



Dennis Andreas

# Railroad Report

## Woodland Scenics N-Scale Fire Station No 3

**Time to change things up and build a kit again.**



It's been some time since we built a structure, so I looked through what was available. With the N-scale layout project at the point of populating the town, I saw the need for a firehouse [firehouse? must be Northeast jargon - Ed] in case of a wiring disaster, and since the layout replicates small town America, it'll need a tavern. This month we'll work together to build the Woodland Scenics Fire Station No. 3 Landmark Structure (#PF5212) and take advantage of the outstanding Built and Ready N-Scale series by comparing the kit to the already finished Fire Station No. 3 (#BR4934). While I'm at it, I'll do a once over of Sully's Tavern (#BR4940).

I thought it would be interesting to see the Landmark Structures kit in progress against the already painted Built and Ready version. The Tavern was added because it has a similar design and finish as the firehouse and it will look appropriate in the same setting. Besides, as mentioned, every town needs a watering hole for the locals to gather and relax.

The firehouse is a very easy kit to assemble. The parts count is low, the parts are all keyed so they can only be assembled one way and the assembly proceeds without any real difficulty. The challenge with N-Scale kits is that small size makes detail painting difficult. The thing to pass along to the new kit builder is not to just jump in and start sloshing paint everywhere. He needs to do some careful planning, and in the long run it will not only save time, but also future grief.

That said, by choosing an initial base coat color, a majority of the painting can be accomplished quickly. However, this is where I got ahead of myself and should

have thought things through. The window frames are the painting challenge on this model. I know better, but for some reason I painted the entire exterior walls a flat brown first. I should have waited on the overall color and painted the window frames first, then followed up with the darker exterior color.

The kit comes complete with window glass with printed blinds. Putting the windows in place prior to gluing the walls together makes life quite a bit easier. Once this task is completed, it's time to glue all of the major parts together and make a building. After the major parts were assembled, it was time to break out a super fine paint brush and start on the window trim and stone fascia. As mentioned earlier, I don't know what I was thinking, but the window frames should have been the first thing painted, long before the

panes were attached, but there's a lesson to be learned. When this happens, don't get frustrated and toss the project in the garbage. Since acrylic is the paint of choice, once dry, gentle pressure with a toothpick will scrape away any mistakes.

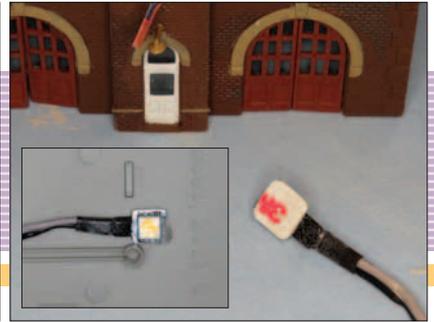
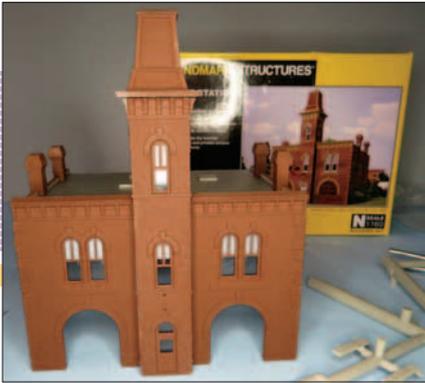
It's been a fast build. Aside from some touch ups, we're almost there. There are a few additional parts to be detailed, but that's about it. Due to the small size, a hint is to stick them to

some masking tape. This makes them easy to handle and keeps the parts secure while waiting for any paint to dry. Also included in the kit are dry transfer decals and an American Flag, so the firehouse can be personalized to match any rural town the builder desires.

With the structure now complete, it needs lighting. The



*To change things up a bit, it will be fun to compare a kit built structure to the same, but factory finished, product.*



Left: The kit builds into a structure quickly. Center: Woodland may have better painters, but there's nothing to be ashamed of. Right: Just Plug makes lighting the structure a simple task.

system has already been reviewed, but to go over the basics again, each Just Plug light has sticky tape on the back of the base. Expose the adhesive and stick the light in place.

All that's left is to secure the wiring to the base of the structure. The last thing you want to see is the wire through a window. The kit includes ample amounts of blackout paper to keep the light in the building and not where it's not wanted. Another tip is to cut the paper slightly shorter than the height of the building so the LED can illuminate all of the building, not just the lower level. To control the harshness of the light, the Just-Plug Hub has a brightness control.

In comparing the kit to the pre-finished structure, I believe I did a pretty good job. Even though I have nothing to be ashamed of, there's no question that Woodland Scenics may have some better painters. I've not had room to touch on Sully's Tavern this month, maybe next time, but

the type of construction replicated in scale matches that of the fire station, and Sully's Tavern will definitely have a place on the N-Scale build project.

I've always enjoy the time spent building and the pride of creating with my own hands. Encourage your customers to get more involved. There's no doubt then may stumble at first, but with the proper encouragement they'll learn, and the bottom line is they will enjoy it.

As a quick side note, my daughter is finishing her Masters in Art and Architecture. For an assignment she needed some water look-alike. Being a good dad I sent her a link to Woodland Scenics and she is now hooked. Although we sell the majority of our supplies to the hobbyist, Woodland Scenics products are for school and professionals as well. Don't miss sales opportunities simply because they're not hobby related. **HM**

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