



GTR

Newsletter

September 2004

The Newsletter of IPMS/Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers



Elkhart Lake, WI Aug 22, 2004

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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: September 18, 2004

At the Fountains of Crystal Lake

on Rt. 31 about one mile north of Rt. 176 in Crystal Lake

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

The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

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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.

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GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Industry News

There is a new hobby store in the area. **Hobbytown USA** has opened in Crystal Lake. The address is 15 Crystal Lake Plaza, which is in the strip across from Sears on Route 14. It is a little smaller than some of the Hobbytown stores I have seen, but they have a full line of supplies, Testors and Model Master paints (including the new lacquers), and Tamiya acrylics and lacquer sprays. Their phone number is 815-444-1515

Events

The IHobby Expo (aka RCHTA) in the Rosemont Convention Center is open to the public October 16-17.

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

Real World

From www.autosport.com:

Former grand prix drivers Christian Danner, Marc Surer, Jacques Laffite, Martin Brundle, David Kennedy and Ivan Capelli will return to the racetrack as part of the inaugural Chinese Grand Prix later this month in a Volkswagen Polo celebrity race.

Eighteen VW Polos will take the start at Shanghai International Circuit, and the grid will also include 2001 Dakar Rally winner Jutta Kleinschmidt, now part of VW's rally raid squad, plus German TV stars Heiko Wasser and Florian König and local racers Tengyi Jiang and Kenneth Chan.



New Herbie!

Last month we featured a review of the Polar Lights Love Bug. How we hear that there is to be a new movie in the Love Bug series, *Herbie Fully Loaded*. It looks like this time

Herbie takes on NASCAR, and at the Fontana race on Labor Day Herbie took to the track during the Busch race to get some film time. While still a mid-60's Bug, this version is a little different. From the pictures I have seen it features a NASCAR type rear spoiler and supports and the vents in the rear side window. It still carries #53 with the familiar stripes and roundels. Wonder if Polar Lights will offer this version based on their recent new Love Big tool?

Number 7!



Congratulations to Michael Schumacher and Scuderia Ferrari for their Drivers and Constructors Championships in 2004. Maybe not the most exciting races but we are certainly privileged to witness a legend as it unfolds. Don't forget Schumacher lost the title twice at the last race of the season and would likely have won if he was not injured in 2000. That would have been 10!!!





Champ Car abandoning Road America?

All indications are that the Champ Car open wheel series will not run at Elkhart Lake in 2005. Apparently the event was not profitable. What a shame that some of the world's fastest cars will not run at one of the world's great race circuits, but will continue to run lots of mickey mouse street races. As NASCAR fans are finding out, it's all about the marketing (and \$). Wonder how long until the cursed IRL arrives? *(editors opinion, sorry)*

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

GTR Update

The regular September GTR meeting will be September 18 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.

We have received our chapter charter renewal form from IPMS/USA. Renewal remains at \$10, We need at least five active IPMS/USA members, including all the officers. Everyone please let me know your IPMS status, member number and expiration date. If you are not a member or have lapsed, I encourage you to join or renew, check out their website at www.ipmsusa.org for details.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (October 2004) issue of the newsletter is September 30. Submissions are always needed.

August GTR Meeting

The August meeting was at Tim Leicht's house in McHenry. There were five members present, and everyone had a great time. The Mini Cooper RC challenge was not held because we

found out all the RC cars had the same crystals in them, so we could only use one at a time. But that was OK, with the cheeseburgers and sausages coming hot off the grill, everyone spent more time eating and talking models all night.

Here's what everyone brought:

Dave Edgecomb- Some nice resin kits, including a Ferrari 712 CanAm. Also Dave passed out CDs of photos from his trip to the ALMS race at Mid-Ohio. Thanks, Dave!

Ken Zinnen- Some 1/43 scale resin cars, including a nicely done Ferrari 330 P4

George Pritzen- A nice 1/25 scale Ford Fairlane GTA, and a Mitsubishi Funny Car conversion in progress

John Schaefer- Some of his new NASCAR decals and a NASCAR body with a front end resin conversion

Tim Leicht- A 1/25 Sauber Petronas F1 car, some new Revell tuner car kits, and a 1/12 scale Ferrari 512M kit

We'll see you all at the next meeting at the Fountains in Crystal Lake in September.

Revell AG 1/32 Audi DTM Racer Kit: Two Opinions



Subject: Audi TT DTM

Mfg: Revell AG (Germany)

Kits #:07115 & 07116 Scale: 1/32



07115 ABT-Audi TT-R 2002 L. Aiello "easykit"

Reviewed by Don Molitor

Package Design: Very nicely packaged. Trees wrapped in plastic, heavy cardboard inner tray to protect parts. Clear window in box top allows the buyer to inspect the body to some degree. That is important, because this is a pre-finished kit.

Breakdown: We constantly hear how we need to get kids involved and the manufacturers are obviously trying to capture the interest of the kids. So with the style of this model being aimed at the young modelers, I built this kit as if I were a kid.

I grabbed a file and sprue cutter for tools, opened the instructions and began. From start to finish this model took 23 minutes. (I sanded the tires and cleaned all sprue marks with the file. Those steps add about 10-15 minutes to the build). The instruction sheet is printed in color on a light yellow paper. There are no words at all in the build up instructions. Pictures, arrows and numbers outline the 13 assembly steps. This being a kid's model I think some words to identify parts and some very basic modeling skills could be outlined. (Educate your audience). Skills such as clean up techniques, removal of parts from the parts tree of the pre-painted pieces would be nice. I do not believe this would add any cost to the kit and could be done with minimal effort.

The actual kit itself builds into a nice shelf representation of the race version of an Audi TT-R. Wheels are very nice, with Dunlop lettered tires. As it is with all pre-finished kits that I have seen, mold lines and casting flaws not something you can correct without ruining the finish. My kit has mold lines on each fender flare and sink marks in the trunk and hood.

Other minor problems I encountered (this is a non glue, snap kit) were that the windshield wiper, shifter lever and mirrors required the sticky stuff to hold them on.

The only other shortcomings would be the interior tub and the space behind the wheels. The tub is very shallow and unrealistic. When built, you don't notice the interior if it all is left black, but it you pick out the detail the shallow tray would become obvious. Also the lack of inner fender wall to block out the light from shining through from wheel to wheel is noticeable. And the beautiful spoked wheels

(pre-painted silver) would be enhanced by some disc brakes.

Summary: I think the kit does exactly what it is intended to do. It is easy to build, with little time involved. That is good for parents with young children, and it helps to ease them into the model building process. Not to mention the young one gets a cool car that really rolls.

So moms and dads, get the little ones started today. After all, you are just as important to the future of our hobby as the kids.



07116 ABT-Audi TT-R 2002 M. Ekström
"easykit"

**ABT Audi TT 2002 DTM
Revell Germany #7119**

Reviewed by Tim Leicht

I don't know why more stores are not carrying these little gems of a car kit, but I'm glad I got mine! These are the coolest little 1/32 scale race cars I have seen in a LONG time. With virtually no painting required, these kits are a snap (ha ha) to put together. Lets take a look.....

Open the box and you will find some the nicest tampo painting you have ever seen. The main body on the Audi is a three piece affair, with the lower side panels painted to match the main piece. The striking red and yellow paint scheme is a real looker when assembled. All I did was give the body parts a quick shot of Tamiya clear to give a more uniform appearance to the graphics. I let it dry over night and started to assemble it the next day.



These cars are clearly made for slot car use- PERFECT! The interior tub is basically the top half of the roll cage with minimal interior details. Snap in the pre-decorated glass, then the interior tub and you are almost done. Push in the front and rear pre-painted lights, mount the mirrors, the only bad part of this kit as the openings in the body are too tight for them, and you are done with the body. Make sure you open up the mirror mounts and glue them in place, or you will break one like I did, putting them on.

The lower chassis is one piece, with four snap pieces to hold and locate the metal axles for the wheels. The tires and wheels are gorgeous, with prepainted tire logos. They slide into the axles with very little effort. Watch out when you mount them, as they are different front to back. Slide the chassis into the body, mount the rear spoiler, and you are done! It took me no more than 25 minutes to build mine and it looks great! The only thing I don't like is the lack of a divider on the tub to keep the light from passing through the wheel openings on both sides. Another reviewer of the kit mentioned the same thing and I agree. It's an easy fix with some strip styrene, but it's a little annoying when you see it on the finished car.

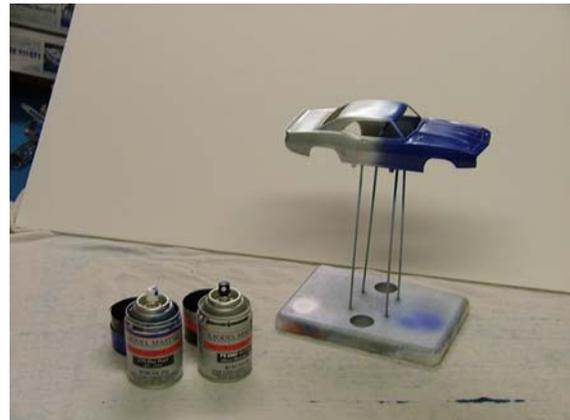
There are six of these in the series, two Audis, two Opels, and two Mercedes. They are all beautifully decorated and I'm sure they will find their way to be on top of many a slot car chassis for authentic looking DTM race cars. Get one of each!

Testor New Auto Lacquer Colors Review

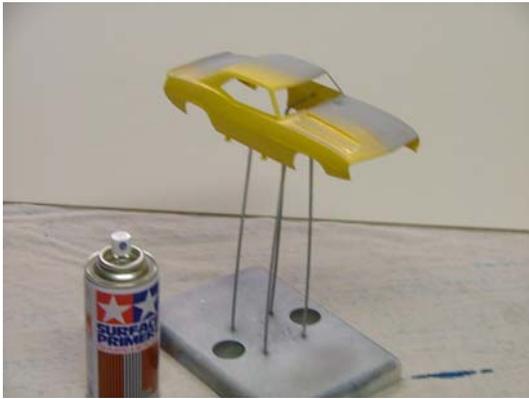
By Tim Leicht



Now you have ANOTHER choice of paint to coat your model cars with. Testor's has released a new line of licensed authentic car colors, in spray and bottles, designed as a two step paint system, with base coat/clearcoat application. I did a test body with the paint and I'd like to show you my results, so here it goes.



All of the spray paints are some of the most popular muscle car colors from the '70s, like Mopar plum crazy, etc. To start my test, I took a yellow plastic 1969 Camaro body, and sprayed half of it with Tamiya gray primer. (see picture) I chose the yellow body to test the opacity of the paint, meaning it's ability to cover well. The Tamiya primer was chosen because it too is lacquer based, and I had not received yet the Testor primer. After spraying, I wet sanded the primer before applying the color coat.



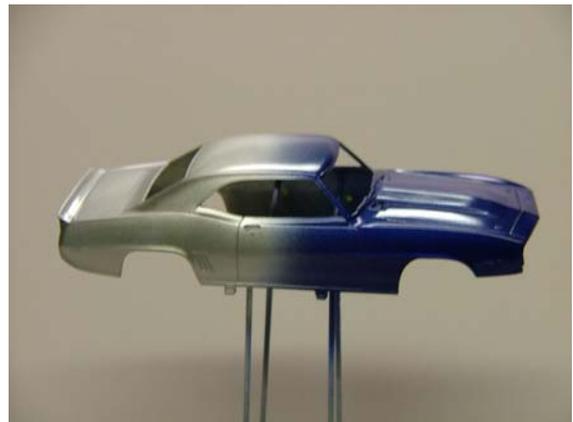
I chose two different colors to spray over the body. One half was AMC silver, and the other half was Chrysler Viper metallic blue. I used the metallics to test their opacity as well. The blue went on first, right out of the can, and not warming the can first. One small problem however, was when I broke the seal and took the lid off the can, the paint had been sprayed out of the can, and it was factory sealed! (see picture) I don't know if someone on the assembly line test sprayed or what, but it had been used. I sprayed a light first coat and found the coverage excellent. I followed it up with a wet coat 10 minutes later, and it covered the yellow plastic and the primer side the same way, with no difference in color on either side. I let it dry for about 30 minutes, and found the paint finish almost eggshell like in appearance, with little or no gloss. Then I sprayed the silver on the other end of the body, also covering the yellow plastic and the primer. It covered in one coat! There was lots of pigment in the silver paint. I did not like the grain of the metal flake with the silver paint however. It was too grainy for a small scale car body. I think a finer grain of powder should have been used in making the paint. This color too dried to an eggshell like satin finish with little gloss.

Now for stage two. I let the paint dry for another hour, and by then it was dry to the touch, with no tacky finger prints left behind. I did not wet sand the body at this stage, because it was just a scrap body and I didn't prep it as well as I usually do, so there were some flash spots left on the hood and fenders, and I would have sanded right through the paint. So, I chose to clearcoat without wet sanding. I had not yet received the Testor clearcoat so I decided to experiment with Tamiya clear gloss over the color coats. I applied one mist coat of clear and let it sit for ten minutes, and then gave the body two wet coats. I let that sit for an hour, and was by then

dry to the touch. There was still a semigloss appearance to the body, and there was no adverse reaction to the paint by mixing Tamiya with the Testor color coats. I then applied two more wet coats of clear, and let it set up for two hours. By then it was dry to the touch, and I had no problem holding the body with my fingers. I put the body back on the stand to rest overnight. The next day, the body still had a semigloss appearance, even with the four coats of clear. So, out came the polishing kit and I proceeded to polish out the body two times. NOW the gloss came up and I was quite pleased with the finish. (see picture) I was also glad that the Tamiya clear went over the color with no reaction. That has been my choice of clearcoat for sometime now, and I think it's the best out there.

As for the Testor paint, here are my findings. First, this paint smells and flows out very similar to Pactra RC spray paint, also made by Testor. I have a strange feeling that this new lacquer is the offspring of the Pactra RC paint. Second, I found the paint to be quite opaque, and covers very well, and lives up to it's two step process, requiring a clear top coat. Third, it's compatible with Tamiya lacquer, which for me is a good thing! I think Testor has come up with some nice paint that goes on easy, and dries a lot faster than their oil based enamels. Try it, you just might like it! Hopefully, there will be more colors coming, to expand your choices.

Highly Recommended.



IPMS/GTR Calendar

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
Urbandale Senior 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 Region V Convention

April 28-29, 2005

Quad Cities, IL

2005 National Convention

July 20-23, 2005

Atlanta, GA

2006 National Convention

Kansas City, MO

www.ipmsusa.org



GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter



Action from the St Petersburg (Russia)
RallySprint event.

IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers
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www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com