Scenery Clinic
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Scenery Design Considerations

Avoid having track parallel to edge of layout
Make terrain undulate at least a little – no "plywood prairies"
Interrupt view of train
> Trees
> Buildings
> Bridges
> Animals
> Fences
> Rock outcroppings

Place trees etc in a random pattern – don't let it look like an orchard
Smaller structures make layout look bigger
Large structures & scenery should dominate train
Don't make flat rock walls
Keep some things hidden around corners, to be found as you explore layout
Place rocks, buildings etc. IN layout, not on top of ground
In a group of things, particularly trees, put some in front and some in back of track so train goes THROUGH, not past

Scenery Techniques

Terrain
> Create basic terrain shapes
>> Carved styrofoam
>> Hardshell - plaster gauze or paper towels soaked in thin plaster
> Rock castings as desired
>> Use rubber mold with molding plaster
>>> Black molds
>>> Flexible molds
>> Color with washes of water-base paint (before any glue is sprayed on scenery)

Tunnels
> Set pre-shaped foam block on track to form tunnel walls
> Lay plastic wrap over foam and track
> Cover block with plaster gauze or hardshell
> Lift tunnel shell, remove foam block, paint inside of shell, glue in place
> Fit rock castings to tunnel end

Track
> Locate and install bridges and culverts
> Install roadbed and track
> Paint track
>> Flat spray paint – Krylon, Rustoleum, etc.
>> Spray rail color (red oxide or brown) horizontally from front – BE CAREFUL AT TURNOUTS
>> Spray tie color from above and slightly behind to hit top of ties but not face of rail
>>> Black for new ties
>>> Brown or gray for weathered ties
> Ballast

Not Woodland Scenics
Pour sparingly on track and spread with soft brush
Spray with wet water (water with dishwashing liquid)
Add white glue solution (1 part glue, 6 or 7 parts water)
- Spray fine mist – hair spray bottle
- Drip on with eyedropper or old glue bottle
Clean tops of rails with Bright Boy

Soil and grass
- Paint surface with generic brown latex
- Glue any large rocks into place with full strength glue
- Sift sand or dirt into wet paint to create final terrain shape
- Spray lightly with wet water
- Spray with wet glue solution (1 part glue, 5 parts water)
- Color the scenery
  - Crushed rock
    - Coarse for rocky terrain or talus
    - Fine (powdered) for soil color
  - Ground foam
    - Use tea strainer
    - Use several colors to avoid manicured lawn look
    - Lush greens in areas where water would collect
    - Lighter and drier colors in higher areas
  - Erosion – add extra glue solution and allow to run in some places

River bed
- Same techniques as above
- Glue down boulders, add dead trees, old tires, etc.
- Use sand for smooth bottom, and fill around rocks
- Very even layer of dark color (Woodland Scenics "turf") for deep areas
  - Alternatively, paint deep areas with airbrush after glue is dry
  - Omit this dark color if riverbed will not have water

Vegetation
- Use more in low areas and around water
- Coarse grasses
  - Coarse ground foam
    - Saturate with glue solution and apply with fingers or tweezers
- Weeds
  - Field grass – use per various manufacturers' directions
  - Broom straws
    - Cut off short bundle, dip end in full strength glue, set in place
  - Rope fibers
    - Same as broom straws
- Bushes
  - Lichen
    - Spray with hair spray or dip in matte medium
    - Sprinkle with fine ground foam
  - Polyfiber
    - Stretch very thin
    - Spray with hair spray
    - Sprinkle with fine ground foam

Trees
- Easy to install when using Styrofoam base
- Commercial tree kits (Woodland Scenics or other)

Scenery Express trees – Norwegian sagebrush, best looking for small trees
    Dip in matte medium
    Dip in ground foam
Nandina or sagebrush
    Wrap with thinly stretched Woodland Scenics foliage material
    Spray with hair spray
    Sprinkle with ground foam
Dead trees
    Sagebrush
    Any other material you find, color it grayish
Cactus
    Use pipe cleaners with interspersed wire bristles, saturate with olive green paint and roll
        between fingers to compress fibers
Water
    Streams and lakes
        Let stream or lake bed DRY THOROUGHLY (a week) before pouring water
            Material
        Make sure all holes are sealed and dam ends of stream as required
        Envirotex in 1/8" or ¼" layers
            Tint first layer darker
                Test tinting paint for compatibility
                NO SOLVENT BASED FLOQUIL
                Mix in clear plastic cup to see color better
                Start with only one or two drops of color per ounce of Envirotex
                Add more if needed; a little goes a long way
            Tint successive layers lighter; last should be almost clear
        Rough current or rapids can be formed with clear silicone caulk or by adding
            fine cotton fibers before Envirotex fully hardens
        Smaller waves and surface texture can be formed with gel medium
        Use flat white paint to add whitecaps or to highlight rapids
    Waterfalls
    Cotton looks best at first, gets dirty quickly, so use silicone caulk (can be wiped clean)
    Use thin parallel beads of silicone caulk on wax paper or plastic to form exact shape of falls
    For falls flowing over edge of cliff, form over edge of plastic wrapped block
    Attach to stream bed with more silicone caulk
    Fluffy cotton at base simulates spray; gets dirty but can be replaced easily