10. Ben Sullívan's Rock Creek Trestle



The original trestle built by the B&O to cross the wide, flat Rock Creek valley was constructed around 1892 and demolished in 2019. My HO scale model of the trestle represents the bridge as it existed in the late 1940s. I obtained a sketch of the bridge from the B&O Railroad Historical Society files. Visits to the actual bridge prior to demolition gave me many detailed photographs and some measurements. I used Adobe Illustrator to draw plans for each trestle bent, and the top deck. A laser-cut jig formed the basis for laying the custom cut ties and gluing them to stringers. I installed Micro Engineering code 83 rail initially with Proto87 Stores tie plates and spikes. I soon switched to using Micro Engineering Micro spikes. The center span deck girder bridge is by Tichy Train Group, kit 7020 plate girder bridge. I weathered it with acrylics and pigments. The trestle is constructed with scale Mt. Albert Scale Lumber & Northeastern Scale Lumber stripwood dyed with Hunterline stains, nut-bolt-washer castings from San Juan Details (Grandt Line) #5066 and Tichy. After staining the wood, I assembled each bent individually on a base of 2" pink foam. I used a Dremel drill press to drill holes for NBW castings in each bent. I custom built a jig to facilitate gluing the completed bents at a perpendicular 90 degree angle to the stringers, all



done upside-down. The side bracing and girts were then installed with the trestle

laying on its side using CA glue. NBWs were installed using a hand drill. The bridge is not yet fully installed on the layout and still has a few final touches before it's completed. It will be a focal point of my B&O Georgetown Branch layout. I am currently working on terraforming the creek bed and right of way and will be installing a layer of Sculptamold atop the foam base. The photo above is a mockup of how it will look with the Georgetown Turn heading East back to Eckington Yard after picking up cars in Georgetown and working the Branch. For more information and to follow along on my build, visit my blog <u>http://gbblog.sluggyjunx.com/</u> and website <u>http://sluggyjunx.com/rr/gb/</u> *Ben Sullivan*