

CHEAP SOURCE OF SHARP RAZOR BLADES

By George White

The other day Rex Hinson and I were engaged in an exchange of sea stories and other lies, when he brought up the subject of how his barber has become his source of extremely sharp razor blades.

Some of us old geezers remember the days when barbers used a straight razor to shave our necks (and if we had the money, to shave our beards — assuming we had a beard to shave!). Those razors were kept sharp by a leather “strop.” Well, along comes OSHA or some other officious government outfit and suddenly, straight razors were determined to be “unhealthy.” Goodness me!! After all these years perhaps that's what's wrong with me!!

Anyhow, your friendly barber (or in the case of some of us with hair, your hairdresser) now has to use a thing which looks like a straight razor but actually is a blade holder. The blades used are single edge, and as you can imagine, are extremely sharp. The good thing for us modelers is that they are only supposed to be used once. So—next time you are getting your luxurious locks trimmed and shaped, take a ziploc bag with you and ask your barber/hairdresser to save the razor blades that he/she has used instead of throwing them away.

After Rex told me about this I went to a local beauty supply store and learned that these blades come in several configurations. The desirable one of course is the one on the right with a cap on the top, as seen in the photo below. I found that these were more expensive to buy new than I wanted to pay, so I bought a box of 100 of the Derby brand blades which I use for tissue trimming. At \$8 for a box, that was reasonable. My friendly barber uses the one on the right with the cap on it, so I now have a source of free blades like that. The only downside of these blades is that the corners are bevelled to prevent your neck being nicked, but for normal balsa cutting that's not a problem, and it is incredibly sharp.

