



The Navigator

January 2020

The Newsletter of the Alamo Squadron IPMS Chapter

The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society

A registered 501c-7 organization

Team Lead for the National IPMS/USA Convention: 2020
IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year: 2016

IPMS/USA Region 6 Newsletter of the Year: 2017
IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1999 & 2005

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Yep. It's here. Time to start over and begin anew.

(One last look from 2019)



Before the Festivities...



the Feeding Frenzy...



the Aftermath

FOR Modelers and BY Modelers ABOUT modeling...

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Craig Gregory IPMS #49320

From the Commanders' Cupola...



A club member recently asked the E-Board, "Are there a few words you could supply on why paid memberships are important to the club? How the money is used, who we support in the community, etc.? That might help sell joining."

Here are a few words from my first President's Column:

The purpose of any club is to enhance the enjoyment of its members towards their chosen field of interest. We (Alamo Squadron) are interested in plastic modeling. And members attending our monthly meetings should leave each meeting re-energized and/or inspired towards the current or next project. Staples of our meetings have been the Work-in-Progress, month contest and technique demonstration. We will be bringing back the Kit-of-the-Month and adding the occasional guest speaker. Our vice-president will be soliciting participants for the Kit-of-the-Month, technique demonstrations and themes for our monthly contests.

One joins Alamo Squadron to participate in our hobby. Although we have no on-going effort directly targeting community support, the purpose of Alamo Squadron is the educational advancement of scale modeling skills.

In my opinion, 'active' members are important to the club; whether they pay dues or not. The growth and synergy of the club is more closely tied to the participation of its membership. But we do collect dues as a statement of joining or belonging to the club.

To sum up my thoughts, join Alamo Squadron to enjoy the hobby and advance one's skills.

But this does not answer the fiscal portion of the question, how are membership fees used? Since The Navigator is distributed nationally, outside the membership of the club, I will not include specific budget amounts here. (But I will plan on making a short presentation at the club's February meeting with specifics.) Generally, the funds are used to cover Alamo Squadron's operating expenses.

In prior years, when ModelFiesta was not self-sufficient, the club treasury help cover expenses for our annual show. However, under the guidance of recent club offices and ModelFiesta directorship, our show has grown and prospered. ModelFiesta is no longer a budgetary burden to the club.



Some of the direct expenses for Alamo Squadron are the annual fees to IPMS national, cake and sodas for the Christmas party, misc. postage and copying charges, etc. Four years ago, the club initiated the Model Building Summit Award. The club expenses funds to buy some of the items to recognize participants of this program.










The final part of the question: Alamo Squadron support the community? As stated above we have no ongoing direct support of the community. We do have the Adult Building Course to entice modelers into our hobby and teach basic modeling skills. The club sponsors build days, open to the public, to answer modeling questions and swap stories (and sometimes modeling occurs.)













But I cannot answer this question. You as a club member must. Should the club start a direct community support project? And what form could it take? I am interested in hearing from you. Please reach out to me with your thoughts: craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com.




MODEL OF THE YEAR – 2019 RECAP

Here are mini visual reminders of the monthly contest winners from which the “Model of the Year” will be selected for 2019:

Month	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Jan	No contest due to 2018 Model of the Year Vote		
Feb			
	IH Lonestar by Keith Rule	Millennium Falcon by Craig Gregory	Mars Lander by Dana Mathes
Mar			
	Challenger II by Dana Mathes	1966 Chevy Nova by Keith Rule	Red Knight of Vienna by Chris Menold

Month	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Apr Theme: "It's Broken"			
	T-34/85 by Charles Stone	Kansas Farm Truck by Dana Mathes	Ju-87 Stuka by Dick Montgomery
May			
	Fallschirmjäger by Henry Nunez	1953 Crestliner by Keith Rule	Sea Fury FBII by Rob Booth
Jun			
	MIG-3 by Eric Syverson	US Marine 1945 by Henry Nunez	Swift Boat by Dana Mathes

Month	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Jul Theme: "Shades of Gray"		 Second Place: F-16XL	 T a B
	1967 Shelby Mustang GT500 by Keith Rule	F-16XL by Rob Booth	Confederate Infantry Officer by Henry Nunez
Aug		 man 88	 This By: C
	Lincoln Futura by John Kress	German 88 by Chuck Blair	River Assault Boat by Dana Mathes
Sep			
	Bugatti Royal Napoleon by Keith Rule	Tamiya f-51D Royal Australian AF by Kent Knebel	Revell Ford FD-100 Pickup by Paul Blackmon
Oct		 USAF U.S. AIR FORCE	

Month	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
	Revell 69 Fastback by Paul Blackmon	Hasegawa 1/72 F-102 by Don Weaver	Revell 67 Dodge Coronet by Paul Blackmon
Nov			
	1948 Cadillac Lowrider by Keith Rule	Schneider CA by Dana Mathes	Piper J-3 by Herb Scranton III
Dec	No Monthly Contest due to the Holiday Party		



Here is the same above data/picture table in list fashion sorted by the modeler's last name:

(List compiled by Len Pilhofer)

Ref	Name	Model Entry(s)	Ref	Name	Model Entry(s)
1.	Paul Blackmon	a. Ford FD-100 b. 69 Fastback c. 67 Dodge Coronet	8.	Chris Menold	a. Red Knight of Vienna
2.	Chuck Blair	a. German 88mm	9.	Dick Montgomery	a. Ju-87 Stuka
3.	Rob Booth	a. Sea Fury FBII b. F-16XL	10.	Henry Nunez	a. Fallschirmjager b. US Marine 1945 c. Confederate Infantry Officer
4.	Craig Gregory	a. Millennium Falcon	11.	Keith Rule	a. IH Lonestar b. 1966 Chevy Nova c. 1953 Ford Crestliner d. 1967 Shelby Mustang GT500 e. Bugatti Royal Napoleon f. 1948 Cadillac Low Rider
5.	Kent Knebel	a. F-51D	12.	Charles Stone	a. T-34/85
6.	John Kress	a. Lincoln Futura	13.	Herb Scranton	a. Piper J-3
7.	Dana Mathes	a. Mars Lander b. Challenger II c. Kansas Farm Truck d. Swift Boat e. River Assault Boat f. Schneider CA	14.	Eric Syverson	a. MiG-3
			15.	Don Weaver	a. F-102



KIT OF THE MONTH

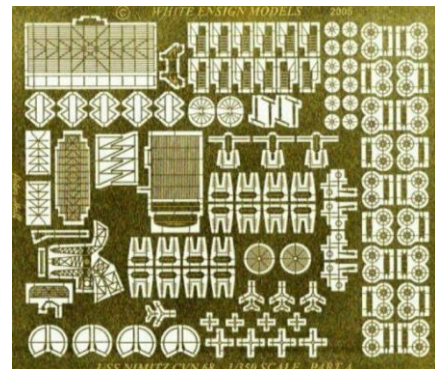
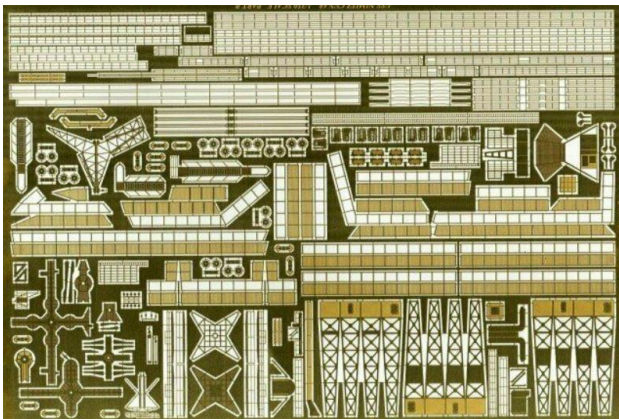
U.S. CVN-68 Nimitz (1975) and Airwing Model kit, article and photos

Craig Gregory IPMS #49320

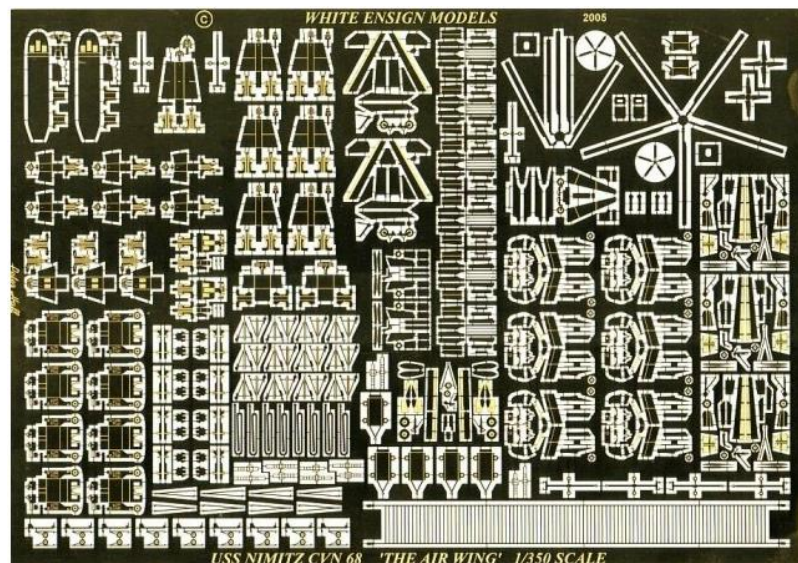
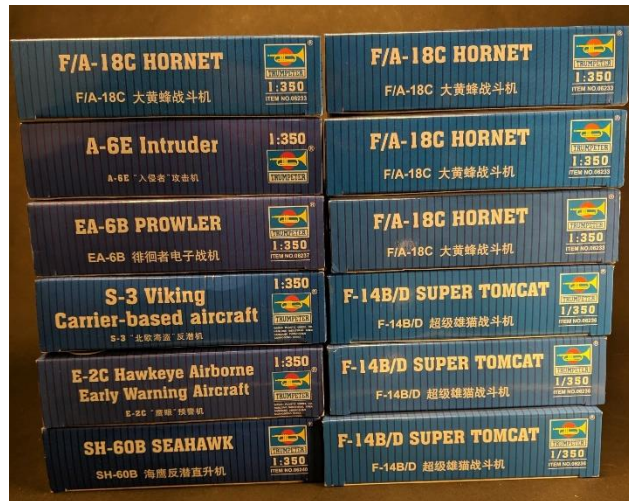


I like 1/144 scale because it is a 'common' scale among different genres with a wide variety of subjects available; I like seeing a 1/144 scale spaceship next to a 1/144 scale airplane for instance. Just to get a comparison of relative sizes. For a few subjects however, 1/350 scale rises to the occasion. I have acquired a few 1/350 scale models and always imagine how they will look side by side when completed. I already have a Seaview, The Space Ark, a Millennium Falcon, a U.S.S. Enterprise (Star Trek) and now ...

This version of the Nimitz by Trumpeter depicts the super carrier in 1975; a transition period from A-6s and F-14s to F/A-18s. I found it, without a home port, on consignment for \$100. The model comes fully protected in its box with sub-compartments and crush resistant supports. The hull is modeled in full length with above and below water line sections; meaning that a waterline version made be built. I am not a ship modeler, so I cannot tell you about the accuracy/quality of the kit. I am relying in Trumpeter's reputation. The model comes with an assortment of 21 aircraft: SH-3 (1), RA-5C (1), F-4J (6), E-2C (1), A-3 (2), A-6E (3), A-7E (6) and S-3 (1). I also bought White Ensign Models photoetch for the Nimitz.



But to accurately portray a full airwing in transition circa 1975 around 80 aircraft are needed; Trumpeter has supplemental aircraft sets (6 aircraft per box). A full airwing complement might be (count as in number of boxes): S-3 (2), A-6E (2), F/A-18C (4), EA-6B (1), S-3 (1), SH-60B (1) and F-14B/D (3). White Ensign Models also has PE details for an airwing.





ON THE HORIZON

Kit of the Month

Each month a club member can bring one of their recent acquisitions (or stashed/stored) to the meeting and open its box to let others peek inside. With a few brief comments and questions answered we will get to know what's in the box and, chances are, rush home to order a copy. When you are ready to share your experience and thoughts, contact and coordinate with Craig Gregory 541-377-188 or at craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com.

Monthly Club Contest Themes

The club contests for the remainder of the Alamo Squadron year are as follows:

Month	Theme	Month	Theme
Jan	Club Model of the Year selection	Apr	TBD
Feb	Fabulous 50s	May	TBD
Mar	TBD	Jun	TBD

Monthly Club Presentations/Demos/Programs

The club presentations for the remainder of the Alamo Squadron year are as follows:

Month	Subject	Presenter
Jan	Basic Figure Painting	Henry Nunez
Feb	What Judges Look For	Rob Booth
Mar	Aircraft Rigging	Dick Montgomery
Apr	Hydrodrp (<i>sic</i>) Technique	Paul Blackmon

Upcoming IPMS Region 6 Area Club Events

Provided by Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003

Date	Title	Contact	Location	Address
January 26, 2020	CALMEX XXXIV Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area http://www.ipmsswamp.com/	Bob Leishman- swampclub@yahoo.com	Lake Charles Civic Center	900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA, 70601
February 15, 2020	ModelFiesta 39* Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area, Seminars www.alamosquadron.com	Mark Verdi – markverdi@msn.com	San Antonio Event Center	8111 Meadow Leaf Drive, San Antonio, TX, 78227
March 7, 2020	Showdown 2020 An Automotives Show http://themcma.net/Club_Contests.php	Len Woodruff – sbcsystems@grandecom.net	Children's Health Star Center	12700 N. Stemmons Fwy Farmers Branch, TX, 75234
March 21, 2020	RiverCon IX Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area	Andy Bloom bloom4him@hotmail.com	LSUS University Center	One University Pl Shreveport, LA, 71115
April 18, 2020	Route 66 Model Expo https://www.tulsaipms.org/ Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area www.tulsaipms.com	Greg Kittinger - greg.kittinger@gmail.com	Bixby Community Center in Bixby OK.	211 N Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK 74008
April 25, 2020	Modelmania 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11	Ken Jackson – kw.jackson.1@hotmail.com	Stafford Center	10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477
June 6, 2020	Scalefest 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm	Randy Spurr- scalefest@gmail.com	Grapevine Convention Ctr.	1209 S. Main, Grapevine, TX 76051
July 11, 2020	HAMS 14 th Annual Model Care Show & Contest An Automotives Show. https://www.ipms-hams.org/	Rob McQuown – Robert.mcquown@sbcglobla.net	Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr.	6823 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379

*Pre-Registration Now Open

Visit the Alamo Squadron website (www.alamosquadron.com) to download the required registration forms, list of categories, and other important information or skip a few clicks by going directly to the “download forms” page by using this link... “ <http://alamosquadron.com/registration-documents.html> ”

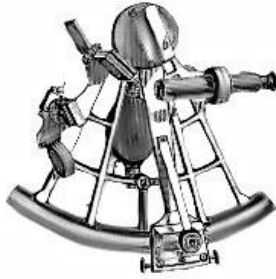
Upcoming IPMS Region 6 Club Events (continued)

Date	Title	Contact	Location	Address
July 29- Aug 1, 2020	2020 IPMS National Convention Convention website: http://www.nats2020.com/ IPMS-USA website: http://www.ipmsusa.org/ 4 Days of seminars, presentations, massive vendor area, local tours, great food, and model contest – All Located Deep In the Heart of Texas!	 COME AND MAKE IT IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION SAN MARCOS, TEXAS JUL 29 - AUG 1, 2020 Convention Dir - Len Pilhofer – director.nats2020@gmail.com Vendor Coord - Craig Gregory - vendor.nats2020@gmail.com	Embassy Suites & Convention Ctr.	San Marcos, Tx (between Austin and San Antonio) 1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666
March 20, 2021	IPMS Region VI Contest Hosted by Red River Modelers <i>(Theme to be Determined)</i>	Andy Bloom Bloom4him@hotmail.com	Louisiana State University (LSUS) 1 University Place Shreveport, LA 71115	

News from the IPMS Region VI Coordinator

From Sean Glaspell

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Club Members

Please welcome a new member who joined our club since Decembers' meeting:

- Thomas Beltran

Welcome, Sir!

(FYI: Current membership role is 63. And there are eight more in the process of being finalized.)



Next Club Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio, 12300 San Pedro 78216

Newsletter* Article Contributions

Alamo Squadrons' newsletter, "***The Navigator***", is published monthly by the IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron club of San Antonio, Texas intended for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, product reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are most welcome. Send written text files or photos and web site URLs as well as any overall comments/suggestions feedback to our editor, Sam Casas at scasas002@satx.rr.com.

Next Issue: February 2020

Target Release Date: Sun Feb 2

Article/Photo Submissions Due: Fri Jan 31

Website Biographies of Club Members

This is a way for members to learn a little bit of modeling-related information of their club mates to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and techniques in all modeling genres and various areas. In no way is this mandatory and only if you wish to share your info with other club members should you participate. Be aware whatever is posted on the Alamo Squadron website becomes open to the all the world... there are no security controls on our website. If you wish to have your bio published, please reach out to Craig at craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com. Here is a link to the bios already on file for your review and for others to verify that their information is correct: alamosquadron.com/members.html

ONE PAGE KIT REVIEW



"I know I've made some very poor decisions recently, but I can give you my complete assurance that my work will be back to normal. I've still got the greatest enthusiasm and confidence in the mission. And I want to help you."

HAL 9000 Moebius Models Kit 2001-5 1/1 Scale

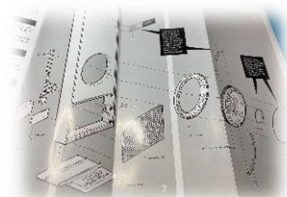
By Sam Casas IPMS #40033

A continuation of the Moebius theme for most things related to the Space Odyssey 2001 film. After the Discovery ship and the EVA Pod, it was inevitable that the iconic HAL interface would come. I recall a few years back a resin kit was in the offering and is now on a "made on request" basis at CultManTV.

A recent purchase from **Hill Country Hobbies** on Bandera Rd, the kit is surprisingly simple in design and parts like this review). Semi-hard plastic, simulate the "red eye" experience (a needed) and one decal sheet for markings.



from **Hill Country Hobbies** on Bandera Rd, the kit is surprisingly simple in design and parts like this review). Semi-hard plastic, simulate the "red eye" experience (a needed) and one decal sheet for markings.



The instruction sheet is also simple with no callout part numbers and just diagrams to depict what goes where. The backside of the single sheet has a recommended color depiction. Mold details are simple as well.



depiction. Mold details are simple as well.



My single irritation is with the warped faceplate (see left photo). I suppose there is a way to re-shape this into a flattened condition but that is fraught with disaster based on my mediocre modeling skills. I started a replacement request via email with Moebius customer service.

OUR FEARLESS LEADERS

Executive Board 2019-2020



Craig Gregory IPMS #49320



Len Pilhofer IPMS #49932



Chris Settle

About Alamo Squadron

IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron was founded on November 17th, 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of its members. It is a hobby-centered social organization which, at its core, is focused on scale modeling of all kinds. It is an excellent source of information for those who wish to enhance modeling skills and improve modeling techniques and is open and inviting to visitors/guests at all skill levels with a variety of modeling interests. Annual dues are \$24.00 a year paid to the Club Treasurer on September 1st of each year.



QR Code for the club website. Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our web site!

www.alamosquadron.com



QR Code for the club Facebook Page. Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our home on FB.



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

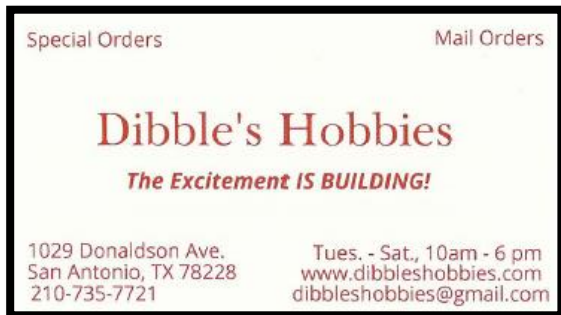
Note the change to the IPMS mailing address:

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM			
IPMS No.: _____		Name: _____	
Address: _____		First	Middle Last
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	
Signature (required by P.O.): _____			
Type of Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86			
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18 years) \$17		<input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35		<input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order	
Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order			
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____			
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:			
Name: _____		IPMS No.: _____	
IPMS/USA		PO Box 1411	
Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org		Riverview, FL 33568-1411	

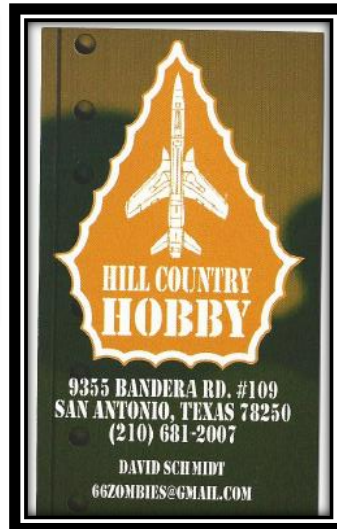
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Support Our Local Hobby Shops...

...for models, paints, books, decals, tools and all your modeling needs!



Jeff, Mike and Joannie
dibbleshobbies@gmail.com



David Schmidt
66zombies@gmail.com

And our Meeting Site Sponsor:





ONE MORE THING...

Plastic Shrink

[Ed: Working in tandem with the Dr. Alexander Martin Schwartz Center of Cognitive-Behavioral Psychotherapy, the Journal of Psychiatric Practice presents a portion of a patient's transcript from a self-admitted scale model enthusiast. Presented in part by permission of all parties.]

... Dr. A. M. Schwartz: So, you've been talking about urges to seek out and acquire more kits. And the effects of sale prices, discounts and mispriced items on what and when you buy. But tell me more about the actual decision process to buy.

Scale Modeler: It's more than wanting a subject or piece of history, you know.

Dr. AMS: How so?

SM: It's about the look and feel. It's about shelf appeal and worthiness.

Dr. AMS: I'm not sure I follow.

SM: It's important to ensure a quality acquisition is made, Doc. I don't just pick up something because I got an idea from a store display, TV show or motion picture. It not only starts with the actual subject but almost as important is the condition of the package. I carefully inspect a potential purchase for any flaw in external appearance. A shrink-wrapped item is preferred but just as important are the conditions of the kit box. No creases, dings, tears or crumpled edges. And you have to watch out for the "price tag under the shrink wrap" as that's a dead giveaway of a previously opened kit. Also, cellophane tape securing the box cover to the kit is also a huge concern. A careful buyer wants to be the first and only insider of said package. Kits not in original manufacturer wrappings often times lead to missing or stolen parts, you know. And I just can't live with a kit knowing something is missing. Damn – I hate it when that happens! And don't get me started on buying from the internet... talk about a crap shoot.

Dr. AMS: Okay. Maybe we can get to virtual purchases later, but you used the word "acquisition". Why that word?

SM: Well it is sort of like adding something to my it stacks. And I do mean STACKS. So, I guess it is like another acquisition.

Dr. AMS: I see. And now back to the inspection process... tell me what happens if a package is not as pristine as you would like?

SM: I got to then weigh my "must have" need. If I think I can find the kit elsewhere even at a slightly higher price, nine times out of ten I would probably put the package back on the shelf and defer the purchase. If it is a rare or one-of-a-kind item, I can sometimes overlook some packaging defects, but I hardly ever consider a previously opened item. BUT if it does show signs of having been opened and it's a "must have" then I re-open it on site in order to inventory all the contents. Hopefully, there is a picture of each sprue in the instructions which help me do the check-off. A guy can't be too careful, and it does give me peace of mind.

Dr. AMS: What's the next step?

[Plastic Shrink continued]

SM: Once I've determined the worthiness of the item, it's just a matter of completing the sale. But those are just the mechanics because the fun really starts.

Dr. AMS: What do you mean?

SM: Styrene time, Doc! It's like opening a treasure chest. I cart my carefully inspected booty home and, after carefully removing the wrapping, it's a matter of becoming mesmerized with the newly acquired, unspoiled content. Removing the wrapping is quite a ritual, too – making sure the package remains as immaculate as possible.

Dr. AMS: Describe the sensation when you open the kit.

SM: It's a good thing I'm lying on this couch cause I get queasy just thinking about it. I crack open that hermetically sealed newfound kit and it's a real buzz. And I see for the first time the plastic in all its packaged glory. I know that from this point forward there'll never be the exact same content arrangement as it is now. Some stuff is hard to put back in the box, so I have to make certain the exact order and placement in the box of each contents parcel is followed.

Dr. AMS: How do you do that?

SM: Well, I carefully scan the top contents and, using the inverted box cover as a holding spot, lift each sprue in the reverse order of how it was originally placed in the package. You know – a last in, first out type of thing. I make sure to mentally note where individual parts on the sprues that are taller than others and how that might influence the exact location within the box so as to not damage other sprues that are either above or below it. Also, any loose pieces like tracks, turrets or cupolas are noted as to their original place and orientation. My goal is to locate the decal sheet (if it is loose or in a separate plastic wrap) and the instruction set. Those paper items are usually in the bottom of the kit, but I like them on top of all the sprues when I put the sprue sheets back in the box.

Dr. AMS: Anything else with... what did you call it?... a ritual.

SM: Nah. Just good old eyeballing of the sprues checking for any defects in the molding process. You know – sink holes, warping, mold lines... stuff like that. It helps form a mental image of what I might have to do before actually building the model. Then I re-package the contents in the exact order with the same placement as I originally uncovered 'em. With the exception of any decal or instruction sheet like I mentioned before.

Dr. AMS: How does that make you feel?

SM: Victorious. Like a big game hunter who's bagged a kill or like a field general who has taken the hill. To paraphrase: "I love the smell of plastic.."

Dr. AMS: What do you then do?

SM: Pretty simple. I then....

[Ed: the transcript ends here as a result of a recorder malfunction. But I think we get the gist of this unfortunate soul.]