

CYCLOPS



Saul Alvarez has written a number of articles for hobby figure magazines and is another of our favorite GK artists. He is one of the lucky ones who has the time (he's so quick he really doesn't need much time!) and the talent (he clearly has plenty of that!) to provide top quality model kit build-up services to dozens of kit collectors and producers. One of the hobby's most prolific GK artists, he was the obvious choice to put a finish on Black Heart's two-horned version of the one-eyed demon of Colossa.



When I was a kid.....well, I still am at heart... I saw *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*. The most memorable moment in the film for me was, of course, the Cyclops!



Cyclops from *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958)

The next time I saw anything relating to this behemoth was in the pages of my favorite “educational” monster/horror magazine, *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. My grandfather worked in New York and would go downtown to work and would pick up the magazine for me. He didn't speak English so I had to write down the name of the magazine for him. He'd hand that scrap of paper to the magazine vendor and bring it home to me. It was in those pages that I discovered the genius behind the creatures was none other than the legendary Ray Harryhausen. In the years since, hundreds of Cyclops models have been produced and are now filling up shelves of hobbyists like me.

Black Heart's Cyclops model is the size of a large human head and designed to hang on your wall. With very little assembly, it is a painter's delight. Sculptor Joe Simon perfectly captured every detail of the monster's head. The casting was perfect and you get your choice of the 1-horned or 2-horned version. Here's how I finished this bad boy.



Sculptor Joe Simon

First, as usual, I washed the kit with soap and water to remove any excess mold release from the molding process. I primed the head with light grey, sandable automobile primer that can be purchased from your local hardware store.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

I started painting by base coating color with Freestyle brand Flesh mixed with a dab of bright orange which, you guessed it, gave him an orangey-flesh color (Photo 1). I then used Freestyle Pale Flesh and airbrushed over the raised areas like the brow, cheeks scales, ears and head, leaving a hint of the base color showing through (Photo 2). Next I started shading with Freestyle transparent Rich Brown and lightly sprayed in between all the crevices and slightly detailed areas like the brow, nose, head and ears with subtle spots (Photo 3).



Photo 4

I used Freestyle Transparent Mars Red inside the mouth, around the eye and ears (Photo 4).



Photo 5

After I was happy with the face and head, I painted and detailed the inside of the mouth. I shaded the tongue with transparent Rich Brown and Dark Brown and then painted the teeth with an off white. I shaded the teeth with the same Transparent Rich Brown and lightly over sprayed each tooth with Transparent Gold toner to give it an older decayed looked (Photo 5). I used the same steps on the horn that I used on the teeth. Then I darkened up the base of the horn with browns.



Photo 6

Cyclops' eye was the last step to finish off the piece. First, I base-coated the eyeball with white. (Photo 6)



Photo 7

Then I shaded the eye very softly with the Gold Toner making sure I hit the corners and working my way toward the edges and center. (Photo 7)



Photo 8

I then use FS transparent Paynes grey and again lightly spray along the corners and edges. (Photo 8)



Photo 9

I followed that with a light spray of Transparent Mars Red around the corners of the eye. (Photo 9)



Photo 10

Using F.W. ink red and a small detail brush I drew in the veins starting from the corners and working my way to the center . (Photo 10)



Photo 11

Having finished the eyeball, I tackled the iris and the pupil.

I lightly drew a semi circle with a pencil. When I was happy with the placement, I used black pastel chalk and a small brush to go over the line which gives a faded effect along the edges of the iris. **Photo 11**

For the coloring I kept his eye brown keeping the whole piece in earth tones. Again, using a small detail brush I painted dark brown lines, darker on the outer edges lighter towards the center. **Photo12**

Next, using the same technique I painted smaller lines towards the center circle using yellow ocher. **Photo13**

Lastly, I used the same dark brown as a wash and drew straight lines closer together from the edge to the center. I painted the pupil with black in the center and I'm finished. **Photo 14**



Photo 12

The only thing left was to gloss the eye, mouth and teeth. **Photo 15**

Once done with that, you have a nice centerpiece for your Ray Harryhausen collection. This was a fun, simple kit to do.



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15

