



THE DISPATCH

June 2020, Vol. 59,
Issue 6

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MEETING NOTICE

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the NCMSS is currently exploring online methods of holding our next meeting.

Check your e-mail inbox for details soon!



COMMANDER'S CALL

Hello NCMSS Friends and Members:

The NCMSS Washington Show Committee and club leadership regrets to announce that after careful consideration we have decided to cancel the September 26, 2020 NCMSS Washington Show at the Springfield Hilton venue.

Current state and local restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic would have an adverse effect on the type and quality of show we were planning to host. Likewise, rather than risk the health and safety of our members and show attendees, we will instead focus our efforts on providing some virtual alternatives along with a superb and expanded show in 2021.

Although NCMSS is not going ahead with a big in-person event this year, we are exploring ideas for a possible virtual version later this year along with other hobby-related activities that we can host. In the meantime, stay tuned! Our [Club Facebook page](#) and our website at [NCMSSClub.org](#) are good sources for information for future events and meeting information.

Hope to see everyone soon even if "virtually" and stay safe. All our best!

National Capital Model Soldier Society

EDITOR'S CORNER

We're currently working on the July edition of the *NCMSS Dispatch Newsletter* and hope to have it finished well before our August meeting. Our August "Zoom" meeting is currently scheduled for August 26 and I'll be sending out more information as the date draws near. I encourage everyone to send me Parade Ground photos and a write-up of your latest projects. You can e-mail me or post directly to our club's [Facebook page](#). So far the response has been great, and I am getting plenty of material for the next issue. We've been receiving

some great articles from our members and we always appreciate your suggestions for topics. We're also looking for your favorite hobby tip or two. With your help we can expand that feature in the newsletter. Your contributions help make YOUR publication better.

The Hobby Calendar 2020 page has been updated to reflect cancellations and new dates for upcoming shows. Please let us know of any we have missed. Also, please be sure to check out the Events and Places column. We've highlighted two fun online sites hosted by

NCMSS members.

Finally, thank you for reading and supporting *The Dispatch*. We appreciate hearing from you!

Sincerely,



David Hoffman
Dispatch Editor/NCMSS Adjutant



June MOTM

“Mug-of-the-Month”



“Nick Strocchia”
Happy Father’s Day!



CLUB NEWS

MEETING MINUTES — June 26, 2020

The NCMSS had its third “Virtual” Club Meeting on June 26. Owing to the fact that our regular “in person” meetings are on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, Nick Strocchia obtained the Zoom hosting application to give the club a virtual meeting place. (Thank you Nick!) Stay tuned for further information on how Zoom works. Zoom meetings are popular right now and easy to use. **Join us on July 22 at our next one!**

Call to Order [19:40]

Adjutant Dave Hoffman started the meeting as Cmdr. Burt was running late.

New/Old Business [19:41-20:03]

1.) Dave provided show update to include Virginia Phase III Guidelines/ restrictions and impact on putting on a show. Jim Richey pointed out the guidelines say to “delay gatherings for high risk populations” which Jim diplomatically pointed out is about 90% of the club!

Grant gave good perspective on layout issues along with club insurance Covid liability coverage and Norb gave his insights on how it would work from his lawyers perspective. Peter Espada

gave the AMPS perspective and David Luff updating that all Wargaming conventions have been canceled. The Club Insurance Policy will be renewed in August. Proposed Go/No Go decision by next meeting. **[See Commanders Call for Show Cancellation announcement since the June meeting].**

2.) Club Meetings for the foreseeable future will still be virtual in the Zoom format since Fairfax Schools have not opened their facilities for community use. Other possible venues for meeting places in the area are operating under the same County/State mandated restrictions but will look at other options.

Parade Ground [20:04-20:45]

David Hoffman presented a Parade Ground Powerpoint based on the submissions sent to him via e mail and posted on the NCMSS Facebook Page. Participants this month included Jim Richey, Mike Thomas, Michael Pierce, Robert Huettner, David Hoffman, David Luff, Peter Espada.

Monthly Presentation [20:45-20:55]

Nick Strocchia gave a very timely presentation on social media and the internet. He



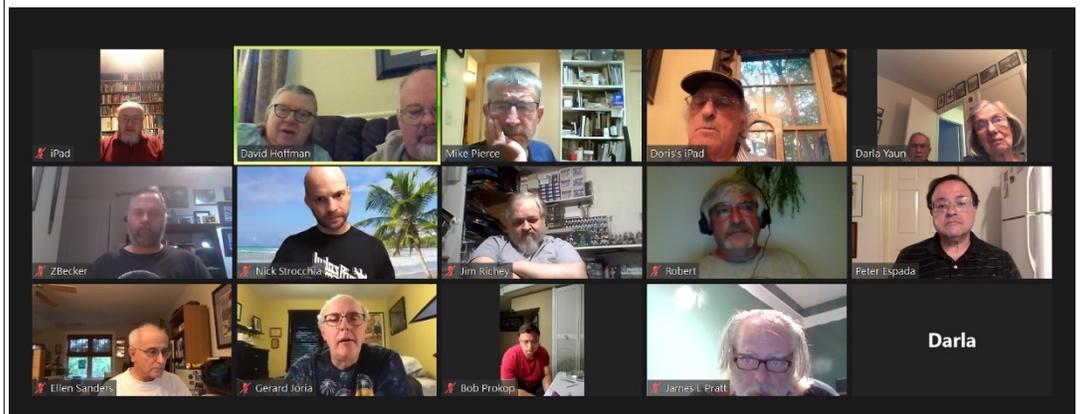
described many of the resources available, best practices and advantages and disadvantages of different platforms. It was very informative and Nick promised to do an outline in the future. Nick has kind of become our informal “Web Consultant” and many thanks for his great work supporting the club. This is our future, folks!

Conclusion [21:00]

Attendees

Norb Lustine, Robert Prokop, Nick Strocchia, Rick Sanders, Zacharia Becker, Mike Pierce, Darla Yaun, Warren Yaun, David Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Peter Espada, James Richey, Mike Thomas, James Pratt, Brian Ford, Bill Graver, Grant Berry, Burt Thompson, David Luff

Submitted by David Hoffman, NCMSS Adjutant
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(240) 912-6499





The National Capital Model Soldier Society

Member benefits include:

- * Friendly monthly meetings where we share our knowledge of history, painting, and modeling
- * Monthly guest speakers
- * Painter's Club—An opportunity to get together with other painters to share tips and techniques
- * Monthly *Dispatch* newsletter
- * The NCMSS Washington Show
- * Affordable dues

What are you waiting for?

Welcome to the club!



EVENTS AND PLACES

Stay-At-Home Edition



Since most of us won't be traveling to exotic places for a while, we thought you might enjoy exploring some online destinations. All you need is a PC or smartphone to see the world!

Google Arts & Culture

Download the app on  or  for FREE!

Are you curious about what Van Gogh's *Starry Night* looks like up close? Have you ever toured the ancient Maya temples or met the inspirational figures of Black history? Do you want to learn about Japan's unique food culture or incredible Indian railways? Google Arts & Culture puts the treasures, stories and knowledge of over 2,000 cultural institutions from 80 countries at your fingertips. From the suffragettes who fought for women's rights, to performing arts at the Paris Opera, to NASA's archive of stunning images, discover stories about our cultural heritage. It's your doorway to explore the art, history, people and wonders of our world.

Highlights:

- Art Transfer – Take a photo and transform it with classic artworks
- Art Selfie – Discover portraits that look like you
- Color Palette – Find art by using the colors of your photo
- Art Projector – See how artworks look in real size
- Pocket Gallery – Wander through immersive galleries and get up close to art
- Art Camera – Explore high-definition artworks
- 360° videos – Experience culture in 360 degrees
- Virtual reality tours – Step inside world-class museums
- Street View – Tour famous sites and landmarks
- Explore by time and color – Travel through time and

see the rainbow through art

- Art Recogniser – Point your device camera at artworks to learn more about them, even when offline (at select museums only)

More features:

- Exhibits – Take guided tours curated by experts
- Favorites – Save and group your favorite artworks into galleries to share with friends or students
- Nearby – Find museums and exhibitions near you
- Notifications – Subscribe to receive weekly highlights or favorite content updates
- Translate – Use the translate button to read about exhibits from around the world in your language

Stories in Miniature

The US Dept of Interior Museum's Dioramas



Artist Albert McClure with the "Coal Mine Explosion" diorama, circa 1936

Kyoto National Museum

Kyoto, Japan



Horse Figurine with Three-color Glaze, Unknown artist, 8th Century

Armoury, Dresden State Art Collections

Dresden, Germany



Parade armor and tack made for King Erik XIV of Sweden, by Eliseus Libaerts, around 1562

The National WWII Museum and Memorial

Kansas City, Missouri



I Want You For U.S. Army - WWI Poster James Montgomery Flagg, 1917

Australian War Memorial

Campbell, Australia



From the video "History of Australian Military Uniforms"

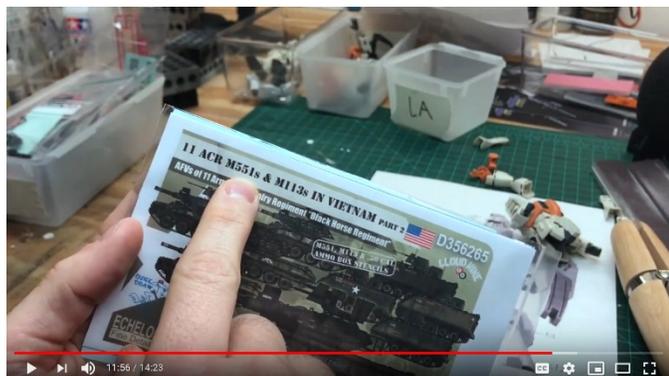
Franco-Prussian War

July 19, 1870 - May 10, 1871



Untitled, Edouard Detaille 1874

EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)



Build Vlog Ep 14 - Shopping Gundam Photoetch and Resin Upgrades

(click to play)
 “Viet’ Gundam update! A quick browse of all the tools and upgrade parts I bought to customize the kits and diorama. To note, most of the stuff I’m taking advantage of comes from the scale tank community!”—Nick S.

Click [HERE](#) to watch [Build Vlog Ep 14](#). You can also check out Nick’s [Macho](#)

[Modelz Youtube Channel](#) for more great content.



Listening to Paint Dry with Mike and Dan Podcast

NCMSS member Mike Dutcher is not only an accomplished painter, he’s producing his own fun & informative modeling podcast! Click the episode title to listen.

[EPISODE 6: The Great Brush Debate](#)

“This week Dan and Mike put to rest the Great Brush Debate! Who will win? Raphael, Windsor Newtons, Rosemary and Co or maybe there’s a new company or two that might have something to say about which brush is best. We also speak with Jason Craze of Slow Fuses Gaming and Monument Hobbies to talk about his hobby journey and he also gives us an incredible education about paint brushes.”—Mike D.



PART DEUX IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MODELS!
NOREASTCON 49
 IPMS Region 1 Scale Model Show & Contest

October 2-3, 2020
 Quality Inn & Suites
 8207 Hwy 88, Baltimore, MD 21060
 555-344-2700

Co-located by
 IPMS Niagara Frontier
 and Roc City Scale Modelers

90 CATEGORIES
100'S OF WORLD CLASS SCALE MODELS
HUGE VENDOR ROOM
AWESOME RAFFLE
DISPLAY-ONLY MODELS AREA

General Admission
 General Admission
 \$10 - Adults
 \$5 - Juniors
 Contest Entry Admission
 (includes general admission entry)
 \$20 - Adults
 \$10 - Juniors (11 and under)
 Free - Bambini (4 yrs and younger)

SPECIAL AWARDS
 ★ BEST BUFFALO BUILT AIRCRAFT ★ 75 YRS SINCE 1945 ★
 ★ ANNUAL NAMED VEHICLES ★ SPECIAL GUNPLA AWARD ★

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Contact:	Contact:	Dealer Contact:
Dave Schaub	Alex Germano	Amrod Moore
540-641-6412	760-924-6426	565-921-924
dave@schaubmodel.com	alex.g.germano@gmail.com	cm@rochetri.com

For more info, visit www.noreastcon49.com

HOBBY CALENDAR 2020

- JUL**
 - Jul 29-Aug 1 — [IPMS National Convention](#) San Marcos, TX ***CANCELLED**
- AUG**
 - Aug 3-7 — [HobbyTown National Convention 2020](#) Lincoln, NE ***VIRTUAL (online only)**
 - Aug 22 — [MosquitoCon 29](#) New Jersey IPMS, Wayne, NJ ***CANCELLED**
- SEPT**
 - Sept 2-6 — [NOVA Open 2020](#) Wargaming Convention, Crystal City, VA ***CANCELLED**
 - Sept 11-13 — [JerseyFest Model Kit & Statue Fair](#) Newark, NJ ***CANCELLED**
 - Sept 19-20 — [Euro Miniature Expo 2020](#) Folkestone, Kent, UK ***CANCELLED**
 - Sept 24-26 — [AMPS 2020 Intl. Convention](#) Camp Hill, PA - ***CANCELLED**
 - Sept 26— [NCMSS 59th Annual Washington Show](#) Alexandria, VA ***CANCELLED**
- OCT**
 - Oct 2-3 — [NorEastCon49](#) IPMS Niagara Frontier, Latham, NY — ***CANCELLED**
 - Oct 3 — [MarauderCon2020](#) IPMS Baltimore/Washington, MD — ***CANCELLED**
 - Oct 9-10 — [MMSI Chicago Show](#) Military Miniature Society of Illinois, ***CANCELLED**
 - Oct 24-25 — [Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show](#) Timonium, MD
 - Oct 24-25 — [WonderFest 2020](#) Louisville, KY ***NEW DATE**
- NOV**
 - Nov 6-7 — [23rd International Paper Modelers Convention](#) Sterling, VA
 - (TBD) Nov — [LIMMS Long Island Miniature Collectors Society](#) ***CANCELLED**



National Capital Model Soldier Society

59th ANNUAL SHOW

NEW DATE!
 SAME GREAT PLACE
 SPRINGFIELD HILTON
 6550 Lonsdale Rd, Springfield, VA

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
 Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Hobby Vendors
- Raffles
- Gundam Build Tables!
- Trophies and sponsored awards
- FREE Professional Photography
- Hobby Club Exhibits!

For details contact us at [NCMSSClub.org](#)

If you know of any upcoming events that you would like people to know about, please contact Adjutant David Hoffman at bpchasseur@comcast.net and we'll add the date to our calendar.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



June "Mug-of-the-Month"

WINNER



"Nick Strocchia"

Winner of the Official Dad's First Dad's Day Competition

June 2020

Parade Ground Participants

*Peter Espada, Jim Richey,
Mike Thomas, Michael Pierce,
Robert Huettner,
David Luff, David Hoffman*

PETER ESPADA

Peter showed the club on screen his work in progress of the Monogram Packard Bobtail Speedster in 1/24 scale he has been working on. He showed us the fully detailed engine and interior, but much was unfinished. He said that this was a very difficult kit and was having a heck of a time with it. He mentioned that he would post it on his Facebook page when completed so here it is. Superb!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY

Jim, our most prolific member, offered a few excellent pieces for review. The first was a Michael Roberts "Trooper, 1st Virginia Cavalry 1862." which Jim said was a very nice figure. He noted the sculpting of the face was nicely done and so easy to paint he had it done in a day and a half.

The second piece was the Spartan Shop's "G.A. Custer 1876" bust in 1/9th scale that he got from the Red Lancer Auction as part of a variety lot.

Jim's third was a fun little piece, Bandai's R2D2 from Star Wars. Darci asked if it rolled, but no, it doesn't. As always, Jim painted each piece exclusively in acrylics.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY (CONTINUED...)

Jim showed his Tamiya British Universal Carrier Mk II kit in 1/35 scale as well as his completed Meng's British R-R Armored Car also in 1/35. The latter kit can be done in different configurations as it was around from 1914 to 1939. Jim chose the WWI version. He related that he broke the headlights several times as the mountings are extremely fragile!

The Police Car is Lindberg's Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor with Prince Georges County markings that he ordered from a company in Arizona. He added the light bar from another kit as this version did not have one. Dave mentioned that he used to drive one in his law enforcement days and that it was one of his favorites, he may build one too and get some Border Patrol markings!



Dave's favorite pursuit sedan!



These are the figures Jim has completed since the start of the quarantine. Churchill from Mil-Mart he had just finished the day of our meeting. 1st Virginia Cavalry 1862 (Michael Roberts) G.A. Custer 1876 (The Spartan shop), B-17 Crewman (Young Miniatures), Gen. Buford (Legends & Lore), US Dragoon 1846 (Pony Soldier). All acrylics.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE THOMAS

These are from Mike's favorite sculptor A. Laruccia. First is an Onager and Legionary crewman with additional "stuff" on the ground. (Check out the May 2020 issue of The Dispatch for a review of the kit.) The Praetorian Aquilifer is wearing the Lion head of the now extinct North African Lion, which had a dark mane as opposed the lighter mane of the lions further south. This is a more accurate depiction of the lion the Romans basically captured and hunted to extinction.

The vignette is of the Battle of Munda, 45 BCE. The Labarum of Constantine depicts a standard of Constantine with the words "In This Sign You Will Conquer", which Constantine used after he said he had a vision from God before his conversion. The Chi Rho, the sign he saw and his armies used on shields, etc., is on top of the cross bar.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MICHAEL PIERCE

Mike is making a two sided vignette using two Volksturm soldiers from different periods, one on each side with graffiti on the brick wall saying "The Beginning" and the other "The End". Very creative and a great idea!



Examples of Hitler's Home Guard uniforms (from Osprey)



The base for the two Volksturm figures. This side's graffiti means "the beginning."



This figure (left) will go on the "beginning" side of the base Squadron Head, Airfix hands, Duro shoes & rifle, and the rest of the figure is Magic Sculpt.



This figure (right) will go on the "end" side of the base.



The opposite side of the base which states "the End". The base is by John Jeffries and the wall is balsa foam.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MICHAEL PIERCE (CONTINUED...)



WIP figure duro and magic sculp with hornet head, DLM equipment. Mike will be basing this Hitler Youth figure on the Osprey illustration to the left. He will be adding the bike and wall behind him. The figure appears out of proportion ; however, he wants to convey ill fitting adult clothes on a child.

WIP figure based on an illustration of an African American soldier of the American Revolution from the “Bucks of Massachusetts”. The Regimental flag is in the state capitol building and was presented to them by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Mike wants to do a series of figures from various black units of the revolutionary war on both sides of the conflict.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

ROBERT HUETTNER

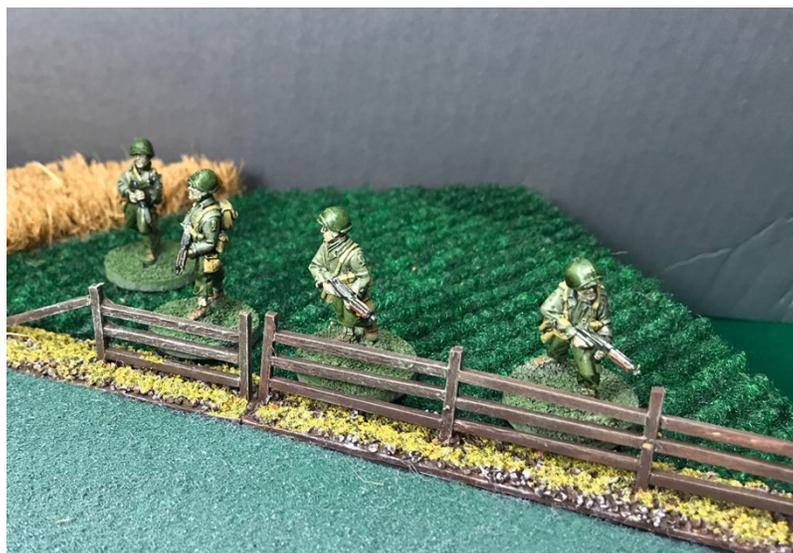
Young Miniatures Spitfire Pilot. Bob submitted this right before last meeting but will include it here. He is really getting the leather down, among other great things about this figure. Young Miniatures including the framework of the cockpit is a nice touch.

The second figure Bob presented was Young Miniatures MG42 gunner. all acrylics. More nice work from Bob, including the depiction of the camouflage, always a big challenge. The MG42 is a nice model by itself!

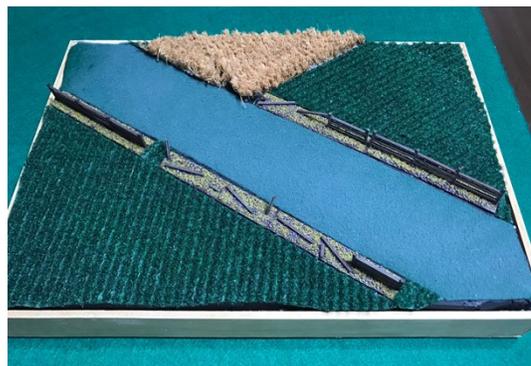


☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

DAVID LUFF



This is a Wargaming Scene in progress. David showed us some of his other work he has been doing as he recovers from an injury. Get well soon!



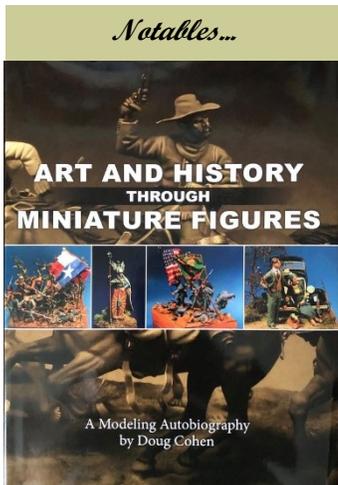
DAVID HOFFMAN



Dave did a plug for one of our favorite vendors and supporter of our show, not to mention a first class sculptor and painter! John is still very active making the bases that are very popular to modelers today. He was offering a special on four bases for \$55 (upper left). He also will do custom work like the larger rounds he made for me (below). Just send him a description and dimension of what you want and he will get back to you with what he has and what he can do along with some pictures. He does burls that are very popular, along with more formal styles. Very quick turn around and always great work!

To purchase one of John Jeffries bases. Use PayPal or send a check to John Jeffries, 350 So, Ocean Ave. Freeport, NY 11520 Birchtreejohn@aol.com





Art and History Through Miniature Figures: A Modeling Autobiography
Written by **Doug Cohen**
available from the

ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP
online, Reaper Miniatures, or from your local favorite bookseller!

Preserving the Past for the Future



"The **Artist Preservation Group** is a gathering of like-minded historical artists whose mission is to...aid in the preservation and restoration of threatened historical sites and/or artifacts."

For more information on how you can help, make a donation, or become a member, visit **ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP**

WORTHY READS

FROM THE HOFFMAN FAMILY LIBRARY

Colour Harmony: Inside the Artist's Palette
By **Mike Blank**, 164pps, Scale Editions, 2019

"Born in Stockholm in 1965, art has always been present in his life. His father was a renowned photographer and his mother worked at the Royal Opera. He attended art school when he was young and now he works as a teacher in a high school. He spends his spare time between his beloved family and his amazing figures and dioramas, playing with colors and composition and traveling all around the world.

Mike Blank is undoubtedly one of the most important artists in the world of miniature, both for his career and for his original creations. His painting style, in which colour harmony stands out, is worldwide recognizable. In this book he develops his particular vision of colors through painting guides and numerous examples. An essential work both for the amateur figure painter and the art lover."—Scale75

Colour Harmony is divided into five sections. The first section covers a range of short topics including style choices, planning, assembly, color choices, tools, groundwork, effects (hair, fur, leather, blood, sweat, tears, dirt, and metals). The second part

of the book describes the colors on Mike's palette. Part three is a gallery and part four of the book is an analysis of numerous examples. Lastly, the book follows Mike's step-by-step painting of the 75mm "Lee's Miserables" by SCALE75.

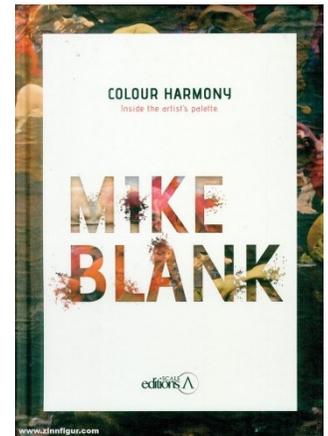
Massive Voodoo team member "David" from Hamburg, Germany [reviewed Blank's Colour Harmony](#) and gave it overall high marks. Although he had some "minor issues" with the book's photography, David noted the issues "do not detract from the fact that I really liked the book..."

"While I was reading the book," wrote David, "I found myself repeatedly thinking:

...the book is a treasure trove of insights, tips, and inspiration...

this is speaking directly to me. Mike writes that he works on multiple projects at the same time because inspiration is fickle and he likes the diversity that comes with project-hopping...the book is a treasure trove of insights, tips and inspiration."

I was really looking forward to getting this book, as I have been an admirer of Mike's work for a very long



time. He is a very friendly guy who has attended and supported many of the major shows in the U.S. over the years. Approachable and with impeccable English, he has made many friends in the U.S. and gives credit to his influences, such as Bill Horan, Mike Good, and others. The book reads like a conversation you might have with him in the bar at the show, giving tips and discussing his ideas regarding the hobby and his creative process. He also gave me a better appreciation of Swedish military history, one of his favorite subjects. As a result I read up on Gustavus Adolphus, for example. This is both a great read and indispensable reference. More of his work can be found on Facebook [here](#).

—David H.

From my collection...

To the left is a Mike Blank piece that I picked up at a California Show figure auction about 20 years ago. Mike used to attend the California shows quite often. I don't normally collect figures from others, but I was very happy to get one of Mike's. Even 20+ years ago he was a highly respected artist.

The figure is of Jan Zizka, 1360-1424, who was one of the great Czech Hussite leaders and considered by many historians as one of the best generals in history. I believe this was done in enamels with the metal of the kit (manufacturer unknown) polished for the armor. —David H.



THE GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA

By Kevin Bukowski (from [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#), May 27, 2020)

After the capture of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottoman Turks took up the banner of Sunni Islam and their jihad exploded across Europe, Asia, and Africa for the next 100 years. By 1565, Ottoman expansion by land had slowed considerably. After conquering the Balkans, the Ottomans ran into the powerful Hapsburg Empire and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to the north. To the south lay the Sahara Desert and jungles of Central Africa. And to the east were the powerful Shia Safavid Persians. These obstacles required more deliberate preparations. Only to the West, via the Mediterranean Sea, would an advance prove relatively easier. In 1564, the greatest of the Ottoman sultans, Suleiman the Magnificent, authorized the seaborne invasion of Italy.

The Eastern Mediterranean was already an Ottoman lake, but to cut off Italy from Hapsburg Spain (flush with gold from the New World) required the domination of the Western Mediterranean. Once done, the isolated warring city states and petty kingdoms of the Italian peninsula would be easy prey. There was only one problem: the tiny island of Malta. Malta was situated in the narrowest part of the Sea between Sicily and Tunisia, which blocked any real access for large fleets to the West. Malta was like a fishbone stuck in the throat of the Mediterranean, doubly so because it was the possession of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, or the Knights Hospitaller, the last of the crusading orders.

The Knights of Malta, as they were known, were Christianity's rear guard in the disastrous crusades of the last 500 years. Created to protect Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land during the First Crusade, they were at the forefront of every major battle



Malta siege maps from the painted gallery of maps in the Vatican

and present at every major retreat. They were thrown out of the Holy Land, off the island of Rhodes, and found their new home on the island of Malta, from which they continued the fight against Muslim expansion.

In the sixteenth century, the Knights of Malta no longer went to war on horses, but in

*“The Knights of Malta
...were Christianity’s
rear guard in the
disastrous crusades of
the last 500 years...”*

galleys. The white cross on blood red background was a feared sight to Ottomans, whose warships were given no quarter, and merchant ships were turned over to their newly freed galley slaves (which invariably meant the slaughter of the Muslim crew). Moreover, they were on the forefront of sixteenth century military efficacy. The Maltese

Knights blended a unique mix of Western land technology and Eastern naval technology. Though few in number, they were the Pope's and Christianity's first and only reliable defense against the Ottomans in the Mediterranean.

In May 1565, the Knights of Malta were on their own. Their leader, the indomitable 71 year old Jean de La Valette amassed 700 Maltese Knights, 600 Spanish and Italian knights, 2700 men at arms, and 3000 armed Maltese civilians to defend island. They occupied the three forts, Fort St. Michael, Fort St. Angelo, and the exposed Fort St. Elmo, that guarded the all-important harbor on the north side of the island (Valetta Harbor today). On 18 May 1565, La Valette's archrival, the Ottoman corsair admiral Dragut-Reis, arrived off Malta with Grand Vizier Mustapha Pasha and 213 ships and 48,000 warriors, including 8000 of the Sultan's own Janissaries.

The last land battle of the Crusades had begun.—KB

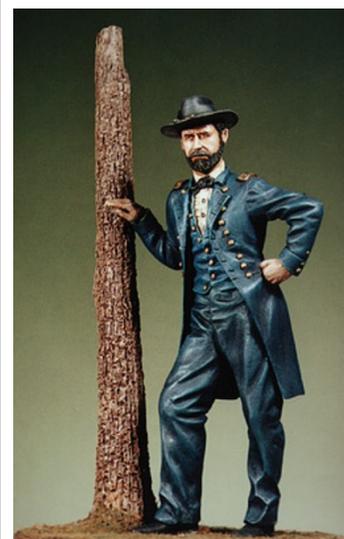
MICHIGAN
TOY SOLDIER CO.



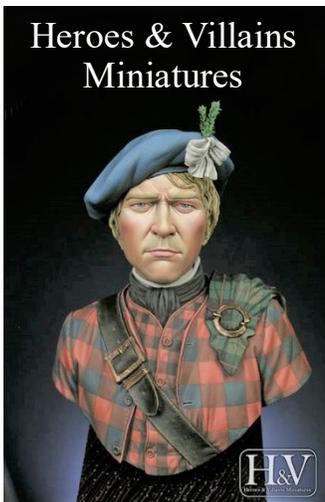
**CHECK OUT OUR
NEW RELEASES!**



**United Empire Miniatures
& MICHAEL MINIATURES**
Historical Figures for Modelers & Painters



**The Lost Battalion
History in Miniatures**



PAINTING TARTANS By Dr. Michael Thomas

Originally published in the February 1981 issue of Military Modeling magazine, pp.125-127, reprinted here courtesy of the author.



Getting Started

At first sight, the painting of Scottish soldiers may seem to provide, perhaps, too great a challenge for the miniaturist. However, as I hope to be able to show, with some care and thought the difficulties can be overcome. The only materials required, in addition to those normally employed in painting model soldiers, are a pencil and a bottle of black Indian Ink. Fine brushes are a must - preferably 0 or 00 size. Buy the best that you can afford, the cheaper varieties are definitely a false economy, and those supplied by Historex Agents are ideal. All types of paint can be used, although with oil paints some patience must be exercised because time will have to be allowed for the successive

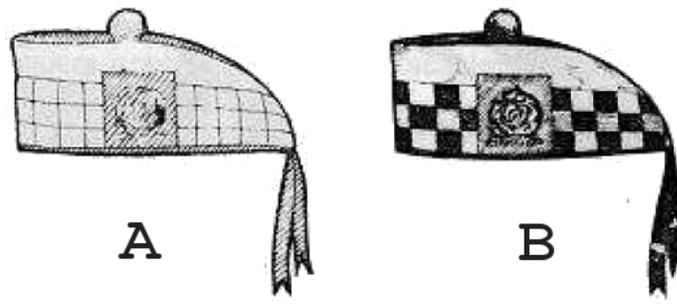


Figure 1. Dicing on Highland Headgear

- A. Marking in the dicing — in pencil — as a painting guide
- B. Blocking in the colored squares

coats of paint to dry. The usual rules with regard to the preparation of the painting surface should be followed; the metal surface should be cleaned and primed. For plastic figures, a thin coat of matt white enamel should be applied to act as a "key." The reason for this will become clear later on.

Dicing on Highland Headgear

We will begin at the top of the figure with the headgear (Figure 1). Most articles of headgear worn by the Scottish soldiery have a diced band around the brim and this normally consists of three lines of squares arranged in a chequered pattern of red and white. In some cases, the central line may have red and green or red and blue squares, with the red squares always conforming to the check pattern of the upper and lower lines.

This chequered pattern is

first outlined with the black Indian Ink and a fine brush and this is the reason behind keying the plastic surface with matt white paint—the water based ink will not "take" on the untreated plastic surface. The advantage of using the ink, rather than enamel or oil paints, is that the brush will come to a finer point and, because of the longer drying time, a longer line can be painted before having to recharge the brush, so avoiding any "feathering" of the line. When actually painting the pattern, start on the side next to the badge and continue on around. This will avoid having to match up the pattern. Put the horizontal lines in first and then the vertical lines. When completed, each of the squares on the dicing should have approximately 1 mm sides for a 54-mm figure, and about 2-mm for the larger figures. Once the pattern has been completed, the colours can be blocked in.



Examples of modern British headgear dicing patterns

PAINING TARTANS (CONTINUED...)

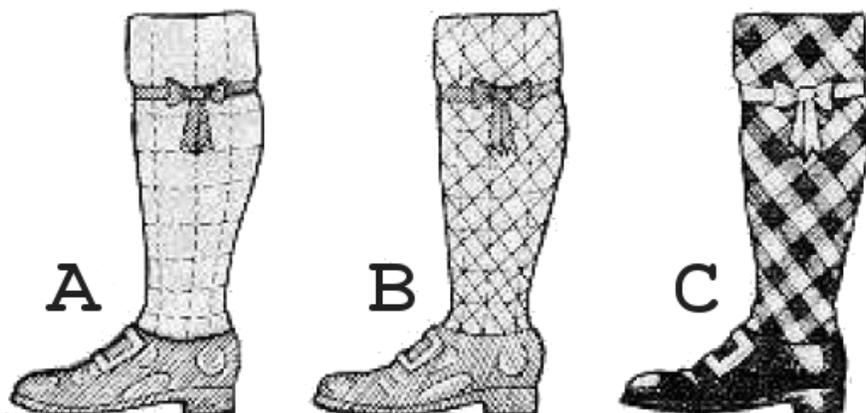


Figure 2. Dicing on Scottish hose

A. Marking in the pencil guide lines B. Drawing the diagonal lines C. Blocking in the colored diamonds

Dicing on Scottish Hose

We can now turn to the diced hose (Figure 2): these give the appearance of a pattern of diamonds which are actually caused by overlapping diagonal stripes of colour normally of either red and white or red and black (although scarlet and green is also known). Where the stripes overlap, a combination of the two colours forms, e.g. the red and white will give rise to a pink colour. Because of the irregular shape of the leg, it is extremely difficult to paint in these stripes freehand, so some form of guide is required. This can be provided by a series of faint pencil lines, drawn horizontally and vertically, on which the diagonal stripes can be drawn with the brush and ink. The pencil guidelines are constructed as follows:

Vertical: Draw eight lines

- (a) Down the front and rear of the leg
- (b) On each side of the leg
- (c) Four more lines, halfway between each of the above

Be sure to keep these vertical lines equidistant along their length, i.e. whatever the shape of the leg.

Horizontal: Draw seven lines around the leg

- (a) Around the centre of the leg, between heel

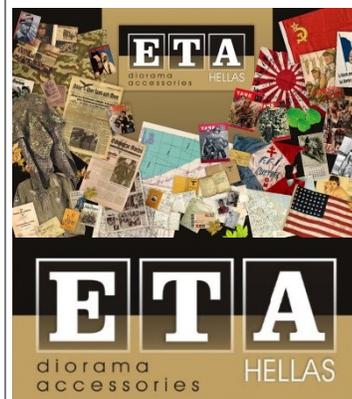
- and stocking top
- (b) Two more bands, halfway between this centre line and the top and heel of the stocking
- (c) Four more bands to divide each of the four segments into two

Note that if the leg is gartered or wearing spats, then these lines should be drawn onto the visible part of the hose, spaced as they would be if the stocking were visible. The above process will now have divided the stocking into a grid with 64 segments.

Now, using these lines as a guide, ink in the diagonal lines, so that each black line always cuts halfway along the side of a segment. Continue this around the leg until all the lines have been painted in and there should now be a pattern of diamonds.

This stage does take some concentration. If you make a mistake, wait for the ink to dry and then paint it out with matt white and start again. With the diagonal lines in place, the colours can be blocked in. Again, some care is needed. It is better to paint the lighter colours in first; if a mistake is made it can then be over-painted with the darker colour. If, for example, the hose are red and white diced, then each red diamond will

touch a white diamond at each corner, the same being true for each white diamond, i.e. a red at each corner. The pink diamonds will then lie between each red and white pair along the side. The diagram should make this clear. Instead of painting the leg white, it can be painted pink instead. The guides are constructed as before, and red and white diamonds are then painted in. This cannot be done with red and black dicing, because the guides will not be visible against the darker colours. One of the advantages of using this method is that the pattern will follow the shape of the leg, stretching where this is necessary. The pencil guide fines will, of course, disappear during the painting.



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PAINTING TARTANS (CONTINUED...)



A Sentry at Ease, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) by Harry Payne, 1892

Painting Tartan Patterns

Finally, we come to tartans. A tartan weave is one in which the pattern of coloured threads is repeated in the vertical and horizontal planes. For the miniaturist, therefore, it is a matter of painting a series of coloured lines and stripes. Fortunately, the patterns, or setts, worn by the Scottish Regiments are relatively few in number and fall

conveniently into two groups - those based on the so-called "Government Sett" (more commonly known as the Black Watch tartan) and those which are not so based.

First, we shall examine those based on the Black Watch sett where the basic pattern colours are dark blue and green with black. So far as size is concerned, there should be roughly three and a half repeats of the pattern between waist and knee on the kilt (although during the 18th. Century the pattern was apparently smaller, with four repeats). Trews and plaid will have the same spacing, but with more repeats of course. For trews, the material was cut so that both legs were identical. For all of these tartans, the first few steps are the same, thus:

- 1.) Paint the entire area dark blue.
- 2.) Paint dark green bands vertically and horizontally so as to divide the blue ground up into equally spaced bands of blue and green. Note that at the rear of a kilt, the pleats will cause the pattern to become incomplete, and this should be remembered when painting.

- 3.) Where the dark green bands cross, paint a green square, slightly lighter in colour. Do not overdo this lighter colour; add a little yellow to the green paint.
- 4.) Paint a thin line of a blue/black/green mixture between the green bands and the blue. These lines should be wide enough to reduce the blue and green bands to a bout two thirds of their former width. These dark lines should be made with very thin paint, a wash almost, and should not be black. In fact, the colour beneath should almost show through.
- 5.) Where the dark lines cross, paint small black squares.
- 6-8.) The remaining lines are over-stripes, and differ for the different tartans; the following table shows the number and colours of such lines. They should only be painted on when the main colours have dried. The coloured diagram (Figure 3) shows how the tartan is built up for the Black Watch.

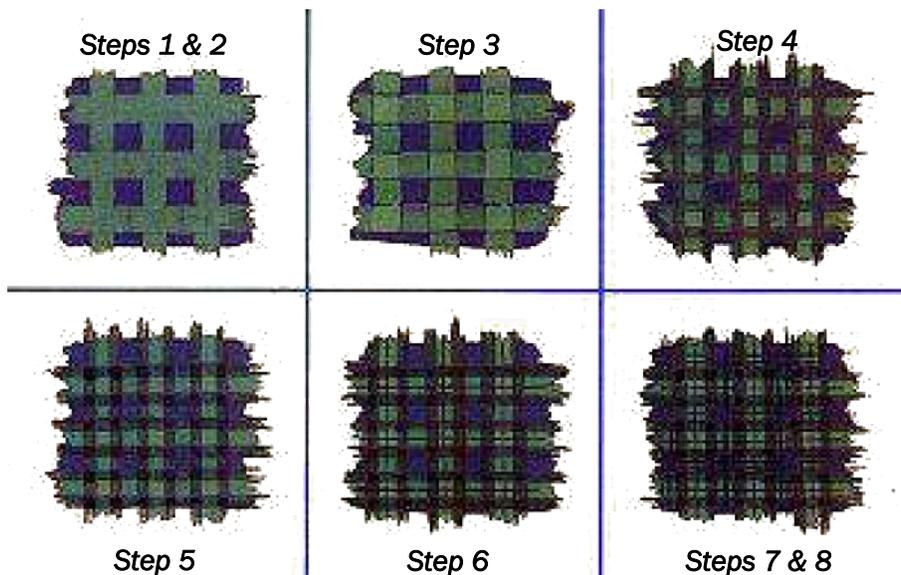


Figure 3. Stages in Painting the Black Watch tartan

PAINTING TARTANS (CONTINUED...)

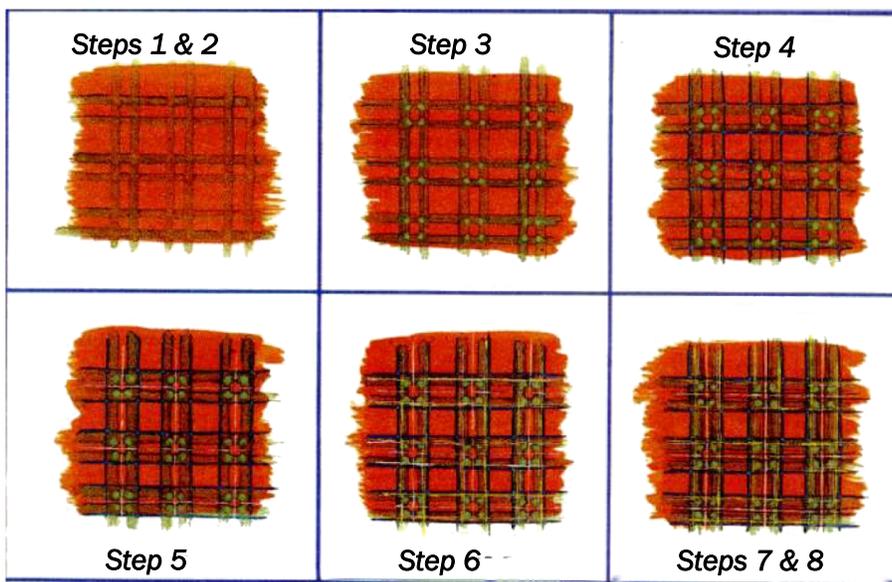


Figure 4. Stages in Painting the Royal Stewart tartan

Royal Stewart Pattern

For the Royal Stewart pattern step-by-step see Figure 4.

- 1.) Paint the entire area a dark scarlet colour.
- 2.) Paint on green stripes, so as to divide the area into scarlet and green bands, in the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (scarlet-green-scarlet-green). The green stripes should be a wash only, so that the scarlet colour tends to show through. The inside of each green stripe should then be over-painted, so as to emphasise the green colour more.
- 3.) Where the emphasised green colour crosses, lighter green squares should be painted.
- 4.) Edge the outside of each green stripe with a light blue line.
- 5.) Paint a white line through the centre of each narrow scarlet band.
- 6.) Paint a white line through the centre of each green stripe.
- 7.) Between this white line and the blue edge line, paint a thin, pale yellow line.
- 8.) Finally, paint two fine black lines each side of

the white line of Step 6.

Note: if this tartan is not to become a mess, the overstripes must be kept thin. For small scale figures, Steps 6 and 7 could well be combined and a single cream line painted.

Douglas

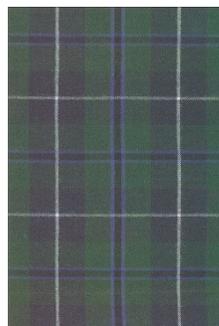
- 1.) Paint the entire area mid green.
- 2.) Paint blue/green bands so as to divide the area into equally spaced green and blue/green bands.
- 3.) Where the blue/green bands cross, paint blue squares.
- 4.) Paint a rather wide black line through the centre of each green band.
- 5.) Paint two thin, light blue

lines, either side of the black line.

- 6.) Paint a thin, white line through the centre of the blue bands.

Hunting Stewart

- 1.) Paint the entire area mid green.
- 2.) Paint dark green bands, so as to divide the area into equally-spaced mid and dark green bands.
- 3.) Paint three fine, light green lines through the dark green bands so as to divide the latter into four.
- 4.) Paint a thin, red line through every other light green band.
- 5.) Paint a thin yellow line through the centre of the remaining light green-bands.



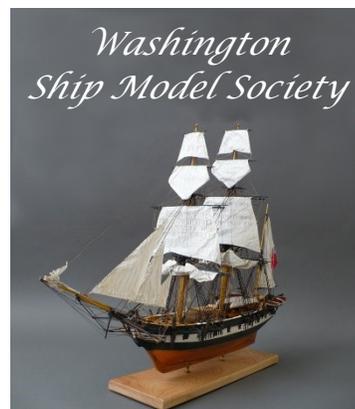
Douglas tartan



Hunting Stewart tartan



Erskine tartan



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PAINTING TARTANS (CONTINUED...)

Dress Erskine

- 1.) Paint the entire area scarlet.
- 2.) Paint bands of mid green so as to divide the area into equally spaced scarlet and green bands. This colour should be a wash so that the scarlet colour shows through.
- 3.) Where the green bands

- cross, paint green squares so that the scarlet colour no longer shows through.
- 4.) Paint two fine, green lines, close together, through the centre of each scarlet band.
- 5.) Paint two fine scarlet lines, close together, through the centre of

each green band.
With some of these patterns it helps to use the Indian Ink to block in the main pattern after the initial coat of paint has dried. This is particularly important when the second coat is a wash colour, otherwise it is rather difficult to control things because the paint tends to run.

—Mike T.

Bibliography

There are many books and publications available which give the modeler details of uniform, what each Regiment wears, kilt or trews, and in what tartan. *Regiments of the Scottish Division* is available through the National Army Museum, although the samples of tartan shown appear to have been photographed through a peculiar series of filters because the colours are - peculiar! For example the Cameron of Erracht tartan appears to consist of two shades of blue!

Scottish Clans and Tartans by Ian Grimble, published by Hamlyn at about £2, is an excellent little book containing photographs of all the military tartans, with much better colour rendering; these colours conforming with actual samples of tartan in the author's possession.

Table showing the variations on the Government Tartan pattern

Sett	Lines through the green bands	Lines through the blue bands
Black Watch	A thin black line through the centre of each band	(a) A pair of thin black lines through the centre of every other blue band (b) Two pairs of thin black lines through the remaining blue bands, near the outer edges
Sutherland'	As for the Black Watch	As for the Black Watch
Gordon	A thin yellow line through the centre of each band	As for the Black Watch
MacKenzie	A thin white line through the centre of each band	(a) A thin red line through the centre of every other blue band (b) Two pairs of fine black lines through the remaining blue bands
Leslie	(a) A fine black line through the centre of each band (b) Two fine white lines, at the extreme edge of the band	A fine red line through the centre of each blue band
Lamont'	A thin white line through the centre of each green band	As for the Black Watch
Cameron of Erracht	(a) Two, rather wide, red lines, dividing each green band into thirds. (b) Two fine red lines between the above two reds.	(a) Two, rather wide, red lines, dividing each blue band into thirds. (b) Two fine red lines at the extreme outer edge of the blue bands. (c) A pale yellow line through the centre of each blue band.

Notes:

1. The Sutherland tartan, as worn by the Army, is identical to the Black Watch, but the colours are lighter. The civilian Sutherland tartan is quite different, with red and white over-stripes.
2. The green squares, painted where the green bands cross, are very much lighter.



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Brian has Bartons, Almonds, Poste Militaire, Series 77, Ceremonial, and many others. Contact him at: aford1@ec.rr.com

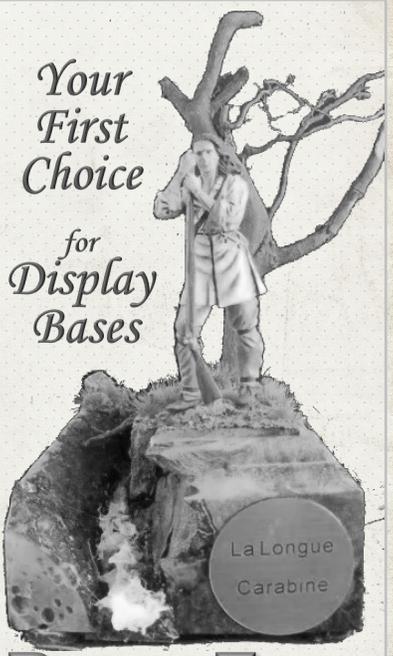


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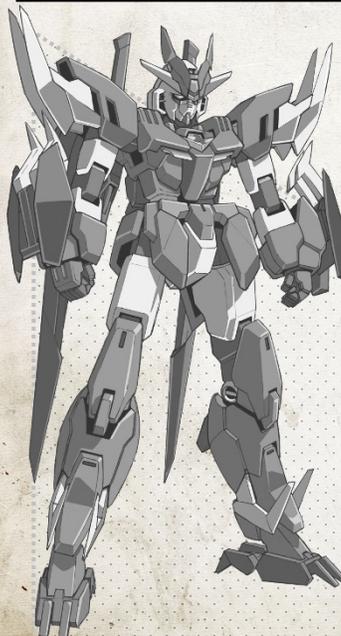
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