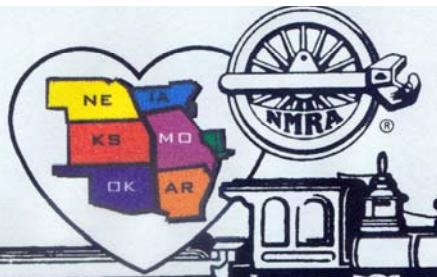


Turkey Creek Division



Lightning **S**slinger

VOL. 20 NO. 4

"For all gauges and all ages"

April 2007

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE TURKEY CREEK DIVISION
OF THE MID-CONTINENT REGION, NMRA

April 24, 2007, 7:00pm

Meeting

Johnson County Northeast Offices

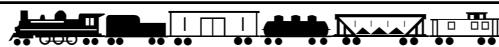
April Clinic

Ron Morse, MMR

He will do a short clinic on modeling snow

Sheldon Levy

Will then do a clinic on
the use of fiber optics to simulate campfires



From THE SUPER'S DESK....

Kerry Lindenbaum

Hello everyone!

We had a very light turn out at our March meeting. Only 15 or 20 members attended. That was too bad because Frank Ciccarella gave us a very good air brush clinic. If you do not use an airbrush or use it very little, this clinic was designed for you! Next month we will have two clinics, the first by Ron Morse. He will do a short clinic on modeling snow. Sheldon Levy will then do a clinic on the use of fiber optics to simulate campfires. I would like to see a full room at our April meeting to give our clinicians our full support.

Louis Seibel was awarded his AP certificate for Author. Let all of us give Louis congratulations on completing another step toward his MMR. Be sure to give him a hearty well done at our upcoming April meeting.

While we are on the topic of AP certificates, now seems like a good time to bring up Brad Morneau's AP program he is having at his home. Brad is starting a series of scratch building sessions on structures. He will be starting these starting the first Saturday after our upcoming April meeting. Our next meeting is April 24th and his first session on structure building will begin that Saturday, April 28th. This is a great chance to get together with a group of fellow modelers and have some fun modeling. This would be a great way to build something you need for your layout while having fun modeling structures. You will also be enjoying good company and working toward your AP in structures. I will be there, so come and join us!

One final word on the AP program, I have asked Marty Vaughn by e-mail if he would give us a short report on our division's AP progress for each month. I hope he will be able to do it, but if he can't we will use the information distributed at the Regional meetings to determine how well we are doing.

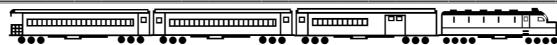
I now have clinics for all months but October, and I need a short one for November and also another clinic for September and July. Miles Hales has offered to give us a hands-on clinic on structure building, but he needs a minimum of two hours. I would love to give him our October clinic slot, but we will need to make sure that a two hour clinic will be OK with our members. Also, he will need to know how many structures to get in each scale. Most will be in HO, but there were three of us N scalers at the March meeting. There may be some O or On3 modelers as well. Please let me know by e-mail or we can spend a few minutes at our next meeting discussing this clinic. Please contact me if you have a clinic for November, September or July. Also, please contact me with your thoughts on a two hour clinic. I think a hands-on clinic would be fun and more educational than just trying to learn by sitting and listening. Remember, clinics are your chance to share what you have learned and earn points toward either your volunteer or author AP certificate, so please contact me and volunteer to present one.

Now for my report on the upcoming August train show and regional meet. I am also the layout coordinator. We currently have 13 layouts on tour for this year. That is four more than were on tour during the 2006 layout tour. I will now start gathering information on the layouts for the maps. I could take one or two more if some of you would still like to enter your layout in the tour, but that is all. I don't think it would be fair to the layout owners who have already volunteered if turnout is low because too many layouts were on tour.

See you at the April meeting, until then happy railroading!

Kerry Lindenbaum

Turkey Creek Superintendent



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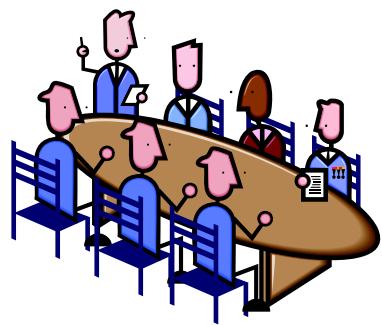


Minutes for Turkey Creek Meeting

Minutes from Turkey Creek Meeting March 27, 2007

Kerry Lindenbaum called the meeting to order at 7pm.

He asked Paul Richardson MMR who subbed as the superintendent at the last meeting to give a description of how the meeting went. The meeting went great. The only down part was that is that the area is open to all outside noise.



Kerry asked if there were any awards to be given out. Marty Vaughn MMR said that there were, but only one person was at the meeting. He asked Louis Seibel to come forward and get his Author AP Certificate. He said that he had Certificates for Floyd Brittan that he would present at another time. He asked Louis to hold them for the next meeting because he would not be able to attend that meeting.

Kerry called for visitors. There was one, Gary Snyder from Pleasant Hill, Mo. He had been a NMRA member back in the 70's. He models in N scale and also some G-scale.

Louis would like to thank those who helped at the Great Train Expo. They did a great job of manning the table and talking up the Division and the August meet.

Kerry asked Louis to talk about the Regional show. Louis said that all of the tables but three have been sold. The Layout tour will have 11 or 12 homes on tour. The advance Registrations are now 30 and that Marty Vaughn MMR thought that Jack Ferris has 7or 8 clinics for the show.

Kerry asked if there was any other business. Paul Richardson MMR said that he had been over to Hobby Lobby in Mission, KS and had brought some chalks for weathering at 75% off the regular price. Louis Seibel said that he had done the same with Woodland Scenics products.

Paul Richardson MMR said that the next AP Launch would be on Structures. That would be held at Brad Morneau's home on the Saturday after our meeting in April. More information on what you need to bring in a few weeks.

Kerry said that he needed clinicians to do clinics in September, October, and November. Paul Richardson MMR said that he would do one in September. Kerry reminded us of the Model Challenge for the June meeting.

Dennis Owens was asked how his convention of the Burlington Route was going. He said that he could use some more home layouts and clinics. The convention will be on September 13, 14 and 15.

The Union Station Show will now be in October.

A break was taken so that Frank Ciccarella could set up for the Clinic on Airbrushing.

Meeting was callback to order after a short break. Frank Ciccarella gave his clinic. There were a lot of questions for the members about airbrushing. He also did a demo on it. He had brought some of his Military Models that he had done, including the German Dora (pictured in this issue) a Railway gun used in World War II. He also gave out a hand out that is also included in this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully,
Louis Seibel, Clerk

Next meeting April 24 at 7pm at the Johnson County Northeast Offices



Clinic was using an airbrush to enhance your modeling results presented by Frank Ciccarella. There was a handout and it will also be in the LS

Photos by Louis Seibel



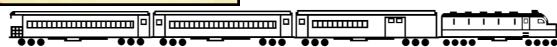
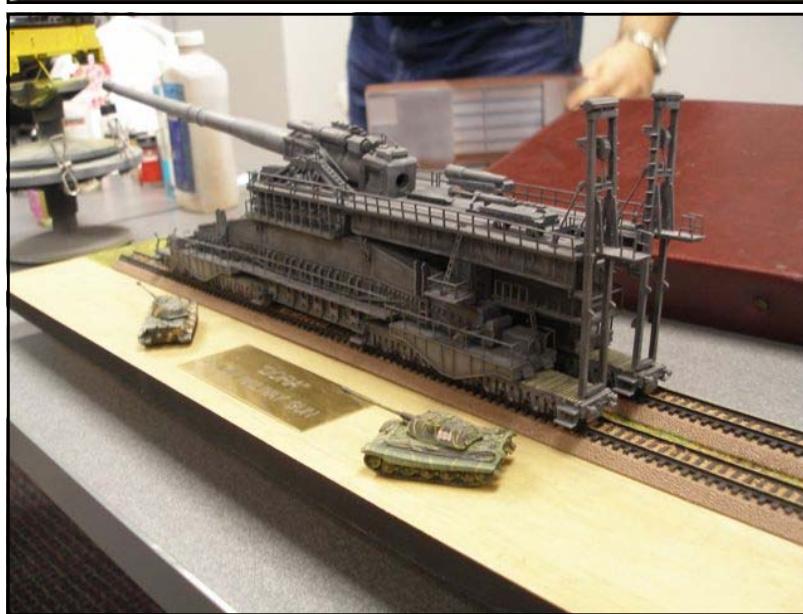
Frank Ciccarella giving his clinic on Air Brushes



German Tank in 144 Scale



The Dora German World War II Railroad Gun in 144





Marty Vaughn MMR presenting
Author award To Louis Seibel
Photo by Jack Rosenfield

Modeling Tips & Tricks

See-Through Structures?

There are few prototype buildings that allow you to look into a window and see out the windows on the other side; so why allow them on your layout?

One solution for this problem is to add interior detail. Structures with large banks of multi-paned windows beg for at least a few details inside. Several manufacturers make machinery, tools and other interior components you can add inside.

Another solution is to keep light from passing through the structure. This works best in buildings with smaller windows that make it hard to see interior details, especially in smaller scales. For these structures, simply cut a piece of black or dark gray construction paper to match the interior height and width and place it inside. It'll block light from the other side of the structure and that empty look will vanish.

Walthers, Inc.

Turkey Creek Meeting Dates for 2007

April 24

May 22

June 26

July 24

August 4 Turkey Creek Meet
Lenexa Community Center

September 25

October 22

November 27

December 18 the Third Tuesday

All meetings start at 7PM.

All meetings except the February and August meetings will be held at:

Northeast Johnson County Offices
6000 Lamar
Mission, Kansas



Airbrushing to Enhance Your Modeling Techniques

My objective is to show the membership what airbrushing is all about, the equipment that is needed and some basic techniques that I employ to have a successful modeling experience

Basic Equipment

The need for air!

- Air in a can
- Air compressed gas – CO₂
- Compressor
- Oil less – No storage tank
- Oil less – with a tank
- Low Noise compressors



Moisture Traps

- Keeps water out of your air lines.
- Moisture comes from the oil less types and can cause you to shut down while the moisture dries out.

Airbrush Types

Single Action

Basic set up is a single action, external mix. Many types on the market, most common are:

- Badger
 - Testors
 - Paasche
- To operate all you do is push the trigger down and the paint and airflow is mixed together and then shot out the tip of the brush.

All offer good control, good performance, and are easy to get into. (Price wise)

Dual Action

Difference in this airbrush compared to the Single action is in the way the paint is delivered.

- Single action, just push the trigger down and the paint and air flow out.
- Dual action, you push the trigger down to start the airflow and pull back to start the paint.
- Controlling the trigger back will control how heavy your paint will flow.

Different tips are available to control the precision of your finish from a heavy, wide pattern to a fine line.

Several companies make this type of brush including:
Badger
Testors
Paasche
Iawata

Paint Types

There are several different types of paint to use on your models. My basic rule of thumb is always prime your model before painting!

- Primer – Floquil grey lacquer.
- Acrylics – Several on the market. I use Tamiya paints.
- Enamels – Testors
- Lacquer – Floquil

Thinner

Many companies make thinners for their own brand of paints.

Tamiya and Testors both make thinners for their brand of acrylics and enamels. I buy my lacquer thinner at Home Depot or Lowes. I find that the thinner made by the company works best with their paints. I have also used 70% rubbing alcohol with my acrylics, but it is not the best thinner. I do use it for cleaning my airbrush after using acrylics.

Cleaning your airbrush

- Basic Supplies – Pipe Cleaners for use inside the brush body
- Cotton Swabs- For cleaning around the tip
- Paper Towels – To clean up, wipe up spills, etc.
- Empty Jug – To dispose of used solvents, paints, water, etc.

Spray Booth

Depending on how much painting you do, a spray booth helps keep the fumes from going into your house and keeps you from becoming sick.

Simple to make and you need:

- Several pieces of plywood or similar type about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick.
- Need 2 end pieces about 2x4 and one back piece about 3x4.
- One stove exhaust hood, ducted.
- A place to vent the duct outside.
- Electric connection.

Mixing Paint

Depending on what I am painting will dictate how I mix paint. Acrylics – Usually I get a milk type (or a little thinner) of consistency with the thinner added.

Lacquers and Enamels – I usually get it a thinner than milk type of consistency. The paint is usually thinner to begin with than acrylics.

If I am trying to get some fine lines, I will mix the paint to a very water type consistency by adding more thinner than usual.

Test Shots

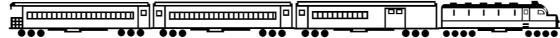
Once your paint is mixed, I usually make a spray test on plastic to adjust the pattern, and if need be, re-mix my paint if it is too thick or not the consistency that I want. I also get the feel of my gun and the spray stroke I am looking for. This is my adjustment time with the gun before I spray my subject.

Painting

Do not hold the air brush to close or hold the trigger down to long. You will have a mess on your hands, Nice smooth strokes about 12" away from your subject will put a good coat of paint down. Don't worry about complete coverage on the first swipe. Let it set for a minute or two and then shoot it again. Let it set.

If you are satisfied that you have covered your subject, let it dry and check it out. I usually don't throw my left over paint away until I am satisfied that the subject is covered.

Depending on the paint you use, colors may take 1 hour to dry or shorter before I start to move it around and check it over. Once I put a final coat on, I usually let it dry overnight.



Make Those Lichen Trees and Bushes Look Better

Lichen is an excellent modeling material. As a natural plant, it's easily preserved to retain its flexibility and resilience so small bits don't break off. It also provides natural-looking branches when used as scale trees and bushes. What lichen is lacking, however, is realistic leaves for a finescale appearance.

One way to remedy this is to apply a light dusting of fine-textured ground foam to its surface. For best results, use brown lichen to simulate branches. If you already have green lichen on your layout, simply paint it brown with an airbrush or spray can; use masking to keep the paint off the surrounding scenery. Make sure to work in an area with adequate ventilation.

The quickest way to apply the foam "leaves" is to spray the lichen with a 25% white glue/75% water solution using a pump spray bottle. There's no need to saturate the lichen, but make sure the surface is wet when you add the ground foam. Sprinkle on a generous dusting of fine ground foam; use shades of green for spring and summer plants or muted red, yellow or orange for fall colors. Once dry, remove the excess foam and overspray the entire plant with hairspray or a little more diluted white glue as a fixative.

Walther's, Inc.

Free N Challenger Wheel Set Exchange Program Announced

Based on feedback from customers running the new N scale Challenger loco on code 55 track, Athearn will exchange the non-driver wheel sets for new wheel sets with smaller flanges designed to run on code 55 track. Customers must remove four wheel sets on the loco (two on the lead truck, two on the trailing truck) and all seven wheel sets on the tender, and return them to the following address:
Athearn N Challenger Wheel Set Exchange
1550 Glenn Curtiss Street
Carson, CA 90746
A replacement set of wheels will be sent postage-paid to replace the wheels returned.
Note: Locomotives should not be returned and drive wheels should not be removed or returned.
The new wheel sets will be available in June, so wheel sets should not be returned until replacements are available.
Thanks for reading this far. We are almost sold out of N Scale Challengers from the first run. Don't despair, as we'll be announcing more on April 10.
The Folks at Athearn

This space could

be your's

And it

would be for

A P

Points.





13TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

SPONSORED BY THE NEBRASKA WEST-CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

LOCATION: D&N EVENT CENTER

501 East Walker Road

North Platte, Nebraska

APRIL 21st AND 22nd, 2007

**HOURS: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. SATURDAY THE 21st
AND 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. SUNDAY THE 22nd**

**ADMISSION: \$3.00, CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$1.00,
(under 5 with paid adult free)**

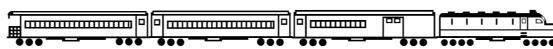
TRAIN LAYOUTS AND DISPLAYS,

VENDOR TABLES SELLING RAILROAD ITEMS

**NOTE TO VENDORS: TABLES ARE \$10 EACH UNTIL APRIL 1ST, AFTER APRIL 1ST THEY ARE \$15
UNION PACIFIC TOURS WILL BE AVAILABLE AS AN EXTRA FARE
ITEM (Saturday only)**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gene Tacey
P.O. Box 485
Sutherland, NE 69165
308-386-2489
taceys@gpcom.net



GARY'S SWITCHING LIST

The Switching List contains all known Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, train shows and Division meetings. It also lists all known club shows and swap meets in the Mid-Continent Region (IA, IL, MO, AR, NE, KS, OK). To list your event, send it to: garyonho@cox.net, or Gary Hemmingway, 3201 SW Stone Ave., Topeka, KS 66614. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to The Switching List send an email to the above link. Look for us on the MCoR web site: www.mcor-nmra.org.

KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION meets the 1st Saturday of even numbered months at various locations around the division area. This is a new schedule for 2007. BOD meetings are usually at noon and general meetings are at 1 p.m. For the full schedule check the MCoR website or email Gary Hemmingway: garyonho@cox.net.

The first two 2007 meetings are:

April 7, 2007: Richard Napper, MMR: 7244 NW US Highway 24, Topeka, KS 66618-5605: Richard's house is the third house West of Channel 27 KSNT TV on the North side of the Highway and his house is the only one that sits at an angle to the Highway on the North side of the Highway. Coming from the West on U.S. 24 it is 3.7 miles from the corner Shell gas station in Silver Lake, KS.

GATEWAY DIV. (ST. LOUIS, MO) meets 3rd Monday each month, 7:00 P.M. Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Woods Mill Rd (Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO; Even numbered months: VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm>

TURKEY CREEK DIV. (KANSAS CITY, MO & KS) monthly meetings 4th Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. Johnson County Offices, NE Branch, 6000 Lamar, Shawnee Mission, KS (DMV Building on SW corner of Lamar and Martway)

WESTERN HERITAGE DIVISION (OMAHA, NE / COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA) Our meeting location is the Sump Library, 84th and Second Streets, Papillion, NE on the 2nd Saturday of each month from Noon to 3:00 pm. The meetings consist of a business meeting followed by a clinic, slide show, and sometimes a layout tour. During the months of June and December we do not meet at the library, they are reserved for the annual picnic (June meeting) and the annual holiday dinner (December meeting).

EASTERN IOWA DIVISION

Contact Allen Merta, Superintendent, (319) 393-2990, or visit our web site at www.TheWigWag.org for information.

KATE SHELLEY DIVISION meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month 7:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 15th & Wilson, Ames, IA.

INDIAN NATIONS DIVISION meets at the New Hardesty Library at 8316 E. 93rd. St. (Just east of Memorial) in Tulsa, OK. The time is from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The dates and themes for each meeting in 2007 are: March 31 - Locomotives, May 26 - Rolling Stock, Sept. 15 - Photography, Nov. 17 - Structures/Dioramas. Each meeting we have various presentations from clinics to slide shows. After the meetings we have a layout tour at one of the members layouts. Contact Dave Salamon at drs_rr@yahoo.com for further information.

CLAREMORE & SOUTHERN RR OPERATING SESSION, 2nd Friday each month starting at 7:00PM and finishing by 10:00PM, 9372 E. Clover Creek Drive, Claremore, OK 74017-1487, Info: George F Maulsby, 918-341-9446 or www.csrailroad.com.

Please RSVP approx. a week before each scheduled operations session. Thanks. George F Maulsby, Claremore & Southern RR

www.csrailroad.com 918-341-9446

WICHITA TOY TRAIN CLUB TRAIN MANIA, each Saturday 12-5 P.M. below Blockbuster at Twin Lakes Shopping Center, 21st & Amidon, Wichita, KS 672-838-5103 or www.members.cox.net/wtcc

TRAIN SHOWS & MEETS

APRIL 14, 2007 - OZARK MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOC. 29th ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET – Swap tables, model contest, clinics, layout tours; King's Way United Methodist Church, 2401 S. Lone Pine, Springfield, MO – 9am to 3pm. Adults \$5.00, children 7-12 \$3, under 7 free. For information contact Ron Williams, 417-883-5350 rwilliams1@mchsi.com or Larry Smith, 417-865-6250, Lsmith7364@aol.com. Vendor info: Gary Mills, 417-725-1433 – GMOzarkTrains@aol.com.

APR 21 AND 22, 2007, NEBRASKA WEST-CENTRAL DIVISION

13TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW: NORTH PLATTE, NE, 9am to 5pm on Saturday the 21st and 10am to 4pm on Sunday the 22nd, Admission \$3.00 Children under 12 \$1.00, (Under 5 free with paid adult). Union Pacific shop/yard tours Saturday only (extra fare \$7.50) Vendor tables \$10 each before April 1st \$15 after. Contact: Gene Tacey, PO Box 485, Sutherland, NE 69165, 308-386-2489 E-mail taceys@gpcom.net

MAY 6, 2007 - MID- AMERICA TRAIN & TOY SHOW (formerly "Mid-America Train Meet"), BTC Exhibit Hall, I-435 and Front Street, Kansas City MO, 9am –2pm, Adm: \$5 adults, 12 & under, free, 7am early bird adm, \$10 ea. Trains, models, RR collectibles, toys, train movies, door prizes, operating layouts. Free parking. Info: Steve & Sherri Stich, P.O. Box 369, Leavenworth, KS 66048 or 913-651-5864. Directions: From I-435, exit 57 west (Front St) to Universal Ave. and turn right at stoplight. Or, from I-35, exit Front St. and continue east to Universal Ave., then turn left at stoplight.

AUG 4, 2007 – MID-CONTINENT REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION, Lenexa Community Center, Lenexa, KS; hosted by the Turkey Creek Division, Co-Chairs: Brad Morneau (913) 897-0669, bmorneau@kc.rr.com, and Louis Seibel, L-seibel@comcast.net, (913) 393-3495; Committee Chairs: Paul Richardson, MMR, Model & Photo Contests; Bob Jefferis, Swap Tables & Railroad Groups. **Activities planned for this year's meet include:** Clinics – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby, Model & Photo Contests – by NMRA judging and Poplar vote. *Each model (up to a maximum of 5 models) you enter in the model contest will automatically qualify you to be entered in to a special drawing to receive a \$50.00 gift voucher.* Special Youth Award for the best overall youth model entry. Door Prizes – Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants. Display Layout and Layout Tours – In addition to the display layout at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours in the afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available for collection with your registration.

Swap Tables and Railroad Groups –

Expect to find more than 70 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. For information on tables contact Robert Jefferis at jeffbobj@swbell.net. Food and Refreshments – Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available during the show.

AUG 5, 2007 - MID- AMERICA TRAIN & TOY SHOW (formerly "Mid-America Train Meet"), BTC Exhibit Hall, I-435 and Front Street, Kansas City MO, 9am –2pm, Adm: \$5 adults, 12 & under, free, 7am early bird adm, \$10 ea. Trains, models, RR collectibles, toys, train movies, door prizes, operating layouts. Free parking. Info: Steve & Sherri Stich, P.O. Box 369, Leavenworth, KS 66048 or 913-651-5864. Directions: From I-435, exit 57 west (Front St) to Universal Ave. and turn right at stoplight. Or, from I-35, exit Front St. and continue east to Universal Ave., then turn left at stoplight.



Article was From Model Railroad.com

Build your own signals

Commercial parts make the job easier
Peter Pemberton

March 1, 2007



Author Peter Pemberton built a variety of operating signals to outfit his HO scale railroad. (Photos by the author)

Operating trackside signals have been a priority for me since I began building my HO scale Burlington Northern Cascade Division. Signals provide a sense of realism that's hard to beat, so I began by making a schematic drawing to help determine exactly what hardware I'd need at each location.

My signals are located according to prototype practices at junction points where routes split or join, at crossings, and at the ends of signal blocks used to space trains. On bidirectional single track, signals face both directions at each end of the blocks.

Note that I'm covering only the trackside signals without getting into the electronic controls. I decided to build my own signals to reduce the cost of the signal system.

Peter Pemberton is a veteran HO modeler who lives in Costa Rica. He's semi-retired, married with four children and one grandson. His nearest hobby shop is a 2½-hour flight away!

Commercial help

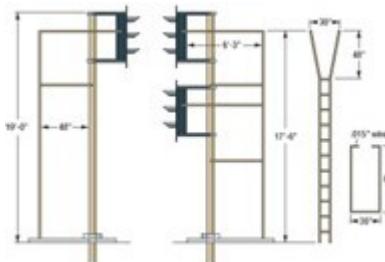


Fig. 1 Model dimensions

The signals I'm building match the ones used by the BN, but I've seen similar equipment used on other railroads. Many commercial detail parts are available to simplify building your own realistic signals.

I use color-light style of signal heads from Oregon Rail Supply's line of HO Union Switch and Signal prototype signal parts. They're sold in three-packs of one-, two-, and three-light heads that include the mounting brackets and finals for the masts.

I make the signal mast from 5/64"-diameter thin-wall brass tube sold by Special Shapes Co. The access ladders and maintenance platforms are milled brass parts produced by Integrated Signal Systems.

Figure 1 shows the basic dimensions of my signals. Head assembly

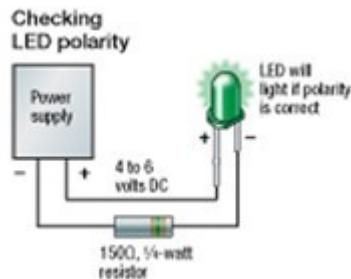


Fig. 2

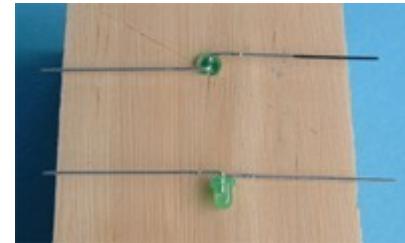


Fig. 3 Bending block. Bend all anodes to the right.



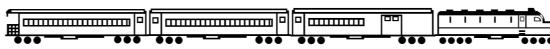
Fig. 4 LED installation. The wires are soldered close to the base of the cathode for easy trimming.
My first step is to install 3mm light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in the signal head. Some LEDs are longer than others, so I used the ones sold by Oregon Rail Supply to ensure that the diodes didn't extend beyond the signal heads.

With LEDs it's important to determine which lead is the anode (+) and which is the cathode (-). The anode is normally longer than the cathode, but if in doubt, I check it with a low voltage as shown in fig. 2. Then I use a black marking pen to add a reference mark to the anode lead. An LED won't light if its polarity is reversed.

I use a block of wood with an 1/8" (or 3mm) hole in it to hold each LED while I bend its leads flat, as shown in fig. 3. Note that I always bend the leads so the anode is on top and bent to the right, and the cathode is at the bottom and bent to the left. Now the reason for marking the anode becomes clear: once you've bent the leads it's easy to get them mixed up.

Next, I fit the LEDs into the signal head to make sure they fit snugly against the back of the head and don't stick out. Making sure the anodes are all on the same side, I apply cyanoacrylate adhesive (CA) to secure the LEDs, as shown in fig. 4.

I solder an insulated wire about 10" long to the cathode of each LED. I use Circuitron's ultra-fine wire for this step. It comes in red, white, and black, allowing me to color-code the red, yellow, and green connections. For all the



soldering on these signals, I use a 25-watt iron with a fine point.

Circuitron's wire is thin enough that six strands fit inside the 5/64" brass tube I use to make signals with two three-light heads. It's very fine stranded wire, so I twist the strands together and tin the wire end and the cathode by applying a little solder on each part before soldering them together. Then I hold the wire in place and heat the connection. I solder the wires close to the base of the cathode (shown below) for easier trimming later. Finally, I add the mounting brackets, making sure they're square before applying the plastic cement, and set the assembly aside to let the joints harden.

Mast preparation

To make the signal masts, I cut the original 12" piece of 5/64" brass tubing into four 3" pieces using a miter box and a fine-tooth hobby saw. I deburr the ends with a needle file, making sure no sharp edges remain inside. Using the signal head as a pattern, I mark the positions of each cathode on the brass tube. Then I carefully cut a small hole through the tube at each mark using a cutoff disk in my motor tool. A needle file will also do the job.

If I'm using two heads on the mast, I make the holes for the lower-head wires at this time as well. The holes for both heads should be aligned vertically on the mast. Then I carefully smooth the edges of these openings with a round needle file to remove any burrs that might damage the wire insulation and cause a short circuit during final assembly.

Signal head installation



Fig. 5 Trim cathodes. Trim the cathode leads flush with the signal head.

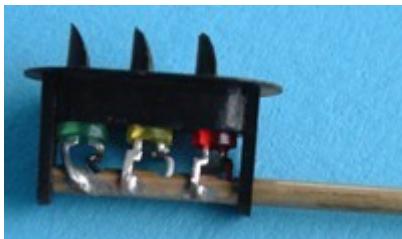


Fig. 6 Soldering anodes. Solder anodes to mast, trim excess, and file smooth.

Mounting the signal head on the mast takes some care and patience. I slip the head into position and gently work all three wires into their respective holes. To keep from cutting into the insulation and causing a short circuit later on, I avoid pulling hard on the wires. All three wires from the signal head's LEDs should run straight into the holes cut into the mast.

Holding the head with its upper support flush with the top of the mast, I secure it with a drop of CA applied to the underside of the bracket. After the CA sets, I trim the cathode leads even with the side of the signal head, as

shown in **fig. 5**.

Next, I make the grounded connections by soldering all of the anodes to the brass mast. I carefully bend the leads around the tube and solder them, using just enough heat to make the solder flow without damaging the plastic supports. Then I trim the excess length of the anodes, as seen in **fig. 6**, and smooth the joints with a file. To finish off the top of the mast, I add the plastic finial or seal the hole with body filler.

Mast details

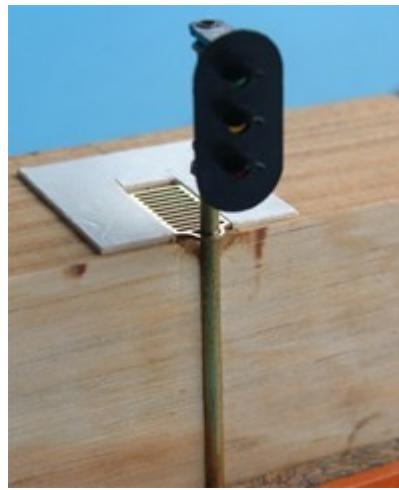


Fig. 7 Installing platform

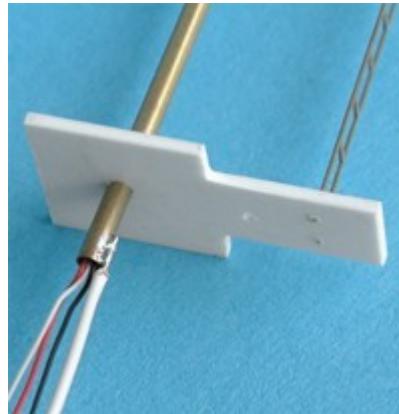


Fig. 8 Concrete base

Adding the maintenance platform requires little soldering, so I made the fixture shown in **fig. 7** to hold the mast and platform in alignment. This is a 1" x 2" x 3" block of wood with a vertical groove that holds the brass tube. It also has a piece of cardboard glued on top to hold the brass platform for soldering.

I mark the height of the platform on the brass tube and position the platform before clamping the mast in the groove. Then I make sure the signal head is facing straight out before I solder the joint.

I make the simulated concrete signal base from .040" styrene, as shown at right. Then I mount the signal on the base with a scale 19 feet of the mast above the base. A drop of CA secures the joint.



The Integrated Signal Systems ladders come in 6" lengths, so I cut them in half to detail two signals. The original long ends support the safety railing at the top. I tin the back edge of the platform and the top rung of the ladder, so all I need is a little flux and heat to solder the two together. Then I add a drop of CA to secure each leg to the base.

I make the safety railings from .015" brass wire bent as shown on page 76. I drill a shallow no. 78 hole into each side of the signal head, 48" above the platform, to hold one end of each railing. The opposite ends are soldered to the ladder. Once they're in place, I secure each railing in its hole with a drop of CA.

To provide a common positive connection to all three LEDs, I strip the end of a piece of insulated wire and solder it to the bottom of the signal mast below the base. See **fig. 8**.

The last step is to spray paint the signal mast and ladder in my prototype's aluminum color; I paint the target black.

Trackside installation

Many modelers glue their signals in position, but I prefer to secure them with a pair of track nails driven down through the base. The nails allow me to loosen the signals and lay it down without disconnecting it if heavy work is in progress nearby.

Each of the three cathode wires requires a 150-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor as a load for the LED. I drill a 1/4"-diamter hole to mount the signal, solder the resistors to the wires, and then spike down the signal.

Building your own signals isn't a difficult job, but it takes a little patience. It's faster and your workmanship will improve if you build them in batches of 10 or 12 at a time. Once you have the iron hot, you might just as well solder 30 wires to LEDs instead of just three.

So far, I've finished nearly 80 of these signals, and the cost works out to about \$3.50 for the single-head versions and \$6 for the double ones. Perhaps the best part is seeing my friends' expressions as my operating homemade signals are coming on-line.

Double-head signals

I use the same techniques to build my double-head signals, except for final assembly. When I reach the stage where I've soldered the upper platform to the mast, I slip the lower signal head on the tube so its upper bracket just touches the platform. After making sure that the lower signal head and safety platform are lined up exactly with the upper head and platform, I solder the second platform in place.

The Great Train Expo

By

Louis Seibel



NMRA Table Dennis Owens





North East Kansas Model Railroaders, Inc.

Kansas City
Garden Railroad



Farm Layout
Alyn Mer



The Great Train Expo By Louis Seibel



Mo-Kan Railjoiners Switching Layout

Nancy Adams Green Valley Baptist Model Railroad Club



Green Valley Baptist Model Railroad Club

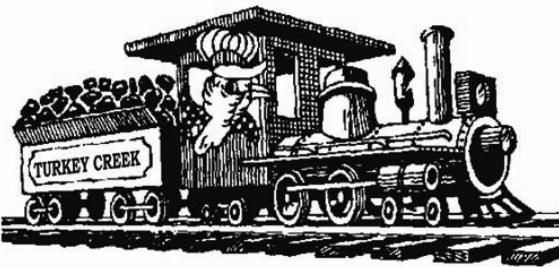
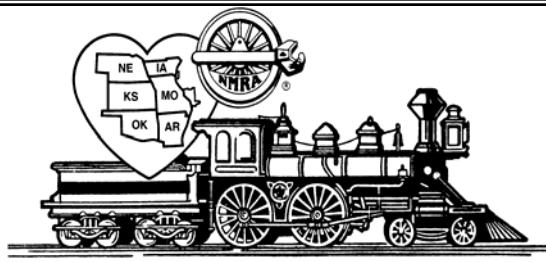


Charles Post
with T Nuts



Manhattan Area RailJoiners





Mid-Continent Regional Convention/Turkey Creek Show

August 4, 2007

Lenexa Community Center

13420 Oak, Lenexa, KS (Pflumm & Santa Fe Drive)

Activities planned for this year's meet include:

- o **Clinics** – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby.
- o **Model & Photo Contests** – by NMRA judging and Poplar vote. *Each model (up to a maximum of 5 models) you enter in the model contest will automatically qualify you to be entered in a special drawing to receive a \$50.00 gift voucher.* Light Iron Narrow Gauge Award for the best narrow gauge entry; Special Youth Award for the best overall youth model entry.
- o **Door Prizes** – Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants.
- o **Display Layout and Layout Tours** – In addition to the display layout at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours in the afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available for collection with your registration.
- o **Swap Tables and Railroad Groups** – Expect to find more than 70 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. For information on tables contact Robert Jefferis Jeffbobj@everestkc.net.
- o **Food and Refreshments** – Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available during the show.

Mid Continent Regional Convention / Turkey Creek 2007 Division Meet Registration Form

Advance Registration: \$4.00 Full Registration: \$6.00 (\$5.00 NMRA member) at door
Children under 12 free with paid registration

	Advance Registration (\$4.00)	No. Registration	Total Cost
Name:			
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City			
State Zip			
Telephone #:		Total Enclosed:	
E-Mail Address:		Scale Modeled	
More Registrant Names:			

Make Checks Payable to: "Turkey Creek Division"
Mail to: Mid-continent Regional Convention 2007, C/o Frank Ciccarella, 6403 W. 158 St.,
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April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24
August 4 Turkey Creek Meet
Lenexa Community Center
September 25
October 22
November 27
December 18 the Third
Tuesday

