



GTR

Newsletter

August 2004

The Newsletter of IPMS/Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers



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GTR Auto Modelers

2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year

2004 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

Location alternates between member's homes and the Fountains of Crystal Lake

Next GTR Meeting: August 21, 2004

At Tim Leicht's house in McHenry, IL

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Tim Leicht (815) 344-9109

Vice President: John Schaefer (630) 553-0719

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann (847) 516-0211

benzwrench@msn.com

JOHNDSTP43@cs.com

chab@mc.net

The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

Please send all correspondence, newsletters, IPMS information, articles, reviews, comments, praise, criticism to: Chuck Herrmann 338 Alicia Drive Cary, IL 60013

Unless indicated, all articles written by the editor. All errors, misspellings and inaccuracies, while the editor's responsibility, are unintentional. Feel free to copy for any other nonprofit use.

Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at: www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com

GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Industry News

RC2, (aka ERTL), has recently purchased the **Polar Lights** company. The announcement did not indicate that there were to be any changes to the product line but we will need to wait and see. Their 1965 Dodge Coronet pre-painted kits have just been released.



Based on several internet posting it appears that **Provence-Moulage**, the French manufacturer of 1/43 scale kits, has gone into receivership/bankruptcy and ceased operations.

The new **Tamiya** Porsche Carrera GT is out, should available at local shops soon.



The next version of the **Fujimi** Porsche 917 kit will be the 1971 LeMans winning Martini car.



Since this is the same version as the old Heller/Union, etc. kit, this will be a good way to compare the two kits.

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After a last minute save last year, the Milano Model and Toy Museum in Elmhurst will be closing its doors as of Sunday, 7/29/2004. Check out the website at www.toys-n-car.com/ for the sale of displays, etc. Thanks to proprietor Dean Milano for several years of effort at publicizing and preserving our hobby.

Real World

IRL IndyCarSeries entrant Bobby Rahal has



expressed an interest in running Aston Martin's new DBR9 GT in the US ALMS series and at the Le Mans 24 Hours, according to Autosport.com.

Events

The biggest local event this month is the 44th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show, with the model car contest hosted by Lake Michigan Model Car Club, on August 29, at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton.

See details on this and other events on the calendar page and our website.

IPMS News

For coverage and photos of the IPMS National Convention, August 4-7 in Phoenix, AZ, check out the IPMA website at:

www.ipmsusa.org.

The winner of the 2004 IPMS/USA Chapter of the year award goes to our own Region 5's IPMS/Quad Cities. Congratulations to them! They will be the host of the 2004 Region 5 Regional Convention 4/29-30, 2004.

The 2006 IPMS National Convention was awarded to Kansas City.

Newsletters

Since last time, we have received newsletters from: IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers, IPMS/Seattle, AMG Milwaukee, IPMS/C.A.R.S. in Miniature, IPMS/Bong Chapter, and Lake Michigan Model Car Club

GTR News

From The Prez

Well, here it is, August already and summer is just flying by! Like yourselves, I've been extremely busy this year, and I confess, my modeling has been pretty slow the last few months. I am however, redoing one of the bedrooms in my house to become my hobby room, and my office. It's coming along nicely, and should be ready to move in soon. The hard part is going to be cleaning out the old room. I've collected way too much stuff, and that room needs an enema! Just another reason for a bigger room, fill that one with MORE stuff!

Anyway, get your driving gloves on and come on over this month to my place, for the first annual GTR Mini Cooper Challenge! That's right, our first ever R/C racing challenge held on the tarmac at stately Leicht Manor (Tim's driveway)! Almost as much fun as the Weiner Dog Nationals (We'll be eating those instead), there will be a slalom course set up to test your driving skills, and we'll have a full blown road race as well. We might even drink some beer! Then of course, we'll have our monthly meeting. Please either Email me or call to let me know you are planning to attend so I can plan on enough food. And anyone from our neighbor clubs are welcome as well, so spread the word! You will have your choice of cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage, or brats for consumption, so there will be plenty to eat.

Also bring along your most current project so you can talk about your modeling progress over the summer. I'm sure we'll all want to hear what everyone has been up to since it's been a few months since our last regular meeting. And by the way, take some time to write down some notes on that project you are working on and pass them along to Chuck Herrmann. I'm sure he could use the material.

So, come on out and get ready to race! See you then. Tim Leicht

GTR Update

There was no July GTR meeting. We will resume this month, the regular August GTR meeting will be August 21. This month the meeting will be at Tim Leicht's house in McHenry. A map will be included in the mailing for members, if you need more directions contact Tim, numbers are on the first page of this newsletter.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews,

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etc. in the next (September 2004) issue of the newsletter is August 30. Submissions are sorely needed.

Ford Focus SVT Tuner Revell #2187

Subject: Ford Focus SVT

Mfg: Revell

Kit #: 2187 Scale: 1/24

Reviewed by Tim Leicht

The Tuner craze is the fastest growing segment of Automobile Hot Rodding these days. Just take a look at the traffic around you and I'm sure you will find a Japanese, German, or yes, American compact decked out with 17 inch wheels, BIG exhaust, cool sound system, and wild paint job all over the place. These are the teenage new-age Hot Rods for the millennium. Did you know the average age of a NHRA member these days is 57 years old? That's the AVERAGE! The kids today are the future of Hot Rodding. You figure it out.



Revell has taken the Tuner Craze to modeling in a big way. This Ford Focus, the third kit in their series of Tuner cars does not disappoint. There is a lot of stuff in this kit, more parts than you can use on one car, and it allows the builder two choices. Read on.

First, the body. The molding is very crisp, body lines are spot on, with separate door handles, opening hood, and your choice of two front valance panels, two sets of rocker panels, and an optional high rear wing. All glass is separate pieces, with no door glass included. The bottom of the unibody is a separate piece, nicely molded with fuel lines, fuel tank and heat shield detail included. Properly painted, this part would look very

realistic. My only problem is the RV China 2003 marks that need to be removed as they stick out. Put it on the other side, Revell!

The engine assembly is an eight piece assembly with nice detail, and if the heat shield is left off the exhaust, it looks like a real set of headers. There is no K&N air intake in this kit, but I'm sure that could be pirated from one of the Japanese kits with minimal effort. The engine bay is well represented with separate radiator, cooling fans and cooling reservoirs. The exhaust system gives you to choices of mufflers and is nicely molded. Front and rear disc brakes are included, but only the exposed side is detailed. Suspension detail is nicely done, with separate struts, making it easy to paint those coil springs in one of the aftermarket wild paint colors.

The interior is great! You get a choice of stock or racing seats, a full blown rear hatch stereo system with amps and speakers, nicely detailed door panels and dash, and even a visor panel to mount the rear view mirror to. Now to the good stuff.....

You get three, yes THREE choices of wheels, and FYI, these all interchange with the other Tuner kits from Revell, so now you have 9 choices of wheels for these cars! Keep up the good work Revell! With the two other new kits coming out (the Eclipse and the Honda Civic) you will soon have 15 wheel sets to choose from for any of these cars. The decal sheet is nicely done with carbon fiber decals for the hood and spoiler. I'm not real fond of the license plate instructions to use the backing paper for a plate mount, and the flame decals are a bit much to look at. The Toyo tires are nicely done, with realistic tread patterns as used on high performance tires. Another nice touch is the real metal big sized exhaust tips. Just the thing to make your Tuner car look like the real thing.

This is nice kit, a worthy addition to the Revell line of Tuner cars, and I highly recommend this kit, if for nothing more than the extra parts that can be used on other cars. Buy one!

Testors New Model Master True Color Lacquer Spray Paint

Reviewed by: Don Molitor

Testors has released a new paint line which has 41 colors in 3oz. spray cans and 16 colors in 1/2 oz. brushable detailing bottles. You will find both metallic and solid colors like Plumb Crazy, Hemi Orange and Big Bad Blue all specially formulated matches to the factory

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colors from GM, Ford, Chrysler, AMC and Dodge and Plymouth. This is a basecoat, clear coat system that has fast drying colors that can be sanded and polished for a great glossy finish.

If you have not tried the new Testors paint line you should. This new line advertises itself as a lacquer paint that will not craze plastic. (It seems to be a synthetic lacquer.)

This paint is very easy to work with and has some great colors. I have sprayed three different colors; one was a metallic while the other two were solids. They have great coverage. You should be able to get three 1/24th - 1/25th scale bodies painted, perhaps even four out of a single spray can depending on your touch.

Those who use real lacquers **do not** put "real" lacquer automotive clear over the paint. It will wrinkle and crack your base color. You must use the Testors clear. I noticed the clear if applied too quickly and allowed to build up turns milky white when first sprayed on but dries very clear. I also tested the clear by polishing and sanding the clear coat. When using polish be careful. Some of the more aggressive automotive polish seemed to have a reaction with the clear. Mike Dowd's polish works well. Sanding was no problem just be sure to wait a good 24 hours. I did push it and actually sanded in two hours. The clear was still a bit soft and I was making a repair so more clear would be applied before the final sanding. I would not want to do that for a final finish.



I did not use Testors primer in my sampling. I used the Tamiya primer, and no problems resulted from doing so. I also used automotive primer and the paint flowed out just fine.

Testors has also brought a new textured paint with the true color line, much like the ***Scale Motorsports Faux Fabric*** paint. It comes in gray and black but can be painted a variety of colors. I simulated the textured gray

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plastic bumpers often seen on today's Pickups and SUV's by spraying the gray fabric paint onto my already painted and cleared bumpers. I masked all of the areas I wanted to remain the body color. Once the light coat dried I then used Testors acrylics and airbrushed the correct gray over the textured paint for a very convincing look. You can achieve a few different textures by playing with distance and number of coats applied. This has many applications.

The paint has no real obnoxious fumes like real lacquer and or the Tamiya Lacquer paint. (You should still wear your paint respirator). The color coats are ready to be cleared in just a few hours. The paint lays out very well and produces a very nice finish with little or no effort. You will still have to do some work for that deep wet look.

I actually like the new Testors paints better than the Tamiya colors which I felt they were the best spray bomb when they hit the shelves. (Tamiya primers are still my first choice.) I also do not feel the cost is out of line for the spray cans which retail for \$ 4.59 each, while the bottles are \$ 2.39.

Rating

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Poor Average Excellent

Review: Sauber Petronas F1 by Revell Germany

Subject: Sauber Petronas C22F1

Mfg: Revell AG (Germany)

Kit #: 7236 Scale: 1/24

Reviewed by Tim Leicht

With the Formula One season in full swing, and Ferrari once again dominating the points standings, I was quite surprised to see Revell/Germany release this kit. However, it is a pleasant surprise and a worthy addition to their ever increasing line of 1/24 scale Formula One kits. Since Tamiya has pretty much given up on the 1/20 scale line of F1 kits, these 1/24 scale cars are all there are in Formula One kits out there, unless you want to buy the more expensive resin kits from Studio 27 and others. What's nice about this kit is that Revell/Germany is also making a race transport truck to go with it. Add some crew figures and you have a complete diorama! So on to the kit.

Each time Revell/Germany comes out with a new F1 car, the details keep getting better. This kit follows that formula. The engine detail is much nicer, with complete valve covers

and injector bits, and the nice upswing headers. The transaxle halves have the rear suspension arms molded to them, so some tricky painting is required. I wish Revell would have included the carbon fiber decals for the suspension arms on the decal sheet like they did on the 1/12 Ferrari kit. Speaking of decals, these are beautifully done by Cartograf, with the proper metallic green paint scallops on the sheet as decals. The kit calls for a mix of blue and aluminum paint for the body color. I think a better choice would be Telefonica blue from Tamiya over a black base, perhaps. The body is a multi piece affair, and requires some assembly before painting. Since the bottom front holds some of the front suspension, you would be wise to tape it to the main part of the body for painting so the metallic blue paint will match. The front wing is a multi colored assembly and is best painted before assembly.

Brake details are minimal, and seem way too small for this type of race car. But, they get covered by some nice OZ race wheels that are nicely done. Tires are the now standard three groove super wides, with nice Bridgestone tire logos on the decal sheet. The decal sheet also includes numbers and driver names for both Nick Heidfeld and Heinz Harold Frentzen.

This multi-colored car is quite good looking when assembled and will make a great addition to your Formula One race collection. Get the race truck too for a complete scene! I highly recommend this kit.

Love Bug Kit Build Up

Subject: Love Bug (VW Beetle)

Mfg: Polar Lights

Kit #: 6816 Scale: 1/24

Reviewed by Chuck Herrmann

When I saw this kit announcement at the 2003 International Hobby and Model Show in Rosemont last year, being a VW guy I was excited. So when it came out I was able to get one quickly and wrote a first look article that appeared in this newsletter two months ago. Now, having completing building the kit I will pass along my experience on how it all goes together.

If my first look article was generally favorable, I am afraid that now my opinion of this kit has dropped considerably. Some other reviews I have seen have compared this very favorably to the Tamiya Beetle kit, only cheaper. Sorry, but not even close.

In deciding on a version to build, I chose not to do the "Herbie" race car. The wheels and top would not be very accurate, also the markings are really cheesy stick ons, not waterslide decals. The soft top for the sunroof is a molded piece that snaps into four holes, it looked like it would not look very realistic to me. So I filled in the holes on the roof. The wheels on the real car are much deeper and wider than the kit versions. Also the kit wheels are very simple, with no detail so you cannot use them without the dog dish wheel covers (which do not have any VW logos, as does nothing else in this kit). So I decided to make this a rat rod, the wheel design would look good painted red with the covers, as often seen in this genre.

Assembly was not without problems. The instructions, while just one fold out sheet, are clear enough. While this kit is labeled as a snap together, it is a full detail kit, with engine and suspension, and there are many places where glue is needed to ensure a solid fit, especially in the engine. The heads and valve covers of the boxer style engine are separate assemblies that push into the block. I had problems aligning them, and the pegs eventually broke. When I glued them on they were no longer level, this caused problems with the muffler /tailpipe assembly, which did not sit level under the rear valence. And the trunk/engine cover would not close until I cut off a few pieces. So be careful with the engine assembly.

This kit features an opening hood and trunk. This is tricky to install, I had to trim a bit to allow the hinges, which screw into the body,, to locate properly. The front hood eventually sits correctly on the body but it is so loose it does not stay up.

The interior, which builds up off a floor pan, went together without to much problem.



The seat backs required a lot of filler, but that is a common problem. On my example I used the Scale Motorsports Faux Fabric grey, which goes on nicely and simulates fabric texture. Except once assembled not much of the interior is really visible.

The suspension has a lot of pieces, with metal axles running through the middle, but it all went together smoothly and the wheels turn. I thought the front was too high, maybe okay for a stock Beetle but not a custom so I cut off the tabs on the inner wheel and then superglued them lower on the brake. The chassis fit under the body with just a bit of wiggling. But, true to the snapper design, the body is held on by a screw which is very visible when done.

The body and final assembly were next. The clear headlights push into chrome buckets, and the mounting posts are barely visible, unlike some simplified kits. The same for the taillights, which need to be painted (I use Tamiya Clear Red and Orange). The front turn signals are chrome pieces which push into the top of the fenders, the lenses need to be painted clear red and it looks okay. The mirrors and door handles are separate chrome bits that are pushed in. The wipers are thick molded on blobs, I cut mine off, trimmed them down and glued them back on. But I should have used aftermarket of parts box pieces.

The worst part of this kit are the bumpers. They are chromed, but are too thick and bulky looking, and when pushed in they look very toylike and stick out way too far. And the rear tailpipes come all the way out past the bumper, which is way too long. I wound up leaving the bumpers off, and cut back the tail pipes and used some aluminum tubing.

In summary, this is not a bad kit, considering its snap design and intended audience. But the snap fit does not always work, and the wipers and bumpers make it look a bit too toylike for me. However, younger and casual modelers will probably be satisfied. The Tamiya and Hasegawa kits are still the way to go for an accurate replica. But having said that, I have bought another kit to use as a base for a modified Beetle roadster curbside project (see the back cover), as the solid assembly makes for a sturdy base if you do not need a super detailed chassis,

2004 IPMS/GTR Calendar

August 19-22 Road America 500 ALMS Race
Elkhart Lake, WI

August 29 44th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show
With model car contest hosted by Lake Michigan
Model Car Club
Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
Show: 630 969-1847
Contest: 630 268-0859

September 11 IPMS/Will-Cook The Show 10
Millennium/James Hart Cafetorium
Homewood, IL
Ed Mate obviouschoice@juno.com

September 18 IPMS/Kalamazoo Air Show
Kalamazoo, MI Clare Wentzel
cewentzel@yahoo.com

September 19 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

September 25 IPMS/Fort Crook (Nebraska)
Mid America Center
Council Bluffs, IA
Mike Cavel 402-493-9669

October 2 IPMS Duneland **CANCELLED**
Willowcreek Middle School **CANCELLED**
Portage, IN **CANCELLED!**
John Fluck jfluck@aol.com

October 2-4 Toyko Hobby Show

October 9 I CON 4
Hosted by IPMS/Des Moines Hawkeyes
Northwest Comm Center, Des Moines, IA
K. Long klong41@aol.com

October 17 TriState Collectors Toy Show
(formerly Hillside)
Tinley Park HS Tinley Park, IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

October 14-17
iHobby Expo (formerly RCHTA)
Rosemont, IL
www.ihobbyexpo.com

October 23 IPMS/Glue Crew
Park Inn & Conference Center
Wausau, WI jdrew@dwave.net

November 13 22nd Annual Contest & Swap
Hosted by IPMS/Butch O'hare
Lakeview Jr HS Darrien, IL
Jwendt001@aol.com

December 5 TriState Collectors Toy Show
Tinley Park HS , IL (formerly Hillside)
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

? = event or date not yet confirmed as of this printing



2005 National Convention

July 20-23, 2005

Atlanta, GA

2006 National Convention

Kansas City, MO

www.ipmsusa.org

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Inside: Polar Lights Love Bug Build Up, new Testors Spray Lacquers and Revell Ford Focus Tuner reviews

IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers
Chuck Herrmann
338 Alicia Drive
Cary, IL 60013

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