



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

Keith's Picks for the Month

A great selection of kits to help satisfy the desires of any modeler.

Dragon

Dragon has released its 1/350 Scale U.S.S. *Florida* SSGN-728 (#DRA-1056). The USS *Florida* was a member of the Ohio-class submarines, designed specifically for extended maritime patrols as a deterrent to war. Built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, it was originally designed as an SSBN version carrying twenty-four submarine launched ballistic missiles. After the START treaty of 2002, the boat was converted to a conventionally armed submarine armed with 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles with either conventional or nuclear warheads, plus a complement of Harpoon missiles that could be fired through the torpedo tubes.

During March of 2011, the USS *Florida*, along with other US Navy and British Royal Navy warships, fired scores of Tomahawk missiles at Libyan air defense targets as part of Operation Odyssey Dawn. The Tomahawk missile strikes allowed allied warplanes to enforce a no-fly zone to prevent attacks against rebels in Libya. This was the first combat action for the USS *Florida* and its crew was subsequently awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for distinguished service in action against the enemy.

The kit contains two-part main hull and four sprues of plastic parts, including the conning tower with periscopes and antennae, diving planes, and various other surface details. The kit features detailed torpedo bays, which can be positioned in the retracted or deployed configuration, as well as two torpedoes for the



firing position. The upper hull of the boat has a raised section, which allows for options to build the standard configuration, with missile tubes open or closed, and with or without the frogman team exit pods attached. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, with painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals for one submarine.

Italeri

Italeri has released its 1/48 Typhoon Mk.Ib Late (#ITA2734). In 1937, the Hawker Aircraft company began working on an advanced fighter with a bubble canopy, heavy armament, and the largest engine available. The aircraft, named Typhoon, was

plagued with problems from the beginning, as the powerful Napier H-24 Sabre engines were not always reliable, and the thicker wing limited speed to just over 400 mph. With lackluster performance above 20,000 feet, there was also an issue with certain flight conditions causing the aircraft tail structure to fail and break away. To solve the problem, twenty "fishplates" were externally riveted across the weak rear fuselage joint. In 1942, fitted with attack rockets and bombs, along with its four 20-mm Hispano cannons, the



Italeri has released a Typhoon Mk. Ib, which depicts the aircraft fitted with rockets and four cannons for its ground attack role.

Typhoon began achieving great success in destroying German transportation, communication, and military installations targets.

The Italeri kit depicts the Hawker Typhoon Mk.Ib in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day allied invasion of Europe. The kit features excellent engraved panel lines on the wings and fuselage, and the molded fishtail straps around the aft fuselage are clearly defined. The detailed landing gear bays feature nicely molded wing stringers, as well as some wiring and plumbing. The cockpit, with the instrument panel decal, can be clearly seen whether the canopy is position open or closed. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides, as well as decals containing marking for four different aircraft involved in the invasion.



Moebius Models

Moebius Models has released its 1/8 Batman (#950), the first in a series of kits depicting heroes and villains from the classic 1966 television series. First appearing in DC's Detective Comics in 1939, Batman has become an American cultural icon. Known at various times as the "World's Greatest Detective," the "Caped Crusader," and the "Dark Knight," Batman is the protector of Gotham City. Under the cape and cowl is American billionaire industrialist and philanthropist Bruce Wayne who, after witnessing the murder of his parents as a young boy, devotes his life to vengeance on evil in its many guises.

Since he did not possess any true superpowers, Wayne mastered the martial arts, studied criminal psychology and honed his detective talents to become one of the world's greatest crimefighters. Through the years, Batman has appeared in comic books, on radio and television, in films and video games, as well as providing the basis for countless toys and other "caped crusader" merchandise.

The Moebius kit is based on the 1960s Batman series starring Adam West, and is molded to bear a remarkable likeness to the actor. The model is 1/8 scale, standing almost 10 inches tall on its Batcave rock base. The kit uses large locating pegs on the parts for a quick and easy assembly. The finished figure of Batman is posed on the base ready to throw his Batarang, one of his many crime fighting gadgets. A strand of rope is also provided in the kit to attach to the Batarang as it was used in scaling walls. The belt buckle and bat logo for the figure's chest are included

The 1/8 Mobius Batman is the first of a planned series of kits based on the popular television series.

Beebe, Tim Grose, and Bob Pickett.

The last time the Super Chief raced, with Steve Bernd as the driver, the car got light in the front and went into a wheelstand at Orange County International Raceway, spinning into the guard rail and destroying itself in the process. The actual crash was filmed and immortalized in the movie "Funny Car Summer." Carter completely withdrew from racing soon after.

Released as part of Polar Lights "Legends of the Quarter Mile" series, the Nelson Carter's Super Chief Charger Funny Car kit revisits vintage racing with authentic details and optional parts for different versions. The



Polar Lights has released a 1/25 Super Chief funny car that builds into an exceptionally well detailed, period correct, racer.

main parts of the kit are molded in white, with transparent red and clear with chrome plated parts and soft black tires. The kit features multiple building options, including a solid windshield for early cars equipped with either with Hilborn or Enderle injectors, a cut-out windshield for the supercharger-equipped cars, side windows and optional wheel styles.

Large pad-printed drag slicks and thorough chassis details round out options for the modeler to authentically replicate a period correct funny car, along with a black vinyl supercharger drive belt and body brace for displaying the fully detailed blown Chrysler Hemi engine.

as decals as well as a nameplate for the base.

The kit comes complete with illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides.

Polar Lights

Polar Lights has released its 1/25 Nelson Carter's Super Chief Charger Funny Car (# POL935/12). Launching its career in the early days of nitro funny car racing, Nelson Carter's Super Chief was a major contender in the funny car wars. Reportedly, the Super Chief name was adopted after Carter held a "Name the Funny Car Contest" at drag strips where the car was appearing. Among the drivers Carter utilized during the cars campaign were original co-owner Ron Perau, Steve Bovan, Dave

Revell

Revell has released its 1/25 '70 Ford Torino GT (#85-4099). For 1970, Ford totally redesigned its midsize Fairlane series, with the Torino becoming the primary model. With new styling inspired by the high performance jet aircraft of the day, there were thirteen models in the Torino lineup, with the GT being second in performance only to the muscle car classic Torino Cobra. Equipped with the 429 Cobra Jet engine, capable of producing 440 horse



Starting out as a redesigned Fairlane, the Ford Torino soon developed into one of the great muscle cars of the early 70s. power, the Torino could do zero-to-sixty in six seconds. Having a lower and wider stance than its predecessors, the car was smooth and stable in corners. Although overshadowed by the Mustang, the Ford Torino was named the Motor Trend Car of the Year for 1970.

The kit contains the car body, five sprues of plastic parts, one sprue of chrome-plated parts, clear and transparent red parts, six vinyl tires and one fret of photoetched metal detail parts. The kit can be built as either a replica stock, street, or modified drag racing versions. The racing version includes parts for an interior roll cage, short exhaust, and rear slicks. The photoetched metal parts include body molding, body emblems, and the elongated honey-comb section on the rear panel.

Included are illustrated instructions, including painting and decal placement guides. The decals include markings

for four different versions of the stock vehicle, and for the drag racing version, decals simulating the rubber particles thrown up onto the rear quarter panels.

Trumpeter

Trumpeter has released its 1/35 Russian GAZ-66 Light Truck (#01016). The GAZ-66 was designed in the early 1960s to satisfy requirements of the Soviet Army for a small four-wheel drive multi-functional cargo truck with a payload of two metric tons.

The GAZ-66 has gained legendary status in many countries around the world due to its reliability, simplicity and off-road capability, and was used as a base for many specialized vehicles for both military and civilian use. It was the first production Soviet vehicle with a V8-engine, and also featured a front mounted winch, Central Tire Inflation



Trumpeter has released its Russian GAZ-66 Light Truck that builds into one of the most popular military trucks in the world. System, and self-locking differentials. Production began in 1964 and continued non-stop until 1999, with close to one million vehicles manufactured.

The Trumpeter kit contains the vehicle body, ten sprues of plastic parts, one sprue of clear parts, five hollow soft rubber tires, and three frets of photoetched metal detail parts. The kit features a slide-molded cab and the full drivetrain with a 35-part engine, transmission, differential and suspension. There is an optional canvas top, as well as a sheet of clear acetate for windows that can be cut and installed in the top. The kit comes with illustrated instructions, including a painting and decal placement guide, as well as decals for two different vehicles. **HM**

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