

PREVIEW OF PLASTICS FOR 1958 by George J. Letzter

The 20th annual Trade Show & Convention of the Hobby Industry Association was recently held at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago. This annual trade show is the Hobby Industries "sneak-preview" of new kits that will soon be on the market. Of the many new items at the show, the new plastic aircraft kits by various manufacturers should be a delight to the model builder and collector. (Editor's note: This important list was rec'd Feb 18th and is being crammed into the last available space, please pardon the lack of spacing)

AURORA has been bitten by the World War I bug, and are adding the DeHaviland DH-4, Pfalz D-3, Bristol Brisfit, Gotha Bomber and the DeHaviland DH-10, to their already imposing line of WW I aircraft which now totals 14 types. All of these kits will be in $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale, the Gotha & DH-10 bombers will have wing spans of $19\frac{1}{2}$ " and $16\frac{1}{2}$ " respectively, and will be moulded in two colors, which is something new in plastic kits. Not to forget the mid-30s fans, the company will also have new kits of the Boeing P-12E and F4B-4, and the Douglas M-2 "Mail Plane", all in $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale.

LINDBERG will have new kits of the F8U "Crusader", TBF "Avenger", Messerschmitt Me-262, F-104 "Starfighter", and the F11F "Tiger" and F-100 "Super Sabre" in Blue Angels and Thunderbird exhibition teams markings. All of these kits are $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale; there will also be two new kits in $1/8$ " scale, the Avro Vulcan and the Handley Page Victor, Englands latest V bombers.

REVELL is bringing out a Fokker Tripe in $\frac{1}{2}$ " scale as a companion model to their SPAD kit, and this kit is one of the best of the new models. They also will have a $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale kit of the Convair F-102 which should be one of the most detailed kits on the market; even to operating doors and Falcon guided missiles. New kits in $1/96$ " scale include the PBM "Mariner", Lockheed WV-3 long-range radar picket, and the new Lockheed Electra.

IDEAL's new $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale kit of the Grumman J2F "Duck" is an outstanding kit of the "Ugly Duckling", that makes up into a rather unusual model. They also will have $1/96$ " scale kits of the Martin MB-2 Bomber, and the Savoia Marchetti S-55, the flagship of General Balbo's flight from Italy to the U.S.

MONOGRAM is going way back and will bring out a $\frac{1}{2}$ " scale kit of the Wright Bros. Bi-Plane. The kit includes all-plastic fabricated wings, authentic engine and driving mechanism and prop, scale figures of the Wright Brothers - complete even to the launching track and dolly. This is an accurate and historically important scale model. Monogram will also bring out a $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale TBF "Avenger" to compete with Lindberg's TBF. You can take your choice, both are very good models.

HAWK is bringing out a $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale model of the famed T-Bird, the T-33 and also the TV-2, you can take your choice of markings; Navy or Air Force. The new Navy trainer markings of orange-red and white make a very attractive model. In $1/96$ " scale, Hawk's new DeHavilland Comet IV will feature a side hinge allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fuselage to lift, exposing the interior, complete with seats, appointments and passengers.

STROMBECKER is getting into the act in the plastic aircraft line and has engineered what I consider the best new model at the show. The new kit is a $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale model of Cessna's T-37 Jet trainer. The model has operating landing gear, and dive brakes, a two-piece canopy that really works, instructor and student pilot and a detailed cockpit interior. The decal sheet contains the most detailed markings of any kit on the market today. All this for only a dollar.

There you have the new plastics for '58. Only don't run down to your hobby shop and expect to find all of these kits on the shelves. Some of these will be out in a month or two, others a little later during the year, and some you'll be getting for Xmas gifts. As of this writing only Aurora's DH-4 and Lindberg's F11F & F-100 in the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds markings are available.