

A Boxcar for Brenda

I had been eagerly following the announcements of the Micro Train State cars. I collected only the cars that pertained to my family. Since each of us was born in a different state, I already had four of the state cars, and was waiting only for the Tennessee car. My wife said she wanted a Tennessee car since she works for the state of Tennessee and thought it would be nice to have one displayed on her desk. We all know when a spouse wants a train or car, we are very happy to comply.



I started by getting a small acrylic display case for a diorama setting. Thin foam was used as a base; cork and track were white-glued onto it. I then cut the track to fit the area and weathered the rails with thinned rust-colored acrylic paint. Ballast was put on and affixed with alcohol and white glue.

After the ballast dried, the ground was painted with light tan acrylic paint and, while still wet, fine ground green

foam was sprinkled onto it to make it look like grass. I then sprayed the whole diorama with diluted matte medium and let it dry.



A laser cut brass picket fence was whitewashed with multiple layers of thinned acrylic paint, weathered with weathering powders, and glued into place with hot glue. The people were painted, then weathered with powders to take off the freshly painted look and glued in place, sitting on the bench under a tree that was also glued into position.

The bushes were stretched out to the size needed and white glued into place. The larger bushes did require a spot of hot glue to hold them. I then



decided which flower colors would be used on each bush and used "spring flower" colored ground foam on both the bushes and the ground to represent wild flowers.

All of the scenery was then covered with another spray of alcohol and diluted matte medium. All exposed edges of the foam were painted with a black acrylic paint to give it a finished look.

The diorama was completed the same day the Tennessee car arrived. I positioned the car and glued it on the tracks with ACC. The diorama was then placed on the raised platform in the case, and the cover was put on the base.



The diorama is now proudly displayed on my wife's desk at work. Others have asked "how much would it cost to get one?", and she replies, "A special person made this special diorama for me and it's priceless!"

Materials used:

Acrylic display case	Show Case Products L.C.C.
Foam base	Elmer's Foam Board 3/16" White
Track	Atlas, code 55
Ballast	Arizona Rock and Mineral Co.
Paint	Inexpensive craft store acrylic paint
Ground foam	Scenic Express Flock and Turf
Picket fence	Neal's N Gauging trains
Weathering Powders	Bragdon Enterprises
Bushes	Noch Leaf Flake Foli-Fiber
People and bench	Preiser un-painted figures and bench
Tree	Noch ready made
Adhesives	White Glue, Hot Glue, Matte Medium, ACC