



HO Structure Kit

MILK PLATFORM

933-4062

Thanks for purchasing this Cornerstone kit. All parts are styrene so use compatible glue and paint to assemble and finish your model. Any aging or distressing the plastic parts is best done before assembly, however it will be simpler to paint some parts during or after assembly. Consider now how you'd like your milk platform to look. Notes and tips are provided in each step. Please take a few minutes to read these instructions and study the drawings before starting construction.

Milk platforms were once a common sight across America. From the late 1800s through the 1950s, railroads enabled milk from country cows to reach city tables, every day. Facilities such as this were found on railroads big and small. The elevated platform made it easier to unload heavy milk cans from wagons or trucks and load them into railroad cars, whether baggage express cars or the side door of a combine.

1) Assemble the five leg assemblies using two of part 3 and one part 2 for each. *Tip: You may add simulated wood grain to the braces, part 3, using a course sanding stick or fine-tooth hobby saw dragged gently along the length of the part. However, be careful not to scratch away the cast-on nut-bolt-washer detail.* Now is also a good time to use a file or hobby knife to sand or scrape the part to remove any residual plastic from the sprue. This is especially important for the tops of part 2 where the legs will be glued to the underside of the deck.

2) Once the leg assemblies are complete, glue them to the base, part 1. You may wish to omit this part depending on where you intend to place your milk platform and how you apply scenery to your layout or diorama. However, you will need to pay close attention to the vertical alignment of the legs. Part 1 ensures that they're evenly spaced.

3) Similar to the legs, a wood grain effect can be applied to the deck boards, part 4. Scuffs and dents would be common where the milk cans were loaded and unloaded.

NOTE: If you have been applying texture to the legs and deck, now is the time to paint them. The ladder, part 10, can also be painted at this time along with the underside of the roof, part 9. The parts have been molded in an olive gray color. This makes a great base color for simulating wood by applying washes and a light dry brush technique to bring out any details. Paint according to the look you desire and set aside to dry. A dot of dark metallic paint on each nut-bolt-washer will really highlight this detail. Apply rust according to the age of your platform. Railroad structures in regular service were often well maintained.

Once you're satisfied with the appearance of the deck, glue it to the leg assemblies making sure there's good contact between the deck and the legs.

4) The inside of the small shed has wall framing detail cast into the parts. You can paint this as raw wood in a similar way to the deck and legs, or use the color of your choice. *Tip: Many railroads employed common color schemes for all their structures. Some common railroad structure colors were gray, buff tan or white. Once the walls have been painted, inside and out, glue them to the base and each other following the diagram.*

5) Glue the roof in place atop the walls, scraping away any paint from the joint to ensure a good bond. The roof has been cast to look like rolled roofing. Early rolled roofing was often green, red or black. Select the color you'd like to use and paint the roof. *Tip: Add a drop of light gray paint to a few drops of your roof color in a cup or on a palette. Use this lighter shade on the roof where you want to show a faded color, or as a dry-brush color to highlight the edges.*

6) Glue the ladder to the deck aligning it with the notches in the deck board, taking care to face the ladder rungs to the outside.

7) The milk cans are cast in a light gray metallic-colored plastic and can be trimmed from the sprue and placed on the platform. *Tip: If you choose to paint the milk cans a different metallic color, you can paint them before you clip them from the sprue or remove them and affix them to a flat stick with double-sided tape before painting.* Weather your milk platform to your liking and install it on your layout or diorama. Thanks for building this Cornerstone kit!

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