

Chocolate Shoppe

While grocery shopping the other day (OK – I was buying chocolate chips) I found what has to be the most adorable box of Cocoa I have ever seen in my life. There it was – shaped just like a little shop in perfect 1/4" = 1' scale! I thought this would make an adorable inexpensive project, especially fun if you have a Grandchild visiting. What a perfect way to include the next generation in our hobby! Naturally, you could make this any kind of a shop and the grandchild doesn't have to be yours – it could be a local Girl Scout troop, a special little neighbor or a group of children at a local miniature shop.

Tools & Supplies

- * Nestle Cocoa Container
- * Grandt Line window and door
- * Paper for flooring and walls
- * Scrap cardboard for floor
- * YES Glue
- * Tacky glue
- * Plastic carded furniture
- * Paint, including Testor's flat white spray paint
- * X-acto knife
- * Tape
- * Trims such as ribbon or Bunka



1. Start with a Nestle Toll House Cocoa container (conveniently Shoppe shaped). Carefully remove label (you will want to keep the "Toll House" sign. Empty the cocoa from the container and rinse out.
2. Choose window and door. It is not important which window and door you use, but in case you don't have a bunch kicking around, I used Grandt Line window #3706 and door #3620. Lay window and door on the front of the container to decide placement. Trace window and door openings onto a piece of paper to create a template. Scotch tape template to front of container and cut out window and door opening using an X-acto knife. (The plastic is actually quite tough, so you will need to be sure to be there to help your young friend cut the openings.)
3. Paint the window and door as desired. (The plastic will be easier to paint if you spray paint them with Testor's flat white paint. You can use it as a primer coat and brush paint as desired, or give it a second layer as a finish coat.)
4. Cut an opening in the back of the container. (Cut between the ridge at the base of the roof and the ridge at the top of the floor).
5. Trim desired wallpaper to a strip 3" high and 8" long. Trial fit the paper into the container (it helps if you kind of roll it and put it in through the top). Using Yes glue, cover the back of the paper with glue and glue into place on the inside of the container.
6. Using the bottom of the container as a pattern, trace onto a piece of cardboard. (The bottom of the container is not flat, so you will want to use something thick like corrugated cardboard or foam core. Trial fit the floor into the shop. Remove. Use Yes glue to apply paper flooring to cardboard. Trim. Glue floor into container.
7. Glue window and door in using Tacky glue.
8. Glue the "Toll House" sign from the label onto a piece of thin cardboard, wood or scrap plastic. Cut out. Glue onto front of shop.
9. If desired, cut a small block of wood to fit under the window as a window box. Paint and fill with greenery.

Chocolate Shoppe (continued)

10. Trim around back opening with bunka, wood trim or ribbon if desired.

11. If you would like, try highlighting the shingles with a little bit of white paint. Dip your finger in paint, blot it off and lightly brush shingles. The nice part is, if you don't like the way it looks, wipe it off with a damp paper towel.



12. To decorate the inside, use plastic carded furniture from your local craft shop. You can use lace or doilies for table cloths, sequins as plates, and beads as glasses. (I even cut tiny pieces of the plastic I cut out of the windows as brownies.)

13. Sit back and admire your shop and maybe have a cup of hot chocolate – maybe some brownies – I know where there is plenty of cocoa.

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Grandt Line Products, Inc. web site <http://www.grandtline.com/>

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