

Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

The new releases are simply fantastic.

Dragon

Dragon has released its 1/35 M6A1 Heavy Tank kit (#DRA-6789). During the periods between World Wars I and II, tank design focused primarily on the size of the vehicles as in light, medium and heavy tanks. Originally, the US heavy tank, known as the T-1 project, was to be a multi-turreted land battleship. Eventually, it was scaled down to the M6 version, with a conventional single turret mounting a 76mm main gun and a coaxial 37mm cannon for supplemental firepower, and it was powered by an engine used by certain aircraft, the Wright G-200 radial.

Several prototypes of the new vehicle were constructed in 1941 and 1942, with the final version beginning mass production in December of 1942. However, before the vehicle could be deployed, the US Army determined that the Sherman tanks were sufficient and the M6 production was stopped. Only forty M6 Heavy Tanks were completed, and 39 of those were scrapped, with the one remaining sent to the US Army Ordnance museum.

The Dragon kit, the first of this vehicle in injection-molded plastic, contains seven sprues of gray plastic parts, a one-part bottom hull, two one-part Dragon Styrene tracks, strips of synthetic rubber tracks, a small decal sheet, and one twisted wire cable. The kit features detailed multi-part suspension assemblies, optional open or closed hatches, and a one-part slide-molded main gun, which can be raised or lowered. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals for one overall olive drab vehicle which was stationed at Fort Knox during 1942.



Dragon has released its version of the M6A1 Heavy Tank. For armor fans, it's the only kit produced of this lesser known tank.

Hasegawa

Hasegawa has released its Limited Edition 1/48 Scale A6M2-K Zero 302nd FG kit (#HSGS7372). The Japanese Zero was certainly one of the most iconic aircraft of World War II, and its pilots were extremely skilled and daring. They learned those skills in the Zero trainer aircraft. Introduced in 1943, the A6M2-K was a modified Zero, equipped with two seats and dual controls, as well as added small horizontal fins on the fuselage to enhance spin recovery characteristics. To offset the weight of the additional pilot, the 20mm wing cannon and main wheel covers were removed, but the fuselage mounted guns were retained to allow for gunnery practice. Only about 500 examples were built before the war ended.



Introduced in 1943, the A6M2-K was a two-seat variant of the iconic Japanese Zero and was used for pilot training.

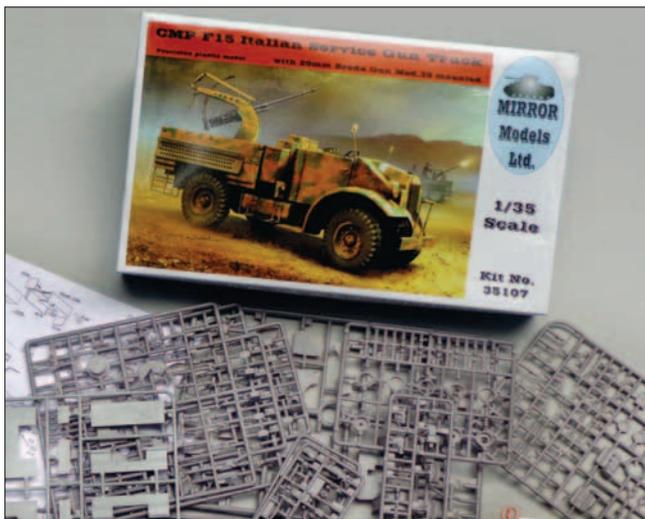
Based on its outstanding line of Zero fighter kits, Hasegawa has produced an excellent depiction of the often-overlooked trainer version of the Mitsubishi A6M2. The kit contains six sprues of gray plastic parts, and two sprues of clear parts for the canopy. The two cockpits are extensively detailed, with seats, various levers, control sticks, rudder pedals, and instrument panels, which use decals for the gauges and indicators, as well as a reflector

gun sight which is molded in clear plastic. To complete the cockpit, two multipart pilot figures are included.

The detailed engine includes two rows of cylinders for added depth inside the cowling. The canopy is also provided in separate parts which allows the options of both canopies closed or open, or one in each position. The kit includes resin detail parts, as well as optional streamer target containers to mount under the wings. The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for two different aircraft from 1945.

Mirror Models

Mirror Models Limited has released its 1/35 CMP F15 Italian Service Gun Truck kit (#3510). During the mid-1930s, anticipating another war with Germany, the British



The WWII Italian Service Gun Truck was a weapons platform based on captured Commonwealth light infantry trucks.

government awarded contracts to both the Ford Motor Company of Canada and General Motors of Canada to build a Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) light infantry truck for use by the Commonwealth armies. In full production by 1940, the CMP trucks were known for their rugged construction and easy adaptability.

During the course of World War II, the Canadian war industry had produced over 400,000 of the CMP trucks in a variety of configurations. The tough little truck served in all theaters of the war, in the North African campaign, the invasion of Sicily, the Italian campaign, the Russian front, the Burma campaign, the Battle of the Philippines, and the western invasion of Germany. The



The Monogram Cherry Bomb is based on a 70s era show car and features the car, chopper motorcycle and a matching trailer.

Italians converted captured trucks into a mobile weapons platform by mounting a 20mm Breda Model 39 gun in the rear bed. The Mirror Models Limited kit depicts the CMP F15 Italian Service Gun Truck.

The kit contains fourteen sprues of gray plastic parts, one sprue of clear parts, photoetched metal detail parts, two strands of copper wire, and five vinyl tires. Construction is accomplished by building up several sub-assemblies and then bringing them together to complete the finished model. The intricately detailed suspension and frame are built using the copper wire for u-bolts to attach the axles. The 239 cubic inch Ford flathead V8 is assembled from multiple parts and is detailed enough to be considered a model in itself. There are options for a folded convertible top or the full covered version.

The kit comes with somewhat rudimentary instructions, while more detailed versions are available on the manufacturer's website. Because of the instructions and the complicated assembly, this kit is targeted toward the more experienced, or even expert, modeler.

Monogram

Monogram has again released its 1/24 Cherry Bomb kit (#85-4191), another crazy custom from the mind of Tom Daniel. This 1970s era vehicle features a specialized spring-air rear suspension system and a combined torsion bar axle front suspension. The smooth curves of the lines of the vehicle are carried over into a custom trailer and customized chopper motorcycle that fits on the trailer.

The kit features the futuristic super show rod, powered by a turbine engine and comes molded in dark red, clear, and chrome plated plastic parts including soft black tires. The Cherry Bomb vehicle is highlighted by a hinged clear

bubble top that reveals a single seat cockpit like interior. There is also a clear bubble for the hood to allow a clear view of the turbine power plant

The motorcycle is easily a model kit in itself, characterized by a high-rise backrest, sissy bar, and raked front forks. The chopper features a cherry bomb style gas tank and unique soft rubber tires. Many of the overall design features, such as long lean looks and headlights are mirrored with each other in the vehicle, chopper, and trailer set.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and a colorful set of custom Cherry Bomb graphics decals.

MPC

MPC has re-released its 1/20 1970 AMX (#MPC814/12). American Motors Corporation produced the AMX from 1968 through 1970. The AMX name originates from the American Motors eXperimental code used on a concept vehicle and two prototypes from the automobile show tour in 1966. While the production AMX was classified as a muscle car, due to the optional high performance 390 cubic inch engine, The AMX was the only sports car with only two seats and a full steel body that was produced in



MPC has re-released its 1/20 scale AMX, the only two-seat, all steel bodied, American made sports car produced in 1970.

America at that time.

Based on the AMC Javelin pony car, the AMX was introduced to the press at the Daytona International Speedway in February of 1968, only four months after the Javelin went on sale. Sadly, during 1971, the AMX was reduced to nothing more than a performance option package for the Javelin.

The MPC kit depicts the 1970 AMX which featured a new front end design, redesigned interior, and a longer hood that had a hood scoop with two large openings. The Retro Deluxe

model kit features original parts restored, an expanded decal sheet, and vintage packaging. The kit is molded in white, with clear and transparent red plastic parts, as well as chrome plated parts and soft black Goodyear tires. It also includes optional parts for four variations of the 390 cubic inch engine, as well as optional body parts for the stock, salt flat, and drag exhaust options.

The interior options include stock, custom and racing seats, a roll cage, and optional shifters and steering wheels. The detailed chassis features optional traction bars and a rear racing suspension. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, and decals for both stock and custom versions. **HM**

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