SL-and-N construction blog

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
Posts: 11493
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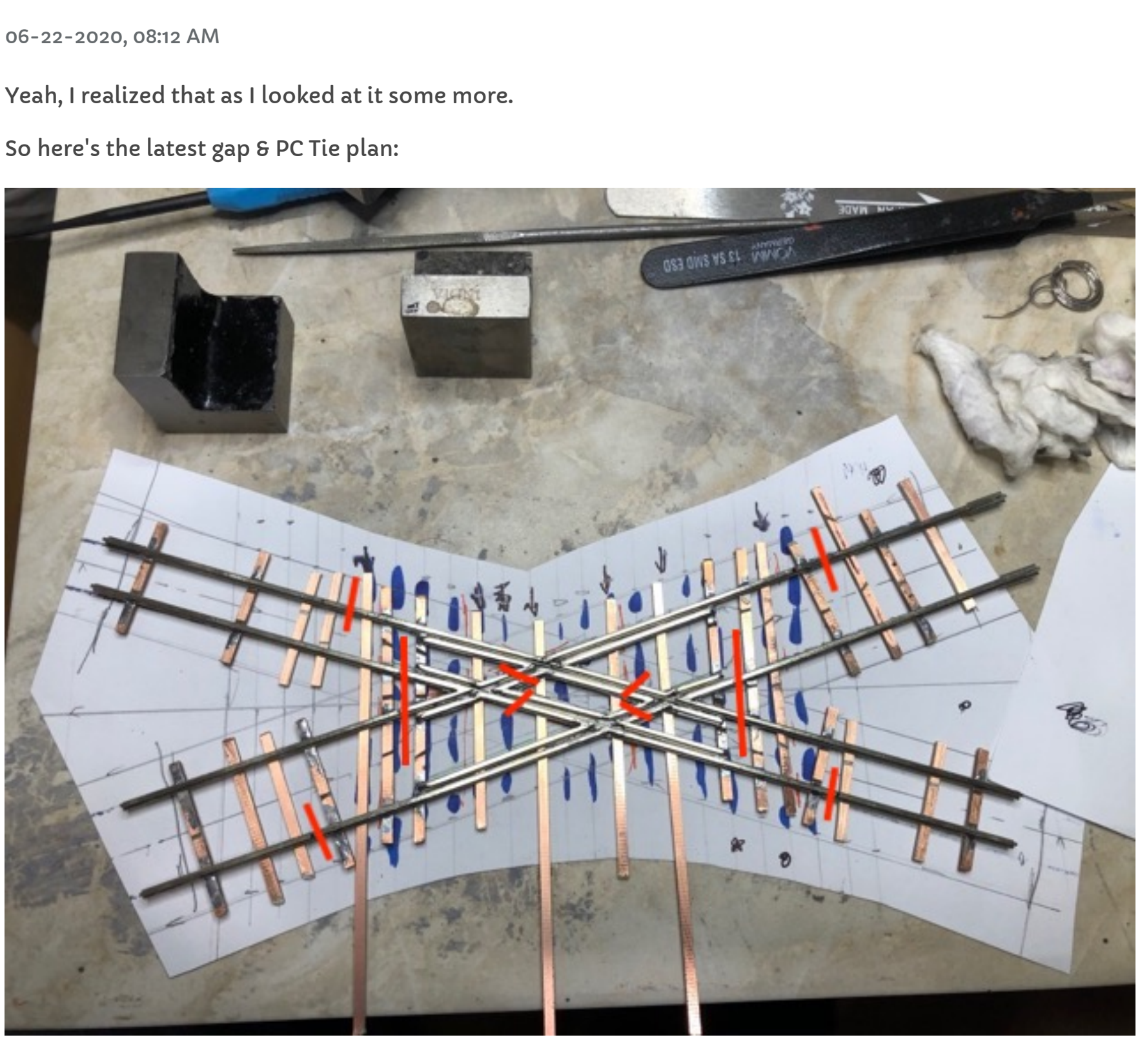
06-22-2020, 08:12 AM #736

Yeah, I realized that as I looked at it some more.

So here's the latest gap & PC Tie plan:



I'm not sure I can cut those gaps with a Dremel wheel with the crossing in position. My strong preference was to cut them using my jewelers saw, but I'm still pondering how to make the cuts. I don't want the Dremel disk to cut the PC Board ties.

Maybe the plan is to do the cuts in the diamond on the workbench, and then do the cuts on the running rails on location.

Or to take BurleyJim's idea to solder keepers on top of the rail before making the cuts...

dave

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

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
Posts: 11493
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06-22-2020, 01:54 PM #737

I added some more PC Board ties, and a keeper across the top of the railheads. Next step is to lay out the wood ties, and then cut the gaps.

dave

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

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railman28
Senior Member
Join Date: Mar 2010
Posts: 6713
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06-22-2020, 05:29 PM #738

I think you're good on PCB ties as you got two on each diamond.

Bob

It's only make-believe

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
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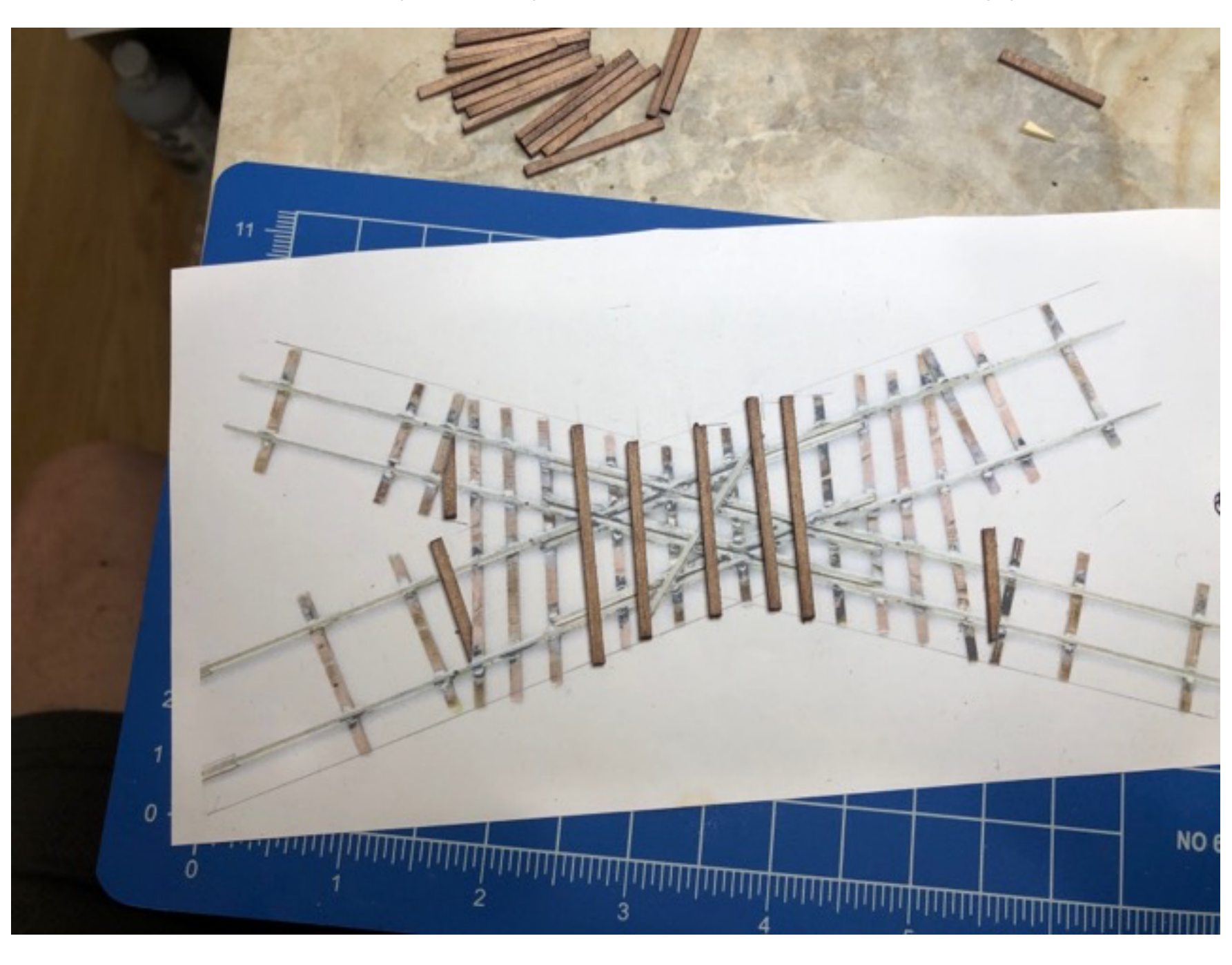
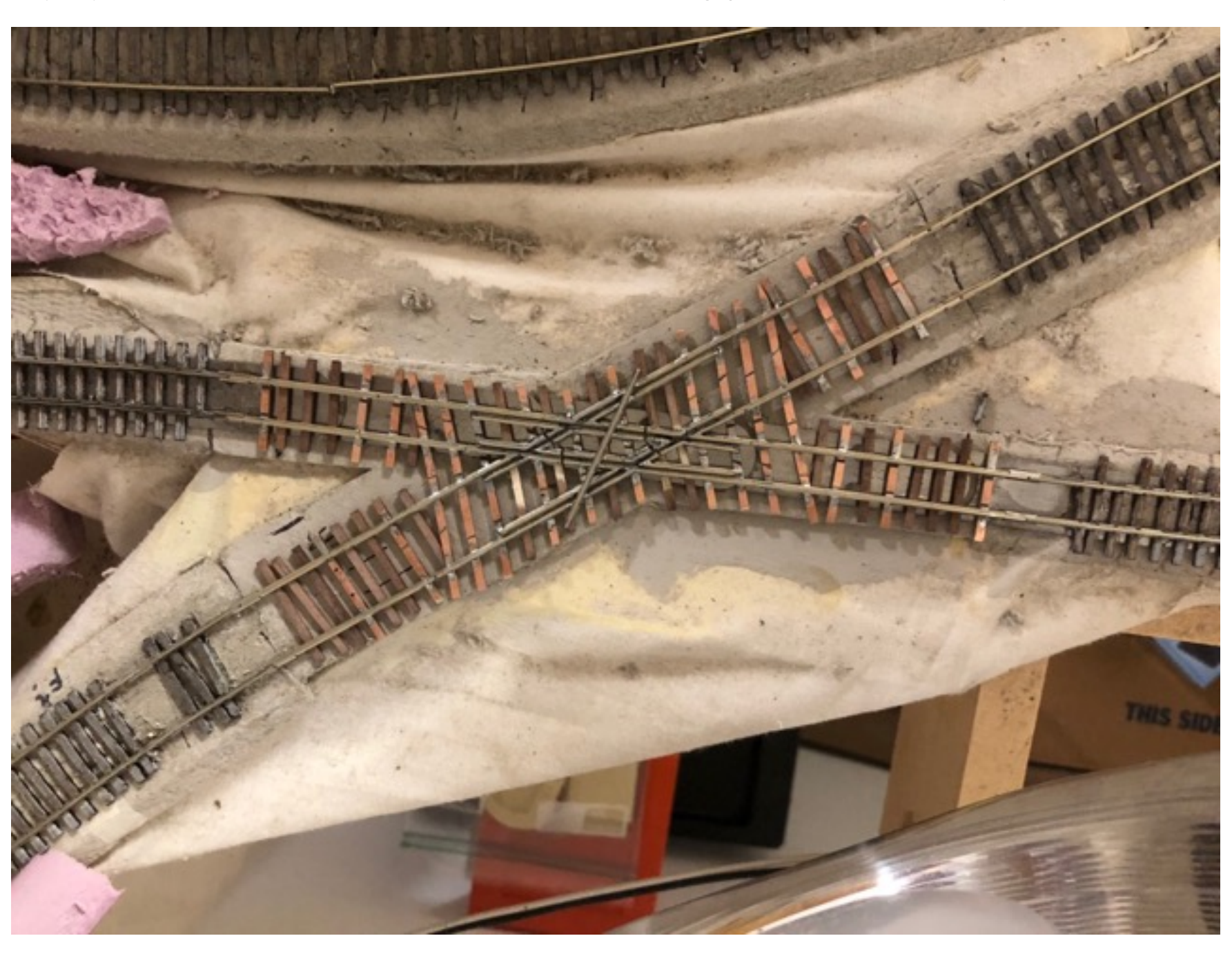
06-23-2020, 10:30 AM #739

I scanned the turnout, and used a printout to plan and cut the wood ties to fill in the gaps.



In cutting the gaps on the diamond, two of the small frogs came loose. Soldering them back together onto the crossing was a real challenge. Let's just say Apple will not be hiring me to assemble iPhones...

Anyway, here it is on location. I still need to add some more gaps, but those will be easy to cut with a Dremel disk.



Still left to do: the remaining gaps, add the feeder wires, remove the keeper soldered over top of the rails and check connectivity. If that all passes, solder the crossing onto the SG and NG track, paint, ballast....

dave

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

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
Posts: 11493
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06-23-2020, 02:47 PM #740

I cut the remaining gaps, removed the keeper, and checked continuity. All checks out (although I did have to touch up one cut and resolder rail to one tie that popped loose.) I would have soldered the crossing to the rest of the rails, but I ran out of the solder I was using. The other stuff I have is a bit too high-temp to work well for soldering rail joiners.

Now I'll be cutting more gaps later on, to produce a 5" or so block before the crossing on each side. That will eventually be wired into the "interlocking" for the crossing electrical feed.

The other thing I'm considering is partially ballasting the crossing to lock it in place. Right now it's kinda floating on the homabed.

dave

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

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BurleyJim
Senior Member
Join Date: Jan 2014
Posts: 7456
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06-23-2020, 03:07 PM #741

Dave,

Quite a nice little victory on this project. The ballast will indeed provide some more stability. Good job!

Jim

Take the red pill

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Orionvp17
Senior Member
Join Date: Feb 2007
Posts: 8839
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06-23-2020, 04:08 PM #742

Dave,

Nice little victory indeed! Congratulations!

Pete

in Michigan

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k9wrangler
Senior Member
Join Date: Feb 2003
Posts: 15622
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06-23-2020, 06:47 PM #743

Very nice turnout. If you end(ed) up using a Dremel disc I hope it's thinner than those I have. It cut ok

But gaps looked massive. Mine was not on fancy stuff like yours just std C-100 #4s

KarlS-Curmudgeon

Avatar image by Savannah Lyn Burgess 7-15-2022

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railman28
Senior Member
Join Date: Mar 2010
Posts: 6713
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06-23-2020, 07:01 PM #744

Excellent Dave. nice cuts and just a super job.

Bob

It's only make-believe

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
Posts: 11493
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06-24-2020, 02:53 AM #745

Karl, for the gaps in the diamond I used the jeweler's saw that I got from FastTracks, https://www.handlaidtrack.com/tl-0043. I can thread the blade into the small triangle where the cuts need to be, and then clamp the blade down and start (carefully) cutting. For the gaps in the running track, I used a Dremel cutoff wheel. I'll probably glue in spacers in the running track, since those gaps are pretty wide.

dave

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

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wvrr
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2002
Posts: 7214
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06-24-2020, 04:55 AM #746

Nicely done, Dave.

Chuck

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deemery
Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007
Posts: 11493
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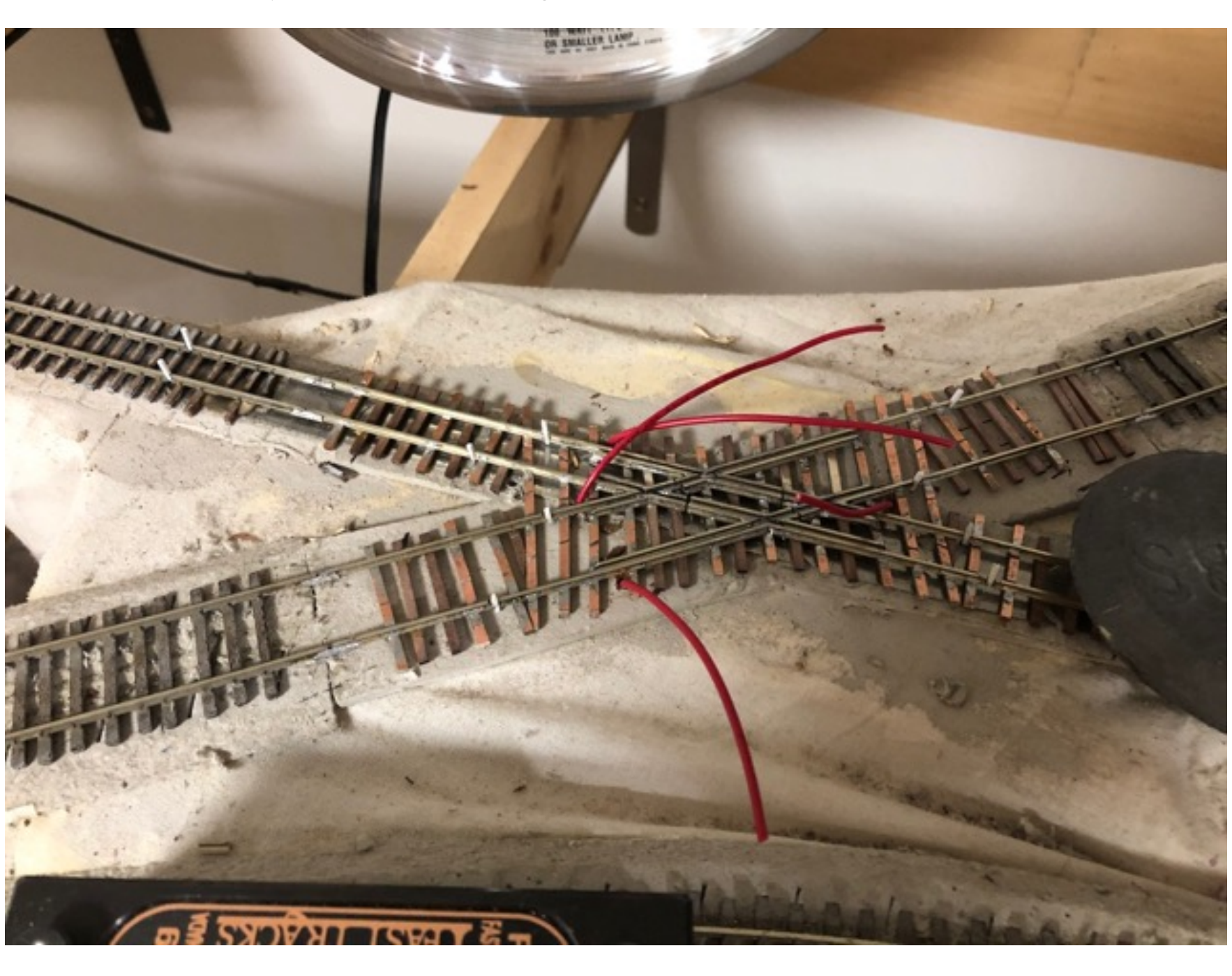
06-24-2020, 10:12 AM #747

I'm filling the wide gaps (cut with the Dremel disk) with epoxied pieces of styrene. Sometimes (I'm not sure why) it takes multiple attempts to get the styrene to stick. I also drilled holes for the electrical feeds for the diamond. Tim Warris suggested soldering the wire to the PC Board tie next to the rail, rather than to the rail itself. Less likely to unsolder something.



Once the rails are painted, the white gap fillers mostly disappear.

add: I'm having some problems with the epoxy holding the styrene bits to the rails. Guess I'll go buy some fresh epoxy, not sure how old my stuff is...

dave

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

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BurleyJim
Senior Member
Join Date: Jan 2014
Posts: 7456
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06-24-2020, 03:58 PM #748

Dave,

1. Try sanding the surface of the Styrene with #320 grit paper to give that epoxy a little 'tooth' to latch on to.

2. Be patient. 😊😊

Jim

Take the red pill

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jbvb
Senior Member
Join Date: Dec 2007
Posts: 8212
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06-24-2020, 05:00 PM #749

My gap fillers are made by

1) dip the end of a .010 x .030 styrene strip in the nozzle of a tube of Walthers Goo,

2) Insert sticky end of strip into gap from above,

3) cut level with the top of the rail using sprue nippers

James

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Orionvp17
Senior Member
Join Date: Feb 2007
Posts: 8839
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06-24-2020, 05:25 PM #750

> *quote:*
>
> *Originally posted by jbvb*
>
> *My gap fillers are made by*
>
> *1) dip the end of a .010 x .030 styrene strip in the nozzle of a tube of Walthers Goo,*
>
> *2) Insert sticky end of strip into gap from above,*
>
> *3) cut level with the top of the rail using sprue nippers*

I use the same basic technique, but with CA, and some final sanding with fine or extra-fine nail "files" (the ones with the foam inserts).

Pete

in Michigan

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