



# After Action Review

NORTHEAST MILITARY MODELING ASSOCIATION

MAY/JUNE, 2009

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5,6

**President**-Matt Toms

matt@militarymodelers.org

**VP**-John Gazzola

john@militarymodelers.org

**Secretary**-Tom Ivancso

thom@militarymodelers.org

**Treasurer**-Bill Schmidt

bill@militarymodelers.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Jose.T.Rodriguez

jose@militarymodelers.org

**Chapter Contact**

Bill Wiseman

doc@militarymodelers.org

**Web Master**

Chris Keeling

chris@militarymodelers.org

<http://militarymodelers.org/>

## Welcome to NMMA's newsletter

### The Prez Sez

Summer is the time between Spring and Fall show seasons. Summer is the time for spending lazy days outside by the pool. Or going on vacation. Summer is the time that our wives come up with all kinds of interesting and important things that we have to do outside. Away from our workbench. Summer is the time that most of us don't get a damn thing built.

I have tried building outside on the picnic table. I have tried building while camping. I would not advise trying either activity. Friul tracks, a folding camp table, and a forest carpet of leaves leads to an expensive and painful tragedy, take my word for it. Maybe summer really is meant for us to get outside, and be exposed to sunshine and fresh air for two months out of the year! Get a little color in your skin! Breathe overspray – free oxygen! Play with the kids, take a walk with your wife, commune with nature!

Or, take the family to the beach. You always bring a book to the beach, right? It can be a reference book, can't it? Hmmmmmm.....

### Inside this issue:

<i>Welcome to NMMA</i>	2
<i>Inside Story</i>	3
<i>May Meeting Photos</i>	4
<i>MAFVA NATS 2009</i>	5
<i>Clearvaus Castle</i>	6
<i>Home Made Folder Board</i>	7
<i>New Releases</i>	8
New Releases	9
Making Grab Handles	10
Making Grab Handles	11
Elite Infantryman	12
2009 Show Flyer/Cartoons	13

Summer is also the time for two special club meetings. July 11<sup>th</sup> is the club picnic at John Gazzola's lakeside house in Dayville, CT. Dayville is close to the MA / CT / RI border so is an easy drive for many members. John puts on an enormous spread and everyone has a great time. There is swimming and other lake activities. Of course, there is model talk all day long! This is a family event open to all modelers, not just club members or armor builders. Bring the wife and kids, and be prepared to have a great day!

The August meeting is our first annual museum field trip. It will be on a special date, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Of course, our first museum will be the Military Museum of Southern New England. It will be an open turret weekend, we can get inside many of the tanks, and maybe we can talk them into firing a couple up. And needless to say, with a bunch of us there, almost any question will be answered! Bring your camera!

So, there are some armor modeling related activities in store for the summer. They even include talking to real live other modelers, in person! With beer! What could be better than that?

Hey wait, you can do photo etch in the sun, right?.....Matt

### *Welcome to NMMA*

First let me introduce myself. My name is Jose.T.Rodriguez, most friends call me “panzer”. I have been part of the modeling scene in one way or another for over 25 years. I started out as a modeler, graduated to being a book, model distributor, and finally ended up running my own part-time cottage industry company. I have been a member of several IPMS modeling clubs and joined AMPS over 10 years ago. The most joy I have had in the hobby has being part of a great group of modelers and friends that was called AMPSCT. You know us, don’t you? The guys who run and put on AMPS East every year? Due to different reasons many of us are now in different states or different countries, but that physical separation does not prevent us from still being a great group of friend and modelers. No matter where we are, we will all continue to help run, and/or support AMPS East one way or another. Below is a message from our President and resident *Mahārāja* Matt Toms.

### *Northeast Military Modelers Association*

**AMPSCT**, the Connecticut chapter of **AMPS**, the ***Armor Modeling and Preservation Society***, is expanding and improving. **AMPSCT** is hereby changing its name to **Northeast Military Modelers Association**. We wish to reach more modelers in a larger geographic area and associate small groups of two or three which are scattered about the region.

**Northeast Military Modelers Association** will be the same **AMPS** chapter, with no change in organization. We simply want to establish a network of communication and organization with **AMPS** and **IPMS** military vehicle builders in the Northeast states. We have no intention of merging, annexing, or superseding any existing chapters. Our intention is to simply associate all of the military vehicle builders that we already are friends with and see at area shows on a constant basis.

**Northeast Military Modelers Association** has also submitted a charter application to become a military vehicle dedicated **IPMS/USA** chapter. We feel that our dual chapter membership will best serve our club members, our show, and our parent organizations. We hope that **IPMS** members will feel invited to join our chapter and expand our membership.

***AMPSEast***, our Northeast Regional **AMPS** show, will not change in the least. As ***AMPSEast*** has grown exponentially, the imperative need for more volunteer on-site staff has arisen. We believe that an expanded membership will provide us with the show personnel needed to make ***AMPSEast*** even bigger and better with each future show.

**Northeast Military Modelers Association** will, as a chapter, have no dues, no politics, no egos, no officers, no elections, no criticism, no pressure, and no bull. Anyone who joins will still meet in their local groups and is invited to attend meetings in Naugatuck, CT. Attending meetings will not be required for membership and long distance members can keep in touch through the club e-newsletter and the club forums on the club website. We plan on all meeting together twice a year, at the July cookout and at the September ***AMPSEast*** show. Membership in the parent organizations is not mandatory. However, we encourage all members to join the **AMPS** and **IPMS/USA** National organizations.

Anyone interested in joining **Northeast Military Modelers Association** should contact **Matthew Toms** at [matt@ampseast.org](mailto:matt@ampseast.org). Please visit our club website (under construction) at [www.militarymodelers.org](http://www.militarymodelers.org).

Joining the club forums is open to all. As always, stop by [www.ampseast.org](http://www.ampseast.org) for all the latest on ***AMPSEast***.

Best Wishes,  
Matt

The Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) is an independent organization dedicated to serving those interested in the modeling of armor and military models. *Boresight* is the official publication of AMPS and features articles that are submitted by its members.

Membership in the Society is for a one-year period. Membership includes a one-year subscription to *Boresight*, access to the member's only areas of this website, and voting rights at the annual meeting, among other privileges. *Boresight* is published six-times per year and mailed to members using Third Class Bulk mail in the U.S. and Printed Matter rates for all foreign locations.

Continental US:	\$25.00
Canada/Mexico	\$30.00
The rest of the World:	\$35.00

All payments must be in U.S. funds, by check or money-order. All foreign payments must be made by bank-draft or money-order drawn on a U.S. bank. Membership begins with the first issue after the membership application is received.

New! You can now pay for your membership using Visa or MasterCard through PayPal. Just click on one of the button below and follow the instructions:

<http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/membership.aspx>

If paying by check, send your membership dues, along with name and address information, to:

AMPS  
Membership Department  
PO Box 373  
Elma, NY 14059-0373

AMPS is run by member volunteers - just like you. Please allow two weeks for your membership or renewal to be processed.

If you want to volunteer to improve AMPS, please contact your regional VP.

<http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/sendMail.aspx?Who=14&Subject=AMPS%20Membership>

IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION			
IPMS No.: (leave blank)	Name: FIRST M LAST		
Address:			
City:	State:		Zip:
Phone:	email:		
VISA/MasterCard	Account #	-	-
Exp. Date:			
Signature:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult: \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (17 years old or younger): \$12 DOB: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Foreign: \$32	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Air Mail: \$55	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: _____)			
<input type="checkbox"/> If recommended by an IPMS member, list his/her name and member number _____ (name) _____ (IPMS#)			
IPMS/USA		P.O. Box: 2475 North Canton, OH 44720-0475	
Check out our web page: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>			

**Hobby Shops who give our  
members discounts**



<http://www.tigerdio.com>- 20% discount to  
NMMA & AMPS members.

**This space is empty, help  
me fill it.**

Okay, who wants a club polo shirt? The color of the shirt is Black.

They will have the club logo color embroidered on the left chest and your first name on the right.

Adult sizes S - 4XL.

Price is \$35.00.

Payment on delivery, no up front money needed. Can be picked up at a meeting or mailed to you. Contact me via e-mail or let me know at one of the meetings.

Best Wishes, Matt



### 2009 Show List

Here's the list for this years shows in our AO. Obviously we won't all make it to all the shows. My travel limit for a one day show is 2-3 hours. I'll be at most of these; see you there! Details on most of these shows are on the IPMS and AMPS websites.

8/19 – 8/22 – IPMS Nationals, 9/19 – SVASMcon 25, 9/19 Penncon, 9/20 – Rocon 30, 9/26 – IPMS Erie 2009  
9/26 – IPMS AMPSEast, 10/4 – Modelfest, 10/16 – 10/17 – Jerseycon, 10/18 – Granitecon, 10/24 – HVHMG  
11/1 – Baycon, 11/14 - LIHMCS

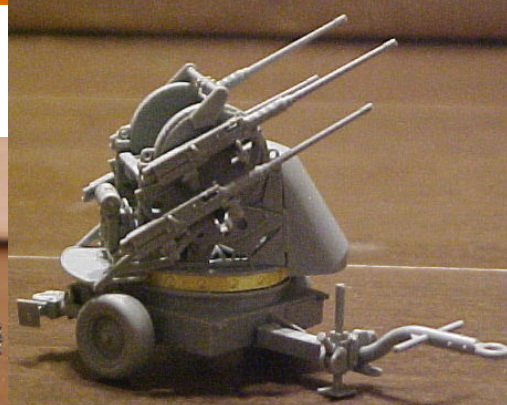
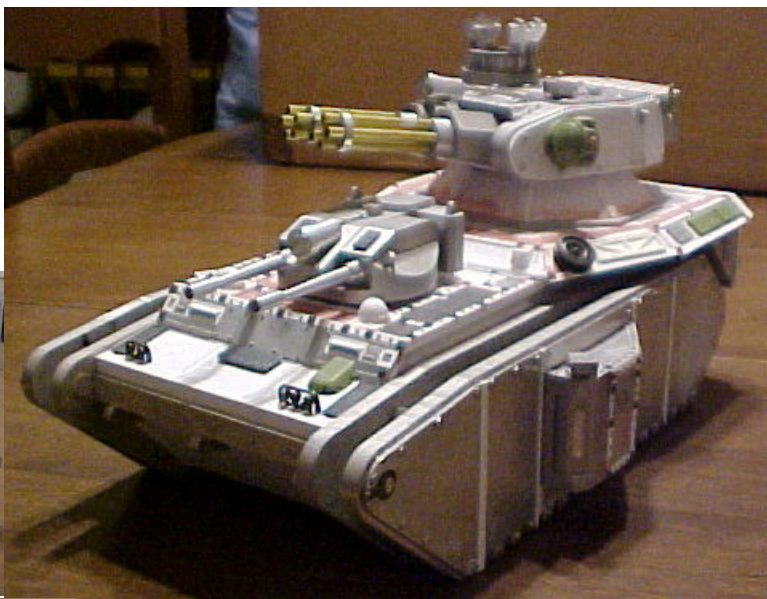
#### May Meeting

1/35 scale M4A3 by Joe Denza

1/72 scale Opel Blitz ambulance by Matt Toms

1/35 Scale Jagdpanzer 38 by Matt Toms

1/35 scale Sci-Fi Tank machined by Mark Lundstrom



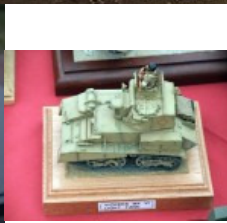
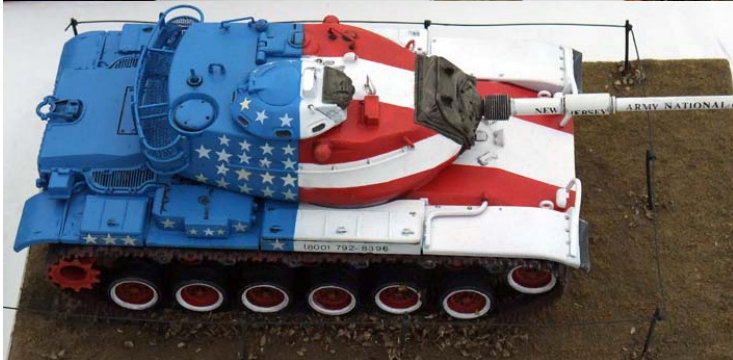




# MAFVA Nationals

## Duxford 2009

By Keith Forsyth





# Clervaux Castle

by Claude Joachim

A detailed model of Clervaux Castle. The main building is a long, two-story structure with a grey roof and white walls, showing signs of age and wear. It has several windows and a central entrance. To the right is a large, cylindrical stone tower with a conical roof. On the left, a cross-section view reveals the interior, showing a large hall with a wooden floor, a staircase, and various pieces of furniture and decorations. A small, dark-colored car is parked in front of the main building. The entire model is set against a plain white background.

Claude Joachim, an immensely talented modeller, hails from the beautiful principality of Luxembourg. Although Luxembourg was a small country without aspirations for world domination, its position in the centre of the Ardennes meant it would not escape the ravages of the Second World War. Whilst the German invasion of 1940 passed with little drama, the winter of '44/'45 would prove to be very different.

Claude has been inspired by the history of the small village of Clervaux, and its castle. He has recreated the castle as it was, when occupied by the advancing American Army, and not content with building the castle, and its interior, *entirely* from scratch, he is also building part of the village that surrounds it. The painstaking detail and effort that has gone into the castle, and the remainder of the village, can be followed in his various blogs in the forum.



### Introduction

I didn't invent anything here. I've just tried to reproduce some tools you find on the market and I've done it for less than 10 Euros (around \$13). All you will need I bought all I need in a supermarket, **image 1**.

The supplies are: 1 cutting board (25cm x 15cm), 1 metallic ruler, 1 sheet of transparent plastic, 1 piece of strip styrene Evergreen, Some screws (diam. 3mm)

#### I ) The folder for P.E.

I used my cutting board (**image 2**) as a base for all my "tools". I've cut my ruler down to adjust it to my board (14cm), **image 3**. My ruler is lightly round on its rear side so it will be easier to make it move and squeezing my P.E. I've drilled 2 holes to fit 2 screws with nuts to help grip the pieces to fold, **image 4**.

And here it is in **image 5** and in use in **image 6**.

#### II ) My "punch and die"

This tool makes an easy way to make some plastic disks of 1 , 1.5 , 2 , 2.5 mm in diameter.

From my transparent plastic sheet, **image 7**.....I cut 2 plaques (3 x 4 cm), **image 8**.

I draw holes, which need to be drilled. See **image 9**. I've used scotch tape to fix it during the drilling, **image 10**.

And here is my "punch and die" ready to be assembled, **image 11**. Insert the screws and one washer, **image 12**...

First plaque, **image 13**... One washer is used to help to hold the second plaque, **image 14**,

And the second plaque is held down by 4 wing nuts, **image 15**, I've identified the different diameters by colors and markings, **image 16**,

The different colors correspond to different size rivets, which I've cut at the end to 'square them up', **image 17**.

To use it: slide a piece of plastic card between the 2 plaques and tighten screws, **image 18**.....and cut it !

#### III ) The " handle folder"

To be able to fold copper wire or aluminum strip etc. to make grab handles I've built some calibers.

Using styrene strip (2.5 x 40) I've cut 2 pieces and glue them together, **image 20** and **21**.

My first part is for uneven calibers (1, 3, 5 and 7 mm) and the second part for even one (2, 4, 6 and 8 mm), **image 22**.

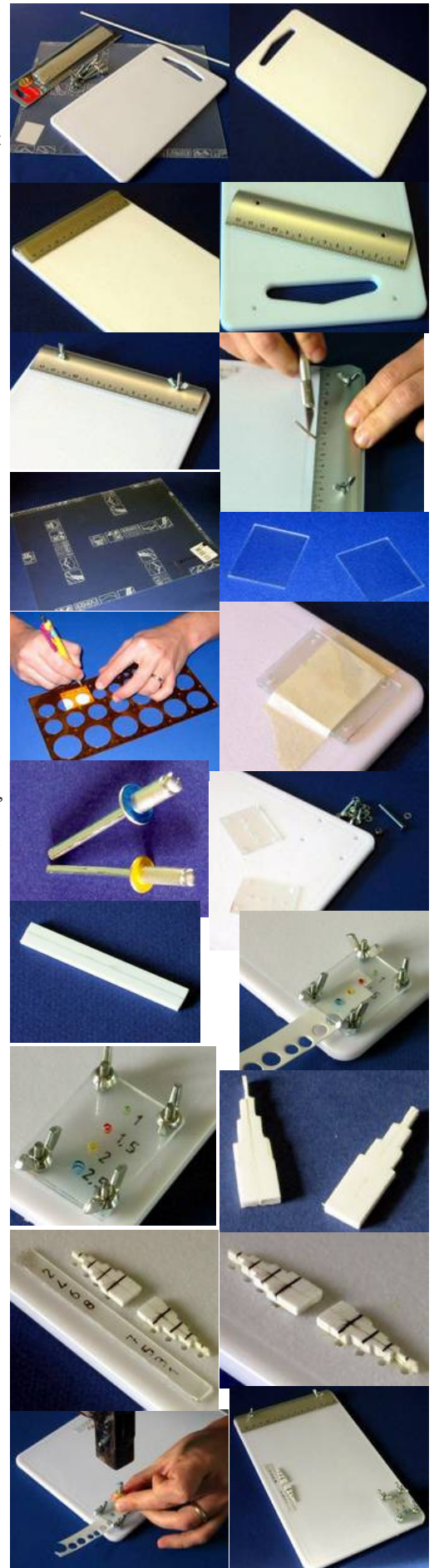
For each section there is a little hollow/hole to put the wire in during the folding, **image 23**.

The numbers on left side show the size of the handle

Very easy to do!

And here is my "folder board" which I hope will be useful for you.

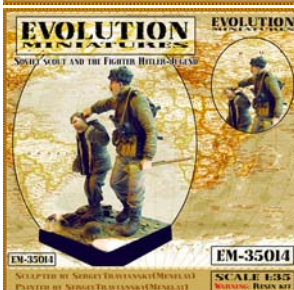
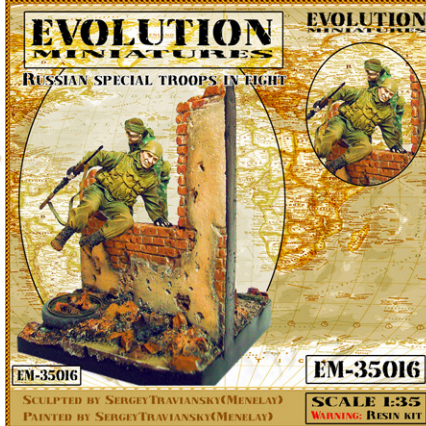
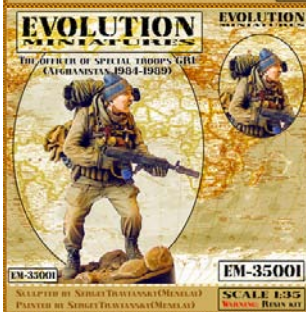
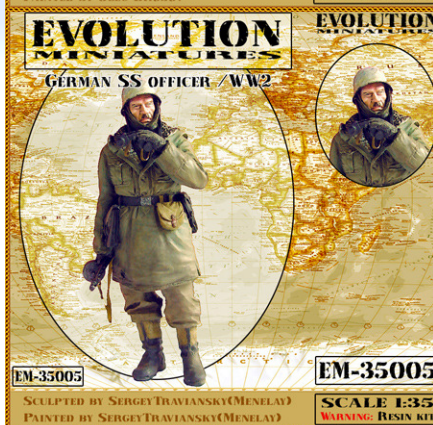
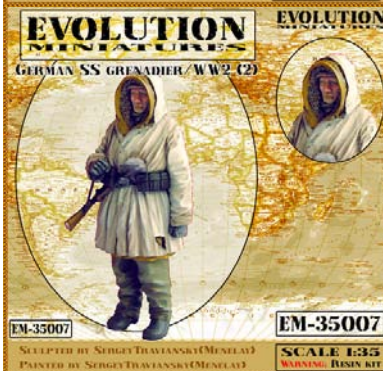
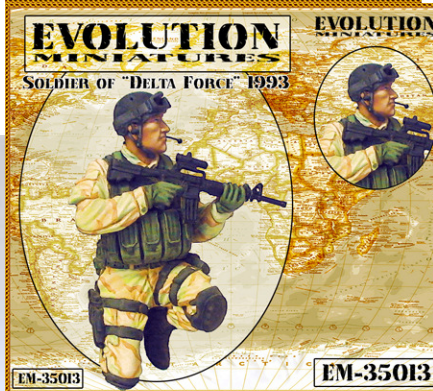
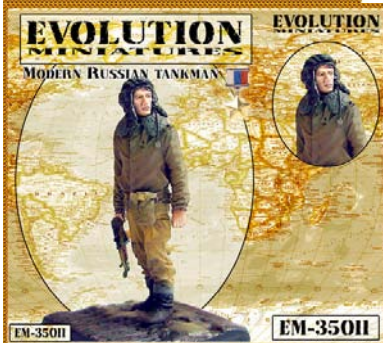
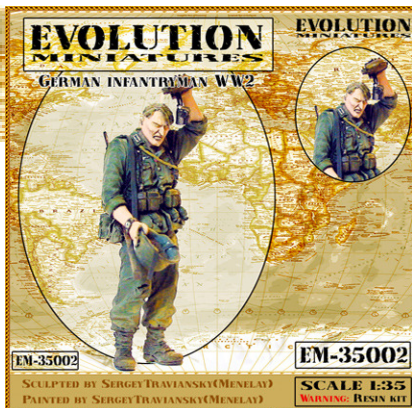
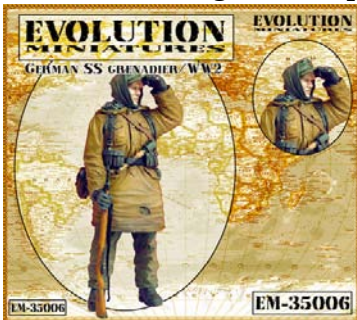
**Disclaimer: this "how to" article is for personal and recreational purpose only and the finished product is not for sale. It is not my intention to break any registered copyright**





# EVOLUTION MINIATURES

New Resin Figure company from Russia.





# 1/35TH SCALE FIGURES GENERAL ISSUE

## June/July Releases



**GI-019 US**  
Armored Infantry  
With Tankers  
Jacket



**GI-014**  
US MP ETO #2



**GI-017 Russian**  
General  
Great Patriotic  
War



**GI-018 US Jeep**  
Passenger (Winter Dress)



**GI-015 US Driver,**  
Winter Dress



**GI-001 US MP #1**  
1/35 scale figure,  
includes water  
canteen, and pistol pouch.



**GI-004 Russian Running With**  
Ammo Cans &



**GI-003 Russian Running**  
With Machinegun



**GI-016 German Grenadier**  
(Winter) #6 Tank Rider 2  
Comes w MP-40, Panzerfaust 60,  
ammo bags, canteen,  
gas canister, & helmet



**GI-010 Sd.Kfz 251C-D**  
Driver (Winter)  
Halftrack driver, figure  
comes with seat  
already molded in.



**GI-013 Russian In**  
Greatcoat #2 (Leaping  
From Tank)  
Includes extra magazine,  
PPSh Sub-Machine Gun,  
helmet, and canteen.



**GI-002**  
US Walking Wounded (3  
figures)  
1/35 scale highly detailed  
figure set

# Making your own “grab handles”

by: Mike High

This is a quick tutorial that shows my method for making my own grab handles for various armored vehicles. I've used this technique on various T-34's, a Russian T-72 M1, an Egyptian T-122 (T-34/122), a Polish armored car, a Russian T-28 Bridge-layer, and there will be several others in the future I'm sure.

This technique is not new; others in the modeling community have done the same thing. I'm merely putting this into a simple, easy to understand step-by-step form; text for the instructions along with pictures to emphasize the method. It's a “look and see,” money saving version of the method.

## Collecting the materials and tools

The materials and tools necessary are simple: a couple sets of pliers, various diameters of wire, micro-drill and bit set, tweezers, a ruler, and CA superglue (thin and gap-filling).

A note about the materials and tools: The CA is both super-thin and more importantly, gap-filling. Any set of tweezers will work as long as they will adequately hold the grab handles. The drill bits I use are the micros; sized from #61 to #80. The pliers are a set of dykes (to cut the wire) and a set of long, tooth-free, needle nose (but any pair of needle nose will work – those with teeth may “scar” the grab handles more than you'd desire). Regarding the ruler, one that has the smallest fractions (inches or millimeters) available is best.

Even if you are going to make many dozens of grab handles in a variety of sizes, this method is very cost effective. The alternative to using pliers is the Mission Models® (MM) GrabHandler™ (see picture). This tool, while handy, will set you back about \$70.00 (retail is \$69.99 in the MM web store...although you may be able to pick one up along the way for a bit less).

## Making the grab handles

Utilizing a base T-34/85 turret that requires only two grab handles (the hull requires nine grab handles), this method is quick and simple. One merely needs to take the kit's grab handle and lay it down against the ruler to get the **width**. In this example, the width is approximately 14mm...the “leg” length is immaterial if you are able to drill **through** the turret. If the grab handle is to go into a solid part (much like the solid resin T-122 turret), you'll cut the “leg” length approximately 1/4th of an inch or 5mm. In this case, with the T-34/85 turret being hollow, the leg length matters little. For the hull, there were two areas that you would have to drill through two parts (the upper hull and a part of the lower hull):

The next step is to take the kit grab handle and match its thickness to the wire you have that is closest in diameter (realize that most kit grab handles are overly thick): At this point, I take my needle nose and bend the first leg at about a ¼ of an inch long. Note that I also “over bend” the leg. This process gives the width-to-leg a sharper angle. I then re-bend it to a 90 degree angle:

Next, I lay the new handle up against the kit handle; place the pliers next to the second bend point, and bend the second leg (again over bending then straightening it out):

The legs can now be trimmed down and made even. Again, length is immaterial. Ideally, the legs will be about a ¼ inch long. This provides you plenty of length to slide into the upcoming holes. Basically, this gives you some maneuvering room and allows for proper spacing between the top of the handle and the turret (or hull):

A key advantage to using wire versus the kit parts is that there are NO seams to shave and NO sprue points to trim. Not to mention, in the long run, they'll look much better.

Once the grab handle is made, the next step is to match the wire diameter to a micro-drill bit (any spool of wire I use for modeling has been labeled with the correct bit size – just a time saver). In this example, the #67 bit is ideal; it's moderately loose which will allow “room” for the gap-filling CA glue to flow and ultimately create the “weld bead” at the legs' bases:

An additional note about the drill bit: it's helpful to put most of the shank of the bit into the driver. This greatly reduces the “flex” of the bit. If the bit were to show all of the cutting edge, the possibility of the bit flexing and breaking while drilling is greatly increased. The bits are generally not hard to find, but they can be expensive for something so small.

For this demonstration, I'm using the kit's plastic, hollow turret. The process is the same for a solid resin turret with the exception that you'd drill the holes slightly deeper than the portion of the “leg” that would be in the turret:

Once the location of the grab handle's legs have been determined (usually some form of marking/indentation on the vehicle), drill completely through the turret shell. The same is done for grab handles that will be used on any vehicle for doors, engine decks, hulls, et cetera. After the holes for the legs are drilled, you need to test fit the grab handle to ensure that the width of the handle is correct. In this case, I drilled the holes as close to center of the marks as I was able to. Another option is to lay the wire grab handle on the part and mark the width with a pencil. Once the test fit is accomplished, now is the time to straighten out and bends in the wire that may appear to be “too stark/dramatic.” Unless the vehicle is “factory fresh,” I'm confident that the vehicle's grab handles, and any other thin metal protrusions, on armored vehicles will show some wear and tear and dings and dents/bends.



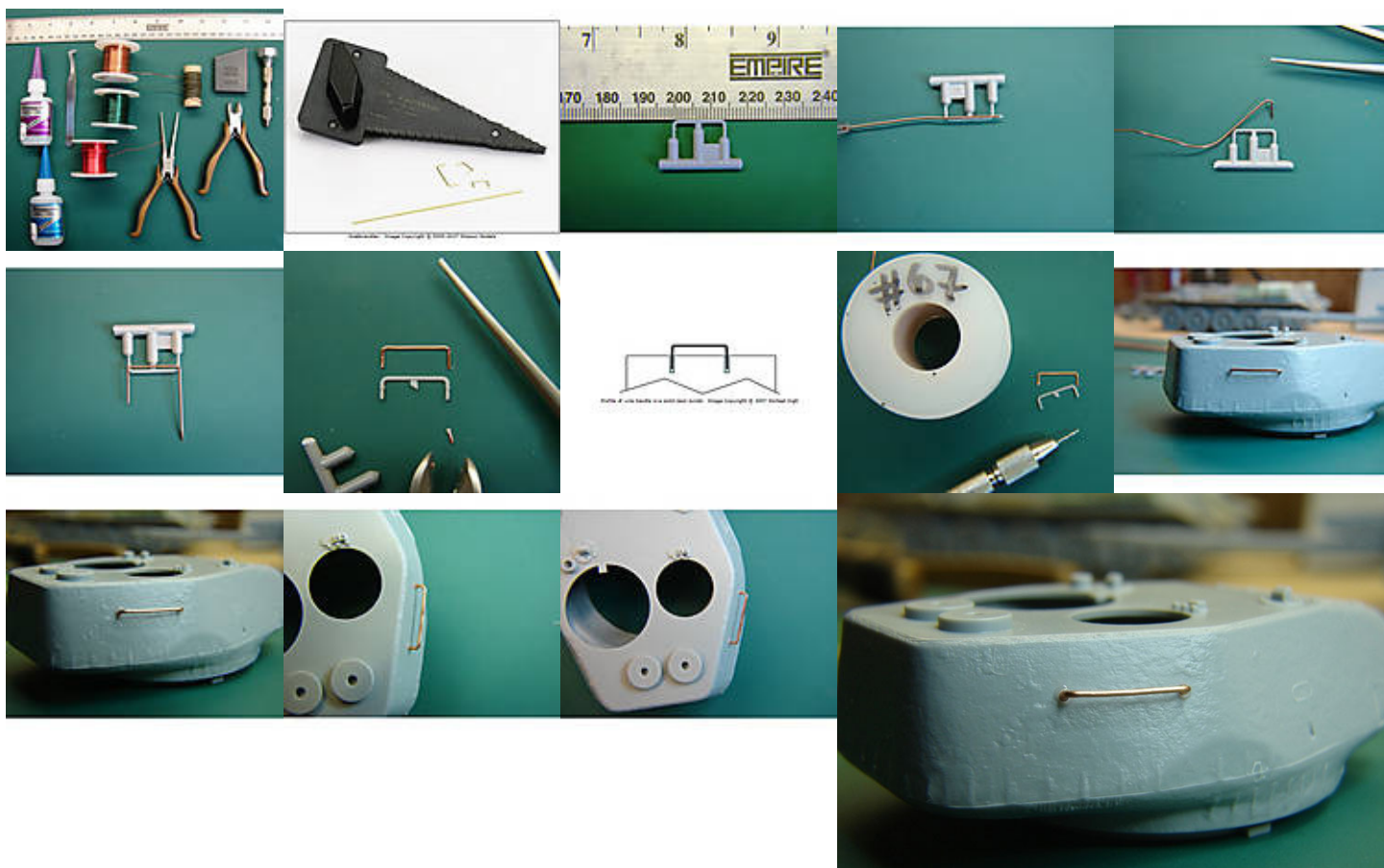
With the test fitting complete, now is the time for the CA glue. I start with the slow curing gap-filling variety (allows some time for placement and its thicker which is ideal for creating the “weld bead”). I’ll place a small dab of the CA on (not in!) each hole. I also exclusively use a length of wire as the glue’s “stylus,” this allows a much better precision application of the glue...put it where it needs to be, not all over everywhere!

Once the dabs of glue are in place it’s time for the slightly tricky part of this method. Insert the grab handle legs into the holes (through the glue) to a depth **slightly** deeper than desired. Then, carefully and evenly pull the grab handle back out to the **proper** depth. “Reverse capillary” action will draw some of the glue back out of the hole, creating what can be best described (in these small scales) as a weld bead; a ridge of CA glue that surrounds the legs – thicker against the turret/hull and thinner as it goes up the leg.

If you’ll notice, the glue on the left “leg” is rather thick and spreads a bit further out from the “leg” than desired. The quick and immediate solution is to dab that glue with a piece of tissue...again, capillary action will draw some of it off giving a much nicer “weld bead.” Pretty much the same for the right “leg” too. If by chance you don’t notice the excess glue, before it sets, you can take the edge of a sharp #11 blade and scrape the glue down some to create the more realistic weld bead.

One additional thing I do, due mostly to somewhat consistent handling of the model after the grab handles are installed, is to take the thin, quick setting CA glue and apply some to the inside where the “legs” come through the turret/hull. This will further reinforce the grab handles. Once the CA glue has fully cured, it is safe to do further tweaking of any bends in the handles.

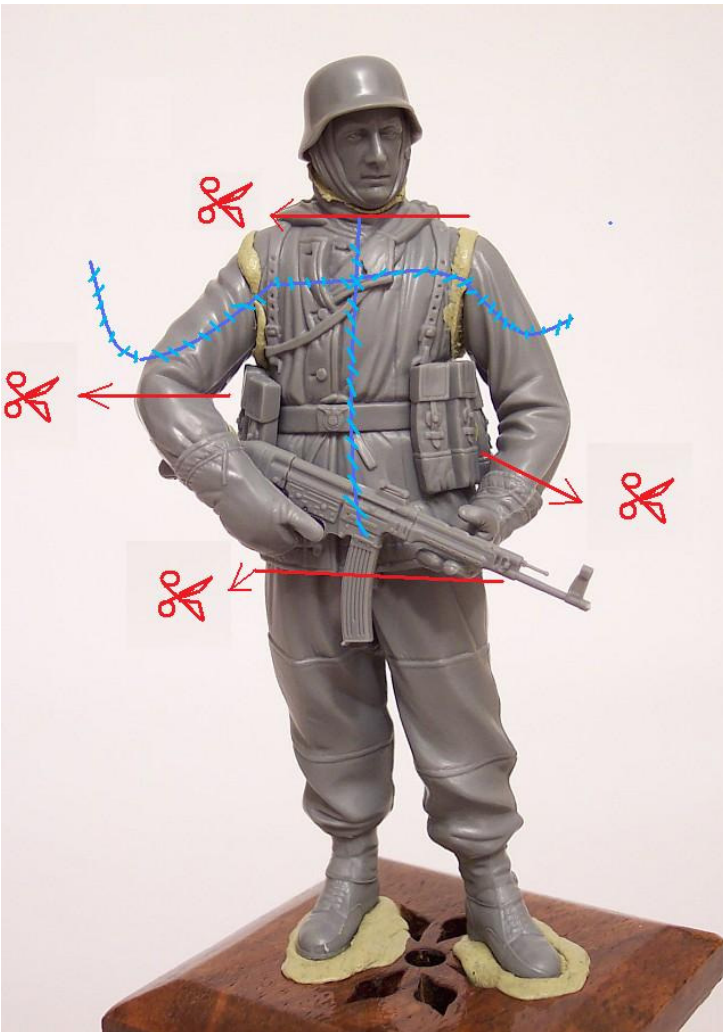
I’ve used this simple, inexpensive technique on a variety of armored fighting vehicles; from little handles (3/16 inch x 1/8 inch) on a 1/35th scale armored car to larger grab handles on an Egyptian T-122 or Russian T-34/85, including solid-cast resin turrets and hollow plastic turrets and hulls. I’ve also used this technique, using thicker wire (solder) on a 1/16th scale JagdPanther. I personally do not see the need to spend additional funds on a “tool” that’ll do the same as a pair of pliers with a little bit more diligence



# Elite Infantryman Kharkov 1943(first sculpt )

**Paul Toma:** Bucuresti, Romania

Before



After



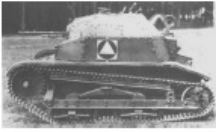


# AMPS EAST 2009

**10th ANNUAL ARMOR MODELING EXTRAVAGANZA!!!**  
**THE LARGEST ARMOR MODELING SHOW IN THE NORTHEAST!!!**

## Show Theme

**"1939: The Dawn of War"**  
 (Any AFV in Service During 1939)



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**

## DANBURY PLAZA HOTEL

18 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, CT  
 1-84 exit 2A westbound, exit 2 eastbound  
[www.danburyplaza.com](http://www.danburyplaza.com)



**AMPS EAST Discount Rooms Available!!!**

Just call (203) 794-0600 by August 26, 2009.  
 Inform the desk that you're with AMPS EAST.  
 Rooms are only \$99.00 per night!!!

**80 VENDOR TABLES!!!**  
**HUGE RAFFLE WITH HUNDREDS OF PRIZES!!!**  
**RESEARCH & MODELING SEMINARS!!!**  
**SPECIAL FREE JUNIORS MAKE-N-TAKE!!!**



*Sponsored By:*  
 The Armor Modeling and  
 Preservation Society  
 Connecticut Chapter  
 "AMPSCT"

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ampsct>

**For More Information**  
**About the Contest or**  
**Exhibition Contact:**

Bill Schmidt  
 24 Hotchkiss Terrace  
 Amenia, CT 06001  
 (203) 755-0014  
[bills@ampsct.org](mailto:bills@ampsct.org)

John Gazola  
 188 Laurel Point Road  
 Dayville, CT 06241-1522  
 (860) 417-4143  
[johng@ampsct.org](mailto:johng@ampsct.org)

**For Vendor**  
**Reservations**  
**Contact:**

Matt Toms  
 68 Morris Street  
 Naugatuck, CT 06770  
 (203) 437-2290  
[matt@ampsct.org](mailto:matt@ampsct.org)

For Complete, Up-To-Date Information on AMPS EAST 2009, Go To:

**<http://www.ampseast.org>**

MACKAY  
 JIMMY LEO SPENCER



STRANGE MATTER  
 by nick d. kim  
[strange-matter.com](http://strange-matter.com)

