



International Plastic Modelers' Society

2025 National Contest Categories

Final Revision

In general:

Specific scale for each Class is generally listed at the start of each Category. Unless otherwise specified, each Category includes model subjects of all eras, types, subjects, and scales.

Split Categories:

Categories may be split into two or more sub-categories. The use and naming of splits will be based on the number of entries and composition of the category at the contest and determined by the National Contest Committee. Named splits are listed below. All other splits will be defined at the contest. The estimated number of splits per Class are listed with the title of the class.

Awards Packages:

The total award packages (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards) will not exceed the sum of the categories, the estimated split counts listed herein, plus 17 additional splits. ***This comprises 208 listed categories and 17 additional splits, to be determined by the Chief Judge and Head Class Judges. For 2025, a maximum of 225 award packages may be presented.*** This count is exclusive of any additional overall and theme awards.

0. Juniors (18 categories and 1 anticipated split)

Pre-Teen includes entrants through 12 years old.

Teen includes entrants 13 through 17 years old.

There are no Out-of-Box categories in the Juniors Class.

Aircraft

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 10 | Pre-teen |
| 11 | Teen |

Military Vehicles

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 20 | Pre-teen |
| 21 | Teen |

Figures

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 30 | Pre-teen |
| 32 | Teen |

Ships

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 40 | Pre-teen |
| 41 | Teen |

Automotive

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 50 | Pre-teen |
| 51 | Teen |

Real Space and Science Fiction

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 60 | Pre-teen |
| 61 | Teen |

Gunpla

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 70 | Pre-teen |
| 71 | Teen |

Dioramas

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 80 | Pre-Teen |
| 81 | Teen |

Miscellaneous)

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 90 | Pre-teen |
| 91 | Teen |

I. Aircraft (53 categories and named splits, plus 3 anticipated additional splits)

1/144 refers to scales 1/99 and smaller.

1/72 refers to scales 1/98 to 1/60.

1/48 refers to scales 1/59 to 1/40.

1/32 refers to scales 1/39 and larger.

Categories 101 - 140 are for military aircraft only.

Categories 170-189 include any type of aircraft, military or otherwise.

Biplanes (and others that are predominantly fabric, struts, and rigging)

101 Small, 1/72 Scale and smaller

102 Large, 1/48

103 Large, 1/32

Small Prop, Single Engine Aircraft, including Small Gliders

1/72 scale = not exceeding 8.5" length or wingspan

1/48 scale = not exceeding 13.9" length or wingspan

104 1/72 US/Allied Inline, Planned Split 1

105 1/72 US/Allied Inline, Planned Split 2

106 1/72 US/Allied Radial

107 1/72 Axis Inline

108 1/72 Axis Radial

110 1/72 Out-of-Box, Instructions Required

111 1/48 US/Allied Inline

112 1/48 US/Allied Radial

113 1/48 Axis Inline

114 1/48 Axis Radial

116 1/48 Out-of-Box, Instructions Required

Medium Prop, Two-Engine Aircraft, including Medium Sized Gliders

1/72 scale = not exceeding 11" length or wingspan

1/48 scale = not exceeding 17" length or wingspan

117 1/72

118 1/48

Large Prop, Multi-Engine Aircraft, including Large Gliders

1/72 scale = exceeding 11" length or wingspan

1/48 scale = exceeding 17" length or wingspan

119 1/72

120 1/48

Medium or Large Prop, Multi Engine Aircraft, Out-of Box, Instructions required

1/72 scale = exceeding 11" length or wingspan

1/48 scale = exceeding 17" length or wingspan

121 1/72

122 1/48

Small Jet

1/72 scale = not exceeding 8.5" length or wingspan

1/48 scale = not exceeding 13.9" length or wingspan

123 1/72

124 1/72, Out-of-Box, Instructions Required

125 1/48

126 1/48, Out-of-Box, Instructions Required

Large Jet*1/72 scale = exceeding 8.5" length or wingspan**1/48 scale = exceeding 13.9" length or wingspan*

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 127 | 1/72 |
| 128 | 1/72, Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
| 129 | 1/48 |
| 130 | 1/48, Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
-

1/32 Aircraft

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 131 | 1/32 Prop-Driven |
| 132 | 1/32 Jet-Powered |
| 133 | 1/32 Prop-Driven or Jet Powered, Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
-

1/144 Aircraft (1/99 scale or smaller)

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 134 | Small (not exceeding 4.25" in length or wingspan) |
| 135 | Large (exceeding 4.25" in length or wingspan) |
| 136 | Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
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Rotary Wing

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 137 | 1/144 and 1/72 |
| 138 | 1/48 and 1/32 |
| 139 | Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
-

Civil, Sport, Racing, Gliders, and Air Taxis

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 140 | 1/144 and 1/72 |
| 141 | 1/48 and 1/32 |
| 142 | Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
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Airliners, Airliner Types, and Airships

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 153 | 1/144 |
| 154 | 1/72, 1/48, and 1/32 |
| 155 | Out-of-Box, Instructions Required |
-

Other Aircraft Types**Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 160 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|

Elevated Displays (non-diorama displays --"Aircraft on a Pole") *(See Specific Class Rule I-F)*

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|-----|---------------------------------|
| 170 | 1/144 and 1/72 Scale |
| 171 | 1/48 and 1/32 and larger Scales |

Vacuum-formed

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 180 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|

Conversions

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 185 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|

Scratch-Built

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 189 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|
-

Vintage Aircraft kit, originally molded before December 31, 1980, verification and instructions required

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 190 | 1/144 Scale and smaller |
| 191 | 1/72 Scale |
| 192 | 1/48 Scale |
| 193 | 1/32 Scale and larger |

II. Military Vehicles (32 categories and named splits, plus 6 anticipated additional splits)

Large Scale refers to 1/34 and larger

1/35 refers to scale 1/35

1/48 refers to scales 1/59 to 1/36.

1/72 refers to scales 1/100 to 1/60.

For entries with figures but not intended to be dioramas, see Specific Class Rule II-B

1/35 Military Vehicles (including tanks, assault guns, and self-propelled guns)

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 200 | Closed-top AFVs, through Korea, Axis Light and Medium |
| 201 | Closed-top AFVs, through Korea, Axis Heavy, Panthers and Tigers |
| 202 | Closed top AFVs, through Korea, Allied, U.S. |
| 203 | Closed-top AFVs, through Korea, Other than U.S. |

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- | | |
|-----|--|
| 204 | Closed-top AFVs, post-Korea, NATO |
| 205 | Closed-top AFVs, post-Korea, Warsaw-Pact and Russian |
| 206 | Closed-top AFVs, post-Korea, U.S. |

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- | | |
|-----|--|
| 207 | Open-top AFVs or AFVs with Interiors, Axis |
| 208 | Open-top AFVs or AFVs with Interiors, Allied |
| 209 | Open-top AFVs or AFVs with Interiors, Other |

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- | | |
|-----|---|
| 210 | Armored Cars, Post WW II (refers to after 1945) |
| 211 | Armored Cars, WWII and Earlier (refers to 1945 and earlier) |

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- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 212 | Armored Halftracks |
|-----|--------------------|

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- | | |
|-----|--|
| 213 | Soft-skinned Military Vehicles, Jeep Types, All Markings |
| 214 | Soft Skinned Military Vehicles, All Other Types and Markings |

1/48 Military Vehicles

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 215 | Tracked, 1/48 Scale U.S. |
| 216 | Tracked. 1/48 Scale Other than U.S. |
| 217 | Wheeled |

1/72 Military Vehicles

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 218 | Tracked, through Korea, Allied |
| 219 | Fully Tracked, through Korea, Axis |
| 220 | Fully Tracked, post Korea |
| 221 | Armored Cars and Armored Halftracks |
| 222 | Soft-skinned Military Vehicles |

Artillery Pieces (including missiles and railroad guns, but excluding limbers and prime movers)

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 223 | Artillery Pieces Through W.W.II (refers to 1945 and earlier) |
| 224 | Artillery Pieces Post W.W. II (refuses to after 1945) |

Conversions and Scratch-Built

(A model that MUST have its silhouette/type SUBSTANTIVELY CHANGED by the MODELER, using SCRATCH-BUILDING SUPPLIES, i.e., sheet plastic, sheet brass, tin, wood, etc.)

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|-----|-------------|
| 225 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|

Kit-Bash Conversions

(A model that MUST have its silhouette SUBSTANTIVELY CHANGED by the MODELER, using ANY PRE-EXISTING KIT PARTS from another model or manufactured conversion parts/pieces designed for such change by the manufacturer, whether or not it is intended for the model it is employed upon.)

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 230 | All entries |
|-----|-------------|

Multi- or Towed Vehicles (non-diorama display)

(No more than three vehicles attached to each other; see **Specific Class Rule II-C** and definition. Examples: any towed Artillery prime-mover/limber and artillery piece; any Tank Transporter/Trailer, with or without a loaded vehicle; any other combination of two vehicles that are attached to each other.)

240 All entries

Large Scale (1/34 or larger)

250 Large Scale Military Vehicles, All Entries

Out of Box, Military Vehicle Kit, instructions required

261 1/35 Scale, all types

262 1/48 Scale, all types

263 1/72 Scale, all types

III. Figures (18 categories and named splits, plus 1 anticipated additional split)

1/32 and 1/35 figures will compete as 54mm.

Historical, Dismounted and Mounted

300 53mm and smaller

Historical, Dismounted

305 54mm to 70mm

Historical, Dismounted

310 71mm and larger

Historical, Mounted or With Mount

315 54mm and larger

Major Conversions and Scratch-Built

320 All entries

Fantasy and Science Fiction

325 53mm and Smaller, Human

326 53mm and Smaller, Non-Human

327 54mm to 120mm, Human

328 54mm to 120mm, Non-Human

329 121mm and larger, Fantasy & Science Fiction

Busts

330 Historical, Pre-1900, USA

331 Historical, Pre-1900, International

332 Historical, 1900 to Present, USA

333 Historical, 1900 to Present, International

334 Fantasy and Science Fiction, Human

335 Fantasy and Science Fiction, Non-Human

War Games

340 War Game Figure (single)

341 War Game Set (5 or more)

IV. Ships (17 categories and named splits, plus 1 anticipated additional split)

1/700 refers to scales 1/451 and smaller.

1/350 refers to scales 1/450 to 1/101.

1/72 refers to scales 1/100 and larger.

Aircraft Carriers

400 1/700

401 1/350

Battleships, Battlecruisers, and Cruisers

402 1/700

403 1/350

Other Surface Ships, smaller than cruiser-sized

Destroyers, Escorts, Corvettes, Commercial, etc. (except 'boats')

404 1/700

405 1/350

Sailing

Sail-powered ships and boats

407 Plastic based kits

408 Wood based kits

Early Steam and Sail

Transition vessels: American Civil War, Spanish-American War, pre-dreadnoughts, etc.

410 All entries

Submarines

411 1/700

412 1/350 Scale, Submarines, pre-1946

413 1/350 Scale, Submarines, 1946 and after

414 1/72 scale and larger

Boats, Speedboats, Motor Torpedo Boats, Motor Patrol Boats

415 All entries

Naval Technology (Standalone naval equipment, such as gun turrets, gun and missile mounts, boat davit sets, aircraft catapults, etc.)

420 All entries

Conversions and Scratch-Built

(A conversion entry MUST have its silhouette SUBSTANTIVELY CHANGED by the modeler, using either scratch-building materials or parts from another model or manufactured conversion, whether or not it is intended for the model it is employed upon).

425 All entries

OOB Ship kits, Instructions Required

430 All entries

V. Automotive (23 categories and named splits, plus 1 additional anticipated split)

1/32 refers to scales 1/32 and smaller.

1/24 refers to scales 1/31 to 1/20.

1/16 refers to scales 1/19 and larger.

Factory Production

500	1/32
501	1/24, 1959 and older body
502	1/24, 1960 and newer body, U.S. Manufacturer
503	1/24, 1960 and newer body, Foreign Manufacturer

Hot Rods, Street Rods, and Street Machines

505	Hot Rods and Street Rods - 1948 and older
506	Street Machine - 1949 and newer

Customs

510	All entries
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Competition Vehicles

515	1/32
516	1/24, Drag Racing, Modified Street and Purpose Built
517	1/24, Open Wheel
518	1/24, Closed Wheel

Large Scale (except motorcycles)

520	1/16
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Conversions and Scratch-Built

525	All entries
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Documented Replicas

530	All entries
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Commercial Vehicles (including cargo as part of overall entry)

540	Light Commercial
541	Heavy Commercial, On-Highway Use
542	Heavy Construction and Farm Equipment, Off-Highway

Motorcycles (civilian/racing only)

545	All entries
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Curbside

550	All entries
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Automotive Technology and Culture

555	All entries
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Out of Box, including multi-media kits, Instructions required

560	Factory Production - Instructions required
561	Hot Rods, Street Rods, Street Machines, Customs and Competition, Instructions required

Vintage Automotive Kit, originally molded before December 31, 1980, verification & instructions required

570 Vintage Automotive, all entries

VI. Space and Science Fiction Vehicles (11 categories and named splits, plus 1 additional anticipated splits)

Real Spacecraft, Missiles, and Vehicles (kits and scratch-built)

- 600 Real Spacecraft, Missiles, and Vehicles
- 601 Hypothetical Design but intended to be used as real spacecraft by NASA, etc.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Subjects (See *Specific Class Rule VI-A*)

- 605 Star Trek, Space 1999, and other TV or Movie Series, from kits
- 606 Star Wars, from kits based on three original episodes 4, 5, and 6
- 607 Star Wars, from kits based on all other episodes, series, etc.
- 608 All Other Vehicles or Vessels, Space Faring, from books, sources other than TV or movies
- 609 Other Vehicles or Vessels, Non-Space-faring: Terran, Water, Atmospheric Aircraft, etc.
- 610 Conversions and Scratch-built

Out-of-Box, instructions required with each entry

- 620 All entries

Vintage Space or Science Fiction Kit, originally molded before December 31, 1980, verification & instructions required

- 670 Vintage Real Space or Hypothetical Design, all entries
- 671 Vintage Science Fiction, all entries

VII. Miscellaneous (13 categories plus 1 additional anticipated split)

Prehistoric Animals (Dinosaurs, marine reptiles, flying reptiles, mammals, etc.)

- 700 All entries

Humor in Modeling

- 710 All entries
- 711 Caricatures (*Toons, SD, Chibi, Egg-Planes, Weird-ohs, Roth Monsters, etc*)

Hypothetical (other than science-fiction)

- 720 Kit-Based (spurious markings on standard kit) TBD
- 721 Kit-Bashed / Scratch-built

Triathlon (models from three different classes – see *Specific Class Rule VII-D*)

- 730 All entries

Collections (5 or more closely related items – see *Specific Class Rule VII-E*)

- 740 All entries

IPMS Chapter / Group Entry see *Specific Class Rule VII-F*

- 750 All entries

Miscellaneous (any subject not otherwise covered, except dioramas)

- 760 All entries

Paper Models

- 765 Paper models, all types and entries

Out-of-Box, Instructions required with each entry

- 770 Hypothetical (other than science-fiction)
- 771 Triathlon (models from three different classes)

772 Miscellaneous (any subject not otherwise covered, except dioramas)

VIII. Dioramas (15 categories and named splits plus 1 additional anticipated split)

810 Aircraft Vignette, 1/144 and 1/72

811 Aircraft Vignette, 1/48 and 1/32

812 Aircraft Diorama

821 Military Vehicles 1/49 and smaller

822 Military Vehicles 1/48 and Larger, Vignette, Tanks

823 Military Vehicles, 1/48 and Larger, Vignette, Other than Tanks

824 Military Vehicles 1/48 and Larger, Diorama

830 Figure Vignette, 54mm and smaller

831 Figure Vignetter, 55mm and larger

832 Figure Diorama

841 Ships, Vignette

842 Ships, Diorama

851 Automotive, all entries

861 Space and Science Fiction Vehicles, All entries

871 Miscellaneous, all entries

IX. Gunpla and Mecha (8 categories plus 1 additional anticipated split)

901 Gunpla, Scale 1/144 Unpainted Entries

902 Gunpla, Scale 1/144 Painted/Customized Entries

903 Gunpla, Scale 1/100, Unpainted Entries

904 Gunpla, Scale 1/100, Painted/Customized Entries

905 Gunpla, Scale 1/60, All Entries

906 Maschinen Krieger, Mecha Only (Non-Mecha will be entered in appropriate Sci-Fi Category)

907 Mecha Non-Gundam, less than 8 inches tall, All Entries

908 Mecha Non-Gundam, 8 inches or taller, All Entries

Additional IPMS/USA Contest Awards

Best of Class Awards will be given in each of the eight Classes and are listed below. The awards are selected from the first-place winners in the categories within each Class.

Tom Kolk Best Junior Model Award

Ken Robert Best Aircraft Award

Art Gerber Best Military Vehicle Award

Best Figure Award

Best Ship Award

Best Automotive Award

Best Space or Science Fiction Vehicle Award

Best Miscellaneous Award

Best Diorama Award

Best Gunpla Award

The **Best Use of an IPMS/USA Convention Special Decal** will be selected by IPMS/USA Past Presidents from among any of the entries in the contest which use a Convention Special Decal. Entrants must sign-up specifically for this special award.

The **Jim Sage Most Popular Model Award** will be given as selected by majority vote (by ballot) of the attendees of the convention (registrants and general public attendees).

The **George Lee Judges Grand Award** will be given as selected from the Best of Class award recipients, as selected by the National Contest Committee (Class Head Judges and Chief Judge).

Theme Awards will be selected from among any of the entries in the contest which meet the parameters of the designated theme, and as noted by the entrant on their model entry form. See *Rule III-F*: Entrants must sign up specifically for these special awards. Up to 5 Theme Awards may be requested by the host chapter, are approved by IPMS/USA, and are posted on the convention website along with the Rules and Categories.

Theme awards for 2025 are as follows:

NACA TO NASA

BEST MODEL, ANY SCALE, RELATED TO THE EVOLUTION OF NASA

DAWN OF THE ATOMIC AGE

BEST MODEL OF ANY NUCLEAR POWERED PLATFORM, NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABLE PLATFORM, OR FIGURE RELATED TO THE ATOMIC AGE 1945 -1960

ICONIC INNOVATIONS

BEST MODEL ILLUSTRATING EVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

250 YEARS – US NAVY & MARINE CORPS – IN HONOR OF THE SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL OF THE NAVY-MARINE CORPS TEAM

Manufacturer or Special Interest Group (SIG) Awards can be sponsored/selected by various manufacturers, organizations, and special interest groups. These awards must conform to *Rule III-E*. Entrants must sign up specifically for these special awards or designate participation on their entry forms if required digitally. Any such awards expected to be announced by IPMS at the Convention or in its *Journal* magazine must be accompanied by sponsorship of at least one regular category awards package. The screening/selection for these awards is not accomplished by IPMS/USA judging teams; they are selected by the sponsors/sponsors' selected teams. They will be chosen while the contest room is open to public viewing, and the awards may be placed/presented prior to the awards banquet at the convenience of the sponsor.

Honorariums. The honorariums or named best-of awards have been approved by the NCC for the three year-period of 2025 through 2027, per *Rule III-G*.