

MODEL AIRCRAFT TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

An Illustrated Guide

MIKE ASHEY
PRODUCTIONS



WORKING WITH RESIN, WHITE METAL, AND PHOTOETCH
SCRATCHBUILDING AND DETAILING • FINISHING TECHNIQUES
USING DETAIL SETS • SIMPLE DISPLAY BASES



About the Author

Mike Ashley lives in Tallahassee, Florida, with his wife, Kelly, and their two sons, Thomas and Gregory. Mike is a member of IPMS, and he has been building models since the early sixties. His interests are primarily military aircraft, armor, and ships. He has an undergraduate degree in Ocean Engineering, and aside from building models he enjoys writing, SCUBA diving, flying, staying in shape, and being a father to two future model builders. He spent four years in the U.S. Marines and was honorably discharged as a sergeant. He worked for the Department of the Navy as a senior engineer and project manager, and as a technical advisor for the Navy's elite SEAL combat force. Presently Mike is involved in environmental protection, and he is the Deputy Director for the Division of State Lands for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection.



Glenn Johnson

Glenn Johnson—the man who works magic with color photography.

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PRODUCTIONS

MODEL AIRCRAFT
TIPS AND TECHNIQUES
AN
ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

BY
MIKE ASHEY

*FOR
MY BROTHERS
ROBERT AND STEPHEN AND MY SISTER KAREN*

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PRODUCTIONS**

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All photos are by Mike Ashey or Glenn Johnson.

**MIKE ASHEY
PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS**

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General Book Information

Cover, Dedication, Preface, Index, Manufacturers and Suppliers

Chapter 1

Scratchbuilding Cockpits and Interior Parts

Chapter 2

Working with Resin, White Metal and Photoetched Detail Sets

Chapter 3

Rescribing Panel Lines

Chapter 4

Engine, Landing Gear, Wheel Well and Ordnance Detailing

Chapter 5

Control Surface Detailing

Chapter 6

Painting, Decals, Weathering, and Simple Display Bases

FORWARD

It somehow seems fitting that my two sons have included themselves in the author's photo, just as they have inserted themselves into nearly every other aspect of my life. They already have model boxes stacked in their bedroom to rival my own collection. World War II aircraft dangle from the ceiling and the floor is sometimes littered with broken parts and pieces from both built and unbuilt kits. Our youngest son spies jets in the sky and identifies them -- appropriate for our house -- as "plane parts." At their ages, my sons of course emulate my interests, if not my every move. Like any proud parent I am thrilled to see them interested in the hobby that I enjoy, knowing, of course, that they will grow up to be modelers of great skill. I wonder, however, if this hobby I loved in my youth can compete with the computer and video games and entertainment packages that are available for today's youths.

So much has changed since I began working on my first book, Detailing Scale Model Aircraft, in 1989. I began that book because I saw a need for a basic how-to detailing book that could help any skill level modeler, from youth to adult, build better models by using common tools and materials and without breaking their bank account. I have been an avid modeler for most of my life and have watched the changes in the industry with interest, concern and fascination. There has been a phenomenal growth in the scope of the industry, from the 98 cent Aurora, Hawk and Monogram kits of the fifties and sixties, to an awesome array of ships, aircraft, figurines, spacecraft and armor available in mediums ranging from plastic to metal to resin. Hand in hand with this growth has been an explosion in after-market accessories to provide details and realism in every possible fashion far beyond anyone's wildest expectation. Now your basic 98-cent model sells for 15 dollars and can be accessorized and enhanced to the cost of double, if not triple, the purchase price of the basic kit.

While this is of no major concern to the graying baby boomer generation that grew up modeling, there is an entire generation of youngsters who are being priced out of the hobby. The next generation are the future of the scale modeling industry, and the industry is shortsighted to focus too exclusively on high-end market items. Can scale models that require creative thinking, imagination, fine motor hand coordination and self discipline to build compete with no-effort-required entertainment handed out by computers and video games? I can not answer the question, but I know that unless the industry actively seeks out and encourages young modelers, it is surely doomed.

My sons may or may not pursue the hobby I enjoy, but they will have had the opportunity to try it because I have made the effort and found the time and patience to encourage them. However, there is a great need to have products available for the next generation at reasonable prices now. Every participant in this hobby, from manufacturers, after-market cottage industries, tools and accessory suppliers, publishers and the hobbyists themselves, should encourage and support the production of models geared towards our children. The limited kits available as large scale snap tight kits from companies like AMT/Ertle, Lindberg and Monogram/Revell are a good start, but the industry as a whole needs to do much more. I have many wonderful childhood memories starting with the first model my Dad and I built together and floated in our backyard pool. I hope someday my own sons will look back fondly on their youth and remember their dad and models when they sit down with their own children, and together build my grandchild's first model.

SUPPLIERS AND MANUFACTURERS

AeroMaster/KMC
3615 N.W. 20th Ave.
Miami, FL 33142
(Resin detail sets, paints, decals)

Badger Airbrush
9128 West Belmont Ave.
Franklin Park, IL 60131
(Airbrush equipment)

Bare Metal Foil Company
P.O. Box 82
Farmington, MI 48332
(Plastic polish, plastic scribe, decals,
resin, RTV rubber)

Borden Inc.
Department CP
Columbus, OH 43215
(White glue)

Carrier Deck Accessories (Classic
Warships)
P.O. Box 57591
Tucson, AZ 85732
(Photoetched detail sets, resin diorama,
carrier decks)

Creations Unlimited Hobby Products
2939 Montreat Dr. N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49509
(Flex-I-File and Flex-I-File sanding
sticks)

Cutting Edge/Meteor Productions
P.O. Box 3956
Merrifield, VA 22116
(Resin detail sets)

Devcon Corporation
Danvers, MA 01923
(Two-part epoxy)

Dremel
4915 21st St.
Racine, WI 53401-9989
(Drill bits, cutters, drill press, motor
tools, drill press vise)

Eduard M.A. Ltd.
P.O. Box 17A
434 Olmost
Czech Republic
(Multi-media kits, photoetched
detail sets)

Evergreen Scale Models
12808 N.E. 125th Way
Kirkland, WA 98034
(Plastic strips, rod, sheeting)

Floquil-Polly S
206 Milvan Dr.
Weston, ON M9L 1Z9
Canada
(Paints, plastic prep and paint/decals
remover)

K & S Engineering Co.
6917 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60638
(Sandpaper, brass rod and tube)

Loctite Corporation
4450 Cranwood Ct.
Cleveland, OH 44128
(Super glue)

Micro Mark
340 Snyder Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1595
(Hobby supplier)

Microscale Industries, Inc.
1570 Sunland Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 91710
(Decal setting solution, decals)

Model Technologies
13472 Fifth St., Suite 12
Chino, CA 91710
(Photoetched parts)

Northwest Short Line
P.O. Box 423
Seattle, WA 98111
(Chopper and true sander)

Pacer Technology
9420 Santa Anita Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(Super glue accelerator)

Plastruct
1020 South Wallace Place
City of Industry, CA 91748
(Plastic shapes and rod)

Reheat Models
1A Oak Drive
North Bradley
Trowbridge
Wiltshire, BA14 OSW
England
(Photoetched detail sets, instrument
decals)

Rockford Boulder Company
869 Kingsway Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(Specializing in display bases using
sand, soil, and rock from around the
world)

Scotch 3M Painters Masking Tape
P.O. Box 33053
St. Paul, MN 55133
(Masking tape)

Small Parts Inc.
13980 N.W. 58th Ct.
P.O. Box 4650
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
(Steel wire and hollow wire)

Squadron Shop
1115 Crowley Dr.
Carrollton, TX 75011
(Modeling accessories, detail sets)

Super Scale International, Inc.
2211 Mouton Dr.
Carson City, NV 89706-0471
(Decals, decal-setting solutions, and white glue)

Teknics
13472 5th St. Suite
Chino, CA 91710
(Photoetched and resin detail sets, resin engines)

Testor Corporation
620 Buckbee St.
Rockford, IL 61104-4891
(Paints, paintbrushes, putty, sandpaper, glue and glue applicators, sprue cutters, airbrush equipment)

True Details
P.O. Box 115010
Carrollton, TX 75011
(Resin cockpits, wheel detail sets)

Verlinden Productions
Lone Star Industrial Park
811 Lone Star Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63366
(Resin and photoetched accessories and detail sets)

Waldron Model Products
P.O. Box 431
Merlin, OR 97532
(Waldron punch set, placards, instruments, and photoetched parts)

X-Acto
230 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(Blades and cutting tools)

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