

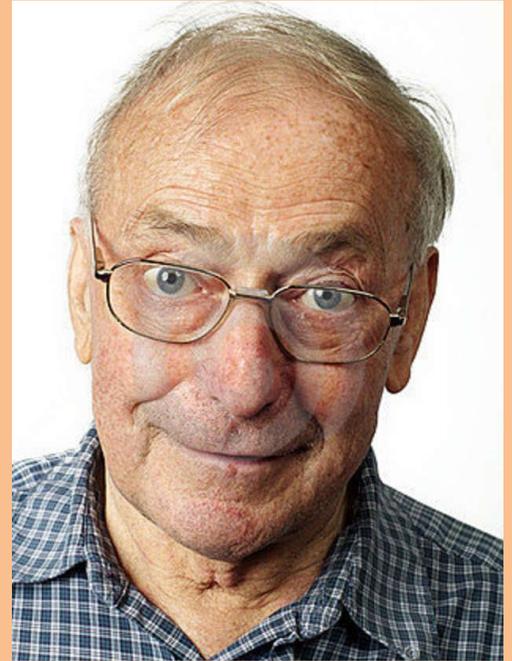
The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™: Volume One

Chapter 41 (Dear Abner Column #1) pp. 334-337

HMM™ is the most comprehensive resource for ensuring a hardcore modeler's enjoyment of this hobby which we all hold so dear. HMM™'s holistic approach to the hobby covers all aspects of participation in GK and the obsessive-compulsive disorders that afflict so many of our hardcore modeling brothers and sisters. Many hardcore modelers find that access to counselling and treatment is geographically and/or financially prohibitive. In recognition of this fact, and understanding the need many hardcore modelers have for intensive counselling, treatment, therapy, institutionalization, and/or an occasion kick in the hind-quarters, HMM™ presents the first ever Garage Kit advice column.

Abner Van Buren is a long-time hobbyist and was recently divorced from a nationally-syndicated advice columnist (whose name we cannot publish because of the conditions of their divorce decree and because of an active harassment restraining order against him). Abner attributes the break-up of his marriage to his ex-wife's antipathy toward GK, anything associated with GK, and anyone involved in GK. "Eventually that included me," he says. "So, the old know-it-all, battle axe threw me the hell out."

Abner VanBuren



Having lived with, and assisted, his ex-wife, during her nearly 50 years of giving advice to all sorts of people on all sorts of problems in all sorts of places, HMM™ can't think of anyone more qualified to provide to HMM readers advice on relationships, business, family, and more. **HMM™ proudly presents "Dear Abner".**

Dear Abner: *A few years ago, while incapacitated after foot surgery, I became addicted to the internet, specifically internet porn. No amount of counselling could help me kick the habit. My addiction cost me hundreds of dollars per month, took time away from family and friends, and nearly destroyed my relationship with my girlfriend.*

When I discovered garage kits, it was a life-altering event. I no longer spend time and money on internet porn. I now, instead, spend my disposable income on garage kits, mostly sexy girl kits. I love building and painting them and have amassed quite a collection of girl kits. My girlfriend had been very supportive of my participation in the hobby, but has recently started to express concern about my continued involvement in this hobby. She believes that my addiction to internet porn has simply transferred to, as she calls it, "garage kit porn". I love my girlfriend but I don't want to give up my kit collection. She now questions whether we should get married. She complains about the number of girl kits I own, the amount of time I spend finishing them, the amount of money I spend on them, and the fact that several nights a week I stay up until the wee hours building and painting. I want to marry this woman but she won't let me keep my models.. Can you help?

Ulysses Nicks from Munich, North Dakota

Dear U. Nick from Munich: Yours is not at all an uncommon problem. There are really two separate issues at work here.

First, what you describe sounds very similar to what is known as "Randy Bone Syndrome". I recommend seeing Dr. Francine Steen, also known as the Hobby Whisperer. I can tell you from personal experience that she has been very successful treating hardcore modelers with this particular affliction.

Second, if your girlfriend can't appreciate the artistry involved in painting a model kit of a provocatively- posed, attractive young woman in a cleavage-revealing outfit with a slim waist, firm round buttocks, and gravity-defying breasts, then she doesn't know art!!

I should also tell you that, having been married myself for more than 50 years, marriage is over-rated.

Dear Abner: *I am the owner of a garage kit company. As our kits have become more popular, we have gotten an increasing number of requests to do things that are not honest and with which I am not comfortable. For example, we are frequently asked by overseas buyers to declare a lower value on our kits in order to spare the buyer customs duties or taxes. And, we are often asked by mail order and online customers to write invoices or receipts that reflect a lower price than the customer actually paid so he/she can hide the true cost from his/her spouse or significant other.*

I am bothered by misleading or lying to a customer's government and, therefore, denying that government revenue from import duties. But I am more bothered by the requests to lie to a customer's wife or husband. What should I do?

Polly from Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Pollyana: Firstly, I have to say that your business ethics are admirable and inspiring for all of us who are into garage kits. In this hobby, and in this world, too many people discard personal ethics in favor of making a buck. We need more folks like you in this business.

While your ethics are indeed admirable and inspiring, those governments being denied revenue, because you falsified customs forms, are made up of foreigners. So, who cares if you lie to them? You are in business to make a buck!!!

Further while your ethics are indeed admirable and inspiring, those spouses/significant others being misled by your false receipts or invoices are not your spouse or significant other; they are your customer's problem. Who cares if you lie to them? **You are in business TO MAKE A FRIGGIN' BUCK!!!!!!**

Dear Abner: *I recently saw a grail kit at a convention and asked the dealer if it was an original. He said it was, that he does not deal in recasts, that this was the only one he'd seen in 5 years; I've been looking for it for twice that long.. On the last day of the convention, I talked him down almost \$100 and felt that he'd given me a fair price (which was still two times more than I had ever paid for a kit).*

A few days after the convention, a fellow GK artist stopped by my house. I learned he had purchased the same kit from that same dealer. Before he bought his kit, he challenged the dealer about whether the kit was an original; he was sure it was a bootleg. The dealer eventually admitted that he was selling recasts of the kit and he gave my buddy an even better deal than he gave me. I was pissed. If I had known that I was buying a recast, I would have insisted on a better price than the one I got. Am I wrong to want to pursue this issue with the dealer?

Edwin from Boot Hill, Kansas

Dear BootED: OH, OF COURSE YOU ARE NOT WRONG!!!! Please let me help you with this problem. At your earliest convenience, send me the names and addresses of the dealer and your buddy. I'll need your address, too, so I can ensure that justice gets done for all three of you.

I will schedule an interview for you with a lawyer I know; he will let you know what recourse you might have. Immediately afterward, a GK support group (founded by Scott "Swede" Johanson, John Tucky, and Rob Rottondi) will stop by to further educate you about bootlegging. Then, they will pay similar visits to the dealer and to your friend so each, too, can experience the education you will have received.

Privacy ensures that their interactions with you will be most productive. So, please make sure that no children or loved ones are present during their visit. You can rest assured that these gentlemen have significant experience with "bootlegging" and know how to best deal with this problem.

The advice given and views expressed in "Dear Abner" are not necessarily those shared by The Hardcore Modelers Manual™ and Black Heart Enterprises, LLC. In addition, any apparent similarity or perceived reference to any other advice columnist is purely coincidental, accidental and unintended as Mr. Van Buren strictly adheres to the conditions of all court orders.

If you or someone you care about has questions, problems or concerns as a result of their involvement in GK, please your correspondence to [Dear Abner](#). Because of the volume of correspondence he receives, and because he is still participating in intensive anger management programming, Mr. VanBuren is not able to respond to all letters.

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