

Oakleaf Shipping & Storage

By Bruce Oberleitner

One of the newest kits from Bar Mills scale models is Oakleaf Shipping and Storage. It's available in HO and O scale and creates an interesting new business for your expanding railroad to serve. The kit comes with a bunch of great castings. I only added some figures and signs to the structure.



To start the project I primed all the walls and castings for painting. Bar Mills recommends using cheap gray auto primer spray paint from Wal-Mart and it works great for this job (See Figures 8 & 9). A used pizza box works well as a cheap spray booth. Save those precious funds for more kits and detail parts!

The Loading Dock

The loading dock consists of two main parts (i.e. B16 & P64S) which are laminated together to form the loading dock. Check your P64S part carefully (i.e. The one with the scribed woodwork) since some of the early models had this part printed backwards.

To speed up construction of the platform, I marked the inside bottom edge of the platform with the letters A thru H to indicate where each leg part goes on the platform. I then turned to the page that contained the leg part diagram and cut out one leg part at a time and attached them to the platform. This way I didn't have to flip back and forth between the two pages trying to figure out where each

part goes on the platform. I also setback the legs 1/16" (i.e. The thickness of the part) from the front edges of the platform. With hindsight I would setback the parts about 1/32.



Figure 1&2: There's lots of activity on the loading dock. Even the Supervisor has come out of his office to oversee the events!

The Office

The small office building is easy to assemble. I spent most of my time installing signs and adding interior bracing to the structure. I did try some paint colors and felt that an orange color as seen on the box didn't give me enough contrast against my arid scenery. I finally settled on a mix of Burnt Umber and Burnt Sienna paint. This created a rich dark brown color for the building that looks great with my scenery.

The Main Building

I made a slight modification the main building by adding a freight door as shown in figure 3. I assembled the front freight door as directed and made a photocopy of it for the back door. I then glued it on the backside of structure without cutting an opening.

For the window castings, I use a technique from George Sellios. The window castings are filled with Gallery Glass instead of using clear styrene or acetate. It's a white glue type of material that dries clear with few air bubbles. You can find it at craft stores like Michael's in the stained glass department. The biggest trick is to NOT lie the windows flat on any surface since the Gallery Glass will stick to it. Lean each window next to a small box for 24 hours until they are dry and then install them into your structure.



Figure 3&4: The new freight door on the back is nothing more than a photocopy of the front freight door. Workers by the shed attempt to open a strange arc shaped box for Dr. Indiana Jones with little luck.



One problem I had was that I accidentally installed one of the clapboard walls upside down. Next time I think I'm going to mark the backside of the clapboard sides with an arrow

showing which side is up. The arrows should prevent this mishap from happening to you!

Signs

I felt that the main Oakleaf signs above the shed were a bit to modern looking for my 1950s era pike. So I put the large Oakleaf sign on the photocopier and reduced it to 49% of the original size and glued it in place on the front sign boards. They look great as shown in figure 1.

A custom made sign for Errol T. Waters automotive business was made on my computer using a program called Paint Shop Pro. I downloaded a nifty model A sign from the internet and changed the wording with the program. Computers are great for this kind of work!

The Board & Batten Shed

Probably the hardest part of the kit is the shed and addition. One problem I had here is the long back gray wall seen in figure 3 warped on me during construction. I ended up adding a piece of 1/8" bracing just behind the casting on the addition. To hide this, I glued some bits of scrap wood on top of it to simulate boxes and junk.

I used a mix of Apple Barrel Black and Dolphin Gray paints for the roof of the shed. Dolphin Gray & Burnt Umber mix was used for the roof on the addition. I also used some masking tape to simulate a tar paper roof on the addition.



Figure 5 & 6:. Another shot front the front of the structure showing off all those details. The side of the building features many cool signs.



An experiment that worked out was the use of some cheap brown colored eye makeup to weather the roofs and loading dock. Be careful with this material since it does contain

some glitter in it to make your eye's sparkle. As for my experiences obtaining the eye makeup at the grocery store, that's another story entirely....

Putting it All Together

After gluing all the structures to the loading dock, I started working on painting all of those castings. I use whatever colors of acrylics I have on my work bench sometimes mixing two or three colors together to get the color I need. I tried to group the castings into logical arrangements to make the dock seem alive with activity. One side of the dock has a bunch of castings on it while other side has just a few.

The last detail I added was pigeon poop on the rooftops. This was done with some white paint that was drybrushed onto the structure. Be careful not to overdue this step. You might want to practice your brushwork on a piece of scarp material first.

Summary

This was a really fun kit to build. The ease of building the loading platform with laser cut parts is truly amazing. The shingles are very realistic and I will be buying some of those from Bar Mills in the future for some other scratch building projects that I am working on.

Simply put, this is a great kit at a great price. While Art says the kit took them about 12 hours to build, mine took more like 24 hours including painting all those castings since I'm a bit slower than those guys. I highly recommend this kit to anyone who loves building craftsman type structures!



Figure 8&9: Model parts protected diligently by Grizzly the cat during the painting process.



Figure 7: Expert modeler Warren Smith built this version of Oakleaf Shipping and Storage. Note that he used the reversed platform and had to modify some building parts to fit the reversed design.

Bill of Materials

Bar Mills

Oakleaf Shipping & Storage

Northwest Short line

Chopper tool

Michael's Craft Stores

Apple Barrel Paints

Gallery Glass

Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue

Woodland Scenics

A1823 - Dock Workers

Misc

India Ink & Alcohol Mixture

Wax Paper

Brown Eye Makeup

Weathering Chalks