

Korber Models

Scale Model Railroad Structures

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Model 901 O Scale Action Machine Instructions

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Introduction

Congratulations, you have purchased the Korber Models #901 Action Machine. Action Machine is one of the classic Korber O Scale kits. This structure represents thousands of buildings that could be seen along the tracks all across the nation featuring brick construction and providing a center of commerce.


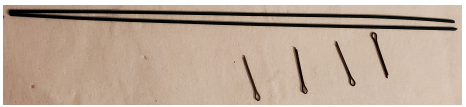



You can follow the simple, step by step instructions outlined in this document to easily assemble this great looking addition to your layout. We have covered not only the required key steps to build the building so you can get it on your layout the quickest, but have also included several optional steps to enhance the appearance. These enhancements are based on submissions from modelers just like you who have taken the Korber structures to the next level, and now by following a few extra steps you can achieve the same results.

Before you start you may want to read through the instructions to get a feel for the things you will be doing, and the basic order in which they will be done. You are on your way to adding a centerpiece to your layout, so let's get started!

Parts list – (What's in the box)

Take a few minutes to locate all the parts in the box to make sure you have all the pieces you will need and that the quantities are right. You may also want to spread these parts out so that you have a small separate stack of each part and make it easy to find each as you start the assembly process. If you are missing anything, please contact us so we can get you any of the missing items.

| Qty | Description | Qty | Description |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1 | Front Wall with door | 1 | Back Wall |
| |  | |  |
| 2 | Side Wall with door | 1 | Roof |
| |  | |  |

| Qty | Description | Qty | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 2 | Roof Support  | 2 | Green wire for downspouts 4 cotter pins  |
| 1 | Injection Molded Smoke Stack  | 1 | Front Door Step and sides  |
| 7 | 1/4" wood 6 3/4" Roof supports-3 3 1/2" for corner supports  | 1 | Sheet of clear plastic "Window Glass" ALSO INCLUDES BLOCK AND SIGNAGE |

Materials needed – (What else might I need that is not included)

The Korber Action Machine, like any kit, requires a few additional items to complete the construction. We have included a list here, including some color and brand suggestions based on our experience; however you may use any product that fits the function. Please also note that some items are listed as options such that they either make assembly simpler, or are needed only for optional steps

- Flat paint, choice of colors, for doors, windows, trim
 - "Red" automotive primer spray paint to cover all molded brick surfaces such as Krylon Ruddy Brown Camouflage Kahki or cement color paint for the stone foundation
 - Antique white craft paint for cement lines
 - RustOleum camouflage flat spray paints work well for painting window frames and doors
- Small paint brushes
- Paper towels or soft cloth rags
- Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. Also known as Super Glue, Gorilla™ super glue works well

We really like the new Gorilla brand super glue because it is thicker than most super glues, and allows you to put in on a seam while holding the part in your hand, and will not run when you turn the seam on the side to put two pieces together. This glue is available in most retailers, including the larger home improvements stores

- CA glue accelerator (optional) turns any CA glue into quick set glue
- Medium grit sandpaper or emery board
- Testor's Dull-cote™ (optional)
- Small clamps (optional)
- Flat black or grimy black spray paint (optional)

1 - Parts Preparation & Painting

Look over all the molded parts and remove any flashing that might be left on them. Flashing is the thin pieces of the molding material that may be left in widow openings and along edges in the molded parts. This can quickly be removed with a razor type knife, a small file, or an emery board.

The parts in the kit will need to be painted to the final colors you select, and it is much easier to do this step before you assemble them. All the wall sections are colored in a brick red and are ready to use, however many modelers find a light coat of flat red auto primer spray paint gives not only a great look, but also makes it easier to add the mortar color lines to the walls later on. In a well ventilated area (outside is good) apply a coat to the inside (smooth side) of all the brick wall sections first; once dry, do the same to the other side. By painting the back side first you avoid any marks that might appear on the brick textured side.

Use the cement color paint to paint the bottom portion of the wall section that are molded to look like a stone and cement foundation.

If you elect to paint the window frames, please follow the clean-up instructions in step 2 to trim windows prior to painting. Use a similar process as the walls for the window frames, and doors if you spray paint them. You may want to paint all of these the same color to create a theme for your Lehigh Engineering structure.

Option

An optional step that adds a great deal of realism to any model of a brick building is to add the mortar lines to contrast with the red brick color. The ability to lay the wall sections on a flat surface, when done prior to assembly, makes this detail step simpler. There are several ways to do this, including use of water-based paint (Antique White or Light Grey latex well diluted with water until the consistency is as thin as milk), some commercially available products, and the use of light spackling compound to fill mortar joints. In all of these approaches the general concept is to spread the white product you are using over the brick walls, filling in the mortar line groves in the wall section, and then removing the excess from the top of the bricks. We will walk through the water based paint method, as follows.



One simple method we have used is to dilute some water based antique white or light grey craft paint to create a soupy like consistency.

- Cover entire wall section with diluted white paint, letting it settle and collect in the mortar lines
- Wait a few seconds and lightly wipe off excess paint using a slightly damp paper towel or soft cloth until paint is removed from the brick surface, but not the mortar joints
- Keep flat and let dry before moving so the paint in the joints does not run
- It may require several applications to achieve the mortar line that you want
- To remove haze from brick surface, apply a thin layer of Dull-Cote and wipe gently
- A finish light coat of Polly Scale Grimy Black done with an air brush will tone down the grey wash and give it an aged look. (Apply lightly and highlight the area where you would expect dirt to collect. Flat black spray paint can also be used

The good news with this option is that if you don't like it, the paint is water based, so you can get it wet, remove it, and start over.

Once dry, this area should be washed using a mix of either watered down black paint, or alcohol and India ink. The purpose of the wash is to settle the black color in the groves/joints around the rocks and give definition. The wash should not be so dark as to overpower the cement/light grey color.

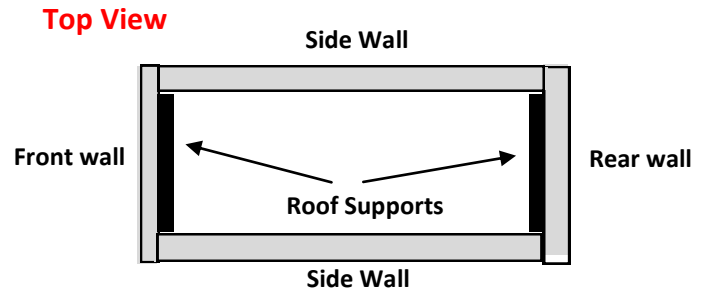
2 - Assemble & Install Windows

The windows are made from molded plastic and will have a clear plastic sheet stock applied over the opening from the inside of the model to simulate glazing.

- Carefully remove any flashing from the window frames
- If the window frames have not been painted, and if you would like to do so, paint them now and let them dry before moving to the next step
- Place the walls to which you want to add windows brick side up on a flat surface
- Prepare to cut and glue small pieces of window clear plastic material over the back of each window. Consider the following two window detailing option for the windows:
- If you want the window panes to have a hazed affect, lightly sand the window material until you've achieved desired haze effect prior to cutting into small window pieces
- You may also detail the windows with shades by covering the top portion of the window material with masking tape

3 - Assembly of Main Structure

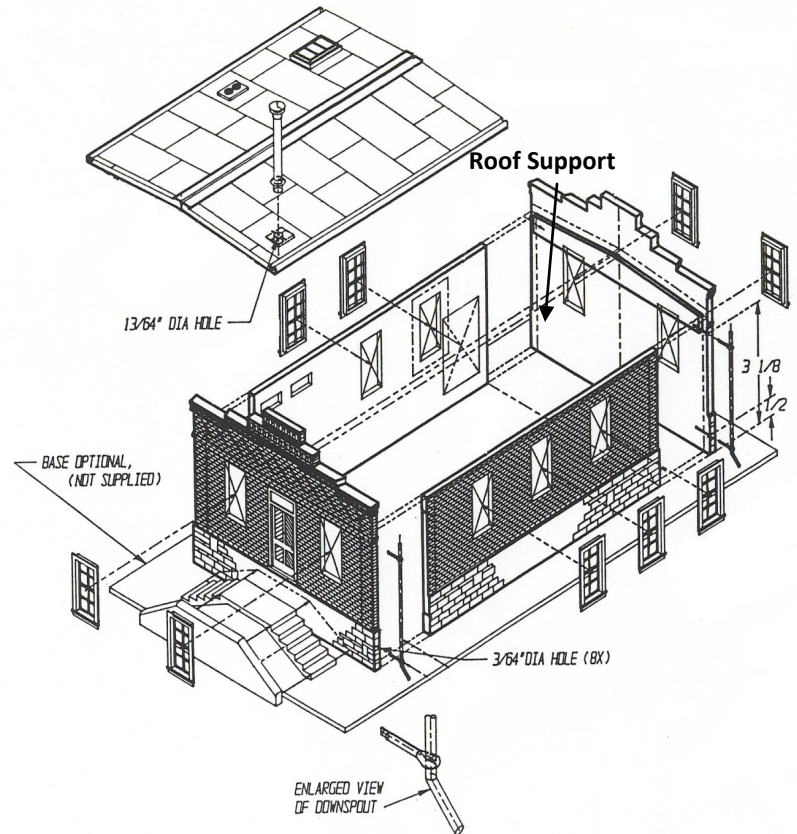
The assembly of the main structure is based on making a simple “box” when viewed from the top. There are four walls, two long ones for the sides, and two shorter ones in the front and back. To the right is a top-down view drawing of the relationship of the wall sections and the roof support pieces.



Placement of brick walls

- Take one sidewall and the front wall and line them up to make a right angle. The use of a small square is helpful. The front wall should overlay the edge of the side wall. Glue the two wall sections together to create a solid right angle
- Some sanding may be necessary. Rough up edges only where you need to glue
- Repeat the last step but using the other side-wall, and finally repeat using the other front/back wall to complete the “box”
- Optionally use clamps as necessary to hold pieces together
- Glue the two roof supports on the inside of the front and back walls of the building such that the top side of the roof supports is aligned with the top of the side walls. The center of the roof support will be taller than the side walls by about 1/8”. The purpose of these pieces is to create a cleat or lip on which to rest the roof material in a later step.

EXAMPLE OF BUILDING TYPES FOR REFERENCE ONLY

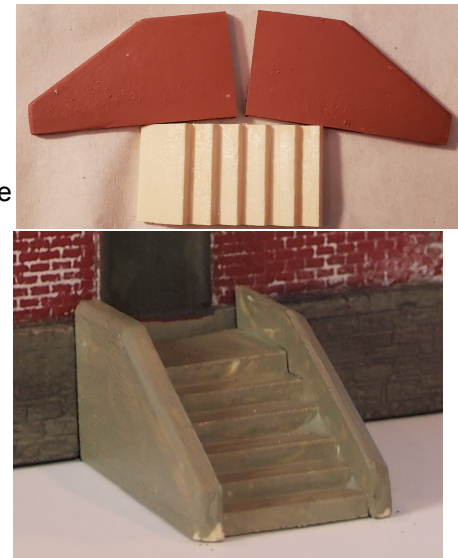


4 - Build and install Steps

The front door steps are comprised of three parts: a single molded set of steps, and two side wall sections, a left and a right.

These parts are glued together to form a set of cement steps with side walls.

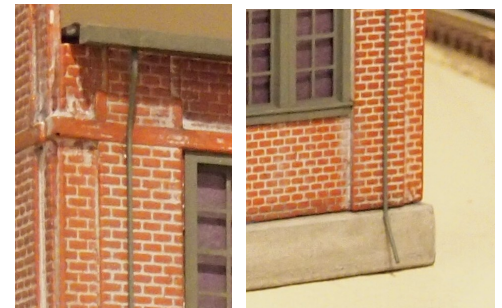
- Remove any flashing on the parts
- Place the left side wall on your work surface oriented as in the drawing—the inside of the side wall should face up while the outside which has the rounded top edge should face down.
- Glue the steps to the left side wall, aligning them to be flush with the bottom and right side or back of the side wall as shown on the right.
- Repeat the same process to glue the right side wall to the steps to complete the assembly.
- Once the steps are assembled and the glue has dried, they should be painted a cement color and left to dry. The steps are placed in front of the front doorway once the rest of the model is complete.



5 - Install Roof

The #901 Action Machine has a single level rectangular, slightly pitched roof made from molded plastic. The intent is to glue this piece to the top of the structure. Reference the exploded view diagram on the previous page.

- The roof is designed with a “V” groove in the center. Run a knife down the groove so that you can separate the roof in to two half’s at the peak.
- Dry fit in place, and note that some trimming may be needed for a flush fit. Align the center seam at the peak of the roof, leaving a small overhang of roof material over the side walls.
- Use a small piece of tape (black is good) to tape the two roof sections together at the peak on the underside of the roof material (smooth side). In some cases the roof also has a small hole ~1/4” for a large chimney that will not be used in the model. Use a layer of tape from the inside of the roof to seal the hole and paint black from the outside to blend in.
- Place the roof back on the building and glue it in to place.
- The injection molded smoke stack is designed to attach in a hole you will drill in the roof. Drill a small hole in the roof the same size as the diameter of the smoke stack.
- Place the bottom of the smoke stack in the hole in the roof, and glue in to place.
- You may want to paint the upper inside section of the walls black to match the roof material.
- Place the side door steps and the front door steps (previously constructed) in place in front of the front door
- The down spout wire should be glued to the bottom of the gutter, and also tacked to the brick wall with a dab of glue to hold it in place. In order to do this, the wire will need to be bent to allow it to slope up from the wall, and into the bottom of the gutter as shown in the picture to the right.
- The bottom of the wire will need to be bent out to aim the down spout away from the base of the foundation as shown in the second picture to the right



6 - Final Detailing – Weathering

Your Korber #901 Action Machine is now assembled and ready for placement on the layout. You may wish to provide some additional weathering before you install it, as a building next to the tracks would be a heavily used structure with a layer of soot, and would rarely look brand new.

To add a weathered look, spray the entire model with flat black from a distance. This will give a sooty look to the building. Once done you can spray the completed structure with Dullcote to remove any gloss or shine.

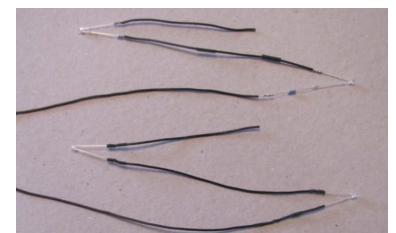
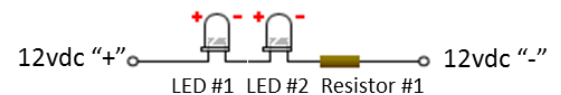
If you choose not to detail the inside of your structure, or light it, an effective and quick way to make a good looking building is to cover the widows with black construction paper from the inside. This creates a dark building look that is more desirable than the view in to an otherwise empty shell of a building.

Option – Lighting

Interior lights add more realism to this great structure. Following the few simple steps outlined here you will be able to add this improvement to your model. Although we outline using individual LED’s for the lights, many use incandescent bulbs, or the LED’s that come on a reel pre-wired, work well too. Remember that LED’s need 12VDC and are not designed to work directly from track power or another AC source.

The 3mm flat-top white LED’s work well as they spread light over a 120-150 degree angle as opposed to the 30 degrees or so that the dome-top LED’s give providing an even light inside the building.

This simple diagram shows the basic electrical circuit. The value of Resistor #1 (R1) depends on the LED’s used. You can find a good on line calculator and more information on LED’s at <http://led.linear1.org/led.wiz/>.



The photo shows how a harness for 2 LED’s was made. On top are the LED’s and a current-limiting resistor (value depends on what LED’s you’re using) soldered to black wires. On the bottom, shrink tubing has been added to hide the resistor and the solder joints prior to assembly. You need to be careful to keep the polarity correct on the LED’s (don’t get the “+” and “-“ wires mixed up). Make up and test each harness prior to installation. Once the harnesses are assembled (you may need several for the size of the building), glue them in place on the inside of the roof and walls of the structure.