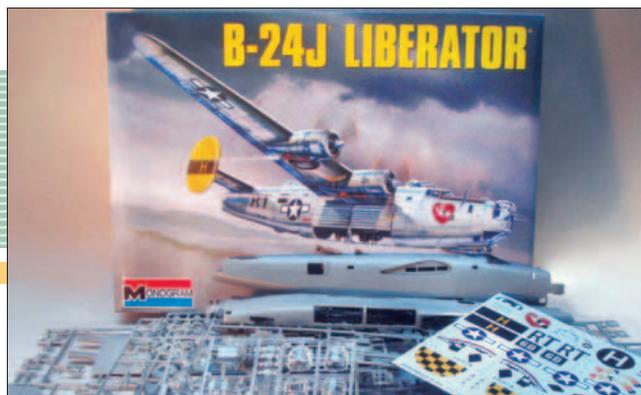


MiniArt’s GAZ-AAA will fill a niche with scale modelers.

South America, and Japan. The Soviet Union produced a version of the Ford-AA truck, designating it GAZ-AA, and in 1934, a tri-axle version, the GAZ-AAA. During WW II, the truck was used in many military variants, including cargo carrier, fuel truck, radio vehicle, aviation starter, and even armored vehicles. The kit features 490 detailed parts in molded plastic and photoetched metal. The kit includes instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as parts to build five nicely detailed figures. This particular issue of the MiniArt 1/35 GAZ-AAA Cargo Truck kit has figures that represent the German Wehrmacht and the decals specifically represent Soviet vehicles captured by German forces.

Monogram 1/48 B-24J Liberator

Revell has released the Monogram 1/48 B-24J Liberator kit #85-5629. During WW II, Consolidated Aircraft was asked



Monogram’s 1/48 B-24J will build into a very large model.

by the US Army Air Corps to build B-17 bombers under a licensed agreement. Instead, Consolidated chose to build an all new aircraft, combining existing and new components. The result was the Consolidated B-24 Liberator. More B-24s were built during WW II than any other heavy bomber.

The Monogram B-24J kit features full interior details from the cockpit with pilot, copilot, and bombardier figures to the waist gunner positions containing two gunners and rotating turrets with articulated guns. The bomb bays doors can be posed closed, or opened to reveal the detailed bays. As a bonus, Monogram has included a Cletrac M2 high-speed towing tractor and three ground crew figures. The kit includes instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, along with a large decal sheet with markings for two different aircraft.

Trumpeter 1/35 Soviet IT-1 Missile Tank

Trumpeter has released its 1/35 Soviet IT-1 Missile Tank kit #05541. This tank, based on the hull of the successful T-62, was produced from 1968 to 1970. It fired a modified 3M7



The Trumpeter Soviet Missile Tank replicates a cold war vehicle.

Drakon (Dragon) missile from a pop up launcher mounted in the turret. Due to the minimum range of the Drakon missile, and the limited amount of ammunition carried, this tank was not very popular with crews. Eventually, all of the IT-1 tanks were converted into armored recovery vehicles.

The kit features a one piece lower hull, one piece turret, individual track links, and photoetched metal detail parts. The kit includes instructions with a color painting guide. The rough cast surface texture of the turret is nicely reproduced, and the photoetched vent covers add excellent detail to the finished model. **HM**