getting the most out of the Design Preservation Models kits
The basic typical DPM kit contains:

• Instructions
• Glazing
• Four walls
• Other parts
• Sheet stock
• Strip stock
The basic DPM kit typically does not contain…

- Foundations
- Detail parts
- Tips for construction techniques
- Options for kit-bashing
- Painting, finishing & weathering instructions
- Suggestions for window treatments
Styrene Solvents
Enhancing the basic kit without substantial changes

**BRUCE’S BAKERY** is one of the smaller kits.

- Here, it is as pictured in the Walther’s Catalog.
- With no basic changes in the footprint, the kit can be enhanced in several ways.
First, the four sides were primed gray (automotive primer). Then, the sides were given a heavy wash of Polly Scale Dark Gray mixed with Dirt. When dry, fine grit sandpaper (300-400) was used to sand off the surface paint, leaving the dark gray in the brick striations for mortar joints. Windows, headers, sills and trim were brush painted.
Chimney top
Simulating tin flashing for extended chimney

Vent pipe
Use styrene square rod for the junction box

Roof drain
Brass rod and wiring insulation for pipe couplers

Freight door
Use styrene strip stock to construct the hanger

Signage
Embossed

Foundation
Front Details…

- Cornice ornament
- White metal detail part
- Window shades
  - Painted on the interior
- Balustrade & sign
  - White metal detail part
- Dry transfers
  - Woodland Scenics
- New pedestrian door
  - Use vent to block clerestory window
- Curtains
  - Clipped from catalog
Right side details...

- Chimney top
- Matches left side
- Roof drain
- Matches left side and hides seam
- Scratch-built bay
- Scribed basswood, Grandt Line windows, rafter ends, stove pipe
- Sign
  - Embossed
- Kitchen blowers
  - Etched brass diesel fans and MacDonald’s straws
Roof Details

Simulated tarpaper
- If the sub-roofing is styrene, laminate paper to it before installing rolled roofing strips
- Use grained paper for roofing strips
- Paint Grimy Black
- Dry brush with Light Gray

Access Hatch

Etched brass skylights

Roof vents

Painted chimney holes
Finishing Tips

Once all the construction and painting is complete, float a final coat of alcohol/ink mixture over the whole structure to tie everything together.

Dry-brush the window sills and door frames with Light Gray Polly Scale paint.
Another Kit with Minimal Changes

ADDED DETAILS

• Window displays
• Main entrance sign (Bar Mills)
• Painting variations
• Roof gizmology
ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Substituting the windowed ends for solid wall ends, since on my layout this structure would not function as a corner building

Signage

Extra plumbing, conduit, blower, vents and drains—plus cornice gingerbread

Roof access and roof “gizmology”
SUPER-DETAILING AN INTERIOR

CORNER TURRET BUILDING

Besides an added foundation, steps and other detailing, the primary distinction is an elaborately detailed interior.
Besides the scratch-built interior, it is critically important to create baffles to eliminate light leaks between the shell and the foundation.
Night scene of café
A well-lighted building with lots of windows makes for great “eye candy” in a night scene
Source for Period Signage
Desperate Enterprises catalogs
Cutting Up a Kit

HILLTOWNE HOTEL

- Medium sized kit as pictured in Walther’s Catalog
- This kit can be either reduced or enlarged, depending upon space available.
- First, we will saw off one end.
Reduction

Cutting
To cut off bays, use repeated scores with a hobby knife or use a small razor saw.

End Wall
Here, because the end of the hotel would be butted against another structure, I elected to use styrene sheet for the end wall and paint it black.
Painting

**Exterior**

Using spray bombs (gray primer, flat black, flat white) I misted the colors into each other and allowed them to bleed.

I brush painted the window trim.

**Interior**

I painted the interior flat black (to seal light leaks from interior lighting) before wallpapering the lobby walls.
Frontside Details

Sign
Scratch-built

A/C units
For premium rooms only

Window Shades
Tan paper

Awnings
Clipped from clothing catalog

Lobby Interior
Counter, people, flowers

Foundation
Block out some windows to simulate unoccupied rooms.
Backside Details

- **Bricked windows**: Different bricks suggest later additions.
- **Signage**: Dry transfers.
- **Bay window**: Scratch-built from wood.
- **Blowers**: Diesel grills & straws.
- **Shuttered windows**: From the scrap box.
- **Drain pipe**: Brass rod with gun blueing.
Finishing Tips

Weather over signs and lettering

Use a chisel blade to lift up “loose” boards; use a pounce wheel to make nail indentations.

Vary brick color
Dry-brushing emphasizes form and illuminates details; it simulates light that bounces off of sharp edges.

- Patched roofing
- A/C units
- Access trap door
- Chimneys
- Vents
- Chimney extension
Enlarging the Kit

This hotel lends itself to making a large city building by combining several kits.

- The cornice on each front should be cut off (except the top one)
- Reinforce the inside walls with square strip styrene
Expanding the Basic Kit

ERIK’S EMPORIUM

• Here, pictured in the Walther’s Catalog
• By adding scratch-built extensions on the front and left side, the character of the building will be changed significantly.
Viewed from the bottom, you can see the porch extension on the front of the structure and the garage extension to the side.
Foundation

The kit walls may be built as designed.

Porch steps and a foundation can then be constructed from layers of styrene sheet stock to fit the building shell.

Interior window displays can be scratch-built on the foundation base.
- Acid etched corrugated roofing (Archer's Etchant)
- Dry transfer sign
- White metal porch posts
STYRENE SCRATCH-BUILT GARAGE

*Squirrel cage roof blower

*Simulated tarpaper roof

*Commercial doors and windows
Doubling a Kit

This kit lends itself to doubling by joining two kits side by side and extending the sides.

CORNER APOTHECARY

As shown by Walthers
Special Treatments

- Scratch-built water tank
- Fire escape
- New doorway
- Blocked doorway
- Boarded windows
- Foundation and steps
ROOF DETAILS

Chimneys and vents (since this structure would not be visible from the rear, I elected use sheet styrene for the back)
More Extensive Kit-bashing

GRIPP’S LUGGAGE

Because of the complexity of the kit-bash, photocopy the kit sides so the details can be worked out in advance using paper copies.
Added Details

- Broken window pane
- Roof stairway access
- Roof crane
- Upper level street access
I added an extensive scratch-built icing platform and cut in a special door for the icing conveyor.
More Kit-bashing

GOODNIGHT MATTRESS CO.

As before, it helps to photocopy the kit pieces in order to plan the kit-bash effectively.

Dan Lewis, MMR
Changing the Footprint

When changing the footprint to an angled shape, the angled corners, which are no longer square, become challenges.
Tips for those Oblique Angles

Sand the edge to a bevel instead of trying to cut through the thick styrene:

• Use coarse sandpaper on a hard, flat surface for the major sanding.
• Sand in a circular or Figure 8 design to avoid unevenness.
• Use finer sandpaper for final smoothness.
• Piping (styrene tubing) can be used on the outside of oblique angles to form the leading edge or on the inside for additional bracing.
Piping (styrene tubing) for the oblique angle edge
Brick sheet stock for large brick areas.
Not all wall seams need to be hidden; walls seams are not uncommon in masonry as expansion joints.
ROOFING DETAILS

Tarpaper roofing
Elevator housing
Chemical tanks
Chimneys
Vents
Pallets
Clutter

Dry-brushing highlights the details!
Adding a large foundation structure

Large foundation structures can be added by casting them in plaster using balsa wood molds.

Here, the foundation structure also features a tunnel.
This relief structure was created from left over pieces from other DPM kits.
Use a small flame to melt the ends of fiber optics into simulated light bulbs.

Thread multiple fiber optics to a common light source.
Bricked in windows and watersheds add interest

Vents are found on the sides of buildings, along with lots of signage.
More Scrapbox Stuff

This structure, also, was created from leftover DPM parts with added details.
“DPM City”, featuring five of the super-detailed DPM kits we’ve discussed
(Month of July, 2009 NMRA Calendar)