

**FEBRUARY
2007**



Let's finish some kits.

By Scott McTavish

As the weather finally decides that it wants to be winter outside, some of us will be stuck inside with nothing to do but watch hockey and build models. I have been able to sort and organize parts of my collection, and have found a few potential builds for the coming contest season. I've also found some half started, shelved and forgotten, why'd I buy this? type of kits.

Next months special theme "Bring Out Your Dead" is meant to help each of us recycle parts of our collection, that for some reason have been overlooked and not yet discarded. So rifle through your piles and see if there is anything that you are not going to ever finish. At the march meeting we will put the kits on the tables. There is bound to be a variety of stuff in all sorts of levels of construction! Then the fun part will begin. You can look at all the other projects and find one that you would be interested in finishing! That's right you'll have the chance to finish off a kit, and in return get to see your project receive a similar fate.

Probably by the September or November meetings we can arrange to get all the models saved from the bin back as a collection.

NEWS....!

Membership Dues: are Payable at the March meeting. Help keep the light's on at the hall by having your \$20 with you.

In return, Derwin will present you with a fancy keeper prize that you can show off to all your friends.

Obviously this will be an activity that will require a good number of people to participate in. After all if you want to be able to take a kit home you'll have to have brought a trade in.



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Show N' Tell

2007 started off on good note, if just a bit cold. For the January meeting, the theme of the month was "The 1960s." Several members brought out models that represented this era, plus there were also a couple of additional models on display. But first we were fortunate enough to two members, Paul Holmes and Michael Tanguay, put on a couple of modeling demonstrations. Both demos dealt with working with washes. In Paul's case, he showed us how he uses a "sludge" wash while Michael demonstrated the use of oils. Both of these techniques proved very interesting and no doubt will help many of us improve our model building skills.



Many thanks to Paul and Michael for sharing their talents with us. If there is technique or procedure you'd like to demonstrate please say so. Part of the club's mandate is the sharing of information and you might be able to help raise the quality of our builds.

And now on to the models. As well as doing a demo, Paul Holmes brought along a 1/48 scale Airfix Buccaneer. He built this kit basically out of the box, including the kit decals, adding a Neomega cockpit and finishing the model with Humbrol paints. This was a challenging build, with a number of fit issues and the need to use lots of putty. You wouldn't know it by the fine look of the finished product though.



Colin Phillips's two models both required a fair bit of work. His Hasegawa P-3 Neptune is actually a rebuild which now wears Ministry of Small Arms decals. This was challenging build because of the crude shape of the model, which had to be dealt with twice. His other model, a Tamiya M42 Duster, was a lot of work but in this case it was because Colin put in a fair amount of extra effort to produce this Vietnam era brush clearing AFV. The model sports twin 40mm Bofors AA guns, Academy tracks, Eduard PE, a scratch built exhaust, after market tools, and Verlinden decals.



Gavin Rees brought out a mini-fleet to the meeting. Both of these ships are 1/350 scale kits from Trumpeter and are essentially built right out of the box. He started the USS Lexington only two weeks before the meeting, custom mixing the hull red and weathering the ship with pastel chalks. The escorting USS Sullivans is another good quality kit that was finished using Model Master paints. Can't wait to see the air wing on the carrier.



Massimo Santarossa's 1960's model was a 1/72 RCAF CF-104 Starfighter. Massimo used the Hasegawa kit as a starting point and added some Eduard PE to dress it out, including opening up the avionics compartment behind the cockpit, which incidentally sports an ejection seat made of 17 pieces of PE. The model was finished using several shades of Alclad II paint and the decals were taken from the Belcher Bits set while the kit decals were used for the stencils.



Phil Vorvis had a 1/48 scale Hasegawa Harrier on display. Phil used an Aires cockpit to enhance the model as well as digging out some spare bombs to provide the war load. Two kits provided the decals for this low-viz paint scheme, while the weathering was done with Testors paints.





Academy Mig-21 PF

By Derwin Emro

While I normally model 1/48 prop jobs from the Second World War, I wanted to try something different. Since I had a few jets in my collection, the Academy Mig 21 was hauled out and I decided to have a go at her.

To enhance the kit somewhat, I used a Verlinden cockpit set and I used decals from Begemot. Begemot Decals are a new arrival on the scene. They cover some interesting topics and their line-up is increasing. While the appearance of the decal sheet looks not as slick as some of the other companies, the decals are top notch. More on that later.

Construction started with the cockpit, and while a real improvement over the kit item I thought that the detail was a bit soft. The assembled item fit well enough, but with one glaring error. There was not enough room remaining to install the control stick! At this point, I decided just to fly with it and see what happens. Assembly was fairly straight forward and very little filler was used. The one piece canopy was dipped in Future and set aside for a couple of weeks. A couple of areas where the kit detail suffers: the wells for the speed brakes has nothing. The camo scheme I chose was for an East German Mig from the mid sixties. The closest Model Master renditions of the blue/green/brown scheme was selected and the entire underside was painted blue. The topside was painted green and the brown splotch pattern was added last. After some last minute touch-ups, the kit was set aside for a few days for the paint to dry.

I have taken to using Future as a gloss coat prior to decals. Three coats were brushed on using a wide, very soft brush. An interval of several days was allowed between coats. While the decal sheet from Begemot has several options, only the basic markings are supplied, no stencils, as they are available on a separate sheet. They were applied, using Future as a setting agent. The decals settled down nicely with no silvering. After a couple of days the decals were given a light top coat of Future so the finish would be even. When this had cured, the entire kit was given a coat of Polly S flat. All the fiddly bits were now attached. The landing gear fit pretty good. Some of the probes and antennas had a pretty soft fit and needed some TLC to remain in place.

Overall, it was a pretty decent kit. Very little filler was used. Part alignment was good, engraved panel lines matched up. A decent selection of weapons included in the kit, however, there is no pilot figure. It looks like a Mig 21 to me.

Kit Facts.

Academy Mig 21PF Kit No. 2166

Scale: 1/48

Decals by Begemot Decals 4802 (18 options)

Selected Option: Mig 21 PF, JG-8, East German Air Force, Peenemuende AB, late 60's.

Paints: Model Master Enamels: Radome Green, Light Blue Grey, Flat Green, Military Brown, Burnt Metal. I used the closest match for each color.

Aftermarket Resin: Cockpit from a Verlinden details set.



PPG Build-up

By Paul Holmes

Well, well... It seems like ages past since this contest, and I've finally got off my duff and typed up this story on how my entry came into existence. This article is going to be a long one, as the inspiration for my build is rooted fairly early in my childhood. Let me explain.

As you know, the RMMC hosted an in-house contest last year named "the PPG Contest". For a dollar, you got in on the contest, and were supplied a kit (thanks to Invader), either a '57 Chevy Pickup or a '32 Ford Coupe (I think I can still hear people whining about the fact that the entries were cars ;-)). Rules were simple. You had the kit, and had to build it with whatever you had at home. Paint, Plastic, or Glue. Raiding the spares box was permitted provided you didn't go out and buy anything extra to enhance your build.

Now, set the "way-back machine" to say the early Eighties. I was at a Boy Scouts meeting one night, and it came time to hand out the merit badges. Guys got this and that for doing whatever. I even got one for teaching myself how to tie something other than a Granny Knot. But one guy got an award for, what I thought at the time was incredibly stupid and juvenile, taking a model kit of a Datsun sports car and gluing 1/35 machine guns to it. At the time, I was jealous of the fact that he got a badge for doing something so silly and easy. Little did I know that it lit the smallest spark of interest in the back of my brain.....

Fast forward to near 10 years ago. I had finished building one of many Gundam kits I had at the time, and I noticed that I had a plethora of leftover weapons. That small spark from long ago lit into a flame. At this point in time, I had a thing for Mercury Cougars (don't ask... It doesn't matter), and I knew that Revell had a current model Cougar on the shelves, so I went out and bought one. I fully intended to go to town on this thing, but for some reason I do not know, that flame sputtered out to a very small pilot light.

I toyed with the idea over the years. I had a move from Edmonton to Yellowknife, thought about it some more, even getting a couple "alternate" cars (a Boss Mustang and a Chevelle 3 in 1) should I ever want to proceed. Moved to England. Thought about it some more. Moved back to Calgary, and gave it some more thought... only to never get the build done. By this time, the Cougar kit had lost a number of important parts (namely, the entire outer body), and I'd lost interest in the alternates, and thus, the flame sputtered out completely.

Fast forward to last year. The PPG contest was announced. I entered, received the '32 Ford Coupe and set to work. (That old flame I keep referring to was about to go Nuclear)

Taking stock of the kit, and of what I had in the spares box, I set to thinking. I wanted to go the same kind of "Mad Max" angle that that fellow Boy Scout had done all those years ago. But, since my modeling skills have somewhat improved since then, I thought I might embellish a wee bit more.

The basics... I fashioned the rear axle into a dually, using in kit tires, rims, and some inventive work with super glue. I heated the fenders over a candle and used a metallic pen cap to make the dents. I chose not to include the motor part, as they wouldn't be seen (or needed) in the finished product.



The Extras... If I remember right, extras include parts from an AMT 1/48 A-10, bits Eduard Photoetch for a 1/35 Pz-2000, parts from the Revell Germany Pz-2000, parts from a Tamiya 1/35 Challenger 1 mk.2, the remainder cockpit from a Revellogram 1/48 F-89 Scorpion, dive brakes from a 1/48 A-1 Skyraider, wings from a 1/48 RAH-66 Commanche, and the most obvious addition, two jet engines from the AMT "Anakin's Podracer". I made an entry door in the top, and added a "poster" of Shakira on the inside of it (to keep the driver company on those long, lonely drives through the desert. Along with some chains to "hold down" the engines, I also took the extra tires from the main kit, mounted them on front with a bit of photoetch barbed wire.

Weathering was accomplished using mainly the Rustall weathering set. I attempted to dirty it up using Tamiya's new weathering sticks, but I found that I didn't like them for this kind of job. (Perhaps I just didn't use them right).

I must have done something right, because I took the main prize for the PPG contest. It (honestly!) was a surprise to me, as there were some contest-winner worthy entries, including one that looks like it rolled right out of the Ardennes, ready for action.

My thanks to the club for a great turnout, and my thanks to Massimo and Scott for making one of the most interesting contest ideas I've ever heard come to life.

Remember, keep building... and have fun!!!!

