

In the spirit of sharing, Master Model Railroader, Chuck Ricketts is creating a series of emails to describe how Jim Elder and he are constructing a sectional layout in the garage. This layout, while a pure fantasy model railroad, is operations oriented. The first email described Chuck's model railroad background with a brief look at some of his previous layouts and why, in his mid-eighties, he is starting a new layout. The second article told the history on Baja Siena (or at least Chuck's version of the history). In the third article, Chuck began to describe the construction of the Baja Siena Railroad and Navigation Company. The fourth article covered the woodworking needed to get the benchwork built. Follow along now with Article 5 and see sub roadbed, roadbed and sneak peak at some early track laying.

Fantasy Island Layout - Article 5

Installing the Sub Roadbed

With all of the basic framework (legs and benchwork) now complete, we began installing the sub roadbed.



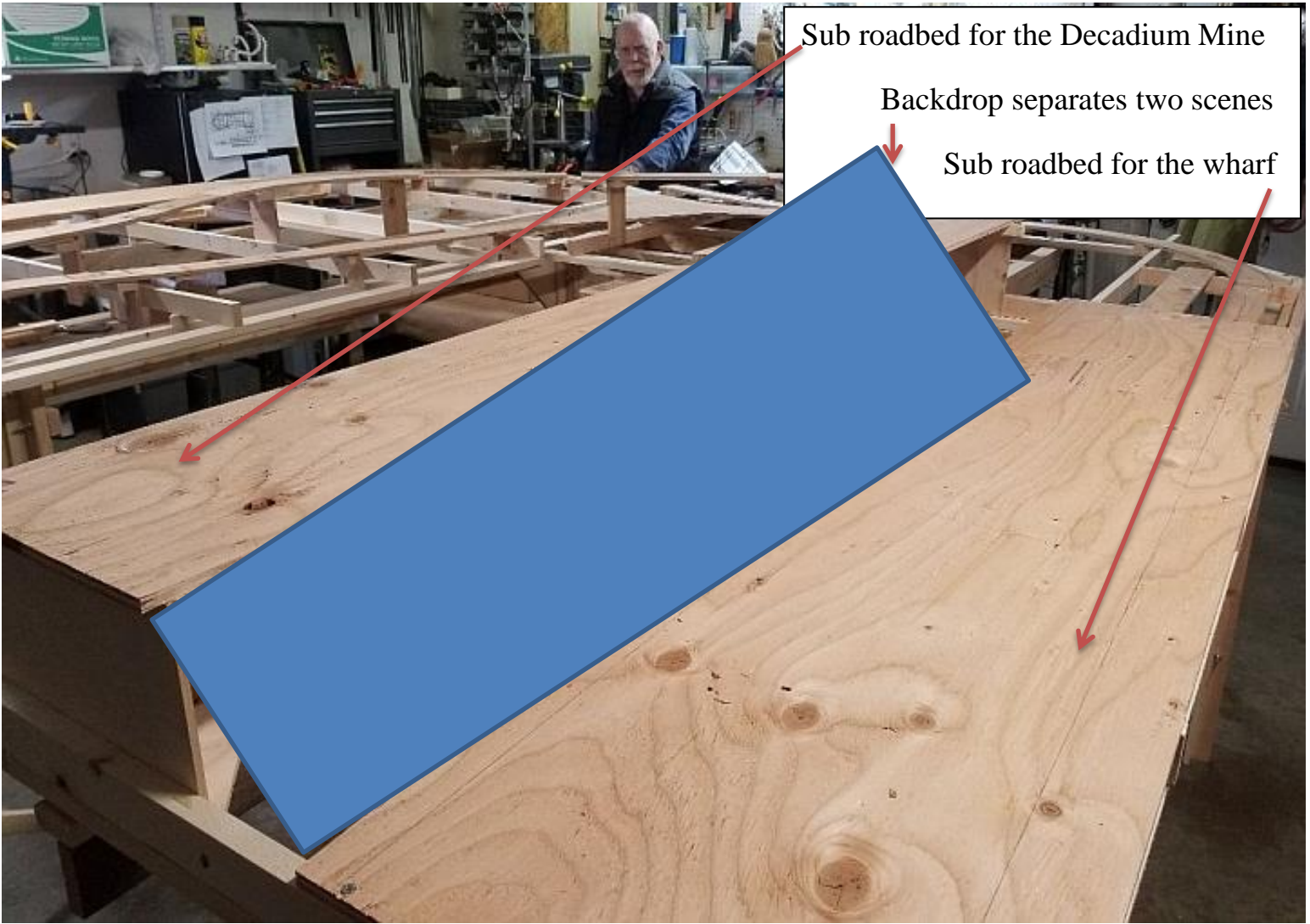
Opening for bridge (see below)

Mainline

Start of Spur to the Mine

Crusher

Village



Sub roadbed for the Decadium Mine

Backdrop separates two scenes

Sub roadbed for the wharf



Sub roadbed for the wye

As we continued to install sub roadbed, we encountered some minor problems that required adjustments to the layout plan. With a little work and those minor changes, we completed all of the sub roadbed with the exception of a couple of spurs that depended on the final location of a few turnouts still to be installed.

Adding a Bridge

Originally, a simple girder bridge was planned for the crossing of the mine track above the mainline. A phone call from Bill Busacca changed all that. It seems Bill found himself with two Hunterline, Howe truss bridge kits. He generously insisted on giving one to the Fantasy Island Railroad. He also had a bunch of wire for the track bus and some decomposed rock for scenery to “sugar the pot”. How could we refuse? The Hunterline kit is listed as Sn3 and useful for On30. When Jim began to work on the kit, he discovered the bridge ties were too short to allow clearance for the On30 cars. Fortunately, I had some O scale, 3 foot narrow gauge, bridge ties to substitute for the ones in the kit. Jim made short work of the kit.



Jim holding the completed Howe truss bridge in the approximate layout position above the mainline.

Moving on to the Roadbed

Self-Stick Foam Roadbed

I began construction of the roadbed using the 2 inch wide, 1/8 inch thick foam I had ordered on ebay. It is self-sticking, comes in 25 foot rolls. (Chuck has some extra, contact him if interested in trying it out). The material is flexible enough to follow an 18 inch radius without tearing or cutting.



Cork Sheets for Roadbed

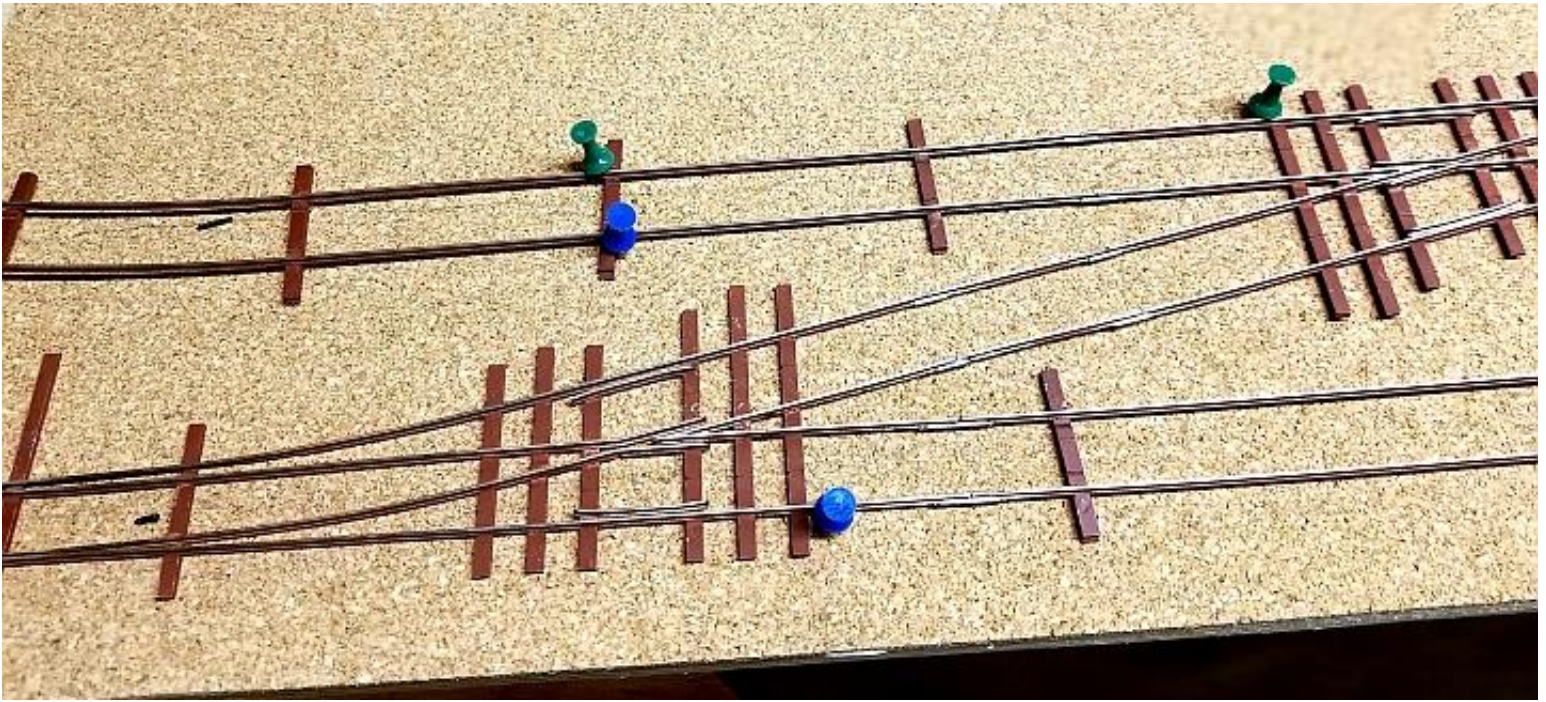
In the flat areas of the yard and the village, we installed 1/8" thick cork sheet.



Adding Some Track

As you can see, we have also begun installing a little track. Track laying will be covered in Article 6. Sometimes as you move forward with the construction of a railroad minor changes are required. We have made a few of those changes, always striving toward better operations and realism.





What's Next?

In Fantasy Island - Article 6, Chuck will go into detail on laying ties and installing rail. Each step now will get more and more time consuming, but extremely important to solid operations!