

Teter's Comic Book Shop

By Bruce Oberleitner

Bang! Pow!

Smash! These can only be the sounds of Batman and Robin attempting to save the citizens of Gotham City once again from the forces of evil. Sometimes you just have to take a crazy idea and go with it. I built this little structure to honor a friend of mine who is a really big comic book fan.



Figure 1: Holly Hob-Gobbins Batman! The Riddler is on the Loose!



Figure 2: A Special comic book font was downloaded from the internet to produce the store sign bubble.

Construction

This building was done a little differently than I usually do. Since I drew my own plans, I wasn't sure if the building would look right. So I decided to make a mockup of the building out of 1/8" foam core. This turned out to be a nice material to use for the final product. I glued it together but I would recommend that you tape the sections together. This way you can untape the sections later and lay the wall sections flat on the workbench while installing window, door castings and all the signs.

Once you have cut out all the window and door openings, add some 1/8" sq. bracing on the inside of the foam core sub-walls. Each wall was covered with 1/32" x 1/16" strip wood boards that had been stained with a wash of Alcohol and India Ink. These boards were cut long and trimmed with a hobby knife to save some time on assembling the building. The window castings were painted green and once dried were filled with Gallery Glass.

The walls were glued together using a 1/4" sq. grid paper to align up the walls. I installed a couple of 1/8" sq. roof beams from front to back and then I added a piece of cardboard for the roof. I covered it with masking tape strips and painted them with a mixture of black & antique white paint. The trim boards and wainscoting were painted with hunter green.



Figure 3: The Skeeter's dirt track sign was made on my computer with Paint Shop Pro software. Racing clipart for the sign was found on the internet and

Comic Book Pictures

The comic book pictures were downloaded from various sites on the internet. Another way to get some pictures would be to purchase some cheap 25 cent comic books from a local comic shop. Once I figured out where the pictures should go, I simply sanded the backs of them with an emory board and glued them onto the walls using Aleene's tacky glue. I then rubbed my fingernails back and forth on the pictures until the wallboards from underneath started to show up.

Summary

Scratch building is a lot of fun. You can get exactly the effect you're looking for without breaking the bank on some expensive kit. Besides, who can resist the "Kid Magnet" in the town of Bedford Falls? Find out in our next issue.....

Bill of Materials

[Apple Barrel Paints](#)

- #20575 SandStone
- #20754 Hunter Green
- Black

[Quality Art Store \(Garden City, ID\)](#)

- 1/8" Foam Core

Misc

- Earth and gray toned weathering chalks
- 91% isopropyl alcohol and India Ink
- Testor's Dullcoat



Figure 4: Sometimes a mistake can lead to an interesting detail as that roof patch near the front sign hides an ugly glue spot.