

Model Railroad Construction Methods

Another reason I like Open Spline and FOAMBOARD Roadbed ...



Photo 1 Basic FOAMBOARD & Spline Roadbed

At the January meeting we showed a number of ways to build roadbed. My favorite has become Foamboard and I just found another reason I like it. I decided to add a crossover between the double mainlines. It was so easy to cut in the new track that I thought I'd show you in a few pictures. Photo 1 is a mockup of how my spline and Foamboard works. The 1 1/2" foamboard was contoured with a "hotwire" rig. Then 1/4" cork roadbed is added and flextrack with homemade turnouts on wood turnout plates. It's easy to remove the cork and old track if you use latex "Liquid Nails" glue to hold it down.

As soon as the old track was out I glued down some 1/4" thick wood plates cut to fit the switches and the tie outline. Edges were beveled for ballasting.



Photo 2 Adding wood turnout plates



Photo 4 The final arrangement



Photo 3 Wood ties & Ballast added

Ties were then laid out on white glue and ballast added while the glue is "wet".

Homemade turnouts went in next. Add switch machines, some debugging and it's done. Did I also say this roadbed method is FAST, CHEAP and STABLE? It sure is and it works. Glad I tried it.