

Corfe Castle Goods Shed

A few winters ago, I was “grounded pending tests”. It all worked out OK, they managed to find a brain in the end. But in the meantime, I decided to have a go at railway modelling to stop myself going stir-crazy. I wanted to model the branch line I grew up with in London – the Harrow and Stanmore Railway. It had the dubious distinction of being the only branch line which Dr. Beeching managed to close down within the Greater London area, but it also had a special place in my childhood memories as I and a friend had walked along the track bed as far as Stanmore Village Station. And yes, it was still a working railway, and yes, we were passed by a goods train during our walk!



Illustration 1: Corfe Castle Goods Shed



Illustration 2: Stanmore Station

However, deciding to model this little branch line brought its own problems. The station building was designed to look like a church in order to appease the rich local residents. Consequently, the station building was unique, and no kit exists that looks anything like it. So it was that I decided to see what I was capable of. Step by step, I discovered that, yes, I still had sufficient dexterity to complete an OO gauge card kit. And yes, I am able to complete a tiny N gauge kit, in spite of my increasing years and decreasing ability to focus without a visit to Specsavers! But the thing that really surprised me was that “scratch building” is not actually as difficult as I had assumed it would be. In fact, it's not only possible, I found it to be an absorbing and fun challenge.

So to the current grounding due to the corona virus. I've got my previous “inspired by Stanmore” model to a presentable state – I've discovered that a model is never actually finished. So I decided that I'd like to tackle another model, this time set in the Southern Region. One of my early challenges has been to create a goods shed for the layout, and I decided I'd like to model it on the one at Corfe Castle on the Swanage railway. This has several big advantages:

1. It's still standing, albeit now serving as a museum rather than a working goods shed;
2. There are plenty of easily accessible photographs of it; and
3. There is even a scale drawing of the shed available on line!

The last point makes the design exercise really easy – no need to estimate sizes from photographs, allowing for perspective and distortion!

I make all my buildings from scrap card – empty cereal boxes and out-of-date invitation cards. I love the idea that I can create a railway model from things that would normally get discarded. Cereal boxes are a fairly standard thickness of just over 0.5mm, so two thicknesses (outer wall and inner wall) make for 1mm thick walls, which I reckon are fine for N gauge. Invitation cards are usually about 160mg/cm², and this is perfect for things like the roof, doors and barge boards. Different kit designers have their preferred



Illustration 3: Corfe Castle Goods Shed - Track Side

methods for dealing with corners, and I guess I've tried most of them out at some stage. But I've come to the opinion that the Kingsway approach is best; leave the edges uncovered and then shade them in. Only, instead of using a lead pencil to darken the edges, I mix up a suitable shade of acrylic paint and use a very fine paintbrush to touch the edges in. It seems to work quite well.

The photos show a couple of views of the finished model. I wondered whether others might like to have a try at making it from my prints. Unfortunately, I made this kit up for my use, not yours! But, hey! I have time at the moment, so I'll try and tidy it up and present it in a way that gives you a fighting chance to follow what I've done¹.

Happy Modelling!

If you're new to making up card kits...

This is not the simplest of kits. If you've never tried making up a card kit before, I'd strongly recommend downloading the ScaleScenes trial kit first and getting familiar with that². If it helps, you could follow my path and start with OO gauge, and when you're happy with that, move on to their N gauge one.

Ah yes, the necessary tool kit. If you've not tried this before, I would recommend investing in the following:

- A sharp knife. A good craft knife will do, but card blunts knives very quickly, so I like the type of knife that has a long blade that breaks off at about 1cm intervals. Poundland sell packs of 5 of these for... a pound.
- A good cutting mat. I haven't seen these in Poundland, but they are quite cheap in places like "The Range".
- A steel ruler. No, a plastic one will not do, you need it to guide your sharp knife.
- Pritt Stick or equivalent. Again, you can get about four of these in a pack from Poundland. I use Pritt Stick to stick the printed out sheets to the card.
- Uhu glue to stick the pieces of card together. This also can be bought from Poundland.
- It also helps to have a roughly A4-sized piece of flat wood from the shed. You need something other than the cutting mat to glue on!

OK, I know Poundland and The Range are not open at the moment... Maybe you can buy it online if you lack any of this stuff?

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1 <http://argles.org.uk/projects.php#corfegoods>

2 <https://scalescenes.com/product/r024-weighbridge-or-coal-office/>