



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

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“FROM THE IRON WORKS”

By Big Bill Shwarz, Pres.

Hi all. Not much going on for me. A few of our members are at the nats and say its good. Marty posted pics on facebook too. Nice stuff! Anyway you guys enjoy the rest of this disgusting hot wet summer. Reminds me of Nam! Stay cool and dry and all of that! See you Friday! Finito!
BB PRES NJIPMS

Editor's Note: I've just started Chemo for my cancer diagnosis. They told me I'd Be fatigued, and they were right! I'll do the best I can to get this edition out today. BS

THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



The summer seems to be going by so fast, just like it always does. But August usually means one thing - the IPMS Nats are upon us. I know that some of our guys are there in Fort Wayne. I'm a bit jealous because I wasn't able to attend.

For anyone who has gone, you already know how much fun the Nats are. I'm looking forward to seeing photos of the show posted on social media and the various modeling websites. I'm hoping that the guys who went are at the club meeting

so we can hear the stories about the goings on that took place. Next year the show is in Huntsville Alabama - quite a hike from NJ. The announcement regarding the location for '28 will be made at the end of this year's show.

Best Wishes,

Mike P.

Here's a piece from DR. Simon

Antique Plastic 1

Do you guys know how alligators hunt ? Very often , they just lay nice and still in the water with their mouths wide open and wait for something tasty to float their way ; when it does, their jaws close on it like a steel bear trap ... This pretty closely resembles my web-based kit hunt these days with low price being a big factor, LOL ! Lately I've been on a bit of a Plastic Model Archeology bender .

A couple of months ago I happened upon an Aurora X18 Hiller Convertiplane on sale for \$27 and snapped it up ; these usually sell for a lot more . I was sort of looking for a change of pace , and this kit never made it to the Basement of Oblivion !



Hiller Aircraft was picked by the USAF to build a prototype vertical takeoff transport aircraft. Many preexisting components were used for this, including the entire fuselage of the Chase XC 20, a late-war all-metal glider that would, on a separate pathway, become the successful C123. New were the tilting wing with two paired engines and contra rotating propellers, a fuselage mounted J34 turbojet to feed the tail mounted pitch control vane, and a nose-mounted probe for mounting sensors.

The Hiller X18 program was a mixed success, with the prototype carrying out 20 flights. Vertical flight was never achieved, with 30 degrees being the steepest climb-out performed.

The kit I got on E Bay is a 1962 issue of a kit initially made in 1959 by Comet Models, just before they quit the plastic models business and sold their molds to Aurora. The kit was complete as advertised, and not surprisingly, a real time capsule.

Assembly is simple and positive, with very good fit throughout, especially the large, rectangular-section fuselage; this is challenging to mold well, and the Comet people did a better job in 1959 than many more recent manufacturers. The tilting-wing mechanism feels solid and works well, and props and wheels can be made to spin, yeah!

On the down side, the very prominent under-fuselage pipe taking hot gas to the attitude control vanes is inadequately represented, and the cockpit interior completely absent.



I did a fair representation of the underside pipe by combining plastic tube and the residual hot gas vents present on the kit part. Brass wire was used to represent the bracing that was present

between the exhaust pipe and fuselage . The cockpit interior had to be entirely scratch built with plastic card and spare parts , using a single B&W photo that I found on the web . On that photo the interior looks white , but may actually be another light color. Gibson used to make a guitar called the “TV model” Les Paul Jr. It was yellow because under the lights and on TV , this color actually looked better than white . I stuck with white for my X18 and did an OK representation of the cockpit . Sadly, the very nicely molded and clear cockpit provided by the kit clouded somewhat when I applied a final coat of Tamiya semi gloss varnish on this model.

The contra rotating props were slightly undersized and their hubs not very credible although I did some re-shaping . This is a downer for a model where those props are so prominent ; but the engines themselves are very nicely molded along with their intakes and tailpipes.

After washing and priming , I sprayed the model with Tamiya “aluminum plate “ and the wingtips Tamiya red, using the box top illustration for guidance as we always should (?) . Most photos also show red areas on the tail , but I went with the guys from W. Hempstead ! So far, I had a nice though simplistic model on my hands, but I hit a rough patch with the 1962 decals . Obviously, they were deeply yellowed , but a couple of days of UV-intensive June sunlight fixed that. The decals had to soak in water for 24 hours to detach , but when they did, they were still strong and supple . But it became evident that they were out of register , and the adhesive on them , probably gumma arabica , was brownish and lumpy . The large, complex decal that wraps around the fuselage with the propeller warning markings went on well, but the above-mentioned adhesive caused unacceptable results even though I’d tried some remedial work with a brush. So, I removed that decal, repainted the front fuselage and re-decaled it with what I could find in my stash .

I’m satisfied with the finished product, but not as satisfied as I’d thought that I would be until I ran into those problems close to the finish line . This model is a product of its time, when models were produced to be desktop-displayed clean and weathering-free or to be educational . Once again , I want to acknowledge the high standards of those mold makers at Comet in 1959 . I’ve got a much -rougher Aurora 1/46 Martin Marauder from 1954 molds sitting next to me but, as they say, that’s another story !

Cool! I’d never heard of this AC, so a history lesson as well!

As far as photos go, I’m going random of pics from past meetings, the Nats and what else I can find. I’ve been unable to be at a meeting for a few months.









TECHNIQUES USED:

Scratchbuilt windshield wipers, door handle,

6-pounder anti-aircraft gun, etc.

II. Military Vehicles / 214 Soft Skinned







That's it. Most of these are from the Nats, with a few others off FB. Enjoy.

I'm really hoping to be at the meeting tomorrow, Miss it.

Bill Schroeter, Editor