

**SUMMER
2004**



Summer's Passing What's Left To Do?

By Trevor McTavish

With the warm, sunny weather we've been seeing this summer, many of the club's members have been out and about watching airshows.

The end of June saw Scott, Ross and myself in Cold Lake. The show was interesting, with a mix of civil, Canadian and American military aircraft. Of interest were some of the first F-18F Super Hornets to be seen out this way. Of greater interest to me was being able to watch (and hear) a Starfighter in flight.

Just before the August BBQ, several other members visited the Lethbridge International Airshow. According to those who were there, the weather was poor but the performances were good.

The Alberta AFV Modellers are having their contest on September 11 at the Museum of the Regiments. It has been a good show for several years and should prove to be again. The RMMC will be taking along its Choice Award. Members attending will pick their favorite from the entries.

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CONTEST DATE: MAY 14 2005

Editor's Note:

As this newsletter is being posted after the AFV Contest, the winner of the RMMC Special Award was Mr. Jim Carswell (Edmonton) for his IDF Puma with Mine Rollers.

It was yet another great year for their show. A larger number of 1/72 scale models were present this year. A number of how to sessions were held, and a couple real soft skins accented the museum's outdoor displays.

Paul and Randy helped out with judging and certainly learned a lot. Jon won a couple Gold's, while Scott took away a gold and couple silvers.

We look forward to next years show.

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Dragon s M1-A1 Abrams Series in 1/72

By Scott McTavish

I have been piecing together parts to do an Abrams all decked out with gear and boxes like those seen during OIF. Although this is planned to be on a 1/35 kit, I decided to give the new 1/72 Dragon kit a go in the meantime. There have so far been 2 options: with or without the mine plough equipment. I started with the mine plough kit.

Construction begins with the road wheels and sprocket gears. The rubber stopper insert allows the wheels to turn. Handy for painting, but this was a result of the kit being able to be motorized. The drive gears are connected with a metal rod with threads on the ends. I would recommend drilling the holes on the sprocket a bit larger to reduce the amount of pounding to get the parts spaced properly.

The turret construction is straight forward adding all the hatch covers and scopes. The equipment racks that connect to the rear of the turret will require some moderate sanding to get to fit in place with the storage bins on the turrets sides. It would have been nice if the racks were like the real ones ie. 3 bars wrapping around a frame. In this scale however they have a thick webbing between the bars that would make removal difficult. The easiest way to camouflage this will be by adding gear to both sides of the rack.

The Auxiliary Power Unit does not really fit into place between the rack and the turret. I cut a bout 1/8" off the lower end to fit it in place. Gear around it should help hide this mod. The guns and their mounts should be left off until after painting. The mine plough is a simple build and looks accurate. It does however not include the "dog bone" roller that is held in place with chains between the skis. I made a roller from the scrap sprues. The IFF panels that have been installed are also provided in the kit. The 2 rectangular plywood looking panel that go on the front of the turret are not provided, but easily made with sheet styrene.

Painting can either be done in a all over Desert Tan, or in the European Tricolour scheme. I started with the later, and then oversprayed sand as though the machine was given an over coating of the Tan. Wear and tear often allowed the original scheme to show through.

I enjoyed this build and took about 10 hours to complete it.



Dragon's AAV7A1 in 1/72

By Scott McTavish

Unlike the M1A1 Abrams, this is the first kit of the AAV in 1/72 scale. I'm sure it will be a welcome addition to the modern armour fanatic's collection. The box is relatively heavy, and this is due to the hull being diecast. The metal is also pre-sprayed in a primer grey. Details are crisp and well defined. It essentially looks like the Tamiya 1/35th kit downsized.

The road wheels all build up quickly and attach to the hull using a sandwiched rubber grommet. The running gear/side wall inserts may take some minor sanding to get them to fit in place properly. The wheels should all be perpendicular to the ground. I found one side needed some sanding to both the plastic and metal edges in order to fit into the locator pins. Superglue the parts into place.

The front water-fording shield fits into place with 2 options: Deployed or stowed. The rear ramp is then hinged in place before the hull halves are joined. Again superglue is required to hold and fill the gaps. The turret builds up and drops into place. Watch the glue if you want it to function. The overhead doors and hatches all can be positioned open or closed. The holes may be a little undersized if you're going to stick some figures into the void. Accessories fit into place on the hull. A couple areas for extra detail are several handle and anchor points. They can be ground off and replaced with some from the scrap box or scratch built. The railings are not provided in the kit. I'm not sure if this was a recent addition, but most OIF photos show them on the AAV. They are easy to make with copper wire, and give a place to attach all that stowage. Unlike the Abrams, kit and gear is not included with this kit, so one will have to copy some from the Abrams or find some alternates.

Also to help spruce up the kit a bit, I added the mounting brackets for the EAAK armour. These little blocks attach all over the hull in a grid pattern. Check reference photos for the layout. I added 184 1mm x 1mm squares.

The kit provides markings for 2 machines, both from action in Somalia. 1 Camo'd and 1 in Sand. I chose to do the euro camo scheme, and weather the heck out of it. The only "clean" AAV's I've seen are coming up onto the beach!

I enjoyed this little kit and will certainly build some of Dragon's other 1/72 modern armour kits.





Italeri s Jaguar GR1

By Massimo Santarossa

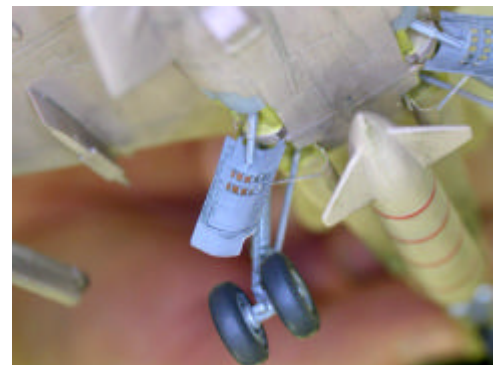


I've always thought that the SEPECAT Jaguar was good looking plane, so I had made up my mind to add one to my collection. I had two different kits that I could choose from at the time, the Italeri offering or the one from Hasegawa. Both have their good points and both have their bad points. Amongst these were cost, quality of detailing (ie. panel lines), ease of construction, weapons choice, and so forth. In the end I settled on the Italeri kit, and to jazz it up a bit more I picked up a set of Eduard photo etched.



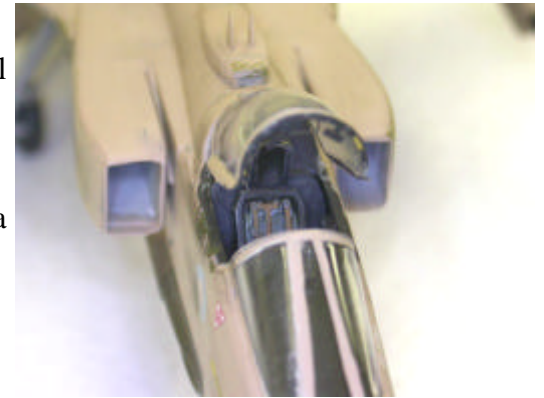
Construction started with the cockpit tub. Here I replaced various kit parts with PE where called for and in the process added some much needed detail to front office. Next came the fuselage, which is built up of a number sub-assemblies. The reason for so many fuselage parts (nose cone, cockpit section, main body, and tail) is that Italeri also offer a French Airforce Jaguar A, so some parts are common to both, others obviously not. These sub-assemblies go together well, and for the most part leave a nice panel line behind. The only gaps that required putty were where the wing met the upper portion of the fuselage and around the intake trunks.

The rest of the kit went together easily and quickly, with only basic modeling techniques needed to finish it off. The PE, however, needed some more advanced skills, not surprisingly, but not anything most modelers couldn't handle. It was quite amazing at how much detail was provided on just one fret of brass. I have already mentioned the cockpit details, which included the seat, panels, and canopy frames. There were also the exterior details that PE is known for, antennas, pitot tubes, landing gear details, and weapons fins. The two parts that I liked most, however, were the brass speed brakes and the burner cans. Because these two items are curved and multi-pieced, they required a bit more care and attention when handling them, but the results are tremendous.





Painting my model was easy because I only needed one colour for the body. I choose to build a Jaguar from the 1991 Gulf War, so all I needed was a single tin of XtraColour RAF Desert Pink. The false canopy was done in flat black, and the burner cans and exhaust areas were finished with MM burnt metal. I further detailed the exhaust areas by dry “rubbing” some gold paint using a Q-tip, and some black dry brushing inside the burner cans themselves. I weathered the whole aircraft by dry brushing spots with grey and green to simulate some wear to the desert colour, washed the panel lines with burnt umber water colours, and dirtied up the plane with black chalk dust.



I mentioned that I wanted to build a Gulf War Jaguar, and the Italeri kit decals allow you to do that. However, they are not quite accurate (imagine that, kit decals not being 100% correct). Aircraft serials were painted in white on the desert scheme, not black as Italeri suggests, and



the rescue markings should be the yellow hi-visibility version. As usual, remember to consult your references. I selected XtraDecal’s Gulf Special #1 to supplement the kit decals. In the end I used the rescue, drop tank and ejection decals from the kit, and individual aircraft markings from the XtraDecal set to create a Jaguar GR.1 of 41(C) Squadron. I was bit disappointed with the XtraDecal nose art as it was not very crisp, slightly out of register, and the small wording like the crew names was not clearly legible, as some other 1/72 decal sets are. This basically forced me to model a Jaguar with simple markings and no nose art. Pity.

The final result is a good looking 1/72 scale fighter. The Jaguar has always had good looking lines, and my model is no exception, if I may say so myself. The photo etched brass then takes the kit one step further and really bring some great details of this kit. With a little patience when tackling some of the fit areas and in dealing with the PE, the Italeri kit will offer up a nice model which should make most any 1/72 scale builder happy.

Materials Used: **Italeri Jaguar GR. Mk1 No. 067**
Eduard Photo Etch Set 72-276
XtraDecal Gulf Special #1 XO22-72

References: Scale Aircraft Modelling Magazine
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