

# Detailing Scenery

with MRC - JTT Landscaping  
Tips & Techniques



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# Detailing Your Scenery

*The Devil is in the details ...*

**M**ore than any other facet of model building, the construction of scenery provides the vehicle that not only adds an additional dimension to your models, but also enhances the realism of each subject. Scenery helps place each miniature creation in its 'natural' environment. So whether you are constructing a model railroad layout, building a military diorama, working on a school project or assembling a dollhouse your efforts can be improved by adding scenery to the project.

Effective scenery is not difficult to create. It requires only simple tools and construction techniques to complete any scene from the simplest to the most complex. While there is some 'art' involved in its application, most effective scenery only involves observation of the scene that you are attempting to capture and as is the case of any great model, attention to detail.

Adding the details could not be simpler when using JTT Scenery products. All of the tedious tasks have already been done when using JTT plants and trees, all you have to do is 'plant' each item as it would appear in the natural world. Even large areas can be detailed quickly with the wide array of ground covers and other scenic products available from JTT.

In order to help the novice get started as well as give some inspiration to those with more experience, this book is designed to provide a series of easy to complete projects using basic materials along with JTT Scenery products. Each project not only includes a complete list of materials used in its construction but also includes a number of easy to follow techniques for creating realistic scenery for any type of model building. – George Riley



# Tools of the Trade

*When creating realistic model scenery you do not need a vast tool box of specialized tools.*

Most of the necessary items can be found around the house or workshop or can be inexpensively purchased at either a home improvement outlet, craft and hobby shop or dollar store.

Begin your tool collection by



rounding up some basic cutting tools.

- Scissors are a basic item for trimming foliage and cutting out grass mats to fit a scene.
- Serrated Paring Knives will be useful for carving floral foam blocks and Styrofoam sheets used to construct the basic scenery bases and contours.
- A hobby knife with changeable blades has a hundred and one uses when building models and constructing scenery.

An assortment of paint brushes is a must when building scenery.

- One inch stiff bristle brushes are useful for spreading ballast as well as applying glue to attach ground foam to the scenery base.
- Soft bristle brushes or a make-up brush comes in handy when spreading and blending scenery materials. Also, they make removing excess scenery material easy and avoid damaging the under layer of materials.
- An assortment of hobby paint brushes should be on hand for painting details and for weathering your models.
- Stencil brushes from the craft store are perfect for drybrushing scenery and adding highlights to any scene.



Along with the paint brushes keep on hand a collection of earth toned latex and acrylic paints. They are inexpensive, easy to apply and clean up with soap and water.

- A quart of custom mixed flat latex 'earth' base from the home improvement store or paint shop is an inexpensive way to prime and color larger areas of the scenery base.
- Squeeze bottle of acrylic craft paint from the craft store will provide a quick inexpensive way to add additional color to the scenery base. A bottle of light gray or tan paint is perfect for adding dry-brushed highlights to both scenery and models alike.

Among the most important items to have in hand is a selection of adhesives. You will want your glues to be water soluble and to dry clear.

- The most frequently used adhesive will be referred to as 'Scenic Cement'. You have a choice of using one of the commercially available scenic cements, acrylic







matte medium or white casein based glues. As long as they dry clear and can be thinned with water they will provide good results.

- Thick PVA type white glues, such as Aleene's Tacky Glue™, work well for attaching details, plants and trees to the scene. They have a thick body that holds items in place, sets quickly and dries clear.
- Inexpensive hair spray in a pump bottle works well for fixing the top layer of scenery material as well as attaching scatter material to trees. A good selection of unscented products can be obtained at the local dollar store.

Along with the glues have a selection of squeeze dispensers and spray bottles on hand.

- As a rule scenery cement is used in three thicknesses for the projects; full strength, 50/50 mix with water and a couple of drops of detergent and 25% glue/75% water with wetting agent for applying ballast and coarse stone. These different mixtures of glue can be premixed and stored in squeeze bottles.

- A spray bottle of 'wet' water consisting of a quart of tap water with a few drops of dish liquid or Kodak® Photoflow should be kept on hand to pre-wet some of the scenery materials to allow adhesives to penetrate more easily. Many modelers use rubbing alcohol in place of 'wet' water due to its quicker drying time. If alcohol is used follow basic safety precautions and use only in a well ventilated area away from open flame.

In addition to the previously listed tools, you should have a series of tools to assist in spreading scenery products, planting trees and plants and cleaning up afterwards.

- Collect a set of kitchen strainers with different sized screens. These will allow you to spread ballast, gravel and ground cover smoothly over a scene as well as sift



different sized materials.

- If you are working on a plastic foam base a simple small awl is useful for making holes to install plants and trees into the scene. For a wood base or plaster a set of hand drills will allow you to make holes to complete the scenery plantings.

- While not required, a shop vacuum or 'dust buster' is useful for cleaning up the work shop and display area.

These simple tools, good materials and a little imagination are all that is needed to build great scenery. JTT Scenery products help take the uncertainty and drudgery out of scenery construction. Have fun with the projects presented and go beyond them to create your own.



# Among the Shades of Green

*If you are new to building scenery or an old hand at the craft, a good place to polish up your skills is by adding scenery to a flat, open field.*

**N**ot only will this exercise quickly change the look of your layout but is also an example of tricking the eye into seeing more than is actually there.

To get started, seal the area with flat earth colored latex paint. This is available at every paint and home

improvement store. Custom mixed quarts and gallons can be mixed to order or for smaller jobs, many stores offer paint samples in smaller sizes for only a few dollars. You can also use acrylic craft paints that are sold at craft stores. This first coat of paint will provide a base for additional layers of scenery materi-

als that will be applied in stages.

With the base coat dry, apply an even layer of full strength scenery cement and sift a thin layer of earth colored fine turf into the glue. A light misting of water with a few drops of liquid detergent over top of this layer will help the glue penetrate the turf to firmly affix this starter course. An alternative for this base coat of turf when covering a flat surface is to cut a piece of earth colored grass mat material to size and glue it in place.

The field will start to come to life when a thinned half glue and half water mixture of scenery cement is applied over the earth turf and a light coat of moss green turf is sifted over top of the earth. Make certain





to leave some open spots and vary the depth of the green turf. Mist over this first green layer with the spray bottle with the 'wet' water and allow it to dry.

Mist the field with the spray bottle and very lightly sift a thin layer of grass green turf followed by an equally thin application of yellow turf to provide high lights. Work from the front of the project to the rear adding more of the darker green to the foreground and more lighter highlights towards the rear. This will simulate how the eye sees closer objects as being darker and objects farther away are usually seen as being lighter.

Mix up a spray bottle with four parts water, one part scenery cement and a couple of drops of liquid detergent. Now lightly spray the glue mix over the entire field. While the field is still wet randomly scatter some dark green coarse turf to simulate those random darkly colored weeds that seem to spring up in almost every field. Over spray this layer with the glue mixture

as well.

At this juncture the field has taken shape. The variety of colors and textures not only adds realism to the scene but also creates the illusion of size and depth. The various shades appear to have added relief to an otherwise completely flat surface. The next step is to add additional detail to the field with the inclusion of larger scrubs and bushes made using foliage clumps and by adding some trees along the edge plus a simple fence constructed of fancy tooth picks and rust colored thread. Tall grasses created by the use of JTT detachable wheat and flower bushes flank the right of way to clearly define open fields from busy main line. The different colors and textures along with a few other details will enhance the realism of an otherwise simple scene.



#### MRC-JTT Materials Used:

- 95128 Fine Earth Turf or 95411 Golden Straw Grass Mat
- 95134 Burnt Grass Ground Cover Turf fine
- 95132 Yellow Straw Ground Cover Turf fine
- 95138 Dark Green Ground Cover Turf fine
- 95008 Grass Green Ground Cover Turf Medium
- 95137 Moss Green Ground Cover Turf Coarse
- 95139 Dark Green Ground Cover Turf Course
- 95146 Blossom Flowering Turfs Medium
- 95057 Light Green Foliage-Fiber Cluster Coarse
- 95058 Medium Green Foliage-Fiber Cluster Coarse
- 95581 Detachable flower bushes
- 95579 Detachable Wheat Bushes
- Saplings (1 pack ea.)
- 3 or 4 Assorted JTT Trees



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# Down By the Pond

*Ponds, lakes and rivers are an integral part of almost any landscape. Adding a water feature to your layout or display will provide a focal point and create additional interest.*







method is chosen, make certain that the basin is leak proof since even the most viscous epoxy resin will find a hole and flow through it. If you are using Styrofoam™ as your base a few tools such as a wood rasp, serrated knife or hot foam cutter will make quick work of the process. A coarse sanding pad can be used to smooth out the pond or stream.

With the water feature base finished and in place apply a coat of flat earth colored latex paint to the entire area and allow this area to dry completely. This will blend together all of the scenery base elements and create a uniform surface over which additional paint and scenery materials can be applied.

**P**onds, lakes and rivers are an integral part of almost any landscape. Adding a water feature to your layout or display will provide a focal point and create additional interest. Fortunately, once you have the scenery basics under their belt creating a pond or small stream using JTT

scenery products and Magic Water™ two-part epoxy resin [www.unrealdetails.com](http://www.unrealdetails.com) is easy and fun. Even a beginner can have impressive results.

Start by either carving out a hollow in a Styrofoam™ scenery base or use Magic Water™ Preformed Ponds. Whichever

Next, paint the bottom of the water feature with a mixture of dark to medium green and burnt



Using JTT scenery products and Magic Water™ two part epoxy resin ([www.unrealdetails.com](http://www.unrealdetails.com)) is easy and fun. Even a beginner can have impressive results.

umber acrylic craft paints going from lighter along the edges to dark in the center.

With the pond or stream bottom painted begin applying earth colored fine foam ground cover into a coat of scenery cement around the water feature. Using scenery cement thinned half and half with water, apply several thin layers of various shades of green colored fine ground foam. Wet the foam with a spray bottle once a layer has been applied. This will allow the glue to be spread evenly through each layer of green foam ground cover. Let each layer dry before applying the next.

Into a bed of thick scenery cement, sift earth colored fine ballast around the edges of the water feature. When this hardens up, use an awl or small drill to make holes to accept the various plants along what will be the water's edge. Thick tacky glue, which dries clear, is perfect for installing this vegetation. Also, add Fiber Clusters of several colors to represent bushes and scrubs in addition to a few larger rocks along the water's

edge. The provided materials list will provide some suggested options used for this project to bring the pond to life.

Once all of the plants and trees are in place around the basin and the glue dry, clean out the pond area in preparation for pouring the clear resin that will simulate water. For best results the room temperature should be around or above seventy degrees Fahrenheit. Any cooler and the resin will take much longer to set up and cure. Begin preparing the resin by slowly mixing the two parts per the manufacturer's instructions. It is a good idea to use disposable cups for mixing since the product is difficult to clean up after. When the resin is thoroughly mixed allow it to set for five or ten minutes so that any trapped air bubbles have a chance to escape from the mixture. Once poured, an electric heat gun or hair dryer set on hot passed over the resin will also assist in the degassing operation. Do not under any conditions use open flame from a propane torch or other source since most scenery materials are by nature flammable. Open flame







and propane torches can easily set fire to your work and destroy it.

Slowly pour the mixture into the water feature making certain that the surface of the scenery is level and allow the resin to set and begin curing. Several hours into the process the resin will have thickened but will still be pliable and tacky. At this time water lilies and lily pads can be pushed into the resin. Since the material is very sticky use a set of long tweezers to install the plants to avoid getting the resin on your hands or leaving fingerprints in the finished scenery. Set-aside for a full 24 hours to fully cure before returning to the project. The end result of your efforts will be a finely detailed natural feature which is certain to be one of the layout's or display's focal points.

#### MRC-JTT and Other Materials Used:

- Magic Water™
- 95238 Brown Rock
- 93337 Lily Pads (2 packs)
- 95535 Cattails (2 packs)
- 95533 ferns (2 packs)
- 595059 Coarse Dark Green Fiber Clusters
- 595058 Coarse Medium Green Fiber Clusters
- 92402 Large Willow Trees
- 92302 Medium Willow Trees
- 92203 Small Privet
- Assorted colors of fine turf

# Dishing The Dirt

*In general few of us pay much attention to the ground beneath our feet; however, when we are trying to apply convincing scenery to a display or layout how we handle this key element makes all the difference.*

To begin with earth and soil is made up of a wide variety of elements and as a rule has random textures. Any sample will include different sizes of minerals and organic matter in a single handful. This variety is what gives the soil in a given area its unique appearance and texture.

As modelers we want to replicate the attributes of any location as closely as possible. This attention to detail should literally begin at ground level. In addition to the color you should also pay attention to the texture of the soil in the area being modeled. To illustrate these elements our project deals with a barn yard which due to a number of conditions provides a variety of earth textures and colors in a relatively small area. To match the different shades of dirt you can either choose a color from the large palette of colors currently available or mix up a custom shade by blending several types of earth

ground covers.

The entire area of the farm has a scenic base of straw grass mat glued to a Styrofoam core. The fields around the barn have had a number of different colors and sizes of green and yellow turfs to replicate cleared fields and pastures. The area around the barn was left its natural color

in preparation for adding 'dirt' around the structure. This is designed to mimic the natural wear around nearly any working building where foot and vehicle traffic does not allow vegetation to take root.

On the front of the barn a ramp made from

florist's foam has been added to reach the large doors on the second floor of the building. With the ramp firmly glued in place a coating of full strength scenery cement followed by a covering layer of fine earth colored ballast is applied. This layer is then over sprayed with 'wet' water





to allow the glue to fully bond the scenic materials in place. To model ruts on the ramp an additional bead of glue is added to the center of the ramp and a high spot using fine ballast is built up. When this layer is completely dry, thinned scenic cement is brushed around the ramps edges to the grassy areas. To this is applied a thin layer of earth colored fine turf followed by a scatter of straw colored fine turf for highlights. This layer was also over sprayed and allowed to dry. The final step to complete the ramp's scenery is to dry brush the entire area to add highlights and make the textures pop.



#### MRC-JTT Materials Used:

- 95201 Light Tan Gravel Fine
- 95204 Tan Gravel Fine
- 95207 Beige Gravel Fine
- 95210 Earth Gravel Fine
- 95127 Soil Ground Cover Turf fine
- 95128 Earth Ground Cover Turf fine
- 95411 Golden Straw Grass Mat

Located at the back of the barn is the farm's cattle pen. This area's different condition yields a completely different set of modeling challenges. Most live stock areas feature moist soil into which straw, hay and muck have been kneaded into the soil by the animals' hooves. As a rule these areas have a darker coloration than the surrounding earth. Working from dark colors to lighter, begin by applying a thin layer of dark soil colored fine turf into thinned scenic cement over the grass matt. Overspray with 'wet' water and allow to dry. Using lighter colored earth fine turf and straw fine turf add a light layer of these ground covers over the dark soil turf. This layer can be held in place with thin scenery cement applied with a spray bottle or inexpensive hair spray. These lighter colors will add highlights and dimension to the dirt in the cattle pen.

With both areas dry, the addition of farm implements, figures, fences and live stock will go even further to enhance an already realistic scene.

# Ballast...Rocks

*The literal bedrock of any railway is the ballast. This bed of gravel not only helps the right of way to drain off water to keep the roadbed stable, but also stabilizes the track helping it remain in proper alignment and derailment free.*

**O**n our models ballast also serves multiple purposes. It adds realism to our right of way and like the prototype also assists in holding the track in place on our layout.

When choosing your ballast the first two choices are to get the proper color and size. Across the continent railroads have a number of sources for their ballast. Since the material is by nature heavy, with little monetary value and therefore expensive to ship, most is delivered from a local supplier. This leads to a variety of colors and types being used. Colors can range from light gray limestone, to tan sandstones, to almost black cinders and slag. Look at the prototype being modeled to choose your type and color. The second choice to decide on is the size that is appropriate for your scale. For example many brands labeled for a given scale are often too large, however, the next smaller size will look exactly right.

With the color and size selected make certain that the product is made of real stone and has been screened for metal particles. Stone model ballast works better than composite materials or products using nutshells. The main reason for this is that since stone is denser than these other materials it will stay in place and not wash away when water and glue is applied to secure it in place. All sizes of JTT Ballast are

of all natural stone, screened to precise size and are neither metallic nor magnetic.

## Ballasting Track on a Roadbed

Easy to use track with an integral molded roadbed has made it easier and faster to set up and get your trains running. This track once fastened in place will make a reliable permanent model railroad as well.







Regardless of the type of track or roadbed used for one's layout a giant step toward realism will result by ballasting the roadbed and track.

Begin by laying a bead of full strength glue along the sides of the roadbed and spreading the glue with a stiff paintbrush. Now sprinkle loose ballast along the edges covering the margins of the roadbed. Spray the track and roadbed with 'wet' water to allow the glue to spread through the ballast then allow to completely dry.

With the ballast along the sides of the roadbed dry and securely glued in place, add ballast to the top of the track. Work this ballast between the ties and blend it with the sides using a stiff bristle paintbrush. Once everything has been worked into place wet the track down with a spray of wet water before dribbling thinned glue (1 part glue to 3 parts 'wet' water) over the surface. Allow the ballast to dry before checking to make certain all of it has been securely glued in place. A second application of glue and additional ballast may need to be added before satisfactory

results are obtained. Make sure to blend the ballast into the adjoining scenery and add additional trackside details like telegraph poles or loose rail and ties.

### The Next Step to Improving Your Ballast

Now with the ballast in place, use a hobby knife or awl to clean any ballast that obstructs the track and causes erratic operations. When the trains are running smoothly we can begin detailing our ballast. Real ballast casts shadows, which our small sized ballast does not. To replicate these shadows we will apply a thin wash of black craft paint thinned with water. Mix up a wash using one part paint to five or six parts water. Using a squeeze bottle or eyedropper apply the mix over the track and ballast. The wash will sink into the ballast creating a dark shadow in addition to blending together all of the track elements and scenery.

The next step is to add 'high lights' to the track and ballast. These high lights are applied by dry brushing. Choose either a light gray or tan craft paint. Apply paint to a stiff bristled stencil brush and wipe off the excess on a paint rag or paper towel. Brush the remaining over the right of way leaving a small amount of paint. This step will accentuate the details of the track and ballast.

The proceeding two steps will help enhance the realism of

your scenery and make your finished right of way stand out.

### Ballast is not just for track

Fine ballast material works great for creating gravel and dirt roads. By applying in the same way as ground foam ground cover the ballast can be used as a scenery base to under lay additional layers of grass, gravel and dirt. Black ballast material is great for representing cinders, which were once commonly used for ballast, as well as paving. Just glue down the material and once dry dry-brush over the scenery with either a light gray or tan acrylic craft paint.

#### MRC-JTT and Other Materials Used:

- 95217 Gray Ballast medium
- 95319 Black Ballast fine
- 95316 Gray Ballast fine
- 95222 Gray Blended Ballast fine
- 95223 Gray Blended Ballast medium
- 95225 Dark Gray Ballast medium
- Dilute White Glue, Matte Medium or Scenery Cement
- 97374 Utility poles (3 packs)

# Seeing the Forest for the Trees

*The addition of trees and forests to a model railroad will easily allow you to add an extra level of realism to the project.*





Since forests, with the exception of the most arid parts of the planet, are so common with stands of trees and forests covering a great deal of the land, their inclusion on a layout is one of those 'must haves'. A relatively small stand along a horizon line can easily consist of several hundred trees while in a forest they can be counted in the many thousands. Modeling every individual tree in a miniature forest would involve an extraordinary amount of time and resources. Therefore, as modelers we can resort to a couple of 'tricks' to allow us to create the illusion of hundreds or thousands of trees.

To build a model forest, begin by shaping a core of brown florist foam, which is available at nearly any craft or hobby shop that sells floral accessories. This core can be made using several blocks glued together to fit the relative size needed. With a serrated knife one should round over the corners removing any sharp edges and straight flat surfaces. The forest can be built in place on the layout if the area that it will occupy is easily reached or it can be constructed on a scened base and blended into the layout once the forest is finished.



#### MRC-JTT and Other Materials Used:

- Brown Florist Foam Blocks
- 85089 Chopped Leaves
- 95062 Foliage Clumps
- 92120 Deciduous Trees 40/pk
- 92304 Elder
- 94425 Ash Tree
- 94452 Elm Tree
- 94264 Oak

With the core positioned, surround its base with ground leaves and glue in place with diluted scenery cement. Overspray the leaves so that the glue will penetrate each layer completely. To the top of the core, glue medium or light green foam clusters



in place to completely cover the top surface.

To camouflage the core's sides, place at least two rows of inexpensive bulk trees around the core in the area recently covered with the ground leaf material. If the scene's base is Styrofoam™ you can clip off the molded bases and insert the trunks into holes started with an awl. Use a drill to make the necessary holes in plywood or harder base materials. Make certain that the core is completely covered with scenery material and trees before moving to the next step. The trees do not have to match the foam clumps covering the core exactly since different species leaves are often of a differing color.

Now place several more detailed trees in front of the forested base. A small forest will only need four or five of these more expensive trees to complete the forest and will lead the viewer into believing that all of the trees have the same level of detail and finish. To create the illusion of distance place larger trees closer to the foreground with shorter examples behind. Once all of the trees are in place, blend all of the trees together with a light sprinkle of coarse turf material of the same color as most of the trees foliage followed by a light coat of straw colored fine turf. Secure this loose material in place with a light spray of inexpensive hair spray or a very thin spray of scenery cement.

The completed forest adds depth and additional detail to the layout. This project was easy to construct yielding superior results from basic materials.

# Down on the Farm

*Adding one or more farms to a rural layout is a great way to add detail to otherwise blank open spaces and create a focal point to one's model railroad.*

**T**raveling along the right of way in all but the most urban settings a train seems to pass an endless string of farms and open fields as it goes for its point of origin to its destination. Adding one or more farms to a rural layout is a great way to add detail to otherwise blank open spaces and create a focal point to your model railroad. One feature that is almost a must is a garden spot.

Usually tended by the farmer's wife, this where the farm family raises its own seasonal crops to feed the family and hired hands, a model of this small plot of ground will yield a great modeling project for anyone from the novice to the experienced hand.

Starting with an area that has either been painted with earth colored latex paint and then covered with fine earth ground foam or



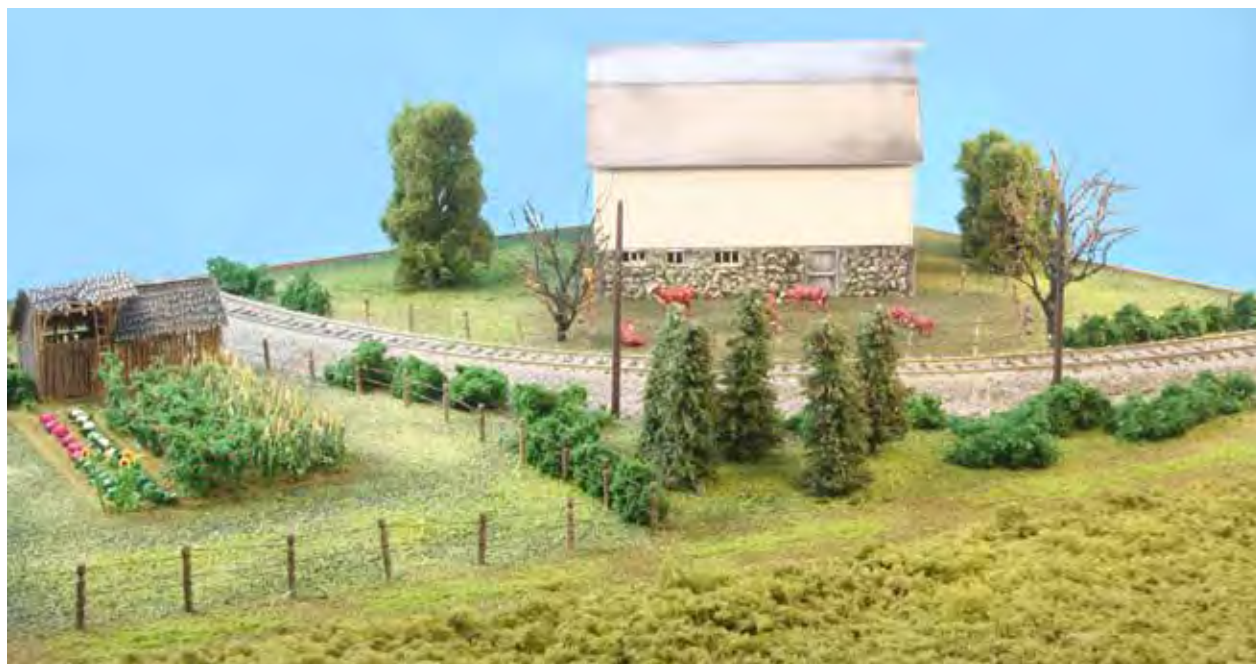


has had a sheet of earth colored grass mat installed, mask 4" x 6" area with masking tape. This task will set the boundaries for the garden plot and allow additional grass and ground cover to be applied around the area while keeping the garden space clear. With the tape in place apply a coat of thinned scenery cement around the garden plot and sift several colors of fine green ground cover into the wet glue. Over spray with 'wet' water and allow to dry.

Before the glue holding the grass down has completely set, remove the masking

an awl to make holes for the crops or if the field is laid over plywood use a small diameter drill to make these holes.

Install the individual 'plants' with their end dipped in thick white glue into the holes made along the raised rows. For best effect apply the taller plants away from the normal viewing side with shorter crops to the front. The addition of a storage shed nearby and a couple of figures will flesh out a highly detailed, completed scene that is certain to draw viewer's attention and add realism to the miniature landscape.



tape. At this point the earth covered plot will be completely flat. When the glue holding the green grass has completely dried lay out parallel beads of full strength scenery cement over the earth colored plot. Cover these beads with additional earth colored fine turf and let dry overnight.

When these rows of glue and turf have completely dried, brush off the excess material. This will yield raised rows of soil with slightly depressed furrows between them. Now, if the substrate is foam you can use

#### MRC-JTT Materials Used:

- 95552 Corn Stalks (3 Packs)
- 95523 Sunflowers
- 95527 Cabbages and Lettuces
- 95529 Broccolis and Cauliflowers
- 95525 Tomato Plants
- 95411 Golden Straw Grass Mat or
- 95128 Earth Ground Cover Turf fine
- Assorted colored green fine turf

# Going to Grandma's House

*Model residences are among the most frequently overlooked items when adding scenery to a layout.*

Model residences are among the most frequently overlooked items when adding scenery to a layout. Fortunately, with the addition of JTT's detailed flowers, trees and shrubs you can really make these areas stand out and become a focal point on any display or layout.

Since the area surrounding 'Grand Ma's House' was perfectly flat, moss green grass mat was used as the base for building up the scenery. Over this base the structures are positioned and then the streets, sidewalks, driveways and flowerbeds are laid out using a felt tip marker.

The driveway for our scene uses fine medium gray ballast glued in place with full strength scenery cement. With the ballast in place and the glue still wet, the area was over sprayed with 'wet' water to help bond the ballast in place.

When the 'driveway' was completely dry the flower beds and walkways were masked off with masking tape. The next step was adding earth to the areas that have been masked off. Using the same technique used for the driveway, glue the fine earth turf in place. While the glue is still wet,

Using JTT scenery products and Magic Water™ two part epoxy resin ([www.un-realdetails.com](http://www.un-realdetails.com)) is easy and fun. Even a beginner can have impressive results.





The house shown on these pages is (#779) Model Power's Grandma's New House Built-Up. Others in the company's HO Scale Structures series include (#783) Little Red School House Built-Up, (#490) Bella's Farm House Kit, (#780) Dr. Andrew's House Built-Up.

peel up the masking tape. If the tape is left in place when the glue dries it will either remain permanently affixed to the scenery base or pull up the ground cover on the grass mat.

While the flowerbeds are drying, the front walk and patio paving material was cut out from styrene sheet. Either embossed styrene sheets or card stock can be used to effectively model the paving features on a model. The front walk was painted with concrete colored model paint and the patio was painted with red primer to simulate terra cotta pavers. Glue the paving in place with either thick PVA glue such as Aleene's Tacky Glue™ or Silicon Sealer. To assure that the paving conforms to the surface, hold these pieces in place with push pins or thumb tacks until the glue has set.

To add depth and shadow to the gravel driveway, patio and front walk, a thin wash of black acrylic

craft paint mixed with water was applied and allowed to soak into the ballast stones as well as the recesses in the paving. After the wash had completely dried, highlights were added by drybrushing these areas as well as the flowerbeds with light tan acrylic craft paint.

The building was then set back in place and the garden 'planted'. Using either an awl or small drill, begin making holes in the flowerbeds to accept the flowers. These are glued in place by dipping the stems in scenery cement and then inserting the plants into the premade holes.

When the flowers were in place, trees were added to the scene. Choose the size to reflect the relative age of the house and its surroundings. An older house will have larger more fully developed trees and foliage, while a recently constructed one will have small trees and saplings.

Also, ornamental trees will easily fit into a residential setting while they would appear out of place in the 'wild'. This scene features both blossoming specimens and Copper Beeches along with the normal green varieties. Since, all of the scenery details will draw in a viewer go the extra mile and use the most detailed trees available in this application.

The old adage that 'good fences make good neighbors' is in play when the final bit of foliage is installed. This involves adding hedges around the property. Fences or in this case, hedges clearly define the boundaries of the area and frame the scene. The hedge material comes in strips and these are easily added by applying glue to their bases before installing them on the layout. Hold the hedges in place with T-pins until the glue dries.

To complete the scene, several benches were painted and added to the patio and front porch along with a few figures. These small details are the finishing touches that make the scene come to life.

#### MRC-JTT Materials Used:

- 92321 Blossoming Cherry Tree
- 92305 Copper Beech
- 95554 Tulips
- 95539 Rose Vines
- 95543 Daisies (2packs)
- 95515 Green Hedges
- 95561 Assorted Flower Plants 3
- 95559 Assorted Flower Plants 2
- 95557 Assorted Flower Plants 1
- 192310 Sycamore
- 95222 Gray Blended Ballast fine
- 95407 Moss Green Grass Mat

# Bring Any Layout to Life

*MRC-JTT scale landscaping isn't just for model railroad layouts*

**I**t can add extraordinary realism to just about any diorama. A race scene with background landscaping will come alive, a flower garden brings a dollhouse scene home, and of course, accurate scenics are at the heart of any Fairy Garden. The before and after scene here gives you a glimpse of how a simple, finished military model diorama can be transformed with a touch of realistic scenery.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



# Garden Crafts



## Garden Craft Landscaping Kits

This is a craft project the entire family can enjoy. You can create attractive home décor or fashion a garden scene to enhance an office shelf or desk. Children will take to it as a for-fun, school project. All the detailed landscaping you need is in the kit. Just bring your imagination and the satisfaction can be unlimited. To see what other Garden Craft kits will be available visit us at [www.modelrectifier.com](http://www.modelrectifier.com)

Item#	Description
95701	A Day In the Park
95702	Magic Garden
95703	Enchanted Forest
95704	Veggies in Bloom



Give your layout the

# WOW FACTOR



Starting with our wildly popular, silky Corn Stalks, vibrant Flowering Hedges and other innovative choices, we proved JTT delivers more than remarkably realistic scale trees. These latest introductions will allow you to continue to inject the “wow factor” into your layout.

**JTT... we're more than just great trees.**



**Corn Stalks...** from its deep green color and the perfect contours of the tassel, silk and leaves, these add realism to any farm or roadside scene. HO Scale 1", O Scale 2".



**Landscaping Detail Series...** these 5" x 7" grass, wheat and flowering sheets bring any terrain to life. Cut the exact size and shape you need or glue the entire sheet to your layout. Sheets with individually detachable tufts are also available so you can apply each tuft separately



**Handmade Sunflowers...** these are realistic from their head to the bright yellow petals and sturdy stem. These sunflowers will light up your HO or O scale layout.



**Potted Plants...** at home on a window sill or outdoors, these pots and plants are available in a variety of colors and shapes. HO Scale: 5/8" & 7/8". O Scale: 1" & 1 1/2".



**Flower Hedges...** HO scale hedges in red, green, pink, purple and blended colors. Real hedge shapes, real hedge design, real eye candy for your layout.

*Also shown in the photo, JTT's textured telephone poles, gravel, chopped leaves, corn, flowering plants, foliage clumps and undergrowth. And of course an assortment of JTT trees from our largest-in-the-industry collection*



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