

BAYCON Judging Guidelines for Figures

Introduction:

The following guidelines have been developed to assist the judges of Figure 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. 40%

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.

- Detail restored where filling and flash removal have taken place.

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

- Are parts aligned correctly.

- Any weapons are in scale and properly aligned.

- Feet properly touching the ground.

- Pose should be natural and fluid unless a condition of extreme physical exertion is being depicted.

- Any 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 belts and straps.

- Edges of overlapping layers should be sharp and possibly undercut.

- Gun barrel, bayonet socket, etc. drilled out.

- Equipment should appear to have weight when hanging from belts and straps.

Finish: Approx. 30%

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.

Weathering, if present, should be uniform throughout the model and appropriate for theater of operation and normal wear and tear.

Eyes should not be “wide-eyed“ stare unless appropriate for the figure or pose.

Eyes should be uniform and looking in the same direction.

As the figure gets larger there should be more variations in skin tones.

The finish should be appropriate for the surface. I.e.: Dress shoes should be glossy, wool will be matte, leather should have some sheen.

Shadows should be apparent where surfaces overlap.

Metal should have a metallic appearance.

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.

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. The modeler may or may not be familiar with the time period.

Check for reference material for the obvious out of place model. The modeler may have a photo or resource 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 figure of 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.

The Base: Bonus Points

With figures the base becomes an integral part of that figure. Although the base should not detract from the figure, points are not deducted for not having one or for having an inappropriate one. Bonus points are added for....

Is the base attractive and does it compliment the figure.

Is it well finished?

If there is ground work does it blend with the figure, is it appropriate for the figure? Would an Afrika Korps soldier be standing in a jungle?
Does the figure appear to be standing on the ground and not floating above or sinking in quick sand.
Should other footprints be visible.

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 modeler's 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.