



# MODEL KIT REPORT

Keith Pruitt

## Keith's Picks for the Month

*From bombers to choppers there's something for everyone.*

**Airfix** 1/72 Boeing Fortress Mk. III was a four-engine heavy bomber developed in the 1930s for the US Army Air Corps. During World War II, the B-17G variant was used by the US Army Air Forces in daylight strategic bombing raids against German industrial and military targets. The RAF Bomber Command utilized



*Airfix has released its Boeing B-17 Mk.III Super Fortress kit. The Mk.III was essentially a G-version B-17 that was supplied to Britain's Royal Air Force under the terms of Lend-Lease and was used primarily for radar suppression missions, effectively blinding the Luftwaffe night fighters. The kit is complete and includes an extensive number of details along with decals and markings for two different aircraft.*

its Fortress Mk. IIIs, obtained through the US Lend-Lease Program, for nighttime area bombing targets in Germany. The Fortress Mk. III aircraft of RAF No.100 Group Bomber Command would fly anti-radar and bomber support missions. The anti-radar missions involved dropping paper strips coated in aluminum to interfere with German radar, which effectively blinded the Luftwaffe nightfighter forces.

The kit contains 265 parts on 10 sprues of light blue plastic and one sprue of clear plastic. Features include engraved panel lines, a detailed cockpit with separate seats, control columns and instrument panel, radio operator and navigator stations, detailed engines and landing gear bays. Options include deployed or stowed wing flaps, raised or lowered landing gear, open or close bomb bays with bombs, and positionable separate ailerons, elevators and rudder.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with full color painting and decal placement guides, and a separate diagram for

stencil decals. The decals include markings for two different aircraft from the No.100 Bomber Support Group, stationed in Norfolk, England in 1944.

**Dragon** has released its 1/35 Sd.Kfz.252 Leichte Gepanzerte with Sd.Ah.31/1 Trailer kit (DRA-6718). The Sd.Kfz.252 was a World War II German light armored ammunition carrier, based on the Sd.Kfz.250 half-track. Its purpose was to resupply mobile assault artillery with ammunition, primarily the StuG assault guns. Eventually, battle experience led to the development of a trailer for increased load capacity. Operational early in the war during the battle for France, enough vehicles were produced to equip four assault artillery batteries by the time of the invasion of Russia in June 1941.

The kit contains 15 sprues of plastic parts, one sprue of clear parts, two bags of Magic Track links, a metal cable, and two frets of photoetched metal detail parts. The kit features a multi-part frame with detailed suspension, including the trailer hitch, drive sprockets and road wheels, plastic front tires and individual link



*The Sd.Kfz.252 Leichte Gepanzerte was a German half-track used to carry ammunition thereby keeping mobile assault artillery supplied. The Dragon kit of the vehicle is complete with individual track links and the Maybach six-cylinder engine can be viewed through an optional open two-part hood. Also included is a full interior that has bucket seats, and full compliment of ammunition and storage bins. As the war progressed Germany developed the Sd.Ah.31/1 ammunition trailer, and this is included in the kit also. Decals for four different vehicles serving between 1942 and 1943 are part of the package as well.*

tracks. The detailed Maybach 6-cylinder engine can be viewed through the optional open two-part hood.

The kit also features a full interior for the open-top vehicle, including bucket seats, radio, ammunition and storage bins, MG34 machine guns, and driver figure. The exterior is also detailed, including bolts and latches, vision ports, optional hatches, wire tow cable, and separately molded tools and equipment. The trailer contains ammunition, storage bins, and optional doors.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides for four different vehicles from 1942-1943.

**Hasegawa** 1/72 F-16 D (Block 52 Advanced) Fighting Falcon "Tiger Meet" fighter jet features a smooth, blended wing body that enhanced lift and control, as well as combining many cutting-edge technologies in its design. The D version, Block 52 variant incorporated the APG-68(V9) radar, which offers longer range detection against air targets and higher reliability, as well as the embedded global positioning system/inertial navigation system. The kit depicts an aircraft of the Polish Air Force 6th Tactical Unit, which has a Tiger incorporated into the squadron logo. The NATO Tiger Association holds annual "Tiger Meets" for the various squadrons to promote the sharing of ideas and experiences, as well as being a public relations event. Many of the aircraft in the meets have exotic "tiger" patterns painted on the aircraft.

This Limited Edition dual combo kit contains parts to build two complete models. The kit is a modified reissue with new-tooled parts, including the dorsal spine for the Advanced Block 52 variant. The kit contains nine sprues of gray and one sprue of clear plastic parts. Features include a nicely detailed cockpit, with decal

instrument panel and side consoles, optional crew figures, an open or closed canopy, and optional boarding ladder. Also included are one centerline fuel tank, two underwing fuel tanks, and four missiles. The fuel tanks would be used for a Tiger Meet aircraft, but not the missiles.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals including instrumentation, stenciling and markings for two Tiger Meet aircraft from 2013 and 2014.



*Hasegawa's F-16D (Block 52 Advanced) Fighting Falcon "Tiger Meet" is a depiction of the famous fighter aircraft as it is used with NATO forces throughout Europe. The kit depicts an aircraft of the Polish Air Force 6th Tactical Unit, which has a tiger incorporated into its squadron logo. Included with the kit are parts for two complete aircraft along with decals and tiger stencils and marking for two Tiger Meet aircraft from 2013 and 2014.*

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**Minicraft** has released its 1/72 scale PBM-5 Mariner kit (11684). In 1937, the US Navy commissioned the Martin Company to build a twin-engine flying boat to eventually replace the PBV Catalina. Designated the PBM-1 Mariner, it had a crew of seven and was armed with eight .50 caliber machine guns. Capable of carrying 2000 pounds of bombs or depth charges in the bomb bays, it could also deliver torpedoes in racks mounted under the wings. Entering service in September of 1940, the PBM served with the US Navy until 1956.

The Minicraft kit is a modified re-release, another of its previous PBM kits, building into a flying boat rather than a PBM-5A



*The Minicraft PBM-5 Mariner is a modified re-release of its previous PBM kits, building into a flying boat rather than an amphibious variant. The interior of the model is completely detailed and included with this latest version are parts for depth charges and beaching gear, along with decals for two different aircraft.*

amphibious variant. New plastic parts are included for beaching gear and depth charges. The parts, on seven gray sprues and one clear sprue, feature finely engraved and raised detail for all surface panels, inspection hatches and other openings. The interior features a fully detailed cockpit, as well as crew and gunner stations.

Options include positionable control surfaces, open or closed bomb bays, open or closed cowl flaps, and open or closed nose window. Also included are two sets of propellers, one set with three blades and one with four blades, depending on which of the two aircraft is built.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as Cartograph decals for two different aircraft.

**Monogram** has re-released its 1/8 Grim Reaper kit (85-7541). Tom Daniel created over 85 different designs created for Monogram from 1967 to 1975, and many of the kits are still favorites for scale modelers. The Grim Reaper kit was originally released in 1974, at the height of Daniel's popularity.

The old school chopper is back with its raked custom square-tubular front forks, square dual headlights, coffin-shaped gas tank, custom frame, long his-and-hers seat, and the tall sissy bar complete with Iron Cross medallion. Powered by a V-twin motor with straight chrome pipes, the Grim Reaper is and always will be the "Baddest of the Bad".

The kit contains 80 parts molded in white and clear plastic, with one sprue of chrome-plated parts and two vinyl tires. Loaded with a lot of chrome parts, the large-scale model means more opportunity for detail and Monogram fills that need. Included in the kit is soft flexible tubing for oil and fuel lines for the oil tank, gas tank, carburetor, and other areas. The kit also includes

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Monogram has again released its 1/8-scale Grim Reaper motorcycle kit. The kit is a perfect representation of old-school style choppers of the late 60s and early 70s. From the dual headlights mounted to the stretched out chrome forks to the king-queen seat which climbs the sissy bar the detail are all there, making the Grim Reaper the "badest of the bad."

spoked chrome wheels and drive chain, with excellent engine detail for the spark plugs, crankcase and carburetor.

A movable kick stand helps to display the finished model in the same fashion and stance as a full-scale motorcycle.

**Thunder Model** has released its 1/35 German Bergepanzer Hetzer Late kit (35101). The Jagdpanzer 38, also known as the Hetzer, was a light tank destroyer used by the German Army during World War II. During 1944 the Germans



Thunder Models has released a German Bergepanzer Hetzer Late kit. The Hetzer was a light tank destroyer that in 1944 was converted to a tank recover vehicle. By removing the upper turret, but keeping the lower hull and adding a five-ton crane and a bulldozer nose one of the more successful armored recovery vehicles was introduced. The winch can be built in the stowed or deployed positions and the bulldozer blade can be assembled raised or lowered. There are no decals included as the full-scale vehicles were typically unmarked.

needed to recover and salvage battle-damaged tanks and vehicles, so they could be repaired. Because of its size and reliability, the Hetzer became the basis for an armored recovery vehicle, keeping the lower structure, tracks and drive train while removing the gun and leaving the upper hull open. The modified vehicle was called the Bergepanzer.

Manned by a crew of four, it was armed with a single machine gun. Added to the vehicle were a two-ton folding jib crane and a five-ton Baumgarten winch operated off the vehicle's engine via a transmission system. A large bulldozer type blade was installed at the rear to stabilize the vehicle during the lifting of damaged combat equipment or vehicles.

The kit includes 350 parts molded on six plastic sprues, along with molded resin parts, wire, string, chain, three frets of photoetched copper and brass parts (with one that features painted gauges). The upper hull is molded in one part with a separate rear panel. The kit includes a one-part lower hull, with separate suspension parts and road wheels. The tracks are link-and-length style which will fit around the drive and idler sprockets nicely. Surface details are finely molded featuring engraved panel lines with raised bolt heads and rivets. The crane can be built in the stowed or deployed positions, and the plow blade can be built raised or lowered.

The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with a separate full color painting guide for two different vehicles from 1945. There are no decals, as these vehicles were typically unmarked. **HM**

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