

A NATURAL progression of the types of scenery I have mentioned in previous months is the description of a feature that is capable of filling a corner on your base-board—usually one of the most difficult parts of the layout to fill satisfactorily. A useful feature is the merchant's coal yard, which can not only be made to look effective, but can also serve a useful purpose by providing additional shunting movements for those who enjoy the operating side of model railways.

The buildings to be seen in a coal yard are usually few in number and are sometimes dilapidated. They vary in design from town to town, so that any reader may use the models shown in the photographs as a basis for his goods yard, making variations of his own.

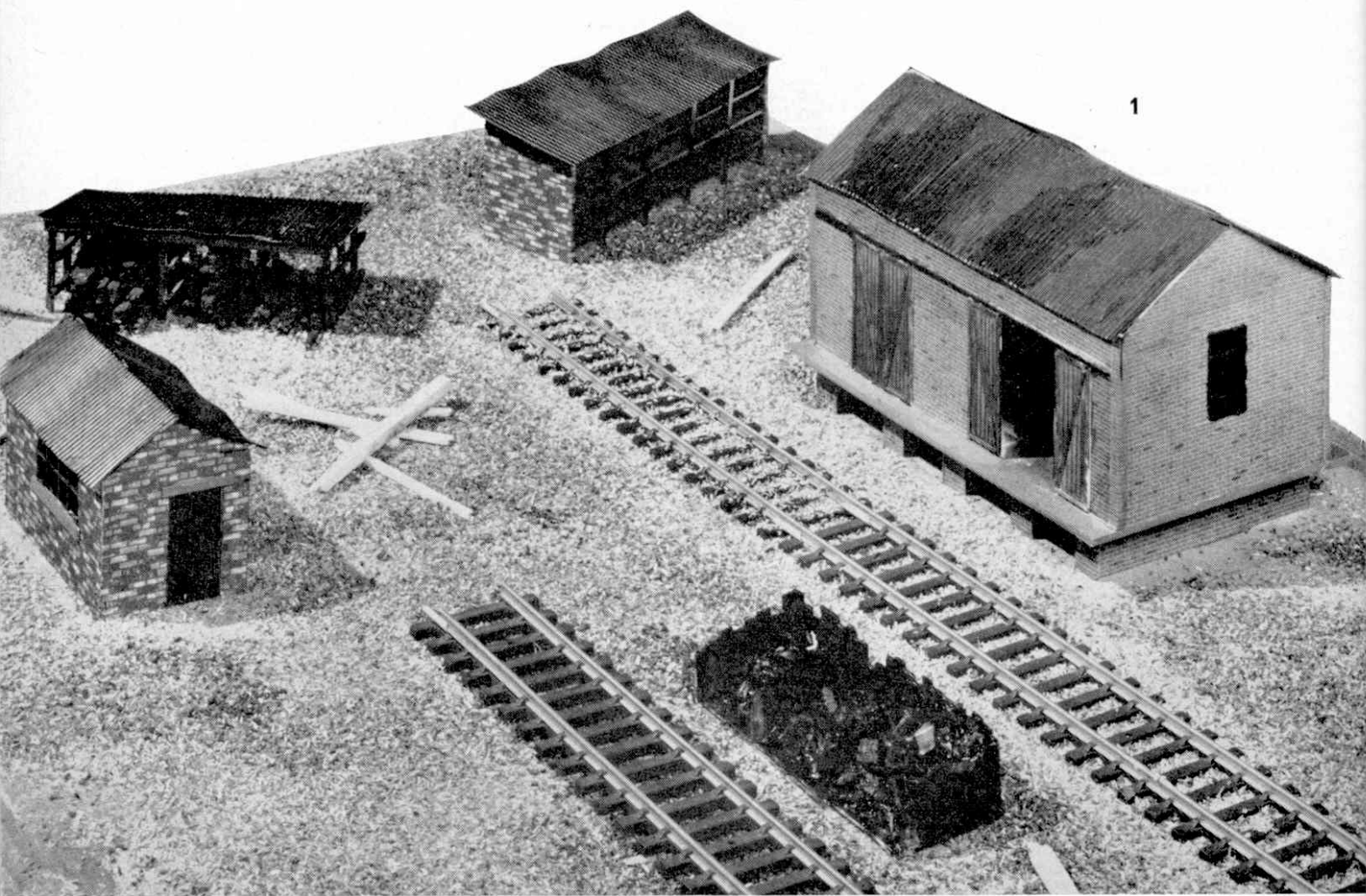
Most important of the items I used to construct the buildings shown in our top picture is that which forms the substructure of nearly every building in the photograph. This is known as styrene sheet, and is sold under such trade names as Plastikard and Synthocard. This material

is easier than cardboard, or plywood, to work with, and I can fully recommend it. An example of the ease with which various shapes can be formed is demonstrated by scoring a groove in the material, and then bending it over the crack. The card will then break to the shape already scored. The material is 'glued' by brushing on Synthi-Goo or Meg Pack, liquids which are in fact, solvents, the result being that the card is melted and merged. The solvent can usually be obtained from the same shop as the styrene sheet. This means that joints may be filled, sandpapered and worked in ways that would be impossible with cardboard.

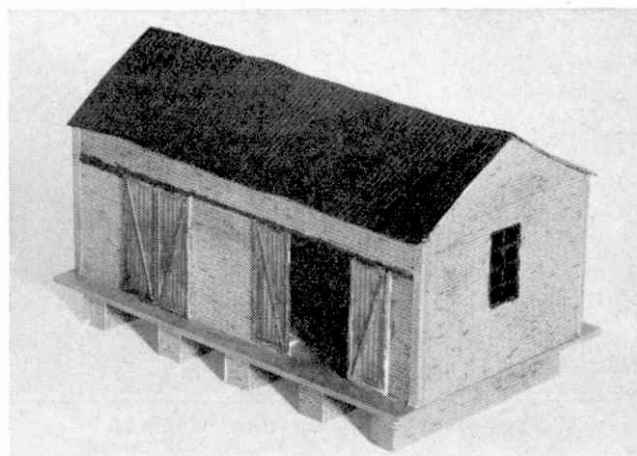
The lower illustration on this page shows the large store shed, which has a small window in one end, and a

Build yourself

representation of double sliding doors, one pair open and one shut, along one side. The two other walls are blank. First cut the two blank sides from styrene sheet (.04 is suitable) making the larger wall $4\frac{1}{2}$ in to 5 in long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in high and the end wall 3 in long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in high to



- 1 General view of the coal yard, showing the five structures involved. That on the extreme right is the storage shed, the coal staithes are in the foreground, the office is on the left of the picture, the woodshed is in the left background, and the lean-to is seen centre background.
- 2 A close-up of the storage shed, showing the discoloration of the corrugated iron roof. This is done by mixing rust red paint with black.
- 3 This view of the wood shed shows its extremely simple construction from balsa wood. Corrugated sheet and styrene sheet are used for the false roof. The wood is coloured with a brown paint mottled occasionally with greys and blacks.



a realistic model local coal yard

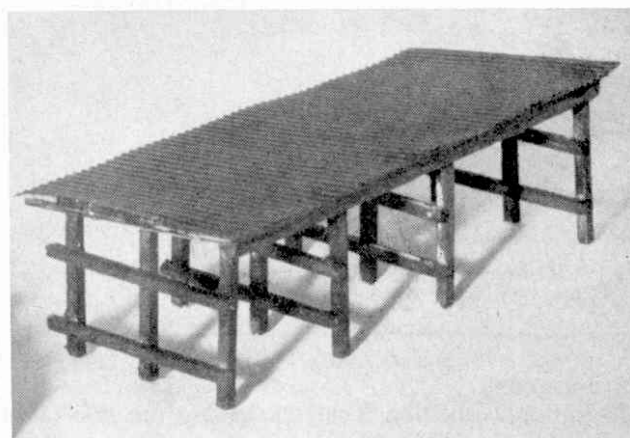
the apex of the roof. Adopt suitable proportions for the doorways, etc. and remove the spaces for doors and windows with a knife. The doors are cut from styrene, although of a thinner quality than that used for the building itself. The planking for the doors is then scribed with a blunt knife, and the framing, also of styrene, is glued round the door. When this has dried, the diagonal pieces are glued in the centre of the door, and the slide rail is glued above all four doors in one continuous piece. When this completed side has dried it may be glued to the blank end and the other side, and then left to dry.

Window Frame

The end containing the window is then placed on the work bench and the window frame pieces assembled from styrene sheet cut into strips approximately 1 mm wide. Use a sharp model knife and a steel rule for this operation. This side may then be joined to the three already glued together. The four walls of the main building are then left to dry, and the two pieces of the roof may then be cut from styrene sheet and glued on top. The base may also be cut out of the thickest card available, and glued underneath the building to give it support. When the main building has dried, the five brick piers can be constructed from a frame made of four pieces of .03 styrene sheet glued, assembled, and fixed to the underside of the floor base. The whole building is then covered with brick paper, three types of which currently available on the market are manufactured by Hamblings, Modelcraft and Superquick.

The Office

The smaller building, or office, is built in the same way as the storage shed, and when completely dry, brickpaper is glued over the walls. The roofs of the building are intended to represent corrugated iron, and the material used is made by Messrs. G. N. Slater of 6 Dalveen Drive, Timperley, Cheshire. It is obtainable either direct from them or from most good model shops. The woodshed and lean-to are made from balsa wood



strip, and these too, are covered with brickpaper when necessary, and roofed with 'corrugated iron'.

The coal staithes are very simple in construction, and consist simply of six pieces of medium-thick styrene sheet—a base, ($2\frac{1}{2}$ in long by 1 in) a back, ($2\frac{1}{2}$ in by $\frac{5}{8}$ in) and four uprights (1 in by $\frac{5}{8}$ in). The back and the upright pieces are scribed at $\frac{1}{8}$ in intervals to represent planks, and their upper edges are cut to different heights to give the appearance of unevenness. Very small lumps of coal are glued into heaps in the spaces between the uprights and the whole structure is painted a matt black.

Bits and pieces

The ground is made simply by covering the area around the buildings with Casco glue. Sawdust, dyed in different shades, is sprinkled on. The whole area is then scattered with an assortment of rubbish such as old locomotive wheels, bits of timber, etc.

Hornby-Dublo No. 4635 Coal Wagons can be used in the yard. Bogie Bolster Wagon No. 4610 and the Low-Sided Wagon No. 4649 can also put in an occasional appearance for the transportation of the wood and other materials usually found in a coal yard.