

BUDGET STATIC GRASS TOOL

TESTED!



PETER MARRIOTT tests a 'budget' static grass tool from a new manufacturer and asks whether it can compete with the big boys from Europe.

ANY GAUGE

MODEL
DoubleO Scenics electrostatic grass applicator
• Price: £27.95 plus £2.95 post and packing but see Model Rail offer right.

AVAILABILITY
DoubleO Scenics.
Tel: 01844 291128.
E-mail: doubleo.colin@rocketmail.com

DIFFICULTY

+
Excellent value for money, well made, excellent instructions.
PETER'S VERDICT
Container is smaller than on European-made tools.

This new electrostatic grass applicator is a welcome arrival in the budget area of this market. It costs £27.95, which is considerably cheaper than similar items from the major European manufacturers and it is spearheading a range of scenic products from DoubleO Scenics.

DoubleO's applicator is of the 'tea strainer' style. This nickname is purely due to its appearance and in no way reflects the quality of the build. In fact, it is well made and has a nice, robust feel about it.

Like other static grass tools, it works by clipping a crocodile clip to a nail or rail adjacent to where you want the grass. Power comes from two AA batteries - not supplied - but the nail is! With the applicator, comes two pages of instructions that are some of the most comprehensive 'How To' instructions I've come across for planting static grass.

I tried the applicator with a selection of short, medium and long grass fibres and it works very well. In my experience, these single mesh devices work best with the medium lengths (2mm to 6.5mm) fibres; short fibres (1mm) will just fall through while the longest fibres (12mm) won't fall through. This makes it suitable for 'N' gauge and upwards.

Planting grass with the medium length grasses is quick and fun. A good number of fibres were left standing up in the adhesive once it has dried.

The grass fibre holding container is smaller than that on, say, the Noch GrasMaster and will require filling more often if you're planting a large area. That said the container is large enough for you to shake the device before planting without spilling



Press the button on the side and the red light shows that DoubleO's applicator is ready to use.

any fibres.

This is a great value item that deserves to succeed because it brings the chance to produce realistic scenery to those modellers who either balk at or can't afford more than £100 for one of the big, European applicators. DoubleO's applicator is actually less than a quarter of the price of its mainstream electrostatic competitor!

It is good to see another new scenic venture from a UK-based company and we look forward to reviewing more products from DoubleO Scenics in the future.

DoubleO Scenics' applicator is a superb way to get into the world of static grass. With just one 'head', it may not have the flexibility of similar tools from big name brands but as it costs less than £30, who's complaining?

WHERE CAN I BUY ONE?

You can order DoubleO's applicator direct or you can buy it from the following model shops:

- Great Eastern Toys & Models, Norwich
- Transport Treasures, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire
- The Model Shop, Northampton
- Trinders Toy Shop, Banbury
- A&H Models, Brackley
- AC Models, Eastleigh
- Church Street Models - Basingstoke



EXCLUSIVE OFFER

SAVE MONEY WITH MODEL RAIL

DoubleO Scenics is offering the chance to save £2.95 off the cost of its new static grass applicator. To take up this offer, call 01844 291128 or email: doubleo.colin@rocketmail.com, quoting the reference 'MR-005-1'. The £2.95 saving equates to

the post & packing cost and DoubleO has kindly offered to waive this for three months (the closing date for the offer is January 3 2014). Packs of static grass purchased at the same time will also be offered P&P free.

HOW TO DO IT: USING THE DOUBLEO STATIC GRASS TOOL



1 Insert two AA batteries into the holder. To operate, press the button on the side. A red light indicates that the tool is ready to use.



2 Fill the mesh container with a blend of static grasses. For best results, use fibres that are between 2mm and 6.5mm long.



3 Use a wide paintbrush to spread a thin layer of PVA onto the area of landscape that you want to apply static grass to.



4 Hammer the supplied nail into the baseboard where you intend to plant and attach the crocodile clip to it. Alternatively, earth the applicator on a piece of nearby track.



5 Shake the applicator, switch it on and gently move it from side to side about 3cm to 4cm over the surface of the glue.



WIN a DoubleO Scenics static grass applicator and fibres!

DoubleO Scenics has generously given *Model Rail* three static grass applicators to give away along with a bumper pack of static grass to get you started. The tool plus seven 20g bags of static grass, brings the total prize pot to £41.95! Enter today at: www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is October 25 13 2013.

- Q:** PVA glue is required to stick static grass to your layout. But what does PVA stand for?
- A:** Polyvinyl alcohol
- B:** Paper vinyl adhesive
- C:** Polyvinyl acetate

Terms & conditions: Closing date October 25 2013. For full terms & conditions, go to www.greatcompetitions.co.uk

WHAT NEXT?

DoubleO offers realistic and subdued static grass fibres in 20g (£2.00), 50g (£4.95) and 100g (£9.90) bags. More specialized colours, such as burnt grass, are also available.

