

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. Articles 4 and 5 covered benchwork, sub roadbed, and some roadbed. Article 6 and 7 completed the roadbed, the track work, wiring, turnout control and DCC. Article 8 began basic scenery and now, Article 9 considers painting! Chuck's background in theater scenery is on display as he develops the railroads, rocks in this article.

Fantasy Island layout article 9

In this article I will describe the continued development of the background walls which primarily involves painting. These nearly vertical rock walls create scenic divides on the railroad, providing backdrops for the different scenes.

Painting

Painting is definitely a slow process. I'm using acrylic colors, mostly from tubes.

I purchased a number of them from JoAnn's in West Olympia. I had some colors on hand and because I'm using a lot of burnt sienna, Jim picked up a quart can of interior paint custom blended to burnt sienna at Lowe's.

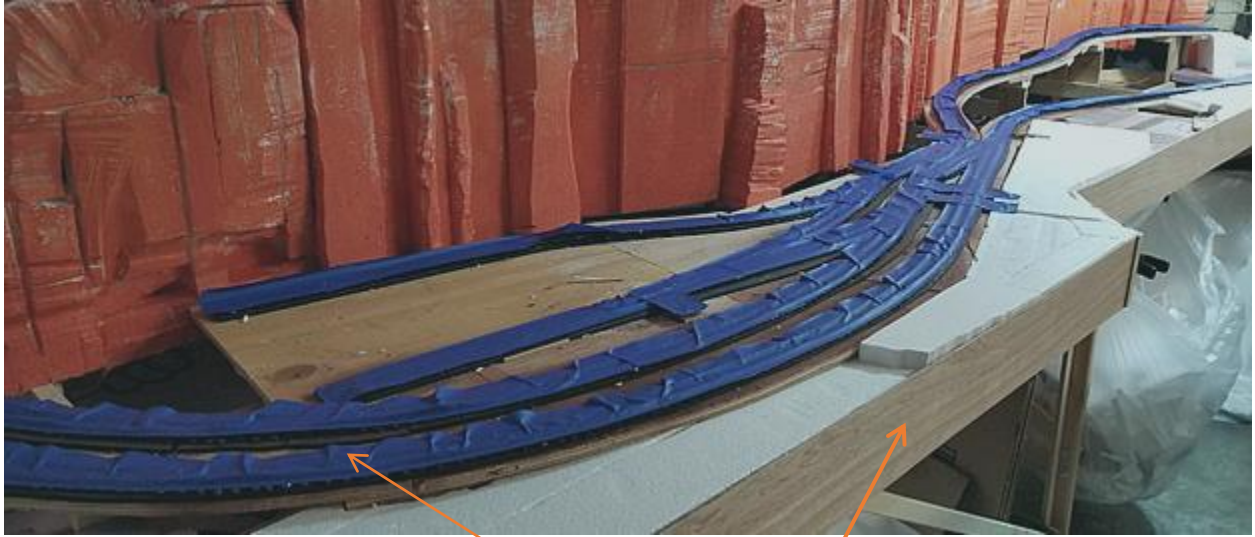


Top row: Magenta, Titanium White, Raw Umber, Burnt Sienna, Mars Black, Rust. Bottom row:

Bottom row: Quart of Lowe's mixed Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna, Neutral Gray, Cadmium Orange, Yellow Ochre.

Meanwhile

Jim has been working on other projects. We've cut and he is almost finished putting the fascia on to the edge of the layout. Jim used door skins cut to size for the fascia. He is also working on ways to hide the control panels for the Wye turnouts. Jim then covered all of the track with blue masking tape; he knows how messy I am with paint.



**Fascia around layout edge
made from door skin
plywood**

Blue tape covering track

Painting Details

My favorite brushes for scenery painting are a #12, a 1 inch and a 1 ½" Filbert. The Filbert's rounded end but narrow thickness lets me get into crevices.



Assorted Filbert Brushes

I used multiple shades in each rock face to bring out texture and detail.



Chuck Ricketts, author, painter, builder

The best laid plans....

I worked two weeks and only progressed painting as far as the bridge pier on the first section. I realized that the tubes would become very expensive to complete the much longer extension across the bridge.



Tube paints used on walls

I mixed some color samples, went to the Home Depot and bought 2 more quarts of paint. Demonstrating to Jim the basic idea, he painted the base color on the rest of the wall in one afternoon. In several more days, I completed detailing the rest of the walls.

Results



Rock walls with base color only



Rock walls with detailed painting



More shadows and texture

WHAT'S NEXT?

In Fantasy Island - Article 10, Chuck will discuss the other landforms and materials used to produce them.