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MODELING TREES
PCR Convention – Dublin, CA – 2013
Brad Lloyd & Darrell Dennis
(Dave Connery, Consultant Emeritus)

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A few general points:

1. Trees can be *supporting elements* of your scene – they are not the stars.
2. Trees are critical for *determining geographic "place"* on your layout.
3. While we build high quality individual trees – we model *groups of trees* and brush.
4. If you have less than 9 trees in an area it is best to plant in *odd number groups*.
5. In most situations, if you have full grown trees you should also include some small trees and *brush or undergrowth*.
6. Trees provide a great deal of *color and texture* to your scenes
7. Monochromatic trees look flat and lifeless – *use several foliage colors* to replicate nature.
8. Layout lighting is "flat" compared to sunlight – to correct we need to *build in shadows and highlights* in our tree modeling.
9. Model trees are composed of trunks, branch armatures and leaf foliage. By *mixing and matching different techniques* of these three elements you can create a panoply of different tree looks.
10. The use *photos of trees* can aid you in your modeling.
11. There are a number of great ready-made trees on the market – but if you need a great number of trees this can become prohibitively expensive. **We will show you there are plenty of good self-built alternatives.**

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TREE EXAMPLE BOARDS

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A & B   Various Trunk, Branch Armature and Leaf Flocking Materials we will be using – mix and match for 100's of trees

1. –   **Scrub Pad conifers** – Cedar shake trunk cut to rough shape; carved and sanded round, distressed with razor saw to highlight bark texture; stained light gray and weathered with India Ink & Alcohol; scrubbing pad branch structure created by pulling it very thin on a nail and then glued to the trunk with model airplane type tube glue; spray with cheap hair spray and flock with AMSI Conifer Green #1045 with some Scenic Express Dark Forest Green #EX 815 highlights.

2. -   **Furnace Filter Pines** – Prepare trunks from Cedar shakes, shape, rasp and stain. Paint blue furnace filters green, brown or gray and cut up filters into approximate 2" squares. Remove backing material and split apart into very thin pieces of about 6 to 8 individual strands. Glue to trunk with Aileen's Super Tacky Glue. Flock with Noch Fir Needles #8050. Same armature flocked with AMSI Conifer Medium #452.

3. -   **Tom Beaton Conifers** – Carved cedar trunk stained light gray. Drill and insert artificial bristles from push broom, through trunk and glue in place with white glue. Trim to general shape of tree desired. *#1* Coat bristles with Walthers Goo and stick on small pieces of Woodland Scenics Clump Foliage Medium Green #FC 183 and Light Green #FC 182 randomly mixed. *#2* Cut sisal into ¼" pieces and sprinkle over bristles coated with Hobi-tac. Spray sisal with dark gray or black paint, then spray with cheap hair spray and sprinkle on Noch Fir Needles #8050. *#3* Same as #2, spray with hair spray and flock with JTT Burnt Grass Coarse Turf #TU 1065.

4. -   **Jack Work/Don McKenney Conifers** – A stalk of Caspia. *#1* Small tree made from a carved cedar trunk with small sprigs of Caspia glued vertically and flocked. *#2* Carved trunk with holes drilled and Caspia inserted and glued into holes. *#3* Same tree with Caspia with Hair Spray and flocked with Dark Green Selkirk Foliage Fine # F 102. *#4* Same tree with Caspia with Hair Spray and flocked with JTT Burnt Grass Foliage # TU 1065.

5. -   **Paul Scoles carved trunk and super tree branches** – Create trunks from cedar shakes, cut, sanded to shape, rasped and stained. *#1* Drill holes in trunk and add sprigs of super trees to trunk. Flock with Noch Fir Needles #8050. *#2* Drill holes in trunk and add individual pieces of plastic Supernova Lace Fern (from craft store); flock above with Woodland Scenics Blended Turf #T49. *#3* Drill holes in wood trunk and insert Bragdon's Finescale Forest natural branches.

6. - **Bottle Brush style Trees**. Cut binding wire (18 to 22 ga.) to just over twice desired tree length. Bend in half and glue 2' to 3" strands of sisal fibers with Pliobond or Walthers Goo. Attach one end to a bench and chuck the other end in a drill and twist until all the strands are held tight with the twisted wire and arranged around the entire wire length, trim sisal to shape. *#1* Flock twisted stalk with Noch Static Grass. *#2* Same tree only flocked with AMSI Spruce Medium #552. *#3* Create trunk from wire as above, but use craft whisk boom strands glued in wire. Twist and then flock with Woodland Scenics Blended Turf #T49. *#4* Same tree flocked with AMSI Conifer #452. *#5* Same tree flocked with Noch Fir Needles #8050. *#6* Same tree flocked with JTT Moss Green #1066.

7. - **Dennis Brown style pine and fir trees** – Hunk of Manila Rope from Home Improvement Store (about .40 cents per foot. – 2" used per tree). Cut into pieces from 2" to 3" long and untwist until you have a pile of individual filaments. Create a short trunk about 50 to 60% of final tree height by carving wood (balsa or cedar work well but any wood will do). Use bottle brush style tree by folding steel wire (18 to 22 Ga.) in half and coating with Goo, Pliobond or other contact cement. Lay fibers across wire, close wire halves and hold open ends together in a vice and twist with a drill. Spray paint green or gray. *#1* Spray with 3M 77 Spray Glue and flock with Noch Fir Needles #8050 *#2* or AMSI Conifer Green #452. Drill hole in top of cut off trunk and glue bottle brush section onto trunk.

8. - **Woodland Scenics armatures** – **First** discard the disc base, snip off tang and drill up into trunk and add headless nail held in place with Epoxy. Bend trunk into realistic shape and improve looks with light spray of gray or tan paint. Coat branch ends with Hobi-tack or contact cement. *#1* Attach broken up pieces of Woodland Scenics Clump Foliage Medium Green #FC 183 and Light Green #FC 182. *#2* Or put hunks of Woodland Scenics Foliage Net in Light Green #F 51 and Medium Green #F 52 over branches. *#3* Or use Easy Scene Bramble #1414 held to armature with contact cement then flock with Easy Scene Sagebrush #1111 held in place with hair spray and highlighted with AMSI Conifer Green Med. # 1045.

9. - **Twisted Wire Armature Trees** – Start with a piece of stranded wire between #8 and #12 with thick individual strands. Strip sheath off one end, insert a pin or nail and solder all strands together. Remove remaining sheath. Unravel some of the strands and twist and bend into tree branch shapes to replicate the types of trees you are trying to copy, add trunk detail and spray gray. *#1* Spray with 3M Super 77 Spray Adhesive and stick on ¼" to ½" Sisal strands by daubing branches. Spray paint gray and flock with AMSI Gray Green #472. *#2* Coat wire armature tree with Pliobond and flock with broken up pieces of Woodland Scenics Clump Foliage Medium and Light Green # 182 & # 183. *#3* Add Sweetwater Poly Fiber held in place with Pliobond. Flock with AMSI Conifer #452 and AMSI Spruce #552.

10. - **Charlie Pigott's "Okie Dokie Oaks"** – Sisal rope is cut to length, with a tooth pick stuck into the bottom, and entire bottom glued with ACC and accelerator; splay out sisal and harden with ACC, working way up the trunk, and adding sections of sisal to create additional branches. Splay sisal out at the ends to create branches; coat trunk and main branches with vinyl spackling and spray paint gray or tan. Stretch Woodland Scenics Poly-fiber FP 168 over branch ends; spray with cheap hairspray and sprinkle on Woodland Scenics Green Grass Turf #T 45 and Green Blend Turf #T 49, spray lightly with copper, florescent yellow, white, gray or rust paint to highlight.

11. - **Charlie Pigott/Selkirk Deciduous Trees** – Make a "Okie Dokie" style tree as described in number 10 !! Add ¾" individual strands of cut sisal held in place with 3M 77 Spray Adhesive; trunk and branches spray painted with Primer Gray; flocked with Insta-foliage Green Turf #260 and Vari-green Turf #258 and held with 3M -77 Spray Adhesive.

12. - **Scenic Express Supertrees** – First clean out leaves, then soak in dilute Matte Medium (1:5), hang to dry with a weight (clothes pin) hanging from end to hold as straight as possible. Build up trunk with spackle and spray paint gray. *#1* Tree made with Noch Plane leaves (yellow) #8040; *#2* Noch Elm (dark green) #8030; *#3* Noch Birch (light green) #8010. *#4* We did the large tree with half-n-half Noch Lime #8020 and Noch Elm #8030

13. - **More Supertrees** – *#1* Tree flocked with Woodland Scenics Medium Green Turf T45, *#2* with Selkirk Dark Green Foliage #102, *#3* with JTT Moss Green Fine #TU 1066, *#4* with AMSI Conifer Green Medium #452, *#5* with Scenic Express Conifer Floor Blend #EXP883B.

14. - *Nandina Domestica* **(Heavenly Bamboo) flower stalks** – Flower stalks(stalk with white flowers, stalk with red berries) harvested when mature - after berries ripen and fall off. Tie nail to trunk with fine wire, ACC to hold, then bulk up trunk with spackling; spray with gray or tan paint; add Woodland Scenics Poly-fiber FP #178, spray with cheap hair spray and flock with Woodland Scenics Green Grass Turf #T45 and Green Blend Turf #T49.

15. - More *Nandina Domestica* – prepare as above. Spray with 3M 77 or Aileen's Spray Adhesive and sprinkle with ¾" sisal fibers. Spray with gray or tan paint, then re-spray with adhesive and flock with; *#1* AMSI Leaf Green Medium #1054 highlighted with AMSI Eucalyptus Medium #1056. *#2* Or use Selkirk Light Green Medium #103 and Dark Green Medium #102 as an alternate flocking held in place with spray adhesive

16. - **Sage Brush Oaks** – Armatures cut to size, cleaned with a hole drilled in base and a nail epoxy-ed with point sticking out; *#1* Woodland Scenics Poly-fiber FP #178 stretched very thin over branches; flocked with Woodland Scenics Green Grass Turf #T45 and Green Blend Turf #T49; *#2* Or Sage Brush with ½" to 1" sisal fibers held on with spray adhesive and then spray painted gray; AMSI Eucalyptus Medium #1056 and Olive Medium #1043 used as flock and held in place with cheap hair spray.
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17. - **Small Trees, Shrubs and Stumps** – Woodland Scenics Armature cut down and flocked with Clump Foliage. Nandina with fine turf, wire armature with AMSI Gray- Green, Wire Armature with JTT Foliage, carved wood trunks with scrub pad and foliage. Pieces of Supertrees with flocking. Sage Brush with sisal and flocking. Wire screen with foliage.

18. **- Background Trees (Earl Smallshaw, Bump Chenille, Clump Foliage)** – #1 Smallshaw style trees from wire screen cut into triangle shapes, folded into round forms and flocked with white glue and AMSI Conifer Green #452 and Woodland Scenics Blended Turf T49, Green Grass T45 and Burnt Grass T44. #2 Bump Chenille (2" tall by squaring off bottom and 1" tall by cutting in half) painted in various greens with spray paint and flocked with Woodland Scenics Grass Green and Blended Turfs T45 and T49. #3 Shrubs made from Woodland Scenics Clump Foliage in big clumps clued down and then smaller clumps added (Medium Green FC183 and Light Green FC182).

Sources of Tree Materials

Accurate Dimensionals	Tree Kits
A.M.S.I.	Tree Kits, Tree Armatures, Foliage, Poly Fiber, Ground Foam
Busch	Micro-Flocking
Faller	Flock
First in Scale Miniature Trees (FSM)	Sage Brush Armatures
Insta-foliage	Foliage Material
McKenzie Bros. Timber Co.	Tree making machine and supplies
Noch	Leave material, Foliage Flocking
Plastruct	Ground Foam
Timberline Scenery	Foliage
Scenic Express	Super Tree Armatures, Flock & Turf (fine, coarse & blended textures)
Selkirk Scenery	Branch netting, Fine & Standard Leaf material
Sunlit Vistas	Ground Foam (fine, medium, coarse), Bramble (black & brown), tree kits (tall deciduous, wide deciduous, conifer)
Sweetwater Scenery	Deciduous (sage brush), Group & Aspen Armatures; Pine Tree Kits; Poly Fiber; Tree Branch Fiber
Petite Pines Northern	Sage Brush Armatures, Foliage Material
Timberline Scenery	Ground Foam Foliage
Vintage Reproductions	Fine flocking
Woodland Scenics	Tree Kits, Tree Armatures, Poly-fiber, Foliage Netting, Ground Foam Turf, Clump Foliage
Bragdon	Finescale Forest natural branches
Easy Scene	Bramble Sage Brush

Sources of Ready-made Trees

Accurate Dimensionals	Aspen/birch, Conifers, Deciduous, Fruit
Busch	Apple, Ash, Beech, Birch, Chestnut, Flowering, Fruit, Orchard, Pine, Poplar, Red Beech, Serbian Spruce, Spruce
Canyon Creek	Conifers (single and double trunks)
Faller	Alder, Ash, Birch, Blue Spruce, Chestnut, Cypress, Elm, Fir, Larch, Lime, Maple, Oak, Pine, Poplar, Red Beech, Spruce, Tamarack, Willow
JTT Model Trees	Acacia, Ash, Basswood, Beech, Birch, Cedar, Chile Pine, Conifer, Cypress, Deciduous, Fir, Gum, Jacaranda, Live Oak, Maple, Mountain Gum, Oak, Redwood, Round Head, Royal Palm, Palm, Phoenix Palm, Pine, Poplar, Scots Pine, Snow Gum, Sycamore, Umbrella Pine, Weeping Willow
Grand Central Gems	Aspen, Blue Spruce, Fruit, Lodge Pole Pine, Oak, Palm, Pine, Spruce
Hecki	Blue Spruce, Buckeye, Fir, Maple, Spruce Tree assortments (Deciduous, Hardwood, Pine)
K & M	Deciduous (various)
Lemax	Bristle Tree, Cedar, Cypress, Evergreen, Hemlock, Magnolia, Maple, Mountain Pine, Mulberry, Oak, Oval Bristle, Pine, Red Plum, Round Bristle, Shaped Bristle, Spruce, Weeping Willow, White Pine
Lifelike	Essentials - Apple, Barren, Evergreen, Prune; Scenemaster - Blue Spruce, Deciduous, Elm, Evergreen, Fruit, Maple, Oak, Summer Shade
McKenzie Bros. Timber Co.	Pine-Fir-Spruce, Aspens, Deciduous

Model Tree World	Columnar, Evergreen Fir, Evergreen Pine, Round, Palm
Noch	Acacia, Alder, Apple, Ash, Beech, Birch, Chestnut, Elm, Fir, Fruit, Hickory, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Lombardy Poplar Maple, Oak, Palm, Pine, Plum, Poplar, Spruce Willow
Petite Pines Northern	Ash, Blue Oak, Cottonwood, Elm, Flowering, Italian, Cypress, Maple, Palm, Pine, Silver Maple, Sycamore
Photo Quality Trees	Crimson King, Deciduous, Flowering
Plastruct	Elm, Fir, Jacaranda, Lombardy, Palm, Poplar, Pine, Roundhead, Spruce, Sycamore, Willow
Preiser	Birch, Deciduous, Maple, Palm
SamTrees	Banyon, Beech, Birch, Canary Island Date Palm, Cypress, Deciduous, Hornbeam, Mediterranean Palm, Pine, Poplar, Royal Palm, Spruce, Washington/Mexican/California Palm
Scenic Express	Apple, Acacia, Beech, Black Locust, Buckeye, Cedar, Cherry, Cottonwood, Dogwood, Douglas Fir, Fir, Fruit, Hickory, Linden, Lombardy Poplar, Maple, Mountain Ash, Nordic Fir, Oak, Pine, Poplar, Weeping Willow
Sterling Models	Aspen, Blue Spruce, Fir, Lodge Pole Pine, Maple, Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, White Pine
Sweetwater Scenery	Aspen, Birch, Deciduous, Pine, Pinion Pine,
Timberline Scenery	Conifers, Fruit, Lodge Pole, Pine
Woodland Scenics	Aspen, Basswood, Beech, Birch, Deciduous, Hickory, Juniper, Locust. Maple, Oak, Palm, Pine, Poplar, Spruce, Sweet Gum, Sycamore, Walnut

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VIDEOS/DVD'S

Trees,Trees.Trees (2 hr. Video)	Darryl Huffman			Darryl Huffman
Scenery Made Easy Vol 1 & 2	Paul Scoles			Paul Scoles