

HUB Headlight

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South Shore Lumber Company

by Michael Tylick, MMR

Many years ago I picked up the *Model Railroader Magazine* for May, 1960. It featured a "Lineside Lumber and Supply Yard" by Aaron G. Fryer. Based on a prototype in Sellersville, Pennsylvania, the yard was built from a converted coal barn, with an attached office and several outlying sheds. A far cry from the then available Atlas and Ayres lumber yards, I was intrigued by his model and, for years, had wanted to build one. After several false starts, I managed to allot some space on my current Marshfield and Old Colony Railroad for a lumber yard that is similar, at least in spirit.

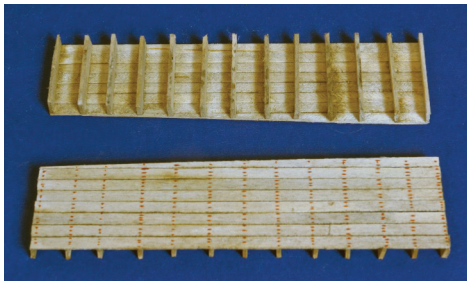
I was also intrigued by the illustrations in Lynn Wescott's book *101 Track Plans*. His delightful renderings showed foreground structures too large for the layout, and so were sawed off to reveal a detailed interior implying a much larger structure. Like a cropped photograph, our model railroads can only imply a complete world. Cropping the front edge of the structures allowed me to satisfy my long standing urge to build this model and also fit it on a very small layout.

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Let's start by building the smaller lumber shed.



1. The site for my model. The blue painter's tape is invaluable for protecting the track while building scenery. It is easily removed with no residue when the messy work is finished. No matter how large the space, it is never big enough. The foreground of my structure will definitely have to be cut off. Oh yes, my models are built in O scale, but the same techniques will work in any scale.



quickly and will always look better with less effort, especially in the foreground where the top and the bottom of the floors will both be visible.

Long ago, I solved the difficulty of finding correctly sized stripwood by cutting my own. I purchase Midwest Models plain basswood sheets in thicknesses from 1/32" to 1/4". The lumber is ripped to size with a small Micro-Mark table saw, which costs less than a new HO-diesel, and has many other uses. A fine tooth blade makes little sanding necessary to finish the wood; this way I can have whatever size wood I want whenever I need it.

The wood was finished with a light wash of India ink and alcohol followed by a very light wash of burnt umber watercolor. Pre-painting the wood prevents the occurrence of unsightly glue "spluges." The "nail holes" are perhaps unnecessary and out of sale, but I think they add interest to an otherwise boring floor. They are quickly drawing with an orange gell pen.

Although many modelers recommend yellow carpenter's glue, I use white glue since it adheres better to painted surfaces and dries more invisibly. In this picture we have the first-floor assembly. A belt sander proved the best way to taper the inside (front) edge, necessary to fit the layout space.

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3. Northeastern clapboard siding was used for the painted outside wall of the lumber shed. These nail holes were embossed with a Micro-Mark riveting tool. Painted white and Hunter Green, light brown and black watercolor washes have been added. Although my shed is only six feet deep, the full shed would be about 16 to 20 feet long.

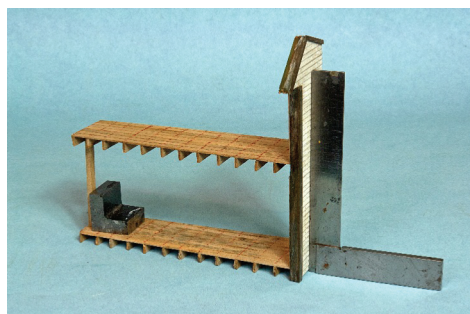
4. Since the interior of the shallow see-through shed will be quite visible, care must be taken to include the inner sheathing, and stud system. The indents are for the two floors.



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5. The first floor and wall are glued together. Use a square!



6. In order to ensure equal lengths, the posts were cut with a NWSL Chopper. The furthest post was glued first. Although we are trying to replicate the look of prototype wood-frame construction, we have the advantage of gravity and can do many things the easy way. Use a square!



7. One side of the beam is in place. Rather than doing things the hard way and installing all of the posts first, installing one side of the header first will serve to align the remaining posts. The overhang at the end was left to possibly tie the shed into the main building. If this does not work out it can always be trimmed later.



8. Posts and beam are in place. In the real world the posts and beam would be installed before the floor. Rather than two boards, the beam might well be solid, but the hollow space on both levels will be invisible and provides a handy place for electrical wires.



9. The ridge pole is a solid beam built in much the same way. Use a square!



10. The remainder of the posts and the truss support. Although not illustrated, the support was built in the same way as the first-floor beam, one board first to align the posts, then the posts and the other side of the support.

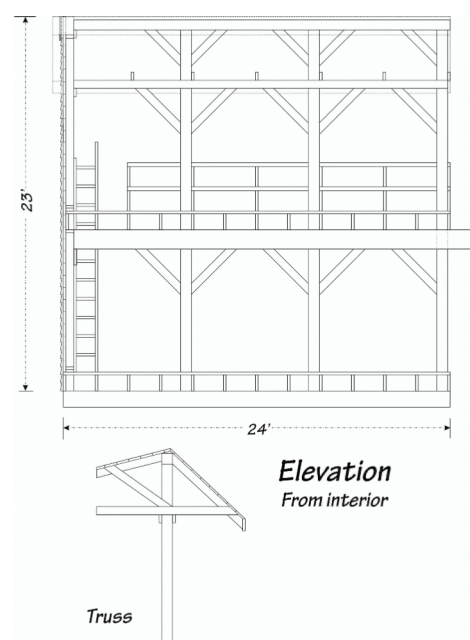
To the right is an example of one of the drawings Mike has prepared of the lumber shed. A three-page pdf of the drawings is available at the HUB Division website on the *Member Articles* page. Visit <http://www.hubdiv.org/articles.htm>



11. The sway braces were added as an afterthought. The structure did not indicate they were necessary, but it looked like they should be there. When the roof is on, they will just barely be seen but contribute a little to the detail.

By now we should have something that most people will recognize either as a World War One Fokker Triplane or a very narrow lumber shed. Now that the model is strong enough to handle without breaking all your hard work, this is a good time to add interior lighting if you wish. It's also a good opportunity to check one last time that the model will fit in its space on the layout.

As it is, I have pretty much exhausted my supply of stripwood so I will have to either cut and stain some more lumber or make a trip to the hobby shop or contact Amazon. While I am waiting for these to be ready, I think I will take a break from what is becoming a very elaborate model and wonder if I really do need a life. I hope to see you again when I get more of the South Shore Lumber Company completed.



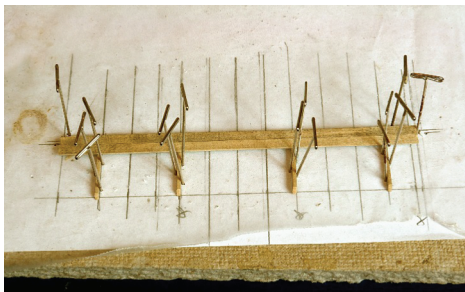
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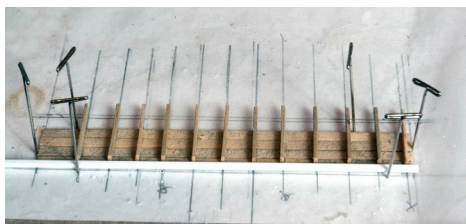
South Shore Lumber Company - Part 2

by Michael Tylick, MMR

Last issue we constructed the floors and walls for our shed, but we will need a roof to keep our lumber dry – come to think of it, we will need some building supplies as well. The floors and walls may have taken some time to build, but the roof should go rather quickly. I suppose we will also have to figure out some way to attach our shed to the railroad – our site is either flimsy hardshell or open space. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, completing the shed may not be the beginning of the end, but rather the end of the beginning. But what's the hurry? Whatever would I do if I ever completed my model railroad?

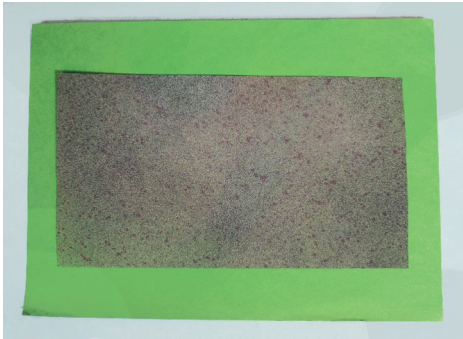


12. The underside of the roof will be visible, so it is built in much the same way as the floor. Having started this article after construction had begun, I had neglected to photograph the template for the floor, which uses the time-honored model airplane "waxed paper over template with pins" technique.



13. The remaining rafters are glued to the roof. The ridge ends do not go all the way to the end; a styrene strip fence keeps them even.

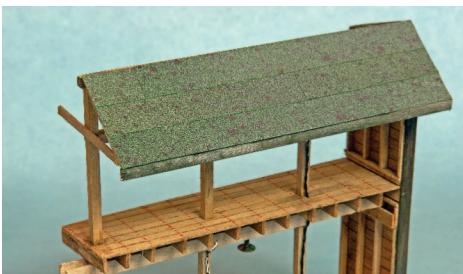
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14. Roofing paper. Following suggestions from Art Fahie of Bar Mills Models, I over-sprayed green construction paper (shown underneath) with mists of grey, black, white, and red primer. The spray cans from Wal*Mart are inexpensive and work well for this, especially when the cans are used and less paint comes out. Holding the spray can vertically and far away helps give the splatter effect that gives the paper a textured look. The paper will be cut into strips. Mine are a scale 27" wide but prototype roofing paper seems to come in several different widths.



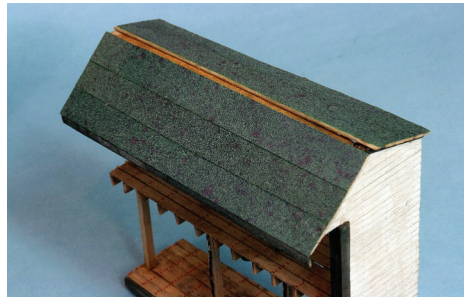
15. The roofing paper strips are applied randomly to the roof.



16. The front roof is glued to the wall. Again departing from prototype construction, the roof was attached to the outer wall and ridgepole. The horizontal truss member is then added to bring the unsupported end of the roof into correct alignment.



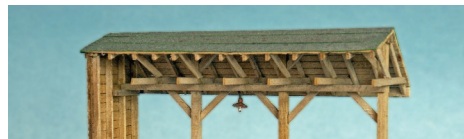
17. Subsequent truss horizontals are then glued in place. I am uncertain how many would be necessary, but a truss at every other rafter seemed sufficient.



18. The rear roof is glued in place the same as the front.



19. The first rear diagonal aligns the roof. The rest are then added. Wood shims fill the open space at the ridge pole. A strip of roofing paper will be scored, folded, and glued across the ridge.



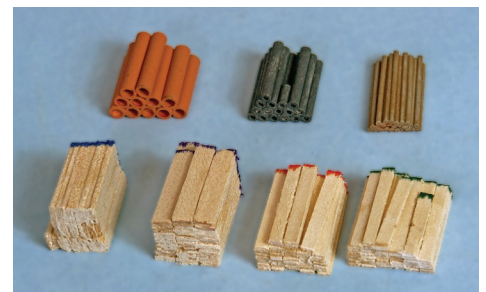
20. and 21. A side view and overall view of the completed trusses.



22. The completed shed from the inside (viewer's side).



23. The completed shed from the track side. This will not be seen from the layout edge but may show up in photographs.



24. There are faster ways to build lumber piles, but since these are quite short (about 1" long), board-by-board seemed the easiest. We are looking at the visible (interior) side. The new lumber has only a very, very thin umber wash applied so it will appear much lighter than the shed. Paint is often applied to the lumber ends to retard moisture; I used felt tip pens to replicate this. The pipes are short bits of Evergreen tube and rod.

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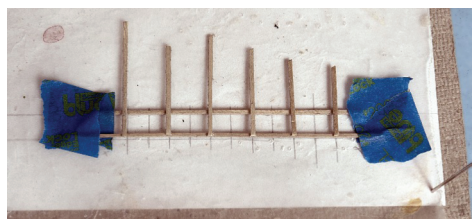


25. The lumber piles are in place; notice one bay has only a few boards left. Chocks are placed on the ends of the pipe piles to prevent rolling.



26. I was not planning to include a second floor railing at first, but I later decided the walkway was too dangerous even for pre-OSHA days. Since I did not plan to add the railing, the posts were attached to the end of the joists. This would not provide a very strong joint in real life, but it is on the side away from the viewer. To help alignment, the two furthest posts are attached and aligned by eye. The upper rail will align the remainder of the posts and the other rail. Rather than attempting to cut the rail to the correct length, it is easier to make it oversize and trim it later with a sprue cutting tool or a nail clipper.

27. The ladder is made over a paper and



waxed paper template. The rungs are cut oversized and trimmed when dry. Gluing alternate rungs helps keep my clumsy fingers out of the way. Then the remainder will be added.



28. The ladder and railing are complete. Although these were an afterthought, it was probably best to add them last since the delicate assemblies would have been damaged during construction.



29. Careful observers will notice that the lighting was added much earlier, but the photographs of this step were fuzzy. Miniaturics HO scale 12-volt lamps and shades were used. Miniature LED lighting was considered, but seemed like more work than necessary. The wires are easily hidden in the hollow beams. Provision could have been made for hollow posts, but this being the backside, surface mounting was simple and straightforward. I run the 12-volt lamps from a six-volt power supply. The dim glow is more realistic and the life of the lamp is extended as much as four hundred times. Simple and low-tech is best for me.



30. Since the structure is at the layout edge, I had to install the front fascia board and finish the grading before "planting" the lumber shed. I was forced to do a job I had been putting off.



31. Cast stones (used for walls) were placed under the sill to act as footings. Dark cinders show this is just a dirty crawl space below the structure.



32. The completed shed is installed on the layout. It is held in place at the track edge and on the stone footings. Not a very strong assembly for a foreground model which will take some abuse, but the main structure should stabilize it. Chances are the shed will have to be realigned to fit the second phase anyway.

It's time to dig out Eric Sloane's "An Age of Barns" and design a larger structure to attach the shed to. See you again when I get more of the South Shore Lumber Company completed.



This photo above shows a portion of the South Shore Lumber Company that Mike will explore the construction of in future Headlight issues. Stay tuned.

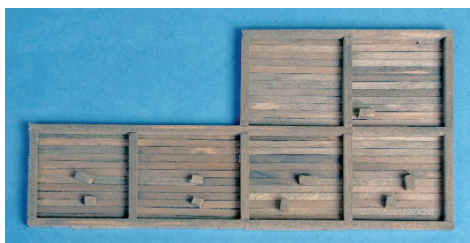
South Shore Lumber Company - Part 3

by Michael Tylick, MMR

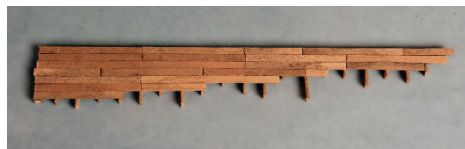
In the January-February issue, we finished building the shed and adding lumber loads. Now it is time to start building a larger structure to which the shed is attached.



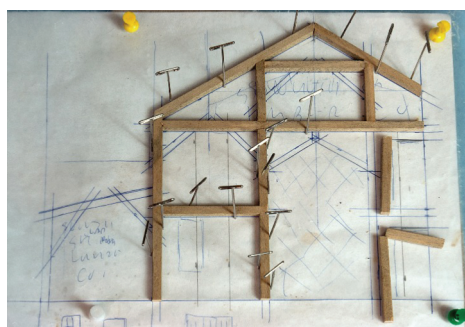
1. The prototype lumber yard was converted from an enclosed coal trestle, so the main structure should be barn-like. Traditional post-and-beam construction is suited to such structures – similar designs are still used for modern steel sheds. Since there are fewer and larger parts, post and beam will be much easier to build than a balloon-frame stud system. The main beams were glued together over a template. For a contest model, one might consider mortise and tenon joints with the flooring laid after assembly. But, this model is complicated enough as it is, and will not be seen by judges. The flooring will strengthen and reinforce the piece. The appearance is enhanced by having staggered joints in the floor and this will show up in the larger scales. Avoid the temptation to run single boards across the entire length of the floor - real lumber is rarely found in lengths over twelve feet. And since we will later need to use board-by-board construction anyway, please don't get sloppy and used scribed siding - the two do not work well together.



2. (Bottom left) The first floor will never be seen from the bottom so there is no need for underside detail. The small blocks reinforce the flooring joints that do not fall over the main beams.



3. The near cutaway floor will be seen from below, so floor joists are installed here. The easiest way to taper the front appeared to be carefully cutting the excess flooring along a straightedge. The joists will then be cut to length with a sprue cutter. A few may fly off, but this is a good way to double check the strength of my glue joints.



4. Although they probably did not use waxed paper, T-pins, and templates, we are following the lead of prototype barn builders by building the walls flat on the ground. Mortise and tenon joints for a contest model, but butt joints and white glue works just fine for me.



5. The finished end wall with diagonal bracing and window framing.



6. Our O-scale walls are light and will not require a small army to raise them, so we can simplify construction by installing the siding before raising. The siding boards are quickly cut on a NWSL Chopper and are glued along a straightedge. As a bonus, the siding will stabilize and strengthen the wall.



7. The shorter siding pieces are glued only on one end for now, so a clamped temporary fence keeps them in proper alignment.



8. The completed wall as seen from the inside. If we did not need such a complete interior, we could have built the wall with scribed siding. Even the thinnest siding available would have proven too thick when laminated back to back. Styrene would have worked and probably would have made for a neater and stronger model. But then there would have been so much white plastic to texture and humor into the appearance of unpainted wood.

(Continued Page 7)

South Shore Lumber Company - Part 3

(Continued from Page 6)



9. The short end wall does not have an extension. The prototype barn had only one floor, but mine required two to be tall enough to cover the end of our previously built lumber shed.



10. It's also easier to paint and letter the walls while they are flat. Computers make short work of the signs – a laser printer makes for nice, crisp and waterproof copy. I had considered printing on decal film, but I had run out of white decal paper. Being impatient in this case, I decided paper with the back sanded thin would work just as well – it's certainly easier to paint and weather. Careful observers will notice that the large triangle sign will be partly covered by the lumber shed. Bad planning on my part, but the sign was already in place by the time I discovered this. One could always argue that the shed was built later – I would have to say fairly recently since the exposed sign looks no older than the protected one. I'm lucky I didn't weather the shed very much.



11. The short wall will not be seen from land, but the signs are good advertisements for the many wooden boats cruising the North River.



12. My clothespin clamps are inexpensive and versatile. I disassembled a few and cut one leg shorter to use for my "raising."



13. It's easy to pick up a miniature floor, so the floor was held in place with my special clamps while the glue dried.



14. (Bottom center) I was certain that the wall would not be square with the floor, so after the glue had dried, I gently cracked the joint between the floor and wall and held a square against it. Thinned white glue was brushed into the joint to invisibly reassemble it. Perhaps not strong enough to withstand the wrath of Hercules, but certainly strong enough to keep my small structure together.



15. The next truss is glued to the wall using the crossbeams as spacers. Things never go exactly as planned, so I worked my way from the bottom up. Spacers first positioned the verticals to the floor – no mortises or tenons here. When dry, I worked my way up floor-by-floor, gluing the spacer beams and forcing everything into place with miniature clamps from Lowe's. The successive trusses and the other end wall were attached one-by-one in the same way.

Well, the walls are up and barn raising party is underway; we're enjoying our food and drink and music. Let's enjoy the moment, but soon we will have to get to work and build the rest. The walls and roof still need enclosing and finishing work always seems to go more slowly. I hope I can get this done in time for the next installment!