

Kitbashing and detailing HO vehicles, Part 2 by Paul G. Lessard

Highway trailer

1 36 ft. aero style van trailer made by Mattel (commorative Elvis Presley edition) Diecast underframe discarded as too toy-like. New underframe scratchbuilt using styrene. Bogie wheels by CMW and landing gear by Walthers. Lettering is alphabet decals.

2 32ft. Allied Van Lines trailer by Sylvan models. Quality kit was basically built according to instructions. Well-detailed but it is 6 inches too wide for that era. Decals are included Added details are jewel tail lights and liscense plates.

3 28 ft. tanker trailer by Sheepscot Models. Solid resin product and all details are left to the modeler. Substituted BEST wheels. Details include bumper, rear ladder, filler hatches, kingpin, cable connectors, tail lights and landing gear. It is painted red and lettered for Texaco.

4 28 ft. Garwood dump trailer (copied from a photo in a trucking book) Trailer is completely scratchbuilt from styrene sheet and strips. Tricky part is bending the radius on the front end. Landing gear is from A-line and wheels by Ralph Ratcliffe.

Highway tractors:

5 1955-56 Chevrolet snub-nose tractor. A hollow resin kit by Resin Unlimited. It is a quality kit and assembly is easy. The tricky part is forming the wrap-around windshield. Added details include side-view mirrors, trailer cables and tail lights. Decals are from Micro-Scale and truck is painted orange to match the Allied Van Lines trailer.

6 1956 Ford tandem tractor for logging. Vehicle is a kitbash of a Life Like cab on to a Trucks'n Stuff chassis A "headache" rack was scratchbuilt along with a cab shield and a spare tire. Details include turn signals , tail lights, trailer cables and mirrors.

7 1960 Mack B-81 tandem tractor. Prototype introduced in 1956 featured double channel frames and military style fenders. The kit model is a Sylvan product with fine resin castings. assembly is not difficult but care should be taken as the castings are easy to break. Details include tail lights, turn signals, flag holders, grille guards and liscense plates.

8 1953 Mack H-61 tandem tractor (COE) The Ulrich model was introduced sometime in the 1950's. Kit has become a classic and has sold for as high as \$65. The Ulrich product however is too wide because of its fat tires. New wheels were substituted which improved its appearance. Final details are trailer cables, cab glazing and liscense plates Truck is painted red and black and decorated for Carolina Freight Carriers.

Light and medium duty trucks:

9 1973 Ford pickup truck. the model is produced by Atlas and is an excellent quality plastic RTR truck usable as is .It was customized with a ladder rack using styrene. For added interest ,a stripwood lumber is in the bed. Last step is liscense plate decals. This is a simple one-evening project even the novice can do.

10 1956 Ford dump truck. This vehicle is converted from the Life Like product and is customized to use a modified Revell highway tractor chassis. Wheel wells on cab are enlarged to accomodate heavier tires . Added details are turn signals, mirrors and tail gate release lever on a Sylvan dump box. Liscense plates and alphabet decals (Val Const. Co.) are the last step.

11 1948-53 Chevrolet 1-ton moving van. Model uses the simple Greg's Garage product which is a solid clear resin cab and chassis. The box body is scratchbuilt from styrene sheet and extends over the cab for added capacity. Truck has the following details added: red jewel tail lights, side view mirrors and liscense plates. Load in box body is an easy chair as the company is in the upholstery business.

12 1930 Mack model AC flat bed w/load. Con Cor makes this product which is easier to build than the Jordan equivalent.The kit included a tank body which was discarded in favor of a platform. The truck is modernized with pneumatic tires, windshield , wiper and mirror. Cab is painted the typical Mack green. For added interest, a machine load is secured to the bed.

Miscellaneous vehicles:

13 International TD-14 bulldozer. The kit is a 3-D printed product by Yelton Models and consists of a tractor and blade. All detail parts are left to the modeler's discretion. Added parts: A rebuilt seat, air intake, exhaust stack,headlights, hydraulic cylinders ,cylinder hoses and towing hitch. It is painted in standard International red for that era.

14 Komatsu FD-30 forklift This is a diecast product which essentially is a toy produced by Tomica. It is well-detailed with an operating lift boom. The scale is marked as 1/56 but since forklifts come in all sizes, it is usable for HO. A safety roof was built along with a flashing light. A forklift operator was glued to the seat, The boom and forks are weathered as appropriate.

15 Internatinal model M farm tractor. Life Like makes this RTR product which is still available . It is well-detailed as is but it can be improved. The front wheels should be tilted inward per prototype. New exhaust stack and headlights were added, If the tractor is to be used on public roads, a liscense plate must be attached. The motor is weathered with oil and grease. Last detail is a driver is a driver figure.

16 Bay City Model 20 cable backhoe. This project definitely not suited for the novice. The model is completely scratchbuilt from styrene with the exception of the crawlers. The builder's plaque was cut from a photo of the actual shovel. The cables are made from grey thread. The construction took considerable time. This piece of equipment is painted orange with a grey roof Boom, dipper and bucket are painted black. The final product is a piece of equipment of which there is no commercial model available.