

Like most model railroaders I have been building a new layout and wanted to reuse and expand the amount of roadway I had on the previous layout. However when I attempted to purchase more product (in this case Scenic Express Roads and Highways - see figure 1) I was sad to learn the company had discontinued the product line due to issues screening stripes onto the foam material. There were two choices at this point – throw out some very expensive material and find a new source or keep the existing road material and find an inexpensive way to match it. A trip to the local Arts and Craft store, show and tell and lots of questions for and answers from the nice ladies there solved this problem. With some minor changes to the Scenic Express roads and with the help of Rust-Oleum textured paint and new black foam boards from the crafts store a new inexpensive and more realistic looking road system was born.



Figure 1 - Scenic Express Roads and Highways for O Gauge as purchased. The product had come with an adhesive back and various striping configurations. While otherwise excellent material the foam does appear a bit too shiny and looks a lot like - well foam.



Figure 2 –  
A sample foam board 12 x 18 inches and the same thickness as the Scenic Express material purchased from the crafts store for 99 cents a sheet. The first issue was a slight texture and color mismatch between the foam board and the Scenic express roadway. This material had a smoother finished and a different shade of black.

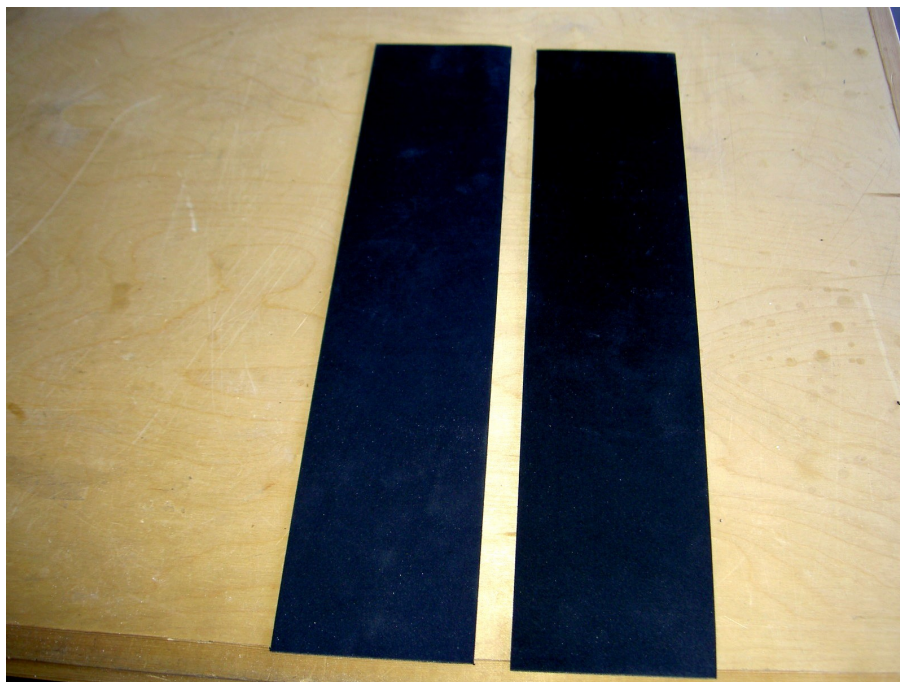


Figure 3 –  
A sharp razor blade and a straight edge were used to cut the foam board into strips the same width as the existing roadway.

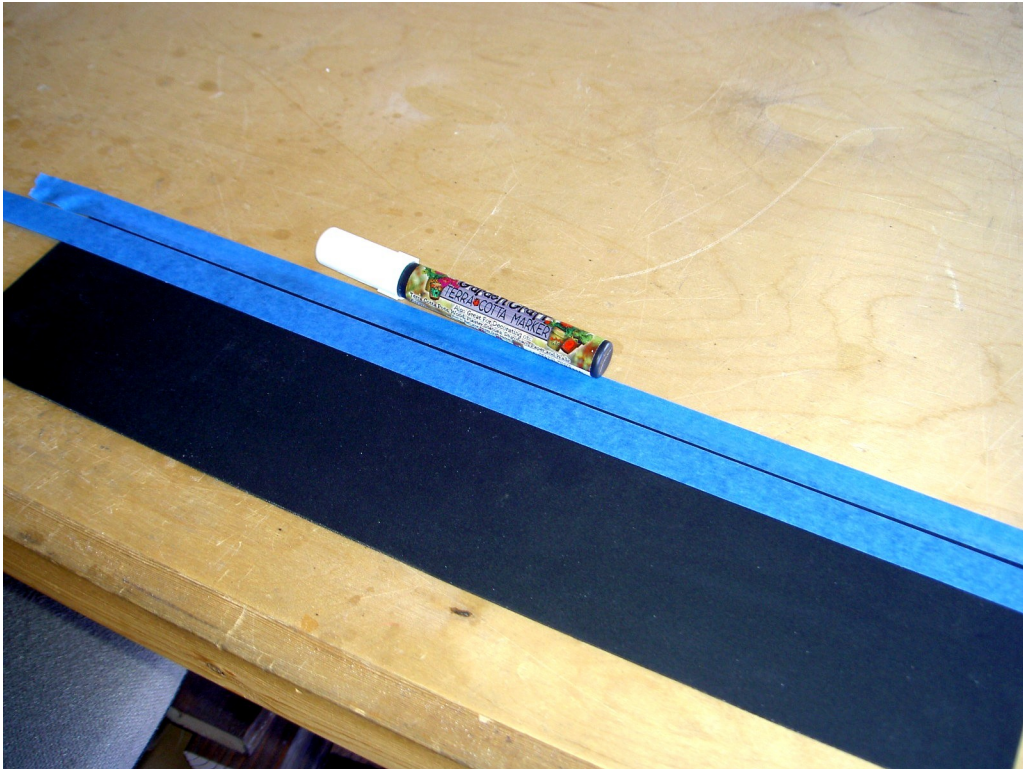
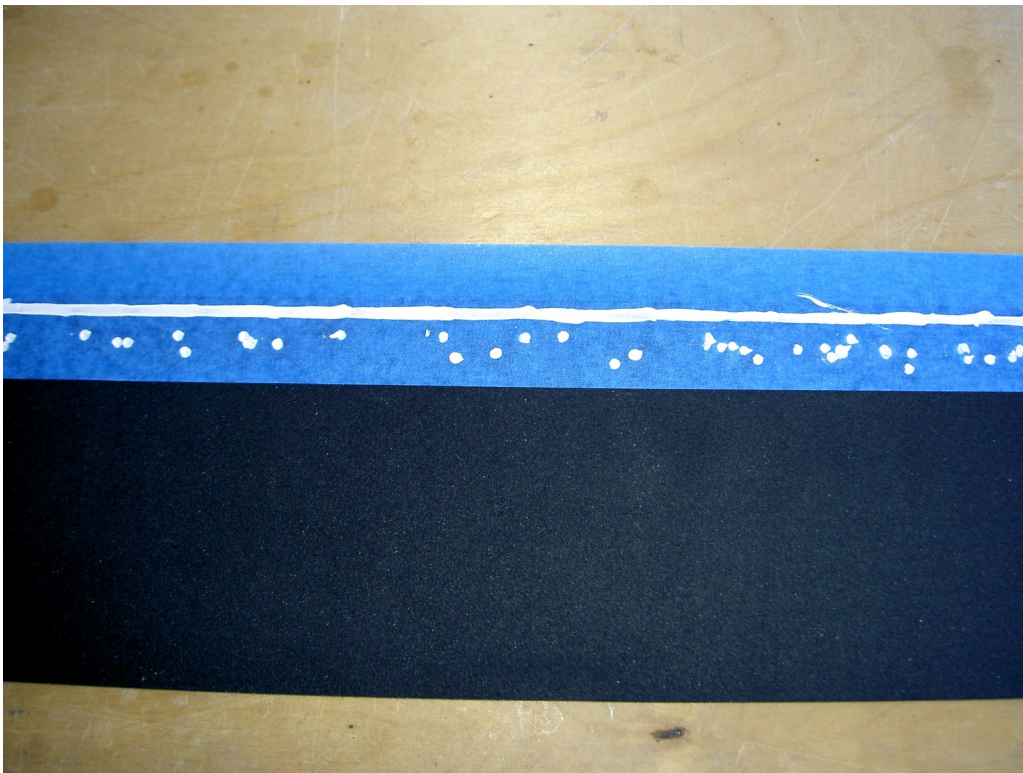


Figure 4 –  
Blue painter's tape was used to mask for the striping. The paint marker used (Garden Craft Terra Cotta Marker) is shown. This marker is made to mark Styrofoam and paper.



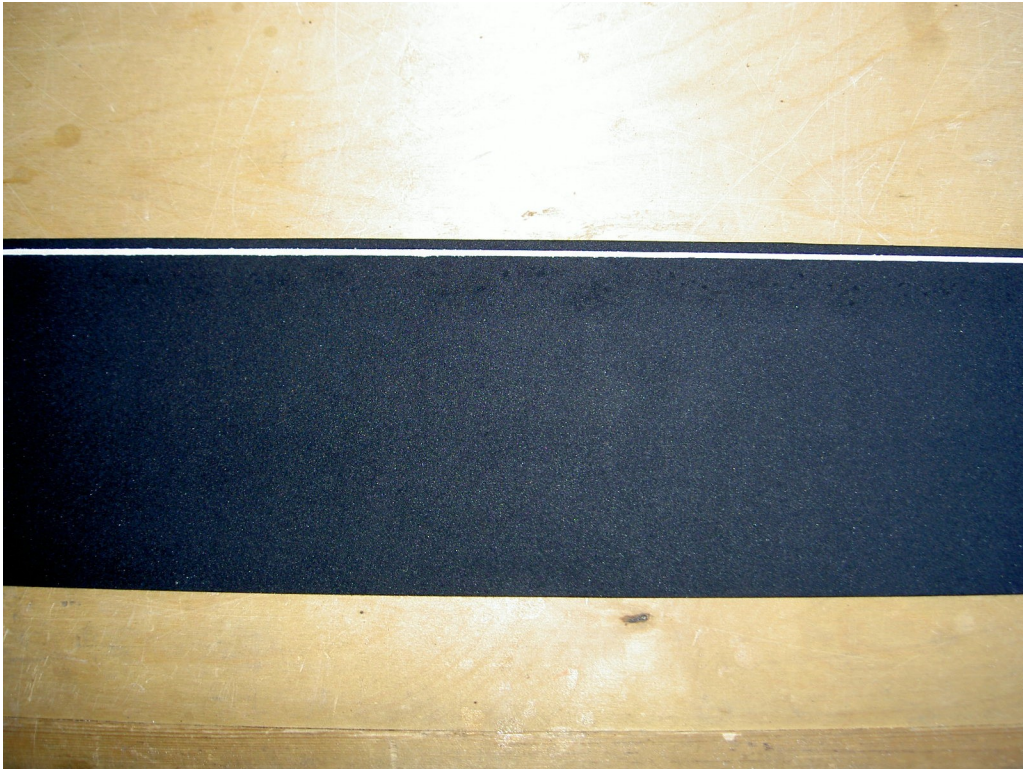


Figure 5/6 –

The painted stripe with tape and the tape removed.

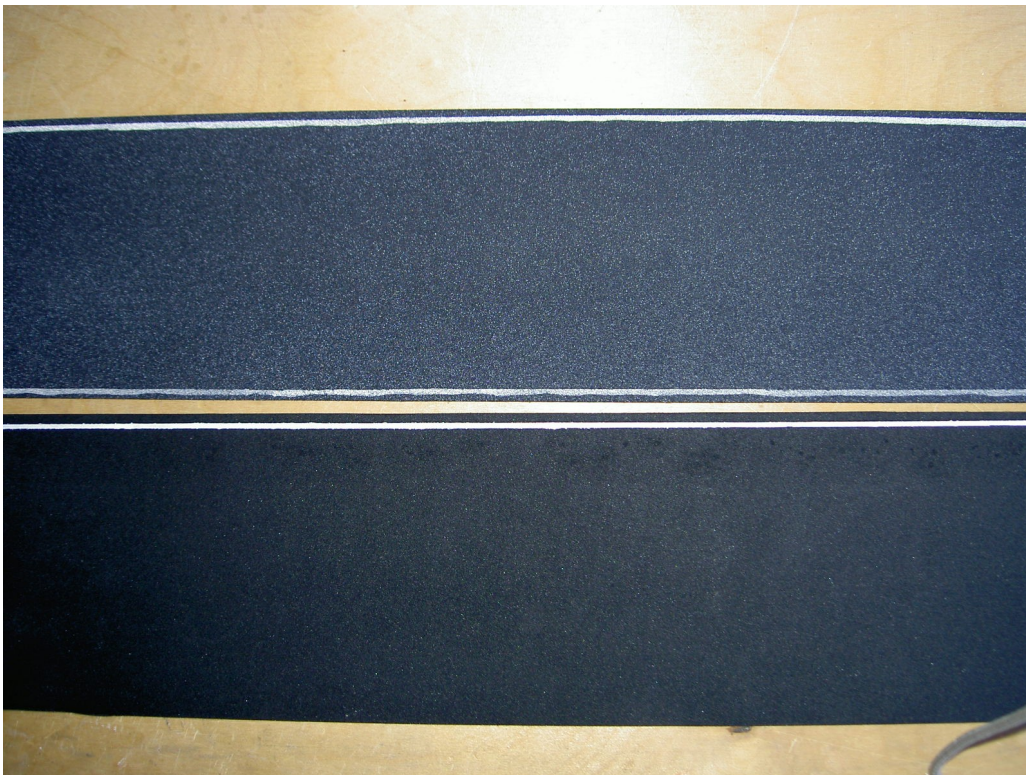


Figure 7 –

As stated earlier the texture and color of the foam board was different from the Scenic Express material. Also the Scenic Express material looked too new and more like foam than road. So to make both products look more like each other and more like a real road

both were sprayed with a very thin coat of Rust-Oleum textured paint – in this case a black base with white specks in it called Aged Iron. The sprayed coat has to be thick enough to cover the basic surface but at the same time thin enough not to make the striping disappear. The end result is shown above. The finished road is shown above the unfinished road with one stripe applied.



Figure 8 –

How does the finished product look on the layout and how does it compare to Scenic Express? Figure 8 shows a road and parking lot. The top piece of the parking lot is Scenic Express while the road and bottom piece of the parking lot is the foam board. The addition of the textured spray paint makes the foam board virtually indistinguishable from the Scenic Express material and gives both products a more realistic pavement look.

#### Tools Required:

Creatology Fun foam sheets (12 x 18)

Sharp scissors or razor blade

Straight edge

Spray paint – Rust-Oleum Multicolor Textured (Aged Iron)

Paint marker with felt tip

Painter's tape

#### Author bio:

Joseph Fauty is an O Gauge model railroader and owner of Model Structures for Model Railroads. His current layout covers approximately 11 x 17 feet.