



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

A few highlights from the many new kit releases being offered every month.

Airfix

Airfix has released its 1/48-scale Supermarine Spitfire Mk. I kit (A05126). Designed and developed during the late 1930s, the Supermarine Spitfire was quickly moved into production when WWII began to spread across Europe. The Mark I was fully operational just in time for the Battle of Britain. Originally equipped with a flat canopy and two-bladed propeller, the later Mark I models featured the Malcolm Hood bubble style canopy for better visibility and a two-speed three-bladed propeller for increased power. During the 1940 battle over the skies of England, the Spitfire was the premier fighter aircraft, with graceful lines and impressive performance capabilities, and many of the Messerschmitt Bf109s of the German Luftwaffe fell to its guns.

The kit contains five sprues of gray plastic parts and one sprue of clear parts. The boxart, which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, depicts a specific aerial scene from the fight, with commentary on the pilot and squadron.

Throughout the build, there are options for building either one of the Mark IA, IB or IC versions. Finely molded surface details include engraved panel lines. The cockpit features separate sidewalls with molded detail, and a four part seat with an optional seated pilot figure. The instrument panel has raised detail and a decal is included for the instrument faces. Options include either an open or closed canopy, of two different styles, and raised in-flight landing gear or lowered for shelf display. Three different types of propellers



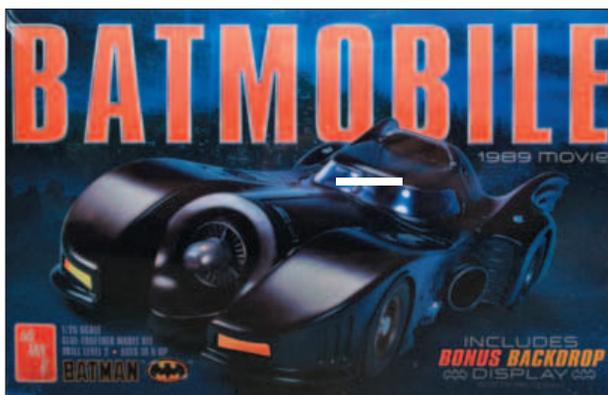
The Airfix 1/48 Supermarine Spitfire Mk. I can be built in any of the three versions that served during the Battle of Britain.

are also included. The kit includes eight gun breeches and the instructions indicate how to cut openings for the gun bays in the wings for display.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, and decals for one of three different aircraft.

AMT

AMT has again released its 1/25 1989 Batmobile (AMT935). After the campy humor of the 1960s *Batman* television series, audiences were not quite sure what to expect with the 1989 release of the superhero



AMT has again released its Batmobile kit, which is based on the 1989 *Batman* film that starred Michael Keaton as *Batman* and Jack Nicholson as the evil villain, *The Joker*.

motion picture. Casting Michael Keaton, a comedic actor, in the main role and Jack Nicholson as the villain, *The Joker*, gave the film an interesting chemistry. With lots of action and a good plot, the movie was a resounding critical and financial success.

One of the "stars" of the movie was the redesigned Batmobile, which was long and sleek, with a huge jet turbine engine fan at the front.

Designed by Anton Furst, the body of the car was actually

built on a Chevrolet Impala chassis. The Batmobile had many different weapons and features, including an afterburner, retractable machine guns, bomb launchers, grappling hooks and shields, which are bulletproof armor plates that can be deployed to entirely envelope the vehicle against entry or vandalism.

The kit is molded in black, chrome, clear and transparent red plastic, with four vinyl tires. It includes a one part body with separate parts like the side panels, passenger compartment with separate instrument panel, steering wheel and canopy top, which can be removed to view the interior. The one part chassis contains molded engine and suspension detail. The chrome parts include the turbine fan, engine exhausts, afterburner, wheel faces and various interior and exterior parts. No decals are included, but the overall flat black full-scale vehicle had no markings.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions which contain detail painting guides where appropriate.

Dragon

Dragon has released its 1/35 Pz.Kpfw VI Ausf E Sd.Kfz 191 Tiger "131" Early Production (DRA-6820). While there was only one production version of the Tiger, refinements during production led to the tanks being designated early, middle and late models. The early production Tiger, as depicted in this kit, had tall commander cupolas which used bullet proof glass as its vision ports, smoke dischargers on the turret sides, rubber rimmed road wheels, dual headlights and Feifel air cleaners. Plagued by mechanical problems, the tank needed frequent repairs and maintenance to keep it operational, but its armor protection and powerful 88mm gun made it a force on the battlefield. This particular kit depicts Pz.Kpfw VI Ausf E Sd.Kfz 191 Tiger 131, S.Pz.Abt.504 that was operational in Tunisia in 1943 during WWII.

The kit includes 26 sprues of plastic parts, featuring a multipart hull and turret, along with hundreds of plastic detail parts. There are also photoetched metal detail



Dragon's 191 Tiger "131" contains hundreds of detail pieces and builds into an early version of the famous battle tank.

consists of several parts including the muzzle brake, main barrel section and mantlet. The turret features multiple hatches with options for open or closed display. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides. The decals feature marking options for two Tiger I versions in Tunisia, including the #131 tank of the boxart, as well as one additional vehicle operating in the Ukraine during spring of 1944.

Hasegawa

Hasegawa has released its 1/72 Junkers Ju88C-6 "Hunter-Killer" (HSGS2137). During WWII, there was no combat aircraft that was modified as much as the Junkers Ju88. Originally designed as a twin-engine medium bomber with the speed of a fighter, the Ju88 eventually operated as a long range escort, intruder, tank buster, anti-shipping, transport, reconnaissance, heavy fighter and night-fighter. Based on the Ju88A-4, the C-6 version was designed as a heavy fighter, powered by two 1420 horsepower Jumo 211J engines, and armed with three MG17 7.92mm machine guns and one MG FF 20mm cannon in the nose. The bomb bays were modified to carry additional fuel tanks and an armed gondola.

The kit contains 137 plastic parts in gray and clear plastic. As a modular design, different variants are dependant on which parts are used, and there are several



During WWII there wasn't another combat aircraft that was modified as much as a Junkers Ju88. Originally designed as a bomber, the latest Hasegawa release depicts the heavy fighter.

parts for the engine air intakes and screens, air filters, road wheel details and various hatches. The tracks are one-part Dragon Styrene, with one length of track for each side. Included are optional parts as there were two Tiger variants operating during the Tunisian Campaign.

unused parts that are specific to the original Hasegawa Ju88-A4 kit. The surface includes nicely molded details with engraved panel lines. The cockpit features separate seats for the pilot and rear gunner, a small seat for the third crew member and an instrument panel with raised detail and a decal providing the gauge markings.

The kit also includes two main wing spars that fit through the fuselage halves and into the wings, which should make for a strong and stable wing-fuselage joint. The ailerons, horizontal stabilizers and rudder are separate, but designed to only fit in the neutral position. The two Jumo engines consist of a seven part assembly for each side, and a poly cap for a friction fit of the propellers will be enclosed in these assemblies.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for three different aircraft of KG40 from 1942-43.

Revell

Revell has released its 1/25 Fast and Furious Honda Civic Si Coupe (85-4331). The *Fast & Furious* series of action films are one of Universal Studios biggest franchises of all time. These movies feature aggressive driving, fast cars, illegal street racing and highway robbery. It is no surprise that the high performance Honda Civic Si was the vehicle of choice for the film's lead character, Dominic Toretto. Since its introduction, the Honda Civic was a standard family economy car. The Civic Si (Sport Injected) Coupe is a full featured sport version featuring stiffer springs and sway-bars, a manual transmission and disc brakes, as well as performance wheels and tires.

The model contains 106 parts molded in white and clear plastic, with chrome-plated detail parts, and vinyl tires. The kit also contains mesh screen material for the front grill openings and metal parts for the brakes and chassis assembly. While this model can be built either stock or custom, the strength of this kit is in the many custom parts and decal



The real stars of the Fast & Furious series of action films are the cars, and to this end, Revell has released a Honda Civic Si Coupe that can be assembled in a number of different styles.

options that are provided. Options include a rear spoiler, front and rear lights, manifolds and different front and rear bumper fascias. There are also three complete sets of chrome-plated wheels. The intricate suspension includes metal pins for mounting the disc brakes. The engine is comprised of many separate parts to replicate the high performance Honda VTEC engine. The interior is nicely detailed, featuring separate side panels, detailed console and separate seats.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides, as well as a decal sheet with graphics, body emblems, engine decals, gauges, racing sponsor logos and a large decal to replicate an optional aftermarket carbon fiber hood.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/72 MiG-29A Fulcrum (01674). The MiG-29 Fulcrum is a twin-engine jet fighter aircraft designed and built as a direct Soviet response to the USAF development and production of the F-16 air superiority fighter. While originally designed for air-to-air combat against enemy aircraft, the MiG-29 has been adapted to a number of roles over the years, and is commonly equipped with a range of air-to-surface armaments and precision munitions.

The kit contains eight sprues of plastic parts, molded in gray and clear plastic, the fuselage and wings as upper and lower halves and features a nicely detailed cockpit, with the harness molded on the ejection seat.

The canopy can be posed open or closed, and the stabilizers can be positioned as desired. For underwing stores, the kit contains two different types of external fuel tanks and four different types of air-to-air missiles. Also included is a tow-bar that will go well in a parking apron diorama.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as two sheets of decals for two different aircraft, one from the Hungarian Air Force and one from the Russian Air Force. **HM**



The Trumpeter MiG-29A Fulcrum contains a multitude of underwing stores including two different types of fuel tanks, four different types of air-to-air missiles and a tow-bar.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, as well as two sheets of decals for two different aircraft, one from the Hungarian Air Force and one from the Russian Air Force. **HM**