



# RAILROAD REPORT

Dennis Andreas

## Woodland Scenics Just Plug *Adding lights the easy way.*

**W**oodland Scenics continues to expand its wonderful Just Plug product line. Just plug pretty much started with the Built & Ready structure line. The whole idea was to have the structures equipped with the proper size and style of lighting from the factory, thus saving the modeler the difficulty of installing lights, and the all too often disappointment of installing the wrong lights. Although some old-time modelers may cringe at the thought, the Just Plug system allows the modeler to easily create lighted structures and street scenes without ever touching a soldering iron, twisting wires, or getting his fingers tied together with electrical tape. The highlights of the Just Plug system are as the name implies, just plug it into a hub and apply power.

This month we get to sample a couple of items from the new line of HO and N-scale vehicles that are now available along with a couple of other additions to the Just Plug Lighting System. I'm sure I've said it many, many times before, but it's the small things that add greatly to any layout or diorama.

Lighted street lamps, the placement of vehicles and figures give

life and personality to the scenes. Just adding a building or two can oftentimes look like an abandoned town from an old episode of *The Outer Limits*—for those of you who remember. [If you have never walked through, or even seen an abandoned ghost town like those located in places like Arizona or South Dakota, the scenes can be eerie, more like creepy. – ED]

Like all of the Just Plug street lighting accessories, the vehicles are packaged in easy to hang and view molded clear packs. Included with each Just Plug vehicle is a quick connect cable. The Gray connectors are the press and connect blocks for the wires. The white blocks plug into the Just Plug hub. If it sounds confusing it is not. The steps are clearly described in the instruction and

shown in the graphic included with each item. Note: A hub is not included with vehicles, but shown for size comparison and clarity.

The graphic from Woodland Scenics shows how simple and intuitive the system is, but to offer further explanation; the red labeled units are the light hubs; this is where the end point devices connect. Each hub is also equipped with a brightness control which allows the brightness to be adjusted as needed. The blue units are the expansion hub; they allow the end user to stack up to four light hubs and to join other expansion hubs together. When dealing with Just Plug it is important to think of the lighting system

not as a stand alone component, but as a modular unit.

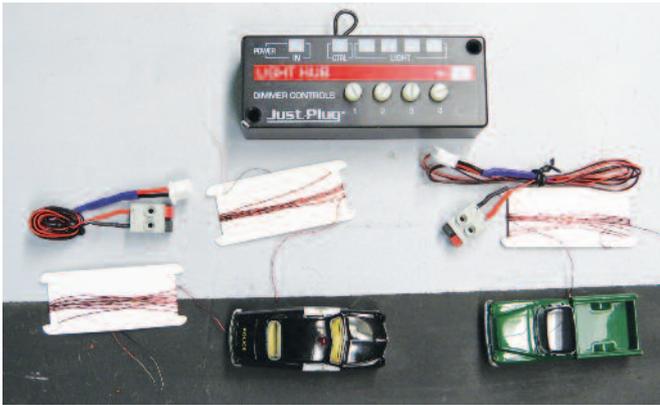
That said, the Just Plug system does have its limits, so as my wife, and this magazine's editor say, "It's time for some techno-nerd babble." The Current required to run each unit is clearly stated on the package and is posted in mA, which stands for Milliamps, or 1000th of an amp. Most of the Just Plug structures and accessories use between 20 to 30mA but it is important to check the label. The concept is

really simple. If we have 10 devices, each drawing 30mA we multiply 10 times 30mA which equals 300mA. In this example our power supply must provide a minimum of at least 300mA for the system to work properly.

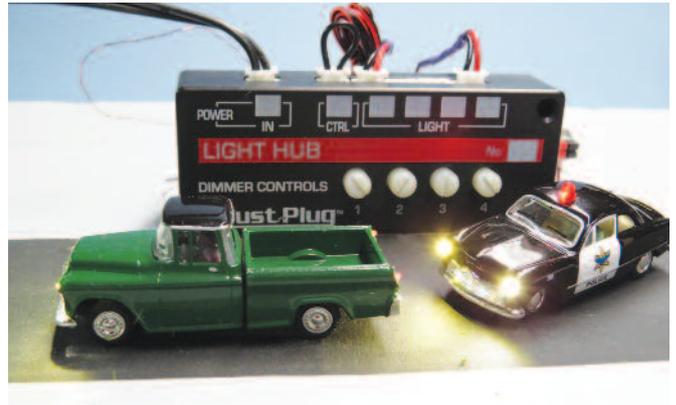
The limits are not only the power supply but the wiring as well. Provided the purchaser is using all Just Plug components he is completely safe, but anything else used must be up to the task to function correctly and safely. Even though I mention 300mA as the minimum to light the 10 items mentioned, the standard Woodlands Scenics wall block can supply 1000mA (or 1amp), so play it safe, by using the wall block a modeler can easily light a small town.



*Just Plug adds a wealth of interest to a layout. Obviously in this scene the dastardly traffic desperado in the green pickup has been stopped by the officer in the police cruiser. Both vehicles are reminiscent of the types of cars seen on the streets of anywhere America during the early 1960s.*



Not included with the vehicles, but shown for size comparison is the Light Hub. Although not the same in each case, in this application the ultra fine wires from the cars are first attached to the gray quick-connects and in turn the quick-connects are then plugged into the hub.



Once connected to the Light Hub the lights for the individual components (shown here are the two vehicles, but it could be street lights or buildings) can be adjusted for brightness to fit the scene as the user desires.

With the description out of the way, it's time to discuss the vehicles. The Police Car (JP5593) is the type of vehicle used in the early 60s. Painted the traditional black and white, the vehicle has two sets of wires. Woodland has separated the headlights and the roof mounted red lights for separate control if the user requires it. (When activated the strobe flashes and will get the attention of a potential offender and layout observer). The second vehicle we have is a replica of an early 60s pickup truck (JP5590).

Both the police car and the pickup truck are full of details aside from the lights. Each vehicle features great paint and graphics, and each vehicle includes a driver, something that is most important if depicting a driving or action scene. The very fine enameled wires for the lights exit the bottom of the car for easy

hiding. I suggest that you recommend to the purchaser that should he need to manipulate the wires to use a soft wood tool like a toothpick, or something similar. Don't use anything made of sharp metal that could nick the enamel coating.

By using Woodland's Just Plug it's super easy to put a scene together. It's hard to imagine, but it appears that someone got stopped in front of Deuces's Bike Shop again. All it took was the two vehicles to turn the scene from a desolate abandoned corner into a place of action. The vehicles are available now in HO and N-scale and at a very reasonable price. Although the squad and pickup were featured, there are a number of others to choose from and any one of them can certainly find a driving or parking spot on your customers' layouts. **HM**



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