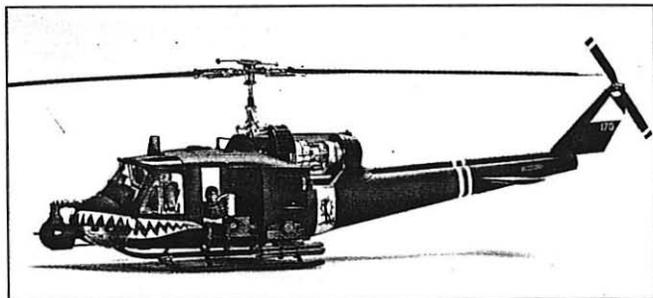


Reality Check.

Is it real or is it MRC? It's not always easy to tell in a photo, because at 1/35 scale the detailing is mind boggling. We've had vets call us in awe and appreciation. We've been applauded for our near perfect instructions. And commended as well for the history and info on how and where the helicopters served. And mostly, there is unanimous praise for the realism. This is the topical, 'copter selection entire series at your hobby dealer. And mostly, there is unanimous praise for the realism. This is that brings military dioramas to life, and avid modelers to attention. Collect the



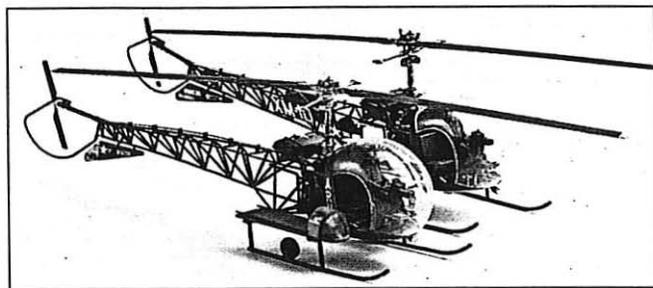
OH-58D KIOWA "BLACK DEATH" (BA103) The Iraqi's called it the Black Death, the Army called it the Kiowa Warrior. We call it a masterpiece of detailing including mast mounted sight; carefully reproduced cockpit with instrument panel, interior floodlights and a detailed transmission and engine. Armament includes two sets of Hellfire missiles and a 50 caliber machine gun with fuselage mounted ammo can and an ammo chute. Detailed avionics bay, laser warning detector and latest decals included.



UH-1C FROG "SHARKS" GUNSHIP (BA106) We've duplicated this Frog in minute detail. See the firepower up close, including M60 machine guns with ammo belt and ammo cans, two-7 tube rocket pods with shroud, an M5 40mm grenade launcher turret with rotary drum and ammo chute. There's a magnificently detailed T53-L-11 engine and transmission and even a detailed hub and rotor assembly. You'll find authenticity rarely found on other kits, like smoke and hand grenades, 2 fire extinguishers, 3 first aid kits with decals, gunsights, headlight and landing light. There are even inside cockpit door handles and four lifelike figures...It's magnificent.



BELL AH-1W SUPER COBRA MARINE GUNSHIP (BA100) This Desert Storm veteran is superb...from recessed panel lines to scale rivets, collective levers, rudder pedals, M-197 20mm nose turret, and movable rotor it's all here. It can be built in 7 different configurations and assembled with the engine panel closed or open to expose the perfect powerplant. You can even build and install either the ammo drum or flight data recorder in the panel under the cockpit.



BELL 47D KOREAN WAR MASH CHOPPER (BA102) Unique detailing includes one piece, clear bubble canopy, stretchers, detailed engine, cockpit controls, pilot figure and stretchers. A versatile kit, it can be built as an observation heli, a MASH model or a rudimentary gunship.



UH-1C HUEY GUNSHIP... "CHARLEY" MODEL (BA104) A versatile weapons platform, we've included a full range of armament, a super detailed engine and transmission assembly as well as a rotor and hub assembly. You'll find cockpit levers and pedals, plus details like flexible ammo chutes, loose ammo cans; fire extinguishers, first aid kits, mini-gun and XM-60 sights, 4 figures, and much more.

Also available...UH-1C Huey Hog (BA107) and AH-1T+ Gold Cobra (BA105)... each a Limited Edition.

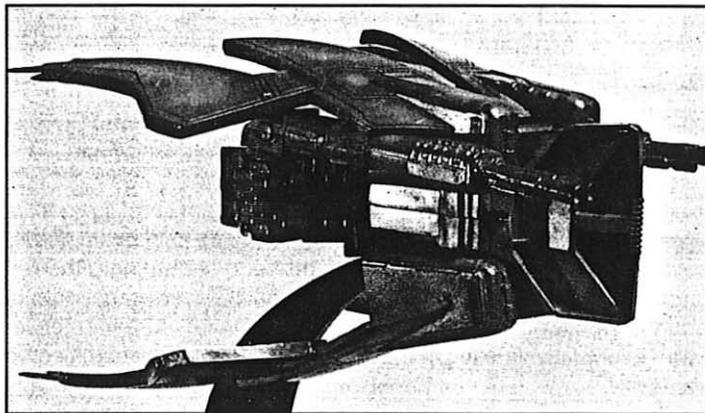
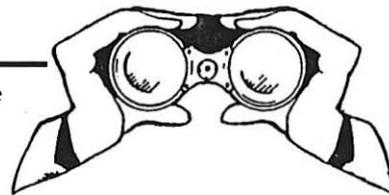


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732-225-6360 www.modelrec.com

REVIEWS

- Books, Kits, Ideas -

The reviews printed in this section are the opinion of the authors of each and they should not be taken as the opinion of IPMS/USA or any member of the Executive Board.



Virago

AMT/ERTL

The Virago is a advanced Star Fighter from the Star Wars book , "Shadows of the Empire", by Steve Parry. The Virago is owned by a wealthy crime lord Prince Xizor. The ship was done to his design and specifications therefor making it the fastest and most maneuverable ship of its time.

The Virago was built by Mandalmotors (a space ship company in Star Wars) as the Starviper, a heavily armed and armored assault fighter with incredible speed. The armament are a pair of double heavy laser cannons mounted on each side and can be move in a 180 degree arc providing fire forward aft and to the sides.

The kit is the "AMT/ ERTL Shadows of the Empire Virago", kit Number 8377. When I opened the box I was impressed by it because it looked fairly simple. It was when I started to assemble it then I realized was a typical AMT/ERTL kit. The assembly requires lots of glue, clamps, putty and sanding. The overall fit leaves a lot to be desired. When it is done It looks nice!

The model is one you use your imagination on, it gives vague painting instructions. The instruction for the assembly were easy to understand, making the construction easy. The model is a skill level 2. It goes together easily despite the fit. There is some shaving and shaping on the exhausts to get them to fit. Each wing requires at least ten clothes pins each, the body requires lots of clamps. Each finished assembly requires some putty to fill small gaps and needs some sanding to even up others. The instructions, that are given were easy to follow, giving step by step directions.

For painting the kit gives very basic instructions. The paint job didn't go along with the book details. I painted the way I pictured a rich prince of that era would want a ship to look. I used Scale Coat 2 Paint, Santa Fe Red, Reefer Orange & Maroon. Santa Fe Red was used as the base coat, Reefer Orange & Maroon were used to highlight the wings. The cockpit windshield is one solid plastic piece like all the other pieces, so I used Gloss Black to make it look like a windshield. There are no decals to go with it so don't worry about them. After I was finished painting I used an air brush to spray a coat of Future floor wax to give it that shiny look.

The Virago model has moving parts on it, the gun assembly and the four wings. I found the gun assemble to move freely after

I glued it, but the wings are very hard to move. The instructions for the gun assembly suggest that you put tape on them. I found that if you don't put the tape on you have more mobility of the guns then with the tape added. I found no tricks to make the wings movable although the instruction say they are mobile.

This is a good model to learn and gain experience from assembling it. Building this model teaches you to use putty to fill gaps and to smooth out mistakes you make. I found it fun to build and enjoyed using my imagination on the paint job. This will be a proud edition to my shelf of my Star Wars collection.

Mike Bellanger
IPMS Space Coast



Wesser P.1003

Unicraft Models

It's not often that reviews start with apologies, but I owe one in this case, having received the original kit from Igor Shestakov of Unicraft well over a year ago.

Unicraft produces hand-made resin and plastic kits of obscure Luftwaffe subjects, focusing on prototypes and design studies. The P.1003 could be the grandfather of today's V-22. It's a tilt-rotor aircraft that wouldn't look out of place on the flight line today.

The kit is basic in the extreme - a few roughly molded pieces, a "card" of small parts on a wafer of plastic, and a nice vacuform canopy. No instructions are provided, just a three-view of the aircraft along with some performance figures and a brief history.

If you enjoy the challenge of a limited production kit, you'll have fun with Unicraft products. Porosity in the parts is a major time eater; be prepared for a lot of filling, sanding, and priming. Gap filling superglues are best for the material Unicraft uses. I had to shim the fuselage halves with sheet styrene to match the three view drawing; when sanded flat, the LH and RH parts were almost 1/8" undersized. I used a Dremel grinder to open up the cockpit area, boxed it in with sheet styrene, and raided the parts box for seats, panels, and radio boxes. You'll need to do the same for the landing gear, gear doors, and prop blades. I made a master template for the 6 blades and cut them from airfoil-shaped strut material. The nacelles and spinners were poorly formed; I drilled shaft