A RETRO-STYLE O GAUGE TRACK PLAN

Go back in time on this 4 x 8-foot layout

BY TERRY THOMPSON

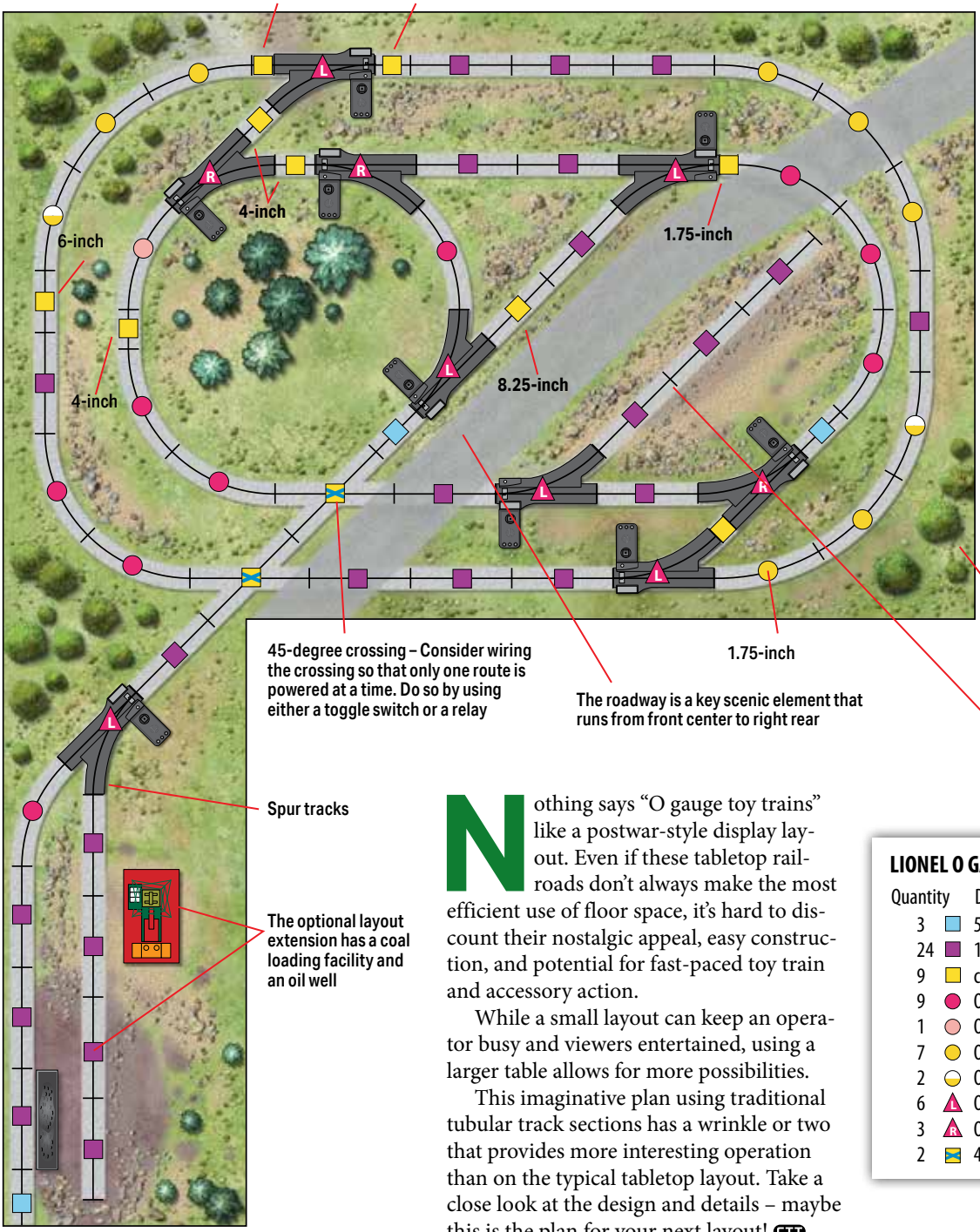

Illustration by Kellie Jaeger

TRACK-PACKED TABLETOP

Want a layout with more track than scenery? How about this 5 x 8-foot plan with a 2 x 5-foot extension! Rather than having the branch originate on the outer loop, it starts at the back, cuts across the middle, and crosses the main at a 45-degree angle on its way to a town. You'll need to cut several sections. of track, but you'll get intriguing operation plus a crossing at the front of the layout.

Nothing says "O gauge toy trains" like a postwar-style display layout. Even if these tabletop railroads don't always make the most efficient use of floor space, it's hard to discount their nostalgic appeal, easy construction, and potential for fast-paced toy train and accessory action.

While a small layout can keep an operator busy and viewers entertained, using a larger table allows for more possibilities.

This imaginative plan using traditional tubular track sections has a wrinkle or two that provides more interesting operation than on the typical tabletop layout. Take a close look at the design and details – maybe this is the plan for your next layout! CTT

LIONEL O GAUGE TRACK COMPONENTS

Quantity	Description/Number
3	5.5-inch half straight
24	10-inch straight
9	custom-cut straight
9	0-31 curve
1	0-31 custom-cut curve
7	0-42 curve
2	0-42 custom-cut curve
6	0-31 left-hand track switch
3	0-31 right-hand track switch
2	45-degree crossing