



Alfred Wong

MODEL KIT REPORT



A peek at what could have been in the years before Apollo 11.

Fly Me To the Moon **Monarch Models' 1/10 Scale Moon Suit**

Monarch Models, a company based in London, Ontario, Canada, has created a lineup of original monster and sci-fi kits in the vein of the classic Aurora monster kits. The Moon Suit is a new, original Monarch product in the same 1/10 scale as the old monster kits.

Honestly, at first, I wasn't sure what to make of the bizarre trashcan-like contraption. There's a detailed write-up of the suit and its designer, Allyn B. "Hap" Hazard (I am serious) and how the suit came to be in 1961. The treatise was lovingly written by his son. I had to Google the story to make sure it

was real and not an elaborate work of science fiction concocted by Monarch. To my surprise, it's indeed 100% true!

The kit itself is well-engineered to be easy to assemble. This kind of design needs to have precision fitting or it would be a frustrating

nightmare. The fit of all parts was flawless and no filler was required. All it took was a gentle rub down of the joints.

The detailing is excellent throughout, though I would suggest replacing the antennae with thinner metal rods. The kit also comes with an alien bug creature, which I didn't use. I also did not use the massive American flag mounting to facilitate photography.

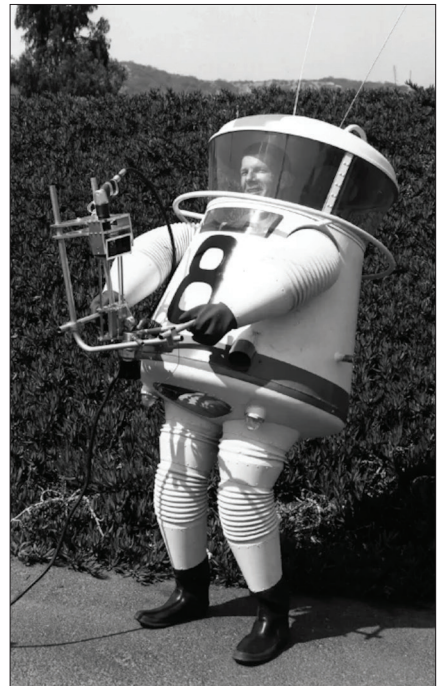
An oddity of the kit is the single number decal — my copy was the #8 — is not a conventional waterslide decal. To apply, you have to dampen the surface with rubbing alcohol, peel off the decal's backing, apply the decal,

gently heat with a hair dryer, and finish by peeling off the top transfer sheet. It worked fine, but I am not sold on it.

It is much more work than a waterslide decal, and treating the surface with alcohol could create problems with acrylic polymers, which are very popular. Not everybody has a hair dryer, and this kind of decal would be tough to use on more complex surfaces.

An additional challenge is the single-point mounting of the figure to the base. It needs to be pinned, as no glue would hold it otherwise.

The finished model has an irresistible charm. It would certainly spark delightful conversation at any modeling show. **HM**



The original moon suit in action.



A plaque on the base honors Allyn B. "Hap" Hazard, the designer of the suit.