DAVID FISCHER: MODEL BUILDER EXTRAORDINAIRE
December 19, 2017 – April 29, 2018

1936 Farmall F-20
THE ARTIST’S PROCESS

Selecting the Subject Matter

When choosing the subject of his models, David Fischer considers his personal interests; the history of the object; and the availability of detailed information—photos, books, and drawings about the chosen subject.

Creating Detailed Drawings

Drawings help the artist develop familiarity with various parts and relationships within his chosen subject. The size and location of detailed components are calculated and adjusted. A detailed drawing helps to reveal missing information, dimensions, or parts, before the process of building is underway.

*Plans for the 1936 Farmall F-20*: All working drawings for the 1936 Farmall F-20 had to be researched and drafted from photos, parts diagrams and written descriptions. The drawings were started in 2008. The model was started in 2010 and completed in 2013. The artist draws his plans in Adobe Illustrator.
THE ARTIST’S PROCESS

Construction – Test Build

The artist selects 1-2 parts and builds them to completion. This gives him a feel for the selected scale, the chosen materials and process, and any unforeseen roadblocks. Fischer always starts with the most complicated components in these test builds in order to determine the viability of the project. Fischer says, “I have learned to start with the most difficult part – the part that would halt the entire project if it cannot be made – so time isn’t spent on components for a model that ultimately can’t be completed.”

Working Small to Big

Small and detailed parts are typically built first, before the artist progresses to the larger components. Why does the artist work from small to big? According to Fischer, “To build the big structure first would leave the overwhelming task of detailing EVERYTHING at the end, when energy and interest are lowest.”

Handcrafting Everything!

The artist handcrafts every component in his models. There are no commercial parts, kits, found objects, or 3-D printed parts in David Fischer’s models. Most of his work is done in plastics – built, sculpted, or vacuum-formed. Additional components are cast in resin or epoxy, in molds that are hand-made by the artist. When necessary, Fischer uses metal or wood, although he notes that “most of the worn metal on these models is actually painted plastic.”

In-Progress 1936 Farmall F-20: Built entirely from scratch, each nut, bolt, screw, cotter pin, spring (and everything else!) was built from scratch by the artist. In this image you can see the artist paints his model as he builds, leaving bare plastic (the white areas) where future parts will be attached. The green element seen in this photo is a commercial filler putty, thinned to prepare sharp inside corners.
What is David Fischer working on these days? Take a look – it’s a 1/20 scale model of the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Steam Locomotive Number 18.

David Fischer: Model Builder Extraordinaire is a Community Corner Exhibit. The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures’ Community Corner is an exhibit space dedicated to featuring the work of talented Tucson-area miniature artisans, or artists who use miniatures as their medium. Exhibits demonstrate the diversity of miniature artwork that is created in our community. Learn more about David Fischer: http://www.davidfischermodelbuilder.com/