

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLING RON CAUDILLO'S CARDSTOCK MODELS

Cardstock model building is a fun, relaxing, and very inexpensive hobby that can be enjoyed by almost any age. It is a great way to build models of your favorite things that are not offered in plastic kits. The development time and costs are no so great as to make the kits expensive. Once you have the pattern file, you can print out as many copies as you want for just pennies a copy. If you make a mistake during construction, no problem, just print out another one!

Print the model onto 8-1/2" x 11" 67 pound cardstock. You can buy this from a printing business or an office supply store. Wal-mart sells 110 pound cardstock, but this is usually too thick for the smaller parts. I only use 110 pound cardstock for really large parts that have little or no internal support.

For PDF files, obtain and install on your computer a copy of the Adobe Acrobat reader software. This can be downloaded for free from their web site at www.adobe.com. When using the Acrobat reader software, make sure the paper orientation is set to portrait and the "fit to page" box is unchecked. Follow the software instructions for any problems that you may have in printing.

Print out the model on the best printer you can use. Most printers shouldn't have problems feeding the cardstock. Use a printer that has both a color and a black cartridge that are installed at the same time. This will give you a very crisp, clean, and well defined printout.

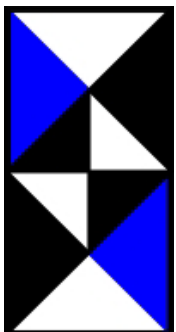
The models are completed using pre-assembled subassemblies. You may find it easier to cut out only the parts that are needed for a subassembly to avoid losing parts. Cut out the parts using a small pointed pair of scissors. Use a hobby knife on smaller parts, holes, and hard to cut areas. LIGHTLY score the fold lines with a hobby knife or (my preference) a **COMPLETELY** empty ballpoint pen before making a fold. This will give you an easy to bend crease that will look very sharp. Use the yellow legend below for directions on the direction to fold the paper.

You can use a fine tip felt marker that matches the surface color on the edges of the parts before gluing them. This will help hide the exposed white edges of the cardstock and give your model a very professional finished look.

Test fit the parts before gluing. Roll the cylinder-shaped parts around a small rod to pre-form the part and to help it hold its shape while gluing. Use white glue sparingly to join the pieces. Apply the glue with either a toothpick or a straightened paperclip to the tabs. This will help keep your fingers clean and not smear glue all over the printed surfaces. You may have to use tweezers to hold the pieces together for a few minutes to allow the glue to set up.

Let the joined parts dry a few minutes before adding other parts. Some of the parts are fragile and need to dry completely before adding them to the model.

Lightly spray the finished model with a clear, matte spray to protect it from moisture and humidity. Use several VERY LIGHT coats of the matte spray, allowing it to dry completely between coats. Most printer inks will bleed when wet so don't use a single, heavy spray coat.



CUSTOM MODELS

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LEGEND

—————	Cut line
-----	Fold up line
.....	Fold down line
—————	Detail line (do NOT cut)