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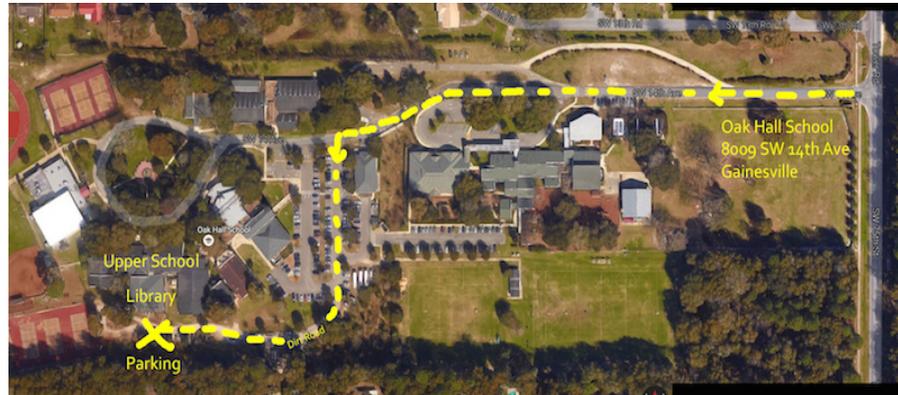
Follow the Yellow Brick Road!

Next meeting:

6:30 PM, February 21st
Oak Hall School Library
8009 SW 14th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605

Gator Modeler Officers:

- President: Jack Mugan
- Vice President: Tracy Palmer
- Secretary: Frank Ahern
- Treasurer: Bill Winter
- Historian: Bruce Doyle
- Photographer: Paul Bennett



Yes, we're off to see the Wizard - Mike Martinez found us a new meeting site in the Oak Hall School library - be there at 6:30pm on Tuesday, Feb.21st to see our new location. We're not in Kansas (i.e. Hobby Lobby) anymore.

The Prez says...



On a personal note, I would like to thank those who were aware of the loss of our daughter last month, and sent cards of condolence. They were appreciated very much.

Another new chapter is about to begin as our merry band of modelers moves once again to a new location. Starting this month our meetings will be held at Oak Hall (see map), and we will also be starting at a new time of 6:30pm. Those of us that choose to dine together before the meeting, we will be going back to Hardee's once more around 5:30pm or so.

Obviously I did not get much bench time last month but I did get to visit one of my favorite places, Gettysburg. National Military Park in Pennsylvania. Should you find yourself anywhere near this part of the country I highly recommend you make some time to visit this amazing historical site. You do not have to be a Civil War buff to appreciate and enjoy this important piece of American history.

The town of Gettysburg itself has plenty of restaurants, gift shops and galleries. There are several stores that sell anything you desire should you want to become a re-enactor.

On past trips we saw how a cannon crew worked, demonstration of the differences in various weapons and what a field hospital looked like. You can take a twenty-four mile self-guided car tour of the battle with 16 stops at various points of interest while listening to a disc explain what transpired at each location as the battle unfolded.

One of the most memorable sites for me was standing on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill looking out across this wide-open field where 12,000 confederate soldiers charged toward the Union troops and one hundred and fifty cannons. Known as "Pickett's Charge", the attack failed and cost Lee over 5,000 soldiers in one hour ending the Battle of Gettysburg.

After the dust settled and the armies departed, the town of Gettysburg was left in shambles with over 51,000 dead, wounded and dying soldiers from this three day battle.

The 17-acre National Cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863 where Lincoln gave his famous 2 minute Gettysburg Address.

By the time you receive this newsletter JAXCON will have come and gone. This event kicks off the contest season and we get our first look at everyone's latest creation. Our club made a good showing with nine members in attendance. The boys in Jacksonville did their usual great job and provided another well attended experience



Jaxcon 2017

The annual modeling convention in Jacksonville brings out the best in modeling in north Florida. Gator Modelers club was well represented at the show. Tony Ivone won a silver medal for his Roman Warship (see it under this month's meeting models) and the ultra-prolific Clarence Snyder entered dozens of models in a variety of categories and won 1 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze and 2 honorable mentions. Congratulations to both men!



The merry band minus Clarence who was busy entering models in the contest.



Collectors Day

By Bruce Doyle



Bruce (center), Clarence Snyder (seated), and Frank Ahern man the display table at the annual Collectors Day, Saturday January 21st, at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Of the 14 club displays at Collectors Day this years “Blue Angels” exhibit was the most enthusiastically received by attendees and garnered the most praise from people who stopped by to admire it.

Saturday morning I met Mike Martinez and handed off the table covering which he set up while I ‘schlepped’ in the models. Bob Lundeen was under the weather, thereby allowing us the use of two full tables (Thanks Bob – get well soon: I have a birthday coming up).

We were therefore able to spread the dozen or so models in a single row – wingtip to wingtip – which at 1/48 scale made for a really impressive exhibit.

Thanks go to Ed, Jack, Aaron, Frank, Paul and Mike for their excellent work – the display was stunning and thanks for allowing me to bask in your “reflected glory”.

Along with the enthusiastic reception by all those who stopped by, there were at least three dozen or so who took pix with their phones. Perhaps the most gratifying thing was the “nostalgia rush” experience from people who either lived, served or saw the Angels in Jax, Pensacola, Corpus Christi and other towns around the USA. Dozens of former “Bluejackets” expressed sailor’s pride in their Angels. But the neatest reactions came from the kids and young folks. Surely the Navy and D.O.D could enlist us as recruiters.

Speaking of recruiting we handed out a bunch of club business cards (thanks Ed) – maybe to some future members.

Finally, I was asked by many what was on tap for next year. The consensus was a Thunderbird display – whadaya think? Stay tuned.

Gator Modelers January Meeting Hi-lights

Secretary Frank Ahern opened the meeting in the absence of President Jack Mugan. There were 11 club members present. Ahern said he had spoken with the manager of Hobby Lobby to inform him that this was the club's last meeting at his store and thank him for the courtesy shown and use of the store classroom for the past 2 years. Ahern said the clubs next meeting, on Feb.21st, will be at the Oak Hall School library and will begin at 6:30pm. Ed Ingersoll talked about an event he attended at the Wings of Dreams museum at the Keystone Heights airport and about plans to expand the museum and its displays. Vice President Tracy Palmer told the club that the World War 2 museum in St. Petersburg is closing at the end of the month, and encouraged those who haven't seen it to go before it closes.

Bruce Doyle reminded the club that Collectors Day is Saturday at the Florida Museum and thanked those who brought their Blue Angels models for the club display at that event. Members were also reminded that the Jaxcon modeler's convention will take place on Feb 11th, before the next meeting. It takes place at the usual site at the University of North Florida campus on the south side of Jacksonville.

The club raffles were held, and the results are noted in a story later in the newsletter. Due to the absence of Mike Martinez and his computer and projector winners could not pick their prize. They will do so at the next meeting. No presentation was given for the same reason. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to extended show and tell time for members to talk about models, tools or techniques.

Gator Modeler Meeting Raffle Update

Ed Ingersoll was the winner of the completed model raffle. The attendance raffle was held next and was won by Paul Bennett. Due to the absence of the club stash PowerPoint display, both will choose their model in Feb.

Raffle Rules: You must be a Gator Modeler "Member-in-good-standing" in order to participate.

If you attend the meeting you receive one raffle ticket and if you bring in a new completed model for show and tell you will receive one raffle ticket. The completed model should have been completed within the past year.

The maximum number of tickets you can receive per meeting is limited to 2.

Gator Modeler January meeting models:

Tony Ivone's Roman warship (in process)

Aaron Alt's Blue Angels Panther



Gator Modeler January meeting models: cont'd

Paul Bennett's J-35 "Draken"



A.J. Kwan's Greyhound



Chuck Lassiter's RAF hanger w/fuel truck & Hurricane



Ed Ingersoll's Blue Angels SNG



Clarence Snyder's SPD Dauntless



Bruce Doyle's X-planes



Gator Modeler January meeting models: cont'd

Bruce Doyle's X-15 w/Scott Crossfield autograph



Frank Ahern's B5N2 "Kate"



The Obligatory Poem

By Frank Ahern

Now that I am building my obligatory Spitfire, as I shared in this space a few months ago, it has occurred to me that this must be accompanied by the obligatory poem.

Yes, that would be *High Flight* – the poem that seems to be attached to the Spitfire like peanut butter is to jelly.

As a child of the 1950's my first exposure to the poem was on the rare occasions when I was allowed to stay up until TV signed off the air. Then came the dulcet tones of a narrator reciting these lines, accompanied by film of jets careening through billowing clouds:

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air... .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

I'm not sure what this had to do with the end of the television broadcast day, but it made flying look and sound like a mystical, spiritual experience. It captivated me as a young boy, and probably has something to do with why I'm still building airplane models at 70 years old

Most know that the poem was written by a 19 year old RCAF pilot named John Gillespie Magee, Jr. who was killed, not long after he wrote it, in a non-combat flying accident while flying his Spitfire over England in late 1941. You may also remember President Reagan using part of the poem in his address to the nation following the space shuttle disaster in 1986. You may not know that it is the official poem of the Royal Canadian Air Force and is required to be memorized by cadets at the US Air Force Academy.



The Spitfire model is now complete. Like most Tamiya kits it went together without drama. I did struggle somewhat with the decals, which is not unusual on a kit that is over 20 years old. Masking the British "B" camo scheme was made much easier because I had purchased the Black Magic masking set several years ago. I modeled the plane flying, wheels up, so I could display it over a plaque with the poem.

Exactly how I will do that is still up in the air, so to speak, but you can find out and hear an explanation of the process at the February meeting in our new location at Oak Hall. See you then....

Bill Likes...

By Bill Winter

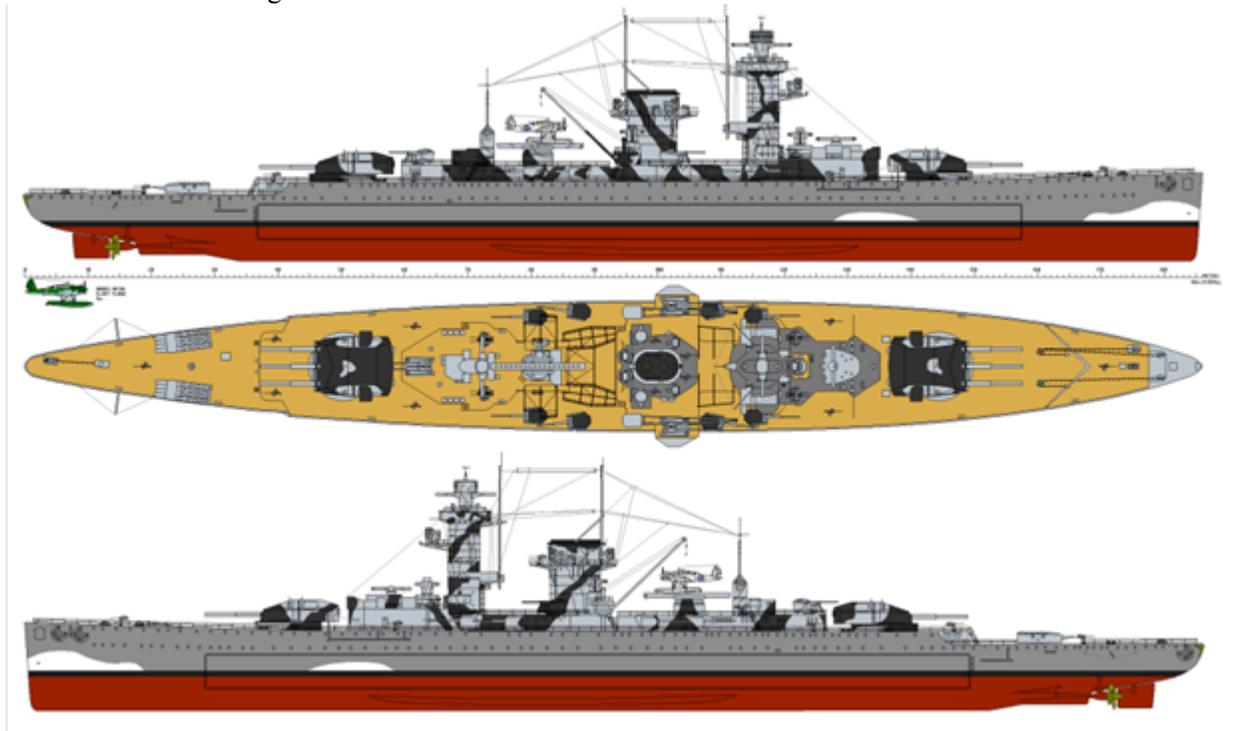
Like last month, this column will be quite a departure from previous columns because I would like to discuss ships Yes – ships. One might argue that this is appropriate since this falls under the category of “heavy armor!”

Santa Bill (me) brought me an old movie that I hadn't seen since the 1950's: The Battle of the River Plate. This 1956 British movie described the pursuit and demise of the WWII German battleship the Admiral Graf Spee (AGS).



The AGS was a “pocket” battleship. The British used this term. The Germans referred to such ships as the Deutschland class of Panzerschiffe. Size wise, the class was similar to cruisers (<10,000 tons although the AGS was actually more than 10,000 tons) but had heavier armament with six 11-inch guns in 2 turrets (front and back). For reference, the Bismarck had 15” guns, the Iowa class battleships had 16” guns and the Yamato and Musashi had 18” guns! Several references refer to the Deutschland class as “armored cruisers.” Actually, they had no more armor than cruisers but did have larger guns.

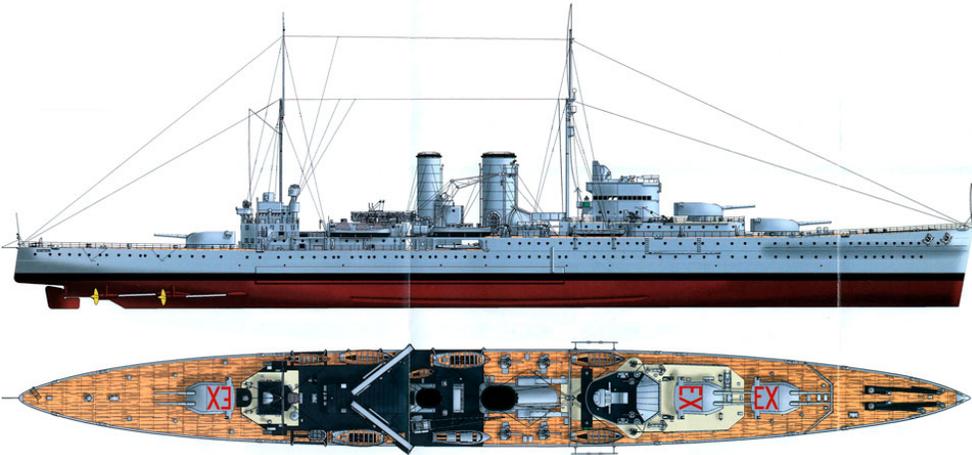
Below is a line drawing of the AGS.



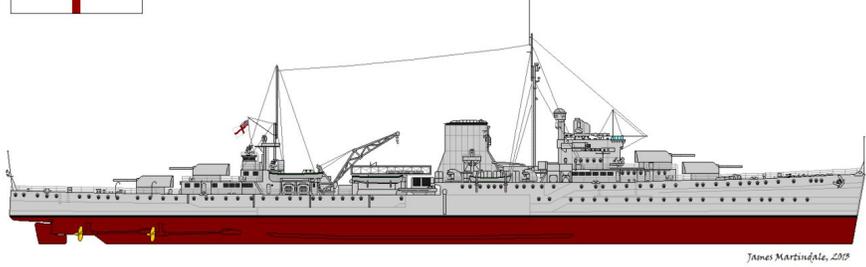
The story of the AGS is that the AGS “hunted” British merchant ships in the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic from the earliest days of WWII in late 1939. The British caught up with the AGS near Uruguay on December 13, 1939. Three British cruisers engaged the AGS: the Exeter, Ajax and Achilles.

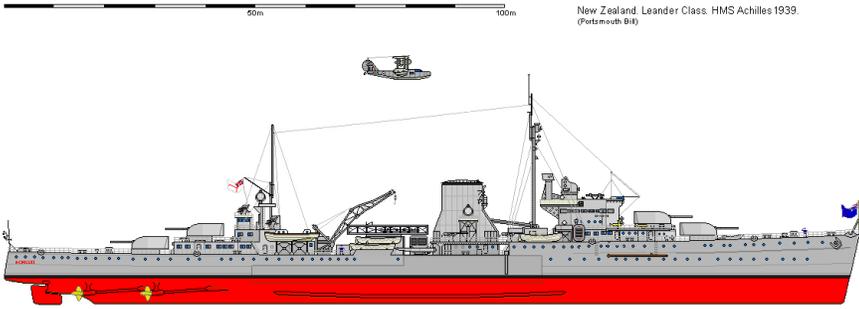
	Yr <u>Launched</u>	Wt <u>(tons)</u>	Largest guns		Top speed <u>(knots)</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Navy</u>
			<u>No.</u>	<u>Size</u>			
AGS	6/1934	14,890	6	11”	28.5	610’	German
Exeter	7/1929	10,660	3	8”	32	574’	United Kingdom
Ajax	3/1934	9,740	8	6”	32.5	555’	United Kingdom
Achilles	9/1932	9,740	8	6”	32.3	556’	New Zealand
Cumberland	3/1926	13,450	8	8”	31.5	630’	United Kingdom

One source writes: “At 6:14 am Harwood’s three ships attacked, but in a little more than an hour the Graf Spee had damaged the Exeter and driven off the other two cruisers. The Graf Spee then made off in the direction of Montevideo, Uruguay, where its commander, Captain Hans Langsdorff, obtained permission to stay for four days to repair damage. The British devoted the period to intense diplomatic and intelligence activity in order to keep the Graf Spee in harbour while they brought up heavy reinforcements. On December 17, however, when the Graf Spee put to sea again, only the Cumberland had arrived to reinforce the Ajax and the Achilles. The fight that the British had anticipated never took place: Captain Langsdorff, believing that a superior force awaited him, had his crew scuttle their ship (see below); three days later Langsdorff shot himself.” (See: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Graf-Spee>). The Cumberland’s description is above; however, it was not really involved in the Battle.



The HMS Exeter is above. Below is the HMS Ajax.





The HMNZS Achilles is above.



The HMS Cumberland is above.

Having watched the movie (I'd rate it 5 out of 10 but as a kid I thought it was at least a "10"), I wanted to see what models of these ships are available in 1:350 scale. Academy and Trumpeter sell the AGS in 1:350 scale. I don't know if one is clearly superior to the other. Internet Modeler wrote in their review (<http://www.internetmodeler.com/scalemodels/flships/AcademyGrafSpee.php>): "Academy's Graf Spee is a decent kit for a decent price. In comparison to the Trumpeter kit, it suffers a bit in detail crispness and some detail, but has a more accurate hull shape and some details correct that Trumpeter got wrong."



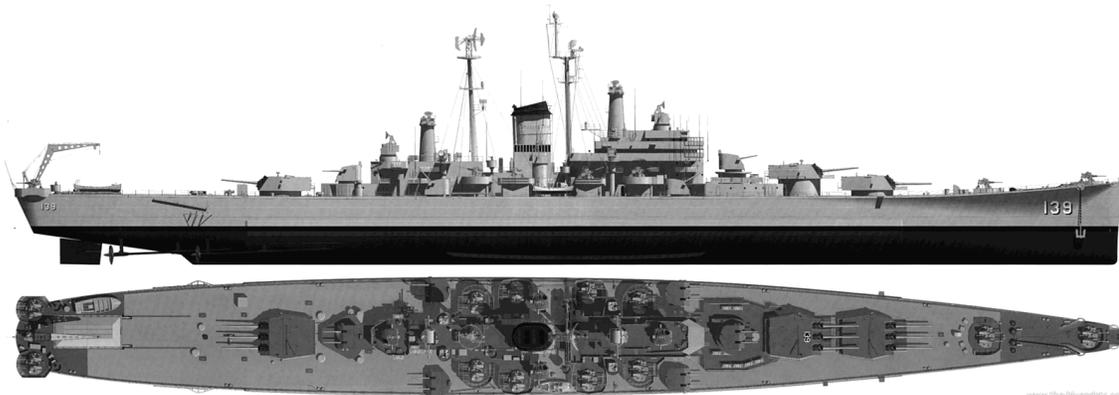
There is a resin kit of the HMS Exeter (<http://ironshipwrights.com/pages/exeter.html>, list price: \$269.95) but I didn't find any Exeter kits in plastic. I didn't find a 1:350 scale Ajax but Airfix has one in 1:600 scale.



I didn't find any kits of the HMNZS Achilles. Okay. . . I didn't find much.

There is one other aspect to the film that is worth considering: what real ships played the various ships in the real story. Below is a list of the actual ships and who played them:

	<u>Played by:</u>
Admiral Graf Spee	USS Salem (CA-139)
Exeter	HMS Jamaica
Ajax	HMS Sheffield
Achilles	Herself (at the time in service with the Indian Navy as INS Delhi)
Cumberland	Herself



Above is the USS Salem (CA-139). At 717', it was more than 100 feet longer than the AGS. Yankee Model Works has a resin 1:350 scale kit of the Salem, which is no longer in production.

Please let me know if you have corrections or comments. Thanks for reading.

'Nough for now! – Bill

More Fiddly Bits

By Stretch Sprueman - IPMS#1724835

(Fun facts & trivia from club historian Bruce Doyle)

Floridian and Marine veteran John Bolt accomplished a great many things in his extraordinary life. Which of the following was not one of those things:

1. All-American swimmer at the University of Florida.
2. 6 victory Marine ace (all Zekes) with VMF-214, a.k.a. Pappy Boyington's "Black Sheep" squadron.
3. During the Korean War flew F9F-2 Panthers with VMF-211.
4. Air Force exchange pilot with 51st F.I.W. downing 6 Migs flying an F-86 Sabre
5. One of the "Magnificent Seven" aces in 2 wars: WW2 & Korea.
6. 1970 graduate of the University of Florida Law School, after which he practiced law in New Smyrna Beach until his retirement. **(Answer at the end of this article).**



Bonus Questions: Answers from last month's questions:

1. What B-list Hollywood actor was a WW2 fighter ace?



Bert "Wayne" Morris was a seven-victory Navy ace flying with VF-15 off the carrier Essex. His movie career spanned the late 19-40s and 50s where he played a second banana leading man in films like *Task Force*. His career was cut short by his untimely death from a heart attack in 1959, ironically while he was visiting with his old VF-15 boss – David McCampbell – on McCampbell's carrier the *USS Bonhomme Richard*. Morris participated in the 'Mariannas Turkey Shoot' in 1944 on his way to a flying career that was perhaps more successful and noteworthy than his career as an actor

2. Who in the “*Wide Wide World of Sports*” was Jack Pennick?

With a “puss” like his, Jack Pennick would never have been mistaken as a Hollywood leading man like Wayne Morris., however, like Morris, Pennick appeared in dozens of films in the 40s & 50s as a bit player – often uncredited. He was a member of John Ford’s entourage of character actors appearing in movies like *They were Expendable*, *Fort Apache*, *Rio Grande* & *Wings of Eagles*. For you “gearheads” Pennick appears on the content page of Ampersand Publications *Allied & Axis*, vol.14. He is the “navy puke” (p.55) consorting with M3 Lee tankers in North Africa. As you can see Jack had a face for radio!



Answer to this months question:

All of the above are true, except #1. Modeling Bolt’s Corsair, Panther and Sabre would make a neat display.

Modeling Tip:

Aircraft Canopy Masking

By Lee Forbes, San Antonio IPMS club



Carefully painted canopy frames are the “crowning glory” of a finished aircraft model and greatly adds to the realism of any aircraft subject whether the canopy is displayed open or closed. There are a number of ways to prepare for and the painting of aircraft canopies.

They range from hand painting, using aftermarket masks designed for specific aircraft subjects and available in a variety of scales to the use of Bare Metal Foil applied to the canopy and carefully cutting away the foil with a knife with a fresh # 11 blade exposing only the canopy framing when completed. This is a risky proposition and requires not only experience but also a very steady hand. The method I prefer is applying masking tape in small pieces and strips of tape sized to the scale of the aircraft model that you have chosen to build.

Tools and Materials Needed

The tools and masking tape that you will need for the process are as follows: a hobby knife with a new #11 blade, steel straight edge for cutting masking tape, a hard surface (plate glass, marble, or self- sealing cutting sheet) for cutting the masking tape; and a small curved point tweezers for carefully removing and applying masking tape. The masking tapes I prefer are TAMIYA Masking Tapes (dull yellow in color) in whatever size you select and SCOTCH 3M BLUE painter’s masking tape with the orange color on the inside of the roll. The TAMIYA masking tape is normally available at our local hobby shops and the painter’s tape is available at Home Depot, Lowes, and most hardware or paint stores. For best results use the TAMIYA tapes for masking canopy frames and the SCOTCH 3M tape for blocking “over spray” on the already

painted surfaces of the model when you spray the canopy frames.

Getting Started

STEP 1: Before starting any preparation to attach the canopy on the model, complete all painting of the model. Do not apply FUTURE to the model or apply any decals to the model.

STEP 2: Carefully remove the canopy from the clear parts tree and carefully sand and remove any residual “rough edges” on bottom and sides of the bottom canopy frame.

STEP 3: Apply FUTURE to the inside of the canopy using a Q-TIP dipped in the solution to brighten the inside of the canopy and set aside to dry. Do not “dip” the canopy in FUTURE because the paint may not stick to the outside of the canopy when you attempt to paint the canopy frames. Trust me, I learned this the hard way. NOTE: At this stage you might want to *carefully hand paint the bottom of the canopy the matching color of the painted model*. This will prevent “refraction” which is light picking up the clear plastic when you look down on the canopy after it has been painted.

STEP 4: Attach the canopy to the painted model using your favorite canopy glue. I prefer to use MICRO KRISTAL KLEAR. After “test fitting” the canopy, cut two narrow (more if needed) strips of the TAMIYA Tape overlapping each side of the canopy. This will hold the canopy in place while you carefully apply the glue to the bottom edge of the canopy to attach it to the model. NOTE: I used to apply the glue with a toothpick but this often allowed glue to seep under the canopy and I’d have to start all over. I now use a fine tipped paintbrush and have better control of applying the glue. Apply the glue sparingly or capillary action can also cause the glue to seep inside the canopy and you may have start over.

STEP 5: After the glue starts to set up carefully remove the strips of masking tape from the model and fill in the gaps with the glue. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly and when clear, remove excess with a damp Q-TIP. After glue residue is removed and the painted area is completely clean you are ready to start masking the canopy frames in preparation for painting.

STEP 6: Start with preparing the bottom canopy frame first. Cut and apply small pieces of TAMIYA making tape to all exposed parts of the canopy that are above the bottom canopy frame. Apply the SCOTCH 3M tape to all areas of the model that could be affected by “overspray” when the exposed canopy frame is sprayed. When completed, spray the canopy frame the matching color of the already painted fuselage.

NOTE: Paint only the bottom frame of the



windscreen. This will be the last step in painting the completed canopy.

STEP 7: If your canopy has vertical frames, these will be prepared next for painting. Cut and apply numerous thin strips of TAMIYA tape ensuring that only the vertical canopy frames are visible. Next using the SCOTCH 3M-tape covers all of the pieces of TAMIYA tape that extend below the bottom of the already painted canopy frame. This avoids having a patchwork of paint ridges on the side of the fuselage. Using the SCOTCH 3M tape cover any areas of the model that could be affected by “over spray.” NOTE: If your canopy has a hole in it for a radio antenna, insert a round toothpick in it to prevent any “over spray” getting inside of the canopy.

STEP 8: If your model has horizontal canopy frames repeat Step 7 ensuring that all areas of potential “overspray” are covered.

Step 9: The final step is to mask the canopy frames that appear on the windscreen. Using small strips or pieces of TAMIYA tape carefully cover all areas that should not be painted. Again, use SCOTCH 3M tape to cover all areas that could be affected by “overspray.” Spray with the matching color of the already painted model. Now you have a painted canopy on your model that you can be proud of!

STEP 10: At this stage you can spray your model with FUTURE in preparation for decaling. Cover the painted canopy with SCOTCH 3M tape to avoid any “over spray” of FUTURE. After the FUTURE has dried, apply FUTURE to the painted canopy using a Q-TIP and let it dry. Now you are ready to apply the decals and assemble the landing gear, weapons stores, etc. to finish off your model.

The Navigator—February 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

This list contains modeling events with the **IPMS Region-11 Events listings** in bold.

Mar. 4	Flight 19, Modelfest VI	Pompano Beach
Mar. 25	Wings, Wheels & Keels,	Venice, FL
April 8	<i>Gatormodelers</i> annual Auction	Gainesville
Apr 20	AMPS International Show	
May 6	Blue Angel Fest	Pensacola, FL
May 20-21	Pelicon '17 2017 Region-11 Contest	Largo, FL
Jul. 26-29	IPMS USA 2017 National Contest	La Vista, NE (Omaha)

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

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WILD PAINT

By Jack Mugan



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

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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>

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