

Using the Circus World (Globe) plastic circus wagon kits, sold by many of the Circus Model Builder suppliers, is relatively easy to do and you can make almost any type of circus wagon you desire.

There are two basic wagon lengths offered: 15' long (Lion cage, Lion and Gladiator Tableau and Crusader Tableau), 15' long drop floor (Calliope), and 12' short (Bear Cage).

I usually use the two tab wagons to make other type tab wagons, because of the high sky boards and the double rear doors; just by changing the type of design scroll work. The 12' and 15' cages you can also change the appearance of by using other scroll work or by cutting it into different designs.

There are two different width wheel sets, 9" wide rims and 6" narrow rims, I use the 9" wide wheel sets for longer or heavier loaded wagons, the 6" narrow wheel sets for shorter or lighter weight wagons. You can also use other quarter scale wheels as well.

I usually use the complete chasis for each wagon, along with the front and rear panels; sometimes modified, also the roof or at least the seat section, brake wheel and foot board.

I use cage front and back panels, (backs modified with doors, etc.) for the work wagons. Cut the low animal door frame off and fill the vents on the rear panel, filling the space between the upright posts with a piece of scribed plastic for a new rear wall or doors.

Photo No. 1 - The basic Globe cage wagon body ready for modifications using the evergreen scribed plastic sheet cut to size.

Photo No. 2 - The Globe cage body assembled as a baggage wagon. Note the basic tools required: razor saw, file, tweezers, and x-acto knife.



The front panel I usually use "as is" for the majority of the wagons I build; also using the seat, brake wheel and foot board.

I should note at this time that I use Evergreen Plastic Products, scribed for sides and ends .040 thickness, .080 smooth for the floors, and lumber dimension strips (1" x 4", 2" x 6", etc.) for the support beams and trim.

To extend the length of the wagon, or to shorten it, I cut the three front cross beams off the original floor panel along with the two rear spring beams, then cut a new plastic (.080) floor the desired length and width. Glue the pieces cut from the old floor to the new floor panel in the appropriate locations, then glue the front and rear panels in place. Cut a new roof if needed, using the seat and brake wheel section from the old roof panel.

Cut new sides to length and width and finish to the specifications of the wagon you are building. This is where you would use the dimension strips to support the new sides and give the wagon a realistic appearance.

Kitbashing Globe Plastic Wagons

DATE: None

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

SCANNED & REVISED:
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Circus Model Builders

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DRAWING NUMBER

#0308

Drop floor wagons can be built using the calliope chassis, or you can adapt any chassis by placing a new drop floor below the rear axle and supporting it in the front and rear with a piece of scribed plastic cut to size, making sure to leave enough space for the front wheel assembly to turn with the wheel and hub on the axle. Do this before cutting The side panels for the wagon.

Curved roof wagons can be made over flat roofs by gluing a new oversized smooth piece of plastic (.020) on to one side, allow to dry thoroughly, then glue ribs or braces across the center of the flat roof. Glue the other side to the edge, trim off the excess plastic overhang, and fill the open ends with scribed plastic pieces cut and shaped to fit.

Plastic is a very easy material to work with. To cut the plastic, simply measure and mark the material, scribe on a straight edge with an X-acto knife two or three times, depending on the thickness of the plastic. Then bend and break the sheet at the scribe mark; the piece will snap off easily, just like cutting glass and with a little light sanding

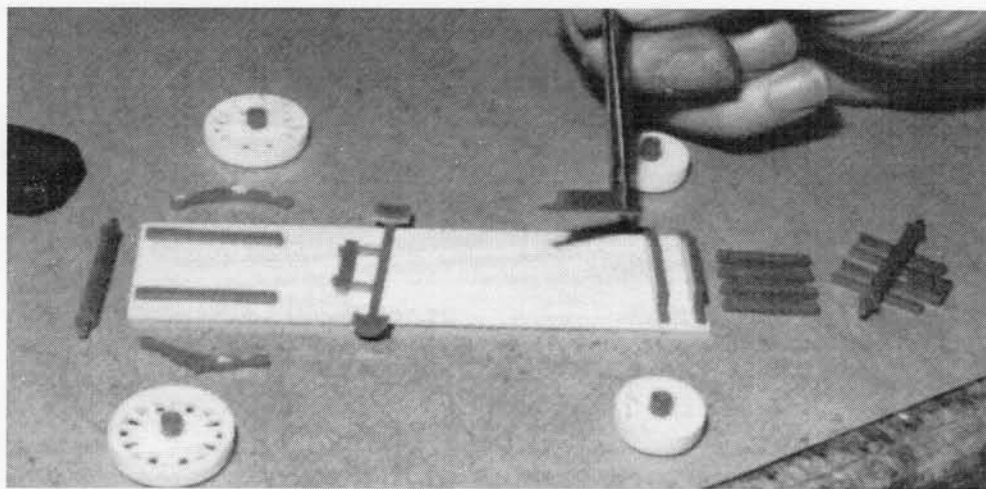


Photo No. 3-For extended wagon chassis, cut all undergear from original chassis and assemble on a new plastic sheet cut to size.

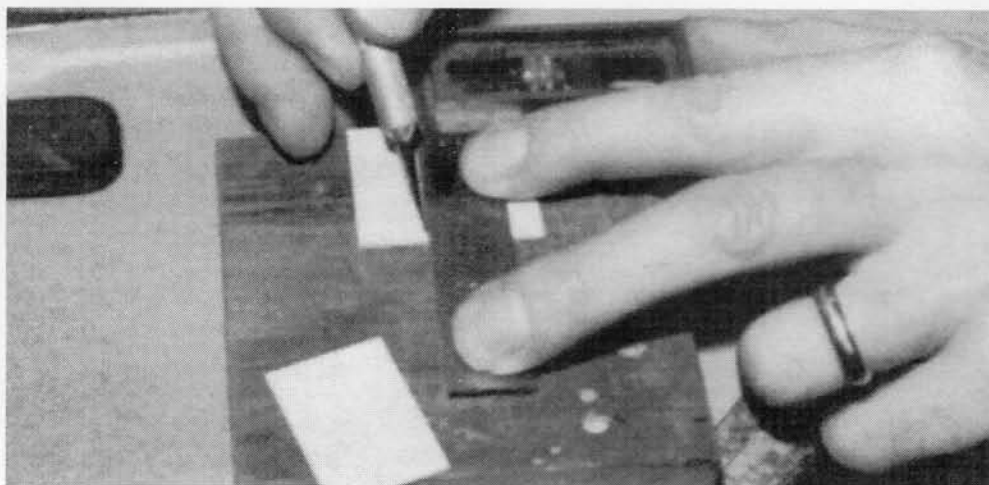


Photo No. 4 & No. 5 - To cut plastic sheets, measure to size, scribe with X-acto knife several times and then bend and break (like cutting glass).

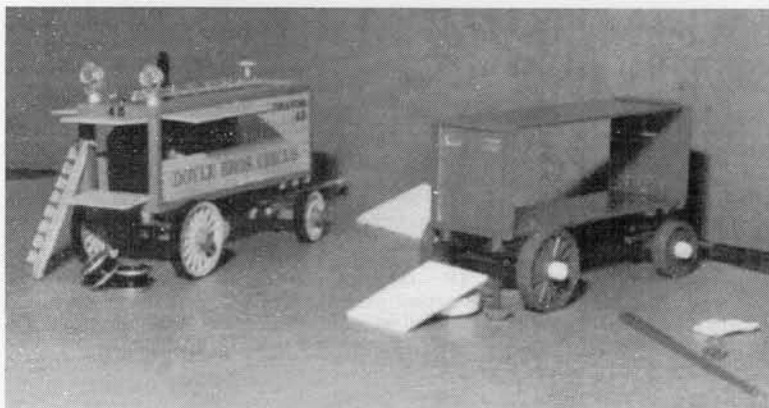
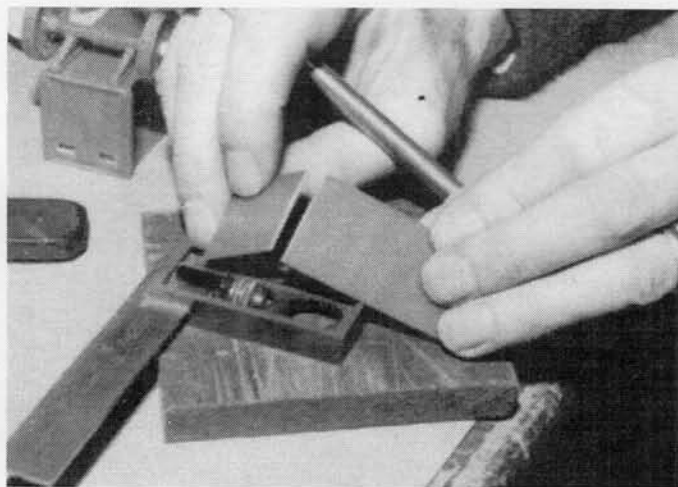


Photo No. 6 - The basic cage wagon, before and after the kitbash conversion. The flexibility of this type of modeling is unlimited.



Kitbashing Globe Plastic Wagons

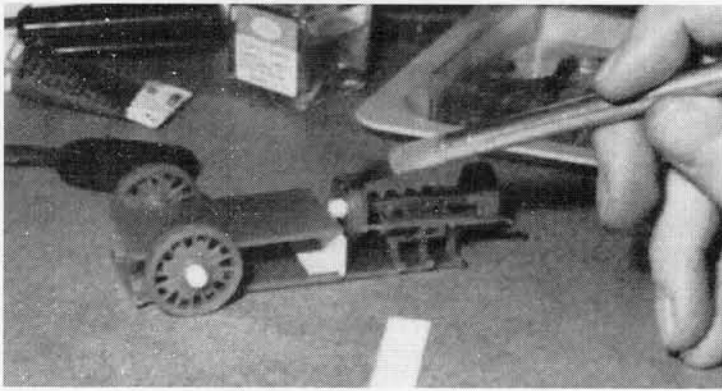


Photo No. 7 - To build a dropped floor wagon, using the standard cage chassis, can be converted in this manner.

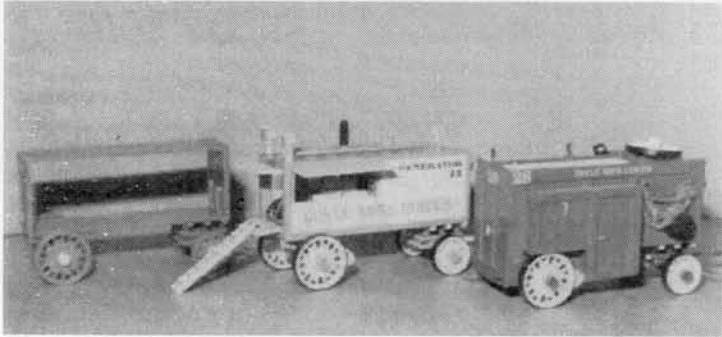


Photo No. 9 - Basic cage chassis rebuilt into a generator wagon and a carpenter/blacksmith shop wagon.

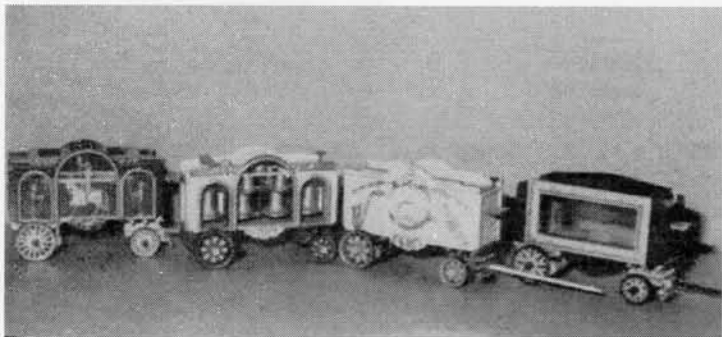


Photo No. 11 - Tableau wagons can be rebuilt and redesigned using various other decorations. Original crusaders tab, bell wagon, music tab and snake den wagon.

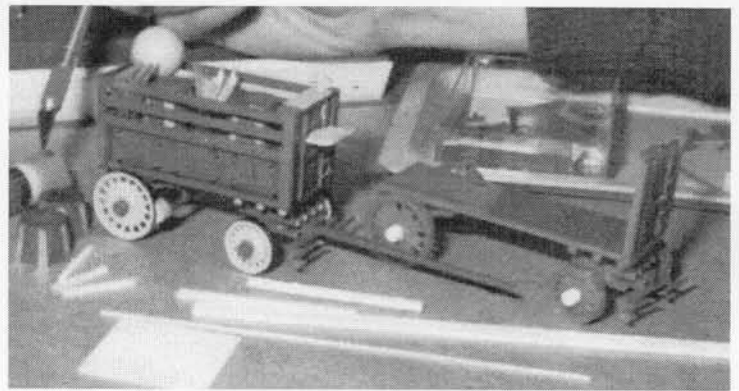


Photo 8 - Examples of the standard length cage chassis before conversion and short cage wagon rebuilt into a big top rigging and prop wagon.

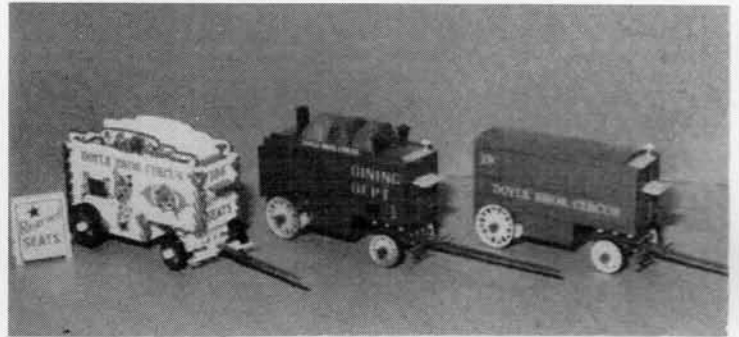


Photo No. 10 - Several examples of the globe kitbashed wagons; reserved' seat ticket wagon, dining dept. steam boiler wagon and giraffe wagon all with dropped floors.



Photo 12 - Other examples of kitbashing and scratch building with plastic include these five Mack trucks (K-Mart), catapillar (Lionel)' boom tractor and short chassis dog wagon

Photo No. 13 - Shop Ideas: The model bench, a space devoted to model building and a place to keep everything within easy reach, neatness does make modeling enjoyable. The author and builder wishing you the best in your circus model building.

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