SL-and-N construction blog

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

12-28-2022, 03:56 PM #901

I have a couple of places where I need some thin rock faces. "Thin" because there's not much track clearance. So I sprayed the Sculptamold with some water, then applied a thin coat of relatively stiff plaster. Then I used the "stratigraphic brush" (chip brush trimmed to produce really stiff bristles) to add the bedding lines:

Once this is dry, I'll paint it a rock base color, then maybe carve some vertical joint lines (stuff I learned from my Structural Geology course this semester...) and then do final rock coloring.

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 3

Michael_Hohn — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2012 — Posts: 12238

12-28-2022, 07:01 PM #902

Dave,

The brush sure makes convincing sedimentary rock. I'll have to remember that when we get to scenery on our club layout.

Mike

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

Quote | Comment | Flag | Unlike 1

1 comment

deemery commented 12-28-2022, 08:13 PM #902.1

I'm thinking if I could figure out a way to trim the brush to widen the distance between the bristles, I could get thicker strata. But this should work well for thin bed mudstones and shales :-) I'll color the rock accordingly. (I really enjoyed Structural Geology this semester. We spent a lot of lab time on metasedimentary turbidites. https://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcon...context=thesis)

Last edited by deemery; 12-29-2022, 09:14 AM.

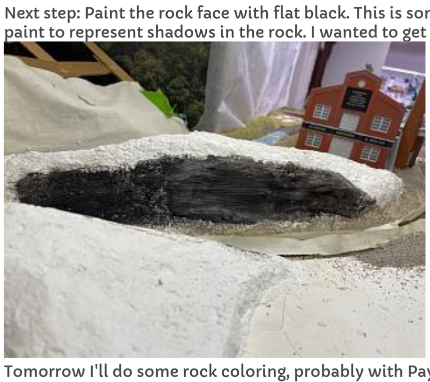
Edit | Flag

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

12-29-2022, 04:25 PM #903

Next step: Paint the rock face with flat black. This is something I learned from Dave Frary. Normally I don't use absolute black, but in this case I want the black paint to represent shadows in the rock. I wanted to get the black into all the cracks and imperfections in the rock area.



Tomorrow I'll do some rock coloring, probably with Payne's Grey, which has a bit of a purplish tint to it. I might add a bit of blue to get a more slatey color.

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 1

---

jbvb — Senior Member — Join Date: Dec 2007 — Posts: 8212

12-29-2022, 08:26 PM #904

Looks good, Dave. You might want to try modifying a brass brush for this kind of effect.

James

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

Orionvp17 — Senior Member — Join Date: Feb 2007 — Posts: 8839

12-29-2022, 09:05 PM #905

Looking good, Dave! I agree with James.

Pete
in Michigan

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

PRR Modeler — Senior Member — Join Date: May 2022 — Posts: 2114

12-30-2022, 08:25 AM #906

Looks good Dave. Following with intrest on how you do the hill.

Curt Webb

Freelanced PRR Bellevue Sub

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

12-30-2022, 07:52 PM #907

I added vertical (or more accurately, perpendicular to bedding) joints, scribed with a knife. Then I went back and painted them black. (The idea is that the rock color will leave these black cracks intact.) Tomorrow I'll do the rock painting, as soon as I find my Paynes Grey :-)

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

12-31-2022, 03:10 PM #908

Here's my (first?) attempt at coloring the rock:

I'm not totally happy with it, maybe when I vertically drybrush with a light tan the relief will pop. The primary color is VanDyke Brown, with a little bit of Payne's Grey and a lot of white (in varying strengths). The rock on top of the plaster is local, it's not quite the same rock, but a good color inspiration.

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

01-01-2023, 11:32 AM #909

Last night I put a coat of matte acrylic varnish. Today I went over the rock surface with some Pan Pastels using a make-up wedge sponge and my great bristle fan brush. First I ran some dark color with the sponge pressing relatively hard, to get the color into the grooves. Then I went back over that with a lighter color pressing lightly, to highlight the tops of the grooves. Then I went back and forth with the fan brush and several colors, always moving in the direction of the strata (parallel to the ground.) In retrospect, I should have carved a lot more joints first. But overall it looks good, and once I add a bit of vegetation and do the surrounding scenery, it should blend in.

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 2

1 comment

railman28 commented 01-01-2023, 04:46 PM #909.1

I think it's working.

Flag

Orionvp17 — Senior Member — Join Date: Feb 2007 — Posts: 8839

01-01-2023, 11:49 AM #910

Nicely done, Dave! Keep going!

Pete
in Michigan

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

PRR Modeler — Senior Member — Join Date: May 2022 — Posts: 2114

01-02-2023, 09:11 AM #911

Very nice Dave.

Curt Webb

Freelanced PRR Bellevue Sub

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

01-02-2023, 02:27 PM #912

Well, I've looked at that rock face a bunch of times, and I think the problem is that it's too smooth :-) I'll add a lot more vertical joints to break up the flow, and that should make it look a lot better.

I cut the joints with an utility knife, then ran black wash into the cracks. I evened out the black wash on the face of the rocks with a make-up sponge, to blend stuff together. Definitely looks better!

dave

Last edited by deemery; 01-02-2023, 03:00 PM. Reason: added more joints (cracks)

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

3 comments

railman28 commented 01-02-2023, 06:01 PM #912.1

Still working. I think it needs some color. But I'm not familiar with the rocks you're modeling. It would be easier to judge if the surrounding mud was colored.

Bob

Flag

deemery commented 01-02-2023, 07:16 PM #912.2

Here's some photos of what I'm trying to represent: http://jsjgeology.net/Raccoon-Shale.htm

Edit | Flag

railman28 commented 01-03-2023, 01:00 AM #912.3

The link helped. I see a lot of blue in the shale

Flag

---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

01-08-2023, 02:40 PM #913

Today's small project was to add some topography to the front edge of the layout:

I cut a strip of 1" styrofoam, marked off the rough topography on the edge, and then shaped it with a Tippi foam cutter and steak knife. I then glued in place using regular carpenter glue. (That works because it's styrofoam to homasote.)

Using Bill Gill's idea of mixing some paint and glue with water, I mixed up pre-colored Sculptamold and plastered it into position. (Yeah, I should have done that before ballasting, but I got impatient earlier this week.) I also spread the Sculptamold on the front of the benchwork, I might do something clever there.

In about 30 minutes, the Sculptamold will be at that magic point where it's easy to smooth out with a wet finger. Then I'll let it dry overnight.

dave

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 1

1 comment

railman28 commented 01-08-2023, 08:07 PM #913.1

I didn't use glue, I used just water and a little paint instead and it took days to dry so please report what your actual dry time is as I have a whole lot of mountain to make.

Bob

Flag

ACL1504 — Senior Member — Join Date: Jun 2022 — Posts: 4770

01-15-2023, 01:45 PM #914

Dave,

You are making great progress and I agree with Bob on the scenery. I enjoy doing scenery more than running trains. I've learned to be very patient when doing my scenery in one area. It may take me days to complete. I tend to build my scenery in layers. Again, as Bob stated, evaluate as you move along on the scenery.

Tom

The difference between the almost right word and the right is the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

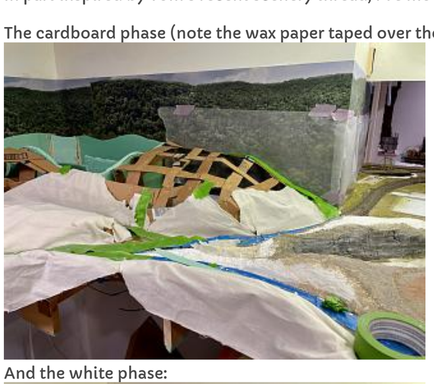
---

deemery — Senior Member — Join Date: Sep 2007 — Posts: 11493

02-19-2023, 03:27 PM #915

In part inspired by Tom's recent scenery thread, I've moved from doing detail and electronics to rough scenery.

The cardboard phase (note the wax paper taped over the backdrop, and held in place with "delicate surface" masking tape.):



And the white phase:

I'll let that dry, and see how I like it. The cliffs by the track are probably too steep, that means I'll have to do very thin rock techniques (like I did earlier with the 'stratigraphic brush' to get shale-like beds.)

In the process, I broke my cheap low temp glue gun. So I had to dig out the high temp professional hot glue gun we used to do the spline roadbed. That requires gloves, because when they say 'hot', they mean it!

dave

p.s. I ordered more bulk plaster wrap :-) This went through about 1/2 of my "5 lb bag"

Last edited by deemery; 02-19-2023, 03:39 PM.

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

Edit | Quote | Comment | Flag | Like 0

Font | Size

Write something...

Upload Attachments | Upload from URL

Cancel | Preview | Post Reply

Powered by vBulletin® Version 5.6.4
Copyright © 2025 MH Sub I, LLC dba vBulletin. All rights reserved.
All times are GMT-5. This page was generated at 1 minute ago.