

BAYCON Judging Guidelines for Aircraft

Introduction:

The following guidelines have been developed to assist the judges of Aircraft Categories. They are based on the IPMS/USA Competition Handbook and our own guidelines, placing stress on Basic Construction, that we have successfully used for many years. Please remember that these are only guidelines and not hard and fast rules.

Basic Construction: Approx. 50%

This includes the 'from the box' construction part of the model, as most of the models to be judged originate from commercially available kits. Some of the things to look for are;

Flash, mold seams removed from parts, sink marks filled.

Seams filled. [Note: Some aircraft have seams on their spines, such as with Messerschmitt clam shell construction.

Detail restored where filling and flash removal have taken place.

No visible glue or adhesive smears, puddles, or globs.

Are wings and tailplanes aligned uniformly around the centerline of the aircraft?

Uniform anhedral or dihedral in the wings and tailplanes.

Landing gear components properly aligned with the aircraft and each other.

Multiple engines properly aligned with each other and the airframe.

Any ordnance items properly aligned with each other and the airframe.

Canopies and clear parts are clear and free of crazing and glue smears.

Decals should be properly located, conform to the surface with no visible bubbles or silvering.

Advanced Details: Approx. 10%

The following are some steps that can be taken to enhance the kit that go beyond basic modeling;

Thinning of thick parts to more realistic appearance such as bomb fins, landing gear doors, open panels, etc.

Intakes, scoops, etc. blocked off to prevent "see through".

Gun barrels, exhaust stacks, intakes, vents, etc., drilled out.

Adding brake lines, tire treads, structural lightning holes, etc.

Additional ordnance mounted to the aircraft. Adding fuses, arming wires, 'remove before flight' ribbons.

Finish: Approx. 20%

Once painted the model should.....

Show no signs of the construction process. [Glue , file or sanding marks.]

Finish should be even and smooth without orange peel, eggshell, or brush marks.

Finish should be of equal degree of gloss, semi-gloss, or matte finish throughout.

Only framing of clear parts should be painted. This is to be neat and not overlap the clear panels.

Weathering, if present, should be uniform throughout the model and appropriate for theater of operation and normal aircraft usage

Weathering should extend to decals.

Visible interior areas should be painted, and possibly shaded or weathered.

Colors on actual aircraft may vary. For example; although ordered as the same color, different paint was ordered to be used on different surfaces, such as metal, fabric or wood. Large aircraft such as the B-17 or C-47 had sub-assemblies constructed and painted on different lines.

Additional Parts: Approx. 10%

This would entail what are now called “after market parts” such as etched brass or resin, parts from the spares box, kit bashed from another kit, or scratch built, that have been added to the model to replace original parts or add additional details;

Parts should be in scale or as close to scale as possible.

External stores should be built to the same standards as the model.

These parts should be mounted to the model securely but without exposed globs of glue, etc.

Historical Accuracy: Approx. 10%

This section is very subjective and much of this is interpretive.

Use common sense in applying this factor, i.e.; Invasion Stripes were authorized for a six week period. At the beginning of that period, just days before the invasion, the general aircraft finish may be worn but the new stripes would be bright. Most invasion stripes were applied by brush.

Check for reference material for the obvious out of place model. Such as when you are confronted by a pink and lavender camouflaged Hurricane. The modeler may have a photo to prove his point. Also see benefit of doubt, below.

Scratchbuilding: Bonus Points

Scratch building is the creating of a model or parts of a model from raw materials. One would expect that the goal would be to create a model of Tamiya or Hasegawa quality without having a kit to start with. Additional points should be considered based on how close to this goal the modeler reached. The more successful scratch building the more

bonus points to be considered.

Benefit of Doubt:

The benefit of doubt goes to the modeler! Today, with a number of paint lines producing “accurate” colors, and a vast array of research material, a modelers research and the model he produces are only as good as his chosen sources. He places his trust in the authors and manufacture to produce products that meet their claims although we may know or believe the truth to be otherwise. Therefore any reasonable shade of paint or reasonable scheme should go unchallenged.