Building a trackside shed

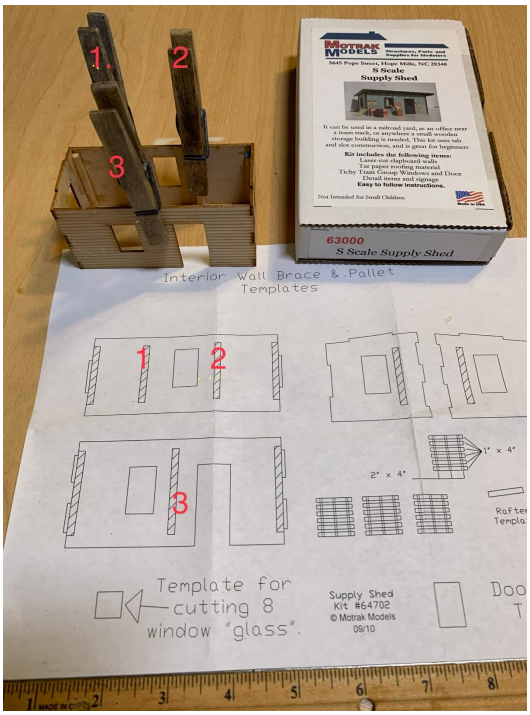
The modest Motrak Models shed is four walls with detailing opportunities.

This photo sequence illustrates how the kit was built.

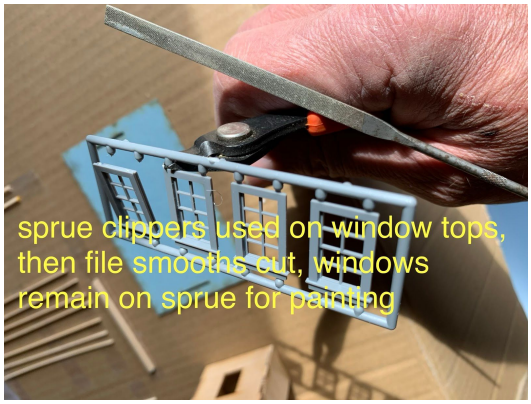
The Micromark magnetic gluing jig in this picture is a flat reference surface ideal for getting square corners.

For small structures like this the jig isn't as important, but still convenient. Here two walls are square in the upper left corner of the jig, and two walls are laid flat to show how interlocking tabs align corners.

Magnets secure the walls as the glue dries. It's best to leave it overnight or at least several hours. Including overnight dry time for glue and paint, it can take about three days assembly time for even a small kit..



The instructions include a template for positioning reinforcements on the interior walls. Here three clothespins are numbered showing corresponding positioning on the template .

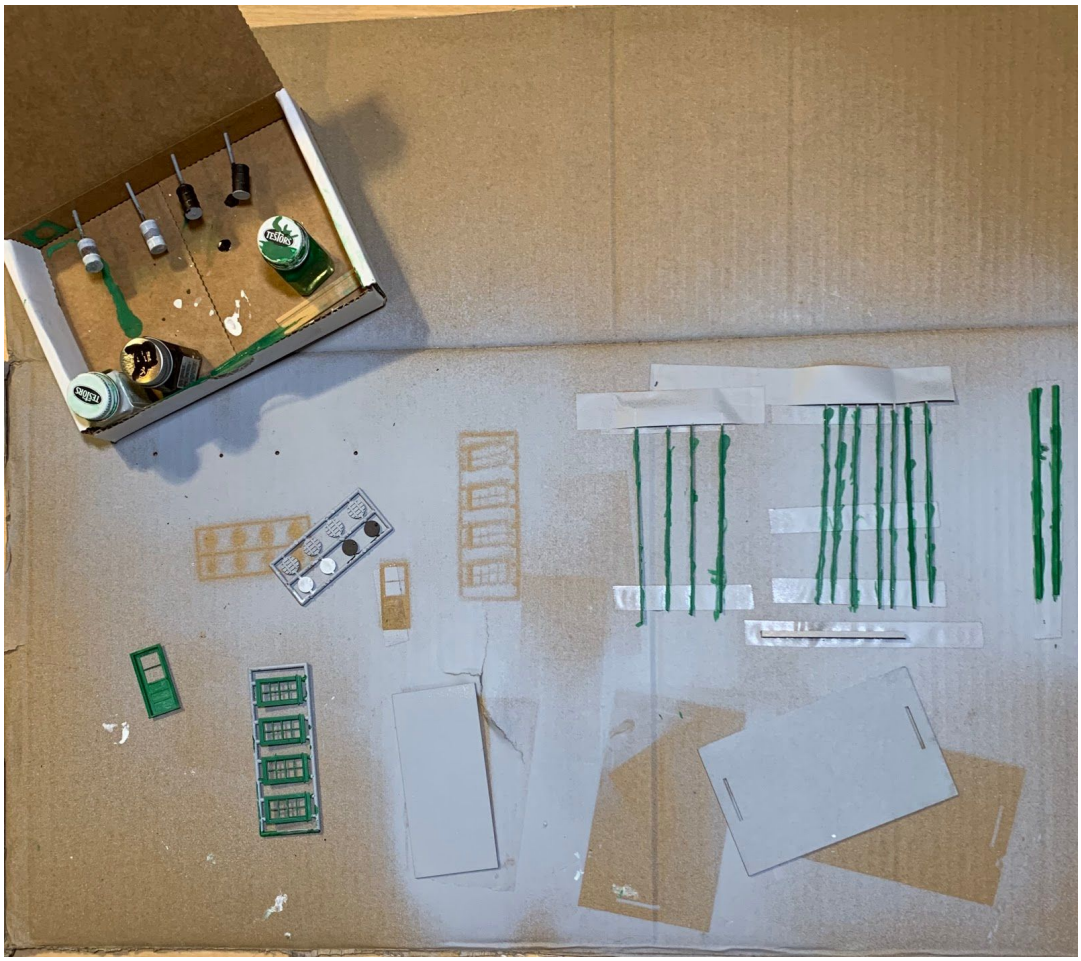


It's best to leave windows on the sprue for painting. The top sprue connections are cut with sprue cutters. The windows are pushed away from the sprue for priming the window top. A razor blade is just as good for the window frames, but for delicate details sprue cutters are preferable. The file is used to smooth the window top.

The kit is laid out for spray painting on cardboard. The kit includes four trash cans that are placed on nails.

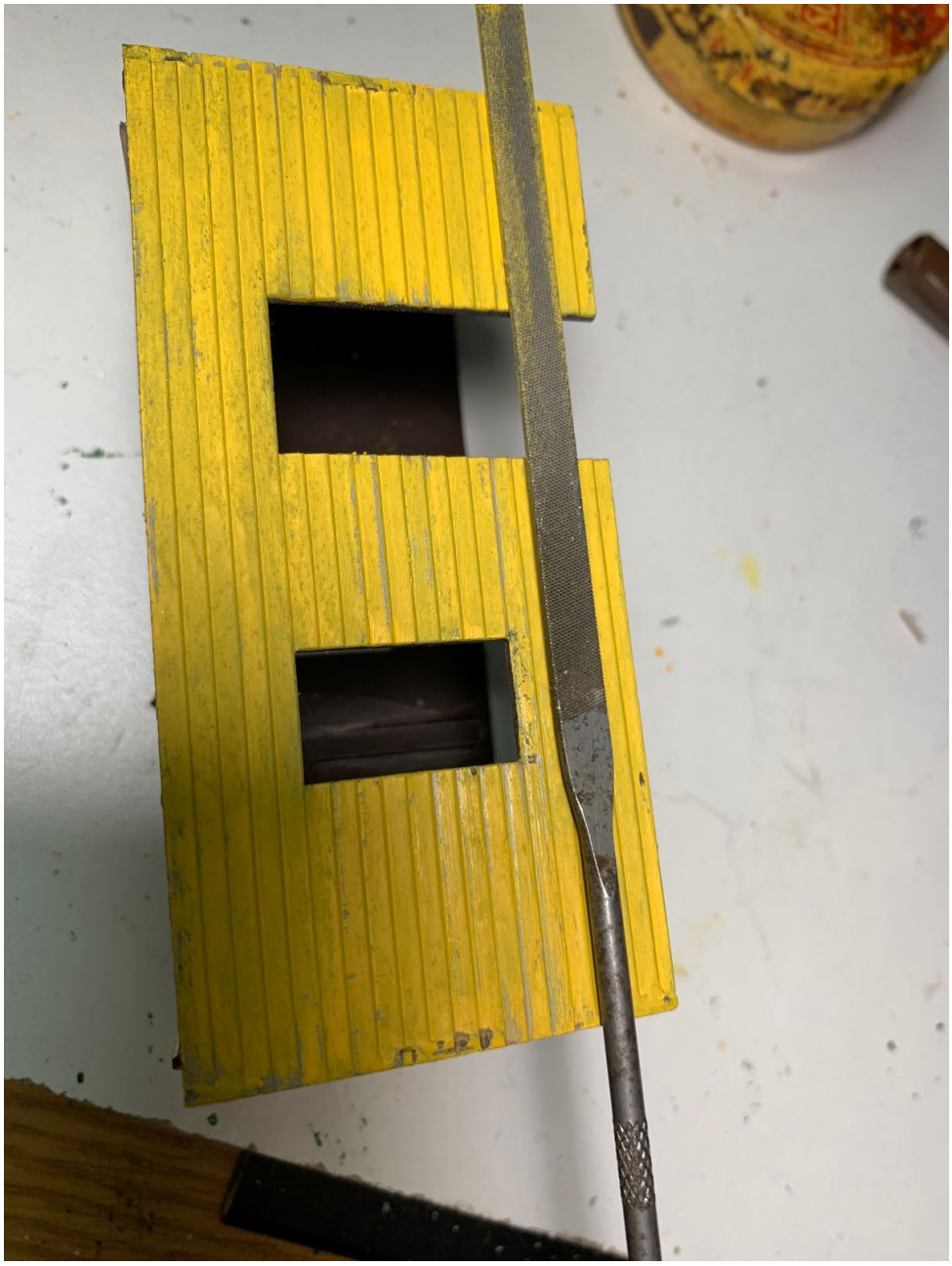
Wood strips are held with double stick tape. The can of Rust-O-Leum is labeled "Professional" but I used it anyway.

Grey spray primer has been applied, Testor's brush painting is next. The nails for the trash cans have been moved from vertical to horizontal for brush painting. Testor's is usually better thinned. Testor's is okay here, but would make rivets disappear on trains.

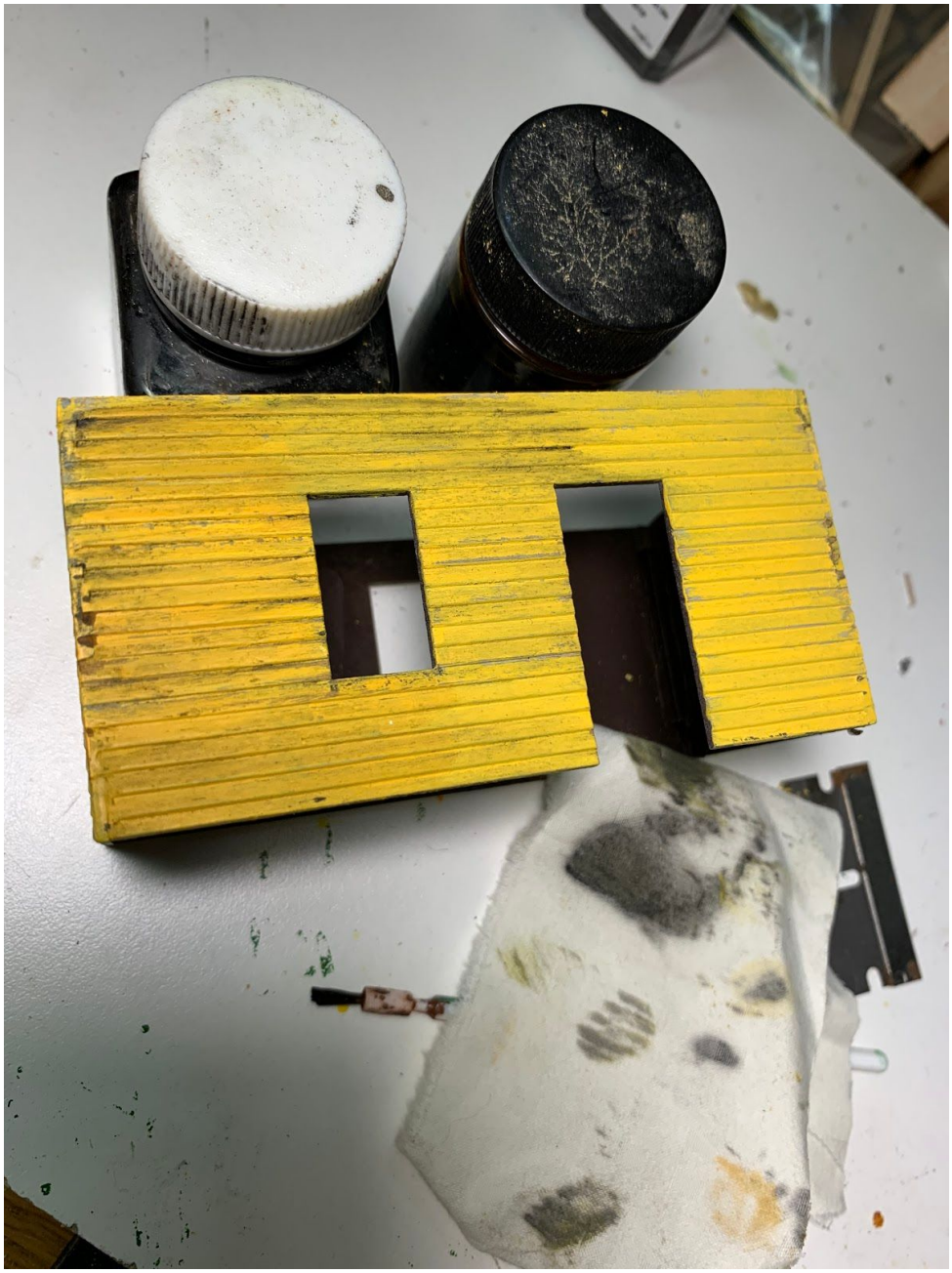


It turned out that I didn't need to paint the wood strips green. I forgot the instructions said some of the strips are for pallets.

Yellow paint is dry, and the edges are smoothed before green wooden L corner trim is applied.



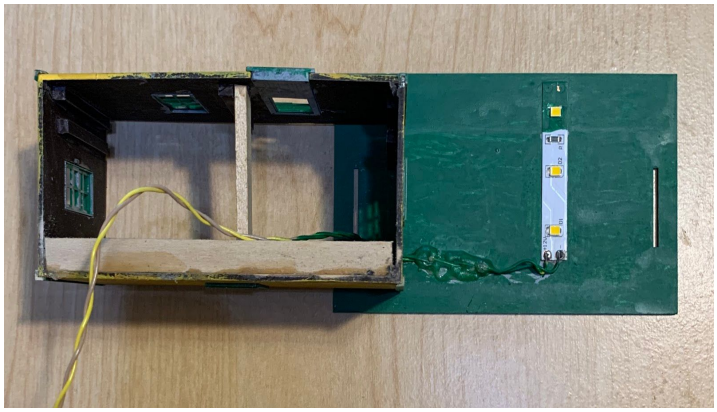
two darkening agents are shown here, one of linseed oil and brown shoe dye and one of alcohol and india ink



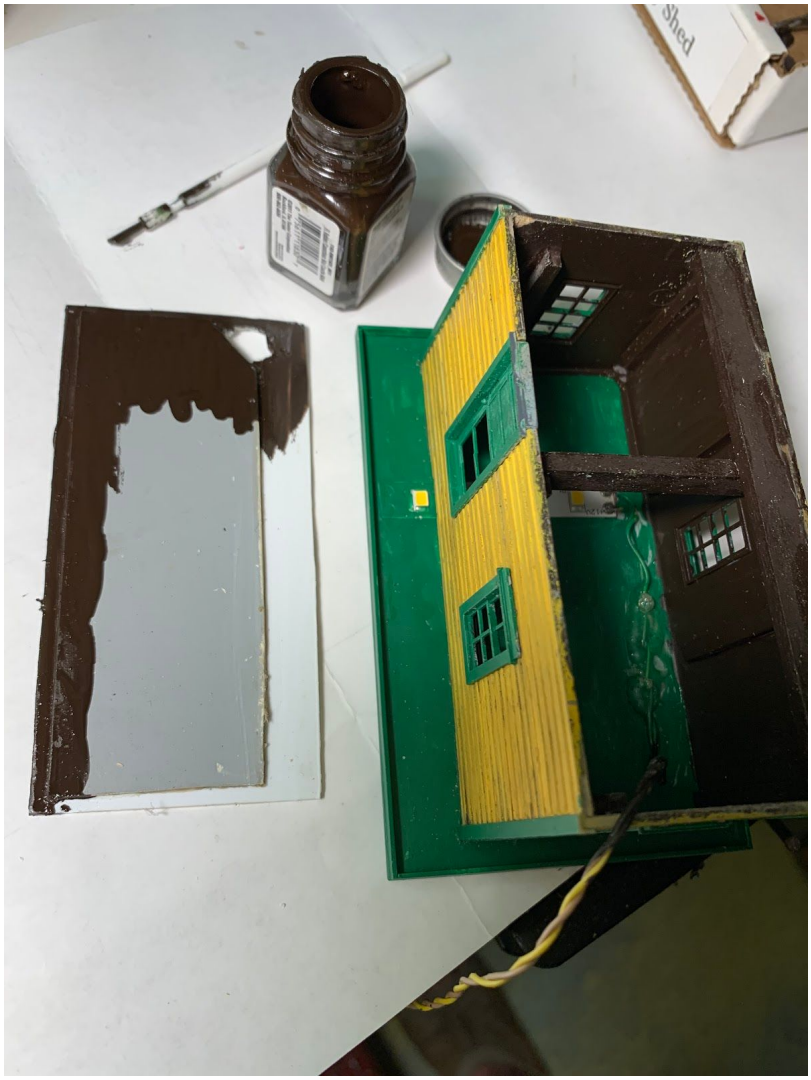
It’s easy to overdo the weathering, but structures like this are more forgiving than model trains. If things get too dark, wipe off ! In this picture, there’s no linseed oil mix to the right of the door .

Windows and corner trim have been added, using super glue.

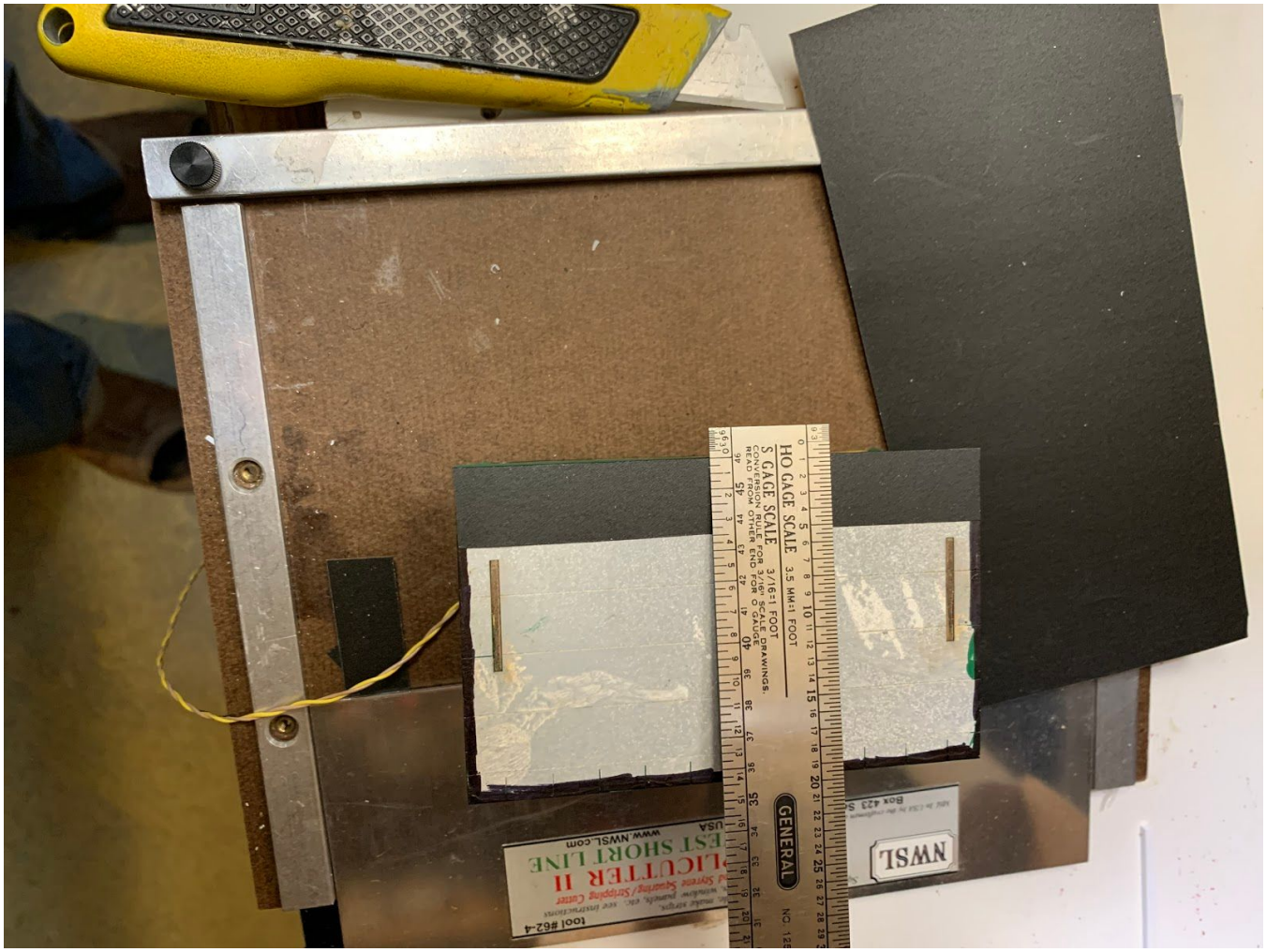
One change I made is to not have the 2x6 rafters with open ends . Instead, I closed the roof edge using Evergreen S scale 2x6's. I've had real world experience replacing rafters that had end rot from weather. The change simplified kit construction.



A three light LED strip is also added to the underside of the roof. One of the lights is underneath exterior overhang. A blob of gorilla glue provides strain relief to the soldered connections. This upside down view also shows wooden reinforcement to the base.



Lighting also necessitates a base that does not leak light. Here, the original card stock floor has been trimmed to make room for the wood reinforcement. A piece of .06” styrene is the full size building floor. There’s a hole in the floor for the wire. It is being painted with Testor’s “rubber”, a warm black, an ideal interior color. Lighting adds over an hour to construction time in this example.



Finally, roll roofing is simulated by cutting three foot strips of 600 grit sandpaper, attached with wood glue. This also took almost an hour, and chalk weathering was added.

Woodland Scenics field grass

Lichen, ground foam, and Woodland Scenics field grass give the diminutive shed a “settled in” look.
The shed also hides a module seam .