

Building Errol T. Water's Auto Repair

By Bruce Oberleitner

After being away from structure building for some time I thought it might be good to start again by building something small as a confidence builder. I choose a Magee's Tire Repair Kit from the Basic Kit line at Bar Mills Scale Model Works. To honor my friend Tom Waters, I named the service station after him and included him working under the Model A coupe.

I started by priming the wood and castings with the gray equipment primer spray paint.. This gave the walls a silvered/gray base color to which I dry brushed on some Apple Barrel Barn Red paint. The castings (i.e. Mostly Tires) were painted with Apple Barrel black paint. The windows were primed with White spray paint. No further painting was necessary on the windows.

One thing I would do differently next time is that I would add the 1/8" sq. strip wood interior structure bracing BEFORE doing the spray painting. My structure has a warped wall to to prove the wisdom of doing this BEFORE adding any paint!

Next, I painted and installed the windows and doors on the laser cut walls while they were still flat on my workbench. Clear styrene was added to the inside of each of the four windows. One window was painted with the sandstone color to simulate a half opened window shade.

Then I used Aleene's tacky glue using 1/4" graph paper covered with wax paper to insure the walls were aligned properly. I assembled two sets of walls together and waited for the glue to dry before assembling the entire structure. For a final added touch, I brushed on some earth toned weathering chalks with a soft brush. Some gray chalk coloring was added to the roof and the Model A coupe.



Figure 1: It's a slow Sunday afternoon in Bedford Falls and Tom is taking the time



The Billboard Sign

The sign for the structure was made using a program called Paint Shop Pro on my IBM-PC. I started by creating a new image about 3" by 5" in actual size. The various text, colors and fonts were then selected. I then added a uniform noise effect at about 7% to give some variation to the sign. Next I added a new layer with 50% transparency setting to the sign for adding the weathering effects. This way if I didn't like the effect, I could just delete the weathering layer and keep the original sign. Finally, I printed it at about a 20% reduction and attached the sign to billboard parts included in the kit.



Figure 2: Colored sand from the Wal-Mart craft department was used to make the roads and pathways on the diorama.



Figure 3: Some scenic materials were created by grinding up peanut shells and maple leaves in an old blender.

The Base

The base is nothing more than a piece a 1/4" plywood. I added a earth colored latex paint and sprinkled in some Woodland Scenics T-50 turf material while the paint was still wet. Next I added some ground up peanut shells and maple leaves to give the surface some textures. I then added some beige colored sand for the roadway. Dark brown colored sand was used for the well worn pathway to the outhouse. The base was sealed with a mix of water (5:1) and Elmer's white glue with a few drops of 91% isopropyl alcohol and applied with over the scenery with an eye dropper.

Misc Details

The fence was built from some siding scraps that I had on the workbench. It's painted burnt sienna and is about 4' height. I used a 1/16" square piece of strip wood for the corner posts which were cut about 6 scale feet height. The fence is about 1' scale foot off he ground. The Armstrong tire sign was created from leftover material from the laser cut wood parts. Some wood boards were added leaning up against the building and fence for some additional detail.

Summary

All in all, it took me about three evenings to build the little diorama. It's was a lot of fun and a great excuse to honor a long time model railroad friend. I highly recommend that you give it a try!

Bill of Materials

[Bar Mills Scale Model Works](#)

#0772 - Magee's Tire Service

[Athearn](#)

#ATH26385 Ford Model-A Sport Coupe

[Wal-Mart](#)

#20009 Colorplace Flag/Blanco White primer

#20010 Colorplace Equip. Gray primer

Colorplace Latex paint - River Road

#5502 Kelly's Craft Sand - Beige

#5516 Kelly's Craft Sand - Brown

[Apple Barrel Paints](#)

#20575 SandStone

#20576 Toffee

#20577 Barn Red

Burnt Sienna

Black

[Aleene's Tacky Glue](#)

[Woodland Scenics](#)

T-50 Blended Earth

T-49 Green Blend for trees and bushes

Misc

Earth and gray toned weathering chalks

91% isopropyl alcohol

Elmer's white glue

Eye Dropper