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RED, WHITE & SPRUE

Volume 21 Number 5

★ LISMS NEWSLETTER ★

May 2014

- **Book Review-Curtiss XP-55 Ascender**
- **Noreastcon 13 Pics**
- **Kit Review-1/48 Shinden by Hasagawa/Minicraft**
- **Book and Machine Review Compact All-In-One Vacuum Forming Machine**
- **Seen on the Table**





Next meeting date:
Monday, May 19th
7:30 pm to 10 pm
Levittown Public Library
 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown, NY.

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Model: **Night**
 Photo: **Zygier**



That was another fine show you guys did. Fred did a marvelous job on the contest! Thanks Fred! There weren't any complaints that I am aware of. All the vendors seem to be happy when I approached them. Dividing members into groups was the best way to handle the event so we all could help and enjoy the show. I was able to have some time to shop, and take pictures of the models. With Roger still out ill

we managed to pull this off. It was a success with 88 modelers who entered 384 models in the contest. These numbers were still down from Noreastcon in 2012 with 120 modelers and 452 models. All other areas were down and will be discussed at the next meeting May 19th. We shouldn't be surprised by the decline in numbers for Mosquitocon reported a 25% drop in attendance, thus the bare spaces on their tables. A typical sign of Obama's economic decline.

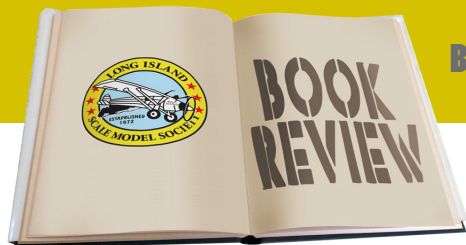
The Noreastcon Chapter Cup is awarded to the chapter who scores the overall highest points by winning a First, Second, Third and Special award. Fred said our chapter got our behinds kicked by Northeast New York Chapter (NENY). I think they came in force to win the cup and that means we will have to try next year to win it back. So start building guys! Let's give them our effort! Let's go up there next year and cause a rebellion! A model building rebellion that is. Oh yeah, I said up there next year because Noreastcon 44 may be in Albany if the NENY boys can put the package together. I'll keep you posted.

Speaking about our meeting, I think we will not plan anything special except to bring down models in progress and what you entered in the show. Doug will have final numbers on the event and we will have a discussion on what you want out of the club. We want your ideas! We will talk briefly about our next year's show! As for the last meeting, Nick's clinic on making a wood finish was great! Thanks Nick!

I must point out how much effort Doug does for the club. He is the Treasurer, the coffee maker for our monthly meetings, is at every monthly Board Meeting, always with me to prepare our Holiday Party, and when it's show time, he is making calls for me to coordinate all deliveries. His efforts have helped a great deal, more than I expected a treasurer to do. That's why we need more Board Members, to take some of the load off the shoulders of three people.

Bob





Air Force Legends Number 217 - Curtiss Ascender XP-55

by Gerry Balzer, Published by Steve Ginter, 2014

SB, 72 pages, \$24.95

Reviewed by Steve Muth



This is apparently the only book devoted solely to the XP-55 Ascender. Luckily it does it justice. The XP-55 was one of the three finalists in the Air Force's "Request for Data R40-C" for the 1940 pursuit procurement. It was a dramatic step in an effort to streamline AF procurement in that instead of a detailed procurement specification, it was very brief and only specified general performance requirements. This was to allow Material Division more latitude in design selection and speed up the procurement cycle. Nine manufacturers were invited and three were selected to build three prototypes. The three designs selected were: the Vultee XP-54 Swoose, the Curtiss XP-55 Ascender

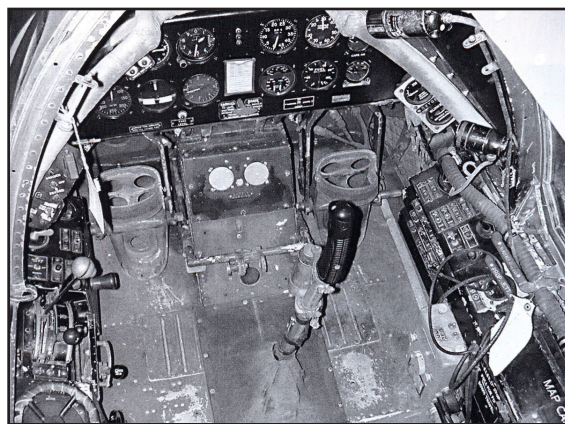
and the Northrop XP-56 Black Bullet. All were radical unorthodox pusher aircraft.

The subject of this book is the Curtiss XP-55 ascender. Despite appearing to be a canard with the elevator in front, it was, in reality, a stable flying wing with a free floating forward horizontal surface that was controlled only at the pilot's discretion. This book describes the procurement approach, selection and development problems with the three XP-55s and their predecessor, the company funded CW 24B – lightweight demonstrator used to explore the configuration.

There are many Black & White period photos including a walk around series that include some taken during the recent restoration. These include shots of the landing gear, wheel wells and cockpit. As with most Ginter books, it is a modeler's delight. The cover wrap has some nice portrait photos of the restored second prototype at the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum, also known as the Air Zoo.

There is a short section reviewing three manufacturers' kit offerings: Czech Models 1/48 XP-55, MPM 1/72 XP-55, Hasagawa 1/72 J7W1 and Collect-Aire 1/48 XP-55.

An excellent book on a very unusual aircraft and one that was sorely needed. As with all Ginter books, I wish he included color for the walk around photos. Never-the-less. Recommended 🍷





Noreastcon 13

By Steve Muth

Noreastcon 43 is now history. I, for one, had a good time. I will leave the numbers to our illustrious leaders to expound upon. There may not be jubilation and dancing in the streets but neither is weeping and gnashing of teeth called for. We had fun, saw some good modeling, met old

friends again and in general enjoyed ourselves. So... here are just a few images from the affair. Many more will follow on the website as Bob sorts through the photos that various folks took and shared with him. 🇺🇸





Two wood sailing ships



Submarines beached U boat



Bird of prey



Star wars thing pt 2



Fred Flintstone



Large group of fantasy figures



German tank w 2 trees



King on throne

1/48 J7W1 Shinden

by Hasagawa/Minicraft #1189

Reviewed by Steve Muth

A short history

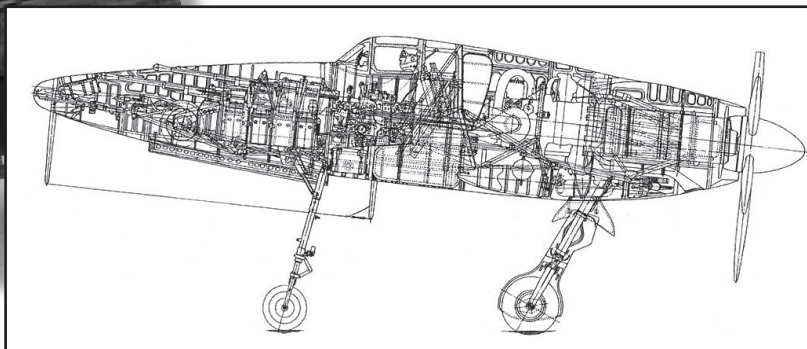
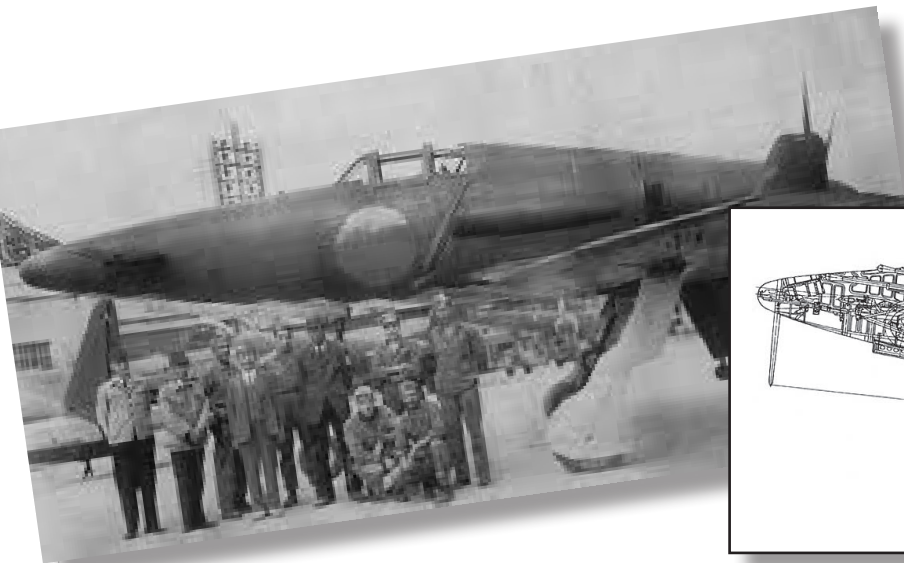
The J7W1 was Kyushu's response to a 1943 IJN 18-shi specification for a new interceptor to combat the expected high flying B-29. It was designed from the outset to be compatible with the new turbo jets being designed at the same time. These new turbo jets were not expected to be available in time so the initial design was to be powered by the Mitsubishi Ha-43 12 cylinder radial engine developing 2130 hp at takeoff. Two prototypes were authorized and built. One was completed and first flown on August 3, 1945. A total of three flights were made before the end of the war terminated all efforts on the J7W1. The second prototype was also completed but never flown. The three flights revealed some serious problems that would have had to overcome before it could be flown by the average pilot. The second prototype was shipped to the US and assigned Tech no. FE-326. In 1946 it was decided to assign it to the Smithsonian for restoration. Subsequently it was shipped to Park Ridge in September and thence to the Paul E. Garber facility where it remains in pieces and unrestored.

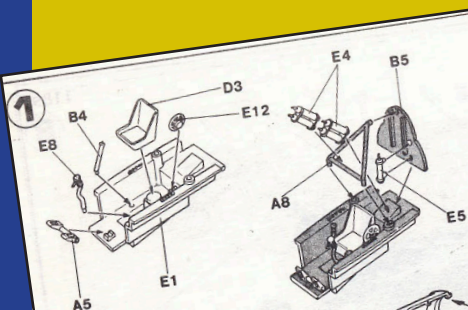
Color photographs of the cockpit can be found on page 86 in the book "Japanese Secret Project: Experimental Aircraft of the IJA and IJN 1939-1945" by Edwin M. Dyer, III. It is published by Midland Publishing, UK.

The Kit

The kit consists of 53 parts including three clear parts for the canopy. It is packaged in a sturdy top opening box with a picture of a completed model on the top. The kit is actually the Hasagawa kit manufactured and sold under license in the US by Minicraft so the molds are good with no sink marks or flash. The panel lines are both raised and engraved but are a mixed bag. Some are very petite but some of the engraved lines are rather heavy, particularly those defining the main spars on the wing lower surfaces and on the canards. None of the parts are bagged, not even the clear canopy parts which could be a problem. Cockpit detail looks good but would benefit from some seat belts and harnesses. The landing gear wells, struts and doors are well detailed too but would also benefit from the addition of brake lines. There is a pilot figure with a poseable arm. The instructions are of the ubiquitous exploded views type with seven steps. There is a four view drawing for painting and decal placement. Colors are called out by name and FS numbers. They are adequate but appear to be a 3rd or 4th generation copy from the original. Markings were very basic on the prototype and the decals reflect that. They do appear to be OK but mine are yellowing somewhat. It appears that Minicraft cut all possible costs to produce this kit and probably depended on people recognizing that they would be getting the Hasagawa kit at a cut rate price.

Were it not for the raised panel lines, this would be an up to date kit of a rare subject. I personally like it as I believe you can get better results by sanding and rescribing. All in all, a good kit and recommended for any skill level. 🍷





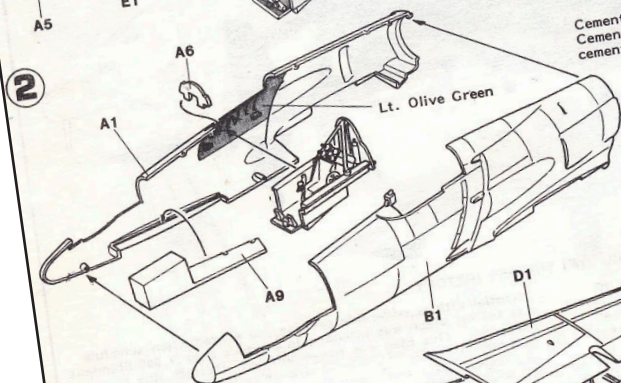
Cement B4, E8 and E12 to left side of E1 and to floor.
Cement E5 to B5, then cement B5 to E1, as shown.
Cement A8 between B5 and E1, as shown.
Cement two E4's to E1 between A-frame.

Cockpit Interior
Cockpit Floor
Seat
Control Column
Column Grip
Rudder Pedals
Trim Wheel
Oxygen Bottles
Extinguisher
Overturn Bar

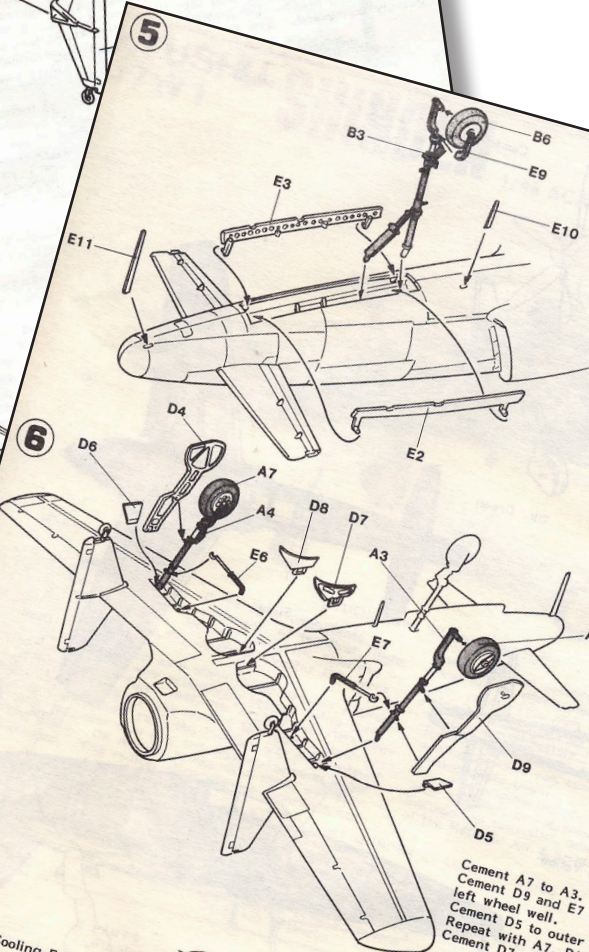
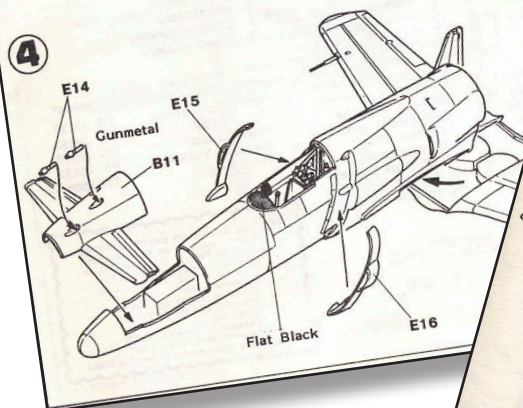
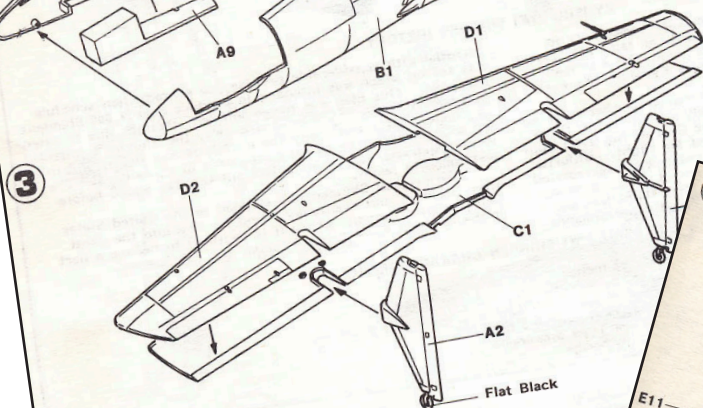
Lt. Olive Green
Lt. Olive Green
Silver
Lt. Olive Green
Flat Black
Silver
Flat Black
Flat Black
Red
Lt. Olive Green

Cement A6 to A1, then cement cockpit assembly to A1.
Cement A9 to A1, add 1/2 oz of weight to the nose, then cement A1 and B1 together.

Panel, flat black with yellow instrument faces.



Cement D1 and D2 to C1.
Cement A2 and B2 to wing assembly.

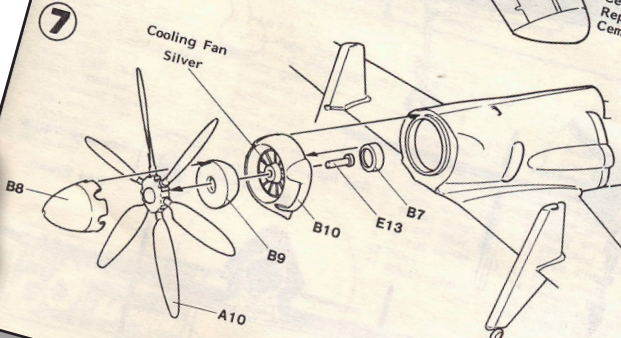


Slide B6 over shaft of B3, then cement gear strut into nose well.
Cement E2 and E3 beside wheel well.
Cement E11 and E10 in place as shown.

Gear Strut
Oleo Strut
Wheel
Tire
Covers (Inside)
Wheel Wells

Flat Black
Silver
Aluminum
Flat Black
Lt. Gray

Cement A7 to A3.
Cement D9 and E7 to A3, then cement this unit into left wheel well.
Cement D5 to outer edge of well.
Repeat with A7, D4, D6, A4 and E6 for right gear.
Cement D7 and D8 to inside edges of wells, as shown.

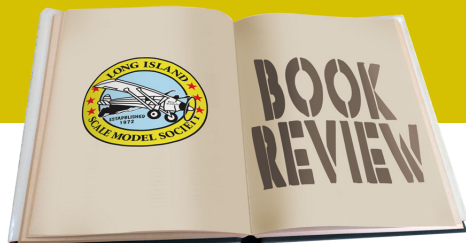


Helmet
Face
Suit
Life Vest
Belt
Boots
Gloves
Scarf

Red Brown
Flesh
Tan
Khaki
Green
Gloss Black
Red Brown
White

Slide E13 through hole in B10, then carefully cement B7 to B10, trapping E13.
Cement B8 and B9 to A10, then cement unit to shaft of E13.
Cement propeller assembly to rear of fuselage.
Cement D11 to D10.





Compact All-In-One Vacuum Forming Machine and Do It Yourself Vacuum Forming book.

\$149.95 and \$15.75

Reviewed by Steve Mutt

The Micro-Mark's Winter 2014 catalogue featured the Compact All-In-One Vacuum Forming Machine on the cover. It intrigued me since I have a very old Mattel vacuum forming machine and have never been very keen about it. It made a few acceptable canopies but it never was very satisfactory. Plus, being ignorant about the properties of the various clear plastic sheets, results were, at times, problematic. The Mattel unit uses a plain light bulb as the heat source and a manual lever operated pump as the vacuum source. This new unit and book appears to solve all the difficulties I have encountered in the past.

The unit is made for the hobbyist and is simple to operate. The vacuum base has a perforated screen and a bed of metal beads to hold the mold off the base. The heating element is in a swing away housing and the sheet plastic holder grips the plastic in two coarse surfaced rings that are compressed with a knob on the front. Very fool proof. The plastic holder is raised and lowered with a lever control on the side of the machine. The vacuum pump/source is motor driven in the base of the unit. There are two switches on the front – a heater switch and a pump switch. You simply put a 5x5 inch piece of plastic in the bottom frame of

the plastic holder, swing down the top frame and pull the latch knob down to trap the plastic, pull the orange handle down to raise the plastic holder, put the mold for what you are making on the bed of metal beads. Swing the heater assembly to the left, plug it in, turn on the heater and allow it to reach operating temperature. Once it is hot swing it back over the plastic holder. When the plastic sags about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch you quickly turn off the heater, turn on the vacuum switch (Named the MODEL switch) and quickly raise the orange handle lowering the softened plastic onto the mold. After allowing the plastic to cool for about 8 second or more turn off the vacuum pump, swing the heater aside, unlock the frame, swing up the top of the frame and remove the plastic and mold from the machine.

The book, also in the Micro-Mark catalogue, is not written around the machine but is a general book on vacuum forming for the hobbyist. It discusses the various plastics and their properties, the various heat and vacuum sources and how to make your own vacuum forming machine for canopies, car bodies and such. It discusses what heat and

vacuum sources are suitable, which ones are not and what plastics are suitable for what projects.

Micro-Mark sells three types of suitable sheet plastic at reasonable prices:

1. Clear Vivak – multipurpose for forming canopies and other glazing.
2. Black and white Styrene – multipurpose opaque for forming car bodies and such
3. Clear Polycarbonate – an unbreakable, high temperature plastic for forming engine cowls

Of course you can get it much cheaper at a plastic supply house but you may have to buy a lifetime supply.

So, you balk at the price but really some newer kits aren't that far away in price these days and factoring in inflation it's about the same relative price as the old Mattel unit, which is a toy in comparison. Plus, you don't have to drill in the plastic as with the Mattel unit. The plastic just gets trapped in place.

Now, on to making the windscreen for the old Lindberg "D" Type Jaguar that I cleverly broke a while back. 🛩



Photo: Al Zygier



SEEN ON THE TABLE - APRIL 21, 2014

We had 12 models on the table this month of April and there were some nice ones. We had the usual mix of ships, armor, guns and aircraft but no cars or figures. We had stuff all the way from a 1/144 B-24J to several 1/32 biplanes. Chesley White showed up at our meeting again and brought his scratch built AH-56 Cheyanne. Enjoy! 🚁

Steve Muth



Bill Koppas' Meng 1-35 Char 2C



Chesley White's Scratch built AH-56 Cheyanne



Joe Haberkorn's Roden 1/32 Albatross



Marshall Voizard's Matchbox 1/700 German Z38 Destroyer



Nick Boro's Roden 1/32 Albatross D.II - an example of the wood grain techniques he demod



Ray O'Niell's Academy 1/72 A6M5c



Ray O'Niell's AZ Models 1/72 K3M3



Steve Andreano's 1/35 88 gun



Steve Andreano's 1/35 Pz II turret pill box.



Steve Marten's Accurate Miniatures
1/48 P-51A Mustang



Steve Marten's Italeri 1/35 Puma Sd. Kfz. 234-2



Tim Kelly's Revell 1/144 B-24J Liberator

Show Calendar Listing for 2014

See Bob DeMaio for details

Date	Event & Location	Website	Day
Aug. 6 - 9	IPMS 2014 National Convention Hampton Roads Convention Center Hampton, VA	http://www.ipmsusa2014.com	Wed-Sat
Sept. 26 & 27	ARMORCON 2014 Crown Plaza Danbury, CT HYPERLINK	www.militarymodelers.org	Fri-Sat
Oct. 18	HVHMG 26 Elks Lodge 29 Overocker Road Poughkeepsie, NY	www.hvhmg.com	Sat
Nov. TBD	LIARS Freeport Recreation Center Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY	http://www.wix.com/liarsmodelcarclub/liars	Sat
Nov. TBD	Long Island Figure Show Freeport Recreation Center Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY	http://www.longislandmodelsoldiers.com	Sat

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And don't forget to mention that you are a member of the LISMS and appreciate his or her support. Everybody likes a thank you.

Depending upon the size of your purchase, these shops have agreed to provide a possible 10% or more discount if you have our membership card.

Alsand's Toy Soldiers Plus

www.alsandmdseco.com

Alan & Sandy, 848 Long Island Ave. Dear Park, NY 11729, (631)254-2650, Collectibles, Action Figures, Miniature Toy Soldiers, Models, etc.

Baseline Model Inc.

Eric, 250 Little East Neck Rd., West Babylon, NY 11704, (631)376-0060, Military Model Specialist, old and new kits bought and sold. Retail and Mail Orders. Closed Mondays.

Get It On Paper

Gary Weickert, 185 Maple St., Islip, NY 11751, (631) 581-3897, open every Saturday noon to 5 PM. - Vintage Toys & Model Kits, Automobilia & auto Literature. Model kits wanted.

Gold Coast Hobby

www.GoldCoastHobby.com

Charles Gonder, 8 railroad Ave, Glen Head, NY 11545, (516)759-9094, Planes, Boats, Cars & Armor. A full line hobby shop dedicated to customer service.

Men-At-Arms Hobbies

James Katona, 134 Middle Country Rd. (Rt. 25), Middle Island, NY (631)924-0583- Excellent selection of lead miniatures-Historical and Fantasy. Plastic Models, War games & Modeling supplies. Books and Magazines.

The Marx-Man

John Stengel, (718)418-9439 - We carry an array of toy soldiers in plastic and metal, from HO to 54 mm/60 mm. Die cast vehicles and Dragon action figures.

Trainville Hobby Depot

Weekend shows only: website: www.trainville.com and e-mail: info@trainville.com



Photo: Al Zygiar



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International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

☐ New

☐ Renewal

IPMS #

Name:

Address:

City/State:

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Phone:

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☐ Junior (17 or younger) \$12.00

☐ Adult 1 year \$25.00

☐ 2 years \$49.00

☐ 3 years \$73.00

☐ Family (1 set of Journals) ! Adult fee + \$5.00 X # of cards?

Your Signature:

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

☐ Check:

Check #:

Amount:

Credit Card:



☐ Master Card



☐ Visa

Card Number:

Exp. Date:

Billing Address
if different:

Name:

Address:

City/State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-Mail:



Mail Application to: IPMS/USA, Dept. H, PO Box 2475, N. Canton, OH 44720-0475