



Wax Paper!

by Gary Butts, Cajon Division Editor

I like wax paper. I have a roll sitting on top of my workbench at all times and a spare roll in the bottom drawer. Why? Paint doesn't stick to it, glue doesn't stick to it, water runs off of it, it tears easily, cuts easily, folds easily and you can see through it!

I keep a small square (3" x 3") right on my bench and when I need a little dab of glue on the end of a toothpick I put a drop of the glue on the wax paper scrap and dip my toothpick in it. I invariably end up with 5 to 10 dabs of hardened glue on my little scrap when I finally toss it in the trash with nary a thought. It works great and doesn't contaminate any of the normal glues used for model railroading. I have used it with all types of white glue, tacky glue, canopy glue, cyanoacrylate (ACC), styrene cement, and rubber cement with no problems at all. ACC will sit happily in a small drop on the paper without setting up for four to five minutes while I dip in repeatedly with my toothpick. I mix small batches of five-minute epoxy right on the paper with a toothpick and dispense it there as well.

A layer of wax paper between a corner or butt joint on a structure and my 123 blocks or flat plate fixture keeps them from sticking to my structure when the glue dries. A small square under the foot of my clamps keeps them from sticking as well.

When I need to lay some parts on a pattern for gluing, I simply tape a sheet of wax paper over the top of the pattern and glue my parts right on top of the wax paper. The paper peels right off after the glue dries. Sometimes for a larger structure or trestle bent, I will tape the pattern on to a piece of old cardboard salvaged from a box, then tape a sheet of wax paper over that. I then pin my parts in place through the wax paper, pattern and into the cardboard holding them together and in position while the glue sets.

Clean up after brush painting is a breeze. Small parts are especially easy to paint by holding them in position with a toothpick while I paint them on top of the wax paper. If the paint puddles, I simply scoot the part to a clean section of paper and keep on going. When I am done painting the part I place it on a clean section of the wax paper and let it dry. After it dries, I can peel the part right off. For a larger project I will tape a sheet over the entire top of my work mat. Spilled paint is no problem

Wax Paper is cheap, easy to clean up and it works! Give it a try on your next project.