



# PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

**Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division**

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark,  
Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties

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**Volume 30 - Issue 2**

**October 2022**

## Superintendent's Bulletin



I'm just finishing up a major renovation to my layout. A layout that I thought didn't have another square inch of space to fit something into. A few years back I was part of a three-man crew that built a four section HO scale model of a NUCOR steel mill. I built one 2' x 4' module on which the scrap metal receiving and Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) were located. My module along with 3

other modules were joined together to form a 16-foot-long display of a modern day mini-mill that depicted the melt and rolling shop operations. The model was used as a recruiting display at a mining school in South Dakota, a corporate display at a NUCOR steel plant and finally a display at a museum in Indiana. This model covered some serious mileage and was starting to show its age and needed a permanent home. Preferably on a HO scale model railroad.

I went to my basement layout with a tape measure which brought a concerned look from my wife. (Yes, I said my basement. And that is a story for another time.) I needed a space between 12 to 14 feet in length and about 15 inches in width. I also toyed with the idea of breaking the model into smaller sections and placing different parts in my two steel mills. I spent several hours measuring, thinking and making sketches. I didn't come up with a single possibility using the existing layout configuration. It was now very late at night and being tired and frustrated I shut off the basement lights and headed to bed. In the morning I'd call my friend Philip, who was currently storing the model in his garage, and let him know I'd not be able to take this awesome model.

In the morning I rose at my usual time of 6 AM. Since this was a Sunday, and everyone else sleeps in, me and my cat Tobbie would have the house to ourselves for a few hours. I made a cup of coffee and headed to the basement to have one last look at what might have been. Sometimes rest and a clear head can help one see things in a different light. In the back area of the layout room there is a place where the layout has to go around the

main sewer line for the house. This is also the area where the washer and dryer used to be located. When the layout room was finished a false wall was built around the sewer line and associated water lines. The false wall was 18 inches deep and 13 feet long. Double light bulb! I remembered that the actual width of the buildings on the modules is 12 inches. By removing 12 feet of the false wall and boxing in the sewer line I'd have an area 12 feet long and 18 inches deep. And by removing the buildings from the modules and some condensing the module would have a new and permanent home. Done deal! By the time the rest of house was awake there was a materials list, a rough sketch, a small hole in the false wall to scope things out and an empty coffee pot. Within three weeks the new area for the model was complete. Following a weekend trip to Indiana the model was back home and ready for installation on the layout.

My point of this is that a layout is never complete. Working on a layout doesn't have to be this extensive. Just cleaning and repairing is a necessary part of owning a layout. Adding a new building or reworking a building is working on the layout. Even taking a few minutes to run a train can be relaxing and is working on the layout. So, a layout is never really finished. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

All Aboard!!  
Jim DiPaola, Superintendent  
NMRA, MCR, Division 1

### 2022 - 2023 Division 1 Events

October - TBD  
November - TBD  
December 3 - Christmas Lunch at Hartville Kitchen  
January - TBD  
February - TBD  
March - TBD  
April - TBD  
May - TBD  
June - TBD

**Division 1, MCR, NMRA**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Sept. 18, 2022**

**1. Welcome:**

- ~ Call to order: 2:08 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent
- ~ Participants: 15 members.
- ~ Location: Cuyahoga Valley Terminal RR Club, Cuyahoga Falls.
- ~ Thanks to the club for their hospitality.

**2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:**

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in the Peddler Freight.
- ~ Motion to approve minutes, (Bob Anelli/Lloyd Horst) unanimously approved.

**3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:**

- ~ Checking account balance \$4,655.15.
- ~ Module Fund balance \$1,945.57.
- ~ CD balance \$3,195.41.
- ~ Money Market balance \$10,034.097.
- ~ Total assets \$17,884.65.
- ~ Expenses: \$321.07. Movie screen \$160.11, Webpage renewal \$160.96.
- ~ Income: \$15 June 50/50, \$105 Car set sales.
- ~ Motion to approve treasurer report, (Lloyd Horst/Jeff Stone) motion carried.

**4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola: No report.**

**5. Peddler Freight Committee: Bruce Hukill:**

- ~ Less than 10 copies go out snail mail. Sooner or later, we will discontinue.

**6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters:**

- ~ Membership at 76 including 2 new members.

**7. Clinic Committee: Jim DiPaola:**

- ~ Today's clinic, rock molds by Bruce Hukill.

**8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.**

**9. Module Committee: Lloyd Horst:**

- ~ Mt Hope Show, set up 4 November, 2-8PM. (Millersburg, Ohio)
- ~ Route 30 Express (home layout open houses) November 19. Membership table at Wayne County Public Library.

**10. Facebook Committee: Jim DiPaola: No report.**

**11. Old Business: Jim DiPaola: Still looking for meeting place suggestions. Libraries during winter weather.**

**12. New Business: Jim DiPaola:**

- ~ Motion to form a committee to determine way ahead for Division One Modules. Motion (Bruce Hukill/Lloyd Horst) Passed unanimously.

**12A. New Business / Module Committee: Bruce Hukill:**

- ~ Members: Bruce Hukill, Jim DiPaola, Jim Peters, Lloyd Horst, and Jeff Stone.
- ~ Meeting October 7th, 4PM, at Angies in Barberton.
- ~ Bruce will apply for \$200 retention grant from NMRA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Stone, Clerk, Division 1

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**October Bring and Brag**  
**Bring your favorite model train item to share at the October 16 meeting!**

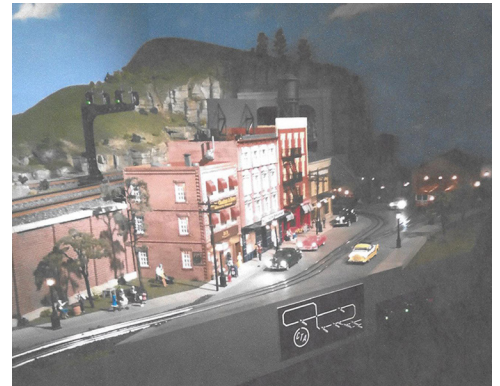
# N Scale Report



After the Salt Lake City N Scale convention in 2021, I reported the local clubs use of Pizza Box N scale model railroad layouts to develop an interest in kids to model railroading. At least one young person followed up on this concept and entered the pizza box layout shown at this year's N model contest.

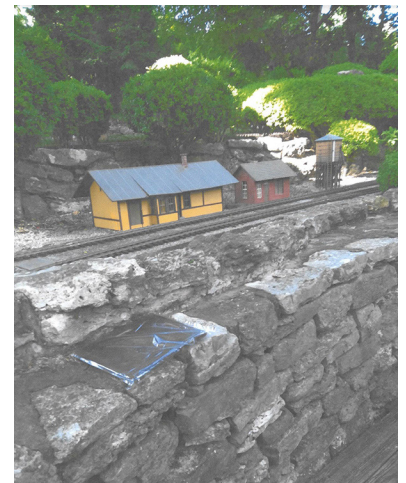
One of the greatest reasons for attending a convention is seeing in the flesh a great layout. At one home attendees could see two outstanding layouts, a garden layout and a 3 rail O gauge layout.

It is difficult to see in this small size, but the tunnel portal is made of matched fitted stones and free standing without cement. It has with stood the change of seasons for many years.



Below left is a section of the O gauge layout which includes the basement and the area under a 3 car garage. These 3 photos show the skill of a Nashville plastic surgeon.

As the division considers new modules, note that 4-30" N scale corners and four 4' straight modules will result 6 foot wide and 14 foot long layout with skyboard. Or a set of 2' wide center sections are possible for scenery or yard or city or mountain, etc.



Don Bonk  
N Scale Modules Chair



Jim DiPoala's found space for the addition of a steel mill to his HO layout. Jim was able to remove a false wall to get the required room he needed. (See related story on page 1)

# 12 Essential Modeling & Scenery Supplies

by Matt Woods

All model railroaders have their go-to materials that they use frequently and get reliable results from. Furthermore, there are certain materials that are part of the hobby's tradition. Through trial and error and experimentation, the following list are the materials I readily use for a variety of scenery projects and would recommend that anyone try. In an era when hobby shops are far and few between, materials that can be easily obtained from craft or building supply stores provide a reliable battery of replicable materials.

## DAS Air Dry Clay

DAS Air Dry Clay can be found in most craft stores. It is a very useful material for creating terrain and filling gaps between foam layers. The clay, which comes in white and terra cotta, holds texture very well and allows for natural transitions between scenic elements.

You can stipple it with a cut off china bristle brush to give an earth-like texture. It can be used to smooth the transition from cork roadbed

to the sub-layer. It will dry in about 24 hours and can be easily painted with earth tones and scenic materials can be glued directly onto it after painting. Give it a try in place of Sculptamold.



## 3M Black Artificial Steel Wool

For creating underbrush, tree foliage, and vertical variation in your foliage, 3M artificial steel wool, which comes in 2-packs that are roughly 4"x6" can be torn apart and thinned out. The material is gray and can be hot glued to your scenic base, sprayed with hairspray, and coated with fine groundfoam. This material can be used similar to polyfiber, but is much coarser and is more durable. It can be painted different brown tones

before adding foliage. For existing flat scenery, this material will add height variation and can help fill gaps and smooth transitions. The material is a little messy. It should be thinned out and separated over a container of some sort.



## Artist's Raw Umber Acrylic Paint

Over the years, I have used different earth colors as a base before applying real dirt or other ground covers, but I have found that raw umber adds depth to the scenery and shadow. The dark brown color represents a wet soil and looks better than tans or lighter browns. It can be found as either inexpensive craft paint or a higher quality artist's acrylic. You can't go wrong with a base coat of raw umber over any ground work before adding dirt, groundfoam, static grass, etc.



## Micro-Mark Age-It-Easy Gray Stain

As a craftsman kit and scratch builder, I stain a lot of stripwood and other wood components. Micro-Mark Age-It-Easy Gray Stain

provides an excellent silver gray heavily weathered appearance. There are other companies that make similar stains and it is comparable to alcohol and India ink, but I find the pre-mixed stain to be easy to use. Even wood components that will receive paint are usually given a coating of the Age-It-Easy

stain. This stain could be used on wooden trestles, ties for hand-laid track, and any other weathered wood. It can be ordered easily through Micro-Mark.



## Loctite Gel Control Super Glue

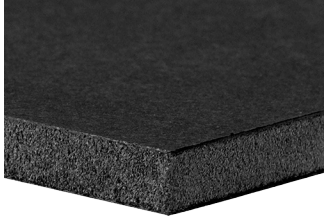
Whether I am building wooden craftsman kits or scratch building with wood and other porous or non-porous materials, my go-to glue is Loctite Gel Control Super Glue. This glue is thick and comes in an easy to use squeeze bottle.

I prefer the super glue for wood because there is no warpage. It dries quickly. For unlike materials, such as matte board and wood, super glue works well.



### Half Inch Black Foamcore

As both a scratch building material and for terrain, ½" black foamcore, found only at Hobby Lobby as far as I am aware, is a denser, easily carveable and impressionable material. By peeling the black paper coating off from both sides, the foam can be used to carve stone foundations or walls or as layers of stratified rock. By using a ball of aluminum foil, you can easily impart rock texture to the foam. I have used this foam for plowed fields, rock embankments, and stone walls.



### Sifted Road or Parking Lot Sand/Gravel Mix

Model railroaders are always looking for the ideal ballast color and mixing different commercial products, but for realism and variation, nothing beats sifted gravel and sand found in many parking lots or roadsides. The material has a mix of different grits and colors that are hard to duplicate with commercial products. A fine strainer will yield the right size for either HO or O-scale. It should be affixed in the usual ballasting manner.

### Green 1" Extruded Polystyrene Foam

Most modelers will be familiar with the 1" or 2" extruded polystyrene foam for creating scenic bases. This material can be cut and carved easily and layered to build up any type of natural terrain. For convenience and ease of cutting and transport, Lowe's sells 2'x2' sheets of the green 1" foam. These smaller pieces are marketed as craft foam. This is still the go-to material for creating the basic landforms on a large scale, such as a layout. 4'x8' sheets can also be bought, but are a pain to transport and cut down to smaller, more usable pieces.



### Woodland Scenics Fine Blended Turf

As an initial scenery base, regardless of the season, an initial base layer of Woodland Scenics Earth Blend Fine Blended Turf is a good representation of the organic matter and thatch that accumulates under grass. From here, various green tones of groundfoam can be layered up or tufts or static grass. This is a more subdued brown tone and gives a more muted color to the scenery.



### Martin Welberg Winter High Thicket

Almost all my scenery represents fall or winter and, in adherence to my 3-layer approach to vegetation, the Martin Welberg Dark Winter High Thicket represents that middle layer between the grass and the trees very well. There are other colors of this material available for other seasons. It is an excellent vertical texture for creating height variation in your foliage. I use it similar to the artificial steel wool. If you want to raise the standard of your scenery, this is an excellent material to incorporate for fence rows, tree lines, and as a background between 3D scenery and the backdrop.



### Jute Twine

In an era with excellent static grass options and tufts, jute twine as a grass fiber might seem archaic, but it still provides an excellent fiber for simulating all types of grasses. By unraveling the jute twine and cutting it to appropriate lengths, these fibers can be adhered to a scenic base with tacky glue to make either tufts or areas of matted, dead grass. The natural coloration of the jute is hard to match with commercial products and it is very cheap. Modelers for years have used this material. It can be airbrushed different green tones or even darker browns. Some of the best modelers still routinely use jute for dioramas and various foliages.



### Matte ModPodge

As a scenic cement diluted with water, ModPodge Matte Medium is an excellent material. Matte medium dries more flexible and transparent than white glue and is completely water soluble. This can be used full strength for applying the initial scenery textures onto a painted scenic base or diluted roughly 1/3:2/3 (1/3 matte medium: 2/3 water) for adhering ballast.



**THIS MONTH'S MEETING**  
**Sunday, October 16, 2022**  
**Ravenna Township Meeting Room**  
**6145 Spring Street**  
**Ravenna, OH 44266**  
**2 PM**

**11th Year**

**11th Year**



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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO<sub>n</sub>3

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# Train Shows and Open Houses

## **The Great Berea Train Show - Oct. 1 - 2**

Model Train Show NMRA Div 4  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 E. Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130  
Admission \$8.00 Sat. & Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM

## **Canfield Train and Toy Show - Oct. 8**

Canfield Fairgrounds, 7265 Columbiana  
Canfield, Ohio 44406, new Event Center  
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## **Iron and Steel Train Show and Expo - Oct. 15**

In memory of Anna Mamone  
National McKinley Memorial Museum  
40 North Main St. (RT 46) Niles, Ohio  
Admission \$5.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## **Fundraiser Dinner - Painesville Railroad Museum (aka Painesville Depot) - October 22**

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Admission pre-sale \$30.00, At the Door \$35.00  
Phone: (216) 470-5780 3 - 8 PM

## **Medina Train and Toy Show - October 30**

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256  
Admission \$6.00 9 AM - 3 PM

## **2 Rail O-Scale Train Meet - November 5**

UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130  
Admission \$7.00 9 AM - 2 PM

## **NETS Model Train Show in memory of Bob Orlando Highland Heights Community Center - November 5**

5827 Highland Road, Highland Hts. Ohio 44143  
Admission \$5.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## **Mt. Hope Train & Toy Show - November 5**

Mt. Hope Event Center, 8076 St. Rt. 241, Mt. Hope 44666  
(for GPS use Millersburg, Oh 44654)  
Admission \$5.00 10 AM - 4 PM

## **Model Training Day! - TBA**

NMRA MCR Div. 4  
Black River Landing & Transportation Center  
421 Black River Lane, Lorain, Ohio 11 AM - 4 PM

## **Akron Train & Toy Show - November 13**

Emidio & Sons Expo Center  
48 E. Bath Rd., Akron, Ohio  
Admission \$3.00 9 AM - 3 PM

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## PEDDLER FREIGHT SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Division 1 has moved to email publishing of the Peddler Freight. There is no cost for the email Peddler Freight. However, if you want to receive the Peddler Freight by regular mail, Division 1 requests that you subscribe in order to support the cost of printing and mailing. Under current rules, you will NOT be denied a copy of the Peddler Freight if you do not subscribe, but your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.

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**PEDDLER FREIGHT**

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Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA  
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

First Class

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The **Peddler Freight** is published each month September through November and January through June. Opinions expressed in this issue may not represent the opinions of the Editor, Division 1, MCR or NMRA.

