



# RAILROAD REPORT

Dennis Andreas

## Woodland Water Products



**W**hen I saw that Woodland had finally released its new line of Scenic Water Products I was truly excited. And receiving a shipment of prebuilt HO shacks along with the water products was a perfect match. Every model railroader knows that simulating water is one of the more difficult tasks when creating a scene. Even the most experienced builder has difficulty when it comes to giving the impression of water moving through terrain. The problem is that water is not just a surface but it has depth; color, light, vegetation and waves. All of this working together is what our brain expects to see from nature. Woodland has taken a huge step by putting all of these aspects together and creating this line of products.

The components of the Woodland water are a 2-part Deep Pour Water base, Wave and Ripple Textures, Silt coloring agent and to replicate the type of water, such as a muddy creek or flowing river, a variety of surface base colors. The Deep Pour products come in Clear (#CW4510) and Murky (#CW4511) shades. There are also products to create waves (#CW4516) and Ripples (#CW4515) which are used to add texture to the surface of the water needed to match the scene. Woodland currently has nine different products to color and enhance the water's surface from blue and turquoise oceans to the

### *Making the water setting look like water.*



Almost every railroader wants to add a water scene to his layout, but in the past it's required a master modeler to make the scene actually look like water, but with Woodland's new line of Scenic Water Products it's now so easy anyone can do it.

murkiest backwoods pond.

Now that you've heard about the new line, the best way to demonstrate the products is to create a setting. Let's get started in making a scene and put each of the products into use along the way.

The first thing to do is take some of Woodland's Shaper Sheet. If you've not been offering this to your train customers it's time to get onboard. Shaper Sheet is this super thick foil covered in some white fuzzy stuff. It is super easy to bend and mold into any shape and the result is self-supporting.

To get started use a marker to outline the basic shape, in this case a pond that squeezes down and ends as a creek. A little folding and bending later and we're ready for the next step, brushing on some of Woodland's Shaper Sheet Plaster onto the fuzzy stuff (it's simply the best way I know to describe the material). The plaster is fine, thin enough to brush and it dries really fast.

After the first coat of plaster lay in some of Woodland's Creek Ready-Rocks. Suggest to the purchaser he take a few photos of nearby waterways to use as visual reference when he's working in his shop. For this project the goal is to simulate slowly moving water, so ripples and a few small waves were wanted, and so the water just wouldn't end blindly, the shacks would be added later for a point of interest.



Starting with Shaper Sheet, draw a rough idea of the desired outline, then bend and crinkle the sheet, forming the base, in this case it's a flowing creek that terminates in a small pond.



Since depth is needed the bottom of the setting is painted with the Silt Undercoat, which when combined with silt colored water will make the water appear deep.



Rocks are needed for the creek bed, and these were glued in place so they would not float to the surface when the water was poured.

After everything has dried and the edges that were formed when the plaster was brushed have been smoothed over, it's time to color the plaster. No dealer wants to send a customer out of house, but at times saving him money on the basics will lead to sales when he has a little cash left over to spend on specifics he can only get at your store.

In this situation I used some medium green from the local home improvement store sample rejects (I admit it, I'm cheap) and painted where the grass will be installed it covers the bright white plaster beautifully. From here Woodland's Silt Undercoat (#CW4535) was used in what will be the pond and creek bed. The same product was used to touch up the creek rocks where needed; the result of previously brushing on the Shaper Plaster.

Ponds and creeks have depth, and where the water is prevented from moving there is vegetation (encourage the photos). To create a little depth some very thin watered down black paint was used,

brushing it into the deeper areas then wiping the area with a damp paper towel, leaving just a hint of black in the crevasses. In nature, water moving over and around rocks is what generates the ripples we see. This was accomplished by adding some of Woodland's Natural look Medium Bluff Talus in those areas where ripples were wanted. Once happy with the layout, the features were then held in place with either Scenic Cement



In nature the rocks present in a creek bed make the water ripple and produce small waves, and where water isn't moving algae is growing. Encourage your customer to take some photos of the area he'd like to duplicate in scale and continue to refer to the photos when he's creating the water scene. The results will be well worth the small amount of effort required.

or thinned Foam Tack. At this point in time everything was allowed to dry until the adhesives were clear. If still foggy when the water material is poured, the adhesive will become locked in time and will be foggy forever.

We're getting really close, but before the water can be poured some grass and sand need to be added to the water's edge. Start by brushing a thin coat of glue where the sandy turf begins at the water's edge. This is one of the few times where glue can't be blobbed wherever. It's important to control where the glue is applied as this controls where the sand sticks. After the sand has set, spray some Scenic Cement over the entire area where grass is wanted and apply the green turf, and please don't just use one color, nature is full of shades, so lay in the same shades to the scene. When happy with the look apply a light mist of Scenic Cement over the entire project. This step will provide a little extra assurance that the grass and rocks stay where they are wanted and will not float to the top when the water is poured.

It sounds never ending, and even though there's been some time involved as adhesives are allowed to fully cure, it's been really simple, and a whole lot of fun, but there is still one more step before the pour.

The final step is to use a fan brush and thinned Olive Drab Undercoat (#CW4534). Using the fan, lightly go over the creek rocks and edges of the pond that will be closer to the surface. This will

simulate algae—scale is all in the details. Add some bits of turf pad at the pond's edge, but do not go overboard. If the scene dictates some reeds, rocks, or other growth, this is the time to add it. [Or forever hold your piece; couldn't resist the play on words - Ed]

Woodland supplies the product, cups, mixing sticks and plastic gloves. There is even a stick-on milliliter scale for each cup. Mixing as per the directions—2-to-1—base material and activator are easy and there are no foul fumes at all. It is necessary to mix the components completely, but not vigorously as you may create excessive air bubbles; we're not looking for a pot of whipped cream. After mixing the two components let it sit for a few minutes so reaction can get started. According to the instructions there is 20 to 30 minutes of working time, so take a minute to relax and regroup.

Now it's time for the water! The instructions are easy to comprehend and clear. Do not exceed ½ inch per pour. We purposely made our pond deep just so I could do two pours. The first pour was the silt colored water, which was laid into the deeper areas. Once happy with the first pour of silt colored water, per the instructions it was allowed to set for a few hours (four hours maximum) before being covered with a clear water pour. The whole idea was to simulate the look of depth and the transition from stagnant murky water to fast moving, and therefore clear creek water. Since the first pour was still tacky when the second layer was added both layers become one when fully cured.

As we know, when water moves over rocks ripples are created. This is perhaps the hardest effect to create. Woodland's Ripple (#CW4515) and Wave Water Gel (#CW4516) has made short work of that. Each jar has different viscosity to create each effect. Using a soft brush apply what appears to be more material than is needed to the areas where ripples are wanted. Use a press and pull motion to make little ridges in the material. By using a little more material allows it to flow out smoothly as it sets with the result of a completely

homogenous appearance when dry.

To maintain the sparkling water effect Woodland has its own cleaning putty; Dust Dabber (#CW4539). Like any railroad layout this one is always under construction, therefore dust is inevitable. Even though the water effect will be solid, you do not want to clean it with a paper towel and some cleaner, or it will eventually become scratched and turn dull. This gooey green putty is dabbed onto the water's surface and it pulls off the dust like the Blob from the classic movie (watch out for your figures!). The Dabber is reusable until it has consumed so much material that it is not sticky any more, but a jar will last for a considerable length of time.

Previously mentioned were three of Woodland's new HO shacks. Water can't just terminate in a dead end; it looks wrong, so I could not resist manning the water detail and the shacks. The Work Shed (#BR5057) would have fit anywhere along the water. All that was needed to make it come alive was the puppy either taking a sip or preparing for a swim (it's your imagination). The Work Shack (#5058) is constructed on posts, lifting the building ever so slightly off the ground, so it was destined for the area where the water is washing up on shore. A small skiff would be the perfect addition and it is in the works. The Tin Shack, (#BR5056) was added to the water scene as a fishing hut, but it could just as easily be a work building on any farm or a rail yard. Make no mistake, there are many applications where the shacks will fit perfectly, but in this application they were additions to the water scene.

I could not be happier with the results; a crystal clear flowing creek and a nice murky depth to the pond. By using Woodland products, going from concept to reality is easily done. All of its products are designed to work well together allowing the user to maintain a nice pace from project start to completion.

All the products demonstrated are available now from your favorite Woodland distributors. **HM**

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