

McGuirk Coal is a small-town coal dealer with great service and prices. The McGuirk family has been in the heating business for decades. Keeping the Manassas, Virginia area warm with clean, efficient coal has been the driving force of McGuirk's since the railroad first arrived in 1887.

This kit is a beautiful representation of a small-town coal dealer. It can be built easily in a few nights. Take your time and enjoy the process. You can build it into McGuirk's or use your imagination to see what you can come up with for your railroad!

### Tools & Supplies

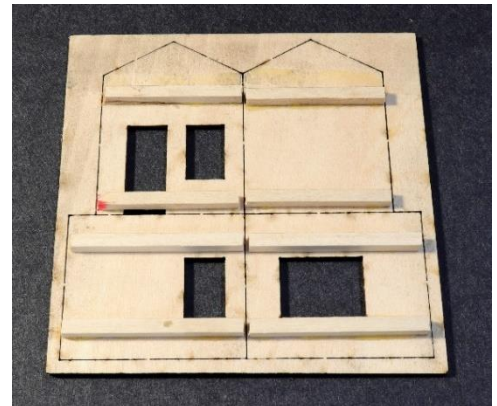
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|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Hobby knife, with an #11 Xacto Blade | ✓ 1-2-3 blocks (optional)  | ✓ Paints & Brushes |
| ✓ Fine File                            | ✓ Small magnets (optional) | ✓ Tweezers         |
| ✓ Square & Ruler                       | ✓ NWSL Chopper (optional)  | ✓ Patience         |
| ✓ Pounce tool or T-Pin/Needle          | ✓ PVA glue or wood glue    | ✓ Fun              |
|  | ✓ Cyanoacrylate glue (CA)  |                    |

### Pre-assembly

1. Inspect all sheets of laser cut materials against the diagrams provided in the instructions, checking for any missing pieces or damaged parts. Please reach out to us with any issue.
2. Before starting your model, read through these instructions completely to become familiar with the parts and assembly sequence.

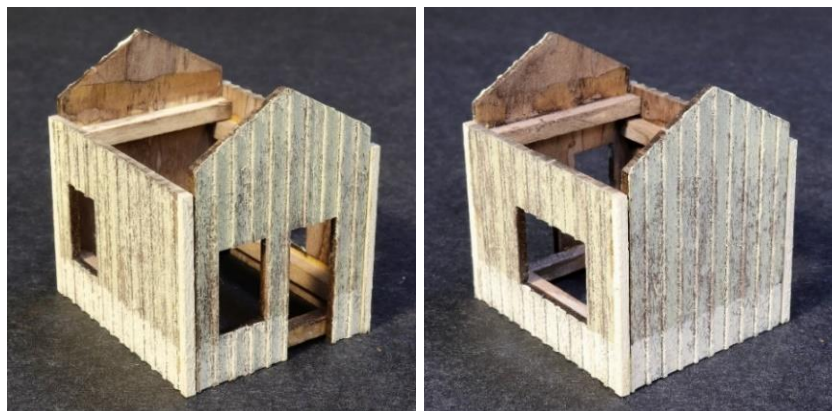
### Bracing & Corner Molding

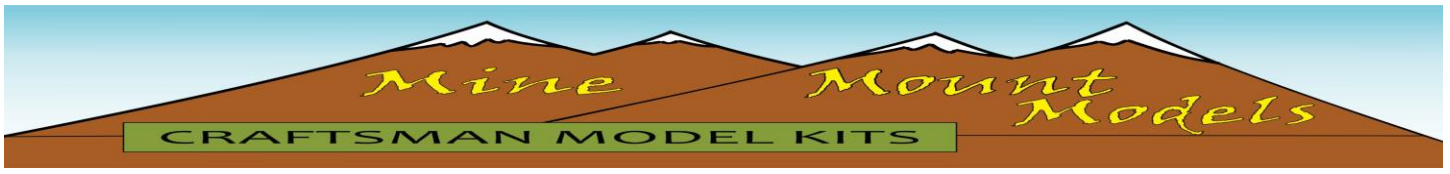
3. In the kit we provide 1/8"x1/8" basswood to brace the backside of the clapboard pieces. Remove parts #1-4 from clapboard sheet. Cut the 1/8" stripwood to fit on the smooth side of the parts. We suggest you paint the walls and corner molding your desired color before adding the corner molding. Add the corner molding using the 1/16"x1/16" stripwood provided in the kit. The 4 corner moldings are glued to the sides of parts# 3,4. Cut the 1/16" corner molding about 1/8" longer than the edge of the wall that it will be glued to. Use 1-2-3 blocks or other squared weights to hold it in place while the glue dries. Trim the corner molding flush to top and bottom edges of walls.



### Main Building

4. The main building requires parts #1-4. This is the time you want to use 1-2-3 blocks and small magnets to assure the walls are glued together square. Start with part #1, laying batten side down. Glue on the 2 square sides (parts #3,4). Allow to dry. Then lay down part #2, clapboard side down. Flip over the assembly of parts #1,3,4, and glue the assembly to the edges of part #2 along the corner moldings. Again, square up walls using 1-2-3 blocks and magnets.





### Windows & Doors

- The windows and doors on McGuirk's are by Tichy Train Group. Just like any plastic kit, the plastic windows and doors need to be washed off with mild dish detergent and warm water. Paint them your desired color. The kit includes a sheet of clear acrylic glazing. Cut the acrylic to match the sizes of the different windows. Use an appropriate glue to stick the glazing to the back of the windows. Install the window and door frames into the clapboard structure.



### Roof & Rafters

- Included in the kit is our fixture/jig for assembling rafters, joists, and stairs. For ensuring McGuirk's roof rafters are straight, use the fixture to hold 22 rafters (part# 5) vertical in a row. Be sure to apply adhesive to each top edge of the rafters. Then attach the 2 roof panels (parts #6 x2). There are lines engraved on one side of the pieces. Face these up. They will help you align the strips of rolled roofing in the next step. Allow this assembly to thoroughly dry before removing from the jig. Then carefully remove it by gently prying along one side of the rafter tails. This will allow you to pivot the roof out of the jig.

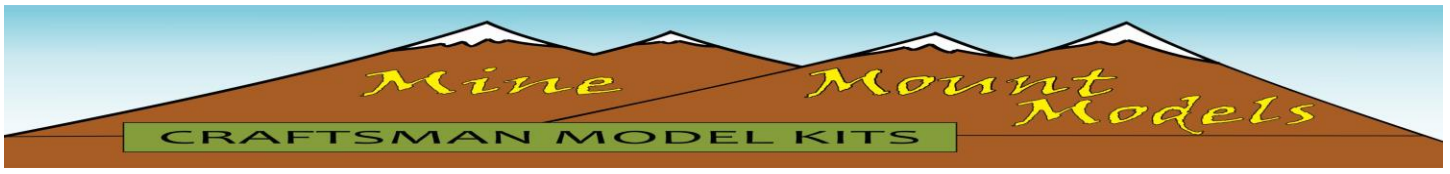


- Paint the sheet of adhesive rolled roofing included in the kit. We like to use grimy black and brown colors to achieve a tarpaper or rubber roofing effect. You can stick the strips on directly to parts #6 or add double stick mounting tape for even better adhesion. Use the engraved lines on the roof to ensure the strips stay straight.



*Side note – you can order shingles from our website and change the look of your model's roof. There's a variety of roofing materials available at [www.MineMountModels.com](http://www.MineMountModels.com)*

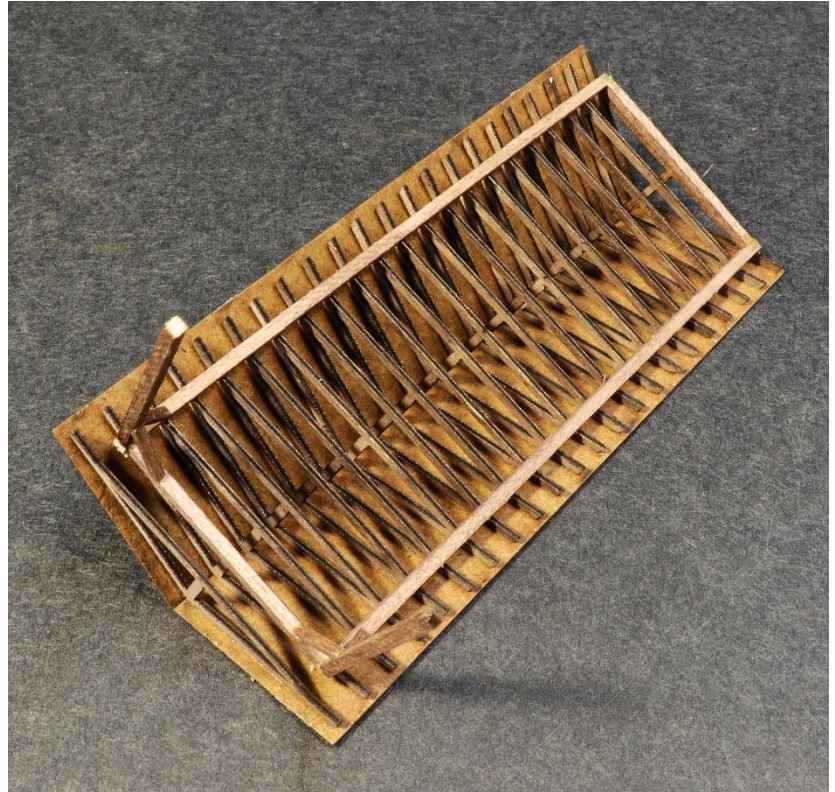
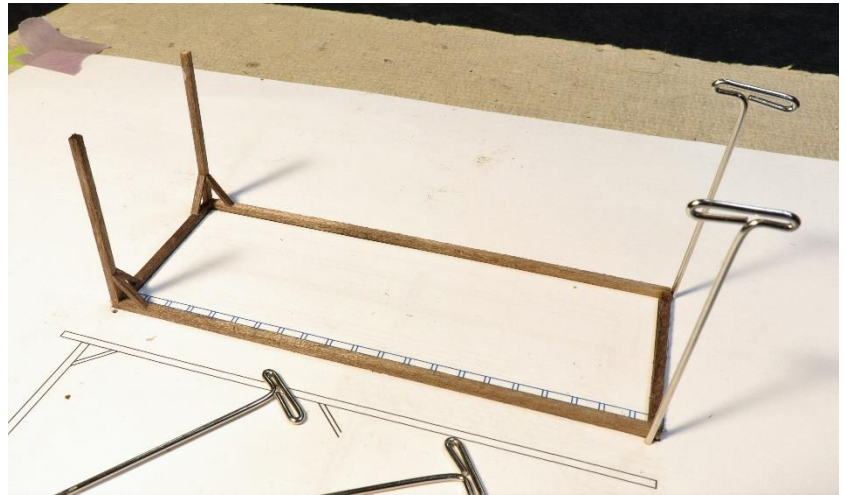




### Roof Support Beams

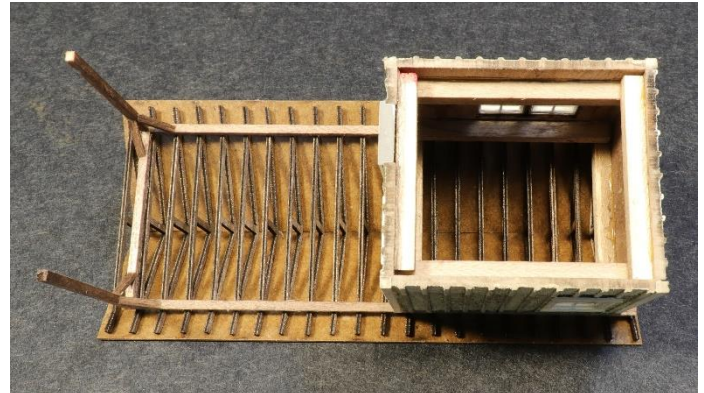
A delicate but vital part of McGuirk's that gives the kit its open airy feel are the spindly legs that support the roof overhang. Take your time constructing them, cutting precise lengths and angles will make final assembly easy.

8. Refer to the sheet that has all the signs on it. There is a full-size HO scale template "ROOF SUPPORT COLUMNS" that you use to cut the 1/16"x1/16" stripwood to the sizes needed. Mount the template to a surface that you can push T-pins into to hold the stripwood in place while the glue dries. Start by assembling 2 sets of long legs on the SIDE VIEW template. The 45-degree corner braces are made using the 1/32" x 1/16" stripwood.
9. Once the 2 long leg supports are dry, cut 2 lengths of 1/16"x1/16" stripwood to fit in between them. Stand the 2 leg assemblies vertical on the TOP VIEW template so the top beam is flat on the surface and the legs stick up in the air. Use T-Pins to hold the legs vertical while the short cross beam dries between them.
10. Glue on 4 of the 45-degree 1/32" x 1/16" braces in the corners created by the cross beams and the long leg assemblies. You should end up with a long rectangular pergola type structure.
11. The rectangular leg structure is glued to the underneath of the roof rafters. Be sure to center it with all the rafters. The end of the 2 long horizontal beams should be even with the outside edges of the roof sheathing pieces.



**Main Structure & Roof Assembly**

12. The main square structure can now be glued to the underside of the roof structure. Be sure to center the main building in the middle of the rafters. There should be 12 rafters on the overhang side of the outside walls, and 9 rafters inside the small square structure.
13. OPTIONAL: Attach parts #33 (qty2) to the base of each leg. These are small concrete footings for the legs. Flip the assembly over and allow to dry on a level surface.

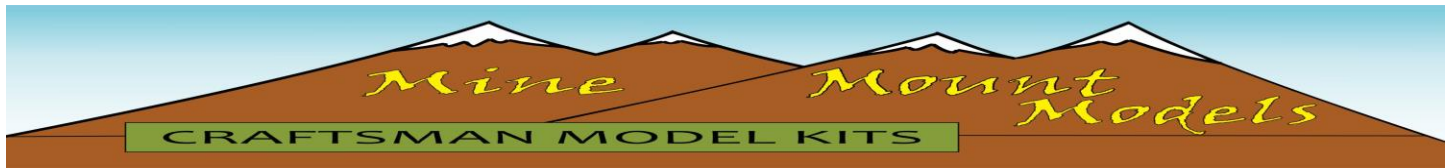


14. Also add the 3/32" aluminum tube to the roof as a chimney. Drill a hole and glue the tube in place.
15. There is a bump out (parts#9-11) that can be added to either wall #1 or 4. Brace the back of the parts with 1/8"x1/8" stripwood. Add 1/16"x1/16" stripwood for the corner molding, like the main building. Glue the parts together and choose where you want to



place the assembly on #1 or 4.

16. Add the roof (part#12). This can be topped with rolled tarpaper or corrugated roofing.



### Billboard & Signs

17. The delicately intricate roof sign is a standout feature of McGuirk's. It is a simple build with dramatic results. Use the provided template found on the parts list sheet to guide the assembly. The sign is printed in full HO scale. Tape the template to a piece of Homasote or soft wood. This allows you to use T-pins to hold the stripwood secure while the glue dries. You have the option of building McGuirk's into an older structure with the truck scale under the overhang roof, or if you want to make it more "modern" the scale can be moved further away from the main building. This allows larger trucks to drive into the coal yard. In actuality, you can lay out the footprint of McGuirk's in a variety of configurations.

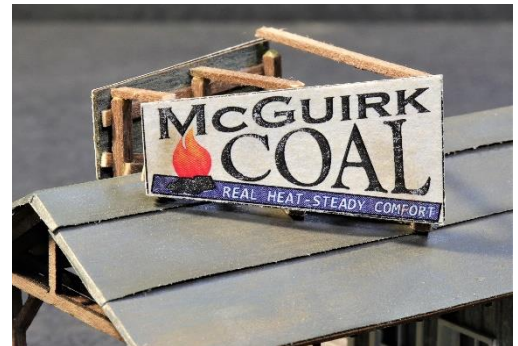
18. Stain or paint all stripwood for the billboard before starting assembly. You will achieve cleaner results.

19. Start with the 3 upright legs. The vertical legs are 1/16"x1/16" stripwood. The horizontal cross-bracing is 1/32"x1/16" stripwood. Use the template to measure the lengths of each piece. Glue the top of the vertical and angled legs together. Add the 1/16"x1/32" bracing across the legs. Some diagonal cross bracing can be added to the backside of the sign.



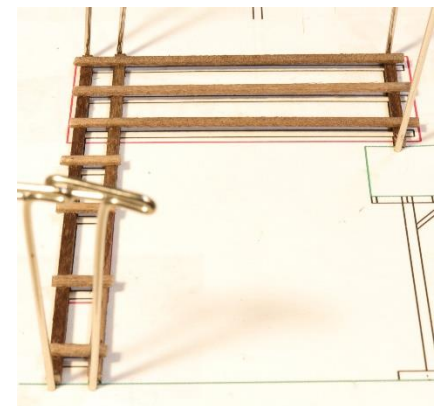
20. These 2 signs are glued on an angle from the peak of the roof. They can be positioned anywhere along the peak of the roof. Then add 1/32x1/16 horizontal bracing between the tops of the 1/16" posts.

The other optional sign is the tall-legged wood structure that can span out from the main building. (See below) This allows for larger trucks to be weighed. Use the full-scale template in the parts sheets to layout the assembly.



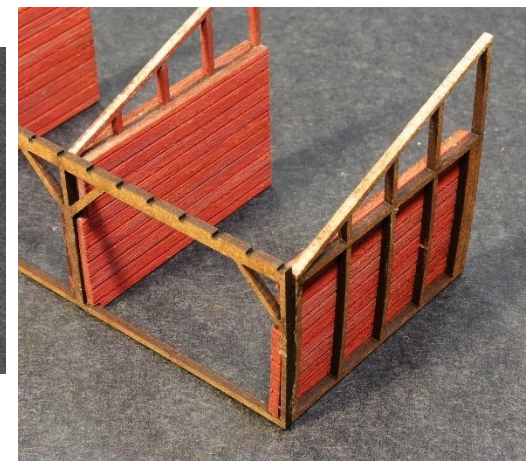
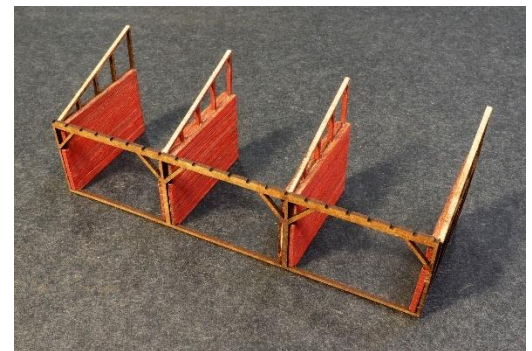
21. Start with the 3 upright legs. The vertical legs are 1/16"x1/16" stripwood. The horizontal cross-bracing is 1/32"x1/16" stripwood. Use the template to measure the lengths of each piece. Glue the top of the vertical and angled legs together. Add the 1/16"x1/32" bracing across the legs. Some diagonal cross bracing can be added to the backside of the sign.

22. Remove piece for the sign backers (part# 13). Carefully cut out the colored signs from the paper sheet provided. Then adhere the signs to the backer board. The sizes will match exactly. Adhere the signs with backer boards to the previous step's structure. Use the template as a placement guide. Save this assembly for after completing the rest of the kit build. Waiting to attach this will make it easier to apply the smaller details around the rest of the structure.



**The Coal Shed**

23. Start with the 4 wall braces that divide the 3 bins of coal. (parts #21-24). The 2 inside middle walls #21, 22 are a little narrower than the 2 outside walls. Add part#16, 17 on each side of the middle bracing walls. Be sure the engraved board texture faces out. You can add extra grain texture to these sheets. It will give the bins a well-used look. The long tabs that are on #16, 17 stick out from the short side of the braced walls. The small notch is on the bottom corner
24. The steps for the 2 outside braced walls (parts #23, 24) assemblies are the same as step 23, except the engraved boards(#16,17) are on only 1 side facing towards the bracing parts #23, 24. You can add engraved lines to the other side to make it look like individual boards.
25. Attach the 4 braced wall assemblies to the short front bracing (part# 20). The tabs on the wall assemblies should straddle the uprights on part# 20. Use 1-2-3 blocks to ensure these walls are square.
26. The tall, braced wall (part# 19) has the long-scribed piece (part# 18) added to the bottom edge, that has the vertical studs. Again, be sure the engraved lines are facing against the bracing.



27. Attach the tall wall assembly to the 4 edges of the divider wall from step #25.



The notches on the top of the short and tall walls will line up.



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28. Cut the 1/32"x3/32" stripwood into 2-3/8" long pieces (qty. 22) to use for the roof rafter beams. These are glued into the notches that run across the tops of the walls (#19, 20).
29. The roof sheet part #25 has scribed lines to aid in aligning the roofing material. These scribed lines face up when you attach #25 to the rafters. We suggest painting the smooth underside to simulate wood board textures... just in case snooping eyes look inside the finished structure.



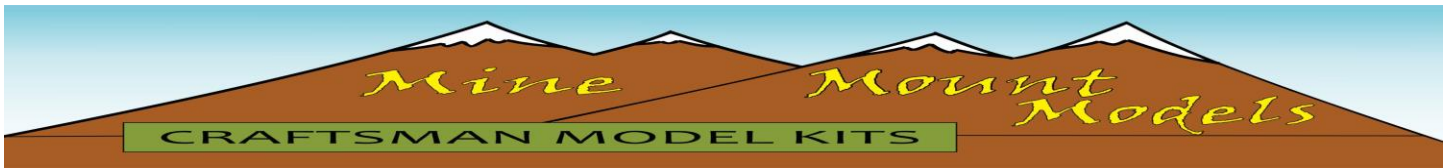
The next few steps are optional, depending on the area/climate region you model. Some coal dealers had completely enclosed bins while others were wide open. These enclosures would help the coal stay dry and keep from freezing in the northern regions.

30. Start with the tapered end walls by gluing on parts# 26, 27 just under the roof rafters.



31. Next, turn to the long, tall wall. The wood slats used along the top of this wall are parts# 28, 29. Part# 28 has 2 wide and 2 narrow versions. The narrow ones go towards the end edges of the wall, while the wide boards are for the 2 upright posts. Parts# 29 may need to be trimmed lengthwise to fit in between the #28 pieces. See picture below.





32. For the short wall wooden enclosure, The first step is to add a piece of 1/32"x1/16" stripwood across the whole front. It is located at the bottom of edge of the 45-degree corner brackets. This will help support the bottom edge of part # 30.

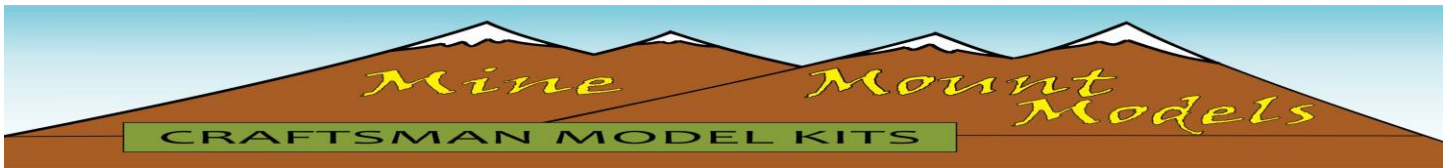


33. Now part# 30 can be added just under the rafters, with the bottom edge supported on the long cross support from the previous step.



If you want to be REALLY BRAVE, you can add nail holes to all these boards. You can use the point of a T-pin, a pounce wheel, or we like to use a very sharp pencil and put small dots on each board. This gives a metallic look to the nails. Adding some rust and additional weathering can take this simple detail to the next level!





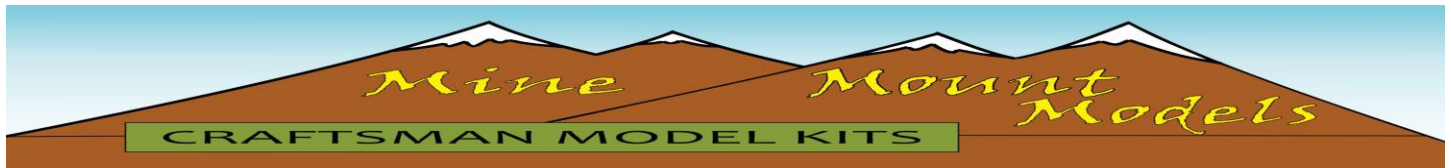
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34. The kit comes with a bunch of our special corrugated roofing/siding material. More of this is available on our website, too. We suggest painting and weathering the strips before applying them to the roof. This will make individual panels pop out. We have a how-to called “*Mine Mount Minutes*” that shows our technique for achieving an easy, believable result. Cut the corrugated material into HO scale 4ft wide panels. Randomly apply the panels across the bottom edge of the roof sheet. You can adhere them with glue, but we prefer using double stick tape.



35. The remaining rows are applied the same way. Just slightly overlap the bottom edge of the panels.

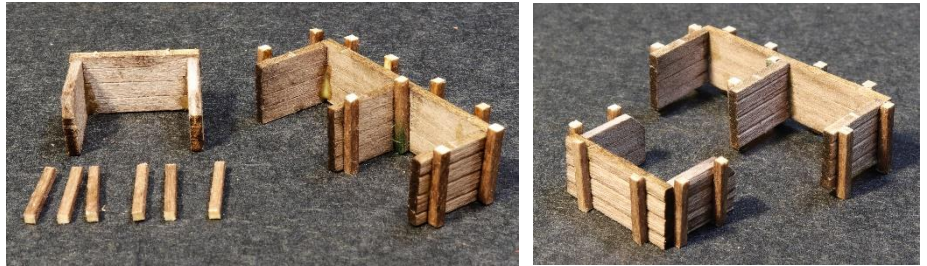




### The Small Coal Bins & Scale Plate

The last few details are the mini coal bins that go next to the scale plate, and the scale plate itself.

36. The coal bins are created using parts# 31-33, and 1/16"x1/16" stripwood for vertical timbers. Part #31 is the back side for the single bin. Add qty.2 part# 32s to it to make a 3-sided bin. Part# 33 is the back side for the double bin. Again, use qty.3 #32s to make a double bin. Cut a bunch of 1/16"x1/16" stripwood about 1/16" taller than the bins. These can be attached to the outside of the bins for vertical supports.



37. The scale plate is the easiest build of the whole kit, but without it, you don't have much of a coal dealer. It requires part# 14, 15, 34(qty.2). We recommend painting the parts before assembly for cleaner lines. The small round plates (#34) are glued onto #14 on top of the 2 engraved circles in the center. These are access hatches for adjusting the scale. Part# 15 is a chase way cover plate for the mechanisms that lead into the main building. It can be painted as a metal or wood cover. This part may need to be trimmed to length when you install it on your scene.



The model will be complete at this point. The structures can be arranged in a variety of layouts to fit your space. Add as many details as you would like. Create a wonderful scene on your model railroad or diorama. We want to thank you for enjoying the building of **McGuirk Coal**. Please share your finished build by sending good quality pictures to [info@MineMountModels.com](mailto:info@MineMountModels.com) and we will post them in the "Customer Build Gallery" section of our website. Also, checkout our other products by visiting [www.MineMountModels.com](http://www.MineMountModels.com) .

**Thank you,  
Ron & Michelle**