

Hello again group. Bob here. A couple of weeks ago I started a topic called Me and My Mammoet-great thread and response. On there I boasted that I was now going to convert a CC8800 to Mammoet-my first ever model customizing project. To date, all I had ever done was set them up and look at them. Then inspired by my growing collection and another post on this forum, I decided that for the very first model conversion should be on a \$1000 worth of model. For those who know me they would expect nothing less. Seems like I can't do anything half way, instead I usually go to extremes!

Here is the story of my progress on the conversion. I would like to thank the several forum members that I have been in contact with regarding this project and wish to thank them for their time and considerable help on this under tacking. I look forward to your and the rest of the forums input on my project.

I started the project on July 4th, a holiday that was bright and hot. The first thing I did was take the model out and figure out how it goes together and the how to take it apart. And I mean take it all the way apart. Its not hard but you need to take your time and enjoy the work. I highly recommend a set of precision tools, including gunsmith quality screwdriver set with all sizes, this way all blades and heads are perfectly mated. I spent over two hours going over every piece and writing questions down.

I then tackled my test project. I built a small spray booth with a drop cloth and an auxiliary workbench in my garage. I screwed some hooks into a piece of plywood and mounted that in the center of the booth. I then sanded a boom section using 3M 60 micron sand paper. I took extra time and used a Dremel tool to strip the ends where the sections join together, I figured that there didn't need to be extra layers of paint to make it too tight a fit. As with all finishing work, preparation is all the work. The actual painting only takes minutes, the sanding takes the real time. It took me about 25 minutes to sand the boom section-of course I took time and used various tools and sanding holders to get to all the parts of the boom in and out. To anyone ever doing a project-spend all the time preparing the work, it pays off very handsomely in the end.

I hung the sanded boom section from my hooks with 9" fishing leaders, through the joining holes. I primed the section with a white flat primer. It takes 9 minutes to dry and an hour to cure for paint. An hour later I put on the first of three light coats of red paint. It came out perfect!!! Smooth, clean and bright. I then set it out in the sun for 8 hours to "bake" on the finish. I brought it inside and is was perfect. The finish and color were shinny and hard. When compared to my other Mammoet models the color was right there!

Encouraged by my initial success and after talking to my forum friends, I have visited some airplane model shops and have bought some nice replacement hardware and some extra parts for experimenting. I found out a couple of more need to know things and I was ready to go.

As I am a methodical person I have decided that the easiest way to do this is start at the bottom tray and work my way to the top. So the journey begins. I hope you enjoy the post-I hope I didn't ramble on to much!