



ASIAN AIR ARMS Newsletter

ASIAN AIR
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Scale Model World 2024 'Special'



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Scale Model World 2024 – Introduction

This was the third time that I have attended Scale Model World, the largest model show in the world, which was held at the Telford International Centre in Central England between 8-10 November 2024, in my capacity as the Asian Air Arms SIG Leader. I can unreservedly state that this was, without doubt, the most enjoyable show that I have attended during my tenure, and this was down to several factors. The main one was, as always, the people that supported me or that I engaged with over the weekend, which served up three highlights for me personally. The first of these was the sheer breadth and depth of exhibits found on our own AAA SIG tables, which made for a very interesting, colourful and professional looking display. I would, therefore, like to thank our great contributors, Robert Adolphus, Jon Bryon, Andrew Burt, Mick Burton, Ian Gaskell, Nick Greenall, Andy Hardwick, Graham James, David Thomas, Nils Treichel and Colin Whitehouse for delivering on their promises and presenting some great looking models. Special thanks are due to my Deputy, David Thomas, for his unstinting support during the last 11 months of planning in the run up to Telford and, along with Jon Bryon, Andrew Burt and Paul Irving, for helping to man our stand over the weekend.

The second highlight of the show was observing such a diverse range of Asian Air Arms subjects spread across the three main halls of the show. There may not have been many suitably themed aircraft models in the main IPMS(UK) Competition area, but those seen on the various Branch and SIG stands more than made up for this dearth. As always, the F-4 Phantom, F-86 Sabre and MiG-21 were in strong numbers, but the BAe Hawk was very well represented because of its 50th Anniversary and the sheer variety of other subjects was a joy to behold. Hopefully, the photographic coverage in this SMW'24 Show Special will impart a flavour of this rich feast of those subjects we are most interested in as Asian Air Arms fans.

Last, but not least, it was indeed an honour, pleasure and highlight to meet up with Omar Tipu and the team from IPMS Pakistan during the two days of the show; you can read more about their participation elsewhere in this newsletter. I would also like to call out one or two other individuals for their support in the run up to, and during, Scale Model World 2024. So, to Nick Greenall, Leader of the Harrier SIG, for the provision of some of his display base designs and assistance with the provision of a new AAA SIG Display banner, to Simon Watson of the Aviation Bookshop for kindly agreeing to assist with our modest awards ceremony and sponsoring some of the prizes, and to Andrew Prentis, the official IPMS(UK) Hall 3 photographer for agreeing to photograph the aforementioned awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

Scale Model World 2024 – News

Despite the presence of an increased number of manufacturers and traders at Scale Model World 2024 the continued and noticeable absence of South Korean manufacturer, Wolfpack Designs and Zoukei-Mura of Japan, both of which can normally be relied upon to announce or release new kits or accessories during the show, suggested that information on new products that may be of interest to fans of Asian Air Arms may have been sparse this year.



Quite the opposite was the case with two manufacturers, new to Telford, on hand to display products from their new or expanding line. Paul Fernandez, a long-time member and friend of the AAA SIG, decided that 2024 should be the year that he made his debut as a fully-fledged trader at the show and he brought an impressive range of products to the event, many of which will delight Asian Air Arms fans. While the vast majority are dedicated to those aircraft operated by the Philippines Air Force, many of the current range can be applied to other aircraft operated by other Air Arms. The growing range now includes full 3D resin models of the

Sikorsky S-76 light utility helicopter, a range of aircraft conversions including a newly released kit to produce the LTV F-8H Crusader variant previously operated by the Philippines Air Force, Ground Support Equipment and a new range of figures. The latter are all largely modelled on Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell of Top Gun fame but can be applied to any other setting and come in all three of the most popular scales. Paul has also added to his ever-popular decal range with a new 1:72 scale sheet covering the Northrop F-5A Freedom Fighter and F-8H Crusader in Philippine Service and this sheet together with the recent North-American F-86F Sabre sheets, first reported on at SMW'23, proved to be best sellers over the weekend. Keep a lookout for a more detailed review on the latter in the next regular newsletter and check out all of Paul's latest news on products on his Facebook page [here](#).





Much to my surprise, Omar Tipu, had also decided to debut his new range at Scale Model World 2024, where he was kept busy hosted a small stand alongside the IPMS Pakistan display. [MK Hobbies](#) is a relatively new venture, aimed at providing custom 3D resin parts or custom-built full models. Although the current range is mainly, and understandably, focused on those



aircraft used by the Pakistan Air Force, many of the items will have utility elsewhere. I spotted a very nice 1:48 scale main rotor damper set for the Mil Mi-8/17 Hip, for example and the first range of Air-to-Air Missiles, available in 1:72 and 1:48 scale, include AIM-9L and AIM-120 variants. Other items include modern US seated and standing pilots, which could be utilized with any F-16 Fighting Falcon, for example, as well as some very finely produced F-15 Eagle exhaust nozzles and modern ejection seats. Once again, I will be reviewing one or two of these items in the next regular newsletter but, in the meantime, check out the current range [here](#).



Kinetic, one of the other Asian powerhouses of model manufacturing were also in attendance and they did a roaring trade with a modest number of rereleases of older kits with new decal markings and/or parts. Sadly, this did not include the eagerly anticipated F-16V Fighting Falcon 'ROCAF' (Kit Reference K48-101) or F-16 eMLU Royal Thai Air Force 'Cobra BVR' (Kit Reference K48-161) releases, although I was assured that these two kits will appear very soon.

Air Graphics, a prolific manufacturer of aftermarket decals and resin parts, were present with a huge range of new products, many of which are applicable to aircraft operated by Asian Air Arms. The pick of these was a brand new 'On Target' decal sheet in 1:72, dedicated to the full history of the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk in Service with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF). The decal issue features a staggering twenty-seven different options, from the types' initial entry to service right through to its retirement. A full review of this sheet will be featured in due course but, in the meantime you can view the full range of Air Graphic products on www.air-graphics.uk, which will include news on their forthcoming conversion set for the unique two-seat McDonnell-Douglas TA-4S/U Skyhawk operated by the RSAF.



Meindert de Vreeze, one of our Dutch SIG members and a regular contributor to our SIG newsletter was unable to attend Scale Model World 2024 but he has recently been in contact with news on his ever expanding range of custom-made decal sheets, many of which will be of interest to SIG members. Space precludes me from including information on the entire range but much has been added since last year so his website is definitely worth a look. Meindert's other main interest is aerobatic demonstration/display team aircraft so he also has an extensive range of decals covering this genre and he is constantly adding to each range. Furthermore, he will also consider individual commissions and/or suggestions for new items. For more information about the decals and internet links to appropriate reference photos for each decal release, visit the decal page at

Last but not least amongst all the news, Hannants were on hand at SMW'24 with a huge stock of their own Xtradecal range of decals. Although they have not been as prolific as in previous years, with no new Asian Air Arms related releases for Telford, we did receive news of an imminent release which will excite modelers of 1:72 scale helicopters. Their forthcoming Boeing CH-47 Chinook in Worldwide Service (X72-354) will include no less than twenty-three different options including ten aircraft operated by Asian Air Arms in as many different colour schemes! I hope to provide a full review of this sheet in our next regular newsletter in early 2025.

Finally, I would like to remind you about a line of products that are not new but may be of interest to you for future modelling projects. Fellow AAA SIG member Mick Burton is the proprietor of Bright Spark Decals and he has an extremely useful range of generic decal sheets that extensively cover at least three of the principal Asian Air Arms. Mick is our resident expert on



Indonesian military aviation so it should come as no surprise to discover that he has a number of sheets dedicated to the various Air Arms that operate with this country. The range also includes several sheets dedicated to India and Pakistan Air Arms from their foundation in the late 1940s to the present day. Although the majority of sheets are optimized for 1:72 scale models, the generic nature of the range does mean that some of the decals could be used on certain 1:144 and 1:32 scale subjects. The sale of these sheets does also benefit the SIG's finances as Mick generously donates a percentage of the profits to help with the running of the SIG. Mick is happy to take individual orders since some of the decal sheets need to be individually printed although most are normally in stock. If you are interested in seeing the entire range or ordering any of the sheets, please contact us through the normal e-mail contact address and we will forward your inquiry/order on to Mick.

November 2024

The Asian Air Arms SIG Display



The 'Three Amigos' at rest during the first day of Scale Model World 2024. I am indebted to my Deputy, David Thomas (middle) and Paul Irving (right) for their unwavering support in helping to man the SIG display during the weekend (Photo: Graham James)

A general view of the Asian Air Arms SIG Display at Scale Model World 2024, which included forty models provided by 12 contributors, representing 18 different Asian Air Arms from 15 Asian nations. There can be little doubt that the assembled collection also represented a myriad of different aircraft and helicopter types with an equally varied range of colour schemes. Many thanks are due to the Asian Air Arms SIG Display Team for SMW'24; Robert Adolphus, Jon Bryon, Andrew Burt, Mick Burton, Ian Gaskell, Nick Greenall, Andy Hardwick, Graham James, David Thomas, Nils Treichel, Colin Whitehouse and Mark Attrill.



A general view of the left-hand side of the Asian Air Arms SIG display, clearly showing the extensive array of 1:72 scale models produced and presented by two of our regular supporters, Mick Burton and Nils Treichel. Casual observers may think that Mick Burton's 'Royal Danish Air Force' DHC-1 Chipmunk that appears in the foreground may have made a 'forced landing' on our tables by accident, but this is actually an example of the early markings applied to an aircraft operated by the Indonesian Government Flying School!. The aircraft next to it, which appears in early Indonesian Air Force (AURI) markings, is a Piper L-4J Grasshopper, made from the KP kit with Rising Decals.



Another view of the left-hand end of our display, which clearly illustrates the rich diversity of aircraft types and colour schemes that adorned our tables during SMW'24. The diminutive Special Hobby Hindustan Gnat F.1 of the Indian Air Force, positioned next to the Philippines Air Force Douglas EC-47D Skytrain, was built by Andrew Burt, the winner of our Class II award this year. (Photo: Graham James)

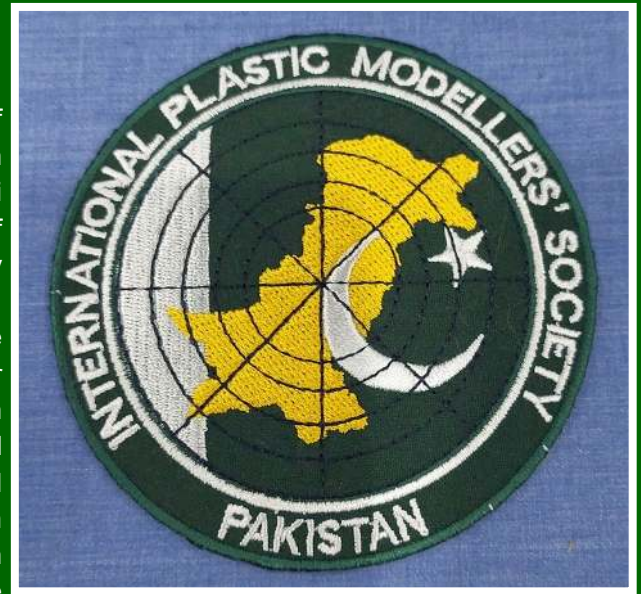
The right-hand side of the SIG display was equally diverse. Alan Smith's lack of presence this year inevitably resulted in a downturn in our 1:144 scale representation on the AAA SIG display, although David Thomas and Graham James did manage to produce a nice quartet of models to grace our display.



Another view of the central and right-handed end of the SIG display, clearly dominated by David Thomas' 1:32 scale Indian Air Force BAe Hawk Mk.132 and a couple of large 1:48 scale fighters, but also hosting a sizeable contingent of aircraft models representing the Indian Air Force.

IPMS Pakistan

It was our great pleasure to meet up with Omar Aziz Tipu, President of IPMS Pakistan, and his team who had made the long trip from Pakistan to attend Scale Model World 2024 for the very first time. Omar, Ali Hashim, Saqib and Imran brought over an impressive collection of models with which to populate their tables, which were very conveniently co-located with those of the Asian Air Arms SIG. As one can imagine, the team were completely overawed by the sheer size and scale of the annual show at Telford and were delighted to have made the effort. For David and I, it was especially gratifying to establish a great connection with one of 'our' Overseas Branches, and two of our members, Omar and Imran. We had some excellent discussions over the weekend and reached agreement in a number of areas where we can benefit from mutual assistance going forward. This should include help to Omar in establishing a bigger footprint for the IPMS in Pakistan and assistance



IPMS Pakistan made the long journey from Lahore to Telford to be among new friends and acquaintances at Scale Model World 2024. The team, led by the President of IPMS Pakistan and SIG member Omar Tipu, brought a small but impressive display of models across several genres to grace their tables (left to right: Saqib Iqbal, Ali Hashim Jaffery, Omar Aziz Tipu (President) and Imran Ashraf).

Omar Tipu, President of IPMS Pakistan, cemented the new relationship between his branch of IPMS and the Asian Air Arms SIG with two awards, including one to Simon Watson of the Aviation Bookshop for his unwavering support to the Asian Air Arms SIG over many years.

with the further development and marketing of his new company, [MK Hobbies](#) (news of which is provided elsewhere in this newsletter). I was also delighted to learn that Omar and the Team were later awarded the IPMS(UK) sponsored Globetrotters' Trophy for the Farthest Travelled Club, and that the team also carried away the 'Brian Griffin Award', which was presented to Muhammad Riaz *in absentia* for his excellent Trumpeter 1:48 Pakistan Air Force Chengdu J-7.





One of our awards during the annual Scale Modelworld event is the Brian Griffin Award, first presented in 2023 in honour of our founding SIG Leader. This year it was our honour to make this award, for the best Asian Air Arms subject by a non-AAA SIG member, to Muhammad Riaz of IPMS Pakistan for his superb Pakistan Air Force Chengdu F-7 that was built almost completely out of the box from the Trumpeter kit. Sadly Muhammad was not present at SMW'24, although Omar Tipu of IPMS Pakistan was on hand to receive his prizes which included kits and books, although the wonders of the internet allowed the IPMS Pakistan team to virtually show him his awards shortly afterwards !.



AAA SIG Contributors' Models



This hugely impressive Kinetic 1:32 scale BAe Hawk Mk.132, made by David Thomas, was the centrepiece of our display at SMW'24. The model sports the colours and markings of the 'Surya Kiran' Aerobatic Display Team of the Indian Air Force. It was the result of some painstaking work to reproduce the complex markings using a combination of Bright Spark and home-made decals, and the end result was well worth the effort and attracted a considerable amount of praise.

David Thomas' award winning 1:144 scale model of a Hawker-Siddeley HS.748 of the Indian Air Force.



This 1:144 scale Ilyushin IL-76MD was one of a trio of Indian Air Force transport types completed by our Deputy SIG Leader, David Thomas, in time for display at SMW'24.



The Boeing C-17 Globemaster III strategic transport aircraft is one of the latest aircraft to join the Indian Air Force, represented here in model form by David Thomas.

One of Mick Burton's superb little 1:72 creations. The North-American P-51D Mustang is one of the most iconic combat aircraft in the world, but we rarely see it in post-World War II markings in model form, so it was great to see this model wearing the highly colourful markings applied to Philippines Air Force aircraft.



David Tomas demonstrated his versatile modelling skills, branching out into 1:72 scale with his Italeri kit of the Lockheed-Martin F-35A Lightning II in JASDF markings.



This Monogram 1:48 scale Mikoyan MiG-15bis was the subject of a recent 120-Day challenge build undertaken by Graham James, and finished, for the benefit of the AAA SIG, in the markings of the 1st Squadron, 821st GvIAP of the Korean Peoples' Army Air Force, using kit-supplied and homemade decals.





Mick Burton's fascination with interesting and colourful transport and support aircraft in service with Asian Air Arms continues with this latest manifestation, in the form of a Douglas EC-47D Skytrain in Philippines Air Force markings. It is understood that the original aircraft was one of several specialized ECM optimized aircraft provided to the Philippines Government after the demise of the South Vietnamese Air Force in 1975. The model was created using the current Airfix 1:72 kit of the C-47 Skytrain with suitable modifications, including the extended nosecone that is associated with this particular variant.



This Royal Thai Air Force DHC-1 Chipmunk T.20, built using the old Aeroclub multi-media kit was, without doubt, one of the most colourful exhibits on the display tables at SMW'24.



Andy Hardwick proved that you do not need a new state-of-the-art kit to produce a really nice model. This superb looking Japanese single-seat F-15J Eagle of the 303rd Hikotai, sporting a 60th Anniversary digital camouflage scheme, was produced using the now vintage Tamiya 1:48 scale kit.

Apart from his fascination with the BAe Harrier/McDD AV-8 family of aircraft, Graham James is also a big fan of the Dassault Rafale. As a result, he recently produced this Rafale EH of the Indian Air Force in record time for exhibition on the AAA SIG stand.



This rather smart Leonardo M-346 Master is the Kinetic 1:48 scale kit, presented in the markings of 150 Squadron, Republic of Singapore Air Force, is another contribution by Graham James.

Mick Burton, a long-standing member of the SIG and regular contributor to the SIG displays at shows up and down the UK, could not be with us this year but this did not prevent him from supporting the display. Mick provided several models including this superbly built and presented pair sporting the markings of the Khmer Air Force in the 1960/70s. It was nice to see the Douglas AD-4NA Skyraider and Mikoyan MiG-17F Fresco C in these unusual markings from this little-known Asian Air Arm.





Nick Greenall is well known as the current Leader of the hugely popular Harrier SIG, although his love of another classic British aircraft, the Supermarine Spitfire, led to him recently joining the AAA SIG and producing the lovely Airfix 1:48 scale rendition, which was hand painted. Nick even managed to find a 14 Squadron Indian Air Force example that utilized his personal initials in the Squadron Codes!



The origins of the joint partnership between Italian aircraft manufacturer Leonardo and Yakovlev of Russia, and the similarities of design, are plain to see in this comparative study between a Yak-130 'Mitten' of the Laotian Air Force and a Leonardo M-346 Master of the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Two regular but nonetheless welcome Lockheed F-104 Starfighters in 1:48 scale. Ian Gaskell's 1:48 scale Kinetic Lockheed F-104A Starfighter, portrayed in Pakistan Air Force colours and winner of an AAA SIG award in SMW'22 last year, once again graced our display, contrasting nicely with the JASDF F-104DJ Starfighter presented by Graham James.



Colin Whitehouse is a fan of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), and his 1:48 scale Rockwell/North-American OV-10 Bronco made for a substantial exhibit. Even more impressive was the fact that this model was produced from the old Testors 1970s era kit, utilizing the long out-of-production Paragon improvement set.



Colin brought an impressive collection of RTAF models to Telford for display on the AAA SIG stand, including this very attractive F-5E Tiger II sporting a three-tone Blue/Grey camouflage scheme.



In sharp contrast to some of his models on display at SMW'24, Colin's Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star featured a low-visibility, albeit attractive, camouflage scheme.



Another regular contributor to the 1:72 scale section of our display is Germany-based Nils Treichel, who provided no less than three models to this year's event, including this beautiful model of the Westland Wasp HAS.1 Anti-Submarine Warfare helicopter in Indonesian Navy markings.



Nils also provided a model of the Sikorsky S-70 Sea Hawk in the markings of 701 Squadron of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Naval Air Arm.



Jon Bryon can always be relied upon to provide a superb model for the SIG display and 2024 was no exception with this excellent rendition of the Chengdu/PAC JF-17 'Thunder', in the markings of No 16 Squadron, Pakistan Air Force.





Advanced information on the presence of IPMS Pakistan at SMW'24 prompted your SIG leader to undertake a 'quick build' of the 1:48 scale Roden kit of the Cessna O-1 'Bird Dog' Liaison and Observation aircraft in Pakistan Army colours. The build turned out to be anything but 'quick' as will be related in a future article in our regular newsletter!

This Eduard 1:48 scale Mikoyan MiG-21Bis, featuring Indian Air Force markings, had languished on the SIG Leader's 'Shelf of Doom' for almost 10 years before finally being finished and making a first appearance at SMW'24.



Ian Gaskell's hugely impressive Indonesian Sukhoi Su-30MK2 Flanker, produced using the Hobby Boss kit, demonstrated this master modeller's considerable airbrush skills with a perfectly applied colour scheme and suitable weathering.



Asian Air Arms SIG Awards



AAA SIG Member, and a regular winner in our annual competitions, Ian Gaskell received the Class 1 – 1:48 Scale or Larger – award for his superb rendition of a Laotian Air Force Yakovlev Yak-130 'Mitten', which utilized aftermarket decals from a Begemot sheet dedicated to the Yak-130 in worldwide service.



Newcomer Andrew Burt won the Class 2 award, with his excellent 1:72 scale Special Hobby model of the diminutive Hindustan Gnat F.1 , operated by the Gnat Operational Conversion Unit, Indian Air Force, which is one of the decal options included in the original kit.



David Thomas, our Deputy SIG Leader, won the Class 3 award – 1:144 Scale and Smaller – for his superb replica of the Hawker-Siddeley HS.748 twin-turboprop transport aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force, the last military operator in the world to utilize the type. This model is one of the 1:144 scale family of HS.748 variants manufactured by Czech manufacturer, Mark 1 and was one of several excellent models produced by David for the AAA SIG display at SMW'24.





Ronan Donohoe of IPMS Ireland picked up the AAA SIG 'Phil Camp Memorial Award' for his superb Aoshima 1:144 Scale Kawasaki C-2 military transport aircraft, which had been entered in the main IPMS(UK) Competition. The Phil Camp Memorial Award, presented to the best model of an Asian Air Arms subject in the main competition was inaugurated several years ago to honour Phil Camp, a well-known expert on the Indian Air Force who had been a member of the SIG until his untimely death. This is the second time in three years that a member of the IPMS Ireland delegation at Telford have received this award. Unfortunately, Ronan was unable to collect his award in person during our small ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Apart from a suitable kit and certificate, he was also presented with one of Phil Camp's books, courtesy of Simon Watson of the Aviation Bookshop, one of the Special Interest Group's leading sponsors.



In contrast to the overall number of Asian Air Arms themed models on display across the three halls at SMW'24, the main competition appeared to only attract a total of four entries, which included this 1:72 scale Mikoyan MiG-17F 'Fresco C' in the markings of the Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force.

Another IPMS(UK) Competition entry was this nicely rendered 1:48 scale KAI FA-50 of the Indonesian Air Force (AURI). The influence of Lockheed-Martin on this South Korean-manufactured advanced trainer/light combat aircraft is obvious, given the marked similarity between the F/T-50 family of aircraft and the F-16 Fighting Falcon.



The JASDF are renowned for the variety of colour schemes they have applied to the McDonnell-Douglas F-15DJ Eagles operated by the Hiko Kyodotai (Aggressor Squadron) over the years. This Tamiya 1:32 scale model dominated the competition tables at SMW'24, sporting one of the most attractive colour schemes utilized by the Squadron.

An Honourable Mention!



Some will no doubt be puzzled by our inclusion of two distinctly non-Asian Air Arms subjects in this SMW'24 Show Special, but it would be remiss of me not to mention and congratulate Jon Bryon for his achievements in the main IPMS(UK) competition over the weekend. Jon picked up a Silver award for his Academy 1:48 Scale Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion Heavy Lift helicopter in USMC colours, with his de Havilland DH.98 Mosquito in RAF colours winning the Superscale Trophy this year. Many congratulations Jon, and thanks for your support with the SIG display over the weekend too!

Asian Air Arm subjects on other tables



This superbly finished Kinetic 1:48 scale Dassault Mirage IIIO kit sports Pakistan Air Force markings. The rather unique camouflage scheme originates from the source of Pakistan's most recent batch of Mirage IIIs. A batch of ex-RAAF Mirage IIIOs were procured, along with a batch of wing sets from South Africa, which possessed low hours, hence the mis-match between the two original colour schemes applied to aircraft in service with these two air arms.

AAA SIG Member Ian Gaskell is also a member of the MiG SIG, and this very impressive and unusual pair, comprising a Mikoyan MiG-17F 'Fresco C' and MiG-19F 'Farmer' C, both sporting markings for the Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force (North Vietnam) and presented in a nice vignette, was spotted on the MiG SIG stand.



Apart from being a single-engine aircraft, this Pakistan Air Force Chengdu J-10C bears a striking resemblance to the Eurofighter Typhoon, and was resplendent in the 'European' style of tactical camouflage scheme seen on RAF combat aircraft in the 1970/80s, which made for an interesting exhibit.



The BAe Hawk celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2024 and, as a result, there were a considerable number of models representing the aircraft type throughout the halls at SMW'24. Naturally the Hawk SIG produced an impressive display charting the type's worldwide service, although these two 1:72 scale models, representing aircraft operated by the Republic of Korea Air Force and Indonesian TUDM were spotted on another Club stand.

A nice looking 1:72 scale Lockheed C-130J Hercules in the markings of the Bangladesh Air Force contributed to a superb display commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the C-130





For some reason the North-American F-100D Super Sabre does not often appear on display tables at shows, so it was a rare treat to see one of these aircraft, in this case a 1:72 rendition in the markings of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Air Force (ROCAF).



The North-American T-6 Texan remains a popular modeling subject, although it is rarely portrayed in these markings, which reflect the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army Air Force's use of captured examples of the type during the Civil War of the late 1940s.



This 1:72 Scale model of the Antonov An-2 'Colt' in Vietnamese People's Air Force markings was finished in an unusual 'Night Intruder' colour scheme.

The Grumman S-2 Tracker Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft had seen Service with a number of Asian Air Arms over the years, but those that were operated by the Republic of China (Taiwan) Air Force (ROCAF) were the most attractive, with their unique three-colour camouflage scheme, which has been expertly applied to this 1:48 Scale model by Kinetic.



The huge Mikoyan MiG -25 Foxbat has been a popular modelling subject over recent years, following the advent of some excellent 1:72 and 1:48 scale kits from Ukrainian manufacturer ICM, but the two-seat MiG-25UBT is less popular so it was nice to catch this Indian Air Force example on the MiG SIG stand at SMW'24.





This AFV Club 1:48 Northrop F-5E Tiger II, in Royal Thai Air Force markings, was spotted on the Aggressor and Adversary SIG stand.

A very nice example of the classic Grumman F-14A Tomcat in the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) 'Asia Minor' camouflage scheme and markings, which had been reproduced using the Hobby Boss kit, was observed on one of the displays in the Overseas Branch Section at SMW'24.



Completed models of the World War II era Lavochkin La-11 'Fang' are not often observed, so it was very pleasing to see this nice 1:48 scale example on show, which displayed the North Korean Air Force markings applied to aircraft that were actually flown by Russian pilots during the Korean War between 1950-53.



This superb Hasegawa 1:48 scale model of a McDD RF-4E Phantom II portrayed an aircraft operated by 501 Squadron of the JASDF, and sported the special markings applied to this aircraft to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the JASDF in 2004.



This 1:72 Scale McDD F-4EJ Kai Phantom II, built from the relatively new FineMolds kit, has previously featured in one of the monthly modelling periodicals so it was nice to see the vignette, portraying the aircraft in its current preserved state, as an exhibit at Telford.



An excellent 1:144 scale model of the Lockheed (Kawasaki) P-2J Neptune, in the markings of the 2nd Kokutai of the JMSDF, was spotted on one of the IMPS(UK) Club stands, together with the Iranian P-3 Orion shown on this page.



A highly unusual 1:144 scale Kawasaki KV-107, probably utilizing the F-Toys kit and finished in the markings of the JMSDF.



A very nice example of a colourful Japanese Air Self Defence Force North American F-86F-40 Sabre in the markings of the JASDF 'Blue Impulse' Aerobatic Display Team.



An excellent example of the LS 1:144 scale kit of the Lockheed P-3F Orion, finished in the attractive four-colour camouflage scheme applied to aircraft in Iranian Service.



This Bell UH-1H Huey helicopter, probably utilized a F-Toys or Tomytec 1:144 scale model kit to reproduce a Japanese Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) machine in winter camouflage.



I believe this particular model falls into the 'What If ?' category, since I am not aware that any of the few Hawker Hurricanes that entered service with the newly independent Indian Air Force actually sported the very early 'Chakra' style of roundel that had been applied to some Hawker Tempests and Supermarine Spitfires. It was, nevertheless, a nice model which warranted inclusion in this SMW'24 Special.



The Heller 1:72 scale kit of the Lockheed L1049G Super Constellation always makes for an impressive exhibit. This particular example, superbly finished in the colour scheme and markings of the Indian Naval Air Service, was a personal highlight of SMW'24.



Another nicely presented Kinetic 1:48 scale Dassault Mirage IIIIO kit, finished in the standard Pakistan Air Force colour scheme and markings, graced the Dassault Mirage SIG stand.



The IPMS Ireland stand featured this 1:48 scale Fougua FM-170 Magister advanced trainer, which also sported a highly colourful Bangladesh Air Force scheme.



One of a huge selection of 1:72 scale BAe Hawk models that were presented on the BAe Hawk SIG tables to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Hawk in military service. This particular model portrays an Indian Air Force BAe Mk.132.



The Republic of Korea Air Force was a major user of the BAe Hawk and operated the rather unique BAe Hawk Mk.67, with its elongated nose. The high-visibility Orange markings contrast nicely with the standard ROKAF tactical camouflage scheme applied to these aircraft.



The Airfix 1:72 scale model of the Indian Air Force BAe Hawk Mk.132, on display with the BAe Hawk SIG. This particular models sports the markings of the 'Surya Kiran' Aerobatic Display Team, utilizing aftermarket decals that can be found in the current Air Graphics range.



The Indonesian Air Force became a major user of the BAe Hawk, and later operated the single-seat Mk.209 variant, optimized for the Ground Attack and Point Defence roles. This is the old Matchbox 1:72 kit, which utilized aftermarket decals from Air Graphics, one of the AAA SIG sponsors.



A nice pair of Airfix 1:72 scale models of the BAe Hawk Mk.132 in Indian Air Force colours. This view clearly shows the different interpretations of colour schemes that can be applied to a similar aircraft type.



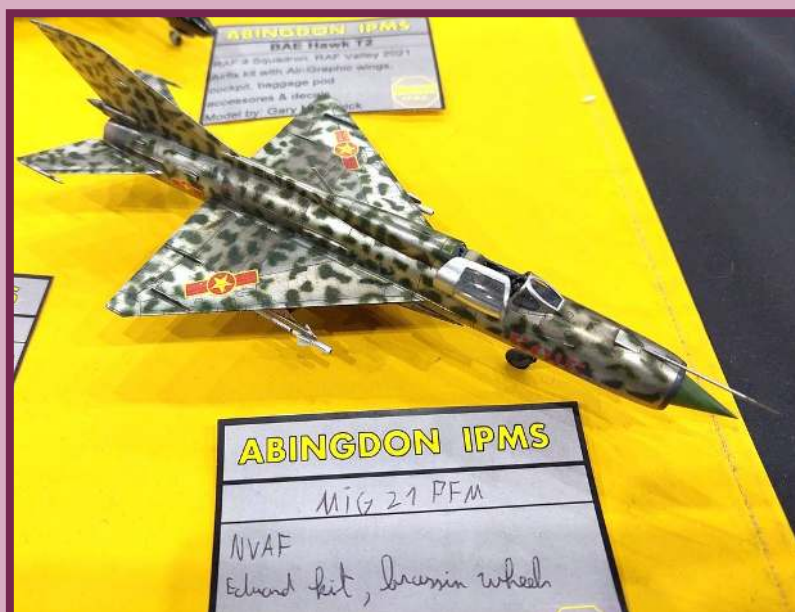
The BAe Hawk Mk.53 was the first variant delivered to the Indonesian Air Force (AURI), and was the equivalent of the original RAF BAe Hawk T.Mk.1. The aircraft sported a colour scheme that was broadly similar to the standard RAF training aircraft scheme, with the exception of the large yellow panels on the wingtips and fin, as portrayed on this rather nice 1:72 scale model.



The attractive Dassault Mirage 2000 is another type that is gaining popularity among the modelling community, thanks to the availability of accurate examples in each of the major scales. This nice example, believed to be the Kinetic 1:48 scale kit, portrays a Mirage 2000-5EI variant in ROCAF markings.



The first-generation Mikoyan MiG-15 jet fighter was another popular subject, with several dozen examples on display at SMW'23, including this 1:48 scale model, resplendent in Korean Peoples' Army Air Force camouflage and markings from the early 1950s



This impressive Trumpeter 1:48 scale Chengdu J-10C of the Pakistan Air Force was one of the exhibits that had made the long journey from Lahore to appear on the IPMS Pakistan stand during SMW'24.



The 1:72 scale Italeri kit of the Fairchild AC-119K Stinger remains the only one available in this scale and has, over the years, been a popular exhibit at model shows, although I had never observed one in Vietnamese Nationalist Air Force (South Vietnam) markings until SMW-24.

The Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force were an extensive user of the Mikoyan MiG-21 and applied a variety of camouflage schemes to the different aircraft during their long war with the United States. This is one such example, applied to an Eduard 1:48 scale MiG-21PFM variant.



The Lockheed T-33A Shooting Star is a perennial favourite at model shows, and this 1:72 scale example, portrayed in the markings of the JASDF, was no exception.



Another excellent 1:72 scale example of a colourful Japanese Air Self Defence Force North American F-86F-40 Sabre in the markings of the JASDF 'Blue Impulse' Aerobatic Display Team.



The North-American F-86F Sabre continues to be a popular modelling subject. This was one of several such models to appear on the Japanese Aviation SIG stand at SMW'24.



Although there were no details attached to this model, it is assumed that this very smart looking Ilyushin Il-38N in Indian Naval Air Service markings was crafted from the 1:144 scale Eastern Express kit.



The F-104 Starfighter remains ever popular as a modelling subject. This highly colourful Kinetic 1:48 scale example of the two-seat DJ-variant, finished in one of the special JASDF Tactical Air Meet schemes, in this case applied to a machine operated by the 204th Hikotai (Tactical Fighter Squadron), was spotted on the Japanese Aviation SIG display.



Some correspondence between AAA SIG Members earlier this year had suggested that it was not at all easy to determine the right shade of Grey to apply to the Lockheed P-3C Orions operated by the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF). I would suggest that the builder of this 1:72 example of the Hasegawa kit has just about nailed it with this rather nice model that made an appearance on the Japanese Aviation SIG stand for SMW'24.



The Hasegawa 1:48 scale kit of the McDD RF-4E Phantom was one of the last variants to appear in their extensive 'family' of F-4 kits and has yet to be surpassed for quality and ease of construction despite being over 20 years old. It was, therefore, nice to see this completed example in Imperial Iranian Air Force markings.



This 1:48 scale rendition of the ever-popular McDonnell-Douglas F-4D Phantom II, in Iranian colours, was a slight variation on that normally presented in that it featured an aircraft carrying an asymmetric load, with a drop tank and laser-guided bomb on the inner wing stores pylons.



Another JASDF F-104 Starfighter, this time a single-seat J-variant in the original natural metal scheme but sporting experimental Dissimilar Air Combat Training markings as applied to JASDF aircraft during the annual Tactical Air Meets in the 1980s.



It was nice to see a finished example of the AFV Club 1:48 scale Northrop F-5E Tiger II in the markings of the VNAF (South Vietnamese Air Force) since this Air Arm only operated the type for a short period before the Fall of Saigon in 1975.



Another spectacular Japanese-liveried aircraft on show during SMW'24 was this specially marked Boeing F-15J Eagle, operated by the 303rd Hikotai JASDF. The aircraft was known by the name Shiro Ryu and had a very large White Dragon motif emblazoned across a wide part of the upper fuselage and wing surfaces, and participated in the 2003 edition of the annual JASDF TAC Meet.



This Revell 1960s-era 1:48 scale Sikorsky H-19A Chickasaw (S-55) in Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) markings was spotted on the Japanese Aviation SIG stand.



This Indian Air Force Mikoyan MiG-21bis displays a unique combination of camouflage scheme and colourful ID markings, probably applied for Dissimilar Air Combat Training or to celebrate a Unit anniversary.

Indian Air Force Mikoyan MiG-21s were extremely popular at SMW'24. This example, portraying a MiG-21Bis variant, was finished in the standard markings applied to aircraft operated by 26 Squadron, also known as 'The Warriors'.

This rather anonymous looking Kinetic 1:48 scale IA-58 Pucara is of a machine operated by the Sri Lankan Air Force. The model featured a highly detailed cockpit interior and a superior finish with just the right amount of weathering applied to replicate these hard working machines operating in harsh climatic conditions.



The Aerobatic Aircraft SIG can always be relied upon to produce a spectacular display at Telford, and 2024 was no exception. This time around, they had decided to celebrate the Hawker Hunter and, as a result, one of their star attractions was this rather splendid 1:32 scale model of the Hawker Hunter F.56A portrayed in the markings of the Indian Air Force 'Thunderbolts' display team.



Another couple of BAe Hawk models from the Hawk SIG display. A heavily armed BAe Hawk Mk.208, portrayed in Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) markings, utilizing the recent AA Models 1:72 scale kit, and a nice example of the Airfix 1:72 scale kit of the BAe Hawk Mk.132 in Indian Air Force markings.



The Indian Air Force now have something of a reputation for developing spectacular special markings for some of their combat aircraft involved in Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT), and this has, over the years, included several dozen examples of the Mikoyan MiG-21 Fishbed. This example was fashioned from a Limited-Edition re-issue of the excellent Eduard 1:48 scale kit of the type, which included these attractive red & black markings that extend along the spine and onto the rear surfaces of the MiG-21bis variant.

The Soviet designed Sukhoi Su-7 Fighter Bomber is another aircraft type that is seldom seen in model form, so it was good to spot this nicely finished 1:48 scale model portrayed in Indian Air Force markings.



This 1:48 Scale Nanchang A-5C Fantan in Pakistan Air Force markings, fashioned by Ian Gaskell from the old AA Models kit, has been a regular 'visitor' to Telford but it features such a sublime finish and is such an unusual exhibit that it warrants further coverage here.



2024 appeared to be a good year for displaying completed models of the Mikoyan MiG-17F Fresco C, with several dozen distributed throughout the 3 halls of SMW'24, including this nice 1:72 scale example in the colours of the Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force (North Vietnam).



The Japanese manufactured Kawasaki T-4 two-seat tandem advanced training aircraft always makes for an attractive modelling subject, particularly when it is portrayed in JASDF 'Blue Impulse' markings as shown here.

Andy Hardwick's impressive Zvezda 1:48 scale Mil Mi-24V Hind, sporting an overall Dark Grey colour scheme and presented in the colours of the Indian Air Force.



Several of our members contribute models across several SIGs, in the interests of mutually supporting and promoting each group. Ian Gaskell has been a prolific modeler of MiG fighters, and this superb 1:48 scale Mikoyan MiG-29UB Fulcrum in the markings of the Turkmenistan Air Force was, on this occasion, displayed on the MiG Aircraft SIG tables.



This superb looking JASDF Lockheed C-130H Hercules was finished in the so-called 'Cloud' camouflage scheme, and bore the markings of the 401st Hikotai.



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