

SEIRA-
MASUO'S

Whimsical Gunpla Production Notes in the UNIVERSAL CENTURY

topics

Author/SEIRA-MASUO

- 1 Customizing using only the kit's runners
- 2 Customizing with parts from other kits
- 3 Drastic proportion change using runners
- 4 Transform into a heavily armed ver. with parts from other kits
- 5 Simple aesthetic transformation using commercial plastic sheets
- 6 Unrestrained cumulative modeling

and
more!

HOBBY
JAPAN MOOK

Venture once more into his unique approach to Gunpla building, guided only by an initial theme. Delve into the principles behind his enigmatic "Masuo Theories!"

SEIRA-
MASUO'S

Whimsical Gunpla Production Notes in the UNIVERSAL CENTURY

Once again, this book is not a guide to building perfect Gunpla

Hello everyone! It's time for the surprise sequel to *Whimsical Gunpla Production Notes!*

This time I'm going to dive into the Universal Century (U.C.) with a project called "in the UNIVERSAL CENTURY." Get ready to see me tackle each major Gundam, one by one! (Don't worry, I'm not trying to compensate for my lack of skills with fancy kits – haha!)

In the previous book, I walked you through most of my Gunpla building methods. While my creations may have had a certain unique vibe – probably because of my time-saving hacks and improvised tools – the truth is that I only used basic crafting techniques. This time, I want to show you that even with those basic skills, there are tons of ways to have fun, depending on your approach. Think of the previous book as the "Gunpla Building 101" edition. This one? It's all about putting those skills into action!

SEIRA-MASUO

First things
first...

contents

3	Contents
4	Explanation of my whimsical crafting techniques (on-site edition)
8	SEIRA-MASUO's Whimsical Gundam Production Notes in the Universal Century
10	Customizing using only the kit's runners
20	Customizing with parts from other kits
30	Drastic proportion change using runners
40	Transform into a heavily armed ver. with parts from other kits
52	Simple aesthetic transformation using commercial plastic sheets
64	Unrestrained cumulative modeling
76	Use the kit's benefits to customize it your way with less effort
88	SEIRA-MASUO's Whimsical Gunpla Production Notes Gallery of finished works
90	MSN-02 Zeong Ver.W.G.P.N.
94	RGM-79N GM Custom Ver.W.G.P.N.
98	RGM-79SP GM Sniper II Ver.W.G.P.N
102	MSK-008 Dijeh Ver.W.G.P.N.
106	Publication info

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*Please note that the sample models in this book are original creations and may differ from the official Sunrise settings.

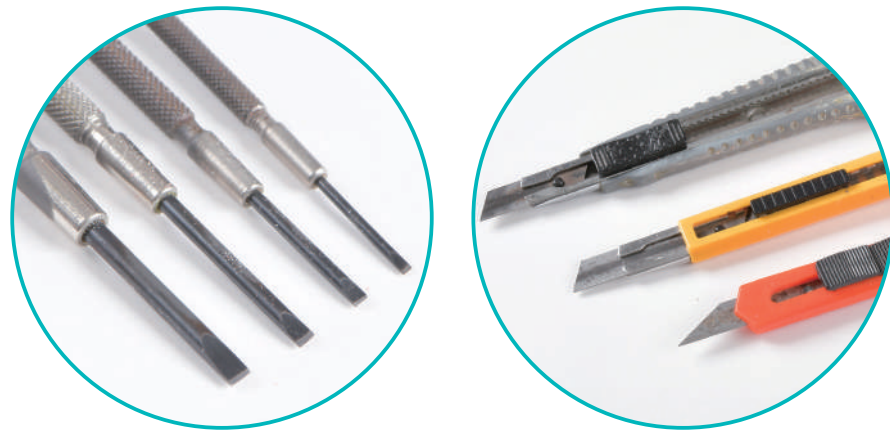
*All prices listed in this book are inclusive of tax.

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Explanation of my whimsical crafting techniques

on-site edition

It seems that my explanations in the last book didn't quite hit the mark – I kept hearing that they were a bit "hard to follow" (cry). So I decided to take matters into my own hands and go straight to the editors! They filmed me building a model live, on location! I showed up with nothing but my trusty tools, ready to wing it. And wouldn't you know it, they had the perfect practice set waiting for me – an ENTRY GRADE RX-78-2 Gundam! A professional photographer even captured the whole thing as I went freestyle with a few extra details. So, did my building process get any clearer this time? Let's find out!



▲ My travel must-have: a portable tool kit! I've packed almost everything I use regularly, so with just this kit and a tiny workspace (think: calendar mat size!), I can get down to business anywhere. Talk about working on the go!



▲ First, pick out a runner that you want to use for extra detail on your gunpla. Grab your runner nippers (they are quite affordable and available at most hobby stores) and carefully cut away the nubs. Try to choose sections with fewer nubs – it is easier to turn such a runner into a simple rod shape.



▲ Use a hobby or craft knife. Gently shave down the plastic until it's flat.



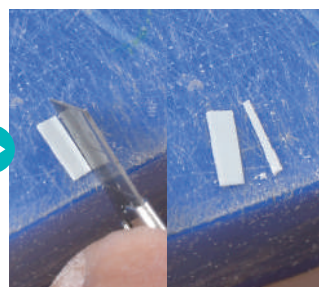
▲ Now for the fine-tuning. Cut the plastic to the desired size, then use a hand file to slowly and carefully shave it down to the desired thickness.



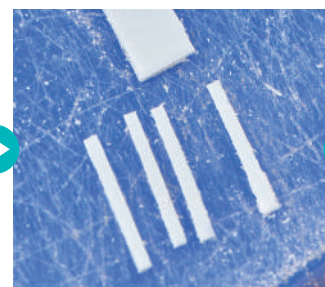
▲ Here's a simple technique for controlling thickness: Place the runner flat on a metal hand file. Use your fingertip to gently press down on the runner and move it to shave off small sections.



▲ This method will give you the desired thickness. However, be careful not to accidentally shave off too much material!



▲ Once you have the adjusted the thickness, cut the width of the plastic runner sheet.



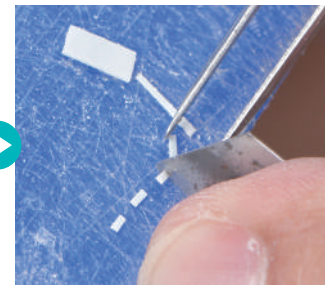
▲ I was able to cut out four evenly-sized pieces of the runner plate.



▲ Place one on a model and see how it looks.



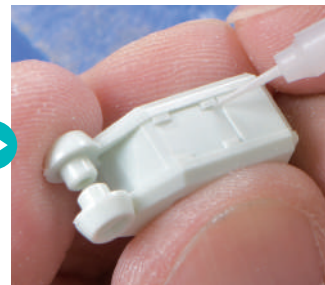
▲ Once you've determined the position, use pour-on adhesive to secure.



▲ For tinier pieces...



▲ Repeat the process with the remaining pieces, placing them on the model for initial positioning before further refinement.



▲ Once you are satisfied with their positions, secure them with the pour-on adhesive.



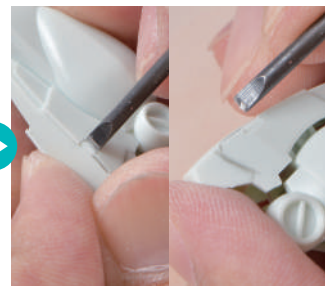
▲ Now let's dive into the detailed customization process. We'll start with the thin plastic sheet that was previously glued to the knee armor as a base...



▲ After exploring panel line options, pencil them in.



▲ I used a chisel that matches the width of the pencil line to carve the details. I decided to make the details concave here...



▲ Carve a small indentation by rotating either the part or the blade.



▲ A small concave detail has been created.



▲ I decided to carve a line above the detail. I'm going to carve a V-shaped detail with a chisel that's wide enough for the line I want to engrave.



▲ I also added a V-shaped line detail using a chisel, starting from the edge on a short line.



▲ For wider lines, I used a cutter instead of the chisel.



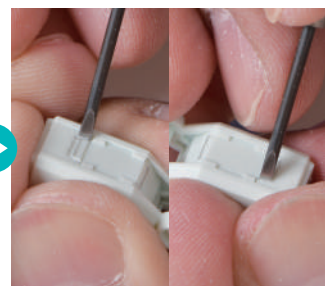
▲ Using the cutter, I engraved a V-shaped line.



▲ The finished engraving line details on the side of the knee armor.



▲ Similarly, for the arm, I use a pencil to draw the lines, using a piece of plastic that I previously attached as a guide.



▲ Following the sketch, I carved lines with a chisel...



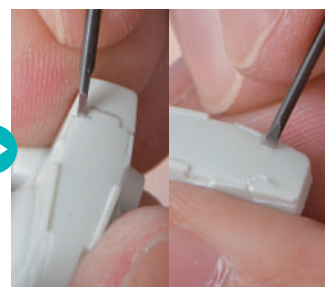
▲ For the slightly longer lines, I use a hobby knife.



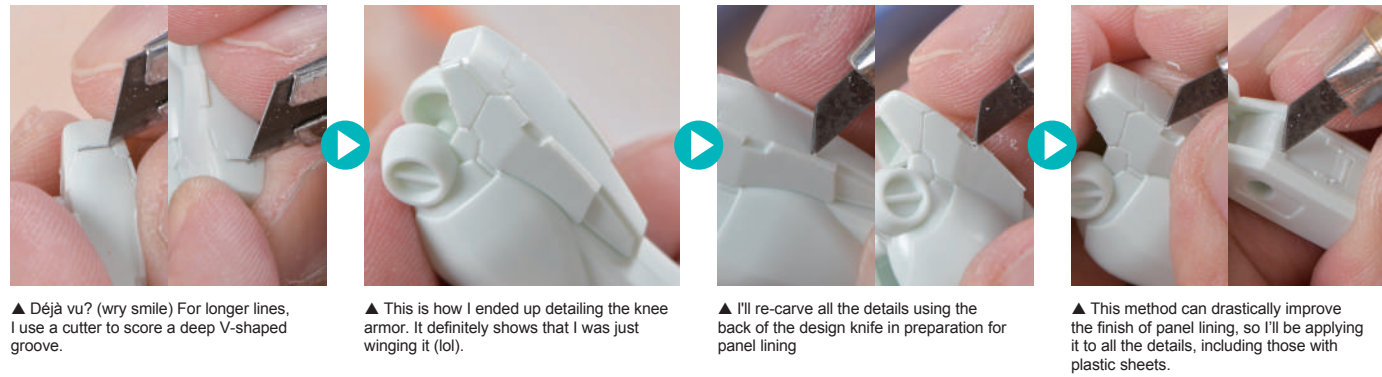
▲ Completed details on the forearm.



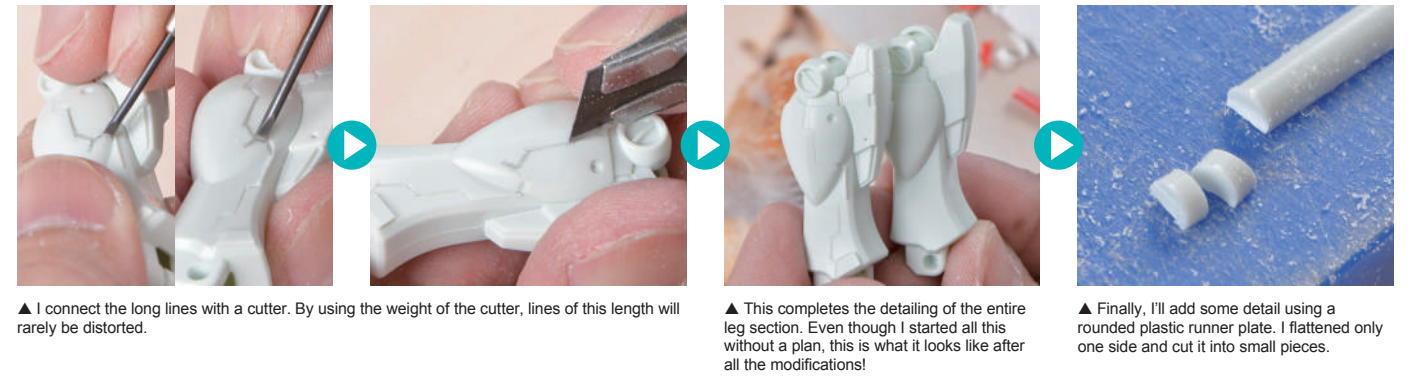
▲ Again, I started to add more detail to the knee armor (because I felt like it). I started with a pencil sketch.



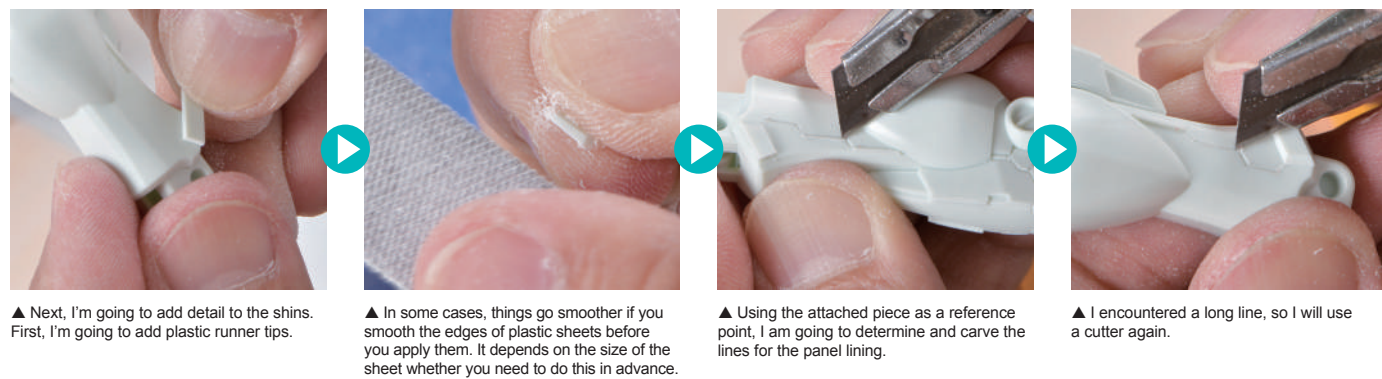
▲ For shorter grooves in the shape of a V, I use the blade of a chisel to carve it.



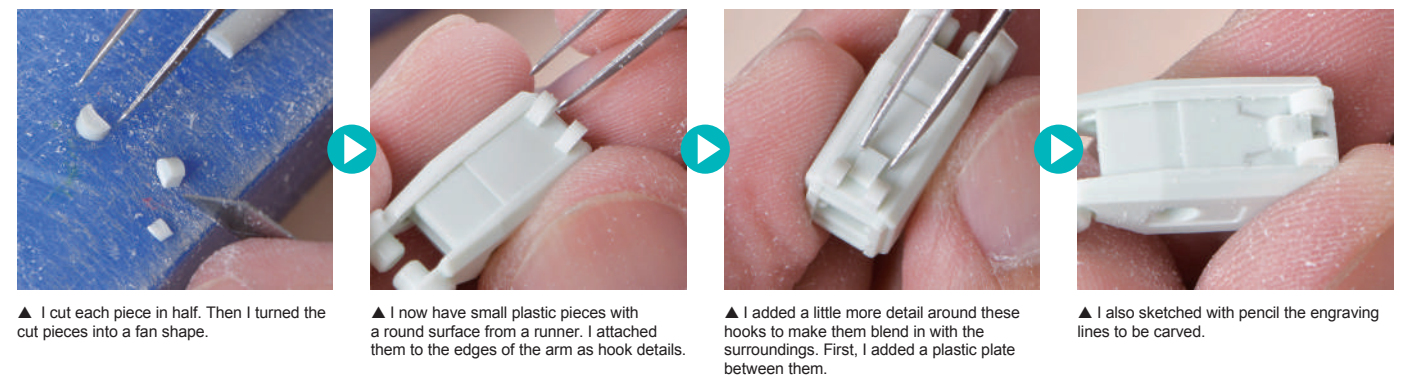
▲ Déjà vu? (wry smile) For longer lines, I use a cutter to score a deep V-shaped groove.
 ▲ This is how I ended up detailing the knee armor. It definitely shows that I was just winging it (lol).
 ▲ I'll re-carve all the details using the back of the design knife in preparation for panel lining.
 ▲ This method can drastically improve the finish of panel lining, so I'll be applying it to all the details, including those with plastic sheets.



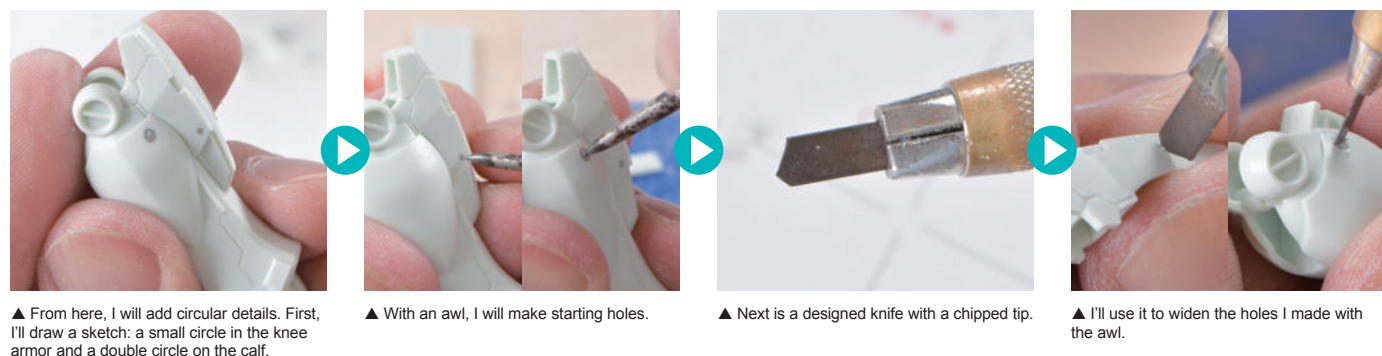
▲ I connect the long lines with a cutter. By using the weight of the cutter, lines of this length will rarely be distorted.
 ▲ This completes the detailing of the entire leg section. Even though I started all this without a plan, this is what it looks like after all the modifications!
 ▲ Finally, I'll add some detail using a rounded plastic runner plate. I flattened only one side and cut it into small pieces.



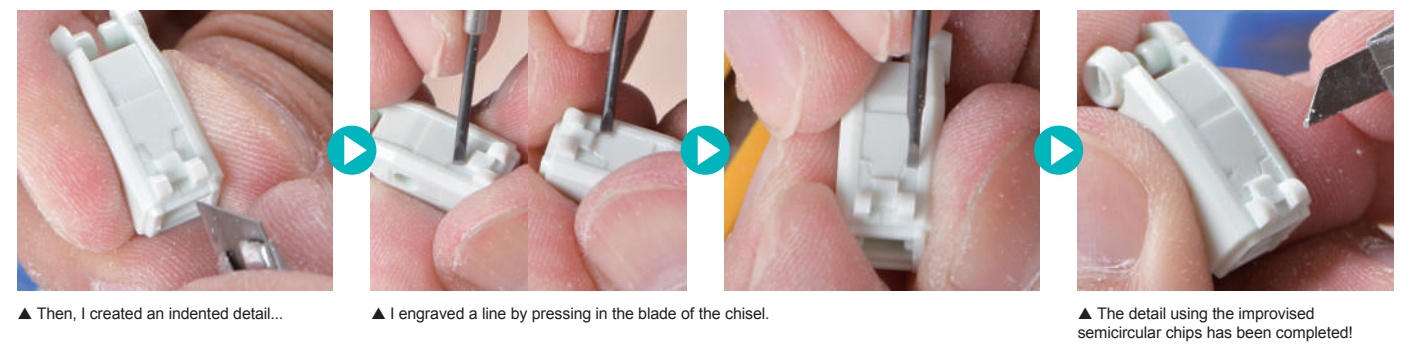
▲ Next, I'm going to add detail to the shins. First, I'm going to add plastic runner tips.
 ▲ In some cases, things go smoother if you smooth the edges of plastic sheets before you apply them. It depends on the size of the sheet whether you need to do this in advance.
 ▲ Using the attached piece as a reference point, I am going to determine and carve the lines for the panel lining.
 ▲ I encountered a long line, so I will use a cutter again.



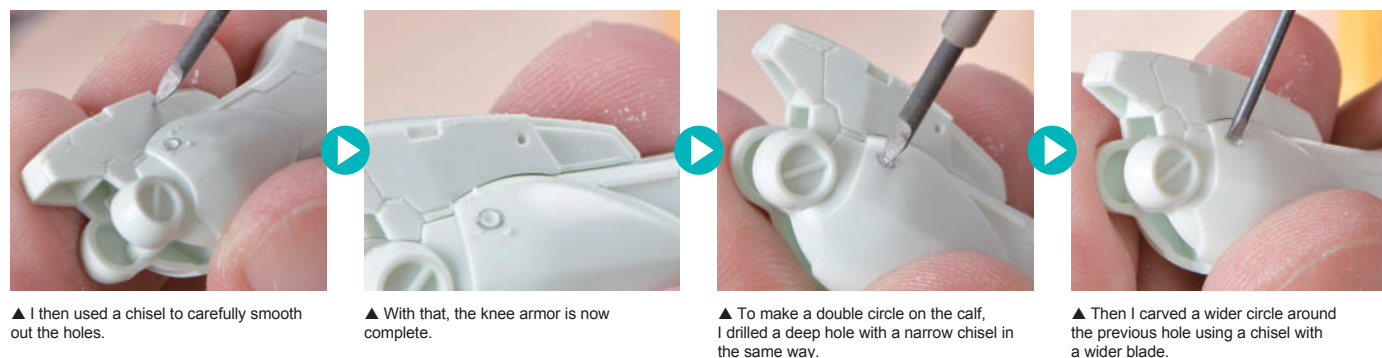
▲ I cut each piece in half. Then I turned the cut pieces into a fan shape.
 ▲ I now have small plastic pieces with a round surface from a runner. I attached them to the edges of the arm as hook details.
 ▲ I added a little more detail around these hooks to make them blend in with the surroundings. First, I added a plastic plate between them.
 ▲ I also sketched with pencil the engraving lines to be carved.



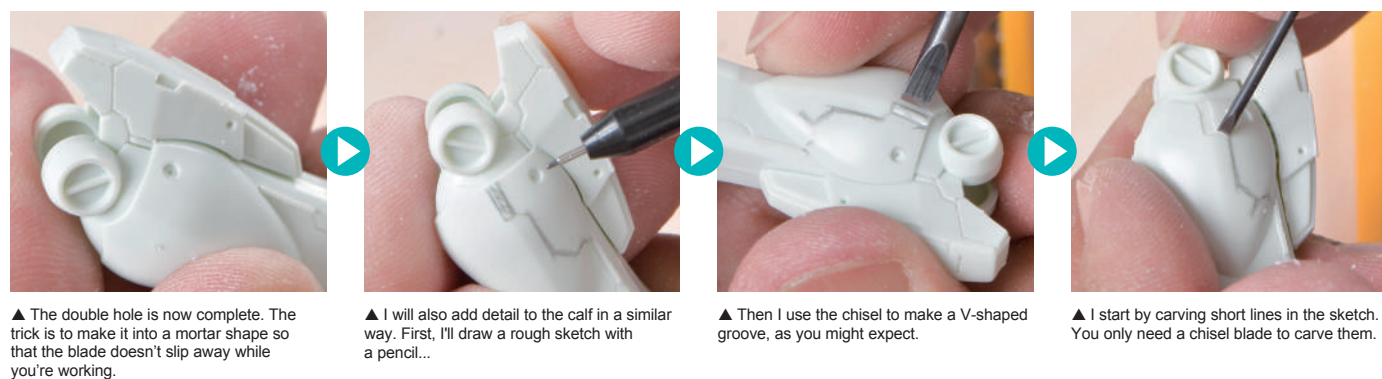
▲ From here, I will add circular details. First, I'll draw a sketch: a small circle in the knee armor and a double circle on the calf.
 ▲ With an awl, I will make starting holes.
 ▲ Next is a designed knife with a chipped tip.
 ▲ I'll use it to widen the holes I made with the awl.



▲ Then, I created an indented detail...
 ▲ I engraved a line by pressing in the blade of the chisel.
 ▲ The detail using the improvised semicircular chips has been completed!



▲ I then used a chisel to carefully smooth out the holes.
 ▲ With that, the knee armor is now complete.
 ▲ To make a double circle on the calf, I drilled a deep hole with a narrow chisel in the same way.
 ▲ Then I carved a wider circle around the previous hole using a chisel with a wider blade.



▲ The double hole is now complete. The trick is to make it into a mortar shape so that the blade doesn't slip away while you're working.
 ▲ I will also add detail to the calf in a similar way. First, I'll draw a rough sketch with a pencil...
 ▲ Then I use the chisel to make a V-shaped groove, as you might expect.
 ▲ I start by carving short lines in the sketch. You only need a chisel blade to carve them.

This "impromptu detail journey" led to a surprising realization:



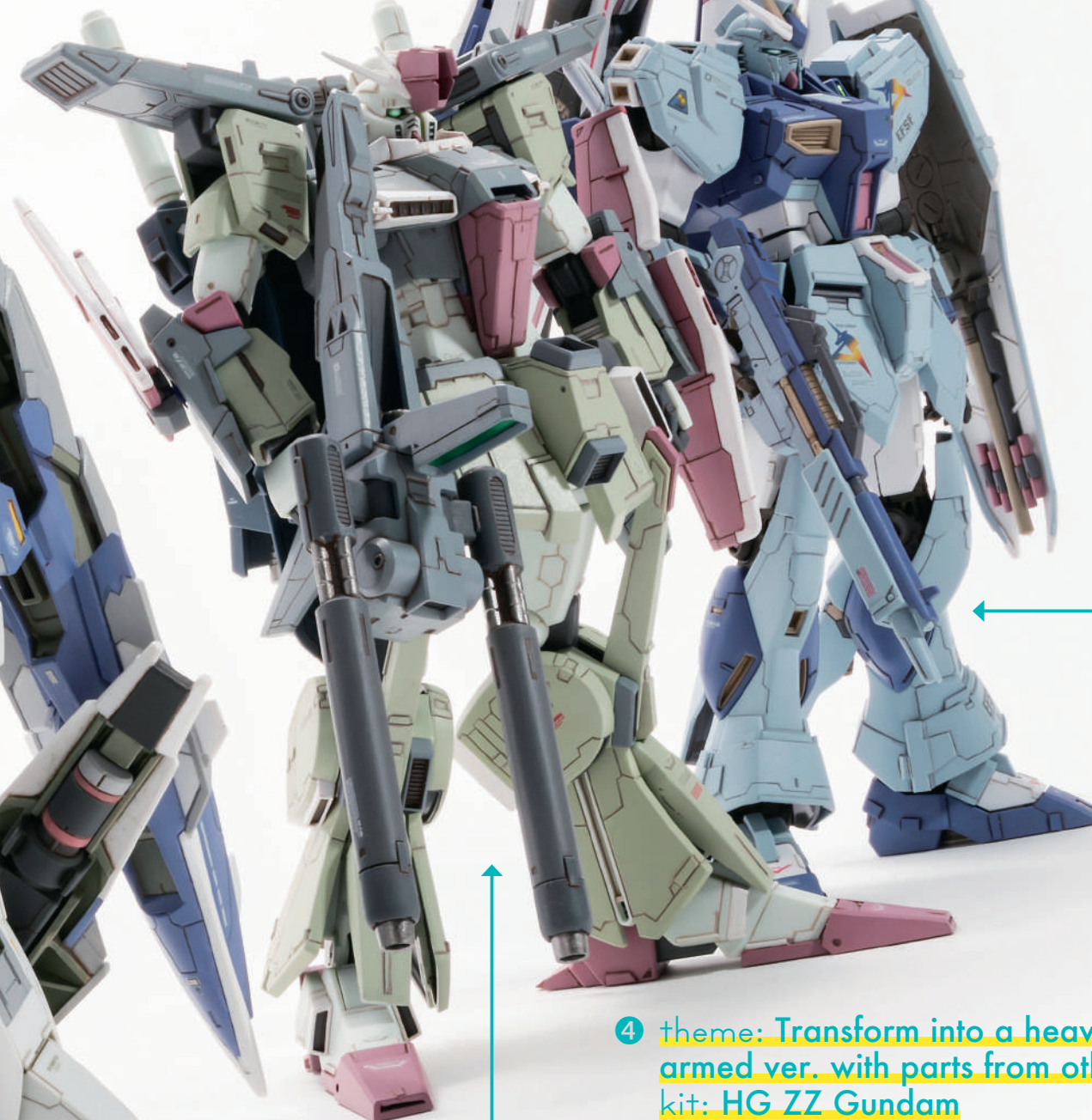
After carefully observing the process step by step, I noticed I was simply repeating the same technique (lol). Yet, through years of developing this repetition, I seem to have honed the ability to create details smoothly and instinctively. Maybe, looking at it this way, my production method is refreshingly straightforward (or perhaps a touch monotonous!)?

SEIRA-MASUO's
Whimsical
Gunpla Production Notes
in the
**UNIVERSAL
CENTURY**

① theme: Customizing using only the kit's runners
kit: ENTRY GRADE RX-78-2 Gundam



② theme: Customizing with parts from other kits
kit: HG Zeta Gundam



④ theme: Transform into a heavily armed ver. with parts from other kits
kit: HG ZZ Gundam

③ theme: Drastic proportion change using runners
kit: HG ZZ Gundam

SEIRA-MASUO, with his unique techniques, stands out among modelers featured in *Hobby Japan* magazine. This book delves into his signature "Masuo Detailing" style, along with his painting and proportion modification techniques, all used to customize models based on Universal Century Gundams. SEIRA-MASUO also explains how to create original models. He freely interprets the given theme, showcasing his "Masuo Theory" in a clear and accessible manner.