



Keith Pruitt

Model Kit Report

MPC 1/8 The Incredible Hulk Snap Model Kit

Snap-it-together movie fun for kids of all ages.

MPC has released its 1/8 The Incredible Hulk Snap Model Kit, #MPC769, available through Round2 Models. When Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created the fictional comic book character in 1962, they combined elements of the Frankenstein monster and Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde. The creature was created by taking a physicist named Dr. Bruce Banner, who was experimenting with the creation of a Gamma Radiation Bomb, and accidentally exposing him to a radioactive blast. When the mild mannered Dr. Banner's emotions run amok he transforms into a large, super-powerful mutated monster.

Through the years and various writers, the Hulk's personality varied from a cunning and intelligent being to an animalistic brute. Eventually, the writers settled on an overall storyline that somewhat merged the versions into one big, green, rage-driven antihero. Hunted by the military, and struggling to find a cure, Dr. Banner goes off the radar, and attempts to lead a quiet, peaceful life. But, something always seems to trigger his anger, and the Hulk is unleashed once again.

Portrayed in comic books, cartoons, television series, and motion pictures, the Hulk seems to endure and often becomes the accidental hero, saving defenseless individuals and defeating the evil enemies that he faces. The inclusion of the Hulk in the recent Avengers movie is sure to ignite a new curiosity about the beastly rage-monster that may or may not be a hero, as it waits impatiently within a shy, nerdy scientist.

The MPC 1/8 The Incredible Hulk Snap Kit is a

modified reissue of the 1974 production. In its basic form, it is an easy to assemble model. There are only a few parts to assemble and they simply snap together, but for the review model glue was used for a more permanent assembly, one that could be properly painted and detailed.

Beginning with the front and back halves of the upper body, they are glued together. This same procedure is followed with the front and back halves of the head, hands, as well as lower legs and feet. Once dry enough to be handled, the hands and head are glued to the torso sub-assembly. The seams are filled with putty and sanded smooth. A light coat of gray primer reveals any areas that need more putty, filling and sanding.



Through the years and various writers, the Hulk's personality has changed from an intelligent being to a super-powerful rage driven and mutated anti-hero.



The base comes alive by painting the soil area earth tones and the rocks gray with shades of wash to add shadows.

Once the joints are all smooth, the front and back halves of the pants are glued together, thereby trapping the legs and feet, and the torso in place. The seams in the pants are then treated to the same putty and sanding, and painting with gray primer. There are extra hands included with the kit, front and back halves again, to model the Hulk holding a tree or boulder to be thrown at, or used to smash an enemy. These objects would likely need to be scratch-built from lightweight modeling materials (there are no



The teeth and eyes were painted a base white then details like the rage induced red areas around the teeth were added later.

materials included), as the plastic the kit is made out of would not likely be strong enough to support the weight of the genuine item, like a boulder from your garden.

The base for the kit is simply designed as a patch of earth with some rocks protruding from the ground. The soil area was painted dark earth and the rocks were painted gunship gray. A dark wash was applied to deepen the shadowed areas, and the base was drybrushed with lightened base colors to add highlights. Woodland Scenics model railroad scenery material was used to add some grassy areas and weeds so the base appeared more realistic and lifelike.

The skin of the Hulk varies in color, depending on which author and or medium is depicting him. In the comics and cartoons, his skin is a medium green, but in the movies, it seems to be more a pale olive green color. Since this kit most resembles the Hulk from the comics, medium green was used for the base color. Flat black was airbrushed into the shadowy muscle contours, and a lightened version of the base color was airbrushed on the raised areas of the muscles for highlights. A final mist coat of medium green blended all of the colors together nicely.

The pants, in both the comics and movies, are a rich purple. To get the vibrant color and hue needed, a mixture of three paints was used; one



A little Woodland Scenics material was added to the base to simulate weeds and grass and to provide a sense of depth.

part insignia blue, one part insignia red, and one part flat white. The pants were airbrushed and the model was set aside to dry. The next step involved the teeth and eyes. Both were painted a base white, and the eyes were detailed by adding irises of willow green and pupils of flat black. A coat of clear gloss was sprayed over the entire model to seal and protect the painted surfaces. Next a flat black wash was flowed into the sharper creases of the hands, feet, and nail beds. A thick wash of clear red was used to highlight the edges of the eyelids and the mouth around the teeth. A coat of clear flat sealed the washes, then the

hair and eyebrows were dry-brushed with a mixture of dark blue and gloss black. Finally clear gloss was brushed on the eyes and mouth. Once everything was dry, the Hulk was attached to the completed base with two part epoxy.

For kids or young modelers, a few minutes of work will likely be the beginning of hours of fun and play. For experienced modelers, and especially those who grew up reading the comics, the model can form the basis of an excellent heroic display model or the centerpiece of a diorama.

As was done here, the adult modeler is likely to fill the seams between the parts and paint the model, as well as add a bit of model railroad scenery material to the base to give the finished model a realistic, natural look.

Whether the model is built as a toy for a child, or as a super-detailed diorama for a contest, the



The Hulk can be snapped together by a younger modeler in minutes, or hours can be spent adding the level of detail needed for a contest masterpiece.

MPC 1/8 The Incredible Hulk Snap Model Kit can truly be a delightful modeling experience for kids of all ages. **HM**

Keith's Picks – New Kits of the Month

Meng Models has released its 1/35 British A39 Tortoise Heavy Assault Tank #TS-002. In the early months of 1943, the British Ordnance Bureau released specifications for a super-heavy assault tank designed to breach prepared defenses like the Siegfried Line. The Project was cancelled in 1945 as WW II ended.

The kit features a one-piece upper hull with surface texture and weld lines, one piece gun barrel and a solid mantlet. The main guns and machine guns are movable, and all of the hatches can be posed open or closed. The kit also features a staggered torsion bar suspension system and individual track links. While there are no decals included, the instructions include a detailed color painting guide.

Monogram has released its 1/25 Dodge Viper #85-4041. First arriving in dealerships in January 1992, the Viper was extreme and far beyond the



The Tortoise was a British project cancelled in 1945.



The Viper was extreme in concept and design.

accepted idea of what a street car should be. The car was extremely lightweight built around a tubular steel frame with fiberglass body panels and a 400hp 8.0 liter aluminum alloy V-10 for power. All of this combined to give the Viper a menacing look that screamed power and performance.

The kit is made up of 78 detailed parts molded in white, transparent red, clear and chrome. Included are four soft rubber low profile tires with the correct directional tread pattern that mount on three-spoke chrome wheels. The level of detail found on the coil spring suspension, disk brakes and side exhausts is extremely nice. The centerpiece of this kit is the huge V-10 engine and manual transmission. Since this car is a convertible the interior is also detailed with bucket seats, door panels and dashboard with instrument decals. The illustrated instructions include painting and decal placement guides. **HM**

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