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NATE'S NOTES

Last month I wrote about needing to regain the joy of building a model. So far so good! I've worked some on a couple smaller models, and have enjoyed the short periods of time that I have had to work on them. During those times and others though, I have been brain-storming on how else to get the fun back in the hobby. An idea popped into mind one day. For those of us who have built models since we were much younger than we are today, we can probably remember the excitement of finally buying that model for which we had saved our money so long, bringing it home, excitedly twisting the parts from the sprues, painting and gluing parts together with fingerprint smudges everywhere. Then, not being able to wait until the glue or paint dried before we took off with it around the house or outside into the yard. The thought came to be, why not try an easy Group Build with the club members to "Build Like A Kid" again?! So, at the April meeting, the idea was presented – take a model of your choosing and build it without any advanced techniques. No airbrushes, no photo-etch, no resin, no filler putty...just paint, glue and decals (though the decals are optional). And to add to it, the paint can only be brush painted from a jar/bottle or sprayed from a rattle can. A few eyebrows raised, but most agreed that would be a fun idea. I have a kit in mind, and now with less than a week before the next meeting (our due date), I will definitely be building like a kid again – most likely building and finishing it in one night! Stay tuned for pictures; should prove to be interesting!

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# LAST MEETING

## April 22:

18 members and a guest met at Branson Hobby Center for our April meeting.

**Gary Sanders** brought in a few models. One is his 1:24 scale 1937 Monogram Cord 812 convertible that he built as the Chief Observer car for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual AAA 500 Mile Race. Gary also brought in a vintage Palmer Hobb-E Kits American Mastodon model that he recently purchased; when you open the box, the age of the kit is apparent as the sprues and molding are very crude and rough.

As an avid Studebaker fan, Gary enjoys and collects all things



related to Studebaker's storied history. During WWII, Studebaker built an amphibious vehicle known as the M29 Weasel. Gary brought in two of his Weasel kits: one was a 1:72 Hauler Models kit, and the other was a 1:32 EZ Models resin kit. The box notes that it contains "1 highly detailed and accurate model." The kit contains 330 resin parts and 120 photo-etch parts; the instructions are on a mini-CD, and Gary explained that there were 11

pages of instructions just for the radios alone, in addition to the 43 pages for the rest of the model. This model is definitely "suitable for advanced modelers."

Gary brought in his in-progress, nearly finished (ready for decals now) 1:35 Dragon M48 tank. The kit has gone together very well, and is a nicely detailed model. Gary used a Molotow Chrome pen on the inside of the search light, which added a nice effect and depth to the light.

**Rusty Hamblin** brought in an MPC Zinger kit, which he commented is his first plastic kit that he has built in a while, so he can say he is a plastic builder! Growing up in Las Vegas, he used to go to car shows and see the real Zinger cars, as well as see them in the car magazines. So when he found the model







kit, it was a fun memory from his childhood! The MPC kit went together quickly and was a fun build!

Rusty also brought in his blown up Jimmy Flintstone resin kit of Robby the Robot that he built not too long ago. Rusty used a sections of a soda can for the ripped and torn metal, and some creative gizmology for Robby's internal workings using parts from an old VCR and an over-flared steel brake line tubing!



Taking (loose) inspiration from the old *Toxic Avenger* movie, Rusty took an old HO scale Vinegar or Pickle car and built it with three barrels of open toxic waste. He filled the vats with two part epoxy and colored it with fluorescent green paint.

**Bob Grenier** brought in two HO scale rail cars that he built years ago to represent vintage grain hopper cars. Between the 1930's and 1960's, grain from the United States' "bread basket" was moved in box cars. Temporary wooden grain doors were added just inside the sliding side doors of the rail car, then a special elevator was used to load the car with the grain. Once at the destination, the rail cars were positioned over a grain pit, and the wooden grain doors were broken away to allow the grain to fall into the pit.



Bob built his brown rail car to represent a wood sided, metal end grain car used in the 1920's and 30's. The red/orange rail car was built to represent a steel sided, steel end grain car used in the 1960's.





**Paul Drinkall** brought in his recently completed 1:25 Revell 1990 Thunderbird SC Coupe. Paul and a friend of his both owned a car like this in real life, and years ago Paul built a model for his friend, which he recalled no real issues with the kit except for a small fit issue with the front bumper. While experiencing some other frustrations with a couple other models currently in progress on his bench, Paul decided to



build his T-bird to represent his real car. This build was unfortunately not as problem-free as his previous experience, as Paul noted it "fought him tooth and nail." The body was significantly warped, so Paul used an epoxy glue to help correct the problem. However, the glue did not dry, so Paul used DAP Rapid Fuse All Purpose Adhesive instead, which fortunately did the job, successfully set and

dried within 2 minutes of application. Paul completed his model mostly out of the box, adding only the plug wires on the engine and the radio antenna, and he finished his model in the colors of his real Thunderbird Coupe.



Because of moving and starting a new job, **Brian Lloyd** said he has not had much of a chance to build anything new in the past year, but he brought in his Monogram Battlestar Galactica Colonial Viper that he finished a few



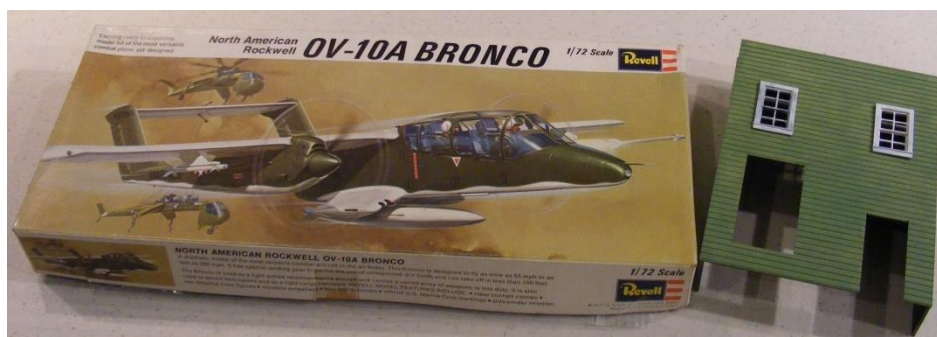
years ago. Brian finished his model in acrylic paint and weathered it with chalks to represent battle damage. Brian sealed the weathering with a spray coat of Testors Dullcoat.





**Nate Jones** brought in two in-progress works: a Revell 1:72 OV-10A Bronco kit and the O-Gauge Built Rite Shop. The Revell kit was an inexpensive purchase at a local model swap meet, but definitely a rough kit that shows its age. The fit is terrible and the molding leaves a lot to be desired. But, the intent behind this kit is to build something and get it done, so Nate is not planning to get too picky with the details. A lot of sanding and a lot more filler putty is required, so it will most likely be a quick finish desk model with a blacked out canopy.

The Built Rite Shop façade is the subject of the Work In Progress article (Part 1 is located in the March issue, and Part 2 is located on page 7 of this issue).



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## RUSTY'S RAMBLIN'

**By Rusty Hamblin**

I had a new *Ramblin'* rolling around in my head when last month's issue of *Sprue Bits* came out. Darn that Nate, he wrote about what I was going to write about: how does working on models make you feel physically and emotionally? I guess it must be a pretty important subject when so many people are thinking about it. Here's my take.

I must hate finishing models. Funny I always feel so good when I finally do finish a model, but subconsciously I must hate it. How else can I explain my inability to finish one? I love starting a new model but somehow, I lose interest and it gets put aside in that ever-growing stack of unfinished models. Someday that unfinished stack might actually be bigger than my yet-to-be-started stack. I keep telling myself that someday the model manufacturers will stop producing models I want so I will stop buying. That has yet to happen. Every month they come out with more and more I desperately desire.

Recently though I have finished a couple of models. My secret...I quit caring what everyone else thinks about my models. Let me explain.

When I first joined MOSS I was excited to be meeting with people that might know more about model building than I did. Up until then my model learning had been the tried and true, but painfully slow and frustrating, trial and

error method, or by reading about model building in magazines and books. The publications were great because they showed you finished models by others who had far more skill than me. Being the competitive person that I am, I wanted to be as good as or better than those people. I began to see the same names repeatedly and I vowed to be building at their level someday.

Like so many things in life there are unforeseen circumstances. Indeed MOSS members did know a few new tricks and helped me along, but I also found out most of them are really good model builders too. I became self-conscious because my builds weren't as good as theirs. I tried hard, but became frustrated, and we all know what frustration can lead to.

I put model building aside for nearly a year and sort of faked it with the Club by presenting projects built out of wood or metal, but they weren't really plastic model kits. One night I sat down at my model desk and got to work. When I finally got up to go to bed, I felt good. I had worked less than an hour and I felt improved my mood and outlook. The next night I tried it again, and again I came away feeling better than when I sat down. It became a nightly ritual.

But old habits began to creep in and I began to see my model builds as less than perfect. I began to get disappointed in myself. The fun was waning, again.

I don't know where it came from, perhaps a desire to keep the fun alive, but I searched for the source of my discontent and found it. I was building to suit everyone else. I was building my models so I could show them off as the grandest things ever. I didn't just want to be a good model builder, I wanted to be the best. I'm not and I no longer care to be. I build for me, to make me happy. Yeah, my models have lots of flaws in them; some you can see plainly and others I'd have to point out, but I won't. I know where every flaw is and I'm proud of them, because I built the damn thing and I built it for me. It took me some years to get there, but I guess I've found happiness in being less than perfect. ~RH

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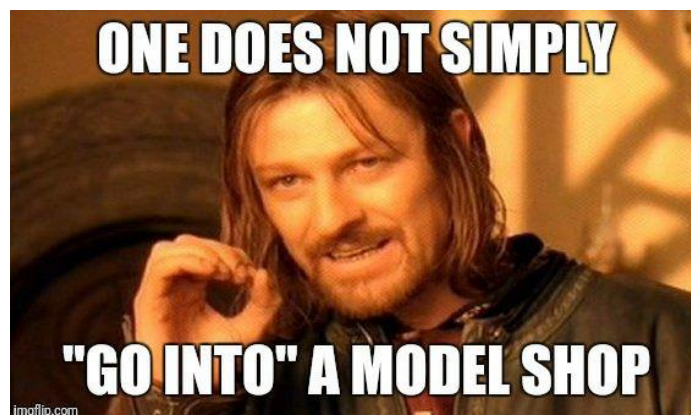


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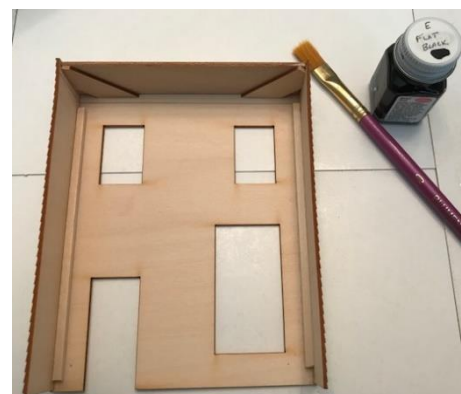
WORK IN PROGRESS

Built-Rite Models O-Scale “The Shop” Part 2

by Nate Jones

The Finish

2:08 pm: My son is currently napping, so I decided to get some more work done on my Shop. Since this kit is a façade, I decided to paint the interior flat black in order to give a sense of depth. Taking Rusty’s advice to use enamel paint, since the wood softens with the water base of acrylic paint, I dug out my enamel paints. I took a wide brush and started painting. The basswood really absorbed the enamel paint so two coats were necessary to get a good coverage. While the flat black was drying, I dug through my paint rack.



Being primarily a military modeler, I really did not have too many “civilian” paint colors, so I opted for the closest thing to a civilian color I had: Testors Pale Green. Of course, I had to add a little RLM 02 Grau (WWII German aircraft interior gray) to it to help age the look of the paint.

The exterior basswood seemed to take the paint relatively well, except for a few areas where the wood grain resisted. The laser cut edges, however did not absorb the paint; very much the contrary. In retrospect, I should have sanded the laser cut edges to allow for better paint absorption.



By 2:36 pm: The exterior clapboard siding was painted. Not bad for 28 minutes of work!

9:30 pm: A few days later, I did a few minutes’ worth of online research to get an idea on how clapboard wood sided buildings look and how they weather. I decided to go for a flat white color.



The styrene window frames and door were painted with Testors Flat White enamel paint. Painting scale window frames is about as exciting and fun as painting window frames in real life, but nonetheless, after a couple coats over the next couple days, I was happy with how they turned out.

After some more dry-fitting with the front door frame, I determined that if I trimmed either a little from the basswood at the base, or from the styrene portion of the door at the threshold, I could get the door to fit without hanging below the rest of the building front.

10:00 pm: Even though I had already painted the roof flat black, I decided to add the cardstock roof





material provided in the kit. The piece provided was a little longer than needed, so I measured (twice) and trimmed to size. I glued it in place, but because of a mistake on my part during construction to roof piece was slightly below the side walls, so I had to use some clothes pins and a folded business card to help keep the roofing material flat on the roof.

9:45 pm: Another few days later, I finally was able to get some more build time. The clear plastic “glass” panes for the windows were slightly too big, so I used a pair of scissors to trim them down to size. Aileen’s Craft Glue was applied to the interior of the window frames, and the window opening in the façade. With the “glass” place, I pushed each of the windows into their respective openings.



10:00 pm: A couple quick snips with my cutters and a few swipes with a sanding stick solved the fit issue with the front door frame.

Some more craft glue secured the frame and the front door in place. The last part to go in place was the window sill for the large first floor window. With that, my Shop was complete!



Conclusion

Overall, this was a nice little kit. The assembly instructions were slightly vague, but that allowed for some artistic freedoms! There were a few very minor fit issues to overcome (which might have been more beginner’s issues), but overall, this Shop was a relatively easy and fun kit to build!

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED:

Two 1:25 AMT 1967 Comet Cyclone model re-release. Looking for a good price for these kits. Please contact Paul Drinkall at [tunnelport\[at\]centurylink.net](mailto:tunnelport[at]centurylink.net).



NEXT MEETING

May 6, 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!

Happy Modeling!



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