

Origins 2009 – Miniatures Seminar

Friday, June 26, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Stephen V. Cole	Jean Sexton	Mike Filsinger	Mike Curtis
Tony L. Thomas	Garth Getgen	Celestia Getgen	Phil Shanton
Andrew Klenotic	Jacob Zumbrennan		

Minutes:

Introduction by SVC... Why we are here, what we hope to accomplish, and on with the show... SVC noted that the show, and sales at the booth, had been much better than expected (and better than the smaller overall crowd justified).

Exhibits A, B, and C presented by Tony L Thomas, passed around the group, and commented on:

Exhibit A: Federation LTT (light tactical transport) adaptor

Based on a proposal provided to SVC late in 2008, this small piece is constructed from brass and "green-stuff". The LTT adaptor can be attached to the cleats on the upper-front of a Federation tug pod and then can be slung underneath and between the warp engines of a Federation NCL. It is similar in size/shape to the piece which converts the NCL to the NCA.

All in attendance examined and fitted the pieces together. The concept was generally well accepted, SVC did interject one thought: As currently constructed, this piece will require the physical labor of an ADB employee to sort the necessary 5 pieces for a tug pod (2x sides, 1 front end cap, 1 back end cap, and 1 sensor) and manually add them to the clamshell box with the NCL and the adaptor.

After discussion, the LTT adaptor will be modified. A brass/green-stuff pod will be constructed and added to the adaptor. This will then be cast as one piece. The packaging will then be a Federation NCL and the LTT pod. Estimated timeline for completion of the revised LTT: July 18, 2009.

Exhibit B: Federation Destroyer Engine

Based on a request from SVC, this is a completely new, scratch-built engine designed to attach to the various Federation CA/CC style saucers to make a Federation Destroyer and many variants. When attached to the standard CA saucer, you get a Destroyer... attach to the detailed CC saucer and it becomes a DDL, attach it to the spade-shaped CF saucer and it creates a DDF, and if you attach it to the sensor-laden GSC saucer – it becomes a scout.

Questions were asked about packaging / pricing. Pricing questions were deferred until SVC determines how much it will cost ADB to cast and package these pieces.

Packaging: Requests were made for many various combinations ranging from individual units to two units (either identical or different) to a package of all four... even squadrons with 3 of the regular DD and one of each of the others. With nearly limitless permutations of combinations, SVC rapidly put a hold on further discussion. The ultimate decision will be based on cost per unit and SKU numbers. Most vendors dislike having large numbers of SKU numbers to track... so ADB does everything possible to keep this number down.

Most likely packaging will be individual units with the slim possibility of a five or six ship squadron box.

The unit passed around the group has been cut to size/shape. The nacelle dome has been constructed, the end cap has been cut and filed to the correct shape, and the round "ball" has been added to the exhaust area of the engine. The saucer attachment slot has been cut to shape, the mounting hole has been located, and the radiator details along the lower side have been filed and shaped. All that remains is the addition of the rear "fins", the warp vents, and the 3 small panels at the front of the engine. The estimated completion date for final details is: 2 weeks. This will be shipped to ADB with the Fed LTT pod.

Exhibit C: Metal Juggernaut:

This piece has been in construction since Origins of 2008 when Tony volunteered to construct a castable master. Several failed attempts later, the piece is almost done. The main hull section was displayed during this meeting. It is 90% complete. Most of the panels have been added, but the engines and weapon mounts still need to be added.

Steve examined it and pronounced the level of detail in that piece "acceptable". The nose piece was expected to be completed, but the difficulties involved in working with that many pieces of brass, at that scale required a different approach.

Several items regarding the juggernaut were discussed by SVC and the group:

1) Tail design: Both the Juggernaut Alpha and the Juggernaut Beta have distinctive tails, neither of which is conducive to casting at this scale. This has resulted in a modified, one-piece design based on Juggernaut beta that SVC has given preliminary approval to (based on sketches).

2) Tail Booms: Ideally, the solution would be to provide a mini consisting of the nose/main hull as one piece and the tail as a second piece. The end consumer could then be instructed to obtain two booms of 3/16-inch diameter, approximately 1-inch long. These could then be epoxied into depression located in the proper positions to complete the Juggernaut. This was not the goal from the start, so this idea is a non-starter. Instead, the following compromise was accepted. At the scale this version of the juggernaut is being constructed... the spacing between the booms will be practically non-existent. The two booms will be constructed by TLT, who will glue them together and fill the resulting gap with green-stuff. This will stiffen the unit sufficiently to make it castable and will provide a flat surface between the two round booms that can be painted black... giving the illusion of space.

3) One-piece vs. two-piece: SVC is concerned that the overall size of the unit may prove uncastable. As an option... the main hull/tail assembly can be constructed in one piece with the neck/nose section being constructed as a separate piece. Collocated mounting holes/pins will provide for correct alignment.

4) Two-piece casting: If the Juggernaut is sent in two separate pieces, SVC will have the casting house examine it to make the final decision. If they feel it can be successfully cast as one-piece, ADB will have them epoxy the two pieces together prior to casting.

Estimated date of completion for the Juggernaut: July 18, 2009.

Exhibit D: Bronze masters of the first seven fighters

Todd Boyce of Ninja Magic has completed the masters for seven SFB fighters and given them to SVC for approval. These fighters are:

- Federation F-18
- Klingon ZY
- Kzinti TAAS
- Hydran Stinger
- Tholian Spider
- Romulan Gladiator (one with a PI-F launcher and one with a PI-D launcher)

These pieces are phenomenal. The level of detail is absolutely astounding. The drones are mounted on stand-off rails and have individual fins for guidance. The Tholian Spider has a diamond-patterned engine grill that is reminiscent of the PC. The Stinger has a Ph-G mount and two fusion beam mounts... Everyone wants these out immediately.

The type of stands to be shipped with these is still up in the air. They have peg-holes that will fit the standard, SFB hex-bases, but Ninja Magic also provided ADB with a "dice-chair" base which may be cast and included. This base has a 1/2" square opening at the back which exactly fits a 1/2" d6 or a 1/2" counter. You can use the d6 to track the number of fighters in the hex... or you could place the counter for the unit in the space provided.

The group discussed various packaging possibilities for these. Most other ranges sell 5 to 12 fighter sized minis for 9 to 15 dollars and this is the price range ADB is looking for. Once they get a quote from the casting house, they will begin working up a number of minis to be included and a price.

Update: The good news is that these are in the hands of the casting house. The bad news is that Todd says he can also complete a shuttlecraft in the next week, so we're going to delay a week and hope to include the shuttlecraft.

Exhibit E: Drones and Plasmas, Oh My!!!

Steve Cole also had the investment casting of the new drone miniature and the PI-R, PI-S, PI-F minis created by Todd Boyce of Ninja Magic. The drones are exquisitely detailed and will be a fine addition to any collection.

The Plasma Torpedo miniatures are three different sizes and once painted, will look like death incarnate traveling across the map. As with the fighters, the number per package will be determined once the casting house has given ADB a cost per unit to cast them.

Further Discussions

Following this, a brief discussion was held regarding miniatures currently in the works:

- Mike Raper has completed the Andromedan Terminator
- John Schneder II has completed the ISC battleship and the Klingon B9 Fast Battleship
- Matt Malleman has completed 5 Omega Sector cruisers.
- John Schneder II has also completed the base Vudar line (DN, CA, CL, DD, FF)

These 13 miniatures are awaiting the addition of the Juggernaut, the DD engine, and the LTT pod and they will be cast.

Also in the works are:

- Federation (o)CA by Will McCammon
- Carnavons by John Schneder II
- Paravians by John Schneder II
- Admin Shuttle to be sculpted by Todd Boyce

What Do You Want?

At this point, SVC asked for input from the attendees concerning miniatures they would like to see added:

Several people requested that the Peladine be brought back. This is problematic as ADB does not have the masters, nor did they keep one of each around. Perhaps a call will be put out for copies to make a mold from... time will tell.

Miniature version of the ships designed by Garth Getgen were requested.

Tony L Thomas has volunteered to do a Hydran Pegasus in time for Hydran Attack. He will contact Adam Turner to get a copy of the artwork for the Pegasus to make the mini match the artwork.

The Romulan Demonhawk was requested.

Several requests were made for PFs... errrr, Gunboats. It is intended to have Ninja Magic do these.

Earlier conversations were held with SVC regarding the possibility of reworking the existing mold for the multi-part Klingon D-7. Several forum/BBS members would like to have some of these for kit-bashing. Steve is going to track the old-mold down, determine its suitability for use, and determine how many miniatures need to be cast/sold to make the proposition cost effective. Once this number is known – that many units will be pre-ordered by the KD7 Company (a collective of individuals looking to purchase 40 or so of the multi-part D7s – although we can find more members and raise the total pre-purchased, if need be.).

Adjournment

At this point, as there were no further items, the seminar was adjourned until next year.