How to construct a model railroad benchwork

Generally, the term bench work is used to refer to any work or labor managed by the use of a support structure rather than using heavy machinery. A model railroad benchwork is a structure on which a model railroad is built. The structure may be a plywood piece placed on a table or a more complex structure like the L girder. A model railroad benchwork is compost of legs, a framework structure with a sub road bed attached onto it, a roadbed and the tracks. The structure is a permanent place where a sub roadbed, scenery and track can be built. The model railroad benchwork also allows for easy planning of expansion. Throughout this article, the materials used and the steps followed when constructing a model railroad bench work will be discussed.

The following are the tools and materials you will need to build a model railroad benchwork: a 1"X4" lumber for the joints, risers and girders, a 2"X2" lumber for the legs, a 1"X2" to be used on the cross braces and "L" girders, wood screws, pencil, carpenters glue, 1/4"X3" carriage bolts, washers and nuts, paper, carpentry tools and drawing tools. The drawing tools that you will need are: a scale ruler, framing square and a compass while the carpentry tools that you will need are: a hand saw, a screw driver, saber saw and C clamps. Once you have all these tools in place, you can now proceed to the real construction of the structure.

To construct a model railroad benchwork, you will need to follow the steps outlined below. The first thing is to determine the most appropriate type of model railroad bench work you need. For instance, if your plan is temporary, a simple plywood structure will serve you the best but if your plan is permanent, you will need to build a complex structure like "L" girder. There are a number of methods that can be used to construct a model railroad benchwork. These include:

The cutter method

This technique of building a model railroad benchwork requires that you use a flat board on an open bench work. The sub road bed is directly cut out from the board leaving the other parts of the board intact. The sub road bed is then raised using risers that are attached to the joists. The locations of rivers and lakes can also be cut out on the flat board.

The butted grid work method

While using this method of constructing a model railroad benchwork, you will need to use the 1"X4" lumber on both the cross joists and the girders. The cross girders are then screwed and glued together in between the girders leaving a gap of 24". After this, use the 2"X2" to make the legs. Now bolt the legs to the girders using the 1/4" carriage bolts, washers and nuts. Alternatively, the legs may be fixed to the bench work using wood screws.

The "L" girder open bench work method

This method gives the best support and appearance possible to your model railroad benchwork. You can make the "L" girder by screwing and gluing the 1"X2" lumber to the edges of the 1"X4" lumber. The "L" should be inverted such that the 1"X2" lumber is the one on the top. The legs made from the 2"X2" lumber are then fixed to the girder using the bolts. After that, 1"X2" cross braces are fixed to the legs. The braces should hold the girders parallel to each other.

While building your model railroad benchwork, it is very important that you have the plan of your track as well as the scenery in mind. You also need to consider other elements of the plan that might affect the positioning of the girders.