

THE ROTUNDA

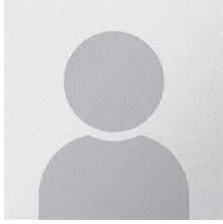
INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC
IPMS Birmingham
MODELLERS SOCIETY (UK)

IPMS Birmingham Newsletter - May 2023

Worthy Winner, Innovative Presentation and False Identities



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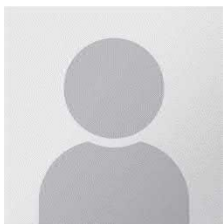
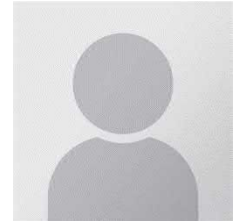


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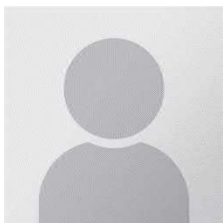
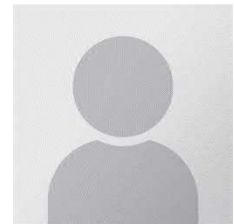


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FROM THE CHAIR

The view 'From The Chair'

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Monthly Report & Club Diary

EDITOR'S CORNER

The Editor's Corner



Something for May

2023's Competiton News & Themes

Articles



1 – USS Robin – The Pretender

2 – Theme Ideas & Inspirations – Mike G



2023

From the Chair – May 2023

Once again Gem sends her apologies, she has been rather run down recently and in the last week has come down with tonsillitis.

It means she hasn't been able write anything up for the Newsletter.

I can tell you she does feel bad that she's missed a second month in a row, but I'm sure I can speak for the club when I say that we wish her the best and hope she's back to full health.

Happy modelling!



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EDITOR'S CORNER

I thought I'd use this piece to help myself by doing a quick whip-around of my current projects and see what's laying around on the Shelf-of-Doom and share with you all the things I've got hanging around.

Flyhawk 1/700 HMS Ajax 1939



So this is one I started a while back and after I lost motivation in the latter half of last year meant it's kind of languished. Mostly it just needs me to get some paint out and start painting items, and being a Flyhawk, there is a metric ton of detailing parts that need painting up which I had no motivation for at the time.

It's one of those projects once I start going again I can make progress on it. I also need to get the camouflage for the hull painted.

Novo 1/72 Gloster Javelin

This one is simple; airbrush. I need to pull out my airbrush and get the thing painted. It's sat waiting for me to paint it. I always take ages to get kits painted when I've earmarked it for airbrushing, mostly because of the sheer start-up and clear-down time for the thing. The build has managed to avoid any damage.



Revell 1/2500 RMS Titanic



A Build-Night project that I'm slowly working my way through. It's a nice simple kit that is a bit of pre-amble before I start the other half of this gift set; a 1/700 RMS Titanic, which even comparing just the unassembled kit to my other ship builds, made me realise that the Olympic-class liners were HUGE.

Italeri 1/72 Jaguar GR.3 "Big Cat"

My most recent start that I've kicked off at Build Night because I fancied a fairly simple but interesting build. It's a simple-enough build so nice and enjoyable to build, there's no major, intricate paint job, but there is the mass of decals that look decent and hopefully will make for a good looking result.



Something For May

So in December last year I featured a piece from a model-making YouTube channel which asked how much you needed to get started in modelling. The long-and-short of it is “not a lot”, in fact the host got literally everything except a pair of side-snips, including an Airfix Starter Kit for £28.


The summary was something that has stuck with me: model-making is only an expensive hobby if we make it so, and buying “model-making specific” tools and equipment is best avoided.

So what’s my point? Well, an example of this has recently cropped up.

In 2019 I bought a paint shaker for about £15. It’s a simple device; a motor (presumably) spins a cam which actuates the pot-holder which then vibrates back and forward, causing the paint to mix. It runs off a mains plug or 4 AA batteries. It’s simple, cheap, obnoxiously loud but bloody effective.

You may notice the badge says “Nail Lacquer Shaker”, and that’s because these devices come from the nail trade, which need well-mixed paint. In recent times I’ve seen ‘model-making’ specific versions and sure enough, the exact same piece of cheap tat electronics is more expensive for the “model-making specific” version. To test this, I went on Amazon (other online stores are available) and input “Nail Lacquer Shaker” and “Model Paint Mixer” into the search bar, sorted by lowest price and then scrolled until I found the same product under each.






LIARTY Balck Nail Lacquer Shaker Mixer Adjustable Nail Gel Polish Varnish Bottle Shaking Machine Paint Shake Evenly Tools for Nail Art (UK Plug, Output: 3V 550mA)

Visit the LIARTY Store
3.5 ★★★★★ 32 ratings

£19⁹⁹ (£19.89 / count)

FREE Returns



Paint Shaker/Mixer for Modeller (Acrylic, Enamel, Lacquer, Varnish, Washes) by Timodel

Brand: Timodel
4.4 ★★★★★ 137 ratings

£27⁹⁵

Includes £2.04 Amazon discount. Details

Available at a lower price from other sellers that may not offer free Prime delivery.

Brand	Timodel
Unit count	1 count
Paint type	Acrylic

And you can see for yourself, the non-model-making one is £20, the model-making version is nearly £30!! Why is it 50% more expensive? No idea, and that’s really stupid.

When people tell me that this hobby is “too expensive”, this is my example reply: Stop buying the “for model makers” kit. Buy a pair of generic side-snips, buy nail files, buy an Argos file set, buy kit from The Works, by mechanics masking tape...

Basically stop buying generic kit that is over-priced because it’s ‘specialist’. Obviously a physical store will be more expensive than online, and if the mixer comparison was a £20 one from online and £30

for one from a real shop, then that's different because there are overheads of a physical store that need to factor into the price.

My point is if you're after a new piece of kit, then take a few minutes just to look for an alternative that might literally be the same item with a different badge on it for a significant amount less.

Final Thought

On another note, at April's Sunday Meeting, David Childs brought a number of old club newsletters in after finding a huge stack of them during a clear out. One facility we want to include in the new website currently under development is to include a Newsletter area, where editions can be downloaded at individual convenience, but also provide an archive to previous editions.

Obviously that will mean creating a digital copy of old newsletters. If you do have old copies, especially those that predate 2014 (I can just search back through my emails for copies from recent years), then please reach out to me at ipmsbham.newsletter.ed@gmail.com with some details.

Membership

Just a reminder that as we are now past May, club membership rises to £25 for the rest of the year.

IPMS BIRMINGHAM

Business Current | 26665174 | 60-19-14

WhatsApp Group

We have established a Club WhatsApp Group for general chat, sharing pictures, and generally giving members another way to keep in touch on short notice.

If you want to be a part of that please get in touch with one of the committee and we can get you added.



Competition News

After the quiet April table, May saw a total of SIXTEEN entrants, with a wide variety of entries, and even a bit of presentation innovation.

The worthy winner was Andrew Thatcher, with his fabulous Mk.I Female Tank

COMPETITION
-TIME-



Second place was another worthy entrant from Mark Smith, with his excellent Dambuster Lancaster Diorama, complete with an extra show-and-tell element in the form of a segment of the Dambuster's film running on a tablet.



Aside from being an excellent build and entirely worthy on its own, the extra visual element was superbly eye-catching.

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Third place went to Chris Woodrow for his Gee-bee R-1 Racer Diorama.



Fourth place went to Terry Walton for another wonderfully eye-catching entry in the shape of his "Land Leviathan" kit bash/conversion, which was fun to see how many kits had donated parts to.



Fifth place went to Dean Whiston for his Fokker D.IV, complete with lozenge decals that are something of a favourite among WWI aircraft builders, at least visually.



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As always, thanks to everyone who entered, these busy months where any number of entrants would be worthy winners make it tough to choose, but make for great displays that look better than more than a few club stands at major shows.



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BRANCH COMPETITIONS LIST FOR 2023

COMPETITION	TIMESCALE	SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS
EAGER BEAVER	JAN-OCT	Any modelling subject. One yearly winner - most points acquired over the year.
THEME	JAN-OCT	2023 theme is "MYTHOLOGY" Any model which reflects this theme is eligible. All points gained are also counted for the Eager Beaver Trophy, all entries qualify for T.A.Trophy.
BRANCH CHAMPIONSHIP	DEC	All monthly winners plus Charity Trophy winners return at December (party) meeting. Winner voted by club members.
RON ROWLEY	DEC	Trophy for the member gaining the most certificates as overall monthly competition winner. (Theme & Eager Beaver combined).
BILL NICHOLLS CHARITY TROPHY	DEC-MAR	Donated kits are drawn at random at Dec. meeting. A payment of £5 per kit is levied. Kits should be built and displayed at the April meeting. All proceeds to charity.
HUDSON*	JAN-OCT	Awarded for any conversion - it is not enough to apply different decals and/or colour schemes - winner is the highest scoring conversion of the year. Super-detailing is NOT conversion. Entrants must give details of modifications.
BEST ALL-ROUNDER*	JAN-OCT	Members submit models in at least 4 of the 7 categories (Figures, Military Vehicles, Civil Vehicles, Dioramas, Aircraft, Sci-Fi & Ships). Subjects that have been entered in Eager Beaver are eligible, as this is a "one-off" competition.
JAGUAR*	JAN-OCT	Any subject which can, in any way, be associated with the word Jaguar. Entrants must clarify the link if it is not obvious.
BUSTS, FIGURES & FLATS*	JAN-OCT	Specifically for those who like to model figures in 2D or 3D.

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IVOR DOWE	JAN-OCT	Any diorama in any theme
SCI-FI & FANTASY	JAN-OCT	Any models that link to a science fiction or fantasy theme or setting.
THREE OF A KIND*		Three models on a linked, e.g. 3 variants of the same tank, aircraft, etc. 3 models depicting the evolution of a type - e.g. Mig 15, Mig 17, Mig 19. <i>There must be a strong, well-defined link. All 3 must be entered at same time.</i>
RON ADAMS MEMORIAL*	JAN-OCT	Any ship, vessel, etc whose working environment is on/in/under water
BEST RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT*	JAN-OCT	Any aircraft designed in Russia/USSR, whatever the markings. Alternatively any aircraft of any origin in authentic Russian/Soviet markings
TRANS-ATLANTIC	NOV	A joint effort with Syracuse Branch. Alternate years one branch nominates a theme. Each Branch judges their own models and photos of the other branch's models, they then declare a UK and a US winner.
BEER MATT CHALLENGE	NOV	A mini-diorama set on a base 110mm x 110mm. The diorama must not overlap the edge of the 'matt' and a max of 4 lengths high.

The above table outlines the list of competitions on offer throughout the club year. Following discussions held at the AGM in November 2018 the competitions marked (*) are under review because of poor take-up in previous years; if the trend continues these competitions could be revised or even scrapped.

A Trophy will only be awarded if there is more than one entry in the relevant competition.

In the **10 months Jan to Oct**

A section of the competition table can be set aside for members who wish to display models (complete or part built) but do not wish to enter them in competition.



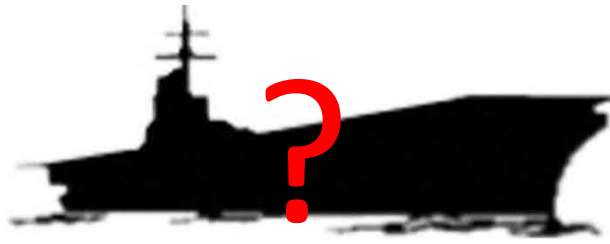
Zodiac – The Final Update May/June 2023

A big thank you to those who stepped up to take part in this project, but sadly it's NOT going to go ahead as planned – I'm disappointed to say that there has just been too little interest shown. The best we could have produced was half of the Zodiac which, to my mind, just wouldn't have worked.

My apologies to those of you that have already bought your "signs", but there's nothing stopping you from completing them as 'stand alone' models for the Telford display anyway.

Terry

USS Robin – The Pretender



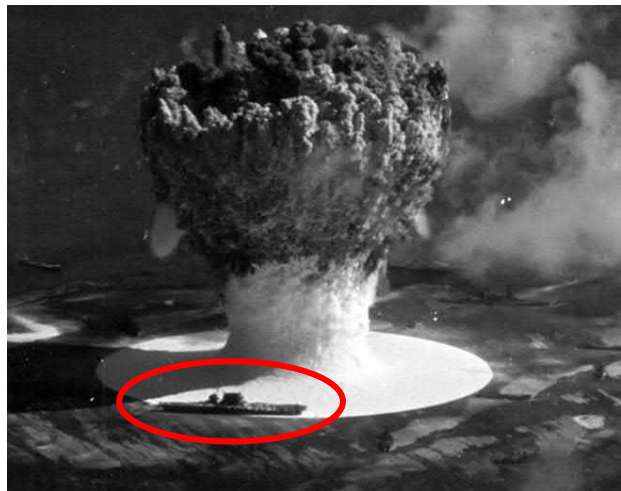
USS Robin – History

Some of you might be familiar with US aircraft carriers of WWII. The Pacific War was categorised by the island-hopping campaign and the central role that aircraft carriers played. The US Navy certainly had some famous, notable ships.

USS Enterprise for example, a ship that appeared to be unsinkable no matter how much the Japanese battered it and was such a badass that it shares a name with the first nuclear-powered super-carrier, the first Space Shuttle and the primary hero-ship of the fictional Star Trek universe, which was named specifically in her honour.

Her sistership, Yorktown that went to the battle of Midway after having 3 weeks of essential repair work completed in just 3 days and helped cripple the Japanese carrier force before being sunk herself.

How about the Lexington and Saratoga conversions that were the largest carriers in the world at the start of WWII and Saratoga, again the utter badass, managed to survive the entire of the US involvement of WWII before tanking TWO nuclear bomb tests during Operation Crossroads before sinking, and even then because the underwater explosion was just 400 yards away and had lifted the entire ship out of the water!



There's Yorktown and Enterprise's little sister, USS Wasp and the Essex class which were large, powerful carriers that were the aircraft equivalent of the Iowa class battleships and referred to in some historical circles as the "Essex Swarm" because US shipyards basically crapped them out at an eye-wateringly fast rate.

But what of the USS Robin? I'm willing to bet it's a ship you've never heard of despite operating in the Pacific at a perilous period in the Pacific War when the US had a critical shortage of carriers and the Japanese had been commissioning a number of new carriers, which while smaller than the ships lost at Midway, had given the IJN an advantage in hulls and the number of carrier aircraft available.

The USS Enterprise had been badly damaged at the Battle of the Eastern Solomons in August 1942 and in October 1942 USS Wasp and Hornet were sunk at the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands.

USS Lexington and Yorktown had both been sunk earlier that year at the battles of Coral Sea and Midway.

This left the US Navy with one operational fleet carrier; the USS Saratoga. The US did have the carrier USS Ranger available but she had been deemed utterly unsuited to Pacific operations; she was even more poorly armoured than USS Wasp, which had been deemed highly vulnerable.

The first Essex class carriers wouldn't come into service until 1943 meanwhile the IJN still had the two Shokaku class carriers, two of the most advanced carriers in the world at the start of WWII, the two Hiyo class carriers and a large number of light carriers, leaving the US significantly outnumbered and would have likely seen the US being forced to suspend operations relying on carrier support until at least parity was restored.



Therefore, the US put a request to the Royal Navy for temporary reinforcements, which the British agreed to after the Torch landings had been successfully completed. The British indicated that HMS Victorious and Illustrious were available and in fully operation condition. The condition was that USS Ranger stayed in the Atlantic as she was more suited to that theatre.

HMS Victorious would be transferred to the US Navy in December 1942 and, in order to hide the fact that the US had essentially run out of active carriers and also hide the fact that the Royal Navy would be a hull short, the ship was "commissioned" as the USS Robin. The idea would be that the Japanese would think she was a new ship.

The Illustrious class would influence US thinking later as the type was very different to US carrier design philosophy with an armoured deck that was a similar thickness to battleship armoured decks, meaning the type could take a significant amount of punishment, with ships of the class regularly surviving 1000lb bomb hits, even being able to conduct operations after major attacks. These same kind of hits could cripple or even destroy un-armoured US designs, with the downside being the ships were much smaller and able to carry fewer aircraft.

The Midway class, which followed on from the Essex class, were essentially an Essex class ship with an armoured deck, with the presence of HMS Victorious being cited as an influencing factor.



She would have some modification to fully prep her for US Navy service, including changing some of her radars and radios, and reinforce her arrestor hooks. Her air group was modified, while she retained her Wildcat fighters (Known as the Martlet by the British) with her Albacores swapped for TBF Avengers, although her arrestor machinery would suffer a great deal of strain from the heavy aircraft and there would be a number of accidents in the early days of her operation.

US Pilots would be transferred to the now formally-christened USS Robin in order to operate the aircraft, while her crew remained as British servicemen.

This would lead to a number of shared innovations. Most significantly, the US were highly impressed by British fighter direction practices, a subject that had received a vast amount of criticism in Enterprise's After-Action-Report from the Eastern Solomons in which the report was scathing at the lack of radio discipline from pilots and poor coordination. Although the fact this resulted in Enterprise being heavily damaged probably suggests Enterprise's crew was a bit miffed.



The radio homing beacon that the Royal Navy used was also very interesting to the US, given the vast open spaces of the Pacific Ocean.

In return, the British learned a great deal about operating carriers in the vast spaces of the Pacific Ocean, which would be helpful when the Royal Navy reformed the Pacific Fleet in 1944.

US radar systems were also highly effective, and paired with the higher ranged and more accurate heavy anti-aircraft guns used by British Ships, and along with the 'VT-Fuse' technology all made Robin a very dangerous ship for Japanese pilots as she would have the potential to engage aircraft at greater range and more accurately.

Again, this would make a significant difference in 1944/45 when the British Pacific Fleet, armed with the 5.25" guns and US-made radars meant ships like the King George V could essentially 'snipe' Japanese aircraft at ranges the pilots thought they were safe, requiring the Japanese to use different tactics against the British.

The British also gained experience with operating the TBF Avenger, which would help the FAA back in Europe, along with how to make best use of Deck-Parks, although in European waters, the British still required all aircraft to be able to be housed within the hanger.

Robin would sail with Saratoga immediately upon entering 'service' and her most significant operation would see her support Operation Cartwheel, where she would fly over 600 sorties, sail over 12,000 miles and be on continuous combat operations for 28 days, a Royal Navy record at the time.



In July 1943 it was clear that despite a four to two advantage in fleet carriers, the Japanese carrier force was not going to imminently conduct any operations and the first two Essex-class carriers had arrived in Pearl Harbour to join operations ahead of schedule. The decision was therefore taken that Robin could be returned to the British.

After transferring her Avengers to Saratoga, Robin would take US servicemen being rotated home back to mainland US and then land specialty USN equipment such as radios and transfer back to the Eastern US, conducting anti-submarine operations on-route.

With that, she returned to the UK and 'became' HMS Victorious once more.

This kind of sharing is, to me, what guaranteed the Allies would always win WWII; the various nations were willing to acknowledge and utilise everyone's strengths. For example, the Canadian Navy were considered a true specialist in anti-submarine warfare, mostly because it was a destroyer and escort-based force and was almost totally engaged in the Atlantic.

The US obviously had its massive manufacturing base that was safe from attack, meaning it was the best place to get 'stuff' built.

Victorious/Robin showed the same sharing; the US essentially copied the Royal Navy's fighter-direction systems as it solved the major problems the USN had previously. The British learned about the TBF Avenger from experienced US pilots and what changes were needed to allow the



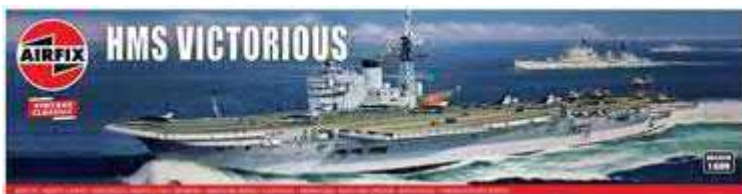
Illustrious class to operate them.

US radar and British radio beacons, Royal Navy beer and US ice-cream-makers and even what clothing worked best in the Pacific theatre were all things that were learned and shared between the allied nations.

And the fact the British were willing to lend an entire capital ship in order to ensure the US could keep up the momentum, and while she and Saratoga never had to face off against the IJN, her presence gave the US the confidence to continue operations.

This level of cooperation just did not exist within the Axis, and to me, is why the Axis was always likely to lose the war.

Kit: Airfix 1/600 HMS Victorious



Ok, so I don't not have HMS Victorious as she appeared during WWII (Although Aoshima offer a HMS Illustrious in WWII configuration that is apparently a nice kit, and one I plan to buy), but many years ago I built the Airfix 1/600 HMS Victorious which depicts her as she appeared after her 1958 refit that gave her an angled flight-deck. In hindsight, this was not a worthwhile upgrade as the modifications cost almost as much as a brand-new carrier but didn't really add to her capability, particularly with the rapidly increasing size of jets and her WWII origins, and she would only get another decade of service.

That said, she did participate in active operations including help the newly independent state of Kuwait resist potential territorial disputes with Iraq, but she would be decommissioned rather suddenly in 1968 and sold for scrap.

The kit itself is typical of the old-fashioned Airfix 1/600s; it's got all the features you'd want from an aircraft carrier kit and the detailing is reasonable but basic. For the life-boats, the AA guns, the included aircraft, the hull and superstructure it's all "fine". Nothing spectacular but it's all here.



You get half a dozen Sea Vixens, four Supermarine Scimitars and four Sky Raiders, one of which had folded wings, which is fun. It's not a spectacular set of aircraft, and supplementing it is quite hard because of the offset in scale between the kit 1/600 and third party 1/700 items.

However, for what it is, the aircraft are fine and give a nice degree of variation to the deck. The random folded-wing Sky Raider is also quite distinctive.

Annoyingly, no decals were included for the aircraft and so back when I built it a number of years ago, I improvised some roundels with some paint dotting and used a few 'Royal Navy' decals I had for spare on the Scimitars.



The hull number decal is typical Airfix; pretty good. As part of this article, I took the opportunity to give Victorious a refresh. The hull paint I left, the anti-rust coating is even, the hull grey is in good condition and the waterline... line is acceptable. It was the deck where the touching up occurred; I had to create some line-work for the deck and later re-did the markings after looking up a few more pictures of the ship

Overall, it's a reasonable, middle-of-the-road Airfix-600 ship kit.

I may stick it on the competition table at some point but for now it's a nice addition to my Post-WWII Royal Navy fleet and is quite nice to have the display with both Victorious and the Invincible-class HMS Illustrious together without the older build looking sorry for itself.



MD

Mythological

THEME for 2023 (Jan>Oct incl.)

- mythical also means imaginary or not real: A bit like IMM's friend (Syracusan joke)!!!
- **relating to mythology or myths:** myths dealt with in a mythology: lacking factual basis or historical validity: mythical, fabulous.
- ***Check with George if you have any doubts about your proposed entry!***

*The object of these articles is to illustrate some (**not exhaustive**) concepts and show modelling potentials available to you, some might be controversial, but what the hell!!*

Part Six

'Achilles' / 'Ajax' / 'Angels'

Achilles or **Achilleus** was a mythical hero of the Trojan War, the greatest of all the Greek warriors, and the central character of Homer's *Iliad*. He was the son of the Nereid Thetis and Peleus, king of Phthia.



Figures via ETSY + ALIEXPRESS

17pdr SP Achilles (officially **17 pounder, Self-Propelled, Achilles**) was a British variant of the American M10 tank destroyer armed with the British Ordnance QF 17-pounder high-velocity 76.2 mm (3-inch) anti-tank gun in place of the M10's considerably less powerful 3-inch (76.2 mm) Gun M7. A total of 1,100 M10s were converted to Achilles, making it the second most numerous armoured fighting vehicle to carry the 17-pounder gun, behind the Sherman Firefly tank.



The name "Achilles" was officially a designation applied to both the 3-inch gun and 17-pounder versions (as Achilles I/II and Achilles Ic/Ilc respectively) but was little used during the Second World War; at the time, the vehicle was called 17pdr M10, or 17pdr SP M10, or even occasionally, "Firefly". It has since become identified almost exclusively with the 17 pounder version.

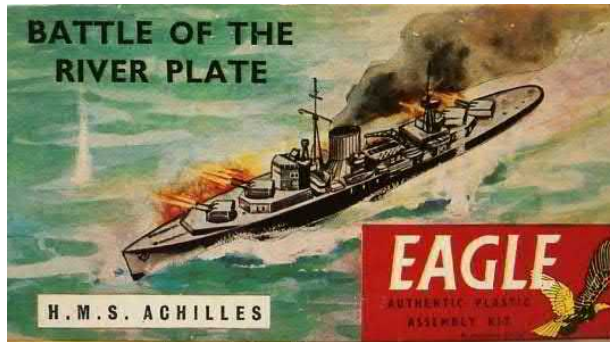
HMNZS Achilles

A Leander-class light cruiser, the second of five in the class: **Leander** *'Achilles'* **Orion Neptune Ajax**

She served in the Royal New Zealand Navy in the Second World War. She was launched in 1931 for the Royal Navy, loaned to New Zealand in 1936 and transferred to the new Royal New Zealand Navy in 1941.

She became famous for her part in the Battle of the River Plate, alongside HMS *Ajax* and HMS *Exeter* and notable for being the first Royal Navy cruiser to have fire control radar, with the installation of the New Zealand-made SS1 fire-control radar in June 1940.

After Second World War service in the Atlantic and Pacific, she was returned to the Royal Navy. She was sold to the Indian Navy in 1948 and recommissioned as INS *Delhi*. She was scrapped in 1978.



Not sure you will find the 'EAGLE' kit!! Be prepared to modify the Ajax as needed!

'Ajax'

Ajax or Aias : is a Greek mythological hero.

The son of King Telamon and Periboea, and the half-brother of Teucer. He plays an important role, and is portrayed as a towering figure and a warrior of great courage.

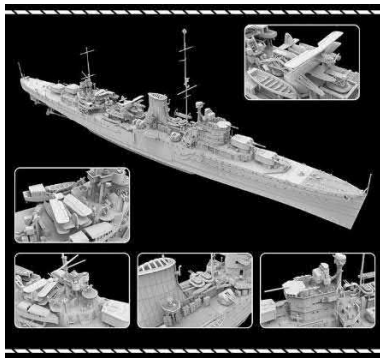


In Homer's Iliad and in the Epic Cycle, a series of epic poems about the Trojan War, Ajax being second only to Achilles among Greek heroes of the war.

Figure via ETSY

HMS Ajax

A *Leander*-class light cruiser which served with the Royal Navy during World War II. She became famous for her part in the Battle of the River Plate, the Battle of Crete, the Battle of Malta and as a supply escort in the siege of Tobruk.



1/700 scale is a little too small for me.

‘Angel’

In various theistic religious traditions, an angel is a supernatural spiritual being who serves God.

Abrahamic religions often depict angels as benevolent celestial intermediaries between God (or Heaven) and humanity. Other roles include protectors and guides for humans, and servants of God.

Abrahamic religions describe angelic hierarchies, which vary by religion and sect. Some angels have specific names (such as Gabriel or Michael) or titles (such as seraph or archangel). Those expelled from Heaven are called fallen angels, distinct from the heavenly host.

Angels in art are usually shaped like humans of extraordinary beauty. They are often identified in Christian artwork with bird wings, halos, and divine light.



Figures via ETSY + ALIEXPRESS

Blue Angels

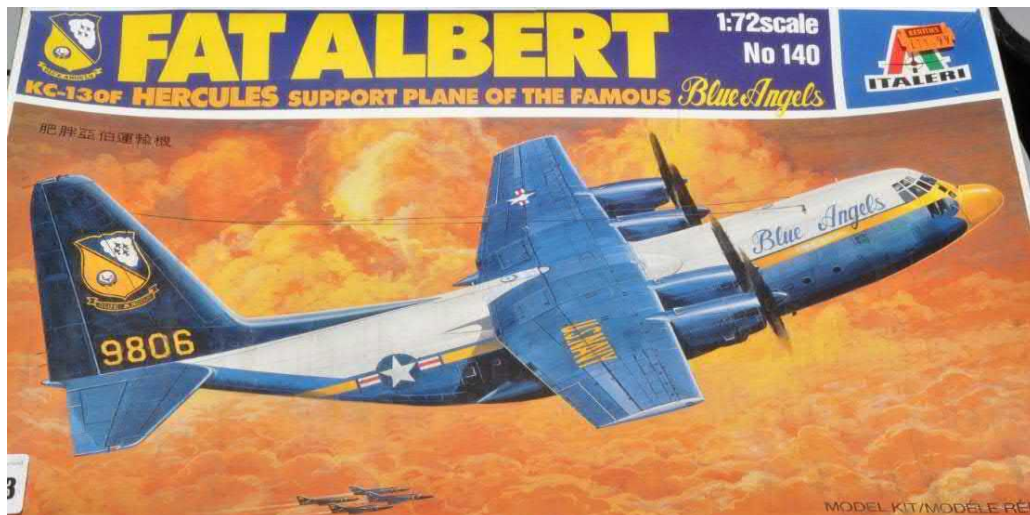
The **Blue Angels** is a flight demonstration squadron of the United States Navy. Formed in 1946, the unit is the second oldest formal aerobatic team in the world, after the French Patrouille de France formed in 1931.

The "Blues" have flown ten different demonstration aircraft and six support aircraft:

Demonstration aircraft:

Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat:	June – August 1946
Grumman F8F-1 Bearcat:	August 1946 – 1949
Grumman F9F-2 Panther:	1949 – June 1950 ; F9F-5 Panther: 1951 –1954/55
Grumman F9F-8 Cougar:	Winter 1954/55 – mid-season 1957 (swept-wing)
Grumman F11F-1 (F-11) Tiger:	mid-season 1957 – 1968 (first supersonic jet)
McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II:	1969 – December 1974
Douglas A-4F Skyhawk:	December 1974 – November 1986
McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet	(F/A-18B as #7): November 1986 – 2010
Boeing F/A-18A/C (B/D as #7) Hornet: 2010-2020
Boeing F/A-18E Super Hornet	(F/A-18F as #7): 2020–





Angel Flight - Captain Scarlet - OK over to George to adjudicate on the one!?

Angel Flight is the collective code name for the flight of female pilots who serve as one of Cloudbase carriers, forty thousand (40,000) feet above Earth, which serves as the command headquarters for the Spectrum Organisation) lines of defence.

Some of the angel's visual appearances are based on real world actress: Destiny Angel was based in appearance on actress Ursula Andress. Melody Angel is thought to have been based in appearance on singer and actress Eartha Kitt. Rhapsody Angel was based in appearance on model Jean Shrimpton.



Mythological Mike Dec 2022