

SL-and-N construction blog

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07-30-2019, 04:05 PM #481

Alright! This is a nice development.

It's only make-believe

07-31-2019, 04:15 AM #482

Looking good, Dave. It's going to be an iconic scene. Made any decisions on the backdrop?

Mike

I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now *Bob Dylan*

07-31-2019, 04:27 AM #483

I have some 'bendable MDF' arriving (supposedly) today. I'll see just how well it bends. Then I have to figure out how to attach the MDF to the benchmark or wall, and then the backdrops to the MDF (probably in that order, because of the need to get the coving right first.)

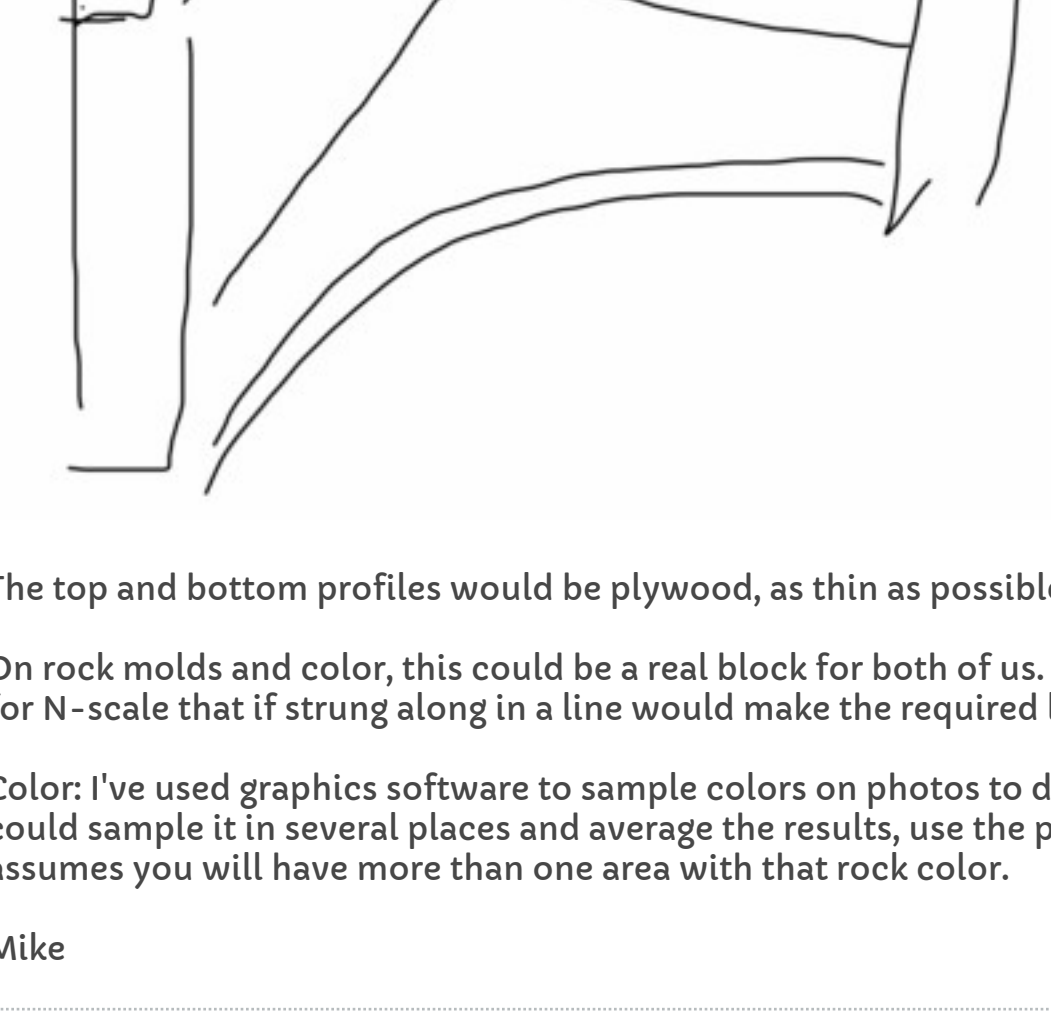
The other thing I'm pondering is the geology underneath the stream. My Woodland Scenics rock molds are pretty much 'generic', no obvious stratification. And that's probably OK for this part of the country, where the rocks are mostly basement rocks. But the actual Sandy Lake PA sits on sedimentary rock. So for this part, I'll probably go with the generics. I still need to decide what color to paint the rocks. (The problem is, the more I learn about geology, the more it will bother me if it doesn't look right! :-))

dave

Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)

07-31-2019, 07:45 AM #484

Dave, I would think the mdf requires a pretty stout frame to keep it in shape Here's an idea:



The top and bottom profiles would be plywood, as thin as possible to keep weight down. No matter what, I think the assembly would be rather heavy. On rock molds and color, this could be a real block for both of us. It's hard to find molds representing sedimentary rocks. Are there small molds appropriate for N-scale that if strung along in a line would make the required layers?

Color: I've used graphics software to sample colors on photos to determine rgb color codes. If you have a photo of the rock you want to match, perhaps you could sample it in several places and average the results, use the program to print out a square of the average color, and match it at a paint store. That assumes you will have more than one area with that rock color.

Mike

I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now *Bob Dylan*

07-31-2019, 01:31 PM #485

I believe Michael is right. MDF is a pretty dense material. Depending on how thick your 'bendable' MDF is, it could be difficult to work with, mostly due to the weight. If you assemble it off-layout, getting it into place could be problematic, due to the lack of access to the corner. It is probably worth the experiment though, so by all means, let us know how it goes.

Norton

The V 6 T lives in my garage (soon)

07-31-2019, 01:48 PM #486

Here's the curveable MDF, from the rear. You can see how it's milled so it will curve but remain rigid.



And from the front, just set into place. There are some pieces on the benchmark that hold the MDF tight to the right curve (I did one of them so it would pivot to hold the MDF into shape.) I still need to trim it a bit before making this permanent.

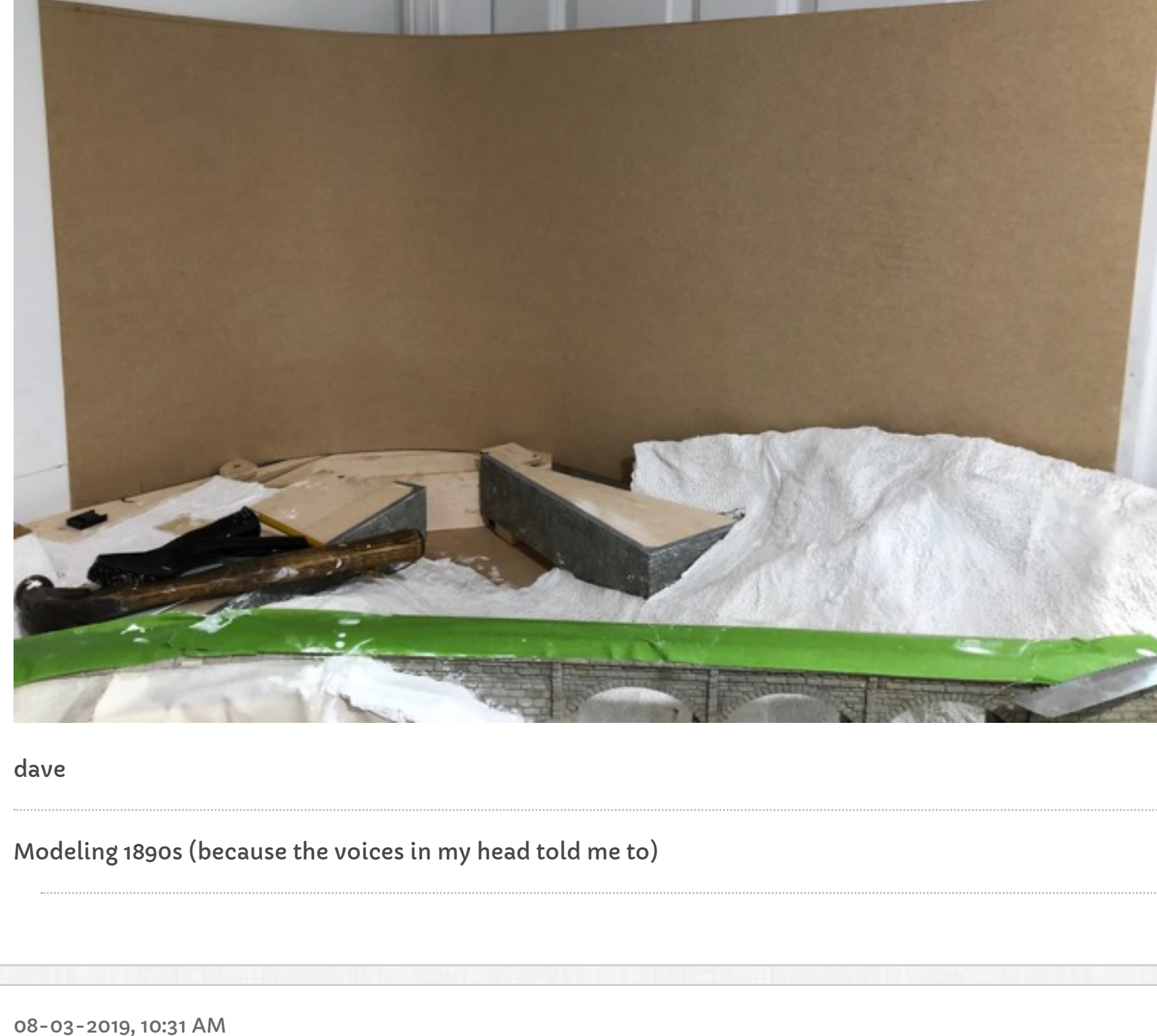


dave


Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)

08-03-2019, 10:31 AM #487

Backdrop tacked back into position over the 'flexible MDF'



Here's the view as you turn into the train room.



(Backdrop isn't quite plumb, I still have some adjustments to do on the MDF.)

Tomorrow my air-dry clay should arrive, that I'll use to position the rock castings into position. In the meantime, I think I'll putz around with the dam and mill pond.

dave

Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)

08-03-2019, 11:17 AM #488

Looking Good, Dave!

If you want some "instant results" today, break out the acrylic tube paint (I use the low-end Liquitex) and have at the landforms. Mix black and white with some tan for rocks, black and yellow for various greens.

Avoid mixing too much... it's too much like Work and it makes things monochromatic.

It's surprising to see how much "change" you can accomplish in a very few minutes using the acrylic artist paints. And when the time comes to change things, change away... the stuff is just paint...

Pete

in Michigan

08-03-2019, 12:03 PM #489

Pete, that's a good idea. I have some sample paint in various "dirt-like colors" that I got when I was trying to match NE Brownstone's scenery dirt. I'll dig one of those out and put it on. I primed the piece of wood that represents the dam and mill pond. I think- I'll paint the pond part as close to the backdrop's stream color as I can get, and then apply gloss medium. There are lots of techniques for doing waterfalls (water over the dam). I dug out my scenery books and started reading about how the experts have done it.

By the way, trimming that 'bendable' MDF is not easy. You have to set up something like a zero-clearance plate to keep the ribs on the back from splintering badly. The good thing is that they sand/file/scrape down pretty easily (after my -very rough- cut with the buzzsaw.)

dave

Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)

08-03-2019, 12:27 PM #490

I used 0.060 or maybe 0.080 styrene sheet for curved backdrops, screwed it into drywall, taped, spackled, sanded and painted. That's likely to be tough for you with that door right there, but I didn't have those issues...

And for the record, I'm a big fan of the second-hand, paint store wrong-color-because-it-doesn't-match-the-curtains dirt-colored paints, as they go on well, behave, look like dirt and will eventually get covered with scenery anyway... Not having it look like Winter indoors is a Good Thing for me. I know Winter, I can usually look out the window!

Keep plugging, and please let us know how things work out!

Pete

in Michigan

08-03-2019, 04:11 PM #491

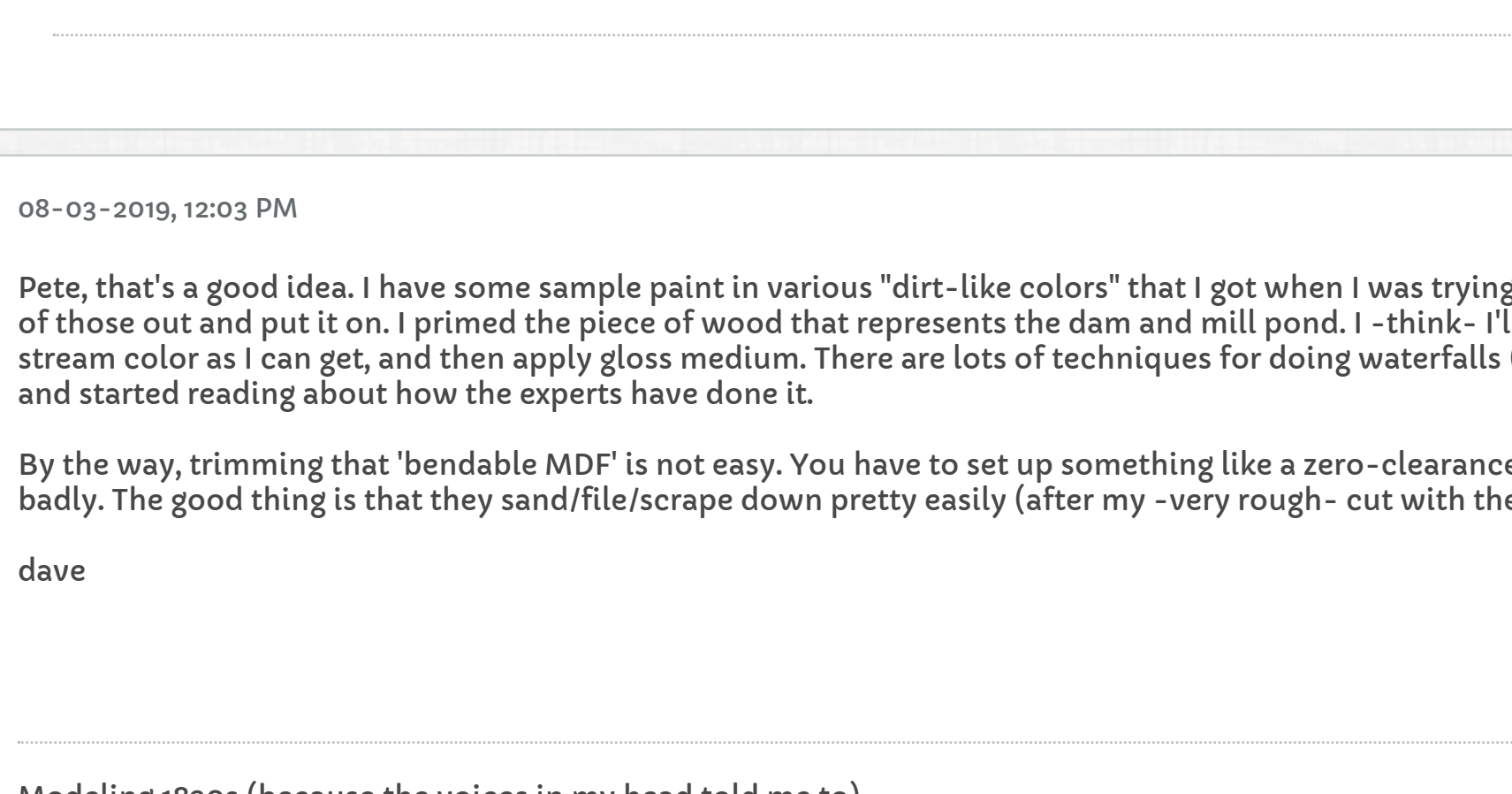
Back to the rocks! Try ACE Hardware. Even in our pudunk town, ACE can scan a hardcopy photo, and mix the color to an exact match in any of their paint platforms. They'll even do a half pint or pint sampler for you, for a couple of bucks.

Jim

Take the red pill

08-07-2019, 06:20 AM #492

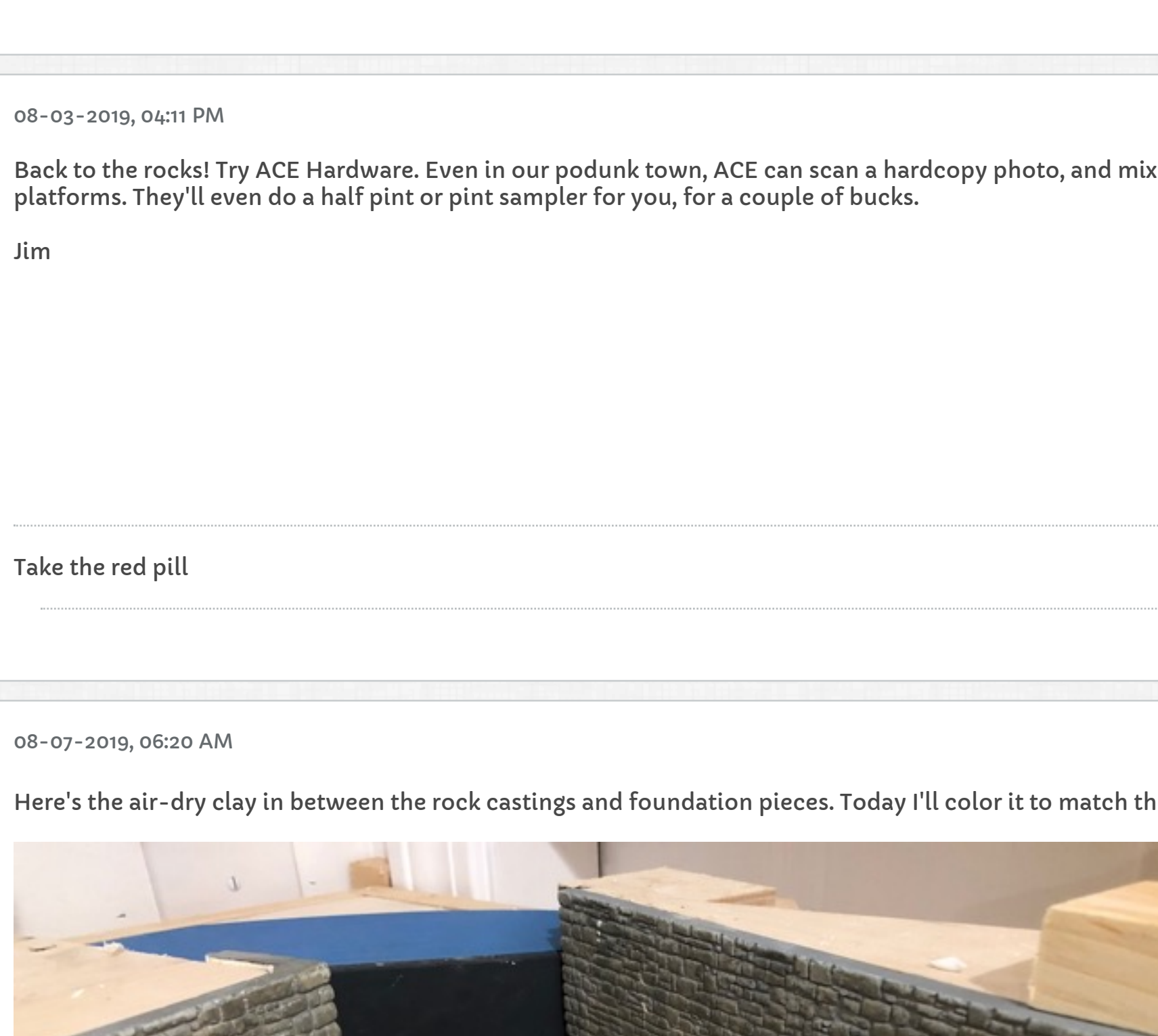
Here's the air-dry clay in between the rock castings and foundation pieces. Today I'll color it to match the rock.



The clay does shrink a bit, so yesterday I had to go back and fill some cracks and let it dry overnight.

The clay -only- sticks to your fingers, so it was a bit of a pain to get it into position. I used dental tools and similar clay tools to push the clay into the gaps and shape it.

And after a first coat of paint:



dave

Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)

08-07-2019, 08:47 AM #493

Looking good Dave

It's only make-believe

08-07-2019, 09:44 AM #494

Dave, Looks like a rough and rocky stream.

Mike

I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now *Bob Dylan*

08-07-2019, 10:26 AM #495

Mike, I'm trying to think a bit 'geomorphologically'. Behind the dam would be some sort of outcropping, a fall line towards the coast. The stream bed itself would have been carved by glacial runoff through the outcropping, so that's my justification for a relatively narrow and rough bed. Does that make sense?

dave

Modeling 1890s (because the voices in my head told me to)