



**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODEL SOCIETY**

November, 2025

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“FROM THE IRON WORKS”

By Big Bill Shwarz, Pres.

Our beloved President is dealing with a new computer, and as I can attest, the migration from Windows 10 to Windows 11 or even newer, is not an easy task.

So Big Bill suggested I go to press without a few words other than,

“All is good on show front, and remember to pay your dues.”



I missed the October meeting as I caught a cold that morning and did not want to be a “Typhoid Mary.” Ed.

THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



Hope everyone had a fun Halloween! I have recently heard of some upcoming treats for the fans of 1/32 aircraft models. All slated for 2026/27: From Eduard a P-51B, Spitfire Mk IX and a FW-190A8 (with other versions to follow). Also, Kotare has announced a BF-109E4 and a P-47D Razorback. Seems that 1/32 is making a resurgence. I don't think that we've seen times like this since the late 60's-early 70's when Revell and Hasegawa were the kings of large scale.

Wishing a very Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Best Wishes,

Mike P.

THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hello all,

I want to remind you that Simon will be sponsoring an "Eastern Europe" night this month, so please bring a model of an appropriate subject so that he can judge. The

Gundam Group Build will end early next year, likely February. Not a bad idea to bring in your in-progress work for the other table. Next month will be the year end awards which is always exciting. I'll have a list prepared of who needs to bring in what ready for the final newsletter of the year. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Jon

Here's another build from our newly prolific Dr. Simon.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE !

« One pill makes you taller, and one pill makes you small ... Yeah,yeah,yeah, you know the song !It's White Rabbit, by the Jefferson Airplane, and it's about altered reality. And this latest project that I just finished was also a bit of a rabbit-hole dive!



This fine-looking twin is the Kuomintang Chinese AFAMF XB-3, about as obscure a plane that actually flew as you will ever find. It was a lash-up of components from possibly crashed Tupolev SB-2 bombers that the Chinese had received in large numbers from the Soviet Union. The airframe basically recreated the SB-2 with some changes, but unlike the all-metal SB-2, it was partially made out of wood, including a proprietary bamboo-based material. As many as three airframes were produced, and one flew, reportedly well enough, in 1944. It was heavily damaged upon landing because of a partially extended landing gear, whereupon further work was stopped on the XB-3 as much more efficient B-25's were available by then. Needless to say, documentation for this type is extremely scarce, and I was only able to locate four photos and two three-view drawings, one of which bears little resemblance to those photos.



I used an old Pavla Archangelsky Ar-2 as a basis for this project. These are easily found, inexpensive and have thick plastic, which is good for my kind of work. The main modifications to make an XB-3 are the tail fin and tail cone, the new dorsal gunners position, and the longer nose with a half-goldfish tank front transparency. The tail fin was fashioned from a Roden LAGG-3 wing, the dorsal transparency came from the underrated Lindberg Kingfisher, and the cylindrical front fuselage

came from an ancient Tamiya IL-28. And a lot of Tamiya White Putty, whittling and sanding !

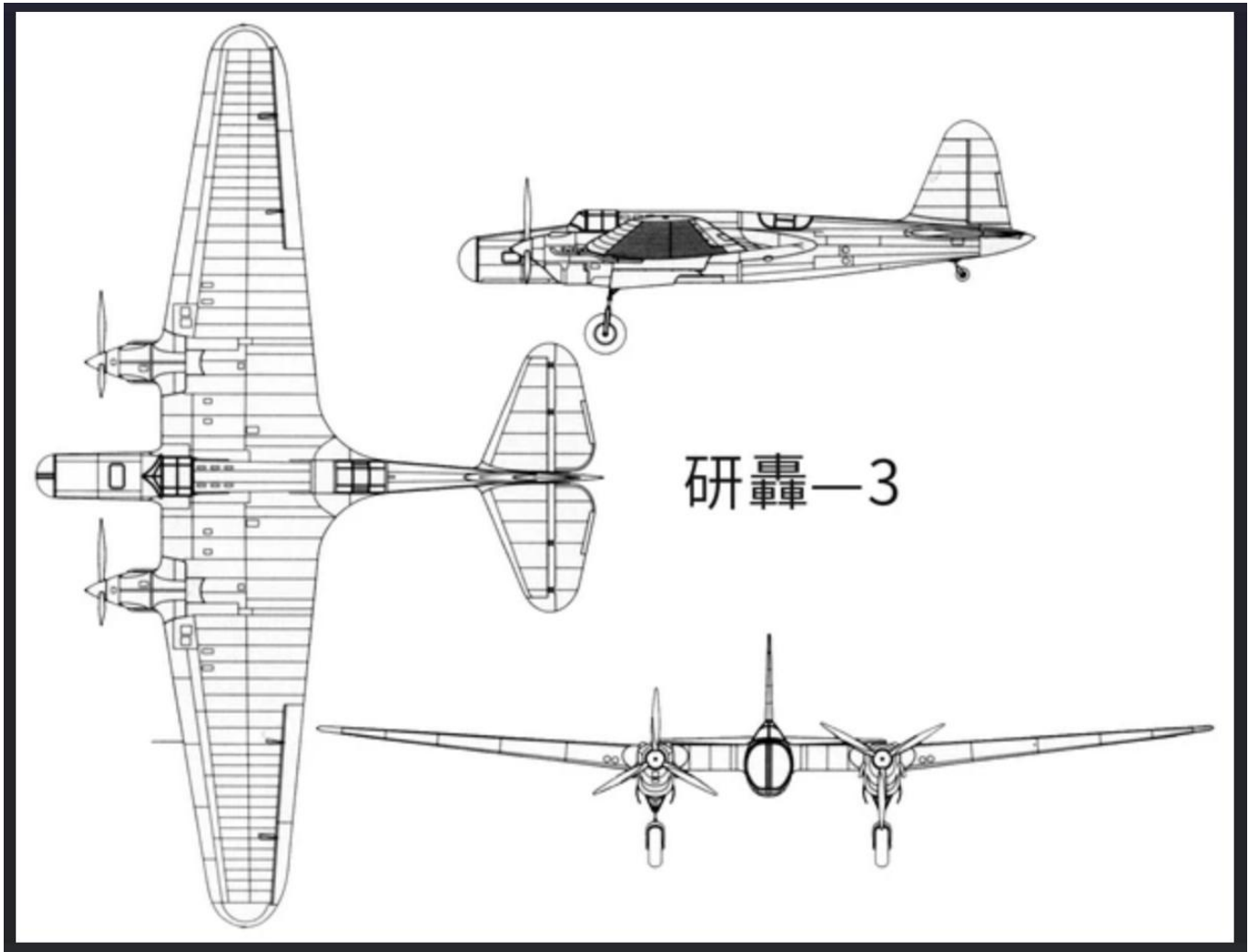
The engines provided good bases for the under the chin radiators, which were fashioned from cowling parts, again from Roden LAGG-3's. As a side note, there is a lot of nice work in those Roden kits, but their overly ambitious inclusion of multiple variants makes for a hard build ; the Dako LAGG-3 has equally nice lines and is definitely easier on the brain!

The rather old fashioned exhaust tubes and air intakes were made from scrap . The Pavla propellers were used, with the addition of attachment points for Hucks starters. The Pavla landing gear legs were also used, with detailing and metal wire reinforcements , which didn't prevent them from breaking several times to my great displeasure!



The pilot's cockpit was the vacuformed one from Pavla, and the nose semi goldfish tank was carved out of a turret from a Mach2 kit. Love that thick plastic !

After priming , a simple straight edged olive green and light blue camouflage using Tamiya acrylics was applied. A set of decals for SB-2 bombers by Bestfong from Hong Kong was used ; they looked thick and overly shiny on their paper, but laid down very nicely .



Now I have a pretty fair representation of at least what is known about the XB-3 . I will note that there is no completely reliable information on this bird's plan form, but if any of you have any, do feel free to let me know, hah ! I will say that it was a lot of work; I recently finished the 1965 Revell Fw 200 with what seemed like much less effort, but as they say, that's another story ! And now, I'm off to see the hookah-smoking caterpillar ...

Great job! I've not finished a model this year, though have started a few! Ed.

Next John Bucholz continues his building buildings(?)tutorial.

Building Better Buildings: part 2

The next step in completing your building is to add all the items not included in the kit. Most of the older plaster cast buildings have just a minimal amount of large pieces of rubble to place next to the ruin, and no real interior detail. In the photo you will notice that the walls of the building are cast in resin which will have detail on both sides of the walls. The base is a polystone casting with basic detail on the road surface.



As you can see I have added the first level of extra items to improve the look of the building. Extra rubble is first added to the surface to create a three-dee effect. I added floor supports with my favorite wood- chopsticks! The bamboo wood is easy to shape, cut, and paint. Smaller pieces and planks are balsa wood scraps. Smaller pieces of rubble are just my scrap collection of any plastic pieces cut off of any kit

parts that were shaped or trimmed (I also scrape any dried paint off my mixing palet and add the scrapings to the plastic pieces). Remember that a building also has pipes, wires, and furnishings inside that will also get mixed into the debris. Also, explosions tend to really make whole objects into very small unidentifiable objects. More debris will make an ordinary building look extra-ordinary. Happy Modeling!
John B.

Excellent Work! Ed.

A quick note from Antonio Merolli

a few days ago Belgium has received its F-35A. They will use color insignia. Here is a model.

A COLORFUL F-35A

by Antonio Merolli

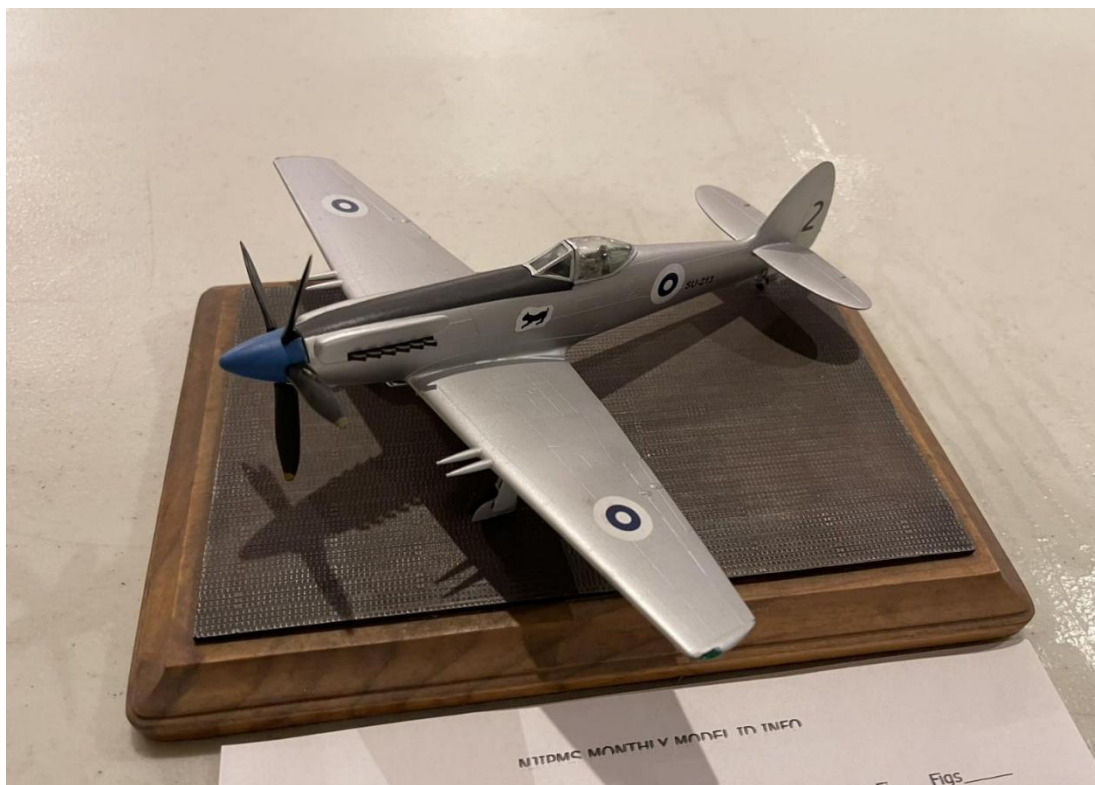


The Italeri kit 1331 of 2013 was one of the first reproducing an operative F-35A. I have been waiting for it on the market, and I bought it at an high price. What a great disappointment when I saw the canopy: the bulk "inside" frame was reproduced

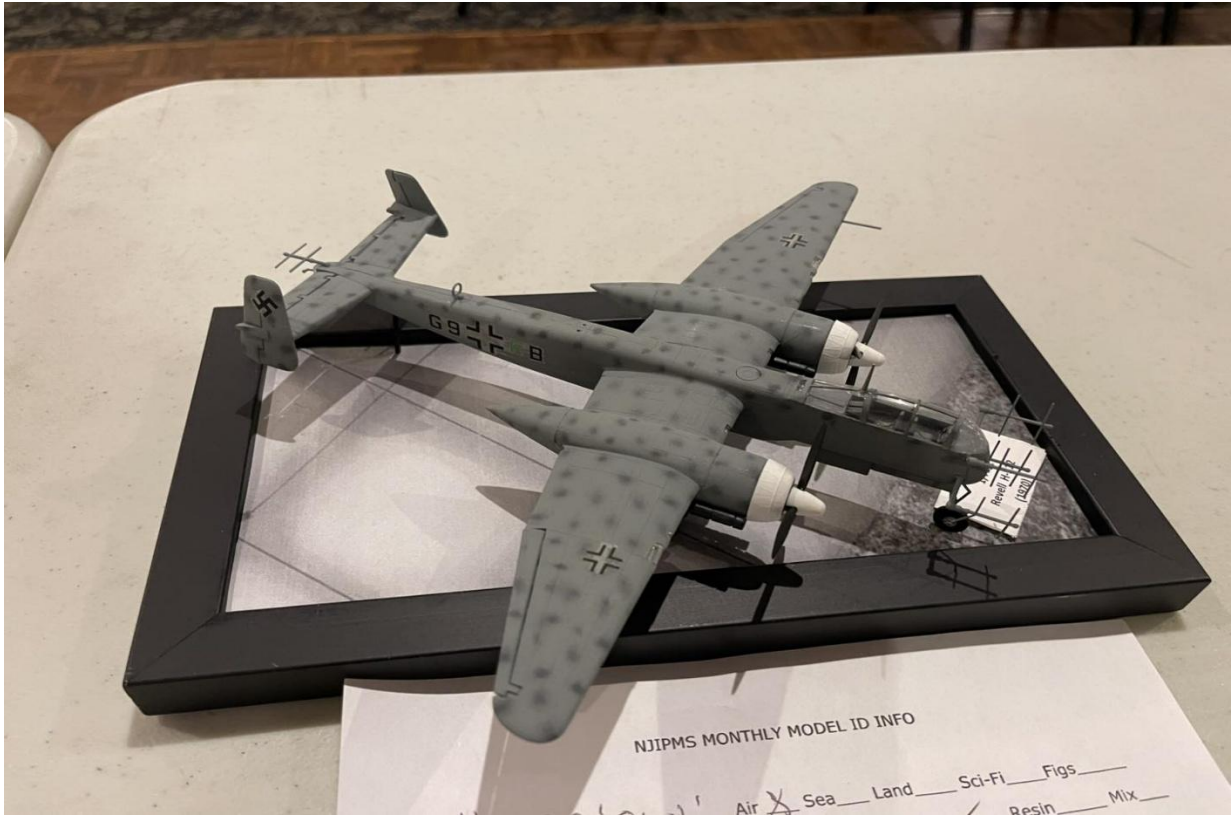
Thank you!

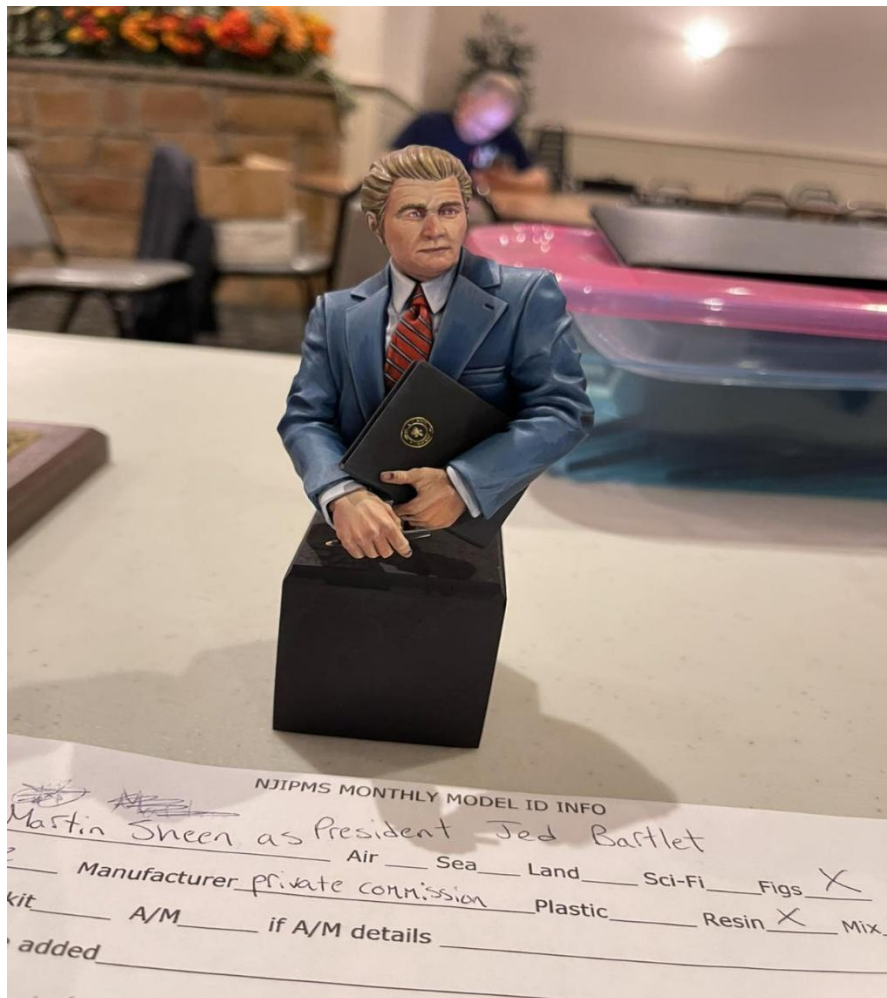
I said it was short!!

Here are the kits on display last month. As I was not there, I didn't get tags, but you know who you are!









NJIPMS MONTHLY MODEL ID INFO
 Martin Sheen as President Ted Bartlet
 Air ___ Sea ___ Land ___ Sci-Fi ___ Figs ☒
 Manufacturer private commission Plastic ___ Resin ☒ Mix ___
 kit ___ A/M ___ if A/M details ___
 added





Wow looks like a great bunch of builds! See every one on Friday.

Bill Schroeter, Editor