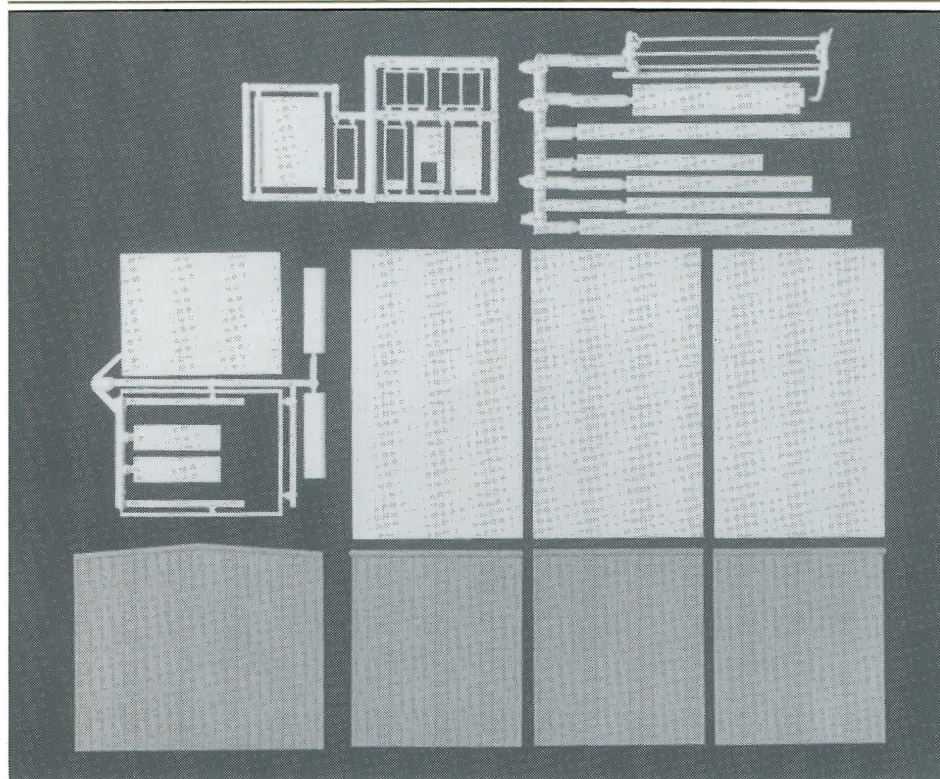


Pikestuff "Kitbasher" Series

#5000 Small Enginehouse



It seems there's almost an unwritten law among model railroaders: "Thou shalt not build a structure kit straight from the box according to the way the manufacturer intended!" With that in mind, we put together some individual components from several of our existing Pikestuff kits and came up with the "Kitbasher Series." If you've built any of our kits before, you know the backside is scribed with lines to aid you in forming door and window openings. The Pikestuff plastic is easy to cut, whether there are door and window scribings or not, and so it occurred to us that we could combine components into new kits and be able to offer them to you at a heck of a lot less money if we didn't have the expense of tooling up new molds for the cut lines each time. Thus the "Kitbasher Kits" were born. This first kit came about because we needed a small enginehouse for our own lethargically developing railroad, and we thought we would share it with you. Hope you like it.

The first figure shows the parts in this kit. Working from the bottom to the top, the piece on the left is the end of the building. There are two contained in this kit. To the right are the three different side wall pieces. The rain gutter at the top of the center piece is flat at both ends. The pieces flanking it are flat

where they butt up against the center piece, but the other end of each piece is bevelled to join the end walls. In addition, the rain guttering wraps around the corners to mate with the end walls. There are two each of these three different wall castings. Above these side walls are three roof pieces. You know where a roof goes, so there's probably not a lot we need to say here except that there are six in the kit, all identical. To the left of the roof pieces is a casting containing the engine door, door frame, roof vent and roof vent base. There are two of these castings included. At the top is a sprue containing various doors and windows and to the right of it is another containing everything but the kitchen sink. At the top are three drain pipes. The corrugated strip is the roof center ridge, and beneath that are five reinforcing strips of various lengths. There should be three of this sprue in your kit.

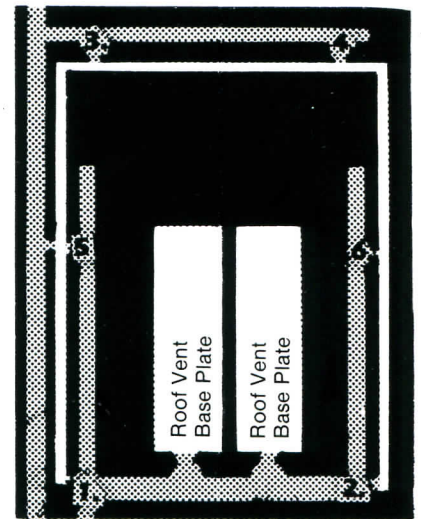
Tools required:

X-acto® (or equivalent) hobby knife
and No. 11 blades—several
Liquid plastic cement

A small file and an HO Scale ruler would be helpful but not necessary.

Construction:

First off, CAREFULLY cut the enginehouse door frame away from its sprue.



To remove the doorframe from its sprue, place the sprue face down so that the frame is on your left and the corrugated door is on your right. Laying your knife blade against and parallel to the insides of the frame at the bottom, carefully cut through the sprue and the base of the frame (1) and (2). Then repeat the same cut at the top, at the two sprue attach points (3) and (4). Now turn the sprue over so the door frame is on your right. Lay your blade against and parallel to the side of the door frame and separate the frame from the remaining attach points (5) and (6) about halfway up the side. Now your frame is free, but you've got a little excess left on the back of the frame where the last two cuts were made. Carefully remove these with your blade and then examine all six places where you separated the attach points and finish smoothing them with a small jewelers' or hobby file.

If you're going to leave the door open, after painting the enginehouse walls and door frame, cement the door frame in the door opening and you're done. If the door is to be closed, cement the corrugated roll-up door to the back of the engine door frame, paint and install. An extra bit of realism and dimension can be added by finding the height of the tallest locomotive to be housed in this enginehouse, then cutting off a short piece of the corrugated door and cementing it in place at the top of the inside door frame, making sure all locomotives can pass freely beneath it. The effect is that of a door that has not been rolled up all the way. A coat of flat aluminum paint on the door itself, while painting the door frame molding the same color as the rest of the building's trim, makes a really nice appearance.