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MODEL KIT REPORT



NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

In this edition of the Model Kit Report, we'll look at three rather unusual kits. We have multi-media WWI aircraft rotary engines from Model Expo available through Hobbytime and a pair of classic sci-fi kits available through Heartland Hobby Wholesale.

Some of your customers will recognize these subjects. Others will be intrigued with the novelty and perhaps, welcome a new adventure! They are all fun departures from the usual subjects.

First, let's look at the Model Airways WWI Rotary Engine kits available through Hobbytime Distributors. These exquisitely detailed kits include laser-cut wood parts for the propeller and engine stand. The engine parts are cast in white metal and other metal materials are included. Prep work is definitely required for the best results. These are highly detailed replicas with many parts, many very small. You could bundle these kits with a magnifying glass and tweezers. If your customers can handle 1/35 scale tank track links, they can do this!

The Model Airways Kit (No. MA 1051) features the 1/16 scale Orbelursel Ur III engine. The UR III was a 14-cylinder, 145-horsepower rotary aircraft engine made by Motorfabrik Oberrusel A. G. It is the same company that manufactured the very successful Gnome engine in Germany. The UR III was never used operationally.



In the box is a parts list, instructions with extensive information about the ins and outs of the kit and the assembly and a manufacturer-neutral tool and supplies list. It's a good idea to look at the instruction booklet at the time of purchase before the customer leaves the store to make sure they have all the paints and tools they need. Each step has photos of the actual model being assembled and lots of information to guide the builder. Metal stock is included to make the tubing and wires on the engine. Three types of laser-cut wood in thin sheets make the prop an authentic replica with a laminated look. This will test your customer's skills. It's a great modeling adventure!



Now, let's move on to two sci-fi themed kits from Heartland Hobby Wholesale.

From the Gerry Anderson Supermarionation classic, "The Thunderbirds," comes the Adventures in Plastic (AIP10001) 1/144 Thunderbird 1. This is a reissue by Bachmann of the Aoshima 1 kit from 2001. I love the old TV screen design of the box art. The Thunderbirds was a popular British TV series from the mid 1960s, produced by Anderson, who was aired other British sci-fi series including "Fireball XL5" and "Space: 1999." Supermarionation was the trademarked name for the electronic marionette puppetry.



This low-parts count, well-detailed kit comes on five silver styrene runners, with a full parts map and English-only instructions. The paint guide is keyed to Humbrol products. Builders can choose landing gear up or down and between wheels or skis. The Thunderbirds kits are being reissued through AIP, with Heartland Hobby Distributors as the exclusive North American distributor. This fun weekend build will be attractive to new and experienced modelers alike.



The other kit from Heartland is the Kotobukiya (EZ-054) Highend Master Model ZOIDS 1/72 scale Liger Zero Empire Version Marking Plus Version. As a reissue this kit has some upgrades.

The box is filled with nearly 40 runners of parts injected cleanly in red, brown, black, clear green, gold and silver runners. Hundreds of parts make for a long build, but the finished piece is an eye-popping, super-detailed animal mecha! The stunning design will attract more than fans of the show. That's all for now. Next month, I will start a build log on a second Model Airways rotary engine kit. **HM**

