STEP BY STEP

How to build your free MODEL RAIL card building

'00' GAUGE

Model
Exclusive *Model Rail* card kit

Price
Free

Availability
In all good newsagents

Level
Beginner

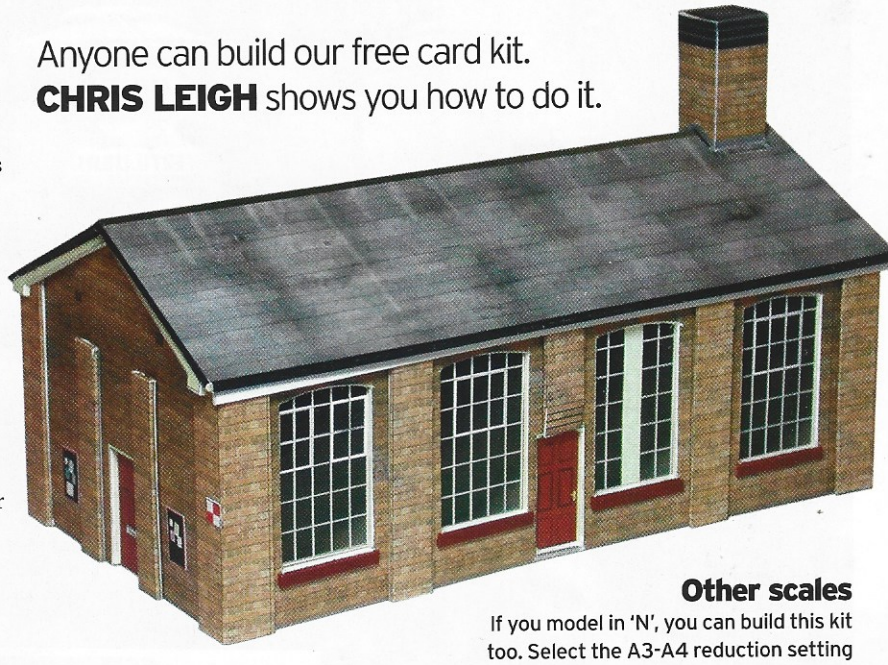
Estimated time
A couple of hours

Tools needed
- ☑ Scalpel-style craft knife and sharp blades
- ☑ Self-healing cutting mat
- ☑ Aerosol adhesive
- ☑ Steel straight-edge
- ☑ Evo-Stik Impact adhesive
- ☑ White mounting card

The free building kit in this magazine is based on the staff room or mess building at Barrow Hill depot. In reality, a Midland Railway structure, it is a fairly anonymous design and we've adapted the colouring to give it the widest possible appeal. This is a neat little Victorian building that could serve many purposes on a layout - either as an office or mess room in a railway yard, or outside the railway fence as a small industrial building. Such small buildings were often found amid the Victorian terraces down the side streets.

For novice modellers, it is an easy structure to build - essentially, it's a 'box' with a peaked roof. Even if you have never built such a model before, have a go. You've nothing to lose as it hasn't cost anything, and you might well start an aspect of railway modelling that you'll really enjoy - once you've mastered a model like this, there are lots of card kits to add an inexpensive townscape to your layout. MR

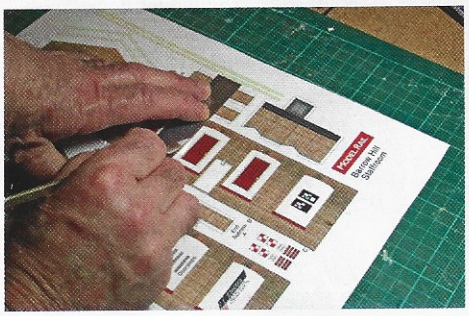
Anyone can build our free card kit. **CHRIS LEIGH** shows you how to do it.



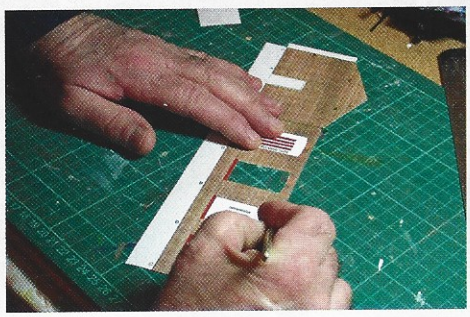
Other scales

If you model in 'N', you can build this kit too. Select the A3-A4 reduction setting on a colour photocopier for an approximation to 2mm scale.

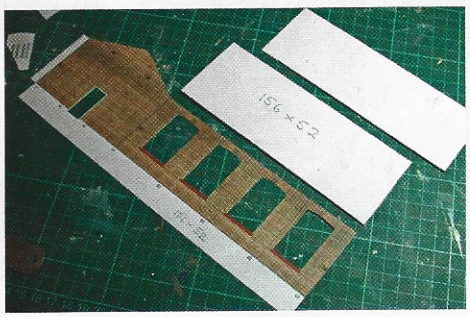
Here's how to do it: Building the Barrow Hill mess room kit



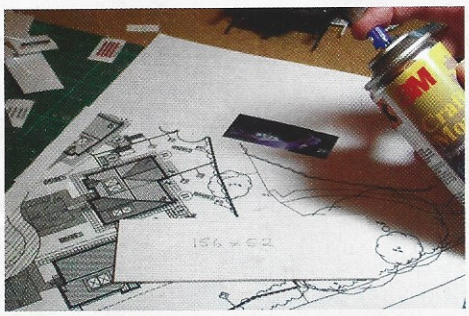
1 You don't need many tools but a cutting mat and a Swann-Morton scalpel-style craft knife (with new blade) are recommended. Don't buy cheap plastic-handled knives.



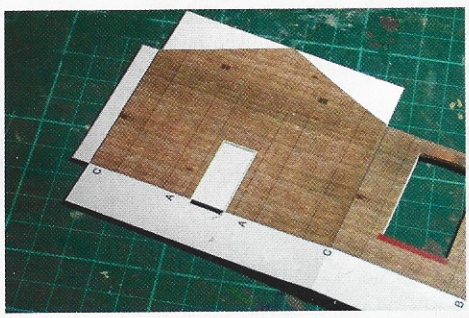
2 Cut out one of the main wall sections. Leave the strip at the bottom (it tells you where the buttresses go). Cut straight window edges first, then cut the curved top freehand.



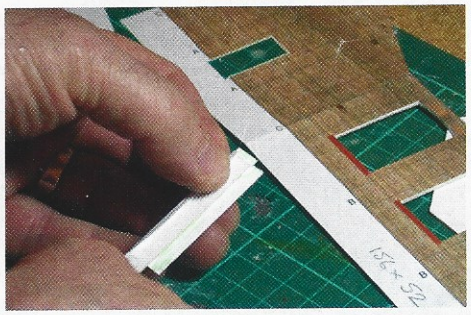
3 Cut two 156mm by 52mm pieces of mounting card. These are slightly shorter than the printed side wall, to allow for the thickness of the card for the walls at each corner.



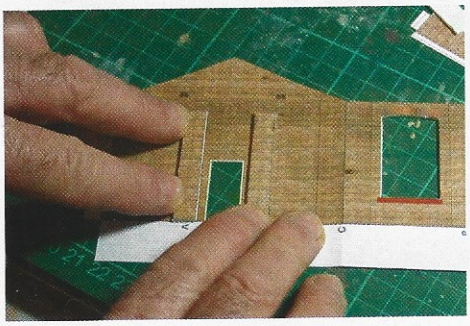
4 I used 3M Craft Mount to attach the wall to the mounting board. This allows you a few moments for repositioning. Centre the card on the wall with an equal overlap either end.



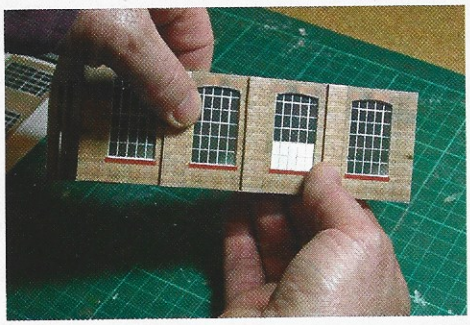
5 Cut a 86mm by 72mm piece of board and glue it to an end wall. Remove the door opening and cut the two top corners flush with the gable. Score the corner and ensure a good fit.



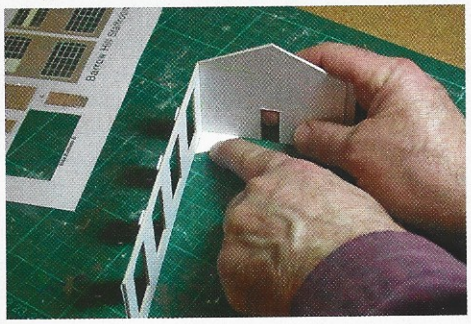
6 Cut a strip of mounting board 9mm wide and glue it to the back of buttress B. Wrap the edges round - trim the bottom edge. I used Evo-Stik Impact for gluing all the smaller parts.



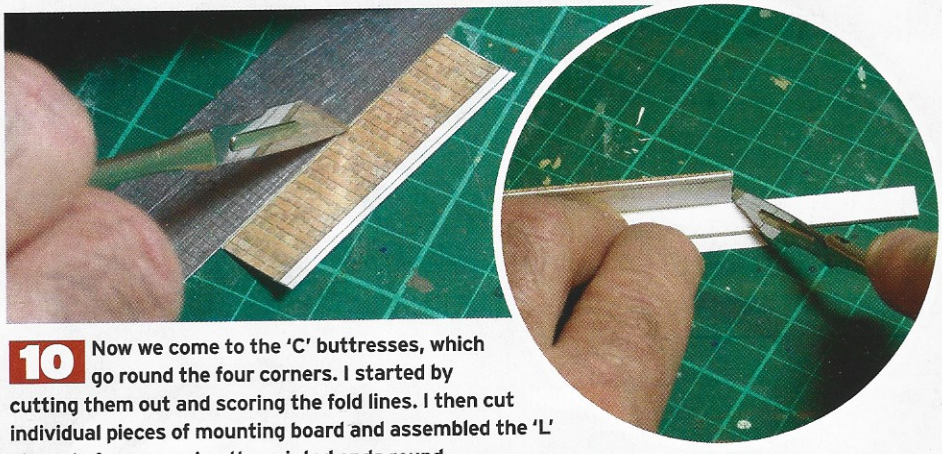
7 'B' buttresses go in the marked positions. 'A' buttresses are 7.5mm wide and assembled in the same way. They go either side of the end doors, as marked. The short buttress 'D' fits above the rear door.



8 I sprayed the inside of the wall with Craft Mount and glued the window section in place, carefully positioning it behind the openings. There's no need to mount it on card unless you want to make a really rigid structure.

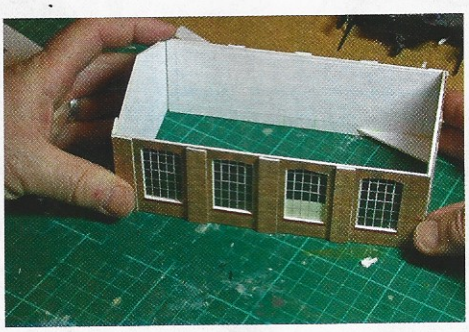


9 Fold the corner and glue the end wall to the main wall. To ensure that it stays square, glue one of the off-cuts from the roof gables in to reinforce the corner. Use Evo-Stik Impact and leave the whole thing to set.

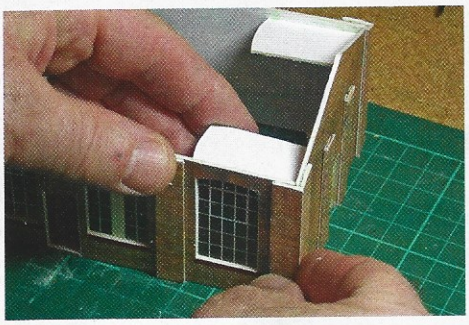


10 Now we come to the 'C' buttresses, which go round the four corners. I started by cutting them out and scoring the fold lines. I then cut individual pieces of mounting board and assembled the 'L' shape before wrapping the printed ends round.

11 When dry, the four buttresses were trimmed carefully to fit the corners. One can be glued in place on the finished wall/end section. Repeat the whole process for the second wall unit, adding the doors in their openings.

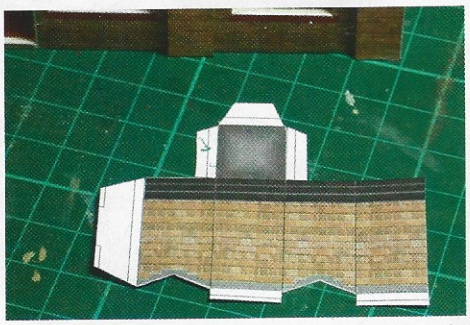


12 Glue the two wall sections together, ensuring that the joins are level and square in all directions. Allow the glue to become tacky, and hold them in place for a couple of minutes while the grip takes effect.

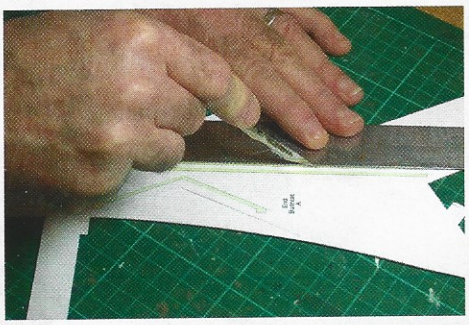


13 I'm a firm believer in plenty of reinforcement, so I added an extra card brace in each corner at the top, as well as the bottom. Keep them clear of the window areas. No prizes for spotting which off-cuts I used!

14 The roof is a 100mm by 165mm piece of mounting card, scored and folded along the centre to roughly the correct angle. Then apply the slate overlay, otherwise the latter may tear when folded. Wrap the edges over and glue.



15 Cut the chimney out as one piece and glue it to some thin postcard using Evo-stik Impact Adhesive. Score the fold lines against a steel rule and bend to shape. Use Impact Adhesive to glue it to the roof.



16 Glue the fascias and bargeboards to the mounting card and then cut them out, using the steel rule and knife. Test fit the parts - trim if necessary - and glue them in place. The side fascias should meet the end bargeboards.

TOP TIP

To give extra relief, I replaced the printed windowsills with pieces of 30thou by 100thou styrene strip. The sills were sprayed with red oxide primer. If you use the sticky scrap paper on which you sprayed the aerosol adhesive, the aerosol won't blow the plastic sills away.