



Tom Grossman

MODEL KIT REPORT

Made in America: 2023 Edition

Let's Celebrate The Founding Of Our Democracy

Entrepreneurship is a hallmark of our country. From a one-off product that turned into a lucrative and enjoyable wholesale operation to a multi-generation family business with international customers, American entrepreneurs are meeting the interests of thousands of modelers with supplies and kits. Here are snapshots of just a few US-based companies doing just that.

Salvinos JR Models

Jim and Rick Salvino started business in 1989 as Salvinos Sports Legends with 9-inch resin figures with an autographed card of the athlete. Jim sculpted the prototypes. The idea of kit production didn't come up until 2016. In 2018, Salvinos JR Models opened for business and is currently releasing four new kits a month in runs of 1,500 units. The last 80 kits were designed by Jim Rogers, working out of a barn somewhere in Texas. Specializing in NASCAR



All Aztek Dummy masking sets are designed, produced and packaged by Lou in his Raleigh, N.C. shop.



Mandalorian Razor Crest and Bad Batch Havok Marauder. A sampling of the line is available at Scalemates with a search for Aztek Dummy. Lou's business is tailored for selling wholesale to retailers, but he can also do limited-run custom stencil jobs.



You may have seen them at NRHSA. From left to right, Chris Herbst, shipping and sales staff manager; Jim Rogers, kit designer; and Rick Salvino, head guy.

racers, Salvinos JR has licenses with GM and Chrysler. Check with Stevens International, HobbyTyme, Heartland Hobby and other distributors. International readers can find them at HobbyCraft International.



Polar Lights NX-01 finished by Rob Schmitt of Colorado Springs with the original Aztek Dummy stencil set.

Aztek Dummy

Aztek Dummy makes airbrush masking sets for various science fiction subjects. Some highly complex color schemes are now within reach for your customers!



Company owner Lou Dalmaso retired from his graphic artist job in the Marketing Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to start Aztek Dummy Productions in 2004. That prompted Lou to release the first template set, which followed the Polar Lights 1/1000 Enterprise NX-01 release. The templates make that multi-color Aztek paneling much easier to reproduce. The Aztek Dummy line expanded as more models from movie and TV sci-fi programming came to market. The latest releases are for AMT's

Mission Models

Mission Models started in Burbank, Calif, in 2002 selling rare resin kits. Mission then began importing and exporting hobby tools to fill voids they saw in the hobby marketplace. Development of a paint line was already taking place. The right formula eluded them until they developed a fine-grade, water-borne, non-toxic art paint system designed for modelers. Mission Models Paints launched in 2018.





Mission Models Main Sales Contact and President of the Hobby Manufacturers Association Jon Tamkin enjoying after-hours pursuits.

The Mission Models Paint line has been well received in the US and internationally. All products, including display racks and display materials, are made in the US.

up, strengthening connections with suppliers and bringing distributors on board to get the products into hobby shops. Wally Findyzs stepped in as the third owner in 2021. Supplying products to retail shops is still the focus. Ted, Wally's son, has helped develop the company's YouTube channel, K&S Creators Collective. The videos show projects completed by makers of all kinds. Check with Stevens International, Heartland Hobby and other distributors for pricing and availability.

That concludes our snapshot presentation of four US-based companies. Next month, between getting married and exhibiting and speaking at Wonderfest, I'll review some NuWorld Paints that could be an excellent addition to your modeling shelves. HM

K&S Precision Metals

I got to speak to Ted Findyzs, the next in line to run the company now in the third generation of family ownership. K&S Precision Metals was founded in 1946 by Wally Simmers, who just wanted to make metal parts for his model airplanes. When they flew further than any others, he also started making parts for his friends. Next came custom-cut jobs and specialized one-of-a-kind machines. Ted's great-aunt "Pudgy" Kubersky took the helm, focusing on keeping inventory



Ted Findyzs, K&S third-generation leadership.

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