

Column: PROJECTS

Peter van der Waa

Miniature Trintella world

Everything about scale models of our Trintel and Trintella fleet

In the book 'Trintella Yachts', published in 2014, we paid a little attention to the scale models created in the past during the chapter on the Trintella brand. When first exploring that world of Trintella miniatures, we quickly found there was a lot more to building scale models than we first believed. As newly minted Committee Member Projects, I decided to explore the different models, versions, builders, and owners. The end result: a beautiful only photo exhibition on these scale models.

During the seventies, the first and foremost period of growth of the shipyard, the goal of scale models was to promote the Trintella yacht. In that time the shipyard gave the order to build a model of a ship that had yet to be built in real life. The new and original sketches by designer Van de Stadt were used to do this. The first generation of models were used on the international boat expositions to introduce customers to both new and existing Trintella yachts. When a new type of Trintella had then been launched onto the market, it was usually the owners, so proud of and charmed by their new boat, who wanted a model to have at home on the wall or in a display case. Slowly and steadily a market for scale models of luxury yachts grew, mainly dominated by scale models of maritime and historical ships (such as VOC ships). The bigger shipping companies were happy costumers of professional scale model builders.

To get better acquainted with the miniature Trintella world I wanted some answers on questions like: how many half and full Trintel and Trintella scale models were built, who built them, what versions are there, what is the quality and in what state are they, how do you come to own one of them and how many can we track down and photograph? The final goal was to make these Trintella mini's available for a general audience.

The best end goal could have been to host an exposition where we could bring together the models, their owners, and builders during a TVK event. While tracking everything down, we quickly learned that getting everything and everyone in the same location would be a logistical nightmare. There are also a lot of owners who believe their model is too fragile to be transported. We now chose to

showcase the found models in a more permanent, online photo exhibition on our website. This way it will also be a lot easier to add new models and additional information.



Full model Trintella IIIa



Half model Trintella la

Where did they go...? The search

The first search in 2013 for a chapter in the book didn't get a lot of replies at the time, so I had to use the few pictures I managed to find in old archives for the book. That experience made that in the fall of 2020, I had rather negative expectations of stage 2.0 of the search for the missing Trintella models. Eventually, the messages on Facebook, our own website, the newspapers and magazines, and many requests through email resulted in a beautiful collection of Trintel and Trintella models in a variety of versions and conditions. We succeeded in finding one or more models of all different series of Trintellas: we found models ranging from the Trintel Ia to the modern Trintella 47C. By the end of December 2020, we had found over 25 models. We expect more owners of scale models will come forward in 2021, when we open the online exhibition and further promote the project. We hope to have around 30 models by the end of 2021.

Renovation

When collecting the first group of models from their owners, we quickly realised the models would need some special attention before we subjected them to a photoshoot in the studio. This a very specialist job, so I petitioned help from a model building boat club in Brabant (NL). Of course, it was in 's-Hertogenbosch, the berth of our Trintellas, that I met the club Titanic. They thought this would be a nice job for one of their members. Theo Neilen was happy to comply and professionally cleaned 4 models and fixed issues like stray swimming ladders and replacing stays and railing wires. Theo made sure the models were ready for the rotating 'catwalk' in our studio. We decided to photograph several models, that were in bad condition or were still being finished, as they were and not wait until the thorough renovation or finishing are done. This gives an accurate picture of reality, after all.

Sometimes our older, full-sized Trintellas are not in the best state either. They are at the cusp of a refit that will make sure the boat is good to go for many years to go.



Trintella 57A for restoration

Photoshoot

The idea was to make high-quality pictures for our permanent online exhibition. This quality is best achieved in a suitable studio. One of our members, Peter Vincent van der Linden (Trintel Ila) is a professional photographer and owns a large studio in Almere (NL). He was willing help us with this project and took pictures of around 10 models.

For some models, transport was logistically difficult and so we found studios close to the owners. We reached out to several photography clubs in Zeeland and Brabant, asking them if they had a member with a (mobile) studio.



Photoshoot of Trintella IIIa in studio Peter Vincent van der Linden – Almere

A number of photographers came to our aid and we made arrangements with them to photograph the models. In some cases, the owners of the models took the pictures. The pictures may not have been taken in perfect studio conditions, but the models are worth viewing.

All models that were photographed in a studio, had pictures taken from several angles. We placed the model on a turntable to do so. For some models, photographs were taken from 36 different angles, so we can have a 360-degree video made! With the perfect light and the best cameras, we have a clear shot. No detail can be missed. This makes zooming in on the picture online extra fun, since you can see the finishing details perfectly.

Builders of Trintella miniatures

Generally speaking, there are two categories of model builders: professional and amateur. The first category of builders works on assignments from companies or clients for a set quality and price ratio. A detailed and perfectly finished model will have a different price tag, and commercial prices also vary between so-called 'half' models, which can be mounted on walls, and 'full' models for display cases.

Amateur builders create a model as a one-time project, for example because they have their own Trintella and this is a fun way to spend your winter. The quality and execution in these models can vary massively. Some amateur builders have spent their entire lives creating a portfolio and come close (or even match) the quality and finishes from professional builders. Theo Neilen, who fixed up a few Trintella models for us, is one of those amateur builders who has simply perfected building model sailing yachts. We have an interview with him coming up in this Magazine.

Professional builders that have come up as Trintella model builders are:

- Roukema B.V. - Delfzijl (quit in 2000)
- Dubbelman B.V. - Ridderkerk (quit in 2020)
- Bootmodel.nl – Balkbrug
- Maritime Kunstobjekte - Schwanewede (GER)



Making of Trintel I by amateur builder Theo Neilen



Studio where the Pimpernel (Trintella la) is being finished

Interested? How can I get my very own model?

There are only two options, unless you are one of the lucky few who are gifted the model of their dreams: you can either buy or build.

- When you **build your own**, it's important to have some basic crafting skills in so you can create a nice end result. There are many books and online videos to use for inspiration and learn this skill for yourself. The TVK can also help in providing the desired drawings. There are also model building boat clubs you can join, so you can make the most of the expertise from your fellow members. Some clubs organise workshops and courses. You will have to learn to navigate this world to learn what are the possibilities that best match your own skills, ambitions, and budget. Several Technical Information Bulletins are being written, discussing three different building methods and types. It describes half and full models as well as the modern technique of 3D printing.

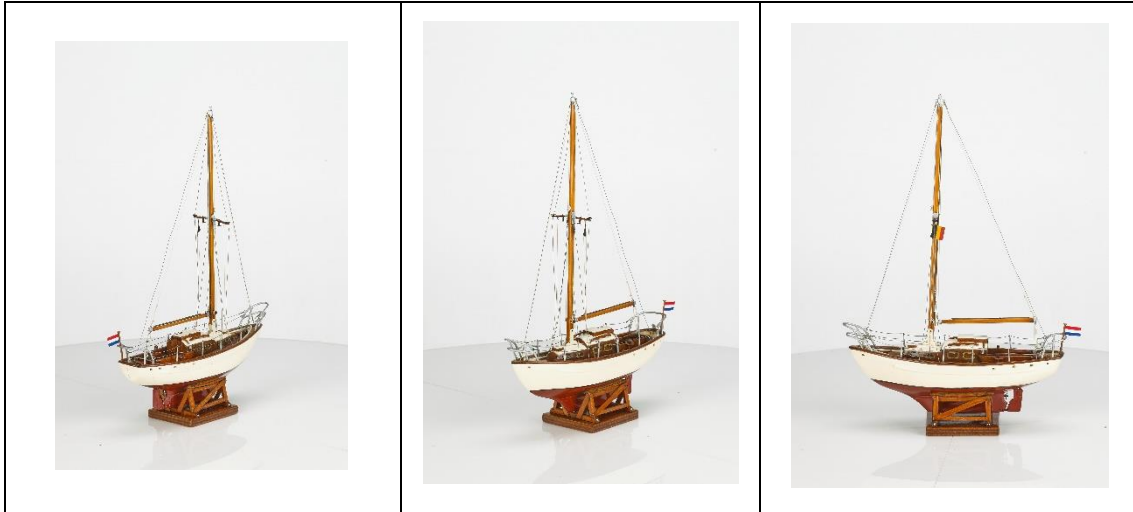


Example of Trintella III- 3D print

- If you want to **buy** a ready-made model, you will need to make a choice between **new or second-hand**. In 2018, one of our board members managed to get their hands on a beautiful and authentic Trintella IIIa model from Roukema. Depending on the state and version, prizes can be high. You will often see prices ranging from €500 to €1500 for a full scale model on display.
For a **new** model, you will have to look into current professional builders. We mentioned a few active builders above, but there might be more out there. You can then have the model of your dreams (half or full, quality, details), depending on your budget.

Online exhibition of Trintel and Trintella scale models

You can marvel at the beauty of the models on the Trintella Vriendenkring website (www.trintella.org/schepen/schaalmodellen). All models are provided with a profile, describing detailed information on the model, as well as a picture from the side. By following a link, you can view separate pictures from different angles per model. Zooming in will allow you to see the details.



Exhibition – Full model Trintella – photographs from different angles. Model is 50 years old and owned by Riekie Wever, the TVK’s protectress. This Trintella was once the first step towards the shipyard’s success.

The photo exhibition of the Trintella and Trintella scale models can be seen online from April 2021.

Visit our TVK website: www.trintella.org/yachts/scalemodels