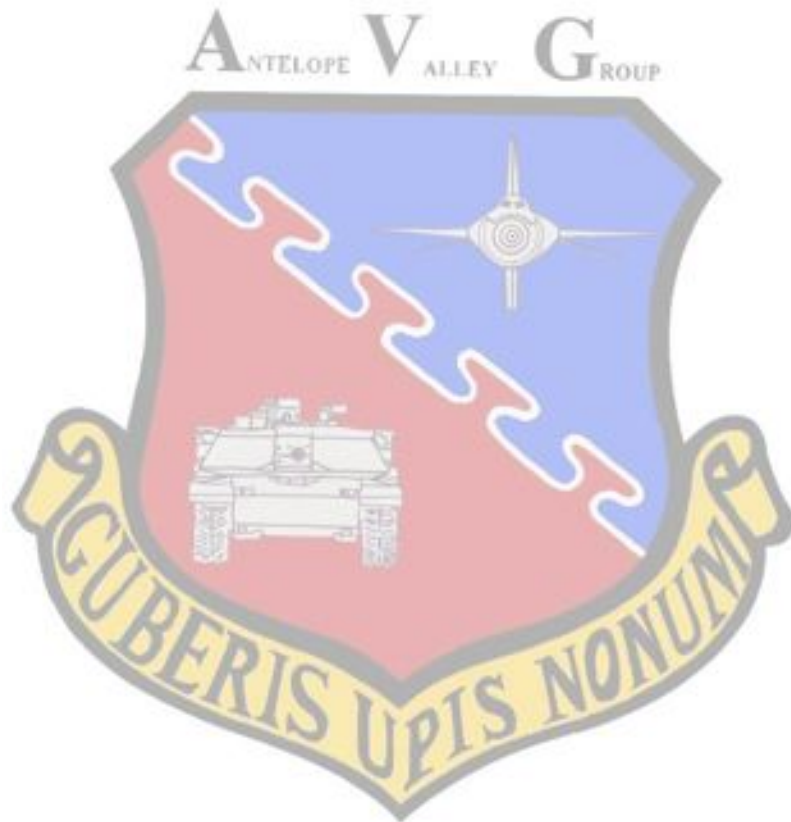


# The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS  
**Volume 24, Number 6**



**[www.avg-ipms.org](http://www.avg-ipms.org)**  
**[avg\\_ipms@yahoo.com](mailto:avg_ipms@yahoo.com)**

## 2019 Club Officers

President

Steve Spandorf

[sfrodnaps@msn.com](mailto:sfrodnaps@msn.com)

Vice President

Jim Abercromby

[jaber\\_23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jaber_23@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer

Niilo Lund

[niiloj7@verizon.net](mailto:niiloj7@verizon.net)

Secretary

Matt Graham

[mgraham4@bak.rr.com](mailto:mgraham4@bak.rr.com)

## **Club News and Business**

**NEXT MEETING JUNE 15 2019, 1:00 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY**

### May General Meeting Notes:

April's meeting was primarily devoted to the club swap meet and demos from club members.

### In-House Contest

Reminder that our next in-house contest is this month! Subject is "Jurassic Plastic" (any pre-1970 kit). A twist this time is that instead of the previous Out-Of-The-Box rules, any modifications and improvements are allowed.

### 2019 Desert Classic

Not much contest news this month. Jim suggested holding a Judge's Clinic prior to the contest if the membership desires.

### Club Shirts

The club voted on the color for new club shirts. And the winner is – dark blue.

## 2019 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
19 Jan	Member Dues Collected	Steve/Matt		
16 Feb		Bill K./Jay	"Things Under Wings – Rant & Rave" - Henry	
16 Mar	In-House Contest "Marine!"	Rich/Mike W.		
20 Apr		Rick/Mike O.	Steve – Bare Metal Finish	
18 May	Club Kit Swap Meet	Dwight/Stephen	Rich – Static Grass (tentative) Tom – Making Antennas (tentative)	
15 June	In-House Contest "Jurassic Plastic"	Niilo/Joe		
20 July		Mark		
17 Aug				
21 Sept	In-House Contest "Out of Your Category"			
19 Oct				
26 Oct	2019 Desert Classic			
16 Nov	2020 Club Officer Nominations			
21 Dec	Christmas Potluck Gift Exchange 2020 Officer Elections In-House Contest "Red"	Everyone!		

## The Tool Crib

Stephen brought a very useful tool for repairing bent or damaged airbrush needles.



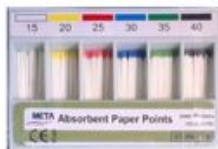
Called the Sharpen Air, the device has 4 needle channels molded into it, with a sharpening stone at the end of each channel. Starting with the first channel, the needle is inserted so that it touches the stone at the end and is then rotated in the channel. The first step straightens the tip and removes burrs. The three remaining steps smooth and polish the needle tip. Cost is around \$45, which, considering the cost of new needles, is a good deal. The Sharpen Air is available from a number of online retailers or directly from their website, [sharpenair.com](http://sharpenair.com).

“Toolman” Rich brought in a selection of cool stuff:

### TOOL: Dental Paper Points

#### SOURCE: Amazon

Ever had a root canal? Then you're familiar with these little paper points. Very useful for wicking away moisture, excess pin wash and liquid cements in tight places. Also useful for getting into the tips of airbrushes for cleaning.



ck image to open expanded view

### Dental Endo Endodontic Absorbent Paper Points META Size 15-40 Color Coded

Be the first to review this item

Price: **\$11.75 & FREE Shipping**

**New (5) from \$11.75 & FREE shipping.**

#### Specifications for this item

Part Number	PPMETA1540
Number of Items	1
Brand Name	meta labwear
EAN	0708630460293
Material Composition	Paper
UNSPSC Code	41000000

**TOOL: Yakamoz Mini Hand Drill Battery Powered Rechargeable Cordless Micro Electric Rotary Drill with 2pcs Batteries & 15pcs Drill Bits | Battery Charger Included**

**SOURCE: Amazon**

For times when handling a Dremel is too cumbersome this is a handy alternative for drilling and light grinding. Comes with a standard chuck, drill bits, two rechargeable batteries and a compact wall charger. Will fit Dremel stones/tools with a small diameter shank.

Price: \$19.99 *Free Shipping for Prime Members*

- Small volume, light weight, easily carry, comfort grip handle, offers better control while drilling.
- This is a smart and useful hand tool for working on PCB circuit plate board, thin metal, thin aluminum.
- Mini portable size, aluminum alloy shell, appearance sand blasting, long life use.
- Perfect electric grinder for cutting, engraving, milling, grinding, polishing, removing and drilling.
- Ideal for drilling holes in wood, plastic, paper, acrylic, etc. (It cannot accept high hardness materials such as steel, thick metal sheet, hard wood or similar materials)



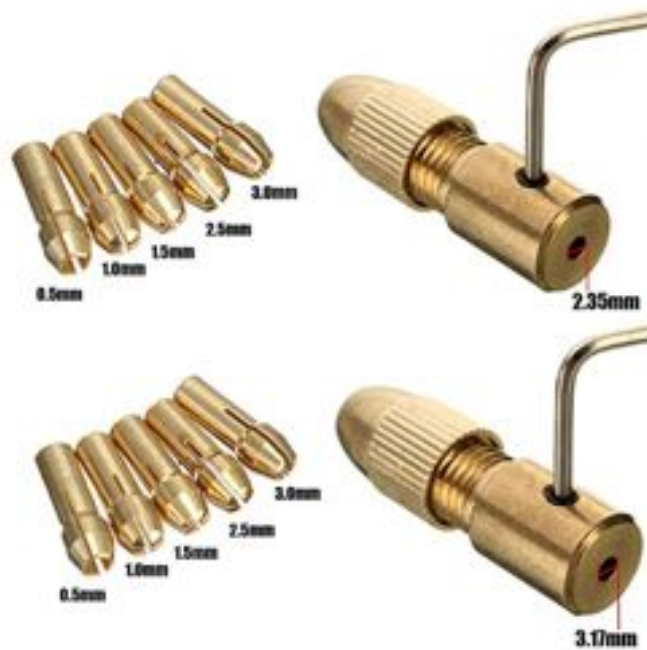
**TOOL: Yakamoz 14pcs 0.5-3mm Small Electric Drill Bit Collet Micro Twist Drill Chuck Set with Allen wrench**

**SOURCE: Amazon**

Chuck and collet set for the Yakamoz Mini Battery-Operated Rechargeable Drill.

Price: \$8.99 *FREE One-Day*

- 0.5-3.0 MM Professional Small Drill Bit Collet Micro Twist Drill Chuck Set
- Copper miniature drill chuck, and drill mix to form a hand drill
- Ideal for combined use with a hand drill or electric drill, to drill ABS, wood board, press paper, etc.
- Material: Brass



**TOOL: TruePower 70-7006 Grass Applicator Tool**  
**SOURCE: Amazon**

The circuit inside the handle takes low voltage at low amps and sends out high voltage at almost no amps resulting in a strong static field for applying various materials more efficiently. The applicator is designed to create a static field 3" to 10" from the target surface. It is easy to operate and lightweight.



Price: \$39.81 *FREE One-Day*

- For flock, scenic grass and felt
- Total length: 330mm,
- 30, 000V high voltage (do not touch while connected)
- 3 sizes of mesh to choose from: 5, 10, 18
- Automotive, motorcycle, woodworking, decoys, and fishing Rods

**TOOL: CFA5 6X 35g Mixed 2mm Static Grass**

**SOURCE: Amazon**

An assortment of 2 mm mixed color static grass compatible with the TruePower 70-7006 Grass Applicator Tool.



Nylon static grass.

Color: yellow green, dark green, grass green, green, white, dry grass.

Material: Nylon.

Grass length:2mm

Package included:

35g green grass.

35g yellow green grass.

35g grass green grass.

35g white grass.

35g dry grass.

35g Dark green grass.

Price: \$25.99 *Free Shipping for Prime Members*



**TOOL: Gorilla Clear Glue**

**SOURCE: Amazon, Home Depot, Lowes, most department & hardware stores**

This glue dries crystal clear, does not shrink and is very strong. Aside from the obvious use of gluing materials together it makes an excellent medium for making small windows and lenses. Great for attaching clear parts such as windscreens and canopies as it offers lots of time for final positioning and adjustment of parts. Equally useful for attaching photo etched parts.



Usually priced under \$6.00

## Club Demos

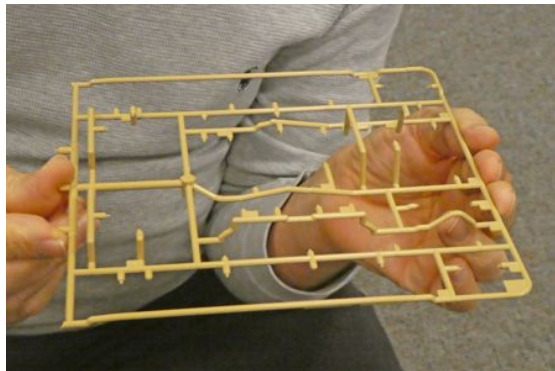
We had two demos this meeting!

Tom showed us how to create realistic antennas from stretched sprue.

Tom starts by making the antenna base by cutting a piece of sprue. He then files the end of the sprue level with a file. Then to make the hole to mount the antenna, he first makes an indentation in the end of the sprue with a needle.



Using this indentation as a starter, he then drills a mounting hole with a small bit.



Selecting a section of sprue (Tom recommends a long section), he heats the sprue until it softens. He suggests a gas stove a heat source (when the wife is not home!). He then pulls the sprue apart, creating a filament.



The speed which you pull the sprue determines the thickness of the filament – the faster you pull, the thinner the filament. However, if you pull too fast, you can break the filament.



Tom then uses a sharp X-acto blade to trim the filament against a hard surface to the desired length of the antenna.



He then uses adhesive to attach the antenna to the base. You can use different colored sprue for antennas, or paint to the desired color. As the antennas are rather fragile, Tom recommends they be the last things you attach to your model.

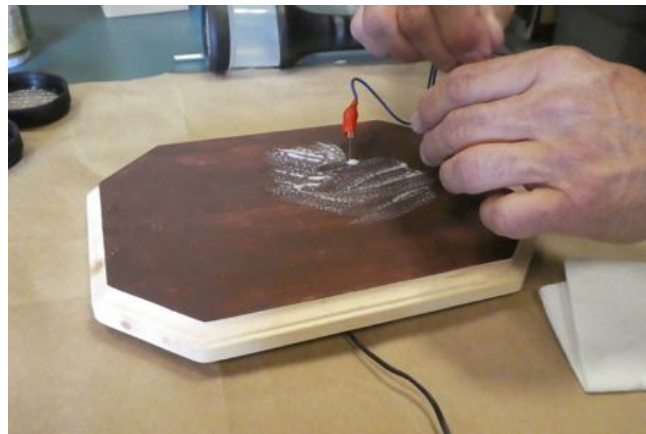
Rich gave a demonstration of the technique to apply static grass, like he used on the base of his fabulous Northrop Alpha build.

Static grass is small nylon fibers that are charged in a static electric field to cause them to stand up straight, instead of lying flat, making for a more realistic appearance.

The technique uses a high voltage, low current applicator (see this months Tool Crib) to apply a charge to the nylon fibers, which are then attracted to the oppositely charged base.



Rich applies water-based white glue to the base. The base has a nail inserted into it, which is attached to a lead on the applicator. This applies a charge to the conductive glue.

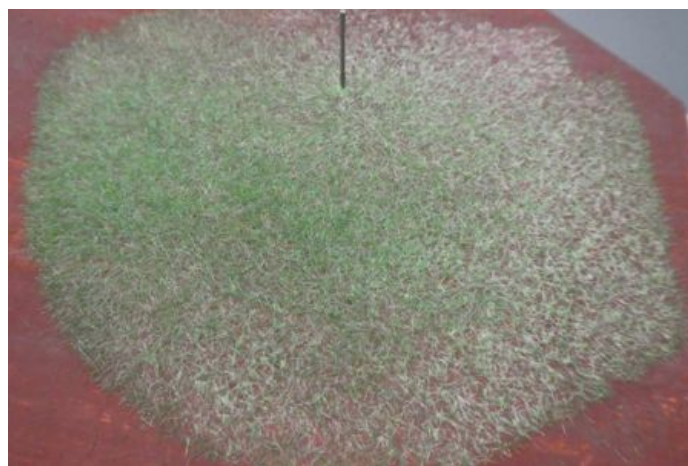
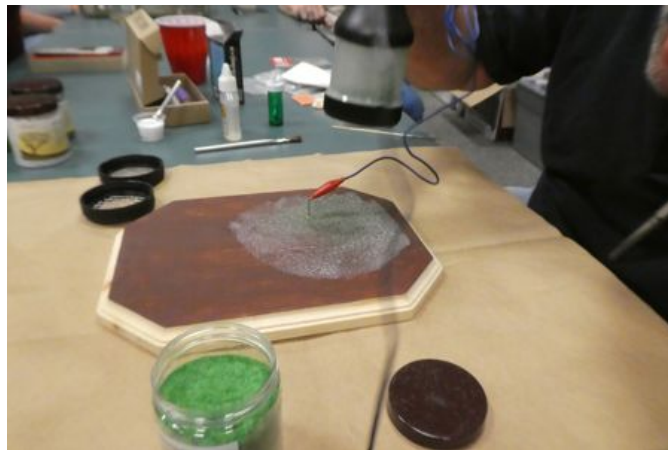


The applicator had a chamber that the grass is poured into. The end of the chamber has a charged grid. The grids are changeable and have different size holes.



Once the applicator is loaded with grass and connected to the base, power is applied to the applicator.

Rich then shakes the actuator over the glue on the base. As the grass fibers pass through the applicator grid, they acquire a slight charge. As this charge is opposite to that of the base, they are repelled and stand up straight instead of lying flat. This gives a very realistic effect.



The grass fibers are available in a number of colors, from bright green fresh grass to brown dead grass (see the "Tool Crib").

## Member Show and Tell



Name:

Rich Ribado

Time To Build:

Appx 40 hours

Kit & Scale:

Dekno Northrop Alpha 4 (&4A) (All Resin)

1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale

Aftermarket Items:

Scratch built cockpit parts

Paints Used:

Floquill Brite Silver with mixed shades of Alclad and Model Master Metalizer.

Comments:

Wikipedia tells us...

*"The Northrop Alpha was an American single-engine, all-metal, seven-seat, low-wing monoplane fast mail/passenger transport aircraft used in the 1930s. Design work was done at the Avion Corporation, which in 1929,*



became the Northrop Aircraft Corporation based in Burbank, California. Drawing on his experience with the Lockheed Vega, John K. Northrop designed an advanced mail/passenger transport aircraft. In addition to all-metal construction, the new Alpha benefitted from two revolutionary aerodynamic advancements: wing fillets researched at the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, and a multicellular stressed-skin wing of Northrop's own design which was later successfully used on the Douglas DC-2 and Douglas DC-3. In addition, the Alpha was the first commercial aircraft to use rubber deicer boots on wing and empennage leading edges which, in conjunction with state-of-the-art radio navigation equipment, gave it day or night, all-weather capability. The aircraft first flew in 1930, with a total of 17 built. The Alpha was further developed into a dedicated fast transport, the Northrop Gamma."

The Alpha entered service with Transcontinental & Western Air (TWA) making its inaugural flight on April 20, 1931. The trip from San Francisco to New York required 13 stops and took just over 23 hours. TWA operated 14 aircraft until 1935, flying routes with stops in San Francisco, California; Winslow, Arizona; Albuquerque, New





*Mexico; Amarillo, Texas; Wichita, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; Terre Haute, Indiana; Indianapolis, Indiana; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York. Three Alphas were operated by the US military as C-19 VIP transports until 1939. TWA's were initially operated as a passenger service, but the Alpha's were later modified at the Stearman factory in Wichita into the cargo-carrying 4A model with a new type certificate. Stearman and Northrop had the same parent company at the time.*

*The third Alpha built, NC11Y, was reacquired by TWA in 1975, and is preserved at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum."*

The Dekno Northrop Alpha is an all resin kit molded in an unusual blue color. While the resin is easy to work with all the parts required substantial cleanup. There are no locator pins. The fit was very challenging but not impossible, however that goes along with the territory on a limited interest subject.

Assembly instructions are an exploded view of the parts with detailed scrap views that show the differences between an Alpha 4 and an Alpha "4A". I chose the Alpha 4 version as I wanted to use the decals with the very colorful livery showing an Indian



Chief's head.

The worst area to deal with is the underside of the fuselage where the trailing edge of the wing mates. Its not even close and requires filling in large voids with sections of sheet styrene and super glue gel, followed by repeated steps of sanding, polishing and re-scribing lost panel lines.

The windscreen is a vacuum formed part which, if cut carefully from the surrounding sheet fits well on the finished model. Oddly, that's the only part that fit well in this kit. Care needs to be taken in painting the windscreen frames as they are not molded or scribed on the windscreen.

The wheels, tires, and landing gear fairings are molded as a single piece. Here again care and constant fitting are required when mounting them to the underside of the wing. The one-piece landing gear assembly makes painting the tire and wheel a time-consuming process.

The decals are very colorful and well printed. I had no trouble getting them to adhere and behaved well using a setting solution made from a 50/50 mix of distilled water and Future floor polish.

I wanted to recreate a scene from one of the photos below where an Alpha is being loaded with baggage and crates on the ramp. Full Circle Hobbies makes a set of resin suitcases and

wicker baskets in 1/72, and Blackdog models makes a set of wooden crates of various sizes. These are no doubt intended for armor dioramas but worked perfectly for my intentions. Brengun offers photo-etched baggage carts in 1/72 and the suitcases fit in them perfectly. The groundwork consisted of a concrete apron made from poster board and a small grass area where static grass was applied. The wooden base is a piece of pre-routed clear pine sold at Michaels craft stores.

Nothing is impossible on this kit (If I finished mine, so can you) but I cannot recommend it to modelers having no experience working with limited run resin kits. But if you want a Northrop Alpha (in any scale) this is your only choice, not counting the Dumas balsa & tissue flying model. It is an important aircraft from the golden age of aviation and the developing air passenger service era. But you're going to have to commit to lots of extra work and *earn* this one. Recommended for modelers with resin and scratch building experience.



Name:

Tom Hamel

Time To Build:

2 weeks

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya French B-1 Bis in German Service

1/35<sup>th</sup> scale

Aftermarket Items:

None. Substituted figure from one in kit

Paints Used:

Tamiya and Model Master

Comments:

Had hard time finding reference photos of captured French/German equipment



Name: David Newman
Time To Build: 6 months
Kit & Scale: Scratchbuilt Rumpler C.1 1/144 <sup>th</sup> scale
Aftermarket Items: Built from sheet plastic
Paints Used: Mr. Color Sail Color
Comments: Decals printed on Alps



Name: Jim Bunch
Time To Build: Many hours (150 hours)
Kit & Scale: AMT White Freightliner and AMT Flatbed Trailer  1/25 <sup>th</sup> scale
Aftermarket Items: Pado dinosaur cut and reconfigured to laying down. Tarps, lights and 3D-printed gun. Wood paper from Hobby Lobby
Paints Used: Tamiya paints Pastels
Comments: 3 <sup>rd</sup> place truck at Las Vegas IPMS



Name:

Jim Bunch

Time To Build:

3 weeks

Kit & Scale:

Galaxie 1947 Chevrolet

1/25<sup>th</sup> scale

Aftermarket Items:

Medical tape from drug store used in interior

Paints Used:

Tamiya paints  
Pastels (chassis/motor)

Comments:

Great kit that fits!



Name:

Stephen Lucy

Time To Build:

40 hours

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya F-16C Block 30

1/48<sup>th</sup> scale

Aftermarket Items:

Eduard cockpit Zoom  
Sierra Hotel resin seat

Paints Used:

Model Master

Comments:

Awesome kit! A lot of fun to build



## Calendar

7/14/2019	Kit Collector's Expo and Sale	Garden Grove Community Center 11300 Stanford Ave. Garden Grove, CA
8/7-10/2019	IPMS USA Nationals	Chattanooga Convention Center Chattanooga, TN
9/7/2019	IPMS Reno 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contest	Desert Heights Elementary School 13948 Mt Bismark, Reno, NV
9/7/2019	REDCON 2018	Orleans Hotel and Casino 4500 W. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV
10/12/2019	Orangecon 2019	Hotel Fullerton Anaheim 1500 South Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA
.10/26/2019	Desert Classic XXIII	Antelope Valley College Cafeteria 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA
11/2/2019	Third Annual USS Hornet Model Contest and Expo	USS Hornet Air Sea and Space Museum 7007 W. Hornet Ave. Alameda, CA
11/17/2019	Kit Collector's Expo and Sale	Garden Grove Community Center 11300 Stanford Ave. Garden Grove, CA