

## Steam train Display Stand

On its own, the steam locomotive and tender from Woodsmith No. 245 is an impressive piece. But by making this display stand, you can give the model pride of place. After the detail work on the model, you'll find making the stand is a refreshingly straightforward change of pace.

**BED.** The work begins with a bed that the track rests on. It's just cut to size. I purchased a length of stock track. However, the ties looked a little too plasticky. So I made new ties from walnut. To do this yourself, make extra-wide blanks that are the same length as the ties. Figure 1 shows how to cut the ties to width safely.

Gluing all those ties to the bed is a little tedious. I inset the end ties  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the ends.



The remaining ties are spaced as evenly as I could, keeping them square to the edge of the bed. The next step is to cut shallow dadoes across the ties to hold the rails. You can do this at the table saw or router table. The rails just slide in place.

**SUPPORTS.** Long tapered supports sit below the bed, as you can see in detail 'b' below. The tapers are easily cut at the band saw

then smoothed with a block plane. The tapered edges are rounded over at the router table before getting glued to the bed as shown in detail 'a.'

**BASE.** The final part of the stand is the base. The upper edges of this piece are rounded to match the supports. I used both glue and screws to secure the base to the supports. One last thing, I ran a pair of screws up through the bed into the locomotive in a discreet location for peace of mind.

