

*This month's excerpt from **The Hardcore Modeler's Manual: Volume One™** is **The Hardcore Modeler's Survey®**. Developed by Fercello & Thomas Consulting, LLP of Santa Cruz, CA, the survey is a personality inventory designed to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of Obsessive Unusual Compulsive Hellacious (OUCH) disorders. This tool is a diagnostic aid and is best used to assist in treating OUCHs under the direction of a mental health care professional. Before undergoing any treatment regimen (group or individual therapy, psychotropic medications, hypnosis and/or electro-shock therapy), consult your physician.*

The Hardcore Modeler's Manual: Volume One™

Chapter 1 (**The Hardcore Modeler's Survey (2011)** by Fercello & Thomas, LLP) pp. 4-7

1) At least once in the last two years, your spouse or significant other discovered (and was visibly unhappy about) household items that found their way to your modeling work space, e.g., drinking glasses or coffee mugs or wedding china or stoneware saucers (used for mixing paint or brush cleaning), bath towels, hair dryer, makeup applicator, nail polish remover, spouse's toothbrush.

Yes___ **No**___

2) At least once in the last two years you promised, but failed, to build and paint a model kit for your spouse or significant other. Include the times you actually built the model kit but liked it so much that you decided to keep it for yourself.

Yes___ **No**___

3) In any given month of the last two years, the charge for exceeding your cellular data plan (because the minutes used, the number of text messages sent and the hours surfing the www, all of which was related to hobby stuff) was greater than the cost of a model kit that you wanted but which you felt was just a bit too expensive to buy.

Yes___ **No**___

4) Although you have more un-built figure kits than you can name, you continue to buy even more kits at every convention you attend.

Yes___ **No**___

5) You are resigned to the prospect of finishing all of the kits you presently own only after you retire or sometime after the year 2035, whichever comes later.

Yes___ **No**___

6) You own two kits of the same model, one which will remain in the box, the other you HOPE to build someday.

Yes___ **No**___

7) There are at least six bottles of paint in your paint drawer that have been there so long that the paint is no longer any good.

Yes___ **No**___

8) There are at least six unopened bottles of paint in your drawer, purchased within the last year, that will remain there so long that they will likely fall into the same class as the previous item. (See #7)

Yes___ **No**___

9) You have purchased a shade or color of paint for which you currently have no use; your reason is that if anyone ever does produce a kit upon which you would use this color of paint, you'll already have the paint for it.

Yes___ **No**___

10) You have purchased a video of an awful **black and white** movie because you needed a **color** painting guide for the cool garage kit of the goofy monster from said awful **black and white** movie.

Yes___ No___

11) You have lied to your spouse or significant other about how late you stayed up the previous night working on a kit or chatting via tm, email, social media or a hobby forum with a fellow modeler.

Yes___ No___

12) You have lied to your spouse or significant other about what you were really doing until the wee hours of the night, rather than admit that you were working on a kit or chatting via tm, email, social media or a hobby forum with a fellow modeler..

Yes___ No___

13) You have lied to your spouse or significant other about the number of kits you bought at a convention you attended.

Yes___ No___

14) At least once in the last five years, your spouse or significant other became convinced that you were having an on-line affair because of all the time you were spending on hobby chat forums and emailing fellow modelers.

Yes___ No___

15) You have lied to your spouse or significant other and told him/her that he/she had a better shape than the kit he/she saw you working on and drooling over.

Yes___ No___

16) In the last two years, you have lied to your spouse or significant other, or asked someone else to lie to your spouse or significant other, about the cost of a kit you purchased.

Yes___ No___

17) After a break up with a spouse or significant other, you either demanded the return of one or more kits you painted or, as part of a divorce settlement, sought to gain possession of one or more such kits.

Yes___ No___

18) During the last year, you spent more time reading and posting responses on hobby chat forum threads than it would have taken to complete two of the garage kits presently sitting unbuilt in your closet.

Yes___ No___

19) You have privately lusted for the spouse or significant other of at least one of your modeling buddies because his/her spouse or significant other loves horror films and/or model kits (and your spouse or significant other has little, if any, tolerance for either).

Yes___ No___

20) At least once in the last five years, you contacted a garage kit company and suggested that they produce a kit of a character from an obscure horror film of which they had never heard.

Yes___ No___

21) At least once in the last ten years, you got up the courage (or gall) to actually ask your spouse or significant other to buy you a garage kit for Christmas, your birthday, Father's Day, Mother's Day or your anniversary. Include the times when you pretended to be joking with your spouse or significant other.

Yes___ No___

22) You have actually been disappointed when your spouse or significant other did not buy you a garage kit for Christmas, your birthday, Father's Day, Mother's Day or your anniversary. "Yes" to this item counts double, i.e., "Yes times two."

Yes___ **No**___

23) At least once in the last ten years, you purchased a garage kit thinking that building it with a son or daughter would be a good bonding opportunity, but neither your son/daughter nor anyone else in your house has any interest in recreational activities that don't involve a cell phone or other mobile device, a laptop or a video game console, and you knew that before you bought the garage kit.

Yes___ **No**___

24) At least once during your relationship with your spouse or significant other, you have heard him/her defend your attachment to the hobby by saying, "Well, at least I know where he/she is on weekend nights" or "At least I know he/she isn't running around, going to bars and cheating on me."

Yes___ **No**___

25) Your spouse or significant other wishes that you actually were running around, going to bars, and cheating on him/her... instead of spending so much time building model kits. "Yes" to this item counts double, i.e., "Yes times two."

Yes___ **No**___

26) At least once in the last five years, you went to a video store to get a movie for you AND your spouse or significant other, but returned with a horror or science fiction movie that he/she angrily refused to watch with you and which you knew he/she would refuse to watch with you but which you hoped you could convince him/her to watch with you. If you had recently purchased or started building a kit of the monster from that movie, "Yes" to this item counts double, i.e., "Yes times two."

Yes___ **No**___

If you honestly responded "**No**" to all 26 items, you are new to the hobby! Take this survey again in 12 months.

Scoring: Each "**Yes**" counts as one point.

There are 15 questions that reference a spouse or significant other. If you've not had a spouse or significant other in the last 2 years, it is likely because of your immersion in GK and you must score an additional half a point for each such question regardless of your answer.

If your score is 7 points or less, it is unlikely that you are an OUCH disorder sufferer.

If your score is 8 points to 18 points, you are probably in the early stages of GK addiction and dependency.

If your score is above 18 points, contact your favorite GK producer immediately for a short term "fix" to satisfy your hobby "jones". And, then seek counseling

Be sure to check back here for more excerpts from **The Hardcore Modeler's Manual: Volume One™**.