HO Scale 1:87

2302

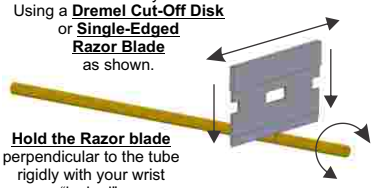
SHOWCASE Miniatures

POLE MOUNT SEARCHLIGHT SIGNAL

Step 1 - Prepare the Mast

Practice
this technique on scrap tubing as necessary.

Cut the brass tubing for the mast to the appropriate length if necessary. Using a **Dremel Cut-Off Disk** or **Single-Edged Razor Blade** as shown.



Hold the Razor blade perpendicular to the tube rigidly with your wrist "locked".

While pressing down with light pressure to begin with, roll the tubing with the razor blade back and forth on a **hard surface.**

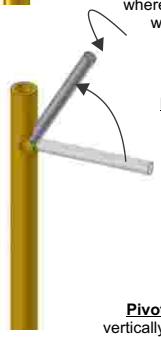
After a few rolls, the tubing should snap off cleanly.

The end of the tubing may need to be opened using a 1/32" drill bit.

Prepare the Opening
For the LED Leads.

A
Mark the locations of the opening on the mast using the **Diagram**.

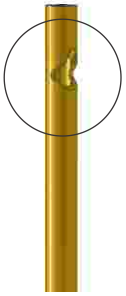
B
Using a Dremel Cut-Off Disk or triangle file, cut a groove where the LED wire leads will enter the mast.



Be Sure Not to Cut More than ½ way through the tube

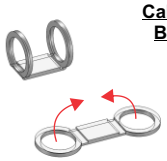
C
Drill the center of the Groove, with a 1/32" Drill Bit.

D
Pivot the Drill, vertically while drilling to create an angled hole and to smooth the edge of the opening. This will aid in routing the Fiber Optic Strand into the mast.



E
Finished Opening, ready for insertion of the LED wire leads.

Use this same technique for other openings in the mast.



Cable Terminal Box Bracket

Fold Bracket Tabs as Shown

Step 2 - Assemble the Parts

Tools You May Need:

1/32" Drill Bit
1/16" Drill Bit
Needle Files
Single Edge Razor Blade
Dremel Tool

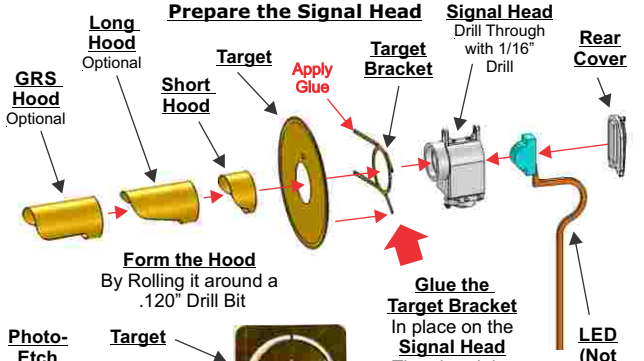
We recommend using Duro brand Super Glue to assemble the parts.

Clean and Debur all Parts before beginning assembly. Some parts may need to be opened with a 1/16" drill bit.

Before Applying Glue Test fit all parts by sliding them in place in their correct order n the mast.

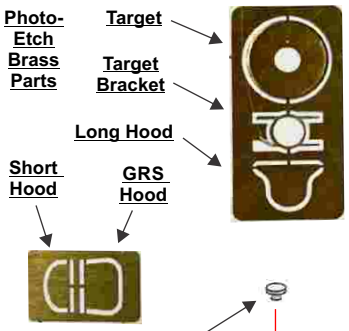
Mark the locations of the parts on the mast using the **Diagram** provided.

Prepare the Signal Head



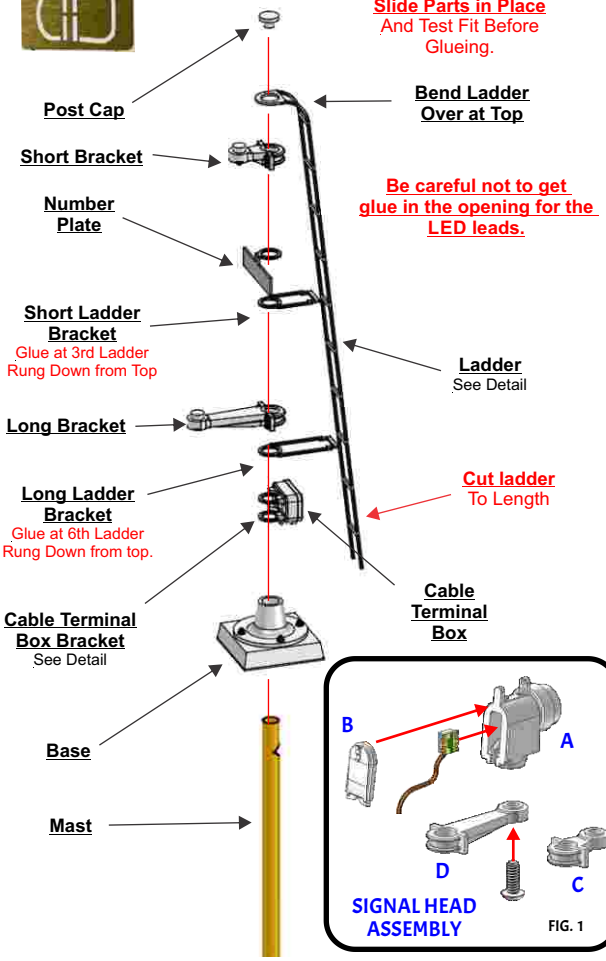
Form the Hood By Rolling it around a .120" Drill Bit

Glue the Target Bracket In place on the **Signal Head** Then bend the Target Supports Forward



Apply Glue To the Ends of the **Target Bracket** and slide the **Target** over the **Hood**

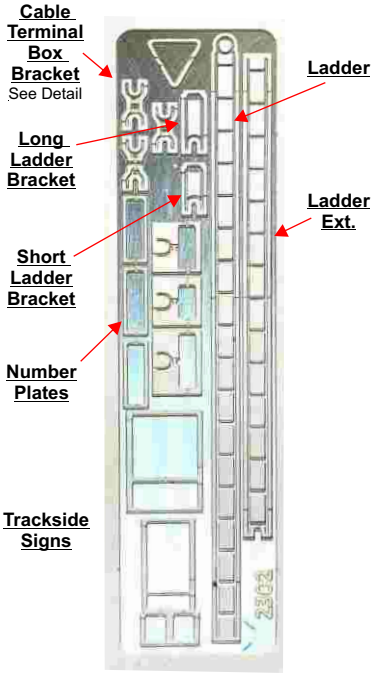
Slide Parts in Place And Test Fit Before Glueing.



Be careful not to get glue in the opening for the LED leads.

Photo-Etch Details

(Some Parts are Optional and Extra)



PARTS

000-120 BUTTON HEAD TORX SCREW

IP1 TORX BIT REQUIRED (NOT INCLUDED)

Painting / Finishing

From the Southern Pacific Standard Plans:

Painting by Manufacturer:
"Signals and all metal surfaces exposed to the weather shall have shop coat of red lead. Relay houses and instrument cases to have shop coat of red lead and two coats of aluminum paint on outside surface. Inside of houses and instrument cases to have shop coat of red lead between the steel and lining and after lining is installed the interior including all shelves and supports to be painted with aluminum paint."

Painting by Railroad:
"Inside of all signal masts must be swabbed with raw linseed oil and thoroughly set before installing.

All instrument cases and cable terminal boxes must have a spotting coat and a final coat of aluminum paint inside and out.

Signal face and hood to be painted dead black

All other metal surfaces must have spotting of primary paint where required and two coats of aluminum paint."

Letter Plates are to be given two coats of Dead Black paint. Face of letters and back of plate to be painted aluminum.

Painting and Decals

We suggest Completing the entire assembly before painting.

The LED will need to be masked before painting. One of the easiest ways to mask the LED is to put a small amount of modeler's clay in the hood. Don't press the clay too far into the signal head or it may be difficult to remove once the paint is dry.

Prime the trackside signs and paint them. Lettering supplied as waterslide decals.

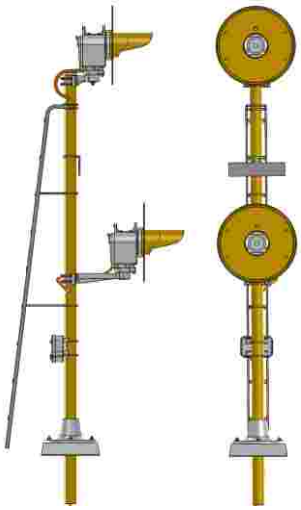
We Hope..

We hope you enjoy building this kit as much as we did designing it.

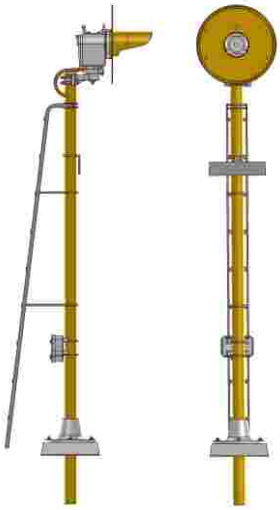
There are many other details available at Showcase Miniatures to allow you to create practically any variation in signal type.

Thank you for purchasing...

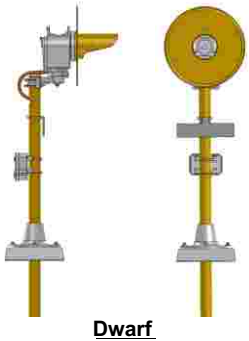
HO Scale Diagrams - Optional Signal Builds Included



Double



Single



Dwarf

A History of the Searchlight Signal

In late 1916 the invention of the doublet lens combination for daytime color light signals prompted the management of the Hall Signal Company to realize that even their most advanced Style "L" semaphore mechanism (the very last produced by any U.S. signal company), had been rendered obsolete. That dual lens device had been developed by Cornell University's Dr. William Churchill, while he was working at Corning Glass Works. He had recently finished developing color standards for railroad glassware, which Corning had patented on October 10, 1905. The doublet lens combination was fully patented by 1911.

Hall's response to this situation was to buy the 1918 filed patents from one Mr. Blake for his "Searchlight" signal. In reality, the searchlight signal was an updated and modernized variation of the old Hall enclosed disc signal. What Blake had done was to harness the standard railroad three position polarized vane relay, add a miniature spectacle and roundels, and couple that with a very efficient elliptical reflector and optical lens system. This revolutionary development, provided a signal with a visible indication of over a mile from the signal in broad daylight, when the signal was located on tangent track. The early color light signals were visible for only about half that distance (2,500 feet) while using about the same current consumption, then a major concern in "Primary Battery Territory." By 1925, the development of "High Transmission Colors" of railroad glassware by Churchill and Corning Glass improved this limited distance to an acceptably competitive 3,500 feet on tangent track.

Searchlight signals became popular because of their low maintenance (compared with semaphores), high visibility and low power-consumption, often a 4 watt, 3 volt bulb, that worked well in territory with battery powered signaling. However as time went on and grid supplied electric power became universal the rationale behind the searchlight began to fade. As labor costs rose the maintenance associated with the classic searchlight's moving parts began to outweigh the savings from its compact size and single bulb. By the end of the 1980s the searchlight had lost its position as the most popular signal style in North America.

Searchlight signals are typically mounted with a large circular background, with one or two railroads preferring a small target, such as the New York Central beginning in the late 1950s.

Searchlight Color Indications:

Green - Used to indicate "clear" or proceed.

Yellow - Used to warn the engineer of an impending stop or speed reduction for an occupied "block" ahead. Also used for low-speed movements.

Red - Used to indicate a full stop or other restrictive condition, or used as a "placeholder" light.