



THE WORKSHOP



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Building An Open Pier For Your Layout. The Prototype

The pier belonged to the Pennsylvania Railroad in Jersey City. The original pier had three tracks and a 35 ton travelling gantry crane. It was used to interchange freight from the railroad to berthing vessels. A photo that appeared in the Rail Marine Information Group's magazine "Transfer" inspired the model.

The Model: Pier 31, Brooklyn Terminal Railroad.

The size was dictated by the space I had in my train room and is designed to fit in with the operation of the main layout. The framework is made out of 1"x4" pine and the top is 3/4" MDF sheet (medium density fiberboard, or use plywood). The dimensions overall are 120"x19" and at one end widening to 28" x 36" (See photo #1).

As with the prototype, I wanted three tracks running full length but have added three sidings at one end for more operating scope. The track and turnouts are English Peco and the three long straight pieces are Peco

sheets 3/6" wide and were stained using Builders In Scale "Silver Wood" stain, an excellent product for staining wood. The planks were glued direct to the plaster using quick drying wood glue held down with heavy weights with wax paper under the weights to prevent the glue from sticking to them (see photo 5 and for a close up of the finished planks see photo 6).

The sides and end of the pier were made up from 1/8" MDF sheets cut to size with strips of balsa glued to the MDF to represent heavy timber seen on piers. They were nailed and glued to the 4"x1" sides and end. Again the whole lot was stained with Silver Wood (see photos 7, 8, 9).

Final details were added, bollards, rail stops, one building as an office, figures, crates, scratchbuilt lights and the 35-ton crane (To be featured in a future article) complete with its own rails.

The complete pier has its own control panel and power source independent from the main layout and all turnouts are electrical controlled. ♦

