

## [N-Circle Railroad Update 19 – November 9, 2024](#)

Having completed the twenty-one vehicles in last month's N-Circle Update 18, the weather was still warm enough to work in the garage before putting away the paints, so I queued up another fifteen vehicles to complete!

### **More Simple 3-D Vehicles**

I had recently purchased a set of multiple copies of 1960s – 1970s period Chevrolet Camaros and Corvettes from "Custom 3-D Print" on eBay, so I decided to try finishing one of each. Also more vehicles from "igmakes," introduced in N-Circle Update 18. I have two of their 1961 Ford Falcon Ranchero, so like the Chevrolets, I will finish one here as a test case. Finally, two igmakes mail trucks that will be needed when the N-Circle Railroad is converted to 1980s operations. With some web research, I determined that the Postal Service introduced these trucks in 1986, so they work for 1980s operations.

First, the "Before" photo...plain grey resin models...

[N-Circle\\_24-10-25\\_3-D\\_Vehicles\\_Before\\_1\\_Cropped](#)



I also finished a simple metal flatbed trailer of unknown origin – it required no assembly and was easy to paint, so I decided to do it while having all the paints out. I didn't add the hitch post like discussed for the trailers in Update 18, because it has a very narrow tongue.

I kept it simple with the Camaros and Corvette – didn't attempt to add striping as with some earlier sports cars in Update 17. Striping requires a very good technique and steady hand...

[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_3-D\\_Chevrolets\\_After\\_1\\_Cropped](#)



[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_3-D\\_Chevrolets\\_After\\_2\\_Cropped](#)



The USPS logo decal that came with the mail truck kits was introduced by the Postal Service in 1993, but fortunately I already had copies of the previous logo from the 1980s on a set of postal decals from Dave's Decals. I did attempt a hood stripe on the red Ford Ranchero...!

[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_igmakes\\_Vehicles\\_After\\_1\\_Cropped](#)



[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_igmakes\\_Vehicles\\_After\\_2\\_Cropped](#)



And a close-up of the mail trucks with period correct decaling. All of the mirrors on these trucks are nicely done in the 3-D printing and add to the feel of the prototype.

[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_igmakes\\_MailTrucks\\_After\\_1\\_Cropped](#)



### Three metal vehicles kits

In a further effort to clear out the vehicle kits drawer, I tackled three pewter metal kits: a 1980s Chevrolet Suburban and 1987 Ford F-150 pickup from GHQ and a 1966 Ford Galaxie from C in C Minatures. These were easy builds compared to the trucks from GHQ and C in C described in N-Circle Update 14, you just have to attach the wheels.

I painted the parts separately and use Micro-Scale Kristal Klear in the windows before final assembly.

The GHQ kits are nice for attaching wheels – pegs on the back of the wheels align to slots in the body. However, it is not as easy as it looks, you have to be careful to hold the wheel aligned in place until the glue sets, as the small connection surface may not hold it otherwise.

There are no directions with the C in C Ford Galaxie kit, so you don't know that you want to attach the wheels to the frame before gluing the frame into the body, otherwise it is very difficult to get the wheels into the wheel wells and onto the mounting pegs. I glued the two halves together first, but fortunately the frame was not solidly glued to the body, so I was able to pop it back out and start over!

These models came out looking sharp. While not obvious in these photos, the details are more crisp than on plastic resin models.

[N-Circle\\_24-11-07\\_PewterKits\\_4\\_Cropped](#)



[N-Circle\\_24-11-07\\_PewterKits\\_3\\_Cropped](#)



## Upgrading Low Quality “Ready-to-Run” Models

Back in 1995 I purchased four low-quality “Ready-to-Run” Corvettes made by I.M.U. I determined from images in Google on the web that the body style was from 1958-1962 and the door panels were usually white and the interiors black or red.

I had added Micro-Scale Krystal Klear to the open windshields a while ago, but had done nothing else, as seen here.

[N-Circle\\_24-10-25\\_IMU\\_Corvettes\\_Before\\_1\\_Cropped](#)



After staring at them for a bit, I asked “Who buys a beige or grey Corvette?! Color upgrades were needed, in addition to detail chrome and lights.

While the detail painting is not perfect on close examination, they now look a lot more interesting and prototypical than they did as manufactured and are respectable cars for use on the layout! While not obvious in these cell phone photos taken with different lighting, I left the two green ones in their original body colors, though their positions on the right are swapped in the two photos.

[N-Circle\\_24-10-31\\_IMU\\_Corvettes\\_After\\_3\\_Cropped](#)





### **Authentic Minatures Dump Truck**

I purchased three Authentic Minatures 1980s Mack R dump trucks a few years ago, thinking that I might use the cabs for St. Johnsbury Trucking semi-tractors. But having found better tractors for that purpose since then, I decided to finish one as a dump truck, like the Camaro kits discussed above, to evaluate the kits. These are resin mold kits with reasonable detail, though with a lot of small pockmarks along the edges.

The priming, painting and final assembly of this kit followed the same process as for previously described kits. There were no instructions with this kit, but fortunately I test fitted the parts before applying glue and found that I had to add shims between the dump body and chassis for the overhang of the dump body to clear the top of the cab roof.

In the final finishing I used Micro-Scale Kristal Klear in the window openings of the cab, which helps disguise that there is no interior detail.

The final product is rough in appearance, definitely not magazine cover quality, but will work blended into a scene.

N-Circle\_24-11-09\_AuthenticMinatures\_MackDumpTruck\_1\_Cropped



N-Circle\_24-11-09\_AuthenticMinatures\_MackDumpTruck\_2\_Cropped



This Authentic Minatures truck reminds me a lot of similar trucks from Burt Industries, like the fire tanker truck in Update 14 – similar chunky style molding...

It took just under fourteen hours to complete fifteen vehicle kits, so just under one hour per kit on average. Again, much faster doing them together than prepping all of the paints for each set individually. Every time I opened and stirred a bottle of paint, I used it on multiple vehicles.