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NATE'S NOTES

The other day I was talking with fellow MOSS member Rusty Hamblin, he asked if I had been working on any models lately. I said no and proceeded with a string of excuses relating how my days off from the Fire Department are full taking care of my son, doing endless laundry, dishes, and cleaning, etc. etc. However, as I was speaking, a phrase that I learned in the military popped into my head: “the effective range of an excuse is zero meters.” To go along with that, I also had the thought that my days are only as busy as I make them. As I sheepishly finished my pitiful list of reasons for not building a model, Rusty joked (I think) that I needed to build a model soon, or I’d be kicked out of the Club! Well, I don’t want that to happen, so something needed to change.

I thought about it for a little while, trying to figure out how I could incorporate some model building into my daily schedule. I decided that while my son napped, I could sneak in 30 minutes to an hour of model building. Maybe not every day, but at least some building time would be better than no building time!

Another thought to go along with this, was that I need to regain my joy of building a model. So often I agonize over the details that I put into (or plan to put into) a model that it takes away some of the fun. I think I’ve mentioned in previous newsletters that I’ve built many of my models over and over in my mind; mentally super detailing many of them to museum quality replicas. While that can be enjoyable, we can all attest to the fact that putting glue on styrene and assembling parts is more satisfying than just imagining the build.

My thoughts churned back to another part of the same conversation I had with Rusty, when he said that his recent model building philosophy, especially since Richard Carroll passed away, was to take a similar approach to Richard’s mantra of “*Build what you want, the way you want to, and above all...have fun!*” When Rusty said that, it hit me that it had been awhile since I just had fun building a model.

So, to break the doldrums and the humdrums, I decided to dig into a “crappy” kit and just build it for fun! I found an old 1:72 Revell OV-10 Bronco kit in my collection and decided this would be a “fun build” with no added details, no scratch building, no extra effort – simply out of the box. When I

opened the lid, I could immediately tell it was a rough kit. But, that's ok; I'm going to have fun with it!

Like any good modeler, I decided to add another kit to the works. (I mean, what am I going to do while the glue is drying?) So I pulled the sample O Gauge Built-Rite Models building façade off the shelf and decided to build it too! (see my Work In Progress article on page 6)

The next day came, and while my son napped, I sat down at the kitchen table with my two selected kits, my "go box" of model tools, and the baby monitor close at hand. I will say that as soon as I was able to start clipping parts from the sprue, applying glue and assembling, a sense of satisfaction came over me. The joy was returning!

More to come as I continue to build; will keep you posted!

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### **ATTENTION DEFICIT MODELER DISORDER**

**Where you start to build one model but get distracted by another kit that needs building causing you to build another model!**



# LAST MEETING

## March 18:

*Editor's Note: Since I was unavailable on meeting day, special thanks goes to **Gary Sanders** for taking the lead by running the meeting, and to **Mark Mahy** for taking notes and pictures.*

13 members and 2 guests met at Godfather's Pizza in Ozark for a pizza buffet dinner and our March meeting.

**Madison Taylor** brought in a Jo-Han Studebaker Lark convertible. She added aftermarket wheels, tires, and Scale Motorsport leopard skin decal seat covers. She also brought her gas station painting she did for the Route 66 contest theme.



**Brian Taylor** brought in a resin 1:43 scale Wespe Models Studebaker Staff Car that he bought off eBay. Brian painted it red, and used Archer Dry Transfers to replicate an ambulance version. He also brought an AMT 1:25 scale 1925 Ford "Tall T" built as a hot rod from the 3-in-1 kit.



**Gary Sanders** brought in two 1:24 scale 1937 Monogram Cord 812 convertibles. The one with the dark top was one he brought to the previous meeting. The second one with the lighter colored top he detail painted more on the top and interior. Both cars have a Pledge clear finish over the kit's tan plastic exterior.





Continuing his classic car craze, Gary is currently working on Testors/Italeri 1933 Cadillac Fleetwood V-16 1:24 Model 836. Gary already has the chassis and running gear completed.

**Les MacLaren** brought in a Zvezda Varyag 1:350 scale Russian cruiser he hopes to do someday. It is a very detailed kit that includes photoetched parts.



**Darren Gloyd** brought in a Monogram 1:24 Tom Daniel's Tijuana Taxi show rod kit. While not his normal fare, he always liked the kit.



**Brian Lloyd** built a FineMolds 1:72 Slave I Boba Fett Version. He got it as a Christmas present from his wife.



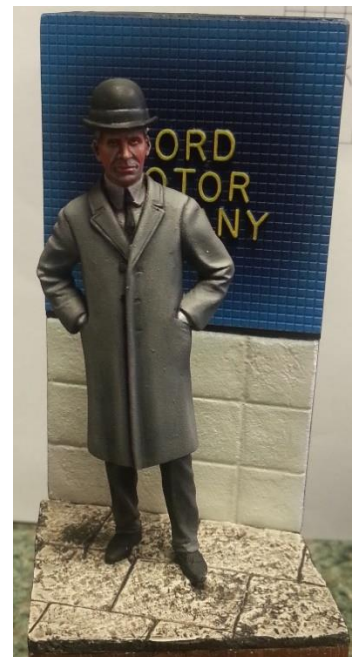


**John Long** brought in the completed ICM 1:24 Henry Ford figure that was commissioned by fellow MOSS member, Mark Mahy. John scratch built the base and wall, using Slater's Plastikard railway letters for the "Ford Motor Company" letters on the wall.

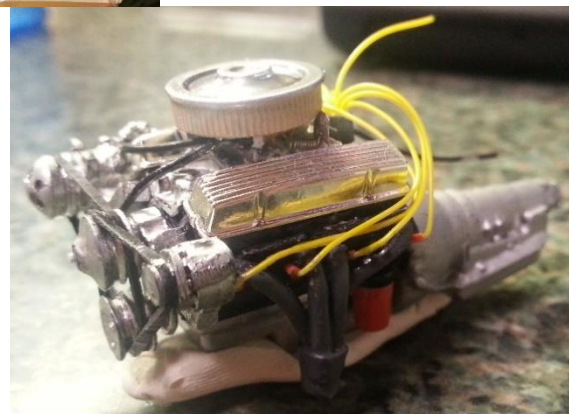
John also brought in his completed 1:35 scale figure, representing a British Chindit in the China-Burma-India Theater during WWII. He used real roots, aquarium plants & photoetch leaves for foliage and clear resin for the water on the base.

John also brought in his in-progress WWII paratrooper. A Tamiya 1:48 scale figure served as a donor for the legs and torso, but he is customizing his figure's arms and other details with putty.

Lastly, John brought a Tamiya 1:6 scale Honda CB750 Four motorcycle kit for a friend. His buddy is looking for someone to build it for him and John passed on it, being a figure guy. At press time no other volunteers stepped up to the challenge.



**Rick Crites** brought in a small block Chevy engine that will be the powerplant for the Studebaker he's building, which will be a replica of his real 1954 Studebaker. The motor is a 350 Chevy out of an AMT 1970 Chevy pickup. The chrome air cleaner was painted with a Molotov chrome paint pen. The motor uses a pre-wired Detail Master distributor and plug wires, rubber bands for fan belts, along with a handmade (from styrene tubing) compressor and pulleys,



headers fashioned from solder wire, and exhaust collectors made from heat shrink tubing. Very nicely done!



**Mark Mahy** brought in a Bandai 1:12 scale R2-D2 and R5-D4 kit. He always wanted to build an R2-D2 and now he has one. He originally was seeking out one of the old MPC kits, but the Star Wars nostalgia craze has the kits “at crazy prices.”

Mark also brought in his Revell Monogram SnapTite kit of the Gatherer's Mercedes-Benz M-Class vehicle from *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* movie. As a snap-together kit, it's pretty basic but a neat kit. Mark has not yet decided for sure what exactly it is going to be, but “it's gonna be something like an apocalyptic skate punk Mercedes now.” Mark deleted the front fender mounted snorkel and the “goofy boxes and searchlights on the rear for now.” After “destroying the kit,” a quick Google search revealed the kit is fetching big bucks (“movie memorabilia collectors?”). After finding that out, Mark noted “oh well, I found it for a \$1.99 on clearance years ago.”



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## WORK IN PROGRESS

### Built-Rite Models O-Scale “The Shop” Part 1

by Nate Jones

Not too long ago, Rusty asked me to build this wood kit and write a review of the kit. I have scratch built my own partial buildings for small dioramas in the past, but I have never assembled a building from a kit. It looked simple enough, and to get some model building done, I decided the time was right to get this going.

#### The Kit

The kit is officially titled “The Shop” and is an O-Scale model railroading facade from Built-Rite Models, a home operated hobby company based in Branson, MO. Here is their website: <http://www.built-ritemodels.com/>. The Shop's dimensions are listed as 4" wide, 1 1/16"

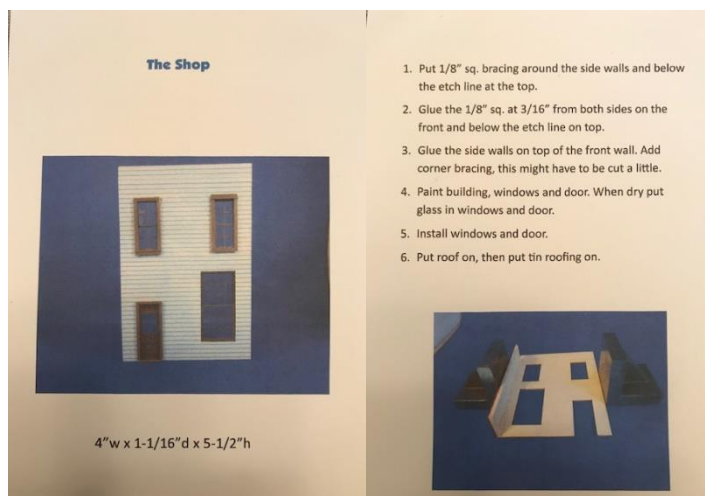




deep, and 5 ½" tall. It is a two story building with a parapet roof line.

The packaging is simple: a clear 6" x 10" zip closure bag holds the kit contents, it is topped with folded and stapled card stock that serves as both a rack hanger, and also the kit label; a "Made in the USA" sticker adorns the bottom corner.

Inside, is a card printed in color on both sides, which includes the kit title and dimensions accompanied by a full color picture of the finished product on the front. On the reverse are the basic instructions including the 6 steps to complete the build and another full color picture of the sample kit being assembled between two 90 degree angle plates.



There are 19 pieces to this kit, including six laser cut basswood pieces for the front, partial sides, roof, and two supports, along with four sections of 1/8" square basswood stock. The front and sides are textured on the exterior to represent clapboard style siding. There are five injection molded styrene parts for the windows, door and door frame. The door is double sided and can be a left-hand or right-hand opening. A small zip closure bag holds three sections of clear plastic to serve as window glass. Finally, there is a strip of black cardstock that (I believe) is supposed to represent a tin roof (if I'm reading the instructions correctly).

The instructions are somewhat vague and none of the parts are labeled, but you can get the gist, as this is not an overly complex building.

### **The Build**

I opened the kit at 4:00 pm and once I had my bearings I started assembly right away. My Elmer's Wood Glue was packed away, so I used my Aileen's Tacky Glue. Equipped with my X-Acto knife (No 11 and No 10 blades), a toothpick for smoothing the glue, I set to work. As I mentioned, the assembly instructions were vague, but I decided not to sweat the proverbial small stuff and just go to work.

Two strips of square stock were glued in place to serve as supports for the side walls, and the sidewalls quickly went into place as well. There is a laser engraved line on the inside of the walls near the roof line to ensure proper alignment. The clapboard texture on the exterior even lines up!





4:10 pm: The nature of thin wood such as this kit means there is a slight bow depending on humidity levels and such, so I did break out my small clamps to ensure a tight bond between front and side walls.

The Aileen's Tacky Glue did not take long to set, so I did a quick test fit of (presumably) the roof piece. It was too short to lay on top of the side walls, but too long to fit between them, so I scribed a quick line and trimmed off a little section of one end. In all honesty, I could have trimmed a scosh more, but the length provided a nice tight fit, so I went with it!

Before I glued the roof in place, I decided to install the diagonal corner bracing near the roof. My intent was to create a support for the roof, in addition to creating a structural tie-in between the front and side walls. The

instructions note that the "corner bracing might have to be cut a little" which is a true statement. The corners tend to stick up beyond the edge of the side wall and roof.



4:25 pm: Once the corner bracing were both in place, I immediately installed the roof. A little few extra beads of Tacky Glue smeared into place along the seams with a toothpick secured it all together.

[I had to take a break for dinner and the night routine.]

9:30 pm: Back to the kitchen table for more building fun! The wood parts were fully cured, so time to check out the window and door installation. I

removed the styrene parts from their respective sprues, and I glued the door into the frame. The windows slipped easily into the laser cut holes with relative ease, yet enough tension that glue would not necessarily be required.

But unfortunately, the opening for the large window on the first floor is too big; it left a significant gap either at the top or at the bottom, and door frame sits below the bottom of the wall.

The door frame can be solved by adding a small foundation below the clapboard, so that's not too big of a deal. That can easily be replicated with either wood or some plaster carved to look like field stone.







To solve the window gap issue, I decided to create a larger window sill, which would also more closely resemble the window sills on the second story windows. So I took a left over portion of the 1/8" square stock basswood, and I cut it to size (width), then split it in half lengthwise. I was pleased with the results, which appeared natural to the look of the building.

9:45 pm: A total of 40 minutes spent on this kit and the construction portion is mostly complete! All-in-all, good progress to

the day and a step out of my normal comfort zone to help get the creative juices going again! I look forward to finishing the kit in the near future! Stay tuned for Part 2 next month, when I put the finishing details on "The Shop." ~ NJ

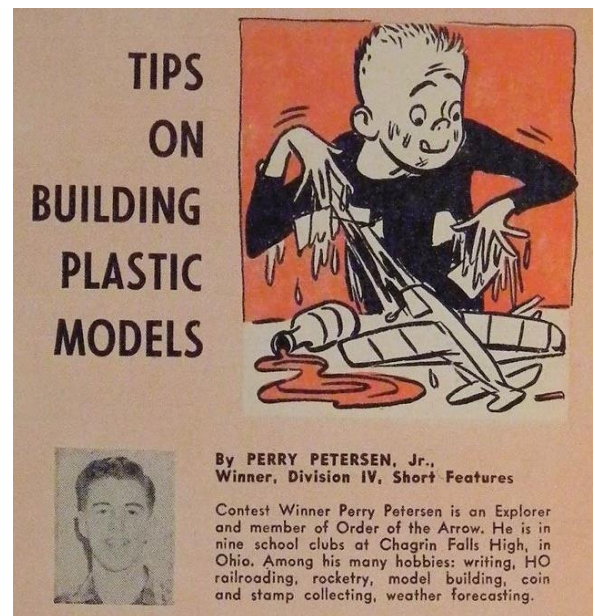
## TIPS & TECHNIQUES

As I was recently perusing Facebook, I found a post by Roger Christenson in the "[Scale Modeling Tips, Tricks and Advice](#)" group. It was a photo of an article originally published in the May 1958 issue of *Boys' Life* magazine, written by Perry Petersen, Jr. I thought it was interesting that through the years, building a model all boils down to the same basic principles that Mr. Petersen wrote about in 1958. I've transcribed it for you here:

"It was a few years ago that I built my first plastic model but, if I remember correctly, I made so many easily avoidable mistakes that the model was a complete failure. So, here, for YOU, are some tips which I am sure you will find helpful.

FIRST, read *all* the instructions. By doing this, you will get a clear idea of how the assembly will go, and will see the purpose of each step.

SECOND, check to make sure that all the parts are there. If they aren't you can get the part by writing to the company, or you might be able to get it from the hobby shop where you purchased the model. Along with the parts, make sure you have all the materials you will need: glue, paint, a sharp knife, small file, and



Screenshot from the Facebook post

holding tools (spring clothespins, rubber bands, and pins). Holding tools are needed because, often, glued parts will have to be held until they are dried.

THIRD, paint your model. You will find that it is easier to paint most of your model before it is assembled because you will be able to reach the parts more easily. However, in some cases this will not apply: If you are painting only the exterior of an airplane model, for example, you should wait until it is assembled so that the paint will dry evenly and cover up the fuselage assembly joints. Special tail for this!

FOURTH, assemble your model. When cementing your model, there are several things to remember: (1) Use small amounts of the cement. It can easily mar or warp the pieces; (2) Don't get any cement on the outside of your model because it makes for a bad appearance; (3) Make certain that there is no cement left on your hands before handling other parts.

FIFTH, apply the decals, if any. Many times, decals can either make or break a model in terms of appearance. Therefore, you will undoubtedly profit from closely following these instructions.

Read the instructions on the decals carefully. Some decals must be handled differently than others. Usually, however, decals are made ready by wetting them in water, preferably lukewarm. Apply and soak *one* decal at a time, so you will not be forced to hurry. Make sure the surface of the model is clean and dry; then apply the decal. Slip one edge off the paper. Touch this edge to the model, placing one finger on it so the free edge is pinned in place. Then slip away the paper. Next, still holding the decal on, wipe off the water, wiping *away* from your finger, so the decal won't wrinkle.

Some general tips:

Make sure your cement and paint is for *plastic* models; the cement and paint that works well with balsa won't do a satisfactory job with plastic.

Take plenty of time; don't hurry. It should take about five solid hours of *careful* work to build a *perfect* model that has 50 to 100 parts and needs painting.

Keep materials, tools, and parts in order at all times.

Don't try to complete your model in one stretch; take breaks. Your work will be noticeably better if you break it up into three equal periods, instead of doing it all at once."

As I read through this article, it made me think back to my early years of model building – using my fingers to position decals (now I use a toothpick and a cotton swab), trying to finish a model in one stretch, getting frustrated with glue marks on the outside of my airplane model, and many more little things. I imagine that all modelers go through a similar metamorphosis as their skills develop! ~NJ



## NEXT MEETING

**April 22, 2018 – Sunday, 6pm at Branson Hobby Center!**

The Shop opens at 5pm for those who would like to do some shopping before the meeting. Bring a model, tip or technique to share and discuss! And remember your chair!

We will also be collecting 2018 Membership Dues and MOSS CON 2018 Sponsorships.

**Happy Modeling!**



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