

HM Review

Chuck Davenport

Imagination Factory's Leonardo da Vinci Airscrew

When I first opened the Imagination Factory's Leonardo da Vinci Airscrew and Flying Machine kits, I was overwhelmed by the quality of the presentation. These models demonstrate a serious effort to deliver a model of the highest and most enduring quality, and the company has succeeded beyond any question. I was delighted with each and every one of the components. These are not merely models, but mini historical journeys that begin by delicately opening



Leonardo da Vinci Airscrew is now a remarkable kit offering from the Imagination Factory.

the waxed seal of the instruction "manuscripts." My subject this month is the Airscrew, and the larger, more complicated Flying Machine will be featured in a later review.

Artist/designer Robert Coyle's passion and reverence for his subject is perfectly scribed with an illuminating introduction into da Vinci's theories and design philosophy, precise instructions and evocative sepia-toned illustrations. I read through the instructions again and again, just for the sheer pleasure of doing so. The primary components of the model are made from cedar, die-cut mahogany plywood and fine linen cloth. As the subtle fragrance of cedar rises from the carefully packaged components, it gently suggests that the modeler has a very special project before him, indeed.

"The world needs da Vinci's brainchildren for a number of reasons," explains Imagination Factory president Kate McCrindle, "not the least of which is the sheer elegance of design. I also felt that there is no mentor more sorely needed in modern lives than the cross-systems 'renaissance' approach of da Vinci."

McCrindle's approach is evident in the design and construction sequence of the kit. The model is

extremely simple to construct. The capstan, base, and spiral support are mahogany plywood, which require only fine sanding and staining. The linen shroud is then cut and trimmed with a fresh #11 blade.

The kit's instructions recommend soaking the linen in tea to achieve an antique appearance, although I chose to apply the more elaborate decoration shown below. The Imagination Factory has also included a quality cedar base that requires no more than sanding, staining and finishing to complete. I was so taken with this kit, however, that I chose to custom build a motorized base to show it off from every one of its many magnificent angles.

I have seen just about every kind of kit offering in my 40-plus years of modeling, but few projects that invoke the sense of wonder and creative genius as da Vinci's Airscrew and Flying Machine. In terms of quality and presentation,

these Imagination Factory kits compare most favorably with the finest wood, linen and brass plank-on-frame sailing ship model kits. Take a close look at the Imagination Factory lineup and I think you will be as impressed as I am.

My review of the da Vinci Flying Machine model will appear very soon. This is a true model builder's project, and surely not an almost-ready-to-anything. Just one cursory glance at the instruction manual suggests that I will call upon my best modeling skills. I can't wait.

For more information about the Airscrew, the Flying Machine and other Leonardo da Vinci designs from the Imagination Factory, circle #304 on the Reader Service Card, see their ad on page 71, or telephone the Imagination Factory at 519-739-3295. HM



Chuck Davenport was very impressed with the Airscrew, and will also review the IF's Leonardo da Vinci Flying Machine in another issue of Hobby Merchandiser.