

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

RTS 5M7 WATKINS GLEN DUNLOP STARTER PLATFORM

LENGTH 15" HEIGHT 7" W 2"

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations in choosing a unique product to enhance your slot car track diorama. This can truly be described as a product born from a love for slot cars. Buying this product have made you a member of a very special family, yes you are not dealing with a faceless business, but rather a family of slot car fanatics.

We have put hours of skill and more importantly love into this product and it is wonderful to share our love for slot cars with you. May you enjoy the build and have years of joy having it as part of your trackside diorama.

This product is a replica of the structure that can be found on the Watkins Glen International Race Track, New York. For many years Dunlop sponsored and decorated this structure.

WARRANTY

This product is covered by a comprehensive money-back warranty to ensure your absolute satisfaction with your purchase.

WHO ARE WE?

This product is brought to you by racetrackscenics.com. If you have not done so already, please visit our website today. You are also most welcome to visit the Facebook pages "**Race Track Scenics Slot Car Scenery**" and "**Johan Malan**" to keep up to date with the latest developments and the launching of exciting new products that may be in the pipeline.

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for any assistance that you might require. Your feedback and a photo or two of your trackside addition will really be appreciated. We love to share in your joy!

WHAT IS IN THE KIT?

In this kit you will find all the laser cut pieced needed to assemble this product. The pieces are still intact in the sheets as they were cut to ensure that all the parts are there. Some of the loose bits inside pieces may have been removed, but they are not part of the finished product. In the section "FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF" below, you will find diagram(s) that identify and explain each piece (component) that you are about to assemble. In the section "PREPARING THE CUT PIECES" below, you will learn how to proceed to prepare the pieces for assembly.

In the kit you will also find some optional pre-cut artwork printed on matt photo paper. This can be used to brand your finished product.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

We have specifically designed this product so that it is easy to assemble with only a few basic tools. You will need the following:

- a screwdriver
- a sharp hobby knife
- some glue
- a few toothpicks
- a few earbuds can be handy
- a paintbrush or sponge roller and paint or a rattle can or two with spray paint.

There are really two schools of thought as to the right glue to use. Some people prefer a rapid setting glue like most gel super glues, while others prefer a slower setting glue like ordinary cold wood glue (pva glue). Sometimes more than one part must be assembled almost simultaneously and then a forgiving glue makes life a bit easier. Gluing the 26 steps into place may take a bit of time when you do it for the first time and a slower setting glue may just make life so much easier. Other times you may want a quick fix and then the rapid setting glue is the obvious choice. Our advice is to see what works best for you, there are no right or wrong, both types will produce a sturdy structure.

You will only need a small amount of glue and remember to look for the surfaces that will be in contact in the end and do not only apply glue to the lugs and sleeves. The latter restrict movement in one plane, but the glue fix it in the perpendicular plane. Using a toothpick is a handy way to apply glue and an earbud can be used to dab away any excess of glue (especially if you use wood glue).

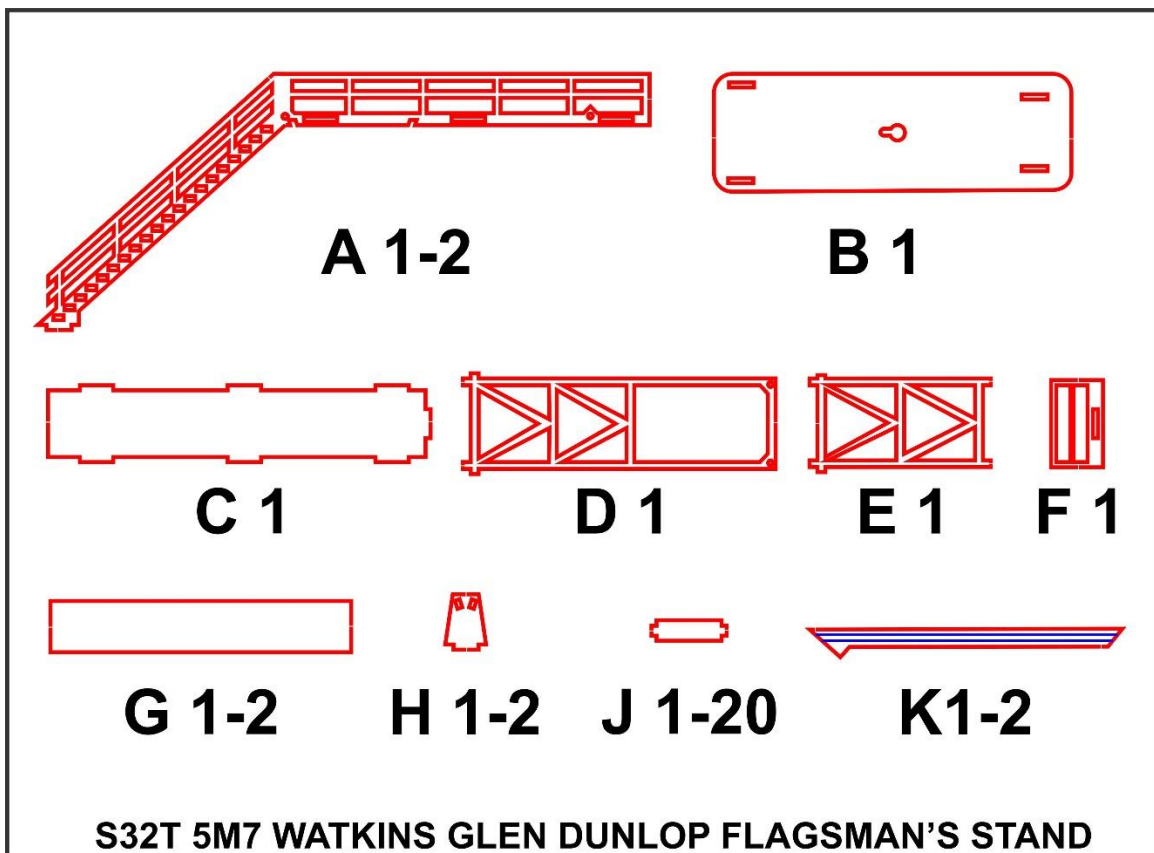
If parts must be at a right angle, you can use any object to assist you in obtaining a square finished product in the end.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF

Have a look at the photo of the finished product.



Now have a look at the next diagram where all the laser cut parts are shown and numbered from **A** to **K** and try to identify which is which and where they fit in.



You will notice that the main structure consists of two sides (**A1-2**), a foundation (base plate) (**B1**), a floor (**C1**), two support legs (**D1**) and (**E1**), as well as some steps (**J 1-20**). Please identifies the two slots on the underside of the horizontal part of the walkway. This is where the two supporting legs will fit in later.

The end of the walkway is closed with the gate (**F 1**). The two legs are connected to the base plate with connector pieces (**H 1 -2**). The horizontal parts of the sides are covered with a plank (**G 1-2**) for the fixing of the advertising artwork. There are two cover planks that will cover the nubs of the steps (**K 1-2**)

You will need two pieces of rope or piano wire (not included) to connect the walkway to the highest of the two legs, as can be seen from the photo.

PREPARING THE CUT PIECES

Firstly, remove all the laser cut parts from the sheets. The sheets can be discarded. Clean the edges of the parts if there are any tiny bits where the parts were fixed to the sheets. This can be done with your knife or even your thumb nail.

We recommend that you start by sanding your finished product with a very light sandpaper to ensure a smooth finish for the end product.

WORD OF ADVICE

We would strongly advise you to do a quick dry assembly before you start gluing the laser cut parts together. Lay out all the parts on your work surface and make sure that the parts are not upside down or mirrored. In most instances it will make no difference, but in others it may be crucial to ensure a perfect product in the end.

Our laser cut parts are specifically cut to very fine tolerances to ensure a snug fit and therefore it is wise to check all fits before gluing parts together. You may need to trim a lug here and there to make assembly easier.

PAINTING YOUR PRODUCT

We would strongly advise you to finish the product with paint or wood stain to make them as appealing as possible. The parts should be primed (2 coats) and painted before final assembly. Spray paint can also be used to get a very smooth finish. Oil or water-based paint can be used and specialised paints like chalk paint can be used to give unique finishes.

Generally, it is highly advisable to paint/spray before gluing. You may not be able to get to the inside of the structure after it is glued together. Covering all the parts that must not be painted or sprayed with the same colour can be a tedious process. Pre-painting will avoid this process.

Please ensure that no paint clog a sleeve where a lug must fit in later. The tolerances are often so tight that too thick a layer of paint may cause problems. It is our experiences that a small foam roller instead of a brush, will produce a better finish and far less clogging of sleeves.

Applying a base or undercoat normally makes life easier afterwards. Two coats of primer are advisable because the MDF absorbs a lot of paint. Using a single colour for the undercoat of all parts works quite well from personal experience. You can choose the paint of your preference, whether it is oil or water based. Cleaning brushes and rollers are just so much easier if you use a water base paint. A chalk paste can give a unique finish to walls and give a weathered look if so desired. If you prefer to protect the paint work of your structure you can always apply a clear spray coat.

LET'S GET STARTED WITH THE ASSEMBLY

Place the one side (**A 1**) on your worksurface, as well as the floor (**C1**) and the steps (**J1 – 20**). Select the floor piece (**C1**) and glue into the 3 long slots in the horizontal part of the side (**A**). Make sure that the floor is perpendicular to the side and allow the glue to set. Now proceed to glue the individual steps into the slots of the side and ensure that they are more or less square to the side as well.

Now for the trickiest part of the assembly. The other ends (lugs) of the floor and the steps must now be glued into the second bridge side.

You can consider to fit all the lugs loosely into the corresponding slots of the second side without applying any glue. It should now be easy to remove one after the other, glue it and replace it and then move on to the next one. Remember to ensure that this part of the structure must be square before the glue sets fully.

It is advised to start from one end and work your way to the other end by matching lugs and slots one by one, almost like closing a zipper tooth by tooth. For this specific structure it is advised to start with the floor and then the first step next to the floor and then one after the other.

Once all the lugs are snugly into their matching slots, it is time to apply some pressure on the top side to ensure a snug fit.

At this stage, before the glue sets, it is important to assure that the whole structure is aligned and as square as possible. The structure can be supported and weighed down by any suitable object that will assist in keeping every part in position and square where applicable. You can use a brick, thick book, tin of food, or what-ever is available and suitable. The structure is fairly sturdy but do not apply too much pressure as parts may break.

You can now glue the gate (**F 1**) to the end of the walkway. Proceed by laying the one connector piece (**H 1**) down on your work surface and glue in the two lugs of the legs (**D 1**) and (**E 1**) into the two slots. Now you can glue the second connector piece (**H 2**) to the other lugs of the legs. Once the glue has set this constructed part can be glued into the slots of the base plate (**B 1**). You will notice that this fits into the slots that are farther apart. Have a look at the photo of the completed structure to ensure that the legs are the right way round. The shorter leg is on the side of the steps and is facing towards the second set of slots in the base plate.

The two lugs at the bottom of the walkway, which have been constructed earlier, can now also be glued into the slots of the other end of the base plate (**B 1**). The top ends of the two legs must fit into the two slots in the horizontal part of the walkway.

Lastly the two advertising boards (**G 1-2**) and the two cover pieces (**K 1-2**) can be glued to the sides as shown in the photo above.

You have successfully completed the construction of the Flagman's Platform and only need to fix the two pieces of rope or piano wire (not included) to connect the walkway to the highest of the two legs, as can be seen from the photo.

FINISHING & BRANDING

We leave the finishing to your imagination and your taste. Do whatever you think will transform this into a structure that will compliment your race track diorama. We have included the branding that you have requested so that you can use it to finish your walkway with the livery of your choice. We recommend that you protect the branding with a clear spray.

CONCLUSION

We sincerely hoped you have enjoyed this assembly and finishing. Please remember to give us some feedback and either send or post some pictures of this product on your track.