

Ships

German Submarine Type XXIII

Released at the beginning of 2016 (the mag did not receive a sample until December!), this 1/144 Type XXIII U-boat is a re-box of an ICM kit. While the Type XXIII is not one of the larger U-boats at 113ft 10in, less than half the length of the Type IX, it still replicates well in 1/144 which I think is an ideal scale for submarines. I realise the trend is to go bigger but if you don't live in a mansion or a warehouse, small scale is the way to go.

There is nothing complicated about this kit at all; its 23 parts are dominated by the two hull halves which even include the conning tower. The remaining parts are all add-ons such as the periscope, rudder, propeller and dive planes. The



kit purports to be a Level 4 in Revell's bemusing skill rating; I would put it at Level 2 at the most. Instructions are the typical good quality A4 booklet of which the actual eight stages for the kit only cover two pages.

As with all machines that frequent the sea, this little Type XIII offers up the opportunity

for the dedicated 'weatherer' to work his/her magic while I was quite happy for it to slot into the corner of a cabinet looking factory fresh.

Good value kit because it is presented as a set, so you get three paints, glue and a double-ended brush thrown in. A surprisingly nice little kit which I highly recommend to all 'boat'

lovers! Thanks very much to Revell for our example.

David H Smith

INFORMATION	Product: Construction kit
	Ref: 05140 Parts: 23 Scale: 1/144
	Price: £11.69 (Wonderland Models)
	Manufacturer: Revell
	Website: www.revell.de/en

AFV



Panzer I Auf.A

Another new contributor to Military Modelling is the Spanish company MinaIrons, who specialise in small scale from 1/72 to 1/144, pitching at the

wargaming market. With that said, the cross between a war gaming piece and an accurate small scale model is narrowing and this Panzer I Auf.A box set is no exception.

The box set contains five fast-assembly kits, each mounted on a single heavyweight sprue. Each sprue has ten parts, two of which are alternative turrets comprising of an example with twin 7.92mm

MG13 machine guns while the other is fitted with a single large calibre weapon. A nice little decal sheet is also provided with the national markings of Germany, Kuomintang China and Spain.

Construction is obviously swift (under ten minutes), but even with the simplicity of these kits, mistakes can be made. The small lugs that hold the track units in place are easy to knock off and I made the error of not fitting the two hull halves together before fitting the track units. All easily rectifiable and it shows even AFVs at this scale can catch you out – or is that just me!

A great little box for the scale modeller or wargamer – recommended. Special thanks to MinaIrons for supply these cracking little tanks.

MC*

INFORMATION	Product: Construction kit
	Ref: 15GEV002 Scale: 1/100
	Price: approx £16.50 Parts: 50
	Manufacturer: MinaIrons Miniatures
	Website: http://www.minairons.eu/en/