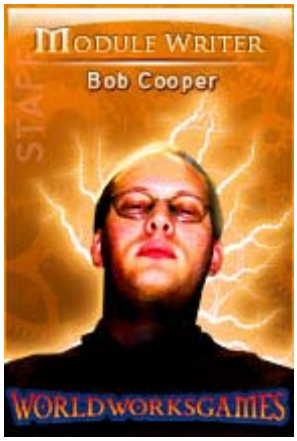
How2Bash



Modeler: Bob Cooper (Andorax)

Set: None

Set Items Needed: None

Open up any one of my kitbashes and you'll recognize it immediately. Why? Because I use a very consistent format when I put them together, and one I think is helpful for the end user. I'm not saying I have all the answers, nor that this is the one and only right way to make a bash…but it might be worth considering.

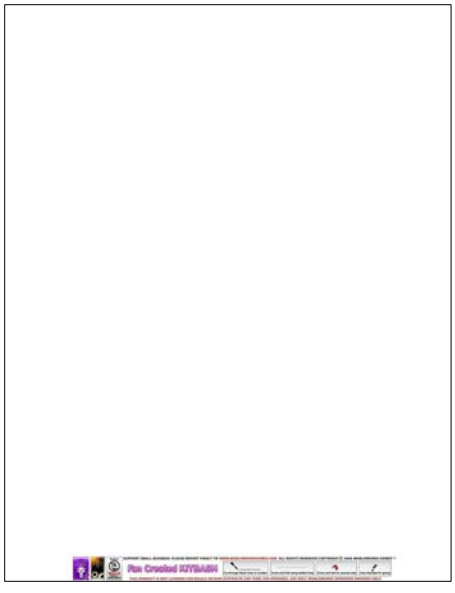
First of all, what are the elements of a good kitbash? I'd say that there are two keys:

1) The instructions are available, easy to follow, and explain what is needed.
2) The entire kitbash is in one file, so nothing gets lost, misplaced, or misfiled.

All of my kitbashes follow these two principles (ok...maybe my instructions aren't always easy to follow, but I try). When I put a kitbash together, I build it all as a single Word document, which I then convert to .PDF format. I type up my instructions on the first page here (again, consistency…I use these same fonts, headings, and arrangements). Sometimes my instructions bleed over to a second page…no big deal.

If I need pictures to describe what I'm doing…I imbed them into the document. Again, no loose files, and the text and pictures support each other. Examples to follow.

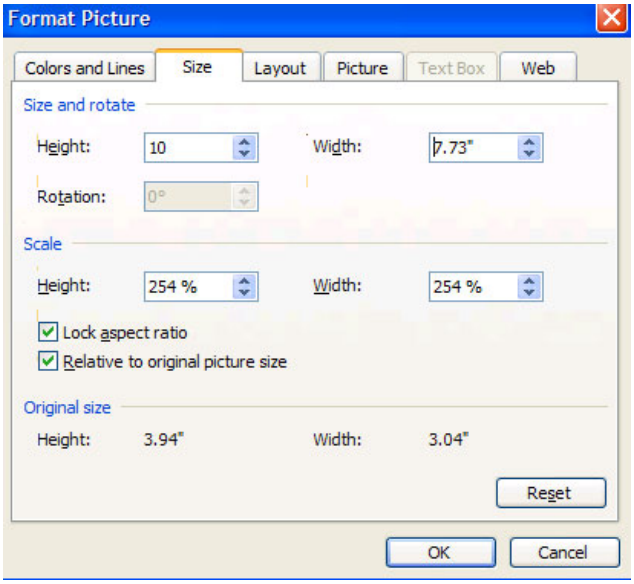
I also include my avatar in the bashes. Why? Well…it could be Ego. But it's also an information thing. You know at a glance who built it, and if you have any questions or suggestions, you can find me pretty easily (also one of the advantages of having a stable, unchanging avatar).



Ok…so how do I do the bashes themselves? I know there's a lot of Photoshop fans out there, but personally I'm a Paint Shop Pro user. It makes little difference either way…the technique is the same. I've included in this bash (yes, gasp…he's breaking his own rules) a separate file called "Blank Page.tif". This is the basis for all of my builds…it's just a 1545 x 2000 pixel image with only the User-Created Kitbash byline on it.

Why 1545 x 2000? Usually, to create my bashes, I will select a page out of a WorldWorks product using Adobe Acrobat, copy it to the clipboard, and paste it into Paint Shop Pro. Cut out the parts I need…and paste it into a copy of "Blank Page.tif". Some care needs to be taken…a FEW WorldWorks sets are actually in 300 dpi resolution instead of 200 (DungeonLinx 2.5D, Encounter Set). These need resized to 66.7% normal size before pasting into Blank Page.tif.

Build one page or several, tweak and adjust as needed…and then the magic part. Into the same Word document I've typed up my instructions (and added my instruction photos), I then paste each image…one to a page with page breaks between, and then go into the format picture dialog. I set the Layout to Tight, Center, and the Size (height) to 10". Volia! As long as you have the "Lock Aspect Ratio" checkbox checked, it'll size the width properly automatically, and everything should scale properly on its own from there.



You don't want to go any larger than 10" x 7.73", as you'll run into margin cutoff. Even this size is pushing the limits, so I do also try to keep some whitespace around the outside edges of my bashes.

One final touch to do a truly professional job of it. Go into File -> Document Properties, give the file a proper Title, and list yourself as the Author.

Once you've created your Word document and saved it, with the whole bundle of information in it (instructions, breakdown, bash files themselves), you'll need to, if you can, convert it to .PDF. If you have a full version of Adobe Acrobat, it's as easy as selecting Adobe PDF -> Convert to Adobe PDF.

If not…well…your best bet may be to just send the Word Doc file on to Aubrey, who can convert it for you.

Now, just because this is all you see in the kitbash doesn't mean that's all I send to Aubrey. This is only one of three files that wind up in the .zip that I send him. I also include two other files:

A simple notepad .txt file that describes what the kitbash is (usually with the same filename)…this saves him having to come up with a description to put in the store, and lets me say exactly what I want to about my kitbash.

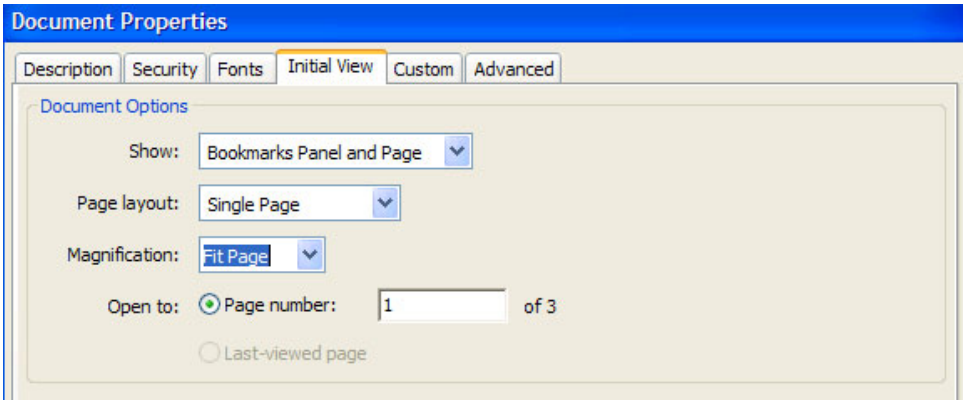
A picture of the kitbash itself, in the requisite 272 x 353 pixel dimensions.

By using these guidelines, your kitbashes can be easy to understand and follow, and have a good, solid, professional look to them. By remaining consistent in your presentation, everyone will recognize a bash as being from you.

I'm going to break my own rules one more time…again, because of the nature of this kitbash. The final bash (what you see now) includes a total of 3 files…the .PDF version, the Blank Page.tif I mentioned earlier, and the .DOC word document version. Please feel free to reuse the Word document as a template for creating your own kitbashes (though please also remember to edit the properties and change the author to your name and replace the avatar picture with your own).

Any questions? I'm happy to help. Look me up on the boards as Andorax…but then again, you already knew that ;)

This last bit of instructions is to those who have Adobe Acrobat…everyone else can just skip this next page. When I get my file finalized in Adobe, there are some settings I like to use just to make things a bit cleaner and easier. First and foremost, I go into the document properties, and I set the initial display to show Bookmarks Panel and Page, the page layout to Single Page, and the magnification to “Fit Page”.



A bit of a disclaimer…these are NOT the settings Denny uses for his sets. I personally prefer them, though, as I find them the most convenient and useful for perusing the resulting files.

I then proceed to bookmark my pages (Control-B). The first page gets the bookmark “Description”, and then each model page (I usually don’t bother to bookmark secondary instruction pages) gets a descriptive bookmark for what that particular model is. Often, I’ll refer to the bookmarks in my instructions, so you know that when I say “Tall Side #2”, you’ll understand what I’m talking about.

Save your file, and you’re ready to ship it to Aubrey for inclusion in the WorldWorks Kitbash Library!



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Fan Created KITBASH

Cut through Black lines or borders | Score and fold along dotted lines | Score and fold on reverse side | Area intended for gluing

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