



Techniques, Tools & Tidbits



SOLDERING	Soldering Stand	Good prevention against melted plastic ties! Caution: coil gets extremely hot!
	Solder the	Lead Free Very Thin Electrical Rosin Core for DCC soldering - Low melt. Electrical - do not use acid core, acid in connection will eventually corrode.
DECALS	Micro Set	Wetting agent to soften decal and position onto surface - after decal has been removed from sheet.
	>> Small decals	Lay wetted decal still on backing on surface, use Micro Set to "slide" off the backing, move decal into position.
	Micro Sol	Setting agent that adheres decal tight around & into surfaces. Use after decal has been positioned and dried. Apply sparingly, decal will break up & disintegrate with too much.
	Decal Scissors	Allow for easy and tight cuts.
PAINTING	Air-brushing	To get started, have a friend walk you through all the steps of his air-brushing of some simple paint job to remove the mystery
	Badger Paint Stirrer	Absolutely the best paint stirrer, use whenever paints need stirring, every time! Easy cleaning with rag.
	PBL Neolube	Paint those silver side rods and linkages. A graphite oil, is a lubricant but coats with a dark gray thin film.
	Micro Mask	Paint this light coating over surfaces to prevent paint adhering, and peel off after paint dries.
	Merlin's Wood Wizard Professor Plum's Purple Potion	Graying wood stain from light to dark. (Bragdon Ent.) Paint peeling look. Paint over grayed wood base, coat, paint, and use X-ACTO blade to chip away "peals". (Bragdon Ent.)
THIRD HANDS	Foam Cradle	A little expensive but worth the price for holding the loco or RR car at that awkward angle.
	Gripping Pliers	Edges have tiny teeth for extra grip.
	90 deg Clamps	Great for structures.
	Small Clamps Brass Bender	Great for holding small parts to paint. This with a razor blade will make perfect bends.
WINDOWS	Micro Kristal Klear	Makes a "dusty" (or non-clear) window in small openings, e.g., HO car windows.
ADHESIVES	Insta-Cure	New screw caps increase CA lifetime, and easier to open and not have clogged nozzle.
AGGREGATE	Coffee Grinder	A small investment at the grocery store, makes instant coal loads from those small pieces found in yards.
VISION	Goggle w/ lens	These fit over glasses, and serve as Safety glasses. Handy crawling around underneath the layout!

SURFACES	<p>Glass Plate</p> <p>Cutting Mat surface.</p>	<p>Great especially for gluing structures on a flat, square surface. Everything scrapes off with a razor blade. Has self healing from X-ACTO cuts, has lines on</p>
CUTTING	<p>Chopper</p> <p>X-ACTO Miter Box</p>	<p>Great for cutting several pieces of wood, material</p> <p>Great for miter cuts on materials with X-ACTO saw.</p>
ROLLING STOCK	<p>Postal Scale</p> <p>KaDee Coupler Gauge</p> <p>Lead Weight</p>	<p>Weigh your cars to get up to NMRA weight! Subtract ½ oz for HO with metal wheels.</p> <p>Check your coupler height, use washers or replace with offset upper or lower KaDee couplers.</p> <p>Tire weights and lead sheet is available. Heavy shears will cut the lead sheet.</p>
WATER	<p>Realistic Water</p> <p>-Woodland Scenics</p> <p>Water Effects</p> <p>-Woodland Scenics</p>	<p>Pours a little milky blue, but will clear up over time. Pour 1/8" deep at a time, prepare bottom. Dries clear. Ready mixed. Handles at room temperature. E-Z Water pellets not recommended. Dries yellow, not too handy, requires melting in a pot and pouring hot. Shape into waves, waterfalls. Dries clear. Add paint for "whitecaps". A "coagulated" Elmers glue goo. No mixing. Room temperature.</p>