

# SL-and-N construction blog

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**Michael\_Hohn** Senior Member  
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

08-28-2024, 04:48 PM #1411

Dave,  
I sent you some charts out of MR that might be of interest.  
Yes, the diagram is a bit intriguing on the bent to cap connection. Apparently today long "drift pins" are used. Back in the day it might be that the bents and caps were sometimes mortise and tenoned like in house and barn construction. The drawing might be an inept representation of such a joint.  
On the other hand, every drawing of a trestle bent I've seen even going back to 1882 has those drift pins.  
Mike

*Last edited by Michael\_Hohn; 08-28-2024, 05:01 PM.*

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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

08-29-2024, 07:49 AM #1412

Last night (about 0200) I realized I have a bit of a construction problem with the joists. Even if I cut the joists to fit around the track curve, there's a very strong joint. I don't want to start by laying down the track and then gluing the joists to the track (in part because I'm not quite convinced the flextrack will hold the precise curvature.) Then I realized/remembered from looking at bridge plans, there's often a corbel that spans the joint on top of the bent. So I can cut pieces that are about 1/4" thick by 1/2" long and glue those at the bottom of each joint. Then the top sill of the bent will sit on that corbel. I also considered splines or even U shaped 'staples' but couldn't figure out an easy way to do those.  
But I'm glad I thought this through before I started assembly!  
dave

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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

08-29-2024, 08:36 AM #1413

Dave,  
The corbels sound like a good solution, and also prototypical.  
I guess you're not using Micro Engineering track, which holds a curve when bent. A lot of people don't like that about ME flex track.  
Mike

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

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**2 comments**

**deemery** commented 08-29-2024, 10:12 AM #1413.1  
I've had mixed results with ME. For this, I have ME bridge track, a lot more ties.  
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**deemery** commented 08-30-2024, 01:33 PM #1413.2  
Update: I dug out my piece of ME Code 70 Bridge track, and was able to curve it to match the existing track, with it holding the curvature. Now I need to paint/finish that piece of track to match the rest of my track, and I can build the bridge directly on top of that, I think.  
Edit Flag

**john\_holt** Senior Member  
Join Date: Feb 2011 Posts: 1124

09-01-2024, 12:19 AM #1414

Nice work Dave. Carry on.  
It is scenes like these that elevate a scale model railroad from just being a train layout.

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**GULF COAST & WESTERN**

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**Michael\_Hohn** Senior Member  
Join Date: Sep 2012 Posts: 12238

09-01-2024, 09:10 AM #1415

Dave,  
Three years ago our club had to tear down our layout and rebuild at a new location. We retrieved a long viaduct, basically a section of ME bridge track bent to a 90° radius and glued to a series of deck girder bridges. The deck girders have since been peeled off and the track has been sitting on a bench or against a wall. Nevertheless, it has maintained that curve.  
Mike

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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

09-01-2024, 11:50 AM #1416

I have 2 bents to play with, so I tried different spacings:



The wide spacing is 15', the narrow spacing 12'. I think 15' looks OK, not too far spread out. (The coal bins are 10') And if you think about the curve here, a spacing of 15' on the outside will mean a slightly shorter spacing on the inside of the curve. The ties on the bridge track will help me figure out those lengths and angles, but it'll be picky work... One issue is how to handle staining the joists that will have to be cut and sanded. I'll cut them all to 15', stain them (that's 4 pieces of wood per joist section), then glue them into pairs, and finally outsand to the correct angle.  
add: I'm using 1/8 x 3/16 for the joists under the ties. I have -exactly enough- to cut the pieces (excluding the pieces underneath the truss, which I will construct separately.) I do have 1/8 x 1/4 that I can rip down if I need more. But for now, those are cut and stained, and I'll start fitting them tomorrow.  
(Oh, and I earned an atta-boy today. I got a glasses repair kit with various size of small metric screws to fix wife's glasses, where a screw was lost and the lens popped out. Any day I can use train tools, including my OO philips screwdriver and small screw holding tweezers, to fix something in the household is A Good Day.)  
dave

*Last edited by deemery; 09-01-2024, 02:40 PM.*

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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

09-01-2024, 09:00 PM #1417

The 15' spacing looks good to me.

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

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**Rick** Administrator  
Join Date: Apr 2002 Posts: 29972

09-02-2024, 04:29 AM #1418

15' looks best to me.

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Follow along as my dog and I travel the country in our van.  
Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/A-Dog-A-Van-and-A-View-108345371976229> YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@Rick5727>

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

09-02-2024, 06:57 AM #1419

I agree with the other guys about the 15'.

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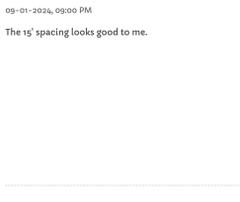
Curt Webb  
Freelanced PRR Bellevue Sub

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

09-04-2024, 03:53 PM #1420

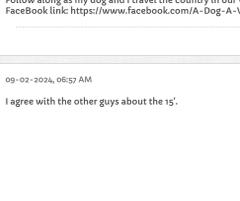
It was "abutment day" on the trestle project. The left side needed more space on the outside edge of the track:



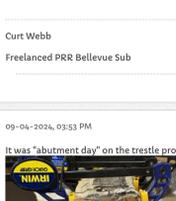
I cut and glued a pair of 1/4" pieces to the splines.



Then I had to add a piece underneath the splines in front, and cover that with the stone paper.



The problem is this abutment is not perpendicular to the track center line, so I had to build a triangle shaped bump-out. Probably not the prototype way to do it, but it looks OK.



The other side was much less problematic.



The trestle bents are just test-fit to check out the overall appearance. The actual bents will of course have to be shorter. And the scenery will need to flow around those bump outs, starting with the rough cloth scenery 'aprons'.  
dave

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

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

09-04-2024, 05:23 PM #1421

Nice job with the stone paper.

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Curt Webb  
Freelanced PRR Bellevue Sub

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**mark\_dalrymple** Senior Member  
Join Date: Jan 2008 Posts: 2172

09-04-2024, 05:25 PM #1422

Enjoying watching your progress, Dave.  
Cheers, Mark.

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

09-05-2024, 08:32 AM #1423

Looking at my own photos, I'm not quite happy with the right side abutment. It looks off. I think I need to trim down the stone wall on the right side. Comments very much welcome!  
dave

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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

09-05-2024, 10:40 AM #1424

The stone looks very realistic. Nicely done.  
Since you invite comment, I will do so and make the observation that your arrangement of a bent on a stone step in the abutment looks unusual. Ordinarily, the end of the trestle sits directly on a much higher stone step. No bent.  
What you've done looks cool however. Have you seen photos of a similar construction?  
I almost forgot: I agree with you about the right hand part of the wall.  
Mike

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

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**1 comment**

**deemery** commented 09-05-2024, 10:59 AM #1424.1  
Yeah... My original thought was a non-visible support that provided the known level platform for the bent, with scenery flowing up to that. I could well do that on the right side. On the left side, though, the scenery flows down on the far side and I couldn't figure out how to handle that. Now I suspect the prototype would just drive piles into the ground for that last bent, and not worry about it. But you know it's really hard to get scenery in between the trestle legs. The left side bent could have a stepped foundation, each post of a different length...  
On the right side, I think the problem is I have the wall following the full curve of the terrain, which it doesn't need to do. I should just cut it off a bit to the right of the trestle, and flow the scenery over and around that.  
Edit Flag

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

09-05-2024, 11:08 AM #1425

Here's what I'm thinking with the right side abutment:



Even here, though, if I flow scenery up to the level of the bent shelf, I have a problem on the right side of the picture where there'd have to be some sort of retaining wall to hold stuff to the level of the shelf.  
dave

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

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