

Junk 4 Joy: Found Materials Welded Into Art

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #92021 MiniTown Studio Shell Kit
- #77585 Hand Truck
- #78648 Shop Vac
- #76132 Red Fire Extinguisher
- #53413 C-Clamp
- #65249 8-Pc. Tool Set
- #75983 Blue Desk Chair
- #65243 Anvil
- #9412 Four Shelf Brackets
- #33077 Brantley
- #77587 Utility Cart
- #76131 Metallic Blue Tool Box
- #70253 Space-Saving Staircase
- #6001 Four-Panel Traditional Door
- #5007 Traditional 24-Light Window
- #7464 Industrial Window Kit
- #17528 12-Pcs. of $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ " Strip Wood Set
- #9146 Strip Wood $\frac{1}{4}$ -Inch Width
- #34977 Embossed Light Brick Sheet
- #55309 Traditions® White Gesso
- #9754 Corrugated Roofing/Siding
- #9110 Strip Wood $\frac{3}{8}$ -Inch Width
- #9417 Two Large Crates
- #78140 Black Bicycle
- #5018 Large Louvered Shutter
- #1249 Weldbond
- #81164 Wallpaper Gel
- #13527 Liquid Cement
- #80304 Magnetic Gluing Jig



Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.

Structure

Brantley's welding studio began as the MiniTown Studio Shell Kit (#92021) and was modified as follows:

Door position was moved and window openings were moved and/or enlarged. Skylight opening was enlarged by removing the roof section between the two original skylight openings. Platform was narrowed and an opening cut to accommodate Space-Saving Staircase #70253 (which was shortened by one stair). Two new posts were crafted from strip wood and finished to look like steel supports.

The Four-Panel Traditional Door #6001 was transformed into a flush-surface "steel" door as follows: The recessed-panel areas were filled in with wood filler and sanded smooth. A layer of paper was glued over that, and the door was painted medium grey. It was also rehung in the frame to reverse the swing.

The two large windows are #5007, Traditional 24-Light Window, modified by trimming off the extended sides to create an even frame, and by removing every other vertical muntin bar.

The smaller windows are all #7464 Industrial Window Kit. The skylight group are joined with lengths of $\frac{3}{8}$ "-square strip wood (#17528). All windows and door were framed with #9146 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{16}$ " Strip Wood on the interior and exterior, as needed.

All windows and frames are painted Antique White.

All walls, interior and exterior, are covered with #34977 Embossed Light Brick Sheet (six sheets needed). Interior walls are painted off white; open-side edges are covered with #9110 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{32}$ " Strip Wood painted medium grey, as was the bottom outside edge of the kit.

The floor is made to resemble linoleum tiles; linoleum is an appropriate flooring surface for a welding studio because it does not melt or burn if exposed to flame or high heat. I used a mister bottle to spray sheets of glossy photo paper with watered-down yellow ink in an uneven, splotchy pattern. After drying, I cut the sheets into tiles and used glue stick to apply them.

The ventilation duct is a gift-wrap tube painted silver; the grille is the top of a gel-formula deodorant package.

The roof interior (ceiling) has two coats of white gesso (#55309); the eaves and edges are painted dark grey. The roof surface is #9754 Corrugated Roofing/Siding, spray painted with Rust-Oleum Hammered Silver before installation. Only one sheet was needed, as the skylight cut-out area could be used. It was installed with carpet tape (sometimes called rug tape).

Loft level

Various crates (including #9417) and crafted boxes, galvanized wire napkin ring, leftover sections of #24100 plastic fence, scrap pieces of wire and plastic mesh (painted silver or gunmetal, as needed), random pieces of chain, wheels from a broken bicycle (#78140), and a section of corrugated metallic scrapbook paper. The character sitting on the edge of the loft is a Mattel toy from the 1960s, found at a thrift store and painted metallic gunmetal.

Main level

Electrical panel, crafted from sheet styrene, foam core and a nail art decoration.

Oil drum, a slime container, emptied and painted gunmetal.

Pegboard, a strip wood frame with a panel of perforated paper used for decorative needlework. Hooks are functional, fine wire bent with jewelry pliers to fit each tool.

Wall mounted work desk, made from strip wood and craft plywood.

Welding helmet, made from a deodorant cap, styrene, paper, eyelets and a chrome marker.

"Metal" work table, made from angle styrene strip and perforated needlework paper, painted gunmetal.

Workstation, made from strip wood and balsa, painted red and black, with doors from one #5018 shutter cut to fit and painted gunmetal.

Brantley's welding gloves, behind him on the workstation, are made from felt with fabric cuffs. His apron is faux suede material, cut following a stabilized fabric pattern made to fit around his hands.

Gears seen in various places are miscellaneous craft findings.

The angle grinder (on the metal table), welding machine, TIG torch and gas tanks (on the utility cart) were made with various materials, including jewelry findings, leather cord, parts from deconstructed medical syringes and plastic test tubes, after careful study of online images of the actual items. The crafted items on the metal table are made from beads and jewelry findings.