

DAMAGED

WEATHERED & WORN MODELS MAGAZINE

Spring 2020

JOY

Welcome to the Spring 2020 edition of *Damaged*. We've crammed 10 features into this issue and all of them are brimming with how-to information and ideas for building and finishing all kinds of models, dioramas, figures, and more.

Whether you want to build a beaten down truck like Fabrizio Mercuri's long-out-of-use Scammell Pioneer, stage a scene from the end of World War II like Nikki Triantafillou's French street diorama, or imagine a what-if scenario as if the war never ended like Gabriel Leni, we've got you covered.

If you are a fan of pop culture, there are stories for you, too: James Bond's submersible sports car and a scratchbuilt shadowbox from the hit TV series, *The Walking Dead* stand out. And once you've seen the realistic finish on Eduardo Fernández's Chucky you may not sleep. Good news there, though: Less time sleeping means more time at the workbench.

Hopefully, that's part of what we bring you with each issue of *Damaged*, ideas and techniques you can use at the bench. Based on many conversations I've had with fellow modelers, I know I am not alone in having an unrealistically optimistic idea of my life expectancy based on the stacks of unbuilt kits spilling forth from their designated space in the basement. (I can't give you an exact count, but given that the Sun is expected to burn out in 4 million years, I'll have to finish the last dozen in the dark.) I know I've picked up a few ideas to finish some of the kits I've acquired at raffles and contests that I might not build otherwise — I'm looking at Kristof Pulinckx's space-faring Mercedes, right now, as an example. So, grab a seat, read the terrific builds in the magazine, then hit the bench. Happy modeling!

Aaron Skinner

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Damaged (ISBN 978-1-62700-633-0, 978-1-62700-634-7) is produced by *FineScale Modeler* and published by Kalmbach Media Co., 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part in any language without written permission of Kalmbach Media is prohibited. Single-copy price \$9.99 in U.S.A.; \$10.99 in Canada and other countries. Canadian price includes GST. BN 12271 3209 RT. Canadian and international orders payable in U.S. funds. Address all correspondence to *Damaged*, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha WI 53187. Printed in the U.S.A.

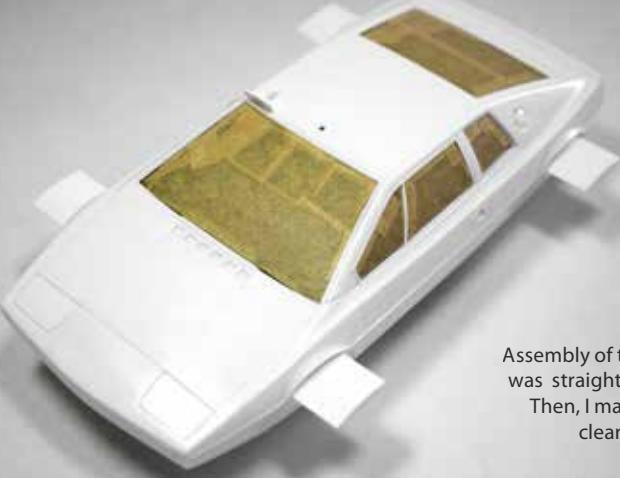
FOR KALMBACH MEDIA CO.

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Published & distributed by

 Kalmbach
Media





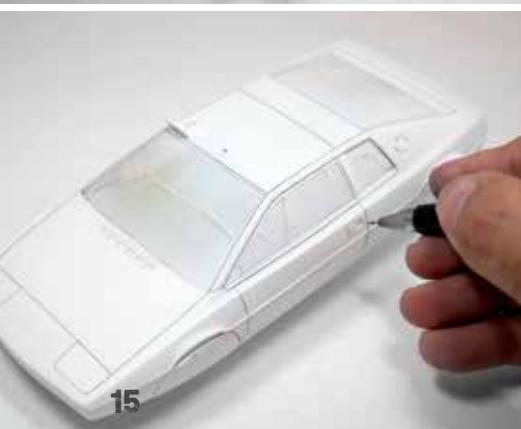
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Assembly of the body was straightforward. Then, I masked the clear parts ...



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... and base-coated the car with Real Color flat white (RC004).



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To define the car's body panels and doors, I outlined them with a mechanical pencil. This can also be done using paint or a watercolor pencil.



16

After masking with thin tape, I painted the window frames and body trim with flat black.



17

Over several thin layers of AK Gauzy intermediate shine enhancer, I applied the decals.

18

Finally, the model received a few coats of AK Two Component Ultra Gloss Varnish (AK9040) and the rest of the parts attached to complete the build.





When building and displaying structures and dioramas, I realize most people will be viewing the creations from images rather than from seeing them in person. So taking a quality photo is important. As an amateur photographer, I have discovered that taking photos worthy of publication is not an easy task even when utilizing good equipment.

I have a Canon Rebel T5 and use the software that comes with the camera. I also purchased a manual designed specifically for the T5 and searched online for articles on how to photograph models. My major gains were achieved by trial and error. I was taking photos and experimenting with the all important element of light. My goal was to take a photograph that, other than cropping, would need little alteration to be publication ready.



Shooting indoors with artificial light, I got my best results using the camera in manual mode. After I took a shot, I viewed the image on the computer, changed settings according to the results, and then shot again. The quality of the photos would be inconsistent and I would spend a fair amount of time making corrections using the software.

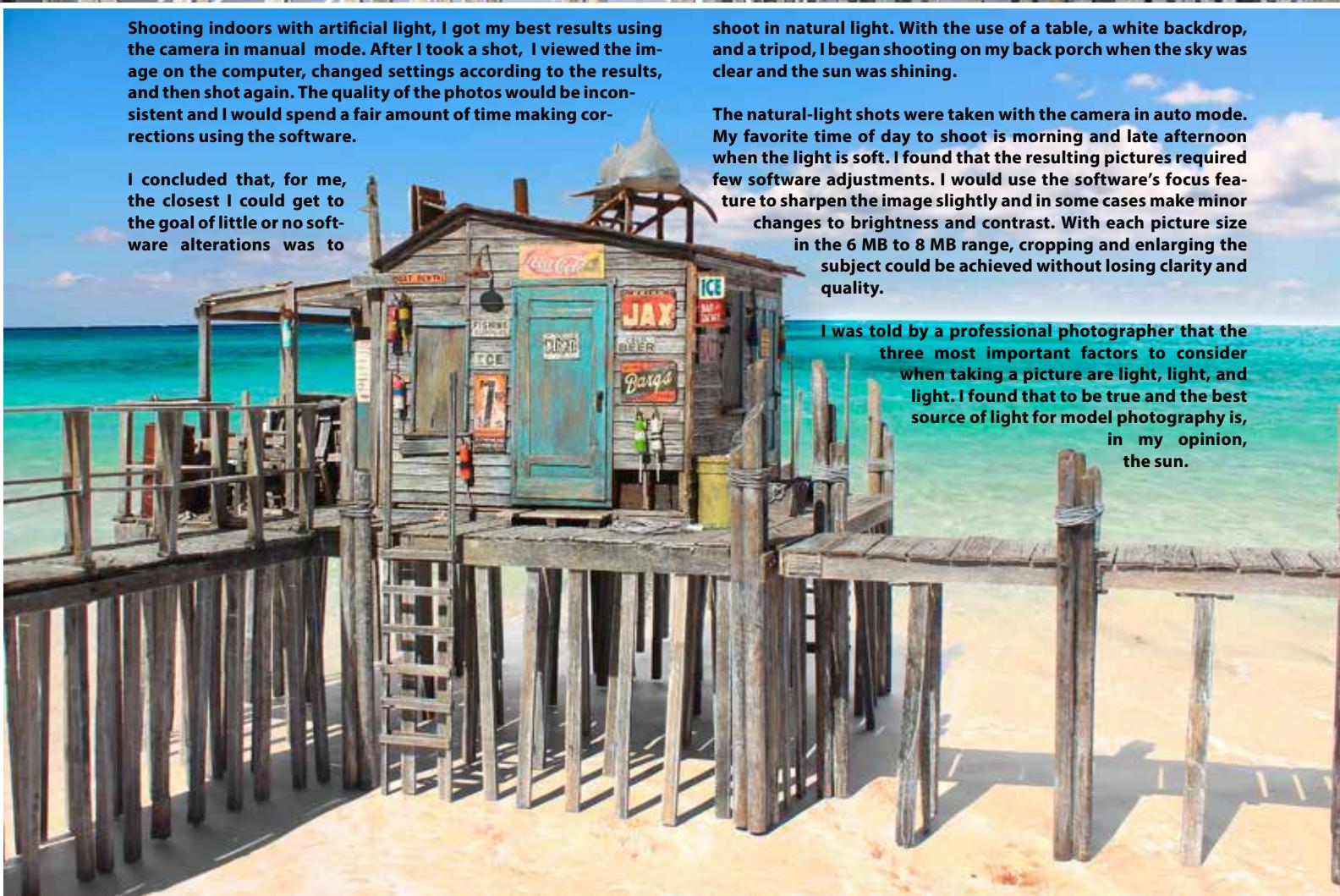
I concluded that, for me, the closest I could get to the goal of little or no software alterations was to



shoot in natural light. With the use of a table, a white backdrop, and a tripod, I began shooting on my back porch when the sky was clear and the sun was shining.

The natural-light shots were taken with the camera in auto mode. My favorite time of day to shoot is morning and late afternoon when the light is soft. I found that the resulting pictures required few software adjustments. I would use the software's focus feature to sharpen the image slightly and in some cases make minor changes to brightness and contrast. With each picture size in the 6 MB to 8 MB range, cropping and enlarging the subject could be achieved without losing clarity and quality.

I was told by a professional photographer that the three most important factors to consider when taking a picture are light, light, and light. I found that to be true and the best source of light for model photography is, in my opinion, the sun.



Build a BELLY-TANK RACER



They looked like big pills with wheels and ran across the dried lakes and plains of the United States. These bizarre racers started as drop tanks and surplus parts from aircraft like the P-47, P-38, P-51, or P-61 purchased after World War II for about \$40. The new owners overcame construction obstacles with spectacular craftsmanship and ingenuity. Powered by engines like the ubiquitous Ford Flathead these aerodynamic bullets became beasts of the track.

