



Model Kit of the Year



2nd Place



3rd Place

1/48 Aircraft

1. Tamiya Fairey Swordfish Mk.I
2. ProModeler Junkers Ju 52/3m
3. Accurate Miniatures Grumman F3F-1

FSM 1999 Reader's Choice Awards



And the envelope, please . . .

By Paul Boyer

When model manufacturers produce a new kit, almost all of the feedback they get from consumers is through sales figures: good sales, the kit must be OK. They seldom hear directly from the buyers and builders. But now that has changed.

In 1999, *FineScale Modeler* instituted its "Reader's Choice Awards" to reward the manufacturers for their efforts. The ballot was stitched into an issue of FSM and more than 1,000 readers filled it out and sent it in. (Last year's results were published in the September 1999 issue.) FSM staffers handed awards to the winning manufacturers at the National Model and Hobby Show held in October in Chicago.

The ballot was so successful (and the awards so appreciated) that we've done it again. This year's ballot, for kits released in 1999, was included in the May 2000 FSM. More than 1,200 of you responded and voted for your favorite kits in several cate-

gories, including "Kit of the Year" for the best kit overall. FSM's ace intern, Brendan Dooley, tabulated the results, and has just handed me a sealed envelope . . .

Ahem. And the awards go to . . .

Kit of the Year
Tamiya's 1/48 scale Fairey Swordfish

Tamiya's landmark "stringbag," with its complete interior details, crew figures, and folding-wing option, was our readers' favorite model kit for 1999.

Tamiya also pulled a close second place for its 1/35 scale FAMO halftrack. Tied for third place for this top honor are Accurate Miniatures 1/48 scale Grumman F3F-1 and ProModeler's 1/48 scale Junkers Ju 52/3m.

Here are the rest of the winners by category:



1st Place

1/72 Aircraft

1. Tamiya Republic F-84G Thunderjet
2. Hasegawa de Havilland Mosquito Mk.IV
3. Hasegawa Mitsubishi Ki-67 Peggy



2nd Place



3rd Place



1st Place

Aircraft other scales

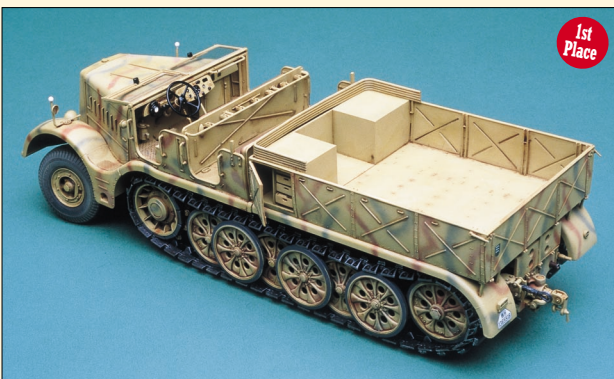
1. FROG 1/32 MiG-15bis
2. Hobbycraft Canada 1/144 Boeing B-47 Stratojet
3. Hobbycraft Canada 1/144 Convair B-58 Hustler



2nd Place



1st Place



1st Place

1/35 Armor

1. Tamiya 18-ton FAMO halftrack
2. Tamiya Kübelwagen Type 82
3. AFV Club LVTP-5



3rd Place



1st Place

Military Figures, all scales

1. Tamiya 1/16 WWII German infantryman
2. Tamiya 1/16 WWII German elite infantryman
3. Dragon 1/35 Viking division



1st Place

Ships, all scales

1. Minicraft 1/350 Deluxe Titanic
2. Hasegawa 1/700 IJN carrier Zuibo
3. Academy 1/700 USS Kitty Hawk



1st Place

Armor, other scales

1. Hasegawa 1/72 SdKfz 251/22 Ausf. D "PAK Wagon"
2. JB Models 1/72 Vickers Mk.VA/B/C
3. Revell AG 1/72 Marder 1A3

Movie/TV/science fiction-based, all scales

1. Polar Lights 1/8 Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Headless Horseman)
2. Polar Lights 1/8 Three Stooges (Larry)
3. Airfix Wallace and Gromit motorbike with sidecar



1st Place