

25 Ton, T.W. Snow, Coaling Tower As used on the Milwaukee Road

HRM Laser Models kit HRM-014
Build By David Emery

D. Scott writes: I took Dave's email posts he sent me and created this pdf. The photos are in order from finished kit to just starting it.

David Emery writes,

Did I send you the 'finished' photos? (Well, still a few touch-ups to do, mostly paint.) I still need to figure out why the weighted string snaps to the coal tower wall, probably static electricity. That's annoying! The Tichy part looks pretty good. The Tichy skip bucket probably would have fit if I wanted to sand down your guide rails. That makes me wonder if the prototype for the Tichy kit could have been from the same manufacturer as your tower.





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The coal chute is assembled per the Tichy instructions. (It's pretty obvious, but I also grabbed the instructions for the full coal tower to see if there were any other considerations.) The actuator wheel on the left side next to the platform is another O Scale brake wheel. The chute is in the up position. I used 15-minute epoxy to glue this into place, I wanted to get a really strong connection since the chute is a bit of a 'moment arm' to pull the entire assembly off of the tower. The back of the chute is a flat piece of styrene. This is about 1/32" bigger on each side, top and bottom, of the hole you provide in the coal bin.

I should have painted that brake wheel before I assembled it, but then you couldn't see it, it'll be easy to touch up once this is dry.

I need to add the tower roof, the motor shed roof and some details. You can see the tan colored thread I used for the hoist dangling out over top of the motor shed. I'm still pondering roofing for that.



Sharpie

WELLS
WOOD GLUE
WOOD GLUE
WOOD GLUE

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2
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My challenge will be fitting this in the very small space by the turntable. The tower fits OK, it's the lead for the hopper that is the problem. But given the 'hand unload' nature of this, I think I can cut some corners (pun slightly intended) with a curved track along the hopper side of the tower.

I put some used lead shot (that I usually use to add weight to cars) and then some coal in the skip bucket. That's enough weight (along with a hemostat clamp on the other end) to get the haul line taught. I applied CA to make it so permanently.

The last steps include the roof over the control shed (I drilled a hole to pass the haul line into the shed), adding a smoke stack for the small boiler/steam engine I expect my 1898 era railroad would use instead of the prototype's electric motor, and the ladder and porches. All-in-all, this has come together very nicely.



Scott's note: My kits now include the Tichy coal chute as well as my original chute.

