



Keith Pruitt

# Model Kit Report

## Tools for the Plastic Modeler

**Making life easier by choosing the right tools.**

### Badger Airbrush

Badger Airbrush Stynylrez Primer is a water based acrylic polyurethane for priming a variety of media. Airbrush ready from the bottle, the primer only needs to be thoroughly shaken before use. It dries to a hard flat finish, perfect for verifying surface imperfections, and has excellent adhesion and durability.

Due to the heavy pigmentation, Badger recommends using an airbrush with .50mm or larger nozzle at 20-30psi for best results. The primer is self-leveling, which helps improve overall coverage, and can be used on plastic, metal, wood, or resin. Application is preferably done with light coats, building up the primer until full coverage is obtained.

The primer dries quickly (within 5-8 minutes, or less if dried with a heat source) and, once completely cured, can be painted over with any type of acrylic or solvent-based paint. With the qualities and coverage, it is no surprise that Badger states that Stynylrez provides “The perfect prime, every time.”

### Excel Hobby Blades

Excel Hobby Blades has been supplying fine cutting instruments for the hobby industry for decades. The K18 Grip-On Knife, with the handle covered in a rubber-like sleeve for better grip, is available in six different colors and includes a safety cap.

Excel also offers other useful hobby tools like the Sanding Stick, which holds an abrasive belt, and comes with an extra belt for added value.

One item that should be on the workbench of every



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hobbyist is the Excel Knife Holder, a plastic tray with an insert in which a hobby knife can be held upright with the blade stuck into the foam. The most common injury for modelers occurs when a hobby knife that rolls off the bench. Either it lands point first into the leg or foot, or the person tries to catch the knife and stabs it into their hand. The Excel Knife Holder will greatly reduce this type of injury. Because of the quality and variety, Excel Hobby Blades tools can be found on the workbenches of modelers of every skill level, from novices to masters.



Badger's Stynylrez Primer is a water based acrylic polyurethane that can be used for painting a variety of media. Airbrush ready, the primer only needs to be shaken before use.

### Flex-I-File

Flex-I-File has released three new tools this year that will delight modelers and make it easier to build those miniature masterpieces: the Stealth Sanding Frames, the Brontosaurus Pliers, and the C/A Candle with Holder. The Flex-I-File Stealth Sanding Frames have a black anodized finish on the angled aluminum frames. Used just like the regular Flex-I-File frames, the Stealth Frames have a 45 degree angle built in to allow greater flexibility in sanding curved areas by placing the modelers hand higher above the surface. They are compatible with all the standard Flex-I-File sanding

tapes, including the new yellow 400 grit tapes.

The Flex-I-File Brontosaurus Pliers are a unique design, based on a surgical instrument, which have small

working jaws at the end of a long neck. This layout allows the business end of the tool to pick up, or place small parts in tight confined areas. They are made of polished stainless steel for durability, and feature a smooth sliding hinge for exceptional control. The handles are comfortable to hold and operate with ergonomic ease.



*Flex-I-File has released three new tools this year which will delight modelers and make building and detailing easier.*

The Flex-I-File C/A Candle with Holder is a multimedia tool, with photoetched metal heads that are to be inserted into the aluminum Micro Pin Vise handle. The photoetched heads come in three sizes, with a slit at the tip to pick up a drop of cyanoacrylate glue. Placing the glue-filled tip on the seam between parts allows the glue to be drawn by capillary action into the seam. The ergonomic angle of the tip also allows the tool to be held in a comfortable position for those marathon building sessions.

### Games Workshop

Games Workshop, in addition to the model kits for wargaming, offers a line of Citadel tools that work well for building any type of plastic kit. The Citadel Knife, made from durable stainless steel, is designed with a sliding retractable surgical scalpel blade. It can be used to cut plastic parts from sprues, carving plastic, or cleaning parts attachment points. The knife comes in an attractive box, as do all of the Citadel tools, and include five spare blades.

The Citadel Fine Detail Cutters are an excellent choice for cleanly cutting parts from the sprue. Made of stainless steel, the blades are sharp and pointed to get into tight areas to make the cutting process quick and easy.

The Citadel Mouldline Remover is a unique tool,

designed specifically to scrape the excess plastic that is left on parts where the molds meet and form a seam. Pulling the edge of the tool blade along the mold line removes the excess plastic and provides a realistically smooth surface for painting.

The Citadel File Set includes two needle files, one rough and one fine, to smooth joint surfaces or remove small imperfections from parts. Both files are half-round, which are good for flat or concave areas, and feature a



*In addition to model kits for wargaming, Games Workshop offers a complete line of tools to help with the building process. The Citadel Drill has a fine point to enable the modeler to get into tight areas for smoothing parts for assembly.*

The Citadel Drill is a bit different from the common pin vise while serving the same function. The drill can be used, with the included drill bits, to drill holes in plastic parts where pins might be needed to strengthen the joints. The bits are in three sizes, with two of each size in the set. The large handle is very comfortable, which makes the tedious task much easier and allows for much longer working times before the modelers hand and wrist become fatigued.

Most of the Citadel tools, other than the file set, have a colorful and just-plain-cool decorative design, making them as attractive as they are functional.

### Virtual Industries Incorporated

Virtual Industries Incorporated offers a couple of unique tools for scale modeling. Distributed by California Hobby Distributors, both are vacuum-operated pickup tools. The Hobby Pal Deluxe Vacuum Tool has a six inch handle, which can be held like a writing instrument, and two



The Hobby Pal and Model Pal use rubber tips and vacuum to pick up small parts and hold them firmly in place while gluing. optional metal extensions, straight and angled. The Hobby Pal includes four rubber suction cup tips, in 1/8 inch incremental sizes from 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch. With the button on the side of the handle depressed, the tip is placed on a plastic or photoetched metal part, and the button released so that vacuum is applied holding the part firmly in place. Once the part is properly positioned on the model, the button can be depressed again to release the part if necessary.

The Model Pal operates much the same way, but with a squeeze bulb rather than the handle button, and also has the same sized tips for gripping and placing parts.

### RB Productions

RB Productions offers a line of modeling tools, available from Stevens International, that allow modelers to increase the quality and authenticity of their builds. While the Rivet-R and the Scribe-R would work well in any



RB Productions offers a line of rivet and scribe tools designed to help modelers increase the authenticity of their builds.

genre, aircraft models are the first to come to mind. Some kits, and particularly older kits that have been reissued, have raised panel lines and rivets on the surfaces. While this was the industry standard a few years ago, engraved details are more common and considered the most current standard.

The Rivet-R is an attachment used with a hobby knife handle which is similar to a pounce wheel, a tool used to make a row of equally-spaced indentations in plastic or other soft materials. The Rivet-R includes a

two-piece head which holds one of four included spiked wheels sandwiched between the halves. The spikes on the wheels are in specific increments of .75mm, 1.0mm, 1.25mm, and 1.5mm.

Most full-scale aircraft have panels that are riveted around the edges, but the spacing between rivets will depend on the size and purpose of the panel. The Rivet-R allows the modeler to measure the raised rivets or use reference photos to determine which wheel to use, then the tool can be run along the line, preferably guided by a firm straightedge tool, causing indentations exactly where the rivets should be. If the indentations need to be deepened or rounded, they provide the perfect locator for a micro-drill bit in a pin vise to complete the job. If needed for a specific project of a different size, extra wheels are available in .65mm and .55mm, as well as individual holders for having multiple Rivet-R tools ready to use.

The Scribe-R tool is used to scribe fine lines in either plastic or resin. The Scribe-R can be used in two uniquely different ways. The blade end can be passed along the surface of a model, removing a fine strip of material leaving a groove with each pass. Used with a hard straightedge tool, or free hand, this is an easy way to scribe a panel line. The back of the blade is curved and has ultra-fine teeth to act like a saw or file in scribing around a curved surface like the fuselage top or bottom and the leading edge of wings. Both RB Productions' Rivet-R and Scribe-R are made entirely of stainless steel for durability and long life.

### Wm. K. Walthers Incorporated

Wm. K. Walthers Incorporated was founded in Milwaukee during 1932 to produce model train control and signaling systems. By 1937, Walthers was manufacturing everything from milled wood parts to metal cast-



Generally located in the railroad department, Walther's Solvaset gives a decal the appearance of being painted on a model.

ings to decals. Currently, the catalog contains the proprietary lines as well as full lines from other companies.

Walther's Goo Cement and Mikro Tip Applicators are an excellent choice for a variety of uses. Most modelers keep several different types of glues on the workbench for specific applications. Walther's Goo is an all-purpose, rubber-based permanent adhesive that bonds almost any-

