



## Not all model tools come from your hobby shop!

by Carl Heimberger

We all have tools we have gotten from our local hobby shop, Walthers, or Mico-Mark. But did you know there is a vast selection of tools also at places like Home Depot, Lowes, Sears, or Harbor Freight? And did you also know not all tools we use in this hobby are small hand tools? Within my arsenal of hobby tools along with my # 1 knife, scale ruler, etc., is a 10"- table saw, 12"-chop saw, 8"-jointer planer, 12"-surface planner, 6"-lathe, a large drill press, and a milling machine. I have also found some large files and several different wood saws with very fine teeth that cut much faster than small hobby file or razor saw. Besides the obvious use of these large tools for building modules or bench work, you can also do small modeling work.

For my clinic, making an 85 foot trestle last year at the PSR Convention, I had to build a foundation for the bridge to sit on. Since I wanted the look of poured concrete with a 6° batter (*side angle -ed*), my first attempt was to make the forms from scale lumber with 6° battered cribbing. Although I was pleased with the final look I found it was difficult to keep the batter and top width of the foundation uniform.



So for my next attempt I turned to my table saw and chop saw. I started out by ripping  $\frac{3}{4}$ " redwood on



These long boards were then cut to length using the chop saw



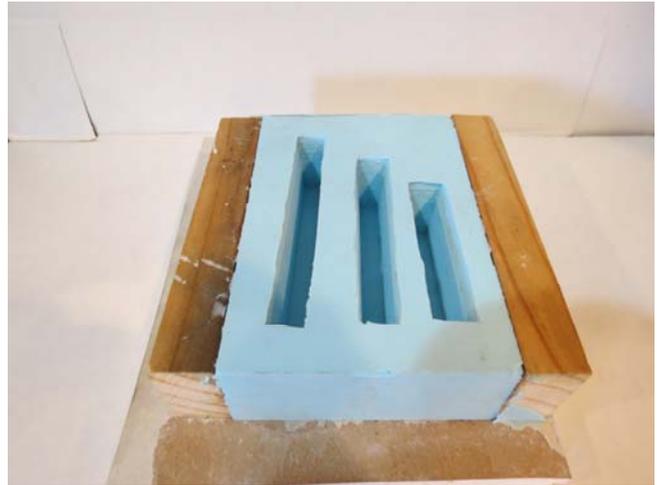
This is a good time to stress SAFETY; these large tools can remove a finger or hand in a split second, so do not drink alcohol while working with them and be alert. And most important keep telling yourself if I screw up I will get hurt, so do not put your fingers where they do not belong.

I then glued scale 2"x6" lumber to represent the concrete form boards onto the pre cut redwood sub forms. These boards would have been used prototypically to form the foundation cribbing for the poured concrete foundations.

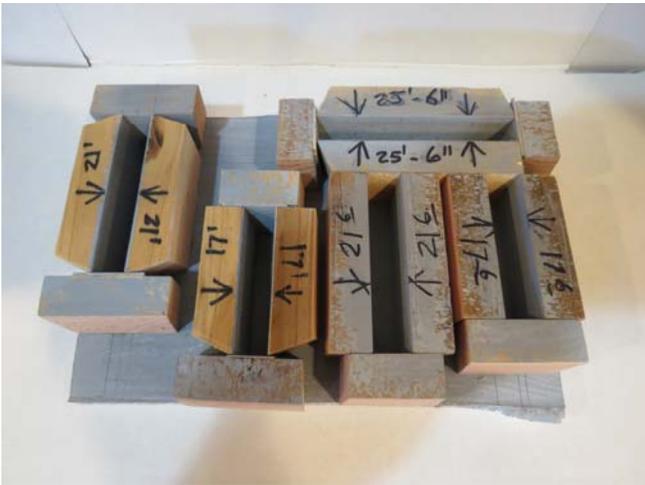


The finished form sides were then glued to a base

Each bridge required 6 foundations 2 of each size and 15 modelers had signed up for the bridges clinic,



Rubber Mold for bridge foundations



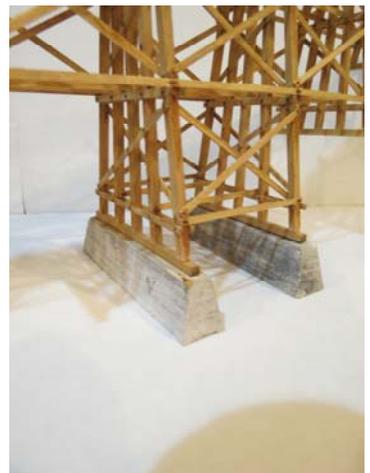
Hydorcal was then poured into the forms to give me the master foundations needed to make rubber



Finished cast foundations with the rubber mold



Without the use of some out of the normal modeling tools I would have never completed the foundations required to give my bridge clinic. So some times you just need to think outside the box, and get



Completed foundation under the tall bents of the bridge