

Handout - Detailing a Transition Era Gas Station

by Gary Robinson
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The following information may be helpful in detailing your gas station or garage to suit your era. Included are suggestions for web pages and manufacturers of detail parts that I've found helpful. My contact information is at the bottom, feel free to use it.

Web Pages

You can search the Google image files (www.google.com/imghp) to find photos of service stations by gas company, age, or almost anything you can think of. There are thousands of photos listed. Try several different search strings, such as "gas station," "historic gas station," "Gulf Gas Station," etc., as not every photo is cataloged the same. Don't be afraid to follow the links to the original source page, as those pages frequently contain additional useful information. You can also find vintage advertising posters, signs, and billboards this way.

William K Walthers (www.Walthers.com) offers detail kits for a couple of eras, as well as individual details from a number of manufacturers. You can also find tow trucks in the vehicle section.

Truck Stop Models (<http://www.truckstopmodels.com/>) specializes in 1/87 vehicles and accessories. They offer a number of detail parts for vehicles, as well as a diorama of a garage (white metal castings).

Manufacturers

- JAKS Industries (<http://scale-structures.com/index.html>) owns both Alloy Forms, makers of cast vehicles, and SS Ltd, which includes Fezziwigs Furniture. The SS Ltd section has over 2000 castings, including a number appropriate for a garage, and the Fezziwigs Furniture line has office equipment.
- BEST (Bollinger Edgerly Scale Trains) (<http://www.besttrains.com/index.html>) has about 400 detail castings, many of which are appropriate for a garage or gas station.
- Miller Engineering (<http://www.microstru.com/index.html>) has a great brass kit for a Gulf gas station in three scales that is appropriate for the era. Available separately is a lighting kit.
- Microscale Industries offers a number of decal sheets with oil company signs. <http://www.microscale.com/>
- JL Innovative Designs has several different gas stations, and a number of highly detailed gas pumps, drums, signs, and other accessories for gas stations. At least one kit is offered. <http://www.jlinnovative.com/about.html>
- Bar Mills has, among other detail parts, stacks of tires and oil drums. <http://www.barmillsmodels.com/>
- B.T.S. Master Creations line has many appropriate gas station castings. <http://btsrr.com/>

Of course, I was unable to find suitable parts for some details, such as the bell line and the headlight alignment screen, so these are scratch-built. As well, while some parts were available, they didn't fit my concept of what I wanted. Examples of this would be the tube testing trough, and the tire changing machine.

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