



Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club Inc.

CHATTERBOX

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DISPLAY CASE

Photos and commentary by Mike Barton

This Special Issue is out of the ordinary, we are not profiling a specific model shipbuilding effort by one of our members, rather, Mike has written this article detailing with precision the various steps he takes in making his display cases.

Display cases are usually made the same way, whether for model ships, model trains or aircraft, or indeed anything else the modeller wishes to display.

We would all agree that display cases are a must for your models in your home as they not only keep the dust out but also protect the models from little prying hands.

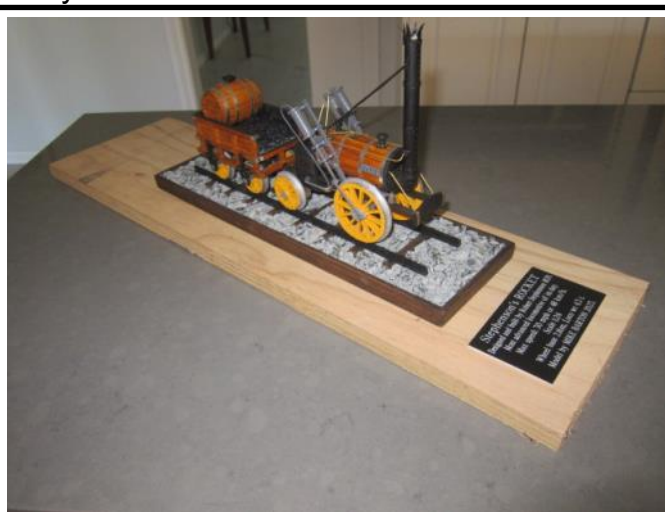
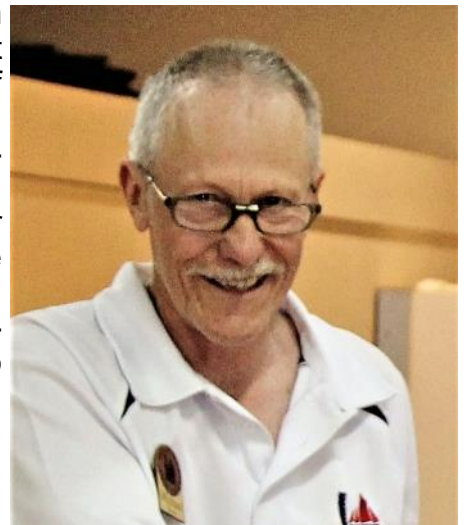
From my limited experience, I can see two methods of construction.

Either:

- totally finish the base and order the acrylic case to fit it, or
- using the model as a guide, determine the dimensions of the acrylic case and once you have it, construct the base to fit the case.

I have always used the second method and found it successful.

I always use wood working power tools (table saw, band saw, drop saw and thicknesser) when producing the base however for this base I have only used hand tools that can be accessed by everyone.



1. An offcut of ply I had which will do the job.



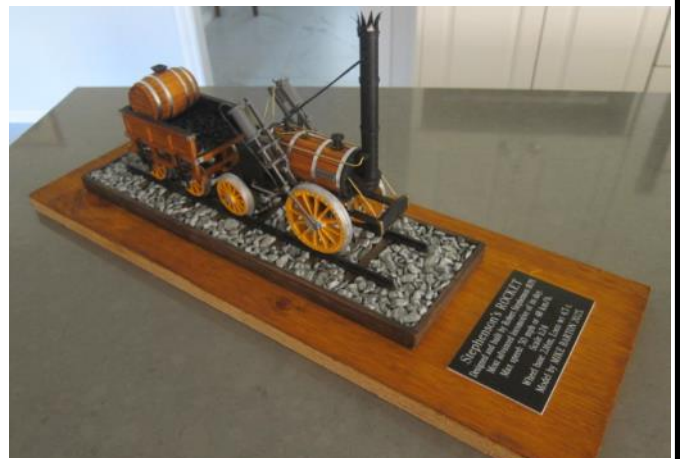
2. Completed model. Track, sleepers and ballast are glued into tray. The model is wired and glued onto the track.

cont. p. 2

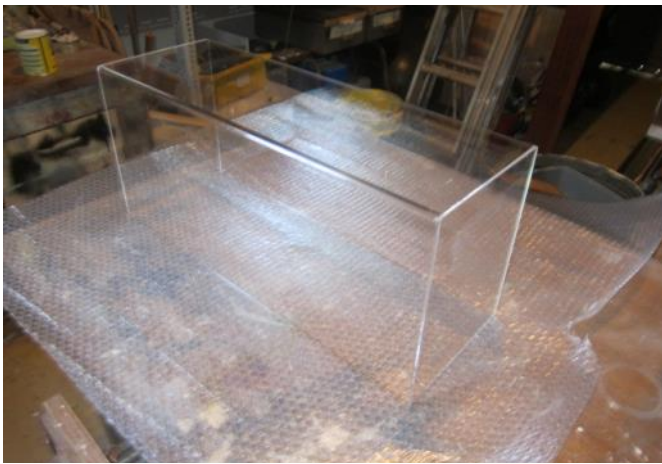
cont. from p. 1



3. Ply base is cut slightly oversize and stained.



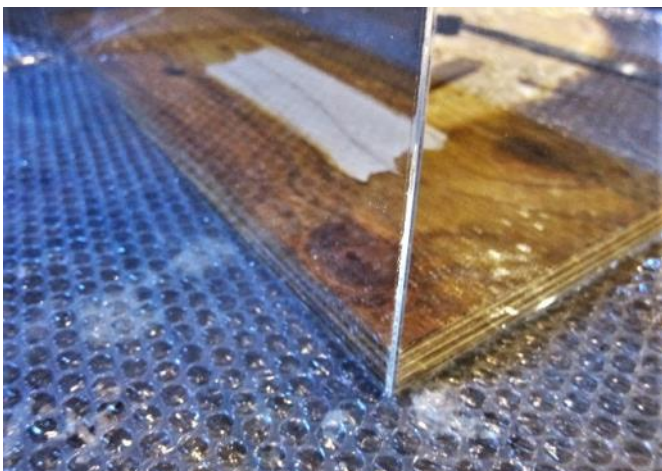
4. The model sitting on the base with plaque. Nothing is glued yet. This was done to determine the exact internal dimensions of the case.



5. The case was ordered, and manufactured by CITY WEST PLASTICS, (Rydalmere). This case is relatively small, and 3mm thick acrylic was used.



6. The case has been placed on base, and ply to be removed has been marked.



7. The excess timber was sawn off, then the edges planed. The case is sitting over the base which is approx 0.5mm shorter and narrower than case. .



8. The mitre saw I use to cut the mitred joints for the timber below the ply base. These pieces produce a small ledge onto which the case will sit.

cont. p. 3

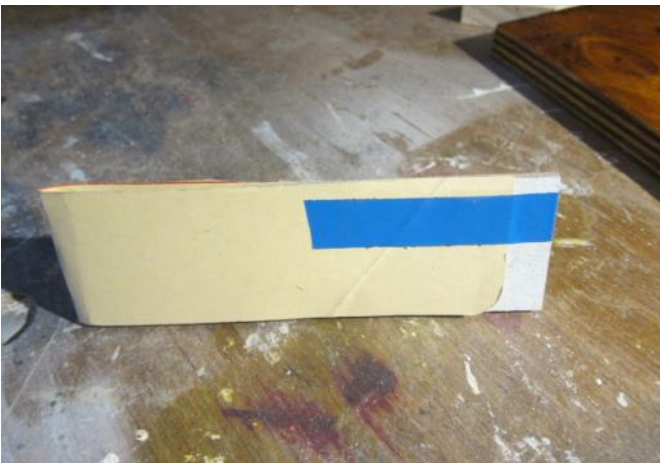
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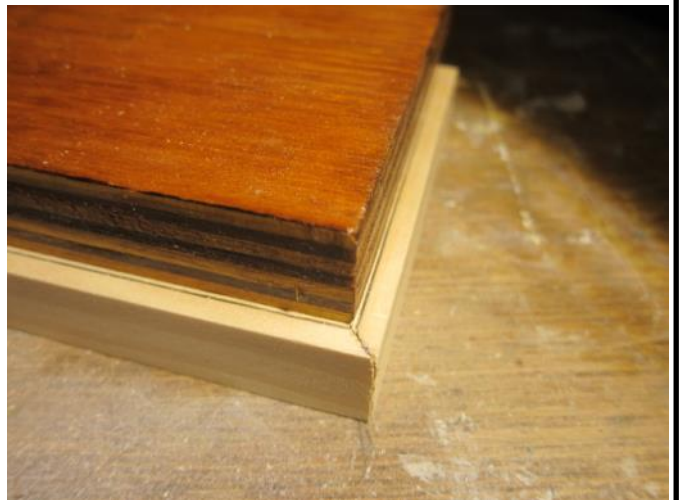
9. Mitres are cut. The lengths have been cut in two so I can adjust each mitre joint individually. There will be a small gap along the length of these pieces but it will not be seen.



10. Lines are marked on these timbers to show the position of the ply base. As the acrylic is 3mm thick, I mark the lines 4mm in to allow for a small gap between the acrylic and cover strips.



11. This jig is a piece of ply with card wrapped around it to give a thickness of 4mm. It is used as a guide to check the overlap when gluing the timber to the ply.



12. The timber in position under the ply..



13. The first piece of timber is glue to the base. I only glue one piece at a time. Clamping is done by steel weights.



14. The jig is used to check the overlap from the timber to the ply edge. The work now sits on a towel to level out the workbench surface.

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cont. from p. 3



15. All timber pieces glued to base.



16. Another view showing the ledge produced by the timber.



17. These timbers are now screwed in position



18. The case in position. Hopefully the ledge should not protrude past the case sides by more than 1mm. If the timber protrudes too far beyond the case, it can be planed back. If the timber does not protrude enough, it can be packed out with thin planking.



19. The four cover strips have been cut to length and mitred. Much care is required when producing these pieces. The job now rests on newspaper before gluing.



20. A view showing the mitre clamp and two clamps. There are many other styles of mitre clamps.

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cont. from p. 4



21. Another view of base with the clamps.



22. The clamping is removed and the cover strips have been sanded ready for staining.



23. The cover strips have been stained.



24. Tape is used to identify the location of the plaque and model. They are then fixed to the base.



25. Plaque and model glued to base.



26. Displayed model finished.