



Black Rosies



Black Rosie's









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I first learned of the Black Rosies from a little documentary film called *Invisible Warriors* and it inspired me to tell this story. We all know of the "We Can Do It" poster from WWII featuring the woman with the rolled-up sleeve, but many are unaware that African American women were helping win the war too.

"The classic images of Rosie the Riveter are white women". But Professor Gregory Cooke, creator of the documentary *Invisible Warriors*, has unearthed the lesser-known stories that represent six hundred thousand Black women who also joined the workforce. They excelled in their jobs ... against even greater barriers: "Black women were mechanics, riveters, welders, carpenters, sheet metal workers, there were even some in Washington who did code breaking. They were basically fighting the war of racism and gender discrimination all at once."

There are a few subtle metaphors within the piece... the ladder and posters imply the upward mobility that African American women (and men) were achieving by participating in the workforce as well as victory in WWII. The figures are painted a mix of Red, White and Blue meaning they were all part of the American story.

For this diorama I used a Vector Resin R-1820 motor (not recommended) and added some small details. For the figures, I cobbled together some mechanics and African American heads from Hornet, then converted them into females with head scarfs. Not the best, but passable. For the main character with the smock, I had her 3D rendered and printed by Le Xuan Giang from Paracel Miniatures. 3D printed figures are almost perfect, but there are still some geometric printing artifacts that need to be worked out (if you look really close). Higher resolution printers will hopefully help in the future. The old man is a MiniArt figure. I designed the sign in graphics software and printed it at home, then made the frame out of balsa, then painted it. I built the back wall from scratch with styrene strips, I-beams, and L-Brackets. The girders are from MiniArt. I scratch-built the cart from styrene and wheels from a MiniArt kit. The ladder, barrel and tools are from MiniArt too. I found the posters online and printed them on the color copier. For the concrete floor, I used sheet styrene painted with gray primer, then modeled with washes of greys, black and brown.

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