

Protection of “Diamond” Crossings

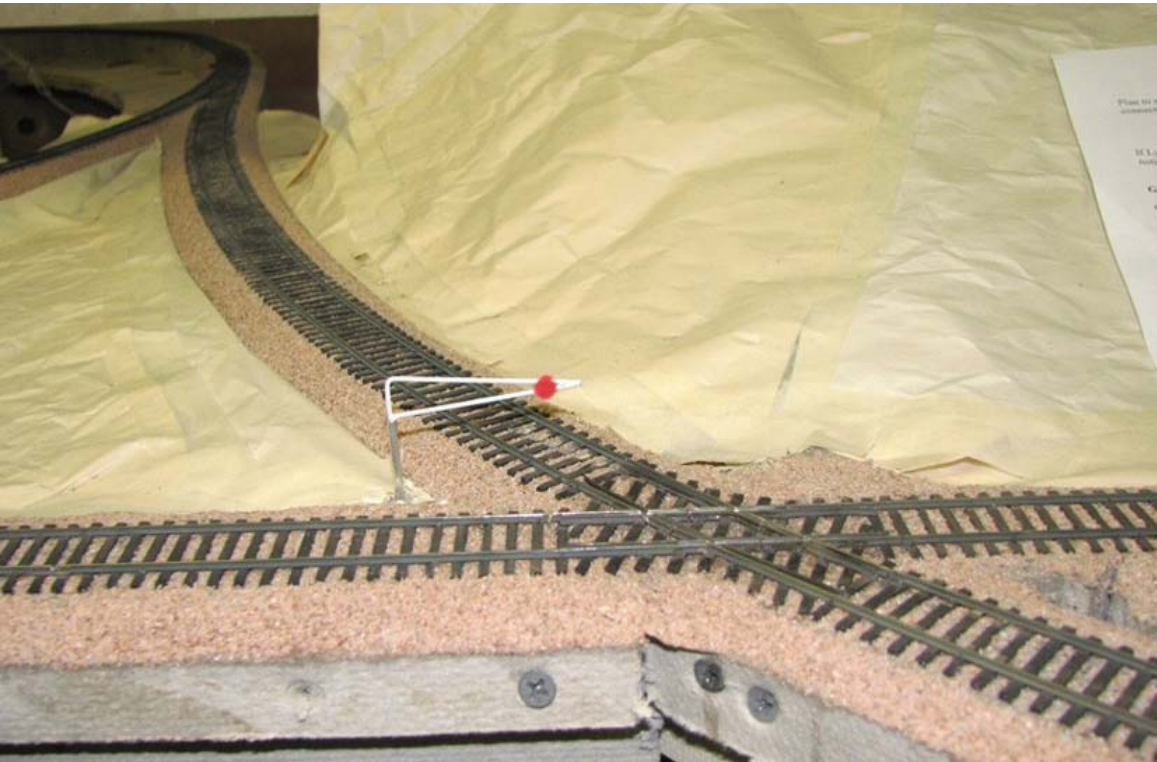
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As I work on designing my future layout, I have been looking at how railroads cross each others' tracks, and how those crossings are protected to prevent collisions. For many years the railroad stationed a railroad employee in a two-story building, or some other type of tower, to watch over the crossing. This employee, called a tower operator, would control signals to protect the crossings. Over the years, the larger railroads went to using block signals to protect the crossings as part of a CTC, or other, system. Smaller railroads went to simpler, cheaper, methods such as gates and signs.

As I travel the country, I have been photographing different ways that diamonds are protected on railroads but also looking at how model railroaders duplicate the prototype on their layouts. If you pay attention and look, you will see a variety of techniques from block signals, to gates, and even stop signs. I plan to have several locations on my future model railroad where other railroads will cross my main line (or primary railroad of interest) as interchange points. So these examples will give me some ideas for my own railroad.









204 words

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6 photos

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