

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA

Jack Rice's Columbia & Western



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Story by Bob Sobol, photos by Dave Zamzow and Bob Sobol.

Layout tours at Jack Rice's Columbia & Western are always a treat and this year was no exception. Jack has been busy adding fantastic details throughout the town of Columbia.

Over 300 new figures populate the downtown area, some of which were reworked and painted by John Bennett. Workmen tar the roof of Otto's camera store, and kids with Mohawk haircuts engage police outside of Slick Willy's. Crowds gather in front of the opera house as the "fat lady" emerges from her limo.

There are signs everywhere, many of which Jack downloaded from the internet. They proclaim everything from the merits of certain brands of cola to "50 beautiful girls and 3 ugly ones."

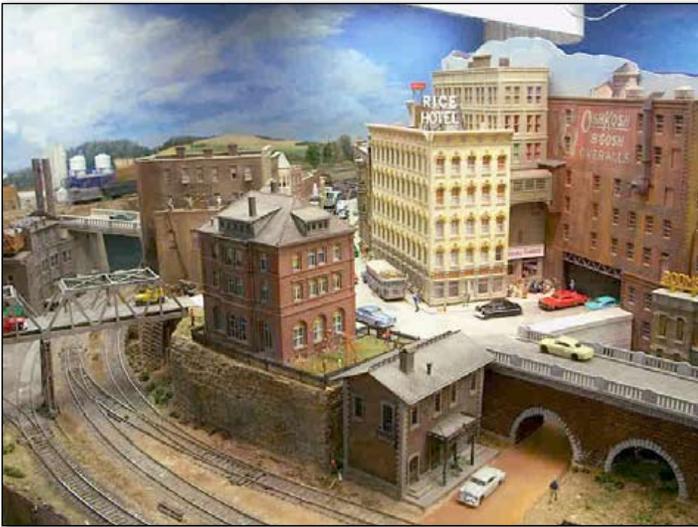
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A new roof for Otto's Camera Shop and Drum Repair. Photo by Bob Sobol



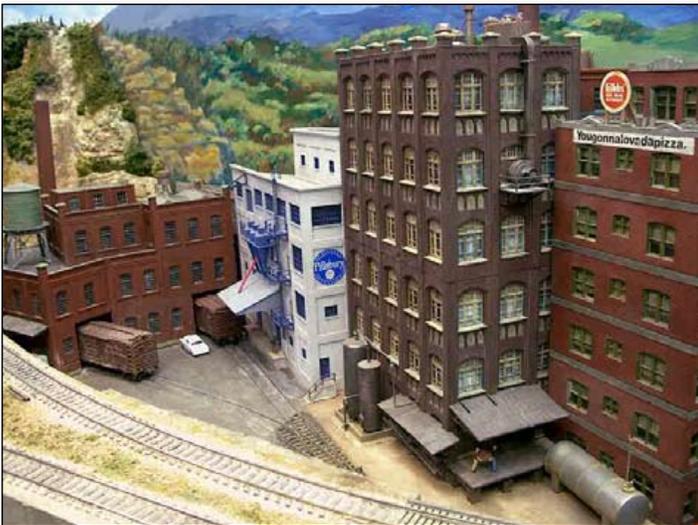
A disturbance outside Slick Willy's bar. Photo by Bob Sobol



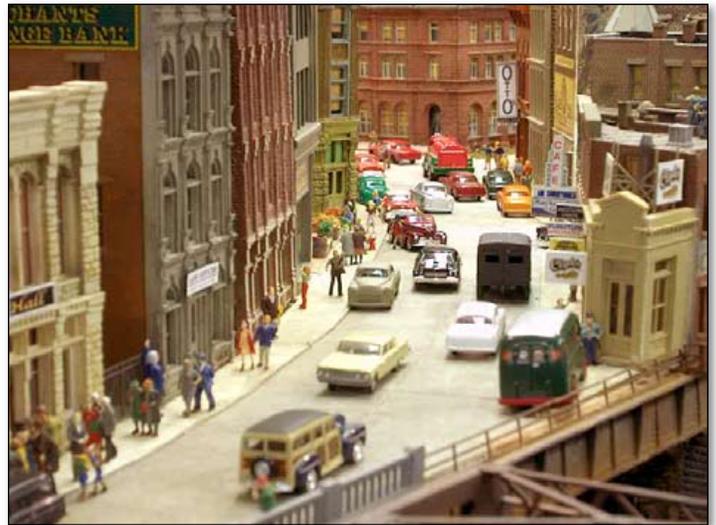
The curve of downtown. Photo by Dave Zamzow



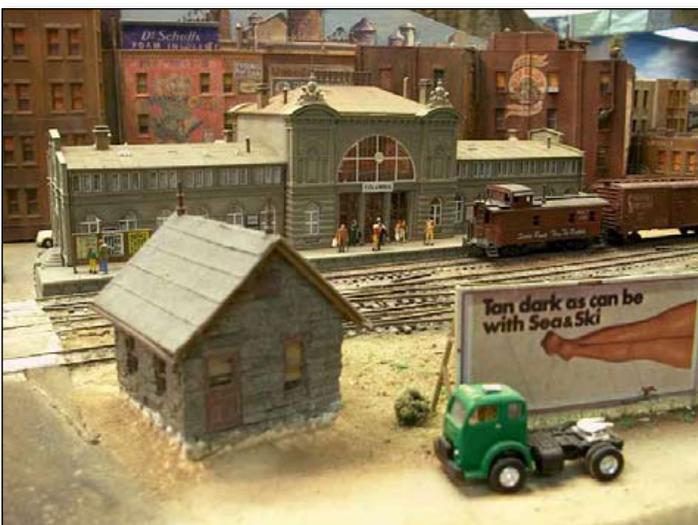
Overview of downtown, showing layers of buildings, flats and cutouts. Photo by Bob Sobol



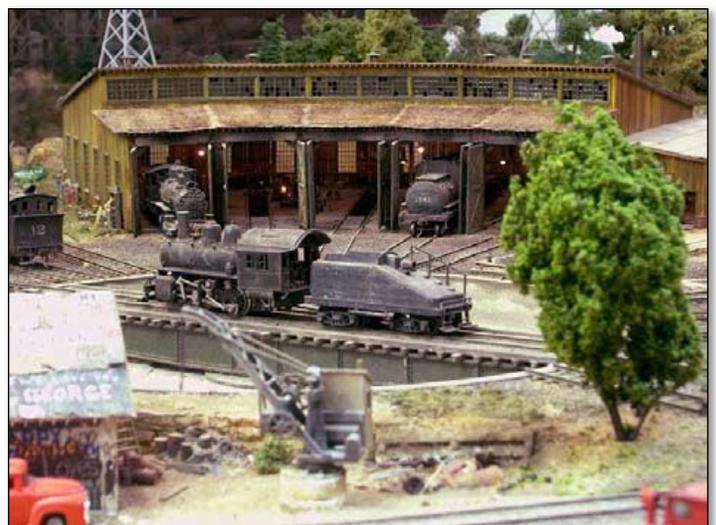
Industrial area. Photo by Dave Zamzow



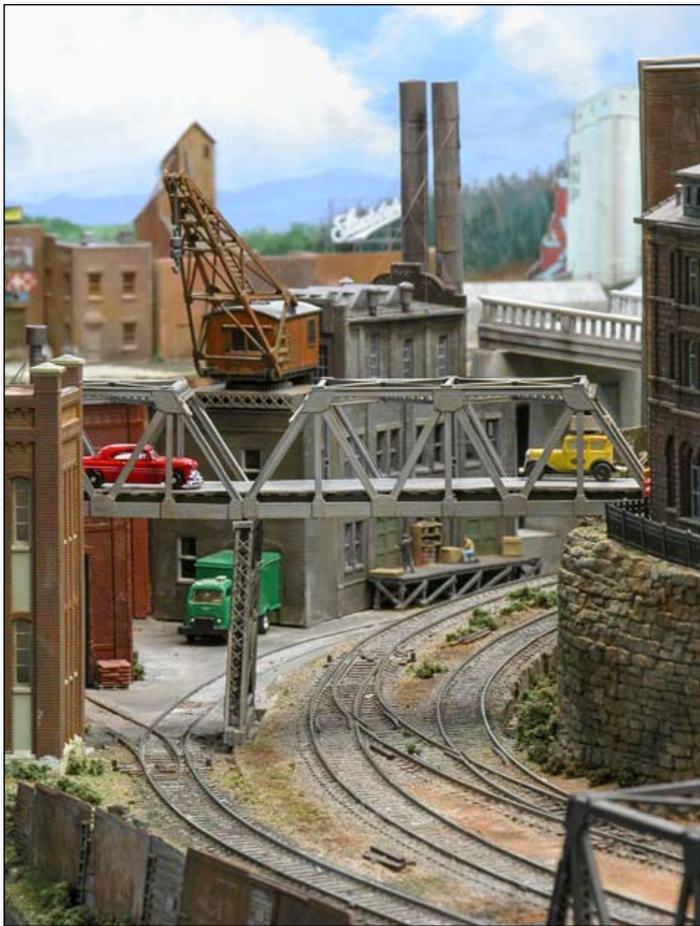
Busy main street. Photo by Dave Zamzow



Columbia station. Photo by Dave Zamzow



Columbia roundhouse. Photo by Dave Zamzow



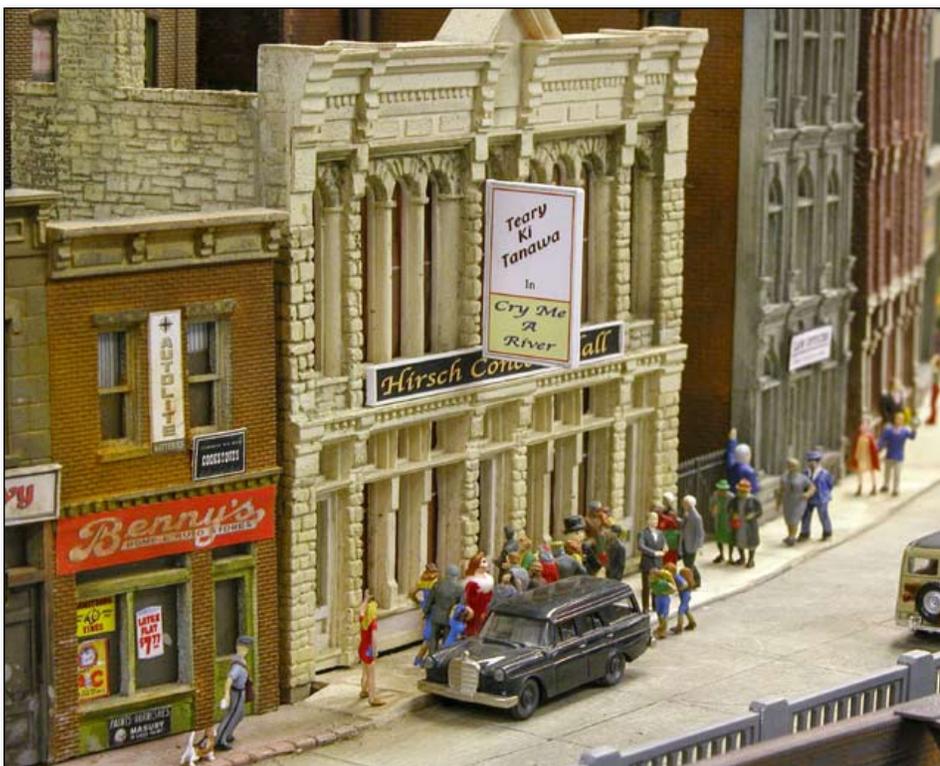
Sweeping curves lead from the station to downtown. Photo by Bob Sobol



Chuck's News Stand and the Hot Dog concession. Photo by Bob Sobol



Interesting details behind buildings. Photo by Bob Sobol



Crowds gather outside the Hirsch Concert Hall for the afternoon performance of "Cry Me a River." The star of the show, Teary, emerges from her limo. Photo by Bob Sobol

Buildings sit at angles, and main street curves through town. Regular buildings give way to shallow flats, also placed at shallow angles against the backdrop. Behind flats are printed building cut-outs. Several of the cut-outs sport added 3-D details such as roof cornices that give them greater depth and help produce a more consistent shadow direction.

There are little details everywhere, such as sheets of paper that have blown out of the trash and into the gutters. Colored sawdust provides a convincing texture for the detritus that collects in big city street.

Jack exposed the rear of many buildings, modeling the variety of fences, junk and trash cans that we see when riding a real train through town.

Thanks, Jack, for sharing your great layout with us! I