

MINI PROJECTS

I bet many a time you have a fancy to do some modelling but don't want to get involved in anything heavy. Well maybe your answer's here. A few projects that will only take an hour or so each. They cost next to nothing, are satisfying to make and will enhance your layout with those little extras that bring it to life.



Contents
Quick Dustbins
Quick Trolley
Quick Bolts
Simple Stencils

Have a look, have a read, have a go!

Quick Dustbins

Rural or urban layouts - it doesn't matter. Everyone needs dustbins. This method of making them is cheap, effective and very quick. Making one takes about twenty minutes. A couple of hours batch-making them will give you enough for a whole terrace. You've probably got all the makings laying around, so why not have a go.

REQUIREMENTS

Sheet lead (fairly thick)

Fine wire

Smooth scriber (dull pointed nail)

Old paintbrush (with nice round end)

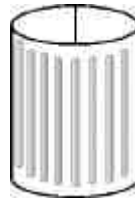
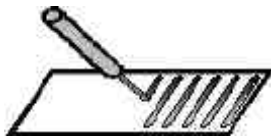
Cyano adhesive

Pair old nail scissors

Fine pliers

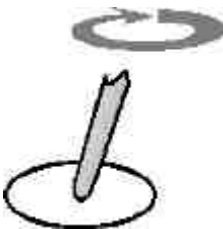
Straight edge

Cut a piece of lead approx. 25mm x 33mm. With the scriber, press in fluted pattern, about 3mm in from top and bottom edge. Roll into cylinder. You will find that it will roll easily because of the fluting. Stick ends together, edge to edge. You can, if you wish, reinforce the join with an extra piece of lead or card on the inside.



Drill for handles about one third down the sides. Fashion handles from fine wire and fit.

Cut a small circle of lead, slightly larger than diameter of bin. Lay on a thick, soft pad of some sort. An upturned mousemat is ideal. With the end of the paintbrush, press into the centre and work in a circular motion. The lead will begin to form into a shallow dome shape. Once satisfied, go round edge and bend with pliers to form edge of lid. Trim level with scissors, or rub on a sheet of abrasive paper. Drill and fit handle.



You need not even paint them. The lead is just the right colour and will age itself nicely. They will hold their shape quite well, but if you wish, you can fill the cylinder with plasticine. With these bins you have a variety of display methods:

Lid on

Lid next door (thank you dustman!)

Lid half off showing rubbish

They are also easy to bend and dent for extra character.

The same methods apply for the more modern tapered, non-fluted bin - just cut lead in a slight arc.

Quick Trolley

Requirements:

1mm Ply/Basswood or similar - 28mm x 21mm

1mm square stripwood

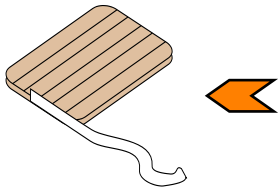
4 small press studs approx 7mm diam. (female halves)

Strip of thick paper/thincard

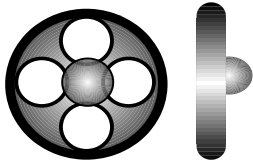
Wire or plastic rod



Round corners, scribe lines and stain/paint

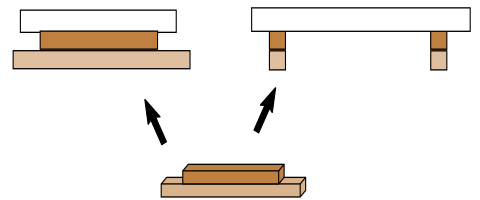


cut paper/card 2mm wide and length to go round platform. paint and then stick round edge, flush with bottom leaving raised lip

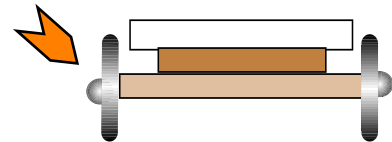


press studs are great. the male halves make great steam valve wheels in your loco cab.

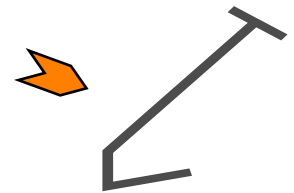
Cut stripwood 2x18mm and 2x25mm. Stick to underside of platform



Stick press studs to axles



fashion handle from wire or plastic. Drill hole in centre of front axle and fit



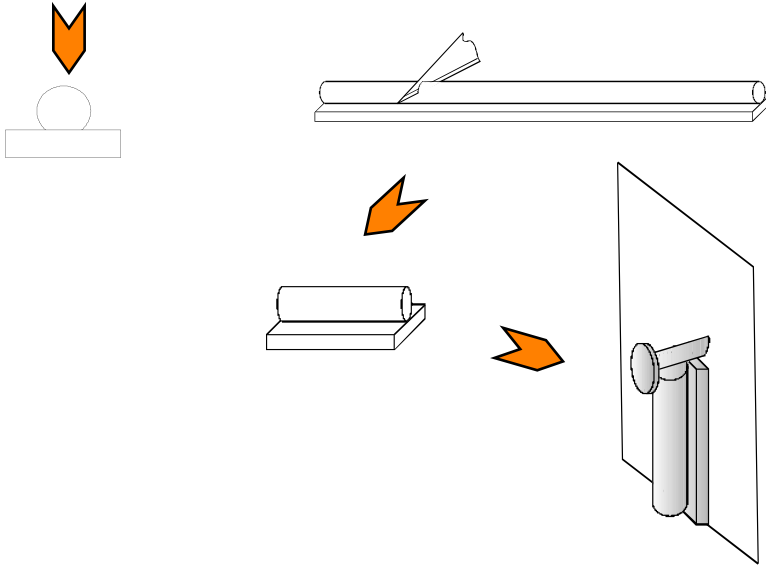
handle, trolley edging and wheel centres should be painted to match. (suggest medium green?)

More Below



Quick Bolts

Take a piece of plastic rod, scrape with scalpel to flatten one side slightly
Glue to length of plastic strip



Stick in place and
use Peco track
pin or similar for
bolt handle

That was quick wasn't it!

Simple Stencils

SIMPLE STENCILS FOR LETTERING WAGONS

Many wagons carry the initials of their respective railway in large letters. There are quite a few ways to represent this, dry print lettering and transfers being the most popular. Both of these need weathering and although this is fairly straightforward, giving them an old and faded look is a bit harder. So here's another way. Why not cut your own stencils?

Obviously this is only good for large single letters but it works well and is very quick. I produced a 'D' and a 'V' for my Dimwych Valley stock in about ten minutes and it took about five minutes max to do both side of one wagon.

Obviously if you are reading this you have a computer at your disposal. You need any word processor programme, a printer, some masking tape and some clear photographic film. Check through some old negatives - there's probably a bit of clear stuff at the end. An alternative to this is a clear overhead projection sheet.

First sort out the letters you wish to produce, in a fairly straightforward font. I used Arial Bold. Type out the letters you want, spaced well apart. Copy them in different point sizes and select the one that suits your stock. I settled on 28 point for mine. Print them out in plain black.

Take a piece of film and lay it over the letter you wish to work on and tape it down round the edges. The film will probably have a curl - place it with the convex side upwards, it will make it easier to hold down when using the stencil. Before you begin cutting, plan where any 'bridge' pieces need to be. These are the bits that hold the centre in an 'O' or 'D' etc.

Now using a new scalpel blade, cut out the stencil, following the printed letter beneath. Use a straight edge and cut slowly. Obviously you will have to cut freehand round curved letters – take your time.

Do each letter separately and when it's cut out, trim around the outside. The smaller the border, the easier it will be to fit it in awkward places.

To use your stencil, get your wagon on its side. A good way of keeping it in place while working is to support between with a couple of plastic bags, loosely filled with rice – just like a couple of bean bags. It's a very stable way to hold awkward shapes. Then get your stencil in place and hold it down – I use a darning needle in a cork – and stipple on the paint.

The paint should be fairly stiff and so should the brush. It should also have short bristles. Charge the end of the bristles then dab on a piece of paper till you are getting a very light 'dry' coat of paint coming off. Then stipple over the stencil, concentrating on the corners and edges. Remember you can always put on more but taking it off is not so easy! A very light coat will give a faded old look to the paintwork. Once you are satisfied release the stencil. The natural curve will spring it away without smearing. If needed, a quick dust over with a suitably coloured weathering powder will really age your work



The Stencils



On the Wagon!

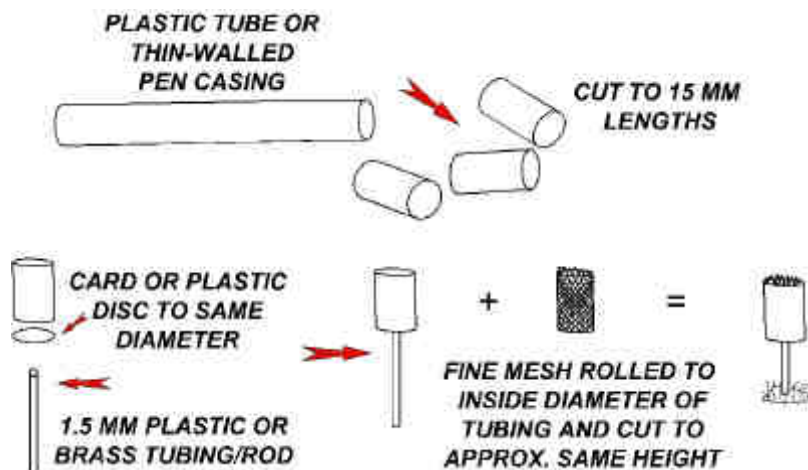
Four of 'em
about ten minutes work!



Pedestal Litter Bins

This one is about as simple as you can get. Some thin-walled tubing. (I used an old Berol draughting pen). Some 1.5 mm tube or rod for the pedestal, a disc of plastic/card and a scrap of fine metal mesh for the basket liner. The picture below says it all.

These would find a home on almost any layout.



Bet you couldn't
buy one like it
ready made!