

# Conowingo Models



## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS HELP

REVISED SEP 2022

[www.conowingomodels.com](http://www.conowingomodels.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/ConowingoModels/railrunner130@hotmail.com>

Directions for Conowingo Models kits will skip around from one sub-assembly to the next. The intent is to keep the model moving forward, helping you complete it in less time. We suggest that you check off each step as you complete it.

It is best to read through the directions before you begin construction. This is so you understand the process. On occasion, we will explain the hows, whys and important things to note. We explain what worked best for us to construct the kit. You may decide to take a different approach. That's ok.

Many of Conowingo Models kits are unlike any kits you've seen before. In some cases, we use unusual building techniques to make things easier to assemble. In some cases, it's to add detail. We've found that some of the added construction details give you a sense that you're really constructing a building.

Our intent is to provide modelers, beginner to expert, the same challenges.

We generally do not provide detail parts. This is because we want to not only keep the price down for you, but increase creativity with the kits.

### Recommended Products -

Listed below are the products we use. They may or may not be the best, but we have experience with them and they work for us. Different people like different products for different reasons. Find what works best for you and stick with it. We do not formally endorse, nor are we paid to endorse any of the following products.

### Glues-

Unless specified otherwise, we recommend using either a wood/hobby glue or a fast-drying CA.

Aileen's Tacky Glue – Slow drying, lots of play time, but it will firm up fairly quickly. Peels off if you need it to, but not 100% of the time. We've had a 16 oz. bottle for several years.

CA – Fast drying. We recommend a medium viscosity CA. Lately we've been using Gorilla Micro Super Glue Precise in gel form. Make sure you use an odorless product.

Testor's Clear Parts Cement – We're still on our original bottle from 2012. It has a lot of the same properties as Aileen's, but it's thin and can get really runny if you're not careful.

### Paints/Stains -

With the demise of railroad hobby paint companies, we're somewhat at a loss of recommendations. For the most part, we've been sticking to Apple Barrel and Plaid. They're cheap, readily available and easy to use/ clean up. I don't know how well they work with airbrushes.

Hunterline Stains are a favorite of ours and do a fantastic job. The catch is that they warp wood, so you have to brace everything well. Use weights and clamps to stave off the warping. While it dries in 15 minutes, it takes a good 24 hours to dry from warping.

Spray flats – We use either Testors Dullcote or Rust-Oleum Dead Flat to seal models and protect weathering.

### Tools –

Thanks to Bernard Hellen of [miniprints.ca](http://miniprints.ca), we recently came upon the Tamaya Sharp Pointed Side Cutter. This product is great for cutting out 3D printed parts. It works well on other styrene parts as well. It's Tamaya part number 74035. They have an MSRP of \$45.00, but can easily be found for about half of that. Huge hint- Only use them for plastics. Do NOT use them to cut ANY wire!! Ask us how we know....

### Weathering –

Recently, we were asked what we used on St. Mary's Gate Lighthouse. We try to keep things simple. We started out by washing the braced walls with Hunterline Driftwood. Next, we used acrylic paints, (white and off-

white mixture) thinned with dirty paintbrush water. Yup. I said it. Dirty paintbrush water darkens and mellows the paint at the same time. We used sponges to drybrush on the white mixture. If it went on too strong, we drybrushed on more dirty water.

As for rust, we use two different products, depending on the look we're going for. Vallejo rust wash works well. We only bought one container of it and it does the job. We also found that for a thicker rust, Apple Barrel Burnt Orange works well. Using a brush, we did the same applications mentioned above as with the white paint. Occasionally, we might add a dark grey to tint it.

Weights –

We recently found **tungsten putty**. It's available from Amazon, but can probably be found elsewhere. It works well on the rolling stock. Once you've applied the decking, bolsters and queen post(s), fill in the gaps on the main body with tungsten putty.

If there are any parts missing, please e-mail me what you need to complete the kit and I'll send it your way. I'm a one-man shop and I do occasionally miss things. Suggestions for improvement are also welcome.

See the Conowingo Models website  
[www.conowingomodels.com](http://www.conowingomodels.com)

Or our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/ConowingoModels/>  
for more exciting, funky buildings and rolling stock for  
your model railroad!

Many thanks to Kathy, Jeff Grove, Steve Milley and  
Mark Schreier for their support!