

Modelling news

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Now position the completed building on the layout, stand back and admire it. *Photos: Boyd Misstear except on right*



Does it look like the genuine article ??

Photo: Wikipedia

FIDESpress - RhB 'Rueun' Station

Boyd Misstear tackles this multiple component laser-cut HO scale model



The FidesPress Laser Cut Wood HO kit for RhB station at Rueun

This is a kit that originated from the former Milbert Creations, Rue de Bon-Port, 3, Montreux, CH-1820. It is likely to date from between 1983 and 2004 as research seems to indicate their manufacturing ceased around 2004. It is still possible to find a number of FIDES kits of various structures available online, both from individuals on eBay, but also from some commercial modelling outlets. This particular kit was a gift from a friend now living in New York. He purchased it from a fan of the RhB some years ago while over on the “West Coast” (California). The prototype building was first opened in 1912 to serve, as its name suggests, the village of Rueun in the municipality of Ilanz/Glion in the Surselva Region of the canton of Graubünden.

This is a carefully thought through wooden model of the currently unmanned RhB Rueun station building found on the Chur to Disentis line. The kit comprises numerous laser cut pieces, some very small and each individually packed by size measurements in clear plastic packaging along with attached typed index of parts (see photo). Also provided is a plywood piece along with cut foam wall sidings to complete the end platform. To understand how all the parts should be assembled, a multipage set of diagrams indicate where

each of the components should be located. It is sometimes necessary to thumb through the pages to obtain different views in order to understand what/how/where fixings should be applied.

The cut quality of the materials is excellent, and while there is really only one written instruction in multiple languages saying to colour the parts before assembly (good advice!), the rest is up to the builder viewing the diagrams! So, while an excellent and enjoyable kit to build, it is definitely not one for a beginner or anyone in a rush. Neither is it a kit that can be assembled anywhere other than in a still air environment. One whiff of wind (or sneeze!) would whisk away the majority of parts once they had been unpacked! Which leads me to suggest – if you do decide to assemble this kit, first carefully lay all the parts with the index sheets associated, whether using white trays or plastic cups (saved yogurt variety being an excellent set) for ready access, all carefully identified to ease selection as one assembles. I suggest white colour containers, as once one has stain coloured the individual pieces they will be much easier to see!

Working an hour or so each day, this kit is likely to take you two elapsed weeks. Once you have completed and then positioned this kit on your layout, add a few station fittings, and perhaps also a chimney, which was not included with the kit. You will be happy with the fruits of your labour.


Five suggestions for assembling this kit!

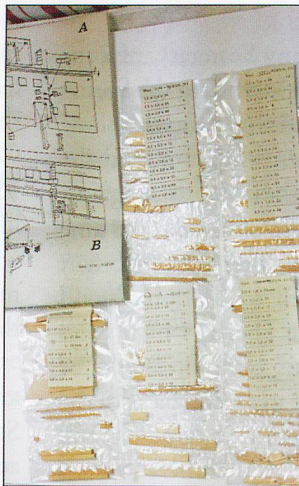
1. Familiarize oneself with the set of diagrams before doing anything else! Sounds obvious, but well worth the study time before one proceeds. Combined with the indexed parts, it speeds up construction.
2. Have a good set of modelling tools available that are suitable for intricate work – fine point tweezers in particular are essential.
3. I chose Pacer Formula 560 Canopy Glue. This allows a little wiggle room. I applied by putting drops of the Canopy Glue into a plastic bottle top, and then used a toothpick to spread glue to one side of the part before positioning. This glue dries clear quickly. However, it does allow, with some dexterity, to correct mistakes! And the chances are, with so many parts, you will make one or two unless you are very familiar with this structure. To help with this latter point –

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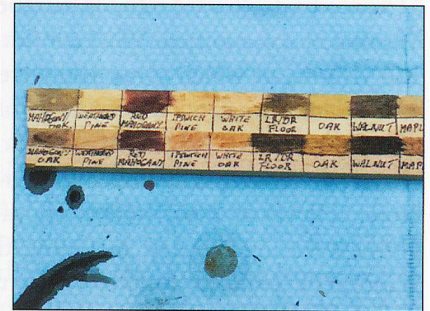
check out Google “street-view”. RhB allowed Google to travel their network and photograph as the camera train went along all their routes. And so it is possible to get up close views of three sides of the building taken from the camera train.

4. Assemble on a dry flat surface. Colouring (stain, paint and weather of choice to match the prototype). The recommendation is to stain, and this I followed. I tried out a selection of stains I had been left by the previous owner of our Connecticut home, on a couple of different pieces of wood, to see the effects. I chose a walnut which I applied using a cut up piece of a facecloth. The different tones were achieved by varying the amount of stain used. Use sparingly – one can always darken, but not lighten! It took an afternoon to stain all the parts – my fingers were discoloured for days! But I didn't feel I could do this task using gloves.

5. The roof tiles are paper imprints and effective, although I did weather once in place. A tip! I used 3M Scotch “ATG Adhesive Transfer Tape” rather than two-sided tape or water-based substances like white glue or spray on adhesives. This was to avoid the possibility of undulations or worse, ripples forming from wetting the paper. The “Transfer Tape” comes in various widths, and caution, it is expensive. However, a roll goes a long way (approx. 1cm width comes in 32-metres length) and sells for US\$20 here. To apply, cut strips to selected lengths. Put in place on one surface. Peel off the backing, which just leaves the glue, and then press the joining surface in place. It's instant contact so lay down carefully into the final resting place. There is no wiggle-room! If you haven't tried it, and you have a lot of glueing opportunities involving paper sensitive materials like mounting photographs into frames, then I have no hesitation in recommending it. 



LEFT: First, familiarize yourself with the parts.



ABOVE: Test out some wood dyes and choose the best colour.

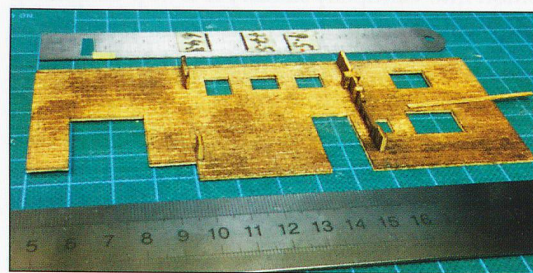


LEFT: Then test the chosen wood dye on a hidden area.

RIGHT: Now dye the parts and catalogue them for easy selection.

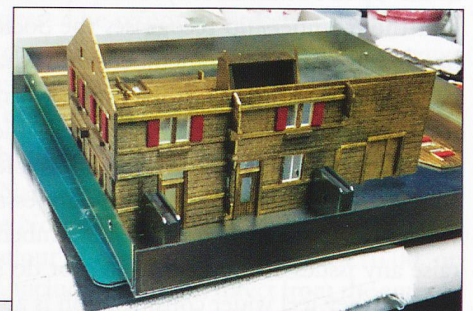


	A	B
1	Ingredients	Suitable Modelling Tools
2	FIDESpress 1170 Laser Cut Wood HO Kit - RhB Rueun Station	Sharp knife + blade(s)
3	Pacer Formula 560 Canopy Glue	Fine tweezers (don't have to be antistatic for this model)
4	Wood stain colour of choice – I used Walnut	Magnifying glasses – as needed!
5	Red oil based paint for the window shutters	Small paint brushes (various), Stirrer & Toothpicks
6	Red – Brown Spray paint for the metal outer wall vertical supports – Tamiya TS-1 or equivalent	Cutting mat Straight edge and Flat working surface!
7	Painters edging tape to hold assemblies while they dry	Small pieces of cloth – for dabbing on weathering colours
8	White “School Glue” (or equivalent) and scenic material - if applying window box flowering vegetation	
9	Consider adding suitable station fittings – not provided	



ABOVE: Now you can commence assembly, Joining the wood and metal parts.

RIGHT: Then join the completed sides. Now position the roof.



LEFT: Stain the roof edges before applying the paper tiles. Finish the windows and complete the signage.