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RAILROAD REPORT

Make a rail layout bloom with Gum Trees

The assortment Woodland Scenics recently sent us included an addition to their fantastic Classics Tree line: Gum Trees.

Gum trees get their name from the thick sap that oozes out of the trunk when they sustain any sort of damage. Gum trees are indigenous to Australia, and they exist in many places in the United States and elsewhere because immigrants brought the seeds here in the mid-19th century.

Woodland certainly has perfected creating trees with outstanding realism. They can be placed from package to layout without any “adjusting;” they look that good. As with their other trees in the line, the packaging protects the trees from rough handling. The packaging allows the trees to be displayed on a peg or a counter.

To make mounting more manageable, the Woodland trees come with a removable textured base. With the base, the trees are free-standing on a relatively flat surface. If the modeler uses them with the base, a sprinkle of matching landscape material will camouflage it. Gum trees are usually found in dry and arid locations. With that said, nothing is keeping you from using it in any application you choose.



For complex, uneven surfaces, you can remove the snap-on base and expose a mounting pin. In the photos, you'll see two trees with the tree separated from the base just a bit to show how the base and trunk fit together. Using your preferred pointy tool, prepare a small hole in the surface. In both cases, a dab of Woodland's Tuft-Tac on the base or pin of the tree will keep it in place. Insert the tree and sprinkle a bit of your landscape material to blend it in.



The size of the mounting pin varies with the thickness of the trunk, so the diameter of the mounting hole will vary in size a bit.

In the photo to the right, we paired the Gum Trees with the Classics Canopy trees. They are both fully-detailed trees with distinctively different foliage and limbs to add natural variety to the scene. The trees in the Classics line covers from Cactus to Pines and everything in between.



The next step was to plant the Gum Tree next to our country house layout. To do so, I made a suitably-sized hole into the Shaper Sheet molded terrain and simply inserted the Gum tree. I typically don't glue them in because my layout is fairly dynamic. If you make the mounting hole tight, they will stay in place. With three trees per package, typically, and a very attractive price, forests of all types will be raised everywhere! Be sure to check the Woodland Scenics website for the latest products available. **HM**