

I recently ordered two "New Alien" sample fleets from the Star Blazers On Line website. I ordered one of each of the Ventnorian Empire and Mektonian Empire ships.

The **Ventnorian Empire** models ordered were:

13001 VnE Fleet Battleship with Rotary Cannon

13002 VnE Fleet Carrier with Rotary Cannon

13003 VnE Fleet Battleship with Long Range Special Weapon and 2 missile batteries

13004 VnE Fleet Battleship with Rotary Cannon and 2 missile batteries

13005 VnE Fleet Heavy Missile Battleship

13006 VnE Fleet Missile Battleship with 5 missile batteries

13007 VnE Battle Cruiser – gun version

13008 VnE Battle Cruiser – missile version

13009 VnE Heavy Cruiser

The **Mektonian Empire** models ordered were:

8001 ME Missile Battleship with 2 large missiles

8002 ME Missile Battleship

8003 ME Fleet Battleship with 2 large missiles

8004 ME Fleet Battleship

8005 ME Fleet Carrier

8006 ME Strike Cruiser

8007 ME Battle Cruiser

8008 ME Destroyer

All of the models that I purchased are cast in resin with metal gun turrets. The first thing that I did was to clean the models with dish soap and water to get rid of any mold release. I used an old tooth brush to make certain every surface was scrubbed. Then each model was put into a container of water for 15 to 30 minutes, removed from the container, and allowed to dry overnight. After grabbing my hobby tool box and placing the tools on my workstation, I examined each model to see what else I needed or wanted to do with it.

The first group of models that I worked on was the **Ventnorian Empire** models and was pleasantly surprised to see that they did not require a whole lot of extra work. I did need to trim some minor flash plus fill or sand a few pits. I did drill small holes so the gun turrets could be mounted onto the hull\* and a slightly larger hole for the flight stands. Not all of the models needed flight stand holes to be drilled as they were already provided. Then, I primed the models with a light grey color until I decide what my fleet colors will be.

The second group I worked on was the **Mektonian Empire** models. Basically I have done the same things to this group as the first group. I had a little flash to trim from some of the ships "wings". Due to my eyesight, I took extra time to insure that the "wings" looked right after super gluing them to the hull. I have not primed these models yet due to the cold and wet weather we are having. I may brush prime them instead.

In general, these models have been a pleasure to work on and did not require a lot of extra work to complete.

\*NOTE: If you do not wish to drill holes in the hull you may remove the peg on the gun turret with a sharp tool while it's on the sprue and then, after a light sanding if necessary, mount it flush to the hull. -K