

## The Eyes Have It!



*Fred DiSanto of South Holland, Illinois (a Chicago suburb), is an accomplished and award-winning modeler. Fred has written for KitBuilders Magazine and currently writes for Amazing Figure Modeler magazine. His work on the eyes of his model kits is as good and as realistic as we've ever seen.*



*Fred's work on Earthbound's Teenage Werewolf, Black Heart's Medusa, and countless others, inspired us to ask him to show us what he could do on Black Heart's The Thing from Another World. For this project, we figured that since the character has no hair or scars or scales or teeth, or other cool and/or outlandish detail, the focal point of this project had to be the eyes. So, we asked Fred to do something non-human on The Thing. GeoS*

"I basically used the method demonstrated by David Fisher in his DVD, *The ModelMania™ Collection, Volumes Four and Five: Model Detailing*. For more info, go to <http://www.modelmaniadvd.com>. But, for The Thing's eyes I added a few of my own touches.

First, I base-coated the iris with Raw Sienna. I added striations lightened with Yellow Oxide, and then I brightened the striations with White and a more vibrant Yellow. Next, I slowly and lightly fogged the edge with Purple and a bit of Burnt Umber. For the pupil, I don't know why, but I didn't use black. Instead I used Burnt Umber, then a quick shot of Purple. I don't know what I was thinking. ;)

Instead of using the pastels to blur the edges of the pupil and iris, I used my airbrush. It never goes perfectly so I usually have to go back and punch a little bit of the whites of the eye. I try to plan for this and not make the whites of the eyes too light at first. This way I have room for the touch ups, and a highlight or two. I just use very, very thin Liquitex which I already thinned with water and a touch of Flo-Aid. Then, I mix in an equal amount of the Liquitex Airbrush Medium.



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I really like Liquitex Acra Burnt Orange for the veins in the eye. It's usually a few dollars more than their regular paints so I try to find it at Michaels and use a coupon. Sometimes I'll lighten the Burnt Orange with a flesh color and a little extra white for the corners of the eye.

Instead of drawing the iris and pupil by hand, on this project, I somehow got up the nerve to freehand them both with the airbrush. The final step is to coat the eye with Testor's Glosscote for a realistic wet look.

I heard sculptor Casey Love talking about this and he said sometimes he will freehand it. And, other times, he will use a small teflon washer as a template. Casey said it will give you a nice circle, but you'll have more of an edge to the iris. Be sure to go with light sprays so you can still blur the edge a bit. Another option is to not spray all the way to the edge of the teflon washer. I have not yet tried this myself.

I would also recommend getting some Winsor and Newton Series 7 about anything else. They hold paint and a point like a dream. I have so much better control with these brushes...it's like you're drawing with a pencil. I

think everyone has been intimidated by 1:1 scale kits at one time or another. It is new territory for model builders who are used to 1/8 and 1/6 scale. But once you take that plunge, you will see that the positives of painting a 1:1 scale kit far outweigh any negatives. And, boy is it fun.



There is more room for detailing and you certainly won't need magnifying glasses. The castings are beautiful and since very little assembly is needed, you can get to painting soon after opening the box. It is also easier to maneuver your paint brushes, sponges, and airbrush around a life-sized piece like this. And, if you make a mistake, no big deal because it's just paint. Touch ups and patience go a long way!

Finally, I just have to mention the excitement when you finish one of these. It's like having a real monster looking right back at you. So, if you happen to get up in the middle of the night, and see one of these staring at you, remember, it's only resin!"

Fred DiSanto