



Tom Grossman

# MODEL KIT REPORT

## Contrasting Subjects

### One of these things is not like the other

**H**aving the widest possible range of subject choices for your model-building customers is essential. A varied selection appeals to a wide range of interests and may entice them into new adventures. With alluring box art and unusual subject matter, models are often impulse buys.

In this edition of the Model Kit Report, we'll look at two very different kits in very different subject areas. Yet, they could be picked up by the same modeler who came into your store and found something they didn't know they wanted until they saw it.



Our first focus is on figures. The variety of figure kits has taken off in recent years, with choices available in historical and fantasy themes in a variety of scales. Most are plastic in some form or metal. This one is a styrene kit in a larger scale.

From Doll & Hobby GA comes the X-Plus 1/8 scale kit of Vampirella. It's a new kit of a long-popular comic book character. X-Plus is a new Japanese company clearly following in the spirit of Aurora.



Inside the box with the compelling art are 41 parts in light tan styrene. Flash is very light and in very few places. Mold lines are exceptionally faint. The detail is remarkable and crisp. Instructions are clearly diagrammed with brand-neutral paint call-outs with the part names and numbers.

This high-quality kit makes it a good project for various modeling skill levels. Vampirella will definitely appeal to those reminiscing about the classic kits. It will also make a fun build for those new to such figures. Stay tuned to Doll & Hobby GA for more kits of famous subjects from X-Plus!



And now for something completely different. We turn to history this time with a piece of historical machinery. Aviation history fans or any modeler looking for a good challenge will be interested.

### **BUILD LOG** *Model Airways 1/16 Clerget 9B WWI Rotary Aircraft Engine*

During World War I, the 9B engine at 130 hp was used on many aircraft, including the French Nieuport and British Sopwith Camel. This kit, available from HobbyTyme, is a super-detailed multimedia construction representing an exceptionally noteworthy part of aviation history. Like the real thing, this scale replica is made of metal and wood. Imagine pilots going off to war behind this thing.



Lots of minute parts make for an astounding amount of detail. Valve rods are cut from the included brass rod. Spark plug wiring is formed from the included thread. The builder will also be charged with assembling and shaping the prop from layers of laser-cut wood, just like in the old days.

There are some mold lines and flash, so a pin file set is a highly recommended upsell for this kit.

The finished model will be a highly detailed, realistic representation of a significant part of aviation history. While small, it offers some big challenges and even bigger satisfaction when it's all done.

Thanks for reading the Model Kit report. Tune in next month for more progress on the Model Airways Sopwith Camel Clerget engine, as there's much to learn here. We'll also visit with Heartland Hobby Wholesale. HM

