



# ARMOR BITS

August 2022

Newsletter of the ChicagoLand Armor Builders Society







Well, the July meeting was another great one. We had 11 members attend the meeting along with a good number of models.

Chuck has brought up the fact that the club has been in existence for awhile (since 2007) and with all of the new members in recent years, many have not seen older models that have been presented. Unless you have been down in Chuck's "Bunker" or Dan Ts basement, you haven't seen most of their work. Certainly that's also true of many other longtime members.

So along with bringing in your latest build, I would like to encourage everyone to bring in an older model you have completed to show everyone. We will also schedule a future meeting where the price of admission is something previously completed. Perhaps we can also have a special section on our club website just for these "Historic" builds. Thanks for the suggestion Chuck!

We are well into the "Dog Days" of Summer. Even when its too hot to be outside, I find it really hard to be down in the basement on a sunny day working on models. However one look at the calendar is a wake up call that all of those Autumn contests are not really that far away!

I'm currently working on my umpteenth vow to not procrastinate until I'm once again under the gun and asking again WHY DID I WAIT SO LONG? Hopefully I'll finally be early this time. (LOL)

I was listening recently to a small subjects podcast recently and someone mentioned how really, only a few thousand of us appreciate scale models. It reminded me of being a Marine and how few of us there are. So being a modeler and especially an "Armor" modeler makes us even more special than everyone else!

Because of Covid lockdowns, there has been a resurgence lately of all types of modeling and some very good articles about it. I'm hoping we can be discovered by a few more modelers.

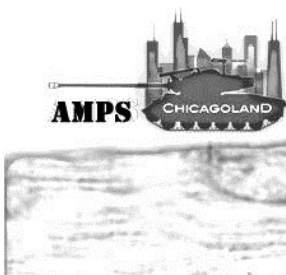
We have a great club, and I find the best part of meetings is the give & take during meetings and show & tell, about how something was done or a little history about the subject!

Hopefully this newsletter helps to continue the enthusiasm between meetings.

*Cheers* and I hope to see you all in August!

*Stan*

Our next meeting is scheduled for 10am **August13<sup>th</sup>** at Cantigny in the Education Center Bldg.



## **JULY MEETING NOTES**

- The meeting was brought to order in the Medill room at Cantigny.
- Chuck Aleshire gave the Treasurer's report - \$800+ after the auction. There was no new update about the 2024 AMPS National bid. The eboard remains in negotiation with the convention site.
- A big THANKyou to everyone who contributed to last months club auction with kit donations and purchases! I think everyone had a great time and the club finances are in great shape.
- The 2022 IPMS convention is over. Next years convention will be in Texas, and there was an announcement that the **2024** IPMS convention will be held in **Madison Wi.**
- The club had a nice turnout at NIMCON and several medals and awards were won. Congratulations to all.
- We only received 5 responses to the survey about foam. Sean brought in a large bag of foam, which was quickly gone, so we will hold off buying any for now. Sean will try to bring in more for the next meeting.
- Our next meeting in August will be held again in the training center. We will look into possibly using the outdoor pavilion if the weather is nice. Look for the meeting reminder the week before for the final location.
- World Expo was going on and there are plenty of photos online of the event.
- **Upcoming events:**
  - ⇒ Every Thursday from June—August at 1pm the museum will conduct a Military Vehicle Display in the Tank Park to learn about the vehicles there. No reservation required. It will not be held in inclement weather.



ARMOR BITS

# TRACK LINKS



<https://arsof-history.org/index.html>

This is a site about U.S. Army Special Forces going back to its inception during WW2. Although not “Armor” related, has many great articles about the Special Operations and today's descendants.

Browse through the page, especially the VERITAS mag, and I think you'll find something of interest.



Just a little reminder about the 2023 National Convention

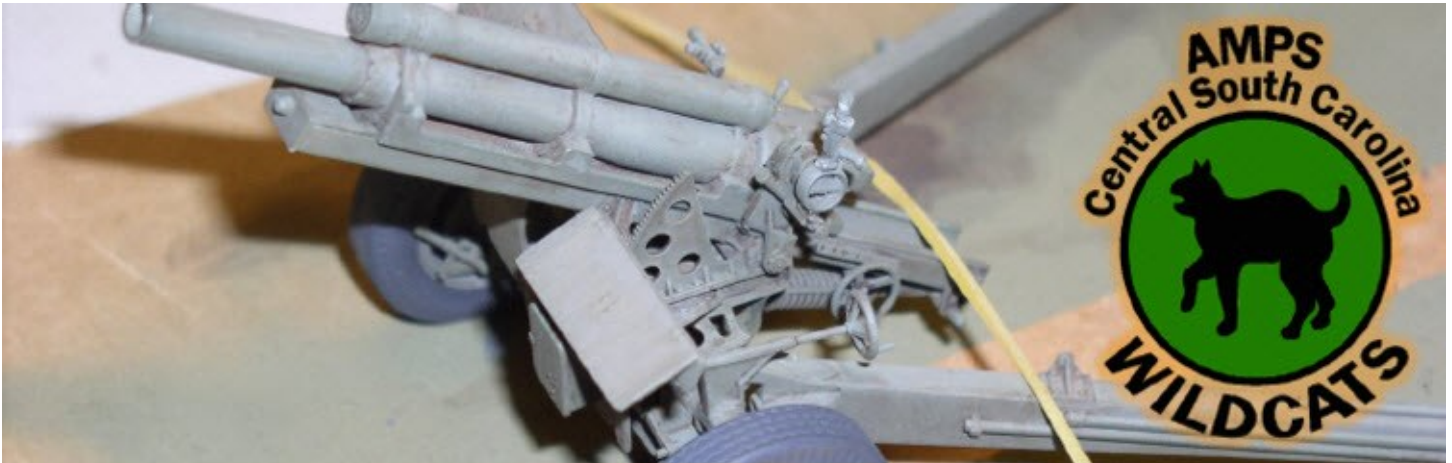
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/Main.aspx>



**ARMOR BITS**



## TRACK LINKS



### REFERENCE, GROUP BUILDS & DEMOS

<http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/group-builds---demos.html>

The Central So. Carolina AMPS club has a page with a number of articles and demos about modeling and reference materials. This is a great club and they offer many great resources.



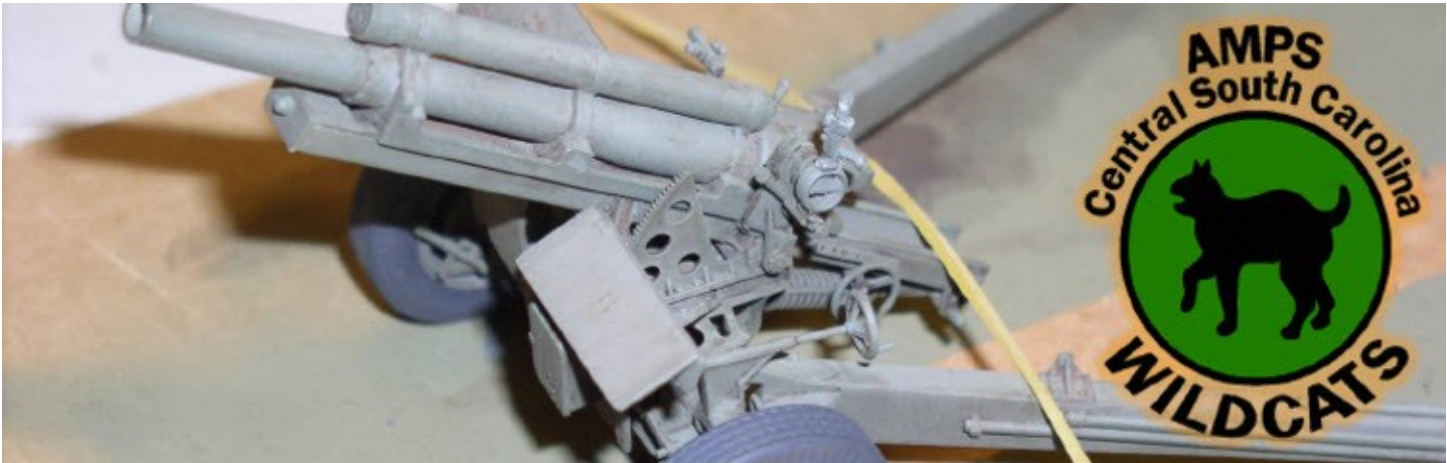




**ARMOR BITS**



## TRACK LINKS



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***Next is an article I found for:***

**FOAM MODELLING WORKSHOP** A Beginner's Guide to Foam Modelling Tools and Materials

# FOAM MODELLING WORKSHOP

## A Beginner's Guide to Foam Modelling Tools and Materials

by Paul Naylor

I've been using XPS foam for about 10 years and it's now my favourite 'go to' material for modelling scenery and terrain. Its many advantages include being light, rigid, it can be carved, engraved and textured, and is easy to cut and assemble with simple tools.

This basic guide will look at some of the tools and materials that I use. Although there are many and varied tools and materials available for use in different kinds of foam model making, this guide will focus only on those used for making small scale model scenery and terrain. It's by no means a comprehensive list or an endorsement. I would encourage you to experiment with other tools and materials as there are new and interesting ones appearing on the market all the time.

## FOAM SHEET

The two main types of foam used in scenery and terrain building are XPS (extruded polystyrene) and EPS (expanded polystyrene).

### XPS

Extruded polystyrene sheet is a dense foam that cuts easily with a knife or hotwire and has a flat regular surface. It's available in various sizes, thicknesses and densities and is relatively cheap to buy, but more expensive than EPS. Its primary use is as an insulation material and is commonly used for under-floor heating.

It's ideal for making buildings and scenery. The surface can be easily textured to look like stone or wood and can be engraved or impressed to look like brickwork, flagstones and other architectural features.

It can be difficult to find a supplier for XPS in some countries and the quality of the foam sheet can vary.

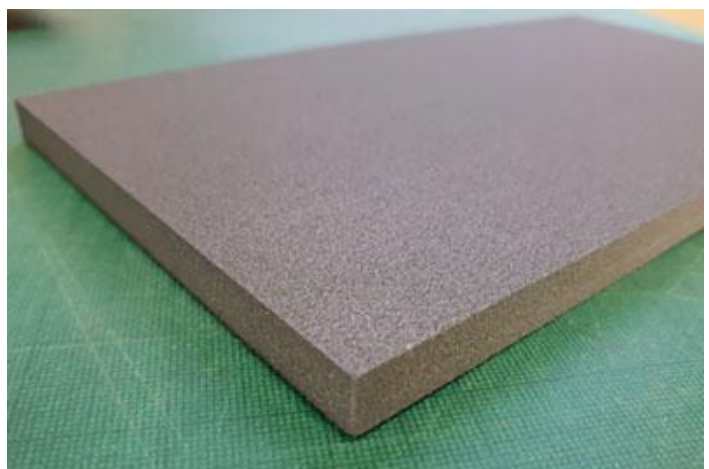
**To find it in your area search online for "XPS foam sheet", "under-floor heating underlay" or a brand name.**

#### Common Brands Of XPS Foam

Brand Name : Ravatherm (formerly Xenergy)  
Manufacturer : Ravago  
Colour : grey (formerly blue)  
Common in : UK

Brand Name : Foamular  
Manufacturer : Owens Corning  
Colour : pink  
Common in : US

Brand Name : Styrodur  
Manufacturer : BASF  
Colour : green  
Common in : mainland Europe

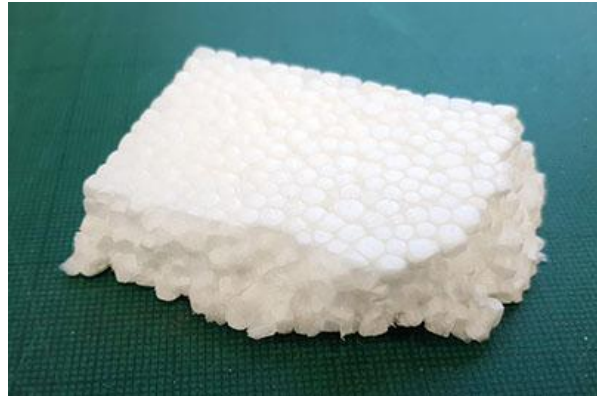


10mm thick XPS sheet (Ravatherm by Ravago)

## EPS

Expanded polystyrene is a low density foam used for insulation and protective packaging. It's usually white but does come in other colours. It can be cut with a knife or hotwire. Easily identified by its 'bobbly' texture.

It's formed from small beads of polystyrene compressed together. These easily separate making it hard to use for fine detail work. The bead texture and springiness of the foam also make it difficult to engrave or texture. There is a less common, denser EPS, made from smaller beads, that is used for making insulated boxes. That foam can be engraved and textured for larger scale modelling (1/32 upwards). EPS is good for large terrain features and to provide support for a surface coating like plaster.



EPS (expanded polystyrene) foam

## OTHER TYPES OF FOAM

There are a few other types of foam that are not so good to use for various reasons. They can have their uses but are best avoided, especially by the beginner, in favour of XPS and EPS foam. These include:

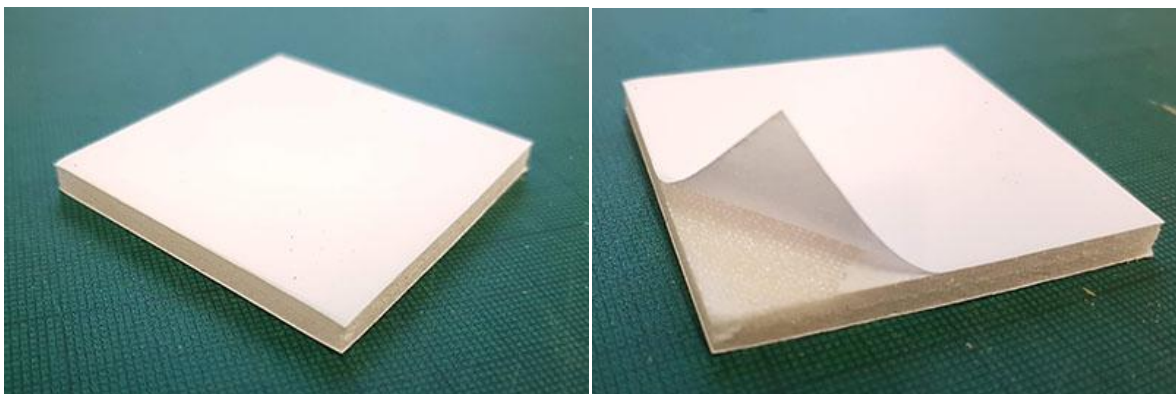
**Polyurethane Foam**, it can be bought as sheets or as expanding foam in cans. Produces unpleasant dust when cut.

**Phenolic Foam**, often foil backed, used in the construction industry and the green 'oasis' used in flower arranging. Produces lots of unpleasant dust. Soft, making it difficult to engrave or texture.

## OTHER USEFUL MATERIALS

### FOAMBOARD

Also known as 'Foam Core' or 'Foamcore Board'. It is a sheet material that has foam in the middle and paper on the top and bottom surfaces. Cheap, light-weight and easy to cut with a knife.



It comes in a range of sizes and thicknesses, 5mm being the most common. It's ideal for making the main structure of buildings before adding detail and texture with other materials.

KAPA Line Board is a brand of foamboard that has easily removable paper and a less springy foam layer that is better suited to engraving and texturing than standard foamboard.



## FOAMED PVC

Foamed PVC is a sheet material with a very dense internal structure and a smooth, flat surface. Its primary use is in the printing industry, mainly for signage. It's available in various colours, sizes and thicknesses. I regularly use 5mm, 3mm and 1mm thicknesses. These thicknesses can be cut with a knife. Anything thicker would probably need to be sawn.

It has a hard surface making it difficult to texture but can be engraved with detailed grids and patterns using a metal stylus. When glued together using CA (superglue) it makes very strong structures so is good for reinforcing things like bridges and walkways made from XPS. It's also ideal as an alternative to MDF for basing scatter terrain and buildings on as it's very easy to cut and less prone to warping.

In the UK it's sold under the brand names of Palfoam, Palight and Foamex.



A selection of foamed PVC in thicknesses 1mm to 5mm

## TOOLS

### KNIVES

The best knife to use for cutting XPS foam is a flat bladed craft/utility knife, the snap-off blade type. I have a few including one with a locking wheel. The one I use the most is the cheapest and most basic knife I have. They all use the same 18mm blades



18mm bladed craft knives and Victorinox knife sharpener



Swann Morton scalpels and a Stanley knife

The key to making a good clean cut on XPS foam sheet is to make sure the blade is very sharp and keep it at a low angle to the sheet when cutting, so you slice through the foam using a lot of the blade.

I never snap-off the blades. Instead I regularly sharpen the whole blade using either an electric or hand held sharpener.

For cutting foamed PVC sheet, which is a denser material I use a Stanley knife.

For detailed and more precise cutting on XPS, foamboard and 1mm foamed PVC I use a scalpel (Swann Morton no.3 handle with 10A blades). An X-Acto knife would do the same job.

## HOTWIRE FOAM CUTTERS

For clean and accurate cutting of XPS and EPS foam you can't beat a hotwire cutter. They come in two main categories: tables and hand-held. Tables are good for cutting precise shapes and angles, so are ideal if you intend to make buildings out of foam. Hand-held cutters are better for free-form shapes and quick removal of material on blocks of foam, so are ideal for making landscaped boards and big, natural terrain features.

They have a wide range of prices which often corresponds to how much power it has, which means whether it can sustain a high enough temperature on the wire to cut the material. Most hotwire cutters will cut EPS foam with ease but some cheaper ones may struggle to cut XPS foam, which is much denser. It's important to check the cutter you are buying is suitable for the type of foam you are working with by looking at the technical specifications and, preferably, reviews of it by other users.

I use a Proxxon Thermocut 230/E table cutter on a daily basis and also have a Proxxon 12/E hand-held cutter. Hot Wire Foam Factory also makes a range of cutters.



Proxxon Thermocut 230/E table cutter



Proxxon 12/E hand-held cutter

## RULERS & STRAIGHT EDGES

I use a large selection of rulers and straight edges of different sizes. The ones I use most often are a 30cm steel rule, a clear plastic ruler, a Maun Safety Rule and a small square. For cutting large sheets of foam I also have a heavy aluminium straight edge and an old 'T' square from my technical drawing days. The T square has a strip of coarse sandpaper stuck to the underside with double-sided tape. This stops the ruler from sliding around on the foam and means you can hold it in place with very little pressure.

The clear plastic ruler has parallel lines and a grid marked on it at 5mm intervals. This is really useful for quickly cutting strips the same width. It also has a metal edge down one side to stop knife blade nicks.



Square, steel rule, clear plastic ruler and Maun Safety Rule



The Maun Safety Rule

## THE MAUN SAFETY RULE

This useful little rule is made from pressed steel and has a runnel down the length of it for your fingers. This keeps your fingers away from the edge and the knife blade. This may be why it's called a safety rule, I don't know for sure. In all the years I've been using blades and rulers I've never once come even close to cutting my fingers. Maybe the 'safety' in the name refers to it being safe for your workpiece rather than you. The ruler rests on its edges rather than a flat surface like a normal ruler so it is less likely to slide and skid around when you are cutting. Because it rests on its edges you need less pressure than a normal flat ruler to keep it in place.

The other very useful feature it has is that the two edges are angled. One is 45° and the other is 60°. By holding the flat of a blade against the angle you can cut a reasonably good bevelled edge on foam sheet, which is handy if you don't have a hotwire cutting table.

## ENGRAVING, SHAPING & TEXTURING TOOLS

There are so many tools you can use for this. Most are meant to be used for some other purpose so the main thing to do is experiment, improvise and find what works for you. Here are a few of the tools I use regularly.

### SANDING BLOCK

Specifically a 'hook and loop' (Velcro) sanding block. This particular sanding block is made from foam rubber, making it light and easy to hold. I have 80 grit on one side and 240 grit on the other. I don't know how I ever managed without this simple tool. As well as smoothing and shaping, very coarse sandpaper can also be used to add woodgrain texture onto XPS and foamed PVC.

### WIRE BRUSHES

Very useful if you want to add wood grain or thatch texture to XPS foam. I have large and small brushes, both are brass wire. I sometimes use a steel wire brush but being stiffer it can easily damage the foam.





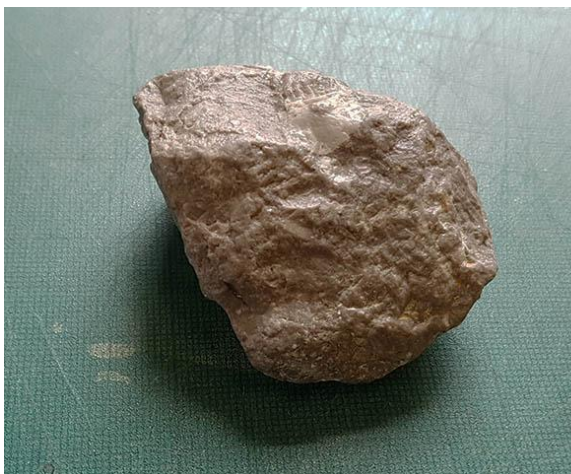
Sanding block, brass wire brushes, knitting needles, clay sculpting tool, rock

## KNITTING NEEDLES

I use these for engraving detail into XPS foam and foamed PVC. I have several, all with different sized points. You can also use ballpoint pens and pencils for the same thing.

## ROCK

The best way I've found to add a rock surface texture to foam is with a real rock. I found this rock while out walking one day. It's possibly rail track ballast, maybe granite. It has the perfect combination of textures and edges so I can use it to create a range of effects on the foam. I use it every day and it's probably the most valuable tool I own. When pressed onto XPS foam it leaves a perfect rocky impression. I have other rocks, but none as good as this. It has some flat areas and a few sharp edges so it gives a lot of variation. Different types of rock can make different textures. Sandstone tends to be too crumbly and gritty to work well. There are other ways of texturing foam. Using a rolled up ball of aluminium foil (tin foil) on foam will add random indentations to mimic stone and concrete.



The Rock



Rock texture pressed onto XPS foam

## CLAY SCULPTING TOOL

This is a cheap plastic tool from a Fimo sculpting set made by Staedtler. I use this all the time for shaping brick and stonework on XPS foam. It makes soft indentations and doesn't drag or damage the foam. It's good for opening up cracks and splits when doing flagstones or a damaged plaster texture on foam.

## GLUES

There are a lot of glues that can be used with foam and the other sheet materials mentioned in this guide. Some are better than others for a particular purpose and each one has its own advantages and disadvantages. I'll summarise the ones I've used here.



### PVA

PVA glue is a widely available water-based craft glue, also used in the construction industry for sealing plaster. It's available in different consistencies, usually dries clear and can be used to seal foam. The parts being glued will usually need supporting while the glue dries. Pins or rubber bands can be used for this.

It's not suitable for gluing large areas of foam as it will be unable to dry fully where the air can't reach it.

Mod Podge is a mix of PVA glue and acrylic varnish and acts as an all in one, glue, sealer and protective coat.

### WOOD GLUE

Wood glue can be used to stick EPS and XPS foam together and is very similar in its usage to PVA. The parts being glued need supporting while the glue dries, which can take a long time. Wood glue is much stronger and harder than PVA as it contains a type of resin (aliphatic).

### NO NAILS

Usually sold in tubes that require a sealant gun but can be found in smaller, squeezable tubes. Generally acrylic and safe to use on foam but some brands, particularly for the construction industry, have solvent in and should be avoided as they may damage the foam. If it says on the packaging that tools can be cleaned with soapy water it's safe to use on foam.

It's a thick white paste that doesn't dry clear. Foam parts can be glued together without requiring support. It has gap filling properties and can be thinned down with water. It's useful for attaching resin, metal and MDF parts to foam.

I use it by squeezing some out onto a palette (or piece of cardboard) and applying it with a small spatula to the foam. Any that squeezes out of the join I brush smooth with a damp brush. You can thin it with water and add paint to colour it.

## UHU POR

This is a variety of UHU glue that is specifically for using with foam. It's a contact adhesive so you coat both parts and allow them to dry. The easiest way to coat both parts is to put the glue on one part, bring the two parts together then quickly separate them. This should leave a thin, matching coat of glue on both parts. Leave them a few minutes to dry and when you bring them together again they'll stick instantly with a strong bond. It can be 'stringy' but sticks things very quickly.

## HOT GLUE

Using a hot glue gun is the quickest way to stick foam together. If you use standard hot glue you have to be very careful as both the glue and the gun tip can easily melt the foam. I use a low temperature hot glue gun. It operates at 130°C instead of the standard 190°C. It sticks things together almost instantly and very strongly. The downsides are that it can be messy, creating hair like strings on your work and excess glue is harder to remove. The glue gun I use is a TEC 305 (low temp version). I've used a few glue guns over the years but none compare to this. It's an absolute workhorse and a joy to use. I've got an interchangeable precision nozzle for it that's good for detailed work and it makes less mess.



TEC 305LT-12 low temperature hot glue gun with standard and precision nozzles

## CA (SUPERGLUE)

CA (cyanoacrylate) glue, also called Superglue, is used for gluing foamed PVC. It's generally not used on foam as it will easily melt it. I do use it for attaching small resin and metal parts to foam quickly. To do this you need to use a gel type CA glue, sparingly, on the part to be attached and use an activator/kicker. Bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) can be used as an activator by dusting it on the foam.

## POLYURETHANE (PU)

Polyurethane glue, such as the original 'Gorilla Glue' can be used for sticking together large sheets of XPS and EPS when making landscaped boards. It is activated by moisture so ensure one side of the material to be stuck together is damp. The glue expands as it cures so the parts have to be firmly held together. This is why it's not suitable for gluing buildings together or other detailed modelling.



## GLUE TYPE SUMMARY

Here is a table to check suitability of glues with different materials. If it's green it's suitable. As you can see there is often more than one type of glue suitable for the material. What you use will depend on your own preferences and the specifics of the job you are using it for.

	GLUE						
MATERIAL	PVA	Wood Glue	No Nails	UHU POR	Hot Glue	CA	PU
XPS (buildings)							
XPS (large sheets)							
XPS (attaching resin, metal, MDF parts)						(with activator)	
EPS (small pieces)							
EPS (large sheets)							
Foamboard							
Foamed PVC							

## PAINTS AND VARNISH

Once you've made your model you'll probably want to paint it to bring it to life. The main thing to remember is that some paints and varnishes contain solvents. Most solvents will dissolve foam. Make sure the paint you are using does not contain solvent. The easiest way to do this is to use acrylic paint, which is usually water-based. If it can be thinned with water and brushes cleaned with soapy water it will be safe to use on foam.

**\*\* Using aerosol spray paints: most spray can paints contain solvent or a propellant that will melt XPS and EPS foam, so even if the can says it is acrylic it is usually not safe to use on foam. How much the spray paint will react with the foam is dependent on the paint itself, how you use the spray and the type of foam you are using it on, so as a general rule they are best avoided. Spray paints and varnishes can be used once the foam is sealed (protected) by a layer of acrylic varnish, PVA (or Mod Podge) or heavy paint coat. \*\***

If you are ever unsure as to whether the paint is safe to use on foam just test it first on a piece of scrap foam or on a part of the model that won't be seen.



## PAINTS

The best paints to use for your foam model are acrylic craft and artists' paints. They come in a range of colours, sizes and prices. The more expensive artists' paints tend to have denser, higher quality pigment compared to cheaper craft paints. Household emulsion (latex) paint can also be used although it has longer drying times.

I use a range of paint brands gathered over the years including Winsor and Newton inks, Citadel paints and washes, Vallejo paints and washes including Vallejo Sepia Dipping Wash, which I use a lot and is great for shading. Also some 'pound store' tubes of acrylic and my main 'go to' paint Daler Rowney System 3 acrylics. I also have a large can of Leyland Trade (household emulsion), white primer/undercoat, which I mix with other colours to use on large, landscape models and game boards.

## SEALING FOAM

You can usually paint straight on to XPS and EPS foam. Your first layer of paint may be partially absorbed by the foam depending on the density of the foam and how thin (watery) your paint is. Sealing the foam will make painting it easier and can also add an extra layer of protection. You can seal the foam using acrylic varnish, PVA or Mod Podge. You can add acrylic paint to the PVA or varnish so that you get a base coat at the same time as sealing it.

## VARNISH

Once you've painted the model you will want to varnish it to protect the paint. This will also add another layer of protection to the foam to save it from minor knocks.

Acrylic and polyurethane varnishes are usually safe to use on foam. The easiest way to check is the same rule used for paint. If it says on the tin that brushes can be cleaned with soapy water it will be safe to use on foam. Gloss and satin varnishes tend to protect a bit better than matte varnish. I use a quick drying polyurethane satin varnish as a protective top coat, then a coat of matte varnish to reduce the shine.

## USEFUL LINKS

Here are some links to sources for materials and tools to help you with your foam modelling hobby.

Firedragon Games

(pre-textured XPS foam sheets and resin accessories, UK)

<https://www.firedragongames.co.uk/materials>

Shifting Lands

(foam modelling tools, especially for Proxxon hotwire cutter, EU).

<https://www.shiftinglands.com/>

Living Heat

(grey XPS foam sheets, UK)

<https://www.livingheat.co.uk/product/xps-underfloor-heating-insulation/>

bluefoam.co.uk

(XPS blocks and sheets, UK).

<http://bluefoam.co.uk/>

4D Modelshop

(foam and other architectural modelling supplies, modelmaking guides, UK)

<https://modelshop.co.uk/>

David Neat

(architectural modelmaking with lots of useful foam related guides)

<https://davidneat.wordpress.com/>





July  
Meeting

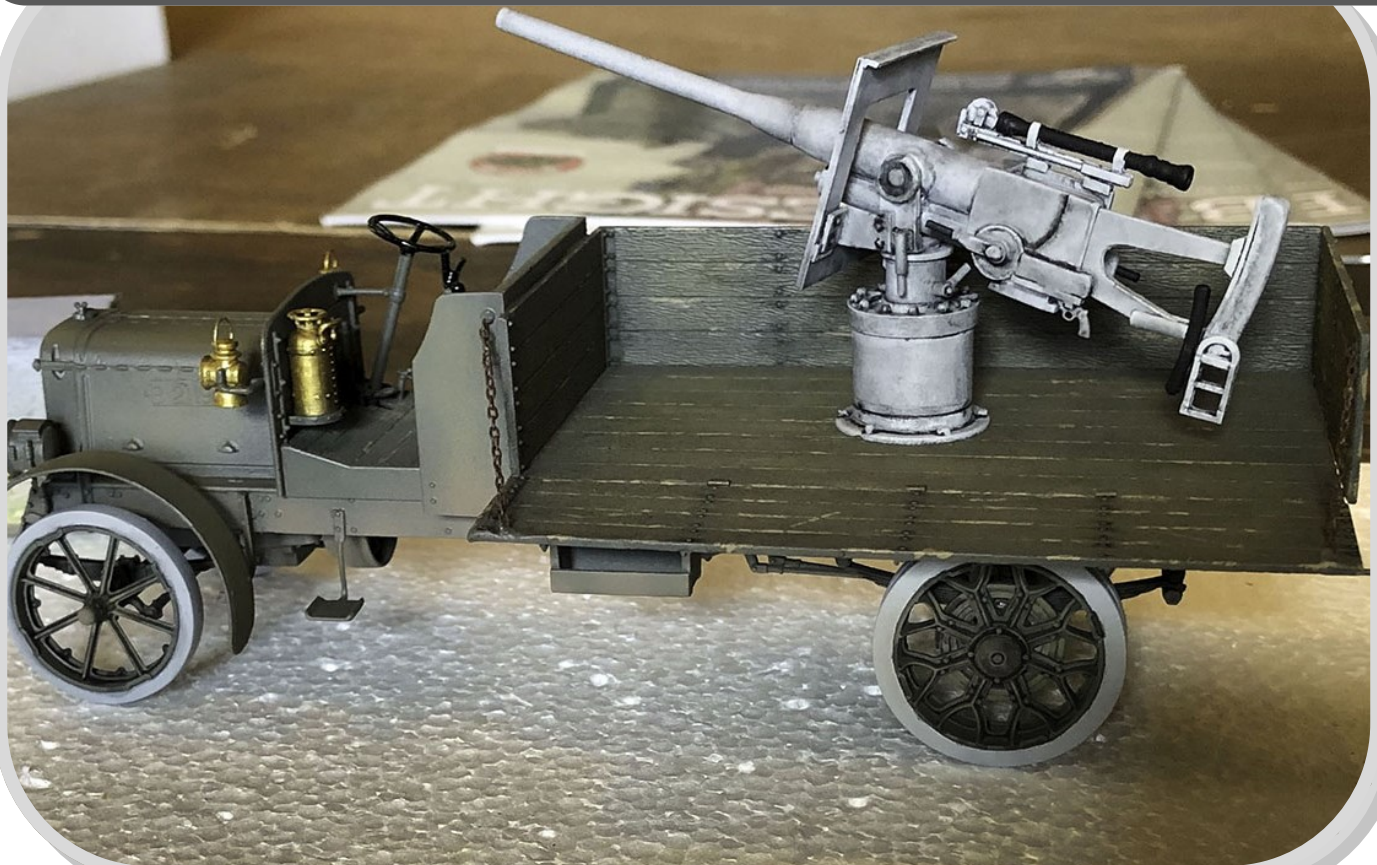




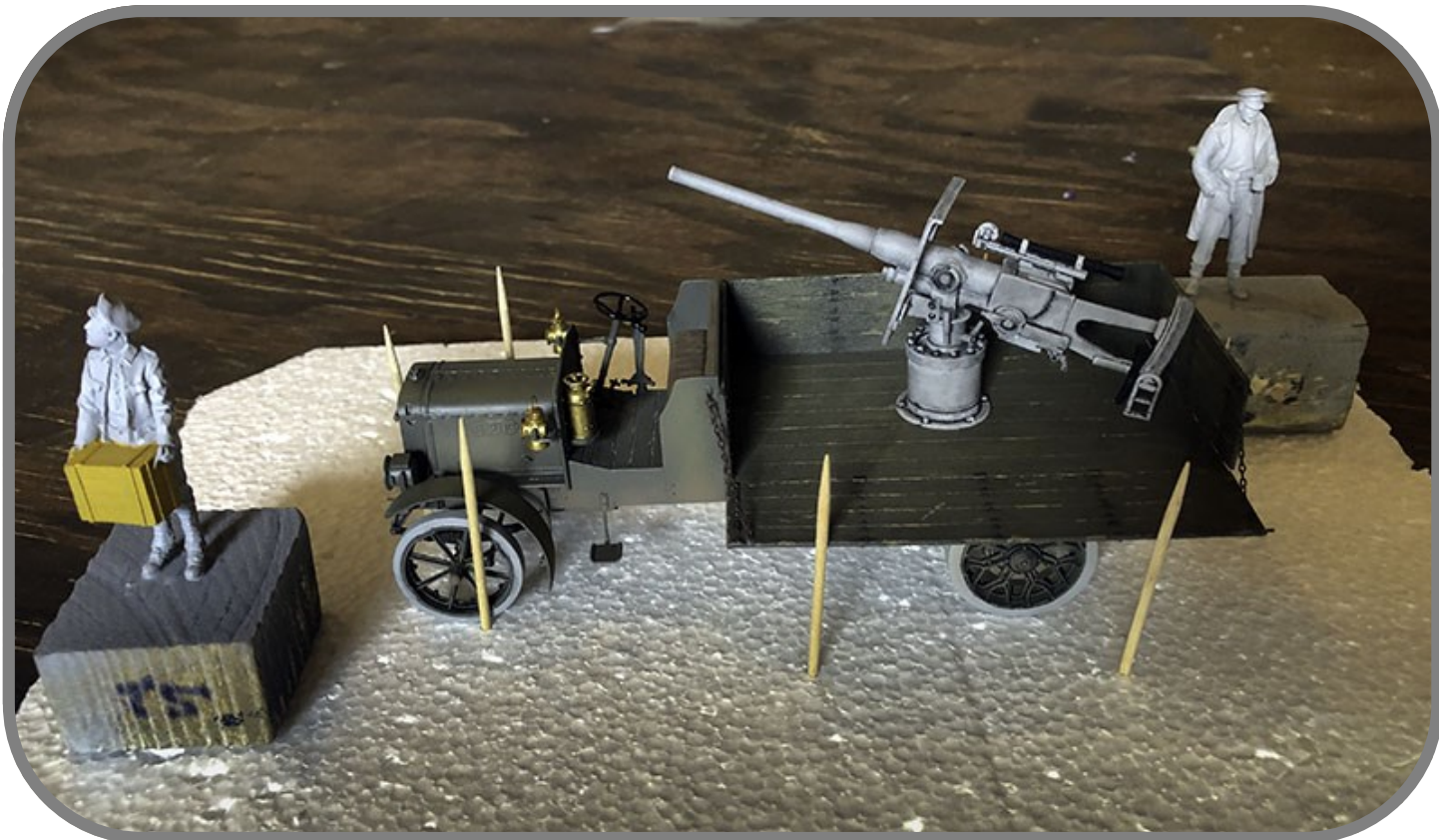
# SHOW AND TELL



**Chuck—** British “B” type Lorry w/Vickers Maxim 3 Pounder By C. Sampson. Resicast gun. Miniart “B” type lorry with a great deal of surgery to install the gun. A complex build not yet completed.







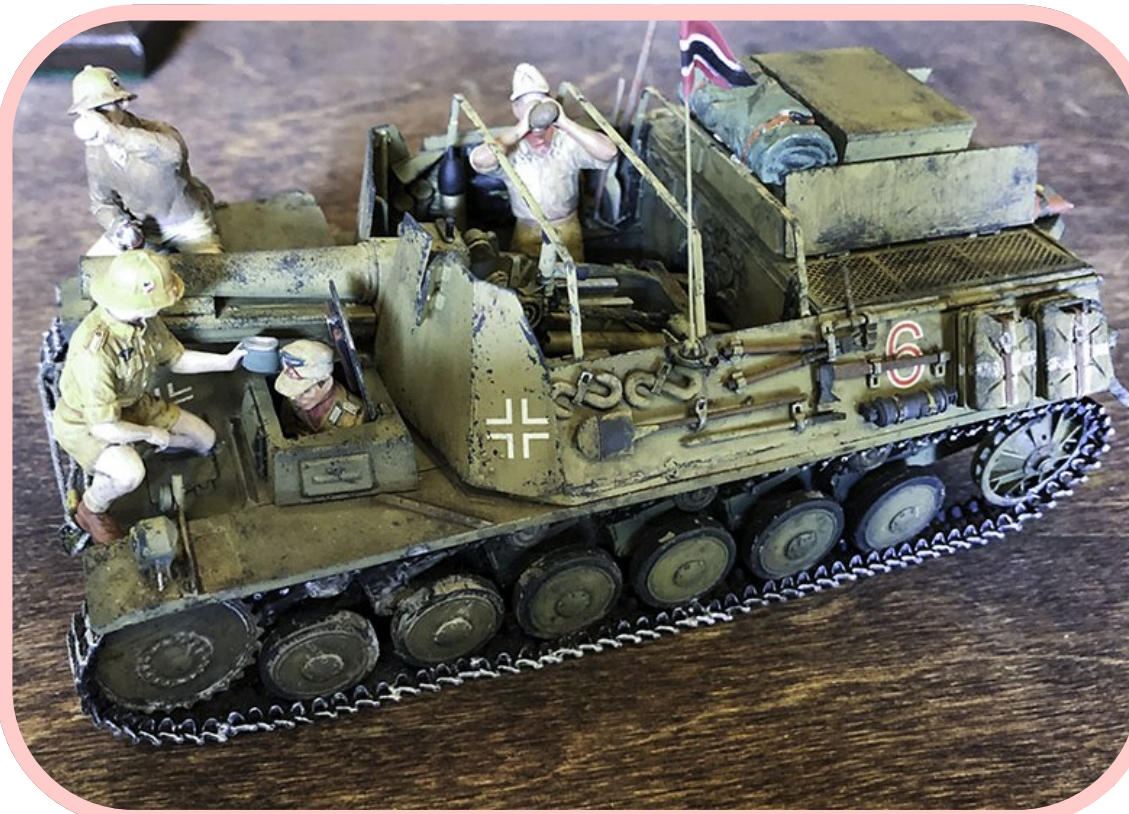
Sean – Zveda 2S35C

Started just before Russian invasion. Sean decided to complete it as a Ukraine captured SP.

Out of the box and first completion of the year.







**Mike Kinowski.**  
Dragon Bison  
SPA 1/35 -Xtra  
stowage, figures  
were kit bashed.  
Mike had some  
trouble with the  
tracks

AFV kit;; Dodge WC57 Command car. De-  
tailed engine and with details for Patton's  
command car. Figures by MB







## Scott - Tamiya Panther late G

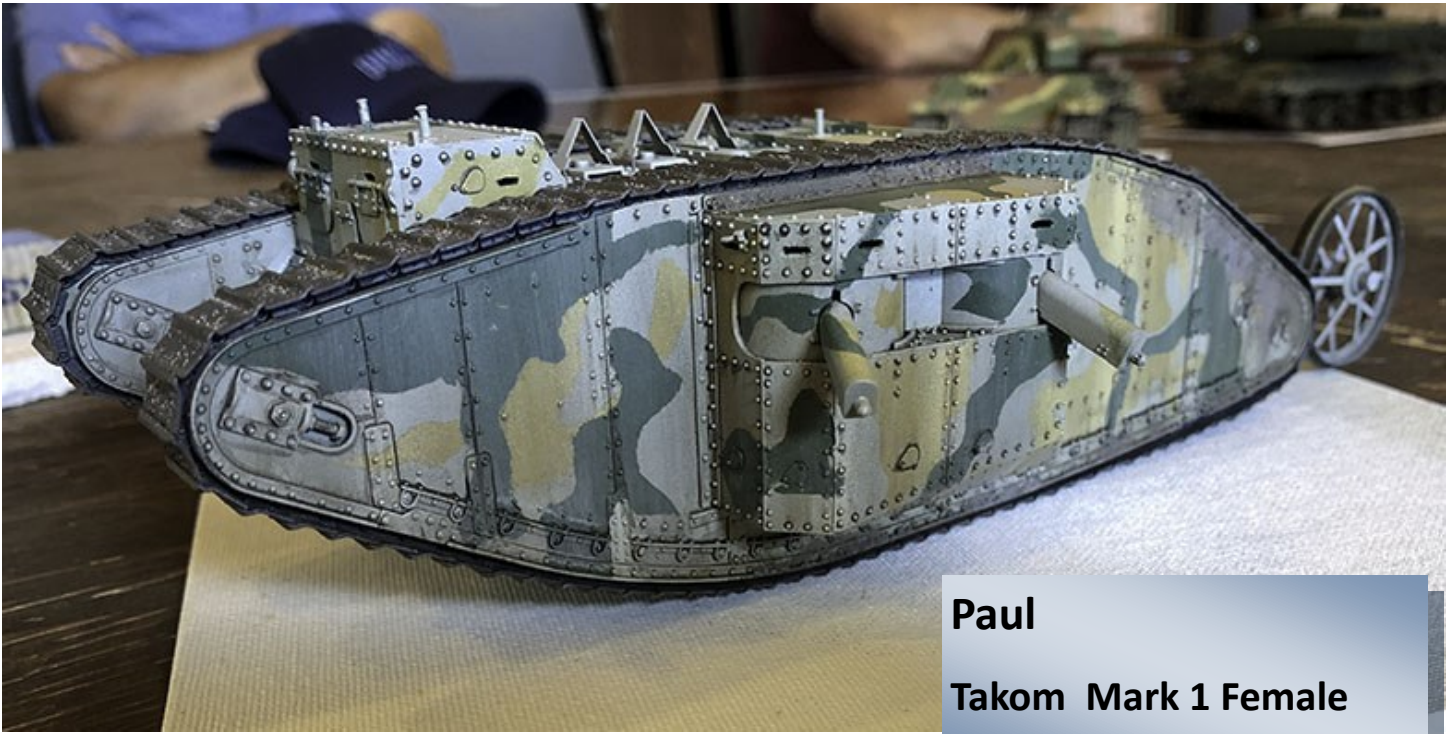
Its an older build  
used to try out  
pre/post shading  
effects.

ModelKasten  
tracks & scratch  
built periscopes

RFM Challenger 2 Super kit. Painted in basic NATO Green with color modulation.  
Mig products for weathering.







**Paul**

**Takom Mark 1 Female**

This is a great kit. The biggest drawback among a very few, were the road wheel design, otherwise very nice kit. The camo scheme was airbrushed but he used stencils to help. Paul gave a synopsis of the design, which began as a Naval idea and of some of the actual operation in combat. Top speed 6mph; the sponsons had machine guns on this version. There was an 8 man crew. Two men on each side at the clutch with the driver simply yelling to them for direction! Paul will eventually add a figure for scale. These are really "Big" vehicles!.







# The Last Round



Here are a few pictures from IPMS Nationals courtesy of Paul LaRock



## "An Offering to the Conquerors"

Tiger II "Blue 312" of Schwere SS - Pz. Abtl. 501 'under new management' by the U.S. 628<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion (Fighting with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne at that time) during the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium, Dec. 1944.

- 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale Dragon Sd. Kfz. 182 King Tiger II kit No. 7246. Also plastic figure (parts) by Prieser, (heavily modified).
- PART photo etch sets, No. P72-097 (Dragon Tiger II ausf. B details, and PART set P72-098 (fenders for same) were both used to replace most surface detail, mud guards/fenders, storage boxes, jack, etc.
- The kit's cannon was replaced with a turned aluminum barrel & brass muzzle brake by Aber #72 L-03.
- Hand holds were replaced with bent wire, and scratchbuilt hatches were detailed with plastic bits and misc. left over photoetched parts from other sets.
- Paints are Vallejo acrylics (dark green & dark yellow), and Mission Models acrylics (red/brown). Turret number decals are by Archer dry transfers. Weathering with oil washes.
- Groundwork is Cellucloy papier mache' atop the wood base. Snow is by 'Precision Snow & Ice' products (they have various materials). Verilinden static grass, and Hudson & Allen 'ivy' make up the foliage under the 'snow' cover.
- The figures are from Prieser's WW II German soldiers & modern civilian set - heavily modified, re-posed, and with new clothing detail from Apoxie two-part putty, etc. Faces & hands painted with Humbrol enamels. Uniforms, clothing & equipment were painted (primarily) with oils.



## Description of Work Performed

Please describe any details, finishes or features of special note concerning the construction of this model. You may use the back or attach additional sheets.

Dragon Wagon: added brass wire footman loops to cab roof for scratch made camo/tarp with straps and buckles. Thinned and detailed the rooftop MG ring. Detailed the .50 cal MG. Added detail to the inside of the cab window shutters. Added various cab interior details such as gas cans, oil cans, driver controls, fold-away seat on the rear bulkhead, bedrolls, crew stowage. Completely revised the chain hoist and crane to add and improve detail. Replaced the kit "chain" with real chain. Added cross bracing, chains and chain tighteners to the trailer ramps. Turned the cab front wheels to the left. Added checkered plate detail to the cab steps. Added cable end detail to the winches. Added hydraulic hoses to connect the trailer to the cab. Drilled out the rear cab lights to accept MV lenses. Diorama base is scratch built, with wall ruins and trees by Armand Bayardi.

The Revell Panzer IVH utilizes an Eduard photo etch set to replace the turret and hull side skirts. Barrel and muzzle brake from ABER. Turret interior details, as well as driver side interior details scratch built since hatches were left open. Tow cable scratch built from fine copper wire and cable ends from the spares box.

The figures are from various sources, with arms and torsos modified as needed to suit the scene. Finished with various Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics, pin washes from Model Master





SUBJECT: La Vie En Rose

SCALE: 1/72

MANUFACTURER: Trumpeter, Full Circle Hobbies, 3Dyson, Scale

### Description of Work Performed

Please describe any details, finishes or features of special note concerning the construction of this model. You may use the back or attach additional sheets.

Sherman Tank is Trumpeter. Scenic base is Full Circle Hobbies. Added gutter made of lead foil and drain pipes from Htek wire. Lamp added from my parts box and flowers are JDR/scratch built. Tank crewmen are Scale 75 and Misticast. All other figures are 3D printed by 3Dyson. Stowage is Black Dog. Everything brush painted with enamels except tank was sprayed.





## One last item:

During the last meeting there was a discussion about various weathering products from Mig/Ammo/Vallejo and how expensive they can be for the amount of product you receive. An alternative are Liquitex products found at art supply stores (Dick Blick, Joann's, Hobby Lobby) as well as on-line. These are an acrylic line of products that can be easily colored and come in bulk quantity at a reasonable price. Below is a small list of their products. I have used them and recommend them. You can go on their web site for descriptions and instructions for their use.



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**You can create texture with thicker paints and by using specialist mediums.**

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### MEDIUMS FOR TEXTURE

- Gel mediums - a range of gels to add structure to your color - great for impasto techniques, adding body and extending color volume
- Modeling pastes - choose from three Professional formulas and two Basics ones, or create a custom effect by mixing them together. Use to sculpt, build, shape and add textures on all kinds of supports
- Ceramic Stucco - a fine-textured, cement finish with a matte sheen, similar to Italian fresco surfaces
- Blended Fibers - a fibrous, pulpy texture when dry, giving a fruit pulp/ripped textile fiber effect
- Natural Sand - gives a fine-grade granular texture that dries to a glossy beach sand appearance
- Resin Sand - gives a coarse-grade granular texture with a semi-gloss appearance
- Glass Beads - a 'bubbly' semi-gloss texture created by clear glass spheres
- White Flakes - a rough flakey/scaley texture created by opaque white acrylic flakes - use with transparent or translucent colors for the best effects
- Black Lava - a smooth speckled texture created by micro particles of black acrylic - mix with transparent or translucent colors for dark and dramatic lava-like effects
- Liquithick Additive - creates a spongy, cake-like aerated texture
- Tools - use tools to create surface texture - from specialized trowels and knives with ridges, to splatter brushes



## AMPS ChicagoLand

On September 8, 2007, 11 people met for the first time in Pat Keenan's living room, creating AMPS-ChicagoLand. Since that day, AMPS ChicagoLand has been an active chapter in the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) with members from Southern Wisconsin, throughout Illinois to Northwest Indiana. We specialize in all eras, scales and aspects of building military ground vehicle models.



These subjects include tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles, artillery and figures. Our members consist of novice to master level, so all are welcome in our fun and inviting environment.

The AMPS – ChicagoLand Chapter's philosophy is that having a good time and enjoying oneself while engaging in the military modeling hobby is of paramount importance. This means we do NOT take the hobby or ourselves too seriously and its members are expected to "play nice with others". There's just no drama.

For more information about AMPS ChicagoLand, please visit our website at [www.amps-chicago.org](http://www.amps-chicago.org)

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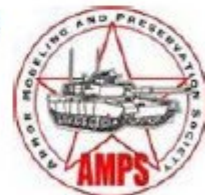
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THE END

