

The Pilot

Editor Chris Burchett

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November/December 1999

Message From The Central Region Rep. -

Well, the year 1999 was a great year for the Central Region, as well as the TAMR as a whole. Conventions were held left and right all over the nation. Even the railroad industry was changed all over, with the merger of Conrail. The Central Region also has started a tremendous growth, and has jumped almost 10 members since the beginning of the year!! I would like to thank everyone for making the year 1999 a great one, and I hope that the year 2000 (and the entire millenium) is even better!!! The only thing I hope, is that the electric stays on, and the TAMR (and the world) can keep functioning as always. So, thanks again for making '99 a great one, and see you all next year. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year (respectively)!!!!!!!***

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Articles

If you would like to submit any articles, please either e-mail me at TAMRcentrl@hotmail.com, or snail-mail me at-

Chris Burchett, 30150 Ilesboro Road, Logan, OH 43138 -

I would be most grateful if you sent in any articles!! It can be about anything like your layout, railfanning trip you took, info about an RBU meet, ANYTHING!!!! The deadline for articles will be on the 15th of every two months. That way the *Pilot* can get sent out in a timely fashion. Thanks!!!***

LOASSB - NOODLEMANIA PART 3: TRAFFIC LIGHTS (THE SEQUEL)

BY PETER MAURATH

Call off the traffic cops because it's time to put in some lights! This issue we'll be building the three-light traffic signal. To keep it simple, we'll be building the three-light traffic signal, though once you have mastered these skills, you can advance to build more complicated configurations that I will touch on later this issue.

Let's get right to business, starting with the backing for the traffic lights. Begin with a small section of thin cardstock (preferably cereal box cardboard) no smaller than a 3x5 card. Paint it flat black on both sides (while it's drying, paint a section of spaghetti noodle flat yellow; we'll use this later). Once dry, pick a corner to start from and cut 1/16" (2mm) slits in the cardboard (Fig. 1), and be sure not to cut the strips completely off. The number of strips you make will depend on how many lights you want to build.

Next, take a section of noodle you painted yellow and cut off 1/16" (2mm) sections for use as the actual lights. Cut more than you need, since a lot of them do not cut straight or they chip. The beauty of N-scale is that at this scale, no one could tell if they're dead straight or all the same height anyway, though try to keep them close. Starting with the bottom of the first cardboard strip, glue (for this I recommend white glue) three 1/16" (2mm) noodle sections, that will make up the traffic light, as close together as possible (Fig. 1). This is the part that takes the most practice. Once the glue is dry, paint the edges of each noodle section flat black. You now have a "blank" traffic light. It's up to you which position you want to paint

it in - stop, go, or floor it...I mean, caution. Once you have decided, and the paint is dry, cut away your light (Fig. 1).

Now we apply the hanger that will suspend it from the support pole. I make mine out of fine wire pulled from a section of old window screening (get permission before you go ripping apart screen doors). Cut into a section a couple of inches long, and, using ACC, glue to the back of the traffic light (Fig. 2). Once dry, cut the wire down 'til it extends approximately 1/8" (3mm) from the top of the traffic light. To glue to your support post, first set down the pole on a flat surface in the direction you want the light to face. Just below the arm of the support, set another spare noodle (Fig. 3). This will function as a lower support while the light dries. Now apply glue to the tip of the extending wire and place it where you want it on the pole. Repeat this process a few times, and place the pole (or poles) on that busy intersection. You are finished, for now.

You have the basic design - now experiment. There are many different variations of lights from left/right turn signals to multi-directional lights (Fig. 4). These techniques even apply to other flashing lights for tight curves, school zones, ect. (Fig. 4).

That wraps it up for this issue, though I have a confession to make. The **Noodlemania** series will run one more issue (making it 5) as we explore the miscellaneous uses of that fine noodle. Be there!

Bill of Materials:

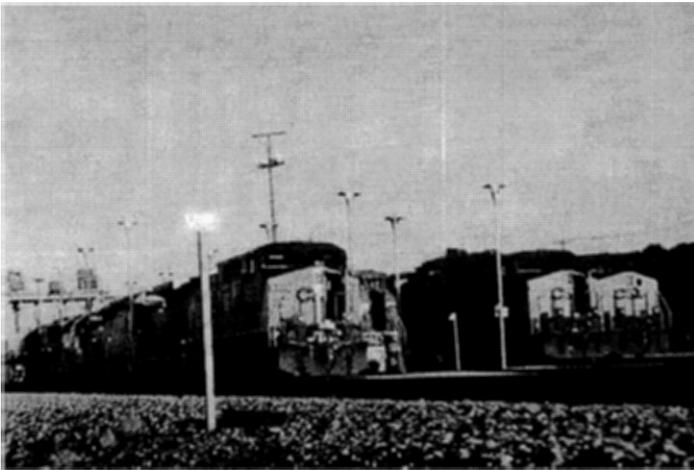
Spaghetti noodle; cardstock (cereal box); fine wire (window screening); Testors flat black, yellow, red, and green; ACC (Super Glue); Elmers White Glue.***

Photo Time!!

This is where TAMR Central Region members can show off their photos, whether it be the most recent, or the latest!! E-mail or snail-mail your photos to me!! If snail-mailed, I will send them back upon request. Sooo, here are some photos!!!



HLCX SD45 #6514 setting in CSXT Parsons Yard (ex-HV) in Columbus, Ohio. On the fuel tank, some wrote in the dirt "The Real Train Chasers '99." Photo by Chris Burchett.



CSXT engines all setting at the fueling racks in CSXT Russell Yard, Russell, KY. The one on the left is AC44 #333 and an ex-CR unit is barely visible next to it. Photo by Chris Burchett.



MNNR RS20 #307 sits in a yard near the Twin Cities with a sister ALCO behind her. This unit is rare, as there are only three left. Photo by Andy Inserra.

central region news

Two great conventions were held on the same weekend during October!! One wasn't able to be published in the last issue of the *Pilot*, as it was decided upon too late to be put in the *Pilot*. However, both were very exciting. Lewis and the GPD (Great Plains Division) gang had a great weekend, as well as the Logan, Ohio, area. Both were on the weekend of Oct. 22nd-26th.***

Convention News

Mini-Convention: Yet another convention will be held in Ohio. The dates are set for December 17th to 20th. Activities planned are layout operating of the LSRS, railfanning, HVSR trip (Christmas train), and other things. So contact Chris Burchett if you're interested in coming. Address: 30150 Ilesboro Road, Logan, Ohio 43138; Phone: (740)385-6654; E-mail: the_rail_master@hotmail.com. Space is limited, so let him know by December 12th.***

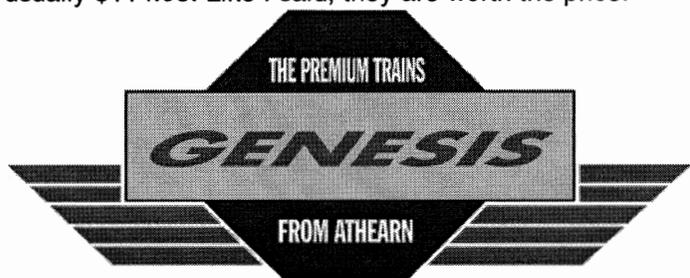
Product Review: Athearn Genesis Series SD75I

By Chris Burchett

The HO scale Athearn Genesis Series SD75I (Isolated Cab) is among the finest in ready-to-run locomotives. Released in the first part of 1999, it is a quality locomotive, and worth the price. It rivals Kato locomotives, and is slightly cheaper, but not much. Roadnames include BNSF (2 #'s, plus one NO #), and an Undecorated version. SD75I's are distinguished by the deep groove that runs along the top of the nose, and down both sides of the cab.

Features included are as follows: state-of-the-art tooling for the body and details; Beuhler can motor (German), 5-pole with twin flywheels; blackened nickel-silver wheels with correct profile; constand (and I mean constant!) directional lighting; circuit board that's DCC-ready; new drive train; see-through dynamic grills on side of locomotive and see-through "Q" fan grills; scale diamond plate surface on walkway; cab interior; and opening nose door (very cool!).

I bought the Undec. version and painted it up in my railroad, the Logan Southern Rail System. It turned out pretty good, and they do run excellent. Very quiet!! You wouldn't think that it isn't an Athearn product. The price is usually \$114.95. Like I said, they are worth the price!***



Top Seven Rejected Locations for the 2002 Nat'l Convention Site

By Peter Maurath

7. On metro bus 2274 en route to stockyards;
6. Laguardia International Airport;
5. Cardboard box overlooking scenic highway overpass;
4. Wehatetrains, UT;
3. Waco, TX;
2. Three-mile-island, PA;
1. Zehnerville, AK*****



FIGURE 1

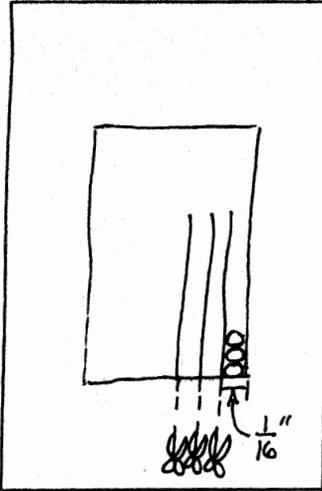


FIGURE 2

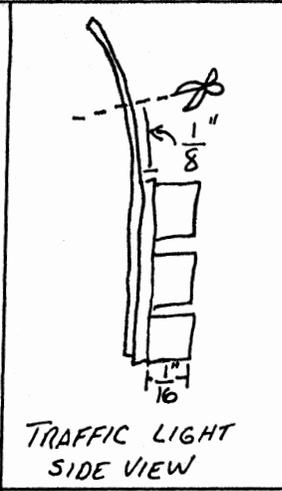


FIGURE 3

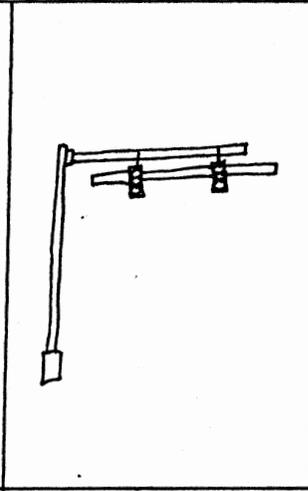
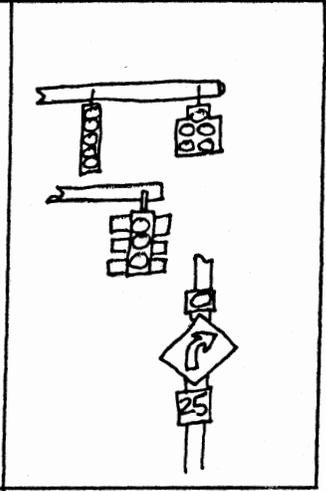


FIGURE 4



CEDAR FALLS COMMUNICATIONS
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