

The Hardcore Modeler's Manual: Volume One™

Chapter Six (Father Murphy's Laws of Modeling) pp. 113 -116

The Hardcore Modeler's Manual consulted Father Michael Monahan Murphy, Professor at St. John's University where he teaches classes in statistics, physics, and natural science. Known as "The Exorcist" on the modeling forums, his hobbies include garage kits and compiling useless statistics. Father Murphy is a self-proclaimed "garage kit enthusiast" who limits his kit collecting to models of religion-themed subjects.



Hardcore modelers are all too familiar with the sacrifices we make in pursuit of modeling perfection. Pinning and pegging and filing and filling, dry-brushing, washes, and glazes are among the techniques and materials within our control. But the devil is in the insurmountable and inexplicable forces of physics and nature, unexpected and divine forces beyond our control. Being aware of these forces can help modelers avoid afflictions frequently suffered by hobby enthusiasts e.g., ulcers, difficulties maintaining a steady job and personal relationships, obsessive compulsive disorders, computer repair bills, and irrepressible urges to beat the hell out of unsuspecting postal carriers and UPS delivery personnel.

The following axioms assist GK artists in planning and ensuring enjoyment of this hobby to the fullest. Anticipating and guarding against the potential pitfalls of building and displaying your GK collection is critical to enjoying this hobby. The saying, 'Everything that can go wrong will go wrong', is far too simplistic, but it has a significant basis in our reality.

I've learned through experience, sometimes painful experience, that we must prepare for this eventuality: Things fall apart!

So, "when the power of Christ compels you" to build and display your garage kits, you will find that planning, preparation, and acceptance of the inevitable are as invaluable as a good airbrush, a soft carpet, and rosary beads.

Father Murphy and part of his GK collection

Father Murphy's Laws

- A) The ease with which 2 model parts are super-glued together is directly proportional to the likelihood that the modeler will glue his/her fingers to one or both parts while holding said parts in place.
- B) The probability of a given model being knocked from a shelf and broken has a direct correlation to the modeler's fondness for the model, the difficulty of assembling the model, the expense of the model, and/or the difficulty of ever finding a replacement for the model.
- C) The complexity of a model kit is inversely proportional to the usefulness of the building instructions and assembly diagram for said kit.
 - C1) If the kit is a Japanese product, the need for clear instructions is inversely proportional to the likelihood that the diagram will be as difficult to understand as the Japanese language printed thereon.
- D) The second eye on a model kit is always the toughest to get right.

E) The importance of holding two freshly glued parts together is directly proportional to the likelihood that the telephone will ring while a modeler's spouse or significant other is in the bathroom.

E1) Approximately 57.3% of such telephone interruptions are for said indisposed spouse or significant other.

F) The ease with which a model is built is directly proportional to the likelihood of finding that the model was somehow incorrectly assembled.

G) The closer a GK artist is to completing a project, the more likely he/she will screw up a minor detail and then wish to God he/she had left it alone in the first place.

H) Never clean your toenails with a hobby knife.



One of many hobby-related injuries suffered by Father Murphy

I) The importance of using a particular shade or color of paint on a model is directly proportional to the impossibility of being able to find said color or shade in the local hobby store or being able to mix said color from any combination of colors available in the local hobby store.

K) The height from which a model falls from its shelf is inversely proportional to the hardness of the surface upon which it lands.

K1) The height from which a model falls from its shelf is inversely proportional to the durability of the model.

L) The longer the wait for delivery of a mail order kit, the more likely there will be a crucial part missing.

M) The less expensive a garage kit-related item is, the more hurdles the modeler will have to overcome to get his/her money back from the company that refuses to send said garage kit-related item (e.g., kits, magazines, videos, paint, airbrush parts)

N) Recasts suck!



Sci-Fi Movie Predator Vinyl Model Kit

Item condition: New

Quantity: More than 50 available

Price: US \$13.99 [Buy It Now](#)

Item location: Thailand

Seller info

Member ID [animehgk_com](#)

Feedback score of 8055 

99.3% positive feedback

[Save this seller](#)

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Item number 120666232880

Actual auction for a bootleg of GEometric Design, Inc.'s licensed vinyl Predator model kit

O) If it's been in the house for more than 48 hours, and the spouse hasn't noticed, it's been there forever.

P) Never use wedding china for a paint pallet.

Q) Never keep your superglue next to your eye drops.



Eye drops

Superglue

????????

R) Wash superglue off your hands BEFORE taking a leak.

S) The closer a modeler is to completing his/her work on a kit, the greater the odds of his/her airbrush making an unsightly paint splatter on a focal point of the model.

T) The more ambitious the modeler's plans are for modifying his/her model, the more likely he/she will mess it up and wish to hell that he/she had just built the thing straight out of the box as the GK producer intended.

T1) In 86.8 percent of such cases, the GK producer thought about said modification but determined that only a complete idiot would attempt such modification.

U) The sharper the hobby knife, the more sensitive the flesh that gets sliced.



Injured hand of careless modeler

U1) In 62% of cases, the location of the resulting injury is where it is most likely to interfere with simple everyday activities (e.g., cleaning the house, loading the dishwasher, writing checks to pay household bills).

U2) In 95% of the cases, a GK artist will not allow the injury to interfere with hobby-related activities (operating an airbrush, sanding off a seam line, writing checks to pay for new kits).



Hobby knife with surgically sharp blade

V) The likelihood that your model contest entry will arrive at the convention broken beyond immediate repair is directly proportional to the likelihood that it was the finest GK work you have ever done or that the kit would otherwise have won an award at said contest.



W) Before taking action you'll later regret, remember that in 88% of such cases, the box in which your kit was shipped was NOT crushed by the United States Postal Worker who delivered it.

X) Packages delivered by United Parcel Service personnel always arrive in *perfect shape*.



Y) The more eager you are to get delivery of a GK-related package, the more likely you will miss the delivery person who will leave a notice on your door directing that it could not be delivered without your signature on the notice and indicating that the only time for delivery tomorrow is when you can't possibly be home to sign the damned notice.

Z)



Check back soon for another exclusive excerpt from Lacey Mautler's ***The Hardcore Modeler's Manual: Volume One™***.