

UNREAL WHEELS

by Antony Peters

From an old April 1995 issue of Scale Staffel, Tom Arnold,
Editor

I have a neat little idea I'd like to pass on to my fellow clubmates. Usually, I put real working wheels into wheel pants. I almost always regret it. Not only is it a lot of work, but it's hard to get the wire inside a really close fitting wheel pant and not have it chafe against the wheel. And, of course, a freely turning wheel is of no use outdoors—at least not with the size of wheel and type of grass that I am accustomed to. Because of this, I'm thinking of using non-functioning wheels on all my outdoor ships with wheel pants. What difference would it make? (Some of the best F/F Scale competitors in the FAC don't use free turning wheels on models with wheel pants. I won't mention any names.)

Indoors is something else again. Phony wheels could cause problems when the model lands. I worked out a solution with an all foam profile Gee Bee, where separate wheels were not a viable option. I simply glued a short length of mono-filament fishing line to the bottom of the false wheels. The slick monofilament allows the model to slide easily along the floor. This has worked out so well that I have retrofitted a number of other models in similar, fashion. Although the heavier models don't scoot along like the Gee Bee, they at least don't automatically trip over their own feet. The fish line runners are definitely worth the tiny investment in time and effort to install. I hope some of you skysters find this tip useful.