

BridgeCon: JUDGING SYSTEM 2018

Olympic Style

The judging system is designed to have each entry viewed and evaluated by a group of fellow modelers. This is "peer evaluation". The system acknowledges that judges are human and many judging calls are subjective, not objective. Thus, each model is evaluated by a team of five, each model is reviewed and evaluated with other entries in each category. The judging system evaluates the model in relation to the ability of the modeler, who enters in the same category.

BridgeCon Judging Philosophy: Models are not just technical scale miniatures of their prototypes, but also artistic representations of historical, hypothetical, or imaginary subjects. While mechanical precision and fidelity to detail are highly desired, there are few other absolute rights or wrongs with most of the aspects of our builds. There are many different construction and finishing techniques and methods that can be employed to create the artistic representation of our subjects. These combine to create each model-builder's unique "style." Although judges are expected to assess and score the models, they are also expected to do this within the context of the individual modeler's style and not their own.

Your skill level considerations.

Construction: Many modelers miss the basics. Here are a few things to watch:

- a. Light suspension. Military vehicles weight a lot, but you'd be surprised at how many times we see tanks with floating road wheels and track or wheeled vehicles with not all wheels touching the ground. While on suspension, check the alignment of track, road wheels and wheels.
- b. Those pesky mold seams and injector pin marks. They seem to jump out when you put a coat of paint on the model. Take some time to remove mold seams and fill those pesky injector pin marks.
- c. Flattened gun barrels. Even with today's slide molding technology, many plastic gun barrels still have mold seams. Go easy - as the tendency is to sometimes use a wood rasp instead of a flexi-file or fine sand paper to remove these seam lines resulting in noticeable flat spots on the barrel.
- d. Glue schmutz (a technical modeling term). No matter how careful you are in building some glue will get on your model. After you've finished your build, take some time to give your model a good look over.

Finishing and Weathering: This is where the modeler gets to apply some artistic techniques. Here are a few hints:

a. It's not the right color of OD. Please! What matters is that your paint should be applied in a smooth, even coat with no drips, splotches or uneven areas. If you apply markings and decals look for edge lifting or silvering. Some modelers hand-apply markings. If you do, they should be viewed "in scale," i.e., the marking must not be too heavy-handed or thickly applied.

b. Artistic verses natural weathering. Artistic weathering is applied by the modeler to enhance the finish. This does not necessarily mean action-related mud, peeling paint, and the like. Weathering should be logical for the scene presented by the modeler. On the other hand, natural weathering is household dust, cob-webs, animal hair and assorted other stuff which accumulates on models as they sit on the shelf. Please look your model over and give it a quick dusting before the competition.

Degree of Difficulty or "If it's from Tamiya it's not a difficult build.": Some well-engineered and generally well detailed kits, always have room for additional detailing. A modeler goes through to add additional detailing to create a model that is something special. Degree of Difficulty is a combination of complexity, extent of the work, and the amount of labor required of the modeler to create a realistic scale model of the original. Judges evaluate the *difficulty* of all the techniques used by the modeler not *how well* any of these techniques are applied. *How well* these techniques are applied is covered under the Construction and Finish/Weathering Groups. Judges should also consider the skill level of the modeler in assigning a Degree of Difficulty score. For example, some tasks are more difficult for a lower skill level modeler to perform.

Please note it's the responsibility of the modeler to provide the judges with a description of the kit(s) and various techniques they used to create a realistic scale model of the original. This is where photos of the work "in progress" would help the modeler document the degree of difficulty involved in building the model. Judges are not obligated to provide a score for this element if the modeler does not provide a description of their work or only indicates the model is built out of the box.

Other points to consider:

a. Road warriors. Most of us will be traveling over some distances to get to this year's convention. Traveling can take a toll on our models. We'll have a first aid station set up at registration for you to make minor repairs. However, if there is travel damage you can't repair then add a note to the judges on your entry form that the model was damaged during travel. The judges will take this into consideration.

b. Flying tanks. Each year we have a few models damaged because the judging teams are not warned they are not attached to the base. Please note on your registration forms if your model is not attached to the base. This will really help us out.

Judging Notes and Criteria:

Judges will not judge their own entries.

Judges will not handle models during judging.

Judges will be judging categories with which they are familiar with and may consult with other judges and BridgeCon organizers.

All entries are to be the work of the signed participant. The whole model or major parts of the model must be the participant's credited work.

Absent modelers may enter models so long as the work is credited to them.

Participants are responsible for the care and safety of their entries. BridgeCon organizers do not assume any liability and or damage for participants entries.

Judges will be judging on the basis of:

Basic construction skills, such as fit, seams, scratches, finger prints accuracy, etc.

Assess paint finishes for fidelity, tidiness and appropriateness. Notes about modifications and scratch building done by participant should be displayed with model entry form and be brief and concise, not pages and pages long.

Overall presentation, artistic expression and imagination may also factor into judges' decision making. Particularly in cases of very closely assessed entries.