

The One True Scale

1/200 scale model aircraft

Newsletter No 24

June 2018

www.the-one-true-scale.co.uk

Contact

Chris Sayer on

shedmodels@gmail.com

Thank you for your responses to my notice about the Data Protection Laws. I enjoyed reading your kind comments. Don't worry if you didn't respond as I should have said that all that is required is for me to tell you what information I hold and that you can opt out at any time. You don't have to do anything.

One person did ask what my policy on cookies is. The answer is that all visitors are offered a selection including dark chocolate flapjacks, Abernathies and choc chip and hazelnut crumbles. And they are biscuits, not cookies.

COVENTRY 1/200 MEETING

I have provisionally booked the room at Coventry Air Museum for Sunday October 14th. I hope that there is enough support to go ahead with this. Ron Crawford (HBM models) has already said he hopes to come across and join us. I will bring out another TOTS nearer the time with all the details.

Sorting through Derek's boxes of castings I have found that he has castings from various people such as Leighton Fletcher's Aerocrafts range. I will try to get some of them sorted and available for sale at Coventry. So far, thanks to your support, I have been able to hand over £5,500 to Derek's family.

I have the masters that Derek had made but did not produce and am trying to honour his memory by making them available. Phil Edwards, who does the excellent resin casting for Wojtek and me, has been exceptionally helpful getting these ready and working out ways to produce them affordably. Some small parts will be made in metal and Peter is working on them at the moment.

I am hoping to have the following ready for Coventry:

McDonnell F 101 Voodoo

Convair F 102 Delta Dagger

Lockheed F 104 Starfighter

Republic F 105 Thunderchief

Convair F106 Delta Dart

Ford Trimotor

Junkers W34

Bellanca Air Cruiser

Dornier Wal

Junkers J 1

Junkers D1

LeVier Cosmic Wind

Taylor Aerocar

I know that all these were close to Derek's heart and he was excited about producing them so I hope you will support their production.

I know that Herpa have 104s in their range but they are probably the worst model they make with huge gaps between parts.

Two masters that I will not produce are the North American F100 Super Sabre and the Junkers Ju 52/3. The first because Paul has a superb F100 in his range and it is not wise to split a very small market. The second because there have been several good 1/200 Ju52 models produced recently and there might not be much demand. In particular, Zvezda has a very acceptable model kit that sells for about £5 while the one I could produce would be about £30.

The Zvezda kit comes with Luftwaffe decals but I have also produced decals for the aircraft used by British Airways and British European Airways.

These decals are available for £6 + post. I have managed to buy a few kits so I can also offer the decals with a kit for £10 + post.

Also, at the request of guess who, I have done decals for Polish LOT aircraft. One is the single Ju 52/3 that they acquired and the other is for a Cessna Bobcat.

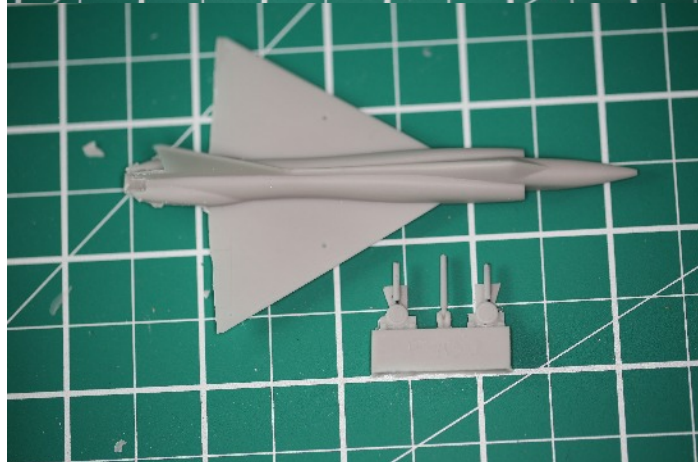
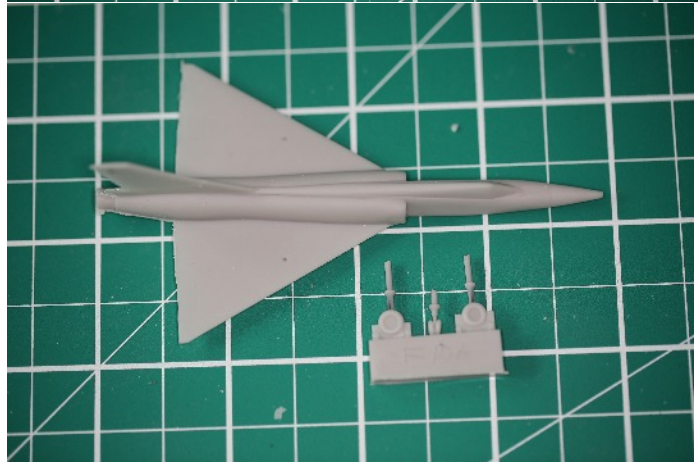
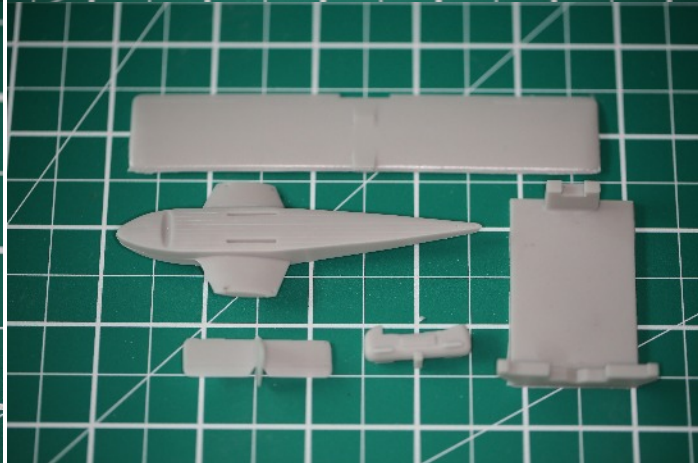
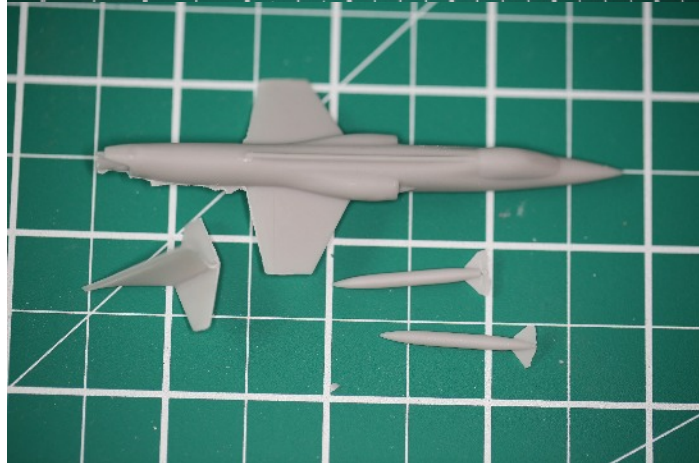
I will supply the Ju 52/3 decal gratis on request with the kit and decal option and the Bobcat decal is available gratis with the Bobcat kit on request.

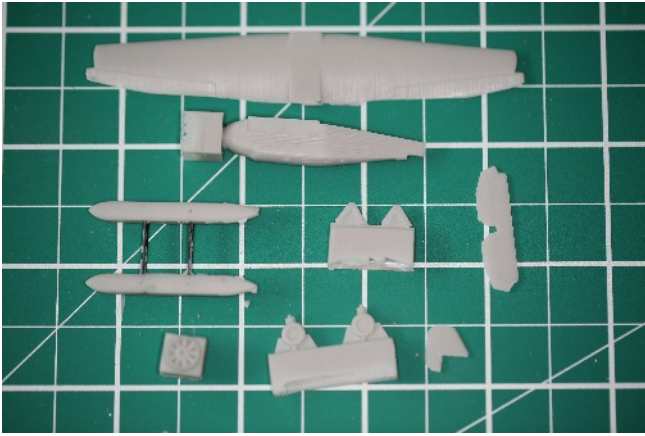


The BEA aircraft is configured as a passenger version while the BA version is configured with a freight door.

In a recent newsletter I said that I was unlikely to have most models recast if I run out of castings. In some cases I am down to the last one or two sets of castings so don't wait too long to send for a kit.

Resin test shots





As many of us began as Dinky or Wiking collectors we are top heavy for age and, sadly, friends are dying or giving up collecting.

I recently had a letter from Wayne Moyer's wife to say he was going into a hospice. His email has now vanished so I fear that the worst has happened. Wayne was making models of all the aircraft that his cousin flew in the USAF and, just before he died, one of the last things that Derek did was to supply Wayne with some castings to help complete the set.

I have also heard from Horst Caspers.

After collecting for 40 years, Horst has decided to dispose of much of his collection. They are finished models with undercarriages and are of a high standard. They include USSR WWII and modern, Italy, Austria, Egypt, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, Rumania, Hungary, Japan, USA, Switzerland, Libya, Iran, Iraq and others.

Horst has never used a computer so if you are interested you need to contact him by post. I expect he would appreciate an SAE.

Horst's address is

Horst Caspers

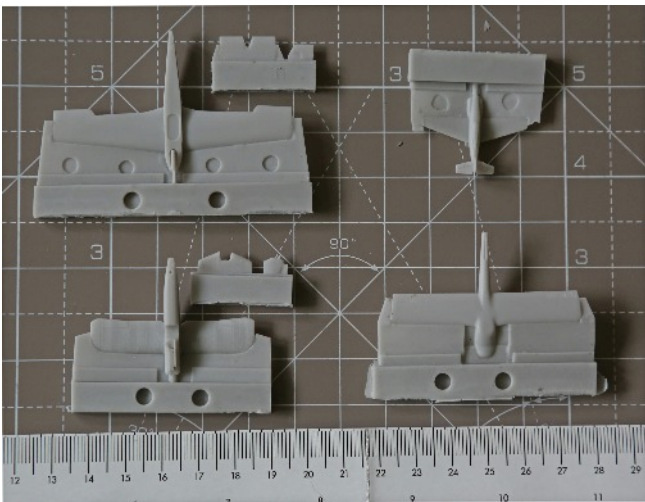
Weinbergstr. 7

D - 65558 Heistenbach

Germany

Photos of some of his models are over the page.

Wojtek has new models in preparation that should be ready for Coventry. I cannot give more details at the moment as he has headed off to the continent on holiday while his UK passport still works.



These four have not been cleaned up as they arrived only 30 minutes before I sent out TOTS

Derek's Hustler

When I sold Derek's MetalModel castings the B58 kits went on the first day and many other people asked for sets in the following days. I have permission to use Derek's moulds for recasts and would be willing to have more recast if there is a demand. There would need to be enough to make it worthwhile as it takes a few spins to get the moulds up to temperature and working properly.

Each set would be £25 + post and there would be no decals supplied. Suitable decals are in the Shed Decals range. I do have to ask that you consider a request as an order. When I did the limited run biplanes, half the people who expressed an interest did not take up the order.



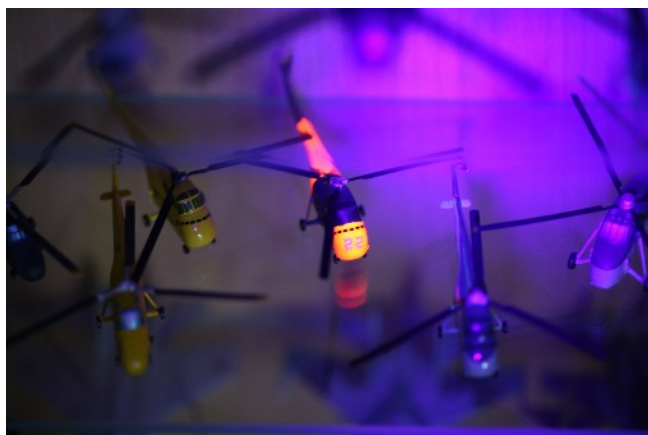
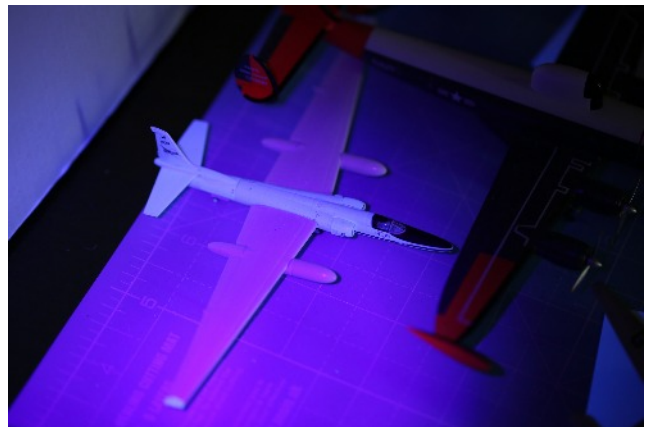
Some of the models that Horst Caspers is putting up for sale.

I have recently started to use UV activated glue for some jobs and rather than use the single LED in the pack I bought a small torch with 21 UV LEDs. The glue sets almost instantly when exposed to the UV light and is especially useful for gap filling. It is very runny and can be run into a gap, surplus wiped off and then activated.

Small squeeze tubes from a UK firm are about £9 but you can get an identical looking and performing tube from China via Amazon for about £2. The only problem is that it is posted from China in a padded envelope and half of the contents get squeezed out on the journey. I now buy it in a bottle.

I decided to have a look at some of my models in the dark with the UV torch. Look at the day glow paint.

More surprising is the Herpa TR2 I have. I can see no difference between wings and fuselage and the wingtips seem to be part of the wings.



I decided to put together a set of castings of a Vickers Vimy that I have had around for years. This was a kit that Tommy produced for himself and most of those which were made were built by Fred Hemsall.

Under the wing I found a marking which surprised me.





The letters are CAA which stands for Cecil Albert Atkins, Tommy's full name. Tommy was a qualified silversmith with his own hallmark and this is it. It is the only model where I have seen it used. If anyone has seen it elsewhere I would be interested to know.

Detlef (db-flight@gmx.de) has a friend intending to dispose of a collection of models. He does not have a list yet but contact Detlef for further details.

Detlef also has his Super King Airs available through the Aviation Centre in Berlin.



Shed Models

shedmodels@gmail.com or chris.sayer@dcemail.com

www.the-one-true-scale.co.uk (photos of models are in the gallery)

Driftwood, 8 The Green, Little Ellingham, Norfolk, NR17 1LT, UK

01953 850216

1/200 scale metal model aircraft kits. Kits include decals and many include etched parts and rubber tyres

Airco DH 9a	£18	Fairey Rotodyne BEA	£29
Avro Bison II	£20	Fieseler Storch Fi 156	£16
Avro C30 Rota	£15	Flying Flea	£3
Avro 504K	£17	Fouga Magister	£12
BAC TSR2	£22	FMC B450 tug	£5
Beech 18 float	£18	GA Jindivik/Pika	£12
Beech 18 ski	£17	Gloster Javelin	£25
Beech 18 wheel	£17	Hafner Rotabuggy	£6
Blackburn Blackburn	£20	Handley Page O/100, O/400	£28
Boulton Paul Overstrand	£25	Hunting 126	£15
Boulton Paul Sidestrand	£25	Leduc 021	£18
Bristol Belvedere	£20	NA Mitchell B25B/C	£19
Bristol Sycamore RAF	£15	NA Mitchell B25J	£19
Bristol Sycamore BEA	£15	NA Mitchell B25H	£19
Bristol 138a	£22	NA T28 Trojan/Fennec	£18
Britten Norman Islander	£19	Percival Pembroke	£20
Britten Norman Turbine Islander	£19	Piper Cub wheel & float	£15
Britten Norman Trislander	£20	Piper Super Cub wheel & float	£15
Coleman MB4 tug	£5	RE8	£18
DH Sea Vixen FAW1 Fleet	£25	Saunders Roe SR.A1	£20
DH Sea Vixen FAW1 Special colours	£25	Saunders Roe SR 53	£15
DH Sea Vixen FAW2 Fleet	£25	Saunders Roe SR 177	£16
DH Sea Vixen FAW2 Special colours	£25	Scottish Aviation Pioneer	£16
English Electric P1A	£15	Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer	£20
Fairey Long Range Monoplane	£22	Short SB4 Sherpa	£12
Fairey Rotodyne	£29	Short SC1	£12

Short Seamew	£16	Douglas Skylancer	£19
Short Sturgeon	£19	Saunders Roe SR.N1 Hovercraft	£20
Sikorsky Hoverfly	£15	Sikorsky R5	£17
Sikorsky Hoverfly float	£16	Westland Dragonfly	£17
Sikorsky H34/S58 Choctaw	£20	BRISTOL BRABAZON (resin and metal)	£78
Sikorsky S55 early	£18	Accessory packs	
Sikorsky S55 mid	£18	Prop pack (20+ 2 to 5 blade props)	£10
Sikorsky S55 late	£18	Weapons pack (60 approx assorted)	£15
Sikorsky S55 float	£19	Undercarriage pack (90 approx assort)	£20
Sikorsky S58T	£20	Strut pack (small ones ideal for aerals)	£10
Supermarine Spiteful/Seafang	£15	Recently released	
Westland Walrus	£20	Boeing B17E/F	£27
Westland Whirlwind early	£18	Boeing B17G	£27
Westland Whirlwind mid	£18	Boeing PB-1W	£27
Westland Whirlwind BEA	£18	Boeing SB-17	£27
Westland Whirlwind turbine	£18	DH 83 Fox Moth	£20
Westland HSS-1 Wessex	£20	DH 86A & B Express	£25
Westland Wessex early nose	£20	Hawker Kestrel	£20
Westland Wessex late node	£20	Piaggio Pc7 and Bugatti 100P pair	£25
Westland Welkin	£18	Biplanes	
NEW MODELS		These will be produced as numbered limited editions of only 20 kits. Resin and metal or all metal. A few are still available to order.	
AW Meteor NF11/13	£18	Decals and etched brass not included in kit	
AW Meteor NF12	£18	Recently released	
AW Meteor NF14	£18	Fairey Albacore R+M	£20
Hawker Hunter F6, FGA9	£19	Vickers Virginia R+M	£25
Supermarine Walrus	£20	Vickers Victoria R+M	£25
Short Shetland (resin and metal)		Vickers Vildebeest R+M	£20
S35 Mk 1 military version	£39	Vickers Vincent R+M	£20
S40 MkII civil version	£39	Coming soon	
Clear plastic stand for Shetland	£ 2	Airco DH16, Bristol F2B, Curtiss Jenny, Fairey	
Cessna 172	£16	IIF float, Fairey IIF wheel, Westland Wallace,	
Cessna O2	£17	Westland Wapiti float, Westland Wapiti wheeled.	
Convair Sea Dart	£19	Postage £4 per kit UK, £6 rest of world.	
		Multiple kits - postage at cost.	

The latest resin and metal models available are

Aero Commander	£20
Cessna Bobcat/Crane	£20
EE Lightning T4 /T5	£20
Lockheed L133 Starjet	£20
Rockwell XFV 12	£20
Douglas DC5	£25
Short Sealand	£20

Derek Barratt's Metalmodel series that he did not produce. Resin with some small metal parts. Prices TBA.

Taylor Aerocar

Bellanca Air Cruiser

Cosmic Wind

Dornier Wal

F101 Voodoo

F102 Delta Dagger

F104 Starfighter

F105 Thunderchief

F106 Delta Dart

Ford Trimotor

Junkers D1

Junkers J1

Junkers W34

Shed Decals - 1/200 scale

shedmodels@gmail.com or chris.sayer@dcemail.com

www.the-one-true-scale.co.uk

Driftwood, 8 The Green, Little Ellingham, Norfolk, NR17 1LT, 01953 850216

IMPORTANT

Please read

Shed Decals are laser printed. This means the colours are very accurate, registration is perfect and decals are thin but strong. It also allows shading and graduation of colours.

There are two problems, namely that white cannot be printed and colours are not very opaque. If the decal has straight edges and can be easily cut out accurately then the decals are printed on white decal paper. If not, we can supply white base decals as listed below. For a roundel, for example, put the appropriate base decal on first, allow it to dry then apply the top decal. It says which base decals are needed on the list, don't forget to buy them as well as the top decal.

Base Decals

Supplied on A5 size sheet with hundreds of decals

£2.50 per sheet

98% round discs to go under roundels

110% round disc to go under roundels and producing a white outer ring

(eg Hinomarus and RFC roundels)

Soviet stars

Stars and bars

Chinese stars and bars

Code letters and numbers

RAF, RN WWII, hundreds of characters on four sheets, white, light grey, sky, dull red £15

RAF, RN post war, hundreds of characters on two sheets, white, black £10

USAF, US Army, hundreds of letters, numbers and titles in white, black, orange £15

US Navy, Marines, hundreds of letters, numbers and titles in white, black, dull red £15

British Civil markings, hundreds of markings, single sheet smaller sizes black £9

British civil markings, hundreds of markings, three sheets black incl. Larger sizes £15

French civil markings, hundreds of markings, two sheets, black and dark blue £12

Large National Sheets

11" x 8" sheet with hundreds of markings

<u>Decal type</u>	<u>Base decal needed</u>	<u>Price</u>
RFC, RNAS, early RAF (A,A1,B type)	98% and 110% round	£12
RAF WWII (B,C,C1 type)	98% round	£12
RAF post war (D type)	98% round	£12
RAF 2 colour low viz	98% round	£12
RAF 2 and 3 colour v pale low viz	98% round	£12
SEAC South East Asia Command	98% round	£12
Japanese hinomarus (fresh and faded)	98% and 110% round	£12
French 3 colour	98% round	£12
French 4 colour (yellow outer)	98% round	£12
Belgian	98% round	£12
Spanish	98% round	£12
Italian post war and Co-Belligerent	98% round	£12
Italian WWII and ANR	White base decals included	£15
Luftwaffe WWII	White base decals included	£15
German WWI and modern	White base decals included	£15
Soviet stars	Star base decals	£12
Chinese WWII, RCAF, PLAAF	Chinese stars & bars, 98% round	£12
US stars and bars	Stars and bars	£12
US pre stars and bars	98% round	£12
Bush Wars (2 sheets Rhodesia and South Africa)	98% round	£15
Clipper Sheet (fits HBM clippers)	none	

Regional Decal Sheets

Each sheet is 11"x 8" and contains hundreds of markings in many sizes

The Middle East sheet is from the 6 day war period although only the Egyptian markings changed later. The North Vietnam markings have been changed very slightly to fit the stars and bars base decals. It would be unaffordable to do N Vietnam base decals.

Where there are fin flashes or markings these will be included printed on white decal paper and so will need to be cut out very accurately - scalpel and steel rule are ideal. No base decals are needed for these.

Individual countries are available but the regional sheets are more economical.

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Base decals needed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark	98% round	£12
Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia	98% round	£12
India, Pakistan, Iran, UAE	98% round	£12
Austria, Netherlands, Czech, Switzerland	98% round	£12
Romania, Portugal, Ireland (3 versions)	98% round	£12
Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru	98% round	£12
Greece, Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria	98% round	£12
Pacific WWII, BPF, NZ, Australia	98% round, stars & bars	£12
North and South Vietnam and Korea	98% round, stars & bars	

Smaller Sheets (half size)

These are A5 size and have hundreds of markings

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Base decals needed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Belgium with blue outer ring	98% round	£6
Brazil	98% round	£6
British Prototype Markings	None - screen printed decals	£6
Dutch East Indies	None - white decal paper	£6
East Germany	None - white decal paper	£6
Finland WWII	98% round	£6
Indonesia	None - white decal paper	£6
Iraq 1931 - 2003	None - white decal paper	£6
Israel no outer ring	98% round	£6
Mexico	None - white decal paper	£6
Myanmar (Burma)	None - white decal paper	£6
Naval Anchors	None - fits on existing decal	£6
Poland	None - white decal paper	£6
Romania WWII	None - white decal paper	£6
BA and BEA decals for Ju52/3	None	£6
Asabove plus Zvezda plastic kit	None	£10

Small national sheets

Most are a quarter of a regional sheet

<u>Country</u>	<u>Base decals needed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Albania	98% round	£5
Argentina	98% round	£5
Australia WWII Pacific	98% round	£3
Austria	98% round	£5
Bolivia	98% round	£5
British Pacific Fleet WWII	Stars and bars	£5
Bulgaria	98% round	£5
Czech	98% round	£5
Denmark	98% round	£5
Ecuador	98% round	£5
Egypt	98% round	£5
Finland	98% round	£5
Greece	98% round	£5
India	98% round	£5
Iran	98% round	£5
Ireland (3 versions)	98% round	£5
Israel with ring	98% round	£5
Jordan	98% round	£5
Netherlands	98% round	£5
New Zealand WWII Pacific	98% round, stars and bars	£8
North Korea	98% round	£5
North Vietnam	Stars and bars	£5
Norway	98% round	£5
Pakistan	98% round	£5
Peru	98% round	£5
Portugal	98% round	£5
Romania	98% round	£5
Saudi Arabia	98% round	£5
South Korea	Stars and bars	£5
South Vietnam	Stars and bars	£5
Sweden	98% round	£5
Switzerland	98% round	£5
Syria	98% round	£5
Turkey	98% round	£5
UAE	98% round	£5

Postage - single sheet £3 UK, £5 rest of world

Multiple sheets at postage cost

Cloudbreak Models June 2018

1/200 scale white metal model kits

Miles Martinet TT1	Not available at present	£12.00
Hawker Henley TT3		£12.00
De Havilland 89 Dragon Rapide , RAF/ RN and many civil schemes		£18.00
DHC-3 Otter (Can.Pacific/USN/US Army decals)		£15.00
Percival Mew Gull , G-AEXF, Alex Henshaw Cape record		£10.00
E.E.Canberra kit, full set of RAF decals		£22.00
Antonov AN2 kit, Aeroflot 'Arctic Polar' decals or Polish AF		£23.00
SEPECAT Jaguar Kit contains extensive variety of stores		£25.00
Grumman Goose , British Guiana Airways, USN, USCG, Bahamas Airways		£18.00
Lockheed L10 Electra , British Airways Ltd. and other civil airlines schemes		£20.00
Lockheed L14 Super Electra , British Airways Ltd., LOT Polish Airlines, TCA		£21.00
De Havilland 114 Heron Series 1 (fixed u/c) Dan-Air, BEA, Morton, Jersey		£25.00
De Havilland 114 Heron Series 2 , RAF, RN, various civil schemes		£25.00
Hawker Siddeley 125 Series 1		£29.00
Hawker Siddeley Dominie T Mk 1		£29.00
Cloudbreak Models now have available a limited quantity of Avro 748 kits.		£39.00
Hawker Siddeley Andover C1 rubber tyres, photo-etched aerial fret and varied decal selection, including: RAF camo, 32 Sqn, UK Open Skies, RNZAF		£45.00
Grumman Albatross HU-16A - varied decal selection, including: USCG white/orange, USCG silver, USAF Korean silver, Italian Air Force silver		£32.00
E.E.Canberra model adapted to take different noses – Available: T.11/19, B 6 (Mod) – long and short nose and T22		£22.00
Canberra Resin with metal parts - will make most versions except PR 9		£17.00
Saro Princess Resin with metal parts, retracted or lowered floats, static or flying propellers, detailed beaching gear, rubber tyres, clear Perspex stand		£78.00
NEW! Boeing B-307B/C-75 Stratoliner Resin with metal parts, rubber tyres, decals include TWA, UAT/Aeromaritime, USAAF		£28.00
NEW! SE.161 Languedoc Resin with metal parts, rubber tyres, various marks, choice of Gnome Rhône or P & W engines, AF and LOT decals		£35.00
NEW! SE.161 Languedoc with Leduc 0.21 F-ZLAV		£45.00

For more information about any model, please contact me at w.benzinski@zen.co.uk

For information and details of other producers, visit www.the-one-true-scale.co.uk

And now, Ron writes from the colonies

News from the Western Front

By Ron Crawford

Voice Crying out in the Wilderness Department.

I am very lonely. One by one most of my old 1:200 collecting friends have faded into oblivion. The phone is quiet. The postbox no longer disgorges notes, enquiries, or offers. The email about models takes just a few minutes per day. Ominously I have become rather tentative about checking in, wondering if my efforts will distress a hopefully bereaved spouse or offspring. Gatherings are down to the TOTS Meet in Coventry (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). Online activity is mainly recreational air combat gamers who sound equally bereft. And the “buzz” has gone virtually inaudible.

Sitting here on a very large existing collection, I do not worry much about finding new additions. Indeed, I am more concerned with getting models on hand built up, finished, and on display. And finding loving homes for the many duplicate pieces. Rather, my discomfort is with the social aspects.

For me collecting and building models has always been a very social activity. I was recruited, inveigled, supported, tutored, pointed toward suppliers, historic and technical information, encouraged when I encountered problems by collector friends. I was inspired by the successes of other collectors. Over the years, and then decades, many became close friends. We competed in our never-ending search for rare classic models from Wiking, Schowanek, Dinky, etc.. However, we also took pleasure from our friends' discoveries. The collegiality increased further as the 1:200 scene shifted to new models produced around the world. When I became a producer, I brought out each new issue with the idea that all my friends could each have one, with no concerns about contrived shortages or blackmail pricing. And I kept going because every new selection of models brought back a wave of appreciation and reciprocity. Collectors were never shy about pointing out our errors and omissions. Neither, however, did we lack for comments about how much they liked their new goodies and how much they enjoyed painting, displaying, and playing with them.

The ultimate expression of the social basis of our hobby was unquestionably the relations among the producers. I sincerely doubt that any of the hobby level model makers have ever made a significant profit. The production volumes and costs for 1:200 aircraft simply do not balance out without major government or corporate sales. In the case of our HBM and X-Models, (and I am certain that we are representative) a hefty proportion of our output was actually swapped with other producers for samples of their models. Collecting became essentially a subscription process. Cash sales never came close to covering the tooling and production costs. I hope that no one's illusions are bruised by that disclosure. This is basically a social hobby, in which any money exchanges do little more than mollify domestic criticism and justify our continued self-exploitation.

When the fun and encouragement go away, there remains very little motivation.

The HBM 1:200 Department.

Our situation became even more strained this spring with the purchase of a winter home in Florida. From the experience thus far, a second home more than doubles the time and effort requirements of one's perfectly serviceable first dwelling. The reader is probably best served by reserving further commentary for a future TOTS.

The HBM model range will henceforth look somewhat different. The master model production, in the absence of additional demand, will be built around types I would like for my own collection. I think the hobby is going through a generational shift, so the masters will be usable for future production. Meanwhile I will post lists of newly made models and order castings to match orders. Collectors may also maintain standing subscriptions as previously.

HBM will probably release just one more 1:200 ship. We will make a Flower Class Corvette, which served with several Allied navies and arguably contributed well above its weight to victory in the Atlantic. I was privileged

to know a number of the brave sailors who manned the Canadian corvettes so there is personal sentiment in this choice as well.

There will probably be no more HBM 1:200 military vehicles or trains. Virtually every prototype of consequence can now be ordered or downloaded from one of the 3D printing web sites. I will just caution anyone interested to buy from someone using a Digital Light Processing (DLP) or Stereolithography (SLA) machine. Popularly available melted filament machines simply do not come close to what I consider acceptable quality. You will drive yourself bonkers trying to smooth out the steps between layers, and in the process eradicate the finer details.

HBM 1:200 aircraft plans remain about the same. We are making parallel streams of unusual USAAF and USN types, split about equally between fighter/strike machines and bombers. Most will derive from the pre-WWII period and the early portion of the Jet Age. Most of the well known types have long since appeared in 1:200 scale, so be prepared for some really rare and unusual birds. We are still building master models the old-fashioned way, but I anticipate switching very soon to a hybrid process using 3D printed basic shapes and hand-crafted fine detail and engraving. Typical aircraft have relatively flat surfaces. That allows a builder to cover the printing layer lines with fast-build primer and then sand to a usable surface quality. Then the builder can use his/her skills to add fine raised details and to engrave into a smooth surface.

Other 1:200 news

The 1:200 airliner field continues quite active. The airliner collecting hobby mystifies me. It appears that the makers constantly bring out minute variations on the same dozen or so jet machines and broaden the apparent choice with incredible options for liveries.. It clearly rotates the cranks of many people but I wish there were better coverage of the prop-liner period.

The choices in 1:200 military and civilian vehicles are enormous and still expanding at a phenomenal rate. Part of the impetus derives from Z-Gauge model railroading and from long-term contributors like Skytrex. We are also seeing huge selections appearing on 3D printing web sites like Shapeways.com and on sites offering 3D digital models, like Thingiverse.com. Tiny objects like vehicles are almost ideally suited to 3D printing, and objects with relatively square shapes are even better. I have weighed in above with admonitions to stick with technologies like DLP and SLA. New variations you might want to check out are CLIP and SLS. Most folks will go no further than Shapeways, so my advice there is to order in their comparable materials which are the ultra detail acrylic plastics. Shapeways' pricing algorithm makes those expensive, but the quality more than compensates. Another bit of advice is not to be too concerned with whether the model is represented as 1/200 scale. Adjusting the scale of a 3D digital model is very simple, and many designers are happy to oblige.

Kit makers like Trumpeter and Merit continue to add a few prototypes per year to their catalogs. That sounds like very few, but consider how many model carriers or battleships a modeler can assemble, paint, and rig in a year.

It is the military aircraft producers who appear to be in transition these days. We can have chicken versus egg arguments about whether that reflects falling demand or something about the product/pricing/marketing issues of us as producers. The telling point in that regard is the failure to thrive of ranges like the Ares Wings of Glory, which seemingly target the air war gamer. My read is that we will experience a lull for several more years, and few if any of the traditional makers will survive that. The vacuum will be filled by 3D printing as soon as the technology enables a competitive level of speed, cost/pricing, and quality. The choice already exists – there are about 650 1:200 aircraft now offered just on Shapeways, and assuming for rescaling would at least double that.

The Coventry Meeting

Let's all do our best to get together for the TOTS World (and doubtless Intergalactic) Summit session on 14th October. We are planning to be there and to combine the 1:200 festivities with a visit to the nearby Jaguar museum and visitor centre. That refers, of course to Jaguar automobiles and not to the slang expression for male cougars. Please see Chris's appeal elsewhere.

And finally some superb models to give you inspiration. A couple of Canadian models from Cal Faber and a Potez 621 and a Wibault from Jean-Pierre Cottu.





For Wojtek's Cloudbreak models contact him on

w.benzinski@zen.co.uk

And for Shed Models and Decals contact me on

shedmodels@gmail.com

Happy modelling

Chris