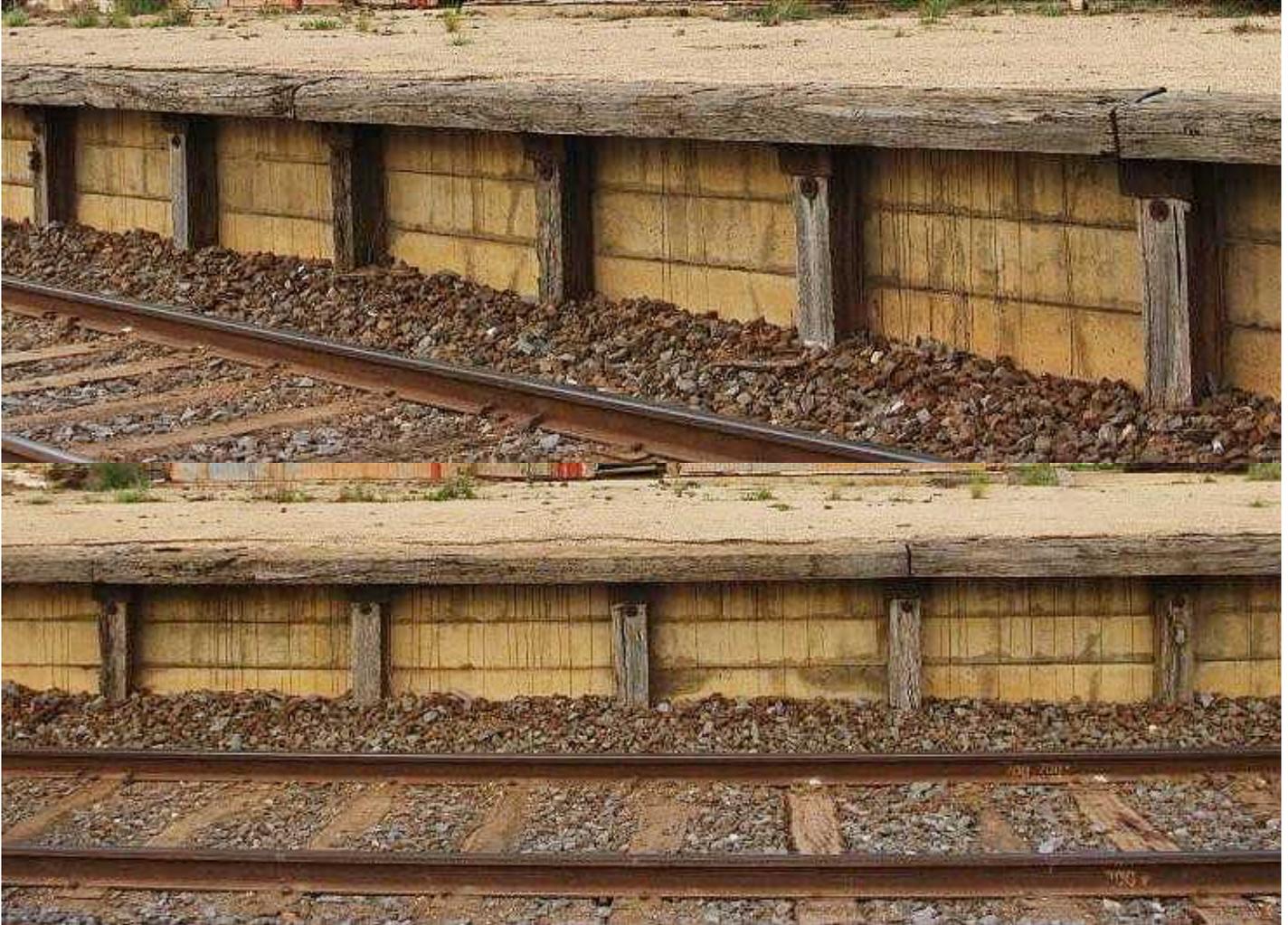




## **SD010: Victorian Railways Country Station Platform.**

Thank you for purchasing this kit and I hope you get many hours of enjoyment from it. Chris Pearce (Spirit Design)



A typical country station platform, this example being Irymple 50 years on from when it was built. Note the gravel decking and weather-beaten concrete retaining wall, which is typical of the era. Photos courtesy of Scott Gould.

**Basic history notes:** This kit is based on plan F353E June 1953, which is a typical country platform using timber uprights and precast concrete as the retaining wall. This platform style is still in use 50 years on around the Victorian Railways system and would suit anyone modelling the modern era as well. Most were earthen filled from behind the station and this is left up to the modeller to decide upon whether another backing piece is needed or a gentle modelled slope blending into the surrounding scenery.

**Equipment & Materials:** Exacto knife (blade no 16 or similar), 800-grit aluminium oxide sandpaper, small flat needle file. Fast-drying wood glue like 'Selleys Exterior PVA' suitable paints, Copic artist's markers pens and weathering powders (all recommended: usual disclaimers).

**General Kit Instructions:** There are a few steps that require close attention and they are highlighted in ***bold and italics!*** Parts referred to in the text are marked (P1), (P2) etc. Refer to the photos, which illustrate well the correct positioning of all parts. Please read the instructions first to become familiar with the assembly procedures. Always test fit items before applying any glue.

### **The Kit.**

The kit comes with one 250ft scale length of the platform facing and two side wing walls. 5 large combs and 2 smaller combs shaped laser cut items form the platform top edge and timber uprights. Finally, the platform's top edge is built up with 5 laser-cut coping pieces. The MDF platform facing may be curved provided the unit is held in place whilst the glue dries and then the 3-dimensional front pieces can be added after drying, otherwise if building a straight platform, all assembly can be completed on your modelling bench. As the kit consists of only 3 basic parts, the main facing and two side wings, assembly is straightforward.

**Note that the kit is designed to sit on the same height as the cork underlay of your track work. This is easily achieved by building the platform on a spare piece of cork underlay or assembling the entire unit on a 3mm MDF sub base. Your ballasting will usually cover the 1<sup>st</sup> and occasionally the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of the precast platform face MDF piece.**

**Painting:** You can either paint the platform retaining wall before assembly or after, it's up to the builder. The 3-dimensional wooden laser cut pieces can be stained with Copic artist's pens after assembly if preferred.

### **Assembly:**

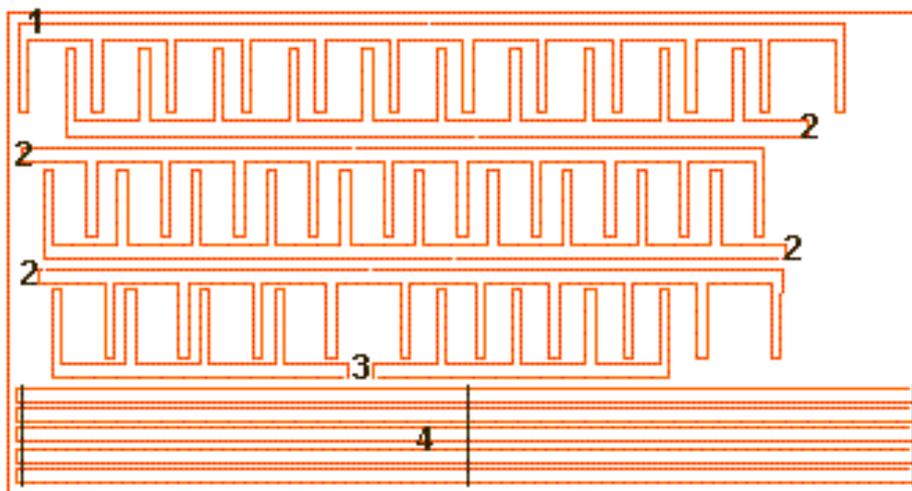
1. Lay the MDF platform facing face up (scribed lines facing you) on a smooth surface with the smoke-stained edge to the top. This will be hidden during the following steps.
2. Remove **(P1)** (*comb-shaped*) from the etch and apply glue sparingly to the back using a toothpick. The top of the comb shape covers the smoke-stained edge with the legs lined up with the vertical scribed lines on the platform facing. Work quickly so that the glue does not set and place it on the MDF platform with its left-hand edge aligned with the left-hand edge of the platform facing. Each section of the comb is small enough to allow the builder time to glue the back and place it on the platform.
3. The first **(P2)** butts up against the right-hand edge of **(P1)**.
4. Glue the other **(P2)** progressively up against the previous **(P2)** along the entire platform length.
5. Glue **(P4's)** along the top edge of the combs of **(P1&2's)**, ie the edge facing the track. The score lines represent the break in timbers on the platform facing and should sit centrally above a leg. See the photo below.
6. Glue the smaller MDF platform retaining walls behind the main platform face. The spacing of the sidewall vertical lines should match the spacing on the main wall. **The smaller walls should be glued behind the platform, not to the outside edges.** The smaller combs **(P3)** are trimmed and glued to the wing walls as per the front.

Section of the completed platform before staining the timbers (combs and coping) with a Copic Artist pen.



Glue the completed unit to your baseboard after testing to ensure that your locos pass by smoothly without snagging the edges. Then fill behind the platform facing with foam or similar materials and cover the top with a thin layer of plaster. Glue and sift your desired platform screenings similar to the prototype above to complete the scene.

Spirit Design also makes a companion station kit SD008 that would look superb on this platform.



Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me.

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