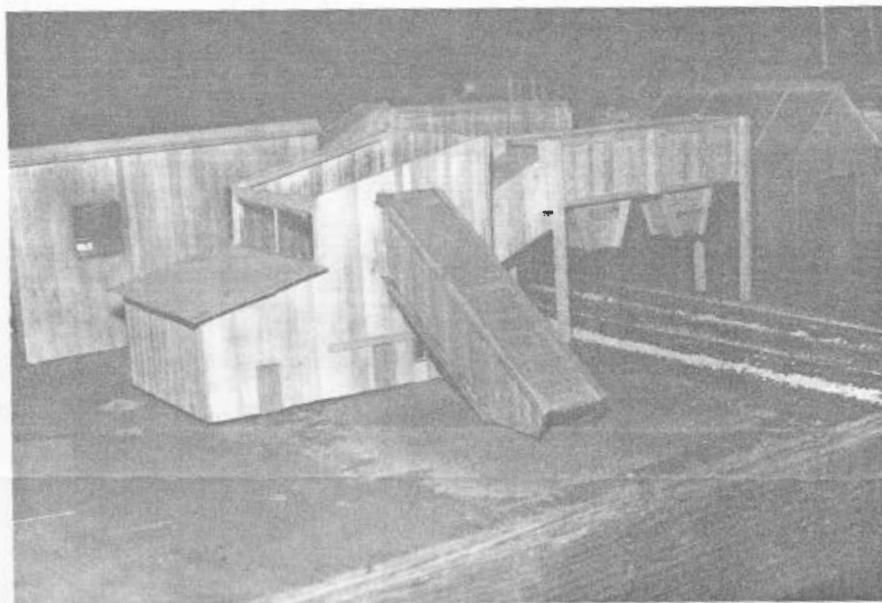


SOUTHERN

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HIGHLIGHTS

ABOVE -- One of the buildings that Jerry Barthelemy has built from coffee stirrs. Inside, the story behind, and the how too's.....

Election nomination forms enclosed. Please fill in and return as quickly as possible.....

List of members of the Southern Region - Dues Paying only.....

Articles are still needed for future issues. Let's hear about your model railroad, something you have constructed, or prototype activity in your neighborhood.....

"MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN"

Wanting a cheaper way of scratch building structures for my HO layout, I searched near and far for inexpensive materials. Scaled stripwood is nice, but can get expensive if used in large quantities, as we all rightfully know. One day while sipping coffee in a local coffee and donut shop, the answer to my long sought after method presented itself to me. With each cup of coffee served, comes a wooden coffee stir - five and one-half inches long by about 3/16 of an inch wide, grain color varying. I grabbed up a bunch upon leaving and headed home to experiment with my new brain child building method.

Since that first encounter with the coffee stir over a year ago, I have constructed several coal mining structures for a module. The proof is in the pictures - no trade secrets - and with materials purchased at unheard of prices in these inflationary times. One box of stirs cost one dollar, plus tax, which covered 1000 individual sticks.

Since I don't claim to build or do anything prototype or to exact scale, the stirs have been a God send to me. I don't draw any blueprints - I just start glueing - and see what I come out with. Of course I have in mind what I want to end up with and may use a photo to encourage my brain wave thoughts.

Materials for all structures built to date are as follows: (Pic.#1).

Coffee Stirs (can be bought at restaurant supply places).

Glue (I prefer DUCO cement - fast dry).

X-ACTO Razor Saw - for cutting stirs.

Card Stock - I mainly use unwanted Christmas Cards.

Doors & Windows - any type can be used. I prefer cast metal parts by Model Masterpieces LTD.

In gluing the wood to the card stock, I try to alternate the strips to prevent uniformity in grain coloring.

Dependent on the mood I may be in when gluing, I sometimes pre-cut each piece for the wall or side that I am working on. Other times I will glue and then make my cuts after the glue has dried adequately.

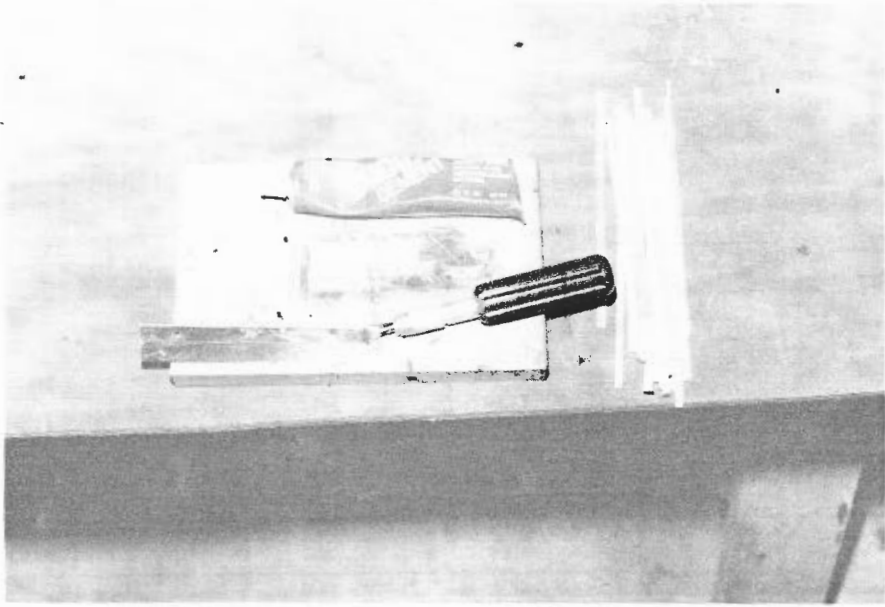
I usually glue stirs to both sides of the card stock, thus presenting a wood interior, or a second choice for exterior wall in case of a foul up in weathering.

Before putting the sides together, I sand lightly to remove any trace of glue, sanding with the grain to prevent unsightly scratches, and use a fine grade of sanding paper.

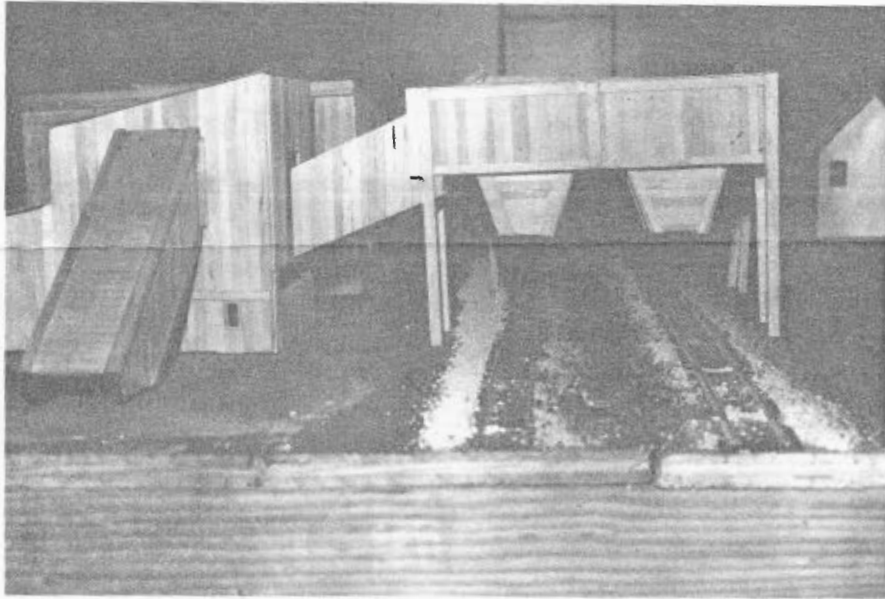
Besides buildings, tunnel portals, trestles, and retaining walls can be built. Photo #2, a coaling facility. Photo #3, other structures I've built. Thankyou Jerry, for sharing your idea.

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SOUTHERN CRESCENT
Dee Gilbert, Editor
Box 132
Harrison, Arkansas 72601-0005

