

Postwar vibe: 6 x 12 track plan inside p. 20

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS®

O AND S GAUGE FOR THE OPERATOR AND COLLECTOR

SPRING 2024



BIG BOY!
Lionel's Vision-Line engine p. 14

8 TIPS FROM A LAYOUT MASTER

p. 32

SEE A
COLLECTION
OF LIONEL
RARITIES
p. 48

LIONEL TRAINS HIT HOLLYWOOD

p. 38

ADD SOUND WITH LIONEL'S BLUETOOTH RADIO TOWER

p. 28

HOW-TO PROJECT

Recycle empty containers into neat layout details p. 54



\$12.99



0 74470 01238 2

Trains.com

Vol. 37 • Issue 1



Charles Ro Supply Company

1972 **52** 2024
ANNIVERSARY

www.charlesro.com



662 Cross Street
Malden, MA 02148



#L2438260 \$64.95

Customer Service:
781-321-0090
Fax: 781-321-6459
For Orders:
1-800-225-4424
1-800-225-4425

CHARLES RO CELEBRATES 52 YEARS AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIONEL DEALER

LEGACY RTO STEAM LOCOMOTIVES		
L2331261	Union Pacific Big Boy #4000	(RTO) \$2609.99
L2331264	Union Pacific Big Boy #4014	(RTO) 2609.99
L2331270	Union Pacific Big Boy #4019	(RTO) 2609.99
L2331290	Union Pacific Big Boy #4024	(RTO) 2609.99
L2331381	Pennsylvania H #531	(RTO) 1349.99
L2331382	Pennsylvania H #4250	(RTO) 1349.99
L2331392	Pennsylvania H #4325	(RTO) 1349.99
L2331401	NYC Dreyfuss J3 Hudson #5449	(RTO) 1529.99
L2331402	NYC Dreyfuss J3 Hudson #5452	(RTO) 1529.99
L2331412	NYC Dreyfuss w/Water Scoop #5447	(RTO) 1619.99
L2331430	NYC Dreyfuss w/Water Scoop #5454	(RTO) 1619.99
L2331570	Lehigh & New England Camelback #151	(RTO) 629.99
L2331460	SF "Blue Goose" 4-8-4 #2900	(RTO) 1619.99
L2331480	Santa Fe 4-8-4 #2926 Restoration	(RTO) 1619.99
L2431010	Erie Vision Triplex #2603	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431030	Erie Vision Triplex #5015	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431050	D&R Vision Triplex #1090	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431060	NP Vision Triplex #4050	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431070	Virginian Vision Triplex #701	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431090	Eerie Halloween Vision Triplex #3131	(RTO) 2249.99
L2431100	C&O F19 #490 Sportsman w/C&O Tender	(RTO) 1169.99
L2431160	C&O #492 George Washington w/C&O Tender	(RTO) 1169.99
L2431510	Nickel Plate Ltd Berkshire #777	(RTO) 1529.99
L2431520	C&O Berkshire #2765	(RTO) 1529.99
L2431530	DT&I Berkshire #705	(RTO) 1529.99
L2431540	Pere Marquette Berkshire #1225	(RTO) 1529.99
L2431550	C&O H7 2-8-8-2 #1572	(RTO) 1799.99
L2431590	D&RG H7 2-8-8-2 #3605	(RTO) 1799.99
L2431611	Union Pacific H7 2-8-8-2 #3589	(RTO) 1799.99
L2431630	Baltimore & Ohio 4-6-0 #1315	(RTO) 719.99
L2431640	New Jersey Central 4-6-0 #185	(RTO) 719.99
L2431660	New York Central 4-6-0 #1244	(RTO) 719.99
L2431710	Milwaukee Rd Hiawatha 4-4-2 #4	(RTO) 1079.99
L2431700	Milwaukee Rd Hiawatha 4-4-2 #2	(RTO) 1079.99
L2431730	CNW 4-4-2 #400	(RTO) 1079.99
L2431740	Seaboard 4-4-2 #850	(RTO) 1079.99
L2431750	Union Pacific 4-4-2 #2800	(RTO) 1079.99
L2431720	North Pole Central 4-4-2 #12	(RTO) 1079.99

LEGACY RTO DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES		
L2433031	Union Pacific SD70ACE #8518	(RTO) \$629.99
L2433039	Union Pacific SD70ACE Non-Pwd #8522	(RTO) 314.99
L2433040	Norfolk Southern - CNJ SD70ACE #1071	(RTO) 629.99
L2433111	Alaska GP30 #2000	(RTO) 539.99
L2433131	New York Central GP30 #6118	(RTO) 539.99
L2433151	Santa Fe GP30 #1203	(RTO) 539.99
L2433170	SF Blue Bonnet F7 AA Set #332, 335	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433179	Santa Fe F7B SuperBass #338B	(RTO) 494.99
L2433190	CB&Q F7 AA Set #167A, #167C	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433199	CB&Q F7B SuperBass #168B	(RTO) 494.99
L2433180	B&M F7 AA Set #4265, #4268	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433188	B&M F7B #4267B	(RTO) 539.99
L2433189	B&M F7B SuperBass #4265B	(RTO) 494.99
L2433200	Great Northern F7 AA Set #364A, #364C	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433208	Great Northern F7B #364B	(RTO) 539.99
L2433209	Great Northern F7B SuperBass #365B	(RTO) 494.99
L2433231	B&O SD50 #8577	(RTO) 584.99
L2433241	Conrail SD50 #6709	(RTO) 584.99
L2433249	Conrail SD50 SuperBass #6720	(RTO) 539.99
L2433291	Reading & Northern SD50 #5018	(RTO) 584.99
L2433281	Norfolk Southern SD40E #6313	(RTO) 584.99
L2433320	SIRT Alco S2 #821	(RTO) 494.99
L2433330	Lehigh & England Alco S2 #611	(RTO) 494.99
L2433350	US Army Alco S2 #7100	(RTO) 494.99
L2433320	North Pole Central E8 AA Set	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433330	Amtrak E8 AA #410-422	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433360	Southern Pacific E8 AA #6051-6053	(RTO) 1079.99
L2433432	Burlington Northern ES44AC #9810	(RTO) 674.99
L2433442	BNSF ES44AC #5570	(RTO) 674.99
L2433451	Chicago Northwestern ES44AC #8836	(RTO) 674.99
L2433461	Conrail ES44AC #4145	(RTO) 674.99
L2433469	Conrail SuperBass ES44AC #183 Non-Pwd	(RTO) 494.99
L2433471	Kansas City Southern ES44AC #4859	(RTO) 674.99
L2433500	Chesapeake & Ohio NW2 #5067	(RTO) 539.99
L2433540	Lehigh Valley NW2 #186	(RTO) 539.99
L2433552	Santa Fe GP20 #1171	(RTO) 584.99
L2433561	CB&Q GP20 #907	(RTO) 584.99
L2433562	CB&Q GP20 #915	(RTO) 584.99
L2433582	Penn Central GP20 #2109	(RTO) 584.99
L2433591	Cotton Belt GP20 #801	(RTO) 584.99

LEGACY RTO O SCALE HIGH END SETS		
L2322020	WM Hagerstown Hotshot Set	(RTO) \$1439.99
L2322030	Cumberland Valley Wayfreight Set	(RTO) 1349.99
L2322040	Big Boy Super Set	(RTO) 4049.99
L2322050	Iron Hippo Set	(RTO) 2069.99
L2322070	Rock Island Quad Cities Rocket Set	(RTO) 899.99
L2422010	Erie Vision Triplex Super Set	(RTO) 3599.99
L2422050	Nickel Plate Fast Freight Set	(RTO) 2249.99
L2422070	North Pole Cocoa Milk Train Set	(RTO) 1079.99
L2422080	AEC Glow in the Dark Set	(RTO) 899.99
L2422089	AEC Superbass GP9B #1946B	(RTO) 449.99
L2422090	Illinois Central City of Miami Set	(RTO) 1349.99
L2427330	Illinois Central City of Miami 2 Pack	359.99
L2427340	Illinois Central City of Miami Stations/Diner 324.99	

LEGACY RTO O SCALE POLAR EXPRESS		
L2422060	Polar Express 20th Anniv. Scale Set	(RTO) \$2159.99
L2431460	Polar Express Berkshire #1225	(RTO) 1529.99
L2431480	Polar Express Berkshire #1225 - Red	(RTO) 1529.99
L2427300	Polar Express 20th Anniversary 18" Coach	179.95
L2426800	Polar Express 20th Anniversary PS-1 Boxcar	79.95
L2426790	Polar Express Bell Sounds PS-1 Boxcar	159.95
L2427310	Polar Express Observation (Black Roof)	194.95
L2427320	Polar Express Observation (White Roof)	194.95
L1927640	Polar Express Abandoned Toy Car w/LED	179.95
L84811	Polar Express Baggage Car w/LED Lighting	179.95
L84812	PE Combination Car w/LED Lighting	179.95
L84813	Polar Express Coach Car w/LED Lighting	179.95
L84814	Polar Express Scale Diner Car w/LED Lighting	179.95

LIONEL® STEAM LOCOMOTIVES		
L2432010	Lionel Lines LC+2.0 Berkshire #726	\$629.99
L2432020	American Railroads LC+2.0 Berkshire #759	629.99
L2432040	Santa Fe LC+2.0 Berkshire #4106	629.99
L232060	CB&Q LC+2.0 Mikado #4978	629.99
L232090	Pennsylvania LC+2.0 Mikado #9631	629.99
L232120	Lehigh Valley LC+2.0 Pacific #2101	584.99
L232140	North Pole Central LC+2.0 Pacific	549.99
L232010	Reading LC+2.0 0-6-0T #1251	314.99
L232030	Lehigh Valley Combo LC+2.0 0-6-0T	314.99
L232040	New Haven LC+2.0 0-6-0T #2305	314.99
L232100	Nickle Plate Road LionChief 2-8-0 #455	296.99
L232110	WM LionChief 2-8-0 #754	296.99
L232120	Santa Fe LionChief 2-8-0 #2517	296.99
L232130	C&O LionChief 2-8-0 #752	296.99

LIONEL® DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES		
L2434010	D&RGW LC+2.0 GP7 #5100	\$359.99
L2434030	CNJ LC+2.0 GP7 #1522	359.99
L2434040	Rock Island LC+2.0 GP7 #1208	359.99
L2434050	Canadian National LC+2 ET44AC #3810	359.99
L2434080	Kansas City Southern LC+2 ET44AC #5002	359.99
L2344070	BNSF LC+2 ET44AC #6337	359.99
L234080	Norfolk Southern LC+2 ET44AC #3657	359.99
L235070	Alaska Combo LC+2 Budd RDC2 (702, 712)	539.99
L235120	Alaska LC+2 Budd RDC1 (711)	359.99
L235080	B&O Combo LC+2 Budd RDC2 (9902, 9917)	539.99
L235130	B&O LC+2 Budd RDC1 (9918)	359.99
L235090	NH Combo LC+2 Budd RDC2 (120, 42)	539.99
L235140	New Haven LC+2 Budd RDC1 (41)	359.99
L235100	SP Combo LC+2 Budd RDC2 (SP-9, SP-11)	359.99
L235150	SP LC+2 Budd RDC1 LC+2 (SP-10)	359.99
L235110	Polar Express LC+2 Budd RDC Combo	359.99
L235160	Polar Express LC+2 Budd RDC #PE-24	359.99
L2344090	Santa Fe LionChief FT #127	269.99
L234110	Pennsylvania LionChief FT #5888	269.99
L2235060	Pennsylvania Doodlebug #5266	359.99

SHIPPING & HANDLING POLICY
Shipping charges will be charged based upon your total order and will be shipped via FedEx or UPS ground service in the Continental United States (except Alaska and Hawaii). The following rates apply:

TOTAL ORDER	SHIPPING CHARGE
Over \$1500.00	\$40.00
\$1000.00 to \$1500.00	\$25.00
\$500.00 to \$1000.00	\$20.00
Under \$500.00	\$10.00

For orders that require multiple shipments, there will be a \$10.00 charge for each shipment made on your backorder. Mass. residence add 6.25% sales tax. 15% restocking charges on returns if not exchanged for items of equal value. No Returns after 10 days. No Returns of Books or Videos.

Prices are subject to change without notice and are for Mail Order only. Not responsible for typographical errors. ©Copyright Charles Ro Supply Co. 2024

ROLLING STOCK		
L2438260	Charles Ro Ltd. Edition 50th Anniversary Boxcar	\$64.95
L2326030	Union Pacific M-K-T Heritage TOFC Flatcar	109.95
L2326050	Union Pacific SP Heritage TOFC Flatcar	109.95
L2326130	John Deere 60' Boxcar #1837	94.95
L2326140	Chevrolet 60' Boxcar #236140	94.95
L2326150	Ford 60' Boxcar #236150	94.95
L2326170	USMC 60' Boxcar #1591	94.95
L2326190	LNE Northeast Caboose #583	94.95
L2326210	Rock Island Northeast Caboose #17604	94.95
L2326220	USMC Northeast Caboose #601750	94.95
L2326271	Pennsylvania N6B Cabin Car #980781	86.95
L2326380	Canadian Pacific 50' Flatcar w/Reimer Trailer	115.95
L2326390	Milwaukee Road 50' Flatcar w/CX Trailer	115.95
L2326400	TTX 50' Flatcar w/Budweiser Trailer	121.95
L2326410	John Deere 50' Flatcar w/Trailer	121.95
L2326420	Lionel 50' Flatcar w/Trailer	115.95
L2326460	Buffalo Creek & Gauley Gla Hopper 2-Pack	144.95
L2326470	Interstate Gla Hopper 2-Pack	144.95
L2326480	Pennsylvania Railroad Gla Hopper 2-Pack	144.95
L2326490	Pennsylvania Gla Hopper 2-Pack	144.95
L2326500	Westmoreland Coal Gla Hopper 2-Pack	144.95
L2326530	Pennsylvania Railroad N8 Cabin Car #478159	107.95
L2326601	Ann Arbor PS-5 Gondola #2023	87.95
L2326611	Canadian National PS-5 Gondola #143035	87.95
L2326320	Great Northern Reefer Set	359.99
L2326330	Pacific Fruit Express Reefer Set	359.99
L2326340	Rio Grande Stock Car Set	359.99
L2326350	Pennsylvania Stock Car Set	359.99
L2326710	Union Pacific Grain Dorr Boxcar	79.95
L2326780	Pennsylvania CrewTalk N8 Cabin Car #478044	215.95
L2343011	Reading & Northern Unibody Tank Car #101275	54.95
L2343021	US Army Unibody Tank Car #18599	54.95
L2343061	BN Centerbeam Flatcar #624189	50.95
L2343071	CSX Centerbeam Flatcar #600700	50.95
L2343081	NS Centerbeam Flatcar #120112	50.95
L2343091	TTX Centerbeam Flatcar #83519	50.95
L2343101	WCRC Centerbeam Flatcar #7319	50.95
L2426150	Pennsy 40' Flatcar w/John Deere Tractor Load	122.95
L2426170	John Deere 40' Flatcar w/Tractor Load	122.95
L2426180	John Deere Double Sheathed Boxcar	86.95
L2426280	John Deere Gondola with Containers	97.95
L2426320	ATSF Hotbox Reefer #7599	215.99
L2426330	FGE Hotbox Reefer #38945	215.99
L2426340	MDT Hotbox Reefer #6110	215.99
L2426350	PFE Hotbox Reefer #5845	215.99
L2426780	Pennsylvania VISION N6B Caboose #980310	215.95
L2426780	Halloween VISION N6B Caboose #103124	224.95
L2442040	UP WWII Boxcar Art PS1 3 Pack #4	179.95
L2442050	UP WWII Boxcar Art PS1 3 Pack #5	179.95
L2426380	UP WWII CA-1 Caboose #1944	94.95
L2426090	UP WWII PS1 w/Sounds - Look Dad	149.95
L2426010	Chessie System FreightSounds PS1 #23764	149.95
L2426020	CB&Q FreightSounds PS1 #17302	149.95
L2426030	DL&W Friendship Train FntSnds PS1 #51974	149.95
L2426040	Great Northern FreightSounds PS1 #18588	149.95
L2426050	Illinois Central Gulf FntSnds PS1 #416224	149.95
L2426060	RF&P FreightSounds PS1 #2872	149.95
L2442261	BAR Steel Side Box Car #65220	58.95
L2442271	Central of Georgia Steel Side Box Car #4095	58.95
L2442281	Norfolk Southern Steel Side Box Car #25439	58.95
L2442291	Soo Line Steel Side Box Car #42204	58.95
L2442211	A&P Woodside Reefer #12000	58.95
L2442221	Meyer Kornblum Woodside Reefer #241	58.95
L2442231	PFE/WP Woodside Reefer #55001	58.95
L2442241	Swift's Premium Woodside Reefer #6001	58.95
L2442340	ADM 50' Tank Car 3 Pack	189.95
L2442350	BNSF 50' Tank Car 3 Pack	189.95
L2442360	Cargill 50' Tank Car 3 Pack	189.95
L2442370	GATX 50' Tank Car 3 Pack	189.95
L2442390	C&O 2-Bay AAR Hopper #49623	58.95
L2442319	Erie 2-Bay AAR Hopper #24133	58.95
L2442329	Nickel Plate Road 2-Bay AAR Hopper #33737	58.95
L2442339	Milwaukee Road 2-Bay AAR Hopper #96885	58.95

LOWEST SHIPPING CHARGES

TOLL FREE FOR ORDERS 1-800-225-4424 • 1-800-225-4425 • FAX 1-781-321-6459



32

20 **A LAYOUT YOU CAN BUILD** Plan with a postwar vibe

This 6 x 12-foot track plan has accessories and plenty of choices for operations

BY TERRY THOMPSON

22 **Take the next train to Hedgerton!**

This train lover's paradise fills a 23 x 24-foot O gauge layout

BY ROGER CARP

28 **HOW-TO PROJECT** Use Lionel's Bluetooth Radio Tower

It's easy to add sound effects and more to your layout

BY PATRICK DOWNING

30 **Marx's 20th Century Limited**

A prewar classic finally made in the 1990s

BY ERIC BEHEIM

32 **COVER STORY** Pictures at an O gauge exhibition

Neal Mayer fills his attic with vignettes of New England

BY ROGER CARP

38 **Toy trains are back in the movies!**

Gary Rushton provided the Lionel models for *The Fabelmans*

BY ROGER CARP

40 **Industrial layout honors a family**

Reviving memories on a 6 x 16-foot O gauge display

BY GREG BIRD

45 **How to clean old tubular track**

A little time and effort can save you money

BY HAL MILLER

46 **WEEKEND WORKSHOP** Adding reverse to Lionel motorized units

It doesn't take long to get postwar maintenance vehicles to change direction

BY DAVID SMITH

48 **Lionel treasures galore**

Highlights of the Paul Peters collection

BY ROGER CARP

54 **Adding unique details to your layout**

6 easy ways to repurpose kitchen containers

BY C.B. JACOBSEN



46

IN EVERY ISSUE

4 **Editor's desk**

6 **Your letters**

8 **Your photos**

12 **News & reviews**

Lionel Big Boy, custom-run club cars, Menard structures, Atlas O F40PH, and lots more

18 **Collectible classic**

American Flyer's No. 648 track cleaning car

56 **Questions & answers**

Fixing sluggish steam engines, looking for Lionel catalogs, and more

60 **S gauge now & then**

Add sound to Flyer passenger cars

65 **Ad index**

66 **Tips & tricks**

Replace old Lionel logs and embrace the rust

TRAINS.COM

SUBSCRIBERS HAVE ACCESS TO MORE THAN 100 PLANS FROM OUR TRACK PLAN DATABASE. [TRAINS.COM/CTT/How-to/](https://trains.com/CTT/How-to/)

Understanding Trains.com

More of the content you already love

You've likely seen our editorial references, ads, and emails mentioning Trains.com in the past few years. Still, it's come to my attention that not everyone understands what Trains.com is.

Trains.com is the website covering all of our "tracks" brands. It includes *Trains*, *Classic Trains*, *Classic Toy Trains*, *Model Railroader*, *Garden Railways*, and *Video*. If it's related to trains in any way, you'll find it there.

Trains.com members get access to everything. The list includes *Trains Magazine News Wire*, digital subscriptions to the four printed magazines, the digital archive of all issues, unique online-only articles and videos, digital books, photo galleries, and much more. A recent addition is the Special Issue Archive, which contains 107 issues across our brands.

Some of you aren't interested in looking at a screen. I understand; I love

Mystery medallion

Contributing Editor Bob Keller gave me this Chessie System medallion, made from aluminum. It's possibly a custom or homemade item, and it also has a rather sloppy paint job. I'd like to learn more about this piece. I hope to file down some rough edges and strip and repaint it. — RENE



print, too. But I ask you to look at the content we're posting at Trains.com. I'm excited about the opportunities online. It's more of the material you love, just in a different format. Check out Trains.com free for 30 days and cancel at your discretion.

CHANGES AHEAD

As a quarterly publication, we plan to make each page as valuable as possible. You'll notice some content will change as we review reader surveys. You asked for track plans, so we're making that happen. (You'll find one on page 20!) If you receive an email survey, please give us your feedback or email me anytime.

Rene Schweitzer

Rene Schweitzer, Editor

Feel free to send comments and questions to editor@ClassicToyTrains.com

Written communication regarding your Classic Toy Trains magazine subscription will arrive from Lincolnshire, IL, instead of Big Sandy, TX, beginning in Spring 2024. Renewals and invoices received with a Lincolnshire, IL, return address are legitimate notices about your subscription. We thank you for your continued interest in CTT!

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

OUR MISSION

Classic Toy Trains is the indispensable source for toy train hobbyists. Our mission is to enhance our readers' enjoyment of the toy train hobby by publishing useful information and engaging insights about layouts, how-to projects, and hobby news and heritage.

Rene Schweitzer Editor
Elizabeth M. Weber Design Director
Roger Carp Senior Editor
Cody Grivno Group Technical Editor
Steven Otte, Nastassia Putz Copy Editors
Bob Keller, Chris Montagna Contributing Editors
Monica Freitag Editorial Assistant
Kellie Jaeger Illustrator
Sue Hollinger-Klahn Production Specialist
Martha Stanczak Ad Sales Representative

TRAINS.COM

A. David Popp Director
Kent Johnson Executive Producer
Mitch Horner Assistant Digital Editor
Lucas Iverson Staff Writer

KALMBACH MEDIA

Dan Hickey Chief Executive Officer
Christine Metcalf Chief Financial Officer
Nicole McGuire Chief Marketing Officer
Stephen C. George Vice President, Content
Brian J. Schmidt Vice President, Operations
Sarah A. Horner Vice President, Human Resources

Liz Runyon Circulation Director
Angela Cotey Director of Digital Strategy
Michael Soliday Director of Design & Production
Kathy Steele Retention Manager
Kim Redmond Single Copy Specialist

■ CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE

Phone: 877-243-4903
Outside U.S. and Canada: 847-313-3921
Customer Service: ClassicToyTrains@Omeda.com

For the purpose of marketing goods and services to our customers, we may make certain customer information and our customer list available to carefully screened companies that offer products and services that we believe would interest our customers. Please visit our privacy policy at www.kalmbach.com/privacy for more information. If you do not want to have your information transmitted to third party companies that offer products and services to our customers or to database cooperatives, please advise us at Kalmbach Media Data Protection Office, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, email us at privacy@kalmbach.com or call us at 877-243-4903.

■ EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

To contact **editorial**, call us at 262-796-8776, fax us at 262-796-1142, or send an email to editor@ClassicToyTrains.com.
 To contact **advertising** department, call us at 888-558-1544, or send an email to adsales@ClassicToyTrains.com.

■ RETAIL QUESTIONS

Phone: 800-558-1544
Outside U.S. and Canada: 262-796-8776 Ext. 818
Fax: 262-798-6592
Email: tss@kalmbach.com
Web site: Retailers.Kalmbach.com
 Outside the United States and Canada, call 262-796-8776.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single copy: \$12.99 (U.S.). **Print + digital subscription rate:**
 U.S.: 1 year \$47.95. Canadian: Add \$7.00 postage. Canadian price includes GST, payable in U.S. funds. All other international: Add \$10.00 postage, payable in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank. (Canadian price includes GST) BN 12271 3209 RT.

© 2024 Kalmbach Media Co. Title registered as trademark. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Lionel and Gilbert catalog art reprinted with the permission of The Lionel Corporation.



» SUBMISSIONS?

Before preparing an article, contact us to determine interest. To submit an article or photos, email editor@classictoytrains.com or send materials to *Classic Toy Trains*, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53186. Submission guidelines are available at trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines/. *Classic Toy Trains* assumes letters, new product information, and other unsolicited materials are contributed gratis. We assume no responsibility for the safe return of unsolicited material.

@ Scale STRUCTURES & TRAIN CARS

NEW!

SOOTY'S COAL TIPPLE

O SCALE (275-9271) | HO SCALE (275-9272)

Realistically weathered coal tippie
with "Sooty's" logo on the roof!

Exclusive Sooty's coal car
and officially licensed Dodge®
Sweptside, both only available
with this structure!
(O scale version only)

Details include four figures,
pile of coal, dog house, and
Jack the German Shepherd!



Canadian National
Hopper (275-9230)



Burlington Northern
Hopper (275-9232)



Union Pacific
Hopper (275-9234)



ACF Hopper
(275-9236)



Weathered Union Pacific
Hopper (275-9238)



Weathered ACF
Hopper (275-9248)

NEW!

For more information and to order, visit MENARDS.COM/TRAINS

Locomotives we love

I'VE NEVER READ a more beautiful and moving essay about toy trains than the one written by Peter Riddle in the **September/October 2023** issue of CTT. Wisely, he didn't call the essay "Trains we admire" or "Trains we like." Instead, he chose the word "love" to brighten it up. Didn't the toy trains we received as kids put love in our hearts? Is there another reason why, more than half a century later, toy trains still evoke such strong emotions in all of us, who feel a stirring when we hold a toy or model train? Peter Riddle may have written his essay in prose, but to me it is pure poetry. — **Al Lombardo, Longmont, Col.**



Warming to the Polar Express project layout

Kudos to the staff of *Classic Toy Trains* for the article in the **November/December 2023** issue on building a 4 x 8-foot O gauge layout for the Lionel Polar Express set. Your building parameters were spot on and accomplished perfectly. The article was written for the novice, being straightforward and easy to follow. Great to read how different CTT staff members contributed suitably. The building flats were simple yet superb, and the mountain was described fully. I enjoyed the project tremendously. — **David Karol, Millers Md.**

Polar Express layout information

I really enjoyed the article on the O gauge Polar Express project layout and am planning to construct my own version. How tall are the mountains and the city building flats? Where did you buy the stick-on mirror for the lake? — **Frank Palfi, Avondale, Ariz.**

Editor's response: Most of the 4-foot-long mountain is 10 inches high; the peak is 11 inches high. The tunnel/clock tower stands 11 inches tall, with the tower adding about 7½ inches at its peak. The other flat is also 11 inches tall. You may adjust these measurements to suit your needs. Be sure to allow enough clearance through the tunnel for the Polar Express passenger cars. The figures on top extend the extra height requirements.

You should be able to find the mirror online; we saw many choices at Amazon.com. Or you can spray-paint the area with shiny silver paint.

Decisions, decisions!

"What would you save?" as Bob Keller asked in the Modern Era Notes column in the **September/October 2023** issue of *Classic Toy Trains*, scored a touchdown with me. I agree with his use of uncommon versus rare when referring to model trains. Bob's description of what a person goes through when making quick decisions on what to save when you have little time to take only a few things with you can be traumatic!

I was once in that situation after receiving a call from our county government that we were under mandatory evacuation at 1:30 a.m. because of wildfires in the nearby mountains. I thought about my layouts: S gauge American Flyer and HO Märklin.

I focused on trains while my wife gathered family possessions. I made the same decision Bob did: Take what had given me the most joy, fun, and satisfaction, namely, the first trains given to me when I was a boy.



My mind had to go to a place it had never been when deciding what to grab and what to leave. We should all take the time to make a list and keep it taped to our layouts or train shelves to save valuable moments. — **Greg Hurd, Estes Park, Col.**

Memories of Flyer cows

Paul C. Nelson's article about the American Flyer No. 771 cattle car and stockyard in the **September/October 2023** issue brought back wonderful memories. It was around 1954 when my folks got me a 771 for Christmas. The humming of the mat inside the corral was as welcome a sound as the call from my No. 566 Whistling Billboard. I loved the No. 929 Missouri Pacific stockcar that rested strong while letting in cattle.

I ended up giving away my trains. Maybe somebody's grandson – or grandfather – is enjoying running my boyhood S gauge steamer and MoPac stockcar. — **James Loverde, Chicago**



Hot news about Menards fire station



A fire station in Charleston, S.C., reminded one *Classic Toy Trains* reader of the O gauge structure made by Menards.

The product review of Menards' Cripple Creek County Jail in the **July/August 2023** issue brought to mind a fire station I'd seen in Charleston, S.C. While not identical to the Cripple Creek jail, it did have the same type of "municipal" architecture described in the review, notably the arched doors for the different fire-fighting equipment. — **Rick Truscello, Johnstown, Pa. CTT**

INFO / ORDERS : (570) 451-1700 or 451-1726
MAIL / SHIP TO: 200 Glenmaura National Blvd., Moosic, PA 18507
FOR PLACING ORDERS CALL 1-800-BLIONEL
Website: www.grzyboskitrains.com
Prices Subject to Change & Valid for Mail Order only



State Rt 502 & Glenmaura National Blvd.
Take Rt. 11 South to Rt. 502 • 3 minutes off I-81 – Exit 180

We accept MasterCard, Visa, & Discover • Shipping Charges are actual cost charged by the shipping carriers (UPS or USPS). Charge is based on order total, weight, destination, and multiple box shipment (if required). Call for cost. Minimum order \$40 • PA Residents add 6% Sales Tax including freight charge. Shipping Charges are Non-Refundable • 10-Day Return Policy-Exchange Only • No Refunds • 15% Restocking Fee Applies • Items are new unless noted • Not Responsible for typographical errors • Store Hours : check website

SALE ITEMS!!

9-42058	Lionel Blue Pub Table	249.95
22000	Lionel 'Double Crossing' Board Game	9.95
32021	Lenny the Lion Plushy (by Gund)	14.95
3-18050	Lionel Continental Grand 3B Hopper	34.95
16214	DRG Auto Screened Carrier	35.00
16718	USMC Missile Launching Car	40.00
16767	NYC Ice Docks Ice Car	35.00
16791	New York City Lights Boxcar	30.00
16933	Lionel Lines Flatcar w/Autos	25.00
16968	Dep. Flatcar w/Lightflight Helicopter	30.00
17105	Chessie ACF Centerflow Hopper	35.00
17107	Sclair ACF Centerflow Hopper	30.00
17311	REA St. O' Reefer Car	30.00
17522	St. O' Flatcar w/Plymouth Prowler Car	35.00
17600	New York Central St. O' Caboose	25.00
17905	ADM St. O' Unibody Tank Car	30.00
19696	U.S. Saving Bond Mint Car	49.95
19825	GM Generator Car	40.00
19878	PWC #3665 Helium Unloading Car	30.00
19965	Big Pete's Animated Aquarium Car	29.95
25135	Polar Express Baggage Car (Black Roof)	39.95
26214	USPS Stamp Boxcar	25.00
26727	San Francisco City Lights Boxcar	30.00
26906	S.P. Flatcar St. O' w/Corgi Police Car	35.00
29294	Heligade Bridge Boxcar	20.00
29612	Las Vegas Poker Chip Display Car	30.00
29626	CASE Closed Mint Car	30.00
29651	Richmond Federal Reserve Mint Car	40.00
29671	Smoke Pellet Display Car #2	24.95
29791	Wizard of Oz 75th Anniversary Boxcar	24.95
29997	US Air Force Boxcar	35.95
39484	Cocoa Marsh Vat Car	29.95
81871	Loggers Figure Pack	12.95
83168	Iron Works Figure Pack	12.95
83246	Shell Gas Billboard Art Boxcar	39.95
83657	Miller's Beer Reefer Car	40.00
84376	Angela Trotta Thomas Aquarium Car	54.95
85248	Budweiser Reefer	49.95
2027023	Disconnet NYC Diner Car	29.95
2027024	Disconnet NYC Sleeper Car	29.95
2027021	Disconnet NYC Baggage Car	29.95
2028480	Angela Thomas Lionel 120th Ann. Boxcar	44.95
2038020	Rio Grande 150th Ann. Boxcar	49.95
2128020	Shark Fin Animated Boxcar	69.95
2118110	Budweiser "This Buds For You" Reefer	51.95
2138130	WWII Africa Campaign Boxcar	51.95
OLR901	Statue of Liberty (lighted)	44.95

LIONEL 'SCALE-SIZE' CARS

82639	Milwaukee Road Milk Car	54.95
83347	Atlantic Coast Line Double Sheath Boxcar	35.00
84025	P.P.&L. Bathub Gondola 2pk.	99.95
84033	BNFS Bathub Gondola 2pk.	99.95
84128	TLDX Demonstrator PS-2 CD Hopper Car	44.95
84478	or 79 Wabash PS-4 f/w 40' Trailer ea.	69.95
84918	or 19 David Ind. Cylindrical Hopper ea.	45.00
1926141	Santa Fe Bunk Car #196752	59.95
1926142	Santa Fe Bunk Car #196754	59.95
1926161	Rio Grande Bunk Car #23280	59.95
1926162	Rio Grande Bunk Car #23284	59.95
1926163	Rio Grande Bunk Car #23287	59.95
1926171	Union Pacific Bunk Car #906115	59.95
1926172	Union Pacific Bunk Car #906118	59.95
1926183	MOW Bunk Car #99837	59.95
1926492	U.P. Safety CA-4 Caboose	69.95
1926501	Barlett Grain PS-2CD Cov.Hopper #5509	59.95
1926502	Barlett Grain PS-2CD Cov.Hopper #5510	59.95
1926540	Ely Thomas Skeleton Log Car 2pk. #1	89.95
1926550	Ely Thomas Skeleton Log Car 2pk. #2	89.95
1926590	NY & PRR Skeleton Log Car 2pk.	89.95
1926600	Unlettered Skeleton Log Car 2pk.	89.95
1926971	Detroit Salt PS-2CD Covered Hopper	64.95
1926981	Producers Grain PS-2CD Cov. Hopper	64.95
2026651	UP/Merchants 50' F/C w/20' Trailers	74.95
2126190	Central Soya PS-2 Hopper #118	59.95
2126530	MKT Toy Car #X3257	59.95
2126651	MKT Bunk Car #X-2121	59.95
2126310	American Steel 65' Mill Gondola	64.95
2126442	Rio Grande Beer Car #50871	69.95
2126462	Missouri Pacific Beer Car #793015	69.95
2126482	Western Pacific Beer Car #67055	69.95
2126590	MKT Kitchen Car w/Sounds	94.95
2126600	Norfolk & Western Kitchen Car w/Snds	94.95
2126610	Western Pacific Kitchen Car w/Snds	94.95
2126622	Canadian Pacific Bunk Car #411919	59.95
2126641	C&O Bunk Car #8575	59.95
2126652	MKT Bunk Car #X-2122	59.95
2126661	N&W Bunk Car #525502	59.95
2126662	N&W Bunk Car #525534	59.95
2126672	Western Pacific Bunk Car #MW0761	59.95
2226260	Great Western Railway Caboose	99.95
2243030	Northern Southern Rotary Gondola 4pk.	199.95
2243040	Pennsylvania Rotary Gondola 4pk.	199.95
2243050	Union Pacific Rotary Gondola 4pk.	199.95
2243070	Norfolk Southern Rotary Gondola 2pk.	99.95
2243080	Pennsylvania Rotary Gondola 2pk.	99.95
2243090	Union Pacific Rotary Gondola 2pk.	99.95
2329130	Cowen's Creamery Caboose w/Deck	144.95

LIONEL FLATCAR w/SINGLE TRAILER

16308	Burlington Northern	30.00
16335	New York Central 'Pacemaker'	35.00
16357	Louisville & Nashville	30.00
16374	Denver & Rio Grande	30.00
16910	Missouri Pacific	25.00
16911	Boston & Maine	30.00
17889	Southern Pacific (St. O' Flat)	40.00
17892	Conrail Flatcars, Ford/Armstrong Trailers	75.00
19411	Nickel Plate Flatcar w/Sears Trailer	45.00
19479	C.P. Rail F/C w/WB Mason Trailer	79.95
19586	Long Island F/C -Cradle Aviation Trailer	65.00
25822	NETCA Garlton & Upton F/C - Spag's Trl.	99.95

LIONEL 'LIONCHIEF' LOCOMOTIVES

2034030	Pennsylvania Silver GG-1 LC2.0	425.00
2123010	S.P. LionMaster AC-12 LC2.0 (used)	995.00
2234010	Amtrak Genesis 50th Ann	369.95
2234050	Amtrak Genesis Phase V #150 LC2.0	369.95
2234060	Amtrak Genesis Phase IV #111 LC2.0	369.95
2234200	Amtrak Genesis Phase V 50th Ann. #46	369.95
2234220	Amtrak Genesis 50th Ann Lifesaver	369.95
2235050	Union Pacific Doodlebug LC2.0	359.99
2235060	Pennsylvania Doodlebug LC2.0	359.99
2235080	Hallow's Eve Doodlebug LC2.0	359.99
2232050	Halloween Mikado LC2.0	595.00
2232010	Reading 0-6-0T Locomotive	314.99
2232030	Lehigh Valley Co. 0-6-0T Locomotive	314.99
2232100	Nickel Plate Road 2-8-0 Locomotive	296.99
2232110	Western Maryland 2-8-0 Locomotive	296.99
2232120	Santa Fe 2-8-0 Locomotive	296.99
2232130	Chesapeake & Ohio 2-8-0 Locomotive	296.99
2234050	Canadian National ET44ac Diesel 2.0	359.99
2234060	Kansas City Southern ET44ac LC2.0	359.99
2234070	BNFS ET44ac Diesel LC2.0	359.99
2234080	Norfolk Southern ET44ac LC2.0	359.99
2234090	Santa Fe FT Diesel 'A'	269.99
2234100	New York Central FT Diesel 'A'	269.99
2234110	Pennsylvania FT Diesel 'A'	269.99
2235230	Reading & Northern Road Budd 2-Car Set	539.99

LIONEL CONVENTIONAL DIESELS

805462	Burlington 'Chrome' F3 ABAs	495.00
8056	Chicago & Northwestern FM	195.00
8150	Pennsylvania Green 5/S GG-1 #4935	325.00
816263	Ontario Northland SD-18's	195.00
8272	Pennsylvania (Gold) EP 5 w/case	275.00
848081/82	Union Pacific F-3 ABAs	395.00
856667/61	Southern F-3 ABAs	395.00
856808/82	Illinois Central F-3 ABAs	495.00
8753	Pennsylvania Tuscan GG-1	295.00
8850	Penn Central GG-1	295.00
8951	Southern Pacific Black Widow FM	250.00
11734	Erie ALCO ABA's w/6 Frits Cars (FF#6 Set)	395.00
18107	Denver & Rio Grande PA Alco ABA's w/RS	450.00
18301	Southern FM w/horn	195.00
18302	Great Northern EP-5 w/6 Cars (FF#3)	395.00
18311	Disney EP-5 Electric w/horn	175.00
18500	Milw. Road GP-9 w/6 Cars (FF#2)	495.00
18503	Southern Pacific NW-2 Bell-Ringer	175.00
18505	Nickel Plate GP-7 Pair w/6 Cars (FF#6 Set)	395.00
18551	Susquehanna RS-3 w/case	175.00
18553	Union Pacific GP-9 w/case	175.00
18552	Duluth Missle SD-18 w/case	175.00
18554	Gulf Mobile & Ohio RS-3 w/case	175.00
28223	BNFS SD-70MAC 'Scale-Size'	250.00
28247	Rio Grande SD40T-2 'Scale-Size'	275.00
38303	PRR Tuscan 5/S GG-1 #2340 (sealed)	299.95

LIONEL 'TMCC' STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

18046	Wabash 4-6-4 Hudson w/Railsounds	295.00
28038	Norfolk 2-8-0 Consolidation	395.00
28084	NYC Dreyfuss Hudson (Scale)	895.00
37173	Northern Crescent 4-6-2 Pass. Box Set	1495.00
38049	N&W Class-A LionMaster 2-6-4 (used)	650.00
38055	Santa Fe 4-8-4 (Scale) Northern	995.00
38058	C&O 2-8-2 H-7 (Scale)	1195.00
38071	Southern Pacific (Scale) Cab-Forward	1195.00
38079	Southern Pacific (Scale) GS-2 #4410	995.00
38094	Milwaukee Hiawatha 4-4-2	995.00

LIONEL 'LEGACY' STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

11387	Santa Fe Berkshire 2-8-4	995.00
11388	Northern Pacific Berkshire 2-8-4	995.00
81194	Nickel Plate Road 2-8-0 Consolidation	995.00
1922030	Warren G. Harding Funeral Train Set	999.95
2331140	Middleton & Hummelstown 2-6-0	675.00
2331264	VISION Big Boy #4014	2595.00
2331560	Pennsylvania 0-6-0	674.95
2331401	NYC Dreyfuss Hudson #5449	1429.95
2331430	NYC Dreyfuss Hudson #5454	1549.95
2331480	VISION N&W Class A-Prototype	1895.00

LIONEL CONVENTIONAL STEAM LOCOS

8006	ACL 'Silver Shadow' Hudson w/case	295.00
8101	Chicago & Alton 4-6-4 Hudson w/5 Pass.	495.00
8307	Southern Pacific GS-3 w/whistle	395.00
8615	Louisville & Nashville Berkshire w/case	495.00
18000	PRR B6 Switcher w/Railsounds	350.00
18001	Rock Island 4-8-4 Northern w/whistle	295.00
18004	Reading 4-6-2 w/whistle	195.00
18009	NYC Scale 4-8-2 Mohawk w/Railsounds	495.00
18011	Chessie Scale T-1 w/Railsounds	495.00
18013	Disneyland 4-4-0 General	195.00
18090	Denver & Rio Grand Hudson w/RailSnds	195.00
18684	LRRC 4-6-2 Pacific Steam Locomotive	175.00
28665	Western Union 2-8-4 Berkshire Jr.	195.00

LIONEL NON-POWERED UNITS

18178	New York Central F-3 B-unit	195.00
2133039	NYC SuperBass E-7 'B' #104 (Scale)	299.95
2133049	PRR SuperBass E-7 'B' #5900B (Scale)	299.95
2133089	NYC SuperBass E-7 'B' #102 (Scale)	299.95

TUBULAR TRACK R-T-R SETS

1154	Reading 'Yardking' NW-2 Freight (LN)	150.00
1264	Niobrara NW-2 Diesel Freight	145.00
1387	Milw. Road Steam Passenger (used)	195.00
1463	Coca-Cola Diesel Set (blank set box lid)	195.00
1582	So Line 'Yardchief' NW-2 Frlt (like-new)	150.00
1587	B&O Capitol Ltd. Steam Pass. (sealed)	295.00
11006	Lenny the Lion 4-4-2 Steam Freight	199.95
11716	Lionelville Circus 4-4-0 Freight (sealed)	195.00
11723	Amtrak Maintenance RS-3 Diesel Freight	245.00
11800	Heavy Iron MKT Steam Set for Toy R Us	195.00
11814	Chrysler Mopar Diesel Frlt. Set	195.00
11848	Bloomington's 4-4-2 Steam Frlt.	295.00
11933	Dodge Motorsport Freight Set	195.00
11985	Quaker Oats 4-4-2 Steam Frlt. Set	249.95
21796	New Jersey Medical Steam Freight Set	249.95
31910	Soo Line Diesel Train Set	350.00

LIONEL 'TMCC' DIESELS

11903	Atlantic Coast Line F3 ABAs (sealed)	595.00
14504	to PR Santa Fe Warbonnet F3 ABAs	895.00
14532	PRR Sharknose A	495.00
14568	/57/2418 Western Pacific F-3 ABAs	1095.00
18135	New York Central F-3 A	395.00
18160	/38115 New York Central FT ABAs	465.00
18252	Amtrak Dash-9 'Scale'	295.00
18286	Union Pacific Dash-9 44CW 'Scale'	325.00
18322	Lackawanna (Maroon Top) Trainmaster	395.00
18351	New York Central Scale S-1 Electric	395.00
18564	Canadian Pacific GP-9	225.00
18567	Pennsylvania GP-7	225.00
18582	Seaboard NW-2 (blue & orange)	350.00
18978	PWC Chesapeake & Ohio NW-2	350.00
24574/7778	Union Pacific E-7 ABAs (LN)	895.00
28518	PWC Pennsylvania EP-5	295.00
28519	PWC Northern Pacific GP-9	225.00
28531	Santa Fe Alco S-2 Switcher (Scale)	295.00
28539	Baltimore & Ohio S-2 (Scale)	350.00
28540	Union Pacific SD40T-2 (Scale)	325.00
28541	Southern Pacific SD40T-2 (Scale)	350.00
28542	Rio Grande SD40T-2 Scale-Size	350.00
52315	TCA Pennsylvania FM	295.00
2135130	Southern Pacific Ballast Tamper	144.95

POSTWAR REMAKE SETS

21759	Canadian Pacific F3 Pass. Set (sealed)	995.00
21788	Missile Launch Set	399.95
31721	PRR GG-1 'Magnetic' Freight Set	550.00
31727	Rio Grande F-3 'AB' Freight Set	595.00
31739	Hudson 773 Freight Set #13150	995.00
31742	/25473 Santa Fe F3 ABAs Pass. Set (LN)	750.00
31775	Burlington GP-7 Pass. Set #1562	399.95
31776	Lackawanna #2219W FM Frlt. Set	395.00
38313	B&O Budd 2-Car Freight/Dummy Set	250.00
38324	New Haven F-3 Power Set #2507w	495.00
38349	C&O GP-7 Freight Set #12885-500	545.00

LIONEL 21' PASSENGER CARS

83618	Empire State Express Observation Car	119.95
85330	New York Central Baggage Car 2pk.	199.95
1927200	Norfolk Southern Excursion 4-pack	499.95
1927180	Northern Southern Executive 4-pack	499.95
2027280	AutoTrain Vista Vision Dome Car	209.95
2027310	Southern Vista Vision Dome Car	269.95
2027630	30/60/90 Lionel 120th 7-Car Set	1095.00
2027750	Lionel 120th Vista Vision Dome Car	219.95
2027690	Lionel 120th Vista Baggage Car	209.95
2027760	Lionel 120th StationSound Diner	199.95
2027770	Milwaukee Road Vista Vision Dome Car	209.95
2027780	Great Northern Vista Vision Dome Car	209.95
2127030	KCS WI-FI Theater Car	209.95
2127050	BNFS WI-FI Theater Car	209.95
2127100	Rio Grande Ski Train Power Car	264.95
2227220	Rocket Train Rider Car 'Hialeah'	109.95
2227260	Amtrak 4-pack Phase III	649.95
2127310	20/30 NYC Southwestern 7-Car Set	1549.95
2127330	NYC Southernwestern Sound Diner	249.95
2227350	CSX Business Train Office Car 4-pack	549.95
2227370	CSX Business StationSound Diner	249.95
2227520	Santa Fe Vision Horse Car	224.95
2227530	Canadian Pacific Vision Horse Car	224.95
2227540	Louisville & Nashville Vision Horse Car	224.95

LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CARS

15597	C&O 18' 4-Car Set
-------	-------------------

► Stephen Walsh's O gauge layout

Approximately 70 years ago, Stephen Walsh joined the ranks of three-rail hobbyists with a Lionel starter set. These days, he can be found putting the finishing touches on a superb 13 x 21-foot O gauge model railroad in Northborough, Mass., that boasts two levels of action filled with realistic scenery, detailed landscaping, and animation of all sorts. Possibly the highlight of the L-shaped layout is the mountain that towers 6 feet above the floor and features several spectacular handmade bridges – this one being traversed by an MTH Premier line No. 20-20905-1 CSX Electro-Motive Division GP38-2 road diesel and freight cars.



▲ John Mansueto's S gauge layout

The last time readers of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine were invited to explore the S gauge layout constructed and photographed by John Mansueto occurred when the March 2021 issue was released. Those of us who like the modeling done by this resident of Islip, N.Y., couldn't stay away for long. So, we returned to John's terrific 12 x 16-foot display to check out the American Flyer No. 372 Union Pacific Electro-Motive Division GP7 road diesel shown pulling a group of postwar and modern-era freight cars.



Send your best pictures of toy train subjects to CTT Photo Album, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612. Include your name, address, and daytime telephone number; a description of each image, including the gauge and make of the train; and the name of the photographer or layout owner. Email digital photos (1 mg or larger) to photoalbum@ClassicToyTrains.com

If you send us a photograph and we decide to publish it, we will pay you \$50 as long as we have not previously bought the photo.



◀ John Hudak's O gauge layout

Railroading through the coal mining region of Pennsylvania fascinates O gauge modeler John Hudak, and he's made that area the focus of his home layout. Here, a passenger train composed of Pennsy heavyweights from the MTH catalog drifts past an MTH reproduction of the Lionel No. 115 Station. John spent time placing the seated figures inside his Tuscan Red coaches. Behind the city station on his compact layout in Charlotte, N.C., John has wired a few Lionel No. 156 Station Platforms plus MTH reissues of the Lionel No. 64 Street Lamp. The black sheet-metal floodlight tower on the far left was originally offered by Louis Marx & Co.

► Barry Starkman's Standard gauge model railroad

"There's a story attached to every scene on my Piscataway & Raritan RR layout," Barry Starkman wrote in a letter accompanying this picture of the Standard gauge loop that crowns his large O gauge railroad. Although he resides in Erie, Colo., Barry retains vivid memories of coming of age in New Jersey and having ridden the Central RR of New Jersey and the Pennsylvania RR. Perhaps his favorite tale involves his grandparents riding the famed *Blue Comet* passenger train on their honeymoon back in 1929. Barry framed their tickets and placed them next to the Lionel reissue of the set many prewar enthusiasts laud as the greatest of that era.



▲ Stephen Papa's O gauge layout

Most operators and collectors set strict boundaries around what they will and will not bring home. Not Stephen Papa. This lifelong fan of Lionel's accessories and sets insists prewar and postwar trains beautifully complement each other and that O gauge engines and cars can look sweet running not far from Standard gauge ones. However in this part of his layout in San Diego, Calif., he showcases two of his favorite outfits from the postwar period: the Nos. 1587S Lady Lionel freight set in all its pastel wonder and 2148WS Hudson heavyweight passenger set from 1950. Nearby, he has wired a wide array of neat accessories, including the Nos. 156 and 157 Station Platforms, 397 and 456 coal loaders, and 356 Operating Freight Station.



▲ Norm Jurgen's O gauge layout

Lionel's No. 84067, a scale replica of historic Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 Northern 260, dominates this scene on Norm Jurgen's layout, soon to be featured in *Classic Toy Trains*. The steam engine and tender have braked to a halt after passing through the Lionel No. 12772 trestle bridge painted and weathered by Norm. The combination is waiting for an all-clear signal as crews address switching issues on the main line below. Norm, who resides in Tillsonburg, Ont., finished the scene by adding structures from the Department 56, MTH Electric Trains, and Woodland Scenics lines.

► Whippany Railway Museum's O gauge layout

Railroading in New Jersey coincides with the long history of what perhaps has been the most revolutionary form of land transport in the U.S. One of the best ways to learn how railroads have changed the society and economy of the Garden State is to stop by the Whippany Railway Museum in the town of the same name. In addition to vintage locomotives and rolling stock, the impressive facility has an O gauge layout. Steven Hepler was on hand to photograph a Lionel No. 84071 Delaware, Lackawanna & Western RR 2-6-0 Mogul as it led a freight train by the residential and commercial buildings on the upper level.



News bits

■ **Train City Inc.** is closing its doors after 40 years in the model train business. Charles Siegel, owner, announced his retirement on his traincity.com.

Train City Inc. specialized in buying model train collections and estates. Siegel stated, "To our customers everywhere, thank you for your business. You kept us in business a long time, and we appreciate it."

Siegel is keeping his website active for now. "It has some helpful information buyers or sellers can use," he said. We at CTT thank him for his support.

■ **Atlas Model Railroad Co. Inc.** has announced the acquisition of **Custom Signals** of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Custom Signals specialized in O scale signal products and building signal systems for layouts.

The asset purchase agreement includes in part, the balance of inventory, the Track/Signal Configuration Library, and all Custom Signals tools, comprising molds, dies, designs, plans, and diagrams for current and proposed products.

Atlas CEO Paul Graf said, "This purchase will allow the expansion of our signal line from a basic Automatic Block Signaling system (ABS) to a full Absolute Permissive Block Signaling system (APB). It will grow our N and HO signal products and offer all customers valuable assistance in building track layouts using the Atlas All Scales Signal System."



Lionel brass hybrid Strasburg RR 2-10-0 Decapod

THE FIRST O SCALE MODEL OF A POPULAR EXCURSION ENGINE

The Great Western RR purchased the standard light 2-10-0 Decapod from Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1924. The steam engine was eventually sold to the Strasburg RR in 1967 for \$23,000. No. 90 has never before been made in O scale.

Lionel used a brass hybrid design for this engine, which it has cataloged in multiple variations (see sidebar).

This 19-inch-long model has standard Legacy features, including command control through Legacy, TrainMaster Command Control, or Bluetooth with the Lionel app. It has whistle steam, stack steam, ElectroCoupler, bi-color marker lights, an illuminated cab interior, and more. The Decapod requires O-54 curves to operate.

Lionel visited Strasburg to record sounds from No. 90, including idling sounds, the whistle, and crew talk.

The delivered models

feature cab-specific crew talk calling to J Tower, the restored switch tower at East Strasburg station. The aux 3 key will activate the "Ghost Whistle," which is done at Carpenters Crossing in the town of Paradise, Pa.

Add-on features are era specific, with the 1990s version missing some boiler top detailing. The cab features painted gauges, knobs, and levers with add-on detailing

inside the cab that surpasses what's found in most other models. The cab has a drop plate with clear tape on the underside to protect the deck of the tender.

This is a great model that many hobbyists will be elated to have in their collections.

— CHRIS MONTAGNA

Get more O gauge action on the Chris's Trains & Things channel on YouTube.

LIONEL BRASS HYBRID STRASBURG RR 2-10-0 DECAPOD

MSRP: \$1,899.99

Features: TMCC, Legacy, or conventional control; Bluetooth control; Lionel Voice Control; ElectroCoupler on tender rear; directional lighting including headlight and backup light on tender; adjustable smoke output; Legacy RailSounds sound system; O-54 operation

Paint schemes: Great Western (No. 2231010); Strasburg RR 1990s (No. 2231020); Strasburg RR 2000s (No. 2231030); Great Western 2000s repaint (No. 2231040); Strasburg RR 1967-2020 (No. 2231050); Seaboard Air Line (No. 2231060); Osage Ry. (No. 2231070);

Website: lionel.com



Passenger power: Atlas O has released its Premier line Electro-Motive Division F40PH diesel locomotive in new paint schemes, including Metra (RTA heritage and Chicago units in one road number each and new image scheme), Music City Star (silver, blue, and red), and Maine Eastern (green, yellow, and white). The model, scaled to 1:48 proportions, features an ABS body; die-cast metal truck sides, pilots, and fuel tank; and light-emitting-diode illumination. The EMD F40PH, priced at \$639.95, will operate on O-36 curves and includes Proto-Sound 3.0 with the Digital Command System featuring Passenger Station Proto-Effects. The model is scheduled for release in the third quarter of 2024. For more information visit shop.atlasrr.com



Up in smoke: Menards sells the Calamity Caboose Works (No. 275-9250), a model featuring a fire-damaged building, caboose, and fire truck. The structure measures 8" x 10" and features a water-based vapor unit to add "smoke." The vapor unit features auto shut-off after 15 minutes. The O gauge structure costs **\$89.99** and requires a 4.5-volt power supply (sold separately, nos. 279-4061, 4062, or 4050). **Order from menards.com/trains**



See more reviews online:

- Lionel doodlebug
- Lionel New York Central Legacy Dreyfuss J3 Hudson
- Menards Moe's Cycle Shop
- Menards JimBo's Gym

Smokin' special: SP Smoke Pellets is selling a limited-edition bottle of its smoke pellets to honor the legacy of Mario Mazzone, the Lionel chemist who perfected the pellets' formula in 1948. Each bottle is laser-engraved "1948-2023, 75 years" and features a photograph of Mazzone. Price: **\$39.95**. Order from sp-smokepellets.com or email sp.smokepellets@gmail.com

LIONEL OPERATING TRAIN SOCIETY

LOTS 45th ANNUAL CONVENTION – LAWRENCE, KS. JULY 21–27, 2024

Swap Meet & Train Show:

Saturday, July 27, 2024.
Doubletree by Hilton – Lawrence, KS.
Open to Public 10 am to 3 pm.
Admission: \$8 (kids under 12 free).
Operating layouts/vendors/seminars.

O Gauge Train Auction:

Friday, July 26, 2024.
Doubletree by Hilton
Preview 6:30 pm/Auction 7-10 pm
Great trains – great buys!
No reserve! Open to the public!

Tour Highlights:

Kansas City Union Station.
Eisenhower & Truman Presidential Libraries.
National WWI Museum and Memorial.
New Missouri Model Railroad Museum.
Visit www.lots-trains.org for more info!



*Cars available to club members only.
Final production graphics may vary.*

Kansas Keepsake! LOTS honors Cyrus Holliday (Santa Fe railroad founder and former mayor of Topeka, KS) and Iron Rail Brewery for its support of veterans. Lionel's PS-1 boxcar features diecast trucks, operating couplers, and opening doors. Minimum 031 curves. **Order today – very limited production. Just \$85 + S&H.**

Sunflower State Special. LOTS's striking unibody tank car is made by Lionel and salutes the recent CP and KCS merger. This standard O car is 11" long and features die-cast metal trucks and operating couplers. Add a "Drop of Sunshine" to your layout before they're gone. *1st come, 1st served. Very limited production. Just \$77 + S&H.*



For club information, to order cars, or for convention info, visit www.lots-trains.com or call 513-598-8240

MORE TECHNOLOGY AND DETAILS
THAN EVER IN THE 2023 VERSION
OF THIS CELEBRATED STEAMER



Lionel VisionLine Big Boy

Anyone involved in model railroading knows that the Union Pacific Big Boy is an extremely popular model. Only 25 of these 4-8-8-4 steam locomotives were built by the American Locomotive Co. (Alco) with a primary purpose for high-speed freight and climbing grades over the Wasatch Range. Of the 25 units that were built, eight remain today, seven of which are on static display. The eighth unit, No. 4014, was restored for excursion service and can still be seen in operation.

Fast-forward to the release of Lionel's Volume 1 2023 catalog, I was ecstatic when it was announced that Lionel would be bringing the Big Boy back to the firm's lineup, with more features than any other previous rendition in O scale.

The Big Boys are loaded to the brim with technology, such as four-digit addressing with the upcoming CAB-3 control system, depleting tender coal load, blow down steam, whistle steam, force coupler, and — for the first time — a pop-off steam effect!

Lionel has offered as many as nine different versions of the new Big Boy, including the Big Boy Super Set. The set has 10 pieces of rolling stock, four of which are equipped with freight sounds!

With this incredible selection of Lionel Big Boys, choosing one is a challenging task. I wasn't up for the task and chose two versions. I enjoy modeling the present day, so I went with the high-gloss oil-burning excursion version. My second selection allowed me to go for a non-prototypical "Greyhound" offering, which includes magnetic removable smoke deflectors to diversify its look. The paint scheme also includes the depleting coal-load feature.

First up was the excursion version No. 4014. After I had removed the lid on the black VisionLine box, everything looked perfect and operated as it should. The high-gloss paint finish was as smooth as glass without any orange peel and easily warrants wearing gloves when handling to avoid fingerprints.

Up next was the Greyhound No. 4024, which proved to be equally as beautiful in its own way by adding some color to the mix instead of simply being another black steam locomotive. The removable smoke deflectors are the chef's kiss to this model.

The three-speaker sound system brings this model to life, and the fresh dialogue from Lionel is a welcome addition. The four smoke features make you wonder if you are required to register this

LIONEL VISIONLINE BIG BOY

MSRP: \$2899.99

Features: TMCC, Legacy, or conventional control; Bluetooth control; Lionel Voice Control, ElectroCoupler on tender rear; whistle steam; blow down steam; 3 speaker sound system; 5 whistle selections and variable bell pitches

Paint schemes: UP No. 4000 (2331261); UP No. 4002 (2331262); UP No. 4012 (2331263); UP No. 4014 (2331264); UP No. 4014 oil burning (2331250); UP No. 4019 (2331270); UP No. 4021 (2331280); UP No. 4024 Greyhound (2331290)

Website: lionel.com

model for an emissions inspection.

With a length of 32" and a minimum curve of O-72, this articulated behemoth will put the parameters of your layout to the test. It will be wise to check all clearances, curves, bridges, and tunnels prior to operation, as the overhang on curves is significant.

If your layout doesn't have curves to accommodate this articulated work of art, don't let that stop you from getting one! With a model like this, you are better safe and having one for display purposes in hopes of having a larger layout in the future than sorry and looking on eBay later with prices that will double MSRP and remembering this article that warned you about it. — BEN LAREMONT

Do you collect Postwar Lionel Trains?

BRIAN'S
Train Room



A new Channel that explores the Rare, Unusual and Oddball
Lionel Trains and accessories from the Postwar Era.



Scan here to
Watch and Subscribe!

S&W PARTS SUPPLY

**LIONEL PARTS DEALER AND
AUTHORIZED SERVICE STATION #91**
PROVIDING EXPERT REPAIRS TO
PREWAR, POSTWAR AND OTHER
MODERN LIONEL EQUIPMENT

EMAIL: trains@sandwparts.com

WEB: www.sandwparts.com

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9AM-4PM EST

TEL - (518) 280-5197

762 Whitney Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309

NY Sales Tax (where applicable) & shipping

Authorized
Lionel, MTH and
Bachmann dealer



MARIO'S TRAINS
THE SOURCE FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

GIVE US A CALL (540) 868-0025

Mention
this ad for
FREE shipping
anywhere in
continental
USA

mariostrains.com

Looking to build a new layout?

Look no further, GarGraves has what you need for your model railroad empire!

We have been manufacturing track, switches, operating
and special tracks for 80 years.



Visit our website, give us a call or stop in to your
local dealer and ask for GarGraves Track Products.

www.GarGraves.com

GarGraves Trackage Corp.
8967 Ridge Road
North Rose, NY 14516
315-483-6577
email gargraves@gargraves.com



BRADY'S
TRAIN OUTLET

1046 S Main St., Greensburg, PA
www.bradystains.com



Lionel 233141 New York Central Legacy
Dreyfuss J3 HUDSON #5445 \$1,700

**LIONEL, MTH, ATLAS, &
WOODLAND SCENICS
AUTHORIZED DEALER**

We carry the latest releases!

Plus: Shop our large collection of
"new old stock" & used/like new items!



PREORDER NOW:
LIONEL 2024 CATALOG



EXCLUSIVE

MORE
CUSTOM
RUNS TO
COME!

Lionel 2431870 Brady's Custom Run
Pennsylvania PRR Vision Line Triplex
#1870 \$2,300

EXTRA SAVINGS!
Save 12% on most online
items with code **CLA24**

Some exclusions apply. One time use.

SHOP ON-LINE 24/7

TRAINWORLD.COM

We Supply The World



AMERICA'S LARGEST
INTERNATIONAL MAIL ORDER
DISCOUNT TRAIN STORE

O GAUGE SUPER SAVINGS
LIONEL MTH WILLIAMS

10%
@ TRAINWORLD.COM
On-Line Orders Only

Use CODE Word **CTMA24** In Discount Code Box
SALE ENDS April 15, 2024
CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

• CODE WORD MUST BE APPLIED AT TIME OF ORDER
• IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY
• NO NEW ARRIVALS; NO BACK ORDERS; NO PRE-ORDERS
• NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH OR GIFT CARDS
• LIMITED QUANTITIES ON CERTAIN ITEMS

• DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO SALES TAX OR SHIPPING & HANDLING
• NO REBATES, NO REFUNDS, NO STORE CREDIT ON PREVIOUSLY SOLD ITEMS
• CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR OTHER DISCOUNTS
• NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS
• GO TO TRAINWORLD.COM TO SHOP ON-LINE 24/7

MTH IMPERIAL BIG BOY 30-1841-1
UNION PACIFIC RUNS ON (031) TRACK



SUPER SALE \$799.99 each LIMITED QTY
MORE SALE ITEMS @ trainworld.com

The Products We Sell Are Not Toys and Are Not Intended For Use By Children Under The Age Of 14.

SIGN-UP FOR OUR E-MAIL SALES 1-800-541-7010 e-mail: ORDERS@TRAINWORLD.COM

HUGE INVENTORY • GREAT SELECTION • FAST SHIPPING

725 McDonald Ave, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

KALMBACH HOBBY STORE



Kalmbach Media has released several new downloadable PDF packages, with topics including *Build the Sandy Harbor Terminal* (by Dennis Brennan), *Scenes by Chris Montagna*, and several others. See these and many more in our store.

The Kalmbach Hobby Store sells a **foam locomotive cradle** made by Bowser Manufacturing. The cradle measures 16" long and 8" wide and is compatible with O gauge and O scale models. It also has a compartment for holding small parts, screws and trucks, and tools. Price: \$17.99.



KalmbachHobbyStore.com



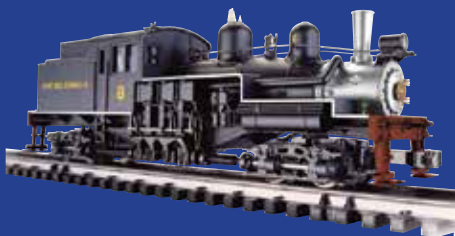
Keep 'em cool: The New Jersey Hi-Railers (NJHR) have announced 36-foot refrigerator cars as part of its H.C. Bohack Super Markets series. The MTH Premier models feature Bohack's Beer advertisements with two different billboard options (cans: 20-94724 and 20-94725; bottles: 20-94733 and 20-94734). Cars can be purchased individually (two road numbers per scheme) or as a two-car set. Delivery expected in December 2024. Price: \$84.95 single/\$165 two-car set, which includes shipping. Website njhirailers.com/shop



THE WESTERN DEPOT

1650 Sierra Ave. Suite 203 Yuba City, CA 95993

Everything Model Trains!



- Huge in-stock inventory
- Website updated daily

World Wide
Shipping

Call 530-673-6776
westerndepot.com

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-5:30



Dealer exclusive: The Train Loft has a custom-run Lionel VisionLine Triplex engine available in two schemes: Nos. 2431880 Norfolk & Western 1959 Tuscan Red (Stuart T. Saunders) and 2431840 N&W 1963 Tuscan Red (Herman H. Pevler, shown). Delivery is expected in February/March 2024. Price: **\$2,499.95**. Visit train-loft.com or call 336-760-9817 to order.

Family fun: TM Books & Video has released *I Love Toy Trains: Calling All Trains!* This 30-minute DVD contains family-friendly entertainment at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, two new railroad songs by James Coffey, an Oh No! blooper, and more. Price: **\$14.99**. Website: tmbv.com



Hauling freight: Mr. Muffin's Trains has custom-run MTH 50-foot waffle-side boxcars decorated for Milwaukee Road and Louisville & Nashville. The Milwaukee Road cars are numbered 4307 (20-99374, shown) and 4311 (20-99375). L&N road numbers are 101635 (20-99372) and 101640 (20-99373). Price: **\$69.95** each. Visit mrmuffinstrains.com or call 765-292-2022 to purchase.

Want to submit?

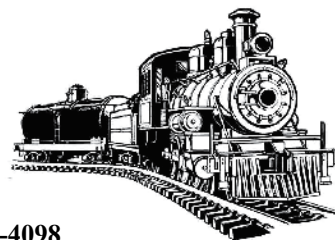
Send complete ordering information and a high-resolution photo to editor@classictoytrains.com



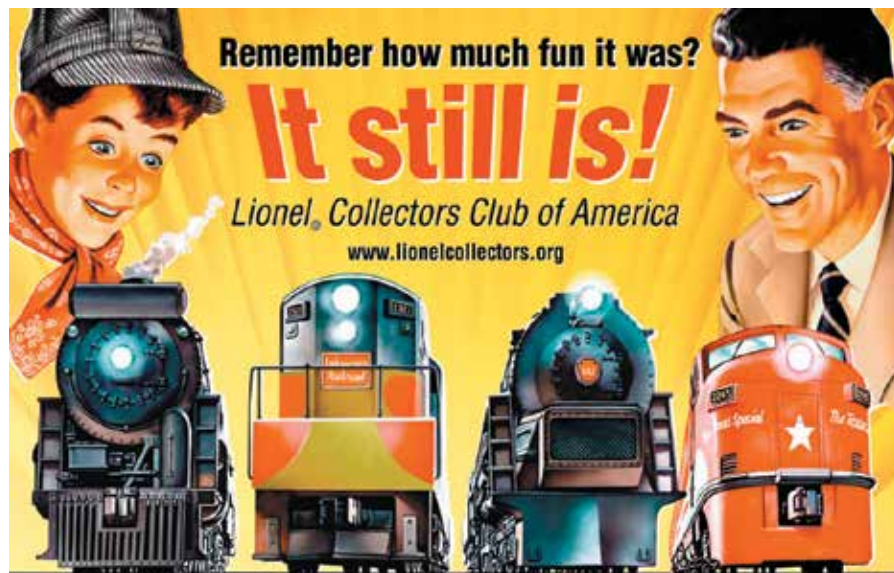
Shop Online @ www.eastsidetrains.com

Lionel, MTH, LGB, Piko, USA, Walthers, Athearn, Bachmann, MicroTrains, Kato, American Flyer & so much more

Your hobby specialists since 1983 located in the heart of downtown Kirkland



217 Central Way, Kirkland, WA 98033
email: eastsidetrains@msn.com (425)828-4098



National conventions 2024 Omaha, NE, 2025 Scranton, PA

Unique collectible engines and rolling stock

Members-only website access to Lionel, Ives and AF historic catalogs

Access to LCCA's standardized Modular O gauge layout system

"Ask The Expert" for all model train questions

Five Member magazines per year

Free Lionel catalogs mailed to members*

Four Buy/Sell magazines per year

Free on-line listings to buy and sell trains

Kid's Club

Electronic membership option

10% Discounts on Lionel's online store**

Access to LCCA online store

*Only when printed by Lionel. **Some exclusions apply.



Join now! Call (815) 223-0115 or visit our website for details and to join.



LIONEL COLLECTORS CLUB of AMERICA
EST 1970

The Best Toy Train Club on the Planet!™

815-223-0115 • lionelcollectors.org



GILBERT WAS FIRST WITH THIS PRACTICAL MODEL

American Flyer's No. 648 Track Cleaning Car

Every magazine that has ever been devoted to toy trains – from *Model Builder* back in the 1930s and '40s all the way to *Classic Toy Trains* in the first quarter of the 21st century – has received letters from readers with the same simple and straightforward question: “How do I keep my track clean? What do the experts in the field advise?”

Manufacturers of electric trains were also inundated with correspondence from consumers wondering how to remove dirt and grime from rails so their O and S gauge trains ran more reliably. Personnel at the A.C. Gilbert Co. and the Lionel Corp. saw opportunities for their engineers to create special rolling stock operators might buy for the purpose of applying cleaning solutions to their track.

GILBERT STRIKES FIRST

The brilliant minds on the payroll at the Gilbert Co. in New Haven, Conn., deserve credit for being the first in the toy train field to capitalize on the common problem of filthy track. A few years before the inventive minds at the Lionel

Corp. introduced the No. 3927 Track Cleaning Car in 1956, the American Flyer line included the No. 648 model with the same name. Designed to work with locomotives and rolling stock that came equipped with link couplers, the 648 fit perfectly in the line cataloged for 1952.

CLEAN AND SHINE

The principle behind the 648 (and its successor, the No. 948, which was equipped with the knuckle couplers Gilbert used to modernize its entire fleet in 1953) was simple. A piece of rolling stock would feature the “tools” necessary to maintain sections of straight and curved American Flyer S gauge track while it traveled over any layout, regardless of how large or compact.

Design engineers working at the Gilbert factory in New Haven, Conn., realized the parts required were few and fundamental. As described in the American Flyer consumer catalog issued for 1952, the 648 track cleaning car came equipped with “four felt track wipers.” The two wipers intended by an operator to touch the track first should be “saturated with cleaning fluid;

the two trailing behind would dry the wet rails.”

Once designers at Gilbert understood the basic operation of the track cleaning car, the challenging task arose of creating a realistic look for the 648. They allowed their imaginations to run wild and ended up with a 10½-inch-long depressed center flatcar. At one end, not far from a brake wheel, was a yellow toolbox; at the opposite end, alongside a second brake wheel, was a yellow wooden barrel.

Planted in the center of the model was an injection-molded plastic tank whose dome couldn't be removed.

The silver-painted part was installed horizontally.

Finishing touches on the die-cast metal body included red or Tuscan Red paint (be aware that the color has only a slight impact on the value of a 648 Track Cleaning Car) and white lettering and numerals. “American Flyer” filled the center section of the car.

COMMERCIAL MEANING

Consumers worried about their messy and oily track had opened the door for Gilbert to create and sell a novel piece of rolling stock. Having built and tested the 648 Track Cleaning Car, product developers aimed to maximize its profitability.

One obvious tactic called on the company to sell the cleaning fluid it recommended be used. Thus did the No. 27 Track Cleaner make its debut in 1952.

Strangely, the individuals in charge of assembling the array of sets missed a great opportunity. Not one of the 13 sets in the cataloged line for 1952 included a track cleaning car. Neither did any of the 24 sets offered in 1953. Sales executives thought it was enough to offer the 648 and 948 separately for \$5.75. **CTT**



The A.C. Gilbert Co. offered the No. 648 American Flyer Track Cleaning Car in 1952-54.

The 2023 edition of *Greenberg's Pocket Price Guide to American Flyer, 1946-2023* values the 648 with a red body at \$27 in excellent condition and \$11 in good. The 648 with a Tuscan Red body goes for \$22 and \$11, respectively.

NICHOLAS SMITH TRAINS

MODEL RAILROADING FOR ALL SEASONS®

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, or GIVE US A CALL

2343 West Chester Pike Broomall, PA 19008

Just 1 Minute off I-476 Exit 9

Spring 2024 Classic Toy Trains Ad • 114 Years Selling Trains

Prices Subject to Change Without Notice.

MIN. Order: \$30.00 -15% Restocking Fee on Returns
Product information and orders (610) 353.8585
Most domestic orders will follow shipping schedule below*
\$0.00 - \$500.00 - \$15.00
\$500.01 - \$1100.00 - \$20.00
\$1100.01 - \$1500.00 - \$30.00
\$1500.01 - \$2000.00 - \$50.00
*Orders with Track, Power & Control Devices, Sets, Expansion Packs, Oversized Items, & **SALE ITEMS** will be charged Actual Shipping
No P.O. Box's, PA Residents Add 6% Sales Tax
Not responsible for typographical errors

Lionel Legacy Locomotives

1933500 C&NW FA AA	\$809.98
1933508 C&NW FB-2 Pwd	\$404.98
1933518 CP FB-2 Pwd	\$404.98
1933538 MP FB-2 Pwd	\$404.98
1933548 NYC FB-2 Pwd	\$404.98
1933562 Long Island FA Cab Car	\$389.98
1933740 Reading FA AA Set	\$749.98
1933748 Reading FB-2 Pwd	\$349.98
1933749 RDG FB-2 Superbass	\$349.98
1933741 Reading FABBA Set	\$1299.99
1933758 SF FB-2 Superbass	\$349.98
2031300 RBM&N Legacy T1	\$1529.98
2031320 Freedom Train T1	\$1529.98
2033248 Alaska F7B Powered	\$404.98
2033249 Alaska F7B Superbass	\$395.98
2033310 UP SD70Ace #4141	\$539.98
2033319 UP SD70Ace #4141Dummy	\$269.98
2033511 GM&O SD40	\$494.98
2033600 UP SD70Ace #1111	\$539.98
2131150 Clichfield 2-8-2	\$1649.98
2131200 RBM&N Legacy T1	\$1299.98
2131340 L&HR 2-8-2	\$1099.98
2133039 NYC E7 B Unit	\$404.98
213319X 1/2 Seaboard GP7	\$449.98
2133201 Texas & Pacific GP7	\$449.98
213331X 1/2 ACL SD70Ace	\$539.98
2133331 B&O SD70Ace	\$539.98
2133380 Erie Lack PAAA	\$899.98
2133400 MKT PAAA	\$899.98
2133580 Coors SW8	\$449.98
2133620 Seaboard Coast Line SW8	\$449.98
2133760 Biden SD70Ace	\$539.98
2221050 SF 2-8-8-2 #1796	\$1619.99
2221060 B&O 2-8-8-2 #7150	\$1619.99
2221070 SF 2-8-8-2 #1796	\$1619.99
2231191 SP AC-12 Cab Forward	\$1799.98
2231200 SP AC-12 Cab Forward	\$1799.98
223305X 1/2 CSX SD70Mac	\$584.99
223309X 1/2 EMD SD45	\$539.98
223312X 1/2 NS SD45	\$539.98
2233050 USMC FA-2 AA #212/#213	\$989.99
2233158 USMC FB-2 #212B	\$494.99
2233159 USMC Superbass FB-2	\$449.99
2233080 D&H FA-2 AA Set #20/#21	\$989.99
2233088 D&H FB-2 #20B	\$494.99
2233089 D&H Superbass FB-2 #21B	\$449.99
2233100 Halloween FA-2 AA Set	\$989.99
2233108 Halloween FB-2 #1030B	\$494.99
2233109 Halloween Superbass FB-2	\$449.99
2233130 PRR FA-2 AA Set	\$989.99
2233138 PRR FB-2 #5760B	\$494.99
2233139 PRR Superbass FB-2	\$449.99
2233401 SUSQ SD40T-2 #3010	\$584.99
2233402 SUSQ SD40T-2 #3012	\$584.99
2233409 SUSQ SD40T-2 Superbass	\$539.99
2233411 SP SD40T-2 Black Widow	\$584.99
2233412 SP SD40T-2 Black Widow	\$584.99
2233419 SP SD40T-2 Superbass	\$539.99
2233421 WP SD40T-2 #8625	\$584.99
2233422 WP SD40T-2 #8794	\$584.99
2233429 WP SD40T-2 Superbass	\$584.99
223346X 1/2 Conrail ES44AC	\$674.99

MTH Trolleys

305200 Xmas Bump-N-Go Trolley	\$82.99
305201 Market St Bump-N-Go Trolley	\$69.99
305204 PTC Bump-N-Go Trolley	\$69.99
305210 SF Bump-N-Go Trolley	\$69.99
305211 Strasburg Bump-N-Go Trolley	\$69.99
305213 Transylvania B-N-G Trolley	\$82.99
305216 Metropolis B-N-G Trolley	\$69.99

MTH Locomotives

20207721 NJT P40 #4800	\$444.99
20207731 NJT P40 #4803	\$449.99
20211391 Santa Fe FT A Unit	\$409.99
20214321 WC SD35	\$459.99
20217171 Burlington SD24	\$489.99
20217191 Lackawanna SD24	\$489.99
20217201 Southern SD24	\$489.99
20217241 UP SD24 #448	\$489.99
20217251 UP SD24 #429	\$489.99
2038481 PRR J1 2-10-4	\$1399.99
2038501 C&O T1 2-10-4	\$1299.99
2038511 C&O T1 2-10-4	\$1299.99
2038521 Erie (Russ Iron) 0-8-8-0	\$1499.99
2038541 Erie (Russ Iron) 0-8-8-0	\$1499.99
2038611 KCS T1 2-10-4	\$1299.99
2038631 B&A J1E Hudson 4-6-4	\$1259.99
20386XX 41/51 NYC J1E Hudson 4-6-4	\$1259.99

MTH Rolling Stock

2064088 SF Gold Bonnet 4 Car set	\$399.98
2092274 US Army Flat w. Humvee	\$349.99
2093699 NS 50' DD Boxcar	\$65.99
3068127 UP Bush 41 Baggage Car	\$69.99
3068171 SP Full Dome Car	\$59.99
3073588 UP Modern Tank Car	\$53.99
3073590 NASA Modern Tank Car	\$53.99
3074874 NS 50' DD Plugged Boxcar	\$47.99
3076675 NS Flat w. 2 Transits	\$49.99
3076749 CSX Center Beam Flat	\$50.99
3076838 Biden Billboard Flatcar	\$59.99
3078225 Buxom Melons Reefer Mod	\$47.99
3078226 42nd St. Melons Reefer	\$47.99
3078227 Buffalo Butt Beer Reefer	\$47.99



3003216S NJ Transit
17600 Tank \$79.99



3003217S NJ Transit
17600 Tank \$79.99



1933740 Reading
FA AA \$849.99



20207751 Amtrak 44
Ton #1100
\$399.99



Amtrak Amfleet Capstone
Passenger Cars
MTH2064021 4 Pk \$409.99



20207741 ConDot P40
#836 \$444.99

23861 Alaska SD70Mac #4001	\$599.99
2233868 Alaska SD70Mac Superbas	\$499.99
3009969S Strasburg Oper Dump Car	\$89.99
30030061 GNXL 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
3003007X 1/2 TSI 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
3003008X 1/2 GC 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
3003009X 1/2 PRR 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
3003015X 1/2 PC 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
30030162 NS Safety 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
30030171 SG 33K Tank Car	\$49.96
30030172 SG 33K Tank Car	\$49.96

SALE ITEMS

O Locomotives

Lionel locos below are sold without warranty

682796 Conrail SD38	\$475.00
684849 CSX Diversity AC6000	\$500.00
685018 ACL SW 7	\$400.00
685033 C&NW SD45	\$400.00
1933301 GE ES44AC	\$400.00
1933508 C&NW FB-2 PWD	\$250.00
1933528 LV FB-2 Powered	\$325.00
1933529 LV FB-2 Superbase	\$250.00
1933580 GN Bipolar	\$850.00
1933600 NYC Bipolar	\$850.00
1933758 Santa Fe FB Powered B	\$315.00

O Freight Cars & Accessories

627496 Polar Covered Hopper	\$39.99
639362 Thomas Kinkd Emerald	\$29.99

American Flyer Legacy Locos

647945 EMD Demo SD70Ace	\$350.00
192120X 1/2 Clinchfield U36C	\$350.00
192123x 1/2 SCL U36C	\$350.00
2021010 NH EP5 #372	\$275.00
2021020 NY EP5 #340	\$275.00
2021030 GN EP5 #8305	\$275.00
2021040 PRR EP5 #4950	\$275.00
202105X 1/2 CITIRail ES44AC	\$450.00
202106X 1/2 FEC ES44AC	\$450.00
202109X 1/2 NS ES44AC	\$450.00
2021100 UP ES44AC	\$450.00
2121070 GN Pacific	\$550.00
2121080 NYC Pacific	\$550.00

O Premium Sets

No Track and Transformer

683092 Steel City Switcher Set	\$1109.99
1922070 PRR Limited LC+ 2.0	\$709.98
1922040 Santa Fe Gold Bonnet Set	\$899.98
2022040 Manufactures Railway Set	\$719.99
2022110 CNJ Red Baron Set	\$809.99
2022120 Lionel SF 120th Anniv Set	\$899.99
2122010 Aliquippa P&LE Set	\$764.98
2122030 Southern Freight Set	\$764.98
2122070 Asa Packer Set	\$1979.98
2122140 SF High Speed Set	\$2249.98
2122170 SF Valley Flyer Set	\$1979.98

American Flyer Rolling Stock

644063 A/F SF 3-Bay Hopper #78754	\$29.99
644064 A/F SF 3-Bay Hopper #78792	\$29.99
644090 A/F B&O 2-Bay Hop #727056	\$29.99
644092 A/F B&O 2-Bay Hop #727237	\$29.99
644103 A/F NYC 2-Bay Hop #870614	\$29.99
644140 A/F Merchants Dispatch	\$29.99
191920X 1/2 A/F Reading 3 Bay Hop	\$29.99
2019450 Gilbert Gravel Dump Car	\$67.98
2119010 75th Anniv Boxcar	\$39.99
2119050 PRR Dep. Center Flatcar	\$39.99
2119080 Berk Woodside Reefer	\$39.99
2119090 Century Beer Reefer	\$39.99
2119120 Senate Beer Reefer	\$39.99
2119150 USAF Missile Flat Car	\$39.99
2119160 Polar Express Searchlight Car	\$39.99
2119180DAMB DODX Searchlight Car	
Above has damaged box	\$29.99
211920X 1/2 CSX Gondola	\$39.99
211926X 1,4,5 C&O Hopper	\$39.99
2119340 Hercules Powder Tank Car	\$39.99
2119350 Sparton Oil Tank Car	\$39.99
231901X 1/2 SF Autorack	\$74.99
231902X 1/2 BNSF Autorack	\$74.99
231903X 1/2 CN Autorack	\$74.99
231904X 1/2 Ferromex Autorack	\$74.99
231905X 1/2 Southern Autorack	\$74.99

www.nicholassmithtrains.com

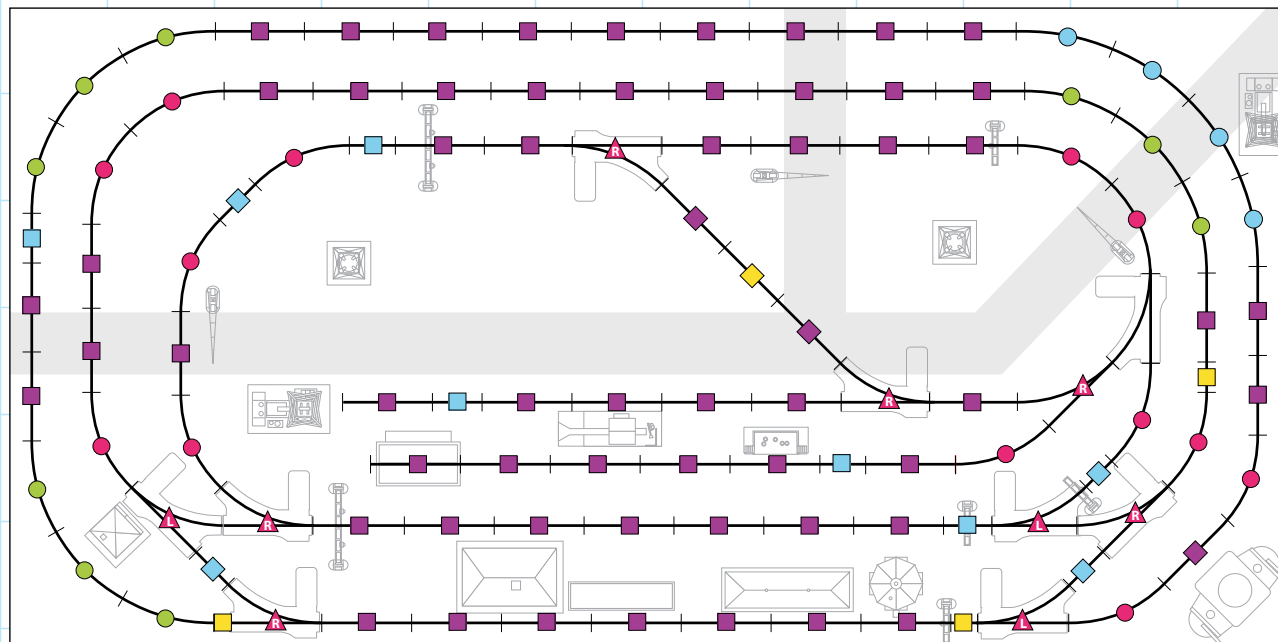


illustration by Kellie Jaeger

PLAN WITH A

pas

BY TERRY THOMPSON ■ ILLUSTRATION BY KELLIE JAEGER

It's hard to go wrong with a classic. When I began to consider track plans for a new layout, my thoughts went to the O gauge layout in Lionel's 1963 accessory catalog that I had wanted as a youngster. It's a 4 x 8-foot plan with two loops and a siding.

Studying the plan, I realized there were two problems. To start, the track runs barely ½-inch from the edge of the layout. Second, there wasn't much space between the main lines. I decided to draw a new plan inspired by the Lionel classic instead.

To allow more space for the trains while keeping the layout at a size I could manage, I expanded the plan to 6 x 12 feet using O gauge tubular track and Nos. 022 and 042 switches. The curves are mainly 0-31, although I used 0-42 sections where necessary to keep the tracks parallel.

Many two-loop track plans put the

passing siding right along the front of the layout, running about the entire length. It looks realistic yet doesn't make it easy to run the trains from loop to loop.

So, I've flipped the siding so it becomes almost a third main line with sufficient length for a full train. You can stop a train on the siding and run a train from one loop to the other via the track behind the station and then run the first train onto the open track.

The track just behind the station — the way the switches are arranged there — is the key to the layout. Putting them in the

order shown adds flexibility. Then the challenge becomes maintaining track spacing and allowing enough clearance for the 022 switch machines.

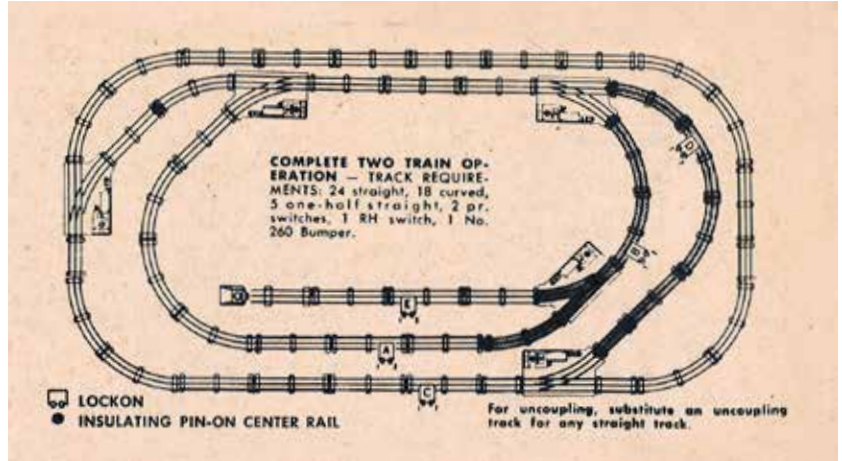
As you can tell, the track plan uses a number of half-straight in that area, including a few places where two half-strights are adjacent. You may be tempted to replace them with a full straight, but doing so creates clearance issues. A Lionel O gauge half-straight is 5½ inches long; a full straight is 10 inches long. That extra inch can come in handy.

The station scene is in front. It gets its postwar look from the vintage accessories, starting with the Lionel Nos. 133 Passenger Station, 157 Station Platform, and 356 Operating Freight Station. Flanking the stations are a No. 138 Water Tower and a No. 128 Operating Newsstand.

Two spur tracks are behind the station. One features a No. 497 Coaler, while the

LIONEL 0-27 TUBULAR TRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
9	5.5-inch half-straight
61	10-inch straight
4	0-27 custom-cut straight
13	0-31 curve, 45-degree
9	0-42 curve, 30-degree
4	0-54 curve, 22.5-degree
3	0-31 modern left-hand switch (14062)
6	0-31 modern right-hand switch (14063)



This drawing from the 1963 Lionel accessory catalog inspired the author's plan.

This 6 x 12-foot track plan offers operators many choices plus accessories

twor vibe

other has Nos. 282 Gantry Crane, 352 Icing Depot, and 3472P Milk Platform.

The second accessory siding has a No. 282 Gantry Crane. There's a No. 455 Oil Derrick toward the rear plus a siding. Yes, the layout has only one reversing track, so half the moves along that track will be with the locomotive backing up.

Most of the other accessories are also postwar classics: Lionel Nos. 140 Banjo Signal, 145 Automatic Gateman, 252 Automatic Crossing Gates, and 395 Floodlight Towers (shown at right). Most of them lay along the road that bisects the layout lengthwise, adding logic to the accessory arrangement and giving you a place to park some railcars.

There are two groves of trees, one in each back corner, plus a few trees in other spot.

The Lionel Nos. 450 and 452 signals have two-color heads. While you can wire the layout for automatic block control using relays, in this installation most signals merely repeat the switch indicators. Since the signals are placed just ahead of the beginning of what would be a block in an ABS installation, they can function as block signals if you choose.

To prevent gridlock on the layout, I recommend having only two mainline trains plus an optional switch engine, which will spend most of its life on the loop track and in the spurs.

For power, you can use almost any two large power supplies, with one handling a train and lights, and the other handling a train and accessories. Or use two large Lionel transformers (types KW and ZW) plus a third



power supply for lights and switches. Be sure to wire them in phase.

This layout isn't for an operator who wants to run three or four trains at once. Instead, the plan has a vibe reminiscent of the postwar or early modern era. It's a fresh interpretation of a classic that's ready for years of fun. **CTT**

**FIND MORE
PLANS
ONLINE
IN THE
TRAINS.COM
TRACK PLAN
DATABASE.**

TAKE THE NEXT TRAIN TO

This train lover's paradise fills a
23 x 24-foot O gauge layout



HEDGERTON

BY ROGER CARP ■ PHOTOS BY JACK HEDGE

Anybody who is passionate about railroading in America will enjoy vacationing in Hedgerton. Just visiting for an afternoon can also be a worthwhile option if your spare time is very limited. Be sure to bring your camera or smartphone.

You'll quickly discover a large and beautifully designed urban terminal, where streamliners from several lines regularly stop. There's also a bustling freight yard, and near it immense and complicated loaders transfer logs, barrels, and coal.

A short drive from downtown gets you to the world famous Horseshoe Curve on the old Pennsylvania RR main line. There, you can soon observe contemporary diesels pulling long freight trains through the gracefully curved four-track main. Quite a spectacle for railfans and model railroaders. And to think it is entirely O gauge!

ONLY WITH TOYS

Once you realized Horseshoe Curve was located near Hedgerton, you may have grabbed an atlas or another reference book in hopes of figuring out where that city is. Perhaps you were considering a visit to see the many trains.

Okay, time to fess up. Hedgerton won't be found on any maps or other guides to Pennsylvania. You can look as long and as hard as you would like, but you will never find anything like it in the vicinity of Horseshoe Curve. Not even the city of Altoona, located a few miles from that site, measures up to Hedgerton.



Jack Hedge has been engaged with O gauge modeling since the mid-1950s. He got his first outfit at about the same age as his grandson and "train buddy," Landon.

Jack Hedge, a lifelong O gauge enthusiast and talented layout builder, created the fictitious city of Hedgerton for his three-rail display. He envisioned a big urban center, complete with a massive rail yard and multiple industries, within shouting distance of Horseshoe Curve. So he was determined to make his mental images come to life in the room at home where he was free to construct a layout.

Something so simple and yet so special explains the attraction of modeling with toy trains to Jack. If he were engaged in HO or N scale, where devotion to the utmost in realism is paramount, he would have to refrain from erecting a towering

1 Horseshoe Curve, the internationally renowned location on the former Pennsylvania RR main line, demanded representation on Jack's spectacular O gauge layout. He managed to create his version with all four tracks.



2 The long and gracefully curved elevated loop sweeping across Jack's 23 x 24-foot L-shaped display catches the eyes of every visitor. According to Jack, the idea for it originated with a track plan he discovered in an issue of *Classic Toy Trains* published in 2009.

rail facility close to Horseshoe Curve. He might have trouble justifying his decision to truncate that paradise for train lovers.

But Jack can relax, because his commitment to miniature railroading has always been to O gauge, with its various compromises in proportion and color. He enjoys the absolute freedom as a toy train operator to locate a terminal and a yard filled with animated accessories not very far from where he has fashioned his own version of Horseshoe Curve. Everything in Hedgerton reflects its creator's ideas.

A KID AT HEART

You can imagine Jack in two ways. First,

he is a serious and dedicated architect. He has carved out a rewarding and meaningful career in that important field. Highly educated, he has helped design many attractive and highly functional structures, including the solar-powered residence he shares with his wife, Judy.

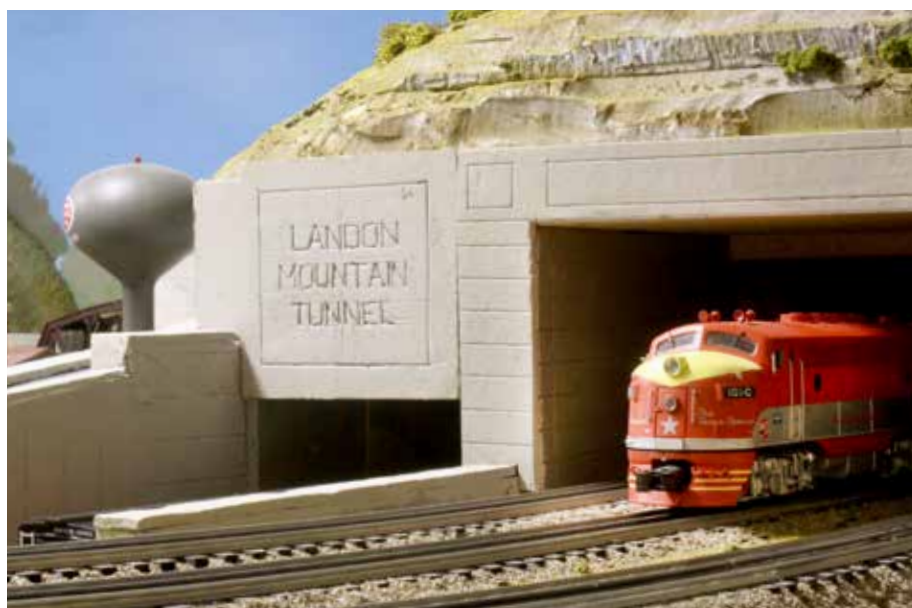
Second, Jack remains a kid at heart. He loves to build. He has for his entire life, starting with the blocks he stacked up as a boy and continuing with the Marx Happy-Time O-31 Santa Fe train set his parents plucked out of the 1955 Sears Christmas Book. They presented it to him along with a 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood featuring an oval of track and two switches.

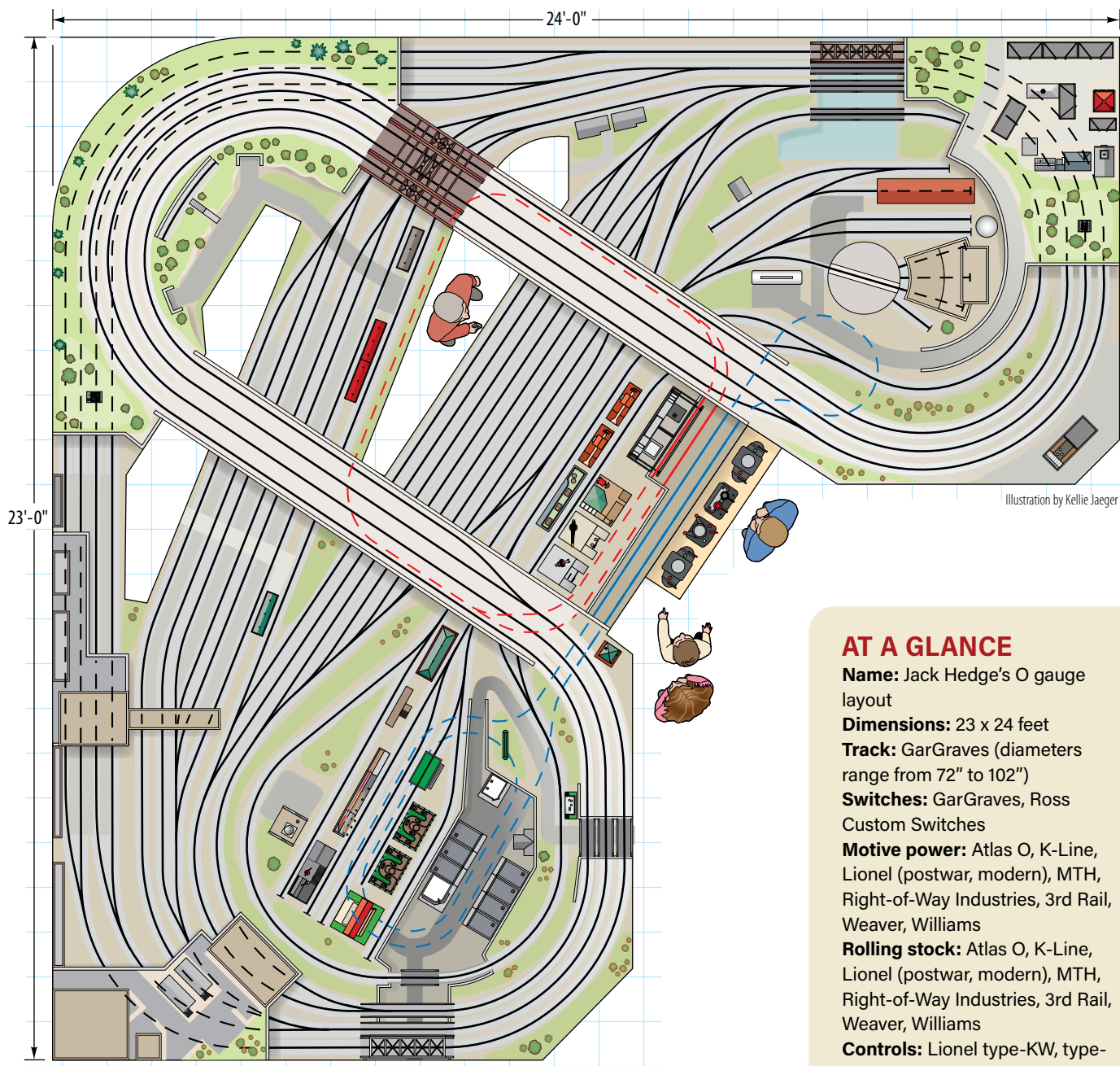
As much as Jack appreciated what his father had constructed for his first train, he thanks his mother for shifting his allegiance over to Lionel. Just a year later, she won one of that firm's O-27 three-car freight outfits in a drawing held at a local pharmacy. The short train, which was pulled by a No. 627 Lehigh Valley 44-ton diesel, brought Jack into the Lionel orbit. Additional gifts at Christmas and birthdays cemented his loyalty.

Are you anticipating the inevitable "and he put away toy trains when he got interested in sports, cars, and girls"? Well, you're about to be disappointed. Those interests did enter Jack's life, but he never deserted his Lionel trains.

This nascent architect might just as easily have become a civil engineer, because he designed bigger and more complex O gauge railroads as he progressed through high school and college. Even after marrying, Jack stayed active in the hobby, to the point of constructing an around-the-walls layout in their house.

3 The position of the morning sun has caused shadows to envelop the portals on the Landon Mountain Tunnel, one of the scenic features on Jack Hedge's O gauge layout. He named that landform after his grandson. The *Texas Special* is on its way to the railroad hub known as Hedgerton.





Four independent loops, including a subway system, easily provide Jack with enough track-age to operate most of the postwar and contemporary trains in his enormous collection. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of his captioned photographs.

"After our first son was born," Jack recalls, "I had a loop of track running around his crib." Talk about being seriously committed to model railroading!

THREE LOOPS ON A PRETZEL

Jack, who was kind enough to take down the network of three-rail track lest his young son be trapped inside the crib forever, then turned his attention to the basement of their townhouse. Up went an 8 x 12-foot modular layout with twin levels. An 8 x 20-foot display followed in a different area linking the

house with a garage. That model railroad stood out because it featured three loops rising and falling over two levels.

If you really want to know, there were additional O gauge layouts after Jack finished building his 8 x 20-foot railroad. But instead of narrating what he did and explaining why it failed to survive, our plan will be to focus on the sprawling display featured here, the one introducing readers everywhere to Hedgetown.

To understand the genesis of what you're admiring, Jack suggests going back to an

AT A GLANCE

Name: Jack Hedge's O gauge layout

Dimensions: 23 x 24 feet

Track: GarGraves (diameters range from 72" to 102")

Switches: GarGraves, Ross Custom Switches

Motive power: Atlas O, K-Line, Lionel (postwar, modern), MTH, Right-of-Way Industries, 3rd Rail, Weaver, Williams

Rolling stock: Atlas O, K-Line, Lionel (postwar, modern), MTH, Right-of-Way Industries, 3rd Rail, Weaver, Williams

Controls: Lionel type-KW, type-LW, type-ZW (2) transformers, Lionel 180-watt "bricks" (2), with Lionel TrainMaster Command Control and Legacy, MTH Digital Command System

Accessories: K-Line, Lionel (postwar, modern)

Structures: Ameri-Towne, Korber, Lionel, MTH, scratchbuilt

Vehicles: Corgi, Dinky Toys, K-Line, Kinsmart, MTH, Road Champs

Figures: Artista, Lionel, Plasticville, Woodland Scenics

article published in *Classic Toy Trains* in 2009. “There was an L-shaped layout with two loops. It looked like a pretzel and had a long straightaway going diagonally across the two sections. I liked what the owner had done and figured it would be perfect, especially because I had room for something larger.”

What Jack observed sparked a host of ideas and visions in his mind. To start with, he wanted to be able to display on his three-rail empire as many of the locomotives and railcars in his collection as possible. Also high on his list of priorities was to create a miniature version of Horsehoe Curve, right down to its four parallel tracks. Finally, Jack hoped to include three independent loops so trains could operate simultaneously on two levels.



4 Snapping pictures of the magnificent steam and diesel locomotives resting below the terminal might bother the station masters. Jack didn't want to get into any trouble, but then again he just couldn't resist sneaking under the viaduct for this neat shot.

Mental pictures quickly evolved into drawings. Jack sketched out plans for the 23 x 24-foot L-shaped layout being highlighted in this feature article. He conceived of the display along the lines of four individual loops of tracks.

FOUR LOOPS

Jack described the first and most prominent loop as handling freight and passenger traffic. It had two sidings; one going under the terminal he desired, and the other passing siding—if he decided—would be part of the Horseshoe Curve vignette.

The second loop Jack designated as exclusively for passenger trains. He intended to put in eight passing sidings, all serviced by the terminal on his agenda. As a consequence, he would be able to operate long streamlined passenger trains.

The third loop should be for freight trains only. It would have eight sidings and cross over to the fourth loop (a dog-bone at the base level). Trains on it would have access to the locomotive-servicing site eventually to be equipped with both a turntable and a roundhouse Jack wished to fabricate entirely on his own.

The third loop would also incorporate some of Jack's postwar and modern-era accessories from Lionel and K-Line. To accommodate them, he put in one more passing siding and five dead-end sidings.

As a final note, Jack elected to build a loop of track beneath the platform. There, he meant to construct a small town whose major thoroughfare consisted of sections of SuperStreets and the vehicles designed to use them.

Nearby, Jack installed a subway system that featured a passing siding located near the station. The line would pass under the layout and open up to daylight on the other side of the impressive yard where he parked freight cars.

Seven access points (five remaining open) all but guaranteed Jack or someone

else could easily reach every spot on the layout for cleaning and troubleshooting. Anything that derailed might be picked up by an operator and set right.

TIME TO WORK

The transition from planning to building—from drawing board to sawing and hammering boards—proceeded effortlessly because Jack had done it time after time in his life. He anticipated smooth sailing with his O gauge railing.

Tabletop construction had worked in the past, so Jack decided to go with it again. He purchased 1 x 4 lumber and assembled a framework to support a flat and even surface 38 inches off the floor of his train room. He selected that height so the standard kitchen base cabinets he had purchased to store trains would fit neatly under it.

There had to be roadbed between the ¼-inch-thick plywood tabletop and the GarGraves straights and curves Jack laid in place. Commercial cork pieces satisfied him for most of the main lines and sidings. In a few spots he saw a need for 1-inch-thick polystyrene to support the track and muffle the noise trains made.

Holding down the costs of the layout explained in large part why Jack chose GarGraves track with its wood ties and blackened middle rail. As a result of using that brand on previous layouts, he had plenty of sections on hand. Bending the 36-inch-long sections to whatever radius he desired hardly fazed him.

The four main lines ended up with a minimum diameter of 72 inches and a maximum of 102 inches. “I wanted to be able to run my scale Big Boy on all the loops,” Jack explained. The subway loop measured 42 inches in width.

The vast majority of turnouts also came from the GarGraves lineup, and they ranged in diameter from 72 to 100 inches, except on the subway loop. Jack was happy with them but said items from Ross Custom Switches would be better.

HYBRID CONTROLS

Maybe the reason Jack characterizes the controls on his railroad as “an unusual hybrid” derives from the eclectic nature of his motive power roster. He owns contemporary steamers and diesels from just about everybody, including Atlas O, K-Line, Lionel, Right-of-Way Industries, 3rd Rail, Weaver, and Williams.



5 Downtown Hedgerton boasts apartment buildings, commercial sites, and a multi-story passenger terminal Jack built from scratch using matboard, insulation board, and wood. Trains from across the country routinely drop off and pick up travelers.

How to describe this “hybrid,” which Jack swears is unlike anything found in various instruction manuals. Fortunately, he adds with a smile, “it does work.”

Now let’s listen as Jack outlines what he installed, beginning with Lionel’s Train-Master Command Control, using a Track Power Controller (TPC 300) to control each of the four loops. He ran the subway and SuperStreets lines in a more traditional manner, depending on conventional control handled by a transformer.

“When I got up the nerve to try to add the Digital Command System from MTH,” Jack remembered, “I add the TIU after the TPC 300s. I did that to control the power to the track for TMCC or DCS. Now I can use the TMCC Cab-1 unit to control engines with that type of command control as well as Lionel’s Legacy, and I can use the DCS controller to run MTH locomotives with either Proto-Sound 2.0 or ProtoSound 3.0. The Cab-1 unit takes care of my many different conventional engines.”

Looking ahead, Jack has plans to convert all the TrainMaster Command Control to Legacy. And he hopes to wire the third and fourth loops for DCS.

“It seems complicated to have two control systems when running TMCC and DCS at the same time,” Jack admits. “But with so many loops on the layout, I need multiple operators to run that many trains at once. So everything works out!”

SIMPLE SCENERY

The complexity of how Jack controls his trains contrasts with the simple ways and common materials he used for the scenery around them. Again, many years of experience and extensive reading provided him with what he thought he needed to know about making mountains, creating forests, and modeling water.

Besides articles in CTT and *Model Railroader*, Jack’s landscaping has been guided by two books. He refers to Dennis Brennan’s *Realistic Modeling for Toy Trains* and Dave Frary’s *How To Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery* (both published by Kalmbach Media Co.).

Landforms began as layers of extruded-foam insulation board Jack stacked and glued before cutting them to shape with a hacksaw and a drywall cutter. He sculpted them using a heavy wood rasp. Rock formations he carved with a hot-wire tool. Heavy coats of latex house paint went on next.

Jack then sifted on colored sawdust and hues and textures of commercial ground foam while the paint was still wet. He also likes natural sand, particularly granules of limestone, because it’s cheap.

Improving the scenery are tempered hardboard backdrops Jack created. He started by drawing the hills and valleys

and then brushed on appropriate colors of paint. He used colored pencils for detail.

CONTENTED MAN

Jack sees no need to experiment with novel methods of making scenery, not when he is comfortable with traditional ones and knows they bring terrific results. Furthermore, he says with a laugh, “I’m probably too old to change.”

Jack creates outstanding scenes with what is second nature to him. The same is true with his structures. He tends to buy

The complexity of how Jack controls his trains contrasts with the simple ways and common materials he used for the scenery around them.

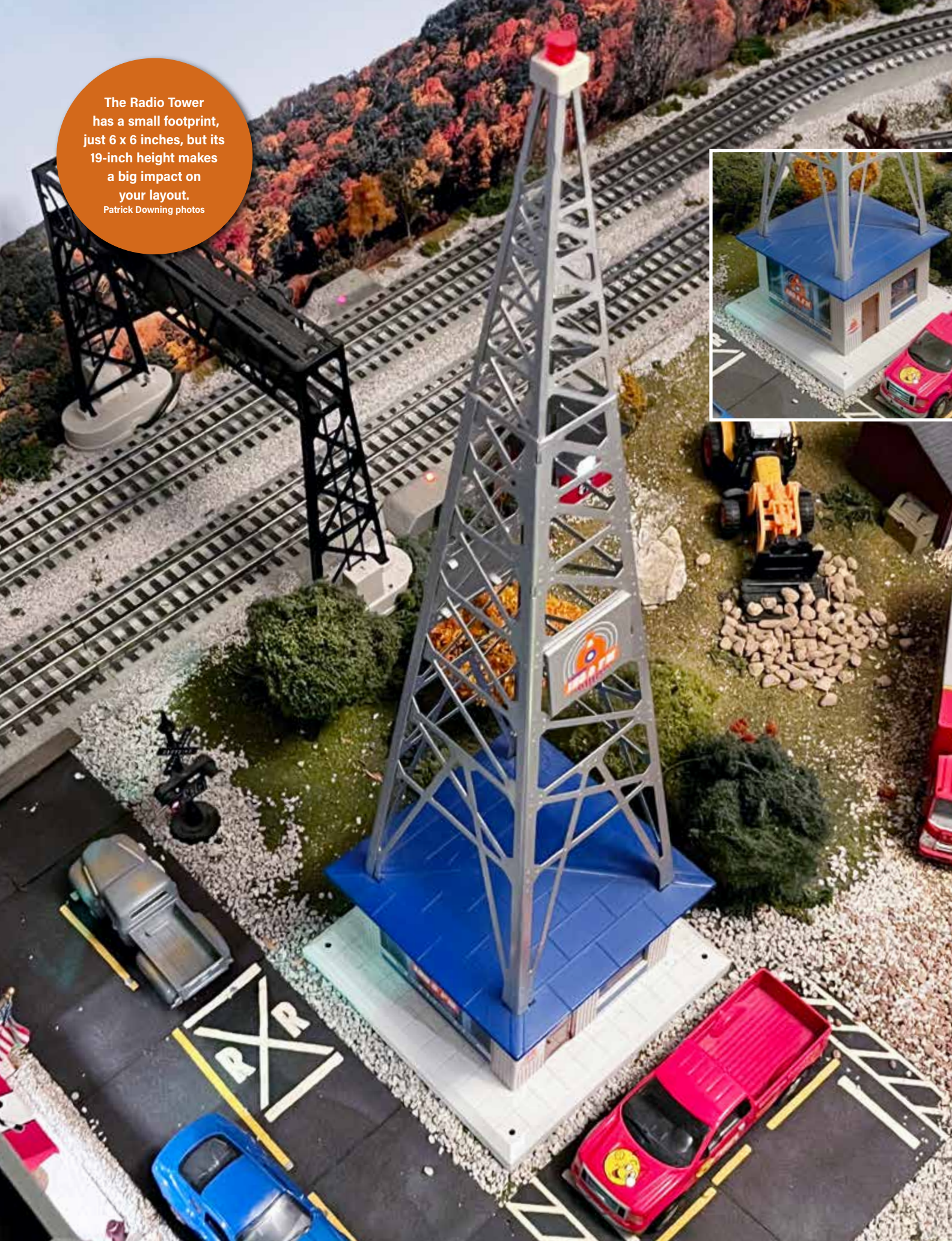
commercial ones and then modify them with weathering techniques and details.

About all that Jack foresees doing — probably with his grandson Landon helping — is filling the village on the mountaintop with houses and stores from the Plasticville U.S.A. line.

So, after refining modeling skills and developing a roster of trains, Jack pronounces himself a contented man. He’s happy to rely on what he has learned over half a century from improving scenes and running trains with his sons, his grandson, and his friends in the hobby. **CTT**

The Radio Tower has a small footprint, just 6 x 6 inches, but its 19-inch height makes a big impact on your layout.

Patrick Downing photos



How-to project

Use Lionel's Bluetooth Radio Tower

IT'S EASY TO ADD SOUND EFFECTS AND MORE TO YOUR LAYOUT

BY PATRICK DOWNING

One of the joys of modern model rail-roading is incorporating new technology. Using a familiar mobile device, for instance, can add more life and realism to a layout. About five years ago, as I was building my 4 x 8 home O gauge layout, I read about Lionel's No. 84611 Bluetooth Radio Tower and its functionality with other Bluetooth devices.

Not only did this neat accessory look easy to install via Plug-Expand-Play with Lionel FasTrack, but its compatibility to stream sounds

with any Bluetooth-enabled device also allowed me to incorporate all kinds of sound effects (along with music) while running trains.

A successor of Lionel AM/FM radio towers, the Bluetooth Radio Tower is an excellent accessory that can fit into almost any layout. It doesn't take up a large footprint, as it measures only 6 x 6 inches. Better still, its 19-inch height makes a statement.

The Bluetooth Radio Tower easily connects to Lionel's FasTrack. It can also connect to a traditional O/O-27 lockon (sold separately) or to an accessory power supply. And it's compatible with either AC or DC power.

Once installed on a layout, the tower receives power through the track. When the tower first comes on, you'll notice a rapidly flashing LED light at the top of the tower. This indicates the unit is not connected to a Bluetooth-enabled device.

I used an iPad to open the Bluetooth settings to search



The Radio Tower first appeared in the Lionel 2017 Volume 2 catalog.

for the tower. On my iPad, the tower appeared as "WLLC Lionel Radio Station." I selected the device to connect to the tower. Once I had done so, the flashing LED light blinked significantly slower, indicating my device was successfully set up.

Using my iPad, I chose iTunes play lists to play music and even ventured onto YouTube and Spotify for more music selections. The tower was capable of playing any sounds from a Bluetooth-enabled device, and I found

some terrific railroad sound effects on YouTube.

For example, my 4-year-old son loves my Santa Fe and Burlington stockcars that have scale cows placed inside. Doing a search on YouTube for "cow sounds" proved to be fun, especially because now my son can hear moos through the tower speaker while he's watching the trains! YouTube searches for "train sounds" can bring up many other fun options to broadcast through the radio tower. Happy railroading! **CTT**

You'll need

- » Lionel No. 84611 Bluetooth Radio Tower
- » No. 81313 Plug-Expand-Play lockon for FasTrack or an O/O-27 lockon for tubular track
- » Wi-fi
- » Bluetooth-enabled device

troubleshooting tip

If the volume isn't loud enough after you've connected the tower via Bluetooth, check both the tower volume dial and the volume on your device.



Marx's *20th Century Limited*



The New York Central promoted its updated *20th Century Limited* passenger train in all sorts of advertisements and illustrated posters, such as this one from the author's collection.

A PREWAR CLASSIC FINALLY MADE IN THE 1990s

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIC BEHEIM

When railroad aficionados recall all the streamlined steam engines developed in the 1930s, they often think first of the 4-6-4 Hudsons on the New York Central roster. Toy train collectors do the same, with their visions of the magnificent O scale replica

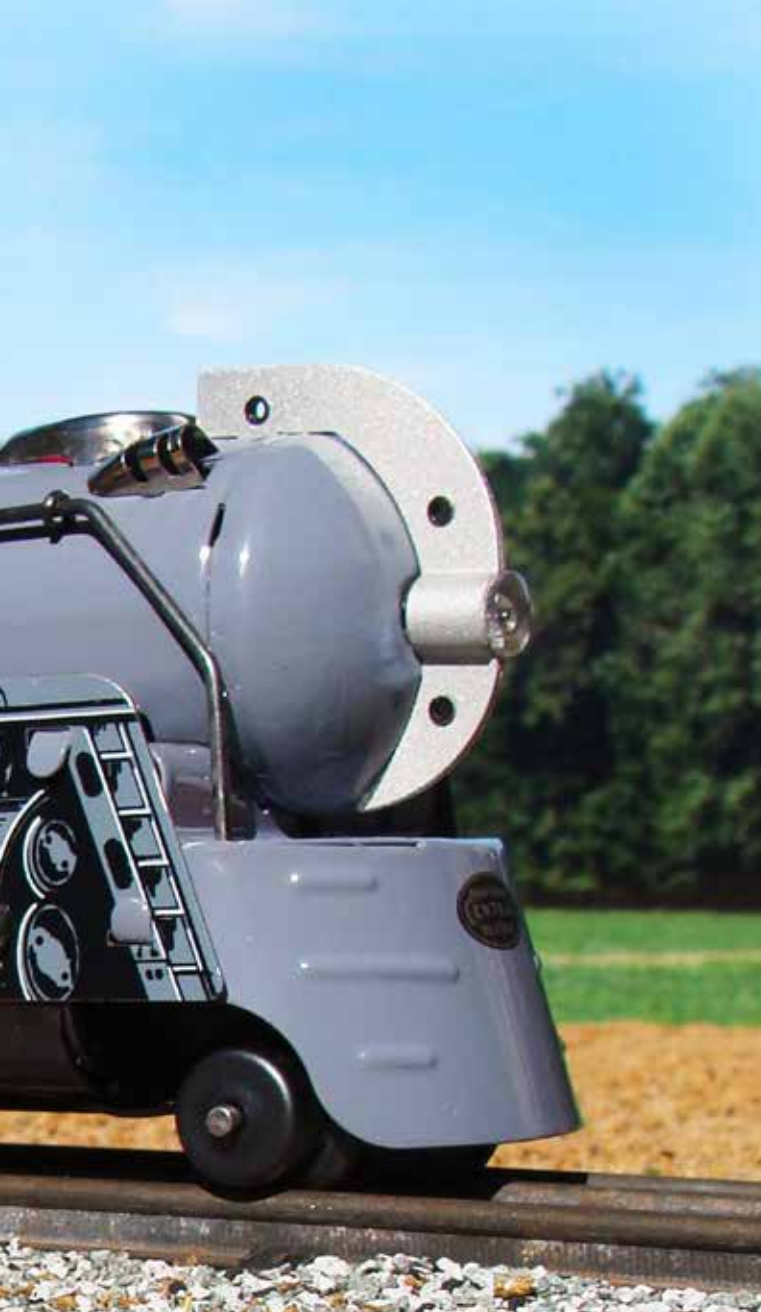
manufactured by Lionel competing with the O and S gauge versions produced by the A.C. Gilbert Co. before and then after World War II. Hobbyists who focus on O gauge trains produced by Louis Marx &

Co. missed out, because their favorite firm elected not to bring out a Hudson in the prewar era. It did make O gauge versions of well-known streamlined passenger trains, including the Union Pacific's

M-10005 *City of Denver* and the New York Central's *Mercury*. But Marx collectors and operators had to wait until the turn of the 21st century before they could add a streamlined 4-6-4 Hudson to their roster.

THE PROTOTYPE

In 1938, the New York Central RR commissioned noted industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss to design a new train set for the *20th Century Limited*, which was its flagship



▲ Author Eric Beheim photographed his Marx Trains streamlined 4-6-4 Hudson steam engine and tender on a wintry diorama that he constructed. The river the beautiful combination is crossing has frozen solid with a coat of freshly fallen snow.

◀ Among the most striking and truly eye-catching details on the streamlined Hudson made by "New Marx" were the bullet nose and the vertical fin on the smokebox.

By 1939, however, war clouds were gathering over Europe; as a result, the toy maker thought it prudent to release its Army Supply Train. That set seemed more likely to appeal to youngsters fascinated by the military.

Not until 1999 would Marx enthusiasts find at their disposal a tinplated and lithographed O gauge version of the *20th Century Limited* set that was headed up by a Dreyfuss Hudson. It was made available by a business known as "New Marx."

In 1993, Marx experts James and Debby Flynn had negotiated a licensing agreement with the owners of the Marx trademark that allowed them to resume the production of Marx O gauge electric trains. Using original Marx tooling and new and different graphics, the Flynnns launched Marx Trains with the goal of offering modern realizations of the locomotives, cars, and accessories the original Marx firm might have made had it not switched to using plastic in the 1950s.

The *20th Century Limited* set finished by Marx Trains was undoubtedly quite similar

in appearance to the set Louis Marx & Co. might have made back in the late 1930s. Heading up the consist was a Canadian Pacific-type locomotive that had been modified to include the bullet nose and the vertical fin on the smokebox Dreyfuss had designed. It was followed by a matching "wagon top" tender and four 6" coaches, all of them mounted on frames with eight-wheel swivel trucks.

Perhaps because the *20th Century Limited* sets weren't released until shortly before Marx Trains ceased operations, they aren't as common today as some of the other sets developed by the Flynnns. Whenever a set turns up at a train show or through an online auction, it usually sells for a premium price.

And there is justice in that fact, because every full-size example of Henry Dreyfuss' streamlined 4-6-4 Hudson locomotive ended up being scrapped. The best way memories of that classic steam engine survive is through the O gauge versions prized by collectors, who display and run Marx Trains' *20th Century Limited* sets. **CTT**

passenger express running between New York City and Chicago. The commission also required Dreyfuss to design Art Deco shrouding for the 4-6-4 Hudson locomotives intended to pull the new train.

The talented Dreyfuss then restyled the powerful Hudson to feature a bullet nose, a vertical fin on the smokebox door, and shrouding over the firebox and pilot. He streamlined the tender to match the contours of the locomotive's cab. The overall impression of the combination was one of sleekness and modernity.

With its locomotive and passenger cars rendered in

blues and grays (the colors of the New York Central), the all-new *20th Century Limited* train set began revenue service on June 15, 1938. An immediate sensation, its iconic locomotive was prominently featured on travel posters, calendars, and NYC advertising. A "Dreyfuss Hudson" was even put on display at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

MARX WAITS AND WAITS

Perhaps Louis Marx & Co. contemplated introducing an O gauge model of the streamlined Hudson, especially because it owned tooling that easily could have been used.

PICTURES

AT AN O GAUGE EXHIBITION

Neal Mayer fills his attic with vignettes of New England

STORY BY ROGER CARP ■ PHOTOS BY NEAL MAYER

Many layouts are like a circus – action everywhere! It’s fun and entertaining, but sometimes you don’t know where to look. Other layouts call to mind an art museum, where patrons move slowly yet steadily from one canvas or sculpture to the next.

With model railroads like that, viewers know where to begin and how to proceed among self-contained and detailed scenes as they take in everything. What they’re admiring at one moment seems physically and mentally separate from the rest, so there’s never a question about where to look and what makes the sight special.

Neal Mayer’s O gauge railroad falls into the latter category. In the attic of his home he has assembled a group of vignettes, each using trains and structures, vehicles and figures, and signs and lights to suggest life in his native New England during the postwar era. Visitors stroll from one scene to another and then to another, never in a rush, as they enjoy discovering and remarking on different features and effects.

Let’s join the friends and family members who make the climb up to the top floor of the Mayer residence. Neal has plenty to show and explain, always with the goal of helping others learn to build better and more arresting layouts.

HIS OWN TEACHER

The teaching Neal does for newcomers and layout designers emulates the work his father did in the 1950s to help him

gain an understanding of how to create displays. The educational tools in the home where Neal grew up amounted to current HO scale models, stacks of *Model Railroader* magazines, and prewar Lionel trains he and his siblings could play with.

“My father built a permanent train table with a figure-8 layout in our basement,” Neal recalls. “His Lionel No. 259 steam engine and tender and the assorted freight and passenger cars they pulled provided lots of fun.

“Our enjoyment was multi-sensory. We loved the racket made by the train hurtling around the track, the glowing headlight and marker lights, the sparks from the wheels, and that captivating smell of ozone and grease.” Best of all, he adds, the old steamer still runs great around the Mayers’ Christmas tree.

Later, when Neal reached his teens and continued to express interest in model railroading, his father diverted his attention from the vintage Lionel O gauge pieces to the roster of HO scale locomotives and cars he had gradually put together. From running them on track laid down on the floor, Neal graduated to creating small HO layouts. On his own, he became acquainted with N scale trains.



BACK TO O

The flame representing Neal’s fascination with model railroading might have ebbed after he finished high school, but it never died out. For that reason, introducing his daughters, Allison and Carolyn, to toy trains seemed perfectly natural. He had, after all, already shared the hobby with his wife, Lei-Sanne, and found her interested. Showing their kids made good sense.

Making even better sense was guiding the two girls in the same way their father and his siblings had discovered the joys of miniature trains – with Lionel models. They promised to be easy for Allison and



1 A Boston & Maine Alco RS3 road diesel from MTH passes Teachers Biscuit Co. in the town of Galloway, which Neal says was inspired by memories of Lowell, Mass., from when he was growing up. The scratchbuilt factory's name is a play on the actual Educator Biscuit Co.

Carolyn to hold and quite simple to run. A No. 11720 Santa Fe Special steam freight outfit was the starting point.

Everyone in the family enjoyed the train so much that Neal felt motivated to move forward by progressing from temporary holiday setups to a more permanent 3 x 5-foot display. The project turned out to be a blast, but the compact layout remained nothing more than a fixture of the Mayers' Christmas festivities.

Until the time came when Neal, tired of carrying the display down from the

attic to the living room each year, decided maybe the moment had arrived to consider making it the foundation of something much larger. He had amassed more trains and his commitment to O gauge kept deepening.

Fortunately for Neal, his questions about how to proceed gained tentative answers after he stumbled across a series in *Model Railroader*. The articles offered instruction in how one hobbyist had created in HO what he called a "stub terminal" based around a small fishing port

supposedly set in Maine. The premise behind that layout and the explanation of how it had been built appealed to Neal.

UNIFIED DIORAMAS

Once inspired, Neal began designing in his office what he termed an "oversized diorama." It would be more accurately described as a sectional shelf layout. The scenery came together to suggest a New England village nestled along the Atlantic Coast. There was enough room to arrange the tracks without things getting crowded.

The goal was to make sure switching operations in and around the waterfront were feasible and challenging in the best sense. Neal greatly enjoyed using a K-Line Alco S2 diesel to shunt refrigerator cars, tank cars, and others.

The diorama, which incorporated the 3 x 5-foot layout Neal had built long ago and given to his nephews, continued to expand his understanding of what was possible in O gauge modeling. The need for specific scenery and structures that had to fit into tight and odd-shaped spots compelled him to take risks as a builder.

"I wanted to evoke the feeling of towns I had visited along the northern shore of Massachusetts," Neal said. He therefore chose to name the village on his layout Cabotport. He envisioned it crowding along the banks of the Merrimack River, which flows from New Hampshire to Massachusetts and into the Atlantic.

Satisfied with what he had done, Neal waited to expand from a single diorama into several linked by rails, geography, and theme. When Allison moved out and vacated her attic bedroom, Neal seized the



2 Neal has expanded the shelf layout he described in the October 2011 issue of *Classic Toy Trains* to fill much of the 10 x 27-foot bedroom in the attic of his home. The space became available after one of his two daughters moved out.

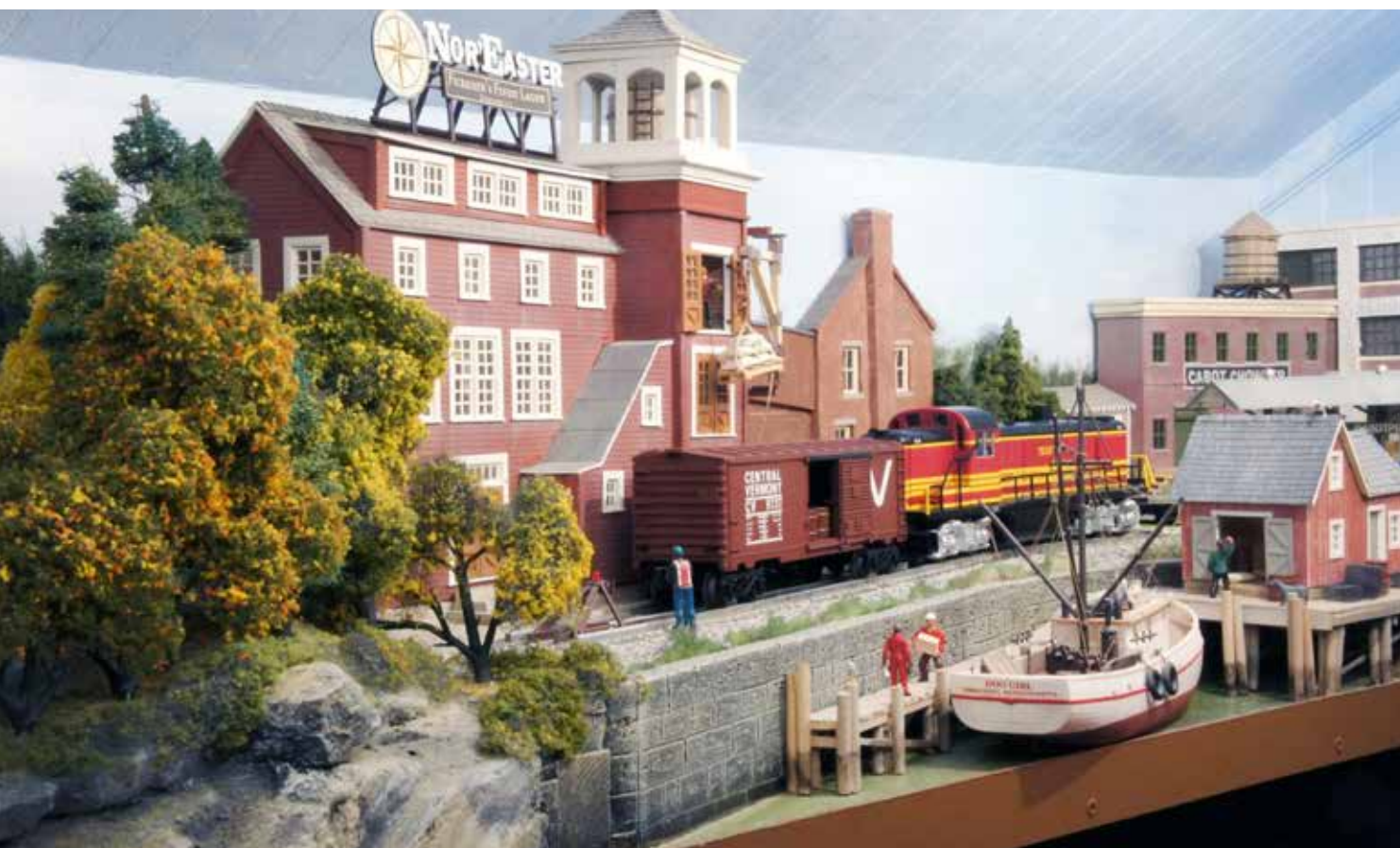
moment and claimed it before Lei-Sanne could think of repurposing it as an art studio or a guest room.

Pleased with the open real estate now belonging to him, Neal announced that Cabotport was no longer an independent entity. It was the eastern terminus of a branch line owned by the Boston & Maine RR and extending from the seaboard into

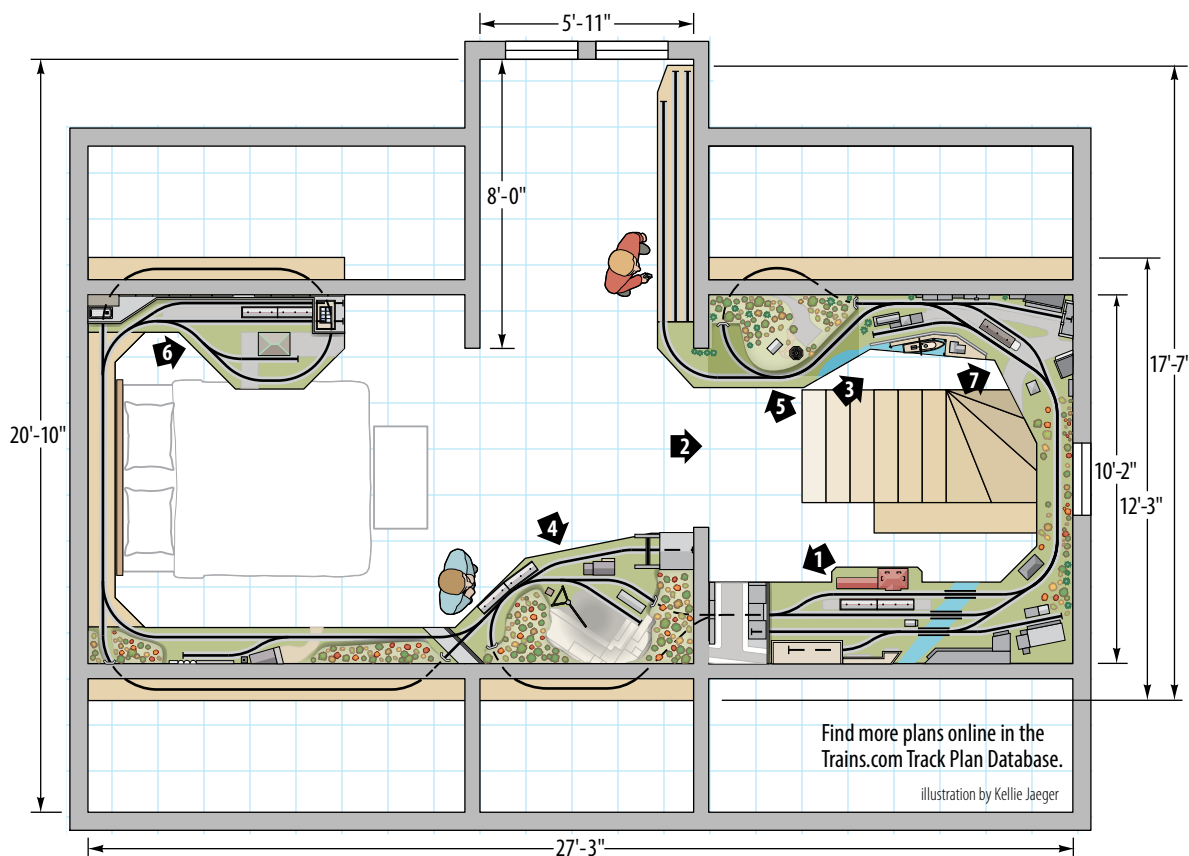
the central part of the Bay State. Rails would pass through a few sites, each having some connection to Neal's boyhood.

TRACK AND CONTROLS

Before listening to Neal narrate the saga of the layout, he notes some of the basic qualities. To begin, the space available in the attic for a model railroad measures



3 It's a quiet afternoon in Cabotport as sacks of hops are lifted from a Central Vermont Ry. boxcar into the scratchbuilt Nor'Easter Brewery. Neal insisted on having a facility like this one on his O gauge layout for a couple of reasons. For one thing, his other hobby is brewing his own beer. For another, one of his great-grandfathers long ago worked at the old Haffenreffer Brewery.



A total of five self-contained and detailed vignettes make up the O gauge layout Neal has set in central Massachusetts during the decades after World War II. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of the captioned photos he took for this exclusive article.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Neal Mayer's O gauge layout

Dimensions: 12'-0" x 27'-3"

Track and switches: Lionel FasTrack (diameters range from 27 to 36 inches)

Motive power: K-Line, Lionel, MTH, Williams by Bachmann

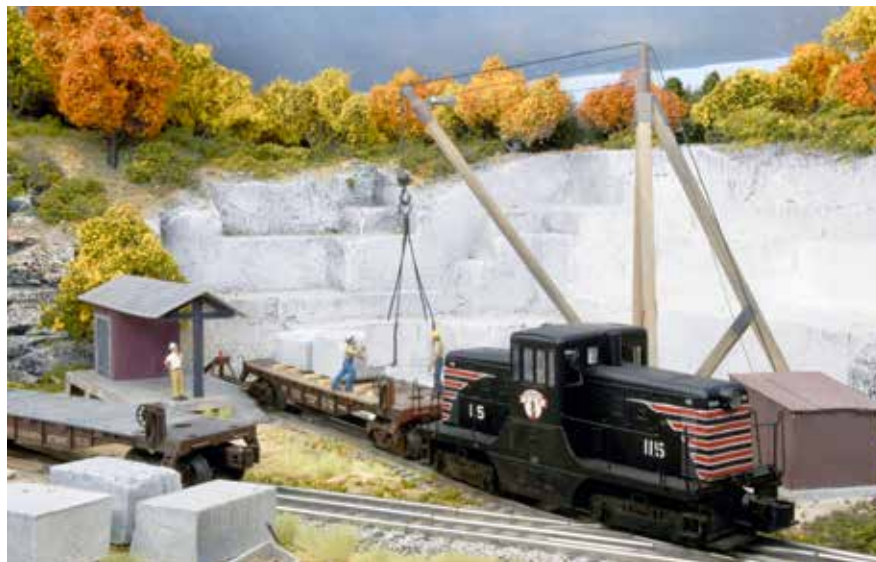
Rolling stock: K-Line, Lionel, MTH, Williams by Bachmann

Controls: Lionel No. CW-80, MTH No. Z-1000 transformers with MTH Digital Command System

Structures: Atlas O, Korber, Plasticville, Walther's, scratchbuilt

Vehicles: Ertl, Kinsmart, Matchbox, MotorMax, MTH, Tins' Toys, Welly

Figures: Bachmann, Life-Like, Lionel, MTH, Woodland Scenics



4 Fletcher Granite Quarry provided high-quality blocks of stone to projects from Boston to San Francisco. A Boston & Maine 44-tonner (MTH No. 20-20716-1) prepares to haul a flatcar from the outskirts of the sleepy little town to Cambridge, where the granite will be used for a new building at Harvard University.

27'-3" between the gable ends and 12 feet between the knee walls.

Neal constructed the railroad on sections mounted to the wall. None was sufficiently deep to accommodate a reverse loop. As a result, he routed the main lines through the knee walls in a few places to complete the loops. A three-track

traverser yard occupied much of an 8 x 11-foot dormer.

The principal level stood 28 inches off the attic floor. "I wish it could be higher," Neal said, "but the knee walls are only 40" high and I wanted to leave 12" for the backdrops I believed were essential to convincing scenes."

The diorama of Cabotport used 1 x 4 pine with a 1/4" lauan plywood deck that Neal covered with 1-inch extruded foam. The remaining sections, all built much later, consisted of 1 x 2" pine screwed to the knee walls. Their upper portions resembled that of Cabotport. Neal then braced them with 1 x 2s.



5 While a crew checks the main line, a LionChief Amtrak train slips out of Badger Rock Tunnel. The variety of trees attests to Neal's knowledge of the flora of New England and his skills as a modeler. He made the trees using commercial pieces and natural items.

By then, Neal had become familiar with the FasTrack system. He bought O-36 straights and curves, which he eventually weathered and covered with ballast. The manual switches included in the FasTrack line also pleased him.

Neal was initially committed to conventional control. But once he purchased an MTH locomotive equipped with Pro-toSound 2.0, it was merely a matter of

time before he became acquainted with that firm's brand of command control. What hooked him was how he could run MTH engines slowly.

Funny, isn't it, how getting diesel switchers and Rail Diesel Cars to creep meant a lot to Neal. While other operators demand their systems of control empower them to hit the high end of their speedometers or to run trains con-

sisting of many dozen freight cars, he focused on prototypical snail's pacing.

Neal ended up with conventional and command capabilities. He then elected to reconfigure his control panel so that one cab was variable AC and the other was fixed AC controlled by the DCS Commander. From there, it was all but inevitable this intrepid modeler would look at LionChief and LionChief Plus motive

8 LAYOUT TIPS FROM A MASTER

Neal envisioned a layout composed of several vignettes, each bearing the name of a different locale in Massachusetts. The names of the communities and their key industry or business were be fictitious, yet each had a basis in reality. They would, in short, be familiar to him. Here are eight of Neal's insights.

1 Neal made substantial use of extruded foam on the layout. Wherever he thought something substantial was called for, he put more layers of foam on top. Next, he carved the material to shape and put on spackling compound. While that was drying, he sealed the shell with a coat or two of brown latex paint.

2 Neal used different types of brown paint to his advantage. He then brushed on earth tones to

cover everything. Ground up cork and foam in various colors and textures filled up the areas.

3 Neal opted for Mod Podge over an acrylic light diffuser to model water. As the final touch, he touched up the waves and ripples to add interest.

4 Neal's artistic instincts inspired him to avoid commercial trees. His evergreens began with "trunks" cut from cedar shingles and

rounded with a rasp. Then Neal glued on furnace filter and attached ground foam with spray-mount adhesive. Deciduous trees started with armatures from Woodland Scenics, over which he stretched poly fiber before covering them with ground foam.

5 Because the layout generally showcases autumn in New England, Neal made certain the colors of the foliage changed dramatically as viewers headed north and west from Cabotport to Fitchfield. In addition, he filled in the break between the scenery and backdrops with furnace filter over which he sprinkled ground foam.

6 Neal gave his model railroad a personality all its own by coming up with a consistent color scheme for its facilities. Platforms were painted green and cream with signs in an identical font. He painted wood structures maroon and cream and then transferred the same hues to trim added to buildings intended to be masonry.

7 Neal created many of his structures from scratch, again to ensure they were unique and fit the locale and purpose of his railroad. Basswood, styrene, and Taskboard (an ultra-light material made of sustainable forestry wood) served as his primary materials.



6 Union Station in Fitchfield, once served by the Boston & Maine and the New Haven, currently hosts Amtrak streamliners as well as commuter trains operated by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

power. He bought some of those units, which he runs via fixed AC.

INCH BY INCH

Neal and Lei-Sanne appreciate folk songs performed by Pete Seeger, with a favorite being “Garden Song.” It declares, “Inch by inch, row by row / Gonna make this garden grow.” Well, the same philosophy describes this layout.

“It started as a bite-size project,” Neal concludes, “with a few feet of track, a couple of kits, and a little scratchbuilding. There was no pressure, so if I made a mistake I could rip it out and redo without worrying about having taken a huge step backwards and holding back progress.”

The same gradual pace and relaxed approach characterized Neal’s work once he had moved to the bedroom. He saw the

layout as a series of vignettes to be built one by one. Progress went on; the network of track let him keep trains running.

Neal leaves the impression that what he has done can be duplicated by others. Pick your period and location, then develop the individual scenes for your own layout. Just think of it as an art museum through which you can wander and then proceed “inch by inch.” **CTT**

Evergreen strip styrene worked well for windows and door frames, and Plastruct patterned styrene sheets worked for brick and stone.

8 Paved roads consisted of Masonite and plywood that Neal blended with the surrounding terrain with lightweight spackling compound. He painted the surface black and then dry-brushed an assortment of lighter colors over it. – R.C.

7 Everyone had better stand back and brake quickly as the Boston & Maine Rail Diesel Car pushes its way through the downtown area of Cabotport. The flagman concentrates on keeping everyone safe while the Budd car moves ahead.





Lionel toy trains have appeared regularly in American mass media since the 1920s, most recently in *The Fabelmans* and *Perry Mason*. The postwar and prewar models featured in them have come from Gary Rushton, owner of Fun Factory Vintage Trains and Service.

TOY TRAINS ARE BACK IN THE MOVIES

STORY BY ROGER CARP

GARY RUSHTON PROVIDED
THE LIONEL MODELS FOR
THE FABELMANS

A century after the legendary comedian Buster Keaton led the way in using toy trains to entertain audiences in his silent film *The Electric House*, Lionel trains played a major role in *The Fabelmans*. That motion picture, somewhat of an autobiographical profile created by director Steven Spielberg, used an odd mix of passenger and freight cars pulled by an O-27 steam

engine to show how the protagonist became fascinated by movies.

Hobbyists watching *The Fabelmans* likely questioned why such an unexpected group of Lionel models had been filmed. They might have wondered as well about who acquired the postwar locomotive and rolling stock. Fortunately for us, the man responsible — Gary Rushton — was able to shed light on the story behind the trains.

RECAPPING THE MOVIE

At the beginning of *The Fabelmans*, young Sammy Fabelman joins his parents at a showing of *The Greatest Show on Earth*, released in February 1952. They watch a spectacular scene in which a steam-hauled circus train crashes into an automobile.

Sammy decides then and there to duplicate the scene at home so he can film it using his family's movie camera. Of



Six examples of various Lionel O-27 freight and passenger cars that had been cataloged in 1952 were needed for *The Fabelmans* because director Steven Spielberg intended for them to be filmed in a collision.

course, he needs some toy trains in order to reenact the dramatic crash. So, he asks his mom and dad for a Lionel engine and cars for Chanukah.

Steven Spielberg really did accompany his parents to *The Greatest Show on Earth* and walked out dreaming of how he might film the unforgettable climax with Lionel trains. First, however, just as was shown in *The Fabelmans*, he had to get some models.

The answer for young Spielberg — the boy in 1952 — depended on his parents buying a new Lionel set. The answer for Spielberg — the movie maker in 2020 — depended on someone managing to acquire the same engine and rolling stock, now desirable collectibles.

Given the task were the prop masters on the payroll of Amblin Partners, the film and television production firm overseen by Spielberg. They, in turn, contacted Gary Rushton, owner of Fun Factory Vintage Trains and Service, based in Peoria, Ariz. Respected widely throughout the hobby for his outstanding repair and restoration work, Gary assured the crew he would be able to obtain the Lionel trains necessary for the film.

A FEW CHALLENGES

Gary probably assumed that Spielberg, who was only 6 years old in 1952, had received a cataloged outfit. And at first glance in *The Fabelmans*, it looked as though the Lionel train was a No. 1484WS steam passenger set headed by a No. 2056 small 4-6-4 Hudson and whistle tender.

But that was

not the case, as Spielberg himself explained to Gary through emails.

Keep in mind that Chanukah lasts eight nights, and Mr. and Mrs. Spielberg had wanted their son to have a different gift to unwrap each evening. Consequently, they chose not to buy one set but instead to pick up a variety of cars to go with the steamer.

Therefore, 68 years later, Gary needed to obtain exactly what Spielberg recalled as his various presents: No. 2026 2-6-4 steam engine and 6466 tender plus Nos. 2421 *Maplewood* and 2422 *Chatham* Pullman cars (the later versions with a silver roof), 6454 Pennsylvania RR short boxcar, and 6357 Lionel Lines Southern Pacific-type caboose.

That wasn't all, Gary learned from the prop masters that several examples of each Lionel model were required. In addition, he was expected to make them look brand new.

Why were multiple examples of the vintage steam engine, passenger coaches, and other models needed? "Because," Gary said, "the trains were being used to film a crash. Every one of them ended up being destroyed while Spielberg filmed the dramatic crash."

FINAL TOUCHES

Before the demise of the trains, technicians at Amblin tweaked the original smoke unit so it produced more smoke

(better for filming the scene). Then some prop masters at Universal Studios, which distributed *The Fabelmans*, created faithful reproductions of the boxes and wrapping paper Lionel had used, so Sammy would appear to be opening new trains.

Gary also supplied the correct Lionel transformer for Gabriel LaBelle (the young actor portraying Sammy) to run when the train was supposed to be moving. The tubular track was the only element where Gary took liberties. Rather than trying to obtain a loop of original straights and curves, he opted for the shiny new pieces made by Menards.

The brush with fame proved enjoyable for Gary, and he appreciated his next job. The prop team involved with the second season of the remake of the popular Perry Mason mystery series, now set in the 1930s, contacted him about a Lionel pre-war train.

Remembering the fate of the postwar trains in *The Fabelmans*, Gary asked if the train was going to be destroyed during the filming. Once he was assured it would merely be shown running over a loop of train, he volunteered the Lionel No. 249E engine, two freight cars, and caboose that had been given to his grandfather almost 90 years earlier.

Gary treasures his experience with Hollywood and hopes more assignments come his way. For now, he encourages readers to check out www.funfactorytrains.com to learn more about his superb work, especially if they don't plan on crashing their trains! **CTT**



Gary appreciates the relationship established by Lionel and Walt Disney in the 1930s. When not repairing and restoring vintage trains, he often spends time at Disneyland.



REVIVING MEMORIES
ON A 6 X 16-FOOT
O GAUGE
DISPLAY

INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT HONORS A FAMILY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GREG BIRD

“And that’s the way it is December 28, 1974.” With those words, CBS television news anchor Walter Cronkite was describing his world as he signed off for the evening. Meanwhile, I was concentrating on my world under the Christmas tree.

I was 8 years old when I received a brand-new Lionel train for Christmas of 1974. The No. 8351 blue-and-silver Santa Fe Alco diesel used as motive power for set No. 1383 was cruising around brightly colored packages. Each time the gleaming locomotive and its train came around the presents, I felt like I was seeing it for the first time.

Besides the locomotive, the cataloged outfit included the Nos. 9136 Republic Steel gondola, 9300 Penn Central log dump car, 9013 Canadian National hopper, and 9021 Santa Fe work caboose. It was quite a train — I was hooked!

DAD BUILDS A LAYOUT

Shortly after Christmas my father constructed a 4 x 8-foot O gauge layout in our basement. It hung from chains he

had attached to the floor beams overhead.

We combined my father’s postwar trains with my newer stuff. We had a No. 3656 cattle corral where cows vibrated in and out of a cattle car. There also was the uncoupling track where the logs were dumped into the black plastic bin.

Most of the layout was painted green. For scenery, there were some HO scale trees scattered around. My father and I painted the road brown and wired next to it an enormous No. 252 Automatic Crossing Gate that lit up. The crossing gate was activated by the weight of the locomotive running over a contactor we placed under the track.

I played for hours with that layout, moving the freight cars around while pretending I was in charge of the operations.



I’m grateful my dad built the layout and my aunts kept buying me additional rolling stock (although it was HO scale).

LOOKING AHEAD

What stands out now when I recall that first layout and the accessories on it was that even at so young of an age I noticed how certain elements didn’t look right. The oversized figure on the No. 145 Automatic Gateman towered over my Santa Fe diesel, as did the huge

crossing gate. At the same time, I couldn’t believe how those two trackside accessories dwarfed the trees my father and I had added.

I kept busy looking over the new Lionel catalogs and dreaming of what I hoped to buy. I must have gone through them a thousand times, staring with envy at the *Blue Comet* and *Southern Crescent* passenger outfits. However, when I got to high school and became interested in other things, I



1 One of the last remaining steam engines on Greg's O gauge layout has been fired up to pull a short freight. Laborers pause from their duties to admire the old-timer.

packed up the trains. Then I graduated and headed off to college, making sure to store them with my parents.

After college I bought my first house. Unfortunately for me, the basement was too small for a layout. About 15 more years went by until I finally bought the condo where I live today. There was enough room to accommodate a layout there.

GETTING EVERYTHING READY

I was certain I wanted to build an O gauge model railroad. Returning to the hobby that had brought me so much joy seemed like a great idea, so I dove into the project. I started by cleaning and prepping the area for my new layout.

Then I faced the fact that I had not had any contact with model trains or even the

hobby industry in years. I hardly knew what was out there and who was still manufacturing trains, publishing information, and selling products I would need.

My first stop was, not surprisingly, the internet. I learned that Lionel was still in business and there were other



Greg, an avid model railroader since his boyhood, wanted to develop an O gauge railroad that enabled him to express gratitude to his parents and grandparents.

businesses catering to model trains. I encountered many companies I had not previously heard of, including MTH Electric Trains, Scenic Express, Weaver Model Trains, and Woodland Scenics.



2 Here's a mystery: How can the gents idling away an afternoon at the local station pay no attention to the handsome Grand Trunk Western road diesel decked out in its Bicentennial scheme? Maybe Greg, who built the layout, has an answer.

I decided that the three-rail layout was going to have an industrial theme. There wouldn't be any schools or playgrounds. No little children running onto the tracks or waiting for the circus to arrive. No Mickey Mouse or Winnie the Pooh boxcars. I wanted lots of smokestacks, guys in hard hats and safety vests, and tall cranes.

Because my full-time job takes me into many facilities associated with a wide variety of industries, I already had good ideas and firm plans for how the layout should look. Specifically I desired realistic settings with certain types of structures and landscapes, all to provide the right environment for the contemporary diesels I enjoyed running.

ROLLING TABLE

I studied the area where I planned to build the layout and concluded a 6 x 16-foot footprint was best. My dad helped me build the table using 4 x 4 legs and 2 x 4 crossbeams. The lumber supported ½-inch-thick sheets of plywood serving as the surface, which was 42 inches off the floor. We added casters to the bottom of each leg, so we could move the layout while we worked on it.

Dad and I added a fascia board around the edges with some curtains my mom picked out. In addition, I designed an extendable control panel constructed on a desk keyboard tray. That would make it simple to reveal or hide the controls so I could walk around the layout without getting bumped when it wasn't being used.

On the tray I intended to have the controls for all my uncouplers, switches, and accessory power units. Also from there I would be able to fire up a modern version of

Lionel's gantry crane. I used 18-gauge wire for accessories.

TIME FOR TRACK

The research I had done before starting had shown me that the tubular track I had grown up with was far from the only option now. I learned a good deal about the Lionel FasTrack system and thought it would be just right for my layout in terms of its versatility and realistic appearance.

FasTrack gave me plenty to choose from, and I went with its 36-inch-diameter curves. I selected the remote-controlled switches in the line. My layout ended up using 13 turnouts, with six sidings needed for storage and switching.

My roster of locomotives remains exclusively Lionel. Most of the engines can be controlled by Legacy command control; two are Lion-Chief Plus models. I have taken a slightly broader approach with rolling stock. Lionel models run with freight and passenger cars cataloged by MTH. My modern-era



3 This General Electric U33C road diesel decorated for the Burlington Northern has exited the tunnel and reached the straight-away, so the engineer can safely accelerate. The Lionel No. 84282 Legacy-equipped unit recently joined Greg's locomotive roster.



4 Let's hope that the Milwaukee Road GP9 road diesel can creep quietly past the pond and not startle the recently retired fellow who is patiently waiting to hook a pike or bass.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Greg Bird's O gauge layout

Dimensions: 6 x 16 feet

Track and switches: Lionel FasTrack (36-inch diameter)

Motive power and rolling stock: Lionel, MTH

Controls: Lionel 180-watt PowerHouse power supply with Legacy command control

Structures: Atlas O, Korber, Lionel, scratchbuilt

Vehicles: Diecast Direct

Figures: Artista

trains occasionally get coupled to some of the postwar cars from my father's collection.

A typical operating session sees me operate two trains at the same time and doing so quite comfortably with my CAB-2 controller. A Lionel 180-watt brick supplies power to the track, switches, and uncoupler track. Incidentally, I did solder feeders to the main lines and sidings using 14-gauge wire.

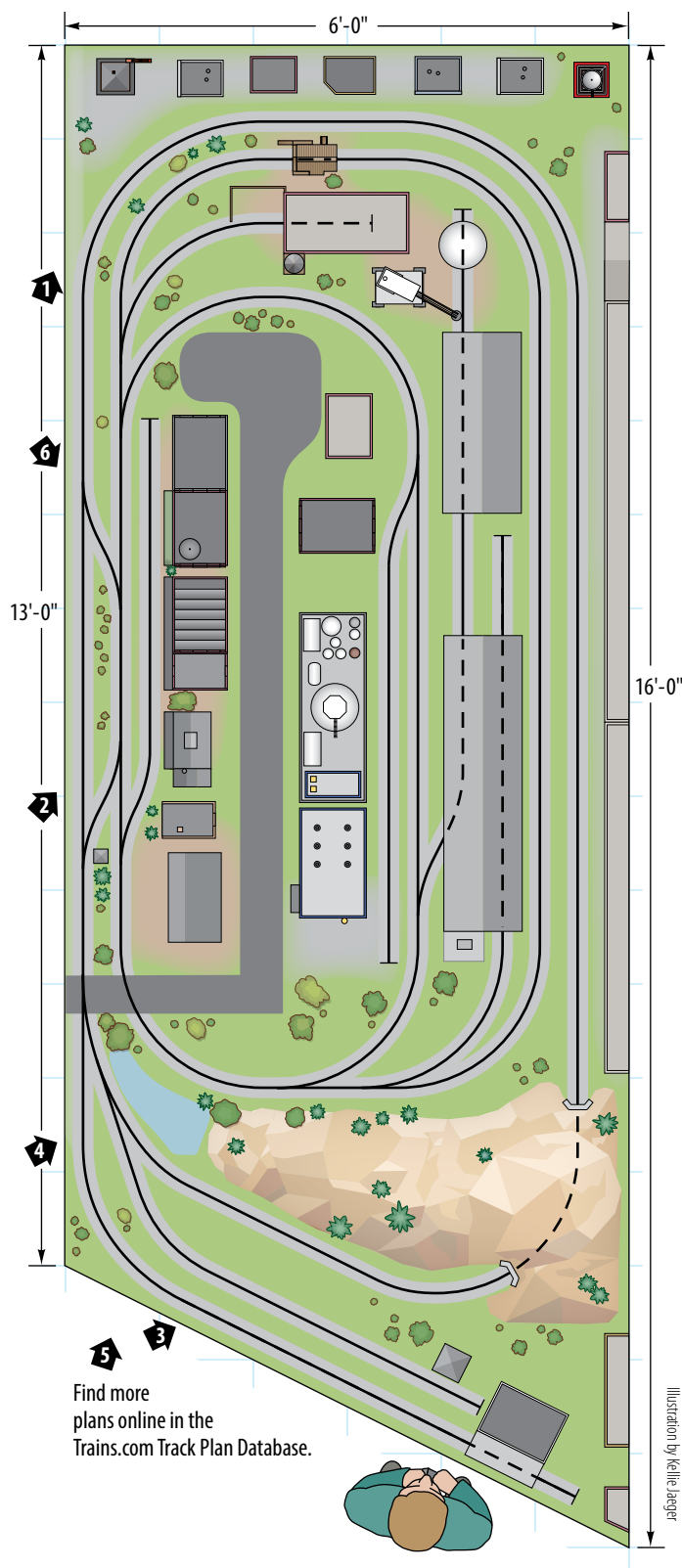
INDUSTRIAL SETTING

For a layout as compact as mine, especially in light of the industrial theme I preferred, structures become the most important element in what

model railroaders typically refer to as "landscaping." The buildings and their related details, especially signs, were essential in providing my railroad with its own identity and purpose for being.

Nonetheless, I knew there had to be some simple landforms. I fashioned them out of products sold by Woodland Scenics, with Plaster Cloth yielding a hard surface colored using water-soluble paint. Ground cover went on next.

For the scenes of manufacturing and railroading, I gained many insights from reading three books published by Kalmbach Media Co.: *Realistic Modeling for Toy Trains*



The 6 x 16-foot O gauge display Greg Bird designed and constructed attests to the fact that a great-looking and enjoyable layout does not require acres of real estate. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of his captioned photographs.

My layout ended up using 13 turnouts, with six sidings needed for storage and switching.



5 Heavy industry, especially steel and chemical production, dominates the three-rail display Greg has built at his home. He packs plenty of activity and purpose in less than 100 square feet.

(written by Dennis Brennan) and *Basic Structure Modeling for Model Railroaders* and *50 Ways to a Better-Looking Layout* (both by Jeff Wilson).

Operations would consist of a steel mill, a chemical plant, a grain mill, and several smaller commercial facilities. I also constructed a maintenance repair area.

Just how did I figure out the kinds of industries to highlight on my O gauge layout? It might not have been too original but I ended up focusing on my family.

My grandfather had worked at Ford in Dearborn, Mich., so I named my steel facility Donald Steel & Pipe to honor him. There were also going to be Fraiser Chemical after my grandmother (her maiden name).

Then there's Raymond Tool & Die; I named it after my other grandfather, a tool and die maker who fought in the

Battle of the Bulge during World War II. My grandmother Genevieve liked to cook; therefore, I decided to name one of my other industries Genevieve Milling.

Atlas O, Korber, and MTH structures looked great, but I was determined to try building a few facilities from scratch. It turned out I enjoyed designing and assembling the buildings and creating their style. I made sure to install lights inside each building and eventually added many more in various other areas.

SPECIAL EFFECTS

All the illumination contributes to an exciting and industrialized look for my layout, in particular when I'm supervising nighttime operations on the layout. It then emits red, orange, blue, green, and purple lights, giving everything marvelous effects.

I also chose to install a



6 Not many passenger trains ply the main lines on Greg's layout, so the arrival of this New York Central beauty is worth a photo.

thunderstorm machine. Flashes of lightning in the back over the mountain dazzle and look cool reflecting off the lonely road in the middle of the layout and a pond nearby. Of course, the hobos huddling next to a campfire to stay warm may not find the lighting and thunder too inviting.

Living close to the main line used by the Great Lakes Central RR has expanded my

knowledge. What I have learned guides me in making changes to scenic detailing along the right-of-way as well as in methods for operating my layout. More and more, I strive to incorporate prototype practices in what I do.

Thank you for spending a little time in my model train world. Now it's time for me to sign off: "And that's the way it is January 22, 2024." **CTT**



A LITTLE TIME AND
EFFORT CAN SAVE
YOU MONEY

Give your tubular track a new look with the tips in this article. Chris Angelo Itrace photo

How to clean old tubular track

BY HAL MILLER

When it comes to buying used tubular track, should you or shouldn't you? While buying new track means a more pristine look, it also means more money. A cost-efficient method is buying used track, since you can clean it to look like new. It takes only a few basic tools and a little elbow grease, but soon you'll have your old track looking like it's fresh out of the box.

1 Start the cleaning process by getting an old toothbrush to clean off any loose soil. Then scrub the insides of the rails, making sure to clean the ties and underside of the track. This part of the process will help remove some of the rust (if there is any).

2 Next, get a scrubbing pad from 3M or another manufacturer. Never use a scrubbing pad that's metal, especially steel wool; it sheds particles that get sucked up in your motors and cause trains to not run.

Another thing you never want to do when cleaning track is put it in water. The paper insulators on the rails will get soaked. Water will also get trapped inside the tubing of

the track. Even if you put the track in the oven, you'll never be able to get it properly dry.

Part way through the cleaning process, be sure to vacuum up all the loose rust and other dirt that's fallen off your track.

3 The final step of the cleaning process involves using a track eraser like the Atlas Track Eraser (sold for \$4.95 at Kalmbach-HobbyStore.com). The eraser will need to be rubbed lightly on the tracks to shine it up. If there's any stray rust on the track, use the eraser to remove that.

Throw away any pieces of track that just can't be saved. Otherwise, they may cause problems for your locomotives in the future. **CTT**



Lionel's postwar No. 54 Ballast Tamper — like its fun companion, the No. 55 Tie-Jector — offers plenty of operating entertainment for O gauge modelers. However, the two units only go forward. So David Smith figured out how to get them to reverse.



Adding reverse to Lionel motorized units

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO GET POSTWAR MAINTENANCE VEHICLES TO CHANGE DIRECTION

During the post-World War II period, Lionel developed a pair of neat track maintenance vehicles for its list of innovative and fun motorized units. The No. 54 Ballast Tamper was cataloged from 1958 to 1961 and again from 1966 to 1969. It would run around a layout until triggered by a trackside trip; then it moved with tampers engaged at half speed. The No. 55 Tie-Jector was cataloged from 1957 through 1961. When triggered by a trackside trip, it would drop off a rail tie every few inches it traveled.

Both of those maintenance vehicles operate in forward only, which means you

must lift them on and off of a layout by hand. Wouldn't it be great if you could keep them at the end of a siding and call them up as needed? Here's an inexpensive and easy way of adding reverse and stop.

GET THEM READY

This project begins with the removal of the body from the frame of each motorized unit. The Ballast Tamper is a bit challenging: Remove the two screws from the top — they're located just behind the tampers. Then lift the front of the upper plate, slide it toward the rear, and lift off the upper frame and body. Look underneath to find the plastic tabs that release the

body from the upper frame. Luckily, the Tie-Jector is easier: Remove one screw from inside the tie bin toward the rear.

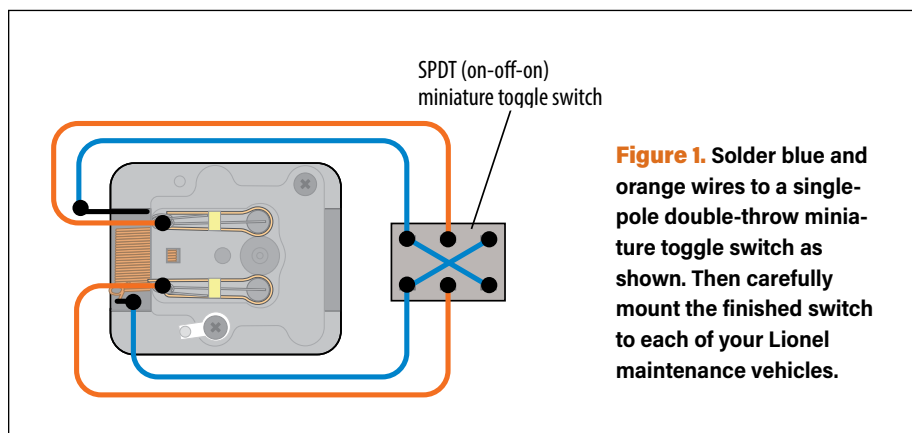
Now you can make the necessary modifications. All you'll need is a SPDT (single-pole double-throw) on/off/on miniature toggle switch for each of the maintenance vehicles. These parts are available at electronics supply stores. The three-position design of the miniature toggle switch (on/off/on) makes it possible for the Lionel unit to be powered in a forward/stop/reverse sequence.

FINAL STEPS

Solder the wires as shown in the diagram (Figure 1). I use two blue wires that cross the toggle switch and two orange wires for the center connections, being sure the two wires that cross at the switch don't touch each other. Then mount the switch to the frame with hot glue (Figure 2).

Next, unsolder the two wires from the motor brush holders — you'll be using these wires again. Solder the two orange wires from the switch to the brush holders. Follow by soldering the two blue wires to the original wires you already removed from the brush holders (Figure 3).

Before reinstalling the bodies on the vehicles, test each of the units on your



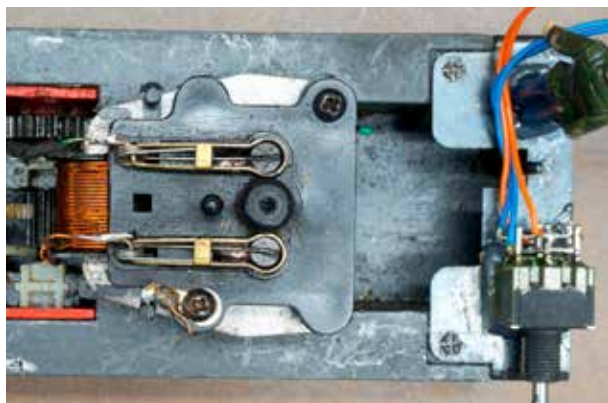
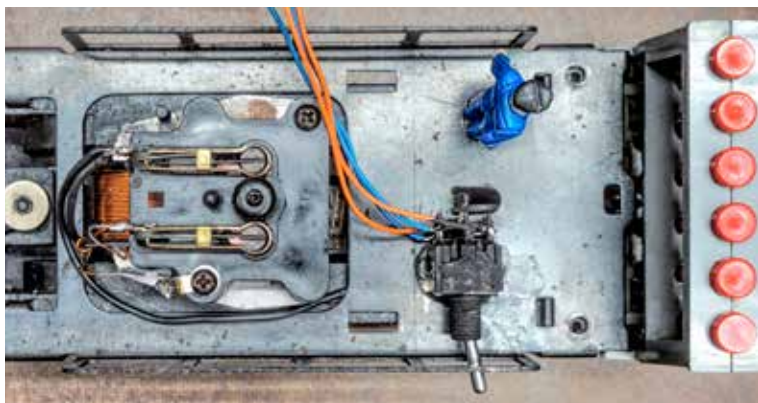


Figure 2. Use hot glue to mount a single-pole double-throw (SPDT) switch to the Nos. 54 Ballast Tamper (left) and 55 Tie-Jector (right).

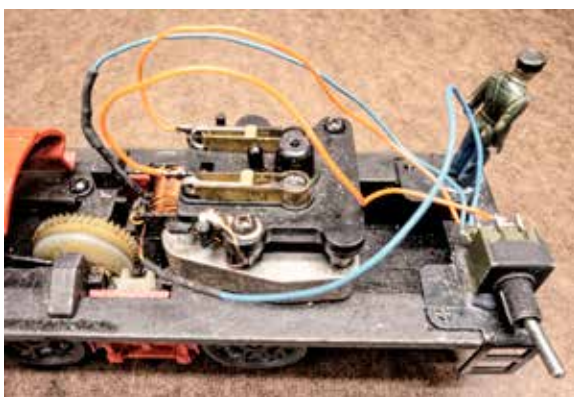
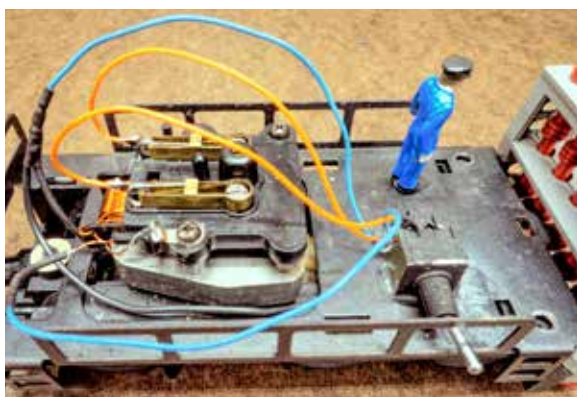


Figure 3. For either motorized unit, solder the two orange wires from the switch to the brush holders. Then solder the two blue wires to the original wires removed from the brush holders.

layout. See if they run forward when the switch is in the forward position and backward when it's in the reverse position. If the opposite sequence occurs, reverse the two orange wires that go to the brush holders.

Finish this weekend project by putting the body back on each unit, taking care to prevent the wires from getting pinched. The Ballast Tamper has a slot in the yellow cab where the wires can go. Tie-Jector has a square opening in the frame for the wires.

The sidings where I usually keep my

maintenance vehicles are difficult to reach. To take care of this problem, I use a trip to automatically reverse them when they reach the end (**Figure 4**).

I made the trip levers out of K&S .064 x .050-inch brass strip. After bending each strip in an L-shape, I drilled a hole in one section to fit a small screw. Then I mounted the strip near the end of the siding. When the Ballast Tamper or Tie-Jector enters the siding and trips the lever, it automatically reverses.

Couldn't be simpler! **CTT**



Figure 4. The final step involves making the trip lever. First, you bend the brass strip to form an L-shape. Then you drill a small hole for the screw that will secure the painted lever to the platform.



one more point

I power the sidings on my home O gauge layout with control panel switches, so power is then turned off and the maintenance vehicle is ready to back out of the siding when power has been restored.

LIONEL

TREASURES GALORE

Highlights of the Paul Peters collection

STORY BY ROGER CARP ■ PHOTOS BY DENNIS BRENNAN

EVERY COLLECTION, BIG OR SMALL, begins with a single toy train. Lifelong Lionel postwar enthusiast Paul Peters agrees with this general statement and then considers how his extraordinary collection of mint cataloged items, preproduction paint samples, and engineering mock-ups began long ago with a Pennsylvania RR GG1 electric.

Which one, you're wondering. The No. 2332 Brunswick Green model Lionel brought out first in 1947? Or perhaps the sweet No. 2360 version Lionel painted Tuscan Red with a large Pennsy keystone herald plastered across each long side?

Paul just smiles before stating he was referring not to a postwar replica of the GG1 developed by Lionel, but instead to the full-size locomotive used by one of America's most famous railroads to pull freight trains and many heavyweight and streamlined passenger

trains. The list included the overnight train Paul and his family rode from their home in New York to Florida in early 1950.

Not yet 4 years old, Paul nevertheless loved every second of the journey and toddled off the train smitten with everything from the diesel cab units to the boxcars and cabooses he had glimpsed while streaking south. The GG1 that had guided the passenger train out of Pennsylvania Station might have been the train that left the most powerful impression, as proved by the models Paul owns.

GG1 ELECTRICS



Keeping in mind what an impression riding in a train headed by a Pennsylvania RR GG1 electric left on Paul as a boy, it comes as no surprise to find he owns many oddball Lionel models of the engine. In 1950, three years after the toy train maker brought out its inaugural GG1 (No. 2332), Lionel upgraded the locomotive with Magne-Traction to create the No. 2330. Lionel customarily painted the updated GG1 Brunswick Green with five thin gold stripes. However, Paul has a version done in Tuscan Red (left); it apparently was the mock-up for the No. 2340 GG1, which made its debut five years later. A similar prize is the slick No. 2360 GG1 on the right. It came finished in a metallic khaki and decorated with five stripes, heat-stamped lettering, and no decals.

F3 MOCK-UPS



Lionel collectors, discovering treasure after treasure in the home of Paul Peters, would find it difficult to tear themselves away from the F3 cab units he owns. In the late 1950s, members of the Engineering Department based at the Lionel plant located in northern New Jersey, decorated No. 2343 Santa Fe body shells with the paint and lettering schemes of different railroads for corporate executives to consider adding to the cataloged line. This pair of beauties, featuring the vivid colors and neat graphics of the Florida East Coast (top) and the Frisco (St. Louis-San Francisco), fell short of acceptance and ended up being put in storage for years at the factory.



READY FOR O GAUGE

As much as Paul might have wished his beloved father would buy him a full-size railroad — at least his personal GG1 — he understood the most he could hope for was a Lionel train set. The O gauge outfit that arrived right around the time he celebrated his birthday and Christmas together in 1950 proved to be just perfect.

Paul claimed a No. 2165WS freight outfit headed by the brand new 2-8-4 Berkshire steam engine and whistle tender (No. 736) represented the next step in his journey as a Lionel collector. Along with the four freight cars came a tank car,

a pair of remote-control switches, and a Type-KW transformer. Before the calendar changed to 1951, Paul was in command of an enhanced figure-8 layout.

The next few years passed with the three-rail empire growing each December. In 1955, not too long after the family had moved to Long Island, Paul's dad had the brilliant idea of contacting Lionel and seeing whether a crew might travel to their new home and construct a one-of-a-kind 8 x 12-foot layout for Paul to enjoy. It was a dream come

true, one that he patterned after a display pictured on a promotional pamphlet Lionel had released about the time the Paul had first gone to Florida.

The next few years passed with the three-rail empire growing each December.

That 8 x 12 O gauge railroad was phenomenal, but Paul felt driven to enlarge and improve it. He eventually did so by adding a 6 x 8-foot extension while building up his roster of rolling stock and

PRELIMINARY MODELS



Lionel trains of the 1960s generally bring to mind the array of space and military items, especially the operating models that launched satellites and rockets. Yet during the same years, designers were also focusing on the Old West with the goal of enhancing the sales appeal of the old-time steam engines and tenders (Nos. 1862 and 1872) in the cataloged line. Paul has acquired the decaled and modified examples of a couple of the Western-oriented pieces of rolling stock, both based on the No. 6646 Stockcar. Feel free to examine the design and decoration of the Nos. 3370 Western & Atlantic sheriff and outlaw car (called the "Wells Fargo car") on the left and 6473 Horse Transport Car (referred to by collectors as the "rodeo car").



Models in Paul's collection shed light on the ways designers at Lionel developed new items for the cataloged line. Among the most interesting is the mock-up of a Pennsylvania RR porthole caboose someone working in the Engineering Department fabricated out of wood and then painted Tuscan Red. This preproduction model was refined until it led to the introduction of the No. 6417 in 1953. Equally as curious to postwar fans is the rare version of the No. 6346 ALCOA covered hopper painted silver with blue decorative elements. Studying the freight car on the right reveals that the logo and other graphics are decals, added to a preproduction version to show corporate executives how the regular-production covered hopper would look.

accessories. Yes, a Lionel GG1 electric (the No. 2330) inevitably filled out the group of engines, exactly as Paul might have predicted.

OUT AND BACK

“For most of my childhood and early teenage years,” Paul reminisced, “I ran my trains nearly every day. They were my pride and joy. Not only did I keep them in perfect shape, but I also learned how to maintain and repair everything.”

Times and boys do change, however, and Paul willingly surrendered his assortment of Lionel trains to a local

charity when he prepared to leave home to attend college. He felt comfortable with the decision and hoped others would treasure them.

Times and minds do change, however, and Paul thought about retrieving his Lionel trains after he graduated and returned home. No such luck! The trains, supposedly given to a nearby retirement home, had vanished without a trace. He concluded there was nothing to do except remember the good times he once enjoyed.

But memories, especially those of favorite childhood toys, tend to stay

fresh in our minds. Paul never forgot his Lionel locomotives and cars. When in the early 1970s a fellow worker started talking about trains and a store in midtown Manhattan called Madison Hardware Co. that still sold postwar models, Paul's attention perked up. “How about we go there?” he asked his friend.

That first visit to Madison — and a brand-new No. 6464-450 Great Northern boxcar — inspired another and another and another. Paul was back in the hobby, determined to replace every single item he had played with as a boy. Before long, though, his goal changed to

COLOR SAMPLES



Lionel encouraged members of the Engineering Department to experiment with color and lettering schemes before final versions of freight and passenger cars were chosen for production. A rare example is the No. 6464-50 Minneapolis & St. Louis boxcar on the left. The green scheme imitated what the full-size railroad did and another manufacturer of O gauge trains (Auburn Model Trains) was already doing. Just why Lionel painted the cataloged version Tuscan Red remains a mystery. Paul notes how his decaled color sample has the “0000” associated with Lionel samples and the full name of the regional railroad on the right side. Perhaps the No. 6417 Pennsylvania RR porthole caboose left as an unpainted black plastic model before heat-stamped in white was being considered for the cataloged roster. Paul owns other preliminary freight cars in the same stark scheme.



Color samples created for production supervisors and sales executives to study stand out due to their rarity and interest. They shed light on what key people were looking for when expanding the line. These streamlined cars represent Lionel's attempt to enhance what it packed in high-end passenger outfits. Besides red stripes, the newcomers would also bear the name of the Santa Fe. The prototypes of a Pullman and a Vista-Dome with painted stripes and decaled markings (Paul also has a matching observation) led to the introduction of the Nos. 2560 series in 1959. Lionel ran the streamliners behind No. 2383 Santa Fe F3 A-A sets in Super O sets Nos. 2544W (cataloged for 1959 and '60) and 2576 (cataloged as the *Super Chief* for 1961).

finding one of everything that Lionel had cataloged during the post-World War II decades. The chase was on!

BOUNDLESS ENERGY

You may be familiar with runners who up their mileage until they're competing in marathons. A few of them become so inspired or fanatic they end up taking part in ultra-marathons, which span 50 miles or even twice that distance.

If there is an equivalent in train collecting circles, we can consider Paul an ultra-

Paul's been hot in pursuit of scarce Lionel models for more than half a century.

marathoner. After all, he's been hot in pursuit of scarce Lionel models for more than half a century. Regular visits to Madison Hardware coincided with trips to local and regional train shows, participation in auctions, and private deals. They have yielded a

spectacular collection we're proud to showcase here and in at least one future issue, especially because Paul, with inspiration from his wife, Clare, a highly regarded interior designer, has arranged everything logically and beautifully in his train room.

Highlights, as shown in some of the pictures presented here, include F3 cab units Lionel weighed adding to its product line, engineering mock-ups for slick motorized units and operating accessories, and experiments in the color of plastic product designers evaluated for a wide variety of body shells and flatcar loads.

Strolling through Paul's train room amounts to an education in how key supervisors and sales personnel at Lionel developed and prepared to manufacture and



Paul and Clare consider the collection of Lionel locomotives, rolling stock, accessories, and rarities a special feature of the beautiful home they continue to enhance with antique furniture, art, and family photographs.

market so many of the locomotives, rolling stock, and ancillary items that distinguished the lineup cataloged throughout the postwar era. Time, therefore, to share behind-the-scenes pictures and let you become as amazed as I was.

Here, we will focus on locomotives and rolling stock. In the future, we plan to turn our attention to motorized units and accessories, in particular the extraordinary assortment of prototypes in Paul's collection. **CTT**

BOXCAR MOCK-UPS



Particularly interesting to all collectors are the mock-ups of No. 6464 boxcars Lionel developed yet elected not to add to the cataloged line. Paul cherishes the examples he has acquired and can't help but wonder why executives rejected them. Among the beauties are these one-of-a-kind samples painted Boxcar Red and decorated for two regional lines lost to history. The original Norfolk Southern, whose roots dated from the late 19th century, ran between North Carolina and southeastern Virginia from 1942 until 1982. Its appeal to Lionel enthusiasts was, therefore, extremely limited. The same was true of the Tidewater Southern, a subsidiary of the Western Pacific, known primarily for the colorful herald on its rolling stock. Paul points out the old paper tags strung from each boxcar, considering them confirmation Lionel made the pair of unique boxcars.

gr green river hobbies

Check our website for directions,
hours, and ordering information!

We're so glad we
found Green River
Hobbies.

**Scale Trains, Models &
Hobby Supplies**

online at: **GRHobbies.com**

119 W Exchange St Geneseo, IL 61254
info@grhobbies.com • 309-944-2620



SHOWCASE-EXPRESS

Wall to Wall Expandable Display Case

Case Size Available: Z, N, HO, S, O, NEW Background Themes



Lighting Kits and Backgrounds Available

Join Top to Bottom
or End to End

714-842-0672

www.SHOWCASE-EXPRESS.com

DISPLAY SHELVES FOR YOUR TRAIN ROOM!

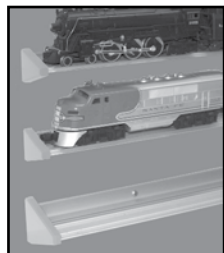


Satin Finish,
Hardened Anodized
Extruded Aluminum
No Brackets Needed
Raised Rails Hold
Your Trains in Place
6 Ft. Lengths,
Expandable with
Joiner Pins Supplied
Special Cutting
Available

Combination "HO/S" Gauge\$22.00
"O" Gauge\$30.00
Combination "O/STD/LGB" Gauge ...\$44.00
Plus UPS Shipping

RAIL STOPS - This
extremely versatile
product is designed
to fit our shelves or
similar shelving from
HO/S gauge or O
gauge to O/STD/LGB
gauge. RAIL STOPS
can be used any
place along your
shelves and will
prevent your trains
from being rolled
along the rails. RAIL
STOPS fit all track and can be used in place of
bumpers on train layouts.

RAIL STOPS are \$12.00 per dozen.
Plus shipping and handling.



RAIL END CAPS -
The newest
addition to Glenn
Snyder Display
Systems product
line. Designed to
trim the ends of
our shelves or
similar shelving.
RAIL END CAPS will
give a finished
look to the end of
your shelves and

will help prevent your trains from being
knocked off the ends.
Please specify when ordering: combination
"HO/S" gauge, "O" gauge or combination
"O/STD/LGB" gauge.
RAIL END CAPS are \$3.50 each, any size.
Plus shipping and handling.

GLENN SNYDER DISPLAY SYSTEMS
5940 Woodlee Court • Orchard Park, NY 14127
716-331-7681
e-mail: glenn@gsds.com • www.gsds.com
ALL PRODUCTS MADE IN USA

TRAINSHOW.COM
The best place to find Great
Train Shows in America

Greenberg's Train & Toy Show
America's Train & Toy Show since 1976

Great American Train Shows
Quality Train Shows from coast to coast

Great Midwest Train Show
The best place to buy & sell trains since 1971

World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show

Feb 10-11 Indianapolis, IN - State Fairgrounds
Mar 23-24 Cleveland, OH - IX Center
Showcasing Model Railroad's finest:
Manufacturers, Retailers, Operating Railroads
Free Riding Train, Demonstrations & More

SCHEDULE:

Feb 3-4 Costa Mesa, CA - OC Fair & Event Center
Feb 4 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Feb 10-11 Salt Lake City, UT - Cancelled!
Feb 10-11 Indianapolis, IN - Indiana State Fair
Feb 17-18 Ventura, CA - Fairgrounds & Event Ctr
Feb 24-25 San Jose, CA - Santa Clara Fairgrounds
Mar 2-3 Victorville, CA - San Bernardino Fair
Mar 3 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Mar 9-10 Edison, NJ - New Jersey Expo Center
Mar 9-10 Des Moines, IA - Iowa Events Center
Mar 16-17 East Moline, IL - The Bend Event Center
Mar 23-24 Wilmington, MA - Shriner's Auditorium
Mar 23-24 Cleveland, OH - IX Center
Apr 7 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
May 5 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

For complete schedule, information & tickets visit:

TrainShow.com

P.O. Box 1192 - Lombard, IL 60148

S Gauge Trains

Since
1981

engines
cars
track
structures
figures



68 Pg. Catalog
send \$10.00

American Models
11770 Green Oak Industrial Dr.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

www.americanmodels.com

TRAINS

Buy, Sell, Consign!
Get in the Action!

www.bodnarsauction.com

Online Auctions!

Member of the TCA
Collecting for over 50 years!

We Understand
Your Collection! **SOLD!**

BODNARS AUCTION
1-866-349-7378

Every era, every scale!

Trainz.com

Downsizing?

Sellmytrains.com

1-866-285-5840



Applesauce and pudding cups as well as containers for cheese, coffee creamer, and fast-food condiments can have a place on your layout. Paper towel and freezer bag rolls and even dog medication containers can also be repurposed into interesting items.



6

EASY
WAYS TO
REPURPOSE
KITCHEN
CONTAINERS

Adding unique details to your layout

STORY AND PHOTOS BY C.B. JACOBSEN

Did you ever look to your kitchen as a source for free items to make your layout more interesting? With a little paint and some imagination, items such as pudding cups, freezer packaging rolls, and fast-food condiment containers can become stock tanks, flatcar loads, and much more!

If you're looking for scale items, some of my tips won't make the grade. However, if you're looking for a few easy additions without spending a fortune, I have you covered with the six easy ideas shown here.

Maybe you've created something unique from a container.

We'd love to see your work — send us an email at editor@classictoytrains.com and then let us know just what you've discovered!



1

CATTLE STOCK TANKS

Our dog's heartworm medicine comes packaged in small plastic containers, just the right size for a cattle stock tank. They were simple to make; I just sprayed them with Rust-Oleum Professional Flat Black (No. 7578838) and let them dry. Another option is to paint them gray or silver to represent galvanized steel tanks. The tanks look great with a Lionel No. 3656 Operating Cattle Car & Corral set.



2

BALLAST AND GROUND COVER CONTAINERS

Coffee creamer containers can be used to store and dispense ballast and ground cover. I filled a couple of Coffee-Mate creamer containers with Woodland Scenics products (Nos. 1283 Coarse Dark Brown Crushed Rock and Stone and 1284 Natural Medium Talus). A different container originally came with dried cheese, but it now stores Woodland Scenics No. T50 Blended Earth turf.



3

PUDDING CUP LOADS

Single-serve pudding cups lend themselves nicely as loads for flatcars. A quick paint job and away they go! You can finish by adding decals, adhesive logos, or graphics. Their shape reminds me of the loads on the Lionel No. 6805 Radioactive Waste Car.



4

PIPE LOADS

Vacuum sealer bags come wrapped around a cardboard tube. You can use those sturdy tubes to create excellent pipe loads, smokestacks, culverts, and more. I cut mine down with a motor tool to any desired length and then paint them in different colors.



5

COIL OR VEHICLE COVERS

I spray-painted a plastic butter container with Rust-Oleum High-Heat Satin Black (No. 7778822) to make a coil or vehicle cover. Any flat black paint will work, but I like to use leftover paint when possible. Paint it a flat green and you have an Army version, blue for Navy, and so on. This item easily lends itself well to custom decals. Low-profile O scale vehicles fit neatly under the "cover."



6

STRIKE IT RICH

I spray-paint single-serving ranch dressing containers I picked up from a fast-food restaurant with a metallic gold paint to end up with stacks of gold. If you give the containers a final coat of a glossy lacquer or clear coat, they will shine brightly. You now have a stack of ingots to rival those safeguarded at Fort Knox! **CTT**



The No. 646 small Hudson, like most other steam engines that Lionel manufactured during the postwar period, can be repaired fairly easily and inexpensively no matter what the problem. Rusty trucks and bent mechanisms just need basic care and cleaning.

Sluggish performance of Lionel locomotive

WHAT'S NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR FOR A POSTWAR STEAMER?

Q I noticed rust on the trucks of my Lionel No. 646 steam engine. When I tried to run the postwar locomotive, operation was sluggish. The engine needed an unusual amount of transformer voltage to go around the track. I removed the cab and discovered the aluminum crosshead guide, where the valve gear linkages are attached, was bent on both sides of the guide. Further examination revealed little to no clearance between the valve gear and the crosshead during operation, which likely led to the damage. Is such damage indicative of normal wear and tear or a botched repair of the locomotive? Can the postwar locomotive be repaired? — *Donald McCombs, Fountain Hills, Ariz.*

A Most, if not all, Lionel steam engines from the postwar era can be repaired because parts are plentiful and most of the work doesn't require special equipment or tools. Your 646 Hudson may have been mishandled in the past, or it could have been repaired by someone unfamiliar with it. In any case, it certainly can be fixed. Good luck!

LOOKING FOR OLD LIONEL CATALOGS

Q Are there any online sources for vintage Lionel catalogs? Thanks.
— *David Hofmann, Mesa, Ariz.*

A The only source of electronic files of Lionel consumer catalogs for almost the entire 20th century (1900-95) was the set of DVDs put together about 10 years ago by John Holtmann. He eventually gave them to the Lionel Collectors Club of America, and that organization later made them available to paid members of the LCCA on its website.

For more recent catalogs, you'll probably have to accept paper copies, which are easily obtained from Internet auction websites and found in quantity at toy train shows. Lionel Trains has catalog PDFs on its website from 2011-2024.

BETTER OPERATION OF A LIONEL GATEMAN

Q I want to wire a postwar Lionel automatic gateman to a pair of separate, independent loops of track so a train on either loop passing over an insulated track section will activate one crossing signal. Will there be a short circuit if I wire one signal to two insulated track sections?
— *Daren Stanchak, Pittsburgh*

A The short answer is no. Both rails will be floating and both can be pulled to ground, even at the same time, without any problems.

FASTRACK SWITCHES WITH A TRADITIONAL TRANSFORMER

Q Will the switch tracks included in the Lionel Fastrack system work with a traditional Lionel transformer? Or do they need something bigger and more



A severed wire inside a Lionel No. 19828 Chicago & North Western operating cattle car from 1996 made it impossible to run. Fixing the entertaining stockcar proved to be straightforward.

Lionel cattle car doesn't work

Q My Lionel No. 19828 Chicago & North Western operating cattle car quit working. I removed the shell and saw the connection of the track shoe and wire had been severed. I'm not sure how to resolder it without removing the truck assembly. Since the car is stationary, I thought I might be able to wire it directly to the power source (a Lionel type-LW transformer), but I got nothing. I applied power to the black wire end, where it meets the coil, and to the coil while placing the second wire on the truck frame. Nothing! The plunger and doors move freely and easily. Any ideas? — *George Sisson, Owings, Md.*

A From what you have explained about your cattle car, it would seem there is a problem with the coil. Knowing that, I suggest you first check the other side of the coil and make sure that it's connected to ground. Using it in a stationary manner and connected directly to a transformer will work, so that's not your issue.

contemporary? Most of my trains were made before the Legacy brand of command control was available. — *John Maese, Staten Island, N.Y.*

A Yes, a traditional transformer can be used. Since the lanterns use LEDs, you can hook up quite a few before worrying about overloading the transformer.

BALKY BEACON

Q I power my Lionel No. 2129120 Christmas Rotary Beacon with an MTH No. Z-1000 transformer attached to a 14-volt accessory tap. I use a voltmeter to determine whether the beacon is getting 14 volts. When I turn on the beacon, it takes five minutes to get going, even after I cleaned grease off the

vibrating ring and the vinyl nubs of the rotating part. Applying powdered graphite didn't help. — *Dan Sladovich, Township of Washington, N.J.*

A I prefer to not use any lubrication at all on my rotary beacon. Instead, make sure everything is clean and not damaged. The original washer was made of rubber, and the fingers were quite flexible. Some reproduction washers are made from vinyl and are harder and more slippery. They can have three or six fingers, so see which one you like best. Also, the fact that your transformer uses a modified sine wave rather than a sinusoidal sine wave may be introducing more problems. The rapid rise time of the wave can cause the coil to jump.



What can be done when the motor of an American Flyer No. 312 Pacific doesn't operate but only buzzes and hums? Well, the reverse unit may need some careful work.

American Flyer Pacific does nothing but buzz

Q I bought an American Flyer S gauge No. 312 4-6-2 Pacific steam engine at a flea market. After I hooked wires to a Lionel transformer and touched them to the tender wheels, all I got was a buzzing noise. Touching the wires to the opposite wheels did the same. I opened up the engine and touched wires to the contact points on the motor, which hummed and moved a little but didn't turn over. What do you think the problem is? — *Frank Guenesso, Trumbauersville, Pa.*

A The reverse unit, which can be found in the locomotive or the tender, is usually the weak link. The buzzing you've been hearing is probably the coil energizing. You'll need to make sure all the wires are connected properly, the rotating drum is clean and undamaged, and the fingers are properly tensioned and clean.



SWITCHES & TRACK

for all 3 Rail O Gauge & O27 Trains

Demand them from your dealer or call us direct!

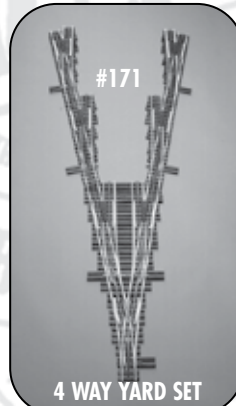
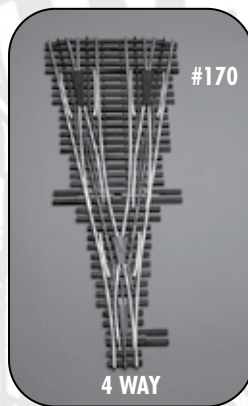
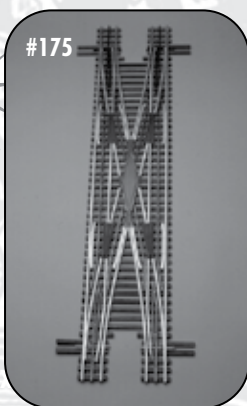
Visit us at: www.rossswitches.com

A sampling of some of our neat specialty switches.

All now available remote control ready to run!

Featuring
ALL WOOD TIES
and STEEL RAIL!

All RCS
Products
are Proudly
Hand Made
in the USA



Also
Available
DZ1000 lighted
switch machine
and controllers
Not Shown

ROSS CUSTOM SWITCHES

1-800-331-1395 CALL FOR FREE COLOR CATALOG





Drive wheels on a Lionel *Flying Yankee* train from the prewar era must have some traction to operate well. There's a trick to keeping the wheels pulling well

Traction for prewar drive wheels

Q The drive wheels on the Lionel No. 616W locomotive in my prewar No. 267W Flying Yankee set became so worn that the engine wobbled badly on straight track and couldn't negotiate curves. I had new drive wheels installed. Unfortunately, they're so smooth they provide little traction. What do you suggest for improving their traction? — *Dave Kinzelman, Sugarland, Texas*

A The *Flying Yankee* wasn't known for tractive effort. If the vestibules have the slide collectors, try adjusting them. They cause drag if they aren't adjusted properly.

UPGRADING MODERN-ERA DASH 8 DIESEL

Q I'm thinking about purchasing a Lionel No. 18211 Susquehanna Dash 8-40B road diesel cataloged in 1993. Will it be possible for me to upgrade this conventionally controlled locomotive with a horn with TrainMaster Command Control, RailSounds, and ElectroCouplers. If so, how would I do it and which commercial upgrade kits do you recommend? Thanks in advance for your help. — *James Moffatt, Lynchburg, Va.*

A The Electric Railroad Co. at 3rd Rail/Sunset Models makes upgrade kits. I suggest you check their website to see which of the boards they sell fit your application. This should take care of it.

LIONEL COUPLERS WITHOUT SPRING

Q I have Lionel cars from the 1960s with Delrin knuckle couplers. The springs that make the knuckles pop open have failed in one or both couplers. How do I fix them? — *Donn Hogg, Wheeling, W.Va.*

A If they are the knuckles with the integral spring and hinge pins, you can replace the knuckle with a standard die-cast metal knuckle, spring, and rivet. If they are the plastic knuckles that use the metal spring and steel hinge rivet, you will need to replace just those parts. **CTT**

Want to share? Email us at qsandas@classictoytrains.com or write to Classic Toy Trains, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha WI 53187-1612.

Your Southern Connection for Quality O Gauge Products

ROUNDHOUSE SOUTH

4611 S. Ridgewood Ave. • Port Orange, FL 32127
PH. 386-304-7002/7003 

Atlas 30138010 CSX SD40 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$519.95
Atlas 30138012 Milwaukee SD40 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$519.95
Atlas 30138017 Union Pacific SD40 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$519.95
Atlas 30138041 Amtrak Genesis Phase III (Pepsi) 3.0.....	\$599.95
Atlas 30138042 Amtrak Genesis Phase V (50th) 3.0.....	\$599.95
Atlas 30138045 Amtrak Genesis Phase V (Silver/Blue) 3.0.....	\$599.95
Atlas 30138139 CN (GT Heritage) SD70M-2 Proto 3.0.....	\$589.95
Atlas 30138141 VT Railway SD70M-2 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$589.95
Lionel 17660 Seaboard Extended Vision Caboose.....	\$129.00
Lionel 27657 Central of Georgia NE Style Caboose.....	\$79.95
Lionel 81808 Penn Central NSB Caboose.....	\$149.00
Lionel 82749 Pennsylvania GG-1 5 Stripe Vision Line.....	\$1995.00
Lionel 82752 Pennsylvania GG-1 1 Stripe Vision Line.....	\$1995.00
Lionel 82754 Penn Central GG-1 1 Stripe Vision Line.....	\$2395.00
MTH 20-20888-1 Pennsylvania 44 Tonner w/P3.0.....	\$449.95
MTH 20-21592-1, 20-21592-3, 20-21593-1, 20-21593-3 Florida East Coast F-3 ABBA with Proto 3.0 (Uncataloged).....	\$1399.95
MTH 20-21609-1 Reading VO1000 Proto 3.0.....	\$479.95
MTH 20-21662-1 Norfolk Southern Genset w/Proto 3.0.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21666-1 Canadian Pacific Genset P3.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21785-1 Florida East Coast GP-9 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$549.95
MTH 20-21786-1 Florida East Coast GP-9 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$549.95
MTH 20-3864-1 New York Central Hudson Proto 3.0.....	\$1299.95
MTH 20-3881-1 N&W 4-Truck Shay with Proto 3.0.....	\$1299.95
MTH 20-91833 Florida East Coast Bay Window Cab.....	\$99.95
MTH 20-20819-1 EMD ABA with Proto 3.0.....	\$549.95
MTH 30-20829-1 Pennsy Power & Light SW1500 P3.0.....	\$319.95
MTH 30-20863-1 Alaska Alco RS-1 with Proto 3.0.....	\$339.95
MTH 30-20887-1 C&NW AS616 Proto 3.0.....	\$339.95
MTH 30-20908-1 Pennsylvania SW9 with Proto 3.0.....	\$339.95
MTH 30-20911-1 Erie Lackawanna SW9 with Proto 3.0.....	\$339.95
MTH 30-20951-1 Western Pacific SD70ACe w/Cab P3.....	\$429.95
MTH 30-21156-1 Halloween ES44 with Proto 3.0.....	\$399.95

Freight charges added to ALL orders.
www.roundhousesouth.com

MIANNE
Customizeable Benchwork

The Fast Track to Layout Construction

Model ST-4x8TSR Large or Small We Build Them All!
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR ROLLING STOCK TO START ROLLING....



Custom 2 Level Layout 10' x 18'

Send \$1 for catalog or visit us on the web at:
www.miannebenchwork.com
Mianne Foley Woodworking 44A Union St, Attleboro, MA 02703
508-226-1600 fax 508-226-1666

Texas Trains & Diecast

 (972) 824-7123
We buy collections of all sizes!

30 Years of Experience
Finances Available
Ready to Travel
Confidential at all Times
Professional Treatment

www.txtrains.com
texas trains@yahoo.com

SMOKE PELLET MANUFACTURING BUSINESS FOR SALE

Includes everything you need:

- All Equipment for Manufacturing
- Materials and Suppliers List
- Previous Sales Data
- Previous Dealers



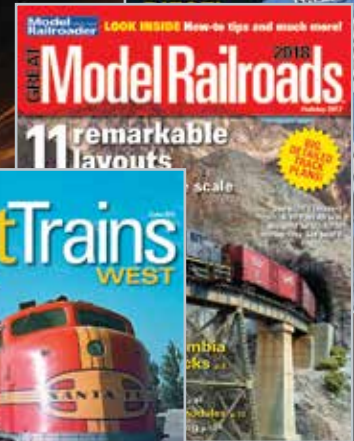
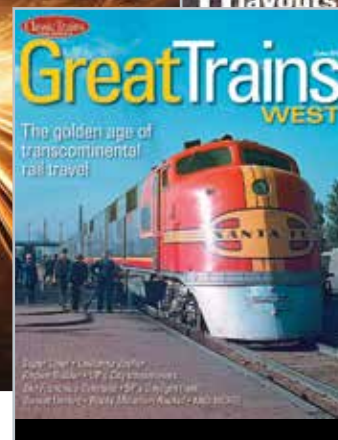



- Pent-Up Demand
- Outstanding Profit Margin
- Less than 2-Year Investment Payback

 **1.866.285.5840**  **customerservice@trainz.com**

ALL-NEW SPECIAL ISSUE ARCHIVES

ACCESS TO
100+
SPECIAL ISSUES



Trains.com Unlimited members now get access to more than 100 special issues in the archives! The all-new Special Issue Archives features curated titles like Locomotive 2018, Model Railroad Scenery, Electric Trains From A to Z, Great Trains West, and more!



**CHECK OUT THE 30-DAY FREE TRIAL OF TRAINS.COM
UNLIMITED TO START READING POPULAR ISSUES TODAY!**



VISIT US ONLINE:
TRAINS.COM/MEMBERSHIP

THE BEST IN MODELING & RAILROADS • ALL IN ONE STOP!

Trains

**Model
Railroader**

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

ClassicTrains
MAGAZINE

**Garden
RAILWAYS**

**trains.com
VIDEO**



It won't take very long for you to add diesel sounds to your American Flyer passenger or freight train when you use a kit sold by 3rd Rail and follow the author's instructions. Bill Clark explains how to upgrade your postwar Gilbert engines without risking their value.

Sound for Flyer passenger cars

AN EASY AND ENJOYABLE UPGRADE TO YOUR TRAINS

I run a mix of Gilbert American Flyer trains and newer S gauge models made by Lionel. Modern-era diesels often have electronic boards duplicating the sounds of full-size locomotives. I wanted to load a diesel sound board to a postwar passenger train.

FINDING THE KIT

I first had to learn what sound products were available for use in my project. I found a few and decided to use one by 3rd Rail of Sunset Models (3rdrail.com). That firm uses Lionel technology in its products.

I wanted to pull my train with a Flyer Alco PA, so I searched on the 3rd Rail website to find the board with sounds for that Gilbert engine: "ERR Diesel Railsounds Alco PA series" — priced at \$124.95 plus \$20 shipping.

The kit includes the board, a speaker with cable and baffle, a power and data cable assembly, a battery cable assembly, mounting hardware, heat-shrink tubing, and cable ties — everything except a 9-volt battery to maintain

power over breaks in the track. The website lets you listen to the sounds it puts out for the engine, horn, and bells.

Directions for installing the kit weren't included in the box. Instead, the 25-page manual is an online PDF available at www.3rdrail.com/err-3rdrail/Manuals/Rail-SoundsCmdr-Inst.pdf

GETTING TO WORK

Next, I needed to decide how to mount the kit in my S gauge train. I took the shells off the powered Alco A unit and the unpowered B unit. There was not enough room to install the components of the kit in either model. The Alco A unit contains the motors and the reverse unit. The B unit contains the horn, which I wanted to leave there to preserve the collector value of the model.

I put the kit in the first car behind the diesels where the sound would seem best. On a Flyer streamlined passenger set that's the combination car. Its shell has windows in only half its length, so I could conceal the sound components in the other half. The combina-

tion car, like other passenger cars, has a flat floor to accommodate the components.

The installation took less than an hour. To start, I had to make some alteration in the speaker. I'm sure the kit was made for O gauge trains so the speaker was too wide to sit flat on the floor and allow the shell of the car to be slipped on. Using a rotary tool, I took enough off both sides of the speaker's plastic enclosure to be able to fit the shell on.

The sound board was narrow enough to fit on the floor, but I did have to alter the shell on the inside. The shell has many plastic pillars threaded under the floor to install screws to hold the shell to the floor. I used a rotary tool to cut these down by ¼-inch to allow the space necessary for the board. I fastened the speaker, battery, and board to the car floor with double-stick foam tape to make removing those parts quick and easy.

Once the components were in place, I followed the photos and instructions to finish the wiring. There were parts left over. No worries — because the

kit has a number of uses to go with larger TrainMaster Command Control applications.

TIME FOR FUN

Placing the modified combination car on the track behind the Alco was a happy experience. It performed well and acted as I anticipated.

Being a TMCC-related product, it likes all the power you can give it — 17 volts from my Gilbert transformer enabled all the features to work best. Lower voltages (anything below 10 volts) meant the horn and bell sounds were more difficult to initiate. With an old Gilbert transformer, you'll need two of Lionel's sound control buttons in your track power system for horn and bell. **CTD**

Bill Clark writes this exclusive column for Classic Toy Trains. Besides having contributed more than 60 articles to S Gaugian, he continues to write for the National Association of S Gaugers Dispatch.

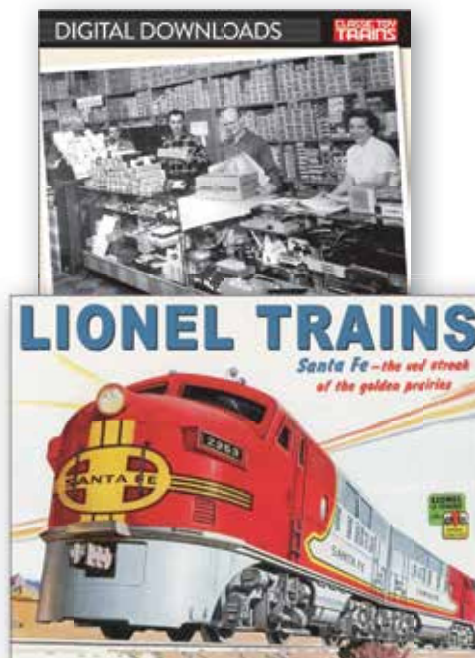
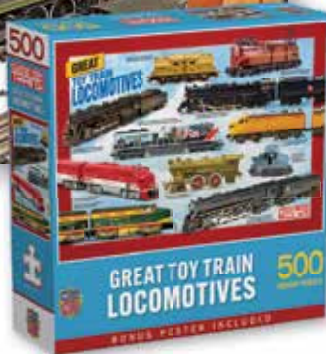
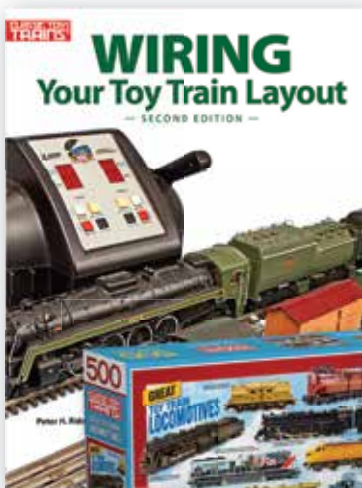
A final note:

Lionel cataloged a pair of boxcars equipped with diesel sounds from 2013 through 2018: Nos. 49064 New Haven and 49065 Union Pacific. I checked their units, and everything looked about the same as the 3rd Rail kit I had installed and tested. Better yet, the kit cost less than what mint versions of the two boxcars go for. I saved some money, wasn't limited to only those road names, and had fun with this project.

Great Products for Toy Train Enthusiasts!

Visit Kalmbach Hobby Store today where you'll find a wide variety of valuable products curated by the *Classic Toy Trains* magazine team, including:

- Books covering topics such as price guides, collectible classics, Lionel, toy train repair and maintenance, track plans, wiring and more.
- Magazines providing a deep look into high-interest topics.
- Perfect gift ideas for any toy train enthusiast including puzzles, signs, mugs, posters and more.
- The best tools available for building and finishing a layout.
- And much more!



Ballast Kits & More



816-252-4605 | www.brennansmodelrr.com

Arkansas Traveler Hobbies

Located in the heart of Bald Knob

Visit our 105 year old 1915 MoPac Depot, and Regional Rail Museum

400 Market Street • Bald Knob, AR 72010
501-RAILFAN (724-5326) or 870-692-8273
athtrains@yahoo.com

Lionel®, MTH Trains®

& All Scale Sales,
Factory TrainedService Center, Sales/
Consignment Services209 Rosemont Gdn
Lexington, KY 40503
859-694-8144

www.berkshiretrains.com

How long a backdrop do you need?
-single piece
-six foot long
photo backdrops that connect to infinity!Sceniking.com
...nothing comparesTinplate Repair Parts, Light Bulbs & Supplies
for Dealers, Collectors and Operators!
SUPER-FLEXIBLE WIRE for pick-up rollers, and...LIONEL-TYPE
2,3,4,5 and 6-WIRE
FLAT CABLE

WIRE-Plex®

2779 South Church Street
Suite 167, Burlington, NC 27215

Wire-Plex.com

Phone: (336) 549-0343 • Email: davis@wire-plex.com

HENNING'S TRAINS
Serving The Model Railroader Since 1939
Pre-War / Post-War Parts
COLLECTOR COLOR PAINT
Model Engineering Works
128 SOUTH LINE STREET LANSDALE, PA 19446
www.HENNINGSTRAINS.COM

TRAINS & MORE, LLC

AF TRAINS & PARTS

AFCC, NASG, TCA, TTCS & TTOS

P.O. Box 1751 • Manchester, CT 06045-1751
860-432-2124 • trainsmore@aol.com

www.trainsmore.com

Port Lines
HOBBY

www.portlines.com

doug@portlines.com
(978) 465-8798"Your S-Gauge
Specialists!"ON-LINE AMERICAN
FLYER PARTS CATALOGAF, Lionel, MTH, Am. Models,
& other S-gauge products!Gregory Hake Auctions
Vintage Train & Toy ExpertsBuying, Selling, Consigning
www.gregoryhakeauctions.com
314-239-8541

email:deborah@gregoryhakeauctions.com

LEN CARPARELLI
ACCURATE, AUTHENTIC, PROFESSIONAL
RESTORATIONS SINCE 1972.

L & L Model Train Restoration Co.
www.LenCarparelli.com
1 Orient Way, Suite F-348, Rutherford, NJ 07070 • (201) 438-1266
Visit our website to download our free catalog.

Millhouse River Studio
2541 River Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Div. Studio 2
Quality Products Made in USA!
Sale
Turntables
Transfer Tables
Coal Dumpers &
Coal Loaders

www.millhouseriverstudio.com
(716) 830-5267

www.raildesignservices.com
Design model railroad layouts in any scale or revamp any existing track plan to suit your specific requirements. Original railroad logos and signs. Custom structure and car building. Let us bring your dream railroad to life.

Michael Tylick, MMR
781 837-2511
413 262-1582

TK TRAINS
Phone 740-633-6607
500 Hall St, Building 1
Bridgeport, OH 43912
Just off I-70
O Gauge Trains, Track, Scenery,
Accessories and Much More!
Fully detailed, operating O gauge layout.
We have Lionel, MTH,
Atlas and many others!
Visit us online for great savings!
www.tandkhobby.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

This section is open to anyone who wants to sell or buy toy trains merchandise. CLASSIC TOY TRAINS reserves the right to edit undesirable copy or to refuse listing.

Word Rate per issue: 1 insertion - \$1.06 per word, 4 insertions - 92¢ per word. \$35 minimum order per issue. Payment must accompany the ad. To receive the discount you must order and prepay for all ads at one time. Count all initials, single numbers, groups of numbers (i.e. 4-6-4 or K4's), names, address number, street number each as one word. Example: R. Meister, 400 E Depot Ave., Waukesha, WI 53187 would count as 8 words.**Events Rate:** \$45 per issue (55 word maximum). Ads will contain the following information about the event: state, city, sponsoring organization and name of event, meet, auction or show, dates, location, times, admission fee, name and/or telephone number and/or email of person to

contact for information. Name, daytime telephone number and street address of the person providing the information is also required but need not be included in the ad. Unless otherwise requested, ads will be published in the issue month that the event occurs in. Additional months are available at the \$45 per issue fee. Please specify issue date(s).

All copy is set in standard 6 point type. First several words only set in bold face. If possible, ads should be sent typewritten and categorized to ensure accuracy.

For CTT's private records, please furnish a telephone number and when using a P.O. Box in your ad, a street address.

SEND YOUR ADS TO: Classic Toy Trains — Classified Advertising
21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612 Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
888 558-1544 Ext. 551
E-mail: classads@kaimbach.com

Events

CA, CARMICHAEL: Sac-Sierra TCA Train Show. Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608. Saturday, May 25, 2024, 10am-3pm. Admission \$10.00, children 12 and under FREE w/paid adult. Buy/Sell/Trade, operating layouts, free parking, food. Free train set drawing for 17 and under (must be present to win). Contact: Bryan Stanton at brsta@comcast.net**CA, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO:** Flyer Fest West, sponsored by the Golden Gate American Flyer Club, The Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue. Saturday, August 10, 2024, 10am-3pm. Admission: \$10, Family \$15. S gauge train sales and operating layouts. Contact Paul Guaraglia, 510-677-4062, info@ggafc.org**CO, DENVER:** Rocky Mountain Train Show. April 6-7, 2024. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO 80216. Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday 9:00am-4:00pm. 3 acres of model trains, all scales, 30 layouts, 700 sales tables, clinics and more. Admission \$14.00, under 12/scouts in uniform FREE. Discounted tickets available for military/first responders through VetTix.org. Free Parking. 303-364-0274. www.RockyMountainTrainShow.com**CT, ANSONIA:** Classic Shows, LLC will hold a Train and Toy Show on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 9:00am-2:00pm at Warsaw Park, 125 Pulaski Hwy (Route 243), Ansonia, CT 06401. Admission \$6.00, children 15 and under are free with an adult. For information, please call 203-926-1327 or go to: www.ClassicShowsLLC.com**FL, MELBOURNE:** The Melbourne Train and Toy Show. Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32935. Saturday, June 1, 2024, 9am-2pm. Admission: \$5, kids under 10 FREE. Vendor tables \$25 each or 3 or more \$20 each. Join us for trains, toys, and fun! Lunch/snacks available. For more information: SchultzSpaceCoastTrains@aol.com or 321-805-1963**FL, OCALA:** Lions Tri-Annual Train Show. First Christian Church, 1908 E. Fort King St., Ocala, FL 34471. Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00am-2:00pm. Model trains, accessories, detail parts and toys. Admission \$5.00, children 12 and under free w/paid adult. Bring two canned goods and receive \$1.00 off admission. Food/snacks available. Information: Bob 352-694-6381 or cell 813-203-3216**FL, PINELLAS PARK:** Suncoast Model Railroad Club Train Show/Open House. Saturday, April 6, 2024. SHOW- New venue! Pinellas Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Avenue N., Zip: 33781. 9am-3pm. Admission: \$8.00, Children \$3.00, under 11-free. Free parking. Food/snacks. Tables: Hugo Sacco: saccohugo459@gmail.com OPEN CLUB HOUSE: 12355 62nd Street North, Suite A, Largo, FL 33773. Admission: FREE. www.suncoastmrrc.com**MI, LINCOLN PARK:** Lincoln Park Train Club Train Show (Buy & Swap). Saturday, March 30, 2024, 11am-3pm. JFK Memorial Bldg., 3240 Ferris Ave., Lincoln Park, MI 48146. Admission is \$5.00, under 12 FREE. Vendor tables are \$20.00. For more info: Bob @ 734-675-5712 or Darrell @ 734-624-1462 or John @ 734-676-8645.

Events Continued

MI, WYOMING (GRAND RAPIDS): Greater Grand Rapids Spring Train Show. Saturday, May 4, 2024, 10:00am-3:00pm. HSB Inc., 5625 Burlingame Avenue SW. Adults \$5, under 12 FREE, 203 vendor-display tables, RR Books & Photos, Trains in all scales, Food, Lionel "Thomas-the-Train" drawing, door-prizes, and free parking. Vendor tables \$25 each. Contact Tom Klonowski, 847-691-1163, trainshow@grvrrc.org or www.grvrrc.org

MN, ST. CLOUD: Granite City Train Show and Sale. River's Edge Convention Center, 10 4th Ave South, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Saturday, March 9, 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm. \$6.00, kids 10 and under FREE! Buy/sell model/toy trains, books, videos, railroad collectibles. Operating model & toy train display. Win a LIONEL train set! 612-558-6484; GraniteCityTrainShow@gmail.com or visit: www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com

NC, GREENSBORO: Train Show, Lewis Recreation Center, 3110 Forest Lawn Dr. Greensboro, NC 27455. March 23-24, 2024. 9:00am-5:00pm both days. Admission \$10 (includes both days), \$2 off with flyer, children under 12 free with adult. Visit us: www.carolinamodelr.org. Contact Kenn at kcasell@tvc.com, 336-501-0233, or Ron at ronaldididonato195@gmail.com, 336-240-6881

NC, RALEIGH: Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club 6th Annual SPRING INTO TRAINS Show. Agri Supply Exposition Center, NC State Fairgrounds, 4825 Trinity Road. May 4-5, 9am-5pm. Admission: \$10 covers both days, children 12 and under admitted free with adult. 300 tables of model railroading and railroadiana. Contact George Lasley, 919-757-4503, email: gwlasley52@gmail.com, visit www.nrvclclub.net

NH, DOVER: The Great Northern New England Spring Train Show. Dover Lodge of Elks #184, 282 Durham Road, Dover, NH 03820. Saturday, April 6, 2024, 10:00am-3:00pm. Admission: \$5 per person, children under 12 free. Exhibitor tables \$35, includes entrance fee. All scales, operating layout, railroadiana items, and food on premises. Contact Ed Martin, efmenter@aol.com or 603-362-4300

NJ, BRICK: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Brick Train Show. Elks Lodge, 2491 Hopewell Avenue, Brick, NJ 08723. Sunday, May 19, 2024, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00, under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoastrainparts.com and click on The Brick Show.

NJ, EAST RUTHERFORD: METCA/NYSME Train Show. Saturday, April 6, 2024. St. Joseph's School, 120 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. 9am-2pm. METCA/NYSME members admitted free at 8am, public at 9am. Admission: \$5.00 per person 16 and up. Layouts, refreshments, and door prizes. For tables and information, contact the NYSME Office at 201-939-9212 or email: contact@modelengineers.org

NJ, WAYNE: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Wayne Train Show. P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470. Sunday, March 24, 2024, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00, under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoastrainparts.com and click on The Wayne Show.

NY, HAMBURG: TCA Upstate NY Chapter Toy Train and Collectible Toy Show! St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall, 4737 Lakeshore Rd. (Rt. 5), Hamburg, NY 14075. Saturday, March 23, 2024. TCA Members: 8:30am, General Public: 9:00am-2:30pm. Admission: Adult \$5.00, Children 12-17 \$3.00, Upstate Chapter Members & children under 12, free. Contact: Mike 716-913-4195, Email: tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com

NY, LINDENHURST: Long Island Classic Train Show/Swap Meet. Fireman's Memorial Park, 555 Heling Blvd. (north of Hartford St.), Lindenhurst, NY 11757. March 17, 2024. 8:30am-1:00pm. Adults \$5.00, under 16 free w/adult. 100+ tables. Handicap accessible. Contact: John Mitchell 917-596-3494 or John Miata 516-353-1751. Email: LIClassicTrainShow@hotmail.com

OH, TOLEDO: Greater Toledo Train & Toy Show. Owens Community College (SHAC), 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551. Sunday, March 10, 2024, 11:00am-3:00pm. "Early Birds" 9:00am-3:00pm. Adults \$7, Early Bird Adults \$10, Children 12 and under FREE w/ paid adult. Contact: Randy Ramsey, 1566 South Ave., Toledo, OH 43609, 419-215-4181, email: toledotoymasters@gmail.com, website: www.toymasters.org

OK, KELLYVILLE: Heartland Toy Train Association's Greater Tulsa Area Spring Train Show. Saturday, April 6, 2024, 9am-3pm. Creek County Fairgrounds, 17808 W OK-66, Kellyville, OK 74039 (I-44 Exit 211, Hwy 33 / Hwy 66). Operating layouts and door prizes. Admission: \$5.00, kids under 18 free. For information: www.heartlandtoytrain.org

PA, HAWLEY: Model Train Show & Sale. Hawley Fire Department, 17 Columbus Ave., Hawley, PA 18428. Sunday, April 28, 2024, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission \$3.00, under 12 free with adult. Bill Delling, 618 Fern St., Hawley, PA 18428, 570-226-3206.

PA, YORK: Reliance Fire Hall, The Barry King Memorial Train Show, 1341 W. Market St., York, PA 17404. April 15-17, 2024. 9am-5pm, Free Admission, Free Parking. All gauges of trains and vintage toys. 8-ft. tables for all 3 days are \$60 ea. For vendor information or show information contact Todd Metcalf 860-432-2124 or email: trainmore@aol.com

TN, BULLS GAP: 2nd Annual Train Show 2024 sponsored by Bulls Gap Railroad Museum. April 12 & 13 at Bulls Gap Community Center (139 S Main St). Friday, April 12th, 10am-7pm; Saturday, April 13th, 9am-5pm. Admission: \$5. Children under 12 FREE. Table setup: \$10 (April 11). Hot dogs, hamburgers & homemade chili available. Contact: Bill 423-393-4429.

TN, JOHNSON CITY: BIG TRAIN SHOW, May 31-June 1, 2024. Host: George L. Carter Railroad Museum. 330+ tables, 64,000 sq.ft. All scales, operating layouts, vendors, memorabilia, books, food. ETSU "Mini-Dome" Noon-6pm Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday. Admission: \$8 per day, under 12 Free. Free covered parking. Contact Roger Teinert 423-791-4937 or www.etsu.edu/railroad

VT, ST. ALBANS: Vermont Rails Show. Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, 890 Fairfax Rd., St. Albans City, VT 05478. (Interstate 89, Exit 19). Saturday, March 9, 2024, 10:00am-4:00pm. Adults \$8.00, children 6-12 \$2.00, children under 6 free. Sponsor: NWV Model Railroad Association. Contact: Ron Piro, 802-598-0905, or visit: www.nwvrailroad.org

WA, CHEHALIS: Lewis County Model Railroad Club, Annual Spring Train Show and Swap Meet. Southwest Washington Fair Grounds, Blue Pavilion Building, 2555 N. National Ave., Chehalis, WA 98532. April 6-7, 2024. Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-2:00pm. Admission \$5.00. Free parking. Contact information: Ted, 360-985-7788, or email: TedsTrains@LewisCounty.com

All listed events were confirmed as active at the time of press.
Please contact event sponsor for current status of the event.

S Gauge For Sale

AF TRAINS, PARTS, ACCESSORIES. Visit www.trainmore.com or send \$4.00 for printed catalog to Trains & More, P.O. Box 1751, Manchester, CT 06045-1751.

MASSIVE LIST OF GILBERT AND LIONEL AMERICAN FLYER: Updated daily. Original boxed sets, engines, cars, accessories, rare paper, catalogs and more, including boxed Plasticville, American Flyer and Plasticville parts. Buying all Flyer. Send \$4.25 postage, Judy Hajash, PO Box 5, Augusta, WV 26704-0005. 304-359-2194.

S Gauge Wanted

S-GAUGE TRAIN COLLECTIONS WANTED. American Flyer, S-Helper, etc. Call, email or send a list today. Peter Henningsen, 46 Market Pl., Milford, CT 06460. Phone: 203-804-3459, email: amerflyerwanted@optonline.net

O Gauge For Sale

LIONEL "SUPER O" TRACKAGE: All Super O BOUGHT & SOLD. Long time reliable supplier. Contact Mike at: hspanier@aol.com or call 708-845-0937

LIONEL MARX PLASTICVILLE: Big list of boxed sets, engines, cars, etc. Rare paper, catalogs, Lionel O, O27 & HO. Marx O & HO. Plasticville and Plasticville parts. Send \$3.00 postage, Judy Hajash, PO Box 5, Augusta, WV 26704-0005. 304-359-2194.

O Gauge Wanted

ALL TRAIN COLLECTORS- We need more trains to supply our large customer base. Modern era specialists- Lionel, MTH, K-Line, Williams, Weaver, 3rd Rail, etc. We buy collections, store inventories, and parts of all sizes and eras. Send us your list or call us today. We travel extensively all over the US and Canada. Trainz, 2740 Faith Industrial Dr., Suite 200, Buford, GA 30518. 866-285-5840, Scott@trainz.com Fax: 770-271-1295.

WE BUY ALL COLLECTIONS BIG & SMALL Lionel, American Flyer, K-Line, Marx, Weaver, Williams, Marklin, Hornby & more. Ready to travel, 40 years experience, confidential. Send us your lists today, 306 Sonoma Drive, Suite 773, Allen, TX 75013. www.txtrains.com, texastrains@yahoo.com, Phone: 972-824-7123

Standard Gauge For Sale

USA TRACK LLC. Traditional tubular tinplate Standard Gauge (2-1/8" gauge) toy train track made entirely in the USA. Fully compatible with vintage Standard Gauge track, reproduction Standard Gauge switches and Ross Custom Switches. Contact StandardGaugeTrack@gmail.com or visit www.StandardGaugeTrack.com

Miscellaneous Wanted

ALL ELECTRIC SLOT CARS WANTED. Any kind, any condition. Top dollar paid. PAUL at 248-760-6960. E-mail: slotcarguy@slotcarguy.com

MODEL AUTOMOBILE AND TRUCK KITS. Unbuilt or built. One piece to large collection. Good prices paid. Fred Sterns, 48 Standish, Buffalo, NY 14216, phone 716-838-6797, fax 716-836-6057, email: fsterns@aol.com

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGMENTS: We are looking for Lionel, MTH, American Flyer and Marx trains and collections for upcoming auctions. GREGORY HAKE AUCTIONS, Phone: 314-239-8541, Email: deborah@gregoryhakeauctions.com or visit: www.gregoryhakeauctions.com

CLOSING DATES:

Summer 2024 closes April 10

Fall 2024 closes July 10

Winter 2024 closes October 8



Go Digital!

Read *Classic Toy Trains* on your favorite device!

- Live links.
- Zoom in & magnify.
- Bookmark pages.



Trains.com/ctt/subscription-plans/

LEADING MODEL RETAILERS

Dealer Directory spaces are sold on a year's basis at \$142 per year, four issues, (payable in advance), or at \$40 per issue (billed to established accounts for one year minimum). Ads will be set in standard format typography. All insertions must be consecutive and may be invoiced if you have credit established with us. No mention of mail order business permitted. Closing dates listed in the Classifieds section. Call 888-558-1544, ext. 551.

CALIFORNIA • Burbank

All scales G through N, collectibles old & new. Authorized LGB, Lionel, MTH & Märklin dealer. One of the most complete train stores in So. Calif. UPS worldwide shipper. Visit our website at www.trainshack.com

THE TRAIN SHACK

1030 N. Hollywood Way 800-572-9929

CALIFORNIA • Concord

Largest selection in the East Bay, 93 foot operating HO layout. Buy - sell - trade - consign - repairs - detail parts in all scales. Lionel. Discount prices & friendly service. Website: www.just-trains.com

JUST TRAINS

5650 Imhoff Dr. 925-685-6566

CALIFORNIA • Pasadena

Model rail specialists since 1951. LGB, Lionel, O, S, On3, HO, HO n3, N, Z. Complete stock of brass imports, new & used. Books, tools, structures, detail parts. Open 7 days. www.thewhistlestop.com

THE ORIGINAL WHISTLE STOP INC.
2490 E. Colorado Blvd. 626-796-7791

CALIFORNIA • Yuba City

A full service model train store! Large inventory, HO, N, O & O27 Tinplate. Books, videos, collectors & gift items. Repair service. We buy old toy trains. www.westerndepot.com

THE WESTERN DEPOT

1650 Sierra Ave. #203 530-673-6776

DELAWARE • Ocean View

No sales tax at the Delaware seashore. Lionel new & used...also Atlas, Bachmann, MTH. We buy used trains. Auth. Lionel repairs. Large inventory of used HO trains. Open Tues-Sat 10-4:30, Closed Sun & Mon

SEASIDE HOBBIES

15 Daisey Ave. 302-539-1601

FLORIDA • Miami

Largest train store in the South. MTH, Lionel, LGB, HO & N. Five operating layouts. Open Mon - Sat 10am-5pm Sun (Nov-Jan) 10-1. Email us at rrtrains@aol.com

READY TO ROLL

831 NW 143rd Street 305-688-8868

FLORIDA • Tampa Bay - Pinellas Park
3000 sq. ft. Showroom. Lionel & MTH Dealer. NEW, USED, BUY/SELL - All Gauges N thru G. Over 9,000 Parts. Repair Services, Trains, Track, Sets, Scenic Supplies. Mon 1-5, Tue-Sat 10-6 www.zitniktrains.com

ZITNIK TRAINS

5193 73rd Ave. N. 727-201-9668

GEORGIA • Atlanta (Lilburn)

Lionel Train Top 10 Dealer
MTH Train Mega Dealer
400 SF Layout - HUGE Selection
www.legacystation.com

LEGACY STATION TRAINS

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy., #12 770-339-7780

INDIANA • Atlanta

Model train museum and hobby shop
MTH • Atlas • Lionel • scenery supplies
Layout construction help / workshop
Club sized 3-rail display layout
www.mrmuffinstrains.com

MR MUFFIN'S TRAINS

177 West Main 765-292-2022

INDIANA • Michigan City

Home of I Love Toy Trains DVDs - specializing in scale O gauge model railroading. Two large operating layouts. We buy/sell Lionel, Certified Lionel repair & service center. Web: tmbv.com
Sat 10-4 CST. Other days, call for an appt.

I LOVE TOY TRAINS - THE STORE

4212 West 1000 North 219-879-2822

IOWA • Dubuque

MTH, K-Line, Williams, Lionel, Gargraves, New & Used, Authorized MTH & Lionel Service Center. Mon - Sat 10-5; Sun 11-4
skippertim99@gmail.com

CATHY'S TREASURES

Electric RR Dealer/Upgrades 563-590-5318

KANSAS • Overland Park (KC Area)

O, S, HO, N, Z & G Scale
Lionel, MTH, A/F, Märklin, LGB & more!
New, Used & Vintage. Extensive scenery line.
Repair, custom work & layouts.
www.fredstrainshop.com

FRED'S TRAIN SHOP

8909 Santa Fe Dr. 913-383-3500

MARYLAND • Leonardtown

50+ years of trains experience. Largest contemporary tinplate dealer in the U.S. Complete lines of Lionel and MTH trains. Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 9-3, Sun-Tues closed.
SideTrackHobbies.com

SIDE TRACK HOBBIES

40845 Merchants Ln 301-475-5381

MASSACHUSETTS • Lexington

Parts and service, factory experienced. Parts list available, \$4.00. Tue - Fri 9-5. "The Coupler", repair hints, back issues. Email: dave@drinkertrains.com
<http://www.drinkertrains.com>

DR. TINKER'S ANTIQUE TOY TRAINS

1 Belfry Terrace 781-862-5798

MICHIGAN • Traverse City

Let your imagination run wild!
Z to G, Lionel, scenery, tools, structures, scratch-building supplies, special orders, ships, armor, cars, more...

TRAINS & THINGS HOBBIES

210 East Front St. 231-947-1353

MISSOURI • St. Louis

Largest selection of prewar & postwar in Midwest. Lionel, Am Flyer, Marx, Athearn, Proto, Atlas, etc.
Highest price for large collections.
www.trainstownsl.net

TRAIN TOWN

9836 Manchester Road 314-716-2755

NEVADA • Las Vegas

The area's most complete Lionel MPC, LTI selection. Buy, sell & trade. Postwar new & used. Accessories, parts and supplies.

THE TRAIN ENGINEER

2550 Chandler Ave #53 702-597-1754

NEVADA • Las Vegas

Big selection of HO, N and Lionel O Gauge trains. Only 7 miles west of the Las Vegas strip.
www.westsidetrainslv.com

WESTSIDE TRAINS

2960 S. Durango #117 702-254-9475

NEW JERSEY • Mountain Lakes

Direct dealer for LIONEL and MTH. The largest train store in northern NJ since 1974!
4 Showrooms plus Operating Layout. WE BUY OLD TRAINS - Lionel Service Station #556.
www.TRAIN-STATION.COM

THE TRAIN STATION

12 Romaine Rd. 973-263-1979

NEW JERSEY • Trenton/Ewing

Lionel Value-Added Dealer.
Authorized Service Station.
Lionel, MTH, Williams, Weaver, K-Line, GarGraves. New & Used O & O27.
Glen Roc Shopping Center.

TRAINS & THINGS

246 Scotch Rd. 609-883-8790

NEW YORK • Ardsley

Lionel, MTH & Atlas
Discount Pricing
www.tomstrainsny.com
Call for hours.

TOM'S TRAINS AT ARDSLEY

686 Saw Mill River Road 914-329-0354

NEW YORK • North Rose

Lionel MTH Sales and
Lionel Service Station #144
Monday - Friday 9-5, Saturday 10-4
(Saturday hours October - April only)
www.gardnerthetraindoctor.com

GARDNER, "THE TRAIN DOCTOR"

8967 Ridge Rd., 1 mi E of 14 315-483-6577

NEW YORK • Staten Island

We are your source for
O gauge trains & accessories.
We carry MTH, Lionel, Atlas O & Gargraves.
<https://e-zcatch.square.site/shop/e-zcatch@verizon.net>

E-Z CATCH MODEL TRAIN SHOP

5 Tysen St. 718-727-7373

NORTH CAROLINA • Winston (Salem)

K-Line Superstore, MTH, Lionel. Large selection of older MTH. First in O gauge. In-store layout! Located off I-40, Tues-Sat 9:30am-5pm. E-mail: jkonc52032@aol.com
www.trainloft.com Celebrating 20 years!

THE TRAIN LOFT

4007B Country Club Rd. 336-760-9817

OHIO • Oberlin (W. Cleveland)

MTH Service Center. Authorized dealer for MTH, Lionel, Atlas, Woodland Scenics. Closed Sun & Mon
30 miles west of Cleveland - off State Rte. 20
www.stockyardexpressllc.com

STOCKYARD EXPRESS

49293 Plate Rd. 440-774-2131

OREGON • Portland

Full service train shop.
Lionel, 3-Rail, American Flyer
New-used buy-consignments
T-F 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4. Closed Monday
www.hobbysmith.com 1-877-284-1912

THE HOBBY SMITH

1809 NE Cesar Chavez Blvd. 503-284-1912

OREGON • Portland

Your complete model railroad store.
Gauges Z through G.
Lionel, MTH, Atlas, K-Line
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday
www.wsor.com

WHISTLE STOP TRAINS

11724 SE Division St. 503-761-1822

PENNSYLVANIA • Blue Ridge Summit

The Exclusive model railroad store.
From N to G, we stock it all.
OPEN 7 days a week.
Only minutes from Frederick, MD.
www.mainlinehobby.com

MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY

15066 Buchanan Trail E. 717-794-2860

PENNSYLVANIA • Broomall

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, Atlas & MTH
HO, N, ON30, Standard O & S gauges
bought, sold & traded. Auth. service station.
www.nstrains.com

NICHOLAS SMITH TRAINS

2343 West Chester Pike 610-353-8585

PENNSYLVANIA • Greensburg

Authorized Dealer of Lionel, Atlas-O, MTH, N to G, Track, Remotes, Buildings, Accessories.
Buy, Sell, Trade, Repair. Mon-Sat Noon-6pm
5,500+ SqFt. Exclusively Trains! 20,000+ items

BRADY'S TRAIN OUTLET

1046 S. Main Street 724-838-8448

PENNSYLVANIA • Hanover

Lionel, American Flyer & MTH.
New Lionel & MTH at discount prices.
Standard O & S gauges bought, sold & repaired. Authorized service station.
20 min. from York PA. Tue-Sat 12-6

TOY TRAINS UNLIMITED

38 York St. 717-637-4717

PENNSYLVANIA • Hatboro

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, MTH, Märklin, Bachmann, Williams. HO, N & Z. We buy, sell & repair. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat & Sun 10-4
www.JoesTrainStation.com

JOE'S TRAIN STATION

283 E. County Line Rd. 215-322-5182

PENNSYLVANIA • New Castle

Buy/sell/trade, repair all types of trains.
Giant Lionel village display during the holiday season, November - January
Call for hours. Email: trainplum@yahoo.com
www.undergroundrrshop.com

THE UNDERGROUND RR SHOPPE

1906 Wilmington Rd. 724-652-4912

PENNSYLVANIA • Strasburg

From trains to dioramas to scenery, everything for the layout builder. Open 7 days a week.
N, HO, O, Lionel, LGB
Buy, sell, trade used trains. Located adjacent to Choo Choo Barn. www.etrainshop.com

STRASBURG TRAIN SHOP

226 Gap Road 717-687-0464

PENNSYLVANIA • Zelienople

Lionel, MTH, Atlas O, Ross Custom Switches
GarGraves, Woodland Scenics
Please call or visit our website for hours.
www.cttrains.com

CT MCCORMICK HARDWARE

147 S. Main St. 724-452-6130

SOUTH CAROLINA • West Columbia

All scales, all major brands of model railroad equipment.
We buy & sell used Lionel trains.
Open daily 10-6. Closed Sun.

NEW BROOKLAND RR & HOBBY SHOP

405 State St. 803-791-3958

TENNESSEE • Murfreesboro

Authorized Lionel Dealer, Pre-War, Post-War & Modern. Hundreds of rolling stock cars. Large inventory of engines and accessories including O, HO, & N Scale. Monday - Saturday 9-5

THOR'S

416-F Medical Center Pkwy. 615-895-6918

TEXAS • Dallas

Official Lionel Layout Builder Since 2001
Train engineer shop/showroom includes: Custom Layouts, Modulars, Model Stations, Bridge Kits...come see...there's always something new!! www.TWTrainWorxStore.com

TW TRAINWORX

2808 McGowan St. 877-881-4997

VIRGINIA • Ashland (Richmond)

OPEN 7 DAYS: Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 11-4
Personal service/repairs/layout ideas. We ship. Gauge G, O, HO, N, Thomas Wooden, & more. I-95, EXIT 92, ONLY 1.2 Miles West to tracks.
www.trainandtoytrains.com

TINY TIM'S TOYS & TRAINS

104 S. Railroad Ave. 804-368-0063

VIRGINIA • Manassas

Northern Virginia's largest & most complete train store for new & gently used Lionel, MTH & Bachmann. We carry Standard, O, O-27, S, HO & N. Expert repairs.
danditrains@comcast.net

TOY TRAINS & COLLECTIBLES

7216 New Market Court 571-379-5497

VIRGINIA/MARYLAND • Manassas, VA

Full service storefront & online store. All makes & scales. New/used trains sales, service, repair & upgrades. All scales & Digitrax dealer.
Online Sales Visit www.traindepot.biz

TRAIN DEPOT

7249 Gabe Ct. 703-953-3767

WASHINGTON • Burien (Seattle)

Close to SEA-TAC airport - short drive from downtown Seattle. New & vintage electric trains in all scales, Tues - Sat 11-6
www.electrictainshop.com

THE ELECTRIC TRAIN SHOP

625 SW 152nd St. 206-244-7077

WASHINGTON • Kirkland

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, HO, N.
Buy, sell, and repair.
Supplying all your railroading needs.
Open Mon-Sat.
www.eastsidetrains.com

EASTSIDE TRAINS, INC.

217 Central Way 425-828-4098

WEST VIRGINIA • Wheeling

Largest Selection of Trains in the Valley
Buy - Sell - Trade - New & Used Trains
MTH-Weaver-Williams-Lionel-Atlas-Dept 56
M, F 12-7, Tu, W, Th 12-6, Sat 10-3
www.patstrains.com

PATRICK'S TRAINS

142 29th Street 304-232-0714

CANADA-BC • Savona

Model trains in G, O, S, HO, N, Z. Old toy trains, railway antiques, art, books, DVDs, souvenirs and Thomas too. Canadian road names a specialty. 20 min. west of Kamloops.
www.kellyskaboose.ca

KELLY'S KABOOSE, THE RAILWAY STORE

6648 Savona Access Rd. 250-377-8510

CANADA-ON • Toronto (Markham)

Model Railroad Specialists since 1962
Lionel Authorized Distributor & Repair Center
All Scales - Special Orders
Closed Mondays www.georgestrains.com

GEORGE'S TRAINS LTD.

550 Alden Rd., Unit 101 905-470-6200

Run your Retail
Directory ad in
the next issue of
Classic Toy Trains!

Call 888-558-1544,
ext. 551 for more information.

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

For more, follow Classic Toy Trains on Facebook!
Go to Facebook.com/ClassicToyTrains today!

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR READERS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS OUR ADVERTISERS. If you do not receive your merchandise or a reply from an advertiser within a reasonable period, please contact us with details about your order. *Classic Toy Trains* magazine, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53186. The Advertiser Index is provided as a service to *Classic Toy Trains* magazine readers. The magazine is not responsible for omissions or for typographical errors in names or page numbers.

American Models	53	Lionel Operating Train Society Inc.....	13
Bodnar's Auction Sales.....	53	Mario's Trains	15
Brady's Train Outlet.....	15	Menard, Inc.....	5, 67
Brian's Train Room	15	Mianne Benchworks	58
Charles Ro Supply Co.....	2	Midwest Train Show.....	53
Classic Toy Trains Products.....	61	Nicholas Smith Trains	19
East Coast Enterprises	15	Rich Roman.....	15
Eastside Trains.....	27	Ross Custom Switches.....	57
Entertainment, Inc.....	68	Roundhouse South.....	58
Gargraves Trackage Corp.....	15	S & W Parts Supply	15
Glenn Snyder Display Systems	53	Showcase Express	53
Great Train Expo.....	53	Train & Toy Collection Buyer.....	58
Green River Hobbies	53	Trains.com	59
Greenberg Shows.....	53	TrainWorld	15
Grzyboski's Trains	7	Trainz.com	53, 58
Lionel Collectors Club America.....	17	Western Depot, The	16

MORE TOY TRAINS!

TRAINS.COM/CTT



75 years with Lionel trains

Read the story of longtime contributor Stan Trzoniec's time spent in the hobby. Stan documented his progress with plenty of photographs along the way.



Meet the modeler: Bill Clark

The S gauge columnist shares memories of his first train set (he still has it), his biggest modeling success, and more.



History of the 6464 boxcar

Lionel introduced the first of its No. 6464 near-scale boxcars in 1953. Senior Editor Roger Carp discusses their history and significance in this article.



trains.com



Embrace the rust

■ Longtime friends introduced me to a neighbor who was ready to pass along his childhood trains. I was happy to give the Lionel prewar and post-war models a new home. Yet as I reviewed his various engines, rolling stock, and accessories, I found that rust had gotten the best of them.

I decided that, based on their condition, only a basic clean-up was in order. I took advantage of the situation to create unique scenes. In one photo, you'll see the workers repairing the worn roof. As for the Lionel No. 671 6-8-6 Turbine, I staged a photo, rust and all. — ANDY CAULFIELD



Make replacement Lionel logs

■ When I find Lionel modern-era dump cars (like the No. 16611 or No. 16715) at a train show, they are often missing the logs. Here's an easy way to make new logs.

First, I purchase a $\frac{3}{8}$ " or $\frac{7}{16}$ " by 48" wood dowel at a hardware store. Then I choose 5 inches long as my measurement, but you can use any length that fits your car. I mark the dowel and cut it to size, using a saw and miter box for straight edges. Next, I smooth the ends using a file or sandpaper.

I finish by wiping any dust from the cut dowel pieces and staining them. I generally use dark furniture polish on a cloth, but any stain will work fine. Then I wipe off excess with the cloth and let everything dry before enjoying my new logs! —JOHN PALMISANO **CTT**

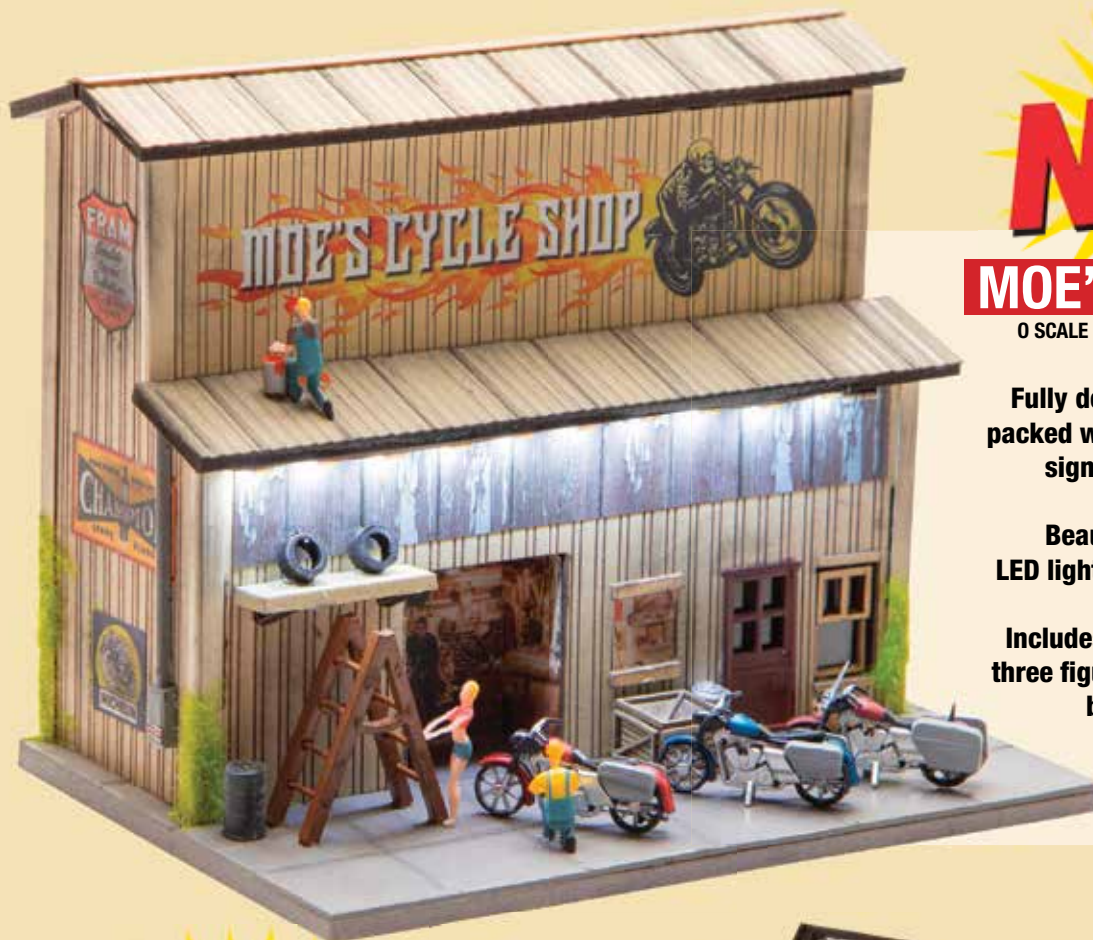


Materials:

- Wood dowel
- Dark furniture polish or stain
- File or sandpaper
- Ruler or tape measure
- Fine-tooth saw (miter box recommended)
- Pencil
- Cloth
- Rubber gloves
- Protective eye wear

Want to share? Write to "Tips" at Classic Toy Trains, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, or email us at tips@classictoytrains.com and put the word "tips" in the subject line. We'll pay you \$25 for any tip we publish unless it was contained in a previously published article.

HANDCRAFTED @ Scale STRUCTURES



NEW!

MOE'S CYCLE SHOP

O SCALE (275-9251) | HO SCALE (275-9252)

Fully decorated motorcycle shop packed with cool details like vintage signs, ivy, and much more!

Beautifully lit exterior with LED lights under the lower awning!

Includes three scale motorcycles, three figures, ladder, oil drum, tires, boxes, and Jack the German Shepherd!

NEW!

JIMBO'S GYM

O SCALE (275-9253) | HO SCALE (275-9254)

Fully lit modern building with fully decorated interior and extra large windows for maximum visibility!

First floor coffee shop with tables and chairs, barista, and customers

Second floor gym and yoga studio with exercise balls, yoga mats, treadmills and mirrored walls



For more information and to order, visit [MENARDS.COM/TRAINS](https://www.menards.com/trains)

WORLD'S LARGEST MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY

25,000 Sq. Ft.

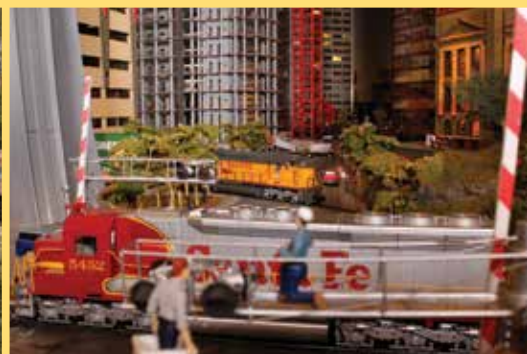


AMERICA'S MOST AMAZING FAMILY ATTRACTION!

- "Certificate of Excellence" - *Trip Advisor*
- "Standout in Ohio Tourism" - *Ohio Traveler*
- "Travel Gem" - *AAA*
- "Best Family Fun Day" - *Best of Ohio*



- Train Journey
- Imagination Junction
- American Railroad Museum
- Expo Center/Marble Museum
- A-Maze-N Funhouse
- Coney Island Replica
- Hobby/Toy Shop
- Gift Shop



ENTERTRAINMENT JUNCTION

www.EnterTRAINmentJunction.com

7379 Squire Court
Cincinnati, OH 45069
(513) 898-8000

