

## Tips for County Fair Exhibitors – Scale Models

The county fair . . . what a great time it is! Every summer, families flock to county fairs to see the latest 4-H project exhibits. Exhibiting is a fun way for you to showcase your project work. When you enter a scale model exhibit at the county fair, you'll be showing the public, and the judge, what you've learned in the project. Make your exhibit the best it can be. Here are some tips:

1. Assembly
  - a. Seams should be smooth, with no glue beads, ripples or smears.
  - b. Windows should be clear.
2. Moving parts
  - a. Moving parts should move.
  - b. If the model has turning wheels, doors or other hinged parts, they should work.
3. Paint
  - a. Most models should have some painting done on them if they are being judged.
  - b. The coat of paint should be smooth with no drips or smears.
  - c. Colors should be appropriate.
4. Decals
  - a. Decals should be straight, smooth, appropriate to the model and have no loose edges.
5. Setting
  - a. If required, the setting should be kept to scale and appropriate to the model.
  - b. Human and animal figures should be the correct size and plants should be true to the setting, e.g., palm trees don't belong in a winter setting.

## Tips for County Fair Judges

Following is some information on scale model entries at county fairs.

Among the scale models currently listed in county fair classes are:

- Agricultural items: tractors, farm equipment, farm buildings including houses, farm animals
- Air and space transportation items: airplanes, helicopters, rockets, space ships, satellites, historic forms
- Aquatic (water transportation) items: boats, ships, submarines, historic forms
- Highway transportation items: cars, motorcycles, trucks, semi-tractors and trailers, collector's automobile, customized automobile, show cars and trucks
- Military items: tanks, trucks, personnel vehicles, cannons
- Miniature dwellings: doll houses, buildings (exterior, interior with furniture)
- Models designed for pulling and racing events: cars, trucks, tractors, NASCAR automobiles, dragsters, funny cars, formula one, Indy race cars, off-road race trucks
- Railroad items: engines, railroad cars, railroad equipment

Cars, trucks, boats and ships are probably the most common scale models you'll find. Counties will use different terms to describe the models. Here is one county's set of definitions:

- Scratch built: buying or making individual parts and building a scale model.
- Custom built: starting with a kit or model and completely changing or modifying its appearance.
- Kit-bashed: taking two or more kits and combining them into one scale model. Some county fairs call this a "customized" model, i.e., made from parts from kits from one or more other kits, e.g., Model A Ford kit, with parts from a Pinto or other car.

Most models are made of plastic, wood or metal, including die cast. Mounting on a base or platform is often recommended. Models should be made to scale. A common scale is 1/12 (1 inch equals 1 foot).

First year members generally may use snap-together kits, such as Snap-Tite, but usually they must be fully glued, painted or covered. Models made from kits should be clearly marked. The county fair will usually ask for additional information, such as, number of pieces in the kit and any modifications made. Models constructed of Legos, Construx, Erector or similar toys are sometimes accepted at a county fair.