



THE NARROW MINDED NEWS

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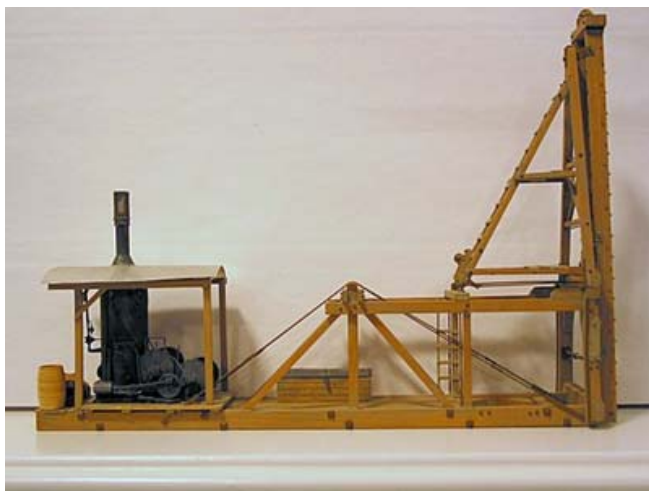
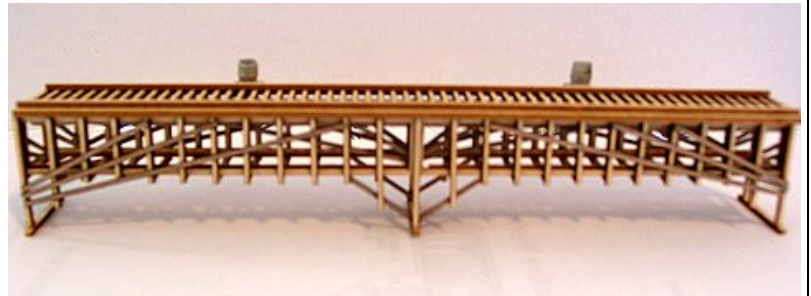
RLW News

If you think that you missed or lost the Newsletter from last year, you did not because there was none. I was too busy and there was not that much to report. Actually we were busy putting the final touches on our beach house that we built at the Washington coast. We don't really like the beach but we built it as an investment to sell in 5 years. It has already doubled in 2 years. The good part is we have made new friends and entertained old ones there.

RLW product news

The website now previews new products on the carousel including recently added items from other manufacturers. Bruce has really done a wonderful job on the RLW website.

Laser cut Bridges-RLW 164 the Pratt Truss Bridge and RLW 162 the Bollman Deck Bridge is available now. Yet to come are RLW 160 Double Deck Warren Truss bridges and RLW 163 Bollman Truss Bridge. I have no plans to do RLW 161 Long X Truss, at this time.



I am currently working on the skid mounted Pile Driver RLW 2086 that was used for building trestles. Every railroad had at least one of these. If you are interested in this item please make a reservation. The more reservations that I get the faster I will get it out.



I intend to do the car kits in the Clear Creek line. So far the only one available is [RLW 29417](#) a D&RG 24' boxcar kit. Reservations are building up for some of these kits. I will do the most asked for kits first.

New to RLW are the super detailed Resin Masters [RM 1000](#) boxcar kits by Mike Chenoweth. Mike was so gracious as to box up all his molds and etchings and send them to us. Mike is a really excellent modeler that we are really sad to see move on to other interests. The kits are available as singles or in 3 packs at price savings. The [instructions](#) are posted on the website in PDF form. Bruce wrote the 20 pages of instructions. They are very well done. I think his Masters degree is showing! Hopefully all new and even some old instructions will be posted on the website.



The San Juan etched brass passenger car set is still a work in progress. The patterns for the roof and floors are now complete with only the white metal parts to finish. Then it is on to making all the molds and finally writing the instructions. Bruce will finalize and make up the instructions, which will be posted on the website.

The new turntables are also a work in progress. The manual turntable kit [519-1](#) is available. You can download the [instructions](#) too. The [auto-indexing turntable](#) is only available for reserve. We've got the turntable controller and the stepper controller hardware complete and we are busy working on the software. Mark Langezaal has been helping develop the software and has pointed out several nice improvements in both the software and hardware. One of the best is a way to reduce power consumption up to 90% when the table is not turning. We are incorporating this feature into the auto-indexing table. Once we get the software up to acceptable quality, we'll start writing the manual and get it off from reserve. The auto-indexing turntable is a kit in the sense that we've left the modeling and turntable layout design to you. The circuit boards for the kit come completely assembled and tested with pre-loaded software so you can focus on building a great model. Your job will be to:



1. Plan the turntable track plan for your layout.



2. Build a turntable assembly consisting of a turntable, pit, gear system, stepper controller and printed circuit board.
3. Build the turntable track plan then mount and wire the turntable assembly.
4. Build and mount the turntable controller board with a turntable layout diagram that matches the turntable layout.
5. Wire the controller to the turntable assembly.
6. Setup and test the feeder track locations in the turntable controller.
7. Operate the turntable on your layout.

The picture above on the right shows a completed turntable assembly. You can see more pictures of the various pieces of the turntable project up on the site.

We are still working hard to bring you new laser cut kits to improve modeling N Scale from our continuing relationship with BTS (<http://www.btsrr.com>). I may do the car barge that Bill has announced. I have one in HO on order. Production will depend on [reservations](#). If you see any items on the BTS website that you would like to see produced in N Scale send me an e-mail request.



NEW to RLW are the finescale wheelsets that were developed by David Styles in the UK. They are [DS 100](#) priced at \$10 for 4 complete axles wheels and hubs. There is a 20% discount for purchasing 5 or more sets. I have not developed a metal hub yet for tender pickup. You could solder on a jumper wire from the axle to the inside of the wheel.

GHQ Parts

Standard gauge and narrow gauge parts for various locos are now available only from RLW. They will not be sold through any dealers and should be purchased on the website. Do not order all the parts to build a locomotive unless the website lists a complete kit as available (Complete kit GHQ part numbers always end with a -00 suffix). Many of the boilers and some tenders are not available. Call or e-mail with questions.



New is a Ford AA Fuel Truck [GHQ 56-012](#). Reissues are [53-001](#) D-8 Cat, [56-009](#) Ford AA Stake Truck and [56-008](#) Logging Truck.



The first of December my wife and I went to Greg and Lorraine's Christmas party. Greg showed me some patterns he was constructing. They are truly a sight to behold everything fits just perfectly. He was working on patterns for some NP engines. He did not like the rivets on the tender that he was modifying so he filed them off and put each one back on correctly. He showed me a



beautiful drop bottom gon that he may produce as a kit. He also had some DPM buildings that he was modifying. He plans to come out with an online magazine with how to articles by the Zen Master himself and possibly others. This is something to look forward to. We discussed the model railroad magazine scene. "Finescale Railroader" just produced their last magazine although they will still produce their nice Annuals. I stopped getting MR and Craftsman some time ago because they no longer had anything of interest for me. However I was elated to see the January issue of RM Craftsman, which I bought at a hobby shop in Minneapolis. It has some really excellent how to articles. The article on the EBT stone office was excellent. I think I will subscribe again. I will not miss Hundman but Greg will because he really enjoyed Mainline Modeler. He must have put all his energy into it and not N Scale Magazine. Any more articles like the horrible issue with the balsa wood out of scale picket fence will end my subscription.

Other news from Greg was that UP lost the trade mark lawsuit to one of the model manufacturers. UP then realized what a blunder they made and as a way to make up for their mistake sent the manufacturers on an all expense paid train trip from Denver to LA. Also I did not know that Marklin had been sold to one the big train manufacturers in England.

THE RLW Website-Bruce has been working hard to make it better and easier.

1. Improvements include placing reserve items separate from the order, and we've streamlined the purchase process.
2. Domestic Shipping (USA & Canada) to a different address than your credit card address now will incur a \$2.00 charge for return signature receipt. Redirects are not allowed for international orders. You can obtain this service internationally by sending Money orders or bank checks.
3. We are really concerned about your credit card security. No longer do I send a copy of your order with your credit card information on it. I send a copy of your e-mail confirmation with the order. Be sure to use the mailing address that your card bill is sent to for your address, otherwise I get an error message on my machine that says address mismatch.
4. Foreign orders-you can still select no insurance declare minimal value as a gift and the shipping cost will be minimal. Cost will be \$15.50 or more depending upon weight. If you select to insure it will be sent by Global Express Mail where Insurance coverage for the first \$100 is free. Cost will be at least \$22 and more likely \$25 plus insurance cost. We're figuring out exact shipping costs now too.
5. The web site supports downloading kit instructions. We have several instructions available for download now and we hope to have many more instructions available for download in the coming year.
6. The carousel on the front page displays the latest and most popular RLW products so you can get an idea of what is both new and hot.



7. We are pleased to show pictures of RLW kits that you've built and thank those of you that share them with the Nn3 community.

My friend Jack came up the other day with an armload of N and Nn3 items that I purchased from him. Many of the items I originally sold him. He bailed out of N and will stick to his first love On30 and HOn3. He likes Narrow Gauge which is why he dabbled in Nn3. Basically he is a scale jumper! I now have over 20 #4 skeleton turnouts in stock, many out of production Microtrains cars, the MT C&S loco and some out of production kits from other manufacturers. Anyone interested in his copy of the Coon Gap Sawmill with Sound and lights should contact me via e-mail.

Travel-This year we did not go to Central America for the usual Rotary Project Fair. We went to Monterey California for the birth of our identical twin boys, by our daughter Leah. They are truly a joy. In March we went to Bali Indonesia to relax and practice my Indonesian. The locals are really surprised when I speak to them in Indonesian. In May I went to Honduras to evaluate a Rotary water project. I did not go to any Model Railroad conventions this year but plan to go the Narrow Gauge convention in Portland Maine next August. Finally Minneapolis in December that I just discussed. It was interesting to see a large bucket of HOn3 skeleton log cars that GHQ was doing for Microtrains. This was their 3rd run of the cars. Nice but they would have been better if GHQ would have done the patterns, maybe next time, hint hint!

A special thank you to Tom Knapp, for providing so many of the patterns used at RLW, and to David Bellamy for the rolling stock patterns as well. Also, thanks to the team that put the Nn3 Handbook together led by Ted Brandon, Rick Blanchard, Tom Knapp and Tim Mulina. This book continues to be an excellent introduction into the kind of quality modelling representative of the Nn3 community.

Thanks to all of you in the Nn3 crowd for your past support. I hope that RLW has brought you some modelling enjoyment over the years. I wanted RLW to be a source for basic kits that bring fun and improvement to the construction of great models. I really want to encourage you to share your work with others. We are very pleased to show photographs of superb models for others to study and enjoy.

As always, I'd love to hear about your projects.

Marshall