

THE STYRENE SHEET

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The Glencoe TWA Mars Liner by Bill Dye

Introduction

Yeah, I know, another model that's not an airplane or tank. But it's one of the 'built it when I was 8 and I wish I had the original' kind of thing. It was one of the reasons that I looked forward to going to Disneyland; to see the TWA spaceship that was the centerpiece of 'Tomorrow land'. This big pointy rocket-ship stood in the center of the 'land' and reminded me of this kit. Didn't see Annette Funicello though.



A few years ago I found a Glencoe release on e-bay after I waited for a seller that didn't have shipping costs of \$100. I received the kit in the mail, opened it, and immediately started to remember eight years old again. But wait, the decals were an icky burgundy red and not the bright TWA red of the original kit that I remembered. This meant I had to find a TWA decal and paint the stripes on the rocket. Hey, how bad could that be?

The Kit

It is a box scale kit, 1/something scale, molded in grey (the original Strombecker kit was white). Not many parts. There were some thick plastic windows that I would probably not use and I told you about the decals.



The Build

Rocket Fuselage

The build was pretty easy. But the tri-sector rocket body was a little tricky; but with a little mashing here and there and some rubber bands it came out mostly round. (Mashing by the way is a North Carolina word; mash the accelerator, mash it down, mash the button but whip 'po-taters'; who knew?



Landing Struts

The key here is to not attach these until after the body is painted; but I don't think that requires a rocket scientist here.

The legs also had some struts but these were flimsy and frankly didn't fit well. So, I drilled a few holes in the legs and in the rocket body where the plastic part was to have gone. I used aluminum tubing for the struts; much better. But the one thing to note is to be sure the strut

engineering and the fit of all parts on the leg attachments is done before you paint. I'm so glad I did all of the strut engineering before there was any paint on the model.

Exhausts

The exhaust was, well, an old V-2 type vane direction control device, so I replaced it with some nozzles and firewall, if you will, from the upper stages of the Glencoe Space Ferry, another spaceship rocket. I sanded the bulkhead holding the nozzles until it fit into the aft end. This would be glued in after the model was done.

Painting and Finishing

First the entire rocket was primered with Model Master flat white. Lots of sanding to make it round plus fixing flaws, repeat, repeat. You know. Then sanded with 1000 wet, then two coats gloss insignia white. I did the legs the same way. After about a week (I like to let enamels 'cook' awhile) I masked and painted all of the red stripes with Testors plain ol' little bottle red and waited a few days for it to cook off.



I added the TWA decal that I took from a Minicraft Boeing 707. . . . anyone have a set of American Airlines decals for the Minicraft 707-300?

The exhausts were painted with Testors steel and the rocket engine firewall was painted gloss black and glued in to place.

The last step was putting in the clear window goo for the windows. Hey, in this scale I think it looks just fine.

Conclusion

I am very pleased with how it came out. It, again, brought back fond memories of my childhood and certainly of the kits we used to put together.

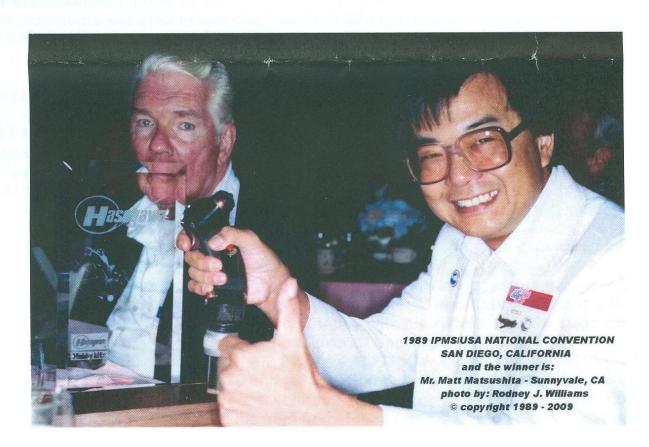
These types of kits are fun. They may not be 'correct' or even in a standard scale, but they are a nice change.



Hey, look . . A Glencoe Retriever Rocket. I remember (for another time).

Done. Bury me with sandpaper!

Bill Dye



Matt Matsushita Jr.

Posted: Tuesday, Aug 25th, 2009

Matt Toshio Matsushita Jr. died Sunday, August 2, 2009. He was 60.

Born in Ontario, Ore., Mr. Matsushita moved to Watsonville with his family when he was 3 years old. After graduating from Watsonville High, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from UCLA. Mr. Matsushita worked designing submarine missile launchers at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Sunnyvale for 20 years. He also worked on solar collector design at Acurex Corporation. In 1993, Mr. Matsushita moved to Santa Barbara to work at his brother-in-law's general contracting business, Jack 'N Tool Box. Mr. Matsushita enjoyed fishing, playing pool, martial arts, aquariums, woodworking, Japanese swordmaking, scratch plastic model-building, taiko, flyfishing and flytying. Anything he developed an interest in, he'd learn all he could.

Mr. Matsushita is survived by his mother, Mary Sakata Matsushita; wife, Sophia; daughter, Emi; sister, Karen (Jack) Byers, all of Santa Barbara; and son, Kyle (Claire) of Arcadia.





SVSM Meeting August 21, 2009 Minutes by Laramie Wright

We were gaveled to order by our esteemed President Mr. Kent McClure at 7:35PM. Announcements were made and one new attendee introduced. We welcomed THOMAS ROEWER from IPMS San Diego.

There was brief discussion of new kit news and upcoming events then on to Model Talk.

MODEL TALK

CLIFF KRANTZ kicked off the evening's talk with a selection of new model related publications for the membership to ogle. ERIC MCCLURE had his very snazzy 1/48th scale Tamiya Morris "Tillie" on the table. He says it goes together very nicely and a pleasure to build. It was finished in an attractive two-tone "Mickey Mouse" cammo from 1944. He also had a new Squadron Walkaround title on PT Boats. ERIC pronounced it a fine photo reference overall, but it lacked side view drawings. FRANK BABBITT brought a lovely 1/72nd scale Mirage IIIc of the Armee de l'Aire based in Djibouti in the 1990's. It was a lot of work building the AML kit but it looks great. FRANK also had a 1/72nd Ilyushin DB-3 built from the Maquette kit. The model required lots of work removing flash, pin marks and the like. FRANK did a lot of scratch building and scribing of panel lines to bring it up to snuff. The DB-3 was in a Finnish finish. FRANK was very happy with the result. BUDDY LLOYD brought several recent photos he took of transient aircraft passing through Moffett Field. They included a German C-160 Transall, P3 Orions and F-18Ds. On the plastic side he showed two 1/72nd scale models; a Cessna 310 and an AeroCommander. Both models were from Comet kits built many moons ago. The paint schemes and markings were hand painted by BUDDY. SHERVIN SHEMBAYATI brought his bête noir Hasegawa 1/72nd F-18 Hornet that he says he has fought to a draw. He said that right up to the end it fought him as he damaged one of the decals on the nose gear door while attaching an antenna blade. The bird is loaded for bear though with AMRAAM and AIM-9X missiles from the kit and Laser Guided Bombs from a Hasegawa weapons set. Finally he added an aftermarket ejection seat from True Details that really jazzed up the cockpit. Conversely the 1980's vintage 1/72nd scale Fujimi F-4E/F Phantom is much easier to build. There were a couple of minor issues to correct but overall

an easy build. He added Verlinden ejection seats and really likes how they dress up the cockpit. Shervin will finish the model in Iranian markings from a Hi-Decals sheet. RON WERGIN brought two 1/72nd scale P-47Ds. The first from Hobby Boss needed tweaking of the cowl and engine to look like a P-47. He also added the port for the wing mounted gun camera. He feels the shape of the model is not quite right, but it built up most satisfactorily. RON originally finished the model with Tamiya rattle-can silver but had to strip it and re-do it in silver Run and Buff (Old School, Man!). That was in turn polished so that different panels took on separate hues of silver. His second model was a Revell P-47D also in natural metal. Nice Jugs RON! CHRIS HUGHES had two 1/48th scale tanks on hand. An M4A1 converted from the Tamiya M4 using a Fighting 48th resin hull. He used Liquitex Gel Medium for mud build up and painted it good old OD. He also showed his Tamiya M-10 built mostly out of the box adding Archer Fine Transfers foundry marks and casting numbers here and there. He replaced the ugly solid molded track skids with aftermarket items much more in scale and realistic. Another OD gem. GABRIEL LEE asked the musical question "what do you get when you cross an Italeri Gripen.and a Hasegawa F-20 Tiger Shark?" Why a KRAKEN, what else? GABRIEL has again let his imagination soar to begin a kit bash of yet another what if plane. He says so far it is fill, file, sand, fill, file, sand..... He's having way too much fun. STEVE TRAVIS brought his collection of eight Model "A" Hot Rods that won him a First Place in Collections at Yuba City. He also reported that he and ANITA had raised \$500 for the Veterans Kit Drive through their sale table. BRAVO ZULU to the TRAVISES. STEVE also won the Grand Prize in the Yuba City Contest raffle; a 42" color LCD TV!! Busy Busy man.MARK SCHYNERT returned with his Curtiss Fighter collection, all in 1/72nd scale. First up a Hobby Boss P-40M that was a pretty easy build aside from sink marks. He added seatbelts and has it in OD over Neutral Gray. Next up was his Hasegawa P-40E built as a South African Kittyhawk III with mid-stone over azure blue. That was followed by a Special Hobby short tail P-40F in USAAF Desert Pink, built out of the box (included Photo etch). A bit more exotic was his Anigrand XP-60E and Execuform XP-46A, both to be done in a natural metal finish. He said the XP-46A vacuform kit was 5mm too short in the fuselage. He addressed the problem by splicing in sections of an old Academy P-40B. ERIC MCCLURE brought his Otaki 1/48th scale F6F Wildcat which is being modeled as Fleet Air Arm Hellcat Mk. I. He has the Sky undersides done and has applied the Dark Sea Grey to the uppers. Unfortunately he wrecked his canopy by using Brasso to polish out imperfections. The Brasso crazed the clear plastic leaving dozens of stress cracks. His 1/48th P-40 is coming along but airbrush problems (been hangin'around Roy, Eric?) slowed his progress. Alan Webber brought his beautiful in progress 1/32nd Sea Fury Racer by Fisher Models. It is shaping up nicely and Alan says it is an easy build. Painting the racer colors is more difficult. He also brought his in progress Hasegawa E2C Hawkeye which aside from some sink marks and ejector pin marks is pretty good. He gives high marks to their interpretation of the large radome and he should know since he works on manufacturing the real items.

BILL FERRANTE had his in progress 1/72nd scale Roden Albatross DII WWI fighter. So far it has been fill and sand, fill and sand... His 1/48th Hasegawa A6M2 Zero was back. Originally intended for the Zero Hour contest in February it is moving closer to completion and will wear a striking color scheme when done. Finally he brought a 1/64th scale slot car body he reworked and cast from an ancient Aurora T-Jet chassis. A mysterious Mid-west party has ordered a raft of them from Bill. Hmmm... LOU ORSELLI graced us with his 1/48th scale Monogram AH-1S attack helicopter. Built out of the box and nicely brush painted in OD. LARAMIE WRIGHT showed his in progress Hobby Boss 1/35th scale M-26 Pershing tank. It appears to be good kit and the very complete engine and drive train sets it apart from its Dragon and Tamiya cousins. His only complaint was the kit tracks are very old school rubber band types. The end connecters are not detailed and the tracks suffer from mold shift creating a hard to clean up appearance. He will replace the HB tracks with a set of Tamiya

ershing tracks. LARAMIE also brought along his Eduard 1/48th scale Weekend Edition Nieuport 16 biplane. It is good kit but the engine required re-work to make a 120hp Gnome from the provided 80hp parts. Internet references showed the intake manifold on the back of the 120hp while the 80hp had 'em in front. Laramie carefully clipped the intakes from the front of the crankcase and attached them to the rear and voila, a 120hp Gnome engine appears! RICHARD LINDER attacked the logistics side of war with several 1/72nd scale transport vehicles towing trailers. He started the parade with a Hasegawa M5 High Speed Tractor towing a Matchbox trailer. That was followed by an Italeri M20 towing a Milicast M8 Trailer. Next were two Ford GPA's. One from Academy had a too short bow plate but was otherwise nice. He liked that due to its one piece frame, all four tires touched the ground. The other GPA was a resin kit from Czech Resin which, though it had a better interpretation of the bow plate, required a set of replacement wheels from a Hasegawa Jeep. KEN MILLER shared his Monogram Spaceliner a prize winning model completed in his hotel room the night before a recent airliner modeler convention contest. He also had an Entex Boeing 2707-3 finished with markings from Draw Decals. As a finale he had his 1/200th scale Minicraft DC-3 done up in the marking of Boston Airlines aircraft that was the last scheduled passenger service DC-3 in the US. The plane had 95,000 hours in the air, a record. THOMAS ROEWER our first timer showed his Dragon 1/35th scale Panther G Smartkit. Thomas put a lot of work into the model detailing it with photoetch and Friuli tracks. His second effort was the Tamiya 1/35th scale Horch softskin. He started the model in 2004 and has done much to improve the kit. He rebuilt the driver's area as it was all wrong and scratch built new seats with frames made from soldered copper wire. Great work and again, Welcome Thomas!

AUGUST IN HOUSE CONTEST "Hot August Nights: Special Delivery"

Mr. NARDO says he built his first Monogram 1/72nd scale B-52 in 1975 with nearly no modeling skills. He decided to repeat the experience recently, applying what he has learned in the intervening years. He says he is much happier with the results at his current skill level and had a good time building the massive beast. He reports he used Polly-S paints for the cammo and that the 51 individual 750lb GP bombs required a lot of effort. NAME MISSED (SORRY!) brought in a Box scale Monogram TU-16 Badger and 1/144th scale Hound Dog Missile from Academy B-52. Nice decal work on the Hound dog! CLIFF KRANTZ had his 1/40th scale UPC pressing of the Adams Atomic Cannon kit. He originally built it in1966 and recently refurbished the model to his current standard of work. He also brought a 1/48th scale Atomic Shape (Mark 7 tactical NUKE) from the Monogram Pro-Modeler F-84. FRANK BABBITT brought his Airfix 1/72nd scale Vulcan Bomber that has had massive amounts of time, effort, putty, sand paper and swear words applied to it. It was finished in Dark Green and Dark Sea Grey over light grey. FRANK also had a rescribed and detailed Heller 1/72nd scale Mirage IV with its attached nuclear cargo.

THE RESULTS:

1st: AVRO Vulcan Frank Babbitt

2nd: Mirage IV Frank Babbitt 3rd: Atomic Cannon Cliff Krantz

The Model of the Month went to Frank Babbitt for his Finnish DB-3.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 17 2009

IPMS Fremont Hornets hosts Tri City Classic 6 at the Newark Community Center at 33501 Cedar Boulevard, Newark CA. Theme is "From Russia With Love" this year, with several special 'theme' awards as well as 43 categories of competition planned. More details and contact data will be forthcoming as year progresses.

Saturday, October 17 2009

IPMS Orange County presents Orange Con 2009, which will be held at CSU Fullerton at Titan University Conference Center, 800 N. State College Blvd. Fullerton, CA. For more information see their site at www.ipmsoc.org.

Saturday, November 14 2009

IPMS Region IX and Jimmy Doolitle Air and Space Museum present a first for Northern California - a model exhibition rather than a contest. It's a chance for builders to display their work and demonstrate modeling techniques over the course of a single day at the museum. The exhibition will be held Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum, located at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA. For details see their site at www.scalemodelexpo.com or contact Chris.google.com Bucholtz.

Saturday, November 14 2009

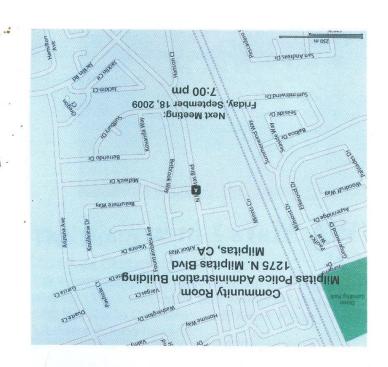
IPMS Craig Hewitt present their event ModelZona 2009 at the Commemorative Air Force Museum, 2017 N. Greenfield Rd, Mesa AZ. For details see their site at www.ipms-phoenix.org or contact Keenan Chittester 480-636-9720.

Saturday, February 20 2010

IPMS Santa Rosa will hold Hobby Expo 2010 at Petaluma Community Center 320 North McDowell Blvd in Petaluma. Fore more information go to their website at www.ipmssantarosa.org or contact John Admire.

Saturday, March 20 2010

IPMS Silicon Valley Scale Modelers hosts their SVSM 2010 Kickoff Classic at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara CA. Theme is "News at Eleven..." - any subject from the last 10 years. Offering competition in 50 Senior, 5 Junior and 4 Youth categories along with a raffle, displays and special events. Vendor contact: gregplummer@gregplummer.com, see also club website (this one!) www.svsm.org for updates.



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