

SUPER'S SIGNAL

A publication of Division 6, Mid Central Region of The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

June 2019

Superintendent's Report

Greg Short, Division 6 Super

April 2019 Super's Report

Well here we go again, another issue of the *Super's Signal*, seems like I just did this? Any way, things are moving along in the old Division 6. We wrapped up a meeting in Mt. Vernon with the folks at the Kokosing Valley Club. Thanks to them for hosting the meeting and showing off their layouts. They continue to work on it and it is getting better every time I see them, great work guys. We had a great turnout for the meeting there, had over 40 members on the list. That is a great turnout and I hope it keeps up. I know that the numbers are up due to most, if not all the Kokosing Valley folks attending. For a lot of them it was their first division meeting. I hope they continue to come and take advantage of the meetings and contests. We had a great showing of models and photos in the contest along with a good clinic on installing decoders. As for meetings remember, we do not have one in May due to the MCR Convention. Speaking of that if you have never attended one put it on your list of things to do. Always great content in the conventions from clinics, contest, tours, and many other things. All in all a good bang for your dollars.

Breaking news, as I am writing this report I have locked us into our bus trip for August to the Age of Steam Roundhouse. There will be more to follow but the basics are August 17th is the date with the bus leaving Columbus around

Super's Signal Deadline
20 June

15 June (Saturday)

Marion Union Station Marion

9:00: Clinic: *Curved Backdrops*, Darrell Logan

10:00: Contest entries opens

10:15: Clinic: *Estate Planning*, Frank Bongiovanni

11:30: Lunch – Hot lunch will be available:
Sloppy Joes or Hot Dog, sides, and one soda for \$5.00

12:30: Contest entries closes – Contest voting begins

12:50: Contest voting ends

1:00: Division 6 Business Meeting, Contest Results, Raffle

About 2:15: Clinic: *Scale Sound Systems, Their Products & Services*

All Day: Train Watching

All Day: Sale Items (Bring your own table)

Model Contest: Favorite Train

Photography Contest: Favorite Train

8am. We will have a guided walking tour of the facility and equipment. We will then leave and have lunch at a local Amish Buffett. Then we will head to Dennison for a tour of the Dennison Depot later in the afternoon. I am looking to have the bus back into Columbus in the 7 to 8pm timeframe. I will be getting the info on the cost as soon as I can get things finalized. I'm figuring around \$50 per person not including lunch, this will cover the cost of the bus and the tours. As always we are not doing this as a

The Super's Report
Continued on page 3.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Division 6 Superintendent**

Greg Short:

10515 Brownsville Rd

Brownsville, Ohio 43721

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Div. 6 Assistant Superintendent

Judy Logan:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Clerk

Patrick Hreachmack:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Pay Master

Dexter Hill:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Matt Goodman,

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf:

Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org

APPOINTED CHAIRS

Achieve. Program: Dick Briggs, MMR

Contest: Jim Ruisinger

Media: Matt Goodman

Members Aid: Available

Membership: Matt Goodman

Program: Darrell Logan

Raffle: Harry "Butch" Sage

Web Master: Don Wilke

Super's Signal Publisher

Donald Wilke:

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Bob Weinheimer

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NMRA Central District Director

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

Clerk's Report

Patrick Hreachmack, Clerk

**Minutes for the Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.**

Meeting for April 14**Kokosing Model Railroad Club, Mt. Vernon**

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Greg Short, Division 6 Superintendent.

Division 6 Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Greg Short
Clerk	Pat Hreachmack
Paymaster	Dexter Hill
Director	Don Wilke

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

Company Store	Greg Short
Contest	Jim Ruisinger
Media	Matt Goodman
Membership	Matt Goodman
Program	Greg Short
Raffle	Harry "Butch" Sage
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke
Yahoo Group	Jim Ruisinger

Special thanks to Mike Cassidy and his team for hosting this meeting. Division 6 members were very enthusiastic when viewing the Kokosing Club's HO and N scales layouts.

New Member: Welcome to Steve Ormsby who runs in "N" scale.

Clerk's Report: Pat Hreachmack. The Clerk's Report, as it appeared in the current *Super's Signal*, was approved.

Paymaster's Report: Dexter Hill. The Financial Report was approved pending audit.

Program Report: Greg Short. No program report was presented but Superintendent Greg indicated that all slots for the year may be filled already.

Additional Reports: See the individual reports in this issue of the *Signal*.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mt. Hope Show: Greg Short. Greg reported that the Mt. Hope Show on March 23 was "terrific" and a success.

Lancaster Train and Plane Swap Meet: Several Division members reported that the Lancaster Train and Plane Swap Meet was a strong success. Thanks to Smoke Stack Hobbies for their strong support to Division 6.

Bus Trip: Greg Short. Age of Steam Roundhouse and Dennison Station will probably be on August 17th. Dennison Station and the bus are already lined up but Greg is still awaiting return info from Age of Steam.

Shirts & Hats: Greg Short. This is still in the works and looking positive. Watch the *Signal* for announcements regarding availability, how to order, and costs.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

fund raiser but we do not want to lose a bunch of money in doing it. Please keep checking the website for the latest info. I plan on sending out the information thru our other electronic avenues.

Reminder that our next meeting will be our all day event in Marion on June 15. I have two clinics lined up and I believe that Darrell has another one lined up. Lunch for the day is still in the making. I figure we will have something cooked up or at the least will have a plan of some kind. The contest for the meeting is favorite train so that makes it kind of open to what you can bring. We will also have space for you to bring items to sell if you wish. Remember to bring a table if you plan on selling anything. For

Continued: **The Clerk's Report**

Swap Meet: Greg Short. The Swap Meet is scheduled for October 20th, at the Pritchard Laughlin Center, 7033 Glenn Highway, Cambridge. Handouts are available at Division 6 meetings, and being posted in as many hobby shops and clubs as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

Central Ohio Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet: Members noted that on Thursday thru Saturday [THU, APR 25 - APR 27] at the end of this month, the ~~Central Ohio Plastic Modelers Club~~ [2019 Central Ohio Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet (10th Annual)] will be hosting a show at the Marion Union Station. These modelers focus strongly on extra detailing of their models, and are well worth seeing.

Pere Marquette 2-8-4 Berkshire: Greg Short. Greg put member Jim Kehn on the spot by introducing Jim's brand-new book: *Pere Marquette 2-8-4 Berkshire*. The book is available from the C&O Historical Society for \$24.95 plus shipping. Congratulations to Jim. Jim also noted that another excellent book is also available, *Carrying Coal To Columbus*. Jim also had an article in the *Conrail Magazine*.

CLUB REPORTS:

Kokosing Mt. Vernon Club: Mike Cassady. The Club is a fully 100% NMRA membership club. Insurance for the club is covered via the NMRA for a fee of \$1.50 per member per month. This is additional to the regular club dues. Kokosing President Mike Cassady also noted that that any Division 6 member is welcome to visit and operate on the Kokosing layout during their monthly open house. This is generally the third Sunday of every month from noon to 3 PM.

CONTEST RESULTS:

Models:

1st Place: Patrick Hreachmack - Scioto Valley Lines Operations Tower

those who have not yet had a chance to attend one of the Marion meets you are in for a treat.

Keeping on with the upcoming dates, I am still waiting on our September meeting that we usually have with Division 9. I should know by the Marion Meeting the date and time. Also do not forget we have a Swap Meet/Show coming in October, follow the info on the website to stay up to date.

Well that is about all I have for now, so till I see you,

As always Happy Modeling – Greg

2nd Place: Howdy Lamprecht - Olive Grove RR Freight Station

3rd Place: Matt Goodman on behalf of his dad Ted - Circleville Tower

Photos:

1st Place: Peggy Doerflein - portrait of Dick Briggs at the Outville Station

2nd Place: Matt Goodman - D.L. & W. Signal Bridge at Scranton, PA

3rd Place: Matt Goodman - D. L. & W. Cedar Street Tower in Scranton

Raffle: Today's raffle included two HO cars, two N cars and two books donated by the Kokosing Club.

- HO winners: Bruce McDonald, Larry Lein, and Ken Beamer.
- N winners: Rich Hartley, Nancy Hartley, and Steve Ormsby.
- Special raffle: Drawing will be after all tickets have been sold. Only a few tickets left.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Loss: Greg Short. We lost two long time members of Division 6 within this past month.

John Retterer operated the Division 6 Company Store.

Craig Sonnen performed the role of Division 6 Statutory Agent.

Next Division Meeting: The next meeting will be our annual bash and cook-out (probably, to be confirmed) at Marion Station on June 15th. The contest will be Favorite Trains. As usual, we can have some tables for a small Swap Meet if anyone has something to Swap or Sell. Greg suggests members may wish to be on site by 9 or 9:30 for excellent train viewing.

Clinic: *DCC Installation Tips and Guide* by William Hanna

Adjournment:



Clerk's Report

Patrick Hreachmack, Clerk

Minutes for the Division 6, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Meeting for March 10

Columbus SouthEast Library, Groveport

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Greg Short, Division 6 Superintendent.

Division 6 Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Greg Short
Assistant Superintendent	Judy Logan
Clerk	Pat Hreachmack
Paymaster	Dexter Hill
Director	Dick Briggs
Director	Don Wilke
Director	Mike Wolf

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

Achievement Program	Dick Briggs
Company Store	Greg Short
Contest	Jim Ruisinger
Media	Matt Goodman
Membership	Matt Goodman
Program	Greg Short
Raffle	Greg Short
<i>Super's Signal</i> Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke
Yahoo Group	Jim Ruisinger

New Member: No new members were present.

Clerk's Report: Pat Hreachmack. The Clerk's Report, as it appeared in the current *Super's Signal*, was approved.

Paymaster's Report: Dexter Hill. The Financial Report was approved pending audit.

Program Report: Greg Short. Refer to business section in last month's *Signal*.

Additional Reports: See the individual reports in last month's issue of the *Signal*.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bus Trip: Greg Short. Date to be changed, pending new date.

Shirts & Hats: Greg Short. Greg is working with Windy Hill Embroidery to get shirts and hats done. Additional information is pending his next contact with Windy Hill.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Retterer: Greg Short. John Retterer is currently in the Hospice care center of University Hospital.

CLUB REPORTS:

Coshocton Club: Coshocton Club is having their annual slide show on 3/30/19 at their club location.

CONTEST RESULTS:

Refer to Jim Ruisinger's update of current Model and Photography standings in the last month's *Signal*. His report also contains last month's winners.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The next meeting will be April 14 at the Mt. Vernon Club. Contest for that meeting will be Lineside Railroad Structures.

Clinic: *The Use of Homasote Spline Roadbed Construction*, by Matt Goodman.

Adjournment:



Members of the Kokosing Model RR Club, a 100% NMRA Club, standing.

Division 6 – 2018 Time Table

Date	Event	Location	Contest
13 Jan	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–Hilltop, Columbus Clinic: <i>Painting backdrops</i> , Rich Hartley	Model: Open Freight Car WITH Load Photo: Open Freight Car WITH Load
17 Jan	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
10 Feb	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South High, Columbus Clinic: <i>Maine Two-Footers</i> , Harry “Butch” Sage	Model: Non-Revenue Car Photo: Non-Revenue Car
14 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
10 Mar	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South East, Groveport Clinic: <i>Spline Roadbed</i> , Matt Goodman	Model: Non-Steam Locs Photo: Diesel & Electric Locs
14 Mar	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
23 Mar		<i>Lancaster Hobby Expo & Swap Meet</i> , County Fair Grounds	
14 Apr	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Kokosing Valley Club</i> , Mt Vernon Clinic: <i>Decoder Installations</i> , Mike Wolf	Model: Lineside RR Structure Photo: Lineside RR Structure
18 April	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
2–5 May	MCR Convention	Boardman, Ohio	Model: Modeler's Choice Photo: Modeler's Choice
15 June Saturday	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Marion Union Station, Marion	Model: Favorite Train Photo: Favorite Train
20 June	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
17 Aug Saturday	Division 6 Meeting	Bus Trip: <i>Age of Steam Roundhouse</i> , Sugarcreek	Model: Thumbz / Whimsical RR models Photo: Railroad derelict /Wrecks
22 Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Sept	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Steam Locomotive Photo: Steam Locomotive
Sept	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
20 Oct	Division 6 Meeting	<i>Swap Meet</i> , Cambridge	Model: Cabooses (Cabin Car) Photo: Cabooses (Cabin Car)
24 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Closed Freight Car Photo: Closed Freight Car
Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
8 Dec	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Passenger Car Photo: Passenger Car
Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		

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Membership End of the Month Report March 2019

Matt Goodman, Membership Chair

Summary/Comments

The headline news for this report is this: We have had three successive months with new members being added to the rolls. The last time that occurred was the end of 2017.

We equaled February by gaining two new members in March; one is a RailPass member from Columbus, the second a regular member from Canal Winchester. Welcome, folks!

On the sad side, two members passed away in March – one is reflected in this report, the other will show on the next report (due to report timing).

Overall, we are down one member compared to February. See the chart for our one-year trend.

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Active Members (end of the month):

March	180	March '18	164
February	173	February '18	164
January	179	January '18	168

Upcoming Expirations – Check your dates!

Note: If you have questions about when your membership expires, check your magazine address label or contact Membership Chair Matt Goodman.

We have **fourteen** memberships expiring in the next two months.

Renewals and Re-Rails (returning lapsed members)

We had **sixteen** renewals in March.

Other Stuff

- Have you changed your address or other membership information?
- Are you not getting emails from the division?
- Not sure when your membership expires (or if it already has)?
Notify headquarters by email: nmrahq@aol.com

You can contact either the Buckeye Division membership chair, or the National Headquarters to give updates or get your questions answered:

National

Email: nmrahq@aol.com

Phone: 423-892-2846 (9am – 4:30pm)

Mail: NMRA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

Buckeye Division Membership Chair

Email: MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Phone: 614-313-3681 (please leave a message)

Mail: Matt Goodman
130 S. Algonquin Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204



Its Been A Year... A MRR Committee Update

Bruce McDonald

Now is the time to invite someone to join or rejoin the NMRA. Rail Pass membership makes it easy and inexpensive to join. \$19.95 for 9 Months! What a deal!!! Even if your friend or acquaintance was a prior member of the NMRA, they can still join using Rail Pass if their membership lapsed more than two years ago. Not only is Rail Pass inexpensive, but also a great way to find out how valuable NMRA membership really is. I'm sure you can find someone who can benefit from joining.

Rail Pass Paper Application Link:

https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/membership/rail-pass_form.pdf

Rail Pass Online Application Link:

https://www.nmrastores.com/Company_Store/product_info.php?cPath=63&products_id=1469

OK, enough marketing. What's going on with MRRC?

So far, Division 6 has had a recruiting table at three train shows, most recently the Lancaster Hobby Expo and Swap Meet on March 23rd. Our primary reason for attending the train shows is NMRA recruiting, but just meeting and talking to people is a lot of fun. We know from experience that displays and activity help draw people to the Division 6 table. Making bottle brush trees, building and weathering cars, and running trains on the division's T-TRAK layout are all big draws (Thanks Darrell, Matt, and

MRR Update

Continued on page 7.

Hobby Tip of the Month Truck Tuning Tip

Matt Goodman

I have several tank car models with tremendously free-rolling, metal-wheeled trucks. Recently, I decided to swap out the wheelsets in the trucks from the existing metal RP-25s* to Code 88* (sometimes called “semi-scale”) wheelsets from the same manufacturer in order to achieve a finer look.

- * The name “RP-25” comes from the NMRA Recommended Practice that defines wheel dimensions. These wheels have a front-to-back dimension of .110” and are what comes with virtually all models (ready-to-run or kits) and the majority of separately sold trucks.
- * Code 88 wheels - often referred to as “semi-scale” - have a front-to-back dimension of .088”. Code 88 wheelsets are used by modelers who are looking for a closer to prototype look - there are no functional advantages to the narrower wheel tread.

After removing the trucks and replacing one of the two wheelsets with a Code 88 wheelset, I gave each axle a quick spin and instantly noticed that the Code 88 wheelset didn’t spin as well. In fact, it spun only half as long as its fatter (RP-25) neighbor. I reversed the locations of the two axles and got the same result. What’s up with that?

Initially, I thought this might be due to differing axle lengths; if an axle is too long or too short for the truck, it won’t roll as well as one of the correct length. I pulled out my calipers and found that the axle length of the RP-25 wheelset was in the 1.0050-1.0060 inch range, while the semi-scale axles were closer to 1.0030-1.0040. A difference, but a couple thousandths of an inch is not significant in this case.

About then I noticed how dirty my fingers were getting, and the lightbulb went on. I checked the axle ends and found they had a good deal of oily dirt on them, most likely left over from the manufacturing process. This residual gunk was probably causing the extra drag. I removed the Code 88 wheelset, cleaned the axle and truck journals (using alcohol and a micro-brush), then re-tested - problem solved. The Code 88 and RP-25 wheels had virtually the same spin time.

After that first wheelset, I cleaned the remainder of the wheels in the package thoroughly (faces, treads, backs and axles) with an alcohol-dampened paper towel. In the end, I had shiny wheels and a filthy paper towel.

So the tip of the day is this: if you are applying new metal wheelsets - of any brand - give them a thorough cleaning before putting them into service.

- Cleaner journals will make your cars will roll better (50% better in my test)
- Cleaner tread will keep your track a bit cleaner
- Paint will stick better to clean wheel faces and backs

Got another hobby tip? Don is always looking for articles to fill the *Super’s Signal*!

Continued: **MRR Update**

Rich). When people are drawn to our table, we have an opportunity to talk about modeling and trains. For the model railroad enthusiasts, we can “sell” the NMRA and Division 6. One added side benefit of our attending the train shows is selling club cars and buildings—we sold all the cars we had at the Lancaster show.

Even though we won’t have a table at the Central Ohio Railroad Prototype Modelers (CORPM) Meet in Marion, several members of Division 6 will be attending to have fun, learn, and share ideas. We may even do a little low key recruiting. The 10th Annual CORPM Meet will be held at the Marion Union Station on April 25th-27th. (Actually by the time you read this, the Meet already happened and I’m sure we recruited many new NMRA members.)

We are continuing to write articles for the *Signal* as part of our MRRC goals. Mike, Matt, and Darrell have each generated several interesting and informative articles. I had no idea that Matt actually got to play with real trains when he was a kid! [Me either - DON]

OK, more marketing. I can’t help it.

Talk to your friends about the great opportunity to tryout the NMRA with a Rail Pass membership. Entice them with a chance to ride the bus with fellow modelers to visit the Age of Steam Roundhouse and the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum on August 10th as a new NMRA member. Help with recruiting and Invite someone to Marion or Portsmouth. Once they see how much fun we have, how could anyone resist joining?



Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

From the Contest Department: Contest Re-Cap – April 2019 at Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

We had yet another great turnout of really nice models and photos for our April Division meeting contest. This too seems to be among the favorites for contest subjects; Line Side Railroad Structures. We had ten great models and seven superb photographs entered. For the third month in a row, the quality of the entries made it hard for members to select their favorite. And again, voting was tight and we had to make a couple of tie breaker decisions.

Congratulations to our winners. I will have certificates for you at the next meeting which will be our all-day meeting on Saturday, June 15th, at the Marion Union Station with our friends at the Marion Club. Our subject matter will be: Favorite Train for the Models and Railroad Derelicts (stuff for the rip track) in the Photos. Remember to bring a few sections of track to set your trains on; it makes 'em look better! Examples of photos would be things like Wrecked/Abandoned engines or cars, abandoned and decaying Railroad Structures, etc. If in doubt, simply contact me with your inquiry. Remember, photos should be your own work and printed on good quality photo paper. Photos can be of the prototype or model.

The cumulative point totals so far, appear elsewhere in the *Signal*. As you will see, in the first four months of 2019, we've had 16 different members enter models and seven different members entered photos.

As always, if you have any questions about our contests, contact Contest Chair, Jim Ruisinger.



Portrait of Dick Briggs at the Outville Station
Peggy Doerflein

Our contest subject was **Line Side Railroad Structures**.

Winners in the Model Contest were:

- 1st Place:** Patrick Hreachmack – SCL Control Tower
- 2nd Place:** Howdy Lamprecht – Olive Grove RR Freight Station
- 3rd Place:** Matt Goodman (built by his dad, Ted) - Circleville Tower

Winners in the Photograph Contest were:

- 1st Place:** Peggy Doerflein – Portrait of Dick Briggs at the Outville Station
- 2nd Place:** Matt Goodman – D.L.&W. Signal Bridge at Scranton, PA
- 3rd Place:** Matt Goodman – D.L.&W. Cedar Street Tower at Scranton, PA



SCL Control Tower
Patrick Hreachmack

Contest Point Summary February 2019

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

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Modeler

Photographer

Pat Hreachmack	15	Matt Goodman	1	Mike Wolf	9	Nancy Hartley	3
Mike Wolf	11	Jerry Hurt	1	Peggy Doerflein	8	Ken Beamer	1
Howdy Lamprecht	6	Jim Kehn	1	Matt Goodman	7	Darrell Logan	1
Greg Short	4	Russ Light	1	Don Wilke	6	Keith Yantes	1
Jim Borcz	3	Bruce McDonald	1	Eric Porch	4		
Jim Ruisinger	3	Scott O'Connor	1	Scott Brown	3		
Connie Frazze	2	Eric Porch	1				
Dexter Hill	2	Harry Sage	1				
Judy Logan	2	Bob Weston	1				
Ken Beamer	1	Don Wilke	1				
Al Doddroe	1	Keith Yantes	1				
Bob Doerflein	1						

Special Note: Please relay our desire that photos be on good quality photo paper stock and not just any old paper. Photo paper can be glossy or matte finish.

Division 6 Contest Guidelines

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

All of our model and photo contests at the division level are determined by popular vote and are open to any NMRA member in good standing. Models should be your own work, not someone else's. That goes for photos too. Models of anything that runs on rails, should be displayed on a piece of track. Photos should be printed on good quality photo grade paper and preferably mounted. Guidelines for photo sizes are outlined in the NMRA photo contest regulations and should not exceed 12" x 16". Models and photos that win (finish first) in a contest are ineligible to be entered again.

The subject matter for each contest is as broad-based and general as we can make it, and also be consistent from year to year, to encourage more members to enter.

MODEL OF THE YEAR AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Any Division 6 member entering our contests will receive one point just for participating. That's one point per member per meeting, per category, regardless of how many entries you have. Additionally, winning entries will receive 3 points for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, or 1 point for 3rd place. Cumulative totals will be kept by the Contest Chairman and published in the *Signal*. After the December division meeting, the final results will be determined. In case of a tie, a coin flip by the Contest Chairman in the presence of another NMRA member will break the tie. For 2019, the top 5 finishers will receive:

1st place; A plaque recognizing you as Modeler of the Year or Photographer of the Year AND \$50

2nd place; A certificate recognizing you as the runner up AND \$40

3rd place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$30

4th place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$20

5th place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$10

So, take a close look at the remainder of this year's Contest Schedule and get to work on your model and photo entries now!!!! If you have any questions, please contact the Contest Chairman.

Handy Modeling Tools 1-2-3 Blocks

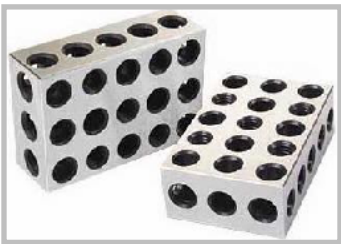
Matt Goodman

Almost all modelers agree that there are a set of core tools that are needed to practice our hobby. Examples of these core tools are hobby knives, miniature screwdrivers, a pin vice and associated bits, maybe some files and of course, adhesives. These core tools have very specific uses; cutting, driving and attaching. In addition to core tools, most hobbyists have more specialized tools for their specific interests in the hobby; these can run the gamut from very simple to very complex and hardware to software.

However, there's more out there than the core tools and the latest sexy *Laser 3D Arduino Lathe* tools. There is also the lowly - and rarely thought of - general purpose tools that are sometimes the most used tools on the workbench. In my layout room and workbench, that underrated general purpose tool is the 1-2-3 block.

What is the 1-2-3 Block?

A 1-2-3 block is a rectangular block of steel that is generally associated with machining (especially milling), and almost always come in a set of two. The blocks defining characteristics are their dimensions: 1 inch high, 2 inches wide and 3 inches long - hence the name "1-2-3 block". In addition, they have perfectly square corners, are perfectly flat and are heavy. The most common 1-2-3 blocks have twenty-three holes drilled in them, though you can purchase them with other hole variations - including solid.

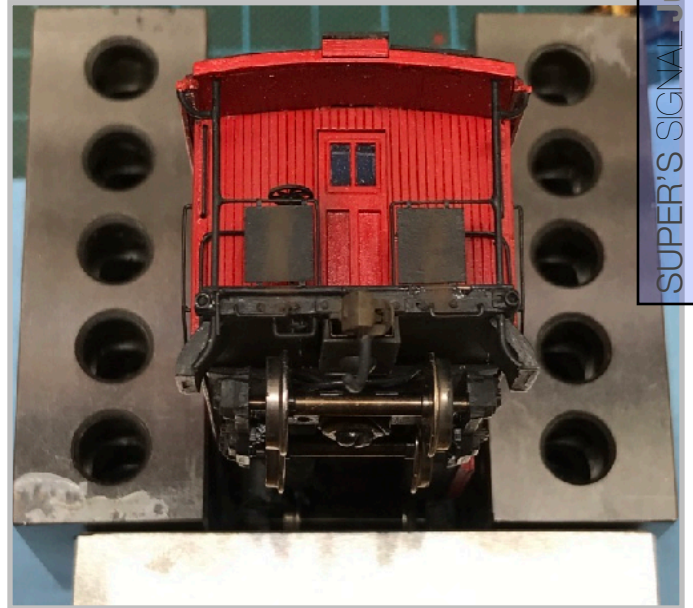


All of these characteristics can be used to your advantage in model railroading projects. I bought my first set - with holes - about ten years ago and have since added a solid set. Over time I've noticed that I get them

out for almost every project I work on - I take many photos of my railroad projects, and I would wager there is a 1-2-3 block somewhere in the frame in twenty percent of those photos. I.e., they're **really** useful. Here's some example uses from my photo collection.

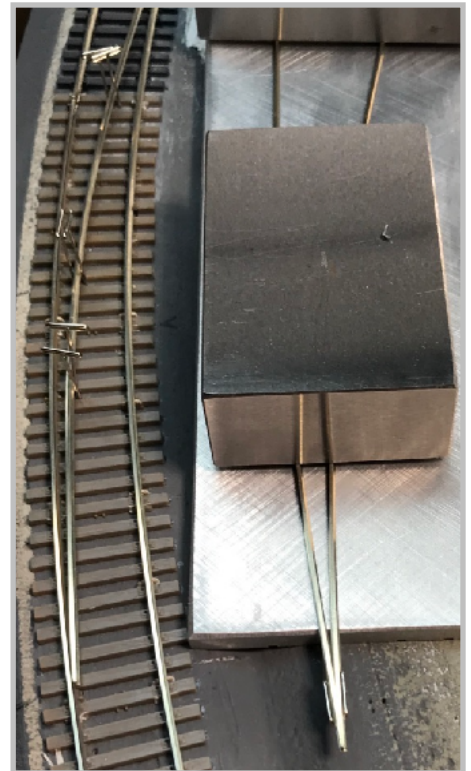
A "Third Hand"

1-2-3 blocks are heavy - 16 ounces for the drilled version and 27 ounces for the solid type. Because of this, they make a good "passive" clamp or support. In the following photo, I'm using them to support a caboose so that I can repair some end details.



Soldering Fixtures

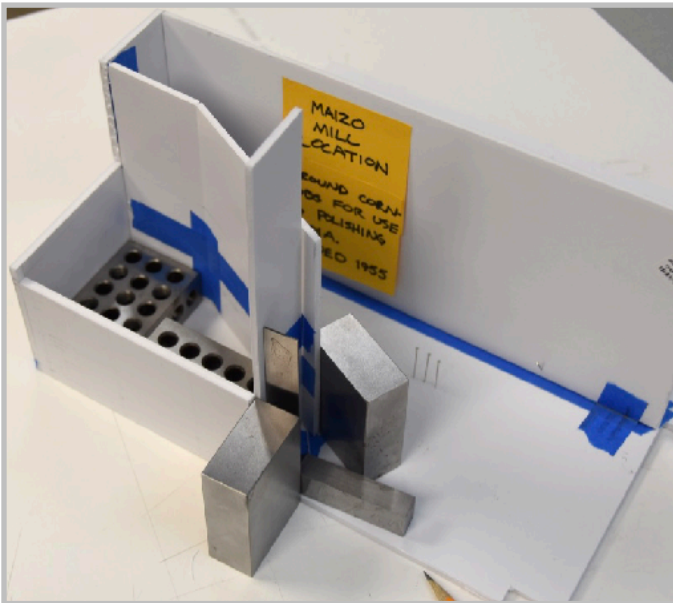
Their weight and flat surfaces make them useful for creating ad-hoc soldering fixtures. In this example, I'm building a frog point - a situation where you want the two rails bases to be on the same plane. Two solid 1-2-3 blocks, in combination with a flat piece of aluminum and some T-pins, keep everything flat and in alignment. The same thing could be accomplished using a second set of blocks for the base (instead of the aluminum). Though the drilled blocks would have worked fine in this example, the additional weight of the solid blocks is beneficial.



Handy Modeling Tools
Continued on page 11.

Building Assembly Aids

The blocks are very handy for building structures and other items that need to be square. Here I'm using them to keep corners square and vertical surfaces vertical on the Maizo Mills mockup. In this use, they function as a three-dimensional machinist's square (which, by the way, are also very handy). The blocks with holes are a good fit in this example - the "handles" formed by the holes make them much easier to remove from a confined space.



Weighted Assembly Fixture

The blocks served two purposes during this roof-straightening project. (Photo below.) The block's weight keeps the slightly warped surface flat while the glue for the stiffener cures and they keep the stiffener square to the roof surface.

Other Uses

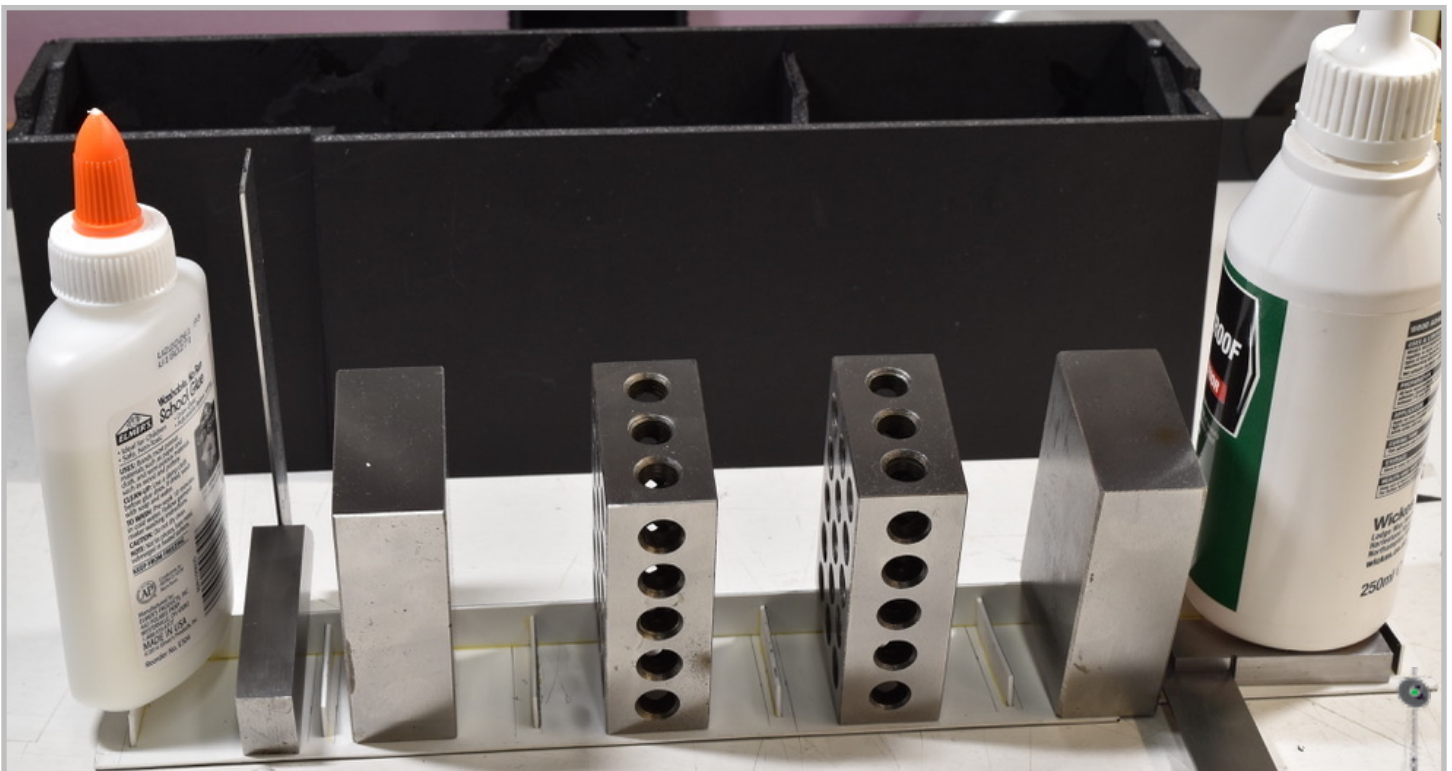
I've used these blocks for a myriad of other purposes - there is no wrong way to use them. If you come to my layout room, chances are better than even that they will be deployed in some capacity, or very close at hand.

Where to Buy

If you're thinking of buying a pair, I'd recommend starting with the drilled type. I find them easier to handle because the holes give your fingers something to grip. This extra grip is especially useful given I occasionally spray WD-40 on them to keep rust at bay. A freshly sprayed solid block can be tricky to pick up. The holes also provide a way to anchor them to a surface (or to each other) with a through-bolt or all-thread rod of the proper diameter and thread pitch.

You can find 1-2-3 blocks at Micro-Mark (where you can use your NMRA discount), Amazon, eBay and others for between \$10 and \$30 for a set of two.

[Photos by Matt Goodman]



Using Surface Mounted Light Emitting Diodes for Lighting

Mike Wolf

For those who attended Bill Hanna's presentation on decoder installations at the last division meeting, the use of surface mounted Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) were discussed as a source of lighting. While 3 and 5 mm "standard" LEDs are an inexpensive and suitable source of lighting in many models, surface mounted LEDs are equally inexpensive and an excellent solution in many applications to include head/tail lights, ditch lights, marker lights, ground inspection lights, exterior lamps, and interior building lights.

The primary difference between "conventional" and surface mounted LEDs is packaging – surface mounted LEDs are mounted to a board versus being enclosed in an epoxy resin. All LEDs are made of a semiconductor which emit light (photons) when an electric current pass through the material. Electrical current can only pass through the material in one direction (hence, why the devices include the word diode in their name) and are sensitive to how much CURRENT flows through them. For that reason, they need to be connected in a circuit with limited current flowing in the correct direction. Most applications in model railroading involve a resistor (note – some DCC decoders contain the resistor on the board but most don't – read the instructions and when in doubt, include a resistor).

Surface mounted LEDs come in a wide variety of sizes. Two are shown in the adjacent photo alongside a 1/4W resistor. They are typically named according to the size of their packaging (i.e. SMD 0603 is a LED measuring 0.06" x 0.03"). A quick search of eBay will show hundreds of suppliers with prices around 5-6 cents per unit when bought in bulk. I prefer US distributors (that arrive in a couple days vs a month) and prewired. Those run about 75 cents delivered when you buy 10 or 20. As with all LEDs, they come in a variety of colors. I have found that all "warm white" are not the same in color. Sunny white is usually too bright/blue for modeling. As shown in the picture, the 0603 came with a black and red wire while the 0402 came with coated (magnet) wire. One of the wires has black on it to identify the negative connection. For decoder installations, the red (positive) wire goes to the BLUE (common) wire and the black (negative) wire goes to the function (white, yellow, brown, green, etc) wire.

Two different techniques in using surface mounted LEDs in headlight are shown in the following photos. Both techniques involve an adhesive product I've mentioned in the past – UV cured epoxy. I purchased mine as a set on Ama-

zon (UV flashlight and small bottle of epoxy shown) and it is just one of many uses I've found for it in modeling. The first headlamp was made using a MV Lense crystal. It had a silver backing on it and was sized to fit in the headlamp hole on my 3D designed boxcab. I carefully removed a small area of the silver coating from the middle of the crystal, placed the LED against it, added a dab of the epoxy and hit it with the flashlight. In less than a minute the epoxy cured and my headlamp assembly was ready for installation.

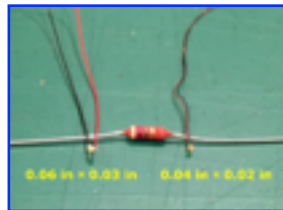
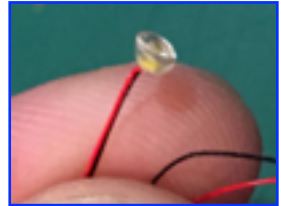
The second example involved a brass model with non-functioning head lights. The original casting had a clear acetate "lens" covering a silver painted concave hole. I drilled through the rear of the casting for the wiring and slid

the LED into the casting. With the LED in place (and facing outward), I placed a small drop of epoxy in and gave it a quick cure. After testing the LED one last time, I place a second small drop in and gave it a full cure (1-2 minutes) with the UV light. As a bonus, the epoxy is thick and the "lens" has a convex surface (as shown in the photo). The yellow LED chip looks a little a lightbulb in the fixture and the LED actually needed a larger than normal resistor (3.3K) to dim it down to a realistic level.

For a locomotive cab light option, I simply located the surface mounted LED on the roof of the cab and held it in place with a dab of epoxy and a quick cure with the flashlight.

These small but powerful lights can fit in tiny spaces and can add illumination to your locomotives and buildings. They "work" the same as normal LEDs and if correctly installed, will last for thousands of hours. Give them a try.

[Photos by Mike Wolf]



Building a T-Trak Module From a Kit

Rick Hartley

I used a single wide (12") kit from Masterpiece to construct this module. There are other kits available from other manufactures but I like Masterpiece best.

Masterpiece ships all the modules in one package. It's best to order at least \$50 worth of modules to save on shipping. Sort out your basic parts, which have a serial number on each of the sides, front, back and top. Glue (I use Titebond) the parts together and use rubber mallet to seat the parts. Masterpiece has a video on their web site which will help make assembly easier www.masterpiecemodules.com.

After allowing the glue to dry (I gave it 24 hours) paint it the desired color(s) and once the paint dries either use screws (provided in the flush Masterpiece kits) or glue (I use Aleene's) to attach the track.

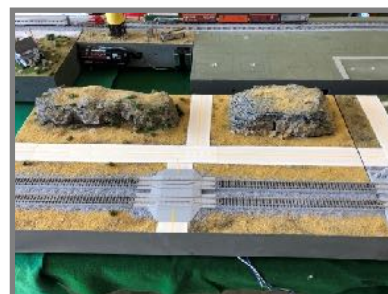
Remember that if you are going to put a power drop on the module to measure where you are going to attach to the track and drill a 1/4" hole. The standard if you want to take the module to another T-Trak event is the outside rails are blue and the inside rails are white. The track to the front of the module is the "red line" the track to the rear of the

module is the "yellow line" (TTrak.Wikidot.com will show this in more detail).

I replace the plastic leveling screws with a # 20 1/4"x 2 1/2" hex bolt to make it easier to level the module once set up.

Now all you have to do is scenic and detail the module and run trains. As of this writing Division 6 has 8 modules registered for the Mid Central Region Convention at Boardman in May. (*The Bullet* 2019) (2 May through 5 May).

[Photos by Rich Hartley]



SUPER'S SIGNAL June 2019

Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

Book Review

Harry "Butch" Sage

Lake Shore Electric, by Harry Christiansen, 1963. Self-published. Softcover, 84 pages.

Northern Ohio's Interurbans and Rapid Transit Railways, by Harry Christiansen, 1965. Transit Data, Inc. Softcover, 176 pages.

Ohio Trolley Trails, Vol 1, Through Western and Central Ohio, by Harry Christiansen, 1971. Transit House, Inc. Softcover, 152 pages.

Ohio Trolley Trails, Vol 2, Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio, Until 1910, by Harry Christiansen, 1975. Western Reserve Historical Society and Trolley Lore. Softcover, 167 pages.

Ohio Trolley Trails, Vol 3, Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio, From 1910 to Today, by Harry Christiansen, 1975. Western Reserve Historical Society and Trolley Lore. Softcover, 197 pages.

Harry Christiansen worked at the *Cleveland News* for over 20 years, primarily covering mass transit topics, as an Executive Assistant to the Cuyahoga County Engineer and then as Director of Special Projects for the Cleveland Transit System. He has got to be, in my mind at least, the ultimate railfan of Northern Ohio electric railways.

The Lake Shore Electric is a well written book covering this line that operated from Cleveland to Toledo and also the Sandusky and Lorain-Elyria city lines from 1893 until 1938. A large number of pictures, reproduction of timetables and maps are included.

The Northern Ohio book covers a number of lines, such as: The Cleveland, Painesville & Eastern; the Northern Ohio Traction & Light; the Cleveland, Southwestern & Columbus, and also some city lines.

The Western and Central Ohio (Vol. 1) covers numerous lines, such as: Columbus, Delaware & Marion; the Tiffin, Fostoria & Eastern; Columbus, Newark & Zanesville as well as some city lines.

The cover of Volume 2 (*Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio, Until 1910*) boasts "Maps! 150,000 Words! 415 Pictures!" and Volume 3 (*Greater Cleveland and Northern Ohio, From 1910 to Today*) proudly exclaims "170,000 words! 560 pictures! Maps!". These two volumes primarily cover the Cleveland city lines and some connecting and surrounding interurbans. The author goes into great detail on so many topics that reading the text becomes very laborious at times. For example, in his coverage of Cleveland's 4000 series of street cars, he lists over 44 variations, such as type of floor or color of the seats, made to the 150 cars. This short coming is far outdistanced by the photographic record and reproduction of timetables, maps and other memorabilia in telling his story.

If you have any interest in the historic interurban and traction lines of Northern Ohio you should consider adding these volumes to your library. While long out of print you can sometimes find them on the used market places.

Division 6 Contest Page

Don Wilke, WEB Master

The Model and Photo Contest Winners for the last nine years can be found in the division Archive at:

<https://archive.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Contest.html>

Click on the small camera and you will find an index page for that contest. Starting this year, the index pictures are 25% larger. There are also two changes on the individual winners page. One, the main picture is now twice as large if your window is full screen. It will decrease in size if the window size is decreased, so the picture will fit in the available window. Second, the small navigation pictures have moved and are larger. In addition, the navigation pictures will cycle through all of the winners. Previously the model winners and the photo winners cycled separately.



T-TRAK Will be at The Ohio N-Scale Weekend!

The 11th OHIO N-SCALE WEEKEND is MAY 17-19, 2019 at the FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, HILLIARD, OH. Jim Lundeen is coordinating the T-TRAK layout this year. If you wish to put a T-TRAK module in the show, every participant in the layout will need to register as a participant for the weekend. You can find the participant registration form here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12kjDEQ1Mag33wLe6O5VVZ2CKF7lXuxkh/view?usp=sharing>

Schedule of events:

Friday-May 17, 2019: Vendor & Layout set up from noon until 7:00 pm.

Saturday-May 18, 2019: Vendor & Layout set up from 8:00 am until 10:00 am.

Open to public from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

For vendors and registered participants only starting at 5:15pm

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING—DINNER—LIVE AUCTION

Dinner catered by Schmidt's Classic Catering

Sunday-May 19, 2019: Open to Vendors & participants at 8:00 am

Open to Public from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Tear down begins at 3:00 pm.

CONTACT INFORMATION: CALL PAUL BENDER 614-678-4894 OR MIKE KOHLER 330-842-3963

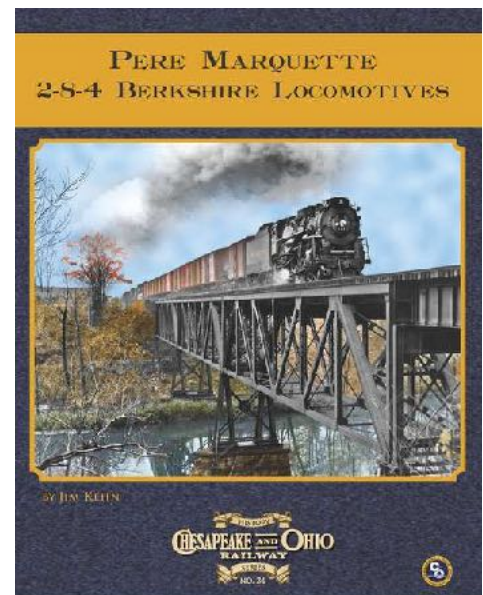
www.centralohiontrak.org



C&O Railway Series #24: PM Railway 2-8-4 Berkshire Locomotives

Jim Kehn

Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society has just published a new book on Pere Marquette Railway's (PM) largest and most modern steam locomotive, the "Berkshire" type 2-8-4s. They were built between 1937 and 1944 were the premier fast freight haulers on the PM's lines in Michigan, including the heavily trafficked Detroit-Grand Rapid-Chicago routes. One of these, No. 1225 was preserved and became famous in the motion picture "The Polar Express. It is in operating condition and is cared for by the Michigan State Trust for Railroad Preservation in Owosso, Michigan. The 96 page book not only tells the complete story of these superb locomotives between 1937 and 1952, but also sets their use in context with other engines used by the Pere Marquette in the era. It has much about their mechanical design as well as operations. Includes 200 photos, diagrams, mechanical drawings, tables and other illustrations. great history about one of Michigan's premier steam locomotives one of its most important railways. The PM became part of the Chesapeake & Ohio in 1947.



BK-18-504 www.chessieshop.com

Direct Link to the book:

http://chessieshop.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=74_75&products_id=3462

Jim also had a two page article in the recent Conrail Magazine, titled *Hang-ing Out = Get A Job*. It included a number of his remembrances, including his two-week stint at Erie Lackawanna, how he "hired-out" at Penn Central, and worked a number of tower jobs. Sounds like an article for the Signal or a clinic to me. DON



Some Senes From Kokosing Club



SUPER SOUNDS June 2019

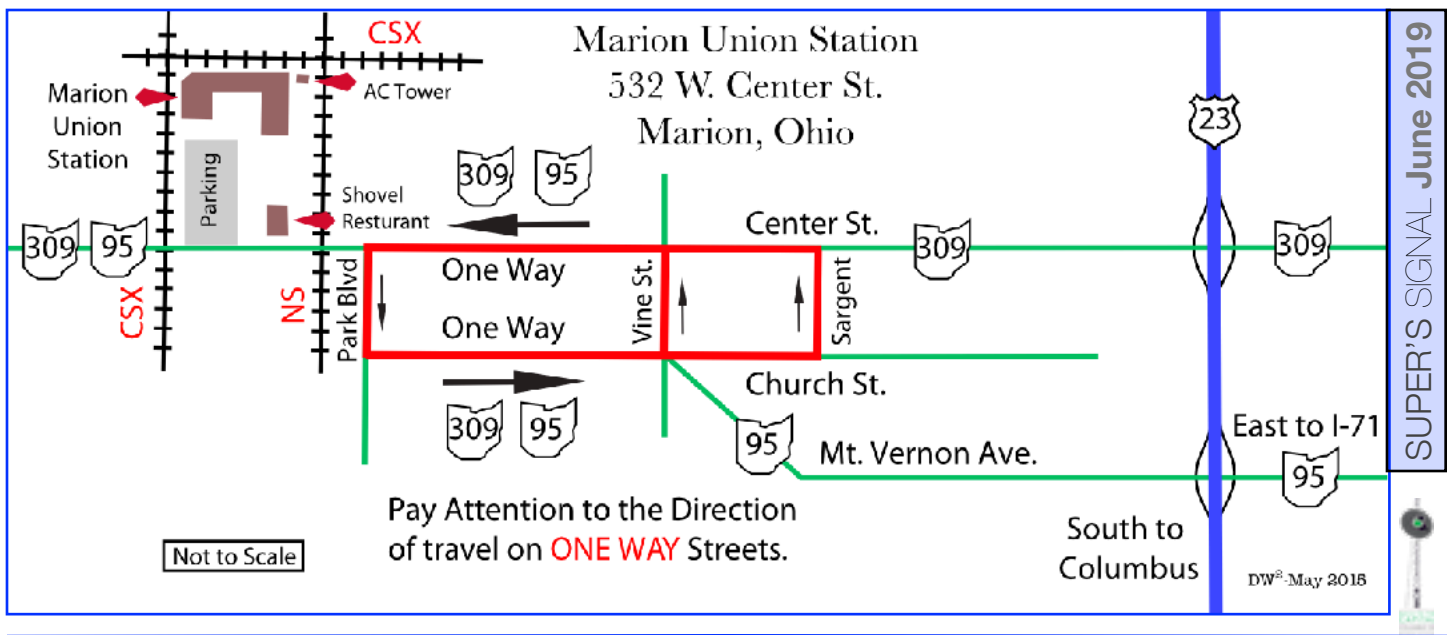


General Information

- A. India Ink Wash (light) 1 Teaspoon India ink to 1 pint alcohol
India Ink Wash (dark) 2 Teaspoon India ink to 1 pint alcohol
- B. Paint Pigments: Raw Sienna & Burnt Umber
- C. Copper Paint Kit by Plaid: ForkArt paints includes Patina (green), Copper and Bronze
- D. Dry Brushing: Use a stiff paint brush, dip in paint, wipe off most of the paint on a paper towel or piece of paper until very little paint is left. The technique is to scrub the color to the high spots.
- E. Driftwood is a stain made by Floquil company. This is unfortunately no longer made. You can substitute Floquil Grime diluted to make a stain.
- F. Pounce wheel: This available from Micromark or similar companies. It comes in many sizes. I use one that makes two nail holes per clapboard. Also check at fabric stores.
- G. Wet Water is tap water with a little dish detergent mixed in to break the surface tension.

Finishing Ideas.

- 1. **Copper:** To get this effect, use a copper patina kit (C-see above). Prime the part with grey. Then brush paint with patina green, dry brush (D) with copper color. Weather with India ink wash (A).
- 2. **Weathered Wood Shingles:** Apply shingles according to the directions. Paint with Floquil Driftwood stain (E). When dry, lift shingles with tip of XActo knife. Apply dry paint pigments (B). Weather with India ink wash (A) dark mixture. Dry brush with antique white (D).
- 3. **Weathered Clapboard:** Paint with Floquil Driftwood stain (E). Add nail holes with a pounce wheel (F), pin or other sharp tool. Lift boards with a single edge razor blade by sliding the blade underneath the clapboard and lifting up. Break some pieces for a more weathered look. Now add the India ink wash (A). Put the walls under weight to dry.
- 4. **Weathered Corrugated Siding:** Cut aluminum siding with to fit your model. Put the pieces on some tape with the sticky side up. Prime the pieces with either a gray or rust colored primer. When dry apply to the roof/wall. After all of the siding is on, paint with powdered pigments (B). Dip a paintbrush into some wet water (G). Then dip the brush into the two different colors of pigments and blend on siding. When dry, go over the siding with India ink wash (A). When dry, streak on the paint pigments again but this time do it dry.
- 5. **Roof Details:** It is a good idea to add as much interest to your roofs of your structures. This is especially true when the building has a flat roof. Good details to add are roof accesses, vents, bracing, tires, birds, wood, barrels, 55 gallon drums.
- 6. **Tin Signs:** Many of the signs that were found on buildings were made of tin. They are easy to make. Either copy the signs onto cardstock or glue the paper sign onto a piece of cardstock. This will give the sign some more body and it will look like tin. You can then weather it with the India ink wash (A) and dry brush with antique white (D).
- 7. **Tar and Gravel Roof:** This type of roof is commonly found on many structures. It is easy to do. First, print both sides on your roof material with a gray primer. This will prevent it from warping. Next paint the area with a thick black paint. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle on very fine dirt. If the roof is large, do it in sections. Once done, you can cover any missed area with more paint and dirt.
- 8. **Fences:** This fence depicts a very weathered fence. Cut the tops off some of the boards with a single edge razor blade. Remove some boards for a more weathered look. Prime both sides of the fence with a gray primer. Paint the color of your choice. Weather with India ink wash (A). Small details like signs add much to fence. Weather these as described in (6).
- 9. **Scratch Building Details:** This detail is for an O-Scale building. Many of the castings are HO Scale but look good when properly used in larger scale. Don't let the scale dictate the use of a good casting.
- 10. **Concrete Roads:** The roads are made with Fast and Final Spackle by DAP. Spread a thin layer (1/16th) down where needed. Scribe the expansion joints and cracks when dry. Paint with concrete colored paint. Grind up some charcoal briquettes on sandpaper. Let the powder fall upon the street. Move the charcoal around with a soft brush. When satisfied affix with Dullcote.



Continued: **Building & Detailing Ideas**

11. **Rusted Tin Signs:** Take a stiff paintbrush and dampen with wet water (G). Dip in some paint pigments (B). Stipple the color onto the sign. Alternate between the two colors. Repeat until satisfied.
12. **Industrial Track:** This track was first painted with Floquil rail brown. Then individual ties were painted with Floquil Driftwood stain full strength. Then the track was weathered with India ink wash (A). Since this is an industrial track real dirt can be used for the ballast. Look at real industrial track, notice how the ties are buried. You can also add various weeds, papers, castings, etc to the scene to create more interest.
13. **Chimney:** Paint castings with gray primer. Paint the bricks with a shade of red that you like. Weather with India ink wash (A). To add mortar use thin concrete colored paint. Dry brush the brick, with various shades of red and little black to make the bricks look more realistic.
14. **Window Treatment:** Make shades with ordinary writing paper an off white color, weather with your light India ink wash (A). Curtains are made from facial tissue. Used any color desired. Cut into small pieces, paint with a 50/50 mix of water and glue. When dry they will not move.
15. **Painted on Paper Signs:** Sand the back of the paper with medium grit sandpaper. Start in the middle and work towards the ends. When it is completely sanded, cut it out and apply glue to the entire back. Use a piece of wax paper or plastic wrap, cover the sign and press in into the contour of the wall. When done, dry brush (D) with the wall color.
16. **Ground Cover:** Try to use natural material as much as possible. Sift the real dirt into multiple grades. Use the coarse dirt next to a structure or in areas where there is little pedestrian or vehicle traffic. In those areas use the finer dirt. Inferred details can be added to ground covering with the simple addition of coloring. Use chalk, charcoal, dry brushed or airbrush paint to vary the colors of ground cover around the layout. Anything from oil stains to dried mud puddles are easily done.
17. **Foliage:** Again using different natural materials for foliage can make a dramatic result in modeling. Keep in mind that while your models may be old and weather beaten, your foliage should always look new. Unlike your structures, the foliage is replaced yearly by "Mother Nature". Use some grasses, clump foliage, poly fiber bushes, leaves and weeds. Don't be afraid to experiment with different colors and textures. All of the products I use are available from Woodland Scenics or Scenic Express.
18. **Detailing:** Don't place detail parts just anywhere, think about how the stuff would appear in real life. Broken wood, spilled product, rust, oil and puddles are easy to add to a scene. Newspapers, scrap metal & shards of glass are quick and easy ways to increase the believability of any scene.