

“Loads of Junk” Modelling Freight Car Loads

It is amazing that, once you start looking for things to be used as loads, how many opportunities present themselves to you.

I am sure that each of us has somehow or somewhere thought of putting something onto a freight car / wagon. This could be a weight to keep the wheels on bad track (not applicable to SAG members that I know of ???) or a desperate attempt just to have something interesting on a freight wagon. How many penlight batteries, coins, bolts, nuts and washers or the first thing that came to hand have you seen being transported over a number of layouts? We just plonk the items on and off we go – what is worse, of course, is that we sometimes tend to run **empty** freight trains continuously! The empties will go backwards and forwards supplying all the industries on the line with “nothing”, the proverbial *full of emptiness* – surely not the way to run a commercially plausible railroad!

If you feel like putting a dent in your pocket, go buy ready-made freight loads from some of the known suppliers, only to find how simple and easy the load you just purchased can be made from “junk”.

Why not use junk? And while you are at it why not **Loads of Junk** ©! (Please note the phrase is henceforth subject to copyright! – ha ha).

What do I mean by **Loads of Junk**? It can be anything (and I am sure you will know most of these items) such as:







- Pool filter sand
- Real dirt, sand or sieved gravel
- Sand blasting consumables like blastrite or angrit
- Pieces of Alumina Ceramics Tiles
- Drill Press shavings
- Welding debris
- Steel off-cuts
- Old pool hoses pulled apart and cut into pieces (Kreepy-Krauly / Barracuda)
- Plastic Drinking Straws - different sizes for different pipes
- New earbuds (*or your own used ones?*) - scrape the cotton from the tube and use that as piping
- Used correction tape holders and its mechanisms (Pentel)
- Plastic Pill Box / Vial / Tablet Containers (Panado / Scorbex pill boxes etc)
- Empty (!) Soft drink / Beer cans – cut it into pieces
- Plastic Conduit or piping (10 – 20mm)
- Copper piping (15mm & 20mm used by plumbers)
- Old PC Power supplies and motherboards and other components
- Razor blades, covers and handles (BIC disposable razor MR article)
- Toilet rolls (for use as newsprint rolls)
- Rusted nails
- Copper wire
- Plastic cellular signboard sheets, cut into single beams (see MIBA article)
- Teabags and paper towels for tarpaulins
- Balsa wood and veneer sheets
- Pruned branches cut into specific lengths – the perfect pulpwood or log / timber loads!
- Kebab sticks (sosatie stokkies) for use as poles
- your favourite AFV (armoured fighting vehicle such as a tank, halftrack etc)
- and all that junk your wife / partner wants you to throw away... (*Including the precious stones you gave her on the big wedding anniversary she discovered to be fake... quote Anon*)

A number of articles have been written on the subject and you may also find references to loads on a number of web sites.

- Johan Leeflang’s article which appeared in the 1986 Continental Modeller
- 1/87 Scale web site (<http://www.87thscale.info>)
- Model Railroader (see the few examples in the file)
- MIBA has dedicated MIBA Spezial editions on freight loads, RoRo systems etc.
- Examples of loads done by Ladegüter Bauer (<http://www.ladegueter-bauer.de>) & Heico of Germany – great source for ideas!
- The file also contains a number of rail transport photographs of primarily WW2 Armour, which I am collecting.

"Loads of Junk" Removable Scrap Metal Loads

The whole idea was to experiment with different types of junk and what the end product would look like – variation is the name of the game!. The "junk" was glued onto a piece of 28mm x 86mm x 1mm Styrene, which fits inside a Marklin Niederbord wagen (in this case), with mostly Super Glue. At the same time I also experimented with weathering the scrap metal and I tried a few different techniques and paint compositions. All the painting / weathering was done with Red Sable #2 & #3 brushes.
It is vital to paint and weather the junk.

 <p>#1 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coke Tin - Pool Hose - Copper Pipe - Plastic Pill / Vial Box <p>Weathering technique: Black undercoat (<i>Revell #8</i>) Followed by: - Green (<i>Revell #66</i>) - Brown (<i>Revell #87</i>) - Yellow (<i>Humbrol #24</i>) - Red Oxide wash (<i>Dala #18</i>)</p>	 <p>#2 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coke Tin - Pool Hose - Copper Pipe - Plastic Pill / Vial Box <p>Weathering technique: Black undercoat (<i>Revell #8</i>) Followed by: - Green (<i>Revell #66</i>) - Brown (<i>Revell #87</i>) - Yellow (<i>Humbrol #24</i>) - Red Oxide wash (<i>Dala #18</i>)</p>
 <p>#3 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic Pill / Vial Box <p>Weathering technique: Black undercoat (<i>Revell #8</i>) Followed by: - Green (<i>Revell #66</i>) - Brown (<i>Revell #87</i>) - Yellow (<i>Humbrol #24</i>) - Red Oxide wash (<i>Dala #18</i>)</p>	 <p>#4 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PC Components - Pool Hose - Staple gun staples - Used Super Glue tube <p>Weathering technique: NO Black undercoat - Green (<i>Revell #66</i>) - Brown (<i>Revell #87</i>) - Black (<i>Revell #8</i>) - Rotbraun (<i>Plaka #52</i>)</p>
 <p>#5 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduit - Pool Hose - Used Super Glue nozzles - Plastic Pill Box / Vial - Staple gun staples - PC Components - Coke Tin <p>Weathering technique: Rotbraun (<i>Plaka #52</i>) undercoat Followed by: - Black wash (<i>Revell #8 + thinners mix</i>)</p>	 <p>#6 Scrap Metal Load fixed to 1mm Styrene</p> <p>Junk used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PC Components - Plastic Pill Box / Vial - Staple gun staples - Coke Tin - Garden fence (plastic) <p>Weathering technique: Rotbraun (<i>Plaka #52</i>) undercoat Followed by: - Black wash (<i>Revell #8 + thinners mix</i>)</p>