

**FEBRUARY
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MODEL CLUB

15th Anniversary

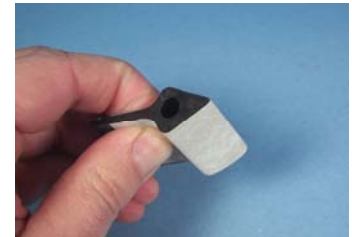
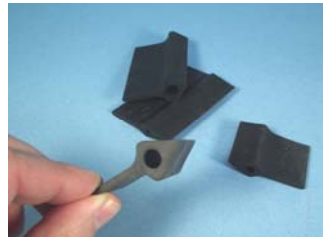


Sanding Tight Spaces.

By Massimo Santarossa

Ever have one of those itches that was just out of reach? How about a tight corner of a model that you couldn't quite get into with a sanding stick? For the former, you're on your own, but when it comes to sanding nooks and crannies I've found some very useful tools. They are called Sanding Grips and are available from Lee Valley Tools. They are designed with the woodworker in mind, coming in three different profiles, but are also handy for the model builder as well. The set I prefer to use is the angle set which contains four grips with points of various sharpness. They are in fact large enough that I cut them in half so I end up with two complete sets.

These grips are dirt simple to use. Simply wrap a piece of sandpaper around the end and off you go. They have three very distinct advantages. First, they allow you to get into tight areas like wing roots. Second, the sandpaper maintains its pointed shape unlike a folded up piece which will eventually collapse under the pressure of sanding. Third, because you can maintain a sanding profile, you can even work in narrow spaces between parts or panel lines without damaging the surrounding area. At \$4.95 you can't go wrong with this simple yet useful tool.



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HINTS AND TIPS:

The Club Executive Are:

Paul Holmes	<i>Chairman</i>
Sean Campbell	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>
Derwin Emro	<i>Membership Guy</i>
Micheal Tanguay	<i>Treasurer</i>
Scott McTavish	<i>Contest / Editor</i>
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Hobbycraft's CT-114 Tutor in 1/48th

By Trevor McTavish

What happens when you join you're buddies for an evening of model building and forget to bring a kit along? Luckily for me we were spending our evening in the local hobby shop so the answer was to visit the sales shelves and select my next project.

My choice was Hobbycraft's CT-114 Tutor trainer – a kit which has met with lack luster enthusiasm from the modeling community. More on that later.

Famous for being the mount of Canada's Snowbirds aerobatic demonstration team, the Tutor was designed to Royal Canadian Air Force specifications as a replacement for the legendary T-33. As the RCAF's basic jet trainer the Tutor included side-by-side ejection seats and a pressurized, air conditioned cockpit. Between 1963 and 1967 Canadair delivered 190 Tutors.

The Kit:

Having served Canada for more than four decades its no surprise that modelers were interested in finally having an injection molded Tutor to add to their collections. Admittedly Hobbycraft fell short in both accuracy and detail. The whole jet looks like a Tutor – just don't look too close. The rear fuselage looks much fatter and rounder than the real jet. The wing's trailing edges are nice and thin but this is accomplished by having the flight controls molded solid. This results in a big gap on top of the wings and sink marks on the ailerons and flaps. Matchbox's mad-trencher has certainly made an appearance on this kit, which is surprising when one sees Hobbycraft's redone Avro Arrow. Compared to Mike Belcher's resin/multi-media Tutor kit from several years ago Hobbycraft is certainly a distant second, although this model will look like a Tutor and only costs a quarter of the Belcher kit.

Before construction began I chose to build my Tutor as an original RCAF training machine – overall natural metal with day-glo orange panels.

Construction:

I started by cutting off the strakes installed on the forward fuselage. These were added after several years in service. All I needed were a couple passes with a sharp knife, I then glued the sidewalls into place and test fit the cockpit. The interior is certainly bare-bones and I decided that with the canopy closed and a pilot figure in place the details would be enough for my tastes. Details on the instrument panel and ejection seats were painted with a brush using Polly Scale acrylics. The pilot figure came from (I believe) a Monogram F-101 Voodoo and needed his toes cut off.

The fuselage halves fit together alright. I needed a touch of liquid putty to dress some small gaps, but the worst was the trench lines that needed replacing. I tried a scribing tool, but this was too narrow. I solved the problem recreating the trenches by dragging an Exacto saw over the lines to fatten them up. Since my jet was going to be flying I didn't use any nose weight, but it'll certainly need it if you chose to have your model resting on its landing gear.

As I mentioned above the wing has a horrible gap between the wing and the flight controls. I ended up filling it with super glue and liquid putty before scribing new lines. Several gaps appeared when I fit the wing to the fuselage. Once again I needed some putty to fill these. I think the worst area was in the area directly below the cockpit as I needed a fair amount of putty to fill in a depression. I also filled in the two locator holes used by the auxiliary drop tanks on the belly since I wasn't going to install these.

The horizontal tail also needed a small touch of putty to fill the gaps between tails.

Painting:

I started my final colours by airbrushing the nose, tails and wing tips with Model Master's Insignia White. I then applied thin coats of Fluorescent Orange to these areas and allowed it to dry thoroughly. Once I was ready I masked off the orange panels, polished off the overspray with 1000-grit sandpaper and applied Tamiya's grey, super fine surface primer. According to one club member, that's all he used beneath his Alclad II paint jobs. Natural metal has always been the bane of modelers, but I've heard nothing but good from modelers using Alclad II. I started by applying a coat of aluminum, but it looked horrible. My solution was to try Model Master's Chrome. So much for a quick build – the paint was even worse than before.

Now I was left with having to polish the surface smooth again, fill in some seams that appeared to have shrunk and try again. The anti-glare panel on the nose was masked and brushed with Polly Scale German Night Black. Almost surprising, Hobbycraft's decals have actually become quite useable. In fact, all of my markings are from the kit. One change was that I carefully reduced the amount of carrier film on the wing's walk area. A coat of Polly Scale acrylic clear satin was airbrushed to give it a little bit of shine and protection. The final touch was to mount my Tutor on a length of 1/4 inch clear acrylic rod (bent using heat from the stovetop) and plaque.

Conclusions:

Overall wasn't a hard build. The kit cost me \$20 and for that much I was much more accepting of the accuracy issues than I would have, had the model cost more. When viewed from a distance or by the untrained eye Hobbycraft's Tutor certainly looks like the famous trainer it's supposed to. I was more than content to live with this model's shortcomings in accuracy but some modelers won't. If you're like me then this is a cheap model that will quench your thirst for a Tutor, if you need to have a truly accurate Tutor in your collection then you'll have to track down Belcher's resin kit.





FineMolds X-Wing Fighter 1/48.

By: Scott McTavish

Anyone who is into Star Wars vehicle models will no doubt be aware of FineMolds assortment of 1/72 kits. High quality casting, consistent scale amongst subjects, accurate detail and beautiful decals have been realized thanks to these kits. The AMT / Ertl selection from the early 80's is slowly being superseded by these kits.

The instantly recognizable X-Wing is their first venture into the 1/48 size. I quickly ordered one through the orient as I have been collecting all my Star Wars models in the larger size. It cost just under \$55 delivered to my door, and upon opening the box was found to be well worth that price. There are 7 sprue sheets, 2 decals pages and a bag of poly caps and screws. After giving the instructions a go over, one finds that this is actually a "snap-fit" type of kit. It also has the option of displaying the craft with wings in either closed or attack position, and with the gear exposed or stowed. A display stand is included, and a spare R2-D2 astromech droid comes with the kit.

Construction is relatively straight forward and simple by following the instructions. However, when it comes to the box around the wing, and operating junctions some trial and error fitting will be required. This is where the snap fit aspect comes into play cause you will probably assemble and disassemble the parts a few times. There are 2 scissor links (A5&6) that connect from pegs on the wing to the bulkhead (B5). These parts will fit together and fit in place, but only when you try to move the wings open will you know if you fit them in facing the right way.

The landing gear parts can be interchanged by using poly caps, but I found the joints were not super tight on the main gear doors and they kept falling off. I eventually chose to glue them in place. The overall tightness of the parts is not fully suitable for going completely without glue. I touched all the parts with just enough to tack it all together. I was very impressed in that only a few sink marks on the rear of the fuse needed putty filling. All the other joints were smooth, and just got a quick pass with the sanding stick.

Unlike the 1/72 kit, this one only comes with markings for Luke's Red 5 machine. If you want to be picky, one could cut out the red bands on the wings to what ever other machine you wanted. Some of the differing green and yellow panels are included. The base colour and engines are all that need to be painted as you can complete the other markings with decals if you wish. I chose to tint the canopy as can be seen in ESB. The glass was crystal clear and could be kept non tinted if you wish. I found the supplied decals an absolute pain to deal with. Any decal set and they would wrinkle up and not settle down. No decal set and they would not sink into the details. I ended up using Future as a setting agent, but even that gave disappointing results. I ended up using only the stencils, and masked all the markings for painting.

Painting is where fun can be had with this model. It's up to the builder as to how clean or how beaten up they want to make the model. I've chosen to keep it looking space weathered, but possibly cleaned in the hangars while on Hoth. I didn't want to go with a freshly washed look that Luke gave it shortly afterwards.

Hopefully FineMolds will continue with other craft in this scale, though I don't care to see all my SMT kits become obsolete! Finished pictures will be included in the next newsletter.

February Meeting Review:

By Massimo Santarossa

Just to prove that Winter still exists in February in Calgary, there was a nice light snow fall occurring the day of our meeting. And winter was also the theme of the month on this cool Saturday. No doubt the weather kept some members home in front of their fireplaces, but for those who braved the temperatures, the monthly club meeting was a enjoyable one with much to see and talk about.

Like I said, the theme for the month was Winter, and Sean Campbell stepped up the plate swinging. His 1/76 JB Models kit is a Vickers Mk 6B tank. This was a simple model build, comprising only 12 or so pieces of injected plastic, while the hard part according to Sean was masking the winter paint scheme. The tank represents one of the first 3 tanks Canada acquired at the outbreak of World War 2 and dates from the winter of 1940 at Camp Borden.



Roy Forsberg's model was another winter themed build, though from warmer climes. His Hasegawa 1/48 Macchi MC.202 Folgore was built straight out of the box and marked as Regia Aeronautica aircraft. Roy went to his selection of Xtracolour paints to finish the model. His base, depicting a rain soaked (melted snow?) airfield was created using "plastic wood." This looks like product that deserves some further investigation.



Mikel Johnson had two Japanese subjects for us to look over. His 1/72 B5N2 Kate is the Hasegawa offering which he build basically straight out of the box, substituting only a Falcon canopy for the kit glass. Using MM and Humbrol paints, Mikel finished this aircraft as a machine off the carrier Akagi. His other model was one of his superb 1/700 ships, in this case the IJN Shiratsuya. To create this stunning little model, Mikel added PE rails, corrected the aft superstructure and gave the main guns bloomers shaped from white glue.



Scott McTavish also had 2 models on display today, both 1/48 scale. His Tamiya F-16 is actually a work in progress, though I can't imagine what else needs to be done. Scott used Afterburner decals, resin detail parts, and scratch build burner can, wheel well plumbing and cockpit details to set off this model. Can't wait to see it when it's actually done. His Mosquito, however, is a finished build. Scott completed this kit straight out of the box and dressed in markings of "F for Freddy," a nice tie into this day's presentation by Mr. Richard De Boer.

Massimo Santarossa had the biggest piece of plastic on the table in the form of the Revell 1/144 scale Boeing 747-200. This model was built straight out of the box and marked with decals from Airline Hobby Supplies to produce a Wardair machine, the paints coming from the MM and Alclad lines. It took Massimo almost 2 years to finish the model because he only worked on it during the summer time while visiting family.



We had a special treat this month by having a guest speaker. Richard De Boer has been studying the Mosquito for a long time, and presented us with a talk about "F for Freddie" The local museum has been secretly proposing to the City of Calgary that the Mosquito be disposed of. Obviously this has upset many local and Canadian aviation enthusiasts. We were given a bit of insight into the status of the Mosquito, other museums that have expressed interest in preserving / restoring it, and methods that we could inform the Mayor and Aldermen as to our thoughts on the matter.

"Ultimately it is still City Council that will decide what happens to the Mosquito and the Hurricane. If you have the interest and willingness, please send them your concerns. It is easy as you can hit all the Aldermen and the Mayor with just two addresses. Even a quick "Don't do it!" will help as they need to hear from the electorate on this issue. The addresses are: AlderWeb@Calgary.ca and themayor@calgary.ca If you are willing please convey this note to anyone else whom you think may have an interest stopping this deal."

<http://www.asmac.ab.ca/html/F%20for%20Freddie.pdf>

