A colorful wooden toy train is shown on a track. The train is composed of various colored blocks: a yellow body, a purple front, a green chimney, and orange wheels. The train is moving along a track that curves to the left. The background is a light, textured surface. The train is casting a shadow on the ground.

What I Modelled During the Pandemic

March 2020 – April 2021

**Western Ontario
Division,
NFR-NMRA**

AGM May 10, 2021



Our Contributors

- Don Janes
- Mike Walker
- Brian Smith
- Jim Sloan
- Bernard Hellen
- Luc Sabourin
- Paul Hurly
- Richard Sparrow
- George Southwood
- Chris Bramble
- Calvin Bramble
- Peter Mumby
- Kevin Smith
- John Wagner
- Mike More
- Ron Tuff, MMR
- Gary Shurgold, MMR
- Gary Clark
- George Dutka



Don Janes

- Sarnia
- Green Mountain Division
- HO

O.V. Hooker and Son



South River Model Works
O.V. Hooker and Son. Brick
walls are resin and all
other walls are laser cut
wood. It will be built into a
diorama sitting at the base
of a hill in Don's layout
town of Waterbury, Vt.



Athearn Genesis Central Vermont GP-9s



Athearn used the same small fuel tanks as on their CNR GP9s which are too small. Don replaced them with wider tanks from another Athearn GP9 and shortened them to match the prototype. Fuel gauge was added to tank on right hand side.

Don repainted the frame below the walkways black, and repainted the handrails green with yellow brackets at the frame stripe. He made considerably more changes to the shell and to the locomotive's electronic controls.





Waterbury, Vt. Hotel

Nick and Nora Designs
Sycamore Springs Hotel.
The flat building will
reside in Waterbury, Vt.

Don customized the
structure with Tichy
railings and posts to the
front porch, scratch built
new steps and added
fancy iron work trim
around the roof of the
hotel.

Don added room lighting
and customized a
Roomettes kit for hotels
by adjusting cutouts,
adding lighting and
figures. His plan is to add a
sign from an actual hotel
in Waterbury.



The Creamery



FOS Scale Models Calamus Milling flat kit Don built into a full structure with new side and rear walls, and Tichy windows and doors for the extensions. The roof vents are from the scrap box.

The boiler house is made from N Scale Architect styrene brick sheet laminated to styrene sheeting. Tichy windows and a Bar Mills smoke stack were added.

Don scratch built the loading dock.

The exterior lighting is Tichy shades illuminated with 0402 SMD LEDs.





Mike Walker

- London
- Goderich Harbour Railway
- HO

Engine House



This engine house is from a Pikestuff kit basher bag. Mike has added an interior office and stairs, plus many more fixtures including a ladder for roof access, over door lighting, extra building ventilation, lift bars front and back, an exterior roll up door casing, and a stone footing all around the building to raise it up for height.



Engine House



An overhead crane will be added to this structure next to handle the heavy lifting. It's another facility for the engines on the Goderich Harbour Railway.





Brian Smith

- Ingersol
- No name (*based on Hamilton short lines*)
- HO

A Bridge Runs Over It



Brian built this bridge during winter for close to four months. He then demolished his layout in order to move to Ingersol from St. Thomas.

This was built from a Munroe Models kit. He found it was a very enjoyable project. He drilled holes for and installed bolt heads.

The bridge was finished in time for the layout teardown. All staining is Hunter Line products.





Jim Sloan

- Sarnia
- JSSX Railway
- HO

Abandoned Structure Project (Before)



Jim explained he has had this 32" gap in the backdrop of his layout for some time. In 2020, he decided to tackle it.

He borrowed an idea from watching videos of the Detroit Connecting Railroad to install a derelict, abandoned building commonly seen throughout the US rust belt.



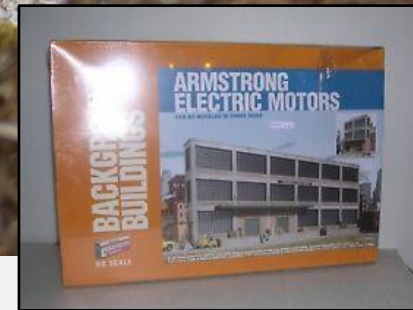
Abandoned Structure Project



Jim purchased two copies of Walther's Armstrong Electric Motors kit. He attached the walls end to end on the workbench.

He painted the brick with "Red Brick" acrylic craft paint. He applied drywall spackling in the window openings by using the window "glass" as backing material. Jim brush painted the spackling with Concrete Gray, and then weathered it with artist acrylic to represent rust streaking and grime.

The open pane and dumpster suggest demolition work may be underway.



Abandoned Structure Project (After)



The wall is backed by cardboard and is glued to MDF to make it easier to remove if he wants to work on the structure some more. The roof of this flat is made from a single sheet of basswood.

Jim then scened up to the foundation of the building with gravel, weeds, litter and small trees.

A GTW auto parts train passes the building.





Bernard Hellen

- Toronto
- G&W Quebec Gatineau
- HO

Populating Scenes with 3D Figures



We learned during his April clinic that Bernard started his new “miniprints” business at the start of the pandemic partly to create beavers for his own layout.

This scene and the following two photos are some of the more recent figures he has developed.

In this scene, the race is on to see if the skateboarders can elude the Railway Policeman on his ATV.



Populating Scenes with 3D Figures



Fore.

Do you know what Bernard just saw? A gopher. Do you know what gophers can do to a golf course?

A gopher is one of many animals he has created in the past year.

Bernard designed, 3D printed and painted the figure and golf cart.

Read Bernard's article in the Spring 2021 issue of *Model Railroading Inspirations* coming soon.



Populating Scenes with 3D Figures



Bernard posted on Facebook that he was looking for prototype pics of real railroaders doing what they do. Nick Suruskie was kind enough to send in a great photo. So Nick is now a miniprints figure, available at <https://miniprints.ca/product/customcrews/>





Luc Sabourin

- Sarnia
- Brownville & Ashland Railway, Northern
Maine Division
- HO

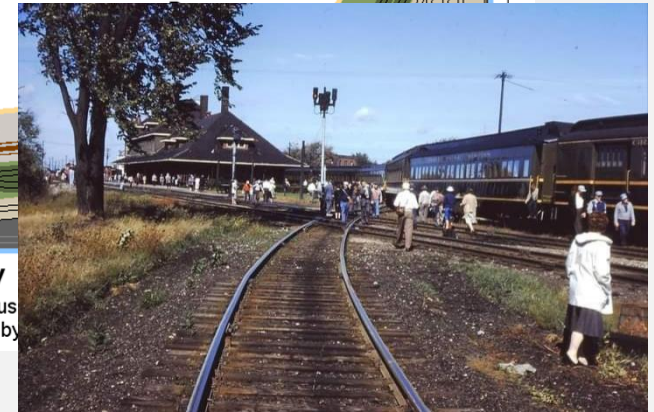
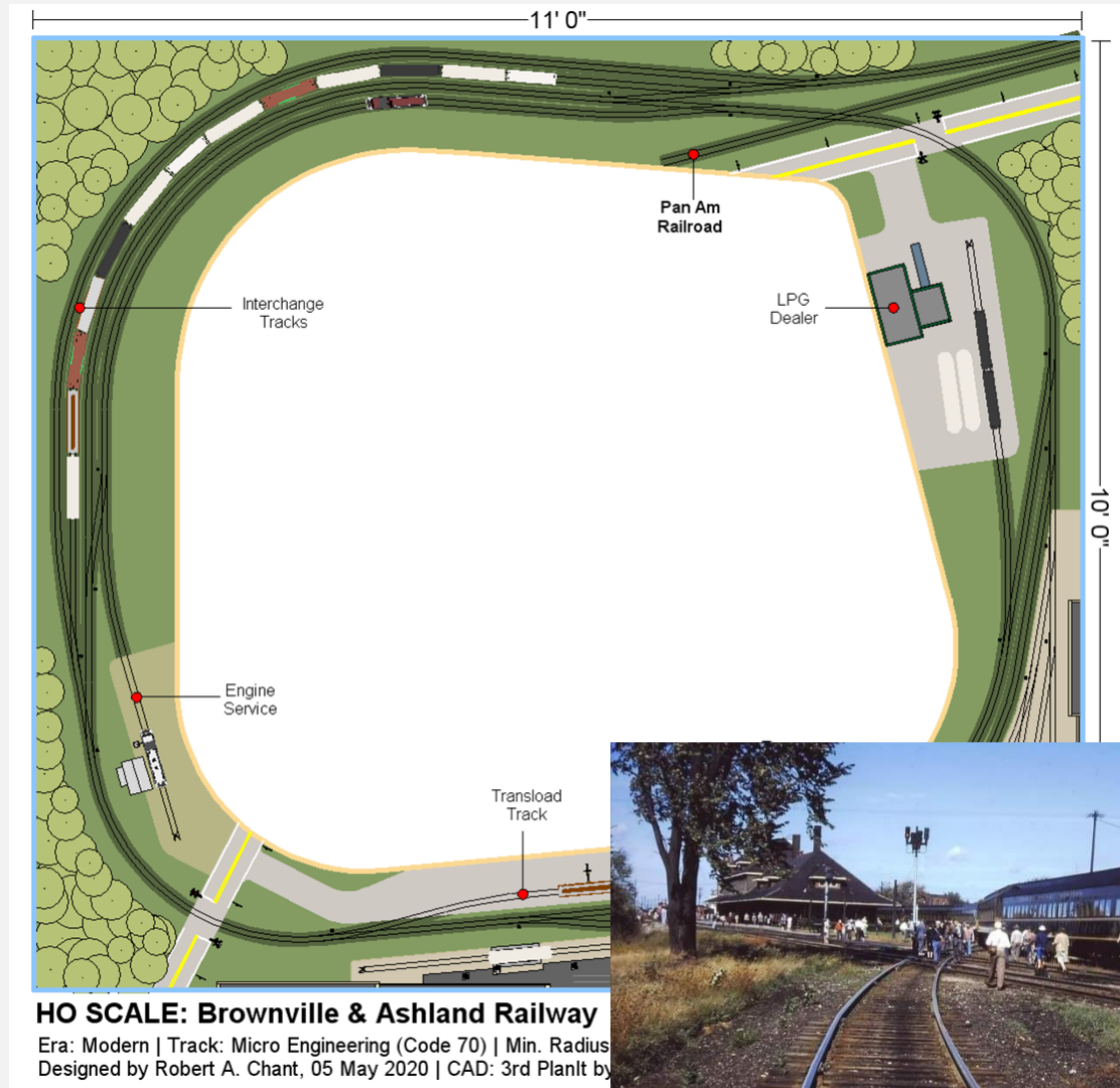
Designing an Abandoned Diamond



Luc's original intent was to model a diamond on his layout, with an interchange with the Pan Am/Guilford, as seen in this plan.

The main constraint: Would a prototype railroad place a diamond on a curve?

His persistent research paid off. This photo taken during a railfan trip shows a diamond on a GTW curve in Durand, MI.



Designing an Abandoned Diamond



More inspiration from the prototype!

In this 1930s photo, the Main Central Railroad (MEC) main line – curved – crosses the straight mainline of two foot narrow gauge Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway.

So Luc finally created what he had designed 16 months or so ago.



Designing an Abandoned Diamond



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Designing an Abandoned Diamond



Here's Luc's overall layout so far this year. The abandoned diamond is located on the left.





Paul Hurly

- Baden
- Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo, Welland and
Dunnville Subdivisions
- HO

The Beaver Pond transition scene



A fox startles a pair of mallards, both 3D printed figures from miniprints, add “action” to this otherwise static scene between the Robin Hood Flour mill and Coyle Yard on the layout’s Upper Deck. In the real world, these two structures were about 30 km apart, versus the 12” separation on the layout.

Inset, is a foreground micro scene of a mallard pair. This is across the mainline track from the Beaver Pond.



Mock up of Atlas Steel



Paul decided to include the Basic Oxygen Furnace (background), Materials Shed (left) and Shipping Shed (not shown) from this sprawling Welland, ON industry.

The track plan was then torn up and relaid in April, and an electrical problem was fixed.

The Blower House and the scrap yard will be located to the right of the Furnace. Atlas Steel is also located on the Upper Deck.





Richard Sparrow

- Fonthill, ON
- TH&B Welland Subdivision
- HO

Michigan Central Railroad / New York Central Station and Baggage House



Richard's model of MCR/ NYC station and baggage house is still in progress. The structure is based on drawings prepared by Bill Sharpe. Richard is using a series of boxes to build up the finished model. The walls are made of .060" styrene with scale 4" .040 laminated onto the outside above the wainscoting, and 3-1.4" x .040 vertical car siding laminated below.

The original building stood in the King Street and Ontario Road area in Welland, Ontario.



WELLAND - AUGUST 1954 - THE SIRMAN COLLECTION

Welland Freight Shed



Richard completed this Welland Freight Shed model this year. It was based on drawings and ideas provided by Bill Sharpe, a fellow ID-NFR modeller.





Welland Freight Shed Interior

This photo shows part of the Freight Shed's interior.

The "troughs" on top of the roof trusses on either side hold the wiring for the lights. This is an idea Richard copied from Bill Sharpe's model of the same building.

We hope to have an article of Richard's construction steps for the station in the Fall 2021 *Model Railroading Inspirations*.





Geoff Southwood

- Calgary, AB
- Boston & Maine and Maine Central (Freelanced)
- HO

Diner



Geoff told us he modelled Ethel's Café, "We Never Close" from an old Crow River Products kit entitled "Dave's Corner Diner".



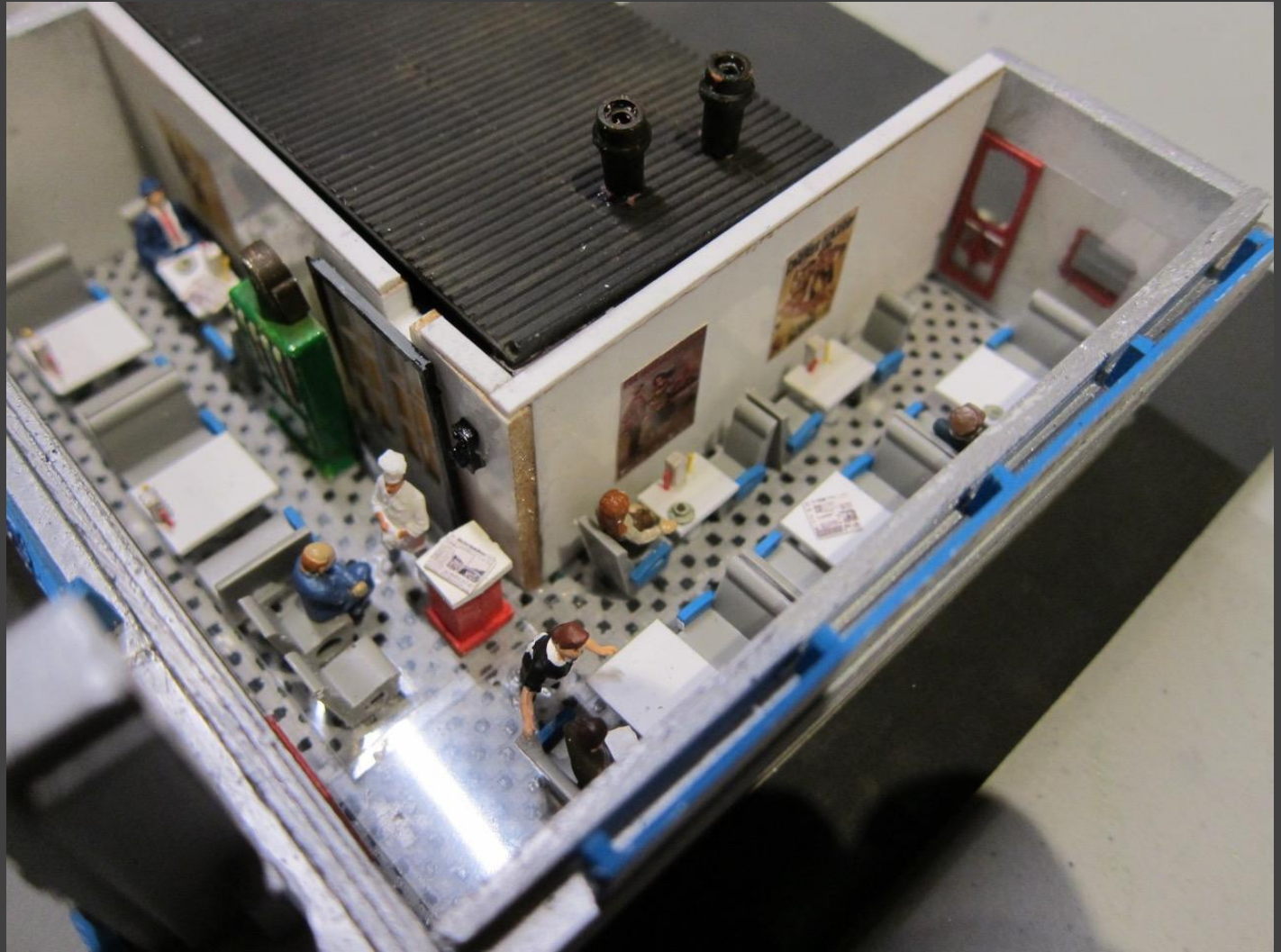


Diner, out back

The structure is loaded with wonderful eye appeal details.



Diner Interior



This is the wonderful detail revealed by removing the roof. Geoff plans to install some LED fluorescent lighting from Miller Engineering.

We unfortunately don't have any additional detail about the materials and approaches used by Geoff to model this wonderful scene, other than he was inspired by ideas from George Dutka.



Chris Bramble

- Waterloo
- Central Ontario Subdivision
- HO

Short Barrel Ore Cars



Chris has built four short barrel ore cars from Sylvan HO scale kits he's collected over the years.

There are a few extra details added - braces for the steps, rod under the right half of the upper door and an ACI label. The hardest part of the assembly, Chris said, is figuring out the brake piping on the B end.

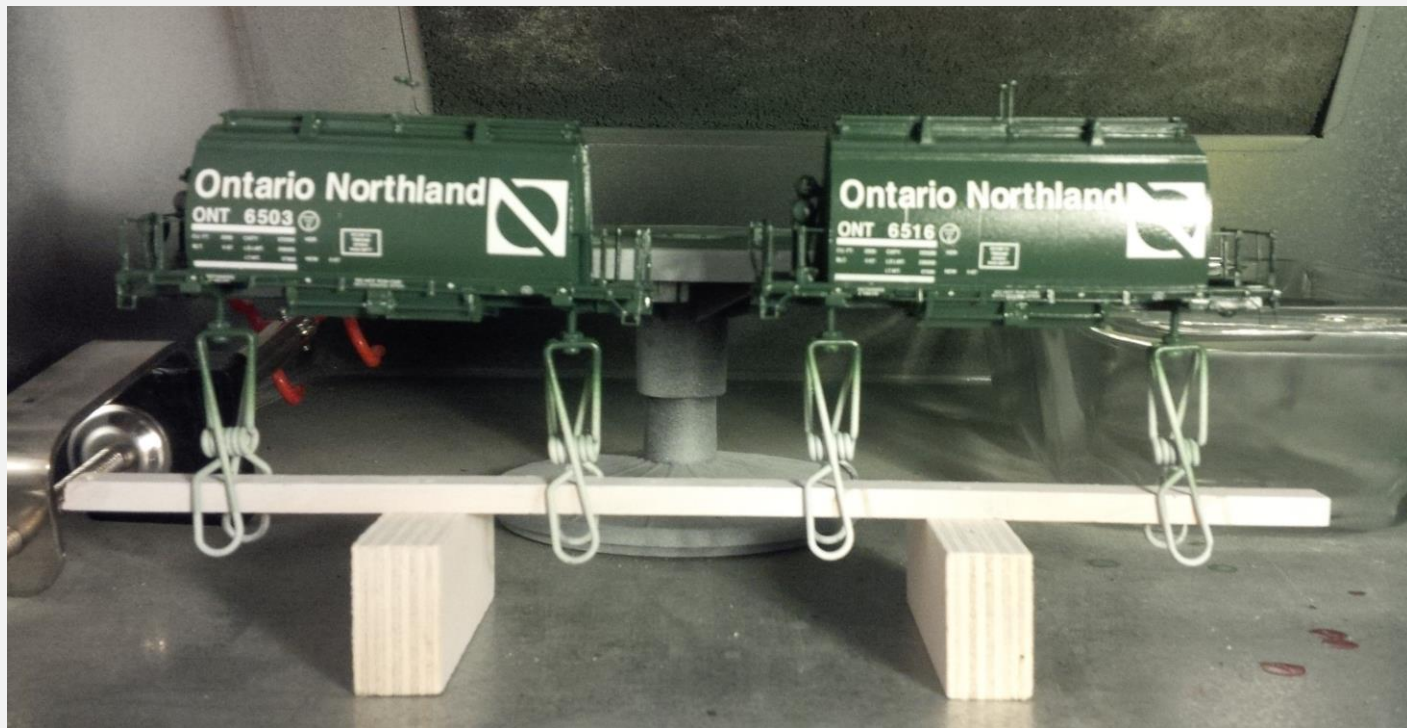


Short Barrel Ore Cars



After priming, the cars were airbrushed with Rapido Proto-Paint - ONR Green or Boxcar Red No. 2 – as appropriate.

Chris built a jig to hold two cars at a time for painting - the clips holding the cars with screws in the truck mounts.



Short Barrel Ore Cars



Cars were lettered with the decals included with the kits. The ACI label is a graphic printed on photo paper then glued to the model.

Weathering was done using Pan Pastels. They are now serving the ore mine on the Central Ontario Subdivision.

Chris has seven more ore cars to build.





Calvin Bramble

- Waterloo
- L-gauge (1:38)

TH&B 40' Boxcar #4795



This is a scratch built model of one of the TH&B's USRA wood boxcars, made entirely of Lego bricks. Calvin designed the model using digital design software and then ordered all the Lego bricks required.

The walls of the boxcar were built sideways as a stack of the bricks so that the seams between the courses would create the appearance of the individual board plank sides of the car.



TH&B 40' Boxcar #4795



Calvin also modelled other key details such as the door rails, grab irons, brake wheel and polling pockets all using just Lego bricks.



TH&B 40' Boxcar #4795





Peter Mumby

- London
- Wiscasset & Quebec
- On 30

Scratch-built Quebec Junction station



This submission is less about "pandemic modelling" and more about "pandemic dusting and tweaking" of a module which was actually put together several years ago. At that time George Dutka and Peter assembled a pair of 6 foot by 1.5 foot modules in On30 scale. The modules theoretically straddle the international boundary, with George's section located in Maine and Peter's "Quebec Junction" in P.Q.





The two modules were constructed and the trackage was laid together. Then the individual sections retreated to their respective addresses to have structures, scenery and details added. They haven't subsequently been rejoined.

But we'll see what the future will bring.





The structures in this view and the next were all purchased from Sarnia-area modeller Bruce Peachey.





Peter and George worked on decorating their rolling stock together, so there is a consistent lettering and numbering pattern in play.





Kevin Smith

- Massachusetts
- The Woodstock in 1983
- HO

Modeling Abandoned Trackage



Kevin Smith's layout features abandoned trackage around the White River Jct. area in Vermont in 1983. Kevin, a retired engineer, has done a good job with it.

Kevin notes it is, of course, important to tell a story with our modeling, and scenes like this abandoned diamond, are stories within the (His)story.



Modeling Abandoned Trackage



This scene is simply titled
“The Sth Switch”.

Kevin’s freelanced layout
is primarily based on the
Connecticut River Main as
if the Woodstock Railway
evolved to 1983 instead of
abandonment in 1933.



Modeling Abandoned Trackage



Kevin refers to this as the CV MoW mock track.



Modeling Abandoned Trackage



This scene is called “The Coal Yard”. The business, which is outside of the photo frame, is either out of business or no longer taking deliveries by rail.

The Woodstock Railway interchanged with the Central Vermont Railway at White River Junction, which occupies a small corner of his layout.





John Wagner

- Baden
- North Easthope Central
- HO

Scenery Building on the North Easthope Central



This is a deep valley on John's layout with a track across the valley floor and another that will cross above on a series of bridges.

This picture shows the start of the scenery base in the far back corner.

John hand lays all of his track on homosote. Since he started well before the introduction of Fast Tracks Hobbyworks jigs, he builds his turnouts by at each location.



Scenery Building on the North Easthope Central



In this progress photo, we can see more cardboard base for the slope, plaster work started in the background, and the bases for the bridge piers have been located.



Scenery Building on the North Easthope Central



In this final photo, most of the plaster work has been completed except for around the pond and along the creek in the foreground. The spillway has also been built.

John concluded by saying "There's still lots of work to do."





Mike More

- Ottawa
- Deutsch Bundesbahn circa 1965
- HO

Preparing the right of way to the bridge abutments



Early in 2020, Mike decided it was time to finish the branch line running behind the city of Zweibrücken leading up to a small town with a lumber mill. He installed the sub-roadbed, roadbed and track, wired for DCC and started on the scenery, vehicles, people, etc.



Erecting the bridge in the gap over the mainline



As a child, Mike lived for four years in the real Zweibrucken, Germany, while his father was stationed there with the RCAF. Mike's station bears no resemblance to the real one, but he picked the name for old times sake.



Final scene of the Zweibrucken station and city behind



Some of the city buildings came for Zweibrucken from a previous layout. Others were assembled from kits.

Scenery still needs to be completed at the lumber town, as does the ballast in the yard at the front of Zweibrucken station.





Ron Tuff, MMR

- Stoney Creek
- British Columbia Railway
- HO

British Columbia Railway Maintenance of Way Project



Outfit trains require potable water for cooking, drinking and personal hygiene. BCOL 993551 was kit-bashed from a Tichy 10,000 US gallon tank car. These kits have literally dozens of small detail parts, which produce a great model.

Ron added lots of details including: rivet strips, Rapido 33" wheel sets, rebuilt K-style air brake system, Tangent uncoupling levers and Kaydee air hoses.

We hope to have a more detailed article about these MoW cars in *Model Railroading Inspirations*.

British Columbia Railway Maintenance of Way Project



This model began as Tichy 40' flat car. The kit contains dozens of small detail parts. The first step was to convert the air brakes from a K system to AB.

The car was 2.4 ounces below the NMRA recommendation. So Ron added more by using all metal Central Valley Bentondorf friction bearing trucks. The fuel tanks are made from Xacto knife cases. He added more weight by using wood dowl to stiffen the tanks, and inserting a steel rod inside each dowl.



British Columbia Railway Maintenance of Way Project



Ron states BCOL 1230 was more about the load than the Proto 2000 flat car. However, the car was stripped, custom painted and decaled to match the prototype photos. He individually painted each deck board to achieve realistic variation.

The biggest challenge was scratch building the loading ramps.

The Cat 966G Series II Wheel Loader is by Norscot. After masking the windows it was air brushed with dullcote with one drop of white to create the sun-bleached effect, and then weathered.



Gary Shurgold, MMR

- Chatham
- The Wyoming S&K Railway
- HO Scale

GE 44 Ton Diesel Switcher



Gary has been building a Keystone GE 44 ton diesel kit in HO scale. It was a fun project, consisting of brass and white metal parts. Assembly including filing, bending brass parts and finishing parts to form a smooth fit.

The hand rails were scratch built per the diagram instructions in the kit plans.

Gary plans to paint and decal the engine in CN olive green for the 1950s.

We hope to have a future article about this build.



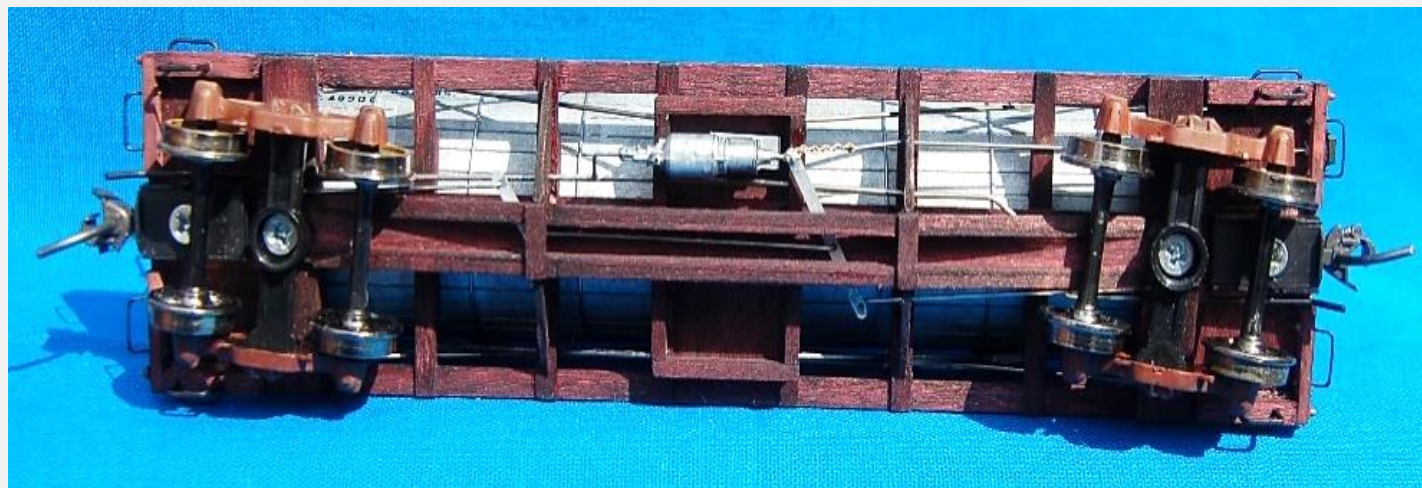
H.O. Vinegar Tank Car



This is a Northeastern Scale Model kit. Gary found the kit comes with very poor instructions and a pile of wood.

Gary mostly scratch built this model with support from the kit's scale drawings and research he completed using Google.

He created his own paint scheme for the car. The frame is box car brown and the tank is a weathered silver.





Gary Clark

- Chatham
- Gary's Custom Canadian Trains
- Live steam (1:8 or 1/8th scale)

Hawker Siddeley CN Van



After 35 years as a CN locomotive engineer and conductor, Gary has started his new hobby of building 1/8th scale replicas.

This is the third 1/8th scale model he has worked on, and the second van.

He found the 79305 at the Port Stanley Terminal Rail and made 4 trips to get all the measurements he needed.



Hawker Siddeley CN Van



The frame is constructed of welded steel. The car body floor is made from 1" particle board. The walls made from ½" plywood are glued and nailed to the floor. Gary used aluminum sheets to simulate the steel panels of the original van, and hand applied 1,600 brass nails to simulate the rivets.

Chris Murray at 512DesignsByChris made all the detail parts. The roof was made by Cunningham Sheet Metal. Both businesses are in Chatham.



Hawker Siddeley CN Van Interior



Look at the photos to the right. Which is the real van interior?

The far right photo is the model's interior.

We hope to have an article with more detail of Gary's build for the Fall 2021 *Model Railroading Inspirations* news magazine.





George Dutka

- London
- White River Division
- HO



George has worked on two kits this winter. "G. Marshall's Shipping" is a RailroadKITS laser kit that he added a side structure to.





This is a FOS kit-of-the-month offering which he built around Christmas. The kit is called “Larrabee Custom Machine Tools”.

If you look closely you can see the hallmark weathering and detail touches that characterize George’s careful, detailed approach to modelling.





After George had completed both kits, he realized they could work well together.





Thank you WOD Modelers and others for sharing your work!

We've all made the best of a challenging pandemic situation.

We'll announce the 2021 WOD Fall Program in August. Watch your email.

Stay Safe! Get Your 2nd Vaccinations.



Happy Summer!



