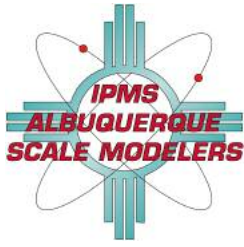


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

March 2010

PRESIDENT'S SPIEL TOM PEREA

Making Up Your Mind

Have you made up your mind on what you're going to build for the IPMS Nationals? Some of us, including myself, have committed to a group entry and I have personally been waiting for those little elves to finish it for me. I was feeling pretty ambitious when I first heard that the Nationals were going to be held in Phoenix, because it was close to home. In my mind I had this detailed list of models that I was going to have done well before the Nationals date. We are approximately five months away and I think I have narrowed my per-

sonal entry down to a tank, a plane, and a ship. Now if I can just figure out what tank, plane, or ship I want to start...

Trying to get over that mental block of building the perfect model has always been an issue for me. I think anyone putting a model in the show has the innate desire to come out with some kind of award, but what gets lost is that a completed model actually has to find its way to the table in order to be judged. I have become overwhelmed by the number of options that are out there. The number of models to choose from, the quantity of aftermarket products to make that most accurate reproduction, and the amount of research

February highlights, left to right: A stack of goodies awaiting a buyer; the Swap Meet gets rolling; and the business meeting in progress.



available to make sure you have the right markings with the right paint with the right whatever.

Starting my build: I start by trying to decide what subject I'm interested in at the time. Once I decide on what I want to build, it's off to the computer to start researching reviews for the most accurate version of the model I want to invest in. Now that I have a specific model in mind I start the research for the best price, or maybe I can find someone in the club that already has it and is either willing to sell it, or trade for another model they want out of my collection. Now I got my high-priced accurate model, but wait—the model is not quite as accurate as it should be. Back to the computer to start looking for the conversion set, photoetch set, wheels, tracks, cockpit, wooden deck, and so on. Do I want a figure or figures placed with my model? How do I want to display my investment; maybe on a plain wooden base, or better yet in a diorama scene? Okay, I got the kit, paint, figures, a stack of books, a list of references bookmarked on my computer, the perfect display base, and enough aftermarket material to keep me frustrated well past the five months I have left until the Nationals begin. There are more steps in this never-ending endeavor, but frankly it's becoming overwhelming just talking about it. One last important detail I'd like to mention is the hundreds of dollars that I have now sunk into my award-winning project.

Oops, I just discovered something, I'm already bored with my perfect entry and now I have found another perfect model that I would rather build! Now my previous project will be wedged into the rest of my collection or find its way on to eBay at a discounted rate for that next motivated model builder. Are you tired yet, or at least tired of reading my rant? Now, I realize not everyone is the same boat as I am and those that don't have the issues that I'm dealing with are the people that are out there building, winning contests, and enjoying the hobby. So, if you're still trying to realize that perfect model, just let it go, build it and put something on the table. My goal is to find the balance between perfection and completion. I have faith when I say I will reach this point one day.

KIT REVIEW

MIKE BLOHM

AREA 51 U.F.O. AE-341.15B

Pegasus Hobbies, Kit #9100, \$19.98 MSRP

This 1/72-scale injection-molded kit includes 21 pieces. The saucer parts are molded in a silvery plastic and are contained in one large bag. The seven window/view-



Box art is a photo of the actual vessel in its hangar.

port pieces are molded in a shiny green translucent color, and are in a separate bag. Unfortunately the bag did not keep the large circular dome piece that fits into the top of the saucer from becoming a bit scratched and fuzzed in my kit. More on that later. A nice set of instructions is included. There are no decals included for this model.

This kit is an easy build due to the small amount of pieces. It is not a "snap-tite" model, but its design and construction qualities make it pretty close. The top clamshell is one piece (eight inches in diameter), and needs only the viewports and dome inserted. The bottom clamshell is again one piece, but you have a choice of building it with the gear (four legs) extended—which I chose to do—or retracted. The landing gear and door pieces easily click into the wells. Overall the fit is very nice and no putty was needed anywhere.

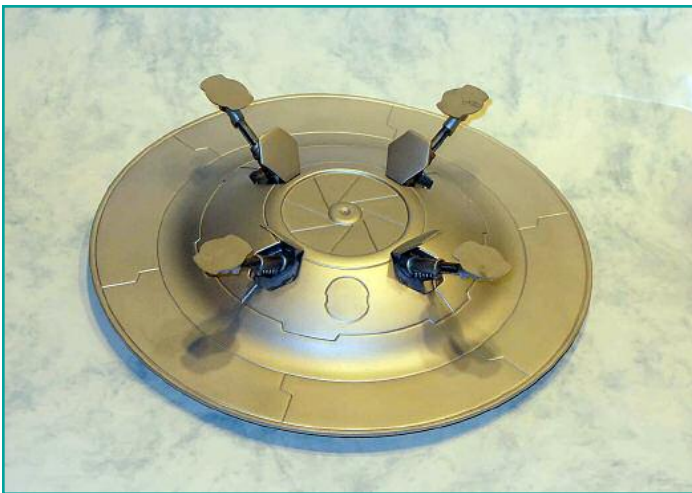


The viewport pieces click onto pegs on each side of the window and have a good fit. I put a coat of Future over the large top dome window, and that seemed to fix most of the fuzziness. I waited until after all painting was completed before I added the viewports and the gear pieces. It would have been nice for the kit to have



included either a clear set or an additional clear set of viewports so you could make your own color windows. Not all UFOs have green windows.

Overall, the detail is very good. However, the top saucer clamshell piece has six sinkholes spaced uniformly around the outside surface, corresponding to where there are joining pegs for the top half to fit into the lower half. Since they were uniformly spaced and not too deep, I made no attempt to correct them. It just so happens the real thing does have those same “dimples” for better exoatmospheric directional control (I have pictures...).



This is not widely known, but if you can turn one on its back, it's completely helpless.

Painting was a challenge in deciding what kind of color scheme to use. You normally see these UFOs at night and it's hard to tell the colors (see picture). I chose to do a basic metallic look, with alternating segments of shiny and not-so-shiny metal on the top clamshell. On the lower clamshell I used the same colors, with the not-so-shiny metal on the center spiraling door (where the tractor light beam comes out and cow parts are levitated into the craft—they seem to like prime rib) and

the other crew door. The landing gear legs, pads, doors and gear wells all got varying metallic shades that were darker than the clamshells and they all got a bit of weathering. Traveling through hyperspace keeps them overall pretty shiny due to collisions with tachyon particles, dark matter and the occasional Starfleet flotsam and jetsam.



This photo, allegedly of the actual craft in flight, may or may not have been taken by the author.

The top clamshell fits onto the lower clamshell and is held in place by six pegs. The interior is basically hollow and screams out for lighting in some kind of manner. *Note: In space, no one can hear you scream.*

I added a device that produces rotating colors of red, yellow and blue which project onto the large top dome viewport. Exactly what I added is “top secret” so use your own imagination. Be sure to add a “Danger – Radiation” sign and a note to the judges on your entry sheet, depending upon your choice of device. I hope you didn't get too close to my model at the last club meeting—I forgot to bring the sign.

Overall an easy build, a pleasure to put together, and a neat addition to my sci-fi model collection. Compared to the real thing, the kit is really more like 1/5-scale, but that is certainly acceptable. Congrats to Pegasus Models for producing the model kit. A great kit for a beginning modeler. Recommended to all.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

(Stolen blatantly from our recently-resurrected web site—thanks, Mike!)

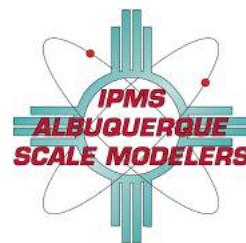
March 13 Showdown #20, Irving, Texas (IPMS Metroplex Car Modelers Association, Region 6)

- March 27 Tulsa Modelers Forum Show/Contest, Tulsa, Oklahoma (IPMS Tulsa, Region 6)
- April 16 – 18 Starfest sci-fi convention and modeling contest in Denver, Colorado
- April 22 – 24 AMPS National Convention at WWII Victory Museum in Auburn, Indiana
- May 22 Best of the West XIV, Henderson, Nevada (IPMS Las Vegas, Region 8)
- August 4 – 7 2010 IPMS/USA National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona (IPMS Craig Hewitt, Region 10)
- August 5 – 8 Star Trek Convention 2010, Las Vegas, Nevada
- August 14 IPMS/El Paso Model Display, El Paso, Texas (IPMS El Paso, Region 6)
- Sept 10 – 26 New Mexico State Fair Model Contest (IPMS Albuquerque Scale Modelers, Region 10)
- Sept 25 Austin Scale Model Show, Austin, Texas (Austin Scale Modelers Society, Region 6)
- November 6 Texas NNL #6, Irving, Texas (IPMS Metroplex Car Modelers Assoc, Region 6)
- November 14 Bassett Place Show Number 2 Vets Day Event, El Paso, Texas (IPMS El Paso, Region 6)

Year 2010 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for “Modeler of the Year” Points

- 08 Jan SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: Best Mirage III, IV, V, 2000 or Variant (Rick Carver)
- 05 Feb ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 05 Mar Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 02 Apr SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
GOLDEN AGE MONOGRAM—Any Monogram kit from 1945 thru 1980.
- 07 May Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: Oddball Subjects (Jim Guld)
- 04 Jun SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
PANZER IV SPECIAL CONTEST
Sponsored Contest: 9th US Air Force (Don Smith)
- 09 Jul Sponsored Contest: FemCon (Josh Pals)**
Sponsored Contest: Tamiya Spitfire (Hobby Proz & Brian Peck)
- 13 Aug Nationals Debrief Night—Bring Models & Trophies!**
- 10 Sep Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Oct SPECIAL CONTEST #4**
BLITZKRIEG! (APR – JUN 1940)
- 05 Nov Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 03 Dec Sponsored Contest: Mercedes-Daimler-Benz (Patrick Dick)**
Plus Model of the Year competition!



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ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. Submission deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month.