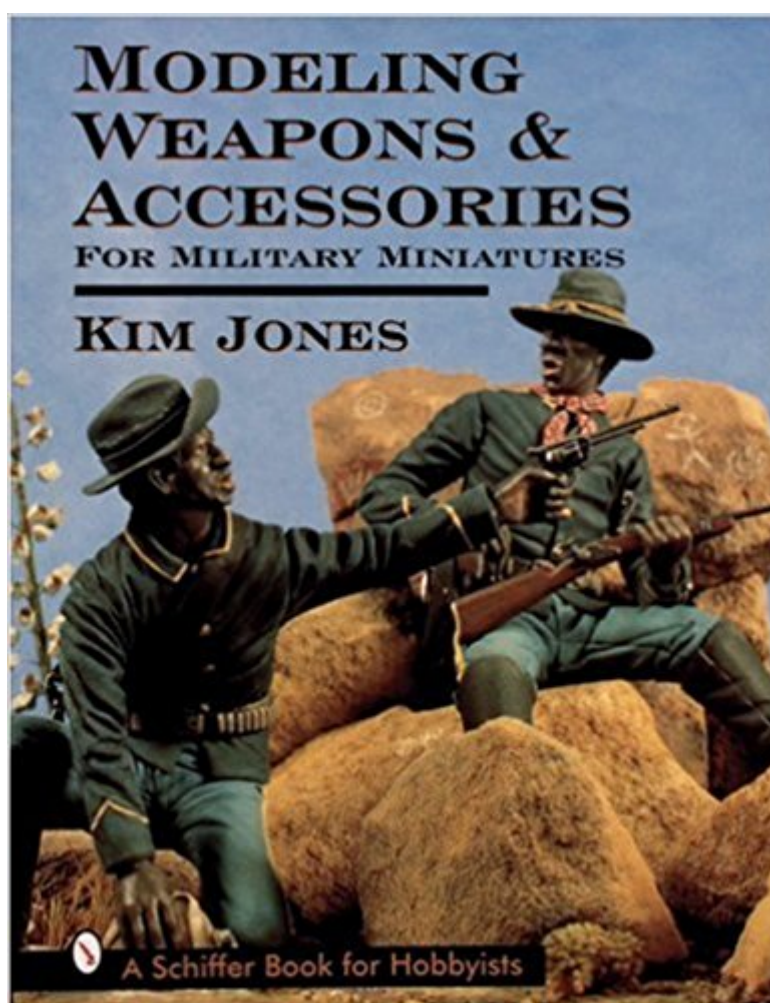




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Modeling Weapons & Accessories For Military Miniatures (Schiffer Book For Hobbyists)



Synopsis

While there are many commercially available weapons and accessories for military miniatures, sometimes you wish you had a different rifle or sword with which to arm your latest figure. In Kim Jones's third informative book on modeling military miniatures, he shows you how to construct that perfect weapon so your figure will stand out from the rest. Using step-by-step photographs Kim illustrates his tried and true methods of creating rifles, swords, pistols, cartridge pouches, and other accessories to add that extra touch of realism for your creation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a long time modeler, I've decided to start making more of my own accessories and, with two figures in the same scale needing a correct version of the same weapon, this seemed like a good place to start. I eagerly purchased this when I came across it and was right to do so. The techniques are so clearly and concisely described and the pictures lay out the whole process. As simple as it makes things seem, I wonder why I didn't decide to try this earlier. While this book is geared more towards figure modelers, some of the techniques are universal and making your own stowage is a good skill for an armor modeler to have. As soon as I have time, I will be using this to guide me through the process of making the pair of PPSH machine guns for my Soviet marine and tank crewman and I'm pretty sure I can get them to turn out after reading this.

My anxiously awaited copy arrived in the afternoon mail and feeling like a kid on Christmas morning,

I eagerly devoured it -- and was left feeling rather like I'd unwrapped Aunt Millie's gift to find... three pairs of socks; useful perhaps, but not quite what I'd hoped for. The book consists of 64 pages of clear, close-up color photos with explanatory text. We are walked, step by step, through the construction of five projects: a "Trapdoor Springfield" rifle, a Colt "Peacemaker" revolver, a saber, a cartridge pouch and a drum. In each and every case, the section concludes with a photo of "The completed (item), primed and ready for painting." The modeling techniques portrayed here are all rather basic for anyone who has done any 'scratchbuilding' at all and the entire reason I purchased this book was for information on realistically rendering the details of surface colors and textures. "Modeling", to my mind, certainly includes "painting" -- finishing the project -- and I was left with the impression that I had bought the first half of the book I'd expected. Weapons, particularly firearms, and particularly well-used and not-ideally-maintained firearms such as might be found in the hands of a cavalryman or cowpoke of the Wild West in the latter half of the 19th Century (the very weapons modeled in this book), provide an interesting melange of surface texture and coloration. I had anticipated detailed discussion of how to simulate the look of a weathered, battered, oil-finished walnut gunstock, the subtle gradations of color in metal surfaces when most of the original factory blued finish (or the peacock colors of casehardening) has been worn down to bare and somewhat weathered steel as we see depicted vividly in pieces shown in the cover photograph. Sadly, there is not one single word dealing with finishing beyond "...ready for painting". I felt much of his work on the demonstration projects to be... hmmm... "casual"? He seemingly has little use for scaling dimensions from reference drawings or original materials and instead "eyeballs" the measurement of nearly everything. His results are, I suppose, to the undiscerning observer, satisfactory. Unfortunately, in this case, the observers are going to be diehard model builders -- not an easy audience. Many weapons of the 19th Century, even military pieces, while utilitarian, had a subtle grace of line missing even in most modern replicas and woefully lacking in the author's work. His 'eyeballed' proportions miss the mark painfully at times. Perhaps I am being picky concerning his craftsmanship -- his figures, which he sculpts himself (no commercial figures here), are rather nice -- but the "casual" dimensioning and complete lack of information on painting convincing finishes were a great disappointment. Out of a possible total of five stars, considering that "half the book" is missing (reducing us to only 2.5 stars right out of the gate) those 'casual' working techniques, in my opinion, reduce the book to, at best, two stars. Sorry, I really wanted to like this book. Having read through it, I guess I'll put 'er back up for auction.

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