

15 MINUTES WITH... **Peter Bolt**

One Magazine's Jake Tucker talks to 3D map maker Peter Bolt about his fascinating hand-cut nautical charts of Devon, Cornwall and beyond

Q It's a unique area of expertise, how did you get into producing these 3D models? My family and I moved back to my home county of Devon in 2013 where my wife returned to work as a teacher at Uffculme School, and I became a stay at home Dad taking care of our then 18 month old son. As our son became older I wanted something to fill my free time and began experimenting with making 3D nautical models. Once I was satisfied with the quality I gave one to The Salcombe Yacht Club and the Turf Locks Hotel, Exminster, and posted images of these charts on social media which were

seen by The Duke Street Gallery in Dartmouth. I made a piece of the River Dart for them which proved to be very popular and it gathered steam from there! I have now made over 75 models and have shipped to the USA, Canada and the Caribbean, as well as throughout the UK.

Q Tell us a bit more about what's involved in creating your hand-cut models. How long does it take to produce a model on average? Each piece is unique and made to order. Once a customer has provided me with their area of interest I search to find out what charts are available. I use several

charts to make each model and mainly work from originals. I start by cutting out the chart by following the coastline and depth contours. These sections are then bonded onto a specialist modelling board which are then re-cut, again by hand. The various layers are then assembled to create the finished piece. An A2 sized piece (my most popular size) takes between 24 and 48 hours to produce depending upon the number of layers and level of detail.

Q A lot of time goes into these models then, and it shows! What would you say has been your biggest

inspiration in continuing to make these models? I have really enjoyed running my own business. The variation and flexibility suits me, and to be able to work from home is a real privilege, allowing a fantastic work life balance. Apart from making the charts I have learned how to build my own website and gained experience with marketing. With a second child on the way my motivation to succeed has never been higher!

Q What has been your favourite project to work

the British Virgin Islands for the Caribbean based Cooper Island Beach Club which are now on display within their Rum Bar!

Q Have you created many models based on Devon coastlines? I have cut the entire South Devon Coast from Portland Bill (Dorset) to Fowey (Cornwall), including detailed charts of the River Exe, River Dart, Salcombe, River Yealm and Plymouth Sound. I have also made an interesting chart of Barnstaple in North Devon which included Lundy Island.

Q You used to work as a Formula One engineer, a bit different from what you're doing now. Tell me a bit more about your time in this role... Yes this is something I had wanted to do since I was 14. It was my motivation through University and my early career as a test engineer in the automotive industry. In 2006 I got a chance to work for Red Bull Racing within the R&D department. I went on to spend three happy seasons with the team. It was a fantastic experience.

on so far? The River Exe has always been a favourite of mine. It was my first piece, and growing up in Exmouth, I have a sentimental attachment to this area. I also enjoy making pieces of foreign countries. I made a large A0 sized chart of Nantucket Island which I had to ship to the USA and also a series of four charts featuring

Q It sounds like the ultimate boyhood dream! Does your engineering background help with your new 3D map making venture? It definitely helped me in the beginning when I was trying to work out the best materials, methods, and tools required to make these models. There was no book or instruction manual to follow so I had to work it out for myself. I now have a series of processes that I follow to make sure each piece is made to the highest standard.

Q How much can our readers expect to pay for a commission? All of my work is supplied in a professionally made frame ready to hang and prices start from £125 for a piece up to A4 in size. My most popular size is A2 which start from £495 with the final price depending upon the number of layers, level of detail and choice of frame.

Q Is there anywhere our readers can find out more about what you do and see your work? My work is currently on display at a variety of locations around Devon and beyond, including The Turf Locks Hotel, The Salcombe Yacht Club, and The Gallery in Dartmouth. I have also made a chart of Lands End for 'The Art and the Map of Cornwall' exhibition to be held at the Pop Cafe Gallery, Wadebridge on the 8th August.

To see more of Peter's work, visit his website at: www.land-fall.co.uk