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Reminders:

- The JaxCon 2003 show in Jacksonville is coming up on Oct. 25

Theme of the month:

- This month: Falaise Pocket
- Next month: Arnhem

Demonstrations

- This month: Painting faces with Joe Bivona
- Next month: Machining with Ed Brut

WE NEED STUFF FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This month I have reviewed the new DML K5 kit, like I did with the DML Morser Karl, but I think we need more material for the newsletter. Unless you guys just want to see reviews of the cool armor stuff that is coming out, which is about all you will get from me. It really does not take too long to type up your thoughts about a kit you just purchased or are in the process of building and it seems like this is the kind of material people are asking for in the newsletter.

I encourage anyone to try their hand at a review or even just sending me an email with some interesting news that would be nice to share with the club. You can send me a Word or text document, or just plaster the text right into an e-mail and I will put it in the newsletter. If you have pictures to attach, that's even cooler.

So go ahead and send stuff my way. The meetings are going fantastic with tons of show and tell stuff, demonstrations, and the raffle, so it is becoming more of a challenge to fit every thing into the time we have at the meeting. If you want to let everyone know about that killer kit, or piece of junk to stay away from, the newsletter is a great place to do it.

For contributions to the newsletter, questions, or comments, contact Robert Raver

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HOLIDAY DINNER

Once again, Ed and Judi Mayday are taking care of us hungry modelers and the holiday dinner is set for the first weekend in December.

We will get the specifics from Ed at the meeting. I hope everyone can attend. This is always a great chance to see all our friends and have a great dinner. Don't forget, this year

we will be changing the John Crown award so that it is presented to the member who best exemplifies the spirit of our club and our hobby. The award will be voted on by secret ballot at the November meeting and will be presented at the holiday dinner. This should be a great time for everyone and everyone seems to agree that

the food and facilities are excellent. So come on out and celebrate another great year of the Pelikan Model Club.

Let's eat!

IN PROGRESS

Just a reminder that we have a few things that are still in progress which we should briefly cover at the meeting.

We need to discuss the details of our field trip to Fantasy of Flight. George will have more information for us, so we can figure out how we are all going to get there and how much it is going to cost. This should be real fun, but we want to make sure that it the event will be convenient for

everyone who wants to attend. Last meeting we talked about car pooling instead of renting a bus, which would require us to buy the tickets ahead of time and show up with tickets in hand. George will let us know if this is an option.

We also need to tally up the number of people on the new shirt list, add anyone to the list that is not already on it and wants a new shirt. We will also need to

get someone to start looking for a place to have the shirts made. We may want to consider new shirts for everyone with the new logo Robert created for us. I know I could use a new shirt and I have seen the shirts that some guys are still wearing. Some folks really do need an upgrade.

We're working on it

Company: DML

Scale: 1/35

Price: \$100 retail

Pros:

- 1 piece outer superstructure and railings
- Nice crew set and photo etched parts
- Good detail
- Large and interesting subject

Cons:

- Construction and alignment of gun carriage interior looks tricky

On a Scale from 1 –10 this kit rates a:

10

Check it out at:
www.dragon-models.com

THE K5 BY DML



The K5 rail gun was the best purpose built rail artillery piece the German army, or any army for that matter, had in WWII. Only 25 of these guns were constructed and they were used with some success in places like Anzio where they helped pin the allies down on the beaches during the assault. The German army of WWII had no fear of producing monstrous machines and the K5 certainly fits in with this strange fascination, even though it was not the biggest gun the Germans put in service. Because of the size of the subject, this is one that many, including me, believed

we would never see in plastic. Right!

It is kind of hard to put this kit into perspective for us builders of small things, but lets give it a try. There are 21 racks of parts, seven of which contain parts for the rail road bed that is included. The kit contains more than 750 parts. The box is roughly 27" X 17" and the finished model, if I remember correctly, comes in around 3' long. DML claims it is the biggest 1/35 scale kit in the world. I think they are right - it's huge!

The kit comes with some really nice extras like photo etched

parts, some lengths of small chain, and a crew set of 6 multi-purpose figures. This set should be coming out separately, so you can get plenty of extra dudes for all your artillery needs. The quality of the figures is excellent.

Having built a resin and metal kit of a K5 before, I have some serious concerns about several areas of this subject and it seems like the engineers at DML have read my mind and addressed them in good fashion.

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DML'S K5 CONTINUED

My first concern is how to build such a massive superstructure and keep everything straight. DML molds the entire outer carriage assembly in one piece. This very large chunk of plastic is well molded and will be a life saver when trying to put this together and keep it together. The ease of alignment and strength this will provide will make this a pleasure to build.

My next concern is the barrel. There is a lot of barrel on this kit and that means plenty of opportunity to get it out of whack. DML seems to have done a good job with this too, as the majority of the barrel is two large pieces. This means it will be a lot easier to keep straight, although there are some separate sections that will need careful attention.

On to the railings. The ship guys know too well how warped a long stretch of railing can get and how hard it is to keep railings aligned. DML molds the entire stretch of railing that goes along the upper carriage in one piece for each side. This will be a bear to clean, but it should mean a nice straight rail that will drop in place in a single piece. Sorry, did I just drool on you, this is too good!

Another nice feature is the standard issue DML rail road track and bed sections. Anyone who has seen the other 1/35 scale DML rail road subject kits will recognize these. No reason to change something that works and these sections should provide a descent base, while also working well with DML's other rail road subject. Do I hear a German WWII 1/35 scale locomotive in the distance? That would be cool.

The instructions are standard fair for DML, like the Morser Karl, DML has gone away from the color picture instructions, I'm not going to complain about that. The instructions for the figures are provided in color, so at least there are some nice color illustrations of the crew. Decals are provided for the gun called Leopold, which some have said was one of the guns at Anzio. There is some debate, however, as to just how this gun was painted at Anzio and whether it really had the name painted on the side. The decals look good, but I would suggest the dry transfer German Rail Gun marking offered by Archer. Set number AR35088. How bad can they be, they have my name on them. Really, the transfers are very nice and Woody

Vondrake was very gracious to let me work with himself and Randy Loudermilk to produce them long before this kit was available.

The biggest problem I can see in constructing this kit is going to be bringing the interior walls together with the supports, the large air piston assembly, and breach, all at the same time. The one piece exterior will help, but this will be a real challenge. I will be interested in seeing the reviews on this to find out just how hard it is. I will not be building mine for some time, as I have to finish school first. My wife only let me have this kit on the condition that I would not start it until I finish my degree. Bummer!

As you can probably tell by now, I am in awe of this kit. It is amazing to me that DML even attempted it, let alone brought it to market for \$100. I have seen pictures of the parts from the \$140 Trumpeter K5 kit and it does not look like it will be nearly as easy to build. For my money, DML wins without a doubt. For those who never witnessed my first K5, which is now in pieces, I hope you will not have to wait too long to see another. I am sure many people will be building these, and I can't wait to see them!