

A sample from Will Rockwell's book, which is in production



HOW IT STARTED



Steampunk is the creation of new things that look like old things. For me it began with the dream of having a computer case made from varnished oak, with brass buttons and etched panels, your basic 1880 Pentium. Then I discovered other people not only had that dream but were actively pursuing it. I found the forum at Brassgoggles.uk, where designers and craftsmen of the Steampunk persuasion share their ideas and works in progress. I was hooked.



This is what I see when I look up from my computer...my model of the Disney Nautilus. This submarine, designed by Harper Goff in 1952 for 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, is the very definition of Steampunk...something new made to look like something old.

How to make your own Nautilus

This website offers free plans that you can print, then cut out and assemble to make a 20" long paper Nautilus. What I did was enlarge the plans, paste them on construction foam, then cut out the foam to make a sturdy five foot long Nautilus. These same plans could be enlarged as much as you want...I hope to someday make a 12 foot Nautilus, the same size as the model in the movie. Robert Nava, the creator of the plans, insists the models not be sold or redistributed.



http://www.disneyexperience.com/models/20klus_model.php

MAKING THE NAUTILUS

The Nautilus model wasn't the first thing I made, but it's a good place to start. Here are the printed parts, enlarged five times and ready to be pasted onto Bluecore foam.



It only took a few hours to cut out the pieces with a sharp razor knife, then assemble them with a hot glue gun.

By the end of the first day's work, it was starting to look familiar.



Now comes the hard part, making thousands of tiny rivets, each one a spot of paint. The hardware on deck called for nuts and bolts, washers, bullet cases and old drill bits. It was starting to look like a junkyard.



I did a test on an aluminum tin to figure out how to paint the model. I glued rubber strips, washers and even dried peas to the tin, then sprayed it with Rustoleum's Aged Iron paint.

Then I did a quick spritz with rust colored primer to give it an authentic look. It's amazing how a coat of paint pulls together all the crap and makes it look real.



And here's the finished model. This one is not for sale.