HO HARLOW GRAPHICS
LASER RAIL BITS

AUSTRALIAN PROTOTYPE
MODEL RAILWAY ACCESSORIES

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Timber Elevated Water Tank Stand Kit INSTRUCTIONS

P/No. LRB-HO-50A

General Notes

This kit represents our first release in the timber water tank stand series. Due to the many & varied prototype examples that were constructed over the years, it was impossible to develop a kit that is correct for every location. This kit is based on examples found in Hay, Gundagai & numerous other locations. Therefore this kit must be classified as a generic kit.

This kit, when completed, will happily sit under either of the presently available commercial water tank kits.

The source research material used was primarily from NSWR departmental drawings & photographs drawn from a wide range of sources. Particular thanks must go to Greg Edwards from Data Sheets for his indispensible range of drawings which allow easy cross referencing of dimensions etc.

Thanks must also go to Ian Storrie from Ian Lindsay Models, Warren Herbert from Gwydir Valley Models, Ray Pilgrim, Gary Laker, Col Hussey, Bob Gallagher & the many others who have offered support, advice & encouragement to produce this & our entire range of kits.

Although this kit is relatively simple to assemble, please take the time to read these instructions as the finished quality will depend on the effort & care taken during construction. We recommend a PVA type adhesive for this material.

Firstly familiarise yourself with the components. Your kit should contain the following:

COMPONENTS (Refer to attachment titled Kit Components)

- **1 x Pre-machined Acrylic Base**
- **4 x Combined Column & Bearer units**
- **7 x Joists**
- **16 x Simulated Footings**
- **8 x Bracing (Short)**
- **8 x Bracing (Long)**

And 1 off replacement tank floor if using Casula Hobbies Tank (use described fully in the instructions)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The column & bearer assemblies are very fragile & care must be taken during removal from master sheet & subsequent handling to avoid breakage at this point. When they are fitted to the base & the joists are added, a very strong finished unit will result.

LET'S START

Place the acrylic base (the component with the 16 pre-machined holes) on a very flat surface, either way up it does not matter.

CAREFULLY remove the column & bearer assembly from the supplied master sheets using a craft knife or similar by cutting through the keeper notches. Carefully file off any residue from the cuts.

Upon examining each unit, you should notice a simulated join where each column meets the underside of the bearer. This feature is only on one side of each unit & should face outwards always.

Take each assembly at a time (4 columns) & slide a footing over each column, well clear of the end of the column.

Using PVA glue, place a neat dab on the bottom of each column & then carefully insert the unit into the base ensuring the bottom of each column is flush with the underside of the base & the simulated joins are facing outwards.

Now allow the footings to slide down the column & into place. Any residue glue that is left around the column & base should be used to adhere the footings in place. Now align all footings & ensure column & bearer assembly is vertical.

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The same sequence can now be undertaken with the remaining three column & bearer assemblies, ensuring that the simulated joins on each assembly is facing outwards. Take the time to ensure that all assemblies are vertical & aligned with each other as this care taken now will assure that the next stages of construction will be pain free & the finished stand will look the part.

JOISTS

The next step is to fit the joists to the column & bearer assemblies.

Inspection of each joist will reveal one surface has chamfered edges at each end & this surface will be facing upwards in each case.

Spacing of the joists has been made very simple by the recesses that have been lasered into the top surface of the bearers & the only factor that needs to be taken into account is to ensure that the joists are aligned accurately in relation to each other & the overhang on each side is equal.

One method to aid alignment is to glue the two outer joists & when dry fit the intermediate joists utilising a small straightedge held between the two already installed joists. Of course use any method that suits you.

ANGLED BRACING

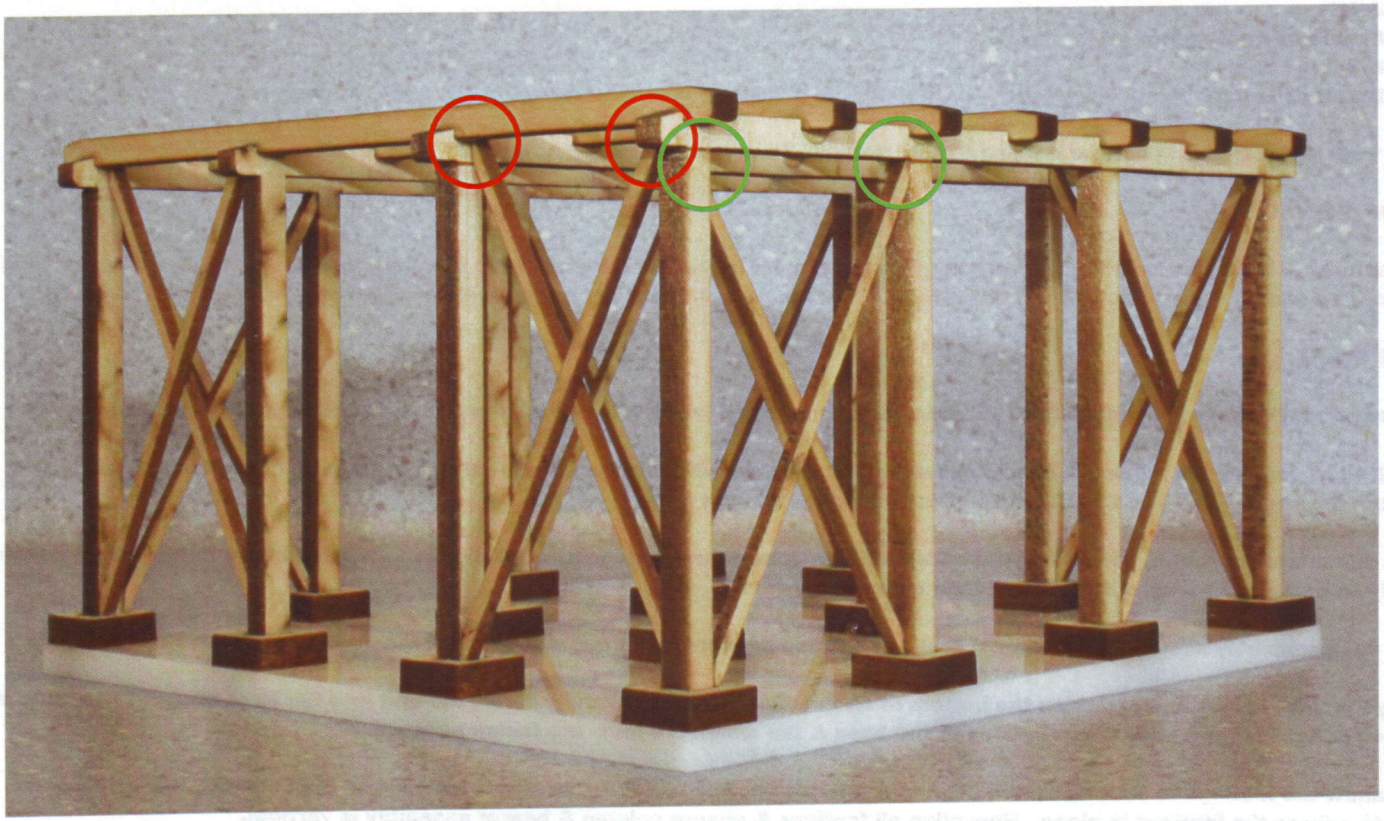
The last step is to install the angle bracings. There are two sizes (or lengths) of bracings & when you view the nearly completed structure with joists fitted, it will become fairly obvious which length is used on each "panel".

While the angle braces are shaped & mitred to fit, they may need a slight file here & there.

We have included a photo of a finished kit to aid in this step.

The Red Rings indicate a long bracing required... from footing to underside of joist
The Green Rings indicate a short bracing required... from footing to underside of bearer

This is typical of the four corners of the structure...



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OPTIONS

It is now time to fit the tank of your choice. If you decide to use an Ian Lindsay Tank then just assemble the tank kit as per the manufacturer's instructions & install onto the completed base & detail as per your own needs.

If utilising a Casula Hobbies tank we have included a replacement floor for your convenience as the floor included with this manufacturer's kit has moulded joist detail & as this is not required or indeed desirable when fitting to our timber base, it is just a simple step of substituting the floor of the tank during assembly.

HELPFUL HINTS

If demand for this kit proves popular we will look at a detail kit including pipework, ladder, valves & filler pipe etc & release this as a retrofit kit. In the meantime there are plenty of existing detail kits available that offer most of the required finishing detail. We would also assume that some modellers will have enough bits & pieces laying around in the spare parts cupboard as well.

This kit is primarily manufactured utilising basswood. Basswood is a very good medium for weathering & detailing as the grain is just about right for the scale size it represents. It also allows for easy ageing using a sharp hobby knife, file or wire brushing. While everyone has their own methods of weathering & aging timber, we have had great results using a product called Raven Oil. This product is available from saddlery outlets in different colours & is sold as a leather stain. We would suggest diluting around 1 part Black Raven Oil to 100 parts methylated spirits or isopropyl alcohol. The solution should be dry brushed onto the structure & allowed to dry. Subsequent coats can be added & highlighting achieved. There are also pastels available & of course weathering powders are also a great way to get "that look" we are all after from our kits.

About Laser Rail Bits...

Laser Rail Bits is a subsidiary of Harlow Graphics Pty Ltd and is dedicated to providing quality and value for money prototypical model railway accessory kits and products.

All design and manufacturing is carried out in Goulburn NSW utilising state of the art computerised laser engraving and rotary NC profiling machinery.

All of our kits are manufactured from real timber products.

We have sourced the best materials available chosen for their inherent qualities, ability to provide prototypical appearance and to enhance the finished appearance of all of our kits.

We invite you to forward any comments, positive or negative, on any of our products so we may continually fine tune our range and also seek your input on any other products you the modeller would like to see produced.

If for any reason this kit does not live up to your expectations... please let us know.

The team at Laser Rail Bits are all avid Australian outline modellers and will endeavour to keep bringing you quality kits to enhance your layout.

To keep abreast of what we are up to... you are most welcome to take a look at our blog:
http://southernline.blogspot.com.au/

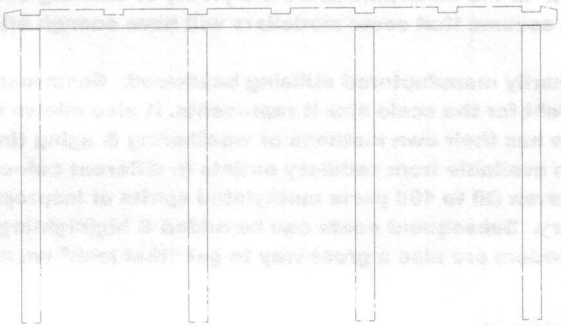
Regards,
The Laser Rail Bits Team.

DECEMBER 2012

KIT COMPONENTS

ACRYLIC BASE PLATE

REPLACEMENT TANK FLOOR
(CASULA HOBBIES TANK)



COLUMN & BEARER ASSEMBLY

SIMULATED FOOTING PIECE

JOIST COMPONENT

ANGLE BRACING LONG

ANGLE BRACING SHORT