



# SCALE MAIL

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## From the Editor

It's been another quiet month in lockdown central but at least the weather is warming and providing us with some welcome sunny days amid the obligatory rainy ones that are part of spring. Still rainy weekends mean more bench time so it's not all bad. At least we have a few shops open now including a number of hobby outlets that have opened their doors. Some remain click and collect only but others are welcoming street traffic. I missed being able to just duck out to my local whenever I ran out of that critical colour or my stock of Tamiya extra thin is getting dangerously low.

There is still no firm indication as to when we will be able to resume our regular meetings but lets hope the new year and higher vaccination rates mean a step forward in that direction. Till next month, take care and never argue with a No 11 blade.

## NEXT MEETING

# TBC

## COMMITTEE

Chairman - Craig Sargent     John Watkins  
Secretary - Brett Peacock     Lance Whitford  
Treasurer - Mark Robson

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groups.yahoo.com/group/ipmsauckland

FACEBOOK:  
Link from the IPMS Auckland Website



Here we have a rare picture of an aeroplane drinking water from the sea



# BULLETIN BOARD

**NEW MEMBERS AND SUBS \*\*\*\*\* 2021/22 NOW DUE \*\*\*\*\***

Subs for 2021/22 now due -see below for club account details or see the club secretary

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 name and details  
so we know who has paid!*

## EVENTS

### CLUB NIGHT EVENTS

**IPMS Auckland Meet on the  
second Tuesday of each month  
at 7.30pm**

**November** 16/11/2021. Nothing  
planned at time of writing .

### MODELLING EVENTS

Nothing to report this month ! (No surprises there)

#### NOTE

**We have a new permanent meeting  
venue:**

**The Sports Lounge**

**Royal Oak Bowls**

**146 Selwyn St, Onehunga**

# BULLETIN BOARD

## 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**

349 Dominion Road  
Mount Eden  
Auckland  
p: 09 520 1236



Cnr Market Rd & Gt South Rd  
Auckland  
Ph: (09) 520 1737

10% on kits and modelling supplies

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Constellation  
**HOBBIES**

Unit 5/1 Greenwich Way,  
Unsworth Heights, Auckland.

Ph: (09) 441 3562

10% on kits and modelling supplies



**Merv Smith Hobbies**

27 Davis Crescent  
Newmarket  
Auckland

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

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**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

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# Academy 1/48 Lockheed P-38 Lightning Kit Range. By Brett Peacock



This was prompted by 2 recent events – First off, about 3 years ago, I “Inherited” about 40% of an Academy P-38J “DroopSnoot” kit along with a complete P38J kit, also by Academy. (Cost was about \$10.00) Then about 2 weeks ago I saw a P-38 “Combo” kit up on Trademe for \$40.00. This combo kit (see box art above) had parts to enable the modeller to make any 1 of no fewer than 4 very different versions of the P-38. To wit: A P-38J fighter, a P-38J “DroopSnoot” with a bombardier in the nose, a P-38L Pathfinder (With a BTO Radar and operator in the nose) and lastly a F-5E unarmed Recon version. This drew my attention because all of those have been released in the past as separate boxings:





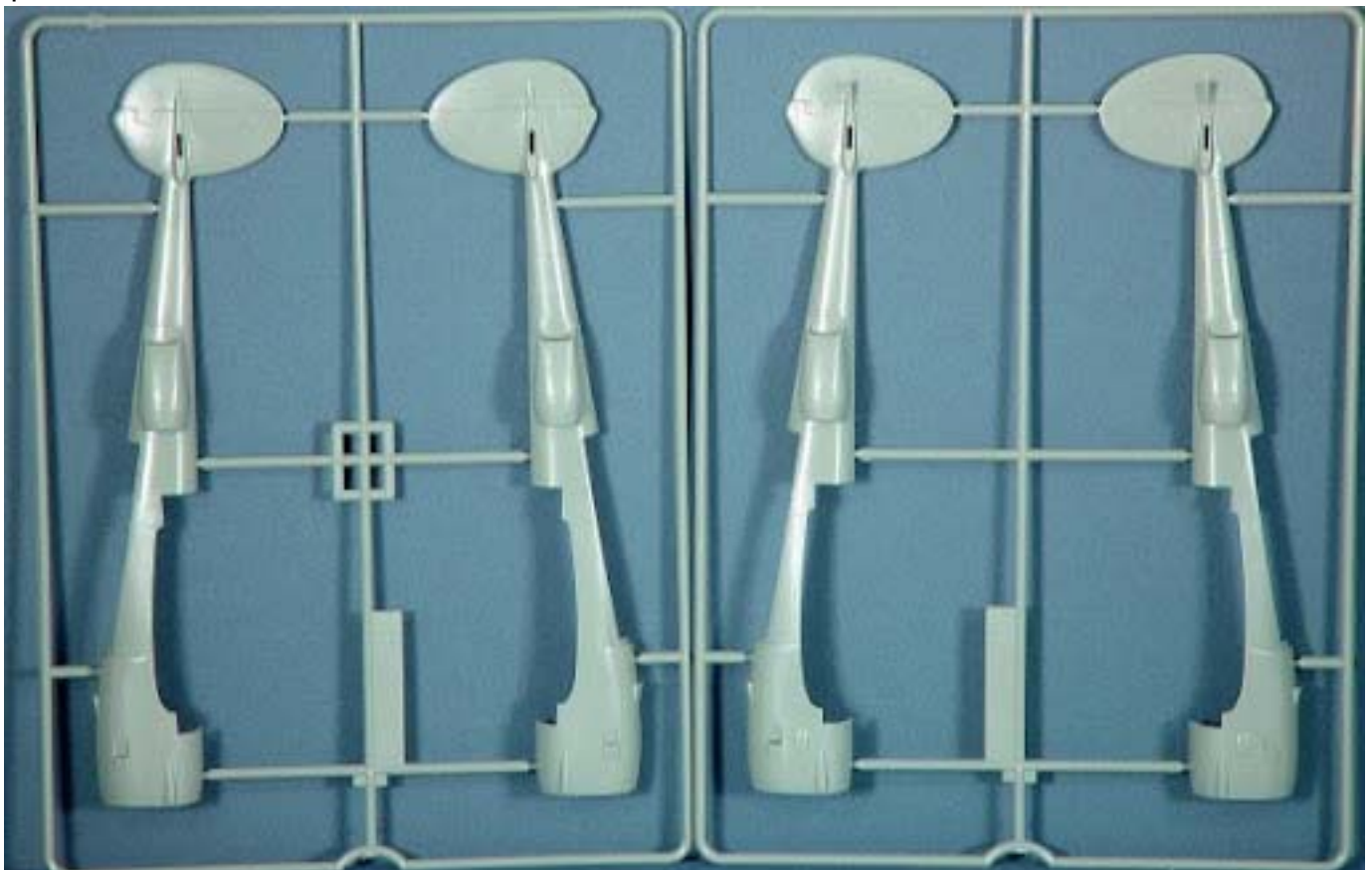
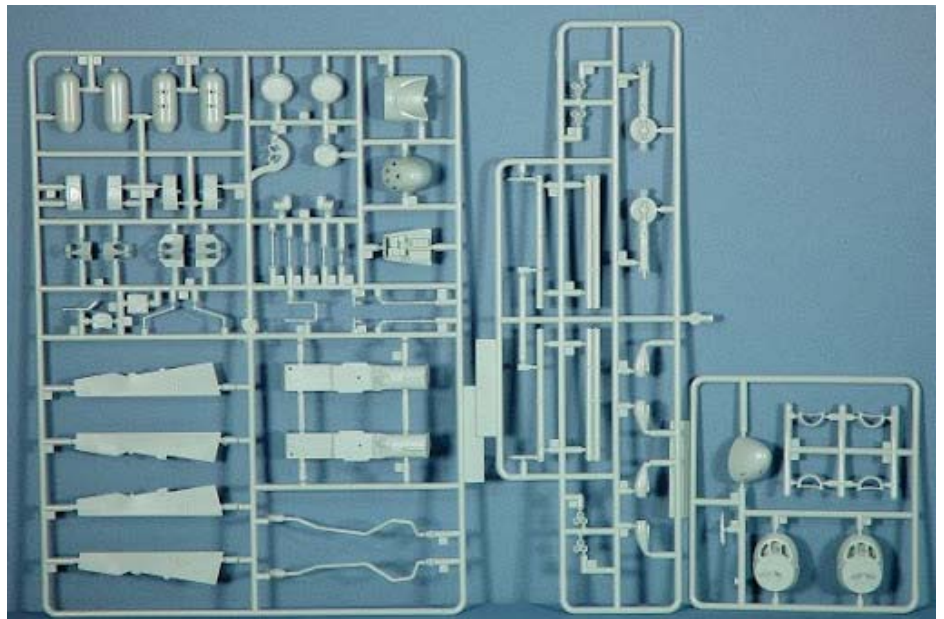
Not be forgotten, Academy also release several Early Lightnings, notably a kit of the P-38F "Glacier Girl" (found in Greenland in a Glacier!!) and of the short lived Night fighter variant, the P-38M.



I built the P-38M almost 22 years ago and was unimpressed by the decals provided – the Red of the Serials and Codes turned virtually invisible when applied to a glossy black finish. I ended up reluctantly scrapping it for a lack of suitably opaque red decals.

Over the years much has been written about the Academy kit and, from my memory of the P-38M, I do have to say that it was not that difficult to build and align. Care was needed, but not the falanges of an octopus! I know that Academy decals have improved over the years, but many of these kits are now only available via the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand market or as collectors' items. So, Buyer Check and my advice would be to go for an Aftermarket decal sheet if possible.

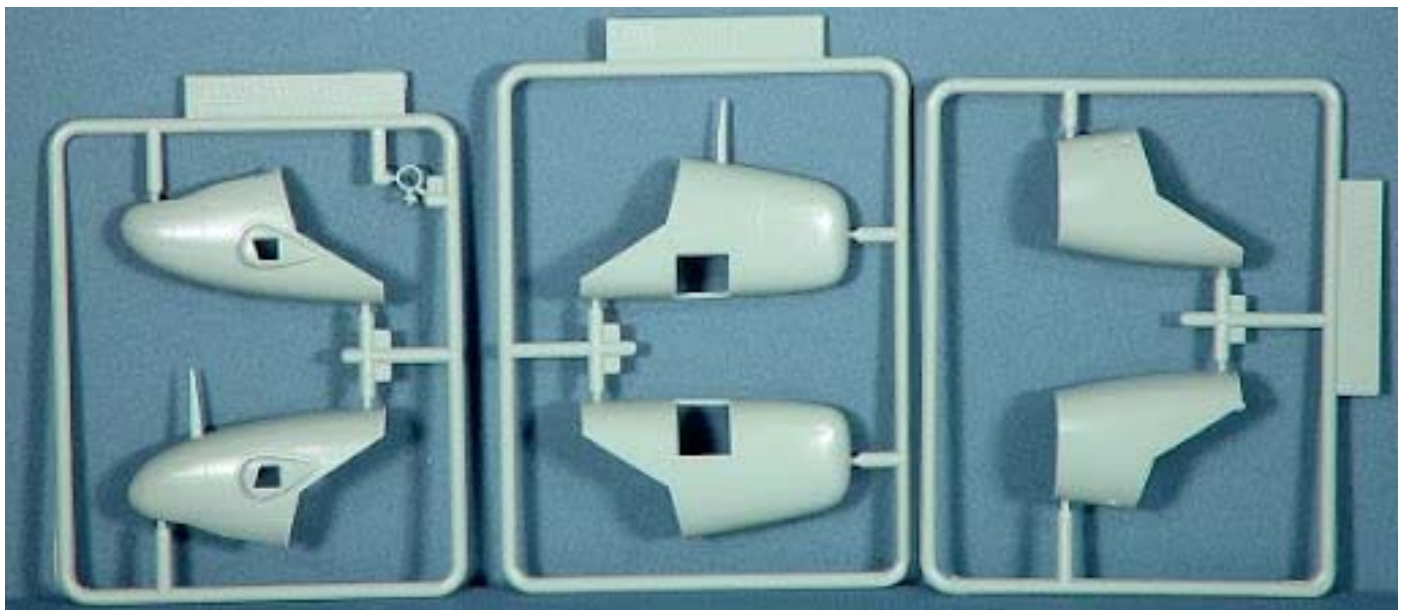
So, back to the actual kits: What do you get for your money? Well, external detail is finely engraved and with raised areas where appropriate, the internals, such as the Cockpit(s) and Undercarriage Bays are typical of that era – rather plain and lacking fine details. In the Combo kit I noted with interest that the underside of the outer wings come with the Airbrakes molded in place. This would be correct for the P-38L Pathfinder and the Final production run of the P-38J Fighter, but not for any other of the options. (And I am reasonably sure that the Fighter marking in the Kit (Major CH McDonald's "Putt Putt Maru" was a mid production run J series, (And more on the markings provided towards the end.) Here are some sprue shots.





And, yes, please note the Vinyl tires. Again, you may wish to replace with Aftermarket resin options.

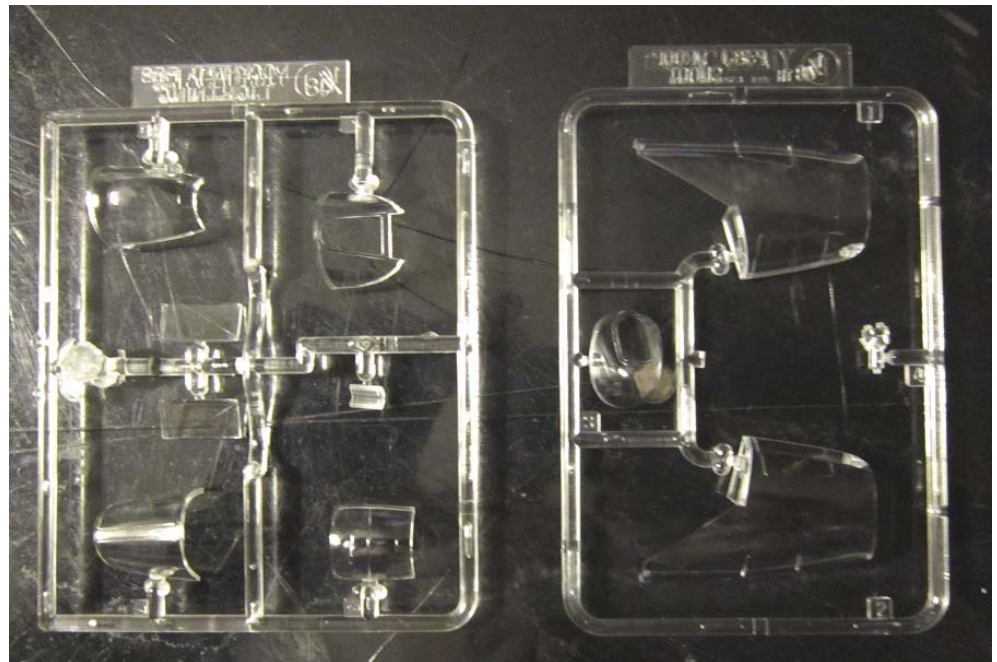
3 of the nose options: The F5E, the Pathfinder and the J Fighter. Glassware for those windows is provided on a seperate clear sprue





On the left is the standard canopy parts sprue, on the right is the clear nose for the "Droopsnoot" Option.

Sadly there is no internal detail provided for either the "Droopsnoot" or the Pathfinder noses. This will be especially visible in the Droopsnoot as the amount of light inside will make the lack of detail obvious. (There is a bombsight...why just that?) For the Pathfinder you could paint the inside black and fake some kind of sidewall details just under the windows, and that may be enough.



One curious note is that the main canopy sprue has the rear canopy for the P-38M included!

Now for the Markings: As I stated there are 4 options and curiously Academy provide (mostly) the exact same markings as were in their separate kits!

Top to Bottom:

- P-38J "Putt Putt Maru" Major Charles H McDonald, CO 375<sup>th</sup> FG.
- P-38J "Droopsnoot", Coded 4N-Z "Trailblazer"
- P-38L Pathfinder Coded Q3-O
- F-5E Recon "058" "8 Ball"

Now that is a cheap way out! And then Academy had to skimp even further. In my "inherited" J kit, the Markings for "Putt Putt Maru" Included a decal for the Anti Glare panel for the pilot, all black with a yellow pinstripe edge. It is Gone from the new comprehensive sheet for the combo kit. All the other markings are there... why Academy?

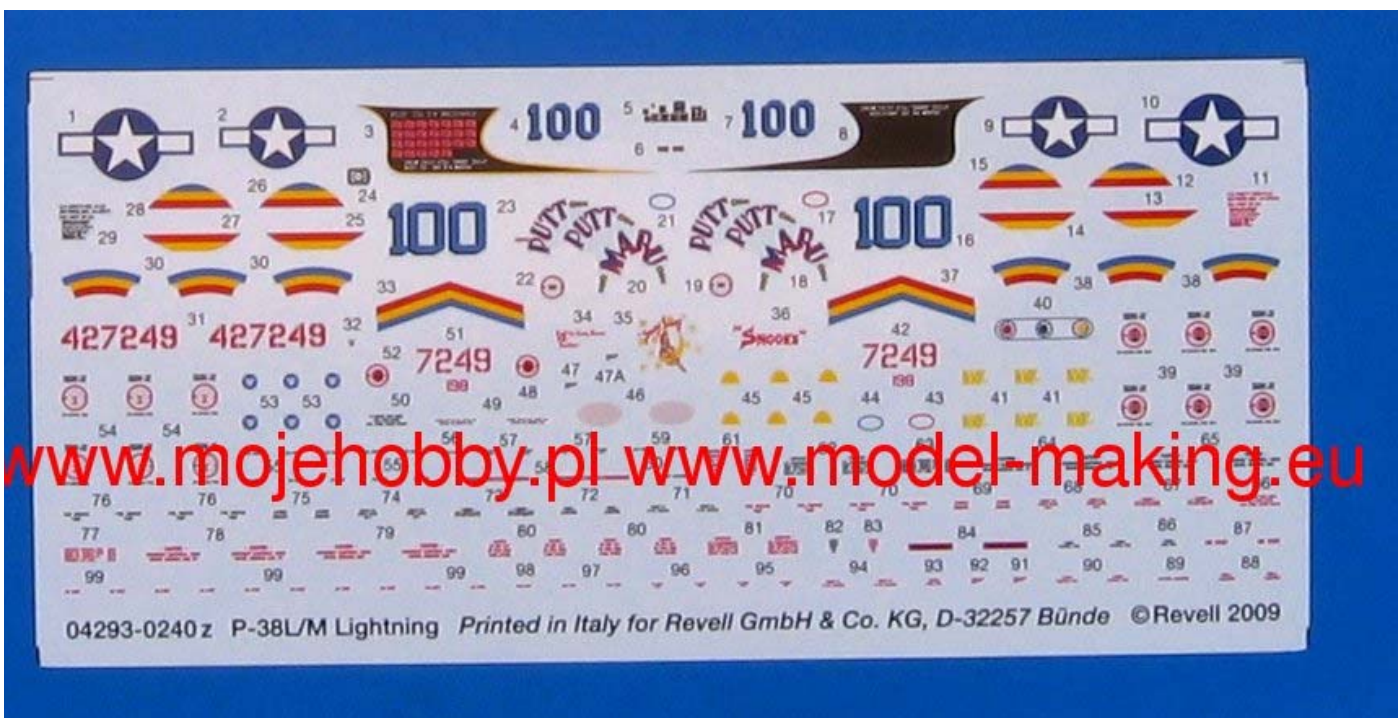
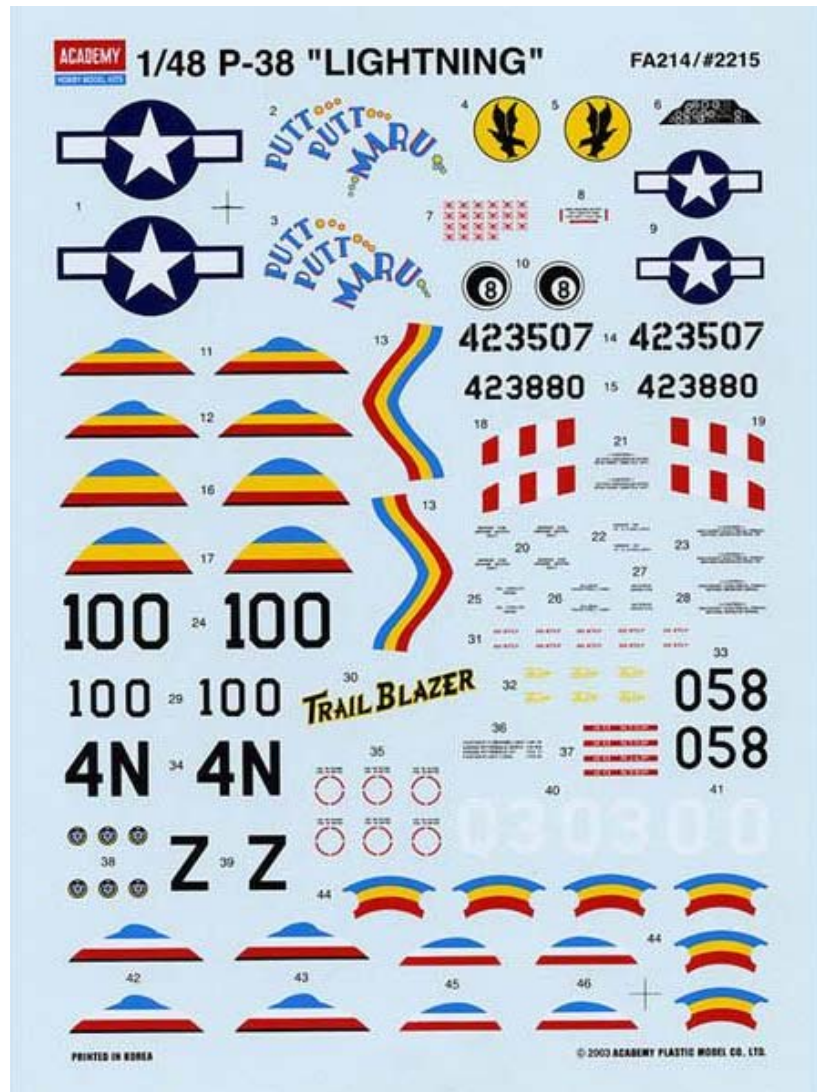


P-38J COMBINATION VERSION

Compare this with the sheet from another “Putt Putt Maru” option Boxing for “Pacific Lightnings” also by Academy: You can clearly see the Anti Glare and the pinstriping! (At least they changed the Black lettering to blue for the legend of “Putt Putt Maru!”)

Note: I may have left you with the impression that there is no detail in the wheel bays. There are some details provided for you to add in, but there is little moulded into either the walls, bulkheads or roofs. And the weak spot of the kit is the VERY flimsy joint between the Bay and the doors when the time comes to add those bay doors! A little work with fine plastic strip will do a lot to help – disguising the extra work will be the issue then!

So, while there are some issues with the Academy kits, none are insurmountable and given the rather cheap (Currently, anyway!) prices they go for on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand markets, they may well be a decent option as an alternative to the Tamiya “Uber” Lightning, which retails new for over \$120.00 nowadays. And before you ask, I have struggled with the Hasegawa Lightnings also, and have found similar issues with details and more, a real issue aligning the booms and fuselage pieces, an issue entirely missing from Tamiya's new kit and largely not found in the Academy ones.



# Dragon Panzer IV ausf E

By Steve Evans

This is the Dragon Pz 4 E. A really nice kit which goes together well. Mostly built out of the box, but some scratch built parts. It was painted with AK Africa Korps paint with some hairspray chipping. Put on a simple base. The figures are Doug's Miniatures. They are lovely resin figures









# ADVERTISING

You're Doing It Very Wrong.

# Tiger II In the Ardennes

By Steve Evans

This is a combined effort with my friend and excellent modeller, Andy Evans, from the UK. It is loosely based on the photo of the Tiger in the Ardennes. Andy painted most of the figures on the back of the Tiger. The crew figures, one of the Fallschirmjaeger and the motorcycle, and guy on the motorcycle were painted by me. I also did the Tiger, M/C and the base. It is based on the photo of LSSAH in the Ardennes. The Tiger 2 is Dragon with Friul tracks, added photoetch. and added detail. The motorcycle is Tamiya with some epoxy resin details. All the figures had their







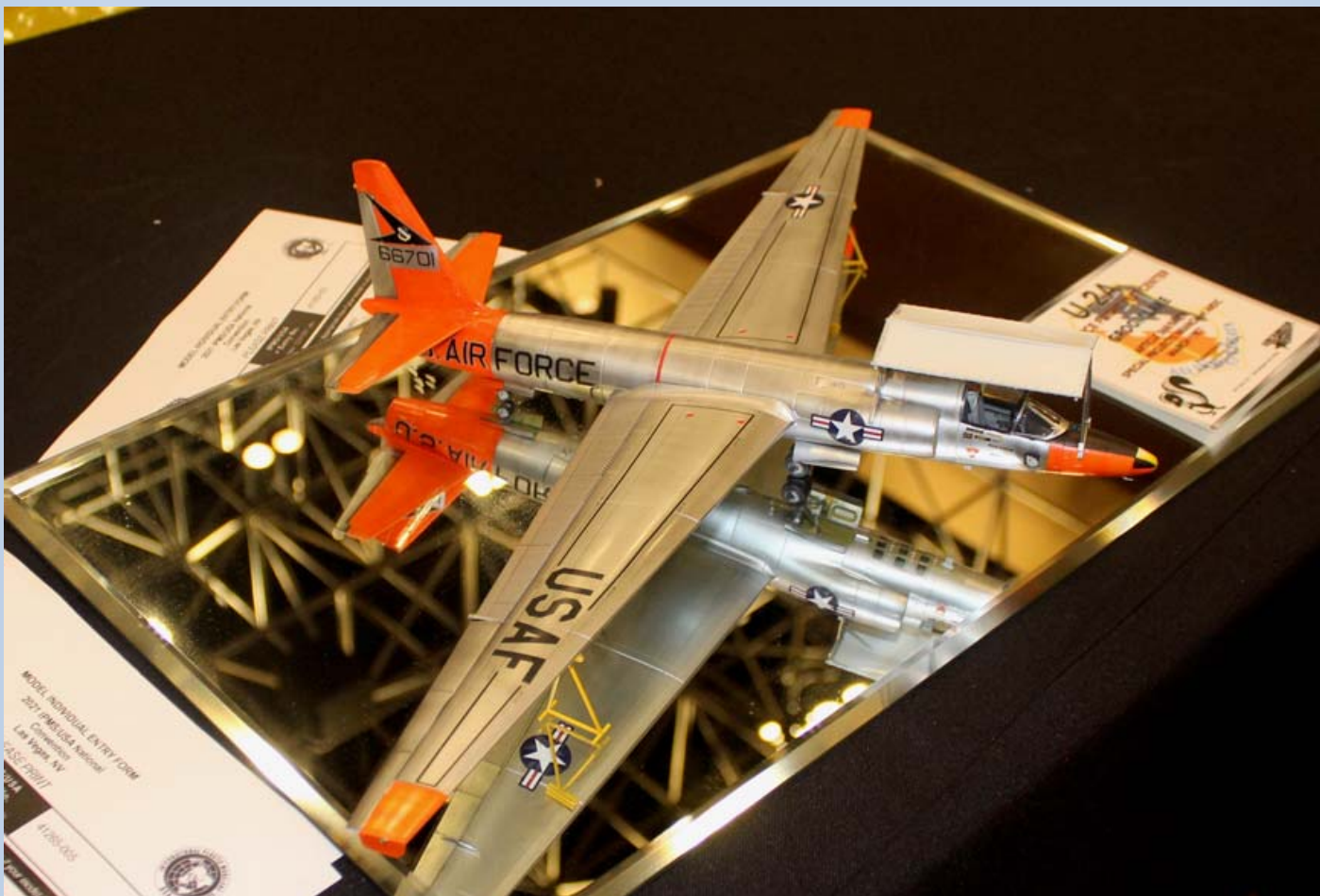








# A few shots from the 2021 IPMS U.S.A nationals











# GALLERY

CLUB NIGHT MODELS

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

<http://ipmsauckland.hobbyvista.com>



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.

