



an artist we admire." One would think that resin-casts would take some of the guesswork out of buying a custom model, guesswork such as: Is it going to be accurate? Is it going to hold up and not disintegrate over time? Will there be a market for it later? But that guesswork still remains—there's just as much "buyer beware" with resins as there is with any other type of custom horse. Being the picky person I am, I have yet to come across a resin-cast model that is completely correct, although I have seen some remakes that were spot-on perfect. (Not many, but some.) Mold problems are often hard to see in the promotional pictures artists use to promote their resin releases, so the wary buyer will need to see the model in the flesh before committing. Given the small release numbers of some resins, getting a chance to see the model close up may preclude getting an order in on time.

*"Trick Dice"*  
*North Light Quarter*  
*Horse in black*  
*leopard app. owned*  
*by Robin Briscoe*

Then there's the issue of paint job and finishing quality. Most of the resins I have seen out there have been admirable—but these are ones that made it into a live show ring at a good-sized show. How many are out there that aren't up to big show standards? As a judge, I'll never know for sure, although I know of a few through unhappy owners' remarks. But as a buyer, you'll *want* to know...to make sure yours isn't one that has to stay home. And as for waiting time, I have heard that some resin producers have almost as long a waiting list for the casting as they had for remakes. As for standing up over time, the problems that plague all repainted and rehaired models seem to plague the resins too: yellowing, glue giving up the ghost or beginning to show through the hair, chipping and cracking over time. The quality of the finish still depends on the diligence of the artist, not the material upon which it is applied.

Don't get me wrong by assuming I am painting all resin artists with the same tarred brush. There are some lovely ones out there, priced fairly and finished beautifully. (These tend to be the ones that sell out before you can get a really good look at one and put your own order in.) What I am doing is asking hobbyists to use the same degree of care in selecting a resin as they would in selecting any other model for their collection or showstring.

What do I hope is the future of resins? That we see more and more of them! The talents of our hobby artists are becoming more and more pronounced, and producing resins gives more and more people a chance to admire and own a piece of a fine artist's work. Maybe some of the better ones will have a new life as a plastic model someday (Pete Stone, are you listening?), which will give those of us who aren't in the market for resins a chance to own a quality model...or cut one up, if that is our bent.