

Prologue

MISSING LINK

No, I'm not referring to the well known military modeling website, but to the dramatic obscurity that modelers have had during the last decade. And this obscurity is none other than the setting we place our vehicles in; that we assemble and paint with so much effort and dedication over months or even years. Twenty or thirty years ago modelers managed their effort in creating dioramas and vignettes full of creativity and that told stories like a novel or a movie. Lack of technique was made up for with imagination, and the scarcity of resources was eclipsed by amazing ideas. Modeling told stories. But, as you have read in the introduction from the publisher, globalization has contributed the technical means for making any thing, with a grade of realism and accuracy never seen before. Nowadays we have a lot of aftermarket sets and all kinds of plastic and resin kits to even build "paper panzers", tanks that were designed and never even built. This peak has had a major influence and has changed the old course of modeling. At the moment modelers invest months in building a single model and this has turned them into authentic jewels. The fast expansion of techniques, websites, magazines and books, has in a short time, proven that the great majority of modelers are... good modelers! Nowadays it is not difficult to build a model, and it is not complicated to paint it. What is really difficult now is to make our models stand out over the rest. In this day and age accomplishing this task is a question of fortune or of an artist's skills characteristic of beings from another planet. And then, if we know how to assemble and paint well, if we are able to do anything...What is the next step? What is the way to follow?

There is no next step... and there is no way forward.

We must actually go backward, looking back and recovering that missing link that is the setting of models and the creating of stories. What we forgot a few decades ago is the key that will open the doors to the next step in modeling. This book may come as a shock for many modelers or as a slap in the face for others. We may think that its contents are not momentous or

the models are not spectacular, but the reality is that this book is much more than a simple gallery of fabulous dioramas. This book is not a mere showcase of superb well known modelers. This book is not a display of exclusive works unattainable for most people. This book is a signal, a lesson, and a master class by famous modelers as well as lesser known ones, like the majority of modelers.

If we look to our display cabinet, to our shelves, or to our closet full of un-opened boxes, we will observe with sadness that our world is the real world, and that our free time is short, and our skills limited. We don't have 8 hours a day for making a diorama that changes the course of humanity. We aren't able to sculpt and to paint 17 figures for creating a superb pyramid composition. Even we are unable to do a diorama with a cathedral and two or three tanks. However, we are able to paint a tank nicely and take it to a show with the hope of realizing that the other modelers have made the same with the same success: painting and finishing a single model really well.

Fortunately, the modelers that have contributed to this book are modelers just like us, in the same situation, with their feet firmly on the ground and with obligations that don't let them dedicate all their time to models. They are modelers that have found the key to success in creating genuine marvels: small vignettes or bases that give their models another dimension and another character. These are modelers without great means and with very little time, but they have found the missing link and are now the first creators in the new modeling race. This book also shows their generosity by sharing their techniques and it is a display of quality that fills our eyes with action, colors, compositions, and original ideas.

Genius is not anyone that turns a star brilliant, but anyone that turns a sea of stones into wheat for eliminating hunger. In the end, this is a book of great genius in model painting, model setting, and scenes.

Enjoy it, you have found what you lost. e

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