

THE NAVIGATOR

IPMS REGION 6 | ALAMO SQUADRON | SAN ANTONIO, TX



OCTOBER 2025 Edition

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LIKE TO BUILD CARS? WHAT'S ON YOUR BENCH?





OCTOBER 2025 Edition

President's Corner | Leadership Thoughts

By Keith Rule



Alamo Squadron has now held three meetings at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church gymnasium. I have had several positive comments about the venue – good location, plenty of

parking, lot's of space, and good lighting. Let's make sure we always leave the space as we found it. I'm the last to leave and I have been finding the occasional soda/water container left behind. Two model kits were left behind after the August meeting. I believe we have found a long-term home.

Dana Mathes and his team of head judges continue to train judges for **Model Fiesta 44** (January 3, 2026). An Exhibition Style of grouping models (where each entrants models are displayed as a group with the entrant's name and each entrant has a name tag), was considered for Model Fiesta 44, but this presented registration and judging issues. It was decided that models would be grouped per Class, as is customary, and that the Exhibition Style would be considered for Model Fiesta 45. We will again use the Gold, Silver, Bronze judging system where each model is judges to a standard and we will again limit our judged entries to 5 per contestant.

Many of our members have been trained for judging, but we will still need volunteers for set-up, vendor help, registration, raffle, and closing clean-up.



Our next meeting is on **Thursday, October 2nd**, starting at **6:40 pm** at Abiding Presence.

Please note, and mark your calendars, that the November meeting has been moved to **Thursday, October 30**.

See Ya',
Keith



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September 2025 Model Contest Winners

By Julio A. Caro

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As always the competition was fierce, but these three outstanding modelers truly stood out:



BRANDON PORTER
SOVIET S-65 TRACTOR



JUAN NOLTENIUS
PANZER II TANK



JUAN NOLTENIUS
MATILDA TANK

Congratulations!



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September 4th, 2025 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 2

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Our September gathering brought many of our members together once again for a vibrant evening filled with creativity, craftsmanship, and camaraderie. The latest scale modeling projects on display—from meticulously detailed builds to imaginative compositions—sparked lively discussion and admiration throughout the room. A highlight of the evening was **Jim Norton's riveting KC-135 Presentation**. Whether you were presenting, learning, or simply enjoying the atmosphere, the meeting was a wonderful reminder of what makes our club so special. Enjoy the highlights! below!



Michael Williamson and Juan Noltinius on break.



Rob Booth and Keith Rule look over contest entries.



Jim Norton talks about the fantastic KC-135 Tanker.



Chris Lenahan discusses the upcoming AMPS show.



Spectacular two-tone robot by Sergio.



Keith Rule's Fantasy police model kit on our work in progress table.



Take a look at this beautifully built Jeep Wrangler Rubicon.



Rob Booth's figures and WW2 Fighter aircraft.



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September 4th, 2025 Meeting Photos

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Korean War airplanes in progress by Kent Knebel on the WIP bench.



An outstanding race car in progress by David Auth.



Chris McLain's Exoframe Skiing Robot on the WIP bench.



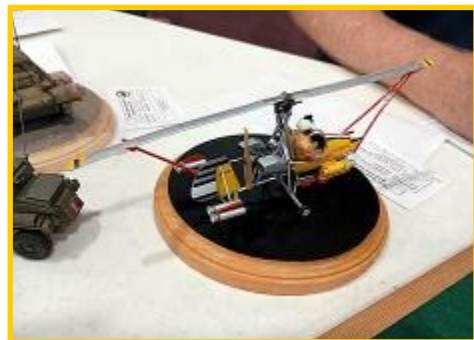
WW2 British Bomber built by Robert Stiegel on the WIP bench.



Collection of WW2 Japanese subs and M4A1 tank by Robert Stiegel.



WW2 British Beaufighter by Lee Forbe's son on the contest table.



Auto Gyro helicopter build by Marc Smith on the contest table.



1947 Chevy build by David Auth on the contest table.



1966 Chevy Ford built by Keith Rule on the contest table.



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SUPERCON 2025 Show Winners

Arlington, TX | September 13, 2025 (Page # of #)
by Julio A. Caro

MICHAEL WILLIAMS | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
	T34-85M Tank	1/35	
	T-55 Medium Tank	1/48	
	M4A3 HVSS-POA-CWS-H5 Sherman Tank	1/35	
	LVT (A) 1 tank	1/35	
	Imperial First Intercessor Squad	1/56	
	ABC War Robot	1/9	



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SUPERCON 2025 Show Winners

Arlington, TX | September 13, 2025 (Page # of #)
by Julio A. Caro

GERARDO "JERRY" ESCOBEDO | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
	Battleship Bismarck	1/350	
	Battleship Yamato	1/700	
	Graf Spee Battleship	1/700	

BRETT SCHOLTEN | SUPERCON 2025

	U.S. Army Nike Hercules	1/40	
	WC-130A Rain Maker	1/72	



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SUPERCON 2025 Show Winners

Arlington, TX | September 13, 2025 (Page # of #)
by Julio A. Caro

JOHN KRESS | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
	Western "44" Gun	1/1	
	1968 Mustang GT "Bullit"	1/25	
	2011 Porsche 911 GTR3	1/24	
	Kenworth W900 Truck	1/25	
	XB-70 Disaster Diorama	N/A	



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SUPERCON 2025 Show Winners

Arlington, TX | September 13, 2025 (Page # of #)
by Julio A. Caro

JUAN NOLTENIUS | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
	M10 Achilles Tank	1/48	

ROB BOOTH | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
	Rheintochter German Anti-aircraft Missile	N/A	
	M60A1 Tank	NA	
	Czech Tatra vs 30 Armored Car, 1938	1/72	
	Hans Marsailles Figure	1/35	



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SUPERCON 2025 Show Winners

Arlington, TX | September 13, 2025 (Page # of #)
by Julio A. Caro

BRANDON PORTER | SUPERCON 2025

Photo	Description	Scale	Award
Pending	Pending	Pending	Pending

One of our biggest winners at the show was none other than **BRANDON PORTER**, who came away with a **substantial amount of hardware** to his name, including a **Special Category Award**. Unfortunately, Brandon was out of town and was unable to provide his information. Once he's back, he's promised to send us the list of his winnings which we will include in a future Navigator Newsletter.



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Michigan Air Guard VC-54D Skymaster Work in Progress Review

by Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 3



Photo by Bob Garrara | Flickr.com



Greetings, fellow modelers! Today I'm bringing you my build experience so far of the **USAF Michigan Air Guard's VC-54D VIP transport aircraft** I'm currently working on.

As you can see from the kit's box art, it was originally intended to be built as a United Airlines commercial airliner, complete with appropriate decals. However, I chose to build it instead as a VC-54D military VIP transport aircraft from the Michigan Air Guard.

First, let me give you some details of the kit itself. The actual kit I used to build the VC-15D Skymaster was **Minicraft's 1/144 scale United Airlines DC-4** (kit #14635) pictured below.

Aircraft History and Details

If you're someone who appreciates history and details like I do, you may find the following information interesting.

The VC-54D is a variant of the Douglas C-54 Skymaster, specifically designed for VIP transport, including the President of the United States. It features a modified fuselage to accommodate VIPs, with enhanced comfort and amenities.

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Michigan Air Guard VC-54D Skymaster Work in Progress Review

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Operational History

Information Sources:

Wikipedia.org, Travis AFB Aviation Museum

The VC-54D served from its introduction in 1942 until its retirement in 1975.

After military service, many C-54 variants were converted for civilian use, including firefighting and cargo transport and remains a notable part of aviation history, symbolizing the evolution of presidential air travel.

The actual Michigan Air Guard VC-54D (aircraft **0-72722**) on which this article is based, was transferred to the Military Aircraft Storage & Disposition Center (MASDC) for storage in late 1972 where it remained in storage through November 1978.

Here is a photo of the actual aircraft as seen during May 1973, approximately 6 months after her arrival for storage:



Photo by DEL LAUGHERY

The aircraft was then reassigned as a civilian aircraft and assigned civilian registration N9020R and ownership moved to Aero Union Corp in Chico, CA. By November 1980 ownership transferred to Tuky Air Transport in Puerto Rico, where it served for some time. The plane was finally scrapped in 1985.

Build Details

Skill Level and Experience

In my humble opinion, this kit is generally considered good for intermediate to advanced modelers. Beginners may find some of the finer details (like the engines or undercarriage) a bit tricky.

Parts



As the photo above shows, this kit consists of five styrene sprues in

total: four molded in white and one in clear for the transparent parts. To my delight, I found the parts to be free of flashing and sink marks which made construction easier.

Surface detail

Panel lines are present but are somewhat shallow. I had to do some scribing to improve definition. The fuselage is usually well-regarded, though the nose needed some work especially around the cockpit area.

Fit and Assembly

So far, I've found the overall fit of the parts to be decent, though there were some minor alignment issues requiring careful attention. The engine nacelles and detailing can present some challenges that call for additional work. The wings and fuselage usually align well, but they need some seam work and gap filling, particularly around the wing roots.

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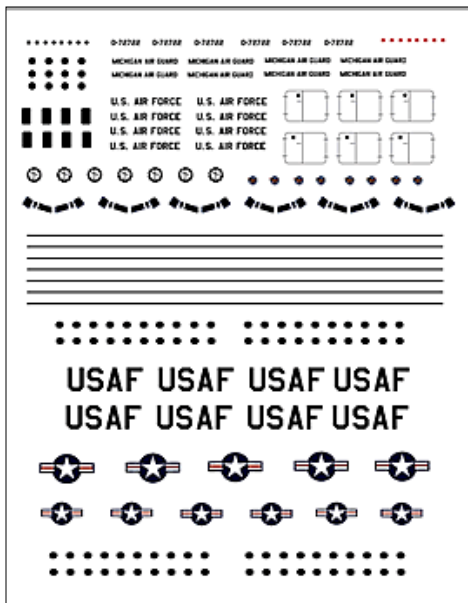
Michigan Air Guard VC-54D Skymaster Work in Progress Review

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Decals and Livery

As mentioned earlier, the kit includes decals for a United Airlines scheme, which I didn't use since I chose to build it as a U.S. Air Force VC-54D VIP transport. To achieve this, I created my own custom decals shown below.



Instructions:

I found the instructions are fairly functional but may lack some clarity, especially for beginners. There was some confusion regarding the placement of small parts and alignment of the landing gears.

To address these quirks, I researched actual C-54D aircraft, consulted the instructions from other VC-54 kits on Scalemates, and studied photos of completed builds by other modelers. The construction sequence can feel a bit convoluted at times—particularly with the fuselage and wings—but patience is key to ensuring everything comes together correctly.

Overall Conclusion:

Pros: Solid basic kit with great potential and fairly decent fit and shape.

Cons: Some minor fit issues and shallow panel lines.

I'm still working on the kit and really enjoying the build so far. Once it's finished, I know it'll make a great addition to my collection. Sure, there's been a few minor hiccups along the way, but that's all part of the fun of the hobby. When completed, I'll share some photos of the finished model in a future the newsletter. I hope you've enjoyed reading this review as much as I've enjoyed putting it together.

Here's a photo of what the model looks like as of this posting:





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Revisiting Tamiya's 1/25 Tiger I Tank

by Dana Mathes | Page 1 of 4

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Have you ever thought about building a kit again from your misspent youth? Once upon a time, when I was in early high school and dinosaurs roamed the earth, my grandmother sought to encourage my scale modeling by giving

me the 1/25 Tamiya Tiger I kit (first sold in 1969) as a Christmas gift. I was ecstatic and proceeded to build the kit out-of-the box (OOB) while trying to match the box art. It was painted with Pactra mustard paint using a Badger airbrush powered with freon cans.

Over the years I always had the idea of building this kit again in the back of my mind, but never acted on it. About a year ago, as part of Dick Montgomery's work

to sell off the contents of the Plastic Pyramid collection, I encountered an unmarked cardboard box.

Opening it, I discovered a 1/25 Tamiya Tiger kit with only a few minor parts missing. This was the moment and now was the time, so I bought the kit.

However, this special nostalgia build would not be OOB or single-color like the first one. After some research, I settled on an early production Tiger with a field-applied, three color German camouflage scheme used by Wehrmacht Abt.508 (Italy,1943-44). The original Fiefel air filters and duct work had been removed from this early production machine. Many photos showed these tanks missing portions of fenders and having gashes and dents, so I removed the filters and one portion of the left fender. Dents and dings were inscribed appropriately on the storage bin on the back of the turret and on the exhaust guards on the rear of the hull.

This kit was considered outstanding in 1970. Yet by today's standards, it lacks detail, particularly in its depiction of the vehicle's interior. A lot of work was necessary to close up openings in the hull and eliminate see-through areas. I chose not to model the interior of the tank. My spares box provided parts to fill in for the kit's lost pieces.



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Revisiting Tamiya's 1/25 Tiger I Tank

by Dana Mathes | Page 2 of 4

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A number of aftermarket items were included in this project: a metal barrel (Aber), PE engine compartment screens (Aber), and metal/resin tow/track winch cables (Eureka). I had to fill the equipment storage bin on the back of the turret with BB's in order to counterbalance the long aluminum barrel.

Continues on the following page...

In addition, Chris Lenahan provided 3D-printed parts to enhance the detail of the model: individual link tracks, fittings for the turret spare track storage, helmets, buckets, and fuel/water cans. Fitting the 3D-printed tracks proved to be the most difficult part of the build. I also scratchbuilt a few details to add a little character to this massive tank: an ammunition crate lid, the hull track storage rack, misc. bolt heads and fittings, and an antenna.

Because it was almost invincible to Allied tanks, a mystique developed around the Tiger tank. Therefore, I sought to make the tank look like it had a nasty attitude by looking dusty and dirty with scrapes and

minor damage, the badges of many actions. After priming the model with Tamiya gray primer and pre-shading it with NATO Black, I applied the first color coats (various shades) of Tamiya Dark Yellow. Over that, I painted (freehand) multiple shades of olive green and red brown splotches. Reference the following photos to see the process:





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Revisiting Tamiya's 1/25 Tiger I Tank

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The ancient kit decals were unusable and 1/25 decal sheets are few and far between for any military subject, so the tactical numerals were painted using stencils



(developed from printed markings created by Stan Spooner, based on the Star Decals 1/35 sheet). The only decals applied were wood grain patterns for the large jack block near the hull gunner's hatch. Reference the following photos:



Minor chipping was applied with sponges all over the model and heavier in selected areas. After a seal coat of Vallejo urethane varnish, multiple oil paint



treatments were applied. To provide the dusty look, three shades of pastel chalks were applied with mineral spirits, allowed to dry, and then mostly removed with brushes and cotton swabs. Finally, some detailing was done with various artist's pencils and some dry brushing. Lastly the model was mounted to a tile base in a wooden frame.

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Revisiting Tamiya's 1/25 Tiger I Tank

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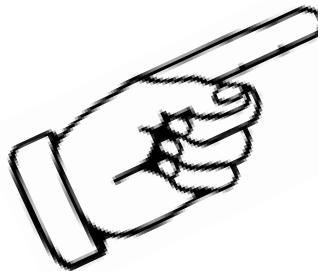
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I consulted several key sources that were instrumental in making this build possible. These sources are listed for your reference below:

- Bovington Tank Museum. <https://tankmuseum.org/tank-nuts/tank-collection/tiger-i>.
- Culver, Bruce. Panzer Colors III. Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc., 1984.
- Donchick, Igor, ed. Panzer Camouflage Vol. I, 2023.
- Doyle, Hillary and Tom Jentz. Tiger I: Heavy Tank 1942-45. Osprey Military, 1993.
- Mike's Research. Tigers in Italy. <https://mikesresearch.com/2022/06/26/tigers-in-italy-1944-45>, June 6, 2022.
- Perrett, Bryan. The Tiger Tanks. Osprey, 1981.
- Tiger I Info. <https://tiger1.info/EN>.
- Wise, Terrence. D--Day to Berlin. Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc., 1979.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking a second shot at this excellent kit. It was indeed a trip down memory lane. The 3D-printed track difficulties, using a stencil for the first time, and finishing a model in a larger than my normal (1/35) scale challenged me and helped me grow as a modeler. What kit from your past needs a second visitation?

Here are some pictures of the finished kit from different angles:





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Building a Little Polish Panzer in Quarter Scale (Polish 7TP Light Tank, 1/48 3D Printed Kit)

by Stan Spooner | Page 1 of 4

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Building a Little Polish Panzer in Quarter Scale

(First published in Military Illustrated Modeler Magazine 2022)

FA Miniatures Polish 7TP Light Tank – Build Review

Who would've thought! As we enter the uncharted territory of 3D-printed model kits, I honestly didn't expect the quality of the printed parts to be delicate enough for scale modeling. That perception has completely changed over the last several years with the advent of extremely high-resolution resin printers.

For me, the most exciting part of this development is the opportunity to build subjects in 1/48 scale that otherwise might never have been

produced. That's exactly the case with the FA Miniatures Polish 7TP Light Tank.

This compact little vehicle was one of the tanks used by Poland to defend its homeland at the onset of World War II. I'll admit, I didn't know much about it before starting this project, but it looked like a fun modeling subject. When FA Miniatures offered me a sample kit to build, I jumped at the chance. Upon opening the box, I was amazed at the refined details of the printed parts—and equally surprised at the sheer number of sprue trees needed to grow them. This was also the first FA Miniatures kit to include waterslide decals, making it a true turnkey package for such a small but mighty tank.

Building the Kit

The build began with carefully removing the sprue trees from all the major parts—a task easier said than done. The connections are delicate, and the sprue density means patience is key. Depending on the location of the connections, I

used either standard sprue clippers or, in some cases, my Dremel with a cutting blade. The blade worked wonders for removing the base plate and cutting away large sections of sprue in one go. As I moved closer to delicate details, I switched to clippers and finally a sanding stick to clean up the connections.

Once freed, the parts showed that this 3D-printed kit had many strengths and only a few weaknesses. One of the biggest challenges with 3D printing is stair-stepping, but the designers had clearly optimized the print setup. With a little patience, some thinned Tamiya Basic Putty, and fine sanding, the minor imperfections quickly disappeared.

The model is built around four main parts: the hull, turret, and two running gear assemblies. Each set of tracks, drive sprockets, and wheels is printed as a single piece. These parts are both delicate and flexible, so great care is needed when cutting them away from the growth trees. I used my Dremel to free the entire assembly at the base, then finished cleanup with clippers and sanding sticks. Extra caution was



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Building a Little Polish Panzer in Quarter Scale (Polish 7TP Light Tank, 1/48 3D Printed Kit)

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required around fragile details like grab handles, fender supports, and the thin fenders themselves. More than once my “sausage fingers” broke the fenders while I was trying to replicate realistic battle damage!



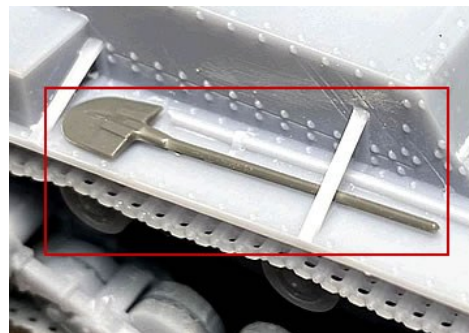
The only major scratch-building required was adding a bottom to the tank hull. The growth trees extend to the base plate, so the lower hull is left open once removed. I built a new bottom from plastic sheet, adding some raised plates and Archer rivets to approximate the missing details.

Detailing & Modifications

Next, I chose which specific vehicle to model. After researching photos

and references, I settled on a pale camouflage scheme used on a radio-equipped version. Converting it was straightforward: I added a stowed antenna on the left fender using brass wire with an Evergreen clip, and scratch-built the radio mast from plastic and brass pins.

For stowage, I turned to my usual go-to: Value Gear tarps and boxes. I don't think I have a single model without their accessories—they're affordable, versatile, and add character to any build. I also stole a shovel from a Tamiya 38(t) kit, as photos showed them frequently carried on these tanks.



On the rear left fender, I added a small pile of tow chain for extra visual interest. Since tow cables were also common, I used a 1/48 Panzer IV set from Eureka,

wrapping them around the back and across the fenders.



The only significant replacement was the main gun barrel. The kit prints the barrel and muzzle brake as one piece with the turret, but it proved a bit too fragile for my clumsy fingers. I swapped it out for aluminum tubing, which looks sharper and sturdier.

Painting & Weathering

With construction done, I primed everything with Mr. Surfacer 500 to help smooth any residual stair-stepping. Between coats, I sanded problem areas until I was happy with the finish.



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Building a Little Polish Panzer in Quarter Scale (Polish 7TP Light Tank, 1/48 3D Printed Kit)

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For the running gear, I added early groundwork effects using thinned Tamiya products mixed with dark pigments, loosely applied around the suspension and hull bottom to suggest dirt and rock buildup.

Next came pre-shading with a mix of Flat Black and German Gray, followed by camouflage. I experimented with the old salt-chipping technique, moistening the surface and sprinkling Margarita salt before spraying the camo layers. While it looked promising, the effect was subtle and mostly disappeared under subsequent coats. Still, it was worth a try!

The camouflage itself was airbrushed in tones of Light Warm Tan, Pale Green, and Medium Terracotta, mixed by eye as I rarely use colors straight from the bottle. Silly Putty masking protected the stowage, while Vallejo acrylics handled the small hand-painted details.

After painting, I sealed everything with Testors Dullcote before moving on to oils. I used a mix of Winsor & Newton oils thinned with Turpenoid for overall tone washes, then applied Payne's Gray and Burnt

Umber for panel lines and recess shading. Decals went down smoothly with a Future floor wax base, then everything was sealed again with Dullcote.



Wanting to add one more storytelling element, I built a small pile of broken fence planks from coffee stir sticks and added them to the rear deck. I also included a Hauler photo-etched bucket, with a strip of plumber's tape painted to look like a rag. Buckets might not be essential on every model, but they're always fun to include! (Ask the guys at the Plastic Posse Podcast—they'll back me up on that.)



Finishing Touches

I originally planned to pair the model with a Polish tank commander figure by Toro Model, but unfortunately, the master casting had facial damage.

I'll revisit it later with a head swap from another manufacturer.



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Building a Little Polish Panzer in Quarter Scale (Polish 7TP Light Tank, 1/48 3D Printed Kit)

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Display & Epilogue

I hope you've enjoyed this write-up as much as I enjoyed building this beautiful little model.



As usual, I mounted the finished tank on a base designed to hold the model at a 45° angle. To complement it, I added a triangular plaque identifying the vehicle, plus a battle map of Poland showing tank battles from the opening days of WWII. The manufacturer's logo and tank details were placed at the front of the base for a clean, finished look.

Since completing the model, it has gone on to achieve more than I expected. It won both Best Armor and Best of Show at several regional contests, and at the 2024 AMPS Nationals it earned the Best Small Army award. Its journey isn't over yet, though—it's been sent to England with my dear friend Fred Murphy to compete at the 2025 SMC show in the Netherlands. Stay tuned to see how it fares there!

Here's another look at the finished product:





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THOUGHTS ON JUDGING MISCELLANEOUS CLASS ENTRIES AT MODELFESTA 44

by Lee Forbes, IPMS-USA #2297 | Page 1 of 3



For the past three years, I've had the honor of serving as the Head Judge for the Miscellaneous Class, and I'll be back in that role again at ModelFiesta 44 on January 3, 2026, at the New Braunfels Civic Center.

The Miscellaneous Class covers five categories:

Category 910: Collections (Personal and Group)

Category 915: Triathlon (Triple Play)

Category 920: Military-Themed Dioramas

Category 925: Civilian-Themed Dioramas

Category 930: Miscellaneous Mechanicals

What makes this class special is that entries usually draw on pieces from all the other major classes, but the focus here is more about the *theme*. That's especially true for the **Collections** (whether it's an individual's work or a club/group effort) and for the **Dioramas**, both military and civilian.

One key thing to keep in mind: entries in these categories are judged as a complete package—the *big picture*—rather than one piece at a time.

With that in mind, let's talk about what judges are looking for in each of these categories.

Collections

Collections must include at least **five components**, regardless of subject. At its core, a collection should be **theme-based**—and the tighter the connection to that theme, the stronger the entry. Consistency of scale is also important.

For example, a collection of WWII German fighters from different manufacturers is fine, but not as strongly focused as a collection of **FW-190s flown by pilots with 100+ victories**. The closer the connection, the better the impression.

Collections also stand out when they're **presented creatively**. A well-designed base, backdrop, or other eye-catching display element can really elevate an entry. Just as important, each component should be **clearly identified** using a consistent format.

Finally, supporting documentation—such as details about each component, historical background, or notes on special building techniques—is strongly encouraged. On the flip side, simply placing models on the table with nothing but the entry form usually won't be enough to earn a high score.

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THOUGHTS ON JUDGING MISCELLANEOUS CLASS ENTRIES AT MODELFiesta 44

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Triathlon (Triple Play)

Triathlon (Triple Play) entries must include three separate components, each representing a different class—for example, a ship, a military vehicle, and a motorcycle. These entries are judged as a whole, may be in different scales, and don't need to follow the display suggestions mentioned earlier. That said, a bit of creativity in presentation certainly doesn't hurt.

Past winners in this category have often included scratch-built components and closely related themes—for instance, WWII German subjects such as a **Me-109G6**, a **Panzer IV**, and a figure of a **Luftwaffe Oberst (Colonel)**. As always, documentation that explains the build process, theme, and any unique details about the components is very helpful during judging.

Dioramas

Dioramas are most successful when they are theme-based, with an emphasis on an obvious, easy-to-follow **storyline**. To achieve the strongest impact, all elements—vehicles, figures, groundwork, debris, and intact or damaged buildings—should be in the **same scale**.

The overall quality of a diorama can be elevated by adding **creative touches**, such as a well-designed base, backdrops, posters, scene photographs, sound effects, or other features that enhance presentation and draw in the viewer. The goal is to create **visual appeal** that captures attention, sparks emotion, and tells a compelling story.

Here again, documentation plays a key role. Notes that describe the entry, the research behind the chosen storyline, construction techniques, and details that may not be immediately visible in the diorama all help judges fully appreciate the work.

Category 930: Miscellaneous Mechanical

Category 930 is essentially the “catch-all” category. Entries can be of any scale or subject, but they must be **mechanical in nature**. Unlike some of the other categories, these entries are **not judged in the aggregate**.

Examples include railroad rolling stock, replica firearms, operating cranes, aircraft engines, or any other subject that doesn't meet the five-component minimum required for a collection. You get the idea. As always, a strong dose of **imagination and creative presentation**, combined with solid **documentation of the subject and the build**, can make a big difference in scoring.

As with **ModelFiesta 43**, all judging at **ModelFiesta 44** will follow the **Open System**, with final scores determining Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards. Each contestant will also receive feedback highlighting areas for improvement on their individual scoring sheet.

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THOUGHTS ON JUDGING MISCELLANEOUS CLASS ENTRIES AT MODELFiesta 44

by Lee Forbes, IPMS-USA #2297 | Page 3 of 3

Judges will evaluate two main components: **Construction Quality** (50 points) and **Finish Quality** (50 points). Together, these make up the core 100-point evaluation. In addition, up to **20 bonus points** may be awarded for **Overall Presentation and Scope of Work**—but to be considered, this requires documentation and must be initiated by the contestant.

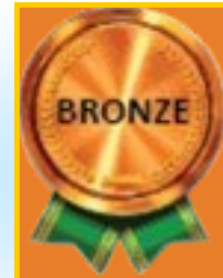
Award thresholds are as follows:



95+ Points



80+ Points



65+ Points

I hope this overview helps clarify what Miscellaneous Class judges are looking for. If you're planning to enter any of the Misc categories at **ModelFiesta 44 on January 3, 2026**, best of luck—I look forward to seeing your work!

Happy Modeling,

Lee



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Upcoming Region 6 and National Events

Mark your calendars and get ready to be inspired by the creativity and craftsmanship on display at these upcoming IPMS Region 06 model shows.



EVENT DATE	NAME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
10/11/25	2025 AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo	Georgetown, TX	Georgetown Community Center 445 E. Morrow Street, Georgetown, TX 78626
11/01/2025	Cajun Modelfest 37	Baton Rouge, LA	LSU Ag Center 4H Mini Barn Building AG Center Lane , Baton Rouge, LA 70802
11/08/2025	Austin Capitol Classic	Taylor, TX	Williamson County Expo Center 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX 76574
01/03/2026	ModelFiesta - 2026	New Braunfels, TX	New Braunfels Civic Convention Center 375 S Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130
03/14/2026	Rivercon XV - 2026	Shreveport, LA	One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115
05/2/2026	ModelMania 2026	Stafford, TX	The Stafford Center 10505 Cash Rd, Stafford, TX 77477
05/16/2026	CALMEX 2026	Sulphur, LA	West-Cal Arena & Events Center 401 Arena Road Sulphur, LA 70665



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Monthly Club Meeting Information

Alamo Squadron monthly club meetings are the perfect place to connect with fellow modelers to exchange ideas and learn new techniques to enhance your craft. Come share your latest projects, gain valuable insights, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals who share your love for scale modeling.



Our monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday of the month** starting at **6:30 PM** at the following location:

ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN CHURCH

14700 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78232



We look forward to seeing you!

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IPMS Membership Information

Joining IPMS/USA is a great idea because it connects you with a dedicated community of scale modelers who share your passion. The society offers valuable resources, including detailed magazines, access to national and regional events, and opportunities for learning and improvement through workshops and contests. Membership also provides a platform to share your work, receive constructive feedback, and stay updated with the latest trends and techniques in scale modeling.



International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA
Membership Application / Renewal Form

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS#: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Chapter Affiliation, if any: _____

Junior (17 years or younger) ☐ \$17.00 Date of Birth _____

Adult One year ☐ \$30.00

Two years ☐ \$58.00

Three years ☐ \$86.00

Canada & Mexico ☐ \$35.00

Foreign Surface ☐ \$38.00

Family ☐ Adult fee + \$5.00

of cards? ____

Your Signature: _____

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:
Name: _____ IPMS #: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash ☐ Amount: _____

Check ☐ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

Where did you hear about IPMS/USA? Please check all that apply:

☐ Local model club ☐ Internet search

☐ Friend ☐ IPMS web site

☐ Ad in IPMS Journal ☐ I'm a former member rejoining

☐ Facebook ☐ Other _____

☐ Ad in other magazine

Applications should be printed and mailed to:
IPMS/USA
P.O. Box 1411
Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Interested in joining IPMS?

Here is a copy of an IPMS Membership Application/Renewal Form. You can download the actual form from the IPMS/USA website at:

https://ipmsusa.org/sites/default/files/membership_application_0.pdf.



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Hobby Stores and Other Links

Support hobby stores that support our club!

- **DIBBLES HOBBIES**

1029 Donaldson Ave, San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 735-7221

<http://dibbleshobbies.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

- **HOBBY TOWN**

1309 N. Loop 1604 W.,
Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78259-4769
(210) 236-5527

<https://www.hobbytown.com/sanantonio-tx/l196>

OPEN: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 PM

OPEN: Sunday, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

- **HILL COUNTRY HOBBY**

9355 Bandera Road, Suite 118
San Antonio, TX 78250
(210) 681-2007

<http://www.hillcountryhobby.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

- **HOBBY LOBBY**

Visit the Hobby Lobby website to find the nearest store to your location.

<http://www.hobbylobby.com>

- **LIONHEART HOBBY**

5500 FM 2770, Suite 103,
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 504-3404

<https://lionhearthobby.com>

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

- **KING'S HOBBY**

7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Unit E188
Austin, TX 78752

(512) 836-7388

<http://kingshobby.com>

OPEN: Monday to Friday, 10:00 am - 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Saturday and Sunday



Alamo Squadron Website

<https://www.alamosquadron.com>



Alamo Squadron FACEBOOK Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114044928625406>



IPMS Membership Information

<https://www.myipmsusa.org/join-us>

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ModelFiesta 2026 Information

IPMS ALAMO SQUADRON PRESENTS

COLD WAR

MODELFiesta 2026

46-91

DEMOCRACY vs COMMUNISM

Model Contest Vendor Event

MODELLERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Help Heal Veterans
Therapeutic Craft Kits

GOLD • SILVER • BRONZE

Classes:
Youth, Aerospace, Armor
Automotive, Ships, Figures
Fictional Vehicles, Gunpla
and Miscellaneous

JANUARY 3rd 2026
New Braunfels Civic Convention Center
Visit ModelFiesta.com for more information