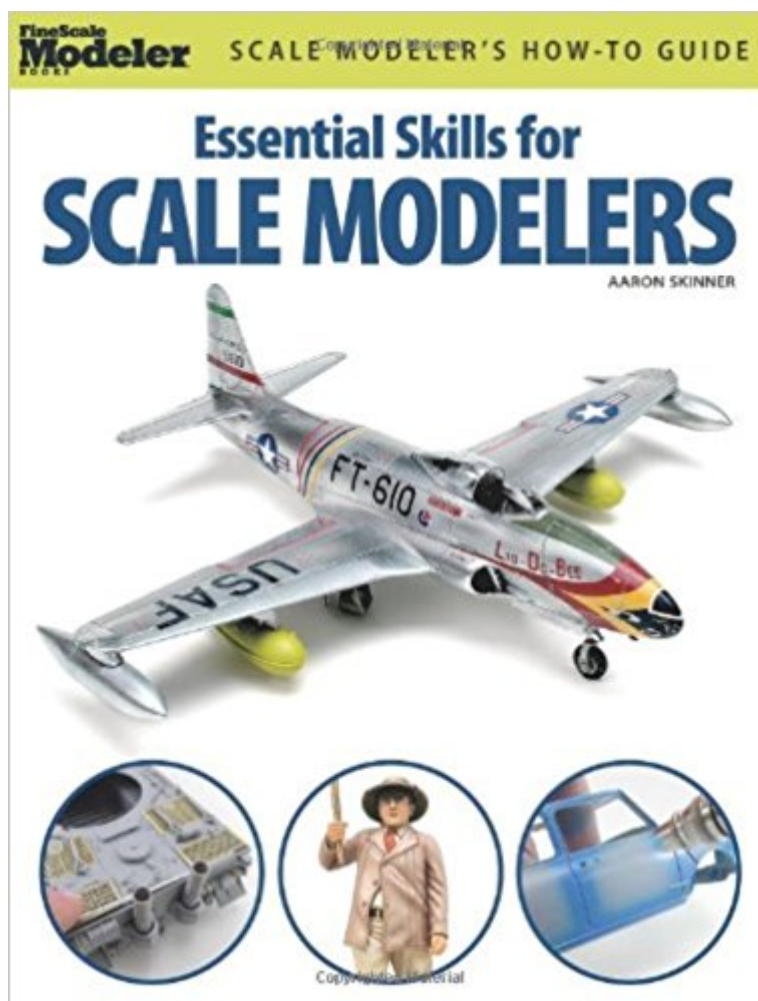


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Essential Skills For Scale Modelers (FineScale Modeler Books)



Synopsis

Beginning scale modelers need a basic set of skills that they can build on as they continue through the hobby. *Essential Skills for Scale Modelers*, written by FineScale Modeler's Aaron Skinner, lays the foundation needed to build, paint, weather, and display all types of models. This technique-driven how-to book contains a variety of projects that allow modelers to put their new found skills to use.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book for my 7 year old son (sure it's a little advanced, but it's not beyond an interested young child's grasp), who is just getting into scale modeling at the Snap-Level but is constantly wanting to learn some of the techniques that I've picked up over the years. Once I got the book in my hands, it's not come off my workbench or out of my hands. The author explores the basics and essentials of modeling in a thorough and easy to understand manner (even with a touch of humor) and shows you step by step some of the intermediate and advanced methods in the best possible manner - by example on a real model project from start to finish. Most of us who have been modeling for a while will recognize most of the methods and tricks in the book, but it's great to get a refresher and even learn a thing or two along the way. This is an even greater asset to the beginner who can get start modeling with a good base of knowledge and start dabbling in the more advanced techniques. This book certainly is aimed at the beginner, but I can't say enough for how in depth it gets at times. I would have liked to have seen a little more work put into painting cockpits and canopies though - just saying you can buy a pre-cut mask at an aftermarket dealer doesn't cut it.

This is problematic because not all models have this option available and a good number of hobbyists (especially beginners) still have to make their own masks either by cutting masking tape or using a masking solution. This hobby can be expensive enough as it is and telling beginners that they need to buy aftermarket parts or masks is an instant turn-off to many who already dropped a sizable penny on the kit, paint, and essentials. Not a big deal to an expert, but for a hobby that's not seen as "cool" as it once was, this doesn't do the book any favors.

I started getting back into modelling after several years absence. I wanted a guide to refresh my skills and provide me with new techniques. This book fits the bill quite nicely. It covers many different types of modeling and the techniques used for each. There are many tips that have saved me time looking them up on web sites or other places. It's well laid out with multiple photographs showing step by step instructions. The instructions are clear and easy to comprehend. The book itself is put together well. I've reread the book several times and the binding has held up well. Would recommend this for beginners or someone starting back into the hobby.

I build models. For years I made "simple" models. The model is put together from the box, painted with a brush, and the decals applied. After taking years off because college, job, marriage, family, and now I like to "do it right". I've been reading Fine Scale Modeler for years and decided to "do it right". This is a "working reference" book for me. I build Ships and Aircraft, not so much armor. But I needed to know how to make a better ship. Sub assemblies are the key. Also, when making a ship don't be afraid to scratch build using stock plastic. This book will show you how. It also tell the reader how to use photo-etch. Again, this book will show you how. You'll get neat little tips on how to bring life to your model. One trick I learned is to use a fine black artist's pencil to bring out the detail of pipes, hatches, and fittings on ships. Instead of looking like "life-less" painted plastic my ships are now getting that "busy" look of a ship. Indeed, the plastic gaps, after market fittings, scratch builds, and paint techniques are all listed in this book. The other types of models are written up. Much is written on Aircraft like on landing gear, pre-shading aircraft panels, cockpits, canopy painting and finishing, ejector seats, and so on. Honestly, I think a little too much is done on the cockpits because when the canopy is closed you can't see the detail anyway. Conversely, the book does a great job with bombs, missiles, and the attachment points. It looks just like the real thing. The basics are given for figure paintings, most are military. If you're looking for something "more" in figures then this is the wrong book for you. You'll be shown how to paint a soldier, sailor, marine, airman. Flesh tones and all the basics are covered. The most important feature are the "eyes".

Properly painted figures have almost living eyes and this book will show you everything needed for that feature. Cars are covered in the book. Weirdly, rusty cars are covered. This book is not consigned to my book shelf. It is a reference and sits on my model's table. The pages have creases and there are occasional paint smears. I hope your purchase has such a useful and happy fate. 5 Stars.

This book offers a lot of great tips on a wide variety of modeling techniques. Although you may not necessarily be building all of the types of models described in the book, it's a great primer on several different styles and techniques. It really does a great job of breaking down specific techniques into clear step-by-step sections. Also, there are lots of great photos (that are numbered so they can be noted in the text) that clearly demonstrate the techniques being introduced. Overall, a great reference.

IMO, this book is a very good primer on plastic model making. It covers all build aspects (with words and photos) to a basic depth needed to develop decent skills in this hobby. In other words, this book is what it says it is. Beginners and even intermediates will definitely benefit from this. Those in the experienced category will want to head for the additional series books the cover each separate build category much more in-depth.

This is an excellent guide for anyone interested in scale modeling, illustrations and descriptions help explain many processes that will make your models superb. I rate it 5 stars because it is a very thorough book in a compact package.

Every modeler should get this book. The pictures are a great help. A must have.

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