

Albion Software Newsletter

September 2023

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Ship It! 10 Moving Forward

Latest Ship It! release is 10.0g

- What's changed?
- The software was NOT updated. But the Ship It! manual WAS updated to contain detailed bookmarks representing each chapter as well as the important sections within each chapter. **This should make the manual much easier to navigate.**
- Make sure you use Adobe Reader or you may not see the bookmarks!
- The new manual is titled Shipit_10.pdf, and can be downloaded from SugarSync or albionsoftware.com.



Moving

A dreaded word for many - especially for anyone with a layout under construction. When I began layout construction (about 5 years ago), I knew we would eventually leave Texas. I came for a job - and the closest family was in Colorado Springs - a long enough drive that you can barely make it in a day. So we were pretty sure we'd eventually move there, as one of my daughters lives there, along with her husband and two children, one of whom you likely saw operating my layout in several images in the June newsletter.

Long story short, my wife and I thought "Why not now, while the grandchildren are still young?"



Here's the layout, protected by construction foam as much as possible, and ready for the move.

The following is a few images of the foam protection being added to the layout sections. Since we always knew we were going to move, the layout was constructed in sections small enough to move.

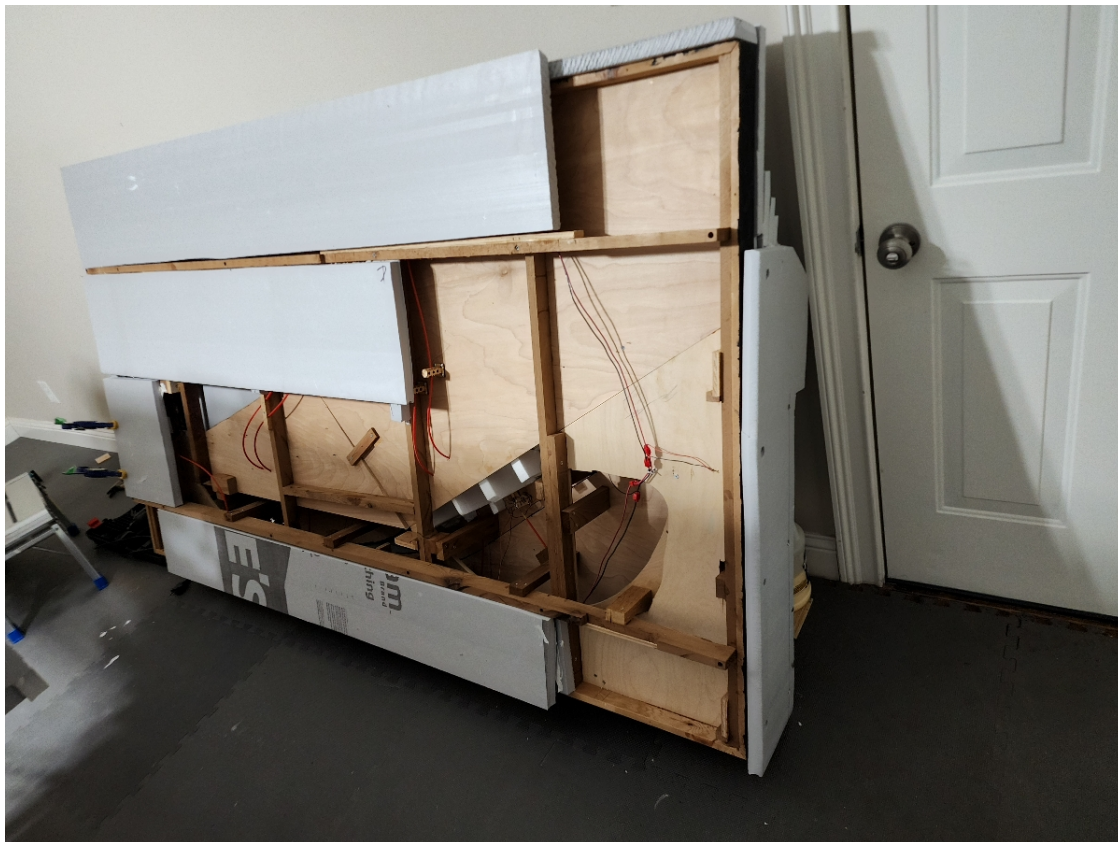




The above 3 images show the progression of foam build up on the trestle module. I kept building up foam (using foam-safe construction adhesive) until I could cap the trestle and upper level of the module with foam. Basically I built up foam until the trestle was completely encased in it. I added foam to the back and bottom also. Unfortunately I lost a turnout control knob. It snagged on the garage floor somehow while I was dragging into place - I should have had my wife assist me!



This is the module that sat to the left and connected to the trestle module. For this one I built a foam box to protect the track and partial scenery. The helix seemed sturdy enough without encasing it. Plus the Atlas code 100 HO track is way more beefy (as my grandson says) than HOn3 track.



The bottom of the trestle module. I added foam wherever there were bullfrog turnout mechanisms or significant amounts of wiring.



This is the Mary McKinney mine module. I protected all the track with foam, and as much of the front fascia board as I could. This picture doesn't show it, but I later added foam to protect the bullfrog turnout mechanisms wherever possible.

Materials used: Gorilla foam safe construction adhesive (you have to read the label carefully).
6 x 1 5/8 drywall screws
#10 flat washers (to help grab and lock into the foam).
Lowes 1 inch thick construction foam (I think I used up 5 4x8 sheets). I cut 2 feet off the end to fit the sheets in my car, using the score and snap method.

My Grandson was pretty upset when his Grandma told him that the layout was being taken down. But after she explained to him that it was *his job* to help Grandpa put it back together, he was happy. I'm looking forward to my young but *very energetic* helper assisting me. Hopefully his little sister will help too (though I think she prefers sewing with Grandma).

If you want any more details of this project, or just want to talk model railroading, please email me.

Bill

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