



Wright of Way

Brandon Wright

Grand Valley RR

Hobby Merchandiser's HO-scale layout series resumes in this 10th installment.

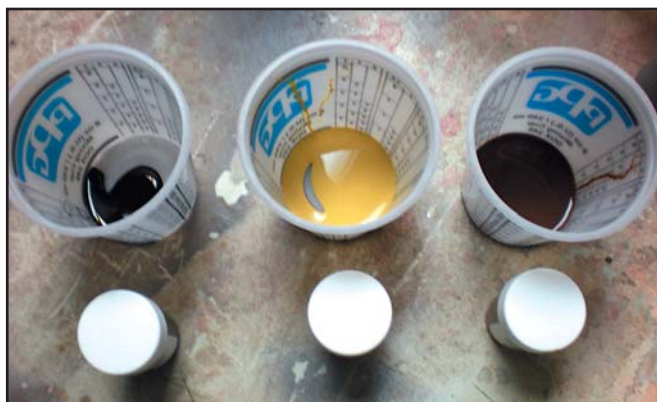
Picking up where the Troy family concluded in previous installments, my next step toward completing the Woodland Scenics Grand Valley Railroad would be to install and finish the rock castings for the hill faces. Before I got to that, however, I double-checked the track to make sure it was okay. I studied the Digitrax manuals and hooked up my Zephyr DCS50 DCC Command Station, then used one of the new Walthers Proto 2000 E7A locomotives with factory-installed DCC to test the track, making sure I wouldn't have any unexpected track errors to worry about. Not to worry; it all worked great and I was ready to continue the project. **HM**



SubTerrain base and Plaster Cloth cover completed, track is laid and the HO-scale Grand Valley Railroad is ready for scenicking.



Grand Valley comes with an impressive collection of scenicking supplies, including all the adhesives, brushes and applicators.



1. Use a small cup to hold each of the three rock colors, then dilute them with water until the tones are slightly transparent.



2. Starting with Woodland's yellow ochre, Brandon applies a light coat of color to roughly a one-third area of the rock formations.



3. Small runs are not a problem; just get the color applied. This is actually one case in which neatness positively does not count.



4. Burnt umber and black color washes are applied next, overlapping the yellow ochre and completely covering the castings.



5. Use a thinly mixed water-and-black wash applied over the coated rock castings to "age" them, and further blend the colors.



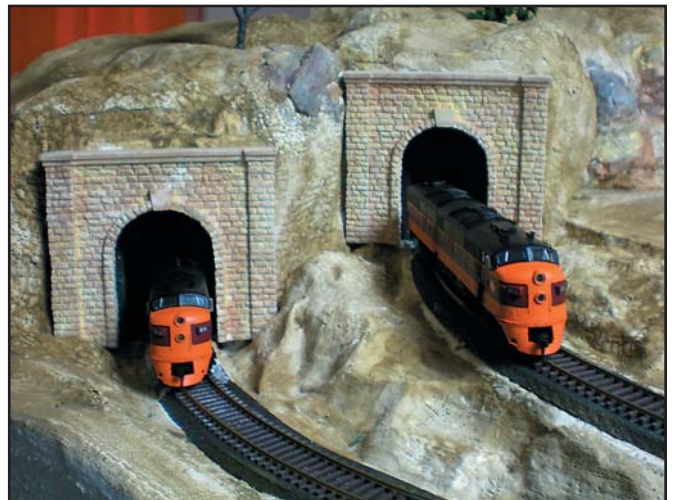
6. Rock formations are starting to look good, but the tunnel portals are still in their raw form, and will soon be similarly coated.



7. Brandon adds one cup of water to the Earth Undercoat, then paints it over the whole layout, but not over the painted rocks.



8. Light washes of rock color highlight the portals, then more Earth Undertone is used to darken and highlight random areas.



9. Scenicking well underway, Brandon gives the two Hiawathas another check run. His Grand Valley project continues in May.