



Prop Modellers' Rates 2023

This document outlines the democratically agreed rates for those working as modellers in the Props or Prop Making Department on productions within the UK.

For the purposes of the rate card, the term modellers may refer to painters, mould makers, sculptors, pattern makers, technicians and various other roles involved in the manufacturing of props.

This guidance should be used to negotiate rates of pay.

When interpreting the rate guidance, please read the notes on the next page.

FILM & TV	
Job role	Weekly rate (average rate/highest reported rate)
Junior Modeller	£750 / £950
Mid Prop Modeller	£1,155 / £1,365
Prop Modeller	£1,575 / £1,785
Senior Prop Modeller	£1,730 / £1,940
Supervisor	£1,890 / £2,260
HOD	Negotiable

The majority of productions you will be engaged to work on are covered by the two Bectu/PACT agreements. To read these in full, please visit www.bectu.org.uk/get-involved/agreements-grading-schemes. If you have any questions or concerns about the rate guidance, please send an email to ckibaris@bectu.org.uk.

Why have the rates increased?

Prop modellers have consistently reported a historic disparity between the rates of pay for Prop Modellers and colleagues in the Prop Dressing team.

This discrepancy exists alongside the fact that modellers entering the industry will start with a comparatively low rate of pay despite having spent years pursuing qualifications and training in relevant skills and knowledge. Experienced modellers have reported having to complete a substantial number of years in the industry before achieving rates comparable to colleagues in the dressing team.

The table below shows comparative job roles between the two departments along with the rate of pay for the Dressing Prop role as set out in the 2023 Rate Card (based on Member survey response). Across all levels, it will be noted that these rates of pay are substantially higher than those being paid to comparative levels within Prop making.

To end and address this disparity, the new 2023 Prop Modellers' rate card (on the

previous page) has been adjusted to reflect, and bring level with, that of the Prop Dressers' rate card.

Why are there two numbers?

All rates have been calculated from data collected by Props branch surveys of its members and members of the wider Props community.

For each production and grade there are two numbers (e.g. £950 / £1,250). The first number is the minimum daily rate – this is the rate which our members should under no circumstances accept less than. Should a production insist on rates less than this number they should be urgently reported to the Props committee or a Bectu official. The second number in bold is the standard daily rate – this is the rate which members should be regularly achieving. Before accepting a job, each member should insist on a sum equivalent or higher to the standard rate. Negotiations between members and productions/prop masters should always seek to go beyond the standard rate.

FILM		
Modeller job role	Dressing prop role	Weekly rate
Junior Modeller	Trainee	£750 / £950
Mid Prop Modeller	Junior Prop Hand	£1,155 / £1,365
Prop Modeller	Prop Hand	£1,575 / £1,785
Senior Prop Modeller	Chargehand Prop	£1,730 / £1,940
Supervisor	Supervising Chargehand Prop	£1,890 / £2,260
HOD	Prop Master	Negotiable

Band Descriptions

Head of Prop Making Department

First point of contact with Production and other departments. Assigns tasks, manages budgets and schedules. Sets up the workshop and provides machinery. Responsible for the overall safety and welfare of the department.

Supervising Prop Modeller

On a larger budget production they will assist the HOD in the management of the department. They may be in charge of a particular section, eg 'hand props' or 'set dec'.

On a smaller scale production, without a separate prop making department, they may be overseeing the prop making side on behalf of the Prop Master.

Responsible for the day to day running of the workshop and work flow, workshop maintenance, monitoring and stock consumables. Ensure the workshop and crew are operating in line with safety protocols outlined by the HOD and Production.

Senior Prop Modeller

An individual with a high level of experience within multiple disciplines within the prop making industry. May lead teams or be in charge of particular sets and have a higher level of input into the manufacture processes of a particular prop or project. May also have responsibility for workshop maintenance, monitoring and ordering consumables, and general safety.

Prop Modeller

An individual with experience within the prop making industry whom can work individually or as part of a team with limited supervision. They will have a wide breadth of knowledge of processes and materials. May lead small teams to produce individual props.

Mid Prop Modeller

An individual with a good grounding of materials and processes within the prop making industry. Doesn't require direct supervision but may still require guidance with more involved or complex projects.

Junior Prop Modeller

An individual who may have a few years of experience or be directly arriving into the industry having gained a relevant qualification. Some knowledge of the processes and materials but requires regular guidance and supervision.

Trainee Prop Modeller

New entrant to the industry with no relevant previous experience or qualification.

Coordinator/Props Buyer

Responsible for day-to-day admin and operation of the Prop Making Department including sourcing and purchasing of materials, liaising with suppliers and outside contractors, time sheets and department payroll issues, budget tracking and management. Direct point of contact for external departments and production as well as supervising members of crew such as the department runner.

Props Painter

Responsible for the final finish of a prop. Needs a good and firm knowledge of different materials and effects to ensure the final product is fit for its designed purpose. Will also need to liaise with other paint departments to ensure matching finishes.