

# One Kit, Many Options

By Bruce Oberleitner & Phil Ulmen

Sometimes a kit comes along that generates many interesting ideas from model builders. Recently I discovered a little craftsman kit called "The Easy Kit" from Railroadkits.com. The kit is available for under \$10 so our modeling group purchased a large number of these kits. Here are some ideas on how to modify the structure into different businesses.

## Ideas from Phil Ulmen

- Do I shorten its height, add it to one end of a flat car, build a fold down ramp/platform out the big door, and call it a traveling machine shop for the Ulmen Mining Company?
- Or move the large door to one of the roof panels and show it open with a small flying saucer just arriving or departing from its secret hiding place in the woods?
- Or do I combine it with the neat little Woodland Scenics still which I have been sitting on for over twenty years, and hide it high up on some mountainside? (Them damn revenooers have come to Idaho now, it seems!)
- Maybe I'll paint its walls bright orange, throw on some appropriate signage, leave off part of the roof and one wall, brush it heavily with a propane torch, scatter some charred parts around and have it be a recently defunct fireworks stand. Ooooooh, and I could have some hidden LED glow for embers which haven't quite gone out yet.

## Additional Ideas from Bruce Oberleitner

- One neat idea would be to combine it with a Woodland scenic painting crew giving it a new coat of paint!
- Perhaps you could use a new fruit stand with a small loading platform near the tracks. The best part is that you could use the leftover material from the laser cut parts to form a large platform rather than add an addition to the building.
- Maybe you need a candy or ice cream vendor.
- My final kit is going to become a Salt Water Taffy business for my seaport.
- Maybe you need a paint dealer (i.e. like Dutchboy).



Figure 1 & 2: A stock version of the Easy Craftsman Kit from Railroadkits.com.



Figure 2: The kit was modified by relocating the freight door & adding a loading platform. A pot belly stove pipe sticks out of the new office addition to the building.



Figures 3&4: Model builder Tom Waters added an out building and Storage tank to create AJ's Bee Farm



Figures 5&6 Bob Parrish combed the kit with other items to create his Meridian Gas business.

- Perhaps the phone company stores equipment like their old phone truck in the building.
- You could also consider making it into a small cafe
- How about cutting a second opening in the back and making it into a car wash.
- The smell of hot coffee is in the air from "Java the Hut" (Ok, it's a corny name so come up with your own name already!)
- Another type of business would be a nut dealer, as in peanuts, walnuts, pecans and so forth. Years ago while living in the San Francisco area there was a business called "The Nut Tree." It sort of like an old fashioned Stuckeys store if you remember those places.

<http://www.nuttreeusa.com/>  
<http://www.stuckeys.com/>

## Summary

The possibilities are simply endless for this thing, which was the point of this whole exercise to begin with, I guess. I think it cool that everyone has come up with something different to do with that little kit. What a great hobby! The sky is the limit!

## Bill of Materials

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

Easy Craftsman Structure Kit

[Easy Kit Instructions](#)