

McKinstry newsletter for Nov. 24, 2023
The KETCHUP is NOT Quite KAUGHT UP
BUT WHAT the hell, it might be someday!!

IPMS McKinstry - The 1st IPMS chapter in Illinois, celebrating our 53rd year.

Club Officers

President	Frank Ress	Newsletter Editor	Paul Gasiorowski
Vice President	Lee Lygiros	Program Director	Charlie Scardon
Chapter Contact	Paul Gasiorowski	Webmaster	Frank Ress
Treasurer/Secy.	Mike Hanlon		

**For information about upcoming meetings, please visit the McWebsite
at the following link –**

**[Meetings | IPMS – Capt. James J. McKinstry Chapter \(ipms-
mckinstry.org\)](https://ipms-mckinstry.org)**

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Notes November 24, 2023

The meeting started shortly after 6:30 PM in the Hendricksen Room. Members in attendance were Frank Ress, Mike Hanlon, Paul Gasiorowski, Charlie Scardon, Steve Kumamoto, Pat Westerberg, Brian Gardner, Scott Olsen, Eugene Siuda, Jerry McManus, Stu Hellman, and Greg Wernisch. A possible new member was present, and his name was Gregg, he indicated that he just started into modelling.

New Business

Club Build for the 2024 or 2025 Nationals

Frank briefly went over the idea of a club build for the Nationals. The idea was to build a 1/72 waterline model of the USS Sable, with the proper 1/72 aircraft that used the carrier. The U.S. Navy aircraft carriers on Lake Michigan that was used to train pilots for landing and taking off aircraft carriers. He had sent out a document of his ideas for us to peruse for further discussion at the next meeting.

A Point System for an annual Membership Participation award

Please check ipms-mckinstry.org for specific details.

Program

What are your favorite tools to use in building a model.

Charlie Scardon

Charlie brought several items he used during the construction of a model. Briefly, a ½ inch thick piece of plywood about 12" x 18" with a piece of sandpaper glued to it. This is used to ensure the surfaces that are to be glued together are sanded flush.

A piece of ordinary glass that is used to glue parts together with super glue. Super glue does not adhere to the glass. What is left is easily scraped off the glass. Also used by putting plans under the glass and cutting/measuring the pieces you need.

A piece of glass tile used while cutting photo etch parts off the frets.

A steel ruler with 2-sided tape attached to the bottom to keep the ruler from sliding around, let's say when being used on a piece of styrene.

A locking digital caliper. A magnifier visor for close work.

A small saw made by LCC 2002 JLC Micro Combo Saw. Comes with 2 blades and a wooden handle. The blades have very fine teeth so it would be hard to cut yourself by just passing the blade across your fingers. More info at www.umm-usa.com.

Mike Hanlon

He brought several types of super glue, a bottle top wrench by Mr. Hobby for those pesky caps that won't come off. One side is used for Tamiya and the other for Mr. Hobby. Also shown were micro-brushes he purchased off Amazon, AKSTORE 600 pcs, \$4.98. It's used for applying small amounts of glue in small places. Use it once or twice and then toss it out. Also, if you search Amazon, you can find micro brushes for Auto Paint repair in different sizes, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 mm., 300 pcs., for \$9.99. **In comparison Micro-Mark sells 100 pcs. for \$14.95 in fine, super fine and regular sizes.**

A blue cement by AMMO. Black Super Glue by Mad Work, a Japanese company. A varnish made by VMS, a hard coat made in the flavors, gloss, satin and dull (flat). A higher pressure (20-35 PSI) is required to use this item.

The most expensive item is a pair of thin sprue cutters, both edges are different, one jaw has a fine cutting edge, and the other jaw is flat. Gives a better, cleaner cut, for a whopping \$50.00.

Frank Ress

Two types of syringes. One lacks needles, and can be used for thinning paint and other applications that don't require fine control at the delivery end. The other type is good for applying liquid glues (plastic solvents, not CA glues), and you can use the needles for gun barrels (very small scale) or can be used for pitot tubes, etc.

Jerry McManus

He uses RTV rubber molds and resin to use kit parts to make master molds. Just pour the resin over the top and bottom, put the halves together. Let it cure and pull the molds apart. Resin can be added to help fill the voids before opening the mold. Micro-mark has several different versions casting resins or RTV silicon molds.

Scott Olsen

He uses professional hair cutting scissors for cutting decals.

Misc. Information

Companies Involved in Models

Greg Wernisch passed this information to the people present at the meeting.

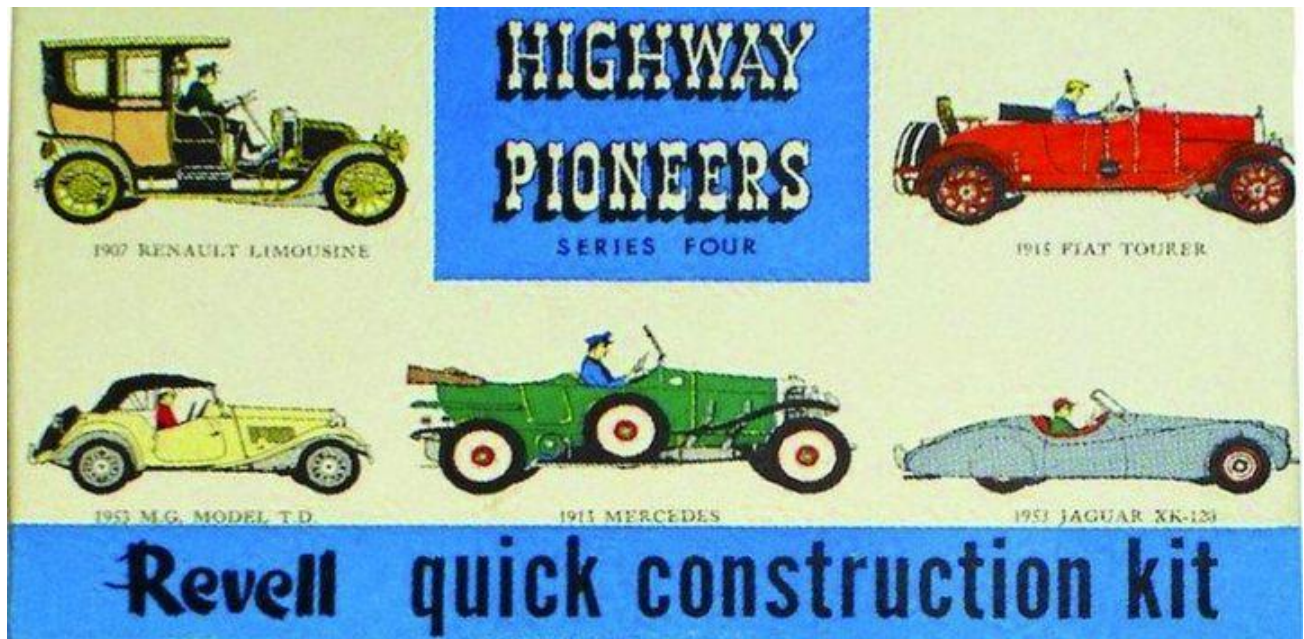
Hubley Manufacturing Co. of Lancaster, Pa. was established by John Hubley in 1984 to produce cast-iron toys, door stops and book ends. By the 1930s, the company moved on to die-cast zinc alloy. The company is well remembered by its line of cast car kits from the 1960s and 1970s, which focused on American techniques and classics.



Renewal was created by Irving Lawner in 1939 with house wares and moved into model cars during the 1950s after producing a line of military toys and dollhouse furniture on Long Island, New York. The brand's name was derived from spelling his name backwards.



Revell is credited with creating the first plastic model car kits during the mid-1940s in Venice, Calif.



Monogram was founded in Chicago and began with balsa-wood ships and airplane models in 1945. They responded to Revell's model cars success in 1953.



What you see above is what you got in the kit.

Jo-Han Models was created by John Haenle in Detroit during 1947. It was an outgrowth of his Ideal toy company. Haenle's first products were mid-1950s model aircraft and other promotional items. He dealt with most major car companies in Detroit with promotional contracts.



AMT (Aluminum Model Toys) was founded in 1948 in Troy, Michigan to supply promotional models for dealers starting with Ford. The company quickly moved on to plastic injection molding and migrated to kits.



A built version of the 1953 Studebaker Commander. The 3-in-1 kit was first issued about 1965 and has been reissued several times since. For more detailed information see the link below.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aluminum_Model_Toys

Member Gallery

Pat Westerberg

Hasegawa Kawanishi H8K 1/72

This kit is under construction. The window openings will be filled with a liquid clear plastic, also called Testors Clear Window cement. Used a popsicle stick to rub the rivets to expose the silver of the rivets. The airplane needs to be finished with a clear coat (Future Floor Wax). The final step is adding the decals and associated rigging for the antenna wires.



Mike Hanlon

Hasegawa P-40K 1/48

The plane was flown by Major DB Hauptfleish, for the NO. 2 Squadron, South African Air Force. Mike used AK Interactive Real Colors: Middlestone and Dark Earth over Azure Blue. The decals were from Aeromaster: 48-057 Wings over the Sahara. Xtradecals were used for the roundels, 48149 Fighters over Africa and the Mediterranean Part 1. DML camouflage masks 48030 were used.



Hasegawa P-40E 1/48

Some basic information about the kit and its history. The plane was flown by Lt. John Landers, 9FS, 49th FG in New Guinea 1942. Paints used were Gunze Sanyo paints; FS34092 Dark Green over FS30219 Brown over Tamiya XF-19 Grey. The decals used were by DK Decals, P-40E Warhawk over the Pacific and China. The masks were made by DML Camouflage Masks 48030.



Steven Kumamoto

Contrails Blackburn Botha 1/72

The Blackburn Botha was supposed to be the RAF light/medium bomber for WWII. It was unfortunately underpowered and had poor flight performance. They were finally used as either trainers or as a transport for the RAF.

This is a Contrails 1/72 vacuform kit of this ugly aircraft. What intrigued me about this aircraft was its asymmetrical cockpit and nose as it was viewed head on. The kit was fairly accurate and was a kit easily built with modelers with vacuform experience. The cowlings did not look very accurate, and I trashed them. In their place I used cowlings from an old Airfix Beaufighter kit, which made a nice substitute. The camouflage was standard RAF Bomber Command colors at the time. Modelmaster paints, Dark Green, Earth and Sky were used. The model was finished with Floquil Crystal-Cote, kit decals and Floquil dust to flatten the finish. This was an overall interesting subject of a long-forgotten WW II airplane.



Charlie Scardon

Kawasaki Ki 10 1/72

This was a Wings 1/72 kit. It was built 30 years ago. I do not recall too many of the details about it, other than it was a pretty easy kit to build. It just took a lot of sanding, particularly on the bottom wing, of which there are 2 pieces. Steve K, told me to start with an easy kit, but I didn't listen to him. The propeller came from an old Hasegawa Me 109 kit.



Eagles Talon Kawanishi Rex 1/72

The floatplane was a straightforward build for a vacuform kit. The Rex is the predecessor to the early version of the excellent Kawanishi George. This kit was built about 30 years ago and it was a good kit to build. The paints were mostly Floquil Military colors. The dry transfers (Hinmarus) worked well when applied but did not hold up to the UV light.



Hasegawa F4F-F Wildcat 1/72

This kit was built straight out of the box. The markings came with the kit. I added True Details cockpit to it. I vacuformed a new canopy using the tried and true Mattel vacuum machine.



Cooper Details Westland Whirlwind 1/48

The Whirlwind is my favorite RAF fighter. It's not a terribly difficult kit to build. In fact, it is better than most kits that were available at the time this kit appeared on the modeling scene. The only kit that was available was in 1/72 by Airfix. It is still in its unfinished state.



The Imperial War Museum/American Air Museum in Britain

Paul Gasiorowski

While on a recent trip to Europe and England on back-to-back cruises. I spent a few extra days at Heathrow Airport to see an old friend and planned to visit the museum from the start of planning the trip. I am a member of the American Air Museum in Britain.

I found that taking the train from Heathrow Airport to Liverpool Station in downtown London and then taking a train to Duxford, Cambridgeshire was quite easy. The train trip from London to the Museum was about 70 miles, 1 hour and 15 minutes and cost about \$45.00 round trip. It was raining when we arrived at Whittlesford Parkway (Duxford). That wasn't a taxi stand nearby, but there happened to be a Holiday Inn Express right next to the train station. The desk clerk was happy to call us a taxi to take us to the Museum for about \$15.00 for the two of us.

The American Air Museum at IWM Duxford stands as a memorial to the 30,000 members of the US Army Air Forces who died while flying from Britain during the Second World War. It tells the story of the people whose lives were shaped by American airpower over a century of war.

Over 850 objects including equipment, uniforms, keepsakes, and photographs, illustrate the individual experiences of 85 people from over 100 years of Anglo-American history. From Private to President these people's lives have shaped, or been shaped, by their experiences of war.

The campus for the IWM/American Air Museum is quite large. The buildings each contain a specific theme. The main building houses Air/Space, and each of the following themes have their own building, Flying Aircraft, Historic Duxford, (1) Air & Sea, (2) Battle of Britain, (3) Conservation in Action, American Museum and Land Warfare.

As a side note the base depicted in the movie Battle of Britain was filmed here. Three of the buildings were built in 1918 and are still being used today. One of them is marked as number 3 on the layout map on the last page.

The American Air Museum is also home to the largest collection of American military aircraft on public display outside the United States.

The American Air Museum in Britain charity honors the sacrifices of American men and women who have served in Britain since the First World War. It sustains the operation of the American Air Museum and highlights its mission within the United States.

The charitable work of the American Air Museum in Britain supports the maintenance, preservation and operation of the facilities, collections, and programs of the American Air Museum, the museum at IWM Duxford and our archives.

Here are a few photos I took.



This Victor is the only aircraft of its type left in the world. It was used first as a bomber, then as an air-to-air refuelling tanker.

Victor XH648 was originally built as a B1 model. Its first flight was on 27 November 1959 and it was delivered to No.57 Squadron at Honington on 21 December that year.

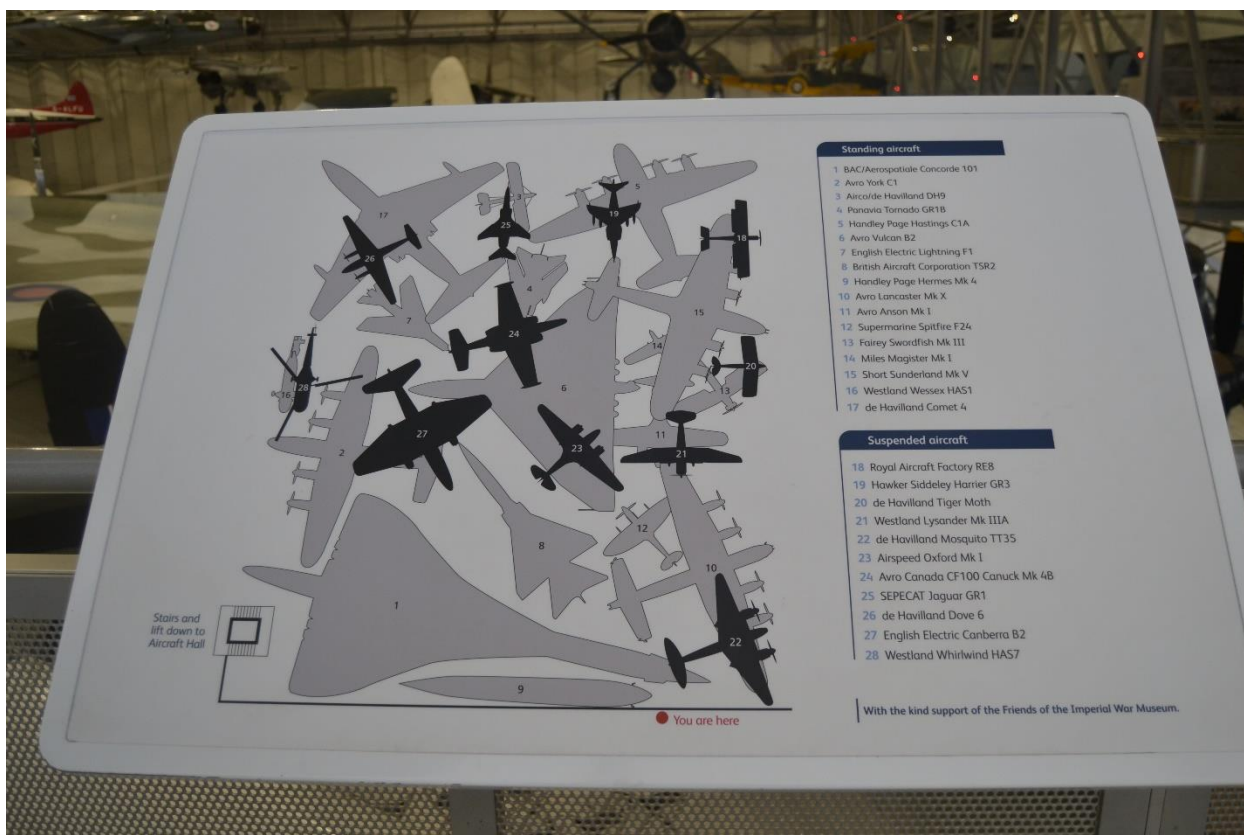
In 1960 it was upgraded to a B1A - with new and improved equipment, including better radio and radar.

It then served with No. 15 Squadron, based at RAF Cottesmore. It was part of the Far East Air Force during the confrontation with Indonesia in 1962-1963. In 1964, it joined No. 55 Squadron at RAF Honington.

In 1965 it was converted from a bomber to an air-to-air refuelling tanker. Two other aircraft could take fuel from its Mark 20B refuelling pods fitted under each wing.

XH648 was based at RAF Marham for the next ten years, with Nos. 55 and 57 Squadrons.

It was retired and flew into Duxford on 2 June 1976.















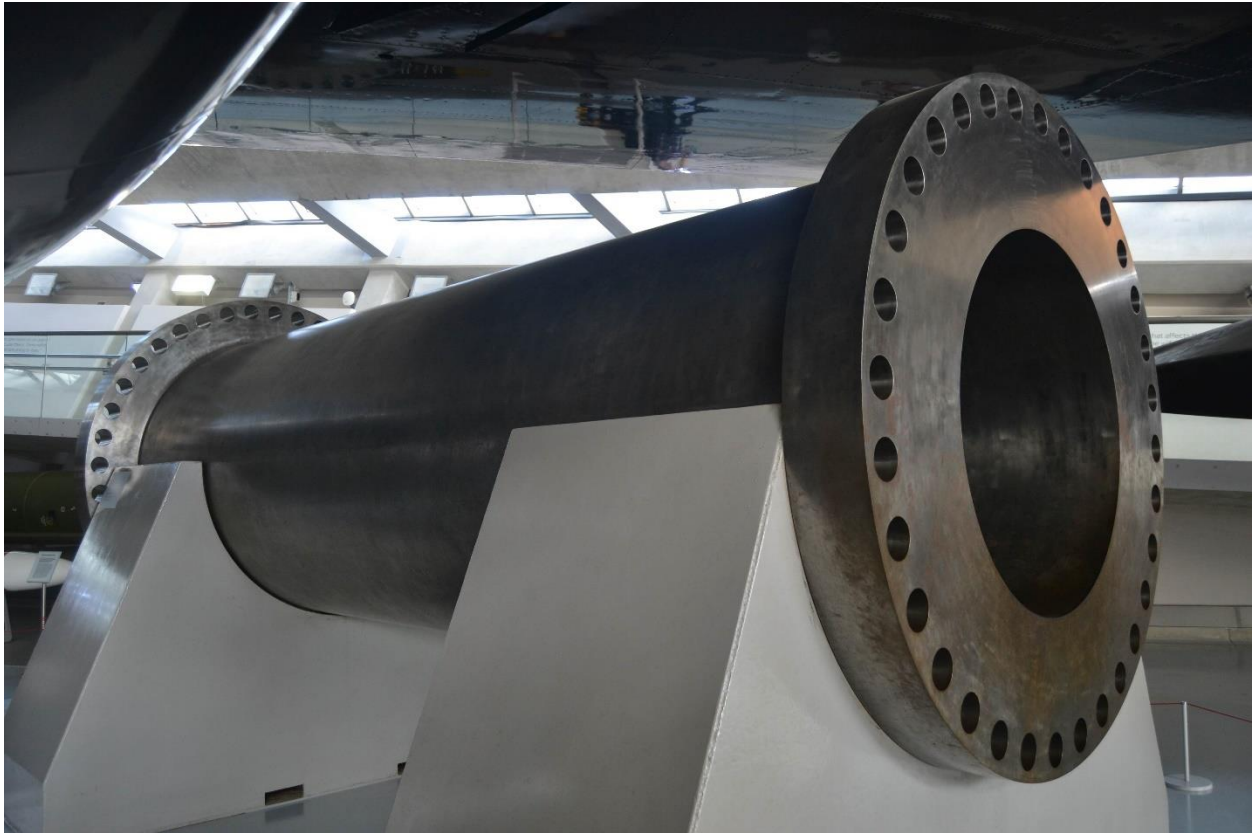








BIG GUN ARTIFACT



Most of the pictures are self-explanatory. This artifact was probably the most interesting. It was a segment of a barrel that was designed by Gerald Bull, a Canadian engineer. This gun was designed for Saddam Hussein, called Project Babylon. Supposedly to fire projectiles at either Israel or Iran.

The metal tubes for the barrels and gun cradles were purchased from firms in the United Kingdom, including [Sheffield Forgemasters](#) of South Yorkshire, and Walter Somers of Halesowen. Other components, such as [breeches](#) and recoil mechanisms, were ordered from firms in Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Italy. Baby Babylon was completed, and test shots were fired from it, revealing problems with the seals between the barrel segments. As those were being worked on, Bull was assassinated in March 1990, possibly by [Mossad](#), halting the project. ^[3]

Most of the barrel sections for Big Babylon were delivered to, and assembled on, a site excavated on a hillside, instead of being suspended by cables from a steel framework as originally planned. Calculations had shown that the original support framework would be insufficiently rigid. It was never completed.

In early April 1990, United Kingdom [customs](#) officers confiscated several pieces of the second Big Babylon barrel, which were disguised as "petrochemical pressure vessels". The parts were confiscated at [Teesport](#) Docks. More pieces were seized in Greece and Turkey in transit by truck

to Iraq. Other components, such as [slide bearings](#) for Big Babylon, were seized at their manufacturers' sites in Spain and Switzerland.

After the [Gulf War](#) in 1991, the Iraqis admitted the existence of Project Babylon, and allowed [UN](#) inspectors to destroy the hardware in Iraq as part of the disarmament process.

Several barrel sections seized by UK customs officers are displayed at the [Royal Armouries, Fort Nelson, Portsmouth](#). Another section was on display at [The Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, London](#), until 2016.

The events of Project Babylon are dramatized in the 1994 HBO movie [Doomsday Gun](#) starring [Frank Langella](#) as Bull, with [Kevin Spacey](#), [Alan Arkin](#), and [Clive Owen](#) in supporting roles, and in [Frederick Forsyth's](#) novel [The Fist of God](#).

The novel [Splinter Cell](#), written by [Raymond Benson](#) under the pseudonym David Michaels, refers to Project Babylon and Gerald Bull as the antagonists in the story who develop and manage to fire a new supergun, "Babylon Phoenix."

The novel *Nature of the Beast* by [Louise Penny](#) also revolves around the story of Gerald Bull and Project Babylon.

The Babylon Project also provided the inspiration for the [Golgo 13](#) manga story "The Gun at Am-Shara", in which the title character assassinates a fictionalized version of Gerald Bull.

In [Conflict: Desert Storm II](#), the Babylon guns are the objective of the final mission, requiring the player to mark them for airstrikes.

The video game [Mercenaries: Playground of Destruction](#) reimagined the gun as the "Type 07 supergun".

