Full Color Art Reproductions

- Lithographed from professionally painted scenic art.
- Color-matched from scene to scene.
- 24" x 36" size gives you plenty of sky.

Easy To Use

For any scale or gauge of Model Railroading, Military Miniatures, Dioramas, Road Racing–anywhere a realistic setting can be used to make a model more impressive.

Mix and Match-For an Endless Panorama

Instant Horizons™ Background Scenes can be combined in endless varieties to provide a continuous panorama of mountain, desert, country and city scenery. The illustrations in this foldout show a few of the possible combinations.

949-703 Mountain to Desert Transition

949-705 Dry Wash Desert

949-706 Saguaro Desert

949-707 Desert to Country Transition

949-709 Prairie/Grain Elevator

949-716 Country to City Transition

949-714 Country to Eastern Foothills

CRAMPED FOR SPACE? This point-to-point layout constructed on a shelf only 18" deep looks like an entire city when placed in front of Instant Horizons™ background scenes.

The Fastest Way to Turn Your Train Set Into a Model Railroad

Scenery makes the difference. Instant Horizons™ Background Scenes will help you conquer Time, Space and Miles through the magic of your layout. One scene can add the equivalent of hundreds of acres to your empire.

Detail to Enhance Your Layout

"Detail" and "Scale" are the very essence of model building. Instant Horizons™ backgrounds offer you scenic detail to complement your craftsmanship. These scenes have been designed to fit together into a landscape mural, engineered with the proper perspective to enhance the overall effect, and executed with an attention to detail that will do justice to the work of the most meticulous modeler.

The background makes the difference in this "prize-winning" diorama. One 24" x 36" background scene could be used for two or three special projects like this. The detail in the scenes is tremendous, contributing to the professional appearance of the model building.

Look At The Variety

Each of the 12 scenes is illustrated in this brochure, showing one possible arrangement. There are, however, literally dozens of ways in which they can be combined to provide individualized backgrounds for your layout.

SUGGESTION- To help visualize the many possibilities, cut out and rearrange your choice in your own selection. Ask for additional brochures if you need them.

These illustrations are approximately 1/10 actual size.

949-712 Hotel/Business

949-711 Freight Yards

949-713 The Docks

The Illusion of Distance

In real life, the track always disappears over the hill. The very nature of transportation implies great distances. It is America's Railroads that link the big cities with the open county, skirt the Great Lakes, span our deserts, and scale the Rocky Mountains. The West was won against a backdrop of real and awesome distances, as trains carried people and freight from coast to coast. In real life, there might be another train along tomorrow, but the one we saw today is gone forever. Time, space, and miles are real, with a mystery and romance never completely comprehended.

Except with a model railroad . . .

Almost without peer, the hobby of Model Railroading offers its devotees the opportunity to conquer time, space and miles through the magic of the layout. Here, in miniature, trains come and go, traverse the deserts, skirt the lakes and climb the mountains. They vanish and reappear at the command of the hobbyist. With Instant Horizons™ backdrops, you can recreate these awesome distances on your layout, and make your miniature transportation system look real.

One picture is not only worth a thousand words -- it can be the equal of hundreds of acres, and maybe even hundreds of square miles of scenery. These ready-to-use backgrounds overcome the limitations of fixed space, increase the apparent size of a layout, and make everything look bigger. They add a unique contribution to the overall effect.

EVEN A 4' x 8' CAN BE A BIG LAYOUT
Four Instant Horizons™ scenes, combined with 3-D scenery, add hundreds of acres of scenery to this popular-sized layout, making everything look bigger.

These sketches are intended to illustrate the potential for combining 3-D structures and scenery with Instant Horizons™ backgrounds to make the everything look real.

Choose Your Setting

Model your favorite part of the country. Each scene matches with itself and/or others. Select and create an individualized background for your model railroad empire.

Make Everything Look Bigger

Like a window, Instant Horizons™ Background Scenes bring the world into your layout, making everything look bigger.

Use For Any Scale

Background details are smaller than anything on your layout, whether it be N, HO or O, so everything in the scene contributes to the illusion of distance.

949-715 Eastern Foothills to Country

949-717 City to Country Transition

949-710 Whistle Stop

949-708 Country to Desert Transition
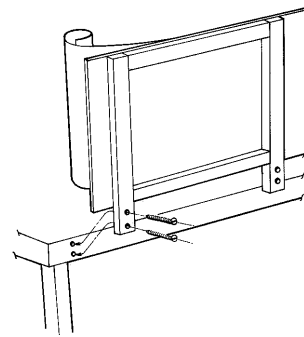

949-704 Desert to Mountain Transition

949-702 Tall Timber

949-701 Sierra Boomtown (Gold Rush)

SCENES HELP PLAN LAYOUTS

Choose your favorite scenery from the styles on this sheet. Select and mount your background scenes first. This will help you plan foreground scenery, and make it easier for you to visualize the finished result. Study the scenes and sample arrangements to see how the scenes match each other. Use picture cutouts as templates.

949-705 Dry Wash Desert | 949-707 Desert to Country Transition | 949-709 Prairie/Grain Elevator | 949-716 Country to City Transition | 949-711 Freight Yards | 949-712 Hotel/Business | 949-713 The Docks | 949-717 City to Country Transition | 949-710 Whistle Stop | 949-708 Country to Desert Transition | 949-704 Desert to Mountain Transition | 949-701 Sierra Boomtown | 949-702 Tall Timber

1 MOUNTING THE SCENES

Scenes can be mounted directly on a smooth, flat wall, or on panels of masonite, linoleum, or plywood, which are then mounted behind the layout.

If mounted on panels, we recommend that these be separate from the layout, as shown in the sketch. This makes it easier to remove the "scenes-on-panels" for work on the layout. A frame of 1" x 2" lumber can be used to provide stiffening, if needed.

FOR TEMPORARY MOUNTING

Use double-face masking tape on the back of the scene, at the corners. When removing, peel the scene away from the tape very slowly and carefully.
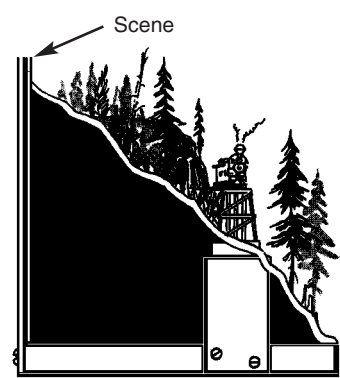
FOR PERMANENT MOUNTING

We recommend using a spray adhesive. Be sure to work in a well-ventilated area. Spray even coats on both surfaces per instructions on the can. The spray glue stays wet for 20 seconds or more, which is enough to position the scene and make minor adjustments before it sets. If you want more time, or are working in a corner, spray 6 inches at one end. Fit the scene into place, and when you are sure the first 6 inches is correct, let it set and then continue. Work one section at a time, and allow each part to set before proceeding. Other adhesives can be used, but do not use water-based glues.
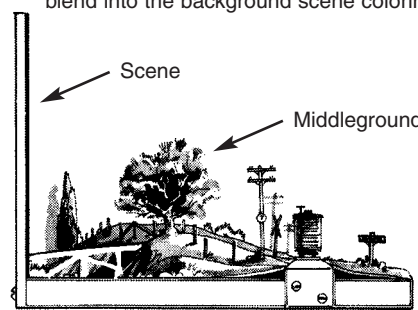
2 COMBINING SCENES WITH THREE-DIMENSIONAL DETAILS

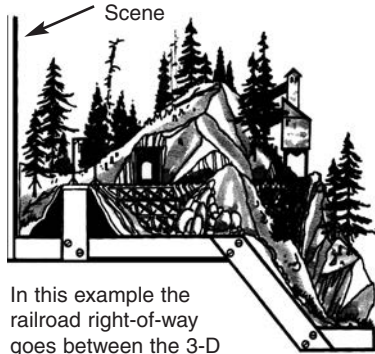These sketches show the variations of two basic systems:
1) 3-D (3-Dimensional) construction touching the scenes.
2) 3-D construction a short distance in front of the scenes.

The in-front-of technique increases the effect of perspective and distance and provides the greatest opportunity for creative work.
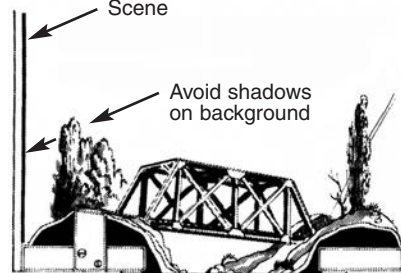
In this sketch the 3-D mountain leads up to, actually touches, and blends into the background scene. The effect is most realistic when the colors from the 3-D scenery blend into the background scene coloring.
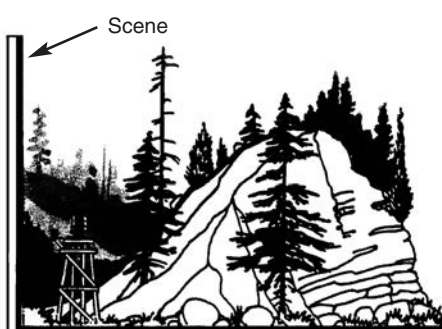
In this example the railroad right-of-way goes between the 3-D mountain and the background scene, in this case on a trestle. This maximizes the effect of perspective. IMPORTANT - arrange your lighting to keep shadows off the background scene.

Here the 3-D mountain is in front of (does not touch) the background scene. This maximizes the effect of perspective. The scene will actually look different when viewed from different parts of the layout. (Note that the 3-D mountain slopes DOWN in the background scene.)

In this sketch a group of low hills in the middleground area topped with trees act as the blending agents between foreground and background.

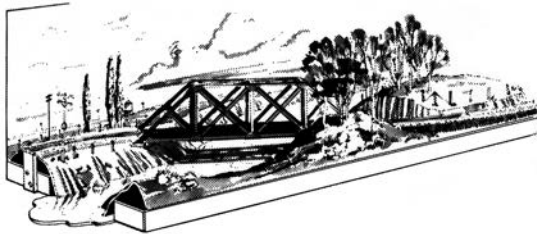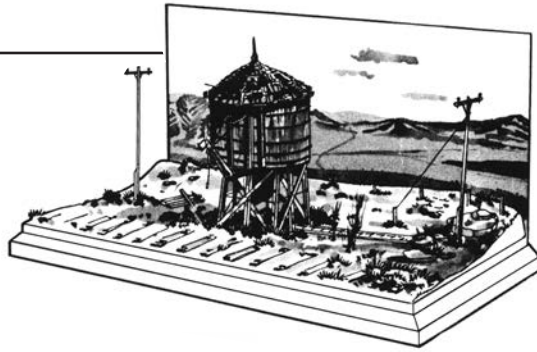This sketch shows a middleground divided by a small river. The row of trees on the banks act as "blinds" to cover the joining of background scene to 3-D scenery.

3 HOW TO BLEND COLORS

Notice we said "Blend", not match. Colors vary in nature, and they should vary on your layout. Look at the Instant Horizons™ scenes themselves and you will see that there are many different colors of grass, rocks and other details. Follow this same theme in your scenery and you will be successful. Use Floquil, or other flat colors (NOT gloss colors) to blend your 3-D scenery into the background, or to hide the straight matching edge between scenes.
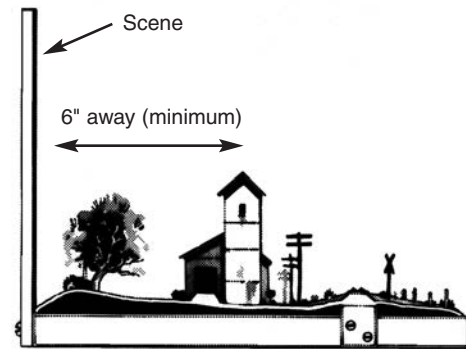
Part of a desert scene provides the background for this 3-D diorama. Any of the scenes can be used in a similar manner, offering many "small-project" opportunities.
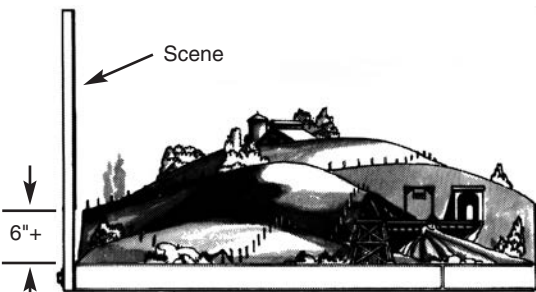
In this example, the 3-D city construction in the foreground is separated from the "Background City" by a river. The line of trees and bushes at the shore helps to make this more realistic.
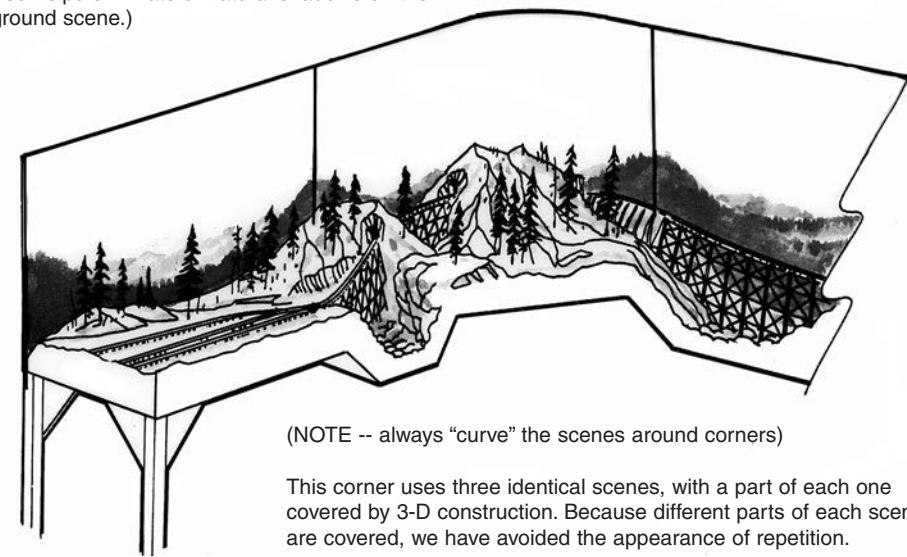
4 ADDITIONAL COMBINATION IDEAS

Scene

6" away (minimum)

Scene

6"+

Large 3-D structures should not be any closer than about 6". 12" would be better and would heighten the illusion of depth and distance. (Keeping to this rule also helps eliminate unnatural shadows on the background scene.)

These middleground hills represent typical rolling farmland. The background has been raised about 6 inches for added height and scenic effect. (The adjoining scenes must also be raised, or some alternative transition provided, of course.)

(NOTE -- always "curve" the scenes around corners)

This corner uses three identical scenes, with a part of each one covered by 3-D construction. Because different parts of each scene are covered, we have avoided the appearance of repetition.

5 SOME EXAMPLES

Pine trees reach toward the heavens against the vast expanse of sky. The Ponderosa Pine Background Scene brings the breath-taking beauty of America's pine forests to your diorama.

Skyscrapers, hotels and a myriad of architectural styles make up a typical downtown. This bustling cityscape was created with a White Tower Restaurant and the Hotel/Business Background Scene.

Goods move across the U.S. by truck and by rail. Transition scenes, like this "Country to Desert," are perfect for the changing scenery of cross country treks.

Freight Yards are the backbone of many railroads. They are often located in the heart of a busy industrial center. This yard is set amidst a collection of factories provided by the Freight Yards Background Scenes.

949-702 Tall Timber | 949-701 Sierra Boomtown | 949-702 Tall Timber | 949-703 Mountain to Desert Transition | 949-705 Dry Wash Desert | 949-706 Saguaro Desert | 949-706 Saguaro Desert | 949-705 Dry Wash Desert | 949-707 Desert to Country Transition | 949-714 Country to Eastern Foothills | 949-715 Eastern Foothills to Country | 949-710 Whistle Stop | 949-709 Prairie/Grain Elevator | 949-708 Country to Desert Transition | 949-704 Desert to Mountain Transition