

would spend examining your horse in person!

In our hobby, most models are purchased as show horses—there just isn't a "pet quality" classification. And the bottom line is, if an artist produces models of poor-quality workmanship (whether they're just starting or whether they just aren't capable or willing to create better), that artist really has no business selling his work.

Quality of the Artist's Other Works

Some consider the "Live Show Quality" description as a kind of "quality-by-association" label. Let's say that Remaker A has created not only live show competitors, but also live show winners, champions, and a Grand or two. By virtue of these past successes, Remaker A advertises his work as "Live Show Quality."

However, complications can arise from this. Remaker A may not always produce live show quality work, no matter how famous, accomplished, or undeniably well-done some of his other models have been. With some remakers, there is a notable difference between models created for their own showstrings and those done for saleslists. Some remakers are hit-and-miss, with no obvious reason for the inconsistency. And some remakers will just plain hurry models out without the proper work and care, to raise some fast capital.

Remaker A's latest creation is a brand-new version of our friend Nine Across. A saleslist horse, he was advertised as "live show quality" on the basis of the artist's previous work, and purchased on the strength of that description.

Nine Across arrives with a streaky paint job dotted with nicks in the finish, a sloppily-haired mane and tail, and glue smudges on his neck. Conformationally, he's not too likely to bring home blues, with his badly swollen fetlock joints and too-short neck.

Situations like this have happened many times. What does the buyer do? Take the remaker's word that this is a live show quality model? (How many starry-eyed newcomers to the hobby, awed by the remaker's reputation for live champions, will know any better?) Ask for a refund (if the remaker will even give one)? Or should the buyer just resell the horse to recoup the loss?

Nine Across is soon featured on the buyer's own saleslist, hailed long and loud as a work by Remaker A. After all, Remaker A said the model was live show quality, so why not repeat the claim?

Sure enough, someone snaps up Nine Across—and the circle begins again. The only person who comes out unstung is Remaker A. Although Remaker A has lost the respect of everyone who comes into contact with Nine Across, there are still many more model showers who have never heard of the horse—they just hear the names of Remaker A's champions over and over again, and want a remake.

A Weak Field, But It's A Live Show!

Behold Nine Across, the first effort of a young novice, Remaker B. Her creation is a reasonably nice job—legs a wee bit spaghetti-like, paint somewhat thick, and the heavy material backing left on his fake fur mane and tail, but still pretty darned respectable for a first remake.

Remaker B's local model-showing friends throw a live backyard halter show. The competition is admittedly not top-

notch, but everyone is trying his best, and a good time is had by all (and that is what model showing should be about). At show's end, Remaker B is thrilled when Nine Across is awarded the Grand! He earned it, and in this field, he was certainly the best.

But success changes Remaker B's perspective on the hobby. If other artists can sell remakes for sizeable sums, and Remaker B has created a live-show Grand Champion, then why shouldn't Remaker B sell remakes too? By winning a Grand, and truly earning it over his field, hasn't Nine Across also earned Remaker B the right to advertise his work as being "Live Show Quality," and so on a par with that of more experienced remakers?

Soon, ads appear trumpeting Remaker B's "Live Show Quality Remakes!" Some of you may be laughing, but someone else out there is going to take the "Live Show Quality" tag as gospel, and buy.



A Statement of Overall Condition

At times, usually when a remake is sold second- or third-hand, "Live Show Quality" is used as an alternate way of saying that the model is in mint or perfect condition. Some people believe that any remake is automatically a live show candidate (after all, it's not a boring ol' OF anymore, right?), and so if the paint and hair are in good shape, the model is the big L-S-Q.

Correctness of Conformation

Rarely seen in public, this definition of "Live Show Quality" is probably the meaning used most often in confidential cases. "Have you seen that Nine Across horse that Hobbyist A is so proud of?" says Hobbyist B to Hobbyist C. "He's got a great paint job, super detail, tons of character, but his shoulder is put on halfway up his neck, and he could poke a hole in someone with that pointy hock! There's no way he could ever be shown live!"

Well, that's one reason why you don't see this usage in public! And other reasons are just as obvious. Is a seller going to say of