

[N-Circle Railroad Update 35 – May 6, 2026](#)

Building 3-D Printed Plastic Structures for a Large Park Scene

The last major scene to be developed on the N-Circle Railroad layout is the park scene on the east side. In Update 10 we built the mini-golf course and in Update 13 the restrooms; they have been in place for a while. In Update 26 they were moved further east to make room for the new structures on Church Street. In this update I will build multiple structures for future use in two areas in the park: a campground and a public area with a pavilion, food stands, a playground and other activities.

Detailing a Terrain 3D 3-D Printed Log Cabin and Pup Tents

I started the project by finishing a log cabin and two pup tents from Terrain 3D for use in the camping area. These 3-D printed structures of course required no assembly, so I will not discuss a lot of detail here.

I started with a coat of Vallejo grey primer paint. The 3-D printing on this structure had ridges like early 3-D printed models, but the painting made this less pronounced and the logs should look rough. I applied two coats of a dark brown to solidly cover the grey, then dry-brushed lighter earth brown highlights on the logs. I used a lighter mud color for the ends of the logs.

I intended to add a lighter color mortar between the logs but found that even the tip of a metal sewing pin produced too wide a bead of paint, so I gave up on that.

The final painting step was to do the barrels and boxes around the base with accent colors. By the time I was done with all the painting of details, I realized this structure wasn't much easier to paint than all the trim on the Post Office in N-Circle Update 33!

I made a custom 3 x 15 mm decal for the "Park Ranger" sign on the front, using the process described in Update 16 and mounted it on a rectangle of thin styrene with its edges painted brown to create a solid sign to glue to the face of the logs.

I added weathering chalks to the roof and after everything was dry, applied a coat of spray Testor's Dullcote over all surfaces.

I added clear plastic glaze to the inside of the windows last, so the Dullcote would not fog them. And green foliage in the planter box on the side – is the Ranger growing some tomatoes there?

While working on the log cabin, I also applied the dark brown of the cabin on the pup tents as an initial light coat, to show through the second coat of watery grass green color to look like worn khaki canvas. I highlighted around the vents and flaps with a lighter mud color, then did the vent screens with a dark grey to finish them.

The log cabin and pup tents together required about three hours to complete over twelve shared sessions. Much of that time was for the extra detail work and custom signage on the cabin.

Here we see the completed cabin and tents, to be used in the future park micro-scenes.

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[N-Circle_26-05-01_LogCabin_2_Cropped](#)



[N-Circle_26-05-01_LogCabin_3_Cropped](#)



Detailing Home Scale Company 3-D Printed Woodsheds

I recently purchased some small, 3-D printed two-bay woodsheds made by Homestead Scale Company. Their eBay listing was for a set of six, but they generously sent nine! They are small, just 16 mm wide by 9 mm deep by 17 mm high. The original intent was to add a couple to the maple sugar house scene described in N-Circle Update 23 with stacks of firewood inside. But given I now have so many, they can have multiple uses in the developing scenes throughout the layout, including the park scenes, both for firewood and for other storage.

There was no construction required for these simple structures, just an initial application of primer paint, then various colors to the sides for their different uses. I painted the interiors of all nine a light bare wood color, then painted the exterior of one Vermont Green, four Red Brown, two Railroad Tie Brown and left the remaining two with just primer, allowing for future color matching to a particular scene. The model has a ridged roof, so I painted most with a steel silver color and a couple with a dark grey.

I added firewood inside three of the sheds, cut from real tree twigs. using plastic sprue cutters to cut 5 mm long pieces to fit in the depth of the sheds. My notes say I gathered the twigs in 2019; I have no idea what species of tree they came from. They were hollow and brittle, so many pieces split during the cutting. But this made it look like split firewood, so all good! And yes, if you have been following the N-Circle Updates, you have observed I can come up with a “prototypically correct” excuse for nearly everything that doesn’t work as planned during the N-Circle development!

I have learned from unpleasant experiences that snipping small N-scale pieces with sprue cutters invariably sends them flying across the room, often to never be seen again! Therefore, I held them in front of a plastic box cover to act as a back-stop – this worked well. Nearly all of the pieces ended up in the woodsheds and not on the floor!

[N-Circle_26-05-05_Woodsheds](#)

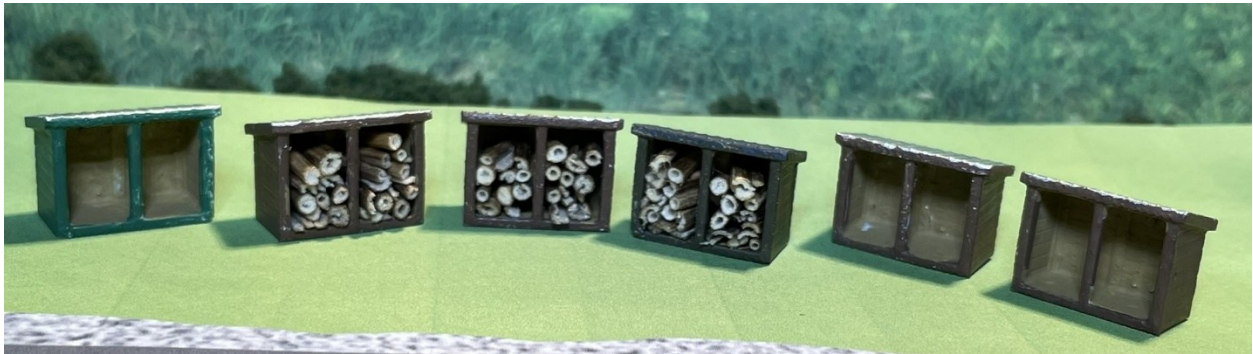


To attach the firewood pieces, I spread a thin layer of white glue on the floor, placed a row, then added a few drops of glue on top of the row, placed another row and so on. After the stacks were dry, I added a couple of drops of scenic cement over each pile, letting it run down into the stack, to hopefully ensure that all of the pieces will stay together over time.

The nine woodsheds required about four hours to complete over eight sessions, due to finishing them with multiple colors on the walls and roofs and adding firewood to three. If all were finished the same, this would have been much quicker.

Six of the painted woodsheds are shown here, including the three with firewood.

[N-Circle_26-05-06_Woodsheds_1_Cropped](#)



And two with firewood placed on the layout next to the maple sugar house from Update 23. With all the fire wood from these two new sheds and in the shed on the back and on the trailer, they should be ready to start boiling next spring!

[N-Circle_26-05-06_Woodsheds_2_Cropped](#)

