

This month's HMM™ excerpt is a follow-up to The Hardcore Modeler's Survey®, a diagnostic tool designed to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCD). Specifically, this tool can assist in identifying personality deficiencies and exploitable tendencies that interfere with hobbyists' ability to maintain steady employment and engage in normal social interactions. Once identified, these deficiencies or disorders can be successfully treated.

This excerpt of HMM™ introduces hardcore modelers to Francine Steen, Doctor of Clinical Psychology, whose success in helping GK artists has earned her the moniker, "The Hobby Whisperer." In educating herself for treating hardcore modelers suffering from OCD and other GK-related mental health issues, Dr. Steen immersed herself in the world of garage kits. She eventually became an accomplished GK artist in her own right. That has helped her to accurately diagnose varying forms of hardcore modeler OCD and has led to her unprecedented success treating those so afflicted.

In this chapter, Dr. Steen provides descriptions and definitions of the most commonly occurring, and most challenging to treat, hardcore modeler afflictions.

The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™: Volume One

Chapter 32 (The Hobby Whisperer OCD Lexicon) pp. 234-237



Dr. Francine Steen

Each population of OCD sufferers has its own unique symptomology and the key to successful treatment of these disorders is the understanding of the population. The causes can be behavioral, psychological, environmental, physiological and/or social.

*Hardcore modelers present greater challenges to successful diagnosis and treatment because of the wide ranging diversity of those afflicted and because of the variety of symptoms within this sub-group. The most common syndromes and disorders afflicting hardcore modelers are listed within this lexicon which has been compiled during 25 years of clinical examinations, diagnoses, and treatment of hardcore modelers. Some can be treated surgically, with physical therapy, medication, behavior modification through cognitive skills programming and shock treatment. Other more pernicious hardcore modeler afflictions may require a more intensive and more aggressive treatment regimen. Successful treatment, singularly or in combinations, can help restore a hardcore modeler's emotional and physical health and to allow him/her to resume normal and acceptable social interactions. If, after taking The Hardcore Modeler's Survey®, you believe you or a loved one suffers from any of the disorders listed in this chapter, contact **The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™** immediately.*

The Hobby Whisperer OCD Lexicon

- A. **Amazing Figured Modeler:** *n.* Not to be confused with the similarly-named magazine, these are pathologically appearance-conscious, self-impressed, individuals who attend conventions wearing excessively provocative and revealing outfits or costumes that leave little to the imagination; such individuals are also pathologically oblivious to the impression their appearance will make upon other convention attendees.



Amazing Figured Modeler Before Treatment



After Treatment

- B. Black Heart Disease:** *n.* 1) The startling, heart-pounding and/or sickening feeling experienced by a modeler when his/her spouse or parents or other fiscally important individuals discover the *actual* cost of the 1:1 scale wall-hangers he/she has been collecting all these years; 2) the shock or anxiety experienced by loved ones after such a discovery; 3) the chronic chest pain and acid-reflux that results at the end of each month when a GK artist's spouse reconciles the family checkbook and is reminded of how much his/her hardcore modeler spouse spends each month on garage kits and hobby supplies.



Black Heart Disease affects hardcore modelers and their loved ones

- C. Bootlegger:** *n.* a perpetrator of a rare but satisfying (and illegal!) practice by sculptors and model kit producers which involves putting their feet up the behinds of known and suspected recasters. Evidence of participation in this satisfying practice includes scuffed shoes, sprained ankles, and hyperextended knees. **Unsympathetic victims** of this practice most commonly suffer from public humiliation, intestinal discomfort and medical expenses related to removing derelict footwear from their hind quarters. Victims should abstain from convention attendance, the most likely location of this violent and painful practice.



Common ailment suffered by bootlegger



Actual Recovered Footwear



- D. Harpy Pummel Syndrome:** *n.* 1) a GK producer's temporary lapse into a fantasy world in which he/she imagines pummeling a customer who harps on him/her about the price of a kit or harps about the long wait for delivery of a kit even though the customer was given a great discount for pre-ordering the kit and the date on which he/she was told the kit would be shipped is still days away; 2) a psychotic lapse experienced by GK producers exhibiting at conventions when asked infuriating questions, e.g., "Does this thing come painted?" and "Are you guys ever going to do a kit of the Mud Beast from the 1973 made-for-television film *blah blah blah*.....?"

Violent fantasies afflict HPS sufferers

- E. Micromania:** *n.* a mental impairment which afflicts scale model kit painters, producers, GK magazine publishers and sculptors; symptoms include a dogged determination and irrational belief in the financial viability of the GK "industry"; despite the expressed doubts of loved ones and an over-abundance of evidence to the contrary, those afflicted pathologically believe they can actually make enough money in GK to support themselves and/or their families despite their previous failures in other GK-related ventures and enterprises.



- F. Pairanads-ScissorFraidia:** *n.* an exclusively **male** hardcore modeler disorder characterized by the persistent fear that the wife knows (but is not letting on that she knows) that he overspent his annual GK allowance or that he has spent money on GK instead of household necessities (e.g., wife's car muffler, braces for a bucktooth daughter, a new washing machine). This fear is coupled with the legitimate concern that while he is sleeping, his spouse will remove both of his gonads. This often results from untreated Black Heart Disease.

Lorena Bobbitt and former Pairanads-ScissorFraidia sufferer, John Wayne Bobbitt



G. *Swisscidal Tendencies Disease*: n. an affliction most common among magazine publishers and hobby forum moderators; **STD** is the self-defeating paralysis of neutrality and appeasement to those individuals who are most aggressive, most argumentative, most obnoxious and most outspoken about a given GK issue, e.g., recasting, resin Nazism, and unlicensed kits. Often referred to as “*Head-In-The-Sand Syndrome*”, Swisscidal tendencies are frequently marked by the pathological inability to take a position about an issue impacting the health or viability of the hobby and the hope that taking no position will lead to the issue simply going away.

H. *The Walking Dead*: n. frightening hobby convention attendees who take up time and space while chattering at a vendor’s table and interfering with his/her ability to make sales to “*live*” (i.e., paying) customers despite having spent all of their money on kits produced by other vendors; sometimes misdiagnosed as Stuporman Complex. Can be treated with counseling or, in the most extreme cases, a sharp blow to the head.

Counseling cures *The Walking Dead* can relieve their convention victims

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