

Rochester Model Rails

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Mike Hamer's Boston and Maine – Western Route. This amazing layout is in an 11 x 13 foot room. The scene is about 30" deep with staging tracks under the buildings in the rear. Mike's layout in Ottawa, Canada, was on tour at the 2008 NMRA NFR Regional Convention and has been featured in *Model Railroad Planning* and other publications. Image by Ned Spiller, MMR.

The NMRA Niagara Frontier Regional Convention by Ned Spiller, MMR

Photo Gallery – The Images of Joe Palmer

Doctor Dick – Sawmill Flow of Materials

Building a Large 1:87 Scale Sawmill - Part 8 – The Circular Saw by Richard Senges

The NMRA Niagara Frontier Regional Convention Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 2008

by Ned Spiller, MMR

Carolyn and I attended the NMRA Niagara Frontier Regional Convention in Ottawa, Ontario, on April 25 – 27, 2008. It was a full two-and-a-half days, with too much to do.

Loy Spurlock (*Loy's Toys*) gave five hours of clinics on DCC. Since I'm currently converting my DL&S RR to DCC, I decided I needed to attend all five hours and learn as much as I could. Loy's clinics covered wiring the layout for DCC, installing decoders, and troubleshooting.

Bruce Curry of Ottawa gave a clinic titled "Rutland Memories". Bruce has been a long time Rutland RR fan and had many old slides plus many he took in the early 70s. Since I lived in Vermont in the early 70s, and since I've been trying to make my railroad more like the Rutland, I really enjoyed his clinic. I also attended clinics on airbrushing and on Michel Boucher's expansion of his D&H RR. I got Carolyn to attend a clinic given by Chris Lyon on backdrop painting.

Some of the clinics I missed covered: Modeling Bogs & Swamps, Weathering Rolling Stock & Structures, Development of Rail Lines in Ottawa, Making Mountains, The Northern Alberta RR (given by Ken King, a CNR locomotive engineer visiting from Edmonton, Alberta), Computer Car Forwarding, Swiss Meter Gauge Railways, and Live Steam. Too many clinics and not enough time.

There were layout tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There are many good modelers in Ottawa, and they have several active operating groups. There were 19 layouts on the tour. We were only able to see 10 of them. I was sure to include the three layouts that depicted the northeast US and the B&M and D&H railroads.



Right: Mike Hamer's Boston and Maine – Western Route. Images by Ned Spiller.

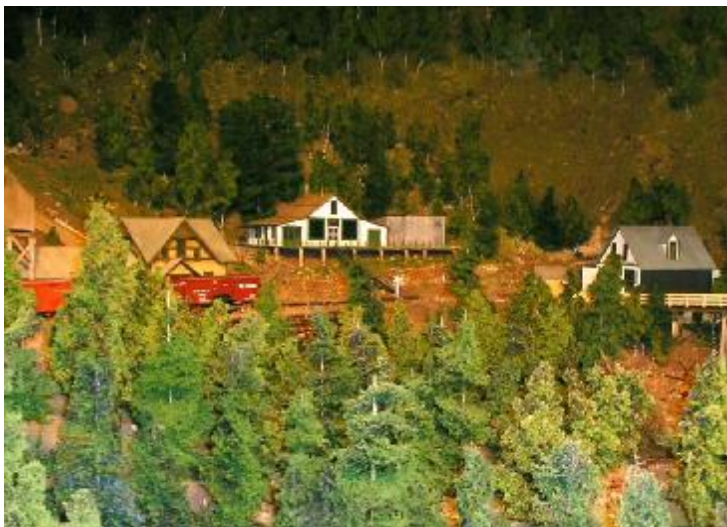
Some of the other layouts on tour at the NMRA NFR Convention



Michel Boucher's Adirondack Branch of the D&H. A very nice layout designed for operations. Image by Michel Boucher.



Dave Primeau's CPR Lyndonville Subdivision B&M Connecticut River Line. This is the White River Jct. Station on Dave's very nice layout. Image by Ned Spiller.



Left: Near the Ophir Loop on the Northern Division of the RGS on Bill Scobie's Sn3 layout. Image by Ned Spiller.

Carolyn and I had a great time, met many great model railroaders, and learned a lot. We look forward to next year's Niagara Frontier Region convention.

The NMRA North East Region is having its annual convention in Syracuse from September 11 to 14, 2008 (<http://empirejunction.org>). We're hoping to go to their convention, especially since there should be a lot of New England based railroad information.



Above: Main station on Tony and Kathy Wither's Generic UK layout. The layout is a 20 x 12 foot rectangle with an 80-foot L. Tony is a retired software developer and his layout is totally computerized using Zeno equipment. Trains were constantly arriving and departing from this eight-track station. This is a highly detailed layout, and was amazing to see. Image by Ned Spiller.

Photo Gallery of Joe Palmer, Ellsworth, Maine



Cherryfield, Maine



Ellsworth Milling & Planning Company, Ellsworth Maine

A Shavings Plant

by Joe Palmer

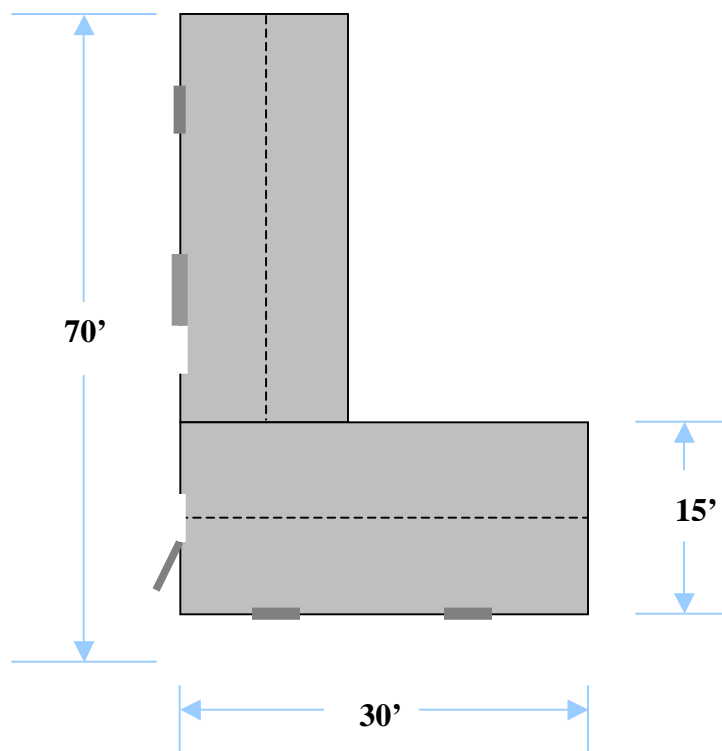
Statistics:

Width: - 70 feet.
Depth - 30 feet.
Width of high structure - 15 feet.
Height unknown.

Information:

Plant closed around 1978.
Railroad track in front of plant is the Maine Central RR.
Tracks to be taken up and used as a Multi Trail.
Plant structure to be destroyed soon, as of June 2008.

Source: Peter Richardson, Crobb Box, Ellsworth, Maine.



Ellsworth Milling & Planning Company, Ellsworth Maine

A Shavings Plant

Images by Joe Palmer





Ask Doctor Dick (The Scenery Doctor)

OCRR@frontiernet.net

Pete writes:

I am interested in building a model sawmill and am wondering about the flow of the logs, slabs, lumber and sawdust through the sawmill. Can you provide a simple diagram showing the material flow?

Doc:

Sure.

There are three distinct flows with which to be concerned:

The logs

The slabs (Slab: The exterior portion of a log which is removed in sawing lumber.)*

The cants or cut lumber (Cant: A log that has been slabbed on one or more sides.) *

Also: the sawdust

The next page shows a simple diagram depicting the flow of the basic three items above in a double-saw mill. Note the slabs from the near saw actually go under the floor to the Slasher to be cut into firewood or wood to feed the steam boiler of the sawmill. Conveyors or a sawdust blower leading to a burning facility handled the sawdust.

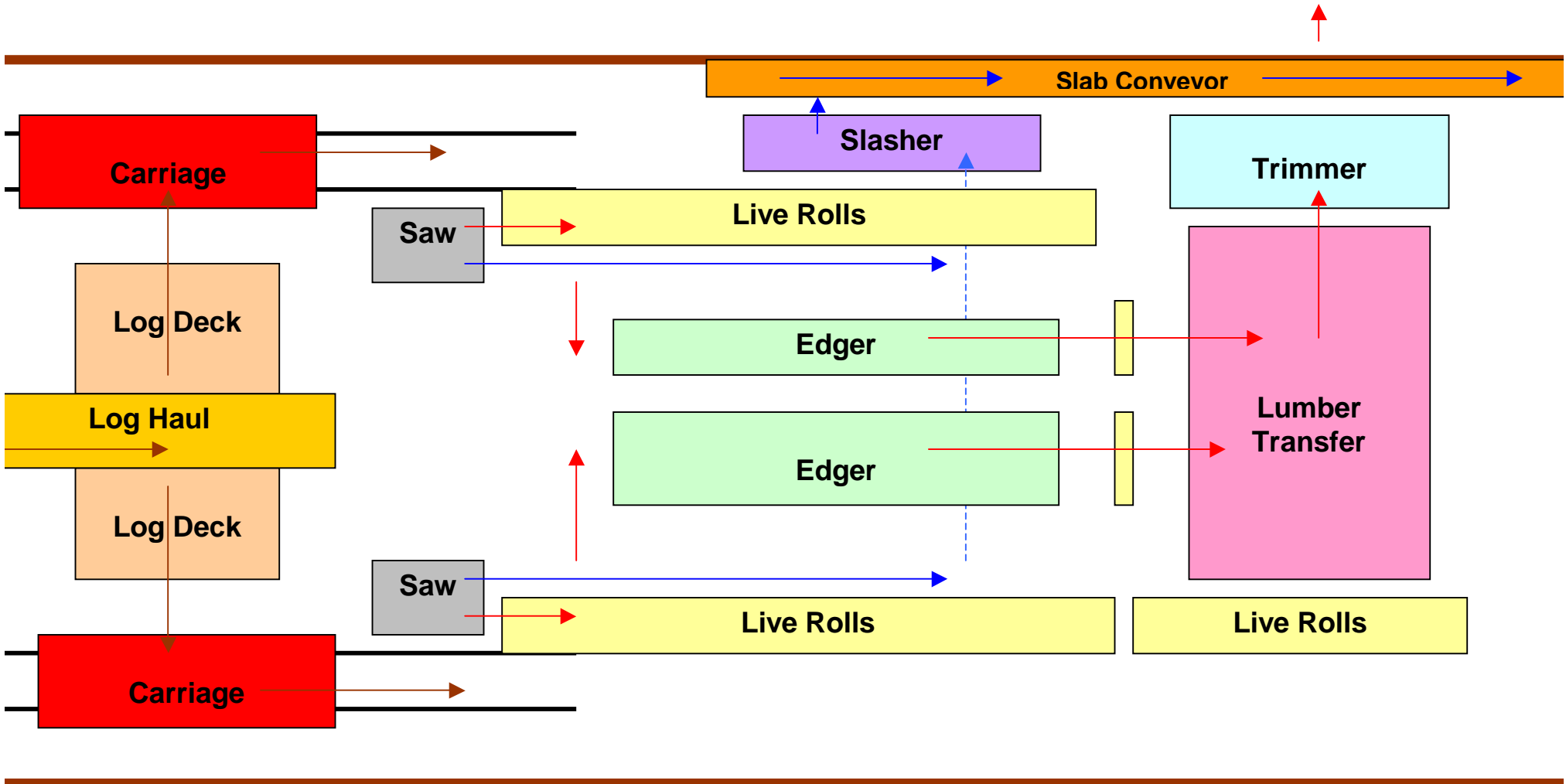
* Source: *Lumber, Its Manufacture and Distribution*, by Ralph Clement Bryant, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1922.

Sawmill – Typical Material Flow

Log Flow

Slab Flow

Cant/Lumber Flow



Richard A. Senges, June 2008

Building a Large 1:87 Scale Sawmill I

Part 8 – The Double Blade Circular Husk

by Richard Senges

In Part 7 of the Sawmill Series we discussed the construction of the Sawdust Conveyor. This issue we will review the Double Blade Circular Husk - see the model photo on page 11.

The Double Blade Circular Husk was built per the instructions in the *SierraWest Twin Mills at Deer Creek* kit except for four major changes. A smaller top saw was substituted for the oversized top saw, (2) the pulleys were reversed making clearance for the top pulley and allowing the top saw to run faster, not slower, (3) a metal support bar was installed where the original top shaft was to be located and (4) the shaft for the top saw was lowered to accommodate a smaller top saw.

The wood parts of the model were distressed and stained as usual and per the kit's instructions. The metal parts were treated with a custom solution of nitric acid, selenium dioxide and nickel sulfate. The saws were spray painted *Floquil Grimy Black* in my paint booth.

The belts were made using the special white paper supplied in the kit, as was done for the sawdust conveyor – see the last *RMR* issue, March/April 2008, # 54.

The top saw scales to 54 inches and the bottom saw to about 96 inches. The kit provided two saws, one bottom and one top, both 96 inches or 8 feet in diameter. Research* shows that this combination never existed in a sawmill, at least in the early 1900's. Keep in mind that the band saw came in to use in the US in the 1880s*, so very large logs were cut using large band saws, not circular saws. (Note: A 10-foot band saw can cut a 109-inch log*.)

Improvement suggestions if building this kit or a saw: (1) Make sure the size of your logs match the size of your saw. Remember that only the top portion of a singular circular saw will be used to cut the log, (2) reverse the pulleys so that the top saw runs faster than the bottom saw, not slower, and (3) use a real saw if you can get one with the right size diameter and prototype teeth.

Circular Saws

Saw husks for singular circular sawmills were built in varying sizes ranging from 48 to 72 inches*, depending on the maximum size of the timber to be cut. Top saws were smaller.

A 132-inch saw was exhibited at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition* but, so far as known, it was not used in a sawmill.

A 1930 *Frick* sawmill catalog shows circular saws ranging from 58 to 68 inches.

In *The Circular Sawmill* by C. H. Wendel, saws are shown with a 66-inch bottom saw and a 36-inch top saw.

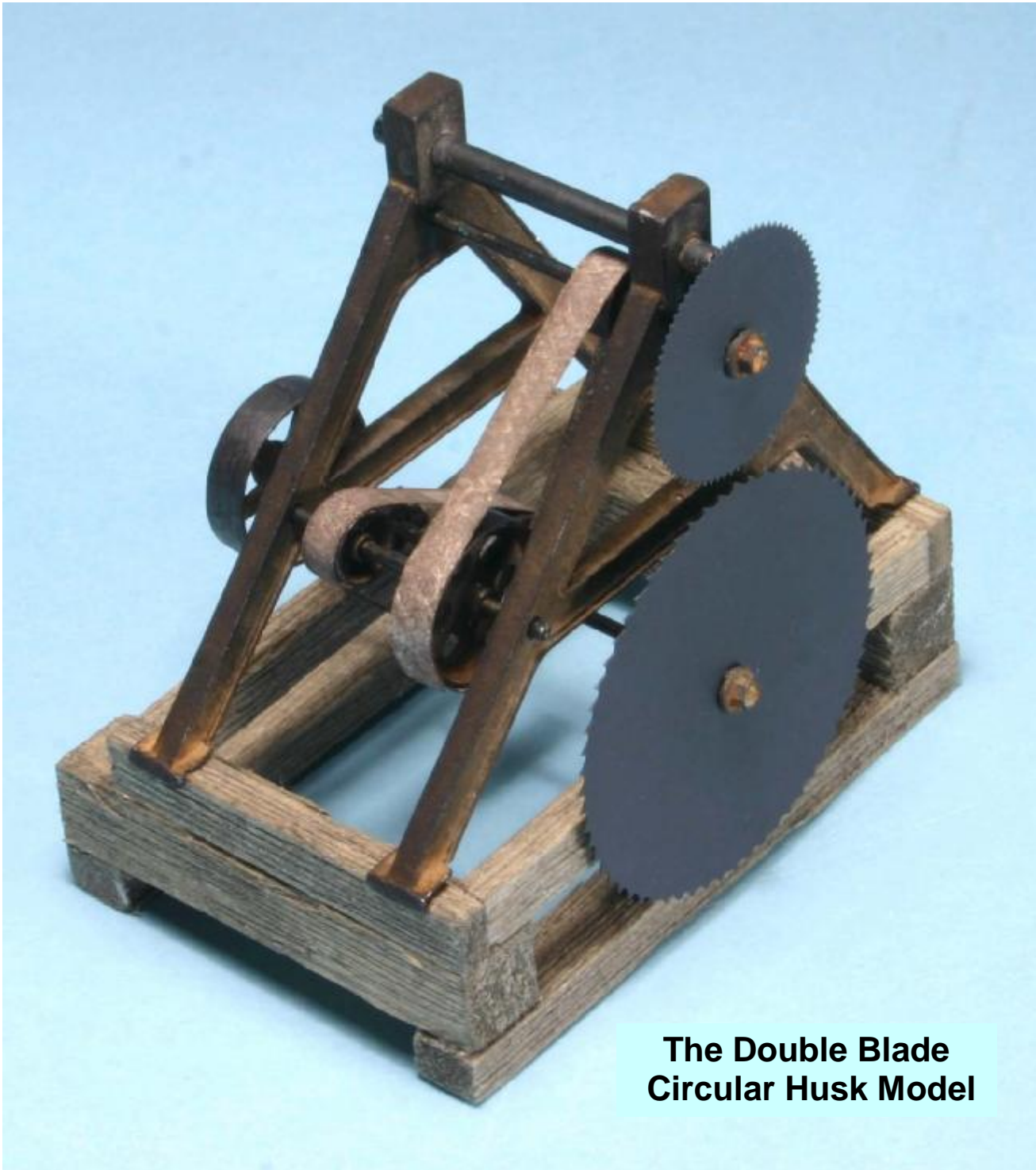
* Source: *Lumber, Its Manufacture and Distribution* by Ralph Clement Bryant, 1922.

Next issue, we will discuss the construction of the log unloading platform and the tool shed.



Saw husk at the steam powered sawmill at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Galeton, PA.





**The Double Blade
Circular Husk Model**

Next Issue - Part 9

**The Log
Unloading
Platform**



Potential Future Articles

Sawmill Construction

Resin Casting

The Santa Fe CF - 7

Modeling Keuka Lake - Hammondsport

Siegel Street Revisited

Tortoise Installation Made Easy

Workbench Construction

NEXT ISSUE

Constructing a Wedge Building

**Building a Large
Sawmill/Mill Pond Complex
Part 10 –
The Log Unloading Platform**

Doctor Dick

Rochester Model Rails

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