

MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS
Vol. 07 No. 06 – June 2007

June 2006 Issue

This month's contest
is:

"One of a Kind" Night

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This month's meeting
is on:

Friday June 8th



Please note:
All submissions to the
next newsletter **MUST**
be received by
6/29, or they **WILL NOT**
make it into the 7/07
newsletter.

THE VIEW FROM PIT ROAD

By Dave Schwartz

Well, the big Memorial Day Weekend is winding down as I write this. Hope everyone is having a great time and maybe got in some modeling time.

Remembering and reflecting on those who having given so much to us was time well spent, as this is what this holiday is all about.

It's official, Mosquito Con will be at the Wayne PAL on April 5, 2008 and the contract has been signed and delivered. Make your plans and get working on that Masterpiece, as Showtime will be here before you know it.

Remember that Tom "Von" Stead's "One Of A Kind" contest is coming in June, and I'm hoping to see some unique subjects out on that table. I'm sure I will.

Since Martin Quinn had requested some additional contributions to the newsletter, I decided to lend a hand. It's called "The Pro Stock Project" and I hope you'll enjoy it. It details the ongoing build of my latest project, and considering how much trouble I usually get into, it should provide some laughs along the way. Hopefully it will prove instructive also.

Anyway, See y'all at the next meeting, and find some time to put something together.

Dave

MAY 2007 CONTEST RESULTS

By Steve Zajac

Light turn out, looks like folks are sorting through those M-Con purchases, figuring out which one to start next (?). 1st in the Air category went to Marc Rocca's "almost" out of the box 1/72nd Hasegawa He-111 in a nicely weathered winter scheme. Mike Terre tackled another limited production kit, this time the Khee-Kha 1/72nd scale Fairchild 71 Canadian Pacific Airways freighter, with great results for 2nd place, while 3rd went to Pat O'Connor's 1/48th Tamiya F-51D out of box. Rounding out the table were Mike O'Connor's 48th scale Tamiya Guatemalan F-51D and Reuven Shapira's Hasegawa 1/48th scale Israeli MD 500 helo done OOB.

AIR CATEGORY

1 st	Marc Rocca	1/72 He-111	Hasegawa
2 nd	Mike Terre	1/72 Fairchild 71	Khee-Kha
3 rd	Pat O'Connor	1/48 F-51D	Tamiya



UPCOMING THEME NITES

June: One of a Kind Night: sponsored by Tom Stead
November: Russian Night: sponsored by Simon Vichnevetsky



KIT REVIEW

By Joseph F. Smith



Tamiya 1/48 Mid-production Hetzer, Kit#32511

- Pros: Great fit & easy build, excellent link & length tracks.
- Cons: Some simplified detail.

Tamiya's Hetzer features good detail, superb fit and link & length plastic tracks. Common with this series, the lower hull is supplied as a single solid die cast. It lends weight to the overall model. The front & rear of the die cast are covered by plastic pieces.

The track sprue comes with a clever assembly jig for the top run which ensures the correct curve for the drive sprocket. When glued in place it acts as a guide for the remaining track sections, tools are well detailed.

There is only one word to describe the construction, outstanding! Tracks are very easy to assemble & lined up exactly to the last link.

This is an excellent kit & is highly recommended to anyone! If anyone wants to try an armor kit, try this kit! I am enjoying every minute of it!

Joe

From the Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz



Fellow modelers, with keyboard in hand I will try to get something done for the newsletter this month. Marty had to remind me. I guess in my old age I am getting forgetful or something like that. Well, Memorial Day has come and gone, Next up is the 4th of July. I

myself am finding time to get some things for my hobby done while I am at work. Most people drink coffee, I get stuff ready to put together. I am currently working on several projects that I am going to bring to the Nationals next year in Virginia Beach. I am also involved with Another group build of F-14 Tomcats that will be displayed at the Nationals as well as NAS Oceana. I hope many of you can take the time to go to a National event at least once. To me it is quite different then MCon ,or a region. It is a lot of fun, and you get to see stuff that Legends are made of! Speaking of that I did notice one thing about the Nationals. To me the models are very much the same as we see around here as far as quality go's. The Spectacular ones always stand out, but I believe we have the same ability here. I guess every region has its Masters. That's what is good about IPMS! You get to see and Share Ideas, which make you a better modeler and. Increase the overall "FUN EFFECT". Nuff Said.

Next thing is about the quality of models these days. I went to the Andrews AFB open house on Government employees day this year with my good friend Pat Sparks. As some of you know he is a professional Model Builder. He brought up a point which I agree. Today's models are much better then they were 10 years ago. Tamiya, Hasegawa, Academy etc, are pumping out nice stuff but at rather high prices, but it puts a mediocre model builder in a position to make a much better model that has much rewarding value to the modeler when completed. I myself like to do things the old way, but I will not hesitate in dropping hundreds into a kit if I think its worth it. To me, the reward is accomplishing a model that looks like I see it in my head! Even though I learned a lot from Masters like Norm Kennedy, Pat Sparks and Andrea Korbanics , I still had to do thing so my models look distinctly like mine and no one else's . I don't care for the pre shading effect. It's not my bag. I also don't believe in over weathering to the point a model looks like sh*t. I am somewhere in between. I like subtle. You have to look at my models many times because most people miss the small details. Since I've been back, I have been doing ok models, but looking towards the Nationals, I have to turn it up a notch or two again. Competing and being Pres for so many years burned me out to the point. Where I actually thought I would never build another [F\\$%^@G](#) model again. I'm glad I was wrong. It has been fun since I have been back, and I am enjoying building again. I look forward to it now. Last year I could not make that statement! Things change! LOL!!!!

One last thing is about "OUT OF THE BOX MODELS" I Have always been outspoken about this, and I will not change my feelings toward it now. I think IPMS needs to reevaluate the OOB Category. With so many different models these days, the OOB concept to me is way out of line. It use to be simple. Bubba builds an OOB spitfire and go's by the instructions. Bubba is just a regular guy with a tight budget, yet has honed his skills and is pretty decent. Along comes Clem with his OOB model which has a whopper price tag because it is a complete kit with aftermarket crap and decals. Clem is the same skill level as Bubba in every way but his budget. Now comes judging time. Clem wins, mostly because of the extras we all had to buy separately a few years back before the concept of everything in one box. Bubba loses, and I don't think that is right by today's standards. I think we should separate the categories at our show, as well as at a regional or National event. Bubba shouldn't have a bad taste in his mouth because he has a tight budget. I've seen it before, and I know I will see it again. OOB should be simple, OOB with no frills. Then it gets interesting. We will see if things ever change!!!! By the way THIS IS MY OPINION and it should not effect or influence anyone PERIOD! It's just the way I see things!!! Next up is the Workshop for this month. Marty "AQUAMASTER" Quinn will be giving part 2 of the How to make realistic water workshop. Marty has come along way in a few years and I am proud of his accomplishments. Thanks Marty! Next up is Jerry Rinaldi with a 2 parter on figures for your models, to give perspective. I myself have been using this concept for years. Lets see what Jerry has in store for us. That's it for now, Looking Forward to seeing yall at da meeting!

Regards,

BJG Bill Schwarz

Quick Review

By Bill Schwarz

1/48 ESCI Lockheed S-3 Viking

Fellow modelers, I have several quick looks for you, First is Trumpeters Hind Helicopter. In a word "ACES, Lots of Parts, Good fit and no bad reviews. Its really big too. I don't know what I am going to do with it after the Nationals!! LOL. Second up is the Cobra Company Aftermarket exterior detail set for the Trumpeter hind! In another word, ACES Again! The 3rd item is Linden Hill decal sheet 35001 "BUSH WAR HINDS PART" ! Real nice sheet including the Afghannie Bird with the IR Suppressors I want to do. P/S you have to buy the stencil sheet separate, but it is nice as well. Next item up is the 72nd scale type 7C atlantic version of DAS BOOT! It's a lot different with the snokle, and the wintergarden aft sail area. This version has no forward gun, but does have mines and an extra area on the aft part of the sail with AA Weapons. I'll have some of it at the meeting. I actually band sawed the hull to the waterline, so I can put it to sea with 4 Bridge figure from Hecker and Goros from Germany. The poses on the figures are on the money, complete with a lookout shimmying up the scope to get a better look. The name of the Piece will be "Takken Das Boot". From the looks on the figures it sounds like a good idea!! am building the boat because I love the figures and it was a present from my friend Pat Sparks!!! Can't beat the price!! LOL. I'm going to give it to him when the Nationals is over as a gift. That's it for now, More to come next month including an update on aftermarket parts for the 48th scale SH-60B Seahawk, as well as the red tail high vis paint scheme of HSL 51"S Warlords who fly the SH-60B and SH-60-F version out at ATSUGU JAPAN!!! A Beautiful sheet from Cobra Company! By the way, Chris Miller is not out of business and will be taking orders again June 1st. Look at his Website COBRACOMPANY.COM. Also a Boost for my friend Gordo Kwan. Take a look at his store with amazing items, prices and fast service. I have been using him for many years, and when I need something, he always comes through for me. He is the only hobbyshop I use besides my long time friend Jimmy Pentafallo and Ridgefield hobbies. I can always count on these 2 sources!!! They always come through for me. The only other place I shop is Roll models, and that is for EXTRACOLOR paints period. Look up Gordo Kwan at SPRUBROTHERS.Com, and Jimmy at Ridgefieldhobbies.com and tell him Big Bill Schwarz sent ya! That's it for now, See Y'all at da meeting!

BJG Bill Schwarz

THE PRO-STOCK PROJECT

By Dave Schwartz

It's been a great while since "Mr. Uh-Oh" actually wrote an article, so here I go. I thought it might be interesting to take you all along for the ride as I start this project and attempt (they don't call me Mr. Uh-Oh for nothing) to bring it all to a successful conclusion. Although it's a car model, (what a surprise, that is), I think the ground I'm going to cover is going to be of interest to you, irregardless of what modeling subjects hold your interest. So, let's fire it up and maybe we can "Light Em Up".

As you begin, I think it will be worth your time making a decision as to just what kind of model you want to end up with when you're done. Sounds pretty obvious, but it really isn't. Do you want an out of the box project?

Nothing whatsoever wrong with that. OR are you going for moderate extra detailing? OR are you prepared to take it to the limit, and throw all caution to the wind, in pursuit of that ultimate detailing job. Each requires a different level of dedication and focus and NOT giving this matter some serious thought before beginning can lead to some major heartaches along the way. I think it's fair to say that the more detailing you plan to do, the greater your commitment in time and patience will become, and somewhere along the line, you're going to have to decide whether you are "Ready and Willing". The "Able" part will only come by trying and doing. There is NO substitute for getting in there and doing it. That being said, at the point I'm at in this project, I'm not really sure where I'm going with the detailing. A lot will depend on whether I can find some really good reference photos. At this point, I've found some, but not enough to really go all out in the accuracy department. Stock cars I know. Dragsters, I don't. So right now, it's looking moderate details, on this one. Oh, guess I should tell you what I'm building. It's Warren Johnson's, 1999 Firebird Pro-Stock (Superman Version). It's a Revell kit in 1/24 scale. Now--Away we go.

After opening the box, I gave all the parts a slow, careful and critical once over. I wasn't going to get involved in this project if I had to waste umpteen hours remaking poorly molded parts. Been there--done that and I'm just not prepared to go that route ever again. Since I really like this car, it looks pretty good. No warping and all the parts are nicely molded. Mold release lines to be cleaned up and ejection pin marks to be filled, but nothing that I wouldn't expect in a car kit from Revell. Actually, it's quite well done. On to the next step.

The body is the focal point of any car kit, so that's where I'm starting. If the body isn't right and the paint not well done, it won't really matter what details I add. It's over-- game, set and match. This doesn't deter me, as I accept this and just set about what needs to be done. At this point, I've considered just how I want to display this car. You might be interested to know that the bodies are all one piece and I've decided to display the car body in a nose up attitude in relation to the chassis. This will allow my detailing to show. If I do end up going all out with the detailing, I'll have the option of displaying the car with the body completely removed. Either way, I'm covered in the realism department.

Since the body is one piece, I'm faced with mounting the front and rear bumper sections in a totally seamless fashion. Pretty easy, just a little time consuming. After prepping the body and the bumpers, it was time for the seamless treatment. Just a note on prepping these parts. Moderate mold lines on the body had to be removed and all parts wet sanded with 400 grit paper and then wet sanded again with 600 grit. I made sure the sand paper was totally soaked and pliable. Just dipping the paper in water won't do it. I glued each side of each bumper, one at a time. I used what I'll call the Tenax "Squish" method. Each edge got a liberal coat of Tenax, with a small brush. After that, I held one side of the bumper in place with masking tape and applied enough Tenax to thoroughly fill the opposite seam. Now-- I "Squished" it together, with the hope of having to use less filler. Works pretty well. After letting the one side dry for 24 hours, I repeat the process for the side previously held in place by the masking tape. I've found that it takes 24 hours for the Tenax to really cure and the parts to actually weld together. Once the bumpers are on, I sand the seams and check for blemishes and the need for filler. One side is spot on, but filler is required on the other. I use some Squadron White, let it dry hard, then sand it smooth. To ensure a smooth seam I run some Thin super glue over the seams and putty. I've found that the putty seems to absorb the super glue and get even harder. Once the super glue has dried, I sand and polish the seams again. Now that that's done, I decide to glue the hood in place. No need to have it removable, considering how I'm going to display the model. That only leaves the rear spoiler to contend with, but that will be painted and added later. I do check the fit and make sure it will easily install. It will. I go

over the entire body with wet 400 and 600 sandpaper again, wash in warm soapy water and let it air dry. Now it's time to paint.

I know that the interior panels are flat aluminum and I painted them first. I used Tamiya Flat Aluminum, but it was a little too flat for me. Rather than repainting, I gently use my polishing cloths and smooth the surface.



After masking off the interior, I'm painting the exterior. I'm using Boyd's Gloss Black enamel.



This will end up a 3 color paint scheme. A white nose, which fades into medium blue hood which then fades into the overall black. This will be my first paint job like this, but I think I'm ready. We'll see. Next month you'll see how the paint is coming and while the paint dries it's going to be time to start on the interior.

Dave



KIT REVIEW

By Devin J. Poore

Battlestar Galactica Shuttle

By SMT Models

1/48th scale resin kit

Resin, plastic, metal, and decals

\$250 MSRP

The original "Battlestar Galactica" is often spoken of as an attempt to cash in on the success of "Star Wars" on the small screen. While the stories had little in common, the ships and hardware did have more than passing resemblances. The ships of "Battlestar" were kit bashed from existing models of the mid-1970's just as their "Star Wars" cousins were.

This is a model of one of the more unique, and uncommon, models of the series, the Shuttlecraft, or Galactica Shuttle. Cast in resin, this is a huge hollow-cast kit. At 1/48th scale - the same size as the original filming miniature -- the master was able to be made with many of the details taken from the same models that were used to create the original.

In the box you get many pieces of resin, the largest two being the front and rear halves of the hull. These are nearly 12" long each, and are hollow cast to save on weight. Some sort of foam filler will probably be necessary to keep the resin from deforming over time. Also included are lengths of plastic rod and channel, brass rods, and a sheet of decals.

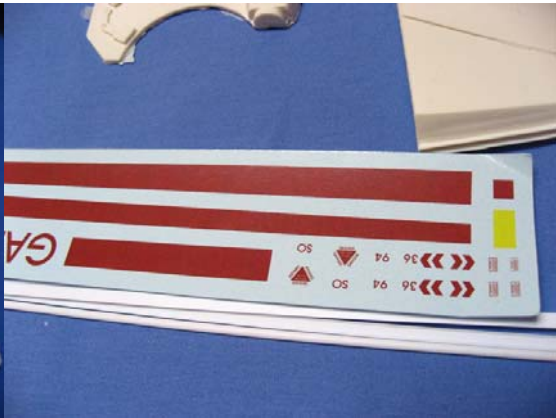
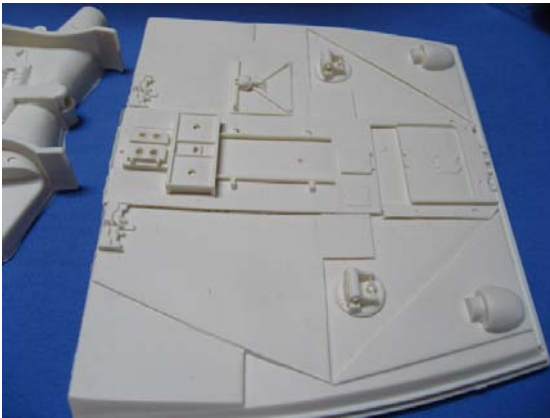
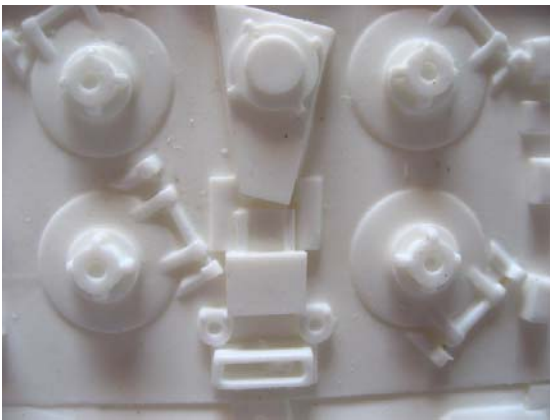
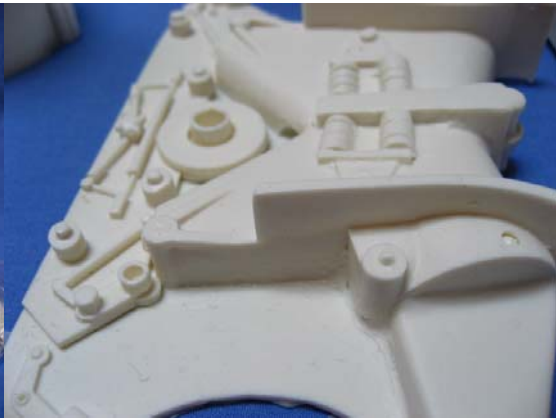
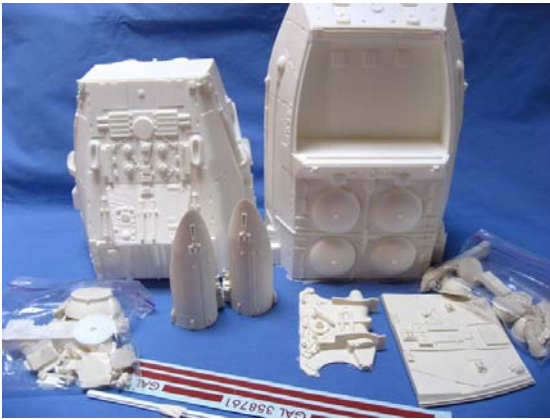
The kit is cast in light gray, very well cast, with only a few a single air bubbles and one or two damaged areas from bad pulls. Nothing that can't be easily fixed with filler. The only concern I have with this kit, other than filling the body with expanding foam to stiffen it up, is the landing gear. They are just plain ugly on this ship, and very fine and spindly. I'm not convinced that the resin struts supplied with support this beast, so I'll be replacing them with brass stock. One area that excites me is the hollow cockpit area. Sources differ on exactly how it should look -- as usual the filming miniature and the full-size set details differed greatly -- but there is a nice expanse of open area to work with. Lighting seems like a very possible option with this kit. I anticipate no problems at all with assembly and painting of this kit.

The bad new is that this kit was expensive at \$250. Hard on the budget, but for the size of the model and all that you get, it isn't a bad price. The other bad thing is that it is no longer in production. Only a limited number of these were ever produced, and it is uncertain if SMT will make any more, or if another caster will pick up the masters.

Devin

www.devinjpoore.com





MAKING WATER WITH ACRYLIC GEL

By MARTIN J. QUINN

As promised, here is a short write up on how I create “seascapes” and make “water” for my ship bases. First, here is a look at what you’ll need to get started.

1) The water is Liquitex Acrylic Gel Medium. It comes in Matte or Gloss - the choice is yours. It’s available from Pearl Paint or other art supply houses.



2) Tools. To apply the gel to the base, then to “sculpt” and



3) Finally, what I use to secure the model into the base, after it’s been placed into the gel:

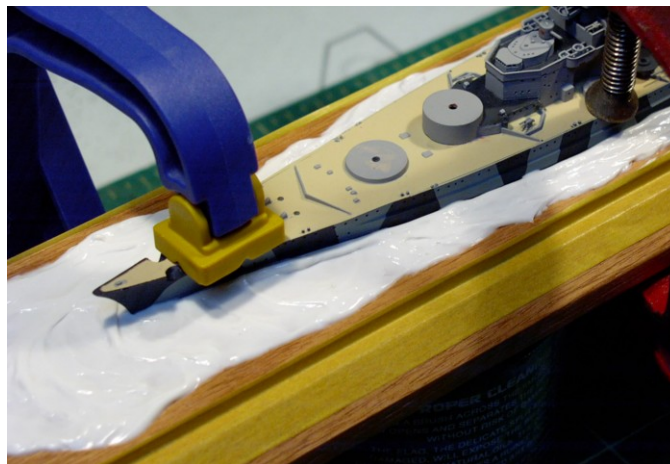
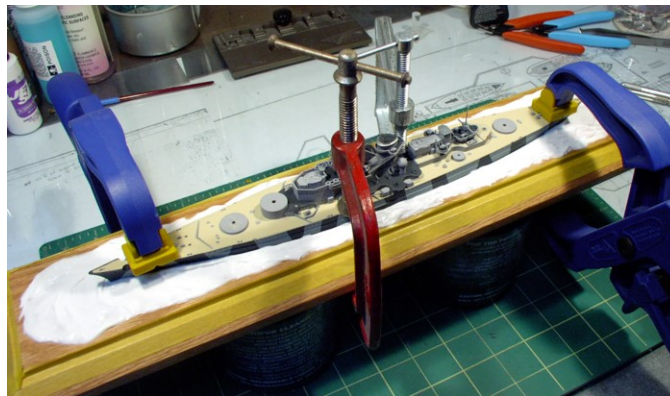


Okay, now that I've told you what I use, here is how I do it.

1) We'll assume you have a base ready to place a model onto it. I trace the outline of the hull onto the base, so I have an idea of where the model is going to go.

2) Scoop the gel acrylic gel onto the base and start spreading it around. I use a spoon to do scoop the gel onto the base, then use the back of the spoon to spread it around. I normally use a circular motion, to create the impression of waves and swells. Try not to put it on too thickly - as I mentioned during the workshop, I've found that "less is more". It's easier to build up the water with more gel than to put too much on and have your hull sink into the seascape.

3) Now that the gel is down onto the base and place my hull gently into the seascape. I slowly push the hull into the water, which squeezes the gel out from underneath the hull. Once I have the hull where I want it, I clamp it down like this:



4) Now that my hull is clamped down to the base, I'm unable to lay the base down on my workbench. I set the base down on two large paint thinner jars - find something similar that works for you.

5) With the model clamped to the base and the base sitting flat on the jars, I now start using a long hobby tool with a small trowel at one end to start moving the excess gel away from the hull. I work from bow to stern, always moving the gel so it looks like the hull is moving through the water.

6) Leave the model and gel aside to dry. The gel will clear as it dries. The Matte Gel will dry cloudy, the Gloss Gel will dry completely clear. The gel dries, like paint, from top to bottom. This means the top will harden up in a few hours, but it may take a day or two for the gel to dry thoroughly. I usually leave the clamps on until the gel is almost completely dry, so the hull doesn't shift.

For the cruiser I used to display this method at the meeting, I was able to take the clamps off on Sunday, less than 48 hours later. Just a reminder - once you put a hull into this gel, it is there forever. It also means the hull won't warp, unless it takes the base with it.



To date, I've used this method on more than a dozen ships. I've never had a problem with the hull coming out of the gel once it's dried, or with a base warping.

I learned this method from the late Norm Kennedy. I just took what he wrote down for the newsletter and tried to use it. Each ship I do seems to come out a little better. This isn't hard to do, you just have to take your time and go slow.

This month, I'll bring back the *Trento* (the cruiser I put in the gel) and paint the seascape and show you how I paint the now dry seascape. Thanks to Devin Poore for the workshop photo.

Here are a few photos of some earlier models I've done in seascapes:





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Friday June 8th



This month's contest:

“One of Kind” Night

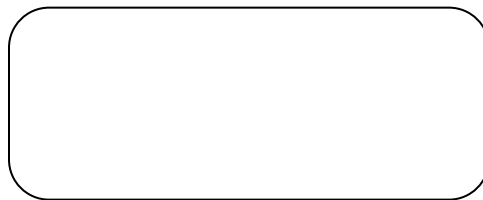
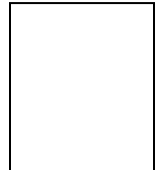
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