



# **Let's Get Organized!**

*Compiled by :  
Corrie McDermott*

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## **Keeping Track of Who's Who**

No matter the size of your collection, the first step to organizing your collection is knowing just what you have. This information is important if you plan to buy, sell, trade or just keep up with the hobby in general.

The name of the molds you own, the model name, the model number (if available) as well as the manufacturer for Original Finish Models and the Sculptor and finishing artist for Artist Resins, Customs and Custom Glaze models are all important details.

When purchasing a new model the information is usually available on the packaging. This information can be clipped from the packaging and stored, or it can be written down or typed into a program. If purchasing artist resins, customs or custom glaze models this information can be learned from the person you are buying from or trading with. If this information is not available to you, there are many ways to identify a model. There are several model horse identification websites that are handy to use as well as hobby reference books.

### **For Original Finish Plastic Models made by Breyer:**

*Breyer Horses according to Pony Lagoon*

<http://ponylagoon.muerte.net/index.shtml>

*Identify Your Breyer*

<http://www.identifyyourbreyer.com/>

*Breyer Animal Collectible Guide Book*

*(Please note this book is redone with the latest models every few years. Please look for the most recent edition.)*

[http://www.amazon.com/Breyer-Animal-Collectors-Guide-Identification/dp/1574325566/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1228084666&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Breyer-Animal-Collectors-Guide-Identification/dp/1574325566/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1228084666&sr=1-1)

### **Original Finish Peter Stone Horses**

*Peter Stone Reference Site*

<http://www.stonehorseref.com/>

### **Original Finish Hagen Renaker Models**

*Hagen Renaker Online Museum*

<http://hagenrenakermuseum.com/>

*Hagen Renaker: A Charlton Standard Catalog Book*

[http://www.amazon.com/Hagen-Renaker-Charlton-Standard-Catalogue-catalogue/dp/0889682291/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_b\\_img\\_c](http://www.amazon.com/Hagen-Renaker-Charlton-Standard-Catalogue-catalogue/dp/0889682291/ref=pd_bxgy_b_img_c)

## Artist Resins

Equine Resin Directory

<http://equineresindirectory.com/>

You can also learn model information by browsing and participating in online model horse discussion forums.

Model Horse Blab

<http://www.modelhorseblab.com/>

Fallen Leaves

<http://fallen-leaves.net/>

Once you have found out the information pertaining to your collection, you should organize it in a way that works for you.

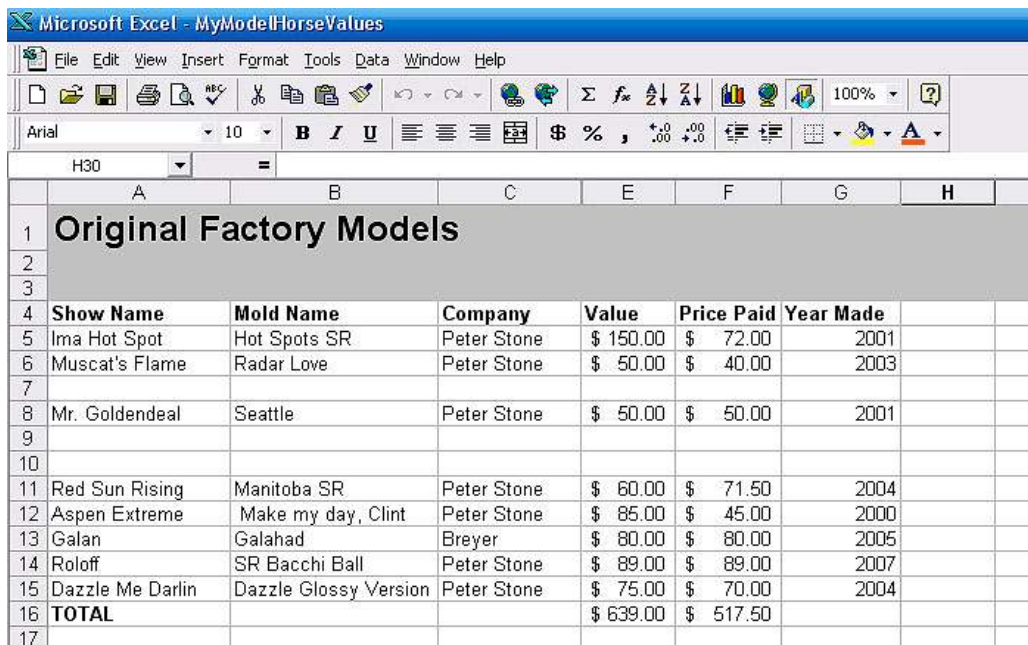
**Tags:** Some people prefer to use small tags with strings to attach to your model's legs. Information about the model is written on the tag. Others may feel they might lose the tags and therefore would rather save the information in other ways or in addition to tags.

**Index Cards:** Using index cards with a print out or cutout of the model from the box with the horse's written information is one way to go. The index cards can be filed in a plastic box with dividers and organized by manufacturer, Mold, Color or so on.

**Notebook:** If you would prefer not to use index cards, but would still like to write out the information, a notebook or a binder is another option.

## Storing your Information on the Computer

You can make spreadsheet in a program like **Microsoft Excel**. (as seen below) or in Word Processor program.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Original Factory Models</b>						
2							
3							
4	<b>Show Name</b>	<b>Mold Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Price Paid</b>	<b>Year Made</b>	
5	Ima Hot Spot	Hot Spots SR	Peter Stone	\$ 150.00	\$ 72.00	2001	
6	Muscat's Flame	Radar Love	Peter Stone	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00	2003	
7							
8	Mr. Goldenddeal	Seattle	Peter Stone	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	2001	
9							
10							
11	Red Sun Rising	Manitoba SR	Peter Stone	\$ 60.00	\$ 71.50	2004	
12	Aspen Extreme	Make my day, Clint	Peter Stone	\$ 85.00	\$ 45.00	2000	
13	Galan	Galahad	Breyer	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	2005	
14	Roloff	SR Bacchi Ball	Peter Stone	\$ 89.00	\$ 89.00	2007	
15	Dazzle Me Darlin	Dazzle Glossy Version	Peter Stone	\$ 75.00	\$ 70.00	2004	
16	<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ 639.00	\$ 517.50		
17							

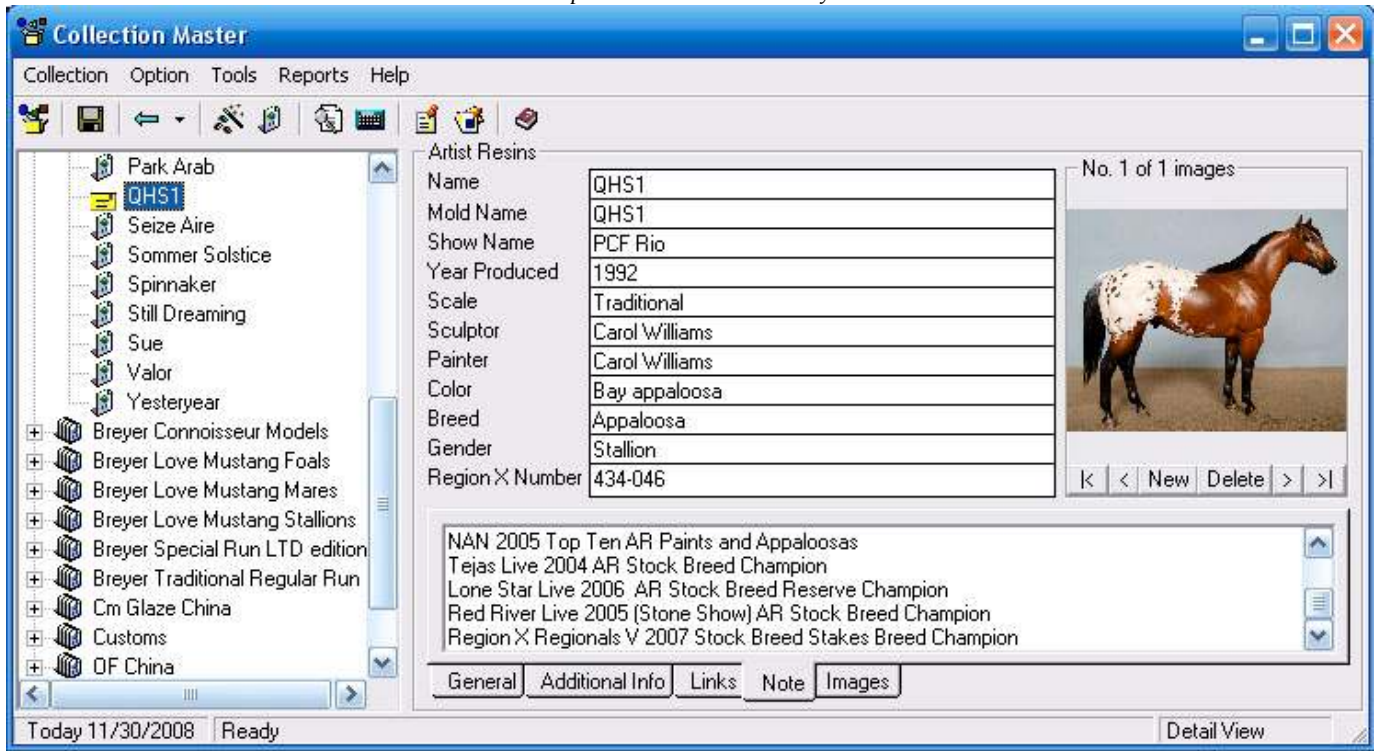
If you'd like to step up your organizing a notch, you can also use software created for collectibles and customize it to suit your needs. A wonderful program that I use for my own collection is called **Collection Master** by Nortica. This program is available online to download for \$39.99 or you can have a CD with the software mailed to your home for a few dollars extra.

<http://www.nortica.com/Software/CollectionMaster/Features.asp>

Below are a few examples of what the program looks like customized for model horses.

**Main Screen.**

Here I have clicked on a particular horse in my Artist Resin Collection



**Current Item Report, printable and great for a binder!**



## Current Collecton Detail Report.


Printable. Great way to print a particular collection for your binder.

Report: Page 1 of 2 Pages

**Breyer Love Mustang Mares**

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**Appaloosa Mustang Family Set**




<b>Mold Name</b>	Mustang Mare
<b>Show Name</b>	Dark Sarcasm
<b>Year Produced</b>	1995-97
<b>Scale</b>	Classic
<b>Sculptor</b>	Maureen Love
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Breyer
<b>Color</b>	Black appy with blanket
<b>Breed</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Product Number</b>	3349
<b>Condition</b>	

**Price: \$12.00**

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**Mustang Family (original)**




<b>Mold Name</b>	Mustang Mare
<b>Show Name</b>	
<b>Year Produced</b>	1976-1990
<b>Scale</b>	Classic
<b>Sculptor</b>	Maureen Love
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Breyer
<b>Color</b>	chestnut pinto
<b>Breed</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Product Number</b>	3065
<b>Condition</b>	

**Price: \$14.00**

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**Sears Wish Book Mustang Family**



<b>Mold Name</b>	Mustang Mare
<b>Show Name</b>	
<b>Year Produced</b>	1985
<b>Scale</b>	Classic
<b>Sculptor</b>	Maureen Love

The sky is the limit with this program. You can add a horse's value and the program will give you a detailed page of the collection value as a whole. (All OFs, All AR's etc) Each individual horse can have its own show award information listed, where it's located in the house and who or where you purchased it from.

This program also is a great aid in getting your collection ready for having it insured, which will be discussed in the next chapter.





## **Save those Receipts!**

*Whether you plan to insure your collection or not, one of the best things you can do early on is save your receipts which are evidence of your transaction. Be sure to write down the date if a receipt or invoice does not have it listed.*

**Save e-mails** between you and a seller that lists the price you paid and the model's name/information. These can be printed out and put into a binder and they can also be saved on the computer. Not only is saving this information wonderful for insuring, if you happen upon a rare piece, this documentation is great for showing.

**\*Always keep multiple copies of records** if you plan on insuring. No one wants to see their house go up in flames and later realize that everything proving what they owned in their collection was in the fire.

**Keep a CD** with PDF (Adobe Reader) files that have e-mails, invoices, paypal receipts, ebay auction screen shots etc in a place other than your home. This might be your car or a family member's home.

**Keep your records online** in either web storage or if you have a website or photo album.

*You can create PDF files without having to purchase the expensive version of Adobe Reader. I use a program I downloaded for free called Primo PDF. The program acts like a printer, but creates a PDF file instead of printing. Any printable document can be turned into a PDF file with this program and saved on your computer. I often use it to save auction listings from ebay or sales ads on the Model Horse Sales Pages. (MH\$P)*

### ***Now that you have saved all your purchase records, just what do you do with them?***

*There are several ways to store your records from keeping the information in a binder to envelopes to my personal favorite...an accordian binder. You can get these just about anywhere but sometimes you happen upon the jewel I discovered at my job. A handy briefcase/accordian folder with CD slots and pockets. Regular accordian binders work great as well. I like to divide my or purchasing records by type. ie. Artist Resin receipts, OF Plastic receipts, Custom etc. Although I have the accordian binder which divides each type of collection, I prefer to keep all the records in plastic sheet protectors. On the sheet protector I write the collection type and slip the whole sleeve into the proper divider in the binder.*

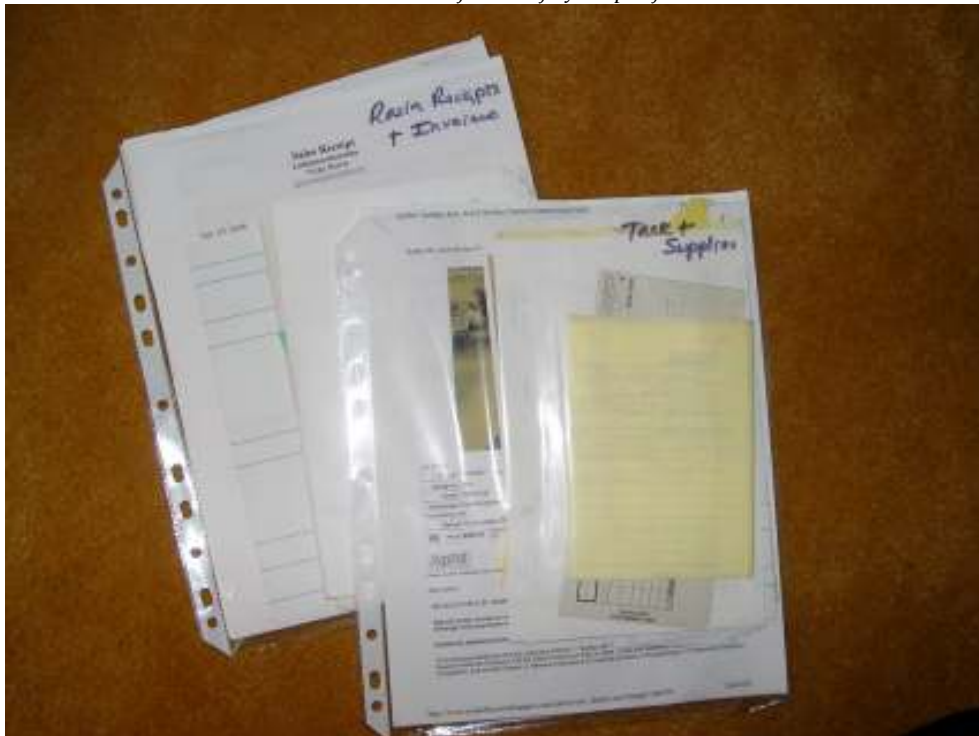
*I also keep my COAs, hang tags, etc in this binder. Everything is in a neat and handy place to find it.*

*See the images below for my set-up.*

*My Accordion/briefcase binder. Note this one conveniently holds CDs!*



*Here are some of the sheet protectors with my purchasing info. You can put these in a 3 ring binder instead of an accordion folder if you prefer.*







## **The Show is TOMORROW?!!**

We all can be known to procrastinate at times, but doing it on a constant basis can actually ruin a show experience for yourself. Rushing around at the last minute is not only stressful, but it can cause you to forget important things like tack or references for your models, not to mention models themselves.

**Learn when the shows are.** By joining your Region's yahoo group or by checking out the NAMHSA website (<http://www.namhsa.org>) as well as discussion forums and the MH\$P, can help you figure out when shows are scheduled in your area. Sometimes going to a show at the last minute cannot be helped due to work or other circumstances, but planning ahead only benefits YOU. The best thing you can do is know when the shows will be and mark them down on a calendar.

**Print the show packet early.** Do yourself a favor and print out the show packet early. By doing this you can familiarize yourself with the rules, learn who the judges are (if listed), get to know where the show will be held and most importantly you can...

**Print out your classlist early.** Print the classlist, look it over and start penciling in the models you think you will show in the classes they should go in. You can do this on break at work, while waiting for the bus, or you can purposely set aside time to do this. This classlist can be brought with you to the show and you can use it as a guide to know when a horse will be in a particular class. Not only that, but you can also use this classlist to jot down the placings of a model next to their name. If you prefer, you can also type a classlist up on your computer in Excel, Word or another word processor program and bring it along to the show.

**Make a list of what you need.** Start figuring out what you need for the show early. Are you getting low on tags or index cards? Do you have enough packing materials or pony pouches? Can't find your sticky wax? Maybe you noticed a model needs a repair. Make a list of EVERYTHING. This includes making a list of the models you are bringing. You can use that list to check off models as you pack them into their totes or cases.

**Check over your models.** Check all your models for rubs, dings, dust and smudges. Don't forget to check all your tack and references, too! You might need to reprint or retype something.

**Performance showers.** Check all your buckles and parts to be sure they are working before you get to the show. Repairs are more easily done at home. If possible keep your props together in bins or totes and double check that you have everything you need.

**Pack early!** Start packing your props, tack, models and references early. Don't wait until the last minute. If you know you will be busy with work or a family party the day before a show, pack the weekend before or during the week before. Don't forget to put a check mark near each model's name on your list as you pack them!

**Do a mental check.** As you pack up your car for the trip to the show, do a mental check about what you need, and what you have packed. It's amazing what we sometimes forget!

Sometimes we forget to bring something and it can't be helped. But these steps really can help and make your trip to the show that much less stressful!

Here are some other handy tips for packing and prepping for a show.

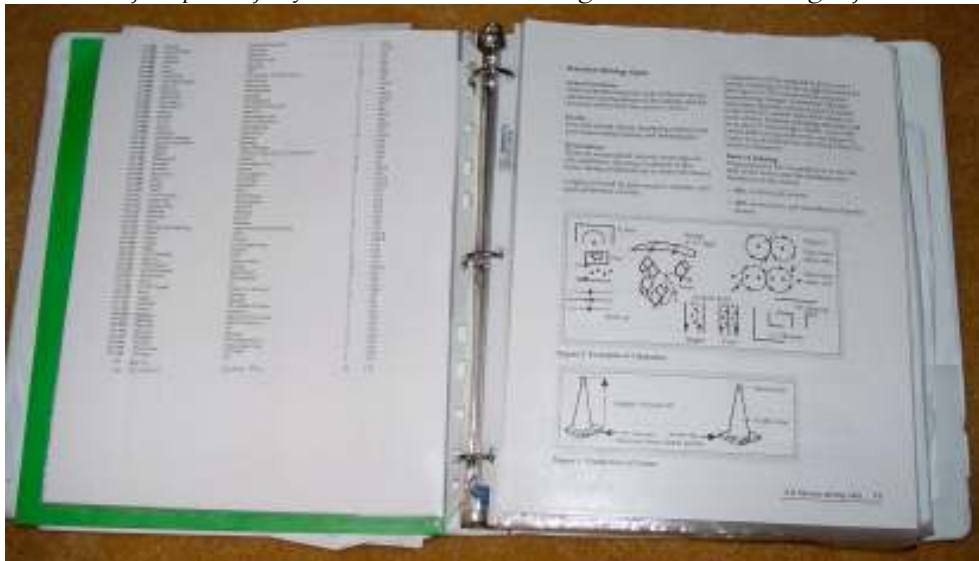
**\*\*\*Keep a show binder.** Purchase a three ring binder that you can bring with you to shows. These generally withstand a lot of abuse and are easy to replace when they finally fall apart.

**Keep a list of all your show horses.** Keep a list of all your show horses including the breed, gender, type (OF China, Plastic, Resin, etc) and age (if applicable). If your Region uses a number system for their shows, be sure to add this by your horses' names. You may forget a horse's name or breed and this information will be right at your fingertips should you need it. Use this same list to make sure your horses return home from the show.

**Keep your references organized.** References are an important part of an entry, for collectibility, breed or for performance. The best thing to do is keep your references in your binder. Organize your references by discipline, by breed or whatever way works best for the type of showstring you have. Sheet protectors work great for full or half page references. If using index cards, flat zipper pencil pouches for binders work great!

Below are a few pictures of my show binder which I have been using for several years.

On the left is part of my horse list and on the right are some driving references.



On the left is a performance reference and on the right is my zipper pencil pouch for index cards.





## **Shows done... Now what?**

*Hopefully you had a wonderful time at the show, whether your models did well or not. Now that the show is over, you're looking at a bunch of plastic totes, boxes or cases. What to do?*

**Unpack and Inventory** : *As you unpack your models double check that everyone made it home safely. If one or more of your models was damaged be sure to remember how you packed it so you don't make the same mistake twice. Set the model aside to be repaired by you or another hobbyist.*

**Everything has a place...** *Your models should have their own respective places on your shelves, book cases, cabinets or perhaps they remain packed away. Be sure to carefull return your models where they belong. If you brought them home with tack on, be sure to take the tack off the model and put it away. Leaving tack on a model for a long period of time can cause rubs or scratches and on custom models the tack can even stick to the model. Your totes and cases should also have a place to be where they won't be in the way, but will be accessible should you need them. Be sure that your tack and props are returned to where they belong as well. Do this neatly so nothing is damaged.*

**Record your experience:** *When you have some time, think about what you did in preparation for the show. What preparations worked for you, and which ones did not? Work on coming up with a solution to preparations that did not work and remember and record what did work for you.*

*If this was your first show, don't feel overwhelmed if not everything went perfectly. Practice makes perfect or as close to perfect as we can make it.*





## **The Rosettes are taking over!**

*After showing for a while the inevitable happens...the ribbons and rosettes start taking over.  
Some people enjoy displaying a portion of their winnings.*

**Know who won what...** *At shows, be sure to write down your placings on the back of the ribbons you intend to keep. If you didn't write them down, don't fret! Contact the show holder for the results, if you don't have a hard copy or a digital copy. Write the placing on the back.*

**The Three R's** *Recycle, Reuse, Reduce. If at all possible, be sure to recycle ribbons and rosettes. Not only does this save space for you, it allows the show holder to Reuse the ribbons for the next show, which helps keep the show cost down for everyone. This also reduces waste and production costs.*

**String 'em up!** *If you want to keep your rosettes and you have display space, putting up a string of nylon fishing wire or thick craft filament is a great way to hang a bunch of rosettes.*

*below is how I once had my rosettes along one wall of my bedroom.*



**Pack'em up!** *You may enjoy keeping your rosettes for your models, but you may not have the space to display them. One of the best ways to organize your ribbons and rosettes are to put them in large zip lock bags with the name of the model written on the bag. As you gently fold up the rosettes or slip the flat ribbons into the bag be sure to keep a notebook nearby where you can write down the placings for your models. The reason for this will be explained in the next step.*

*How I started off before putting the rosettes in bags*



*The rosettes all in bags and in my tote.*



**Keep track of your horses' winnings** Between your rosettes which have the name of the model and the placing and your sheets from the show, you should have a good idea who won what. You may decide that it's important to you to keep track of how your models do at all the shows you go to. You wish to share this information online or you might want to keep it to yourself. Be sure to take the notebook that you used to write down each model's placings and either keep them in the notebook to add to or if you'd prefer use a program like Excel to create a spreadsheet.

## Flat Ribbons

*For those who love to keep their flat ribbons. Creating a sheet in a word processor program or using a sheet of notepaper to write down the placings is a good idea. Slip the sheet into a sheet protector and put it in a binder with the flat ribbons in the sheet protector.*

*It could look like something like this:*



*If you dislike the binder idea, plastic bags like the rosettes works great as does photo boxes with dividers.*

## *In Closing...*

*I hope you have enjoyed reading about how you can get organized in the hobby. There are many other things to organize and not everything has been listed here due to space and time. No particular way to organize is wrong or right and what works for one person may not work for the next. I hope this literature has been a good guide for you and that it inspires you.*

*Happy Collecting, Showing and Organizing!*

*Corrie McDermott~  
November 2008*

*Some of the ideas in this book have come from talking to other hobbyists and sharing experiences. While some are just ideas that I decided to try on my own.*

*Special thanks to Robin Briscoe for her talk about Insuring Models at Vermont Live. While I had my own system, she had some wonderful ideas on things I would never have thought of.*

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*Thank you.*