

DETAILING STRUCTURES

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Let's cut straight to the point, buildings on a layout need details to make them realistic.

Building structures these days from the wide range of laser-cut kits that are available makes it easy for the modeler to create the realism on a layout however it is the "Super Detailing" that really brings any structure into a viewer's attention to give pleasure.

Buildings are important on a layout because they often represent the line side points that give purpose to the railroad, places where goods & services are managed by RR users.

Where does one start ?

This is pretty easy because all buildings can be super detailed with a wealth of detail parts available these days from hobby shops.

FOUNDATION

Most buildings are just "plonked" onto the layout without a proper foundation base or stumps & here is a place where we can start – at the ground level.

Bricks – wall or piers

Stone - blocks

Timber - stumps



ELECTRICAL

A building will have electrical power to it so we need to look for meter/fuse boxes mounted on the wall with conduit wires & maybe a lamp or two.

There may be a power pole & or a telegraph line & pole with a street lamp.

Meter box

Electrical conduit

Exterior lights / lamps

Interior lights & lamps

Illuminated signs



PLUMBING



A building has plumbing & the pipes are often seen on the outside walls with a tap & drain. We can also add roof vents.

Tap – on side wall

Drain Pipes & gutters

Water & Waste pipes with drain

Water meter

Waste vent pipe

Larger toilet pipes

So what is “super detailing” exactly ? In simple terms it is adding all those tiny bits of items that make a building look & appear to be real, the process of fully finishing off the structure along with the common bits of junk that are left around.



Then there is the weathering, peeling faded paint, worn walls & roof & the idea of aging of the building materials, yet some buildings can look new & fresh but paints straight from the bottle or tube won't look right under artificial lighting so how do we get the right “look” to something new ?

The answer to paint is to add white to any colour to tone down the bold colours & this works for indoors.

The building we will be detailing & using as an example is a kit that is part of another clinic here at the NMRA's 25th anniversary – a small line side office made from wood.

Examples or detailing will be shown during the clinic.