

Junction Gang News April 23, 2009

This is Germany's most popular attraction which has taken in excess of 500,000 working hours to build
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN_oDdGmKyA&feature

New online modelling magazine - <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/> ***is in PDF form

Article in April 19 Toronto Sun saying that George's Trains will be closing its Mt. Pleasant store on June 6. Markham store will remain open. Link is:
www.torontosun.com/news/torontoandgta/2009/04/19/9161821-sun.html

If you love urban modelling – but lots of country scenes as well. Cliffside
<http://www.remembercliffside.com/galleries/model/modelhome.html>

Collection of tips to remove lettering on various surfaces from the Railroad-line forum.

Removing Pad Printed Lettering

Elsewhere in another thread I asked for suggestions about how to remove pad printing from models. I have a couple of good quality plastic locos which I plan to superdetail and re-letter for my own railroad.

In the other thread I got a few suggestions for removing the lettering including Solvaset, isopropyl alcohol, and the pink eraser, wet and dry. None of these worked.

Because of the exceptionally fine lettering on commercial models I've recently done some reading on the modern process of pad printing. One thing I've learned is that the ink used is incredibly exotic stuff. I also did a little googling and checked out some sites offering pad printing supplies. One such site sells a hand cleaner for removing pad printing ink called Inx-Off!--

http://padprintpro.com/pages_p/supplies.html

The description sounded so much like a common workshop/household product, Gojo Creem Hand Cleaner, that I thought I'd give *that* a try. I spread a thin dab of the Gojo gel over the lettering and let it set for a moment. Then I very carefully "worried" the lettering off using a dull #11 blade with **NO** pressure. The ink broke up and dispersed into the gel:

The gel then washed off with plain water. I needed to repeat the process a few times to remove all the stubborn bits around the rivets. A toothpick is a good tool for this. The process doesn't seem to harm the underlying layer. It does make the paint shiny, but that can be dullcoted or repainted.

At the East Coast Large Scale Train Show this weekend, Ricky Rupp of Modern Rails Company (makes decals and custom paints) said he uses carburetor cleaner, with eye protection. I will try the hand cleaner first as I can do that

inside, and will let you know results

I just tried it, it works TOO GOOD!

For my G Scale, I was able to spray on a paper towel and wipe the lettering right off (along with some of the black!) So I used a little less and it works great. For smaller scales I would say to spray into a dish that won't dissolve and use very little on a Q Tip. You will be amazed!

Oh yeah, and use outdoors like in a shed, or you will pass out! Or your wife will complain about the smell in the house

HIDING OR REMOVING LETTERING

ERASING THE LETTERS WITH A PENCIL ERASER

Scalecoat sells some stuff called " wash away" I have never used it though.

I have used a Pink Pencil eraser before. I wetted the letters that I wanted to remove with rubbing alcohol. Let it soak awhile and then erased them. I had to do this a couple of times to get it all off

I used a tooth pick with comet cleanser for N scale. Worked pretty good except that I went a hair too far.

There isn't any solution that will work for all situations. A lot depends upon what kind of paint was used to do the actual lettering. I've used Walthers Solvaset decal setting solution to remove lettering, wiping it with a cotton swab (Q-Tip). Others have used isoprople (sp?) alcohol. Sometimes it works great, other times the work removing the lettering also starts to remove the paint underneath. If the lettering comes off OK, the area under it can look dull or scuffed. It's really a matter of trying to see what works

I have heard modelers claim that using Pinesol on a Q-tip to remove pad printed letters.

Have you tried Joe's decal and detail remover? www.joesmodeltrains.com I use this with success using a q-tip. You have to use a light touch. I've also used Go-Jo hand cleaner and 90% rubbing alcohol, Solv-a set- and a pencil eraser work well too.

Brake Fluid has always worked very well as a paint stripper for my models. It can be controlled fairly well by rubbing it in with a Q-tip.

I have used non-acetone nail polish remover (available at Wal-Mart). I applied it with a Q-Tip in several applications, washing it off after each. It can take off paint so, as with any solvent, be sure to test it first in a non-essential area of the model.