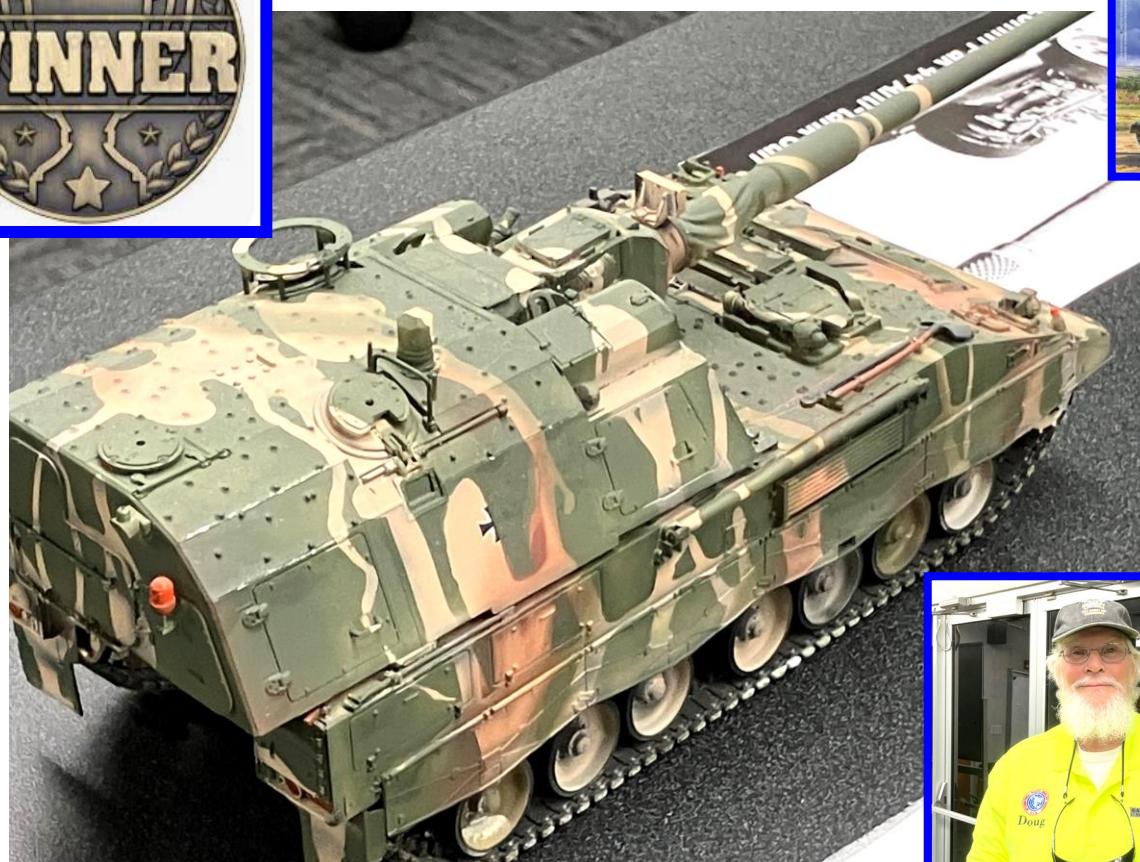




[www.gatormodelers.org](http://www.gatormodelers.org)



## *IPMS Gators' President Doug Spinney's 1:35 scale Meng Panzerhaubitze 2000*

**Notice:** Dues (\$20/year) will again be collected at the December meeting. If you want to pay by check, please make your check out to "William Winter." If you make the check out to "IPMS Gators," I cannot cash it, and it cannot be accepted. Thank you. – Bill, IPMS Gators' Treasurer



MEMBER OF  
**IPMS**

# GATOR MODELERS



GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Club officers

**Doug Spinney**  
President

**Chuck Lassiter**  
Vice President

**Frank Ahern**  
Secretary

**Bruce Doyle**  
Historian

**Doug Spinney**  
Webmaster

**Bill Winter**  
Treasurer &  
Newsletter  
Editor

**Prez Sez.....** [www.gatormodelers.org](http://www.gatormodelers.org)

It just seemed like a few weeks ago it was the first of the year and we were talking about new year's resolutions. Mine was to build a model per month, I didn't even come close. I'll need to rethink my resolution for next year. But I have another month to come up with something.

Our Christmas party is fast approaching, as of this writing, it is a week away. Then a mere two days later our monthly meeting. The theme for this month is *Science Fiction*. I know the holidays are fast approaching, but I hope to see a good turnout. – **Doug**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

I picked up a roll of ribbon garland at Hobby Lobby. I thought it might make a nice mask for my resin tanks. This is a test piece.



### July – IPMS Gators

We will meet  
Tuesday, December  
16, 2025, at 6:30  
PM at  
Oak Hall Library

I might need to wrap it tighter, but I think it looks good, except for the thumb print.

## ***Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday November 18, 2025***

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. A total of 15 members were present.

Upcoming events were discussed including Jaxcon on Feb. 6 & 7 and Scale Model Expo in the Villages April 11.

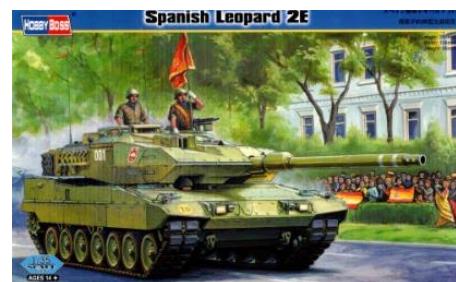
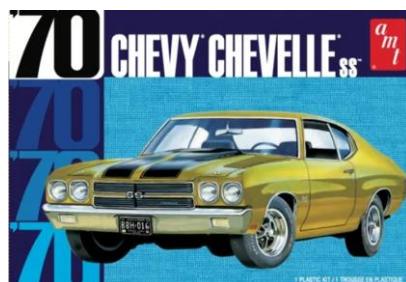


The Club Christmas Party will be held on Sunday Dec.14 at the Winter condo starting at 1pm. An RSVP email will be sent in a few weeks to give attendees a chance to tell what side dish or dessert they plan to bring. Turkey will be provided. Those who wish to participate in the Gift Exchange should bring a wrapped modeling-related gift of at least \$20 value.

The meeting paused to give those who brought a model time for presentation. The monthly modeling theme was "3 color camouflage".

The theme contest was won by Doug Spinney with a model of a Panzer painted using detergent washes between paint coats. Next month's theme is Sci-Fi.

The raffle drawings were won by Mark Box (Chevelle) and Doug Spinney (Spanish Leopard 2E).



Treasurer Bill Winter collected yearly dues of \$20 from members in attendance.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Ed Ingersoll on how to modify an Oral-B electric toothbrush to work as a sanding tool.

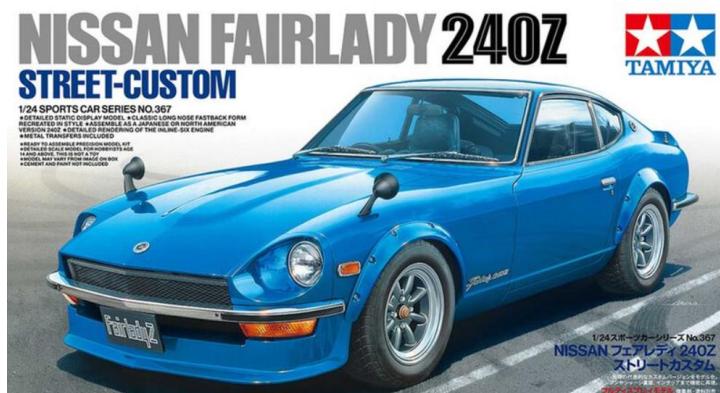
The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Submitted by: [Frank Ahern, Club Secretary](#)

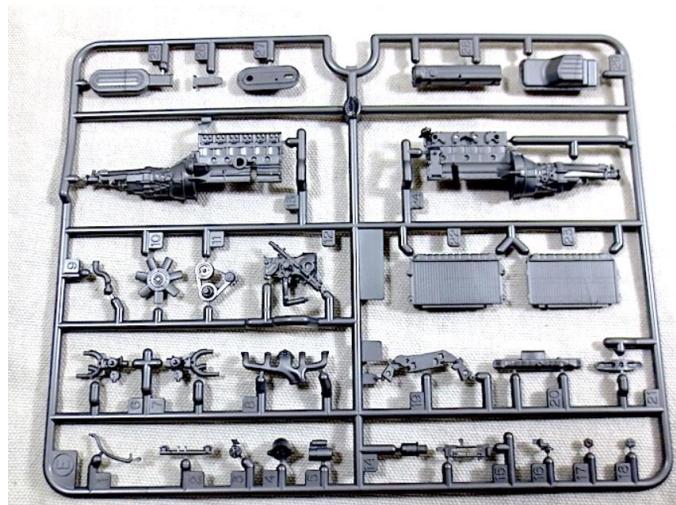
# 240Z

By Frank Ahern

"Halo car" is a term used in the automotive industry to describe a car that elevates the reputation of a manufacturer, or, in this case, a whole country. Just as Germany needed a car like the Mercedes Gull-wing to symbolize its return to automotive excellence in the 1950's, the Japanese needed one in the early 1970's to assert their ability to produce a car with style and performance. Enter the Datsun 240Z. It revolutionized the way Americans thought about Japanese cars. It wasn't a boxy little economy sedan, but a real sports car with handling and power to match the world's best. This was a car I wanted but never owned. Better late than never.

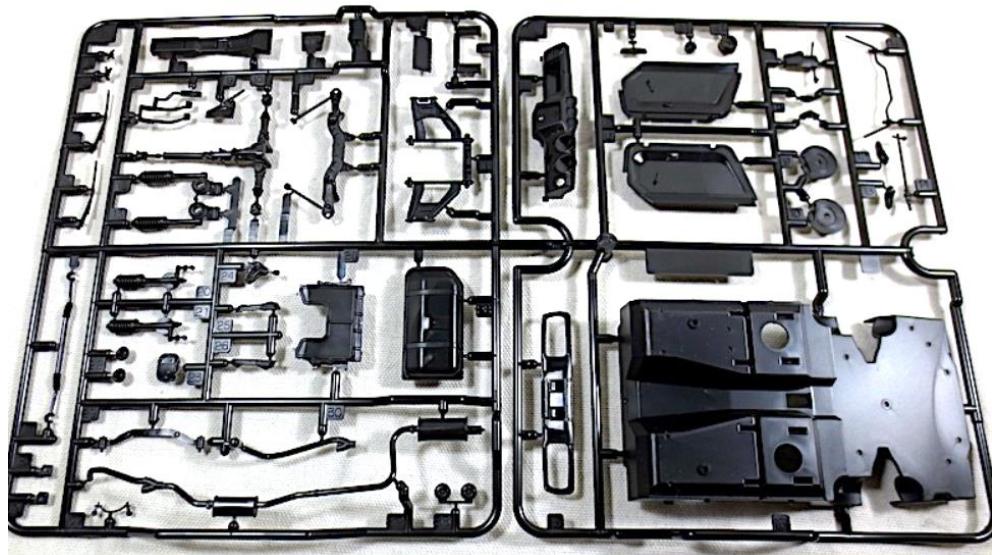


It stands to reason that the Japanese kit maker supreme, *Tamiya*, would pull out all the stops to make a model of this groundbreaking car. I recently purchased the kit, and this will be an *in-box* review of the contents. This is a big kit with lots of parts. The amount of detail in the engine and suspension is almost overwhelming. It makes you feel like you're building a real car.

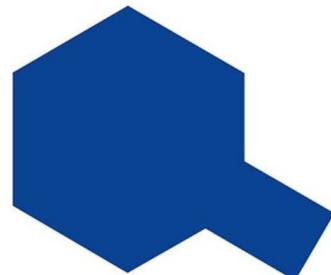
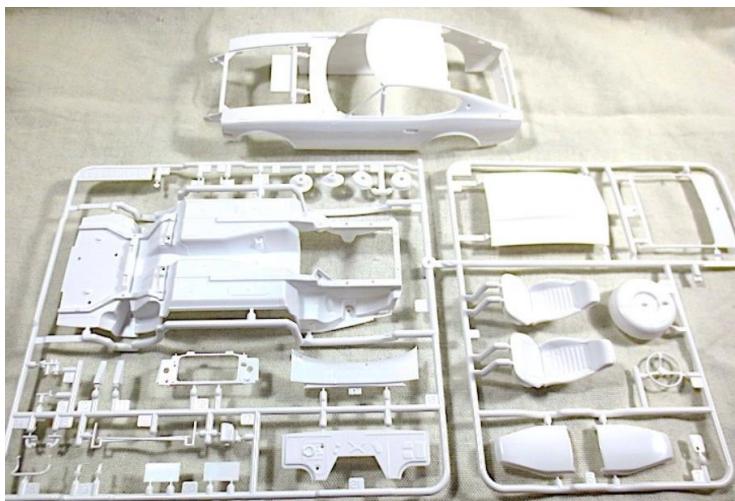


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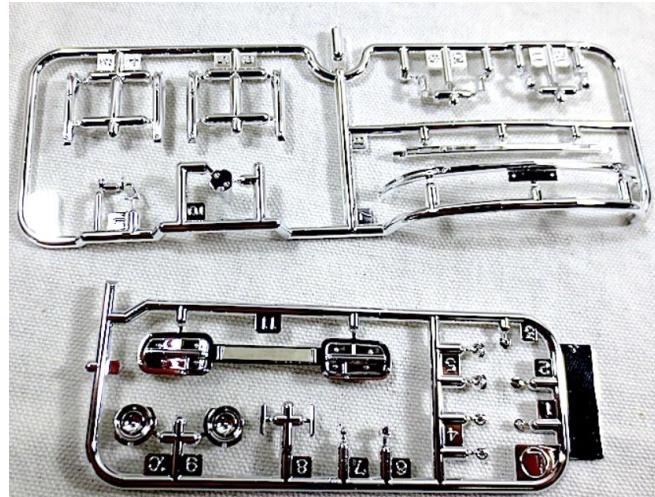
The engine sprue is well detailed and molded in the appropriate metallic gray color. Chassis and suspension are rendered in semi-gloss black, which makes painting unnecessary. I appreciate that.



The body and interior are presented in white. The suggested colors are blue or red for the exterior and

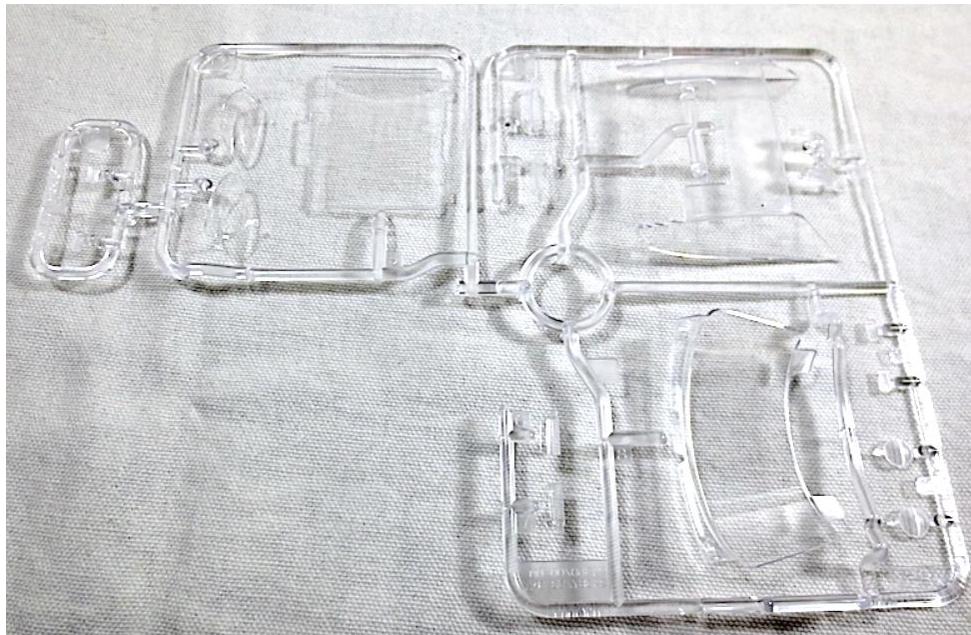


black for the interior. I plan to use the suggested exterior color of Tamiya Mica Blue. One complication is that parts for both left- and right-hand drive are provided. You have to make sure you don't mix them up like I did.

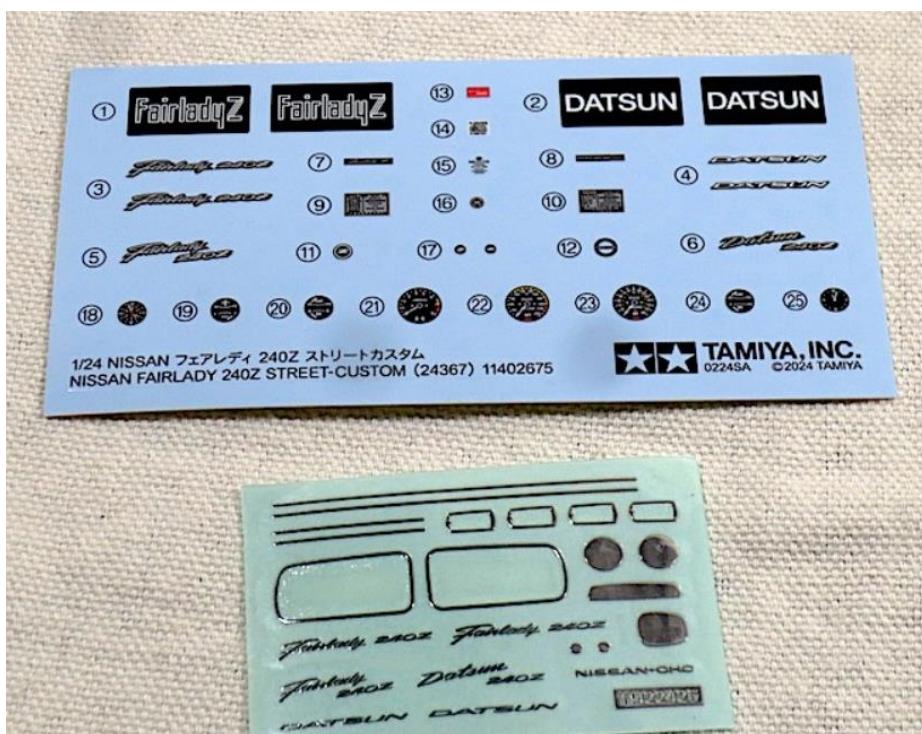


## 240Z

The biggest and most welcome surprise was the sprue containing chrome pieces to replicate the trim around the windows. Why hasn't anyone thought of this before?



The clear parts are beautifully done and include the gluing tabs Tamiya provides that make it possible to glue the windows without getting glue on the critical window surfaces.

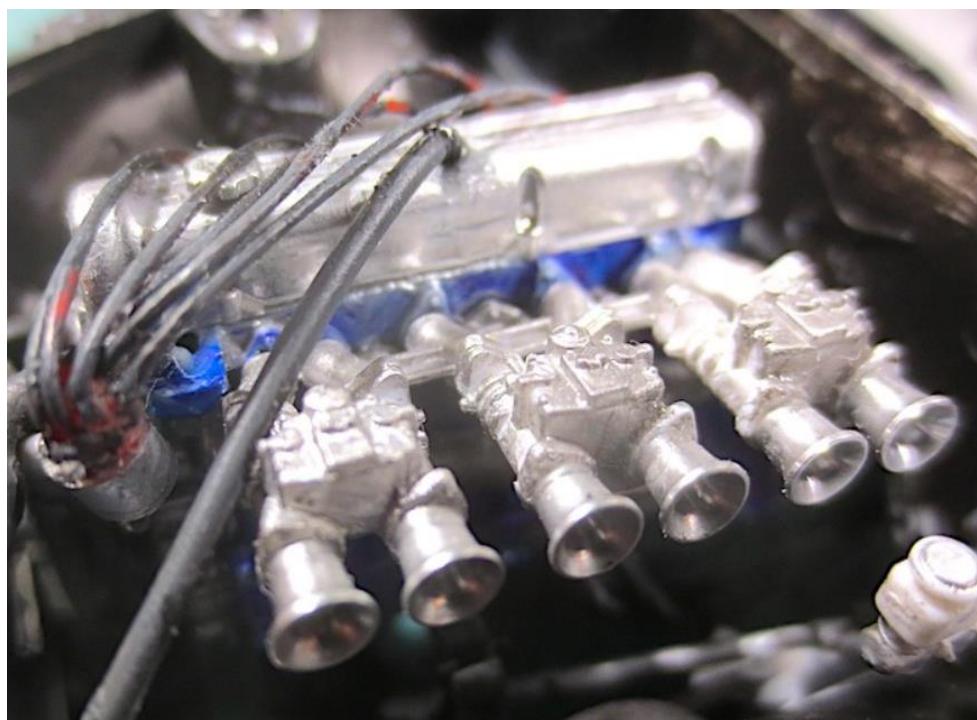


## 240Z

I also appreciate the decals for the instruments and the metal transfers that give the badges and mirrors added depth and realism. The older I get the less I like struggling with kits that don't reach the standard of this one. I don't mind spending a few more bucks to make my time on the workbench a pleasure rather than a pain.



So far, the build is going well. As I said earlier the level of detail is exceptional. Now comes the part I dread - painting. Hopefully, it will appear on the Show & Tell table in the near future. - **Frank**



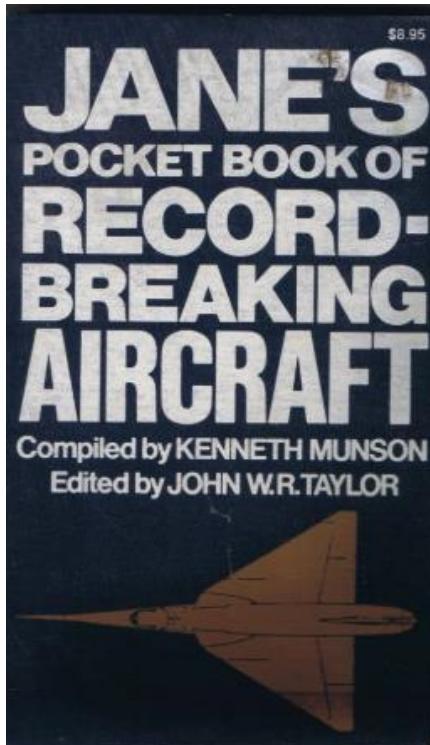
*IPMS Gators' President Doug Spinney's 1:35 scale Meng  
Panzerhaubitze 2000*



*IPMS Gators' President Doug Spinney's 1:35 scale Meng  
Panzerhaubitze 2000*



Bruce Doyle's 1:72 scale Trumpeter F-100C flown by Horace Hanes who won the F.A.I. absolute world speed record on 20 Aug 1955 – 822 mph – 1<sup>st</sup> supersonic record!



1955 – Air Force Sets World's Supersonic Speed Record

August 1955, 1955. high above California's Mojave Desert, Col. Horace A. Hanes, USAF, set the world's first officially timed and certified record for speed. Right: Hunting his North American F-100C "Super Sabre" once downwind, then swoop on an 18.11 kilometer straightaway course at 40,000 feet altitude, his average speed was 822.14 mph. This was 150 mph. faster than the speed of sound. For his average speed, he was awarded the Thompson Trophy at the 1955 National Airshow, at Philadelphia International Airport. There, on Labor Day, his name "Super Sabre" became the record flight at more than 700 mph for 102,000 feet watchers.

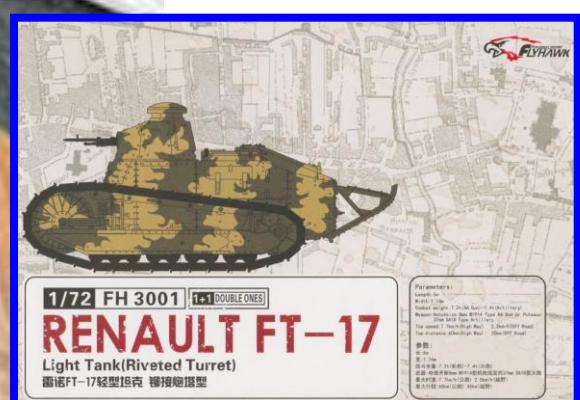
## Tony Aguilar's 1:72 scale Esci Ferdinand backdated from an Elefant



Frank Ahern's 1:72 scale Airfix Stuka in 3-color camo – Frank added swastikas



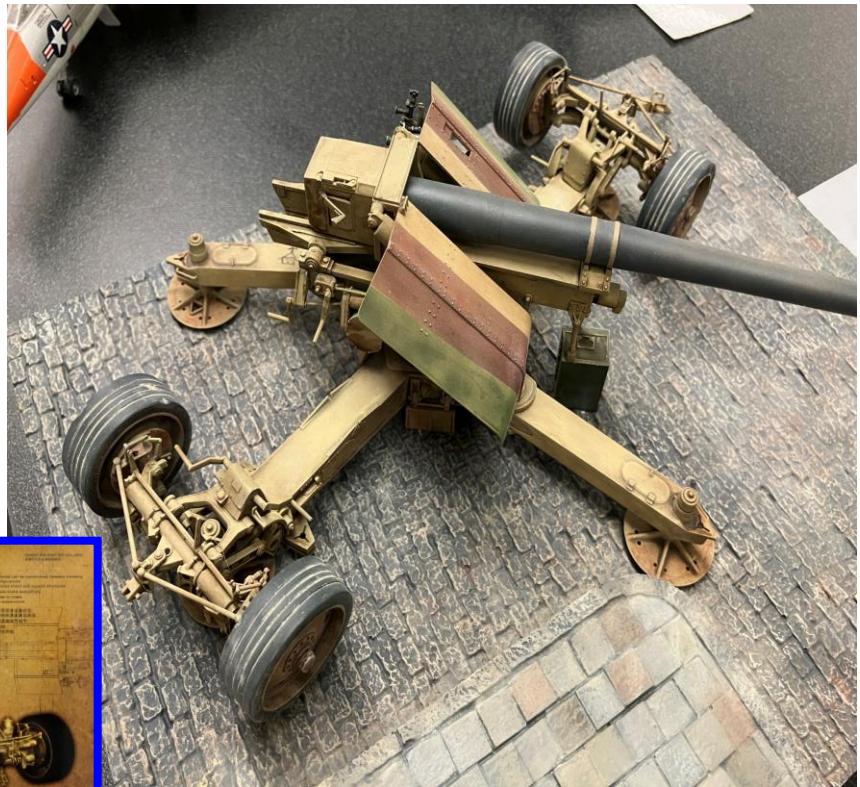
Ed Ingersoll's 1:72 scale Flyhawk FT-17 in sand, brown and forest green



Chuck Lassiter's 1:72 scale "Old" Airfix Vickers Wellington IIIC  
RAF 75 (NZ) Squadron



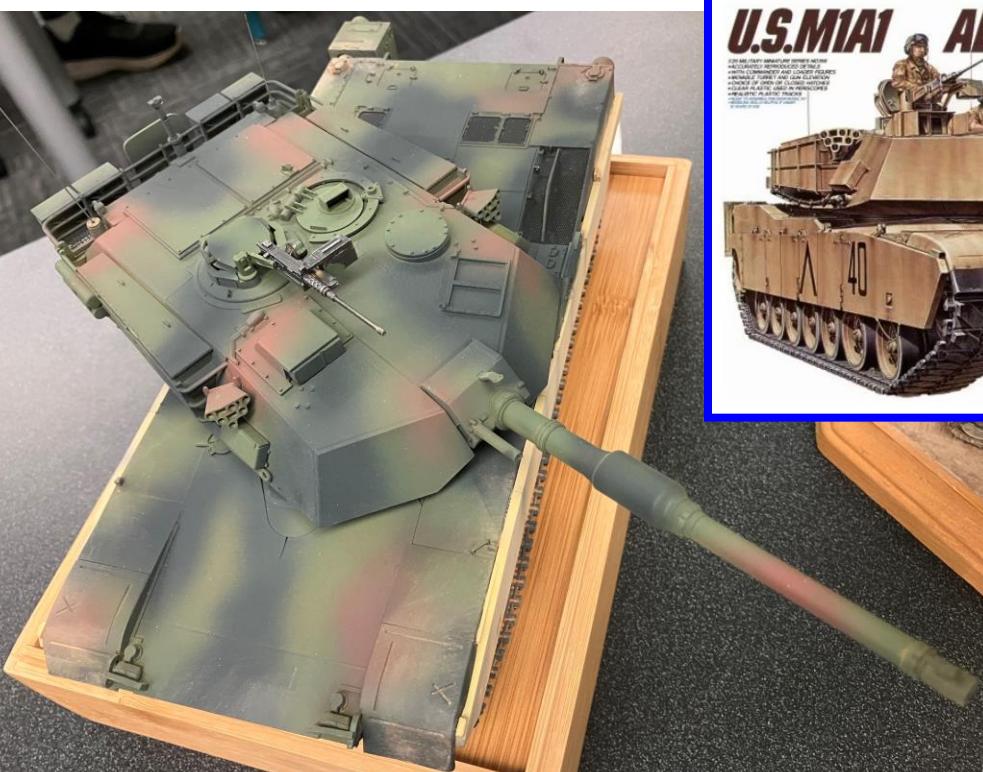
## Don Martin's 1:35 scale Great Wall 128mm anti-tank gun in Berlin in 1945



## Brian Cormack's 1:72 scale Hobby Boss M.S. 406 Free French fighter repainted in RAF markings



## Bill's 1:35 scale Tamiya M1A1 in 4-color camo



## Otaki P-40 - WIP



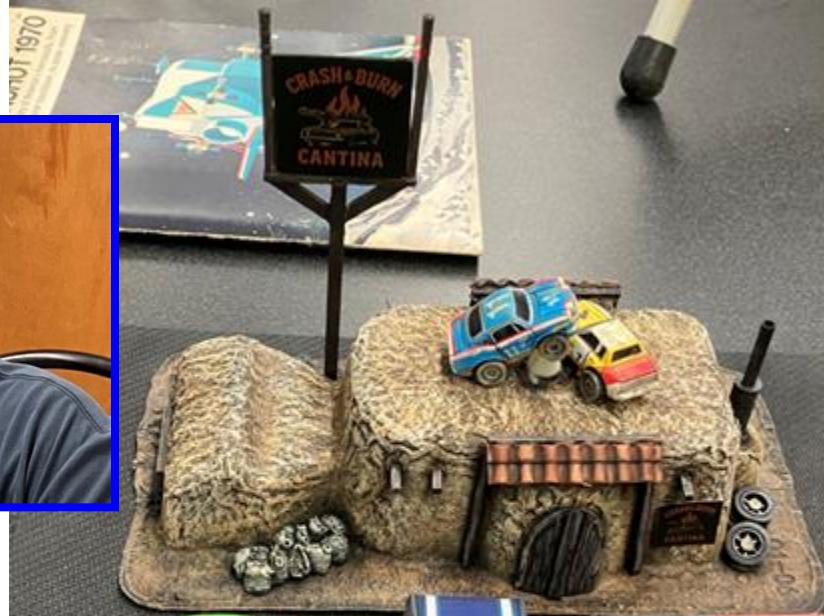
## Mark Box's Vehicles



Darryl Palmer's 1:48 scale  
Monogram/Revell LM



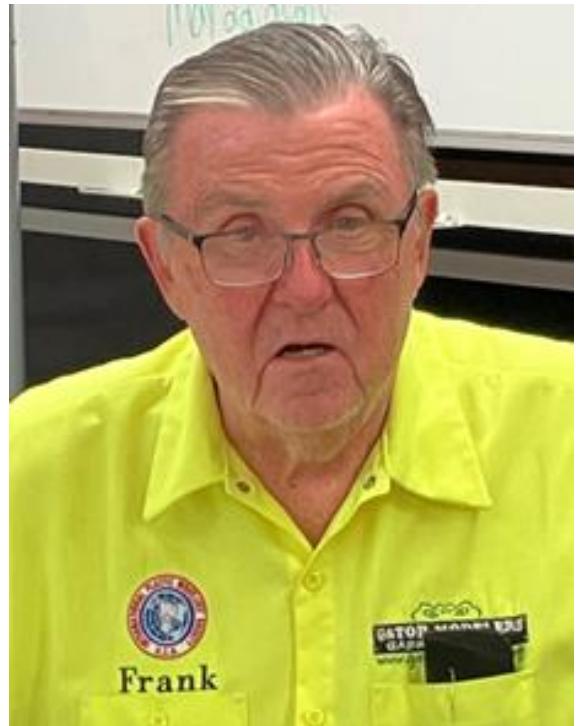
## Recent work accomplished by Tony Aguilar



Members at the November 2025 meeting of IPMS Gators



Members at the November 2025 meeting of IPMS Gators



## Upcoming shows

**Jaxcon 2026** will be held on Friday evening and all day Saturday Feb. 6/7th. It will once again be at the fabulous North Jacksonville Baptist Church recreation hall where it's been for the last 5 years or so. The good news is that this year there will be 75 vendor tables available!



# Upcoming shows

## Theme for the 2026 Gainesville- Ocala Interclub contest: ICE WORLD

With the onset of massive global freezing, the polar ice caps extended south and north as far as 40th parallel and resulted in freezing solid Seattle's Puget Sound, New York's Hudson River and Ports, all of the Great Lakes, even northern sections of the Mediterranean Sea (ice bergs occasionally clogged the strait of Gibraltar).



In efforts to overcome the economic constraints of a frozen world, 'brilliant' minds diligently proposed various means of developing advantages out of difficulties, addressing issues of freighters, mass transits, recreation, and the military in a frozen world.

Let the Gainesville/Ocala IPMS club challenge propose solutions to this future problem in the form of a kit-bash of two (or more) kits of which at least one is plastic; use of other materials optional. Entry to be accompanied with a narrative of no more than 3 pages explaining the presentation. Judging will be based 2/3 on the model and 1/3 on the narrative. A new category is being introduced, a Junior Class for entrants 18 years of age or younger. Judging to be done by entry members.

TBD. Contest dates being targeted (depending on availability of a meeting place) are, first choice, Saturday 25th of April 2026 or second choice, Saturday 11th of April 2026.

Note: Interclub contest was last held in Gainesville April 27, 2024

## From the desk of Clarence Snyder



Frank Ahern, – Secretary – [ahernf@gmail.com](mailto:ahernf@gmail.com)  
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

**If you have a modeling tip you would like to share with your fellow modelers, please send us a copy so we can put it in the newsletter. We need articles for the Newsletter and the Web Site!**

If you just opened up that new kit and want to give a box or build review, write it up and we'll put it in the newsletter and put it on the Web Site. Just read a good book, tell us about it! Got a great tip, share it with your fellow club members. This is your Newsletter and your Web Site and they're only going to be as good as YOU make them so contribute something to the cause.

Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you have something you want to share, we'll be happy to assist you in making it happen!



Don't forget to support your local hobby shop: Rob's Hobby World (Rob Stevely: Proprietor 8585 SW Hwy 200 unit 14) Ocala, FL 34474 [www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com](mailto:www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com); Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out [WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG](http://WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG) for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor [ahernf@gmail.com](mailto:ahernf@gmail.com)  
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete list of IPMS events visit: <https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/>



*August 5 – 8, 2026  
Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*It is of great importance, both at the local level (IPMS Gators) and at the national level, that all IPMS Gators members join IPMS USA.*

This membership includes six bimonthly issues of the IPMS Journal (now: "IJU"; which is better than ever) and the opportunity to participate in the IPMS National Convention .

Joining IPMSUSA or renewing your membership are done on-line.

**<https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>**



**INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY**

*By Modelers, for Modelers*



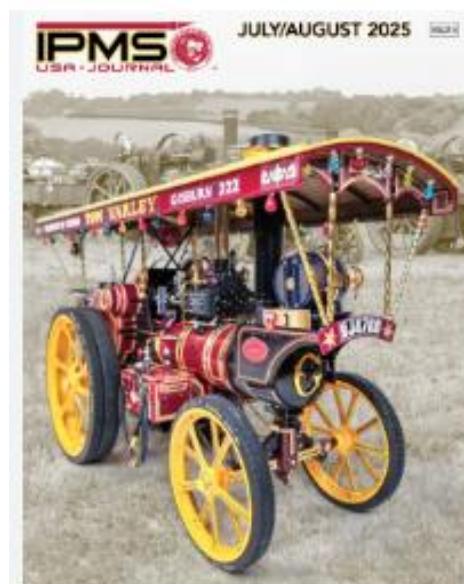
MEMBERSHIP HOME ▶ 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL! CHAPTER DIRECTORY JOIN US IPMS/USA ONLINE STORE

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[Renew My Membership](#)

**IPMS/USA**  
**P. O. Box 45235**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235**

**Phone: 727-537-6886**  
**Email: [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org)**



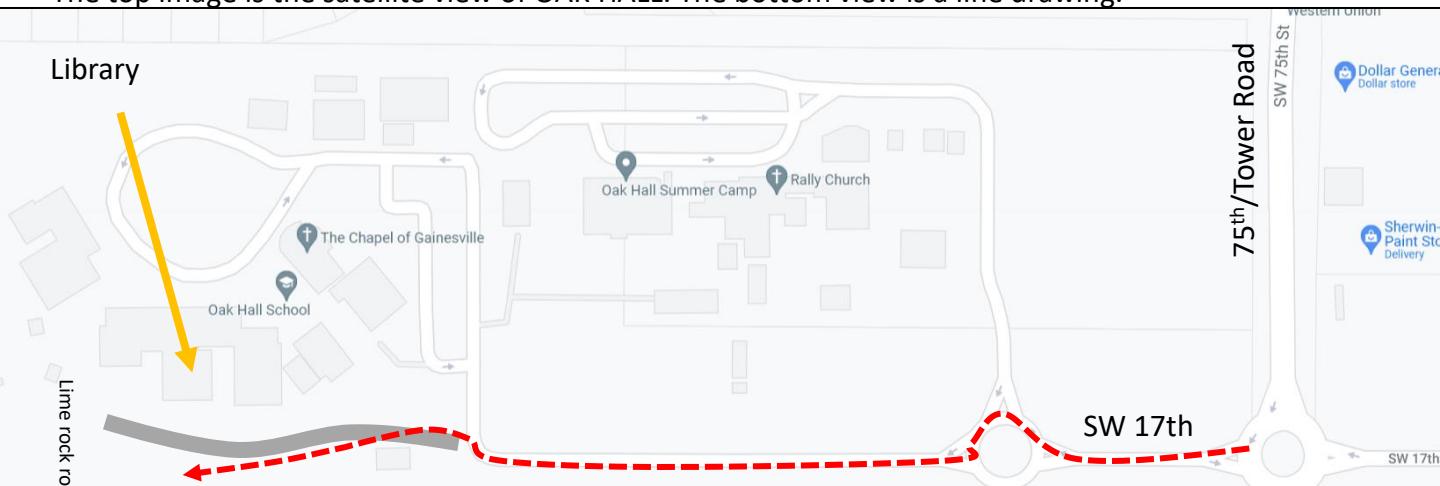
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75<sup>th</sup> St, Gainesville, FL)



**IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS:** We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday December 16 at 6:30 PM in the LIBRARY.

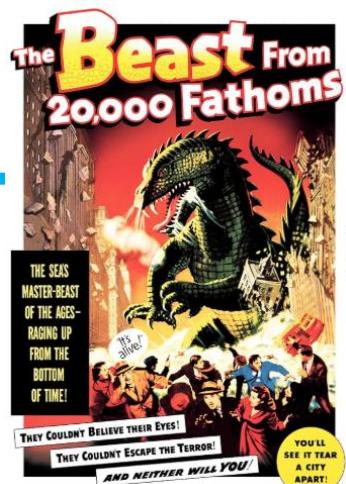


The top image is the satellite view of OAK HALL. The bottom view is a line drawing.



## A note about monthly themes for 2025

Dec.                   Sci-Fi



**Newsletter editor note:** In either December or January, I'd like to take some informal portraits of members for the NL. Let me know if you are not interested. Thx.

**Fancy Paint** ... submitted by Jack Mugan



**Dear Readers – If you sent me something for the IPMS Gators' newsletter and I missed it, or if I misidentified any photos, please let me know. I'll fix it in the January 2026 newsletter. - Bill**