



ANTONIO MARTIN TELLO



AK. Hello Antonio! Was your first model in 1/48 or other scale? When did you build it?
Hello. My first model was in fact in 1/72 and it was... a plane! I started when I was 14 years old (now I am 54), and after three or four planes and a 1/72 tank, I built my first 1/35 kit, Italeri's Kubelwagen. Since then, I have built mainly at this scale, with occasional incursions in 1/72 and 1/48. Remember that the flourishing of 1/48 in vehicles is something relatively new, from the 2000's.

AK. Some of your models are in 1/48 scale. Why did you choose this one, what opportunities does it give you in comparison with 1/35? Do you think that it is still a niche thing or that the interest in 1/48 armor has grown during 10-15 years?
Yes, I have built several models at 1/48, and probably this scale reunites many advantages: The size of the average model is quite convenient, and there are good kits nicely detailed out of the box yet they can be further enhanced with aftermarkets. Also, it is ideal for dioramas involving several vehicles, despite the availability of quality figures is not so great. However, is evident that 1/35 is the

standard of the trade, and the availability of kits, complements figures and so on is overwhelming, and vastly superior to 1/48 or any other scale. It is true that there is an important community around the 1/48 scale, that is well cohesive and even militant about it. Anyway, modelling and modellers are probably quite conservative and I do not see any overtake of the quarter scale to the 1/35 one. Personally I am a 1/35 guy, mostly of my stash is at this scale, but I do not renounce to occasionally do something at 1/48 or even at 1/72.

AK. What are your favorite techniques and products, like oils, acrylics etc? Do you always try new products or stick to chosen brands & types?
I try to keep things simple. If something works for me, I use the same product for years and

years. Some of my oils and paint bottles are in a very pitiful state because they are quite old, but still useable. I think that every technique has its value. Probably, the final result on your model is the sum of all of them without any of them being too evident. However I have my favourites. I think that the treatment with oils is irreplaceable for weathering, the dark wash or profiling of the recesses and details is a very effective technique and makes the model much more appealing, and the pigments are the definitive weapon for mud, dust and dirt.

AK. You have recently published a book containing all your models built in 15 years. Can you tell more about it? How did you come to this idea, was it challenging to produce and are you happy with the result?
Well, I have been publishing modelling articles since the late 90's, so I have plenty of step by step photos and texts for most of my models since. Some few years ago I thought about compile in one place all this stuff that I had disperse in several hard drives, editing texts and photos as if I were editing articles for a magazine, just for fun. After doing the



layout of several of these “articles” I thought that the result was being quite nice and I wondered if this would be interesting for someone else. After all, many techniques and procedures, applied to lots of models were there explained quite graphically, so I took the decision to make it more “professional looking” and offer it publically. It took me almost two years to finish it; it contains almost 30 articles, 1500 photos and 370 pages. The work of a (modelling) lifetime! I am quite happy with the result. It generated some interest and received quite good criticism. I made it available in pdf format, at a very reasonable price. Some people asked me about a printed version, but this escapes for my knowledge and capacity, and probably the printing and distribution of such a book would not be cheap.



AK. Your models are in many cases put it dioramas or with a photoshopped background to improve the perception. How much photoshop knowledge do you need to smoothly add the relevant background?

Modelling is a very visual hobby for me. The pinnacle of AFV modelling is building dioramas: the conjunction of a competent and accurate building, and attractive yet realistic painting, good scenery, whether nature or urban, accessories well planned and placed and, very important, good figures in term of painting, natural pose and a sensible disposition in the scene. In the digital era we are living, it is important not only to build good models, or better, dioramas, but to present them in an attractive way to a worldwide audience. Adding a background to a model contributes to properly set it in a place, a time... even an atmosphere, and, above all, it makes the image much more attractive (if it is well done). It is a sort of "digital diorama". I am doing this for many years, since I had access to computers and the relevant software. It is not very complicated, you only need to know some basic tricks that, in my case, I just learnt by myself by trial and error and by reading tutorials in a few books or the net. And the results are very rewarding, in my opinion.



AK. How did you come up with diorama ideas? I really liked the one called "Love is in the air" with a Sherman ARV elevating a guy with flowers. The one with a part of destroyed gothic cathedral also looks great.

I would like to have more ideas like the one in "Love is in the air"! This particular one was inspired by a photo depicted in the vehicle technical manual showing a crew member at the top of the boom manipulating some tow cables. I do not remember how, but at some point I got the idea that this guy could be doing something more "interesting". Anyway, I do not believe that "every diorama has to tell a story". For me is more important to recreate "atmospheres", good composition, balance... And sometimes this is done by telling a history and sometimes it is not. For me dioramas are like photographs, and the best photographs have good composition, lighting, perspective...

AK. Most if not all of your models are WW2 subjects. Do you consider trying modern or WW1 subjects also?

WWII, especially the second half of it, is my tiny comfort zone. The immense majority of my reference books are from this period, as well as all my pending kits in my closet. It is the period I know something about (well, not too much, anyway). I told you, some modelers are very lazy and conservative...

AK. Thank you for the Interview, Antonio!
My pleasure!

