

Table 1: Advantages and disadvantages of the various scales

Scale	Advantages	Disadvantages
1:32 (standard gauge — also called “N° 1 scale”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct ratio for standard gauge • Easy numeric conversions in feet and inches • Also used for farm toys and by military modelers • Many vehicles available • Many buildings available • Many human figures available • Some metal detail parts available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparatively little ready-to-run US equipment available
1:29 (standard gauge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy conversion from HO-scale plans (multiply 1:87 scale by 3) • Much ready-to-run equipment available • Some buildings available • Some human figures available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains look slightly too large relative to track • No vehicles available • Few or no metal detail parts available
1:24 (narrow gauge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy numeric conversions in feet and inches • Also used by architects, doll house and miniatures hobby • Lots of structures available • Many vehicles available • Many human figures available • Many metal detail parts available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little ready-to-run locomotives or rolling stock • Trains look too small relative to track
1:22.5 (narrow gauge — also called “G scale”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct ratio for 1-meter narrow gauge • Much ready-to-run equipment available • Many buildings available • Many human figures available • Some metal detail parts available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most equipment in this scale is of European prototypes • Some of the ready-to-run equipment (e.g. US prototypes) should be in other scales, so looks too large or small relative to track • No vehicles available
1:20.3 (narrow gauge — also called “F scale”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct ratio for 3' narrow gauge • Much ready-to-run equipment available • Many metal detail parts available • Can use some 1:19 items where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few vehicles available • Few human figures available • Very few buildings available
1:19 (narrow gauge — also called “16mm scale”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct ratio for 2' narrow gauge on 0-gauge (32mm) track • Much ready-to-run equipment and kits available (UK/Europe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost entirely British or European prototypes
1:13.7 (narrow gauge — also called “7/8n2 scale”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct ratio for 2' narrow gauge on 1-gauge track • Many metal detail parts available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ready-to-run equipment available • Very few human figures available • No vehicles available (though 1:12 scale could be used in many cases)