



Club officers

Jack Mugan
President

Tracy Palmer
Vice Pres

Bill Winter
Treasurer

Frank Ahern
Secretary

Bruce Doyle
Historian

Paul Bennett
Photographer

www.gatormodelers.org



Next meeting:

May 16th, 6:30pm
Oak Hall Library
8009 SW 14th Ave
Gainesville FL

It is hard to believe that May 5th is Viet Nam Veteran's Day and it has been sixty-three years ago that we became involved. Two and a half million G.I.'s served in Viet-Nam, two thirds were volunteers and one third were drafted. Eleven thousand were women in a wide variety of jobs. Twelve and a half percent were black Americans and eighty five percent were white Americans. The average age was 21 (WWII was 26). WWII infantry men saw forty days of combat in four years whereas the infantry men in Viet Nam saw two hundred and forty days of combat in one year with just five days of R and R. One in ten were wounded or killed and fifty eight thousand two hundred and fourteen died between 1956-1975 and seventeen hundred are still missing.

I did not hear anything about it on the news,....did you?

- Jack Mugan

The Prez Sez.....

NEWS FLASH...**If** you haven't

finished your project for the semi-annual contest by now, you are running out of time. Yes, May has arrived already, and you thought there would be plenty of time, but Oh-Oh, you are down to just a few days.



Things have been pretty quiet since our last meeting, so I do not have a lot to report. I hope some of our members are making plans to visit the Ocala club on the fourth Thursday in June and meet with the owner on Moebius Models. It is not too late to put in your request for models you are interested in, and they will be made available at a discounted price or raffled off at the meeting. Frank is very good about answering questions and discussing what is going on in the industry.

Gator Modelers April Meeting Hi-lights



President Jack Mugan opened the meeting and welcomed 10 members present, and visitor Gene Stauff. Mugan talked about the recent club auction, which raised almost a thousand dollars for the club treasury. He thanked Bill Winter and his wife Nancy Hardt for allowing the club to use their condo for the event. Mugan also reminded the club that the semi-annual club themed-build competition would take place at the May 16th meeting. The theme of this contest is "Middle East".

There was a discussion about the club project to build a display of Air Force Thunderbird aircraft. The club has been given decals for several of the planes, which will be made available to anyone who commits to build a kit for the display. Dan Contento said that he will build the Thunderbirds F-16 model.

The club also received a large ship model donated by Hobbytown which Mike Martinez said he could no longer store at the school. Steve Cope agreed to take the model home with him.

AJ Kwan and Aaron Alt both gave reports on the 40th anniversary of Star Wars convention, which they attended in Orlando. Several new lines of Star Wars kits were introduced at the convention. Please see photos starting on page 5.

Notice: See page 4 for a NEW feature from Frank Ahern: Hollywood Heros!

In what movie did Sterling Hayden play Brigadier General Jack D. Ripper? The answer is on page 16. ²

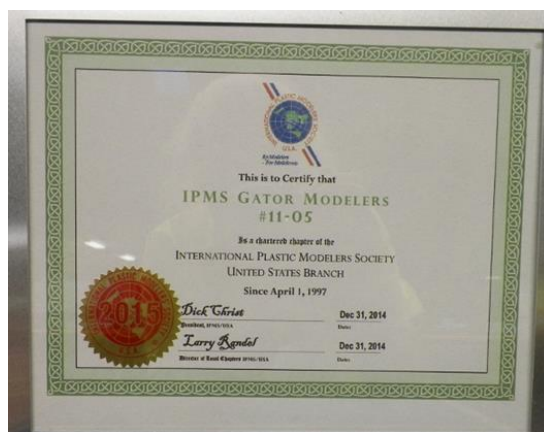
Gator Modelers April Meeting Hi-lights (continud)

After show and tell presentations by members, the monthly club raffle was held. The winner of the raffle for bringing a model was Jack Mugan who selected a Corsair kit; the attendance raffle was won by Bruce Doyle, who took a 5-window 32 Ford Coupe. Finally, Frank Ahern did a presentation on the Doolittle Raid in honor of the 75th anniversary of the raid on this date. He also gave a report on the WW2 program, which assigned American names to Japanese aircraft in the war.

Thunderbirds club build update:

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Aircraft</u> | <u>Scale</u> | <u>Kit</u> | <u>Builder</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 1953-54 | F-84G Thunderjet | 1/48 | Tamiya | Frank A. |
| | T-33A Shooting Star | 1/48 | Academy | Jack M. |
| 1955-56 | F-84F Thunderstreak | 1/48 | Monogram | ???? |
| | C-119 Flying Boxcar (support) | 1/72 | Italeri | Frank A. |
| 1956-63 | F-100 Super Sabre | 1/48 | Monogram | Ed I. |
| | C-54 Skymaster (support) | 1/72 | Revell | Paul B. |
| 1964-68 | F-105 Thunderchief | 1/48 | ???? | ???? |
| | F-100D Super Sabre | 1/48 | Monogram | Jack M. |
| 1969-73 | F-4E Phantom | 1/48 | Fuji | Mike M. |
| 1974-81 | T-38 Talon | 1/48 | Trumpeter | Paul B. |
| 1982- ? | F-16 Fighting Falcon | 1/48 | Academy | Dan C. |
| | C-123B Provider (support) | 1/72 | Roden | Paul B. |

The club has received Warbird Decals Thunderbird decal sets for the F-84F & F-105 and will provide them to whoever agrees to build the kits.



IPMS Region 11 upcoming events

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| May 19 - 21 | Pelikan Model Club – Pelicon 17 (regional contest), Minnreg Hall, Largo |
| July 26 – 29 | IPMS Nationals, Omaha Neb. |
| September 22-24 | Modelpalooza, Orlando |
| October 21 | Model Car Creations, 16th Annual Table Top Nationals, Deerfield Beach |

Hollywood Heroes



BY FRANK AHERN

This continuing feature is designed to showcase the often-unpublicized military service of many of the entertainment icons of the previous generation who served their country

without complaint or protest.

Sterling Hayden

As OSS agent **John Hamilton**, his [World War II](#) service included sailing with supplies from Italy to [Yugoslav partisans](#) and parachuting into [fascist Croatia](#). Hayden, who also participated in the Naples–Foggia campaign and established aircrew rescue teams in enemy-occupied territory, became a first lieutenant on September 13, 1944, and a captain on February 14, 1945. He received the [Silver Star](#) (for gallantry in action in the Balkans and Mediterranean; "Lt. Hamilton displayed great courage in making hazardous sea voyages in enemy-infested waters and reconnaissance through enemy-held areas"), a [Bronze Arrowhead device](#) for parachuting behind enemy lines, and a commendation from Yugoslavia's [Marshal Tito](#). He left active duty on December 24, 1945.

The Force is With Us!

The 40th anniversary of Star Wars.



Star Wars Celebration

April 13-16, 2017

A Star Wars Convention celebrating the 40th anniversary of *Star Wars: A New Hope* was held at the Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

There were many cast and crew from across the *Star Wars* saga, plus pop culture personalities, artists and writers, and celebrities who love *Star Wars*. There were numerous panels to attend, and autographs to get; Mark Hamill, Felicity Jones, Hayden Christensen, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, Forest Whitaker, Billy Dee Williams, and many more.

An estimated 100,000 people attended the celebration. There were many booths, displays (Hasbro, Bandi), and vendors; lots of give-a-ways for those who got there early. Cosplay (the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game) was a must for many of the attendees; approximately 70% of the attendees



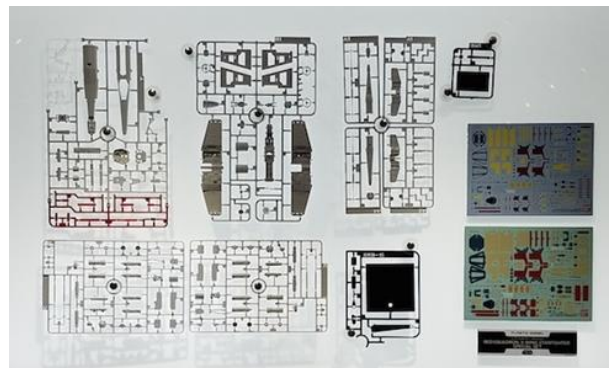
For modelers, Bandai has a new line of kits that were showcased at the Celebration. Bandai's line of insanely detailed Star Wars model kits (that can be put together by anyone from amateur to expert). 1/72 scale Y-wing, TIE fighter, and Darth Vader's TIE advance; 1/48 scale Snowspeeder and AT-ST Scout Walker; and 1/144 AT-AT, Slave I, and Millennium Falcon (*Episode VII* version). Each vehicle kit is sold separately, and some of the special features include choices of alternate canopies, moving parts, detailed display bases, laser effects (I

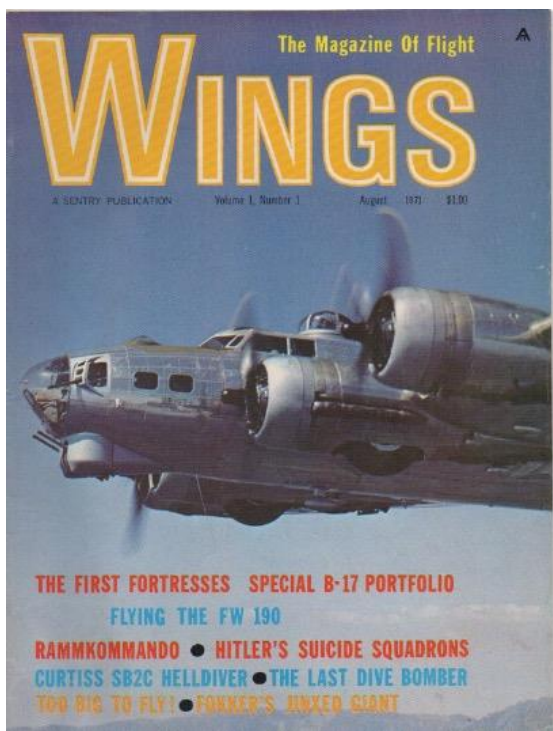


believe the technical term is “pewpewpews”), Tiny li'l Boba Fett and frozen Han, and more! Bandai's color-injection molding process means you don't have to paint these kits if you don't want to; if you've never put together a kit before, you can enjoy them just as much as the customizers who will want to add their own additional details. They do recommend you buy a nipper or sprue-cutter to fully separate the pieces from the frame, but no glue is required.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend on Saturday, and yes, I am one with the Force (see Jedi Knight photo). A great time was had by all.

Submitted by AJ Kwan.





Way back in 1971.....

Jack Mugan

August of 1971 saw the debut of Wings magazine. The editorial informed the reader "this magazine was dedicated to preserving the heritage of flight, by graphically depicting the exploits of aviation pioneers and the planes they flew. In an age where concern is properly voiced for conservation of the environment, Wings has resolved to keep alive the memory of classic aircraft, pivotal design concepts, aviation pioneers and feats of flying, both civilian and military, which have begun to dim with age and fade due to misinformation."

Pretty tall order for this point in time but I looked forward to each issue when it appeared at the newsstand every other month.

The first issue started out with Rammkommando, the story of the Luftwaffe's suicide squadron with lots of black and white photos and a double page spread of a cutaway of the Fw.190A-8. The article covered thirteen pages. This was followed by a twenty page story, Fortress in the Sky, the story of the first Boeing bombers....the thirteen YB-17 test models and their luckless prototype. Included was a two page spread color profile of the YB-17 Flying Fortress.



The third story, Taming The Big-Tailed Beast, covered the Curtiss SB2C Hell Diver, with sixteen pages of photos and text and yet another two-page color profile. Last but not least, Fokker's Flying Giants, in the days before the DC-3....they were thought 'too big to fly'. This article had thirteen pages of text and photos.

Not bad for the first issue.



“Show-N-Tell”



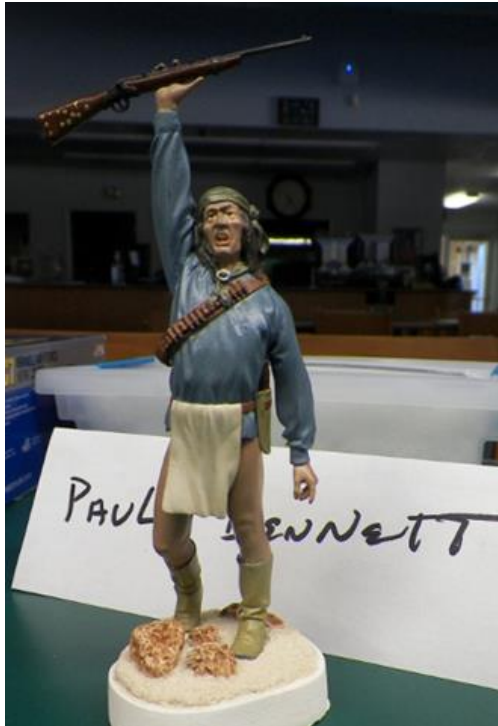
Bruce Doyle's tanks



Frank Ahern

Frank Ahern gave a talk on how Japanese aircraft were named by the Allies in WW2.





Top: Bruce Doyle
 Left: Paul Bennett
 Bottom: AJ Kwan

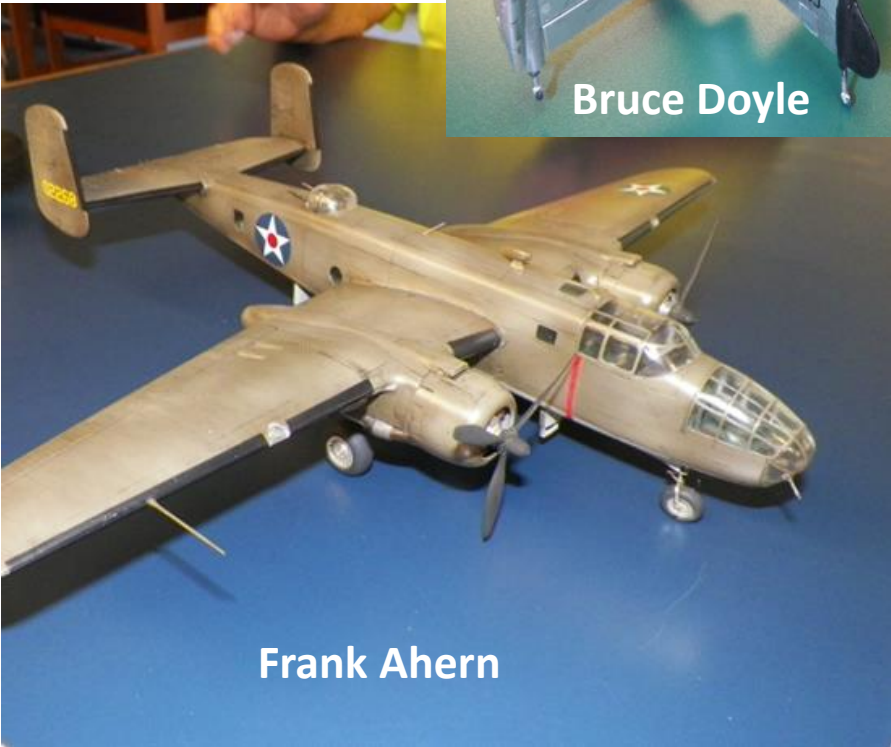




Arron Alt



Bruce Doyle



Frank Ahern



Clarence Snyder



Jack Mugan

From Paul's Toolbox

Lighting by Paul Bennett



And sometimes ya' just gotta get creative.

I bought some nice AC powered clip lights from Lowes. They were bright, small, and handy.

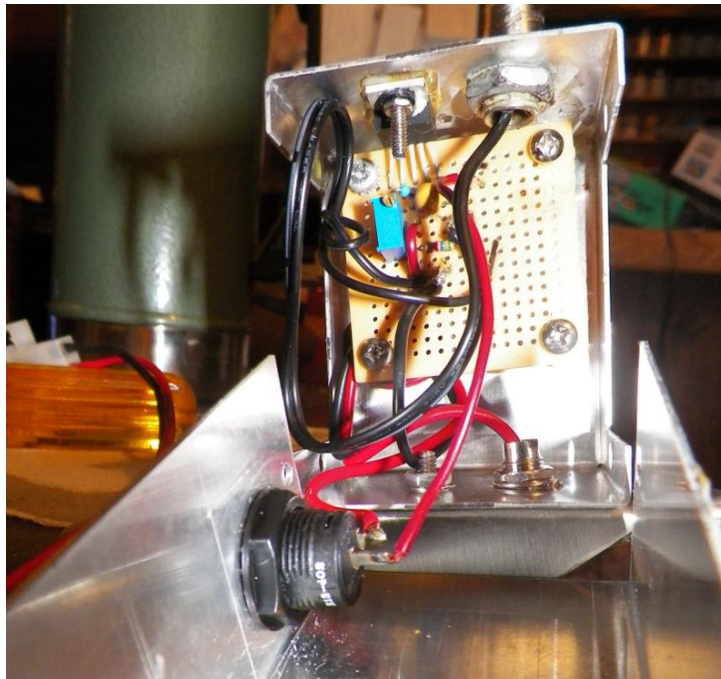


After looking them over I began to ponder over the possibility of converting one to battery power. After all, this is Florida, and storms can cause power problems. I removed the screws that held the light assembly in place and made some measurements. I found with a little work, it would be possible. I also found the optimum voltage would work well with battery operated amateur radio equipment. This would also give me a source of light for model work during power outages.

I decided to design around a 12 volt sealed lead acid battery as a voltage source. First thing I had to do is make a regulated voltage source to provide the proper voltage. Given the minimal voltage difference, I decided to use an LDO voltage regulator (LDO=Low Dropout Voltage. Means the regulator can continue to work even when the battery voltage gets very close to the regulated voltage).

I removed the switch and power supply and left about six inches of wire hanging below the nut that held the flex tube to the clip. I then removed the nut and separated the tube and clip. I had a small metal chassis box and did some sheet metal work to accommodate the flex tube, wiring and parts mounting.

I had built the circuit on a small piece of Radio Shack perf board, heat sinking the regulator to the chassis and mounting the perf board, power switch, and pilot LED in the chassis. I mounted the flex tube to the top of the chassis and connected the wires that went to the lamp head. I mounted the clip to the bottom of the chassis box using a single machine screw and grommet that I fed the wires going to the battery through.



And this is the finished product.



Let's get into another form of LED lighting, the LED light strip.



These LED light strips are available from a number of vendors in varying colors and lengths. In my case I wanted white. Let me step aside for a moment

“White” isn’t always white. When you go into a store and look at lighting, you can find LED’s and CFL’s in a number of types of white, cool white, neutral white, bright white, natural white, and warm white. Cool, Neutral, and bright tend to have a bluish tint, natural approaches a daylight tint and warm has a yellowish or orangish tint, these being defined by the term “Color Temperature and given in degrees Kelvin. (A quick explanation,

a degree Kelvin is based on Celsius, but zero degrees Kelvin is equal to -273 degrees Celsius, or absolute zero, Brrrrr!)

I purchased these from Micromark and went with “Natural White”. The strips are five meters long, require 12 volts DC and have a self-adhesive back. The strip is designed so you do not have to use the entire length. It is designed and marked so it can be cut into segments at every 3 LED’s, and polarity marks are also included.



How did I use it? Let’s start with

“The Forces of CHAOS”, aka “Wild Child”, aka “Annie the Beagle”



Such an innocent look

Given her propensity for acrobatics, curiosity, and agility, immediate steps were necessary to protect fragile items. Out of this came...

“Festung Modelle”

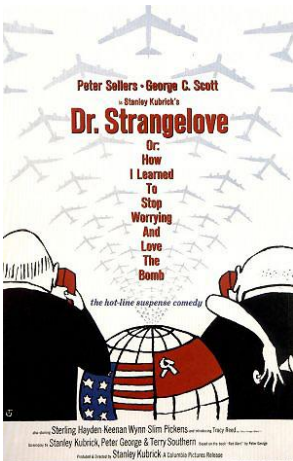
Four feet wide, over six feet tall and each shelf has a clear acrylic door. (That’ll slow her down... I hope!).

Then I got a little carried away and

decided to illuminate each shelf. I found the LED's on those strips to be surprisingly bright and wide angled. It took only four of the 3 LED segments to light each shelf. Here you can see how well lit a shelf is.



I was quite pleased with the results and these are a very good light source for small area lighting.



Sterling Hayden played Brigadier General Jack D. Ripper in Stanley Kubrick's 1964 movie entitle "*Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb.*"



Son of... *Fiddly Bits: "Tidbits"*



By "Stretch" Sprueman...A.K.A. Bruce Doyle

Random thoughts...musings....and memory aids

1. Ever wonder why a lieutenant's bar is gold while a captain's bars are silver?
Mike Martinez explained it to me once, but I'm still confused.
2. Speaking of lieutenants, why does a Lieutenant General have 3 stars, while a Major General only has 2? Probably has something to do with something way back in the 17th century - just curious.
3. Do you have trouble keeping the number of stars and the rank of Generals straight?
Memory Aid #1: *Be...my...little...General.* **Brigadier** – one star, **Major** – two stars, **Lieutenant** – 3 stars, **General** – 4 stars. I can't help you with stars and Admirals. Maybe Ed can give us the info.
4. Speaking of the Navy – its designation for the B-24 was PB4Y. How come a PB4Y-1 has 2 tails and a PB4Y-2 has one tail? Just asking....
5. More Illogical military flip-flops:
 - The German Panther Ausf-D came out before the Ausf-A
 - The Soviet Yak-9 fighter flew before the Yak-3.

I'm sure (actually I know) there is a logical explanation for this (are logical and Military mutually exclusive?) but I won't bore you with it.
6. Apologies to comedian Steven Wright: "How come we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway".
7. In WW2 the American Army Air Forces were numbered as follows: one through four stateside, five through fifteen plus 20 – overseas. What ever happened to sixteen through nineteen? Inquiring minds want to know.

Random thoughts...musings....and memory aids (continued)

8. Having trouble keeping “port” and “starboard” straight on your ship or airplane model instructions? **Memory Aid #2:** Easy to remember – “port” is left, they have the same number of letters- (4) – therefore starboard is right.

Memory Aid 2a: Red navigation lights on aircraft are on the left (fewer letters), while Green (more letters) is on the right wing.

9. Do you find it curious, like I do, that in the rock group ZZ Top the only member without a beard is called “Beard”
10. Finally, am I the only one who has noticed that English rock groups like the Beatles and Rolling Stones speak with distinct English accents, but sing without one!

P.S. A “shout-out” to the group. **Help!** – I need to beg, borrow or steal a – “U.S. Air Force” decal to replace one that shattered on my X-3. It is 1 3/8” long. Anything near that size will work....Thanks

Bill's Column

by Bill (Heavy Armor) Winter



Two years ago in May 2015 I wrote about the new T-64 kits from Trumpeter. Now it's time to sing the praises of Dragon as they continue to provide new IDF kits. I'd like to focus on their new M48 and M60 tanks both with ERA.

ERA is not “earned run average.” ERA is explosive reactive armor. The ID version is titled “Blazer” ERA, From Wikipedia: *“Reactive armour is a type of vehicle armour that reacts in some way to the impact of a weapon to reduce the damage done to the vehicle being protected. It is most effective in protecting against shaped charges and specially hardened kinetic energy penetrators. The most common type is explosive reactive armour (ERA), but variants include self-limiting explosive reactive armour (SLERA), non-energetic reactive armour (NERA), non-explosive reactive armour (NxRA), and electric reactive armour. NERA and NxRA modules can withstand multiple hits, unlike ERA and SLERA, but a second hit in exactly the same location will still penetrate any of those.*

Bill's Column – May 2017 - by Bill (Heavy Armor) Winter (continued)

Essentially all anti-tank munitions work by piercing the armour and killing the crew inside, disabling vital mechanical systems, or both. Reactive armour can be defeated with multiple hits in the same place, as by tandem-charge weapons, which fire two or more shaped charges in rapid succession. Without tandem charges, hitting the same spot twice is much more difficult."

I first learned of ERA when the IDF applied it to M60 tanks. However, the IDF apparently first used ERA on M48 tanks. Indeed Dragon is coming out with an M48 with ERA and an M60 with ERA.



I previously wrote that Magachs 1 through 5 were based on U.S. M48's as follows: Magach 1: M48A1; Magach 2: M48A2C; Magach 3: M48A3 (with the 105 mm gun); Magach 4: M48A3 with reactive armor; and Magach 5: M48A5. Later I read that the M48A4 was the U.S. Army designation of M48s at one time sent to Israel. Interestingly Dragon does not call this new kit a Magach 4.

Below is an unpainted build of this new Dragon kit that I found on the web.



Least you forget one of my previous columns, the M60s in IDF service are classified as a Magach 6 or a Magach 7. Below is the M60 with ERA. Currently all M60 are of the Magach 7C version.



The M60's for which there are "major" kits include the following versions and kits:

[IDF designation](#)

Magach 6/Magach 6 Alef (Magach 6A)

Magach 6 Bet (Magach 6B)

Magach 6B Gal Batash

Magach 7

Magach 7 Gimel (7C)

[Comment](#)

M60 or M60A1 without reactive Armor

M60A1 with reactive armor &
with RISE update (Reliability
Improvements for Selected Equipment)

Magach 6B Gal [1] with new turret add-on armor

Magach 6 Mem (+) new engine
& passive armor on turret, glacis and side skirts.
(sometimes errantly termed: Magach 7A)

Magach 7 w/ redesigned passive armor.

It is interesting that Dragon does not further define what type of M60 this is other than "IDF M60 w/Explosive Reactive Armor." See:

<http://www.dragonmodelsusa.com/dmlusa/prodd.asp?pid=DRA3581>.



The Russians have been frequent users of ERA. Essentially all post-WWII Russian tanks starting with the T-55 to the present have been issued with ERA at one time or another. Some critics have written that it shows the inferiority of Russian tanks to Western tanks that the Russians believe that their tanks need ERA to survive. In the Soviet nomenclature, the addition of “V” to the tank’s name appears to indicate that the tank have ERA.



Soviet T64AV Mod 1984 Main Battle Tank. Soviet T64BV Mod 1985 Main Battle Tank.

The IDF has even applied ERA to Tirans (IDF conversions of T-54s and T-55s; see below).



Below is a summary of the Tiran series from: <http://tanknutdave.com/israeli-tiran-tank-series/>

Tiran 1 Tank - Designation for captured non-modified T-54 in early IDF service.

Tiran 2 Tank - Designation for captured non-modified T-55 in early IDF service.

Tiran 4 Tank - First major modifications of T-54. Additional stowage boxes and jerry cans added to the turret, solid metal front fenders over tracks replaced with half black rubber ones. Loaders hatch replaced with one that opens towards to the rear, not towards the front like the original.

Tiran 5 Tank - First major modifications of T-55. Additional stowage boxes and jerry cans added to the turret, solid metal front fenders over tracks replaced with half black rubber ones. Loaders hatch replaced with one that opens towards to the rear, not towards the front like the original.

Tiran 4Sh Tank - First major upgrade of the Tiran 4 and further captured T-54 in the 1970's. The most noticeable change was replacing the Russian 100mm main gun with a 105mm rifled license built American M68, which was a license built British L7 used on the M60 Patton tank. With the Tiran 4Sh (and Tiran 5Sh) , the main gun's fume extractor was now in the middle of the main gun, not at the end like the old Russian 100mm main gun. Modifications had to be made to the breach so that it could be loaded from the right where the loader was located and changes to the ammunition stowage were made as the 105mm ammunition was different from the original 100mm ammunition. The coaxial machine gun was also replaced with a 7.62mm. Various pictures show that .30 MG's and .50 were mounted on either (or both) commanders and loaders hatches as well as on top of the main gun. The Fire Control System was enhanced, an infra-red lamp fitted and an aiming device from IDF Sherman Tanks added.

Tiran 5Sh Tank - First major upgrade of the Tiran 5 and further captured T-55s in the 1970's. The most noticeable change was replacing the Russian 100mm main gun with a 105mm rifled license. With the Tiran 5Sh, the main gun's fume extractor was now in the middle of the main gun. New Fire Control Systems included night fighting capability. Other crew equipment changes were made inside the fighting compartment and a new communications system was added.

Source: <http://tanknutdave.com/israeli-tiran-tank-series/>

'nough for now! - Bill



Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com

Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

If you have a modeling tip you would like to share with your fellow modelers, please send us a copy so we can put it in the newsletter.

We need articles for the Newsletter and the Web Site!

If you just opened up that new kit and want to give a box or build review, write it up and we'll put it in the newsletter and put it on the Web Site. Just read a good book, tell us about it! Got a great tip, share it with your fellow club members. This is your Newsletter and your Web Site and they're only going to be as good as YOU make them so contribute something to the cause. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you have something you want to share, we'll be happy to assist you in making it happen!

Don't forget to support your local hobby shop; they support us in many ways.

Gainesville HobbyTown

Miguel Miranda: Proprietor

7420 W. Newberry Road (next to Sports Authority)

Gainesville, FL 32606 www.gainesvillefl.hobbytown.com Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 7PM

Sat.: 10AM to 5PM

Sun: 12PM to 4PM

Rob's Hobby World

Rob Stevely: Proprietor 8585 SW Hwy 200 unit 14

Ocala, FL 34474 www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM

Sat.: 9AM to 4PM

Sun: Close

Please check out WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

Please use one of the links below or go to the IPMS Membership page for more information about joining IPMS USA.

http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2016.pdf

<http://www.shopipmsusa.org/product-p/adult-membership.htm>

<http://www.shopipmsusa.org/product-p/family-membership.htm>

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com

Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____
If Renewing _____ First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature (required by P.O.) _____

Type of Membership ☐ Adult, 1 Year: \$30 ☐ Adult, 2 Years: \$58 ☐ Adult, 3 Years: \$86

☐ Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 ☐ Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____

☐ Canada & Mexico: \$35 ☐ Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order

Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ 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 56023

Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org

St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023

Wild Paint!

Submitted by Jack Mugan!

