

PLASTIC IN PARADISE

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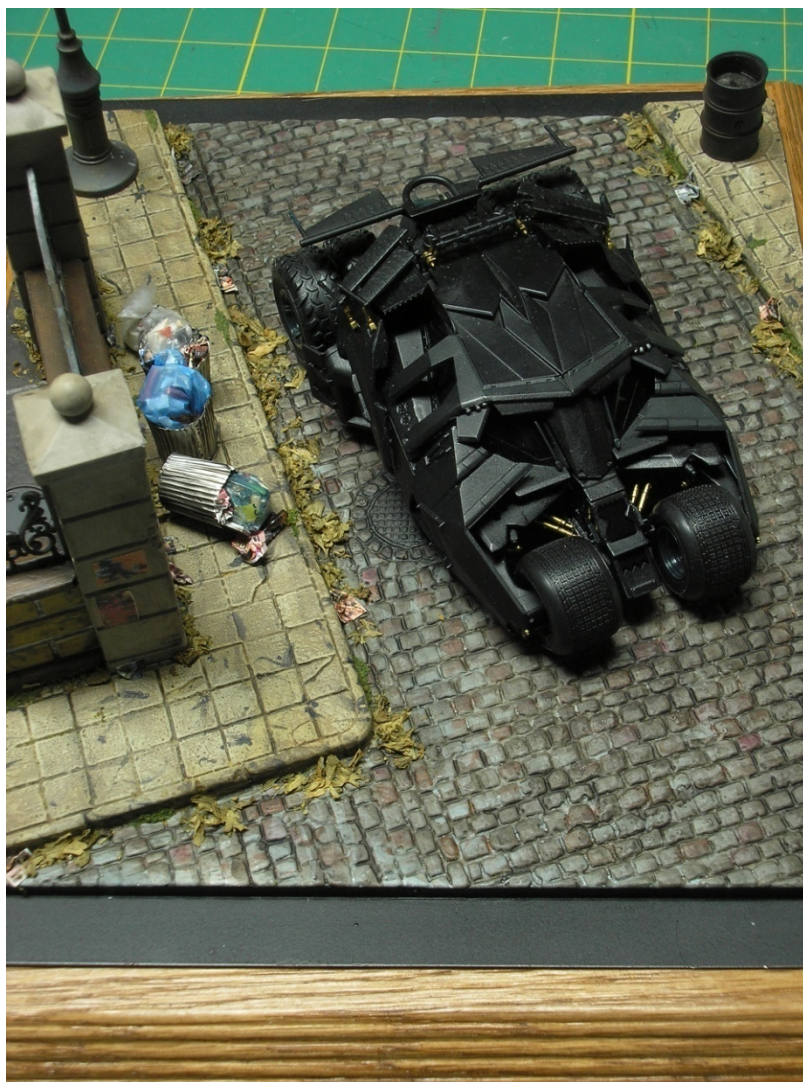
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Nana-nana-nana-nana-nana-nana-nana-nana BATMAN!!!
Lance's Batman Tumbler is ready to fight crime.



"Some say that he is a cyborg from the future,
and that he needs your clothes, boots and
motorcycle. All we know is that he is called...
the Hollywood StiG!"





Club News and Other Nonsense



There was no meeting in September, so the next stop was Zippy's!

The September meeting at the Pacific Aviation Museum was cancelled, as many of you know, due to the guest list not reaching the guard gate. This is the second time in a row that we have had a failure in the communications link somewhere along the long line of bureaucracy. Until something can be worked out where we can be assured of access to Ford Island, we will be meeting back at the Pearl City High School auto shop classroom at 6:00pm, like before. Our thanks go to Alan Freitas for letting us back in!



Brad checks the club bylaws to see if sci-fi is prohibited, as Neal looks on.

The second club workshop was held at the Kalakaua Middle School woodworking shop on September 20. Check it out if you haven't yet and get in on the fun! The last workshop for this year will be on December 13.

Note that our Website Lackey Lance has been hard at work on our new website, which is easier to update and modify. (See top of

the front page.) Look for more new features as the site is built up!

This month's newsletter is a little short on editorial material due to the editor not getting around to working on the newsletter! To make up for the lack of the usual blah-blah-blah, here are some quickie hobby trade show reports.



Trumpeter's 1/32 Swordfish, with full interior detail.

The All Japan Plastic Model Show ran last week in Tokyo, and a couple of new items are worthy of mention. Trumpeter announced 1/32 scale kits of the Eurofighter, F/A-18E Super Hornet, and Fairey Swordfish.



The box art of Hasegawa's 1/72 E-2C Hawkeye.

Hasegawa's 1/72 E-2C Hawkeye is scheduled for release this December, in JMSDF markings.

Academy has announced a 1/35 Merkava Mk. IV, so those contemplating the expensive Legend resin kit should hold the "buy this" finger, and wait until a verdict emerges for the plastic kit.

A surprise announcement from Pit Road was a 1/35 B-4 Soviet 203mm towed gun. This is the one with the caterpillar tracks in lieu of

wheels. Again, we see an injection molded kit of a niche subject that was previously only available in resin.

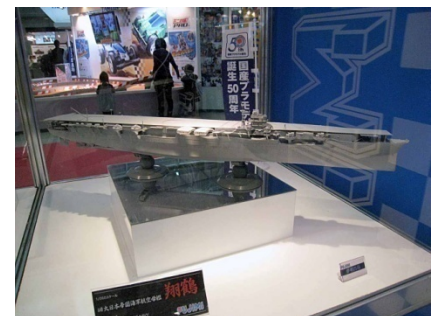


Pit Road's 1/35 B-4 203mm howitzer.



The Big T's latest 1/35 armor subject is the Jagdtiger (early version).

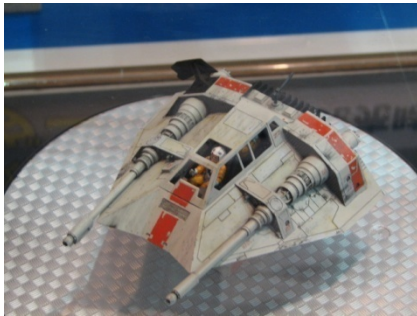
Tamiya's big armor announcement was an all-new tool 1/35 Jagdtiger. And still no T-10M... In addition to their recently released M706 and LAV-150 armored cars, Hobby Boss will be releasing a 1/35 AAVP-7A1.



Fujimi's 1/350 Shokaku. Could its sister ship, the Zuikaku, be far behind?

Aside from Hasegawa's Akagi, the other (literally) big ship model news was Fujimi's 1/350 Shokaku

aircraft carrier. The thought of the possibility of having all six Kido Butai carriers in 1/350 scale is truly frightening.



The Rebels gear up for action on Hoth with Fine Molds' 1/48 Snowspeeder.

In sci-fi news, the big announcement was Fine Mold's next Star Wars kit, which will be the Snowspeeder in 1/48 scale. A lot of people wanted the kit in 1/72, but the "real" thing is so small, that it would be more appropriate to have them as accessories for a 1/72 AT-AT Imperial Walker, which would also be most welcome.



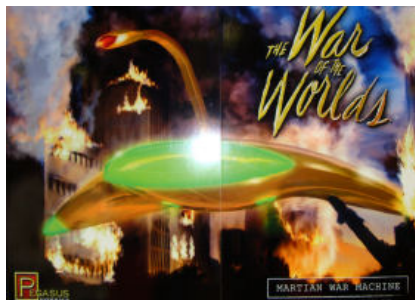
Do you remember Macross? The Destroids are a-coming from Wave!

Another surprise announcement came from Wave, which will be releasing a 1/72 injected plastic kit of the Destroid Tomahawk. (Aka the Warhammer from the board game Mechwarrior) With a shared common chassis, Macross fans can hope for a Defender and Phalanx to follow.



Classic Airframes continue to fill the subject gaps with their 1/48 F2H Banshee.

Back in the States, the iHobby Expo in Illinois had a couple of additional new kit announcements. The biggest airplane news was Classic Airframes' 1/48 F2H Banshee, followed by Hobby Boss' 1/48 F-100D/F Super Sabres. Trumpeter is promising a slew of 1/72 aircraft, including the MiG-19, Su-27 and Tu-22M Backfire.



Do not run; we come in peace. We come in peace. We come in peace...



By Grabthar's Hammer, a kit of the Protector, straight from the historical documents!

There were also a couple of really interesting sci-fi items, including Moebus' Iron Man (the movie version) and Flying Sub from "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea." Pegasus Models announced kits of the War of the Worlds Martian War Machine (again the movie version), Jules Verne's Nautilus, and the NSEA Protector from Galaxy Quest!

Revell announced a Sith Infiltrator from the first fake Star Wars movie "The Phantom Menace." Hopefully this will be a full-fledged assembly kit, and not some runty pre-painted snap-fit trinket.



Gotta have our one token auto news item! Hasegawa's 1/20 Ferrari 312T2.

As a last note, my vote for "Most Stupid Model Announcement of the Year" goes to Hawk's 1/187 scale Graf Zeppelin WW II aircraft carrier. Most modelers like to stick with established scales, so what the hell is the deal with 1/187? Who are the people behind Hawk? What are they thinking? Why are they doing this?

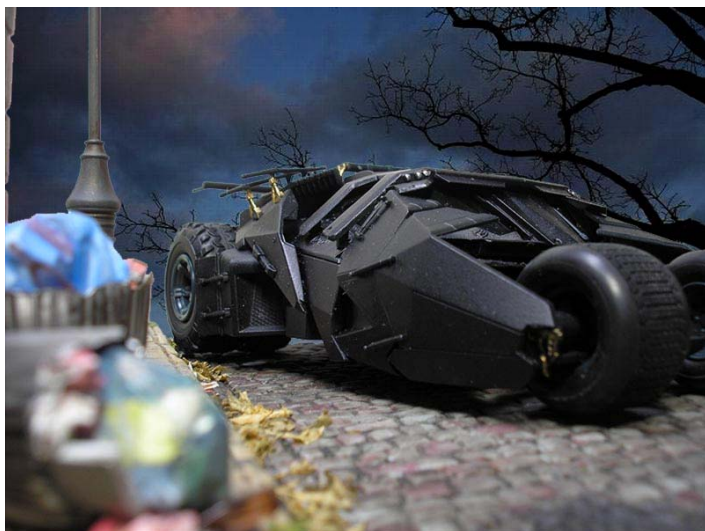


Okay, who wants an odd-scale model of an odd subject from an odd manufacturer? Hawk's "WTF?!" 1/187 Graf Zeppelin.



Too bad Hawk is not doing this one in 1/144.

Okay, enough ranting for now. Next month's theme will be "Russian Models", so build those Evil Empire planes, tanks and ships. And remember, you must think in Russian!

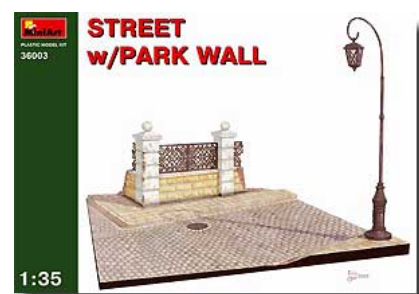


The main ingredient to the diorama is Bandai's excellent 1/35 scale Tumbler, from the movie "Batman Begins."

Batman Tumbler Diorama

By Lance Masunaga

Considering that this was Lance's first diorama, and the first time he had ever encountered (or heard of) vacuum forming, it turned out extremely well! And his timing could not be better, with Halloween only a week away!



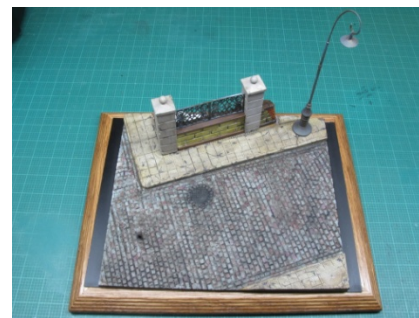
The base came courtesy of Mini Art Models' 1/35 scale "Street w/ Park Wall."



You can have any color you want, so long as it is black!



An overhead view of the completed diorama.



The base and wall are vacuum-formed sheet, while the street lamp and wrought iron grating are injection molded plastic.



A low angle shot shows off the Tumbler's menacing looks.



A high angle view gives a good idea of the general arrangement of the vehicle and accessories.



The Tumbler builds up easily and is packed with detail.



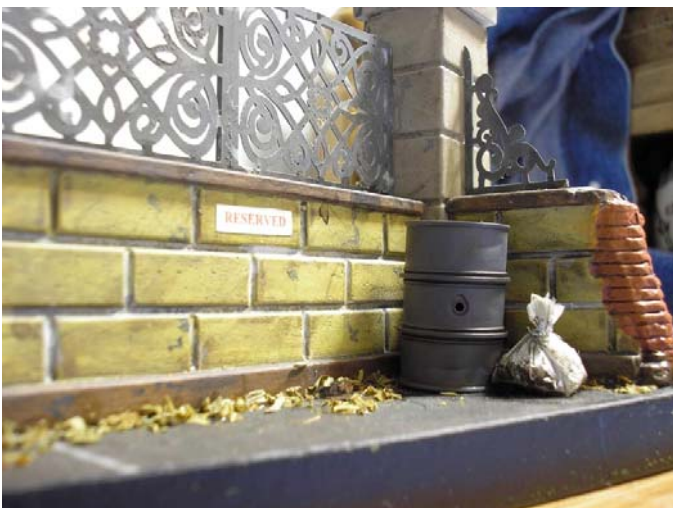
Even from the rear, the Tumbler looks menacing!



The base was dressed up with scratchbuilt trash cans and garbage bags. Dead leaves in the street gutter were made using Oregano.



Hey buddy, could you spare a drink? A 1/35 military figure was demoted and sent to live in the street. Note the posters on the wall.



The backside of the diorama is detailed as well. Note the "reserved" parking sign and the striping on the asphalt. A 55 gallon drum from a military kit provides additional atmosphere.



In the middle of the night, Batman prowls a lonely street in search of crime...



Ceti Eel

Federation Models'

1/1 Scale Resin Kit

By Lance "THIS is Ceti Alpha
Five!!!" Masunaga

The Ceti Eel was the nasty creature that Khan put into Captain Tyrell's and poor Commander Chekov's ears in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan." Resembling an overgrown ant lion, the Ceti Eel's parasitic larvae (as told by Khan himself) "enter through the ears, and wrap themselves around the cerebral cortex. This has the effect of rendering the victims highly susceptible to...suggestion. Later, as they...grow, there follows madness... And death."



Federation Models' Ceti Eel caused neither madness nor death, but seeing the kit available on-line had a certain suggestive effect on the "buy this" finger. \$27 later, the kit was in my hands. Looking into the cardboard box, it was obvious that this was going to be a quick build, as there was all of *one* part! The single piece resin casting had a lot of tiny air bubbles, but the mold parting lines were remarkably clean. The sculpting on the upper half of the body was really good, but the underside detail looked like the pattern maker got tired and only put in a half-hearted effort.

After cleaning up the parting lines and filling the bubbles in with Vallejo Plastic Putty, it was off to paint the little beast. The

model was prepped with a coat of Mr. Sufacer 1200 Grey Primer sprayed from the rattle can.

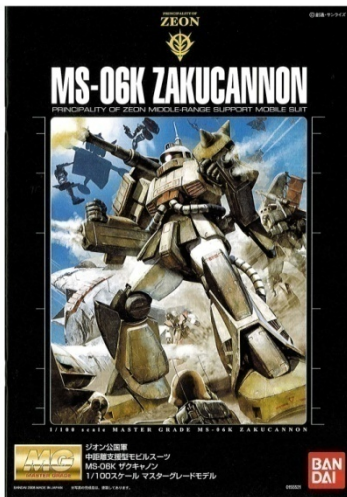
Vallejo acrylics were used exclusively to paint the model, starting with a base coat of dark brown, followed with progressively lighter browns. The movie DVD was used for reference, along with the one photo that exists on the internet. The eyes were base coated with yellow and received a thinned red wash. The pupils were painted black, then finished with a thinned yellow wash.

The wooden base was purchased from a craft store, and was covered with Citadel Modeling Sand groundwork. The craft glue used to secure the groundwork caused the base to warp over time.



Overall, the model is a pretty good representation of the "real" Ceti Eel, save for the lackluster sculpting on the undersides and the "paraplegic" hind legs.





MS-06K Zaku Cannon

Bandai's Latest
Master Grade Masterpiece
In Review

By Neal "Sci-Fi" Izumi

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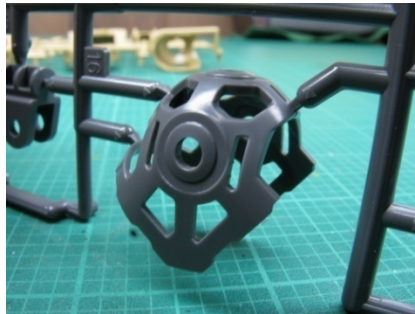
Scale: 1/100
Stock No.: 0155521
Materials: Polystyrene, ABS,
Polyethylene,
Coiled Springs,
Stickers, Dry
Transfers

MSRP: 4,500 Yen

Bandai's latest Master Grade kit is the classic Mobile Suit Variation (MSV) MS-06K Zaku Cannon. The kit is based on their recently released MS-06F Zaku II Version 2.0, and continues the concept of developing variants based on a standard design. Bandai has already released kits of the land combat, minelayer, and high performance types, with the Johnny Ridden custom high performance type due anytime soon!

The first thing you will notice about this kit is the attractive box art, which emulates the style and drama of the old MSV kits from the 1980s. Once the lid of the huge box is lifted, you are greeted by 377 pieces of plastic molded in no

less than eight colors! The kit is designed so that very little painting will be required by the builder, although this also helps in eliminating masking for those who wish to paint. Most of the parts are broken down at natural join lines, so filler work is minimized as well. Slide-molded parts are provided to simplify components without sacrificing detail. And you thought DML pioneered this stuff!



Slide molds are used in abundance to form complex single-piece components.

The kit is rounded out with a nice color instruction sheet (mostly in Japanese), a pair of coiled spring hoses, and a sheet each of stickers and dry transfers. The last two items are a continuing sore point to me, as both are not particularly convenient to use. Bandai sells aftermarket waterslide decals for their kits, so it escapes me as to why they don't just concede that the stickers were a stupid idea and replace them with proper decals.



The full color instruction sheet is filled with photos of the completed model.

Options include alternate "rabbit ear" antennas for the head, a machine gun, bazooka, and "Heat Hawk" hatchet. Personally, the shoulder cannon and "Big Gun" waist mounted gun pods appear to be plenty of firepower for the Zaku, but the extra armament is a nice touch.

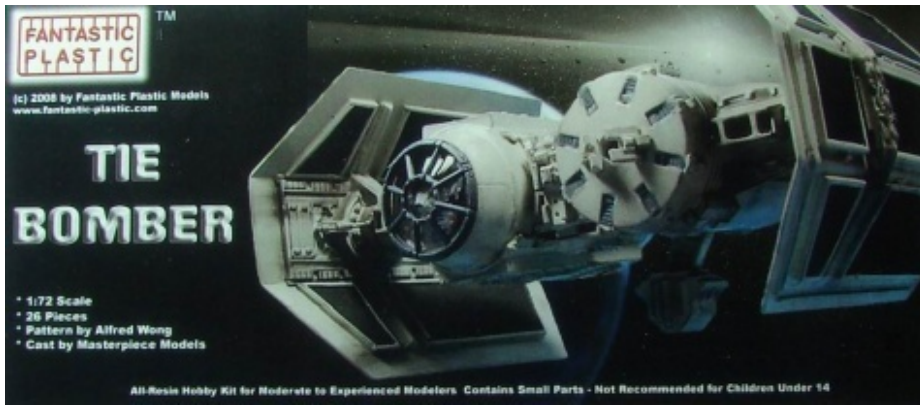
A really neat feature common to all Zaku 2.0 series kits is the "mono eye," which is mechanically linked to turn with the head. I noticed that the front AND rear head mounted sub-camera lenses are provided as clear parts, an improvement over previous kits which had the rear camera lens molded solid as part of the head.



The painting guide is minimal, but adequate. (If you can read Japanese!)

Although the finished kit pictured in the instructions is in pristine condition, the box art provides a strong incentive to go crazy with the weathering. Being that the Zaku Cannon is an Earth-based terrestrial combat unit (not a space type), fading paint, dust, dirt, and rain effects would be almost mandatory.

Bandai's MS-06K Zaku Cannon is indeed worthy of the "Master Grade" label, and is highly recommended to all Gundam fans.



TIE Bomber

Fantastic Plastic's 1/72 Kit In Review

By Val "the Ogre" Bueno

The TIE Bomber made its first appearance in the classic movie *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. It was used Evil Imperial Empire to flush out the Han Solo, the Princess and the rest on the Millennium Falcon from their hiding place in an asteroid field. Needless to say the bombers did NOT accomplish their mission.

When Fine Molds started releasing 1/72 scale kits of the various *Star Wars* vehicles, I was elated, I was overjoyed, I was one happy ogre. Now as I eagerly wait for each new release, I am finding other kits in 1/72 scale of other *Star Wars* vehicles.

Fantastic Plastic has released several of these ships as resin kits. These include the A-Wing, fighter, the B-Wing fighter, the Snowspeeder, Darth Vader's TIE Fighter X-1 and now the TIE Bomber.

The TIE Bomber kit is cast in a cream colored resin. It has a slightly waxy surface finish, but that is common with this type of resin. The quality of the casting isn't great, but more on that later.

The kit is made up of 26 parts, three large castings for the wings and twin hulls and 23 castings for everything else. The parts breakdown is very well thought out and looks easy to assemble. The cockpit area is molded solid, so no 1/72 scale Stormtroopers in flight suits to worry about.

Online references give the length of the TIE Bomber as 7.8 meters or 4.22 inches in 1/72 scale. The kit wings measure 4.62 inches. So it measures a little over scale in length. I don't have any published dimensions for width or height, so I cannot say if everything is correctly scaled or not.

What's really interesting is that the twin hulls look much larger than the standard TIE fighter. Having never seen an image of a regular TIE Fighter next to a TIE Bomber, I cannot tell if this is right. But it makes sense to me.

The photos show a size comparison between a Fine Molds TIE Fighter hull parts and the TIE Bomber hull parts.

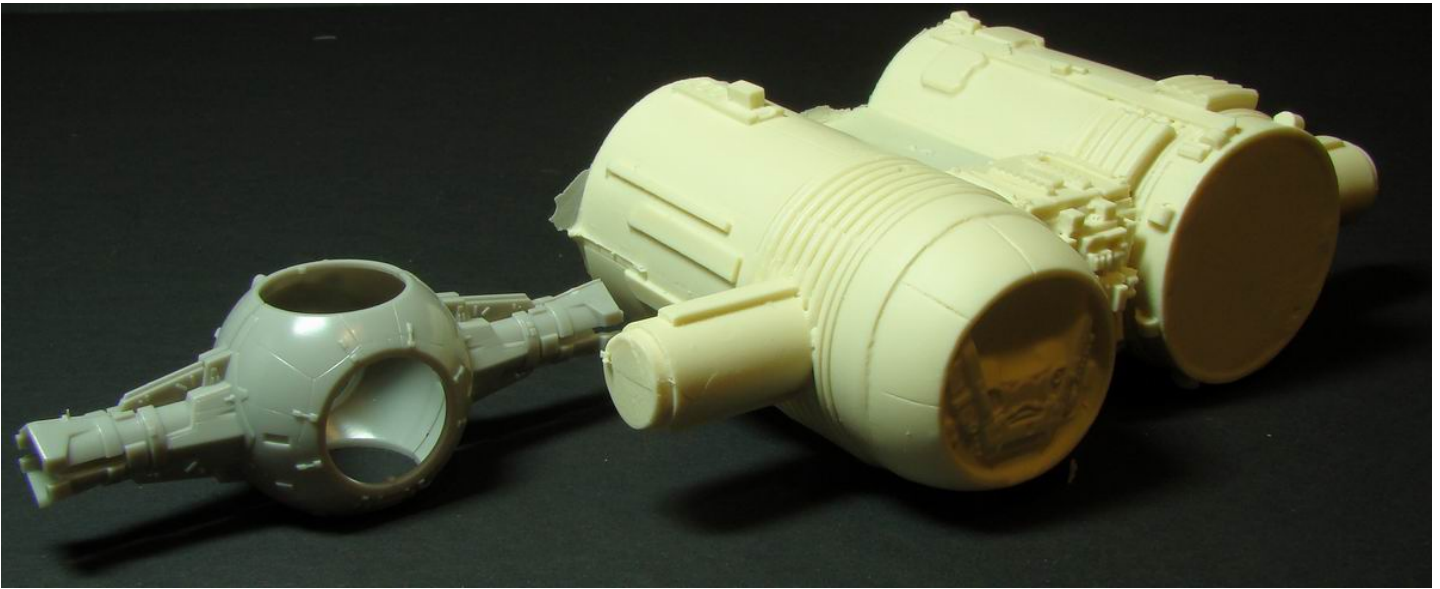
Master model maker Alfred Wong has produced many of the master patterns for the Fantastic Plastic kits and these have been cast in resin by various people for Fantastic Plastic. The Darth Vader TIE Fighter X-1 was one such kit where the master pattern was made by Alfred Wong and cast by Mike Salzo. The TIE Bomber kit also had the master pattern made by Mr. Wong, but this time cast by a company called Masterpiece Models.

I wish they hadn't.

The quality of the moldings was worse than the TIE X-1 kit. Many details on the wings were very soft and tiny bubbles were everywhere. And worse than that, now I have Don Ho singing *Tiny Bubbles* in my head (Tiny Bubbles, in the molds...). In one wing, there is a HUGE bubble just under the surface detail. It looks like I'm going to have to be very careful when handling the model. There are bubbles breaking the surface all over the hulls and along all the fine details.

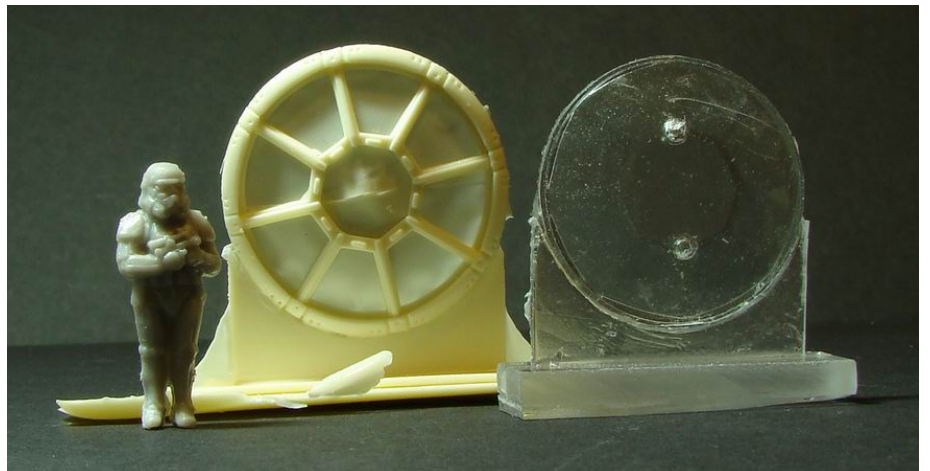
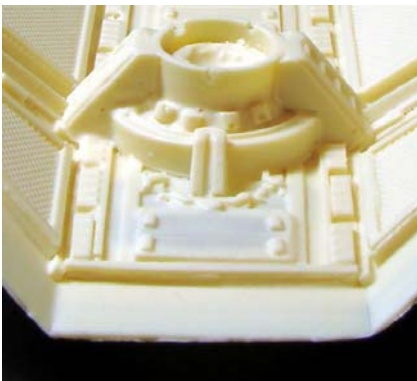
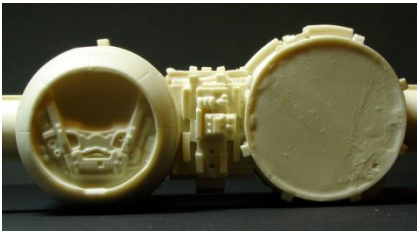
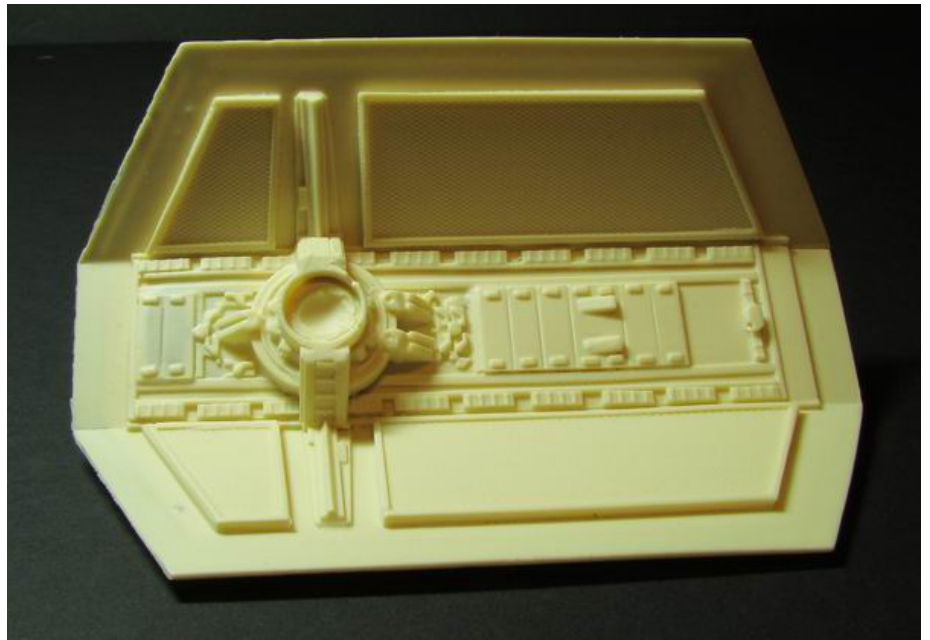
Truthfully, I have bought other resin kits that were in worse condition than this one and built





them. This kit is still buildable despite the bubbles. You can take a look at the photos and decide for yourself if the bubbles are too much.

The kit costs \$80 dollars (plus \$8.87 shipping) from the Fantastic Plastic website. If you absolutely cannot wait for Fine Molds to produce a TIE Bomber (IF they do), then this is the only kit to go in 1/72 scale. I am an impatient modeling ogre. I want my TIE Bomber NOW!



Calendar

Meeting Schedule: We meet at **6:00** pm on the last Saturday of each month in the auto shop at Pearl City High School, unless noted otherwise.

The newly added workshops at Kalakaua Middle School take place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

2008:

29 November: Back in the USSR: Glorious modeling from the Evil Empire! (Note new date!)

13 December: Workshop at Kalakaua Middle School.

(???) December: President's Choice.

Knock-knock.
Trick or treat.
Sorry, your treat
has been
TERMINATED.

