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display mystery

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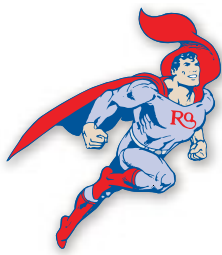
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greatest find

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Get your trains ready now for the holidays

It's the hap-hap-happiest time of the year!

■ **AS THE SONG SAYS**, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Well maybe not quite yet, but it's getting close: the days when the toy trains that have been stored since last January come out of the attic or closet for the holiday season. Are yours ready?

Yes, I know many of you have them set up all year. Every day is train day. But this may be helpful to you, too.

While the trains usually run right out of the box, they might need a little love this year. If you need some advice to get them fixed up, visit Trains.com/CTT. There are many stories covering all facets of train repair and cleaning. If video is more your thing, we have that, too, and lots of it.

Need parts? Check with the advertisers in this issue. There are several, and you may be surprised at what they can provide for your locomotives, rolling stock, and accessories. Don't feel confident enough in your skills to fix it yourself? Check with them about repair services.

Need a place to run your toy train gems? There's always the track around the tree. But if you're feeling a little more adventurous and want to build a permanent table, check out our *Polar Express* O gauge layout article on page 26. It gives you all the basics to get a layout started.

Coming down the track

Speaking of classics, have you ordered a copy of our new special issue yet? If you love model motive power, this one's for you!

Great Toy Train Locomotives looks at the best of the best from the prewar, postwar, modern, and digital eras – from the beginning of the hobby to the present day. It covers O, S, and Standard gauge trains.

We debated many of the engines in it; there were just so many excellent ones to choose from over the 120 years the hobby has existed. There's a good chance you're going to find some of your

favorites in there, no matter what period you're partial to. Many of the big names are represented: Lionel, A.C. Gilbert American Flyer, Ives, AMT, MTH Electric Trains, Weaver, S-Helper Service, Williams, K-Line, and many more.

There are full-color photographs as well as catalog art for many of the pieces in this publication. It's an outstanding time line of the history and progression of the toy train hobby. It was a lot of fun to make, and we hope you enjoy it.

Thank you and goodbye

This is my last issue at the helm of *Classic Toy Trains*. I feel like I just got here, and yet it's been three years, many issues, a few specials, a pandemic, the startup of *Trains.com*, and several York shows. Where has the time gone?

I couldn't have accomplished anything without the CTT team. I want to thank Roger Carp, Rene Schweitzer, and Lisa Schroeder especially; it's their dedication to the brand that brings you great content, well presented, year after year. Behind the

scenes, thanks also to Martha Stanczak; she keeps the advertising coming that enables us to keep publishing a magazine. Also Monica Freitag, who makes sure our contributors get paid.

Much appreciation to columnists Bob Keller, Bill Clark, Lou Palumbo, and Joe Mania, as well as Contributing Editor Chris Montagna. You've all been a joy to work with.

Most of all, I'd like to thank you for continuing to read and enjoy our products. It's been great to get to know you and what you love (or don't) and feed off your passion for the hobby.

I'm not sure what the next adventure is, but there's always a chance we'll cross paths again somewhere down the line.

Hal Miller
Hal Miller, Editor



CTT's 18th special issue!

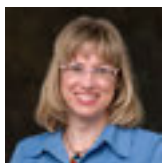
YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM



Editor
Hal Miller
hmiller@
Kalmbach.com



Senior Editor
Roger Carp
rcarp@
ClassicToyTrains.com



Senior Production
Editor
Rene Schweitzer
rschweitzer@
Kalmbach.com



Copy Editor
Steven Otte
sotte@
Kalmbach.com



Group Technical
Editor
Cody Grivno
cgrivno@
ModelRailroader.com



Contributing Editor
Bob Keller
editor@
ClassicToyTrains.com



Contributing Editor
Chris Montagna
editor@
ClassicToyTrains.com

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CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

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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.

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Kellie Jaeger Illustrator
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Letters

FROM OUR READERS

More musings on Lionel Santa Fe warbonnet of 1948



Lionel enthusiasts have been pondering the illustration of the No. 2333 Santa Fe F3 diesel since the moment it appeared in the consumer catalog for 1948. Why, they've wondered, did the artist color the sides black and not the proper silver?

■ **THANKS FOR PRINTING WALTER H. VIELBAUM'S PHOTOGRAPH** of a Santa Fe Alco PA with silver paint that looks black in the September/October 2023 issue of *Classic Toy Trains*. I studied the beautiful picture and compared it with other color shots I have seen and collected showing Santa Fe cab units painted in the red-and-silver warbonnet scheme that were taken from a certain angle on a bright and sunny day.

After checking the photos, including Vielbaum's, I reached the same conclusion as writer Matthew Smith. Namely, illustrators working on the Lionel catalog for 1948 likely based their red-and-black Santa Fe F3 on one or more photos that made silver paint appear black. – Rev. Philip Smith, Nuremberg, Pa.

Highlighting Lionel's Hudson

Like so many readers, I always enjoy reading about New York Central 4-6-4 Hudsons, both full-size and scale models. There was a great article about the engine given the number 5344 in the Winter 2022 issue of *Classic Trains*, and it got me thinking about Lionel's classic No. 700E, which had the same number.

It is my understanding that the scale Hudson was the first locomotive produced by Lionel that ever came with the number of a prototype engine. Or at least that's what my father once told me. He worked as a fireman and then a locomotive engineer on the New York Central. He hired out in July 1943.

As a child, I had many examples of that steam engine as part of my train set. And now I have even something more special in my collection. When the 5344 was about to be scrapped, its bell was removed and given to my father. The bell was unique, because when it was being made 25 silver dollars were melted in it.

The addition of all the silver coins then changed the way the bell sounded.

That unique bell is now in my garage with a Lionel advertising plate above it with a picture of the locomotive on it. – Michael King, Town of LaGrange, N.Y.

Passenger cars on prewar display

I read with interest the article on Steven Blotner's displays in the July/August 2023 issue. The O gauge set shown running on the No. 178 Display Layout from 1922 is a No. 150 New York Central electric locomotive with a pair of No. 600 four-wheel New York Central Pullmans and not Nos. 603 and 604 passenger cars as printed. – Jim Flynn, Gilbertsville, Ky.

Correction

Alex Mason, who shared information on his family for the article on Hazlet Train Stop in the July/August CTT, points out the correct email address for contacting him about repairing and restoring trains is ahmason355@gmail.com



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Modern era notes

WITH BOB KELLER

Comparing "scale" vehicles

Some may work; others may be way off base



At left is a British Dinky Toys troop carrier roughly in line with British 1:76 OO scale. To the right is a Solido 1:50 scale logistic support vehicle with a winch. Note that while the two military trucks are fairly close in size, their size is nowhere near 1:48 scale.

■ **ABOUT EVERY O GAUGER** has
vehicles on his or her layout that aren't
quite in line with the goal of 1:48 scale.
I've got 1:50 scale delivery trucks
(slightly smaller) and 1:43 scale sedans
(slightly larger). I've used actual 1:48
scale vehicles when I can find them.
One of my favorites, however, has
been 1:50 scale.

I've been using 1:48 and 1:50 scale
military vehicles as loads for scale flat-
cars. The 1:48 gear has been mostly
1:48 scale plastic tanks and Corgi
armored vehicles. The 1:50 scale has
been exclusively Solido die-cast metal
armored vehicles. So for me, "close
enough" has worked.

The French company Solido has a line
of support vehicles rated as 1:50 scale. I
hadn't bought any until recently. The
many eBay listings are often incorrect.

Is it a seller issue? I don't think so. I
imagine a lot of sellers search online, and
if they see lots of ads identifying some-
thing as 1:50 scale assume it's correct. Customer
education is probably more impor-
tant, as I saw the 1:50 ads and presumed it
would have parity with the sizes of the
self-propelled guns or tanks.

A few years back I bought a 1950s city
bus. It was also sold as 1:48 scale. It was
probably closer to S scale's 1:64. I didn't
look too closely at the advertising on the
sides of the city bus - the advertisements

The photo shows a current-production Solido No. M1128 mobile gun system. Next to it is a 1970s-80s No. M41 1:50 scale self-propelled gun. In front is a Solido 1:50 logistic support vehicle. They all look pretty similar in scale together.



The soldier towers over the truck, so he can't get behind the steering wheel! There's no way I can use forced perspective to disguise it on my layout.

were for a British tour bus. It's still a nice vehicle, though.

What do you do when you buy something that's significantly out of scale? Return it? Put it in a box of donations to the local thrift store? Or just chuck it in a tub in the garage with all those power chargers for devices you can't quite locate?

I selected the oddballs, wrapped them individually in a freezer bag, dropped them in a donation box, and trusted they would find their way to the right youngster or hobbyist! **CTT**



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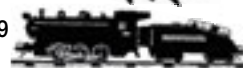
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PHOTO ALBUM

YOUR PICTURES



↑ BRIAN AND RILEY INCH'S O GAUGE LAYOUT

After building O gauge layouts for himself and then for clients of his business, Model Rail Scenes, longtime modeler Brian Inch changed direction when he got down to work on the stunning 10 x 16-foot model railroad shown here. He continued to focus on New England during the steam-to-diesel transition era. However, for this display at home in Augusta, Maine, Brian enlisted the talents and enthusiasm of his son, Riley. Father and son enjoyed every step along the way, from assembling the benchwork to wiring the control system to finishing the realistic landscaping. There's little doubt that a second generation of Inches will be contributing to the hobby.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Please send your best pictures to CTT Photo Album, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612 or email them to photoalbum@ClassicToyTrains.com. Digital photos must be taken with the camera set at the largest possible file size. 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. If your photograph is published, we will pay you \$50 as long as we have not previously bought the photo. For more on photos specs, please go to trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines/



→ **HARDING KIRCHHOFF'S O GAUGE LAYOUT**

Looking over the picture Harding Kirchhoff snapped of a busy scene on his O gauge layout may leave you humming the old Glen Campbell hit, "Wichita Lineman." Of course, the Ontario Northland caboose at the end of this freight train suggests the action takes place far from the prairies of Kansas. It's more likely the crew checking over the right-of-way is based closer to Harding's home in Columbus, Ohio, where he's been building his 9 x 21-foot display since 2010.



↑ **NICK BREUL'S O GAUGE LAYOUT**

The fellows hard at work inside the main switch tower on Nick Breul's O gauge layout keep the windows shut no matter the time of day or the weather outside. They have to – otherwise, the noise produced by passing trains and the cars and motorcycles on the road nearby would destroy their hearing. Nick, who resides in Silver Spring, Md., prefers to keep the noise to a minimum whenever he's operating trains on his 10 x 12-foot display, if only so the horses out in the pasture aren't scared.



PHOTO ALBUM

YOUR PICTURES



← MARK AND SHIRLEY CHILDRESS' O GAUGE LAYOUT

It's a snowy December evening in Swansea, Ill., at the home of Mark and Shirley Childress. They've shifted the Lionel No. 8702 Southern Ry. 4-6-4 Hudson and tender typically used for the *Crescent Limited* into freight duty on their O gauge display. While village crews remove snow and railroad laborers move freight, everyone else settles in for another memorable Christmas. Shirley set up all the Department 56 Snow Village buildings and figures. Mark snapped the cool photo.

↓ DAVE BAULE'S S GAUGE LAYOUT

Any reader of *Classic Toy Trains* who came of age during the postwar era could have predicted the proprietor of St. Nick's Toy Land would have electric train sets and accessories in operation after Thanksgiving. That, as S gauge modeler Dave Baule recalls, was how the annual holiday shopping season opened. Devoted to the finest trains made by the A.C. Gilbert Co. as well as those S gauge locomotives and cars developed more recently, Dave enjoys improving scenes on his new 11 x 25-foot layout in Cedarburg, Wis. His compact display in Arizona was featured in 2021 in our great special-interest publication, *Toy Train Layouts for Small Spaces*. You can expect to see a comprehensive look at Dave's S gauge railroad in an upcoming issue of CTT.





↑ **BILL HALLEY'S O GAUGE MODEL RAILROAD**

The leaves are changing color and dropping off the trees in Hampton, N.H., where Bill Halley makes his home and has completed his finest O gauge layout, one he has nicknamed the ALBOE Central Ry. (short for A Little Bit Of Everything). Days are getting colder, and the first snowfall is probably just a week or so away. But none of that prevents local kids from playing baseball or football every afternoon in the late autumn. They just have to be careful they don't throw the ball too far and wind up on the main line as the MTH Reading Lines GP40 road diesel passes by.

→ **HARRY HADLAND'S O GAUGE MODEL RAILROAD**

The weather can change overnight in the village on Harry Hadland's O gauge layout. Yesterday, the sun was shining and temperatures were in the 40s. Then clouds moved in overnight, and the mercury in local thermometers fell rapidly below freezing. Luckily for the residents, trains can still make their way through, but some folks ditch their cars and hitch up the horses. Harry admits this isn't a scene you're likely to come across near his home in Houston.



WITH THE CTT STAFF



LUMBER FROM LONG ISLAND. The Nassau Lionel Operating Engineers (NLOE) 2023 club car is this center-beam bulkhead flatcar decorated for the Long Island Rail Road. The custom-decorated Lionel car, offered in one road number, will operate on O-31 curves. Additional features include die-cast metal trucks with operating couplers; a removable, wrapped lumber load; and metal wheels. Only 200 cars will be produced, and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Automatic enrollment as an associate member of the NLOE is included as part of the purchase price. The LIRR center-beam flatcar is priced at **\$64.99 plus \$14 shipping** for the first car and \$7 for each additional car. Residents of New York state must multiply the subtotal by 8.625%. For orders outside the United States, please email nloestore@gmail.com for a shipping quote. Send check or money order (NLOE) to NLOE Club Car Agent, P.O. Box 343, Levittown, NY 11756. This O gauge model is scheduled for release between the third and fourth quarter of 2023. Online ordering is available at nloe-store.onlineweb.shop



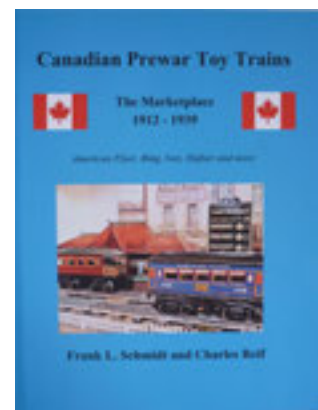
HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2024 is just around the corner, so why not keep track of important events with a railroad-themed calendar? The Chicago & North Western Historical Society sells this all-color 2024 calendar featuring 13 photos of trains from the C&NW and predecessor roads. The calendar is priced at **\$16** (postage included; Illinois residents add \$1.14 tax for each calendar ordered). Order from **C&NWHHS-CT, P.O. Box 1068, North Riverside, IL 60546.**



CUSTOM HOPPER. The Desert Division of the Train Collectors Association offers an Atlas O Premier Line cylindrical hopper car decorated for Saddle Mountain Brewery. The O gauge car costs **\$79.95** plus shipping and delivery is expected in the spring of 2024. Order at tcadd.org



RIDE IN STYLE. Grzyboski's Train Store has announced the Lionel No. 2335230 Reading & Northern Budd Rail Diesel Car 2-Car Set with LionChief Plus 2.0. Features include O-31 curve operation; TrainMaster Command Control, Legacy or conventional control; and Lionel Voice Control. This O gauge set is made exclusively for Grzyboski's. Cost: **\$539.99** plus shipping and can be ordered at www.grzyboskitrains.com or call **570-451-1700.**



CANADIAN TOY TRAINS. Frank L. Schmidt and Charles Reif, members of the Canadian Toy Train Association, have published *Canadian Toy Trains: The Marketplace 1912 to 1939*. Featuring products from American Flyer, Hafner, Ives, Bing, Bub, Hornby and more, the 153-page book is illustrated with color photographs. Available in hardcover (**\$54.39** US) or softcover (**\$38.90** US) versions. Order from blurb.com



CLASSIC COAL HAULER. Atlas O is offering its 50-ton offset-side two-bay hopper in new paint schemes, including Pittsburgh & West Virginia; Baltimore & Ohio; Chicago & Eastern Illinois; Maine Central; Milwaukee Road; Peabody Coal (limited edition, two road numbers); Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac. The Premier line model will be available in four numbers per scheme unless noted. The two-bay hopper, which operates on O-31 curves, has an ABS body, removable coal load, and die-cast metal solid-bearing trucks. Look for the hopper, priced at **\$82.95**, at your favorite Atlas O retailer in the second quarter of 2024.



BRIDGING THE GAP. Menards is manufacturing another of its accessories for O gauge layouts. The O Scale Dual Bridge With Lights (No. 2759125). This two-track bridge measures 18 inches long and 8¾ inches wide, and it has a clearance of 6 inches high. Choose from white or colored lighting in either steady or chase modes. The lighting requires a 4.5-volt power supply, sold separately (Menards Nos. 279-4061/4361, 4062/4362, or 4050). Power may be applied through either a rear tabletop plug-in or from below the building with a pigtail connector. The dual-track bridge is priced at **\$69.99**. Order at menards.com/trains



A MIGHTY MAC. An Electro-Motive Division SD70MAC road diesel locomotive has joined the Atlas O Premier Line. Paint schemes include BNSF Ry. (green and cream), CSX (dark blue and yellow), Lake State Ry. (blue and gray), Metra (blue, black, and orange), Paducah & Louisville (green and white), R.J. Corman (50th anniversary scheme), and Union Pacific ("We Are One" and Big Boy escort, one road number each). The six-axle road diesel is available in two numbers per scheme unless noted. Features include an ABS body; die-cast metal truck sideframes, pilots, and fuel tank; and ProtoSound 3.0. The Atlas O SD70MAC is priced at **\$679.95** and is scheduled for release in the second quarter of 2024. Visit shop.atlasrr.com for the latest updates on this O gauge model.



A BUDGET-FRIENDLY OPTION. The Atlas O Trainman series 40-foot stockcar is back for another run. New paint schemes include Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Canadian Pacific; Pacific RR; and Union Pacific. New road numbers will be offered on models decorated for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and Denver & Rio Grande Western. The ready-to-run car (two numbers per scheme) features see-through running boards; sprung, die-cast metal trucks; and metal knuckle couplers. The O gauge model is priced at **\$69.95** and is scheduled for release in 2024. To learn more, visit shop.atlasrr.com or see your Atlas O retailer.

NEWS CHOO CHOO BARN'S LEGACY CONTINUES



GARY RUSSELL OF STEVENS, PA. has purchased the Choo Choo Barn's model train layout, along with the adjoining Strasburg Train Shop. He plans to increase the shop's online presence and expand the selection of large-scale trains in the shop. Russell plans to upgrade the electronics on the layout.

"I want to modernize the electronics used for the animations. Many of the motors are becoming obsolete, which makes repair difficult. I'd love to see the fire scene run on a Raspberry Pi and maybe add fireworks to the nighttime scene. I'm honored to continue this legacy. Preserving this layout for the next generation is a task that I take very seriously," said Russell.

The Choo Choo Barn has been based at its current location in Strasburg, Pa., since 1961. The model train layout is open to the public. Learn more at choochoobarn.com

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The following special publications are in stock at the Kalmbach Hobby Store. All are available in print and digital formats. The digital editions are powered by Zinio and are compatible with PC, Macintosh, Android via Google Play app, iOS via AppStore, and Win8 devices.

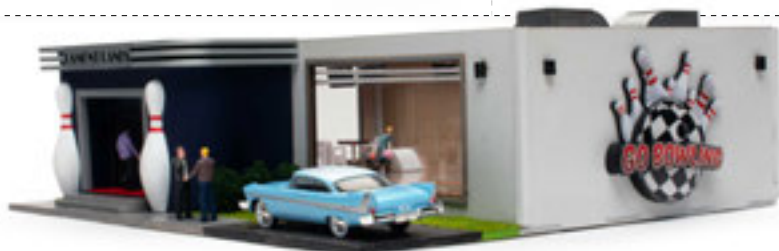
WHAT'S IT WORTH? The 43rd edition of Greenberg's *Lionel Trains Pocket Price Guide, 1901-2024* is in stock now. The 480-page book (item No. 10-8724) has updated pricing in a comprehensive format for all Lionel Standard, O, O-27, and OO gauge trains from the prewar, postwar, and modern eras. Features in this year's book include more than 2,000 updated entries and prices for all eras; 800 Lionel Corp. tinplate items; box section with 1,400 listings and prices; 900 special production items; and more than 12,000 modern era products, including hundreds of new sets, models, and accessories. The authoritative book, which measures 5 3/4" x 8 1/4", is priced at **\$22.99**.



THE 50 BEST. Great *Toy Train Locomotives*, the latest special-interest publication from the editors of *Classic Toy Trains*, includes 50 of the most important locomotives from all eras of production in O, Standard, and S gauge. The all-new 100-page magazine provides an exciting look at how far toy train locomotive manufacturing has come since 1900. You'll learn the history of these engines, why they're so popular, and how their legacy continues. Print and digital editions are **\$13.99 each**, or you can get both for **\$19.99**. Digital editions, powered by Zinio, are compatible with PC, Macintosh, Android via Google Play app, iOS via App Store, and Win8 devices.



SEND A NOTE. Share your passion for the hobby with this 10-pack of greeting cards exclusively from *Classic Toy Trains*. The cards (No. 69751, **\$12.99**) are blank inside and feature 10 unique images, all with a brief caption on the back. The folded cards measure 5 x 7 inches and include white envelopes.



DUDE, LET'S GO BOWLING. Menards offers the Lamont Lanes Bowling Alley (No. 2759140). The fully detailed building has a 13 7/8" x 11 1/2" footprint and includes an officially licensed 1958 Plymouth Fury with working headlights. The O gauge structure costs **\$79.99** and uses a 4.5-volt power supply (Nos. 279-4061/4361, 4062/4362, or 4050). Visit menards.com/trains



NEW NUMBERS AND PAINT. The Atlas O Trinity 17,600-gallon corn syrup tank car will be available in the second quarter of 2024. New paint schemes include General American, Tate & Lyle, and U.S. Army. Features on the Master Line car include separate, factory-applied parts; 100-ton roller-bearing trucks with rotating bearing caps; and see-through walkways and platforms. The minimum diameter curve the tank car (**\$89.95**) will operate on is O-36. Visit shop.atlasrr.com to see samples of the various paint schemes.

WANT TO SUBMIT A PRODUCT? Send complete ordering information and a large, hi-res photo file to editor@classictoytrains.com or on a CD by mail to *Classic Toy Trains* magazine, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.

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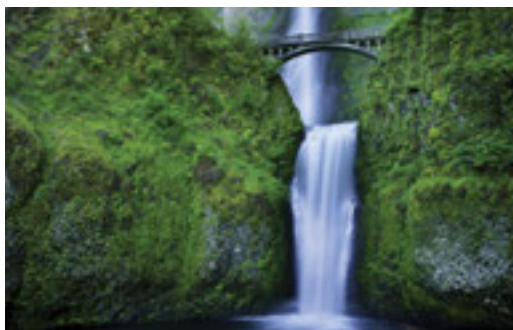
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WITH ROGER CARP

Lionel's No. 19288 Conrail boxcar

O gauge tribute to the formation of a notable railroad



■ RAILROADS CHANGED ALMOST ENDLESSLY

in 20th-century America. Among the most significant of those changes was the formation of Conrail in 1976. Several railroads joined forces under the guidance of federal authorities to maintain strength in the Northeast and Upper Midwest.

Manufacturers of toy trains offered replicas of the engines and cars owned by Conrail. Lionel, then under the direction of General Mills, was no exception to the trend. In 1997, it released a model reflecting how laborers had transformed

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older rolling stock by covering their heralds with new initials and logos. The No. 19288 captured an important moment in America's railroad saga.

Desperate move

The formation of Conrail came about after the demise of the Penn Central in 1970 and the Erie Lackawanna in 1972 undermined the railroad industry in the northeastern part of the U.S. Congress established the United States Railway Association for the purpose of solving the problem.

A new entity named Consolidated Rail Corporation – eventually shortened to Conrail – made national headlines on April 1, 1976, by assuming control of the railroad properties and operations of seven lines, all but one bankrupt: Central of New Jersey, Erie Lackawanna, Lehigh & Hudson Valley, Lehigh Valley, Penn

Central, Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, and Reading. Congress awarded it \$2.1 billion in stock and assistance.

Lionel jumps in

Lionel began honoring Conrail almost as soon as its first trains were operating. Right away in 1976, there was an O gauge caboose finished in the shade of blue soon to be associated with the railroad. Distinguishing the No. 9186 porthole model was the so-called can opener logo printed in white.

Collectors and operators of Lionel trains took notice. They added the diesel and electric locomotives and various freight cars introduced by Fundimensions (the division of General Mills in charge of manufacturing and marketing the trains). The roster grew in key ways through the 1980s.

Product designers broke new ground in 1997 with the

announcement of a special outfit available through authorized Lionel service stations. Set No. X1144 featured a Conrail SD20 road diesel pulling four freight cars and a new porthole caboose whose blue scheme matched that of the powerful Electro-Motive unit.

Unique boxcars

Besides a depressed-center flatcar loaded with a transformer and a single-dome tank car lettered for Sunoco, the set included two near-scale boxcars that looked as though they had originated in a Lionel catalog from the 1950s.


The boxcars had their New

York Central and Pennsylvania RR graphics covered by the initials and numerals of the railroads that had superseded them. In one case, the "PC" of the Penn Central dominated; in the other case, the "CR" of Conrail prevailed.

The latter boxcar, identified in the Lionel catalog for 1997 as No. 6464-200X, revealed how in real life rolling stock belonging to the Pennsy and other lines had been relettered with the Conrail graphics and car data before being repainted in Conrail Blue or Tuscan Red. Railroad history came to life on the car whose product number was 19288. **CT**

Lionel LLC cataloged the No. 19288 Pennsylvania-Conrail "6464-200X" boxcar for one year only in 1997, although it was available long afterward.

The 2024 edition of *Greenberg's Pocket Price Guide to Lionel Trains* values this O gauge car at \$43 in excellent condition and \$56 in mint condition.



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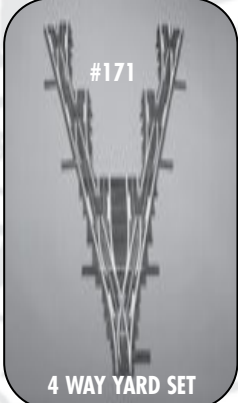


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As much fun as the Lionel No. 3662 Automatic Refrigerated Milk Car can be, the milk cans can be a source of frustration if they get jammed inside the chute.

Q I really enjoy using my Lionel postwar No. 3662 operating milk car, but lately I have found this great car is giving me some trouble. Specifically, the milk cans never come all the way down the chute. One or two of them get through before they get jammed. What do you suggest to fix things? – *Vince Liguori, Buellton, Calif.*

A Are you using original cans? The 3662 cans have been reproduced. Some are perfect, but some are dimensioned wrong and can cause jamming. Since the chute is plastic, there is seldom a problem of it warping, as can happen with the die-cast metal chute used on the earlier and shorter milk cars.

Paints for modern Blue Comet

Q I purchased the Lionel No. 8801 *Blue Comet* Hudson steam engine and tender (cataloged between 1978 and 1980). I need to touch up the light and dark blue. Which commercial paints will match best? – *Eugene Davilla, Peoria, Ariz.*

A Your best option would be to get a few different blues along with white and black model paint and try to mix until you get a match. It's highly unlikely there's a premixed paint that will match perfectly. What do CTT readers suggest?

GG1 does have reverse unit

Q There's a switch on top of my Lionel No. 2332 Pennsylvania GG1. I've heard it controls how the engine reverses. I've run the locomotive on a test track, and without my touching it the locomotive reversed following the transformer direction switch. Is everything working right? – *Jim Rohrbach, San Mateo, Calif.*

A The switch on the roof turns the E-unit on and off. In one position it allows remote-control reversing by interrupting the current to the track. It will cycle through forward-neutral-reverse-

The Lionel No. 2332 model of a Pennsylvania RR GG1 locomotive came with a reverse unit manually controlled by a switch on top.

neutral-forward and so forth. In the other position, it will disable the remote reversing and lock the locomotive in the state that it was in prior to moving the switch. If the engine is moving forward and the switch is toggled, it will stay in forward until you enable the E-unit once again.

Lionel Alco repair

Q The small bar located below the knuckle coupler on my Lionel postwar No. 210 *Texas Special* Alco diesel locomotive is cracked. How do I repair this broken part and what commercial paint do I use so the fix isn't obvious to anyone? Thanks for your help. – *Lee Roy Lance, Bryan, Texas*

A Any styrene cement will work. I prefer liquid to the tube type, as it's a bit more controllable and makes less of a mess. It's unlikely that you'll find the color match and will, instead, have to mix it yourself. I suggest paints used for plastic model kits, as they are relatively cheap, most are of good quality, are easy to mix and, most importantly, are compatible with the kinds of plastics Lionel used. **CTT**

HAVE A QUESTION?

Write to "Questions & Answers" at Classic Toy Trains, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, or email us at qsandas@ClassicToyTrains.com and put the words "questions & answers" in the subject line.

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Soo Line Hopper (275-9194)



Union Pacific Boxcar with Lights (275-9196)



Jack's Christmas Boxcar with Lights (275-9153)

LIGHTS UP!

Early American Flyer ads

Beautiful artwork created to promote Gilbert's train line



An eye-catching full-color advertisement for American Flyer electric trains focused on two of the sets released by the A.C. Gilbert Co. in 1946 to promote its new S gauge line.

COLLECTORS OF AMERICAN

FLYER S GAUGE trains often fall under the spell of seeking promotional literature. The A.C. Gilbert Co. produced through the years consumer and dealer catalogs (for foreign and domestic markets), newspaper and magazine advertisements, sales sheets, pamphlets, and much more.

Some of this literature is common; you may run across examples at any train show. Other promotional items are rare or unusual, and so are seldom seen. To be frank, years ago the “pickings” were better than they are today. Now, unfortunately, uncommon and scarce examples of American Flyer “paper” hardly ever appear at shows and auctions unless dedicated collector is selling his or her prized finds.

Early advertisements

The Gilbert Co. was advertising electric trains before the onset of World War II. At that time, it was manufacturing and marketing a complete line of O gauge models. An early color ad was printed as the centerfold of a 16-page horizontal booklet that displayed a photograph of the front of the New York Hall of Science (the company's public

showroom), fully assembled models of the Erector Set Ferris wheel and the parachute jump, as well as a Gilbert tool set, a chemistry laboratory, a No. 8½ Erector Set and a microscope set.

The steam locomotives shown in the booklet were the forerunners of the five notable S gauge engines that Gilbert retooled and then released in 1946 for its new S gauge ¾" train line. They included the streamlined the 4-4-2 Atlantic, the regular 4-6-2 Pacific and its streamlined twin (the *Royal Blue*), the 4-6-4 Hudson, and the 4-8-4 Northern.

The ad appears to have been printed in four colors, but Gilbert chose to print the part showing the trains in black and white and then overlaid a color screen over that. Several S gauge accessories were shown in color below the trains.

Later campaigns

Gilbert spent time and money on its widespread advertising campaigns as the years passed. In a 24-page newspaper ad mat from 1948, Gilbert furnished many free messages

dealers could use to promote Gilbert products in their local newspapers.

The newspaper mat message puts it all in a nutshell: “This year we are supporting American Flyer Trains, Erector and other Gilbert Scientific Toys with the latest, most colorful and dramatic advertising campaign in our entire history. Over 149,000,000 advertising messages on American Flyer will appear this year – full page, 4-color ads in big circulation comic books, large space color ads in the Sunday comic sections of 59 leading newspapers – and black and white ads in a long list of other magazines.”

Gilbert placed advertisements in some of the largest mass-circulation magazines, including *Boy's Life* (circulation 448,897 readers), *Collier's* (5,754,730 readers), and *Popular Mechanics* (1,010,722 readers).

Advertising and promotion on a large scale after World War II helped American Flyer achieve its sales goals and propelled it into a market ripe for model trains. **CTT**



Advertising executives at the A.C. Gilbert Co., created materials retailers could use to promote American Flyer.



The late Don Heimburger published S Gaugian magazine and wrote extensively about American Flyer. For this article, he was grateful for help provided by Andrew Jugle and Paul C. Nelson.

Fall / Holiday Product Guide

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Hobbies add spice to life

Using your spare time wisely and enjoyably

■ **LATELY I'VE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT** to what it's like when you hit the big 7-0. I marked my 70th birthday several years ago and am currently writing about what life is like after 70 for my latest book, which I've titled: *Seventy is NOT so Good ... Unless It's Your Golf Score!*

People approaching 70 usually start looking for a hobby. Generally speaking, the hobby should be one that is mostly done at home. After all, most of us over 70 have a tough time driving, which is why I think boating, fishing, skiing, and skydiving are out.

A lot of folks get into different kinds of arts and crafts. There's nothing wrong with that. Crafts are a major hobby, but you end up with a lot of bowls and figurines all over the house.

What about scale model and toy trains? They make for a fantastic hobby, in my opinion. Guys like to start collecting and operating trains mostly because they had them when they were young. Who wouldn't want to try to recreate those happy moments before we get old!

There are other hobbies, such as wood crafting, that require tools and equipment. In addition, you usually have to have adequate room in the garage to perform the hobby.

Collecting is a hobby that quickly includes gathering a plethora of other cool items that usually can be found at local flea markets and antique shows. People are natural collectors.

For my money, collecting and operating toy trains is the best. Model railroad-ing is a pastime anyone, even people older than 70, can enjoy for years.

There's nothing like working on an O or S gauge layout in the basement on a cold winter night. Add in a cup of coffee, a fresh biscotti, and your favorite dog at

your feet (like my boy Dodger) and you are in paradise. You don't even have to get a lot done.

The train hobby helps you face many of the problems associated with those years after 70. Loneliness? Trains help you meet lots of fellow enthusiasts from every kind of background. You're making new friends and learning more about longtime friends who are in this hobby with you. There's nothing like comparing progress on collecting or helping some-

one on a layout. Much has been written about toy trains, past and present.

Repairing older trains and refinishing them is a major part of the train hobby. Of course, not everyone has the specific ability to refinish older trains, but they start with small projects.

The best trains to work on are those made prior to

1960. Parts are easily available. So also is the necessary information to perform some of the more common repairs. In the meantime, you're having fun searching for parts at local train shows and garage sales.

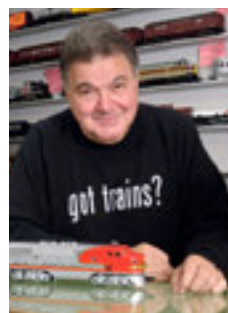
The toy train hobby opens new horizons to those folks looking to fill in their later years. It opens doors to new friends that share the hobby and the fun of working together.

There's nothing like a group of people working on a project. Sharing resources and time is very fulfilling. Making a new layout with all the details and parts is worth the time spent, especially when you invite others to see the project.

Hobbies are a great way to make the 70s enjoyable. Try it, and you'll like it.

Keep searchin'. **CTI**

LOU PALUMBO, the owner of the Underground Railroad Shoppe in New Castle, Pa., writes this exclusive column for *Classic Toy Trains*. He can be reached at 1906 Wilmington Rd., New Castle, PA 16105 or by email at trainplum@yahoo.com



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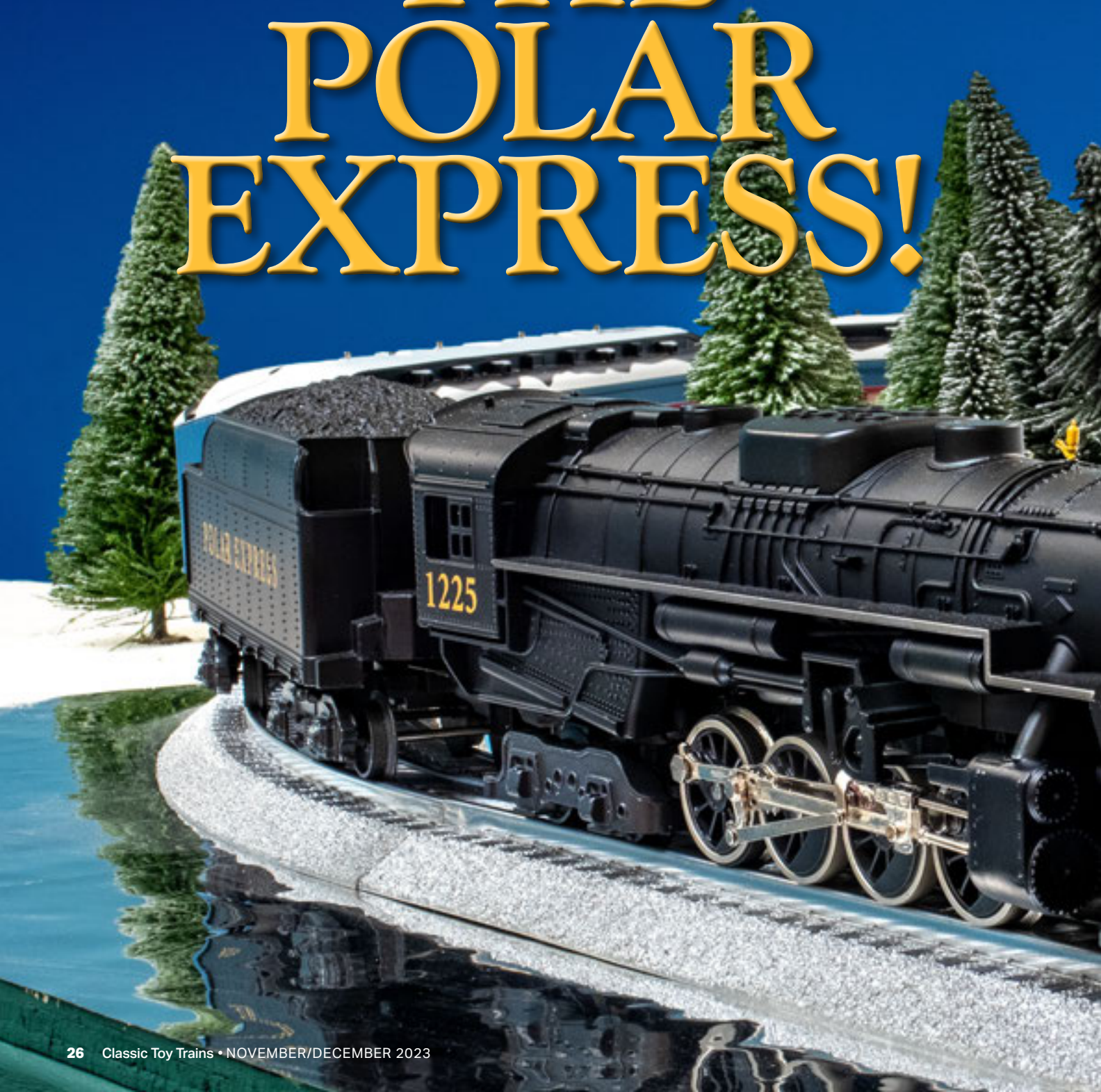
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cover story

HERE COMES THE POLAR EXPRESS!





A skill-building compact holiday layout project

STORY BY HAL MILLER

There are few things that say “holidays” like a toy train layout. Inspired by the 2004 Christmas movie *The Polar Express*, we wanted to create a display that would be entertaining to build and run for young and old.

We also wanted to involve the entire staff of *Classic Toy Trains* as well as anyone else who wanted to work on it. Layout building experience levels varied, but everyone brought something different to the process that made the finished product unique and festive.

When we planned this O gauge project layout, we had a few goals in mind:

- Make it simple enough for a family to build
- Get it “done” in a reasonable amount of time (we had a week)
- Use off-the-shelf trains and readily available materials
- Use basic tools most people may have
- Keep it as budget friendly as possible
- Make it to fit in a spare room or compact space

One other detail for us was the layout had to be portable. We had to be able to move it in and out of the workshop to accommodate other projects, so we added wheels to our table. You may not need this feature, but it does come in handy.

■ Where to start

We decided the layout should be constructed on a 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood, as they are readily available at most lumber stores and home-improvement centers. It's also a good size layout to fit in a basement or spare bedroom.

At the heart of this project is a train set. We chose Lionel's No. 2123130 *Polar Express* LionChief Set with Bluetooth 5.0 and Disappearing Hobo Car. The O gauge outfit comes with a 40 x 60-inch oval of FasTrack, and the LionChief 2-8-4 Berkshire steam engine is controlled by a handheld remote. Wiring is minimal; one section of track has a jack to plug in a “wall-wart” transformer. The locomotive can also be controlled using the LionChief app and smart devices, such as a phone or tablet.

In addition to the hobo on the car, the set includes character figures from the movie that can be posed on top of the passenger

cars if desired, thanks to small mounting pegs.

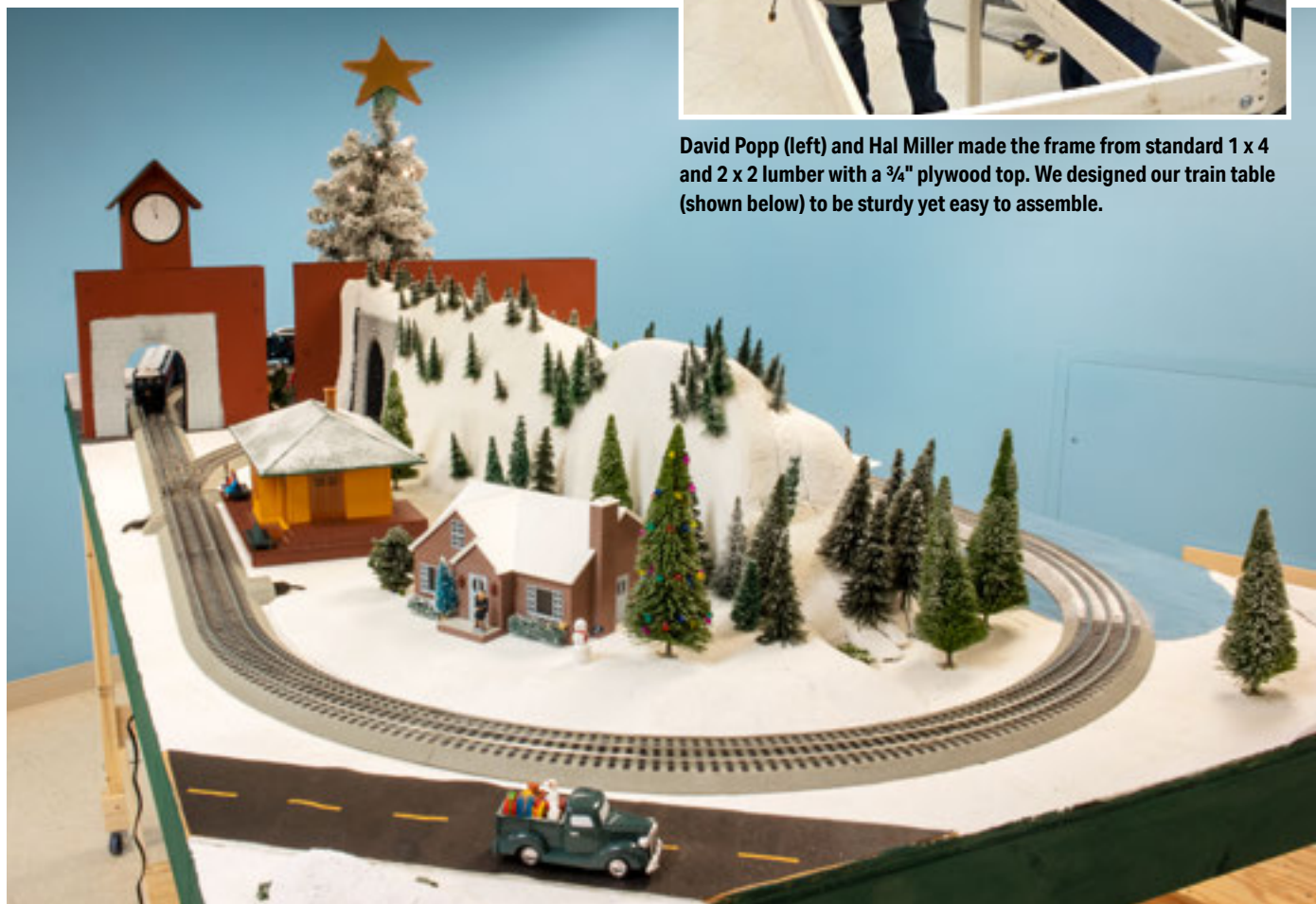
The included track is easy to assemble and helped us determine a track plan. We added a No. 12020 FasTrack Inner Passing Loop Add-on Track Pack, which includes a pair of switches and two O-36 curves. This relatively inexpensive addition allowed us to significantly increase the play value of the display.

■ Small but not small

One of the keys to making a compact layout “play” bigger is creating discrete scenes. This involves using items and techniques to create view blocks. These keep a user's eyes focused on what's before them and guarantees they get new views as they move around the railroad. As shown later in this story, we used both a layout dividing mountain and building flats for this purpose to make three distinct scenes that reflected events in the movie.



David Popp (left) and Hal Miller made the frame from standard 1 x 4 and 2 x 2 lumber with a ¾" plywood top. We designed our train table (shown below) to be sturdy yet easy to assemble.



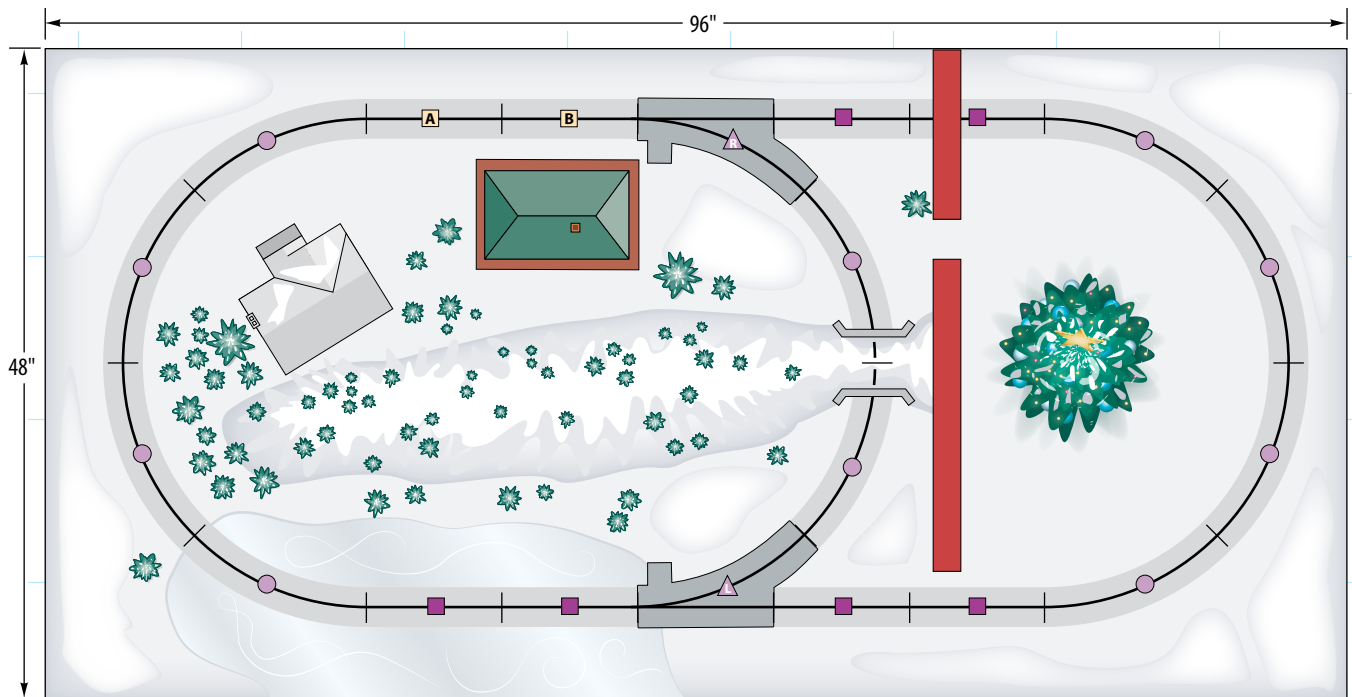


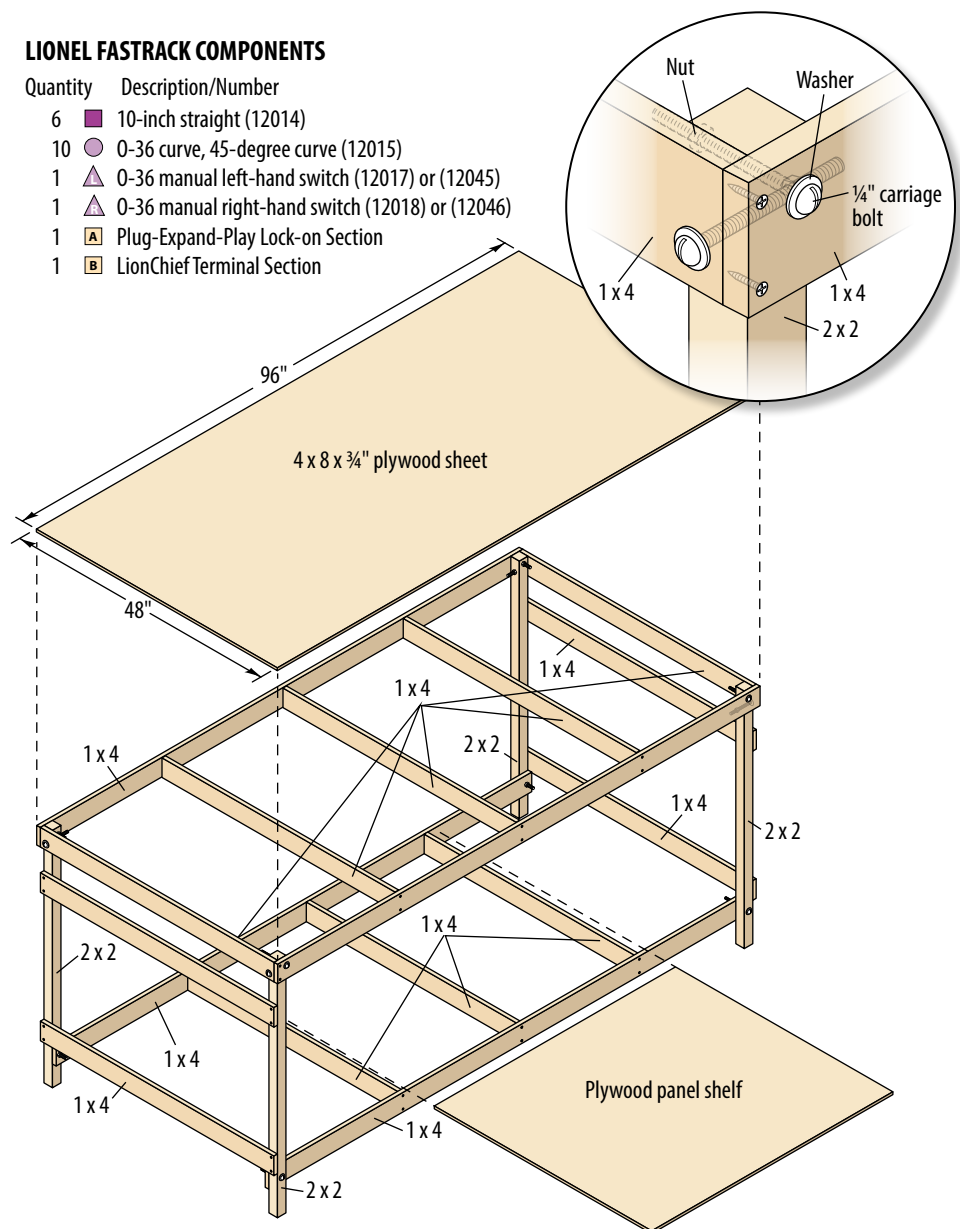
Illustration by Kellie Jaeger

MATERIALS LIST

- Drywall screws
- 1/4" x 3" carriage bolts with nuts and washers (12)
- 3/4" plywood - 4 x 8 foot (1)
- 1 x 4 - 8-foot (10)
- 2 x 2 - 8-foot (3)
- 1/8" hardboard - 4 x 8 foot (1)
- 1" foam insulation - 4 x 8 foot (2)
- Liquid Nails
- Foam nails (T-pins)
- Chooch O scale cut stone tunnel portals (Wm. K. Walthers part no. 214-9940)
- Flexible stick-on mirror material
- Lionel No. 2123130 *Polar Express* LionChief Set with Bluetooth 5.0 and Disappearing Hobo Car
- Lionel No. 12028 FasTrack inner passing loop
- Lionel No. 83185 *Polar Express* Elves Figure Pack
- Lionel No. 85410 *Polar Express* Hero Boy's House
- Lionel No. 1830010 *Polar Express* Snowman and Children figure pack
- Lionel No. 12812 Illuminated Freight Station
- Woodland Scenics No. SN140 Soft Flake Snow
- Rust-Oleum No. 7718830 Bright Coat Chrome spray paint
- Scenic Express No. EX0200 Pine and Fir Set

LIONEL FASTRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
6	10-inch straight (12014)
10	0-36 curve, 45-degree curve (12015)
1	0-36 manual left-hand switch (12017) or (12045)
1	0-36 manual right-hand switch (12018) or (12046)
1	Plug-Expand-Play Lock-on Section
1	LionChief Terminal Section





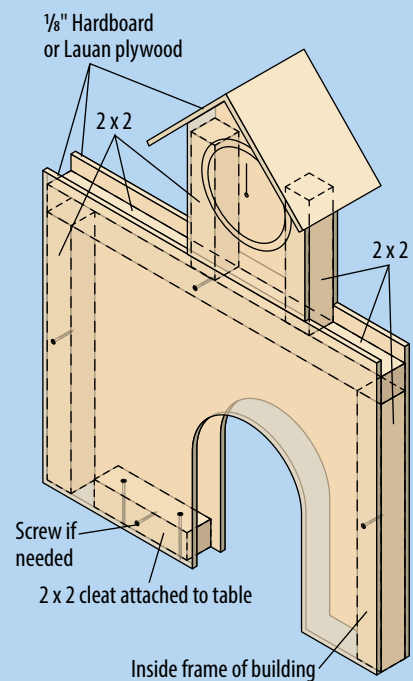
SIMPLE BUILDING FLATS

In *The Polar Express*, the North Pole is a vast brick city with Victorian architecture. Our layout uses easy-to-make building flats to simulate the scene.

To build the large brick buildings that make up the city at the North Pole, we decided to use simple building flats. We built our flats from $\frac{1}{8}$ " tempered hardboard supported by 2 x 2 frames. The bottom of each flat is left open, so it can slip over a 2 x 2 cleat attached to the tabletop. While

not necessary, we locked the flats in place by attaching them to the cleats with screws.

CTT's Rene Schweitzer painted the flats using crafts acrylics, as well as some ordinary brick-colored latex house paint. The flats make a great backdrop for our North Pole. - H.M.



We made the frozen lake by applying peel-and-stick flexible mirror plastic to the tabletop. The track that runs across the surface is not supposed to be track at all but frozen lake water. That's why we masked the rails to protect them and then painted the roadbed with Rust-Oleum Bright Coat Chrome.

Our first scene comes from the beginning of the movie, when the train picks up the boy, who is the primary character of the story. The second scene is from the middle of the film, when the train skids across the frozen lake. The final scene is the North Pole, where Santa Claus awards the first gift of Christmas.

While none of the features prevents you from seeing the entire layout, especially when viewed at an angle, they do help focus your attention. The mountain separates the boy's house from the frozen lake. The building flats represent the brick buildings and factories at the North Pole, making that area distinct from the other two as well.

■ Building a table

Construction of the benchwork can be accomplished by a couple of people, or just one in a pinch. We used readily available 1 x 4s and 2 x 2s for most of the construction. The assembly is held together with common bolts and drywall screws. The finished table is light enough that it can be picked up and moved by a couple of people. Additionally, since the major components are bolted, the legs and support structure can be removed as needed.

Most of the lumber can be cut with a portable powered miter saw or by hand with a miter box. The first step is to determine how tall you want your layout. We chose 48 inches as a good height for us, but you may want yours shorter or taller depending on whether children or adults will be the primary users.

The first step is to build the frame that supports the 4 x 8-foot plywood tabletop. As shown in the illustration on page 29, you make the frame by building a rectangle of 1 x 4s with three evenly spaced stringers through the middle.

Because we work on the second floor of the Kalmbach Media Co. building, we needed to build our layout 45" x 96" so it will fit into the elevator. However, unless you need to put the layout in an elevator to move it around, you shouldn't be limited by that sort of thing. You can build your layout to use the full 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood.

Cut two 1 x 4s 96" for the sides, and five 1 x 4s 46½" for the ends and stringers. Assemble the frame with drywall screws. You can use glue as well for a tighter bond; however, this also makes it more difficult to make changes to the layout table later. We built ours on the floor of the shop to make it easy to line up the parts and set the screws. Drywall screws will sometimes split the wood, particularly if it is really dry, so you may need to drill pilot holes before setting the screws.

Cut your 2 x 2 legs to the height you want your table minus ¾" to adjust for the thickness of the plywood top. Also, cut four 46½" 1 x 4s to act as the top and bottom leg braces. Then, following the plan, build the legs as subassemblies. The 1 x 4 braces attach to the legs 10" from the top and 4" from the bottom. Make sure they are square before attaching each brace with screws.

Finally, cut a pair of 94½" 1 x 4s for the bottom leg braces. These, like the legs themselves, are removable from the layout.

With the frame and legs assembled, it's time to put the table together. Stand the frame on one long side and then position the two leg assemblies, one at each end, and clamp them temporarily in place. As shown in the diagram, the legs attach to the layout using two ¼" x 3" carriage bolts each. Drill ¼" holes for these and then insert the bolts and secure them with nuts and washers.

When the legs are secure, you can attach the long lower braces to the legs. Be sure to mount them to the inside of the legs to avoid kicking them while standing next to the layout. We added a



We used foam extensively to build the mountain that divides the layout into separate scenes. You can do this work quickly and easily using a hot-wire foam cutter, like the one shown here offered by Woodland Scenics.



To build our mountain, we stacked layers of foam on end. Here, David is fitting a section near the tunnel, using a scrap piece of plywood as a stand-in for the building flats, shown on the previous page.



Roger Carp and Rene Schweitzer stand by their snow-covered handiwork. They made the snow by painting the surfaces with flat white latex paint and then sprinkling Woodland Scenics snow into the wet paint for texture.



The final destination for the *Polar Express* is the North Pole. We filled ours with figures from the set, including Santa Claus and his elves.

EASY SNOW-COVERED TREES

Being a winter layout, we knew we would need a lot of snow-covered trees. While commercial snow-covered trees are easy to come by during the holiday season, here's an option for you to make your own.

I was able to make a lot of snowy trees for the layout quickly by using the method shown here. You need just three things: cheap hairspray,

a bag or two of green pine trees in different sizes, and a shaker bottle of Woodland Scenics No. SN140 Soft Flake Snow. You probably already have the tools you need for this project, including a pair of self-closing tweezers, protective gloves, and a garbage can.

As shown in the photographs to the right, this is a straightforward three-step process. First, place a tree in the tweezers, then coat all sides of it with hairspray over a garbage can. (You'll be using a lot of hairspray, so you may want to do this outdoors.)

Second, while the hairspray is still wet, sprinkle the Soft Flake Snow over the top of the tree. You'll probably want to do this over a garbage can as well.

Finally, set the tree aside to let it dry for a bit and then plant it into the layout. Since we built much of the scenery using foam, it was easy to insert the wire tree trunks into the layout. — *H.M.*

An inexpensive can of hairspray, a bottle of Woodland Scenics No. SN140 Soft Flake Snow, and some model pine trees are all you need.



shelf to ours as well, using a couple more 1 x 4 stringers as well as a 4 x 4-foot piece of plywood. Finally, stand the table up and install the 4 x 8 plywood top.

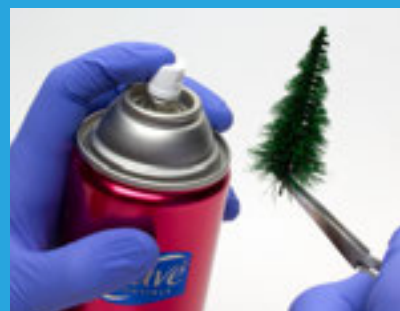
■ Putting down track (kind of)

With the table built, it's time to lay some rails. Assemble the oval with the power section in an accessible spot. The plan creates a 40 x 70-inch network with a siding across the middle.

The main idea is to enable you to let the train run through the siding several times on its journey before throwing the switch and sending it triumphantly to the North Pole.

Assemble the track on the tabletop. Then drill through one of the provided holes in every other section of track, insert a 1" dry-wall screw, and tighten by hand. Be careful not to overdo it so you avoid cracking the plastic roadbed.

Once the track has been fastened to the table, take a pencil and trace around it. When you've completed that task, take the screws out, disassemble the track, and set the sections aside. We don't want to get paint or scenery materials on them!



STEP 1: Coat the tree on all sides with hairspray. Be sure to wear gloves for this!



STEP 2: Sprinkle Woodland Scenics snow into the wet hairspray over a garbage can.



STEP 3: Plant the finished tree into the layout. The foam scenery makes this easy.

■ Scenic touches

Use your pencil to divide your scenes in a manner similar to what we have here. Then use white latex paint on the “winter” areas, and a black or deep red paint (to simulate cobblestones) for the North Pole area. Depending on how much time you have or how elaborate you want to get, you can even “grid” the area to resemble brick paving.

At this time you can also mark the area for the “frozen” lake. Make a note not to paint there; the panels or foil are self-adhesive and may have trouble sticking to paint. Better to put the material directly on the wood.

We built the mountain from layers of 1" foam insulation board stacked on end. We used a hot-wire foam cutter to shape the pieces and glued them together with foam-safe Liquid Nails construction adhesive. We used a pair of Chooch (now Walther's) cast-resin tunnel portals for the tunnel.

We painted the foam hill with white latex house paint and sprinkled on various amounts of Woodland Scenics Soft Flake Snow directly into the wet paint. If you want something with more sparkle, you may want to use some fine glitter as well.

We decorated the hill with an assortment of evergreen trees prepared with the hairspray technique shared on the previous page. Because the hills are made from foam, planting their wire trunks was as easy as pushing them into the foam – not a drop of glue was needed.

For the North Pole, in addition to the building flats shown on page 30, we added a small, lighted Christmas tree, and an assortment of small blocks wrapped up as giant gifts to add color and excitement. We completed the scene with more *Polar Express* figures from Lionel, including Santa and his elves.

We built this layout the first week of December last year, and everyone involved enjoyed the experience. It really helped us get into the holiday spirit, and we hope you enjoy building it too! **CTT**

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With the rugged hills, snow-covered trees, and frozen lake on this side of the layout, you'd believe you're racing through the Arctic tundra on your way to the North Pole aboard the *Polar Express*. The CTT staff was able to build this exciting layout in less than a week, and you can too!

Discover Sakai freight sets from Japan

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GARY ANDERSON

The Japanese train maker Sakai, which had made Japanese-style sets (under the brand name Seki) for the domestic market before World War II, sought to enter the U.S. market after the war. It released American-style O gauge sets by copying a freight train developed by Louis Marx & Co.

I've owned two examples of the Sakai set. They differed slightly, with a tender mistakenly lettered as "Hutton & Pacific."

■ First set

The first set was led by an American-style die-cast metal steamer with a 2-6-2 wheel arrangement. The engine came lettered "301" and was equipped with a double reduction motor with a reverse unit. It had wire handrails and an operating headlight.

The tender, similar to the Marx wedge type, and the freight cars were mounted on a pair of four-wheel trucks with tinned wheels. The metal formed couplers were opened by lifting a tab below the truck.

The H&P gondola had a lowered center side. The tank car, lettered "Pegasus" for the mascot of the Mobil Oil Co., was inspired by a Marx car that had separate handrails and ladders.

The New York Central boxcar had the red-and-gray scheme associated with the line's Pacemaker service. The ends of the model were black. The attractive H&P boxcar had doors that slid open and shut.

The caboose was similar to what Marx offered. Marked "Pacific Rail Way," it had railings on the ends and a smokejack.

The three-rail track had an insulated center rail and black ties. Eight sections made an oval with a diameter of 54 inches. The track was the same length as Marx's; the two brands could be joined together.

■ Second set

The second and more unusual Sakai set used a stamped-steel engine, also based on Marx's die-cast metal 999 and powered by



Sakai, a Japanese toy train maker, based its 2-6-2 steam engine and tender on Marx models. A scarce version came mistakenly lettered "Hutton & Pacific."



A five-car freight set included a gondola and a boxcar with lithographed markings. The latter model resembled a New York Central Pacemaker car.



At the end of the Sakai freight train rode a silver tank car lettered "Pegasus" in reference to the mascot of Mobil Oil Co., along with a snappy-looking H&P caboose.

direct current on two-rail track. It was painted black and had the number "306."

The front truck wheels slid rather than turned due to their being on a square axle. One of the wheels was insulated; on the other side, the drive wheels and side rod were also insulated, allowing the engine to get its power from two-rail track.

Sakai cars, like those by Marx, rode on 6" long frames. They had maroon plastic wheels on steel axles, so they didn't short out the two-rail track. The couplers came riveted with a rounded tab that went into

a round hole and were not compatible with the Marx tab-and-slot kind.

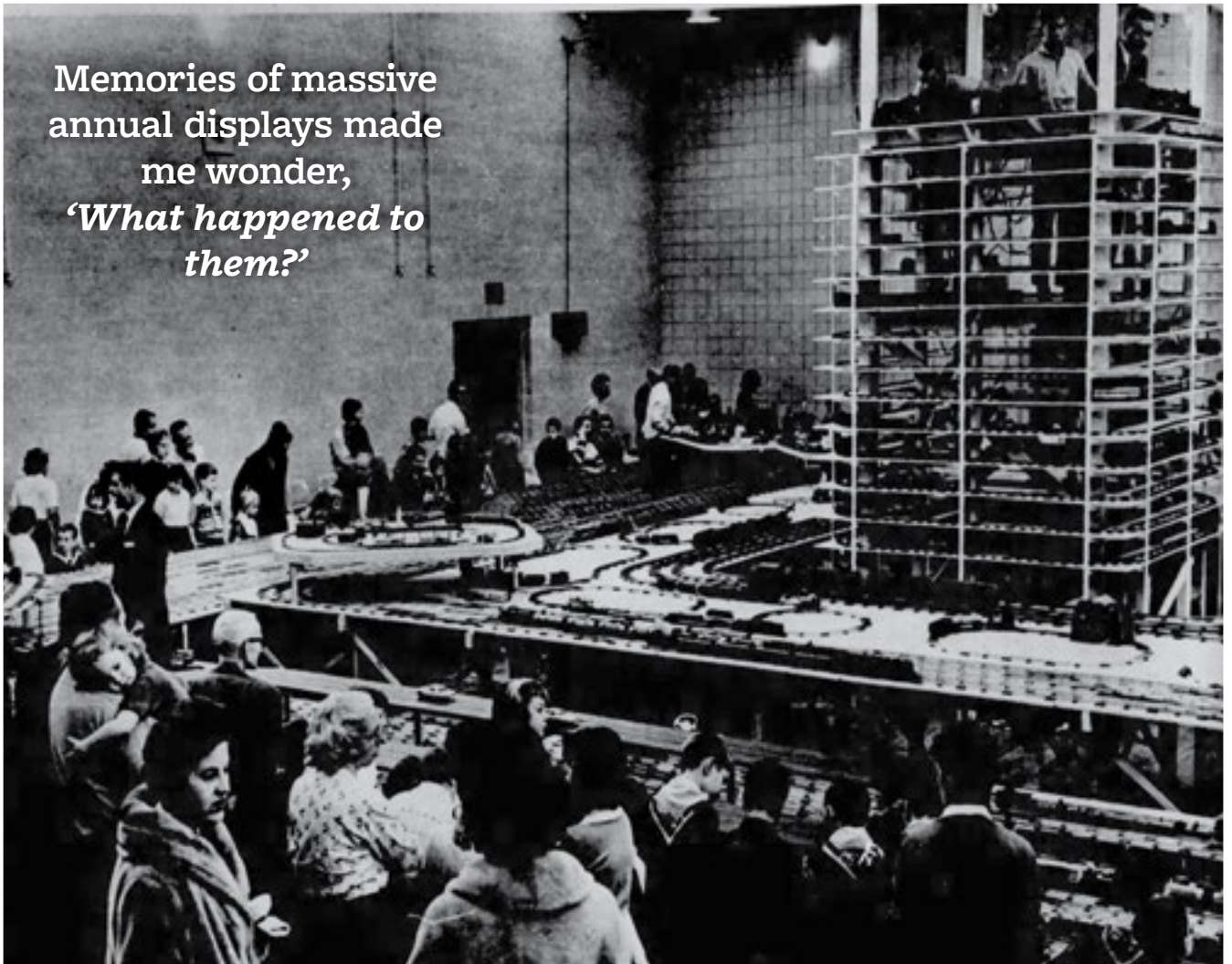
The tender resembled the 6-inch wedge model made by Marx. It featured graphics ("552" and "Hudson & Pacific"), along with a lithographed coal pile and deck. The gondola and tank car are also similar to Marx's, with Hudson & Pacific and Pegasus found on the sides. All the freight cars had a small "Japan" on them.

The caboose didn't copy a Marx model. It had a distinct square shape, along with added end rails and a separate cupola. **CTT**

A big Christmas toy train mystery

STORY BY BILL WASINGER

Memories of massive annual displays made me wonder, *'What happened to them?'*



Growing up in Oklahoma City in the 1970s, HO scale was my thing. Trains at Christmas were never part of our family's holiday tradition. In fact, other than my uncle's 1930s tinplate set from his youth, which was always under his tree, I couldn't recall any Christmas trains or displays from my childhood.

Fortunately, I started playing with toy trains when I got married and have made many Christmas memories with them since. But as my mind wandered while setting up trains under the tree last December, I remembered a Christmas train display I had seen in my youth. I'm not sure why I hadn't remembered it before, because it was not only unforgettable, it might have been the largest in the world, too.

The enormity and scope of the O gauge display set up by Rev. Dale Milligan in Oklahoma City during the 1970s amazed the author when he was growing up and left him wondering what happened to the incredible roster of Lionel locomotives and rolling stock Rev. Milligan had accumulated. Photo courtesy Newspapers.com



More than a dozen parallel lines of O gauge track gave the postwar and modern-era trains from Lionel plenty of opportunities to gather speed and impress the many viewers.

■ It started small

Dale Milligan always wanted a toy train as a boy growing up during the Great Depression. Sadly, that was one luxury his family could never afford.

After serving as a U.S. Navy submarine sonar operator in the Atlantic and Pacific during World War II, Milligan finally received a toy train as a gift from his wife when he graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. That small set became the start of something much bigger, for himself and his ministry.

Based on an idea shared by a theology school mentor, Rev. Milligan, now a minister at First Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Pa., began using that first set as part of his outreach to the youth of his congregation. Perhaps making up for lost time, Milligan's collection quickly grew to 12 trains, and in 1951 he set up a small train display at Christmas. The goal was to use the train display to attract children and adults to the church to see the model railroad and share the story of Christmas at the same time.

"I want to catch people's imagination. Stimulate curiosity so that they will come inside (the church)," Milligan told the *Daily Oklahoman* newspaper in 1978. "If I could do it with clowns, or horses, or fish, I'd do it. What works well for me is trains."

The other component of Milligan's Christmas presentation was a 4 x 12-foot electrically controlled flannel board featuring 36 hand-painted figures that moved to illustrate the story of Christmas. With the minister narrating, attendees would view the Christmas story in the church sanctuary or chapel and then move to view the rapidly growing train display.

Within 10 years, thanks to his own purchases and donations from church members, Rev. Milligan's collection grew to about 100 trains. The display layout also grew, fluctuating from about 1,500 square feet and a mile of track in a fellowship hall to about 2,300 square feet and almost two miles of track in a church gymnasium.

That layout, which was assembled in early November by church members, featured trains running on several levels and just about every operating accessory Lionel made. The display was powered by 30 Type-ZW and No. 1033 transformers, all housed in a 16-foot control tower. Though Milligan handled almost every presentation of what he called the church's "gift to the community," the program was truly a church-wide effort.

"Everywhere my father did this, there were men who asked to help," says Kathleen Milligan, one of Rev. Milligan's daughters. "Everybody was so enthused about setting it up, and he made sure kids had as important a role as the adults. I recall feeling I was the most important helper because I could walk right under the tables and get to the train quickly that was off the track and put it back on."

■ A lasting legacy

By 1960, newspaper accounts noted Rev. Milligan's stable of trains had been deemed "the largest privately-owned collection in the world" by Lionel, and it was still growing. When Milligan moved in 1971 to become senior pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, his collection consisted of 100 to 140 trains, including operating examples of every scale, from Z to Standard gauge.

What didn't change was that Milligan's presentation continued to draw thousands to hear the story of Christmas and see his incredible display of toy trains. When I

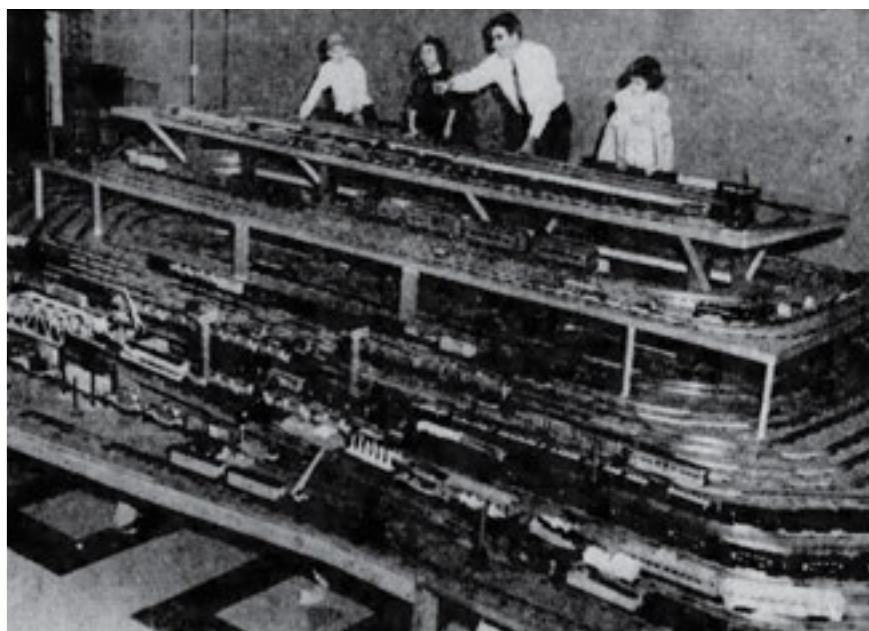
saw the program, Milligan operated all the trains simultaneously, narrated the action, highlighted the operating accessories, and counted down for the missile launch.

For the grand finale, Milligan assigned rooting sections for a train race pitting “Cheapy,” a simple Marx engine, versus the “City Slicker,” a Santa Fe F3. Somehow, Cheapy pulled out the victory.

But Milligan’s Christmas and train presentation in December 1978 would be the last. In 1979, he left Oklahoma City to accept a position in a church in Pittsburgh. About the same time, a law was passed prohibiting public schools from taking field trips to religious institutions. As he could no longer reach much of his target audience, Milligan ended the displays.

■ Where did they go?

So where did all those trains wind up? Another of Milligan’s daughters, Rev. Laurie Milligan, said the train collection didn’t go back to Pennsylvania. However, she wasn’t sure what became of it. Though Rev. Dale Milligan passed away in 1998 and the fate of his collection remains unknown, his legacy lives on through his ministry and the Christmas memories and magic he created for so many.



As Rev. Milligan’s collection grew and his commitment to building the displays deepened, he made the layouts more elaborate, adding several levels of track and more accessories.

“I have been a pastor for 30 years or so, and when I came back to Pennsylvania in the late 1990s, I discovered many churches in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania were doing train programs, and they all knew my dad,” Rev. Laurie Milligan said. “Those were mostly people who were student ministers under his tutelage or people

who had seen the program and carried it on in their own churches.

“Dad was someone who had big visions – dreams everyone else thought were impossible to make real. Well, he just kept pulling them off. The older I get, the more I marvel at his train program and what it meant to so many people.” **CTT**



Local newspapers and television stations made sure to publicize the extraordinary displays of vintage and new toy trains Rev. Milligan put together for the holiday season. The extent of what he created still leaves observers in awe. Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

A Christmas Lay

Ron Siebler built a nostalgic S gauge display in Dallas



out You Can Visit

STORY BY ROGER CARP ● Photos by Fred R. Hight



1 S gauge modeler Ron Siebler shares his talents with residents and visitors to the Dallas Heritage Village when he builds and wires an American Flyer layout for the facility each Christmas season. Timeless Trains Christmas Layout has great vintage and new trains.

Among the many adjectives befitting members of the toy train hobby are generous and hospitable. That is to say, S and O gauge modelers truly enjoy sharing their favorite pastime with other folks. They invite friends and visitors to see their finest pieces both new and vintage and operate them on the layouts they've built at home or elsewhere.

Ron Siebler, a devotee of postwar and modern-era American Flyer trains, smiles at this description and agrees how often other hobbyists have come to his assistance with handy bits of advice and invitations to check out what they've done, especially with old and contemporary S gauge trains. Their kindness and camaraderie inspired him to act.

So, almost a decade ago, when the president of a local history museum in Dallas known around town as Old City Park approached Ron about setting up a holiday-themed American Flyer layout at a restored Missouri-Kansas-Texas RR depot, he eagerly agreed.

Weeks of preparation culminate when a 10 x 16-foot S gauge layout opens to the public on the grounds of the Dallas Heritage Village for a brief period before Christmas. Thanks to Ron's dedication and help from his friend Fred Hight, we're pleased to share the wonderful two-rail display with you. It's a trip back in time to the postwar decades.

Jump to Flyer

When people are visiting Timeless Trains Christmas Layout, they typically focus almost exclusively on the display and the S gauge trains in operation. Eventually, though, they spy Ron and figure out he's the mastermind behind the nostalgic layout. Then they begin bombarding him with questions about his involvement and what they're admiring.

Observers assume Ron has been playing with American Flyer trains his entire

life. He quietly yet firmly disabuses them of that notion, although he will add that he's been committed to them through most of his adult years. Where did Ron start with toy trains?

A Marx windup set, of course! Did Santa Claus bring it? No, Ron replies in a flash. "My parents gave it to me for my third birthday in 1955. There was enough two-rail track with the set to make a circle. Naturally, I soon lost the key to crank up the train, but I was smart enough to realize the key to my roller skates would work just as well."

Ron's father took the next step by using lumber and a 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood to build a layout he hinged to a wall in Ron's bedroom, right above where he slept. The rudimentary railroad was easily lowered into a horizontal position via chains.

Looking back, Ron still remembers the layout as magical. "No accessories, no landscaping, no decorative amenities," he recalls. "Just an oval of track my sister and I thought was the greatest thing in the world. We ran that little train for hours without end."

Finally, though, Ron broke into the amazing world of electric trains. For

Christmas of 1962, he received his first American Flyer set: the No. 20330 Meteor Freight. A No. 293 4-6-2 Pacific steam engine and tender led the way, pulling a New Haven boxcar, a Wabash hopper, a container gondola, and an illuminated caboose." Says Ron: "I loved that S gauge train almost as much as the cocker spaniel puppy I also got for Christmas."

Return to the hobby

Let's allow a quarter-century to pass between that memorable Christmas and Thanksgiving of 1988. Ron, now grown up, returned home to mark the holiday with his parents, who mentioned the old Flyer trains now gathering dust in the attic.

No need for a second hint! Ron finished eating and climbed upstairs to retrieve his beloved S gauge roster. Once back in his apartment, he set up an oval of track, wired the transformer, and watched his steam engine and tender spring into



Ron, encouraged by his wife, Julie Scott, spends months planning the S gauge model railroad he develops for his community to introduce American Flyer trains to everyone.

action and reignite the excitement he had felt running his trains long ago. Ron knew he was hooked!

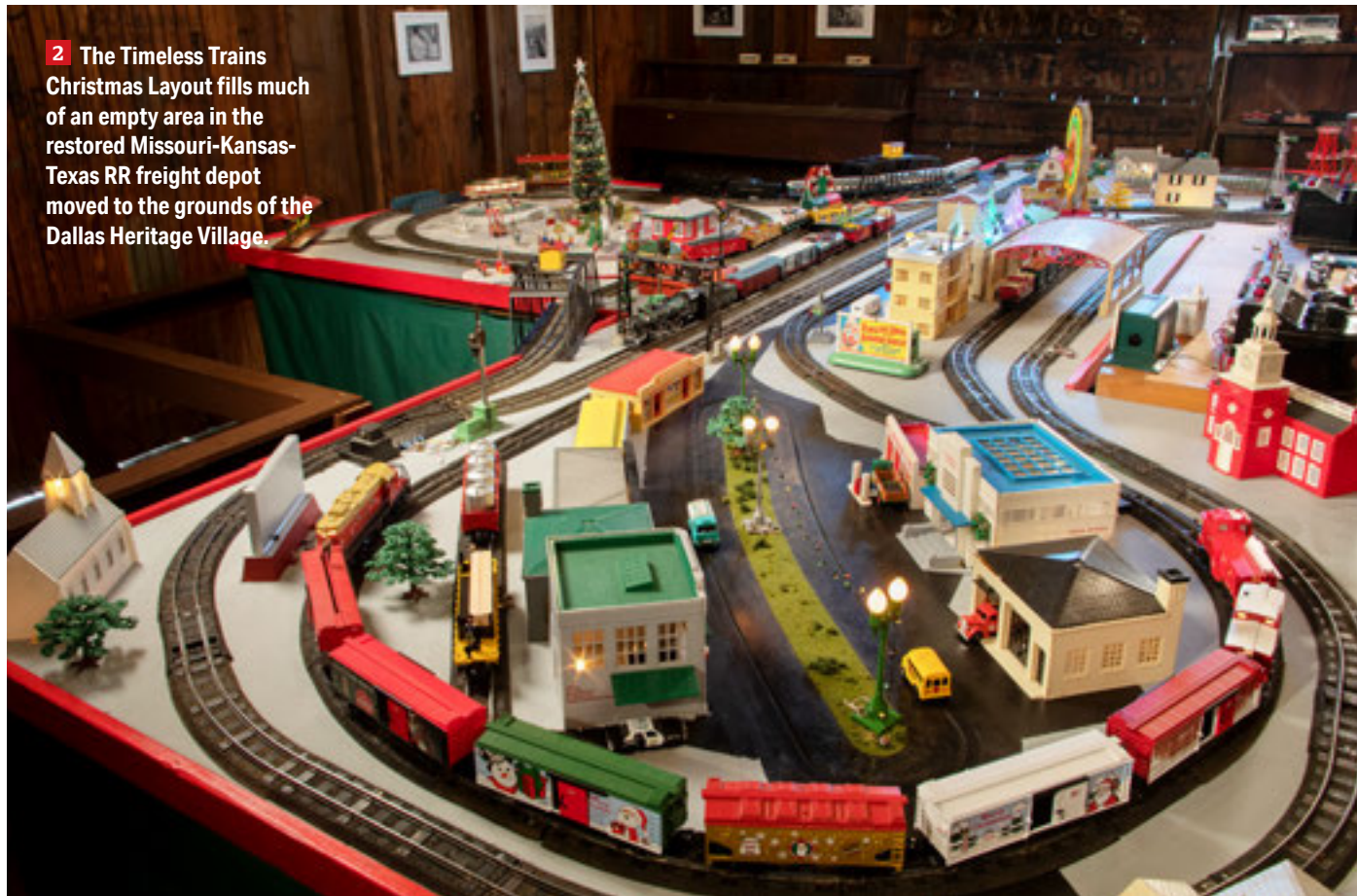
Thus began a steady pilgrimage to local train shows to buy loads of vintage Flyer equipment as well as the new Lionel models invigorating the S gauge niche. Particularly enticing to Ron were the attractive and entertaining Christmas boxcars Lionel added to its group of American Flyer trains each year. He bought one and has never quit getting them.

Joining a club of fellow S gauge enthusiasts was the logical next step in Ron's evolution in the hobby, and he soon was spending time with the Lone Star Flyer Model Train Club. He admits with a grin, "I had become one of those crazy model train guys!"

Sharing Christmas joy

Whatever Ron was doing at home to enjoy his S gauge trains paled in comparison to

2 The Timeless Trains
Christmas Layout fills much of an empty area in the restored Missouri-Kansas-Texas RR freight depot moved to the grounds of the Dallas Heritage Village.



More information

Everything Ron laid out about his choices for track and trains helps us understand more elements distinguishing Timeless Trains Christmas Layout. Other than Lionel locomotives using FlyerChief Command Control, engines and accessories are controlled in a conventional manner.

The majority of accessories originated in the postwar Flyer lineup. Among the crowd-pleasers are No. 596 Water Tower and 799 Talking Union Station. A No. K771 operating stockyard pleases the children. Modern reissues of Gilbert accessories fill in gaps, while contemporary animated items, notably a Ferris wheel and a

group of sliding ice skaters from Lemax, show how the Flyer heritage still thrives.

Ron uses Plasticville U.S.A. structures to fill out the farm, town, and other scenes. Kids enjoy the die-cast metal and plastic automobiles and trucks on the streets and roads painted onto the plywood.

Countdown to Christmas

As soon as personnel at the Dallas Heritage Village tell Ron the show is on for the coming holiday season, he jumps into “train mode.” Encouraged by his wife, Julie Scott, he plans out the layout and prepares to get everything constructed, wired, and tested in a week (friends from the Lone Star Flyer club provide lots of assistance).

The show lasts only one weekend in December, but the rewards are amazing. As Ron states: “The smiles on the faces of visitors as they see the engines smoke and hear them puff and as they discover all the magical elements of the layout are all we need to know our efforts have succeeded.”

Timeless Trains Christmas Layout does more than carry on the traditions of Flyer trains thrilling youngsters and adults. The display and the work Ron Siebler puts into making the display come alive reflect the efforts volunteers just like him provide to communities everywhere. **CTT**



4 The extension features a miniature Christmas tree decorated with ornaments and lights as well as a skating rink with several moving figures. The animated rink is made by Lemax.



5 Folks aboard the reissued streamlined passenger cars can't wait for their train to brake to a halt. Then they can head to the homes of relatives and friends.



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Lionel treasure survives a century!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RUSS MACNAIR



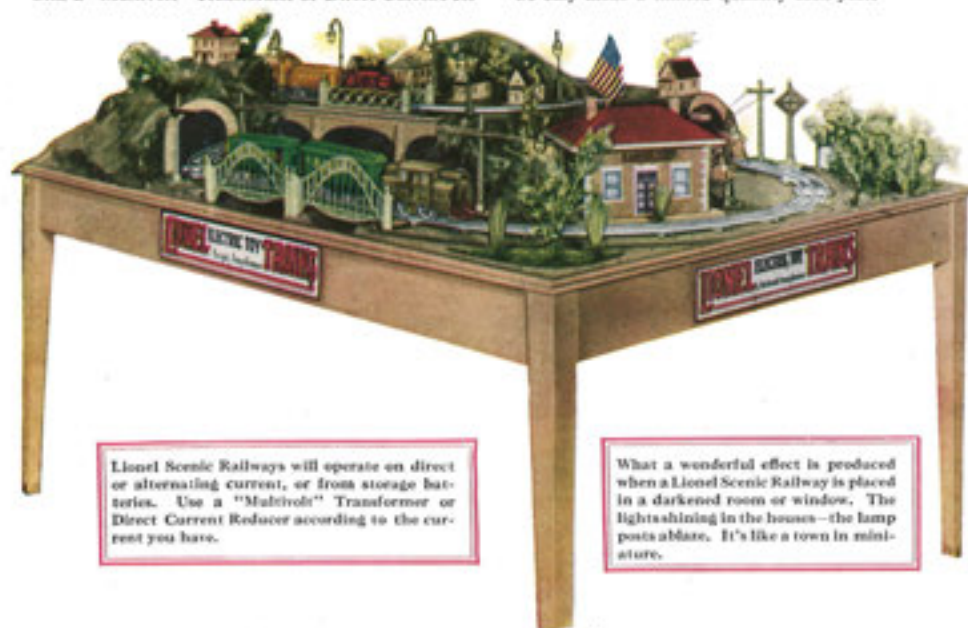
The author of this article about a surviving Lionel No. 177 Scenic Railway from exactly one century ago acquired it just a few years ago. This great Standard and O gauge display originally was owned by Morgan's Department Store in Montreal, which bought it brand new in 1923.

Discover Scenic Railway No. 177 from 1923

The year 1923 was a big one for Morgan's Department Store of Montreal, Canada. That was the year Morgan's completed a major expansion, more than doubling the sales area and adding seven large (8 x 20 feet each) display windows along Union Avenue. The new display windows afforded Morgan's the opportunity to showcase sales merchandise to passing shoppers, particularly during the busy holiday shopping season. Store executives wanted to highlight the toy department, especially toy trains, in one of the windows.

WHAT a fascinating outfit to put in a boy's playroom! Hours and hours of good honest fun will be had by the lucky owner of one of these wonderful Lionel Scenic Railways. They are practically indestructible and are easily attached to the house current either with a "Multivolt" Transformer or Direct Current Reducer.

The liberal amount of equipment provided with these Scenic Railways as well as the detail embodied in their construction makes them worth far more than the prices at which they sell. Read all about the various sizes we make and place your order for them early as we only make a limited quantity each year.



TO DEALERS

THE Lionel Corporation originated and developed these wonderfully attractive Scenic Railway Displays last year and are now introducing greatly improved models.

These Scenic Railways not only increase the sale of Lionel Trains but draw attention to all other toys carried by the dealer. The tables are made with removable legs and the entire scenic effect is constructed of indestructible sheet metal. No detail is omitted to make them as complete and realistic as possible. The mountains, trees, bridges and other details combine to make an exceptionally beautiful display. Water can be placed in the metal lined tank which forms the base and in which gold fish can be placed. The station, lamp posts and houses are illuminated and the table is wired ready for use on the house current, either with a "Multivolt" Transformer for alternating current or a direct current reducer for direct current. Dry cell or storage batteries can be used where no house current is available.

Lionel beautifully illustrated the entertaining No. 177 Scenic Railway in its consumer catalog for 1923. The landscaped display was promoted as perfect for boys as well as dealers. The catalog declared, "The station, houses and accessories are all illuminated and wired as well as the track for train outfits."

To serve as the centerpiece of the grand display, the store selected a Lionel No. 177 Scenic Railway. This factory-constructed display measured 6 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 9 inches and had two independent operating loops: one for the No. 34 Standard gauge two-car passenger outfit and one for the No. 155 O gauge two-car passenger outfit.

In addition to the two sets, the landscaped display included three bridges (two No. 104s and a single No. 110), a tunnel, a No. 124 station, a No. 89 flagstaff, seven No. 184 bungalows, eight streetlights, (one No. 57, five No. 58s, and two No. 59s), two signals (a No. 62 semaphore and a No. 69 warning signal), and three No. 60 telegraph posts. At a price of \$200 in 1923 (\$3,524 in today's dollars), the purchase of a 177 Scenic Railway represented a major investment, even for a department store.

■ History of the display

The Scenic Railway purchased by Morgan's Department Store delighted shoppers for years before being placed in storage in the firm's warehouse. It remained there until 1960, when the Hudson Bay Co. acquired Morgan's and sold the contents of the warehouse, including the 177, at auction.

The owner of a Quebec antique shop bought the display, likely saving it from destruction. He showed it there during the Christmas holidays until the mid-1960s, when it was placed in the attic of the store, where it stayed until 2002.

A man hired to clean out the attic after the death of the shop's owner discovered the 177. He recognized the value of the layout and in time sold it to an American toy train collector, who subsequently sold it to the author of this article.

■ Unique features

The 177 Scenic Railway has a few special features worth mentioning a century after it was created and put on the market to merchants plus individual consumers.

First, the 177 was the only factory-assembled display designed to include both Standard and O gauge loops of track.

Second, the large layouts cataloged in 1922 (the year scenic displays made their debut) and 1923 had built-in legs to support the landscaped platform. All but a few small prewar layouts were tabletop items requiring their owners to provide their own means to support the landscaped platforms and loops of track.

Third, the 177 ended up being the only factory layout that came with a built-in pond that could be filled with real water and then inhabited by live goldfish. Just in case you are wondering, the author does not plan to see how well this unique feature will work today!

■ Final details

The layout, which did not originally come with transformers, could be operated with an AC or a DC power source. Morgan's purchased three Lionel Type-T 100-watt transformers to power the two loops of track and all the lights. The original transformers were still attached to one side of the layout when the author acquired it a few years ago.

The signs pictured on the sides of the layout were added by the current owner. Although the 177 Scenic Railway was pictured with signs in the catalog for 1923, there was no evidence of the original signs when the layout was obtained, probably because they were likely made of cardboard and didn't survive. In addition, the author has arranged many vintage cast-iron vehicles and lead figures to enhance the scenic layout's visual appeal. **CTT**



Lionel didn't include a transformer with the O gauge Santa Fe freight set when it was offered for sale. As a result, the original owner was given this type-RW. The box still has its old price sticker.

The Lionel No. 2151W Santa Fe F3 freight outfit from 1949 plus many additional freight cars and accessories represent Jacob's greatest find.



A Lionel train and its great story

Santa Fe set, boxes, and loads of family memories

STORY BY JACOB MALBOUEF

Having turned 28 years old, I belong to a new generation of toy train fans. I was given my first Lionel set before my third birthday and years later got a No. 30001 Santa Fe *El Capitan* diesel outfit. By that time, I fully appreciated the beautiful warbonnet paint scheme the Santa Fe used on its diesel locomotives.

Not long after, in 2008 or 2009, I discovered the magical world of postwar trains. My first exposure was by way of my grandfather's boyhood Lionel set, which had been passed down to my dad. I enjoyed the 1954 No. 1513S and learned how to disassemble and service its No. 2037 steam engine and tender.

The old locomotive was soon up and running, much to the enjoyment of my grandfather and his siblings. In the meantime, my interest in postwar trains and their mechanisms grew. I wanted, above all, to acquire an example of the famous Lionel F3.

Another decade went by while I looked for the right set of F3s to show up at shows and online. Patience led to what I consider "My Greatest Find."

■ A lady visits

While helping at a train show sponsored by the Glancy Trains Modular Layout owned by the Detroit Historical Museum, I saw an older woman approach one of the other volunteers. She told him she had recently come across an old Lionel set that had belonged to her late brother when he was a child and she was hoping to find a good home for it.

After being directed to talk with me, the woman said that she was having work done in the attic of her home and heard from one of the workers about the train up there. She had fond memories of enjoying the set with her brother as a child. I gave her my contact information and asked her to send along some photographs so I could see what she had.

To my surprise, the set turned out to be a Lionel No. 2151W from 1949 pulled by No. 2333 Santa Fe F3 diesels. Not only was the outfit complete and in great condition, but it had all the original boxes! There were a few accessories and cars, along with a wood station (presumably made by their father).

While the excitement of seeing the set was intense, there was also a bit of a pain because, as a

college student, I lacked the funds to make her a fair offer for the set. I made her an offer at the greatest amount I could afford (and maybe a touch more), but admitted the set was worth a great deal more.

All I could promise was to give the train a good home if the lady couldn't find a buyer at her desired price. She listened and told me she would hold off.

■ Time is right

The next 18 months were busy ones, as I finished school and found a job as a full-time railroad mechanic. But thoughts of the 2151W set were often in the back of my mind. I even picked up a boxed, "runner-quality" No. 2175W set with No. 2343 Santa Fe F3 units just to push back the feelings of having lost out on that great-looking outfit.

A few more months passed when, much to my surprise, I received an email from the lady informing me that the 2151W was still available. Being a bit more financially stable, I wasn't about to pass up a second opportunity to purchase the classic Santa Fe set. She accepted my original offer as well as my promise to provide it a very good home.

I brought my treasure back to inspect the contents closely. I hadn't previously noticed the original price tags from well-known yet long-gone Detroit-area department store still on the set box and some separately purchased accessories.

Although the set components needed mechanical work, mainly due to age-related deterioration of wiring, I serviced the locomotive and had everything running within 30 minutes of arriving home. I excitedly shared a video of the train in action with the seller, and she was amazed to see her brother's childhood treasure back in operation so quickly.

While the seller is someone I had never met previously, the memories she shared and special details like the homemade station, separate-sale accessories and cars and, of course, the local history tied to the surviving price tags tell a timeless story. Aside from the trains tied to my own family, that 2151W outfit is one of the only pieces I own that came with the story of its past along with a new friend. The story is the cherry on top of a beautiful surviving example of one of Lionel's iconic postwar sets. **CTT**







1 The list of superb locomotives that have seen action on the O gauge layout built by the Grand Strand Model Railroaders at Myrtle Beach Mall in South Carolina includes dozens of steam and diesel engines. Maybe the favorite of the group is this slick K-Line GP38 repainted in Conrail colors to recall the unit once commanded by member Frank Jackson, a retired engineer.

A South Carolina club
builds a great layout

STORY BY ROGER CARP ● Photos by Ken Kilby

BRINGING O GAUGE TALENT TOGETHER



2 The 12 x 18-foot three-rail exhibit built and run by the Grand Strand Model Railroaders offers plenty of action and visual appeal on its two levels. A highlight for viewers of all ages is the carnival, which features operating rides and attractions by Lionel.

The South Carolina O gauge club known as the Grand Strand Model Railroaders does what other hobby groups do and lots more. This 35-year-old organization in Myrtle Beach makes it possible for individuals who don't have the space or resources for personal layouts to enjoy the benefits of one large three-rail display. It also lets the talents of the members shine while permitting them to skip essential tasks they may find tedious.

Perhaps even more important to the people who have shared skills and resources during the years spent developing the 12 x 18-foot O gauge layout, the club launched by Nick Nichols and six other hobbyists in 1986 has served as a home-away-from-home for a diverse collection of individuals. Club members with various backgrounds and experiences have enjoyed working together on a project that has built friendships.

■ Time to get going

Retirement for many people, including some members of the Grand Strand Model



3 Members take turns operating the layout every Saturday when the mall is open. Handling the duties on our visit were (left to right) Bill Blackburn, Bob Nemeth, and Frank Jackson.

Railroaders (GSMR), leaves open-ended days when there may be little scheduled or planned. It can be easy for the hours slip by with nothing being accomplished.

Some folks may prefer that kind of existence, especially if they've been engaged in stressful jobs that demanded setting goals constantly.

For that reason, Nick Nichols realized, hobbies play a significant role in giving

retirement both enjoyment and meaning. Model railroading in particular offers so much because it both calls upon an individual to shape his or her leisure hours to make progress and rewards effort with pleasure and a sense of satisfaction.

Consequently, Nick and his friends wanted to establish a model railroad organization to expand his social network in an unfamiliar community and share a

AT A GLANCE

Grand Strand Model Railroaders' O gauge layout

Dimensions: 12 x 18 feet

Track: GarGraves flextrack (maximum diameter is 64 inches)

Switches: Ross Custom Switches

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

Rolling stock: Lionel, MTH

Controls: MTH nos. Z-1000 (2), Z-4000 transformers

Accessories: Gilbert American Flyer, Lionel, Marx, MTH
Structures: Lionel, MTH, Plasticville

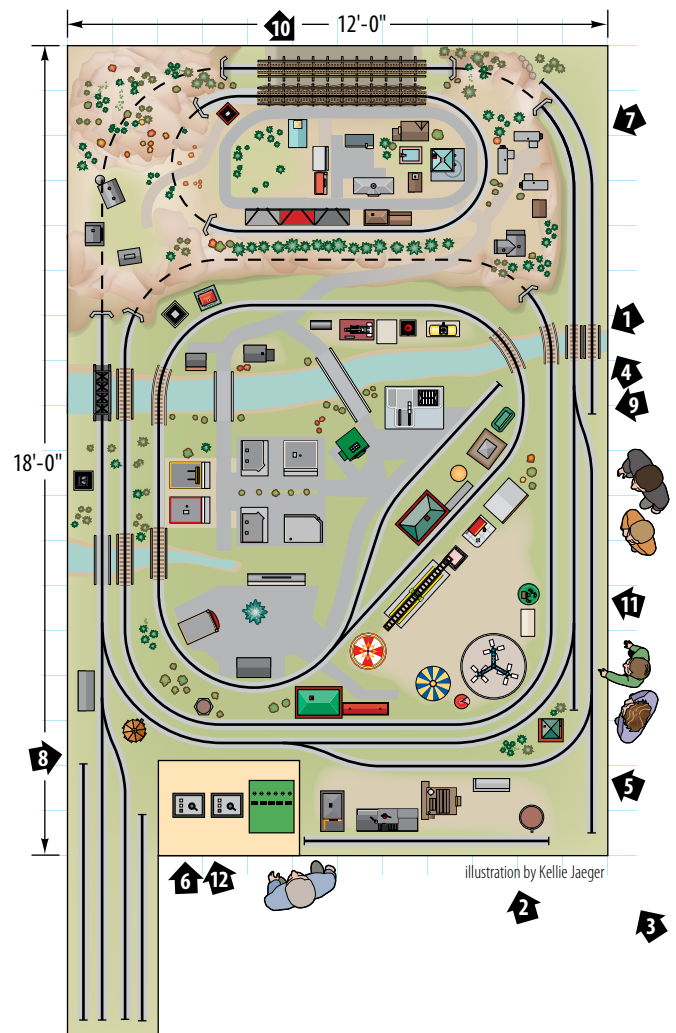
Vehicles: Corgi, Ertl, MTH, Tyco

Figures: Bachmann, MTH, Preiser, RMT, Woodland Scenics

hobby that he loved with guys he was just becoming acquainted with. He imagined some of them had played with O or S gauge electric trains as youngsters and might even have kept up an interest in modeling. Others might be novices with nothing more than curiosity.

Either way, the founding members of the group envisioned nothing but benefits from their campaign to launch the organization and begin designing a large though not enormous HO scale display. They believed by pooling their talents an attractive layout could be constructed, one sure to keep them occupied and motivated.

Work on the GSMR layout was launched in 2011, and improvements are constantly being made. Club members are debating whether to alter the upper level to feature S gauge track in place of O gauge. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of the captioned photos.



4 Names of railroads from across the U.S. and Canada dominate the three main lines on the lower section. What's running all depends on which member has brought his or her trains to show off. The New York Central and the Pennsylvania RR were the stars on this afternoon.



5 Fairly long freight trains rule the main lines of the GSMR layout. First- and second-generation diesels tend to be their motive power, even though steam engines occasionally occupy the point. In this scene, however, colorful Soo Line and Missouri Pacific units were hard at work.



6 This powerful Baltimore & Ohio 4-6-2 Pacific turns its nose up at the two water towers by the double-track main line. Getting passengers to their destinations is paramount.

The HO layout proved to be the perfect starting point, and it led not long after to the construction of an N scale display. Both found homes in a spare room above a local hobby shop. Gratiified by what they had accomplished, the GSMR looked for new frontiers, so eager were they to share their favorite pastime with the public.

■ Mall attraction

Sometime in 2011, club members opened discussions about building an O gauge layout. They already knew just where it

would have the most impact. The Myrtle Beach Mall, which is located around the midpoint of the 60 miles of beautiful beaches called Grand Strand, invited people of all ages to stroll through its wide concourses and check out the many fine stores inside. A public layout would certainly win the approval of the adults and youngsters passing through for whom model railroading would be of interest.

As member Ken Kilby explained, the GSMR rented a vacant storefront and commenced working on the three-rail

exhibit showcased in these pages. The individuals involved were quick to outline their goals. Above all, they wanted to capture the attention of visitors, especially those unfamiliar with the hobby, by developing a layout filled with activity, color, and wonder.

Designers aimed to construct an O gauge empire in approximately 220 square feet. They sought to demonstrate to onlookers that an exciting and fulfilling display need not demand extraordinary amounts of real estate and financial resources. Progress would move forward at a steady and satisfying pace so that a finished layout would be up and running in about a year.

Sketched on the drawing board was a railroad consisting of two levels of animation. The main level would stand 38 inches off the floor, and a second would rise 8 inches above that. Additionally, there would be an eye-catching scene 10 inches above that known as Hilltop Farm.

Three loops would fill the principal area, along with a siding and a spur. Operating there as well, according to Ken, would be an automated trolley line activated by a push button on the fascia that viewers could control.

Over on the elevated section, which



7 Although the GSMR is based along the Atlantic shore of South Carolina, members will take out locomotives painted for prototype lines on the other side of the country. Proof of how eclectic the roster is would be the Southern Pacific engine pulling *Daylight* passenger cars.

measured 4½ x 8½ feet, another main line was planned as the primary sight. It would serve the community of Hightown. A train there, along with the three on the main level, would entertain visitors whenever the mall was open.

■ Ready to build

The ink had barely dried on the proposed track plan when members got down to work. Wisely, the overall scheme called for constructing four interconnected sections that could be easily and safely disassembled should the club need to move. Locating the layout in a shopping mall called for the club to be prepared for every sort of contingency.

Fortunately for the GSMR, some of the fellows involved had experience constructing benchwork. Club members used 2 x 4 lumber for the open-grid framework and 4 x 4s for the legs and other supports. Next, they laid sheets of ½-inch plywood for the sub-base, followed with a base of 2-inch extruded-foam insulation board.

When the dust had settled and hammers and saws were put away, members had finished six 4 x 8-foot components, along with a 4 x 12-foot one for the mall window. They proceeded to bolt together the different sections of their display.



8 Elegant Atlantic Coast Line cab units rest quietly by a Lionel station on a typical summer afternoon in the late 1940s. The scene likely resembles something folks in South Carolina might have glimpsed decades before the club formed there in 1986.

Discussion among the guys who had built layouts in the past led to the GSMR adopting flextrack manufactured by GarGraves. When necessary, they skillfully shaped the curves until getting the diameters desired, with the maximum width being 64 inches on the main level and 56 inches on the upper one.

Tracklaying crews secured with screws all the GarGraves straights and curves to the cork roadbed marketed by Midwest Products. Turnouts from Ross Custom Switches went on the same way. The realistic appearance and reliable performance of

the switches pleased everyone. So also did the fact that the broad diameters on the primary level were capable of accommodating all the different postwar and modern-era locomotives members owned.

■ Working fast

Maybe the biggest advantage a model railroad club like the GSMR has relates to the speed with which members could lay and finish track, complete wiring and other electrical tasks, and create scenery. After all, these are the kinds of tasks that attract outsiders to join a club.



9 While a hard-working crew of laborers rushes to finish laying new track, the operator of that Burro crane waits to unload additional rails to be set in place. Improvements to the layout are always taking place, thanks to the dedication of the club's approximately 70 members.



10 This MTH Premier line no. 20-3000-1 Union Pacific 4-6-6-4 Challenger steam engine and tender looks impressive running across the shorter of the two scratchbuilt wood trestles on the layout. The taller structure can be seen in the distance.

The approximately 70 men and women affiliated with the group discovered certain work to be particularly pleasing. Some focused on connecting the network of 14-gauge wire to the three MTH transformers. Others took care of wiring the accessories with 16-gauge connections and the lights with 18-gauge lines.

Still other members opted for fabricating scenic effects. They began by forming bases out of cardboard, chunks of foam, and screen wire. Over that foundation

they draped wet strips of plaster cloth. After everything had dried, members painted the hardshell with latex paint over which they added ground foam, bushes, and trees from Woodland Scenics.

The latter business sold the products modelers relied on for realistic water features, notably the river and a creek named for a distinguished member of the club, the late Rob Mackiewicz. They first painted the plywood base and then poured on Woodland Scenics Realistic Water.

Meanwhile, other hard-charging club members were arranging structures from Lionel, MTH, and Plasticville. Around the residential, industrial, carnival, and railroad buildings they parked vehicles from Ertl, MTH, and Tyco.

Final touches included making realistic roads and highways, painting and installing a backdrop, and building from scratch a pair of impressive wood trestles. They placed the latter two on the layout where viewers might very well glimpse them first. The goal was to give visitors something to admire before exploring the rest of the model railroad.

■ **Never-ending audience**

As soon as members considered the railroad ready for audiences, they invited the public to see their masterpiece. While folks in the GSMR trusted local residents and tourists would appreciate their efforts, they underestimated how popular and influential the layout would be. Ken revealed that by 2019 more than 250,000 guests had seen the railroad.

All the colorful trains running simultaneously, the innovative accessories launched into action by simply pushing buttons, and the beautiful landscapes and structures epitomize what makes toy trains entertaining and exciting.



11 Crowds are just beginning to gather at the carnival, with folks trying to decide what to eat and where to stand in line. Frankly, the Ferris wheel would make the most sense, because it will provide the best views of the layout and the Santa Fe freight train passing through.

Another reason kids and adults keep returning to Myrtle Beach Mall to investigate the layout is that the trains and features keep changing. The carnival and town square boast different details; new locomotives from Lionel, MTH, and Williams arrive; and more human and animal figures find homes across the scenes. Picking out what has been modified is fun.

No wonder membership in the Grand Strand Model Railroaders continues to increase and plans for updating the layout go on. There's even talk about replacing the O gauge track on the elevated level with S gauge sections. All the planning multiplies the enthusiasm of members and shows how belonging to a club can be a great way to enjoy retirement. **CTT**

The Grand Strand Model Railroaders invite the public to visit their O gauge layout, which is open to visitors every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Myrtle Beach Mall, 10177 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach, S.C. To learn more about the club, please go to its website: www.gsmrrc.org



12 A reissue of Lionel's famous Union Pacific "anniversary" passenger outfit from 1950 dashes out of a tunnel on the primary level of the layout. The hand-painted backdrop catches the attention of every visitor, as do the great scenic effects club members created.



Lionel Brass Hybrid Challenger

This powerful Legacy 4-6-6-4 is pure articulated muscle

The Lionel Brass Hybrid Challenger is the latest offering in this program for the train maker. First announced in the 2022 Vol. 2 catalog, it's all-new tooling.

The Brass Hybrid Challenger models the Union Pacific's CSA-2-class 4-6-6-4s, which were the railroad's earlier and lighter versions. They were numbered in the 3900 series when built, but they were given 3800 numbers in 1944. The railroad later developed heavier Challengers (designated class 4664-4) on which the Vision Line Challengers released by Lionel just a few years ago were based.

Class 4664-4 Challenger No. 3985 was an early star in the UP's steam preservation program. It ran in excursion service between 1981 and 2010. The railroad retired the locomotive in 2020, and it's now being restored by the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America in Silvis, Ill. Classmate 3977 exists on display in North Platte, Neb. Unfortunately, all the CSA Challengers were scrapped.

The O gauge engines come paired with 12-wheel tenders. They may look small, but do match the prototype.

The CSA-2 Challengers were freight

and passenger locomotives, which means just about anything will look good behind these engines on your layout. For a real show of force, double-heading two Challengers will provide an unforgettable model railroading experience.

Between the level of intricate, separately applied parts and details in the cab, this Legacy model can easily justify Lionel classifying it as Vision Line and giving it the black-box treatment. "Hybrid" describes the mix of brass and die-cast metal parts and details that make up the good-looking model.

Lionel offers quite a variety of decoration choices on this model. For me, the unpainted "Pilot" version is absolutely the way to go. It shows off all the detail afforded by brass protected by a reflective gloss clear coat. It allows viewers the opportunity to appreciate the work that went into the model. It's jaw-dropping.

The cab detail is plentiful. In addition to the two crew figures, there's lots to look at on the backhead.

Though not considered prototypical for early Challenger models, Lionel is also offering the brass hybrid in a nicely done

Legacy Brass Hybrid Challenger by Lionel

MSRP: \$2,499.99

Features: TMCC, Legacy, or conventional control; Bluetooth control; Lionel voice control; brass and die-cast construction; three speaker sound system; crew figures

Paint schemes: Pilot (unpainted with clear coat), No. 2331200; UP No. 3834 "Greyhound," 2331240; UP 3819 (traditional), 2331191; UP 3826 (traditional), 2331192; UP unnumbered (traditional style 1), 2331193; UP 3836 (traditional), 2331211; UP 3839 (traditional), 2331212; UP unnumbered (traditional style 2), 2331213; UP 3815 (traditional), 2331231; UP 3828 (traditional), 2331232; UP unnumbered (traditional style 3), 2331233; UP 3835 (49er), 2331220.

Website: www.lionel.com



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"Greyhound" scheme. Additionally, like the endless series of *Fast and Furious* movies, the maker is reprising the 49er paint scheme; it must be a great seller.

The cab is illuminated, and the valve handles are accented with red paint. Of course, the firebox is burning brightly.

If you're a stickler for realism, don't panic. The Challenger is also available in the standard black paint scheme with a variety of road numbers to choose from. If you want to assemble a fleet, there are painted and unnumbered versions.

The details

One of the best features of this large steam locomotive is the three-speaker stereo sound system. It provides a deafening impression of how powerful this locomotive was in operation. It also allows the whistle to come from the locomotive as opposed to the tender, like many other O gauge steamers. This feature provides beautifully balanced sound throughout your train room, and possibly your entire neighborhood, depending on volume settings.

The head end boasts even greater detail, including handrails, lighted number boards, a bell, classification lights, a scale coupler with cut lever, m.u. hoses, and shielded air pumps.

The Challenger comes as well with four-digit addressing capability to be used with the upcoming Lionel Base 3 (announced in the 2022 catalog), along with road-number-specific crew talk.

The O-72 minimum curve requirement is not shocking for articulated steam like this. If your curves can't accommodate this UP behemoth, buy a glass case and display it! It really is a super locomotive. – Ben Laremont



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WITH THE CTT STAFF



Shown here is Amtrak's Phase V paint scheme. Note the white builder's plate on the photo at left.

The Atlas P42 locomotive

This O gauge Premier Line model sports great paint schemes

The O gauge P42 Genesis locomotive was developed from previous MTH tooling that Atlas O acquired during the MTH sale a few years ago.

The Genesis series was developed by General Electric in the early 1990s and built between 1992 and 2001. The design established a locomotive that was more than 12 inches shorter than its predecessor, the F40PH. This reduction in height allowed the Genesis to travel through the shorter tunnels along East Coast routes.

Atlas O added new details to the older MTH design, including more roof line detailing and PTC antennas. The model features a metal chassis with a plastic molded body. There are separately applied details, including a metal horn and handrails, free-spinning roof vent fans, see-through metal side grills, and a detachable snowplow. Atlas O includes two painted crew figures in the cab. Kadее mounting pads are included. The DCS system includes an onboard DCC decoder, and

the system runs on scale 1:48 speed steps.

The models are powered by a pair of motors, one per truck. The inner axle on each truck has traction tires, and each truck features two pickup rollers. A single speaker is housed inside the ABS body. The locomotives also have Protocouplers on the front and rear. These models are 18½" long and weigh in at 4 lbs 14 oz.

The doors are molded into the body and feature plastic windows, but they do not open. A fan-driven smoke unit functions as the exhaust for the diesel prime mover, and fluid can easily be added directly down the stack. The decals are crisp, and each model features a builder's plate from General Electric. The paint looks nice, but some of the lines between colors are not as seamless as expected.

The Atlas O version of the P42 was offered in a variety of heritage paint schemes and in 2-rail and 3-rail options. If you run Amtrak, you'll want to check out these engines. — *Chris Montagna*

Premier P42 Genesis by Atlas O

MSRP: \$619.95

Features: O-31 curve operation; onboard DCS/DCC decoder; ProtoSound 3.0; all LED lighting; crew figures

Road names: Number 161 in a Phase I scheme (No. 30138040), number 160 in a Dash 8 Phase III scheme (30128041), number 46 in a Phase V scheme (30138042), number 108 in a Phase VI scheme (30138043), numbers 173 and 175 in a traditional Phase V scheme (30138045 and 30138046), number 100 in a Midnight Blue scheme (30138044), and Operation Lifesaver (30138137).

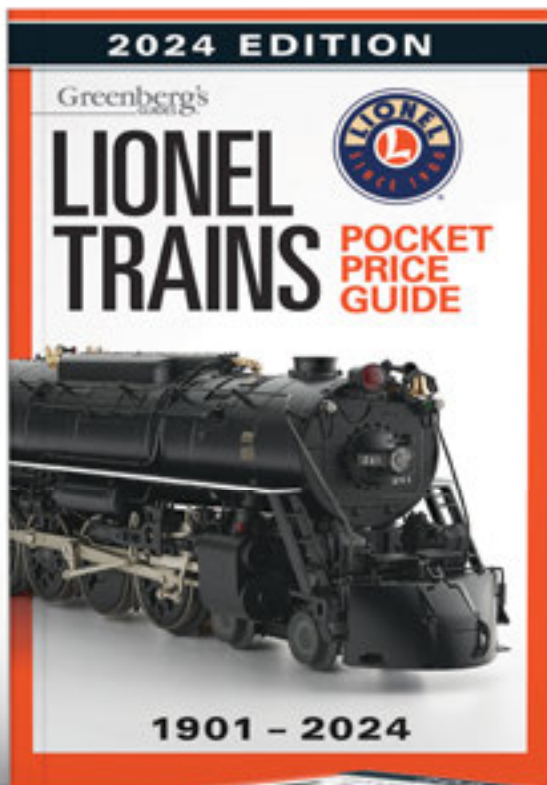
Website: shop.atlasrr.com

For more O gauge action, check out "Chris's Trains & Things" on YouTube.

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WITH THE CTT STAFF



This structure has a hole in the wall rather than the 4.5V jack common to previous offerings.

Menards Johnson's Texaco Station

Gas, service, and two neat vehicles in a small footprint

Menards Johnson's Texaco Station is the latest O gauge structure from the home-improvement chain. Many of its structures are made of wood; a few others are made of resin. This service station is made out of plastic, like previous low-relief buildings, including Dave's Garage, Ray's Wreckers, and current-production Sinclair Garage. Johnson's Texaco Station, though, is a full-depth structure – the first of this design.

The first thing I noticed about Johnson's Texaco Station, other than it being plastic, was it's lighter than recent structures. While not really heavy, the previous buildings did have a certain density with wood bases, walls, and other parts.

Two other things stand out: There are no figures – Jack the German shepherd is conspicuous in his absence – and no landscaping. That said, previous service stations didn't have those features either.

Usually Menards buildings come with a

jack in a wall, in the back or on the side so you can connect a 4.5-volt power supply (Menards Nos. 279-4061, 279-4062, or 279-4050, sold separately). There is typically also a pigtail connection underneath to connect the wiring under the layout.

This service station has a hole in the side wall as well as one in the bottom. Gone is the jack, but the pigtail remains. The wiring can be connected through either portal. The building is lit inside and under the canopy by LEDs.

On the lot are a die-cast metal 1958 Plymouth Fury and a 1957 Dodge Swept-side pickup in Texaco livery. The tonneau cover on the bed of the pickup truck wasn't affixed with glue; if yours is loose, just snap it back in.

The gas pumps are well executed with filling nozzles and advertising globes. The graphics are crisply applied; I particularly like the stars along the top of the building and the "Fire Chief" logo on the side (see

inset photo above). I'm sure if you could open the rest room door, it would be spotlessly clean, too. There are also parts representing heating and air-conditioning equipment on the roof.

There's one thing missing that the other garages have, and that's a sign. My eye wants a big, round Texaco logo perched atop a post on the corner of the lot.

Overall, though, I like the building. It's well modeled, and every 1950s or '60s town can use one. At the price point I don't mind adding figures and a sign. In fact, there are a lot of other little details a modeler can add if desired. – Hal Miller

Johnson's Texaco Station from Menards

MSRP: \$49.99. Stock No. 275-9204

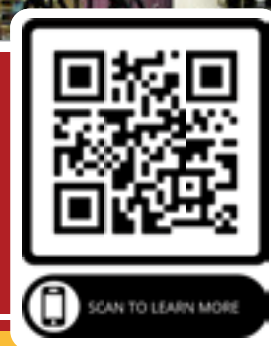
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888 558-1544 Ext. 551 Fax: 262-796-0126
E-mail: classads@kaimbach.com**Events****CA, ANAHEIM:** 2023 TTOS-SP Super Meet. December 15-16, 2023. Friday, 5-8pm; Saturday, Noon-6pm. Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 Crescent Ave. Buy-Sell-Trade Trains, Toys, and Railroad Memorabilia. Train races, auction, and more! FREE kids train set raffle Saturday. 2-day admission: \$5/person, \$10/family. FREE parking. Vendors: 8-ft tables, \$25, \$30 after 12/01. Visit: TTOS-SP.ORG/THEUPERMEET/ to register. Questions: info@ttos-sp.org**CA, TULARE:** TRAIN, TOY, & MODEL KIT SHOW. November 18-19, 2023, 10am-4pm. International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Laspinia St., Tulare, CA 93274 (off Route 99). Admission: \$10/person; \$15/family. FREE parking. Up to 400 vendor tables plus operating train layouts, live steam displays, a parts dealer. Vendor information: send SASE to TTOS-Tulare Show, PO Box 6710, Fullerton, CA 92834**CA, TURLOCK:** San Joaquin Valley Toy Train Operators, Inc. Model Train Show. December 2 & 3, 2023. Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 10am-3pm. Admission: \$10 (cash only), kids under 12 free with an adult. Operating layouts, vendor tables, free parking. Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway. Information: Jack Smith 209-765-1354 or Vern Cowan 714-686-7165 www.sjvttoinc.com**CO, LOVELAND:** Rocky Mountain Train Show, November 25 & 26, 2023. The Ranch Complex, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538. Saturday, 10am-5pm. Sunday 9am-3pm. 200+ sales tables, 50+ vendors, operating layouts, model trains of all scales. Admission \$10.00, 12 and under free. Free parking. 303-364-0274 www.RockyMountainTrainShow.com Information@RockyMountainTrainShow.com**CT, ANSONIA:** Classic Shows, LLC will hold a Train and Toy Show on Sunday, November 5, 2023, from 9:00am-2:00pm at Warsaw Park, 125 Pulaski Hwy (Route 243), Ansonia, CT 06401. Admission \$6.00, children 15 and under are free with an adult. For information, please call 203-926-1327 or go to: www.ClassicShowsLLC.com**FL, MELBOURNE:** The Melbourne Train and Toy Show. Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32935. Saturday, December 2, 2023, 9am-2pm. Admission: \$5, kids under 10 FREE. Vendor tables \$25 each or 3 or more \$20 each. Join us for trains, toys, and fun! Lunch/snacks available. For more information: SchultzSpaceCoastTrains@aol.com or 321-805-1963**FL, OCALA:** Lions Tri-Annual Train Show. First Christian Church, 1908 E. Fort King St., Ocala, FL 34471. Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm. Model trains, accessories, detail parts and toys. Admission \$5.00, children 12 and under free w/paid adult. Bring two canned goods and receive \$1.00 off admission. Food/snacks available. Information: Bob 352-694-6381 or cell 813-203-3216**FL, PINELLAS PARK:** Suncoast Model Railroad Club Train Show/Open House. Saturday, December 2, 2023. SHOW- New venue! Pinellas Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Avenue N., Zip: 33781. 9am-3pm. Admission: \$7.00, Children \$2.00, under 11-free. Free parking. Food/snacks. Tables: Hugo Sacco: saccohugo459@gmail.com OPEN CLUB HOUSE: 12355 62nd Street North, Suite A, Largo, FL 33773. Admission: FREE. Visit: www.suncoastmrrc.com

Events Continued

IA, DAVENPORT: Model Train Show. October 27-28, 2023. Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. N, HO, O27, O & American Flyer...NEW & USED. Buying trains, pay in cash. FREE admission & parking! Cash and credit cards only. American Legion, 702 West 35th Street, Davenport, IA 52806. Questions, call John at 563-349-0134 or email: JohnsTrainsHobby@aol.com

IA, HAMPTON: NCIMRRC Train Show. Franklin County Convention Center, 1008 Central Avenue W., Hampton, IA 50441. Sunday, October 29, 2023. 9:00am-3:00pm. Admission \$5.00. 10 and under free with paid adult. Trains (all scales), memorabilia and collectibles to buy, sell and trade. Individual tables welcome. For information or table reservations contact, Eastside Trains, 641-456-1998, email: eastsidetrains@gmail.com

IN, TIPTON: Antique Toy & Train Show. Tipton 4-H Fairgrounds, 1200 S. Main St., (State Rd 19), Tipton, IN 46072. Saturday, October 14, 2023, 11:00am-3:00pm. Adults \$4.00, 13-18 \$1.00, 12 and under free. 100+ tables, all gauges, kits, free-parking, food/drink available, handicap accessible. Contact: David Moree, 4402 East 100 South, Kokomo, IN 46902, 765-457-1044 or 765-860-8062

MI, EAST LANSING: Lansing Model Railroad Club Show and Sale. Michigan State University Pavilion. Sunday, November 5, 2023, 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission \$8.00, under 12 free. Michigan's largest train show: layouts, demonstrations, and 500+ tables. Free parking. Flyer, table forms and map, visit: www.lmrc.org or call Ron St. Laurent 517-256-3588

MO, JOPLIN: Joplin History & Mineral Museum Model Train Show and Swap Meet. Saturday, November 25, 2023, 9:00am-3:00pm. Schifferdecker Park, 504 South Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO 64801. Admission: \$5 adult, 12 and under admitted free with paid adult. For swap tables contact Steve Gardner, 119 West Jefferson Street, Pittsburg, KS 66762; 620-230-9545 or email: sogardner1@att.net

MO, ST. LOUIS: 32nd Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show by Mississippi Valley N Scales. NEW LOCATION and DATE! Meramec Community College Gym, 11333 Big Bend Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122. October 14-15, 2023, Saturday 10am-4pm; Sunday 10am-3pm. Admission: \$10, kids 12 and under FREE! All scales-swap tables-layouts-grand prize drawing! Free parking. David Johnson, 636-225-2405, www.seetrains.com

NC, RALEIGH: Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Annual Show; Jim Graham Building, NC Fairgrounds, 4825 Trinity Road; November 4th-5th, 9am-5pm; admission: \$10, children 12 and under free w/adult, \$1 off coupon on club website. The largest, oldest train show in NC, 95,000 SF with 300+ tables, multiple layouts. Contact George Lasley, email: gwasley52@gmail.com, visit www.nrvclub.net

NH, DOVER: The Great Northern New England Train Show. Dover Lodge of Elks #184, 282 Durham Road, Dover, NH 03820. Saturday, October 28, 2023, 10:00am-3:00pm. Admission: \$5.00 per person, children under 12 free. Exhibitor tables \$35.00, includes entrance fee. All scales, operating layout, railroadiana items, and food on premises. Contact Ed Martin, efmenter@aol.com or 603-362-4300

NJ, BRICK: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Brick Train Show. Elks Lodge, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick, NJ 08723. Sunday, November 5, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00; under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoasttrainparts.com and click on The Brick Show.

NJ, BRICK: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Brick Train Show. Elks Lodge, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick, NJ 08723. Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00; under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoasttrainparts.com and click on The Brick Show.

NJ, EAST RUTHERFORD: METCA/NYSME Train Show. Saturday, November 4, 2023. St. Joseph's School, 120 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. 9am-2pm. METCA/NYSME members admitted at 8am free w/ valid membership card. Admission: \$5.00 per person, 16 and under free. Layouts, refreshments, door prizes. For tables and information, contact the NYSME Office at 201-939-9212 or email: contact@modelengineers.org

NJ, WAYNE: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Wayne Train Show. P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470. Sunday, October 29, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00; under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoasttrainparts.com and click on The Wayne Show.

NJ, WAYNE: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Wayne Special Holiday Train Show. P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470. SATURDAY, December 16, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$7.00; under 12 free with adult. John LaLima 732-845-5966. Go to www.eastcoasttrainparts.com and click on The Wayne Show.

NY, LINDENHURST: Long Island Classic Train Show/Swap Meet. Fireman's Memorial Park, 555 Heling Blvd. (north of Hartford St.), Lindenhurst, NY 11757. November 5, 2023, January 7, 2024, and February 11, 2024. 8:30am-1:00pm. Adults \$5.00, under 16 free w/adult. 100+ tables. Handicap accessible. Contact: John Mitchell 917-596-3494 or John Miata 516-353-1751. Email: LIClassicTrainShow@hotmail.com

NY, POUGHKEEPSIE: Train & Hobby Show of the Hudson Valley. November 5, 2023. 10am-3pm. MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Zip: 12601. Model train vendors, operating layouts, raffles, kids ride-on railroad, free parking. Vendor Tables \$35 each, Public & Family Discount Tickets all online at: www.midhudsonciviccenter.org/event/hv-train-hobby-show/ Visit the preeminent fall show in the NY/NJ/CT Metro area!

OH, DAYTON: Dayton Train Show, The New Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 645 Infirmary Road, Dayton, OH 45417. November 4-5, 2023. Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 11am-4pm. Admission: \$8.00 per adult, children 12 and under free with paid adult. Gail Yarnall, PO Box 341233, Beavercreek, OH 45434, 937-424-6413. Email: NMRA.Div3@gmail.com or visit: www.DaytonTrainShow.com for updates.

OH, MASSILLON: CJ Trains Winter Train and Toy Show. Massillon Knights of Columbus Hall, 988 Cherry Road NW, 44647. Sunday, December 10, 2023, 10:00am-3:00pm. Admission: \$5.00, 12 and under FREE. \$25/dealer table, 152 - 8' dealer tables. Jon Ulbright, PO Box 446, Wooster, OH 44691, 330-262-7488, cathijon@ssnet.com www.cjtrains.com

OH, MT. HOPE: UPDATE - CANCELED. CJ Trains Fall Train and Toy Show. Mt. Hope Event Center, 8076 St. Rt. 241, Zip 44660. Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission: \$5.00, under 12/FREE. \$30/dealer table, 600+ 8' dealer tables. Contact: Jon Ulbright, PO Box 446, Wooster, OH 44691, 330-262-7488, cathijon@ssnet.com www.cjtrains.com

PA, ALLENTOWN: ATMA First Frost Train Meet. Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex, 1925 W. Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104. November 11 & 12, 2023. Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am-3pm. Advance tickets \$15, admitted at 8am. At the door, admitted 9am: \$10 adults, 12 and under FREE with adult ticket purchase. For more info, visit: www.allentowntrainmeet.com or call 610-442-2859

PA, BEAVER FALLS: BLRHS Fall Train Show. Saturday, October 14, 2023, 10:00am-3:00pm. Chippewa Township VFD Social Hall, 2568 Darlington Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010. Admission: \$5.00 (\$4.00 if you mention Classic Toy Trains ad). Children 12 and under FREE. Tables \$25 each. For show info: www.blrhsinc.org. For table reservations: Tom Bianculli, tbian64@gmail.com or 412-585-3614

PA, CHESWICK: "TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS: SHOW!" Pittsburgh Shrine Center, 1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA 15024. Sunday, December 17, 2023 and Sunday, February 4, 2024. 10am-3pm. Sponsored by the Fort Pitt Division of the Train Collectors Association. 200+ tables; new & used trains: all gauges. Please enjoy our event for \$5. All are welcome! Info at: www.HobbyTrainCollectors.org

PA, EAST GREENVILLE: All gauge train show. November 18, 2023. 9am-2pm. East Greenville Fire Co., 4th & Washington Streets, East Greenville, PA 18041. Four operating layouts and approximately 80 sales tables. Trains, toys, collectables, railroadiana, train parts! Hosted by North Penn S Gaugers. Admission: \$3 per person, \$5 per family. Free parking. Refreshments. See website: www.npsgauge.org

VA, FREDERICKSBURG: Rappahannock Model Railroaders 26th Annual Christmas Model Train Show. December 9-10, 2023. Operating G, O, S, HO, N, and LEGO train layouts. Vendors, train set raffle, and kids area. Saturday 9am-5pm. Sunday 10am-4pm. Adults \$10. Youth 13-17 \$5. Under 13 free. Eagles Lodge #4123, 21 Cool Springs Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405. Info: www.rmrailroaders.com

WA, SPOKANE: River City Modelers Fall Model Train Show. Spokane Fairgrounds, 404 N. Havana. Sunday, October 15, 2023, 9:30am-3:30pm. Admission: adults \$6, 12 & under free. 200+ tables of Railroad related items for sale, operating layouts, Free-MO, Operation Lifesaver & more. Free Parking. For table rental or general info, contact: Shirley Sample, 509-991-2317 or shirleysample13@gmail.com

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

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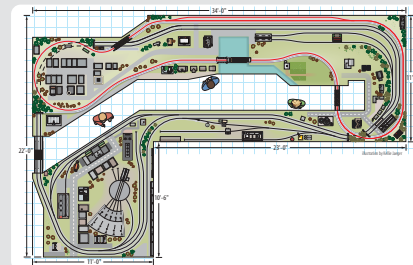
LIONEL'S NO. 2055 HUDSON

The No. 2055 was one of the hard-working small Hudsons Lionel depended on when assembling its finest O-27 lineup of the postwar era. CTT readers voted the 2055 from 1953-55 one of their favorites from that time and asked that we spotlight the 4-6-4 steam engine and tender.



NEW PRODUCT REVIEWS

Read the latest reviews, including the MTH Premier Hudson, Menards bowling alley, and more! Regular production models plus custom runs from your favorite manufacturers!



TRACK PLAN DATABASE

Download the latest O and S gauge track plans, like Russ Boersma's shown here. Subscribers can access more than 100 track plans on Trains.com.



trains.com

Don't throw away those silica gel packets

They may save your expensive locomotives from dampness

■ **WATER IS THE ENEMY OF TOY TRAINS.** But we have tools to fight back. In fact, they may already be in your train box. If they're not, they should be.

For example, I have a locomotive that sat in a damp basement. And as a result, there has been a little mold formation. Actually, there's a lot of it on the box. You may expect the contents to be a total loss – what's inside may be rusty or moldy. But it's not. I'll show you why.

What's the miracle that saved this locomotive? Science. Chemistry. Silica gel.

Many of us, when we open up a locomotive box for the first time, throw out the silica gel packs. Don't do it. Silica gel is a desiccant. What that means is that any

dampness getting around your locomotive or into the box is absorbed by these little packets. That's why my units didn't rust.

If you've already thrown out your silica gel packs, never fear. You can buy them on their own or you can frequently find them in the packaging for other products that need protection from moisture, in particular shoes and electronics, and even inside bottles of over-the-counter vitamins and prescription medications.

So remember, the next time you get a locomotive, don't throw away the silica gel packets. They're a very effective barrier against rust, mold, and mildew and so offer a really cheap insurance policy against damage. – *Harold Miller*



© Costasz | Dreamstime.com



Let it snow!



Styrofoam sheets can be broken apart and shaped to make patches of melting or drifted snow for scenes on your O or S gauge model railroad.

■ **WHILE SOME BUILDERS OPT FOR A FULL DOSE** of artificial snow on their holiday layouts, others want only a subtle suggestion of winter.

If you're part of the latter group, you'll be pleased to learn that Dow Styrofoam (stryrofoamcrafts.com) craft foam sheets can be easily torn into shapes that resemble large patches of melting or drifted snow. Look for this type of foam (not insulation or bead) at crafts supply outlets or online. If you want to remove the "snow" later, just don't glue it in place. – *Kent Johnson*

QUICKLY IMPROVE A TREE

■ **TREES FOR YOUR HOME LAYOUT** don't need water, but they can use a thin covering of fine foam to enhance their appearance. Some commercial trees, such as my Bachmann SceneScapes No. 32203 (bachmann-trains.com) conifer tree, come out of the box like this.

Otherwise, you can douse your trees with hairspray and then shower a green shade of ground foam over the branches. The cheapest, stickiest kind of hairspray works best; many hobbyists like Aqua Net. Then shake off any excess ground foam and plant the tree on your foam base. – *Kent Johnson*



NEW! TEXACO® STATION

O SCALE (275-9204)



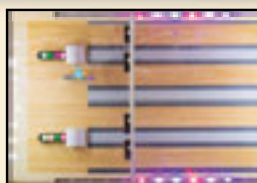
Includes two officially licensed
1957 Dodge® Sweptside and
1958 Plymouth® Fury vehicles!

Prelit interior and
exterior with lights
under the canopy!

Beautifully decorated
station with authentic
Texaco® signs and colors!

NEW! LAMONT LANES

O SCALE (275-9140)



Fully lit and decorated
interior with 4 bowling
lanes, complete with
balls, pins, bowlers, and
3 tables with 6 chairs!

Officially licensed 1958 Plymouth®
Fury with working lights!

Exciting, multicolored lights with
chase lighting pattern inside!

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FALL 2023
O SCALE



Fantastically FUN

War of the Worlds*

O Scale (279-8287)

O Scale Dimensions:
18"W x 11-1/4"D x 7-1/2"H

Animated tank that moves forward and back, complete with flashing lights



Activate tank battle sounds with the push of a button

Animated tractor beam claw picking up the General's Jeep

Fantastically lit UFO with multi-colored LED lights

Includes five soldiers, three aliens, two Jeeps, artillery shells, and Jack the German Shepherd

Rocket Diner*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
18"W x 8-3/4"D x 3-3/4"H

Working smoke unit on the roof - Just add water



Electronic D-I-N-E-R sign with animated lighting pattern (O scale version)

Officially licensed 1957 Dodge® Sweptside die-cast truck (O scale version)

Includes seven figures, four tables with chairs, 22 bushes, planters with flowers, and Jack the German Shepherd

Fantastically FUN

Oak Point Nuclear Power Facility*

O Scale (279-4433)

O Scale Dimensions:
18-3/4"W x 10"D x 9-1/2"H

Reactor building featuring rotating "nuclear reactor" with multi-colored light

Includes two figures in radiation suits, cooling tower, and chain-link fence, and Jack the German Shepherd

Two realistic looking transformers with blinking red LED lights

Rocket Launching Tower*

O Scale (275-9032) | HO Scale (275-9033)

O Scale Dimensions:
8-3/4"W x 8-3/4"D x 16-1/2"H

Smoke unit under rocket to simulate takeoff
- Just add water

Prelit with over 40 LEDs including red blinking and flashing lights

Saturn V rocket with authentic decals



Rocket Also Available on a Flatcar!



Florida East Coast Flatcar w/ Saturn V Rocket

Single (SKU# 275-9122) \$39.99
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THE Cripple Creek COLLECTION



Cripple Creek General Store*

O Scale (279-8306) | HO Scale (279-8333)

O Scale Dimensions:
11-5/8"W x 7-5/8"D x 9"H

Highly detailed and realistically weathered

Fully landscaped with grass and gravel, bushes, and a tree

Includes four figures, horse, chimney, barrel, trashcan, vintage signs, and Jack the German Shepherd



Cripple Creek Crossing*

O Scale (279-8305) | HO Scale (279-8332)

O Scale Dimensions:
9-1/2"W x 5"D x 8"H

Realistically weathered, including broken and boarded-up windows

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Includes four figures, garbage can, oil drums, doghouse, and Jack the German Shepherd



Cripple Creek Beam Pump*

O Scale (275-9138) | HO Scale (275-9139)

O Scale Dimensions:
8"W x 3-5/8"D x 6-1/2"H (at full arm extension)

Animated arm moves up and down, just like the real thing

Includes two figures and Jack the German Shepherd

Realistically weathered like it's been in the oil fields for years



Cripple Creek Water Tower

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

O Scale Dimensions:
5-1/2"W x 5-1/2"D x 11"H

Grass-covered base with Jack the German Shepherd

Lightly weathered appearance

Moving spigot arm with chain and counterweight

THE Cripple Creek COLLECTION

Cripple Creek County Jail *

O Scale (279-8490)

O Scale Dimensions:
10"W x 5-3/4"D x 9-3/4"H

Highly detailed, hand-sculpted building with four figures, and Jack the German Shepherd

Features two officially licensed 1948 Ford® police trucks

Beautifully lit interior and exterior. Flashing red lights inside the garage doors to simulate emergency lights



Cripple Creek Sand & Gravel *

O Scale (275-9121)

O Scale Dimensions:
7-3/8"W x 7"D x 5"H

Includes a true 1:48 scale 1956 dump truck

Front opening: 2-7/8"W x 2-7/8"H

Illuminated interior

Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details



Cripple Creek Tractor Repair *

O Scale (279-8487)

O Scale Dimensions:
7-3/8"W x 7"D x 5"H

Front opening: 2-7/8"W x 2-7/8"H

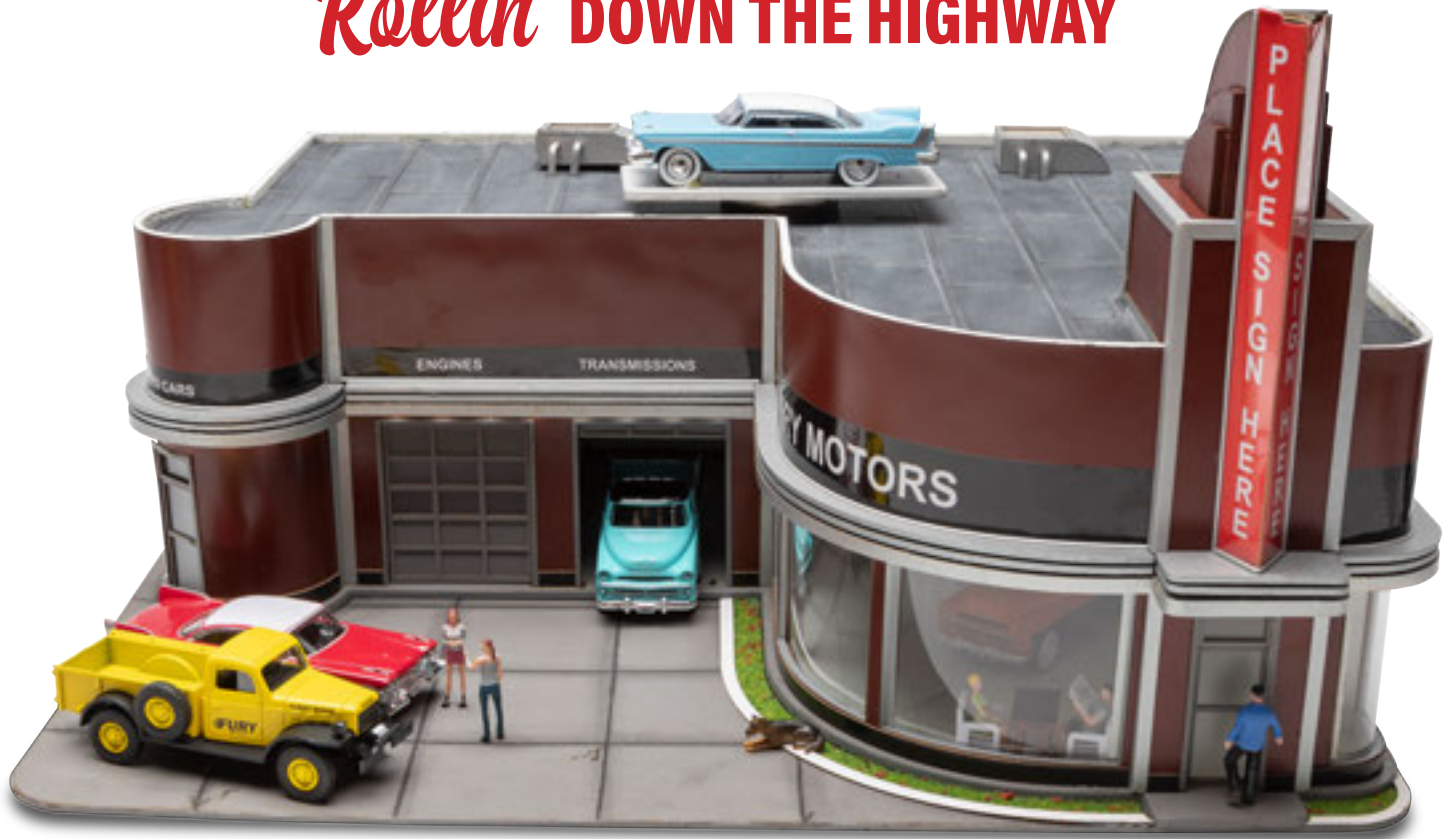
Illuminated interior

Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details

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Rollin' DOWN THE HIGHWAY



Fury Motors Car Dealership*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
15"W x 13-1/4"D x 8"H

Features five officially licensed vehicles.

Includes rotating platform with blue
1958 Plymouth® Fury (O scale version)

Lighted showroom with access panel on
the back, so you can swap out the cars

Brilliantly lit Art Deco style building
with over 50 LED lights

Accessories include, five figures, table
and chairs, two roof vents, and Jack the
German Shepherd

Backlit sign with 11 interchangeable decals



Sinclair® Garage*

O Scale (275-9044)

O Scale Dimensions:
10-7/8"W x 6-1/16"D x 6-3/4"H

Prelit with LED lights under the overhang
to illuminate the scene below

Additional details include gas pumps, Sinclair
signage, toolbox, oil drum and more

Vintage signs from Sinclair®, and Pepsi®

1956 Sinclair® fuel truck with working lights

Pins AND Rims



Lamont Lanes*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
13-7/8"W x 11-1/2"D x 4-1/4"H

Lit interior and exterior with over 25 LED light

Exciting, colorful chase lighting inside

Officially licensed 1958 Plymouth® Fury
with working lights

Fully decorated interior with four bowling
lanes, complete with balls, pins, bowlers, and
three tables with six chairs

Exterior with three figures, Jack the German
Shepherd, planters, and bushes



Texaco® Station*

O Scale (275-9204)

O Scale Dimensions:
12-3/8"W x 9"D x 4-3/4"H

Includes an officially licensed 1957 Dodge®
Sweptside and 1958 Plymouth® Fury

Beautifully decorated station with authentic
Texaco® signs and branding

Prelit interior and exterior with lights
under the canopy

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

7

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Drive Thru DELIGHTS



Caboose Coffee Shop*

O Scale (275-9034)

O Scale Dimensions:
11"W x 5"D x 2-3/4"H

Beautifully painted caboose body with lit
interior and marker lights

Officially licensed 1957 Dodge®
Sweptside die-cast truck

Includes 4 figures, a table with chairs and
umbrella, a bush and planters with flowers,
and Jack the German Shepherd

Working smoke unit on the roof - Just add water

Arby's® Restaurant*

O Scale (279-6149) | HO Scale (279-6919)

O Scale Dimensions:
10-5/8"W x 10-1/4"D x 5-3/4"H

Features an officially licensed
1951 Ford® truck (O scale version)

Prelit with an astounding 42 LED Lights

Figures include two customers, and Jack
the German Shepherd

Additional details include enter and exit
signs, four bushes, three Arby's logos
(lit from below) and two AC units



COLORFUL SIGHTS YOU'LL SEE *Downtown*

Metropolis Theater*

O Scale (279-8489)

O Scale Dimensions:
14"W x 6-3/4"D x 10-1/4"H

Fantastically lit with LED lights, including color-changing LEDs above the marquee

Ticket counter, simulated storefronts, vintage movie posters, and much more

Bustling sidewalk with 12 people, fire hydrant, and Jack the German Shepherd



Halls of Handsome Barbershop*

O Scale (279-8488)

O Scale Dimensions:
7-1/2"W x 6"D x 5"H

Illuminated storefront with simulated barbershop interior

Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details

Includes five figures (four adults, one child in kiddie ride), and Jack the German Shepherd

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

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Menardsville MUST-HAVES



Menards® Store*

O Scale (275-9120)

O Scale Dimensions:
22-1/2"W x 6"D x 8-1/4"H

Highly detailed, hand-sculpted building with six figures, and Jack the German Shepherd

Beautifully lit interior and lit exterior with bright Menards® logo and wall lights

Realistic simulated interior photos and happy shoppers inside

Plays the Menards® "Save Big Money™" jingle with the push of a button (located on the roof)

Exterior details include trash cans, propane tanks, AC units, and even the iconic red flags on the roof

Menardsville Train Station*

O Scale (279-4436) | HO Scale (279-5041)

O Scale Dimensions:
10-1/2"W x 9-3/8"D x 6"H

Pre-lit with LED lights under the eaves

Includes eight figures, trashcans, luggage, crates, three bushes, announcement boards, and Jack the German Shepherd



Modern INDUSTRIAL



Tide® Soap Factory*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
11-5/8"W x 10-3/4"D x 15"H

Two animated electronic Tide® signs

Includes two "chemical" tanks with red LED lights, safety yellow railings, ladders, pipes and water tank on the roof, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert

Sprecher™ Brewery*

O Scale (279-4493) | HO Scale (279-5143)

O Scale Dimensions:
9-1/2"W x 11"D x 13-1/2"H

Electronic Sprecher™ sign with animated lighting pattern

Includes three figures, beverage cases and kegs, handcarts, water tower with aircraft warning light, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



National Power & Light*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
14-1/2"W x 9-1/2"D x 15"H

Electronic Sign with lightning striking animation

Detailed electrical transformer with red blinking LEDs

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



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

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

Transport AND Trains

Schneider® Freight Building*

O Scale (279-5098)

O Scale Dimensions:
14"W x 11-1/2"D x 5-3/4"H

Animated, motor-driven forklift
that moves in and out

Includes four workers, three crates,
two pallets (one with load),
two bushes, and Jack the
German Shepherd



FedEx® Freight Building*

O Scale (279-6395) | HO Scale (279-6324)

O Scale Dimensions:
12"W x 6"D x 5-1/2"H

Prelit with 24 LED lights

Animated, motor-driven forklift that
moves in and out (O scale version only)

Includes a FedEx® worker, three packages,
flag and pole, three bushes, and Jack the
German Shepherd

Grandpa Jack's Hobby Shop*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
9"W x 5-3/4"D x 5-3/4"H

Hobby shop with large windows and simulated
interior packed with all your hobby needs

Exterior lit with 22 LED lights

Includes six people (three adults, three children),
kiddie ride, and Jack the German Shepherd



TRAIN LAYOUT *Essentials*

Duplex*

O Scale (279-4450)

O Scale Dimensions:
14"W x 9-3/4"D x 7-3/4"H



Includes six figures (three adults, three children), Jack the German Shepherd, landscape rocks, intricate garage and patio doors, and even window treatments



Amtrak® Station*

O Scale (279-4523)

O Scale Dimensions:
9-1/2"W x 6"D x 4-1/4"H

Four electronic Amtrak® signs with animated lighting effects

Includes four people, luggage, trashcan, mailbox, schedule board, planters, AC unit on the roof, and Jack the German Shepherd

Pre-lit with 30 LED lights

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

13

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

MELTS IN YOUR *Mouth*, NOT IN YOUR *Spaceship*



M&M's® UFO*

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

O Scale Dimensions:
13"W x 10"D x 7-1/4"H

Fantastically lit UFO with
multicolored LED lights

Animated tractor beam claw picking
up an M&M's® character

Includes six M&M's® characters, two aliens, crate
of M&M's® and Jack the German Shepherd



Warehouse Background Building*

O Scale (279-5370) | HO Scale (279-5736)

O Scale Dimensions:
15"W x 1-1/8"D x 10-5/8"H

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Only 1-1/8" deep - fits almost anywhere on
your layout (O scale version)

Includes five interchangeable billboards.
Decals are compatible with our Plug & Play
Lighted Billboard (SKU# 275-9029).
See it on page 23.

First Responders PROTECT & SERVE



Sacred Heart Hospital*

O Scale (279-8283)

O Scale Dimensions:
13"W x 10-1/8"D x 16-3/8"H

Animated helicopter with rotating rotor blades and landing pad with blinking and alternating LED Lights

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Activate siren sounds and helicopter animation with the push of a button

Police SUV with flashing lights

Includes six figures (two paramedics, two police officers, one crook and one guest), and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert

One Police Plaza*

O Scale (279-4435)

O Scale Dimensions:
12"W x 10-3/8"D x 13-1/8"H

Animated helicopter with rotating rotor blades and landing pad with blinking and alternating LED Lights

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Includes six figures, planters and Jack the Police dog

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



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

15

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

Rural INDUSTRIAL



Vetter Sash & Door Co. *

O Scale (279-4324)

O Scale Dimensions:
20"W x 11-3/8"D x 12"H

Two rotating exhaust fans and 25 intricate windows

Fully lit including four LED yard lights

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Includes three figures, two pallets with doors and windows, four roof dormers, dust collector, dumpster, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



Gamer & Thrones *

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

O Scale Dimensions:
18-1/4"W x 10-1/2"D x 11"H

Animated, revolving "throne"

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Includes loading dock with three workers, pallet with sink and toilet, 28 intricate windows, four roof dormers and chimney, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



American Materials #1 *

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

O Scale Dimensions:
6-1/4"W x 5-3/4"D x 16-1/2"H

Two electronic signs with waving flag animation

Built-in tunnel for a minimal footprint

Rural INDUSTRIAL



J. Shepherd Dog Food Factory*

O Scale (279-4494) | HO Scale (279-5023)

O Scale Dimensions:
18-1/4"W x 10-7/8"D x 11"H

Electronic sign with dog food pouring animation

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Includes six workers, loading dock, two silos, dumpster, water tower and tank, and roof vents, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert



Multi-Sign/Purpose Building*

O Scale (279-4452) | HO Scale (279-5044)

O Scale Dimensions:
16"W x 10-1/2"D x 8-1/4"H

Includes two figures, six shrubs, chimney, and Jack the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert

Backlit sign with 26 interchangeable decals



American Materials Plant #2*

Compatible with all O, S and HO Layouts (279-4425)

Dimensions:
9-11/16"W x 5-7/16"D x 11-3/4"H

Electronic sign with waving flag animation

Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights

Multi-scale design:

47 feet tall in O scale | 85 feet tall in HO scale

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

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

Hotels AND High-rises



Parking Garage*

O Scale (279-4392)

O Scale Dimensions:
21"W x 12"D x 16-7/8"H

Prelit on all levels, for a total of
approximately 230 LED lights

Three unique storefronts with lit and
decorated interiors and two
parking garage doors

Holds up to (38) O scale vehicles

Includes two interchangeable billboards.
Decals are compatible with our Plug &
Play Lighted Billboard (SKU# 275-9029).
See it on page 23.

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the building
over the track for a minimal footprint.

County Hotel*

O Scale (279-4427) | HO Scale (279-5142)

O Scale Dimensions:
12"W x 11-1/4"D x 15"H

Electronic sign with
animated lighting pattern

Prelit exterior and
interior with randomly lit rooms

Roof scene with eight figures, six tables with
umbrellas, eight chairs and benches

Additional two figures and Jack the German
Shepherd by the lobby doors

Built-in tunnel allows you to place the
building over the track for a minimal
footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with
the innovative tunnel insert



Hotels AND High-rises

Tampa Towers

O Scale (279-4432)

O Scale Dimensions:
18"W x 14-3/8"D x 15-1/2"H

Includes (19) O scale
construction workers and Jack
the German Shepherd

Built-in tunnel allows you to
place the building over the
track for a minimal footprint

FREE!

Cement Mixing Truck (A \$19.99 Value!)

Includes premium die-cast
"Ray's Ready-Mix" truck

FREE!

Concrete Pump Truck (A \$49.99 Value!)

Includes premium die-cast truck
with an articulating arm that
reaches 32" above the ground



Trinity Church *

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

O Scale Dimensions:
15"W x 7"D x 18"H

Prelit with soft-glowing interior

Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted
architectural details

Includes two figures, two trees, "Prayer;
The best wireless connection" sign, and
Jack the German Shepherd

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

19

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

Big-Time BRIDGES

All bridges on this page fit all types of O gauge track, including FasTrack®

3-Piece Truss and Two Girder Bridge Set*

O Scale (275-9126)

Truss Bridge Dimensions: 24"L x 5-1/8"W x 9-5/8"H, Interior Clearance: 7"H x 4"W
Girder Bridge Dimensions: 10"L x 5-1/8"W x 2-1/4"H, Interior Clearance: 4"W

44 inches of bridges - Use as one long bridge or as three separate bridges

Truss bridge spans 24" gaps or sits flat on your layout

Truss bridge features blinking red LED lights



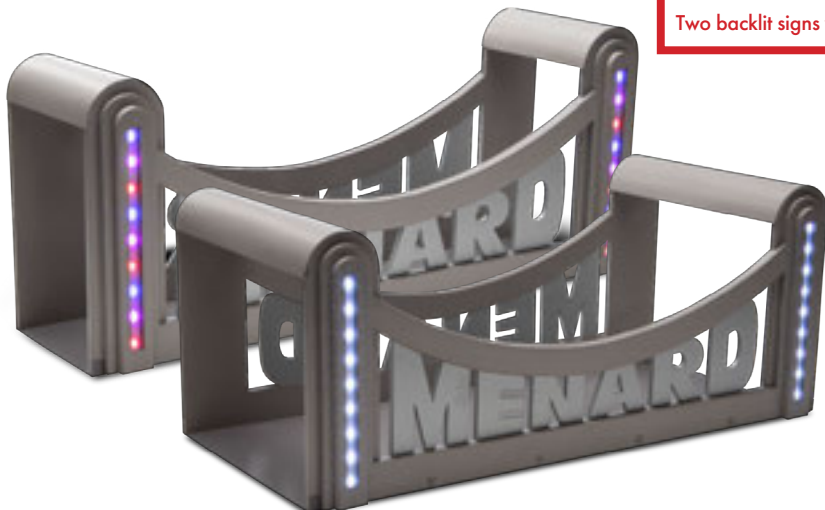
24" Dual Track Train Bridge w/ Lights*

O Scale (279-4177)

O Scale Dimensions:
24"L x 8-7/8"W x 9-1/2"H, Interior Clearance: 7"H x 8"W

Features 4 blinking red LED warning lights

Spans 24" gaps or sits flat on your layout



30" Aerial Bridge w/ Lights*

O Scale (279-8486)

O Scale Dimensions:
30"L x 5"W x 16-1/4"H, Interior Clearance: 6"H x 4"W

Lighted with LEDs, including blinking red LED warning lights

Spans 30" gaps or sits flat on your layout

Two backlit signs with 24 railroad decals to customize your bridge

18" Menard Bridge w/ Lights*

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

Single Track Dimensions: 18"L x 5-1/4"W x 7-1/4"H, Clearance: 6"H x 4"W
Dual Track Dimensions: 18"L x 8-3/4"W x 7-1/4"H, Clearance: 6"H x 7-1/2"W

Slide switch on back side to choose from steady-on white or multicolored lights with chase lighting pattern

Spans 18" gaps or sits flat on your layout

Awesome ACCESSORIES



40-Ft COSCO Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-8324) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 279-8325) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft CMA CGM Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-8328) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 279-8329) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft "K" Line Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-8330) \$24.99



40-Ft MAERSK Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9065) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9066) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft APL Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9067) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9068) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft Hapag-Lloyd Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9069) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9070) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft OOCL Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9071) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9072) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



40-Ft Yang Ming Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9073) \$24.99
8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9074) \$84.96
(Save \$15)



5-1/2" Tall Trees (Green)

9-Pc. (SKU# 279-3094) \$14.99



5-1/2" Tall Trees (Fall Colors)

6-Pc. (SKU# 279-3637) \$14.99

Intermodal WELL CARS



17" Intermodal Car (Yellow)

Single (SKU# 275-9075) \$29.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9076) \$99.96 (Save \$20)



17" Intermodal Car with Two Containers

Single (SKU# 275-9077) \$49.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9078) \$179.96 (Save \$20)



17" Intermodal Car (Black)

Single (SKU# 279-8371) \$29.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8372) \$99.96 (Save \$20)



17" Intermodal Car (Burgundy)

Single (SKU# 279-8373) \$29.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8374) \$99.96 (Save \$20)

Plug & Play LIGHTED ACCESSORIES

All lit vehicles include a 10" pigtail with our simple Plug & Play connection!

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Red/Black*
(SKU# 279-6290) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Pepsi*
(SKU# 279-6291) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck R.E.A.*
(SKU# 279-6892) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Fire Dept*
(SKU# 279-6893) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Police Dept*
(SKU# 279-6895) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Texaco**
(SKU# 279-6896) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Sinclair**
(SKU# 279-6897) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1948 Panel Truck Pennzoil**
(SKU# 279-6899) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1951 Pickup Red/Black*
(SKU# 279-6295) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Vetter Sash*
(SKU# 279-4609) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Red*
(SKU# 279-4610) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Red Owl*
(SKU# 279-4611) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Black*
(SKU# 279-4615) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Glacier Blue*
(SKU# 279-4616) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Ivory/Black*
(SKU# 279-4617) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Piggly Wiggly*
(SKU# 279-4619) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1953 Pickup Sprecher*
(SKU# 279-4621) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



SUV Red*
(SKU# 279-4474) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



SUV Blue*
(SKU# 279-4476) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



SUV Black*
(SKU# 279-4477) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1967 Shelby GT500 Dark Green*
(SKU# 279-3801) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1967 Shelby GT500 Dark Blue w/ Stripes*
(SKU# 279-3804) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



2016 Shelby GT350 Red*
(SKU# 279-3805) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



2016 Shelby GT500 Red w/ Stripes*
(SKU# 279-4233) \$29.99

Plug & Play LIGHTED ACCESSORIES

All lit vehicles include a 10" pigtail with our simple Plug & Play connection!

**1:48
SCALE**



1967 Shelby GT500 Blue w/ Stripes*
(SKU# 279-4235) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1965 Shelby GT350 White w/ Stripes*
(SKU# 279-4236) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Goodyear® Stake Truck w/ Tire Load*
(SKU# 279-4205) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Menards® Stake Truck w/ Barrel Load*
(SKU# 279-4207) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1956 Stake Truck Menard Cashway*
(SKU# 279-4601) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1956 Stake Truck Pennsylvania R.R.*
(SKU# 279-4603) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1956 Stake Truck Santa Fe R.R.*
(SKU# 279-4604) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Army Flatbed w/ Jeep*
(SKU# 279-4211) \$29.99



**Plug & Play Lighted Billboard
with 26 Decals***

O Scale (SKU# 275-9029) \$24.99
HO Scale (SKU# 275-9030) \$19.99



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

Items marked with an (*) require a standard 4.5-Volt power wall wart (sold separately, Menards SKU# 279-4061, 279-4062 or 279-4050). These items feature simple "Plug & Play" connections and are compatible with most power supplies used for Lemax® or Department 56® buildings.

Detailed DIE CAST

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Red/Black)
(SKU# 275-9165) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Black/White)
(SKU# 275-9167) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Cream/Coral)
(SKU# 275-9169) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Green)
(SKU# 275-9170) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Teal/Black)
(SKU# 279-9239) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Yellow/Black)
(SKU# 279-9240) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Orange/Black)
(SKU# 279-9241) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Red/White)
(SKU# 279-9242) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Blue/White)
(SKU# 279-9243) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1957 Dodge® Sweptside (Yellow/Cream)
(SKU# 279-9244) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Misty Green)
(SKU# 275-9206) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Teal)
(SKU# 275-9207) \$4.99

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SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (White)
(SKU# 275-9208) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Blue)
(SKU# 275-9209) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Black)
(SKU# 279-9230) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Pink)
(SKU# 279-9231) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Black/Yellow)
(SKU# 279-9232) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Cream)
(SKU# 279-9233) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Red)
(SKU# 279-9234) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED

1958 Plymouth® Fury (Light Blue)
(SKU# 279-9235) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **DODGE**

1947 Dodge® Power Wagon (Black)
(SKU# 279-9395) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1946 Train House Panel Truck
(SKU# 279-4222) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **Ford**

1951 Ford® F1 (Blue)
(SKU# 279-6300) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED **Ford**

1951 Ford® F1 (Red)
(SKU# 279-6305) \$4.99

Detailed DIE CAST

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1951 Ford® F1 (Green)
(SKU# 279-9163) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1951 Ford® F1 (Glacier Blue)
(SKU# 279-9164) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1951 Ford® F1 (Black)
(SKU# 279-9165) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1951 Ford® F1 (White)
(SKU# 279-9166) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1948 Ford® Panel Truck (M&Ms)
(SKU# 279-9128) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1948 Ford® Panel Truck (Cream/Red)
(SKU# 279-9129) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1948 Ford® Panel Truck (Blue/Yellow)
(SKU# 279-9130) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1948 Ford® Panel Truck (Orange/Black)
(SKU# 279-9131) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



1948 Ford® Panel Truck (Teal/Black)
(SKU# 279-9132) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



OFFICIALLY LICENSED



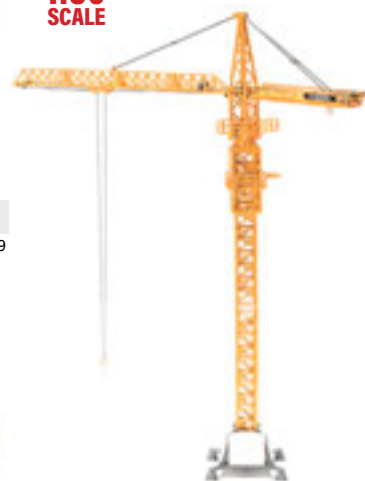
1948 Ford® Panel Truck (Red/Black)
(SKU# 279-9133) \$4.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Atego with Crane
(SKU# 279-3934) \$24.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Construction Crane
(SKU# 279-4231) \$49.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Container Handler
(SKU# 279-4232) \$39.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Aerial Fire Engine
(SKU# 279-3932) \$29.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Crawler Excavator
(SKU# 279-3927) \$19.99

**1:55
SCALE**



Concrete Pump Truck
(SKU# 279-4327) \$49.99

**1:50
SCALE**



Four Wheel Loader
(SKU# 279-3939) \$29.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Army Truck
(SKU# 279-9129) \$4.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Military Half Track
(SKU# 279-4226) \$19.99

**1:48
SCALE**



1956 Menards® Box Truck
(SKU# 279-6287) \$5.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Park Ridge® Box Truck
(SKU# 279-4459) \$19.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Santa Fe Box Truck
(SKU# 279-2669) \$14.99

**1:48
SCALE**



Menards® Rental Van
(SKU# 279-4478) \$2.99

Beautiful BOXCARS



***Lighted* Jack's Christmas Boxcar with Lights**

Single (SKU# 275-9153) \$29.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9154)\$99.96 (**Save \$20**)



***Lighted* Union Pacific Boxcar with Lights**

Single (SKU# 275-9196) \$29.99
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Rutland

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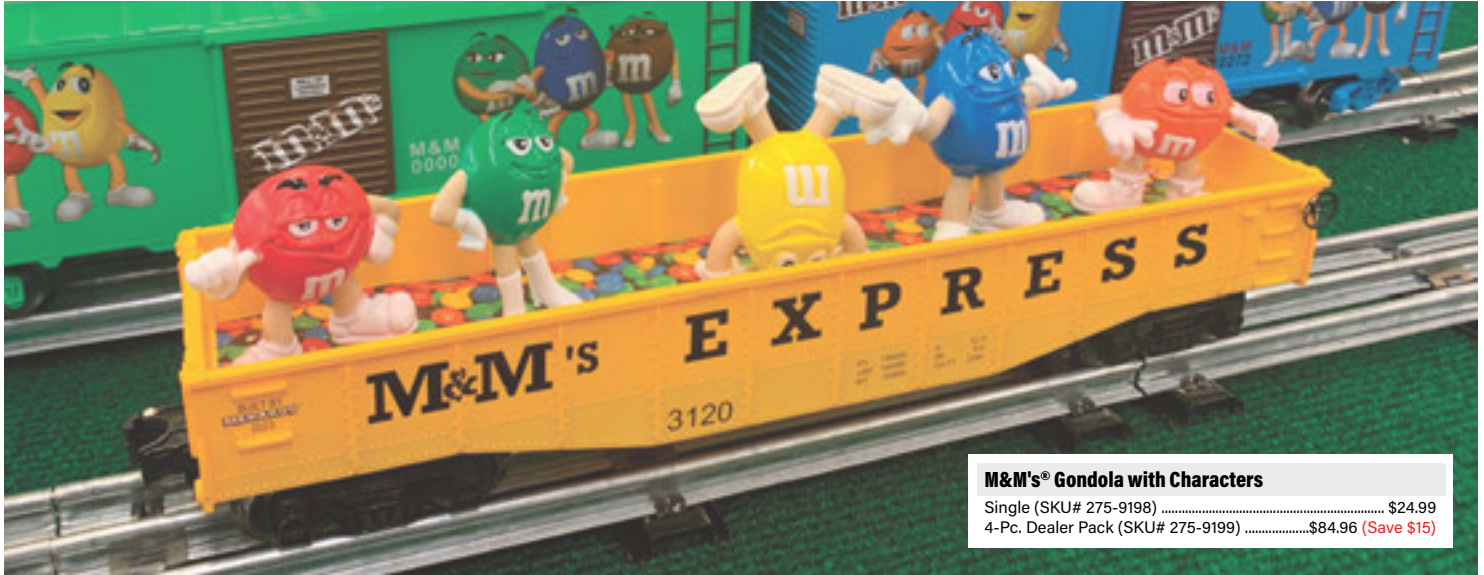
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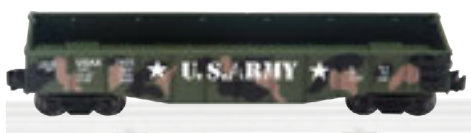
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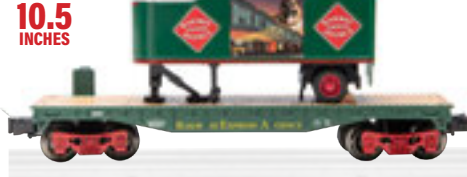
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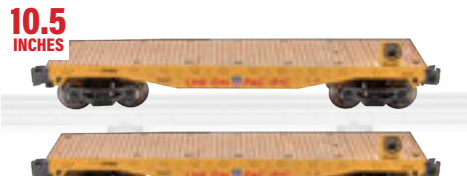
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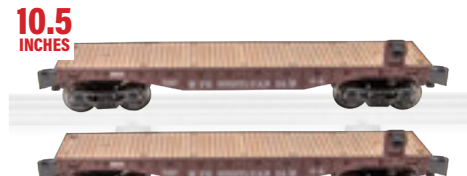
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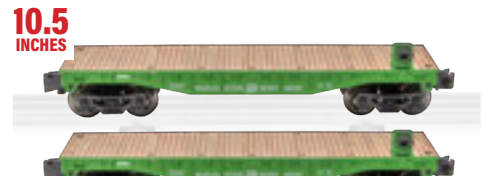
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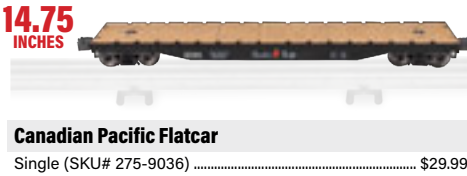
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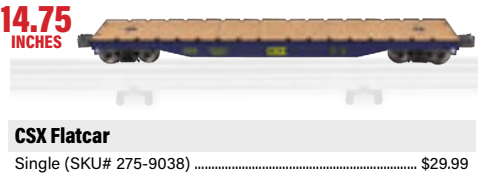
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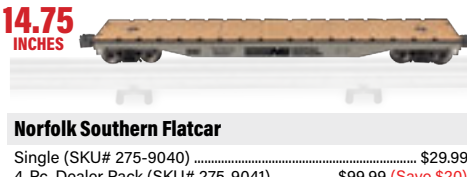
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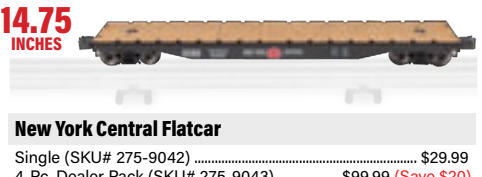
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Florida East Coast Flatcar w/ Saturn V Rocket

Single (SKU# 275-9122) \$39.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9123) \$139.96 (Save \$20)

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Lighted ATSF Flatcar w/ Farm Supply Truck

Single (SKU# 279-3446) \$29.99
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Single (SKU# 279-3448) \$29.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-3890) \$99.96 (Save \$20)

17.50
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Military Flatcar w/ Military Van

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Corrugated Auto Carrier (Yellow)

Single (SKU# 279-9354) \$39.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9355) \$129.96 (Save \$30)

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Single (SKU# 279-9356) \$39.99
4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9357) \$129.96 (Save \$30)

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4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9115) \$99.96
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4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9119) \$99.96
(Save \$20)



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30" Straight Tubular Track

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0-36 Curve Tubular Track

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**12 PIECES PER
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0-42 Curve Tubular Track

Single (SKU# 279-3081) \$2.99
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**16 PIECES PER
54" DIAMETER CIRCLE**

0-54 Curve Tubular Track

Single (SKU# 279-3086) \$3.49
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**16 PIECES PER
72" DIAMETER CIRCLE**

0-72 Curve Tubular Track

Single (SKU# 279-3082) \$3.99
Case of 24 Pieces (SKU# 279-3468) \$54.99



**16 PIECES PER
96" DIAMETER CIRCLE**

0-96 Curve Tubular Track

Single (SKU# 279-3099) \$3.99
Case of 24 Pieces (SKU# 279-3471) \$59.99



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ONE END MATES WITH TUBULAR TRACK!**

FastTrack™ to Tubular Track Transition Piece

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**MADE FROM EXTRA
STRONG HIGH TENSILE
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