

Rochester Model Rails

Dedicated to Quality Model Railroading

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A Bachmann Climax backdated to 1893 pushes a logging car through the tall timber on Rich Schiffman's large scale indoor empire. *Trees made by Peter Vassler. Image by Russ Reinberg.*

Painting Figures – *My Shadows Theory*

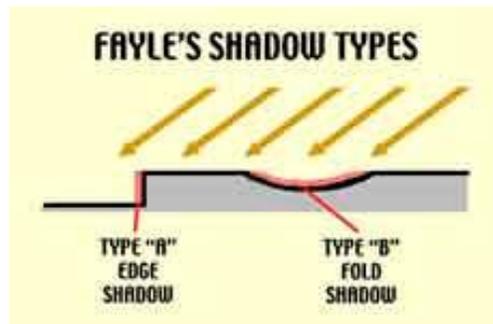
by Brian Fayle

There are a number of ways you can paint figures. The model press is full of articles about this but there are not too many that I have seen that start by looking at images of real people! If you look critically at people, I think you will be surprised to find just how many shadows they have and how dark they can be. For those of you who are not familiar with how I paint figures, let me just say I paint them black first and then essentially dry brush the color on.

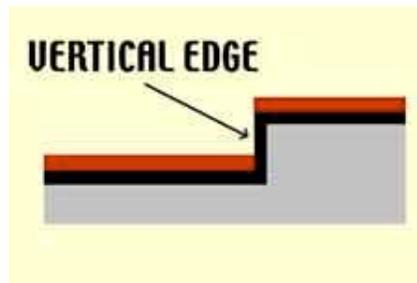


Take a good look at the figures in the center image. Note the faint but definite dark line along the edge of the arm hole of the yellow T-shirt and the dark linear shadow along the lower edge of the striped T-shirt. The folds in the clothes are also quite dark. The outer figures are examples of my technique. They hopefully prove that my method does produce figures that look like real people in a photograph.

To try and explain how shadows work, I decided there are two types. There are “Type A”, or edge shadows, and “Type B”, or fold shadows. These are shown on page 3.



The really important shadow, the one that plays the key part in making a figure look realistic, is the "Type A", or edge shadow. Below I have shown why dry brushing works. The vertical edge does not get painted as the brush, laden with paint, is drawn over the object from, say, left to right.



Below are two photos where "A" and "B" shadows have been labeled.

I snapped this image a few years ago at the station in Waterloo, Ontario, when a tourist train was running to nearby St. Jacobs. Careful study of the image, I hope, makes the location of my "A type" shadows clear, and the reason I called them edge shadows. They really are important. Note also that they do look almost black. Take a look at the hand of the lady on the right. You can see fingers quite clearly. This is something my technique does extremely well, make the gap between fingers stand out. Look closely at my own figures and I hope you can see their fingers quite clearly.



Here we have the same trio with some of the “Type B”, or fold, shadows noted. These are not quite as important as the “A Type” as you can paint reasonably good figures leaving them out as long as you have the “A”s present.



As you go through my website (*see below*) look for the different types of shadows in the figures. On the older figures the “B” shadows are quite strong and often black. As time went on I was able to tone down the black. Again note the fingers are clearly visible.

To view Brian Brifayle’s website, go to:

www.brifayle.ca

.....for additional detailed information.....

Scenes from the Model Railroad of Peter Vassler



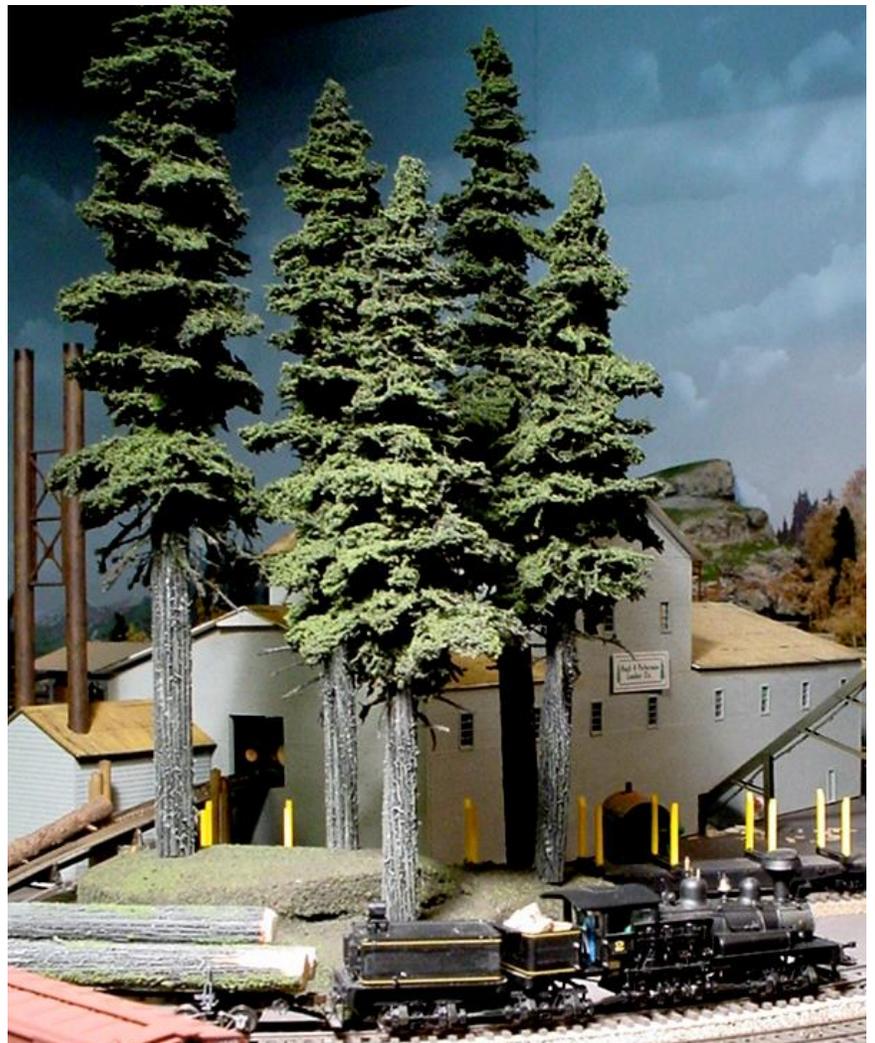
November 1957 – Another load of logs headed for the mill from the Noah & Peterson mountain camp on Pete Vassler’s freelance logging layout in the Evergreen State just north of the Columbia River. *Image by Shaun Toman.*



November 1957 – Here is a close up of the same train. I just kept clicking the shutter hoping to get a good one. *Image by Shaun Toman.*



A portable “Junior Acre” for people who love the deep woods. *Image by Peter Vassler.*



An autumn storm is sweeping in from the Southwest, but will not hinder the operations at the Noah and Peterson Lumber Co. *Image by Peter Vassler.*

For more photos

Go to Pete Vassler’s website

www.canyoncreekscenics.com

The 'Model Railroad Post Office' - # 9

by Norm Wright

The Grenada Grenadines (part of a chain of islands in the windward Islands of the E. West Indies), issued this stamp on a Souvenir Sheet on Oct. 22, 1992. The \$6 stamp features an O-Gauge (1-1/4") clockwork model of 0-4-0 steam locomotive No. 41, manufactured in the U.S.A. in 1910 by the Ives Company of Bridgeport, Co.

The border of the souvenir sheet pictures a "Tom Thumb Railroad" 0-4-0 electric-type engine with four-wheel passenger and observation cars, a metal station, and a clockwork winding "key." This 1931 set was of lithographed, stamped steel from the Hoge Manufacturing Co, U.S.A.



The Coal Dust Boys

Entertain the Tuesday Night Gang

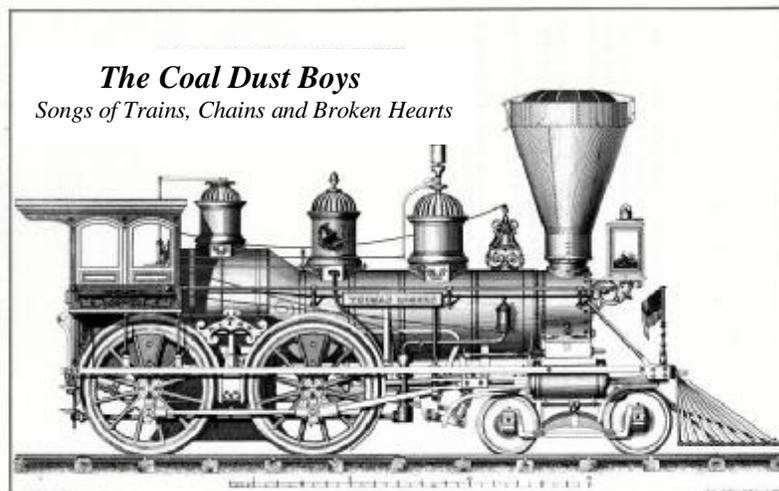
Last month *The Coal Dust Boys* entertained the Tuesday Night Gang and others at a downtown Rochester, NY, location. Their presentation was very well received and well worth the time.

The group is made up of C. Will Christensen on guitar and harmonica, Dave Frenzel on guitar and mandolin, and Steve Greene on banjo and guitar. A female vocalist, Betsy Kubick, accompanied one song.

The group sings “*Songs of Trains, Chains and Broken Hearts*”. Some of the songs sung were: *Wabash Cannonball, This Train is Bound for Glory, 500 Miles or the Railroader’s Lament, Midnight Special, Shackles and Chains, New River Train, Life is Like a Mountain Railroad, Hobo Bill, Hobo’s Lullaby, and Freight Train*. They also performed some instrumental numbers including *St. Ann’s Reel* and *Forget-Me-Not*.

The group can be reached at 585-544-8573. We thank them for sharing their love of trains with the Tuesday Night Gang.

Thanks to Stan Swackhammer of the Tuesday Night Gang who coordinated the session.

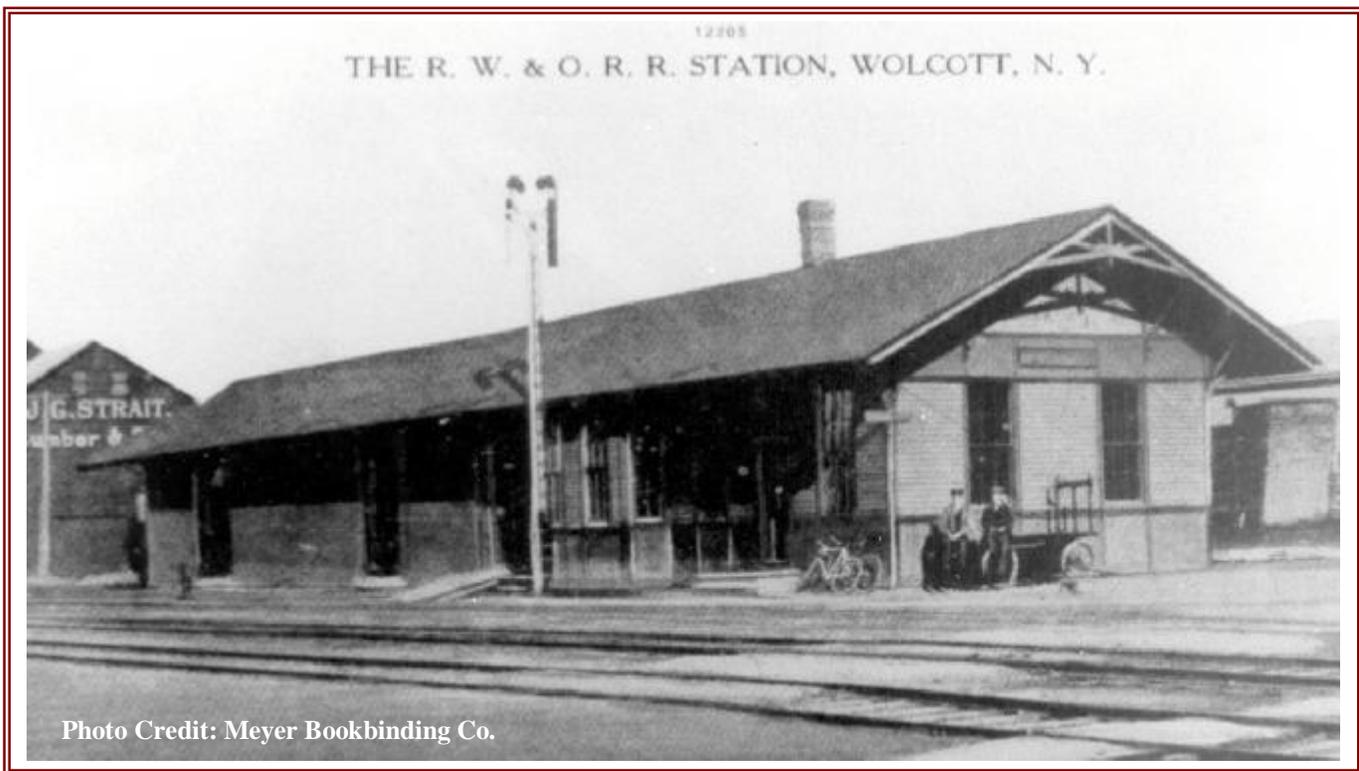


The Beginnings

In the 1840's the area around Watertown and the St. Lawrence River suffered from a retarded economy because of the poor north-south transportation available for their products to markets such as New York City.

The Erie Canal (1824) was a boon to the central portion of the state. From Utica, it provided excellent three-day east-west transportation to Albany or Buffalo. Later, the Black River Canal was built. However it only served a few communities and like all canals in the state, it was only open seven or eight months a year. Military roads were the only other form of transportation.

In 1836 railroad fever was rampant in New York State. It took four years to build a railroad in the Mohawk Valley from Albany to Syracuse. Fifteen months later that railroad reached Rochester via Auburn. A line was also built from Syracuse to the port of Oswego. Ships carried cargo from Oswego westward to Lewiston but the winter climate only permitted this from May to October.



Next Month: Part II



Ask Doctor Dick (The Scenery Doctor)

OCRR@frontiernet.net

Matthew writes:

I am a teenage model railroader and am thinking about starting a layout. I want to build and scenic a model railroad, but don't want to spend a lot of money. How can I do this?

Doc:

Based on personal experience, I have some suggestions relative to minimizing the expenditure for your layout.

DC vs DCC - Start with DC rather than spending the money on a new DCC system. Many experienced model railroaders are switching over to DCC and would sell their DC system and engines at a very low price.

Track - Try buying slightly used track at train shows. Many folks today use code 83 flex track and code 100 can be had very reasonably.

Turnouts - minimize the number of turnouts in you track plan for now. Try buying at train shows at reduced prices.

Engines and Railcars - Older modelers usually sell these at reasonable prices as they are upgrading to more expensive models.

Pink or Blue Foam - This stuff is very expensive but sometimes smaller surplus pieces can be obtained at construction sites.

Rubber Molds - Some of the large rubber molds are expensive, but some local model railroaders may already have these molds. And may make you castings if you ask.

Trees - Purchasing many ready-built trees can really be expensive. I suggest making your own. One way is to collect goldenrod in the fall. Pull off 1/2 of the fuzz but leave seed pods on. Coat with cheap hair spray (*Aqua Net*) and sprinkle with ground foam.

Dirt - For dirt, use real dirt. It is free. Collect it, dry, sift, and store. Then mix with 1/2 white glue and 1/2 water to make a slurry. Coat your scenic base with the slurry for that real dirt look. Makes good dirt roads too.

White Glue - Buy by the gallon at *Home Depot* or *Lowe's*. Much cheaper than purchasing it in small quantities.

Tools - For miscellaneous small tools and such, check those yard and church sales. Great bargains there.

Leaves - For leaves under those trees, use ground-up real leaves. Collect leaves in the fall, dry completely, and chop up (dry) in a blender to desired size.

Blender - Check you local *Thrift Store*. Blender should cost about \$3.00.

Structures - Try the paper buildings made by *Clover Books* - ten buildings for about \$8.00. Shop the train shows for ready-built older plastic buildings.

Money - Generate income for buying more model railroad stuff by "keeping the best and selling the rest".

Plaster - Buy *Hydrocal* and Molding Plaster by the 50# or 100# bag at a building supply place. Much cheaper that way.

Ground Foam - Try *Scenic Express* foam rather than *Woodland Scenics* - about 2/3 the price. Order with a friend to save freight. Order from out-of-state supplier to save tax.

Buying at Michael's - Only purchase items (hot glue, weeds, spray glue, *Envirotex*, acrylic paints, etc.) one item at a time always using your 50% or 40 % coupon. Plan your purchases and watch for sales.

Dollar Store - Some real buys here such as plastic containers, hair spray, etc.

HOW TO MAKE GOOD PHOTOS BETTER

by Leaf Shutter

Guideline No. 14 - Harmony

Everything in the picture must be in some sort of harmony with the main idea or object. A vase of flowers and a wastebasket for example may not be in harmony. A historic railroad shanty and a bathing beauty might be another example. In this case, eliminate the shanty.

Don't Forget to Visit

www.railroadmuseum.net



Coming Next Month....

The Forest Magic of
Canyon Creek Scenics

How to Build Great Conifer Trees

The R W & O – Part II

Photo Gallery - The Oil Creek RR

**Ask Doctor Dick –
the Scenery Doctor**

Rochester Model Rails

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Mailing Address
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Web Site: www.trainweb.org/rmr

Recommended Train Events for 2004/2005 Updated 10-25-04



- October 30 – 31** **Medina, NY** – Halloween Weekend Train
- November 6** **Medina, NY** – *Buffalo Gills* Train (11:00am only)
- November 6-7** **Syracuse, NY** – Train Show and Sale
- November 14** **Batavia, NY** – Train Show/Sale – Holiday Inn
- November 18** **Rochester, NY** – NRHS Meeting – “*The Oil Creek Rail Road Company 1860 – 1868*”
- November 26, 27, 28** **Medina, NY** - Holiday Santa Scenic Train Rides
- December 4** **Troy, NY** – Rensselaer Railroad Heritage Exhibit – Open House →
- December 4,5,11,12** **Medina, NY** – Santa Scenic Train Rides
- December 16** **Rochester, NY** – NRHS Meeting – *Railroads of The Southern Tier*
- January 20** **Rochester, NY** – NRHS Meeting - *NRHS Convention, 1973*
- January 29-30** **West Springfield, MA** – Railroad Hobby Show
- March 2005** **Grand Island, NY** – ID Meet – “*Modeling the Oil Creek Rail Road*” →
- March 20** **Rochester, NY** – RIT train Show and Sale



For a detailed listing of events, go on the Internet to:

WWW.CAORM.ORG

Shows
Look for dates and location

WWW.RAILROAD.NET

Events
Look for date and location

WWW.GATS.COM

Great American Train Show
Show Schedule
Month of Year
Look for your city

WWW.TTOS.ORG

Calendar
Month of the year
Look for your area

WWW.RAILROADMUSEUM.NET

Railroad museum
Train rides

WWW.GSMTS.COM

Great American Model Train Show
Dates and Events

WWW.TRAINS.COM

Schedule of Events
Events

WWW.MODELRAILNEWS.COM

Events
Look for your area

WWW.FINGERLAKESLIVESTEAMERS.ORG

Events