Scenery is -
• The Setting - a believable and realistic setting for our railroad empire
• Impactful - makes a big difference in the enjoyment, appeal and realism of a layout
• Buildings and Bridges - structures are scenery too, but not covering them here

Scenery Modeling is -
• Forgiving - the most imprecise type of modeling; enhance or re-do if you don't like it
• Cheap - likely the least expensive part of modeling!
• Quick - the modeling with the quickest gratification!
• Easy - the easiest type of modeling!

Secrets to Good Scenery -
• Variety!
  - shape, color, texture
  - rocks, trees, vegetation
  - details: debris, weeds, puddles, flowers, animals, figures, signs, etc.
• Consistent Theme - Appalachians, Rockies, plains, desert, swamps, Pacific NW, etc.
• Engineering Realism - balanced cuts and fills, drainage contours and culverts, etc.
• Viewblocks - tall areas make layout appear larger (trees, structures, cliffs, etc.)
• Flat Finish - dull just like weathering, with few exceptions (glossy water, etc.)
• Shortcuts - scenery can be less detailed as move from foreground to background
• Water Soluble - primary paints and binders can dilute and cleanup with water
• Series of Layers - build up materials in layers

Some References -
• How to Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery - Dave Frary - #1 railroad book sales
• Scenery for Model Railroads - Bill McClanahan - previous scenery "bible"
• Scenery & Dioramas - Robert Schleicher - comprehensive
• The Scenery Manual - Woodland Scenics - use of their products
• Scenery Tips and Techniques - Model Railroader - selected reprinted articles
• Scenery Ideas - Fine Scale Miniatures - great steps and detailing tips - still in print?
• Inspiring layout story books - Model Railroading with John Allen, The V&O Story, The Fabulous Franklin & South Manchester Railroad, Great Model Railroads, etc.
• Numerous articles in all the railroad modeling magazines, plus video tapes

Some Key Materials -
• Scenery Crust Plaster - underlayment (Gypsolyte or Structolyte) or patching type
• Latex or Acrylic Paints - base earth color(s), rock colors, water bed color(s)
• Other Adhesives - white glue, plus hairspray or spray enamels
• Dyed Ground-up Foam Rubber - several colors and sizes
• Gravel and Dirt - several colors and sizes
• Plaster Rock Molds - cast with hydrocal or patching plaster
• Tree-like Weeds - picked after the second frost in the fall
• Other materials mentioned in the "10 Easy Steps" section
Companion Clinic -

**Foamboard Layout Construction** - Simultaneous construction of both roadbed and scenery bases, in a solid format (like the real world, not hollow), with the ability to visualize and build in very realistic contours. It's also very sturdy (only need a light grid of 1"x2" wood boards underneath), can be fast and lightweight, and is terrific anchor for structures and trees. Replaces conventional subroadbed and hollow scenery methods.

**Scenery Building in 10 Easy Steps** -

(1) **Landforms - 2 Basic types** -
   - hollow (screen, paper strips, other hardshell)
   - **solid** (carved laminations of foamboard; not foamcore - tip: water mist as carve)

(2) **Backdrops (and View Dividers)** - usually install and paint before doing 3-D scenery

(3) **Plasterwork (and Structures Planting)** - tip: add white glue to plaster as binding aid
   - rock outcroppings (molded or carved castings; broken ceiling tiles, bark, rocks,...)
   - thin plaster crust elsewhere (cheap underlayment plaster: Gypsolyte, Structolyte)
   - level an area and plant structures (temporarily plastic wrap base if wish remove)

(4) **Base Coloring** - mix with artist tube acrylics, or purchase premixed hobby paints
   - 3 basic paint colors - rocks, ground (earth), water beds (black?)
   - highlight rock outcroppings later with India ink wash and dry brushed off-white
   - this paint = the initial adhesive for most layers to follow

(5) **Smaller Rocks; Large Gravel or Stones**
   - purchased, or handmade from chipped and colored plaster

(6) **Ground Cover - Dyed Ground Foam, Chopped Leaves, Dirt**
   - fine turf first, then coarse turf, then more fine turf to blend and highlight
   - fine dirts (non-magnetic clean dirt or stone dust - purchased or self ground)
   - mist with "wet water" then dribble on diluted white glue (3 parts water: 1 glue)

(7) **Underbrush and Bushes** (attach heavier items with straight white glue)
   - "foliage clusters" or "clumps"; Spanish moss; scenery "left overs";
   - stumps, fallen tree trunks or limbs, "slash" (bark, twigs, etc.)

(8) **Trees = Foliage (leaves, needles) + Armature (trunk, branches)**
   - kits, ready-to-use, or ... scratchbuilt (wire, weed or twig armatures) -
     - Sedum, Yarrow, Live-Forever, etc. - quick and nice deciduous trees
     - Sagebrush tips - excellent weathered oak trees, dead or fallen trees
     - Golden Rod and "Puff Balls" (foam coated polyfiber) - nice filler trees
   - foliage - dyed ground foam (fine or clumps), foliage "net", poly fiber, sawdust
   - adhesives - yellow or white glue, hairspray, cheap enamel spray (clear, black, ...)
   - be sure planted vertical (solid scenery = just poke hole, dab in glue, plant)

(9) **Details** - debris, weeds, puddles, flowers, animals, figures, signs, miniscenes

(10) **Water**
   - flat water - 2 equal parts epoxy, glossy medium, varnish, or rippled glass, etc.
   - white water and falls - clear and white silicone caulk, or dry brush white, etc.

**Conclusion** -

- Now you know how quick, fun and easy scenery modeling is - so "just do it"!
- Volunteer your scenicked layouts for tours at the April '97 Regional Convention!

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