



Scenery

An Introduction



Your Scenery

- It's about your vision and your memory
 - What catches **your** interest?
 - What do **you** envision?
- The problem is our vision and our memory
 - One of our human problems is, Two people witnessing the same event don't see, process, and recall the same things.
- In short, scenery is about **YOU!**

What do you see?

Is this an active track?

Did you notice the pathway
across the tracks?

Did you notice the graffiti
next to the door?

Like the vine?

Notice the grass and
weeds.

What other structures
and details do you
notice?



What do you see?

Is this an active hump yard?

Notice all the dead vegetation and junk in the yard?

What do you notice about the ties leading up to the arrestors?

Notice the grass and weeds.

What other structures and details do you notice?



What do you see?

Is this an active yard?

Notice all the vegetation and junk in the yard?

Notice the height of some of those weeds.

What other structures and details do you notice?



Scenery is Steps – Steps 1-4

1 Create basic terrain

- Carved foam
- Hardshell – plaster gauze or paper towels

2 Establish a base – a color that enhances your scene if it shows thru

- Paint the foam, the homasote, or micore a dirt color

I used a Flat Brown

3 Install the track

- Detail the track BEFORE installation
 - Paint the track flat black – get all edges
 - Add rust to the rails, tie plates, and spiked

4 Mount the structures.

- Mount off-center and at an angle

Scenery is Layers – Layers 1-5

1 In Step 2 you created a base color – it should be a flat color

2 Establish a dirt color – a color that enhances your scene

- Ground Goop
- Dust of a dirt/ground cover material

3 Add rocks or other major textures

4 Add ground cover – several colors

- Spinkle on FINE foam or other ground cover
 - Spinkle on weeds, clumps, and bushes
 - Add detail plants – wild flowers, tufts, twig under growth
- 4 Add ground cover – several colors

5 Add water features

Scenery is Layers – More thoughts

- Add dirt and/or ballast. Sounds simple, right? You're creating a scene.
 - Is this a storage building in a yard or out on the line.
 - Is this a storage shed sitting in a field or in a concrete/blacktop parking lot?
 - Make sure the dirt/ballast covers the edge of the foundation
- A couple of tools you might want to use:
 - A misting/dropper bottle with 50/50 glue
 - A misting/dropper bottle with 91% alcohol
 - A spoon and/or a shaker bottle

I like “Arizona Rock & Mineral Co.” dirt/ballast

Scenery Design Considerations

- Avoid having track parallel to the edge of the layout
- Nature is not flat – Make terrain undulate
- Place trees in random patterns and odd numbers
- Use buildings, trees, hills to interrupt the view of the train. You want the train to go THROUGH the layout
- Build scenes
- Small structures make the layout look bigger
- Do not make flat rock walls
 - Sheer walls don't normally occur in nature. Most sheer walls are man made
- Use a scale figure to determine gravel and plant sizes

References

- How to Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery - Dave Frary
- Scenery for Model Railroads - Bill McClanahan
- Scenery & Dioramas - Robert Schleicher
- The Scenery Manual - Woodland Scenics
- Scenery Tips and Techniques - Model Railroader - selected reprinted articles
- Scenery Ideas - Fine Scale Miniatures
- Basic Scenery for Model Railroaders – Kalmbach
- Building Scenery – Paul Scoles
- Essential Model Railroad Techniques – Pelle K. Soeborg
- How to Build and Detail Model Railroad Scenes – Lou Sassi
- Planning Scenery for your Model Railroad – Tony Koester

Notes

- **Lou Sassi's Ground Goop Recipe**
 - 1 part Celluclay - found at hobby shops, Walthers, etc.
 - 1 part Vermiculite (found in lawn/garden or home stores) - finer textures seem best
 - 1 part Tobacco Brown flat latex PPG (Pittsburg Paint) paint
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ part Elmer's regular white glue - NOT school glue
 - Shot of concentrated liquid Lysol - via Amazon, etc.
 - Mix with small amount of water to desired consistency - oatmeal consistency works well
- **Interrupt view of train** – Trees, Buildings, Bridges, Animals, Fences, Rock outcroppings
- **Ballast** – use proper size – use foot of a scale figure
 - Pour sparingly on track and spread with soft brush
 - Spray with wet water or alcohol
 - Add white glue solution (1 part glue, 3 or 4 parts water)
 - Spray fine mist – hair spray bottle
 - Drip on with eyedropper or old glue bottle
 - Clean tops of rails with Bright Boy eraser
 - Make sure no ballast is stuck to side of rails
 - Limit or eliminate ballast on ties
 - No. 2 pencil makes a great rail cleaner for ballast