

THE

S

SCALE

# RESOURCE

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

February/March 2024

Volume 10 No. 3

Let's Build  
Something!



**Scratch Building a Railgon Gondola**

**The NYW&B Moves East (Literally!)**

**3D Printing: SLA Exposure Times**

**Building a Brass Garden Shed**

**Charles Malinowski's Central Indiana Shortline**

**New Tracks Feature Plus My Build**

**And So Much More...**



Published Bi Monthly

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

**February/March 2024**  
Volume 10 No. 3

*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 Photos

*Paul Butkowski's beautiful scatch built Railgon.  
and  
A scene from Charles Malinowski's Central  
Indiana Shortline.*

# BILL OF LADING

- [2 Bill Of Lading](#)
- [4 From the Publisher's Desk](#)
- [6 News You Can Use - New Items of Interest](#)
- [8 Building a Severn Models Apex Roof Garden Shed  
By Jim Miller](#)
- [17 Central Indiana Shortline  
By Charles Malinowski](#)
- [23 Scratch Building a Railgon Gondola  
By Paul Butkowski](#)
- [33 The NYW&B MOVES EAST \(Literally!\)  
By Dick Karnes](#)
- [38 Resin Printing: Faster Way to Nail Down SLA  
Exposure Times  
By Dan Dawdy](#)
- [48 New Tracks December 20th, 2023 My Build](#)
- [54 NewTracks - Modeling with Mentoring from  
Talented Model Builders and Even from  
Modelers in Other Hobbies  
By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR](#)
- [82 Show Schedule](#)
- [83 Classified Ads](#)
- [83 Advertiser Index](#)



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.

# ALLEGHENY SCALE MODELS

## S SCALE LOCOMOTIVES & ROLLING STOCK

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Don't forget to read our other magazine, *The O Scale Resource*, for more modeling

# From the Publisher's Desk

*According to AI (the new buzz word) below is "What it means to be a model railroad modeler".*

*"Model railroad building is a fascinating and intricate hobby that combines creativity, craftsmanship, and a passion for trains. Enthusiasts, known as model railroad builders, immerse themselves in a miniature world where they meticulously recreate landscapes, design layouts, and operate trains on a reduced scale. Beyond the technical aspects of assembling tracks and trains, being a model railroad builder encompasses a broader set of skills and experiences that contribute to a fulfilling and rewarding hobby.*

*At its core, model railroad building is about storytelling. Builders strive to replicate real-world scenes or create fictional landscapes that evoke a sense of time and place. This involves not only mastering the mechanics of tracklaying and train operation but also delving into the history and geography of the chosen setting. Whether it's a bustling cityscape with towering skyscrapers or a serene countryside dotted with quaint villages, every layout tells a unique story crafted by the builder's imagination.*

*The essence of being a model railroad builder lies in the art of detail. Meticulous attention is given to recreating the fine nuances of the real world in miniature form. Builders painstakingly replicate buildings, vehicles, and even people to capture the authenticity of their chosen era. This attention to detail extends to the terrain, with landscaped features like mountains, rivers, and forests meticulously crafted to mirror the natural world. The dedication to accuracy is not just an aesthetic pursuit but a commitment to creating a realistic and immersive experience for both the builder and viewers.*

*Building a model railroad layout is a patient and methodical process. It requires planning, precision, and problem-solving skills. From designing the layout on paper to laying tracks, wiring, and adding scenery, each step demands careful consideration. Builders often face challenges, such as incorporating elevation changes, creating realistic water features, or troubleshooting technical issues with trains. Overcoming these challenges not only hones one's technical skills but also provides a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.*

*The sense of community is another integral aspect of being a model railroad builder. Enthusiasts often join clubs or attend exhibitions to share their creations, exchange ideas, and learn from fellow builders. The camaraderie among model railroad enthusiasts is fueled by a mutual passion for trains and a shared appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in creating miniature worlds. Workshops, seminars, and online forums provide platforms for builders to engage in discussions, seek advice, and showcase their latest projects.*

*Model railroad building transcends age and background, attracting individuals from various walks of life. It serves as a creative outlet, allowing people to express their artistic inclinations and immerse themselves in a hobby that blends nostalgia with craftsmanship. Whether it's a retiree reliving memories of the golden age of railroads or a youngster discovering the wonders of locomotion, the hobby offers a universal appeal.*

*In conclusion, being a model railroad builder is a multifaceted pursuit that involves creativity, precision, patience, and a love for trains. It's about storytelling through meticulous detail, problem-solving through craftsmanship, and connecting with a community that shares a common passion. The miniature worlds created by model railroad builders are not just displays of technical skill but windows into the imagination, offering a timeless and captivating journey into the world of trains."*

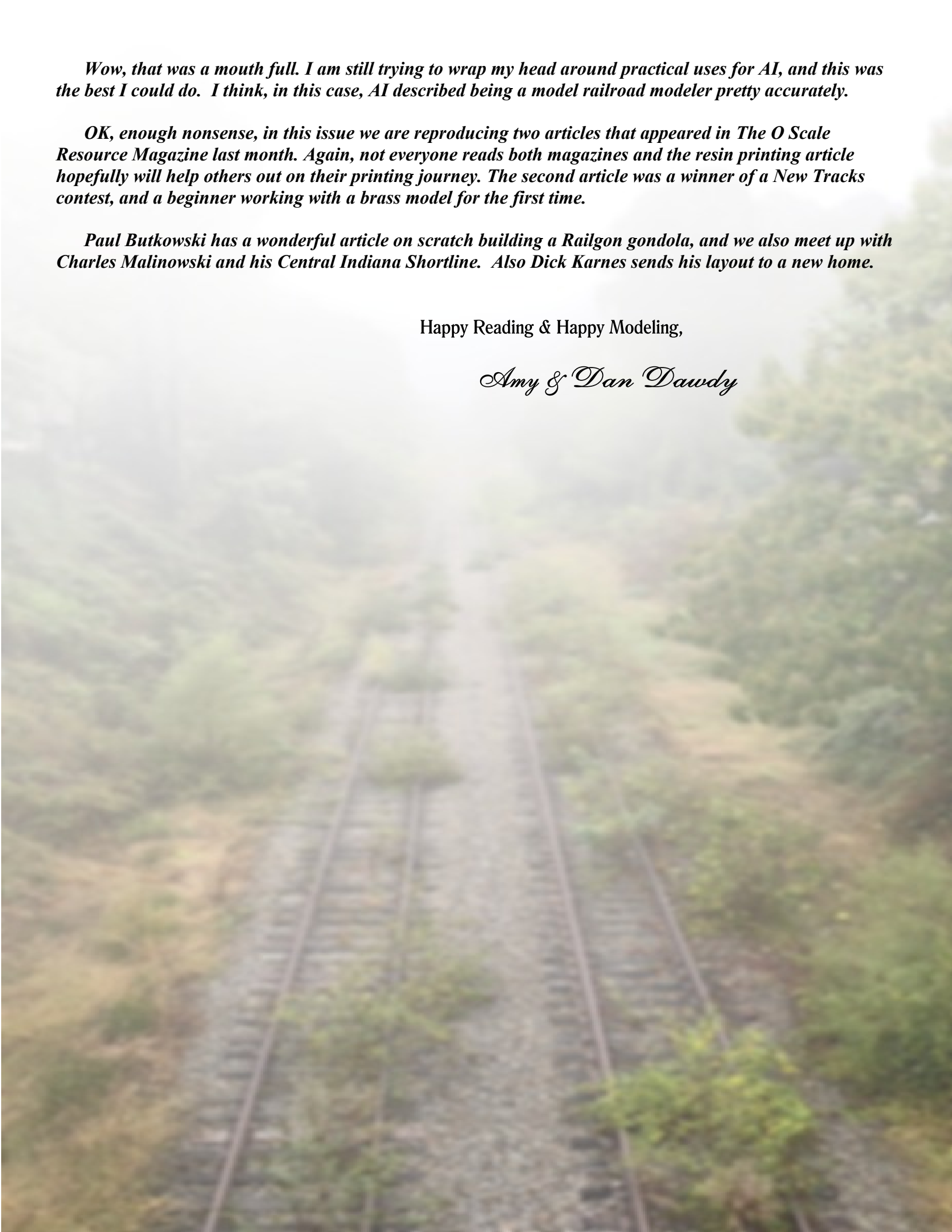
*Wow, that was a mouth full. I am still trying to wrap my head around practical uses for AI, and this was the best I could do. I think, in this case, AI described being a model railroad modeler pretty accurately.*

*OK, enough nonsense, in this issue we are reproducing two articles that appeared in The O Scale Resource Magazine last month. Again, not everyone reads both magazines and the resin printing article hopefully will help others out on their printing journey. The second article was a winner of a New Tracks contest, and a beginner working with a brass model for the first time.*

*Paul Butkowski has a wonderful article on scratch building a Railgon gondola, and we also meet up with Charles Malinowski and his Central Indiana Shortline. Also Dick Karnes sends his layout to a new home.*

Happy Reading & Happy Modeling,

*Amy & Dan Dawdy*



# NEWS YOU CAN USE



S Scale Corrugated Metal Roofing Paper from [Ironworks Models](#). Their high-quality, highly detailed corrugated roofing material is perfect for the discerning modeler.



This product is a dream to finish and is much easier than plastic or metal/foil. This is a thick artist paper which finishes easily using spray-on or acrylic paint and weathering chalks.

You will receive five 8" x 1.5" strips of scale corrugated metal roofing.

[See their Website for more details.](#)



[PTF Designs](#) has many great looking building flats. Some are S Scale Collages, Industrial, Apartments, Stores Shops & Attractions, Pittsburgh Series, Farm & Rural, Tanks & Refineries and so many more.



[See their Website for all of their offerings.](#)

[Union Station Products](#) is well known in the O scale world for their fine passenger car sides, but they also offer S scale sides as well.

All sides are undecorated in white styrene and come with window glazing. Most sides will also come with floor plans and a photo of the car. They require a core kit or donor r-t-r car to complete. They also sell core kits, interiors, and other detail parts.



*Sample of a customer built up car.*

Passenger car side pages have drawings that can be seen by clicking on the item number, then clicking the magnifying glass icon. All sides listed as fluted include the fluting in the kit.

[Check out their Website here.](#)



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# Building a Severn Models Apex Roof Garden Shed

By Jim Miller



*Editors Note: Jim Miller won the Garden Shed kit from Severn Models by entering the New Tracks Modeling contest in the January/February 2023 issue of O Scale Resource Magazine. He sent us this article after building the model.*

*Although not S scale, it does show the techniques that he used on his first brass model and how he approached it. So many are afraid of working with brass so I thought*

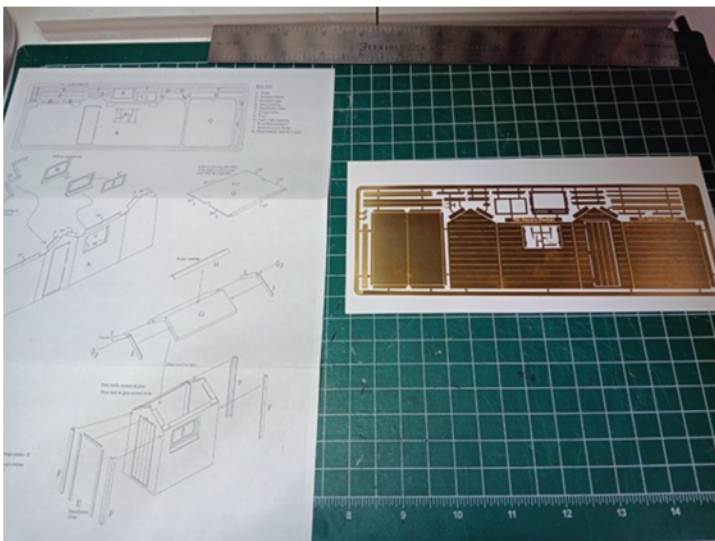
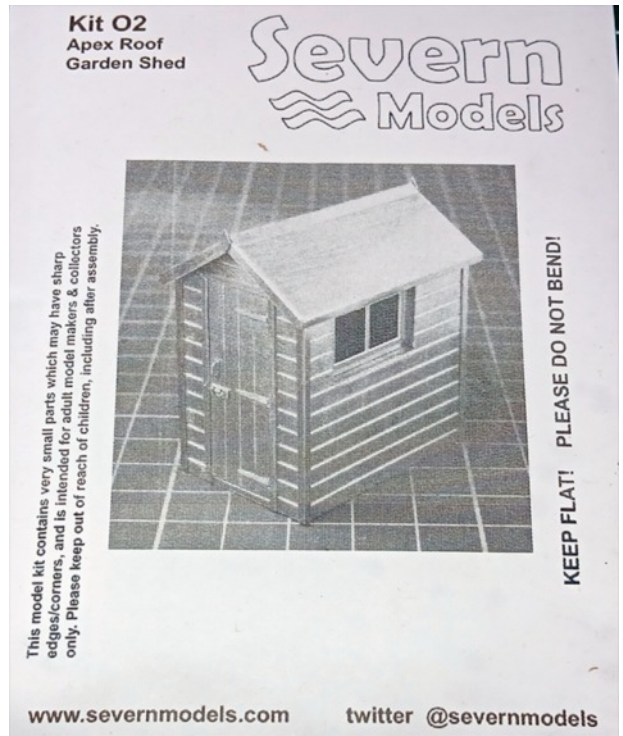
*we would run it here.*

Here is what I have done with the etched brass model I won.

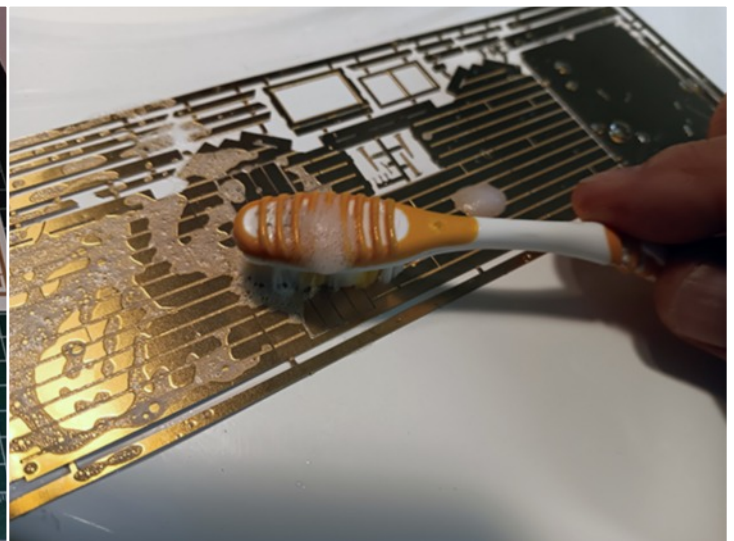
I have never tried a brass kit. It has been challenging but the instructions are clear enough. Thankfully I had invested in a Dollar Tree plastic storage box, above. Each small part has its own section as it was cut from the spruce.

After winning *The O Scale Resource* New Tracks drawing, I chose the Severn Models "O scale, Kit O2, Apex Roof Garden Shed". It looked like something simple to practice a new skill with.

It arrived from England shipped flat in a standard #10 business envelope.

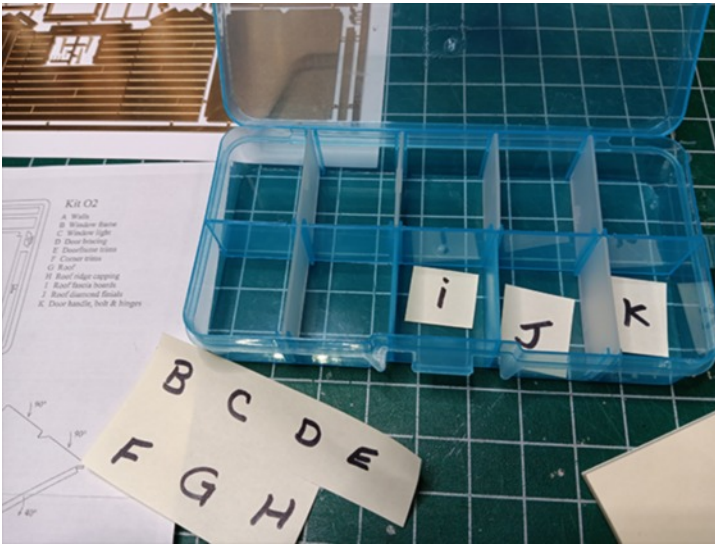


*The instructions were very clear, if a little intimidating in spots.*

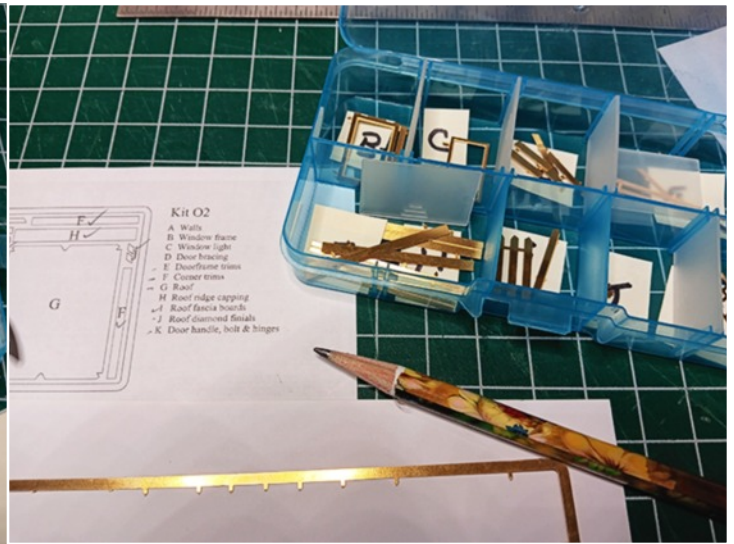


*To remove any oils or contaminants from the brass, I gently washed the entire sheet intact with a mild detergent and a soft toothbrush.*





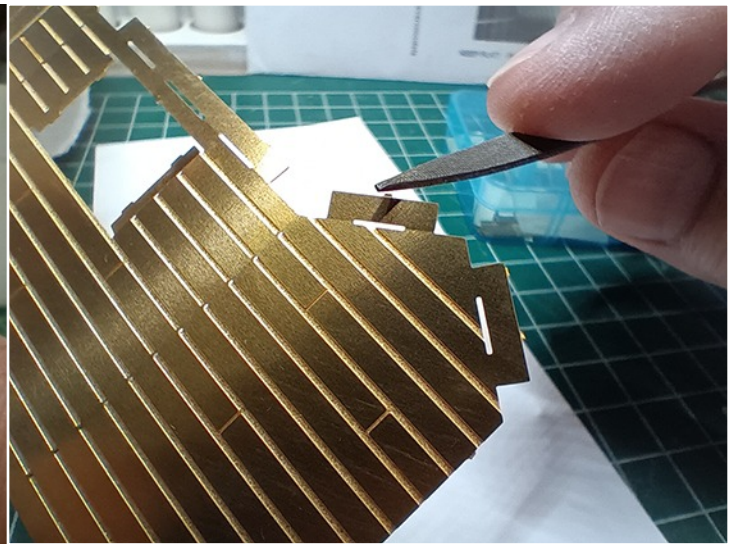
*Next up, I had a small container with compartments that I labeled for each of the really small parts using the same letter designator as on the instructions.*



*Using a sprue cutter, each part was carefully removed from the carrier sheet, put into the container section with the same letter, and checked off the list.*



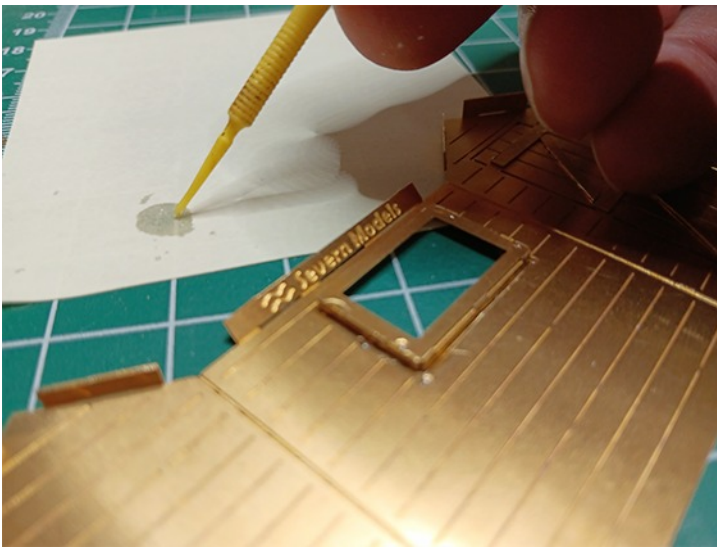
*The door hinges and the latch were very tiny in O scale. Time to get out the magnifying glasses.*



*Basically, I just followed the instructions trying not to miss any steps or taking short cuts. Remember, this was my first brass kit. There seems to always be little bits that the "flush" cutter doesn't quite get off. It was simple enough to use a small file to knock them down.*



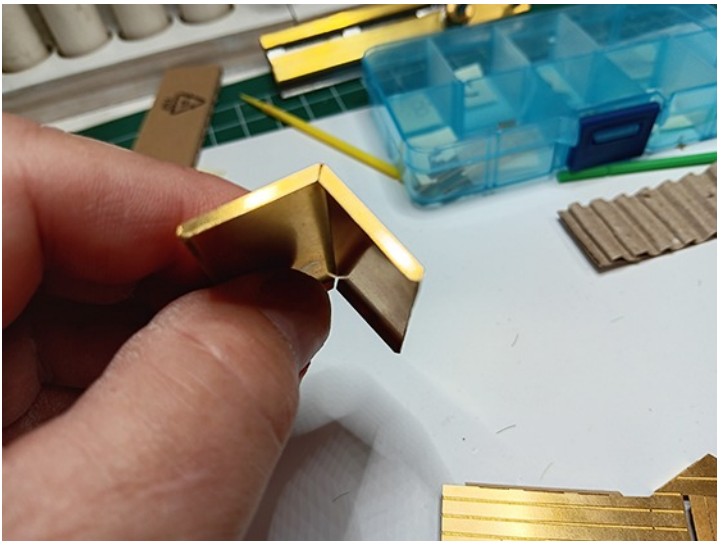
*Using a steel straight edge and a chisel blade in my hobby knife, it was easy to gently fold for gluing.*



*I didn't want to try soldering brass, so I followed the suggestion to just use small amounts of CA adhesive to join the parts.*



*It took some fine tweezers to attach the door hinges and assemble. Yes, I had to assemble the door handle/plate and the door latch.*



*The roof subassembly was next.*



*After folding the four walls of the shed together I used my Coffman "Original Right Clamp" to keep the corners square and tight for gluing.*



*Once the walls were set, it was time to attach the sunroof section. A little CA and a microbrush worked great.*



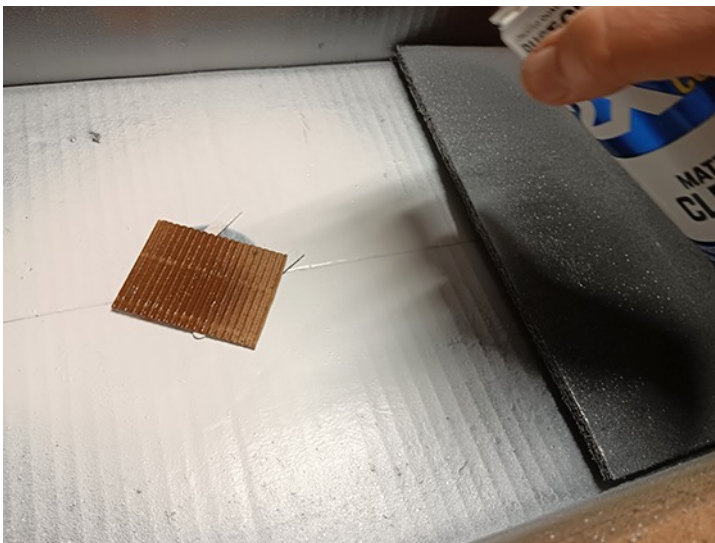
*This is what I ended up with... for now. Corrugated roofing is next.*



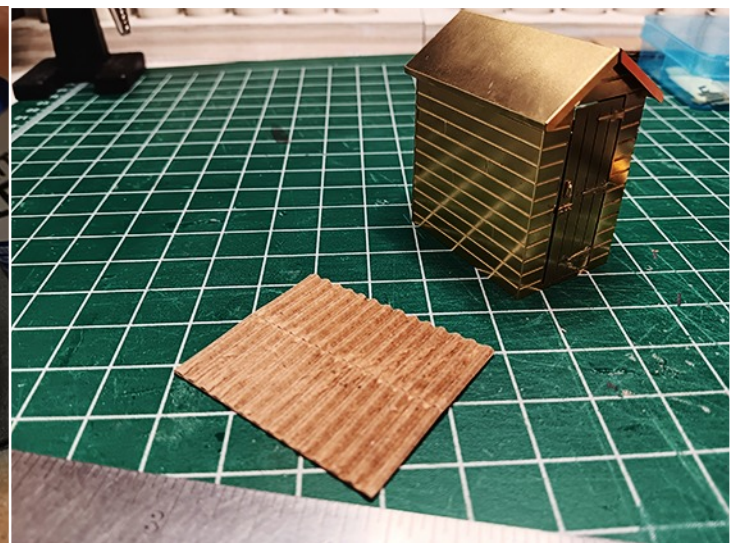
*There are several ways of making roofing materials for models. I have envisioned my little building used to store dynamite for my On30 Sumpter Valley Mining and Lumber Railroad.*

*With dynamite inside, you typically don't want stray sparks catching the roof on fire. Corrugated steel is about as fire proof as you can get. This is a low budget operation. Looking around at what I had available there was a USPS Priority mail box handy. Looking at the edge the little corrugations looked about right for my roof. But how to release them without turning them back into pulp? Isopropyl alcohol to the rescue!*

*After trimming a section of the box to fit the roof, with some wiggle room left over, I soaked one surface with 70% alcohol. Then it was a simple matter of peeling the unwanted parts away from my corrugated roof.*



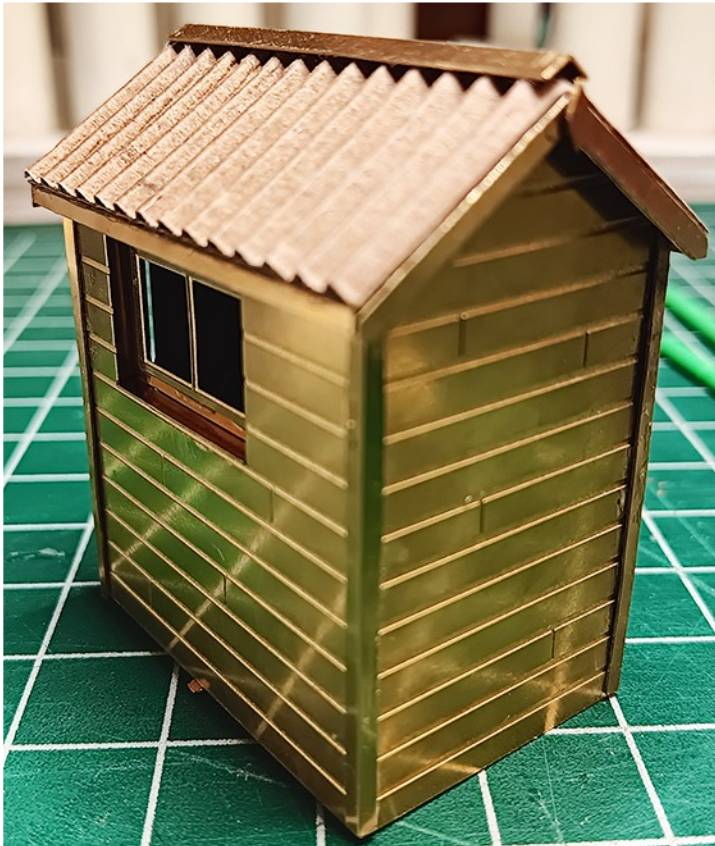
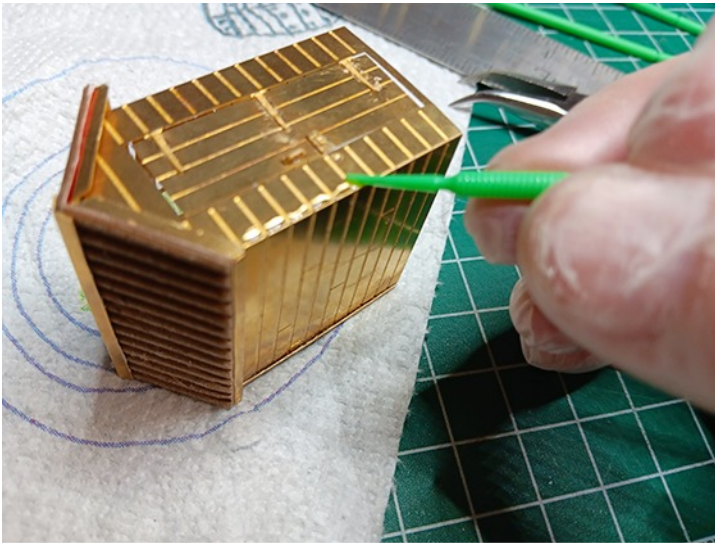
*To seal the exposed cardboard "steel", a few shots of clear matte spray did the trick.*



*The roof was scored to fit over the ridged roof ready for the next step.*



*Aleene's Tacky Glue spread over the brass subroof and a couple of rubber bands kept the steel in place until the entire assembly dried.*



*Now that the roof is on, the building needs some finishing trim to look more complete.*

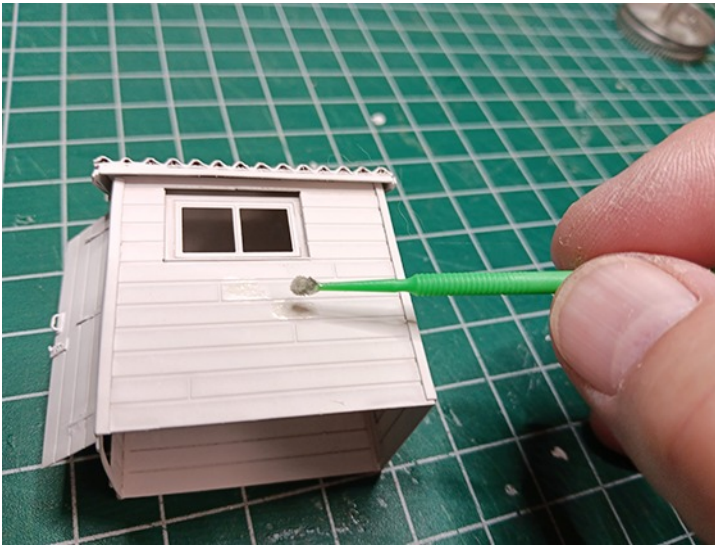
*CA, micro brushes and fine tweezers to the rescue!*

*With the roof ridge, corners and door and window frames in place, it is time for a primer coat.*

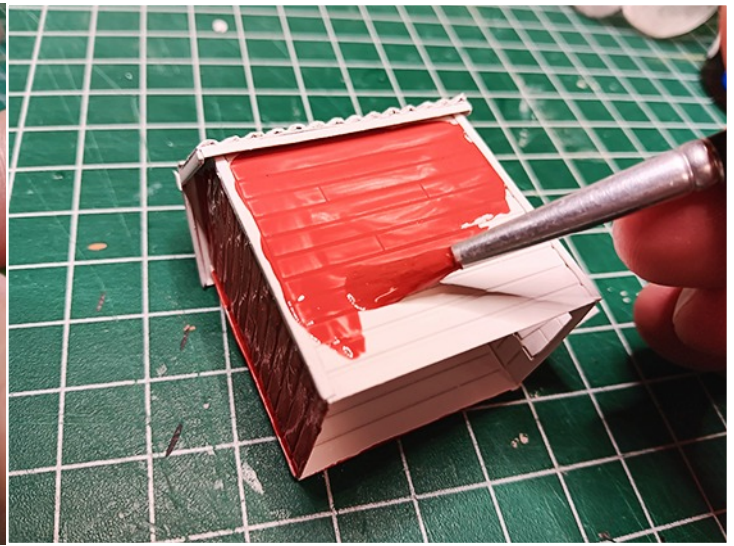
*An even coat of white primer from a spray can, inside and out, sets the stage for the next step: paint and weathering.*



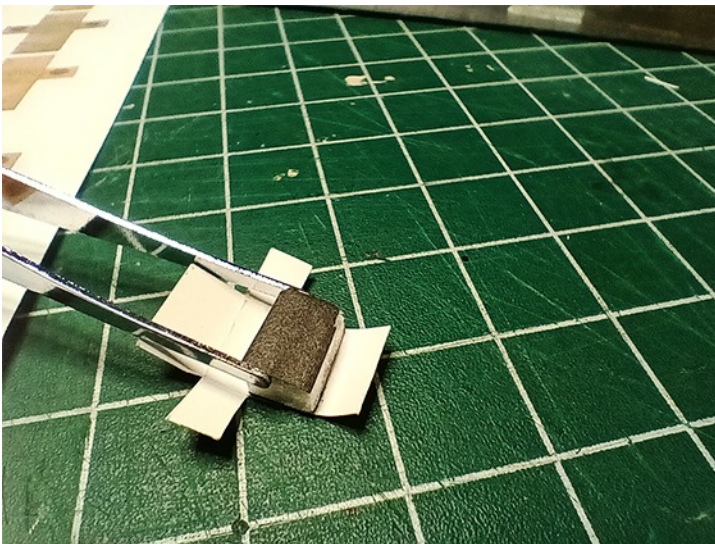
*The roof wanted to collect primer in the troughs. The excess was picked up with a simple cotton swab before it dried.*



*Since I wanted the dynamite shed to look a little rundown there should be some peeling paint, right? A few judicious dabs of good old rubber cement under the final color coat should do the trick.*



*The building then received a coat of simple acrylic tube paints mixed to get an appropriate red oxide color.*



*No dynamite shed is worth the name unless there are some dynamite boxes around! Thanks to David Meeks at Thunder Mesa Studios, the boxes I needed were acquired and assembled.*



*It isn't easy to see, but these are some premium dynamite boxes from the Lytum & Hyde Explosive Company.*



*It takes several trips to the Chopper to make enough boxes.*



*A flickering LED was installed through the base and some boxes were stacked inside the shed. Now you can see the dynamite boxes through the window.*



*Some Doc Brown's weathering powders were used to age the building.*



*We got a discount on the dynamite when we agreed to put a company sign on the building!*



*Might as well get two discounts with a second sign on the widow side of the shack. I like being able to see the boxes of dynamite through the window when the flickering lantern is lit.*

This was a fun build for me. I am grateful that Andy of Severn Models agreed to sponsor this contest, and to Jim Kellow for encouraging us modelers to try something to stretch ourselves with some new skill.

I hope my learning experience in brass will encourage you to try some modeling outside your comfort zone.



*You can also see some boxes through the open door, even though it is only slightly ajar.*



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### New Releases- 3D Printed Objects

#### FIRST QUARTER, 2024

Look at some of the new stuff we are coming out with in S-Scale for the First Quarter, 2024:



PPM-32585: Box for IR Sensor



PPM-32610: 8' Work Table (Empty)



PPM-32595: Concrete Tie Stack

Phoenix Precision Models is releasing several new 3D printed accessories in S-Scale for your modeling pleasure. These detail parts and vehicles are 3D printed in gray resin, they come unpainted, and come with the supports off the model. They are available now from your local retailer, or you can purchase them directly from us.

### New Releases- Sets

#### 11013: New Haven Set

- TCP-036 Warm Orange
- TCP-037 Hunter's Green
- TCP-038 401 Green
- TCP-039 Socony Red
- TCP-040 Red-Orange
- TCP-208 Freight Casr Red-1930-1950's

#### 10503: Rust

- TCP-404 Matte Light Rust
- TCP-405 Matte Orange Rust
- TCP-406 Matte Dark Rust
- TCP-407 Matte Brown Rust
- TCP-408 Matte Aged Rust
- TCP-457 Matte Generic Rust



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# CENTRAL INDIANA SHORTLINE

By Charles Malinowski Photos by Dan & Amy Dawdy

Editors note: During the past Central Indiana Division / NMRA Train Show, Amy and I stopped in to see Charles Malinowski and his new layout. [We covered his Historical Society Shadow-Box Layout in the last issue of \*The S Scale Resource\*](#). We had recorded Charles as he walked us through the layout and and thoughts behind building it however; electronics being electronics, that recording was lost. Charles whipped up an explanation for us last minute, and we appreciate him helping us.

My New Lapel layout is designed to represent Shortline railroading in the early 1960s just north of Indianapolis. Today, as it was in the 60s, Lapel has a large glass foundry that is rail served. With the limited space I have on my shelf layout, I tried to model just the glass foundry with the east west mainline modeled, and one spur, serving an elevator. After being introduced to operating sessions, I found that the theme of the glass foundry limited the number of cars and types of cars. So what I did is applied the lessons from Paul Dolkos' *Model Railroader* article "A Prototype Siding You Can Model" to the existing track plan with the goal of maximizing the number of types of cars, and the number of spots serviced by the railroad.

I'm using all of the customers as described in Paul's article, but added the trailer on flat car ramp and rearranged the structures so that the tallest ones would be against the backdrop. In this way, the taller structures don't interfere with reaching in and coupling/uncoupling cars at each spot, and takes advantage of the



*Here is an overall view of the southern leg of the New Lapel. to the right, you can see the currently under construction Carmel Clay Historical Society shadowbox layout.*

foreground east track being laid directly on the Homasote with the sorting and tracks laid on top of Midwest Products "HO" cork roadbed.

The operating scenario is one that I developed based on articles in *Model Railroader*. Presently, I have only run the session on paper and it looks pretty darn good. Now I just have to finish the Carmel Clay Historical Society's shadow-box layout and I can get to work servicing those anxious customers in New Lapel.



Two spots at the end of the south leg will receive two TOFC's.



The local electrical utility will receive poles at this spot.

The Boone County co-op will receive covered hoppers of fertilizer.



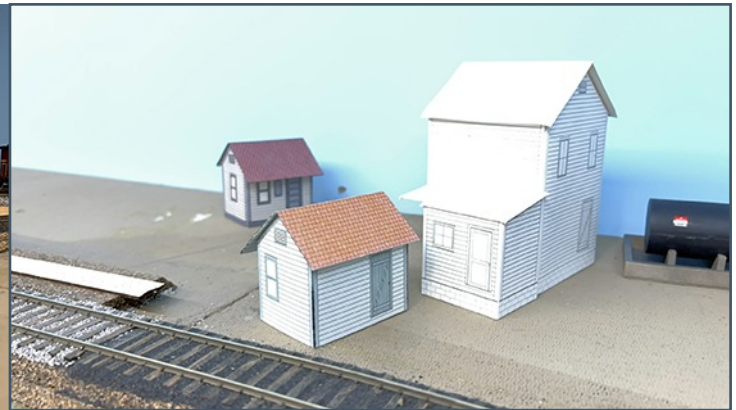
The team track also made as a universal industry will be able to receive and ship numerous commodities. Three spots are assigned to the team track.



*The county highway department will receive tank loads of asphalt to load in its re-purposed (American Flyer) railroad tank car. Notice the differences in track elevation between the foreground and back.*



*This photo shows the future grade crossing that will add additional challenges to the Switching crew. Paper buildings are fillers for future modeling tasks.*



*A view of stand paper buildings for Main Street Lapel.*



*Central Indiana Railways locomotive one and caboose stand ready to service the customers of New Lapel.*



*The Lapel depot is an out of production laser kit from Allegheny Scale Models, and the flat car is a REM models kit. The flat car will be used as an idler between the locomotive and the petroleum tank cars.*



*Looking westward on the short leg of the benchwork, we see the temporary DC power pack and the future site of the Lapel Townhall with fire department and police station. A cassette will stage trains to and from Anderson, Indiana.*



*View of the depot and flat car with a back up SWI.*



*This view of the southern leg of the layout shows the east and west, customer tracks and the center sorting. You will notice the difference in elevation between the east track and the sorting track. A short section of Woodland scenic risers was used to get from the base Homasote to the main track.*

### New Lapel: Layout Notes v2024 01 29

- **THEME:** Central Indiana Shortline
- **SCALE:** S (1:64)
- **SIZE:** L-Shaped 17.5 by 13 feet, 2 feet wide. Height 54 inches
- **PROTOTYPE:** Central Indiana Railway
- **ERA:** Summer 1962
- **TRACK:** Handlaid code 100 rail over Homasote
- **MIN. RADIUS:** 28 inches
- **TURNOUTS:** Handlaid code 100 using Fastracks jig. Powered by Rapido Switch Crew machines.
- **BENCHWORK:** Hollow-core doors on wall brackets (Container Store-Elfa System).
- **ROADBED:** Midwest "HO" cork with 1/4 is squares basswood strips down centerline of track.
- **SCENERY:** None currently, but inspired by Lance Mindheim.
- **BACKDROP:** Hardboard/Masonite painted sky blue.
- **CONTROL:** Digitrax Zephyr with UT1 Throttles and WiFi Throttle app on iPhone4.
- **GRADE:** 0.0%, except for slight downward grade to East Track (at front edge)
- **STAGING:** Attached 4-foot cassette on short leg of benchwork
- **DESIGNED INSPIRED BY:** The One Turnout Layout by Lance Mindheim:  
<https://lancemindheim.com/2012/09/a-one-turnout-layout/>
- A Prototype Siding You Can Model by Paul J. Dolkos *Model Railroader* July 1979



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Oh, yea, I recently published two **Military Crime Novels**. Writing #3 now.

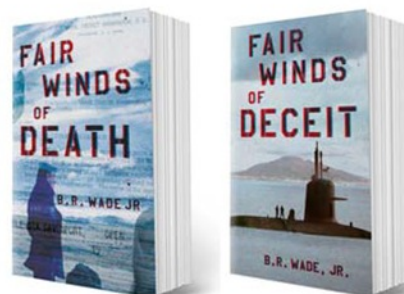
Yep, I've been busy! Thanks for keeping me that way!!

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**Mail:** **The Model Railroad Resource LLC**  
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# Scratch Building a Railgon Gondola

By Paul Butkowski



As I continue my journey into S scale, one car on my bucket list was an accurate Railgon gondola. Knowing what I have learned about S scale and its so called limitations, this wouldn't be an easy task. Building the car wouldn't be the issue, but sourcing the decals would be what would hold me back. Then one day while searching a popular auction site, I decided to look for decals and – bingo! I found some! I quickly ordered them and started to plan this project. The next major hurdle for me would be to come up with drawings for the car. Lucky for me, everything seems to be made in HO scale. I borrowed an Arrowhead Models HO scale Greenville car from my cousin to make my own. Whenever I build a car, I can't make just one car so I chose to build three. Follow along as these cars take shape.

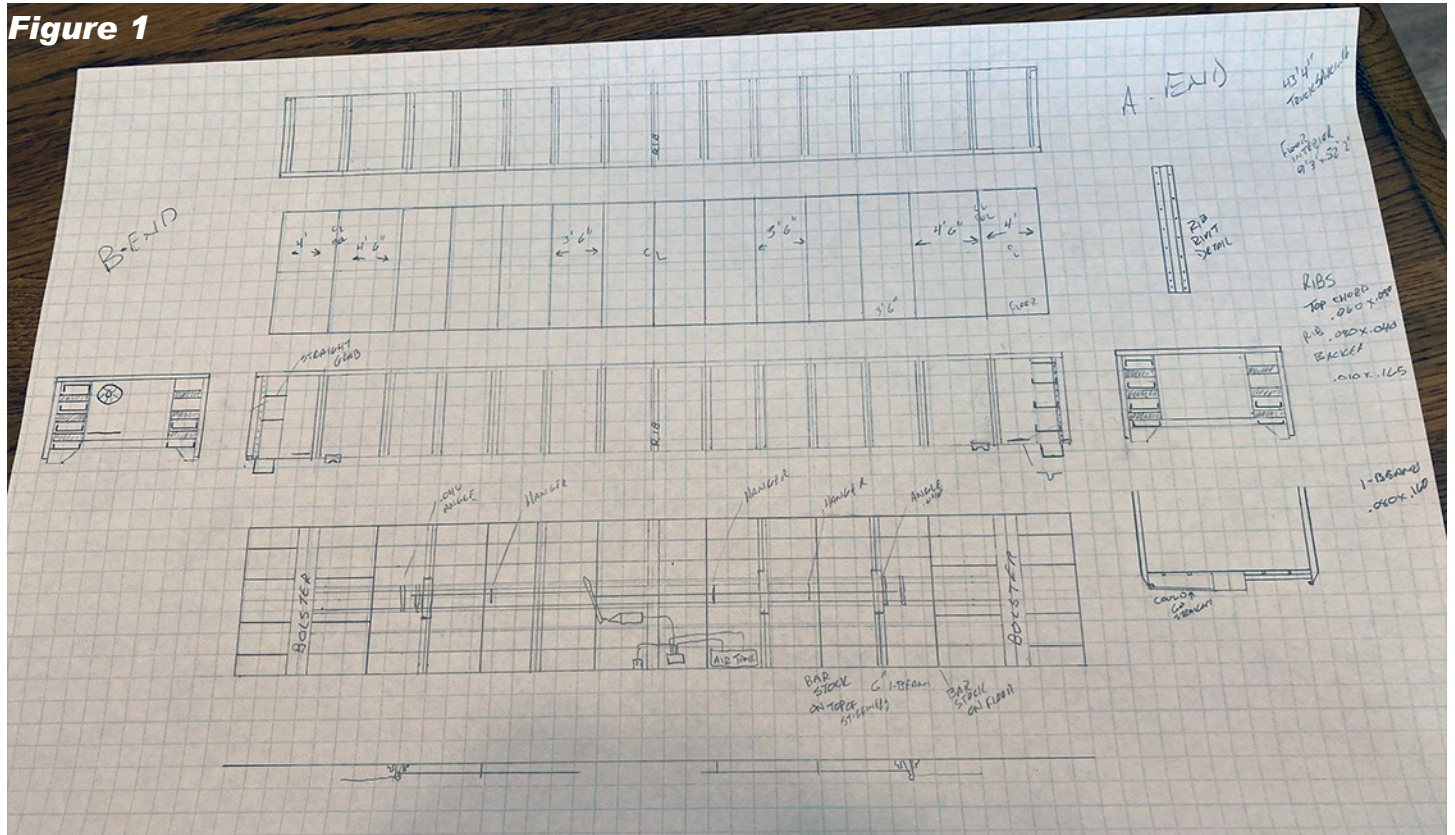
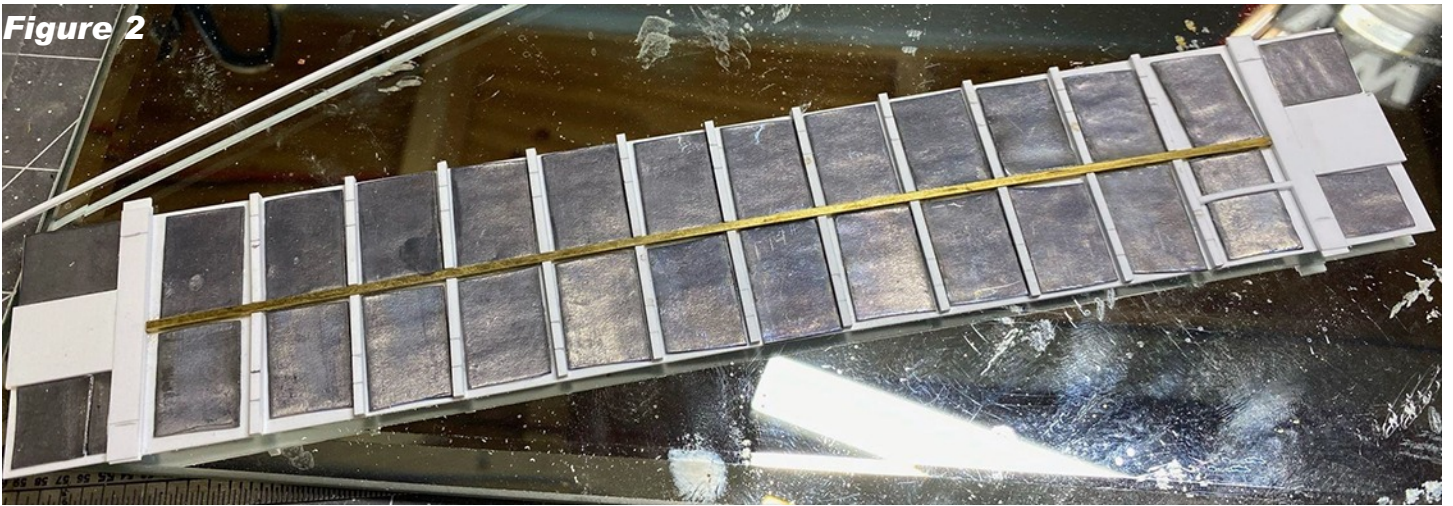
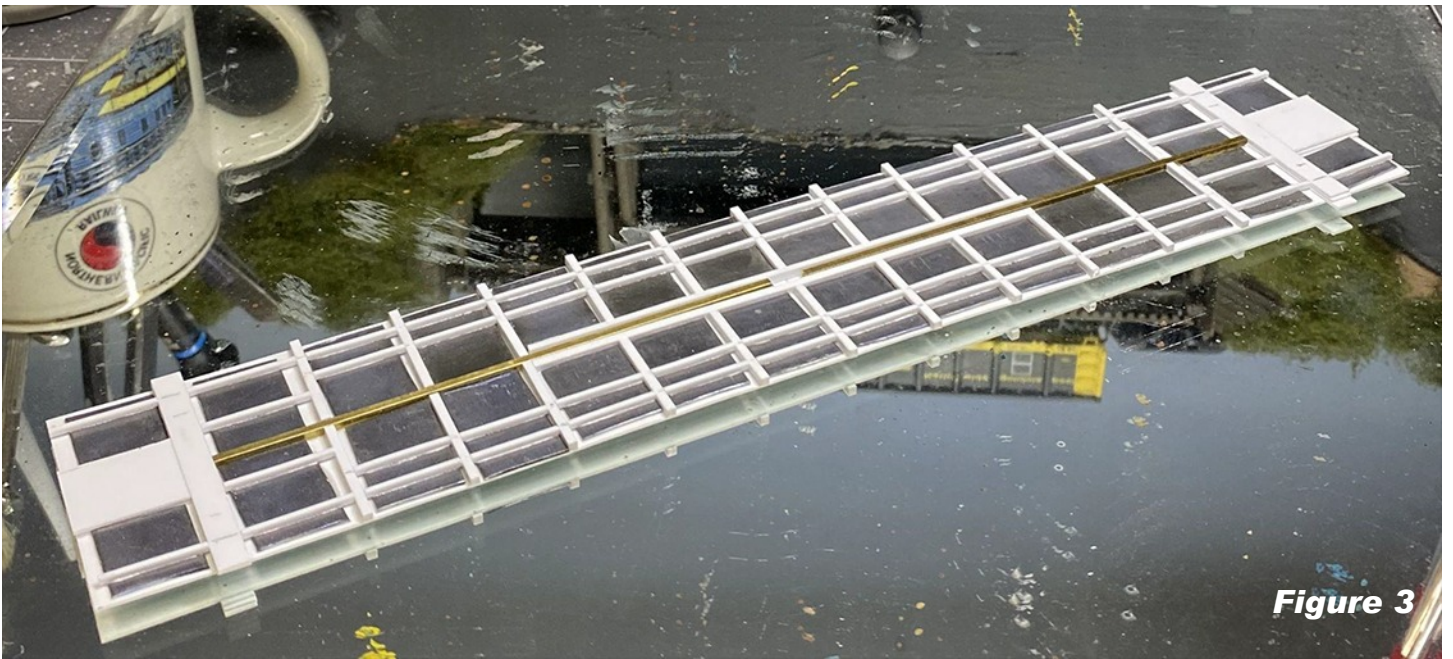


Figure 1: With a background in drafting, it was fairly easy to create a scale drawing. I just measured every detail on the car and converted them to 1/64th. Doing this also helped me create a parts list and an order in which to build the cars.

**Figure 2**



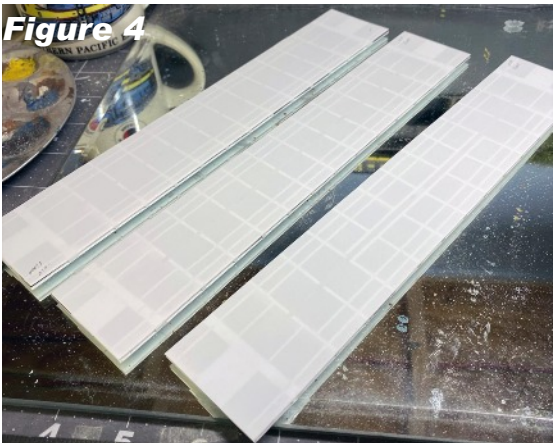
*Figure 2: I wanted the floor to be dented because these old gondolas take a beating. To do this, I chose to make a false floor. I started with a .020 sheet of styrene cut to size. I made .060 pads where the couplers and bolster would be. A .060 brass bar was added down the center for weight and strength. The cross members are also .060 square styrene. I needed to add more weight so I added .020 lead sheet in between the cross members.*



**Figure 3**

*Figure 3: While doing some railfanning, I was able to see the inside of an old gondola and I noticed how the floor was actually dented. I forgot that on a prototype car, there are ribs that run the length of the car. The denting of the floor was between these ribs. I then added .040 styrene strips on top of the lead weight. This gave me a small cavity to make the dents later in the build.*

**Figure 4**



*Figure 4: The final step for the floor was to add a .010 styrene sheet to sandwich everything together.*



**Figure 5**



Figure 5: For building the sides, I also wanted them to be dented and beat up. I never cared for the method of heating the sides with a soldering iron to create the dents so I had to find a different way. I did some experimenting and found out that .010 styrene would work. It is super easy to add the dents just using my fingernail or a screwdriver. After cutting out the sides, I added .060 x .080 styrene for the top chord. The ribs are made from .010 x .165 as a backer with .040 x .080 for the rib. This gives it the proper Railgon look.



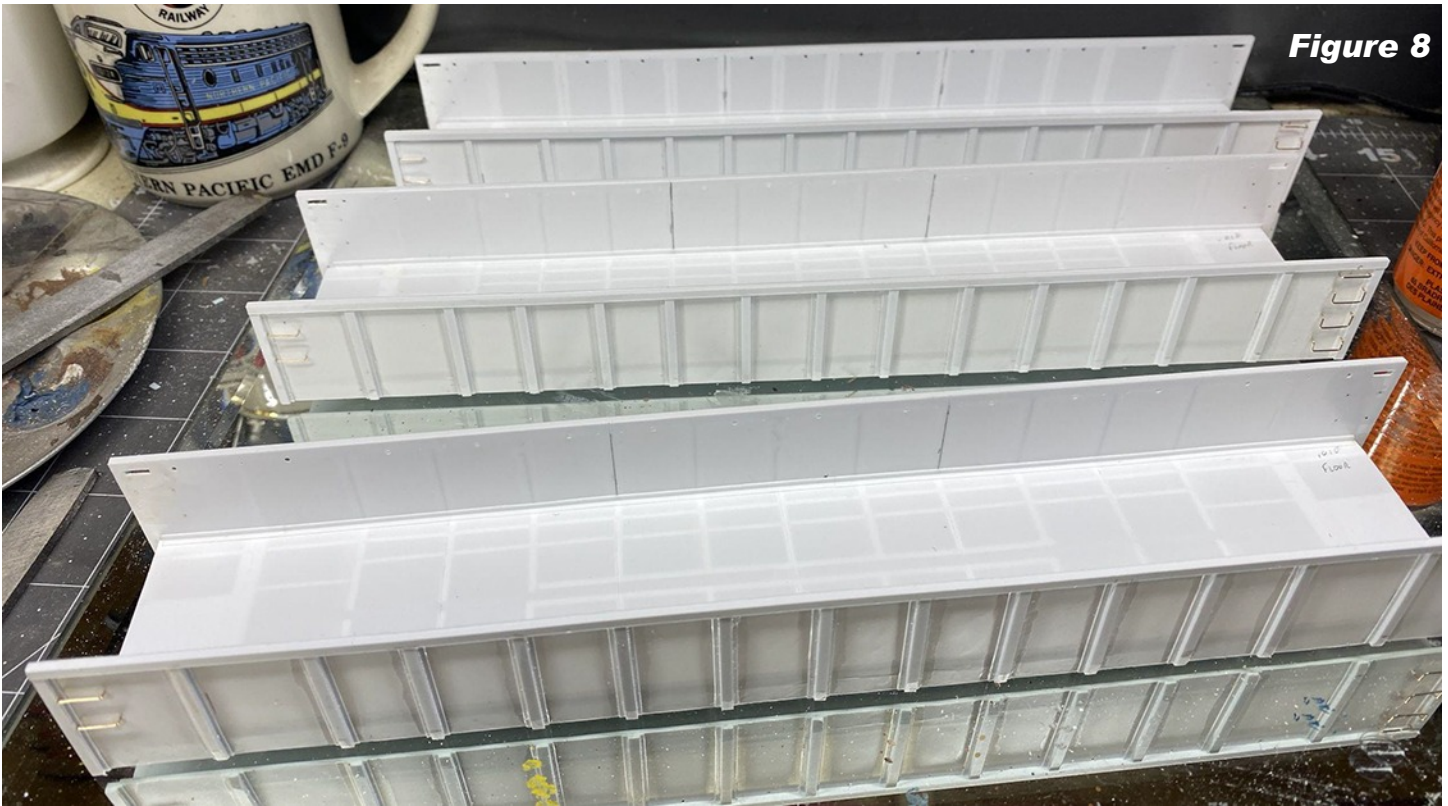
**Figure 6**

Figure 6: On the Arrowhead car there were holes just under the top chord in the center of the side panels, so I added them at this time.



**Figure 7**

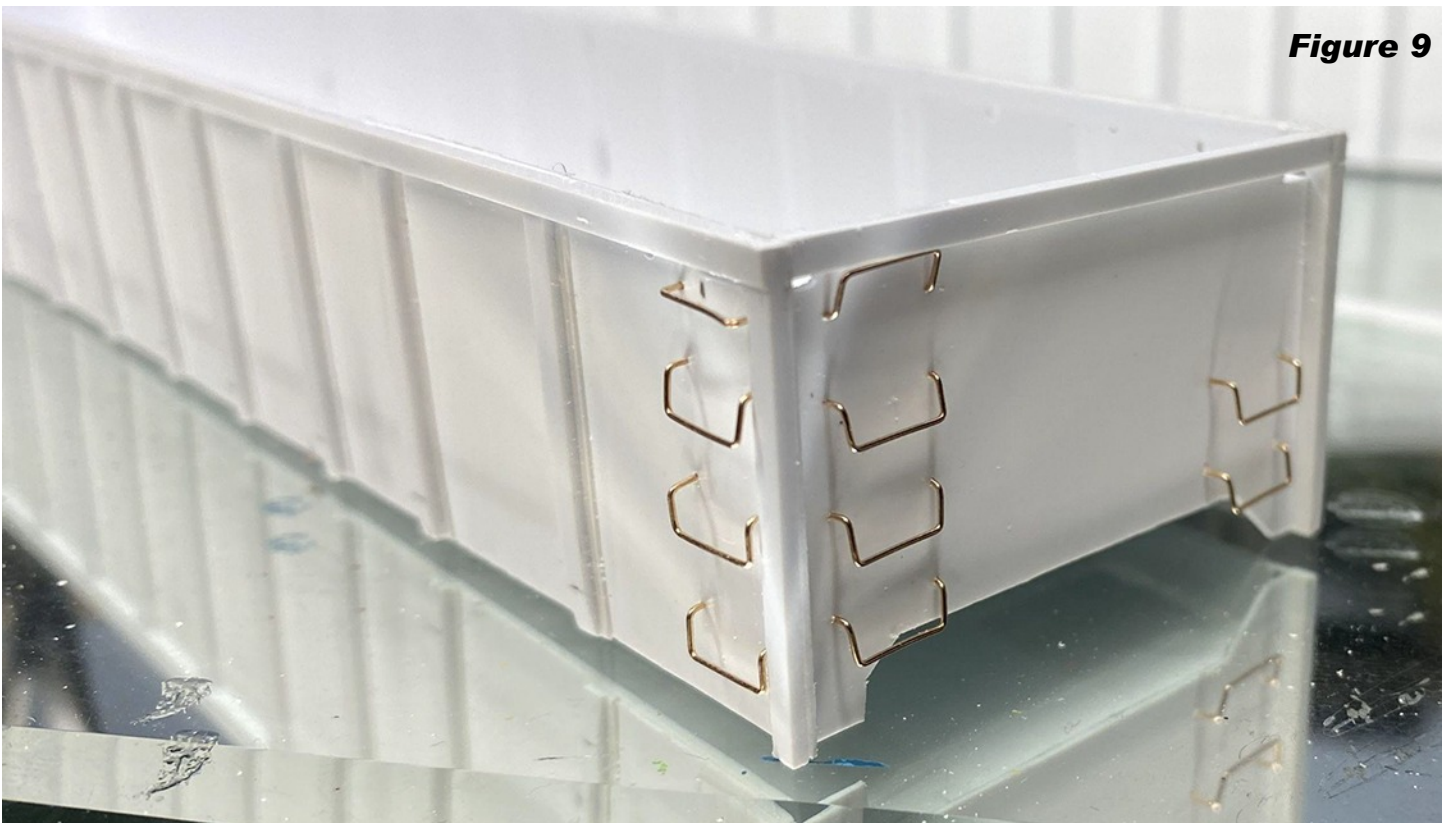
Figure 7: Now I added the grab irons. I wanted to add these now so I could sand the insides smooth. One problem was: how do I get enough surface area to glue the grabs if I'm using .010 styrene? Each end panel has another piece of .010 laminated to it. Then I added small strips of styrene to give the appearance of the backer piece that is also .010 thick. Now I have .020 and .030 thick cross sections for gluing. A neat trick that I had learned is to use liquid styrene cement for bonding brass and phosphor bronze wire, it won't bond the two materials together but it melts the styrene just enough to hold it in place.



**Figure 8**

*Figure 8: Before I glued the sides to the floor, I added a strip of .020 x .144 styrene on the inside bottom of the car side. This did two things: 1) It added some strength and 2) Also created a small shelf that the floor assembly could sit on. I also added a strip of .060 angle for additional strength.*

*Figure 9: I built the ends using .020 styrene and left off the horizontal ribs so I could easily add the grab irons. Once the grabs were applied I used .040 x .080 styrene for the ribs. The car ends also have a large plate on them that I left off until after the car was painted.*



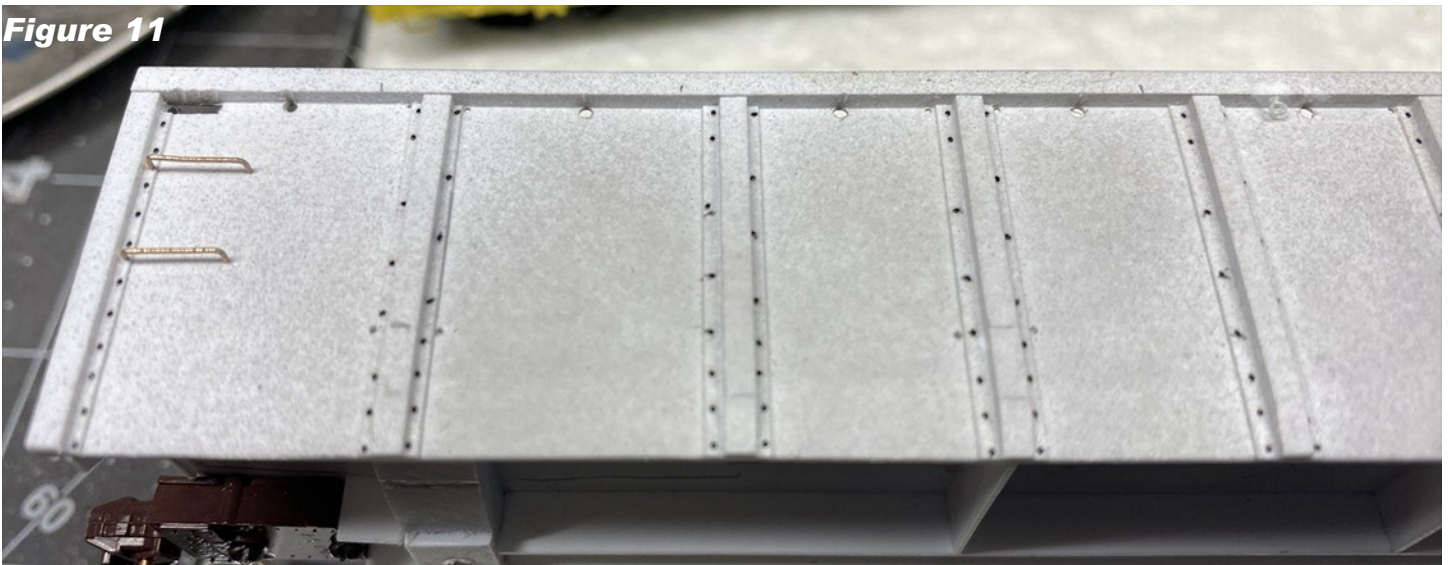
**Figure 9**



**Figure 10**

*Figure 10: Next, had to drill a few more holes in the sides, they are above the floor on every other rib. The dents were also added to the sides. I tried to keep all of the denting slightly different and random.*

*Figure 11: The one drawback about building the Greenville version of the Railgon is that it had rivets on the ribs, 15 on each one to be exact. Thankfully I was able to get my hands on a pack of Archer rivets. They suggested applying them on paint like a decal so I added a coat of Tamiya primer. With about 250 rivets per side I thought I would end up in the funny farm, but it was well worth the time it took to do this.*



**Figure 11**



**Figure 12**

*Figure 12: Before I started to work on the underframe, I wanted to get the coupler height correct as it would be easier to fix the bolster height now before all of the underframe detail was added.*

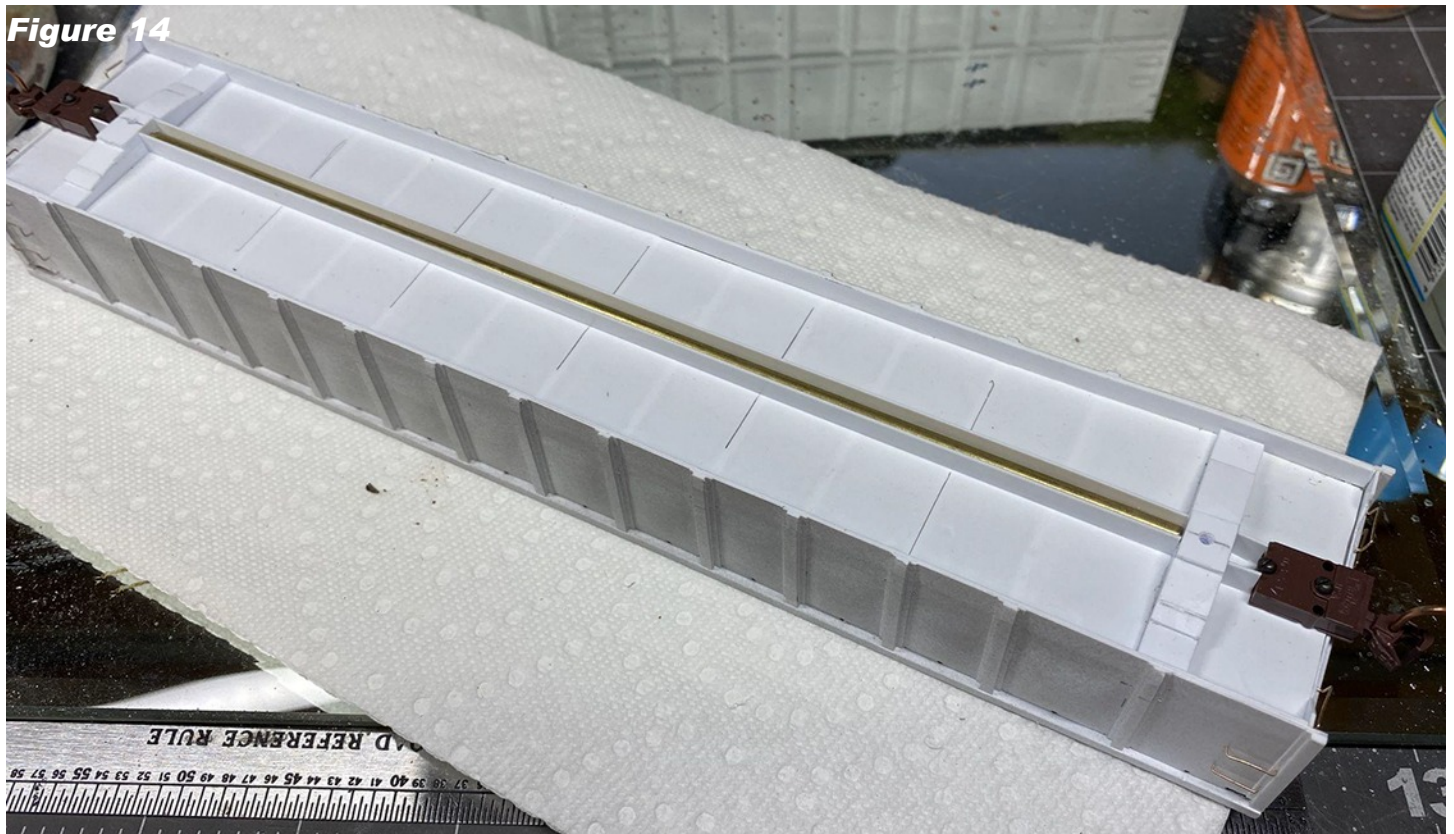
**Figure 13**



*Figure 13: This shot shows the denting of the floor. Here, too, I tried to keep the dents random.*

*Figure 14: I started the underframe with the center sill. I used .020 x .144 styrene. The car still felt on the light side so I added a 1/8th inch brass rod down the middle.*

**Figure 14**



**Figure 15**

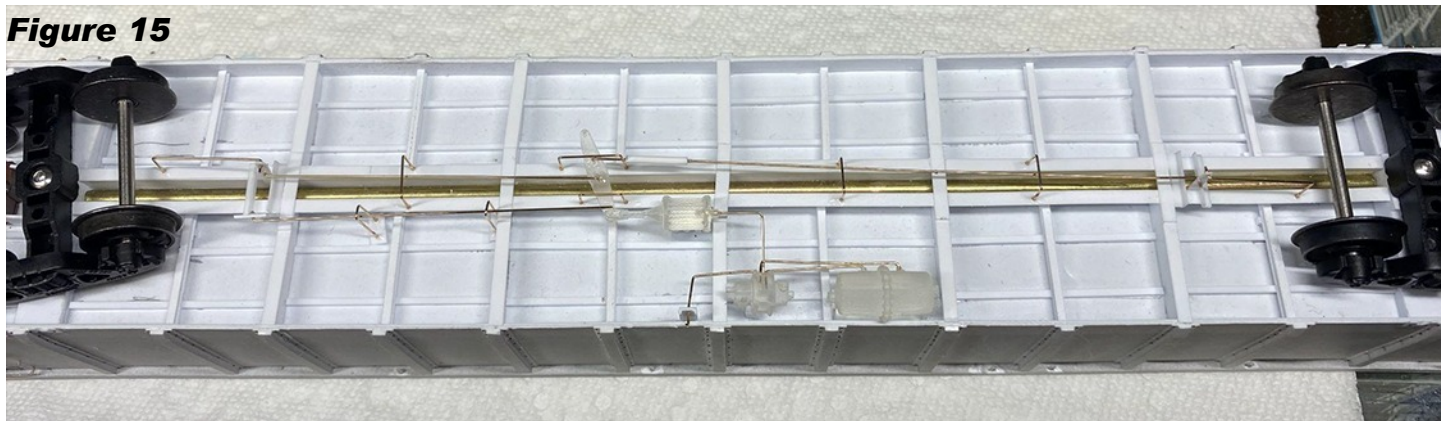


Figure 15: For a simple gondola there is quite a bit going on with the underside. The larger cross members were added first, they are .020 x .144 styrene. The ribs that run the length of the car were added next, they are .040 x .040 styrene. The small cross members are .060 H channel. The center sill and large cross members were then capped off with .010 x .080 styrene strip. The major brake components I purchased from Shapeways. The piping and brake rods are .015 phosphor bronze wire. I copied the Arrowhead car for the placement of all the piping and any other extra brackets and hangers.

**Figure 16**

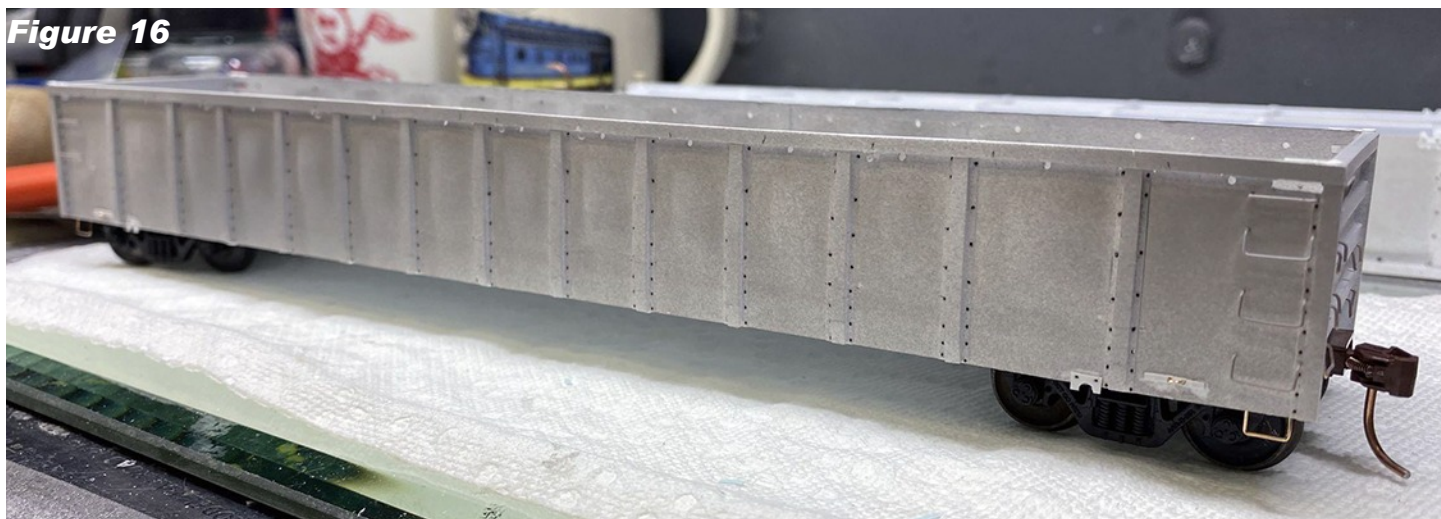


Figure 16: Here's the finished car. The jack pads and pulling rings were added.



**Figure 17**

Figure 17: I wanted to have removable loads for the cars. They are a simple styrene box with an elevated floor that is about 1/8 inch from the top. The load itself is a mixture of aluminum shaving, scrap styrene, and decal backing paper. I wetted it with 70% IPA and white glue as if I was ballasting the track.

**Figure 18**

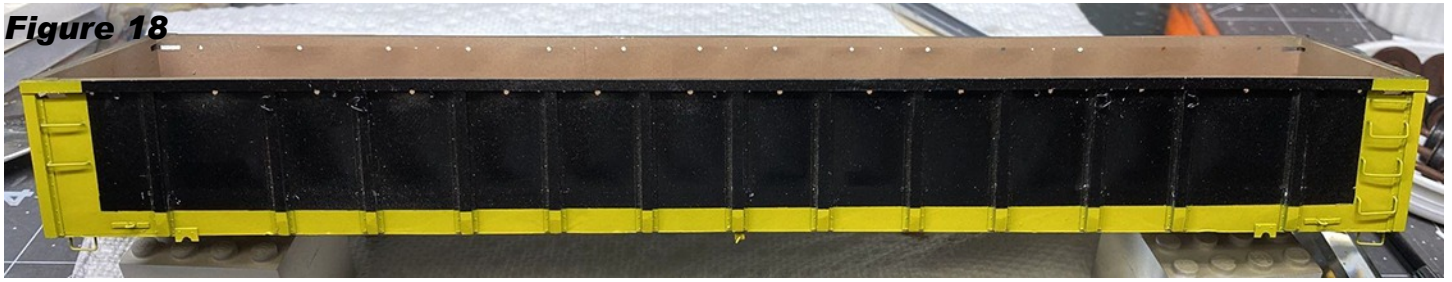


Figure 18: While this may seem like an easy paint job, I chose to make it a bit more difficult. I started with the black. This was because it would be easier to mask off the black than it would to mask off the yellow as all of the grab irons would be in the way. After I masked the black, I wanted to seal off the edge of the tape so I gave it another light coat of black paint. Knowing that yellow wouldn't cover the black very well, I first sprayed on some gray paint. The yellow paint came next and covered the gray nicely. The inside of the car was sprayed with various shades of browns and rust colors. If you look closely, you can even see the slight denting in the car sides.



**Figure 19**

Figure 19: The next 2 cars were given the same treatment.

**Figure 20**



Figure 20: The decals are from Circus City Decals. They do a great job and I really like using their products. While it may look like I applied the reporting marks and numbers crooked, it is actually the dented side panels making it look this way.



Figure 21: Weathering is one of my favorite things to do as it really makes the car stand out. This one was fairly simple as I first brushed on Tamiya brown panel line wash. I then used a sponge and some brown paint from Vallejo to add the chipping. It was finished off with some Pan Pastels and sprayed with a dullcoat.



Figure 22: Sometimes a weathering job doesn't quite turn out as planned and when this happens you have two choices, forge ahead or start over. I chose to forge ahead because I wanted this car to be very rusty, but not toy-like rusty.



Figure 23: After taking some time to come up with a plan to fix this car, I chose to take a makeup sponge and dip it in some 70% IPA. I gave each panel a quick swipe as I didn't want the IPA to take off the paint, just blend it together. After looking at some photos, the yellow paint didn't take as much of a beating as the black so I carefully cleaned it up using the IPA and a brush.

Figure 24



Figure 24: Patch outs were added, then the reporting marks, numbers, cots label and safety stripes. A final wash with thinned brown Tamiya panel line wash and dullcoat and car number two is finished.



Figure 25

Figure 25: For the third car, I used oil paints to make washes. I used some grays and browns. I highlighted some of the dents and added some streaks. Then I used some Pan Pastels and sealed it with dullcoat.



Figure 26

Figure 26: Here are all three completed cars. By weathering each car differently, they each have their own story to tell as no two cars travel together over their lifetime. I like to challenge myself when it comes to weathering. Sometimes the cars turn out great and sometimes they don't. But the more techniques that I learn, the better my cars will be because they will all be unique and realistic.

I'm sure glad that I took the big leap and dove into this project. My overall goal was to build a quality freight car that no else has in their collection. Now to choose my next project, what will it be? I don't know just yet, but come check out my [Facebook group Central Minnesota and Western Alexandria and St. Cloud](#) divisions to find out what I'm up to.



# The NYW&B MOVES EAST (Literally!)

By Dick Karnes - Photos By Jan Enerson except as noted

Dave Jasper, a longtime friend, recently purchased a four-story office building in a Minneapolis suburb that would serve as both his residence and a new model railroad museum. He, with one of his granddaughters, visited me and my wife Ilze in September 2022. While operating my New York, Westchester & Boston railroad, I asked Dave a lot of questions about the museum project. He told me that he incorporated the museum as the Miniature Railway Institute and Museum (MRIM) and established a Board of Directors to make sure it continued after his passing (he is 86). He had planned to construct an S scale layout as the primary display in the museum, but it would take maybe six years to complete.

So, given that Ilze and I would be moving into a senior living residence within the next couple of years, at that point I asked Dave if he would like to have my layout for his museum. After making sure I was serious, he accepted on the spot.

Anyhow, many months later, I decided that maybe I should ask Dave if taking my layout was still in the plan because I had not yet heard from him. Well, it was still the plan.



*Here's Dave Jasper (left), yours truly (in secretary's chair), and nephew Marty Dumpis, about to slide and lift a 12-foot layout section from its home for the last 25 years.*



*Left: Left to right, Larry Enerson, Dave Jasper, and Marty prepare a layout section for transport on our back patio. Masonite sides were attached to every layout section to protect the catenary.*

*Lower Left: Marty and I attaching Masonite fences to another section in our backyard, now a temporary workshop.*

Long story short, I spent the second and third weeks of August 2023 prepping for the layout move. I packaged all my locos, rolling stock, and removable structures. Dave, with Jan and Larry Enerson, arrived at 8:00 Sunday morning, August 20th with a 34-foot Penske truck. My nephew Marty was already here, up from LA, to help. We divided up the layout into about 13 chunks and, over two days, loaded it and the boxed stuff into built-as-we-went cribbing/shelving inside the truck.

Two days after they left, I hired 1-800-GOT JUNK to cart away all the leftover detritus in the basement and back yard: benchwork for hidden staging yards, unneeded scenic mountains, and ancient kitchen cabinets and bookcases that formed the underpinning of the NYW&B. Now I have two empty rooms with five holes in the wall between them where my trackage and fast clocks penetrated. I'll hire a local handyman service to patch the plasterboard, repaint the wall, then reinstall the door I had removed and saved that separates the two rooms.

The photos of layout shipping preparation may amuse, interest, and startle you.





Dave sent me an e-mail after moving the NYW&B into its new home:

*“[Jan and Larry] arrived safely late Friday afternoon; but I am sure butt-weary and dusty. I hired a grandchild and two of his friends for Saturday and they carried it all up to the second floor so we were done before noon, including removing the scaffolding and cleaning the truck! One section was jarred loose and slid down by the miserable highway in Minnesota, clearly the worst of the five states transversed. Very limited damage in all, perhaps a dozen places to repair catenary. Of course we have to do track and catenary replacement at all the joints and scenery and structure work.*”

***Left: The only way out of the back yard is up these fifteen steps arranged in a quarter circle. The truck tailgate is on the other side of the fence. Larry and Marty are doing the honors.***

***Lower Left: Marty, Dave, and Larry erecting shelves and bracing in the box van. Truck is 34 feet long; box length is 28 feet.***

***Lower Right: The truck completely obscures our carport and house. Opening in fence is at far left.***



*We will need more than a couple months to get it all assembled and running again that I hopefully anticipated. Nevertheless, thanks to your generous offer we will have a working, high-quality exhibit at MRIM certainly before Spring 2024.”*

My workbench remains in a corner of the inner room, as well as all the stuff I still need to reorganize into three cabinets I saved. From now on, I will content myself with locomotive and railcar construction, selling them off as I complete them. Enjoy!



***1-800-GOT JUNK truck – a full load! It’s all the supporting layout cabinets, hidden staging yard subroadbed, and Masonite sky backdrop. Dick Karnes photo.***



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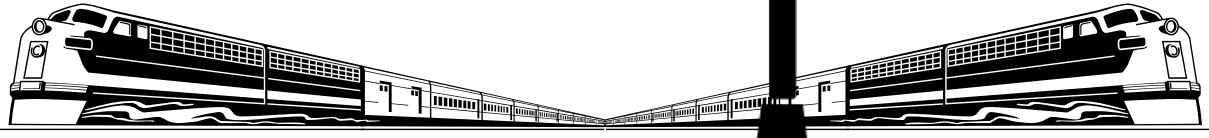
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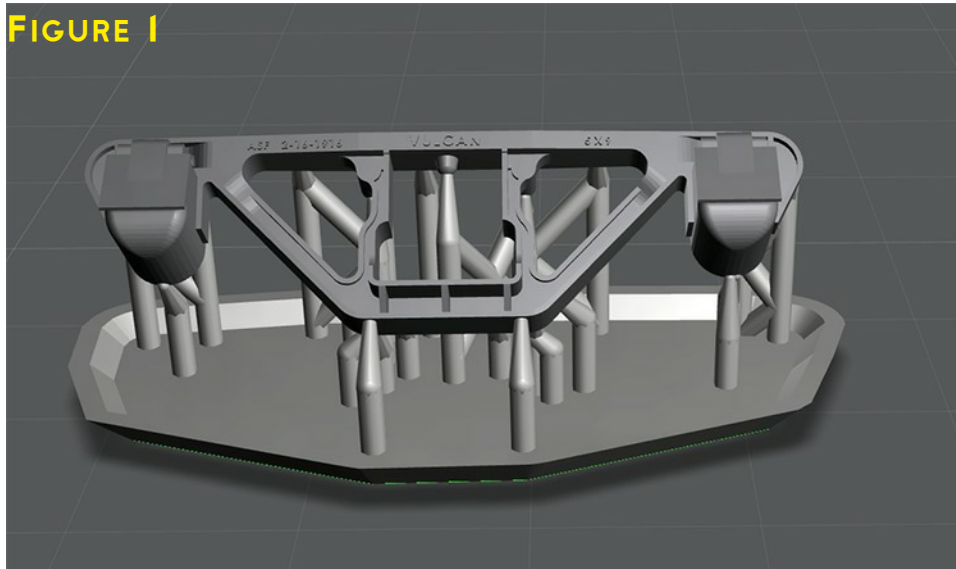

# RESIN PRINTING FASTER WAY TO NAIL DOWN SLA EXPOSURE TIMES

By Dan Dawdy

While wandering through some Facebook groups and Discord, I see many people having exposure issues. Many are asking for help and even people's settings. Unfortunately, it doesn't really work that way. My settings may be a starting point for you, assuming the same printer, the same resin, the same temperature and on and on. Even if you have two of the same printers, but one has say 50 more hours on the screen then the other, that may well affect your exposure times.

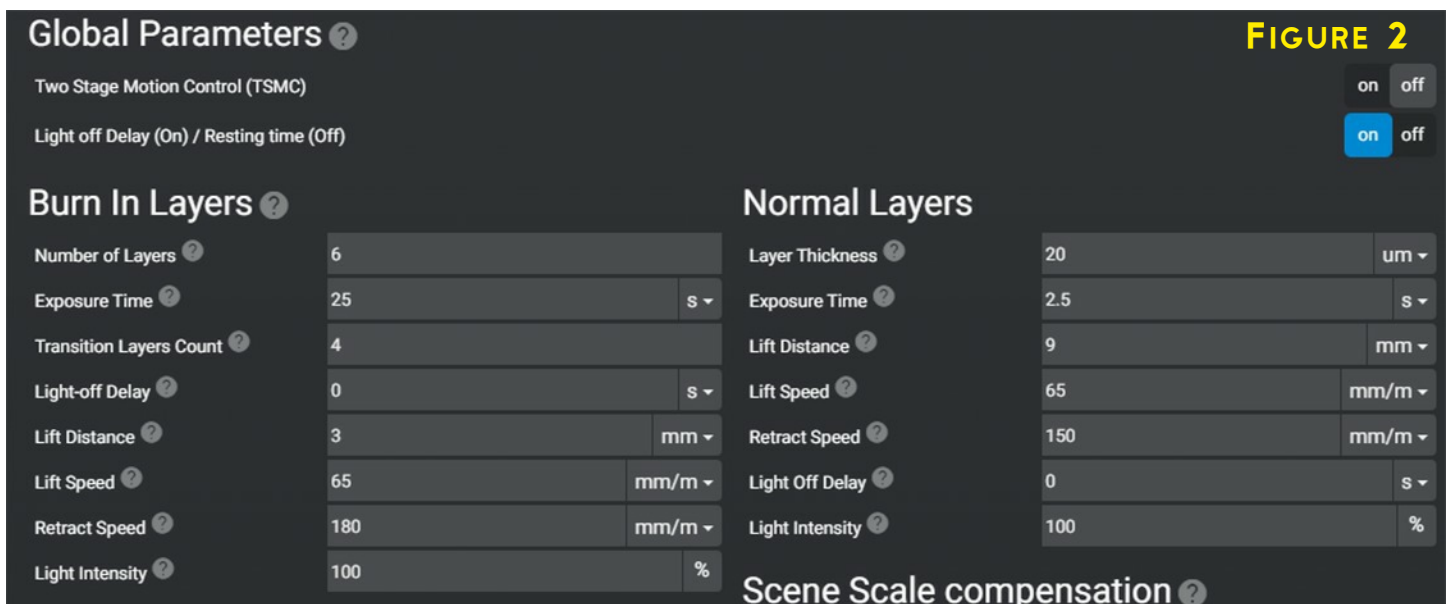
Wouldn't be great if we could print a test print 4 or 6 times at one shot, each with a different exposure settings? Well, if you have a newer printer that supports this, it can be done with a piece of free software which, by the way, you should already be using.

UVtools is a must and it runs on Windows, MAC and Linux. Oh, did I say it's free! [Download here](#). For this article, I am only going to cover one of the many features of this program. Most newer printers will work, but to be sure let's set up a test.



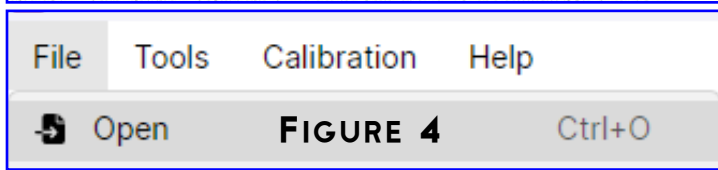
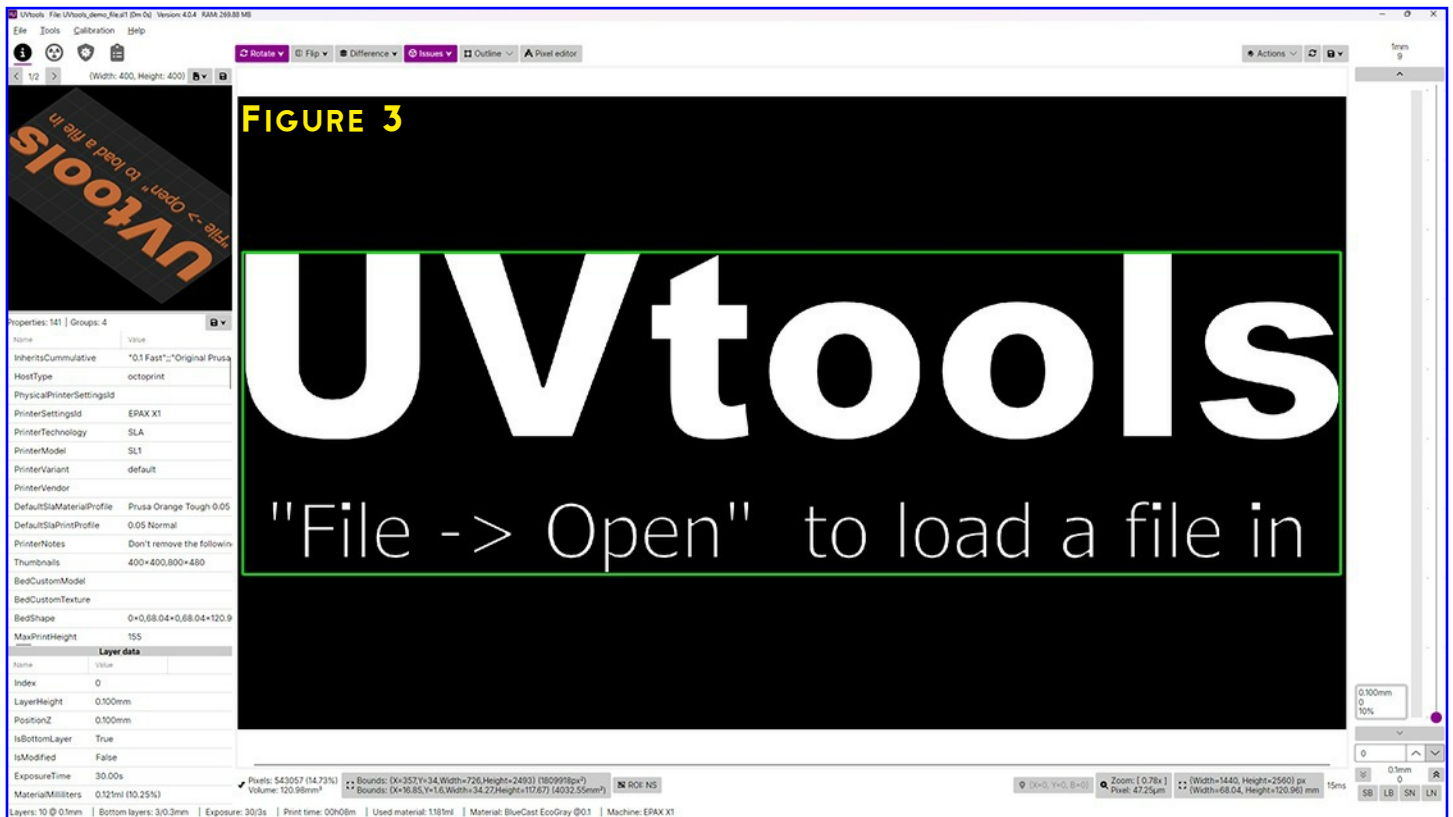
Open your slicer and set up your print. Supports are not needed we just want a file open along with your current settings and what you think the exposure should be. Slice that file and save it. Remember, the file you save contains all the settings data that printer needs along with the slicing instructions.

Figure 1 shows the part in the slicing program. It could be one or many, that does not matter. Figure 2 shows the settings I use this this resin and printer combination.

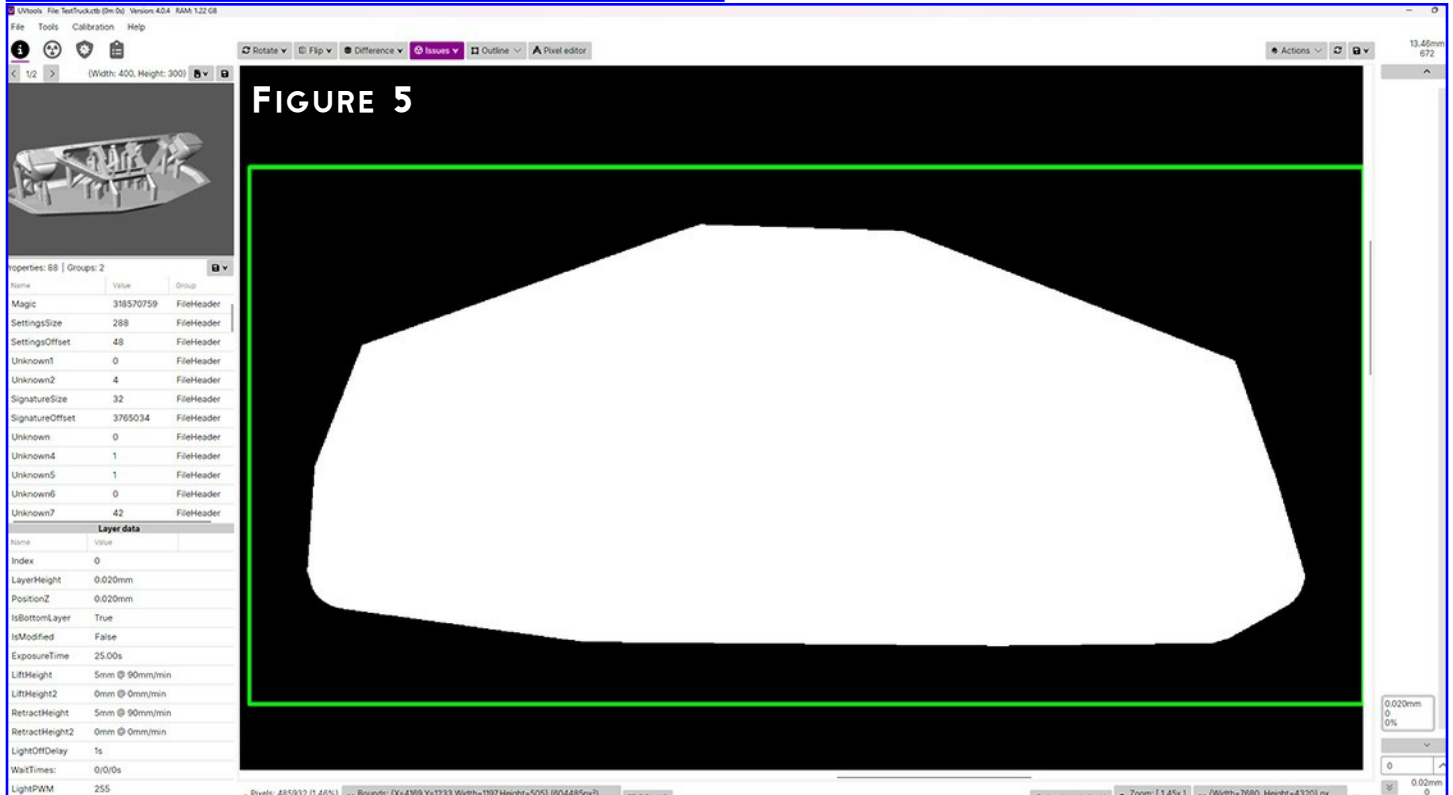


Now go ahead and slice the file as if you were going to print it.

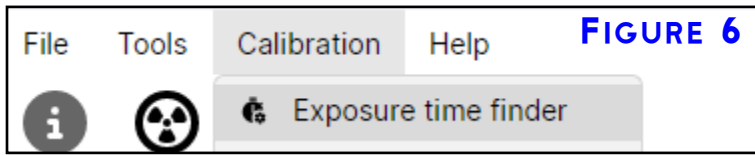
Now, let's open UVtools. Figure 3 shows the user interface. Yes, there is lots of stuff here, but just follow along and don't chase squirrels.



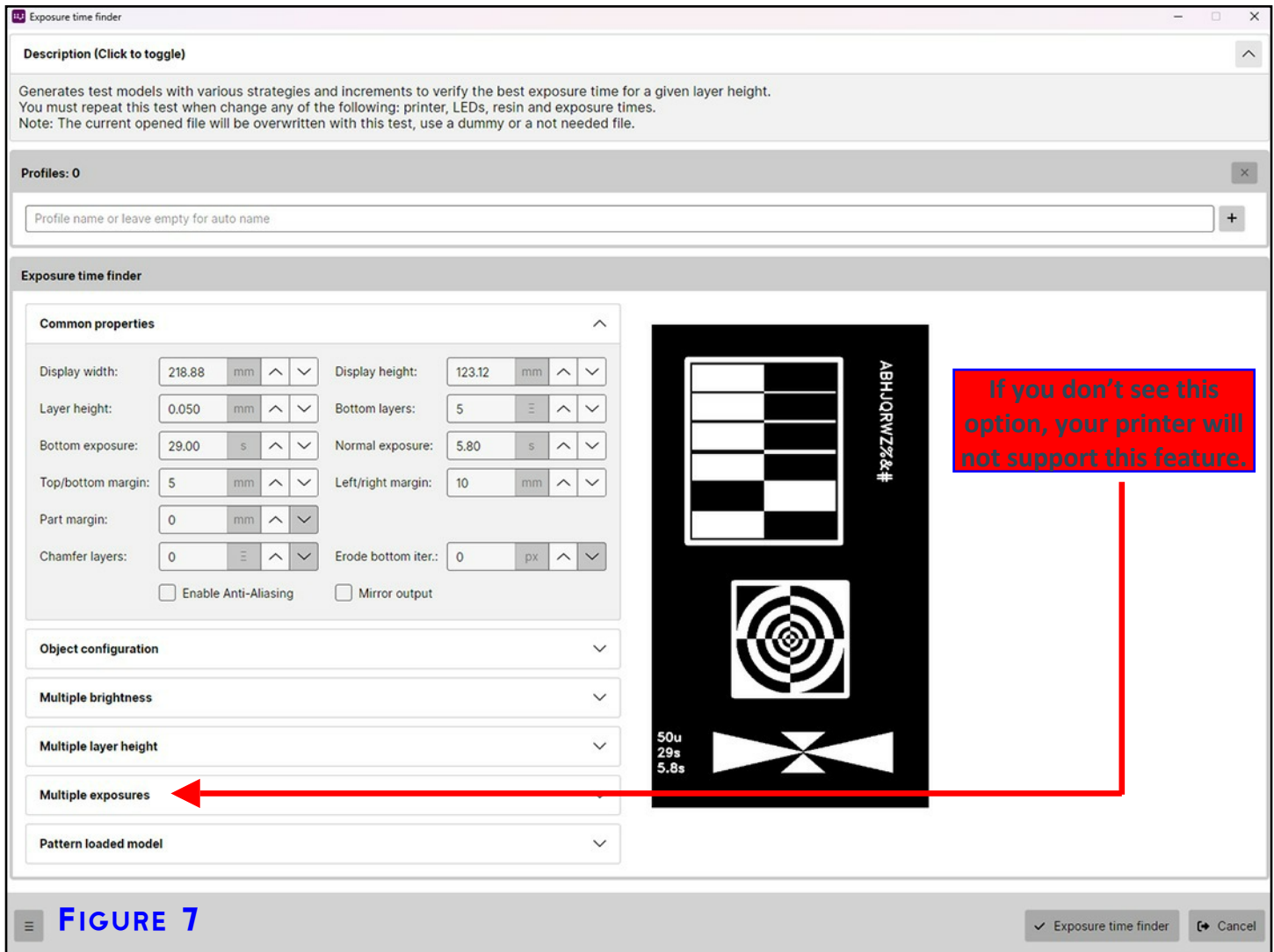
Go to File / Open and select the file you just sliced as shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the file open in UVtools.



You will see the part in the upper left window and the raft is the big white part in the center. You can use the slider on the right side of the screen to move through the object just like on your slicer, but we don't need any of that for this exercise.



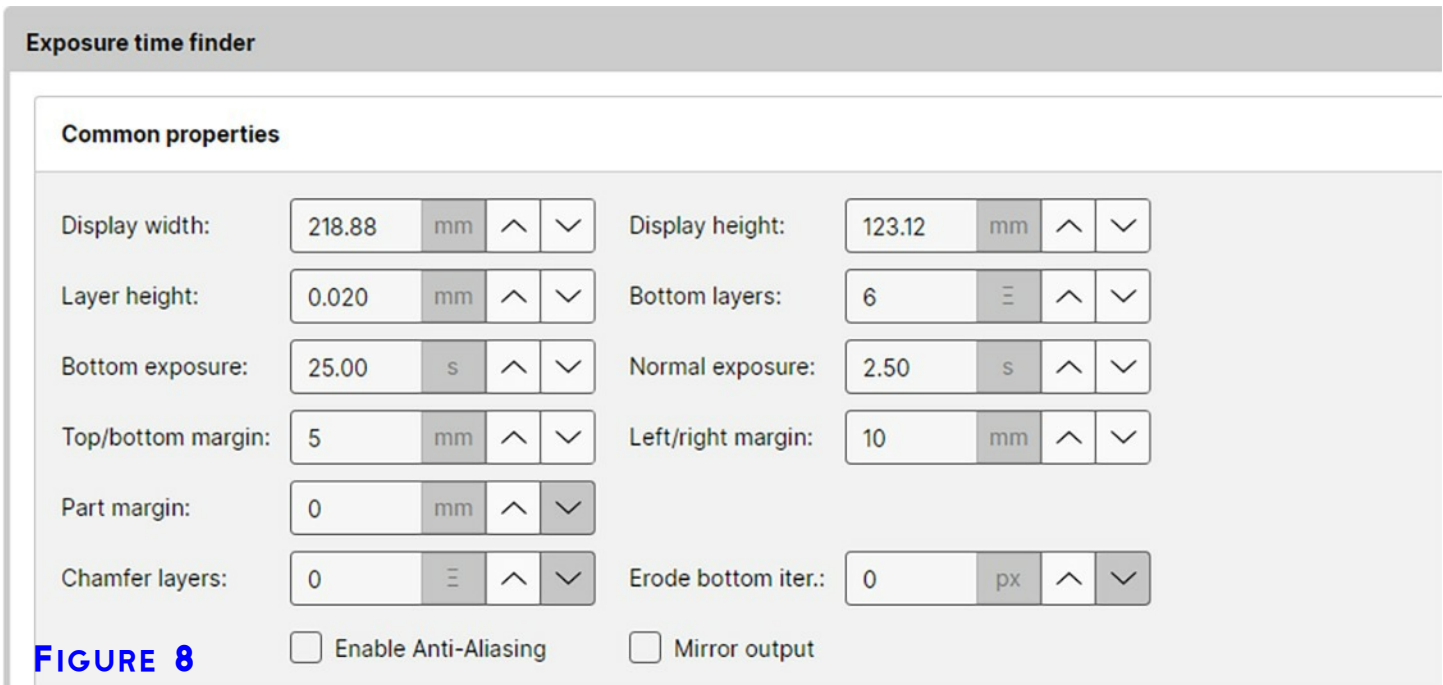
Ok, now select Calibration / Exposure time finder as shown in figure 6. Figure 7 shows the result of opening the Calibration / Exposure time finder. At this point, if you do NOT see **Multiple Exposures** listed in the window, your printer will not support this function. Stop, take a deep breath and go read another article... or buy a new printer!



OK, so if you do see this table, let's continue....

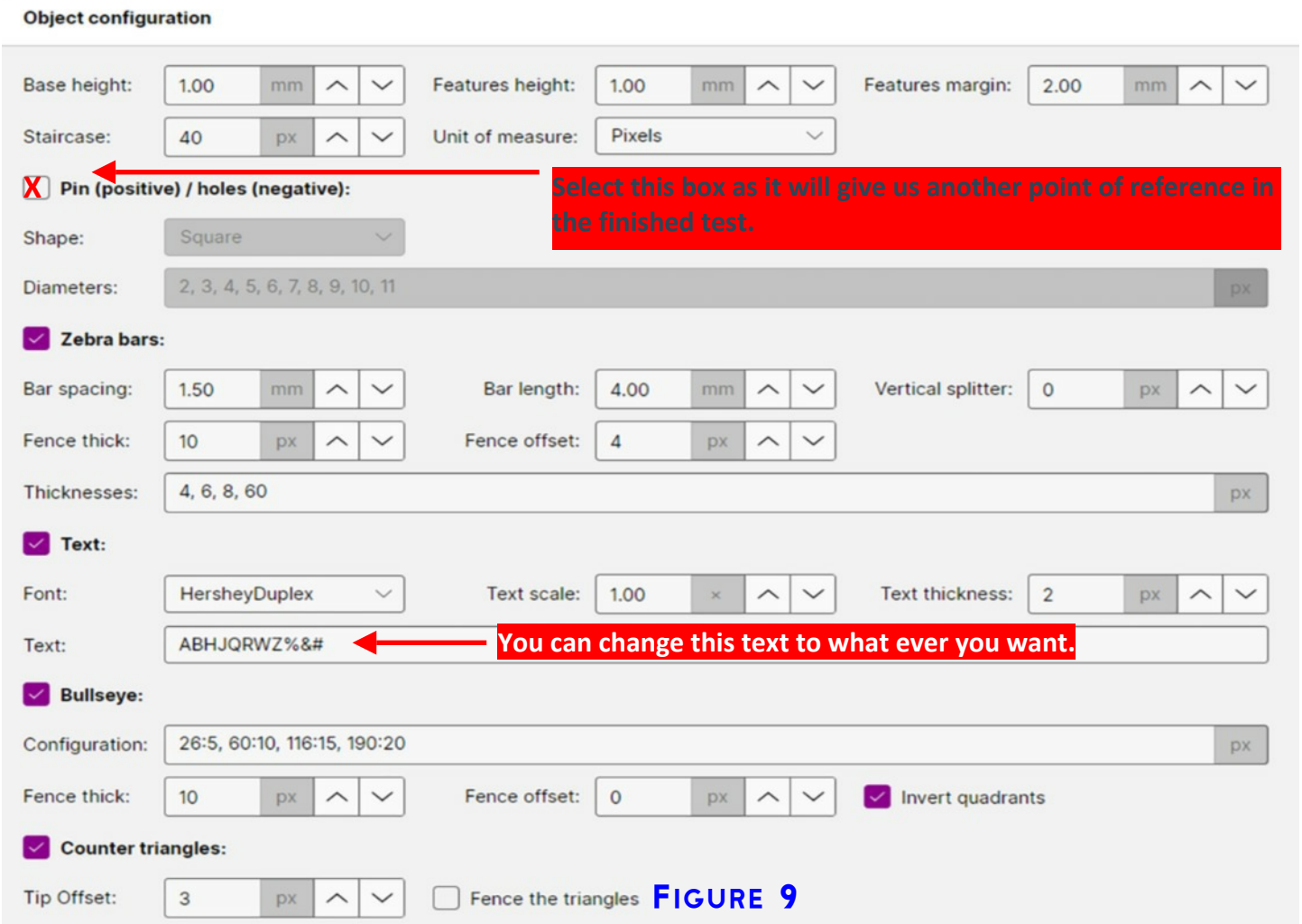
The first tab is the **Common Properties** above (Figure 8 next page). These settings were pulled from the sliced file. The only item we need to change here is the **Normal Exposure**. If we leave it at 2.5, UVtools will use that number as a base and begin adding to it. I think the 2.5 seconds is good, but if I wanted to dial it in better, I would drop to 2 seconds, and UVtools will begin adding from there. I left mine at 2.50 for now.





**FIGURE 8**

The next tab is **Object Configuration** below (Figure 9). Check the Pin (positive / holes (negative) selection. This will print the small holes and bumps on the side of the test print, and is one more piece of data to look at. The text box can be changed to whatever you want. Maybe change it to the resin being used or the file name of the test name, whatever you want.



**FIGURE 9**

**Multiple exposures**

Only few printers support this, make sure your is supported or else it will print a malformed model. After this, do not apply any modification which reconstruct the z positions of the layers.

Enable - For advanced users only! **Click this box to activate.**

**Automatic exposure generation:**

Generation type: Linear  Ignore global exposures **Generate exposure table**

Bottom step: 0.00 s   Normal step: 0.20 s   Maximum generations: 4   tests

**Manual exposure entry:**

Layer height:  mm Bottom exposure: 25.00 s   Normal exposure: 2.50 s

**Exposure table: 0 entries**

Layer height (mm)	Bottom exposure (s)	Exposure (s)
-------------------	---------------------	--------------

Base layers print mode: Iterative exposure: Print each base layer at it own exposure time

Base layers exposure: 2.50 s   (For 'custom' mode only)

Use different settings for layers with same Z positioning:

Lift height: 0.10 mm

Wait time before cure: 0.00 s

## Multiple Exposure

The last tab to look at is **Multiple Exposure**, and this is where the magic happens (Figure 10 above.) Click the Enable button otherwise you can't make any changes.

The **Normal Step** is the number of seconds you want to increase/decrease from our **Normal Exposure** time which we set at 2.50. So now we will get an exposure of 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 3.1, 3.3 and 3.5 seconds. This assumes you run six generations. The **Maximum Generations** box is what decided how many tests you will make. I normally do six tests to the number in the **Maximum Generations** box 5 or 5 plus the default one. If we left this at 4 as shown above it would run 5 tests, the default and then 4 more. A **Normal Step** .02 seconds maybe to small so you can go .25 to add a quarter of a second ,or even .5 or a half second to begin dialing in your exposure.

If you are happy with the **Normal Step** time and the **Maximum Generations**, you can now hit the **Generate Exposure Table** bar.

Figure 11 on the next page shows the results of the **Generate Exposure Table**. Note the lines in purple. The layer height remains from the original file at 0.02mm. The bottom exposure also stays the same. But look at your exposure times. We specified 2.50 normal exposure which is shown in the first row. Then the next exposure time is 2.7 seconds which is our normal exposure time plus the **Normal Step** we specified of 0.20 seconds. The rest of the times, follow our original 2.50 add adds 0.20 seconds to each test.

If you think it looks good, select the **Exposure Time Finder** (Figure 12) at the bottom right. A pop up box will ask "Are you sure you want to generate the exposure time finder test?", select Yes. Once it is finished going through the layers, you will return to the original screen For some reason, UVtools shows a zoomed in image so using your mouse, zoom back out.

**Multiple exposures** ^

Only few printers support this, make sure your is supported or else it will print a malformed model.  
After this, do not apply any modification which reconstruct the z positions of the layers.

Enable - For advanced users only!

**Automatic exposure generation:**

Generation type:   Ignore global exposures Generate exposure table

Bottom step:  s  s Normal step:  s Maximum generations:  tests

**Manual exposure entry:**

Layer height:  mm Bottom exposure:  s Normal exposure:  s + Add

**Exposure table: 5 entries** Remove selected entries Clear 5 entries

Layer height (mm)	Bottom exposure (s)	Exposure (s)
0.02	25	2.5
0.02	25	2.7
0.02	25	2.9
0.02	25	3.1
0.02	25	3.3

Base layers print mode:

Base layers exposure:  s (For 'custom' mode only)

Use different settings for layers with same Z positioning:

Lift height:  mm

Wait time before cure:  s

**FIGURE 11**

**FIGURE 12**

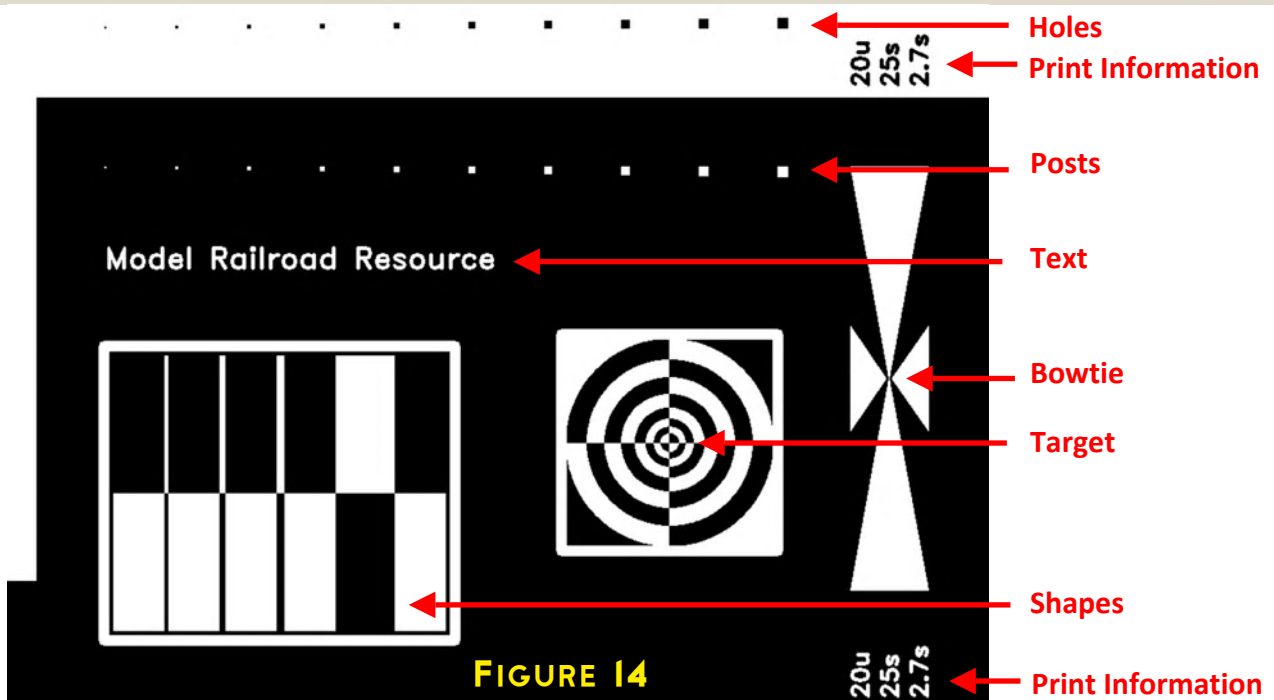
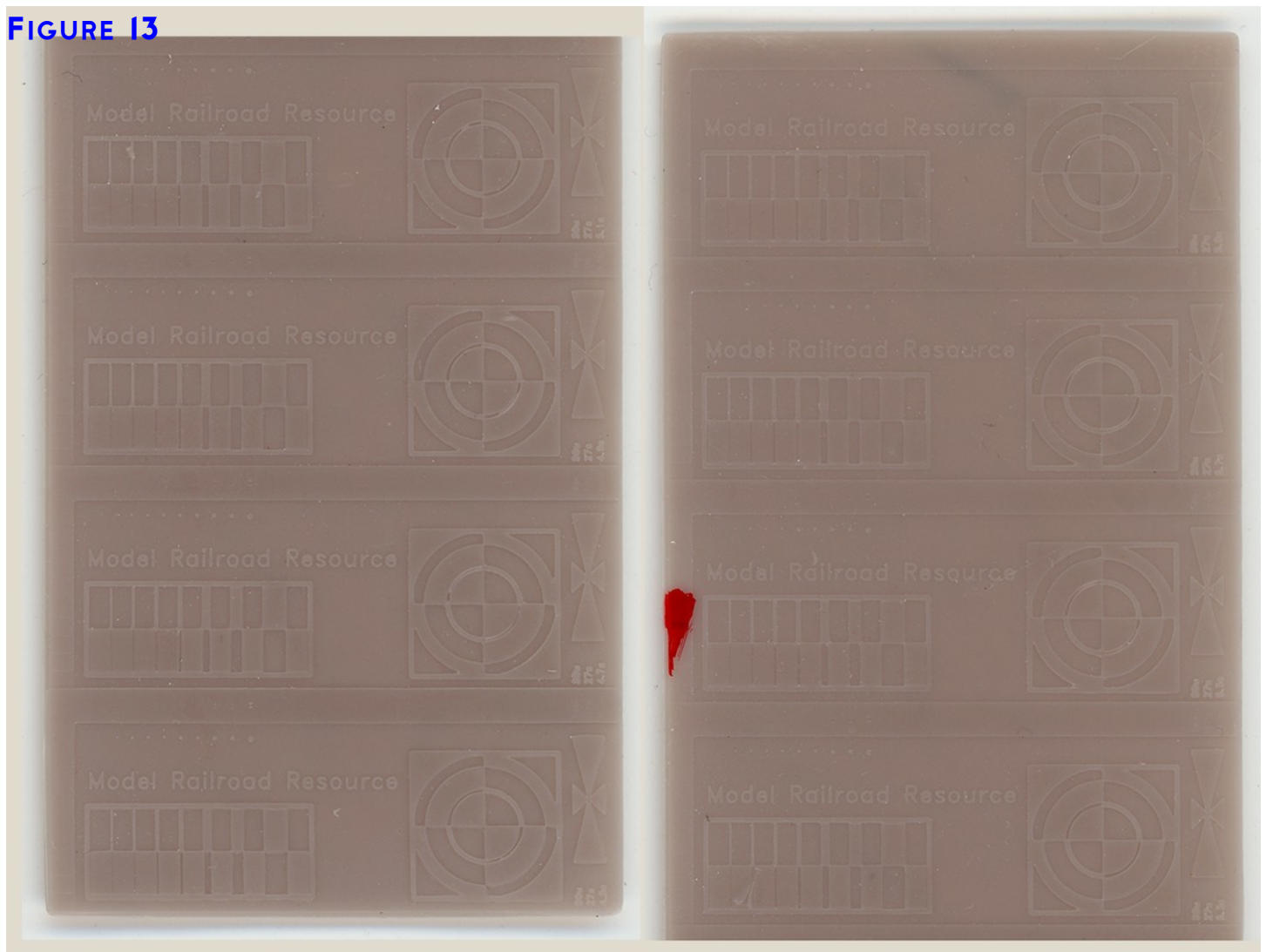
The video below is what happens on the printer screen as we scroll through the slices using the scroll on the far left side of the screen. This is how it will print.

[Click to watch on YouTube](#)



The last step is to click on **Save As** under the **File** command and give the file a name that means something to you. That is the file you will now print. My example is below in Figure 13. After printing, clean carefully, but do NOT cure it. Now you can study the results. Figure 14 is a better graphic of what to look for.

**FIGURE 13**

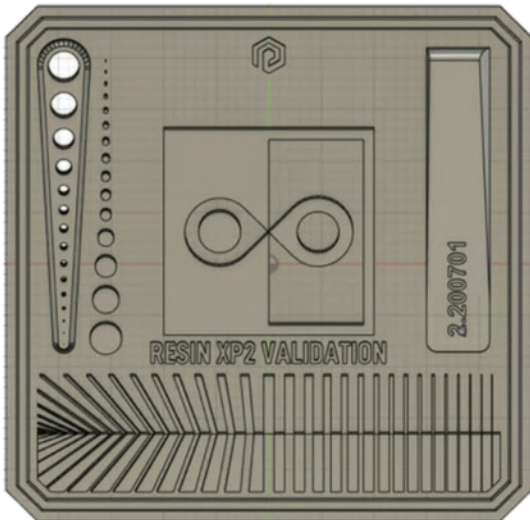


**FIGURE 14**

I may have made up a few of the names, but it makes sense to me. Here is what we are looking for:

- Holes / Posts: You would like to get the same number of holes as posts. More holes than posts is under exposed and conversely, more posts than holes is over exposed.
- Text: Sharp and not blocky compared to the others.
- Shapes: Can the fill shapes slide into the voids? Over exposed the filled shapes will be wider than the void or opening.
- Target: All the lines should meet up at the center.
- Bowtie: All angles should be just touching in the center.
- Print Information: This shows the layer height of 20 microns with a 25 second bottom layer time and then each result will have the actual exposure time from the exposure table. In this case: 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 3.1, 3.3 seconds.

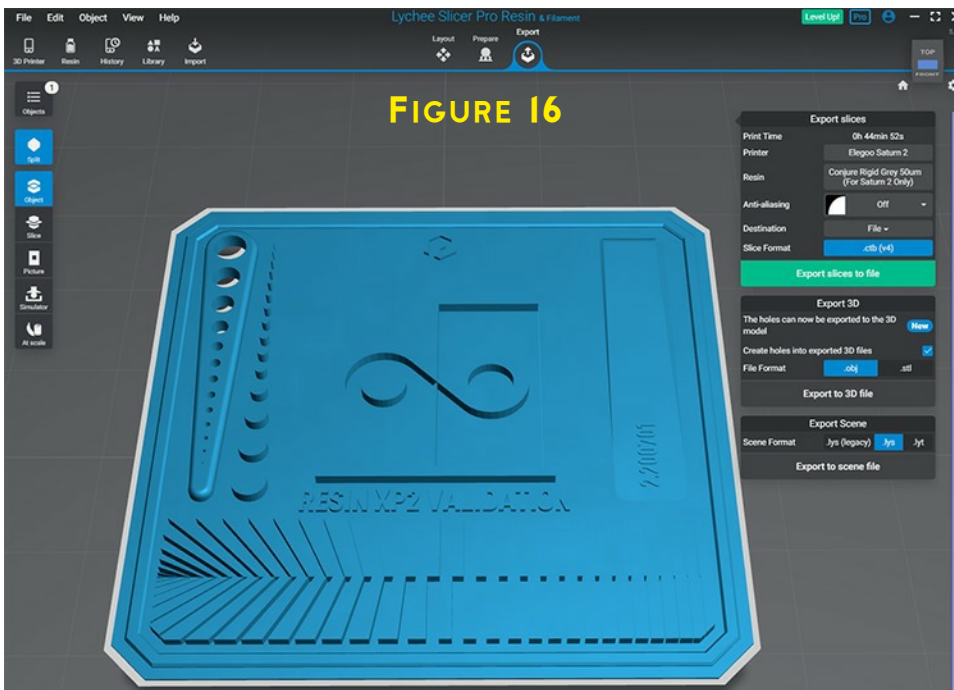
**FIGURE 15**



I am not a real fan of this model as it's hard to read and there is some interpretation. I would rather use the XP2 Calibration test print. Figure 15. ([Download here.](#)) Others may like the AmeraLabs Town or Siraya Tech's version or something else. Wouldn't be great if we could print our favorite test model just like the UVtools version? Well, we can! Bring your test model into your slicer. Remember, before we brought in any model so UVtools would have the information it needed. This time our model will be the test model we want to use.

Figure 16 shows the XP2 Calibration test print in my slicer. Slice as normal and open on UVtools.

**FIGURE 16**



## Common properties

FIGURE 17

Display width:	218.88 mm ^ v	Display height:	123.12 mm ^ v
Layer height:	0.050 mm ^ v	Bottom layers:	4 ≡ ^ v

Again once in UVtools, open the Calibration / Exposure time finder as shown back in Figure 6. Now go back and follow all the instructions with the first exception being, in the **Common Properties**, set bottom layers to no more than 4. (Figure 17)

## Pattern loaded model

FIGURE 18 ^

This option will pattern the current loaded model and generate multiple exposure tests with it. Only few printers support this, make sure your is supported or else it will print a malformed model. After this, do not apply any modification which reconstruct the z positions of the layers.

- Enable - For advanced users only!
- Glue bottom layers to merge the model into one piece
- Intrude text in bottom layers with the model parameters

Second exception, do nothing with the **Object Configuration** box. Scroll all the way down past the **Multiple Exposures** to the next window called **Pattern Loaded Model**. (Figure 18.)

Select **Enable** and **Glue Bottom Layers**, but not **Intrude Text**. Now, scroll back up one window to **Multiple Exposure** and once again, do everything we did previously.

So in case I lost anyone: Slice a test print of your choice and then open it in UVtools. Go to **Object Configuration** and set layers to 4. Skip **Object Configuration** and go to the very bottom to **Pattern Loaded Model**. Select as shown in figure 18 above. Lastly, go to **Multiple Exposures** and finish that just like we did starting in Figure 10. **Generate Exposure Table** and then **Save As** to a new file. The video below show again shows the progression of the print using the slider.

[Click to watch on YouTube](#)



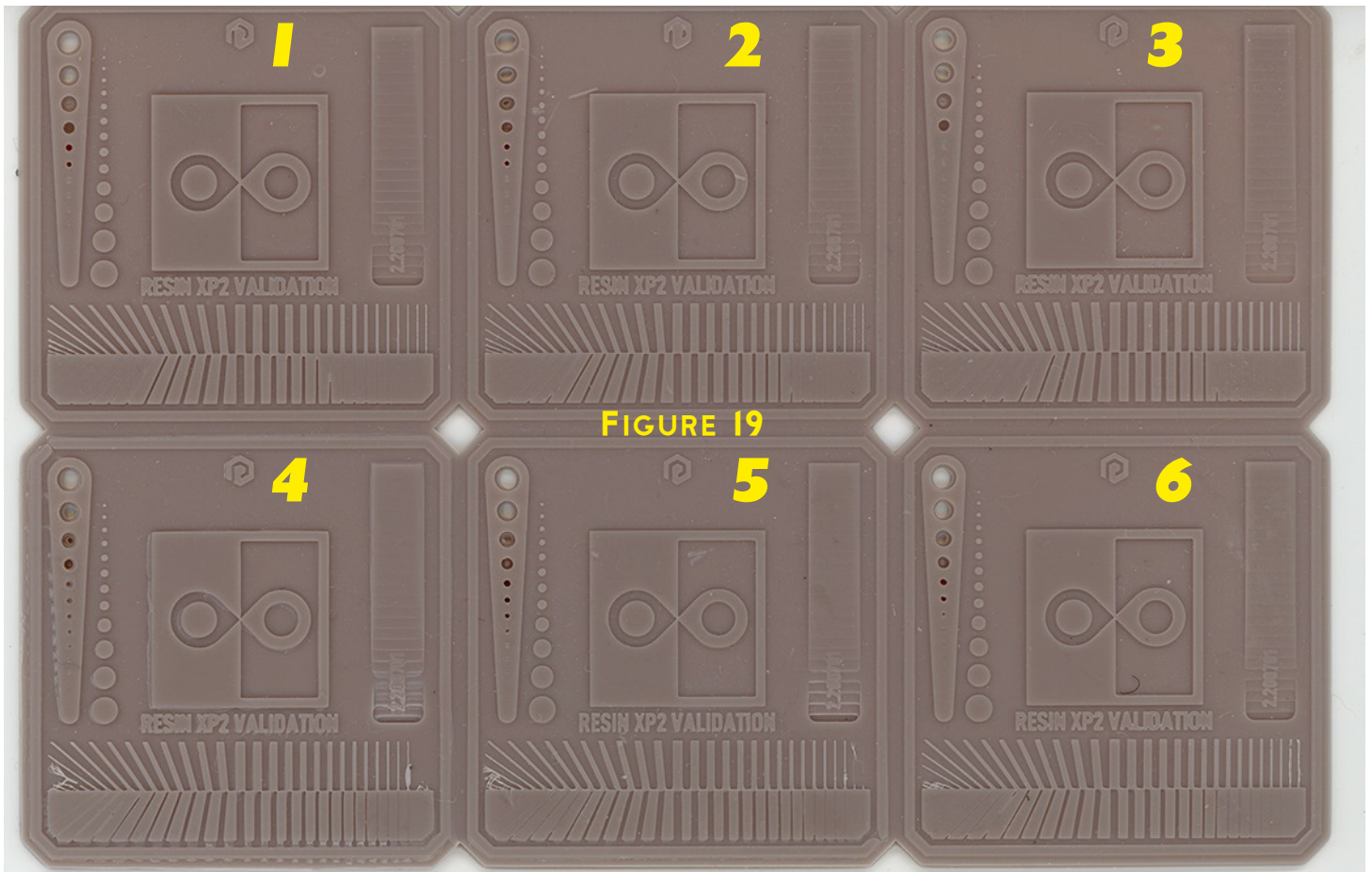


FIGURE 19

Figure 19 on the next page shows my results running **Maximum Generations** box 5 or 5 plus the default to give me six tests.

In this test print, the main thing I am looking for is the the number of Posts and Holes. Number 1 above has many more posts than holes. This is over exposed. Number 4 and five have almost the same number of each. Number 4 would be my best bet. Here is a great video just explaining this test.

[Click to watch on YouTube](#)



Now, if the above test was using 0.25 seconds and you feel number 4 is good, you could rerun the **Multiple Exposures** at 0.20 and really dial in in with another 6 tests. Remember DO NOT cure this model, but clean it carefully and start making some decisions. Remember things like temperature will have a very large effect on print times so be consistent. Also, this will pinpoint your exposure. You may still have other issues like a model pulling off the build plate or failing because of other factors like retract and wait times. That's a whole other article. Speaking of other articles, if you have not read through my article [Welcome to 3D Resin Printing 101](#) you should check it out here!

In the meantime, give this try and happy printing!

# NEW TRACKS MODELING

## “MY BUILD” Models Shown on the December 20th, 2023 Show

These are some of the photos modelers shared on our December 20th, 2023 MY BUILD Zoom Show.

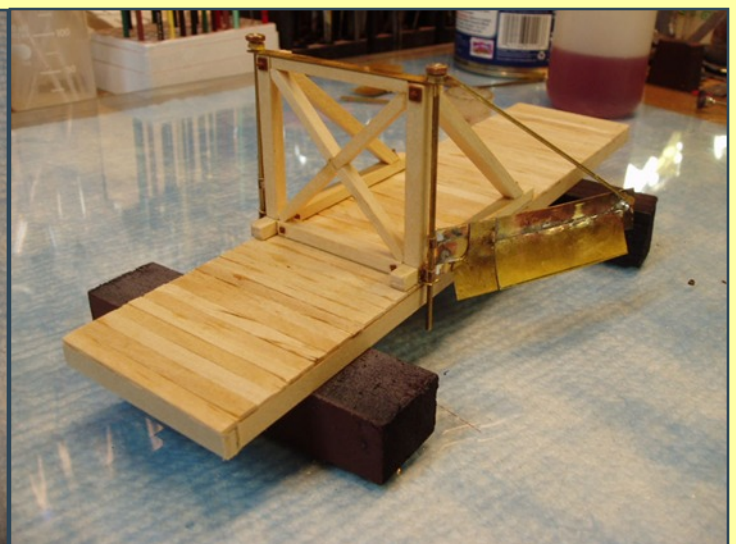
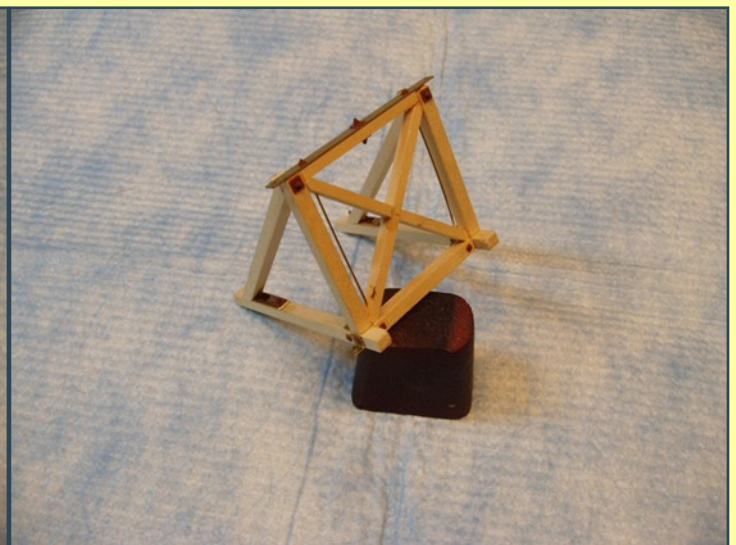
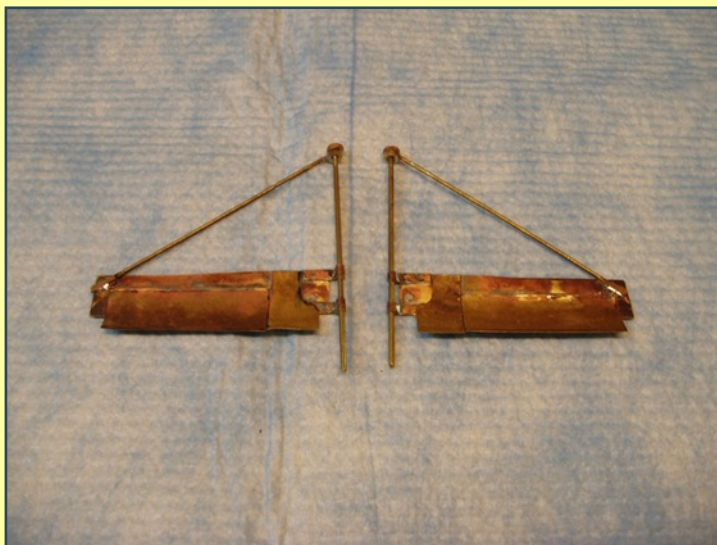
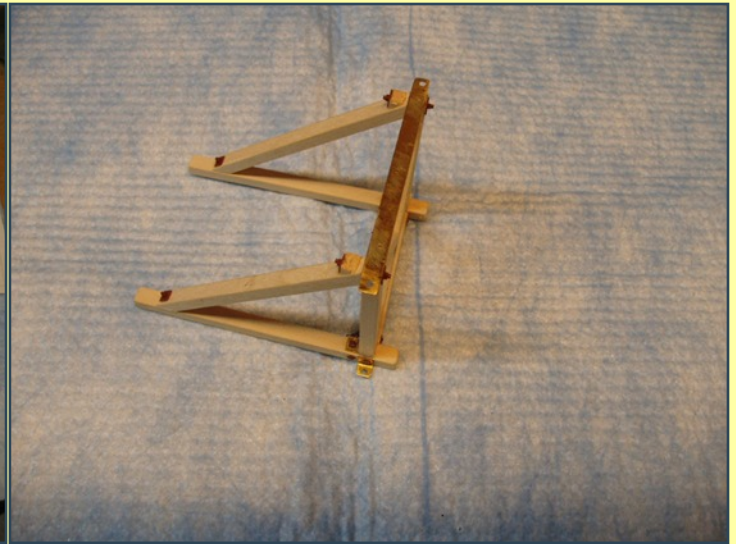
[You can see a video of the entire MY BUILD segment here.](#)

Each of the participants has an email address included, and welcomes your contact.

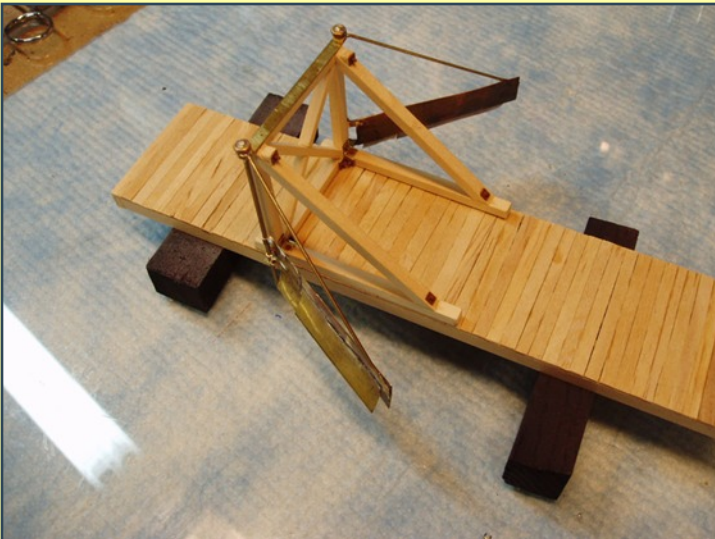


Alex Belida- [alex.belida@gmail.com](mailto:alex.belida@gmail.com) – HO scale – Ambroid B&M Snowplow. Brunswick Green. Many decades in the making. Hand cream container used for the plow. Had since childhood. Cupola from old caboose. Eureka & South Pass Railroad. Fictional. A few added extras.



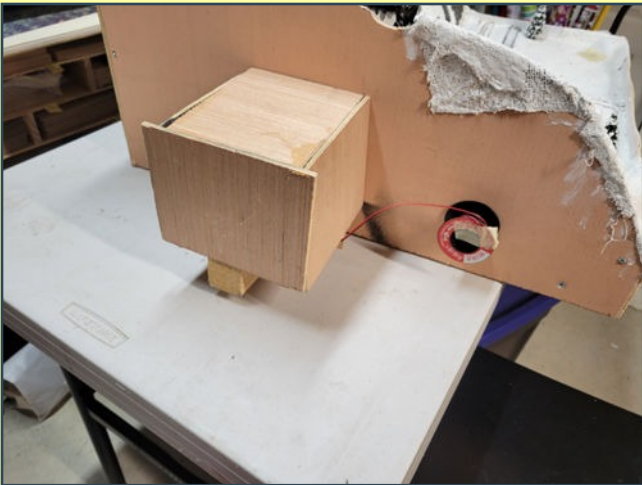


*Martin Brechbiel – [Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com) - O scale – Monson's Snow Spreader – from HOn3 plans in the NGSL. Brass pieces that actually hinge.*



Greg Cassidy –  
 gcassidy2@verizon.net – HO  
 scale – Medford Trains  
 The Store at Shaw – Original pilot  
 model built by the late Jim  
 Coshen. Built to be removable.





Chris Coarse – [railrunner130@hotmail.com](mailto:railrunner130@hotmail.com) – HO scale - Snow diorama. Mostly using Woodland Scenics components. Designed for versatility in photography.

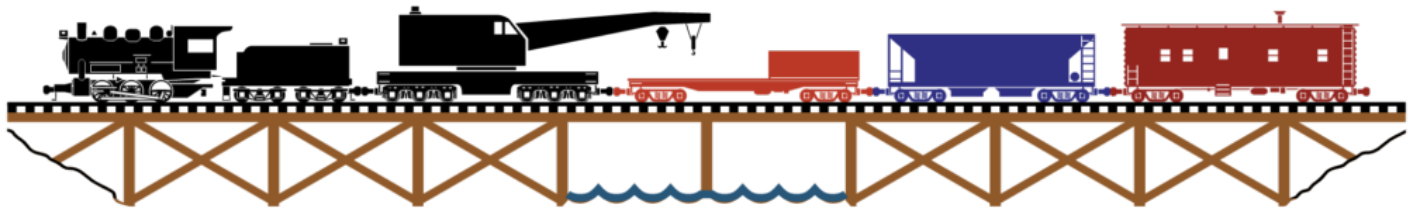




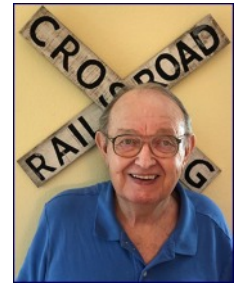
Leonard Davis – [lleeblues@yahoo.com](mailto:lleeblues@yahoo.com) – O – Gloorcraft Models kit.



# NEW TRACKS MODELING



By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR



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

Well the holidays are over and we are starting year seven of New Tracks Modeling articles. We wish everyone happy modeling and a very productive and rewarding 2024.

I can't believe this article starts my seventh year writing New Tracks Modeling, for *The S Scale Resource Magazine*. Time sure passes fast, but every article has been fun for me to write and hopefully helpful to your railroad modeling. So here we go on our 2024 modeling adventures.

### A Major New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship Announcement for 2024

Bob Davidson, the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship Chairman, is pleased to announce that we have reached our initial 2023 goal to grant at least \$4,000.00 in scholarships in 2024. Bob also confirmed that we met the Anonymous Donors Challenge Grant match of \$1,000.00. These successes have fully funded two scholarships, each with a \$2,000.00 value to each recipient.

He is also pleased to announce that the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA has donated \$2,000.00 to the scholarship program for 2023 to sponsor another scholarships for the 2024 year. This very generous donation has made us able to add one additional \$2,000.00 scholarship in 2024, for a total of \$6,000.00 in scholarships awarded. The other two scholarships will be funded by the generous donors of the New Tracks Modeling community.

Bob emphasized that we are now accepting donations for next year's awards so we can expand the scholarship program again next year. Your contributions will help young model railroaders as they work toward achieving a college degree or technical school certificate. Remember, as a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, your donation to the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship is tax deductible as allowed by law. [To use the Zeffy platform, please click here.](#)



To view a video of the official announcement by Bob Davidson on our December 27, 2023 Zoom show, go to our [YouTube Channel](#): New Tracks Modeling. Bob Davidson, his committee, and all the individuals, companies, and organizations who donated, deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation for making this announcement possible.

**MENTOR DEFINITION: A TRUSTED COUNSELOR OR GUIDE**

## **The PCR of the NMRA and New Tracks Mentoring, Inc have released the following joint announcement:**

Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA joins with New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. to provide a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2024/25 Academic Year.

The Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA is joining with New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. to sponsor a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2024/25 academic year for a model railroader pursuing a STEAM degree. The New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship sponsored by the Pacific Coast Region will be one of three \$2,000 scholarships awarded this year by New Tracks Mentoring, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) charity organization. Each of the three scholarships will be awarded to a deserving young model railroader to assist in their pursuit of a higher education degree.

All three scholarships can be applied for in a single application. Links are below to the scholarship page and the applications.

The goal of the New Track Modeling Mentoring Scholarships (NTMMS) is to help model railroaders pursue higher education in the STEAM disciplines. For calendar year 2023/24, NTMMS awarded a single \$1,000 scholarship. For 2023/24 the scholarship was awarded to Ethan Bernstein, a junior this year at Johns Hopkins University. Ethan is an NMRA member and works on N scale issues on the Conformance Committee of the NMRA.

Frank Markovich, MMR President of the Pacific Coast Region said about the scholarship, “The PCR, being the first NMRA region, is excited to take a leadership role in offering scholarships to young modelers to help them pursue a degree. Young modelers are the future of the model railroad hobby and the NMRA. The skills and knowledge young modelers gain while participating in model railroading are all STEAM based and lead to great educational opportunities. We hope the scholarship will help a young modeler not only get a degree, but also continue to participate in the model railroading hobby.”

Jim Kellow MMR, President of New Tracks Mentoring, Inc, thanked Frank and the PCR Region of the NMRA for their forethought and leadership in helping to educate our young model railroaders. “We are looking forward to working with the PCR to develop this special Scholarship and hope other Regions and Divisions of the NMRA also choose to participate in our Scholarship program. The young people who apply for our scholarship will help provide the leadership for our hobby’s future.

- [More details about the scholarship can be found HERE](#)
- [Apply for the scholarship using an on-line form HERE](#)
- [Apply for the scholarship using a pdf form HERE](#)

New Tracks Mentoring Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization focused on promoting the model railroading hobby to young people by sponsoring scholarships for model railroaders pursuing higher education. [Donations to the New Tracks Mentoring scholarships can be made HERE.](#)

## **Continue to Help Our Next Generation of Modelers**

Thanks to your generous donations, we are pleased to be able to grant \$6,000.00 in scholarships for the 2024 year.

## **Individual and Company Donations in 2023**

We want to thank all the individuals and companies who donated in 2023 to our Scholarship Program, and particularly the viewers whose donations of \$80.00 or less, helped us match the Anonymous Donors Special Challenge Grant of \$1,000. We greatly appreciate everyone’s leadership and commitment to our young modeler’s education exhibited by the financial donations of all these individuals.

Rick Barton. Greg Cassidy. George Sebastian-Coleman. Bob Davidson. Jim Kellow, David Vaughn, Gary Kirby. LocoFi. Hank Primas. Ronald Przygodzki. Stuart Rankin. Travis Summit. Ronald Walters. Jeff Zibley, Sherri Johnson, Edward O'Rourke, Chris Coarse, Earl Hackett, John Stockton, Kenneth Amos Jr, Jack Dziadul, Phil Edholm, Michael Gorczynski, Bernard Offley, Pat Rivard, Christopher Gleason, Art Carlson, Daniel Brewer, Greg Warth, Gary Shurgold. Steven Provencher, Rich Randall, Kirk and Barbara Bucher, Dylan Lambert, and the Anonymous Donor.

## Individual and Corporate Donations in 2024

As I write this on January 4, 2024 we are already getting donations for our next year's Scholarship. The first individual who donated was David Menard. Thank you David. I hope we will receive donations from a lot of S Scale modelers who read this article.

Thank you all so much for the leadership and financial commitment to our young future modeler's education you have exhibited by donating to our Scholarship. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Corporate Tier Donations

While any amount of Corporate donation is greatly appreciated and will be noted, we have established several tiers: Brass \$250.00, Silver \$500.00, Gold \$750.00, and Platinum \$1,000.00, of donations available to companies who wish to support the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship with a larger donation. Donors who contribute at least \$2,000 will be listed as a specific scholarship sponsor All companies who donate at any of these tiers will be eligible to have their logo and links on the scholarship page of the New Tracks Modeling website for that annual cycle (one year cycle after the award of the previous year scholarship):

## Major Corporation Tier Donators in 2023

We are pleased that the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA is our first 2023 Donor who contributed \$2,000 and therefore is listed as a specific scholarship sponsor for one of the 2024 scholarships. The name of their specific scholarship is: The New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship sponsored by the [Pacific Coast Region, NMRA](#).



**Pacific Coast Region**  
National Model Railroad Association



We are also pleased to announce our first four Corporate BRASS donors who helped make our 2024 scholarship awards possible. They are:

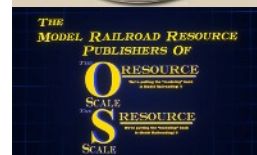
1. [New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings, LLC Owned by Alan Rogers](#)
2. [Brennan's Model Railroading owned by Dennis Brennan](#)
3. [Great Scale Model Train Show \(GSMTS\) owned by Scott Geare](#)
4. [The Model Railroad Resource, LLC owned by Dan and Amy Dawdy](#)



Thank you for the leadership and commitment to our young future modeler's education exhibited by these companies and organizations.

We are now soliciting individual and corporation donations for 2024 to be awarded for the 2025 Scholarship donations.

We are now starting to solicit donations from individuals and corporations in 2024 and are hopeful we will exceed the 2023 donation level and offer even more scholarships in 2025. As a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, your donation to the scholarship is tax deductible as allowed by law.





Please contact us at: [NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com) to arrange for your corporate donations. Donate early to maximize your exposure. Remember, your contribution will help the young modelers who are the future of our hobby.

The New Tracks Mentoring, Inc grants Scholarships to qualified HS graduates who will be, or are currently pursuing a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts or Math) program at a two-year or four-year college or university or an accredited technical school. The Officers of the Corporation are: Jim Kellow MMR President, Bob Davidson Vice President, Phil Edholm Secretary, Tom Farrell Treasurer and Jeffery Joyner Attorney.

### **It's Easy to Donate to our Scholarship Fund**

The simplest way for individuals or corporations to donate is to use the Zeffy platform. We have chosen Zeffy as they insure that 100% of your contribution will go to our scholarship. There are no processing or administrative fees. [To use the Zeffy platform, please click here.](#)



If you wish to make a contribution by check, make the check payable to New Tracks Mentoring, Inc., and mail it to:

New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship  
c/o Bob Davidson 6273 Gulf Stream Path  
Cicero, NY 13039

### **Solicit/Mentor/Educate Applicants About Our 2024 Scholarship Program**

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 scholarship awards. We recommend that interested applicants download a copy of the application for review even if planning to apply on-line. If you have any questions, or need help completing your application please email us at: [NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com)

Helping applicants apply for our scholarships is one form of mentoring we can offer.

Qualified applicants MUST meet the following criteria:

- Must currently be either a current high school senior or a high school graduate living in the United States.
- Are planning to or currently attending a two-year or four-year university, college or accredited technical school in academic year 2024-25 with an intent to pursue a degree in one of the STEAM fields.
- Have a current GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Demonstrate participation in either a model railroading or other modeling youth activity program such as Youth in Model Railroading®, Scouts MRR program, 4H model railroading, MRR Youth clinics, active participant in building a home layout, or belong to an organized model railroad club. Participation in general modeling clubs and activities will also be considered.
- Write an essay of at least 500 words describing how their involvement in modeling and model railroading as a hobby has impacted their lives and benefited their education within one or more of the STEAM areas of academic pursuit.
- Demonstration of having designed and/or built models by submitting photos and descriptions of at least two models completed by the applicant.
- Provide two references to affirm applicant's involvement in railroad or other modeling activities. (NTMMS will be contacting any listed references, so please let them know ahead of time).

Please note: Scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the Bursars Office of the school where the student will be attending. Any NTM staff member or relative is prohibited from applying for this scholarship.

Applications can be submitted on-line or by mail.

[Click here to download an application for review.](#)

[Click here for the on-line application.](#)

Please note that you MUST have a Google Account to complete this on-line form as you will need to upload files.

If you have questions or need assistance contact us here at: [NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com)

**Help get the word out. Show our Scholarship Banner at Events and tell all the young modelers you know to apply.**

Bob Davidson generously donated five banners through his company, Exhibits And More, which will be shown at train shows and rail expos across the country. Each banner is 3' wide and about 7' tall and has a QR code on it to link you directly to our website to get more information including the application to apply.

It's a retractable unit that is very easy to ship and set-up. So if you want one for your event, let Bob Davidson know at: [bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com).

In addition to the banners, we can also provide handouts about the Scholarship program to local events we are not able to attend in person. All you have to do is contact Bob Davidson at:

[bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com).



Look for New Tracks Modeling at any show you attend. We hope to be represented at as many shows as possible in 2024. If you want to take one of our banners, or help man a table, or have us be a part of your table, contact Bob Davidson at: [bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com).

Remember one of these years, your kids or grandkids may benefit from the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program that you helped start. I truly hope so. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who helped us display the banners or pass out our handouts at shows around the country last year. We are currently taking reservations for our banners for our 2024 Scholarship Program. To let us know if you can help show a banner or need handouts for your local club or other event, please contact: Bob Davidson at: [bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:bobdavidson@newtracksmodeling.com).

New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. is the only organization, comprised solely of volunteers from the model railroad community who have created a nonprofit 501(c)(3) company whose sole purpose is to provide scholarships throughout the United States for the benefit of young modelers who are pursuing a STEAM education after high school graduation, in a college, university or accredited technical school. So please help us help the young people in our great hobby.

The contributions and help by the current model railroad community can help the next generation of modelers provide the leadership and continue the traditions of our great hobby. For more scholarship information and to donate, visit our website [newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](http://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship) or click on the Zeffy Logo.

## 2023 Wrap up Report for New Tracks Modeling and What's Coming in 2024

2023 was a good year, a very good year.

1. 2023 has been a very successful year for New Tracks Modeling. We owe many thanks and a great debt of gratitude to each of our volunteers and financial contributors who make our shows possible. They have provided all the production capabilities, developed and maintained our website, handled our communication needs, provided the financing to cover the shows out of pocket costs, and accomplished all the various other jobs that allows New Tracks Modeling to function and grow. I want to thank each and every one of you.

I also want to personally thank Dan Dawdy who helped me start New Tracks Modeling and published my articles for the last six years. He has also supported our Zoom shows since they started four years ago. Dan is a true leader in our hobby and I appreciate his counsel and friendship.

2. In 2023, our weekly Zoom shows increased viewership, and subscribers for our website, to over 1,000, and on our [YouTube channel](#) a little over 1,700. About 700 to 800 modelers viewed, either live or by video, at least one part of each of our weekly shows. How many read my articles? I have no idea, but I know many do as they send me emails. Plus, we have the limit of 5,000 friends on my Jim Kellow Facebook page and about 3,200 followers on my [Jim Kellow MMR](#) page.

3. In April 2023, I started writing a monthly column about Model Railroading for my local *Citrus County Florida Chronicle* newspaper. These articles reach an audience that model railroaders don't normally talk with. I think this audience contains people who could be part of our future and deserves to talk with us. I think more of us need to reach out to them. And yes, some of the readers contact me after each article.

4. We started a monthly Newsletter, called Observations, with Martin Brechbiel MMR as editor. The first issue was December 1, 2023. We hope this publication, which covers modeling in all scales and gauges, will help grow our viewership and modeler participation in our activities. It is getting very good reviews. To get a free copy each month subscribe to our website [newtracksmodeling.com](#). It's just that easy.

5. We started our Scholarship Program in 2023 and it was very successful in its first year, and doing even better in its second year as reported above. We received our 501(c)(3) IRS designation thanks to Jeff Jordan and his law firm ArentFox Schiff LLP. You will hear more about our Scholarship program's accomplishments in later articles. In the meantime, make sure young people know about the three (3) \$2,000.00 scholarships we will award in 2024. We all owe a great debt of thanks to the Scholarship Committee led by Chairman Bob Davidson, with members, Phil Edholm, Jeff Jordan, Tom Farrell, Jamie Bothwell, David Schultz, and Martin Brechbiel, MMR for all their hard work. We also need to thank Larry Price our initial Committee Chairman and Kevin Macumber for his previous service as the Corporate Treasurer and Committee member.

6. In 2023, we started a specific scale segment monthly for N, HO, S, O, O Hi-Rail, and G. Each scale has a financial sponsor and a recognized talented scale modeler as host. We would like to expand the time for these segments, but only if you want us to. Let me know.

7. Our Zoom shows are already booked through May 2024. So if a manufacturer or modeler wants to participate in one of our shows, please let me know so I can get you on our calendar. I would not be surprised if our shows are not completely booked though 2024 in the next several months. So please contact me soon. By the way, I already have several show segments scheduled for the 2025 year. We don't plan to stop our shows anytime in the near future.

### What is Planned for 2024:

1. We are starting a major effort with Sherri Johnson, a Professional Engineer, to discuss various new technology that is available to help your modeling and to also show how you can start using it. This will include AI for building models. These technologies are the future of modeling in our hobby and in attracting younger

people to our hobby. These technologies are what our kids are learning in middle school and high school so we, older guys, need to get involved or fall way behind.

2. We are investigating starting a new effort to use local Boys and Girls Clubs to offer a program for the kids they serve after school to learn how to build models and hopefully build a model railroad. This is in the idea stage and we could sure use some volunteer help get it going. Let me know if you are interested.

3. We are expanding our MY BUILD segments with our host Chris Coarse, to hopefully take over a full show once a month. All of us love to see what everyone else is working on or what new products manufacturers are bringing to the market. Join in and become a part of his effort. Show us your modeling, and help others learn from it.

4. With your continued help, we look forward to a very successful 2024 for our Scholarship Program. We are looking forward to getting an increase in both donations and applicants. The Scholarship Committee, led by Bob Davidson, has some really great ideas that we will be implementing that will require the help of the model railroad community. We know we can count on you. More on this later.

5. What about our Build Along projects? Do you want us to do more or less of these? If you want us to do more of them, please tell me what manufacturer or type products you want to see built on the BUILD ALONGS. We can only provide what viewers want if they tell us. So please tell us.

6. We need volunteers to help with our weekly shows.. We have a lot of balls in the air and we need more volunteers. I need at least one person to work on making sure we don't drop one of the balls we have in the air now. Contact me if you are interested. This is a very serious and important volunteer need.

7. What about having a virtual train show. When we used to do them at the start of the pandemic, we got a lot of viewers and I was told from many of them they had never heard about most of the manufacturers featured in the shows before. This is a great opportunity for small manufacturers to get noticed worldwide and for modelers to learn about new products. Particularly with inflation and the high costs of basic items like food, a virtual train show might be very helpful to small manufacturers and modelers alike. Let me know if you want them. If you do, be prepared for me to ask for volunteers to help put them on. Our current volunteers have all they can handle. Lack of volunteer help is why we had to stop them before.

8. What do you want New Tracks Modeling to do we are not doing? Please tell me. We will try to do it. Thanks for all your past support. Now let's have fun in 2024 and build some great model railroading pieces of ART and have fun with our railroad empires.

### **Some Manufacturer's Contest Drawing Winners Product Comments**

I really appreciate these two readers responding to my comments in the last article asking for information about building the products winners won in the various Manufacturer's Contest Drawings. Thanks to both of these winners for their comments.

#### **Michael Culham**

"I have finished the Bar Mills kit (Jerry's Small Engine Repair) that I won in the *OSR* draw back in the summer. While building it, I took some modelers license and changed a few things so it does not look like everyone else's that has this kit. The name of the business will be changed as well so it is different from the kit.

The kit was quite easy to build and only took about 20 hours in total. I would not mind building another of their kits down the road."

See the photos from Michael on the next page.

Thank you Michael.



## Jim Miller

See *Building a Severn Models Apex Roof Garden Shed* featuring New Tracks winner Jim Miller and this fascinating little brass build in this issue.

“Hi, Jim. I have been enjoying the New Tracks Modeling shows on YouTube. In fact, I was a three-time winner of a drawing! The first was the Clever Models paper O scale Coal Dealer in July 2018! The reasons are varied, but there is really no excuse for it taking so long to reply.

If you still would like to see more, I can do that. The second win was in December 2021. Nick Santos sent me an envelope with I think four of his Nix Trainz Decoder Buddy's. I am very impressed with them and will undoubtedly have a use for one or more of them as I upgrade my small roster of locos.

And the most recent is the etched brass kit from Severn Models. That was this last February 2023. I finally got the kit in June. It is a head scratcher. Some of the parts, like the door hinges, are so small! But I am taking it slow and thinking carefully before each next step.

Whew! Five years worth of activity in one fell swoop. I hope the other winners eventually contact you.”

I do too. As everyone may have noted, I have stopped the inclusion of Manufacturer’s Contest Drawings in my articles. If I keep getting information from past winners I will reinstate them. The winners know who they are. It is up to them to have the program restarted.

**Before we get back to New Tracks upcoming features, let’s meet some talented railroad modelers.**

This first modeler is a Lutheran Minister and an S Scale model railroader. Please meet: [Glenn Ritter](#)

At 82, I am still practicing architecture part time. In the 1940s & 1950s my Uncle Bud was Sattler's Trains & Hobbies, a dealer for Gilbert American Flyer Trains. In 1952 at 11 years old I bought a set of American Flyer trains. I didn't become active in the hobby until 1989. I had no mentor. In 1998 I invited 50 local "S" gaugers to my home – 13 came and we formed the North Penn S Gaugers.



In 1999 I was elected secretary of the NASG until 2004. Now for some details. Hebrews 3:4 *"For every house is built by some man but he that built all things is God"*.

This verse is on my drawings and God has used it to show me events in my life which He has used to build me for His service. Often circumstances cause us to look back on our life and try to find out why we turned out the way we did. I think you may be interested not only where Belfry, Pennsylvania is, but why it affected my life.



*The stony creek branchline of the reading RR was established in the 1850s. It is modeled above as it appeared in the 1950s during my childhood.*



*The train room is next to my architectural office. The self portrait on the right was painted by my father, Arthur Ritter, in 1926.*



*Ritter farm near Belfry freight station.*

My wife, Lin, and I purchased a ranch home in the summer of 1994 where I operated an extensive model train layout in our basement. That layout is now in my office in Honey Brook, PA. The layout is based on my childhood environs.

When I was 10 months old, February of 1942, my parents bought a small farm near a crossroads named Belfry. Belfry also had a railroad crossing which was the Stony Creek Branchline of the Reading Railroad. The Stony Creek Branchline ran from Norristown, PA to Lansdale, PA following the bed of the Stony Creek. Belfry got it's name from the bell tower on a nearby church.

My Father, a Presbyterian, was a commercial artist and my Mother, an Episcopalian, was a floral designer so early in my life I developed an interest in drawing. My parents sent me to Sunday School at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, but they rarely attended themselves. I learned at an early age to appreciate the Bible. By the time I was nine years old I was sure that I wanted to become an architect. That year, 1950, a member of the Gideons International came into our community and gave me a New Testament, my very own Bible. Two years later, October 22, 1952, I opened that New Testament to the inside back cover and read verses that said that I was a sinner. From Sunday School I had a concept of sin and I was not always a good boy. I prayed after reading those verses to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

My Father passed away four years later, but I stayed with my dream to become an architect. I studied drafting at Norristown High School and was accepted to continue my studies at Drexel Institute of Technology. While in college, Billy Graham came to Philadelphia in September of 1961. I invited some college friends to ride with me. I was so moved by his message that I went forward and took his correspondence course for a month on the book of John. Mother had to sell the farm in 1961.

While a student at Drexel, I worked for various Philadelphia architects, and in 1970 after rigorous testing, I was licensed to practice architecture. Not knowing why, I became restless to leave the city and became an employee of The Altemose Companies just a few hundred feet away from Belfry. There I met an architect, named John Stevens, who had received a masters degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. John showed me in the Bible that my childhood prayer was the answer to my sinful condition and that because



*The Stony Creek RR runs between Norristown & Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Above is the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown with an "N" scale kiddie ride.*



*Now passengers can ride in luxurious Stony Creek passenger cars.*

Westminster. Dr. Sam Logan was the President and we developed many studies for campus expansion. The only major project to be completed out of that study was the Montgomery Library 4 story addition named Andeas Center.

On January 14, 2004 while on my way to meet a client, a car crashed into mine. The other driver went through the windshield and died. I was airlifted by medi-vac to Lehigh Valley Hospital Trauma Unit. After 6 months of surgery and rehabilitation, we determined to sell our 2 acre home in Harleysville and find an over 55 community which led us to Honey Brook, PA.

Today there are many sets of American Flyer trains, plus engines, freight and passenger cars running on over 100 feet of track through the environs of Belfry, Pennsylvania.

[http://www.gartrain.com/STONY\\_CREEK\\_RR.html](http://www.gartrain.com/STONY_CREEK_RR.html)

I serve my Lord as a member of The Gideons International, <http://www.gideons.org/> The Railroad Evangelistic Association, <https://railhopeamerica.com/> And a member Brick Lane Community Church <http://www.brick52.org> and in sharing parts of the above story with those who see my model railroad layout. Staying on track with Jesus, Glenn

of that prayer I was now a child of God. I was baptized as a believer in 1974. I started my own practice of architecture in 1975, and joined a local church in 1976. In 1977 I was qualified to join the Gideons. I have been blessed to give out Bibles just as this New Testament was given to me by a Gideon. When our Lord returns, I will meet the Gideon that gave me the New Testament and the church member that gave to purchase it.

An opportunity came up to work with a Christian Ministry in 1982 so I took courses at Philadelphia College of Bible, but the opportunity passed so God has kept me in architecture rather than full time Christian service.

I met Lin in 1983 and we were married that year. We purchased a house in Hatfield, PA, but in 1994 we needed to care for my Mother, Emily Ritter, so we bought a ranch house in Harleysville, PA.

In 1989, Lin encouraged me to add to my train collection. Today in my office is a model railroad replica of my childhood home and the neighboring farms near the old Belfry Station. Part of the significance of my model train layout is that my childhood home, built in 1754, was torn down in 1998 as was McClure's farm and Jensen's farm to make way for housing developments. John Stevens passed away in July, 1999 from cancer. Mother passed away on December 7, 1999 from the side effects of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

From 1989 to 2002 I was blessed to be the architect to Westminster Theological Seminary. This contact was made through Ken Rush, who served in the Gideons with me and who was the Comptroller for

Thank you Glenn for your help and interest. Glenn can be reached at [Glenn.Ritter@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Glenn.Ritter@newtracksmodeling.com).

This next modeler received his NMRA Master Model Railroader MMR 744 award in July 2023. Congratulations Tom.

### Tom Greco MMR

Hi! My name is Tom Greco, and I live in Duncanville, Texas. I turned 76 years old July 4, 2023. But I feel like a youngster, because there's so much more for me to learn about model railroading!

I had toy trains starting at an early age, but started "modeling" in the true sense of the word around 1960, when I moved from Lionel trains into HO scale. I've been wild about the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad since before I was born in Baltimore, and I developed a love for the Colorado Midland Railway in my 20s. To me, they are both the same kind of outfit – a pioneer in their field with an enviable "corporate culture" that saw them through difficult times.



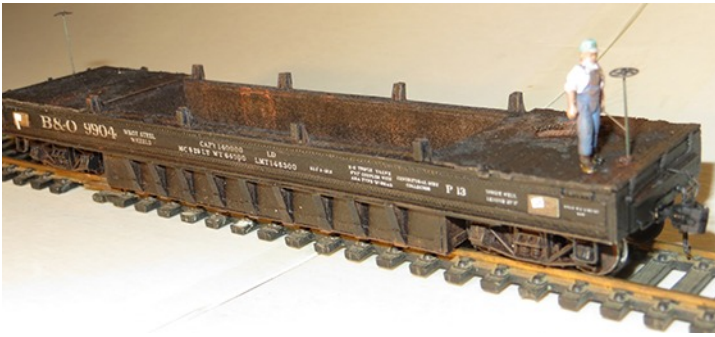
More basically, I'm a railroad fan and former employee (13 years on the Missouri Pacific Railroad). My modeling, as well as the music I play, write and sing, and even my cooking is an extension of my passion for railroad history and operations (I'm co-author of *Dining on the B&O*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009.). I model the B&O in 1929 and the Colorado Midland in 1898.....on the same layout!

I originally chose HO scale and remain in it because it seems to provide the widest range of prototype-oriented locomotives, rolling stock and structures for the eras I model. It allows me to do a lot of railroading in a given space without taxing my vision, or my patience!

As a teenager, I read *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazines every month, and I learned to build through reading articles and by trial-and-error. In other words, I pretty much taught myself, starting with structures and progressing through freight cars to passenger cars. I greatly enjoy scratchbuilding; it's the most cost-effective way to acquire rolling stock for an outfit like the Colorado Midland! And I've built







a wide variety of structures for the “B&O side” of my railroad.

As I mentioned, my main interests are railroad history and operations, and I am able to duplicate the schedules and consists of my favorite roads as the result of many years of research into those areas. I use a “12-to-1” system; five seconds to the minute and five feet to the mile using employees’ timetables from the periods I model.

I’m able to provide mentoring to those who model the operations of a prototype railroad, or who freelance a prototype-themed railroad. I can provide advice and help with research, and have been blessed with a large collection of railroad timetables (over 7700 at last count) from all over the world. I can also provide

advice and encouragement on scratchbuilding structures and rolling stock.

As I write this (July, 2023), I’ve just completed the requirements for the NMRA’s Master Model Railroader designation. It will be a great honor to display that plaque on the wall above my railroad!

Thanks Tom for all your help and interest. Tom can be reached at: [Tom.Greco@newtracksm modeling.com](mailto:Tom.Greco@newtracksm modeling.com).

This next modeler is also an MMR and very active in the leadership in his NMRA Division and Region. He also is the Host for the monthly HO Scale Modeling segments on our New Tracks Modeling show.

## Edward J. O'Rourke, MMR

My involvement with model railroading began when my Dad came home from serving in Germany during the Korean War with a set of Marklin Trains. He had them set up in the attic above our second-floor apartment, and two-year-old me found them fascinating. Dad moved on to American HO when we moved to a home with a basement and those Marklin trains, set up on a 4 x 8 table became mine and my brothers to run. Much later, they were set up in my own basement for my daughters, and following our recent move, I got part of them up on a hollow core door for my grandchildren to run.



My Dad and my Grandfather both enjoyed watching trains, and one of our favorite spots was Devon, CT. Watching the New Haven's electrics gave me a love for traction, and my modeling has centered on depicting the New Haven in the 1950's. Dad modeled the Pennsy in HO. He died when I was in college and his trains and the Marklin stuff languished in my mother's home. None of my brothers and sisters had any interest, so I inherited all of it. College, marriage, first job, grad-school, three daughters and music gigs (I play sax and clarinet) kept me busy, but eventually there was the first home and first layout, which depicted the area around New Haven Station, which has been the focus of each layout since then. I joined the New Haven Railroad Historical and Technical Assn, which provided a wealth of information. I found this both a blessing and a curse, because the more you know, the more you need to know, and the more critical you become of your efforts to model the prototype.

I was a "lone wolf" for many years. Then, in November 2000, I stopped by the Central New York Division table at the local train show and met Jim Heidt, founder of the Division, past NER President and Member-Aid Chair. Jim convinced me I should join the Division, so I filled out the form, mailed my check, and attended a Division meeting. I enjoyed the company, met some interesting people and decided this was worth doing. The Division mostly meets in members' homes, so I saw a lot of layouts that I found inspiring. And there was always a clinic at the meetings, so I learned a lot there as well. I hosted a meeting in October 2004, after which Martin Collard, then Division AP coordinator, suggested I apply for the Golden Spike, which I received in 2005. Shortly after that, I received my first AP award for "Electrical."



*This is the Marklin train set from 1951 my Dad came home with. This was my first project when we moved to the new house in May. I knew the kids were coming for a week in June, so I got the table up and the basic oval hooked up and wired. I let them decide about the rest of the track configuration and placement of the buildings. They had a great time and Mason (9 years old) pretty much ran the wheels off them. His sister is 5, and was more interested in the buildings and cars and where they should go.*

I also met Dick Martini, who had a large layout depicting the modern CSX in Syracuse, and invited me to an op session. This got me an introduction to Dick's son Dave, who also had a large operating layout, Drew James, who was then just beginning operations on his free-lanced Pacific Northwest layout, and Bill Brown, MMR, then the Division Superintendent. I now participate in several groups that operate regularly on members' layouts. We just did one on Large Scale backyard layout. I also joined



*This is SS-75 - New Haven Station interlocking tower. I had seen this tower on maps, but had no idea what it looked like, so I used an Atlas tower as a stand in for many years. Then I came across a head-on photo in a book. About the same time, the NHRHTA forum had a couple of very blurry photos, so armed with that, I drew some plans and scratch built the structure out of wood and styrene. It was torn down and replaced in 1954, no plans exist, so I'm sure it isn't an exact copy, but it will do. Got a Merit award and took 2nd place in "Scratch-built structures" at the NER Convention in 2021.*

the Tuesday night group working on and operating Jim's Ogdensburg and Norwood.



In 2008, Brian Curry, MMR, then Division Superintendent, appointed me and Ed Olszewski co-editors of the Division Red Markers newsletter, on the theory that two Eds are better than one, positions we both still hold. Brian also asked me how I could model the New Haven without catenary, and since I didn't have a good answer, my layouts have overhead wire. I was Division Chief Clerk for many years. When Bill Brown became National Contest Chair, he nominated me to take his place as New York State Director on the NER Board of Directors, which led to my election as NER President in 2021. Along the way I had collected 6 Achievement Program awards, so I was now only one category short of MMR. The prospect of scratch building Motive Power or Cars seemed daunting and time-consuming, so I figured I'd be 5 or 10 years along before I completed one of those aspects.



Of course, the pandemic intervened. All the bands I played with stopped playing (I retired after 41 years as a public-school Band Director), the op sessions ceased, and everything else I did dried up as well. Other than taking a daily walk with my wife and practicing my clarinet, the model railroad became my focus. I finished the scenery on the last section of the layout, and then went on eBay and bought a bunch of craftsman car kits. At the last in-person Division meet (outdoors, socially distanced at the Dewitt Rail Yards) before winter closed in, four of my cars received Merit awards. When I got home, the realization dawned that I only needed to scratch-build 4 cars and I'd be a Master Model Railroader! So, I got to work, built four cars, and Dave and Bill came over on a very cold late December afternoon to verify my cars, decided to judge them and each earned a Merit award as well. I



*A lot of New Haven photos were taken at Motor Storage because it was easy to access and there were always plenty of motors being service. I had to have it for my Motor Storage, so I scratch built it from styrene shapes and a few commercial castings. The original spanned three tracks - I only could fit two, but it does capture the "flavor" of it. This appeared in the RMC-Dremel Kit-bashing award in Railroad Model Craftsman in September 2017.*

are a few anachronisms – I had to have the Rapido EP-5 (1954) and a Bachmann EF-3 (1960). There will also be a branch line and a city industrial switching area. I like urban scenery and may find a way to squeeze in a trolley line. I'm working on getting the walls sheet-rocked, and several friends are working on track plans with me.

I've written articles for *RMC*, *NMRA Magazine*, the NHRHTA "Speedwitch," and the NER "Coupler," and have a couple of clinics I give when I get the chance. I have done some AP judging and Bill Brown recruited me to serve on the National Contest committee, so I'll be at the Texas NMRA Convention in August. We have a great group of modelers here in Central New York and the Northeast, helping each other out whenever we can. One of our member's 14 year old son is going to get his "Chief Dispatcher" Award before he's done with high school.

Thanks Ed for your help and comments. Ed can be reached at [Edward.ORourke@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Edward.ORourke@newtracksmodeling.com).

This next modeler considers himself a mediocre modeler. I disagree. You decide.

## **Tim Peters**

Let me begin by introducing myself – my name is Tim Peters I live in Parsons, Kansas the heart of Katy country we like to call it, I've been married for 26 years and have 4 children. I model the MKT (Katy) Railroad from 1978-1988, specifically the Cherokee Subdivision.

Who am I as a modeler? That is a good question and one that I have never thought about or let alone considered. Through my eyes I would consider myself as an everyday mediocre modeler, but to some I guess I would be one that's a good modeler that's working my way up. In the early years I would have considered being one to open the box and put it on the rails and run it till the wheels fall off, but now I am one that pays attention to detail, and want to model something that is close, if not exact, to the prototype. I am one now that does

am deeply honored to have joined this distinguished group of modelers and humbled at the company I keep.

I have included the names of some (certainly not all) of the NMRA members who have helped and mentored me along the way because I believe no one becomes an MMR in a vacuum. If Jim Heidt hadn't been so persuasive 20 years ago, I might still be struggling along on my own. I am extremely grateful to all in my Division and Region who helped me along the way.

We moved from the first home in 2011. My second layout in the new home had some challenges due to space, but I was able to essentially "finish" it and was able to host operating sessions. The Division has an annual "Ops 'til You Drop" which bring people from all over in for a weekend of operations on 5 or 6 layouts. We just moved to a new home in May, which has a bigger workshop space, a bigger layout room, and an elevator to the main level. I plan to build it at a level I can work on in a wheelchair if I get to that point (a couple of friends are in that state) so I figure this is also my last layout. It will again feature the change-over from steam/diesel to electric in New Haven. The era is late '40's early '50's although there



research through photographs and articles to see exactly what it is I need to do and exactly how to do it. Having resources to be that modeler has helped me along the way and one that is grateful to be able to have the kind of resources in my back pocket. But most importantly, I am one that now, like I stated before, pays attention to detail.

I have been involved in model railroading basically all my life. Around the age of 9 I started with a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood with an oval, a few cars and an engine. It was the best Christmas gift a kid could receive, and just like that, my love for the hobby began. Although I can't say that's what exactly started it. My dad has been in the hobby for 40+ years along with his friends in the hobby so that's where the seed was planted and eventually sprouted into what I have today. I would spend hours out in the layout room with dad running trains and just watching him work.



*MKT/Conrail GP-40 231 and 232 these two sister units were done exactly the same. Started out as GP40-2, had to remove the water sight glass by removing the side panel and replacing it with a solid panel detail with snow plow, beacon, air hoses, and antenna custom painted by me with Circus City decals.*

Going to his friends' houses, looking at their layouts, watching the trains run and the creativity that they put into it, I knew that one day I would have something like that and be proud to have people come over to my house to run trains and admire my layout. Going to train shows was as much fun to me as going to the zoo was to other kids, as was visiting the hobby shops and listening to the stories that other modelers would tell; seeing the newest products on the shelves and hearing people talking about what railroads would have what and what they would like to see model wise. You can say that the hobby is in my blood and that I have had a lot of influence in my life. I am very thankful for those people that have showed me throughout the years how much fun the hobby can be.

There was one area that I was scared to even attempt. I knew that I wanted to start building my own models; I just didn't know exactly what steps to take to get started and what I would need to accomplish such a feat. In the beginning, to be honest, it was trial and error at best. I'm not going to say it was easy and there were tons of mistakes along the way, a lot of ruined parts and models, as well as, the occasional cuts on the fingers and hands. Frustration had set in, and I was ready to give it up and not even attempt it anymore, but my dad had encouraged me to "keep going you'll get it!". So, I picked up my hobby knife and decided that dad was right and began to start over and that's when I decided to reach out to a couple of friends. John Merman was the first one I reached out to, John had built models for years and knew what it was that I need to do. I spent many nights on the phone with him asking questions on where this part went and what needed to be cut out, what I need to use to fill this or that in and what were the best materials to use.

That's when John directed to me another good friend in the hobby, Bob Wintle, for questions John couldn't answer, but Bob could. I knew I could trust both of these guys as they were exceptional modelers and knew what they were doing. After phone calls, pictures and articles, I journeyed out and bought styrene, detail parts, paint – everything I would need to build me the perfect model, or at least an attempt. The first model I attempted to do was a stock Athearn blue box SD40-2 MKT of course. Starting out easy adding detail parts and decals, I wanted to make sure that I could accomplish this before taking the next step. After examining many



*MKT 127 – This was fun to do and easy to accomplish. Stock Athearn model with the Red herald showing through, I found this interesting and unique that's why I did it. Custom painted with oddball decals.*



*MKT Business Car LEWA 1046. This is my latest project I'm working on. I had to modify the car to get close to what the Katy. I scratch built the rear light with styrene and had to cover some windows and doors. This took about a week to paint as I had to mask off each color. I wanted to do something different, and hopefully I can get this completed in a couple of weeks.*

I have concentrated my time in. From painting and decaling to fully detailing a locomotive. To show support and encourage modelers to take the step and not be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are going to happen, but like me, you learn from those mistakes. Reach out to people for help. Everyone has their own way of doing things and take advice from each one and apply it to your modeling. Do your research – look through articles and photographs. Lend a helping hand! Be there for them when they have questions and don't know what to do. In the end, we are all one big happy modeling family, and I would do my very best to help others along the way to be the best modelers they can be.

Tim Peters, thanks for your interest and help. You can reach Jim at: [Tim.Peters@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Tim.Peters@newtracksmodeling.com).

## Now for some other New Tracks Announcements

I assume everyone knows I love to build models more than any other part of the hobby. I am encouraged when I see modeling recognized as an important part of our hobby. Recently I read the *Telegraph Key*, the monthly publication of the NMRA Sunshine Region, and was impressed by the editor's, Mark Lewalski, message. I hope it encourages more model railroaders to BUILD SOMETHING. Please take a moment and read a part of it.

“Throughout the last 40(!) years or so, I've pretty much been a Model Railroad collector since it seemed all I did was buy stuff instead of build stuff. Some of you may find yourselves in similar situations. Who knows

pictures and making sure I had the correct parts for the locomotive all the way down to the correct horns, I began the project. After completing the model and some positive response, I ended up doing two more and the rest is history as I started doing at least one model a month. Each one I started getting better each time so that John even told me that he needed to take some tips from me. Now if that doesn't make you feel good nothing will!

I chose to model HO because of the realism of the models, there are so many different options to choose from that it makes it almost overwhelming. I like the specific detail that some manufacturers put into their models from the separately installed grab irons to the realistic lettering and paint. You can create one outstanding layout with the number of structures that are available; the different code of track to use; the scenery options; the freight cars and locomotives available; and it's easy to handle. Being that I still operate in DC, there are still options to purchase those models which I like. All of the layouts that I have operated have been in HO and I have taken many ideas and pictures from other layouts to eventually incorporate into mine.

What areas will you help other modelers by mentoring?

I think the area in which I could help other modelers in would be detailing and kit bashing locomotives and freight cars. This is the area in which

why I didn't get going at some point? It could be because I had seen all the fantastic modeling from others and had a fear of failure – the fear of failing to deliver something at a level of quality that I saw from others.

My wife summed it up for me: “You can't get better at modeling if you're you never start modeling”. Pretty simple concept, right? Well, sometimes someone needs to point out the simple stuff to me. If you find yourself hesitating to start something, try to keep in mind that everyone has different skillsets, different abilities, eyesight, hand coordination, and different funding. My eyesight has certainly gotten worse during the last few decades; and where did these shaky hands come from?

Well, we do what we can do. So, I've started. It's satisfying to do some research, decide on rolling stock, try out different track plans, and try to come up with a layout that I find cohesive and believable. I'll see where I get.”

Yep, that is what New Tracks Modeling tries to get everyone to do. Just take that first step, “Build something”, see where you get, particularly with the help of a mentor.

### **“Modeler's Path to Success.”**

**Use a mentor's past memories to help create your own and achieve your modeling successes.**

**“Try it. It works”**

I recently asked the following question to my newspaper audience. Then it occurred to me how would readers of this publication answer the question. So what do you think?

Does your modeling show you are inspired and enthusiastic about your hobby?

I recently talked to a Professional Model Maker who makes dioramas for museums. I had never thought about my models being inspirational or conveying enthusiasm for my hobby to viewers. He caused me to think about these new philosophical, at least to me, they are new concepts.

How would I know my dioramas or individual scenes are truly inspirational and are conveying enthusiasm for my hobby, model railroading. To figure this out probably requires looking at my models differently than I normally would, and perhaps taking my modeling to a higher level. I don't think I can just strive for my models to be “good enough”, or even worry if they will get an award or win a contest. Seems to me showing inspiration and enthusiasm requires more of us. But what exactly?

Perhaps we need to be able to show verisimilitude, the appearance of being true or real, in our modeling so we draw the viewer in and get them to pretend that what they are seeing is real life. One way to see if we achieve this level of realism is to take photos of what we believe is our finished models and see if we would have trouble telling if the photo is of a real life scene or a model. For me, the camera shows all my faults and mistakes and should easily show any mistakes I make with nature. Maybe we also need to ask if our modeling reflects a “moment in time” in a recognized location? Does my model really tell a story, or do I need a written caption to explain what I am seeing. OK maybe my model is not finished!

I have heard artists talk about seeing in a finished painting or model, what they imagined building in their “mind's eye”, and immediately know the painting or model was finished. I have heard: “An individual has two eyes, the eyes you actually see with and “your mind's eye.” Your mind's eye will see things your eyeballs will not see. The mind's eyes will see the smallest details that the eyeball will not see, and trick your mind into thinking that the diorama or model is reality. If a viewer gets all excited (enthusiasm) about a diorama/model without knowing why, you have activated their mind's eye. I can personally tell you, it's a total rush when you activate an individual's mind's eye. You will know because the viewer will say, “This looks so real!” and then start describing the story the diorama is telling them. I believe it's at this point you have captured model enthusiasm.”

“Try building a diorama using your mind's eye. To do this you have to dig down deep and study every little detail of the prototype. I mean go deep, all the way down to the dust on the surface of things. It's an experience

you will never forget when you can build a model using your mind's eye." Don't we all want to feel that? I know I do!

I think looking at our finished models in these ways should help us see our inspiration and enthusiasm for building the model. But I am still not sure this is the whole answer. There may be more to it. Yes, as you can tell I am struggling defining modeling "inspiration" and "enthusiasm"!

For example I have also heard: "I am not sure high quality work and enthusiasm are something that comes hand in hand. A modeler who has tons of enthusiasm about what they are building doesn't necessarily need to be any good at it. And vice versa, I know of modelers who are amazing, but I never get any enthusiasm or excitement about modeling out of them."

"I think modelers who exude enthusiasm are excited about more than the thing they are building. They care about the subject matter, are probably a little over educated about it, are always craving that next new thing or piece of information. They are also probably a little humble about what they are building, if they are good at it, and thusly encourage other folks by not being condescending."

Well, this is a lot to think about and I am going to try to incorporate all of these thoughts when looking at my next model. We shall see what I can accomplish.

How do you look at and judge your finished modeling? Do you convey your inspiration and enthusiasm in your modeling? Do you even believe conveying inspiration and enthusiasm in our modeling will make us better modelers and maybe bring more people into modeling and our hobby?

If you believe it does, how then do we define "modeling inspiration and enthusiasm"? Is it what a Danish friend told me: "René Magritte had it right: Ceci n'est pas une pipe. What we make is not real, it is in our imagination, but do we believe it?" Or his other suggestion: "We could quote another artist if you remove the melancholic tone of the work: "All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." - Edgar Allan Poe"

I guess for me the final answer is simple: I will just keep building models to the best of my ability and stop building each one when I am pleased and satisfied that the final result meets my expectations for the model I envisioned before I started. After all, I am a modeler not a philosopher. If it's good enough for me, I hope it is good enough for everyone else, cause it's the best I can do. What do you think? Please let me have your thoughts. My email is [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)

## **We started a new monthly Newsletter**

"New Tracks Modeling Observations"  
Editor: Martin Brechbiel, MMR

On December 1, 2023 New Tracks Modeling introduced a new monthly newsletter designed to provide ideas, commentary, and insights from New Tracks Modeling Zoom, and YouTube participants and viewers, about all scales and gauges in our great model railroad hobby. We also plan to give advance notices about upcoming New Tracks Modeling Features, opinions, and projects including our Scholarships. [Here is a link to our recent issue on January 1, 2024.](#)

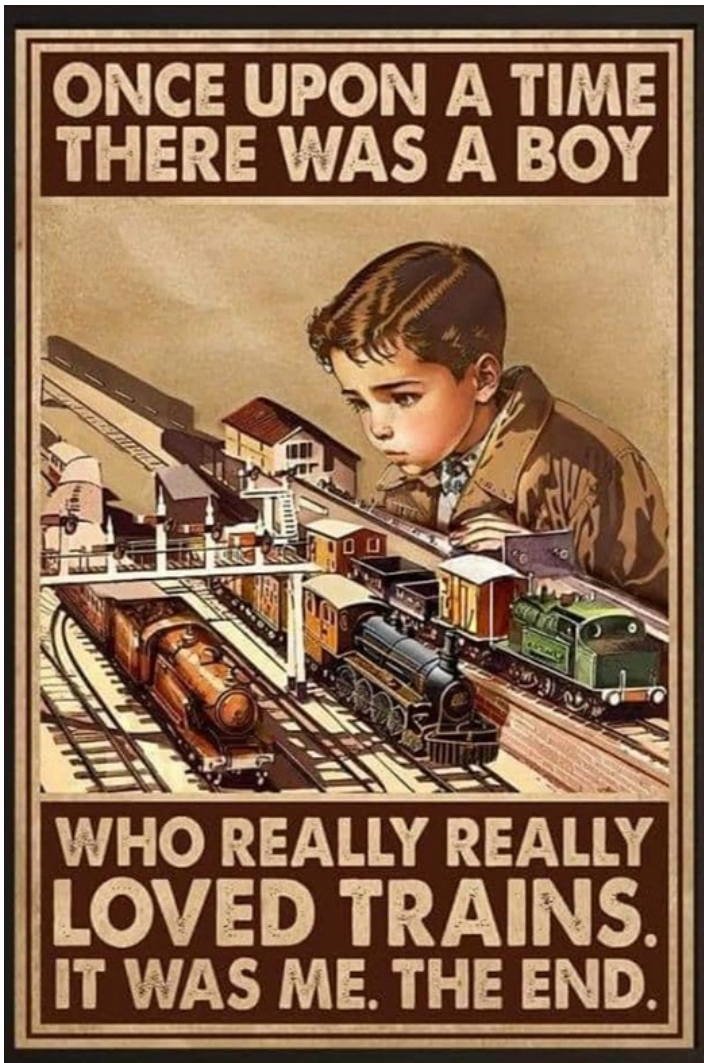
If you are a subscriber to our website or a donor to New Tracks Modeling, or to our Scholarship program, you will automatically get this publication by email. If you are a subscriber to our New Tracks Modeling YouTube Channel, you will be able to get a link to view the publication. You can also get a copy by visiting our Website: [newtracksmodeling.com](http://newtracksmodeling.com).

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and ask you to encourage your friends to become subscribers to our website [newtracksmodeling.com](http://newtracksmodeling.com) or our [YouTube channel, New Tracks Modeling](#), so they can also receive it. Please contact our Editor, [Martin Brechbiel, MMR](#) with your comments, suggestions, a new product you have coming out in any scale, or if you want to publish your views and comments in a future issue.



## Does this Bring Back Memories!

I found this on the Nashville Road Facebook page. No question that photo could be me, and I still feel the same way today. I bet a lot of you also see yourselves in the this photo. We need to help young kids today enjoy model railroading like we did. If we don't I worry if our existing associations and businesses will survive long term? Will our hobby?



## Playing with Trains! It's Good for Kids

I found out about this in the recent publication of the National Retail Hobby Stores Association (NRHSA). A recently published article by Dr. Salim Hashmi<sup>1</sup> that reviewed more than 1,600 other published studies revealed that playing with toy trains aids in improving motor functions starting from an early age. This includes planning, self-control, memory, and attention skills. Additionally, building tracks for the trains while playing was indicated to potentially aid in spatial reasoning development. And then at another level yet, playing with other children helps learning and practicing collaboration, cooperation, and social understanding.

According to Dr Hashmi's study and results, constructing track, arranging train cars, envisioning scenarios, and enacting them while playing with trains can stimulate cognitive development and enhance critical thinking, spatial analysis, and decision-making skills. Collaborative play with toy trains could help encourage teamwork, negotiation, and collaboration, as children share resources, ideas, and play together. Additionally, playing with toy trains provides children with opportunities to develop and practice problem solving abilities. Overall, train play is an excellent way for children to develop key skills.

Much of these abilities can be found translated into the activities of adult model railroading hobbyists. We plan and build layouts, plan and build complex models, construct and lay track, make up trains in a prototypical arrangements, perform problem solving in operations activities on layouts, work together in teams in operations sessions, write articles and communicate with others, create technologies to advance model building. In sum, we still play with trains. Many of these same activities extend to other activities.

My most recent experience in this arena was my being confronted by a vacuum cleaner that failed to work. There were a multitude of screws to be extracted, but once disassembled, a plug of debris was extracted from the motor armature, and functionality was restored. Re-assembly was akin to putting together a complex model holding the motor, switches with springs, etc. in their proper spaces while securing the screws into place. Not too far removed from some models on my work bench!

<sup>1</sup>Hashmi, S. How Do Children Play with Toy Trains and for What Benefits? A Scoping Review. *Eur. J. Investig. Health Psychol. Educ.* 2023, 13, 2112–2134.

## Let's Help Kids Learn to Build Models for Their Trains

Building a model kit as a kid can be the start of a successful career and/or a lifetime hobby. Plus, it's a lot of fun. But I think you already know this. I published this in my local newspaper to try and help the local Boys and Girls club start a Model Building Program. Maybe your local club could also start such a program.

A friend recently told me about a program he started in Louisville, KY some years ago that I believe may be something that's needed by many of our local Citrus County kids.

My friend said: "When we first arrived in Louisville, I was asked by a parent of one of my grandson's friends if I could teach her son how to build plastic models. She was a single parent and the child (a middle schooler) needed help which she couldn't provide. It resulted in "Grandpop's Scale Model Building Clinic". I held two, 10 week sessions at the Jewish Community Center which provided funding for the tools and materials. Each session had about 10 kids (all boys sadly). The kids bought their own kits at our great local hobby shop with guidelines regarding complexity. It was a big success and I've been approached to do it again. A number of the kids who attended have gone on to engineering programs. All of them are now college graduation age."

Because of my involvement with providing the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program for HS students attending a STEAM higher educational program, I was immediately struck by his comments about some of the students becoming engineers. I was also struck by the fact that kids without full time Dads may not have access to a person who can help them learn to build scale models. So I looked around in our community for a program like my friend did in Louisville. I did not hear of one. If I missed finding one in Citrus County, please let me know about it and I will sincerely apologize, congratulate you for your efforts, and include it in a follow up article to help promote it.

But if no such program exists, then I hope that someone reading this may help start one. I know there are many retired people in Citrus County who could help kids build model kits. Are there any churches, synagogues or mosques interested in providing space and/or some funds for kits and tools? How about our local university helping through their STEAM program, or a local women's club, or the local Citrus County Model Railroad Club or Model Airplane Club, etc?

One of the local people I talked with about such a program was Mr. Travis Anderson, the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Citrus County. He is interested in having such a program because he has kids of all ages who attend his after school programs and he is always looking for activities for the members. He said he believes the kids could benefit by learning model building skills, plus this would provide something new and different to learn at his 3 facilities located in Homosassa, Beverly Hills, and Inverness. But he would need funding.

Don't forget, one day the kids who are helped in this program might be selected for the New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship to help pay for their higher education STEAM program. After that they may find a career as a Professional Model Maker. All, in part, due to their scale model building experiences you helped provide them. I guarantee helping young kids learn to build scale models will not be a waste either of your time or any financial funding you provide. Deep down, I think you already know and believe that. Well, it's time to get to work then.

If you think well of this type of program please let me know. My email is [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)

## New Tracks Modeling's Monthly Newspaper Column is Reaching a Potential New Model Railroading Audience

In my last article, I told you we are doing everything we can think of to promote railroad modeling and mentoring. My December 8, 2023 article in the *Citrus County Chronicle Newspaper* talks about the future of

our hobby. Here is a link to the article: [https://www.chronicleonline.com/lifestyle/entertainment/new-tracks-what-will-become-of-the-hobby-of-model-railroading/article\\_e511a7e7-4c1e-5e04-9be1-0a5240d27a9c.html](https://www.chronicleonline.com/lifestyle/entertainment/new-tracks-what-will-become-of-the-hobby-of-model-railroading/article_e511a7e7-4c1e-5e04-9be1-0a5240d27a9c.html)

I received this email from Patrick Miller about this article. It's great to get feedback to know you are not wasting your time.

Citrus County Chronicle

## OUT & ABOUT

# What will become of the hobby of model railroading?

Before starting this month's article, I want to thank the Citrus County Resource Center for recommending Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County, which provided exceptional service to pick up a donated item from us that may be able to help another local citizen. I found the staff's helpfulness and the pickup service of Habitat for Humanity was outstanding. For many of us, items might get thrown away, if not for this service provided for free by Habitat for Humanity.

"While customers might not realize it at the time, the items donated or purchased through our ReStores goes a long way toward Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County's ability to build safe, affordable housing for people in need," Wendy Malik, HFHCC ReStore director said. "They are helping someone achieve the dream of long-term home ownership."

I believe this organization truly deserves our support. I decided to write this thank-you to Habitat for Humanity for two reasons. First, I recently used their donation pickup service, and it was first class and they deserve to be thanked publicly. Second, since I started writing these articles in April, I have had people in our county contact me about having model trains they would like to sell and find them new homes. Maybe it's because their husbands were model railroaders and had recently passed away or their children have left home and no longer want the trains. They always ask the same question, "Where do I go for help to dispose of these Trains so other young or old kids can have fun with them?"

While Habitat for Humanity cannot help them find buyers, I have tried to put these people in contact with individuals or organizations that can possibly help them achieve their disposal goals. While I am glad to try to help answer anyone's questions about Trains, if there are local families who would love to get some used trains, or local organizations that would like to help our citizens dispose of their unwanted trains let me know so I can include you in a future article. We sure don't want any trains thrown away. My email is [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com). Now to my article.

### How will the next generation change our hobby?

My grandparents were born about 140 years ago (1880s era). My parents were born about 115 years ago in the (1909 era). I was born 84 years ago (in the 1939 era) and my son was born 40 years ago (in the 1983 era). My grandson was born 2 years ago (in the 2021 era).

Consider the major events which have occurred during the past 140 years and their influence on our lives. The horse and buggy transportation experiences, the World Wars, Great Depression, inflationary periods, radio, TV, computers, games, Legos, etc. Think about how kids today spent their time compared to those in past decades.

See KELLOW, page A4

"Jim, This is a good article. Thanks for writing about the hobby and putting it out in the mainstream. I don't run across articles in newspapers about our hobby often.

I am a lifelong model railroader and I am under 40. I am also building a 36'x 20' HO Scale layout in my basement. My wife and I also have three children ages 10, 7 and 4. Obviously, working full time (usually 50-60 hours a week for me) and family commitments take a lot of my spare time. I managed to make time on weekend mornings waking up at 6 am and getting 2-3 hours of work done before the rest of the household is awake and getting ready for the day.

However, being a young person with a family, this limits my involvement in social aspects of the hobby. I

am an 18 year member of the NMRA, but I've attended 5 meetings in the last 5 years, zero in 2023. Between Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, parades and family events, the hobby takes a low priority.... For now. This just the season of life I am in.

I am not alone! Most young families are busier than ever and some things take priority over others. However, the creation and advancement of the Internet over the past 25 years has advanced the hobby! There are thousands of young people connecting in the hobby via social media. They are gaining knowledge and fellowship through chat groups and social media and have been doing so for the last 20 years.

I am also optimistic about the hobby from the products available. New manufacturers continue to come into the hobby with quality offerings and established brands continue to release new products. This doesn't happen in a shrinking hobby... the demand has to be coming from somewhere. I also view the recent developments of 3D printing and animation to be positive and have the potential to continue to push the hobby forward. While ready to run freight cars and locomotives are the norm now, most structures are still kits. It still requires some craftsmanship to build benchwork, run feeders from track to buss (for now), build scenery and structures. Even most 3D files are printed in flats or multiple pieces that require assembly, paint, weathering, etc.

Circling back to the NMRA, we now have a president who is very close in age to myself. He has been working with the board of directors to make necessary changes to the Association to move it forward, including virtual meetings, virtual exchanges on Discord and now with Lucy Dormont as social media marketing manager. While the hobby is changing rapidly, I believe the hobby has a bright future..."

I have been watching New Tracks content on YouTube for a while now. I'd love to stream the shows live, but I live in a rural area of WV with poor internet reliability, so live streams of anything is difficult.

Thanks again for your article and your contributions to this great hobby!"

Thank you Patrick. I appreciate you taking the time to provide your comments.

Wouldn't it be great to have articles written by model railroaders in newspapers all over the country? If any of you get an article published, please let me know so I can include you in a future article. Got a question or need help getting an idea to write about? Email me: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com). Ideas are plentiful and I am glad to help you get the message out.

## Our New Zoom Show Segments

### 1. A Series focusing on a specific Scales: N Scale, HO scale, S Scale, O scale, O Gauge Hi-Rail, and G scale Model Railroading

I have had many discussions with modelers who say things like: “What is Scale (X) all about? Does anyone really model in (X) Scale? Can I scratchbuild a model of ?? in (X) Scale?” (X) Scale can be G, O, O Hi-Rail, S, HO or N. So we decided to start a monthly segment on G, O, O Hi-Rail, S, HO, and N Scale hosted by knowledgeable, talented modelers in each scale to try and have your questions answered and information given about what is possible and things a new modeler entering a scale might need to consider. One scale will be discussed each week, each month on our Zoom shows. Here are the dates and hosts for upcoming shows. If you have specific questions you want addressed, or a specific person you would like to see interviewed on a scale segment, please contact the host of that segment. Emails for each host are shown below.

**G Scale Modeling** hosted by **Steve Bittinger** (Feb 28, Mar 27) Sponsored by **New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC**



**O Scale Modeling** hosted by **David Schultz** (Feb 7, March 6) Sponsored by **O Scale Central**

**O Gauge Hi-Rail Modeling** hosted by **Dennis Brennan** (Feb 7, Mar 6) Sponsored by **Millhouse River Studio**



**MODEL TRAINS  
MAINLINE  
HOBBY SUPPLY**



**S Scale Modeling** hosted by **Timothy Huebner** (Feb 21, March 20) Sponsored by **NASG**

**HO scale Modeling** hosted by **Ed O'Rourke** (Feb 14, Mar 13) Sponsored by **Mainline Hobby Supply**



**N Scale Modeling** hosted by **Clem Harris** (Feb 14, March 13) Sponsored by **National Capital Trains**

2024 dates are available on our website. If you are interested in discussing something specific about one of these scales, please let the host know and tell him what you want to know and who you would like to hear from. It's up to you to help the host decide what these scale segments discuss and who are guests on the segments. Please subscribe to our website: [newtracksmodeling.com](http://newtracksmodeling.com) so you don't miss any of these discussions on our zoom shows.

### 2. Sherri Johnson Technology Series

Sherri Johnson is very well qualified to conduct this series. She has been a Professional Electrical Engineer/Mechanical Engineer working with technology for 45 years which includes using technology in her scale modeling company, CatzPaw. This series will start June 5, 2024 and run through September 25, 2024. It's purpose is to discuss technology in such a way modelers understand what it can do for them, how they can go about taking advantage of it, and understand its future development and impact.

Subjects will include:

1. CAD Programs you can use and learn.

2. Craft cutters and more sophisticated cutting machines and their applications.
3. 3D Printing machines capabilities and purposes for model railroading.
4. Other technology you haven't heard of!
5. AI, the impact it's having today and will have over the next 5 years. How can you benefit?

This is a series that will be presented in such a way you will be able to understand it and actually use it. Don't miss any of the segments.

### **3. A Segment: "The Economics of the Model Railroading Market"**

This segment will be hosted by Bernie Kriger, owner of National Capital Trains. The first monthly segment was on our January 10, 2024 Zoom show. There are three pieces of the model railroading market. The modeler, the retailer, and the manufacturer/distributor. The economic issues facing each of these groups determines the health and viability of our hobby. Bernie has a long history of consulting with private companies on economic issues and as a retailer and modeler in our hobby. He is extremely well suited to host this monthly segment and try to keep us up to date about the issues facing our hobby.

Please contact Bernie with your questions, comments, and opinions about model railroading and specific areas you would like him to discuss. We know that Bernie will improve our knowledge of the hobby's economic situation and what we can expect in new products, pricing, distribution channels, and manufacturing technology. Bernie can be reached at [Bernie.Kriger@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:Bernie.Kriger@newtracksmodeling.com)

### **4. A Segment: "Setting the Stage with Scenery"**

Starting in January 2024, Bob Geldmacher, Chief Scenery Clinician at Scenic Express, presented a 15 minute segment twice a month about using scenery to set the stage and enhance our model railroads. As we all know, scenery plays a vital role in creating the scenes that help to make our model railroading an art form. Bob will discuss a variety of products and demonstrate techniques that can help your scenery come alive. Please contact Bob with any suggestions about subjects you would like him to cover. You can reach him at: [geldy@aol.com](mailto:geldy@aol.com) or call him at 410-926-4514.

### **5. What Other New Segments Do You Want On Our 2024 Zoom Shows?**

Well 2024 is here. I am in the process of developing new segments for our Zoom shows and need your advice and ideas. What do you want to see? Please let me know. In the past I have tried to provide show segments suggested by viewers and want to continue to do so. I look forward to hearing from you. My email is: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com).

You, the New Tracks Modeling team of volunteers and donors help make NEW TRACKS MODELING Zoom Shows possible. Please continue your support.

Thank you so very much for all the financial and volunteer time support New Tracks Modeling receives for our Wednesday shows. It is obvious to me that "YOU", the supporters who finance and the volunteers who produce the shows, make presentations, and do all the many jobs necessary to make our shows possible, are doing an outstanding job. I know this because of the favorable emails from viewers, the growth in the number of subscribers and viewers, and the interest shown for our programs by the model railroading community. Thank you all so very much. It is all of you who make New Tracks Modeling the show it is today.

### **New Corporate Financial Sponsors for New Tracks Modeling**

Thank you to these sponsors on our shows for their interest and financial support to help pay for our Zoom and YouTube shows and related out of pocket costs:

[Dennis Brennan's Model Railroading](#)

[O Scale Central](#)

[National Association of S Gaugers](#)

[National Capital Trains](#)

[Mainline Hobby Supply](#)

[New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings LLC](#)

[Millhouse River Studio](#)

Thank you for joining our New Tracks Modeling sponsor team. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with these organizations to promote modeling and mentoring in our great hobby.

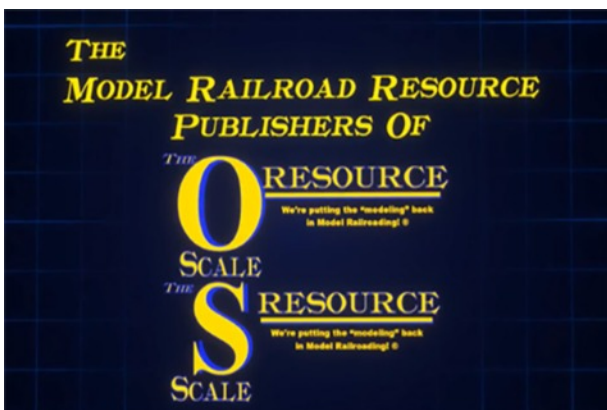
I truly hope each sponsor and volunteer is as proud as I am of your contributions and active participation on our team that have created New Tracks Modeling as the modelers and mentoring place to be for current and future model railroaders. This is what sets us apart: "Mentors Helping Modelers Build". I believe the great part is we are only getting started in helping the younger modelers develop into the modelers and mentors of tomorrow. With your continued help, we can have a lot more coming.

### **New Tracks Modeling "MY BUILD" Monthly Shows**

#### **Sponsored by Model Railroad Resource LLC**

Starting in January 2024, the "MY BUILD" segment began to occupy more of a monthly show as long as we have sufficient modelers who want to show us their modeling. Here is the list of the upcoming MY BUILD shows and the special focus for each show. Please join in, show us your models, and help us learn.

- February 21 - Oddities. Aliens, UFO dealership (for example), steampunk, a jackelope skull on the front of some oddball, backwoods engine (another example), non-prototypical trains, depressed center flatcars,
- March 20 – Free for all! Anything goes!
- April 24 - Spring! scenery, flora, vegetation, trees, something wild, flower boxes, vines, backdrops, planting crops, world awakening after winter, greenhouses,
- May 22 – Free for all! Anything goes!
- June 19 - Water. Waterfront buildings, wharves, boats, covered bridges, water tanks, anything water related



- July 24 – Free for all! Anything goes!
- August 21 - Harvest. farm equipment, grain elevators, hopper cars, mills, tractors, agriculture, barns, chicken coops, live stock, cattle pens/ranching, cattle cars, reefer cars,
- September 18 – Free for all! Anything goes!

- October 16 - Halloween. haunted houses, abandoned buildings, abandoned railroad cars, scarecrows, derelict engines,
- November 20 – Free for all! Anything goes!
- December 18 - Holiday Santa, Christmas billboard cars, snow scenery, snow plows, people ice skating, holiday lighting, holiday decorations,

The main purpose of our MY BUILD show is to provide a platform for modelers to showcase their past and ongoing projects, highlight their achievements, seek advice or assistance if needed, and help others learn new skills. To make things more exciting, some months MY BUILD shows include challenges. These challenges typically revolve around seasonal themes and aim to encourage a diverse range of projects within the modeling community. Additionally, these challenge shows are open-ended in order to include any other models a viewer wants to share.

These segments are designed to be supportive and non-judgmental so modelers can help each other learn and develop their modeling skills. We hope allocating the MY BUILD more time in our monthly show will provide modelers with the opportunity to have more extensive and in-depth discussions about their projects.

Every viewer of New Tracks Modeling is encouraged to send in one or more photos of their modeling to the show's host, Chris Coarse, in advance of the next MY BUILD show. Chris will organize these photos into a PowerPoint slideshow. Contact Chris at: [railrunner130@hotmail.com](mailto:railrunner130@hotmail.com). During the show, each participant is given the opportunity to discuss their slides. They can share valuable tips, discuss techniques, answer questions from the audience, or pose their own questions about something they want to learn. MY BUILD is designed to serve railroad modelers of all scales, gauges, and age groups. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Chris Coarse is the owner of [Conowingo Models](#) and welcomes any of your comments or suggestions for the MY BUILD. His email is: [railrunner130@hotmail.com](mailto:railrunner130@hotmail.com).

See the MY BUILD projects shown on the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 show in this issue.

## **New Tracks Modeling 2024 BUILD ALONG Projects**

Our BUILD ALONG modeling experiences provide viewers a personal mentor and great discounted prices on a models you can BUILD ALONG with a talented modeler on the show. Join us on our weekly Zoom shows for a great learning experience that will help you improve your modeling and build some great models.

### **Crystal River Products**

On March 6, 2024. Rand and Seth Johnson, Father and Son owners of Crystal River Products will begin their BUILD ALONG of one of their kits. Details about the kit, including the discount available to viewers who purchase the kit, as well as the code word to use when ordering the kit will be available soon on our website. Please visit their website at: <https://www.crystalriverproducts.com/> for additional information about their Company.

### **Ipswich Hobbies**

Jack Dziadul, owner of Ipswich Hobbies, will build his Section House kit starting April 10, 2024 in a Build Along. The kit is available in N, HO, and O Scale for New Tracks Modelers.

Special Pricing for New Tracks Modeling Viewers:

1. Kit #6 N scale      \$15 less 20% discount = \$12
2. Kit #5 HO scale    \$25 less 20% discount = \$20
3. Kit #18 O scale    \$45 less 20% discount = \$36
4. Shipping \$8.95 – Local pick-up option



Ordering the kit:

1. Discount code – **NEWTRACK** (good for one kit)
2. Discount start date March 6, 2024
3. Discount end date April 15, 2024

Please visit the Ipswich Hobbies for more information about the company and its products:

<https://ipswichhobbies.com/>

More BUILD ALONG projects to come in 2024

I hope you want to participate in all the Build Alongs. The modelers and manufacturers, who are making these events possible, do them to try to help you improve your skills and have more enjoyment building kits, and gain confidence in your modeling. They provide a true learning experience that have helped many modelers. So if you have been sitting on the sidelines for awhile, give railroad modeling with a BUILD ALONG a try with the help of a mentor.

I am looking for more modelers and manufacturers to be involved in future BUILD ALONG segments in 2024. Contact me if you are interested at: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com)

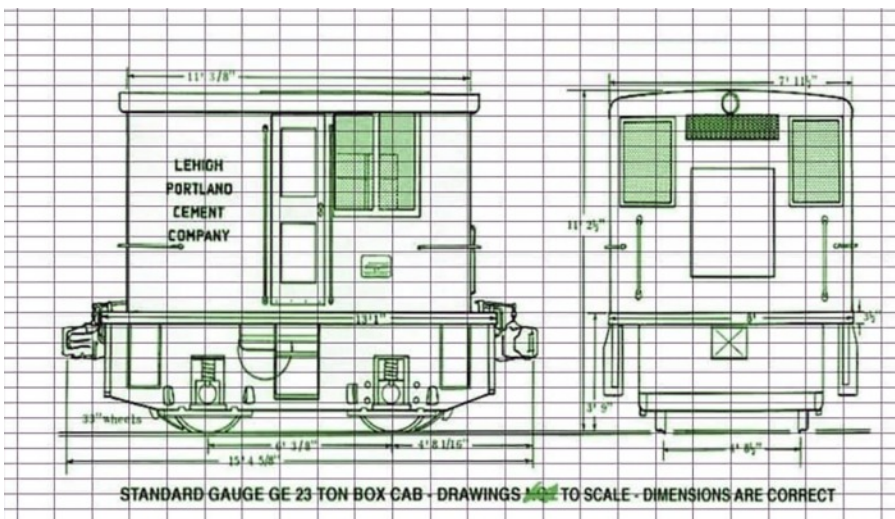
### New Tracks Modeling WATCH ME BUILD Railroad Models

These segments provide modelers the opportunity to build a model to not only demonstrate their modeling skills and techniques, but to help other modelers improve their skills. These segments can be for one or more shows depending on the details included for the modeling presentation. Viewers can ask questions and learn from experienced modelers various facets of modeling. Upcoming 2024 Show Segments:

Starting June 12, 2024 Frenchman River's Spillane Building in O Scale will be built by Tom Farrell as currently occupied; and by Tom Yorke as vacant and dilapidated. This project will be done in 5 separate show segments. These segments will be a great way not only to watch two very talented modelers show how this kit can be built, but also how it can be bashed to become something entirely different.

### It's that time again...

I must return to my workbench and start working on something that I fell in love with and just have to model. Happens all the time. Here is one on the left below. The photo on the right shows my son Patrick, my grandson William, and my wife Nancy. Yes it is O Scale.






While I am modeling, you can help New Tracks Modeling by:

1. Volunteering to help us produce and develop our New Tracks Modeling shows.
2. Making a contribution to our Patreon account, New Tracks Modeling, to help pay for our out of pocket cost to run our shows. Click here to [donate](#).
3. Subscribing for free to our YouTube Channel, New Tracks Modeling, and ringing the bell to get advance notices of our YouTube shows including our Modeling Lifestyle series. If the advertisements on our YouTube videos are of interest, please watch them so we can gain a little revenue to produce our shows.
4. Subscribing for free to our website: [NewTracksModeling.com](#) which provides login links to our Wednesday Zoom events and also provides information about what New Tracks you can travel with us.
5. Spreading the word about our New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship program to every young model railroader you know or you meet. Get the word out. Details at our website: [newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship](#)

*Along the Railroad*

A North American Rail Journey  
1958 - 1978



Howard Serig  
with  
Kent Loudon

*Along the Railroad* features the exciting and unique railroad images of photographer Howard Serig who has captured the special time "when trains were really trains!" Many have claimed it to be "The best railroad book out there!" **To see a video preview of the contents of the book please click on the image above.** This is a limited edition hard cover book containing 222 pages of content. Copies are available for \$49.95 plus actual shipping. Orders may be placed by contacting the seller below:  
[kjkriigel@aol.com](mailto:kjkriigel@aol.com) (mention book title) or by phone: 434-589-2660.

6. Subscribe for free to *The O Scale Resource* and *The S Scale Resource* online magazines so you don't miss any of my articles, and also see some great modeling by various modelers who may become one of your mentors.

7. Writing me! I love getting your comments, suggestions, and modeling ideas. I so enjoy hearing from you and having a conversation. My email is: [jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com](mailto:jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com).

# S SCALE SHOWS & MEETS

## S-scale Zoom Meeting

Every Tuesday at 8pm Eastern Standard US time. hosted by Ken Zieska or Bill Lane

[Zoom Link](#)



## 30th Annual Midwest Narrow Gauge Show

**March 21 to March 23, 2024**

7600 W. South Range Rd, Salem, OH 44460

Sponsored and organized by Portland Locomotive Works.

Website: [portlandlocomotiveworks.com](http://portlandlocomotiveworks.com)



## 2024 Sn3 Symposium

**May 2 to May 4, 2024**

860 N Riverview, Mesa, AZ 85201

Chairman Jim Spice and all of us on the organizing committee invite you to join us in Mesa, Arizona, May 2nd to 4th, 2024. We're hard at work preparing a full range of clinics, contests, layout tours, a swap meet and other activities to make this a highly entertaining and interesting meet.

Website: <https://sn3symposium.com/>



## Spring S Spree

**May 3 to May 4, 2024**

Emidio & Sons Expo Center

48 East Bath Road

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Sponsored by the Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association

Website: [sspre.info](http://sspre.info)

## O Scale West - S West and Narrow Gauge West

**May 24-26, 2024**

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara (San Francisco area)

O Scale - S Scale - Narrow Gauge - West has been the premier two-rail O Scale, S Scale and Narrow Gauge (all scales) show held West of the Mississippi since its founding by Rod Miller in 1991.

For 2024 we've changed the days for the show to Friday (May 24), Saturday (May 25), and Sunday (May 26), rather than the previous years traditional days of Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We're hoping that this change will allow more people to attend without having to take Friday off. Plan to join us over the Memorial Day weekend in sunny California.

Website: [www.oscalewest.com](http://www.oscalewest.com)

## 2024 NASG Convention

**July 17 to July 20, 2024**

The Susquehannock II Convention

The Lehigh Valley S Gaugers are excited to bring to you the "S" event of the year. For the first time in the NASG's history, we will have the Convention in the same location as the 2023 one, but don't expect this to be just a "repeat" event. Stay tuned for what we have planned. The 2024 NASG Convention is slated to be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Wednesday 17th of July, 2024 through Saturday 20th of July, 2024 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. It is hosted by the Lehigh Valley S Gaugers club.

Check back in later issues for more updates.



## 2024 Danville Indiana O/S Scale Event +

**CID/NMRA Train Show**

**November 23, 2024**

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

1900 E Main St

Danville, IN 46122

The Indiana S Scalpers are happy to announce our 3rd Annual O/S Scale Event. In 2023 the O/S Room nearly sold-out, so make your vendor reservations early to ensure a sales table. New for 2024 is an S Scale Social Event! Details will be coming. Public Show Date: Saturday, November 23rd. Vendor/Layout Move-in Date: Afternoon of Friday, November 22nd. S Scale Social: Evening of Friday, November 22nd. Social Event: To-Be-Determined, occurring immediately after Friday setup. Vendor registrations should be directed to the Central Indiana Division (CID) Show Manager, Dave Mashino: [danvilletrainshow@gmail.com](mailto:danvilletrainshow@gmail.com)

*The S Scale Resource Magazine* will provide 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 email us with your information. Please remember we are a scale magazine and may not publish all events.



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**S Scale Model Railroading Kits**

**PRE-SIZE MODEL SPECIALTIES**  
**Free Shipping**  
See our web site for details  
Cast resin items for your S & Sn layout.  
Tunnel portals, bridge piers, abutments, culverts, and retaining walls.  
Trackside details and sage brush tree armatures.

To advertise in The S Scale Resource classified listings [contact us for our rates](#). Your classified ad will appear in the section you want for 6 issues. If you do not see a section that you think would fit your products or services, let us know. We can add a category that better suits you. Your ad is hot linked to your website which puts your customers one click away from you.



## Advertiser Index

Allegheny Scale Models	Pg.	3
Along the Railroad		
by Howard Serig	Pg.	81
B.T.S.	Pg.	22
Clover House	Pg.	7
Des Plaines Hobbies	Pg.	7
Excelle Lubricants	Pg.	3
Fox Valley Models	Pg.	7
JT's Mega-Steam	Pg.	3
Model Railroad Resource	Pg.	22
Model Railroad Resource		
3D Division	Pg.	21
New Tracks Modeling	Pg.	37
National Association of		
S Gaugers	Pg.	37
Port Lines Hobbies	Pg.	7
RailFonts.com	Pg.	22
S Scale Track Works	Pg.	22
Streamlined Backshop	Pg.	16
The O Scale Resource	Pg.	3, 16
Tru-ColorPaint / Phoenix		
Precision Models	Pg.	16
Trainz	Pg.	7



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.