

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW! LIONEL TURNS 125

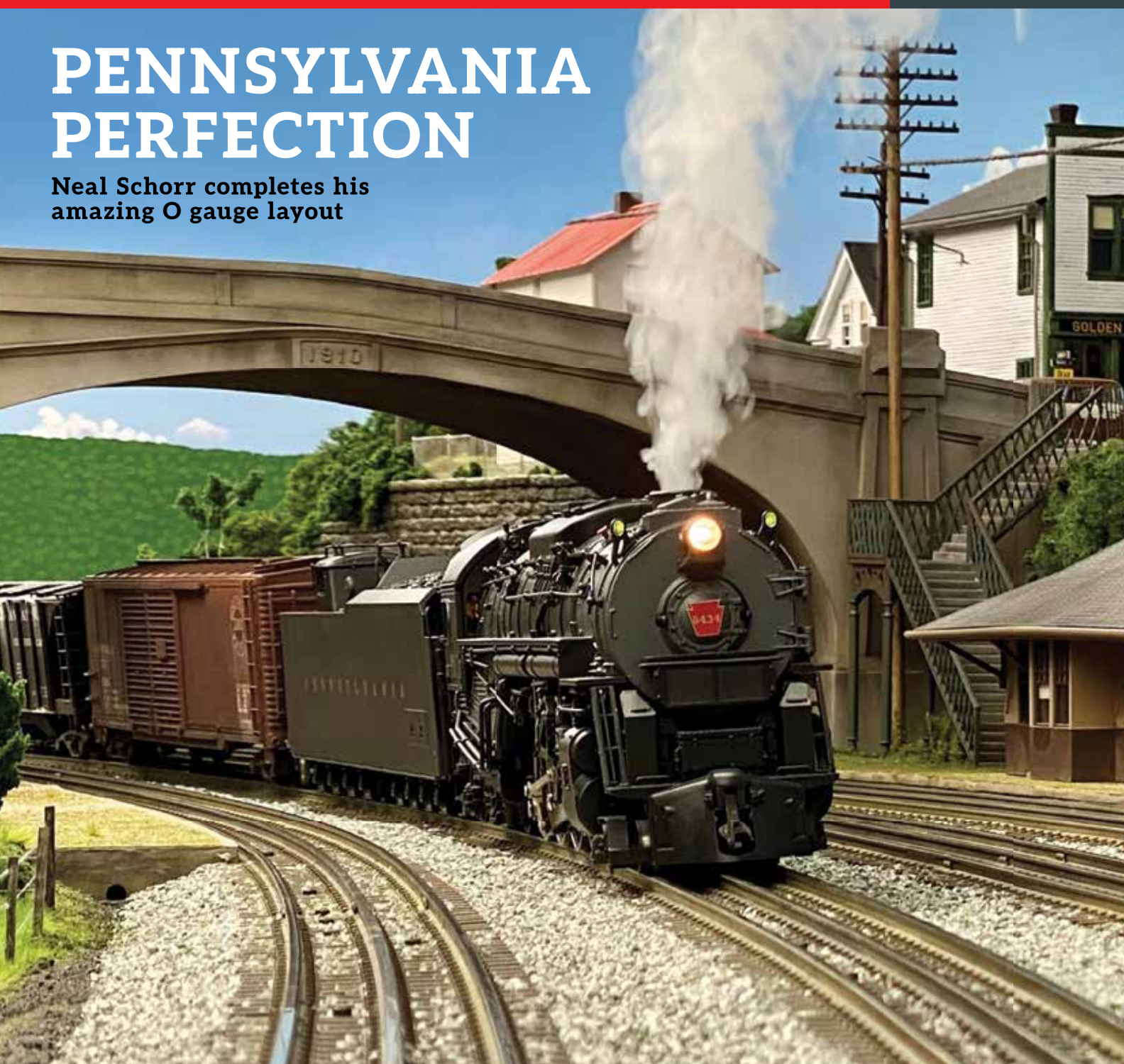
CLASSIC TOY TRAINS®



WIRING BASICS
FOR YOUR TOY
TRAIN LAYOUT

PENNSYLVANIA PERFECTION

Neal Schorr completes his
amazing O gauge layout





GRANDMA'S HOUSE

O (275-9376) | HO (275-9377)



LIAM'S FROZEN CUSTARD

O (275-9284) | HO (275-9285)



SOOTY'S MINE SHAFT #12

O (275-9405) | HO (275-9406)



SINCLAIR® STATION

O (275-9413) | HO (275-9414)



SOOTY'S COAL TIPPLE

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



JIMBO'S GYM

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



MOE'S CYCLE SHOP

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



CABOOSE COFFEE

O (275-9034)



GRANDPA JACK'S HOBBY SHOP

O (275-0616) | HO (275-0617)



ROCKET DINER

O (279-8322) | HO (279-8309)



CRIPPLE CREEK WATER TOWER

O (279-5924) | HO (279-5878)



MENARDS® STORE

O (275-9120)



PARKING GARAGE

O (279-4392)



M&M'S® UFO SCENE

O (279-6130) | HO (279-6916)



ONE POLICE PLAZA

O (279-4435)



LAMONT LANES

O (275-9140) | HO (275-9205)



TAMPA TOWERS

O (279-4432)



FURY MOTORS

O (275-9025) | HO (275-9026)



CRIPPLE CREEK GENERAL STORE

O (279-8306)



CRIPPLE CREEK SEED & FEED

O (275-9378) | HO (275-9379)



CALAMITY CABOOSE WORKS

O (275-9250)



FEDEX® FREIGHT BUILDING

O (279-6395)



AMERICAN MATERIALS #1

O (279-4434) | HO (279-5043)



WAR OF THE WORLDS

O (279-8287)



TIDE® SOAP FACTORY

O (279-5518) | HO (279-5877)



NATIONAL POWER & LIGHT

O (279-4844) | HO (279-5021)



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

O (279-8283)



SPRECHER™ BREWERY

O (279-4493)



COUNTY HOTEL

O (279-4427)



CRIPPLE CREEK SAND & GRAVEL

O (275-9121)



GAMER & THRONES

O (279-4428) | HO (279-5141)



TRINITY CHURCH

O (279-6151) | HO (279-6362)



METROPOLIS THEATER

O (279-8489)



CRIPPLE CREEK COUNTY JAIL

O (279-8490)



HALLS OF HANDSOME

O (279-8488)



CRIPPLE CREEK TRACTOR REPAIR

O (279-8487)



TEXACO® BEAM PUMP

O (275-9394) | HO (275-9395)



AMTRAK STATION

O (279-4523)



SCHNEIDER FREIGHT BUILDING

O (279-5098)



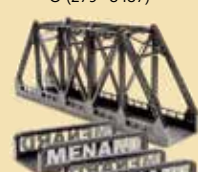
LIGHTED WATER TOWER

O (275-9298)



MENARD LIGHTED BRIDGE

O - Single Track (275-9124)
O - Dual Track (275-9125)



3-PIECE TRUSS & GIRDER BRIDGE SET

O (275-9126)



- 20 COVER STORY**
Filling The Gap
A section of this well-known layout is finally completed
BY NEAL A. SCHORR
- 28 Lionel's postwar military switchers**
These hardworking engines were based on Army and Navy prototypes
BY TERRY THOMPSON
- 30 Basics of toy train layout wiring**
How electricity works for anyone just getting started
BY STAN TRZONIEC

- 34 WEEKEND WORKSHOP**
Enhancing a Plasticville switch tower
Hobby paints and commercial parts do the job
BY ANTHONY ARRAO
- 36 Realism upgrades toys on a Flyer layout**
Scenery improves vintage trains and accessories
BY ROGER CARP
- 42 Modern Lionel and DC power**
First and final sets with this feature
BY MICHAEL CONNOR



- 44 Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains!**
Introducing the latest book by CTT's Roger Carp
- 46 Lionel turns 125!**
CEO Howard Hitchcock talks about the brand's anniversary, new products, and the future
BY RENE SCHWEITZER
- 50 Lionel's great innovation for 1938**
How the uncoupling track became the unloading track
BY BRUCE C. GREENBERG, PH.D.
- 52 TRACK PLAN YOU CAN BUILD**
Build the Marshfield & Old Colony RR
An around-the-room plan with easy access
BY MICHAEL TYLICK
- 54 Madison marketing 102**
Tank cars were a specialty
BY PAUL LEONE PETERS

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Editor's desk**
Solving a Marx mystery
- 6 Your letters**
- 8 Your photos**
- 12 News & reviews**
Lionel U28C diesel, MTH Bump-N-Go trolley, Menards mine shaft, custom runs, and more
- 18 Collectible classic**
Lionel's No. 395 Floodlight Tower
- 58 Questions & answers**
Wire a signal bridge, remove Flyer shells, prevent running in reverse, and much more
- 63 Ad index**
- 66 Tips & tricks**
Inexpensive ballast container, fix that unsightly wire

Solving a Marx mystery

Discovering the first train set I operated

My maternal grandparents had a Marx train set leftover from my uncles' playthings from the 1950s that I discovered hidden under a bed. My sisters and I visited their dairy farm often as kids; in the evening, when the adults were milking the cows, we often set up the train set in the living room.

Of course, we'd run it as fast as possible! I remember sparks flying as the engine flew off the tracks. The thrill of running that engine—in secret—was quite exciting. It was unlike any other toy I had access to.

I wasn't able to identify the old Marx set until recently, with help from contributor Eric Beheim. Based on the timeframe and my few memories, he was able to narrow it down to a passenger set offered by Sears, Roebuck & Co. in 1956. The Sears Wish Book showed set No. 49 N 9624 with twin Monon FM diesels and three passenger cars. Eric kindly provided me with a photo of the beautifully lithographed locomotive.

Sadly, the set has disappeared. My late uncle had it in his possession until his death in 2018, but my aunt hasn't been able to locate it. That doesn't really matter because I still have my memories and can remember the trains fondly.

You can find a longer version of this story, with more photos, on Trains.com. Search for "Marx mystery." In the meantime, we hope many of you will share similar stories with us.



Rene Schweitzer

Rene Schweitzer, Editor

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

HOORAY, Q&A IS HERE TO STAY!

A heartfelt thank you from the readers who contacted me about my Spring issue editorial, the future of the Q&A column. I received an overwhelming amount of support for the column. Do not worry; the column is staying in our pages. In fact, I increased the length of the column for this issue. If you have a question to submit for the column, please email either editor@ClassicToyTrains.com or qsandas@ClassicToyTrains.com.

» SUBMISSIONS?

Articles and photos are paid after publication. 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*, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Suite 103, Brookfield WI 53045. Submission guidelines are available at trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines. *Classic Toy Trains* assumes unsolicited materials are contributed gratis. We assume no responsibility for the safe return of unsolicited material.

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
Roger Carp Senior Editor
Lisa M. Schroeder Assistant Design Director
Cody Grivno Group Technical Editor
Bob Keller, Chris Montagna, Stan Trzoniec Contributing Editors
Monica Freitag Editorial Assistant
Kellie Jaeger Illustrator
Production Director Kelly Kramer Weekley
Operations Specialist Melissa Valuch
Production Specialist Sue Hollinger-Klahn
Martha Stanczak Ad Sales Representative

TRAINS.COM

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

FIRECROWN

Chief Executive Officer Craig Fuller
President David Bradford
Chief Strategy Officer Keith Beckman
Chief Commercial Officer Preston Brown
Chief Operations Officer Nicole McGuire
Chief Financial Officer Lan Phan
Vice President, Finance/Controller Amanda Joyce
Vice President, Creative Barry Carpenter
Group President, Hobby Division Nicole McGuire
Group President, Aviation Division David Carr
Group President, Marine Division Glenn Sandridge
Vice President, General Counsel Darren Caputo
Human Resources Director Suzie Matoh

Liz Runyon Circulation Director
Angela Cotey Director of Digital Strategy
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

■ ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Martha Stanczak
Email: martha.stanczak@firecrown.com

■ RETAIL ORDERS & INQUIRIES

Selling *Classic Toy Trains* magazine or products in your store:
Email: terri.meunier@firecrown.com

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.

Copyright © 2025 Firecrown Media Inc., all rights reserved. This publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission. Printed in U.S.A. Lionel and Gilbert catalog art reprinted with the permission of The Lionel Corporation.



FIRECROWN



gr green river hobbies

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

Get on board with 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



Engineer Scout



Blow the whistle! Blast the horn! East Main Trains store is now open!
240-288-3330

BUY, SELL, REPAIR.
O & HO GAUGE - MTH, LIONEL & ATLAS

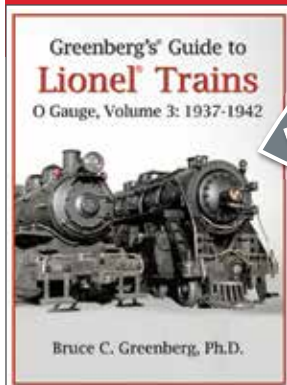
WWW.EASTMAINTRAINS.COM

use code: EMTCTT5
for 5% off your first order!

6 East Main Street, Thurmont, MD 21788



THE FOUR ESSENTIAL LIONEL COLLECTOR GUIDES: 1901-'42 • BY BRUCE GREENBERG

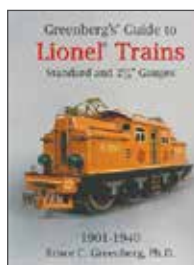


NEWEST

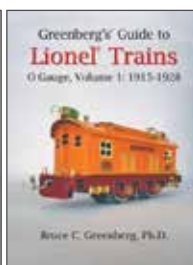
**Lionel O Ga.
Volume 3,
1937-1942**

**FOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE
(brinkmannpub.com)**

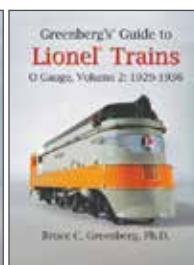
or call 571-723-2333 or email
bruceCgreenberg1@gmail.com



Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges



Lionel O Gauge, Vol. 1, 1915-1928



Lionel O Gauge, Vol. 2, 1929-1936

TRAINZ

- New & Collectible Model Trains in Every Scale
- Over 30,000 Train Parts
- Exploded View Diagrams & Online Train Repair Classes
- We Buy Collections!



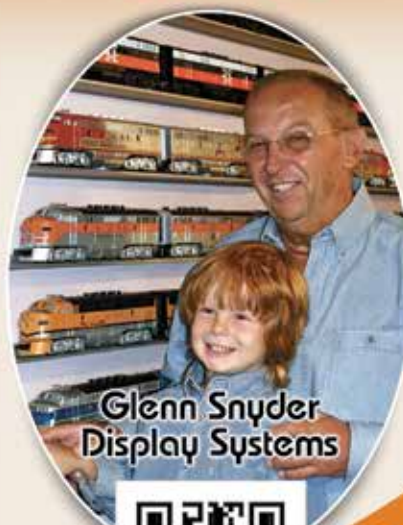
DWARVIN
LIGHTING WITHOUT WIRING®
BY TRAINZ



Fiber Optic lighting system for cost-effective, easy to install illumination for multiple scales.



Railrax
BY TRAINZ



**Glenn Snyder
Display Systems**



www.Trainz.com ☆ 4195 Industry Way, Flowery Branch, GA 30542 ☆ (866) 285-5840



According to the consumer catalog Lionel released for 1950, the No. 1467W O-27 Union Pacific freight outfit was helping the company mark its golden anniversary.

Lionel's true 50th anniversary outfit

I enjoyed reading Roger Carp's look in the Winter 2024 issue of *Classic Toy Trains* at the different ways that Lionel has marked its anniversaries, but I have to disagree about there not being a special set for the 50th anniversary in 1950. It is not the No. 1464W passenger outfit in Union Pacific colors that collectors

often refer to as the "Anniversary Set." Instead, it is the set that is highlighted in another article found in that issue of CTT. The No. 1467W freight set was described in the consumer catalog for 1950 as "Brand new this year, in celebration of Lionel's Golden Anniversary." — *Russ MacNair*

Keep answering our questions

In the Spring 2025 issue, *Classic Toy Trains* Editor Rene Schweitzer asked whether CTT should keep printing the Questions & Answers department. Please do! It's one of my favorite parts of the magazine, and I've been a subscriber since the first issue in 1987. Yes, the lag time to get answers to people writing for help is there, and quick answers can usually be secured from one of the several forums on the Internet. But readers like me always learn something from reading the questions and seeing your answers. I find them entertaining, too. — *John Warren*

Correction on Marx station

The caption with the picture of William Decker's O gauge layout in "Your Photos" in the Fall 2024 issue identifies the Marx station as a No. 2960 Girard Whistling Station with Illumination. However, the windows are lithographed, which means it is a No. 2970 — just like the one on my layout at home. — *Ralph Symington*

Missing the mark

I am a charter subscriber to CTT and have owned Lionel trains since the 1950s and collected them since the 1970s. Sadly, your magazine seems in recent years to have lost touch with its original mission — to present classic toy trains. Less space is dedicated to them, and more emphasis is

placed on newer production. I understand younger people are entering the hobby, but longtime collectors are being overlooked. Cutting back to four issues a year at the same price also hurts. There just isn't enough content for me as there once was. — *David Meiklejohn*

Thanks for writing, David, and please keep in mind that Senior Editor Roger Carp and I work to create a balance of material in each issue. We try to include a mix of eras, topics, and manufacturers, and this includes the items we review. — *Rene*

Confusion in Colorado

Thank you for listing in the Winter 2024 issue the many toy train layouts you can visit. Lots to add to my "bucket list!" However, the facility in Greeley is the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. The Colorado Railroad Museum, which has beautiful HO scale and garden railways, is over in Golden. — *Michael Bouchard*

Honoring Tom McComas

I was saddened to read in the Winter 2024 issue of the passing of Tom McComas. His books and videos brought life to the hobby. They reintroduced me to my O gauge trains after a 20-year hiatus in 1987, when Tom published *Great Toy Train Layouts of America*. My son was introduced to the hobby with the *I Love Toy Trains*

videos from TM Books & Video. We send condolences to Tom's family. The great stories and joy he brought to the hobby will be missed. — *Ed Berry*

Components of Lionel generator car

The article about Lionel's No. 3530 Operating Generator Car in the Spring issue of *Classic Toy Trains* was valuable, but something important and basic was missing. Namely, that when you bought that car you got a lot more. Lionel also packed in its box the generator, searchlight, and pole needed to have plenty of fun with it. — *Claude Mandia*



Lionel included a few key ancillary items with every one of its No. 3530 Operating Generator Cars to make using that postwar model both realistic and enjoyable.

INFO / ORDERS : (570) 451-1700 or 451-1726
MAIL / SHIP TO: 200 Glenmaura National Blvd., Moosic, PA 18507
FOR PLACING ORDERS CALL 1-800-8LIONEL
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!!

16390	Lionel Flatcar w/Water Tank.....	25.00
16651	Animated Clown Car.....	30.00
17171	Lenny the Lion Scale 'O' Cylindrical Hop.....	39.95
22000	Lionel 'Double Crossing' Board Game.....	9.95
32021	Lenny the Lion Plushy (by Gund).....	9.95
19439	Standard 'O' Flatcar w/SAFEs.....	25.00
19450	PWC Barrel Ramp Car.....	30.00
19451	PWC Wheel Car #8262.....	30.00
19490	Libby's Vat Car.....	30.00
19540	Broken Arrow Ranch Stock Car.....	20.00
19825	GM Generator Car.....	40.00
19878	PWC #3666 Helium Unloading Car.....	25.00
19882	Sanderson Poultry Dispatch Car.....	35.00
19965	Big Pete's Animated Aquarium Car.....	29.95
26214	USPS Stamps Boxcar.....	25.00
29671	Smoke Pellet Dish Car #2.....	24.95
29791	Wizard of Oz 75th Anniversary Boxcar.....	24.95
36200	Hellgate Bridge Boxcar.....	20.00
36209	Missouri Pacific Flatcar w/Lionel Truck.....	25.00
52114	NYC Flatcar w/Gleason Piggyback Trailers.....	25.00
52211	Norfolk Southern Boxcar.....	30.00
52280	LOTS "More Precious than Gold" Mint Car.....	40.00
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
2028480	Angela Thomas Lionel 120th Ann. Boxcar.....	44.95
2038020	Rio Grande 150th Ann. Boxcar.....	49.95
2038160	Looney Tunes Picnic w/Porky Boxcar.....	34.95
2038170	Looney Tunes Robin Hood Daffy b/c.....	34.95
2043290	Chicago & Northwestern NE-5 Caboose.....	39.95
1218110	Budweiser "This Buds for You" Reefer.....	34.95
1218200	PRR Flatcar w/Girder Load.....	44.95
1213590	B.N. TMCC Ballast Tamper.....	129.95
1213810	WWII Africa Campaign Boxcar.....	51.95
1213510	Southern Pacific TMCC Ballast Tamper.....	129.95
2228280	USMC Missile Launching Car.....	69.95
2228290	US Army Big Cannon Launch Car.....	69.95
OLR901	Statue of Liberty (lighted).....	44.95

LIONEL 'SCALE-SIZE' CARS

84000	Detroit Engine Bathub Gun 4pk.....	125.00
84020	P.P.&L. Bathub Gondola 4pk.....	125.00
84025	P.P.&L. Bathub Gondola 2pk.....	75.00
84033	BNFS Bathub Gondola 2pk.....	75.00
84128	TLDX Demo. PS-2 CD Hopper.....	44.95
1926141	Santa Fe Bunk Car #196752.....	55.00
1926142	Santa Fe Bunk Car #196754.....	55.00
1926161	Rio Grande Bunk Car #2380.....	55.00
1926163	Rio Grande Bunk Car #2387.....	55.00
1926172	Union Pacific Bunk Car #906118.....	55.00
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.....	75.00
1926590	NY & PRR Skeleton Log Car 2pk.-SALE.....	75.00
1926981	Producers Grain PS-2CD Cov. Hopper.....	64.95
2026651	UP/Merchants 50' F/C w/20' Trailers.....	74.95
2126530	MKT Log Car #X3257.....	55.00
2126651	MKT Bunk Car #X-2121.....	55.00
2126642	Missouri Pacific Beer Car #793015.....	69.95
2126642	Western Pacific Beer Car #87055.....	69.95
2126641	C&O Bunk Car #B875.....	55.00
2126652	MKT Bunk Car #X-2122.....	55.00
2126661	N&W Bunk Car #525502.....	55.00
2126662	N&W Bunk Car #525534.....	55.00
2126672	Western Pacific Bunk Car #MW0761.....	55.00
2226260	Great Western Railway Caboose.....	85.00
2226320	CSX Rotary Bathub Gondola 4pk.....	199.95
2239130	Cowen's Creamery Caboose w/Deck.....	100.00

LIONEL STANDARD 'O' CARS

17105	Chessie ACF Centerflow Hopper #6.....	35.00
17107	Sciar ACF Centerflow Hopper.....	30.00
17110	Union Pacific Coal Hopper.....	30.00
17200	Canadian Pacific Boxcar.....	30.00
17255	Chevy Double-Door Boxcar.....	45.00
17300	Canadian Pacific Reefer.....	30.00
17307	08.09.10 Tropicana Reefers - EACH.....	30.00
17500	Canadian Pacific Flatcar w/Logs.....	30.00
17522	Flatcar w/Plymouth Prowler Car.....	35.00
17600	New York Central Woodside Caboose.....	25.00
17905	ADM Unibody Tank Car.....	30.00
17914	Engelhard Unibody Tank Car.....	35.00
18556	C.I.M. 3-Boxcar & Caboose Set.....	75.00
29259	Northern Pacific BiCentennial Boxcar.....	35.00

LIONEL MOTORIZED UNITS

8264	Canadian Pacific Snow Plow.....	95.00
8368	Alaska Vulcan Switcher.....	125.00
8379	Pennsylvania Fire Car.....	99.95
8578	New York Central Ballast Tamper.....	89.95
11988	NY Firecar w/Instructor Car - TMCC.....	150.00
18400	Santa Fe Rotary Snow Plow.....	125.00
18405	Santa Fe Burn Crane.....	65.00
18406	Track Maintenance Car.....	59.95
18411	Canadian Pacific Fire Car.....	95.00
18419	Lionville Trolley.....	89.95
18427	Pennsylvania Tie-Jector.....	49.95
18430	New York Central Crew Car.....	34.95
18447	PWC #68 Executive Inspection Car.....	109.95
18458	PWC #38 Rio Grande Snowplow.....	149.95
18463	Hot Rod Inspection Vehicle.....	109.95
18468	Union Pacific Rotary Snow Plow.....	159.95
18485	New York Central Gang Car.....	99.95
18487	PWC #56 M&SIL Unit w/TMCC.....	175.00
18583	PWC AEC Switcher.....	185.00
22637	Superstreaks Quikrete Step Van.....	64.95
28113	Milwaukee Road Snow Plow.....	169.95
52107	On-Track Orange Pickup.....	45.00
52108	On-Track Blue Step Van.....	45.00
2235020	First Avenue Rapid Transit Trolley.....	94.95

LIONEL 'LIONCHIEF' LOCOMOTIVES

1922020	Nickel Plate Berkshire 2.0 Freight SET.....	\$79.95
2232130	Reading & Northern 4-6-2 Pacific LC2.0.....	\$49.95
2235230	Reading & Northern RDC Budd 2-Car Set.....	\$24.95

LIONEL CONVENTIONAL DIESELS

8150	Pennsylvania Green 5/5 GG-1 #4935.....	325.00
8260	Southern Pacific Daylight F-3 'AA'.....	395.00
8272	Pennsylvania (Gold) EP-5 w/case-sealed.....	325.00
8354	Erie NW-2 Switcher.....	125.00
8360	/67 Long Island GP-20's (power/dummy).....	195.00
8370	/7172 New York Central F-3 ABAs.....	395.00
8380	Lionel Lines SD-28 w/7 Matching Cars.....	395.00
8471	Pennsylvania NW-2.....	125.00
8580	/81/82 Illinois Central F-3 ABAs.....	495.00
8687	/7404/6917 Jersey Central FM/bc/cab Set.....	275.00
8753	Pennsylvania Tuscan GG-1.....	295.00
8754	New Haven Rectifier.....	145.00
8762	Great Northern EP-5.....	145.00
8952	Pennsylvania F-3 AA's (Green, 5-stripe).....	395.00
11734	Erie Alco ABAs w/6 Frts Cars (FF#6 Set).....	395.00
18116	Erie Lackawanna PA Alco 'AA' w/RS.....	395.00
18301	Southern FM w/horn.....	195.00
18302	Great Northern EP-5 w/6 Cars (FF#3).....	350.00
18303	Amtrak GG-1.....	250.00
18308	Pennsylvania Silver GG-1.....	195.00
18311	Disney EP-5 Electric w/horn.....	175.00
18500	Milw. Road GP-9 w/6 Cars (FF#2).....	450.00
18501	Western Maryland NW-2 w/6 Frt. Cars.....	350.00
18505	Nickel Plate GP7 Pair w/6 Cars (FF#6 Set).....	395.00
18551	Susquehanna RS-3 w/case.....	175.00
18553	Union Pacific GP-9 w/case.....	195.00
18823	CI&M SD-9 w/18555 Freight Car Pack.....	250.00
28223	BNFS SD-70MAC "Scale-Size".....	225.00

LIONEL NON-POWERED UNITS

8059	PRR Green 5-Stripe F-3 B-unit.....	150.00
8164	PRR Green 5-Stripe F-3 B w/horn.....	195.00
8575	Milwaukee Road F-3 B-unit.....	95.00
14520	Texas Special F-3 B-unit w/Railroads.....	295.00
18202	Erie-Lackawanna SD-40.....	145.00
18134	Santa Fe F-3 A-unit #2343c.....	175.00
18919	Santa Fe O-27 'Alco' A w/horn.....	69.95
2133039	NYC SuperBass E-7 'B' #4104 (Scale).....	299.95
2133049	PRR SuperBass E-7 'B' #5900B (Scale).....	299.95
2133089	NYC SuperBass E-7 'B' #4102 (Scale).....	299.95

LIONEL 'TMCC' STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

11105	New York Central TL Mohawk (Scale).....	995.00
18043	C&O 'Yellow Belle' Streamlined Hudson.....	550.00
18053	Lionel Lines #726 Berkshire.....	395.00
18057	Lionel Lines #671 Turbine.....	395.00
18056	New York Central J16 Hudson.....	595.00
28011	C&O Articulated Allegheny 2-6-6-6.....	795.00
28052	N&W Articulated Class A 2-6-6-6.....	795.00
28079	Chesapeake & Ohio 2-10-4 (Scale).....	895.00
28099	JLC Union Pacific Grey Challenger.....	995.00
38026	Norfolk & Western J #606 (Scale).....	995.00
38071	Southern Pacific (Scale) Cab-Forward.....	1195.00
38079	Southern Pacific (Scale) GS-2 #4410.....	995.00
38083	Norfolk & Western Y3 2-8-8-2 (Scale).....	895.00
38095	Norfolk & Western J #611 (Scale).....	1095.00

LIONEL CONVENTIONAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

8006	ACL 'Silver Shadow' Hudson w/case.....	295.00
8101	Chicago & Alton 4-6-4 Hudson w/5 Pass.....	495.00
8606	Boston & Albany 4-6-4 Hudson.....	395.00
8210	JLC Hudson w/6 Boxcars & Caboose.....	395.00
8615	Louisville & Nashville Berkshire w/case.....	495.00
18000	PRR B6 Switcher w/Railroads.....	350.00
18001	Rock Island 4-8-4 Northern w/whistle.....	295.00
18006	Reading T-1 w/Railroads (Scale).....	495.00
18009	NYC Scale 4-8-2 Mohawk w/Railroads.....	495.00
18010	Pennsylvania Scale Turbine w/RS.....	795.00
18011	Chessie Scale T-1 w/Railroads.....	450.00
18030	Frisco Scale-Size Mikado w/Railroads.....	495.00
18040	Norfolk & Western J w/Railroads.....	395.00
18042	Boston & Albany 4-6-4 Hudson w/5 Pds.....	295.00
18684	LRRR 4-6-2 Pacific Steam Locomotive.....	175.00
28633	B&O 2-8-4 Berkshire w/display case.....	295.00

POSTWAR REMAKE SETS

21782	PRR 'Congressional' GG-1/Pass. Set.....	795.00
21788	Missile Launch Set.....	399.95
31721	PRR GG-1 'Magestic' Freight Set.....	550.00
31727	Rio Grande F-3 'AB' Freight Set.....	595.00
31742	/25473 Santa Fe F3 ABAs' Pass. Set (LN).....	700.00
38311	B&O RDC Budd 3-Car Set.....	299.95
38313	B&O Budd 2-Car Power/Dummy Set.....	250.00
38324	New Haven F-3 Freight Set #2507W.....	495.00
38349	C&O GP-7 Freight Set #12885-500.....	500.00
82726	Green Alco Passenger Set.....	459.95

TUBULAR TRACK R-T-R SETS

1587	B&O Capitol Ltd. Steam Pass. (sealed).....	295.00
11006	Lenny the Lionel 4-4-2 Steam Freight.....	185.00
11701	Rock Island 'Railblazer' Set (sealed).....	145.00
11716	Lionelville Circus 4-4-0 Freight (sealed).....	195.00
11813	Crayola Crayons Set (sealed).....	125.00
11818	Chrysler Motor Diesel Frt. Set.....	175.00
11819	Georgia Power NW-2 Diesel Freight.....	295.00
11841	Bloomington's 4-4-2 Steam Frt.....	295.00
11933	Dodge Motorsport Freight Set.....	155.00
11985	Quaker Oats 4-4-2 Steam Frt. Set.....	249.95
21796	New Jersey Medical Steam Freight Set.....	225.00
31908	Reading Hobo (Theme) Steam Frt. Set.....	295.00
52218	Monopoly Steam Frt. Set (sealed).....	295.00

LIONEL 'LIQUOR' REEFER SERIES

9827	Cutty Shark Scotch Whiskey.....	45.00
9828	J&B Whiskey.....	45.00
9830	Johnny Walker Red Label.....	55.00
9836	Old Grand Dad Bourbon Whiskey.....	45.00
9837	Wild Turkey Whiskey.....	45.00
9840	Fleischmann's Gin.....	30.00
9845	Bailey's Irish Cream.....	50.00
9844	Sambuca Romana.....	45.00
9847	Wolfschmidt Vodka.....	25.00

LIONEL 'TMCC' DIESELS

11843	Boston & Maine GP-3 3-pcs Set.....	395.00
14532	/24510 Pennsylvania Sharknose ABAs.....	595.00
14558	/65/24519 B&O F-3 ABAs (Scale).....	995.00
14574	/86 Delaware & Hudson PA Alco ABAs (TR).....	695.00
18130	Santa Fe #2343 F-3 'AB'.....	395.00
18140	Milwaukee Road F-3 'AB'.....	395.00
18149	U.P. Die-Cast Veranda Turbine.....	895.00
18160	/38115 New York Central Frt ABAs.....	375.00
18226	General Electric Dash-9 ST 'O' size.....	250.00
18245	/48 Pennsylvania PA Alco ABAs.....	495.00
18251	CSX SD-60 Scale-Size.....	295.00
18286	Union Pacific Dash-9 44CW 'Scale'.....	325.00
18313	PRR Green Solid Strike GG-1.....	195.00
18322	Lackawanna (Maroon Top) Trainmaster.....	395.00
18328	/34 New Haven MU Passenger 4-Car Set.....	495.00
18340	Fairbanks Morse Scale Trainmaster Pair.....	595.00
18356	Penn Central Scale GG-1 (test-run).....	995.00
18847	Santa Fe H12-44 (Die-Cast Body).....	325.00
18860	Phantom #1 Locomotive.....	295.00
18892	PWC Burlington GP-7.....	225.00
24500	Denver & Rio Grande PA Alco 'AA' (Scale).....	495.00
24534	/38 Erie-Lackawanna F-3 ABAs (Scale).....	895.00
24579	/83 New York Central E7 ABAs.....	895.00
28244	Norfolk & Western C-420 (Scale).....	395.00
28518	PWC Pennsylvania EP-5.....	295.00
28539	Baltimore & Ohio S-2 (Scale).....	325.00
28540	Union Pacific SD40T-2 (Scale).....	325.00
58600	Santa Fe Blue & Yellow Alco 'AA'.....	395.00

LIONEL 21" PASSENGER CARS

2027280	AutoTrain Vista Vision Dome Car.....	175.00
2027630	Lionel 120th VistaVision Dome Car.....	190.00
2027690	Lionel 120th Vision Baggage Car.....	175.00
2027760	Lionel 120th StationSound Diner.....	175.00
2127030	BNFS WI-FI Theater Car.....	175.00
2127330	NYC Southernwestern Sound Diner.....	249.95
2227370	CSX Business StationSound Diner.....	249.95

LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CARS

19060	Pullman Heavyweights 10-CAR SET.....	650.00
19079	New York Central 2-Tone 4-Car Set.....	295.00
15526	/4245 Santa Fe 'The Chief' 7-Car Set.....	795.00
15577	/81 New York Central 4-Car Set.....	395.00
85230	Great Northern 18' Oriental Ltd. 2pk. #2.....	199.95
1927110	Southern Pacific 18' Coach 2pk #1.....	299.95
1927252	Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7551.....	99.95
1927510	Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1.....	239.95
1927520	Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #2.....	239.95
1927600	Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7705.....	99.95
1927210	Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7630.....	99.95
2127270	PRR RPO Car 'Fleet of Modernism'.....	144.95
2127290	NYC 60' Scale Baggage Car.....	99.95
2127490	GM&O 18' Passenger 2-pack #1.....	214.95

LIONEL PASSENGER CAR/SETS

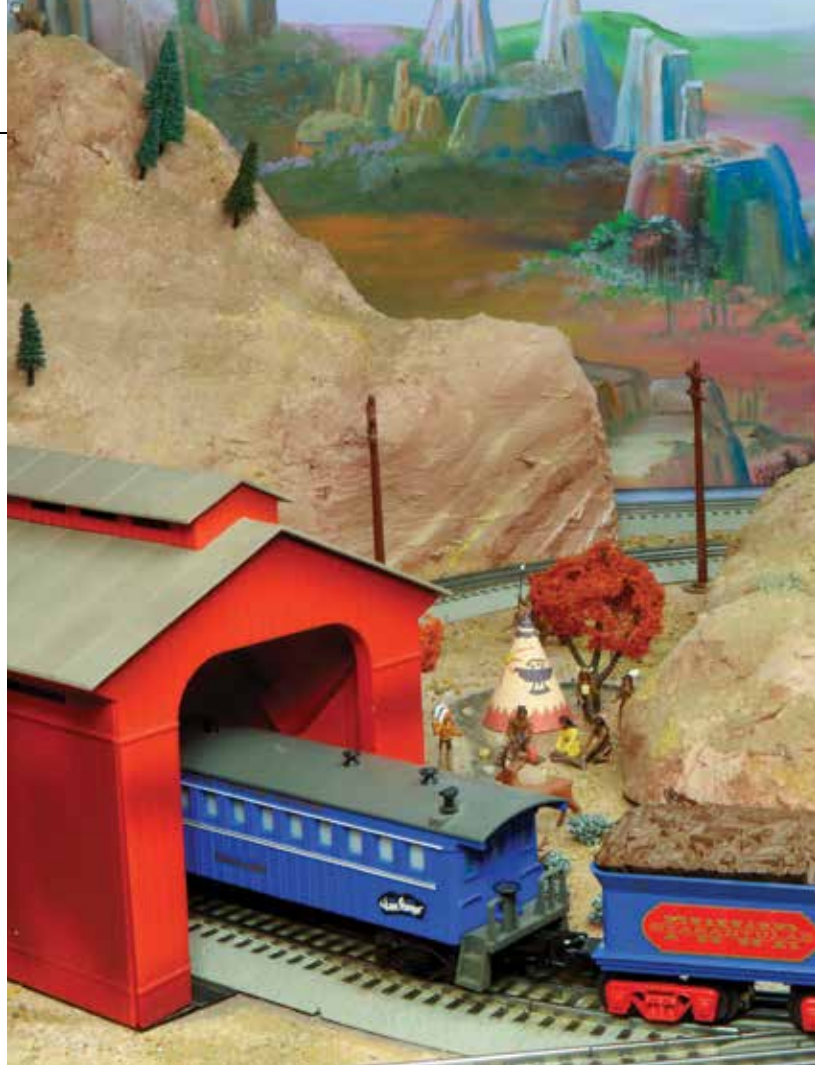
7220	to 25 Illinois Central 15' Alum. 6-Cars.....	395.00
9569	to 75,720 PRR 15' Alum. 8-Cars.....	695.00
9576	to 80 Burlington 15' Alum. 5-Car Set.....	295.00
9594	to 9598/7207 NYC 15' Alum. 6-Cars.....	395.00

► Tom Castle's O gauge layout

O gauge modeler Tom Castle has long been inspired by a few of his heroes from 1950s television, ranging from Robin Hood and the Cisco Kid to Captain Video and Hopalong Cassidy. But he reserves a special place in his heart and on his 4 x 10-foot three-rail layout in Mason City, Iowa, for the Lone Ranger and Tonto. Fortunately for Tom, product planners at Lionel share his appreciation for the masked man and his faithful Indian companion, because in 2009 they developed the No. 30016 Lone Ranger Wild West Freight Set. He photographed its old-time steam engine and tender passing through the desert scenery he created for his layout as well as the superb backdrop.

▼ Michael McNamee's O gauge layout

A Lionel No. 2233730 Amtrak F40PH diesel painted in the Phase V scheme stops in front of a Lionel No. 2709 Rico Station to pick up passengers on a revenue service run along the Kisco Falls RR, which is owned and operated by hobbyist Michael McNamee. He remembers quite well building the classic structure as a kit with his father more than 30 years ago. Michael says, "It's a great carryover of my love of trains from my childhood to my current layout, which measures 4 x 9 feet and features Lionel Fastrack and Legacy command control." To learn more about this O gauge layout in Mount Kisco, N.Y., go to [KiscoFallsRR](#) on Instagram and YouTube.





Send your very best pictures of toy train subjects to CTT Photo Album, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Ste. 103, Brookfield, WI 53045. Be sure to 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 if he or she is someone other than you.

Digital photographs must be taken with the camera set at the largest-possible file size. Digital photos can be submitted on a disk or CD or emailed to photoalbum@ClassicToyTrains.com. If you send us a photo and it is published, we will pay you \$50 as long as we have not previously bought the photo.

For help on taking pictures, please go to trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines. Doing so will lead you to a number of thoughtful tips and suggestions for improving your photographic skills as well as assistance with depth-of-field, lighting, and composition.

▼ Jeff Rigling's S gauge layout

On a sunny afternoon in July or August of 1957, a shortened version of the *Roger Williams* lightweight passenger train picks up a few travelers before resuming its journey on the New Haven RR. Jeff Rigling photographed this quiet scene on the S gauge model railroad he constructed in Arnold, Md. He thanks Don Becker Jr. and Gregory Styck for transforming postwar American Flyer equipment into these wonderful models of a streamlined train the Budd Co. originally built for the New Haven.



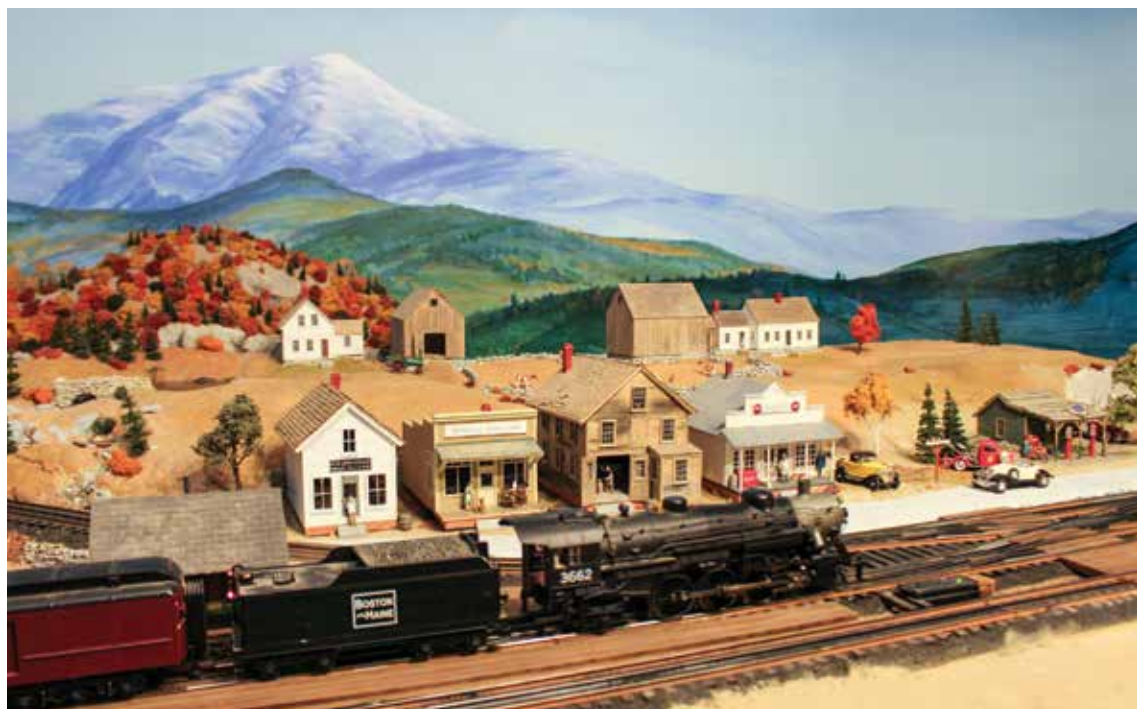


▲ Bobby Devlin's O gauge layout

It was very clever of Bobby Devlin to designate his O gauge layout the Lukeville Heritage Ry. Why? Simply because, as Bobby, a resident of Troutman, N.C., explains, having a heritage line justifies operating motive power and rolling stock from every era of the 20th century over his 5 x 12-foot model railroad. The photograph he snapped at the engine shed outside Lukeville Station is a terrific example of what he means. Even though Lionel released its No. 11258 Southern Ry. 2-8-2 Mikado in 2012, it feels as though we've traveled back to the 1920s or '30s, when the full-size steam engine was in regular service. Bobby enjoys having "Old 4501" pull freight trains.

► George Butterworth's O gauge layout

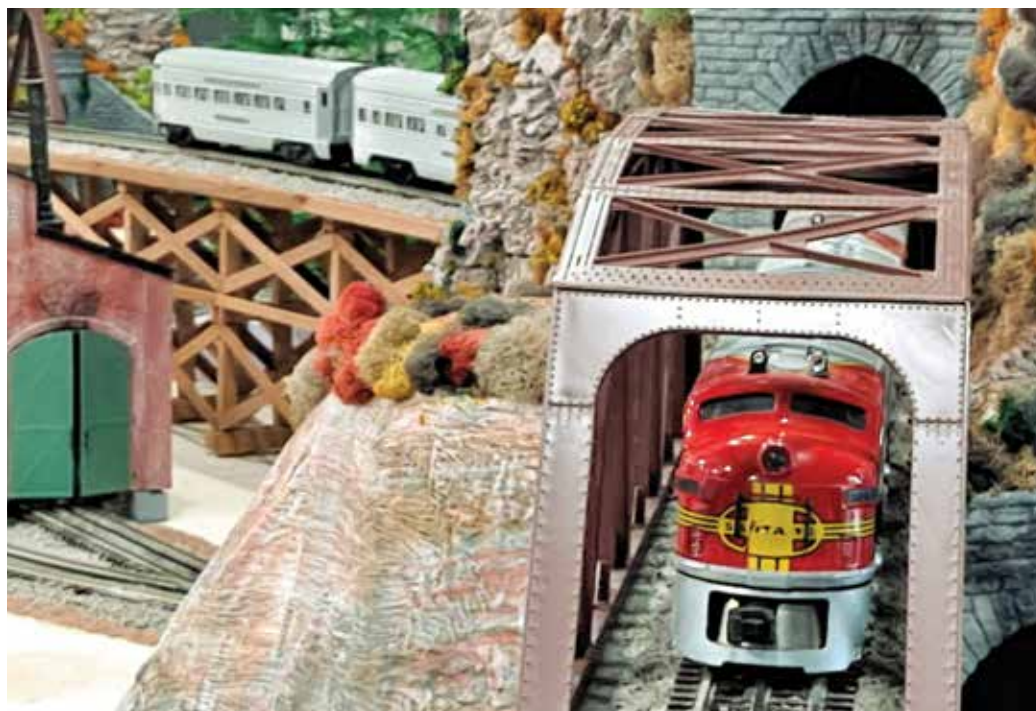
An absolutely stunning June morning in New Hampshire in 1938, as a Boston & Maine train passes a town with the White Mountains looming in the distance. This beautiful scene fills one part of George Butterworth's 110-square-foot O gauge tribute to the B&M in northern New England. George, who resides in Nantucket, Mass., brought out a 4-6-2 Light Pacific steamer from Weaver to pull a string of heavyweight passenger cars from MTH Electric Trains before he carefully posed and took this photograph on the model railroad he's been working on since 1992.





▲ David Hollingsworth's O gauge layout

Summer means watching baseball games, camping in the mountains, going on picnics at parks, and spending time at carnivals and fairs. David Hollingsworth especially appreciates this last activity, which is one reason he made carnivals and circuses the theme of his 7 x 11-foot O gauge layout in St. Albans, W.Va. Besides collecting Lionel trains and models of carnival rides and circus attractions, he and wife, Kathy, have fun spending time with their grandchildren (Nick, Savannah, and Nora), who have inspired the look of the layout. Don't miss the Lionel No. 726RR steam engine leading No. 2420-series passenger cars decked out in silver and black.



◀ John Cole's O gauge model railroad

Keeping summer in mind reminds us how typical it was during the 1950s and '60s for families to plan trips to explore America or visit distant relatives by traveling on the deluxe passenger trains of the time. John Cole recalls those wonderful days by running a Lionel streamliner led by No. 2343 Santa Fe F3 diesels and featuring No. 2530-series extruded aluminum cars. He also operates modern-era trains on the 9 x 22-foot O gauge layout under construction at his home in Howell, Mich.

Lionel Legacy U28C diesel locomotive

AN IMPRESSIVE PULLER WITH ROAD SPECIFIC DETAILS

Lionel has reissued the U28C diesel locomotive for the first time since 2012. The prototype was produced by General Electric between February 1966 and November 1966, with a total of 71 units produced. GE was competing with EMD and Alco to produce a higher horsepower locomotive. The U28C came in at 2800 h.p., slightly underpowered compared to the competition.

Inside the box, this model is packaged vertically inside the foam insert. Extra protective foam pieces secure the locomotive from sliding forward or backward. Once it's removed from the insert, the plastic can be unwrapped and the protective foam behind the handrails is easily removed.

Run/program, Bluetooth, and smoke on/off switches are located under the hatch on the rear of the roof. After I programmed this locomotive, I used my Lionel SensorTrack to add it to my Cab2 remote. The sound set seems standard compared to other recent Lionel diesels, with five horns and bell chime options.

The locomotive shown here is the Metropolitan Division of the Train Collectors Association 1776 version: each version features road-specific lighting and roof detailing. Lionel offers seven different roadnames for the U28C. Some of the more distinctive road-specific detailing is on the Union Pacific variation with a strobe light, and the Southern Pacific version with a forward-facing, red strobe light on the cab roof. Diamond-plated walkways wrap around the entire model with hinged drop plates above the front and rear couplers. The METCA engine has a red light on the cab roof. This light is activated by initiating the emergency stop sequence on the remote.

Measuring 17" long, this model is just under one inch longer than true 1:48 scale — the prototype measured 64' 4" in length. This model seems identical to the previously released U30C model. While the U28C and U30C are similar in appearance, the prototype U30C was a few inches longer. This model is closer in scale to the U30C prototype.

LIONEL LEGACY U28C DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE (NO. 2401460)

Features: TMCC, Legacy, or conventional control; Bluetooth control; Lionel Voice Control; O-31 operation; fan-driven smoke unit; IR transmitter for SensorTrack; two ElectroCouplers

Roadnames: See text

MSRP: \$649.99

Websites: lionel.com

The U28C comes with all the standard features we would expect: Legacy Rail-Sounds, front and rear ElectroCouplers, LED lighting, a fan driven smoke unit (filled by removing the exhaust grate and adding smoke fluid directly to the stack), and an IR sensor for automatic programming. It can be operated with Legacy, TMCC, Bluetooth, or conventional control. The model does feature a refined transformer control, allowing for slower starting speeds if you're operating conventionally. Operators can also use Lionel Voice Control through the LionChief app. This model can operate on smaller layouts, as it's rated to navigate 0-31 radius curves.

Even though the prototype was slightly underpowered,

this model from Lionel was able to demonstrate an impressive 3.5 pounds of pulling power with its dual maintenance-free motors, which is more than enough for a classic Pennsy coal drag. A metal frame provides solid grounding for this model, which weighs in at five pounds, seven ounces. The details on the body are a mixture of molded-in detailing and some separately-applied parts.

Roadnames offered from Lionel include Conrail, Louisville & Nashville, Pennsylvania, Penn Central, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Seaboard System. METCA offered a "Support Our Troops" camouflage version. Mr. Muffin's Trains did a Pittsburgh & Lake Erie version. — *Chris Montagna*



MTH RailKing Bump-N-Go Trolley

A SOLID PIECE WITH FUN GRAPHICS



MTH has sold a “Bump-N-Go” trolley for many years, but I could not find evidence that CTT ever reviewed one. This version (No. 30-5249) was a custom-run piece for Dixie Union Station as part of the RailKing line.

The blue and yellow paint is well done. The Skyline Chili logo is on the lower center side of the car, with a yellow checkerboard across the bottom. All graphics are clean and nicely applied. The frosted windows feature a variety of people — in full color.

The sprung trolley pole can

be manually raised and lowered, a nice feature. The model has an illuminated interior and directional headlights. The underside has two roller pickups.

ON THE TRACK

Operationally, the trolley ran exactly as expected. Our in-house CT&T layout has Lionel Lighted Bumpers (No. 12035), which worked as they should to “bump” and reverse the trolley direction. From researching user experiences online, I learned it’s not wise to operate the trolley at high speeds when using bumpers. The extreme force when it hits

the bumpers could cause structural damage.

The headlights have a realistic glow, and the interior lighting was steady.

Overall, this is a fun, solid piece with great graphics. It would be an attention-getting item for open houses or crowds.

Thank you to Bryson Sleppy for letting us photograph and operate this model.
— Rene Schweitzer

MTH RAILKING SKYLINE CHILI BUMP-N-GO TROLLEY (NO. 30-5249)

Features: Lighted interior, automatic reversing bumpers, O-27 operation
MSRP: \$89.98
Website: dixieunionstation.com

Menards Sooty's Mine Shaft

AN INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE WITH NEAT DETAILS

Menards continues to add to their line of industrial structures. About a year ago, they introduced Sooty's Coal Tipple, and have added an O gauge Sooty's Mine Shaft to the lineup.

Shaft mining is a method of excavation that accesses an ore deposit from the top

down. The term “shaft” refers to the vertical underground tunnels dug from the surface. Subshafts are tunnels dug from the underground up toward the surface.

The structure is made up of the headframe (the structure and associated supports) and the sheave wheel. It measures 8" x 5" and is about 10" high at the top of the sheave wheel.

Four figures are included: Two near the entrance of the headframe, and two near the sheave wheel. I like the detail of the helmets with battery-powered lamps on the figures. Jack the German shepherd rests near the headframe.

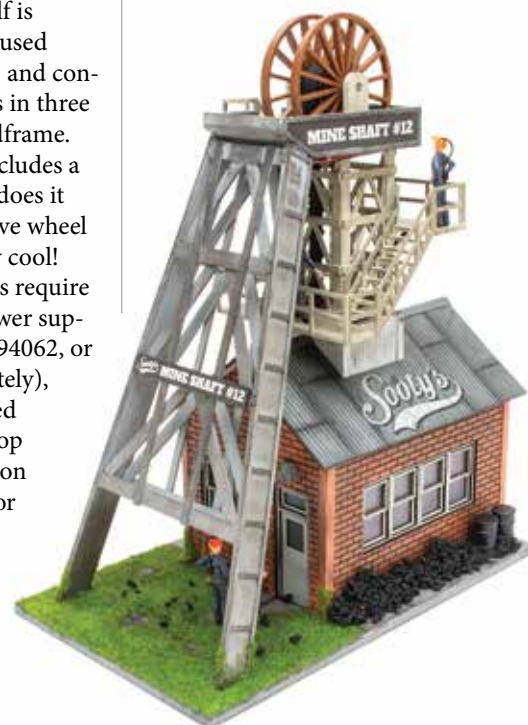
The base is detailed with groundcover, oil drums, and lots of spilled coal.

The structure itself is weathered (as a well-used mine shaft would be) and contains Sooty's graphics in three locations on the headframe.

The mine shaft includes a neat detail—not only does it light up, but the sheave wheel rotates. That is pretty cool!

The structure does require Menard's 4.5-volt power supply (No. 2794061, 2794062, or 2794050, sold separately), that may be connected either over the tabletop through a receptacle on the lower back wall, or from below with a pigtail connector.

This item has a small footprint and could find a place on any layout. — R.S.



MENARDS SOOTY'S MINE SHAFT (NO. 275-9405)

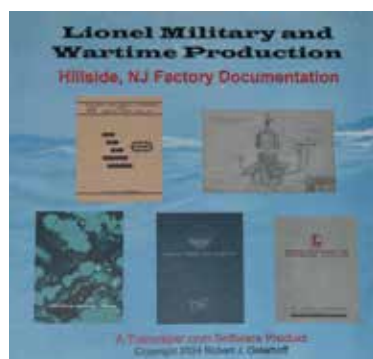
Features: Rotating sheave wheel, illumination, scenery details, four figures
MSRP: \$59.99
Website: menards.com/trains

Capable Chessie: The Train Loft, 4007-B Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27104, is selling a custom-run O scale Lionel 4-6-4 Hudson as part of the VisionLine series. The steam engine features O-54 operation and is numbered as Chessie cab No. 490 (No. 2531770). Estimated delivery in November 2025. **Price:** \$1,899.95. Order online at trainloft.com, 336-760-9817, or email JKonc52032@aol.com.



Red and ready:

Trainworld, 751 McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218, has brought out a custom-run Lionel O gauge Trailer on Flatcar (No. 252678). The car features O-36 operation and has Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad/RBP Trains (Chris Raines) graphics. Expected delivery in the second quarter of 2025. **Website:** trainworld.com



Up in arms: Bob Osterhoff, 1622 Garden Valley Dr., Wildwood, MO 63038, offers *Lionel Military and Wartime Production*. The DVD includes more than 489 pages of catalogs and flyers featuring Lionel military and other non-train products. The DVD can be viewed on Windows and Apple based computers. **Price:** \$20 plus \$5 shipping. **Website:** trainpaper.com



Parts is parts: Trainz offers a large selection of parts for American Flyer, Atlas O, Lionel, MTH, and more on its website. Items vary based on available stock. Visit Trainz.com and apply filters to search for specific items.



Safety first: MTH Electric Trains, 7393 Washington Blvd. Ste. 101, Elkridge, MD 21075, has announced O gauge Operating Boxcars with Signalman as part of the RailKing line. The cars feature O-31 operation (No. 30-72141 shown). Expected delivery in September 2025. **Price:** \$99.95. To order, contact your local MTH retailer or search MTH's website for a dealer near you: mthtrains.com.



Bump 'n go: Menards is selling a two-pack of O gauge 5" Straight Track Sections with Lighted Bumpers (No. 2759304). The piece features an end-of-track obstacle with a sprung bumper. **Price:** \$7.99. Order from menards.com/trains.

News bits

■ In memoriam

Robert "Bob" Brasseur died on February 27, 2025 at the age of 88.

Bob began repairing trains in his family's basement in the early 1970s and had become a Lionel Authorized Service Station by 1974. He continued to expand the business, selling various model train products and parts and eventually opened a brick-and-mortar building that he named Brasseur Electric Trains in Saginaw, Mich. The store did a brisk repair business with its team of technicians, including Bob, his son Dean, and his grandson Jacob.

After K-Line went out of business in 2006, Brasseur acquired the unassembled parts and sold them as well as a large inventory of Lionel parts.

The business closed in August 2023. Trainz purchased much of the leftover K-Line inventory, but Dean and Jacob continued the repair business.

We offer our condolences to the Brasseur family.

■ Trainfest returns in 2025

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) announced Milwaukee's Trainfest will return to the Baird Center Nov. 1 and 2, 2025. This marks the second consecutive year the event will be held at the downtown venue.

The NMRA, which will be celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2025, will be this year's event producer, accepting the torch from Great American Train Shows, which operated Trainfest in 2022 and 2024. Prior to that, the Wisconsin Southeastern (W.I.S.E.) Division of the NMRA established and operated the show.

Visit www.nmra.org/trainfest-2025 for more information.

■ Articles you might like from Firecrown publications:

A three-rail tribute to the Pennsylvania RR by Norm Charbonneau, *Model Railroader*, June 2025 issue

Atlas Games creates recycling program from unused sprue pieces, *FineScale Modeler*, July/August 2025 issue



■ **Frank Kotnik presents** the first "Keep Christ in Christmas" boxcar to Don Fisher, Railroad Museum of Long Island President.

■ Boxcars raise funds for charities

Frank Kotnik is a member of the Knights of Columbus (KofC), a Catholic fraternal service organization. The group performs charitable acts in the U.S. and around the world. The KofC spearheads a "Keep Christ in Christmas" program to "promote the true spirit of Christmas in homes ... and communities."

Frank recalled how during a visit in 2015 to the Railroad Museum of Long Island (RMLI) he saw that the museum produced commemorative Lionel boxcars to raise funds for its upkeep. He thought it would be a terrific idea for the KofC to raise money for charity.

"In early 2017," Frank states, he and his 15-year-old son Markus "finished the design for the first 'Keep Christ in Christmas boxcar.'" Sadly, production of the boxcar was delayed a year due to the untimely death of Frank's son.

However, the model sold well in 2018, and Frank has continued to design "Keep Christ in Christmas" boxcars and ones commemorating other KofC milestones, raising more than \$36,000 for charity and disaster relief efforts.

To learn more, visit Monsignor Sherman Council No. 5103's website at kofc5103.org/trains.

Get a lift: Trainworld, 751

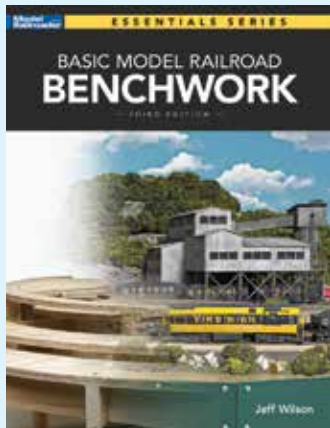
McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218, has announced a custom-run MTH O gauge Strasburg RR Crane Car as part of the RailKing line (No. 30-79715). The car features a manually operated hook and boom, with O-31 operation. Estimated delivery in the second quarter of 2025. **Website:** trainworld.com



Switch it up: MTH Electric

Trains, 7393 Washington Blvd. Ste. 101, Elkridge, MD 21075, is offering Standard Gauge Tubular Switches as part of the Tinplate Traditions line. Switches are compatible with Lionel tinplate tubular track, RailTrax Standard gauge track, and Tinplate Traditions track. **Price:** \$139.95. To order, contact your local MTH retailer or search MTH's website for a dealer near you: mthtrains.com

Shop.Trains.com



Learn how to build a detailed, smooth-running layout with the proper foundation. This updated edition of *Basic Model Railroad Benchwork* by Jeff Wilson shows you how to design, build, and maintain all types of benchwork for small and large, permanent and portable model railroads. **Price:** \$21.99.

You're the kid.



Welcome to the candy store.

July 19-20, 2025
Suburban Collection
Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48374

NationalTrainShow.org

Sponsored by The National Model Railroad Association

Black gold: Menards has released the O Scale Texaco Beam Pump (No. 2759394). The accessory measures 8" x 3 5/8" and includes a shed, two figures, Jack the German shepherd, and an animated arm. Accessory requires Menard's 4.5-volt power supply, sold separately. **Price:** \$39.99. Order from menards.com/trains



Keeping it fresh:

Trainworld, 751 McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218, is marketing a custom-run MTH R50B Express Refrigerator Car as part of the Premier line (No. 20-94774 shown). The cars feature O-31 operation and are available in two road numbers. Expected delivery in the first quarter of 2025. **Website:** trainworld.com



Holiday hauler: Trainworld, 751 McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218, has announced a custom-run Lionel O gauge VisionLine J1e 4-6-4 Hudson and Tender (No. 2531760). The steam engine is equipped with the Legacy Control System, Bluetooth, and Lionel Voice Control. It features O-72 operation and has Christmas graphics. Expected delivery in the fourth quarter of 2025. **Website:** trainworld.com

Atlas Model Railroad Company,

367 Florence Ave., Hillside, NJ 07205, has released Version 1.9.7 of Atlas Track Planning Software. New features include: improved Toolbox and Layers, bug fixes, and more. ATPS requires Windows XP/Vista/7/8/10/11 to operate. **Price:** \$45 (for full software package). **Website:** shop.atlas.com



More from Schorr:

CTT has assembled articles written by Neal Schorr in two new downloadable PDF packages. **Price:** \$12.95 each. **Website:** shop.trains.com

Find more reviews online:

- Atlas O Premier Via Rail F40PH-2
- Atlas O Premier Via Rail F40PH-2 video
- Lionel Disney D23 boxcar
- Lionel City of Miami set
- Lionel Disney D23 caboose
- Lionel LCCA Racing Aquarium Car
- Lionel LionChief Hogwarts Express set
- Hornby: Book of Collectable Toys

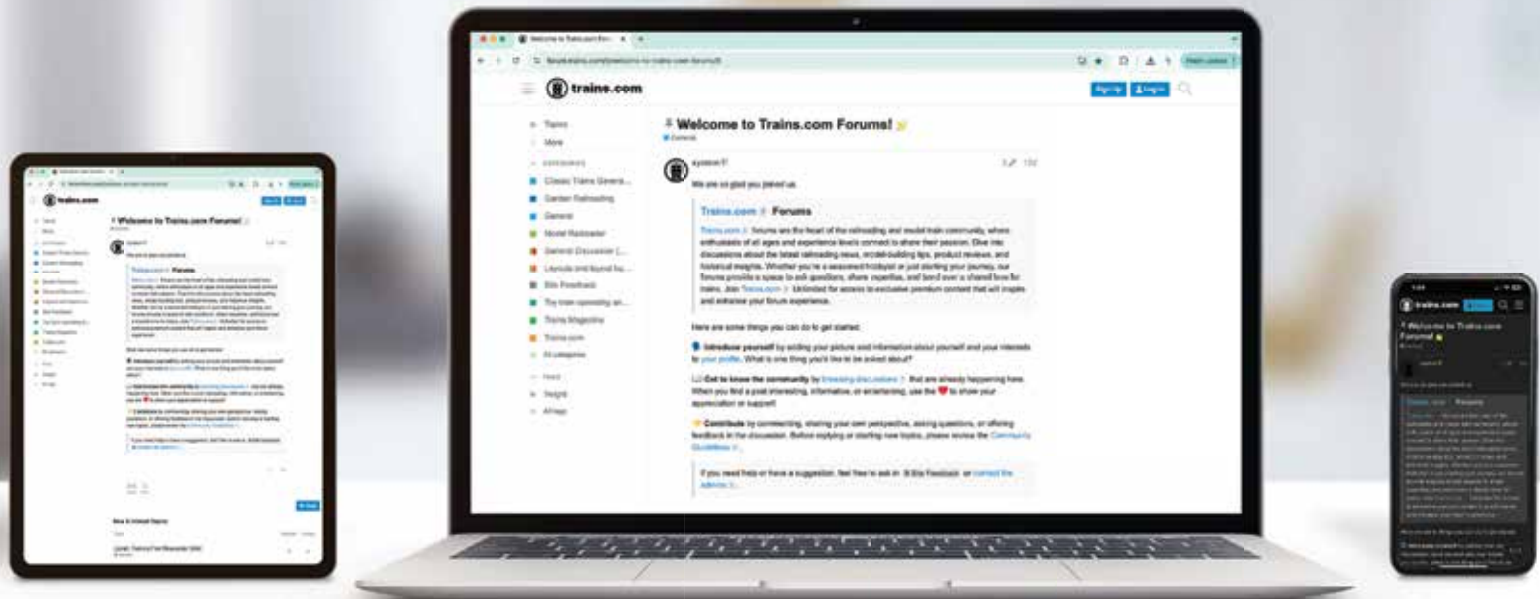
Want to submit? Send complete ordering information and a high-resolution photo to editor@classictoytrains.com



trains.com

ALL-NEW

TRAINS.COM FORUMS



We're please to announce we've launched a brand-new forum platform. Connect with a community of modeling and trains enthusiasts on a variety of topics and enjoy enhanced features including:

- Improved login capabilities, including Google Sign-In
- Dramatic speed improvements
- Improved stability and reliability
- Easily and quickly upload large images and videos
- Bookmark posts that are most relevant to you

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
FORUM.TRAINS.COM



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

Trains

**Model
Railroader**

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

Classic Trains
MAGAZINE

**Garden
RAILWAYS**

**trains.com
VIDEO**

Lionel's No. 395 Floodlight Tower

A COLORFUL AND FLASHY ADDITION TO THE POSTWAR LINE

The year 1949 assumes importance in the history of Lionel trains because light and color transformed the lineup of trains and accessories. Light in the form of a brand-new operating searchlight car (the No. 6520 Lionel Lines model) and rotating beacon (the No. 394). And color in the form of freight and passenger cars in at least two different hues.

Perhaps the epitome of Lionel's commitment to light and color in 1949 was the No. 395 Floodlight Tower. Not only did it come equipped with four bright bulbs capable of illuminating large layouts, but the 395 also made its debut in a striking, almost blinding color never used previously. And yellow was just the first color!

LIGHTS ARE LOVED

Illumination of a miniature locomotive, car, or accessory had been delighting kids and adults long before Lionel introduced the 395. Toy train historians credit Howard, a small manufacturer, with developing the first model of a steam engine to have a working headlight in 1906. Lionel and Ives followed, and their top-of-the-line locomotives flashed beams as they traversed Wide and O gauge track. Passenger cars soon came with interior illumination.

Lionel recognized that people enjoyed adding lighting to their rail empires, and so its designers set out to finish work on different kinds of lights in the pre-World War II era. To be exact, various types of streetlights were offered as early as 1914 and 1915. Additional models began filling out the lineup in the 1920s and '30s.

A breakthrough took place in 1931. Engineers departed from standard designs of streetlights to complete something much taller and more impressive. They wrapped up work on the No. 92 Floodlight Tower. Cataloged through the end of the prewar era in 1942, the 92 seemed appropriate only for Standard gauge railroads, so high did it stand over everything. But O gauge builders liked it, too, because it survived after Lionel quit making Standard gauge.

POSTWAR REVIVAL

Lionel brought back several of its painted streetlights after World War II. A floodlight tower, though, remained missing. Years passed with no indication the company was going to revive the 92 or, more likely, modify it to fit into an O gauge world. As a result, children had to run trains in darkened settings.



Until 1949, that is. Then, as stated in the consumer catalog, Lionel heralded the 395 from which "Light cascades down from four powerful 'spots' brilliantly lighting activity below." The 11½-inch-tall structure, characterized by "heavy steel lattice work" stood on a 5 x 5-inch metal base. The 395 was priced at \$3.95.

The description in the consumer catalog explained how the accessory could send powerful beams of light to illuminate railyards and stations: "Floodlights are mounted on universal swivel and swing vertically and horizontally."

According to the *Lionel Service Manual*, virtually every part used on the 395 had been created for it. An exception was the metal lamp housing. Engineers took it from the No. 70 Yard Light developed to enhance the No. 397 Diesel-Type Coal Loader that Lionel introduced in 1948 and marketed as a unique item in 1949.

COLORS GALORE

Besides its height and four strong lights, what made the 395 stand out during the years it was cataloged (1949-50 and 1952-56) was its array of colors. The consumer catalog for 1949 stated the structure itself was "richly enameled in two tones." The accompanying illustration showed a silver tower with a black ladder and a green base. However, no example of a 395 decorated in such a scheme has been reported.

Instead, reference works contend the Floodlight Tower debuted in "lemon" yellow and returned in that hue for 1950. Subsequent variations were done in silver, red, and light green. Unpainted aluminum was also offered. Scarcest are examples of the 395 painted the dark green as used on the No. 455 Oil Derrick and Pumper. **CTT**

Lionel cataloged the No. 395 Floodlight Tower in 1949-50 and again in 1952-56. The 2025 edition of Greenberg's Pocket Price Guide to Lionel Trains values the yellow-painted variation at \$44 in good condition and \$159 in excellent condition.

SHOP ON-LINE 24/7 **TRAINWORLD.com**
We Supply The World

0 GAUGE SUPER SAVINGS
LIONEL MTH WILLIAMS

10% OFF
\$100.00 and OVER
BEFORE TAXES & SHIPPING CHARGES

LIONEL 2434130
CONRAIL METRO
NORTH GENESIS
LIONCHIEF PLUS 2.0
SUPER SALE \$384.99 each
LIMITED QTY

© TRAINWORLD.COM
On-Line Orders Only
Use CODE Word **CLS25** In Discount Code Box
SALE ENDS AUGUST 15, 2025
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

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

Your Southern Connection for Quality 0 Gauge Products

ROUNDHOUSE SOUTH
4611 S. Ridgewood Ave. • Port Orange, FL 32127
PH. 386-304-7002/7003 **f facebook**

MTH 20-20888-1 Pennsylvania 44 Tonner w/Proto 3.0.....	\$449.95
MTH 20-21661-1 Union Pacific Genset w/Proto 3.0.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21662-1 Norfolk Southern Genset w/Proto 3.0.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21717-1 Burlington SD-24 with Proto 3.0.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21725-1 Union Pacific SD-24 w/Proto 3.0.....	\$509.95
MTH 20-21735-1 Union Pacific AC4400CW w/Proto 3.....	\$539.95
MTH 20-21745-1 Western Maryland GP-9 P3.....	\$529.95
MTH 20-21751-1 Texas & Pacific GP-9 P3.....	\$529.95
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 20-21844-1 New Haven U25B with Proto 3.0.....	\$529.95
MTH 20-21846-1 C&O U25B with Proto 3.0.....	\$529.95
MTH 20-3857 Union Pacific Die Cast Tender (Yellow).....	\$269.95
MTH 20-3858 Union Pacific Die Cast Tender (Black).....	\$269.95
MTH 20-91533 Florida East Coast Bay Window Cab.....	\$99.95
MTH 30-20819-1 EMD ABA with Proto 3.0.....	\$549.95
MTH 30-20829-1 Pennsy Power & Light SW1500 P3.0.....	\$319.95
MTH 30-20908-1 Pennsylvania SW9 with Proto 3.0.....	\$339.95
MTH 30-20951-1 Western Pacific SD70ACe w/Cab P3.....	\$429.95
MTH 30-20979-1 Lehigh Valley ES44AC with Proto 3.....	\$359.95
MTH 30-21087-1 Canadian National Dash-8 P3.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21088-1 CSX Dash-8 with Proto 3.0.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21089-1 Norfolk Southern Dash-8 w/Proto 3.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21090-1 BNSF Dash-8 with Proto 3.0.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21119-1 Conrail SD-45 with Proto 3.0.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21122-1 Santa Fe SD-45 (Red, Wh Bl) w/Proto 3.....	\$379.95
MTH 30-21166-1 Missouri Pacific RS-3 with Proto 3.....	\$349.99
MTH 30-21167-1 Great Northern RS-3 with Proto 3.....	\$349.99
MTH 30-21172-1 Southern Pacific RSD-5 w/Proto 3.....	\$349.95
MTH 30-21218-1 Susquehanna FP45 with Proto 3.0.....	\$389.95
MTH 30-21220-1 Wisconsin Southern FP45 w/Proto 3.....	\$389.95
MTH 30-21221-1 Daylight Loco & Mach Wks. FP45 P3.....	\$389.95

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

Authorized Lionel, MTH and Bachmann dealer

MARIO'S TRAINS
THE SOURCE FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

GIVE US A CALL (540) 868-0025

mariostrains.com

Mention this ad for **FREE shipping** anywhere in continental USA

ROSS CUSTOM SWITCHES
W-BAIL TRACK
RCS
TRAINS • ACCESSORIES
ESTABLISHED IN 1972

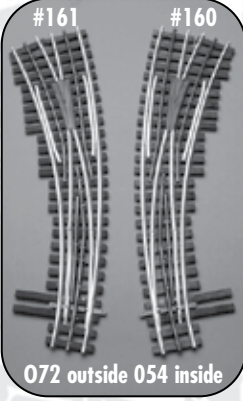
SWITCHES & TRACK
for all 3 Rail 0 Gauge & O27 Trains
Demand them from your dealer or call us direct!

Visit us at: **www.rossswitches.com**
A sampling of some of our neat curved switches.
All now available remote control ready to run!

Featuring ALL WOOD TIES and STEEL RAIL!

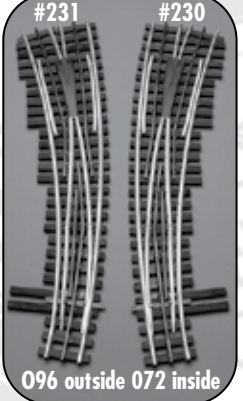
All RCS Products are Proudly Hand Made in the USA

#161 #160



072 outside 054 inside

#231 #230



096 outside 072 inside

New

#240RH #241LH curved
0120 outside curve
096 inside curve
#150RH #151LH curved
054 outside curve
031 inside curve

Not Shown

Ross Custom Switches
1-800-331-1395 CALL FOR FREE COLOR CATALOG

RCS
W-BAIL TRACK
TRAINS • ACCESSORIES
ESTABLISHED IN 1972

FILLING THE

GAP

A SECTION OF THIS WELL-KNOWN PENNSY
O GAUGE LAYOUT IS FINALLY COMPLETED

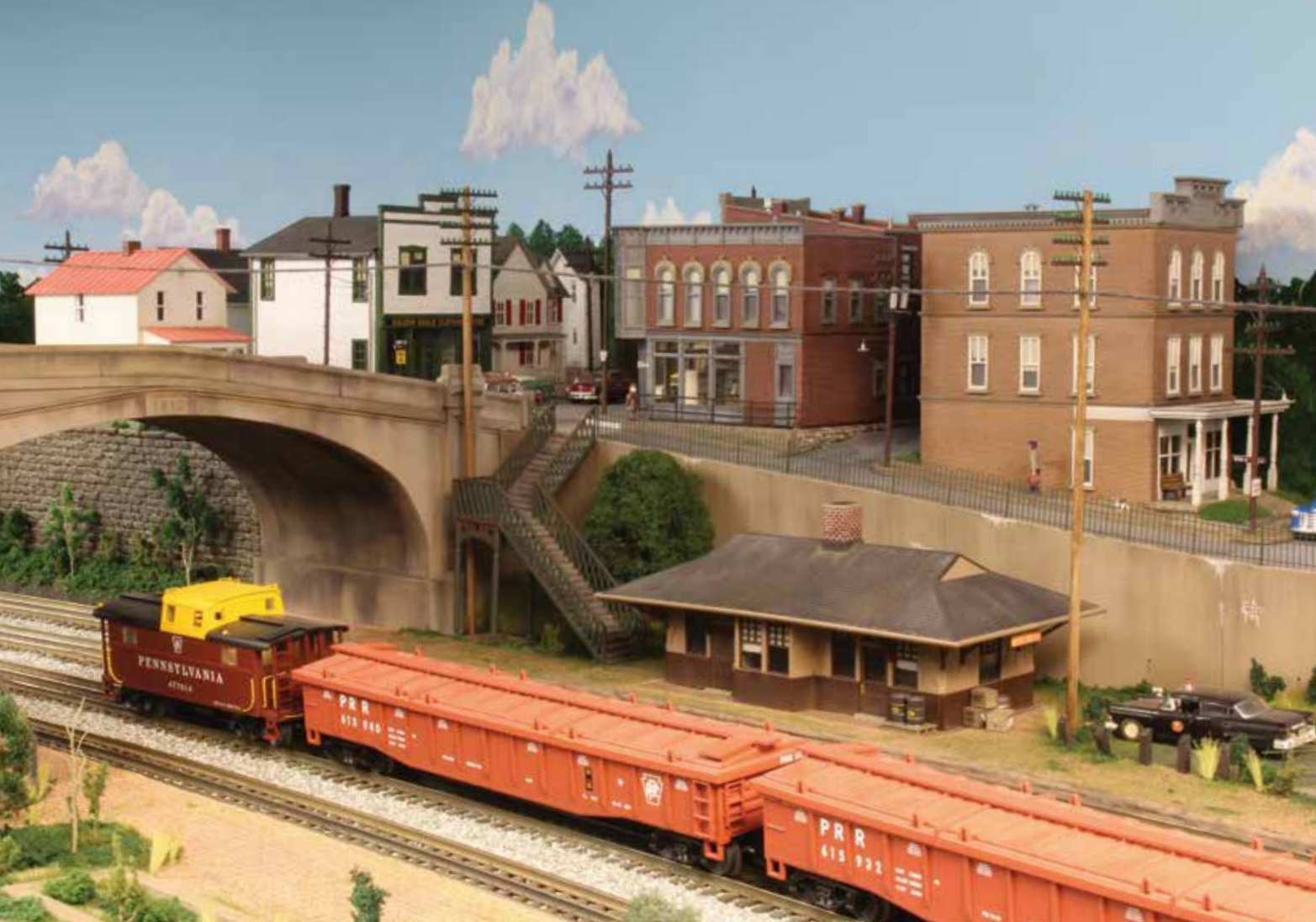


STORY AND PHOTOS BY NEAL A. SCHORR

Longtime readers of *Classic Toy Trains* will be familiar with my O gauge layout, which depicts the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania RR. I've based my railroad on the first part of the Pennsy to be constructed, the segment between Harrisburg and Altoona, Pa. It's an area of unparalleled scenic beauty, and that's one of the reasons I chose to model it.



1 The four-track main line on Neal Schorr's O gauge version of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania RR crosses Tuscarora Creek on a massive stone arch bridge. The "Gap" was completed with installation of the classic PRR pipe railing on the near side of the bridge.



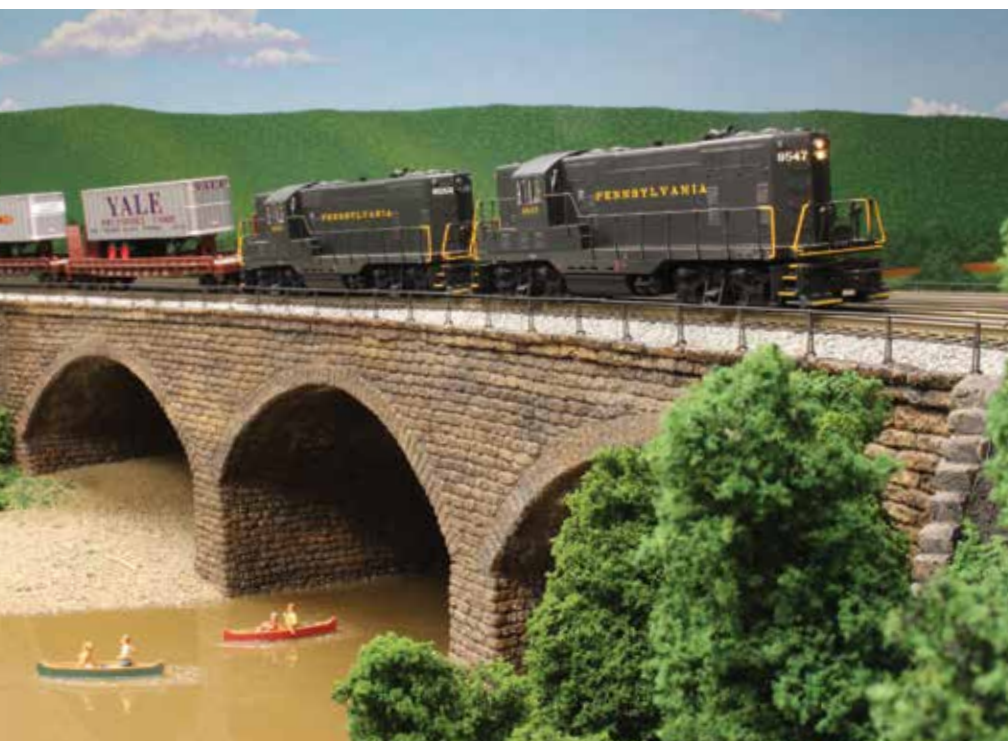
2 Port Royal is a town northwest of Harrisburg, Pa. Neal recreated the town using commercial structures that he upgraded with painting, weathering, and kitbashing.

I have built what is essentially a scale model railroad using today's prototypical three-rail trains. Having a strong interest in modeling most any train that ever ran along the route, I've aged the layout as it proceeds from east to west, so I can portray any era from the 1930s through the early years of the 21st century.

FINISHING THE GAP

After completing the section of the layout that last appeared on the pages of CTT (November 2018 issue), I focused on completing what I refer to as "The Gap." This is the section of the railroad including and between the towns of Mifflin and Port Royal, as well as the Tuscarora Creek farm valley. It is a largely rural area, with Mifflin and Tuscarora Creek bookending the segment. In 2017 I turned my efforts toward completing it.

I began work at the western end, where the eastbound signal bridge directs trains



3 A pair of Atlas O GP7 road diesels haul a train of trailers on flatcars over Tuscarora Creek just east of Port Royal. The curved stone arch bridge is an accurate model of the prototype and was cast in place using more than 150 pounds of Hydrocal plaster.



AT A GLANCE

Neal Schorr's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division

Gauge: O scale (1:48)

Dimensions: 38 x 45 feet
(maximum dimensions)

Track: Atlas O code 215 three-rail flextrack

Turnouts: Atlas O, Ross Custom Switches

Motive power and rolling stock: Atlas O, Golden Gate Depot, K-Line, Lionel, Weaver

Controls: Lionel TrainMaster Command Control

Structures: Atlas O, DPM, Lionel, MTH, scratchbuilt, Wm. K. Walthers

Figures: Artista, Woodland Scenics



4 Goodman's Feed Mill was located at the end of Milford Street in Port Royal. The model is built out of an Atlas O kit. Neal enhanced its appearance by painting and weathering the structure and fitting it with custom-made signs.

entering Mifflin interlocking. The backdrop here deserves mention. The Pennsy had constructed five duplex company houses for its employees that still stand on the hillside overlooking the interlocking. I first noticed them years ago when I began to explore the area and have since photographed them many times. The houses are signature items for those of us who love to

railfan the Middle Division. As such, I made sure to include them on my hand-painted backdrop, which I added before I installed the roadbed and track.

Of particular note is the westernmost house, which is painted in two colors. Apparently, the current owners of each side of the house cannot agree on a color! My guests often ask why it is painted this

way on the backdrop. When they do, I just hand them a photo of the real thing and tell them to see for themselves!

The trackwork is complex and typical of a four-track Pennsy interlocking, which allowed trains to move between any of the four tracks. In this instance, I also use it to transition to a two-track right-of-way to the west to represent the railroad as it appeared during the Conrail era.

MIFFLIN SCENERY WORK

Work got underway on the three-dimensional scenery at Mifflin in late 2017. Scenery in this area is relatively simple, consisting of the switch tower where the operator threw the interlocking switches, the hillside between the tracks and the duplex homes, and a highway bridge.

The tower model is a classic Quality Craft PRR switch tower seen on O scale layouts. What makes it special to me is that I purchased it at a Train Collectors Association meet at least 30 years earlier. It sat on my shelf, but once the layout was designed in the mid-1990s I knew exactly where I would use it. Nothing gave me more pleasure than finally assembling that kit after all those years.

Furthermore, the tower has a prominent location on the layout, sitting right



5 Neal recreated the rural appearance of central Pennsylvania by roughly two-thirds of the square footage of the layout to model farm fields, pastures, and woods. This cow pasture is typical of the area being modeled as well as the layout and consists of little more than a static grass field, fencing, a shade tree, and dairy cows from Woodland Scenics. The locomotive is a Lionel PRR Class J 2-10-4 Texas.

above the stair pit where you access the layout room. As you descend the stairs, you look right into the interior of the tower, so I detailed the inside. It includes wainscoting, a clock, a bulletin board, and lockers. The operator sits at a desk near an old-fashioned extendable phone.

Additional details are the adjacent air tanks and pneumatic piping typical of Pennsylvania RR interlockings. A compressor in the prototype switch tower pressurizes the tanks. The compressed air is then used to move the switch points under the control of the tower operator. The tanks are nothing more than a pair of 1½" PVC pipe end caps glued together. I made the small legs using Plastruct angles. Finally, piping adjacent to the tracks carries the compressed air to the switches.

ADDING A HIGHWAY BRIDGE

The other major structure at Mifflin is the highway bridge carrying Pennsylvania Route 35 over the tracks. The Pennsylvania RR had constructed the original pony truss bridge at this site around the turn of the 20th century, but it was decrepit by the 1960s. Around 1964, it was replaced by a modern highway bridge. Since this area of the layout portrays the 1960s, a model of this structure was a perfect fit here.

With my lifelong interest in highway engineering, recreating this bridge in O scale was a joy. This type of structure is known as an "I beam stringer" bridge, and it consists of a series of parallel I-beams with a concrete deck sitting on top of them. I had seen the prototype numerous times and had many photographs and measurements of the real structure. With this information, I was able to accurately model the I-beams, pier, and bearings that allow the beams to rest and move on the pier and allow for expansion of the beams as the weather warms.

The fine details give the model its character. My son, Steven, and I photographed and measured the distinctive bridge railings used by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways in the early and mid-1960s. Steven took this data and created computer-aided design (CAD) drawings of the railing. He printed them on a 3-D printer.

The result was a realistic recreation of the prototype. Typical 1960s vehicles passing over the structure add to the realism. The final touches are three O scale figures depicting Steven; my daughter, Caroline; and me standing on the bridge's sidewalk and checking out the railroad.



6 A concrete arch bridge carrying Market Street over the Pennsylvania RR in Port Royal was built in 1910 and is one of the signature structures of the Middle Division. Neal scratch-built the model from sheets of styrene. The prototype bridge lasted until 2023.



7 The western end of "The Gap" represents the 1960s. This pair of GP9s are painted in the scheme typical of that era. Likewise, the old pony truss bridge carrying State Route 35 over the tracks has been replaced by a new "I-beam stringer" bridge.

RURAL SCENERY

Just to the east of the highway bridge I modeled a typical Pennsylvania farm pasture filled with cows. The occasional shade tree can be found in the middle of these pastures. Unlike most of the trees on my layout, which are part of forests, this was a standalone model built using a Scenic Express No. EX0240 SuperSage kit that uses a piece of a tumbleweed to simulate a trunk typical of a massive shade tree. This was the first time in all my years of modeling that I spent an entire day building a single tree!

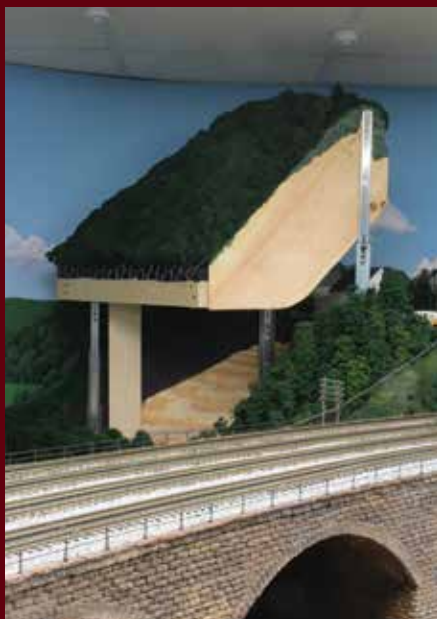
The scene also entailed the modeling of a large grass pasture. This motivated me to finally buy an electrostatic grass applicator — a wonderful modeling tool. The scene was finished with packages of Woodland Scenics No. A2767 Hereford cows.

ROYAL BRIDGE

Bracketing the pasture to the east is the town of Port Royal. The signature structure of Port Royal is a concrete arch bridge spanning the tracks and built by the Pennsylvania RR in 1910. It carried Pennsylvania Route 75 over the tracks until being demolished in 2023. The bridge was an essential Middle Division structure for my railroad; like every other bridge on my layout, it is scratchbuilt.

The precise alignment of the model bridge over the largest radius curve on my layout (an incredible 156-inch radius) was key to laying out the streets and structures correctly in Port Royal. For that reason, I spent an entire day building a foam-core mock-up of the bridge.

Using the mock-up as well as prototype photographs and architectural drawings, I



8 The scene behind the curved stone arch bridge crossing Tuscarora Creek is among the deepest on the layout. An access hatch was needed for maintenance purposes. Neal's friend John Sethian inspired him with the motorized hatch he built on his own O scale layout. Neal took the concept a bit further by constructing one on a wooded slope on the east side of Port Royal. He likes to surprise visitors by asking them to look at the hillside and then flipping the switch to open the hatch.

had made of the bridge, I began to build the structure by cutting out the sides and road surface from a 4' x 8' sheet of 1/8"-thick styrene intended for commercial use. I cut internal bracing from the styrene sheet as well. I cut the inside of the arch from a thinner piece of 4' x 8' styrene.

Next, I taped the structure together using masking tape and added clamps and bracing to hold everything together. Using a commercial-grade plastic solvent, I fused the parts together. Architectural trim was made from Evergreen styrene strips and a few pieces of wood dollhouse trim.

The final touch was the distinctive "1910" cast in concrete at the top of the arch, signifying the year of the bridge's construction. Charlie Blenko, a friend, 3-D printed the "1910" castings using my photographs and measurements. I glued the piece to the apex of the arch, painted the finished structure with khaki-colored paint to simulate concrete, and weathered it with Bragdon's weathering chalks.

EYE-CATCHING STRUCTURES

Structures in Port Royal come from Atlas, Design Preservation Models, Lionel, and MTH. Many were completely torn apart and reworked with additional details before being repainted and weathered.

Most eye-catching is an MTH corner pharmacy. Sitting at a 45-degree angle to the aisleway, the interior is in plain view, and I extensively detailed it. To its right, I removed the awnings on a Lionel No. 34127 O'Grady's Tavern, added a front porch, installed an accurate cornice, and repainted it in the orange brick color of the recently demolished Hotel Royal.

Across Milford Street is an Atlas O

(formerly Walthers) feed mill that closely matches the prototype Goodman's Feed Mill as it appeared in the past.

The most forlorn structure in Port Royal is the out-of-service PRR passenger station. Built in 1910 along with the arch bridge, this once-charming structure was closed to the public in 1947, when train service to the town ceased. By 1957, the year in which the scene is set, the closed station was remarkable only for its decrepit appearance and weed-covered platforms. Working from photographs taken in 1959, I was able to recreate its sorry state about a dozen years before it was torn down by the Penn Central in 1969. I used an Atlas Trainman station to create the model.

Tying everything together is the pole line — the collection of telegraph poles that parallel the tracks throughout the length of "The Gap." These, of course, are the poles I had manufactured years ago and marketed through Weaver Models.

I always liked looking at old photographs of the Middle Division, where the pole line can be seen rising and falling with the terrain. Nowhere was that more evident than at Port Royal. Their great height enabled the wires they once carried to pass over Route 75. I recreated those extra tall poles and the rise and fall of the pole line throughout the "The Gap."

FARM VALLEY

The last project needed to finish "The Gap" was the Tuscarora Creek farm valley. I had finished the scenery on the other side of the valley, including the eastern



9 A laborer from the railroad helps direct a truck driver as he backs his vehicle up to the scratchbuilt loading platform so they can move the crates from the platform into the truck. Neal weathered both the Atlas O Trainman boxcar and the truck by Speccast.



10 Today's realistic O gauge rolling stock allows assembly of accurate freight trains that recreate the prototype. A Lionel PRR N5 caboose brings up the rear of a coal train built of Lionel H31 and GLa hoppers as well as Weaver H35 hoppers as it passes through Port Royal.

bank of Tuscarora Creek, several years ago. This part of the layout was pictured in an article I wrote in the March 2020 issue of CTT. The next order of business was to build the creek. This was one of the widest parts of the layout shelf.

To provide access to this area, I built a large, hinged hatch to fill the open area in the benchwork between the tracks and the backdrop. The top of the hatch would serve as the riverbed. To lift it, I had to keep its weight to a minimum, so I framed it with 1" x 4" lumber to which I glued a piece of 1"-thick pink foam. Six hinges allow the hatch to swing down, and two heavy-duty door latches lock it into place. I topped it with a piece of ¼"-thick plywood, the upper surface of which was free of knots and smoothly sanded. The opposite creek bank was carved out of pink foam, glued to the plywood, and finished with sand, pebbles, and ground foam.

Access to finish the top of the hatch came from the western creek bank and hillside below Port Royal — the last portion of "The Gap" to receive scenery. Working from this area, I painted the riverbed a muddy greenish brown and poured epoxy on the top of the hatch to recreate the Tuscarora Creek waters.

After the epoxy had dried completely, I

turned my attention to the unfinished hillside. Lowering the completed hatch gave me access to this area, which provided about a 30" x 30" work area. However, the western half of Port Royal was more than 30" away from the drop-down hatch, so provisions had to be made to access the town should that ever be necessary.

The solution came from my friend John Sethian, who models in two-rail O scale. He had a similar access issue on his layout that he solved by installing a motorized hatch that opens vertically. He directed me to a device that uses a small 12-volt motor to drive a vertical lift. It in turn lifts the hatch, which is framed in wood and is mounted to the benchwork by means of three vertically mounted drawer slides.

Once the hatch was framed and mounted, I added puffball trees on the upper surface of the sloped hatch to create the tree-covered hillside. The mere flip of a toggle switch mounted in the fascia of the layout raises the hatch almost to the ceiling and provides access to Port Royal.

FINAL PIECE

There's one more piece to the story. There had to be a way for the Pennsylvania RR to get its four-track main line across Tuscarora Creek. On the Middle

Division, it relied almost exclusively on stone arch bridges to cross rivers and streams, and I did the same on my layout.

The bridge crossing Tuscarora Creek presented a special challenge since it was built on a curve. I had already built one tangent (straight) Hydrocal plaster model of a PRR stone arch bridge over Sherman's Creek at Duncannon. The best way to model such a structure was to build a wood form and pour the plaster in place.

The bridge was the most difficult structure to build in the entire layout. Working on it off and on, it took almost a year to complete, but it was well worth the effort.

It would not be until almost 20 years later that I would finish the scene. By March of 2020, all that remained to finish "The Gap" would be to build the scenery below and at the western end of the bridge. This was a relatively easy step, consisting of creating the western creek bank, installing ground cover and trees on the western approach to the bridge, and pouring the epoxy water under the bridge.

One task remained — to install the classic PRR pipe railing on the bridge. I soldered 10 brass PRR railing kits together, painted them black, and installed them into drilled holes atop both sides of the bridge. I had finally filled "The Gap"! **CTT**



The Lionel No. 41 Army switcher was cataloged from 1955 to 1957.

All models courtesy Joe Algozzini

Lionel's postwar military switchers

THESE HARDWORKING ENGINES WERE BASED ON ARMY AND NAVY PROTOTYPES

STORY BY TERRY THOMPSON // PHOTOS BY WILLIAM ZUBACK

Kids of the 1950s loved Lionel's little switch engines. The stubby proportions and whirling drive rods of these classics gave them an industrious appearance as they dashed around O gauge layouts. Lionel produced them in a number of colorful and collectible variations.

Did the prototypes really exist? Yes, at least in their initial releases. Lionel was cutting-edge with its No. 41, the first in the line, releasing it only a year after the prototype entered service. Not only was Lionel's switcher surprisingly accurate but it was also quite successful, for its successors have continued to be part of the Lionel line.

The Lionel advance catalog for 1956 shows both the No. 41 and 51 switchers.

ARMY PROTOTYPE

The U.S. Army Transportation Corps, looking for a lightweight yet powerful locomotive that could run on a variety of fuels, began to research the feasibility of using a gas turbine to power a locomotive in 1950. Two years later, its Transportation Research & Engineering Command (TRECOT) decided to procure a gas-turbine switcher. TRECOT, in turn, enlisted Boeing as the contractor for the locomotive, and Boeing contracted with Davenport Locomotive Works in Iowa for the construction of a 30-ton locomotive.

This locomotive, the prototype for Lionel's No. 41, was 24'-6"



Lionel cataloged the No. 57 AEC Switcher in 1959 and 1960.



This U.S. Army switcher, which was photographed by Gary Gadziala in Charlotte, N.C., sometime in the early 1960s, was the prototype for the Lionel No. 41 switcher.



This U.S. Navy diesel switcher was the prototype used for Lionel's Nos. 51, 56, and others. The engine is in Pensacola, Fla., in this undated photo by Ernest Sevede.

long and had a 1-B-1 (2-4-2, in steam terms) wheel arrangement. There were only two turbines in the switcher, not three. What appears to be a third exhaust stack is the air outlet for the oil cooler. Wearing the number 1149, it entered service in 1954 and served at Fort Eustis, Va., until 1957, when its gearing failed. The Army sold its Davenport turbine switcher to a construction firm in 1959. Even though a variety of other turbines found limited success in rail applications, it appears that this particular design was not repeated.

The Army's new switcher was a natural choice for Lionel. It was up to date and fit well with what would become two of Lionel's emphases during the late 1950s: motorized units and military equipment. The No. 41 Army switcher, in fact, ranked as Lionel's first piece of military equipment and (along with the No. 60 trolley) was second only to the No. 50 Section Gang car in seniority among the motorized units.

The Lionel Corp. used its Davenport switcher body for the black No. 41 of 1955-57, the green No. 42 Picatinny Arsenal switcher of 1957, and the white No. 59 Air Force Minuteman switcher of 1962-63. The AC motor on the units is sturdy, though it requires frequent lubrication. They have three-position E units.

NAVY PROTOTYPE

Lionel's other switcher body, used for the Nos. 51 Navy switcher of 1956-57, 56 Minneapolis & St. Louis Mine Transport switcher, and 57 Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) switcher, follows the design of a 1940s-vintage 30-ton Vulcan diesel switcher used by



Lionel cataloged the No. 42 Picatinny Arsenal Switcher in 1957.

the U.S. Navy. In spite of the fact that its Vulcan body closely matches the design of the prototype, Lionel chose to use the same mechanism as the 41 Army switcher for these units rather than the four-wheel (with rear jackshaft) drive of the prototype. Lionel's successor firms have all used the Vulcan body for switchers and motorized units.

Though for the second time in a decade a turbine that Lionel had bet on turned out to be one-of-a-kind (the other being the 6-8-6 S1 Pennsylvania RR steam turbine), the turbine switchers and their diesel cousins remain favorites. Lionel succeeded where the prototype failed, and it did so with surprising accuracy. **CTT**



The No. 58 Great Northern snowplow was cataloged from 1959 to 1961 (left); The No. 59 Minuteman Switcher was cataloged in 1962 and 1963.



Basics of toy train layout wiring

HOW ELECTRICITY WORKS FOR ANYONE JUST GETTING STARTED

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAN TRZONIEC

Understanding the basics of electricity can seem intimidating. But really for electricity and model trains, it's as basic as "what goes around comes around." In other words, if you think of it like going to the grocery store and coming back home, you'll never have any problems with electricity on a layout.

What am I referring to? O gauge trains use a two-wire system, with the center rail (going) for power (+), and the outside two rails (coming back) for the return or ground (-). With this short explanation as your basic wiring concept,

you'll quickly discover that everything else is easy.

The best time to establish a point where you can install your power supply or transformer convenient to access for wiring is after you've laid track but haven't yet secured it to your tabletop's surface. A control panel is nice for mounting on/off switches to insulate track sections for electrical blocks or momentary switches for turnouts to direct trains and any operating accessories.

Along with our plan on wiring, I suggest a color-coding system for troubleshooting in case something goes wrong



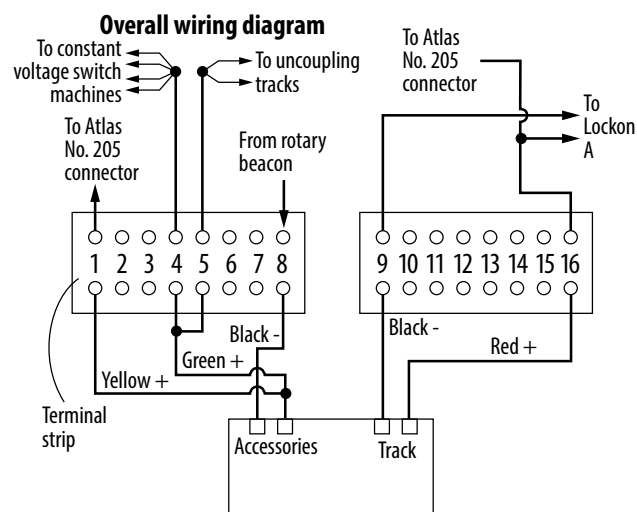
Understanding the basics of electricity explains the successful operation of trains and accessories on the author's O gauge Delaware & Raritan Valley RR. When wiring is done correctly, he believes, it will last a lifetime and be free of problems.

(Fig. 1). By using four colors of 16- or 18-gauge wire – each with a specific purpose – you will be good right from the start. I recommend 16-gauge wire for all your feeders.

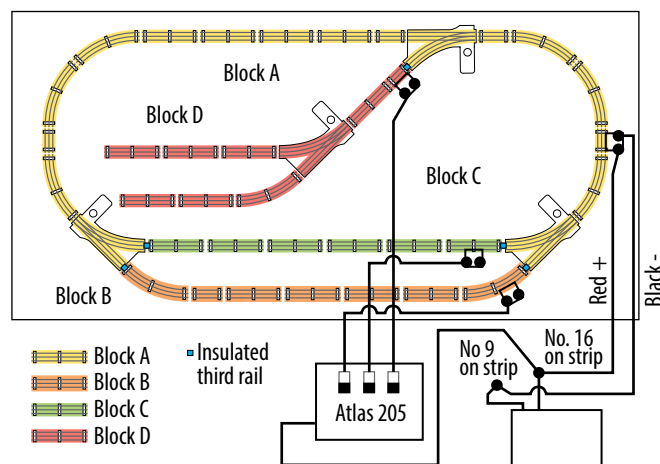
You don't need a lot of supplies to get started. I suggest a few rolls of colored wire (100 feet each to start), wire cutters or a wire stripper, a soldering gun, and a drill (to drill holes for routing wire up from under your benchwork to track level). Optional items include terminal strips and an electrical project box and toggle switches (if you wish to make a control panel).

Red Wire	Positive (+)	Center rail
Black Wire	Negative (-)	Outer rail and accessory grounds
Green Wire	Constant Voltage	Switch machines, uncoupling sections
Yellow Wire	Constant Voltage	Accessories only

1 The author's suggested color codes for wiring.



2 This illustration shows how to use power to both the track and accessories to wire a layout. The author uses Atlas No. 205 slide switches (instead of toggle switches) to distribute power to both.



3 Artwork from the author's out-of-print book, *How To Build Your First Lionel Layout*, shows how easy it is to wire a 4 x 8-foot O gauge layout having both a yard and a passing siding.



4 Depending on the size of your O gauge layout, the best transformer may be Lionel's type-ZW in the background, Lionel's classic No. 1033 to its right, or MTH's No. Z-750 in the foreground. Not shown is the MTH Z-4000.

TRANSFORMER AND BASIC WIRING

Before you purchase a transformer, think about buying one that's larger (has more power in terms of volts and watts) than what you think you need, especially if you plan to invest in handheld controls. Although current draw on present-day can-style motors is less than in years past, your railroad will grow and upgrading power supplies can be costly later, so do it now (**Fig. 4**).

Purchasing a power supply would include standard voltage "posts" for accessories and additional controls with the ability to change or vary voltages to operate trains and their speeds. Take, for example, the Lionel type-ZW transformer. On each side, you have a throttle with as many as 20 volts to control trains and a small lever inboard of each to run additional trains, though I use them for low-voltage signals and lights. On the MTH No. Z-4000 transformer, you have two outside levers for trains up to 20 volts; the two inside terminals yield 10 and 14 volts.

For a connection on the Lionel ZW transformer, use the A and D posts on the rear for trains, the B and C posts for accessories, and the U post for the ground. The MTH power unit is made with red and black terminals for wiring. Run the red wire from the A post to the center rail and solder to secure it. The black wire goes to the outside track nearest you and then solder it to the rail (**Fig. 5**).

Note: This application applies to a small layout. If you find your engine slows down on another part of your layout, add feeder wires (**Fig. 6**). This involves nothing more than duplicating the connections you just made to the rails but farther down the track or possibly on the other side of your layout.

ADDING A SIDING

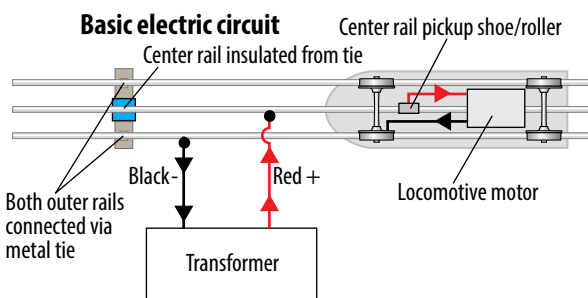
If you want to run two trains on your layout, you need a siding or yard where you can park one train while the other train is moving. You must insulate the middle rail with an insulating pin to break the circuit on both ends, as shown in **Fig. 9**.

After installing the pin, run a separate plus (red) wire from the transformer or terminal strip to a toggle or an Atlas No. 205 connector switch to energize the insulated section so you can move the train in or out of the mainline track. There's no need to run a ground wire (black, -) because the toggle switch is all you need to break this or any other circuit on the rails. Install a terminal strip so one wire from the transformer can branch off to run other parts of the layout (**Figs. 6 and 7**).

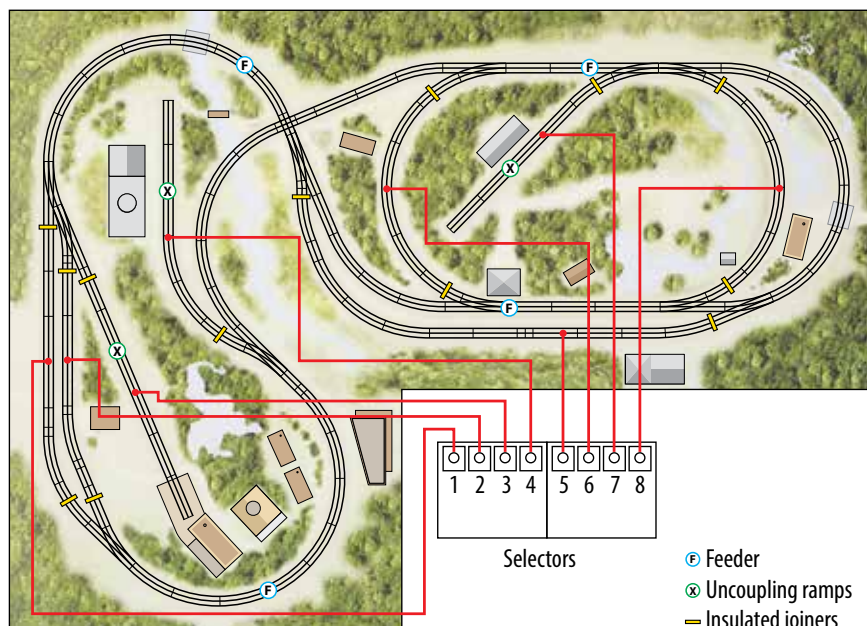
ACCESSORY WIRING

I use the green wire for low-voltage items, such as switch machines, uncoupling ramps, and yard lights. They use a lower power or a fixed voltage and last for years on 14 to 16 volts. This can be dialed in with the inside levers on a ZW or the fixed port of 14 volts on a Z-4000.

For signals and streetlights, I drop the voltage to 10 or 12 volts. This is useful on



5 Understanding how O gauge locomotives use electricity is helpful when planning a layout. When doing the wiring, have red go to the center rail and black go to either outside rail. This system will help you get things running quickly.



6 On this O gauge layout, feeders, uncoupling ramps, and insulated blocks are shown in a simple form so you can follow the pattern for operation of your trains.

Illustration courtesy Atlas Model Trains

signals because the brightness level is dimmed for a more realistic look. Also, using a fixed voltage of around 16 volts ensures better switch operation. Switches use track voltage, but their operation can get sluggish when a train slows because less current is going to the unit. By using a fixed voltage to supply a specific amount of voltage (16 volts is good) at all times, operation will remain safe and snappy.

ADDING A CONTROL PANEL

A control panel keeps everything organized for switch controls, sidings, and accessories. I used to cut thin Masonite, spray-paint it yellow, tape off my layout track plan, and spray it all black. Now, as shown in **Fig. 8**, I opt for small electrical boxes (available at electronics stores) that are deep enough to house any toggle switch and wiring and can be placed around the layout. For the track diagram, I recommend buying pin-stripping tape, which is available at any automotive parts store.

For end-of-track areas, notably at a siding or an engine-house, install a push button wired to a section of track about 12 inches from the end of the bumper. Your engine will stop short of the bumper without damage if it gets away from you and will continue only if you press the button.

Speaking of end-of-track bumpers, if you use tubular track with a Lionel No. 260 Illuminated Bumper, you can insulate the center rail with a fiber pin and wire it up to a constant 10 volts for longer bulb life. It will remain lit even when you hit the reverse button on the transformer.

INSULATED TRACK SECTION

An insulated track section serves key tasks on an O gauge layout. It can activate signals or relays in blocks, trigger a light on your control panel to show the location of a train, or even operate trackside accessories, like a Lionel No. 445 Operating Switch Tower, when a train passes.

If you use standard tubular track, making an insulated track section is easy. First, remove one outside rail and then insert pieces of Kraft paper inside the clips. Next, replace the rail and bend the clips downward tightly. To complete the section, just insert the plastic pins at each end (**Fig. 9**).

Here are some other ways to add an insulated track section that are based on the type of track you're using:

Atlas O: Use No. 6093 Insulated Rail Joiners to replace standard nickel-silver joiners.

GarGraves/Ross Custom Switches: The wood ties are already insulated – just cut the outside rails.

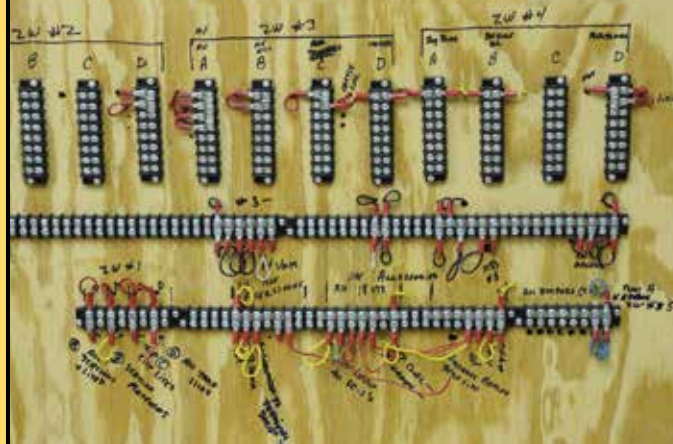
Lionel FasTrack: Purchase a No. 12060 Insulated Track Section.

MTH RealTrax: Bend the copper pieces on one of the outside rails, so they don't touch the other copper pieces. Add electrical tape to the bent pieces and on the face of the outside rail to interrupt the continuity.

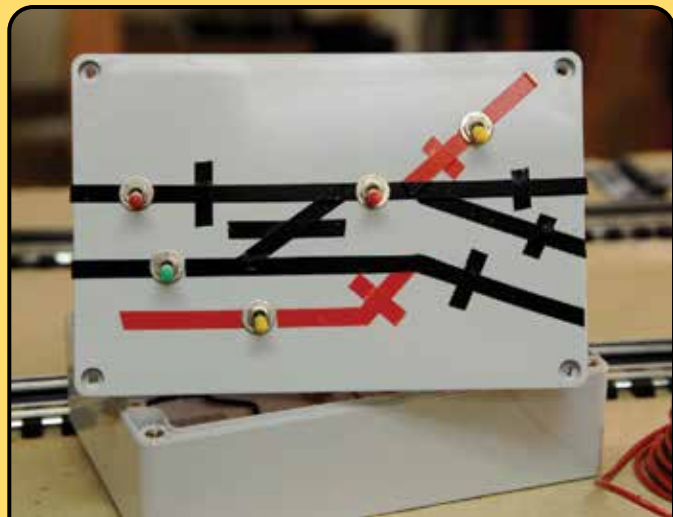
FINAL THOUGHTS

This is just an introduction to toy train electricity. To learn more, consult my articles in past issues of *Classic Toy Trains*: January and October 2011 and January and September 2013. You can purchase those back issues at shop.trains.com

For a comprehensive take on the subject, I recommend the second edition of Peter H. Riddle's book, *Wiring Your Toy Train Layout*. It's also available at shop.trains.com **CTT**



7 The author's previous layout had a control panel marked for each transformer and accessory. Terminal strips (available at hardware stores and online) keep everything well organized. The author writes notes on the plywood.



8 Simple and effective control panels incorporating hand-held control devices can be designed using small electrical boxes, toggle switches, and tape. On this panel, sidings are shown in red while blocks are indicated by the use of cross sections of tape over each track and crossing.



9 This section of Lionel O gauge tubular track has been converted to serve as an insulated track section. Note the short white plastic pin inserted into the outer rail.

William Zuback photo

Enhancing a Plasticville switch tower

Hobby paints and commercial parts do the job

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANTHONY ARRAO

In the early 1950s, Bachmann Bros. added the No. SW-2 Switch Tower (now numbered 1631) to its Plasticville U.S.A. line of structures for O and S gauge trains. The tower's design was a generic representation found on many railroads.

Enhancing the kit's appearance with paint, lighting, interior and exterior details, and even a little weathering will transform it from a basic kit into an eye-catching realistic model. The starting point for this weekend project was an assembled switch tower left over from an earlier layout I had built. (Fig. 1) The end result, as installed on my new, more realistic layout, is shown below in Fig. 2.

Fig. 1. Lightly weathering the exterior of the Plasticville switch tower after adding a few details and affixing the name and call letters transformed it into a great addition to the author's realistic layout.



START WITH PAINTING

The addition of colors of hobby paint dramatically improves the look of the basic structure. I began by spray-painting the entire structure with Krylon No. 2746 Matte White. Besides being a primer, the plastic-compatible paint kept light from penetrating the interior.

Next, I airbrushed the entire switch tower, except for the roof, with Deco Art No. DA09 Antique Gold acrylic paint. I diluted the paint (1 part paint to 4 parts water) before applying four light coats with a compressor set at 25 psi.

I masked the clapboard siding and shingles (right below the top windows) with delicate surface painter's tape before spraying those areas with Krylon No. 4293 Camouflage Olive Green.

When everything had dried, I masked the switch tower again and sprayed the foundation with Krylon No. 2910 Matte Vintage Gray.

I airbrushed the roof with Craftsmart No. 402440 Burgundy diluted to the same 1:4 proportion. To prevent bleed-through of the interior's lighting, I brush-painted the inside surface of the roof with Liquitex No. Pbk11 Mars Black.

Before adding any of the interior details, I brush-painted the top 2 inches of the inside surfaces of the switch tower using DecoArt No. DA131 Light Green. After the paint had dried and been examined, I carefully brush-painted all the interior window trim with Liquitex No. PBr7 Burnt Umber. I let everything dry.

Fig. 2. Take a look at the author's updated, neatly detailed Plasticville switch tower. New materials from Evergreen Styrene and Plastruct, pieces left over from previous projects, commercial and hobby paints, and imagination enhanced the structure.



Fig. 3. Expanding the tower's foundation and painting the exterior were the first steps in the author's enjoyable weekend project to transform his switch tower.

IMPROVING THE PLATFORM

I extended the original platform of the structure on three sides using two layers of Evergreen No. 385 .100" x .750" polystyrene strips that I had cut to match the new extensions. Then I applied Plastruct No. 91536 .125" wood planking over the original platform and the extensions, as can be seen in Fig. 3.

Prior to affixing the planking, I sprayed it with Rust-Oleum No. 279178 Camo Earth Brown. I painted the sides of the platform with the same acrylic.

DETAILING THE INTERIOR

I created a floor for the interior by attaching three pieces of Evergreen No. 196 .188" x .188" polystyrene strips to the walls approximately 2 inches from the top. Next, I used Plastruct .125" wood planking for the floor inside the tower. I brush-painted the planking with DecoArt No. DA093 Raw Sienna.

Next, I glued the floor to the polystyrene strips using Testor's model cement. I built out the walls of the tower's interior using Evergreen 100" x .750" polystyrene strips that I airbrushed the same color as the window trim.

Evergreen No. 907 .015" thick clear styrene worked to simulate glass for the windows. I cut manila folder paper to replicate window shades. The desk, switch operator, chair, and potbelly stove came from previous projects (**Fig. 4**).

The switch levers were built from scratch after studying interior photos of switch towers. I used leftover .030"-thick sheet styrene for them.

I finished the interior by using Evergreen No. 226 .188"-diameter tubing as the stove pipe. I also relied on that size of styrene tubing for making the wire conduit for the lighting of the tower's interior.



Fig. 4. Removing the roof of the tower makes it easy to look inside to admire the floor, chair and desk, potbelly stove, and switch levels added, plus the operator.



Fig. 5. The switch tower is illuminated by seven inexpensive LEDs (light-emitting diodes): three on the exterior, two underneath the interior floor, and two inside the roof section.

EXTERIOR DETAILS AND WEATHERING

I had a lot of fun adding several commercial details to the exterior of the switch tower to improve its appearance. **Figures 2 and 5** show several of them plus the weathering.

I scratchbuilt a coal bin using the Plastruct .125" wood planking, which I airbrushed to match the color of the switch tower. I put scale coal inside and around the bin.

The electrical power meter and conduit were made from styrene and .040"-diameter rod. I made the smokestack support struts from resistor leads.

I next added handrails to both sides of the first-floor entrance door and to the left side of the stairs. For them I used leftover .040"-square styrene strips.

Prior to adding the tower name and call letters, I carefully masked the windows and lightly weathered the structure by brushing on a variety of earth-colored pigments by Vallejo. Then I sealed the different pigments by airbrushing over them a light coat of Testor's Dullcote, which I had diluted by 50% with Testor's thinner.

Finally, I created the name and the call letters for the switch tower on my computer, and then printed everything with an off-white background on photographic paper. I got all the lettering to adhere by using an Elmer's glue stick. **CTT**



1 American Flyer trains look great in any setting. S gauge enthusiast Gary King goes further by his models amid realistic landscaping and trackwork.

SCENERY IMPROVES VINTAGE TRAINS AND ACCESSORIES



REALISM

upgrades toys on
a Flyer layout

STORY BY ROGER CARP // PHOTOS BY GARY KING

A.C. Gilbert, a giant figure in the history of American toys, advanced the industry adage that “play is a child’s work.” He wanted every item his company sold, from Erector Sets to American Flyer trains, to enhance the lives and minds of youngsters. He believed his diverse products should guide boys into the modern world they would eventually lead.

Realism, an essential part of the appeal of American Flyer locomotives, operating accessories, and rolling stock, has appealed to modeler Gary King since he received his first S gauge train for Christmas of 1956. Whenever he has designed and constructed a layout as an adult, culminating in the superb 11½ x 13½ -foot display featured here, he has sought to create authentic and detailed settings in which to arrange freight loaders and stations.

By doing so, Gary thought, he could make the trains he operated look more like miniature replicas of the full-size steam and diesel locomotives that would have pulled the boxcars, gondolas, and coaches he envisioned. His photographs leave no doubt how successfully he has achieved the goals Mr. Gilbert himself established for his business.

WHAT’S LOVED

While Gary and his wife, Kathy, appreciate his skills necessary to finish the different scenes on his S gauge railroad, they won’t hide the fact that certain areas mean more to them. They genuinely love a handful of scenes and are quick to point them out.

Inquisitive visitors, especially those who are already dabbling in the hobby of model railroading, gently yet firmly press Gary to specify favorite sections. They want to learn his tricks in hopes of figuring out how they can capture the magic on their layouts.

So let’s get right down to it and find out where Gary thinks he has accomplished fully his hope of blending realism with whimsy. This is, after all, what virtually every fan of American Flyer elevates as his or her principal goal, since the trains lend themselves to being the main actors in settings distinguished by scale realism, detail, and excitement.

A couple of areas that Gary automatically mentions include as their centerpiece an operating accessory introduced by the Gilbert Co. back in the middle to late 1950s. One of his all-time favorites is the No. 779 Oil Drum Loader; another is the No. 23796 Sawmill. Gary has enjoyed

them since first seeing them in action many decades ago. His 779 is an original, and his sawmill is a modern reissue first brought out by MTH Electric Trains.

Familiar with the appearance and activity of both accessories, Gary tried to place each of them amid realistic landscaping. Then he went out of his way to add details he trusted would improve their look and suggest to viewers how the two different loaders were integral elements of a local economy regularly served by freight trains. Vehicles and figures were, of course, key to completing the vignettes and giving folks lots to observe.



2 A wonderful balance of railroad operation and accessory activity characterizes Gary's layout. This MTH reissue of a Flyer No. 23796 Sawmill fits well with the realistic scenery.

“I integrated the sawmill into a realistic scene,” Gary says. “What I believe actually makes it work are the details I added: an office, an arriving log truck, a muddy delivery road, the weathered fencing, trees, and an abandoned siding holding a rusting old steamer and rolling stock.”

How about the petroleum refinery and its oil loader? “Outbuildings, tanks, and the two walking-beam ‘horsehead’ oil pumps from Walthers. The structures look better, thanks to the LEDs I installed. We really have unforgettable night scenes!”

CONSTANT LEARNING

Now that Gary’s on a roll and wants to discuss a few more of the finest and most impressive sights on the layout, we should pause so he can reflect on how he reached

this stage. Along the way, he has learned a great deal and picked up many valuable lessons he likes to share.

Perhaps the most important of all the lessons Gary has acquired since unwrapping a basic Flyer steam freight set on the morning of December 25, 1956, is to get the trains off the floor and onto a layout. Nobody cares how simple the little railroad turns out.

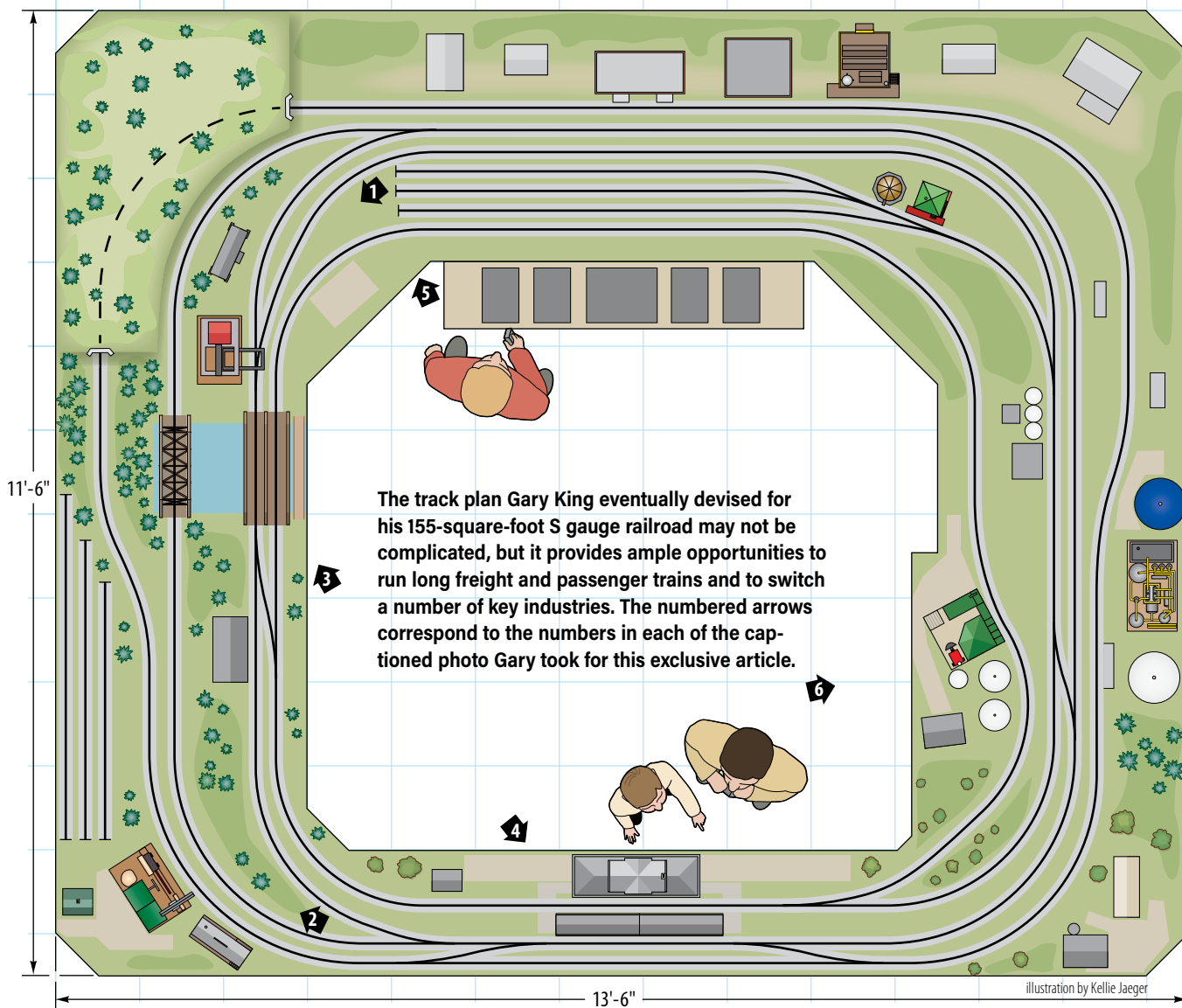
An oval of track worked incredibly well for 6-year-old Gary. Something even better occurred two years later: He picked up a pair of switches to create a passing siding and then a crossover for a figure-eight

track arrangement. Gary and his father were setting up entertaining layouts on sheets of plywood almost immediately, with a tunnel and a few accessories multiplying their fun.

Something else characterized the S gauge displays from Gary’s childhood. There always were some structures from the Plasticville U.S.A. lineup. Slick as they were, he wanted to modify them in hopes of making the toy-like houses, stations, and municipal buildings seem more realistic. As he later learned, paints and lights worked the best.

ENTHUSIASTIC RETURN

Getting married and having children proved to be the motivation for luring Gary back into enjoying toy trains. Kathy



AT A GLANCE

Name: Gary King's S gauge layout

Dimensions: 11½ x 13½ feet

Track and switches: American Models (diameters range from 42 up to 60 inches)

Motive power: American Models, Gilbert American Flyer, S-Helper Service

Rolling stock: American Models, Gilbert American Flyer, Lionel, S-Helper Service

Controls: Gilbert American Flyer, Model Rectifier Corp. transformers

Accessories: Gilbert American Flyer, MTH Electric Trains, Wm. K. Walther's

Structures: American Model Builders, Plasticville U.S.A., Wm. K. Walther's

Vehicles: American Highway Legends, Ertl, Johnny Lightning, Matchbox

Figures: Artista, Michaels ArtMinds, MTH Electric Trains, Preiser

3 Magnificent is the right word to describe the Lackawanna E8 diesel pulling streamlined passenger cars over the river. Nearby, stands an American Flyer No. 787 log loader.





4 The last passenger train of the night, led by Delaware, Lackawanna & Western E8 cab units from American Models, is pulling into Millbrook Station. Despite the late hour, travelers linger on the platforms, eager to board and start their journey.

encouraged her husband to gather up his boyhood set to add color and fun to their first apartment. She discovered the pleasures of painting the postwar Plasticville models and helping with the new layout.

Later, after Brad and Marianne arrived, there was no reason to pack up the old Flyer set, not when the youngsters wished to operate it by themselves. The King family devoted their spare moments to upgrading the compact layout spread over two 4 x 6-foot sheets of Homasote. The joys of S gauge railroading were pleasing another generation.

Over time, naturally, Gary and Kathy moved to a larger residence that offered additional real estate for a layout. They chose, however, to opt for a railroad occupying elevated shelves. “The chief advantage,” Gary observes, “was being able to design long straightaways for passing sidings. We could run really long freight and passenger trains.”

Brad especially found the hobby intellectually meaningful as he grew. Wiring and other electrical steps captured his fancy, and he became the inhouse expert on creating blocks, connecting transformers, and developing reliable controls for the switches. Gary just could not have been happier than when he worked on the layout alongside his son.

BEST ONE YET

Tabletop layouts and shelf displays – Gary had built a few by the time Kathy and he

pulled up stakes again about 10 years ago. After settling into their new place (Brad and Marianne had grown up and were establishing lives of their own), the Kings recognized an S gauge railroad would fit in perfectly, particularly with their additional leisure time and the experience and know-how they had as modelers. The best layout would start now!

Which is precisely what did not happen! Admittedly, Gary had a clear vision of a medium-size American Flyer railroad beautifully blending vintage and contemporary toy trains with some realistic and detailed scenes. But the project had to be postponed for a few years while he and Kathy concentrated on helping Brad and his wife rear their kids.

Eventually, however, Gary did manage to focus once more on his top hobby. He incorporated some of the sturdy benchwork Brad and he had assembled for their previous layout to serve as the foundation of a rather larger and more extensive two-rail pike that might still be classified as a “shelf display,” albeit much wider to handle more main lines.

Being able to run long trains remained paramount for Gary. Yet there was also going to be more scenery – above all, a sizable mountain with tunnels and a river.

The platform, assembled using ½-inch-thick plywood, stands 48 inches off the floor. Cushioning the sections of track in a few places are pieces of 3/16-inch-thick cork; for the most part, though, Gary has

relied on carefully cut strips of non-slip rug padding.

Gone are the dated straights and curves manufactured by the Gilbert Co. Instead, Gary and Brad have nailed down new track sections from American Models. They consider it more realistic in appearance and superior in operation. Diameters range from 42 to 60 inches.

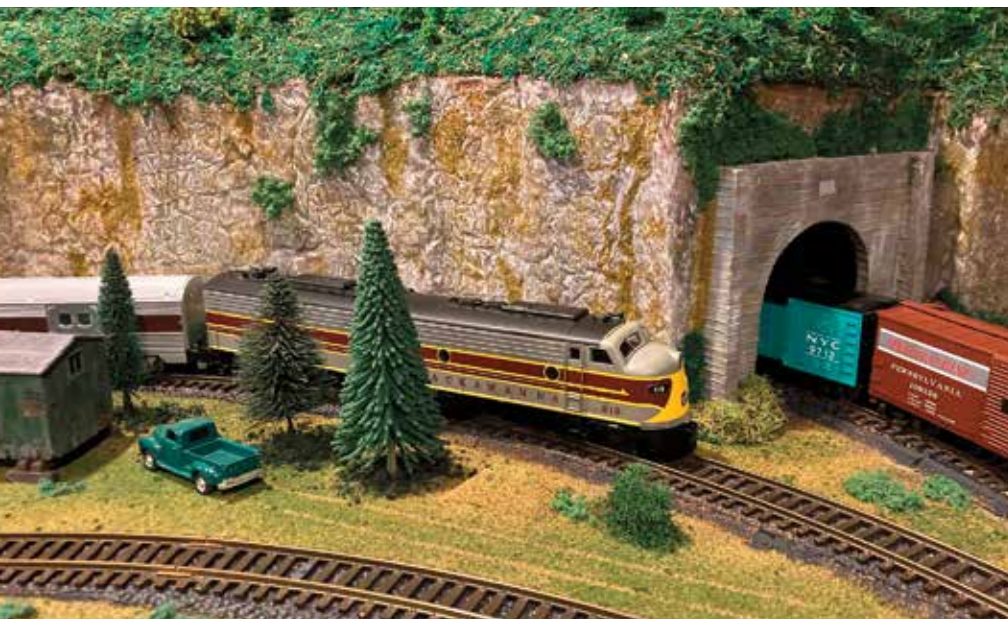
American Models is responsible for the turnouts installed. Tortoise slow-motion machines activate them via miniature toggle switches mounted on a 15 x 24-inch vertical control panel. The Plexiglas panel has the track plan of the layout neatly displayed on it.

GETTING REAL

Ensuring the track fit together perfectly and wiring the assortment of electrical blocks to provide consistent performance were noteworthy steps in constructing this layout. So also for Gary were developing convincing scenic effects and finishing a satisfying variety of commercial structures to enhance each of the sections.

Never before had Gary approached landscaping so seriously. He read widely and studied the products on the market. With Kathy’s support he started.

In Gary’s words, he made landforms by stacking pieces of 2-inch rigid foamboard that he had shaped. He cast the rock walls using aluminum foil molds. Where necessary, he painted the features with acrylic and latex colors. Next, he sprinkled on a



5 Eastern railroads, notably those that later merged to form the Erie-Lackawanna and later the Penn Central, govern the network of track on Gary's S gauge layout. He reminds visitors that other sections require more work to look as nice as this popular site.

few different textures and shades of ground foam from Scenic Express and Woodland Scenics. That stage was among the most gratifying and enjoyable.

Landscaping demanded plenty of bushes and trees. For brush, Gary used reindeer moss and fiber clusters; for trees, he opted for pines and spruces by Grand Central Scenery.

The waterway dominating part of the railroad came together gradually. First,

Gary secured in the area a print of a river bottom. Then he covered it with a thin plastic sheet meant to simulate rippled water. Gary next lined the sides with pieces of the rigid foamboard cut to size. Finally, he put mirrors at the ends of the river to suggest water flowed on.

For structures – residential, industrial, and railroad-oriented – Gary added paint to make them look realistic and simulate wear and tear. Some kits were HO items

modified to fit into S scale settings. That often involved raising the foundation.

“The most important change I make to buildings, including Flyer stations,” Gary said, “is to add LED lighting to the interiors and exteriors.” He specified 3mm and 5mm lights, which can be purchased in sizable packs at reasonable prices. In addition, he used them to fashion a terrific assortment of streetlights with Evergreen Scale Models plastic tubing.

DIM THE LIGHTS

As we prepare to leave the King residence, Gary eagerly returns to the initial question about favorite scenes. Again, he emphasizes how paint and detail can raise the quality of a vignette by causing it to seem more realistic, notably when a train is in it.

Lighting is very important, Gary states. His American Flyer urban terminal is the major player in an area he really likes, and the LED lights thoughtfully installed make it seem authentic. No wonder running trains in the darkened train room looks exactly right.

So does the bridge spanning the river. Again, superb landscaping augmented by tiny features makes the natural setting one visitors hardly forget. They want to linger as train after train dashes over the waterway. We can only dream of how much A.C. Gilbert would have appreciated the long hours and smart planning Gary put into his layout. **CTT**

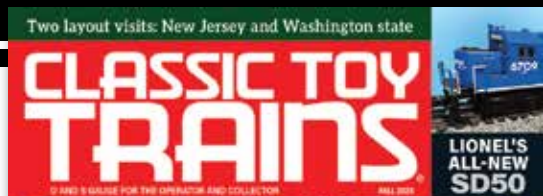


6 This American Flyer No. 779 oil drum loader takes on greater realism and visual appeal because of the petroleum tanks, towers, and ancillary facilities Gary used to complete the refinery. The diesel switchers handling the tank cars and hoppers come from S-Helper Service.

CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS

SAVE UP TO 27%

GET 1 YEAR OF CLASSIC TOY TRAINS FOR AS LOW AS \$37.95



In each issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine, you'll get:

- ▶ Repair & maintenance tips
- ▶ Track plans & toy train layouts
- ▶ In-depth profiles of prewar and postwar collectibles
- ▶ Insights on collecting & operating toy trains

PLUS, get our weekly e-newsletter, early access to digital issues, live workshop webcam, and Track Plan Database on Trains.com!



VISIT US ONLINE:
TRAINS.COM/CTT/SUBSCRIBE



SCAN ME

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

Trains

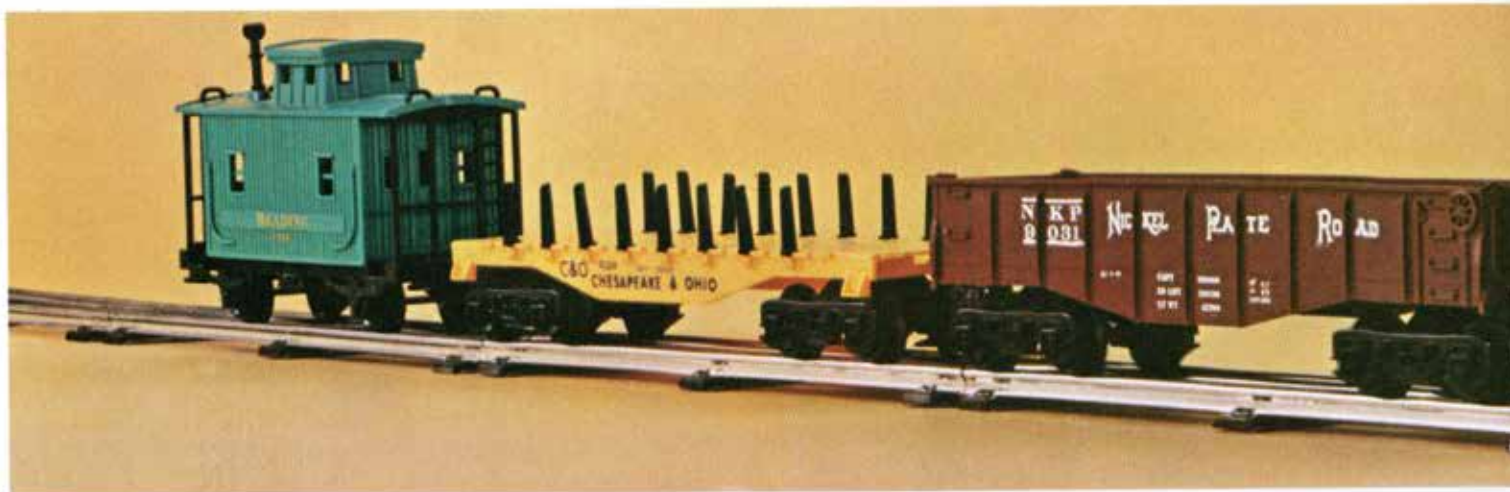
**Model
Railroader**

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

Classic Trains
MAGAZINE

**Garden
RAILWAYS**

**trains.com
VIDEO**



MODERN LIONEL AND DC POWER

First and final sets with this feature

STORY BY MICHAEL CONNOR

Between 1973 and 1991, engineers overseeing the development of Lionel trains made a half-hearted attempt to promote DC (direct current) rather than the customary AC (alternating current) to power some low-end O gauge locomotives. They thought DC would enable locomotives to run more smoothly and generate less noise.

Instead of diving into the reasons why DC ultimately failed to gain traction at General Mills and Lionel Trains Inc., which later acquired the rights to make the trains, this article will look at the first set with a DC-powered locomotive and what appears to have been the final such set of the pre-digital era.

SET NO. 1380

Fundimensions, which took over production of Lionel trains from Model Products Corp. in 1973, heralded the introduction of DC-powered trains with set No. 1380, known as the U.S. Steel Industrial Switcher.

The catalog praised "Lionel's all-new Power/Master DC motor and power pack."

Why Lionel chose this new method of propulsion is unknown. Given that the firm re-entered the HO scale market in 1974, this 1973 effort may or may not have been a trial balloon. One fact is known: Lionel used the same power supply with the 1380 and the HO sets. Conversely, the US Steel Industrial Switcher may just have been an inexpensive entry point for newcomers to the toy train hobby.

The 1380 was a barebones set, with just a locomotive, two cars, and a caboose plus a circle of O-27 track. The models didn't even come with operating couplers.

Leading the way was the No. 8350 U.S. Steel industrial switcher. The four-wheel engine was based on a gas-turbine prototype used in industrial situations. The red body had silver lettering. A chrome-plated horn was the only added part.

Next rode the Nos. 9024 Chesapeake & Ohio flatcar and 9031 Nickel Plate Road gondola, both common cars included in several other sets. The yellow flatcar came with blue lettering; the brown gondola came with white lettering.

A positive aspect of the set was the play potential of the two freight cars. Youngsters could put all kinds of loads in the gondola and flatcar with stakes.

Last came the No. 9068 Reading bobber-type caboose. Molded in green plastic, the four-wheel model with yellow lettering had ladders at both ends and a smoke-stack on the roof. Designers elected not to have its road name match that of the motive





The No. 1380 U.S. Steel Industrial Switcher for 1973 was the first Lionel set to rely on direct current.

power, which was unusual for Lionel sets, even inexpensive ones, during much of the modern era.

LITTLE MOMENTUM

The lack of fanfare for the 1380 U.S. Steel Industrial Switcher and the fact that Fundimensions offered no other DC set in 1973 might have explained its weak sales. In fact, it remained the only DC set available for the next two years.

Then in 1976, Fundimensions replaced the 1380 at the low end of its list of sets with the No. 1660 Yard Boss. It also came with only an industrial switch engine, a couple of freight cars, and a caboose, along with a basic circle of track.

The fortunes of the DC sets would remain static for the rest of the 1970s, but 1980 would be the peak of Lionel enthusiasm for such power with five sets offered. After that high point, interest declined in such a mode of moving trains. Around this time period, the electronic E-unit was developed, allowing Lionel to utilize the quiet DC can-style motors with a three-way reversing mechanism.

SET NO. 11720

The last hurrah for DC sets at Lionel before the digital era commenced around 1995 came four years earlier. The catalog released in 1991 spotlighted three sets that relied on DC power. The No. 11714 was a carryover. The Nos. 11720 Santa Fe Special and 11721 Mickey's World Tour Train were brand new.

Comparing the 11720 with the 1380 shows how far Lionel had come with its experiment in DC motive power. Simply making it a Santa Fe train was a big vote of

confidence, because manufacturers of all scales and gauges of electric trains acknowledged that it was the favorite road name among all hobbyists.

Other elements made the 11720 rise above its predecessor. First, the name on the locomotive matched that on the caboose. Second, all the components in the set came equipped with operating knuckle couplers. Third, a functioning headlight had been installed on the engine. Fourth, the caboose had two four-wheel trucks. Fifth, there were more track sections in the set so owners could form a larger oval.

A No. 8704 steam engine with a 2-4-0 wheel arrangement plus a matching black tender with white lettering led the way. The road number was large; the Santa Fe name was small. The locomotive included a chrome-plated bell on top of its boiler. Thankfully, the tender lacked Lionel's annoying "Sound of Steam."

The No. 11720 Santa Fe Special set for 1991 seemed to be the final attempt made by Lionel in the modern era to promote a train relying on DC power. The outfit featured a steam engine and tender plus a boxcar, tank car, and SP-type caboose.

The first of two freight cars was the No. 16227 Santa Fe boxcar. Its "plug-door" design harkened back to the No. 6014 types from the late 1950s. The red model featured white graphics, notably a large and bold Santa Fe herald with a circled cross. It resembled the No. 7902 Santa Fe boxcar cataloged in 1982-85.

Next came a No. 16114 Hooker single-dome tank car. Its design was also based on a postwar prototype, the inexpensive No. 6015. The Hooker model had an all-black body with yellow graphics. Nice as it was, it offered no play value. Neither did the boxcar, whose doors were molded shut. Not the best choices!

Bringing up the tail end was the No. 16529 Santa Fe SP-type caboose. Its decoration was less than overwhelming as the red body had only "ATSF" and bits of car data in white. A smokestack on top and a combined ladder with end railings fitted on both ends completed the appearance of the simple-looking caboose.

END OF AN ERA

The 11720 Santa Fe Special brought to a quiet end the era of DC-powered sets at Lionel in the modern era of production. Given the trend toward entirely remote-control operating and the lack of any type of transformer-operated trains, it seems highly unlikely that Lionel will revive them to any significant degree.

Ironically, the driver of both the DC-powered sets and the current operational method is the tried-and-true DC can-style motor. So, operators who want to revert to the heyday of the DC sets need only have to take care of a few simple rewiring steps to return to those simpler times. **CTD**





LIGHTS, CAMERA, LIONEL TRAINS!

Introducing the latest book by CTT's Roger Carp

Five years ago, not long after the pandemic hit and I was told to start working on the magazine from home, I decided to gather from my files the hundreds of photos in my collection. I wanted to see what I owned and to think about what those disparate images might reveal about the settings and the different people shown posing with toy trains, regardless of who had built them. Quickly, however, I realized that the vast majority of pictures related to Lionel, the manufacturer whose corporate history already was most familiar to me.

Then I began writing. My goal after studying photographs tied to Lionel between its founding in 1900 and its sale to Richard Kughn 85 years later was to see whether I could write a 400-word essay about each of them. Not about every picture I had. Rather, I selected only ones I believed revealed insights about the role of Lionel trains as they influenced the development of American cultural values and social roles. The result is my brand-new book from Project Roar Publishing: *Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains! A Photo History of an American Icon*.

INSIDER AND OUTSIDER IMAGES

My 224-page hardbound book consists of an introduction and 100 essays in which I analyze a large photograph and a smaller, secondary image. The photos come from a variety of sources, ranging from the collections of former Lionel employees and dedicated hobbyists to private and public archives. There are publicity shots taken to boost motion pictures; honor politicians, movie stars, and professional athletes; and praise Lionel for its civic and charitable actions as well as to inform the toy trade and public about its new releases.

Perhaps the favorite photograph in *Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains!* by CTT Senior Editor Roger Carp is this wonderful photo of a boy and his father with their Lionel train. It appeared in a Kansas newspaper in 1954.

The more I examined the different photographs I chose to include in my book, the more I realized they fell into one of two main categories. Many were what I called “insider shots.” Specifically, they had been taken inside Lionel’s corporate headquarters, one of its regional sales offices, or its factories. Or they had been created by Lionel executives for business or financial purposes. A few pictures had been shot to celebrate the company’s leaders or notable enthusiasts.

Then there were what I considered to be “outsider shots.” Those were photos with Lionel trains taken by families visiting department stores and celebrating Christmas. They also included publicity shots credited to motion picture studios, television stations, and other businesses involved with mass media. Outsider shots provided more objective views of Lionel trains and their relationship with consumers than did insider shots infused with positive views of the electric trains and the benefits they conferred when using them.

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

Above all else, the assorted photos in *Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains!* emphasized how much pleasure any sort of Lionel train gave to children and the adults in their world. The photographer might focus on an expensive Standard gauge outfit, a low-end O-27 engine and cars, or



Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains! A Photo History of an American Icon is the latest book by Roger Carp. It's available at shop.trains.com and projectroar.com



This photo, taken for a New York paper at R.H. Macy & Co. in December of 1931, shows how Lionel trains brought joy to kids and adults hit by the Great Depression.

even just an accessory or two, but he or she would have posed them with onlookers gently touching them while smiling broadly. At the same time, there often were older men and women surrounding youngsters. The point being that a Lionel train enriched the lives of everyone involved. It helped guide a boy to maturity as a productive citizen, therefore gratifying the parent or grandparent who had invested in the toy train.

This message — that Lionel trains were more than playthings — explained why celebrities of every kind, from members of world championship teams to members of presidential cabinets, had no reluctance about posing with them. Americans understood at some level that a train was, as Lionel claimed, an investment in happiness. But it was more, as I explained in my 2003 book, *The Art of Lionel Trains: Toy Trains and American Dreams*. It was an investment in a boy’s personal growth and a family’s development.

No wonder fathers snapped dozens of pictures of kids opening wrapped Lionel set boxes on Christmas morning and professionals took pictures of sports stars and movie and TV actors enjoying trains while looking fun-loving and familiar. A Lionel train made any adult, regardless of how famous and distant, seem familiar and approachable. Men appeared boyish instead of childish. That was especially the



Popular subjects for photographers in the late 1940s and '50s were Joshua and Lawrence Cowen, the father-and-son team running the world’s top train manufacturer.

case with company co-founder Joshua Lionel Cowen and his son, Lawrence, who was handed the reins to the corporation after World War II.

TIME FOR FUN

Yes, there is plenty to notice and analyze in the 100 photographs I made the subject of the essays in my book. But there is also plenty to simply enjoy.

I hope readers will have fun trying to identify the trains shown and the individuals with them in various settings. Three of my favorite images are printed on these two pages. They suggest how pictures can explain the cultural and social importance of Lionel trains in 20th-century America. Look them over and then be inspired to see the dozens of other memorable ones in *Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains!* **CTT**



CTT Editor Rene Schweitzer (left) interviewed Lionel CEO Howard Hitchcock at Milwaukee's Trainfest show in November 2024.
Kent Johnson photo

Lionel turns 125!

CEO HOWARD HITCHCOCK TALKS ABOUT THE BRAND'S ANNIVERSARY,
NEW PRODUCTS, AND THE FUTURE OF THE HOBBY

RENE SCHWEITZER: I'm here today with the CEO of Lionel Trains, Howard Hitchcock. Thank you for meeting me. Happy anniversary to Lionel!

HOWARD HITCHCOCK: Thank you so much.

RS: I see that you've done custom items for Comic-Con. Do you have other Lionel custom anniversary products planned?

HH: We have quite a few. The Comic-Con exclusives are great ways for us to make the Lionel brand more mainstream. We had exclusives that included Batman. All of them sold out.

With this show [Trainfest in Milwaukee Wis.], we've made a special 125th anniversary boxcar. We've made 125 of them, and we'll continue releasing items to commemorate and celebrate the 125th anniversary. In addition to the Big Book [the Lionel consumer catalog that came out in January 2025], we're going to do products throughout the course of the year.

RS: Is there an anniversary product likely to surprise our readers?

HH: I'm not allowed to give away any secrets, but anyone who follows us on social media will see opportunities for special items.

I think some of [the products] are expected. We have the VisionLine New York Central J1e 4-6-4 Hudson. The reaction has been really positive. We have the prototype here at the show. We're super excited about that.

RS: Do you have an estimated delivery on that?

HH: The middle to late part of 2025.

RS: I see you're planning virtual events. Can you talk more about that?

HH: About a year ago, we had the LCCA [Lionel Collectors Club of America] visit our headquarters in Concord, N.C., and gave tours of the office. We're planning to give more people access to see Lionel and meet the team that makes all of this happen: the engineering guys, the product guys. Even the operations in the warehouse are pretty impressive.

We figured that we would do things like a virtual tour and capitalize on the experience we had for the LCCA.

RS: Speaking of the LCCA, 2025 is the organization's 55th anniversary. Do you have plans to do more with them?

HH: There's an exclusive VisionLine J1e Hudson for the 125th anniversary that's available only through the LCCA. They're a great organization with a tremendous amount of passion, and we're really proud to be partnered with them. We attend their annual meetings, and the next one will be held in Scranton, Pa., sometime later in 2025 [July 20-26].

RS: What are your favorite Lionel innovations from the past?

HH: Since I've been involved with the product line, we've tried to focus on innovation and bringing the play value to life. That's more in keeping with how younger audiences and families interact with our products.

My favorite project occurred about 10 years ago, when we did the Big Boy with

the depleting coal load. That was the first VisionLine item I was part of and really got a hold of being able to bring that to market. That's where we introduced our "build to order" concept, which has done a great job of keeping market values high. People know if they want it, they've got to order it.

RS: Let's talk about Thomas the Tank Engine.

HH: We've brought out our "battery O" Thomas set. It allows people to experience O gauge at a lower price point. Instead of using electricity, it uses batteries. It has water-vapor smoke and sound. It's all new tooling, specifically to capture the newer look of Thomas. And these products will work on our traditional types of track.

RS: What are you doing to encourage families and youngsters to enter the hobby?

HH: At [places like Trainfest], you get to see young families and kids. The kids light up, and it's a magical experience for them to

pick up the remote off the tables that we have and run the train. We're one of the few places where you can directly interact with the product at the show.

That's what we're trying to do to encourage families with things like Thomas, like the battery O, where you've got a lower price point. We've got ready-

"WHEN YOU SEE THE FACES OF THE KIDS AS THEY COME UP TO THE TRAINS, IT'S MAGICAL."



Lionel produced 125 of the No. 2401860 boxcar as part of its anniversary.



Top: Visitors to the Lionel booth could view a prototype of the upcoming VisionLine New York Central J1e 4-6-4 Hudson steam locomotive. A number of versions will be released, including a custom-run for the Lionel Collectors Club of America (inset).

to-run sets. We announced at Comic-Con that we're bringing out Star Wars [products]. These exciting things are how we try to engage families to get in at the different interest bases and to bring the product to where the market is.

RS: I noticed on your website that if you order a set, you can get a customized letter from Santa Claus.

HH: The letter to Santa is a way for us to help families create that [custom] experience. When a set is gifted during the holidays, someone can request that letter to have it become a magical experience.

There are so many people who have been collecting forever, who will come up

and say, I remember when I got my first Lionel train and it was X, Y, Z, and they'll tell you the year, the model, the road number. It cements a strong emotional connection to the holiday timing. That little letter really means something, right? It's something special.

RS: Speaking of something special, I heard about something new on your website.

HH: That leads into MYOS (My Own Set). We give people the opportunity to select and customize what they're looking for. They get to pick their locomotive, whether it be steam or diesel, and then can decide among passenger cars, freight cars, licensed cars, Christmas cars, and Halloween cars. They can determine how much power they need, the track and accessories.

RS: I like that you offer expansion track packs because buyers are going to want more track.

HH: It becomes an experience and lets you customize what you get as a set.

RS: Are you envisioning more options, such as Bluetooth and sound for the future?

HH: Absolutely. Lionel has a world-class engineering department, and we love to play with sound. We love to authenticate some of our licensed properties with authentic sounds, as in *Thomas*, *Polar Express*, and *Star Wars*. I see us trying to push the envelope into what an accessory can do, what rolling stock can do, and what locomotives can do.

RS: I see you have two retail stores now: Concord, N.C. and Nashville, Tenn.

HH: We do. The second store was sort of an experiment. We don't really have a retail division, so we have a retail outlet in Concord Mills, which is just down the street from our office. Then we opened up Nashville, and it has done very well for us. I think there are opportunities to selectively expand. There may be other retail opportunities, such as franchising or partnerships.

RS: What would you like any newcomers to know about the hobby?

HH: Trains are cool, right? We've got a lot of innovation. We've got a lot of fun IP [intellectual properties] we put on our trains. It could be Warner Brothers, Batman, or *Polar Express*.

RS: We haven't even mentioned *Polar Express*!

HH: 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of Lionel *Polar Express* products, and they have been huge sellers. *Polar Express* helps build family traditions and memories that last a lifetime.

RS: Where do you see the toy train hobby in 10 or 20 years?

HH: The toy train hobby will continue to be successful. When you see the faces of the kids as they come up to the trains, it's magical. Kids love trains, and grandparents and parents love sharing that hobby and tradition. Remember, no Christmas is complete without a Lionel train under the tree. I really think that the hobby will continue to grow. There's a passion for it.

There's so much to do beyond just



Polar Express products continue to be good sellers for Lionel. This No. 2435200 gold windup, which includes a bell-shaped key, is one of the newer releases.

running a train around an oval. This is a wholesome hobby, one that's something physical. It was the early STEAM [science, technology, engineering, arts, math] program right? I think it's well-suited to continue and be healthy long into the future.

RS: I really appreciate your time with me today. Look for more products on your anniversary (lionel125.com) and regular (lionel.com) websites. **CTT**



Lionel's retail store in Concord, N.C., not far from its headquarters. Ted Jones photo

S Gauge Trains

Since 1981

Engines
Cars
Track
Structures
Figures

Full line S Gauge & AF products



Call 723-449-1100

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

www.americanmodels.com

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

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

Watch
Classic Toy Trains
on **YouTube**

youtube.com/classictoytrains



The Lionel No. 3659 Dump Car, introduced in 1938, came about after engineers saw how they could take advantage of the new system of remote-controlled uncoupling to devise a method for unloading by modifying the phenolic control box and the special track section.

LIONEL'S GREAT INNOVATION FOR 1938

How the uncoupling track became the unloading track

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRUCE C. GREENBERG, PH.D.

Lionel collectors, particularly those who focus on the pre-World War II era, were thrilled when *Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains, O Gauge, Vol. 3: 1937-1942* appeared in 2024. The depth of research surpassed anything previously written about the locomotives and rolling stock cataloged by Lionel between 1937 and 1942. Illustrated with more than 1,500 photos, the 344-page hardbound book explored Lionel's shift toward more realistic train designs, the introduction of new manufacturing technologies, and the development of remote-controlled features that revolutionized the model train industry.

In this exclusive excerpt from Dr. Bruce C. Greenberg's magisterial new survey (available for \$110 from shop.trains.com or from the author at brinkmannpub.com), he provides the background behind Lionel's introduction in 1938 of an often-overlooked innovation that changed the course of toy train history and launched the firm into a new era that was filled with many ingenious operating cars.

SOMETHING NEW IN 1938

In 1938, Lionel first made available remote operator control of uncoupling and coupling cars. This invention greatly enhanced

the operating experience for every new Lionel customer and potentially for many existing customers. No longer would an enthusiast have to touch the couplers with his or her fingers to uncouple cars from each other.

It was challenging for Lionel to produce remote-control uncoupling. Each new car would need two electrically controlled uncouplers with both an acceptable manufacturing cost and high reliability. To achieve those goals, Lionel had to miniaturize some of the components — a difficult engineering problem. The process required an electromagnet or a solenoid to push apart or release a coupler. It also required a method of transmitting power to the car's uncoupling system, a special track to send power to the car, a cable to send power to the special track, and a control box to send the transmission.

To meet that challenge, Lionel developed an uncoupling system consisting of four parts. There were the car's uncouplers plus a phenolic control box, a four-conductor cable running from the control box to a special track section, and the specially designed track section equipped with a phenolic base.

The last item was designated as an RCS for the O gauge line and a No. 1019 for the O-27 line. All in all, this was a complex

NEW COAL TRAIN AND ELECTRIC ELEVATOR WITH THREE ELECTRIC, REMOTE CONTROL DUMP CARS

LIONEL O GAUGE



No. 189W REMOTE CONTROL FREIGHT TRAIN WITH WHISTLE

This is a complete coaling outfit. Dump cars operate by remote control. Coal elevator is operated by means of remote control levers; one lever to start and stop the revolving, endless chain and the other to open and close a gate in belt, which allows its contents to pour down through chute to the waiting car. All cars have electric couplers. Outfit consists of: No. 213E Six-wheel steam locomotive, No. 2235W Tender, three No. 3659 Electric dump cars, No. 2637 Coalhouse, No. 97 Electric coal elevator, three No. 108 Unloading kins, eight sections of OC curved track, three sections of OS straight track, R.C.S. track set, Locken and a Remote Control for operating whistle and reversing train. Train is 31 inches long. Truck supplied forms an oval 50 by 30 inches. **Price \$29.50**

Type "T" Transformer will operate this train. Type "E" will provide for many accessories.



**ELECTRIC
REMOTE CONTROL
COUPLERS**



Buckets on an endless chain scoop up gravel or crushed coal from a well in the base and lift it to the top of structure, dumping it in the belt. Looking down inside the belt of the coal elevator you can see how buckets are unloaded. Notice the square gate in the tilted bottom of belt. Gate is opened and closed by remote control. Every one of the new, electric, remote control dump cars includes an unloading kin into which the contents of cars is dumped. Artificial coal is also supplied.

Lionel's No. 189W Remote Control Freight Train With Whistle broke new ground in O gauge railroading in 1938 because it featured three No. 3659 Dump Cars that unload and uncouple via remote control and a No. 97 Electric Coal Elevator to handle, store, and unload coal by remote control. Lionel correctly praised it as "a complete coaling outfit."

system whose manufacturing expense likely exceeded the cost of the different cars in a specific outfit.

ENGINEERING INSIGHT

Lionel's engineers then under the direction of Joseph Bonanno, confronting the challenge of how to make the new system feasible, reached a key insight. They realized that three of the four pieces in the uncoupling system — the control box, the connecting cable, and the special track section — could be used in a second way that offered as great a potential for increasing operator enjoyment as did the brand-new uncoupling action!

This system enabled the unloading of freight cars, starting with the No. 3659 Dump Car that Lionel also introduced in 1938. It would work as well with the operating cars making their debut in 1939: the Nos. 3814 Boxcar, 3651 Lumber Car, and 3652 Gondola.

How did everything work? Pressing the UNCOUPLE button sends center rail power to both control rails. The uncoupler electromagnets (1938) or solenoids (1939-42) get center rail power from their shoes and complete the circuit by grounding through the trucks to the outside rails. Pressing the UNLOAD button sends center rail power to one control rail and outside rail power to the other. The unloading mechanism receives the hot center rail power from one control rail and the ground rail power from the other control rail.



The underside of this No. 3659 Dump Car from 1939 shows the design of the collector shoes — truck-mounted power pickups needed to obtain electrical energy from track power.

Were there any ongoing problems? Occasionally, one of the couplers inadvertently opened during unloading. Then all an operator had to do was back the train to recouple.

Lionel achieved with one system in 1938 remote animation of two actual railroad functions: the uncoupling of cars and the unloading of freight. A new era had been born at Lionel. **CTT**

Build the Marshfield & Old Colony RR

AN AROUND-THE-ROOM PLAN WITH EASY ACCESS

STORY BY MICHAEL TYLICK

ILLUSTRATION BY KELLIE JAEGER

You can utilize more space in a room by building a layout around the walls instead of adding a table. A 4' x 8' free-standing table gives only 32 square feet of layout in our 99-square-foot room, a little less than a third of our space. The Marshfield & Old Colony RR shown here requires about 26 square feet of aisle space, leaving three quarters of the room available for the O gauge layout.

To my surprise, I was able to keep the mainline curves to O-36, which will permit a good variety of equipment. The tighter curves are in the freight yard, where shorter cars and locomotives would be more appropriate. With a few exceptions, the track is within 24 inches of the aisle, and no track is more than 36 inches away when maintenance is required. It's

much easier to enter the layout room through an aisle; ducking under or removing track becomes old quickly.

The plan is simple: a long loop-to-loop (folded dog-bone) single-track line. There are several passing sidings to allow three trains to be on the line at the same time with a long run between return loops. Wireless controls are always nice, but a classic Lionel type-ZW transformer with a switch control panel board is really all that's necessary.

Marshfield, Mass., is a seaside town. With that in mind, the lower loop and

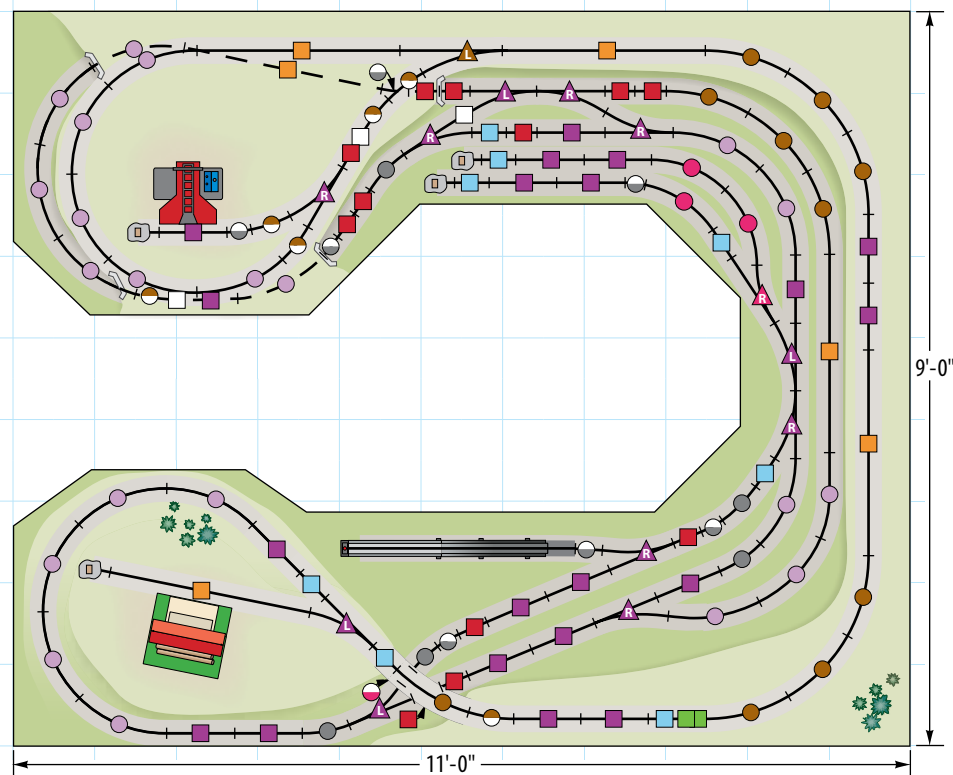
much of the foreground of the layout can feature shoreline. Coal mining and logging are not really local industries, but they offer an interesting traffic source between the high inland ground and the sea.

Although the layout can easily be built on a two-level tabletop, I suggest increasing the grades and making it a real climb between the two reverse loops with eye-catching mountain scenery.

I've included several of my favorite Lionel operating accessories in the plan, a few of which I had in my youth plus some that I was never able to acquire. Have fun! **CTT**

LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
3	1.375-inch straight (12073)
2	1.75-inch straight (12026)
12	4.5-inch straight (12025)
8	5-inch straight (12024)
20	10-inch straight (12014)
6	30-inch straight (12042)
1	0-31 curve, 11.25-degree (81662)
3	0-31 curve, 45-degree (37103)
7	0-36 curve, 11.25-degree (12023)
5	0-36 curve, 22.5-degree (12022)
21	0-36 curve, 45-degree (12015)
5	0-48 curve, 15-degree (16834)
10	0-48 curve, 30-degree (12043)
1	0-31 right-hand TMCC track switch (81253)
4	0-36 left-hand remote switch (12045)
7	0-36 right-hand remote switch (12046)
1	0-48 left-hand remote switch (12065)
4	earthen bumper (12059)



CONTEST WINNER

Classic Toy Trains and the Lionel Collectors Club of America congratulate Michael Tylick as the winner of our recent track-planning contest. The second-place winner was featured in the Spring 2025 issue.

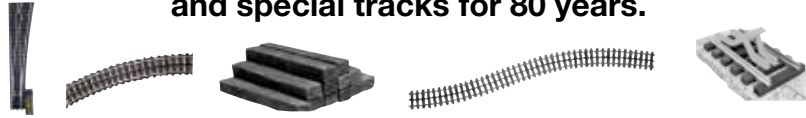
CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

LIONEL COLLECTORS CLUB OF AMERICA

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



You dream it.

We build it.

www.trainlayouts.com • 973-366-5788

We specialize in:

- Complex Multi-Level Track Plans
- Operating Accessories
- TMCC™ and DCS Control Systems
- Yards and Switching
- Multi-Train Operation
- Highly Detailed Scenery

East Coast Enterprises • Roman Electric

CALL US FOR HELP

765.292.2022

DIAL 22 FOR CHOO CHOO



- ATLAS
- LIONEL
- MTH

EMAIL: SUPPORT@MRMUFFINSTRAINS.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

WORLD'S LARGEST LIONEL DEALER FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Charles Ro Supply Company



662 Cross Street, Malden, MA 02148
781-321-0090

ORDER ON LINE or Call Toll Free:

800-225-4424 • 800-225-4425

www.charlesro.com

1972 **53** 2025
ANNIVERSARY



VISIT OUR EASY TO USE WEB SITE

Large Inventory & Great Prices
with Over 12,000 items listed



N
SCALE

HO
SCALE

S
GAUGE

O
GAUGE

G
SCALE



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



Madison Hardware Co. in New York City acquired various kinds of "excess" product from the Lionel Corp. to repaint. Among the most desirable were the single- and double-dome tank cars it sold.

MADISON MARKETING 102

TANK CARS WERE A SPECIALTY // STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAUL LEONE PETERS

In the Winter 2024 issue of *Classic Toy Trains*, I began my discussion of the special Lionel models created by Madison Hardware Co. in New York City during the 1950s and '60s. Unsold production or rejected stock were acquired by owner Lou Shur direct from Lionel and turned into special "road name pieces."

Passenger cars, both heavyweights and streamliners, received attention. So also did the colorful motorized units, notably gas-turbine switchers that Lionel had built as Nos. 41 U.S. Army and 42 Picatinny Arsenal locomotives. Madison repainted and relettered them for Esso, Ford, GE, Sunoco, and Union Pacific.

SINGLE-DOME TANKERS

Less glamorous were single- and double-dome tank cars Madison offered in a myriad of road names. For the single-dome cars, workers repainted some of the many

imperfect Lionel Nos. 2555 and 6555 Sunoco metal tankers they had on hand to create colorful tank cars lettered with commercially available, water film decals for Celanese, Crystal Car Line, Deep Rock, Diamond Chemical, DuPont, Hooker, Mathieson, Mobilgas, Penn Salt, Union 76, and probably several others.

As an aside, American Flyer collectors will recognize some of those names and paint schemes from what the A.C. Gilbert Co. was adding to its S gauge line in the 1950s and '60s. Hooker and Penn Salt stand as obvious cases.

DOUBLE-DOME TANKERS

The single-dome metal tank cars were beautifully decorated models, much more elaborate than the ones with simple Sunoco paint schemes and emblems that Lionel was cataloging right around the same time. By contrast,

the injection-molded plastic double-dome tank cars that Madison introduced several years later fell somewhat short in terms of their overall decoration and detail.

Madison sold a large selection of revamped double-dome tankers with simple color schemes and markings. According to an article in the January 2017 issue





The plastic double-dome tankers once available from Madison Hardware include models decorated for Borden's Milk, Deep Rock, Esso, and Sinclair.

The colorful single-dome tank cars started life as Nos. 2555 and 6555 Sunoco models. Then workers at Madison repainted and relettered them for different oil and petroleum refiners and other kinds of industries, including Celanese, DuPont, Hooker, and Union 76.



of the *Train Collectors Quarterly*, the decoration was handled by Ed Kraemer, who was a respected restoration artist known well by Lou Shur. After painting the plastic shells, Ed added large custom-made rectangular adhesive labels with single-color printing that contrasted with or complemented the body color.

Nearly all the cars Madison Hardware used were No. 6045 Lionel Lines tankers with unpainted orange plastic bodies and black plastic end caps, so those painted any color other than black ended up as two-color models. Most came with AAR plastic trucks and an operating knuckle coupler. Every now and then, one of these tank cars shows up with archbar trucks or having been painted over a 6465 Sunoco model with metal trucks and handrails.

Eighteen schemes were applied to the double-dome tank cars. They included Atlas Oil, Borden's Milk, Deep Rock, Diamond Chemical, Dow (two variations), DuPont, Esso, Gulf, Hooker, Mobilgas,

Republic, Shell, Sinclair, Texaco, and Union Starch. Also, the Sun Oil and Sunoco names and emblems showed up in two versions of the double-dome tankers.

While Madison Hardware decorated its metal single-dome tankers with whatever numbers came with the decal sets used, the plastic double-dome cars had four-digit numbers that fit into the system then being used by Lionel. They included numbers 6426, 6427, 6428, 6524, and 6525.

WORTH COLLECTING

The single- and double-dome tank cars created and sold by Madison Hardware Co. have always interested me. I advise postwar Lionel enthusiasts to look for them. Besides being colorful and nostalgic, these models shed light on the special relationship that Lionel had with the business in New York City considered its most famous retail account ever. **CTT**



Ed Kraemer, the respected Lionel restoration artist who created the double-dome tank cars for Madison, used decals to assign them product numbers similar to Lionel's.

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



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

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

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

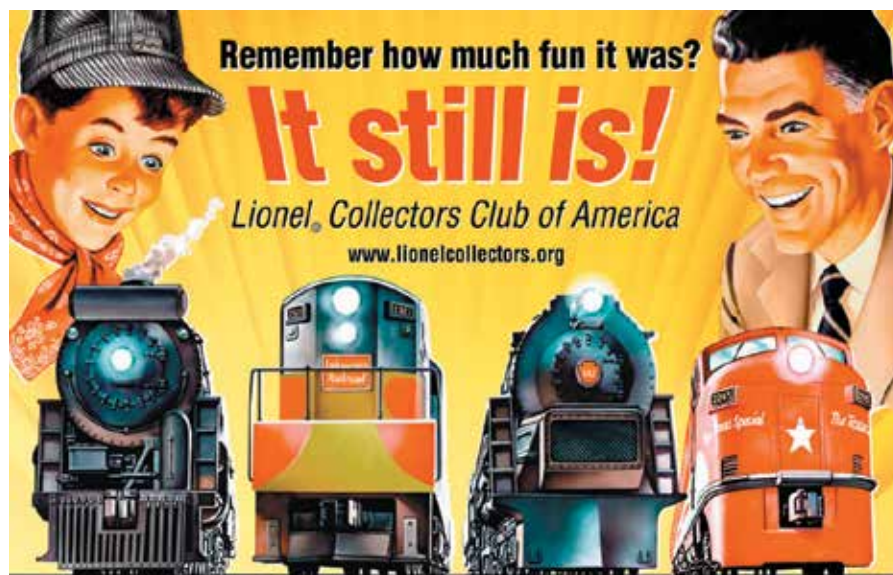
SUMMER SCHEDULE:

May 4 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Jun 1 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Jul 26-27 Oaks, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo Ctr
Aug 2-3 Monroeville, PA - Convention Center
Aug 3 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Aug 9-10 Edison, NJ - New Jersey Expo Center
Aug 16-17 Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo Center
Sep 7 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds
Oct 5 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

**Fall 2025 and Winter 2026
Show Schedule Coming Soon!**

Exhibit space is still available for
some of the Summer shows, sign up
today at Trainshow.com

For Information & Discount Tickets:
TRAINSHOW.COM



National Convention 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

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

Summer 25 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

1933749 RDG FB-2 Superbass	\$315.00
2033248 Alaska F7B Powered	\$404.98
2033249 Alaska F7B Superbass	\$395.98
2033600 UP SD70ACe #1111	\$539.98
2133039 NYC E7 B Unit	\$404.98
2133380 Erie Lack PAA	\$899.98
2133570 B&M SW8 #801	\$449.98
2133620 SCL SW8 #19	\$449.98
2133860 Lehigh Valley SW8	\$469.98
2231050 Strasburg RR 2-10-0 #90	\$1899.99
2231141 Santa Fe 2-10-4 #5011	\$1574.99
2231142 Santa Fe 2-10-4 #5022	\$1574.99
2231160 KCS 2-10-4 #902	\$1574.99
2231170 KCS 2-10-4 Flag Tender	\$1574.99
2231180 PRR 2-10-4 #6510	\$1574.99
2231200 SP AC-12 Cab Forward	\$1799.98
2231400 B&M Atlantic #3243	\$809.99
2231420 NH Atlantic #1111	\$809.99
2231530 Bethlehem Steel 0-6-0 #60	\$719.99
2231550 NYC 0-6-0 #222	\$719.99
2232050 Bethlehem Steel 0-4-0	\$629.99
2232060 Baltimore & Ohio 0-4-0	\$629.99
2232090 Long Island 0-4-0	\$629.99
223305X 1/2 CSX SD70Mac	\$584.98
223332X 1/2 ALCO RS-27	\$539.99
223333X 1/2 CNW RS-27	\$539.99
2233342 Conrail RS-27 #2414	\$539.99
223335X 1/2 GB&W RS-27	\$539.99
223337X 1/2 SOO RS-27	\$539.99
2233501 US Armed Forces ES44AC	\$629.99
2233652 CP Heritage SD90MAC	\$585.99
2233730 AMT F40PH #410 Phase V	\$566.99
2233861 Alaska SD70Mac #4001	\$599.99
2233868 Alaska SD70Mac Superbass	\$499.99
2331011 PRR L1 Mikado #496	\$854.99
2331030 PRR L1 Mikado #1369	\$854.99
2331060 L&NE L1 Mikado #501	\$854.99
2331080 C & O Greenbrier #611	\$1529.99
2331090 C & O Greenbrier #613	\$1529.99
2331130 CN 2-6-0	\$719.99
2331140 Middletown & Hummels 2-6-0	\$719.99
2331160 SP 2-6-0	\$719.99
2331212 UP Challenger #3839	\$2499.99
2331231 UP Challenger #3815	\$2499.99
2331550 Del Lack & West Camelback	\$629.99
2331560 Erie Camelback	\$629.99
2331570 Lehigh & NE Camelback	\$629.99
2331590 Pennsylvania Camelback	\$629.99
2333080 D&H FA-2 AA #20/#21	\$989.99
2333088 D&H FB-2 #20B	\$494.99
2333089 D&H SuperBass FB-2 #21B	\$449.99
2333160 MRL Essential SD70Ace	\$584.99
2333170 MRL Veterans SD70Ace	\$584.99
2333180 PRLX SD70Ace	\$584.99
233325X 1/2 CofG H-15-44	\$539.99
233326X 1/2 RI H-15-44	\$539.99
233327X 1/2 D&RGW H-15-44	\$539.99
233328X 1/2 KCS H-15-44	\$539.99
233330X 1/2 UP H-15-44	\$539.99
2333310 AC&W LE E8 AA	\$1079.99
243311X 1/2 Alaska GP30	\$539.99
2433241 Conrail SD50 #6709	\$584.99
2433310 Canadian Pacific Alco S2	\$494.99
243337X 1/2 Conrail GP9	\$539.99
2433379 Conrail SuperBass GP9B	\$449.99
243342X 1/2 BNSF ES44	\$674.99
2433441 CSX ES44 #3000	\$674.99
2433670 Detroit Edison SW8 #214	\$494.99
2433680 Erie Lackawanna SW8 #36	\$494.99
2433901 CSX ES44AC #1869	\$674.99

MTH Locomotives

20207731 NJT P40 #4803	\$449.99
20212481 RI E8 A Unit #652 w/PS3.0	\$384.99
20212491 RI E8 A Unit #653 w/PS3.0	\$384.99
20212511 GM E-8A w/PS3.0 #766	\$419.99
20214341 PRR SD-35 #6003	\$459.95
20215561 PRR GP35 w/PS3 #2261	\$459.99
20216031 PRR VO 1000 #5917	\$474.99
20216091 Reading VO 1000 #2711	\$474.99
20216341 MC RS-11 High Hood #802	\$469.99
20216361 PRR RS11 High Hood #8624	\$469.99
20215571 PRR GP35 w/PS3 #2265	\$459.99
20217171 Burlington SD24 #501	\$489.99
20217191 Lackawanna SD24	\$489.99
20217241 UP SD24 #429	\$489.99
2038521 Erie 0-8-8-0 #2600	\$1499.99
2038631 B&A J-1E Hudson 4-6-4	\$1259.99
2038651 NYC J-1E Hudson 4-6-4	\$1259.99
2038931 UP Challenger 4-6-6-4 #3999	\$1529.99
2038941 UP Challenger 4-6-6-4 #3989	\$1529.99
2038951 UP Challenger Oil Tender	\$1529.99
2038961 UP Challenger 4-6-6-4 #3879	\$1529.99

MTH Rolling Stock

2091716 WM Center Cupola Steel Cab	\$69.99
2091750 UP B/W Caboose	\$71.99
2091751 N&W B/W Caboose	\$71.99
2091775 NYC 35' Woodside Caboose	\$71.99
2091776 NKP 35' Woodside Caboose	\$71.99
2091777 UP 35' Woodside Caboose	\$71.99
2092294 LV 2 Bay Hopper 6 Pk	\$329.99
2092296 Keystone 2 Bay Hopper 6 Pk	\$329.99
2092298 AC&Y 2 Bay Hopper 6 Pk	\$329.99
2095482 N&W 55 Ton Gondola	\$60.99
2095511 SF Flat w/ Trailers	\$69.99
2095556 NYC Flat w/ Pup Trailers	\$74.99
2095557 SP Flat w/ Pup Trailers	\$74.99
2095641 BN Flat w/ Trailers	\$74.99
2095642 CP Flat w/ Trailers	\$74.99
2095644 C&O Flat w/ Trailers	\$74.99
2095660 PRR 34' Composite Hopper Car	\$64.99
2097395 Keystone 2 Bay Hopper	\$60.99
2097396 AC&Y 2 Bay Hopper	\$60.99
2099324 UP Sheathed Boxcar	\$60.99
3071057 PRR Boxcar	\$51.99
3071059 Raritan River Boxcar	\$51.99
3071072 NP 50' Modern Boxcar	\$50.99
3071131 US Army Boxcar Railing	\$53.99
3071132 SP Boxcar Railing	\$53.99
3071159 P&LE Boxcar	\$50.99
3071160 SF Boxcar	\$50.99
3071161 Southern Boxcar	\$50.99
3071162 NKP Boxcar	\$50.99
3073588 UP Modern Tank Car	\$53.99
3073590 NASA Modern Tank Car	\$53.99
3074859 Reading '40 DD Boxcar	\$44.99
3074874 NS 50' DD Plugged Boxcar	\$47.99
3076749 CSX Center Beam Flat	\$50.99

MTH Trolleys & Hand Cars

305213 Transylvania Bump-N-Go	\$82.99
305216 Metropolis Bump-N-Go	\$69.99
305217 War Bonds Bump-N-Go	\$69.99
305226 Transylvania Bump-N-Go	\$82.99
305229 Market St. Trolley	\$69.99
305230 City Lines Trolley	\$69.99
305234 Christmas Oper Hand Car	\$69.99
305235 MOW Oper Hand Car (Tuscan)	\$69.99
305236 MOW Oper Hand Car (Orange)	\$69.99
305241 Halloween Oper Hand (Orange)	\$69.99

SALE ITEMS

O Locomotives

Lionel Locos below are sold without warranty

1933749 Reading FB Superbass B	\$315.00
2033600 Union Pacific SD70Ace	\$475.00
2131290 SP USRA Pacific 4-6-2	\$1199.99
2133380 EL PA AA Set #862/#863	\$799.99
2133620 SCL SW8 #19	\$399.99
2133860 Lehigh Valley SW8 #253	\$399.99
2134050 SF LionChief U36B	\$219.99
2134060 UP LionChief U36B	\$219.99
2134070 Seaboard LionChief U36B	\$219.99

Am Flyer LEGACY Locos

192120X 1/2 Clinchfield U36C	\$350.00
192123X 1/2 SCL U36C	\$350.00
1921232 CSX U36C	\$350.00
2021051 Citirail ES44AC #1201	\$450.00

O Premium Sets

No Track and Transformer

Mention this ad and receive 5% off these Premium Sets

683092 Steel City Switcher 0-8-0 Set	\$1109.99
1922020 NKP Fast Freight LC+ 2.0	\$709.98
1922030 Harding Funeral Train Set	\$1799.98
1922070 Pennsy Ltd. LC+ 2.0 Set	\$709.98
2022040 Manufactures Railway Set	\$719.98
2022110 CNJ Red Baron SD40 Set	\$809.98
2122050 C&A John Bull Set	\$949.98
2122070 ASA Packer Set	\$1979.98
2222030 BNSF Hustle Muscle Frt	\$998.99
2222060 Amtrak Genesis LC Plus	\$899.99
2222090 NS 40th Anniv Set	\$1299.99
2322010 LV Camelback Legacy Set	\$989.99
2322030 Cumberland Valley Wayfreight	\$1349.99
2322040 Vision Big Boy Super Set	\$4049.99
2322050 Iron Hippo Legacy Set	\$2069.99
2322060 Union RR Hot Metal Train Set	\$1169.99
2322080 Santa Fe Fast Fruit Express	\$2249.99
2422020 Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway	\$1079.99
2422040 M1 Middle Division Manifest	\$1799.99

American Flyer Rolling Stock

2019020 TP&W Freight Sounds Boxcar	\$99.99
2019030 NC&STL Freight Sounds Boxcar	\$99.99
2019040 Frisco Freight Sounds Boxcar	\$99.99
2019050 Vesuvius Crucible Frt Snds Box	\$99.99
201906X 1/2 Buffalo Creek Boxcar	\$45.99
201907X 1/2 Great Northern Boxcar	\$45.99
201908X 1/2 GB&W Boxcar	\$45.99
2119050 PRR Dep. Center Flatcar	\$56.98
2119080 Berk Woodside Reefer	\$48.98
2119090 Century Beer Reefer	\$48.98
2119120 Senate Beer Reefer	\$48.98
2119160 Polar Express Searchlight Car	\$49.98
211920X 1/2 CSX Gondola	\$48.98
211926X 1,4,5 C&O Hopper	\$45.99
2119330 Continental Tank Car	\$48.99
2119340 Hercules Powder Tank Car	\$48.99
2119350 Sparton Oil Tank Car	\$48.99
2119360 Staroline Oil Tank Car	\$48.99
2219010 Alaska Oper Log Dump. SALE!	\$74.99
2219020 BN Oper Log Dump Car. SALE!	\$74.99
2219030 UP Oper Log Dump Car	\$74.99
221906X 1/2 B&O 2-Bay Covered Hopper	\$44.98
2219072 1/2 C&O 2-Bay Covered Hopper	\$44.98
221908X 1/2 RDG 2-Bay Covered Hopper	\$44.98
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

Wiring a Lionel 450 Signal Bridge

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR A CLASSIC ACCESSORY

Q Do you have any information, including a wiring diagram, that can help me wire my Lionel No. 450 Operating Signal Bridge using AC relays? Thanks! — *Fred Richmond*

A As Lionel operators certainly know, the 450 Signal Bridge, which was designed to span two lines of track, is equipped with two signal heads. They have bayonet-mounted light bulbs that can change from green to red when a train approaches. The weight of the locomotive and rolling stock pressed the track onto a No. 153C Contactor placed beneath it and wired to clips in the plastic base of the signal bridge. The electrical contact caused the color of the signal indicator to change.

To solve your problem, Fred, you'll need a single-pole double-throw (SPDT) relay for each signal head on the bridge. Typically, you'll need power to the relay coil; additionally, you should connect the ground path of the coil to whatever you use to activate it (contactor, insulated rail, and so forth). When the train reaches the activator, the relay should close. Once this is done it's time to wire the lights.

The relay will have a normally open contact and a normally closed contact as well as the moveable contact. The 450 will have three spring clips on the bottom of each leg base. The hot wire for the lights will go into the moveable contact lug on the relay. The ground for the lights will go to the ground spring clip on the signal. The normally open lug will go to the red light spring clip; the normally closed lug will go to the green light spring clip. As a train approaches and closes the relay, the green light will go out and the red light will come on.



The Lionel No. 450 Operating Signal Bridge, which was cataloged from 1952 through 1958, enabled O gauge operators to run their trains in a more realistic and enjoyable manner.

Firecrown illustrator Kellie Jaeger provides the information needed to wire a Lionel No. 450 Operating Signal Bridge using AC relays. The best to use are single-pole double-throw types.

No more reverses running

Q Are you aware of any kind of commercial device that can prevent Lionel and MTH trains from running in reverse? Whenever any of my young grandchildren try to run a freight train in reverse, the cars inevitably derail and ruin our fun. — *Brian Lengel*

A This is an interesting problem to have! I can't think of any device capable of locking a locomotive into running in a particular direction. However, most engines from Lionel and MTH can be locked into a direction via a switch on the locomotive.

If you consult the manufacturer's instructions for your specific O gauge locomotive, you should find a section that explains how to lock it into forward, neutral, or reverse. This feature is typically referred to as a reversing switch.

Flipping the reversing switch will lock the locomotive into a direction, regardless of how many times you cycle the power on and off. See what happens when you do this and then let us know if this simple fix can keep the fun going!

Caboose with a view

Q My Lionel No. 85075 Cupola Cam Caboose worked fine using my older Pixel phone, but after buying a new phone I can't connect the camera. Can I use my newer android phone? — *Mike Pajewski*

A We reached out to Lionel to answer your question. The app was updated in November 2024 in both the Google Play and Apple app stores. Search for "Lionel Wireless Camera" or go to: play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lionel.lionelwirelesscamera&pli=1

Clean up old track

Q I recently took out my old toy trains that have been packed away for about 25 years. The tubular track sections that were brand new back then now have black marks on them. How do I clean them and get them usable again? — *Joe Rampe*

A If it's just dry corrosion, a Scotch-Brite pad will work wonders. Never use steel wool or another metal item to clean anything around your old trains or track.

Easier Flyer shell removal

Q Do you have any suggestions for easily and safely removing the pins that hold the plastic body shell on various American Flyer freight and passenger cars from the postwar era? Using a pair of pliers has not worked.

— Robert Lawrence

A You have to wedge a screwdriver or another tool between the body shell and the floor and then try to gently pry them apart. You may have to move back and forth between positions while carefully easing them out a little at a time.



Working patiently and persistently is the best way to remove plastic body shells from the chassis on vintage pieces of American Flyer S gauge rolling stock.

Kadee coupler adapter for S gauge steamer

Q I recently bought a Lionel No. 2121060 American Flyer Baltimore & Ohio 4-6-2 Pacific locomotive and tender and would like to install Kadee couplers. I see holes on the bottom of the S gauge tender for mounting a scale coupler adapter, but I don't know which adapter will fit there and how to mount it. — Marc Powell

A It really makes the most sense for you to contact the manufacturer and figure out exactly which of its products is correct for your application. You can reach Kadee Quality Products Co. by calling 541-826-3883 or going to www.kadee.com.

Reproduction decals

Q I'm restoring some Lionel postwar heavyweight passenger cars and need help lettering them. Are there suppliers for reproduction decals? — Ernie Weber

A The best source of reproduction decals for Lionel postwar locomotives and cars is the Underground Railroad Shoppe in New Castle, Pa. Owned by longtime CTT contributor Lou Palumbo, the store can be reached by calling 724-652-4912.

Switcher doesn't run

Q I'm trying to troubleshoot a Lionel No. 624 Chesapeake & Ohio NW2 diesel switcher from the 1950s. The motor seems to short out, even after I spent time cleaning out the dried grease from long ago. All I get now is a grinding noise, and the locomotive barely moves. What do you think is the problem? — Tom Rivers

A I'd start by disconnecting all the wiring between the E-unit and the motor. Then try the motor with a set of test leads from your transformer and a jumper wire. Connect the ground lead to the motor frame and the hot wire to one of the brushes; then take the jumper lead and connect the field to the other brush.

If there's a short, you'll know the problem lies with the motor. You should next look for a bare section of wire on either the field or the armature.

If the motor runs without a problem, the E-unit or the wiring between it and the motor may be the culprit. In that case, I suggest you look for damaged wiring or parts in the E-unit itself. Then replace whatever you find is broken.



The attractive and popular Lionel No. 624 Chesapeake & Ohio NW2 diesel switcher (cataloged from 1952 through '54) is a good runner just as long as it's properly cleaned and cared for.

Looking for basic parts

Q Where do you think I can purchase O gauge fiber pins and switch lanterns? — Larry Lynn

A Local hobby shops likely carry the fiber pins. If one isn't near where you live, try any of the online retailers that advertise in *Classic Toy Trains*. Switch lanterns may be tougher to find, but major parts dealers in CTT should have them.



When restoring vintage pieces of rolling stock like this Lionel heavyweight coach, you may want to use original decals. If that isn't possible, look for reproductions.

BERKSHIRE TRAINS
209 Rosemont Gdn
Lexington, KY 40503
859-694-8144
www.berkshiretrains.com

**Lionel®, MTH Trains®
& All Scale Sales,
Factory Trained
Service Center, Sales/
Consignment Services**

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
"Your S-Gauge Specialists!"
ON-LINE AMERICAN
FLYER PARTS CATALOG
AF, Lionel, MTH, Am. Models,
& other S-gauge products!
www.portlines.com
doug@portlines.com
(978) 465-8798

Ballast Kits & More
**MODEL
BRENNAN'S
RAILROADING**
816-252-4605 | **www.brennansmodelrr.com**

MODEL RAIL SCENES
**CUSTOM LAYOUT
SERVICES**
207-564-0705
www.modelrailscenes.com

Arkansas Traveler Hobbies
Located in the heart of Bald Knob
**Visit our historic 1915 MoPac Depot,
and Regional Rail Museum**
870-692-8273 athtrains@yahoo.com

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**

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

Millhouse River Studio
2541 River Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Division of Studio Z
Quality Products Made in USA!
Turntables
Transfer Tables
Coal Dumpers,
Coal Loaders
& Conveyors
www.millhouseriverstudio.com
(716) 830-5267

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.

**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

**Sign up now to
receive newsletters,
special offers,
and more!**
Trains.com/newsletters

Tinplate 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
**NEW
PRODUCTS!**

**GREGORY
HAKE
AUCTIONS**
Gregory Hake Auctions
Vintage Train & Toy Experts
Buying, Selling, Consigning
www.gregoryhakeauctions.com
314-239-8541
email:deborah@gregoryhakeauctions.com

When contacting
advertisers, mention
you saw their ad in
Classic Toy Trains
magazine!

Your source
for track plans, toy train layouts,
expert tips for collecting, operating, repairing and more!
Trains.com/ctt/how-to

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 9 words.

Events Rate: \$45 per issue (\$5 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
18650 W. Corporate Dr., Ste. 103, Brookfield, WI 53045
Phone: 414-600-9285, E-mail: classads@firecrown.com

Schedule of Events

IA, ELKADER: 13th Annual Elkader Model Train Show-Swap Meet. Sunday, August 17, 2025, 10:00am-3:30pm. Johnson's Reception Hall, 910 High Street. Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$2, under 5 FREE. Free parking, lunch stand available. Information: Larry Lerch, 563-880-2066 or 563-245-3345

MO, JOPLIN: Joplin History & Mineral Museum Model Train Show and Swap Meet. Saturday, August 9, 2025. 9am-3pm. In Schifferdecker Park, 504 South Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO 64801. Admission: \$5 adult, 12 and under admitted free with paid adult. Swap Tables \$20 each. Contact Steve Gardner, 620-230-9545 or email: sogardner1@att.net

NY, LINDENHURST: Long Island Classic Train Show/Swap Meet. Fireman's Memorial Park, 555 Heling Blvd. (north of Hartford St.), Lindenhurst, NY 11757. September 14, 2025, November 2, 2025, and January 4, 2026. 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, VAN WERT: Van Wert Railroad Heritage Weekend Model Railroad Show & Swap. Van Wert County Historical Society, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, 1055 S. Washington St., Zip: 45891. August 16-17, 2025. Saturday 10am-4pm & Sunday 10am-3pm. Adults \$7. Children 12 & under/Scouts in Uniform: FREE. Early Bird 9am admission: \$10. Info: Chuck White, railcarman@frontier.com, 260-760-1666, www.vwrhw.com

OK, STILLWATER: Heartland Summer Toy Train Show. July 11-12, 2025. Friday 5pm-7pm, Saturday 9am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00, kids under 18 free with paid adult. Payne County Fairgrounds Expo Center. 4518 Expo Circle E., Stillwater, OK 74075. Buy/Sell/Trade. Operating layouts and door prizes. Sponsored by the Heartland Toy Train Association. For further information visit: www.heartlandtoytrain.org

PA, MECHANICSBURG: Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association's Train & Toy Show. June 13-15, 2025. Friday 5pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am-12pm (Father's Day Pancake Breakfast 8-10am). 1 Steam Engine Hill. Free Admission. Operating PRR 643 Steam Locomotive & Diesel Engine 52. Trains & Farm Toy Vendors - Model Railroad Display - Food Vendors. Visit: www.wghsea.org

WI, LA CROSSE: Rail Fair, Copeland Park, Rose & Clinton Streets. Saturday, July 19, 2025, 10am-4pm. Admission \$8.00, under 12 free with adult. Railroad Show-Flea Market-Swap Meet. BUY/SELL/TRADE. Model, Toy & Antique Trains & Memorabilia, Railroad Exhibits & Displays. Information: 4000 Foundation, PO Box 3411, La Crosse, WI 54602, 608-781-9383 or 608-498-9522. www.4000foundation.org

*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.trainsmore.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.

O Gauge For Sale

CUSTOM INSULATED O GAUGE TUBULAR TRACK. 10" straight, 031, 042, 054, 072 curve available. For details, email sunshineismedicine@yahoo.com

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, 2420 San Miguel St., Sherman, TX 75092. 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 For Sale

MODEL BARRELS FOR O OR S GAUGE. Wood, hand painted, multiple colors available. For details, email sunshineismedicine@yahoo.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

GREGORY HAKE AUCTIONS IS ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS. We are looking for Lionel, MTH, American Flyer & Marx trains & collections for upcoming auctions. Contact us at 314-239-8541 or 314-285-4416. Email: deborah@gregoryhakeauctions.com or visit: gregoryhakeauctions.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

CLOSING DATES:

Fall 2025 closes July 9 • Winter closes October 7

Go Digital!

Read *Classic Toy Trains* on
your favorite device!



- Live links
- Zoom in and magnify
- Bookmark pages

[Trains.com/ctt/subscription-plans/](https://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.

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 • Pasadena

Model rail specialists since 1951. LGB, Lionel, O, S, On3, HO, HOm3, 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 mrmuffinstains.com

MR MUFFIN'S TRAINS

177 West Main 765-292-2022

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/V, 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

MICHIGAN • Traverse City

Let your imagination run wild! Z to G, Lionel, scenery, tools, structures, scratchbuilding 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.TrainTownstl.com

TRAIN TOWN

9836 Manchester Road 314-716-2755

NEVADA • Las Vegas

From Z Scale to G Scale We Got You Covered. Open Mon-Sat 11 AM to 5 PM. Buy Online at www.westsidetrains.com. Nevadas ONLY Remaining Train Store

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/s/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 the Choo Choo Barn. www.etrainshop.com

STRASBURG TRAIN SHOP

226 Gap Road 717-687-0464

PENNSYLVANIA • Zelenople

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 Street 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. Trainlineer shop/showroom includes: Custom Layouts, Modulators, 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.trainandtoystore.com

TINY TIM'S TOYS & TRAINS

104 S. Railroad Ave. 804-368-0063

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 • 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

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, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Suite 103, Brookfield, WI 53045. 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.....	49
Arkansas Traveler Hobbies	60
Berkshire Trains.....	60
Bodnar's Auction Sales.....	56
Brennan's Model Railroading.....	60
Brinkmann Publishing Co.....	5
Charles Ro Supply Co.....	53
CIA Inc.....	56
East Coast Enterprises.....	53
East Main Trains.....	5
Eastside Trains.....	56
Gargraves Trackage Corp.....	53
Green River Hobbies	5
Gregory Hake Auctions	60
Grzybowski's Trains.....	7
Henning's Trains.....	60
L & L Model Train Co.....	60
Lionel Collectors Club America.....	56
Mario's Trains	19
Menard, Inc.	2, 68
Mianne Benchworks.....	53
Millhouse River Studio.....	60
Model Rail Scenes.....	60
Mr. Muffin's Trains	53
National Train Show.....	16
Nicholas Smith Trains	57
Port Lines Hobby Supply	60
Raildesign.....	60
Ross Custom Switches.....	19
Roundhouse South.....	19
S&W Parts Supply	49
Sonos Models.....	49
T & K Hobby Shop.....	60
Texas Trains.....	56
The Space Store	67
Trains.com	41, 64, 65
Trains.com Forums.....	17
Trains & More.....	60
TrainWorld	19
Trainz.com.....	5
Wire-Plex.....	60

MORE TOY TRAINS!

[TRAINS.COM/CTT](http://trains.com/CTT)



Use cast-offs to build something new

Don't have a lot of money to build a new layout? Perhaps you have a lot of odds and ends in your scrap box and want to put them to use. Various "cast-off" items, along with common hardware materials, can provide you with enjoyable, innovative projects that can help create a small and enjoyable layout.



Flyer postwar Baldwin switchers

Just as Baldwin Lima-Hamilton was producing its last locomotive in the middle 1950s, the A.C. Gilbert Co. decided that American Flyer needed a switcher to compete with the Lionel NW2. Learn more about the Flyer engines and how they compared to the prototype in this new article from Carl R. Byron and Bill Clark.



Repair Marx plastic rolling stock

Learn how to easily repair Marx plastic rolling stock from author Mike Small. Give these old cars new life with styrene, spray paint, contour putty, and decals.

30 DAYS FREE

WONDERING IF TRAINS.COM UNLIMITED IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Check out our 30-day free trial
and enjoy unrestricted access
to content including:

- + FULL MAGAZINE & SPECIAL ISSUE ARCHIVES
- + TRAINS.COM VIDEO STREAMING
- + DIGITAL BOOKS LIBRARY
- + PHOTO GALLERIES
- + LAYOUT VISITS
- + NEWS WIRE
- + PRODUCT REVIEWS
- + LIVE WEBCAMS

AND MORE!



VISIT US ONLINE
TRAINS.COM/UNLIMITED

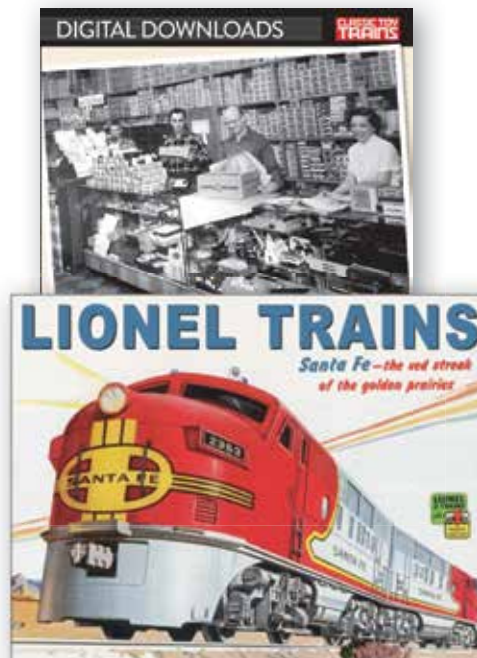
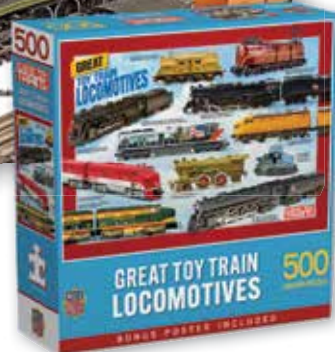
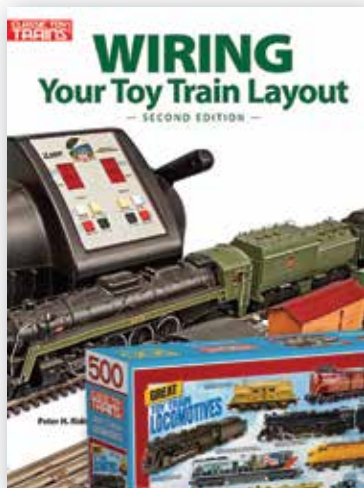


THE BEST IN MODELING & RAILROADS • ALL IN ONE STOP!

Great Products for Toy Train Enthusiasts!

Visit TheTrains.com 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!



Shop Now at
Shop.Trains.com/ToyTrains

Sales tax where applicable.

Easy trackside dump bin

■ Here's a simple and inexpensive way to add a trackside dump bin for sand or ballast to your O gauge layout or diorama.

Just save the bottom half of a plastic takeout food container. (I used the bottom half of a sushi container.) Spray-paint it black on both sides.

Once the paint has dried, find an appropriate place for it on your layout, such as next to a siding that runs through an area

near railroad maintenance materials. Keeping the bin partially filled with sand or ballast will help it stay in place and make it look more realistic.

With a little imagination, other plastic takeout food containers that might ordinarily be thrown away can be similarly converted into useful trackside accessories. [See the Spring 2024 issue for more ideas. — Editor] — Eric Beheim



Hide those unsightly wires

■ Are you tired of seeing a wire hanging under your postwar lighted cabooses and operating cars? Here's a way to fix it.

I did this on a Lionel No. 2357 caboose. The truck pivot stud is hollow, so I drilled a hole through it and ran the wire from the collector assembly up to the light or operating mechanism.

The photo below on the left shows the wire coming up and through the hole I drilled in the pivot stud. The arrow points to

the wire soldered to the collector assembly. To drill the hole, I used a center punch so the bit wouldn't wander and drilled a 1/16" pilot hole. Finally, I drilled a 3/32" hole and tapered it with a 3/16" bit so the wire insulation wouldn't get cut as the truck swivels.

The photo below on the right shows the wire coming up out of the truck pivot stud to the lamp. The inset photo beneath it shows my modified Lionel caboose. — Lyle Eimen



Want to share? Write to "Tips" at Classic Toy Trains, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Ste. 103, Brookfield WI 53045 or email tips@classictoytrains.com and put the word "tips" in the subject line. We pay \$25 upon publication for any tip we publish unless it was in a previously purchased article.



the space store®

Explore the Universe

The Space Store offers an extensive selection of space mission patches, rocket and airplane models, meteorites, toys, books, and unique items from NASA, SpaceX, Boeing, and the U.S. Space Force.

Come and check out the largest retailer of NASA and space-themed collectibles, apparel, and gifts, serving enthusiasts of all ages!

Shop now at: [TheSpaceStore.com/Shop](https://www.thespacestore.com/shop)



— Sinclair® GAS & SERVICE —



SINCLAIR® STATION

O Scale (275-9413) | HO Scale (275-9414)

Includes two beautifully painted vehicles

Prelit interior and exterior with lights under the canopy

Beautifully decorated station with authentic Sinclair® signs and branding

NEW!

— KING OF COAL: Sooty's Coal COLLECTION —

Sooty's MINE SHAFT #12

O Scale (275-9405) | HO Scale (275-9406)

Mine shaft with authentic parts, including a headframe, shaft station, and sheer

Lighting above the entry door and under the sheave wheel

Realistically weathered, complete with piles of coal and covered in soot

Includes four miners, two oil drums, and Jack the German Shepherd

Animated sheave wheel that turns



Sooty's COAL TIPPLE

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

Prelit, preassembled and ready to go

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

Weathered coal tippie with "Sooty's" logo on the roof

Includes four figures, pile of coal pile, dog house, and Jack the German Shepherd



NEW!

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