

TECHNICAL Supplement

By Harry

I have always found proprietary masonry structures like bridges and tunnels not quite what I wanted. It is almost impossible to find bridges to fit the spaces I design into the scenery - similarly tunnel mouths are too large/small with associated side pieces not appropriate and so on. If you make them do it can destroy the balance of the scene you are trying to create. So I concluded many years ago that the answer is BIY (bodge it yourself) where you make bridges to fit the gaps you have designed, curved if necessary and tunnels can be built to fit snugly into the approach contours and rockwork without sticking out like a sore thumb.

My favourite material is cork flooring tiles. At one time they covered many kitchen floors but have been superseded by other flooring materials. They are not easy to find now so a good alternative is card. Photograph mounting card should work well as will strong thin card such as Weetabix boxes. The stone effect is achieved by scribing lines into wet No-nails adhesive. The non-solvent type has a toothpaste consistency. If you can't find it then Polyfiller or similar is a good alternative but both must be worked before it starts to go off. Hence try small areas first to see how far you can get scribing in the mortar lines before it becomes unworkable.

The club's new N gauge requires a further bridge and an abutment along the front. To blend in with the Metcalfe 12 arch bridge I am having a go at a couple of BIY masonry structures which I will report for your entertainment. I have chosen stonework size as approx 2'x4' blocks or 4mm.x8mm (ish!) in N. The procedure for 'OO' is the same only make everything twice as big.

These photos follow the progress of the abutment construction and are hopefully self explanatory. If anyone has questions please email them to Ron to go in the next newsletter for me to answer.

I did try 4mm ply for this sort of job but found it very slow and tedious getting neat edges on intricate shapes. Tunnel mouths were my limit, but were hard work.

Watch this space for further progress that attempts to turn this into something looking like a plausible piece of civil engineering.

Photo 1: Draw outline full size on cork tile - tiles are just under 4mm thick.



Photo 2: Cut out, then remove all 5 centres and lightly clean up cut edges.

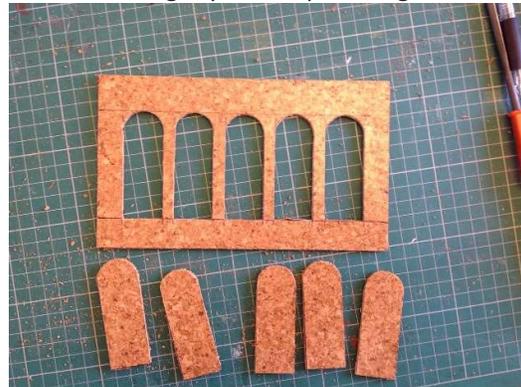


Photo 3: Add arches and other raised stonework(all in card) then replace 5 centres



Photo 4: Thinly apply no-nails to a small area and scribe horiz. lines followed by verticals



Photo 5: Complete masonry and when dry tidy with light sanding. This one is still damp.

