

FOCUS ON

Trains

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Time for a Hoe-down

Add a little whimsy to a G-scale layout with a hobo band from Woodland Scenics

For years, Woodland Scenics has been providing model railroaders with the materials to add dimension to their railroads through the use of scenery products and accessories. Their specialty is to add life to what would otherwise be nothing more than a set of rails on a piece of plywood.

Woodland Scenics recently added G-scale figures to their vast line of products. Figurines of people are needed with any railroad layout. For instance, metropolitan Phoenix has a population of approximately 1.6 million people (that figure seems to double in the winter). It would be totally ridiculous to expect a model railroad to contain over a million miniature people, but several figures standing



All of Woodland Scenics accessories are packaged in clear bubble packs, making it easy for your customers to select from the vast array of layout products.

at a sidewalk intersection, waiting for a traffic signal, are needed and, in most cases, even expected.

One thing that I have personally noted is the lack of figurines as part of G-scale railroad layouts. Oftentimes built as part of a garden setting, these are incredibly extensive layouts with beautiful scenery, detailed buildings and operating fixtures, but there are rarely any people or animals incorporated into the layout.

To solve this problem, Woodland Scenics has added an extensive line of G-scale human and animal figures to their array of products. Many different figurines are available, both urban and rural. One of the more interesting groupings is the whimsical *Junior's Jug Band*.

The figures come packaged in a three-in-one blow molded, see-through container. The figures are painted in what can best be described as country garb. The band consists of what would likely represent a hobo country



music group. A fiddle player, string bass player and man blowing into a jug-type bottle are included as part of the set. All three figures are well detailed, including a bug-eyed look on the string bass player's facial features. The *Junior's Jug Band* is completely out of place in an urban setting, so unless you have a customer who is modeling a Halloween costume party, this is strictly a country-style music group that will fit best in a country layout.

For photographic purposes, the three figurines were placed next to a simple wooden log cabin-style structure. Further dimension was added by Woodland Scenics #TR3514 Woodland Classics Tree Set. The trees are classified as O-scale, but as with most trees in railroad layouts, they still look natural in a G-scale setting.

One last item would complete this setting. A "continuous loop" music player with the appropriate tunes could easily be incorporated into the interior of the cabin. This would add yet another dimension to the figures and the train layout.

Figurines are an important part of any model railroad layout. Mostly figures of people are seen with HO railroads, but they can be just as important in helping a garden railroad come alive. **HM**



Junior's Jug Band is strictly for a country setting. By adding a couple of trees and a basic log cabin-type structure, a bare corner of a large-scale railroad can be brought to life.