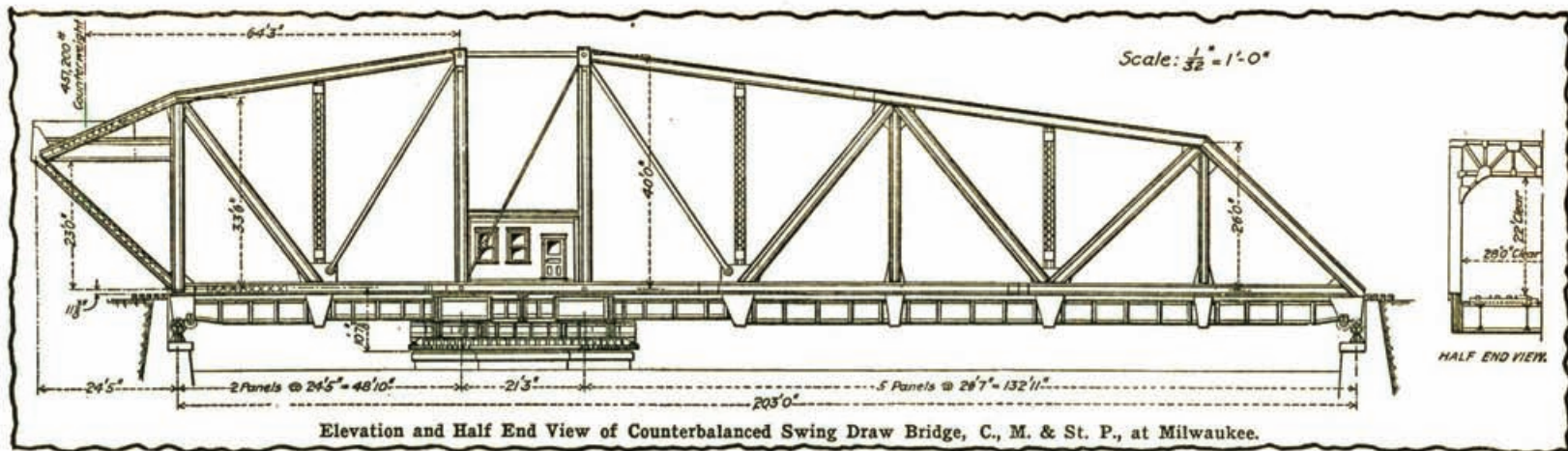




For simplicity of construction, solid beams could be substituted for the open, laced steel type, particularly in the smaller gauges.



Milwaukee Road DRAW BRIDGE



Photograph by George Lenington

Lake freighters use the Milwaukee river, yet trains must cross it near water level. Engineers solved the problem with this bridge that swings open much like a gate.

IMMEDIATELY south of the Milwaukee station, the Milwaukee Road's passenger main line to Chicago crosses this swing draw bridge over the Milwaukee river. The bridge pivots in a sort of caisson, in the water about 60 ft. from the south shore. The bridge tender's cabin is located above the caisson at track level and to one side of the bridge deck. The cabin serves as a shelter for the bridge tender and also contains the electrical controls for the motors that turn the bridge.

A model of this bridge would be interesting, simple to make, and especially useful across a passageway. It would then be a replica of the prototype in function as well as construction. The same principals we use in our turntables could be used to operate the bridge.

Some may want to make the bridge of metal. Others will prefer wood. Even Bristol board is satisfactory and surprisingly strong. Don't use oversize girders. They rob a bridge of its authentic, spidery appearance. Notice in the half end view drawing above that the girders under the tracks are located directly beneath the rails and run parallel to the tracks instead of crosswise to them. Paint the finished bridge black.