



MODELING ORNATE BRICK PATTERNS WITH DECALS

PCR-NMRA Coast Division – Sept. 2018

1



This clinic will discuss using decals to simulate brick patterns created by using bricks of different colors in the flat face of the wall, such as these examples, using one specific model as an example.



The model shown in this clinic was built for the 2MM Finescale layout "Copenhagen Fields" (original study model of the layout shown here) designed in 1984, and nearing completion now after 34 years. The last area to be "finished" is the "Randell's Knob" area, circled above.



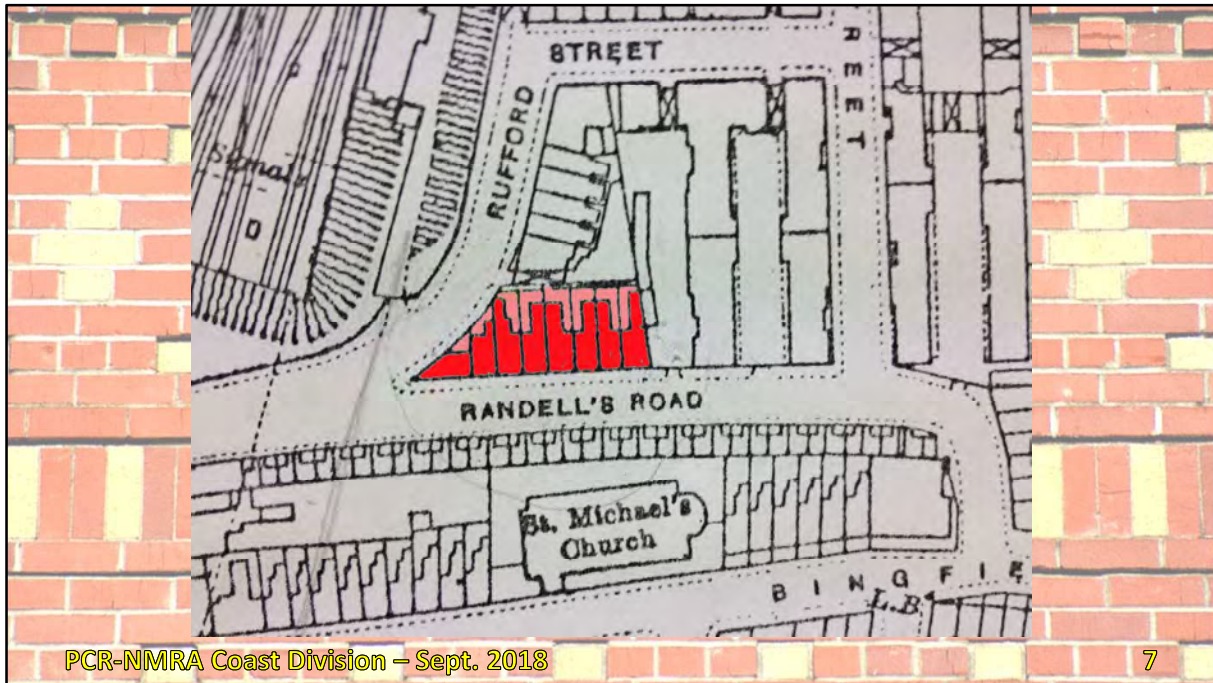
This shows the portable layout assembled for a model railway exhibition. (The Underground platforms are visible through the slot in the fascia).....



....and this arrow points to the Randell's Knob part of the layout.



The building featured in this clinic is “Paget Christian Center” (formerly called the “Paget Memorial Mission Hall”) built in 1911.



The layout group provided this copy of the Ordnance Maps, with the building footprint marked in red, and the dimension of 200 feet along the primary “street” façade of the building.....



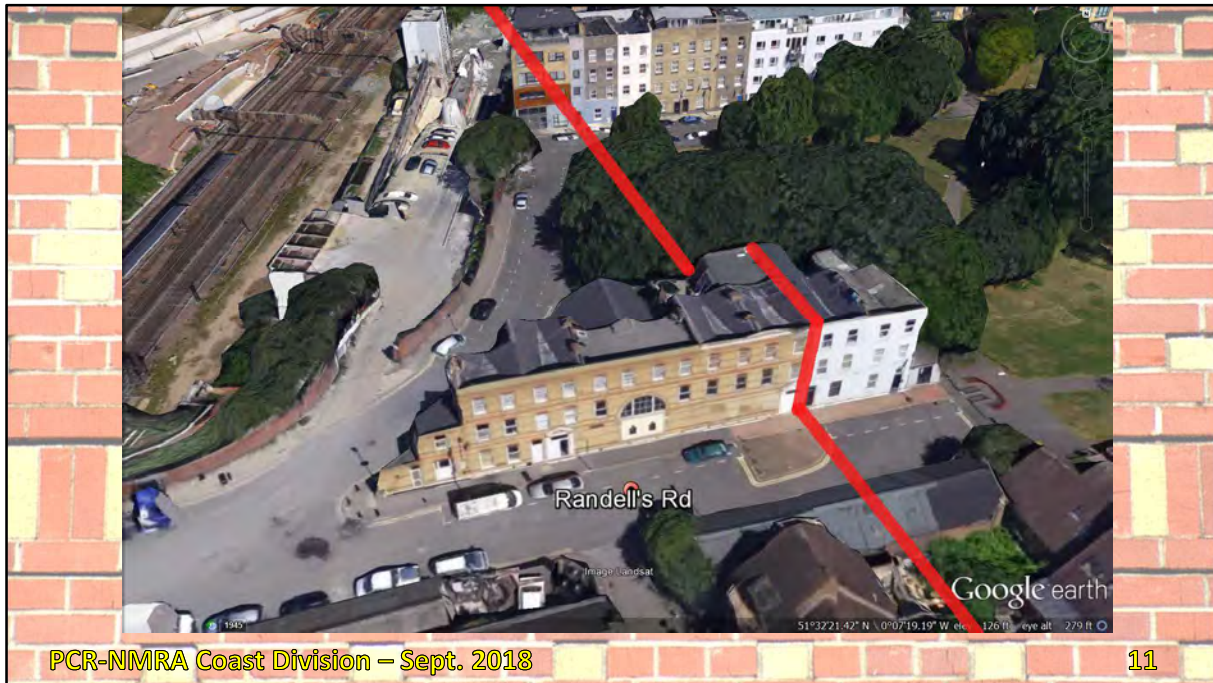
.....and this “plot” on the layout baseboard. (Note: the yard area to the upper right has now been fully completed.)



This is the back side of the building, built using a “common” brick. The patches of newer brick are where newer windows were installed; during the layout period, these would have been the taller double-hung windows.



The “primary façade” of the building used a light colored face brick with contrasting bands and details in a red brick. The question arose how to model these contrasting brick areas.



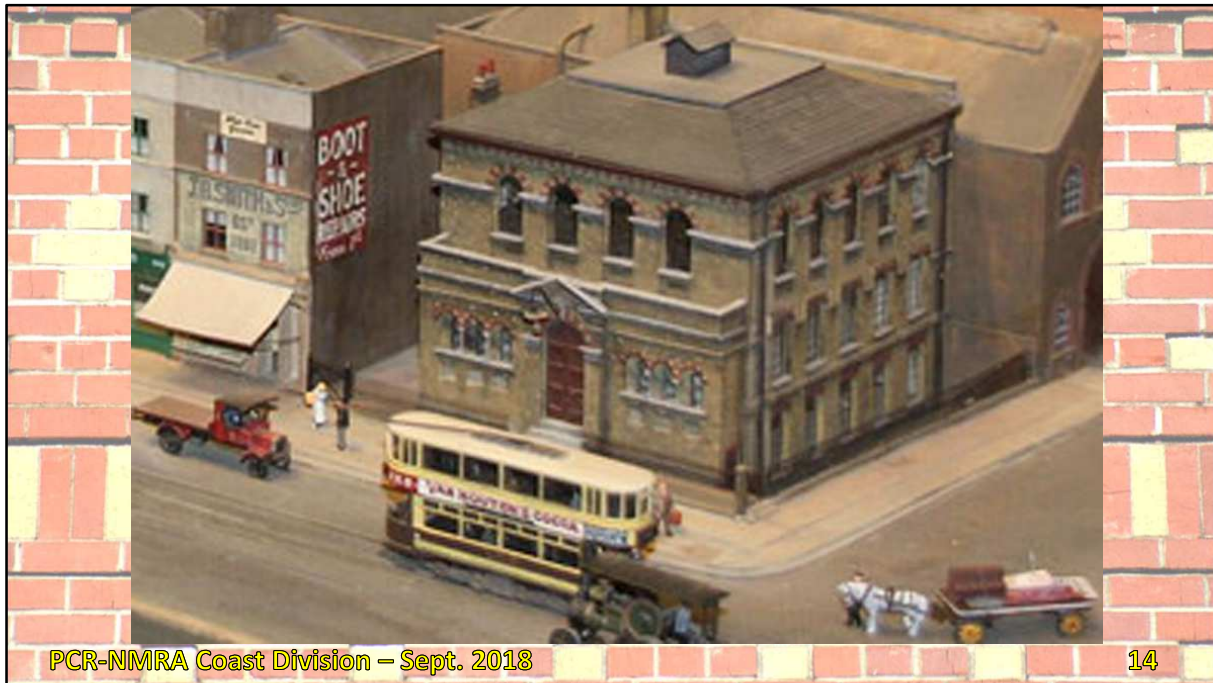
The edge of the layout actually slices through the building – or rather runs along a line which appears to coincide with a later addition and a different property, now painted white and with definite differences in details.



The street-side photographs were modified in Adobe Photoshop to present a view perpendicular to the façade, with the length of 200 foot and height determined by counting the bricks in the photos.



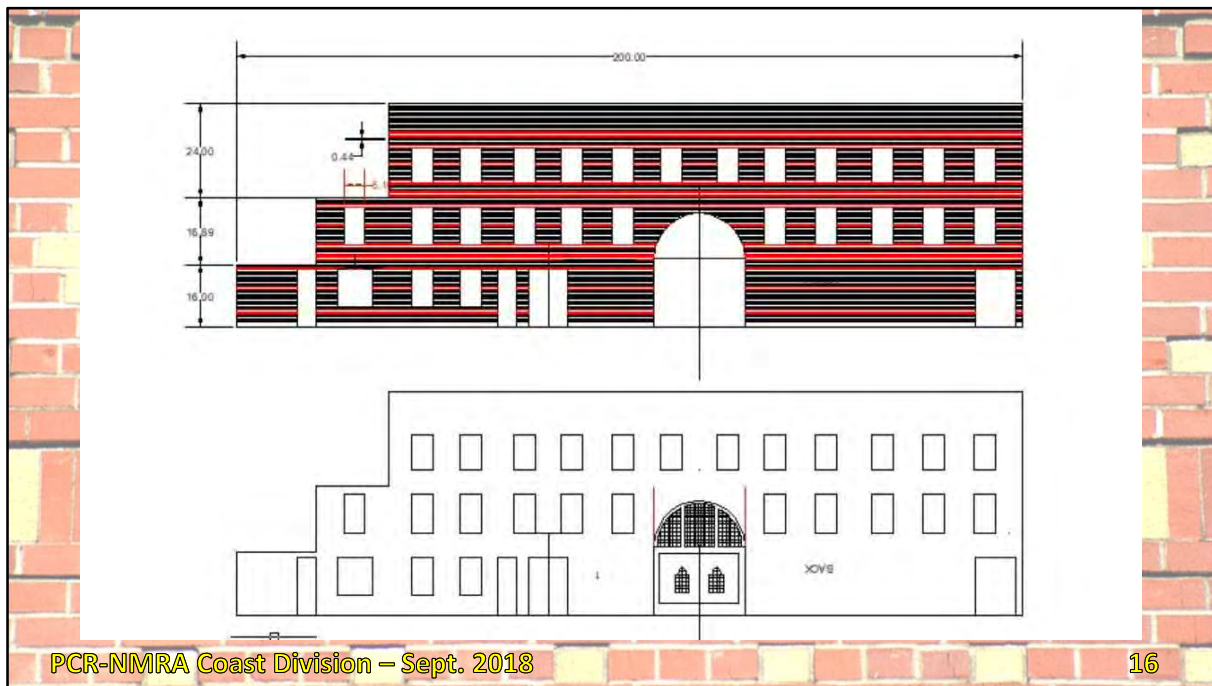
The 2MM Scale Association produces its own dimensionally correct styrene brick sheet using this hot plate and an etched metal plate.



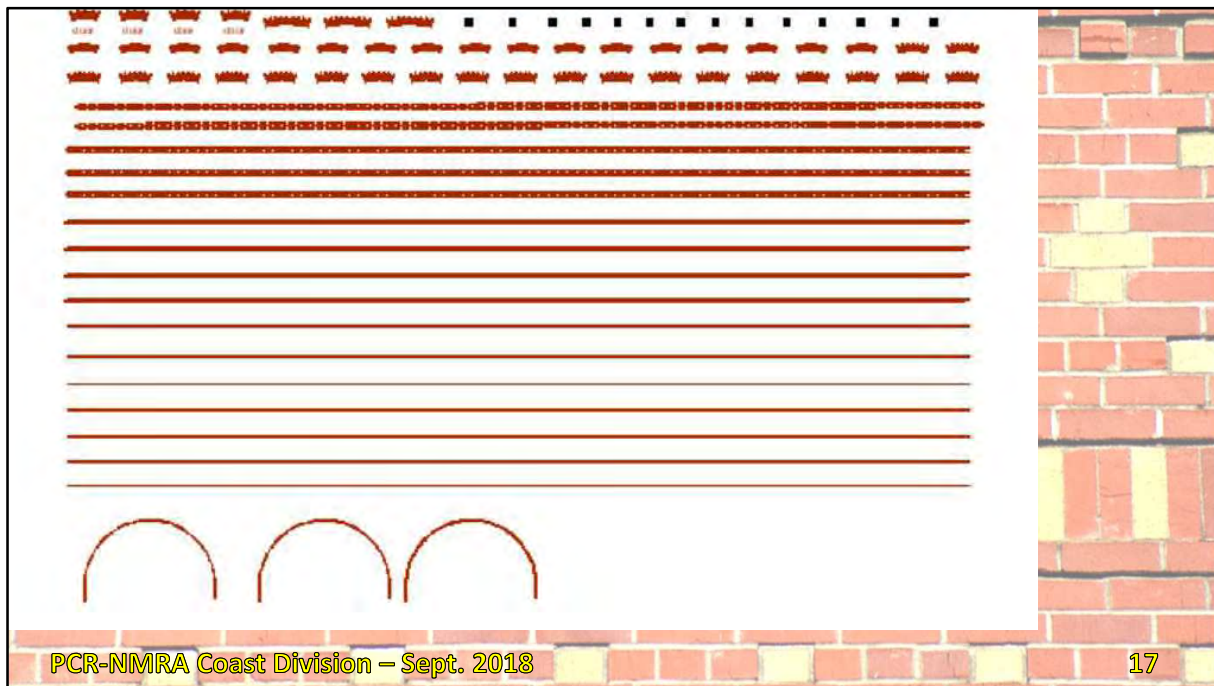
Several of the buildings on the layout have brick details with contrasting colors, some – such as this model – with the details actually painted brick-by-brick. I considered this, as well as “cutting in” a contrasting styrene brick, but then decided to create the contrasting brick areas using decals drawn with a CAD program.



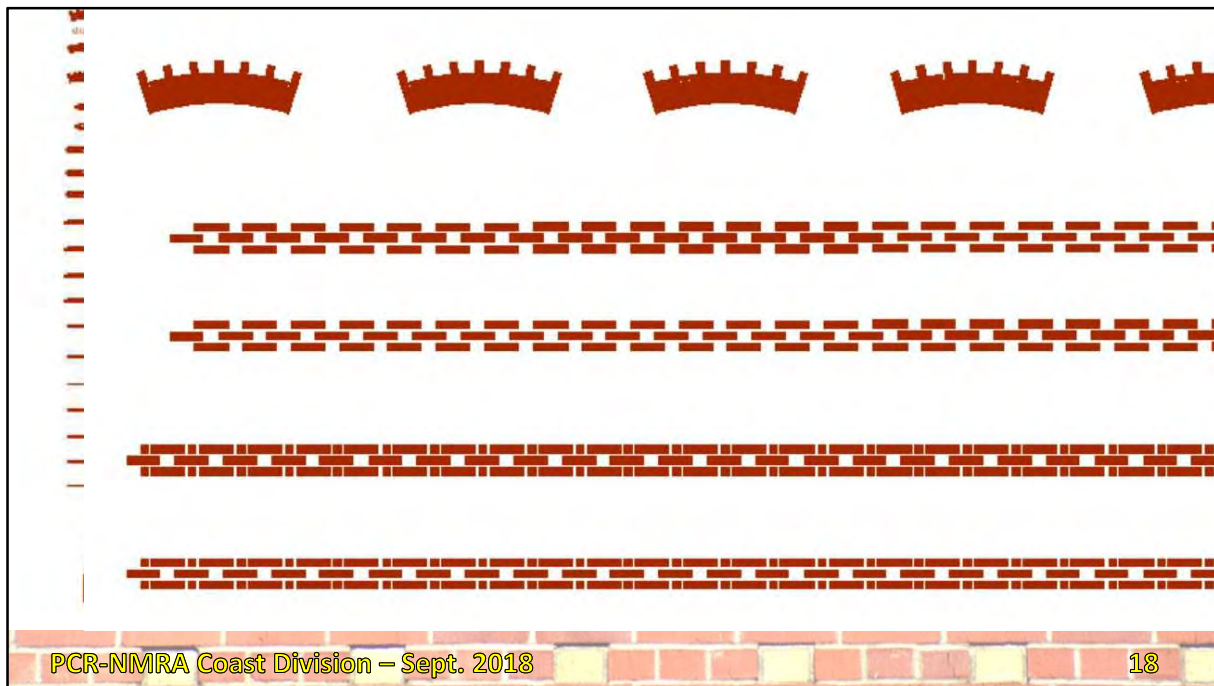
I have a variety of 2D and 3D CAD programs, many of which are available as free downloads in the internet.



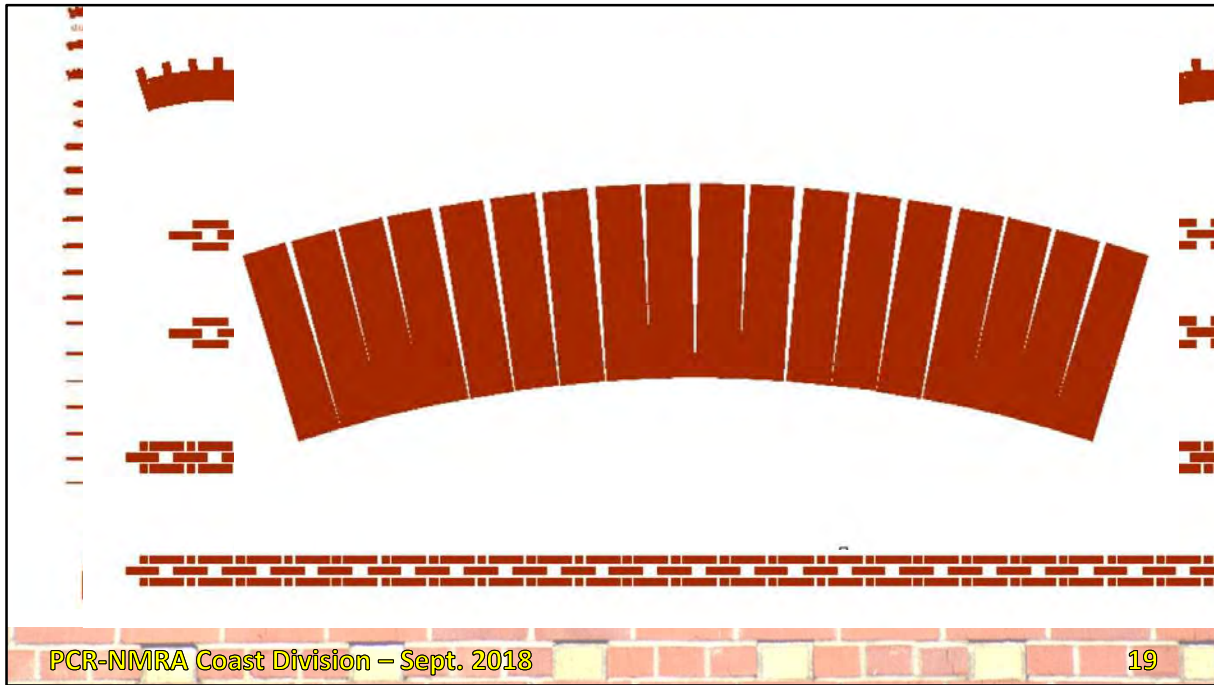
Using the 200 foot length and height derived by counting the bricks, and with the photo-shopped image as a background reference, I drew the façade in 2D CAD, not only to develop the brick decals, but also to create templates for cutting out the styrene walls.



Multiple copies of brick rows and window arches were laid out for printing the decal sheet in an inkjet printer on clear decal sheets purchased from Micro Mark.....



A “polyline” with the width and length adjusted to match a 2MM scale brick face (or end for the soldier bricks) was used to create the brick patterns....



....including the arched head at the widow and door openings.



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20

After the primary façade was built up in styrene, and before adding the decals, the brick surface was painted and received several washes to create the right brick color and bring out the joint patterns.



Then the brick decals were applied using basic decaling techniques.



The primary facades of the building with brick pattern details before installing windows and doors.



....and after windows and doors were installed. The windows on each floor are a different dimension, and don't match any available commercial model windows.....



...so each window was built up requiring 21 individual pieces of styrene....



....and printed drapes.



The back and “party walls” were then added using more plain and embossed styrene. The center section with the assembly hall was built as a slide-out-drawer to facilitate installation of an interior.



The front of the finished structure.....



....and the back. (The yard areas were left to be detailed once the building is installed on the layout.)



And loosely placed in its approximate location on “Randell’s Knob”.

A photograph of a brick wall. The wall is primarily composed of red bricks laid in a standard pattern. A horizontal band of yellow bricks runs across the middle of the image. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the red brick section.

For more on this Grade II listed building, see:
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101195705-paget-memorial-mission-hall-and-ancillary-building-caledonian-ward#.W8YrvfZFyWs>