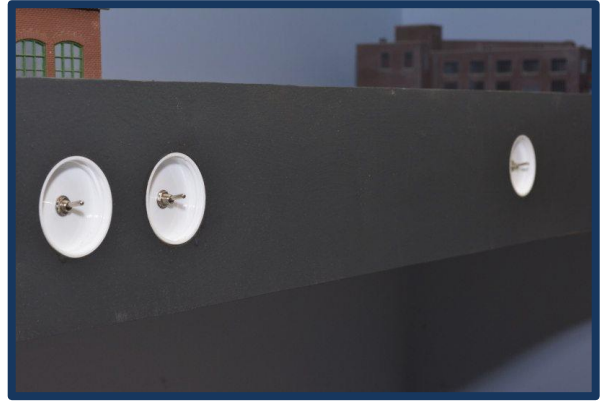


## FASCIA MOUNTED TOGGLE SWITCHES

By Ron St.Laurent (photos by the author)

Several NCR Division 5 members are working on Alan Godfrey's layout in Lansing, Michigan. Our group has been meeting every Tuesday for the past 3 years and we are making significant progress. I want to share with you an economical, effective and good looking way to mount toggle switches on your fascia. The white switch mounts you see in the photos are actually the insides of 2 inch bottle caps. I bought these in bulk through an on-line company. The cost of the caps was under 20 cents apiece (in a 100 piece bulk order).



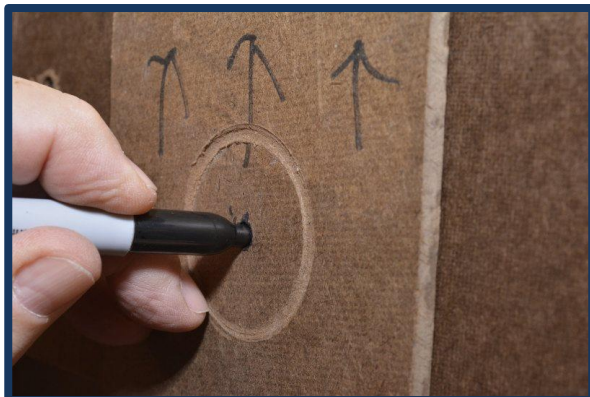
### PREPARE THE CAPS

I drill out the caps to accept the switches using a ¼ inch drill bit. I clamp position holding blocks on the drill bed to assure uniformity.



### PREPARE AND DRILL THE FASCIA

I made a locating fixture from a scrap piece of Masonite to easily and consistently pinpoint the drilling location on the fascia. I clamp a scrap backing board behind the Masonite to prevent tearing the back of the Masonite while drilling.



I use a 2 inch bit to bore the fascia. All fascias are made from ¼ inch thick Masonite. Any areas that require a severe bend are two thicknesses of 1/8 inch Masonite bonded together.



After drilling, I remove the backing board and sand the surface of the fascia to smooth out any ridge trace left by the drill. I paint the fascia a nice charcoal grey.



### **MOUNT AND FINISH THE CAPS**

Loctite GO2 Glue is applied to the periphery of the hole. GO2 Glue is a relatively new product formulated to adhere to a variety of surfaces. I use my finger to spread the glue and reach the top of the hole. The bottle cap is press fit into the hole.





The fit is very tight and requires a board to completely press the cap in place. The board also assures that the cap becomes flush with the front surface of the fascia. Once the glue set, I tried to press the cap out of the fascia and it held tight. Mount your toggle switch in the cap and you're good to go!



### BE CREATIVE

Another application for the fascia cap is a "layout on" indicator. All DCC and DC circuits are on a single dedicated 20 Amp line. This 5mm LED is wired to the 12 Volt turnout bus. A 1K Ohm dropping resistor is used to connect the common LED to the 12 Volt bus. A quick look down the stairs and we can see if the layout was properly powered down.



### PROJECT COMPLETE!

The switches are inboard of the fascia, are easy to find and look great. This method also protects the switches from accidental brush ups by operators.



Tip: We always set the "normal" switch path to be in the up position. One glance down the fascia and you know you're set for the main line.

*Note: Read Ron's article "Mount a switch motor horizontally" in June 2017 Model Railroader. This MR article is also a project from Alan Godfrey's layout.*