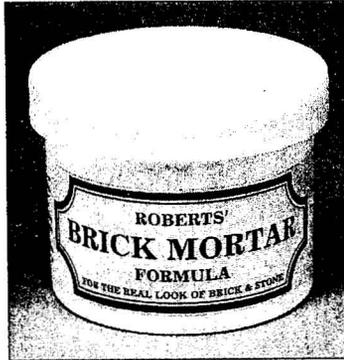




A look at Robert's Brick Mortar

Review and photos by Jeff Saxton
Robert's Brick Mortar Formula

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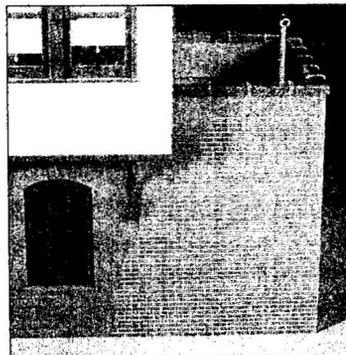


Robert's Brick Mortar Formula comes in a 4 oz. jar, enough for up to 20 square feet of modeled brick surface.

Over the last ten years or so, there has been an explosion in the production of low priced, injection molded structure kits. These new kits have mainly been released in HO scale, but kits are being released in all the major scales.

Until now, I have never really found a good method for applying brick mortar to these structures. As many of you know, it can be an extremely tedious project trying to make mortar lines on model structures. Some techniques actually call for you to individually ink in every mortar line by hand!

I recently received a sample jar of "Robert's Brick Mortar Formula." Robert's Brick Mortar Formula has been available for a few years now. The ads for this material say many things, so I set out to see if they were true. I had previously assembled an Atlas, O scale Interlocking Tower for review in *MRN*, so I used this model as a test bed for my experiments with the product.



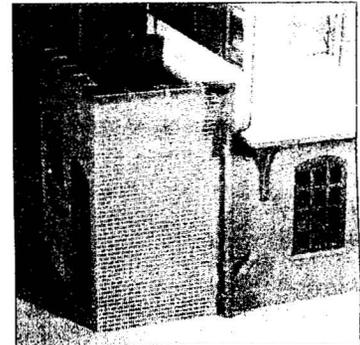
Portion of an O scale kit after application of Robert's Brick Mortar Formula.

Feeling that any material for sale in the model railroading market should be easy and

quick to use, I tested Robert's Brick Mortar in that light. I found that even with "less-than-minimal" effort, I got very acceptable results.

I first followed the label instructions and thoroughly mixed the settled material in the bottom of the jar. I used a stirring stick, followed by vigorous shaking. After I was certain the jar was in full solution (it took awhile being a new jar), I wiped some Robert's Brick Mortar on one side of the Interlocking Tower using a paper towel. On the other side, I used a small, round tip paintbrush. After fully covering the areas, I let the material dry. "Wow, that was easy," I thought.

I let 30 minutes pass with the model left under my desk lamp. I then used a second moistened paper towel and began removing the dried residue from the face of the bricks. This is the only aspect where care is required; too wet a towel and you will remove too much residue, too little water and the result is a film on the face of the bricks. I was able to achieve a happy medium very quickly. Naturally, the area I wiped first with the too wet towel could have been touched up.



Robert's Brick Mortar Formula really brings out the detail of the modeled brick pattern.

I believe that if I had actually spent a full 15 minutes doing the entire structure, I would have achieved excellent results. Also, if I had done the mortar lines *before* the free standing details were added to the walls (drain pipe, electrical conduit, etc.), I would have gotten "killer" results. I do like this stuff. One more modeling headache has finally been solved!

Although I had none to try, Robert's Products states that by using India ink, you can "tint" their white Mortar Formula to a darker color. This would provide modelers with an almost infinite variety of gray's for the color of the mortar joints on their structures.

Robert's Brick Mortar is water based, so clean-up was very easy. I rinsed out the brush I used in the sink, and tossed the dirty paper towels.

Can a product in today's technologically driven market really be this easy? Trust me, try this if you have ANY brick structures you need mortar lines added to. You will be impressed, just as I was. I highly recommend this product, and wish Robert's continued success with it.

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