

## BUILDING BOOTY CORNER

### Part One: Introduction and Preliminary Instructions

Building structures has always been my prime interest in model railroading. My trains don't run very much, but there are some nice looking buildings. This year I received my first AP Achievement Award – in structures, naturally. Because we are focusing on the new members and the Golden Spike Award, I decided to start a series on building a straightforward wood kit – with proper detailing and weathering, more than sufficient to start you on your way.

Booty Corner is a kit produced by the prolific kit maker, Bar Mills. They have a vast array of kits, from beginner to craftsman. Their web site, with all their current kit listings, photos, articles, and a slew of how to videos can be found at <http://www.barmillsmodels.com>

I intend this to be a leisurely build while working on several other projects. Each month I will detail what has been accomplished, how much time I spent, and what tools I needed to progress.

Here is a photo from the Bar Mills website:



As you can see, it is really two structures: an IGA store and a barber shop. There are preprinted signs for both buildings. I am going to place this on a module I am building for my layout, which will also be used for the AP Certificate for Scenery. I often get hung up on superdetailing buildings like this, but in this case I intend to do a straight build, with two exceptions: I will have a Tylick type interior in the store, and both store and barber shop will be lighted

So, now some pictures of the kit as it has been sitting on my shelf for far too long:

The box



The box opened



There are some things immediately clear from unpacking the parts. Bar Mills is serious about making laser kits – most of the detail parts are precut, making shaping and fitting easier than in some other manufacturers' kits. There is a detailed instruction packet, window glazing, signs, metal castings, and photos. All in all, a good package.

A detailed look at one of the laser cut sheets reveals the level of detail already built into the parts:



Note that the parts have engraved numbers in some cases, a nice touch. This will make fitting the pieces much easier. It also allows for painting trim in contrasting colors without ruining your eyesight.

The first step I will take is to read the instructions carefully, which is definitely not in my nature. However, there appear to be some unusual construction techniques (at least for me) and I want to make sure I understand them. The board and batten wall, for example, is made of a base piece of wood and a laser cut batten sheet that fits over it. Interesting.

Then I am going to decide on colors. I may use the green and white scheme, but before I decide for sure I am going to look at the buildings it will be around to make sure that there is some color variation. I generally use craft paints for exterior wood, which means I will have to be sure to brace sections that will be painted, since the paint is water soluble.

Finally, I am going to organize my workbench, making a clear space for the project and check on my tools. I do this before each build. A new blade in the X-acto knife ( I buy in 100 lots, there is nothing worse than a dull blade); Titebond Glue (not water soluble white glue), some straight edges, rulers, pencils, and a few odds and ends that I will get to are all that is really required.

We will get started in actual construction in the next installment.