

Frank Richards
Comments and Suggestions
for Bill Matlock's Train Tracks

Original Image



I really like the high vantage point that you were shooting from. It accentuates the vanishing point perspective and pulls my eye down the track. But there is a foreboding mood that says "not so fast, you may not get out of here". The dark vegetation looks as though it is creeping out and will envelop the track soon. The dark tonal palette with the impenetrable deep shadows adds to the mood. This is a simple image that is well executed and tells a story.

There are a few things that I would consider changing.

- Yellow tint doesn't do a lot for me.
- I find the slight cant of the tracks to the right to be distracting. It is so close to vertical that my eye wants the tracks to align with the edges.
- Image is pretty dark and could be lightened a bit. Deep shadows are completely blocked-up and have no detail.

Edited Image



I addressed some of these in a revised image. Some changes are:

- Removed yellow tint in favor of a more neutral palette. If I were to add tint, I would probably choose brown.
- Lightened overall image and increased tonal range a little. Opened the shadows to show a little detail.
- Tracks are vertical and ties square to frame.
- Cleaned up some hot spots, removed bright sticks, burned edges...

Original and Edit

