

HM Review

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Woodland Scenics HO-Scale Old Weathered Barn

Part of the Landmark Structures series, this barn is a great addition to rural scenes.

One of more recent product lines introduced by Woodland Scenics are the Built-&-Ready Landmark Structures. There is a huge assortment of buildings available in a variety of scales that



Once a traditional red, the paint has long since faded and the wood has weathered gray.

can be used to duplicate just about any setting a railroad modeler might imagine. And what is so nice about the Landmark Structures Series is not only are the structures prebuilt, they are properly painted and weathered. This feature is a huge benefit to an experienced modeler who is suffering from time constraints, or the newer modeler who is learning, but has not yet completely developed his artistic skills. The line of structures runs the gamut from older rural farm buildings to a set of industrially clean and very urban manufacturing facilities like the Meg-A. Watts Transformer Manufacturer. Many modelers find a street scene from the 1950's to be their choice and Woodland Scenics has answered this call with



There are also a number of different urban structures available, like the Davenport Department Store or Meg-A. Watts Transformer Manufacturer.



structures like the Davenport Department Store. Other than some dirt and mildly rusting features on the roof, the building is absolutely pristine. Manikins line the storefront windows, and there are curtains on the windows of the apartments above the store. Even the grated balconies, which are part of the fire escape ladder have pots filled with flowers. The level of detail on all the



Boards are missing and there are holes in the roof. Even broken panes are part of the windows. Many might consider the weathering overdone, but it is a spot-on duplication of many old barns.

buildings is truly to be admired, especially considering these are mass-produced models.

The primary focus of this review is the Old

Weathered Barn. The barn rests on a simulated stone foundation, and includes a concrete silo as part of the structure. Looking the barn over, a person is given the impression that at one time it was painted the traditional red color but this has faded to a dark gray naturally-aged wood tone. Many of the boards are split and warped. The doors are falling off the hinges, and

there are shingles missing from the roof, along with the associated holes that come with storms and missing shingles. There are even broken panes of glass as part of the windows, something that all but the most experienced and detail-oriented modeler would most likely fail to duplicate.

People from some areas of the country might feel the barn has been overdone. But living in the Midwest, I can testify that the farming landscape, especially in the Corn Belt, is dotted with structures exactly like this barn. Sometime during the middle of the last century, production methods changed and laws were implemented regarding the safe handling and storage of grain products. Many of these barns were simply “abandoned-in-place” to die a slow death from natural aging caused by the elements.

Prior to the latest economic recession and associated housing market collapse, there was a trend for builders of rustic homes to purchase these deteriorating barns, dis-



Prepainted structures like the N-Scale Drive'n Dine will be appreciated by all customers who know the difficulties in painting small buildings and vehicles.

scene a railroader would be interested in modeling. They are well made, period correct, properly painted and when appropriate, like this barn, weathered with extreme detail.

The Old Weathered Barn was selected as the topic for this review for a very simple reason. The Midwest is dotted with structures like this barn and it brings a sense of local realism to my railroad layout. This is something dealers might want to take into consideration when a customer comes into your store in search of some direction. Ask him about his memories and take it from there. **HM**

Recreating a rural Midwest farm setting

I am not an artist, so buildings like Woodland Scenics' Built-&-Ready structures fill a void in the ongoing construction of my personal railroad layout. Inspiration for the diorama came during a long ride through the central Illinois Corn Belt.

Barns such as this weathered and worn-out building dot the landscape. Although a true-scale modeler would take a lot of photos of a particular barn and spend weeks, even months, duplicating the building to the last rusty nail. That wasn't the goal with this setting. This diorama is a compilation of many of the barn scenes observed during my journey.

To create this diorama, the barn #BR5038 was placed on a grass mat #RG5172. To prevent the look of the barn's foundation growing out of the grass, light green underbrush #FC135 was placed against the foundation like uncut weeds. Many self-sustaining farms have apple orchards, so #TR3591 apple trees were added along with some green grass #T45 to hide the base of the trees. Free-roaming Black Angus Cows #A1955 were added for a bit of life. There are always fields to clear of trees and boulders, and almost every farm has a bulldozer parked somewhere. Dewie's Dozer #AS5562 (minus Dewie) was placed inside the barn's lean-to shed. Completing the setting is a wild, uncut hedgerow #TR3562.

Creating the diorama was not difficult. It was only a matter of compiling a mental image and then perusing the shelves of my favorite hobby shop's railroad department for the items needed. Point out to your customers that if a guy like me can recreate a natural-looking setting, anyone can do it. **HM**



Although the focus of the setting is the old weathered barn, a number of different products were used to complete the scene.



Opposite the silo is the apple orchard, something that is part of many farms.