

around 1968. The Frog kit had so many things wrong with it I can still recall how bad it was. Half the wing surface was filled with body putty. The engine nacelles were nothing like the actual shape, and the cockpit enclosure was too large. As I recall, I did a conversion of that kit to a Mosquito NF.XXX, with the two-stage Merlin engines, bull nose and a vacuformed canopy.

The Airfix Mosquito VI, of earlier vintage (1960), was bad, but in different ways. At least it looked okay when it was finished, even if the cockpit canopy was about three-quarters the correct scale size. In a sense, though, those early kits don't count because the industry standard was pretty low. Some kits, principally Aoshima, were so bad they weren't worth even gluing together. I recall looking at their F4U-5N and simply shaking my head and putting the parts back in the box. —Art Silen

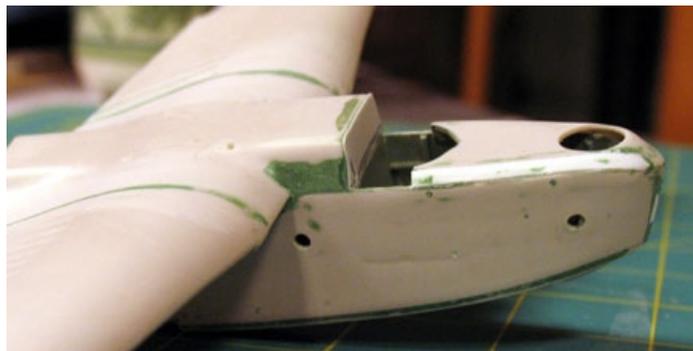
As for the worst kit I ever finished, that would be the DMA BMP-2. It took two kits to make one model out of the box. I had to chop the suspension parts in order to make them fit on the hull. The upper hull was short shot on the back half on the first kit I purchased and short shot on the front portion of the second kit I purchased. I ended up bashing the two good halves together to make one good upper hull. The individual track links were the best part of the kit: they cleaned up easily and fit together extremely well. If it weren't for rest of the kit, this would make a great introduction to indy links for the beginning armor model builder. That said, should you wish to tackle indy links for the first time, I recommend any of the DMA Hetzer kits. —Devon Terpening

## Aircraft Build Review

# Building a Beriev MBR-2

by Ora Lassila, Patriot Chapter

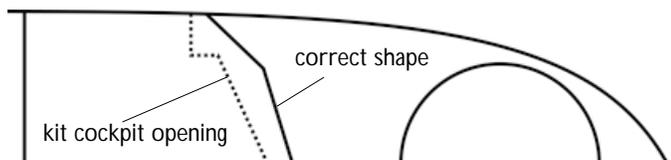
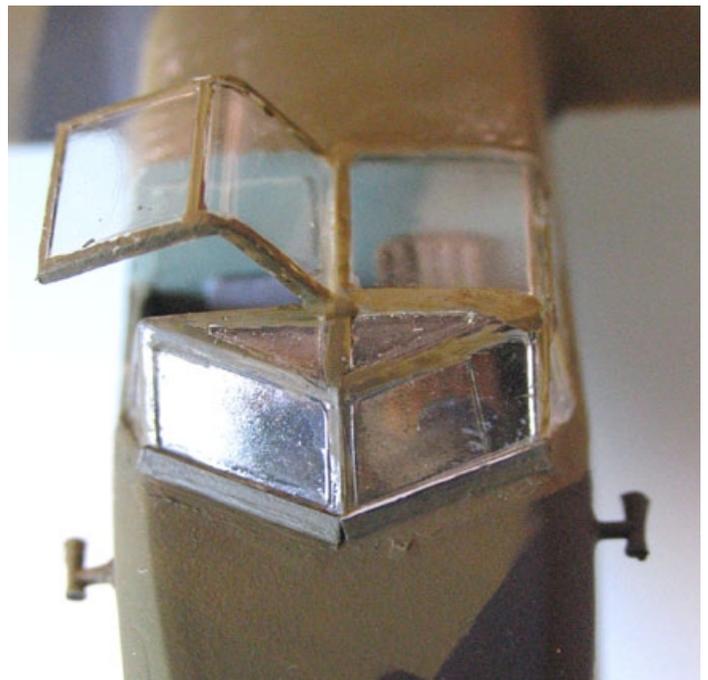
RECENTLY completed Siga's 1/72 scale kit of the Russian flying boat Beriev MBR-2-M-34 (sometimes referred to as MBR-2 bis). This plane was the "standard" Russian maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft during World War 2. Soon after the beginning of Operation Barbarossa (the German attack of the Soviet Union in 1941), Finnish troops captured several MBR-2s which subsequently flew in Finnish Air Force colors; I built my model depicting "VV-182" in August 1942. By



shapes are correct, although scale plans from Avions #67 and Modelist Konstruktor disagree vis-à-vis the wing chord. I went with the shorter chord since that matched the kit. Some corrections were required for the horizontal tail, the cockpit opening (see drawing), and a few other details.

then, most of the operational MBR-2s in the Finnish Air Force had been repainted with the standard Finnish black/olive green/light blue color scheme with yellow Eastern Front markings.

I have mixed feelings about the kit. On the one hand, it comes with many nice detail parts (some cockpit details, machine guns, bombs, etc.). On the other, most of the bigger components require a lot of work. The kit is poorly engineered, and parts don't really fit all that well. I ended up using large amounts of plastic card, superglue and Squadron's green putty. Generally, measurements/



Also, many parts had to be completely scratch-built: most of the various struts, lots of interior detail such as bulkheads, and the rear end of the engine nacelle (the kit nacelle, albeit otherwise correctly shaped, is hopelessly too short). Exhausts came from the spares box.

I painted the plane with a mixture of paints: Model Master enamels and acrylics as well as Polly-S acrylics. I brushed Future floor wax under all the decals and also used it for the canopy and the rear turret. The kit actually came with Finnish Air Force markings (for “VV-182” and “VV-181”) but the blue on the swastikas was too bright and the tail numbers were too large. I took the swastikas from the AeroMaster 1/48 scale sheet, “Finnish Aces,” and made my own tail numbers using Adobe Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator, printing on a sheet of clear decal paper (reinforced after printing with MicroScale liquid decal film). Finally, I



brushed Future over all the decals and then airbrushed Testors flat clear lacquer onto all surfaces.

In summary: A bad kit but makes a nice model if you have some patience.

### Some References

- Avions #66 (September 1998)
- Avions #67 (October 1998)
- Gunston: *Encyclopedia of Russian Aircraft 1875-1995*; Motorbooks/Osprey 1995
- Keskinen & Niska: *Meritoimintakoneet; Suomen Ilmavoimien Historia #15*; Apali 1995
- Modelist konstruktor 3/72
- Geust et al: *Red Stars—Soviet Air Force in World War Two*; AR-Kustannus 1993
- Geust & Petrov: *Red Stars 3—Camouflage and Markings of Russian and Soviet Aircraft until 1941*; Apali 1999
- Geust et al: *Red Stars 5—Baltic Fleet Air Force in Winter War*; Apali 2004
- Bock: *Sowieckie lotnictwo morskie 1941-1945; Kampanie Lotnicze 9*; AJ-Press 1996
- Keskinen et al: *Suomen Ilmavoimien Lentokoneet 1918-1993*; AR-Kustannus 1992
- Suomen Siivet Toukokuu 1969

## Upcoming Events

- October 8 ..... **October Modelfest**, Milford Knights of Columbus, 625 Bridgeport Ave., Milford, CT. Contact Doug Hamilton: [modelfest@aol.com](mailto:modelfest@aol.com) or 203-323-6442
- October 15 ..... **GraniteCon XIV**, Nashua Elks Club, 120 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH. Contact Rodney Currier: [ipmsgsmc@hotmail.com](mailto:ipmsgsmc@hotmail.com) or 603-726-3876
- October 15 ..... **SyrCon 19**, IPMS Syracuse, Pensabene's Casa Grande, 135 State Fair Blvd. Contact Gary Haven: [garhaven@twcny.rr.com](mailto:garhaven@twcny.rr.com) or 315-487-3465
- October 21 ..... **HVHMG 2006**, IPMS Mid Hudson Valley, ELks Lodge, Overrocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Contact Doc Wiseman: [docf225@msn.com](mailto:docf225@msn.com) or 845-567-0476
- November 5 ..... **Baycon 2006**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 304 Highland Ave., South Attleboro, MA. Contact Bob Magina: [treadhead@comcast.net](mailto:treadhead@comcast.net) or 508-695-7754
- March 25, 2007 ..... **Valleycon 17**, Wings & Wheels. Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, MA. Contact Al Lafleche: [ajlafleche@comcast.net](mailto:ajlafleche@comcast.net) or 413-733-9247
- March 31 ..... **RepLIcon**, Long Island Scale Modelers, Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport, NY. Contact Steve Andreano: [sadogbeach@optonline.net](mailto:sadogbeach@optonline.net) or 516 632-5418
- April 7 ..... **Mosquitocon**, IPMS New Jersey, Wayne PAL, 1 PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ. Contact Tom VanDermark: [tomb001@optonline.net](mailto:tomb001@optonline.net) or 732-525-1034
- April 15 ..... **19th Annual Model Car Exhibition**, Masscar Model Club, Holiday Inn, 700 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton, MA. Contact Stuart Marcus: [www.cafe092901@ilww.com](http://www.cafe092901@ilww.com) or 603-382-9724
- April 15 ..... **BuffCon 24**, IPMS Niagara Frontier, Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga/Buffalo, NY. Contact Bob Collignon: [cjlt@adelphia.net](mailto:cjlt@adelphia.net) or 716-875-0234 (d)
- April 27–28 ..... **NorEastCon 07**, IPMS Mid Hudson Valley & IPMS Stratford, Fishkill, NY. NorEastCon 2007 website: <http://www.HVHMG.com/NorEastCon07/index.html>