



# THE Crooked Line

The Crooked Line is the official publication of Fort Crook IPMS/USA © 2018

## Annual Chapter Christmas Gift Exchange

Wednesday, December 19th  
at Valentino's Italian Buffet  
5022 S 108th Street at 6:30 PM

The Fort Crook annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange is scheduled for next Wednesday starting at 6:30 PM. The chapter pays for every member's dinner. If you are bringing a guest, you are responsible for paying for their meal.

### The Gift Exchange

If you are participating in the gift exchange bring a gift wrapped model kit. Try and bring a model kit you would enjoy building... **Don't be a Grinch!** Great gifts are model kits of \$20.00 or more.

We count how many modelers are participating in the gift exchange and put the numbers in a basket and each member draws a number. Starting with number 1 that person opens a wrapped gift. Number 2 can take the gift from number 1 or unwrap a new gift and so on. Opened kits can only be exchanged five times before the last member owns the kit. However, one member will hold a "WILD CARD" which allows that person to choose any kit at anytime and it cannot be taken from them. The exchange will continue until all gifts have been opened.

What makes this fun is when everyone participating brings a desirable model kit. Please don't bring an old kit out of your stash or something that has been started...***DON'T BE A GRINCH!! SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM***



# 5 Tips For Building a Plastic Model Kit



One of the things that attracts so many hobbyists to scale modeling is the fact that you can start with thousands of pieces, some basic tools, and from that, bring something truly incredible to life! Not only is it fun to work on a project, it's also rewarding to see the final product. But there's more to model building than throwing some plastic or wooden pieces together with glue and then slopping on a coat of paint. So, to help any modeler in need, we've put together these tips to help everyone, from the budding model maker to the expert enthusiast.

## **1. Pick a subject you love!**

Are you working on a car, plane, or ship model? Maybe it's a pop culture model, or maybe it's even a battle scene from history. Regardless of what you're working on, or plan to work on, the point is this: **Pick something you're passionate about.** If you love cars, build cars. If you love Star Wars, build an X-Wing Fighter. The process is much more fun when you're working on something that interests you.

## **2. Do some research.**

Okay, you've found the scale model you want to build, but don't forget a very important first step: Take some time to do a little homework and research. It will make the experience much more enjoyable. Spend some time researching and discovering information about the real thing. If you're building a '67 Ford Mustang, search "1967 Ford Mustang" on the Internet and see what's out there. It's fun to get ideas on how to paint your model and even get some background on the history of the item you're building.

### 3. Find some friends and resources.

There's no reason to go through the model building process alone. There are great forums, communities, and modeling clubs out there to offer support, advice, and answer questions as you're working on your model. There are a lot of magazines and websites out there as well to help both beginners and experts build a better model.



### 4. Make sure you have the right tools.

It sounds like common sense, but you'd be surprised how many people start the modeling process shorthanded. When you have the right tools, the job is much easier and enjoyable. A carpenter doesn't pound nails with a rock, they use a hammer. And likewise, you shouldn't start working on your model without the necessary tools for the job. Don't get us wrong: you don't need everything, and you surely don't need to spend hundreds of dollars on tools that you will use just once. But be sure to have a prepared and ready workbench, and you quickly find out that having the right tools is the way to go.

### 5. Remember, it's not a race.

When you decide to build a scale model, keep in mind it can be a very long process. And that's part of the fun. Models can take months and sometimes even years to build. Becoming an experienced modeler takes years as well. Don't get impatient and don't get frustrated. Patience is the key to an exceptional final product. Take your time and enjoy the process.

Whether you're just starting out or you have many completed models under your belt, give these tips a try. And if you have some other great tips, feel free to share them with us. We'd love to hear from you!



# Calendar of Events



## Upcoming Local Chapter and Regional Events

**Wednesday, December 19**

*Annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange*

At Valentino's Buffet, 108<sup>th</sup> and M Street at 6:30 PM

**2019**

**Wednesday, January 16**

Meeting: 6:30 PM at NRD

Contest: Strange Taste in Modeling and Unfinished Symphonies  
(any model not finished in 2018)

**Thursday, January 31**

Business Meeting: 7:00, Papillion Sump Memorial Library

**Wednesday, February 20**

Meeting: 6:30 PM at NRD

**Thursday, February 28**

Business Meeting: 7:00, Papillion Sump Memorial Library

**Saturday, March 9**

KCCON 2019 at the First Church of the Nazarene 11811 State Line Road in Kansas City

<http://www.ipmsgreatplains.org/KCCon2019.aspx>

**Wednesday, March 20**

Meeting: 6:30 PM at NRD

**Saturday, March 23**

OmaCon 2019 More information to Come

**Thursday, March 28**

Business Meeting: 7:00, Papillion Sump Memorial Library

**Saturday, April 6**

SURGICON 25 in Des Moines, Iowa at Highland Park Christian Church, 4260 NW Drive

**Wednesday, April 17**

Meeting: 6:30 PM at NRD

**Thursday, April 25**

Business Meeting: 7:00, Papillion Sump Memorial Library

# Douglas A1-H Skyraider



By Guy Carriere reprinted from Hyperscale.com

Like most aircraft kits, construction starts in the cockpit. The parts were given a coat of flat dark grey paint, and with some dry-brushing that brought out the details nicely. Switches and knobs were then picked out in silver and white. I brushed on Polly Scale clear satin onto the console panels and the instrument panel, leaving the rest flat. A drop of thinned gloss white paint was flowed into the instrument locations.

Instead of using the whole decal of the instrument panel, each individual dial was punched out with a punch and die. They were then soaked and slid into place. The result was quite effective. The only item I replaced was the seat. I used KMC's A1-H/J Navy seat (#48-5101).



The fuselage halves went together in typical Tamiya fashion - without a hitch. Liquid cement was used for this important area. A touch of black super glue was applied along the seam to make it invisible. After some sanding, voila! A seamless fuselage in one hour.

The "barn doors" were simply glue in the closed position. I separated the elevators from the stabilizers and posed them in a droop position. I found two sinkholes near the tail wheel that needed attention from black max.

### **Folding the Wings**

Here is where my mind wandered a bit concerning the wings. My modelling friends know that I can't leave things well enough alone. So, I decided to fold the wings. It would have to be done from scratch since there was not anything in the after market range at the time. Oddly enough I had a hard time finding good close-ups of the wing fold. I'd like to thank the fellas at ARC who sent me what I was looking for.

Attention now turned to the outer wings. I noted in photos that both ailerons sag inward when the wings are folded. With the bottom half of the outer wing, I thinned and cut through the end of the aileron but only scored along the hinge line so it can move. The top parts of ailerons were completely removed. This was left off until the wing halves were glued together.

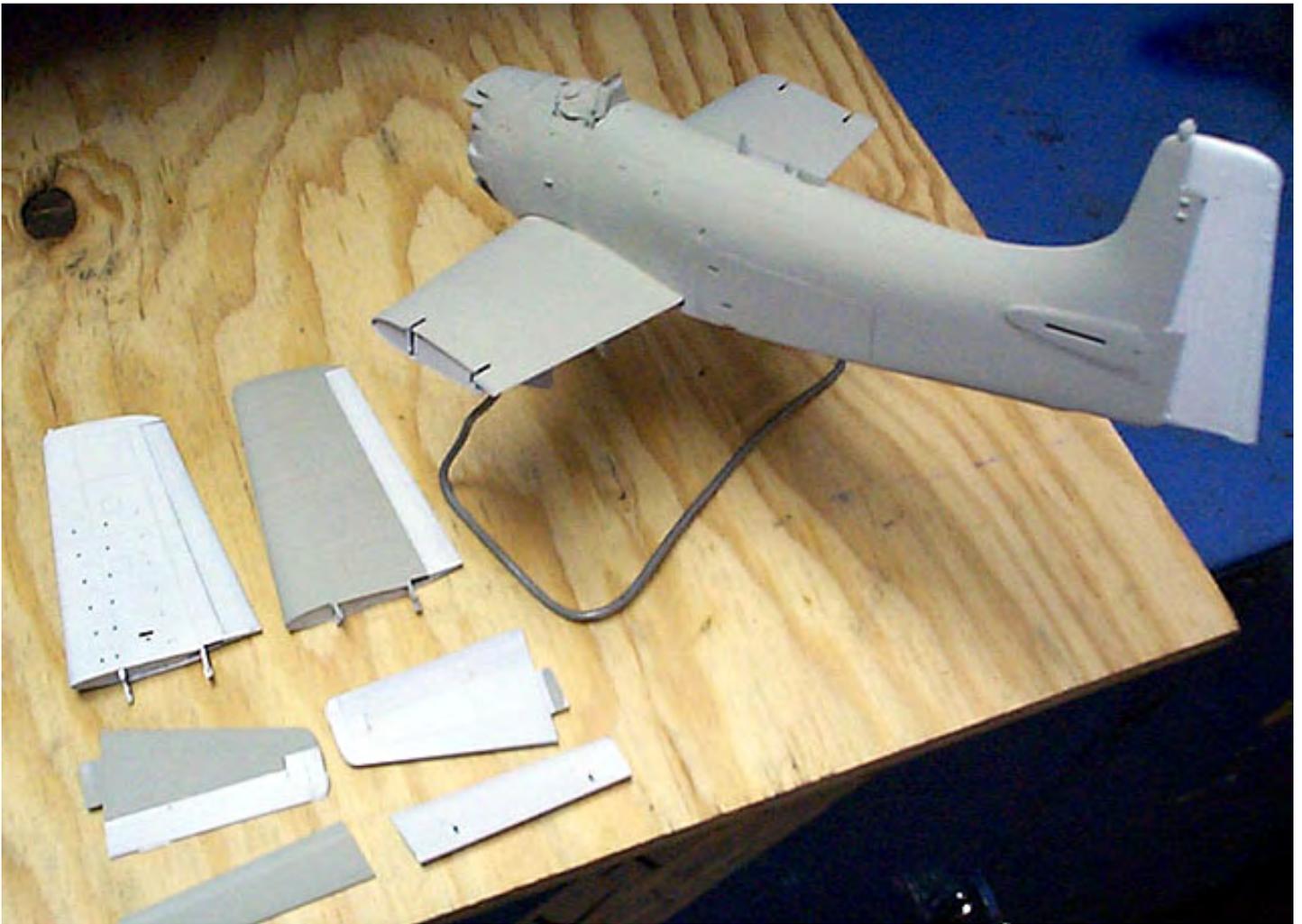


Blanking plates were fashioned with various openings and glued to the lower half, with the upper soon joining it. Armed with numerous photos, hinges were made up along with a myriad of other details. Two small squares were glued to the ends of the hinges and mating seats for them were glued to the inner bottom wing. I fudged and fumble until I got the right angle and camber. After this the inner top wings were glued on.

## Painting the Skyraider

Time to paint. The cockpit was masked and the whole model was primed with Mr. Surfacer 1000. Imperfections were tidied up and spot primed again.

I started with gloss white using Model Master Acryl. Rudder, ailerons, inner cowl and under surfaces all got blasted with white. One day later, it was wet sanded smooth. A second coat of very thin white paint was misted on. This made a nicely smooth and glossy finish. After drying, the appropriate areas were masked. The top color according to references was called Gull Grey (FS 36440). Model Master Acryl was used again, but because it's a flat paint, a slightly different approach was needed. Two coats were applied within a couple of hours of each other and allowed to dry 24 hours. I wet sanded using fine and ultra fine grit until semi-gloss finish was achieved.



The wing, stabilizers and cowl were then masked, and the leading edges painted with Model Master Metalizer "stainless steel". A clear gloss coat was applied next. My preference is Polly Scale, but as long as it's an acrylic, any brand will do.

I took a couple of days off to let the paints properly cure. The panel lines were given a "wash" of very thinned Artist Oil raw umber. I use a 000 brush with one-inch long bristles. The tip is held in the paint for a second to load the brush, then touch and hold at a panel line. The paint will flow a long way along the panel line.

The trick here is, and I know most people will already know this, is that the model MUST be glossy for this to work. Do this and there will be very little clean up afterward.

I used the kit decals, and I'm sorry I did. I have bone to pick with Tamiya on this. Simply put, they're too thick and don't like to snuggle down. This is, in my opinion, inexcusable for a high-end kit. After a lot of trimming and a gallon of decal solution, I managed to get them, in place. Once all the decals were applied and dry I gave the model a coat of Polly Scale clear satin finish.



### Finishing Details

The engine and exhaust pipes and cowl were glue on. The front windscreen was glued in place with clear fix, a good fit by the way. After some masking, the wing walks and anti-glare panels were sprayed flat black, then dry brushed dark grey. I gave the prop the same treatment while I was at it. The tips of the prop were masked and sprayed white, then red a day later.

Back to the wing fold. On the real aircraft, the exposed inner portion has what appears to be canvas covering the inner workings. To simulate this, I dipped some tissue paper in thinned acrylic khaki (I'm not sure if this was the correct color, but I had to pick something). I let this tissue hang to dry (20 minutes) then cut pieces larger than needed. I took this piece and formed it over the end of the wing to give me the shape I needed. The shape was cut out with scissors. It was slightly oversized, but that's what I wanted to get the wrinkles needed. With tweezers, it was re-dipped in the thinned khaki paint and applied. A little pushing and prodding here and there and it's done. No glue is necessary here, the paint once dry was more than enough to hold it.



The antenna was made with stretched sprue and added to the model. The canopy was attached, and any other minor details that were overlooked. I wanted all this done before attaching the outer wings to minimize handling afterward.

There are many photos of Skyraiders that have ordnance with their wings folded. So, how could I resist? A Skyraider without ordnance couldn't be called an "Able Dog". All the ordnance was attached before the outer wing was attached to the rest of the model. It was easier to handle this way.

The outer wing was finally attached. The hinge ends were glued with epoxy for strength, also because of the working time it allowed. I had earlier made wing/fuselage braces from brass rod. These added more support and set the right angle. Final details like the actuating rod and wiring were put in.



*The prop was pushed into place, and Holy Cow I was DONE! Phew!*

# Gentile's P-51B Shangri-la



Captain Don Gentile with his P-51B "Shangri-La" during March of 1944 when he was leading the pack to break Eddie Rickenbacker's WWI record of 26 enemy aircraft destroyed. Check out the weathering and fading of the paint on this picture.



## Join IPMS/USA

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous **National Convention**, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers.

<http://www.shopipmsusa.org/category-s/100.htm>