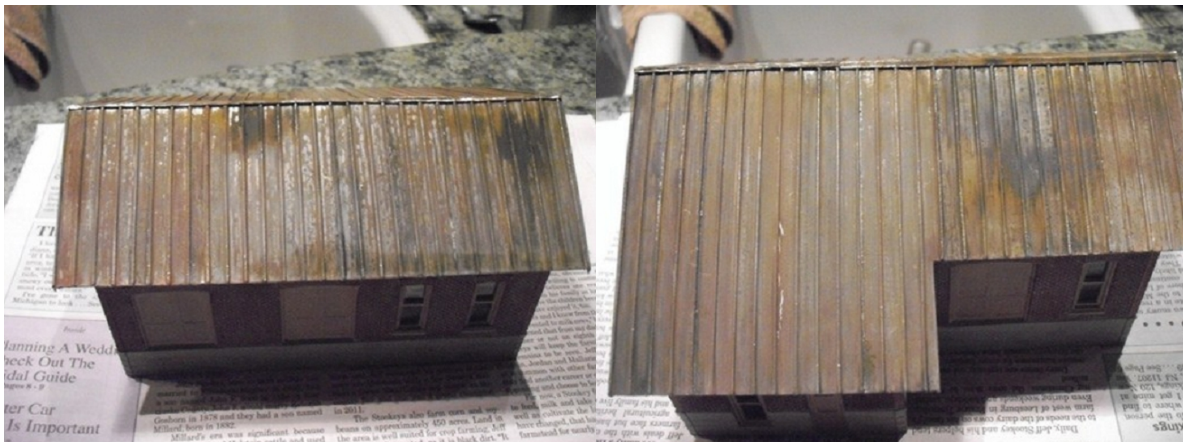




Freight House Metal Roof

By Joe Berger

In an email, passed on by Chuck White, we find that Joe had acquired some scale 2x2 and found a great use for them- New freight house Standing Seam Metal Roof....the new home of those 2x2's... I thought you might appreciate where those 2x2's you so graciously picked up for me when I ran out, ended up. I had plenty in the one envelope to get the job done. Here's the final roof.



The freight house is a DPM. The roof substrate is flat styrene sheet. I used Krazy glue to glue the 2x2's on the roof, and used a piece of brass shim stock to set the spacing and alignment. When all the verticals were in place, I placed metal foil duct tape over them, and trimmed off the excess with a fresh razor blade. I applied it down the length of the roof, so the seams between tape pieces ends up at the bottom of one of the batten strips, where I trim off the excess right at the corner after it's burnished down. Then I used a 'big' piece of stripwood about 1/4 x 3/8 to burnish the foil down into the crevices, and followed up with a pencil lead to stretch and push it into the crevice of the battens. You have to go slow and steady on that step. If you go too fast, the metal will crack....but keep going, just flatten it as much as you can. Finally, it cut a thin piece, folded it and applied it to the ridge. After all that, you have a nice shiny roof. I used 91% Isopropyl and a stiff brush to try to get the oils off. Then I took Acher (Radio Shack) Echant solution, and SLOWLY painted down the sheets with a long brush, repeatedly. At first it blobs up, then it will start to stick, and finally it will eat away at the metal. After it looks really bad, I washed the whole thing off with a LOT of water and a brush, dried it with a paper towel, and while it was still damp, painted the sheets down with some dark rust weathering solution. Then I hit it with a hair dryer to dry it all off. (I know, I know, I should have taken progress photos...).

You know I had about 1/2 of the front (long) roof done when I ran out of 2x2. I did the rest of the roofs and the finishing last night in about 2 hours – so it's not a real time-consuming process. Maybe it's just me, but I think it looks pretty good for a 'quick' (compared with shingling or tarpaper) roof! I really like the contrast between the still-shiny metal and the flat rusted or weathered parts. I have been debating trying this as an overlay on a car roof..... Joe

