

Little Locomotive

Supplies

- ▶ dryer box
- ▶ dishwasher box
- ▶ extra-large box (approximately 22"x22"x22"; just needs to be smaller than the other two boxes)
- ▶ 48"x96" cardboard sheet (or recycle a flat box from a bicycle, large TV, or assemble-it-yourself furniture)
- ▶ pencil or marker
- ▶ string
- ▶ pushpin
- ▶ 5 red pool noodles
- ▶ 6" plastic flowerpot
- ▶ 12" plastic flowerpot
- ▶ 16" round plastic platter
- ▶ 14-18 water bottle caps
- ▶ recycled lids (we used lids from gallon milk jugs and orange juice lids)
- ▶ egg carton
- ▶ black paint
- ▶ red paint (2-ounce container)
- ▶ foam paintbrush
- ▶ black spray paint
- ▶ silver spray paint
- ▶ red spray paint
- ▶ yellow spray paint
- ▶ paint roller
- ▶ paint tray
- ▶ dropcloth
- ▶ plastic gloves (optional; to protect hands while painting)
- ▶ masking tape or painter's tape
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ 4" diameter carpet tube (cut to 18")
- ▶ utility knife with fresh blades
- ▶ 3 battery-operated mini push lights
- ▶ small Rocky Railway logo from the Giant Decorating Poster Pack*
- ▶ hot glue gun and glue sticks
- ▶ six 18-ounce plastic cups
- ▶ Frisbee (9¼" diameter)
- ▶ drill and drill bits
- ▶ black duct tape
- ▶ polyester fiberfill
- ▶ recycled newspaper
- ▶ yardstick
- ▶ cutting mat
- ▶ 6 large paper plates (preferably silver)
- ▶ 6 medium paper plates (preferably red)
- ▶ 6 small paper plates (preferably black)
- ▶ Red Barn Plastic Backdrop*
- ▶ clear packing tape
- ▶ foam pipe insulation



Step 1: Paint boxes before assembly

Ahead of time, use flat black paint to paint the dryer box and dishwasher box, and allow it to dry. Wrap the lid of the dryer box with Red Barn Plastic Backdrop.

Step 2: Spray paint decorative elements

Spray paint the carpet tube red.

Spray paint the 6-inch flowerpot black, then use masking tape or painter's tape to mark a stripe about 2 inches wide near the top of the flowerpot; then dab on red paint to create a band.

Spray paint the 12-inch flowerpot, round plastic platter, and water bottle lids silver.

Spray paint two mini push lights, one yellow and one red.

Spray paint the Frisbee black, then drill a hole in it to attach later as a steering wheel.

If desired, spray paint the recycled lids and egg carton red and yellow.

Step 3: Cut boxes and cardboard

Set the dryer box upright and center the dishwasher box lengthwise against the dryer box. Trace the outline of the dishwasher box onto the dryer box, and cut around the outline to create a space to insert the dishwasher box into the dryer box.

Create a walk-in opening at the back of the dryer box (the engine) by measuring 6 inches down from the top and 6 inches in on each side and then cutting out. Reserve the piece of cardboard you just cut out for the "cowcatcher."

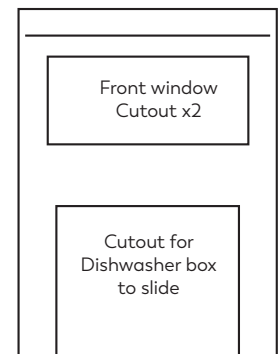
Cut out three windows on the engine, two on the side and one in front.

Draw three 27-inch circles on cardboard (see tip). Cut them out, then paint them black.

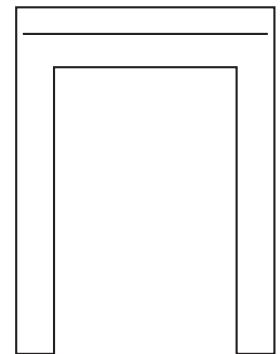
Measure and cut out an 8-inch x 12-inch rectangle from the cardboard, then paint it black. You'll attach your steering wheel to this piece.

Dryer box Cuts

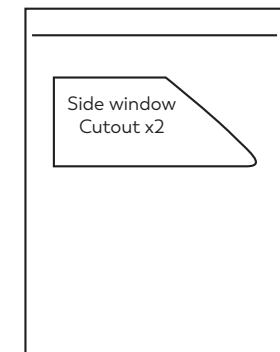
Front



Back View



Side View



Front



Back

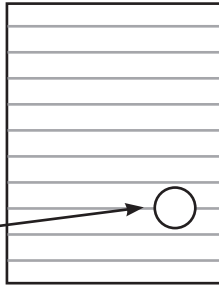


Side View

TIP: Push a pushpin through the cardboard where you want the center of the circle to be. Tie an approximately 16" length of string to the pushpin, and tie the other end of the string to a marker. Pull the string taut, and draw a circle on the cardboard.

Scored 48" x 25"
piece of Cardboard
for barrel. cover $\frac{1}{2}$
circle.

Cut for smoke stack



Step 4: Score cardboard

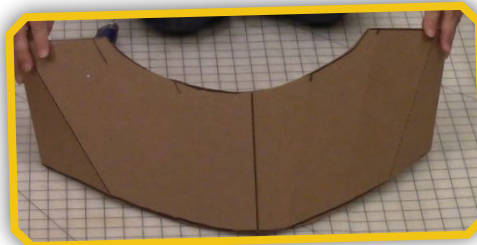
To create the "barrel" piece, cut a 48-inch x 25-inch piece of cardboard, and score it every 3 inches to allow the cardboard to bend.

Cut one of the circles in half. Score each half-circle 1 inch up from the bottom, and fold it to create a flap. These two half-circles will be the supports on top of the dishwasher box for the "barrel."

From the reserved scrap of cardboard, measure and cut off a 5-inch x 30-inch piece; set aside.

Score the reserved 5-inch x 30-inch piece of cardboard at the halfway point (15 inches in), then score it every 3 inches as you did for the barrel. This piece will go under the nose of the train.

Use the remaining cardboard scrap to create the cowcatcher: Draw a rainbow shape approximately 10 inches x 30 inches, then find the center and score it on the diagonal approximately every 4 inches from the center out in both directions. Spray paint this piece silver.



Step 5: Glue

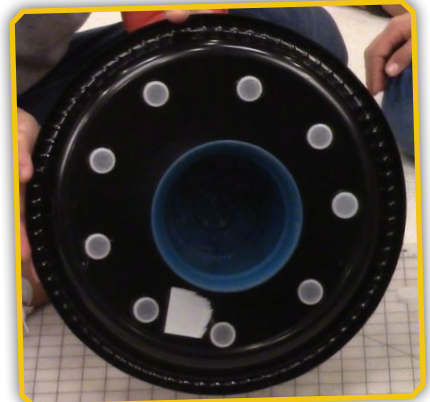
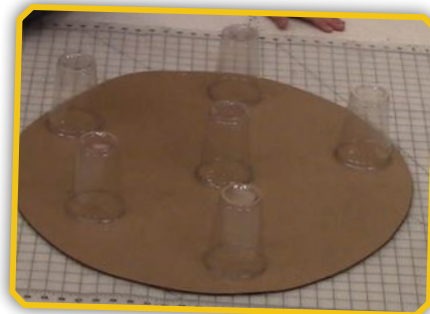
Position the six plastic cups evenly around one of the 27-inch circles, and hot glue them down. Add hot glue to the tops of the cups, and attach the other 27-inch circle. Glue the half-circles on the scores to create a triangle base by folding in the cardboard.

Glue the unpainted push light into the painted 6-inch flowerpot, then glue the bottom of the flowerpot to the center of the painted round plastic platter. Glue the painted water bottle caps evenly around the outside of the platter. Attach the round plastic platter unit to the center of the 27-inch circle using Cool Connectors.

Glue the 5-inch x 30-inch piece of scored cardboard so it covers the gap between the two 27-inch circles.

Ensure the dishwasher box extends out from the dryer box approximately 20 inches. Then position the two half-circle cardboard pieces on the dishwasher box, allowing room in between for the smokestack, and glue them in place.

Use two Cool Connectors to attach the circle/cup unit to the dishwasher box so it's level with the half-circles you just glued. Climb into the dishwasher box to drill the holes. You'll need someone to hold the circle/cup unit to the dishwasher box.



Step 6: Make smokestack

Lay the scored barrel piece on top of the dishwasher box near the front. Make sure the barrel piece covers the dishwasher box and fits snugly over the circle/cup unit. It should be centered over the top of the box (like a comforter). Once it's centered, make a mark to know where to position the smokestack (don't attach it yet).

Set the carpet tube on the barrel where you marked it. Trace the carpet tube on the barrel, then cut out the circle.

Lay the cardboard barrel over the dishwasher box, positioning it so the smokestack is centered. Use black tape to connect it to the dishwasher box. Attach the 5-inch x 30-inch scored cardboard piece with black duct tape, or hot glue it to the bottom of the cup/circle unit to cover the cups. Attach the cowcatcher under the barrel with a Cool Connector on each side.

Glue the painted 12-inch flowerpot to the carpet tube, then insert the carpet tube "smokestack" into the barrel. Crumple up paper to fill the flowerpot, and add polyester fiberfill on top to create the steam.

Step 7: Finish the train

Make three wheels on each side of the train: Glue the large silver plates so the eating surface is against the train. Then nest each black plate inside a red plate and attach each nested set to a silver plate using Cool Connectors.

Measure around the openings of the two side windows, then cut the pool noodles to fit each edge. Cut a slit in each of the pool noodle sections to easily slip over the edges. Use hot glue to hold the pool noodles in place. You can also add cut pool noodles around the opening to the engine.

Position the Rocky Railway logo on the side of the engine, under the window, and glue it in place.





Step 8: Create dashboard

Score the 8-inch x 12-inch cardboard rectangle at the center (4 inches in), and attach the Frisbee steering wheel to it using a Cool Connector. Then hot glue the cardboard rectangle to the ledge created by pushing the dishwasher box into the dryer box.

Create a fun space for kids to play in by gluing the painted lids, egg cartons, and the painted push lights on both sides of the steering wheel.

Step 9: Create the coal car

Fold in the flaps of the remaining box. To create a 14-inch opening in the center of one side of the box, measure 4 inches in on both sides and 4 inches up from the bottom. Mark the opening, then cut out.

Wrap the box with the Red Barn Plastic Backdrop, and use the packing tape to secure it. Set the coal car behind the engine. Cut the foam pipe insulation into approximately 1½-inch chunks.

