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IPMS Gators' 2025 Member of the Year was Ed Ingersoll!



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IPMS

GATOR MODELERS

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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Many of us that enjoy building plastic models have our own niche. Some build strictly cars, some build strictly armor, and some build a little bit of everything. My niche is armor, humor, and science fiction. I've built a few cars, and it just wasn't my thing, same with airplanes. In the past I could look at older model full size cars or trucks and know the make, model, and year. That ability has faded from my memory. Now let me tell you everything I know about airplanes. They are supposed to fly, when they take off and decide not to fly, bad things happen. Some planes have propellers and some don't. I can't tell you the make or model number. I do know the Mustang, Corsair, and Spitfire, but the fighter jets all look the same to me, same with the bombers. I just don't like airplanes, the big ones at airports especially. A few years ago my wife wanted to travel to Colorado, in a plane. I was willing to drive to Colorado, but no, I lost that discussion. I fretted the trip, I white knuckled the entire flight to Denver. I wanted to get off the plane and kiss the ground. Because I knew that I was sitting on four hundred thousand pounds of fuel in a thing that has a few hundred thousand moving parts built by the lowest bidders. I did have a good time on our vacation, but in the back of my mind I knew I'd need to get back on a plane to come home. Since then my wife flew to California for a ten-day vacation, with our daughter, I gladly stayed home with the dog. Sometimes my friends will get talking about planes, the different models, the difference between an A, B, and so on. I just sit there and zone out, crawl in my Nothing Box* and tune it out. If you see me sitting at the table, looking brain dead and still breathing, I'm thinking about anything other than airplanes. Actually, I'm usually thinking about nothing.

[July – IPMS Gators](#)

We will meet
Tuesday, January
20, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library

*<https://youtu.be/SZ6mVumHY9I?si=vCMFYN6jtxS9CXpn>

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday Dec. 16, 2025

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. There were 13 members present.

He presented the Modeler of the Year award to Ed Ingersoll based on points accumulated for participation in various club activities.

Doug highlighted upcoming model shows beginning with Jaxcon, Feb. 6-7 in Jacksonville, FL, Modelair in Orlando Feb. 10-11, Modelair in Tampa Feb. 14 in Tampa and Scale Model Expo at the Villages April 11.



He thanked Bill Winter and wife Nancy for hosting the Christmas party last weekend.

The meeting paused for Show & Tell presentations by those who brought models. The monthly theme contest was judged by those in attendance.

The theme was Sci-Fi and the contest was won by Bill Winter with a model of the Beast from 20,000 Leagues attacking a lighthouse.

Next month's theme is - Aircraft of the 1950's.

The attendance raffles were won by Doug Spinney and Bill Winter.



Finally, the meeting concluded with a presentation by Darryl Palmer on the Berlin Airlift and the pilot who became known as the Candy Bomber - Gail Halvorsen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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

New Year's Resolutions

By Frank Ahern

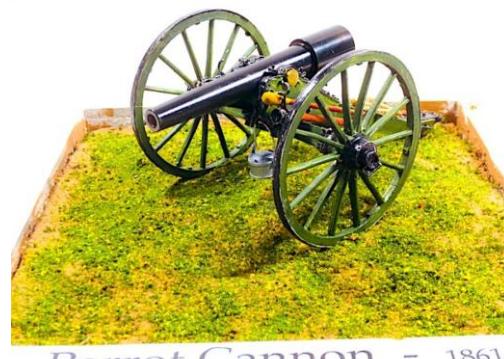
Many of us start each new year with a list of things we want to change in our lives going forward. Modelers are no different. My list of modeling resolutions is unique to me and may not apply to you at all. It also includes some I have made in the past that didn't stick, but it never hurts to try again.



Slow Down - As I look back on my modeling career, it's clear that most of my mistakes have been due to rushing the building process. When I first began modeling again after joining the club in 2008, I decided to make up for lost time by building a lot of models in a hurry to gain experience. I did gain the experience, but



I also picked up the bad habit of rushing the process. This leads me to often skip steps and ignore the instructions in an effort to finish quickly. Sometimes this leads to disaster. It can also be costly. There have been several times I've had to buy a second kit to replace parts I broke or lost in the first attempt during the rush to finish. This change will require me to adopt a more zen-like approach to enjoying the journey as much as the destination. Not easy for an old man. Like old dogs we resist change.



Parrot Cannon - 1861

Branch Out - One way to break out of a modeling rut is to build something totally out of your normal sphere. My most enjoyable model last year was an all-metal model of a Civil War cannon that I picked up during a visit to Gettysburg. Not only was it an interesting build, but it made a great gift for a friend who is a gun collector. I'm challenging myself this year to look for opportunities to build something out of my

New Year's Resolutions

comfort zone. Looking ahead at the modeling themes we picked for this year is a great way to branch out into a genre that I normally don't try.



Clean Out - I was reminded of this at the Christmas party while talking to Sue Palmer. Her husband Tracy left behind a stash of models, paint, books, and paraphernalia that was overwhelming to deal with. I am resolved this year to begin the process of disposing of built models that I don't want and reducing my stash of unbuilt models to a few dozen. The easy way for me to do that is to look at a kit on the shelf and ask myself if I want to build it. If the answer is no, then it should depart. My standard for models has elevated along with my age. I no longer see cheap and poorly engineered models as a challenge. Now I view them as a waste of my time at the workbench.

For me the joy of modeling is building models not collecting them. Now that I have unrestricted access to my modeling space again, I plan to start reducing my hobby footprint to a level that will not be a burden for my spouse when I leave it behind. Check back with me in a year to see how I did. - **Frank**



Tops of the Box

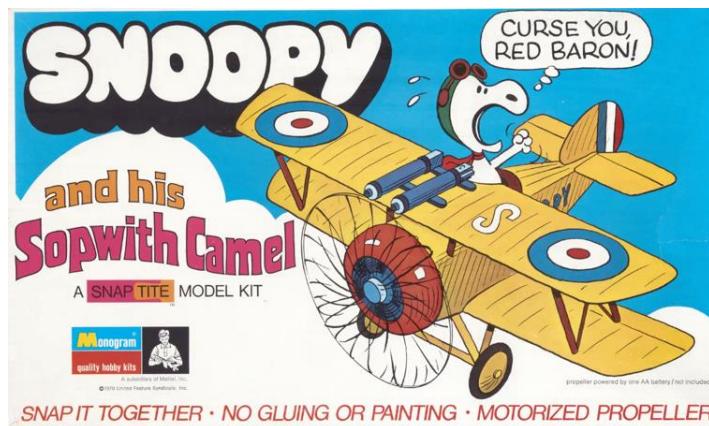
Sheperd Paine: The Man Who Saved the Hobby

By Darryl Palmer



One of the most influential box artists in scale modeling history rarely touched his brush to canvas. Through dioramas and how-to manuals, Sheperd Paine helped to steer modeling in a new direction during a turbulent decade.

In 1972, Monogram was on a redemption tour. Long considered the first choice of serious modelers for their quality kits and attention to detail, the Morton Grove, Illinois company had fallen out of favor in some hobby shops. Following an ill-timed investment in slot-car racing just as that fad was dying out, Monogram was purchased by Mattel in 1968. The toy giant had no experience in the scale model industry, but the success of Monogram's Tom Daniel funny cars offered rich crossover potential with its own Hot Wheels line.



At first, Mattel kept its hands off Monogram's product development and marketing, but soon the house that Barbie built began offering suggestions for models that had greater play value. In 1970, Snoopy with this Sopwith Camel became the first true product of the merger. With its electric-motored propeller and Snap-Tite construction, the kit became the biggest-selling model kit of its time, winning over millions of kids who were 'too new for glue', and spawning a line of other toy-etic kits.

Next Mattel wanted Monogram to develop the Skystick, an add-on base for their model airplanes that could be tilted with a plastic joystick. To meet the holiday release date, Skystick was rushed into production; it didn't work and sold poorly. "It was Pearl Harbor on Waukegan Road!" recalled designer Ken Merker, "We had about \$50,000 worth of junk!"

Tops of the Box Sheperd Paine: The Man Who Saved the Hobby

With the disaster of the Skystick and declining sales of the Snoopy kits, Mattel decided to relinquish control of marketing back to Monogram.

Company heads Bob Reder and Jack Besser were eager to pick up where they left off, but scale modeling had changed significantly between 1968 and 1972. The war in Vietnam brought the realities of combat into America's living rooms, and as a result, modelers demanded greater realism in their subjects. They were no longer content to build pristine replicas of jet fighters and military vehicles; they wanted to depict battle damage and real conditions on the ground. The Japanese company Tamiya started making in-roads in U.S. hobby shops with highly detailed 1/35 scale armor kits and figures. The market for diorama supplies, airbrushing and specialized hobby tools was expanding rapidly. This was the changed landscape when Monogram executives entered the Hobby Chest in Skokie and found Shep Paine's remarkable dioramas.

Sheperd Paine was born in 1946 in Berlin, Germany. His father was an Army Medical Corps doctor; after the war, the family settled near Boston. As the eldest son in an affluent family, Shep attended boarding schools and was expected to follow in his father's footsteps. But, a military modeler since his early youth, he instead enlisted in the Army and served in Germany as a sergeant in the 3rd Armored Division from 1965 to 1967.

After being discharged, he attended the University of Chicago on the G.I. Bill and got a B.A. in Humanities. It was in college that he joined the Military Miniatures Society of Illinois, which introduced him to other modelers who liked to haunt the Hobby Chest. "I had no idea of what I wanted to do in life, so I started painting figures in my spare time between classes," Paine once told an interviewer. "When I graduated in 1971, with nothing of greater interest on the horizon, I thought I'd try doing that for a living, at least for a while." He built elaborate and vivid dioramas of scenes from the Napoleonic Wars and WWII and sold them to historical museums and wealthy patrons like Andrew Wyeth and Malcom Forbes.



Left: Shep Paine, ca. 1972. Right: Shep Paine in the Third Armored Division

Tops of the Box Sheperd Paine: The Man Who Saved the Hobby

To compete with Tamiya, Monogram was reviving a line of 1/35 and 1/32 scale armor and aircraft from the late 1950s, and they needed a selling point. Why not put photos of professionally built dioramas on the packaging? Better yet, why not get Shep Paine to show modelers how to make their own dioramas?

When Paine's 4-page tip sheets started appearing in Monogram Kits in 1973, it inspired a generation of modelers to go beyond a "nice, neat-looking kit." As Paine said in his introductions:

Building a diorama is an interesting and realistic way of displaying a favorite model. A scale model placed in an authentic setting will receive more attention and comments than the usual static model display. All it requires is average model building skills, some imagination and materials usually found in or around the home



I myself remember taking a rotary grinder, drills and razor saws to an innocent B-25 Mitchell to simulate the flak damage I saw in Paine's booklets. (My father was not happy about what I was doing to a \$2.50 kit.) I also started experimenting with Celluclay to make suitably muddy groundcovers, asking for basswood at the local five-and-dime and building trees out of wire, paste and newspaper. For me and thousands of other modelers like me, Sheperd Paine awakened a creative impulse I never knew I had.

Of course, I could never attain the level of visual skill that seemed so natural in the Paine dioramas. What strikes me now is how rarely Paine showed actual combat. His works tell stories about the down-time before and after battle—a G.I. peeling potatoes into a helmet, a pilot handing bags out of a crashed B-17, paratroopers waiting in line to board a C-47 before D-Day. Paine had a photographer's eye for detail. He brought a level of humanity, not just to modeling but to military art, that is rarely approached to this day.





Tops of the Box Sheperd Paine: The Man Who Saved the Hobby

Shep Paine went on to write four books for Kalmbach publishing that are found on almost every modeler's bookshelves, usually dogeared and crusted with paint and plaster. He displayed his dioramas at modeling conventions for decades, gave frequent lectures, and was influential in promoting the "open system" of judging still used today.

I don't think it's overreaching to say that Sheperd Paine rescued modeling from being strictly a toy-collector's hobby. Thanks to his influence, modeling is a more artistic craft, dedicated to craftsmanship and creativity, shared by thousands of enthusiasts around the world,

After his death in 2015, a Chicago Sun-Times obituary included this quote from Paine: *"When you get into dioramas, you are creating a work of art. I don't use the word with a capital 'A', but you are creating a 3-D painting, and the satisfaction you get is much the same... You are basically telling a story without words."*

FROM THE EDITOR:

My favorite **Shep Paine diorama** is that of the B-24D **"Lady Be Good."**

Lady Be Good was a B-24D Liberator bomber that disappeared without a trace on its first combat mission during World War II. The plane, which was from 376th Bomb Group of the USAAF, was believed to have been lost—with its nine-man crew—in the Mediterranean Sea while returning to its base in Libya following a bombing raid on Naples on April 4, 1943. However, the wreck was accidentally discovered 440 mi inland in the Libyan Desert by an oil exploration team from British Petroleum on November 9, 1958. A ground party in March 1959 identified the aircraft as a B-24D. Investigations concluded that the first-time (all new) crew failed to realize they had overflowed their air base in a sandstorm. After continuing to fly south into the desert for many hours, the crew bailed out when the plane's fuel was exhausted. The 8 survivors of the bail-out then died in the desert trying to walk to safety. All but one of the crew's remains were recovered between February and August 1960. Parts from *Lady Be Good* were salvaged for use in other aircraft following its rediscovery, while the majority of the wreckage of the aircraft was removed from the crash site in August 1994 and taken to a Libyan Air Force base for safekeeping.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Be_Good_\(aircraft\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Be_Good_(aircraft))



1:72 CONSOLIDATED B-24 D LIBERATOR®

Note: Airfix makes a 1:72 scale B-24D with "Lady Be Good" decals.

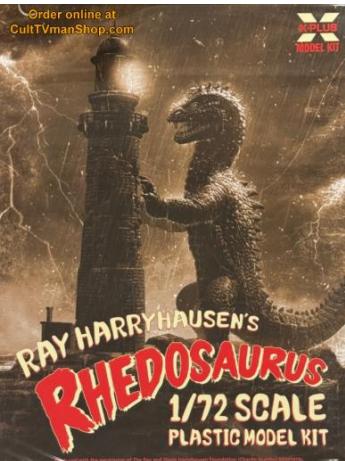
MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The 2025 IPMS Gators member of the year is ED INGERSOLL!

Ed – Thanks for all that you do in participating in the club!

December's Theme was Science Fiction



*Bill's 1:72 scale X-Plus
Rhedosaurus from the
"Beast from 20,000
Fathoms"*



Darryl Palmer's 1/12 scale TV/Movie Robots were his science fiction entries.



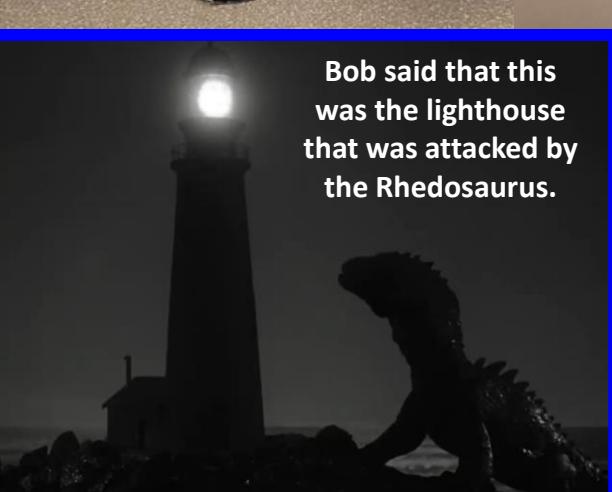
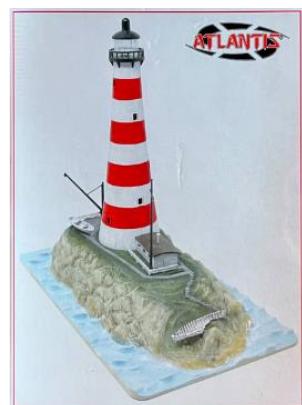
Don Martin's 1:35 scale Evolution Miniatures Stalker post-apocalyptic figure with goggle lens of exposed 35 mm film was his science fiction entry!



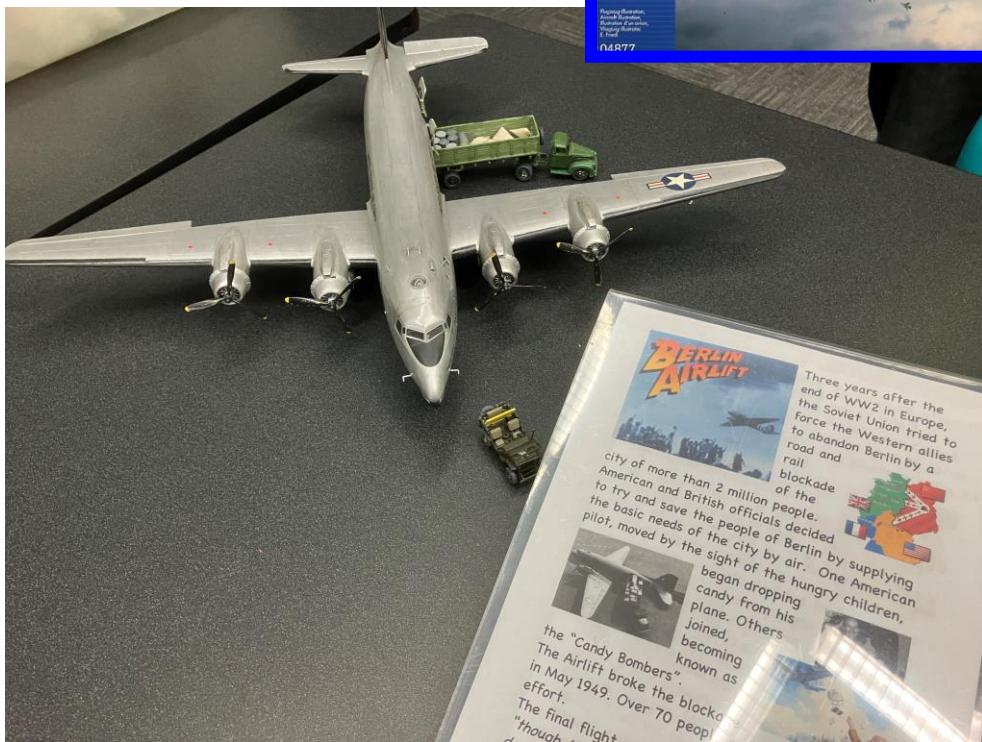
Doug Spinney's Diving Helmet with Skull was his science fiction entry – the skull was cut and fitted into the diving helmet; he used a 3-candle-light light mounted in the skull for illumination.



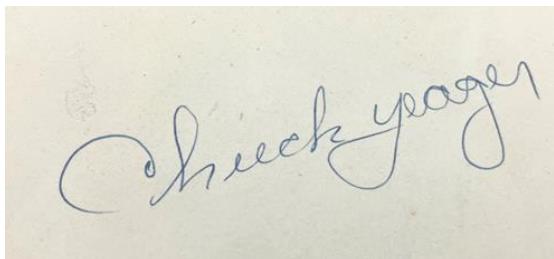
Bob Lundeen's Mobius lit lighthouse was his science fiction entry.



Frank Ahern's 1:72 scale Revell C-54D that participated in the 1948-1949 Berlin airlift



Bruce Doyle's 1:72 scale X-planes and P-51D flown by Chuck Yeager



Bruce Doyle's 1:72 scale X-planes and P-51D flown by Chuck Yeager

X-1 Glamorous Glennis 6063 (USAF) – see-through fuselage
(Tamiya)

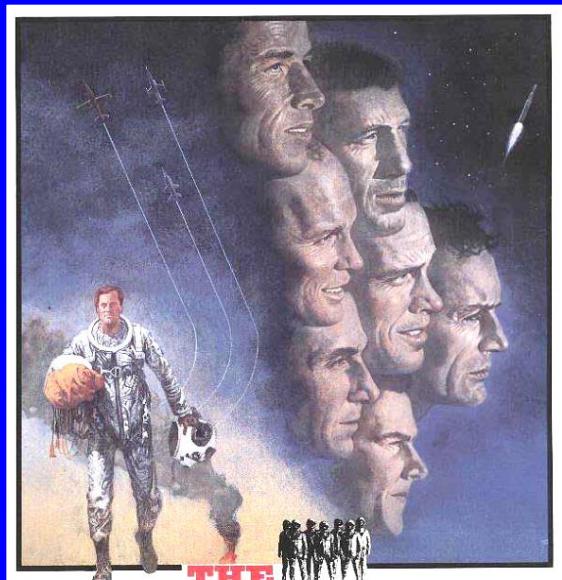
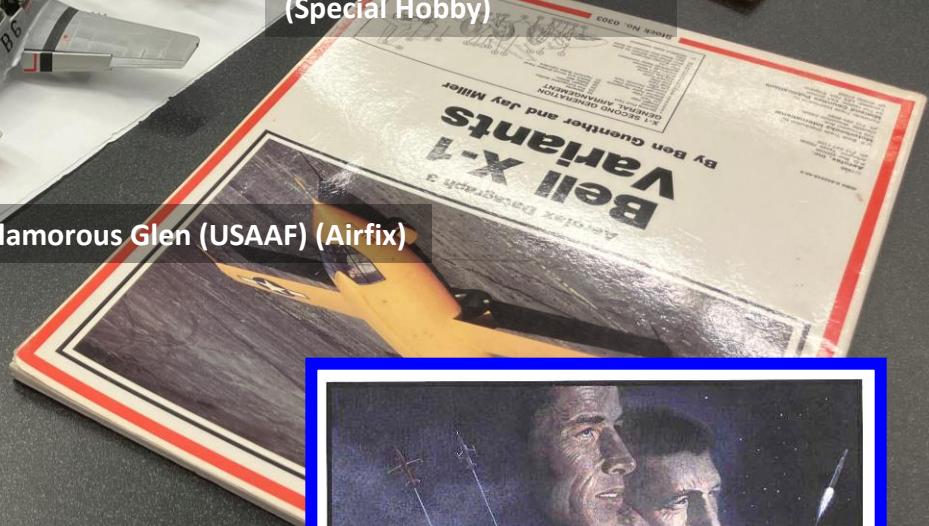
X-1E – 6063 w/modified cockpit
(Special Hobby)

X-1 Glamorous Glennis 6062 (USAF)
(Hobby Craft)

X-1A – The movie
“The Right Stuff”
Mach 2.23)
(Special Hobby)

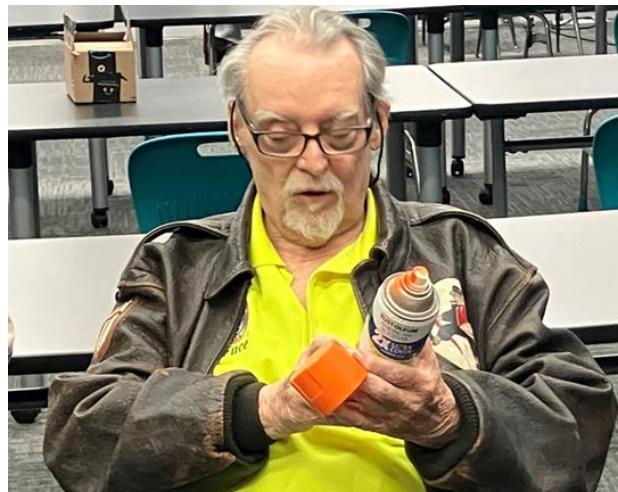
X-1 6063 – all white – NACA
(Special Hobby)

P-51D Glamorous Glen (USAAF) (Airfix)



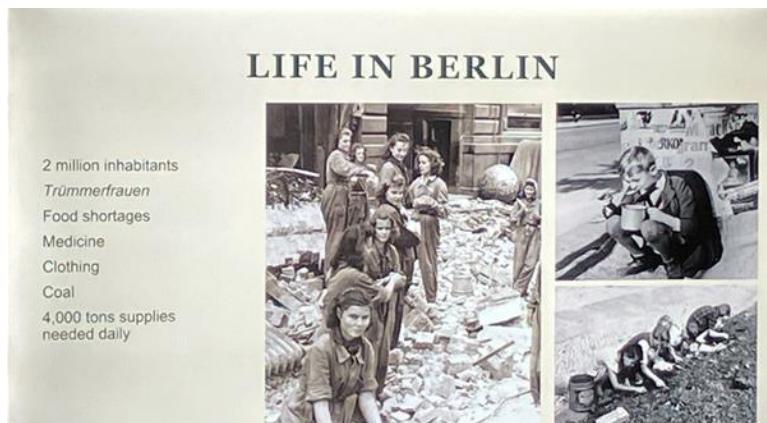


Bruce talked about the proper color of orange to use when building an X-1.



"History-Making Moment"
Bell X-1 "Glamorous Glennis" - Captain Chuck Yeager
First To Exceed Sound Barrier - Mach 1.06, 43,000 Feet - October 14, 1947

Darryl Palmer gave an excellent presentation on the 1948-1949 Berlin Airlift (“The Berlin Candy Bomber”).



Ed Ingersoll's Toothbrush sander

I. Introduction

Several years ago, while searching on the internet I found an article about making a sander out of an electric toothbrush by a German Modeler. I immediately gathered up all the necessary parts and pieces and proceeded to make one. I found it to be very useful, but I couldn't get into small tight places to get at those injection marks. After playing around with some different ideas and not still not being able to get into small tight spots I found just what I needed. While building an Italeri Sherman I found a piece of sprue that had a cone shaped protrusion that was a little longer than a half inch. The end was pointed so I trimmed it just a tad and ended up with a flat tip about $1/16^{\text{th}}$ " round. I trimmed the base to about a quarter inch round and glued it to one of the toothbrush heads. I then used my handy dandy punch set and made a couple of sandpaper disks on mounting tape and stuck it on the end of the cone. This new head with the tiny tip allowed me to get into some very tight spaces. Only problem is that you have to be very careful not to knock the sanding disk off the tip. I still use this tiny tipped toothbrush head today. I got to thinking how I could make other different sized heads and came up with a very easy way to make them. I hope you find this tool to be as useful as I have. I've worn out two electric toothbrushes but none of the heads. I have a box full of adhesive backed disks in assorted grits because the sandpaper will eventually wear out or separate at the form core of the mounting tape.

So here goes!

II. Parts and Pieces



Ed Ingersoll's Toothbrush sander

You don't need a bunch of parts and pieces, just an OralB type electric toothbrush, extra OralB heads, assorted sandpaper grits, mounting tape, several "pushpins", a small container and a couple of different size punches. In the picture you will see the electric toothbrush that I got from "Wallyworld" store for about \$10.00, (now only available on eBay for around \$15) and it comes with two heads. I found a place on "Evilbay" that has sets of 4 heads for around \$5.00. In the beginning I used refill heads from several different stores. These cost more than the toothbrush then I started buying them when they were on sale and I still paid over \$20 for a pack of five. With the "Evilbay" heads you can make a sander for just over \$30.00 that has a nice assortment of sanding heads, more on this a little later in the article. I found a rectangular Christmas metal box at the Dollar Store that you can store your sander and heads in.

1. Electric toothbrush

You need an electric toothbrush similar to OralB. Like I said above, I use a battery powered electric toothbrush from "Wallyworld", (Equate Easy-Flex, gray and white) because it is the cheapest one that I have been able to find but any OralB type will work. This toothbrush is no longer available at "Wallyworld", but there are still some on "Evilbay". Any OralB brush will work, just make sure the heads are the right one for your brush. "Wallyworld" sells a cheap brush that is similar but the brush heads are different and the OralB heads don't fit it.

2. Toothbrush refill heads

Any OralB type head will work, I have found them at "Wallyworld", drug stores and grocery stores but the lowest cost ones are available on "Evilbay". You can also buy different size packs at all the places mentioned above. The grocery store heads were oval instead of round.

3. Sand paper

Use your favorite grit sandpaper but I do recommend wet type sandpaper because you will want to dip the tip and paper in water when sanding to help the process along. I use 240, 400 and 600 grits normally but I have a couple heads with 1200 grit that I will use occasionally. Any grit can be used and the more the better.

4. Mounting Tape

Any mounting type tape will work but this is one place you want to use the best you can find. I like the 3M Scotch type; it has given me the best life before separating at the foam center. I tried some other tapes, but they didn't last as long as the Scotch brand. You can get it for a reasonable price at "Wallyworld" but shop around and find your own preference.

5. Push Pins

Here's the real trick to making the sander. I use a push pin with a top area of about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter. I have turned down the top on some of them to about a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch for sanding in tight places. I use several different color pins but more on this later.

Ed Ingersoll's Toothbrush sander

6. Punch

I use two different sized hand punches and a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch punch. The hand punches are the standard $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and the other is a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Any hand punch will do but the ones that cost a bit more will punch cleaner disks. I also like the punch with compartment that saves the disks when they are punched out; saves you from chasing little disks all over the place.

7. Storage Box

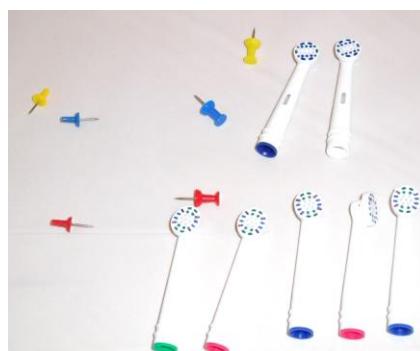
There are several options for the storage box to store different sized spare disks in. At first, I used a jar but sorting out different sized replacements got to be a pain. Next, I tried a week-long pill box, and this worked but it was a bit too big for my tastes, but then I found a nice little box at Michael's that is $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It is clear and it has six individually capped compartments, one less than the pill box, but I prefer the smaller size.

III. Assembly

So enough planning, let's put this thing together so we can start using it and use it you will just wait and see.

1. Making the Disks

Cut out a four to six inch long piece of sandpaper and stick a length of mounting tape on the back of it. I strongly recommend that you color code the cover strip on the other side of the mounting tape so you can tell what grit disk you have. I went back to my old electronics days and used the resistor color code for my disks; red for 200, yellow for 400 and blue for 600. I used a Sharpie Marker and colored the unused side of the mounting tape. This will be peeled off when you attach a disk, but it is nice to know what the grit is before you attach it. I then punched out a bunch of disks with tape by punching from the tape side with the grit over the punch hole. I like to do a few $\frac{1}{2}$ inch disks then several of the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch disks and a bunch of the $\frac{1}{8}$ inch disks. You will go through more of the $\frac{1}{8}$ inch disks because they are small and prone to failing quicker than the larger size disks. I put the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch disks in a compartment of my box and the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch disks in another compartment. I do this for all three grits of sandpaper. You can do more grits if you want but be sure to color code them so you know what you've got when you go to use it.



Ed Ingersoll's Toothbrush sander

2. Making the Sanding Heads for the Toothbrush

Gather up the heads you are going to use. You need to remove the bristles off and smooth down the plastic surface of the head. I strongly recommend that you remove the bristles off in a plastic bag so you don't end up with little pieces of bristle all over the place and I mean all over the place, you'll see! I take an old shopping bag, hold the head inside it and carefully cut with a single edge razor blade or pull them out with pliers, to remove the bristles. It may take couple passes to get them cut down flush with the plastic. You'll find out what works best for you but be careful the blade is sharp, (see new method below) and it is on a mission to find your fingers. Once you have the bristles removed, sand the surface of the head to remove any stubble. The smoother you make the surface the longer the sanding head will stay together, more on this in a bit.

"New method:" Gather the heads you plan to use. You can pull the bristles out of the heads with a small needle nose plier which is easier than cutting them with the razor blade and you will get a cleaner and smoother surface for mounting the push pin heads.

Next you need to select the push pins you plan to use. I go back to the color code system again; this makes it easier to pick out the grit I want to use. Make sure the top surface of the push pins you select are parallel to the bottom surface for better performance. You need to cut the pin as close as possible to the bottom of the push pin, so you have a smooth surface. I find that I usually end up with a small piece of pin left but no problem here. I just drill a short hole in the brush head to accommodate to pin. This will also help strengthen the bond between the push pin and the sanding head. Next, I glue the push pin to the head, I have had success with liquid plastic cement, but I prefer superglue. Set is aside and make another while it dries.

For the 1/8 inch disk head I use an el cheapo push pin from the "Dollar Store" because the stem on it is slightly smaller in diameter than the better push pins. I will trim the top surface down so that it is 1/8 inch in diameter on top. You could cut off the top, but I have found that the longer the pin is on the head the better, so I trim around the head instead of cutting it off. An eighth of an inch can make a difference in reaching that injection mark between two ridges, longer the reach the better. Trust me here, I have been here before!

After you have made the heads, you want to just peel up the colored cover on the mounting tape disks and stick it on the push pin making sure to center it and that it has a good bond with the push pin. Make sure you label your heads with a grit type, once the colored cover on the sanding disk is removed you will have trouble determining the grit unless you color code your pins. Place the head on the toothbrush; you don't have to push it down on the toothbrush all the way just so it is snug. You will find the different brand heads have a little tighter fit than others. You are now ready to start sanding. I usually stick the disk end in water before I start sanding; it seems to work a little faster. You don't need a lot of pressure; let the rotation of the disk do the work for you. You will find that too much pressure will make the disk separate from the pin at the foam tape especially when using the 1/8 inch size disks. I have had the push pin separate from the head but a little more super glue is all it takes and you're back in business.

Ed Ingersoll's Toothbrush sander



IV. Summary

The toothbrush sander is not that hard to make and not that expensive either. Worst part of the whole project is removing the bristles from the heads, after that everything almost falls together. You may find that you will want additional grits to add to your collection, just make sure you code the disks so you know what grit you have. I have my sander on standby on my work bench with an assortment of heads within easy reach. Before starting a new project, I'll inspect the grit end of the head to see if it needs replacing, usually the only one getting replaced is the 1/8 inch head, but they all will wear out eventually.

I use my toothbrush sander all the time; especially when I'm trying to fill and sand the injection pin marks in very tight spaces. I hope you enjoy your sander as much as I do mine!

Chuck's Key Lime Pie Recipe (for those that like it)

By Chuck Lassiter

2/3 cup Key Lime juice
 4 eggs – separated into yolks and whites
 2 cans of Eagle brand Sweetened Condensed milk
 1/3 cup sugar
 10-inch Gramham Cracker crust
 Combine egg yolks and Sweetened Condensed milk
 Slowly add Lime Juice
 Beat well – add to crust



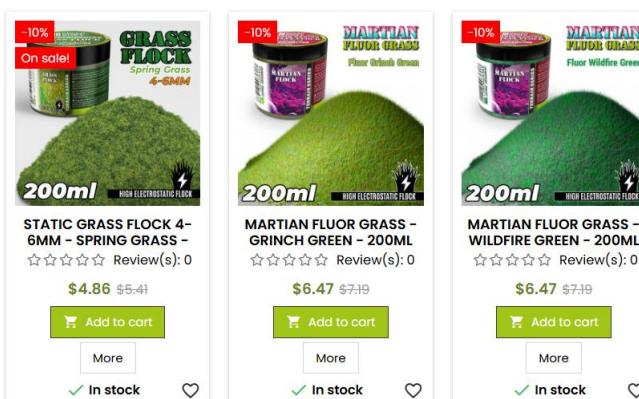
Beat egg whies (with clean beaters)
 Slowly add 1/3 cup of sugar when whites begin to firm. Beat to medium/firm peaks.
 Cover pie decoratively
 Bake @ 350° F for ~20-25 minutes
 Cool and refrigerate.

Don Martin's Post-Apocalyptic Figure

Don's figure was produced by a company named "Evolution."
 You can find such fantasy figures at:
http://www.milminwh.com/evolution_fantasy.htm. Presently
 most are sold out. I thought the figures were very creative and selected figures and figure sets are
 pictured to the right.



Diorama supplies – check out: https://www.greenstuffworld.com/en/283-scatter-foliage?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21176551596&gbraid=0AAAAADq6c_pnltEHn07eEXstz6c6MFNPS&gclid=EA1aIQobChMlt5ej0rPykQMVe4NaBR2DzZRPEAAYASAAEgLP4_D_BwE



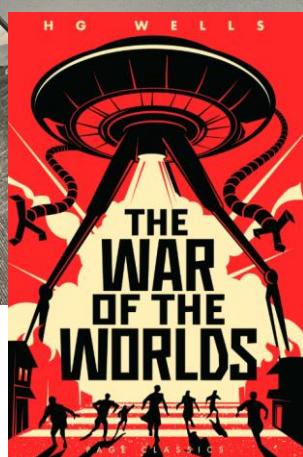
GREEN STUFF WORLD

Members at the December 2026 meeting of IPMS Gators



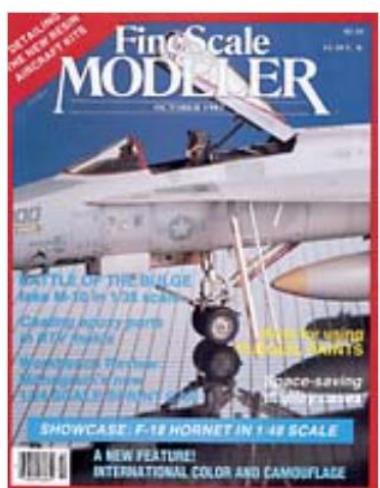
THANK YOU! The club sincerely thanks Mike Martinez for his fabulous assistance in gaining access to the Library at Oak Hall School.... Thanks, MIKE!

Members at the December 2026 meeting of IPMS Gators



Did you know ... ?

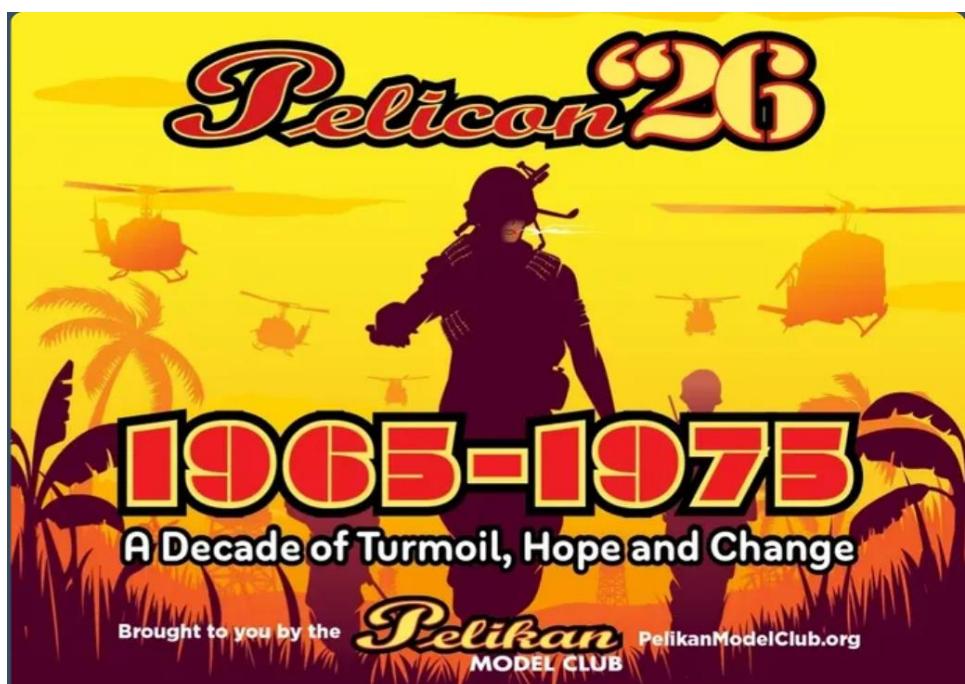
Jack Mugan's FA-18 was on the cover of Fine Scale Modeler in October 1987! Way to go JACK!



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!



PeliCON is back, BIGGER and BETTER, May 15-17 2026!!

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).



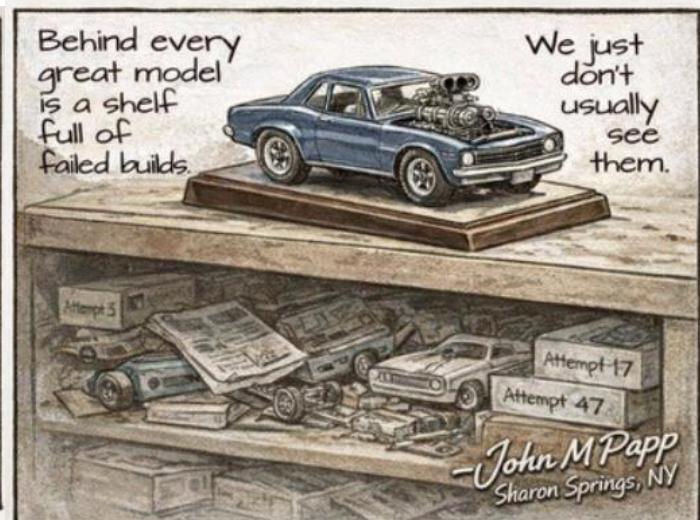
In efforts to overcome the economic constraints of a frozen world, 'brilliant' minds diligently proposed various means of developing advantages out of difficulties, addressing issues of freighters, mass transits, recreation, and the military in a frozen world.

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 Jack Mugan



Frank Ahern, – Secretary – 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; Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out 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
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



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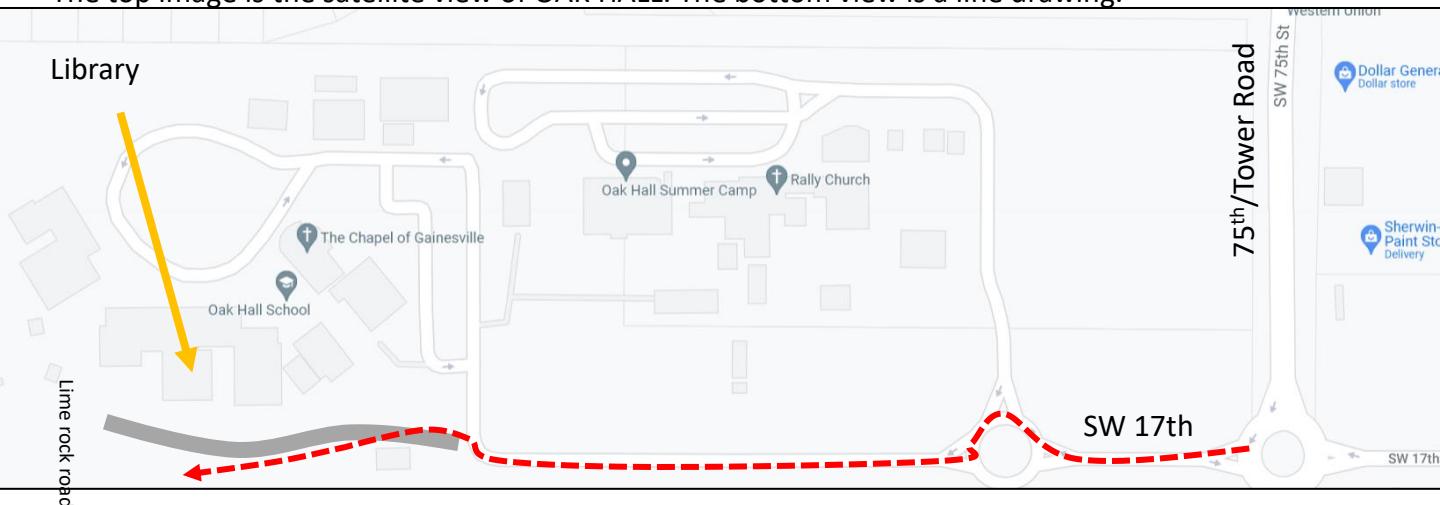
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday January 20 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 2026

- Jan. 1950's aircraft
- Feb. Vehicles that won something
- Mar. Ice Age (contest w/Ocala club)
- Apr. 1 or 2 wheels
- May Sci-Fi
- June Gundam
- July Animal name
- Aug. Snap Tite
- Sept. Monster
- Oct. Real Space
- Nov. Ships
- Dec. Amphibious



Fancy Aircraft ... inspired 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 February 2026 newsletter. - Bill