

CHOOSING YOUR FIRST MODEL 1.1

So you want to start model making, great idea, but where do you begin? This quick guide will help you get started. I know you really want to make a 1/32 night-fighter but start with something simple first, to learn the basics, so you don't get frustrated.

1. SCALE

Models come in a wide range of scales. Scale is how big a model is as a fraction of the real thing. So a 1/72 scale aircraft model is 72 times smaller than the original subject. It generally follows that the bigger the number the smaller the model is going to be.

There are standard scales for various types of subject –

- AIRCRAFT – 1/144, 1/72, 1/48, 1/32, 1/24. The bigger the scale the bigger more complex and more expensive the model is. We recommend starting with 1/72 where you will find a huge selection to choose from.
- CARS – 1/43, 1/24, 1/12. The standard scale for car models is 1/24.
- TANKS - 1/48, 1/35, 1/16. The standard size here is 1/35 with a huge selection of vehicles and figures to choose from.
- SHIPS - 1/2500, 1/1250, 1/350. These vary a lot and are super fiddly at any scale. As such they're not recommended as a first model.
- SCI-FI - These subjects are not to a fixed scale and often just made to a convenient scale to make a decent sized model.

2. SUBJECT

Once you have an idea of what type of model you want to build you need to pick your subject. Don't get carried away here and buy something really complicated. You will get frustrated and give up. Start with something basic like a Spitfire, road car, or Sherman tank. That way you won't take on any of the scary aspects of model making that we'll deal with later.

3. SIZE

Start with a small kit to get a feel for what to expect from a model. You will learn a lot very quickly. You will make mistakes but will be able to overcome them without it costing a fortune. Enjoy your model and you will create something you can be proud of.

4. SUPPLIER

There's a lot of suppliers out there. Here's a summary of the most widely available and what to expect -
AIRFIX - Avoid the starter kits that come with paint and glue. Avoid the vintage kits as these are very old mouldings and often frustrating to build. Anything else – pretty good.

REVELL - Very variable in quality. They often have fitment issues. Best after you have a few models under your belt.

TAMIYA - Excellent models that fit together well. Highly recommended.

5. SOURCE

You can easily buy any model you like online, but we recommend taking a visit to your local model shop and having a chat where you will get great help and advice. They may be a little more expensive but it's important to support your local model shop as it's a great place to see the models up close before you buy.