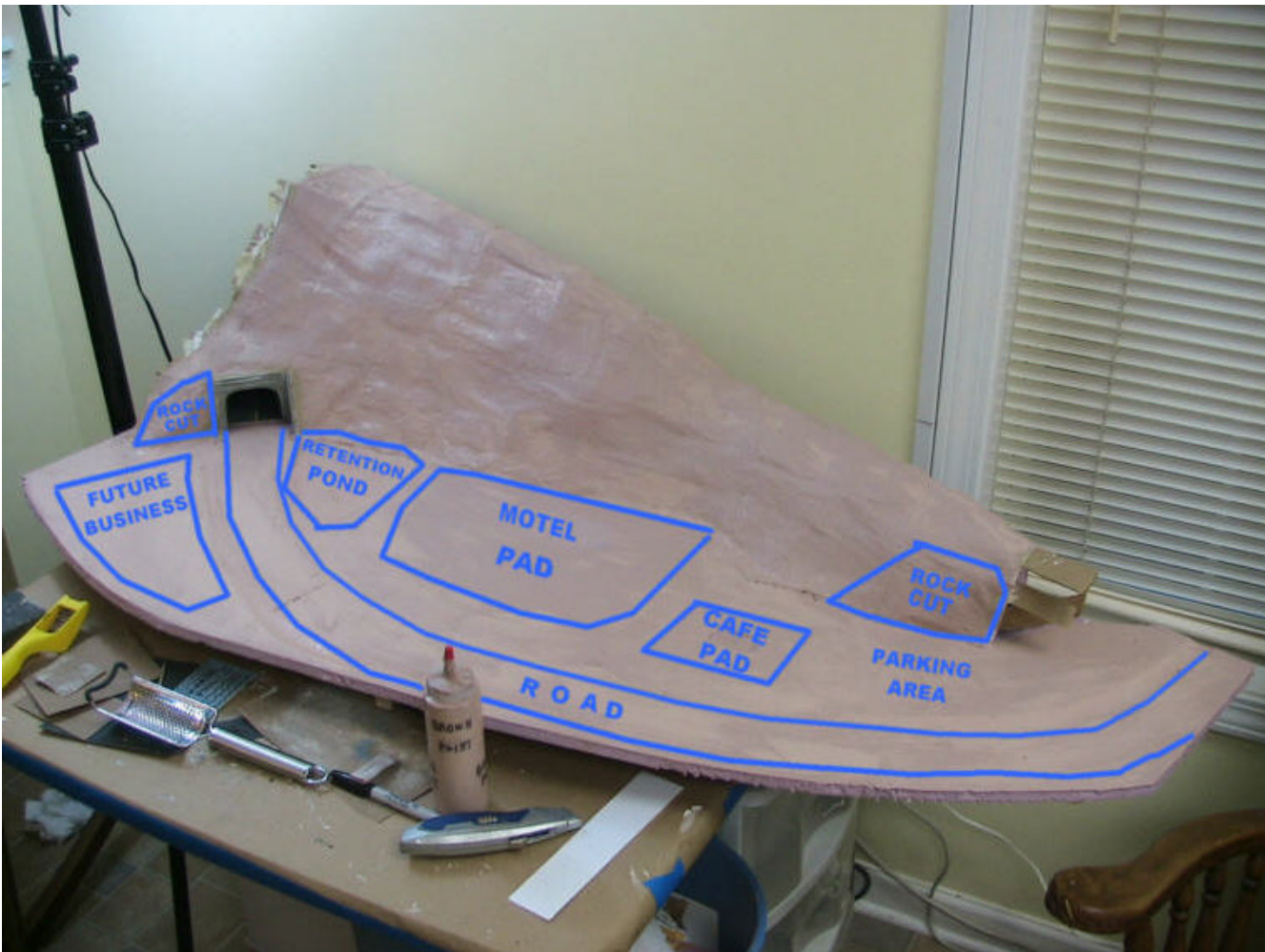


Retention Pond with Overflow by Rick Wade

It doesn't look like much progress; however there is a fair amount of work to get to this point. I installed pads for both the motel and cafe (using foam board), spackled the grades from the pads to the surrounding grade, created ditches by the road, and put a base coat of "dirt" junk paint over the entire area.



Doing Details - Retention Pond Overflow

As part of the 120 day challenge I'm trying to complete the mountain on my railroad. The section that I'm working on has a retention pond and I remember a overflow pipe in a retention pond near my old home. I don't have a picture of it; however, the image is still strong in my mind so I'll be modeling from my "mind's eye".

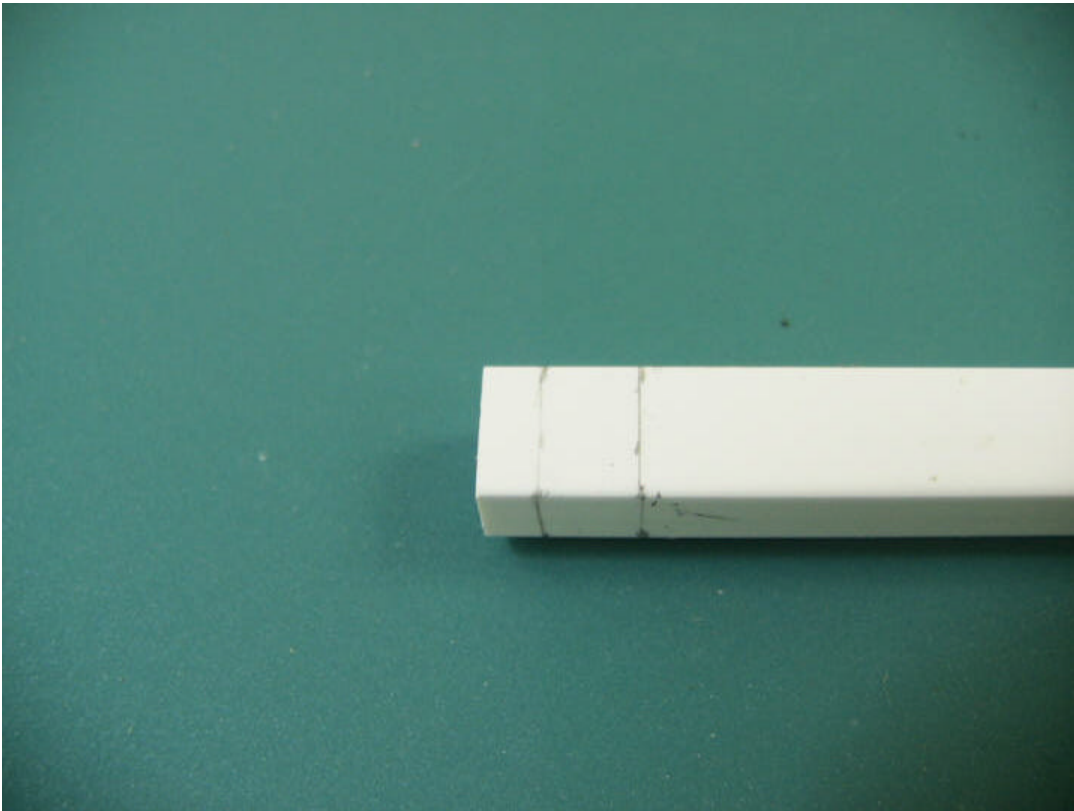
I remember the overflow pipe being made out of aluminum or stainless, rectangular in shape, with a lid to keep rain water from going down the pipe. I'll start by using some Plastruct rectangular tubing so I don't have to try and assemble the four sides from flat styrene. The tubing is 5/16" x 1/4".



Here I'm measuring the tubing and see that it is about 2-1/2ft x 2ft which will be just right for the size of the pipe.



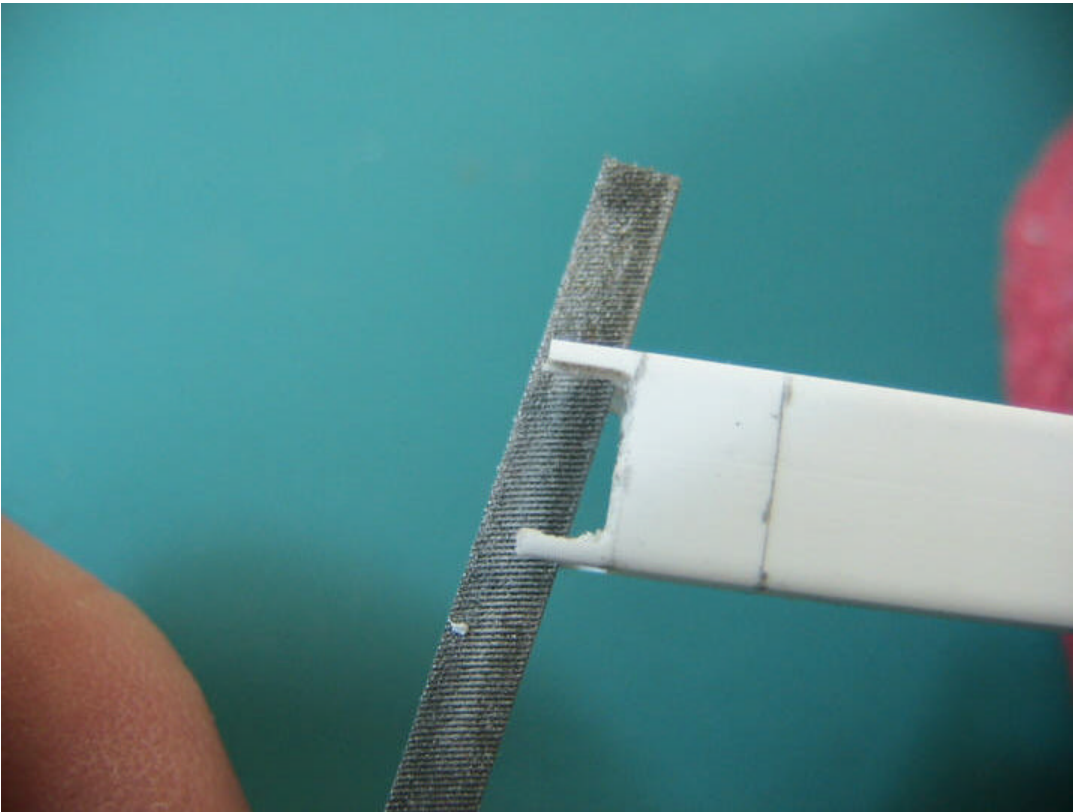
Now I could attach four tiny styrene pieces to the tubing to provide the uprights to hold the top, but I know that it would be a pain to attach those pieces. Instead I'll cut away areas of the tubing to create those four pieces. Here I mark the areas along with the overall pipe height which will be 1-1/2ft high.



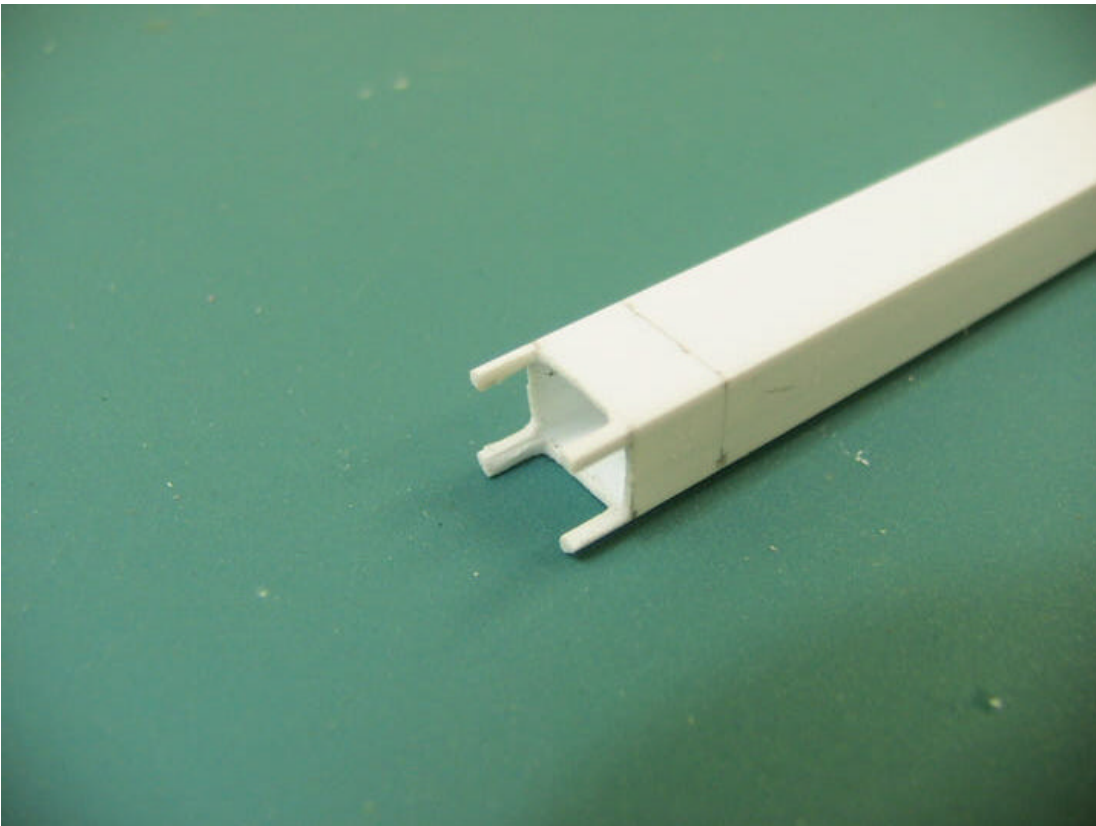
Next I use my Dremel(TM) with a cut off disk to carefully cut away the areas. NOTE: Wear safety glasses and follow all safety instructions for your power tools.



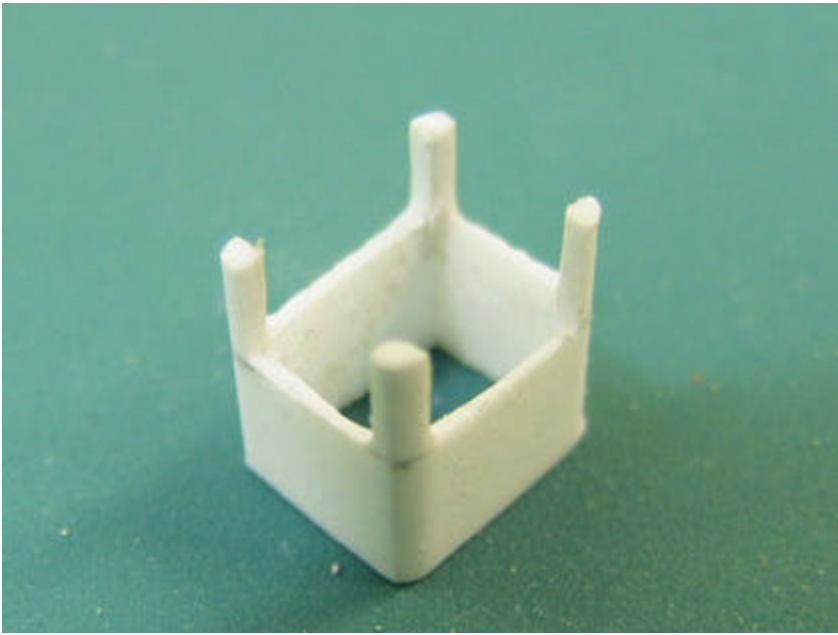
Next I use a file to dress up the area and make the final profile.



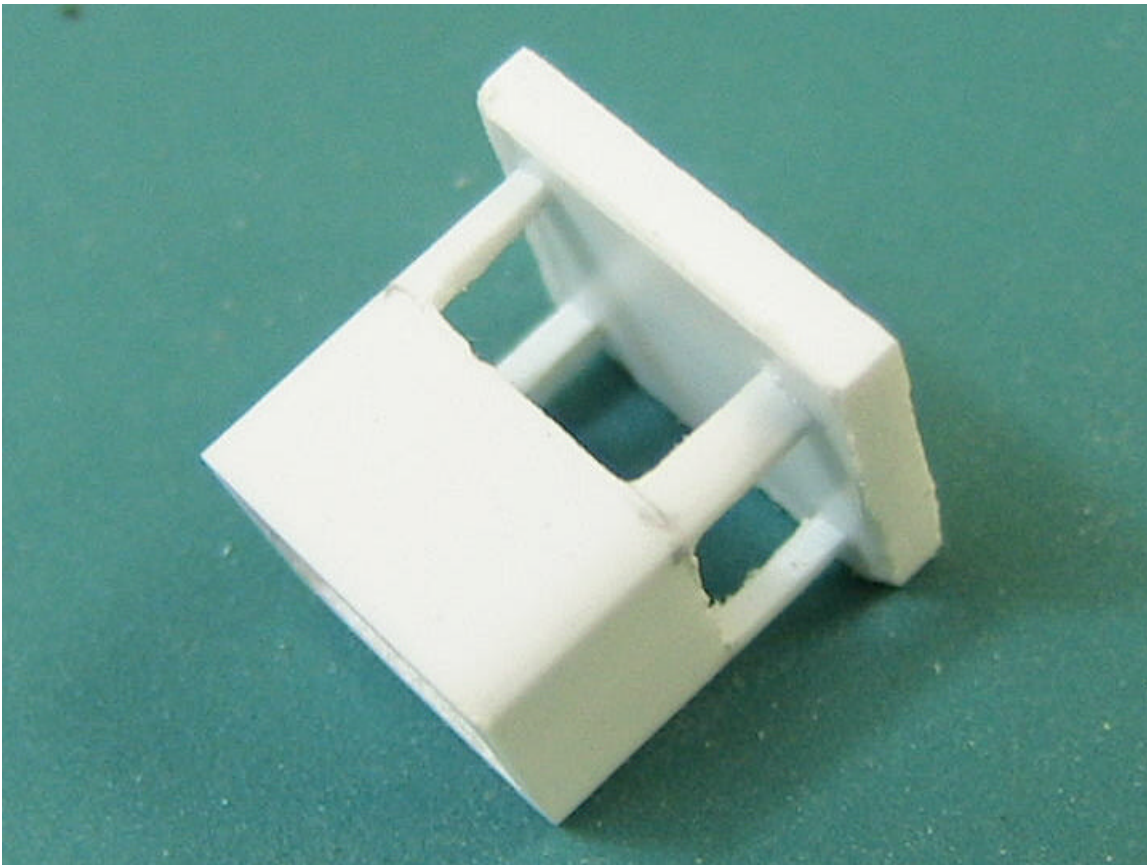
Here we see the tube with the four corner uprights. I left the piece on the long section of tubing as it is much easier to handle. Next I cut at the line to remove the piece from the tube.



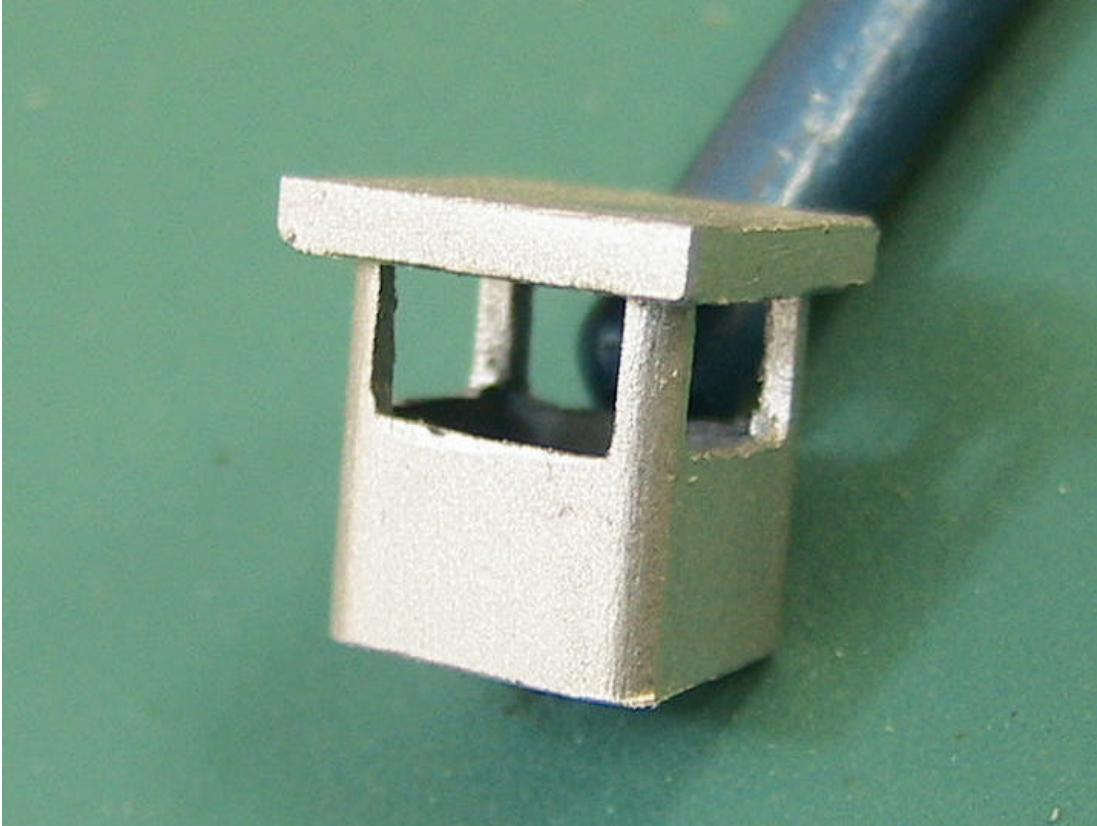
Here's the piece cut from the tubing and the end dressed with sandpaper.



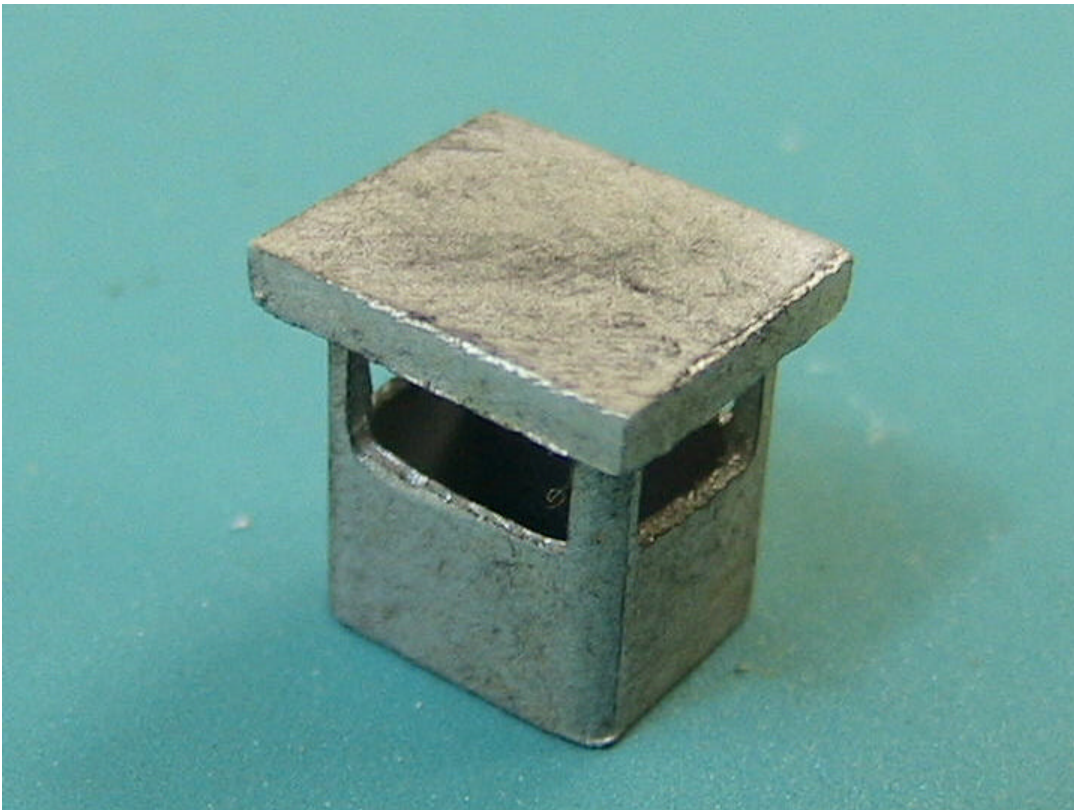
For the top I'll use .060 styrene which I cut with a 6" overhang on all sides. I know that the .060 seems too thick; however, it will also model the sides of the top and you won't be able to see the thickness once it's in place. I attach the top with a dab of CA to each of the uprights.



Now I need to make it look like aluminum or stainless steel. I give it a coat of Testors(TM) #1246 "Silver Metallic" spray paint on the outside and Testors(TM) "Flat Gray" on the inside (using a micro-brush).



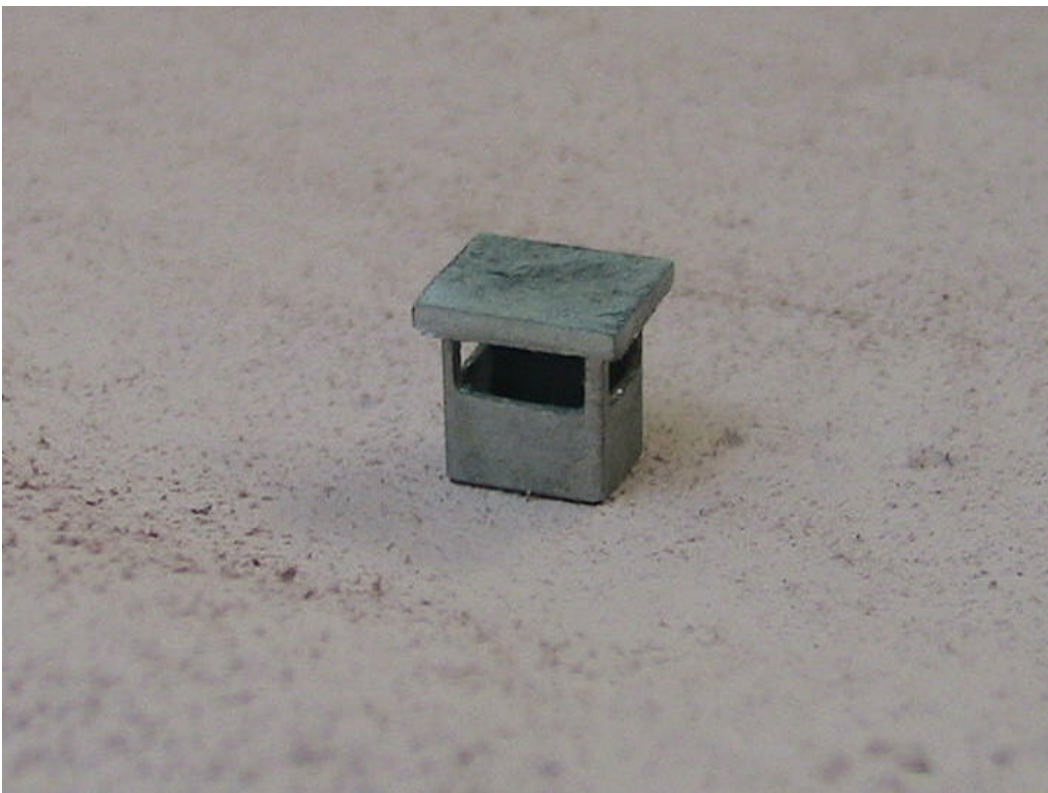
Of course it is much too shiny and new looking. I use some of my weathering powders (brown, gray & black) to give it that aged look.



Here's a view of the overflow pipe just sitting in the retention pond with it's final position yet to be determined. The one I remember from home sat about 1/3 of the way out from the "shore". I'll make sure that the installed height is such that the water would run down the overflow pipe before overflowing the banks of the retention pond.

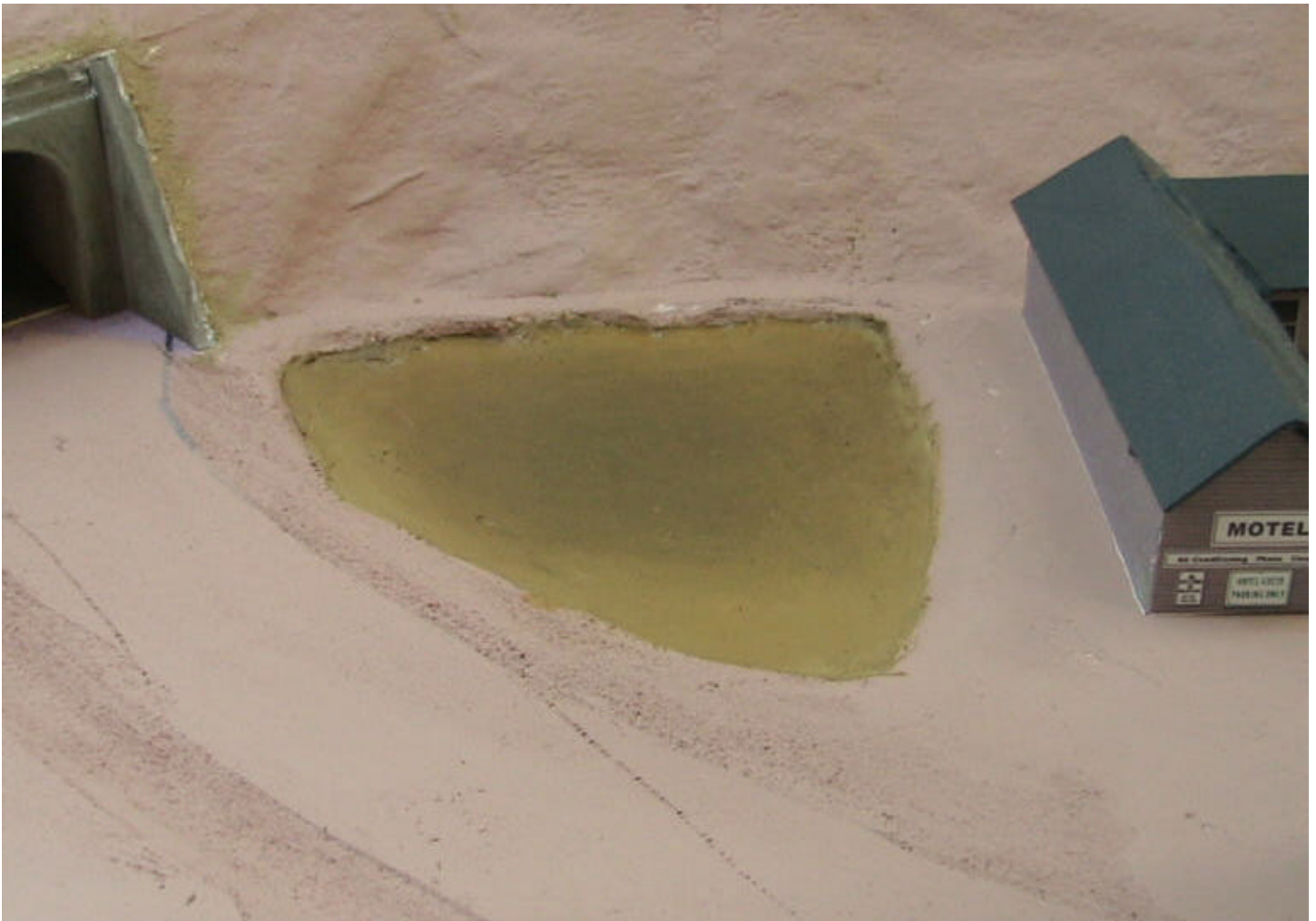


And finally a closeup of the overflow pipe sitting on the floor of the retention pond.



Retention Pond Paint & Pour

I wanted a muddy color for the pond which isn't very deep - maybe 3 - 4 feet at the deepest. To get the color I mixed green, brown & black colors until I got the color I wanted which should be muddy with a slightly green cast. In this picture I've painted the pond bottom. I started by painting the entire area the same color. Next I took some of that color and added black to it and painted the deeper area with that darker color. I then used the brush with water only to blend the two colors together by brushing from the center towards the shore. Next I added a little more black to my mix and painted the center a little darker and used the same technique to blend the colors. Finally I took some of my original paint color and added a little white to the mix and then painted it just at the shore edge. Using water only I brushed from the shore towards the center with water only to blend the colors.



For the water pour I used Woodland Scenics(TM) "Realistic Water". Why did I use that? Well, all of my Envio-Tex Light(TM) is packed for the house move! I used a little Vaseline(TM) to coat the overflow pipe inside and out to reduce the "creeping" of the "water" of the pipe. I got that little hint from Joe Fugate's excellent scenery DVDs. After I made the pour I used a toothpick to gently distribute the "water" to the edges and then set the overflow pipe down in the water.



Retention Pond Shoreline Detailing

Next I work on detailing the shoreline and surrounding area. When I do detailing I use multiple layers of different color paints with the hopes of creating depth and variation. For the first layer I applied a medium gray paint all around the shoreline being sure to fill every nook and cranny.



Next I'll add a Terra Cotta color which looks very similar to red clay. I cover most of the gray being careful to leave some of that color exposed to represent rocks.



Next up is a beige color which I apply using a "heavy" dry brush technique. It's starting to look a little better.



Now for the final colors I will use a series of tans with each color being lighter than the previous coat. Sorry about the focus on this picture.



Next I start to add foliage around the pond and on the mountain. The area I covered on the mountain is a single piece of black poly fiber that I cover with foliage off of the layout and then apply in "sheets" using tacky glue.



Here's a closer view of the area. There is still much work to be done as the foliage around the pond is too green and too much the same. I'll add a number of different types & colors of "stuff" around the shoreline. Once all of the mountain is covered I'll also add variety there.



Retention Pond Shoreline Detail Completed

Here's a couple of shots of the project completed by adding trees, bushes and some loose Rocks.



