



ModelFiesta 43

Rules

MODEL
FIESTA 43
CONTEST AND VENDOR EVENT
JANUARY 4TH // 9AM-4PM

Theme: BIG Scales, Big Models.

I. Eligibility

1. ModelFiesta 43 is open to members of IPMS/USA – Alamo Squadron or other IPMS/USA Chapters as well as the general public. Membership in IPMS/USA or any local chartered chapter is encouraged, but NOT required to enter a model in the contest.
2. A person may also serve as a ‘proxy’ to enter models for another who is not attending the contest. Entry fees for absentee/proxy entrants are the same as those attending in person. All modeling forms for proxy entries must indicate “Contestant’s Name - by Proxy - followed by the attending person’s name”.
3. All entries must be the sole work of the individual whose name is on the model entry form. Commercially built and/or finished models that do not require significant additional work by the modeler will be ineligible.

II. Juniors

1. Entry in Junior Division categories are limited to contestants 17 years and younger. Those categories will be split into two age groupings: Pre-teen for ages through 12 years; and Teen for ages 13 through 17 years.
2. Junior contestants may, at their own discretion, enter any or all of their models in Senior-Division categories; however, models entered in Senior categories will not be eligible for any special Junior-Division awards.
- 3.

III. Prior Winners

1. Models that have won First, Second, or Third place awards in any category of any previous IPMS/USA National Model Contest, Region 6 Regional Convention event (not meant to include placement in local Chapter/Club events) or any previous ModelFiesta contest may not be entered, except as specifically provided below. Previous award winners may be used as noted in Dioramas, Collections, Triathlon and Group entries.

Models that have won an award as part of a Collection, Triathlon or Group entry may also be entered individually in subsequent ModelFiesta Contests. However, models that have won individually, and as part of a Collection, Triathlon or Group entry, are not eligible for subsequent ModelFiesta Contests.

IV. Pre-Production / Home-Production Models

1. Pre-production kits (whether from major or limited-run manufacturers) may be entered in the contest. A pre-production kit is one which is not yet generally available for retail purchase. Home-production models (specifically, home-produced 3D-printed models) may also be entered in the contest. Both these examples will be entered as 'stock' kits. No distinction is made between a model designed and printed at home, versus a model designed by the modeler but sent out to a third party to print the model/parts.

V. Inappropriate Entries

1. The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by ModelFiesta Planning Committee officials to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability.
2. The following are prohibited in competition and may not be placed on display at ModelFiesta:
 - a. There shall be no depiction of excretory functions depicting any human being or animal.
 - b. There shall be no depiction of sadomasochistic activity, equipment, settings or situations, to any degree, regardless of whether there are figures in the model and regardless of whether any figures present in the model are clothed.
 - c. There shall be no depictions of explicit sexual conduct, bilateral or autoerotic, regardless of degree and regardless of the clothing-status of the participants that involves the touching of the breasts or genitals or other erogenous zones of any depicted figure.

- d. There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure are exposed where the clear intent of the same is to portray a sexual scene.
3. The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by ModelFiesta Planning Committee officials to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability.
4. The following may be entered in the competition or put on display but can be presented only behind opaque screens or similar visual barriers (provided by the contestant) and only where visitors are provided with a fair description, in written format, of the contents of the models behind the screen. This screened presentation covers competitors and the general public, but no person younger than 18 will be admitted except in the presence of an adult responsible for the young person, subject to the provisions of governing local law:
 - a. Depictions of any nude human male or female figure, subject to the provisions of 5-1, above.
 - b. Models or dioramas of historic events (e.g., general dioramas or specific depictions of the result of the activities of the communist Cambodian Pol Pot regime, a Soviet Gulag, or a Nazi death camp) where the suffering of human beings, or the result of a pogrom, is depicted. Where the theme, content or subject matter of presentations is graphic or would violate any provisions cited above, then the presentation is prohibited in any setting.

VI. Oversized or Special Display Requirements

1. Modelers entering pieces that exceed thirty inches in width, length or height, or that require special power support or special placement, must notify the ModelFiesta Chief Judge at least one month in advance of the event. The limited space for the Contest requires pre-planning for such entries. Failure to provide advanced notification for such models could result in them being unable to be displayed, compete, or not having adequate special support (e.g., power hook-up).

VII. Contest Duration

1. Exhibitors are encouraged to leave their models in the display room until the judging is completed, and attendees have had the maximum opportunity to view them. Models removed from the contest tables prior to the completion of judging are disqualified from further consideration for higher tier awards. Entrants who remove their models and leave before the show's end will need to contact the IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron Event Chairman, and pre-pay to have any awards they leave behind shipped to them.

VIII. Contest Definitions and Judging

1. Models will be judged for skill in construction and finish. Realism, scope of effort and authenticity will be used as criteria for determining final ranking for similar model subjects. Additional criteria are considered for special categories such as Dioramas, Collections, Conversions, and Triathlon.
2. Models are judged as three-dimensional objects and are examined in all aspects. Entries will be handled by judges with due care, if necessary, for proper judging. Judges will not physically pick up models to examine undersides but may manipulate or rotate them for a complete examination. Contestants are encouraged to display their entries on simple bases to facilitate such manipulation, as allowed below. Models not attached to bases should be clearly noted on the entry form.
3. Models in the Contest Room may be covered by cases while on public display, but such cases must be removed from models for judging. Judges will not remove cases from models unless the modeler has given explicit, written approval in advance. Models in cases will not be judged, except in instances where removal of a case could cause damage, and in the judgment of the respective Head Judge, the case will not impede effective judging; in such instances, a display case may be left on during judging. Such an arrangement must be made prior to judging and noted in writing on the entry form by the Head Judge. The Head Judge will have the final and exclusive authority to allow or deny this exception.

IX. Composition

1. The use of plastic is encouraged; however, (with the exception of OOB-LK categories) the use of other modeling materials is allowed as the builder sees fit. 3D-printed models may be entered in the appropriate standard-subject Class. 3D kits, conversion sets, and detail parts are considered the

same as other aftermarket products - be they plastic, resin, or metal. Judging standards of finish, attention to detail, and authenticity will be the same, regardless of the materials used.

X. Scratch-Built, Vacuum-formed or Major Conversion Models

1. ModelFiesta does not provide a separate category for scratch-built, vacuum formed or conversion entries. All models are judged in the appropriate category most closely matching the model subject.

XI. Aircraft

1. Aircraft categories are generally defined by scale and engine type. Judges will determine appropriate splits depending on the quality and quantity of entries in each category.
2. **Missiles:** Winged 'airplane-type' missiles will generally be entered in an Aircraft category. When a missile's transport vehicle or launcher is the predominant portion of the system (e.g., Patriot, SCUD), the model will be entered in the appropriate Military Vehicle category. Military launch vehicles (e.g., V-2, ICBM, IRBM), civilian launch vehicles (e.g., Scout, Saturn), and military launch vehicles modified for civil missions (e.g., Atlas/Agena, Jupiter C) will be entered in the Real Spacecraft category.
3. **Jets:** Jet Aircraft categories include manned, rocket-powered aircraft such as the Me-163, X-1, X-15, X-24, etc. Aircraft with turbo-prop jet engines shall be entered in the appropriate prop-engine category.
4. **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs):** UAVs are to be entered in the category appropriate to scale and engine type.
5. Elevated Aircraft Entries (Aircraft on a Pole): ModelFiesta does not provide a separate "In Flight" category. Aircraft in such configurations shall be entered in the appropriate category for engine and scale.

XII. Bases

1. Bases are encouraged for easier manipulation by judges to view all aspects of the entry and will be allowed in all categories. However, bases will not be considered in the judging, except in the Vignette/Diorama Categories.
2. A base may be a piece of undecorated wood, plastic or glass or it may simulate the natural surface on which the prototype would be found. However, nothing other than that basic surface may be used.

3. Aircraft and military vehicles may rest on simulated ground or paving, and aircraft that need beaching gear or dollies may be so equipped. Ships may be displayed in water (no dry docks).
4. The base must not be the predominant feature of the entry and must be of a size proportionate to the model.
5. The Chief Judge and Head Class Judges reserve the right to exclude oversize bases.
6. The model may include primary crew figures (see rules below for limits for Military Vehicles). The addition of any other figures or equipment outside or not attached to the model (e.g., support equipment, shell splashes, or buildings) will make the model a Vignette or Diorama, which must then be entered in the proper Diorama category. So, if you want to compete in a single-subject category, don't make a Vignette to see how far you can push the boundary!

XIII. Bases – Specific to Military Vehicles and Aircraft

1. Any MV or Aircraft model that is displayed on a base may include 'basic' groundwork, i.e.: concrete, tarmac, dirt, grass, roadway, a low stone wall, etc. The model itself will be judged according to the rules. The base and/or any figures will not be judged. Any model entered into an Aircraft or MV category that is displayed upon a base, permanently or temporarily, may have no more than two (2) figures in total and the figure(s) must be a crew member; only one (1) figure may be affixed to the base off the vehicle; a second figure must be affixed to or within the vehicle model. If there are more than two figures total, the entry will be defined as a Diorama, and must be transferred to the appropriate Category for judging there.
2. Multi or Towed Vehicles – Military Vehicles. Any grouping of two (2) or three (3) vehicles (no more), attached to each other. For example: any towed artillery and prime mover; an artillery piece with a limber; a tank trans-porter/trailer, with or without a load vehicle; or any other combination of two or three vehicles that are attached to each other. The attachment system can be a ball & hitch, fifth wheel, whiffletree, or tow chain/cables specifically designed for such purpose. The model(s) may be displayed on a base with or without basic groundwork, either temporarily or permanently affixed to such a base. Like other MV model entries, if the multi-vehicle display has more than two (2) figures will be defined as a Diorama and must be transferred to the appropriate Diorama Category for judging there.

XIV. Figures

1. Figures Class entries will not be classified as Vignettes or Dioramas by the inclusion of bases and/or accessories supplied in the original figure kit.
2. Mecha subjects (Category 715): Powered sci-fi robots, armor or machines, with limbed features or humanoid construct. Such models may contain or display an operator figure as long as it is not the dominant part of the model; mechanical features should predominate. Otherwise, an entry will go in the appropriate Figures category.
3. Anime Subjects (Category 720): Animated characters unique to the Japanese genre. Animated cartoon characters (i.e.: Popeye, Felix the Cat, Disney cartoon characters, etc.) shall be entered in Figure Category 620 or 625.
4. Gundam subjects (Category 725): Only characters and vehicles from the Gundam media multiverse.

XV. Dioramas

1. Dioramas are story-centric, specifically built to tell a story or convey a message. Storyline will be considered equally to construction and finish of the individual subjects, figures, and other presentation components; a technically well-done diorama with a weak story line will be at a disadvantage to one with a strong storyline.
2. IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron makes no separate categories for Vignettes, except in the Figures Class, where the figure(s) is/are the dominant subject. Other entries that would be entered in a Vignette category in other, larger events should be entered in the appropriate Diorama category (815 or 820).
3. A previous ModelFiesta contest winner may be used as part of a diorama, so long as it is not the primary focus of the diorama.

XVI. Judges

1. The Chief Judge will brief all judges on the rules before the contest judging. Junior members may not serve as voting judges but may be assigned to judging teams as participating observers.
2. Judges may not judge a category in which they are entered. Contest entrants may not attempt to solicit judges to select their entries to receive any awards, at any time during ModelFiesta.
3. Judging teams will be composed of multiple judges, preferably representing different clubs or chapters. Strict impartiality will be observed, and violators will be removed from judges' lists for future ModelFiesta. Any judge disqualified for cause may not assume any role related to the contest at future ModelFiesta events and may not be present in the room during the judging for any reason. This will include, but not be limited to, administrative, scoring, photographic and other support responsibilities. Flagrant violations of this and the previous rule by any IPMS/USA member may be referred to the IPMS/USA Executive Board for disciplinary action at the discretion of the Chief Judge and the ModelFiesta Planning Committee.
4. Judges will be provided with a special ribbon or other device to allow their easy identification during the event. The Chief Judge and Class Head Judges will monitor the contest room prior to judging to ensure models are in the proper categories for judging. They will also ask contestants to move models to appropriate categories or to accomplish the "splits" required in the larger categories prior to the start of judging.
5. All Judges' Decisions Are Final. Contest registrars will help determine proper entry categories for models during registration, but final category placement is at the discretion of contest judges. Judges may move models or split categories during final judging.
6. ModelFiesta Rules: The ModelFiesta 43 Planning Committee is solely responsible for the creation, modification, addition and deletion of all Rules and Categories for the ModelFiesta Contest, which are largely based on the 2022 IPMS/USA National Contest Rules. Any exceptions or clarifications sought by any participant must be submitted for consideration by the ModelFiesta 43 Planning Committee not later than 120 calendar days before the event. IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron will provide a sufficient number of trophy packages to account for all categories and preplanned splits.

7. **No liability: No liability for loss or damage to contest entries is implied or assumed by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron, the event venue, or the contest judges.**
8. Waivers: The Chief Judge may waive any rule if circumstances warrant.

XVII. Special Categories

1. Out of Box - Legacy Kits Only

- i. The ModelFiesta 43 Contest will include separate categories in selected Classes for Out of Box – Legacy Kit entries. An exception to this is the Junior Class; since the number of Junior entries are relatively low, most Junior entries are regularly built as OOB.
- ii. The model builder should note that entering a model in any OOB-LK category is their choice. Models in these categories have limitations applied to them that are not applied to entries in the rest of the categories.
- iii. Limit yourself to using only those components supplied by the kit makers of older/simpler/less-expensive kits, and yet work to get the best result regardless of any shortcomings in the base kit, such as may exist with its detailing or accuracy. “Modern” multi-media kits are not allowed to compete in these categories. Older kits that contain metal axles or rubber/vinyl wheels, tracks, etc. are acceptable.
- iv. Knowing that basic modeling skills are the only difference-maker; not what variety of detailing materials is supplied by the kit manufacturer, nor by after-market detailing sets, nor by using more advanced re-building or scratch-building skills.
- v. Knowing that basic modeling skills are the only difference-maker; not what variety of detailing materials is supplied by the kit manufacturer, nor by after-market detailing sets, nor by using more advanced re-building or scratch-building skills.
 - a. **Aircraft** models may not have antennas, rigging wires, or paper or foil seatbelts, nor can they be added unless they’re included as plastic kit parts and noted in kit instructions.
 - b. **Automotive** models aren’t required to have seatbelts, radio antennas, battery cables, spark-

- plug wires, or fan belts, nor can they be added unless they're included as plastic kit parts and noted in kit instructions.
- c. **Military Vehicle** models aren't required to have closed sponsons, separate tow cables, or radio aerials, nor can they be added unless they're included as a plastic kit part and noted in kit instructions.
 - d. **Ship** models aren't required to have railings, radar antennas, or rigging, nor can they be added unless they're included or noted in kit instructions.
- vi. Class Head Judges and the Chief Judge will have final say as to what is permitted for any OOB-LK entries within their Classes.
 - vii. Models that meet the OOB-LK criteria (outlined below) may be entered in the OOB-LK categories, but they are not required to be entered there. Modelers may, therefore, choose to place their model in a standard category, where it will be judged against the other entries with no reference to it being an OOB-LK.

2. **Out of Box - Legacy Kit Outlines**

- i. General Guidelines: The ModelFiesta 43 Contest will include separate categories in selected Classes for Out of Box – Legacy Kit entries. An exception to this is the Junior Class; since the number of Junior entries are relatively low, most Junior entries are regularly built as OOB.
- ii. **Kits.** Any commercially available kit may be used as long as the kit is constructed as a predominantly single-medium product. It can consist of an all-polystyrene kit, an all-resin kit, an all-photoetch kit, or any other 'single' material. Kits with various other materials included (i.e.: cast-resin or 3D-resin detailing accessories, etched-metal detailing frets, turned-metal detailing parts, and other similar detailing parts) will not be permitted. Examples of other material parts that will be allowed are: kit-supplied vacuum-formed windscreens/canopies/windows for Aircraft and Automotive models; kit-supplied rubber/vinyl tires and poly-caps to retain wheels and/or parts attached to pylons; metal

gearboxes and/or metal-rod axles for Armor and Automotive models.

- iii. **Kit parts** that are necessary to complete and support the overall structure of the completed model are allowed. However, other kit parts that provide enhanced surface-detailing to a completed model will not be allowed for an OOB-LK entry.
- iv. **Construction.** The modeler may fill seams and gaps; sand off rivets; drill out gun ports, exhaust pipes, or other appropriate openings; thin to-scale such parts as trailing edges, flaps, and doors; re-scribe panel lines lost in construction, and add rigging and antennas, if shown on the kit's instructions. No major reconstruction or modifications will be allowed for OOB-LK entries.
- v. **Decals.** Decals other than those included with the kit may be used. They may be used to replace old/damaged/missing kit decals. They may also be used to provide alternative insignia and markings to those originally provided with a kit. However, their use for OOB-LK entries is restricted to 2-dimensional waterslide or dry-transfer products. 3-dimensional products such as 3D-printed or resin-dot printed instrument panels, access panels, fasteners, bolts, rivets, stitching, etc., are commercially offered as after-market detailing products, and so fall outside of the intended/accepted usage as decals for OOB-LK entries.
- vi. **Finish.** All painting/finishing techniques are allowed. Insignia, markings, and instrument panels may be hand-painted instead of using decals. Weathering is permitted.
- vii. **Exclusions.** It is not permitted to vacuum-form, manufacture, or replace any part, or substitute parts from another kit; cut or separate canopies, surfaces, hatches, doors, etc. (no major surgery); combine a standard kit with a conversion kit; add anything other than specified on the instruction sheet.
- viii. **Instruction Sheets.** Modelers must attach at least the first page of the kit instruction sheet to the entry form and have the rest of the instruction sheet accessible to the judges for review during judging (preferably, directly under the table from the model). Models entered without an attached kit instruction sheet will be disqualified and not be judged, as

judges cannot verify if the builder used only kit-supplied parts.

3. Hypothetical Subjects

- i. Models that do not represent a factual, physical prototype will be entered in the appropriate category most closely matching in the Class. For example, a Luft-46 drawing board concept or similar aircraft would be entered in the appropriate Aircraft category. Alternatively, such subjects may be entered in the Miscellaneous Mechanical category (830).

4. Triple Play (Category 810)

- i. Three models of different classes grouped and displayed as a single entry. The models will be judged as a group, with overall quality determining placement. Credit will be given for diversity of entries. Entries must be composed of three models selected from three of the following Classes: I, II, III, IV, V, VI. Models constituting a Triple Play entry may not, simultaneously, be competing in other parts of the contest. No more than one previous winner (as defined above) may be included in a triple play entry. Models comprising a winning Triple Play entry may subsequently be entered individually if they were not themselves previous winners.

5. Collections Category /Category 805)

- i. A Collection is any group of five or more closely related items. Past ModelFiesta Contest winning models may be included as part of a collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person. The closeness of the relationship within the collection is a significant factor in judging. For example, a collection based on variants of a single airframe is a tighter relationship than one of different aircraft operated by a unit. No more than 40% of any collection entry may be comprised of previous winners (as defined above). Models comprising a winning Collection may subsequently be entered as individual entries if they were not themselves previous winners.

6. IPMS Chapter/Club or Group Entries

- i. ModelFiesta does not provide for a separate category for club or group entries due to lack of interest in recent years. Clubs or groups that wish to enter a group build collection

may do so in the appropriate Miscellaneous category (830 or 835), where it will compete against the other entries.

7. Display Only Entries

- i. Due to space limitations imposed by the venue for IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron's event in 2023 and 2024, "Display Only" may not be available. Space will again be made available for display only, beginning with the 2025 ModelFiesta event.

XVIII. Awards

1. No monetary value. No awards associated with placement in the contest will have any intrinsic monetary value beyond the cost of their materials and production. Monetary awards, certificates and scholarships tied to placement in the contest are expressly prohibited
2. No Sweeps. First, Second, and Third place awards will be given in each category. Individual contestants are eligible for only one award per category entered, that is, no category "sweeps" are allowed, even if a category has only three entries, but only one or two entrants.

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1. No monetary value. No awards associated with placement in the contest will have any intrinsic monetary value beyond the cost of their materials and production. Monetary awards, certificates and scholarships tied to placement in the contest are expressly prohibited.
2. No Sweeps. First, Second, and Third place awards will be given in each category. Individual contestants are eligible for only one award per category entered, that is, no category "sweeps" are allowed, even if a category has only three entries, but only one or two entrants.
3. **Theme Award: BIG Scales, BIG Models.**
4. **Individually Sponsored Awards:**
 - i. The Tamiya Award (Best model from a Tamiya kit)
 - ii. The In Cinere Award ("From the ashes"; excellent build from a terrible kit. This year the award is limited to aircraft subjects)
 - iii. The United States Air Force Award: 1947 – Present
 - iv. The Korean War Aircraft Award

5. Individuals, manufacturers, organizations, and interest groups may present other awards. Any five (5) such awards may be announced at the ModelFiesta awards ceremony but must be predicated by paid sponsorship of at least one regular category awards package and must be submitted to the ModelFiesta Planning Committee by October 1st to be included in event literature and digital media.
6. The screening/selection for these awards is not accomplished by ModelFiesta judging teams; they are selected by the sponsors' selected teams. As such, the awards shall not contain the word "Best" in the name of the award. They will be chosen while the contest room is open to normal viewing, and the awards may be presented prior to the awards ceremony. For any ISA awards presented during the awards ceremony, descriptive preambles by the sponsor are limited to thirty seconds.
7. **Best Awards:** The following Best of awards will be presented at ModelFiesta 43:
 - i. Best Young Modeler
 - ii. Best Aircraft)
 - iii. Best Military Vehicle
 - iv. Best Automotive
 - v. Best Ship
 - vi. Best Figure
 - vii. Best Science Fiction
 - viii. Best Miscellaneous

Best of Show / Alamo Squadron Memorial Trophy