

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES
INFORMATION ON THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM



GUNDAM FORWARD

SAMPLE

OPENING FEATURE:
GUNPLA 40TH ANNIVERSARY
HOT ITEMS REVIEW

SPECIAL FEATURE: MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM: IRON-BLOODED ORPHANS

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM:
IRON-BLOODED ORPHANS
IN ITS FIFTH YEAR



GUNDAM FORWARD

This is the third issue of *Gundam Forward*, a magazine specializing in Gundam with the concept of “relaying the forefront of Gundam” by providing the latest Gundam information, Gunpla production methods from professional modelers, and other information users want to see and find out. This issue features *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans*, showing new developments since it first aired five years ago. We will look back on the past while thoroughly reviewing and assembling the latest Gunpla, the HG Gundam Hajiroboshi, from the spin-off currently in production, *Urdr-Hunt*. We also have a new series of articles featuring the hot Gundam-related locations and up and coming modelers, so have fun until the end!



GUN
PICK
UP
ITEM
40th ANNIVERSARY

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM IRON-BLOODED ORPHANS

GUNDAM BUILD DIVERS Re:RISE

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM



GUNDAM FORWARD

HOBBY JAPAN MOOK



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GUNPLA 40TH ANNIVERSARY HOT ITEMS

Review

The 40th anniversary of Gunpla has passed the halfway point and the second half of an exciting year has begun. "MGEX Unicorn Gundam Ver. Ka" and "ENTRY GRADE RX-78-2 Gundam," both of which will be launched in September, are the spearheads of this trend that will take Gunpla to a new level, and have attracted a lot of attention. This article will review both models with test shots, so you can see the latest developments of Gunpla.

Gunpla will reach into the "EXTREME" realm! MGEX Unicorn Gundam Ver.Ka

Master Grade, the standard brand for Gunpla on the 1/100 scale, will shortly celebrate its 25th anniversary. Utilizing all the technologies that the Master Grade has accumulated so far combined with new materials, the new MGEX brand aims to produce models with "extreme expressions" based on a theme set for each model. The first one in the series, the "Unicorn Gundam Ver. Ka" is an item that takes the technology of the past to a new level. Experience the extreme beyond the ultimate with your own hands.

MGEX Unicorn Gundam
Ver. Ka.

- Manufacturer: BANDAI SPIRITS Hobby Division
- 23,000 yen, will be released in September ● 1/100, approx. 20 cm (Unicorn Mode), approx. 22 cm (Destroy Mode)
- Plastic kit



Embodying the latest Unicorn Gundam image with a new LED unit that doesn't interfere with movement



▲ This "flexible LED foil" is the key to the lighting function of the Unicorn Gundam. In the past, the PG Unicorn Gundam had the shining Psycho frame, but the LED unit has been drastically improved from RG Unicorn Gundam (Destroy Mode) Ver.TWC (Lighting Model) and PG Gundam Exia. Its code has become a thin foil that directs light to the top of the body that doesn't affect the articulation of the kit so you don't have to worry about the wire disconnecting.



▲ A figure of Banagher in a pilot suit sits in the cockpit. Aside from the standing Banagher figure, the kit also includes Audrey and Cardeas as well as another Cardeas model to recreate the memorable scene at the launch of Unicorn Gundam in episode one.

UNICORN MODE



DESTROY MODE



▲ The kit contains different hand parts like fixed hands for the Beam Magnum and the Hyper Bazooka, clenched fists and the Emotional Manipulator SP.

▲ This is the straight build. Due to the light effect, the Psycho Frame consists of a milky white, clear mold. The first Unicorn Gundam was MG Ver. Ka in 2007. Since then, the Unicorn Gundam appeared in OVAs, became a PG-rated model and a life-size standing figure. Under the supervision of Hajime Katoki, the MGEX Unicorn Gundam has a universally appealing silhouette with features like the transformation between unicorn and destroy modes and the luminous psycho frame.



▲ The weapons are the Beam Magnum, the Hyper Bazooka, four Beam Sabers, three shields and six Beam Gatling Guns.

A more emotional recreation of the show



▲ The kit comes with a display base that you can use as a shelf for the LED unit. The base can be fitted with cage parts inspired by episode 1. The cage is partially adapted from the MG Unicorn Gundam HD Color + MS CAGE, but the addition of the lighting makes the presentation more emotional.



▲ The Psycho Frame recreates the green light with a button switch. The shield funnels have a separate base from the main body and can glow on their own by passing the lead wire through them. You can recreate the shield from the three connected funnels using special connecting parts. makes the presentation more emotional.



▼ With a button, you can switch between different flashing modes: starting with the head flashing to red light, green light, and the light effects that weaken and intensify. The articulation of each part is also good; you can strike dynamic action poses thanks to the incorporated flexible LED sheet.

Easy to assemble, but cool! ENTRY GRADE RX-78-2 Gundam

"RX-78-2 Gundam" was finally released in the new Entry Grade brand. Launched in 2020, the brand aims to produce simple kits that anyone can assemble. It has three features: "easy to assemble," "wide range of motion," and a "detailed color scheme." We recommend this kit to beginners just starting to build Gunpla and to users who have not built a kit for a while.

ENTRY GRADE
RX-78-2 Gundam
● Manufacturer:
BANDAI SPIRITS
Hobby Division
● 700 yen,
scheduled to release
in September
● 1/144, approx. 12cm
● Plastic kit
● Gundam Base
Tokyo and Fukuoka
Pre-sale item

Unparalleled range of motion

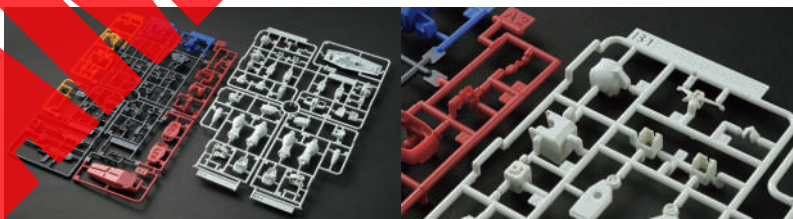
▲ The shoulders can swing far up. The red block of the belly is divided into upper and lower parts, and you can rotate it left and right, back and forth. The body has a three-dimensional, puzzle-like structure in which each body part has a meaningful design with ribs to keep the outside, joints and other parts in place.

Best balanced body shape



▲ The silhouette is somewhere between the rugged image of the HG (No.21) Gundam and the stylish HG (No.191) Gundam. The wide range of motion of the ankle allows the shoes to touch the ground more efficiently than any other RX-78-2 Gundam Gunpla of the same scale, allowing for a cool standing pose.

Runners with convenient parts placement



▲ There are just two runners. As you can see, the kit has a structure without poly-caps. Each runner is marked as A and B and you can immediately find the head, chest, arms, and other parts, making it possible to put them together intuitively.



▲ You can reproduce the color scheme almost exactly like the model sheet without using stickers. The weapons are a beam rifle, a shield, and a beam saber (handle only). The shield can be mounted in two places: to the forearm holder and the handle, and the handle is in a rectangular prism shape so that it holds it in a stable grip with only the handle.

Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans

in its fifth year

Special Feature: *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans*

It's been five years since *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans* first aired in 2015 and now it's back in action! We have a big feature about this production, which is currently receiving a lot of attention due to the new Gunpla development led by MG Gundam Barbatos and the ongoing development of the gaming app *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans G*.

We have several articles by professional modelers focusing on the crafting techniques of Gunpla such as "Teppei HAYASHI x Rider Joe's style painting techniques x HG Gundam Barbatos Lupus Rex," "Seira-Masuo x Masuo Details x HG Gundam Astaroth Rinascimento," "Kobopanda x Super Precision Engravings x HG Gundam Hajiroboshi." We interviewed producer Ogawa (currently President of SUNRISE BEYOND) and asked him about the past and future of Gunpla. We also have a collection of concept materials *useful* for model making, a list of all known Gundam frames, and more to thoroughly explore the charm of the *Iron-Blooded Orphans* from all angles.

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BANDAI SPIRITS 1/144 scale plastic kit "High Grade"
ASW-G-08 GUNDAM BARBATOS LUPUS REX
modeled by Teppei HAYASHI

BANDAI SPIRITS 1/144 scale plastic kit "High Grade"
ASW-G-29 GUNDAM ASTAROTH RINASCIMENTO
modeled by SEIRA-MASUO

BANDAI SPIRITS 1/144 scale plastic kit "High Grade"
GUNDAM HAJIROBOSHI
modeled by KOBOPANDA



What is Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans?

Before we move on to the main feature, let's look back at *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans*. It will deepen your understanding of the following articles as you know the roles and relationships between the TV series, the official spin-off work "Gekkou" series, and the game app *Iron-Blooded Orphans G*.

The sustenance of life is on the battlefield.

Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans

The director Tatsuyuki Nagai and the director of the series, Mari Okada, are the strong team behind this new Gundam film. The story follows a group of low-status boys who form the Tekkadan to improve their lives and press on despite getting caught up in the machinations of the adults around them. A clear departure from the previous "Gundam" works in terms of the profoundly designed world view and visual representation. The first season ran from October 2015 to March 2016, the second from October 2016 to April 2017.

character

Mikazuki Augus

A boy who belongs to Tekkadan. He has a carefree personality and doesn't sweat the small stuff, but is devoted to his comrades and is willing to sacrifice everything for them. Mikazuki is the most capable mobile worker in Tekkadan, so he is deployed as a pilot of the Gundam Barbatos.



Orga Itsuka

The leader of Tekkadan. He has outstanding leadership, and the boys around him trust him profoundly, so he does his best to live up to their expectations. He has been with Mikazuki since they were children and they have built a relationship of trust that runs deeper than brothers. He founded the Tekkadan after a coup against the CGS so that the boys can live their lives free from abuse.



Kudelia Aina Bernstein

A girl involved in the Martian independence movement. She is trying to visit the Earth to negotiate independently with the government of Arbraut there. She asks the CGS to escort her until then. She once successfully organized a conference called Noachis July Assembly which brought independence activists together and drew attention from various quarters.



pick up episode

► Episode 1:
"Iron and Blood."
A private security company, CGS, is tasked with escorting Kudelia Aina Bernstein, a Martian independence movement leader. But then Gjallarhorn's MS attacks them with the help of someone who does not view her actions favorably. To counter Gjallarhorn, Orga and Mikazuki activate MS "Gundam Barbatos" and destroy the enemy MS.



► Episode 50:
"Their Place."
Although he has lost Orga, Mikazuki continues to fight to the end to protect his home "Tekkadan." But in the end he is defeated in the face of ruthless power and overwhelming numbers, and Julieta's Reginlaze Julia takes him down.



GUNPLA REVIEW



▲ The first product of the HG Iron-Blooded Orphans series. It recreates the distinctive Gundam frame that can strike dynamic action poses. It can be fitted to reproduce the first and fourth form of Barbatos by replacing parts. It is also very adaptable and can use parts from other kits, like the Barbatos in the show that would seize enemy parts for its own use.

HG Gundam Barbatos

- Manufacturer: BANDAI SPIRITS Hobby Division
- 1000 yen, released October 2015
- 1/144, approx. 12.5cm ● Plastic kit

Take back your power (Gundam) and get revenge on your enemy (Gundam)!

Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans Gekkou

An official spin-off story shows the Gundam Astaroth, the mobile suit with the unknown Gundam frame, on the same timeline as *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans*. The scenario was written by Hajime Kamoshida, who worked on the setting design for the TV series, and Ippei Gyoubu designed the Gundam Astaroth. The first season was shown in *Monthly Hobby Japan* from June 2016 to November 2016 in the MSV custom model and photo report format. The second season ran from July 2017 to December 2017. At the same time, it received a manga-adaptation in the monthly *Gundam Ace* (published by KADOKAWA).

character

Argi Mirage

A 16-year-old boy with a past in which a mobile suit with the Gundam Frame killed his entire family. He lost his right arm in the attack and has since used a mechanical prosthetic hand. He is searching for the Gundam that killed his family to take revenge, and earns his living as a mercenary. His encounter with Gundam Astaroth gives him the power to do so.



Volco Warren

He was once a member of a prominent family at the Gjallarhorn, but lost everything due to the demolition. He had a memory chip implanted in his head, and his knowledge is far superior to that of an ordinary person, but the operation severely limited his motor skills and spatial awareness. He is no longer able to steer a mobile suit. He joins forces with Argi to bring Astaroth, the mobile suit that symbolizes his family, back to its original form.



Liarina Morugaton

She is the only daughter of Daddy Ted, head of Tantempo. As a student, she was studying in a colony on the dark side of the moon when she suddenly received the news of her father's death. While she is involved in the race to succeed within Tantotempo, Argi and Volco save her life, and she hires them to protect herself.



pick up episode



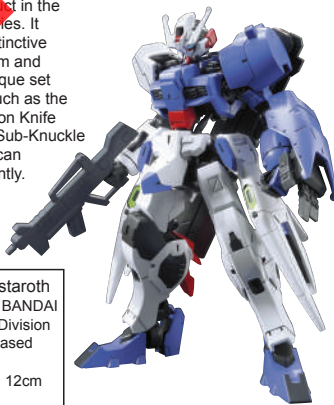
▲ Volume 1, Chapter 6: "Decisive Battle"
Rosario's Gundam Vual confronts Liarina, who is in the race to succeed Tantotempo. The exterior of the Vual is that of Astaroth, which Volco is trying to restore. Two mobile suits with the Gundam Frame clash violently for their own ends.



▲ Volume 2, Chapter 6: "Fighting as a Brother."
Zaza shows his determination to fight as Zadiel Zalmfort. Argi, too, goes into battle with all his might to fulfill his promise to Mina. But in Zaza's head, there's an ulterior motive that no one else knows.

GUNPLA REVIEW

► The first product in the HG "Gekkou" series. It recreates the distinctive asymmetrical form and comes with a unique set of armaments, such as the foldable Demolition Knife and the left arm Sub-Knuckle with fingers that can move independently.



- HG Gundam Astaroth
- Manufacturer: BANDAI SPIRITS Hobby Division
 - 1000 yen, released May 2016
 - 1/144, approx. 12cm
 - Plastic kit

Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans G

It is a game app that is currently available for pre-register. It consists of two main features: an original game based on *Iron-Blooded Orphans* and *Urdr-Hunt*, a spin-off story with newly added animation and stories. In *Urdr-Hunt*, Tatsuyuki Nagai has been appointed as the director and Hajime Kamoshida the screenwriter. The story begins between the first and second seasons of the television series and takes place on Venus.



GUNPLA REVIEW

▲ Gundam Marchosias, long considered lost in the Calamity War, became an HG kit prior to the app's launch. It is equipped with the massive Buster Mace and Long Sword, and it stores sub-arms and the short sword in the binders on the back and waist. The sub-arms can extend and hold the short sword.

- HG Gundam Marchosias
- Manufacturer: BANDAI SPIRITS Hobby Division
 - 2,200 yen, released March 2020
 - 1/144, approx. 13 cm ● Plastic kit