

# **Bell P-59A Airacomet**

## **Hobbycraft Kit HC 1439 1:48 Scale**

*by Al Glew*

It seemed to me best to make the decision of which version to model at a very early stage of assembly. Starting with the cockpit I used the kit supplied floor/rear bulkhead which is perfectly adequate and I felt gave a better fit and stronger styrene to styrene bond for this important structural member of the front fuselage.

Resin sidewalls, seat and most other details came from the True Details set. These were painted more or less “standard” USAAF practice for mid to late World War II, with much attention to the myriad of data plates and labels inside the cockpit. The Selector Valves and Battery Switches were sliced off of the True Details floor and super glued to the kit floor.

The kit instrument panel was chosen because it seemed to best represent the unarmed version I was modeling. The gunsight was not mounted and the hole in the panel was filled. The kit decal was used for the instrument faces.



A large quantity of printer's lead was added to the nose area to balance the model on its tricycle gear. If you are building an armed version

or a research version and wish to show an open gun/instrument bay, some inventiveness may be required to get in enough weight. Because I was worried about the strength of the nose gear strut under all that weight, I wanted to reinforce the structure. A piece of sprue was cut to fit vertically between the nose gear well and the upper fuselage skin. Then a hole was drilled up through the gear well into the sprue and a piece of wire was inserted. A matching hole was drilled in the nose gear strut.



**Ongoing project – Watch for more**

I will update as frequently as I can. *Al Glew* January 7, 2008

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Mention Bell P-59 in the subject line