



ESM Contest regulations, Revision.3

IPMS Nederland organizes an "open" plastic scale model building contest where the plastic modeller may compete to win a prize and get appraisal.

These regulations indicate how the selection and judging is done for the prizes to be won : Gold, Silver and Bronze. In addition to this, it is possible to get the appraisal "Highly Commended" or "Commended".

The most important about the winning model is a realistic "original-on-scale" illusion with neat finish.

Each registered plastic scale model is separately assessed on its own merits by expert judges and independently of other competing models. The number of models in the contest therefore plays no role.

When enrolling, the participant is asked in which category the registered model fits best to make judging more efficient.

The younger model builder is also encouraged to participate. A model is then classified as "Youth" (JAL) and the age of the participant is taken into account during the assessment.

Judging is and remains work of humble humans. Note that if a modeller enters a contest one may win or one may not win, it is part of the game! But the assessment however must be accountable. That is why judges use a system with criteria to see if a model is eligible for a prize.

These criteria are divided into these sections :

[B] Construction and basics

[V] Paint, scheme, decals and finishing

[D] Detailing

[A] Overall impression and resemblance to the original

[E] Extras to the model such as setting, diorama execution or exceptional result.

In each one, a rating is done. Below some aspects are listed that may be taken into account but the list is far from complete.

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[B] Construction and basics

- a. The model has all its parts correctly assembled and where necessary aligned symmetrically.
- b. Glue seams are invisible and ejection pin marks, casting errors etc. are neatly made invisible.
- c. The model is free from scratches and the panel lines, patches, etc. are consistent.
- d. Transparent parts are clear, free of distortion and are fitted without visible seams.
- e. In case of major conversion work the finish of the modified details and surfaces is consistent.

[V] Paint, scheme, decals and finishing

In the assessment of the paint and colour scheme, the way how decals are applied and possibly weathering the most important thing is that the model gives a realistic "original" feeling in the overall finish.

Also consider:

- a. A colour scheme applied with an airbrush does not necessarily get a higher rating than paint work with a brush. Sometimes a more realistic effect can be achieved with a good brush technique.
- b. A realistic colour scheme on a model contributes to the higher rating as well as a difficult colour scheme. A sloppy execution of a complex scheme however leads to a lower rating.
- c. Be careful when assessing the accuracy of applied colors and shades. On "the originals", these often differ considerably, also because of the usage of the real thing and various circumstances. Also remember that lighting in the contest area makes it difficult to judge the exact colors of a model. Therefore, the tint of colors should only be assessed for correctness in a general sense.
- d. A good paint finish shows no brush strokes and paint edges due to masking tape are invisible. Sanding residues, fingerprints and dust particles may not occur in the paint.
- e. Decals should be properly positioned as on the original and decals are put on without "silvering" caused by trapped air bubbles. Any decal film edges are invisible.
- f. The use of aftermarket decals does not necessarily result in a higher rating but when decals and scheme result in more overall accuracy it obviously may lead to a higher rating.
- g. The painting of, for example, window frames in vehicles and cockpit canopy frames of aircraft must have neat, tight and uniform edges.
- h. The application of "aging", wear, accident or combat damage to a model can, if realistic, lead to a higher rating. But also a factory fresh finish may lead to a higher rating, provided it is carried out consistently and very neatly.

[D] Detailing

Detailing that contributes to a realistic on-scale illusion may certainly lead to a higher rating. The absence of detailing that is really visible on the original can lead to a lower rating as well as sloppy applied details. If details are added offered as etched metal sets, resin detail sets, (possible) aftermarket sets, these does not lead necessarily to a higher rating. What matters is if details are really visible on the original and on-scale on the model.

When assessing detailing, also think of the following:

- a. detailing must be in accordance with the original (a knight does not have a shotgun, a MiG does not have AMRAAM missiles). Documentation about the original may accompany the model. In the absence of documentation, detailing is assessed in a general sense. Remember that the accuracy of the interior of the vehicle, vessel or aircraft cockpit is very difficult to assess.
- b. details are of such a size that a realistic scale effect is achieved. Examples are hatches and entrenchments of ships, thin wheel doors and sharp wing trailing edges of aircraft, belts of figures and mudguards of vehicles, etc. giving the illusion these have a sort of scale thickness.
- c. exhausts, ventilation openings and grilles are opened up or give the illusion of being open.
- d. details such as cabling and piping of ships and vehicles, clothing of figures, etc. can lead to a higher rating. Also think of realistic seam welds, not too heavy panel lines and rivets, etc.

[A] Overall impression and resemblance to the original

When looking at the model, does it give the impression that one sees an original to scale? The latter does not mean, for example, that a purple coloured Ferrari is not appropriate. But an English fighter jet is not fitted with Russian weapons. (In case of a "what-if" model, a fantasy or science fiction model these aspects are obviously not considered).

It may be expected of judges that they are competent, but not that they know all the details and histories of all originals. That is simply impossible. The contest participant may show near the model brief documentation about the original, but it is certainly not mandatory. In most cases no documentation is offered and the model is simply assessed with the general criteria with its own merits.

[E] Extra 's to the model such as setting, diorama execution or exceptional result

A model can stand alone or be part of a diorama scene. The diorama is, as it were, a composite "model as a whole".

- a. if a model is the main theme and is presented on a stand or base plate with some accessories or figures, judge the model on its own merits without the accessories or figures.
- b. Is it a diorama? A diorama often has one or more models, figures, buildings etc. Assess the "diorama as the (composite) model" with a main theme regarding originality, realism and composition. The quality of the model (s) in the diorama is important, but especially that they are consistent with the main diorama theme.
- c. something "extra" may be relevant which leads to a higher rating of a model. It can be an exceptional appearance, a very special setting or something that really stands out. Also think of exceptional detailing, very difficult but perfectly applied colour scheme or rather outstanding main theme. However, the size and dimensions of the model or diorama do not play a role in the rating.
- d. a "vacuform" or a model made "from scratch" or with many scratch components, major conversion work of a difficult nature can be regarded as something "extra". It may lead to a higher rating if it is done properly, but if the execution on the other hand is a bit sloppy may lead to a lower rating.

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The winners: the winning modellers of a model (or "diorama as model")

A model that demonstrates the "art of scale modelling" and meets the criteria in all sections as "being good" deserves the prize of "Silver". In the overall assessment it shows correct execution of modelling techniques in all sections with criteria. That is the standard for a perfectly built model.

A model qualifies for "Gold" when the builder in addition to the overall criteria goes a step further with extras such as complexity, building technique, "diorama", finishing, exceptional detailing or otherwise.

A model that does not fully meet the overall criteria can be given the "Bronze" prize when it is otherwise adequate.

In addition, there are incentive prizes: "Highly Commended" and "Commended" for a model that is exceptional on some modelling aspects.

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The contest and the judges:

Participants in the contest take the trouble to show their model creation and often have put in a lot of hard labour and modelling love. So a model deserves a correct assessment that can be justified. A member of the jury has a responsible role in the contest and must act with integrity. The contest management ensures that the judging is conducted and recorded fairly.

Points of attention are:

1. the judges are appointed based on their modelling knowledge by the contest management. A jury member often has a modelling specialization as a person.
2. each model in a category is judged by several judges. Each judge decides the rating after assessment of each model within the assigned category. Judges are allowed to consult each other but they may not always agree.
3. for the assessment and recording, a form for each model is filled in by the appointed jury members in the assigned category. There is a system to facilitate the overall assessment.
4. the builder's identity may not play any part in the assessment. An unknown builder may have made a beautiful model, a well-known prize winner may have had some struggles.
5. a judge may certainly not judge his own work or recommend it to fellow jury members. In that case, ask the contest management to ask other judges for this particular model assessment.
6. Assessment results and ratings are not discussed outside the judges team and contest management.
7. the final overall result will be determined and announced by the contest management.
8. after announcement of the contest results the contest management is accountable regarding the results in general. However, due to the work pressure, it is possible that the exact assessment of each individual model can not be explained.

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And last but not least

- participation in the contest is at your own risk! Damages, complete loss, etc. of your model is not reimbursed and IPMS Nederland is not responsible for this.

- a model that competed in the contest may not be re-entered in the consecutive five years in the same event contest.

- a diorama or model which show a subject or scene that is publicly disturbing and can not be shown in all fairness, can be refused and removed from the contest by management without any consultation.

- in circumstances and cases where these rules and regulations do not cover a specific issue, the contest management has the final say and makes a binding decision.

- some prizes and awards may be provided by other organisations, companies and traders based on their own criteria and such prizes are not the responsibility of the IPMS contest management.