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RT Random Thoughts

By Modellers,
For Modellers



**BONUS!
FOUR EXTRA
PAGES!**



**Frank Cuden's
1:72 RCAF
Expeditor**

Also in this issue

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Creating a Pitted Chrome Finish • 1:35 Hetzer**



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Future aRTicles...

Here are some articles that are coming down the **RT** pipeline. If you have something that might fit in with related topic to make it a theme, please contact the Editor. Heck, if you've got something on any modelling topic, get in touch!

1:35 Leopard C2, CF-5 Aggressor Camo, 1:48 CH-47A Chinook, 1:35 Cdn Army M4A2E8 Sherman, 1:72 RCN Avenger, 1:48 SEAC P-47D, 1:144 Braniff Electra, 1:48 P-51D, 1:72 Vampire FB.3, 1:32 captured D.V Albatros,

“Final Stand”



An ‘Indian Wars’ diorama

1:35

Barry Maddin
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mounted Warrior and a charging Warrior on foot (Fig. 2). The third kit is “Final Stand” (MB 35191) which consists of a Calvary Sergeant kneeling behind his horse and a Scout engaging a foe (Fig. 3).

Historical background

The Indian Wars is a term given to a long period of violent conflict between 1540 and 1924. There were numerous armed conflicts between colonists and later, settlers and the indigenous people of the Americas in the lands that became Mexico, America and Canada. These conflicts resulted from competition for resources and land ownership as the colonists and settlers encroached into territory which had been traditionally inhabited by Native Americans. The years of warfare and raiding cost the lives of many on both sides of the conflict.

The Kits

Master Box released a series of 1:35 scale figures they call “Indian Wars Series”. The first kit is titled “Apache Attack” (MB 35188) consisting of two figures: a mounted Apache Warrior and a running Apache Warrior (Fig. 1). The second kit is titled “Tomahawk Charge” (MB 35192) also with a

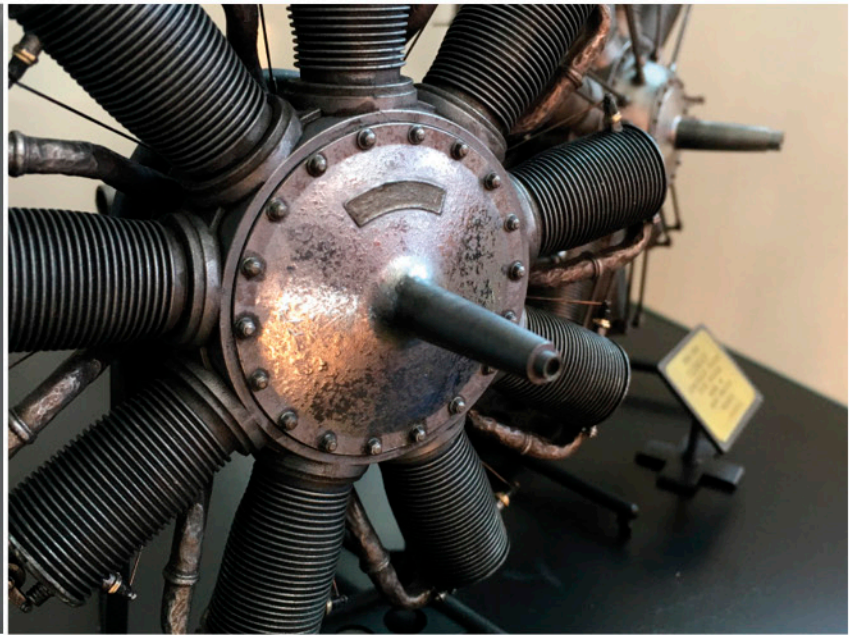
The instructions are printed on the reverse of the boxes with the part numbers indicated on a diagram of the figures and sprue. Painting details are called out on the assembly diagrams with a colour chart identifying the colours using Vallejo and Lifecolor paints (Fig. 4). There are no part numbers on the sprues so you will need to compare the sprue with the box diagram. The figures are cast in grey styrene that is easy to cut and sand, with the figures fine detail well rendered with minimal mould lines (Fig. 5).

The Build

I started the build with the “Final Stand” kit. As I normally do with figures I used the back of a # 11 knife blade to undercut the clothing edges and re-scribe the detail to increase the sharpness of the moulded detail. I assembled the Calvary Sergeant with his 1873 Trapdoor Springfield, a breech-loading rifle carbine and a sabre, adding a scabbard strap made from paper card stock. The overall fit was very good with only a little filler needed around



Creating a Pitted Chrome Finish



Glenn Cauley
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Introduction

While building a large scale rotary engine (a Hasegawa 1:8 Le Rhone for WW I aircraft), I was not satisfied with the plain finish on the large, prominent front plate. So I thought up a new (to me) technique to create a pitted chrome finish. This technique should work for other applications and scales.

Materials

- ◇ Flat black primer, not satin or gloss
- ◇ Chrome or silver paint
- ◇ Gloss clear finish (bottle, not spray)
- ◇ Chrome polishing powder
- ◇ Open-cell sponge
- ◇ Old, flat paintbrush
- ◇ Cotton swabs

Steps (keyed to photos)

1. Spray the model part with a FLAT black primer (not satin or gloss). I prefer to use an airbrush to spray Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black thinned with Mr. Color Leveling Thinner.
2. After the primer has dried, paint the part with chrome or silver paint. The result will be a rough chrome silver base finish. (Fig. Step 2)
3. Using a small piece of sponge (open-cell foam), apply

random patches of GLOSS clear to the part atop the silver paint. It is important to use GLOSS clear, not flat or satin. I prefer MM Acryl Gloss Clear. The more patches that you apply, the less pitting there will be. (Fig. Step 3)

4. Before the gloss clear is fully dry – it should be slightly tacky – brush on chrome metal polishing powder with an old brush. I prefer chrome polishing powder from Uschi van der Rosten. (Fig. Step 4)

5. Use a cotton swab or an old cotton T-shirt to buff the powder. The chrome polishing powder will adhere to the patches of gloss clear. When you buff the powder, you will get random patches of smooth chrome atop the rougher silver finish beneath.

6. The overall result simulates a pitted chrome finish. (Fig. Step 6)

- Glenn Cauley



Northrop's YF-23



...the other ATF contender

1:48

By Richard Clairoux
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Background

While I was studying engineering in 1990, the USAF Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) competition was going on between the Lockheed YF-22 and the Northrop YF-23. I was in love with the YF-23 sleek looks and its unusual butterfly tail! Unfortunately, the USAF picked the other guy. The YF-23 flew better and faster, but the YF-22 had a better production plan. I had been waiting for a mainstream release of the plane in 1:48 scale for years and then...

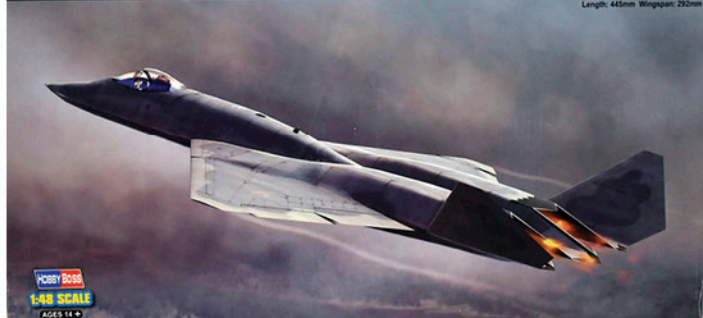
The Hit

In 2013, HobbyBoss made my day when they issued their YF-23 kit. However, HobbyBoss made a few shape errors and the decal sheet is awful (for a hypothetical F-23?). But I did not care, as I would finally be able to make my YF-23.

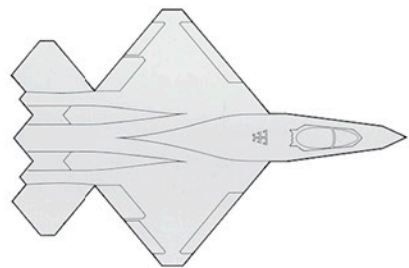
For the markings, Caracal came to the rescue with their

USAF YF-23

ノースロップ/マクドネル・ダグラス YF-23
美国YF-23原型机
Length: 445mm Wingspan: 292mm



excellent sheet CD48048 covering both PAVs (Prototype Air Vehicle). I decided to build PAV-2 simply because I preferred the "F-15 style" air superiority paint scheme. Documentation improved when YF-23 test pilot Paul Metz issued the detail-packed book, "Air Force Legends 220 – Northrop YF-23 ATF". This was crucial for the various corrections and detailing that I will describe in the following pages.



An *RT*-bred Expeditor

1:72



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 Albert Lea, MN, USA



thought that building the model would be a nice project, courtesy of the decal sheet, but what of the availability of 1:72 scale kits?

The Kit(s)

Some years ago, I had a couple of Hobbycraft C-45 kits in my stash and on my "to-do" list; however there was something about the shape of the kits in the forward nose and windshield areas that just didn't look right to me and so I donated them to our club raffle. Seeing built-up's of the model on the Internet confirmed my suspicions about the shape problems. After receiving the *RT* issue with the decals, I began to do some research. Through a modelling friend I was able to acquire the Pioneer 2 1:72 scale kit #4 4003 of the Beech C-45 Expeditor and its shape looked lots better to me.

Project Background

When I received my copy of Random Thoughts, Vol. 40, No. 2, I was pleasantly surprised to see the inclusion of a free decal sheet that included markings for what was titled, "An Oddball Expeditor." The aircraft flew with The RCAF's Central Experimental and Proving Establishment (CEPE, pronounced 'See-Pee') during 1947-48. I immediately



Trumpeter's 1:35

1:35

Hetzer



Frank Donati
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Introduction

With a production run of over 2,800 vehicles, the Hetzer proved to be one of the more successful tank destroyer designs of the Second World War (WWII), effective enough to be used by the Swiss until 1972. Based on the Czech LT vz. 38 chassis (and known by the Germans as the Panzer 38(t)) this light AFV was an effective ambush tank killer.

The version we're looking at here is the Hetzer Starr - Starr being German for rigid to describe the mount for the 7.5 cm Pak 39 L/48. This eliminated the need for a recoil system, which simplified and sped up production. Recoil was absorbed by the vehicle's mass and the suspension - with the side effect that the gun targeting optics either lost alignment after a shot or became damaged. The Starr also came with a few other modifications - better sights, and the prototype came with a Tatra diesel engine. Only 14 of these vehicles were made, with most later being converted back to normal Jagdpanzer 38(t)s. There is conflicting data on whether any Starrs saw combat - some stating some did in Czechoslovakia in 1945.

The Kit

Trumpeter's German Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer-Starr (Kit No.05524) is based on the prototype model, which included the diesel engine, so the rear engine deck and muffler are modelled to reflect this. This variant also has a slightly larger fighting compartment and vision scopes consistent for the Starr.

The kit comes with four sprues and the upper and lower hull sections, all moulded in light tan plastic. There is also a set of Modelkasten tracks moulded in dark brown (tracks and both outer and inner pins), a small sheet of photo-etch, a length of copper wire and a small decal sheet with a pair of generic Balkan crosses and numbers. There is a 12-page instruction manual and a colour painting guide.

Project Background

I've never built a Hetzer, so I was pretty excited to tackle this one. The vehicle is a popular modeller's choice and would also be my first German vehicle kit from Trumpeter (I've only built their Russian vehicles before this). Also, I hadn't made a hard-edged camo pattern in a few years and wanted to try that again too. This was made out-of-the-box and was not modified. As the diesel-

