SCRATCHBUILDING ROLLING STOCK

By
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Photos by Paul Myers, MMR

WHY SCRATCHBUILD?

- The thrill of starting with nothing but an idea
- The challenge
- The research
- Collecting all the bits & pieces
- Pride of accomplishment once it's completed



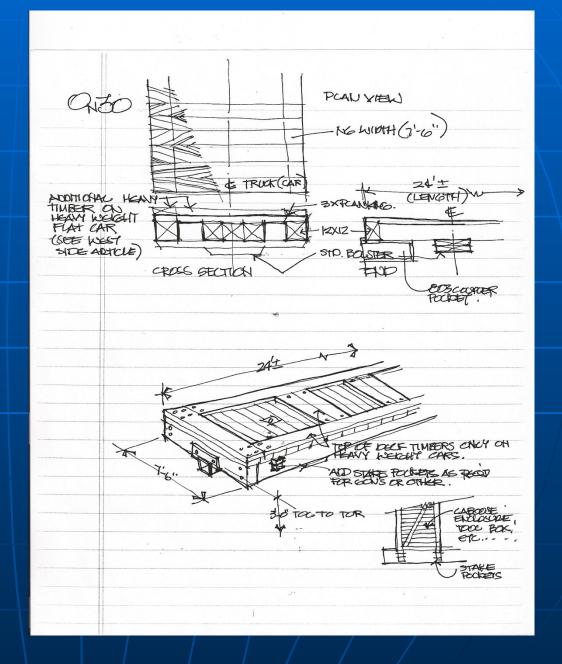
PROCESS

- The idea
- Rough sketches
- Dimensioned drawing
- Photo record of construction
- Daily notes during construction
- Actual construction

DESIGN SKETCHES

- Doodle different design ideas
- Scale & size determination
- Consider model options such as coloring and lettering
- Framing schemes
- Determine openings if any
- Special details

Freehand sketches or simple doodles of cars or even details found on cars real or imaginary may lead to your next contest winner.

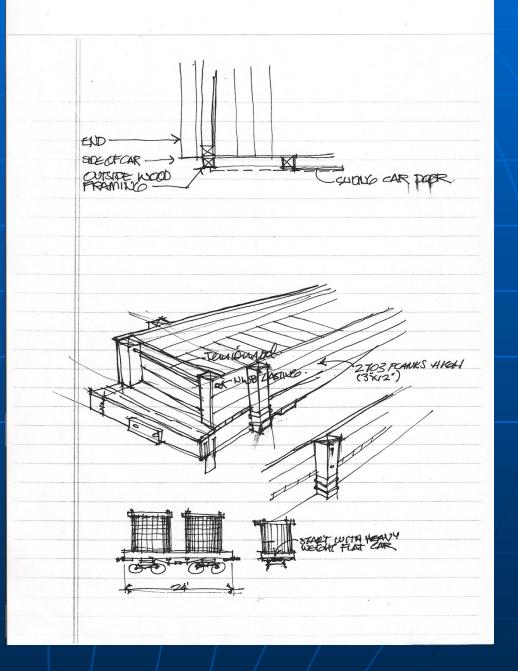




CCR On30 Heavyweight Flatcar #16 Scratchbuilt



When an idea comes to mind, irregardless of what it is, make a note or make a little drawing just as a reminder so that when you have a bit more time, you can either refine it or toss it in the trash.



Shelter Bay Railway Company HO Std Gauge Water Car #7 Scratchbuilt



Shelter Bay Railway Company HO Std. Gauge Low Side Gondola #78 Scratchbuilt



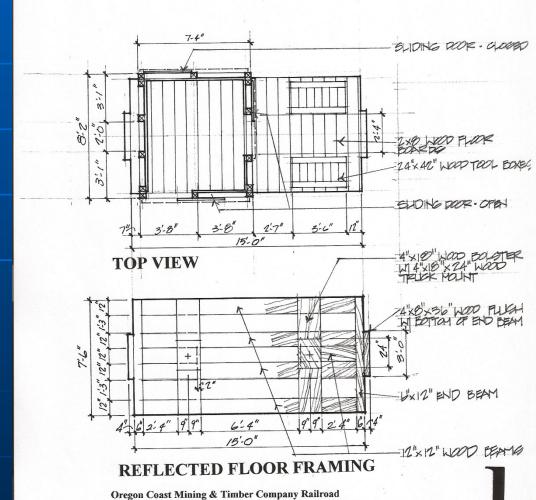
CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

- Scale drawing and dimensions
- Show all appropriate details by name and number
- All lettering actual size and font
- Car number
- All final design decisions
- Basis of design conformance when entering a contest

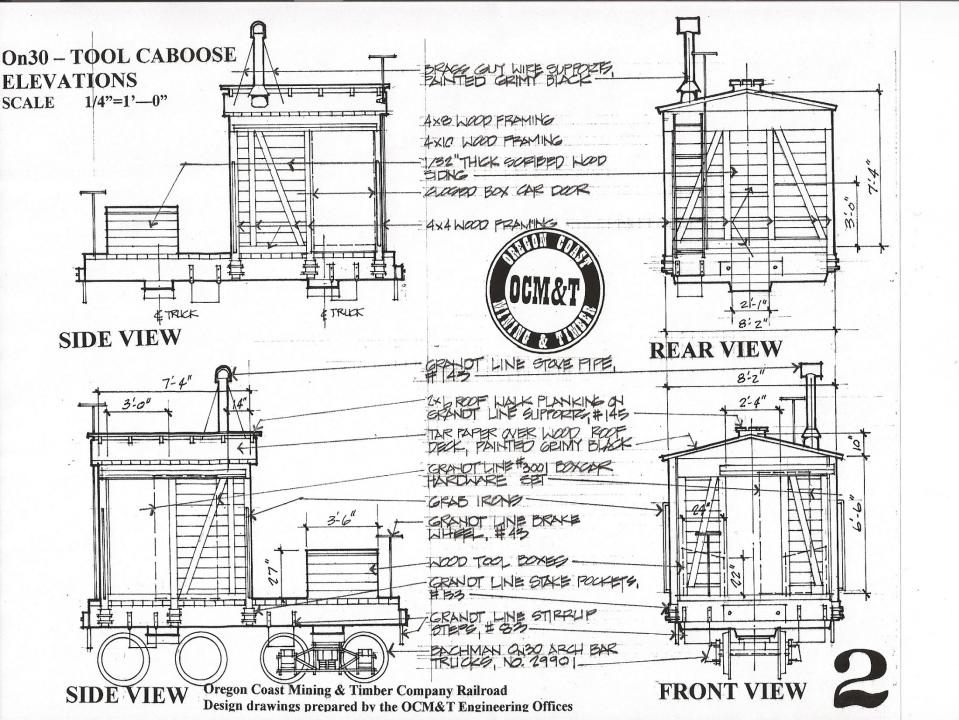
A construction drawing is a drawing that is to the same scale you are going to construct your model at. Some modelers find it convenient to construct the car floor directly over the reflected floor framing plan.

On30 – TOOL CABOOSE PLAN VIEWS SCALE 1/4"=1"—0"





Design drawings prepared by the OCM&T Engineering Offices







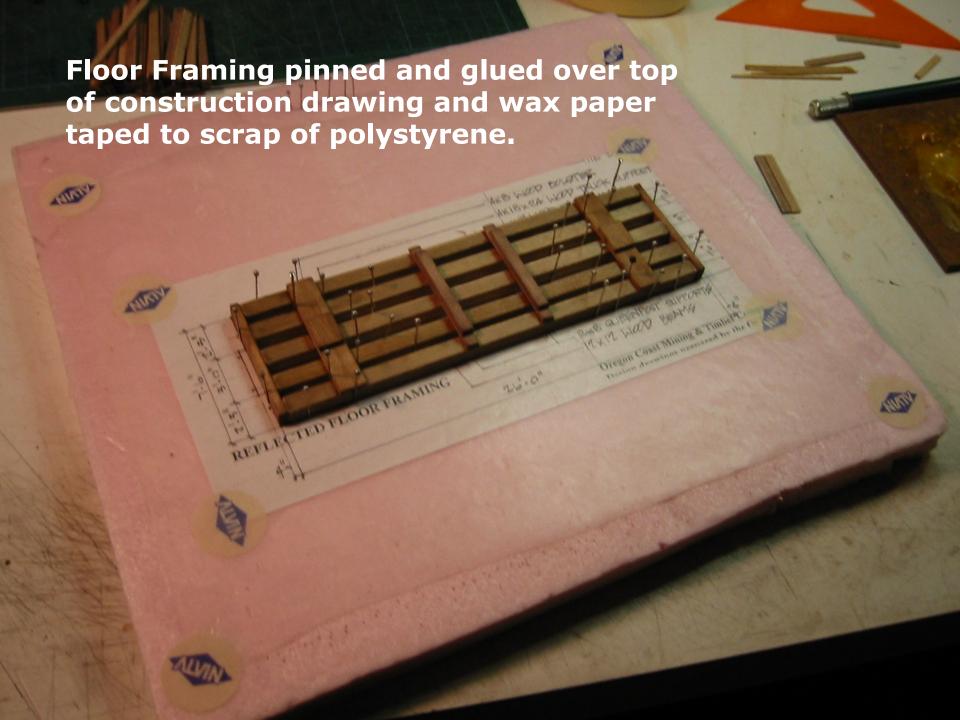
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

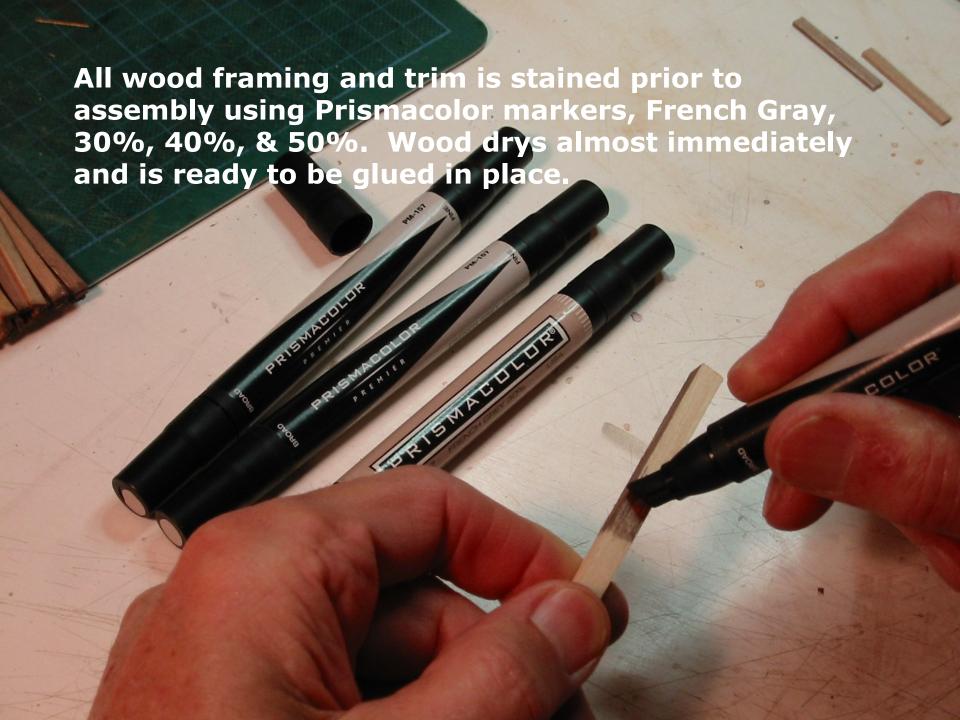
- On30, OCM&T NG Railroad
- Standard width-7'-6"
- Standard length-24' plus or minus
- Standard truck-Bachman, arch bar freight truck No. 29901
- Car lettering-Roman R.R. White
- Coupler height-top of coupler, 3'-0" above top of rail

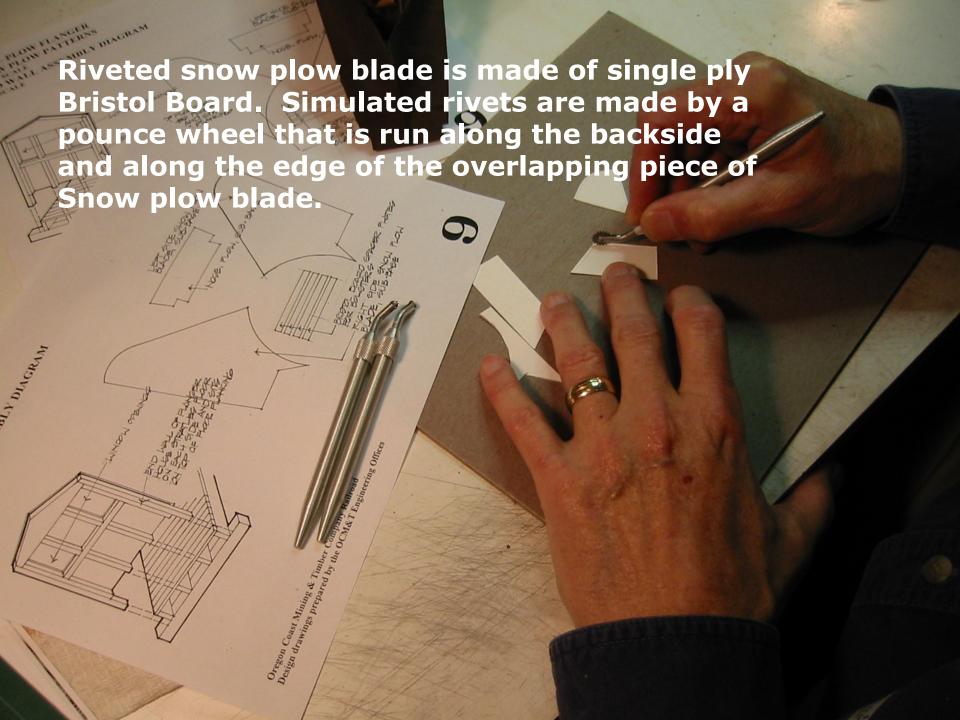


CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

- Take lots of photographs during the model construction
- Showing steps in assemblies
- Special jigs
- Methods of assembly
- Modeling tricks
- Photos can lead to some outstanding modeling articles and clinics











OCM&T On30 Plow Flanger Scratchbuilt



TAKE NOTES

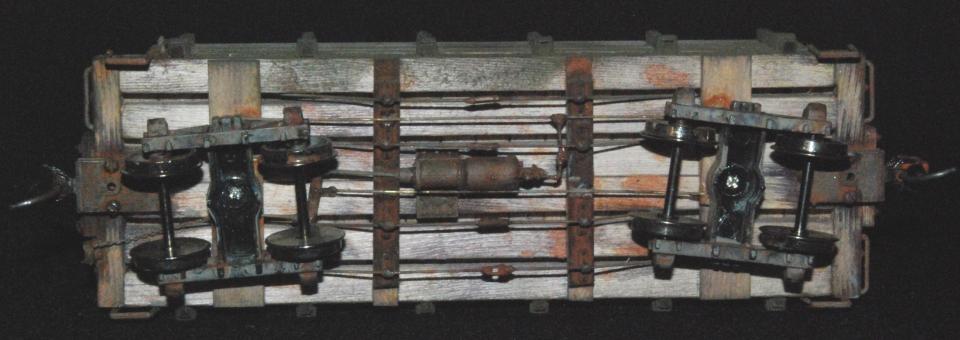
- Personal reminders
- Time frames to accomplish certain tasks
- Thoughts about other projects
- Detail parts lists for contest paperwork or possible modeling articles
- Information for car file
- Model story (all cars should have one)

Shelter Bay Railway Company (SBR) HO Std Gauge Combine #12 Kitbash



CAR FILE

- Manila folder with car name on tab
- Insert all notes on model
- Photos
- Original ideas & thoughts
- Lessons learned during construction
- All drawings
- File can be shared with friends and a source for future projects and clinics



Oregon Coast Mining & Timber RR On30 Low Side Gondola Bottom View Brake Rigging

FREELANCE CARS

- One of a kind cars
- Based on an original idea
- Based on a photo or drawing of an existing railroad car
- My railroad, my design
- My drawings reflect any changes I make to the model and are usually done after I build the model
- Model conforms to documentation 100%





FINISHED MODEL

- Modify construction drawing to match model
- Contest paperwork includes final drawing
- Absolute conformance
- If the model feels good, it's probably right.
- If the finished model does not feel good, it is probably wrong

OCM&T On30 Low Side Gondola # 41 Scratchbuilt









SBR HO Std. Gauge Heavyweight Flatcar #1 Scratchbuilt





Missouri Valley Railroad HO Std Gauge High Side Gondola #746 Scratchbuilt by Larry Long, MMR





Shelter Bay Railway Company HO Std Gauge, 4 Door Reefer #1203 Scratchbuilt



Union Pacific Railroad flatcar with one foot tall sides & open ends, #259, scratchbuilt by Larry Long, MMR



Shelter Bay Railway Company HO Std Gauge Tank car #5 Scratchbuilt



The End