

**A page from the “Lineside Scenery” series ...**

## **Stomping some good looking Cliffs and Cuts**

I've been trying to find a way to easily get the broken shale look of a rock cliff or sides of a railroad cut. While looking up at the upstairs ceiling it hit me! They “stomped” them with a tool while the plaster was still soft and left a pattern . Why not make a tool and stomp the wet plaster or spackling on a layout? I did and it worked. I ended up with the most realistic ones I've produced yet. It was far quicker than carving and a lot more realistic. Here's the simple guidelines:

I used an old remnant of celotex ceiling tile (or whatever it's called now). Cut a few scraps about 1 1/2” x 3”. Place them about 1/2” into a vise with the long side across. “Bend” the piece over till it breaks off with a ragged edge. The ragged edge is the stomping tool. It may take a few tries to get a good, full width tool so cut several pieces.

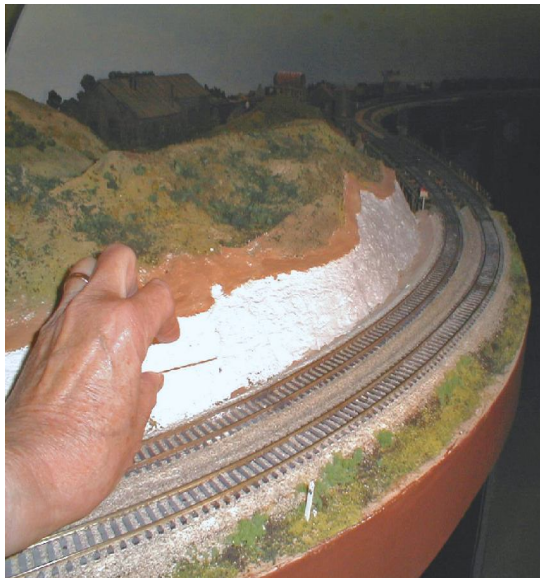
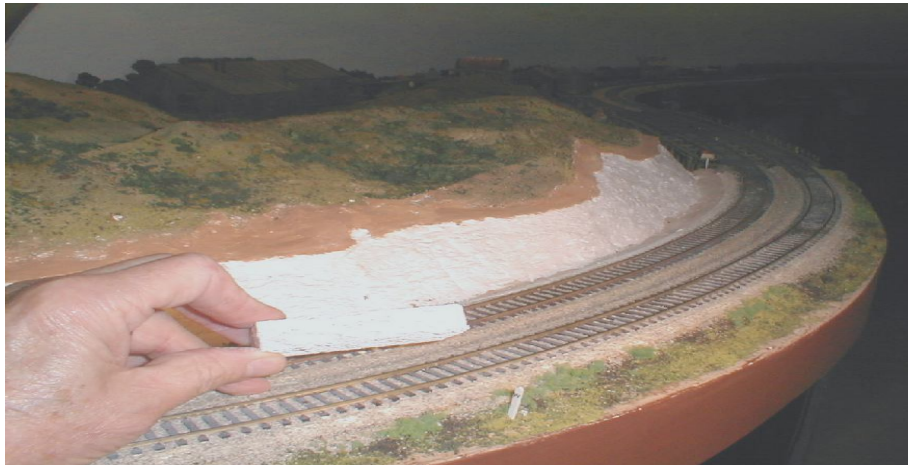
Have a pan of water to dip your STOMPER in as you load it up with plaster and keep it moistened.

Mix your plaster or spackling fairly stiff so it won't run on the vertical surface and apply about a 1/4” layer to your base.

Leave a thicker layer at the top to simulate the soil cap over the rock face.

Now stomp away moving across and try to follow across in straight lines. Wet the tool often to rinse off and to prevent sticking.

Let it dry a few days, paint and



apply ground cover. (Here's the tool, the stomping tool in action and finally the finished product. Have fun!)

