

Contents

Bulletin Board

Azure 1:72 Martin 167 Maryland

Revell 1/72 "Razor Crest:"
Starship from "The Mandalorian"
Season 1
A15 Tank, Cruiser, Mk.VI, Crusader Mk.1 (Early)
Waikato Show Photo Report

NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Tuesday 20/9/2022

Royal Oak Bowls

146 Selwyn St, Onehunga

COMMITTEE

Chairman - Craig Sargent	Dave Fish
Secretary - Brett Peacock	Lance Whitford
Treasurer - Mark Robson	

EDITOR: Lance Whitford
e: lancewhitford@hotmail.com

EMAIL: ipmsauckland@gmail.com

WEB: ipmsauckland.hobbyvista.com

YAHOO:
groups.yahoo.com/group/ipmsauckland

FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ipmsauckland>

From the Editor

I am happy to report that the one day show in Hamilton proved to be a very enjoyable time. It was good to see such a good turnout of Auckland members past and present at the Waikato Scale Model Club competition. Those of us who entered the competition came away with some rewards for our efforts while others came to socialize and for some it provided a great excuse to have a nice day gluing plastic.

As a one day event, it was very enjoyable. The venue being a Cosmopolitan club had onsite kitchen and bar which saved having to go in search of sustenance. When the competition was previously run in conjunction with Armistice it was not uncommon for models to disappear from the tables leaving big gaps in the display by Sunday afternoon as out of town people took their models and ran. The results this time were not announced until late in the proceedings and most models remained on the tables until near the 5pm wind-up time.

After talking with the hosts it was interesting to note that hosting a competition at the Armistice event made it difficult for the Waikato club to cover costs as they could not charge a separate admission. The costs such as trophies can soon mount up. There were some second hand bargains to be had along with a stand from a new paint and finishing supplies outfit who look to be bringing in some interesting products.

Now I'm looking forward to the nationals in Dunedin.



BULLETIN BOARD

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBS *** 2022/23 NOW DUE *******

Subs for 2022/23 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 third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

Venue: The Sports Lounge

Royal Oak Bowls

146 Selwyn St, Onehunga

September 20th Vacforms — kits and canopies. Yes they still have their uses.....



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.



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



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.

Avetek Limited

Gwyn and Christina Avenell
28 Lauren Grove, RD 2, Pakuranga,
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

Looking for someone to do commission build

We have been contacted by Dave Walley who is looking for someone to build a couple of helicopter models. He will pay an appropriate fee. If interested please email ipmsauckland@gmail.com and we will put you in contact with Dave



Azure 1:72 Martin 167 Maryland

By Mark Davies



Background

The Martin Model 167 was a response to a 1938 USAAC request for a twin engine light attack aircraft. Other designs put forward for the same requirement later developed into the Douglas A-20 and the North American B-25.

Martin's 167 never saw front line service with the Americans, but it did go to war in service with the French and British. In French service, it was known as "Glenn", and was used by both the Armée de l'Air and Aéronavale. Surviving machines were relocated to North Africa following the fall of France under the Vichy regime. Regrettably no Maryland survives today.



Azur's Maryland kit was first released in 2002, and again in 2006 with different markings. It has since been re-issued once in 2014 when re-boxed by Plastic Planet. I built mine in 2005.

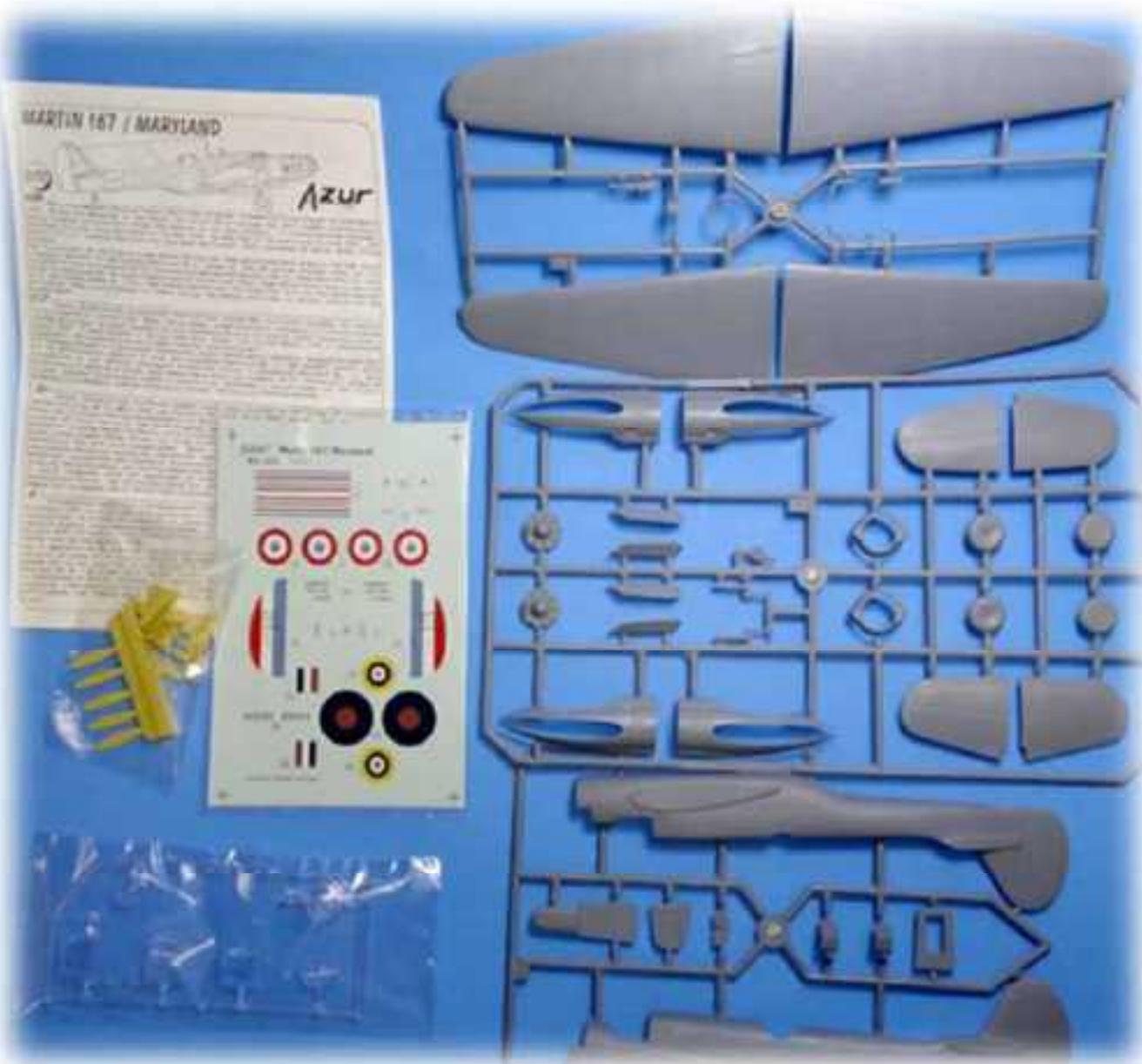
It was, and remains (if you can find a second-hand example), a welcome improvement on the old 1973 Frog kit. However, the Frog kit has been re-boxed by many different brands, its most recent re-release was by Ark Models in 2017.

The kit is generally well-detailed for the scale and has very fine engraved panel lines. The props, exhausts, pitot, aerial mast and DF loop are resin, with everything else moulded in styrene including the canopies. There is a choice of RAF desert or Vichy French schemes. The kit was one of the brand's early releases and of quite good quality for limited-run kit 20 years ago.

The Build

The kit only really suffers from a couple of faults; these being the wrong engines (Wright 9-cylinder R1820's instead of P&W 14-cylinder R1830's), and very shallow intakes on the top and bottom of the cowl faces. Less serious is the need to cut a couple of windows into each side of the fuselage.

I spent most of my time Dremelling out the intakes at the top and bottom of the cowl faces. On the kit these are only moulded in relief of about 0.5mm, and fail to do justice to what I feel is a significant feature of the Maryland. This was followed by more Dremelling to get some resin copies of the Academy PBY Catalina's R1830 engines to fit (these came courtesy of a friend).



Other additions and modifications included adding a belly gun, detailing the turret gun a bit, adding some etched seat belts, and two windows to the fuselage sides, wing guns and one or two items within the nose transparency area. I found the very clear canopies to be a little undersize, but better dry assembling would have led me to reduce the fuselage width before joining the halves. As a result, I sanded all the moulded framing off them and replaced them using decal film.



Painting & Decals

Painting was fairly straightforward, with the striped areas being painted over a white undercoat. All of paints used were Model Master enamels. Masking the cowls and was a little fiddly to get the stripes tapering the right way. All camouflage was quickly free-handed as photos suggest quite a soft edge.

The model was weathered a bit with chips, scratches and stains, although looking at the photos I feel the props are too dark. I'm happy enough with the final result as cabinet display model, and recommend the kit to anyone who fancies something a little different.

I still have a fondness for this model although it is one of my older builds...





Revell 1/72 "Razor Crest:" Starship from "The Mandalorian" Season 1 By Brett Peacock



Price (in NZ) \$199.00 (but it IS BIG.) Purchased to The Model Room, Papakura

Parts: 101 (including clear parts) 33.7 cm long. 2 versions: Inflight with stand, or landed with doors and ramps opened. Full Interior detail in cockpit and cargo bay area.

Ever since this TV show aired I have wanted to get this kit and Wow! It is quite a kit, one of the Best Star Wars kits available I think. There are two kits from Revell, this one in 1/72 and a 1/144 scale down also.

But the FIRST thing I noticed is that (AT LAST!!!) Revell have actually NOT used that flimsy soft card for their end opening box: This is a much sturdier and harder card (Did they have a contract or just an awful lot of flimsy card stock stored??) so while the box is still the end-opening (ick) design, it at least will suffer less damage in shipping.

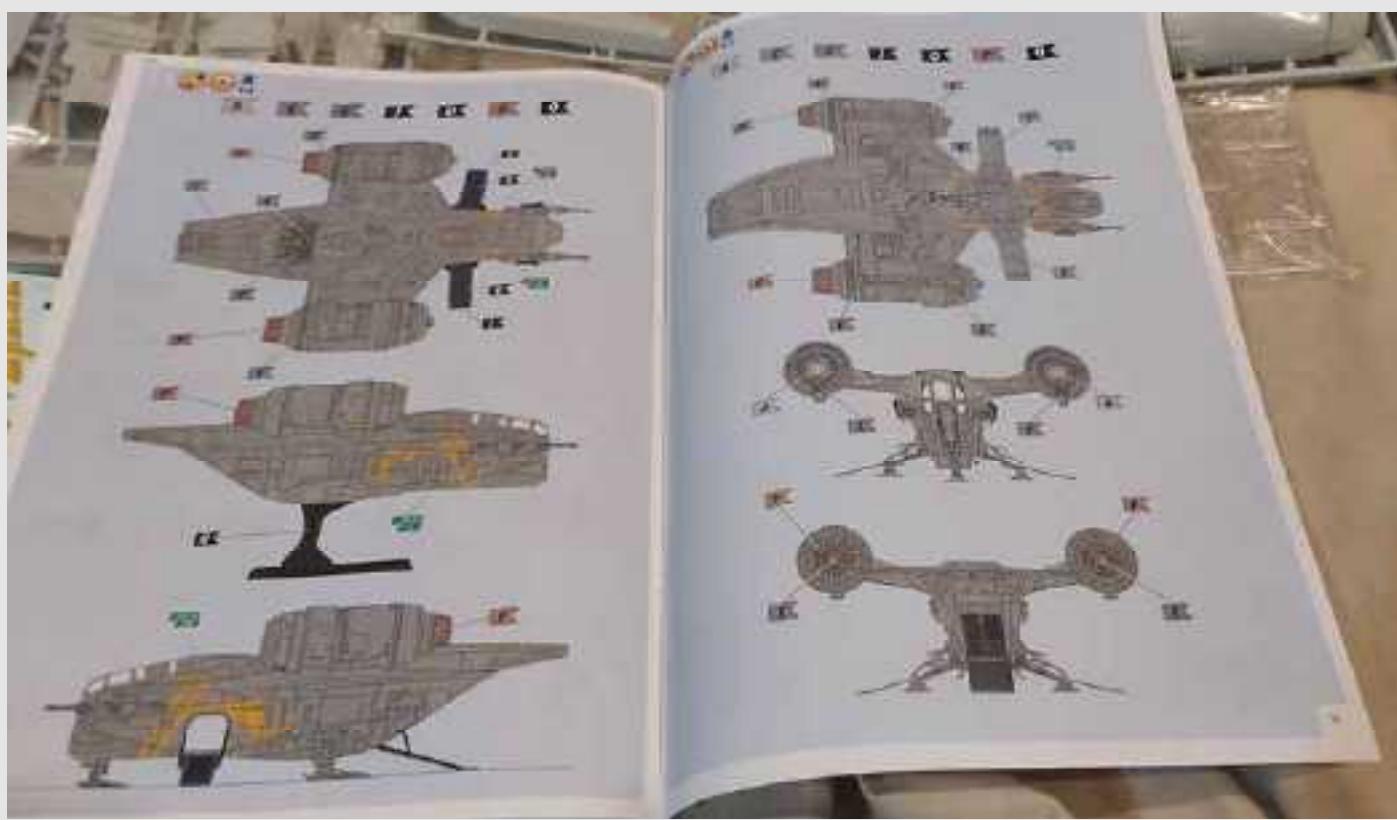
In the box you will find 1 single piece lower hull, 5 grey-blue sprues and 1 clear sprue, a smallish decal sheet and the new Revell instructions, which now seem to be adopted as their standard. The hull is loose but all sprue trees are bagged, with 2 bags of 2 and 2 single bags for the clear parts and 1 grey sprue with more delicate parts. That works for me.

I know some (MANY!) will complain about the price, and, yes, it is the most I have ever paid for a 1/72 scale kit! but there is a lot of plastic in the box and Revell have to re-coup their licensing costs! (Especially as it is Disney/Lucasfilm!!) But, IMHO, the kit is definitely worth it. Detail is



Pictures are worth a thousand words so here's a peek at the Instructions.





And the Clear parts:

Last but not least, the Decals"



Note the small print of "Printed in Italy", this hints at Cartograph decals and is not mentioned elsewhere in the packaging.

In conclusion, IF you are a Star Wars/Mandalorian fan and can afford the larger kit, you will not be disappointed by it. Yes the Pandemic has had a serious affect on imports at this end of the world, but there is little we can do about it, even getting the kit from Australian suppliers will still cost almost as much, with postage added (It is a BIG box and quite weighty!)

A15 Tank, Cruiser, Mk.VI, Crusader Mk.1 (Early)

1/72 IBG/S-Model/Dan Taylor Modelworks Kit-bash

By Mark Davies



The Crusader

The Crusader was a mediocre tank in many respects, and the early examples were prone to chronic reliability issues. It was these early vehicles that underwent the type's baptism of fire in the Western Desert in mid-1941 during Operation Battleaxe, and the attempt to relieve the garrison Port of Tobruk. The Crusader's reliability issues related to inadequate engine cooling and air filtration in particular, as well as many lesser issues attributable to its rushed service introduction (it was ordered into production from the drawing board), some poor design features, lack of maintenance training and spares, etc.

The Crusader's speed and acceleration were its only real strengths, with its gun and armour being no more than barely adequate for the time. Some would also mention its comparatively low silhouette as a plus, or even its good looks! (This last point no doubt has something to do with its appeal to modellers.)

Some of its weaknesses, like poor air filters, were remedied over time to make it more reliable (but never sufficiently), and its armament improved with the Mk.III's adoption of 57mm 6-Pdr gun in place of the earlier 40mm 2-Pdr weapon of the Mk.I & II. Some Crusaders were deemed Close Support (CS) Tanks, and armed instead with a 3" howitzer (but used in shallow elevation like field gun). CS, in British doctrine, meant firing smoke shells to screen the movement of the other gun tanks or whoever else needed to hide from enemy observation. Only a few rounds of the total carried by a CS tank were high explosive (HE).

This is even more surprising given that the same daft doctrine, inexplicably, meant that neither the 2-Pdr or 6-pdr gun tanks had any HE rounds to deal effectively with anti-tank guns, in particular, and other soft targets like trucks. Instead, they carried solid armour-piercing shot (without any explosive) where a near miss was as good a mile in terms of the damage inflicted.

The Crusader gun and CS tanks fought on until the North African campaign was won, although superior US-made Grant and Sherman medium tanks had largely supplanted the Crusaders by then. Thereafter, Crusaders were increasingly used for reconnaissance or grouped within the 'light squadrons' and used for screening or flanking sweeps.

Crusader gun tanks would only be used for training in the UK after the North Africa campaign was won. However, some modified Crusader Mk.IIIs saw service in Western Europe after D-Day when fitted with a twin 20mm cannon turret as an anti-aircraft SPG, or in turretless form as a 17-Pdr anti-tank gun tractor with a roomy open-topped compartment.

The Crusader served when little better was on offer to fulfil the cruiser role¹, and as soon as there was, British tank crews must have breathed a sigh of relief.

The Crusader in 1/72 Scale

Unlike some, I generally do not consider 1/72 and 1/76 scales to be all that compatible, especially for identical subjects, whilst 1/72 is only 5.6% bigger in linear terms, it is a very noticeable 18% larger volumetrically. So, I will restrict my comments to 1/72 Crusader kits.

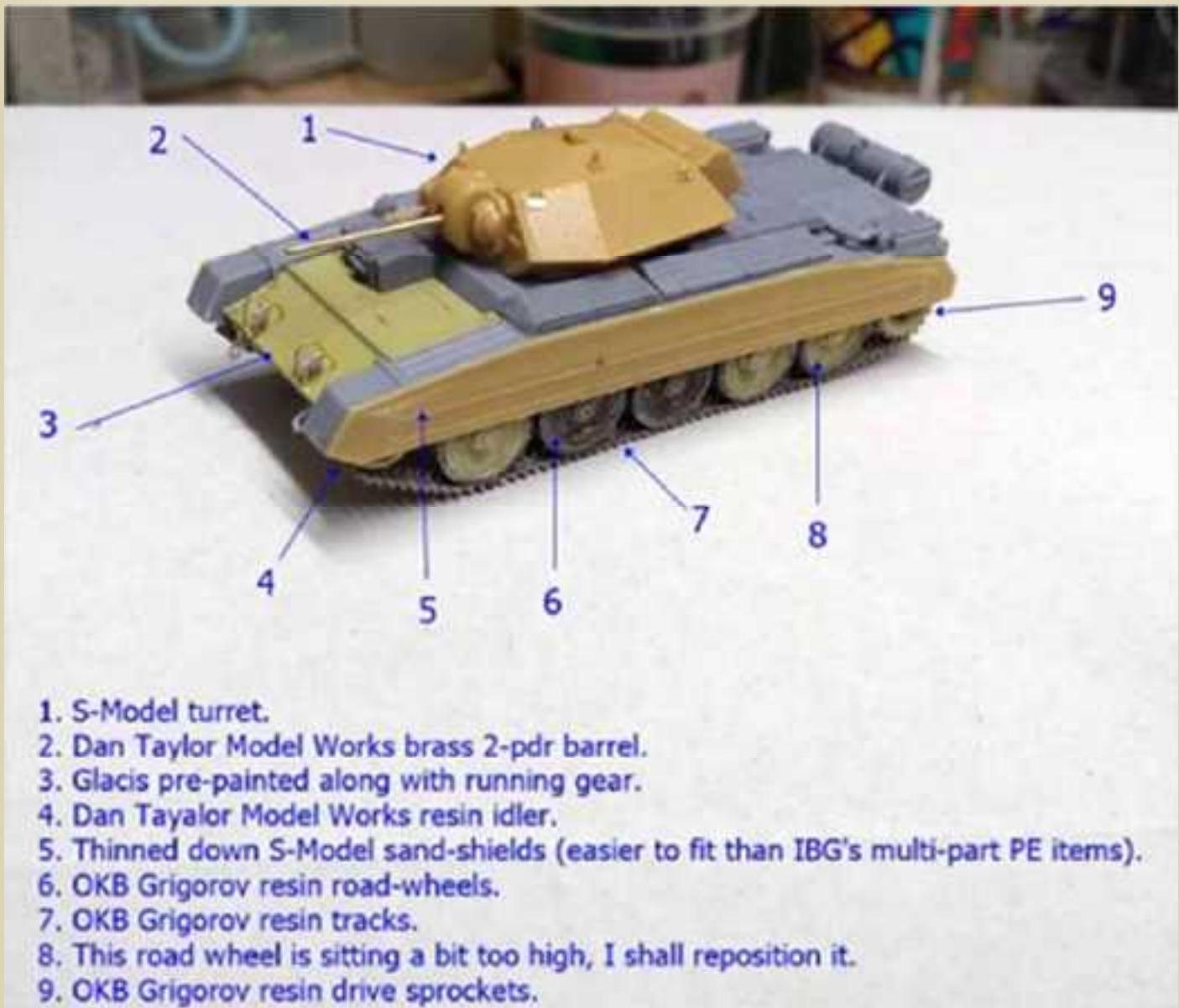
From 1975 until 2012 there was only the dreadfully inaccurate Hasegawa kit that was also reboxed by Revell. It is more a caricature of the tank it purports to represent than scale replica.

Then came a commendable effort by S-Model with fast assembly Mk.I/II and Mk.II CS kits. They had a foot in both the display-model (it has PE brush guards and turret lifting eyes) and wargames camps (with combined one-piece tracks and running gear). They are crisply moulded, fit very well, and look the part. They are compromised by the paired road wheels being moulded as a single wheel and solid drive sprockets and idlers. No less significant are some missing undercuts to engine covers and air cleaners, and the louvres at the hull's rear. Also, the prominent bullet-deflecting boltheads on the turret are too small.

In 2019 IBG released the first of a family of Crusader kits, a Mk.I, Mk.II, and Mk.III, plus two versions of AA tank using the Mk.III hull. These avoided all of the issues affecting the S-Model kits and were pitched squarely at the display-model market. They are crisp, well-fitting and well-detailed with a clever and effective one-piece styrene track system. They have two major weaknesses however – Their turrets are undersized and equate to 1/76 scale (they are about 85% the size, volumetrically, of a 1/72 turret), and the dished effect of the road wheels are far too shallow, and the tyres too thin.

Armourfast offer a fast assembly wargames Mk.II kit, but it is simplified and quite a few more steps down the wargames path than S-Model. I would not consider it for building a display model.

Making the Most of What's Available...



1. S-Model turret.
2. Dan Taylor Model Works brass 2-pdr barrel.
3. Glacis pre-painted along with running gear.
4. Dan Tayalor Model Works resin idler.
5. Thinned down S-Model sand-shields (easier to fit than IBG's multi-part PE items).
6. OKB Grigorov resin road-wheels.
7. OKB Grigorov resin tracks.
8. This road wheel is sitting a bit too high, I shall reposition it.
9. OKB Grigorov resin drive sprockets.

The UK's Dan Taylor Modelworks (DTM) has several handy sets for improving the S-Model Crusaders. Whilst the PE is of good quality, I found the resin wheel & tracks sets to be not as good, although DTM has since changed resin casters to provide a better product. Bulgaria's OKB Grigorov makes very good Crusader/Covenanter resin road wheels & tracks but, unlike DTM, no sprocket or idler. I'm sure Syndikate Co of Poland will, before too long, release excellent 3D printed running gear for IBG's Crusader kits that betters these cast resin products. Several brands offer 2-Pdr and 6-Pdr turned brass or aluminium gun barrels, and some offer 20mm and 40mm alternatives for the Crusader AA tanks.

So currently, probably the best route to a decent 1/72 scale mid to late Mk.I or a Mk.II Crusader is a kit-bash using IBG's hull, S-Model's turret, with OKB Grigorov's wheels and tracks. Above is a Mk.II that I prepared earlier, with the various origins of its parts annotated in the image above, and the same model below, painted.



The Kit-bash Build

I wanted to build one of the very first Crusader MK.Is as used in Operation Battle Axe, something that is not covered by either IBG or S-Model Crusader Mk.I kits.

Fortunately, DTM offers an early Mk.I conversion set for the S-Model kit. This provides the No.3 Mk.I open-style gun mantlet and associated turret front, A13-style half-length sand shields, the prominent bulge on the left side of the turret, fold down antenna mounted on the turret's rear, the original style of engine air-cleaners, and the rear-mounted POW rack to carry 2-Gal tin flim-sies (which are also included). DTM provides a separate set of wheels with the solid disc covers and tracks to modify the S-Model kits which feature the more commonly seen deep-dished type.

I was aware that DTM included wheel disc covers in his Covenanter conversion that employed cut-down IBG Crusader running gear. Like their turrets, the two also had the same wheels in common although the Covenanter only had four pairs of road wheel preside compared to the Crusader's five. I get on well with Dan Taylor, so I asked if I could buy just two sets his Covenanter PE wheel covers for my Crusader. These ended up being freebies with me paying postage from the UK to NZ.

Obtaining the wheel discs meant I could use the IBG hull and running gear because that kit's too shallow dished would be hidden behind DTM's PE wheel discs. I planned to replace the undersized IBG turret with the correctly sized S-Model turret, so fitting DTM's No3 Mk.I mantlet and other turret accoutrements would not be a problem. As mentioned earlier, the S-Model turret has rather undersized bolheads, and since I had to remove the side-mounted antennas I sanded the bolheads off as part of the subsequent clean-up process. I then used Archer Fine Transfer resin rivet decals to represent the bolheads I had removed. The following images show what I did.



The first Crusaders were painted in a camouflage system using a concept similar to the dazzle camouflage used by some warships, whilst incorporating colours that would either blend with background or counter-shade to help obscure the vehicle. Post-war this type of camouflage became known as Caunter Camouflage, after Brigadier Caunter who developed and implemented it. The patterns and colour sequences were not arbitrary by any means, as clear diagrammatic guidelines for various vehicle types were included with documents instituting the camouflage system's adoption. These also specified the quantity of paints required and how the design was to be outlined in chalk on the vehicle, with colours indicated in the respective infill areas, so a group of men could then paint the tank largely unsupervised.

A British modeller, Mike Starmer, has researched British Army camouflage and markings for the period 1936-45 extensively, and is recognised as a leading authority on the subject.

He has written four spiral-bound pamphlets covering different theatres of operations. These give the relevant history, copies of the various camouflage and markings instructions promulgated within the Army at the time, his views on historical aspects, and include paint chips with colour mixing recipes for the various service paint colours. An entire pamphlet is dedicated to 'Caunter' camouflage, and I used this for my model's paint scheme.

The booklets can be purchased from on-line distributors or direct from Mike. He also offers a range of 1/76/72 WW2 British decals.



Above is the model in the overall base colour of [B.S.C. No. 64](#) Portland Stone, over which the two disruptive colours of B.S.C. No. 28 Silver Grey, and B.S.C. No. 34 Slate or New Service Colour. I used Vajello paints largely because I purchased a box set of Caunter colours. Three things I dislike about this paint: very slow to dry, very fragile when dry, and its expensive proprietary thinners were the only effective type I found to both spray and clean my airbrush.

Here it is with the disruptive colours of Silver Grey and Slate which were masked out and air-brushed, along with a Tamiya gloss acrylic clear coat to protect the delicate Vajello paint...



At the time this tank represents few, if any, markings aside from a serial number were carried. This made decaling very easy, as all I needed to do was find a suitable Crusader Mk.I number from one of Mike Starmer's just serial numbers decal sheets.

I added a modicum of stowage, applied some light weathering, dropped some clear epoxy into the drilled-out spotlight, and stuck it on simple 'tank-biscuit' base made of light soil glued to a piece of cork floor tile. The model represents about six days of work.





Link to more photos of the finished model: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/w8Qd3uMxQNzkb6qMA>

- **A footnote:**

You may recall from the introduction that I wrote 'The Crusader served when little better was on offer to fulfil the cruiser role...' Well, here's a quick speel on the other tank on offer at the time, the Covenanter. This may be of interest to those unfamiliar the history of British tanks during the quarter-century from the end of WW1 to the end of WW2.

The Covenanter

The Covenanter was a parallel design in terms of role and timing, and was also ordered into production from the drawing board. It and the Crusader shared a common turret, road wheels and track. Unbelievably, the Covenanter made the Crusader look good.

Despite over 1,700 being built all were used in the UK for training as it was deemed unsuitable for overseas use. It had the engine in the back and the radiator on the front glacis with coolant pipes running through the fighting compartment. It was plagued by overheating problems, and by the time these were largely solved it was declared obsolete. Like the Crusader, it could be said to a quite pretty tank.

I mentioned in my Crusader article that the IBG Kit's turret was undersize for 1/72 scale model, well, fortuitously, it is suitable for a 1/76 scale Covenanter that had the same turret as the Crusader.

In the absence of a 1/72 Covenanter kit, I was prepared to bend my own exclusively 1/72 scale rule and build a 1/76 scale example. So, I bought Dan Taylor Modelworks' conversion/kit that requires some IBG Crusader donor parts. The ex IBG Crusader parts are the grey styrene items in the images below ↓ with my completed model underneath these. So long as I don't place my Covenanter next to a Crusader in my cabinet (where the different sized turrets would be obvious) I can get away with displaying this as my only 1/76 AFV amongst over 100 1/72 scale vehicles.



Waikato Show Photo Report





























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.

