

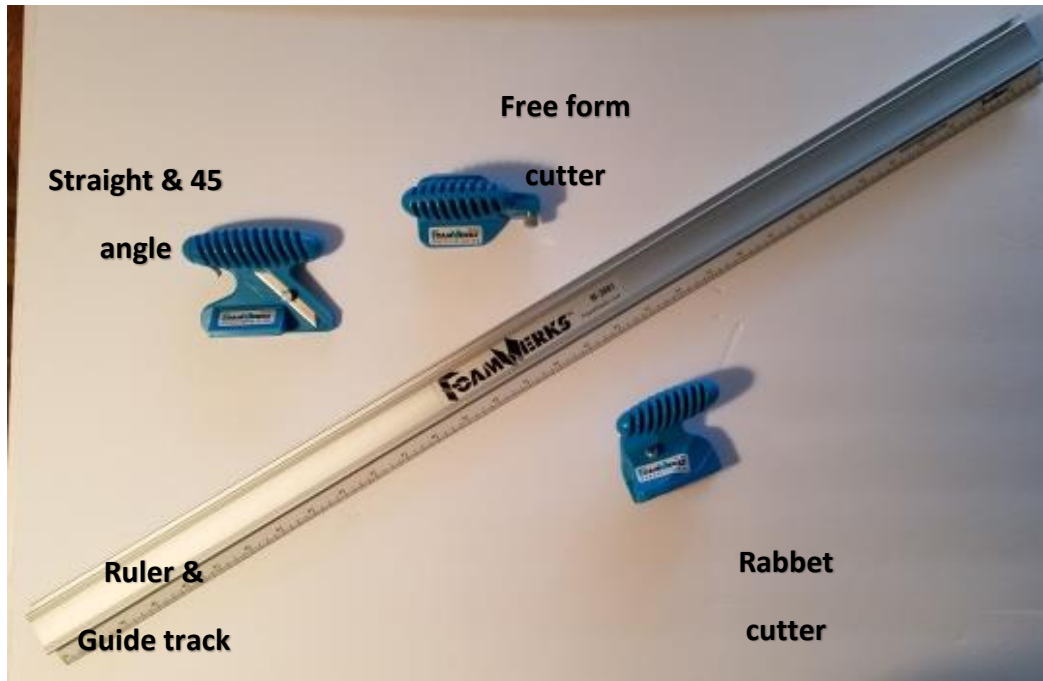
In the spirit of sharing, Master Model Railroader, Chuck Ricketts is creating a series of emails to describe how Jim Elder and he are constructing a sectional layout in the garage. This layout, while a pure fantasy model railroad, is operations oriented. The first email described Chuck's model railroad 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. Article 9 started painting of the model railroad background walls. In article 10 Chuck continued to describe the development of the background walls which primarily involves detail painting of shadows and highlights. Those nearly vertical rock walls create scenic divides on the railroad, providing backdrops for the different scenes. In this article Chuck describes the buildings he and Jim are creating for the layout.

Fantasy Island Layout Article #11

Time for another update of layout construction. My activity level hasn't increased very much, but Jim has continued work on the layout. Here is what has been accomplished since the last episode.

Working with Foamcore

After watching several videos on foamcore construction on YouTube, I ordered some new cutting tools.



Foamcore starter kit.

These tools are especially made for use with foamcore. In addition to the starter kit, I ordered two more foamcore tools. The first tool is a straight cutter that runs in a track on of the ruler and the other is a tool that makes two 45 degree cuts in the foamcore so that you can bend it into a 90° angle.



Guided straight cutter.



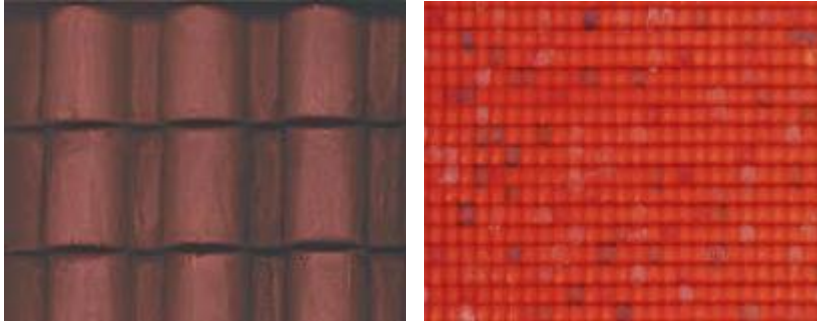
Double 45° “V” cutter.

These two tools have adjustment for the depth of cut, which can be very critical. We used these tools to make number of buildings for the layout.

Buildings On The Layout

With the foamcore cutting tools we built some foamcore boxes as the interior form for many of our buildings. The foamcore does not need internal bracing in most cases. We covered some foamcore structures with paper printed siding and some with stucco. Other buildings were built from white foam and a plaster kit.

Roofs for these buildings varied. JTT sheets of Spanish tile roofing were used on many of the buildings. Tar paper or aggregate rolled roofing, maybe even some thatch was used on other structures.



JTT Spanish tile roofing

Paper Covered Buildings

We covered some foamcore structures with paper printed siding using *Model Builder* software by Evan Designs. For the mine, a wooden frame was built to house the mine/ore loading mechanism and it was covered with foamcore and then paper printed reproducing weathered wood siding. Printed windows and doors and other detail are then added to the structure.



Mine Building (paper siding)

Other structures made with foamcore covered with paper siding include the freight house, storage shed, dynamite shack and some miners' cabins.



Freight House (paper siding) with goat pen in foreground



Storage Shed (paper siding, tar paper roof)



Dynamite Shed (paper siding)



Miner's Cabins (paper siding)

The foamcore covered with detailed paper siding produces very realistic buildings in a relatively short time.

Stucco Covered Buildings

Other foamcore buildings on the layout have stucco finishes to represent many of the other buildings found in Baja. To represent the stucco, I first stippled acrylic

modeling paste all over the walls. When the modeling paste had set, the walls were lightly sanded and painted with craft store acrylic paint.



Applying stucco finish to the Transfer House

In addition to the transfer house, other buildings with stucco finishes are the Mezcal distillery, the mercado and the *Fa'brica de artilugios*.



Mezcal Distillery under construction



Mercado



Fa'brica de Artilugios (pinkish stucco building)

Kitbashed Buildings

A few buildings were made from a white foam kit of a California Mission. The foam in this kit is a dense white styrofoam, about ½ inch thick without any paper backing on either side. I was able to cut the kit walls apart to form different wall shapes. The single kit was kitbashed into the pottery factory and the cantina/hotel with enough material left over for another small building. The kit cost about \$28, so turned out to be quite a bargain.



Pottery Factory



Hotel/Cantina

Plaster Buildings

Jim assembled a plastered kit that I had my closet for many years. I think it was called Red's, but now it is the BS supply shed.



BS Supply Shed

This is a good sampling of the buildings on the layout. Some of the photos show the beginnings of the landscaping.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In Fantasy Island - Article 12, Chuck will discuss what we did for general grounds landscaping. Plus, the method for loading the ore in the cars and dumping the cars at the transfer house. Signage will be covered in a future article.