

10 Excellent Model Train Tips

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Model Trains Tip #1

- “When building mountains and hills I use Oatmeal (as in Quaker) to create texture. It’s inexpensive and easy to do and it dries hard as rock. – Marc”

Model Trains Tip #2

- “I use free styrofoam. You know the stuff they use for packing. It comes in various shapes, sizes and thickness. Carve it to shape then paint. I use spray paint to make it look like rock or granite. Vakspar Stone looks like grannit and Krylon has different colors in theiir “Make it Stone!” Both paints are Premium Enamel and they do not harm the styrofoam in any way. – Wayne”

Model Trains Tip #3

- Sometimes when adding car roadways in rural area, a possible quick way is to use the non skid grey tape that you put on stairs and maybe walkways It comes 4 inches wide and in long lengths up to 50 feet Looks good and its a quick way to modify an area It takes on the look of a gravel type roadway
–Nick ”

Model Trains Tip #5

- Add some period advertising signage. Scan old magazine ads and resize them with a graphics program to create one-of-a-kind, realistic billboards and signage. Also, search the internet for photos of old signs using the Google search Images function. You may also want to consider adding eye-catching animated neon signs.

Model Trains Tip #6

- Bring your layout to life by adding people and animals. Put the people in period dress. Add life everywhere – on streets, station platforms, walking out of shops, etc. Buy a few from different manufacturers to add variety.

Model Trains Tip #7

- Vehicles also add realism to a layout. Make sure they are the right vintage and have a mix of vehicles. Add detailing to some and not others to add realism to the scene. Vehicles without drivers should not be driving down a street... it is not only dangerous, but it looks unreal. Driver-less vehicles should be parked on the side of a road or in driveways. Drivers can sometimes be added to vehicles by cutting off their legs. Yikes!

Model Trains Tip #8

- When faced with only a small amount of space, a model railroader will usually opt for building a smaller n scale or z scale layout. These types of scales are fun but lack the truly intricate details available on the larger scales.

Model Trains Tip #9

- "I get branches from an artificial Christmas tree to make trees for my layout. I cut them to length and mount them tip down so the branches droop downward. I take some of my Plasticville buildings for the back wall of my layout and cut them in half. I mount the two halves with the cut end facing toward the back to double my buildings. You can cut out cardboard and install it behind them or mount them against a bluff.
-Dennis"

Model Trains Tips #10

- Through the years... block, sheet or scrap foam is the material of choice for creating mountains and terrain. Its much easier to handle. I also use Plaster gauze for wrapping broken arms to cover the foam. Cut into strips and they lay and conform to all sorts of shapes and crevices. I later will "paint" on a water plaster solution to add other layers to strengthen and contour the surface.

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