

Modelling Cane Railways

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Modelling
with Card

CaneSIG: <http://www.zelmeroz.com/canesig>

Modelling with Card

Introduction

Older modellers may remember card models with some distain as they tended to be rather two dimensional. However, computer technologies have made it possible to create models from card that are the equal of those using other modelling materials.

This Handbook Note has been written to supplement the card models available on the CaneSIG web site by providing some tips for good modelling.



Paper Creek outhouse kit, and a partially completed *Clever Models* shed, both free O scale downloads from their web sites. The card used for the shed was too light, resulting in warped and wavy walls. The rafter units are pre-stained scale lumber as at the time I didn't think I could cut, fold and glue the card rafters accurately enough.

Download the CaneSIG Models

At time of writing several kits can be downloaded free from the CaneSIG or ngrail sites (see pg 3 for addresses) including O scale Comeng 4wd locomotive and cane bins, a Queensland-style cottage in HO and O scale, O scale QR style cream and fettler's sheds, and several HO houses and shops. Additional Queensland buildings are available on CD from Jim Fainges (LadnDad Models fainges@ozemail.com.au).

Construction Tips

Cardstock: Card kits can be printed on paper and glued to light weight card, styrene or other bracing material, but smooth surfaced card up to about 210 gsm will also work in many computer printers. Glossy paper/card will need careful drying and finishing unless you are representing shiny metal.

Cutting: Use a 'self-healing' flexible plastic cutting board from artist or drafting supply stores, craft and sewing stores, and hobby shops.

Use sharp single sided razor blades, biological scalpel blades or modelling knife blades. While inexpensive but they are not suitable for young modellers without adequate instruction and supervision. Dull or broken blades are dangerous and should be disposed of carefully. [Think Sharps!]

Use several light cuts along a steel straight edge, rather than forcing a single cut.



Quonset hut slightly kitbashed from *Clever Models'* O scale steel industrial buildings CD.



Queensland worker's cottage built as part of developing the kit you can download from the CaneSIG web site. It's been constructed using a board-by-board technique of overlapping weatherboard, but doesn't have a full field of supporting stumps underneath, plumbing pipes or front rain gutters.

As well, many Queensland cottages have trim boards under the outside edge of the roofing, rather than along the top of each wall as is common in colder climates. Minor modifications (eg replacing stumps with a foundation, extending the weatherboard around the verandah, or fully enclosing the verandah) would make it suitable for other areas of the world.

Folding and Gluing: Mark fold lines with pin pricks and use an empty ballpoint pen (or the smooth corner of a thin straight edge) to score fold lines from the back side BEFORE cutting out parts.

Work slowly, fit components before gluing, and use a quality white glue for card to card joints. Clamp or weight down joins until the glue dries.

Finishing: Edges may show white unless they have been coloured prior to assembly. Use chalks or a coloured felt tip pen from the back side of the component to avoid getting extra marks on the front. Artist's water colour pencils work well for weathering

after assembly. Lightly apply the colour to the card surface and then smear with a damp brush.

Finally, seal the model, inside and out, with a clear flat matte spray after assembly.



The brick toilet block and garden shed are both available as free downloads from the CaneSIG web site. The fence is from the *Clever Models* CD. The signs came from a variety of download and scanned sources and, unlike the buildings and fence, were printed on glossy photo paper to represent enamelled metal.

Queensland Cottages



A much modified worker's cottage. As originally built by the nearby meatworks for their workers it was likely very similar to the CaneSIG kit cottage. Photographed 2010.

The variations in siding colour and vertical trim along the side walls of the meatworks cottage suggests that the front verandah was closed in later than the core of the building. The weatherboard siding extends right to the roof and the top trim is at the outer edge of the minimal overhang roof rather than on the wall. [See also photo next page]

The modern front windows may have replaced louvres or centre-opening casement windows. The original side windows were obviously taller and have been replaced by modern windows with rough cut weatherboard pieces fitted above.

The high roofed addition at the rear, perhaps originally the kitchen and separated from the main cottage to reduce the threat of fire, is not full width. There is also a shed to the right at the rear of the property and a basic carport on the other side. The

garbage bin at the front of the cottage suggests that normal entry may now be along the far side wall.

Many similar cottage have been enclosed in whole or part with sheets of asbestos fibre board or its modern 'cement' equivalent. More recent renovations likely use vinyl or aluminium siding.

Variations in the basic design include pyramid style roofs over the core structure, a wide variety of casement windows and louvres (metal or glass), window shades and stump height.



Side wall detail: Note the difference in weatherboard colour and trim location. The loose vertical cable where the roof indicates the rear verandah starts could from an underground telephone service. In other locations it might be connected to a lightning rod. The spaces above the middle and rear replacement windows have been roughly filled in with what looks like weatherboard. The front gutter (eavestrough) no longer has a vertical downpipe, perhaps removed when municipal authorities banned rainwater tanks.



The colour differences are more obvious on the other side of the cottage where at least one of the windows retains its original metal window shade. The additions at the rear were likely added at different times, as is evidenced by their varying sizes, roof variations and construction materials.

Variations on the design were used as worker's dwellings, mill offices, shops, workshops, police stations, etc.

Acknowledgements and References

Queensland modellers Jim Fainges and Ron Aubrey were instrumental in my developing models and kits of Queensland prototypes. The *Clever* and *Paper Creek* collections more recently demonstrated the potential of photorealistic card materials.

Clever Models LLC: www.clevermodels.net (also extended construction tips)

Paper Creek Models: www.papercreek.com (now out-of-business)

A series of articles on modelling with card can be found in the **Narrow Gauge Down Under** magazine beginning in 2010.

www.narrowgagedownunder.com

Download the free kits from

www.zelmeroz.com/ngrail or

www.zelmeroz.com/CaneSIG.

Use the *CaneSIG Image Collection* to help detail your card model. An appropriate search term will retrieve photos of the Comeng 4wd loco, cane bins and buildings.

http://www.zelmeroz.com/album_query/_search.php

Kitbashing the Queensland Cottage kit was one of the modelling challenges for the *2011 Narrow Gauge Convention*, 23-24 April 2011 at *The Workshops Rail Museum*, Ipswich (see below). The cottage has also been redrawn for North American practice by Clever Models and is available in that form from their web site.

Kitbashing a Queensland Cottage

Modellers started with the download free kit and models were peer judged at the Convention. The model could be built in any scale, for any functional use as modified for any part of the world, and using any modelling materials (card, styrene, timber, etc.).

However, the physical form of the Queensland cottage kit had to be evident in the finished model, the model could be displayed on a plain base or in diorama form, and the structure with its surrounds (ie maximum diorama size) could not exceed a scale 32 feet by 45 feet, the size of a worker's residential lease in a company town.

While the cottage was designed for Queensland conditions the stumps could have been replaced with a foundation and the weatherboard extended over the exposed timber on the verandah for a colder climate.