

BUILDER'S PLATE

January 2022

Volume 5, Issue 1

Newsletter of Division 12, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.

Superintendent's Letter

The New Year is upon us and the hope of a return to normalcy. Division 5 MCR has announce the return of Rail Fest the third weekend in March at the Lakeland Community College. The information for this show should be later in this newsletter.

This has been a very mild winter to date, but we are still planning to have our monthly Division events via Zoom for January and February with the possibility of trying a hybrid meeting in March. Starting with the January Zoom we will be doing a "Build Along" clinic with Clark Kooning MMR© that will take us through March. Each month Clark will give us instructions and tips for building, painting and detailing the Hydrocal casting "First Timer Bar" kit from Downtown Deco. I am looking forward to Clark's clinics and building this structure, as I have never successfully built a Hydrocal kit previously.

Happy Model Railroading
Bradley White
Division 12 MCR Superintendent



Division 12, MCR, NMRA, Inc.
The Alleghany Western Division:
Expanding your model railroading horizons

Please visit our website: www.div12mcr.org

Or  [NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision](https://www.facebook.com/NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision)

Meetings

As face-to-face membership meetings return, they typically include announcements and limited business; “Modeling Question” and “What’s On Your Workbench” during which members share what they have been working on; and educational model railroad related programs, presentations, or clinics.

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Next Membership Event:

Our January meeting event will be a virtual Zoom meeting, which will include the first part of a three-part hands-on clinic building the “First Timer Bar” from Downtown Deco presented by Clark Kooning, MMR, on Saturday, January 8th. Link will be provided in a future email. See suggested materials list below. There will also be a second clinic presented by Dave Ackmann from the Gateway Division, on creating billboards for your model railroad, including image capture, creating custom decals, and building support structures for billboards.

Division 12 Upcoming Events

January, February, and March 2022: **Zoom hands-on clinics with Clark Kooning, MMR©**. . Any division member seeking to participate should order a kit in their desired scale well in advance of the January 2022 online meeting. The kit can be ordered from Downtown Deco at: www.downtowndeco.com. See suggested materials list below.

Upcoming Meeting Programs

To ensure that the membership meetings are of value, please let the leadership know what you would like to see in upcoming meetings by communicating directly with officers or board members.

Upcoming Model Railroad Events

January 2022: **Toy Train and Model Railroad Flea Market presented by Youngstown Model Railroad Association:** Sunday, January 9th 2022. Salem Center Plex, 1098 N. Ellsworth Ave Salem, OH 44460

February 2022: **WNYRHS Fall Train Show:** Hamburg, NY Fairgrounds Saturday February 26th (10am-5pm) and Sunday February 27th (10am-4pm), 2022.
<http://www.trainweb.org/wnyrhs/trainshow.htm>

March 2022: **Erie Train Show:** Rainbow Gardens at Waldameer Park, Erie. Sunday March 6th 2022.

March 2022: **Railfest 2022**, sponsored by Division 5 MCR NMRA: Saturday and Sunday March 19th and 20th, 2022 (10am-4pm) Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, OH

April 2022: **Iron and Steel Spring Rail Fest:** Saturday, April 2nd 2022. St. Mary's Assumption Social Center, 356 S. Belle Vista Ave. Youngstown, OH 44509

May 2022: **Indy Junction 2022**: May 18-22, 2022. Tri-Regional Convention sponsored by the Midwest, North Central, and Mid Central Regions of the NMRA and includes a joint conference with the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM). 4 days of clinics, model displays and contests, operating sessions, prototype tours, trains show, and more! Early registration ends December 31st, 2021. Save up to \$25 by registering early! More details including online registration and hotel reservations at: <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>.



Materials List for Zoom Clinics with Clark Kooning

Suggested Bill of Materials:

- Yellow carpenters glue
 - Elmer's White glue
 - 5-minute Epoxy (optional)
 - Sandpaper 80 and 120 grit
 - Hobby knife Exacto #11
 - 1/8" drill bit and pin vise
 - 000 steel wool
 - Assorted paint brushes need one 1"wide
 - Spray can Paint: Krylon Matt Clear
 - Cheap acrylic craft paint
- Suggestions: Apple Barrel, Craftsman, Cermacote, or similar
FolkArt TerraCotta, or similar.
Brown, Raw Umber, Burnt Umber Raw Sienna, Flat Black,
Flat White, Flat Red Light Grey or similar for concrete

Knisely Canning, Part 3

Text, Models and Photos by Dick Bradley, MMR

With the boiler house done it's time to build the canning house. In the box of parts goodies I find Tichy #8042 windows; Campbell stair stringers # 933 will also be useful, and there seems to be enough Evergreen # 4061 clapboard siding and # 9040 plan sheet on hand. For roofing I used leftover Plastruct # 91630 asphalt shingle sheet. The freight door is Tichy part # 8060 and the man door is part # 8033. Paints are the craft acrylic used earlier: Lichen for concrete, Charcoal trim, Drizzle Gray walls and Hippo Gray roof.

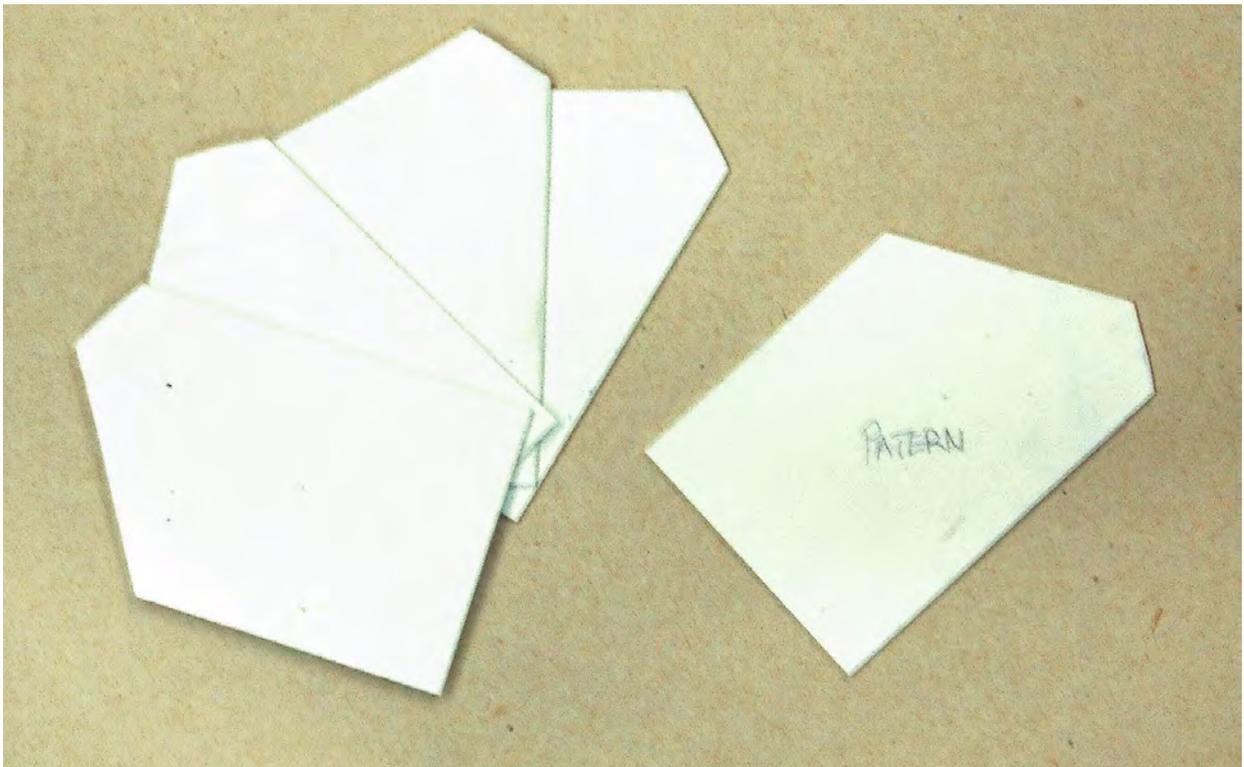
The Evergreen #4061 clapboard siding is 0.040 thick with a 0.060 reveal of the clap boards. Sixty thousandths is close to a five scale inch reveal. (One HO inch is about 0.01149 real inches. I use 0.0115 for easy calculation.) $5 \text{ inch reveal} \times 0.0115 = 0.0575$. 0.060 is close enough for a five inch reveal. A five inch reveal is a bit small in reality, although my neighbor's house has clapboards that size. The next Evergreen clapboard sheet size has 0.080 reveal, very close to seven HO scale inches (0.0805 inches). When holding the 0.080 sheet next to the boiler house HO scale bricks, the board reveal looks too big to my eye.

I like the look of the SS Ltd vent on the boiler house and want to use three smaller cyclone vents on the canning house. Searching the web finds no appropriate vents. In looking for something to use as a substitute, I came across Micro Mark #60677 Solid Carbide Cutter, 1/4 Inch Dia. 1/8 shank, which has about the right look and size. The mounting sleeve is a piece of 1/4 square styrene the length of the shaft. A 1/8 hole is drilled its length. This gives a large mounting surface. For the top bearing I used a 00 washer with a bit of brass rod glued to the top. (Remember to use your NMRA discount at Micro Mark!)

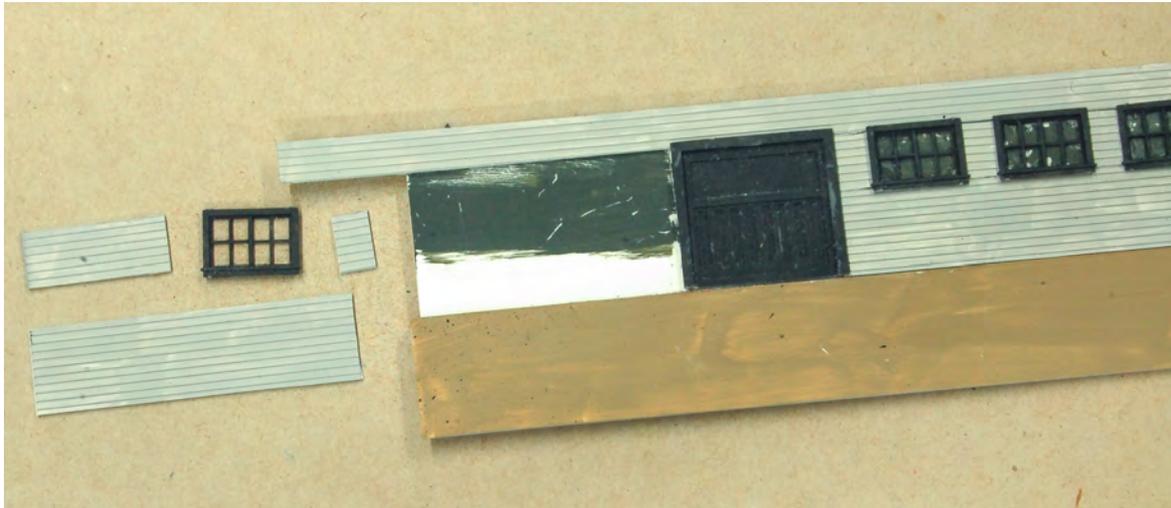


Scratch building usually starts with a plan drawn on paper. Determining the details for the drawing necessarily leads to consideration of construction materials and methods. Once this was puzzled out, all the dimensions are transferred to the styrene for actual cutting of the required parts. Accuracy is critical at this stage. I'm lazy and draw directly on the styrene parts. I even use the windows and doors laid on the siding to locate cut lines for openings, though it takes thought, very sharp scribes, and time to build this way. Weathering powder or Sharpie ink can be smeared over the fine scribe lines to make them visible. (Thanks Doug S. for this tip!)

Cutting the 0.040 styrene rectangles for the sides and roof is straightforward. Making five odd shaped ends and interior braces all identical does take some care, however. I lay out one end on the styrene sheet and cut it out a bit oversize. Then I use sandpaper to trim it down to the exact size. This piece is marked as 'pattern' and is used to scribe and cut the other four braces. Holding together these pieces will be corner strips and angle braces. Interior brace locations are marked on sides and roof panels. On the front roof panel I locate the holes for the vents and cut them in.



It is much more convenient to assemble the front wall before it is attached to the shell. 0.030 styrene sheet is cut to form the 6 scale-foot tall foundation and was then painted Lichen. The doors and windows were painted Charcoal and glazed. The lap siding was painted Drizzle Gray and then cut into three strips. One strip is the height of the wall above the doors, one the height of the windows, and one the height between the foundation and the windows. With careful measurement to assure 44 scale-foot separation and even spacing, the doors were glued to the styrene sub wall. Window width and door spacing were then measured and the length of the window spacers calculated. Spacer pieces of the lap siding strips are cut to fit between the windows and doors. All 22 pieces were then glued together.



After the front wall was in place I add a 0.060 fascia strip along the top of the front wall and cut room for it to continue around the side. This detail was not in my original plan, but it did look nice. However, it was also a big mistake. The structure is supposed to be a plain factory building, not a colonial revival house, and by raising the front wall 0.060" the roof no longer matches the slope of the sides. So, I removed the fascia strips; the walls were cleaned up and the end siding repaired. The roof then fit as intended.

I began the loading dock by cutting Evergreen 2080 scribed sheet strips eight scale feet wide for the floor. Evergreen 2060 scribed sheet strips were cut for the subroof. Floor and roof strips are 80 scale feet long. Plastruct asphalt roof was cut for the roof. Decision time: How much time and effort do I wish to spend making the loading dock look like weathered wood? This is not a contest model, the dock is two feet from the viewer: I'll decide to grain only the floor and use paints to fake the rest of the appearance with dirty brown paint. This finished styrene loading dock. The dock was then glued to the canning house, and the loading dock roof trusses were added.



After the dock roof is glued on the last items to add are steps from the side door and the dock itself. These are Campbell stringers with scale 2 X 8 basswood steps. This change from styrene is dictated by the laser cut wood stringers. Posts and railings are scale 2 x 4 basswood. The stairs were painted to match the dock. Finally, all the major parts of the Knisely Canning house are in place next to the boiler house. However, the scene is sterile. This will be rectified in the next installment of the Knisley Canning house saga. The epic tale concludes with detailing and scenery to complete the project.



Jerry Longo's Presque Isle HO Scale Dioramas

I had been working on my HO layout for a few years when I realized I had a lot to learn about model railroading. Several years ago I became a member of Division 12 and have been learning ever since.

In 2016 I became a volunteer at the Presque Isle Lighthouse as a docent for the Tower. In 2019 a lighthouse staff member showed me a diorama of the Presque Isle Lighthouse made by the late "Shorty" Parker, Master Modeler and member of Division 12. I was asked to make updates to the diorama to include several historical features. With "Shorty's" concurrence, I agreed to make the updates. The project was a success and got me hooked on dioramas and my volunteer position at the Presque Isle Lighthouse got me hooked on Presque Isle history.

A few years ago I participated in a workshop presented by Bill Schopf on how to build scale model structures using wood blocks. Using this technique, I was able to build an HO scale Presque Isle fog signal station diorama in 2020:



I added to this in 2021 when I built an HO scale Presque Isle Misery Bay diorama with the Lighthouse Keeper's boat house and its original stone pier. Having a degree in mechanical engineering allowed me to make drawings and layouts based only on historical pictures and a few known foundation and pier measurements. I also "picked the brains" of other NMRA members during our virtual meetings and weekly "on your workbench sessions". Thanks guys!



Structures in the dioramas are made from polystyrene, basswood, poplar, plaster castings, Lake Erie beach sand and driftwood pieces which all work together to achieve accurate historical scale reproduction of the prototype structures. Currently I am working on an HO scale diorama of the North Pier Light which should be complete sometime in 2022. Needless to say with all these historical diorama projects, work on my HO scale railroad is like a caboose on a freight train.



“Until next time, keep ‘em polished!”

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Current editors: Mike Hauk and Bill Schopf.

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