

Newsletter

August 2008

“**THE** Cape Scale Modeller’s Club!”

HLF 10 / 16 Mercedes-Benz Atego 1529 – Revell 1/24

Ed: I wonder if we will ever see this one in South Africa. The kit has +/- 450 parts

Chairman's Chatter

. Or: *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly...*

I admit freely I look at some of the inspirational models that appear on some internet modelling sites, and I find plenty of really beautiful models that inspire me, sometimes fill me with despair but mostly make me just believe in this hobby as a great, constructive, therapeutic pastime. And then I see a really great model and the caption is "Joe Soap's first model ever..." and I can't really believe the neat construction, smooth paint and wonderful weathering job... Well, I suppose it's possible to start on a few models, experiment with what's best, get lots of help from modelling site hints and tips, and probably help from another modeller, and only then could your first attempt look so great!

I rather prefer this comment, verbatim from a website posting...

"So what does it take to be a successful modeller? A lifetime of Experience? An engineering degree? Are there emotional stages one must endure throughout the first few steps of assembling a kit? ---Joy, disappointment, disgust, rage thumbsucking, etc.?"

I was having a good ole time with my first model, then I found this forum, and suddenly felt like a child who has been raised by wolves, being introduced to my classmates at University. I know, I know. I need to find a modelling club and get some tutoring..."

I like those comments. I can identify with that. I even joined a modelling club at the age of 16 and stayed a fairly lousy modeller into my twenties. The club did help me enormously, but when I had sessions with experienced modellers, actually sitting at a desk with them across from me doing modelling of their own, only then did my modelling really start improving. Two kinds of teaching come in here: firstly, as you actually model you can ask for and get advice. Fellow modellers will often see you doing something and come out with comments like, "That way is so difficult, do it this way, it's easier. Or Why don't you use this? Or here's a better way to use that tool. Or even, that looks great! Leave it as it is!" (One of the worst sins is overdoing the paint layers or the weathering!) We learn lessons quickly, and they stick. The second amazing thing that happens is that you watch the techniques, the hand movements, the timing and the processes used by experienced modellers. This is great accelerated learning. It really helps you to improve fast, not by improving a bit as you make and then fix each mistake!

The best advice I can give to anyone starting out in the hobby from scratch is to go out and buy a few simpler (read smaller) models of a subject that appeals to you. Whether it's cars, bikes or submarines don't worry. Make sure they are relatively good quality kits, Tamiya is often a good bet, Hasegawa, Fujimi, Trumpeter, Dragon are other great makes, and the more recent releases often have excellent tooling. Get glue and lots of acrylic paint and assemble them and finish them QUICKLY, not bothering much about quality or excessive attention to detail. OK, they may not look great, certainly not like Joe Soap's model, but you will get a great sense of accomplishment, have some fun and have something to show your friends and family! If you then want to take it further, by all means join a club and start building more carefully to improve the quality. But still aim to actually get the models finished!

Chris Baxter spoke on organising a practical modelling group on the weekends, this is your chance to get ahead with some new techniques and tips! Any club member can come. I'm going to do my best to be there as I feel my weathering techniques are not quite as good as some I've seen at the club recently, I need to pick up the quality! And I know it will be fun...

We will try, as usual, to concentrate on tips and techniques at our meetings to enable you to produce the best model possible!

See you all at our Midwinter Modelling Meeting!

Regards,

Marc Cilliers cillfam@icon.co.za 0834449471

Editors Notes

Statements that come true

At the last club meeting there was a decision taken to host our own WebSite. I am not totally convinced that this is something that the club needs right now as I believe we will be over extending ourselves a little. However, the club is run by the members and the committee and members have decided on the website and therefore, as is the case in any democratic organisation, the majority rules.

WebSite Update: I have requested a second quote and my attempt to get the price dropped by calling in a few favours, sadly had no positive result. The IT world is cruel and currently very expensive. I am therefore sad to report that I have not yet made any progress. Partly due to problems with my own site and also due to the fact that the man with the money is currently in England enjoying the best of British – the bad weather that gets air shows cancelled even in the summer.

I promise to make an effort in the last week of this month. It should take no longer than 2 weeks.

Marc indicated that he will update the website for us at a regular basis and answer all mail directed to the club. Thanks Marc. I don't envy you as it is not fun having to thumb suck topics and other interesting articles from vapour ware. Ask me – 3 months running and not a single contribution to the news letter. I hope you have more luck.

On the topic of articles to the news letter. As pointed out at the last meeting when the request for our own website was made, members must remember that any initiative by the club can only be a success if all members contribute. The news letter, the only one in South Africa, can only be successful, carry a verity of articles that pleases all members and can only inform you of happenings if material reaches the Editor. Currently that is not the case. Therefore the news letter will be a review of what the editor, and Marc have been doing in the last month and will therefore only reflect our interests. Last time I requested the list of members from Murray I do believe there were 35 paid up members. Judging from the competition, the club has members interested in a variety of subjects. So why is the news letter only covering 1 or 2 subjects and scales.

Therefore, I request again, please take one or two photo's of your latest project and forward me a short article. Not more than 50 words are needed for us to establish that you are doing something.

I have a number of nice topics I would like to start. I also would like to bring back a little humour into the news letter. The kind of stuff I use to write about our trips and doings. I can't start any of this if you don't forward me any material to work with.

How nice will it not be to have a "mistake of the month" section. You give me your mistakes, a short write-up and a photo of your black canopy, and I will select the winner. Maybe, there will be a modeller out there that will respond with a "how to" fix your problem. You might just save yourself a kit. Then again, maybe we should not try this as Murray will be like that little know it all at the back of the class that always had his hand in the air. "Ed, Ed – I screwed up again" ☺

Author: Ed

Letters

Special Thanks

The IPMS Cape Peninsula would like to take this opportunity to thank **Albert Kieser** for the donation of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes at the last competition. I am sure that John, Murray and Mick will be spending the money on models for the next competition.

I am sure that your commitment has not gone unnoticed and that it will encourage more participation in the future.

Thanks

Ed:

Building the Embraer 145 AEW&C – Vami Models

At AAD 2006 one particular aircraft got my attention. It was the Embraer 145 AEW&C. There was also a model of the aircraft at one of the stands inside the hanger and the model had SAAF decals on the side. Maybe they know something we don't or was it wishful thinking. Never the less, it got my attention and I have been looking for a kit ever since.

Telford 2007, I notice this lovely model on one of the tables and soon had the owner / modeller talking about the model. It turns out that there is a model available, but only in the 135 version. Scratch building was going to be needed if I could get my hands on one. I was told that the model had to be ordered from Brazil. The future was not looking very rosy.

Amsterdam 2007, Erwin Stam leads me down one of the many isles and from the shelf he takes an Embraer 145 in a scale 1/72. I thought my holiday could not get better, that was until I noticed the price – only 139 – what a steal. I took two. I made my way over to Murray and showed him my new found competition winner (like that was ever going to happen). That was when I realised that 139 was not R139 but 139 Euro's. What the hell was I thinking. I had to part with my second Embraer even before I had an opportunity to look at her.

Due to female interference (Linda, Alice and others in night clubs I am not allowed to talk about) I only got to look at the model late that night. I opened the box and excitement turned to horror as I extracted the parts out of the box one by one. What the hell were you thinking – 139 Euro's for blocks of resin that sometime during the moulding process must have taken on the shape of wings. I never again looked at my Embraer until I was back in South Africa.

It is almost a year now and as I thought I had some time for myself, I decided to take the model out again and try my hand at aircraft modelling of a difference. I must have been very brave or stupid or drunk. Maybe even all three.

The Box

- I don't know if I can call it a box. It was clearly the box intended maybe for the shorter 135, but this box was a box, with an extra half added by what I think is some fancy tape. Needless to say the tape was broken and I was not sure what has fallen through the cracks.
- The Vami Model name and logo is found on the outside
- The kit, I only noticed 2 weeks ago, was a limited edition. I then understood the reason for the box – why have a new box made if you are only going to make 20 or so models. I started feeling a little more special.

Inside the box

- As indicated, the parts did not look good.
- 2 halves make up the body – not much detail and I immediately knew the windows will have to be redone.
- The wings looked OK. I think that if every bit of detail was still on the wing, it would have been an excellent piece of craftsmanship. However, the detail parts were so thin

that it broke within the box. As most were so small it made no sense to try and glue the pieces back on and therefore it will have to be redone.

- The back wings and tail had no damage and it was easy to clean.
- The engines had a block of resin that had to be removed, but nothing serious.
- Wheels, struts and wheel doors are provided and looks pretty OK. I do think however that I will have to spin cast the wheel struts (undercarriage) as it just can't hold the weight of the resin. I think Vami models intended that the model should be build with the wheels up.
- The Vacuum Formed canopy should rather have been left out of the kit as there is no detail and if used, will just look wrong.
- No plans and no decals

Construction

- I started by filling the windows on the side with resin. 24 hours later I sanded the parts down and removed all detail that was there and also smoothed out the filled windows.



- I measured the windows again using a drawing I had from AAD. I scaled it up to 1/72 as to make scratch building a little easier. The AEW&C version also has fewer windows than the passenger version.
- This is where I cheated a little. I drew the windows on CAD and used my CNC cutter to cut the windows again. Perfect results as always. Modelling has become easy.
- The interior consisted of a floor with a wheel tub, 2 seats, a dash and 2 very small and thin joysticks. I broke the joysticks by just cleaning them. No problem, you can't see them. The rest went on OK and I have to admit, very little time was spend detailing the interior. Ok, no time was spent with the interior.
- I had to cut the front wheel doors away. Again, I really think that Vami Models wanted this kit to have a "wheels up" configuration. The front nose section had a horrible piece of resin that had to be removed. The halves got sanded until I was happy with the fit. Super glue did the rest.
- The wings were next. The wing did not fit to the body of the model, but had a section of the body moulded together with the wing. The intension was that the 2 wings would be joined together and then fitted to the body. It would have been fine had the parts fitted nicely. As it turned out, the halves did not even match in size and neither did they fit together. I used plastic spacers and somehow managed to align the body and the 2 wings. I used tape to seal the gaps between the body and the upper edges of the wing. To fill the 5mm gape that was left down the middle, resin was pored in between the wings. Some sanding and lots of Kombie body putty later, I managed to seal the gaps.
- The back wings, tail and engines went on OK and soon it looked like an aeroplane.
- To date I have used 1 and a half tins of white primer.

Scratch building

As I am doing the AEW&C version, the radar, the winglets and other small add-ons will have to be done from scratch. That is where I am now. The photo below shows the model with the 2 winglets, the 4 upright stabilizer wings on the tail and the 2 stabilizer wings on the bottom of the tail. The radar unit was started, but will have to wait until after the news letter.



Note: Though I found the model very challenging and maybe a little pricy for what I got in the box, I can appreciate the effort Vami models put into this kit. Readers need to understand the complexity of producing a kit from scratch and sometimes we as modellers forget the effort made by the person that did the master. We should never forget that had the person not done this kit in resin, that we would never have had the opportunity to build the kit or would have had to scratch build the kit ourselves. Sometimes it is better to start from a block of resin that has the right shape than to start from a block of resin with no shape. I thought I will share that with you.

Further update to follow in the next news letter.

Author: Ed

Small Scale SIG News March and April 2008 Meetings

Nothing from the SIG group.

How To

Night Fighter Spitfires

Ed: The article was copied from:

http://www.ipmsstockholm.org/magazine/2006/06/stuff_eng_profile_night_spitfires.htm

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