

SCRATCHBUILDING 98

Frank Bongiovanni MCR Convention April 2012

Tips

Work safely. Hobby knives are very very sharp.

Work slowly and carefully. Just about anything you mess up can be fixed, but it's really easier to get it right the first time.

Build up a supply of spare wood, plastic shapes, stairs, windows, doors, etc.

Obtain plans if possible. Redraw a simplified version of the plans in the scale you're modeling in your scale. It will help you to familiarize yourself with the structure, and will facilitate measurements.

For best accuracy, it's usually best to cut a bit oversize if possible and sand down. Conversely, for things like window and door openings, cut a bit small and sand to correct size.

Try to get pictures of the specific prototype; this applies even if you're doing a "standard" structure. And try to get them for the time period that you're modeling.

Try to develop a "light touch"; cut gradually, nudge the wood gently, paint slowly and carefully.

Don't measure when you can use jigs, templates, or the actual piece to be fitted.

Making the roof removable, even if you're not going to detail the interior, makes repairs easier.

HAVE FUN—THIS IS A HOBBY

Tools

Sharp model or surgical knives

Scriber

Tweezers

Scale rule

Straight edge (you can use your scale rule; please don't use mine)

All kindsa clamps

Surface plate with magnets

Squares

Files

Sandpaper

Emery boards

Toothpicks/kabob sticks

Razor saw and mitre box

Machinist's vise

Optivisor

Cutting mat
Pencils
Q tips
Adhesives, including craft glue and acc
Magnifying glass
NMRA gauge
Vanquish

Chopper
Tru Sander
Mini Table Saw
Camera

Resources:

C&O Historical Society [as an example]
 C&O Standard Structures
 Small buildings CD
 Plans
 Painting Standards
 Three tone gray paints
 Mainline Modeler C&O CD

Plan books from other Societies

NWSL
Micro Mark
Walthers (Scratchbuilding section; lists supplies from Northeastern, Midwest, Plastruct, and Evergreen, among others).
JoAnn Fabrics
Michael's Craft stores
Grandt Line
Tichy
American Model Builders
Northeastern
Bowser

Traintools Yahoo group
Buildings and Structures Yahoo group
<http://www.building-your-model-railroad.com/model-buildings.html>
<http://carstensbookstore.com/scformora.html>
<http://www.rustystumps.com/default.asp>
http://www.hobbylinc.com/model_railroad_scratch_supplies
<http://www.builders-in-scale.com/bis/parts.html>