

THE **O** RESOURCE

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE
We're putting the "modeling" back
in Model Railroading! ®

Volume 9 No. 5
May/June 2022

SCALE



Scenery from the Ground Up
March Meet & Contest Wrap Up
Taming Woodland Scenics Field Grass
"O" Scale 2 Rail Show Strasburg, PA Wrap Up
"Punta Cayo" A Tropical Railroad of a Whimsical Nature
New Tracks: Mentors Can Really Help Improve Your Modeling
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May/June 2022
Volume 9 No. 5

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Welcome to the online O Scale Resource magazine. The magazine is presented in an easy to use format. The blue bar above the magazine has commands for previewing all the pages, advancing the pages forward or back, searching to go to a specific page, enlarging pages, printing pages, enlarging the view to full screen, and downloading a copy to your computer.

Front Cover Photos

Top: A scene from the beautiful modular railroad brought to the Chicago March Meet by Ken Burney from Arkansas.

Bottom: John & Patty Dunn, along with some of the vendor tables at the Strasburg, PA 2 Rail Train Show.

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The Model Railroad Resource, LLC publishes *The O Scale Resource* and *The S Scale Resource*. Be sure to look at both of our magazines. There are many articles in our magazines that are not scale specific and will be of interest to you. Click the magazine title in this announcement to see the magazine.

From the Publisher's Desk



The March Meet is over for this year, and what a show it was! See our two articles in this issue. We had a fantastic time and the contest models were over the top. (See our Show Calendar in this issue for next year's show.) The show was better than I could have imagined, and the crew that put it together deserves all our thanks. It felt normal again after a two year hiatus. There were more models than we have seen in many years in the contest area, along with display only models. That did cause a few issues on timing, and we will address that next year. We really did not know what to expect, but were blown away at the quality of the models. [We produced a video on the show and you may watch that here.](#)

As I type this, the Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show is on tap for April 23rd and we are going, so you can read about it this in this issue. We try and get out to one of these shows every few years. It's a long haul for us, but it's great to see modelers and displays that don't make it to our part of the country.

O Scale West is also on our agenda this year at the end of May, and we'll cover that in the next issue.

Because of the show coverage, I'll get back to my 3D printing article next month. We did roll out our new line of 3D models at the Chicago show and sales were better than expected. You can see our new Website and [order on-line here.](#)

There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm in the O scale circles. Younger modelers were at the show and new products were announced and shown. New products are being released, new rolling stock kits from the likes of Twin Star Cars, Southern Car & Foundry and Modern Era O. Scale City Designs is releasing and modernizing the American Standard Car Company line with their American Standard Gas Electric Kit. New buildings from B.T.S and Berkshire Valley Models. In addition, Berkshire Car Shop has new buildings and trolley selections. Atlas has new auto racks that were shown at the Chicago March Meet.

There are so many more opportunities with 3D modeling coming into its own, as we even released our new signal and relay cases and SA type signal. Yes, it's great time to be an O scaler!

I'm sure there are many more new items out there, so if you are a manufacturer, please send us your announcements for our *News You Can Use* section and get noticed!

Let us know what you are up to. Email daniel@modelrailroadresource.com with any projects, large or small, and let's talk. Don't worry if you don't fancy yourself a great writer, we'll work with you and help get your thoughts down.

Thank you all for your support, and remember to tell our advertisers you saw them in *The O Scale Resource Magazine!*

Happy Reading & Happy Modeling,

Amy & Dan Dawdy

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roger Lewis from Wasatch Model Company sent us photos of the CZ cars in production. Note that these are just pilot models. I just received these photos from my builder in Korea. I wish I would have had them for the Chicago Show. These are just the pilot models of course, but they clearly show the quality of work that this builder is doing.



He is still accepting reservations for the California Zephyr. [Click here for mor information on the California Zephyr project.](#)



NOTE: The Dallas P.O. Box is NO LONGER Active! Use the following address: 27 W. Hammond St., Mundelein, IL 60060. [See his Website](#) for more information on these beautiful cars and the last run of Wasatch Model Company Passenger car Trucks.



[Mr. Muffin's Trains](#) has the new Schomberg Scale Structures - Locomotive Tender Tank in stock.



This kit is an update of one that was introduced 20 years ago as a Schomberg Scale Models kit. The original stone piers have been replaced by weathered wood piles with rough cross members and longitudinal supports. The spout is a newer version and the ladders have been re-arranged.

Kit includes resin castings for the wood components, tender tank casting, gallows, spout and weights, ladders and barrels. Cable and chain are supplied for the spout rigging. Full assembly and painting instructions as well as weathering hints are included. The kit does not include base, track or scenery. [See and order the kit here.](#)

Spark Arrestor. These were applied to the Rock Island GP and F units. This is a nickel silver etch that is folded and soldered. \$20



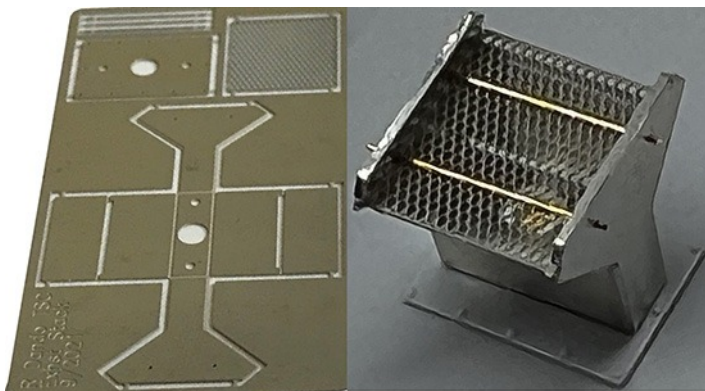
Rock Island Decals
This can best be described as a one stop shop for all the lettering and heralds for all generation of the railroad.

Why not several sets? Cost. This is everything MicroScale has offered in HO and scaled up for 1/48. There are 8 sheets and endless possibilities. \$40

Ross Dando says: [Twin Star Cars and Modern Era O now have a website.](#) I have not enabled the shipping portion of the site as I have not set it up and tested it out. If you would like to order anything, click the more info button on the product and send me an email. I want to only charge actual shipping rather than what the computer calculates. I don't accept small children, but take cash, check and PayPal.



Twin Star Cars
1/48 Scale Railroad Spike. This is a functional detail product produced by double etching stainless steel. They are finished in a black oxide that looks like rusty steel. The fret will do approximately 16"-18" of track depending on your tie spacing. 154 spikes per fret, \$18.



Modern Era O

FMX ABOX: FMC built three lots of combination door box cars. This car can be used to build these numbers 50000-52499. \$190

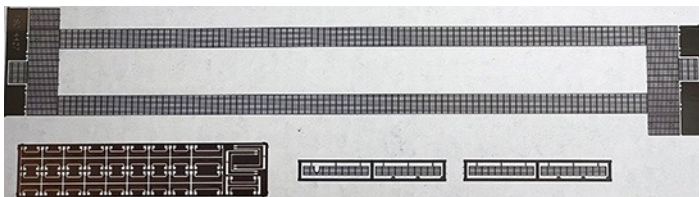




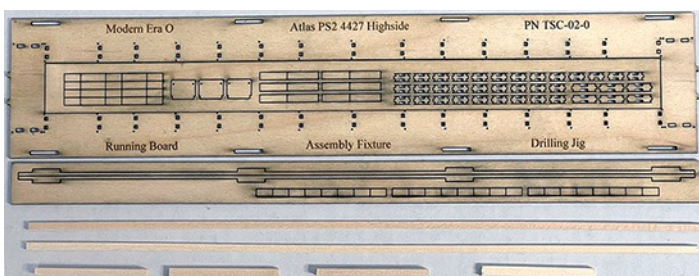
Thrall RailGON: Railgon built 4,000 GONX cars. These were delivered between July of 1980 and October of 1981. This model represents the ones built by Thrall 310000 - 310999. \$170



Etched Running Board for Atlas 4427 PS2 Covered Hopper. This is a kit to change the plastic molded running board to a stainless etched running board. \$30



Assembly Fixture and Drill Jig for Etched Running Board: This is the assembly fixture to ensure that the etched kit can be assembled and will fit into



the holes drilled using this fixture. Before you decide to give it a go without this, just don't. \$25

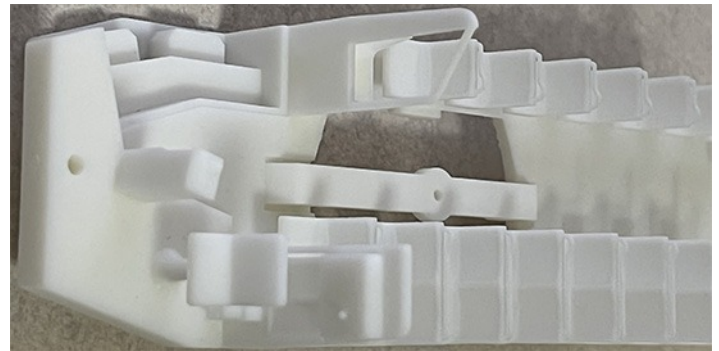
[Check their Website for all their new products.](#)



Ed Skuchas of [Berkshire Car Shop](#) has some great new products. Ed says: All are 3D printed models of trolley cars and buildings. Very high quality. Smooth finish. Highly detailed. We are constantly upgrading the designs. More and more detail is constantly being added and manufacturing details are being refined.



C&LE flat car. Bottom and top view shown. Available with containerized freight locator pins on the deck or a plain deck.



Philadelphia Kawasaki street car fully integrated floor. This is a floor what will fit into a Kawasaki body. Equipment detail is provided on the bottom. Seats, partitions, steps and other equipment details. The detail is very fine and the handles on the tops of the seats are all included in the printing. Also integrated into the design is a mounting bracket for a Q Car power truck.



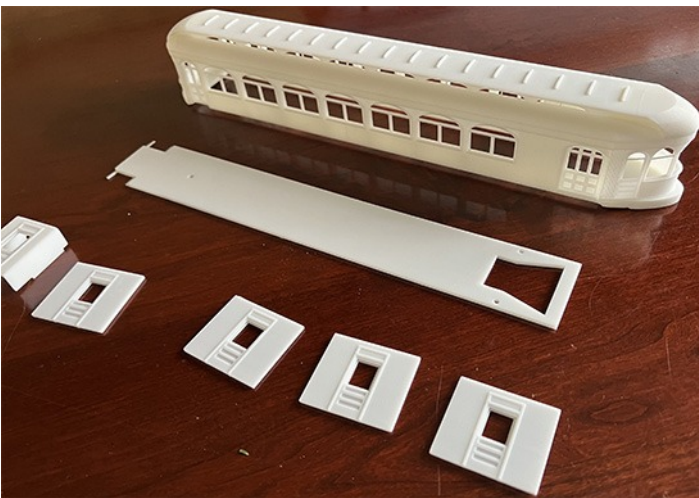
Two story row houses with porches and bay windows. Single, right and left hand. Twins. Left and right ends with long side wall.



Two story row house facades. Flat front. Left and right hand. Three story row houses. Left and right hand townhouses. Store front first story. Left and right ends with long sidewalls and store front.

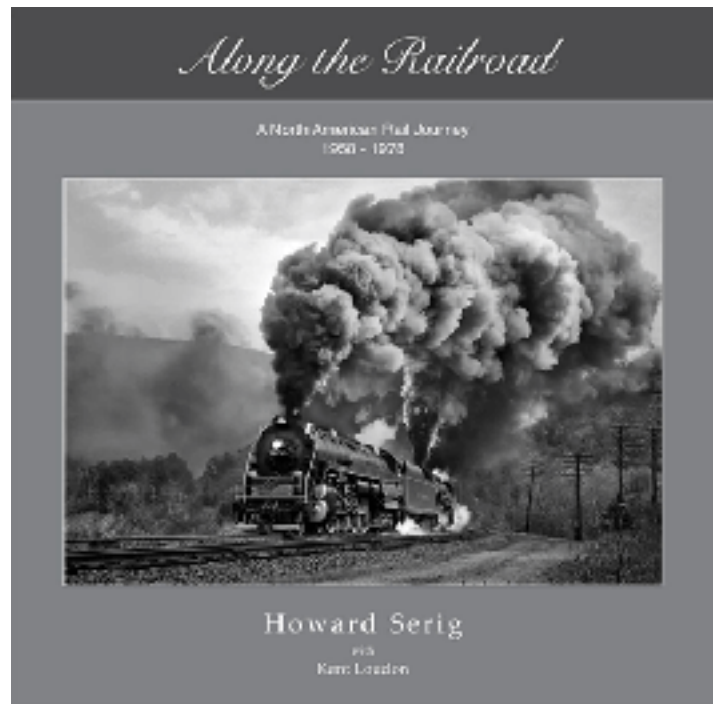


Pittsburgh double deck trolley car.



Windsplitter interurban. [Email Ed for more details.](#)

"When trains were really trains" describes this new book featuring the creative photographic talents of Howard Serig. This is not just another train book. The photographer spent many years pursuing his passion to document the last days of steam and the transition to diesel. This is not the typical 3/4 shot of locomotives and rolling stock. Serig has devoted his time to capture the era when railroads ruled and formed the fabric of our culture.



That time has passed, but these images portray the sense, feelings, and emotions it generated. [For availability, pricing, and more information see our display ad elsewhere in this magazine under "Along the Railroad."](#)

The Model Railroad Resource has begun selling a line of 3D printed signals and signal/relay kits. [Our new Website is here.](#)

I wanted some of the older signal boxes for my layout, so going off of manufacturer's catalogs and drawings, Glenn Guerra came up with beautiful files for printing.



These were drawn to scale (1/4") and not reduced from full sized drawings.



There are two Western Railroad Supply Company styles. These type of cabinets go back to 1937 when they adapted "Western" into their name. Used alone for track circuits or crossing and train signals, they were used all over and many can still be seen today. Pedestal version was also used as a phone box.



From the catalogs of the General Railway Supply Company, these type of cabinets go back to at least the 1920's and we have four styles to choose from.

From the catalogs of the General Railway Supply Company, the SA1.



The Type SA Signal produces a powerful signal indication at a minimum of energy consumption due to its scientific optical construction. It is equipped with an elliptical reflector which uses approximately 80 percent of light emitted by the concentrated filament lamp. All three indications are projected through one lens, therefore the beam of light is always in the engineman's line of vision due to the unchanged location of the three indications. The following features have contributed

largely to the rapid adoption of this signal since its introduction in February of 1927.

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[Check our Website here!](#)

New from Richard Rands and [Berkshire Valley Models](#). #682 Mail Bags - 3 per package for \$3.50. Decals are included.



#683 Duffel Bags - 3 per package for \$3.50. Both are unpainted white metal and measure approximately 5/8" x 3/8".



[See their Website for these and many other detail parts.](#)

Jon Cagle of Southern Car & Foundry sent us a new announcement.

Greetings O Scale Modelers! Well, this spring it seems the resin garden has offered its latest fruits. A Howe Truss Boxcar. Kit # 306, \$180.00 each plus shipping, features reverse Dreadnaught ends and a Murphy radial roof.



The Howe Truss Boxcar was considered an "alternate" design pattern to the standard ARA Pratt Truss design but retained many of the characteristics of the ARA cars. Road names associated with this particular design variation are: Columbus and Greenville (300 cars), Louisiana and Arkansas (300 cars), International Great Northern (300+) and the New Orleans Texas and Mexico (120 cars), the latter two being subsidiaries of the Missouri Pacific.

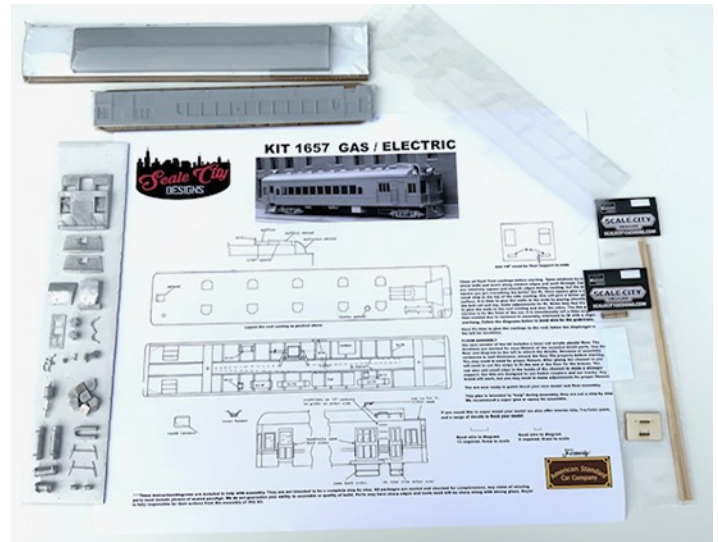


One could even model a Sands Spring Railway boxcar before their rebuilding. Decals available thru Protocraft. For additional reading on the prototype, I suggest Ted Culotta's series of articles, "Essential Freight Cars" #22 "Alternate" ARA Single Sheath Boxcars.

[See Jon's Website for more information.](#)



[Great news from Scale City Designs:](#) American Standard Passenger Kits are back available!

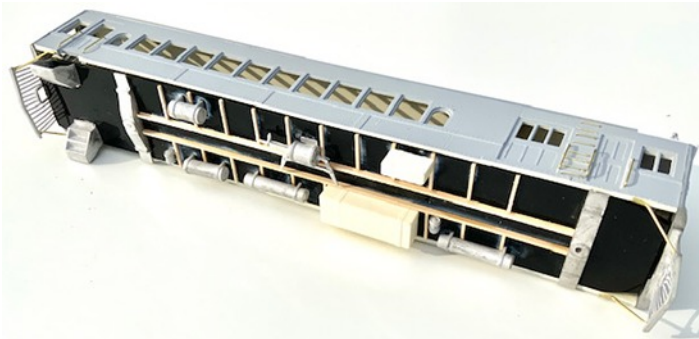


We have been hard at work at Scale City Designs resurrecting the old American Standard Passenger car kits. This has been a huge undertaking and much harder than anticipated. Every single mold needed to be replaced from the sides, roofs, and to the detail parts.



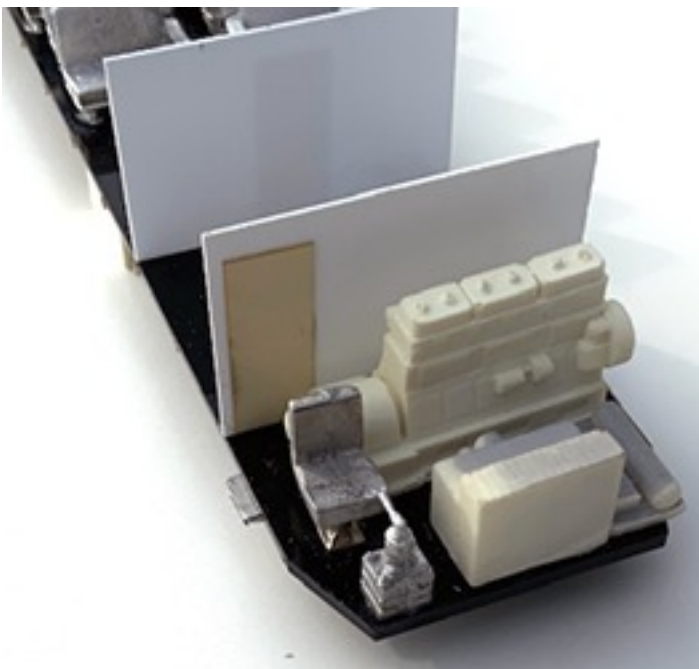
This has been a bitter-sweet problem. Standard mold & resin material produced too much shrinkage making a bad finished product.

After many test and failures, we have come up with the perfect products that are easy for the builder to assemble. Rather than just producing the old “standard” in kits, we chose to take the time to upgrade them. We looked at the kits from a novice builder perspective and made upgrades like a new laser cut acrylic floor over the wood. By laser cutting, it allows us to mark the for the important pieces like the center sill, braces and bolsters.



This allows easy alignment by the builder. The roof was due for an upgrade as well, in this particular gas electric we now offer with a cast roof and styrene, no more hours of sanding sealer and shaping of wood. We also took advantage of our 3D printers and updated other parts such as the fuel tank, tool box and other details making them crisper and cleaner than ever. All our kits will be supplied with large scale diagrams/instructions printed on 18” and 24” paper.

Ralph Brown was a master modeler/pattern maker and our upgrades make this a brass like quality model now. We are pleased to announce the release of our



Plan 1657 Gas/Electric Model available in kit form for \$139, and we have a super interior detail kit which has a cab interior/passenger seats and a resin motor and details for \$35. [You can order yours here.](#)

Look for the other 70+ designs to be coming back soon and [see their Website for all the details.](#)



[The Spring 2022 Atlas O Premier Catalog is available here.](#)

April showers didn't bring May flowers this time around, they brought the new Spring 2022 Atlas O Premier Catalog! This issue is filled with brand new models that are sure to have you hopping with joy. The deadline for placing your order/reservation with your Atlas Dealer is Wednesday, June 8, 2022.



Also, O GP-7 Locomotives are Arriving in May! Introduced in 1949, the Electro-Motive 1500hp GP-7 combined the machinery of the F7 with a hood-type carbody that offered high visibility and easy engine access. The GP-7 was used in pulling every conceivable type of train and was sometimes substituted for part of a set of cab units.

These highly-anticipated models will be arriving in May at an Authorized Atlas Dealer near you!



The All Nation Line is happy to announce the release of the O Scale Windsplitter kit for beginning model builders. With the permission from creator Gary Reighn, the kit is a (1/48) scale model of a 1910's era interurban car (trolley). The kit contains the basic body components only, ready for adding power, a pole and radial couplers for operation on the traction layout.



Documentation, links and reference materials are included in the kit. We invite you to have a look at all our Windsplitter kit photos here on our website. [Click here to view.](#)

In addition, the interior has a partition, and there is a separate kit which can be purchased with the seating chair arrangement as found on the prototype.

[Wide Base chairs, click here to view](#), or [Thin Base chairs, click here to view.](#)

If you want to keep up with “What’s New?” on our website, visit the following link here. <https://allnationline.com>



Here's the new product information for the paint sets for May and June, 2022. The sets have six (6) colors- either all sprayable or all brushable from [Tru-Color Paint](#).

May, 2022 Paint Sets
TCP-10401- Weathering and Detail, Set #1
TCP-076: Rust

The O Scale Resource May/June 2022

TCP-082: Rich Oxide Brown
TCP-171: Weathered Black
TCP-172: Weathered Concrete
TCP-174: Grime
TCP-176: Dust

TCP-10402- Weathering and Detail, Set #2
TCP-349: Seasoned Brown Wood
TCP-359: Weathered White
TCP-403: Matte Mud, #1
TCP-404: Matte Light Rust
TCP-408: Matte Aged Rust
TCP-433: Matte Black
TCP-10403- Weathering and Detail, Set #3
TCP-009: Grimy Black
TCP-093: Oxide Brown
TCP-173: Weathered Iron Oxide
TCP-348: Weathered Gray Wood
TCP-357: Burnt Iron
TCP-359: Weathered White

June, 2022 Paint Sets
TCP-10501- Structure, Set #1
TCP-801: Concrete
TCP-816: Gray Stucco
TCP-817: Off-White
TCP-821: Brick Red
TCP-823: Roof Brown
TCP-831: Window Trim, Deep Brown

TCP-10550- Bridge & Building, Set #1
TCP-404: Matte Light Rust
TCP-407: Matte Brown Rust
TCP-410: Matte Roof Brown
TCP-412: Matte Stucco- Light Blue-Gray
TCP-432: Matte Concrete



As always, Tru-Color Paint is open to new ideas for paints. If there are colors that our readers need but aren't made, have shoot them an email at tru.colorpaint1@yahoo.com. If they can find enough information on the color, they could put it in the next year's production schedule. [See their full line up at their Website!](#)

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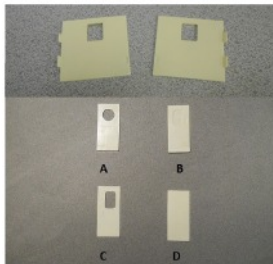
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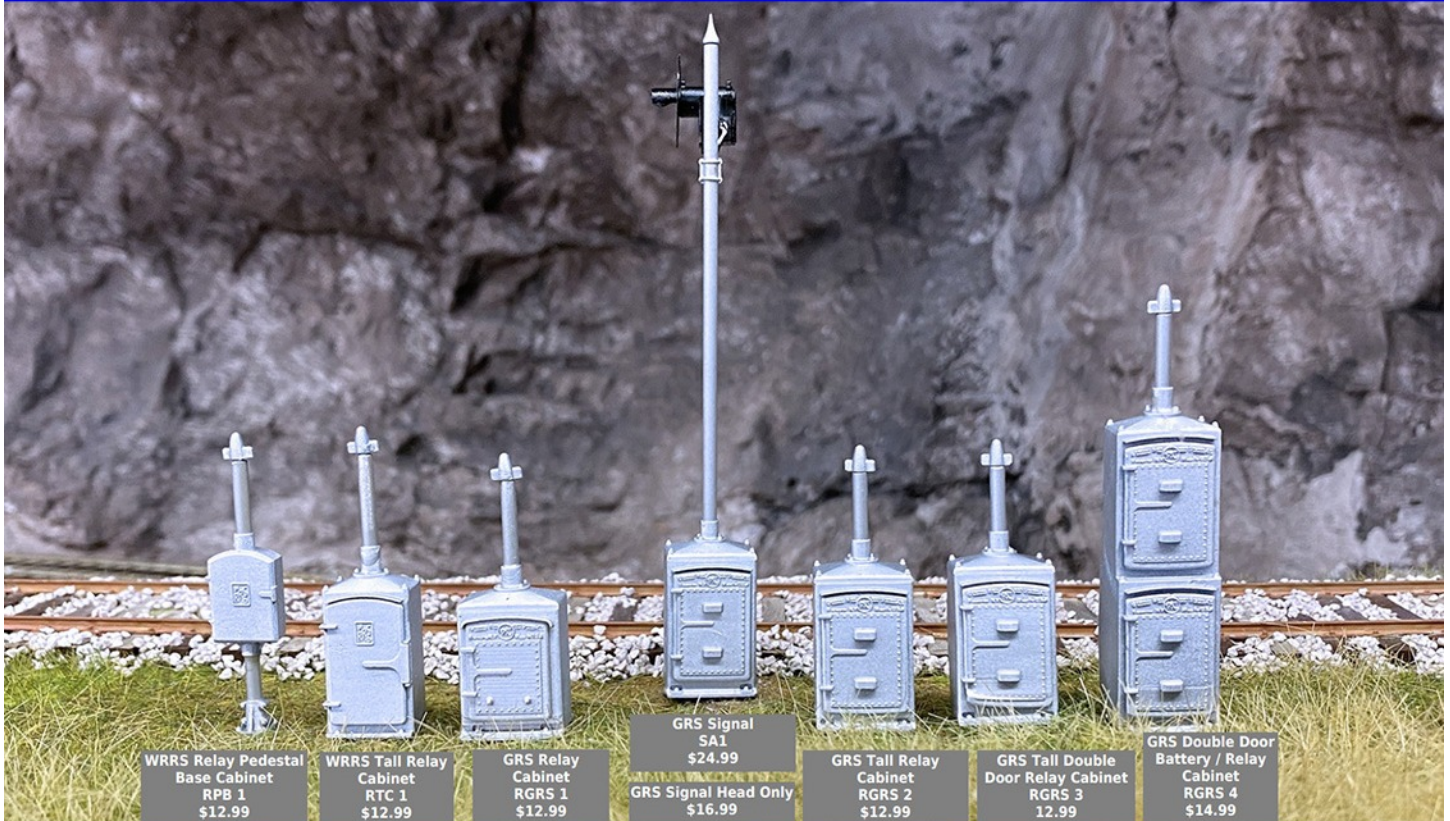
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New Resin castings in O scale!
<https://modelrailroadresource.com/WP/>

ALL ITEMS WERE DRAWN TO SCALE FROM MANUFACTURER CATALOGS AND DATA SHEETS.

Tube is NOT included - You supply the 3/32 brass tube. (K&S # 8126) or aluminum 3/32 tube (K&S # 8101) or Plastruct and others
SA1 will need tube and LED

Chicago March Meet 2022 It's Back!

By Dan Dawdy

It's been two years since the Last March Meet. The Hills retired from the show, COVID-19 hit hard and no one knew if anyone would try and pick up the show.

Well someone did, and after waiting on the pandemic, working back and forth with the hotel, and I can't imagine what all else, the show went on.

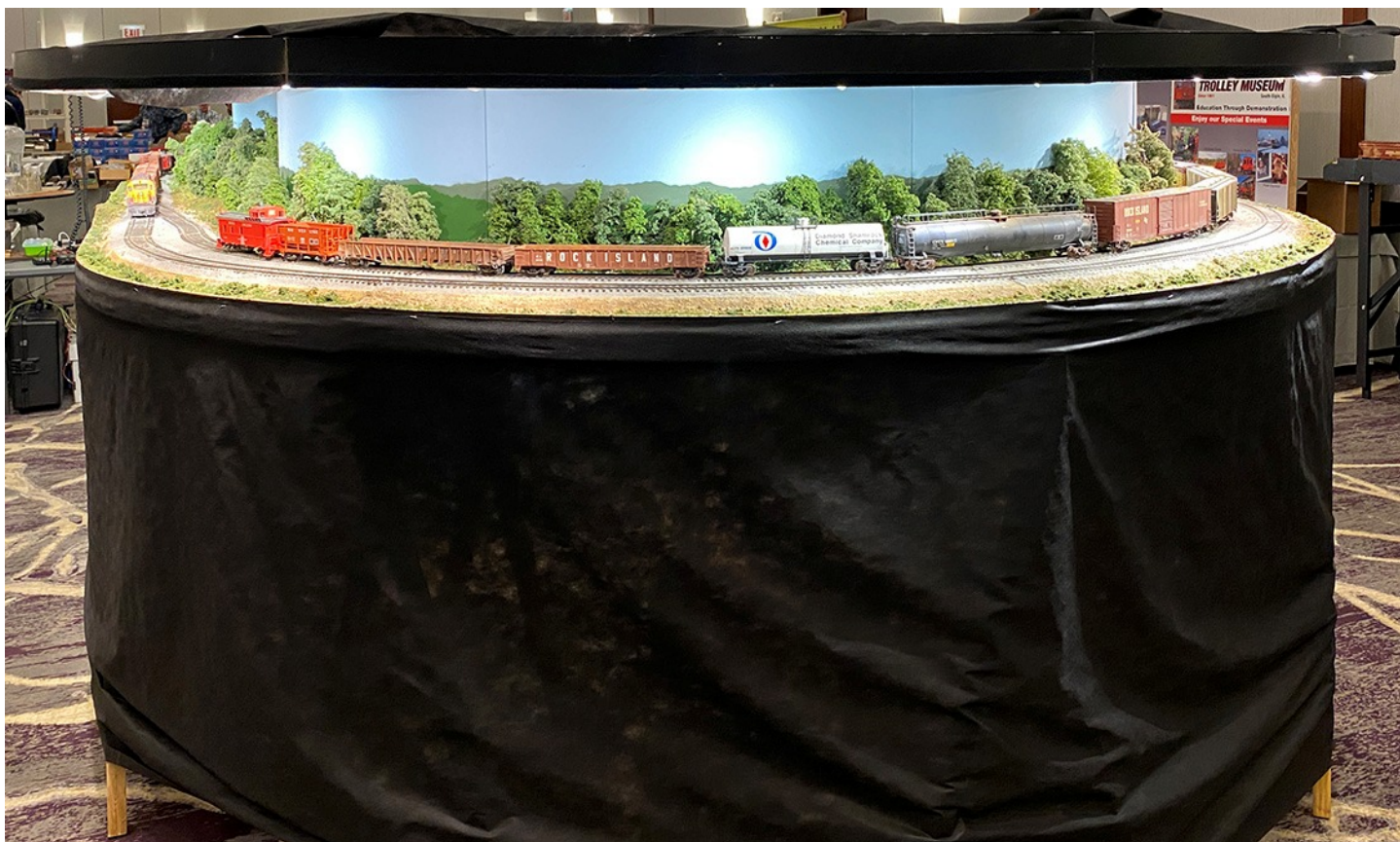
First off, we need to thank the people and staff who pulled this off. Brad Kowal, James Schultz, Dave Schultz, Michael Schultz, Adam Schafer, Fred Soop, Shaydin Anthony, Cully Kowal, Nancy Kowal, Dan Hiller, Ruth Sukowatey-Hiller, Paula Schafer, Wally Rogers, Bonnie Rogers and Mike Slater.

We arrived Friday afternoon and things were already hopping. Dealers were setting up and everything seemed to go smoothly. The contest area was already set up, and was moved to the foyer area outside the trading hall for more visibility this year. The contest models were fantastic and there were a lot more than we expected. We are already working on plan for next year's show, and how to make the contest better and more streamlined. Also we had a lot of display only models and will work to expand that.

We have our [annual video that you can watch here](#) along with the following scenes full of eye candy for your enjoyment. [The 2023 March Meet information is also on-line here.](#)



There were many people we had not seen in over two years, and just getting together and talking was worth the trip. Also, more and more new and younger faces were showing up in the trading hall which is a good sign for the health of O scale in general. So let's look at more fun at the the March Meet 2022!



Ken Burney brought this fantastic portable layout up from his home state of Arkansas. We really want to thank Ken again for all the work he put in to get it here. Also look for an upcoming article on this layout.





Steven Douglas, Carey Williams and George Svoboda having a great time.



Jay Criswell and Bob Stevenson



Bill Yancey and Amy Dawdy



Bill Heaton and Amy Dawdy



Nancy and Jeb Kriigel at their table with Joe Prochazka on the left looking on.



Ross Danda mans his table for Twin Star Cars and Modern Era O.



Eric Peterson at the 2023 convention table.





Brian Huang running with the ProtoThrottle.



John Dunn with bunny ears by Bob Lavezzi.



John Cagle from Southern Car and Foundry.



John Wubbel (in the red hat) and his All Nation Line





Joe Rauenbuehler and his beautiful circus train.



The one and only Brady McGuire.





Bob Lavezzi gave us our first look at the new Atlas auto rack.





Central Locomotive Works SDL39 Truck



Central Locomotive Works new SDL39 truck with drive by Jay Criswell.



Above and below: A few nice scenes from the layout Ken Burney brought to the show.



Paint Sets

10401: WEATHERING, SET #1 (Reissue)

TCP-076 Rust
 TCP-082 Rich Oxide Brown
 TCP-171 Weathered Black
 TCP-172 Weathered Concrete
 TCP-174 Grime
 TCP-176 Dust

10402: WEATHERING, SET #2 (New)

TCP-349 Seasoned Brown Wood
 TCP-359 Weathered White
 TCP-403 Matte Mud, #1
 TCP-404 Matte Light Rust
 TCP-408 Matte Aged Rust
 TCP-433 Matte Black

10403: WEATHERING, SET #3 (New)

TCP-009 Grimy Black
 TCP-093 Oxide Brown
 TCP-173 Weathered Iron Oxide
 TCP-348 Weathered Gray Wood
 TCP-357 Burnt Iron
 TCP-359 Weathered White



Some of the other sets we are coming out this year include a bridge & building set, a set for just Great Northern, a set of New England-based railroads, a set for just Canadian railroads, and a scenery & diorama set. If you have a suggestion for a set, shoot us an email. We're always looking for the next bright idea.

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CHICAGO MARCH MEET 2022

CONTEST RESULTS

By Dan Dawdy

All I can say is wow! We were worried about the contest slipping in popularity, but this year was the best as far as number and quality of models entered since The Model Railroad Resource took over sponsorship of the contest. That did cause some issues, but we will be addressing those for next year. The big issue was the judging went longer because of the number of entries.

We will address that for next year. Because of that, some modelers wanted their models before we could get pictures of them with their award. But other than that, it was a wonderful experience to see these fantastic models. So let's look through them and get busy for next year! Thank you to all who entered.

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE



First Place: James Schultz - Milwaukee Road E6 #15A



Second Place: Attalee S Taylor - Randall Engineering #19 GE 25 Ton Diesel-Electric

Third Place: David Schultz - Soo Line SW-1 #320



STEAM LOCOMOTIVE



First Place: Ed Truslow - Milwaukee Road F5 4-6-2 # 802



**Second Place:
George Podas -
Rock Island
R-67 4-8-4**



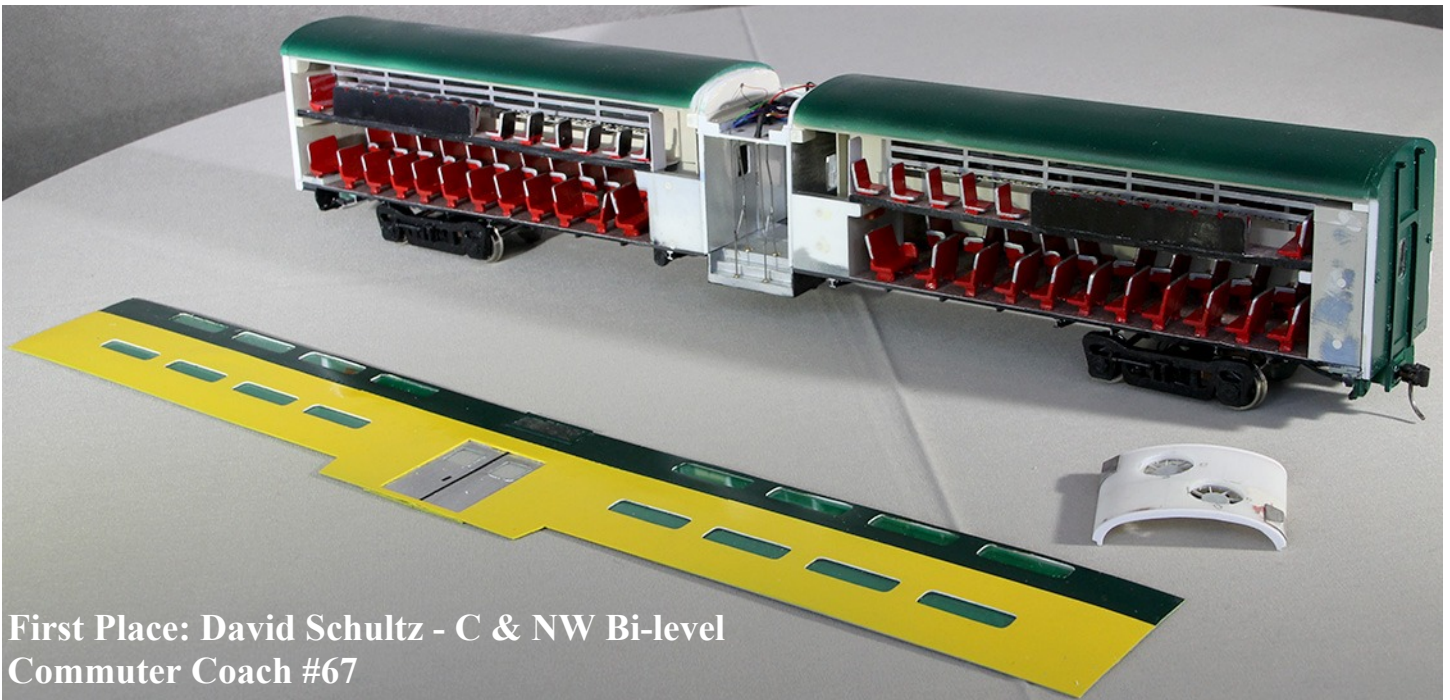
**Third Place: Bill
Heaton - SRR
Ms4 #6350**

GAS-POWERED



First Place: Ralph L Nelson - Nevada Copper Belt

PASSENGER CAR



Second Place: Shaydin Anthony - Milwaukee Road Dell Rapids
Third Place: Patrick Cudzilo - Free lance – Central Pacific 1869 Car # 18

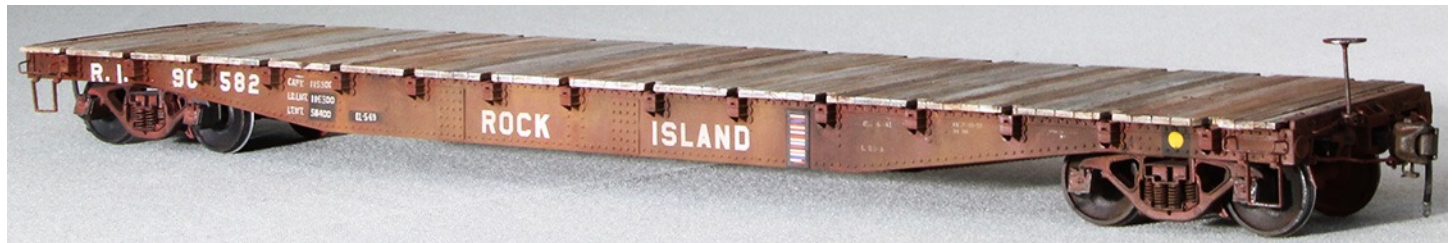


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FREIGHT CAR

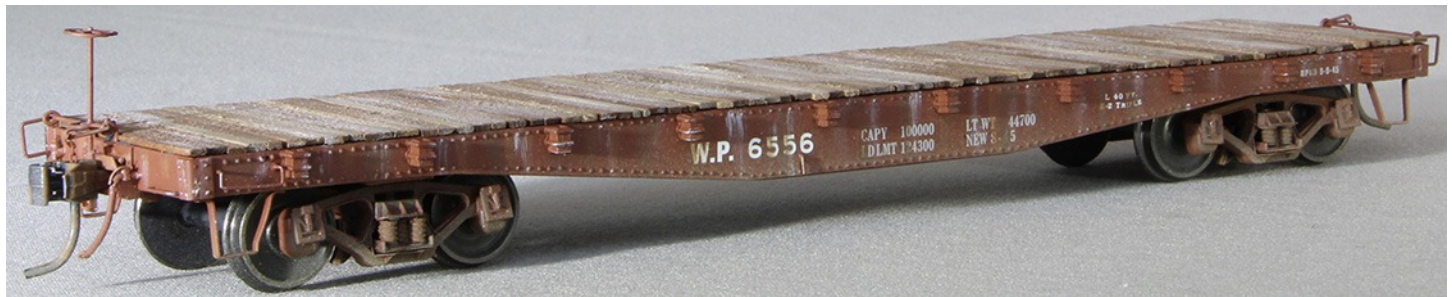


First Place: Jim Zwernemann - Reefer SLRX 6069 – Bunkerless 36'



Second Place: Ross Dando - Rock Island 53'6" #90582 Flat Car

Third Place: Attalee S Taylor - WP 6556 41' Flat Car



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CABOOSE



First Place: Jim Zwernemann - Louisiana & Arkansas/Kansas City Southern 386
Second Place: Jim Schneider - C & NW Mullet River



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DISPLAY-DIORAMA

**First Place: John Rusty Dramm
Herman Lohe's Meat Market**



**Second Place: Gregg Cygnar - Scrap Yard/Salvage Company
Third Place: Al Collins - Water Tank (scratch built)**

SINGLE STRUCTURE

**First Place: Gregg Cygnar
Abandoned Warehouse**



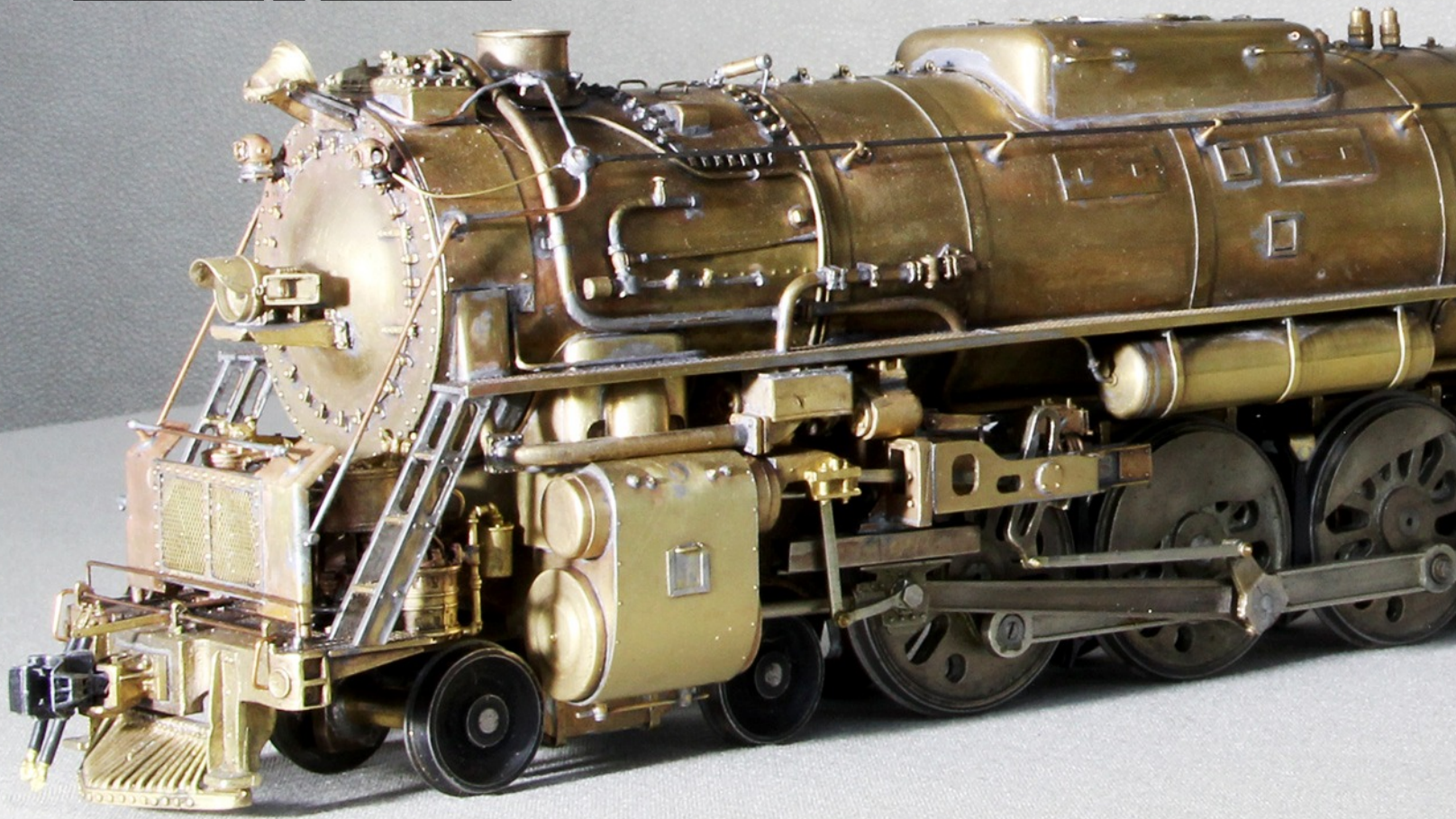
Second Place: Dave Field - Blackwater Factory



Third Place: Jim Kehn - Grain Elevator Office Building



VIEWER'S CHOICE



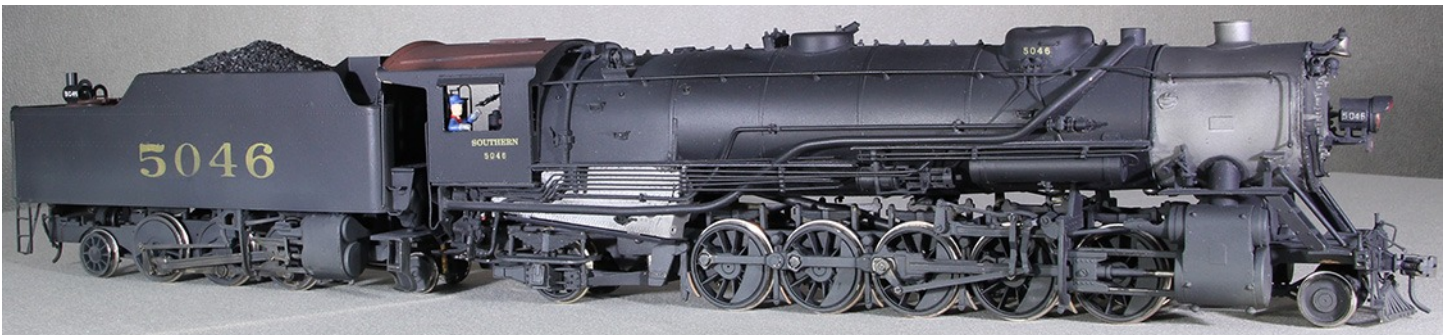
Blast from the past. Best of Show 1990



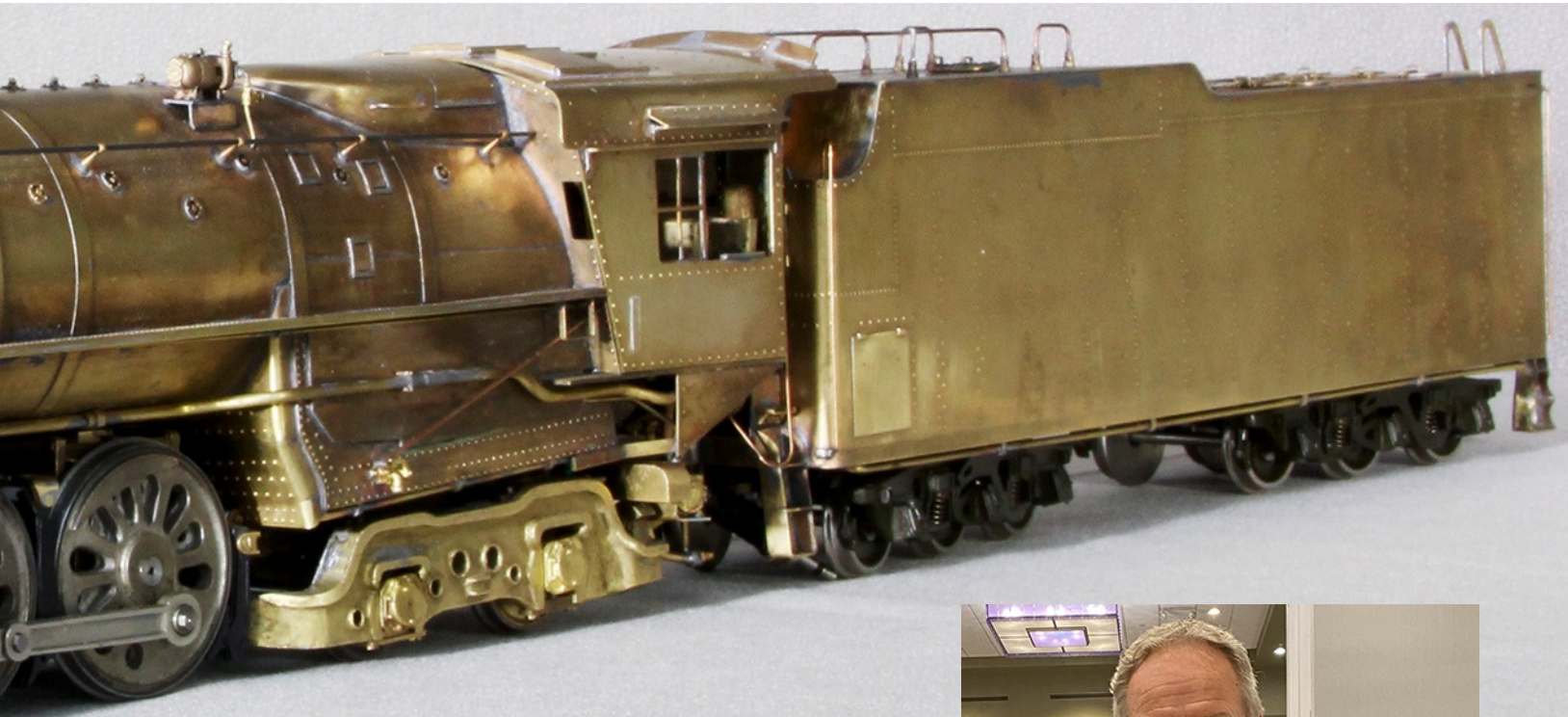
Here are some shots of the models that did not win or were for display only.



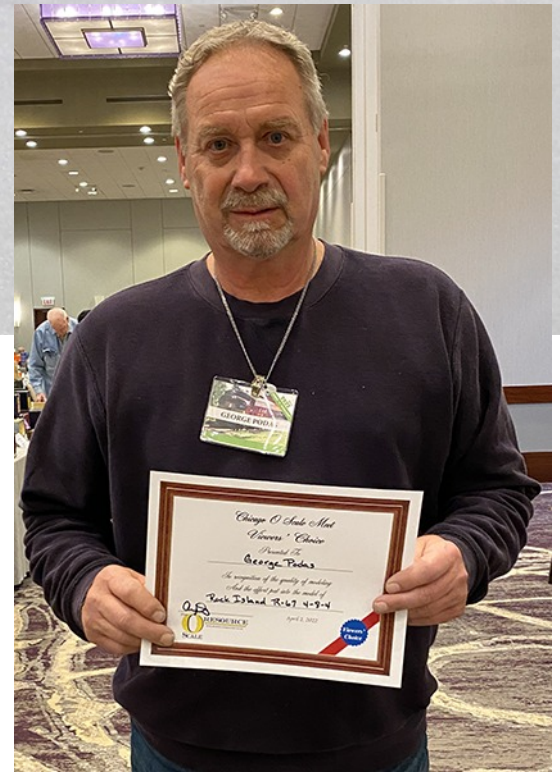
Rich Rusnak's Stevenson Preservation model



Joe Scales' Southern #5046



George Podas for his beautiful scratch built Rock Island R-67 4-8-4



Joe Rauenbuehler's Great circus train railfan car



Ross Dando's ABOX 50' boxcar



Jim Kehn's Wabash Gon with Lionel hoods



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Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show ***Strasburg, PA*** ***April 23, 2022***

By Amy & Dan Dawdy

Our last trip out to Strasburg was in the Fall of 2020, so it was time for another road trip. It's great seeing the East Coast people again, and finding new treasures to bring back home.

This was John and Patty's last show as they are retiring and Rich Yoder will continue to run the show. We all owe a big thank you to John and Patty for the many years of service to the O scale community.

Let's take a look at some of the great items at this April's show, and don't forget the next show is August 6, 2022.



John and Patty Dunn

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Lots of bargains and new products.

Bottom Left: Ed Skuchas of Berkshire Car Shop has some great new products. See our News You Can Use section for more on Ed's products.



Wit and Wisdom Models showing John Armstrong's "Cementipede" which will be coming out in the near future.



Great to see Bob Heil at the show representing Sunset Models.



Kerry Kime and Amy Dawdy making sure Ken and I don't blow our budgets.



According to Brian Scace "everyone needs a tank or Jeep on their layout".



Above: John Wubbel and his sister, Cathy Wubbel were showing off the *All-Nation Line* new products. See more in our News You Can Use section in this issue.

Taming Woodland Scenics Field Grass to Model Wild Grass

By George Paxon

I try to get my scenery looking as natural as I can as I believe that it a big part of making a layout look the part. I spend a lot of time with backdrops, hillsides, rock molds for outcroppings, ditches, culverts and all the details needed to duplicate the scenes found along a prototype railroad's right-o-way.

Trees, bushes, weeds and grass are a big part of such scenery. Of all these, grass has been the hardest to model realistically for me for many years. This is particularly so for wild grass. Sprinkled on colored ground foam and sawdust have been the "standard" modeler's grass for many years. One problem with these is that they only do a good job of modeling a golfing green or the front lawn of a well-kept rich mans's home. Unfortunately, unattended grass patches along the railways and roads and in farm fields don't look much like either of these.

Some products have come along that do help with modeling wild grass. One great type of product is the grass tufts made by several suppliers. Silflor may have been the first to bring these to the market, but there are other suppliers now including Woodland Scenics. See Photo 1 for this product as you get it. These are 1/8 to 1/4 inch high clumps of grass in different realistic shades that do a very nice job of representing short clumps of wild grass that grow here and there. These products have short strands standing upright that have the bottom end imbedded in blobs of glue probably using static technology. To use these products, you pick the clumps off the waxed backing sheet glue and all and transfer them to your layout. I think the idea is to rely on the glue to adhere the clump to the layout, but I usually set my clumps in a spot of white glue to make sure they will stick. A problem is that the stuff is not all that cheap. Doing a largish field with the stuff would require you to take along your stockbroker and/or banker to finance the required purchase. It is very nice looking when done though.

Photo 1



There are also some sheets or mats that are reasonably good at depicting grass pastures or fields. Many such mats were, and still are, very toy-like. But some are quite good with uneven grass of different shades and blade lengths and with dirt patches between grass patches. Have a look at the products offered by Scenic Express which I reckon is the best single source of many great scenery products as they handle just about all manufacturers including Silfor and Woodland Scenics. Photo 2 shows a cow pasture on our layout made with such mat. Dirt and grass clumps have been added to doll up the mat even more. Grass in pastures was often short from animals eating it and stomping it down.



The static grass technology now available also should be capable of providing larger expanses of grass fields although the grass is generally on the short side for O Scale wild grass. When applied, it can be a bit more regular than typical wild grass. I have not gotten into this technology yet though. I do have a good article on making my own static grass applicator, have accumulated most of the required parts, but need to look around for a plastic flashlight to build it from.

Some modelers have presented articles using fake fur for grass fields. I am not sure how this holds up in the long run. I suspect the grass will lay down over time. Spraying with clear flat paint might help stiffen the fake fur, but it may bond the strands into an unrealistic solid mass as well. I have not tried using this material myself. Another modeler used toweling as a grass material for swamps and bogs, too.

Many times what you need for modeling wild grass are individual clumps of high grass such as that found in ditches along right-o-way, along fences or roads, etc. For these applications, such mats provide no solution. By looking around outdoors in your area, you will see that such wild grass grows in clumps between bushes and patches of weeds, patches of dirt, and rocky spots. This is common all along roads and rail lines. To model this sort of effect you can combine small bits of the old standard, lichen; local growths gathered in the woods; ground leaf litter; and other products to have the variety of texture, color, heights, and shapes. One shape needed is, off course, the clumps of high wild grass that are omni-present.



Photo 3

For many years Woodland Scenics has marketed a product called field grass. Their product numbers for these are FG171 -174. It comes in small envelopes in several nice and realistic shades of yellow, brown and green. Unlike the tufts of grass discussed above, these Woodland Scenics products consist of loose hairs or strands about 2 inches long. Kind of looks like someone has cut the business end from a paint brush and bagged it. Photo 3 is a pack of the Woodland Scenics field grass as it comes.

I have tried for years to use the Woodland Scenic stuff as I reckoned it would make nice wild grass. The idea based on the manufacturer's instructions and model press is to (1) drill a hole in your layout, (2) grab a bundle of the grass, (3) put some glue on the end of the grass bundle, and (4) stuff the bundle into the drilled hole. Well, I found that process much like the classical problem of trying to shove a wet noodle up a wildcat's back side. The grass would go everywhere with very little actually hitting the drilled hole. The result looked more like a bombed and steam rolled pasture than a quiet field along a railroad track. I have tried grabbing the bundle with a pair of tweezers with little luck in maintain reasonable control. Tweezers tend to make the end of the grass bundle wide and flat

while you are trying to stuff the bundle into a small round hole. Usually the glue works its way up and onto the tweezers and results in you pulling most of the grass back out of the hole when you try to take the tweezers away from the planted bundle. And when you do manage to get a bit of a bundle into a hole successfully, the tweezers are coated with glue and stray strands of grass that must be carefully removed from the tweezers before trying to grab the next bundle. All in all, a slow miserable task.

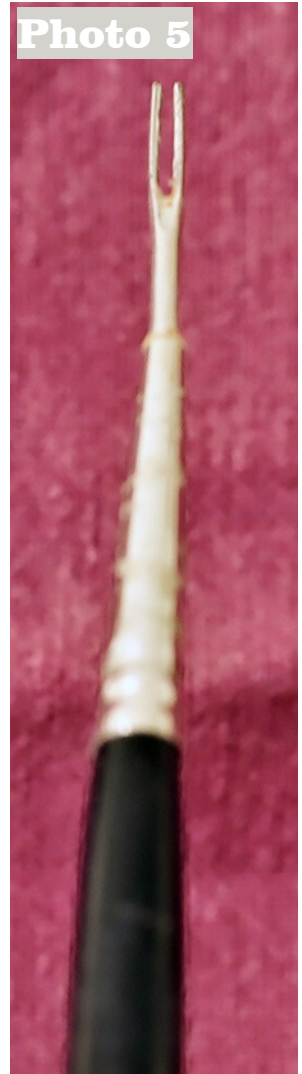
And, of course, I did not need the wild grass 2 inches high. I would try to cut the Woodland Scenics stuff into shorter lengths which also made the stuff fly all over the place. It was not easy to maintain control of it particularly when short.

By these old methods, I probably actually got to use 1/4 of the pack with the rest of the stuff going everywhere. The other 3/4 eventually ended up in the domestic manager's vacuum cleaner when she was not looking.

I really wanted to use the Woodland Scenic field grass, and assuming the problem was me and not the product, I looked long and hard for a "better way" to plant the unruly stuff. I ran across an advert, MicroMark, for a field grass planter which was a little device that looked like a paint brush but with a straight two pronged pitch fork at the business end where the brush hairs should be. I bought one. The idea with this tool was to (1) again drill a hole in the layout, (2) squirt some glue into the drilled hole, (3) put a bundle of the field grass into the slot between the forks of the tool, (4) push the forked end of the tool into the hole which would stuff the center of the grass bundle down the hole, and (5) pull out the tool. Well, usually all or most of the grass also came back out of the hole with the tool when it was removed. What little of the grass that did stay in the hole



usually protruded from the hole in two directions like ears on a bedraggled rabbit. Photo 4 illustrates the rabbit ears effect. And the tool was also covered with glue and grass strands in need of a thorough cleaning before moving on to the next planting. Photo 5 shows this tool. With some of the full length Woodland Scenics field grass in the slot in the forked end, it would be ready for another unsuccessful planting attempt.



Well, since I had accumulated a life time supply of the Woodland Scenics field grass in anticipation of it being the answer to all my wild grass needs, I had to find some way

to use the stuff. After all, it was a bit hard to light so it was difficult to smoke it. Plus, it did not smell good either when you finally got it burning!

After some trial and error, mostly error, the system I now use seems to work quite nicely is as follows:

I pull a little bundle of the field grass out of the envelope. I try to arrange it all in the same plain which can be a challenge since the stuff tends to go every which way. I pick out some of the stray strands and realign them in the bundle to get as much order as can be done. I then squirt some white glue on the center of the bundle. As the grass is about 2 inches long that would put the glue at the 1 inch mark. I coat the outside of the bundle mid-point with the glue for about 1/4 of an inch, maybe even a little more, getting the glue all around the bundle. Each bundle is then twisted first one way then the other (clockwise then counterclockwise) to help work the glue through the center of the entire bundle which is important. Twisting it tends to push the glue out and relaxing the twist sucks the glue back into the heart of the bundle. The idea is to try and get the glue to as many of the fibers as possible. The bundle is then set aside to dry. I have some small plastic screw and nail packages that have two ridges along the edges and I put the bundles across these so that the glued area is not in contact with the packages. See Photo 6. It is a



bit hard to see, but the shiny area at the center of the bundles is the dried white glue holding the bundles together now. And you can see my high tech drying rack in this photo as well.

I make up a number of these little glued bundles in a session and let them dry at least overnight. I do find that if the bundles are too large, it is more difficult to get the glue all the way through them so I tend to make small and medium bundles.

When the glue at the center of the bundles is good and dry, I cut the bundles in half, through the glued area, which results in two short half bundles with a blob of dried glue at one end of each. If the bundles are too large,



Photo 7

too big in diameter, when cutting them, the bundles tend to fall apart. All is not lost though. I put more glue on the end of the disintegrating half bundles and put them aside to dry again. More about these repaired half bundles later. See Photo 7 where the bundles have been cut in half.

Getting the glue well into the bundle and providing a good bond to many of the fibers or strands is important. If you don't, when

cutting the bundles into two pieces each half bundle can become a whole bunch of smaller half bundles. It may be that part of my problem is my scissors which I am sure were used on the Ark by Noah to give haircuts to the animals. Good sharp scissors might make this less of a problem. Do not borrow your wife's good sewing scissors for this task though. I tried this in the past and it really got me into serious strife. So now I just motor along with my dull old ones.

Now, with the half bundles complete, I drill the holes in the layout and plant the half bundles into a squirt of glue. Much easier to do. All the grass goes easily into the hole. The clump of grass also has better shape and looks the part now.

I keep a few old drill bits of several sizes just for drilling these wild grass holes, holes for trees, holes for street signs, etc. These drills when used for such scenery work are fighting their way through sand, rock ballast, plaster and other abrasive materials that rapidly wreck the cutting edge of good bits. When small drill bits, say 1/16, 1/8 and 3/16 inch diameter, get dull doing normal drilling work in metal and wood, they are relegated to my scenery drill collection as the keenness of their cutting edges is not all that important for scenery – you just drill a little longer. And, these small drills are hard to sharpen and would otherwise get tossed out, so we get more use out of them as they are. The trick is to move them from the normal drilling stock to the scenery drilling collection before you break them, as, once the end is broken off from pushing to hard on the drill in metal or wood, they are useless for even holes in plaster. You can drill holes in scenery with the broken drill, but using a 1/8 inch broken drill can result in a 3 inch diameter hole.

Getting back to the failed large bundles to which we added another blob of glue to resolve their earlier disintegration: what we now have here is a half bundle of grass with a largish blob of dried glue on its end. These may just need a slightly larger hole in the layout to ensure they easily slip in without ripping the half bundle apart again. You could always use a broken drill for these holes!

Once the glue squirted into the holes has completely dried, the grass clumps are well anchored. Leave at least a day for this since there is little air getting to such glue to assist it drying. Only then you can trim the grass using scissors. Don't get impatient and try to trim the grass while the glue is drying as you will surely pull some of the half bundles back out of the hole. And the new glue in the hole tends to soften the old glue on the half bundle ends so the whole clump may turn into a well distributed pile of grass strands as I had with the earlier attempts to master the use of the stuff.

Don't trim all the clumps to a nice even level such as a boy's crew cut. Cut some of it long and some of it short. The biggest task is to get rid of some of the few 6 and 7 foot tall strands sticking out of tuft that usually are there. Take a look at the shape of actual wild grass clumps and you will get the picture. Clumps of wild grass often have short strands around the outside with longer strands at the center.

Photos 8 through 11 shows my end product. You can see the Silfor short clumps; the higher Woodland Scenics field grass clumps; some lichen; some ground foam; lots of earth; some other natural growths I harvest from area trees and woodlands; twigs, sticks, ground bark, and other debris; and some rocky ground all of which combine to provide the variety of color, shape, height, and texture I think are needed to mimic prototype unkept scenery along the right-o-way. In Photo 11, some of the wild grass, and other scenic material, has been used as a divider to separate the main track and sidings from the storage tracks in the yard behind. Photos 8,10 and 11 are from the new traction layout and Photo 9 is from the last narrow gauge one.



Photo 10



Photo 11



And Photos **12 through 15** are prototype views with wild grass. Photo 15 even has your Thanksgiving meal included. You will need to be the judge of how well I have modeled the great outdoors of the northeast.



Photo 14



Photo 15



With this process I am now happy I can successfully have quite realistic wild grass clumps in various sizes along the right-o-way. The Silflor clumps provide short grass clumps at 1/4 inch high, a scale foot, and the Woodland Scenics field grass clumps model higher grasses at 2 to 3 feet.

The height above the layout scenery depends on how evenly you cut the bundles into half bundles, how deep you drill the holes, and how far into the holes you stuff the half

bundles. But the maximum height is less than 4 scale feet which is quite realistic for field grass. And, this process is much faster, results in much better-looking wild grass, and provides for better utilization of the Woodland Scenics material than any other I have found so far. Give it a go.

“Punta Cayo”

A Tropical Railroad of a whimsical nature

By Jon Stetz

Over the years I’ve built several model railroads in multiple scales, each with their own uniqueness in design, but they all had one thing in common, highly detailed foreground and background scenes along with backdrops.

With that, those scenes sometimes became difficult to build and complete while leaning over already installed trackwork and sometimes semi-finished foreground scenes.

Of course, the easiest solution would be not to build such a complex, detailed or deep background, but using forced perspective can make all the difference between a model railroad or a miniature railroad world as proven by the late “John Allen”.

While I’m in the planning stages of my next railroad, and with so many new scenery products, techniques and building materials available (particularly foam and roadbed products), I thought it would be a good idea to build a small test railroad to not only try these items, but come up with a way to build my next railroad backwards, from the back to the front, primary scenes and scenery first, and then trackwork and foreground scenes and scenery last.

Since I’ve always wanted to build a small tropical waterfront railroad, along with wanting to do a bit more model building in O scale other than building structures for my friends, I hatched the plan for the construction of “Punta Cayo” in On30 scale. Originally, it was to be a logging to seaside railroad, but soon realized its 4 x 6 foot size, to be portable, would not allow me to do what I wanted to depict. So “Punta Cayo” is now a Banana - Sugar cane plantation to seaport railroad with enough switching to keep it from becoming boring.

As I describe how the railroad was built via the photos, I’ll also explain the why. Some of you may have already tried and or have used these things on your own railroad but for me this has been somewhat of a new learning experience vs. the standard old school way of building a model railroad that has been practiced for many years.



Figure 1

I’m expecting “Punta Cayo” will be finished up later this year, and it will provide me with many hours of enjoyment while I finalize plans for my next railroad once our new house is built and move in ready.

Figure 1. I used Sievers benchwork on my last RR as it was more cost effective than hours spent at the lumberyard and behind a saw, so I reused two sections for “Punta Cayo” with 40-inch legs for now.

Figure 2. Using butcher paper, I drew out a one-foot square grid, then the track plan with a harbor and sidings with micro engineering switches and cutouts of future building kits.

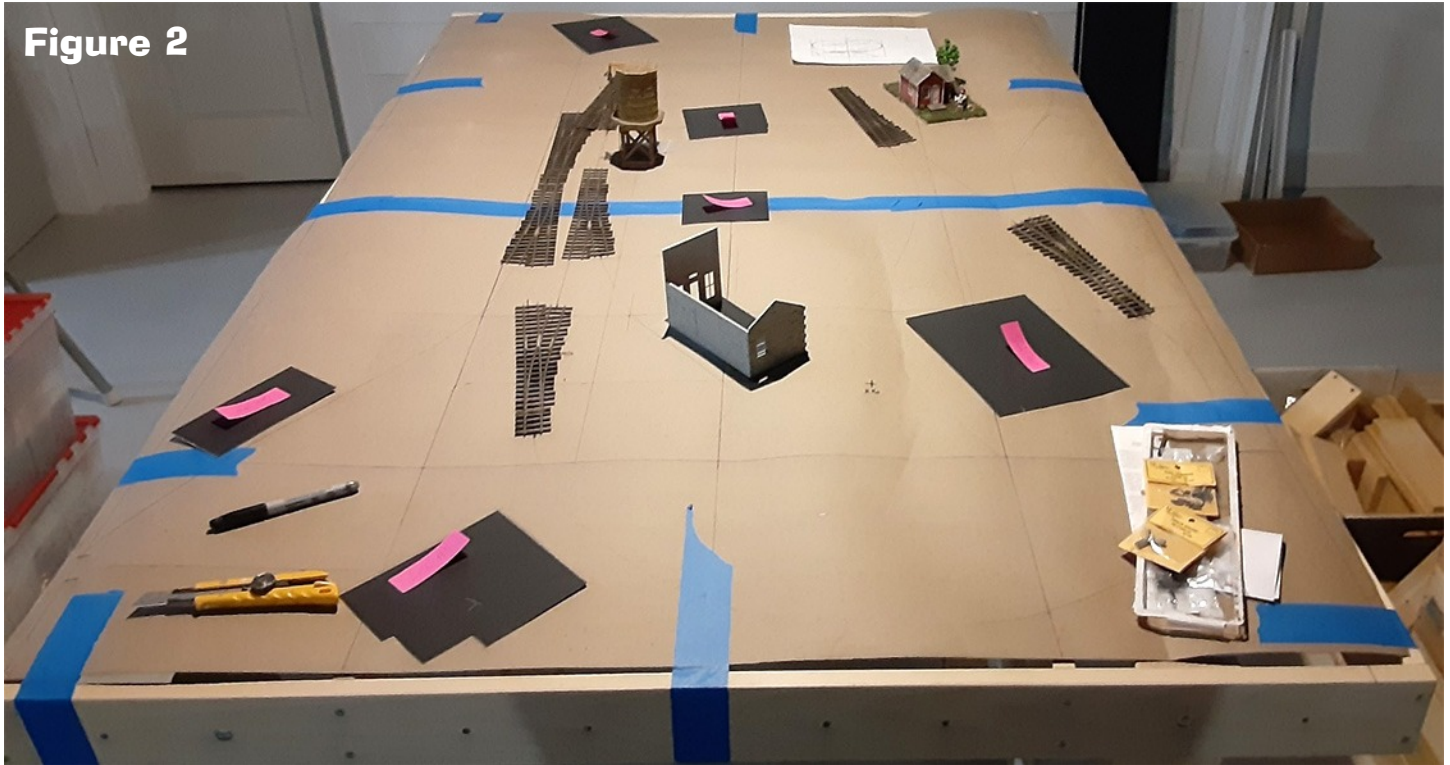


Figure 2

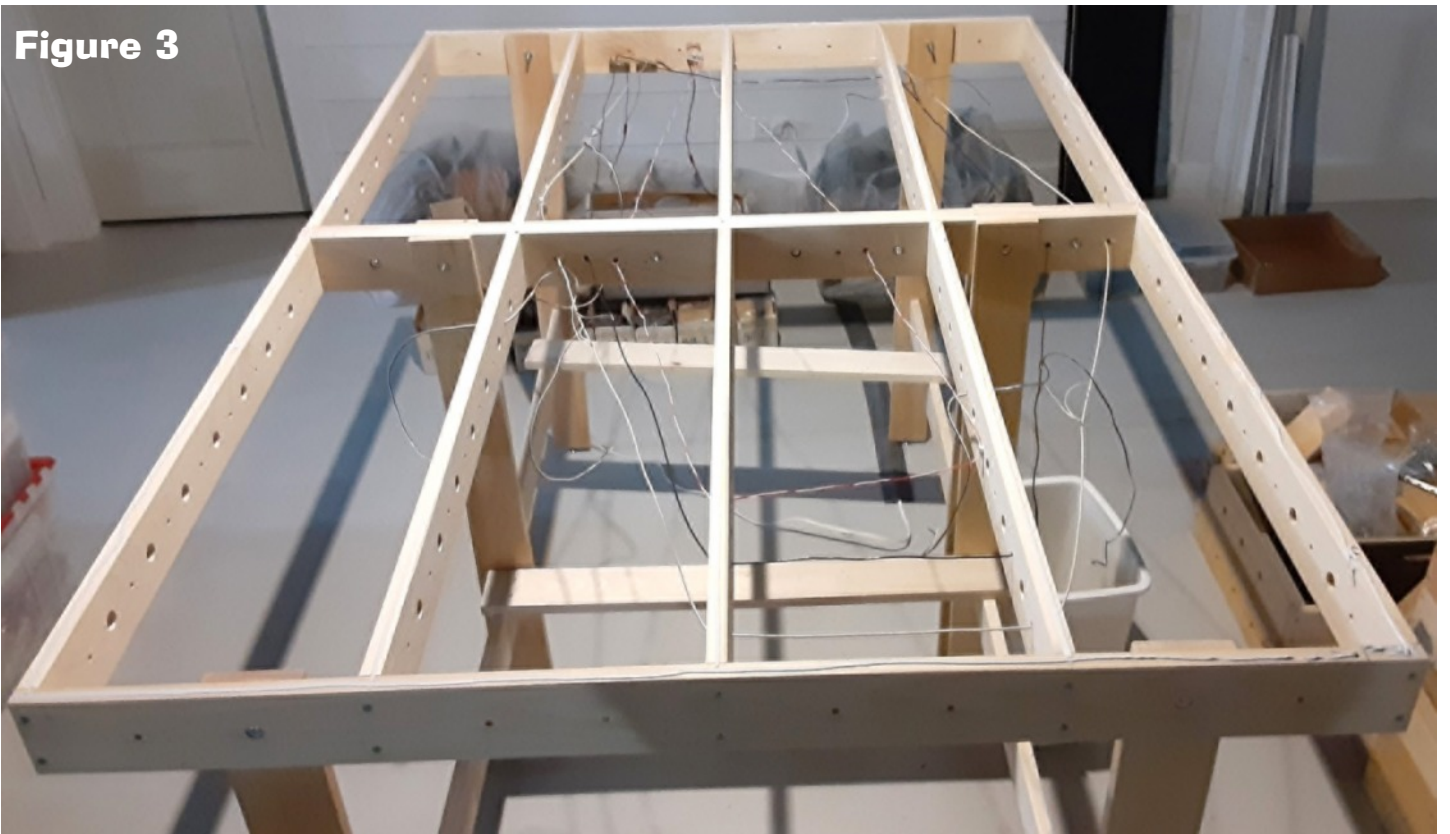


Figure 3

Figure 3. With a general track plan decided, I added two wire busses to the benchwork, one for the track with track leads added and one for building lighting.

Figure 4

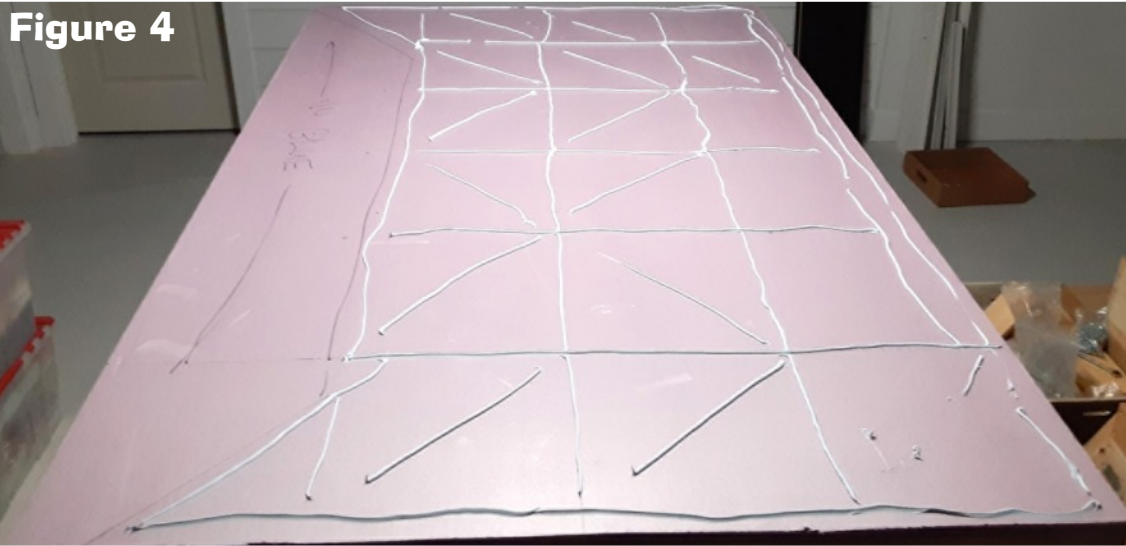


Figure 4. To avoid adding weight by using plywood as a sub-base, I glued a one-inch layer of pink insulation foam to the Sievers benchwork. Next, I added a second layer of two-inch foam (but not gluing it in the harbor area). Again, using a one-foot square grid I transferred the track plan from the butcher paper to the stack of foam. Figure 4A.

Figure 4A

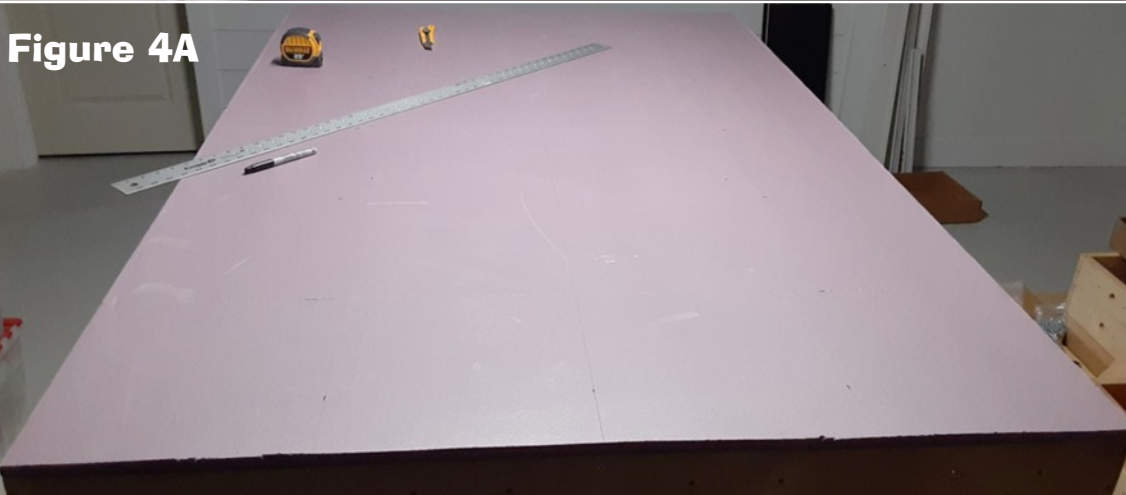
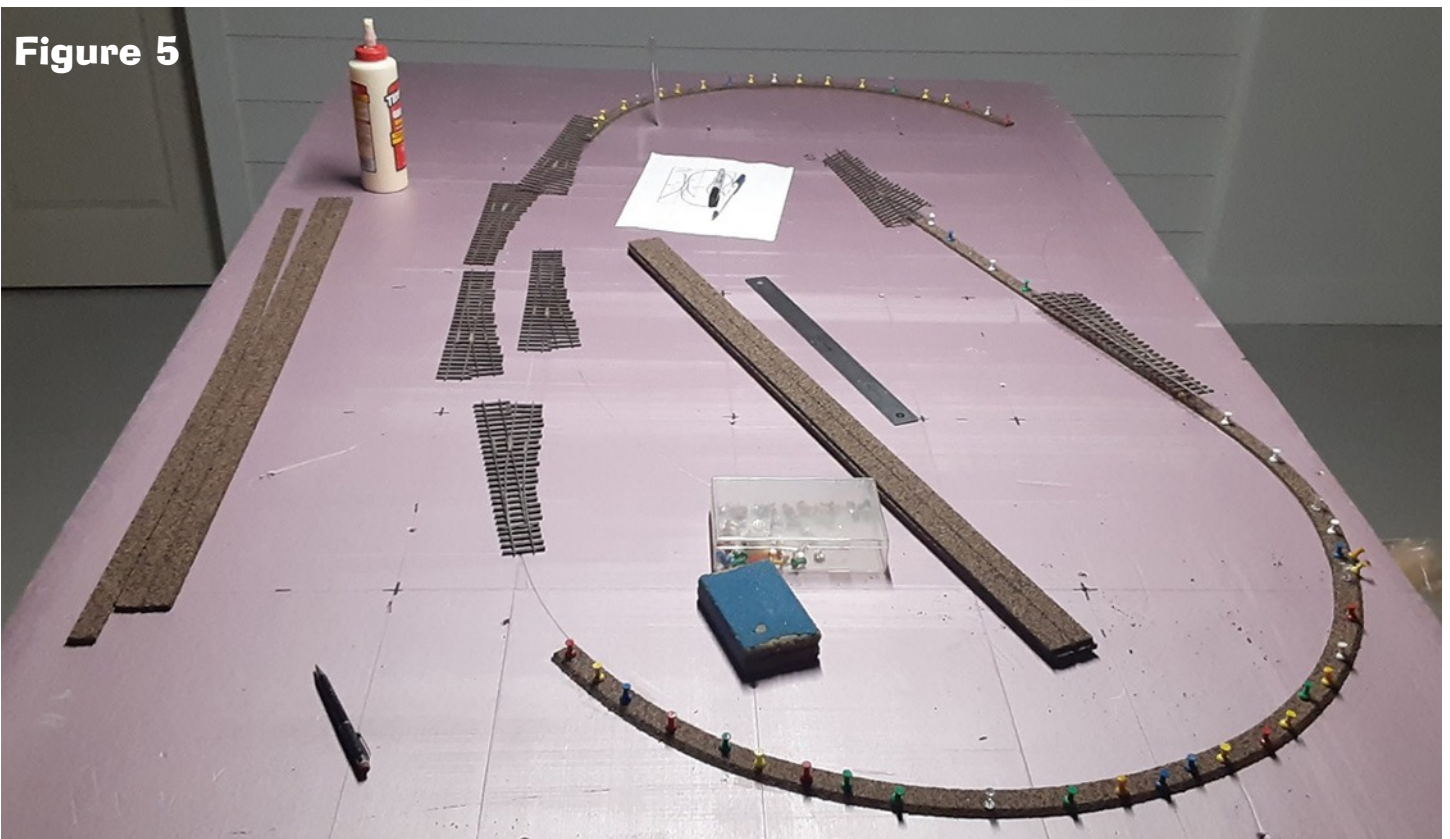


Figure 5. With Homa-bed sub-roadbed still unavailable, I opted for using traditional cork roadbed and laid out the initial loop of track, rechecking switch locations as I went.

Figure 5



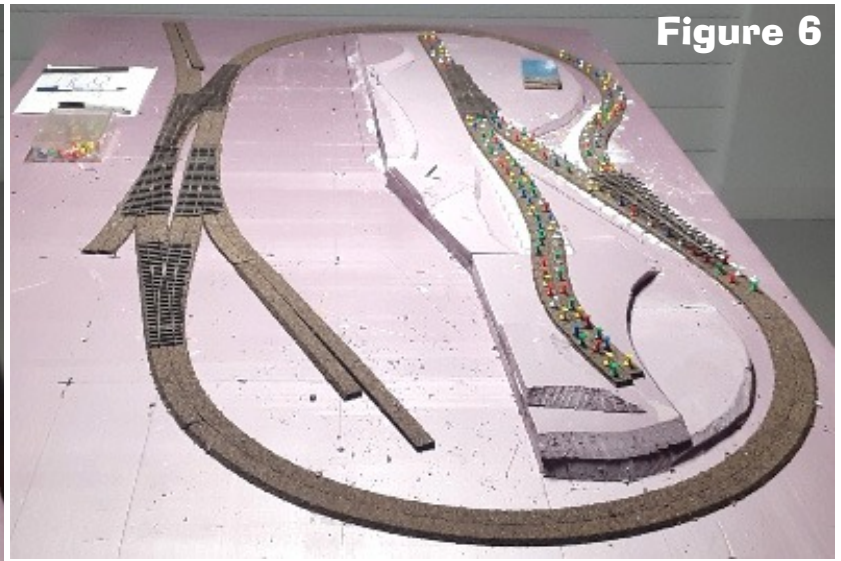


Figure 6. Change #1. I worked only with foam materials as it makes it easier for changes and additions. I decided some elevation was needed on the plantation side of the railroad. Woodland Scenic 2% incline riser set came in handy. Figure 6A.



Figure 7. After making that adjustment to the elevation plan and finalizing the harbor side of the RR with a run-around siding, I added the remaining cork roadbed before cutting away the unglued 2-inch-thick section of the harbor area. Next, few basswood and resin cast retaining walls were added as well as a hill rise on the plantation side. Figure 7A.

Figure 8



Figure 8A

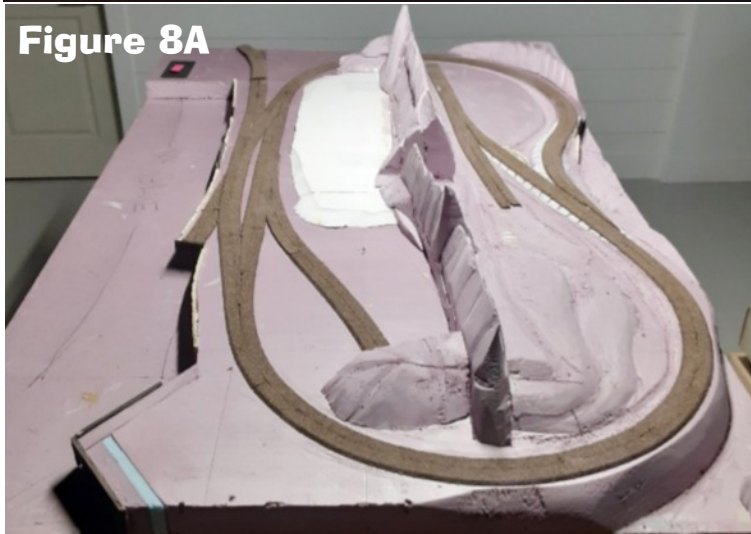


Figure 8. Change #2. To add depth and divide the plantation side from the harbor side, I added a foam ridgeline from the scrap harbor foam. Shaping and carving it on my workbench made it so much easier. I also added a ½ inch piece of foam-core-board to the town area to give it some elevation above the tracks and finally a roadway cut in through the ridgeline. I also shortened one siding on the plantation side and changed some ground contours before smooth shaping to all the foam and test fitting all the semi-finished buildings one last time. Figure 8A.

Figure 9



Figure 9A

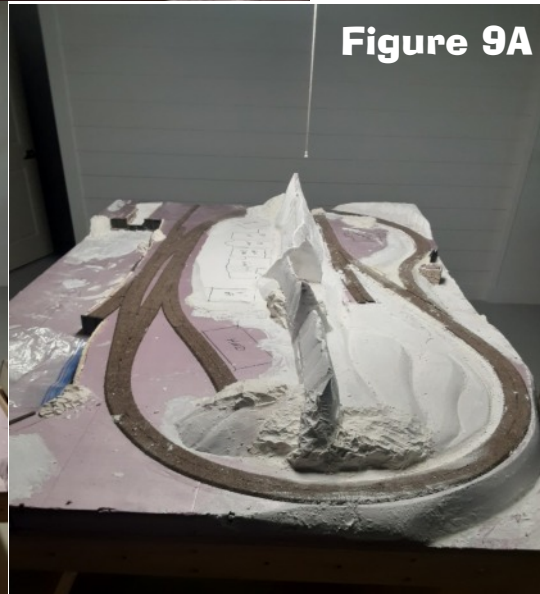


Figure 9. With still no track in the way to be damaged and all the foam shaped and vacuumed clean, I added a few rock formations using crumpled heavy-duty tinfoil for molds, with a bit of hand carving and shaping, then a thin plaster wash over all the remaining foam to fill any joints and voids. Figure 9A.

Figure 10



Figure 10A



Figure 10. Box hardware stores are a great source for mis-matched paint. A light and dark brown was applied to the dried plaster wash after the rock formations were tinted with a mixture of India inks. The harbor also received a coat of grey paint over its foam as well for now. Figure 10A.



Figure 11



Figure 11A

Figure 11. Everybody has their own favorite brand of scenic materials. Myself, I have become fond of Scenic Express, Heki, Noch and Mini Natur products. I prefer to use wet-water and a thinned (3-1) Matt Medium for my base gluing of soils, grasses, and flockings. For vines, clump grasses, rock piles, etc., I paint the area with full strength matt medium first then a shot of the wet water after the materials are applied. A pre-stained birch veneer was cut, shaped to match the railroad's contours, and attached to the benchwork as its fascia since the dirty work is now finished. Figure 11A.

Figure 12



Figure 12. On what I would call my off-site days, the buildings of “Punta Cayo” were built to be “ready to place”, RTP. They each have finished interiors, figures, lighted with LEDs and RC plugs. From the jail to the harbor master’s office to the lighthouse, life lives in those buildings. Only the log cabin, and two water tanks were not finished that way. Figure 12A.

Figure 12A



Figure 13



Figure 13A



Figure 13. Most model railroads have two types of trees, deciduous and pines, and lots of them. A tropical railroad has a jungle forest with lots of underbrush and palm trees. So far “Punta Cayo” has received over 400 different types of palm trees, from the military modeling hobby world. They have each been resized, reshaped, and repainted. In between them are small clump bushes, and vines of different shades of green. Again, with no tracks in place, working these detailed background scenes goes considerably smoother and faster. Figure 13A.

Figure 14



Figure 14A



14. Detailing of background scenes changes the perspective of what the eye sees when looking directly or indirectly at that section of the railroad. With the ridgeline covered in trees, it splits the view of the other side of the railroad when looking directly at the town or at the plantation sides. (14A & B)

Figure 14B



Figure 15



Figure 15. With the background and ridgeline scenes 100% complete, several sections of track were pre-assembled on the workbench and brought to the railroad site. Sections of flex track joined them together, clearances and radiuses were again checked before soldering everything together. The track leads previously added to the track buss were pushed up between the rails though holes drilled in the foam and soldered in place. I always place these leads at road crossings and at the end of sidings. It makes it easier to hide with at those locations. Rails were cleaned, switch points checked, and a locomotive test run was made. A second and third test run was made with a full train before ACCing the track to the cork roadbed starting at the switches first. Figure 15A.

Figure 15A



Figure 16



Figure 16. With all the track in its final location, the gaps between the rail sections were filled with ties. Road and footpath crossings were added along with switch stand support bases. The switch stands were added after the ballasting was completed, and again tracks were cleaned and rechecked. Figure 16A.

17. TO BE CONTINUED.....

Cheers, Jon MMR251

Figure 16A



Scenery from the Ground Up:

By Biagio Pace



I'm working on my next section of a forest mountain landscape scene on my layout. I recently added a wye to the area that I'm working on to get to my newly added yard section on the other side of the wall, via a short tunnel.

On my previous landscape scene to the right of this one I was able to make a template of the area and then move to a work bench to do most of the work and bring back for final detail. However, it was not possible to do this for this section because of its size.

MATERIALS:

Polyurethane ridged foam insulation: This open cell material is excellent for planting trees and bushes. Two inches thick works best for acquiring quick elevation. (Can be purchased at any home store). What can also be used is polyurethane used roofing panels. These require a bit of effort due to the fact that they are tapered and have tarpaper on them. What I used was four inches thick and tapered down to three inches.

Unfaced Polystyrene Foam Board Insulation: One inch thick is excellent for a sub-base for remote fabrication. Light and sturdy, it generally comes in pink, blue, or green. The two inch by eight foot panels are what is used on my layout table. Very quiet and can be placed on two foot sub-support spacing with no sagging issues.

Brown paint: Latex interior flat paint used for the making of the ground mix and as an adhesive for the leaves. Any medium shade of brown will do for this purpose due to the fact none will show in the end.

Blown-in fiber insulation: Used this for mixing with paint for ground mix. Can be purchased at any home store for a lifetime supply.

Tree leaves: Accumulate them during fall yard cleanup. Use these when good and dry and not contaminated by bugs and dirt.

Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty: My alternative for plaster of Paris. This material does not lose the fine detail of the rock casting when handling. This product dries rock hard and you can dip the dry rock casting in water when fitting together for ease of carving. When soaked in water it's like hard soap which allows it to be cut on a band saw for major cutting. The draw back to using this material is that it does not take to stains very well at joints. The entire casting assembly will need to have a thin coat of paint to hide the joints. I found that Lowe's sells it at a much cheaper price than other stores.

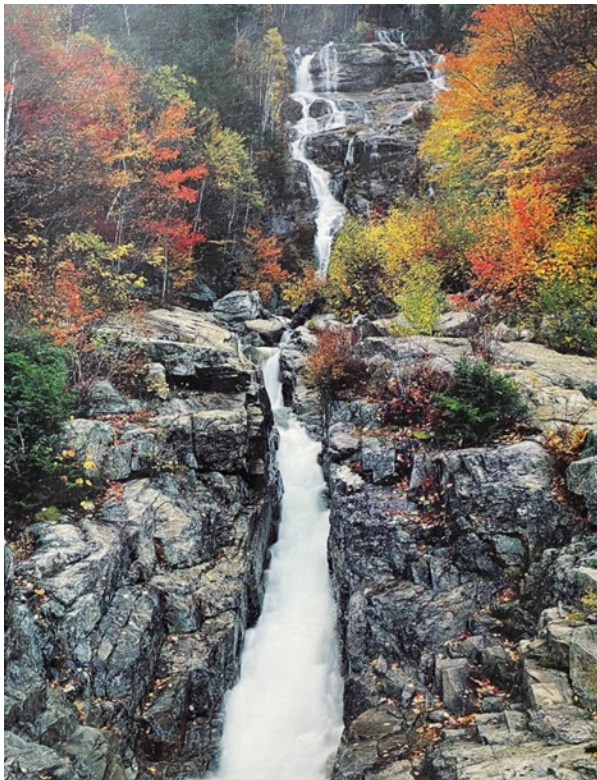
Food Processor/Blender: Both can be used to grind up the leaves for the initial breakdown.

Apple Sauce Grinder: Used to further break down the leaves after the blender. Do this step when leaves are dry.

House Screen/Strainers: The house screen is used for making a strainer for the final leaf processing. Also, a variety of strainers with different mesh sizes for the processing of the crusher run. (See strainers photo).

White Glue: Used for making the ground mix. A 50/50 solution mixed with water to set the leaves, by using a spray bottle.

Rock Molds: Can be purchased at any hobby store, I prefer ones that look like blasted rock. Castings can be put in place before or after the ground mix is applied. When casting, make some real thin. This will allow it to hide large joints of two castings. Place a thin piece of rock casting over a joint or to change up the repetitiveness of using the same casting over and over. Attach the thin casting with a really thin solution of water putty and an eye dropper. Slow droplets work best to avoid putty runoff. (Immediately flush the eye dropper with clean water after each use.) Have a small paint brush on hand, in water, for cleanup of unwanted runoff. Clean the brush after each use. This product will not lose its detail of the rock casting when washing unwanted water putty runoff.



Trees, Dead Trees and Bushes: Trees made from hydrangea plants are my favorite. Plant whatever trees that work for you. I glue and insert a piece of 1/16" weld wire at the end of each tree armature. This will make planting go much easier and faster and allows for relocation quick if needed. I use needle-nose pliers and grab it by the wire, attached to the armature, to avoid damaging the stone dust bark. Dead trees are basically tree armatures made from nursery spirea plants. I also used wild spirea (St. John's wort) that can be found in hedge rows and dead sagebrush that I acquired during a visit to Colorado. Bushes can be made from wild oregano or removed tree branches that do not fit during the fitting together of the forest.

Paint brushes: A variety of sizes from 1/8" to 1/2" wide. Used to clean unwanted water putty and also for painting rock castings.

Photographs: Used them to frequently look at to aid in the duplication of Mother Nature's landscape. See my photos, I used among many others, to help accomplish this landscape mountain scene.



Tools: Needle-nose pliers, tweezers, expandable razor knives, cake frosting spatula, wire cutters, small rat-tail file or an awl, (made from 1/16" x 10" weld wire) to puncture the ground mix for placement of bushes. I used dental tools, an eye dropper, small spatula, and various strainers. See photos below.



Procedure: Note that I use this ground mix formula rather than the casting plaster method, due to the fact that planting of the amount of trees is very easy rather than drilling a hole into the casting plaster hard shell every time.

Making of the ground mix: (This is a revised version a similar formula passed on to me about 30 years ago by a fellow modeler during the building of my second layout.) Make a gallon batch of ground mix. Start with a half-gallon of latex brown flat house paint and a cup of white glue. Add blown-in fiber insulation and mix together to a peanut butter consistency. Unused portion of the ground mix will last quite a while if kept in a sealed tight container. It makes it easier to mix if the fiber insulation is moistened first, but not necessary.



Green Fiber Label

Blown Insulation

Add extra dry insulation to the mix, if too wet to make it thicker if necessary. It will take a lot longer to dry if too wet.

Making of scale leaves: Accumulate a bushel of clean leaves in the fall. When good and dry grind them up using a food processor or blender. After the leaves are thoroughly ground up, strain using the strainers or a piece of house screen. (See tools for homemade strainer) Make a small coffee can full. (I first did this process about 30 years ago and found out that adding water helps the grinding process go easier on the blender, however, will have to let them dry before sifting. I'm still using the same blender dedicated just for this purpose.



Optional Soaking (Squeeze out excess water before adding)



Leaves before blending



Blender

Ballast and Riprap: I use a quarry stone, better known as crusher run, that is a grayish blue stone here in the northeast. (Washed granite is one of the same materials used by the railroads in the Northeast.) A five gallon bucket of this crusher run processed through various size screens

will provide enough riprap, ballast, and also dust for the bark to use on the trees. After a blasting is made by the railroad for the laying of track, a lot of the non-removed riprap would be at the bottom of a blasted rock wall and adjacent to the track ballast.



Strained leaves

Making rocks: Mix a solution of Rock Hard Water Putty with water, not too thick, and pour into mold and let dry. I have several rock molds, however, I only used one for most of the rock wall that represents blasted rock. I made about 30 castings of the one I use most and a couple other ones to get shape needed to get the results I wanted.

Building of the mountain area:

Placement of the foam: Cut the one inch Polystyrene Foam Board Insulation for a starter strip to shape as needed to cover the base of the area being worked on. This rigid foam board will aid in moving the work area as an option if possible. Build up the Polyurethane rigid foam insulation in layers until desired shape is achieved. Glue and sculpt each layer with a razor knife and other knives as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Applying the ground mix: Using a cake spatula, spread the ground mix over all of the foam and let dry. See Figure 2.

Blasted Rock Wall Fabrication: Cut and fit the fabricated rock castings at this time. Use templates for intricate shapes to be fitted. There are more than 30 castings to complete what is shown. I use an eye dropper with a thin mix of the water putty to glue the thin castings to hide joints or change up a repetitive casting. I use a variety of dental tools to carve and sculpture, or clean out unwanted excess water putty. See Figures 3A, 3B and 3C



Figure 3B

Figure 3C

Figure 4

Adding the leaves: (Note: Any steep slopes should be done immediately while paint/adhesive is wet.) After the ground mix has dried, generously coat the entire area with brown paint. The paint will act as an initial adhesive. After the leaves are in place, spray the area with diluted glue and water to keep in place. Use a piece of cardboard with some ground leaves and blow to drive the leaves onto areas that have steep slopes. (See tools photo for folded cardboard or similar to use for this application.) You may have to repeat the process to get better coverage. See Figure 4.

Painting the rocks castings: Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty does not take stain very well. A distinctive color change at the joint locations does appear. I still prefer this product over plaster of Paris. I started with a thin coat of gray paint for the base, then a real dark brown wash to bring out the beautiful detail. Follow this by a thin wash of gray with some real light gray dry brushing. This is my best effort so far to duplicate my photograph. Results of my technique are as follows on my test samples. I did this before trying on the actual wall area. See Figures 5A, 5B and 5C.

Figure 5A

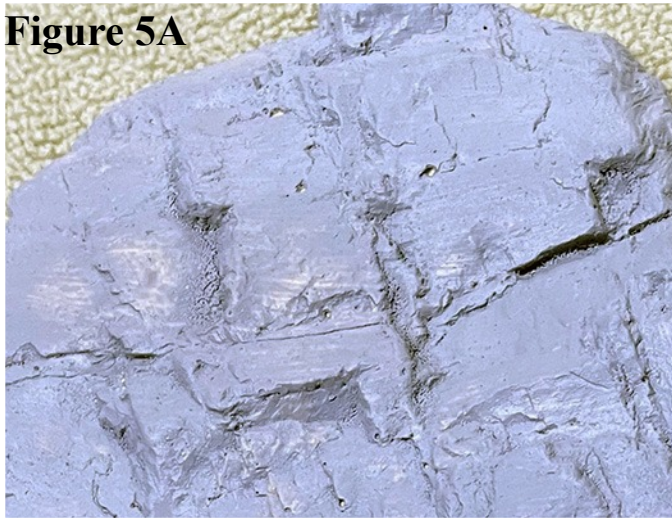
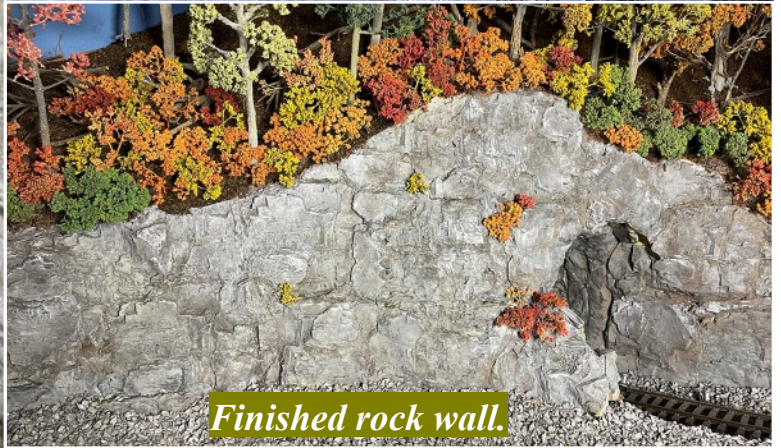


Figure 5B



Figure 5C



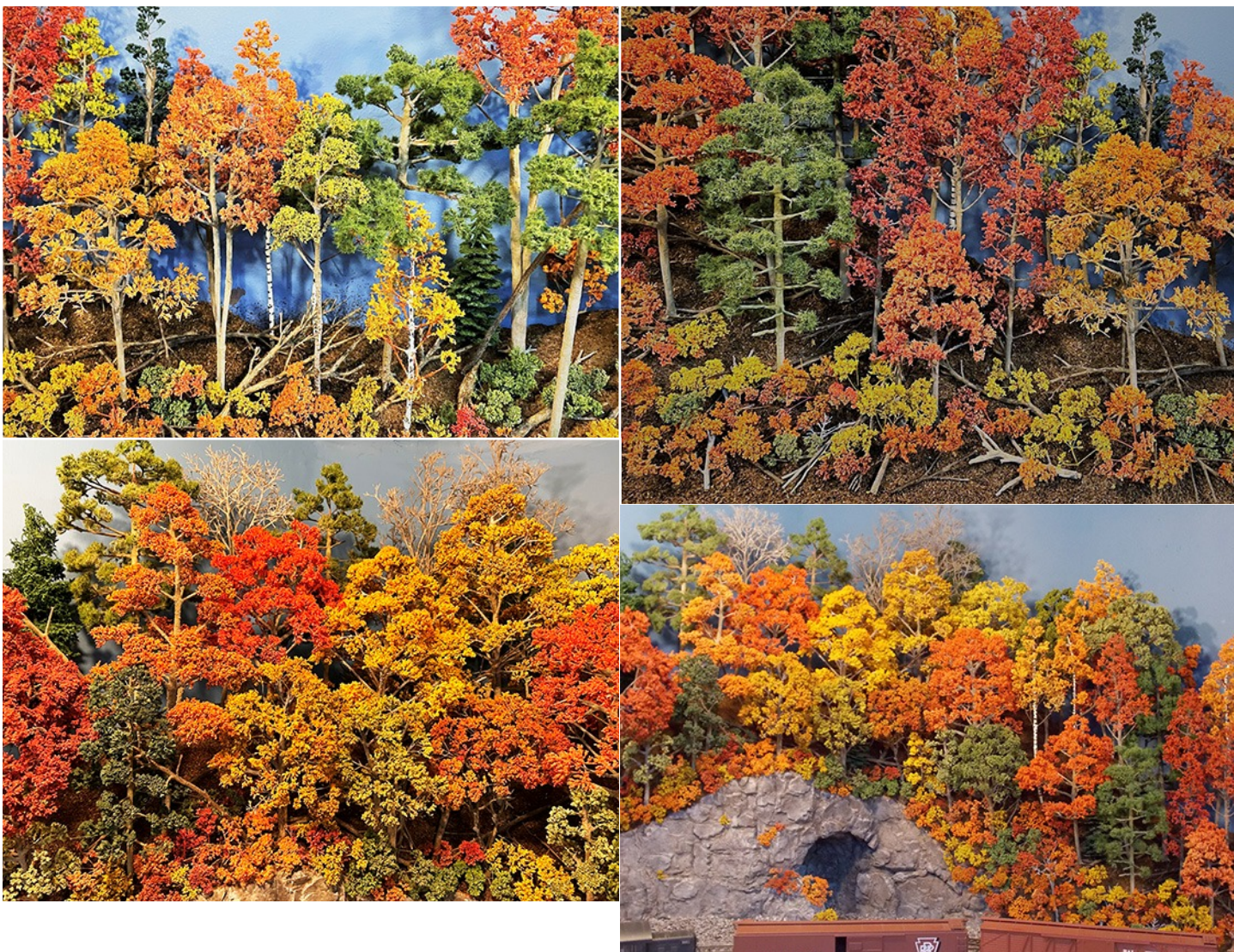
Finished rock wall.

Trees/Bushes: My trees are made from hydrangea spent flowers (Wild fire and Baby Lace) and German Statice. Bushes are made from wild oregano, wild spirea, and nursery spirea plants. I have written a separate [how to article "Trees are Models Too"](#) that was featured in the March/April issue of this magazine.



Populating the Mountain Area: I first start with many fallen trees, laying about the floor of the forest. Most of them are tree armatures I removed from spirea or sagebrush plants that were not good enough for the making of trees. Plant and populate the area with taller trees in back, smaller trees where new growth has begun along the railroad right of way. Plant shrubs where the sunshine provides light under trees along the edge of the woods to fill the area.

Some of my in process pictures follow to aid in the final outcome.



Ballast and Riprap: Note that the ballast should be from 3/4" to 1 1/2" and the riprap 4" to 8" to look very prototypical. Add riprap as shown in and ballast to complete the scenery. Use a mixture of water and a drop of liquid soap in a spray bottle or an eye dropper to pre wet the ballast, then followed by a 50/50 glue and water mixture to hold in place. Keep ballast just below the rails and ties. This is what works for me. The soap mixture allows the glue to spread and sink below the ballast. The large brush ensures enough ballast is removed during





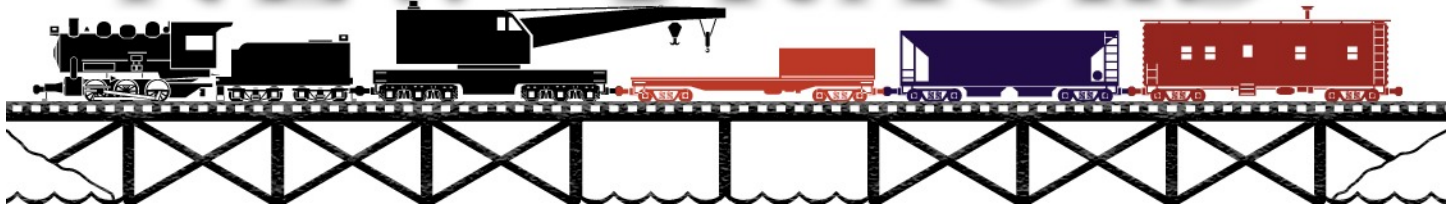
Ballast, Riprap and Finely Ground Leaves.



spreading of the ballast, the small baster with bulb removed, allows for an even distribution of the ballast on the outside of the rails. Finish final spreading with small fan brushes.



NEW TRACKS



Mentor Definition: A Trusted Counselor or Guide



By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR

MODELING WITH MENTORING FROM TALENTED MODEL BUILDERS AND EVEN FROM MODELERS IN OTHER HOBBIES

Model Railroading Economic Development and Some Possible Mentors

“New Tracks” Announcements

Show us your modeling on our monthly Zoom “NewTracks” MY BUILD Sponsored by The Model Railroad Resource, LLC, owners of this magazine.

These are the photos modelers shared on our recent March My Build. Each of the participants has an email address included and would welcome your comments.



Chris Coarse – Conowingo Models

Chris.Coarse@newtracksmodeling.com

HO Scale – Kellow Station is named after New Tracks Modeling newtracksmodeling.com founder and host Jim

Kellow. Jim is an avid traction modeler and this fictional station is intended to bring modelers back to the glory days of traction. It will be the subject of the Build Along segments on New Tracks Zoom meetings beginning May 25th, 2022.



Mike Warman Mike.Warman@newtracksmodeling.com

S Scale – Banta Modelworks Warehouse kit –
Converted into a workshop.



Bill Stimson - Bill.Stimson@newtracksmodeling.com
 N Scale – Scratchbuild of Thomas Yorke’s Frijole Flats buildings using styrene and spackling for plaster.



Jamie Bothwell
Jamie.Bothwell@newtracksmodeling.com
 S Scale – Grand Rapids and Indy Caboose – scratchbuilt in-progress photo.



Greg Cassidy
Greg.Cassidy@newtracksmodeling.com
 HO Scale – Upgrade of two Carolina Craftsman Kits Laurel Bank Rest House using Western Maryland drawings to increase realism.



Bob Farquhar
Bob.Farquhar@newtracksmodeling.com
 HO Scale - Interaction Hobbies Coburn Meats lit with LEDs.



Jeff Jordan – Jeff.Jordan@newtracksmodeling.com
 HO Scale – Bethlehem Car Works caboose upgrade.



Martin Brechbiel
Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com
 O Scale revival of an old mule car. Wabash Valley kit.



Rich Wolfanger

Rich.Wolfanger@newtracksmodeling.com

HO scale scratchbuilt diorama built in 2014 to honor Geoffery Nott, a modeler from Australia. The diorama is built on a 4" x 4" piece of foam board. It was a challenge on the RRL Forums to build a diorama on a four-inch footprint.

Our monthly “New Tracks” MY BUILD segments are the opportunity for viewers to have their work featured. They can show their latest project, discuss their modeling technique, show a new tool they found, or give a tip they learned that helped their modeling. Modelers can use this opportunity to engage with the “New Tracks” modeling community.

Join us to see and discuss modeling with other model builders. My Build segments are sponsored by Amy and Dan Dawdy, owners of The Model Railroad Resource, LLC, the publishers of this magazine. The MY BUILD is Moderated by Chris Course, a very creative modeler and owner of Conowingo Models.

If you want to participate in our next monthly My Build, send your model photos with a brief description and your name to [Chris Coarse](mailto:Chris.Coarse). The next MY BUILDS are scheduled for May 18, 2022 and June 29, 2022. This is the time to plan for which projects you want to share at these events.

Chris will incorporate your photos into the show. When your photos come up, you will have time to share your model building with the “New Tracks” community. I believe each of us has unique modeling talents and skills and showing your modeling can be a great motivator for other modelers. Plus, it is a significant part of mentoring. Please participate in these programs designed to help other modelers improve their skills.

William K Walthers, Inc. 2022 College Scholarships

I recently received this announcement from Walthers. Congratulations to Walthers for developing this program for young model railroaders. Good luck to everyone who enters.

Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. wants to recognize the future of our hobby; the youth and young adults active in model railroading and pursuing a degree in one of the STEAM programs; Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts or Math. Walthers will award two deserving young adults one \$2,500 scholarship each!

Application Deadline: July 1, 2022

Qualified applicants MUST meet the following criteria:

- 2022 high school senior or 2022 high school graduate residing in the United States.
- Have a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Plans to attend a two-year or four-year technical college or university during the 2022-23 school season with an intent to pursue a degree in one of the STEAM programs.
- Demonstrated participation in a model railroad youth activity program such as Youth in Model Railroading®, Scouts MRR program, 4H model railroading, MRR Youth clinics, active participant in building a home layout, or belong to an organized model railroad club.

- Write an essay describing their involvement in model railroading and how they feel it has benefited their education within one or more of the STEAM areas of interest.
- Include one reference that can attest to their involvement in model railroading activities. Walthers will be contacting the reference of selected finalists.

Please contact Karen Formico - karenf@walthers.com if you have any questions.

We started a new weekly Zoom “New Tracks” project on Saturday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

“New Tracks” Saturday Scratchbuilding Workshops

These Saturday Scratchbuilding Workshops resulted from comments I received from modelers and [Kris Blackmarr](#)’s interest and creative ideas to develop the project. Many thanks Kris for volunteering to lead and moderate this project. This short one minute video shows what the Scratchbuilding Workshops are all about: <https://youtu.be/aKmQxRv1FVg>

The segments are structured like our popular BUILD ALONG segments on our Wednesday evening “New Tracks” shows, except these Saturday shows are designed to show modelers how to scratchbuild a model. I personally believe that scratchbuilding is one of the most creative parts of model railroading, and I think you will agree if you try it. Here is your opportunity to work with skilled modelers to learn how to do it.

You can learn the steps, skills and techniques involved in scratchbuilding a model in any scale you want. There are no kits to buy, only the needed scratchbuilding supplies, so cost is at a minimum. Model plans will be used that you can download on your computer at no cost.

The show’s moderator, Kris Blackmarr, a very talented and artistic modeler, as well as his guests, will guide you through the complete scratchbuilding process, one small step at a time. After all, that is what mentoring is all about.

If you are a beginner, join in and experience the thrill of completing a scratchbuilt model and being able to stand back and say “I built that!”.

If you are a more experienced or advanced modeler, join in and offer your advice and knowledge to less skilled modelers, and even get some fresh ideas yourself. The live shows will be recorded on YouTube so you can refer to the information later if needed. I hope you join us and help make this new project a success.

New Weekly Wednesday Show Segments on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

1. NMRA Clubs and Divisions

A Bi-weekly Segment starting April 27, 2022 is based on one of the ways I was able to get modeling help and meet some really outstanding modelers. I have been honored to have served on two NMRA Regional Board of Directors and as Superintendent for one NMRA Division.

I believe at its core, mentoring is best done one on one at a local level with a talented model builder who can guide a person in learning the skills, techniques, and gaining confidence in their modeling efforts. These are some of the greatest memories I have.

A mentor does not have to be an MMR or a famous model railroader, he or she just needs to be able to build models you admire or have some skills you want to learn. Ultimately, a mentor wants to help you improve your modeling. Those were the people and friends I learned modeling from.

Since all of my “New Tracks” efforts are focused on mentoring, I have been trying to figure out how to communicate with you, the “New Tracks” audience, the value of seeking local mentoring.

This new segment is based on my personal experiences, and is my answer to how you can find a local mentor and meet some great people in the process. Join us in this special segment of our show.

I have asked Phil Edholm, a NMRA Division Superintendent of the NMRA PCR/Coast Division, which includes the San Francisco Bay Area down to Monterey in California, to lead this segment. We will kick off the series with Gordon Robinson, the President of the NMRA, to discuss the value of NMRA Clubs and divisions to improving the modeling abilities of their members. We are planning to invite NMRA Divisions and Clubs from all over the world to talk about what activities and mentoring opportunities they offer. If you hear something that sounds good, see if your local club or division offers it as well.

In this way, I hope what you hear will cause you to consider attending a local NMRA club or a Division meeting near you to see if you may find a person who can help your modeling or find a group of people you want to get to know, and decide to join their group. Visiting does not require a NMRA membership. It gives you the opportunity to see what the organization is doing and meet the people involved. It is a first step to finding your local mentor.

These “New Tracks” segments are planned for every two weeks. If you are a member of a local NMRA club or division and believe it should be invited to discuss their activities, please notify Phil Edholm at Phil.Edholm@newtracksmodeling.com.

I am always looking for your suggestions to make these segments most helpful to you. Please send me any ideas you may have, including any local non NMRA organizations you feel I should talk with about being on the show. My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

2. Hobby Shops and Modelers Working Together

Starting October 19, 2022 [Mark Poggendorf](#), a NMRA member working on his MMR, owner of Poggies Trains and a member of the National Retail Hobby Stores Association (NRHSA), will moderate a monthly segment concerning common issues facing hobby shops and modelers. The focus of these segments will be on how both groups can work together for their mutual benefit.

Mark’s involvement in our hobby as both a modeler and hobby shop owner who not only has a brick and mortar store in California, but also attends, as a vendor, many of the train shows throughout the country, makes him well suited to lead these discussions and provide insights into the problems and issues facing both the hobby shop industry and modelers.

This segment will provide a forum where modelers and hobby shop owners can better understand each others positions on issues within the hobby, and hopefully help each other solve the issues for both of their benefits. Please join us in these discussions and make your voice heard. After all, if local hobby shops are successful and meet the needs of modelers, everyone benefits.

3. An Inventor Segment June 15, 2022

Peeyush Garg of the LocoFi™ Team will be our Modeler/Inventor on my “New tracks” Zoom show June 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. He will discuss the new features and capabilities of his LocoFi™ control system. In addition, he will sponsor a random contest drawing for one viewer of the show to win one of the latest versions of his product. This is a great opportunity to meet and talk with the inventor of LocoFi™ and maybe win one for yourself. You can take your LocoFi™ equipped locomotives and operate on any DC or DCC powered layout without changing a thing.

I hope to expand this segment to include other Modeler/Inventors and their products. If you are interested in sharing your Inventions with us please contact me at jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

4. Learn to Remotely Operate a Switching Layout

On July 13th, [Heath Hurwitz](#) will show us his small, 48" x 10" switching puzzle he calls Human City Junction, a variation on John Allen's Timesaver. What makes this layout special is that it can be operated 100% remotely. One viewer will have the opportunity to operate the layout, including coupling and un-coupling the boxcars from the comfort of their own home, controlling the locomotive and turnouts while seeing it all in real time over the Internet. One day, maybe not too far off, we may all be able to operate layouts of all different scales remotely from all over the world. Having dedicated space for a switching layout will no longer be an obstacle to engage in operating a model railroad layout. Join us on July 13th to see how it works and the technology that makes it possible. Then, starting on August 10th, and every two weeks thereafter, we will be offering our viewers the chance to operate on the layout with different puzzles at changing difficulty levels. Operators of all skill levels are welcome.

Want to Help!! Volunteer to participate in a segment on our show, or help produce our Zoom/YouTube shows or our website. We are fortunate to have new volunteers regularly sign up to help us, but we need more of you to participate in our shows. As our show's audience grows and our segments increase, we are always in need of more volunteers. Please help.

Everyone who watches our shows has a contribution to make. Offer your help in participating as a mentor, or help make and produce our Zoom and YouTube shows, or help with our website and digital marketing or various other projects. Any amount of time and help you are interested in providing is greatly appreciated and definitely needed. Our show is a live participating show, not just a sit and watch show recording. Also keep in mind that mentoring is a two way street. It requires communication between modelers who want to share their knowledge and skills and modelers who want to learn their skills and techniques to improve their modeling. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged. Contact me at jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com and let's discuss. Please subscribe to our New Tracks Modeling website and YouTube channel.

"New Tracks" articles and Zoom events introduce modelers to talented experienced modelers who could become your mentor, or at least give you guidance to improve your modeling and confidence.

We currently have over 1,400 subscribers, and hope you will join us. Please subscribe to our website <https://newtracksmodeling.com>. Verify the confirmation email and get the latest information about what we are planning on our shows and get the Zoom log in link.

Or subscribe to our [YouTube channel, New Tracks Modeling](#), click the BELL and hit ALL to get notices about our live streaming YouTube shows and view our over 500 previously recorded show videos. Please also send the Zoom and YouTube log in links to your friends so they can also join in the fun of our shows. Thanks in advance for your help and support. Word of mouth is our best way to advertise our shows.



[Conowingo Models](#)

Starting May 25, 2022 Chris Course, owner of Conowingo Models, will be building one of his new kits. The kit is called "THE KELLOW STATION". Chris said since I am a Trolley modeler it will be a Trolley station. What a great honor to have your name on a model kit. Thanks Chris. There will be a \$10.00 discount off of the regular price of the HO kit. This discount will be available starting March 26 and ending on June 15, 2022. Information about the O Scale Kit will be available soon on our website newtracksmodeling.com. More details can also be found on the Conowingo Models website.



Banta Models

Starting June 1, 2022, Bill Banta, owner of Banta Modelworks, will start a “Build Along” of his Banta model On30 Caboose kit.

This laser cut wood caboose conversion fits a Bachmann 18ft On30 Flat Car. This kit is all laser cut wood and laser board. Includes wire and bending fixtures. Based on a caboose from a logging railroad, it’s really a cool looking addition to your fleet. Like all of our kits, it’s a fun build backed up by our no question parts replacement, you break it, missing or lost, the dog eats it, no cost to you.

This is the first On30 scale “Build Along” we have done. It is the result of comments I have received asking what is involved in using a HO scale chassis from one manufacturer, in this case, a Bachmann 18’ flat car; and using an O Scale body kit from another manufacturer, in this case, the Banta Modelworks Caboose kit, and building an On30 scale model. This may sound complicated, but Bill will show you how easy it is. Here is your chance to find out how On30 narrow gauge models are created and why On30 has become a significant part of O scale modeling. Bill is offering a 20% discount off his Caboose kit to New Tracks modelers who build along with him on their orders specifying it is for “NEW TRACKS” May 1, 2022 – June 15, 2022.

CAD BUILD ALONG

Starting July 13th, a Two Step Modeling BUILD ALONG with Earl Hackett

Step 1. A CAD produced Model BUILD ALONG using a free downloadable CAD program to produce the parts needed to build the model. Earl will present either Fusion or Onshape pending the outcome of his comparison of the two applications.

Who is Earl Hackett and what is this all about?

Earl answers: “I have been a scratch builder most of my life. I've also been using CAD systems since AutoCAD v1.0 that I used to design our current home.

Years ago I made CAD models just to get dimensions for a model, but with the improvements in 3D printing, CAD has taken on a much more important role. The models I produce on my Elegoo printers are as good as any injection molded commercial models. I believe the thing holding people back from using this technology is the startup cost, particularly the cost of a CAD system that they may not be able to figure out how to use.

Whenever we have a NMRA division meet and I give a presentation or show my latest model, I'm usually asked what CAD systems are available for hobbyists. My recommendations for a free CAD program are either OnShape (out of the UK), or Fusion 360 from AutoDesk. Everyone I know who tried them came away frustrated, unable to produce anything useful.

Last week I came up with an idea for a series of presentations that would document me learning how to make Fusion 360 or Onshape work, and finishing with the construction of a small model of a short deck girder bridge.

This presentation would be very different from the usual tutorials. Those I've seen are given by one of the program developers who goes so fast you can't understand what he's doing, or they skip over some little, but critical detail, because 'everybody knows that'...

Since I'll be learning the system along with everyone else, it certainly won't be going too fast to understand, and critical details will certainly be pointed out. Think of it as a digital BUILD ALONG.”

I told Earl loved the idea. I think this will be exactly what many modelers, including me, need to see. It is how a mentor would do it slow and detailed. I also liked the idea that the CAD program would be free.

But most of us do not have a 3D printer, so how do we get our CAD items printed? No problem, Earl will discuss this and we have some ideas we are discussing. Of course, Shapeways is the most well known custom printing house. However, here in Wilmington, there are dozens of home businesses that do custom printing, but most use filament extrusion printers that are useless for detailed models. You have to shop around to see what's available. I'm sure that is the case in most towns in the US. You could probably find another model railroader with one - within a 30 minute drive there are three modelers with one of these things. Plus, if a viewer wanted to purchase one, the prices have come way down. Here are prices for Elegoo printers on Amazon:

Mars 2P: \$299, print volume 129 x 80 x 160 mm
Mars 3: \$349 print volume 143 x 89 x 175 mm
Saturn: \$499 print volume 192 x 120 x 200 mm

Earl and I will give more information about what will be involved in this Build Along on the June 8, 2022 Zoom show. Please join us and have your questions ready. Then Earl will start the CAD BUILD ALONG program on the July 13, 2022 Zoom show and continue the segments every two weeks to make sure that everyone has sufficient time to complete each task. Each show will be 30 minutes and we encourage questions.

Step 2. Get the CAD parts printed and build the model.

I want to do something that is complex enough to show all the problems that can be encountered during a design. A 50' plate girder bridge would be a good topic. I searched my digital copies of MR and found drawings and dimensions. It looks complicated, but there are only 7 or 8 parts that you have to design that are used over and over. Rather than building it in one big print it, will be printed as a kit - a bunch of parts to be assembled. The biggest challenge is putting in all the rivets.

Once we get the parts, then Earl will build the bridge and everyone will be able to Build Along with him. To give everyone time to get all the parts made, we anticipate this will start on the September 21 Zoom show for 4 shows.

Card Model with Paul Egri and John Thomas Reynolds

Starting July 20, 2022 a Build Along of a Paul Egri Card model by John Thomas Reynolds. The FREE model can be downloaded as of June 15, 2022, in any scale from our website newtracksmodeling.com. There will be a presentation on our June 15, 2022 Zoom meeting about this Build Along. Don't miss this as you will find out how to do the scaling and downloading of the model along with tips to help you get started.

The model on our website is in HO scale so you will need to use the provided scale chart to download it into your preferred scale. If a modeler wants to customize his model with different signage graphics please contact Paul Egri at Paul.Egri@newtracksmodeling.com and he will work with you to provide your needed graphics. Again Paul is doing this for FREE. Any questions for John Reynolds about the Build should be sent to him at John.Reynolds@newtracksmodeling.com. If you have never built a Card model, this is your opportunity to learn from a very talented modeler how it is done.

Sea Port Model Works

Starting August 17, 2022, Bruce Nickerson, owner of Sea Port Model Works, will start building his kit #H136W A Waterline kit of a 53' Coastal Steam Passenger Ferry in HO scale.



Bruce is offering a 25% discount off the price of the kit to New Tracks modelers who want to build the kit along with him.

This specific vessel would have been designed, built, owned, and operated by local families, captains, railroads, or investors, etc. The steamer that we present through this kit is similar to the one we are familiar with called the Sabino or originally called the Tourist. The Sabino is up and running in Mystic, Connecticut at the Maritime Museum. This model is not a model of the Sabino, but similar, and would have been used for

very similar purposes. It will carry a lot of passengers, mail, and heavy cargo and attempt to keep schedules. It will make multiple stops at various islands and mainland harbors to deliver and pick up mail, produce, dry goods, livestock, groceries, etc. This kit, with some minor modifications, could be converted to a double decker which would increase passenger capacity.

This kit represents a small steam powered vessel working on the east or west coast, lakes, rivers, or oceans carrying on commerce that was vital to the growth of our nation, from the mid 1800's to mid 1900's.

There is so much to say about these steam powered vessels that have a distinct parallel with our nation's history. I strongly recommend that you read up on the subject. Here are a few great books that you might have a hard time putting down.

STEAMBOAT DAYS by Fred Irving Dayton

STEAMBOATS YESTERDAYS (ON CASCO BAY) by Capt. William J Frappier

STEAMBOATS of GLOUCESTER and the NORTH SHORE by John Lester Sutherland

STEAMBOATS COME TRUE by James Thomas Flexner

Bruce was recently on our Zoom show and this "BUILD ALONG" is a result of modelers' interest in his models during his presentation. If you have not built a ship before, Bruce says don't worry it is not much different than building a craftsman structure kit since the hull is a resin one piece part and there is very little rigging to do. I am looking forward to this as it is our first ship building project for the show. Thanks Bruce for your help.

Apogee Locomotive Works

Starting August 24, 2022, Arron Piotraschke, owner of Apogee Locomotive Works, will build one of his (ALW) locomotive kits in a BUILD ALONG. More information will be provided soon.



Berkshire Valley Models

Starting August 31, 2022 Richard Rands, owner of Berkshire Valley Models, will join with Martin Brechbiel, MMR to build his On30, On3 Ore car kit. There is a 25% discount on the purchase if the kit is for "New Tracks" members who order between July 27 and September 7, 2022 using the order code NEW TRACKS.

Kit #351 a 16' On30/On3 Ore Car. The kits are precision laser cut wood that assembles easily. The detail parts are made of white metal. Trucks and couplers are not included. The ore car we have designed does not follow a specific prototype, but is patterned after the many types found around the turn of the century. A good place to see examples are the "Car Builders Dictionary". The shorter cars were made to carry the heavy precise metal copper & iron ores.



Motrak Models

Starting September 7, 2022, Jeff Adan, owner of Motrak Models, and Greg Cassidy will team up to build the Alton Fire Station in S scale. It will be available in all 4 scales. There will be a 15% discount off of the price of the kits for “New tracks” modelers between August 15th and September 30th when the code word ALTON Is used. More information will be available on this project soon.

Narrow Gauge Modeling Company (NGMC)

Starting October 5, 2022, Kevin Macomber owner of the Narrow Gauge Modeling Company (NGMC) will begin a BUILD ALONG with Martin Breckbiel MMR of one of his Wagon kits. More information will be available soon. Please see the information below about Kevin’s company.

NEWS RELEASE: Narrow Gauge Modeling Co. is pleased to announce the acquisition of Grizzly Mountain Engineering O Scale wagons. This new product family makes NGMC the largest provider of horse and people drawn wagons in the hobby market place. With over two dozen designs including Globe Circus and others, this will permit the expansion of a very broad range of wagons for all applications including freight, transportation, circus, military and others. Wagon drivers from our McKenzie Iron & Steel line that is being released March 1st, will further complement these.

Wagons start with V201, but there are many more not shown.

<https://www.narrowgaugemodeling.com/wagons-carts-cars/>

More “Build Alongs” to Come

I hope you want to participate in all the "Build Alongs". The modelers and manufacturers who are making these events possible, are doing them to try to help you improve your skills and have more enjoyment and confidence in your modeling. They are a true learning experience that have helped many modelers. Join us.

These programs are providing modelers their own personal Mentor. So if you have been sitting on the sidelines for awhile give model building a try. I believe you will have some fun. It is really great for me to hear the enthusiasm and excitement from first time or previous armchair builders from their experiences by participating.

Please show your support for these events by your active participation. Thank you.

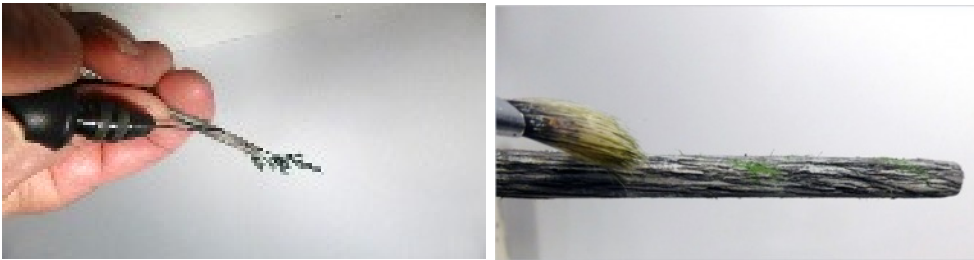
I am looking for more modelers and manufacturers to be involved in future "Build Alongs" in 2022 and beyond. I have several scheduled so far, but if you are interested, please let me know. Remember, a model builder can select the dates, manufacturer, and specific kit they want to build. A manufacturer can build his own kit, find a modeler provide a model builder, or I will find someone to build their kit. Contact me at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

We have several other Regular Modeling Segments on our Zoom shows.

1. "Watch Me Build"

These segments are meant for modelers who want to share their modeling efforts and discuss their modeling techniques so others can benefit. These segments can be for one or more shows depending on the details included for the model building presentation.

March 9, 2022, Nathan DeLay showed us some of the HO locomotives, freight and passenger cars he scratchbuilds using Coke cans, including the Duchess of Hamilton which was his first scratchbuilt locomotive. His mentor is Joel Holubec. Here are several photos of his models.



July 6, 2022 Pat Rivard and Paul Hurly will do a segment "Making Coniferous Trees". This will be a 40-minute DIY PowerPoint presentation by Pat and Paul where they will share their easy-to-follow six steps to build realistic foreground and

mass planting coniferous trees in O and HO scale. They will show how to use a variety of tree branch materials to recreate species that are seen throughout North America.

You may never have shown your modeling before in public for a variety of reasons. I assure you I think you will enjoy and benefit from participating in these segments. If you would like to discuss your idea, contact me via email at Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com or if you want to call me, you can get my contact off our website.

2. Ask A Modeling Question

These segments are where viewers can ask modeling questions and get answers from other modelers on the show. It is a forum where viewers can help each other solve specific modeling problems or offer advice on modeling techniques. We have a form on our website you can use to ask your questions. This allows us to schedule the appropriate time for this segment on each show. Don't hesitate to ask questions, after all that is how we learn new things.

3. "Remembering Old Kits"

Modelers will be building kits from our distant past that are either no longer manufactured or hardly available. Kits whose names we may have forgotten, but when we hear their name again, bring back great memories from our youth and remind all of us what modeling used to be like.

The first two segments had Martin Breckbiel, MMR building a Van's Car Shop and a Train Craft kit. If you have an old kit and want to participate, let me know at: Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

4. "Let's Go To Our Local Hobby Shop"

Meet local hobby shop owners who may become your new best friend. I must admit it has been a very long time since I have been to a hobby shop.

I recently talked with the National Retail Hobby Stores Association and wrote an article for their publication called "A Modelers View" where I talked about the importance of model builders and mentoring to the hobby

shop industry, and the issues that we both, modelers and hobby shop owners, have in common. It was published in the Association's October 2021 member only magazine, "Hobby Merchandiser".

It was very well received, and I have already scheduled some of their members on future shows. One of the first members was Mark Steven Elliott, a member of the NRHSA Board of Directors and owner of Fundemonium Hobby Shop on February 9, 2022.

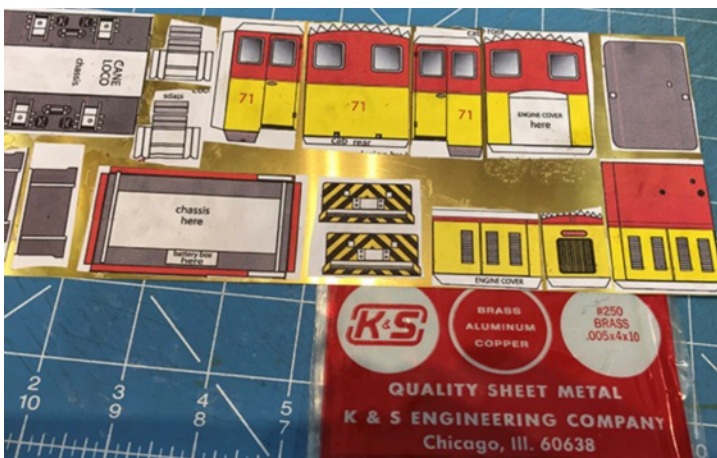
If viewers have a hobby shop to recommend to be on our show, or you are a hobby shop owner who is interested in being on our show, please let me know. There are not many hobby shops left around the country and I believe they need to be recognized and supported. So please tell me about your hobby shop at Jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com and I will ask them to be on our show.



Now for some Economic Development for the JN&P RR. Every community needs industry for a Railroad to serve and new jobs.

Critters International Corporation

“New Tracks” International Critter Corporation just relocated to the JN&P RR to enable a planned expansion of its facilities and to take advantage of the new International airport which recently began construction. The city fathers are overjoyed by this development as it will create more jobs for the community, and revenue for the City government.



Phase 1 of the Airport’s Development is a hanger for aircraft maintenance. It was designed by the acclaimed card designer, Paul Egri. The hanger and windsock are made from card and basswood. Phase 2 will include a Passenger and Freight terminal. The City leaders are currently finalizing the design so Paul Egri can complete his work.

The International Critter Corporation Headquarters was initially designed by [Clever Models](#). Many of the initial critters made by the company also were also designed by the Clever Models. The company was kind enough to provide all of the designs on a DVD



which simplified the acquisition of the card plans and construction material.

Initial Headquarters Building.

First expansion of company included two additional storage buildings.

Thank you Clever Models for also providing some great card designs to get the Critter Company off the ground.

Shown are three of their model designs.

One of the first International Business projects came from a Australian Sugar Plantation owner.

This project was the first Critter build in both card and in brass.

After this, all of the Critters were built in brass, and many had the plans drawn by the company's designers from information and photos provided by the sales force. This movement to brass construction and more orders were the reasons for the move to a new location.

International Critter Corporation Expansion and move to a new location.

The Corporation is proud of its products and the vast list of companies who have become customers. The decision to make all of their products in brass has been very well received.

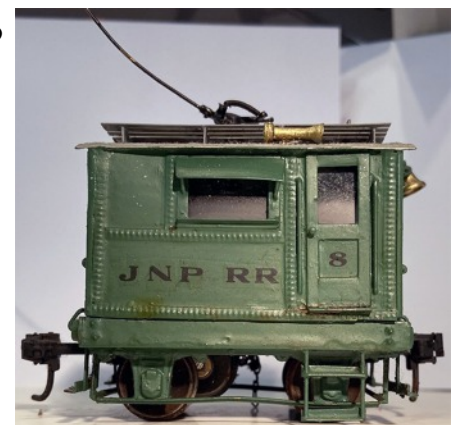
To accommodate staff expansion, a new headquarters was needed. The building was designed for the original owner in card by Paul Egri, and he is supervising appropriate renovation and signage. Work is expected to be completed later this year. Community leaders are pleased that the structure will be reused and not left vacant.

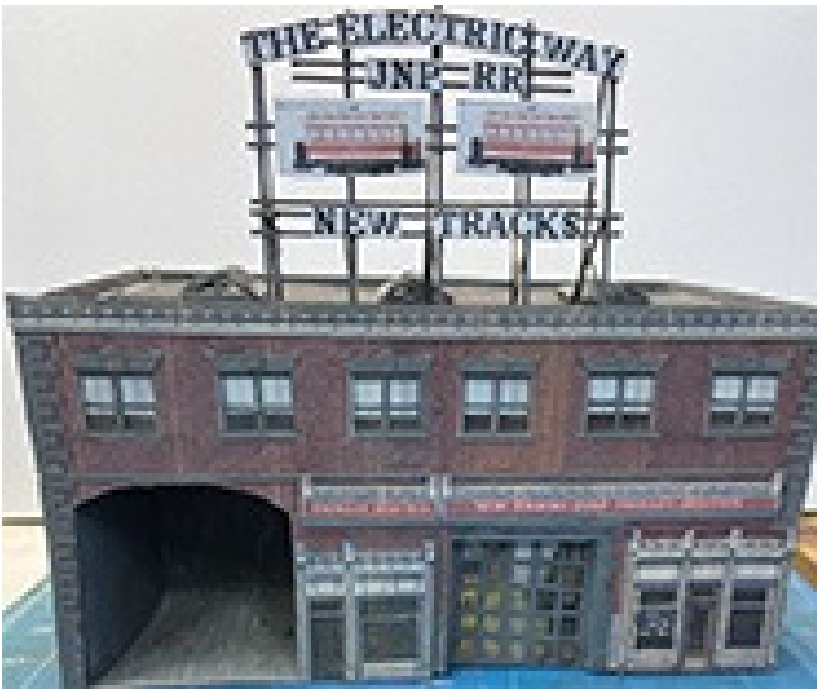
In addition to a new office facility, a larger manufacturing facility was also needed. Again, Paul Egri was asked to design the structure. It also is expected to be ready for occupancy later this year.

All of the Critters made by the Corporation are first made in 1/4" scale so that the customer will have approval of the design before construction begins on the actual prototype. This model making is done by in-house staff.

A World Wide Pandemic of a potentially deadly virus halted all the

company's plans when all employees were asked to work from home. This meant that home workshops like this one would have to be used to make the company's models.





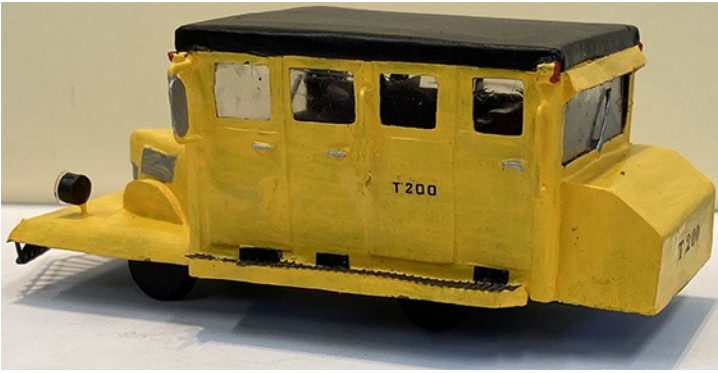
The above model was scratchbuilt from a photo in brass for the local Electric Company.



This Electric Company's structure was also designed by Paul Egri and built in card, except for the brass sign structure. Many more projects are anticipated to service the new economic development.

Bill Davis was kind enough to share a plan that was used to scratchbuild this model in brass. It seems to capture the client's needs as demonstrated in its weathered use.





The below scratchbuilt brass model was scaled from a photo on the Internet. I believe this scratchbuilt brass model was also built from a photo of a Ukrainian prototype. The windows on this model made it a different type of project to build.

CJ Riley MMR provided photos and his hand drawing that was used to scratchbuild this model in brass. It is meant as a employee carrier for the company.



Another scratchbuilt brass model from a photo was again a different type of Critter to build.

The first request for a articulated Critter caused some trial and error engineering to figure out the connections. It was scratchbuilt in brass from several photos. Just to show our model products have staying power, this one was built about 30 years ago and is still going.

A Canadian modeler provided the etched parts. Notice over the years it has even gotten its own mascot that likes to ride up front. Yes, the mascot is also a brass and 50-50 solder model.

The company is glad to share its models with you. We have another project waiting to be started, but we can always use new ideas and customers. Please send me a photo or drawing as a reference to use to get new ideas for models. Something different, unusual, or a challenge to build would be very appreciated.

Do any readers have stories about their Economic Development on their Railroads? I would love to hear your stories and print them here to share with everyone. My email is jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Now, let's meet some modelers and see their modeling Maybe they can inspire or help your modeling.

Michael Kreiser

Born in 1982 in Eastern Germany, my first model train was a small S scale layout, built up only for Christmas. At age 6, I got my first permanent layout in TT scale, at this time very popular in eastern Germany. I expanded it over the years, but due to a move at the age of 16, it had to be dismantled. At this time, I

got several American magazines that awakened my interest in American trains. The first model I bought was a Bachmann SD45 in HO scale, and in the following years I collected everything that was available. Later, I mainly focused on Amtrak and commuter operations. Since not much was available on the market, I started painting some on my own, using just spray cans from Tamyia, but soon found out that an airbrush was the way to go. My interest changed over to electric locomotives and finally, to the



Milwaukee Road, which I model in HO scale till today. In 2009, due to more and more requests from friends if I could paint or weather for them, I founded modelrailroadworks, my current business which I operate besides my main job at Airbus. Since then, I

have had hundreds of customers from all over the world and I always like new, challenging projects. I offer custom painting, weathering, DCC and sound installation, and make my own decals and parts.

Feel free to contact me direct at Michael.Kreiser@newtracksmodeling.com. Thanks Michael for your interest and help.



Now for some storytelling. Please meet [Joseph Giunto](#).

I see myself as a visual storyteller. I love creating something that is three dimensional and making it in a fourth dimension. They say “A picture is worth a 1000 words”. As a freelance photographer, and modeler, my eye interprets a vision different from what the viewer will see. I want the viewer to interpret for themselves what they see. When it comes to weathering building scenery or layout design, everything has a purpose and I leave it up to the viewer to interpret the scenes and imagine where the trains are coming and going through the scene. This requires a thought-out track design that creates that effect. Weathering the trains gives them an identity and, like a picture, it makes the viewer think about the trains’ journeys of where they came from and where they

are going.

You can say my family was involved with the hobby for a few generations. My father collected N scale and HO scale trains. His father had Lionel trains growing up as well. Dad was a kitbasher and scratch builder of buildings and trains. He loved painting and decaling too. I received a train set from Santa one year and I was hooked. In my home we built a new layout every Christmas. We collected trains and ran them continuously throughout the holidays.

While a teenager, I fell in love with O scale and converted from collecting HO trains. The nostalgia of the three rail track, the sounds and smoke and crew talk were exciting as HO didn’t have that technology at the time. At age 15, I built my first layout called the Ionia Subdivison. It was a 17 x 11 shelf layout located in the Appalachia Mountains in Pennsylvania. It was with this layout that I started learning the building steps of model railroading. Collecting DVDs, Magazines, researching on the Internet, as well as meeting modelers at

train shows and looking at layouts, I obtained a lot of knowledge. YouTube became the greatest source of information by watching layouts, clinics and product reviews.



One of the first O Scale weathering projects I created when I started learning how to weather. This is a MTH Premier Line Dash 8 Dummy Unit. One of my favorites in the collection. This is also my O Scale layout, The Ionia Subdivison. Here I built scenery for the first time.

I have read many articles on scenery and weathering. I started weathering O Scale trains and fell in love with the realism. I love giving the layout character by creating beautiful scenery and a sense of location, either real or fantasy. Once out of college and relocating to Nashville to pursue my music career, I converted back to HO Scale due to space and finances. Also DCC became more universal with HO Scale. I was able to upgrade older locomotives to DCC and the prices of older rolling stock were fair when you can upgrade the wheels and couplers. I still have most of my O Scale collection and I love building scenery and weathering in all scales. This is when I created my business, Touch of the Brush Model Weathering.



Marc Lingenfelter 2017

[Touch of the Brush Model Weathering](#) was founded in August 2017 as a business of service weathering trains for a few friends. I started the business to help with finances. After weathering a few collections, I started painting and decaling for clients. This brought me out of my comfort zone and I learned a new skill. My significant other helped me advertise by introducing the business to social media. With the help of YouTube, Instagram and Facebook, I gained a clientele, as well as many friends in the hobby. I was a YouTuber since I started my O Scale layout.



My favorite weathering project. I turned my client's HO Scale Athearn Genesis SD70 into a beaten up work horse that has seen better days.

I created videos of layout updates, how-tos on scenery and weathering, and lots of prototype railfanning. Today, I include many

videos on my weathering process as well as monthly updates on the business and showing off clients' collections that I serve. Instagram and Facebook have been my main source of exposure. Using tags and hashtags of model railroad companies, hobby stores, train clubs and other modelers, I became included in the model



Here are two Atlas RS-3s I painted, decaled and weathered for a client for his fictional railroad.



I created a toaster on this Dash 9 made by Scale Trains. I also painted the box red to represent Santa Fe heritage. This was based off a few prototype photos.

railroad family. I love working hand in hand and exposing other companies in my field of work. My work has been featured by Instagram users and Facebook groups as well as a number of YouTubers.

The business and I were interviewed by Lionel Strang of A Modeler's Life Podcast. I am a member of the YouTube Model Builders (now Model Railroading Live) on YouTube. Being part of the show, I met



Here is some of my scenery work. This was made for the Tennessee Valley Model Railroad Club located in Smyrna, TN.



Here is my most recent project. This is a weathered Athearn Boxcar. I used decals and hand painted graffiti.



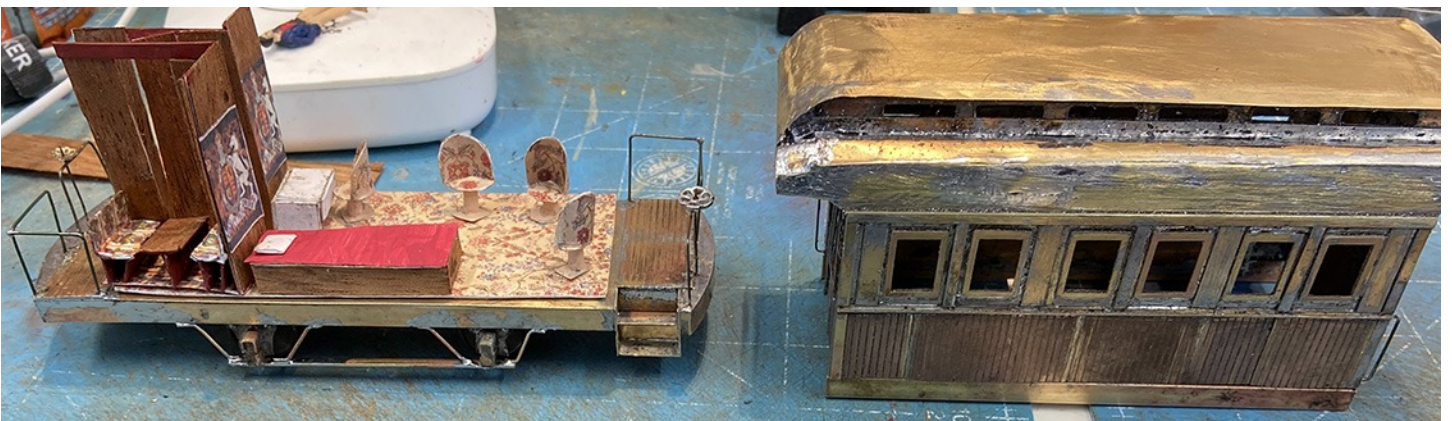
I created this Atlas shell to look just like the prototype. The model was given to me unpainted. I painted, decaled and weathered this locomotive just like the picture.



I converted this Bachmann HO Hopper into a modern day, beat up car hauling scrap metal.

Ralph Renzetti of Weathering-A Touch of Yesterday. He became my mentor and taught me many weathering techniques.

My significant other is an amazing artist and professional photographer. She has taught me at an artist level and how to be an artist. She is also a great supporter and encourager. The business is doing well and keeping me very busy. The plan of the future is



becoming an NMRA Member and advertising the business at train shows. I am in search of modelers in the Northwest Arkansas and East Oklahoma Region. I will like to bring everyone together. It will be fun to create a charter for modelers to visit other modelers' layouts, as well as trips to train shows and museums. I would love to form a train club in the Northwest Arkansas region as there isn't one around the area where I live.

Joseph, best of luck in forming your club and with your business, and thanks for providing this information. You can contact Joseph at: Joseph.Giunto@newtracksmodeling.com.



Time for me to return to my workbench and continue working on the scratchbuilt brass Business Car below for my new grandson, William Clifton Kellow.

Also please subscribe to my website NewTracksModeling.com to get log in links to my Zoom events and see what "New Tracks" you can travel. Also, please give me your comments, suggestions, and modeling ideas. I so enjoy hearing from you. My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Thank you for reading this far. I really appreciate it. As always, best of modeling to you. It really is fun.

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BACKSHOP SOLUTIONS

By Ross Dando

Have a modeling question for our experts? Please send your description of your modeling problem to backshopsolutions@oscaleresource.com.

Hey, that's my train!

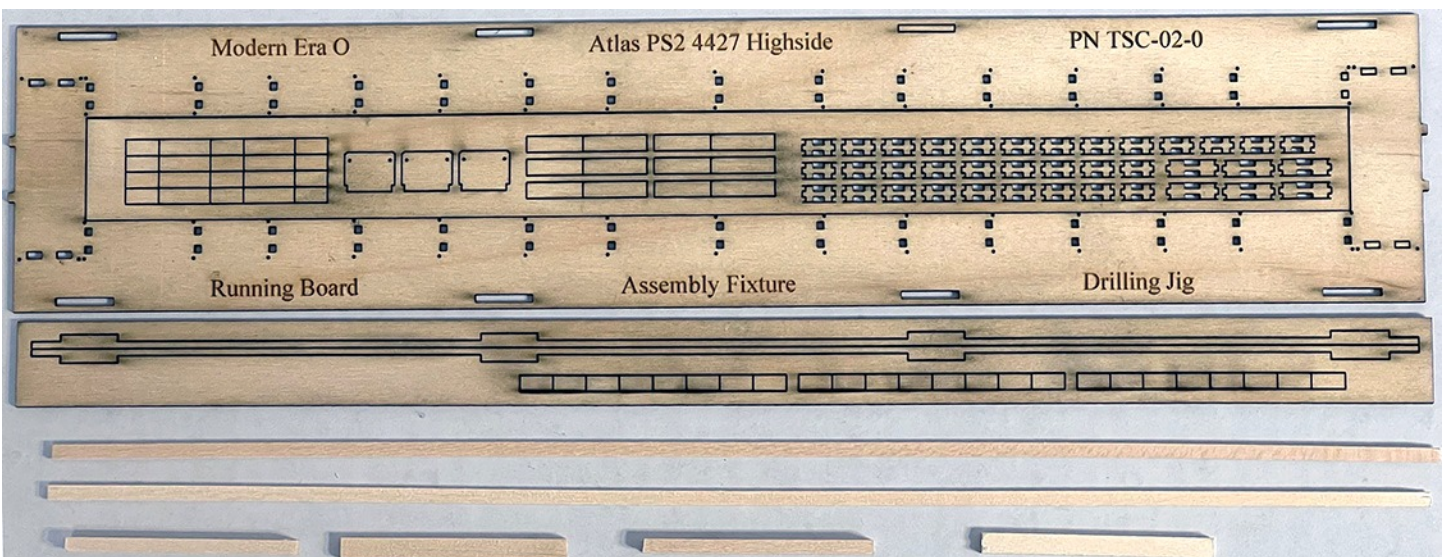
Ever arrived at the platform to watch your train leave? Welp, that was last issue. I swear I had another week. TSC and MEO were busy getting ready for the March Meet in April. That, along with a full-time job and other distractions, and poof, I was excited to read the last issue.



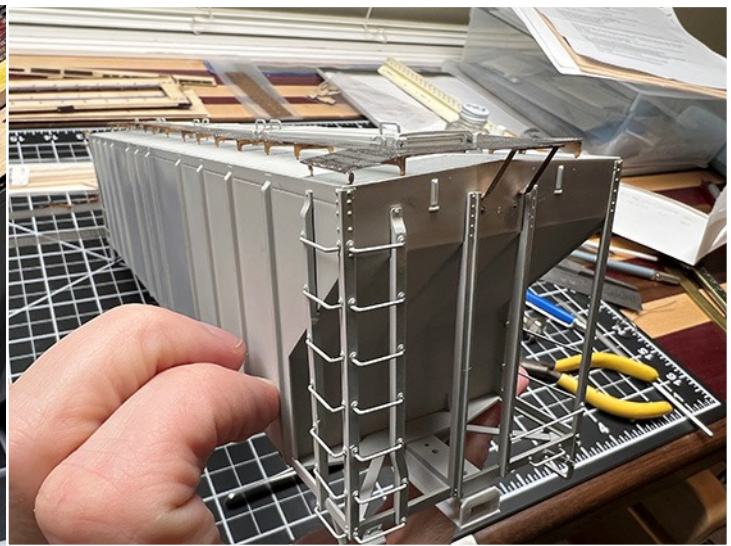
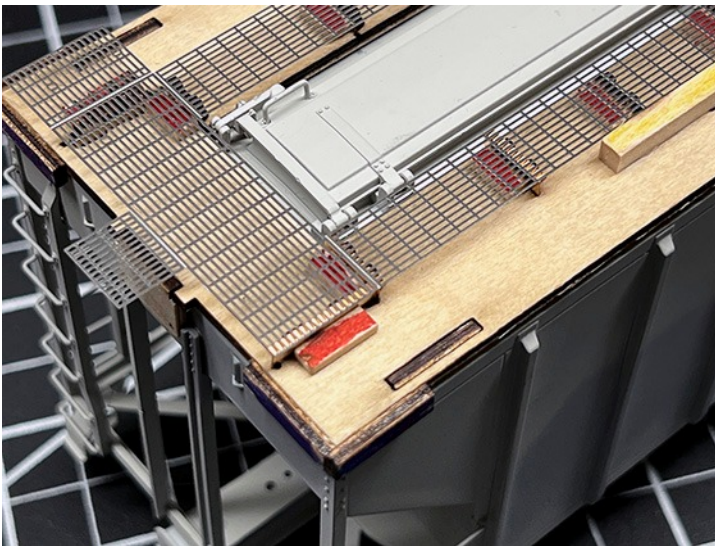
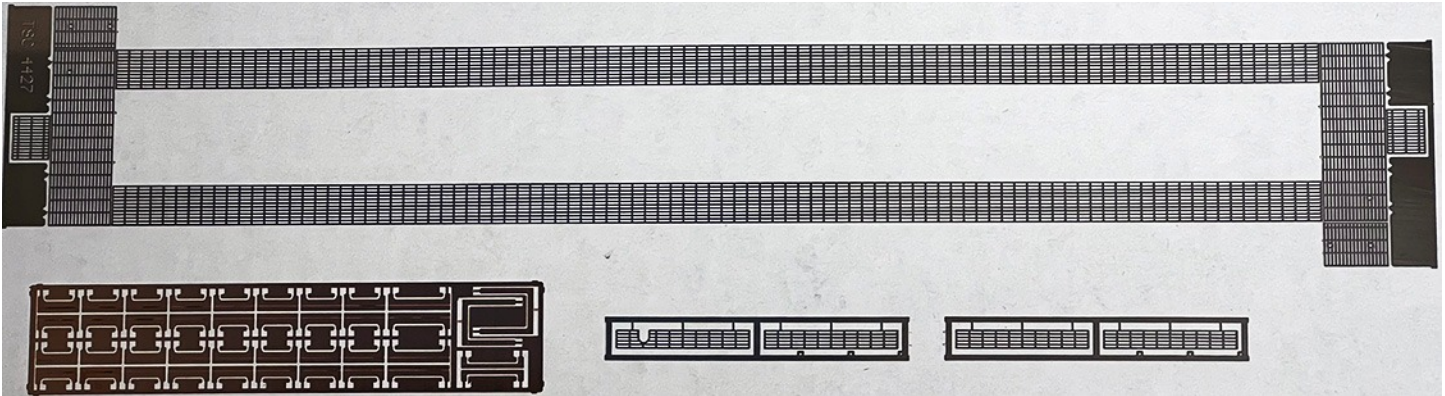
I have had a fun time working with my nephew who is interested in trains. While I have not been able to draw him to the dark side, he is learning. He had a National History Day report to do and wanted a diorama to display a diesel and steam engine for his report on the transition to the diesel era. I was the provider of misinformation and

materials. The work was all done by Nate. I am excited to see him grow his skills and hope he can see the importance of 1/48 modeling sooner than later.

So what have I been doing at my bench for the last four months? Getting pilot models built, tinkering with things that have distracted me from getting my article finished on time and mostly writing. Writing? Yes, I feel it is important that for any of my products that a modeler should have a good set of pictures to visualize the parts and how they go together, as well as text that can hopefully fill in the gaps.

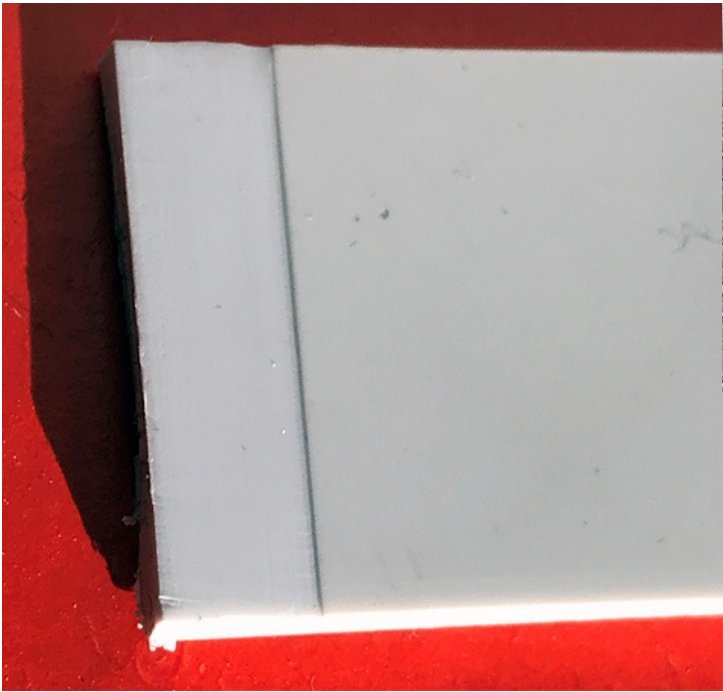


The process of building a product like the assembly fixture and drill jig for the Atlas etched running board was literary. Huh, you say? Well, the concept was a simple sheet of wood you just put the parts on and you can magically assemble a running board, and then use the same sheet to drill the holes the brackets fit into. Not so fast, you need a piece here to support this, you test and you need more. You add and add and cut and finally you find that it has grow into a kit of its own! But in the end, it works! The soldering process went quickly, and even better, the assembly fit into the holes made with the jig! Hope you can enjoy both at some point.



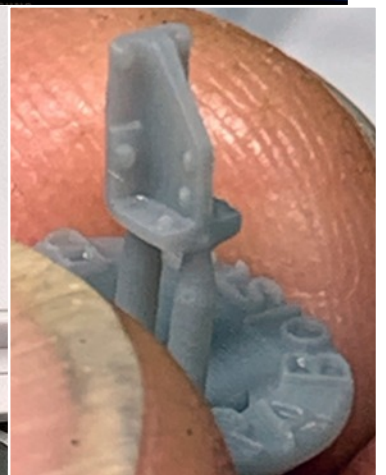
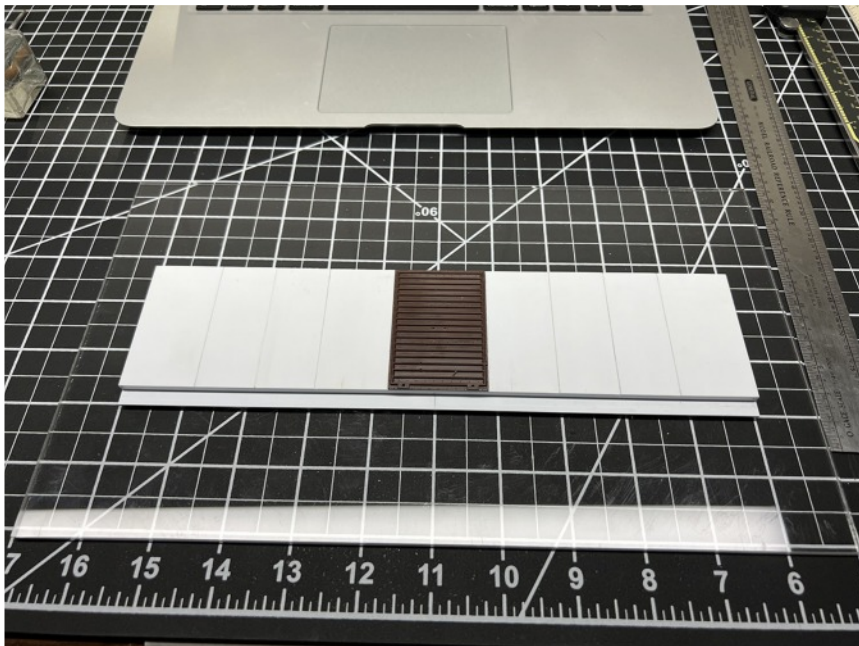
Another up and coming project is a rebuilt USRA box car that is a combination of old school styrene masters and 3D printed parts. I am excited to get to the next part, molds. But before we do, how do we go about making the parts, and why do we choose the materials and processes. For the ends, 3D made sense. The part is a good size for the printer and the parts were already drawn. The sides, I have not been impressed with even the largest and most expensive of printers, so I am working my

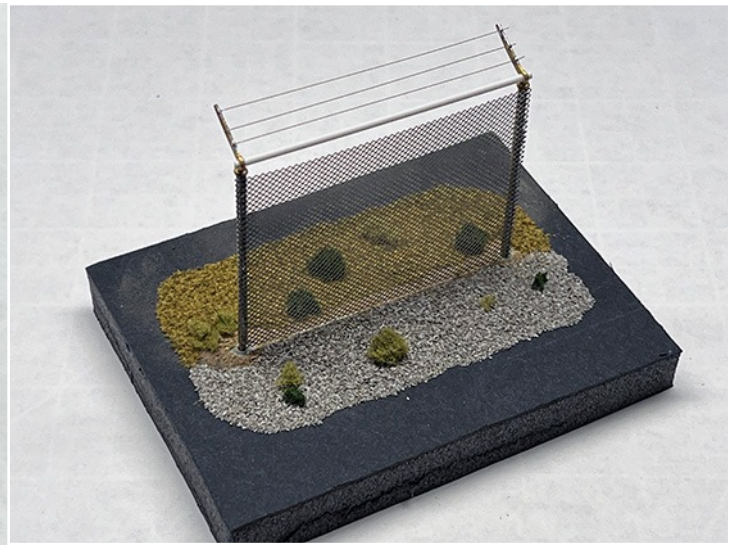
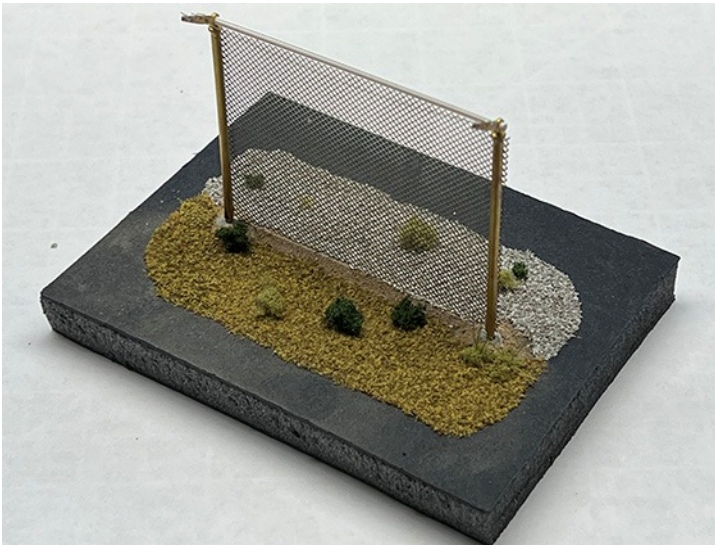
way through the stack up of styrene shapes to get the correct dimensions. But the overlapping sheets are a challenge.



I tried to machine pieces that butted up to each other. I tried to laminate. All these did not look right. Then one day I remembered I had scrapped an overlap on a previous project. So I came up with a plan, and so far I am happy with the results. Then there were the side support brackets. I was not happy with my scratch building efforts, so I turned to the computer and sketched up the parts. Terry Van Winkle turned them

into my vision. Next step is just starting, rivets. I am going to use Archer decal rivets for the rows and rows. If that looks good after the primer coat, we will get some molds made.





One new thing on my list is a fence. Bill Yancey made this for his layout and I thought “how cool”. Bill was nice enough to provide the master for the fence post and artwork for the etched fence material. We are working to turn this into a product and should have it available soon. Sections will be 18” long and include the needed posts to have them every 8’.

So until next time, go build something!

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with host Jim Kellow, MMR
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NEW TRACKS

WHAT'S ON YOUR WORKBENCH?

Project Based Off a “Leaning Tree” Card

By Jon Stetz

Thought I'd share this with you, it my latest project based off a “Leaning Tree” card. All built from scratch using plastics in 1/48th scale with LED lighting.







This series shows our readers what other modelers are working on. All that's needed is a simple snapshot of what your workbench looks like and the project on it. Send us a picture or two along with a short description of what you are working on so we can share it here. If it's a project under construction, send it in. Repair job, send it in. Completed project, send it in. Send your pictures and descriptions to daniel@modelrailroadresource.com

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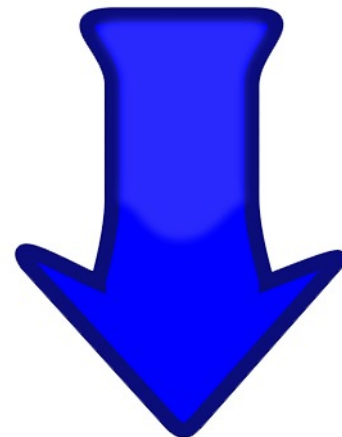
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O Scale 2 Rail at Indy Junction 2022 NMRA Convention May 18 - May 22

The Indy Junction 2022 NMRA regional convention in Indianapolis will include O Scale layout tours, clinics and one or more display layouts at the train show. Registration is now open and the website includes listings of the layouts, clinics, operating sessions, additional hotels and prototype tours that are available. This is a convention for three NMRA Regions: Midwest, North Central and Mid Central, and also includes the Chicago Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) all with one registration.
Website: <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

O Scale West - S West and Narrow Gauge West May 26-28, 2022

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara (San Francisco area)
Website: www.oscalewest.com

Harrisburg Narrow O Summer Meet June 10th and 11th, 2022

Sponsored by: [Narrow Gauge Modeling Company](#)
St. Thomas United Church of Christ
6490 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

The 2022 St. Louis RPM Meet JULY 29 - 30, 2022

The St. Louis RPM Meet will happen at the Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. Collinsville is 12 miles east of metro St. Louis on I-55/70. The meet starts at 9 AM both days.
Website: <https://www.stlrpm.com/>

Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show August 6, 2022

Strasburg, PA
Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co, 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, Pennsylvania. 9 am-1 pm. Admission \$5, wives/children/military w. ID free, tables \$25 for first table, additional \$20 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact John Dunn (609-432-2871) [Click here for info.](#)

O Scale 2 Rail at Gateway 2022 St. Louis NMRA National Convention August 7 - August 14, 2022

The NMRA National Convention, Gateway 2022 St. Louis, will include O Scale layout tours, clinics, display layouts in the convention hotel and in the National Train Show August 12-14. Registration is now open and the website includes listing of the layouts, clinics, operating sessions, prototype tours, hotel and registration as well as other activities available in St. Louis.
Website: <https://www.eventsquid.com/>

42nd National Narrow Gauge Convention September 1-4, 2022

42nd National Narrow Gauge Convention. Join us in the beautiful Pacific North West for outstanding clinics, world-class narrow gauge layouts, stunning modular displays, your favorite exhibitors/vendors, and The Contest. All under one roof at the chic Hotel Murano in downtown Tacoma, WA.
Email: registration@seattlenngc.com
Website: <https://www.seattlenngc.com>

Southern New England 2 Rail O Scale Show September 24, 2022

161 Chestnut Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Train show with a large selection of dealers specializing in everything O scale! Ow5, Proto48, On30, On3. Free Parking and on site refreshments available!
Show Hours: 9:30am-3:00pm. Admission: Free
Email: sneshowchairman@snemrr.org
Web Address: <http://www.snemrr.org/index.html>

Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show October 15, 2022

Strasburg, PA
Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co, 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, Pennsylvania. 9 am-1 pm. Admission \$5, wives/children/military w. ID free, tables \$25 for first table, additional \$20 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact John Dunn (609-432-2871) [Click here for info.](#)

The Cleveland O Scale 2-Rail Train Meet November 5, 2022 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

The website (<http://www.cleveshows.com/>) has updated information on the show. The show will still be at the UAW Hall (5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130) and happens from 9am to 2pm. Admission is \$7.00. Contact Sam Shumaker at (440) 248-3055 for table and additional show information.
Email: j3a5436@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.cleveshows.com/>

O Scale March Meet March 16-19, 2023

Westin Lombard Yorktown Center
Lombard, IL
The March O Scale Meet is a 3 day gathering of vendors, customers, clinics, and fun held annually in March in the Chicagoland area. This is the Chicago O Scale train show you've heard of.
Website: <http://marchmeet.net/>
Email: ChicagoMeet@yahoo.com

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