

Small scale circus modelers that have struggled through the frustration of adding wire cage bars to their cage wagons, or have been disappointed in the appearance of the printed acetate variety, can now simply and easily install realistic bars.

Utilizing Grandt Line HO Porch & Lanai Railings, No. 5083, these high quality plastic castings can be easily modified into cage bars. The accompanying photos demonstrate the realistic appearance, which can be achieved through this method. Although I did not do it, a strip of wood or plastic could be inserted between the bar and the floor to represent the clean outs.

The bottom section is installed first. This is simply a length of the railing cut to fit, leaving both the top and bottom rails on the casting. The top section, however, has the thin horizontal rail cut off. The bottoms of the bars are also cut off at the same time to fit the height of your cage opening. The top assembly is then glued into place, with the bars glued to the thin top rail of the bottom section. Make sure that the bars line up vertically. I use liquid plastic cement, such as Testors or Plastruct, which actually welds the assembly together, resulting in an invisible joint.

PHOTO NO 1, the Hippo Den, a free lance bay-window wagon, along with the plastic bars, utilizes a few other Grandt Line Castings. The side carvings at each end are sections of "0" or 1/4" scale "Wells Fargo" Porch Railing, No. B-1; while sections of HO scale Masonic Hall Railing, No. 5065 are used to trim the sky and mud boards.

PHOTO NO. 2, another free-lance cage, is decorated with corner statues obtained in a craft shop. It also uses the plastic cage bars and sections of the Wells Fargo railing on the sky and-mud boards. The wheels are Preiser plastic wagon wheels with styrene disks glued to the front. Note that this is a two-section cage with the separator made of the porch castings.

PHOTO NO. 3, also a free-lance cage, is constructed entirely of styrene. Evergreen Scale Models manufactures a line of strip and scribed sheet of various thickness that is beautiful for wagon construction.

The corner figures, again obtained in a craft shop were too short, so a faceted bead and a jewelry stamping were used to increase their height. The wagon wheels are again Preiser wagon wheels, however, in this case jewelry stampings were flattened out and glued to the front of the wheel.

The brake wheels on all the wagons are PSC brass castings. These look much better than the stamped dress snap fastener so often supplied with commercial kits. Any circus modeler would do well to keep abreast of what is available in the local model railroad hobby shops, as a host of usable or easily adaptable parts can be found.

Easy "HO" Cage Bars

DATE: N/A

SCALE: HO

SCANNED & REVISED:
10/07/03

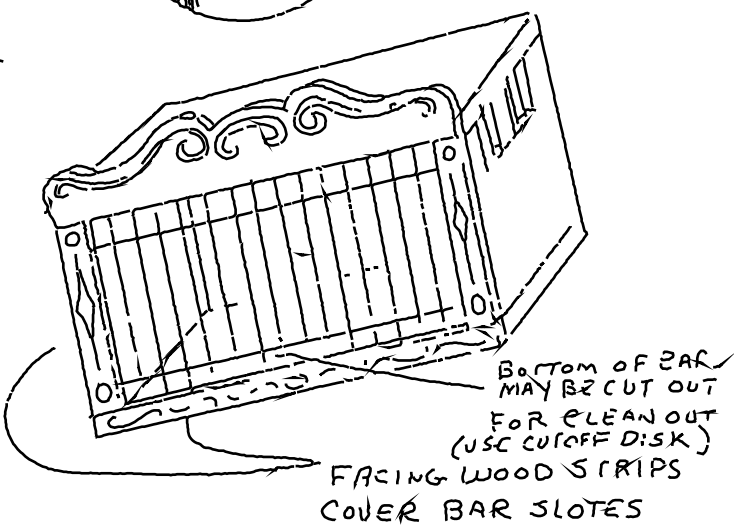
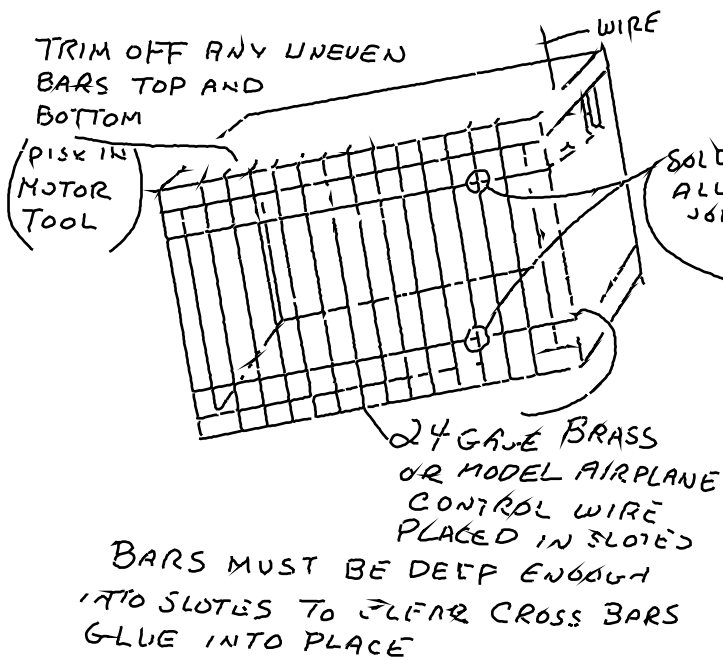
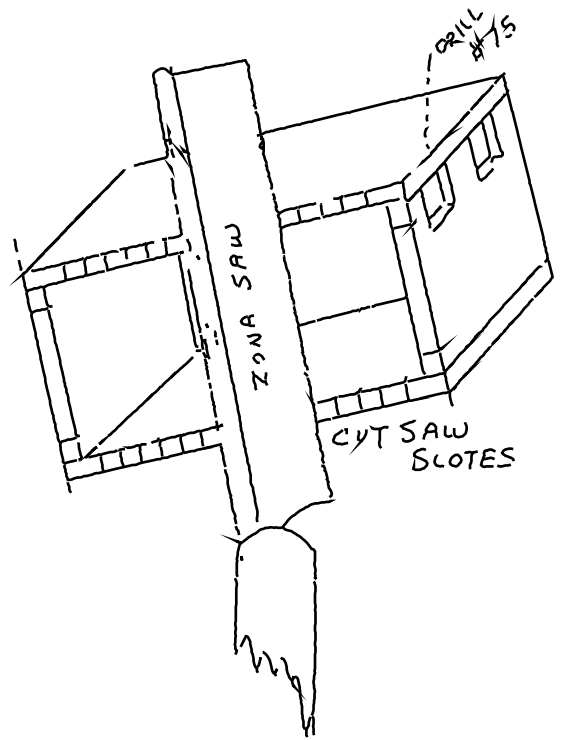
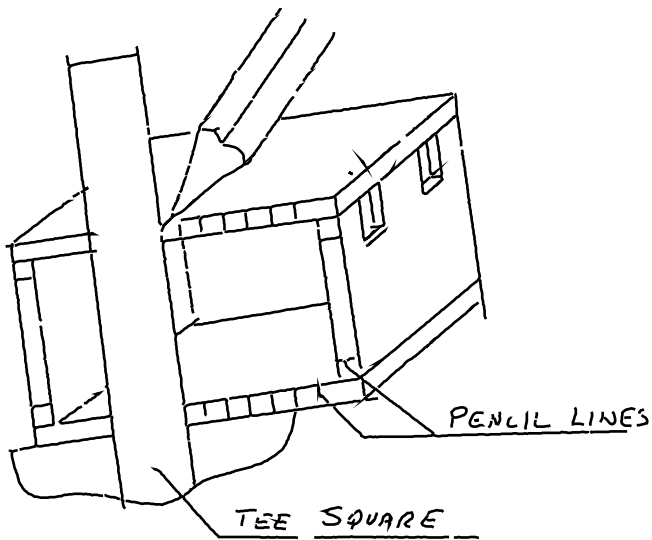
Pg 1 of 2

Circus Model Builders

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DRAWING NUMBER

#0263



METHOD OF INSTALLING BARS
IN HO CAGE WAGONS

Easy "HO" Cage Bars