



SD008: Victorian Railways 20ft Portable Station.

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



Typical VR 20ft portable station at Culgoa. It appears to be painted in the Mocha style. Note the extra detail around the portable and that the platform is both cement and wooden varieties. Photo courtesy of Neville Gee Collection.

Basic history notes: This kit is based on plan 509/47 and the original VR portable that has its origins from 1919. They were a prefab kit that was deposited on-site and assembled with the minimum of fuss. When a line didn't warrant a grand structure the VR portable with veranda served the station for many years and many were subsequently removed to other lines when the original station closed. Quite often 2 units would be joined or with a separation space between them to form a larger station complex without going to the expense of a bigger building. Other 20ft portables were attached to their smaller brother versions known as temporary accommodation units that were 10ft x 12ft wide. Surviving examples around the countryside have outlived their bigger and more expensive brothers whilst others have found homes as sheds on farms.

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', 'Selleys Kwik Grip' water-based (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. ***The front of the station building is the door side and this faces the track and is referred to as the "the front" in the instructions below.*** Please read through the instructions first to become familiar with the assembly procedures. Always test fit items before applying any glue and when filing it's always best to file from the face (scribed) to the rear plain side in one direction, ie. lift the file away from the etch and repeat. Don't do normal filing action of back and forth or you will ruin the face. **Variations:** There are several ways you can complete this kit to form different variations on a theme. With or with chimney, stumps for above ground erection and 2 or 3 post verandas. All of which are available to the builder. It is suggested you use your favourite prototype photo to help in the placement of other items like water tanks and toilets that were at some locations.

The Laser Etch:

1. Cut the end wall free (P3) and lay it flat on the table.
2. Remove a window (P6) and file the little notch that was holding it into the etch taking care not to splinter the frame. There are two types of windows. One with more bars (ticket bay) and the second has only a normal frame. There are 2 normal and 1 ticket bay windows. You will only need two and the choice is yours.
3. ***Gently!*** press the chosen window half its width (0.4mm) into the window opening and then run a small bead of glue around behind it. ***Note it will be a tight fit.***
4. Repeat the window process for the side wall (P5).

5. Glue the door (P7) behind (P5) making sure that the scribed lines in the door are vertical in relation to the surrounding frame.
6. Glue an end wall (P2 or 3) to the smaller side of (P1). Make sure that the wall stays vertical and at 90 degrees to the floor (P1). Depending on which end wall you used this will either put your end wall window on the left or right of the station door opening when viewed from the platform side. **See photo 2.**
7. Glue the front wall assembly (P5) to (P1). There is a small cut out in (P1) which allows the door to sit neatly into it. Again make sure that the walls are vertical. The front wall has a small overhang (0.8mm) at each end, which covers the edges of the side walls. **See photo 3.**
8. Glue the remaining end wall into place. **See photo 4.**
9. Glue the remaining side (**make sure the side matches the orientation of the other side in respect to the small board versus the large board that goes towards the bottom of the building**) and once dry clean up any timber overhang on the sides. **See photo 5.**
10. Chamfer a smallish amount along the underside of (P8) ridge cap end and then glue it to the station. Use (P9) as a guide to getting the apex sections lined up. There will be a slight overhang (**make sure that it is even on both sides**) at each end.
11. Chamfer (P9) as per the previous step. Take care and bend the non-ridge cap side (smaller corrugated piece) to match the angle similar to (P11 & 12) and then glue to the other roofline section.
12. Glue (P11) to the side of the roof sheets and line up the apex points. **Don't however spread glue onto the lower section of the veranda section end as this is glued later at 14. after the main roof sections are dry.**
13. Repeat the same for (P12). **See photo 6.**
14. Apply a bit of glue to the insides of the veranda that butts up against the bargeboards (P11&P12) and set at this angle.
15. If placing a chimney (P10) on your model, gently cut away the portion of the roof on the end wall that doesn't have a window. **If you are using stumps in your base, allow the extra depth before gluing the chimney to the end wall.**
16. Glue the supplied ridge cap rod along the apex of the roof halves.
17. There is a choice of 2 types of veranda posts (P13 & P14). They can be positioned either in the area between the bargeboard ends and the veranda roof edge or under the veranda corrugated iron. If placed under the corrugated iron, trim the bargeboards to the same length as the corrugated iron.
18. If your model is to be mounted on stumps trim the supplied timber piece into 6mm lengths and glue these into each of the stump holes in the base allowing at least 2-2.5mm to protrude below. **See photo 7.**



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

Painting general: The completed kit should be *lightly coated* with a primer and then given a coat or two of your chosen era and then weathered to taste. See the table below for basic colourings. Although some colour schemes are listed for certain eras it usually took up to 10 years for some stations to receive their later correct colour schemes. Use your photographic reference library or Train Hobby books for more information.

Pre 1960

Wall plinths, angle stops, architraves, barges, gutters, door framing, veranda posts
Weatherboards, window sashes, facias door panels

Dark Brown – Floquil RR70 Roof Brown - Humbrol approx colours M29 or M186
Light Stone – Floquil RR 87 Depot Buff - Humbrol G7* (Matt coat afterwards)

Post-1960 Style 1

Architrave, sashes
Walls, fascias, barges, gutters, veranda posts
Doors

White
Suntan – Floquil 23 Flesh - Humbrol M61 + white
Grey/Green – Floquil RR 41 Light Green & Floquil RR 9
Primer – Humbrol M90*

Post-1960 Style 2

Architraves, veranda posts, corner posts

Grey/Green – Floquil RR 41 Light Green & Floquil RR 9
Primer– Humbrol M90*

Walls

Cream – Floquil RR Antique White Humbrol G41 (Matt coat afterwards)

Walls version 2

Mocha - Humbrol M119 (60%) + White (40%)** alternative M121 Pale Stone

Fascias, barges, sashes
Doors and Roof

White
Terracotta Revell M85 or Humbrol M100 or approx M73

Post-1960 Style 3

Architraves, fascias, sashes, veranda posts
Walls

White
Grey/Green – Floquil RR 41 Light Green & Floquil RR 9
Primer– Humbrol M90*
Terracotta Revell M85 or Humbrol M100

Doors and Roof

**Matches close to the actual paint sample taken from a building many years ago*

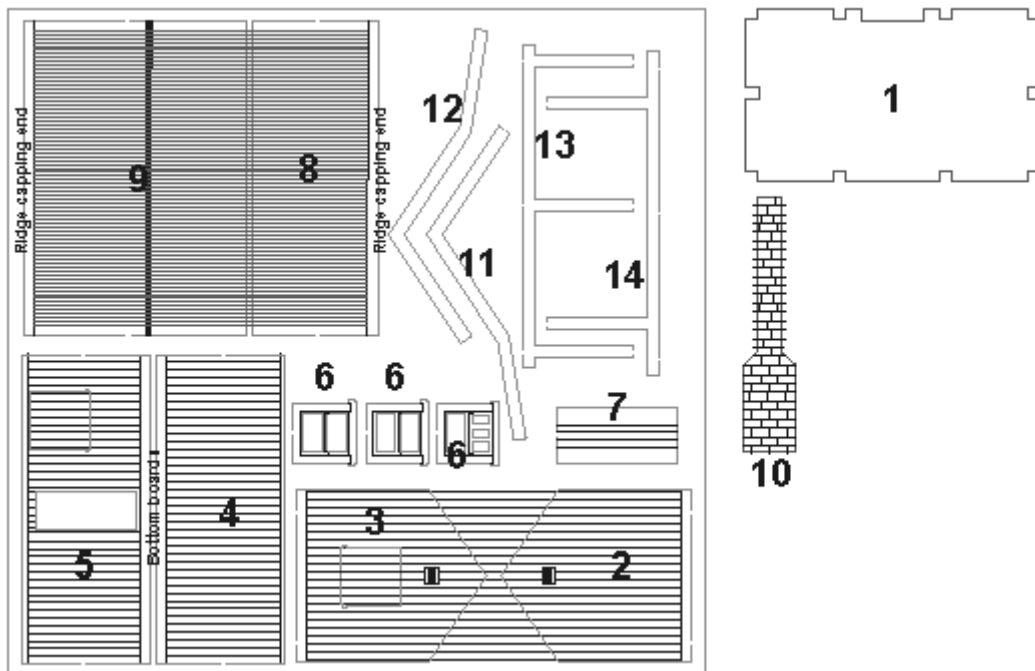
***Matches the paint sample taken from the building many years ago*



Stony Creek's 20ft VR portable shows a 1960s paint scheme and the usual Railway timetables hanging on the wall outside. Photo courtesy of Neville Gee Collection.



Another example, this time at Fernbank featuring the post-1960 style pale green scheme and the 2-legged canopy version. Note the staff boxes on the wall and various poster boards. Photo courtesy of Neville Gee Collection.



Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me.

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