

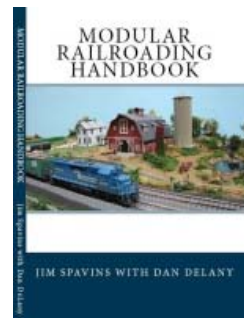


New Life for an Old Corner Modules

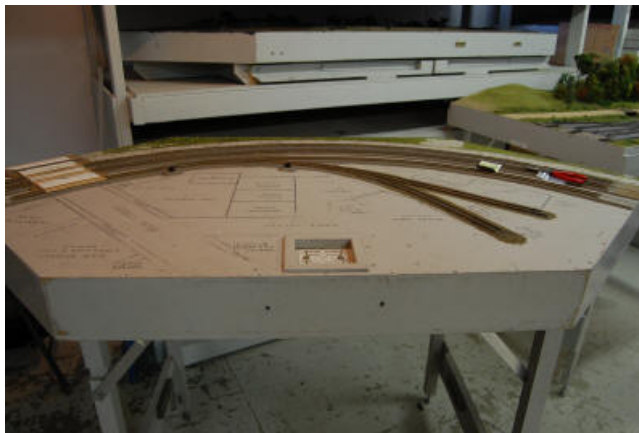


New Life for an Old Corner Module

By Dan Delany



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As the club I belong to began our planning for the 2009 NMRA convention and national train show, we came to the realization that in order to maximize our layout space, and show off our newest personal modules, we were going to need a few new modules. The three modules we needed were: a new 4' lift bridge with three tracks, a 4' module to transition between a logging corner and the rest of the layout, and another corner module with three tracks. We were laying the plans to build these three modules when club member Henry Curtis came to the rescue and

volunteered the use of his unfinished corner module. Although we still needed to build the lift bridge and 4 footer, using Henry's corner would allow us to immediately get rolling on getting it ready for the show.



Dad and I decided to make this the focus of our efforts during the Sunday work session in August of 2008. The layout plan called for using the corner between a new yard module and a new junction module. We decided to build the scenery and trackwork to match these two modules to try and keep as much visual continuity as possible. Since both of these modules have three tracks (two mainlines and one inside passing track), the decision was made to remove the outside passing track on the corner. Once this was done, our attention turned to the interior of the module.

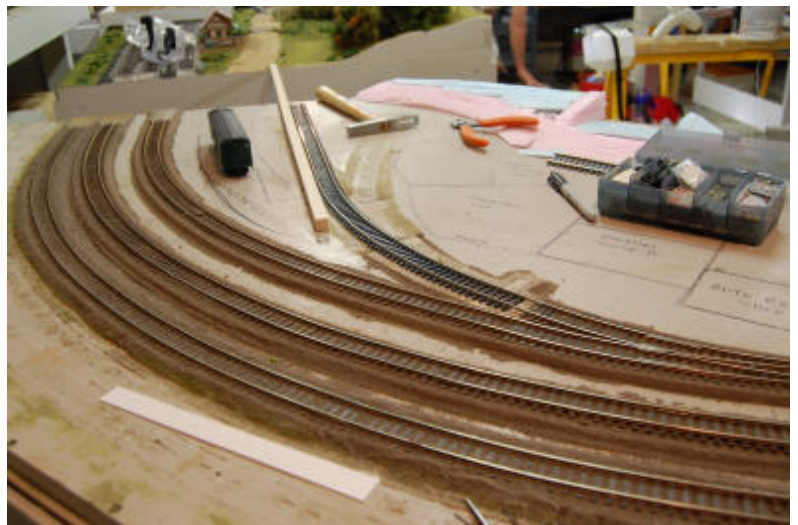
The corner did not have any scenery, but a road crossing had been started on the left side of the module, and we decided to keep the road in place, and repair the crossing where the fourth track had been. The module also has two sidings off the inside passing track. Due to the location of the road on the end of the yard module, we decided to remove one of the sidings, and realign the other siding into a new location. The new siding is capable of handling two 50' boxcars beyond the road crossing, and will feature a loading dock and crane.





While dad worked on the new siding, I went to work on the scenery . The end of the yard module features a forested hill sloping towards the rear of this module. I scrounged up some pink insulation foam, and started to create a hill on the rear of the corner module which matched up with the hill on the yard module. The hill was also extended along the rear of the module to hide the control panel for the module, which was built into the top of the module. Once the foam was glued in place and shaped, I covered the hill with a thin layer of spackle to smooth things out.

While the hillside was drying, dad had finished the new siding and went to work doing some maintenance on the mainline trackwork. The last few times we used this corner, we noticed a small vertical dip in the mainline tracks right next to the road crossing. Occasionally we'd see an uncoupling in the area, so we decided that if we were going to rebuild the module, we ought to fix this glitch in the trackwork. Dad used a long straightedge to determine the location of the dip, and the carefully removed the track nails. Since the track had already been ballasted, lifting the track was a delicate operation. Once it was lifted, thin styrene strips were used to shim the area, and the track nails were re-inserted.



Since the work session was winding down, we used the last few minute to carry the module outside to paint the newly installed siding with our "camouflage" brown paint. With this done, the module was set aside to dry and we left for the Sunday night club meeting.

Next work session, we'll tackle paving the road, and adding base scenery to the hill and from portions of the module. Check out part two at www.modularrailroading.com.