Paper Kit Modelling

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Why Paper Kits?

• Cost effective alternative to plastic kits, in particular for background models
• Availability of unique models, in particular of specific prototypes
The Crossing Tower (HO-Scale)
Quick and Dirty
Suppliers

• Paper Kits have been around for a long time.
• For North America, a relatively new trend to bring out high quality paper kits for Model Railroad applications. See for example MR September 2009, page 62
• British Modellers have enjoyed Card Stock Kits for some time, one example is the Metcalfe I bought as a background model
Photorealistic Kits

• A new trend is to take high resolution images of real buildings and create Paper Kits from these. Examples can be seen in the kits from Stipp, marketed by Auhagen in Germany. While these kits are based on German prototype, I have seen similar kits for North American Prototype on the Web.
Do-it-Yourself

• Another relatively new trend is to design your own buildings using a suitable software package and to print them on the thicker paper required for assembling a structure (See for example NMRA Magazine April 2011, page 36)

• There are also sources of free models on the Web
Some Internet Resources

- Card Modelling FAQ
  - [www.cardfaq.org/faq/](http://www.cardfaq.org/faq/)
- Clever Models
  - [http://clevermodels.squarespace.com/](http://clevermodels.squarespace.com/)
- Scalescenes.com
  - [www.scalescenes.com](http://www.scalescenes.com)
- Paper Creek Model Works
  - [www.papercreek.com](http://www.papercreek.com)
- Bill Jones (Grain Elevator)
  - [http://billjones_9.tripod.com](http://billjones_9.tripod.com)
- 3DK
  - [www.3dk.ca/index.html](http://www.3dk.ca/index.html)
- Paper Models International (Oregon)
  - [www.papermodels.net/](http://www.papermodels.net/)
Creating the 3D look

• Older Kits gave an impression of 3 dimensionality by using really thick card stock (example: Metcalfe)

• A variation of this idea is to laser engrave structure into a thick card stock (see example kit from Moebo in Germany) These type of kits are best compared with laser cut wood buildings in the North American market. (price wise, too)
Creating the 3-D look

• Another way of achieving a 3-D look is to work in layers:
  – Cut out windows and glue in from behind, sometimes with a spacer
  – Cut out extra window frames on glue on from the front
  – Prepare battens and siding edge covers separately and glue on top
Enhancing your kit

• Use Actate and / or window castings to replace the paper windows.
• Add scatchbuild components, for example use wood to replace the outside walkway on the Tower
• Combine parts from different kits. For example, I am using a scaled down version of the O-scale walkway/deck on one of my HO-scale Towers
Tools

• Cutting surface – Glass or Cutting board
• Sharp knife (X-acto or similar)
  – Spare Blades
• Straight edge (to guide the cuts)
• Elmers Glue
• Toothpicks
• Felt Pen in a dark colour, preferably gray, brown or dark green
• Weights, Clamps
Process

• Cutting
  – Fresh Blades, change blades as soon as you notice fraying
  – Think about how to do it
    • Remember to score and fold small parts before cutting them out
    • Leave support material on small pieces
    • Check that all the required fold tabs are available
    • Check that the tabs do not overlap
Cutting
Think about how to cut (not)
Think about how to cut (better)
Score and fold small parts before cutting
Leave support for small parts
Ensure sufficient tabs are available
Fold Tabs overlap
Fold Tabs cut back
Process

• Colouring the edges
• Scoring
  – Score from the back
  – Watch the to bend direction when scoring
• Railing Assembly
• Choice of glue
Folding edges stand out
Here I tried scoring from behind to preserve the printed surface.
Cut out extra parts to glue behind openings for 3D effect
Colour the excess material
Windows and doors have been glued
Add the frames
It does become 3 dimensional
My first attempt at a roof

- Forgot to colour the edges
- Tabs overlap
- Difficult to fold
My second attempt
My second attempt
Platform Assembly

• Fold Stairs and glue
• Cut out platform, but leave tabs to help assembly
• Colour platform from below and edges
• Colour edges of stairs
• Glue stairs to wall support beam
• Once dry, glue wall support beam to platform. Pay attention, the folded end goes to the inside of the platform
• Fold railing, cut out and colour edges and back
• Glue second layer to railing
• Glue railing to platform
• Glue platform assembly to tower
The railing, coloured from the back
Stair assembly
Stair assembly
Stair assembly
Different style from the O-Scale kit
Process

• Thin prints - glue to thicker paper of card board
• Larger buildings – re-enforce the walls
• Apply glue to printed surface, soaks up too quickly otherwise
• Choice of glue
  – White Glue
  – Perfect Paper Adhesive (Michaels) – not water activated
The Crossing Tower (HO-Scale)
Have Fun!