

# DESERT MODELER

Edited by Bruce Petrarca, MMR | AZ division AP Manager | [ap@azdiv-nmra.org](mailto:ap@azdiv-nmra.org)

## Zoom structure kit

This month many members will be building a laser structure kit under the watchful eye, via Zoom, of Frank Baker, AZ Director.

Frank holds the AP certificate: Master Builder - Structures and has many "Best In Show" awards for his structures.

If you didn't get in this time, don't despair. I have it on good authority that there will be more of these and other clinics in future months.

## Remote evaluation

Remember 8 of the 11 certificates can be evaluated remotely with photos and a video hookup.

## Recognition

Allow me to introduce Bob Ginger. After the August **Desert Modeler**, he called me to talk about getting his MMR.

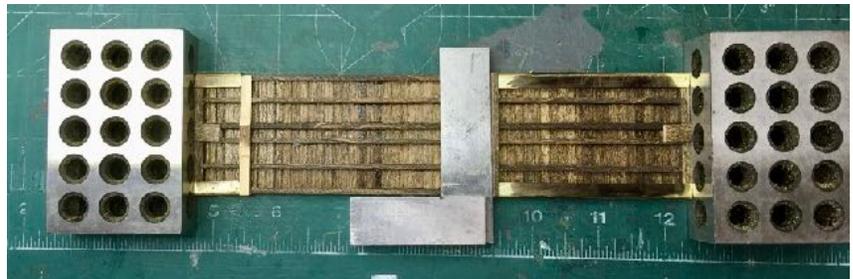
I was ready to answer with the normal suggestions for folks getting started. Even though Bob has only been a member of the NRMA for a short time, he was well positioned for his MMR.

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## Tools & Jigs

Add points to your score.

For example, the easiest way to earn a Cars certificate is to build a bunch of flat cars at once. Then you can convert some into box or tank or gondola or other types. Tools and jigs make repetitive tasks like this easier and more precise.



Here are two drilling jigs (and some machinists' blocks and a square) that I used to drill several holes in my On30 cars. So, I mentioned them in the CONSTRUCTION section of the write up and had them on hand during the evaluation for the team to review.

Extra points for construction of the tools added onto the model.

## October tip:

Keep records as you go along. Ever heard that before? Just as having your Record & Validation forms for Volunteer and Author, when you are building a model for the AP program, keep track along the way.

A spreadsheet (computerized or manual) of the parts that went into the model; a list of the paints and finishes; notes about special

**Bob Ginger, continued**

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He's been modeling continuously since he was about 7. Been in N-scale since 9. He has put together a pike that is just eye-candy from



one end to the other and fully operational. Here is a case of someone who had done almost all the work but just needed to get the recognition.

So, during August, based on two (masked) visits to his home, he earned his Golden Spike and four AP certificates: Author, Electrical, Scenery and Structures. He needs to build the hand-laid track for Civil (I recommended some scale larger than N). He is getting is Chief Dispatcher paperwork in order. He will be looking to build the 8 cars necessary for the Cars certificate to complete his MMR.

An overview of his layout is in the right column.

techniques or tools. These all will tend to enhance your score if you present the information when your work is evaluated. Keeping track of it while you work involves having a pad of paper and a pencil at your workbench. While glue or paint is drying, write down what you just did. When you prepare your submission, you may only need to neaten up what you already have recorded.

Also, folks tend to do their best work when they are working from photographs and plans. Present them for the evaluation. That can swing your score by 10 points, about 8%!



HO SMVRR #8 Flat Car materials

Item	Qty	Exempt	Qty	Scratch
Plastic sheet	20	No	20	20
Plastic U channel	8	No	8	8
Wood strip	75	No	75	75
Plastic angle	14	No	14	14
Plastic tube	2	No	2	2
Rod phosphor-bronze	13	No	13	13
Brake wheel	1	No	1	
Brake gear box	1	No	1	
Brake reservoir	1	No	1	
Brake valve	1	No	1	
Brake cylinder	1	No	1	
Brake chain	1	No	1	
Trucks Kadee Roller bearing ASF 100 ton	2	Yes		
Kadee #146 whisker couplers medium center set & pockets	2	Yes		
M 3 x 3 machine screws (couplers)	2	Yes		
<b>Totals</b>			<b>138</b>	<b>132</b>
	<b>Scratch Built</b>	<b>95.7%</b>	<b>score</b>	<b>14</b>
				<b>15</b>

NOTE: Exempted Parts: motor, gears, wheels, couplers, light bulbs, trucks, marker & classification lights, brake fittings, basic wood, metal and plastic shapes.

