



Tom Grossman

MODEL KIT REPORT

Contact!

Build Log Pt 5: Clerget 9B Final Chapter

In this edition of the Model Kit Report, I finish the Model Airways Clerget 9B WWI Rotary Aircraft Engine. This was a good opportunity to test drive more paints and weathering products from MIG. The Clerget kit and MIG products are available from HobbyTyme.

I chose the MIG Engines Oil and Fuel Enamel Weathering Set. These three colors will make a spotless factory fresh piece into a seasoned machine that has weathered the winds of World War I.

The layering started with Engine Grime. I found it worked best to apply light coats with a little extra enamel around raised sections like bolt heads. Enamels dry slowly, allowing time to adjust as needed. The color also stays where you put it. There's no scalloping to mar the finish.

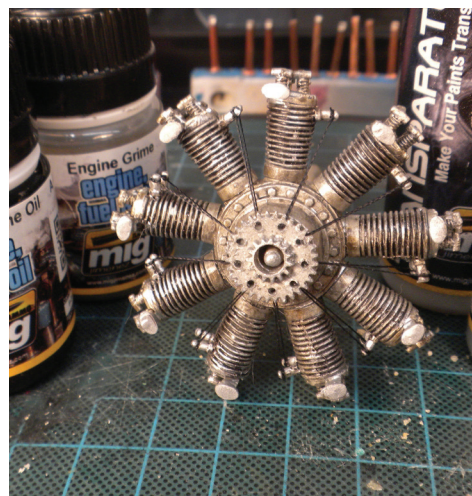
I used MIG Transparator to make the silver more forgiving to lighten up the slightly heavy coat



Engine weathering turns new into old.



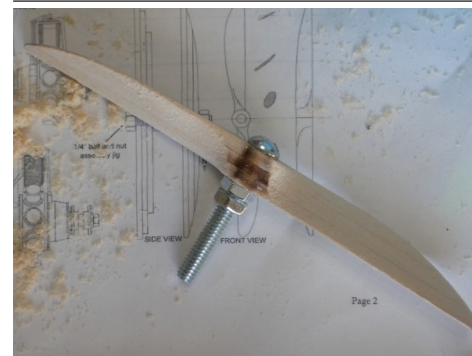
Light coats build up engine grime.



Each brush stroke adds hours of aging.



Many products get the weathered look.



Wooden prop takes shape with careful sanding.

of Engine Grime. Next came Fresh Engine Oil. That did the trick!

With the ignition wires in and the intake pipes in place, the engine looks ready to turn over. Onward to final assembly!

The prop started as three layers of laser-cut wood stacked together. The instruction diagrams include cross-sections at several different places along the length of the blade. As usual, sculpting the second blade went much faster. It shapes up nicely!

A coat of MIG Crystal Red and a second of MIG Crystal Orange gave the prop

the desired coloring. These were applied with an Iwata Takumi Eclipse. And, all of a sudden, I was out of parts! This makes an eye-catching, interesting display piece.

This build was quite the modeling adventure. It was a new subject area for me, so I learned a lot. Overall, it was a fun and challenging build.

A few things stood out from the experience.

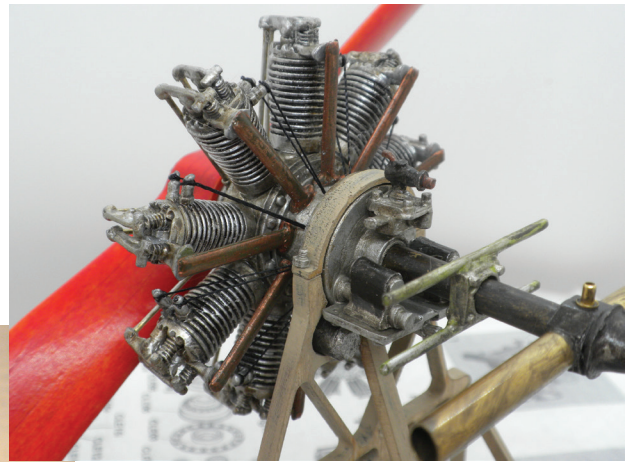
- Assembly and detailing go faster and easier with the parts and subassemblies held securely. There are a variety of jigs and clamps on the market. Offer these to customers to enhance their building experience. Encourage them to improvise as well.

- Magnifiers are indispensable. This kit could use anything from flip-ups that clip to glasses to bands with lenses and lights. This kind of gear is a good addition to every modeling toolbox.

- Dry fitting is essential. Problems can be identified and resolved before having to risk damaging a paint job. Or worse, undoing work already completed.



The painted prop looks ready to take to the sky.



A museum-quality kit in the right hands.

- There's a lot to be said for testing your limits. One of the aspects of writing this column is being exposed to kits and products I may never have tried on my own. Encourage your customers to take departures from their usual. Yes, they will be challenged and perhaps frustrated. Yet, the new skills they learn will doubtlessly be useful in other applications. It will make them stronger modelers.

That's it for this month and this challenging adventure. Tune in next month when we look at more kits. One of them will give us a peek behind the curtain of model kit production.

Until next month, happy modeling! HM

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