



RAILROAD REPORT

Dennis Andreas



Woodland Scenics Rustic Barn

Building a kit is fun and the results are rewarding.

Looking at the content of Railroad Report over the past year, I realized that we had not featured a kit build. With the time that has passed we have some new members and many new products. So to that end we will build a Woodland Scenics Rustic Barn and use as many manufacturer's products as we can. This is certainly not far off from reality. Do you ever take the time to think about how many tools, paints and glues are required to complete any of our hobby projects? Keeping this in mind will help dealers anticipate what you need to inventory in your store and what to recommend to your customers.

The Rustic Barn is from Woodland Scenics Landmark Structures series. The entire series of structures are highly detailed, yet easy to assemble kits. They are a great way to introduce an enthusiast to do-it-yourself building. The parts count for the barn is reasonably low and the kits are designed with keyed and interlocking parts. Provided the assembly instructions are followed mistakes are rare.

Although the parts interlock, achieving a good glue joint still requires the mating surfaces to fit tightly without any gaps. Before we get to gluing it is important to prepare the parts. Any number of tools from sprue cutters to single edge razor blade can be used. My personal preference is to sand the excess plastic away. Zona

offers a Finger Sander set that is perfect for the job. Two different sizes of sanders and multiple grades of replaceable sandpaper make short work out of removing any excess plastic, creating the perfect glue joint.

With the parts prepared it's time to begin gluing pieces together, and just like with the number of tools available for removing excess sprue, there are a multitude of adhesives available for gluing plastic together. My preference is liquid glue and I have been using Piko Fix with excellent results for a quite awhile. It's slightly thicker, which helps immensely when trying to control runs, and it sets fast.

With the basics out of the way, let's accelerate in time a bit and consider the barn is now assembled and the next step is to paint the barn and highlight all of the details. We will use a combination of paints from Badger's signature Model Flex line and Com-Art paints, which are available through Iwata Medea.

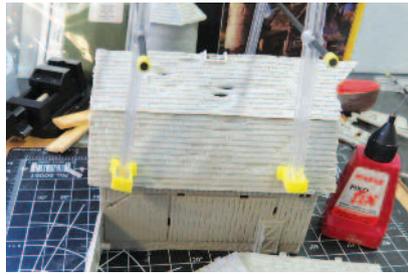
For the barn I'm starting with some spare flat gray spray paint as a base coat. The basic theme is an aged and neglected barn, so the effect will be a sun bleached dirty gray look for the wood. The base coats are applied in several light dustings to get the coverage needed. Using the flat gray as a base is important, as any base that doesn't get painted will not look out of



Woodland Scenics offers a number of easy to assemble kits that are highly detailed, yet with a low parts count, making them perfect choices for the new builder.



The parts for the barn, along with all of the Woodland Scenics Landmark Structure Series, are interlocking, making mistakes an almost impossibility, that is unless the instructions are not followed.



The add-on sales potential that goes along with a kit is far greater than a simple bottle of glue. Building mats, hobby knives, paint and brushes, the list goes on and on.



Weathering is fun. All it takes is a little imagination. Thinned colors are brushed on and then wiped off, leaving traces of paint in the nooks and crannies, which leads to the effect of a long neglected building.

place. With the base coats applied, the acrylics and especially the weathering paints now have something to grab onto.

Next comes the fun part, painting the barn to intentionally make it look old. We have all heard the adage, "less is more" and this is a perfect example. It's time to brush in some color on the window frames, hardware and broken wood areas. It would not look right with bright window frames with the rest of building looking 90 years old, so a light touch of white is all that is needed.

Weathering can be done by using a stiff brush to apply a wash of thinned color. Once applied, use damp clean rags and wipe away the excess. This will leave color in the grooves and grain of the wood. Creating the old weathered look is done in layers. Add a little paint, wipe it a bit, let it dry, observe and repeat. Sometimes the same color is used, sometimes other colors are involved. As an example, for the roof of the barn five different colors were used. A similar process was used to simulate the old barn's red paint. For

this application three colors were used to achieve the final look.

Spend some time checking all the surfaces with light shining from different directions. Think about how rain and other elements flow down from the roof to the ground. One must consider the environment to duplicate weathering. This includes sun, rain, wood rot, moss and the dirt that seems to find its way into the cracks and crevices of any neglected structure.

It's extremely important that the weathering paint does not have time to dry before the excess is wiped away. Judgment and finesse are the two key ingredients. The results and the effects desired are up to the builder.

We hope this kit build helps those new to the group and how it will help you assist your customers and your sales. We started with a great Woodland Scenics kit and used about a dozen products from different manufacturers to complete it. Getting your customers hooked on building will help make both of you successful. **HM**



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