



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

This Month Tools are the Feature

Tools are needed in all forms of modeling.

Alpha Abrasives offers its Abrasive Erasers, in the Crafty Cat line, which is a totally new and unique product. The Abrasive Eraser has fine abrasive particles embedded in a flexible resin block. The smooth surface of the Eraser is roughed with an included coarse sanding stick, which allows the particles to be exposed to sand smooth almost any type of surface. The Erasers come in 600, 1000, 1200, 2000, 3000, and 4000 grits. The Erasers can be used to remove imperfections and smooth painted surfaces, polish metal or plastic, or remove minor surface scratches on almost any material. They can be used in wet or dry sanding processes, and are durable for long lasting use.

Under the Flex-I-File brand, Alpha Abrasives offers an exceptional line of fine paintbrushes. Made in Germany, the brushes have seamless ferrules and have fine, natural Kalinsky Sable bristles, which is a hallmark of the best paintbrushes.

Available as single units, the brushes also come in two different sets, with the Fine Brush Set containing one each of numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 sizes. The Ultra Fine Brush Set contains one each of the 2/0, 3/0, 4/0, 5/0, and 10/0; these sets are perfect for painting the smallest details on scale models.

Sticky Micro Stix, also from the Flex-I-File line, are small plastic handles with an attached reusable adhesive tip. These can be used to pick up the smallest parts for attaching to a model, or for holding small parts for paint. These are also an excellent choice for placing tiny parts



Above: Flex-I-File offers a set of fine paint brushes made with seamless ferrules and Kalinsky Sable bristles, the hallmark of a quality paintbrush.



Left: Sticky Micro Stix are small plastic handles with reusable adhesive tips that are perfect for picking up tiny parts for placement, or for holding small parts for painting.



The Com-Art Colours Creature Paint Kit is loaded with colors specifically aimed at the painter of sci-fi and fantasy figures. into areas where clearances are tight and control is imperative. The Sticky Micro Stix come attached to a plastic frame, with eight Original Hold and eight Smart Hold versions, so that the individual Stix can be clipped from the frame for use as needed.

Hasegawa offers two cutting templates in its TryTool line, which allow scale modelers to make precise cuts in plastic, paper, finishing film, and many other materials.

Cutting Template A #HSGR1105 includes straight cuts and multiple marked angles to increase the level of precision. It also has rulers on three sides, and the slots are marked for the width in millimeters, which allow repeated cut items to be exactly the same width. Cutting Template B #HSGR1106 includes the same features with curved cutouts, for cutting circles on different radii, pie wedges of various angles, as well as curved areas. For professionals, experienced modelers and scratchbuilders, the Hasegawa Cutting Templates are an excellent choice.

Hobbico offers its Builders Cutting Mat which is perfect for protecting the work surface, and it is a self-healing mat that fulfills more than one purpose. Designed primarily for the R/C modeler, the scale modeler will also find the measuring tools incorporated into the design to

be invaluable. The Mat, printed with a one inch graph background, features rulers, both vertical and horizontal, in both standard and metric sizes. Also included are two inch and three inch star templates, as well as angles of 30, 45, and 60 degrees. There is a dowel size chart, and, specifically for the R/C modeler, an airplane specification conversion chart for converting US standard to metric sizes. There is also a bolt, screw, drill and tap size information table. While it will protect the work surface of any workbench, just as it is designed to do, the Hobbico Builder Cutting Mat provides a wealth of information that increases its value exponentially.

Iwata-Medea, Com-Art Colours offers an extensive line of airbrush-ready non-toxic acrylic paints for artists, illustrators, and hobbyists. Com-Art is specially formulated to be ready for airbrush use straight from the bottle,



The Iwata Table-Top Cleaning Station is an excellent device for cleaning any airbrush and is a must have item for painters.

with smooth application and fast drying times. Additionally, the formulation allows transparent and opaque paints to be used without any bleeding between the colors.

The Com-Art Neutral Grey Set H set is excellent for photographic retouching, as well as fine art and illustration, resin figure painting, and craft applications. The set includes ten bottles of paint, one in each of Neutral Grays 60%, 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10%, as well as Warm Additive, Cool Additive, Black, and White. The Com-Art Creature Paint Kit was created and developed by Steve



The Alpha Abrasive Super Detailing Erasers are a new and unique product that feature abrasive particles embedded in a flexible resin sanding block.

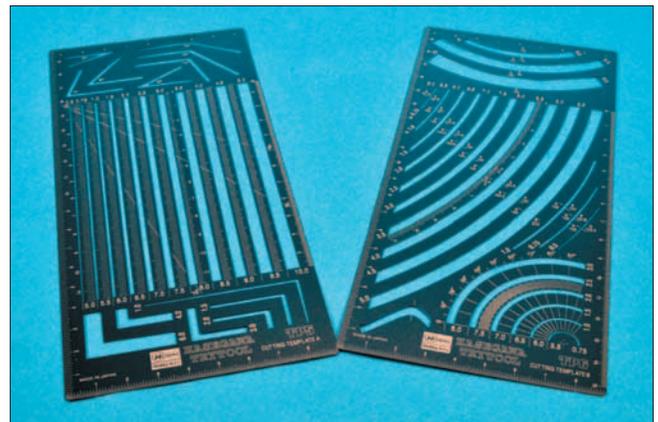
Riojas, a well known figure painter, for modeling fantasy figures, monster figures, and dinosaurs.

The kit includes ten bottles with one each of Flesh, Inner Mouth Flesh, Green Flesh, Purple Flesh, Bone White, Vein Blue/Green, Stone Gray, Olive Green, Brown/Black, and Opaque Raw Umber. The instructions feature an insert written by Riojas, which includes detailed sug-

gestions on experimentation with blending and mixing colors, and layering colors for different effects.

Developed by Master Model Railroader and model judge, Leslie Eaton, the Com-Art Real Deal Weathering Kit can be the difference in a winning or losing realistic scale model. The kit includes ten bottles of paint, one each of Light Dust, Soft Dirt, Fertile Soil, Opaque Raw Sienna, Dark Rust, Light Rust, Blue-Grey Smoke, Transparent Smoke, Old Oil, and Opaque White. The kit includes detailed instructions with weathering tips and suggestions on blending and layering the colors for the best possible effects.

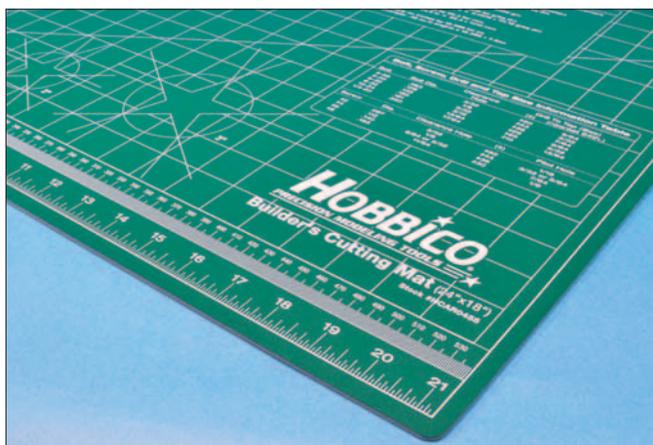
The Iwata Tabletop Airbrush Cleaning Station is an excellent method for cleaning airbrushes of all types. Rather than cleaning an airbrush by spraying excess paint and thinner into newspapers or other materials, a



Hasegawa offers two cutting templates in its TryTool line that provide precise cuts in paper, finishing film and other materials.

Cleaning Station is absolutely the best method to control paint overspray and potentially toxic fumes. The Station has a heavy, frosted glass jar with a screw on lid which has an opening, with a rubber seal, to place the airbrush nozzle end for spraying thinner to clean it. The lid holds a

replaceable filter to control the fumes, and has a sturdy handle that doubles as a stabilizer for the jar, as well as an airbrush holder. It comes with a spare rubber seal and two replacement filters. The airbrush holder works best with gravity-fed airbrushes, but can be easily removed to make it easier to use the Station to clean siphon-fed airbrushes. For convenience and safety, it's tough to beat the Iwata Tabletop Airbrush Cleaning Station.



Hobbico offers a self-healing building mat that fulfills a number of purposes beyond simply protecting a work surface.

Xuron Corporation offers a variety of tools that many modelers cannot live without. The Professional Modeler's Tool Kit #TK3200 includes three of the most popular, and useful, tools in one kit. Packaged in a canvas pouch for storage and added protection, the Professional Sprue Cutter, Professional Photoetch Scissor, and Tweezer Nose Pliers are high quality tools that offer an added dimension to any workbench.



The Xuron Corp. Professional Modeler's Tool Kit includes three of the most popular and useful tools packaged together in one kit.

The Professional Sprue Cutter #2175ET has longer, thinner jaws to reach into the smallest sprues to clip the attachment points of plastic parts. The Micro-Shear blades cut cleanly and smoothly, without damaging fragile parts. The Professional Photoetch Scissor #9180ET has extremely thin and sharp tips, perfect for cutting the delicate attachments of photoetched metal detail parts. The handles are ergonomically designed to offer excellent control and comfort. The blades cutting action allows clean cuts through the thin metal frets without damaging even the smallest detail parts. The Tweezer Nose Pliers #450 have fine, smooth tips on the jaws to handle and hold small parts like tweezers. The action is light enough that delicate parts can be held securely without damage, yet are strong enough to bend or form metal detail parts. And, they are an excellent choice for holding photoetched metal parts while filing off the burrs left from fret attachment points.

For heavy duty cutting, the Xuron Maxi-Shear Flush

Cutter #2175 or the Oval Head Micro-Shear Flush Cutter 9100 can easily accommodate soft wire up to 12 AWG.

Either of these tools can easily cut through heavy copper wire up to 2mm in diameter, as well as brass rod in smaller diameters. Both cutters are capable of flush, square and smooth cuts without pinching or crimping the wire. For building large scale

resin figures or pinning scale models to a base, the flush cuts allow the modeler to have precise lengths for easy use. As tough and durable as tool steel, Xuron Tools can still provide a soft touch for the most delicate detail.

Zona Tools 4-in-1 Razor Saw Set #35-140 is an all around workhorse saw set with outstanding capability. The set comes with four interchangeable saw blades of different sizes and shapes. There are two razor saw blades, 5 1/2 inches by 1 3/16 inches that makes cuts .010in wide, and 4 1/2 inches by 7/16 inches for cuts .008in wide. The razor saw blades can be used to make clean saw cuts in plastic stock, and can be used with a miter box for perfectly matched cut pieces. The saber blades are 4 1/2 inches and 1 1/2 inches, with 24 teeth per inch, which allows for making rough interior cuts, like cutting out the inside of a circle in plastic, balsa wood or similar materials.

The Zona Tools Swivel Head Pin Vise #37-140 is an incredibly versatile tool, with two double-ended collets in the handle capable of holding drill bits from micro up to



Above: The Zona Tools 4-in-1 Razor Saw Set is an all around workhorse saw that comes with four interchangeable blades. Left: the pin vise is capable of holding drill bits from micro sizes up to .125in.

.125in. 1/8 inch in size. The swiveling hexagonal head makes drilling quick and easy, as well as helping to prevent the tool from rolling off the bench. But, in addition to drill bits, this tool also provides an excellent handle for any hobby tool with a shank that would fit into the collets, including needle files, reamers, taps, and scribing tools. **HM**