

SD012: Victorian Railways 20ft and 12ft Portables.

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



Left: Typical VR 20ft portable still being used by Puffing Billy. **Right:** After many years of faithful service on the VR, a 12ft portable has been bought by a local farmer and is being used as a small sleep out. Photos Chris Pearce

Basic history notes: These kits are based on plans of the original VR portable that has its origins from 1919 and various updates in 1947 and 1972. They were a prefabricated kit that was deposited on-site and assembled with the minimum of fuss. They were based on the successful VR 20ft Portable station and are the same units minus a few features. The portables both the 20ft and 12ft were used for temporary accommodation statewide to meet housing and crew accommodation shortages and sometimes became permanent fixtures at stations, yards and within the grounds of VR Department Residences. They could be found sitting on timber skids or with stumps depending on the climate and White Ant infestations in the area. 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 MDF PVA's, 'Selleys Kwik Grip' water-based (all recommended: usual disclaimers).

General Kit Instructions: There are a few steps that require close attention and these 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 and when filing it's always best to file from the face (scribed) to the rear plain side in one direction, i.e. lift the file away from the etch and repeat. Do not do normal filing action of back and forth or you will ruin the face. If you are not using Kristal Klear for your windows you will need to attach your windows internally before attaching the roof.

Variations: There are several ways you can complete this kit to form different variations on a theme. With or without a chimney, stumps for above ground erection all of which are available to the builder. It is suggested you use your favourite prototype photo to help in placing other items like water tanks and toilets that were at some locations.

20ft Portable:

1. Cut the end wall free **(P3)** and lay it flat on the table.
2. Cut a window **(P6)** and file the little notch that was holding it onto the etch taking care not to splinter the frame.
3. ***Gently!*** Press the 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. Cut **(P5)** and repeat the window process **(P6)**.
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 the end wall **(P2)** to the smaller side of **(P1)**. Make sure that the wall stays vertical and at 90 degrees to the floor **(P1)**. Depending on where you placed the end wall this will either put your end wall window on the left or right of the station door opening when viewed from the front.
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 with each other. The front wall has a small overhang (0.8mm) at each end, which covers the edges of the sidewalls. **See photo 3.**
8. Glue the remaining end wall into place. **See photo 4.**

9. Glue the remaining side (P4) in place *(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.** The etch diagram shows which part of the wall is classed as the bottom.
10. File a bevel along the underside of (P8) ridge cap end and then glue it to the station. Use the other (P8) 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 wall. **Note Ridge cap end is at the apex of the model roof.**
11. File (P8) as per previous step and glue in place on the roof taking care to match the overhangs and that the Apex is in alignment.
12. Glue (P9) bargeboards to each side of the roof sheets and line up the apex points. **See photo 6.**
13. If placing a chimney (P10) on your model, gently cut away the portion of the roof on the end wall that does not have a window. ***If you are using stumps in your base, allow the extra depth before gluing the chimney to the end wall.***
14. Glue the supplied ridge cap rod along the apex of the roof halves.
15. 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



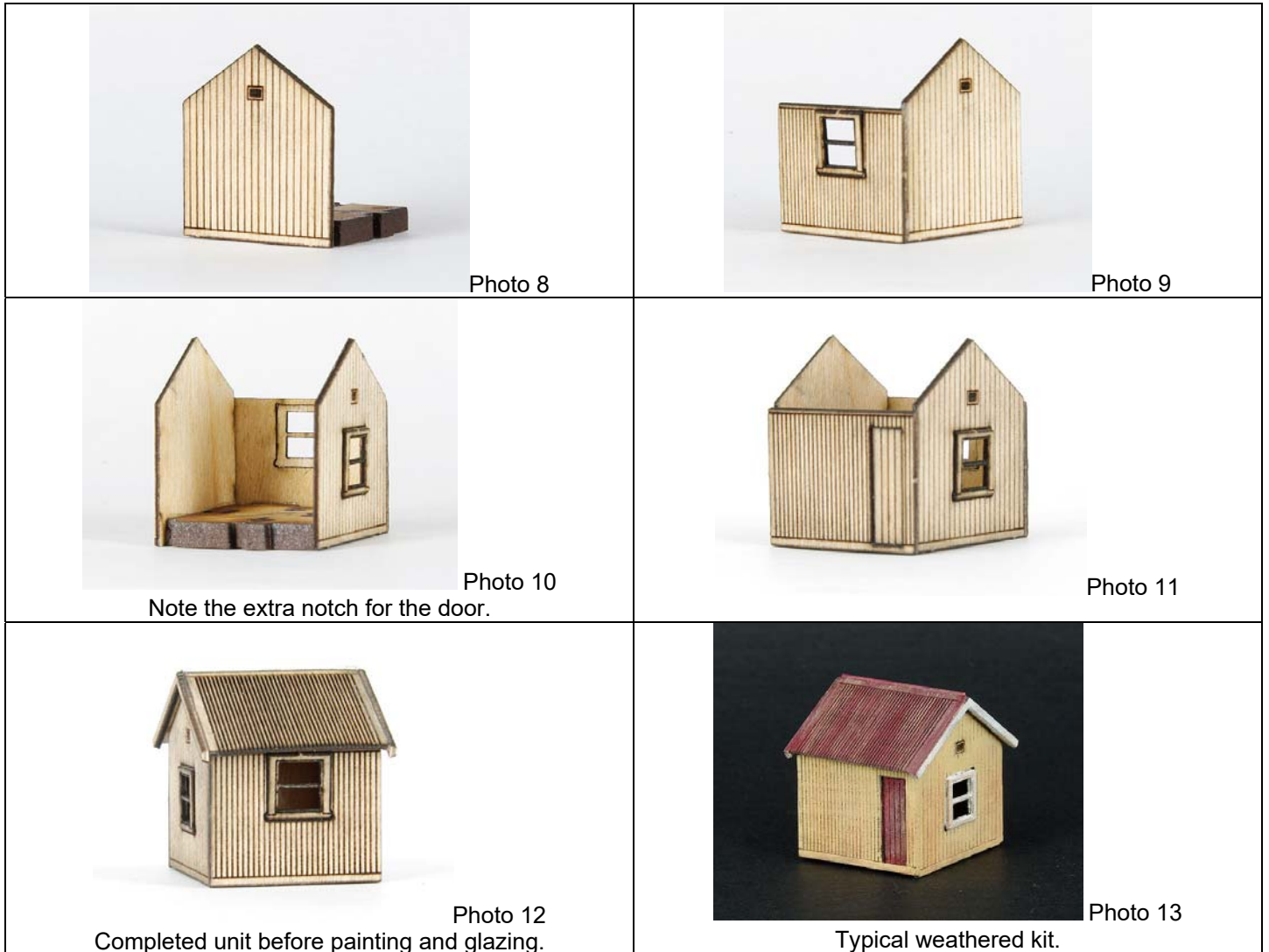
Can be positioned with or without stumps in your scenery
Weathered unit with stumps fitted.

Photo 7

12ft Portable:

16. Cut the end wall free (P11) and lay it flat on the table.
17. Cut a window (P6) and file the little notch that was holding it onto the etch taking care not to splinter the frame.
18. ***Gently!*** Press the 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.***
19. Cut (P12) free and repeat the window process (P6).
20. Glue the door (P13) behind (P14) making sure that the scribed lines in the door are vertical in relation to the surrounding frame.
21. Glue end wall (P11) to the base (P16) on either side marked 1 or 3. Make sure that the wall stays vertical and at 90 degrees to the floor (P16). **See Photo 8.**
22. Glue the front wall assembly (P12) to the base (P16). **See Photo 9.**
23. Glue the remaining end wall (P15) into place, side 1 or 3 marked on the base. **See photo 10.**
24. Glue the remaining side (P12). There is a small cut out in (P16) which allows the door to sit neatly into it. Again, make sure that the walls are vertical. **See photo 11.**
25. File a bevel along the underside of (P17) ridge cap end and then glue it to the station. Use the other (P17) 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.

26. File (P17) as per previous step and glue in place on the roof paying care to match the overhangs and that the apex is in alignment.
27. Glue (P18) bargeboards to each side of the roof sheets and line up the apex points. **See photo 12.**
28. Glue the supplied ridge cap rod along the apex of the roof halves.
29. 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.



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, fascias 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

Walls

Grey/Green – Floquil RR 41 Light Green & Floquil RR 9 Primer– Humbrol M90*
Cream – Floquil RR Antique White Humbrol G41 (Matt coat afterwards)
Mocha - Humbrol M119 (60%) + White (40%)** alternative M121 Pale Stone
White

Walls version 2

Fascias, barges, sashes

Doors and Roof

Post-1960 Style 3

Architraves, fascias, sashes, veranda posts
Walls

Doors and Roof

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

Terracotta Revell M85 or Humbrol M100 or approx M73

White

Grey/Green – Floquil RR 41 Light Green & Floquil RR 9

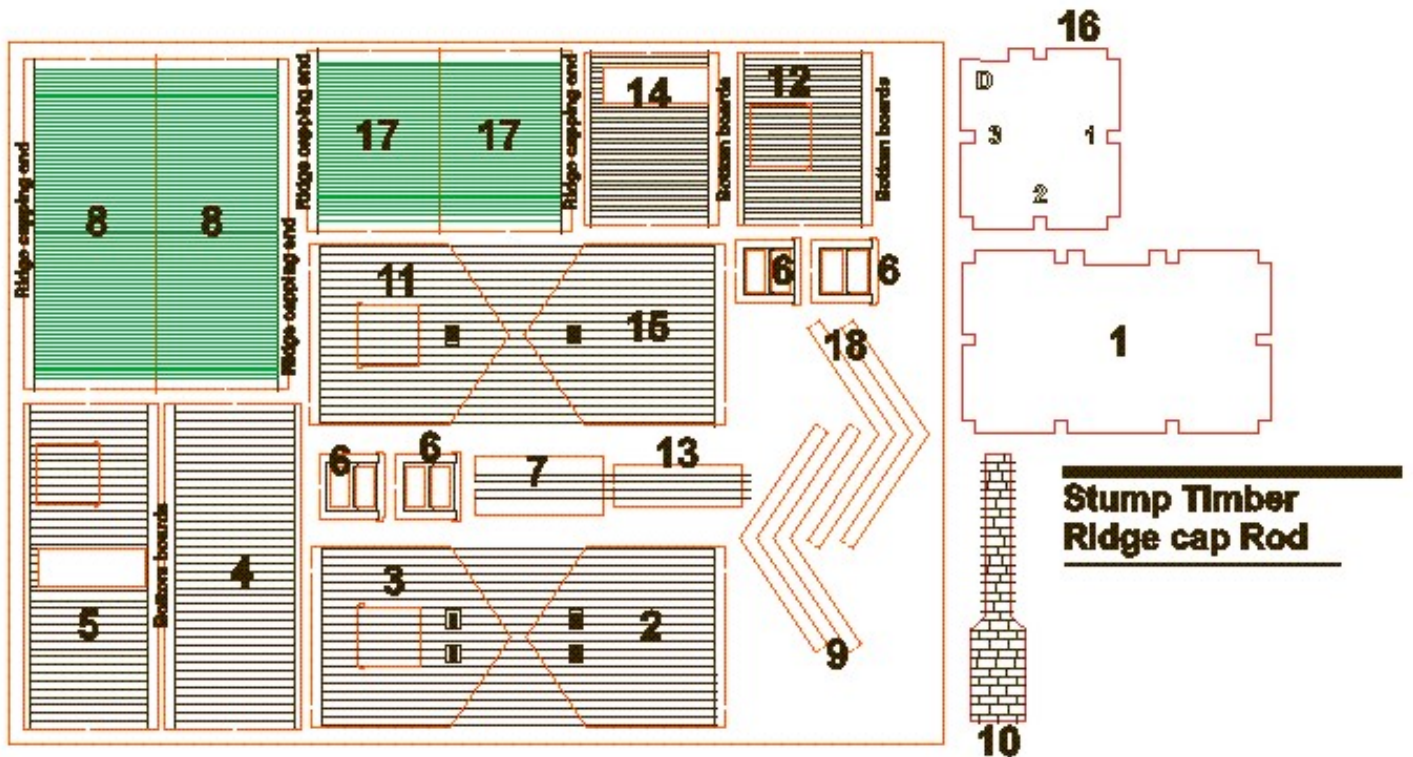
Primer– Humbrol M90*

Terracotta Revell M85 or Humbrol M100

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



Two 20ft Victorian Railways Portables ready for the rural workers. VR Photo



Any alterations, suggestions or queries please contact me.

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