

## BatchBuilt Nz120 J5 Sheep Wagon

*“Congratulations on buying the new and improved BatchBuilt J5 wagon kit. We trust it will give you many pleasant years of enjoyment...”*

Well, thats what most instructions sheets do say, but I thought I'd skip the formalities. Firstly, this is a SCRATCHBUILDERS AID; it is not a kit. The parts included here will give you all the major components that you will need to make a J5 sheep wagon in Nz120. You will still need to provide some bits from your own spare parts bin as well as a suitable underframe. Plus there may be some areas which dont quite make sense. This is where you can put on your “Master Modellers” hat and ignore the instructions and do it your way.

### **Tools:**

Okay, take your J5 bits in your hand and head out to your purpose built shed with full machine shop and every scratchbuilding tool known to man. Look around, sigh, then head back to the kitchen table armed with a piece of board, a scalpel, a sharp pointed instrument (I use an old compass point in a pin vice) and some gel superglue. Oddly enough, thats all I've needed to put together the earlier versions of this kit, and I've now got it down to around 90 minutes construction time (which also includes the time sitting gazing at it, saying “Hell Yeah!”)

### **About these Instructions:**

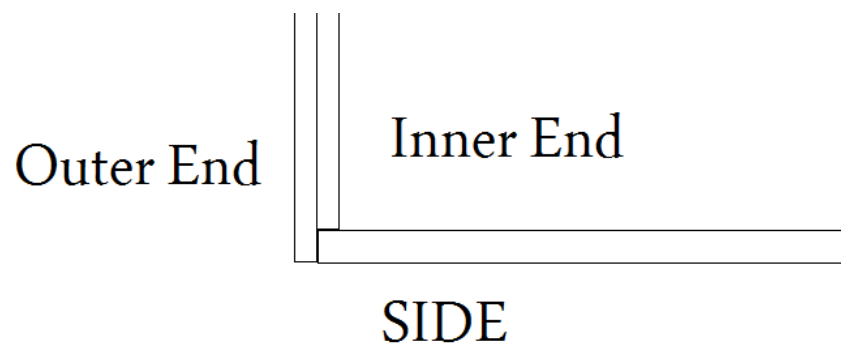
Well, “instructions” is a bit of a loose description of this page you are now reading. Lets face it; 78.4% of modellers only read the instructions when they get into difficulty. Hopefully this kit is simple enough (in the number of parts) that you dont actually need to refer to these instructions at all except for a brief skim at the start. Enjoy yourself and fold this page up into a paper dart instead. Extra marks will be awarded for distance and duration of flight.

### **But just in case...**

....If you need some guidance, this is roughly how I do it:

- **Gently** peel the sticky layer off one side of the wood. Hopefully, lots of little parts will fall out and you'll be left with a whole multitude of bits all over the worksurface. Slowly might be the best policy here. I find if I use a ruler to hold everything down while peeling I get the best results. Most of these bits will still have some sticky paper on the other side. I find that it is best to leave it like this until I need them, then gently scrape at a corner to lift the paper, then peel. Immensely satisfying in a modelling geek kind of way. Maybe I need to get out more.
- **Lay** a side face down on the worksurface (door openings to the left). Some marks have been provided to locate the wires that run across the back, so do that now.
- **The** ends consist of 2 pieces, the inner end (with planking) and the outer end (with all the cutouts). Again, make sure youve removed the sticky paper from both sides.

Take an outer end and butt join it to the side so the side is on the inside edge (if that makes any sense) and glue. Once you are happy with the position of it, take an inner end and glue it to the outer end, joining it to the side at the same time and gluing....phew! Easier to do than to explain.



- **Do** the same at the other end.
- **Take** a door and a set of planks and put the door in position to fill the hole (yes, I know its on the wrong side, but we wont glue it, will we?).
- **Now**, use the door to line up the planks and glue (then remove the door). **HINT:** The planks are closed at one end and open at the other. The closed end goes beside the door. The planks should just be long enough to butt into the Inner End. Repeat for the bottom level.
- **With** the side still sitting flat on the workbench (but with the ends now attached) take the bottom floor (the one without the planking) and fit into position. It should slot into the uprights above the lower side member. Glue.
- **Take** the top floor. Included in the parts are a whole pile of stripwood. Take one and glue in position using the etched lines as a guide (the strips go where there are no grooves). I dont cut the pieces to length yet, use the extra length as a handle. Once youve got them all on, turn the floor over face down and **CAREFULLY** cut to length. Make sure you hold the bits of strip, cos these little buggers disappear at a great rate of knots! Now, use the bits youve just cut off to finish.
- **Insert** the top floor similar to the bottom....except on the top.
- **Complete** the second side the same way as you did the first and insert into the assembled wagon. With a wee bit of prodding and manipulating, it should slot in fine. While holding it in place, take your 5<sup>th</sup> hand and glue.
- **Take** the mylar strapping and apply it to the sides and ends.
- **Apply** wire to the back of the doors to get the look of the longitudinal rods, then glue in place. You might need to do a bit of gentle carving to get them to sit over the strapping in places.
- **Take** the roof and apply some stiff brass wire (or similar) to the thin wooden joining strips holding the main boards together.
- **Using** a tube of some description, gently roll across the grain, which should cause the roof to bend merrily to shape. When it looks reasonable, apply to the model and glue.

And thats roughly it! From here you can detail it up until the magnification levels on your Optivisor give out....I would suggest putting in some rod above each door to look like door runners and maybe use the holes provided on the ends to include some handrails. Paint Red Oxide, mount on a suitable chassis (Peco or otherwise) and keep in your pocket at club nights to pull out to watch grown men faint and children cry.