

IPMS DORSET/POOLE VIKINGS MODEL CLUB

COMPETITION - JUDGES' GUIDANCE NOTES

Our competition is judged using the 'open' system i.e. each model is judged individually against an overall standard of perfection, and is given an award if it achieves a certain standard. MODELS ARE NOT JUDGED AGAINST EACH OTHER! However, you may find it helpful to make an initial assessment of the 'field', so as to be aware which entries may be potential award winners. Try to approach the modelling style of the entries with an open mind and not be swayed by your own personal preferences e.g. for/against weathering.

Each model is assessed individually and given marks for four different aspects:

1) Construction; 2) Painting; 3) Amount of work; and 4) Presentation.

Generally, the sort of things you should look for include the following:

1. **Construction** — correct assembly, correct alignment, removal of mould lines and flash, filling of joint lines, no loss of moulded detail, clear canopies, no signs of excess glue.

2. **Painting** — neatness, no brush marks, no smudging or overspray, clean demarcation lines, evenness of application, also correct application of decals where used (no transfer film or 'silvering', conformity to surface shape and not obscuring underlying detail). Take into account any weathering — is it realistic?

3. **Amount of work** — is model straight from the box, modified or detailed, converted or scratch-built? Take into account the degree of difficulty involved all the way through the build — is the model built from a state-of-the-art kit, or from a kit from the Dark Ages of modelling! Has the modeller paid attention to detail e.g. opened up panels, drilled out gun barrels, etc. Don't be fooled by simplicity of detail — less can be more difficult to achieve with realism! Is the detail from after-market add-ons, or is it scratch-built? Think about how ambitious the modeller has been e.g. with a complex colour scheme or hard-to-paint colour. How animated is the finished model and, if the modeller is trying to convey a theme, how successfully has he/she done this?

4. **Presentation** — a model should sit correctly on its base (should preferably have a base!) and look realistic i.e. no daylight under tyres/tracks/feet, some bulge on tyres, some sinking into a soft surface. However, think also about the care that has been taken to present an overall impression, and to give information about the model e.g. a nameplate, a squadron badge etc. How imaginative is this, and how convincing?

In addition, in figure categories the modeller should make clear the provenance of the figure, as the weighting of marks for stock figures is different (see Judging Form). The marking system allows for a number of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in each category. If a model fails to gain enough points for an award, but you feel it deserves some recognition, you may judge it Highly Commended, but please use discretion. If you have any queries or difficulties, please ask the Competition Secretary. Ultimately, our aim is to encourage people to enter the competition so please remember, this is a regional show with a wide variety of models, and judge accordingly. Thank you all for your help and support. Happy judging!