

Modeler's Forum – August 25, 2022

The Modeler's Forum met again on August 25th to catch up on projects and ideas. Six regular members and two visitors made for a busy evening. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Bob Wright, Kent Waterson, Paul Lodge, Dick Holman, and two visitors Shawn & Bryn Doyle.

Bob (Willard) started off with an update on his E. L. Moore's "Bunn's Feed and Seed Plant." Bob did most of his building during the balloon festival, both as a demo and a chance to get some work done! To make the silo, Bob wrapped the styrene around a bottle of Gorilla Glue and then covered with wood strips. Banding and other details are still to come. The roof is styrene with Evergreen strips. The building sports wooden shingles from BEST and a foundation from cast plaster. Corrugated siding came from Northeastern Scale Lumber. The structure was colored with [Hunterline](#) stains.

Next, Jamie showed a Central Locomotive Works Type B truck. The O-Scale trucks are fully sprung, but could be modified. After swapping out the springs for a stiffer spring (found on Amazon) he mounted them on the RS-3 from last month. With the previous springs, the frame with the stiffener/weight would completely compress the springs. After swapping out the springs the trucks held the weight of the frame.

Jamie also showed a fan motor that he mounted in one of the tabs of the Tang Band speaker enclosure. The fan is powered by a small motor and will be tied in with the decoder to cycle on and off during operation.

Our visitors chimed in next stating they are checking things out and just getting started. Shawn is more focused on the trains while Bryn is more interested in the scenery and more "artistic" type aspects.

Bob (Wright) next showed some cardstock that had been printed with shipping containers. The cardstock can then be formed into quick and cheap containers. The containers were printed free from a couple different sources: [kraftrains.com](#) and [buildyourownmainstreet.org](#). Bob (Willard) suggested an additional site, [clevermodels.net](#) for other printable items.

Bob also showed a structure (still in the box) he picked up at a show in Maryland, Motrak Models "The Clam Box".

Kent next updated his status on the O-Scale flatcar. The frame is mostly done, a coat of primer was sprayed on to show up and defects and that is what is next in the process. Some of the brake components have been assembled and will be mounted after all the corrections are done.

Kent also brought an assembled version of the servo calibrator he had shown on a breadboard a few months ago. He will be using the servos for turnout controllers and use the calibrator to determine the exact position of rotation. The servos will be installed on the layout and the calibrator will attach to the servo in place and adjust it while watching the turnout for when the turnout changes position noting the displayed servo position.

Paul was up next with some of the tools he used for building his structures. The first was a simply homemade graph paper with a 1' grid in HO scale (someone noted that a "print your own" graph paper can be created at [blocklayer.com](#)). Using the graph paper and a HO scale ruler, building measurements can be transferred and used as templates to cut

out various pieces. Paul also showed how he used some cheap plastic license plates from Mardens and a "score & snap" method to form various pieces.

Paul then showed a pair of structures he had built. The first, modeled from a picture of the building, featured doorway columns made from chop sticks and porch windows made from a single sheet of clear plastic with the mullions scored in from the reversed side. The effect was very realistic. The second structure was the West Minot Train Station. Paul was able to take measurements and pictures of the structure (at the time it was built) to accurately model the building. Photographs taken at various distances and the printed provided the authentic signs for the building.

John next gave an update on his structure building. He currently has 60 some structures built with more to come. John also came with a few questions and an idea suggestion. The questions concerned the difference between dry transfers and decals. Explanations were given as well as tips for using each. John's suggestion was to use Scotch tape over clear plastic to create a frosted glass look. Simple but effective.

Finishing off the evening was Dick with another collection of his excellent HO vehicles. Dick showed a variety of vehicles including a tow truck, a boom truck with tailer and tracked vehicle, a cab and gravel trailer, a cab and tank trailer, a flatbed truck with an antique car (a rusted hulk) on the bed, and a pair of other trucks. Dick does a great job with these vehicles.

It was another night of seeing the various skills and interests on display. Part of the value of this club is the sharing of knowledge and assistance we can all provide one another. We welcome all to come and share or simply listen, we will all benefit. The next meeting is September 22nd, we hope to see you there.