

Planning your model submission to the Celebration Room at a TLR Convention

Okay, you are working on your Master Builder – Cars Achievement Program (AP) certificate, and, to spice up the details, you decide to add a load to the car. You have labored extensively to make the load as detailed as you have the car. During judging, your car will be judged as a car only. You will not receive AP credit separately for the load, other than for details.

Solution to this dilemma? Make the load a separate model. "... If the 'load' is the model, then it is a structure." (Frank Koch, Facebook NMRA Achievement Program). Submit the load as a structure and simultaneously work on your Master Builder – Structures AP certificate. In other words, fill out two sets of NMRA 902 forms – one for the car and one for the load. Of course, both will have to have to meet their respective AP category criteria. In your paperwork, include any photo documentation that you can.

How can you do this? According to the NMRA: "Structures are just about anything on the layout that was man made and doesn't fit into one of the other Master Builder categories. These are just some examples of the types of 'structures' that you could build to earn this certificate: buildings (all kinds), factories, bridges (all kinds), signal towers, oil derricks, docks, power line towers, cranes (stationary or mobile), ships, etc." In other words, loads fall under the "etc." portion of this description.

Note that if you just submit the paperwork for the car, your entry will be judged on the merits of the Master Builder – Car AP category and any load will count as added detail. Be sure that the load is secured to the car as it would be in actual practice for conformity. If the load obscures other detail on the car, you may not get all of the points for which you are eligible. Make sure judges can see all of the car's details. If this means you make the load so it can be removed for judging, do this to obtain the maximum number of points. Similarly, if the load has interior details that will garner more points, make it possible for the judges to see these details so that you can get the maximum possible Master Builder – Structures credit.

Good luck and make the most of your modeling skills and creativity. See you in the Celebration Room at future Thousand Lakes Region Conventions.