

SL-and-N construction blog

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deemery Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007 Posts: 11493

06-08-2018, 04:15 AM #151

quote:
Originally posted by BurleyJim
Dave,

Here's another thing to check out.

<https://www.google.com/search?safe=0...o.oBCGonS6xLo>

Very handy for connections when you are working upside down under the layout. They'll handle the current and power just fine. Also nice for isolating blocks during the build or troubleshooting afterward.

Jim

Craig Bisgeier and I talked about wiring while he was up here. These look a little neater than twist wire nuts, which is what Craig uses. **add** Here's a brochure on their product line: <http://www.wago.us/media/us/collect...s/60337976.pdf>

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

06-08-2018, 09:21 AM #152

We used them at the 3D printer factory and they are much cleaner and faster than screw terminals.

Jim

Take the red pill

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Michael_Hohn Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

06-08-2018, 10:24 AM #153

I don't think Macy's has Wago connectors. Too bad.

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

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deemery Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007 Posts: 11493

06-09-2018, 02:46 PM #154

I'm getting ready for the next major phase of construction, which is laying track and roadbed. I mention that order, because I figure I need to set down the track, particularly the yard ladder for the small yard, get the curves laid and probably solder some stuff together, to set the center line for the Homabed. So I've been experimenting with how I'll finish the track, since I figure I want to at least start the painting before I start man-handling the track.

Current thinking is to first nip off the ends of every 2 or 3 ties, to get them uneven, and then cut the web underneath the rail for most of the ties (leaving some intact to help keep things in gauge.) Together, these make a surprising difference getting flextrack to look more like 19th century trackwork. I have one piece of ME Code 70 that I started tonight. Part of this is to see if I'll stick with my light grey gesso (Bob Ross' brand -) or if I try to find a flat light grey spray primer. (Depends on how well the gesso survives being handled.)

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

06-10-2018, 07:39 AM #155

Here's what I'm doing to the flextrack.



1. I randomly cut the ends of every 3rd or so tie.
2. I flip the track over and cut most of the web underneath the rail. This allows me to lightly skew the ties and make them look more random. The pieces with that web intact keep the rail in gauge.
3. I prime with a light grey, in this case "Bob Ross" artist gesso (40% off coupon at Michaels craft store). (Left side of the photo)
4. When that's dry, I drybrush craft store Burnt Umber. First I do the tie ends. Then I go do the tie 'middles' between the rails. I mostly run the brush with the tie grain, and any dark brown that shows through is a "feature" that emphasizes the wood grain. (Right side of the photo.)
5. Then I turn the track on its side and make sure the tie ends are mostly Burnt Umber (they're not weathered/bleached wood like the tie tops.)
6. Finally (not done yet), I paint the rail.

You can see the WD-40 pen I use to coat the top of the rails before painting. When using all acrylics, this isn't as necessary. But if I use a spray primer, it'll make it much easier to remove the solvent paint from the top of the rails.

This does take some time, but I think the results are worth it. Most of the track on the layout will be at the front edge, so it'll be visible. And it's A Lot easier to nip the ends

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

06-10-2018, 08:31 AM #156

Looks good Dave, like you hand laid it.

It's only make-believe

Quote Comment Flag Like 0

Michael_Hohn Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

06-10-2018, 10:14 AM #157

Dave,
Oh oh! Sort of scary. I think I am channeling Dave Emery. Yesterday I spent most of my hobby time painting track for the first time in months. Really improves track, doesn't it?
Mike

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

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deemery Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007 Posts: 11493

06-10-2018, 12:46 PM #158

quote:
Originally posted by Michael Hohn
Dave,

Oh oh! Sort of scary. I think I am channeling Dave Emery. Yesterday I spent most of my hobby time painting track for the first time in months. Really improves track, doesn't it?
Mike

I'm OK if you're channeling me, if I can then channel you when I start my geology courses this fall [-:basketball]

dave

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

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Michael_Hohn Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

06-10-2018, 03:52 PM #159

It's a deal.

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

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deemery Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007 Posts: 11493

06-12-2018, 12:57 PM #160

I have a dozen pieces of flextrack trimmed and painted. There's a piece of 'stock' track between 2 of the prepared pieces.



I have another dozen to do (code 70), but at least I have enough to start laying track.

update Well, I tried to form some painted flextrack, and it's harder than I expected. That's not surprising, the tolerances on ME flex are pretty tight, and the paint interferes with smooth bending. So I think I'll cut 6 trim, then pre-bend a bunch of the next dozen pieces, before painting.

dave

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

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TRAINS1941 Senior Member
Join Date: Mar 2005 Posts: 17112

06-12-2018, 02:26 PM #161

Looks good so far Dave. A great idea on to weather the track.

Jerry

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." A. Lincoln

Quote Comment Flag Like 0

Michael_Hohn Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

06-12-2018, 03:31 PM #162

Yes, tolerances for ME track are close and the little "spikes" are very small. The only pieces of ME track I can paint on the bench are either straight or turnouts.

Mike

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

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deemery Senior Member
Join Date: Sep 2007 Posts: 11493

06-13-2018, 03:43 PM #163

I took a piece of flextrack, clipped the end of the ties, then formed it into my min-radius circle using 2 sets of FastTracks Sweepsticks (28", in my case.) I flipped the track over and -carefully- cut away the web connecting the ties. leaving more sections of connected ties than with the straight sections. Then I flipped this back over, with the Sweepsticks still in place, I painted the outside ties. I let the paint dry then removed the Sweepsticks. As expected, the combination of bending the rail and then painting it keeps the track in the curve alignment. I need to figure out how many pieces of flextrack I need to do in curves, and do each this way. It'll take longer, but I think it'll be a timesaver in the long run when actually laying the track.



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

06-16-2018, 02:02 PM #164

I have a dozen pieces of straight flextrack, and to pieces of 'pre-curved' flextrack trimmed and painted. I need to prep a couple turnouts the same way, including at least one FastTracks curved turnout, and then I can start laying track.

dave

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

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MarkF Senior Member
Join Date: Nov 2005 Posts: 13817

06-16-2018, 06:30 PM #165

The extra effort you are taking will pay off in the end. So far, that looks awesome! I too used the Micro Engineering track on my layout and unpainted, it is very difficult to flex, so I can only imagine it is even more difficult with a coat of paint.

One lesson I learned is to hold the track on a flat surface while trying to bend it, otherwise you run the risk of the rail popping out of the spikes! Ask me how I learned that lesson!

Mark

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