



Guidelines for entrants

Thank you for your interest

You may have decided already to enter some of your work or you may just be considering doing so. Either way, we hope these notes will be of assistance. Here are some reasons why we think you may like to enter:

- Participating adds real interest to being at the convention
- Entering motivates us to do our best modelling
- Entering also benchmarks our modelling against others
- Our entries provide interest, motivation and talking points for others at the convention
- Our achievements impress friends and family

Our pledge to you

We pledge to run the competition as fairly as we possibly can using the best judges chosen for their knowledge and experience.

We also pledge to follow the rules, a copy of which may be found here: www.nzamrc.org.nz

What we ask of you

Firstly, that you enter in the spirit of friendly competition. Secondly, that you do yourself a favour and make sure whatever you are entering is at its best, little things often do count.

Most of all we ask that you fill in the entry form as completely and honestly as you can (see page 5).

You will help yourself and us if you also provide supplementary information. More on this on page 4.

A competition timeline

1. Weeks, months or years out we start thinking about things we might enter (for a list of model categories and entry sections, see next page).
2. At least two weeks before the convention, we go on line to www.nzamrc.org.nz and fill in an entry form for each of our entries.
3. We also include some supplementary information (see pages 4 and 5).
4. On the first morning of the convention we locate the competition room. We hand in our entries and get a receipt.
5. By 6pm the next day the results are posted.
6. Entries that have received Special Awards, Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates have their certificates alongside them.
7. A short time later the competition room opens to everyone else.
8. Entrants who have won a Special Award have those presented at the Awards Dinner.
9. On the last day of the convention we present our receipts and collect our entries.

Recognition

All entries are eligible for a handsome Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate.

The top placings are also in line for one of the Associations' stylish stained timber trophies to keep.

Levels of awards

Platinum 95% or over
 Gold 85% and over
 Silver 70% and over
 Bronze 50% and over



Scale limits

Models up to 1/20th of full size and running on 45mm gauge track are permitted

Entry sections

There are four entry sections catering for a wide range of modelling. These are named:

- **Scratchbuilt,**
- **Kit Built / Modified Ready-to-Run,**
- **Computer Assisted**
- **Finish only**

Here are some details

Scratchbuilt:

This is the most self explanatory of the sections. As the name implies, this section is for models mostly built from scratch using basic materials from the Exempted list (see page 6).

These entries qualify for extra marks under the Scratchbuilt factor, but there can be a catch, see below.

Kit Built/Modified RTR:

This section is generally for models built from one or more kitsets, and for making modifications to off-the-shelf models (see Definitions page 6).

Making modifications and corrections can qualify for Scratchbuilt marks, it just depends on how much of the total modelling task (excluding kit assembly) was your own work, see below.

Computer Assisted:

So far as judging is concerned, entries in this section are treated no differently from equivalent Scratchbuilt or Kit Built/Modified RTR entries.

Entrants opting for this section are in the running for one of the Special Awards reserved for such entries. They must of course be computer assisted.

Finish Only:

The Finish Only section provides a worthwhile opportunity to enter whether you built the item you are entering or not, so long as you did a significant amount of finishing work on it, such as painting, decaling, weathering or application of other methods and techniques to create a realistic looking final effect. Judging focuses on how well your own stated aim has been achieved.

Model categories

Models may be entered in one of the following categories:

- **Locomotives**, etc, rod equipped.
- **Locomotives**, railcars, multiple units, trams, etc., other than rod equipped.
- **Passenger cars** and similar, including baggage cars, guard's vans, and non revenue versions.
- **Freight rolling stock**, including cabooses, brake vans and non revenue versions. May include wagon loads.
- **Trains** consisting of at least one power unit and a minimum of two trailing vehicles.
- **Rail-mounted plant** and equipment, includes rail cranes, jiggers, ballast tampers, snow ploughs, hi-rail, shunter's wagons, etc.
- **Permanent Way:** Trackwork, points, crossings, slips, etc, and associated equipment
- **Signals** and associated lineside plant and equipment.
- **Road vehicles** pertaining to railways, includes lorries, earthmoving, container-handling, or farm machinery; horse-drawn vehicles, road cranes, flat-decks, local buses, motorcars, cycles, motorcycles, etc.
- **Bridges viaducts**, turntables, etc. Any incidental scenery will not be judged.
- **Structures** of all kinds other than bridges. Any incidental scenery will not be judged.
- **Scenes:** Composite models forming a scene or diorama.
- **Micro Scenes:** Composite models forming a micro scene up to 75mm x 75mm footprint

Footnotes:

- Entries over 1.5 metres long require Competition Committee approval prior to the convention to ensure space is available.
- Advice on the most appropriate entry category is available from the Competition Committee at any time, including at the point when the entry is being handed over.
- The principle behind the various categories is to group similar forms of modelling together.

Contact us here: www.nzamrc.org.nz

When is a bonus is not a bonus?

Answer: Sometimes when it's marks for the Scratchbuilt Factor.

Why is it this?

It's just the way averages work.

Let's say the marks for the main four factors are, 84, 44, 92, and 64, total 284, that's an average of $284 / 4 = 71$.

Let's also say the marks for the Scratchbuilt factor are, say, 60, the total is now $284 + 60 = 344$, and the average $344 / 5 = 68.8$.

The lower that fifth mark goes compared with the original average the more the final average is reduced.

Effect on Scratchbuilt entries

So although your model is basically scratchbuilt, if you used a large number of parts made by others, that could mean a lower Scratchbuilt mark and you could be best to enter as Kit Built — which is an option.

Effect on Kit Built/RTR entries

Even though you may think of your entry as kit based, if things you made yourself amount to more than half of the completed entry you may like to consider entering in the Scratchbuilt section — but only if you are sure. A low Scratchbuilt mark could make you worse off.

You're welcome to seek advice from a Committee member on this.

How the judging works. You build it, we take it apart (not literally of course)

All entries are judged on four factors:



- **Skill/Workmanship**

Like the words say, the judges are looking at how well the entry might have been done. Things like choice of materials, tools and other processes, and how well these have been used.

They will be thinking about how well everything fits, whether uprights are upright, and so on.

Kit Built entries will be judged on how well the kit has been put together, as well as any additional work in making modifications, combining kits, etc.

Modified RTR entries will of course be judged only on the quality of the modifications and any parts made from scratch.

- **Conformity/Fidelity**

Conformity is judged on accuracy to the prototype. There's a basic mark for the entry being easily recognisable as what it is supposed to be. Further marks are then awarded for some of the more easily seen details, and still more for particular attention to finer details.

Fidelity is assessed rather than Conformity for Kit Built/Modified RTR entries so as to enable the judges to overlook faults in the kits or RTR. They will however pay attention to any attempts to correct these and to the accuracy of any modifications.

- **Complexity/Difficulty**

This factor has a very different approach. The intention here is to recognise the extra challenges in complex and difficult entries compared with simpler ones, so the judges are looking at that aspect and allotting marks accordingly.

- **Finish**

Finish means just what it says, with the judges looking at the quality of the paintwork and any other things done to create the look being aimed for. This may cover decaling, weathering of various kinds, all with the aim of achieving a realistic final effect.

The judge's task is to assess how well the desired effect described on the entry form has been achieved. If that is not clear the judges will make their own call.

Two additional factors

- **Scratchbuilding**

This factor is somewhat similar to the Conformity factor in that it recognises the ultimate in the modelling art with extra marks for working only with basic parts and materials. Judges look purely at how much is built from scratch.

- **Runability**

Motorised entries are expected to run well so the judges look for smooth slow starts and a steady run up to full speed.

Special Awards

These awards are all available to qualifying entries. From past experience it's unlikely that more than a dozen or so will be awarded. Could you rise to that challenge?

Open to all entries **Supreme Awards**

Best model in the competition.
Best in Skill factor

For entries in the **Scratchbuilt Section**

Best Model of a New Zealand Prototype.
Best model of an American prototype
Best Model of a British prototype.
Best model of a European prototype.
Best Model of a rest of the world prototype.
Best entry by a modeller under 18.
Best < 1:100 model
Best 1:87 / 1:64 model.
Best > 1:64 model



For entries in the **Computer Assisted Section**

Best model of a New Zealand prototype
Best model of an American prototype.
Best model of a British prototype.
Best model of a European prototype.
Best model of a rest of the world prototype.
Best entry by a modeller under 18.
Best < 1:100 model
Best 1:87 / 1:64 model
Best > 1:64 model

For entries in the **Finish Only Section**

Best model of a New Zealand Prototype.
Best model of an American prototype
Best model of a British prototype.
Best model of a European prototype
Best model of rest of the world prototype
Best entry by a modeller under 18

For entries in the **Kit Built / Modified Ready-to-Run Section**

Best model of a New Zealand prototype.
Best model of an American prototype.
Best model of a British prototype.
Best model of a European prototype.
Best model of a rest of the world prototype.
Best entry by a modeller under 18.
Best < 1:100 model
Best 1:87 / 1:64 model
Best > 1:64 model

Popular vote

People's choice award

Thinking of entering? Give yourself the best chance

1. Take your time over the entry form and give clear and complete answers to each question. This helps the administrators as well as the judges. False information helps no-one and may result in disqualification.
2. Have your entries looking their best
3. It's obvious to present whatever it is in its best possible condition. If powered, take the opportunity to use the test track.
4. Present well. Except for the scenic categories, the judges must ignore any incidental scenery, but a short length of track or some simple scenic effects do make for a more attractive presentation.

Help the judges to help you

Be sure to give complete answers on the entry form (see next page).

Remember also that it greatly assists the judges to have some relevant supplementary information — just remember to keep it simple and focused.

Things to consider

- Draw attention to anything that's hard to see.
- What about some brief notes, and photos with circles and arrows?
- A scale plan will usually be helpful.
- Magazine articles are rarely useful (too many words, too much irrelevant detail), but maybe some clippings could be helpful?

If you upload your supplementary information in digital form via the place the on entry form (which is preferred), you won't need to also provide a paper copy.

(Clear phone photos can be OK to upload.)

If not able to submit your information digitally you will need to provide it on paper with your entry.

The entry form and entering

The entry form must be completed on line. Follow the link on the Association website: www.nzamrc.org.nz
The snippets below provide only a sample of what the complete form actually covers.

While it's quite long, with only a few exceptions it is mostly tick boxes.

As well as those there several places where you can type. For example after each of the seven checklists there's a place to add things that are not listed, such as other materials or parts, other methods, etc.

As you would expect, there's also a place to describe the entry and its main features.

We ask for an idea of how much time/work went into the entry, and under the Conformity/Fidelity factor we ask

you to draw attention to any special features. Importantly, we ask the type of finish effect aimed for.

All this probably sounds more daunting than it actually is. And the fact that the form can be filled in at leisure at home should also help.

Why do we need such comprehensive information? To help the judges make the best possible decisions.

Why do we encourage early entry (at least two weeks before the convention starts)? For the same reason — to allow the judges time to become really familiar with the background to your entry.

Are any late entries allowed? Yes, but there will be a \$20 late entry fee. So do us both a favour and enter as soon as you can.

One other thing, and it's quite important. There's a place in the form to upload supporting information. This can cover details to do with the prototype, how certain things were done or anything at all that might assist the judges to assess your work.

You should definitely include if you possibly can, a photo or two illustrating the type of finish you were aiming to achieve.

But, and there's always a but. Please keep it brief, two A4 sides at most. The judges just don't have time to absorb more.

File formats

The form people tell us that only pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, csv, txt, rtf, html, zip, mp3, wma, mpg, flv, avi, jpg, jpeg, png, and gif files are allowed.

NZAMRC Model Competition Entry Form

Entrant 1 name

Entry category

- Locomotives, etc, with rods
- Locomotives, railcars, multiple units, trams, etc, no rods.
- Passenger cars and similar including baggage cars, guard's vans, and non revenue versions
- Freight rolling stock, including cabooses, brake vans and non revenue versions. May include wagon loads.
- Trains consisting of at least one power unit and a minimum of two trailing vehicles.
- Rail mounted plant and equipment, includes rail cranes, jiggers, ballast tampers, snow plows, hi-rail, shunter's wagons, etc.
- Permanent wav: Trackwork, points, crossings, slips, etc. and associated equipment.

What finishing methods/materials did you use?

- Emery paper/cloth, etc
- Fibreglass eraser
- Abrasive blasting
- Etch prime
- Brush paint
- Airbrush paint
- Masking tape
- Masking fluid
- Apply decals
- Electroplating
- Matt coating
- Airbrush weathering
- Weathering washes
- Dry brushing
- Weathering powders
- Seal coat
- Other, please describe below

List any other finishing methods/materials here

Skill/Workmanship Factor

All entry sections except Finish Only

Tell us what basic materials and tools you used

- Used brass (all basic forms)
- Used nickel silver (all basic forms)
- Used plastic (all basic forms)
- Used wood (sheet, strip, etc.)
- Used cardboard and/or paper

Please check your entry

Check the entry carefully to ensure you have included enough information for the Judges. They are not mind readers.

When you are happy please press **Submit**

A copy will be returned to the email you provided and also to petrosnz15@gmail.com

Submit

You don't have to be registered to submit an entry form but you will have to be registered to have your entry accepted.

The entry form is long but it's very easy to scroll down while filling it in and to scroll back up to check or change anything. These snippets give an idea of what it looks like.

Runability test equipment

Our DC controller is a simple transistorised design delivering 1 amp at 12 volts.

Our test track is a straight and level 2.4 metres.

It has 9mm, 16.5mm and 32mm gauge tracks wired for 2-rail operation.

We use a DCC system when testing DCC equipped models. If you prefer you may supply your own system.

For other gauges, or for third rail pick-up, you must supply your own track, and if you wish, your own controller.

Exempted parts and materials:

The following, and any essentially similar items, are exempted, which means they may be used in Scratchbuilt entries and making modifications to Kit Built/Modified RTR entries with no loss of marks.

- **Basic materials** such as, plastic, metal or wood sheet, bar, strip, tube, angle, and other similar materials and sections including rail.
- **Wheels, couplers and hooks.**
- **Drive train parts**, including electric motors, gears and gearboxes, universal joints, chain and sprockets.
- **Metal or resin parts** made by third party services from the entrant's own masters, patterns or computer assisted designs. Examples include lost wax castings, whitemetal castings, resin castings, 3D prints, 2D etched metal and laser cut parts, CNC machined parts, etc.

(2D means computer aided design (CAD) in two dimensions, 3D means computer aided design (CAD) in three dimensions, CNC means computer numerical control.)

In case of doubt as to whether something is exempt, rulings may be obtained from the Competition Committee, preferably prior to the convention. Any such decisions are based on the above examples.

Other definitions

In the rules governing these competitions:

- **American** means all of North America including Mexico and Canada.
- **British** means the British Isles and Ireland.
- **European** means continental Europe, which excludes the British Isles and Ireland.
- **Judging factors** means those independent factors (Skill, Complexity, Conformity, Finish, Scratchbuilding and Runability) under which entries are awarded marks.
- **Power unit** means a locomotive, railcar, multiple unit, or tram.

Contact us

For clarification of anything use the Contact Us tab on the NZAMRC website:

www.nzamrc.org.nz

