

X. Kitbashing Structures

Kitbashing is a great way to create unique buildings. The simplest method is to modify a particular structure with the addition or subtraction of windows, doors, and details. A more complicated method is to cut walls and roof sections to form a different shape. Kit parts can be combined with scratchbuilt parts.

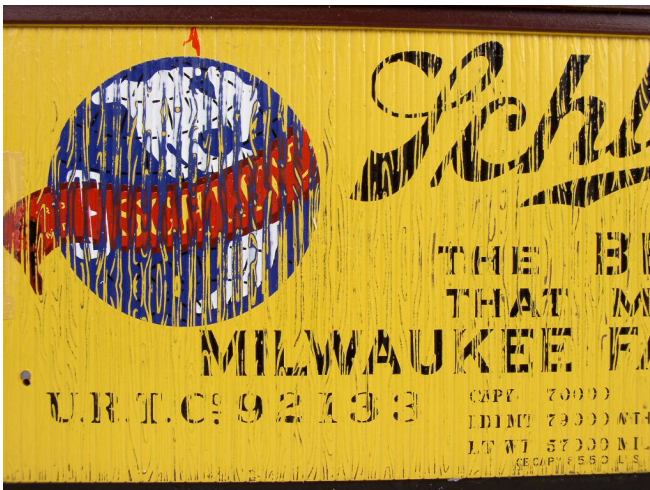
Atlas O Scale Reefer

Storage Shed

This storage shed is a converted old reefer and includes a small office.



This is an Atlas O scale 40' reefer body. The complete body and metal underframe are used.



The body was sprayed with Testors Gloss Cote and allowed to dry overnight. Then it was lightly wet sanded with 400 grit sandpaper to give the appearance of fading paint.



1/4" square basswood was glued to the body bolsters. This provides a way for the body to set level and be raised off of the ground. 1 X 6 and 1 X 9 basswood strips were glued to the floor. The body mounts are disguised with two crates and a stove.



Details are removed from the body such as grab irons, ladders, liftbars, and the roofwalk. The reefer door was removed on the side where the boxcar door is mounted.

The sliding door is made from Evergreen Scale Models passenger car siding with strip styrene used for guides. The body was cut out to accept a Builders In Scale cast metal door, and two windows from the Walthers Sur-Sweet Feeds kit. The location of the side door and window was random, while the end window was centered.

The smokejack is a piece of white styrene sprue from the Walthers kit. No changes were made to the other side or the other end.

The body casting is thick, approximately 3/32" so a power tool is recommended to make the cutouts.

The body mounting lug, cast into the inside of the body was removed at the side window.



A Hamm River junk pile after painting.

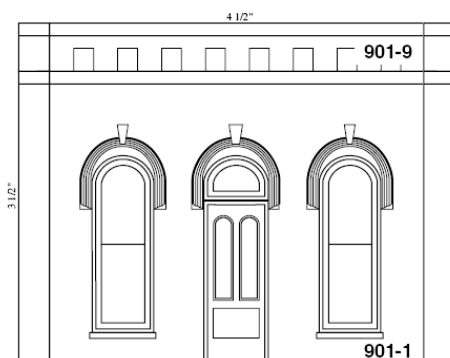


The body is lightly weathered with dark brown. Doors and windows painted gray and installed. The Hamm River junk pile, barrels, and crates are added, both inside and outside.

Design Preservation Models Modular Walls

Duplex Business Building

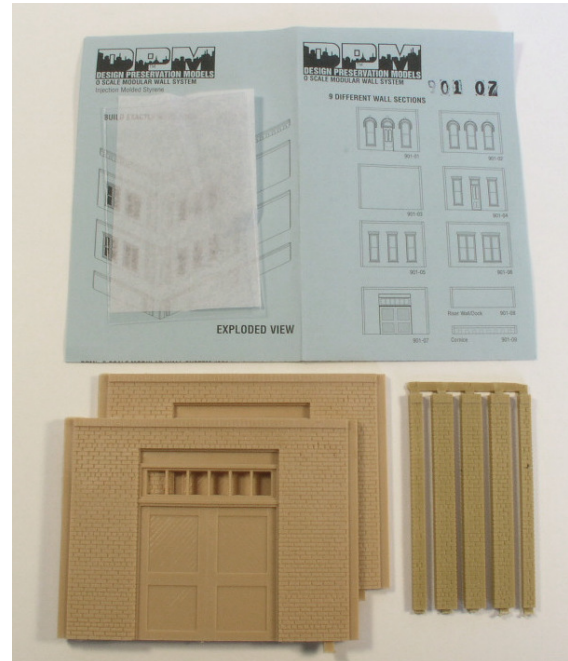
This building is simple but interesting. It is meant to be used as a backdrop as the factory doors are flats but the two offices and courtyard are modeled.



DPM makes a variety of modular wall sections in both O and HO. In order to plan a structure, these printed versions are available to download.

Each wall is 4 1/2" wide and 3 1/2" tall. They are available as blanks, windows, doors, and freight doors. Trim pieces are also offered.

Visit their website at <http://woodlandscenics.com/show/category/DPMOScale> and click on "O Scale Planning Packet" and then on "click here." The planning packet is in PDF format.



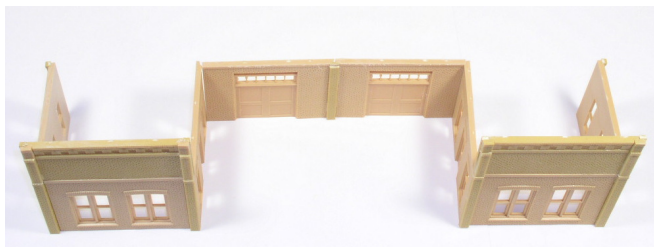
A wall package with instructions, clear plastic for windows, two walls, and trim pieces.



The two offices are built from two window sections and a door section with the door sections pointing toward each other.



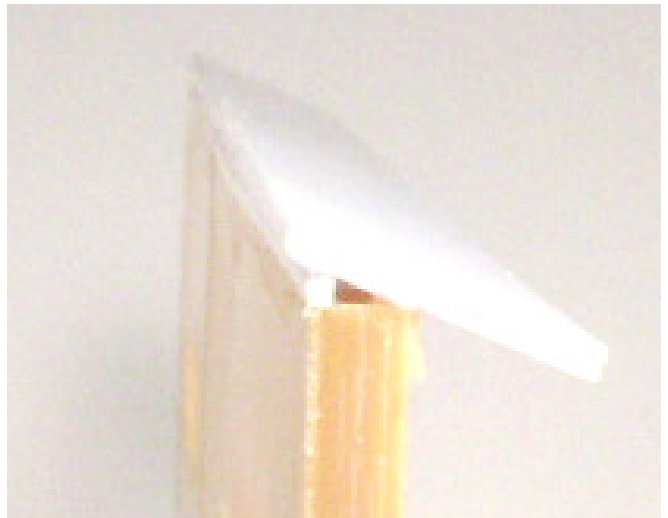
A false front look was made by attaching a foundation section to the window section and then adding trim on top.



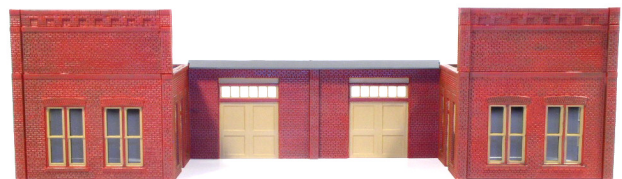
The two offices are connected with two freight door sections. The area between the offices will be a courtyard.



The right hand office is shown with a styrene roof and back installed. The styrene was not included in any of the section kits, but was used to strengthen the building. Both offices were finished off in this manner.



A small roof is attached to the freight door sections by cementing a styrene strip to the back edge and then cementing a piece of styrene to the strip and the front edge of the section.



Brick walls painted flat red and weathered with dark brown. Windows and doors painted tan. Window glass added.



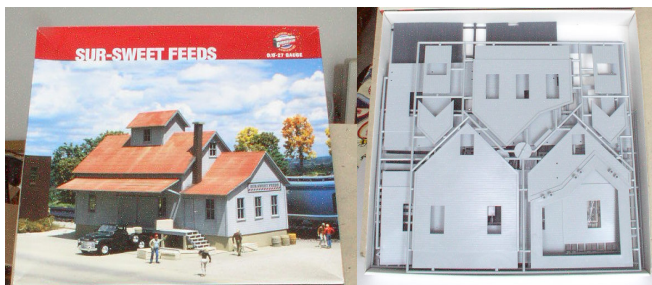
Close-up of left building after painting.



The duplex after the courtyard and details are added. This is an old carriage manufacturer, long out of business, but the building has been remodeled and the offices leased. Figure is from The Aspen Modeling company, and details from Builders In Scale, Hamm River, and Schomberg Scale Models. The sign is made from metal letters from a craft store, strung on two pieces of K&S brass tubing. Plant life from Woodland Scenics. A foundation was made from stripwood and the sidewalks made from styrene sheet.

Walthers Sur-Sweet Feeds **Walthers Walton & Sons Lumber Yard** Sawmill

The Sur-Sweet Feeds kit is a kitbashing inspiration with its pitched roof and all those walls. The lumber company also offers many useable pieces.



Sur-Sweet Feeds kit.



Walton & Sons Lumber Co. kit.



The basic feed building was built up per instructions except for the end with the extension. The extension was narrowed and a door installed in the side and an opening cut into the end. Some of the siding from the lumberyard shed was used to fill in the wall. One strip of roof from the lumberyard kit was added to extend the main roof and .100 styrene used to cover the gap. The overhanging roof was made from the lumberyard roofing that matches the Feed roofing. The lumberyard decking was used to make the platform. Vertical scribed siding is installed over the foundation. Styrene strip was used for trim. The loading door on the side was glued in place and the holes for the roof plugged with styrene.

Schomberg Scale Models Loading Ramp Wolf Designs HO Platform

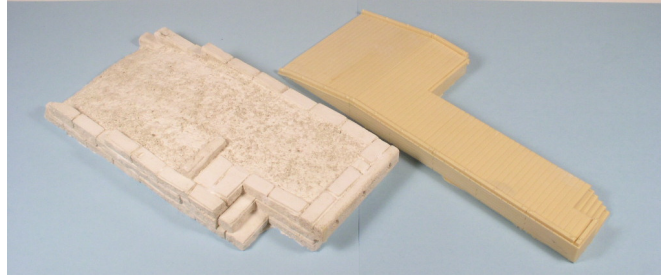
Extended Loading Dock

This is an old loading dock composed of two small loading docks of dissimilar construction.



A large opening was cut in the end to allow the cut lumber to be carried out. This was trimmed with strip styrene. The platform was made from the decking from the lumberyard. The supports were made from the lumberyard bracing pieces. The side platform was made from more lumberyard pieces and styrene for bracing.

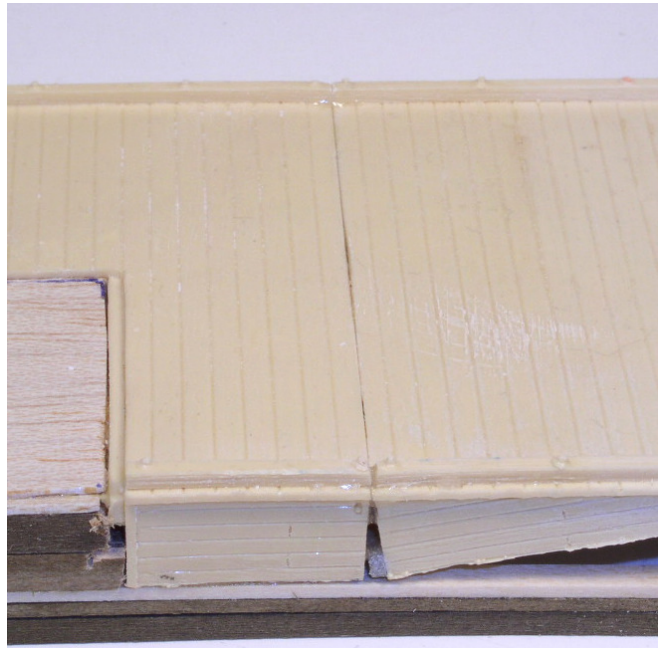
The clerestory section was made from the ends of the tiny top roof and the walls and roof were cut from the lumberyard shed.



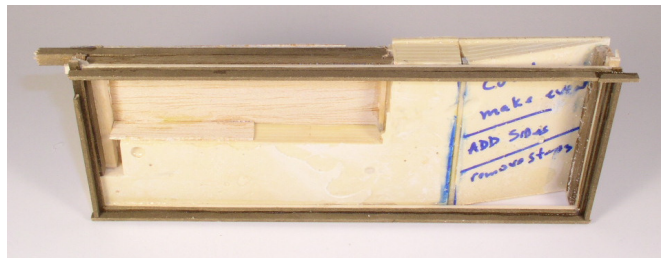
A comparison of the Schomberg hydrocal O scale loading ramp #504 (left) and the Wolf Designs resin platform in HO scale (right).



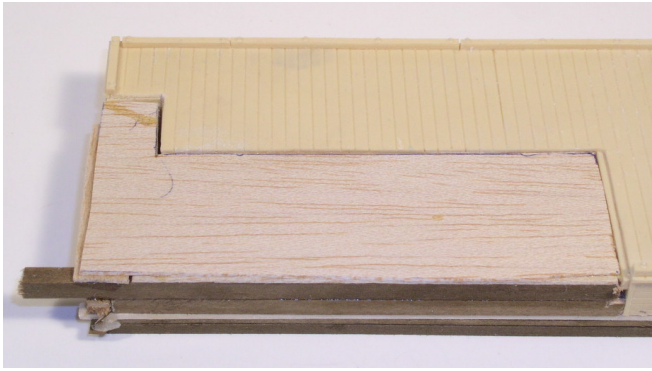
Building and dock painted a medium brown, the roof gray, and the windows white. The point is to draw attention to the windows. Weathering was done with a brown just a bit lighter than the walls and gray just a bit darker than the roof.



The Wolf platform ramp is cut so the ramp section sets level with the rest of the dock.



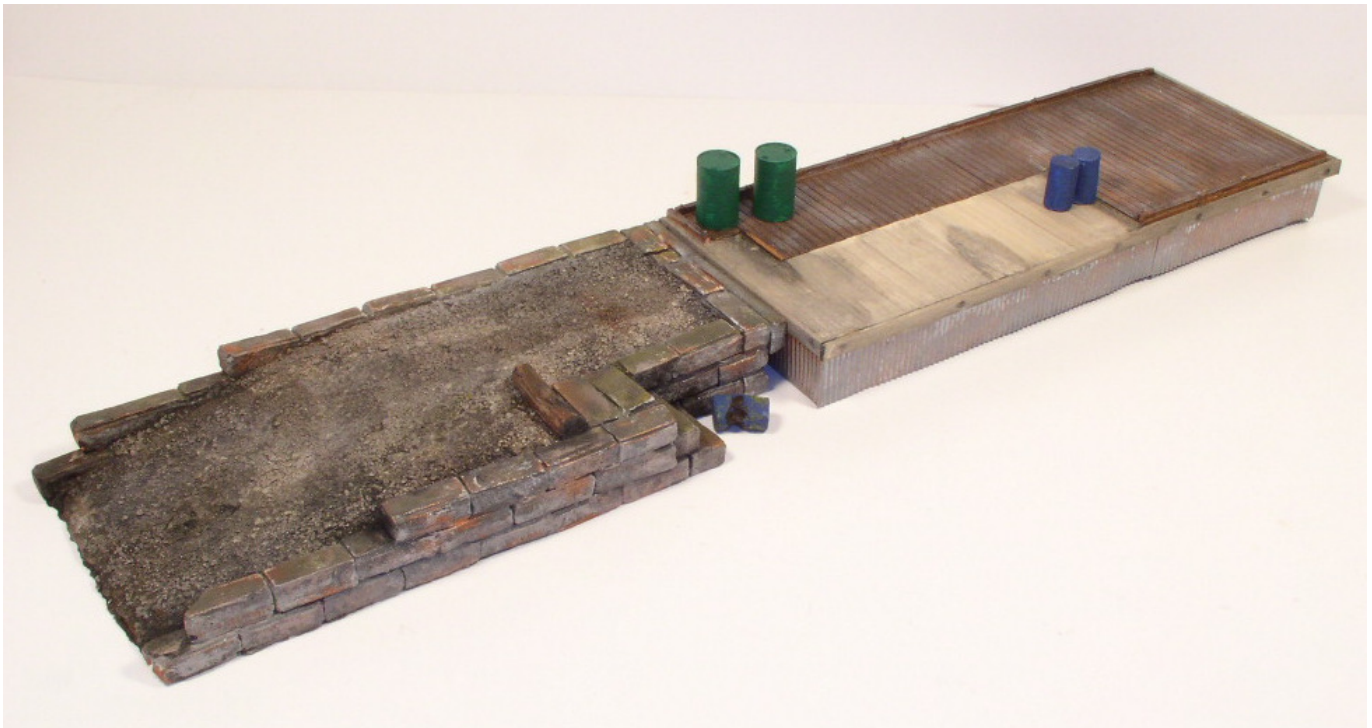
Scrap wood is used to hold the ramp section level and to elevate the entire platform to the same height as the Schomberg dock.



A sheet of balsa is glued in 1/32 from the top in order to allow the stripwood floor to sit flush with the cast in floor. This sheet also makes the dock rectangular instead of an L shape.



New deck boards installed and stained. Builders In Scale corrugated metal is used for skirting. Basswood strips are attached to the perimeter. The resin portion painted medium brown and weathered.



The Schomberg dock is painted and both docks put end to end. Schomberg drums added for detail.