

You don't need a catwalk for these models

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When I walked into the basement of the Daisley home, I was taken back in time to when my older brother would spend hours making model ships and airplanes.

He loved everything about it; the tiny bits of moulded plastic, the glue, the paint and the fruits of his labour. He proudly displayed many of his models in his bedroom. No one was allowed to touch them; no one but him, that is. Sometimes he would play Second World War games in which he was the pilot of the aircraft and the captain of the ships under his command.

Inevitably these delicate creations would be damaged as a result of these fantasy fights he would put them through.

I have no idea what happened to them. Likely they were thrown in the trash or sold in a yard sale.

My husband tells me that when he was a boy he loved to build models too. He still has a couple of them, I think. The one that most impressed me was a spaceship model from the TV show Space 1999. It hung around in his home office for a few years until he discovered that there are people in this world who are willing to pay a lot of money for stuff like this. To heck with childhood sentimentality, I say. Where's the cash?

When I mentioned to him that I was speaking to some of the members of the **Capital Area Modellers Society**, he said he thought that building models was a great hobby and he recalled how much he enjoyed buying model kits and building them when he was a kid.

Our son, who will soon be eight, has never built a model before but I bet he would like it. He has a huge collection of LEGO Star Wars kits which he loves to assemble with his dad. These are incredibly overpriced for what they are. Tiny bits and pieces of plastic that are probably made for pennies but are sold sometimes for well over \$100.

The people who make models tell me that you can buy some model kits for as little as \$10 to \$20. That's affordable. There appears to be an endless variety of models available to choose from.

If you like science fiction, there are spaceships to build. If you are into military vehicles these come in model kits too. So do dragons, and miniature soldiers, cars, trucks, planes and so on and so on. It seems the time one can spend on this hobby is limitless too. Some do this for hours on end.

The best place to learn more about this in Fredericton, I am told, is at a Capital Area Modellers Society meeting. The club has a spring show that will feature kits and completed models.

For any kids who are interested in taking part, there are make-and-take model kits that simply snap together so they can take them home.

When I asked my son if he was interested in learning more about models as I was tucking him into bed last night, his eyes lit up. He loves the idea, he says, of building spaceships. I'd far rather see him engaged in building spaceships than watching them on a computer or TV screen.

He'd spend all of his time watching Star Wars movies and playing Star Wars LEGO Wii if we didn't place a time limit on the screen.

Building models is a hobby that requires one to focus on tiny details. It helps develop fine motor skills and enhances creativity and artistry. It also helps develop patience. All of these are wonderful things and I think Nicky would really enjoy himself while he is acquiring this skillset.

Men and women are into this hobby, but I think this is something I will leave for my husband and my son to enjoy.

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