

**IPMS FAME CITIES  
NEWSLETTER**

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Next meeting October 26

Green Public Library

## INSIDE

If you missed the picnic, you missed this.



In Box Review

## Hasegawa F/A-18F

Close on the heels of the Revell/Monogram Super Hornet Hasegawa has released a 1/48 scale kit of the F/A-18F. A single seat -E model Super Hornet is scheduled for later this year. Hasegawa's rendering comprises 251 parts molded in their standard gray styrene, with six clear parts for the canopy, HUD and some (but not all) of the exterior lights. Four polycaps are provided. Notable features include full intake trunking back to the compressor faces, positionable control surfaces, a choice of full up or full down flaps, a folded wing option, and a

This month's edition of "Scale Scribblings" features our usual meeting coverage, plus coverage of our annual club picnic. We also have another article by John Noack, and some short reviews. I would like to run more kit and product reviews, so if you've got something you'd like to review we are interested. The usual flood of new kits, decals and accessories continues, so there is no shortage of subject matter. If you do a kit review, please note whether it is an in the box review or a build review. A photo or two should also be included. If you cannot provide digital photos yourself let me know and we will get them taken.

The last two monthly meetings have seen lower than average attendance, no doubt due to the competition from summer activities. As I write this it is early October, it is cool and rainy, the daylight hours are growing shorter and the indoor seasons are at hand. This last quarter of the year has a lot to offer Fame Cities members. October is a contest month, that being Ed Kinney's "Relatively Speaking" (details on page two). In December we have Ralph Nollan's traditional National Guard/ Reserve contest (Ralph being a traditional kind of guy). December also brings election of officers for 2006, and our annual Christmas feast. Get out of the house and come to a meeting! And bring a model.



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## September Meeting

Well, September's meeting at the Green Library was another sparsely attended event, the long summer having apparently once again taken its toll on turnout. We did have two new faces from the Akron area, Mark Smith and Bill Klingbeil. Their very well done models are pictured below. I hope I got the designation of your armor piece correct, Bill. They all look like targets to me. The main business was to remind everyone about the club picnic scheduled for September 25. A full article on this gala event appears later in this newsletter. The other news of note is Steve Dottavio's decision to not seek reelection to the office of President. Candidates, get your speeches ready. Nominations will be taken at the November meeting. As this is written in early October, summer is officially over, so we expect to see more of you at the next meeting!



Newcomer Mark Smith brought three excellent models. From the top: a Tamiya P-51D, a Hasegawa A6M2, and a Tamiya Ki-46 Dinah.



Mark brought his friend Bill Klingbeil, who had this nicely done 263 armored car.



Hasegawa's 1/48 F-16D Israeli Defense Force, by your editor.

## October Contest Reminder

As usual, our quarterly contest has been scheduled for October rather than September due to the club picnic. The theme for October is "Relatively Speaking" - two complementary models that are somehow related. Friend and foe, different subjects with the same name, etc. Ed Kinney is sponsoring this contest, and he will be the judge of whether your entries qualify. Let's support this contest, guys. Take something out of the display case and bring it in. Also, do not forget about our traditional December contest on the National Guard/Reserve theme, sponsored by Ralph Nollan.

Next Meeting October 26.

Bring Models!



## Fame Cities 2005 Picnic

The 2005 club picnic was another success, thanks to the generosity of our hosts, Ed and MJ Kinney, and a little help from the weatherman. The early predictions of rain proved false, and the picnic was able to stay outside. Chief cook Steve Dottavio grilled up the burgers and dogs, and the membership provided plenty to go with the sandwiches. John Noack gave us another terrific raffle, and Al Imler finished up the day with a post-shading demo in Ed's workshop.



Host Ed Kinney, Al Imler and Jim Cook eye the raffle table.



Members and spouses await dinner.



Jim Cook observes master chef Steve Dottavio at work, while Steve's daughter stands guard.



The loaded raffle table and the raffle in progress.



Two views of Al's post-shading demo.



## Let Me Make This Perfectly Clear

**Media:** Clear parts may consist of clear styrene canopies or windshields as found in the original kit, vacuform parts either as original parts or aftermarket replacements, or in thin sheet form that are cut and/or heat-formed to shape. I mentioned the "heat and smash" method briefly, this entails mounting the original part on a support, heating a thin sheet of clear plastic to just below melting, and drawing it down over the kit part. Remember that the new part is a little bit larger than the original one,

Simple flat windows can also be made using Krystal Kleer, although you are going to be limited to areas under about 1/4" maximum. This product is great for airline windows, ship portholes, and the like.

**Cleanup:** Let's move from best case to worst. A clean clear part may require no more than a wash with soapy water and a quick buffing with a dry, cotton or wool cloth (I use old cotton diapers). Minor haze or scratches can be removed with a polishing compound - I use Novus Plastic Polish #2, but there are many products out there. Some of these have solvent bases that may attack your part - try it on a scrap piece whenever possible if you're not sure!

Parts with minor scratches can often be polished out with a buffing stick, available in various grits from the hobby shop - or - the cosmetics department! Use the polishing compound afterwards to get a uniform appearance on the part.

For the big jobs, use a polishing kit, which contains a series of medium, fine, and ultrafine wet sandpaper followed by a buffing compound. These are great for achieving gloss finishes on the overall model as well.

Many modelers use toothpaste as a polish. The abrasive in most brands acts as a polishing agent on the part.

**Installing Clear Parts:** The first rule: Don't use model cement!!! You're asking for the proverbial glue blob. Alternatives include Krystal Kleer or Elmer's Glue (try thinning it about 25% with water and applying it with a small brush, using several applications if necessary to form the "fillet"). Watchmaker's cement, (sold by MicroMark and others) will not attack the clear plastic, and is not water soluble. A tip I learned from master auto modeler Pat Covert is to use Testor's Model Master clear paint as an adhesive for clear parts - it will "wick" along the edges of the bond line. Some folks swear by epoxy; I swear at it, but it may work for you.

**Replicating Frames:** We all started by trying to hand-paint the frame lines. Pretty soon we move on to some sort of masking medium. Lots of folks love Parafilm; again, I just can't seem to make it work for me. I found some really thin, stretchy silicone tape that really adheres well and gives a nice, sharp edge when cut. Whatever you use, apply it in small enough sections that it doesn't wrinkle, and use a NEW, sharp blade when trimming to the edge. I use an old paintbrush handle that I've sharpened to a point to burnish the tape into the edge of the frame line before cutting. I recently read a tip to hold the clear part over a light when trimming the mask; apparently this really shows up the frame lines.

Other masking media include liquid masks (brush on, peel off), and Bare Metal Foil. BMF really gets into the corners, but must be removed fairly quickly, or the adhesive gets married to the clear plastic.

On a complicated masking scheme (for example, one of those USN or Luftwaffe "greenhouses"), try cutting some thin strips of tape and framing the perimeter of the transparencies. Then cover the remaining open area with a larger piece of tape, or liquid mask. Saves a lot of trimming time on the model.

My favorite technique lately is to paint clear decal sheet and trim it to size, and install it over the frames. If you do this, make sure to paint the interior color first, followed by the exterior. Conventional setting solutions will make the corners and overlaps lay down nicely.

New to the market, and not yet tried by me, is a product called Fast Frames. These are precut, water-activated frames that can be painted and installed much like a decal. I'm hearing lots of good things about this product.

I have seen the future, and it is....Future: I was introduced to the use of acrylic floor polish for models several years ago, and all my clear parts get this treatment now (one exception - Future attacks Krystal Kleer/Elmer's, trust me on this.....).

Future can be applied in several ways. It can be brushed on, or airbrushed (no need to thin it). In fact, on models with overall gloss finishes, just squirt it on the whole magilla. My favorite technique is dipping, however. Pour enough Future into a small bowl to completely cover the part. Using tweezers, hold the part in an inconspicuous area. Dip the entire part, slosh it around, and remove it. Place one edge of the part on a paper towel and allow the excess Future to drain off onto the towel. Prop the part up on edge, allowing the rest of the wax to flow onto the towel. The part will dry in under 1/2 hour, be crystal clear, and the finish is rock hard. Mistakes can be corrected in the early stages with soapy water; once it starts to dry, use ammonia.

And that's it! Hope I made myself clear (arrgh....)

John Noack

## In Box Review Hasegawa F/A-18F Super Hornet

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selection of stores (drop tanks, AIM-120 and AIM-9X missiles, and an AN/ASQ-228 FLIR pod. An unusual (for Hasegawa) stabilator mounting allows for adjustment of the surfaces after construction. A connecting bar incorporating two of the polycaps spans across the rear fuselage, and the stabilators are held in place by the polycaps. I distrust polycaps, putting my faith in glue, but I may try this arrangement. Surface detailing consists of recessed panel lines and rivets, all sharply molded and looking in scale. The landing gear is very nicely done; each main strut consists of four parts plus the wheel, while the nose strut is made up of no less than six parts plus the two wheels. This breakdown allowed Hasegawa to mold in much more detail than the simplified representation of the R/M kit. The main gear wells are very well detailed, but the nose well is nowhere close to as busy looking as the real thing.

Cockpit detail falls into the "OK" category. The single piece tub has acceptable console detailing, and the instrument panels are pretty good. There is no sidewall detail. The five piece seats are, again, OK, but not great. An aftermarket resin seat would greatly enhance this cockpit for a modest cost.

Fuselage breakdown is unusual, to say the least. This is doubtless necessary due to the Hornet's odd shape, but construction is more complicated than the norm. Not a problem if the parts fit, but....

Markings for VFA-103 and VFA-102 are provided on the large decal sheet, along with full stencilling including missile markings. An unexpected addition is eighteen decals to represent various grille work on the airframe. Decals also provide for chaff and flare dispensers. The initial boxing also includes a slim walkaround book with nice shots of the airframe and landing gear, but no cockpit shots.

So what's the verdict? This kit is extremely nice, typical 21st century Hasegawa quality, and you probably won't regret buying it. But buying it will cost you about four times the price of the R/M kit. Is it worth it? Only you can be the judge of that (but I think it is!).