



Emerald City Modelers

International Plastic Modelers Society

Wichita, Kansas

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The OZ Report

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Recreating History in Miniature

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A modeling tip for you:

Lint-roller sheets provide excellent surfaces to hold gear doors and other parts for painting. To use just turn the corners of the sheets under and stick the sheet to some cardboard or even newspaper. Press the parts onto the sheet and paint away. Most sheets come in rolls averaging 4"X7" and can be found in 40 to 60 sheet sizes. You can find these items in any store that sells laundry supplies.

Bring and Brag:

Okay, I'll admit it; I lost the sheet of paper that used to write down what people brought in over the past few months. (Remind me not to go on such a cleaning binge!). Never the less here are a few items that were brought in and if I don't mention who the models belong to, I'm sorry. Old age and cleaning don't mix I guess.



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It's that time again:

I hate to be the bearer of bad news but June is the month that dues are payable to the club. Annual membership is \$20 for a single adult and should be paid to Troy at the meeting.

KC Slammers Rock!

The folks in the KC Slammers Club will be hosting the Heartland Model Car Nationals in Kansas City on June 23 and 24, 2007 at the Overland Park Convention Center (600 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS). The contest flyer that they put out is too large to include here but if you want to view it then go to www.kcslammers.com and click on Heartland Contest. There are 27 different classes for adult entries, including modified diecast. Along with regular judging in classes there are 15 Master Awards. The theme of the event is "RATZ" – "rat cars" – no billet/no chrome, all go and no-show. Registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for teens. Juniors (under 12) are admitted free. If you have any interest in great looking car models then this is THE place to be.



COAST GUARD MODELS AND COLORS

If you are planning on entering a model in the "Best US Coast Guard" Special Award category at OZCON 2007, here are a few tidbits to think about.

Contrary to belief, there are lots of models readily available that can be built in the colors of Coast Guard aircraft. Just going down the list here is what I've come up so far and the list is far from complete.

In 1/144th scale:

1. C-123 by Amodel. The colors shown on the box and in the directions are for an experimental version and that color scheme only lasted a few years back in the 1960's.
2. SA-16 Albatross by Amodel. The kit is for an USAF version but it's a dead ringer for any Coast Guard version.
3. C-130 Hercules: There are two models of this aircraft out there. One is the original Revell model with Coast Guard decals and then there is the new Minicraft version, again with Coast Guard decals.
4. R5D (C-54). A nice Minicraft model in 1960's Coast Guard colors.
5. PBY Catalina by Minicraft. Several versions have been issued but none bearing the Coast Guard colors.

In 1/72nd scale:

1. The C-130 Hercules has been out in many versions. Only Heller issued it in the Coast Guard colors.
2. E-C2 Hawkeye. Most people didn't know the Coast Guard had this aircraft in its inventory and they indeed do fly three of them.
3. PBY Catalina and the SA-16 Albatross by Monogram can still be found.
4. The Grumman J2F-2 *Duck* by Airfix is a perfect model and was flown off many Coast Guard cutters during and after World War 2.
5. Just about all the major aircraft of WW2 that the other services had, the Coast Guard flew also, including the B-17 (long range anti-submarine patrol) and the Martin Mariner.

Rotary Wing:

1. HH-3 "Pelican" by MPC, 1/72nd scale
2. HH-60 "Jayhawk" by Hasagawa, 1/72nd scale
3. SA-65A "Dauphin" by Revell (in Coast Guard colors), in 1/72nd scale and by Trumpeter in 1/48th scale.
4. Hawkeye Models in Australia offers conversion kits for the HH-3F, HH-60 and the HH-65A complete with decals for the Coast Guard.

Ships:

1. USCG Rescue boat by Lindberg makes into a nice looking action diorama.
2. Minicraft and IMAI have issued the "*Eagle*", the USCG Academy training ship.
3. If you can find it Lindberg once had a version of the 95-foot patrol boat but this model is wrong. The Coast Guard never had anti-submarine rockets on its patrol boats but this kit has them included. Another oldie is the Revell version of the cutter *Taney*. This one can also be done up to represent the cutter *Campbell*, both WW2 era ex-Navy seaplane tenders.
4. In 1/700th scale JAG Collective has issued three nice models, complete with Coast Guard decals. One is the cutter *Bear* and the other is the cutter *Hamilton*, issued in both the pre-FRAM and post-FRAM versions.
5. The South Godwin Lightship by Eastern Express (in 1/100th scale) can easily be converted to represent any one of several lightships that were stationed along US coastal waters up until the late 1950s', when more modern electronic aids to navigation took over.

This list, while far from complete, does give you an idea of what is available and what can be built into nice Coast Guard looking craft. I suggest you do an Internet search for US Coast Guard aircraft (or ships) or USCGC History and these two areas will lead you through many pages of interesting facts and photos.

Lastly I'm going to be honest with you. The biggest hurdle you are going to run into is finding decals for Coast Guard equipment. At one time Microscale issued a really nice 1/72nd scale decal sheet that fit the Albatross, HH-3 helicopter and the C-130 Hercules, but that decal is no longer available. Prior to the 1950's all Coast Guard aircraft looked pretty much like other service aircraft, except in some instances a yellow band (with a black border) was painted around the aft fuselage and some aircraft had the same yellow painted on the upper surfaces of the wings. All had the words Coast Guard painted on them someplace. After the 1950's, in an effort to distinguish Coast Guard equipment from the rest, all Coast Guard ships and small boats, plus aircraft were painted white. The only water-borne vessels that do not have white hulls are the Aids to Navigation vessels (buoy tenders) and their hulls are painted black. Every ship or small boat has the words Coast Guard painted along the side of the hull and typically the vessel number near the bow, on both sides. If the vessel is less than 100 feet in length the vessel length precedes the registration number. For example if you were stationed on the cutter *Point Knoll*, in New London, CT, the hull number would be 82367, meaning she is 82 feet long and her registration number is 367. Over 100 feet in length and the hull number system is different.

In 1964 the now familiar Coast Guard "Racing Stripe" was first added to all vessels and aircraft. By 1967 this became the standard addition to all Coast Guard units. If you don't have a decal for the particular model you are building and are wondering what paint closely approximates that Coast Guard "red", I'd try Sunburst by Boyd Automotive. Hobbytown stocks it. The kicker for this scheme is the Coast Guard logo "emblem" as hand painting it is impossible for anyone, except maybe Bob Tyhurst! But since the first emblems were attached as a big, sticky backed decal, and were prone to either be peeled off by wave action or literally freeze and peel off in arctic regions, you might be forgiven if you omit it, that is if you are doing an early to mid-1960's version of a ship or aircraft.

As a retired “Coastie” I’m amazed that so few models have been issued for this branch of the US military. If one were to begin to make just one of each type of aircraft, or ship that the Coast Guard utilized over the past 50 years, and just used available kits, one would be working on that project for years! Stuff is out there, use your imagination, do a bit of research and have fun.

White Glue is your friend

Choosing what model to build is the easy part. Selecting the proper paints, fillers and the rest is where things get tricky. Then there is the issue of glue. Go into any hobby store or craft store and you will be faced with more choices than you can imagine. “Super Glues” that dry almost instantly have changed the hobby dramatically, allowing for faster builds with less mess. Still there is an old standby that should be in everyone’s paint and glue locker and that product is white glue, or your basic Elmer’s school glue. Here are some applications for it:

Attaching canopies: A thin bead of white glue will easily hold any canopy in place and best of all there is no chance of it fogging up if you use “instant” type adhesives.

Tacking parts prior to painting: If you have speed brakes, flaps or gear doors that are going to be attached in the open position but need to be painted the same color as the surrounding area, simply tack the part in place (in the closed position) with a small dab of white glue. Paint as you would normally do and when the paint has dried pry off the part and with a cotton swab, wash off the white glue. Then attach the part in the desired position.

Fine seam filling: Nothing is more aggravating than dealing with tiny hairline cracks that refuse to go away, even after numerous putty filling and sanding attempts. To solve this problem pour a tiny bead of the white glue into the seam, smooth it with a wet finger and let dry. Lightly sand with a dry 600-grit wet/dry paper and the seam is gone.

Lens covers: After painting the dash area, place a tiny drop of white glue into the area where the glass would cover the dials. It will dry clear and give you a nice representation of glass. To replicate colored lens or lights, add some food coloring dye to a drop of white glue and apply with the tip of a toothpick.

Securing items to a diorama base: Buildings, trees, foliage and even armor vehicles and personnel can be attached using white glue. If you need some “mud” around the wheels or tracks, add acrylic paint to the white glue to get the color you want and then apply to the surfaces using a paintbrush. Cleanup is with warm soapy water.

Closing up windows: If you don’t have any Micro-Scale Window Clear, use white glue instead. Place a dab of it on a toothpick and draw the glue around the opening and then to the center. Gently pull the toothpick back out and the glue will form a milky white covering where once there was an opening. As it dries, it will dry clear and viola, a new window. This works great on smaller window openings and yet can be used, with care, on openings in excess of 3/8ths of an inch.

Up Coming Events:

- June 7, 2007: Monthly meeting at Lakeview Community Clubhouse (lower level). 1001 East MacArthur Road. Start time is 7:30 PM
- June 23/24 KC Heartland Model Car Nationals. Information is in the newsletter
- July 5, 2007 Monthly meeting at the above location.
- Aug 2, 2007 monthly meeting at the above location.
- Aug. 11, 2007 OZCON 2007. Information flyer will be mailed to all members.
- Sept. 29, 2007 SoonerCon hosted by IPMS Oklahoma City. The location is at the Moore Community Center, 301 South Howard, Moore, Oklahoma.

