The cylindrical steel storage tank may be seen dotting the landscape from coast to coast, from use in ground level water or oil service to refineries and processing plants, municipal water storage, bulk dry storage and industrial plants. This kit represents the "basics" design, or multiple courses and flat or spherical roof with access hatch.

Many railroads used the cylindrical tank for water service in areas where topography allowed installation on a hill above the track, thus providing the necessary head pressure to gravity feed the trackside water column, or standpipe.

The cylindrical tank was also popular for fuel and diesel oil service, often seen in proximity to a steel water tank. The oil was usually pumped to the standpipe.

Both the flat roof and spherical roof are included. The flat roof was most often used on water and oil tanks, while the spherical roof was common on industrial and refinery applications. With separate segments, you may build the kit to any height you choose.

Most tanks were painted silver or black. We have had excellent results with Polly Scale® OLD SILVER, as well as GRIMMY BLACK. Municipal water supply tanks, often installed on a hill overlooking towns, were usually painted in shades of grey to blend into the scenery. Don't forget to add the high school mascot!

1 ASSEMBLY

1) Test fit each TANK COURSE segment for fit, and remove any flash that may be present.

2) The vertical seams of each tank course segment should be staggered when assembled. See illustration. For reference, there are four small "pin-gate" marks visible inside the segment — these are exactly centered between the seams.

Place two segments together, stagger the seams, and apply liquid cement inside the segments, allowing capillary action to draw solvent into joint. Be careful not to allow solvents to attack outside surface, and watch out for finger marks!

3) Continue step (2) for all segments.

4) Cement choice of roof in place, aligning rivet seams by eye.

5) Cement tank to base.

2 LADDER ASSEMBLY

The ladders provided with this kit include "safety caged" steps, which can be installed at your option. Safety cages came into use about 1940, and were mandated by federal law soon after. If you are modeling the pre-1940 era, you may omit the cages, but if after 1940, they should be installed. Check your prototype for guidance. Safety cages are used only on the vertical run of ladder.

1) Using a sharp modeler's knife or new single edged razor blade, carefully remove ladder (and safety cage rings) from runner system; trim gales.

2) Trim ladder(s) to fit height of tank. It is not necessary that the ladder extend to the ground.

If modeling PLAT roof:

E) Extend ladder about 2 scale feet above roof, but end safety cage just below roof.

If modeling the SPHERICAL roof:

3) Trim ladder segment to extend slightly above roof. Trim to exact length after roof ladder and gussets are in place.

4) Cement ladder (and safety cage if used) to tank.

5) Inset, but do not cement, BAIL FINIAL into roof. Trim ladder segment to extend from crossbar on ball to overhang edge of roof. Align ball and ladder to be in line with tank ladder; cement ladder and ball to roof.

6) Cement LADDER GUSSET to each side of roof ladder and tank ladder to "support" vertical ladder segment.

7) Cement ROOF HATCH in place, location optional.

8) Cement CLEANOUT MANHOLE in place at bottom of tank, location optional.

3 STAIRCASE ASSEMBLY

Many tanks had a spiral staircase going around the tank. We have provided the parts to model this option and we feel the extra time required is well worth it.

1) Fold a piece of paper to create a 45 degree triangle. Wrap it around the tank and trace the edge with a pencil to create a guideline to glue the stair case to.

2) Hold the stairs so you are looking at the steps and trim the right side rail with a new razor blade. Trim top left side rail even with the top step. Prepare a total of three sections.

3) Holding the ladder on the 45 degree angle glue the bottom steps to the tank and base. When glue sets wrap the stair around the tank on the line and glue each step. Repeat until you reach the top. Cut off the excess leaving the side rail even with the top and the last step one step down.

4) Cut a piece of platform the width of the stair and 3 5/8" long and glue in place as a top step. Glue a narrow rail end from the ladder shot on the back of the platform. Glue the stair handrails in place trimming the top piece to end on the back rail.

5) If desired glue handrails from the platform shots in place. Trim locators from the kickplate before gluing handrails in place. Trim the left vertical post from each section leaving the rails slightly longer than the kickplate, this makes joining sections easier.

6) Cement roof hatches in place. Number and location are optional.

7) Cement cleanout manhole in place at bottom of tank, location optional. Cement vent to middle of top.

If you should irreparably damage or lose a part it will be replaced without charge. Please return the parts to us with $1.50 for shipping and handling — a replacement will be sent immediately. And, do drop us a line, we enjoy hearing from you with ideas, comments and suggestions for new products.

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