

Bi-Monthly
NEWSLETTER
by



MALAYSIAN MODELLER



THE WINNERS EDITION

KEVIN FONG'S 'BEST OF SHOW'

RICHARD FOENANDER'S AMBUSH!

AMOS CHEE'S QUENANJU WUSTENFUCHS

ZAIDI'S ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE

CHAN YONG JOO'S TOP GUN

TOP GUN...TOP BUILD!

F/A-18C NSAWC
UNDER THE SKIN

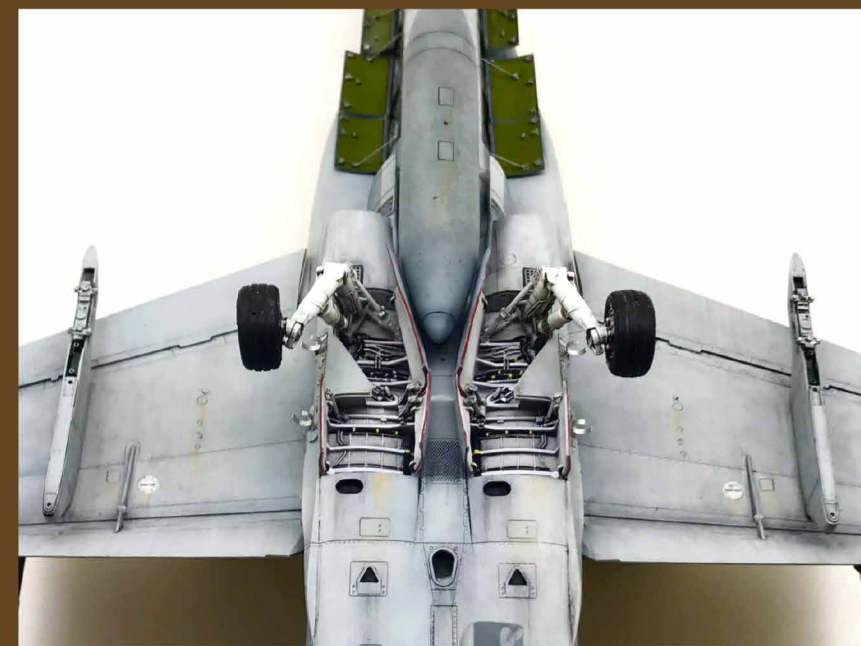


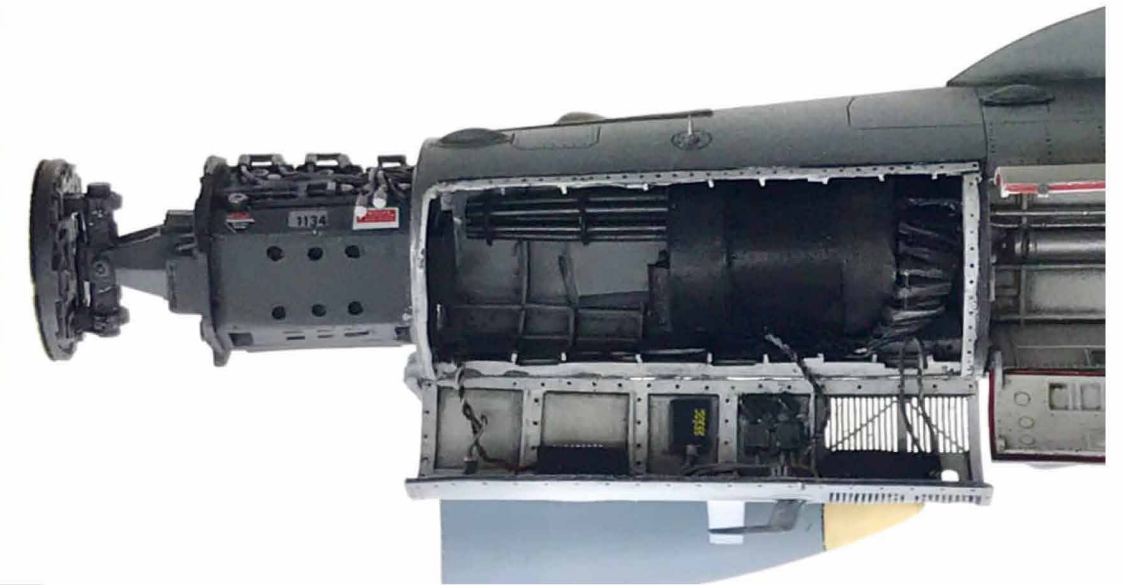
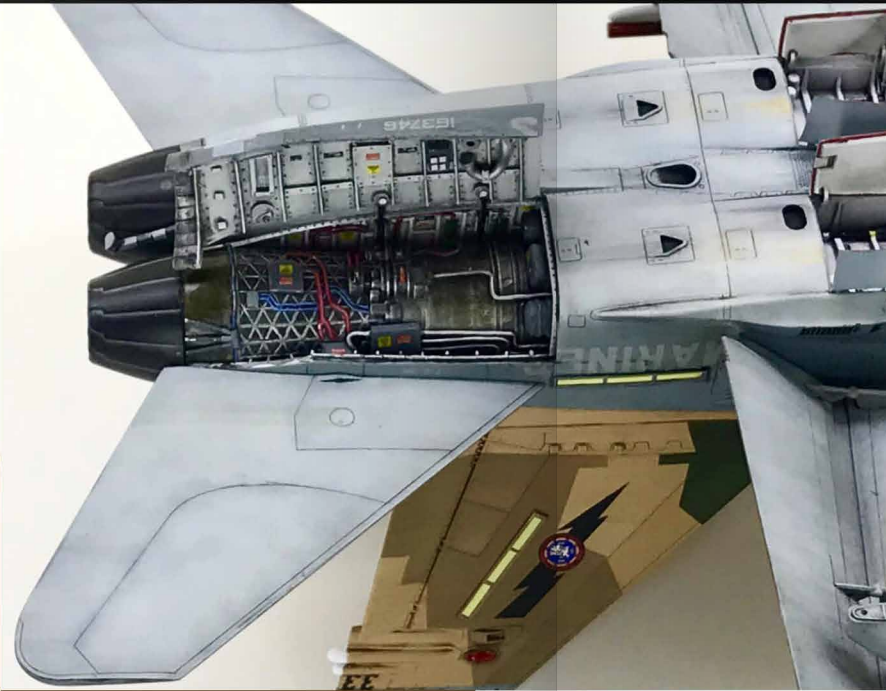


Y J Chan did extensive improvements and redetailing to the Kinetic kit to produce a Masterclass model at the Malcom2023 competition. Walking away with a well deserved Silver Medal, this rendition of a TOP GUN Hornet is exquisitely finished with many features and scratch-building to improve the overall model presentation.



The forward windscreen was modified to improve its fit and various aftermarket products were added to the arsenal. These included the SJU-17 Resin Ejection seat, Eduard PE sets, resin wheel sets and the Aires avionics bay sets. Major scratchbuilding was done to the cockpit avionics bay, engine and engine bay, M-61 Vulcan cannon and the APG73 Radar as well. The gun and radar bays, sensors and pitot tubes, pylons and canopy frame received some fine attention to improve the detail representation. An example of Chan's meticulous nature of the work is best described in this extraction of his Facebook posting:





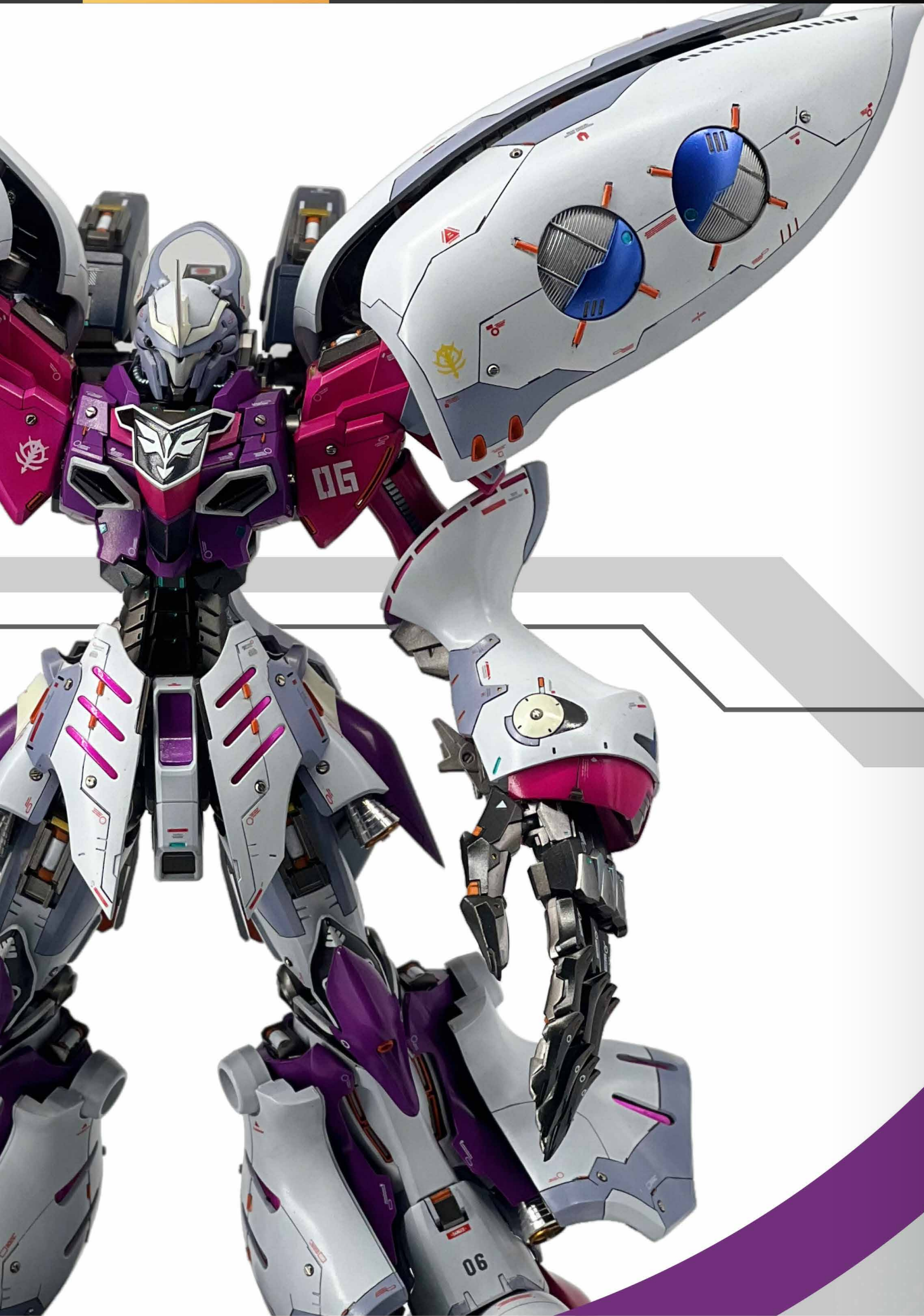
"...The forward edges of the windscreen cannot sit properly into place due to excessive material on the corresponding fuselage parts. Albeit very minor, these are just enough to interfere with the windscreen and must be removed. Once removed, the windscreen basically lowered into place with no issue. Alternatively you may be able to sand down the windscreen part but I generally don't like modifying transparencies if not needed as it's more risky and the issue really does appear to be on the fuselage side to start with. Once again, both of these are quite minor and relatively easy to deal with once they're understood. I encourage you to examine your own kit parts in addition to using these as guidelines if you so choose."

Dressed in Fightertown decals, painted and weathered with pride, BUNO 163746 could not have been honoured with a better accolade.



F/A-18C NSAWC (TOP GUN)
Brand : Kinetic (48030)
Scale : 1/48

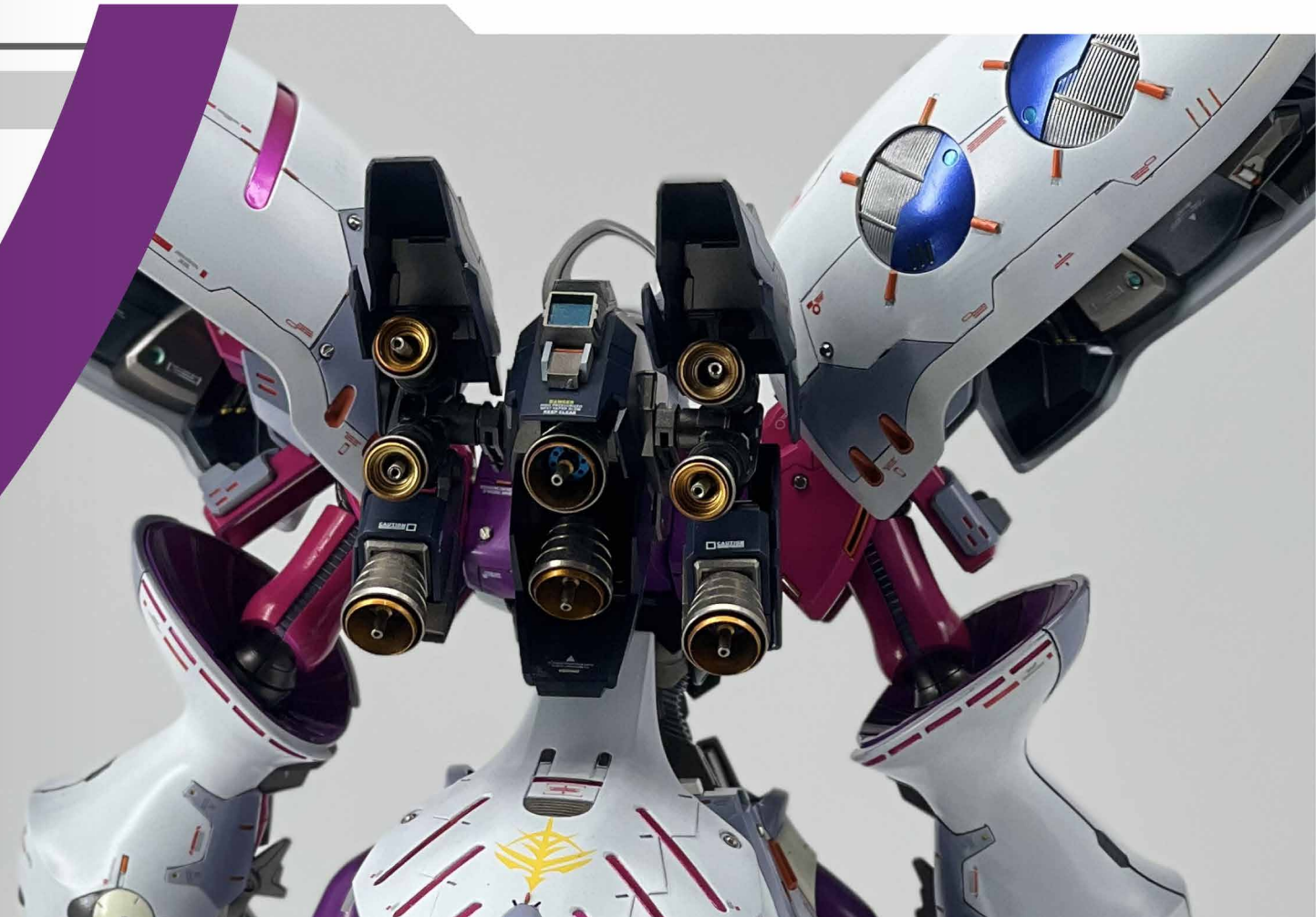




QUENANJU HUSTENFUCHS

MSN-06QW

by Amos Chee





THE GUNNET MUST HAVE A 20MMETER FOOT ADJACENT AREA
MUST BE ONE OF ALL GUNNET OBJECTS PRIOR TO AND
DURING WORLDWIDE GUNNET OPERATION

Amos Chee Tze Wei has been making waves in the Gundam competition scenes of late with his imaginative works in his interpretation of the genre. This entry in Malcom 2023 caught the attention of the judges and won a well deserved Bronze Medal for the Gundam Masterclass Category.

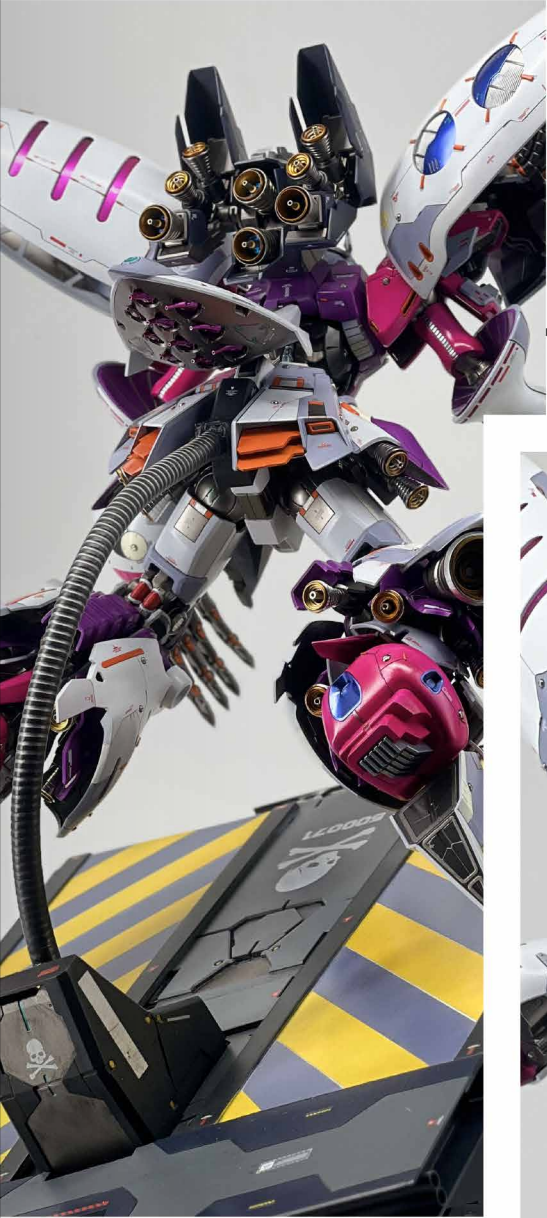
In his own description, Amos meticulously looks at areas to improve the detailing of the kit as well as 'resculpting' the model to give it an added dimension and drama. With a rich understanding of the Gundam lore and a fine eye for dramatic colours, this highly imaginative piece has a rich palette of hues and finishing that echos that of a high end supercar. It is no wonder that Amos sang high praises for his choice of Finisher paints used specifically for this creation.



The way he opened up the model to 'show off' the extra work done on the inner panels as well as the superbly executed clean build with the right amount of 'weathering' speaks highly of his care and attention to each part of the model.

The attractive hues, sheen and vibrancy from shades of purple to red against the purity of the white is well balanced together with the details added. The darker shades on the internal work created a good contrast in bringing brought out the white and attractive hues for attention and worked very well to highlight the flow of the organic shape and the brutality of the deadly claws. No part is left undone without a touch of care.

We hope to see more from the mind of Amos Chee.



MG Sinanju Stein
MG Qubeley Damned
Brand : Bandai
Scale : 1/100

REALISM WITH THAT "DIRTY" LOOK

Modeller
Ahmad Zaidi bin Md Din





This out of the box build by Ahmad Zaidi with its bonnet opted to be closed came with a huge fret of PE which Zaidi managed to incorporate with finesse. In his own words :

“ The kit is very is well engineered in terms of part placement as well as building sequences. A lot of thought has been put to make this kit ”



Built and then primed with MR Surfacer 1000, Mig Ammo 025 US Army Vehicle was the primary base colour with a post shade bleach of white mixed. Dusting was done with dust colour and true to his love for worn out dirty vehicles, paint chips were strategically peppered with Vallejo acrylic of chocolate brown, dark grey and black all over the protruding edges. An AK weathering pencil was used to add variety.

Weathering pigments from various earth and sand tones were applied with a brush on pigment fixer and then loose pigment sprinkled with an old brush. In more stubborn places, pigment with mineral spirit mix were brushed on with the overall effect being very convincing. The DEF Model sag wheel set and modified SKP lens lights were added for realism while for clutter, Meng US Army Equipment and Martho modern drink supplies completed the look.

A simple base comprising plaster of Paris over a foam board with static grass of various colours and length oversprayed in dust completed the illusion. Another excellent build by this prolific builder.



M-ATV M1240A1 MRAP
Brand : Ryefield Model (5032)
Scale : 1/35





AMBUSH!

An award winning diorama
by Richard Timothy Foenander



Imagine a hot sweltering, steamy and balmy afternoon on a tiny winding road in the middle of a tropical secondary jungle during the first Malayan Emergency. You and your convoy of vehicles stop for a rest at a bridge with a cool inviting stream running under to check bearings when you hear shrieks and the sound of paltering fruit. Looking up you see a large troop of angry monkeys swarming from under the canopy of trees overhead towards you throwing what looks like mangoes but are probably poisonous fruit they have picked hanging from the trees around them. Your colleagues further down the road realize the onslaught and start laughing at the spectacle. Seeing there was no help forthcoming with the deadly missiles getting heavier and accurate, it was every man for himself and we start offloading looking for cover...

The Challenge

This was going through my mind after many scenarios through the years when thinking of a composition for my latest diorama. Putting it to work was a whole different story. Three biggest obstacles stood in my way... one, I've never done a stream with clear resin, two, there are no Malayan Police figures in the market and three, neither were there monkeys in 1/35 scale. Most would have thought that there would be a fourth obstacle but I had done jungle in my previous diorama with some success so I was confident. I love a challenge so off I went...



The Beginning

I'll briefly mention the base and bridge which initially was to be a simple diorama of a Russian Steppe. The bridge was completed bare with polystyrene cuts and left forgotten mainly because I couldn't get clear resin for the water effects then. Forward to 2021 with nowhere to go because of Covid I resuscitated the diorama and had a completely different idea turning it into a tropical scene set in the first Malayan Emergency with a local police truck cautiously

stopping at a bridge to check for booby traps... simple and boring. Adding a modified Dingo armored car slightly enhanced the composition as a security convoy stopping for a rest then bingo...I thought of an ambush but with a twist. The jungle is neutral and danger lurks everywhere in many forms and not just the enemy so why not monkeys. The rest was just a fun filled diorama to build and garnered a silver in the diorama master's category at Malcom 2023.

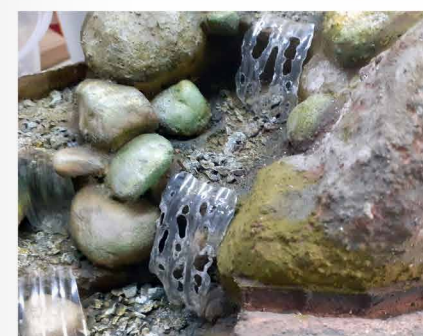


Cut pieces of balsa wood made up the bridge structure glued with the All Purpose UHU glue. This was to be for a Russian Steppe diorama.



With a new idea just cooked up I proceeded building up the layers of polystyrene that would eventually be part of the waterfall with boulders carved out.

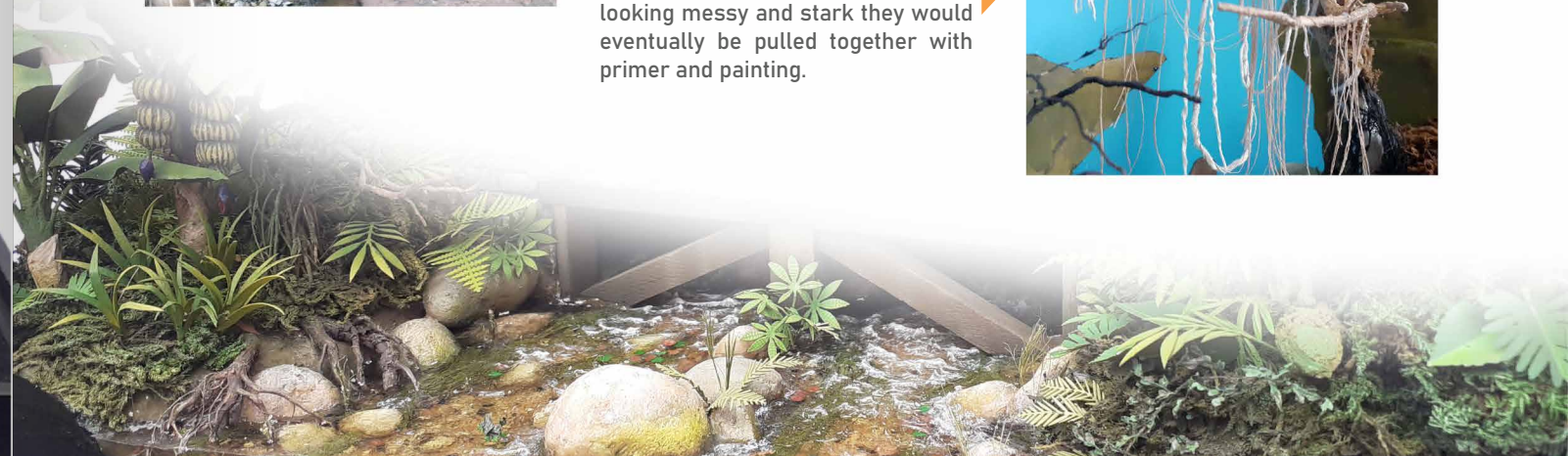
Sealing the stream bed with cement grout and a sprinkle of flat pebbles and strategically placed stones. Resin is very viscous and notorious in finding its way into tiny outlets.



Being transparent when cured and to make the stream bed more interesting, waterweeds from hemp were glued down showing the flow of the current in the stream.

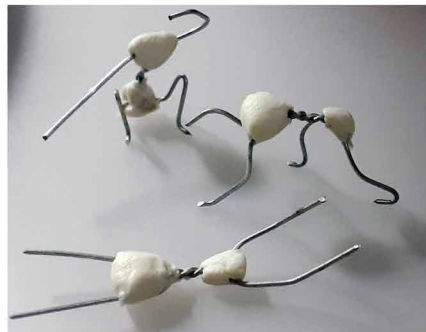
Marie biscuit clear holders were cut and peppered with holes to use as waterfall. When everything was in place and ready all was sealed and the clear resin poured.

Plant roots, wire, thread and sphagnum moss were used to create the tree trunks and vines. Initially looking messy and stark they would eventually be pulled together with primer and painting.





Besides dried moss and ferns, artificial aquarium plants and aftermarket laser cut leaves were used for the foliage and jungle canopy. Choosing the right leaf wasn't easy.



Bamboo trunks were scratched using sliced plastic rods heated at both ends and flattened to create the bamboo section joints.

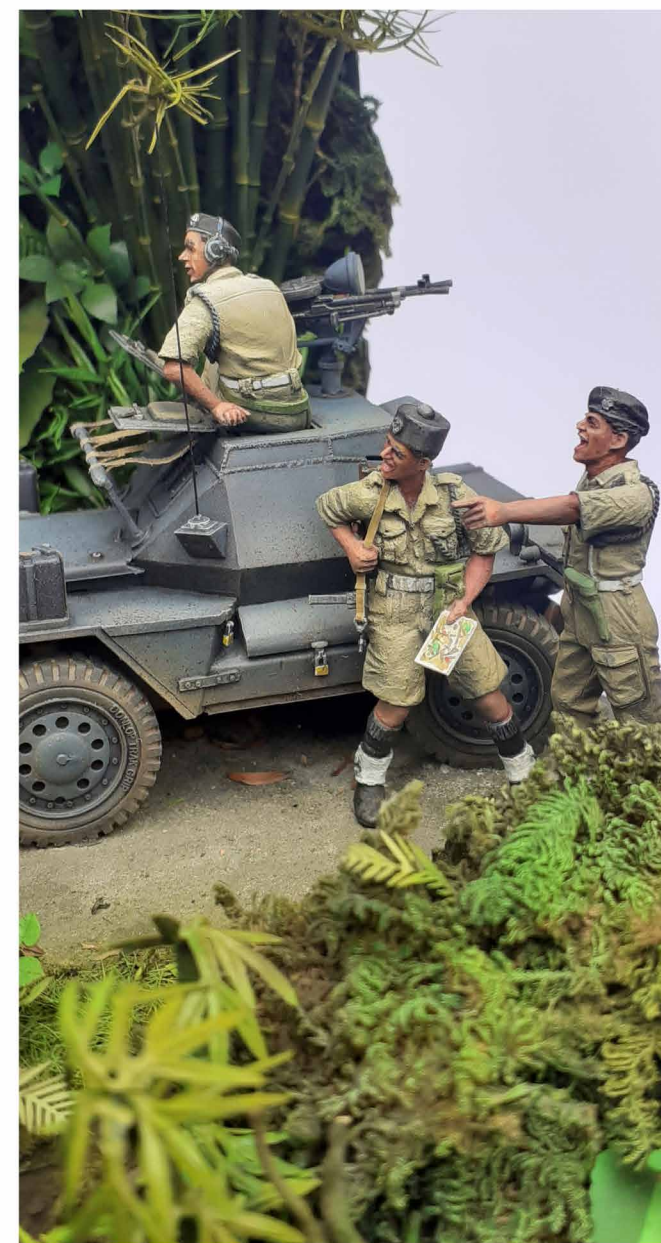
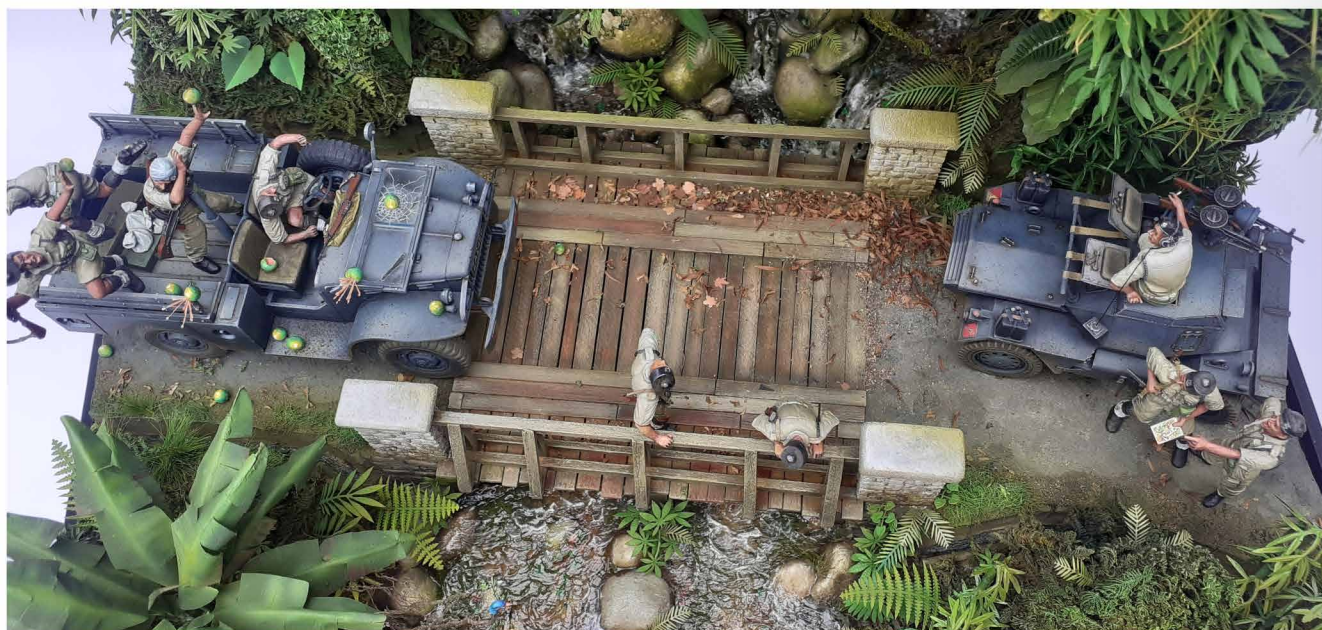
Monkeys were all scratch built using armatures and two-part putty to sculpt.

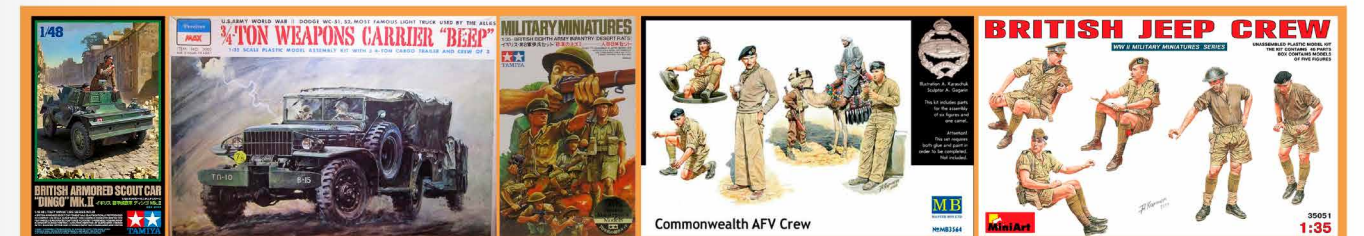
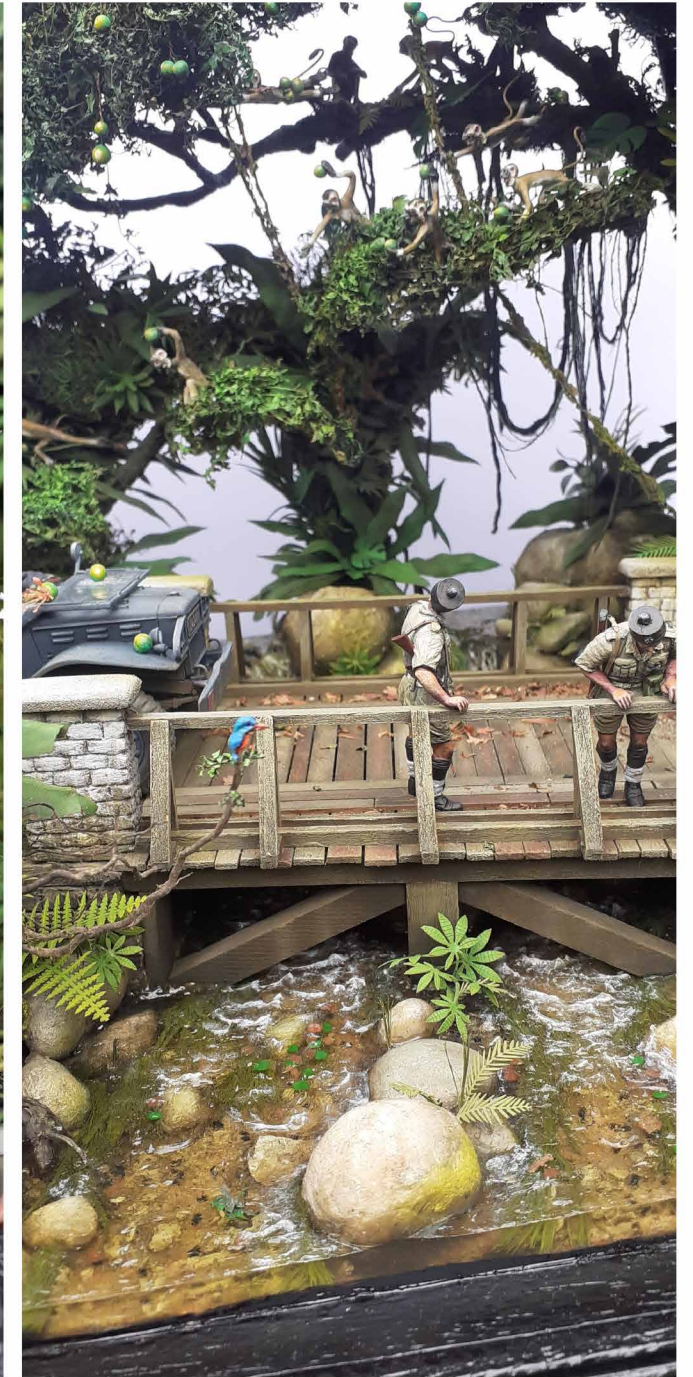
The heavily modified figures were made from a composite of three brands, Tamiya, MB and MiniArt with lots of cutting, twisting and gluing to get the poses right. Hornet heads were used for five of the figures for their horrified and laughing expressions.



The truck and Dingo were hand me downs from the Commonwealth and have been painted in the police colors of dark blue so weathering was constraint to dirt, dust and rain streaks. Highlights were forced painted on.

Small details like the correct firearms, fruit and sculpted Kingfisher were the final attachments.





Kits and Materials Used :

Tamiya 1/48 British Armored Scout Car "Dingo" Mk.II
Peerless Max 3/4 Ton Weapons Carrier "BEEP"
Tamiya 1:35 Eight Army Infantry Desert Rats
MiniArt 1:35 British Jeep Crew
MB 1:35 Commonwealth AFV Crew

Kamazukuri Laser Cut Diorama Accessories
J's Work Paper Plants
Barnes Clear Epoxycast
Various assortment of collected dried ferns and moss
Balsa and Evergreen plastic rods

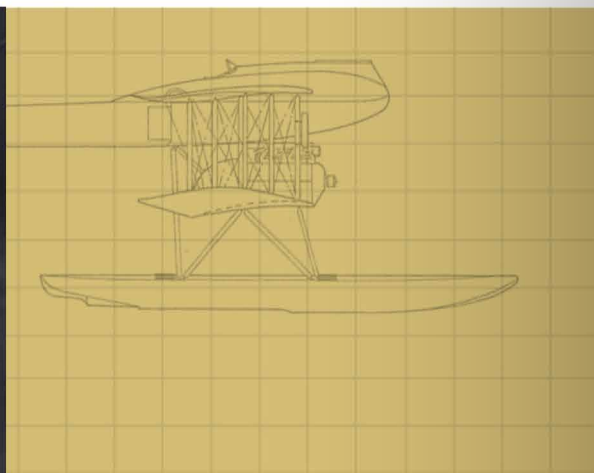


Simply The Best

Kevin Fong's 'Best of Show' Masterpiece

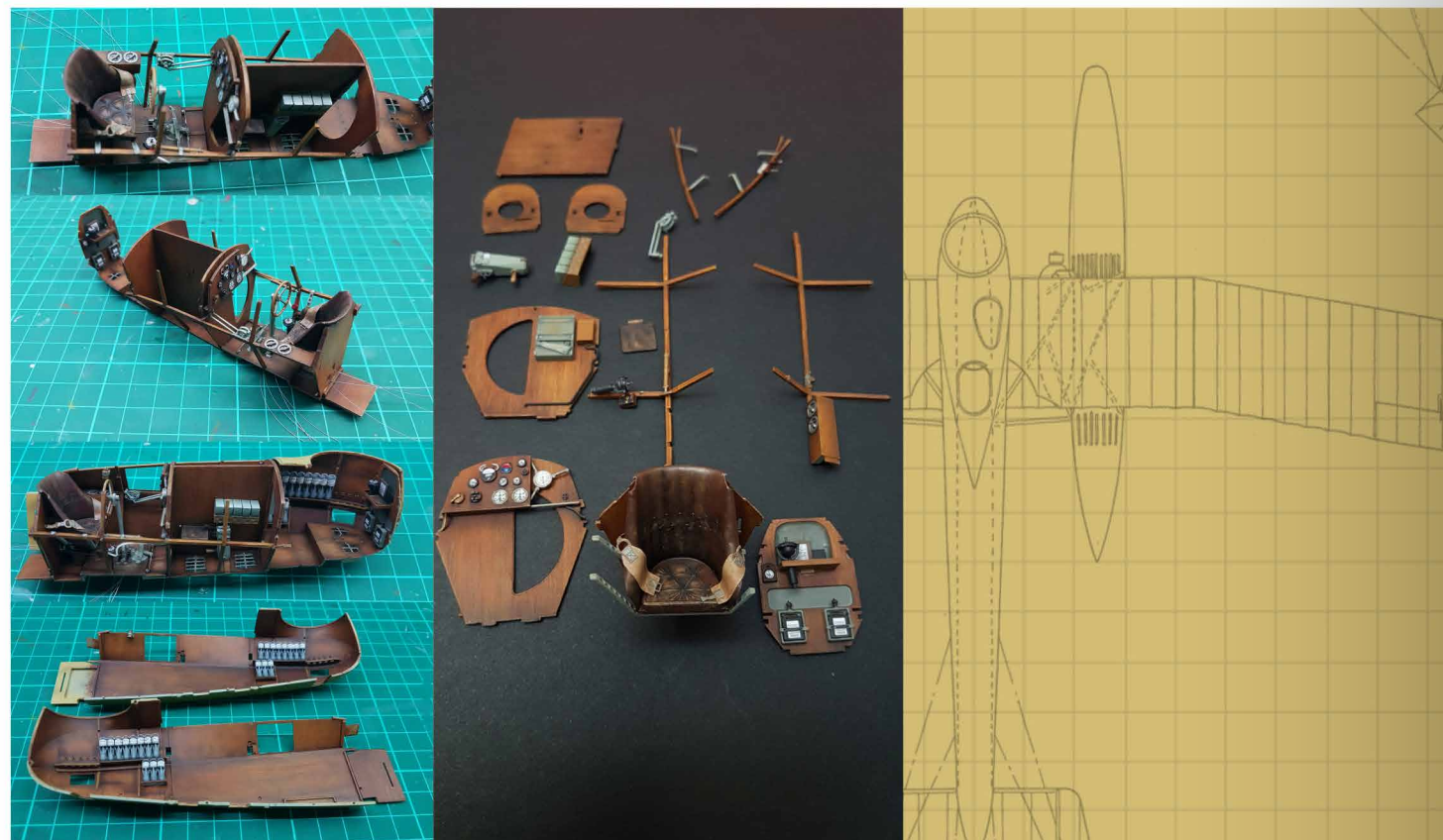
by C K Loo

Kevin's work which predominantly has been with large scale planes over the years truly exemplifies his obsession with detail and clarity. Treating each part of the model as individual projects, the quality and uniqueness of the finish clearly marks an artist out to mimic nature, the best he can, with brilliant handwork trickery tempered with a keen sense of scale. In his very humble way, Kevin explained that he had always allowed nature to lead the way and gets all his inspiration looking at how materials weather and the way they look.



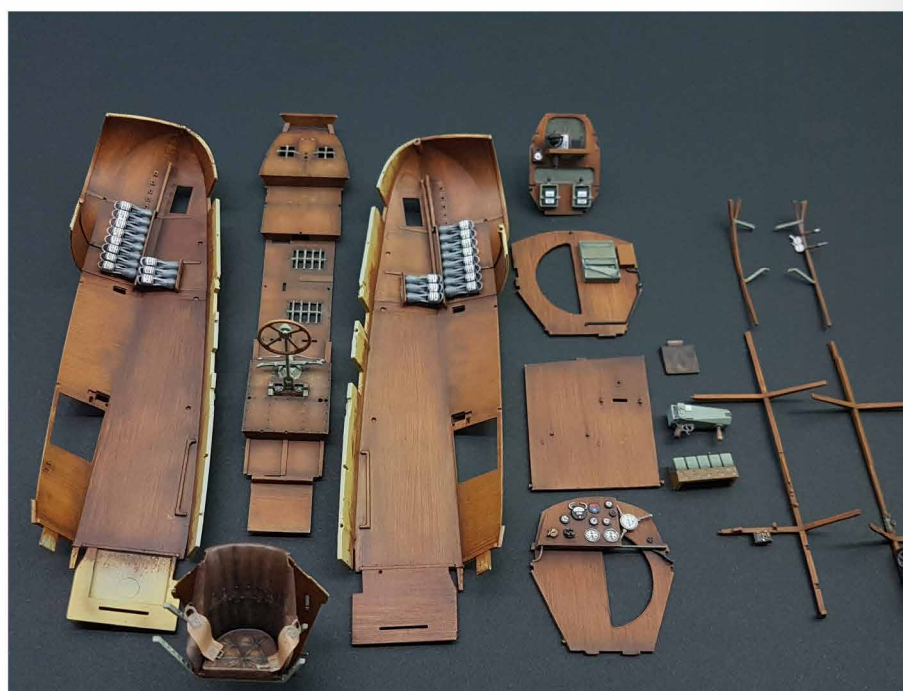
Some models are of such exceptional quality that they are bound to grab ones attention in an instant. One such model was the 1/32 Gotha UWD that Kevin Fong built having pulled out all the stops for this masterpiece. The model was deservedly and rightly awarded 'Best of Show' in the recently concluded MALCOM 2023 annual international meet held in Penang, Malaysia.



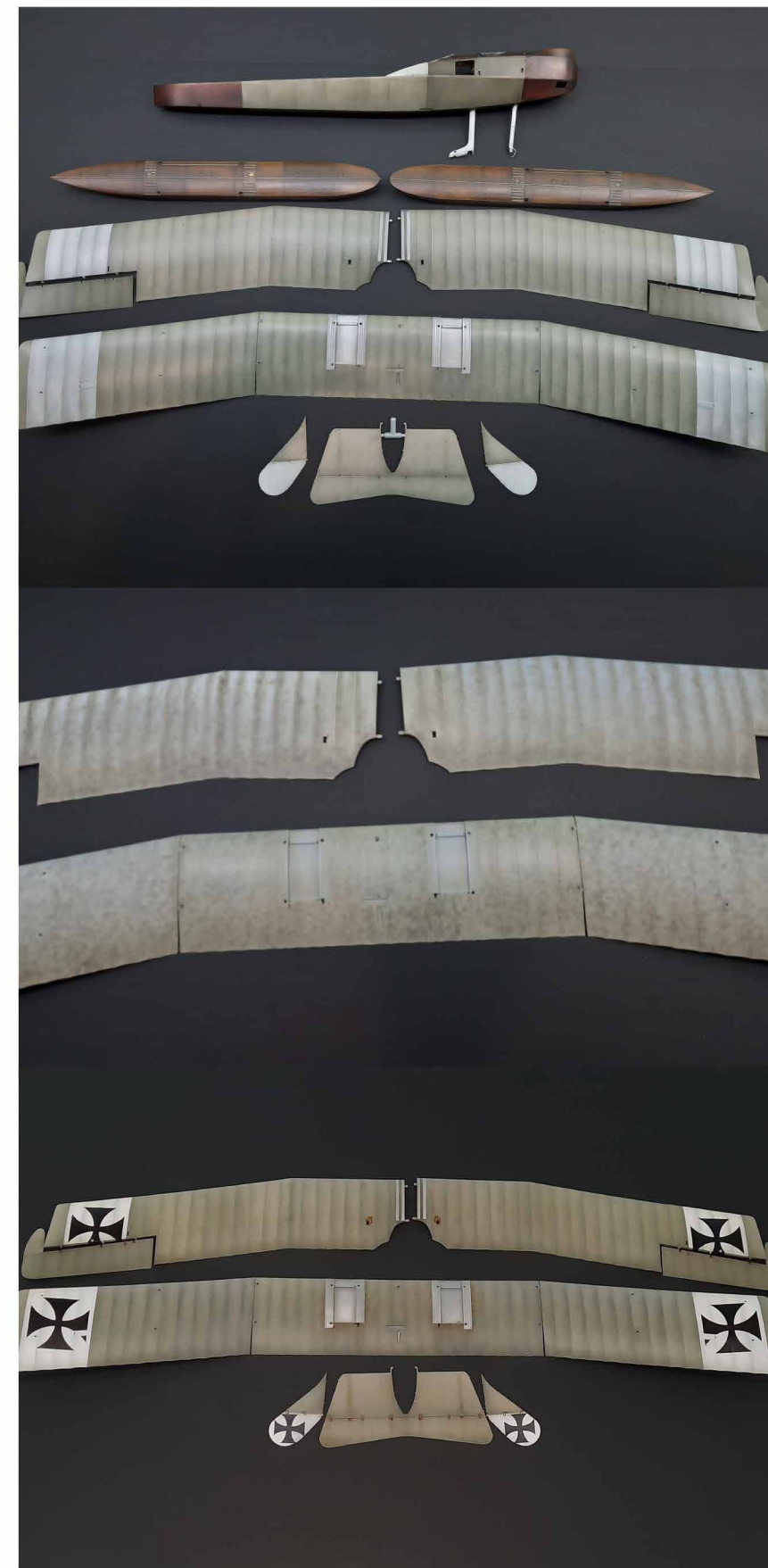


I don't have a magic formula of what paint, what ratio, what airbrushing pressure or what material to use. I use whatever I have at hand and perhaps the most important aspect is being subtle and to review every step that I do to make sure that I am happy with the outcome before proceeding with the next step.

The model clearly shows the many layers of work and manipulation he employed. Pre-shades, marble spotting, post shades, dry brushing, pointillism work, you name it and you can see the outcome in this piece. He uses decals when he has to and in this instance, just to get the right feel of the texture on the fuselage. He also weathered the decals be it on the markings or the wood paneling. When necessary, he created all the wood patterns with oils and enamels for the right feel. There were sections where he felt that acrylics or even poster colours would produce the correct sheen or texture and you see them all at various sections on the model. Attention to detail and accuracy is evident in the way he treats and weathers the finest of work, be it the rigging, the rust streaks at the engines or even the aging of the leather seat. All these were done with techniques meant for the materials to be portrayed.



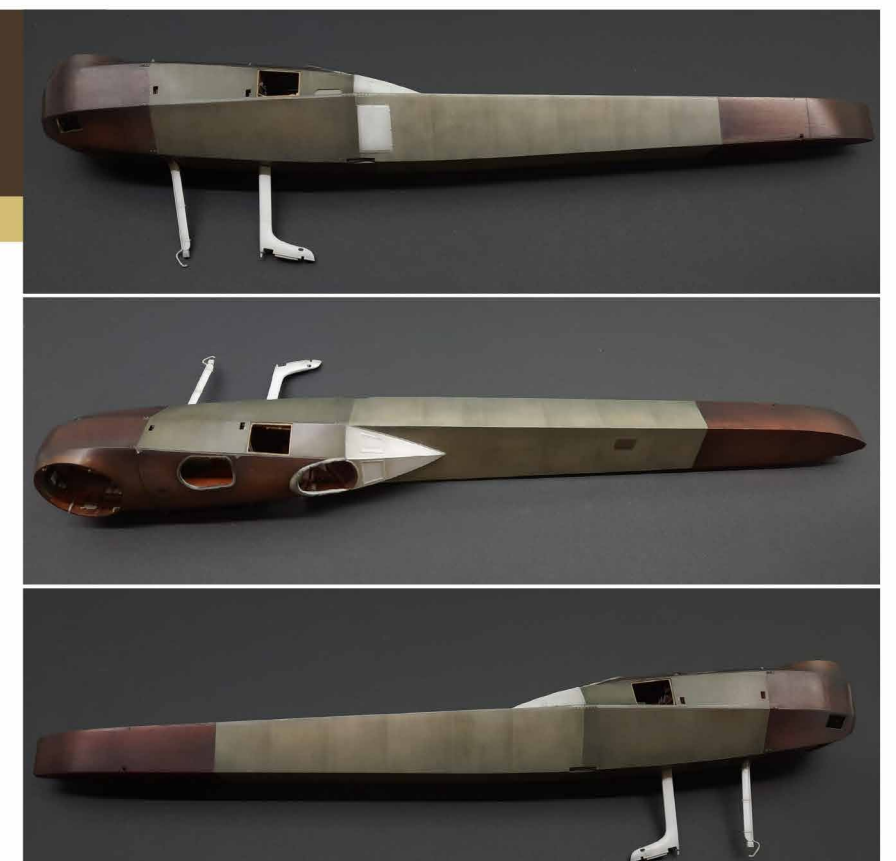
Another aspect that Kevin emphasises is to have fun and to make your project unique and stand out. Subtle tricks like modulation on the wings to enhance the three dimensional quality of the scallop shape or the rounded nose of the plane bears a technique that was perfected in his many years of modelling large scale planes. His understanding of light and material helps to achieve the effects he sought out for.





Not satisfied with how the plane may look by itself, he went on to scratchbuild a rail bed based on actual historical photos to sit the plane on giving it an elevated status. The rail bed itself is another work of art worthy of mention.

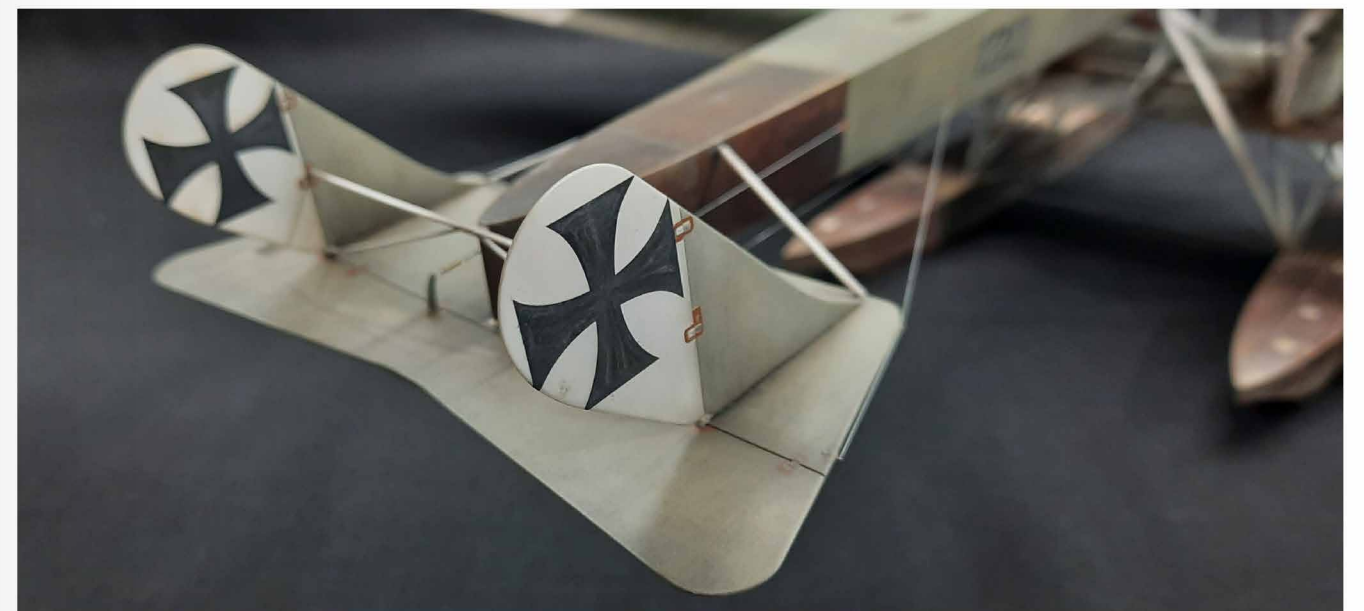
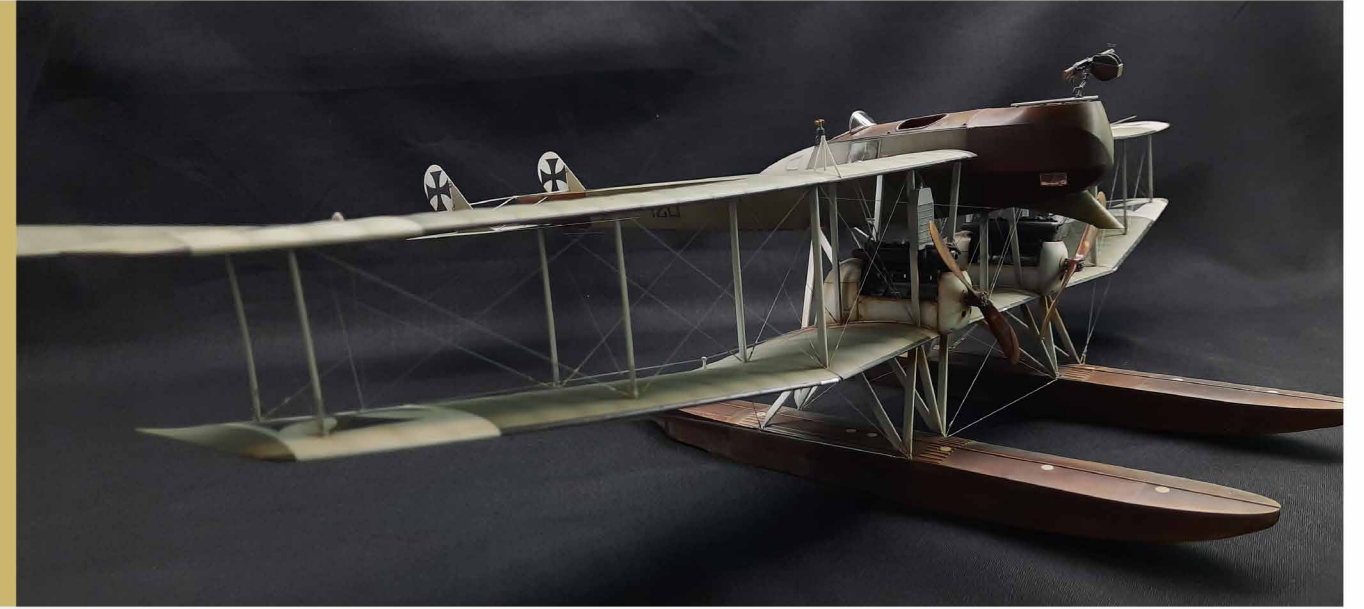
“ Try out what materials you have, experiment and most importantly have fun. ”



Behind his quiet demeanour, Kevin Fong is a modeller willing to unlock his inner secrets. You only need to ask

“ Model making is a lot more meaningful when we share our experiences with one another. I believe this hobby is for sharing and welcome anyone with a shout out for assistance to contact me and will gladly assist where I can. ”

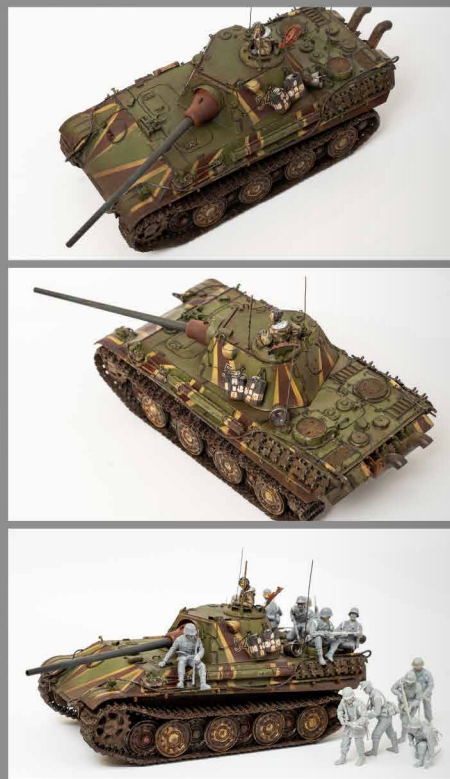
Kevin Fong



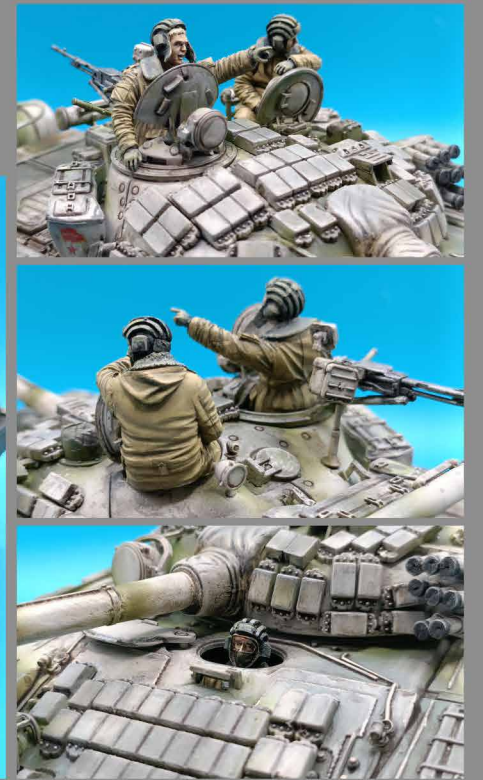
MODEL GALLERY



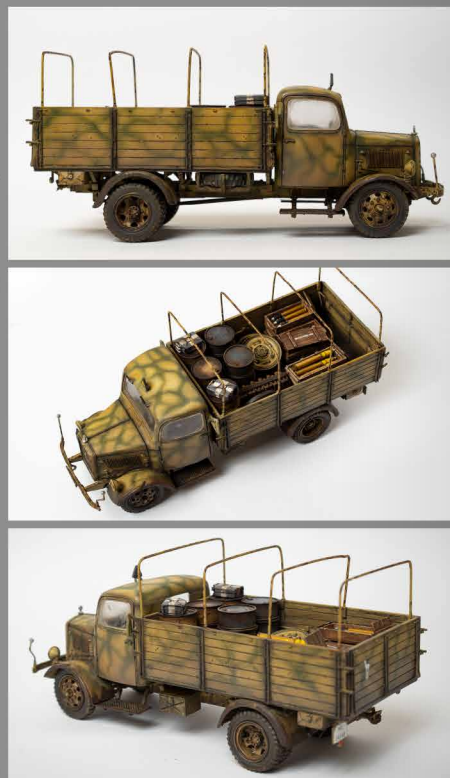
PANTHER F
Scale : 1/35
Modeller : Sean Philip Lee



T-72B WITH RUSSIAN WINTER TANK CREW
Scale : 1/35
Brand : Mini Hobby Art
Modeller : Teoh Soo Jin



L3000
Scale : 1/35
Modeller : Sean Philip Lee



EXOTIC RACING CARS
Scale : 1/24
Brand : Various
Modeller : Tan Ka Ken



MODEL GALLERY

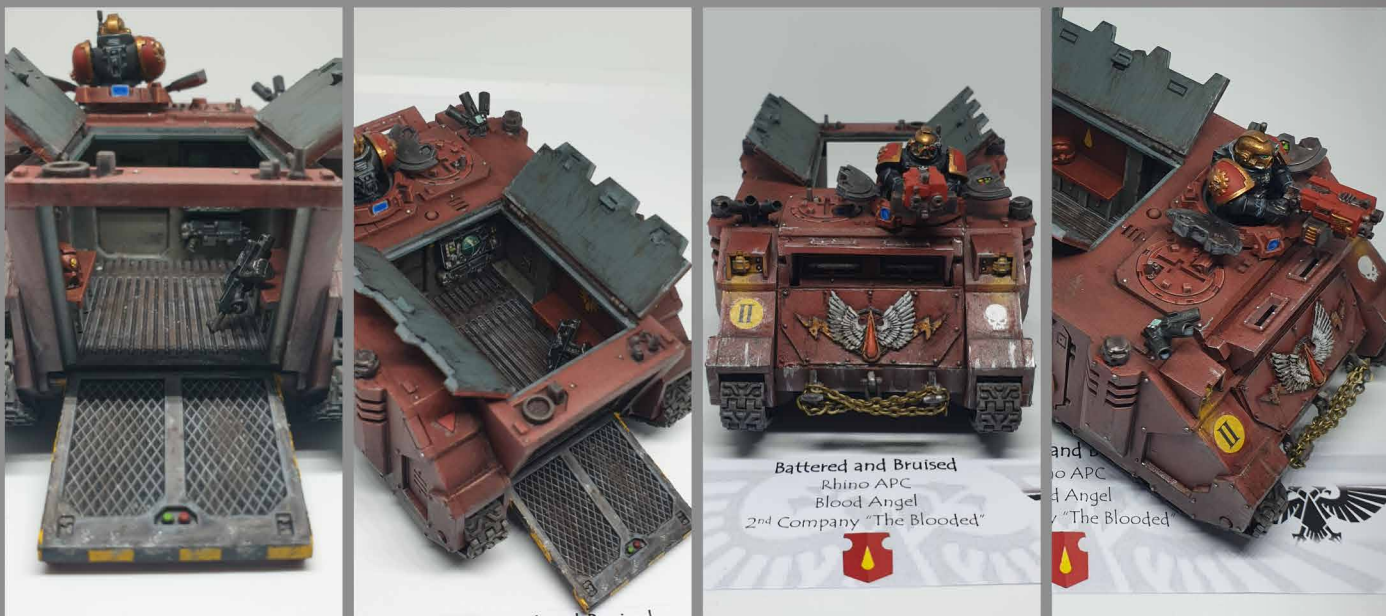


HMS ROYAL SOVEREIGN
Scale : -n/a-
Brand : Warlord Games Black Seas series - resin and white metal parts
Modeller : Judge Dredd

U.S. MEDIUM TANK M4A3 (76) W SHERMAN
Scale : 1/35
Brand : Meng
Modeller : Lim Sin How



SPACE MARINE RHINO
Scale : 1/35
Brand : Games Workshop
Modeller : Judge Dredd



Kyushu Q1-W1 "Lorna"
Scale : 1/72
Brand : Finemolds
Modeller : Chew Eng Hui

