

Juan Correa
ENT 4901
Prof. Scott

Internship Journals

Week 1 7/28-8/2 +1 late shift

Each workday runs from 7:30a.m-3:30pm. Late shifts consists of 3hrs each shift.

- I got assigned a utility worker as a sponsor. Toured the shop as we did lumber inventory and refilled glue bottles.
- Introduced to using ready patch and using bondo to even out scenery skins and cover brad nail holes. Introduced to Altendorf table saws, ripping and cross cutting square pieces by starting with a whole sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ ply is difficult and will definitely take some practice.
- Sanded and re-applied ready patch and bondo as necessary to scenery. Learned about different types of sanding grit and that Pneumatic Sanders are much easier on your hands and arms than electric ones also learned to mix bondo conservatively as it dries very quickly.
- Got a Small project of building bolsters along with an apprentice, I found it hard to use the wide crown nailer as its bulk and weight made it hard to control firing just one staple even with two hands. Luckily the bolsters didn't need to be pretty and I didn't need to patch up the many staple holes and just sanded them. I got good experience breaking protruding staples. Learned used spray adhesive to stick the foam to the bolsters however you have to use the type that doesn't through the foam 3M 74. Covered about 2 bolsters using fabric staples with left over duvetyn before we got pulled onto another project.
- A small set came in from the food network that needed patch up work, the flats were covered with brushed aluminum sheets, edges were crushed and bent several techniques were tested such as using 3P10 glue, clamps and a rubber mallet to smooth out edges, this worked for some defects but there was no more material to replace a large aluminum side, this was replaced by a close matching laminate. A new graphic was also printed out which was placed on plexi-glass circle for the set. Caution had to be taken to not break the plexi-glass when removing the old graphic and great patience and care was taken when replacing the graphic to avoid air bubbles and wrinkles. Most tedious job that week.

The Bolsters



Week 2 8/4-8/9 +2 late shifts

- As the inter I'm quickly finding out that I am the person of choice for patch up work and sanding. I must have really impressed them the week before. So Lots of that this week...
- I did learn this week that you have to be careful when sand Masonite as the top layer peels it can ruin the look of a piece which is meant to face the audience. Even with paint and touch ups it will waste time to restore. I also made 40 stage pin cables for electricians
- Learned a bit about CNC routing, the audience risers for "The View" have a considerable amount of CNC parts cut, long sweeps (ribs) are cut to make the walls for the risers and make the overall structure round. They can get about 4 or 5 sweeps from a sheet of 8x4 3/4 ply. The ribs are the rails that are set perpendicular to the toggles. The supports are cut by hand. As well as the skin, which is Light 3/4 MDF. I helped build this particular flat:



- The infra-structure (frame) for the platforms is built from 3/4 ply and is also cut by the CNC. The build does not involve typical 2x4 legs but ply sheets are cut in an "L" shape stood up vertically as the structure gets taller the length of the long side increases with a hole cut through the middle of the thick part by the CNC to reduce the weight but still maintaining structural integrity. The Tallest rise (in the back) is supported using 1x1 square steel tubing. Hand rails are made of aluminum. The squares are also CNC cut.



Week 3 8/11-8/15 +3 late shifts

- I started the week off by coming back to working in Electrics, which was a welcome change from utility work the job is more sedentary and monotonous but the conversation is good and there is a lot to learn. I familiarized myself with wire crimping, wire gauges and types of cables, euro strips, ferrules, connectors, LED strips white and RGB, strain reliefs as well as different techniques and tools for running cable through scenery. And sticking LEDs into small places in very uncomfortable position for “The View” audience risers.
- The first time running cable I was very slow I didn’t want to cut the cable too short or too long or force the cable through certain paths where I didn’t want to go through any mistakes I’d have to go back to make more cable. Below are pictures of some of the lighting strips and cable runs.



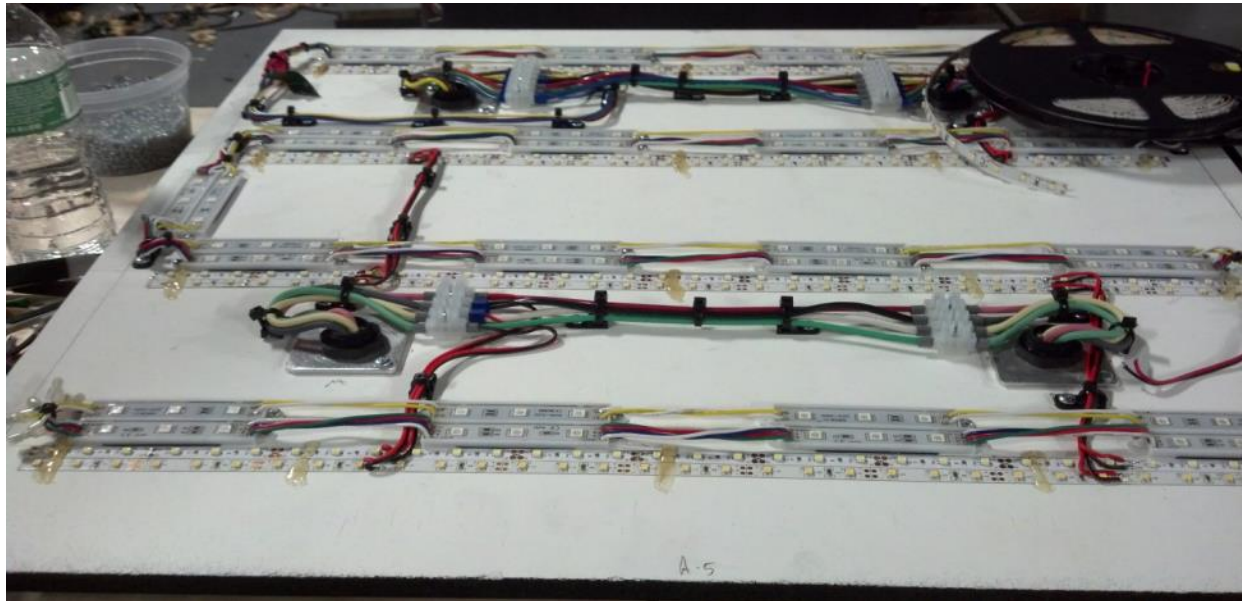
- I wasn’t told the specific design of the wiring but it seems like it is a good way to get different moods to the set as well as a good built in back up since it is a permanent.

installation, the reason for using the euro strips is for ease of repair should anything need to be replaced. You don't have to replace a mile of cable at a time.

- I worked in Electrics 3 out of the 5 days but there was lots of grinding and teching flats to be done on the shop floor so I got pulled out, I was feeling ok with that since I got tired of sitting crimping cable and crawling through scenery. IT's gotten to the point where I have no clue what project I'm working the pace is fast, you got to be flexible and patient.

Week 4 8/18-8/22 +2 late shifts

- Back in Electrics, although I was glad to be moving around from section to section the monotony of stripping cable and crimping was getting to me. This is when it really sunk in that I was basically in an assembly line and we were mass producing as fast as we could. They always run behind in Electrics we even had two welders helping out.
- This week around we put together LED panels for "The View". Each panel consisted of $\frac{3}{4}$ Ply cut out of a certain dimension, one run of White LED strip and one run of RGB LED strip plus one soft white and one bright white, two strain reliefs on each end of the run. The strain relief is held by a metal the metal housing but is made out of 2 plastic shells that screw in together, you then feed the wire through the middle and adjust the tension by turning one side. See the picture below, I built about 12 of these all different sizes.



- This was the best week and worst week at showman. I cleaned Aluminum for 2 days... To clean these I was provided with rags, Bio-Kleen and a special scouring powder for aluminum. I did learn that aluminum is very sensitive and easily finger printed metal, therefore we wore gloves when handling the clean ones. The cleaning was extremely tedious since you had to be very careful to not scratch or ruin the finish of the lubbers so you clean it in the direction of the grain. The look on these was very smooth and

streamlined which is a result of the fabrication process which we could not duplicate at the shop or repair. These were also automated to open and close, unfortunately I was not able to be part of that process.



By this time parts of the view set were already shipping out to the studio and I had asked the production manager if at all possible would I be able to get on site. He said he would try but credentials and a badge had to be arranged in addition, arrangements with the union had to be done as well. Unfortunately, he was not able to get me to the set but the next best thing was arranged, I got to go on-site to the U.S Open! It was basically a furniture delivery/assembly built at the shop going to the Nike suite so on top of going off site I got to explore. I got to not only go back stage at the U.S open and see the broadcast studios but we ended up on the roof and I got some great pictures. To make the day even better going off- site is a minimum of 4hrs paid flat so we got leave an hour early being that the workday was almost over we were able to go straight home and get paid for the rest of the day (still intern pay), I was home by 3pm that day.



Getting sent off-site after knocking down the lubbers made me realize, I was appreciated. I also was being looked after and made me feel that I was considered Showman material because they trusted me to represent them for their client.

Week 5 8/25-8/29

This was my last week at Showman and it was a good week.

- I was able to spend a day with the scenic artist and even sit in on a project meeting. It was very helpful and informative to see how a project lead addresses their team and explains how the project is to be approached. In this case it wasn't really a painting project but to put together several large store displays they would have to cut parts of the preprinted collages but put them together to make it look as if it was all one piece, for this you needed the steady hand of the scenic.

- I was then assigned to cut hundreds of pieces (2 ½ ft. long) of optic fiber which would serve as decoration for a golden silk cocoon for a new D&G skin product. Luckily the Electronics department had an automated wire cutting machine and they didn't mind me using it since they knew me by now. We used the optic fiber because other materials like fishing line were not thick enough for the paint to hold as it had to be bent and twisted. They also used the fiber because it had been sitting in storage for over a year. What was good about this was that I got to talk to the head scenic about the build and material used for the eggs.

- I was also assigned to small team of 3 people including myself to tech in a small set of flats before shipping out a set for fashion week. This was good because I felt that the shop knew I could be trusted to work in a small team and get the job done. By small flats I mean these flats were about 12' tall 4' wide. Instead of using shims to level out the flats, we screwed wood blocks at the top corners of the flats to even the height, to square the face of the flats to each other they were clamped from rail to rail with one guy in the front and 2 in the back, using a screw on one rail and the back hammer against the other rail for leverage we easily aligned the flats when it was flushed in the front the second person would clap it in place. After clamping two flats together I drilled the holes and put in the hardware (bolt, nut and 2 washers) to hold the flats together. Of course we used jacks to hold up the flats while we worked. To my surprise (not really) once we were done I was put in charge of pulling staples and filling in any obvious holes in the skin of the flats. We used braces on the inside corners to stabilize and maintain a right angle

- I also got to work a 2 person team building a small riser for D&G, the frame and shape was very similar to the gigantic frames of the risers for the view, what made this different from the other projects was that I got to work with wiggle wood. Its actually not easy cutting long square pieces of wiggle wood on a table saw as you have to hold and push at just the right spot so it doesn't get to wobbly on you, I would say it was a bit like sewing fabric. We then wrapped the wiggle wood around the front side of the riser and stuck it using copious amounts of glue and narrow crown staples, I believe that it was going to be laminated and the wiggle wood not only provided ease for wrapping around a curved surface but also provided a better sticking surface for the laminate. I also finished those bolsters I started when I first got there.

- One of the most memorable projects I worked on was the logo for the "The View". I didn't build it but was assigned with another person to screw in the letters for the logo onto a round surface; his was going to be a center piece for the show so I was glad to work on it, although not

highly technical or exciting but extremely crucial for the letters to be square and as an intern I was on the job. The job required that the holes be predrilled before screwing in the letters, obviously this had to be done from the back. We took the measurement for the thickness of the logo and letters and adjusted the drill bit far enough into the drill so as not to drill a hole through the front of the lettering, to make sure the letters were squared we used the printed logo and placed it in the front of the mounting surface, before screwing the letters all the way in we carefully cut and removed the printed logo, also you had to be very careful when tightening the screws so as to not strip the material otherwise the letters could fall off.

My last day at showman I got work with their proprietary mod truss but is like one of those “you had to be there” kind of things. It's well-built and designed to be extremely flexible to create a structure of your choosing, however putting it together is very complex, awkward to bolt together and at times bolt holes don't line up for whatever reason. They were using the mod-truss to build a gas station set for fashion week. I heard it more than once from the guys on the floor saying; it would have been faster to build a real gas station!







