

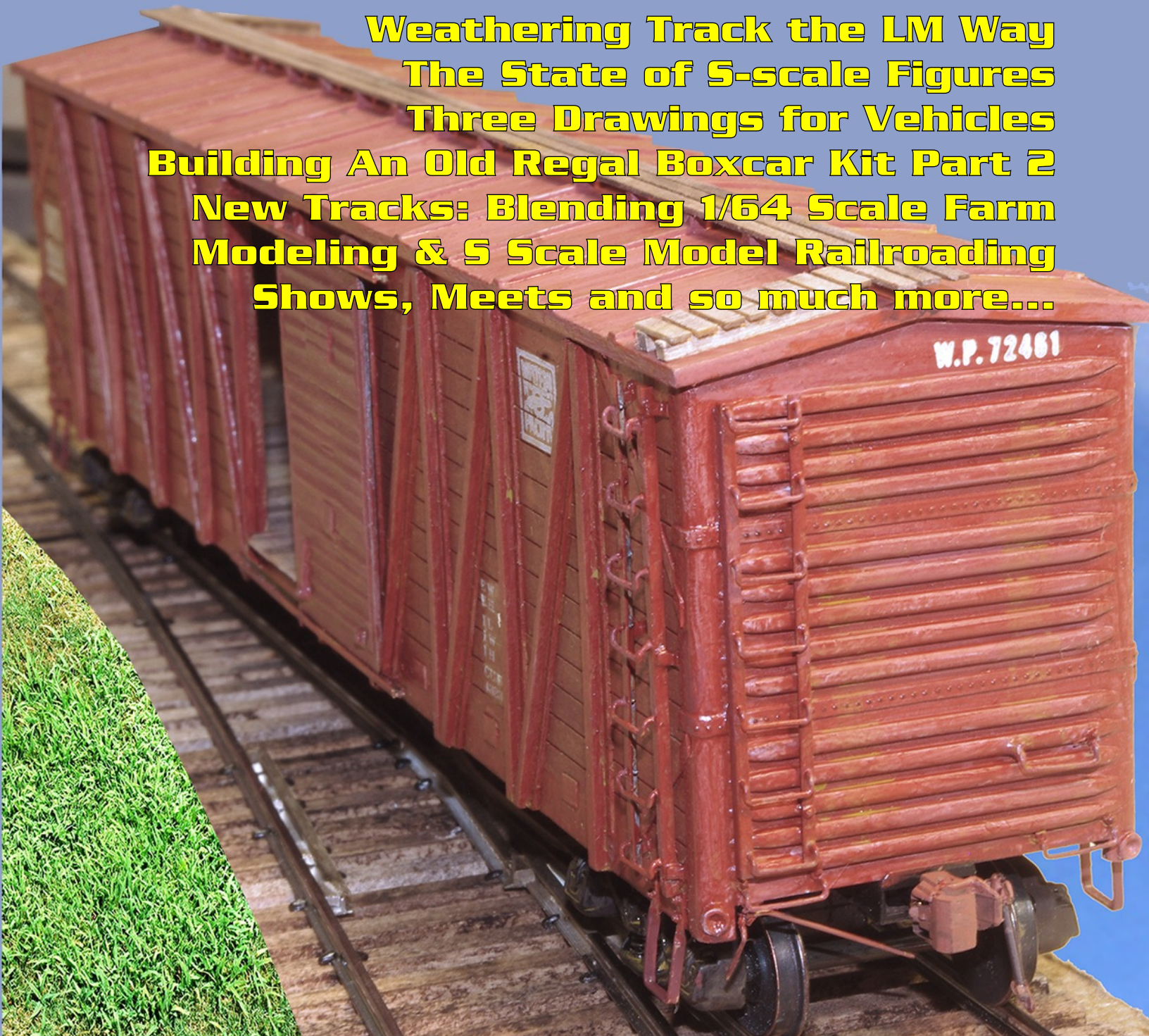
THE **S** **RESOURCE** **SCALE**

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

August/September 2019

Volume 5 No. 6

Scene Around the Layout
What's On Your Workbench
Weathering Track the LM Way
The State of S-scale Figures
Three Drawings for Vehicles
Building An Old Regal Boxcar Kit Part 2
New Tracks: Blending 1/64 Scale Farm
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Published Bi Monthly

The Model Railroad Resource LLC
407 East Chippewa Street
Dwight, Illinois 60420
815-584-1577

August/September 2019
Volume 5 No. 5

Owner / Publisher
Amy Dawdy

Managing Editor
Daniel Dawdy

Advertising Manager
Jeb Kriigel

Welcome to the online S 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 Photo

Glenn Guerra's Regal 50' box car kit almost ready. Part 2 of his article in this issue.



BILL OF LADING

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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



Amy is busy with the [O & S Scale Midwest Show](#) so I was asked to write the Publishers Desk this month. The show is a Saturday/Sunday affair this year with Friday setup. We hope to see many of you in attendance as there will be a lot of S scale at the show. Did you know we [publish our vendors on-line](#)? We do that so you know who will be there and even let them know if you want something specific so they can bring it and save you the shipping.

We will also have some great S scale layouts scheduled again this year. The Southeastern Michigan S Scalers will be there as well as Warren Judge's freestanding Sn2 Narrow gauge Logging/ Mining layout and Charles Malinowsk's new portable layout.

We are publishing this issue just before the NASG Convention "Queen City Express" in Cincinnati, Ohio. Amy and I can't be there, but Glenn Guerra will be representing The S Scale Resource at the show. Stop by and let Glenn know you like our publication. And, if you have an idea for an article, please let him know or Email me at: daniel@modelrailroadresource.com. We can't do this without your help.

We had a small "oopsie" in the last issue concerning Glenn Guerra article on building a Rex boxcar. Reader Steve Monson pointed out this was a Regal 50' box car kit and not a Rex. Thanks Steve for setting us straight. Part 2 of the build is in this issue. Peter Vanvliet has a great article on The State of S-scale Figures with many pictures and manufacturers covered. Also in "New Tracks" we look at Farm to Table Model Railroading focusing on 1/64 farm modeling. I must admit that I had no idea that this was such a popular part of the hobby. There are three drawings for S scale vehicles in this including SpecCast, Top Shelf and Farm Factor 3D in the article so enter and win!

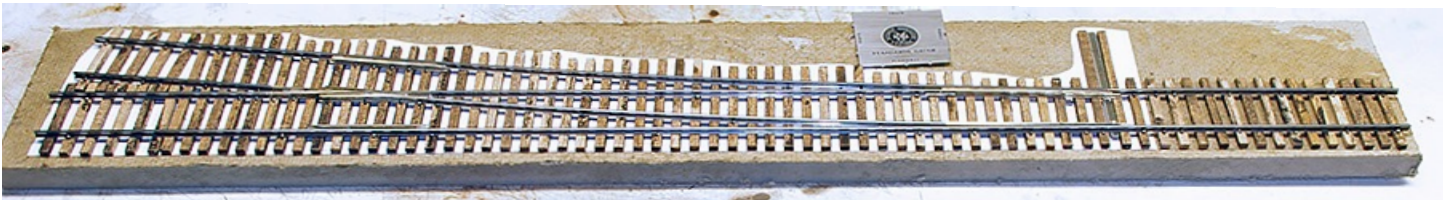
Although not all "New Tracks" articles cover S scale specifically, there are a lot of fine modelers out there willing to help you along the way. People have said that these mentors don't model in S scale so why put them in the magazine. Well, look at our [survey results in the last issue](#). The vast majority of the respondents look elsewhere for inspiration such as model car, model aircraft and military modelers forums and YouTube videos. Scale is not specific to much of what we do which is why not all mentors are S scale specific. Don't be afraid to ask these people for suggestions and help.

If you are heading to Cincinnati, drive safe and have a great time. If you are thinking of coming to the [O & S Scale Midwest Show](#) you can sign up on-line. We hope to see you there!

Happy Reading & Happy Modeling,

Dan Dawdy

NEWS YOU CAN USE

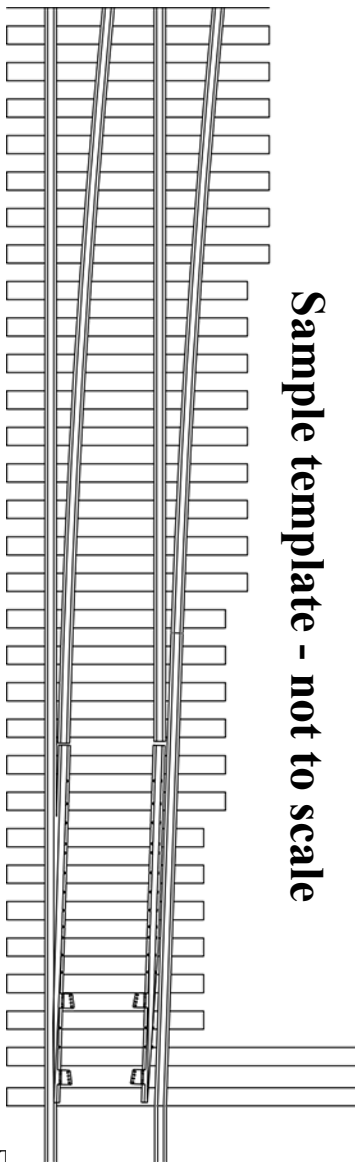


Glenn Guerra has announced new cast #8 frog switch parts. Cast switch parts have been available for many years in other scales and now they are available specifically designed for S Scale.

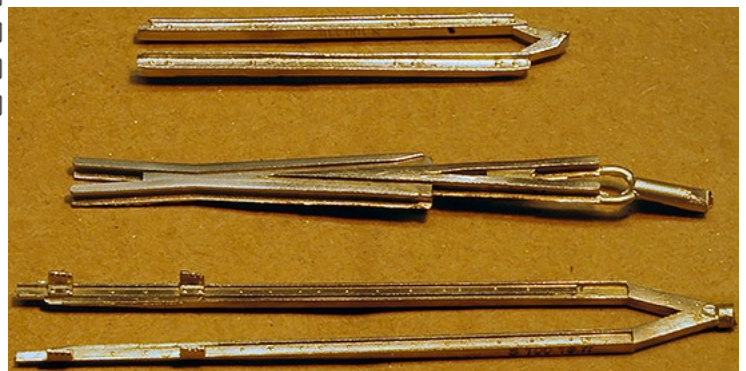
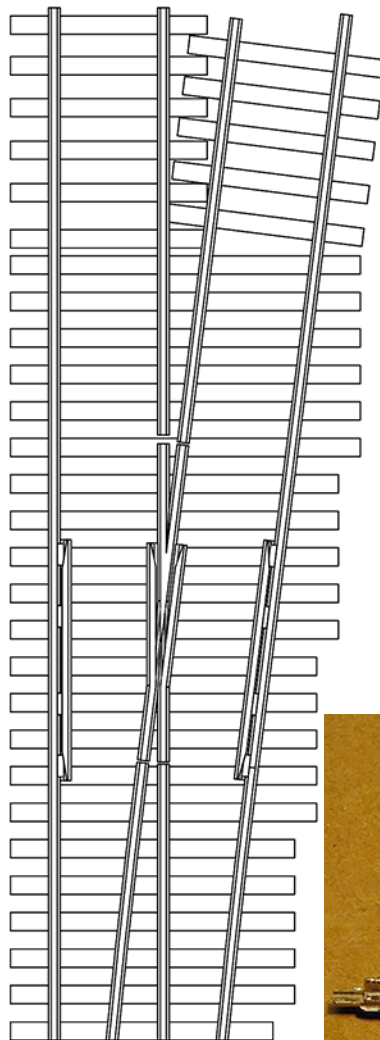
These parts are designed to work with Micro Engineering code 100 rail. The clearances conform to NASG S Scale standards. Besides not having to file rail to make the frog these frogs have bolt detail cast into them. Switches are not hard to build using these castings and you get the extra detail. The guard rails are a scale 11' long and the switch points are a scale 16' long.

A downloadable full sized template is available.

He will have a sample switch and castings at the NASG national convention in Cincinnati. Stop by and he will show them to you. He has a #4, #6, #7, and #10 already drawn. If there is interest Glenn will get patterns made for those switches also. You can contact me Glenn Guerra at glenn@sscaleresource.com. The three castings needed for one switch are \$25 per set.



Sample template - not to scale



Dave from LBR Enterprises, LLC says we are now offering a five (5) pack of smoke wicks with wire installed for pre-1966 AMERICAN FLYER "S" scale steamers at USD\$20.00 per pack of five.



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Walter & Mary Gillespie of Rusty Stumps Scale Models have announced they will be closing down on or before October 31st.

We wish them the best in their retirement from the business.

Bill Morris of NE Prototypes is now in the process of designing decals for Divco S Scale Milk trucks made by Shapeways and Roy Meisner. So far Bill says, "We have virtually completed the sets for Sealtest, Borden's, and Carnation all national distributors or almost national. I am also trying to fit as many other main Eastern (Boston area) Milk Distributors as I can on the sheet which so far include Hood's , Whiting's, and may include White Bros. and / or Brookside." He'll post when completed hopefully in the next few weeks.



Contact them at NE Prototypes, PO Box 4-4-2
Rutland, MA 01543-0442 TEL: 508-886-4848
8AM Till 8PM Eastern Time only Please.

River Raisin Models is considering production of two brass, fully sprung, inside swing-hanger lightweight 4 wheel Pullman Passenger trucks: the 41-HR-11, which was used under more Pullman-Standard, Budd and ACF-built LW cars than any other 4-wheel truck during and immediately following WWII, and the 41-N-11, the most popular post-war 4-wheel truck.

As per Pat Wider's great article, "Lightweight Passenger Car Trucks," in *Railway Prototype Cyclopedia*, Vol. 6, the following roads used the 41-HR-11: AT&SF, B&O, C&NW, Erie, Illinois Central, Rock Island, MKT, Missouri Pacific, Pullman and the Union Pacific.

And the following roads used the 41-N-11: ACL, B&O, C&NW, C&O, CB&Q, D&RGW, DL&W, Erie, FEC, GN, Illinois Central, L&N, N&W, NYC&StL, PRR, RF&P, SAL, SP&S, Southern and WofA.

Other roads, notably the New York Central, Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific and Kansas City Southern used the earlier and nearly identical 41-HR or the 41-N truck, which featured 5-1/2" x 10" roller bearings while our proposed trucks used 6" x 11" roller bearings. They're almost indistinguishable.

Bottom line: nearly every major railroad in the United States used the 41-HR-11 or 41-N-11, or nearly identical variants.

These trucks would be built by Boo Rim Precision from General Steel Castings erecting drawings and Pullman-Standard builder's photos to the exacting standards you expect from River Raisin Models. Send us an email to let us know your interest! riverraisinmodels@gmail.com

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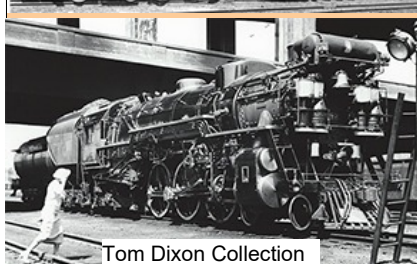


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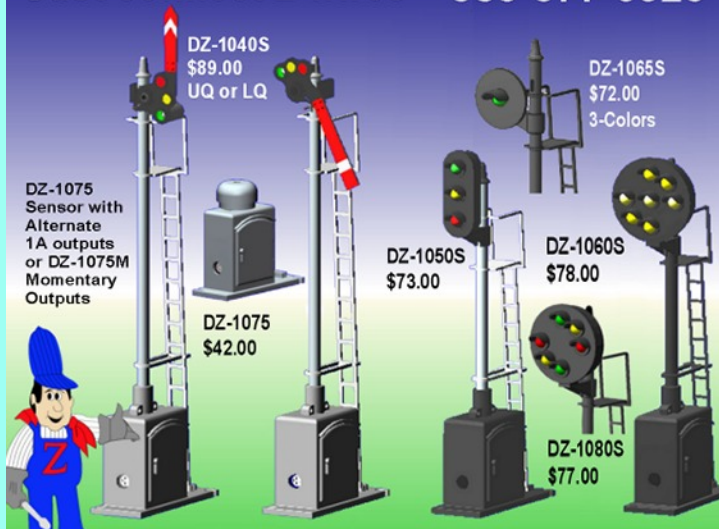


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S Scale



Building An Old ~~Rex~~ Regal Kit

Pt 2



By Glenn Guerra

This article will be part 2 of working on my old Regal 50' box car kit. This project started when I wanted to build an old kit for variety on the layout and some fun building it. Before I go further, let me say I was wrong about the manufacturer of the kit in part 1 of this article. It is not a Rex kit, but a Regal kit. This was brought to my attention by Steve Monson, thanks Steve. The kit can be built as a Great Northern, Western Pacific, or Union Pacific 50' single door box car. This kit is a typical design from the past with a wood body and strip wood details with a few lead castings thrown in. These types of kits make good models for the layout, they are not super detailed but still look good mixed with your ready to run cars.

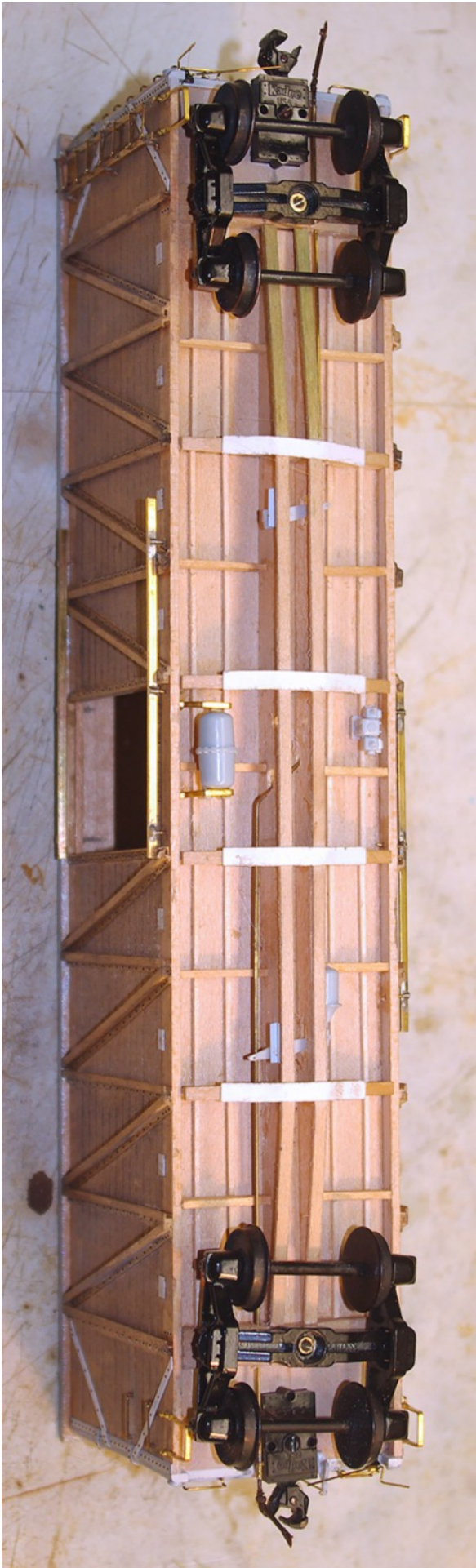
One of the drawbacks to these kits is the predominantly wood construction which is hard to make look like smooth metal. This was dealt with by sealing the wood with sanding sealer. Another drawback was the lack of rivet and bolt detail. With the advent of 3D printed rivet detail, this can be fixed. I decided I would try this on this model. In addition to adding some new details, I wanted to experiment with paint. That is where I got in trouble.

One of the techniques I have been playing with is applying the base color and then applying the finish color. The base color would be a gray to look like weathered wood, and the finish color is the car color. While the finish color is still wet, remove some of it to reveal some of the base color. I did this on a wood East West stock car kit I built and a resin Funaro and Camerlengo gondola kit. In both cases, the results were good. On the East West stock car kit I sprayed the model and then removed some of the paint on the parts that would be wood on the prototype. I did the same on the resin kit. I was not able to get up close to the “steel” parts of the car though. What I wanted to do with this model was have the whole car a light faded color with some wood color showing through and then have the “steel” parts a less faded color. This would be hard to mask so I decided to see if I could brush paint the car.

Besides trying to brush paint the car, I would experiment with artists oil paint. This type of paint is commonly used for washes in weathering. The technique is to make it thin and brush it on the finished model. Since the drying time is slow, put the model aside for a few hours. Then go back and rub the model down with tissue or cotton. This will remove the oil paint from the high spots and highlight the details. This is a common technique when painting plastic airplane models to highlight the panel lines and rivets. What makes this work is the slow drying time of the paint. I tried this with water based acrylic paint and it set up too fast which is why I wanted to try the artist oil paint on this model.



This is what the model looked like before I started painting. I was real happy with the Archer 3D rivets. They were tedious to put on because of the spacing, but they are a much needed detail on a kit like this. Yet another reason to take a second look at some of these old kits. The white styrene was to simulate thin steel parts. The wood parts supplied with the kit would have required sealing and they were too thick.



Well, that was the plan and off I went. It turned out to be a disaster. The artist oil paint did not flow and left streaks in the paint. On some parts of the model I had the wood sealed so it would look like metal when painted. The paint soaked into the raw wood parts of the model fine, but would not cover any smooth surface like sealed wood or styrene. Another one of the problems with artist oil paint is the lack of driers in the paint. As you use the paint you mix some linseed oil and drier in with the color before applying it. In my first attempt, I used a product called Penetrol which is a paint additive. I have used this product a lot in the past and it works wonders for oil based house paints. It thins the paint, but does not dilute the film strength since Panitrol is basically the same oil base the paint is made out of. This worked on my model, but the paint still took a few days to dry. Since I needed to give many parts of the model a second coat anyway, I went to the craft store and got some drier for the paint. Dryers aid the polymerization and oxidation of the oil the paint is made of. This worked a little better than the Penitrol, but the paint still did not spread well on smooth surfaces. By the time I was done, parts of the model looked like I painted them with a mop. All my nice detail was disappearing

Not everything worked as planned, but I will show you how it turned out anyway.

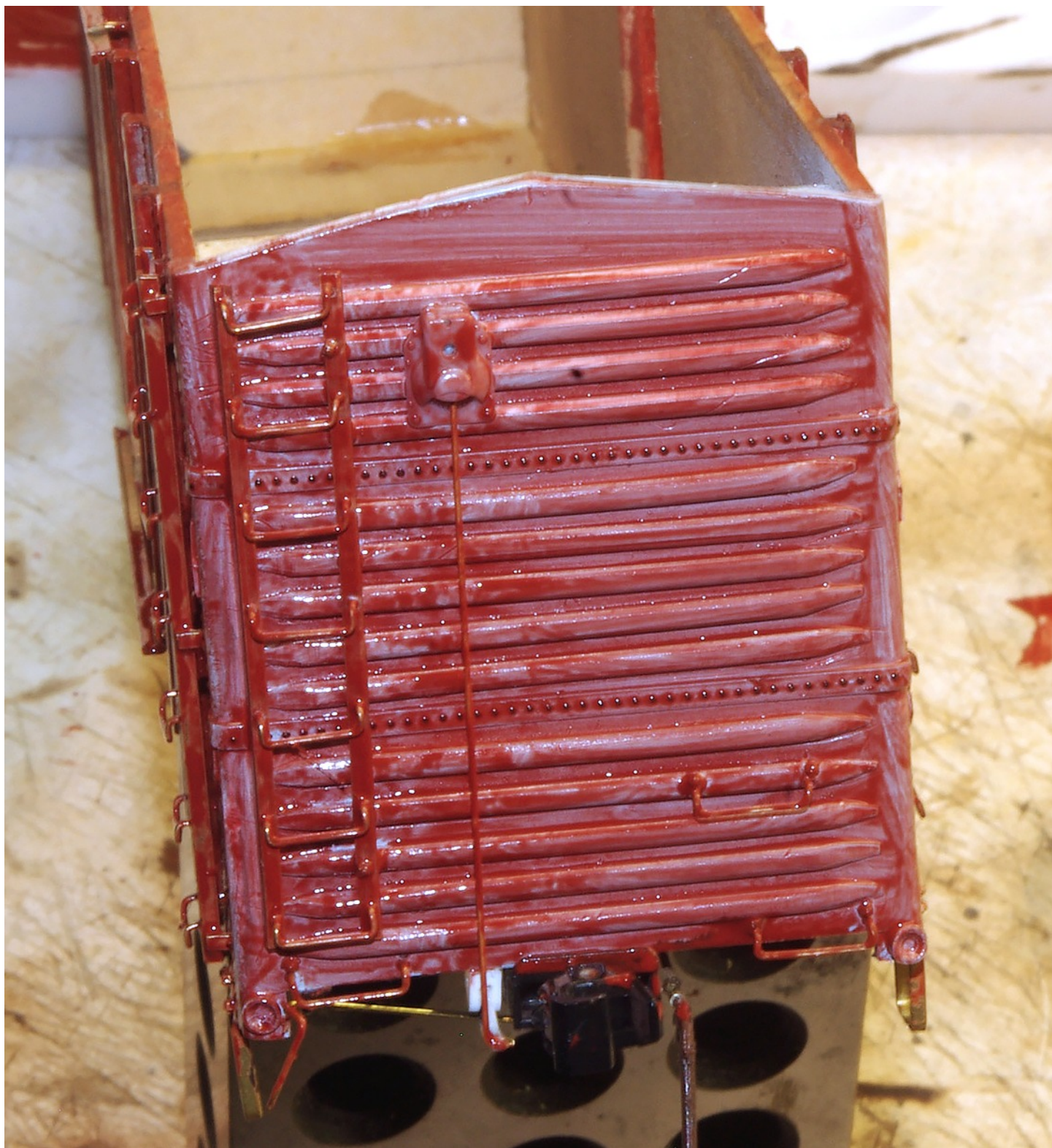
I added the stringers to the underframe and some AB brake detail. At this point, I was asking myself what was the intended outcome of this project. I decided that there were enough compromises already in what you could see and most of the brake detail would not be seen. This was not intended to be a contest model, so I only installed the main components of the brake system. The rods and piping were left off. For all the cutting I had to do on the wood parts, I think it would almost be better to just make it all out of styrene.



This is where things started going wrong. On my test piece, you can see the three samples on the left and how the paint streaked badly. After thinning the paint so it would flow off the brush, it was too thin to cover. On areas that were raw wood this was not a problem, but on any sealed surface the paint would not cover. I probably should have given up here, but I wanted to let this dry and see if a second coat would cover.



This is what the body looked like after the first coat. The side sill, top plate, and braces were all sealed so they would be smooth like metal. In addition, these parts needed to be sealed so the 3D rivet decals would stick. The finish of the wood siding boards was what I did want and they were raw wood.



This photo is a good example of how poorly the paint covered a smooth surface. I would need to go over this again after a few days drying time. Notice also that the paint is starting to get gloppy looking. This was a disappointment, but I decided to go on. My thought was even though the paint did not cover, there was still a thin film at that location. A second coat may adhere better and cover. This was not the case. At this time, I tried some regular enamel model paint and some acrylic paint on a scrap of styrene and got the same streaky results. The artist oil paint was the worst, but none of the other paints brushed on much better. I think spraying would still be the best. To get some of the effects I want, I think many parts will need to be sprayed before assembly. I will keep this all in mind for the next try.



This is what the model looked like after the second coat. The “metal” parts were looking better and the car looks like it may have some hope. What this photo does not show is the paint looks like it was put on with a mop. I tried some other pre-mixed paints on a sample to see if they would spread and cover better. Even those results were not too good. Besides the cover and spreading ability of the artist oil, the drying time was terrible. For a thin wash that you will rub most of it off, the artist oil works good. In that application, you give the model a dull clear coat to seal everything. I did put a clear seal coat over this model so I could put decals on it.

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The finished car. After I had the decals on, I gave the trucks and car body a light wash of sand color acrylic paint. I like how the “wood” parts of the car look faded and “metal” parts of the car are darker. That was the effect I was trying to get. What I don’t like is the globbed on poor covering of the paint on the “metal surfaces. Oh well, it’s still a car good enough to run on the layout.

There it is. I have a car that is different and will add some variety to a freight train. It did not turn out as well as I would have liked, but I still got a lot out of the project. On the positive side, the 3D rivets worked and looked great on the model. I would suggest giving them a try. If you are putting them on an old wood kit like this, I think you need to seal the wood so the decal rivet will stick. I had no trouble with them coming off because I had sealed those areas. The artist oil paint does not work as a base color, and I will not try that again. For a wash, it works great. To use the technique of painting the car and then removing some of the paint to get the faded wood look, you need a solvent base paint. The acrylic will dry too fast. On another model I think I would try painting the braces first before putting them on the model and that will seal them. Also, before putting the braces on, I think I would mask the side and paint the top plate and side sill, then assemble the side and apply the decal rivets. Now all the side needs is a light coat to hide the rivets and give a faded look to the “wood” parts of the side. On final washes, I tend to make them too heavy. I used acrylic on this model and thinned it a lot with water. If it is too heavy, squeeze the paint out of the brush and remove some of the paint right away. You can dampen the brush and remove more. It seems like too light is the better way to go. It will set up enough in a few minutes and you can give it a second coat if you want the wash heavier.

If you go back to part one of this article, the initial objective was to have a different car for variety and have some fun building it. In spite of it not turning out as well as I would have liked, I did have some fun and tried some different techniques. This is how we learn. Don’t be afraid to screw up, even the mighty Casey struck out one in a while. Casey at the bat <https://poets.org/poem/casey-bat>

The State of S-scale Figures

By Peter Vanvliet

The purpose of this article is to provide a thorough listing of S-scale figures that are currently available on the market. This article will not include animals, just people. At first glance, one might be left with the impression that there are very few S-scale figures available. Not only am I going to dispel that myth, but I am also going to provide a review of a sampling of most of the companies' figures, with accompanying photos.

As the webmaster of the NASG web site, and as part of the publication of this article, I am also introducing the new S Product Gallery reports for figures to the web site. That's right, in addition to listing all the cars, engines, structures, vehicles, etc. released in S-scale, we now also have a set of reports for figures. Various reports are available, so it should make it easy for you to find what you are looking for. This new set of Product Gallery reports lists all the figures released over time, not just the ones that are available today. Your contribution of data, photos, and measurements of the actual models are very much needed, so contact me at webmaster@nasg.org. See the reports by going to <https://www.nasg.org/>, click on the "S Product Gallery" button, and then click on the "Figures" menu option.

As stated above, this article will only cover the ones you can buy at the time of this writing. So far I have identified over 500 individual unique figures in S-scale available today! Just buying one of each of these will help you populate a decent-sized town on your layout or diorama, and will make your wallet a lot lighter to boot! Prices, in U.S. dollars, for S-scale figures vary between as low as 71 cents, up to \$15 each.

The source material for this article has taken me nearly a year to research, find the figures, buy a sample of each (if I didn't already have them in my collection), photograph them, and document their information. I now understand why companies hire purchasing agents! I hope you will enjoy this article, and that you can use it as a reference to populate your layout, module, or diorama.

Average Heights

First, let's look at exactly what is a realistic height for a "prototype" human being. Remember, these are only averages. In the U.S., for men, the average heights I was able to find were these:

- 5'7" (1.70m): 1900s
- 5'8" (1.73m): 1910s-1930s
- 5'9" (1.75m): 1940s-1960s
- 5'10" (1.78m): 1970s-present day

These numbers came from historical records primarily from things such as soldiers' records when they enlisted.

Women, on average, are about 6" (15cm) shorter than men. White and black women are about the same height, while women of Asian- or Hispanic-descent tend to be about 2" (5cm) shorter still. Generations of proper diet and medical care (or lack thereof) have had an effect on people's average heights.

Doing some reading recently from an anthropological point of view, I learned that taller people tended to live in rather flat lands, while shorter people tended to live in mountainous areas. Of course, the industrial age caused people to move anywhere, especially in the United States.

Sizing-up S-scale Figures

I am 6'4", so that places me at 6" above the current average height. Out and about, I very seldom come across people who are taller than me. As a side note, when I was doing the research into the average heights, I learned that in Holland (The Netherlands; where I was born), they currently have the tallest average height for men on the planet, which is 6'0" tall. So, both era and area that you model might have an impact on how tall your S-scale figures should be.

But, taking the value of 6" above and below the average, this gives us a range for male figures of about 5'4" (1.62m) to 6'4" (1.93m) for today's average. Adjust this down an inch or more based on the era you model (see above). These heights translate to 1" (25.4mm) to 1-3/16" (30.1mm) in actual measurements for S-scale male figures. Female figures would then be 4'10" (1.47m) to 5'10" (1.78m), or 29/32" (22.9mm) to 1-3/32" (27.8mm) in S-scale.

Since these fractions are hard to use, especially when you are standing in a store looking at a package of one or more figures, use one inch or slightly more as being OK for men, and one inch or slightly less as OK for women. Of course, children come in all sizes, so anything well below one inch would be good.

If possible, you might consider acquiring a wallet card (the size of a credit card) that lists various measurements in S-scale. There used to be a company that made them, but they closed-up shop in 2012. However, during the summer of 2018, Doug Peck, owner of Port Lines Hobby Supply, announced that he has a similarly-sized plastic card called "The S-Scale Assistant". You can see a sample of it on his web site (go to <https://www.portlines.com/>, click on "Tools", scroll down to the fourth entry).

And, remember, most of us carry a one-inch measuring stick with us at all times, as the fact that the concept of an "inch" was based on the width of the human thumb! Go ahead and find a ruler and try it out. I'll wait. Modeling in S-scale is so much easier than those other scales!

When I provide measurements in this article, I measure figures from the bottom of their feet to the top of their head. If the figure wears a hat, I find the shallowest part of the hat, or slightly adjust the calipers to account for the height of the hat. When ordering a sample of the figures, I tried to order ones that stand up straight, if possible. If the figure was mounted on a stand, I ignored the stand in my measurements.

Figures' Materials

Figures are available in metal and plastic. Metal figures typically come cast in white metal or pewter. White metal is an alloy that consists of as many as 6 different metals. The alloy composition depends on the desired resultant properties of the metal, i.e. how easy they are to work with and cast, without being too weak or have open pores. Pewter is also a metal alloy, but tends to be a bit more malleable. Figures cast in pewter that are very old may contain quite a bit of lead. Modern day castings no longer use lead. Either way, it is always a good idea to not eat or touch your mouth while handling metal figures or parts, and always thoroughly wash your hands after handling them.

In much the same manner, a variety of plastics can be used to create the figures. The figures can be formed by injection molding or spin-casting.

3D-printed figures can be created out of thermoplastics (PLA, ABS) or high-detail resins. There are even systems that allow for 3D-printing in metal, but I am not aware of any S-scale figures that are made that way.

Modifying Figures

Just because you bought several figures with the same pose doesn't mean that they all have to look alike, of course. This is especially easy to deal with when using plastic figures. You can cut off their arms, legs, or

heads, and glue them back on, with a superglue or plastic cement, in a different position. Figures that need to fit in automobile or passenger car seats may need to have their legs cut off to get them to fit.

Even two otherwise identical figures, when painted differently, can look completely different, especially if they aren't placed near each other. You can have 100 figures in one town, and have the same 100 figures in another town on your layout, and most visitors won't notice that they are the same, if painted differently.

3D-printed figures tend to be made out of a brittle plastic/resin, so you have to be careful with those as far as modifying is concerned. And, of course, if you have access to CAD drawings and a 3D-printer, you can make several figures in different poses.

Metal figures are going to be very hard to modify, but not impossible.

See the reference section at the end of the article for magazine articles about modifying and painting figures in the model railroading press. Nowadays we can even go on YouTube and watch people demonstrate how to manipulate figures, even if they are not in S-scale. Manipulating or making figures is a topic that is really scale-agnostic.

Installing Figures

When I install a figure on my layout, I usually use a white glue. Since figures are relatively expensive, when the layout has to go, you will want to salvage them. Using something like a white glue makes it easy to remove them, while not damaging them. I prefer to not use figures with a flat base molded on to them, so if I have that, I remove the base first. A white glue can be used if you are OK with the base. If the layout is operated, if someone accidentally hits the figure, the glue bond will break before any damage is done to the figure. That is something that is easy to fix.

Another method is to drill a small hole in the figure's leg, insert a thin metal wire into the leg (attach it with superglue), and then poke it into the layout. This is especially useful if you have a foam-based scenery layer. For harder scenery layers you will have to pre-drill a hole in the scenery base using a matching drill bit. You could go without gluing the figure to the layout, for easy removal. This method makes it harder to knock the figure over (and if hit hard enough, either the wire will bend, or the figure may take some damage), but that might be necessary for temporary or modular layouts, such as at train shows.

Speaking of modular layouts, if you don't want to permanently attach a figure to a module that you take to train shows but yet the figure cannot stand up on its own, one method is to cut a square piece of translucent plastic, and glue the figure to that (use one small drop, or use Formula 560 Canopy glue which dries clear). The figure can then be placed on the temporary layout, while not falling over, and yet the base isn't as noticeable as a hard-plastic one. The translucent plastic I am referring to is usually used for simulating window glass in our structures. The figures will still fall over when someone hits the modular layout, it gets hit by a strong breeze, or an eager member of the audience touches them. So, part of the routine of managing such a modular layout is to straighten up the fallen figures (also watch the figures for "grabby" hands).

The Philosophy of Figures

I have read S-scale modelers' opinions on the issue of figures, and thought it was an interesting topic to ponder. Some don't like using figures, some only use figures by one manufacturer, some use figures regardless of who made them, and some use thousands of figures!

Looking at the various figures I've now collected, I can definitely see a style difference between them, depending on the artist who originally designed the figures for the company.

Thinking about this eventually led me to settle on my own philosophy (my own personal opinion follows). I like figures on my layout; without them, the layout looks lifeless and sterile. However, I have always found it difficult to look at a scene where the figures are clearly in simulated motion, such as walking, running, waving, swimming, etc. Since they don't actually move, it seems kind of weird to me. So, for me I like to set up the figures so that action is implied. For example, I had a scene on my previous S-scale layout, where I had two people standing close to each other, appearing to be in a conversation. One clearly appeared to be the owner or an employee of the company nearby, and the other a potential customer, as I had placed an automobile with an opened driver-side door by the customer. As a matter of fact, that scene was on my layout for about 5 years; I have no idea what those two were talking about for that long! Another philosophical point I have is that I like mixing figures from different manufacturers, because people look so different in the real world. Also, I don't like figures on molded-on bases, so those are either cut off or buried in the scenery.

On your layout use (or don't use!) the figures however it pleases you and don't let others dictate what you enjoy.

Where To Buy Figures

Most manufacturers these days offer online shopping directly from their web site. Some retailers will stock S-scale figures. If a retailer (and even some manufacturers) carries several brands, the advantage of buying from them is that you can get a variety of figures for one shipping price (it is kind of painful to have to pay \$9.95 for shipping a figure that costs \$2.25!). The various S events and the NASG Conventions are a great place to pick up figures without having to pay for shipping (try contacting the retailer ahead of the event to have them bring your selection to the show).

Figure Reviews

Let's delve deeper into what is available for S-scale today from each of the manufacturers. The listing below is quite literally all the S-scale figure manufacturers I am aware of. So, if a company is not mentioned, it is purely due to my ignorance. Feel free to let me know if I missed one. Keep in mind that figures are hard to manufacture, and the mark-up on such small items is usually very low, so let's be grateful for those companies that do go through the trouble of providing us with such nice details. And, to be honest, now that I have seen representative samples from almost all companies in person, I can attest to all being of a really good quality; there are no duds here! Below, click on the links under the name to go to the company's web site. Prices (and exchange rates) are as of the writing of this article (June 2019).

Amati

<https://www.amatimodel.com/en/>

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/figures/25mm-sailors.html> (U.S. Retailer)

This company focuses on relatively high-end sailing boat kits in various scales, so their figures are sold as accessories to super-detail a ship. Although the company is located in Italy, their figures are available through a couple of online model-boat kit dealers in the U.S. Their figures are listed in metric units. They offer 6 figures that are compatible with S-scale (they are flagged as 25mm). The standing/shouting figure (8005/02), for example, stands 5'5" tall in S-scale, and the rope-pulling figure (8005/05) stands 5'3" tall. So, they are of reasonable size. Needless to say, some of their figures have a nautical flavor to them, but some can be used more generically. They are all made out of a metal, and come unpainted. They retail for \$2.37 each.



American Models

<http://www.americanmodels.com/>

American Models, based in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, has over 40 figures listed, however, not all are in stock. The figures are metal, and they are all nicely painted already. They list for \$5.95 each. I ordered three standing figures directly from American Models. Unfortunately, my experience was that I did indeed get three figures, but only one of them was one of the ones that I had ordered. All three were standing figures, which was my key point for this article, but the other two didn't match the photos and descriptions on their web site (and the product numbers were different, too). So, while I'm OK with what I got for the purpose of this review, if you are looking for a specific figure, you may want to contact them ahead of time to see if they really have the figure(s) in stock. The male figure I got (I ordered F23, but got something completely different that is not shown on their web site nor in their catalog, and it arrived loose, not in a retail package like the other figures), stands at 6'2" (excluding the base that it has). The older female figure (F21, which is what I ordered) stands at 5'11". The younger female figure (I ordered F19, but got F29 instead) stands at 6'1". The figures are good-looking and well painted. They all have a shiny finish on them, but that is easily fixed with a spray of Testors Dullcote or something similar. After examining their figures, I did some research because they look familiar somehow. I believe the figures that American Models carries are Railmaster Exports' figures, which are then painted by American Models (their catalog states that they import the figures, but the painting is done by American Models).



Artista Accessories

<http://www.artista.com/>



Any time someone mentions figures, Artista is the #1 name recommended. This Delaware-based company sells high-quality pewter metal figures that are very accurate as far as scale is concerned. They have been making S-scale figures since 1990. The figures are available painted and unpainted. The unpainted figures are at least \$3.75 each and the painted ones are at least \$5.99 each, but that may be worth it to you if you don't like to paint small figures, which can be a tedious and time-consuming process. The standing male figures seem to range from 5'10" to 6'3", which is a fairly accurate representation.



B.T.S.

<https://www.btsrr.com/>

This company is well-known in the S-scale community, owned by Bill and Diane Wade, who are S-scale modelers. They are based in West Virginia. The company produces two S-scale white-metal figures that are not painted. At \$2.25 each, they are affordable. Both figures are standing, with one looking like he is lifting something. They measure 5'7" and 5'8" tall, so they are a perfect fit for S-scale. Both require a bit of flash removal, but nothing major.



B.T.S figures above.

Bossen Implement

<https://www.bossenimp.com/>

This company is a general retailer located in Lamont, Iowa. They primarily focus on farm-related products in all scales. In S-scale they have three figures available. After doing some research, I believe these figures are made for them by a company called Farm Factor 3D. The figures are 3D-printed, and arrive painted. One figure is seated with his arms raised (perhaps holding a steering wheel), one is standing (with his hands in his pocket), and one that is walking. They all wear a cap, and they all seem to look like modern day men. These are the most expensive figures I have found so far, at \$15 each, plus the company charges over \$10 for shipping, so a minimum of \$25 for one figure, \$40 for two! Due to this excessive price, I did not order one. They state that the figure is 1-1/8" tall, so that comes out to 6 feet even.

CatzPaw Innovations

<https://catzpawstore.myshopify.com/collections/figures>

This company, based in Georgia, focuses on 3D-printed products. The two ladies that own the company are S-scale modelers. Their product line includes over one hundred male and female figures in various poses. They also have specialty items such as a "gray" alien, Sasquatch, a clown, the Pillsbury Dough Boy, medieval knights, a family of ghosts, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus (in various poses). Their product line continues to expand each year. For some of the figures they do their own 3D-printing, but the majority are now done via Shapeways. In May 2019 they created a new web site that allows them to merge the content of both their own web site and the Shapeways web site, so that you have one convenient place from which to order what you want. Additionally, they offer a 10% discount for NMRA and NASG members (contact them to receive the discount code). Most figures are \$7.99, plus Shapeways adds a processing fee of \$0.24 (this fee goes up relative to the price of the item). I ordered three figures, a male, a female, and a Sasquatch. The male is "Shoveling Shannon" and he measures 6'2". The female is "Woman Wearing Dress & Hat" and she measures 5'5". What is interesting about the female figure is that her legs and her dress are printed separately. In other words, instead of it being a solid "blob", when you turn the figure upside down, the feet and legs are separate from the dress. Of course, in a normal position, this would not be visible. If you are curious, I bought the "Big Foot Brawny" and he measures 9'6", which seems to be accurate for a large mature male (yes, I also study the Sasquatch quite a bit). I'll have to find a dense piece of forest on my layout to hide him in. Either way, the figures are very delicately detailed. I was quite impressed with the quality of the print of all three figures. They are printed in a transparent material, so you will need to paint them.



eBay

https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_from=R40&_trksid=m570.11313&_nkw=1%2F64+figure&_sacat=0

There are companies or individuals who make figures and sell them through eBay. If you don't recognize the manufacturer's name, you will be taking a bit of chance on whether or not the figures are actually S-scale. Sometimes the scale is used as a marketing ploy to get you to look at the listing. If it doesn't explicitly state the

height of the figure, either ask the seller for that info, take a gamble and buy one item, or skip it. If the item is being shipped from China, you may be looking at 4 weeks before it is delivered. When I switched to S-scale, I was looking on eBay for S-scale figures. I found a set of them, which I bought. That same set of figures are still being offered on eBay these many years later, so I photographed and measured them. They are available painted, and seem somewhat small. My photos show the figures with a transparent plastic base. They don't come with that base. These figures were used on the Houston S Gaugers' club layout during local train shows, and so the base keeps them standing upright without the need for glue. Most of the figures are in the upper 5-foot range, so small, but reasonable.



Ertl

The company is based in Iowa. If it is related to farming in 1:64, Ertl has you covered. They have two S-scale figures, which are two seated male figures, waving a cowboy hat (part #FCA114 and FCA115). They are seated with their legs very far apart, supposedly for placing them on a model horse. At \$1 each, they are affordable if you have a farm or rodeo scene to populate. They come in an unmarked plastic bag. Measuring each body part to determine how tall this figure would be if standing up, I came up with a measurement of 6'9". So, it is a bit too tall for S-scale, but since they are seated, it may not be too noticeable. Taking one of the Imex horses (discussed below), the figure seemed to fit just fine.



Eureka Miniatures

http://eurekamin.com.au/index.php?cPath=87_126&sort=3a

This Australian company has hundreds of 28mm figures (I stopped counting when I reached 300), mostly military- or war-gaming-based, but also some other interesting figures, such as "hunting turtles" or "Planet of the Apes" figures. However, very few have anything to do with railroading, unless you are modeling the Civil War, World War I, or World War II. Their web site states that they measure their figures from the eyes down to the bottom of the feet, and so that means their 28mm figures scale out to 1:60, and their 25mm figures scale out to 1:72. I ordered a few figures from across their range, and sure enough, the figures are way too tall for S-scale. Their "Skeleton" figure (part #100SKL01", a four-part kit) comes out to exactly 7 feet tall. The "17th Century Scottish Pikeman" (#100ECW16) measures a reasonable 5'9". The "Highlander Piper" (#100AOR08) measures 6'5". I also ordered "George Washington with horse and dogs" (#100AOR30) just for the fun of it, and George measures 6'4", which I suspect is a bit too tall (the horse and two dog figures are definitely too tall for S-scale). The figure in the photo is the 17th Century Scottish Pikesman.



The figures are well-detailed, though. Most figures cost about \$2.18 each (U.S.), and add about \$16 shipping to your total, if shipping to the U.S. (it took about 2 weeks to get my order). Please note that these figures are made out of lead, so be sure to handle them with care (wash you hands after handling them and before eating), and paint and seal them as soon as possible (they are sold unpainted). They have a video on YouTube showing how they make their figures:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8MyQRxKStw>.

Fun & Games

<http://www.scalefigures.com/S/Sscale.htm>

This Missouri company's primary purpose is figures ("the people people" is their slogan). Owner Allen Pollock makes them in various scales, including about 90 of them in S-scale! The metal figures cost at least \$3.50 each unpainted, and \$6 each painted, and they are nicely detailed. From the sample of figures I bought (7 of them), the standing men ranged from 5'8" to 6'1", and the women ranged from 5'4" to 6'1". The company is also a retailer for Artistta's figures, so you can combine your order and save on shipping. The ordering process is decidedly old-fashioned in that you have to print an order form, and manually fill it in with all the details, some of which (such as shipping and minimum-order policies) are found elsewhere on their web site.



Greenlight Collectibles

<http://greenlighttoys.com/>

This company, based in Indiana, is known for its diecast scale automobiles, which turn out to be pretty close to true-scale models. Their "Hobby Shop", "GL Dioramas", and "GL Muscle" series features vehicles with accompanying figures. The latter two also have a six-figure set, which I have only seen on eBay, but not anywhere else. These are your classic figures molded onto a plastic base, so that tends to make me lean toward them being too toy-like. However, I bought two cars from the "Hobby Shop" line and found the female figure to



be 5'2" tall and the male to be 5'3". So, they are quite accurate.

The detailing on the figures is

quite good. Additionally, they come painted. So, for a temporary set-up, such as a local train show, the bases may come in handy, but for a permanent or home layout, you may want to use a razor blade to carefully remove them from their bases, or bury the base into the surrounding scenery. All-in-all, for the price (\$4.99) of other companies' figures alone, you get a free car with these!

Homies

<https://www.homies.tv/collecting.htm>

This series of figurines mimics stereotypical Mexican-American characters, created by David Gonzales, based on his comic strip (whose characters were modeled after people he met in his youth). They are flagged as being between 1-1/2" and 2" tall (8'-plus in S-scale). I have one of these, but I couldn't remember how it arrived in our possession. I mentioned it to my wife who said that one day years ago when we were busy taking down the Houston S

Gaugers' layout at the end of a local show, someone walked by, picked something up from the floor, and gave it to us. He assumed it belonged to our layout, but we had never seen it, so we kept it. Well, this figure that stands 6'2" tall in S-scale. He has the registered trademark of "Homies" imprinted on his back, but he is not shown in the catalog pages referenced by the link previous. So, I cannot say if any of the other figures fall in that same height range, making them acceptable in S-scale, or if we just happen to get a figure out of a series that is not cataloged that happens to be of an acceptable size (or really short). eBay has a large number of listings of them. The Homies web site seems very out-dated, so it could be that more figures were added later.

Imex Model Company, Inc.

<https://www.imex-model.com/>

I stumbled upon this company's products at a local Hobby Lobby (arts & crafts) store. Imex is a general importer and manufacturer based in Brooksville, Florida. The particular set I bought was their #516, called "American Pioneers" set (copyright date on the sprue is 2002). It is labeled as 1:72, and manufactured for them by "Billy V Models". The set comes with four sprues containing unpainted parts to make horse-drawn carriages (pioneer-style), horses and the gear to hook them up to the carriages, horse-back riding cowboys, mother-with-child, father-with-child, young boys, men working, men carrying things, young girl playing, mothers carrying water buckets, men sitting, a man playing the violin, several cows, and several pigs. A total of 18 different people, some duplicated, for a total of 30 humans. The standing male figures are 5'3" to 6'0", the female figures are 4'4" to 5'4", and the children are 3'7" (girl) and 4'6" (boy). To me, this means they are definitely spot-on for S-scale, even though they are labeled as 1:72. To get all of that for \$10 is fantastic. You do have to paint them, though. So, the next time your significant-other wants to go to the crafts store, tag along and wander off!



Lionel

<http://www.lionel.com/products/work-crew-people-pack-6-49977>

This famous Concord, North Carolina company came out with a "Work Crew People Pack" in their 2014 catalog (#6-49977), which is a set of five men working on a road. They each have a base to them. Lionel states that they are 0.9" tall, which means they are 4'10" tall in S-scale. That is quite short, and even more so if their measurement includes the base. The set retails for \$26.99, so that comes out to \$5.40 per figure, but they are painted. I did not order the set, because the price is a bit high, and, unlike the other sample figures I ordered, I couldn't see using any of them in my 1924-era layout, which is how I was able to justify the expense of buying all of these figures for this article.

Microform Models

<http://microformmodels.com/catpages/30.html>

This company, based in Marlborough, Massachusetts, provides products for architects. However, they have a series of diorama detailing parts available, flagged as 1:63, that includes 30 figures, some of which are stylized. Their figures are made out of a metal alloy, and are about 5'9" to 6' for the males and 5'6" tall for the females. The figures are \$0.71 each! But, they have a minimum order of \$20, so you can wind up with quite a few figures with which to populate your town. I did not get around to ordering any, because I discovered them too late for this article. If I do wind up placing an order, I will update the Product Gallery of the NASG web site with their photos.



Model Tech Studios

<http://modeltechstudios.com/>

This company is located in Hampton, New Hampshire, and specializes in very unique models, including well over 30 S-scale figures. The other thing that this company does is that most of their products are sold painted and weathered; you literally just put them on your layout or diorama. Those that are finished may look different from how they are shown in their stock photos as each is hand-painted individually. Figures are generally \$9.99 each and up. I ordered two figures shown on their web site, but was electronically refunded the cost of one figure, with no explanation as to why. The one that I did get is a detailed figure that is nicely painted. This male figure stands exactly 6 feet tall. It arrived in a nice keep-sake box with soft foam padding on the inside. A nice touch.

MTH Electric Trains

<https://mthtrains.com/30-11043>



MTH, located in Columbia, Maryland, has a "toy train" brand name in O-scale called "Rail King". Through that brand they sell cheaper and lesser-detailed cars and engines. It is primarily targeted at the O27 modeler. In general, these components are undersized from regular O-scale products. Part of that product line is a package of figures (part #30-11043). This is a package of 120 unpainted plastic figures, which has an MSRP of \$29.95, or about 25 cents per figure (some dealers may discount this). Essentially, the package consists of 8 different figures, repeated enough times to make the 120 total. There are four standing and four seated figures. Each have two males, one female, and one child figure. In S-scale, the two standing male figures measure 6'3" and 6'2", the standing female is



5'9", and the standing male child is 5'2". Fellow S-scale modeler Bob Werre introduced me to this set, as he finds that the seated figures are a good economical way of populating S-scale passenger cars (you may need to remove their legs to get them to fit on the seats).



New Zealand Finescale

<https://nzfinescale.com/product-category/personalities-164-figures/>

This predominantly S-scale-only company offers New Zealand Railway-based crossing guards, locomotive crew members in various poses, and a newspaper-reading seated passenger. The figures cost \$6NZD, which is a bit over \$4US at the time of this writing. They are 3D-printed figures in acrylic resin. Due to international shipping, I got my order in a little over two weeks. The figures are accurately scaled and stand 5'11". They are nicely detailed. They arrived in a well-packaged small box inside a padded envelope, so they easily withstood the long journey from the other side of the world.





Outland Models

https://www.outlandmodels.com/index.php?id_category=98&controller=category&id_lang=1

I discovered this company's 3D-printed figures via Amazon.com. They are based in Hong Kong, but I got my order within two weeks. They offer two sets of 4 figures, both related to automobile maintenance and racing, in modern clothing and gear, and both costing only \$3.79 per set. However, even though both sets are flagged as "1:64", the figures are nowhere near the same size. One set has a standing figure that measures a correct 5'9", while the other set has a standing figures that measures 8'10" in S-scale (it is even too tall for O-scale!). So, the only true S-scale set of figures they have is the one that is called "Rally Racing Car Maintenance Crew Mechanic Set". This



set has one standing, two kneeling, and one lying-on-his-back figure (the figures are relatively generic enough to be used outside of the car racing scene with a little bit of "editing"). The set with the figures wearing and holding helmets is too large. The figures were able to be removed from their sprues using a quality sprue-cutting tool (the plastic is very brittle, so be careful).

P-B-L

<https://www.p-b-l.com/>

Anyone who models in Sn3 is familiar with this Ukiah, California-based company. P-B-L currently has about 18 of their own figures listed on their web site. In their 1998 catalog they mentioned that they got tired of seeing the same figures in every one of their locomotives, so they created a range of different train crew figures. The metal figures are sold unpainted for \$2.95 each, or some are painted for \$6.95. The company is also a dealer for The Aspen Modeling Company ("AMC" in product number), Artista Accessories, Railmaster Exports, and they still have some KLM Creations/June's Small World figures as well. Their web site has online ordering, but no pictures. To go to the page of



figures, click on "Online Catalog" on their web site, then in the Categories drop-down list, select "18 FIGURES". Please note that P-B-L has a \$25 minimum for online ordering and reasonable shipping charges. Most of their own figures are seated (meant to go inside the locomotives' cabs), but the one standing figure I ordered stands 5'2" tall. They have good detail. Some of the seated figures have been filed on one side, presumably so that they fit in their locomotives. A little bit of flash may need to be removed before painting.



Railmaster Exports

<https://www.railmaster.co.nz/>

This New Zealand-based company produces an array of unpainted pewter metal figures. Each package retails for \$10US, plus shipping. However, all of the packages contain multiple figures (typically 6), or figures with animals, so it is quite economical. See the American Models section for other measurements and examples.



Royal Train Equipment

<http://www.royaltrainequipment.com/styled/styled-2/styled-26/>

Their web site lists a number of diecast metal figures, both painted (\$5) and unpainted (\$2.50). Despite the web site's old copyright date, I e-mailed the owner, and he indicated that he does still stock those figures. However, after sending in my order, I learned that the company no longer sells the unpainted ones, because they simply didn't sell, so he sent me the painted ones instead. The figures are beautifully painted and have nice detail. I ordered three standing males, one standing female, and one sitting male and female.

The standing male figures ranged from 7'1"

to 7'4", and the standing female was 7' tall. So, unfortunately, these figures are too tall for true S-scale. The seated figures appear to be slightly smaller, so they may be used on a park bench or something like that.



The Aspen Modeling Company

<https://www.theaspenmodelingcompany.com/>

The primary focus of this company is O- and S-scale figures. Most of these metal and plastic figures are \$5.50 each. All prices are for unpainted figures. Their web site has how-to information and customer photos of painted models. As a representative sample, I have #S-06 "Oilman" who stands 5'10", #S-24 "Man Pushing Wheelbarrow" stands 5'7" (slightly bent-over), and #S-29 "Spiker" who stands 5'3" (also bent-over). The detail on these figures is first-rate, with only some minor flash to remove.



Older Brands

Just to make a complete article about S-scale figures, you may find some of these older brands' figures in retail stores, train shows, swap meets, estate sales, or auction sites.

"American Flyer", a name that we are familiar with, produced a number of figure sets (#33, #34, #35, #578). Several of their accessories had static or animated figures as part of the item. Their figures tend to be a bit oversize, and don't really compare well with today's figures. I don't mean anything bad about those sets; it is just that today's technology allows us to have much finer detail in our models.

"Authenticast", a brand name for Comet Metal Products (founded in 1919), made spun-cast white metal figures starting in the 1930s. Their models are a bit too big for S-scale, and tend to be a bit more crude (compared to today's standards).

"June's Small World" had a collection of over 30 white metal figures. At some point in time, "KLM Creations" took over the product line and sold the painted versions. Pacific Fast Mail sold the same product

line, but only the unpainted figures. P-B-L in their 1998 catalog listed both, with the caveat that the delivery of individual models was very sporadic. You can still find these figures on eBay from time to time, and P-B-L still has some in stock, too. From the sampling I bought from P-B-L, the standing male figure is 6'2", the standing female ("The Hooker") is 6'4", and the Baseball Boy stands 5'2" tall.

Midgag Models/Stewart Products produced cast-metal figures that were along the same style as Authenticast, and were also a bit on the tall side for S-scale.

S-Helper Service made two sets of figures (two figures per set). #00289 consisted of an engineer and fireman, and #00358 consisted of a conductor and brakeman. They were made out of a metal, nicely detailed, and painted. SHS populated their locomotives with these figures.

Did I miss any? Please let me know.

What About Other Scales?

There are many figures available in other scales. The most popular one and closest to S-scale is 1:72. You can find a lot of figure sets in that scale, including at local hobby/crafts stores. Most of these are military-oriented, due to the large number of 1:72 airplane kits. However, you may want to still check these figures out. If you model an older era, people were shorter then, so 1:72 figures may be appropriate. These sets are usually very cheap, so they are also good candidates for populating your 1:64 vehicles or passenger cars, as true S-scale figures usually don't fit in the cars' interiors. It is also much easier to cut up a figure that was part of a \$10 set, rather than a single \$6 metal figure! Just remember, the scale mentioned on the packaging could just be a marketing attempt; measure to confirm.

Metric scales, such as 25mm and 28mm, are also good candidates. If the figures are indeed 25mm tall (5'3"), then they are border-line usable in S-scale, on the small side. If they truly are 28mm tall (5'11"), then they are about right. Just remember that the indicated scale may be a marketing effort, having the figure targeted at a specific target audience, such as wargaming, Matchbox cars, R/C track racing, etc.

Conclusion

I hope that this overview made it clear to you that we have plenty of figures in S-scale. Of course, we welcome manufacturers to make more of them, but S-scale is definitely not lacking in that department.

References

Laurie McLean (<http://www.youtube.com/user/scoopmmr/videos>) is an Australian On3 modeler who shows videos of how he animates his figures.

Model Railroad News, January 2010: Dick Karnes provides a short listing of available S-scale figures.

Model Railroader, September 1981: shows how professional artist Cindy Brown paints O-scale figures.

Model Railroader, November 1991: how to make your own figures.

Model Railroader, December 1991: how to modify and place figures.

Model Railroader, October 1994: how to paint and position figures.

Model Railroader, April 2000: how to Americanize HO-scale Preiser figures.

Model Railroader, March 2003: how to paint figures (focuses on painting faces).

Model Railroader, December 2005: how to modify and paint figures.

N-Scale, September 1999: how to paint N-scale figures.

N-Scale, September 2000: how to weather N-scale figures and animals.

NASG Dispatch, September 2016: Ron Schlicht's S-scale layout has over 3,600 figures!

Railroad Model Craftsman, December 1977: lots of tips on how to personalize the figures.

Railroad Model Craftsman, July 1996: modifying figures to fit the scene.

Railroad Model Craftsman, August 2010: painting figures (how to improve factory-painted faces).

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S Gaugian, November 2002: contains a review of the MTH figures set.

S Gaugian, January 2011: installing figures in locomotives.

About Peter

Peter models a Pennsylvania Railroad branch line called the "Chartiers Branch" as it was in the Summer of 1924 in S-scale. He maintains his personal web site at <https://pmrr.org/>. Peter is the webmaster for the NASG (<https://www.nasg.org/>). Professionally, he owns and operates Fourth Ray Software (<https://www.fourthray.com/>), which is a software publishing company that offers free and commercial software applications created by the company. A few of the software products are of interest to model railroaders. Although Peter has other interests as well, such as bike riding, gardening, and playing the bass guitar, there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day to enjoy them all. Contact Peter at peter@fourthray.com.

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Weathering Track the LM Way

The first part of this article is copied with permission from Lance Mindheim And his Webiste: <https://lancemindheim.com/>

Charles Malinowski then continues on to describe his method based on Lance's article

By Charles Malinowski



Lance Mindheim

Here's a cookbook rundown on how I weather my Micro Engineering flex track. If you want rail bars, apply those first. I use Details West part # RB- 933. I paint and weather the track BEFORE laying it.

1. Paint the track (rails and ties) with Model Master "Light Gray". Use the acrylic version, not the enamel version. If you don't, the paint will erode on the next step.

2. Apply a wash of Burnt Umber artist oils, diluted with mineral spirits, over the ties using a soft brush and let dry for a day or so. I've found drying goes quickly if you put the rail outside on a hot, sunny day.

3. Mask the ties and paint the rails (with an airbrush) with your choice of one of the following Model Master colors: Dark Earth #617 (this is dark tan) Burn Umber Schokoladeenbraun #2096 (close to the old Floquil Roof Brown. Sort of a chocolate brown.

4. Apply an India Ink/alcohol wash over the ties with a soft brush. 1 teaspoon of ink per pint of 70% alcohol

5. Lay the track and ballast it.

6. Take an old, small, stiff brush and work some chocolate brown weathering chalk into the rail webs. It's important to have the ballast down first as you want the effect of rust bleeding downwards on to the ballast. Seal with Dullcote.



Lance Mindheim



Lance Mindheim

Inspired by Lance Mindheim's method for weathering flex track, I decided to test out his approach on the Fox Valley flex track that I'm using for my new portable S Layout, MR2GO.

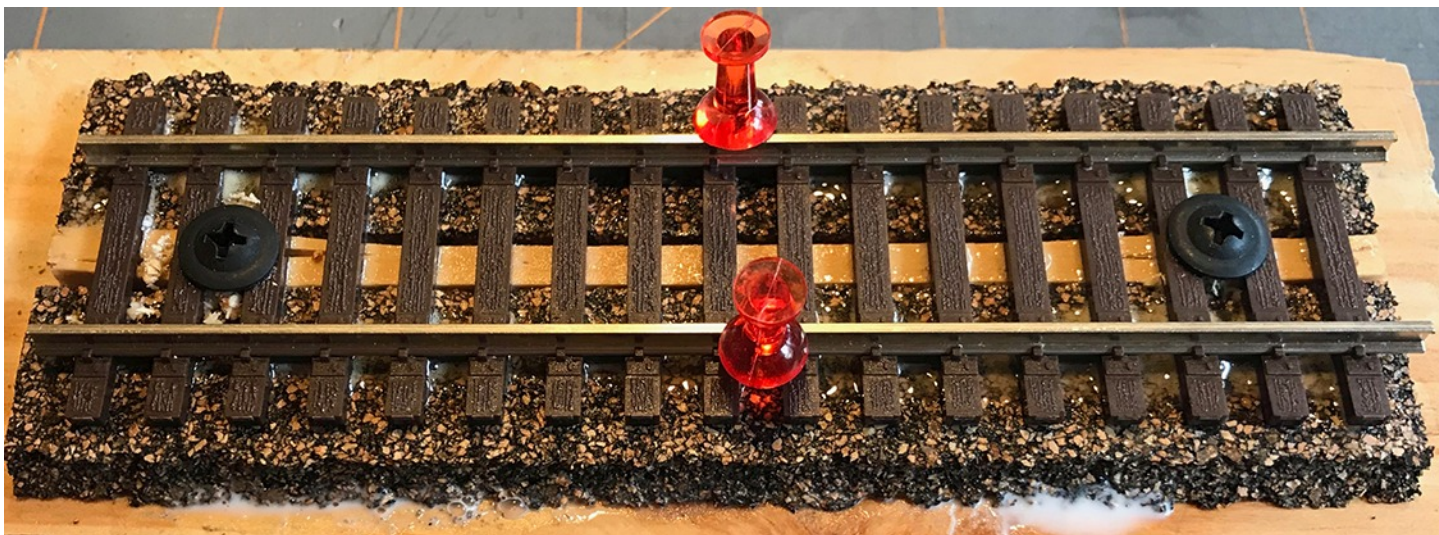


MR2GO with HO cork + 3/16 square wood strips and test structures.



Rail bars: I will not be detailing the track or turnout with rail bars.

Cork Roadbed: Midwest Products HO cork roadbed was glued down with a square 3/16 inch basswood strip in the center to get the proper width for 1:64. Elmer's Glue All was used, secured with push pins.

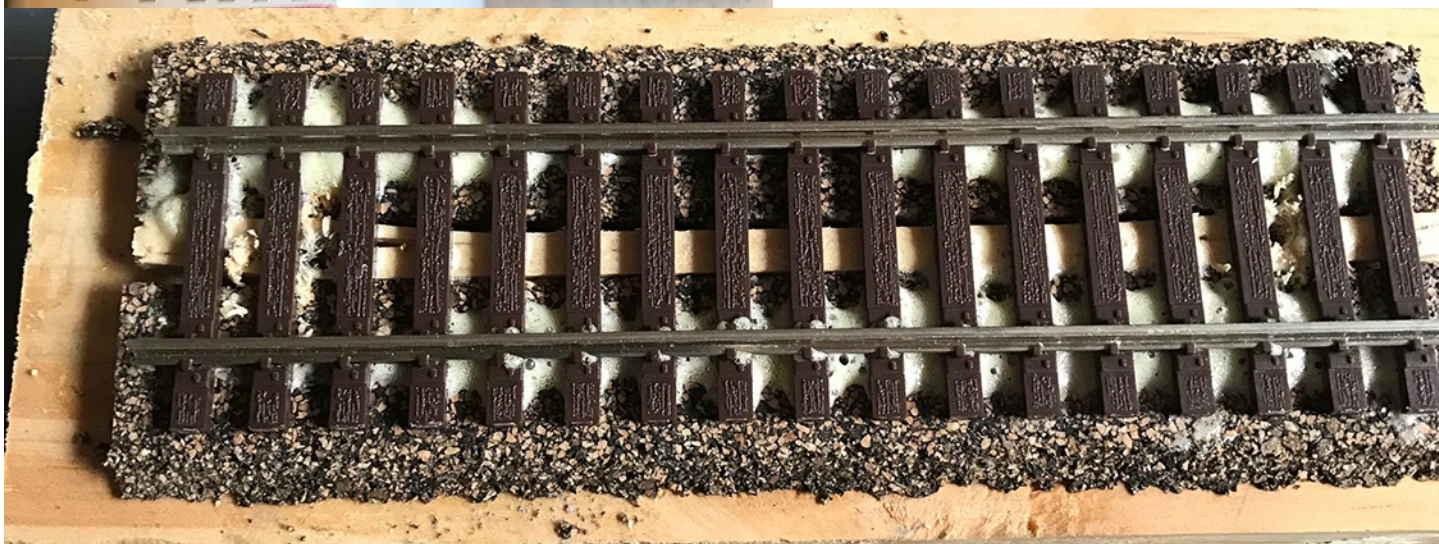


Fox Valley flex track with a NOT thin enough coat of Gorilla Glue. Screws from Amazon: #8 x 1/2" Phillips Truss Head Screws



1. Track and roadbed was painted with Rustoleum 2081 Light Gray Primer.

Screws and pins removed. Dried Gorilla Glue that was applied too thick.



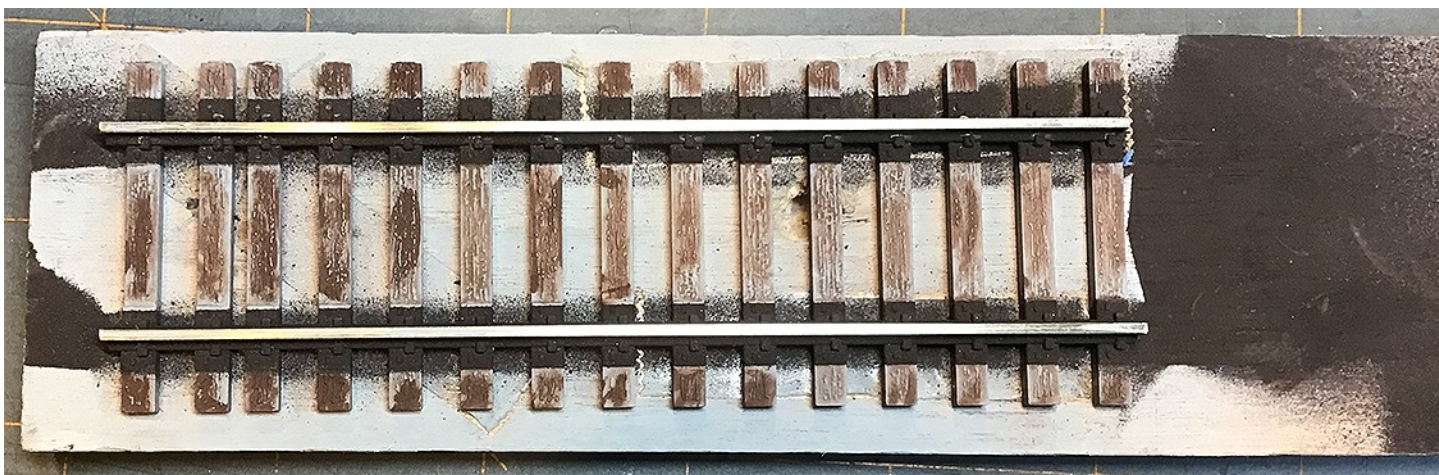


2. Burnt Umber artist oils were diluted with odorless mineral spirits. I was not pleased with the initial wash so two more coats were applied. Applied with 2mm (disposable) micro brushes.

3. The ties were masked with blue painters tape and I hit the rails, spike-heads and tie plates with Rust-Oleum Camouflage 279178 Earth Brown. The railheads were cleaned off with an abrasive brick for cleaning copper pipe. (No image)

4. Removed the tape and applied the India ink/alcohol wash. 2-3 washes were applied to get a darker tone.





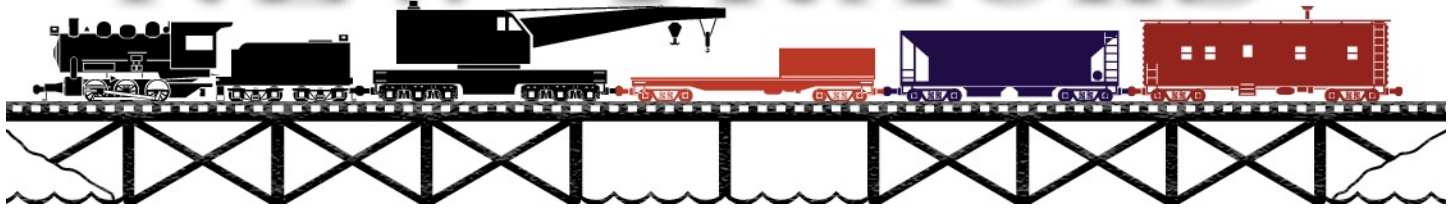
5. *The track was ballasted with Woodland Scenics medium gray blend. I applied a mist of wet water (tap water + 2-3 drops of Kodak Photo Flo) using a Olive Oil Sprayer. Then Woodland Scenics, Scenic Cement was applied with an eye dropper.*

6. *Bragdon Weathering Powders were applied to the track. First the rusty brown was applied to the “rail, spike and tie plates.” Black weathering powders were applied between the rails to simulate oil drippings. To me the ties were too light from the initial gray primer. Using the 2mm micro brush, I applied a combination of brown and black weathering powders to tone down the gray.*





NEW TRACKS



Mentor Definition: A Trusted Counselor or Guide

By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR

“Farm to Table Model Railroading”

Blending 1/64 Scale Farm Modeling and S Scale Model Railroading. Manufacturer Contests, Individual Mentors and, As My Mom Used to Say, a “Proof of the Pudding” New Manufacturer I Found.

As a long time model railroader, I am a novice when it comes to understanding Farm modeling and how I might use it on my layout. But I would like to learn. I had one Farm Modeler look at some of my model railroading Farming photos and tell me: “Step 1 start over”. Help I need a mentor!

I decided to search for S Scale modelers who are “Farm Modelers”. In fact they found me rather than me finding them. A large group of Farm Modelers joined the S Scale model railroading Facebook site all at once and the administrator noted this and commented on it. I wanted to know what was going on. So I posted a comment on the site indicating I would like to talk with them about their farm modeling hobby and why they are interested in S Scale model railroading. I am glad I did.

I found that farm modelers are interested in blending two S Scale Hobbies, Farm Modeling and Model Railroading, together and believe this blending will bring more modelers into both Hobbies as well as more modern S Scale railroad models to the market. Makes a lot of sense to me because both modelers are in S Scale, and both Hobbies involve building a model layout with scenic design, prototype looking detailed models, scratch building, 3D printing, painting, research, and mentoring. Both Hobbies have manufacturers who offer highly detailed models parts and kits, suitable for both Hobbies and therefore will benefit in increased sales as both Hobbies grow.

But when you talk to Farm modelers they say that in the past when they approached S model railroaders, they did not seem to want anything to do with them! I asked why? No one seems to know. I certainly don’t. So I decided to write this article which profiles some of the manufacturers and individual Farm Modelers I found to see what you, my model railroad readers, interest may be to incorporate Farm Modeling in your model railroad. I also want to ask you the following question.

Are S Scale Model Railroaders interested in working with S Scale Farm Modelers to blend the two Hobbies for your mutual benefit?

I do not know exactly how many Farm modelers there are in the USA, but I have been told 30,000 to 40,000. Their annual Farm Convention is normally sold out, and I was told that to build a display to compete for First Place in the Convention’s Farm model contest can cost a Farm modeler upward of \$20,000.

JUDGING SHEET
NATIONAL FARM TOY SHOW
DISPLAY CONTEST

CATEGORY Adult Small
PARTICIPANT Chris Steele
JUDGE # 5

	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Exceptional	Points
CREATIVITY Newness of concept and components. (circle a score for each)						
Overall Concept	0	1	2	3	4	5
Individual Pieces	0	1	2	3	4	5
Judge's Comments:						
REALISM Display accurately represents the concept.						
Overall Concept	0	1	2	3	4	5
Individual Pieces	0	1	2	3	4	5
Judge's Comments:						
CRAFTSMANSHIP Skillfully presented and crafted with attention to detail.						
Overall Appearance	0	1	2	3	4	5
Individual Pieces	0	1	2	3	4	5
Judge's Comments:						
ORIGINALITY Work has been substantially prepared by the participant(s).						
Overall Display	0	1	2	3	4	5
Individual Pieces	0	1	2	3	4	5
Judge's Comments:						
RESPONSES TO JUDGES' INQUIRIES Participant's ability to describe aspects of the display.						
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Judge's Comments:						
SIZE REQUIREMENT Size is within parameters of rules.						
	0					10
(to be determined by Toy Farmer - do not fill in)						
TOTAL POINTS						
Additional Judge's Comments:						

Modeler) award but the Farm modelers are not sufficiently organized to develop it at this time. I believe they will get it done as more Farm modelers strive for more detailed realistic modeling and seek recognition for their efforts without having to enter a national or local contest. This could be another area where model railroaders could be of assistance.

Here is the Entry form for the 2019 show and The Judging form.

A great many Farm modelers are in the 25 to 40 year old age range with the more experienced modelers "old guys" in their mid to late 40s. Many of these modelers are interested in learning additional skills and techniques from model railroaders including scenery construction, figure painting, structures building, and general model building.

Yes, Farm modelers think we can teach them to improve their modeling, and in addition they want our help in incorporating S Scale model railroading into their model Farm scenes. Several have asked for my advice in model railroading while I was researching this article. Wouldn't it be great to have 30 to 40,000 younger model builders become new S Scale model railroaders buying S Scale products? I believe S Scale

A modeler entering the adult 1/64 Farm model contest can have up to 64 sq ft (2 - 4'x8' sheets of plywood). The modeler must submit an application to enter the contest about 3 months before the event including a description of their model display and photos. The display will be evaluated and if selected you will be asked to participate in the contest by the show organizer.

At the show, a team of judges selected by the show organizer, will award points to each display based on creativity, realism, craftsmanship, originality, ability to answer judges' questions, and display meeting contest guidelines. I had several Farm modelers tell me they would like to see a judging criteria similar to the NMRA Achievement Program judging system even including a MFM (Master Farm

NATIONAL FARM TOY SHOW
DISPLAY CONTEST RULES
November 3-5, 2017, at Dyersville, Iowa

- Displays must include farm toys or be agriculturally-related.
- Entry into the contest is FREE. Therefore, displays are to be non-commercial in nature.
- 3 Categories:
Youth - 14 years of age and under.
Adult Small Scale - 15 years of age and over. Scales 1:33 and smaller.
Adult Large Scale - 15 years of age and over. Scales 1:32 and larger.
- Awards:
Trophies will be awarded to 1st place and other high-placing displays.
- Display Sizes (maximum allowable):
Youth - 32 square feet (example: 1 - 4'x8' sheet of plywood)
Adult - 64 square feet (example: 2 - 4'x8' sheets of plywood)
- Display Schedule:
Set-up: Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Take down: Sunday, 2 p.m.
- Past Champion Rule:
Adult Category champions will be restricted from entering a competitive display in this contest for two years following their win.
- Judging and Criteria:
Using a point system, displays will be evaluated and scored by a judging team. Primary criteria include the following: creativity, realism, craftsmanship and originality.

If interested in displaying at the show, please fill out the attached application and return by August 3 of this year. Please note that the display space available is limited. Should the number of entries exceed the available display area, Toy Farmer will evaluate the applications and invite participants at their sole discretion.

Display Contest Entry Form For 2017
A PHOTO OF YOUR LAYOUT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Age: _____ Scale: _____
Which category will you be participating in? _____

Table Layout: Please draw a diagram of how you want the tables set up.

Electricity: Yes _____ No _____

Comments or suggestions—attach extra sheet.
A general description and photo of your display must accompany this entry form. Send photos, floor plans, etc. by AUGUST 3, 2017 to:
TOY FARMER DISPLAY

manufacturers would want to supply new products, locos, cars, structures, etc, to this new market? Wouldn't we all benefit from having these new products come to market? Isn't this younger age group which obviously has some disposable income to spend on their hobby, exactly the kind of person we need in S Scale model railroading?

So I ask how can we as S Scale model railroaders get together with the 1/64 Farm modelers to establish this new joint "Farm-Railroad Model Hobby in S scale"?

This should be easy, after all it is not rocket science, and both Groups stand to benefit. Step one for me was to write this article. Step 2 was to encourage this magazine to become involved and spearhead a program for S Scale Farm Modelers and Model Railroaders to get together for everyone's benefit. If readers agree that this magazine should play a leadership role in this effort please pass your opinions on to the Magazine's Publisher daniel@modelrailroadresource.com. I have been told the NASG is not interested in this issue at this time, so if the readers of this magazine are not interested in pressing this opportunity, I am not sure it will get off the ground anytime soon. The Farm Modelers reached out to some S Gauge modelers but nothing has happened so far. I believe we S Scale model railroaders now need to reach out to the Farm modelers and see what we can get started and where we go from here. I ask for your support by contacting this Magazine's publisher and supporting my idea.

For those S Scale model railroaders who want to explore Farm modeling on their railroads, I believe these companies and individuals can help you incorporate farm modeling, "from farm to table" into your model railroading. Hope all of you have fun going down these "New Tracks" together. Good luck.

Manufacturers of S Scale Farm equipment Models

SpecCast

One of the first Farm modelers I talked with told me: "Hands down the Manufacturer who offers the most finely detailed S Scale farm equipment is SpecCast". Naturally, I looked at the web site <https://speccast.com/> and found it interesting. Then I called and talked to the Company President, and owner, Dave Bell.

From Dave's reaction to my call, I believe I may be one of, if not the first, model railroaders who has ever called SpecCast and discussed their interest and involvement with the S Scale model railroading community.

When you stop and think about it all S Scale model railroaders want to have highly detailed model railroad cars running on their layouts so why not also have the most highly detailed Farm models on their model farms? I know I would, but I did not know SpecCast existed! Not only can their farm models be used on S Scale farms, but on highways, and also as flat car loads! It is my honor to profile SpecCast.

You can find out about not only their farm equipment but also the big rig and other trucks they produce at their web site. While this is being written in late 2018 Dave provided me information on new products being released in 2019 and a few even after that just to let you know what the Company plans are for the future. Here are some photos of the new models.



Another surprise was seeing the Model Volvo 770 on the web site. [I have previously written a Card modeling article where you could download for free a Special Signage big rig Card model from Team Track Models.](#) John Gibbons told me the SpecCast Volvo 770 would be a perfect match for his model trailer so I feel fortunate and lucky to find this model. I suggest you take a look and see if the model truck would also work for you.



In our discussion, I suggested to Dave he offer a Contest drawing for one of his S Scale pieces of Farm Equipment. Dave immediately agreed and suggested the winner would be able to select a 1/64 Scale Farm Equipment model from the company's selection of Farm models that is available in their open market catalog.





The company will also pay the shipping cost for the winner's model.

How to enter the SpecCast contest Drawing

The farm equipment model will be shipped to the winner and Dave will provide mentoring to the winner on

how he might want to use the model in a farm scene which could be as a freight car load. The winner agrees to use the piece of Farm equipment in a scene on his model railroad, provide a written description of the scene he makes including photos which will be published in a future "New Tracks" article.

**ENTER HERE TO WIN OUR
SPECCAST CONTEST
DRAWING**

Dave could not have been more supportive in agreeing to want to work with model railroaders, not just in providing his products, but also in mentoring a modeler to help him develop his model Farm scene. Thanks to Dave for his enthusiastic support for this effort to educate all of us about the opportunities of bringing Farming and model railroading together. Please show your support for Dave and SpecCast by entering their contest. Best of luck to all of you going down these "New Tracks", I look forward to seeing the winning modelers Farm scene.

Top Shelf Replicas

Christopher Steeb, a First Place winner at the National Toy Farm show told me he was working with Top Shelf Replicas, a die-cast Manufacturer of Farm models who was interested in bringing new S Scale Model Railroad model of a Diesel Switcher and modern grain cars to the market. The owner of Top Shelf Replicas, Matt Cassety, recently acquired the company and was interested in expanding his customer base as well as meeting the needs for S Scale railroad models for his current Farm modelers. (See also comments by Jeff Hintz owner of Farm Factor 3D further in this article) Naturally, I looked at the Top Shelf Replicas web site which has details of all his existing Farm models. Then I called and talked to the owner, Matt Cassety.

We discussed his 1/64 Farm model Products as well as his interest and involvement with the S Scale model railroading community. Matt told me he believed his Company needed to work on expanding the number of modelers buying his products. To him, one major source of additional 1/64 scale Farm model buyers are S Scale model railroaders.

His existing Farm models can serve as a focal point for a model Farm scene on a model railroad layout as well as flat car loads. Also his existing customers are asking for S Scale model railroad models that are not currently available in the market. So Matt decided to work with his current customers and S Scale model railroaders to determine the type of locomotives and rolling stock the two groups wanted and would purchase. That is where he is now.

I cannot wait to see what new model railroad and Farm models he decides to produce. It is great to see a new entrant into both model markets and also confirms my belief that there are common benefits to each group by working together on new projects. Perhaps other 1/64 or S scale manufacturers will also consider this approach.

When you stop and think about it, all S Scale model railroaders want to have highly detailed model railroad locomotives and cars running on their layouts, so why not also have highly detailed Farm models on their model farms? Not only can their farm models be used on S Scale farms, but on highways, and also as flat car loads and model railroad equipment is certainly a part of any farm transportation system on a model layout. This is why I am so pleased to profile Top Shelf Replicas, one of the leading Manufacturers, who I believe is trying to open the door for both groups to work together for their common development and growth.

In our discussion I suggested to Matt that he offer a Contest drawing to win one of his S Scale pieces of Farm Equipment. Matt immediately agreed and suggested the winner would be able to select a Farm Equipment Tractor model from the Companies selection of Farm models.

https://www.google.com/search?q=top+shelf+replicas+ford+versatile&client=ms-android-sprint-us&prmd=sinv&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiy_6KJ397fAhWJnOAKHeUyBogQ_AUoAnoECAwQAg&biw=360&bih=612&dpr=3#imgsrc=AImP184LMa5x-M&imgdii=ARjIQVJWv10IUM

How to enter the Top Shelf Contest Drawing

The farm equipment model will be shipped free to the winner and Matt will provide mentoring to the winner

on how he might want to use the model in a farm scene or as a freight car load. The winner agrees to use the piece of Farm equipment in a scene on his model railroad, provide a written description of the scene he makes including photos which will be published in a future “New Tracks” article.



**ENTER HERE TO WIN OUR
TOP SHELF CONTEST
DRAWING**

Matt purchased Top Shelf about a year ago and is

aggressively promoting the company and looking for growth opportunities. He was extremely supportive in agreeing to want to work with model railroaders, not just in providing his products, but also in mentoring a modeler to help him develop his model Farm scene. Thanks to Matt for his enthusiastic support for this effort to educate all of us about the opportunities of bringing Farming and model railroading together. Please show your support for Matt and Top Shelf by entering their contest. Best of luck to all of you going down these “New Tracks”. I look forward to seeing the winning modelers Farm scene. [New Website coming soon here](#) . Since the Website may be down at this time please contact Matt at Matt.Cassety@sscaleresource.com to select your prizes model

One final thought. If you are interested in helping Matt decide what new S Scale model railroad equipment to provide I suggest you consider contacting him and give him your suggestions and support. We need to give people like Matt all the support we can.

Farm Factor 3D

In talking with Farm modelers, one of the first things I was told was to include 3D model Designers/Producers because they were doing some amazing things to improve the quality of Farm modeling. One of the firms I heard about was Farm Factor 3D. Naturally, I looked at the Farm Factor 3 web site which has details of

all the existing Farm models. <https://www.farmfactor3d.com/> Then I called and talked to the owner, Jeff Hintz.

I asked Jeff how he selected the name for his Company. He said: “I brainstormed with my wife and we came up with it, CAD design is my favorite part of the business and I am always taking measurements and making them smaller, a factor, so that it how it came about”.

In our discussion I was surprised to learn that Jeff and his wife are also model railroaders with a G Scale train that goes around their living room and a small N Scale railroad in the basement for their son.

He is also interested in building a combination Farm and Railroad model layout but the current, 2019 prototype, grain Cars are not available in S Scale. Here again is an indication of a real opportunity for a S Scale model railroad manufacturer to offer a model railroad car which is in demand by a whole new younger group, not now being served, of potential S Scale model railroaders. (Matt and his Company Top Shelf Replicas should take note that here is another Manufacturer who recognizes the need for new S Scale railroad equipment to add to their Farm model displays.).

Jeff also noted the absence of detailed structure Farm buildings kits. More opportunities for existing Farm structure modelers to offer kits or for existing S Scale kit manufacturers to advertise to and offer their products to a new market. What are they waiting for?

We then discussed the fact that Jeff does all his own 3D model design and manufacturing for all of his Farm model products. Jeff told me he needed to purchase a third 3D printer to be able to just keep up with the existing demand for his products.

Jeff’s Farm models can serve as a focal point for a model Farm or model railroad scene, as well as being great flatcar loads. I anticipate his business may get even busier after model railroaders find his Company.



I am so pleased to profile Farm Factor 3D, another Farm model Manufacturer who I believe is trying to open the door for both modeling groups to work together for their common development and growth. I enjoyed meeting Jeff and know he is committed to making the best possible detailed Farm model equipment. I know he is a real asset to the Farm modeling community.

In our discussion I suggested to Jeff, as I do with all the manufacturers I profile, that he offer a Contest drawing to win one of his S Scale pieces of Farm Equipment. Jeff immediately agreed and suggested the winner will receive his new Class chopper detail kit.

Part number K65 on the website.

How to enter the Farm Factor 3D Contest Drawing

The farm equipment model kit will be shipped to the winner and Jeff will provide mentoring to the winner on how he might want to use the model in a farm scene which could be as a freight car load.

The winner agrees to use the piece of Farm equipment in a scene on his model railroad, provide a written description of the scene he makes including photos which will be published in a future “New Tracks” article.

ENTER HERE TO WIN OUR FARM FACTOR 3D CONTEST DRAWING

Jeff was extremely supportive in wanting to work with model railroaders, not just in providing his products but also in mentoring a modeler to help him develop his model Farm scene. Thanks to Jeff for his enthusiastic support for this effort to educate all of us about the opportunities of bringing Farm modeling and model railroading

together. Please show your support for Jeff and Farm Factor 3D by entering their contest. Best of luck to all of you going down “New Tracks”, I look forward to seeing the winning modelers Farm scene.

Individuals

I found the following Farm modelers from referrals, and responses to posts I made on several 1/64 Scale Farm modeling Facebook sites. I have made some new friends and seen some outstanding 1/64 Scale modeling.

I have several small Farm scenes on my model railroad, but after the time I have spend with these modelers, I know that my Farm scenes need work to come up to their exacting Farm modeling standards. I know we can all benefit from their mentoring and I encourage you to contact one or more of them for advice and to gain modeling knowledge about building your layout’s Farm scenes.

The first Modeler is a person whom I have been told is one of the very best Farm modelers in the world. Tony Dixon told me: “If you would like some of the best of the best when it comes to 1:64 scale farm displays contact Chris Steeb, he is a two time National Farm Toy Show Small scale display compeition winner, along with wins at the Lafayette toy show and St Louis on multiple occasions. He also did a section of a S scale modular layout for a club or show or something along that lines within the last 2 years. He will be one of the best people to talk to and is a really nice and helpful guy. Thanks, Tony

Please meet Christopher Steeb, after talking with him about this article I totally agree with Tony, he is a really nice guy and excellent Modeler.



Christopher Steeb

I am a Farm Display Builder but I do think of myself as a Rail Roader as well, in both S Scale, and HO. I am a two time National Champion Farm Display Builder, as well as a Triple Crown Display Competitions Winner. Since 2013 when I started competing, I have won 16 trophies, from the 4 major national shows. I built my first custom farm toy at the age of 14, and my first display in 2009. How you learned to build. Mostly from watching Youtube videos, but some from being taught by friends.

There was a lot of trial and error, but I guess you would say my main mentors are Chris Delva, Jason Hasert, Dan Maier, Adam Frerich and Jason Krieser. I selected 1/64th, or S Scale, because that is the most prominent scale in the farm toy world.

Me and My Wife, with the Triple Crown Trophies, for a Toy Farmer article, taken by Cathy Schiender.



Top: Wheat Harvest weekly blog picture.

Above Left: picture taken of my Cimarron River Ranch Display.

Above Right: Rancher going out to check his cows, weekly blog picture

Below: Hay Chopping, weekly blog picture All photos by Christopher Steeb



What areas can I help other modelers by mentoring? The main areas I have been asked to teach are soldering, scenery (with an emphasis on static grass), as well as the logistics on competition, and how to communicate your display with the judges. If you think I can help your Farm modeling contact me at Christopher.Steeb@sscaleresource.com



Doug Krieg

I'm a barn lover. I thoroughly enjoy and appreciate the simple, yet astounding beauty that arises most often out of necessity. Barns are structures most often built out of a need to provide for oneself or family. Their primary function isn't typically to show off some artistic ability or design and yet they become some of the most amazingly beautiful structures anyway. I'm just a guy who has never overlooked that and am doing my best to recreate that feeling in 1/64 scale.

I grew up on a dairy farm in Ohio and thus naturally grew up playing with 1/64 scale farm toys. My cousin and I spent hundreds of hours running our imaginary farm. About 8 years ago, my wife and I found out we were going to have a son. So, I decided to start finding him some farm toys. That turned into looking for the exact toys to replicate the equipment on the farm I grew up on. That turned into me deciding I wanted to make him a barn just like the Krieg Farms dairy barn. Somewhere about 3 years ago, I started exploring 1/64 farm toys and models online

and discovered the 1/64 Farming Operations page run by Timothy Holker on Facebook. It blew my mind how detailed, creative and realistic some of the work was. So, I began to expect a little more of myself in building the barn and started experimenting. I asked questions of anyone who would respond on the page and studied the quality work I saw on the page and across the internet. A little over 2 years ago, I finally started building. I started with a corn crib and a chicken coup because they seemed the easier place to start. I posted the work on the page, got some feedback and then moved on to a small mineral shed we had and then a larger garage/barn from the family property. I also tinkered with some static grass and other scenery basics. I actually had someone request I build a small corn crib for them during that process and I built my first custom order. It was a small build, but a sign of many to come. I started building the Krieg Barn after that and a steady string of other requests started flowing in. Every build teaches me something new and usually comes with additional questions I must figure out either through experimentation or asking fellow builders.

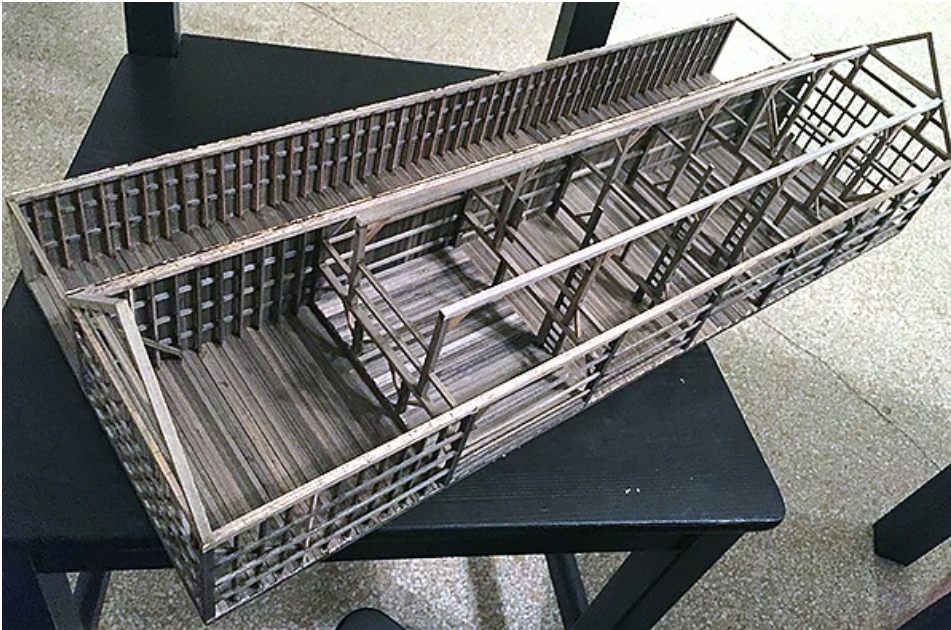
I really just experimented a lot. I have always enjoyed problem solving, so I enjoy that part of the process. However, there are a few builders who have been incredibly helpful to me. Christian Oyster, Adam Frerichs and Bryan Wehr have all been so helpful and willing to share. All three are very popular and talented builders in the 1/64 farming community. Christian is an incredible barn and structure builder, Adam Frerichs is a wizard with 3D printing and builds and Bryan Wehr is probably the most talented scratch builder I will ever meet. He primarily works with metal in 1/64th scale, but could probably do anything he decided to. I usually turn to them if I ever get stuck. There are several others who have helped here and there along the way, but those three have certainly been there most often.

I build in 1/64 scale because those are the farm toys that I grew up playing with.

I asked: Do you think 1/64 farm modelers and S scale model railroaders can join together to create a larger market for both groups? If so what would be a good first step?

I think there is a huge cross over. I think the 1/64 farm community would love to have access to all the information that S scale model railroaders would be able to provide about many topics. However the heavy hitters would probably be scenery, lighting and automation and detailing builds and scenery. I think the background knowledge that the farm community could bring to the table about machinery and farm structures could also add another level to the model train world. There are also several really talented 3D builders in the farm toy community that could design whatever you throw at them, be it train or farm. The fastest way to start

making connection would have to be online. Maybe the 1/64 farm community could feature a model railroader on their page and then that model railroader could provide a video tutorial on something and possibly be available for questions. Then maybe the same could happen in the opposite direction. I know for a fact that the farm toy community would openly accept the skills and knowledge that a model railroader would bring to the table about topics like scenery and lighting.



I am more than happy to answer or help any builder in any way I can. I haven't really gotten into the whole tutorial scene yet, but I am always willing to answer questions. I have nothing to hide. If you want to contact me at:

Doug.Krieg@sscaleresource.com

These two pictures are of The Krieg Farms Dairy Barn. It is my model of the barn that I grew up farming in and the reason I began down this crazy road of scratch building. Every inch of the real barn is replicated to the best of my ability at the time. I will probably go back and build it better someday in the future. It has every door, every window, every beam, the basketball hoop, very few things are left out. That barn is a huge part of my childhood, from the several summers of filling the mows with hay, to hours I spent at night playing basketball when the hay mow was empty. I could write a book about the experiences I have in that barn.



I went to great measures to make this barn as accurate as possible. I even hand etched the grout lines (doubled sided) in 1/8 by 1/8 wood and laid them a section at a time. That was before I discovered the laser etched block walls that are commonly available in the model train world. I scratch made every window, again before I realized I could buy them from a model train supplier. I probably have between 150 and 200 hours spent in building this barn.



This is a barn I built just because I loved the cantilever structure. The actual barn it is based on is in Cades Cove Tennessee. The only change I made was giving it a rusty tin top instead of the wood shingles it really has. That was once again because I didn't realize the model train world had sheets of shingles available. However, I was really pretty happy with the rusty tin look for this build, so it turned out alright. I did end up selling the barn. Once I built it, I realized I couldn't keep everything I just happened to like. Really, the building is the part I like anyway.



These pics include my largest barn project to date (which was a man's grandfather from Wisconsin's barn that was recently torn down for a housing complex) and an interior shot from it, a replica of a friend's grandfather's barn from Indiana, a modified 3D print of a brick silo and my current project which is my first round barn, also loosely based on another Indiana barn.



I think the best part about this barn though was the discussions I had with my dad about why certain things were built the way they were and just the time spent reminiscing in general. That barn and the farm are a huge piece of who I am as a person.

If you or anyone has a desire to see more pictures of



this or any other build. I have a [Facebook page called Krieg Mini Farms](#). I have several pictures of every build from the ground up. It could serve as a form of help for someone trying to figure their way through scratch building and allows people to comment or ask questions.

Timothy Holker



When I was young my Dad built a fair amount of my toys. 1/16 scale mostly then. Built a few sheds, a barn and a lean to he fixed anything I broke with wood if it was fixable. So with all that being said it probably just wore off onto me.

I was 13 or so when I started buying for my collection more than what I had. I would stop at Trueman Welters often with dad if I could, and see what was new for Case IH and Ford New Holland. When CT Farm Country was open yet I had a hay day building my model farm. I was somewhere around 12 when that closed. Toy selection was better in my opinion.



My first display I built was in 2006 on a hay wagon to show off at a family reunion. It was modeled off our farm in 1995 just before we knocked over the barn. My second display was on the same wagon in 2009 for another family reunion. this one was modeled off our farm after 1996 when the barn was replaced with a shed

In the first display is when I started to build my Gleaners. We had 2 L3 Deutz Allis Gleaners. They were way off scale when I started but I finally had



them. Over the years they got better. Eventually I measured them and got them spot on. all made out of wood. I built about 12 of them I sold. I know where most of them are. I went back to school for mechanical design. My main goal was a better job and to build my Gleaners in a better quality and easier way to get them made. I got them 3d printed. Been doing that for about 3 years now. I have a variety of models available now.

I built 5 more displays after that. I donated one to Ridgewater College for the Beef Feedlot class. Another was just for fun, and the last 3 were for shows.

So the 2012 display is based out of 1986. Were harvesting wheat with the L and the N6, in the yard they're bringing the new L3 and R6, both models only made in 1986. This is a small dairy farm of about 40-50 head. There's still a lot of pasture around this farm. The main line on this display is Allis Chalmers. Crops also grown are Corn Soybeans and Alfalfa. We have a guy down the road who hauls our grain to town, there its railed to the river to go on a barge.



Donated one to Ridgewater College for the Beef Feedlot class.



2015 Display

made. This was fun to build as it was a new area for me.

Douglas Fir needles on the leaflet poked into the foam. I used a 2 part silicone mold maker for the water, because that's what I had available.

The 2015 display is fairly similar. Same crops and also a small dairy. On this one I have an upgraded grain site, a leg with bins and a drying setup. Once this went in we had to start drying for the neighbors. Loading back out into trucks is fast with the over head bins structures. I modeled the landscape off of a friend of mines dairy farm. Isn't exactly the same just sloped. This has the first pond I



The 2017 display was made in about a month for the 2017 National Farm Toy show. This is based off of 1927. Bryan Wehr and myself made this together. Bryan built most of the equipment. He made everything scratch from brass. The only few pieces I made was the 1923 original Self Propelled Gleaner. The Fordson it was mounted on and the combine were designed by me and 3D printed. The early Auto's and the Hart Parr were factory pieces. This farm raised cattle for beef and some pigs. We're threshing wheat here. You could say this is a neighborhood working together. A few different farms that own various pieces of equipment such as a Thresher, and a hay press. The Gleaner was a demo machine to do a side by side with a reaper and the thresher. The house was made by Bryan. he made all the wood shingles by hand and the furniture. The copper trim was a great touch. We crowded the board with trees because well.... there wasnt a lot of cleared land yet. This one also has a pond.

If you think I can help you with your Farm modeling please contact me at Timothy.Holker@sscaleresource.com

The 2017 display was made in about a month for the 2017 National Farm Toy show.

Tony Dixon



In my years of collecting and customizing S scale and 1:64 items I have observed the huge overlap in what most consider 2 distinct hobbies, but on the same token the items which are considered the focal points of the display differ greatly. For example a S scale railroader who will spend \$1000+ on a beautiful Overland brass locomotive thinks its outrageous to spend \$100-\$300 on a highly detailed piece of 1:64 farm equipment that they feel is just background to their trains where as a farm modeler will spend the cost to get a highly detailed replica of a tractor or piece of equipment that will become the focal point on their display or in their collection.

Thanks to 3d printing and the push in the 1:64 farm and diorama field for high detail parts to fill shops and other farm buildings there are numerous new detail pieces and people to populate the structures and landscaping on a person's S scale layout in both modern and vintage aspects of the hobby. Then again thanks to model railroading always pushing the reality level of landscaping we



72 Chevy c-60 is a full custom based off of a M2 Machines diecast c-60 available at many dealers and places like Hobby Lobby and Walmart.



Chevy mini pumper is full custom based off of Code 3 apparatus pieces and a Hot wheels cab along with 3d printed and resin cast parts.



Ford L-9000 ladder truck #5 is based off of Code 3 apparatus (no longer in production) and Top Shelf Replicas (TSR) L-9000 trucks which are available from many dealers.

now have static grass, crops (corn, beans, ect) and other scenery components to take the farm displays from a flat featureless landscape into something when properly photographed a person is hard pressed to tell if something is a replica or the real thing.

As time progresses I see more and more intertwining between S scale Model railroading and 1:64 scale farming as detail components progress and the realm of realism is pushed by both party's.

I asked Tony why I do not see a "story being told" in Farm modeling? He said:
 "There are lots of stories in farm modeling whether it's a replica of your family farm or just a farm you make up. You choose a time frame to model and appropriate equipment the same as in model railroading (I personally was part



International tractors are based off of heavily modified Ertl castings with aftermarket and 3D printed parts.



of a HO scale model railroading club for 12+ years until we lost our club display rooms). I will give you a prime example from Chris Steeb's 2017 national display, Chris's display depicted a modern dairy farm which in the moment he captured for the competition had a structure on fire with a full complement off 2 or 3 fire departments on hand to put it out. Chris and a lot of other modelers

constantly change up their displays according to season or event. Chris actually does a weekly "display journal" which he shares on Toy farmin LLC's forum, and Toy Tractor Time's forum. My personal display I use as a backdrop to show off my builds when I have them completed weather they be a commissioned build or something for my personal Collection.

If you believe I can help you improve your Farm modeling please contact me
Tony.Dixon@sscaleresource.com

Bradley Guhle



My interest in the hobby started as a kid with growing up on a dairy farm in south east Alberta Canada. I learned how to build my hobby and my farm from my father who had a HO scale train set that was 8'x16' with mountains and towns I went a different route to the 1/64 scale or S scale cause it was the common size of farm tractors because the farm and trucking side of things interested me more than trains and I started custom building models a couple years ago when I got back into the hobby after taking a couple years off now I build around 10-15 custom 1/64 models a month for other enthusiasts or for my own display. I would love to incorporate more model train items into my farm I already use many items from



Walthers trains and S scale product seems very uncommon and hard to find but I believe it can eventually come together.

And for helping people I'm always there to help because it's by helping people and having people with common interests that helps grow the love for models and don't worry if it isn't perfect no one does something perfect the first time they do it by practice and suggestions from other enthusiasts can go along ways

For pictures of me and my display together that I do not have and I'm away for 10 days in camp with work but in the first picture I have one of the first models I built a 60 foot Canadian made honey bee tractor mount swather and I've upgraded and made lots of changes to it since and now I've made over 50 of them for other enthusiasts and the second picture is a tractor I custom made and disk it's



something we ran personally on our family farm and quite a rare tractor and is dear and meaningful to me. Please contact me to discuss your Farm modeling at Bradley.Guhle@sscaleresource.com

Doug Simon



I would describe myself as a somewhat experienced modeler. I am always willing to learn more and do so everyday within the hobby, whether that be tips or techniques. I started out in the hobby when I was about 6-7 years old. My mother worked for the ERTL company that produces farm toy replicas in the "Farm Toy Capitol of the World"- Dyersville, Iowa. I would get toy tractors and building playsets for gifts and it just sparked my interest from there. I have family that farms so that also peaked my interest in to agriculture as a whole. I learned to build layouts from mentors, model railroading scenery books and videos. Some of my mentors were friends of mine that really helped me learn and grow my skills of creating a display into a picture in time. All of my models



have been 'S' Scale (1:64) due to the fact that many of the replicas ERTL produces are in that scale.

As far as model railroading goes, I was always intrigued and respected the hobby as a whole. I had a Bachman EZ Track HO scale layout growing up and ran that with my farm display. Later in life, my father-in-law reached out to a local model railroader where they live and he invited me to attend a operating session and I loved it! I enjoyed the fact that you need to operate the layout as a real railroad. Complete with freight manifests, time clocks, work lists and more. I strive to include that level of thought into my farm display.



I enjoy helping mentor others with questions on scenery and details on farm displays. Anything from layout construction to scenery and details, I'm always happy to help because I was there once and always appreciated what mentors did for me in the hobby. Contact me with your questions at: Tony.Dixon@sscaleresource.com

Justin Peterson

I grew up on the farm that is my display. we moved on in August of 1986 and farmed 320 +/- acres corn

Top: A shot of the dairy cattle yard cows feeding from the bunk.



Center: tractor and feeder wagon making the turn into the free-stall barn to unload silage to the dairy cows.

Left: Birds-eye view of the display.

Right: inside the farmers shop. Working on the discbine that is used to cut alfalfa.





and soybeans, and farrow to finished 2500 hogs a year. Years later I became a Land O'Lakes agronomist with my local cooperative featured on my display from time to time.

In 2013, I moved back home and became the agronomist for a family farm raising 18,000 hogs farrow to finish, and crop farming approximately 2600 acres. Growing up our big tractor was our [1980 4440 John Deere](#). currently our big tractor is our Case IH 500 quadtrac. Please let me know if I



can help you with your Farm modeling at Justin.Peterson@sscaleresource.com

Chad Garber



I grew up on a small farm in central Pennsylvania where my father raised heifers for our family's dairy business. As a boy, I would sit and watch my father and Uncles bring in the crops and tend to the cattle. As a young man in the late 80's and early 90's, several responsibilities began to transition to my cousins and me. We would help unload hay and straw and help with the annual corn harvest. Grandpa Garber was fond of saying "Many hands makes light work" to get us all to work together. I spent all my summers working on the farm and my parents helped foster my love of farm equipment by purchasing 1/16 scale and 1/64 scale tractors for me. One summer, my maternal Grandfather built me a barn for my 1/16 scale toys. This barn turned out to be the beginning of my passion for model farming. Each summer I would travel 2 hours north to spend a few weeks with my mother's parents. Pap loved to work with wood and he would

build some pretty amazing things. He taught me how to use his tools and I began building small barns for my 1/64 scale farm toys. As a teenager, I had no concept of scale but I enjoyed building bank barns and machine sheds anyhow. I spent many hours setting up farm scenes on the carpet all over the house.

When my paternal grandfather passed away in 2009, I started looking for a carpentry project. I found the 1/16 scale barn my maternal grandfather had made for me and I was inspired to build my very first farm display. I decided to build a 1/64 scale replica of my family's dairy farm in memory of Grandpa Garber with the carpentry skills my maternal grandfather helped me hone. At this point in my life, I had amassed a pretty good-sized collection of 1/64 scale toys and this was a scale that I could continue with financially. I setup a 4 foot by 8 foot board and got to work. I spent many hours measuring real buildings and deciding what materials to use.

A few months later, I had all my buildings built to scale and I began to lay everything out. During my search for display materials, I happened to come across a website called the Toy Tractor Times (TTT). This was an online magazine with a message board for other collectors to post pictures of their displays and custom tractors/equipment. I signed up and was instantly inspired. There was a wealth of knowledge available on this website for me. I learned by asking questions in the forums and reading the monthly articles. As I attended several toy shows in the area, I was introduced to several other members of TTT and several friendships blossomed quickly. My wife and mother supported my new hobby with gift cards to the local hobby and train shops. I purchased my first custom farm toy that summer as well, a single screw feed mixer that closely resembled the one we had at the dairy. I completed my Garber Dairy Farm display in the fall of 2009 and began to share pictures on TTT regularly under the name "PACHad".

At some point in 2010 I discovered that one of the largest farm toy dealers in the USA was only 20 minutes away from me. Outback Toys in Lititz, PA became a destination for me almost every weekend. I took my young children with me almost every time and I was able to watch their love for farm toys grow as well. Every time I entered Outback Toys, I felt like a kid in a candy store. There were farm toys EVERYWHERE! In 2011 I

was invited to become a contributing author for TTT. I wrote a monthly article called "Down On The Model Farm" featuring my Garber Dairy Farm display. I was also introduced to several companies that made custom farm toys or sold parts. I started buying things like mirrors and three point hitches to make my tractors look more like the real thing. With the help of fellow TTT members, I learned how to install these parts and what tools I would need to do so. Jeff Moore, from Moores Farm Toys in Ohio helped me customize my first tractor. He was so patient with me on the phone and walked me thru it systematically. I will always be grateful for his mentorship.



John Deere 7800 disking – Mini board outdoor



Challenger MT685E with Great Plains Turbo Till – Mini board outdoor

In 2012, I began to build my second farm display. I setup a 6 foot by 8 foot table and started to model my friends farm. Farview Farms had a large chicken house for layers and a 900 acre crop farming operation. I built some of the buildings but I also began purchasing buildings for the first time. For this display, I visited several area train shops for ideas and I was introduced to static grass mats from Germany. The realism that static grass added was just starting to take off in the farm toy



International 966 with 14 wheel Raaush V rake – Mini board, outdoor



John Deere 7800 round baling straw – Mini board, outdoor

hobby at this time. It was more expensive, but it gave depth to pictures. I continued to post articles to TTT with this display. In late 2012 I accepted an offer to become the editor for TTT and I attended the National Farm Toy Show in Dyersville, Iowa for the first time. This national show featured some of the best display builders in the hobby that, up until this point, I had only seen pictures of what they could do. For the first time since entering the hobby, I saw some of the best in the hobby compete with their displays. This was a real eye opener for me and I started to ask a lot of questions. I was interested in making my display more realistic and the message boards on TTT gave me the platform to connect with other builders. The other aspect of the National Farm Toy show is the sheer volume of custom farm toys. If it was found on a real farm, someone was scratch building it. This opened the door for all new types of realistic tractors and equipment. I began buying a number of custom farm toys in addition to building my own.

In 2014, I had the privilege to help my good friend Mike Seveck take his 1/64 scale beef farm display to the National Farm Toy show to compete in the display competition. We drove over 2,000 miles round trip and Mike competed against several of my other hobby

friends. The 1,000 mile drive to Iowa seemed to take forever. We got his display setup and ready for the judges on Friday. Saturday morning, the judges came around and presented Mike with a 1st place trophy. The drive home seemed to go by fast so we drove 16 hours straight through. In 2015 I moved my family off our farm and found myself with only enough room for 1 display. My Farview Farms display had made the trip to the new house, but I decided to start a new dairy display so I could highlight all the new scenery techniques that I had learned by talking to others. I purchased my first static grass applicator and started laying down landscaping. Life started moving quickly for me at this point with three young children and a busy job. I have spent the last 2 years working on this display and it is only about half done. 3D printing has also had a major impact on the farm toy hobby. Anything from parts to entire machines can be designed and printed. Buyers can browse websites like Shapeways.com for sellers with all sorts of items for sale. Some vendors allow you to purchase these items completely finished directly from them, or you can buy out of their shapeways store and finish the



Grain bins – On the Farview Farms display

item yourself.

Over the last few years, I have gotten a lot of enjoyment out of building mini displays. Most of these are field scenes of some sort and most are two foot by three foot in size. With a smaller board, I was able to add more detail without breaking my piggy bank. I make most of my own trees and gather detail ideas from others in the hobby. If I am able, I like to take these mini boards outside to capture the scene in natural sunlight. Because I am surrounded by farm land, I can usually find a spot to setup so I can capture a realistic background. I am blessed that my 10 year old son has taken an interest in the hobby as well. He is currently working on a four foot by six foot board featuring a heifer farm. He is using a number of the buildings that

I have built in the past and he likes to show everyone who comes to visit.

I have learned a tremendous amount from watching the model train hobby. We visit several local train shops to purchase supplies and detail pieces. Some things from HO scale work and some O scale pieces work as well. We do not typically find S scale pieces, as this scale doesn't seem to be as popular. Each year, the local railroad club sets up a massive train layout in the local library and we make it a point to attend. Club members are willing to share what materials he or she used and how they did it. Talking to other people who make models, in both the model trains and model farms, is the way I have learned along the way. Without talking with other model builders, I might still be on the carpet of our family room making vroom vroom noises with my out of scale buildings.

There are a few good groups on Facebook where I typically post my display pictures. This easy to use social media platform has allowed people of all ages to share pictures with each other. Last year the Toy Tractor Times transitioned from an online magazine to a message board. The goal of this website is to link together the farm toy collectors. Weekly posts of Model Farm Monday and Work Bench Wednesday allow builders to display their efforts. If you are interested in adding a model farm scene to your layout, I would encourage you to sign up for free and review the old articles and take advantage of the forums. If you are interested in videos, TTT has several hundred videos taken at toy shows on YouTube. www.youtube.com/toytractortimes Jason Hasert takes the time to give his viewers a tour of each display and interview the builders. When I need inspiration, this YouTube channel rarely fails to provide. www.toytractortimes

Chad Garber Thanks Chad, I really appreciate your help with this article. You can contact Chad at Chad.Garber@sscaleresource.com

“Proof of the Pudding”

After I finished this article and was talking to other modelers about various projects, I found a modeler who was just starting his business producing 3D Printed 1/64 motorcycles and bicycles. I immediately starting

thinking about what my S Scale Motorcycle club “**New Tracks**” patch would look like! Any ideas? Please let me know if you do. Wonder if I can get a patch made into an S scale decal? I also will need a club house.

In our conversations, he mentioned he was interested in marketing to both the S Scale model railroad community and Farm modeling community. Specifically he said: “Hey Jim, I feel like a lot of different types of modelers will like my stuff. From train layout builders to farm layout builders. From regular street/environment diorama builders to guys who build dioramas around 1/64 semi trucks. I feel like especially the semi truck guys and farm guys in particular would love my Harley-Davidsons and 1/64 garage items.

I would love to have somebody represent my business at shows. I've been thinking about doing it myself and I would love to do it myself. I would just have to save up some money to be able to pay for my ticket and stay and stuff like that. If you could do a little statement in your article asking modelers if they want to represent my stuff at USA shows, I'd greatly appreciate it. So that could be any 1/64 guys. From semi layout builders or farm builders to regular diorama builders.” ***If any modeler reading this would be interested in representing Sven at USA shows please contact him at Sven.Zethof@sscaleresource.com. By the way, I will let you know how my Motorcycle Club is going using Sven's products. I just received two of his motorcycle products and they are impressive. The Fat Boy will be painted black and the other Red. If I have time, I will include photos of them in this article otherwise I will include them next time. By the way, I am looking for S Scale Motorcycle riders or figures I can modify to represent riders. If you know of any please let me know at JimKellow@sscaleresource.com*** Thanks

“Besides motorcycles and bicycles I will also be expanding to creating diorama stuff. I'm now focused on 1/64 garage items. I just released my first set about two weeks ago. It contains stuff for around the shop like tool carts and a tire changer. But also a tire balancer, a welder, engine stand, tool box and a wheelie bin. The next complete set that I'll release will feature hand tools and other small tools for around the shop like a vise, a grinder, some hand tools and more stuff.

So I'm interested in marketing to any 1/64 community. There's also guys doing 1/64 custom die cast cars. I've gotten in contact with a lot of them already, but any new guys sure are welcome. I'm really open to ideas of what to create next as well! Sven.”

To me Sven's comments were “Proof of the Pudding” for the point I was making in this article about “Blending S Scale Farm Modelers and Model Railroaders” together, so I am including this new Manufacturer here for your consideration. Please meet:

Sven Zethof



First I'd like to take the time to answer your questions about my 3d printing. The motorcycles are 3d models created by my buddy. I edit them for compatibility with a 3d printer and produce them. I'm currently working on 1/64 scale diorama items sets. I'm releasing my first set in June, which will be a 1/64 set for garages and body shops (tool carts, a tire balancer, tire changer and all that good stuff). I print my items at home using my Anycubic Photon 3d resin printer. I use the 3d modeling program 3ds Max. Tomorrow I'm going to start looking into creating a website, but until then people can find me on Instagram @lowridersz or on Facebook, simply www.facebook.com/szenery.

Sven just sent me His completed new Company website. It is: <http://www.szenery.bigcartel.com> It has all his 3D products listed. Take a look. His story follows.

I grew up watching my father busy with 1/87 scale railroad modeling, which got me into 1/87 scale as well. I would go to these scale railroad shows / exhibitions with him and see all the great looking dioramas. I always used to prefer 1/87 scale to 1/64 because of the better detail. Until I got into the 1/64 premium brand model cars.

Anyway, I always used to play with my Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars on the car play rugs. These were usually based on 1/64 scale, and I just tended to like that more for some reason. It just clicked for me and because I'm so used to liking 1/64, I never went in another direction. I've tried 1/24 scale, 1/18 scale and even 1/43 scale but it just never clicked as good as with 1/64. Ever since I was little I have been attaching spoilers from one car to another, did wheel swaps, took cars apart and by the time I hit 11 I started making my own little cars. I've always been creative, built my own dioramas and such. When I was in elementary school, I actually set up a big table in the back of the classroom and some 1/64 scale buildings. I would put them on the table and make roads out of printing paper. After I finished the little city, me and the other guys from my class (and even some girls) would be playing with our Matchbox cars during break time.

Just a little while after setting up the little city I wanted to see what else I could do, so I started building S scale cars from paper. They would be cars inspired from real life, like the Ford F-350, Toyota iQ and some more. A little later after I made quite some cars out of paper, I got into making cars out of plastic, also in S scale. I remember one in particular. It was a sports car with opening hood and full interior. I don't have pictures of it and lost it somewhere down the line. After that I remember getting into lowriders and getting my first job at a restaurant so I had more money to spend. I went more towards collecting cars rather than customizing them as I was getting into lowrider bicycles by then. I was building real life lowrider bikes. I do remember customizing 1/18 Chevrolet Impala SS, turning it into a lowrider. Then I got my first girlfriend, sold my bike and basically didn't do anything of scale modeling for a while. Some tragic events took place shortly after that leaving me with the need for distraction. The first thing which came to my mind was scale modeling, because I knew that whenever I started on a project, I could just forget the rest of the things that's happening in the world. I started customizing some 1/24 lowriders. Then, a little later I became involved with various scale modeling communities through Facebook. I dugged up my collection of 1/64 cars and created a diorama to display them on. I started to add more cars to my collection. I did some modifying here and there, but nothing too impressive. I felt like I needed some more creativity in my daily routine so I picked up a old hobby, Disney Pixar Cars die cast cars. I recreated some cars from the video games out of paper. I would take the textures from the video game, edit them, scale them down to 1/55 scale (the standard size for Disney Cars die cast cars) and make like my own little paper crafts. Tons of work, but fun to do. I shared them on a forum, YouTube and several Facebook groups. Some people would say that they look like actual die casts produced by Mattel. I still have all the Cars cars I made out of paper.

After that there was a little time gap where I didn't really do anything with scale modeling because I was busy with school and work. When I felt like I had some more free time on my hands, I started getting more into 1/64 scale. I made two dioramas to display my collection on. Fun fact: last Christmas I thought it'd be fun to add some snow to my diorama to get that Christmas vibe going. I bought myself some spray snow (the stuff that you'd usually put on the windows) and sprayed it all over my diorama. Never thinking that I may never be able to get it off again. So when I tried to get it off after Christmas, I got to find out that it just demolished my diorama. So I made a similar one, just with a huge parking lot, for the 1/64 scale car shows. And I actually did have a few friends come over with their little 1/64 cars, have them display their cars on my dio and we'd just have a good time. Sadly, I never finished the last diorama because shortly after I made it, I moved to a new apartment. I couldn't find a nice spot for it and got rid of it. I'm planning on making a bigger and better diorama in the future.

What I'm trying to do now is to push myself and see what I can do, which lead me to some current running projects. I'm converting a Nissan Terrano into a Nissan Hardbody, I'm customizing a 1959 Cadillac convertible, I'm customizing a 1963 Chevrolet Impala and I have lots of more projects going. I do have some finished projects like a 1/64 scale lowrider bike and a couple of cars with custom interiors. Who knows what else I'll be

creating soon, but first I want to finish the projects which I have currently going.

Pretty much everything I do is self-taught. Until recently I never really had anyone that could teach me. My father is into railroad modeling, but his main focus is the 1/87 trains and the electronics behind them. For as far as diorama building goes I think I know about as much as my father. I did pick up a couple of things from him that I haven't thought of yet, but that's just about it. I mostly learned from my own experience, just trying new things out.

I've always been really into the detailed type of scale stuff. For a school project I once got a 1/87 scale house from my father and built an complete interior for it. Unlike most things, doing something like building an interior for a scale house can just keep me busy for hours and hours.

The thing that I've done the most, and which I could probably help other modelers with, is miniature car and building interiors. I don't know of any fancy, advanced ways to build those type of things but I know how to use the basic stuff that I already know and pull off a nice looking build. I also know a few basics to make a nice looking diorama. Some knowledge of where to get nice 1/64 car parts from is also what I have. I'm currently trying to make a 1/64 car body shop for all my little custom cars.

If you need any additional information, I'd be more than willing to provide that.

Alright here's a little story behind my 3d printing.

I got laid off at the end of January. I was looking for a new job but couldn't really find any. I like to watch motivational tapes on YouTube regularly. This one guy said something to the extend that "What if you could make money doing what you love?" So I really started thinking about that and started checking out some other gentlemen speaking about this particular subject. Steve Harvey said "Your passion is what you love doing, with the least amount of effort". Another speaker, I just don't remember who it was, said "You can spend your time working for a boss to make their dream become reality, or you could go ahead and try to work for yourself, to make your own dream become a reality". That last one really hit me, so I just got to work. I bought a fancy

gaming laptop to be able to run 3d modelling programs as well as a 3d printer. I spent hours and hours a day, 6 or 7 days a week for 2 months straight trying to figure out the whole 3d printing process and now I finally got the hang of it. Well, enough to put out some good looking items.

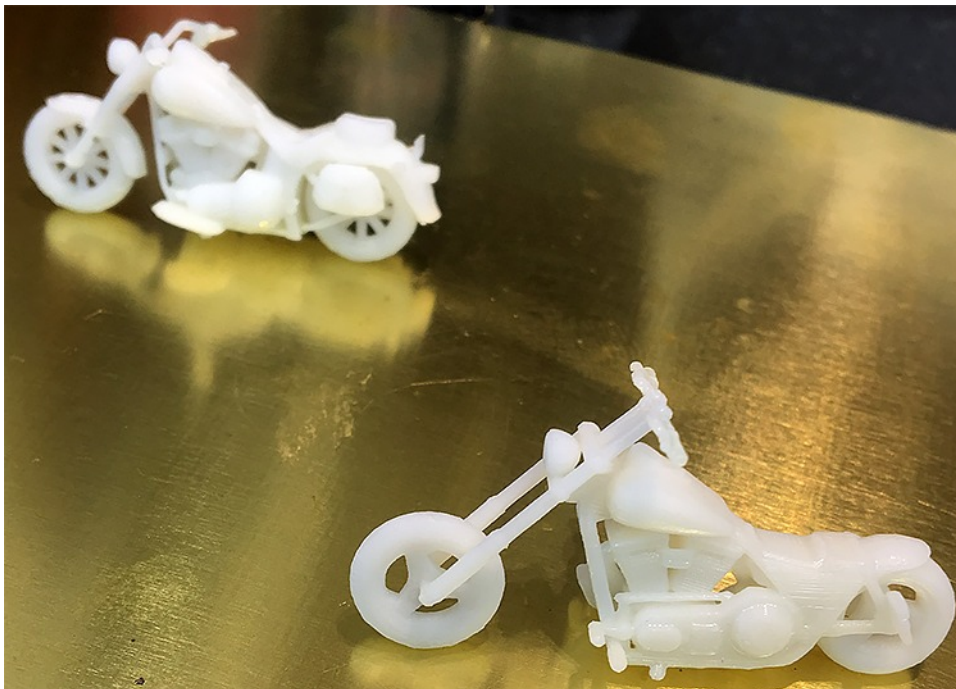


Photo of the two motorcycles I got from Sven. Did not have time to paint them yet. By the way, I found a manufacturer who I believe is going to make riders for them. I will Profile the company in my next S scale article.

I've always been "good" with computers. I typed it that way because I'm not an engineer or anything, but I used to be a gamer and would modify games as well as some other stuff on my computer. So when I need to learn how to work with a new program, it becomes second nature to me really quickly. My goal would be to some day have my own little factory and some distributors in the United States, actually having built up a

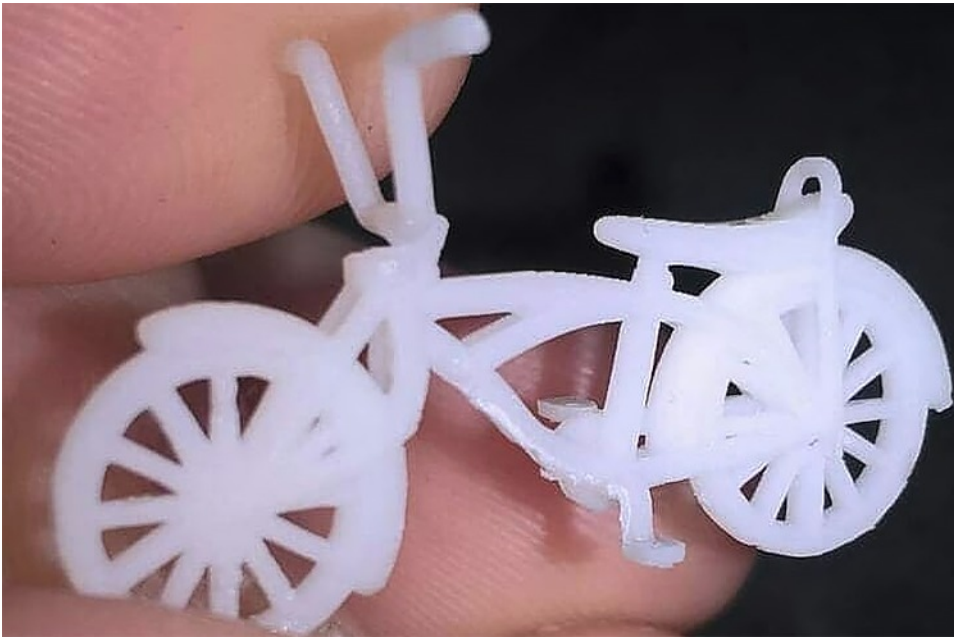


Photo of one Sven's bicycles.

brand like Hot Wheels or Matchbox. Maybe not as big as them, but just a brand that's widely known and loved amongst scale modellers and scale model collectors.

I don't paint the objects I sell. I provide unpainted, one piece items. I like to have as much time as possible left to work on new 3d models for the 1/64 community. Maybe in the future we'll have an affordable method for 3d printing in color. If so, I'd be really really interested in such an addition for my business. I'm currently carrying 1/24 scale lowrider bicycle model kits and 1/64 motorcycles and

bicycles. I want to be doing 1/64 diorama items because those are highly wanted, so I want to be able to provide those. I'm currently working on 1/64 garage tools and equipment, basically everything you need to set up a nice 1/64 scale garage or body shop. I'll keep expending. I'm also working on a little 1/64 camper trailer with fully detailed interior and a working door. I'm also thinking of making custom parts for 1/64 cars like a grill guard front bumper and continental kit rear bumper for the 1963 Chevrolet Impala SS, but that's future plans. The reason why I'm partly focused on motorcycles for now is because all I see is brands putting out the 1/64 diecast cars, but no truly 1/64 scaled motorcycles. So I figured, why don't I be that guy who is about the 1/64 motorcycles part? And it's been working out for now, so I guess I'll just keep on doing this. I'd love to save up and go to toy or farm shows in the US and sell my work there as a vendor, that'd be one of my dreams come true.

Please send Sven a email if you think he can help you in your modeling or to find out more about his 3D models, at Sven.Zethof@sscaleresource.com.

Well, that is it for this time. Thanks to all the Farm Modelers and Manufacturers who helped me better understand how to incorporate 1/64 Farm modeling into S Scale model railroading. I truly believe there can be a great advantage to both modeling groups getting together and presenting a "United Marketing Front" to existing and potential manufacturers, and in mentoring each other to improve both of their hobbies, and travel "**New Tracks**" together. I hope S Scale Resource Magazine decides to take a leadership role in making this happen. If you agree tell the publisher. Please!

Thanks for reading this far, time for me to get back to my workshop and see if the glue has dried yet. Good luck with your modeling.

SCENE AROUND THE LAYOUT

By Glenn Guerra

I stopped by the State Line S Gaugers a few weeks back. Dave Nitch and I paid them a visit to see what was new. They have found a good home in Loves Park, Illinois near Rockford, Illinois and have been at this location for over a year now.

This location has good temperature and humidity control so they can meet irregardless of the weather. The display layout is being retired into a permanent location layout, and they are making a new smaller American Flyer layout to take to shows. The old layout is undergoing some changes.

In this photo, you can see the beginnings of a new urban area. The foreground buildings at the track side are S Scale. The town buildings are HO scale in an effort to force the perspective and illusion of distance. When looking at it, the town buildings seem like they are farther away than they really are. We had a good visit and had lunch with the whole group.



We are proud to feature readers work. Depending on your response we would like to make this a regular feature. So get those cameras and cell phones out and start shooting!

High quality JPG or TIF files only please.

Email to daniel@modelrailroadresource.com with a description of your pictures.

WHAT'S ON YOUR WORKBENCH?

This series shows our readers what other modelers are working on, and we need your help to make it successful. 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

By Jas Millham

When I acquired a copy of Peter Payes book on the Ely and St Ives railway, I noticed a large proportion of the vans in the photos had roof vents. Closer inspection showed them to be LNER fruit vans with the bottom half of the ends slatted. Most of the vans in the photos were the later plywood body version. British Railways built a further 750 of these at Faverdale, lot 2134, B754430-B755179. A sample number for an LNER van is 265119. Apart from the plywood body, the centre pair of the torpedo vents are opposite each other on the transverse centre line of the van, on the planked van they are staggered. Most of the freight on this line was handled by J17 0-6-0s similar to 65528 & 65531 which were featured in one of my earlier contributions.

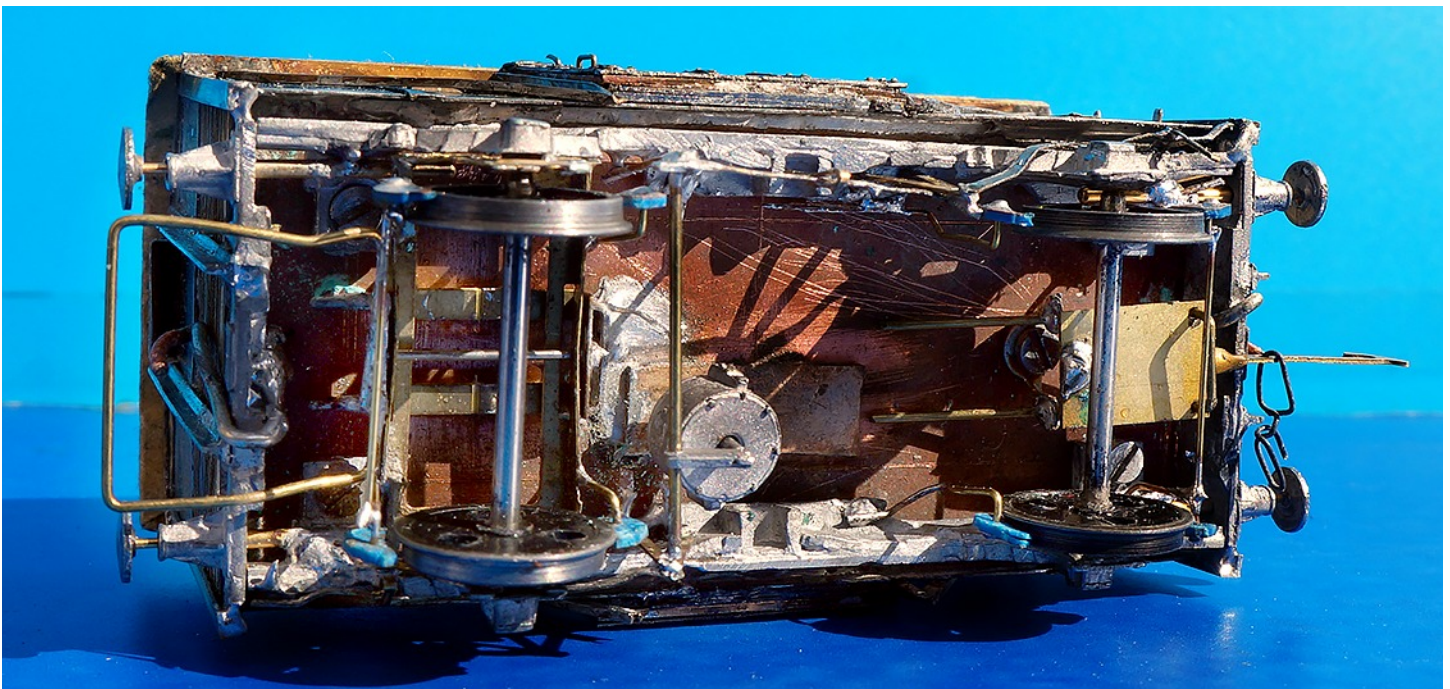


It was clear from the outset that there was no point in starting work on the wagon proper until a satisfactory way of representing the slatted portion of the ends had been devised. A piece of 1" dia. 16swg wall tube was set up in the lathe, with a bung in the chuck end so that the tube could be gripped without squashing it, and a shouldered centre drilled bung in the outer end to take a tailstock centre. After skimming the O.D. a lathe tool with a sawtooth shaped end was fed into the work piece until a suitable groove had been cut and the cross slide dial reading noted. The tool was withdrawn and moved 0.047" along the workpiece and another groove cut, turning the cross slide dial to the same setting as previously to produce an identical groove.

This step and repeat process was continued until the required number of identical grooves had been produced and the section containing the grooves was cut off. It was then annealed with a gas torch by heating to bright red hot then allowing it to cool, at least it would have been if the gas torch hadn't run out of gas. Getting a replacement cylinder proved far from straightforward as the firm that made the torch ceased trading years ago. Once that had been sorted the job was completed. A saw cut was made from top to bottom and the tube unrolled and squashed flat in the vice between two bits of hardboard. A couple of low spots were corrected by putting the brass face down on a lead block and tapping the back with the ball end of a small ball peen hammer. The piece was cut in half to make two ends. They were slightly short but the corner angles hide the gap.

The floor was made from 1/32" metal. I have some old cast white metal solebars with integral W irons axleboxes and springs. The floor was drilled and tapped 8BA to fix them. The floor has to be higher than the solebars by the thickness of the fixing lugs.

It was sat some suitable packing on a piece of plate glass, the grooved brass held up against it with a 3"



square and a large soldering iron used to join them. One end of the solebars was filed out to allow an etched Ambis W iron unit to form a rocking unit to provide compensation, the original axleguards holding the rigid axle. The wagon requires 3 hole disc wheels so I had to use a jig to drill the holes in the wheels. Two white metal buffer beams with integral buffer stocks were used, the buffers are sprung using old printed circuit board "bed of nails" spring plungers with washers soldered on to form the heads.

The body was made of .015" nickel silver with overlays of brass angle, channel and scrap etch as appropriate. I didn't have any T suitable for the ends so I filed down an offcut of code 100 flat bottom rail. It was quicker and cheaper than trying to get some T by mail order. The roof was rolled on the carpet from .010" brass using an empty wine bottle. It was covered with a piece of brown envelope, rough side up to represent the texture of the prototype's roofing felt. The roof was kept separate to make painting simpler. The roof was sprayed with Halfords grey primer, the red oxide version being used on the rest. Roof and underframe were airbrushed with the usual mixture of black and grey, Humbrol 113 was used for the body. After painting the roof was fixed to the body with rapid epoxy glue. After adding transfers, B755140, this being the 40th wagon in the Yaxbury fleet, the model was given a spray of Citadel Miniatures Aerosol purity seal (a matt varnish).



S SCALE SHOWS & MEETS

The S Scale Resource Magazine will now be providing a free listing of upcoming events. This small, text only listing will include the Event, Date, Location, Type of Event, and Contact Information. [Click here](#) to go to the sign up form. This form will take your information, and we will publish it in our next issue. If it is an annual event, you will need to submit your information every year.

2019 NASG Convention

July 30 through August 3, 2019

"Queen City Express" Hosted by the Central Ohio S Gaugers

NASG comes to the midwest! The 2019 NASG Convention has a beautiful hotel, wonderful tours, exciting events, plus all the fun and excitement that can only be found with a gathering of fellow model railroad fans.

Website: <https://2019nasgconvention.com>

O & S Scale Midwest Show

Formerly the Indianapolis O Scale Show / S Scale Midwest Show

New name, but the same great show! This year Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22, 2018

It's September! Time to kick off your modeling season. Come enjoy the O & S Scale Midwest Show.

This is a dedicated 2 rail O Scale and S Scale show; however, we encourage and welcome the many modelers and collectors from the 3 rail and high rail side of the hobby to attend. There are many aspects of the hobby, including building, scenery and more that applies to any scale. Moreover, this show is a great place to get inspired while meeting old friends and making new ones!

Website: oscalemidwest.com/

Email: info@oscalemidwest.com

FALL S FEST 2019

November 1-3, 2018

American Flyer S Gaugers of St. Louis will hold this year's Fall S Fest at the DoubleTree Westport Hotel by Hilton (FSF room rate \$99 per night per room, 1 to 4 occupants; call directly at (314) 434-0100; do not use the 1-800 number).

Website: <http://www.trainweb.org/afsgsla/>

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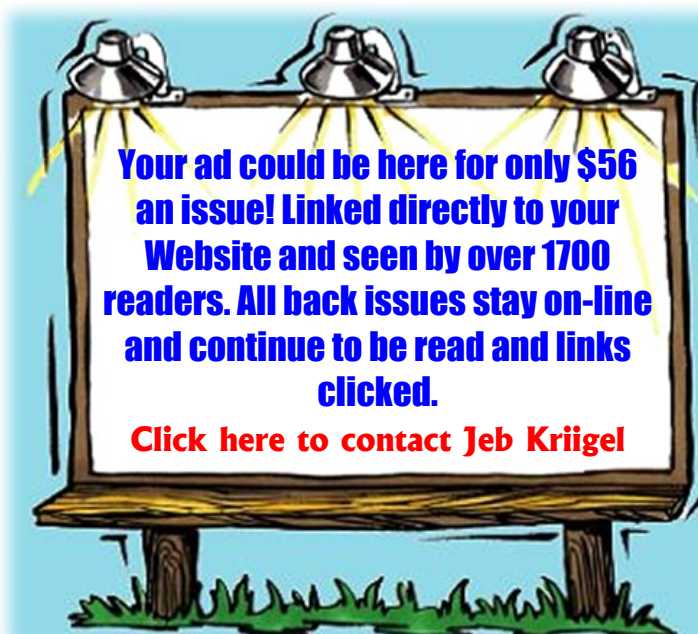
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Yes, we now have a Facebook page to help keep you up to date on new products and ideas. And, even in an on-line magazine, we sometimes have more pictures than we can use so we'll post them on Facebook.

THE **O** RESOURCE

SCALE

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

Volume 6 No.6
July/August 2019



Don't forget we also publish The O Scale Resource Magazine on opposite months of The S Scale Resource. Why would you want to read an O scale magazine? Many articles are not scale specific. For example the July/August issue has an article on making brass castings and a fantastic article on weathering wheels. [Check it out here!](#)