

## PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Publishing your photographs in FSM

Photography makes or breaks most FSM articles, and by far our most common reason for rejecting a story is poor photos.

We need color slides or glossy prints from 35mm or larger film. Black-and-white photos usually are acceptable if color is not available, such as with historical photos. How-to shots should be taken against a plain background.

In-progress, how-to-do-it photos are especially important for selling your article to FSM. We often have to reject excellent material simply because it does not include photos taken while the model was being built. Showing the model before painting tells a lot about what you did to it.

In addition to the main text, provide captions for all photos you submit. Provide these on a separate sheet, and please make sure you describe everything shown in each photo.

### Taking better model photos

If you haven't taken picture of models before, it can be a little tricky. Here are some tips from a September 1999 FSM article, "Great model photos are a snap," in case you're not pleased with your initial results. A free copy of the complete article is available from FSM on request.

**Depth of field.** The amount of depth of field (how much of the model is in focus) in a photo is controlled primarily by the lens aperture, or opening. The smaller the aperture, the more of your model from front to back will be sharp and in focus. Shoot your photos using the smallest aperture possible; it's usually *f*22 or *f*32 on most lenses.

**Use a tripod.** Small apertures mean long exposure times. Placing the camera on a tripod and using a cable release will keep camera motion from blurring your photos.

**Show the whole model.** Although close-up lenses make detail shots easier to take, don't forget to take a few shots showing the whole model!

**Background check.** A cluttered background draws attention away from your masterpiece. A poster-sized piece of colored art paper, curved up behind the model, makes a simple backdrop and helps concentrate the viewer's attention on the subject model.

**Choose the right film.** Use daylight-balanced film outdoors or with electronic flash; use tungsten-balanced film indoors with incandescent light. Films with "slow" speeds (ASA 50 or 100) produce sharper pictures than "fast" films (ASA 200, 400, or higher).

### Digital photography

We will accept digital images, as long as they meet the requirements described in our digital photo guidelines. A copy of the guidelines is available on our website at [www.finescale.com](http://www.finescale.com) or via standard mail upon request.

### Scale drawings and how-to illustrations

Please include sketches, patterns, templates, or plans with your article. Our artists can work from rough sketches. Draw the roughs as carefully and neatly as you can. If you can furnish reproduction-quality artwork your article will qualify for higher rates of payment. We often include arrows, circles, and words in photos to point out what's going on. You can suggest such pointers by attaching a tracing-paper flap to your photo and writing on the flap.

### Payment and copyright

FSM pays for feature articles (but not Gallery images) upon acceptance – when we accept a complete feature for publication, you get a check. We normally purchase all rights to the material. We pay based on the estimated length of the published story, and if we underestimate the space your article requires, we issue a second payment upon publication.

Our payment rates vary; they're highest when an author does a particularly good job, or when the material is especially timely or interesting. Articles that include camera-ready scale drawings or how-to artwork also qualify for special rates.

### Gallery, Portfolio, and Showcase stories

FSM pays on publication for photos published in the Reader Gallery, and buys all rights. Published Gallery photos will not be returned. Portfolio and Showcase articles feature photos of a modeler's completed work, and usually are two magazine pages long. FSM pays on acceptance for these staff-written articles, and will follow up via questionnaire to get information needed for the text.

#### Illustration checklist

- Photos (slides or prints)
- Negatives
- Captions for photos
- Photo and short biography of author
- Stamped, self-addressed package for return of materials (if you want)
- How-to sketches
- Cover letter