






Handout for Backdrop Clinic



1. Title

What Clinic Covers

- Sky 
- Painted Backdrop
 - Clouds, Trees, Distance (perspective), etc.
- Computer Generated Backdrop 
- Photo Backdrop 
- Painted Sky / Photo Backdrop 

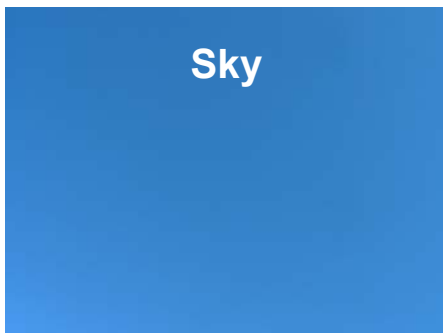
2. What We are Going to Cover

What Clinic Covers

- Examples:
What a Difference a Backdrop can Make!



3. What We are Going to Cover: Examples



4. Sky:



5. Sky: Sunset with Clouds



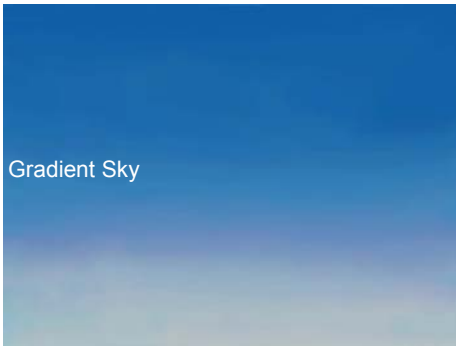
6. Sky: Blue Sky with Clouds



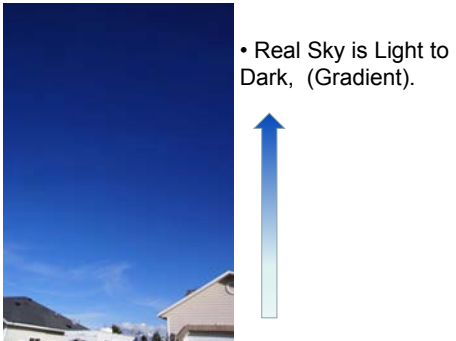
7. Sky: Mountains, Clouds



8. Sky: Blue Sky Straight Up



9. Sky: Gradient



10. Sky: Real Sky



11. Sky: Video Brush Painting and Blending
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYbnOKA6TRM>

Sky Technique

- **Floetrol**- (for latex paint)
- ✓ Provides longer working time, reduces brush and roller marks.
- ✓ Thins paint for airbrushing or spraying.




12. Sky: Floetrol

Sky Technique

Sky Blending

- Brush



13. Brush Blending

Sky Technique

Sky Blending

- Brush
- Drybrush/Rag



14. Drybrush/Rag Blending

Sky Technique

Sky Blending

- Brush
- Drybrush/Rag
- Spray Bottle (mister)



15. Spray Bottle (Mister)

Sky Technique

Sky Blending

- Brush
- Drybrush/Rag
- Spray Bottle (mister)
- Airbrush



16. Airbrush Blending



17. Sky: Brush Painting Clouds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIB1Rddh2p8>

Also:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=xYbnOKA6TRM



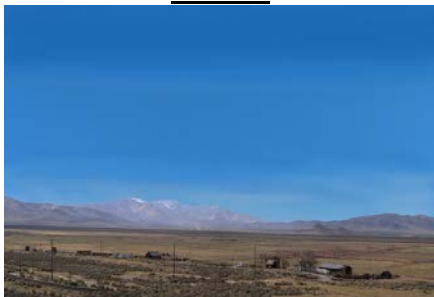
18. Sky: Airbrush Sky and Clouds

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djw_vBSt8VE&feature=player



19/20. Perspective, Vanishing Point

Details



Perspective. . .

21. Distant objects are hazier than foreground

Details



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22. Artist's Rendering

Details



<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/12480>

23. MRH Backdrop Article

<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/12480>

Details



Painting Features. . . trees

24. Painting Trees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0Q2XhOODLY>

Sky Technique



Computer Generated

25. Computer Generated

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oR0863ap5I>

Photo Backdrops



Up to 44" X 360"



Backdrop Junction

LARC Products

26. www.backdropjunction.com
www.larcproducts.com/

Photo Backdrops



Up to 44" X 480"



Up to 44" X 660"

27. More Photo Backdrops

Photo Backdrops



Continuous. . .

28. Modular

Photo Backdrops



B

C

Continuous. . .

29. Modular

Photo Backdrops



Custom. . . with or without sky

30. Custom Photo w/o Sky

Painted Sky / Photo Backdrops



31-32. Custom Printed Photo Backdrop

Painted Sky / Photo Backdrops



Installation. . .

34. Printer Photo Backdrop Installation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V27LGzglxe4&feature=em-upload_owner

Painted Sky/Photo Backdrops



Materials. . .

35. Photo Backdrop Materials
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvFNfc4ddpg&feature=youtu.be>

Examples



36. Painted Backdrop: Sky and Distant Mtns. with Photo Backdrop in middle.

Examples



37. Photo Sky / Distant Mtns.

Examples



38. Photo Backdrop

Examples



39. Painted Backdrop

Examples



40. Photo Backdrop

Examples



41. Painted Sky Backdrop

Examples



42. Photo Backdrop

Examples



43. Painted Sky/Photo Backdrop

Example



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44. Painted Backdrop

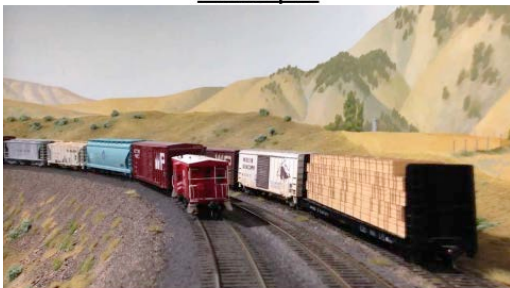
Example



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45. Painted Backdrop

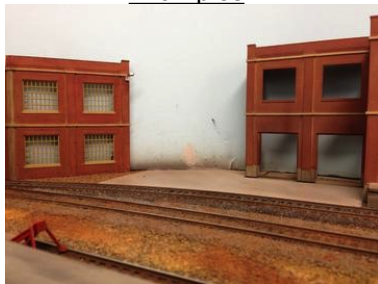
Example



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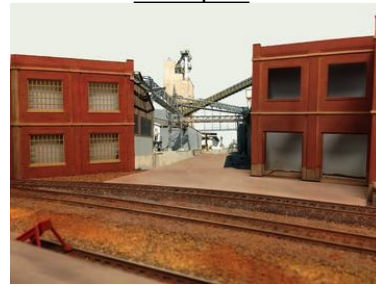
46. Painted Backdrop

Examples







47. No Backdrop

Examples



48. With Backdrop

Review

- Sky 
- Painted Backdrop
 - Clouds, Distance (perspective), etc. 
- Photo Backdrop 
- Painted Sky / Photo Backdrop 

49. Review: What We Covered 1

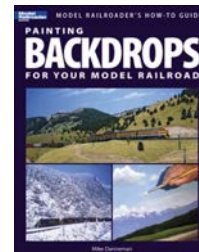
Review

- Examples:
What a Difference a Backdrop can Make



50. Review: What We Covered 2

Reference Book



51. Reference book

https://kalmbachhobbystore.com/garden-railroading/12425_Painting-Backdrops-for-Your-Model-Railroad

Reference downloads



52. Reference Download



INCORPORATING PHOTOS INTO A BACKDROP
HANDLING THE TRANSITION BETWEEN the a three-dimensional layout and a two-dimensional backdrop can be challenging.

While I've seen many very well executed photo backdrops (where pictures of real scenery are pasted to the walls of the layout room), I've found in many cases a photo mural backdrop incorporates so much "hyper reality" it can actually attract more attention than it deserves and draw the eye away from the modeled scene. I mean, it is a photo, so that wealth of well-defined detail has to be expected.

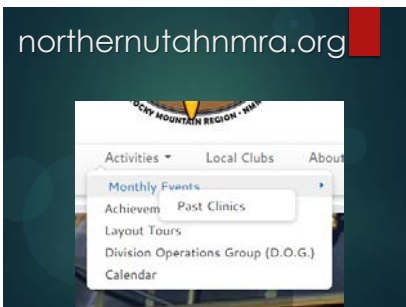
Lighting is another issue I've noticed with photograph backdrops. In person, photo backdrops often look fine, but in photographs, if they extend much above the horizon line they tend to wash out, so the colors of the background trees and scenery never really match those modeled on the layout.

May 2015 Issue of
Model Railroad Hobbyist

53. Incorporating Photos Into a Backdrop



54. How to Build and Paint Backdrops



55. Download pdf, Handout and Links



56. Questions???

Additional Sources and Resources:

YouTube Search

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=model+railroad+backdrop

Photoshop Elements:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements.html> (cost \$79.99 retail).

Making a Backdrop for Your Model Railroad

Layout: <http://www.building-your-model-railroad.com/backdrop.html>

Painting a Backdrop

<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/12480>

The Model Railroader's Notebook for December 2012

<http://modelrailroadersnotebook.blogspot.com/2012/12/025-augusta-railway-painting-clouds.html>

Lex Parker Backdrop Clinic – Backdrop Painting Made Easy

http://www.drgwrr.com/clinics_12_2065459760.pdf

Painting Backdrops for Your Model Railroad

https://kalmbachhobbystore.com/garden-railroading/12425_Painting-Backdrops-for-Your-Model-Railroad

Creating Your Own Computer-Generated Backdrop- Bill Geiger

July 2014 Issue of Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine, Page 56.

Terragen 3 Computer Generated Terrain Simulation Software from Planetside Software \$199.00, Free Trial (unlimited)

<http://planetside.co.uk/>