



Tom Grossman

# MODEL KIT REPORT

## Modeling the Microscopic

In this edition of the Model Kit Report, I'll build an education-packed kit of three microscopic organisms with the reissued Amoeba kit from Atlantis Models. I'll finish it with Acrylicos Vallejo paints available from Stevens International.

As a retired science teacher, I was excited to see a reissue of this great science-based kit, The Atlantis Models L3200, The Amoeba. Originally released by Superior Plastics in 1963, it was rebixed under the Educational Products brand in the 1960s, and until now, was last issued by Lindberg in 1973. The Lindberg version was marked "EDUCATOR APPROVED." The Atlantis Models version carries a STEM endorsement.

STEM is short for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. This integrated, applied learning program intends to address the growing need for professionals in these areas. The STEM approach to learning emphasizes in and out of school experiences to develop a strong math and science knowledge base to better equip students for a future we can't predict.

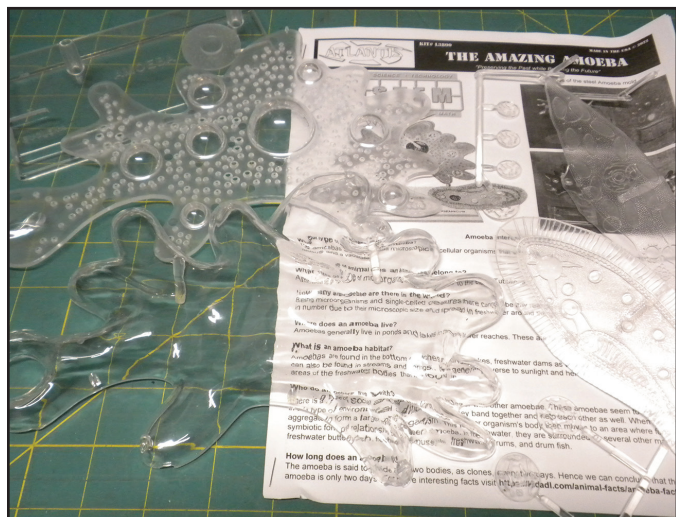
Atlantis has four other STEM-endorsed kits: Mercury/Atlas Rocket, Nautilus Submarine, Wright Cyclone Radial Engine and Allison Turbo-Prop Engine. Each of these kits includes a wealth of additional information about the subject to enhance the learning value and encourage further investigation. Next up in the Atlantis STEM lineup will be the 36-piece US Space Missiles Set reissue.



### Build Log

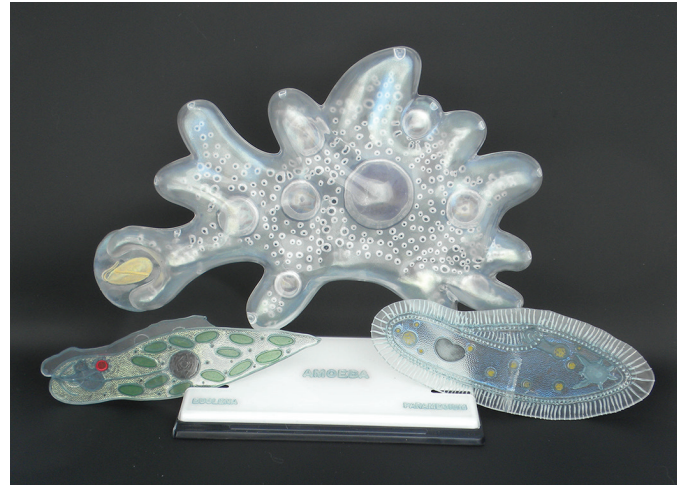
The 12-piece kit is injected entirely in clear plastic. Atlantis reformulated the styrene in-house material to be less brittle than usual clear plastic. Besides the Amoeba, the kit includes a Euglena and a Paramecium. The instruction sheet has two pages of good information on the microbes in the kit. The assembly diagram is rich with vocabulary making it an excellent jumping-off point for more learning. A finish with opaque colors would take away from the transparent look of the real microbes. This is a job for washes and transparent colors!

To create iridescence, I chose the Acrylicos Vallejo Dust Series Color Shift paints available from Stevens International. I tested several colors on clear tops from food containers. I put the colors down on the inside and back surfaces with an Iwata Takumi Eclipse from TAG Team Hobbies. The Takumi is a redesign of the popular workhorse Eclipse CS. The side-mount gravity feed-cup cleans up quickly. The shorter front end of the airbrush makes it more responsive. Subtle effects are easily created by limiting the paint flow with the preset handle.





The build-up is eye-catching and inspiring. The microbes are well represented with lots of detail. The information in the instructions deepens the educational value.



The Euglena and Paramecium are flat with lots of relief. I used regular brushes for these two. Some Dust colors gave the insides an iridescent look. Washes on the raised edges of the outer membranes and the organelles inside made them stand out a bit more. Washes inside the organelles highlighted their contents.

I sprayed white and black on the inside of the base and instant gloss finish on the outside. For the inside, I airbrushed some Dust colors behind the lettering and put washes around them on top to make them stand out.

Tune in next month for in-the-box reviews of two kits of a different sort from Heartland Hobby Wholesale, and I'll start the build log of a mixed-media aircraft engine kit from HobbyTyme. Happy modeling!  
HM

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