



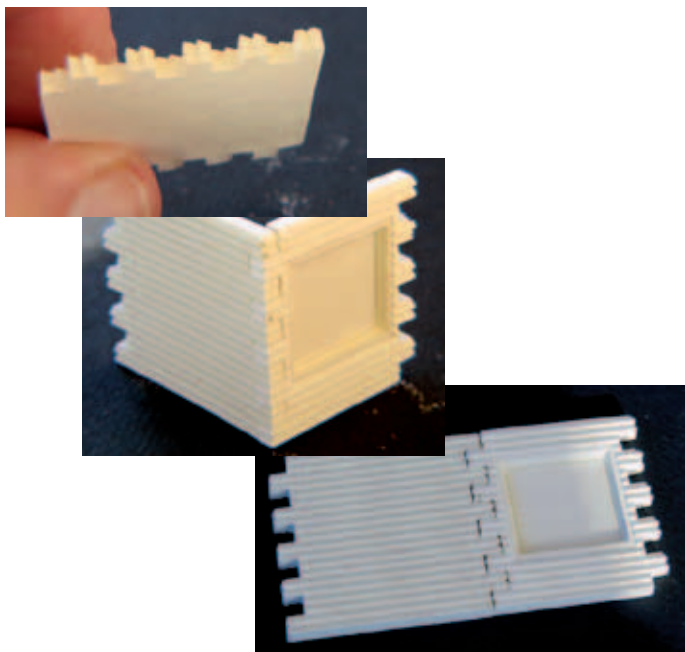
The 1930s GARAGE — A Marriage of Linka and Plastic Kit

Before starting the Canal Pub I had another project in mind to go on my train layout — a Country Garage. I thought I would have a reasonably simple project before starting on the ambitious “Pub Project”. Much less stress! Or so I thought — the best laid plans, etc, etc!!!

Not having ever used them before, I wanted to see what the Linka “Timber moulds” could produce. I was a little concerned with the joining of the “timber tiles”, because of the way the “fingers” on each tile when joined, were quite noticeable, especially on a long wall with multiple tiles.

The first thing I found was that I had to file away (slightly, to flatten them) the ends of the fingers so as to produce a clean join. Let me explain that a little better.

When you “butt” the tile up to a window frame, door frame, or a “run” on a long wall with multiple tiles, I couldn’t get a “clean” join. Looking at the cast tile, I saw that the fingers had like a “mitre” to them, so that when 2 tiles were joined at a corner the “cladding” would continue “around” the corner. To see what I mean, have a look at the close up of the fingers on the tile (see photos below).



Always wanting to try something different, and not having the style of window I needed with Linka, I thought I would have a look at some old plastic kits I had in the “scrap box”.

The large industrial style windows, the large curved top double doors, and the roof with skylights were all from a plastic FALLER “N” Gauge Engine Shed kit. Even though it was N Gauge, they were totally suitable (and in scale) for the building project, as can be seen by the finished build!



As always, the “plan” was in my head — I knew the kind of building I wanted from old photos I had found when doing a Google Image search. In fact, I have used images from 3 separate buildings to produce my final idea for the appearance of my garage.

I had already purchased the white metal 1920/1930 petrol pumps, and forecourt items from Scale Link Limited. I also wanted to incorporate lighting in the building so that you could look in the window and see motor parts, also the service area — looking through the double doors you can see the single column hoist with a small open top car being serviced with the motor mechanic in attendance.



There is also a floodlight over the petrol pumps for night service. Alongside the main building there is a heavy ramp where cars and trucks can also be worked on. The ramp and the hoist were made up with scrap styrene channel and strip, and the running boards from a OO scale diesel loco — I wanted the diamond tread pattern (see photos below) for the wheel supports on both the ramp and the hoist.



I had a couple of really nice 1920/30 SHELL Billboard advertising posters and to use these I was going to have a double hoarding on the roof, facing both sides of the main building, but opted to have only a single one instead. This was fabricated with scrap styrene pieces and styrene OO scale 4-6" siding.

Looking at old building photos on Google, there seemed always to be lots of advertising signs plastered on walls, etc. I had already produced 3 sheets of signs when creating my Linka Station, so it was easy to find the necessary Motor Oil related metal signs. Also I wanted to have Circus Posters,



Movie Posters and other similar style advertising on the walls of the buildings to add interest.

The bits and pieces in the shop window and other items around the site and on the scrap heap were old train parts and bits adapted to be used for an automotive site, rather than a train site.

I constructed an oxy acetylene welding set from a few scrap pieces of plastic sprue — an old piece of ladder; a few small wheels; the “torch” is actually part of a OO train brake hose connection; and the “hose” is a length of thin solder!

There is also a “chain hoist” out the back made from styrene channel and other scraps found in the scrap box!



The old wrecked cars were found in the in a box of train parts along with other motor parts. Also I had 2 complete sets (boxed) of 1960 REPLICARS produced by Harbutts Plasticene stored away in my train cupboard (see photo). I have since found that these are quite rare and are fetching a good price on ebay, UHMMM... “tempting”!

It was a bit of a job to find the actual SCALE they were produced to — they seemed to be smaller



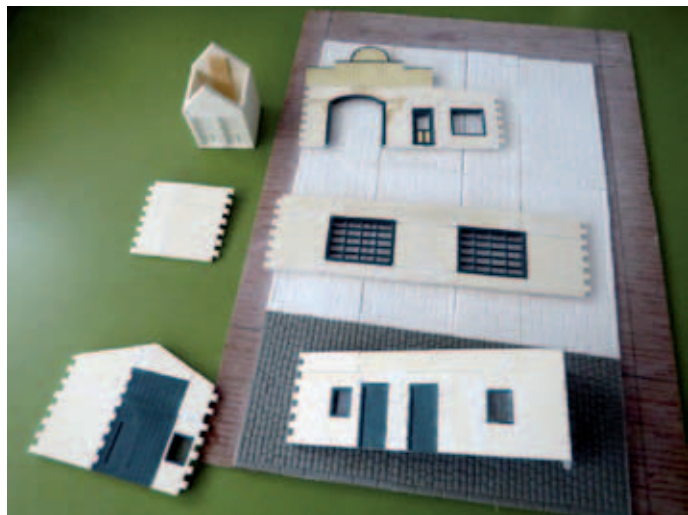
than 1:76, OO scale. I found a reference on the internet that they were made to 1:80 scale — slightly smaller than OO but bigger than HO scale (1:87).

They add a nice touch to a scene and because I am modelling an approximate 1930s era they fitted well with the time frame of my layout!

The forecourt is made using WILLIS Granite “setts” plastic sheet, and the base of the garage interior

and exterior are Linka PS5 Pavement castings, suitably painted and weathered to simulate concrete slabs.

In the last project (Lock keeper's House and Tower) I mentioned I painted all windows and doors BEFORE assembling the buildings and I did this project the same way. Also I painted all of the walls while everything was still in "flat" form and not assembled finding this to be so much easier.



Some of my earlier projects were painted AFTER everything was assembled and completed. Picking up fragile buildings and painting them was asking for trouble; some were large and unwieldy; and in hindsight I'm surprised they weren't dropped and damaged during the painting.

From now on EVERYTHING gets painted BEFORE assembly and glued. It is so much easier and it doesn't take much if there are minor touch-ups to be done at the end!

I am always on the lookout for odd bits and pieces to add interest to my scenes and being a garage it needed oil drums, crates and other paraphernalia to be scattered about. I was lucky to find a KNIGHTWING INTERNATIONAL 3-pack (PM108) of crates, barrels, sacks, drums, packing cases, boxes, bottles in crates — a real treasure trove of goodies to add interest in a scene!



Because my buildings were made to an "L" shape, I had an area that was looking empty. Now, I don't know whether or not they had a Ladies & Gent's Convenience Outhouse during the 1920s and 30s at garages — but I thought ... well, why not! So I have a small, separate building with a double separated toilet for Ladies and Gentlemen!

My overall colour scheme changed a few times before settling on the "Green and Cream" that it finished up as. There are not too many colour images of old vintage 1930s garages, if any at all — what ones I could find only went back to the 1950s and they were all American — I wanted British!



Colour schemes may not always seem to be a very important aspect in a build, especially if you are building with stone or brick moulds, but I find that these "small" things do make a big difference in the long run, giving your project a certain amount of authenticity!

When building items for a Railway, there will always be a "House Style" for a particular company in the building design, painting, architecture, etc. and my feeling is that by having a common "feeling" with the structures, that it will give the railway layout a good, realistic finish to it!

Painting your buildings is the same — it is very important to have in the "mind's eye" the appearance of the finished project and NOT to leave the painting as a mere secondary thought. If you spend all that time on your building, then also decide on a pleasing colour scheme to incorporate into the finished project! It will be better for it!

To see what can be done with Linka buildings — if you haven't already done so — have a look on-line at the railway layout of KINGSTON REGIS, modelled and built by John and Jane Jacobs — <http://www.kingstonregis.com/index.shtml> — you'll be amazed. There is also a reference to Jane's building with Linka!

And, of course, I love to include “interesting interludes” on my building projects that will eventually be associated with me — hopefully it will encourage people to “seek out” those little intimate scenes when they look at my “mini-dioramas”!



I am also an “old movie” fan and love Alfred Hitchcock films, so this is my way of having a “walk on Hitch effect” in my scenes — they are my personal signature to a finished project — look out for them in the future builds!

Hope you enjoyed this, as much as I enjoyed building and presenting it!

