



SCALEMAIL

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RESIN ROUND-UP

NEXT MEETING

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 20th December
Leys Institute (upstairs)

20 Saint Marys Road

Ponsonby

COMMITTEE

Chairman - Mark Robson Craig Sargent

Secretary - John Lance Whitford
Swarbrick

Treasurer - Colin Smith Henry Ludlam
Peter Mossong

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groups.yahoo.com/group/ipmsauckland

FACEBOOK:

Link from the IPMS Auckland Website

The Chairman's Bit

Christmas Meeting!

Well here we are again, another Christmas to celebrate!

It's going to be a busy meeting so try to get there dead on 7.30 and get models set up on the tables ready for voting.

Build The Same Kit Competition

This of course is the classic Tamiya Mini, so an easy kit to put in the car if you have finished yours. The best 3 kits will be decided by public vote and Modelair vouchers will be given to all 3.

Shelf Of Doom Competition.

IF you brought your chosen model in the first 3 months of the year AND if you have finished it then please bring it along, again Modelair vouchers are on offer and it will be public vote.

Clubman of the Year

The committee have decided on the recipient of this award so be ready to acclaim our winner for 2016.

Beers at the Cavalier

I love a tradition, especially if it involves beer! So once voting is done then it will be down to the Cavalier to celebrate or commiserate over a libation or 2.

Cheers

Mark

Buy local, so that you CAN buy local!

From The Editor

I'd like to send a very big thankyou to all the contributors who have helped make this year's news letter a worthwhile endeavour. Believe me it would be a very slim publication without your continued supply of quality content. In particular I'd like to thank Mark Davies and Peter Mossong who have stepped up regularly throughout my short tenure. Thanks also to Brett Peacock who has recently submitted a number of articles, the first of which is published in this edition. Make your new years resolution to send in an article and make 2017 a great year for Scale-Mail.

Merry Christmas.

CLUB SUPPORT

The following retailers have kindly agreed to offer IPMS Auckland club members a discount on their purchases upon presentation of their current IPMS Auckland Membership card.

The discount only applies on selected product lines and remains at the discretion of the retailer.



ModelAir

12 Kent St Newmarket
Auckland
p: 09 520 1236
10% on kits



Cnr Market Rd & Gt South Rd
Auckland
p: 09 520 1737
10% on kits and modelling supplies



TOYWORLD

Toyworld Henderson
56 Railside Rd, Henderson
Toyworld Westgate
1 Fernhill Dve, Westgate

15% Off the normal retail price on:

- All models and modeling accessories
- All Hornby
- All Siku
- All Schleich & Collecta figures and accessories
- All Meccano
- Lego (Excludes Lego Mindstorm's they will be 10% if available as most have already been pre-ordered)

(Note: not in conjunction with any other promotion)



Merv Smith Hobbies

27 Davis Crescent
Newmarket
Auckland

10% off most items on presentation of IPMS Auckland Membership Card.

Avetek Limited

Gwyn and Christina Avenell
28 Lauren Grove, RD 2, Papakura,
Auckland 2582, New Zealand.
p: +64 (09) 298 4819,
m: +64 (0)27 343 2290
e: aveteknz@gmail.com
www.avetek.co.nz
New Zealand Master Agents for:
Auszac ECO Balsa • Bob Smith Industries - Cyanoacrylates and Epoxies • Airsail International Kitsets

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBS *** 2016/17 DUE *******

Subs for 2016/17 now PAST DUE - see below for club account details or see the club secretary at the next club meeting.

Membership Type	Description	Cost
Full	Living in the Auckland Metropolitan Area	NZ\$45
Out Of Town	Living 75km or more from central Auckland	NZ\$30
Junior	Same rights as full membership for those under 16	NZ\$25

IPMS BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

03 0162 0012960 00

Please add your details so we know who has paid.



EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT EVENTS

IPMS Auckland Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every Month at the Leys Institute (upstairs), 20 Saint Marys Road, Ponsonby

- December 20th - Auckland Club Night.
Clubman of the Year Award , Build the same kit, Shelf of doom and end of year drinks
- January 17th—Auckland Club Night.
Bring buy and swap night

MODELLING EVENTS

Nothing to report this month

Boeing F4B-4 Monogram , 1/72 Scale

by Mark J. Davies

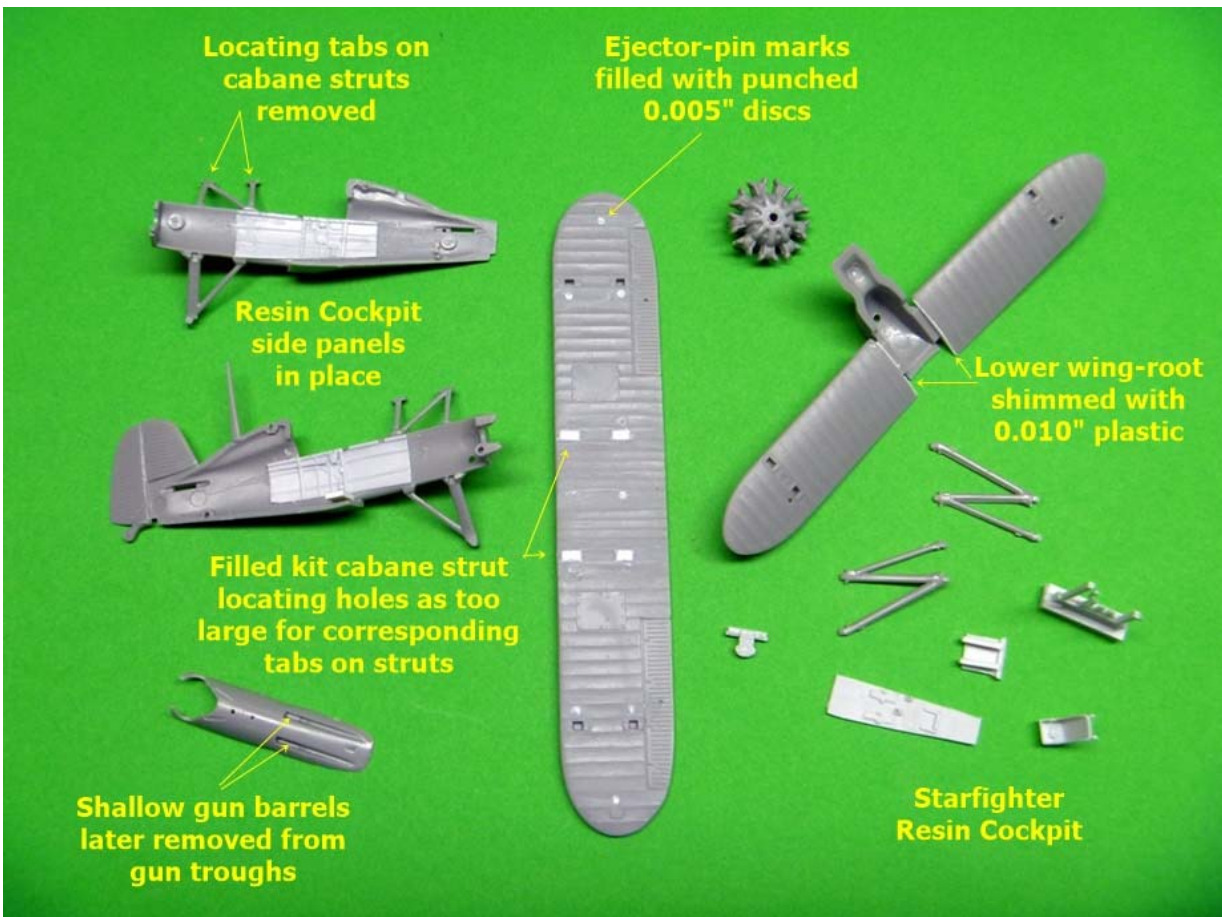
I participated in an old kit group build with some of my mates, the idea being we should each build a kit that was released when we were kids - The older you were the older the kit should be. I selected about four from around 1967-69 and invited my mates to choose for me. They unanimously chose Monogram's 1/72 Boeing F4B-4 released in 1968 when I was 8 years old.

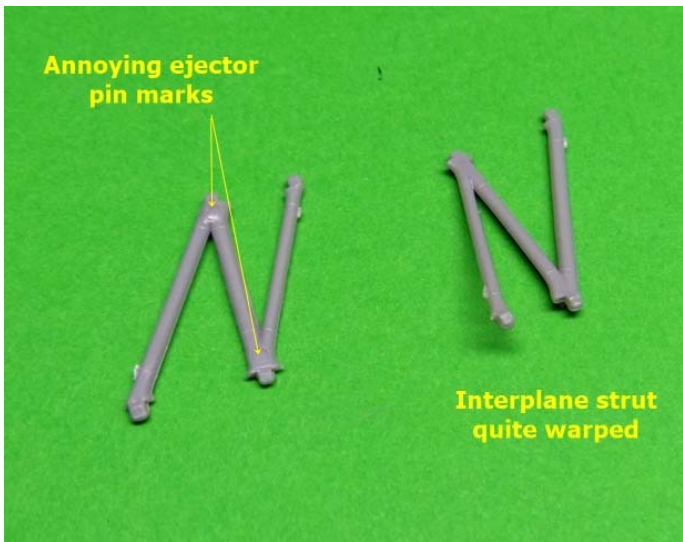
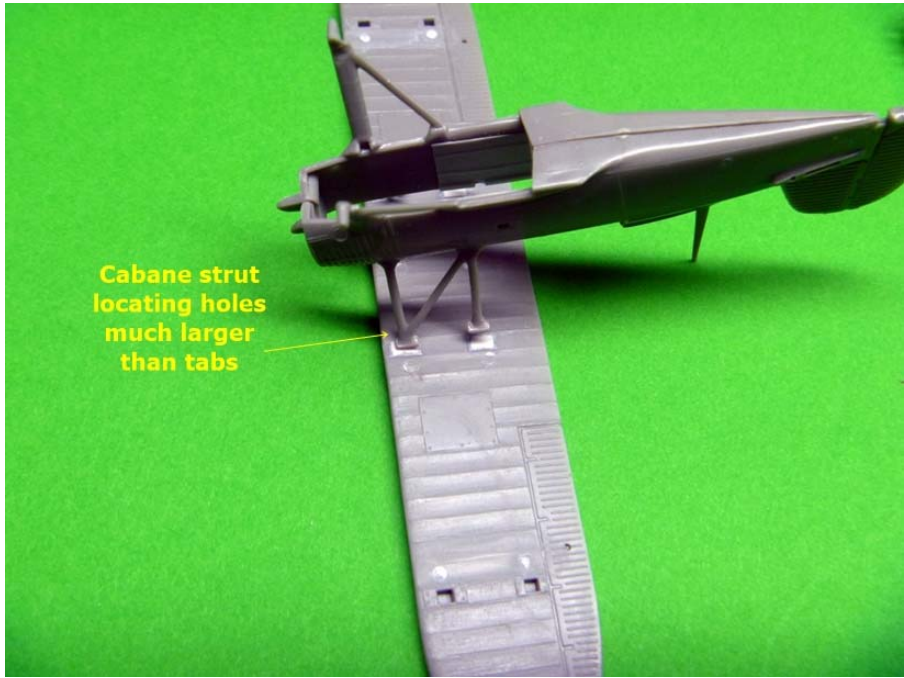
My moulding was showing its age, with flash, slightly misaligned tooling, and warped interplane struts. However, the basic kit is quite nice, albeit lacking any cockpit detail. I fixed this problem using a resin cockpit set by Starfighter, which is ok for what is ultimately visible. I also used some quite good decals by the same company.

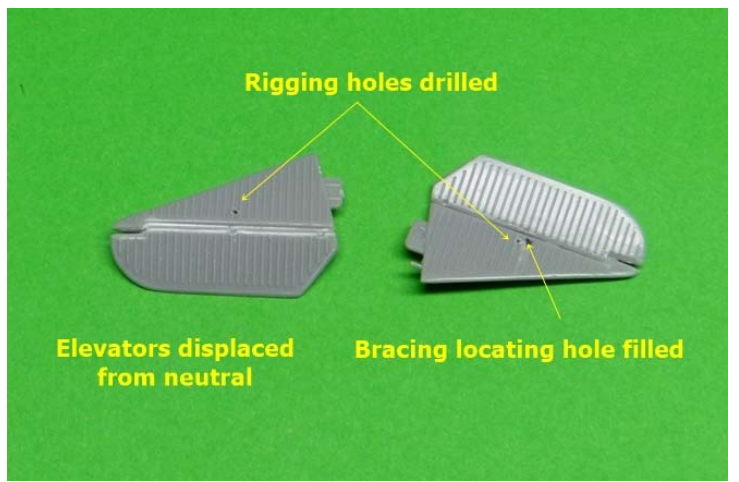
I chose to refine several kit parts a such as bracing struts, windscreen and guns. I also opened up hand-holds in the wing tips, added a fuel filler neck and cap to the long-range tank, replaced the arrestor hook, and displaced the tail control surfaces.

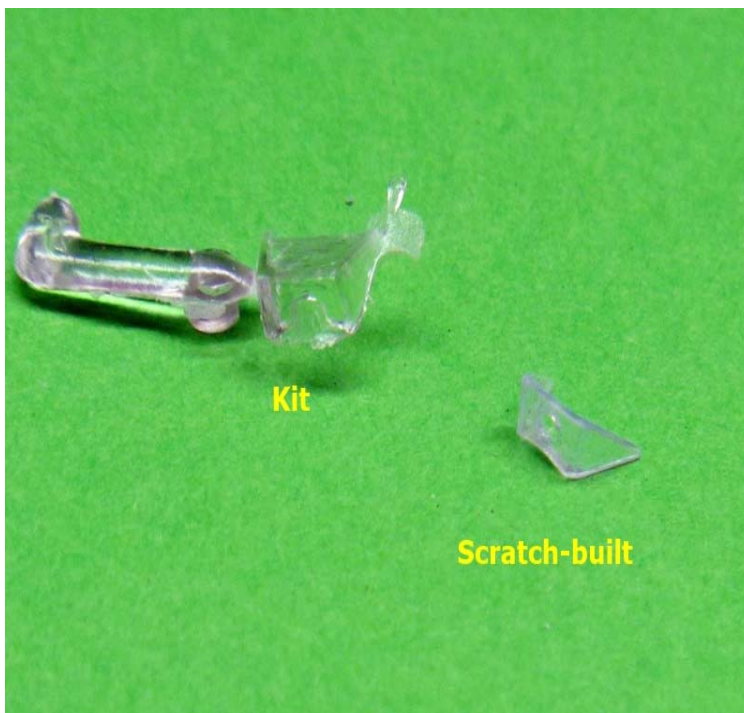
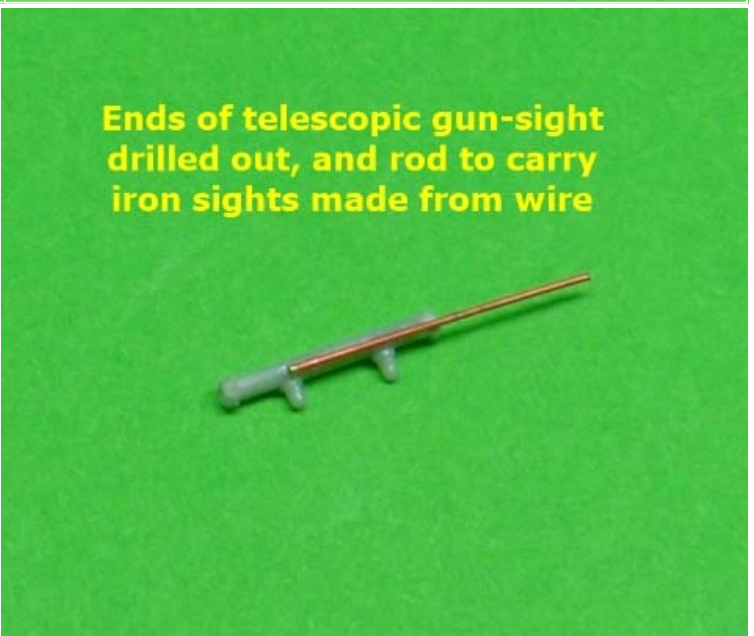
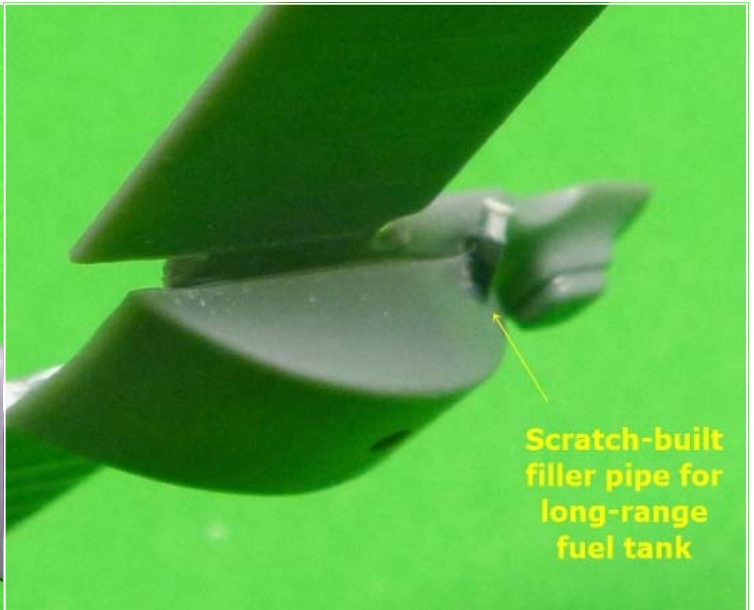
I originally planned to rig with invisible mending thread, but instead ended up using ceramic wire for the first time. This spring tensile product proved very easy to position using a blind hole at one end and an open one at the other. The hardest part was getting the length right using trial and error.

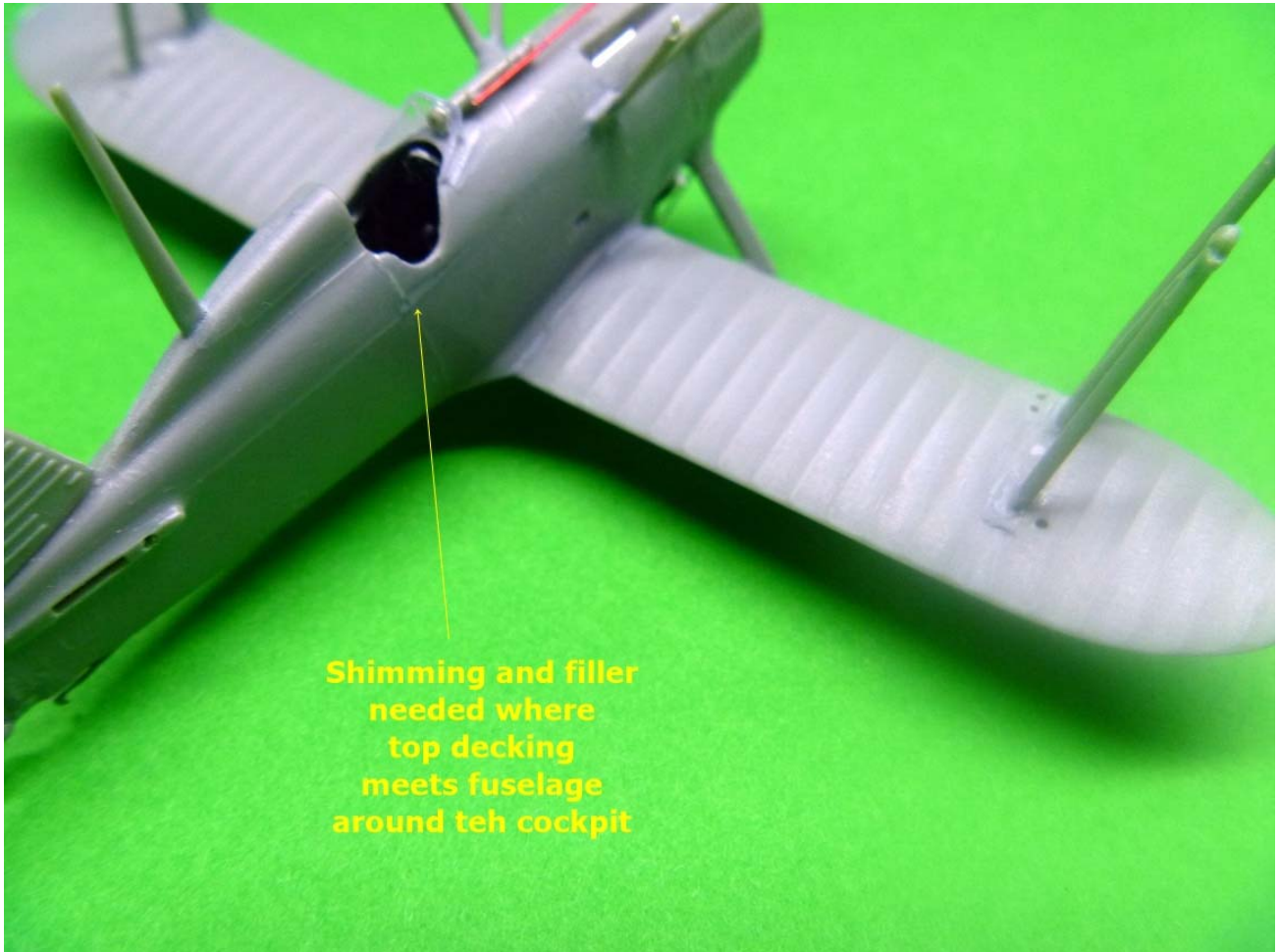
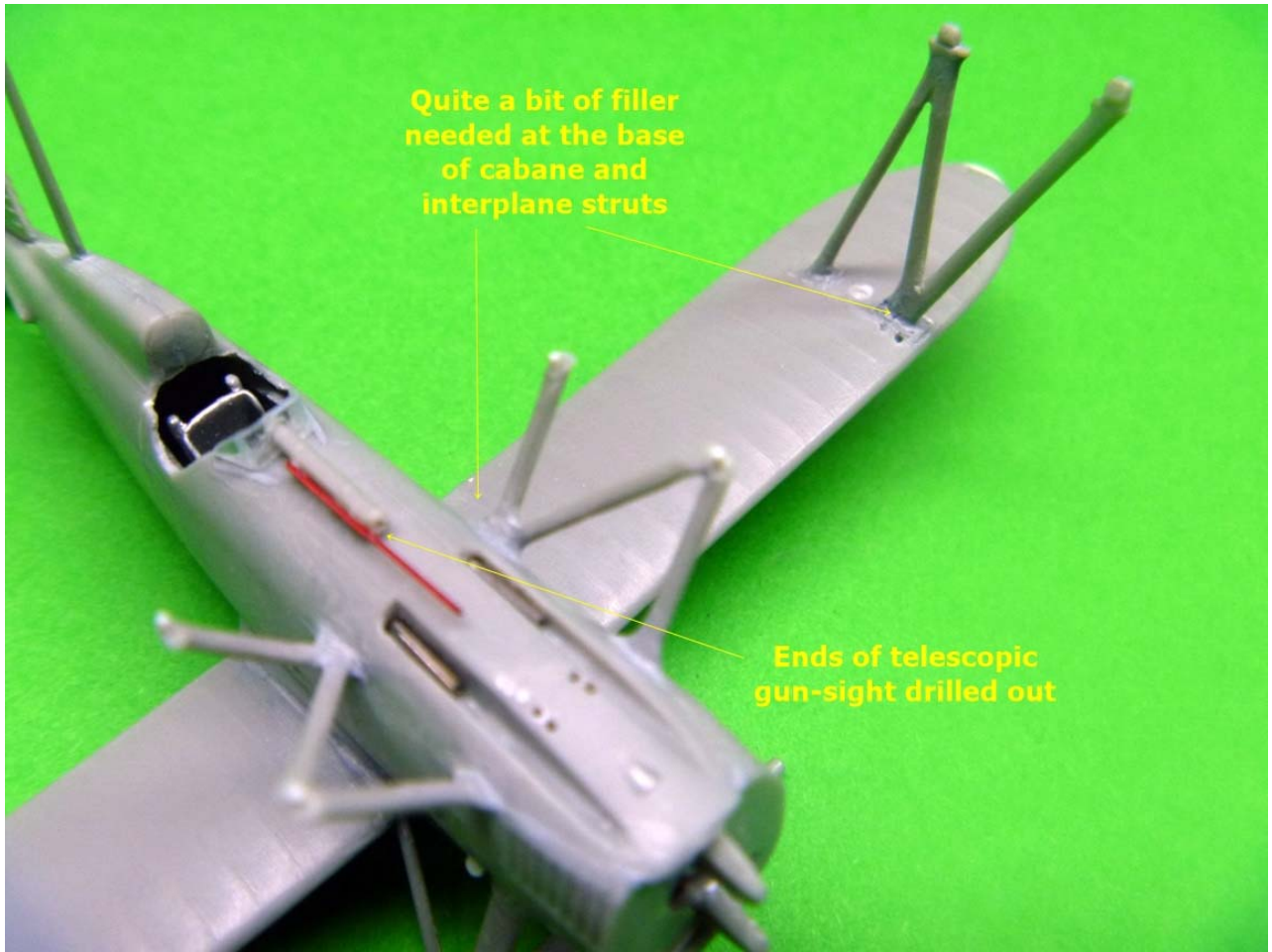
The accompanying images really tell the story of what I did with the kit.

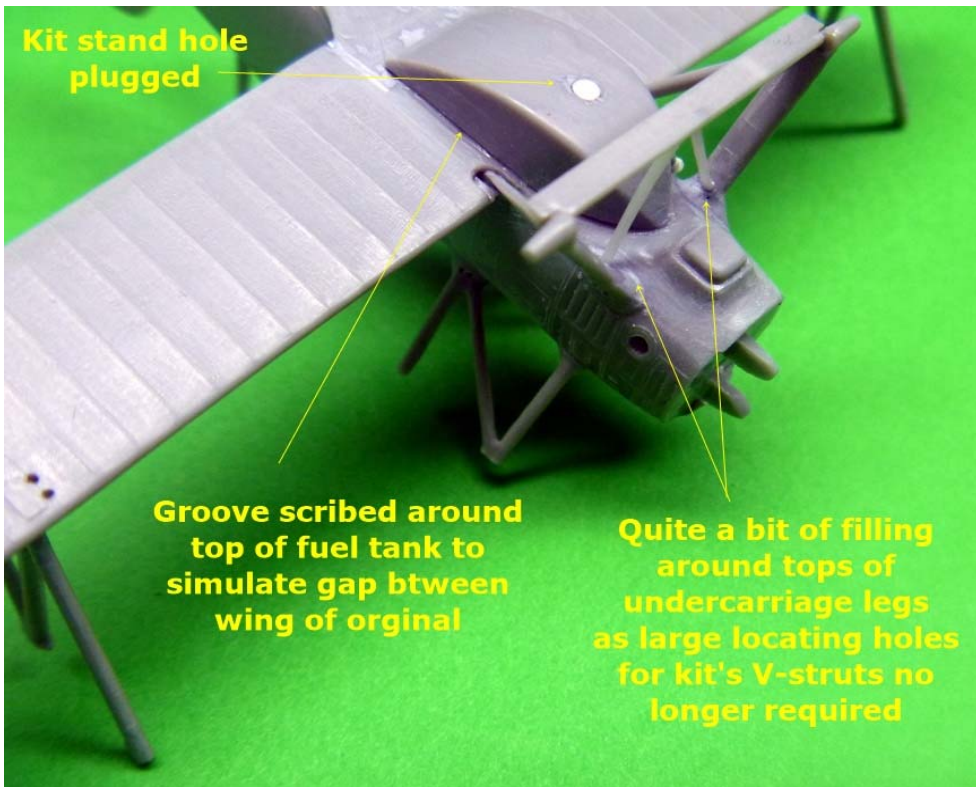
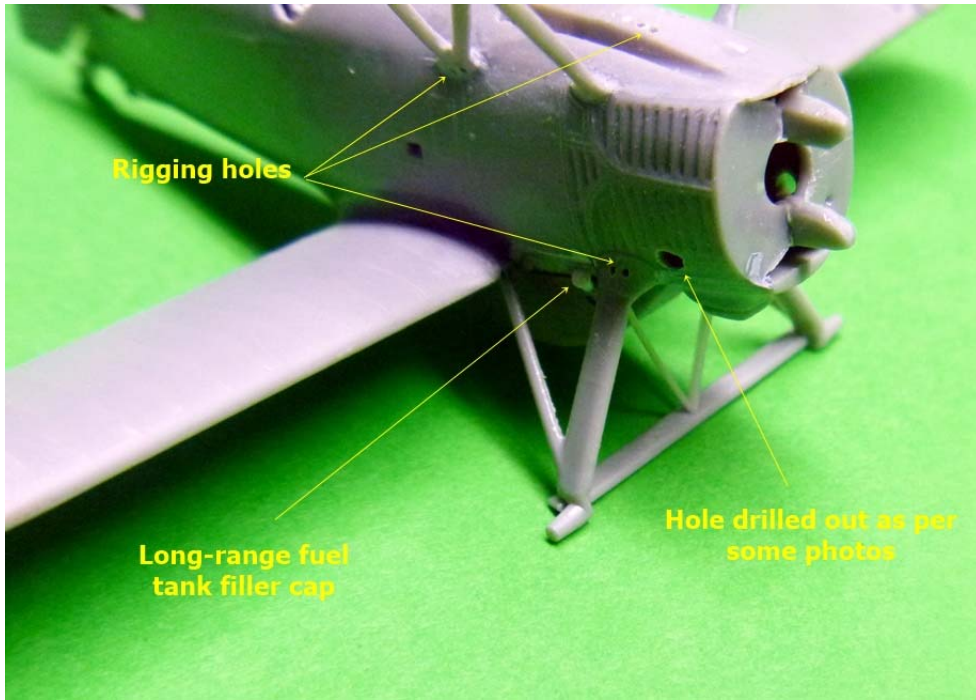


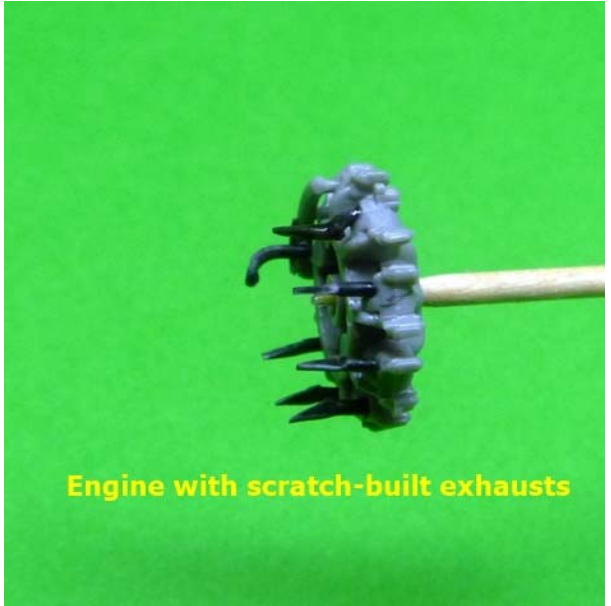
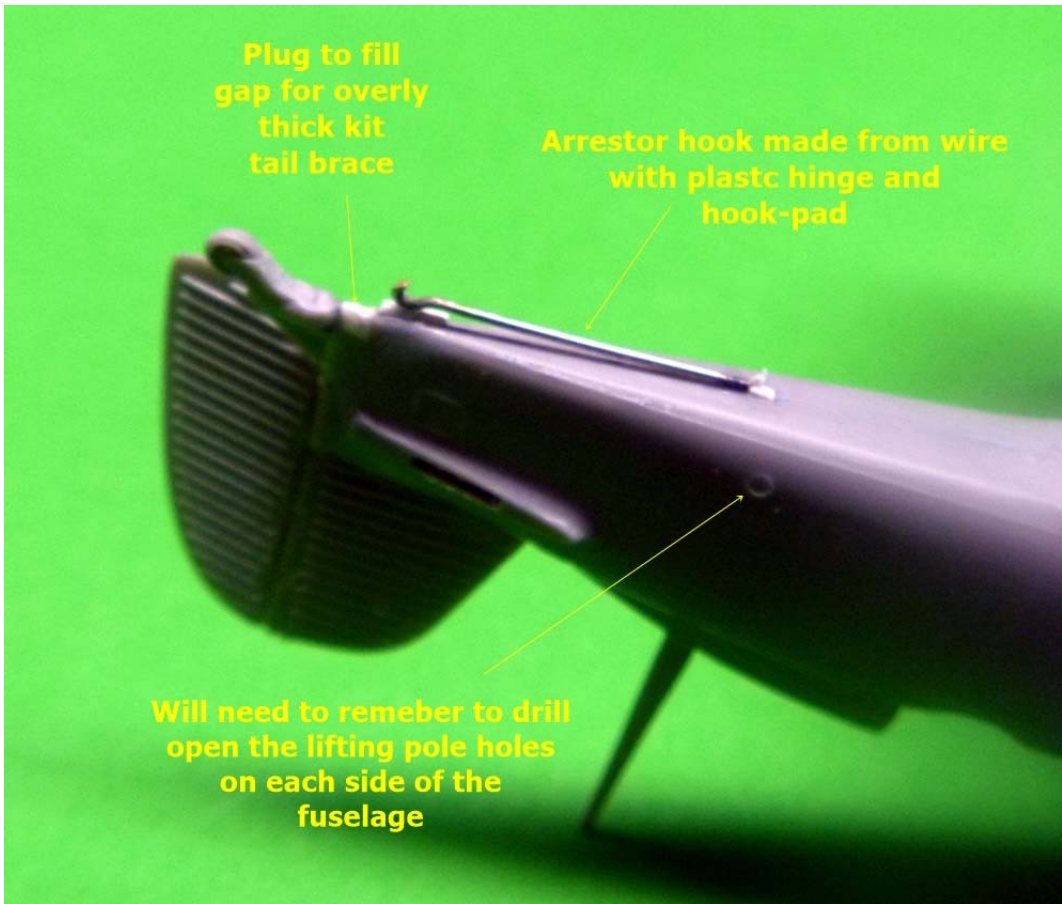


















Hasegawa 1/32 Kawanishi N1K2-J Shiden Kai (George)

Build Review by Brett Peacock

Kit ST33. (2013 release) 148 pieces, 2 Colour schemes. Purchased from Modelair, Newmarket. Retail \$81.90 (NZ)



Historical Notes:

As historian William Green put it, "It was characteristic of the improbabilities of the air war in the Pacific theater that one of the finest *land-based* fighters employed operationally by Japan was a *naval* machine, and stranger yet, a fighter evolved from a *floatplane*!"

I have used the Japanese format for all Japanese names in this review: Surname followed by Given name. (The quote from T Cleaver does not)

Hasegawa have now also released a kit of the later production version.

Production of the Shiden Kai began in April of 1944 but was limited, mostly due to the increasing bombing of the Japanese home islands. The Shiden Kai far outperformed the Zero in every way except for its range. Most are seen carrying a large cigar shaped drop tank under the fuselage, and they needed it, even when deployed as Home Defense fighters.



The 343rd Fighter Group was founded by Genda Minoru, and equipped solely with the N1K2 Shiden, N1K2-J Shiden Kai, with 1 recon squadron of C6N Saiun and had the best record of any Home defense fighter group, even with the dearth of experienced naval pilots in the last year of the war. One of it's squadrons, the 301st, had both the highest losses and the most recorded victories of any Shiden Kai unit, one of the kit options is the machine flown by the 301st CO, Lieutenant Kanno Naoshi on the fateful day of March 19, 1945

On that day, March 19, 54 aircraft of the 343rd Fighter Group, based in Matsuyama Prefecture (On the Island of Shikoku, across the Inland sea from Hiroshima) and flying the N1K2 and N1K2-J, engaged an incoming American Naval Carrier Attack Air Group over the both Shikoku and the Inland Sea , consisting of about 150 F4U-1 Corsairs, F6F-3 Hellcats & SB2C Helldivers and shot down 52 of them, (3 more were lost to Ground fire) an astounding feat at that late date in the Pacific War. The US claimed 57 Japanese aircraft that day. The 343rd actually lost 17 including 1 Saiun recon plane.

The air battle took place over several hours and the Americans came in 3 waves. For a very good CGI video overview of this battle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmZutqbKw4Y>.

A Good 2 part documentary (Sunbtitled from Japanese) on the N1K aircraft can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wc3Xj0Ega4Q> (Pt 1) & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbX2vmIJ0gA> (Pt 2). Of great interest are the interviews with the Pilots from both sides.

The Americans' primary target that day was Kure Naval Base, where the IJN suffered moderate damage to 1 cruiser, the Oyodo, and light damage to a light Aircraft Carrier, the Amagi. Later on the same day, a Japanese counter-strike, on the 58th Task Force, resulted in heavy damage to the Essex class Carrier, USS Franklin, and several other ships, putting the Franklin out of the war.

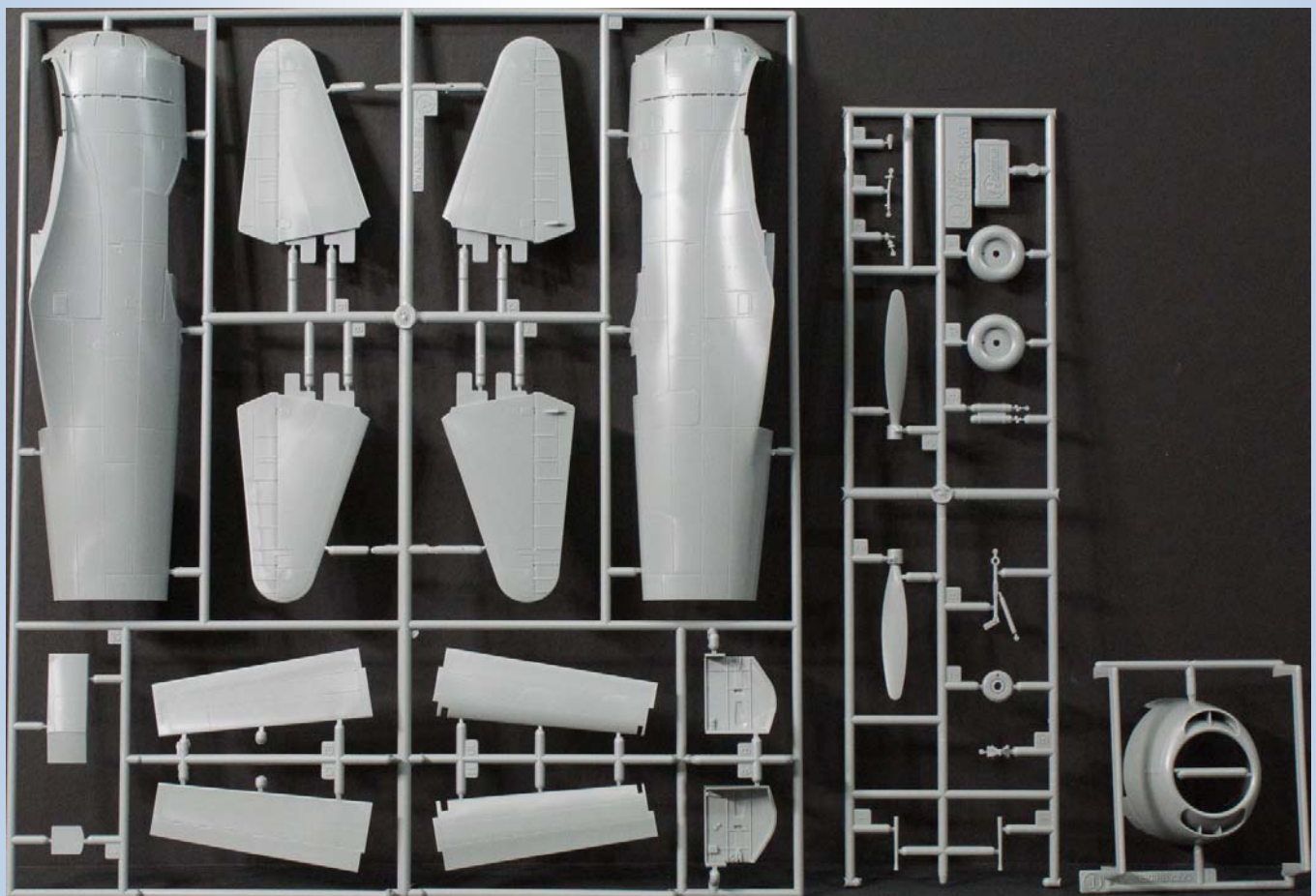
"The N1K2-J shared with the Ki.84 the ability to be an "ace-maker." In June 1945, Warrant Officer Kinsuke Muto - a pilot of exceptional skill - was jumped by 12 F6F Hellcats. He succeeded in shooting down four before the others broke to escape back to their carrier and he successfully landed his damaged Shiden-Kai back at Yokosuka airfield. Although the airplane was outstanding in fighter vs. fighter combat, it was a disappointment in the one category that was really needed: high altitude interception against the B-29s, since it suffered poor climb above 22,000 feet due to loss of engine power." quote from Thomas Cleaver.

So to the Kit:

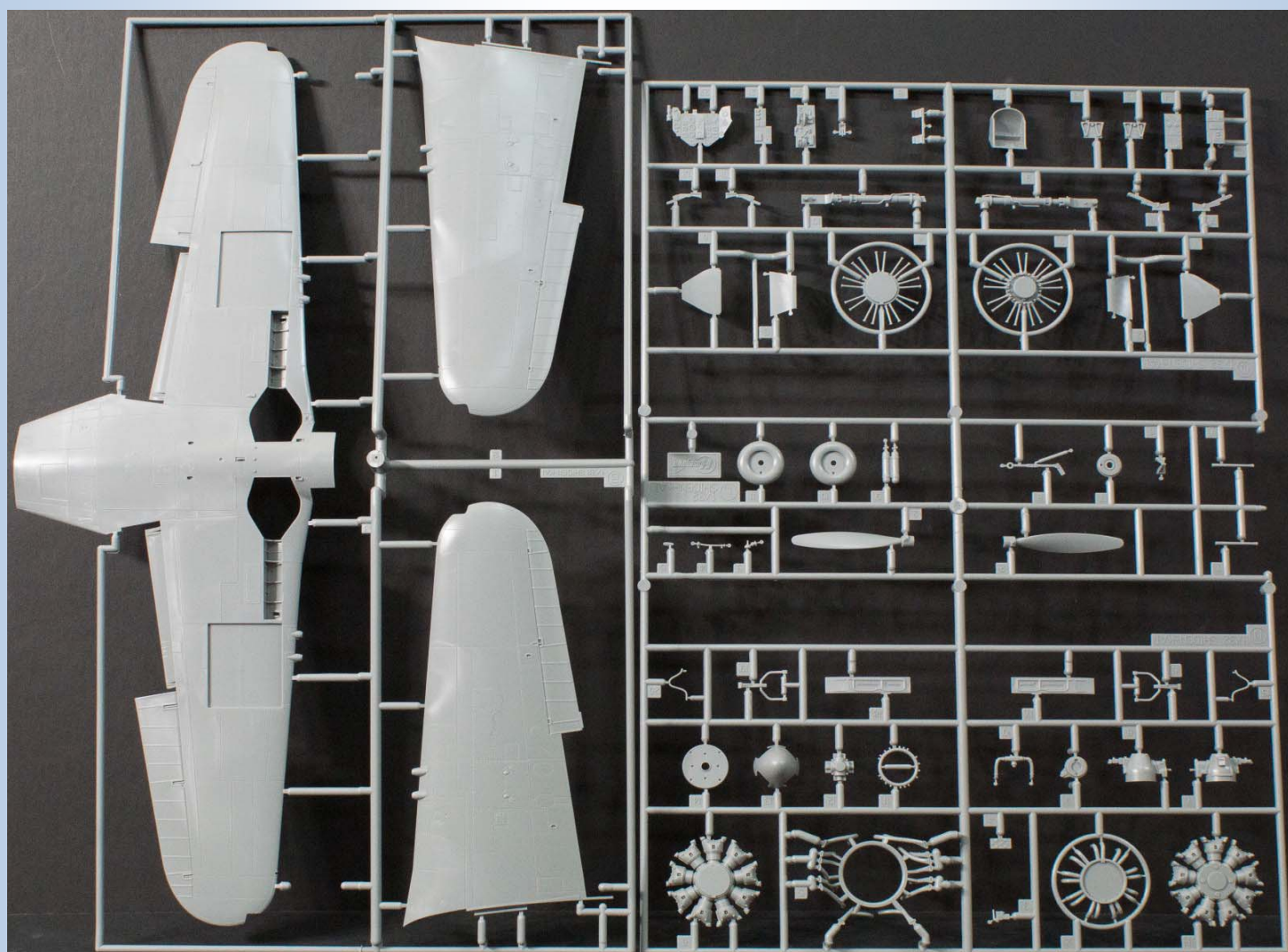
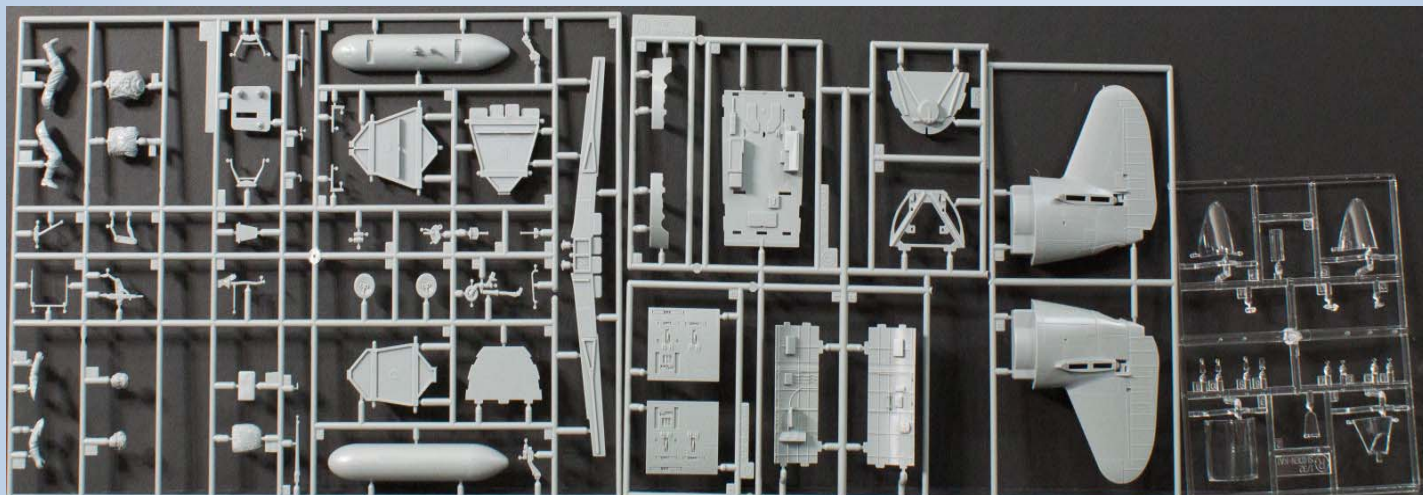
This is apparently the "standard" boxing of this kit – Note the ST-33 kit ID – and has two marking options, both from the 343rd Group, and both in the standard IJN Naval "late-war" scheme of Dark Green uppers and unpainted undersides, in this case the Upperside Dark Green is listed as

Either "Kawanishi Dark Green" – Or - "IJN Green (Nakajima)". Very unhelpfully a third option – a mix of 90% Mitsubishi IJN Green and 10% Bright blue! is also listed. No indication of which option is correct, so I will try to use something close to the "Kawanishi Dark Green" for my build.

I had built 2 Shiden Kai's before, 1 in 1/72, back when my eyes actually worked right, some 25 plus years ago, and one about 15years ago in 1/48. I have looked forwards to getting this kit ever since it was announced and released in 2013, and I have to say I am not disappointed by it.



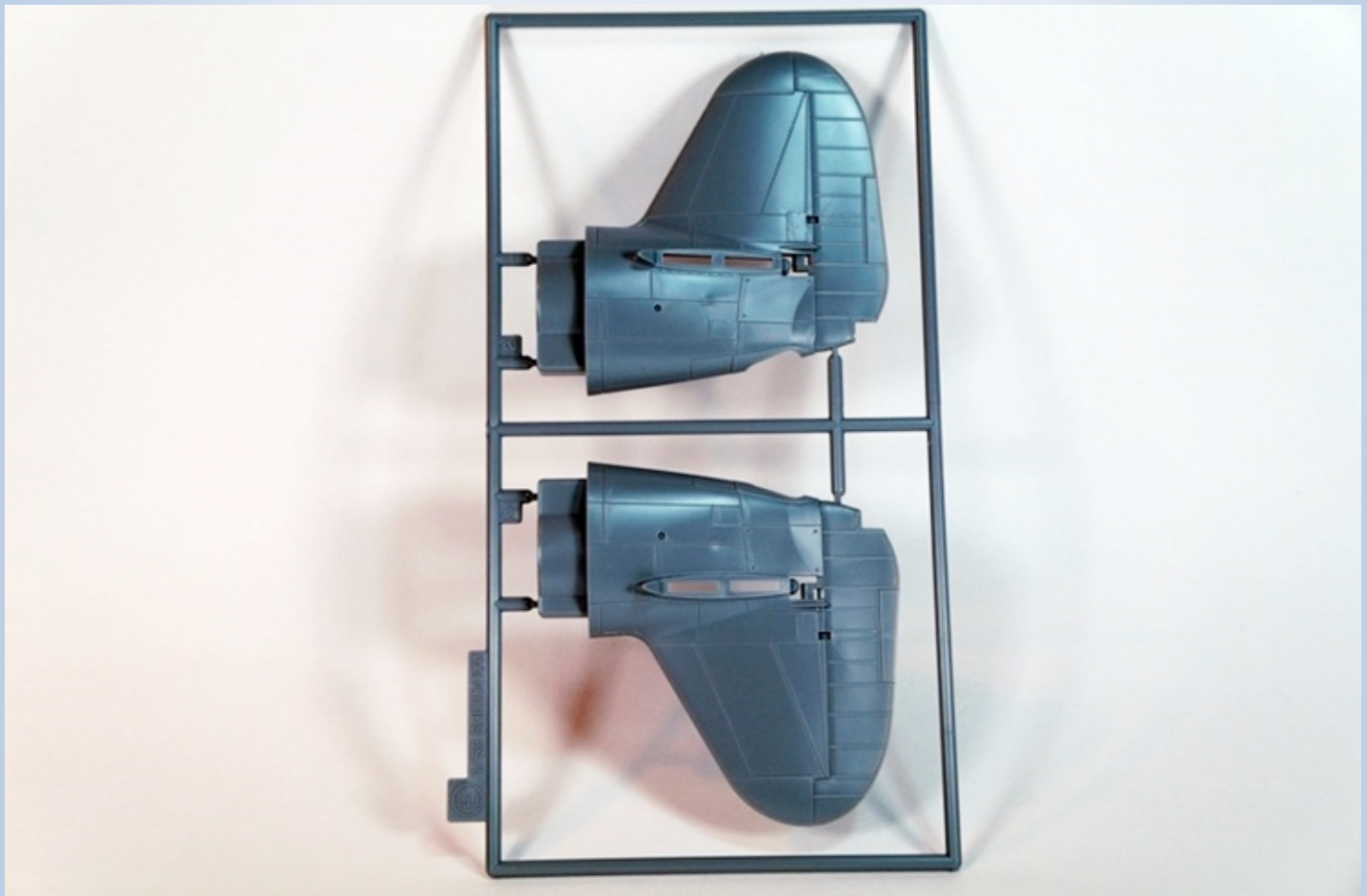
There are 12 sprue trees of various sizes of Hasegawa's hard pale grey plastic; 1 Clear sprue tree and 1 Sprue of vinyl grommets. Very few parts are marked as being surplus. The kit includes: a pilot figure, a very nice and complete cockpit (but no belts), a very good radial engine (including exhaust array) and cowling assembly, detailed wheel wells and a main spar to align the wings correctly. (the spar also provides the rear wall for the wheel wells,) I was so impressed by this kit on first examination that, almost before I knew it, I had started it. The fit of parts (so far) has been outstanding. At most I have had to sand anything was once, to rid it of a mold seam.



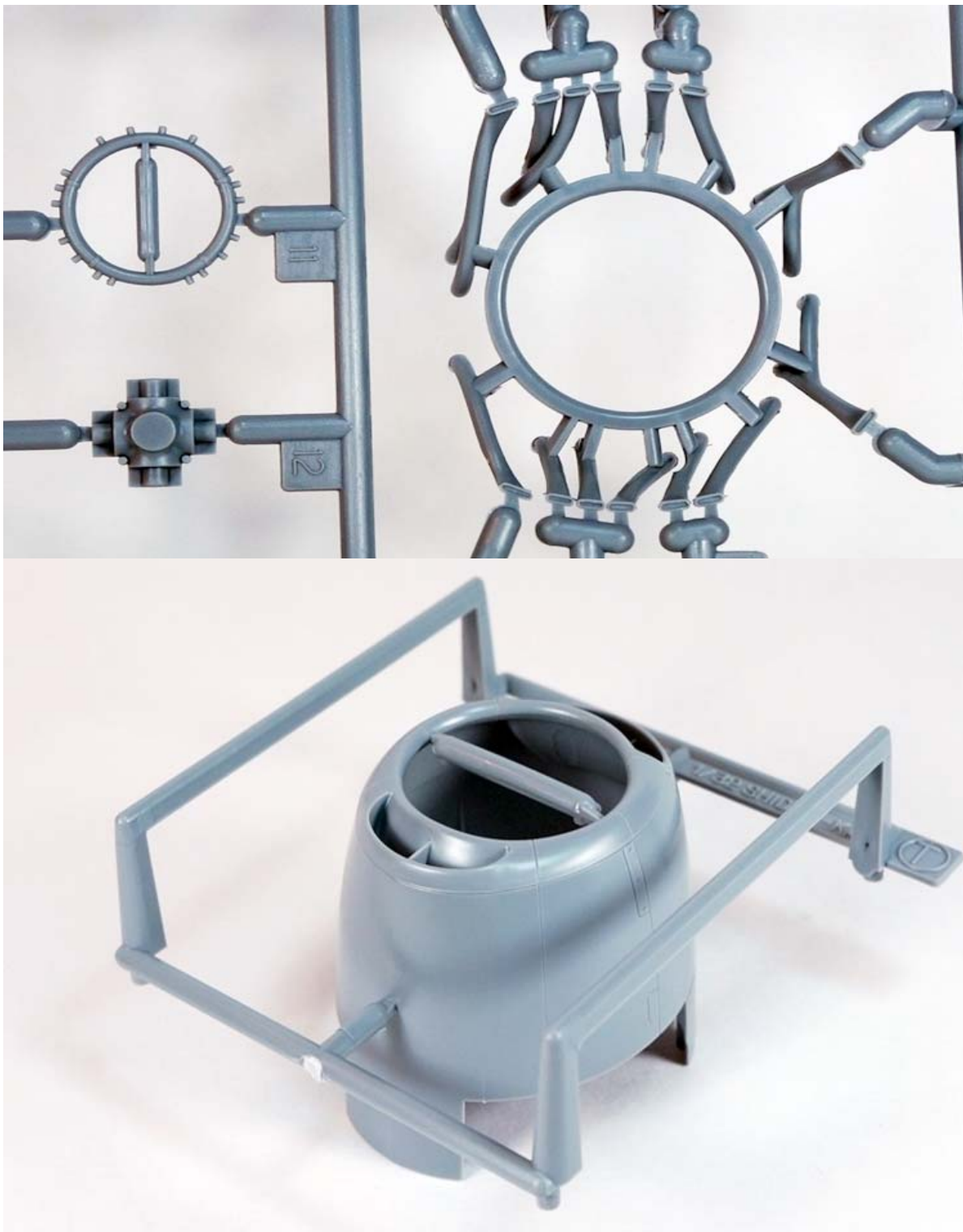
The kit is also in the typical Hasegawa style regarding detail- Fine recessed panel lines, some raised detail but... "Rivets? We don't need no steenken Rivets!" Therefore I am considering the pro and cons of trying to add rivets to this beast.

The first engineering caveat is that you need to remove a small molded hatch on the Starboard fuselage half, just below the rear of the canopy and then scribe a new line between two existing lines on either side. The panel is raised, maybe, 10thou above the rest. That job, including scribing and polishing, took maybe 20 minutes. (And I'm not fast at sanding.)

The second engineering caveat is due to Hasegawa designing this kit to be a little modular – The tailfin and rear fuselage are separate so they can produce the later model Shiden Kai with the smaller fin. (Top photo shows the other fin -NOT in this kit.) This introduces a seam on the rear fuselage that may need to be hidden,. I will be using a little "liquid Plastic" (Sprue dissolved in Tamiya Xtra thin) to do this., but even without it, the join is reasonably unobtrusive .



One thing that struck me as especially noteworthy, when assembling this aircraft, was its size. This thing was huge, compared to other Japanese fighters. It was also bigger than a Hellcat. It compares directly with the US P-47 Thunderbolt in size. (And, with its 4 x 20mm cannon, it outguns a Thunderbolt as well.)



The marking options (Both from the 343rd Fighter Group) in the kit are:

A: 301st Squadron CO, Lt Kanno Naoshi , Matsuyama AB, 19th March, 1945 – 343-15

B: 407th Squadron, Warrant Officer Ohara Kouji, Matsuyama AB, April 1945. - 343-03

Conclusion and Recommendation:

Well, I opened this kit to have a look, and before I knew it, I had started it. It is that good. While the subject is of a lesser known and not widely produced Japanese fighter, it is an outstanding representation of that aircraft, and it is an important type for its sterling service in the last 12 to 18 months of the Pacific War. The title of 'Best Overall Japanese Fighter of the War' is a toss up between this and the Nakajima Ki-84 Hayate. But, as a consolation prize it walks away with the "Best Overall Japanese Navy Fighter" by a wide margin.... and so does this 1/32 kit of it.

Highly recommended (by someone who is building it!)

GALLERY

CLUB NIGHT MODELS

Check out our Website gallery for photos taken of models at our monthly meetings

http://ipmsauckland.hobbyvista.com/galleries_2016.html



And as usual - check out the IPMS Auckland website as we're trying to keep the content a bit more dynamic. We won't be regurgitating content found on other websites but will provide links to sites we think are of interest to members.

