

Giving New Life to Some Old Carts

By Tony Bowen

In Cedar Rapids there is a pretty well known company, maybe you have heard of it, Rockwell Collins. On Wednesday afternoon's Rockwell Collins happens to have an Inventory Disposal Store that sells pretty much anything that is of no use to Rockwell Collins anymore. I just happened to stop in the other day looking for a file cabinet for my classroom and ended up instead with two old carts and a file cabinet. Now the file cabinet made its way to my classroom, however I had other plans for the two carts.

After seeing an article in N Scale Railroading Magazine on how a gentleman bought some tool carts from his local hardware store to store items on. I thought wow what a great idea. Once I started looking at Home Depot, Menard's and Lowe's for these carts and seeing that they were ranging in price from \$40.00 to \$50.00 each, I put this idea on hold. However, when I saw these two carts for \$5.00 each at Rockwell Collins Inventory Disposal Store, I thought I couldn't pass them up.



Both of my bargain carts loaded with the modeling supplies that I used.

In organizing the carts I have one that is pretty much loaded up with all of the needs for doing scenery work from earth-colored paints, to Elmer's Glue to a variety of different ground foams and ballast. The other cart is loaded with model building supplies; model paints and glues weathering chalking and some basic wiring items.

The great thing I have found so far is that these carts roll right under my benchwork, which makes for quick and easy storage. When I want to work on a certain part of my railroad I can just pull the cart(s) out that I need, and start working. When I am done I can put my supplies back on the cart(s) and roll them right under the railroad.



For storage all I have to do is un-velcro the skirt that is around the bottom of the railroad and roll the carts into place. Once the skirt is back in place the carts are hidden with all of the supplies out of sight.

A helpful tip that I have been doing is keeping the top of the carts cleared off so that I can set the supplies I am using right on top for easy access. It also helps to have the

top cleared off in case I have models that I need to remove from the railroad while I am working on a certain sections of the railroad.



Here you can see how I have moved the materials I am working with to the top of the cart for an easier reach while putting down ground foam around a new model.