

9. Mat Thompson's Illusion Blend

I am working on blending the layout surface and the walls to create the illusion of a world beyond the train room for the new version of my Oregon Coast Railroad. Since the layout is against the walls on three sides for a total of 72', I use a variety of techniques to get the look I want.



This photo shows several things I am doing:

- Painted the sky and clouds on a coved backdrop made of aluminum trim coil. I could have done the same thing with sheet styrene.
- Cut the sky off a commercial photo backdrop and glued it to the back drop.
- Glued trees to the backdrop after trimming off the back half so the trees wouldn't create shadows.
- Added a road that disappears behind trees on one end and the tall building on the other.
- Used cars and trucks on the road to focus the view on them, not the backdrop an inch or two beyond them.

- Added an additional row of trees between the road and parking lot as a view block and to add depth to the scene.
- Used the long, tall factory building as another view block.
- Combined the vehicles in the parking lot, the underbrush on the hill, the billboard on the factory and the general “busy-ness” of the scene to focus eyes on the layout, not the backdrop.

The distance from the red car to the backdrop is 24”. *Mat Thompson, MMR*