

# An Easy Kit Bash

## Building Andy's Dolls cabinet shop

By Bruce Oberleitner

In these tough times it's always great to find a bargain. Especially if its for my model train set! Enter the Easy Craftsman Kit from Railroadkits.com. At under \$10 it makes for a great building to use as a starting point for kit-bashing into another structure. Thus, the Easy Kit became Andy Doll's Cabinet Shop to honor my friend who is a fantastic woodworker for my model railroad.

Some of you might have noticed something familiar about that the back wall with the "Purina" sign in figure 3. I built that wall during my structure clinic at the Nov 2008 PNR 3<sup>rd</sup> Division NMRA meet. It's a great way to share the hobby with others and get something done for my railroad at the same time! I suggest that you give it a try!

### Construction

That wall had been sitting around the house for a few weeks when Tom Waters stopped by my and asked some questions on structure construction. I decided to demonstrated my techniques to him by staining and painting the remaining three walls of my previously started Easy Kit. The walls were stained with India Ink and Alcohol and dry-brushed with the sage green paint. I don't completely cover the walls with the green paint. That leaves some of the stained wood to show thru from underneath the paint. Once the paint and stain dried (i.e. About 10 minutes) I added 1/8" square bracing to the inside of the structure.

A new door opening was cut into the side wall and framed with 1/16" square basswood painted with the Ivory color. The door was painted burnt umber and glued into place. All the window casting were painted with the ivory color and once dry they were filled with Gallery Glass.

The new front wall ended up with some bracing that went over the window opening. Since I was lazy that day, I just painted a full window shade on the casting. With hindsight, I would recommend that you just cut out the bracing over the window hole and treat the window like all the others in the kit.



Figure 1: The easy kit from Railroadkits.com is a great buy at under \$10. It's great for learning how to build craftsman kits or for Kit-bashing.



Figure 2: A few signs were added to this side of the structure.

## The Addition & Final Assembly

With the four main walls completed this left me with a large hole where the main doors were originally located on the kit. The answer was to create an addition to cover the large hole. The addition measures (Add measurements here) and was cut from the scrap siding material from the original Easy Kit. The sides were stained, painted, braced and glued together to form the addition. A 1/8 square piece of basswood was added across the top to support the roof. The roof was made from a 3X5 file card cut to fit the rooftop.

The walls were then glued together on 1/4" grid paper two at a time to form a 90 degree corner section. The sections were then glued together and allowed to dry. Pieces of 1/8" square were painted sandstone and then glued to the base of the structure to form a foundation. The roof was then glued in place and covered with masking tape. The tape was painted with a mix of ivory and black paint.

## Details

After adding the foundation the front door seemed a little too high so I added a small loading platform to the kit. It measures (add measurements here) and I glued two 1/8" square pieces of basswood (ad measurements here) to the bottom of the platform. It was then stained with the India Ink and Alcohol solution and allowed to dry.

The wall next to the addition has a large hole for a hoist that goes to the attic. I decided to cover the large opening with a sign. The smoke stack on the addition was made from a soda straw that was painted with black paint. I cut a small hole in the roof and pushed the smokestack thru the roof. A little glue holds the whole thing in place.

A little brown colored pastel chalk was streaked down the sides of the structure to simulate weather damage. Additionally a figure, dog and a trash can were added to the loading platform to bring the structure to life. Since Andy's reading a book on the platform, I guess everyone in town went over to see Farmer McDonnell's enormous pig and left Andy with no business today. Perhaps tomorrow will be more prosperous.

## Summary

Tom's visit lead me to finishing off the structure. Thanks Tom, another structure gets built for my RR which is primarily your fault. Please stop by again and lead me to another project! How's next Thursday?



*Figures 3&4: The Easy Kit can be made into a new structure by combining it with other items. An addition changes the entire thing!*



## Bill of Materials

[RailroadKits.com](http://RailroadKits.com)

Easy Craftsman Structure Kit

[Easy Kit Instructions](#)

[Apple Barrel Paints](#)

#20575 SandStone, # Sage Green  
Burnt Umber, Ivory  
Black