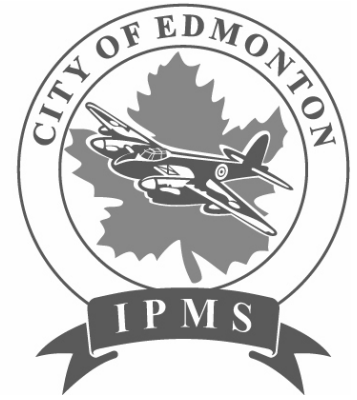


Bulletin

International Plastic Modellers Society, Edmonton Chapter Monthly Newsletter



October 2007

Hobby Boss 1/72 Sikorsky UH-34D

by Vic Scheuerman

After hearing about and seeing some sprue shots of the Hobby Boss (HB) kits on the net, I was pleased to see a selection of their 1/72 scale helicopters at COMEX in Kingsway Garden Mall. Ed had both the A and D Choctaws on the shelf and as both versions were used by the RCAF, the D was purchased for \$26.99 minus the chapters 10% discount. Apparently Hobby Boss 'borrows' from other folks molds and reduces the number of parts by having some subassemblies as one part but still maintains the same fidelity of detail. This kit owes it's lineage to the Italeri line of 1/72 scale Sikorsky/Westland helicopters in general and their Choctaw in particular. Unfortunately, the only I had the funky looking Wessex on the shelf so direct comparison are limited but some general comparisons can be.

This HB kit has a total of 59 pieces on two grey and one clear plastic sprue. All three sprues are together in a sealed plastic bag with the clear parts sealed in their own bag; nice packaging. The grey plastic looks great with a combination of fine engraving and raised details with no visible flash or seam lines to clean and no obvious ejection pin marks to fill on the exterior. Likewise the clear parts look good indeed and I prefer the way the HB engineered their canopy as one-piece were as Italeri has the large pilot side window/doors as separate pieces. Italeri scores a bonus point as they have the roof console and this is lacking from the HB canopy.

HB's cockpit consists of 8 parts while Italeri has a total of 12. The difference is that Italeri seats consist of 3 parts and their instrument panel and coaming are separate parts while HB seats and instrument panel/coaming are all single pieces. For some reason HB has the floor console as separate part, while Italeri has this as one-piece. However, the seat rail and harness detail is superior on the Italeri kit and Hobby Boss committed a real detailing faux pas by having no instrument detail on their panel or a decal to occupy the flat surface; point for Italeri.

How does the large lower cabin compare? HB consists of 5 main parts with a 3-piece 50 Cal. or a lighter machine gun as door greeters. Italeri offers the same 5 major components but offers superior surface detailing on the floor, seat bottoms and has basic framing on the fuselage walls that is totally lacking from the HB kit. Both kits have numerous ejection pin marks on the fuselage wall that will be a bear to fill and HB has the additional insult of having its bare floor decorated with more of these; point to Italeri.

Moving to the exterior, it is a little more difficult to make a real comparison because of the different configurations and details between these two related helicopters. Comparing the HB 3-piece rotor head with Italeri 3-piece but differently engineered main rotor head had me scratching mine. Italeri is perhaps a little better detailed as is their two-piece tyres (HB one piece), tail rotor (both two-piece). In fact, things that are better on the HB kit are it's slightly better fuselage engraving and a very slightly smoother finish.

www.ipmsedmonton.com

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Club Meetings

IPMS Edmonton meets the second Tuesday of every month, (September to June), at 7:00PM, in the cafeteria of **McNally Senior High School** (8440 - 105 Ave.)

Suggestion for workshops and demos are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact a member of the executive.

Contributions

The BULLETIN is a monthly publication of the International Plastic Modelers Society, Edmonton Chapter. It is mailed to all members in good standing. Articles in the BULLETIN may be published in other IPMS newsletters, but only if credit is given to the author and to IPMS Edmonton.

Submissions

Submissions are always welcome!

Please email directly to:

georob@telusplanet.net

Annual Dues

IPMS Edmonton membership costs \$20.00 annually. Membership fees are due in September and include a BULLETIN subscription and a hobby shop discount card. Membership dues are non-refundable.

Hobby Shop Discounts

Upon presentation of your IPMS Edmonton membership card, the following hobby shops offer members a discount of 10% on regular priced plastic kits:

Alberta Hobby Centre	14220 Yellowhead Trail
Comex Hobby	West Edmonton Mall
Comex Hobby	Kingsway Garden Mall
Great Hobbies	5144 - 75 St.
Kites and Other Delights	South Edmonton Common
Kites and Other Delights	West Edmonton Mall
Roundhouse Sales	9532 - 87 St.
Universal Hobbies	12119 - 54 St.
Brightside Hobbies	10130 100 Ave, Morinville
Uncle Bills Hobbies	Calgary

Farewell!

From the Editor's desk

By Rob McArthur

Before I go any further, I must offer my sincere apologies for not distributing a Bulletin newsletter for the month of September. One of the benefits of being a member of IPMS Edmonton chapter is a subscription to our monthly newsletter. The Bulletin has been a long standing club tradition and to not publish it for whatever reason is inexcusable. Please accept my apology.

This Bulletin will be my last one as Editor. Back in June, I made a rash commitment to another two year stint as the Bulletin editor. Once again I apologize. I am sorry for dodging out of a commitment I made. I understand that we have a new editor and I hope that everyone is as cooperative and accommodating to him as you have been to me. I hope that you will continue to provide the Bulletin with articles and the like to share with the rest of the membership.

With the spare time I have now found, I will hopefully be able to spend some time at the hobby desk and finish some long overdue projects. I encourage you to do the same. Snap some pictures. Take some notes. Pass them on to our new editor. It's really not that hard. It's therapeutic too. I actually ran into a fellow a few years ago who did this on his doctors orders.

I was volunteering at the time for the Alberta Hospital Ponoka. I spent time doing recreation with a number of patients with a number of various mental illnesses. One afternoon I saw a gentleman in a reading room with a stack of photos. I approached him and began to talk with him. I made small talk about the weather and other things. Eventually the conversation turned to his stack of pictures. Immediately and quite enthusiastically he showed them to me explaining everyone. Here he had pictures of a well done World War II diorama in 1:35 scale. He had recreated a scene from Operation Barbarossa. I was able to

NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2007

Hobby Boss 1/72 Sikorsky UH-34D *continued,...*

Both kits offer well-drawn instruction sheets but HB has better drawings. HB offers two decal options and they are fully covered on five-views on a separate sheet. Colours are given with their proper names like Field Green and these are tied to both Aqueous Hobby Color and Mr Color. In addition, both schemes are shown in full colour on small side profiles on the box side. Italeri shows some of their schemes in full colour on larger drawings on the box back, but I prefer the HB approach in this boxing. Another plus for HB is that they have their kit in an actual box with lid, versus the readily collapsible opening end-type offered by Italeri and too many European firms.

When it comes to the decals all I can say at this time is the HB sheet is well protected in its own sealed bag and they are well printed and appear to be in perfect register. First option is a Marine Choctaw of YP-20 in overall Field Green that sports a large pair of nasty looking

eyes on the front. Vietnam supplies the second UH-34D and while this is in overall Olive Drab, it has a colourful star-studded blue diagonal band across the tail along with a huge colourful unit insignia on the engine covers. More colour is the yellow painted upper fuselage section and the same colour trim on the pilot and co-pilot doors. This latter is supplied as decals. Of course, Italeri decals are normally great so HB has a tuff act to follow here.

Conclusion

While the Hobby Boss kit at first blush looks great in the box, after comparing it to the older Italeri kit has taken away some of my enthusiasm. Both kits will be indistinguishable from a foot. So I leave you with this thought. If the newer Hobby Boss kit borrowed from Italeri; it has fewer parts and decal options and it is made in China: *then why does it cost almost 10-20 percent more?*

Farewell! continued,...

tracks, Self propelled guns, figures. In detail, this gentleman had written notes on each picture explaining what they were and even some of the techniques he had used. Some of our local modeling authors would have been impressed.

*For this man, modeling was medicinal. A chance to take the focus off of problems and stress. A chance to be creative. I encourage you to do the same.
Blessings on ya'
Rob*

Bf 110E



Eduard's New 1/48 Bf-110E

An Out-of-the-Box Kit Review

by Brent Fordham

I will start where I would normally finish. This is a beautiful production that makes me very happy that I'm an aircraft modeler. I'd say that it is the aircraft model equivalent to the relatively recent Cyberhobby kits that Dragon has put out. Eduard are offering a very complete production and everything that you need is in the box.

Included are nine sprues full of parts, a lovely set of pre-painted photoetch, canopy masks (the excellent "Tamiya tape" type), a highly colorful decal sheet, and a 20 page, glossy instruction booklet. And to add that little extra touch, Eduard has thoughtfully included a color card giving the history of the "Flying Dachshunds", mascots of one of the units whose markings are included in the decals. This is accompanied by a tiny, well-formed Dachshund dog in resin! There are apparently three versions of the dogs in different poses and which pose you get is a surprise. Eduard has really shown some style with this move, and I think it indicates that they truly are interested in producing something that stands out from the crowd.

The plastic parts are individually packaged in their own bags. Parts appear crisply molded and full of detail. The wing root joins look like they should mate well, but I'll have to reserve judgment on the nacelle-to-wing fit. It looks promising, but this can be a notorious area for fit on multi-engined kits. Surface detail looks marvelous and rivets and panel lines are crisp and restrained. Whether or not you believe that the rivets should be there I will leave up to others for debate. Personally, I like anything that gives the surface of the aircraft more detail and interest as

long as it falls within the realm of historical reality. Cockpit and wheel wells have not been left out, with lots of impressive detail throughout. Ailerons have been molded separately, and while it would have been nice to see separate rudders and elevator, I'm not complaining. Two individually bagged clear sprues are included. The canopies appear nice and thin and include options for both open and closed canopies. Parts options appear to indicate that a C/D version is planned. The total number of parts weighs in at 340 – this is no weekend project! The photoetch sheet includes a "sandwich" style instrument panel, comprehensive seat belts, radiator grids, rudder pedals, canopy fittings, and an array of other miscellaneous parts. Many of them are pre-painted which replicates detail that very few could ever hope to achieve.

The canopy masks are a very practical addition for a subject such as the 110 since the canopy framing is formidable indeed. I have used these types of Eduard masks before and have been impressed. They are made out of the same material as Tamiya masking tape and conform well to curves, staying put once they are applied. However, I have found they can be less than perfect in fit and you may want to supplement them with a little extra masking effort on your own. But in my opinion, the time these save in the masking process makes these one of the best accessories to come along in some time.

Decals are printed by AVI Print and appear to be thin and in perfect register. Four colourful options are provided for 1942 subjects in the Russian, Belgian, Finnish and Iraq theatres and the famous "Wespen" nose art is among them. The decal sheet also includes a full set of stencils.

The instruction sheet is printed on a high quality, glossy paper with crystal clear 3-D diagrams throughout. A historical description is provided on the front page, but there are no worded instructions. The diagrams have arrows showing how things go together and construction method should be straight-forward enough. Colour callouts are in Gunze Aqueous and Mr. Colour. At the back of the instruction booklet, the four marking options are shown, each with a worded description and full colour profiles and plan views. The last page gives stencil placement information in colour.

In conclusion, if I seem to be gushing about this, I do it for good reason. Eduard seem to have put their hearts into this kit. It's something that clearly came together by listening to what the customer wants. With the inclusion of excellent decals (after-market need not apply), colour photoetch parts, and canopy masks, this kit is excellent value for your dollar,

being in the \$60 -70 range. While I can't comment on the build and fit, if it's anything like the presentation, I expect it to fall together. Highly recommended!

The Year in Demos

by Brent Fordham

This year I'll be skulking around the club meeting signing up club members to put on demos throughout the season. I mention this now for two reasons: one is so that you can give it some thought in advance. Some of you are well known for your talent in certain areas, and we'd love to find out how you do it. The second reason is that I'd like people who perhaps have a demo in mind but don't know who could do it to talk to me. I will do my best to arrange something. Maybe you've always wanted help with airplane cockpits, wondered what the best way to put track links together is, or how the car guys get that mirror-like finish on their cars. Let me know and I'll set it up if I can.

I don't have a schedule yet for the year, but will be putting it together soon. If all goes well, I'll be putting on a short demo on decaling at the October meeting.

A Call for Participation!

by Brent Fordham

As some of you may remember from June's meeting, an effort is being made to help out the Bulletin editor by giving the responsibility for getting articles to someone else. That someone is me, and I am looking for articles this year: more specifically, aircraft articles. The responsibility for car and armour models lies with Dave Anderson and Kevin Johnson, respectively. These gentlemen will be asking people throughout the year to submit articles from their areas of interest. Each modeling "discipline" rep will be responsible for getting six or seven articles, thus assuring the Bulletin editor a full year's supply of articles. These articles would ideally be written by club members, but can be sourced from anywhere. If you see something interesting on the internet (a good "hot-to" article, for example) we can put it in our bulletin, with the author's permission, or course. Use your imagination and start now. We need the articles all year long, not all in the last two months.

We have sixty some members who all read about our hobby. Just think how much useful and

interesting content we could have if everyone put in just a *couple* of hours effort each year! Dennis Weber has graciously offered to put together the Bulletin now after a great run by Rob McArthur. Rob did a fantastic job, but has simply run out of spare time, so we are very pleased and excited to see Dennis taking up the challenge.

Dennis is really excited about some new things he'd like to do with the Bulletin layout. Let's keep that momentum going by CONTRIBUTING SOMETHING! If we all put just a little effort into this we could have a publication as interesting as any magazine coming to our doors each month. And that reminds me of something else. We have been asking over the last couple of years if people would like to have their Bulletins emailed to them. We have always framed this in terms of cost savings to the club, but another reason has come to light recently that is even more important. Each month the editor or his assistants have to spend about two or three hours stuffing envelopes and mailing them. The editor can, on the other hand, email out all of the Bulletins in the time it takes to click a mouse. If half of us agreed to get our Bulletins emailed out, that would be a timesaving to the editor of 1.5 hours per month, which is over a days work each year. We know that not everyone has email and no one will ever be forced to receive their Bulletin via email, but this is a way you can actually contribute time by doing NOTHING. You will be asked again in the near future. Give it some thought and consider the email Bulletin option.

