

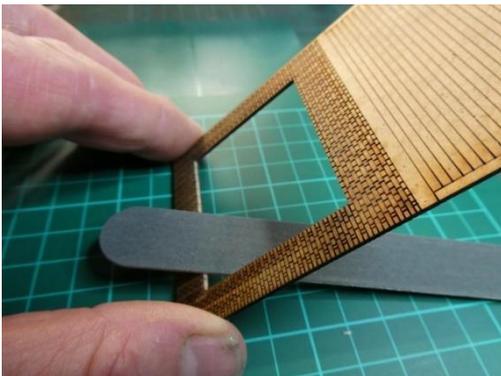
## BUILDING A RAILMODELS LNWR SIGNAL CABIN – Chris Hopper

Some time ago I approached Andy Pearce of Rail Model to see if he would try to down size his 7mm kit of a LNWR Type 5 Size D tall signal box to 4mm. The kit is laser cut MDF and was previously part of the Devon Laser Craft range.

<https://railmodel.co.uk/collections/0-gauge-7mm-kits/products/lnwr-type-5-size-f-signal-box-155mm-x-105mm-excl-steps>

Andy kindly agreed to have a go and since he sent me the kit I have slowly worked through the build exchanging emails, photos and ideas with Andy sending me the occasional packet of new bits.

Set out here are a few of the build photos with a few hopefully helpful comments. Many of the issues have related to material thicknesses and re-scaling (such as location of the holes for the staircase support beams and the roof trusses) and in one or two very small areas I have improvised. In addition, I have added interior fittings by Severn Models and guttering and drainpipes from Modelu as well as a few substitutions and additions I'll set out in the text.



Here one of the brick panels is being chamfered with a “finescale” nail file sourced from my local Sainsbury's.

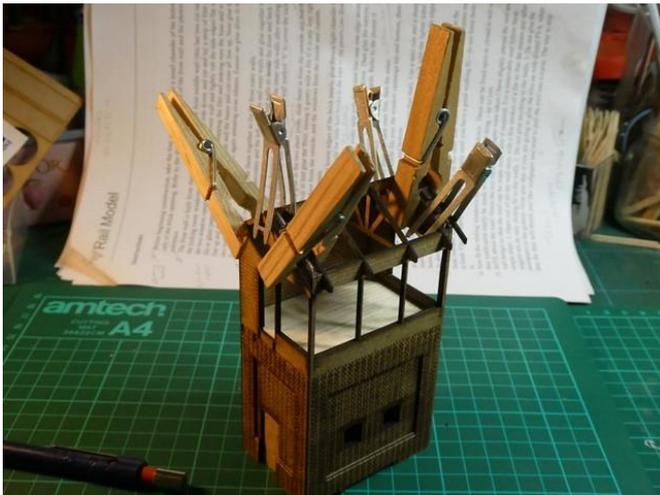


Here two sides have been made up from multiple layers and are being joined using a variety of 90 degree clamps. I used Deluxe innovations Laser Cut kit glue.



The structure is taking shape – the magnetic clamps are from Smart Models.

Before this stage I had tried all the windows and other details to ensure everything fitted and any changes were made while parts were flat on the work bench.



The roof structure being constructed using some slightly cheaper clamps.

The roof can be made removable and I chose this option being very careful with my glue positioning. The trusses were one area where the material thickness affected the fitting and some very slight easing was required before fixing in place.



One adjustment I made was to add a false floor from scribed wood so I could fit it once the interior kit was fitted.

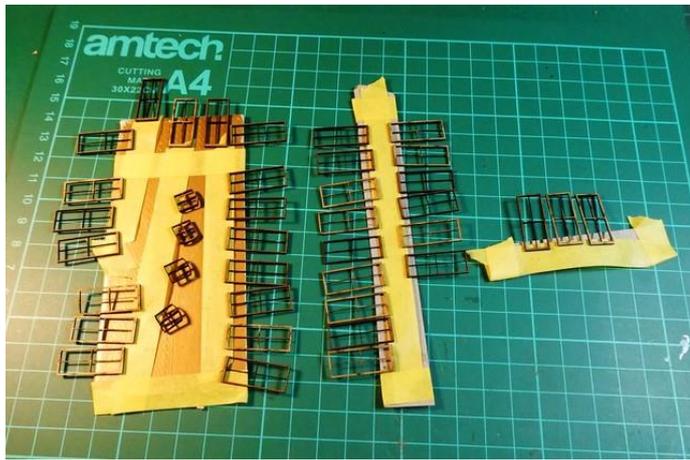
Styrene would be just as easy but I chose wood as I (lazily) felt unpainted it would look more like a wooden planked floor.

The staircase was quite daunting so I made a simple and inexpensive jig from balsa wood, pins and blutak with some styrene pieces to aid visual alignment. I simply added and glued a few treads at a time.

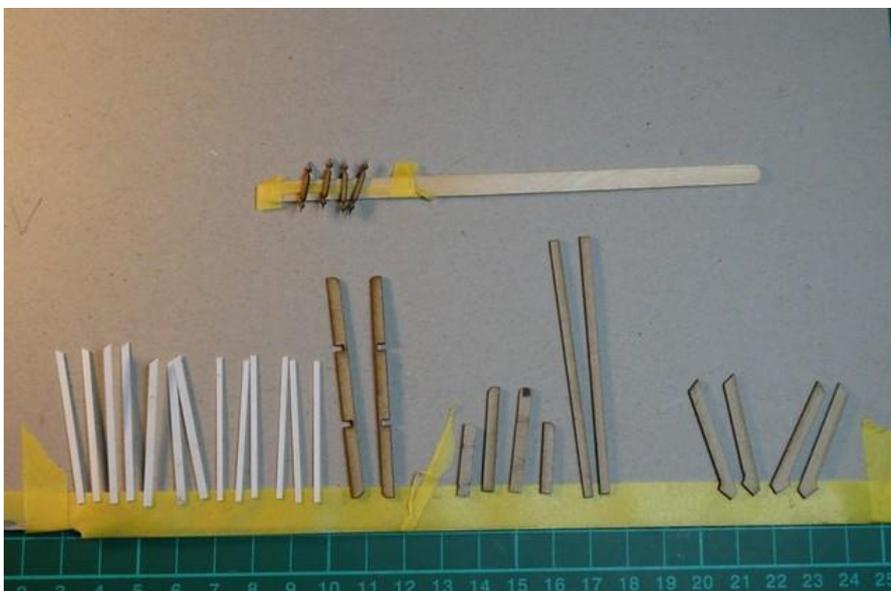
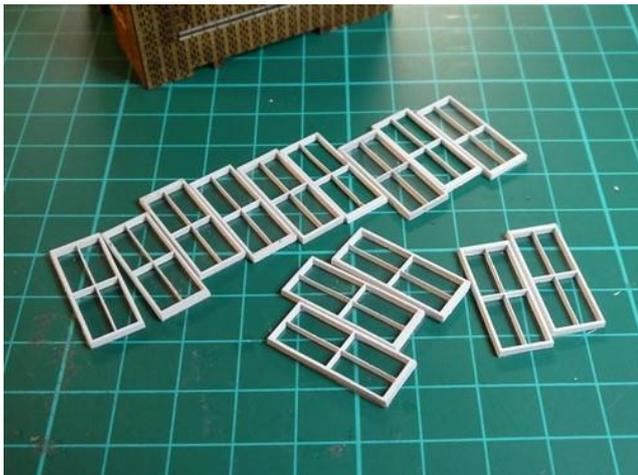


The kit does include laser cut tiles for the roof as well as guidance to ensure the roof is not detrimentally affected by the adhesive used. I had some self-adhesive tiles in my stash so opted to use them instead.

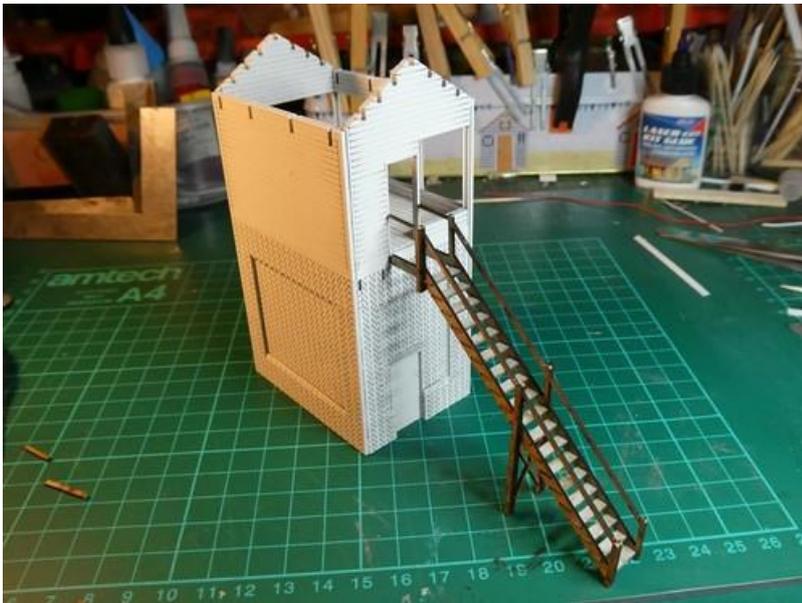




The windows were an interesting challenge – downscaled from 7mm they were too flimsy so Andy re-cut a slightly more robust set. In addition, the instructions suggest a double thickness with a sandwich filling of glazing. I opted to use just one thickness of frame with the glazing carefully fixed in place after painting using Canopy Glue and finished with an emery board if necessary.

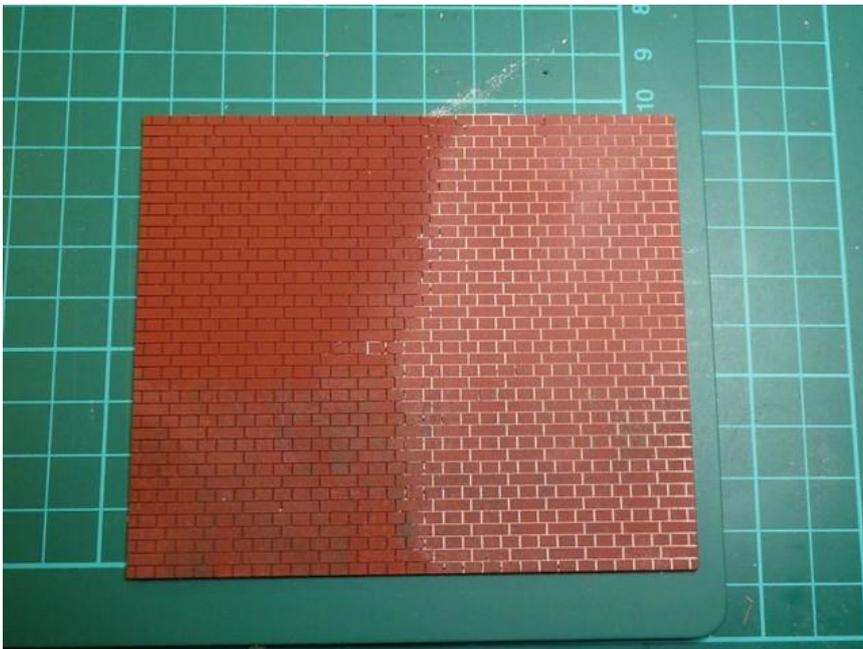


The trim was painted at the same time as the windows and the box. The white paint is a Halfords primer. I decided to use styrene overlays on one or two panels to help with painting and finishing.



The signal box will be facing away from the front of my layout so I tended to keep checking from that perspective.

Fitting the staircase took a bit of “fettling” due to scaling issues at the join but it looks the part once in place.



I was worried about how the brickwork would turn out so I painted a test piece (Thanks Andy) using Halfords Red Oxide primer, sponged enamel paint in several shades of brick (shown on the lower half of the test piece) and then ready-mixed DIY filler rubbed on and then mainly rubbed off again with a damp tissue.



It starting to look like a signal box. The steps and roof are primed with a Halfords grey automotive spray can.



After priming I decided to improve the appearance of the stair case slightly by using some Vallejo Plastic Putty.



The drainpipes and gutters were made up using Modelu parts as well as some brass rod



Staircase and some trim painted; WC added; brickwork weathered; roof detailed. The destination layout is based on North Wales in BR Blue days.



The box is nearly finished with the Severn Models interior details fitted to a false floor.

The roof has been lightly weathered using dry brushing and a chimney pipe added.

Windows have been fitted

Rails have been added to the windows



Finished apart from the down pipes and a door



I have added the down pipes and a Modelu signal man. I now consider the kit effectively finished and certainly suitable for layout use.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/103471893@N02/albums/72157714944595791>

**Chris Hopper**  
**September 2020**