

# Birmingham Southern Model Railroad



A photograph of a model railroad layout. In the background, a long, multi-arched bridge spans a valley. In the foreground, a creek flows over rocks, creating a small waterfall. The scene is surrounded by green foliage and trees. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**Add A Railroad Bridge  
And  
Creek Scene  
To  
Your Layout**

**Why do this ?**

**Why not ?**

- **Adds interest to the layout**
- **Lets you use several scenery products and techniques in a small area**
- **Can give that “WOW” factor to a layout**
- **Can add points to AP Scenery Certificate**
- **Fun to do (?)**

# **What comes first – the bridge or the water?**

**Depends on:**

**Type of creek, stream or river you want...**

**Type of bridge you want to use.....**

**Location and era you are modeling.....**

# What about the water?

**Wide**

**Deep**

**Narrow**

**Shallow**

**Slow Moving**

**Smooth**

**Fast**

**Rocky**

**Rapids and/or Water Falls**











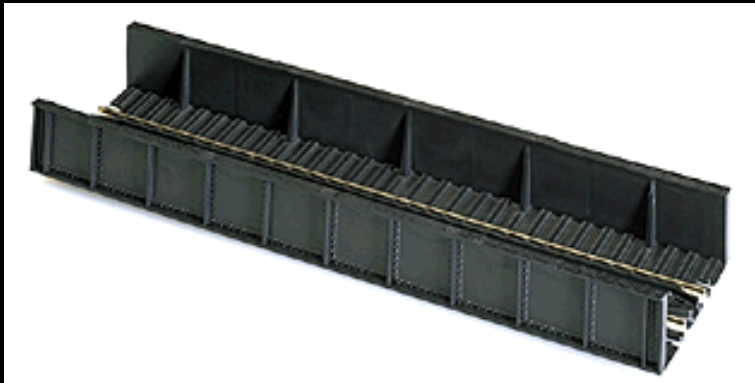
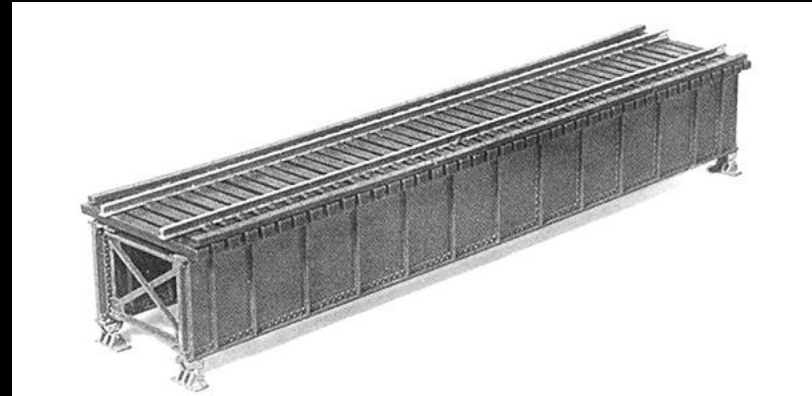
# Common Types of Bridges

## Truss



# Common Types of Bridges

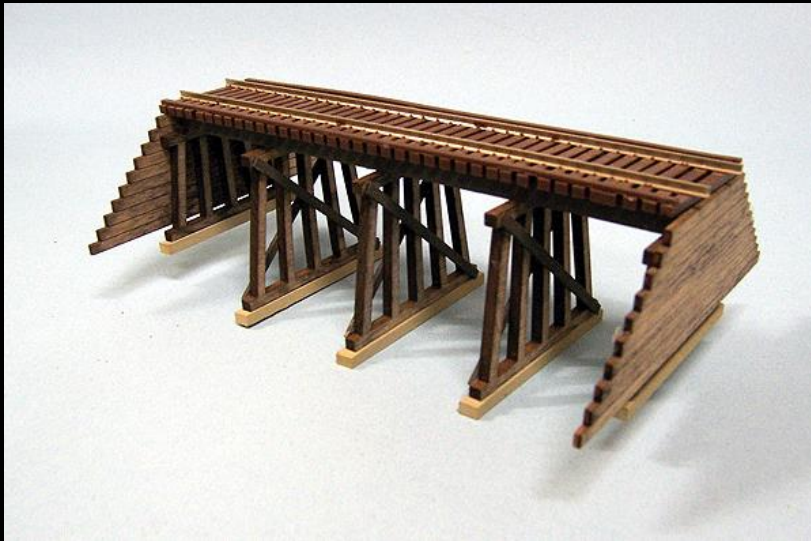
## Girder

A 3D rendering of a single steel girder beam, showing its internal web and flange structure. The beam is dark gray and has a series of vertical stiffeners along its length.



# Common Types of Bridges

## Trestle



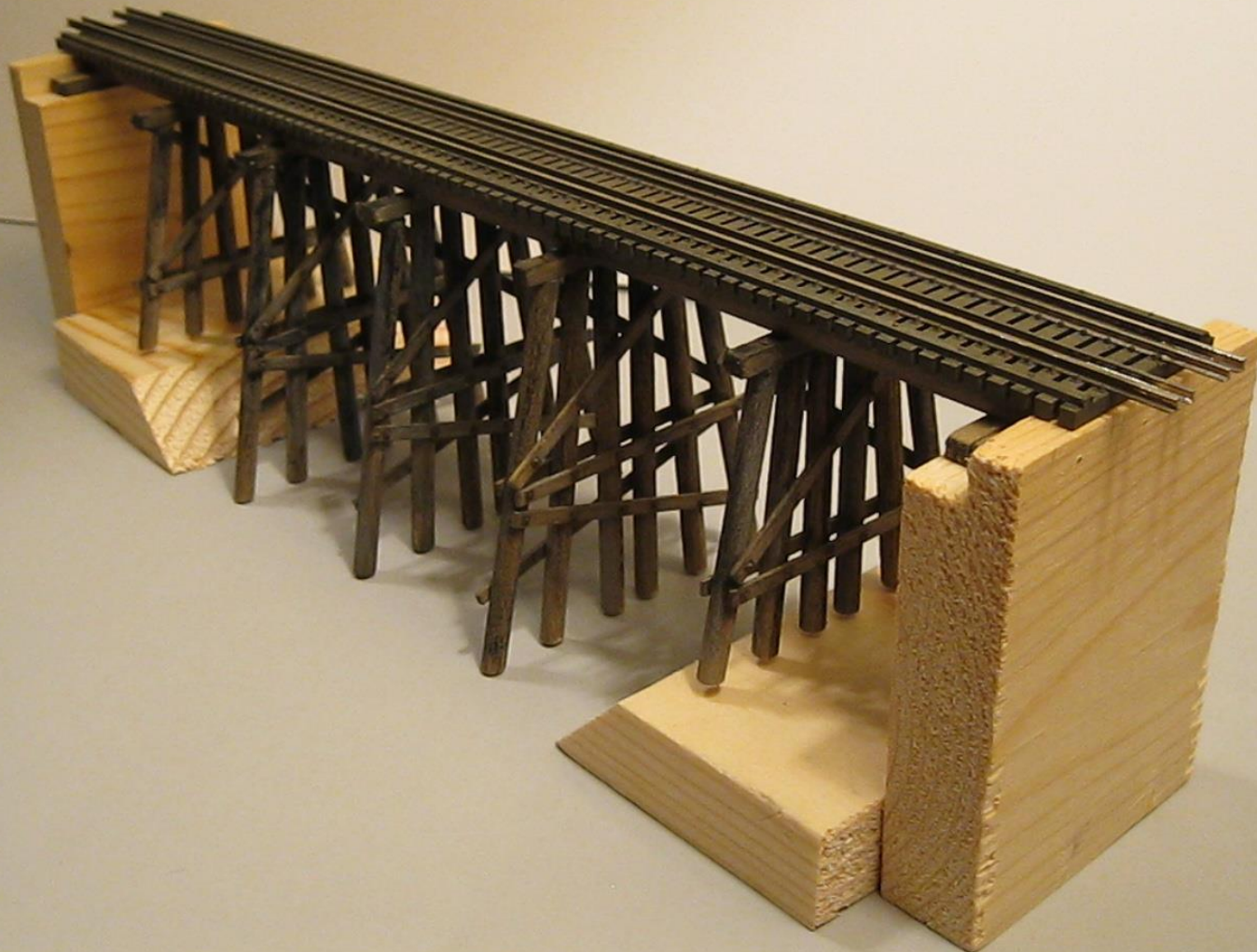


**On a three mile stretch of track near Birminghamport,  
Birmingham Southern has 11 bridges over Short Creek.  
9 of these bridges are wood trestles**





# Scratch built trestle



**Make a place for the scene.**





# Prepare the scene location





# Start building up the creek sides and banks



Foam insulation  
Cardboard lattice

Rock castings  
Dams to hold the water



Add plaster cloth





Paint creek bottom and banks  
Fit bridge



Continue painting





Add rocks



Paint bridge abutments  
Attach the rocks

Add bridge  
Add Sculptamold or plaster





Add small rocks at falls  
Add basic scenery

Add rip rap under bridge  
Blend paint edges - airbrush works best





Add dams to hold water

Add bottom layer of falls

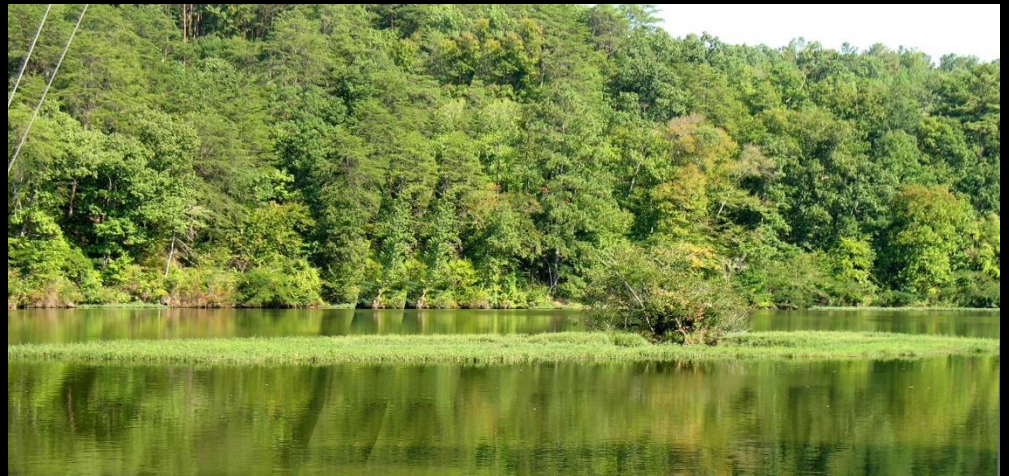
Gloss Heavy Gel works best



**Add a background photo (optional)**



Black Creek -  
A mile south of  
Birmingham on the  
Warrior River





**Pour the water.**  
**I used Magic Water by Unreal Details.**





**Adds interest to the layout**

**Lets you use several scenery products  
and techniques in a small area**

**Gives that “WOW” factor to a layout**

**Can add points to AP Scenery Certificate**

**Fun to do (?)**

**Important!**  
**Be sure to seal the edges of dams**  
**and any scenery near the water**



**These weren't done properly**







These banks were sealed correctly.





**Start building up the falls and rapids.  
I used Liquitex Gloss Heavy Gel.**





**Dry brush white paint to show foam, add another layer of gel and start adding more scenery material.**





**Add some bushes and trees, and maybe a canoe.**





**Throw in a train.....**



**....and your done!**



## **Some Products used:**

Woodland Scenics - Plaster cloth

Lightweight Hydrocal

Assorted ground covers

Rock Molds

Tree kits

Scenic Express –

Super Trees

Noch Leaf Flake

Unreal Details –

Magic Water

DAP –

Plaster of Paris

Drywall Joint compound

Liquitex -

Gloss Heavy Gel Medium

Amaco -

Sculptamold

**Questions?**