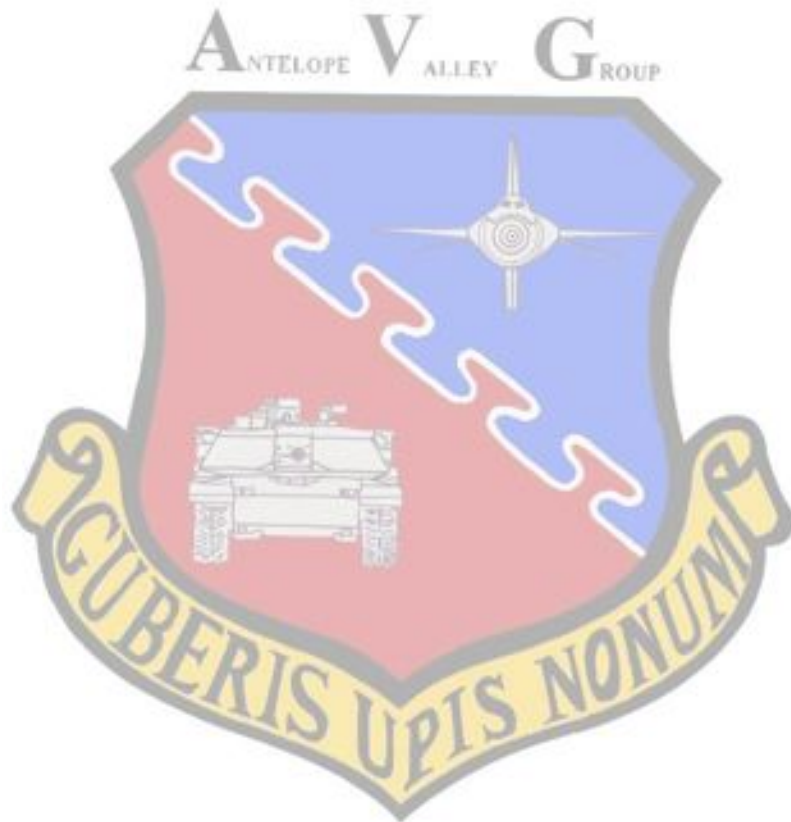


The Smoking Hole

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Club News and Business

NEXT MEETING JULY 21 2018, 1:00 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY

June General Meeting Notes:

Main topics of discussion were some general updates from IPMS and our first “Back to Basics” demo.

2018 Desert Classic

No significant contest business last month. Contest assignments we begin at the August meeting. If you plan on sponsoring a category, Niilo will need to know which category(s) and receive payment by the August meeting. This is to allow for the trophy-engraving schedule. Cost to sponsor is still \$45/category.

New Regional Coordinator

IPMS Region 8 has a new Regional Coordinator. As mentioned previously, Jim Woody retired due to illness. The new Coordinator is Joe Porche. Prez Tracy had the opportunity to meet and talk with Joe at the San Diego show and was favorably impressed. Joe seems quite committed to the job and vowed to help do a better job de-conflicting the contests within the Region.

We are Region 8 “Chapter of the Year”!

Joe informed Tracy that the AVG was selected as Region 8 Chapter of the Year. This is the second time we have won this award and it is quite an honor for a small chapter such as ours. Congrats to all the members for making our Chapter such a great group!

...and Region 8 “Newsletter of the Year”

Okay, this is kind of humbling. Considering the quality of many of the newsletters in the Region, I think I do a mediocre-to-fair job with the newsletter. I try to do my best, but sometimes I just don't seem to have enough time to really devote to it.

We have been using this newsletter format for some time. Some of it works very well, some not so well. As my time permits, I am going to experiment with some format changes. Let me know what you think.

The Nats

The IPMS Nationals are 2 short weeks away. This may be the last Nats we see in the West for quite some time. I know a number of club members are planning to attend, so here's hoping for big AVG representation. Tracy had some announcements from IPMS. One, Phoenix is looking for volunteers to help out. They are looking help in registration, room setup and many other areas. If you have the spare time, you might consider donating a little of it to help make the Nats a success. I noted on the IPMS forum that they are looking for photographers, and got only one volunteer, so I may consider photographing some categories. If you plan to volunteer, let Tracy know.

Phoenix is also looking for category sponsors. The club voted to sponsor a category. Our name will go on the trophy, so it's a good way for us to get some visibility.

In-House Contest

Don't forget we will be having an in-house contest next month. Subject is "Jurassic Plastic". Any pre-1970 kit, built OOB. I know this is pretty soon after the Nats, but here's an opportunity to have something ready for the "Jurassic Plastic" category in the fall contest.

2018 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
20 Jan	Member Dues Collected	Jay/Jim		
17 Feb		Tracy/?		
17 Mar	Club Build Meeting	Mike W./ open		
21 Apr	Club Swap Meet	Mike O./Dwight		
16 May		Rick/Bill P.		
17 June		Joe/Niilo	Seam filling - Matt	
21 July		Robby/Nick		
18 Aug	In House Contest – "Jurassic Plastic"			
15 Sept			Canopy polishing - Mike V.	
20 Oct	Club Swap Meet			
27 Oct	2018 Desert Classic			
17 Nov	2019 Club Officer Nominations			
15 Dec	Christmas Potluck Gift Exchange 2019 Officer Elections	Everyone!		

The Tool Crib

No new tools this month.

Club Demos

We've started a series of "Back to Basics" demos this year, highlighting basic modeling techniques. I volunteered to go first, demonstrating seam filling.

So, if you're going to demonstrate seam-filling techniques, you need some seams to fill. I selected a likely candidate from deep in the stash, a pre-historic, limited-run kit, the LTD 1/48th Lagg-3.



Despite pricing it as low as \$1, I've had no bites at various swap meets over the years, so it will honorably give its life for this demo.

Despite being a really old-school limited-run kit from the bad old days, the fit was surprisingly good in some areas (better than my HiPM Bv-141...). Drat. But in other areas, it did not disappoint.

Weapons of War

To fill seams, you naturally need a filler, right? After many years of trying different materials, these are my current go-tos. Your mileage may vary.

1. Cement. What, fill with glue? No, but the best filler is plastic from the kit itself. You need a relatively slow-acting solvent. My favorite is Tamiya Extra-Thin.



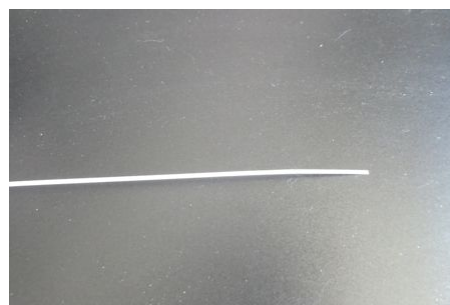
2. Super glue. Super glue makes a great filler. It's dries hard, doesn't shrink, feathers well and you can scribe it to restore lost detail. If you use accelerator to cure it, you can be ready to sand in seconds. You want to use one of the thicker, gap-filling glues. But the hardness of super glue does have one drawback – it gets harder the longer it cures. It will get harder than the surrounding plastic, which will cause problems when sanding the seam. You want to sand the glue within a ½ hour of application – an hour at most.



3. 3M Acryl White Putty. This is currently my favorite putty. Its polyester, so it doesn't shrink. This is the replacement for the famed Acryl Blue. It is very fine grained and dries fairly hard but is easy to sand. I like the more neutral color than Acryl Blue, which makes it easier to paint. It is relatively slow to cure, though. A thick application can take up to an hour to cure. You can get this at well-stocked auto body supply shops or from Amazon. An almost 1lb. tube like this costs around \$15 and will last you darn near forever.



4. Strip styrene or stretched sprue. Great for filling larger gaps, especially at wing roots. Since it's plastic, it will sand just like the kit plastic.



5. Mr. Dissolved Putty and Mr. Surfacer. These are the only solvent-based fillers I still use. In general, I don't like solvent-based putties (Tamiya, Green Stuff, Bondo red Glazing) because the

shrink, and tend to continue to do so over time. Nothing worse than having a seam reappear on your model months after completion because the putty shrunk. These 2 products from Gunze Sangyo do have their uses, however, for filling very small gaps, especially those that fall along panel lines. Mr. Dissolved Putty is exactly that, basically a white solvent putty (like Tamiya) with a lot of organic thinner in it so you can brush it on. It has a consistency similar to Cream of Wheat (yuck!). Mr. Surfacer is really just thick lacquer primer. It comes in several viscosities, 500 being the thickest, 1000 thinner, and 1500 the thinnest. It now comes in several colors. Tamiya also makes a similar product.



5. Microscale Krystal Klear. Basically really thick white glue. Originally for making window and such on airliner models, but useful as a filler between canopies and the fuselage.



6. Epoxy Putty. Some have suggested this for filling large gaps. While I use this for building up contours, I don't care for it as a filler. Have always had problems getting the fingerprints out of it (even using the wet finger technique), which makes more work getting a smooth finish. And I'm basically lazy... Also takes a long time to cure. If you want to use it, get the finest grain putty you can (it comes in various grades



7. 91% Isopropyl Alcohol. No, not a filler, but useful for a technique with Mr. Surfacer. 91% can be hard to find (blame the Meth cooks), but Wal-Mart has it. They had a big display right by the entrance when I went in there the other day (I think the greeter was sniffing it...)



8. Putty Spatula. You don't *need* one of these. You can make one from a piece of sheet plastic. I got this stainless steel one for about \$1.50 from Squadron, and I've seen them on sale at swap meets.



9. Multi-grit sanding sticks. These are my go-to now. Various grades on one stick from coarse all the way to something like 4000 grit. I like the ones from Sally Beauty Supply. Only a couple of bucks, and they are washable.



10. Flex-i-file. Rich the Toolman has shown this before, but there's nothing like it for sanding curved surfaces.



So, This All “Seams” Easy...

And it is! The best seam filling technique is “preparation”. If you take your time and prepare your kit properly, you won't have seams to fill! Make sure all your mating surfaces are true and test fit, test fit, test fit! Make adjustments as necessary until you get a tight fit.

If you've done your prep well and everything is tight, apply a liberal dose of liquid cement with a brush. Squeeze the parts tightly together, and you should get a bead of dissolved plastic displaced from the seam. When this dries hard, just sand the raised bead until its flush and no more seam!

But not every kit is Tamiya, and sometimes, despite our best prep efforts, we end up with gaps. This is where filler comes in. For small seams (especially along the top of the fuselage or wing leading edges, where shrinking filler may cause the filled seam to become visible later) I like to use super glue. I apply the glue with the tip of a toothpick or an application tool. You can make a neat application tool from a needle. Just cut the top of a needle off half way across the eye. The remaining fork make from the eye will pick up small amount of glue. After applying the glue, hit it with accelerator and immediately sand. I like this technique as it is very fast, and you don't risk the glue getting too hard. Super glue gets harder the longer it cures and will get harder than the plastic, so if you wait to long to sand, you'll get a raised bead of glue along your seam.

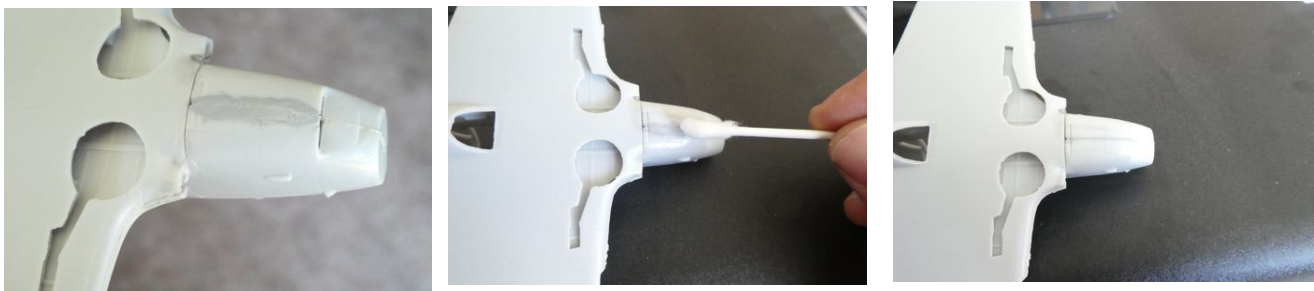
For larger gaps, super glue doesn't have enough surface tension to fill well, so this is where the other fillers come in. A lot of low-wing fighter kits end up with big gaps at the upper wing root, and the Lagg is on exception. I like to use plastic to fill these gaps. I select a piece of plastic strip about the thickness of the gap. I insert the plastic into the gap, trim and hit with liquid cement. Later, sand to a smooth surface.



The polyester putty can also be used for filling large gaps. The Lagg has a big gap at the top of the fin. Take some putty on your spatula and force it into the gap. Smooth the excess putty flush, and when set, sand smooth. The putty is also useful for steps, as it feathers smooth. The Lagg had a step where the bottom of the wing meets the fuselage. I built up a fillet with the polyester putty. It is best to do this in several layers, allowing each layer to cure. Then you can sand the putty to the required contour.



Mr. Dissolved Putty and Mr. Surfacer can be used for small seams, such as where cowling panels meet or stabilizers attach to the fuselage. Since both are solvent-based, they shrink like crazy, so I find them best on seams that fall on panel lines. Apply the filler liberally with a brush along the seam. You will likely need more than one application. Now comes a neat trick. While you can sand the dried filler, you can also remove excess filler with rubbing alcohol! You need 91% Isopropyl for this. Take a cotton bud and soak in the alcohol. Rub along the seam to remove the excess filler. If you are careful, the excess filler will be removed, leaving only the filler in the seam! Cool, huh? I've seen some of the British model magazines recommend a similar technique for filling small seams using typewriter correction fluid ("White-Out"), but in the computer age, White-Out seems to be getting harder to find.



Sanding techniques. As I mentioned, I like to use multi-grit sanding sticks. This lets you start with a relatively coarse grit to remove the bulk of the filler, then transition to finer grits to polish the surface. Be very careful using a flat stick on curved surfaces, like leading edges of wings, as it is easy to sand a flat in the surface. This is where the Flex-i-file comes in, as it is ideal for curved surfaces. The sanding tapes come in various grits, so you can start out with coarse grit and change tapes to smooth the surface.

That's it! Not all that hard, is it. Hopefully these basics will help you build better models!

Member Show and Tell



Name:

Joe Cote

Time To Build:

3 to 4 months, working on model after work. Decals were applied over 4 – 5 days

Kit & Scale:

Revell Jungle Jim Vega Funny Car
(original 1973 issue)

1/16th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Slixx decals

Paints Used:

Testors blue and gold. Black wash on engine

Comments:

When I received the model, it had original decals peeling off. I soaked the decals for 2 days and scrubbed them off. Sanded body and repainted.



Name:

Curtis Stidham

Time To Build:

?

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya M113

1/35th scale

Aftermarket Items:

.30 and .50 cal white metal guns. All other additions scratchbuilt, i.e.: storage racks, boxes, fuel tanks and external storage

Paints Used:

Polly S

Comments:

Built 30 years ago.



Name:

Tracy Akeret

Time To Build:

60 hours

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya P-51B Mustang

1/48th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Resin cockpit from Aires & Legend.
 Master Model metal machine guns.
 Resin wheels # exhausts from
 Ultracast.
 Cutting Edge decals for "Mr. Period".

Paints Used:

Mig Ammo RAF paints.
 Mig Ammo panel line wash &
 pigments

Comments:

357th Fighter Group "Yoxford Boys".
 Capt. Richard Smith pilot.

From the Oval Office – Notes from the Prez

This month marks the beginning of a new section, comments from Chapter President Tracy:

Greetings fellow modelers,

I asked Matt to put this article in this month's newsletter for me. I am going to try and get a short one for each month's newsletter for as long as you all "let" me be your president.

I hope this article finds each of you diligently working on your Jurassic Plastic entries for our in house contest next month. I am going to try and finish mine but it all depends on how I do with the last of my entries for the Nationals. I am working on yet another Bf-109 I hope to finish in time for the Nats but we shall see. I actually was very far along with it but when I was putting primer on it a couple weeks ago it slipped out of my hands and ended up in quite a few pieces on the garage floor. I had another Gustav in my stash (who would have thought that), so I saved some of the detail parts from the smashed one and have carried on. We shall see if it gets done.

Speaking of the Nats I have tried several times to get our sponsorship for a trophy package in but have been having issues with the website. I have reached out to them and they are supposed to be working on it. I will try again this week. I think it's important for us to support the chapter that is hosting the Nats as we did last year.

Our new Regional Coordinator is supposed to be at our August meeting so I'm hoping that we have quite a few entries for our in house contest so he can see what kind of excellent work our chapter is capable of doing, even with older kits. Remember that in order to qualify for the Jurassic Plastic your kit must be from molds older than 1970 I myself have a repop of an old Hawk kit that I am trying to finish.

Anyway I will end this for this month, I hope to see all of you at this month's meeting, as a reminder it's Saturday July 21st.

Tracy

Calendar

8/1-4/2018	IPMS/USA National Convention	Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. 3 rd St. Phoenix, AZ
8/5/2018	IPMS Fresno Contest and Show	Fresno City College (Cafeteria/Student Lounge) 1101 E. University Ave Fresno, CA
10/13/2017	OrangeCon	Pavilion at the University Conference Center, Cal State Fullerton 800 N. State College Blvd Fullerton, CA
10/27/2018	Desert Classic XXII	Antelope Valley College Cafeteria 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA
11/3/2018	Redcon	Orleans Hotel and Casino 4500 W. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV