



Tom Grossman

# MODEL KIT REPORT

## A DISTRIBUTOR VISIT AND A NEW ADVENTURE

In this edition of the Model Kit Report, we'll go behind the scenes at a growing distributor and take the plunge into a challenging modeling adventure.

Heartland Hobby Wholesale was started in 1993 by Allen Dayton. The company now occupies 78,500 sq. ft. of warehouse space in Fremont, Nebraska. The operation is housed in three buildings: two warehouses and an overstock holding facility.



The 300-sq.-ft. corporate offices are in Lincoln Nebraska.

The plastics warehouse in Fremont is filled with huge shelving units and many pallets stacked with product. Along with plastics, this facility houses paints and O & G scale model railroad items. The other warehouse is full of N & HO scale trains and scenery.



One of the 30+ employees working hard to fill your orders.



Heartland carries a wide variety of products from well-known manufacturers. Sticking out in my mind is the reissue of the entire line of Thunderbirds kits, one of which was reviewed in a previous Model Kit Report. Stay in touch with Heartland for new product releases.

Now let's work on a model.

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

This a project for an experienced builder or a newbie with lots of patience. But if someone is looking for a unique challenge, this is just the ticket. Like the real Clerget engine, this kit has lots of parts, many which need cutting and bending.

The engine is built from the crankcase out. To start, the white metal parts may need some cleanup. I used a pin file set with edged tools to get into the fine details. For cylinder heads, a broad flat file erased the flash along mold lines. File gently until the area blends smoothly into the shape of the rest of the cylinder. I smoothed the cooling blades with an edged file.

Assembling these delicate, complicated parts requires a strong bond. I chose BSI 5 Minute Epoxy, a private label bottle from my favorite local hobby shop. Then, there was more work to do on the intake and exhaust rocker arms, nine of them for each cylinder.

The next step was cutting the included brass rods to make 18 valve rods to install in the 18 brass tappet sockets, then installing 18 spark plugs and making 18 spark plug wires. (I had to wonder what had I gotten myself into? Honestly, I enjoy the challenge!)

For this level of complexity, it's best to follow the instructions closely. The descriptions can be confusing, and your customers may find some discrepancies or ambiguity in the instructions. The bigger the challenge, the better the story afterward, right?

The propeller is made from layered laser-cut wood pieces glued together and then shaped, the same way props were made for this engine in the World War I era.

Thanks to HobbyTyme Distributors for the kit, and thanks for tuning in! **HM**

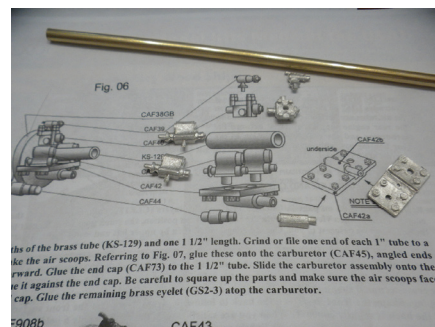


Fig. 06  
... of the brass tube (KS-129) and one 1 1/2" length. Grind or file one end of each 1" tube to a...  
... the air scoops. Referring to Fig. 07, glue these onto the carburetor (CAF45), angled ends...  
... forward. Glue the end cap (CAF73) to the 1 1/2" tube. Slide the carburetor assembly onto the...  
... it against the end cap. Be careful to square up the parts and make sure the air scoops face...  
... cap. Glue the remaining brass eyelet (GS2-3) atop the carburetor.