

Derry Fun Night Backdrops



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Backdrops- Introduction

- Sky and clouds- practice making your own clouds
- Perspective
- Design elements
- Backdrop choices- commercial products
- Flats, layers and angles
- How to create your own photo backdrops





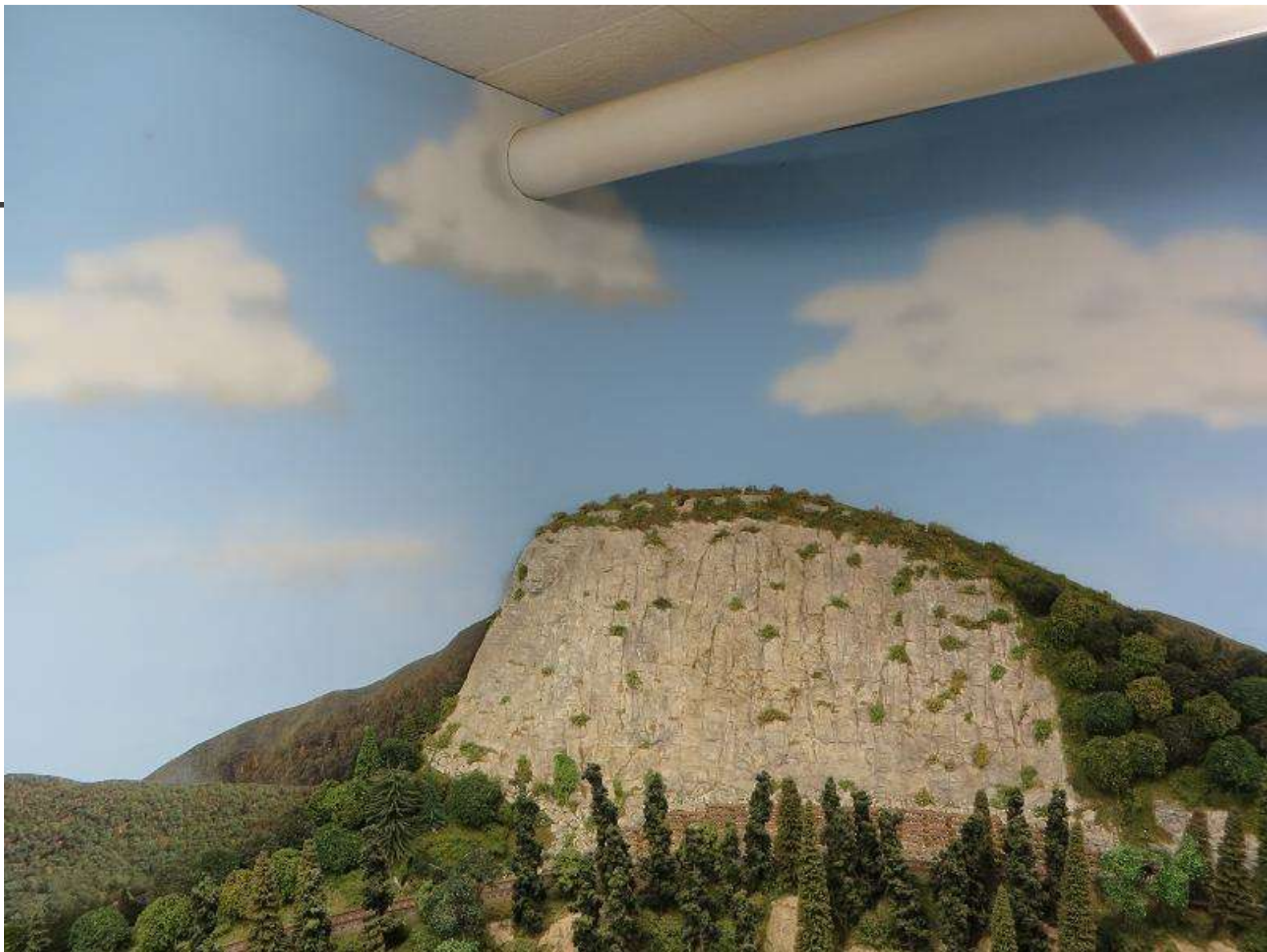
Backdrops

- Size of your layout
- Defines and confines your space
- Expands the space of your layout
- Gives distance, perspective
- A sense the scene exists in the real world, sets the scene
- Improves overall appearance
- The back 1/2inch or 1/8inch



Construction

- After ceiling and lights
- Wallboard, sheetrock
- Cement wall, cinder block
- 1/8" tempered Masonite on strapping
- Sheet styrene: 0.040 or 0.060"
- Sheet aluminum, or linoleum





Sky

- Uniformity
- Trickery to expand your world
- Baby blue at the top with roller
- White at the bottom with separate roller
- Blend with 3rd roller or brush
- Spray system (MR 9/15 Gerry Leone)
- Mood- “always a sunny day”, brighter

Clouds





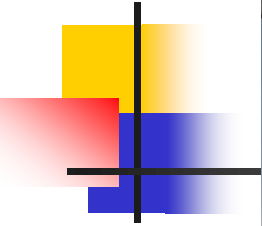
Clouds

- Many varieties- high cirrus, low stratus
- Fair weather cumulus clouds, billow upward with flat bottoms
- Spray- white billowy top and light or medium gray flat bottom
- Stencil- New London Industries
- Make your own stencil

Clouds









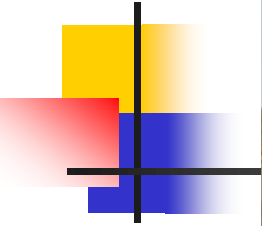
Backdrops

- 2 schools of thought
- Keep them loose and abstract, avoid competition for the viewers, looks at the trains
- Make them realistic, so don't detract from the realism of the overall scene
- Your mind registers the backdrop, and moves on to the trains



Perspective

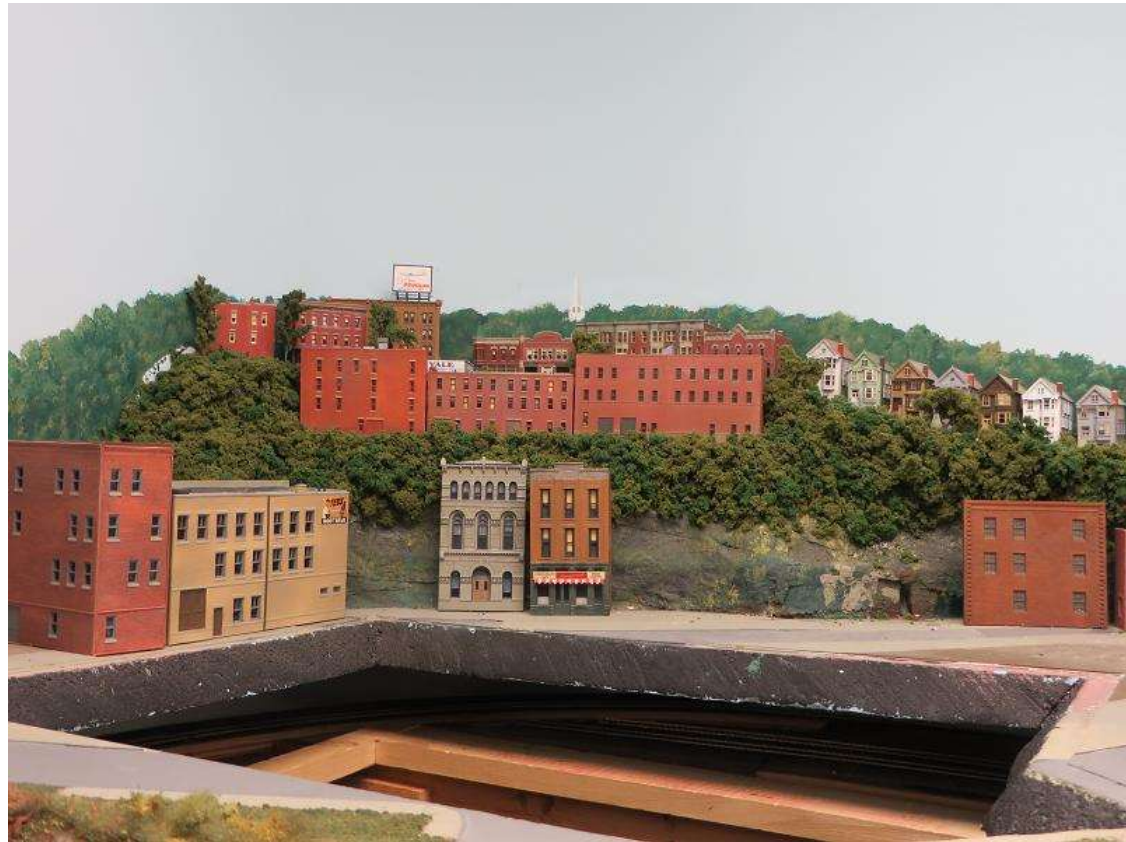
- Going from 3-D foreground to 2-D background
- Eye level scenes and backdrop
- Smaller scale buildings and trees can achieve a sense of distance- 20-25% smaller
- Distant backgrounds become lighter color, more white and gray added





Forced Perspective

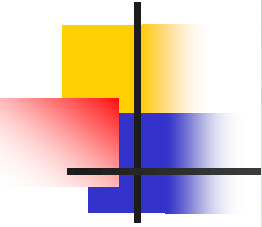
- Full scale models in the foreground
- Progressively smaller models behind

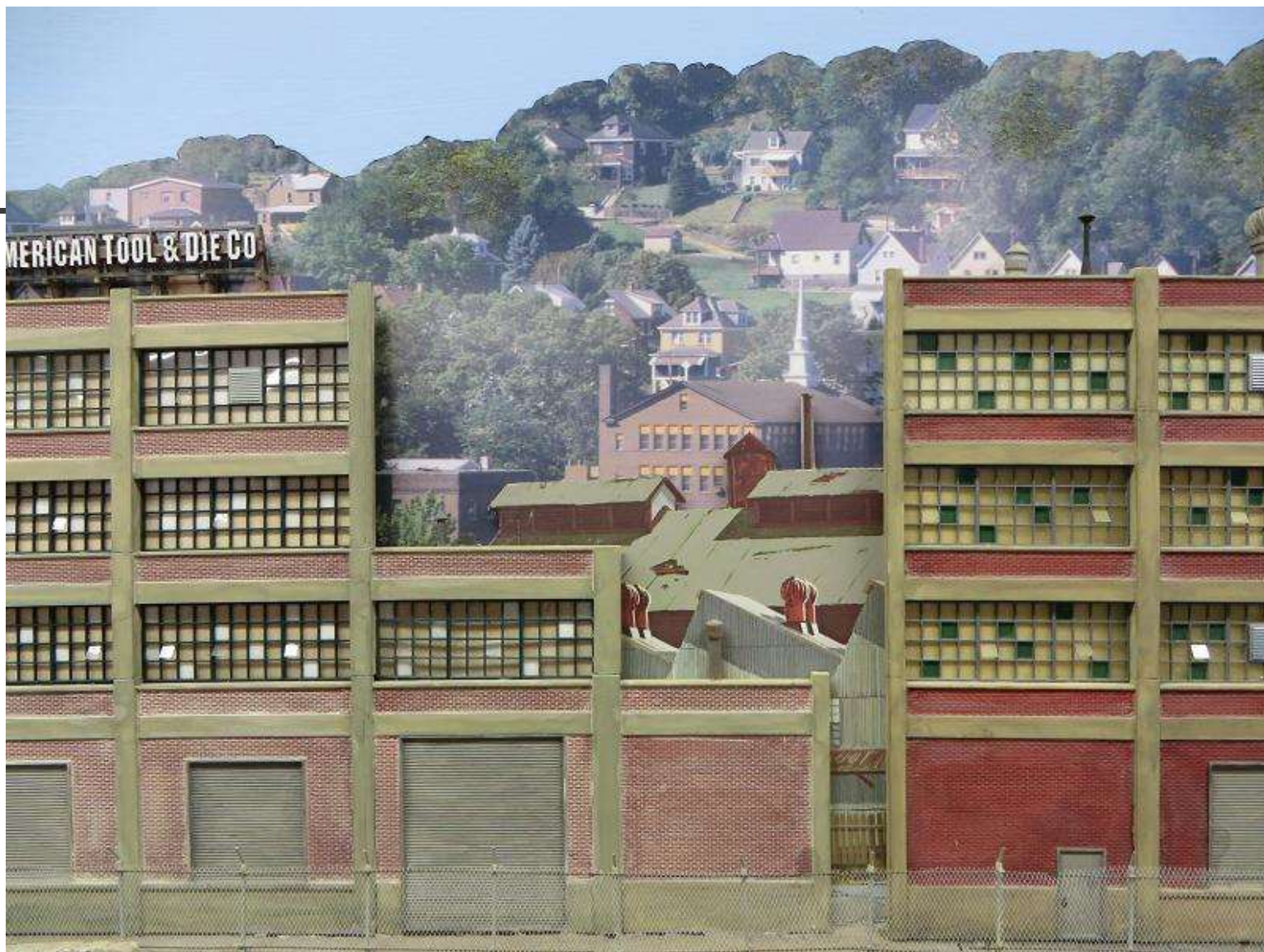


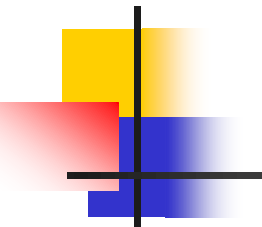


Design Elements

- Hide the backdrop interface
- Make it smooth, not abrupt
- A small rise just in front
- Transition- small bushes, low fence
- Use background paint onto backdrop
- Match color of ground cover, dirt, trees
- Overlap pictures for depth







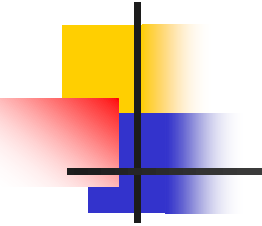


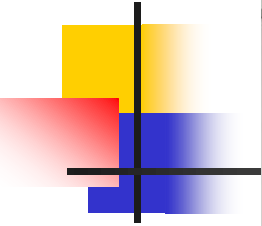
Choices for Backdrops

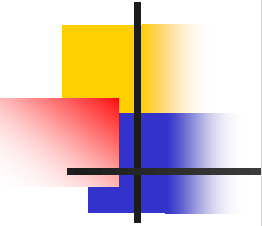
- Hand paint
- Commercial Artistic Backdrops
- Commercial Photographic Backdrops
- Use your own photographs

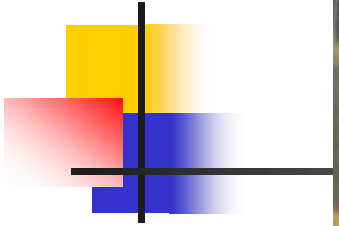
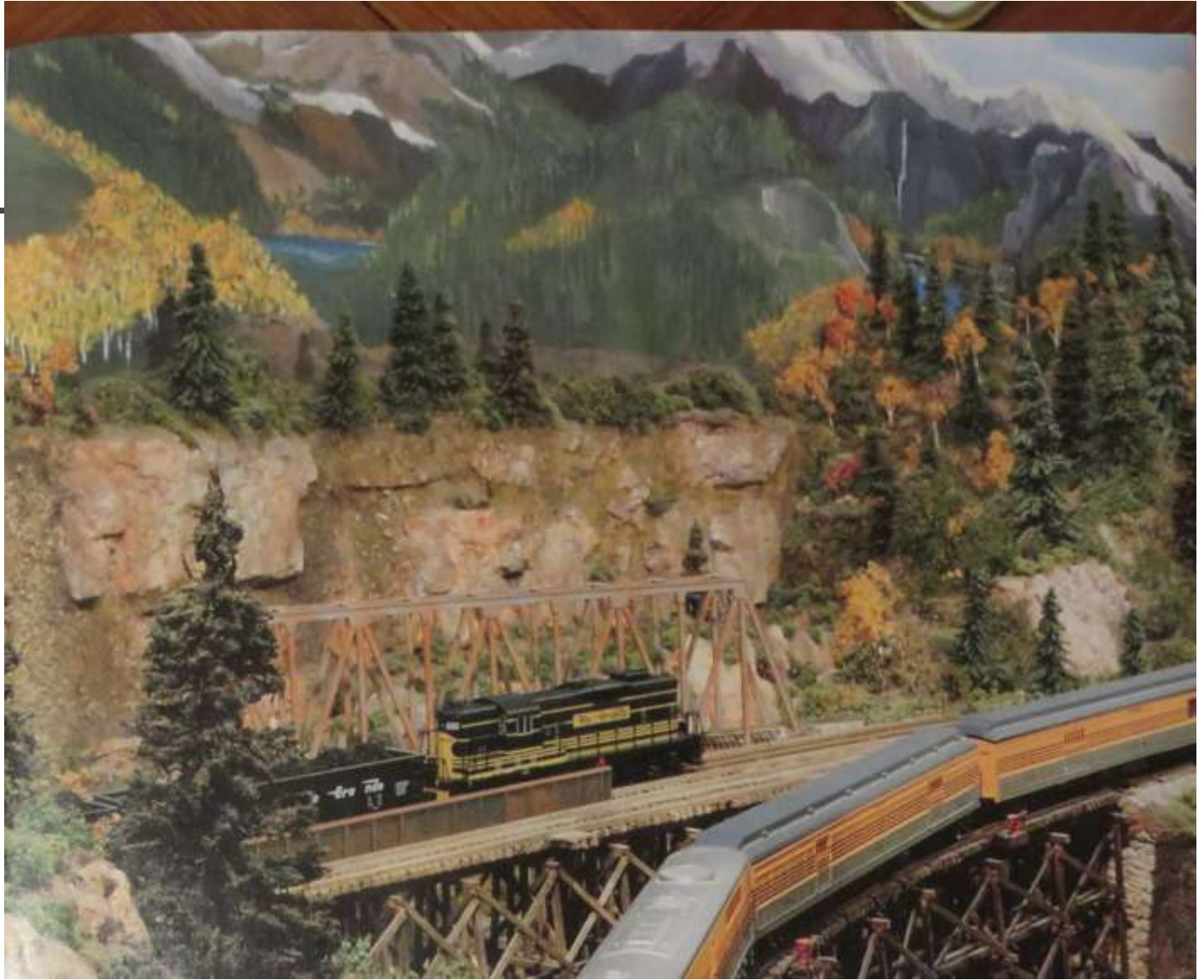
Hand painted Backdrops

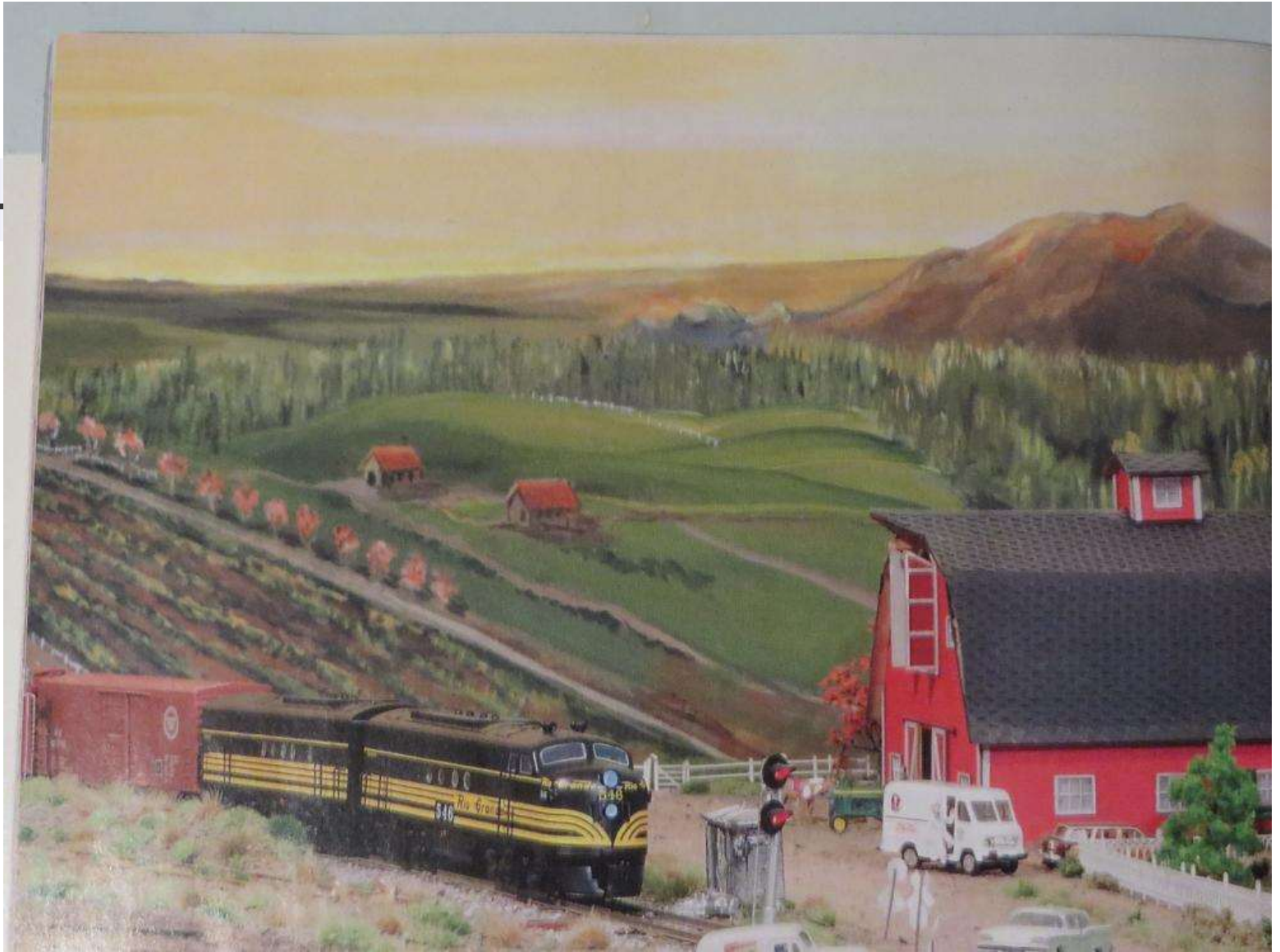


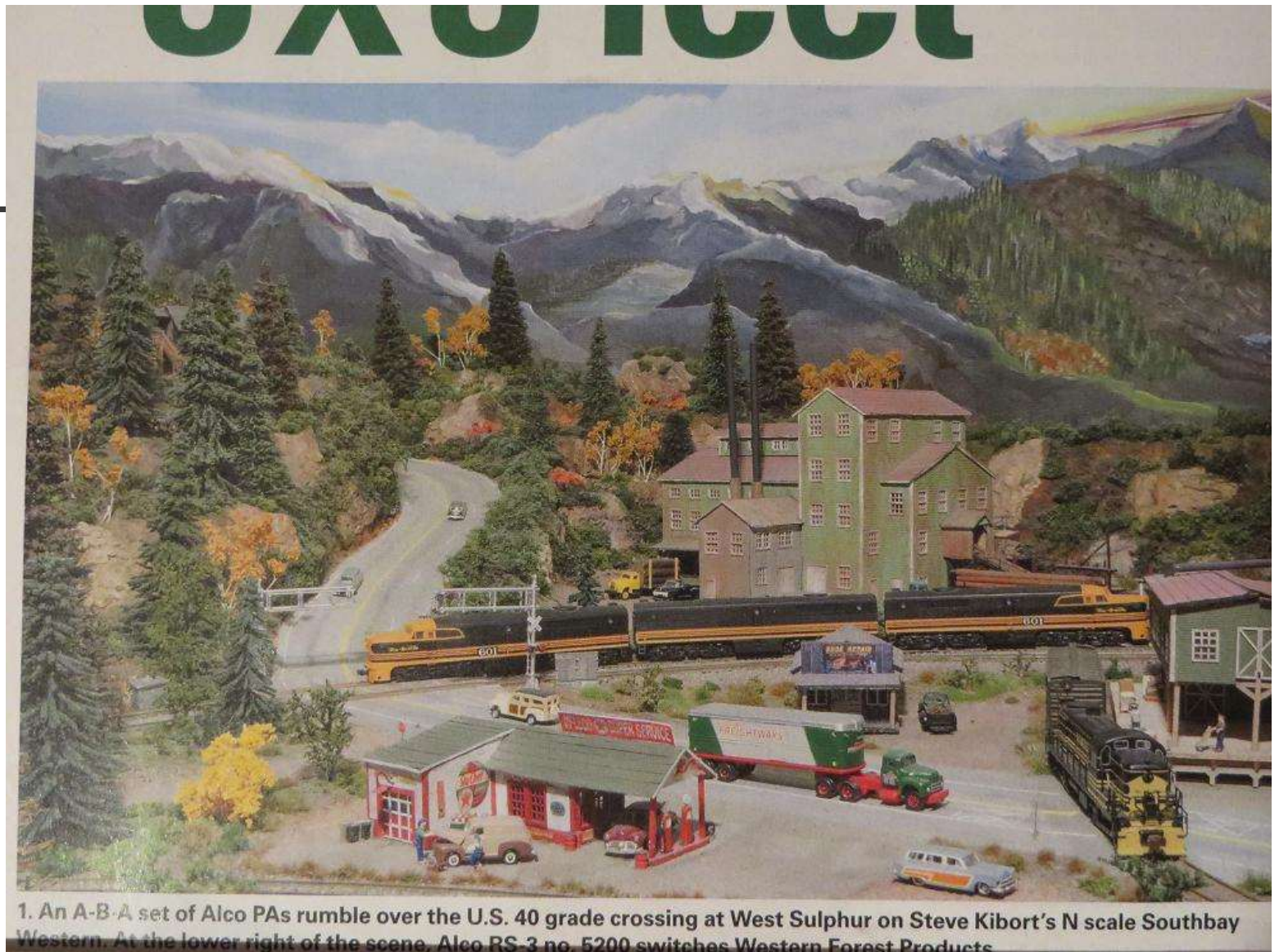








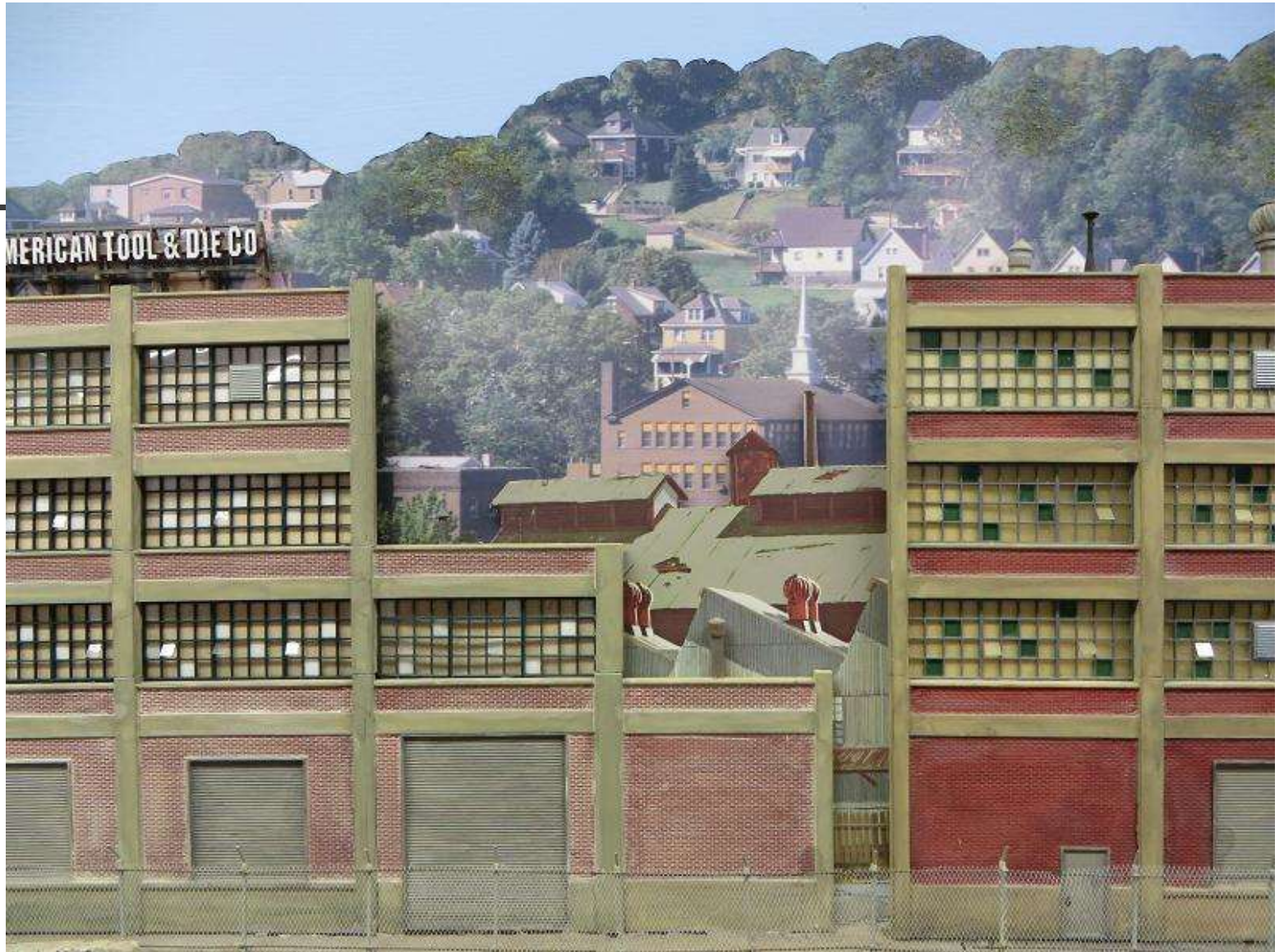


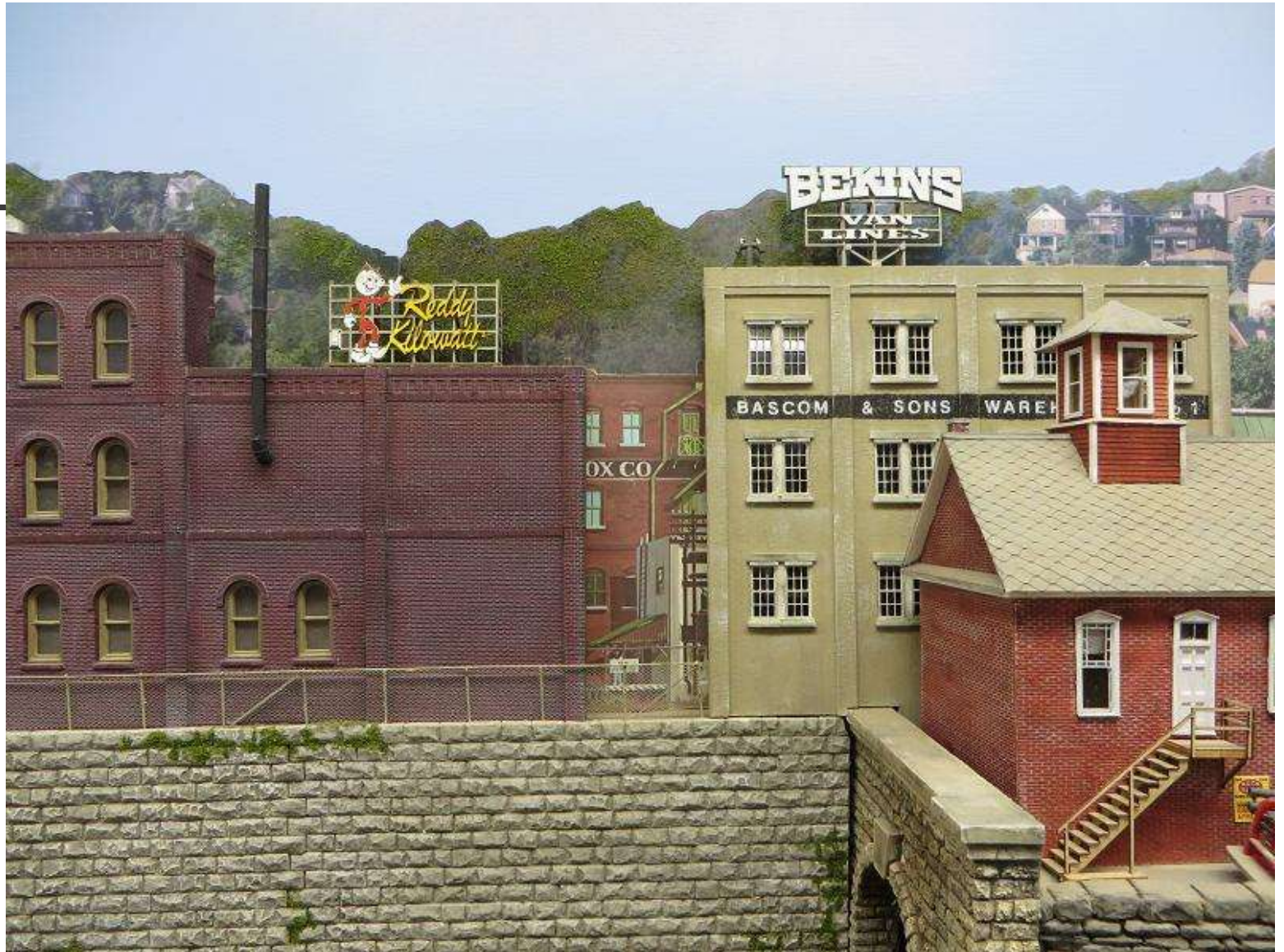


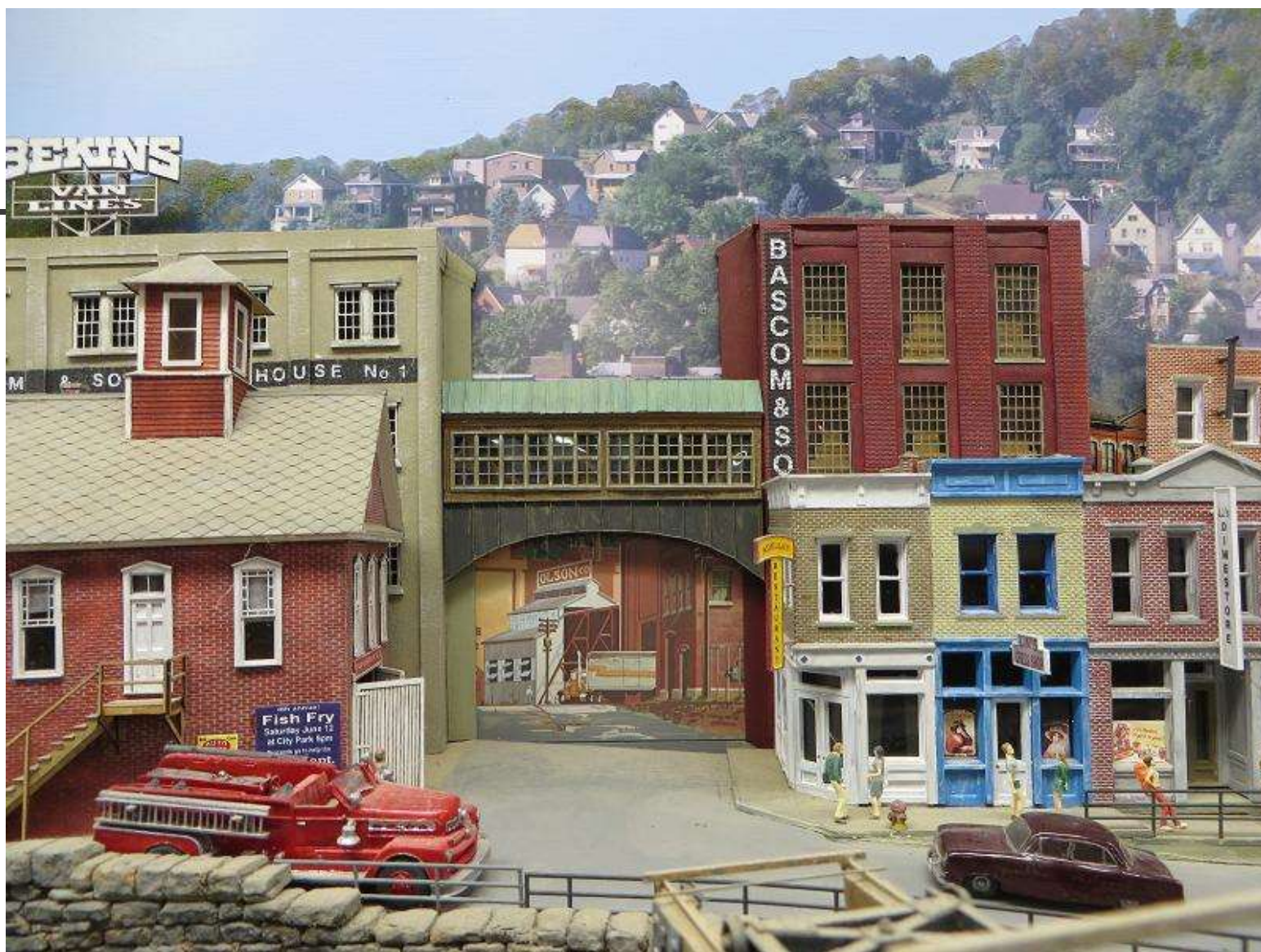


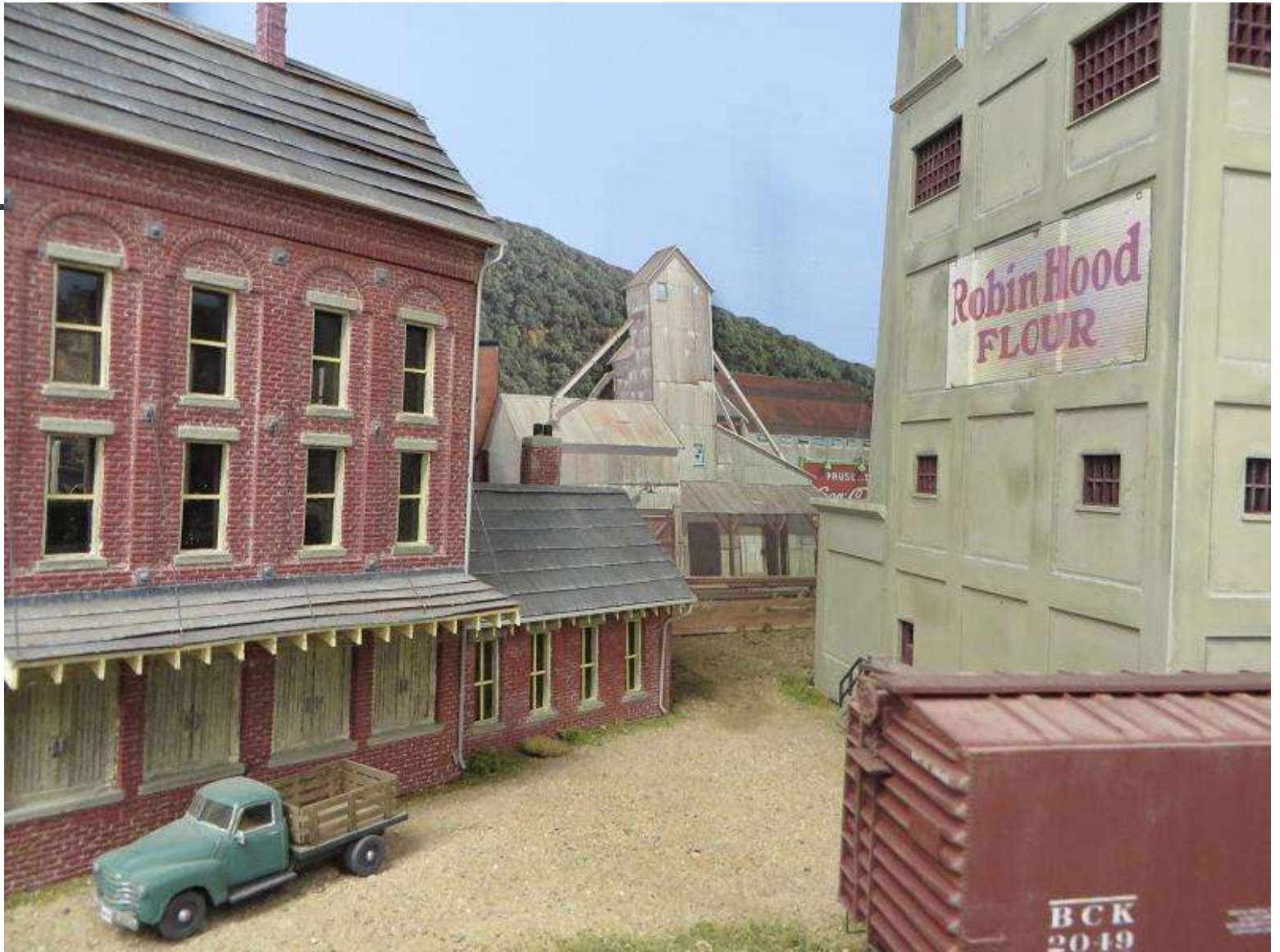
Printed Artistic Drawings

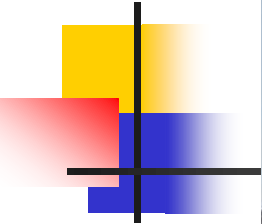
- Walthers Instant Horizons (Scene Master): city, dessert, mountain, rural, transition; 24"x36"
- Scene Master Instant Buildings: more of a drawing, Back Street Structures, Industrial District, Main Street, Old West









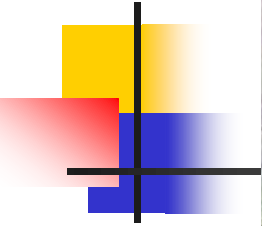




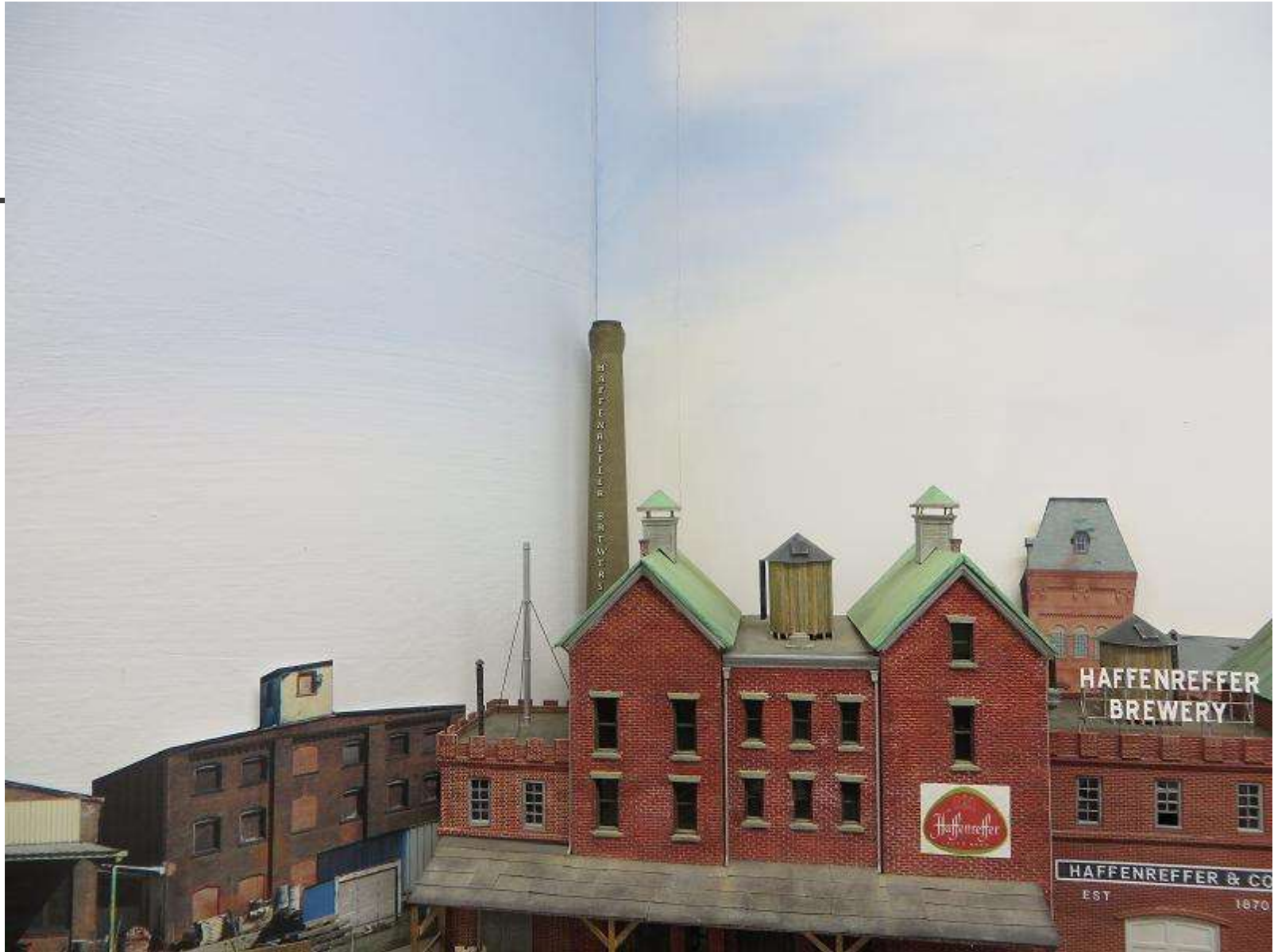
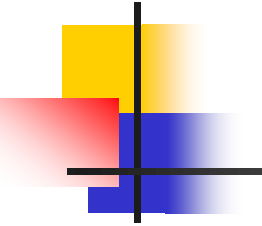


Mounting

- On to wall; certainly large distant scenes
- On to matte board, black foam board; when only buildings
- 3M Adhesive spray, Goo, white glue, double sided tape
- 1/8" or 1/4" wood strip at bottom
- Seams- trees, structures, smoke stacks



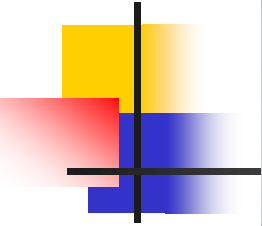




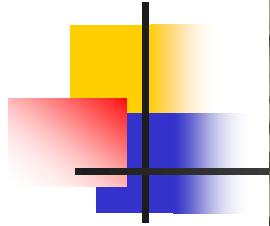


City Scapes

- Complete buildings, Partial buildings
- Flats: leftover styrene walls, modular building components, pictures mounted on matte board
- Layering
- Angled buildings, not just flat, draw your eye



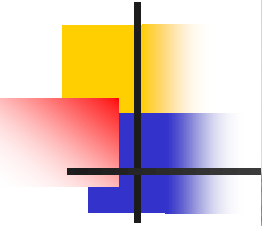


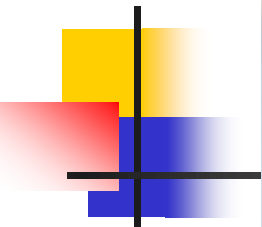


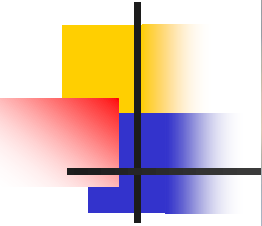


Commercial Photo Backdrops

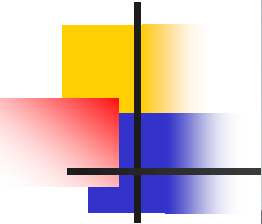
- Sceniking- kits-\$25-\$46, 79"-102"- 8 feet
- DQCI,inc-38"x13", city, industry, hills;
Realistic Backgrounds, 17 diff, through Scenic Express, \$12
- Kingmills Enterprise
- LARC Products-Railroad Graphics 5 vol CDs-
custom size, up to 12 feet, \$10
- Background Junction- up to 220"-18 feet
- Background Warehouse
- Trackside Scenery

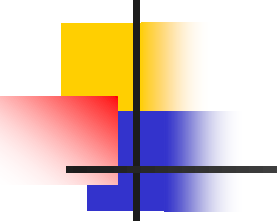








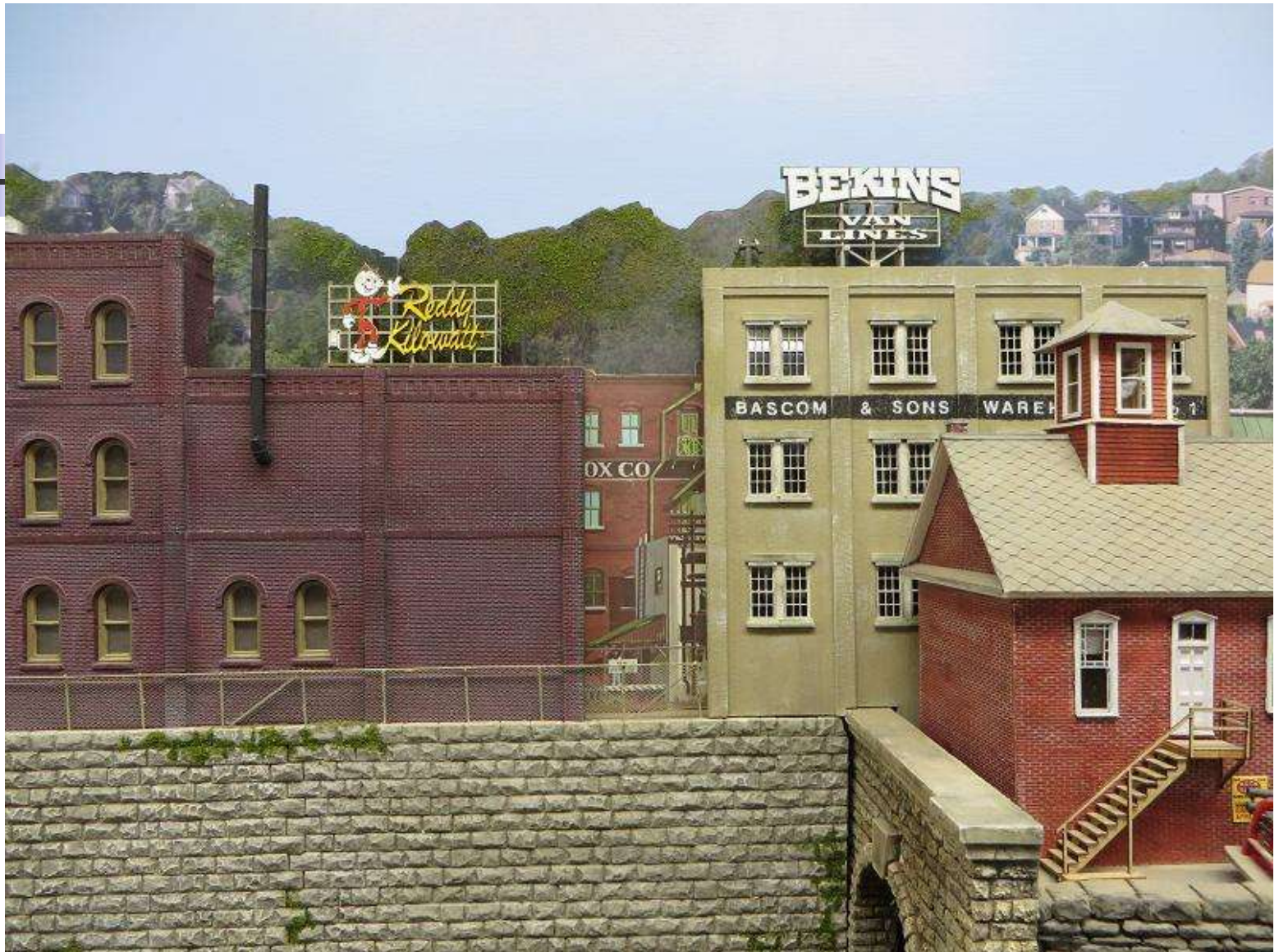






Backdrops

- Cut off all sky- painted uniform sky
- Print on 65 weight paper
- Cut irregular line along tree line (black, brown or green marker), or leave some sky and paint edge white
- Add texture- spray on or brush on glue, Woodland Scenic grass









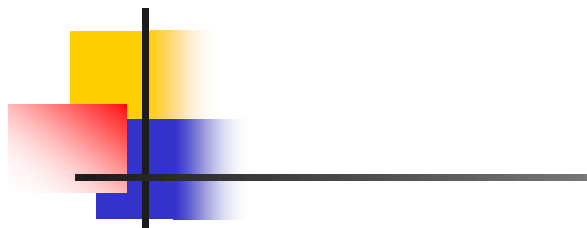
Creating your own Photo Backdrops

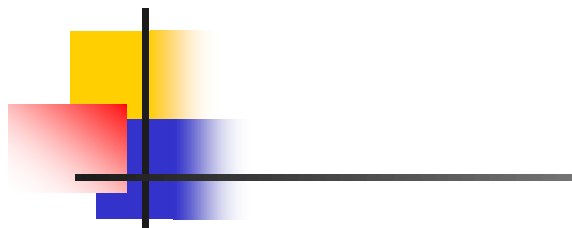
- Digital camera with zoom, 5 megapixel resolution
- Computer
- Printer- ink jet, lazer
- Programs- Adobe Photoshop Elements
- Personalize your railroad with familiar scenes, identify a location that you are trying to model



Photos

- Avoid too many details
- High sun or overcast, limit shadows
- Panorama of photos- tripod, far away
- Camera horizontal, no tilt
- Zoom lens, take several, vary size
- Angle the view of your scene for needs of your layout- 30-45 degrees

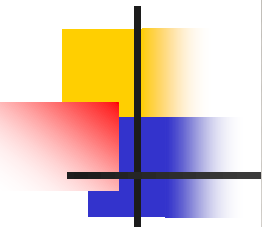


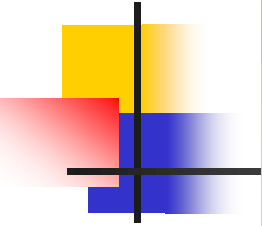


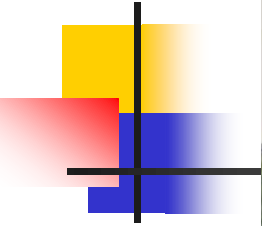


Photos

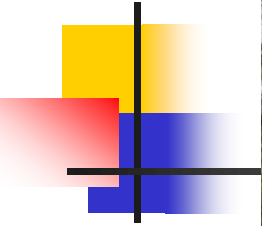
- Print on 65 weight paper, not photo paper
- Paint over objects that you don't want- cars, roofs, signs, etc
- Cover with ground foam or a bush
- Telephone poles and electric wires can be useful

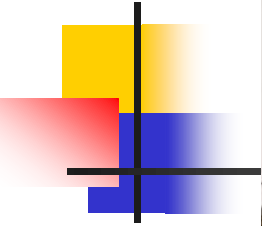




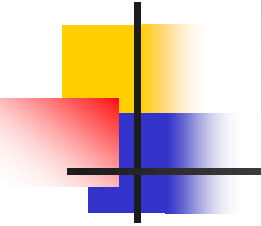




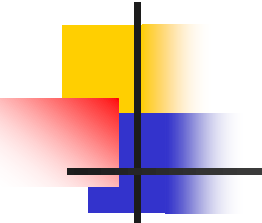






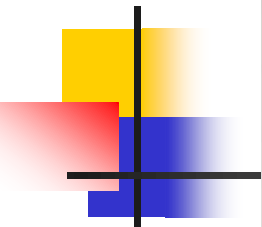














Summary

- Have a uniform sky, clouds are fun
- Smooth transition from layout to the backdrop with a rise, bushes, and paint
- Perspective- overlap pictures, smaller
- Atmospheric haze, lighter colors
- Use different products- cut and mix
- Angle pictures to lead your eye
- Create your own photo backdrop