

A MODERN DAY FAIRY-STORY

(Or, how I learned to Revell in my Matchbox life)

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For all you youngsters in the club, many years ago in a world of wonderful inexpensive model kits and accessories there existed a magnificent model making company called Matchbox [it had nothing to do with cigarettes, funny or otherwise.] They made plastic model kits. My favourite was and still is a 1/72nd scale Corvette. “Hey no, it is not repeat, not, a car, it is a ship.” I out grew toy cars many years ago, about 75 years ago. Because of reasons beyond my “ken” this fantastic company went a*** up.



Then the great revelation came about, the die`s or moulds were bought by another company called Revell. So now I am able to buy this model of models again. Revell have a slight problem as they advertised a “platinum edition kit.” Upon obtaining one of these I was disappointed, as upon perusal of same I felt very much let down, as it was not made from said metal but just plastic. Hiding my great disappointment I gave the model to my apprentice to make [you probably know him as Len.] As a model builder he makes a good semi driver but beggars can`t be choosers. All though I must admit he did a good job, which just goes to prove that even semi drivers can be taught another capability.



After I got it back I purchased a magazine which had an article about this model being motorised and having done this to a couple of previous ones I bit the bullet and did it again. As it

was made up as a static model it required a couple of small alterations done and therefore it took slightly more work to motorise and fit radio gear etc but no sweat. The model has been done and I am just troubleshooting and fine tuning her [yes even model ships are called she/her.] Miracles still happen I found no trouble in getting lead flashing [very thin lead sheet] to use as ballasting. One can cut the exact shaped piece to fit in any obscure sized area inside the hull very easily. When I did the last model I was told that the police in charge of health and safety had made it only available to tradies because of health issues. Another win against the politically correct police for us down trodden peasants.

My aquatic testing complex for model ships needed some major modifications to accommodate the model so as I could test that the model sat in the water at the correct draft when stationary or under different power settings either ahead or astern. A large piece of appropriately shaped foam rubber fitted into the bath tub with a slot cut into it held the model firmly under all conditions and under full power ahead or astern without the smallest movement of the model.



Currently I am working on motorizing the Revell model U-Boats [type V11 and type 1X] plus two more Corvette kits that I have so as I will be able to refight some of those famous Anti-U-Boat battles fought around those wartime convoys by the R.N. and R.C.N. during W.W.11.

A very interesting article in a model magazine has caught my attention at the moment a company called ARKMODELS have released a model of a type V11C U-Boat in 1/48th scale that can be r/c and motorized. They also showed on their website working model torpedoes in three scales starting in 1/72nd. The possibilities are interesting to say the least.