

ICING PLATFORM - KIT 1014/1015

PROTOTYPE HISTORY

THE "ICING PLATFORM WAS A VITAL PART OF THE VAST SYSTEM DEVELOPED TO TRANSPORT PERISHABLE GOODS, PRODUCE, AND MEAT ACROSS THE NATION. THE PRIMARY USER WAS PACIFIC FRUIT EXPRESS (PFE) BUT SMALLER 3-6 CAR UNITS WERE OFTEN BUILT TO SERVICE LOCAL PACKERS, OFTEN AS A CO-OP.

THE FIRST UNIT WAS BUILT IN 1898 AND MOST SAW SERVICE THROUGH THE MID 1970'S WHEN THE ADOPTION OF ON BOARD MECHANICAL REFRIGERATION RENDERED THEM OBSOLETE. UNITS RANGED IN SIZE FROM 20 CAR LENGTHS (880') TO 125 CAR LENGTHS, OR 5500' - A MILE LONG! THIS WOULD BE 63' IN HO SCALE.

THERE WERE MANY VARIATIONS ON LOADING THE PLATFORM WITH THE 300 POUND BLOCKS OF ICE DEPENDING ON LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO LAKES OR 'ARTIFICIAL' ICE PLANTS. THE MOST COMMON WAS A DOOR HEIGHT UNLOADING DOCK (ICE WAS BROUGHT IN BY REEFER) WITH A RAMP AND CONVEYOR TO TRANSFER THE ICE UP TO THE OPERATING DECK. OTHERS USED AN ELEVATOR OR BRIDGE ASSEMBLIES FROM THE CENTRAL ICE PLANT. CONVEYORS TRANSPORTED THE ICE DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE DECK TO BE POSITIONED AT EACH CAR ACCORDING TO NEED.

IN BUSY 'TOPPING' PLANTS WITH HEAVY TRAFFIC THE ICE WAS OFTEN TRANSPORTED TO PLACE, STACKED AND COVERED WITH HEAVY BURLAP TO RETARD MELTING. AN ENTIRE REEFER BLOCK COULD THEN BE ICED IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

THERE ARE MANY EXCELLENT REFERENCES AVAILABLE, INCLUDING PACIFIC FRUIT EXPRESS, BY THOMPSON, CHURCH, AND JONES (CENTRAL VALLEY RAILROAD PUBLICATIONS, 1992).

PLEASE READ BEFORE ASSEMBLY

DEPENDING ON THE STOCK # THIS KIT WILL BUILD EITHER A 18" OR A 36" REEFER ICING PLATFORM. ADDITIONAL KITS CAN BE ADDED TO CREATE A PLATFORM OF UNLIMITED LENGTH.

THIS KIT WILL BUILD EITHER A SINGLE TRACK VERSION WITH DOORS ON ONE SIDE AND A HAND RAIL ON THE OTHER OR A TWO TRACK 'ISLAND' VERSION WITH DOORS ON BOTH SIDES. IT'S BEST TO BUILD THE PLATFORM ON A NARROW PIECE OF PLYWOOD COMPLETE WITH TRACK, BALLAST AND GROUND COVER AND THEN INSTALL IT ON THE LAYOUT. ALLOW 8" TO 10" EXTRA LENGTH FOR A RAMP OR ICE HOUSE UNIT NOT INCLUDED WITH THE BASIC KIT.

TRIM THE PARTS FROM THE RUNNER WITH A SHARP KNIFE OR RAZOR BLADE. A GENTLE "SLICING" ACTION WILL MINIMIZE CLEANUP. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU ASSEMBLE THE UNIT IN MODULES OF ONE FLOOR LENGTH EACH, THEN ASSEMBLE THE MODULES TOGETHER - THE FLOORS PLUG TOGETHER. YOU CAN EASILY HANDLE A 36" SECTION (6 MODULES).

WE SUGGEST USING A "LIQUID CEMENT FOR PLASTICS" FOR BASIC ASSEMBLY AND CLEAR EPOXY TO ATTACH THE ICE BLOCKS AFTER PAINTING AND WEATHERING.

ASSEMBLY DIFFERS FROM NORMAL PRACTICE IN THAT IT IS BEST TO ASSEMBLE THE ENTIRE UNIT, LESS ROOF ASSEMBLY, PRIOR TO PAINTING. PAINT (AIRBRUSH A MUST) PER YOUR CHOICE, THEN ... "PAINT" THE WOOD DECK AND STEEL RAILS WITH POWDERED PASTELS RATHER THAN LIQUID PAINT. THIS IS EASIER THAN MASKING OR BRUSH PAINTING AND WITH CAREFUL CHOICE OF COLOR QUITE REALISTIC. OF COURSE YOU CAN USE LIQUID PAINT IF YOU CHOOSE TO.

PFE PAINTED THEIR UNITS A MEDIUM GRAY... APPROPRIATE COLORS INCLUDE GRAY-GREEN, DEEP YELLOW, AND BARN RED.

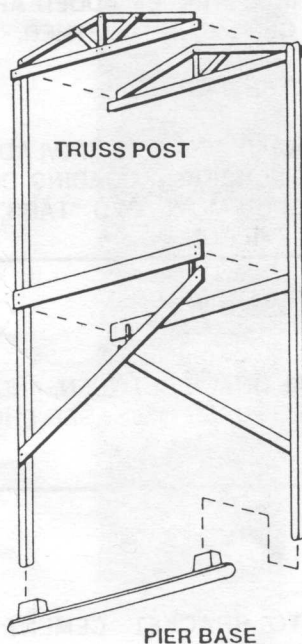
WE SUGGEST YOU TRIM ALL THE PARTS AT ONE TIME, AS YOU REALLY GET FAST AT IT! DETERMINE WHICH VERSION TO BUILD AND THE LENGTH, COUNT OUT THE PARTS, AND LET'S GET STARTED.

ALIGN HORIZONTAL JOISTS AND TRUSS MEMBER, CEMENT. NOTE LOCATOR RIBS BEHIND JOIST AND DIAGONAL STRINGER FOR PROPER LOCATION. EYEBALL ASSEMBLY, HOLD FOR A MOMENT, AND SET ASIDE. REPEAT FOR THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF TRUSSES. WHEN DRY LIGHTLY FLATTEN THE PEAK OF EACH TRUSS WITH A FLAT FILE, THIS IS TO ACCEPT THE CENTER ROOF RIB ON FINAL ASSEMBLY.

I TRUSS POST ASSEMBLY

TWO TRUSS PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH POST ASSEMBLY, ATTACHED BACK TO BACK.

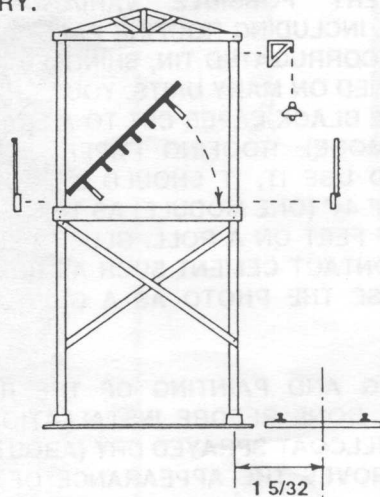
APPLY A DROP OF CEMENT INTO EACH PIER HOLE - IMMEDIATELY INSERT TWO TRUSSES INTO HOLES SEATING FIRMLY.



II TRUSS-FLOOR ASSEMBLY

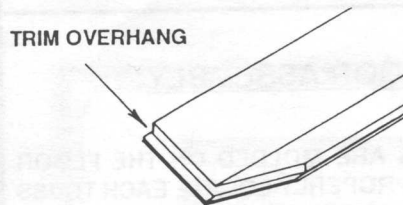
PINS OR POSTS ARE MOLDED ON THE FLOOR STRINGERS TO PROPERLY LOCATE EACH TRUSS ASSEMBLY. THE POSTS GO BETWEEN THE TWO JOISTS AND WILL HOLD THE TRUSS SQUARE TO THE FLOOR.

INSTALL EACH TRUSS ASSEMBLY IN TURN, BY INSERTING FLOOR AT A DIAGONAL THRU THE UPPER TRUSS AREA. ROTATE DOWN, ENGAGE POSTS, MAKING SURE FLOOR IS CENTERED LEFT TO RIGHT... CEMENT. REPEAT FOR EACH TRUSS OMITTING THE LAST ONE PER MODULE (THE ONE WITHOUT THE POSTS). YOU WILL HAVE TO EYEBALL ONLY THE LAST TRUSS IN THE COMPLETED PLATFORM. SET EACH MODULE ASIDE TO DRY.



III ROOF SUB-ASSEMBLY

NOTE THE THINNED SECTION AT ONE END OF THE ROOF MOLDING. THIS PROVIDES A FINER APPEARANCE ON THE FIRST AND LAST MODULES ONLY. REMOVE THIS OVERHANG WITH A SHARP KNIFE AND A FLAT FILE FOR ALL OTHER SEGMENTS.



TRIM THIS OVERHANG ON CENTER MODULES ONLY.

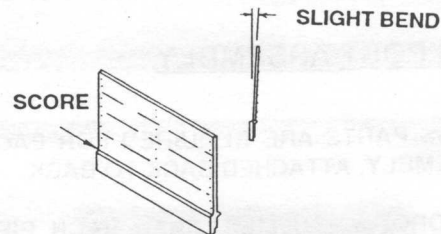
AFTER TRIMMING CAREFULLY BUTT-JOIN WITH SOLVENT AND SEVERAL ROOF SPLINTS AT EACH JOINT. SPLINTS ARE THE RECTANGULAR PLATES MOLDED ON THE SPRUE WITH THE END LADDER AND LIGHT FIXTURES. SET ASIDE TO DRY, THEN LIGHTLY SAND AND SMOOTH THE JOINTS. MAKE SURE THE ROOF IS STRAIGHT.

A NOTE ABOUT ROOFING MATERIAL: PHOTOS SHOW EVERY POSSIBLE VARIATION OF MATERIALS, INCLUDING ROOFING PAPER, BARE PLANKING, CORRUGATED TIN, SHINGLES, WITH ALL COMBINED ON MANY UNITS. YOUR CHOICE. WE INCLUDE BLACK PAPER CUT TO A SCALE 3' WIDE TO MODEL ROOFING PAPER. IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE IT, IT SHOULD BE CUT TO LENGTHS OF 44' (ONE MODULE) AS THIS IS THE NUMBER OF FEET ON A ROLL. GLUE IN PLACE USING A CONTACT CEMENT SUCH AS RUBBER CEMENT. USE THE PHOTO AS A GUIDE FOR SPACING.

WEATHERING AND PAINTING OF THE ROOF SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE INSTALLATION. A COAT OF DULLCOAT SPRAYED DRY (ABOUT 12" AWAY) IMPROVES THE APPEARANCE OF THE

IV DOORS/HANDRAILS

THE DOORS HINGE DOWN, SUSPENDED BY CHAINS. A LITTLE VARIATION OF THE DOORS DOWN THE 'RUN' OF THE PLATFORM ADDS AUTHENTICITY. SCRIBE THE BACK OF THE DOOR AS SHOWN ON MOST, BUT NOT ALL OF THE DOORS, AND GENTLY BEND THEM OUT JUST A BIT...NOT TO MUCH.



CENTER THE FIRST DOOR OF A MODULE ON THE POSTS AND CEMENT. CEMENT THE REST OF THE DOORS IN PLACE, EXCEPT THE LAST ONE ON EACH MODULE. THESE WILL BE ADDED AFTER THE MODULES ARE CEMENTED TOGETHER.

DO THE SAME WITH THE HANDRAILS.

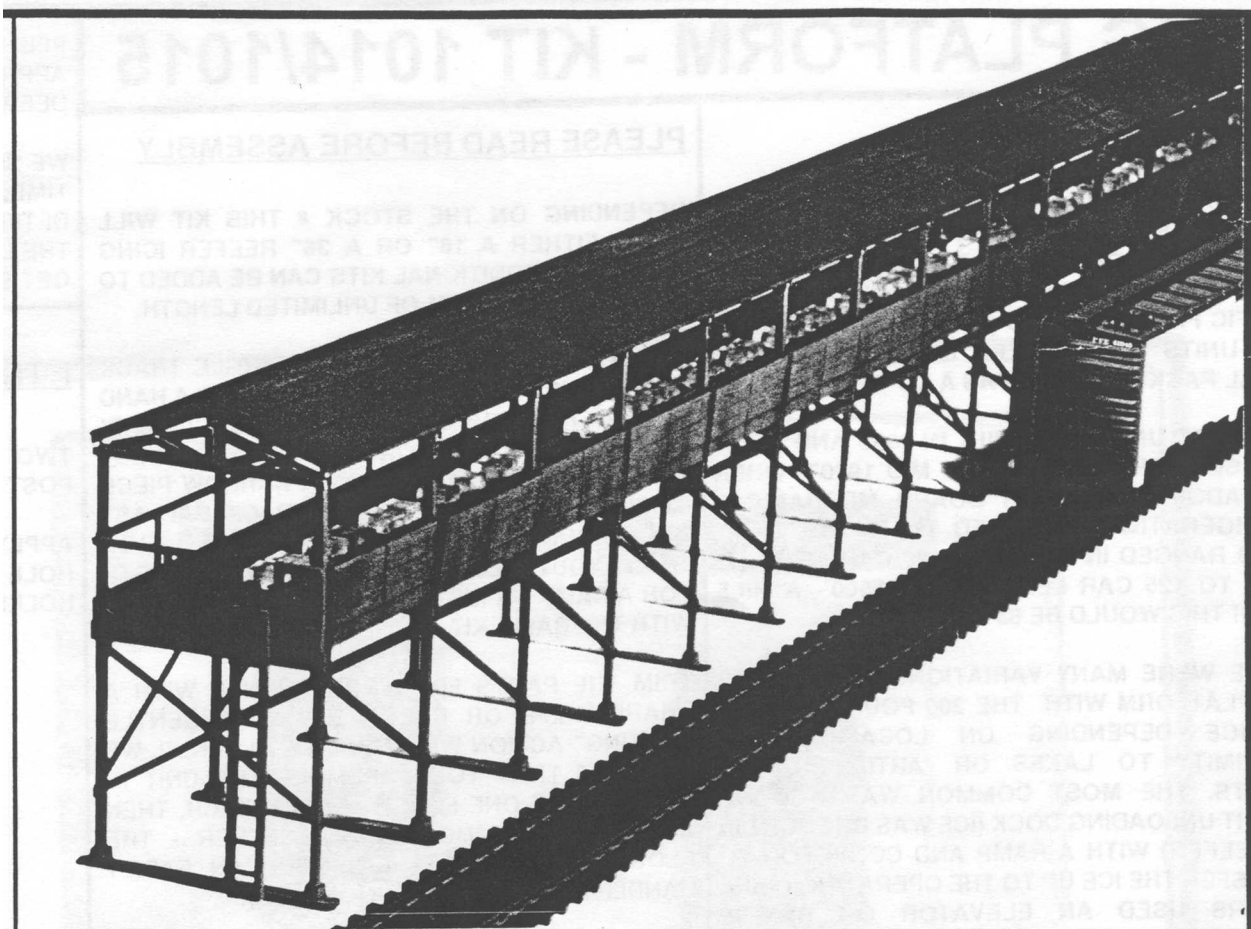
ON EACH 'END' MODULE, CEMENT END/LADDER IN PLACE, OR OMIT IF USING A LOADING DOCK AT ONE END. NOTE: REMOVE TWO "TABS" ON THE LAST FLOOR IN THE RUN.

V DIAGONAL BRACES

CEMENT A DIAGONAL BRACE BETWEEN, AND ON EACH SIDE, OF THE TRUSS/POSTS. SEE PHOTO FOR CLARITY.

VI LAMPS

ASSEMBLE LAMP TO BRACKET. CEMENT TO EVERY THIRD OR FOURTH POST.



VII FINAL ASSEMBLY

CEMENT COMPLETED MODULES TOGETHER USING TABS ON FLOOR FOR ALIGNMENT. MAKE SURE PLATFORM IS STRAIGHT AND LEVEL. WHEN DRY, PAINT AND WEATHER TO SUIT, ADD THE ICE BLOCKS, AND LASTLY, THE ROOF; USING ACC OR EPOXY HELPS HERE.

ICING STATIONS WERE QUITE DAMP AT MOST TIMES, SO A PLENTIFUL PLANTING OF LUSH GROUNDCOVER IS APPROPRIATE.

WE AT CREATIVE MODEL ASSOCIATES TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BRINGING YOU THIS FINE KIT. WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED BUILDING IT AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED CREATING IT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU WITH YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE KITS. IF YOU ARE MISSING PARTS OR HAVE RECEIVED A DEFECTIVE PART JUST LET US KNOW AND WE WILL REPLACE IT FREE OF CHARGE. IF YOU DAMAGE OR LOSE A PART WE WOULD APPRECIATE A \$2.00 S&H FEE INCLUDED WITH YOUR REQUEST.