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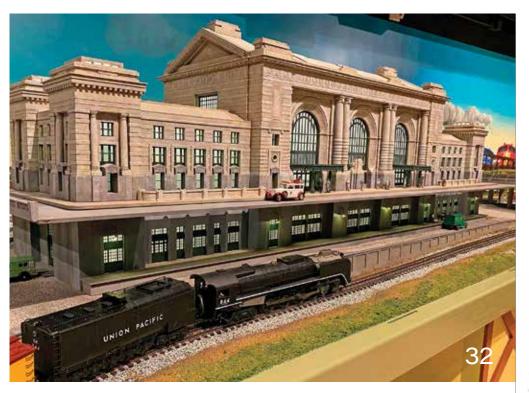
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COVER PHOTO CREDIT: KELLY HUSTON/COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM FOUNDATION

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS (ISSN 0895-0997, USPS 005-466) is published quarterly in January (Winter), April (Spring), July (Summer), and October (Fall) by Firecrown Media Inc., 605 Chestnut Street, Suite 800, Chattanooga, TN 37450. Periodicals postage paid at Chattanooga, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Classic Toy Trains, PO Box 850, Lincolnshire, IL 60069.

Salute to authors and contributors

You make CTT a better publication

Working with contributors is one of my favorite parts of being an editor. We have longtime contributors who are willing to write about any number of subjects, and it's reassuring that I can assign an article, give a deadline, and know everything will be handled appropriately.



Contributing Editor Bob Keller joins me in the video studio to film an unboxing of Lionel's Base3 system.

Ben Lake photo

That being said,

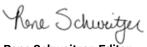
it's also fun to work with a new contributor who may submit an unsolicited article. Sometimes I need to deliver the unfortunate news that we aren't interested, but many times we can work together to create a great future story. That was the case with this issue's "Weekend Workshop" and "Tips" articles.

Senior Editor Roger Carp works diligently to find pictures for "Your Photos" as well as feature stories about layouts and collections. Over the years, he's discovered and worked with dozens of great contributors.

Roger and I are tickled when a contributor emails or calls after an issue is printed, thanking us for running his/her article. We should be thanking you for submitting your ideas to CTT. It's impossible for any one person to be an expert on every facet

of the hobby. We are better together — sharing that information so everyone can benefit.

If you have an article idea (we're especially looking for American Flyer layouts, short how-to stories, and postwar collectibles), please email me.



Rene Schweitzer, Editor

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



SETTING NEW "STANDARDS"

I received an email from Kirk Lindvig, who, along with Chris Bogus, owns USA Track LLC. They make their Standard gauge track right here in the U.S.! Read an interview with them and see photos of their manufacturing process on Trains.com.



SUBMISSIONS?

Articles and photos are paid after publication. Before preparing an article, contact us to determine interest. To submit an article or photos, email editor@classictoytrains.com or send materials to *Classic Toy Trains*, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Suite 103, Brookfield WI 53045. Submission guidelines are available at trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines. *Classic Toy Trains* assumes unsolicited materials are contributed gratis. We assume no responsibility for the safe return of unsolicited material.

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OUR MISSION

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

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Kellie Jaeger Illustrator

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Angela Cotey Director of Digital Strategy
Kathy Steele Retention Manager

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■ CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE

Phone: 877-243-4903

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

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Martha Stanczak

E-mail: martha.stanczak@firecrown.com

■ RETAIL ORDERS & INQUIRIES

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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LIONEL COLLECTOR **_'42** • BY BRUCE GREENBERG Greenberg's' Guide to

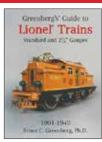


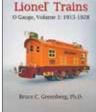
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Lionel O Ga. Volume 3, 1937-1942

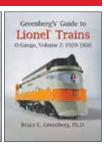
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or call 571-723-2333 or email bruceCgreenberg1@gmail.com





Greenberg's' Guide to



Lionel Standard and 2-7/8" Gauges

Lionel O Gauge, Vol. 1, 1915-1928

Lionel O Gauge, Vol. 2, 1929-1936

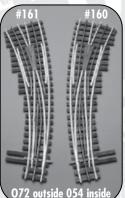


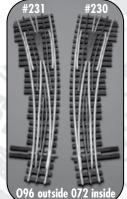
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The Polar Express layout

Thanks for the information on building the O gauge *Polar Express* project layout in the November/December 2023 issue of *Classic Toy Trains*. I just finished my version (see photo above). I did all the work, including the addition of a wraparound wall mural. Nothing on the layout is permanent, because I plan to disassemble it after Christmas to start work on another layout! — *Frank Palfi, Avondale, Ariz.*

Ahead with hope

I can't begin to tell you how relieved I was to hear that Rene and Roger will be staying on. I had been wondering how the acquisition of CTT by Firecrown Media would affect the magazine and the people there whom I've frequently worked with.

I was pleased to read Craig Fuller's welcoming message in which he stated his intention to keep CTT as a print magazine. Best of all, he has a positive outlook about the future of model railroading and is building a small layout with his young son. — *Eric Beheim, Descanso, Calif.*

Flyer on the cover?

I was interested to learn about the change in ownership of *Classic Toy Trains*. I wish everyone associated with it well during the transition and am especially delighted that Roger Carp will remain on the staff.

I have been a CTT subscriber since the beginning and have a suggestion.

Although coverage of American Flyer has become vastly better over the years, only a few covers have featured a Flyer train — all during the magazine's early years. It would be great if you put a Flyer

engine or an S gauge layout on the cover.

— Ronald Roehm, Elkins Park Pa.

Help with Lionel parts

I enjoyed Lyle Leverich's article about detailing a Lionel No. 2465 Sunoco double-dome tank car in the Fall issue and want to do the same. Where did he get the parts? — *Jack Smith, Rochester, N.Y.*

They came from The Train Tender in Bloomfield, N.Y. (www.ttender.com). Lyle says he used Nos. HR-2 .041 handrail stock and 715-10 tank car ladder. — Editor



More powerhouse steamers from Lionel

Hearing from *Classic Toy Trains* readers about the locomotives they love means votes for one of Lionel's great early postwar Nos. 671 and 726 steam engines.

I fully agreed with John Huegel from nearby New Braunfels, Texas, who wrote about his Lionel No. 225E steam engine in "Locomotives We Love" in the Summer 2024 issue of CTT. I also salute Lionel prewar and postwar trains, because Lionel kept it simple and dependable during those times!

My Lionel No. 726 2-8-4 Berkshire steam engine and tender from 1948 — well-worn but still running nicely — proves my point about the excellence of older trains. So also do my Lionel Nos. 2046, 2055, and 2065 steamers; each of them plugs along with the spirit of a wild mustang! Wish my modern stuff did too! — *Robert Hars, Belton, Texas*

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

► Ronald and Janet Clemons' O gauge model railroad

Almost 30 years after some reissued Lionel Santa Fe F3s inspired Ronald Clemons to return to the toy train hobby, this resident of Oregon, Ill., is having more fun than ever with O gauge trains. The best times for Ronald and his wife, Janet, come at Christmas, when they put a loop of regular and illuminated FasTrack plus Department 56 structures under their decorated tree and run many of their favorites. Under the spotlight today is a No. 82716 LionChief Mickey's Holiday to Remember set from 2016.

▼ Thomas Dubusky's O gauge layout

The heavy snow that fell early in December has just about disappeared from the streets and right-of-way on the O gauge railroad Thomas Dubusky enjoys sharing with friends who stop by his home in Lexington, Ohio. Left almost speechless by the number of structures he has arranged under the tree ("68 and counting," Tom reports), they quickly recover and ask if they can run the Lionel No. 30016 New York Central Flyer freight set shown here being led by its 4-4-2 Atlantic steamer.









▲ Wayne Zebron's S gauge layout

We at Classic Toy Trains have since 1987 looked at many thousands of pictures of Christmas displays, and so many of them use old-time trains, just as Wayne Zebron has done in LaSalle, III. He says that for the S gauge layout he put under a Christmas tree hung with lots of ornaments crafted by his sister, Diane, nothing enhances feelings of nostalgia and holiday cheer like his prized American Flyer No. 21088 Franklin 4-4-0 steam engine and tender pulling four cars. Wayne replaced the cannon on the flatcar with Christmas items so it wouldn't frighten the residents of the small village consisting of structures and details from Dickens Collectables.



▲ Ed Clousher's O gauge layout

Life can be pretty quiet on the dreary days after Christmas on Ed Clousher's 5 x 16-foot O gauge layout. Youngsters, tired of their new toys, look for diversions, and so Ed invited them to explore the railroad museum he created on his four-level display in Chesnee, S.C. A few hardy people have braved the snow and sleet outside to spend a day inside the covered structure where many locomotives and passenger cars are housed. Ed, as you can tell, loves Marx trains, especially the Canadian Pacific steam engines facing the camera. His roster of locomotives and rolling stock spans the grand history of Marx, starting with Joy Line pieces from the 1930s and then running through the glory years of the 1950 all the way up to the 1990s with the revived line developed by Jim and Debby Flynn.

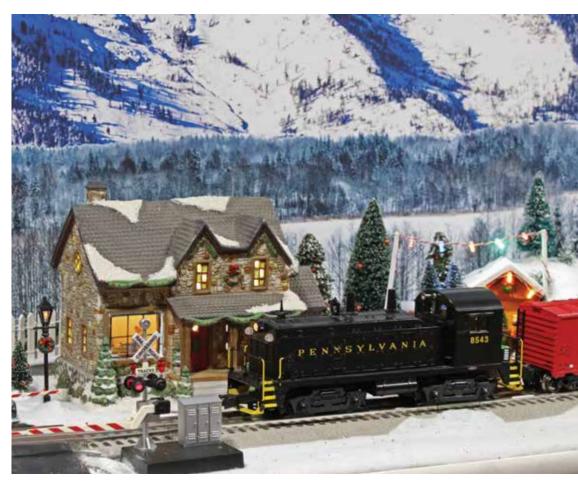


◆Dave Amans' O gauge layout

Lots of people choose to develop a Christmas train display right on the floor or carpeted area under their decorated tree. Dave Amans has adopted a different approach for his O gauge display in Ontario, N.Y. A few years back, he decided to permanently secure a loop of GarGraves track to a sheet of plywood that he covered with cloth. Every year, Dave manages to shift the platform into position by the tree. After the holidays, when he has been busy running his Lionel No. 260E steam engine and tender from pre-World War II days, he takes down the tree and carefully puts the delightful display with its track back into storage so it's ready the following year.

► Mark Nale's O gauge model railroad

A tale of two layouts — that phrase pretty much describes what's going on at Mark Nale's home in Port Matilda, Pa. While making progress on an O gauge railroad characterized by realistic scenery, he realized that an area behind a wall of his train room he had been using for storage could be transformed to serve as the site of a holiday-themed layout loaded with operating accessories to entertain his six grandchildren. He added a wintry photo backdrop to suggest the scene he shot of a Pennsylvania RR NW2 diesel switcher from Williams pulling a Great Northern boxcar from K-Line over an oval of Lionel FasTrack extended far beyond the ceramic buildings here.





▲ Patrick Maul's O gauge layout

When asked about the picture submitted to Photo Album, O gauge enthusiast Patrick Maul described this scene as "1955 meets 2022." What this modeler from Saint Cloud, Fla., meant was that the handsome Santa Fe diesels from Menards were added to his roster two years ago. The Lionel passenger cars behind them were added almost 70 years ago, when as a child he received for Christmas of 1955 O-27 set No. 1534. Often, Patrick will run his boyhood No. 2328 Burlington GP7 road diesel with the No. 2430-series streamliners instead of the Menards units.

Lionel Base3 command base

THE LONG-AWAITED CONTROL SYSTEM IS FINALLY AVAILABLE

he latest addition to the digital world of model railroading arrived on shelves in July. Heralded as the bridge to connect all Lionel operating systems, and fittingly designed to look like the Hell Gate Bridge (the unit measures 10.3" x 5.4"), the Base3 offers a "plug and play" setup.

The Base3, according to the control.lionel.com website, is compatible with Lionel's Legacy, TrainMaster Command Control (TMCC) and Lion-Chief, LionChief+, and Flyer-Chief locomotives. The Base3 works with Legacy Cab2 or Cab-1L hardware remotes as well as the new Cab3 app (for Apple or Android devices).

The Lionel Base3 is packaged with a quick start guide, an antenna, a USB cable, and a black writable memory module. Lionel does not provide a printed manual, nor does it provide a full PDF manual online. According to Lionel, it purposely did not create a PDF manual so it would be able to update its documentation as needed.

Setup is pretty easy. You connect the ground (U post)

to the back of the Base3 and then plug the Base3 into a wall outlet. The unit has the capability to connect to a Wi-Fi network or act as an access point (AP), emitting its own network to which you can connect a device.

I first tried to use the WPS option to connect to my home network, but that failed. I believe my router was too far from my Base3. You can connect the Base3 to your home network by manually inputing your network information. Connecting this way seems to make the app a little easier to use.

If you intend to use the app while the Base3 is operating as an access point (emitting its own Wi-Fi), you'll need to connect the app to the Base3 each time you reopen the app. I found this delay frustrating, especially since I was not using a dedicated device just for layout operation.

CONNECT/PROGRAM

Using the Cab3 app, Cab-1L remote, or Cab-2 remote, you can connect to the Base3 and begin to program and run your locomotives.

LIONEL BASE3 COMMAND BASE (PRODUCT NO. 2208010)

MRSP: \$499.99

Website: control.lionel.com (product information) or lionel.com (ordering)

More Base3 coverage on Trains.com

- · Watch an unboxing and short demonstration
- Installation on the Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club's layout

Connecting the remote to the Base3 is straightforward. There is a "remote channel" button on the front of the Base3. When you press this button, the yellow indicator light will flash; the number of flashes will indicate the channel the Base3 is set to.

You can change the channel by pressing the "remote channel" button again; this will switch the channel each time you press it. Once you have the Base3 set to the channel of your remote, you can cycle the power of the Base3 and test the connection by inputting a command on your remote. If the yellow light on the front of the Base3 illuminates as the command is being inputted, you'll know the connection is complete.

One of the biggest hang-

ups for me was that my entire engine roster needed to be loaded onto the Base3. The only way to do that was to take a black writable memory module and use the Lionel System Utility on a PC to write a multi-engine module. Lionel has said that there will soon be a way to connect the system utility to the Base3.

Adding a new locomotive is the same as it's always been if you are using a Cab-2 remote. The Cab3 app allows you to program certain locomotives with a 4-digit address instead of the 2-digit limitation of the Cab-2 remote.

One of the main purposes of the Base3 is to create a single unit to run all Lionel models, including LionChief engines that use RF or Bluetooth signals. The Base3 has switches on the front to put a Bluetooth- or radio-frequency-equipped LionChief engine into program mode. You can then use your Cab-2 remote to "set" the locomotive into the remote using a specific range of engine IDs.

The Cab3 app has features I wasn't able to describe in this review. The wait for the Base3's arrival is finally over, and now we enter the phase of implementation, which we can't expect to be without hiccups. – *Chris Montagna*



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

MTH RailKing FP45 diesel locomotive

A SIX-AXLE PASSENGER ENGINE WITH NICE FEATURES



he FP45 diesel was a passenger locomotive first produced by the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors in 1967 at the request of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Only 14 units were made, nine for the Santa Fe and five for the Milwaukee Road. By the early 1980s, all but one of them were out of service or scrapped. Six units survive in museums today.

The first MTH O gauge RailKing version of the FP45 was available in 2005. *Classic Toy Trains* last reviewed it in 2010 with that version being equipped with Proto-Sound 2.0. The 2024 release has Proto-Sound 3.0 and an onboard DCC/DCS decoder.

The locomotive measures 18½" long. It scales out very closely to 1:48 scale, which would be 18.03" according to the prototype length. I can't quibble about such a small difference. The RailKing FP45 weighs 4 lb. 11 ounces.

The paint on our Wisconsin & Southern model was crisp and nicely applied. Even the intricate areas on the WSOR logo were even and

clean. I noticed a slight bit of feathering of the black paint on the nose, but you'd have to look pretty closely to see it. I should note that WSOR (and some of the other road names MTH offers) did not own FP45 engines.

ON THE TRACK

I tested the engine first with an MTH Z-4000 transformer in conventional mode. There can be up to a 60-second delay from the time you apply power to when the engine responds. It took about 18 volts of power before the engine responded. I could use the bell and horn. I also tested it using our Lionel ZW transformer, but then was able to

make only the bell ring.

To take advantage of all the engine's features, you need to use MTH's Digital Command System (DCS), either via the remote control or the app. (For more on DCS, see my review of the MTH Shay in the Summer 2024 issue of CTT.) I tested the FP45 with both the remote and the app, and the engine ran smoothly with no issues.

The model has a drawbar pull of 39 ounces. That's equivalent to 117 free-rolling freight cars on straight and level track.

The sound system in this engine is fantastic! The quality has come a long way in this hobby.

MTH RAILKING EMD FP45 DIESEL WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN (NO. 30-21220-1)

Features: Proto-Sound 3.0, O-31 curve operation, onboard DCC/DCS decoder, 2 remote-controlled Proto-Couplers, operating ProtoSmoke diesel exhaust, 2 engineer cab figures

Road names: Burlington Northern, Daylight Locomotive & Machine Works, Great Northern, Montana Rail Link, Santa Fe, Susquehanna, Wisconsin & Southern

Price: \$429.95

Website: mthtrains.com

An oddity I encountered is that the classification lights blink during operation. Classification lights on the prototype are steady on. I reached out to MTH for clarification but did not receive a response, so I'm not sure if this is intentional or a glitch with this particular engine.

The MTH website says this engine will operate on O-31 curves. Our CT&T layout has O-42 curves, and though the model had no problems on it, I still wouldn't try running it on anything tighter than O-31 given the engine's truck size. It may navigate those curves, but it won't look great doing so.

All in all, the MTH FP45 diesel is a solid engine with a great sound system. It would make a worthy addition to your O gauge passenger fleet. – Rene Schweitzer

Thanks to Sommerfeld's Trains & Hobbies in Butler, Wis., for the loan of this engine for testing.



Find more reviews online:

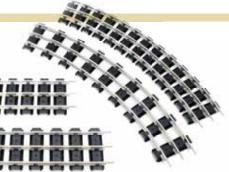
- ➤ MTH 0-4-0
- ➤ Menards Liam's Custard
- ➤ Menards Cripple Creek Feed & Seed
- ScaleTrains S scale caboose
- USA Track Super Standard Gauge track
- ➤ Lionel Legacy S2 switcher

NEWS & REVIEWS

Seedy structure:

Menards has released Cripple Creek Feed & Seed (No. 275-9378). The O gauge structure measures 8" x 6" x 4%", including the base. It includes scenic details, weathering, and Jack the German Shepherd. **Price:** \$39.99. Order from **menards. com/trains.**





Super track: USA Track LLC, 45 Bragg Hill Rd., West Chester, PA 19382, offers Super Standard track. The Standard gauge track is available in 7", 14" and 36" straight sections and four diameters of curved sections. All sections are manufactured in the USA. For pricing and information, visit standardgaugetrack.com or email standardgaugetrack@gmail.com

Custom flatcar: Golden Gate American Flyer Club has announced a custom-run Lionel State Belt RR flatcar with beams in S gauge. The cars are sold in two packs with different numbers and come in a commemorative box to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. Price: \$170 plus \$15 shipping. Order from **ggafc.org**

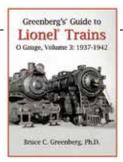




Sweet boxcar: Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) is now selling a custom-run Lionel Krispy Kreme boxcar (No. 2401190). The car measures 10½" long with opening doors and can operate on O-27 curves. **Price:** \$95 shipped. To learn more, visit **lionelcollectors.org** or call the business office at 815-223-0115.

Handy guide:

Bruce C. Greenberg has completed the third and final volume covering the prewar history of Lionel O gauge locomotives and rolling stock from 1915



to 1942. The 344-page hardbound *Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains, O Gauge: 1937-1942* includes chapters about Lionel's marketing plans and innovative engineering. **Price:** \$110 plus \$7 shipping. Order at **Brinkmannpub.com** or by calling 571-723-2333.

Tinplate returns: MTH Electric Trains has announced six new Detroit Monorail sets as part of the Tinplate Traditions line. Each O gauge offering will be available as both a traditional model and a contemporary model with Proto-Sound 3.0 (No. 10-3052-0 shown). The three-car sets include one powered car with interior lighting and two non-powered cars with interior lighting. Expected delivery in December 2024. **Price:** \$799.95. Website: **mthtrains.com**





Hauling liquids: Atlas O, 378 Florence Ave., Hillside NJ 07205, has added a Funnel Flow Tank Car to its Premier line. The model features separate metal handrails and details and operates on O-27 curves. It's available in nine different paint schemes in both two- and three-rail versions (No. 3001760 shown). Price: \$94.95. Website: shop.atlasrr.com

News bits



Lionel kicks off 125th anniversary

Lionel Trains announced the start of its 125th-anniversary celebration on October 1. Lionel's celebration will pay tribute to its illustrious past while looking ahead to the exciting future of model railroading. The anniversary will be marked by a series of special events, limited-edition releases, and interactive experiences designed to engage lifelong enthusiasts and introduce new audiences to the magic of Lionel Trains.

"This 125th anniversary is not only a celebration of our legacy but also a reflection of the enduring passion and loyalty of the Lionel community," said Mike Phillips, SVP/GM of Lionel Trains. "We are deeply grateful to our dedicated customers and partners who have supported us throughout this journey. As we look to the future, we remain committed to delivering the highest quality products and experiences."

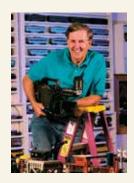
For details, visit Lionel125.com.

In memoriam:

One of the most influential shapers of the contemporary toy train hobby, died in Michigan City, Ind., on Aug. 8, 2024, at the age of 86. He left an indelible mark on the hobby, starting as an author in the 1980s and then proceeding to write and produce a vast number of introductory and advanced videos.

Lionel enthusiasts became familiar with Tom's research, writing, photography, and sense of humor when he collaborated with friend Jim Tuohy to

bring out a six-volume set of books, A Collector's Guide and History to Lionel Trains. in 1987. Soon, their business,



named TM Books & Video, was putting out price and rarity guides.

Then in 1988 Tom made the first of the videos on which he built his reputation. Perhaps the most memorable and touching of the videos filled the great I Love Toy Trains series. They influenced generations.

We offer condolences to Tom's family. - Roger Carp

Tom McComas



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Visit: TRAINSHOW.COM for more 2025 shows, info and tickets

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NEWS & REVIEWS



Happy holidays: Atlas O, 378 Florence Ave., Hillside, NJ 07205, is selling a 50' Gunderson boxcar with Christmas graphics and figures (No. 3001439) as part of the Premier line. The car features O-31 operation. Price: \$114.95. Website: shop.atlasrr.com

New figures:

CatzPaw Innovations LLC, 1225 Coan Dr., Locust Grove, GA 30248, has several 1:64 scale figures. Shown is



Boy Climbing Through Fence (No. PS40). **Price:** \$8.99. Order at **catzpawstore.myshopify.com**

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Classic Toy Trains announces Display Layouts and Showrooms. In this all-new 100-page special-interest publication, you'll discover 60 of the greatest postwar Lionel and American Flyer layouts plus behind-thescenes visits to showrooms. Display Layouts and Showrooms contains information and pictures you've never seen! Price: \$13.99.



Lionel train enthusiasts can enjoy months of O gauge action in this full-color 2025 Lionel calendar. Officially licensed by Lionel, it includes detailed captions describing each item featured. **Price:** \$16.99.



Celebrate your favorite toy train magazine with this exclusive *Classic Toy Trains* hat, featuring an embroidered logo! This 100% chino cotton twill hat features an adjustable strap with an antique buckle. **Price:** \$24.95.



CPKC hopper: Lionel Operating Train Society (LOTS) is offering a custom-run MTH three-bay cylindrical hopper. The O gauge car features Canadian Pacific Kansas City map graphics and is available in two car numbers (No. 20-96840 shown). **Price:** \$149.95 plus shipping. Order from LOTS at lots-trains.org.



Premier release: Atlas O, 378 Florence Ave., Hillside NJ 07205, has introduced an Electro-Motive GP38-2 locomotive to its Premier line. The O gauge road diesel features an onboard DCC/DCS decoder, operating exhaust, lighted cab interior and number boards, and it operates on O-31 curves. The model is available in 10 different paint schemes in both two- and three-rail versions (No. 30138346 shown). **Price:** \$659.95. Website: **shop.atlasrr.com**

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

Wyandotte Toys No. 2157 Windup Train Set

BEAUTIFUL LITHOGRAPHY AND GREAT TRADITION BLENDED NICELY

he photograph of Wyandotte Toys No. 2157 mechanical steam freight train in its original box shows one of two sets from that little-known toy manufacturer in the collection belonging to Marx expert Gary Anderson. He shared it with Classic Toy Trains because of its inherent appeal and because it sheds light on more than just Wyandotte. The colorful set can be said with honesty to be part of the heritage of two other, much larger and more important American toy makers.

The lithographed engine and tender, packed with one gondola and a caboose, hit the market in the early 1950s, after Wyandotte entered the toy train field. At a time when children were clamoring for electrically powered trains, Wyandotte placed its bets on older mechanical models — ones powered by a "clockwork" motor that its user wound up by inserting a key into a hole on the side and turning.

PREWAR ROOTS

The cardboard box in which the components of set 2157 were packed has the full name of the item: "Hafner Mechanical Train." The word "Hafner" can also be found printed in white across the side of the red lithographed caboose. But the word "Wyandotte" appears on the engine and its matching black-red-silver tender. Why?

The business informally known as Wyandotte Toys had acquired in 1951 the assets and inventory of the Hafner Manufacturing Co. That Chicagobased enterprise had, under the direction of William Hafner and later his son, John, been producing mechanical toys. Miniature trains that were identified as O gauge had been integral items.

William Hafner, who entered the toy field in 1901,

joined forces with William Coleman six years later to produce windup trains under the Edmonds-Metzel Manufacturing Co. They changed the name of their firm to the American Flyer Manufacturing Co. in 1910. Financial disagreements pushed Hafner to leave in 1914, and he all but immediately established the Hafner Manufacturing Co. Meanwhile, in Wyandotte,

west of Detroit.

George Stallings

launched in 1920

and William

Schmidt had

the All Metal

Products Co. to

manufacture parts

for the automotive

industry. In 1921,

they branched out

into toys and

made water

guns, and air

guns, pop

rifles.

its toy line in 1930 with automobiles and trucks, airplanes and doll carriages, fabricated out of sheet steel salvaged from automobile factories. After being pressed or stamped, the steel was painted. The guns and vehicles helped the firm prosper in the 1930s and into the '40s. But in 1942, federal mandates terminated production of metal toys and other consumer items for the duration of World War II.

All Metal Products built up

TIME TO DIVERSIFY

During the war, All Metal Products made parts for the armed forces plus inexpensive toys out of cardboard or wood. It revived its standard lineup after 1945; it added die-cast metal and injection-molded plastic toys in 1948. Doing so enabled Wyandotte Toys to compete in dime stores.

For the same reason, the firm acquired in 1951 the tools, dies, and inventory owned by Hafner Manufacturing Co. Wyandotte Toys proceeded to put out mechanical trains through 1956, often using old Hafner pieces, as shown in the set below.

The market for windup toys was shrinking. Wyandotte Toys filed for bankruptcy in 1956. Louis Marx & Co. bought the tooling and dies, to use when producing trains in Mexico or to destroy when eliminating potential competition. Set 2157 links Hafner to Marx via Wyandotte Toys.



CHRISTMAS NEVER ENDS

ON THIS OGAUGE LAYOUT

Vern and Susan Liljenguist built a permanent holiday display

STORY BY ROGER CARP // PHOTOS BY VERN LIL IENOUIST

he great 12 x 12-foot permanent Christmas display belonging to Vern and Susan Liljenquist stands as proof of something every longtime member of the toy train hobby can attest to. Namely, the proposition that every layout, regardless of its dimensions and appearance, is unique. Nothing like it anywhere else. Truly, as Fred Rogers said of children long ago, each is special.

Of course, the fascinating secondary point is that virtually every O or S gauge layout showcased over the past 37 years in the pages of Classic Toy Trains has much about it that's familiar to hobbyists. Please notice that I didn't say those displays were the same — my point was that a great deal about them (benchwork, track and switches, electronics, scenery, and structures) was familiar.

How is this possible? How can every toy train layout be unique and therefore unlike any other while having many qualities and attributes judged as familiar? The best way to answer this perplexing question is to investigate the Liljenquists' three-rail layout. Doing so will remove any confusion or doubts that readers of Classic Toy Trains may have.

MUCH IS SPECIAL

Let's start by exploring what makes the model railroad developed by Vern and Susan different from any other. The answer, as the pictures snapped by Vern demonstrate, is the wonderful blend of personal interests evident here. The layout wouldn't have been possible if this hus-

band-and-wife team had failed to combine their talents and

favorite hobbies about a dozen years ago to entertain their family.

Time to add background information: Vern was no stranger to toy trains, but the only layout he had designed and constructed as an adult was quite small and simple. He had

played with Marx and then Lionel electric trains throughout elementary school, but he had abandoned them not long after. Decades later, his passion revived.



a new hobby, one that filled her days and helped her appreciate Vern's pastime even more. She had entered the world of collecting herself, although her focus was on the Christmas-oriented structures, figures, and details sold under the Department 56 and Lemax brands.

Neither Susan nor Vern remembers how or when the revelation arrived. However, they do recall coming to the conclusion that working together while sharing the trains and structures would enable them to create a one-of-a-kind three-rail display where Christmas never ended and it was endlessly winter.



STRONG CONNECTION

Vern and Susan have forged a powerful connection over their years of marriage and raising three children, now all grown and on their own. They have watched each other pursue leisure activities and refine skills, all the while offering tremendous encouragement for the other. Maybe it was simply a matter of time before the notion of collaborating on something special for the family bore fruit.

This makes good sense to Vern. He acknowledges how Susan had been expanding her collection of Department 56 and Lemax pieces for years. Almost every holiday season, she thoughtfully

The view from Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve is spectacular. A Santa Fe train is braking to pick up passengers at the local station. Are those extra reindeer grazing below next to the decorated tree erected by the mayor and officers of the village?

took items from her collection to create Christmas scenes and vignettes to add joy and color to family celebrations.

Once the new year had commenced, though, Susan dutifully gathered up everything and put her cherished pieces back in boxes. Vern was doing about the same with most of his Lionel, MTH, and Williams trains. After all, he could run only a few of them on his compact three-rail display. Most were out of sight.

However, once the Liljenquists realized just how perfect it would be to develop a

permanent Christmas display featuring his trains and her structures and figures, everything seemed to fall into place. They discussed the location of the O gauge main line fashioned out of Lionel FasTrack sections and switches. They conferred about placement of buildings that ranged from train stations to shops to houses.

The imagination, artistry, and cooperation of this devoted couple enabled them to finish a special O gauge display that, as the photos show, is unlike any other. And what a relief to both Susan and Vern not to



feel any pressure to take it down once December had given way to January. The permanent nature of their layout left them relaxed while delighting all of their children and grandchildren.

FAMILIAR STUFF

Vern, asked about the appeal of the permanent layout, replies with a grin: "The younger grandkids enjoy watching the *Polar Express* set during the holidays. Their grandpa enjoys running all the other trains during the rest of the year!"

Something about Vern's statement struck me as familiar. How many times had I heard the owners of O or S gauge model railroads explain how youngsters

The warm and entertaining 12 x 12-foot three-rail display showcases Lionel and Williams motive power, Department 56 and Lemax buildings and details, and lots of commercial fir trees flaked with snow. No one minds that winter never ends!

preferred running Christmas trains and operating vintage accessories in bursts of time and energy while they were satisfied to sit back and operate traditional freight or passenger trains, much as they had done when they were growing up.

About that time, the many familiar and conventional aspects of the Liljenquist Christmas display rose to the surface. Begin with Vern's experience with Marx and Lionel trains during his childhood in rural Idaho. Then mull over the fact that, like so many other baby boomers, he had abandoned trains for other, more serious

activities on reaching adolescence and adulthood, only to return to them.

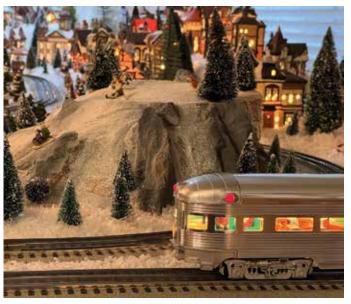
The journey traveled by Vern resembled the one taken by many readers of our magazine. They considered themselves fortunate to have grown up playing with American Flyer or Lionel trains and even luckier to have gone back to the hobby on reaching middle age or even after retirement. Trains were in their blood.

CUSTOMARY PATHS

Shifting attention to the Christmas layout bolstered the feeling that much about it



Residents shovel snow off the sidewalks and away from their yards. Susan and Vern fill the layout with vignettes near where trains run.



While kids coast down the hills on sleds, travelers stay warm inside the streamlined observation car. Everyone is waiting for Christmas!



A freight train led by Lionel Santa Fe GP30 and GP35 road diesels (Nos. 28385 from 2011 and 1933343 from 2019, respectively) drives past several towering evergreens.

was familiar — and in a comforting way. The Liljenquists had designed and built a display by following the tried and true.

Take the benchwork. Vern chose 2 x 4 pieces of lumber for the framing and legs. The platform standing 36 inches off the floor consists of sheets of ½-inch-thick plywood over which Vern put Homasote boards of the same thickness.

FasTrack has been the brand of choice of countless O gauge enthusiasts since Lionel introduced it two decades ago. "What's not to like about FasTrack?" Vern said. "You can't beat the good-looking roadbed, plus it's durable and easy to connect. I'm so pleased that our lines have not needed anything except cleaning."

Another element of familiarity related to how Vern controls the trains and accessories. Conventionally, that is, using a pair of Lionel CW-80 transformers.

To be sure, our genial host has been learning about command control and isn't reluctant to buy locomotives requiring either TrainMaster Command Control or Legacy. In fact, Vern increasingly admits to preferring the advanced systems from Lionel because they really do make operation more enjoyable and realistic.

SIMPLE SCENERY

The more you examine the scenes Vern photographed for this article, the more you can appreciate the traditional methods used for landscaping the layout. Once again, it proves that you do not have to spend lots of money and invest in elaborate methods and materials if you want to create eye-catching vignettes.

The mountains, according to Vern and Susan, tend to be nothing more than products in the Department 56 and Lemax lines. Different raised elevations were, the couple added, "Styrofoam sheets covered with white cotton cloth. Then we sprinkled synthetic 'snow' over them." Elsewhere, they were content to color the surface with a coat or two of white latex paint. Sounds familiar, right?

The same sources — local hobby shops, arts and crafts stores, or home-improvement centers — supplied the hundreds of commercial bushes and trees. The small pond was simply a mirror. An easy addition that nicely suggests ice.

HAVE FUN

There you have it. A husband and wife join forces and share hobbies to create a

wonderful toy train display for all three generations of their family to enjoy at the holidays and throughout the rest of the year. The layout, capable of handling two trains running at the same time on independent loops, keeps every person in the extended Liljenquist clan happy and busy when they get together.

"The lesson our layout teaches," Vern concluded, "is that you don't need to have a large, expensive, or complicated layout to have a ball running trains." He might have added that you can stick with familiar and traditional methods and products to develop a model railroad at home that's unique and so special.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Vern and Susan Liljenquist's O gauge layout

Dimensions: 12 x 12 feet

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

Motive power: Lionel, Williams

Rolling stock: Industrial Rail, K-Line, Lionel,

MTH

Controls: Lionel CW-80 transformers (2) with Legacy and TrainMaster Command Control

Accessories: Lionel

Structures: Department 56, Lemax

Vehicles: Lionel, Menards

Figures: Department 56, Lemax, Lionel



A Lionel *Polar Express* steam passenger set snakes over the twisty main line on the permanent Christmas O gauge layout built by Vern Liljenquist with help and many Department 56 and Lemax porcelain structures shared by his wife, Susan.



LIONEL CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARIES

STORY BY ROGER CARP

A great train set after small mementos

nniversaries can be gold mines for a business eager for public acclaim. Just the announcement that a bank, manufacturer, or what have you has been around for a certain number of years wins great coverage in newspapers, television newscasts, websites, and magazines. We at *Classic Toy Trains* make certain our readers and advertisers know when we have marked each of our five years leading the hobby.

Did producers of electric toy trains feel the same? Not surprisingly, the answer is yes. Take the A.C. Gilbert Co. The maker of American Flyer went out of its way in 1959 to commemorate its half-century

Lionel commissioned the creation of an exclusive pewter paperweight featuring a No. 402 Standard gauge locomotive. It was presented to executives, buyers, and distributors in 1925 to mark the firm's silver anniversary. Photo by Bob Horton

making outstanding toys. A special set was released, and an array of gifts were handed to representatives from wholesale accounts as well as executives and sales personnel within the company.

Lionel had done even more at its silver and golden anniversary years of 1925 and 1950. But the most impressive effort in many respects came in 1975, when General Mills held the rights to manufacture and market Lionel trains. It did what the original Lionel Corp. had never done — it released a notable set whose components were decorated to tell the grand saga of the firm's impressive history.

STARTING IN 1900

The official starting date for historians of Lionel — and company officers themselves — is September 5, 1900. This is when, according to Robert Osterhoff, author of *Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory*, Joshua Lionel Cohen and Harry Curtis Grant "filed a notarized certificate" that the Lionel Manufacturing Company was "conducting business at 24 Murray Street" in New York City. The business would, according to that document, manufacture "electrical novelties."

The line of products varied greatly when judged by what was listed in the catalog printed for the company in 1900. A year later, the catalog left no doubt that models of railcars, beginning with a motorized gondola, were included.

So, all subsequent references to anniversaries of Lionel were based on the year 1900 being when it was established. The formal name of the firm did



change over the past 125 years, but there was no dispute about the founding date.

SILVER AND GOLD

Joshua Cowen (he changed his surname in 1910) was a born promoter. He enjoyed publicizing himself and the products made by his company. Little wonder that as the renamed Lionel Corp. approached its silver anniversary in 1925, plans had been made to commemorate the occasion with photos and a special memento.

The most detailed account of what Lionel commissioned for its 25th anniversary comes from Robert Horton, the author of an upcoming history of displays, commemorative items, and other promotional pieces. He described an exclusive die-cast pewter paperweight presented to Lionel's buyers, distributors, and executives. It featured a rendering of the No. 402 Standard gauge 0-4-4-0 electric-profile locomotive on a base in which were added the company's newly revised trademark, "Lionel Electric Trains," and "Silver Jubilee, 1925."

Horton pointed out that the silver anniversary paperweight was not a totally new item. In 1923, Lionel had contacted Rehberger Mfg. of Chicago to produce the item for Lionel's buyers, distributors, and executives to celebrate the release of the highly anticipated 402, an 0-4-4-0 electric-profile locomotive. The 402 (equipped with the company's new Super Motor) was



Lionel's latest top-tier locomotive. It was replacing the No. 42 and sold for nearly double the price. (Its cataloged price of \$45 calculates to \$798 today.)

The 402 was used on a commemorative plaque installed at the Lionel plant in Irvington, N.J., in 1925. It also graced the Lionel Silver Jubilee American Toy Fair invitation announcement to dealers and the Lionel 25th anniversary mirror. The latter was a wood frame mirror measuring 16 x 22 inches and modeled after the Toy Fair Invitation. The mirror was reproduced in 1982 by the Fundimensions division of General Mills as the No. 2390 Service Station Mirror, but with a gold jubilee invitation imprint rather than a silver one.

In 1950, to mark its 50th year in existence, Lionel commissioned a souvenir coaster from Lenox Silver Co. of New York for select Lionel executives, employees, shareholders, and dealers. The 4½-inch-diameter coaster consisted of a decorated milk glass China centerpiece with artwork featuring a Santa Fe F3 diesel locomotive to suggest the No. 2343 model. The brass rim came stamped "Lenox Silver NYC."

IMPRESSIVE SET

A paperweight and a coaster — beautiful pieces to commemorate notable anniversaries in the history of Lionel. But did anyone at the company propose a train

set? There's no evidence of Cowen or any of this top associates advising that the company create a unique Standard or O gauge outfit to mark the grand events.

To be sure, the product line for 1950 did include a brand-new O-27 diesel passenger train decorated in a bold shade of yellow some observers imagined to be gold. Was outfit No. 1464W to be lauded as the great Lionel anniversary set?

No! The Alco FA diesels and streamlined cars were yellow because Lionel had decorated them for the Union Pacific. That famous railroad painted its cars in a rich shade known as Armour Yellow.

Fortunately, executives and designers overseeing the Lionel line had a chance to redeem their predecessors in 1975. By then, though, the original Lionel Corp. had faded into history, with rights to make

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, the individuals supervising the annual list of trains decided to create a unique freight set consisting of new models whose decoration celebrated landmark innovations. Images of noteworthy locomotives and accessories, transformers and track would be shown on the rolling stock, along with the corporate logos used since 1900.

Set No. 1585 was one of 16 cataloged sets by Fundimensions in 1975. It was led by a model of a General Electric U36B road diesel (No. 7500) decorated in a unique silver-and-red 75th anniversary paint scheme plus a matching N5c porthole caboose (No. 7508). The seven other pieces of rolling stock included a trio of boxcars (Nos. 7501, 7505, and 7506), a trio of refrigerator cars (Nos. 7502, 7503, and 7507), and one quad hopper (No. 7504).

The O gauge outfit came with only the train; not a single piece of track or a transformer was packed inside the set box.

Sadly for the decision-makers and engineers at Fundimensions the set, in spite of all the fanfare, failed to win over consumers. An outfit that should have sold out in the anniversary year of 1975 ended up being brought back in 1976

and 1977. Lionel fans have shown more appreciation for the locomotive and freight cars since then, and the set has held its own in value.

For Lionel's golden anniversary in 1950, it commissioned a souvenir coaster from Lenox Silver Co. of New York City for executives, employees, shareholders, and dealers. The item had artwork with a Santa Fe F3 diesel. Photo by Bob Horton



SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS AT JOE, THE MOTORISTS' FRIEND

Memories of a retailer and a special Lionel set

STORY BY ROD HENSHAW

he question inevitably comes up any time I'm talking about my Lionel trains with other hobbyists or awestruck visitors to my home: "What piece in your collection do you treasure most?" Before I can answer I hear, "What is your greatest find?"

My response is a bit complicated. You see, my favorite isn't a set, locomotive, car, or accessory. It is, instead, a special connection that toy trains bring to the won-

derful days of my childhood in central Pennsylvania, especially memories I have of my family, and especially my dad, Richard. Best of all are those tied to a respected retailer and the scarce and exclusive train it offered customers like Dad and me more than 60 years ago.

STORES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Like many men and women in the toy train and scale model hobbies, I grew up in Pennsylvania. Specifically, I came of age in Camp Hill, located across the Susquehanna River from the state capital



of Harrisburg. Anyone at all interested in trains knew that area — the heart of the Pennsylvania RR's Middle Division. Many of my relatives had worked for the Pennsy during its long history, including both of my grandfathers.

Central Pennsylvania, besides being home to legendary sites such as the Altoona shops, Enola Yards, and Horseshoe Curve, was known for outstanding department stores as well as model and toy train retailers. The different Pomeroy's Department Stores had extensive toy train merchandise and displays. Meanwhile, chain and dime stores, led by F.W. Woolworth's, sold inexpensive trains and accessories by Lionel, Marx, and others.

But for my father and me, one toy train purveyor stood above all others – Joe, the Motorist's Friend. The memorable name referred to a sprawling chain of 35 automotive parts stores that were located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Stores carried a wide array of sporting goods, hardware items, radios, and televisions.

Joe Stine, a businessman and Lionel collector, had established them. His personal hobby explained why the stores typically stocked Lionel trains and accessories all year. But during the weeks running up to Christmas, managers transformed the rear of the premises into a true Lionel



wonderland, where the coolest sights, sounds, and scents overwhelmed you.

DESIRABLE LIONEL OUTFIT

As I remember, first to be experienced when you walked into Joe, the Motorists' Friend was the smell of new car tires. Immediately thereafter, you started hearing Lionel trains running and then you could sniff the magical aromas of ozone and locomotive smoke.

Incredible sights always followed. Namely, Lionel display layouts and walls

whose long shelves were filled with every new set, locomotive, piece of rolling stock, and accessory.

Wonderful displays of trains were far from the limit of what Joe, the Motorists' friend did to publicize its loyalty to Lionel. I recall advertisements in local newspapers, notably the *Harrisburg Patriot News*. In addition, the chain sponsored a daily weekday appearance by Santa himself on WHP television. Santa, I later learned, was portrayed by Bob Bender. If you were good, he gave you a special pin from Santa. I still display mine.

Dad and I usually made our initial visit of the season in the early autumn to pick up the annual Lionel consumer catalog. Generally, we made a couple more trips before and after Thanksgiving. At Christmas, I usually received something from Joe via Santa Claus.

PROMOTIONAL OUTFITS

Which Lionel sets were created for Joe, the Motorists' Friend was a mystery to the toy train hobby until John W. Schmid completed *Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Promotional Outfits*, 1960-1969 (Project Roar Publishing, 2007). On page 132 of the



This listing of Lionel outfits was distributed by stores affiliated with Joe, the Motorists' Friend in the mid-1950s. The chain at that time stocked only sets from the regular cataloged line.

introductory section, he mentioned that between 1961 and 1966, Joe, the Motorists' Friend purchased 10 of the kind of uncataloged sets he designated Retailer Promotional Outfits and a couple of what he called General Release Promotional outfits from Lionel.

A quest for items connected to Joe, the Motorists' Friend has shaped my postwar collection. I've purchased two Lionel outfits whose labels identify them as having been sold at a particular store in the

chain: the Nos. 19250 from 1963 and 11570 from 1966.

Set 19250 is of special interest because Schmid states that Lionel produced only 200 examples. As the accompanying photo shows, the set used a No. 2037 steam engine equipped with a smoke unit and a No. 234W-1 whistle tender to pull five freight cars. The rolling stock included the Nos. 6050-50 Swift Savings Bank Car, 6410-25 flatcar with two automobiles (generally yellow), 6465-150 Lionel Lines double-dome tank car, 6476-25 Lehigh Valley hopper, and 6017-25 Lionel Lines Southern Pacific-type caboose.

The small quantity of 19250 sets that Lionel assembled explains why this outfit is considered scarce and so commands a high value on the collector market. My other Lionel set from Joe, the Motorists' Friend, is the fairly common No. 11570 steam freight train from 1966.

I have in addition acquired several Lionel and Marx accessories and separate-sale items with price tags linking them to Joe, the Motorists' Friend. All of them intrigue me and can always be counted on to revive marvelous childhood memories of toy trains and my dad.

Growing up in central Pennsylvania during the early and middle 1960s, the author and his dad frequented automotive stores known as Joe, the Motorists' Friend. The chain carried Lionel and other toy trains. In 1963, it offered the desirable No. 19250 promotional five-car steam freight train. Photo courtesy Project Roar Publishing (www.projectroar.com)

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| LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CA 680728 Washington 18*4-Car Set (use 85230 Great Northern 18* Oriental Ltd. 2pk. #L 1927110 Southern Pacific 18* Coach 2pk #1. 1927252 Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7551 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1. 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1. 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #2. 1927570 Defense Special 18*2-pack S1 2027330 Friendship Train 18* Sleeper 2pk. 2027470 Polar Express 18* Hobo Car-Black Roc 2127200 Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7703 2127270 PRR RPO Car Fleet of Modernism* 2127290 NYC 60* Scale Baggage Car 2127490 M80. 18* Passenger 2-pack 'A. LIONEL PASSENGER CAR/SI | 224.95 RS CS CS CS CS CS CS CS C |
| LIONEL 'TMCC' DIESELS 14500 Kansas City Southern F-3' AA'. 14532(24510 Pennsylvania Sharknose ABA's | 224.95 RS (d) 395.00 2. 199.95 299.95 299.95 214.95 214.95 214.95 109.95 109.95 109.95 109.95 109.95 144.95 144.95 144.95 214.95 214.95 219.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 309.95 |
| LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CA 60078 Washington 18* 4-Car Set (use 85230 Great Northern 18* Oriental Ltd. 2pk. #1 1927110 Southern Pacific 18* Coach 2pk #1. 1927252 Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7551 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1. 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1. 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #2. 1927570 Defense Special 18* 2-pack Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #2. 202730 Friendship Train 18* Sleeper 2pk. 2027470 Polar Express 18* Hobo Car-Black Roc 2127200 Penn Central B60 Baggage Car #7703 2127290 MYC 60* Scale Baggage Car #7630 2127270 PRR RPO Car Fleet of Modernism*. 2127490 MSG. 018* Passenger 2-pack 'A. LIONEL PASSENGER CAR/SI 1766 B&O Budd 3-Car Set. 1767 To 7208 PRR 15* Alum 6-Cars. 1768 B&O Budd 4-Car Set. 1769 To 72708 PRR 15* Alum 6-Cars. 1769 To 72708 PRR 15* Alum 6-Cars. 1769 To 72708 PRR 15* Alum 6-Cars. | |
| LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CA | |
| LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CA | 224.95 RS (3) 395.00 2. 199.95 2. 199.95 2. 199.95 2. 299.95 2. 214.95 2. 214.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 2. 14.95 3. 109.95 |
| 7220 to 25 Illinois Central 15" Alum. 6-Cars | 395.00 295.00 695.00 295.00 395.00 495.00 |
| 7220 to 25 Illinois Central 15" Alum. 6-Cars | 395.00 295.00 695.00 295.00 395.00 495.00 |
| 7220 to 25 Illinois Central 15" Alum. 6-Cars | 395.00 295.00 695.00 295.00 395.00 495.00 |
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| 7220 to 25 Illinois Central 15" Alum. 6-Cars | 395.00 295.00 695.00 295.00 395.00 495.00 |
| LIONEL HEAVYWEIGHT CA George Washington 18" 4-Car Set Lug 85230 Great Northern 18" Oriental Ltd. 2pk. #. 1927110 Southern Pacific 18" Coach 2pk #1. 19271510 Missouri Pacific 18" Coach 2pk #1. 1927520 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #1. 1927550 Missouri Pacific Sunshine Spl. 2pk #2. 1927570 Defense Special 18" 2-pack B 2027410 Santa Fe Shadowline 18" 2-cars. 2027430 Friendship Trail 8" Sleeper 2pk 2027470 Polar Express 18" Hobo Car-Black Ro. 2127200 Penn Central B60 Baggage car #7630 2127210 NTC 60" Scale Baggage Car. 2127290 NYC 60" Scale Baggage Car. 2127290 MSO 18" Passenger 2-pack "A. LIONEL PASSENGER CAR/SI 7200 to 52 llinois Central 15" Alum. 6-Cars. 8868 to 71 Amtrak RDC Budd 4-Car Set. 9569 to 75,7208 PRR 15" Alum. 8-Cars. 15340 PRR 15" Aluminum 6-Car Set. 18306/10 Pennsylvania MU 4-Car Set. 18306/10 Pennsylvania MU 4-Car Set. 18306/10 Pennsylvania MU 4-Car Set. 18506/12 Canadian National Budd 4-Car Set. 19109 Southern Pacific Madison Baggage. 19011 Lionel Lines Madison Baggage. 19011 Lionel Lines Madison Baggage. 19011 Lionel Lines Madison Baggage. 19012 to 27 CA Zephyrs 15" Alum. 5-Car Set. 19139 to 44 N&W 15" Alum. Smooth 6/Cars. 19140 N&W 15" Alum. Combo (smooth). 19141 N&W 15" Alum. Diner (smooth). 19143 N&W 15" Alum. Diner (smooth). 19144 N&W 15" Alum. Diner (smooth). 19145 Aldantic Coast Lines 15" Alum. 4-Car Set. 191980 Southern 15" Alum. 4-Car Set. 19199 Southern 15" Alum. 4-Car Set. 19191 Southern 15 | 395.00 295.00 695.00 295.00 395.00 495.00 |

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| 2043032 Kansas City Southern 50' Boxcar #117756 |
| 2043032 Kansas City Southern 50' Boxcar #117756 2043033 Kansas City Southern 50' Boxcar #117782 2043034 Kansas City Southern 50' Boxcar #117790 |
| 2043051/52/53/54 Milwaukee Road I-Beam Flatcar w/Wood 2043062/63/64/ Trailer Train I-Beam Flatcar w/Wood Load |
| 2043081/82/83/84 Western Pacific I-Beam Flatcar w/Wood |
| 2043091/92/93/94 BNSF Bulkhead w/Log Load 2043101/02/03/04 Great Northern Bulkhead w/Log Load |
| 204311112//13 Norfolk Southern Bulkhead w/Log Load |
| 204311112//13 Norfolk Southern Bulkhead w/Log Load 2043121/22/24 Trailer Train Bulkhead w/Log Load 2043143 or 2043144 Chessie Gondola w/Coil Covers |
| 2043151/52/53/54 MKT Gondolas w/Coil Covers |
| 2043072/73/74 Union Pacific I-Beam w/Wood Load |

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| | | LIONEL O-GAUGE BOXCARS | | | LIONEL REEFER CARS | MTH TRAINS-STANDARD GAUGE | LIONEL AMERICAN FLYER S-GAUGE |
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| | 9217 | Soo Line -OR- #9218 Monon Operating | | 5704 5705 | Budweiser Beer Weathered | 10-1121 #437 Switch Tower | 8153/54 B&O Alco w/6 Matching Frt. Cars 575.00 8251 Erie PA Alco 'ABA' Diesel w/4 Pass. Cars 595.00 |
| 9 | 219 | Missouri Pacific -OR- #9223 Reading Oper. | 30.00 | 5712 | Lionel Lines Woodside (blue & orange) 45.00 | 10-1123-1 Ives #1134 Steamer Black Contemporary.795.00 | 8458 Southern GP-7 w/6 Southern Frt. Cars 295.00 |
| | 9229 9608 | USPS Express Mail Operating Burlington Northern Hi-Cube | 30.00 | 5716 5720 | Central of Vermont | 10-1143-1 Ives #1134 Steamer Red Contemporary 995.00 10-1144 Ives 240 Series Passenger 4-Car Set 895.00 | 47906 D&H Streamlined Combo/Dome 2pk 144.95 48008 New Haven EP-5 Electric |
| | 9301 | U.S. Mail Operating | 30.00 | 7512 | Arthur Treacher | 10-1174 Ives 240 Series Passenger 3-Car Set 695.00 | 48034 Seaboard Baldwin Diesel |
| | 9400 | Conrail (brown) | 25.00 | 9812 | Arm & Hammer Baking Soda 30.00 | 10-1236-1 Chessie 384 Steam Passenger R-T-R Set. 595.00 | 48033 Rock Island GP-7 Diesel245.00 |
| | 9438 9441 | Ontario Northland | 30.00 | 9818 | Western Maryland | 10-1294-1 B&O #384 Steam Pasenger R-T-R Set. 595.00 | 48049 Southern Pacific SD-9 Diesel |
| | 944 I 9464 | Pennsylvania Merchandise NC&StL -OR- #9465 ATSF | | 9831 9832 | Pepsi Soda | 10-4001 /02 Remote #223 Switch Track | 48065 American Flyer SD-9 Diesel |
| 9 | 9466 | Wanamaker | 49.95 | 9850 | Budweiser Beer40.00 | 10-4034 #115 Passenger Station (beige & green) 275.00 | 48122 Western Pacific Alco PB-1 w/Railsounds 145.00 |
| | 9701 | B&O Silver Double-Door | | 9851 | Schlitz Beer | | 48129 Silver Flash PA-1 Non-Powered Unit 145.00 |
| | 9705 9712 | D&RG -OR- #9706 C&O B&O DD -OR- #9713 CP Rail(Green) | 30.00 | 9852 9853 | Miller's Beer | 30-1008 #47 Crossing Gate & Signal | 48139 Pennsylvan PA Alco B-unit (used) |
| 9 | 716 | or #9749 Penn Central | 25.00 | 9853 | Cracker's Jack (carmel verison) 30.00 | 300 Repro. Hellgate Bridge (Red & Silver) 375.00 | 48266 TCA Rutland Boxcar 2-pack |
| | 9726 | Erie-Lackawanna (Blue) | 30.00 | 9856 | Old Milwaukee Beer | LIONEL CLUB/UNCĂTALOGED CARS | 48270 NASG 2008 Baldwin Switcher Diesel 295.00 |
| | 9750 9769 | D.T.&IOR- #9767 Railbox Bessemer & Lake Erie | | 9858 9860 | Butterfinger Candy Bar | 6582 TTOS Portland Lumber Car | 48925 Northern Pacific SL Passenger Coach 54.95 48934 Northern Pacific SL Passenger Diner 64.95 |
| | 9770 | North. Pacific -OR- #9783 B&O Timesaver | | 9861 | Tropicana Orange Juice | 16270 Dept. 56 Heritage Village Boxcar | 48978/83 U.P. Heavyweight Pass. 6-Cars (LN) 525.00 |
| | 9784 | Santa Fe -OR- #19202 Pennsylvania | 25.00 | 9862 | Hamm's Beer 45.00 Coors Beer 40.00 | 16811 TCA Rutland Boxcar | 49600 U.P. Pony Express Passenger Set 395.00 |
| | 19623 19805 | New York Central Double-Door | 30.00 | 9866 9867 | Hershey's Chocolate | 17174 LCCA 'Via Las Vegas' G.N. ACF Hopper 50.00 17871 TTOS NYC Flatcar w/Kodak/Xerox Trailers. 75.00 | 49605 New Haven Streamlined Passenger 3-Cars175.00 49614 PRR PA Alco Passenger Boxed Set 595.00 |
| | | Erie-Lackawanna Operating | 35.00 | 9871 | Carling Black Label | 17892 Ford/Armstrong Trailers on Conrail Flats 75.00 | 49615 Chessie SD-9 Diesel Frt. Boxed Set 495.00 |
| | 19821 | Union Pacific -OR- #19827 NYC Oper | 35.00 | 9872 | Pacific Fruit Express | 19816 Madison Hardware Operating Boxcar 49.95 | 49624 Defender 1959 (Remake) Set #20525 499.95 |
| | 19835 27776 | FEDEX Operating PRR & Central Georgia Variation 2pk | 54.95 | 9874 9877 | Miller Lite Beer | 38356 LOTS DOW Chemical Tank Car | 49807 Seaboard Coaling Tower 145.00 49813 #789 Baggage Smasher 89.95 |
| | | Canadian Pacific Railroad Art | 44.95 | 9878 | Good & Plenty Candy | 52074 LCCA lowa Beef St 'O' Reefer 30.00 | 1921221 Milwaukee Road LEGACY U36C Diesel 299.95 |
| | | LIONEL ACCESSORIES | | 9881 | Rath Packing | 52087 TTOS New Mexico Central Boxcar 20.00 | 1921222 Milwaukee Road LEGACY U36C Diesel 299.95 |
| | 2308 2315 | Animated Newsstand#497 Coaling Station | 89.95 | 9882 9884 | New York Central 'Early Bird' | 52096 Dept. 56 Originial Snow Village Boxcar 25.00 52098 TTOS US Dept. of Commerce Boxcar 25.00 | 2019010 BAR FreightSounds Boxcar -SALE!! 69.95 |
| | 2324 | Animated Switch Tower | 59.95 | 15095 | Fruit Growers Express | 52098 TTOS US Dept. of Commerce Boxcar 25.00 52101 CRRC Burlington Northern Maxi Stack 50.00 | 2019030 NC&StL FreightSounds Boxcar-SALE!! 69.95 2019050 Vesuvius Crucible FrtSnds Boxcar-SALE!!69.95 |
| 1 | 12719 | Animated Refreshment Stand | 64.95 | 15074 | Hershey's Mr. Goodbar39.95 | 52114 NYC Flatcar w/Gleason & Sasib Trailers 25.00 | 2033278 C&O 2-Bay Hopper Car 35.95 |
| | | Lighted Smoking Roadside Diner | | 16805 16807 | Anheuser Busch Malt Nutrine | | 2119271 Frisco 2-Bay Hopper Car |
| | | Single Signal Bridge (black) Steam,Clean,& Grind Shop | 225.00 | 16807 19502 | Heinz Pickles | 52121 TTOS Mobilgas Uni-body Tank Car | LIONEL DISNEY ITEMS |
| 1 | 12782 | Lift Bridge (1992) | 595.00 | 19505 | Great Northern Woodside35.00 | 52139 Department 56 Lighted Caboose 49.95 | 8773 Disney U36B w/13 Cars & Cab. (1970s) 995.00 |
| | | Animated Forklight Platform | | 19524 | Delaware & Hudson | 52148 REA/Santa Fe Operating Boxcar | 18311 Disney Characters EP-5 Electric |
| | 12873 12912 | Operating Sawmill (box worn) Operating Pumping Station | 44 95 | 19531 19532 | Rice Krispies Cereral | 52151 LCCA Amtrak St 'O' Reefer Car | 18311 EP-5 Électric w/14 cars & caboose ('90s) 565.00 19241 Mickey 60th Anniversary Boxcar 45.00 |
| 1 | 12915 | #164 Operating Log Loader | 125.00 | 19536 | Soo Line Woodside30.00 | 52162 LOTS GM&O Double-Door Boxcar 35.00 | 19242 Donald Duck 50th Ann. Boxcar 30.00 |
| 1 | 12916 | #138 Water Tower | 69.95 | 19538 | Heinz Pickles 30.00 | 52163 CMStP&P Hiawatha Double-Door Boxcar 35.00 | 19245 Mickey World Tour Boxcar |
| | 12929 12948 | Animated Rail Truck Loading Dock Bascule Bridge-Silver | . 45.00 249.95 | 19555 19556 | Swift's Preminum (Red) Woodside | | 19246 Disneyland 20th Anniversary Boxcar |
| | | Conveyor Lumber Loader | 99.95 | 19572 | Archive New York Central Steelside 39.95 | 52186 NLOE Grucci's Fireworks Boxcar | 19261 or 19262 Perils of Mickey Boxcars 24.95 |
| | 14005 | #456R Coal Ramp | 169.95 | 83655 | Hamm's Reer 44 9 | 52198 TCA Frisco Boycar 35.00 | 19265 Mickey 65th Birthday Hi-Cube Boxcar 35.00 |
| | 14085 14105 | Animated Newsstand | 89.95 | 83656 83657 | Coor's Beer 44.99 Miller's Beer 44.99 | 52195 LCCA CP Rail Double Stack Car | 19270 Donald Duck 60th Birthday Boxcar |
| | | #497 Coaling Station | 149.95 | 85248 | | 52232 Central RR of Long Island Boxcar | 19280 & 19281 Carrot/Wheat Mickey Boxcars 49.95 |
| | 14113 | Transfer Table w/14113 Extension | 295.00 | 192821 | 0 Malt Tonics Beer 56.95 | 52256 NLOE New York & Atlantic RR Boxcar 95.00 | 29205 Mickey Mouse Railroad Boxcar 35.00 |
| | 14158 | PWC #352 Icing Station | 89.95 | 212811 | 0 Budweiser 'This Bud for You' | 52260 LOTS Baltimore National Aqua. Car 95.00 | 19649 Scrooge McDuck Mint Car |
| | 14167 14171 | #213 Metal Liftbridge | 195.00 349.95 | 222030 L | 0 John Deere64.9 | 52261 LOTS Schlitz Beer Wooside Reefer 45.00 52264 TTOS Durango & Silverton Oper. Hopper 45.00 | 36254 Goofy Hi-Cube Boxcar |
| 2 | 22972 | Bascule Bridge-Black | 295.00 | 9827 | Cutty Shark Scotch Wiskey 45.00 | 52265 Milw.Rd Great Lakes Orange Aqua. Car 65.00 | 36257 Mickey Mouse Hi-Cube Boxcar 49.95 |
| | 22999 | Sound Dispatch Station | 69.95 | 9828 | J&B Whiskey | 52266 LCCA Penna. 4-Bay Coal Hopper | 36277 Pluto Hi-Cube Boxcar |
| | 24115 32904 | ARC/AMC Log Loader Hellgate Bridge (Green & Cream) | 159.95 150.00 | 9830 9834 | Johnny Walker Red Label | 52267 LCCA Penna. 4-Bay Coal Hopper | 36721 101 Dalamations Animated Gondola 79.95 36744 Little Mermaid Animated Aquarium Car 74.95 |
| | 32905 | Irvington Factory (sealed) | 375.00 | 9836 | Old Grand Dad Bourbon Wiskey 40.00 | 52309 LOTS Patriotic Uni-body Tank Car | 36745 Toy Story Animated Gondola |
| | 32910 | Coal Tipple | 395.00 | 9837 | Wild Turkey Whiskey 45.00 | 52333 TCA B&O Harmony Scale Milk Car 64.95 | 36781 Nemo Animated Aquarium Car |
| | 32921 32999 | #97 Electric Coaling Station | 169.95 | 9840 9841 | Fleischmann's Gin | 52337 Milw.Rd Great Lakes Silver Aquarium Car 49.95 52351 TTOS BNSF Icicle Reefer w/ETD75.00 | 36783 Mickey Operating Boxcar |
| | 37816 | Hellgate Bridge (Red & Cream) | 249.95 | 9843 | Tanqueray Gin | 52371 TTOS BNSF Iddle Regief W/E1D75.00 52370 CMStP&P Scale-Size Milk Car | 82721 Dumbo 75th Anniversary Boxcar |
| 8 | 33305 | Winter Covered 24" Bridge | 74.95 | 9845 | Bailey's Irish Cream | 52381 LOTS Virginian St 'O' Coal Hopper 55.00 | 83792 Goofy Happy Holiday Boxcar |
| 1 | 1929160 2129180 | Thomas Sir Topham Hat Gateman | 69.95 | 9844 9846 | Sambuca Romana 40.00 | 52384 TTOS Damage Conrtol Transparent Car 40.00 | 2028570 Toy Story Pizza Planet Aquarium Car 64.95 |
| | | T-Rex Elevated Fuel Tank Lionel Ale Elevated Beer Tank | | 9847 | Seagram's Vodka | 52385 Ward Kimball Grizzly Flats RR Boxcar 65.00 52410 TTOS S.P. Flatcar w/Pup Trailers 45.00 | 2128030 Pixar Monster Inc. Chasing Gondola 61.95 2228350 Monster Inc. SCARE Tank Car |
| 2 | 2129220 | Christmas Lighted Flagpole | . 19.95 | | Wolfschmidt Vodka | 52414 TCA D&RG 50' Flatcar w/Snowmobiles 75.00 | 2228360 Pixar Incredibles Operating Car 85.95 |
| | 2129230 | | 19.95 | 7701 | Camel | 52415 TCA Kids Club Sheriff & Outlaw Car 49.95 | 2228370 Toy Story Woody Walking Brakeman Car. 85.95 |
| | | Talking Passenger/Freight Station Halloween Covered Bridge-SALE | | 7702 7703 | Prince Albert | 52416 RR Museum of LI 125th Ann. Boxcar 75.00 52419 LOTS Touring Layout Operating Car 49.95 | 2335190 Mickey & Minne Mouse (RED) Handcar. 139.95 2401561 Disney D23 Mickey Mouse Boxcar 71.95 |
| 2 | 2129340 | Chevy's Lighted Flagpole | . 26.95 | 7706 | Sir Walter Raleigh | 52420 NLOE LIRR 80th Ann. Diesel Boxcar 49.95 | 2401562 Disney D23 Tinker Bell Boxcar |
| | | Ford Lighted Flagpole | | 7707 | White Owl | 52455 C&NW Uni-body Tank Car | 2401563 Disney D23 Toy Story Boxcar |
| | 2229030 2229210 | Train Order Building Xmas Deer Dash Transfer Dock-SALE | . 00.95 175.00 | 7708 7709 | Winston | 52456 LOTS Alpenrose Flatcar w/Milk Container 74.95 52466 CMStP&P 40-Ton Stock Car | 2401564 Disney D23 Lilo & Stitch Boxcar |
| 2 | 2229150 | Operating Firehouse (P-N-P) | 239.95 | 7710 | Salem Cigarettes | 52516 TCA MWD U.P. 6464-5909 Boxcar | 2401566 D23 Lionchief 0-8-0 Locomotive 179.95 |
| | 2229270 | Ind. Water Tower w/Graffitti Decals | . 57.95 | 16400 | LIONEL CHRISTMAS ITEMS | 52553 LOTS Tennessee Aguarium Car | LIONEL ORE CARS |
| 2 | 2329140 2329240 | O Grandpa's Workshop w/Sounds O Warner Bros. 100th Ann. Tower | . 53.95 . 64.95 | 16480 16785 | Lionelville Snow Transport Hopper | 52566 LOTS State of Maine St 'O' Boxcar 54.95 52570 LI Riverhead Building Supply Boxcar 59.95 | 6122 Penn Central |
| 2 | 2330050 | Midway Games 3-Pack w/Figures | 85.95 | 19438 | St 'O' Gondola w/Presents | 52571 LI Riverhead Grand Opening Boxcar 69.95 | 16305 Lehigh Valley 35.00 |
| | 14168 | Harry's Animated Barber Shop | | 26718 | Jingle Bells Railsounds Music Boxcar 75.00 | 52572 Mil.Road Reiman Aquarium Car 65.00 | 16385 Soo Line -OR- #19305 Chessie 30.00 |
| | 24113 | Hank's Operating Ford Dealership | 395.00 | 28427 36170 | Christmas Motorized Snowplow | 52586 NLOE Crade of Aviation F/C w/Trailer 64.95 | 17807 Burlington Northern w/Ore Load |
| 2 | 24182 | Operating Firehouse | 199.95 | 82739 | North Pole 6464-125 Boxcar 59.95 | 52592 NLOE Petland Discount Aquarium Car 89.95 | 17878 TTOS Magma -OR- #17886 Cyprus 30.00 |
| 3 | 32998 | Lionel Operating Hobby Shop | 395.00 | 84376 | Angela Trotta Signature Aquarium Car 49.95 | 58500 NLOE Firefighters Museum Tank Car 79.95 | 19300 Pennsylvania -OR - #19300 Milwaukee 25.00 |
| 2 | ະບ∠ອບປ 2129010 | Chugga Brew 1-Store Building Big Tatz Ink 1-Story Building | . 54.95 | 84378 212807 | Santa's Choice Oper. Milk Car/Platform 109.99 O Christmas Presents Oper. Dump Car 51.99 | | 19308 Great Northern w/Ore Load |
| 2 | 2129140 | Dr.LP Drips & Sons Plumbing 1-Story | . 54.95 | 212818 | 0 2021 Music Boxcar | 58216 TCA Merchant Dispatch Transit Reefer 64.95 | 19320 Pennsylvania w/Ore Load |
| - 2 | 2129150 | Domiant Jeans 2-Story Building Cowen's Towing Garage | 44 95 | 212825 | 60 SLED-EX Operating Transport Boxcar 57.95 | 58571 TCA Bethlehem Steel PS-1 Boxcar 99.95 | 19322 Chicago & Northwestern w/Ore Load 30.00 |
| 4 | 2129240 2229060 | Tough Guy Gym Building | 99.95 | 222812 222831 | | | 19961 Inspiration Consolidation Copper Co 30.00 52213 TTOS BHP Copper Ore |
| 2 | 2229110 | Thistle Flower Shop 3-Story Building | 89.95 | 232825 | 0 2023 Illuminated & Musical Boxcar 109.95 | 52063 TCA NYC Pacemaker Boxcar-Overstamp 150.00 | 52279 TTOS Dragoon & Northern |
| 2 | 2229130 | Miltary Surplus 3-Story Building | 99.95 | 232827 | O Snow Covered Xmas Tree Flatcar 79.95 | LIONEL SCALE-SIZE CLUB OFFERINGS | 52558 TTOM Port of Tuscon |
| 4 | 2229160 2229170 | Private Investigation Building Bail Bonds Corner Building | 79.95 | | O North Pole Legacy E8 w/7 21" Pass. Cars 2495.00 LIONEL 'CHRISTMAS' BOXCARS | 52346 LOTS D&H PS-2 Hopper Car 69 95 | 58262 TCA Union Pacific w/US Flag |
| 2 | 2229180 | Donut & Coffee Opposite Corner Bldg | 79.95 | 16547 | Happy Holiday SP-Type Caboose | 52376 TCA Great Northern REA Express Reefer 65.00 | 82703 Canadian National w/Ore Load |
| 2 | 2229190 | Budweiser Brewery | 164.95 | 19903 | 1987 -or- #19904 1988 | 52500 TCA ATSF Grand Canyon Steel Reefer 65.00 | LIONEL CRANE CARS |
| | 2229230 2229250 | Western Mercantile General Store Sheriff's Headquarters Building | | 19908 19918 | 1989 -or- #19910 1990 | 52543 LCCA BNSF Mechanial 57' Icicles Reefer 95.00 52576 TCA Crystal Creamery Milk Car 99.95 | 16644 Amtrak (orange & gray) |
| | 2329060 | Amtrak Passenger Station-SALE | 109.95 | 19929 | 1992 -or- #19922 1993 | 52576 TCA Crystal Clearnery Milk Car | 19412 Frisco |
| | | LIONEL BUILDING KITS | | 16291 | 1998 -or- #26243 1999 30.00 | 53581 LCCA Texas Special Milk Car 129.95 | 52008 TCA Erie Gray Bucyrus |
| | 2709 2718 | Rico Stationor 12718 Barrel Shed | 44.95 19.95 | 26272 19998 | 2000 | | 19897/29815 NYC w/Room Car TMCC Scale 400 05 |
| 2 | 2720 | or 12705 Lumber Shed | . 19.95 | 36253 | 2003 -or- #36274 2004 35.00 | 58228 LOTS Burlington Zephyr Sheathed Boxcar . 75.00 | 19897/29815 NYC w/Boom Car TMCC-Scale 499.95 29832 /33 Chessie w/Boom Car TMCC-Scale 594.95 |
| 2 | 2784 | or 12773 Freight Platform | 24.95 | 36295 | 2005 -or- #25033 2007 35.00 | 58509 N.S. Camouflage Lighted Flag PS-1 B/C 99.95 | MTH RAILKING AUTO CARRIERS |
| | 2788 12711 | Coaling Station | 49.95 29.95 | 25061 39332 | 2008 | 58593 LOTS H.K. Porter Double-Sheathed Boxcar \$79.95 83862 LOTS Philadelphia Double-Sheathed Boxcar \$99.95 | 30-7012B Electro-Motive Divison w/'57 Chevys 44.95 30-7628 MTH Transport '52 Cadlliac & '49 Coupes 49.95 |
| | | Automatic Ore Loader Kit | 59.95 | 6-2997 | 6 2012 (USA Made Version) 64.9 | LIONEL FLATCAR w/TRUCK & TRAILER | 30-7638 MTH Transport '67 Ponitac & '70 Nova 49.95 |
| 1 | 12734 | Passenger/Freight Station | 29.95 | 81733 | 2014 -or #82954 '2016'54.95 | 52099 Missouri Pacific F/C w/Magic Lionel T&T 35.00 | 30-7656 MTH Transport '57 Chevvs |
| | 12726 | Grain Elevator | 59.95 | 82691 | 2015 | | 30-7659 Santa Fe w/'52 Cadillac |
| | 12905 | or 12904 Coaling Station | 49.95 | 84747 | 2018 54.95 | 52167 Santa Fe F/C w/Navaio Tractor-Trailer 55 00 | 30-7666 MTH Transprort 67 Camaro & Sneiby 49.95 30-7674 Union Pacific w/Thunderbirds 59.95 |
| 1 | 12951 | Airport Hanger | 24.95 | 192845 | 0 2019 | 52180 Milwaukee Road F/C w/Preferred 45 T&T 45.00 | 30-7676 MTH Transport '57 Chrysler & Mercury 49.95 |
| 2 | 22915 | Municipal Building | 39.95 | 212809 | 0 2019 | 52222 SSW Flatcar w/Southern Pacific T&T 65.00 52392 PRR F/C w/Hood's Milk Tanker Truck 60.00 | 30-7682 New York Central w/'49 Mercurys |
| , |)ZZ IU | TOA NICU SIGNOT | . აუ.ჟე | 232024 | 0 2020-01-#2420010 2024 | 52392 PRR F/C w/Hood's Milk Tanker Truck 60.00 | 30-76078 Pennsylvania w/State Police Cars 99.95 |
| | | | | | | | |

LIONEL SET SPARKS **MEMORIES** AT **CHRISTMAS**

A train from 1950 recalls a loving grandfather

STORY BY PAUL MUSCHICK

or some people, the aroma that is most closely associated with Christmas is freshly baked cookies. For others, it's a wreath on the front door or cut pine. For me, however, it's the oily burn of my Lionel train set from the golden year of 1950 as it sparked across old sections of tubular track.

The electric train is one of the earliest memories I have of Christmas. I remember well it being on a white-sheeted platform that was then pushed under the decorated fir tree with tinsel icicles that filled the living room of my grandparents' home in Etna, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh.

These days, almost 75 years after Lionel No. 1467W made its debut, I will insist it doesn't feel like Christmas until the train gets rolling. It's how I keep my grandfather's memory alive. You see, he bought the train for my mother as a Christmas present when she was only two years old. Therefore, while the Lionel freight set technically was my mother's train, I will always associate it with my loving and thoughtful grandfather.

WHAT WE HAD

I was just four years old when my grandfather died. The simple O-27 train and everything packed with it, moved to our house in Plum, Pa., another Pittsburgh



Paul Muschick's mother, Janet, shown as a little girl with her parents, Joseph and Jane Farrell. The Lionel train set she received as a gift when she was young can be seen in the background.

suburb. Dad would always set it up under our Christmas tree, and we'd enjoy what was just a short oval of track; nothing fancy or out of the ordinary.

The two No. 2023 Union Pacific Alco diesels towing a Lehigh Valley hopper, a Sunoco double-dome tanker, a yellow stockcar, and, of course, a red caboose zipped past the manger and a handful of Plasticville buildings that never seemed to stay together very long.

That's probably because the Lionel train set (along with a flatcar we picked up somewhere along the way) was used as a toy by my brother and me. We'd build a city around it with our Matchbox and LEGO cars, pulling our fire engines in and out of the Plasticville fire station.

I don't recall when, but eventually the train stopped being a regular part of our Christmas. It stayed boxed up in the basement. Maybe it stopped working. More likely, the 4 x 8 platform was too big and we needed the room to host Christmas dinner. But even though we no longer used the train, I never forgot about it.

NEW TRADITIONS

I returned to the Pittsburgh area shortly after graduating from college and moved into an apartment. My first Christmas there, I asked my parents if I could have the train. Naturally, they

said yes, and I took the Union Pacific Alco engine and the transformer to a hobby shop in town for a tune-up. Soon, the Lionel train ran like it was 1950 again.

That was all my soon-to-be wife and I needed to get started on a new tradition. We bought a ceramic building every year, with the goal of creating a Christmas train village. Cars, horse-drawn sleighs and various figures were added. So were trees, mailboxes, streetlamps, fire hydrants and everything else you'd see in a small town.

The Christmas display is not to scale. Neither one of us is particular about that. To the contrary, we've mixed and matched items that caught our fancy, buying an illuminated lighthouse at a beach trinket shop and a ceramic farm at Walmart.



A Lionel No. 1467W Union Pacific Alco four-car freight set has been brightening up Christmas morning for generations of Paul Muschick's family since it was new in 1950. Besides matching diesels, the outfit featured the brand-new No. 6656 Lionel Lines stockcar.

The tradition continued even after we moved from Pennsylvania down to North Carolina. We expanded the plywood platform as our Christmas village grew. Needing more space, we moved it from beneath the tree to atop the pool

I WOULD HAVE BEEN

THAT HAD BEEN THE

END OF THE LIONEL

HEARTBROKEN IF

SET FROM 1950.

table in another room.

When I moved back to Pennsylvania in 2004, I had a new incentive to put up the train — our young son loved trains.

By then, the Christmas village was largely complete, so we started buying a new train car every year. Our son got to choose.

As the years passed, it came as no surprise that our son was growing out of his train phase. Meanwhile, our lives got busier raising a second little boy. Somehow or other, the old Lionel trains ended up staying packed away for many Christmases.

REVIVAL TIME

Even though the trains weren't a regular part of our Christmas, I missed them.

But assembling the platform, leveling the track, stringing the wires, and getting everything just right could take anywhere from six to eight hours. With everything else that needed to be done for the holidays, the Christmas village became a low priority.

I pulled it out again in 2020, for the first time in a while. I needed a pick-me-up as the pandemic worsened. Getting the Lionel train running again was great therapy.

I put it up for my mother as much as for

me. She enjoys seeing it because it brought back wonderful memories of her beloved father and childhood Christmases.

When I told her I was writing an article about the cherished train, she dug out a

few black-and-white photographs and sent them to me. They show her with the train, and my grandparents. You'll find one of them accompanying

this article. Too bad I don't have many photos of my grandfather, Joseph Farrell, otherwise known as Butch.

My mom wasn't able to travel to our house for Christmas in 2020 because of the pandemic. Instead of packing up the old Lionel train, I left it up so it would be ready when she and my father came to see us for Christmas the following year. It was in the basement on the pool table, which rarely is used anymore. My mother was glad to see the train.

The Lionel train is starting to show its age. The old cars don't couple well. That's fine, because the engine no longer has enough power to pull them all across the old track. Frankly, I'm just thankful the Lionel still runs, especially after the locomotive took a terrible tumble 15 years ago. It fell off the table while rounding a curve and the frame cracked when it hit the floor. Blame the engineer — I should have known better.

To the rescue came Hal, the owner of

Hal's Appliance & Train Shop in Wilson, Pa. He had serviced the vintage Lionel engine for me several times, and he easily patched it back together.

I would have been heartbroken if that had been the end of the Lionel set from 1950. I don't get sentimentally attached to many things; the old train is an exception.

I hope my sons decide to keep the tradition alive. I'd love to visit one of their homes and see the old gal sparking along and breathe in the smell of Christmas.



Want more stories of toy trains and the holidays? Our *Christmas & Electric Trains* special issue is available for purchase at shop.trains. com or by calling 877-243-4903. **SHOP.TRAINS.COM**

NO MORE OVERLOOKING LIONEL'S NO. D40 DISPLAY

Perhaps the greatest of its kind

STORY BY ROGER CARP

ostwar displays — just hearing these two words is all it takes to launch Lionel or American
Flyer fans into ecstasy. They rush to talk about the exciting operating layouts filled with the latest freight loaders and stations the two leading producers of electric trains had made available to authorized dealers throughout the 1950s.

Some of the greatest examples of those O and S gauge display layouts are shown and described in *Display Layouts and Showrooms*, the brand-new special-interest publication from the editorial and design teams associated with *Classic Toy Trains*. Among the gems honored in its 100 pages are Lionel's Nos. D-63 and D-265 and American Flyer's Nos. 301 and 400. Pristine examples of those postwar classics stand out.

Much as we wanted to honor those and other innovative and imaginative operating layouts, we knew as well that prior to the early 1950s, Lionel had put emphasis on a different type of display. Retail accounts found in the pages of its annual display listings an impressive product consisting of painted shelves rising over an elevated platform with an oval of O gauge track. The trend of offering what Lionel called "static displays" reached a peak with the No. D40 from 1951.

NOTABLE TREND

Why select the D40, when it had so much in common in terms of design and dimensions with similar pieces developed by Lionel for, say, 1948 or 1950?

Admittedly, the Nos. 10M and 11 from those two noteworthy years for Lionel do closely resemble the D40 from 1951. Just looking over the illustrations and descriptions of the three items found in the display catalogs reveals shared elements. There were four ascending white shelves



The No. D40 display Lionel offered dealers back in 1951 exemplified a trend in the design of promotional items that had its roots in the late 1930s. The 4 x 6-foot "step display" delighted two children photographed in an unidentified business. Photo courtesy Keith Olmanni

— "steps," to use Lionel's terminology — whose purpose was obvious. Dealers were invited to arrange sets on them to present some of their finest sets to children and adults walking the aisles.

In addition, the D40 and the similar-looking displays marketed previously all featured a 4 x 6-foot painted tabletop with a loop of track and a siding or inner line where an accessory or operating car might be demonstrated while a train ran. The exact layout of the O gauge track might differ slightly, but the aim did not. Lionel was providing dealers with a simple yet efficient way of showing customers how one of its electric trains plus a few new accessories operated.

Frankly, there was nothing novel about

those 4 x 6-foot step displays, at least not by the time that Lionel commemorated its golden anniversary in 1950. Members of the Display Department based at the firm's industrial facility in northern New Jersey had introduced promotional items of that nature in the late 1930s. Then, as is discussed in both *Display Layouts and Showrooms* and *Lionel Trains: Best Layouts and Store Displays* from 2015 (available in digital form at shop.trains.com), they had revived that trend immediately after World War II.

Lionel did work with a few outside businesses to offer enormous and expensive displays in the late 1940s. And maybe a few of those extraordinary items were purchased by major department stores. Most likely, however, retailers preferred smaller and more affordable 4 x 6-foot step displays, such as the 10M and 11.

WHY THE D40?

Let's now complete the previous sentence by recognizing the D40 as yet another of the best choices a dealer might have made. This leads us back to the original question of why consider it the best representative of this notable trend in how displays were envisioned and marketed during the final years of the prewar era and once more after Lionel had revived its Display Department after the war.

The words an unidentified copywriter used to extol the D40 in the Display Catalog for 1951 could reasonably have been applied to either the 10M or the 11.

All three were, to begin, "Handsomely and sturdily made of wood" and provided "Two-Sided Visibility" while being "beautifully decorated."

Further, each of them was constructed so a store owner might place it to stand along a wall or to serve as an "island" for better visibility in the middle of an open area. Lionel wanted its step displays to guarantee maximum versatility.

Finally, the base with track and landscaping might be sold to an eager customer following the busy shopping season ending at Christmas. Heck, an ambitious store manager might find someone who would buy the entire display.

What causes the D40 to rise above its peers? Objectively, Lionel insisted it was "Even better than our display of last year."



Lionel heralded the D40 in its display catalog for 1951 as beautiful and versatile. Besides four shelves on which to promote sets, it had a 4 x 6-foot layout for running a train and demonstrating a few accessories.

No surprise, of course, that advertising staff would declare the new item superior to the 11 made available in 1950; otherwise, how else were they to generate sales?

Subjectively, the D40 reigns because unlike virtually any other postwar display of any kind, a photograph exists of it standing in a store with children admiring it. Nowhere else can we observe the pleasure and excitement of a step display or

even an operating O or S gauge layout with accessories nurtured.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The black-and-white image snapped in an unnamed business actually does more than capture the wonderful reactions of two kids interacting with a postwar display. By studying the D40 shown and comparing it with both the one pictured in the catalog and a surviving example, we can discern how Lionel made changes.

As important, the artwork that was intended for the cardboard tower along the left side was modified. Pictures depicting "smoke" and "built-in whistle" and "real knuckle coupler" gave way to fundamental lettering in white. The semaphore on top also lost its announcement about "Magne-Traction."

The layout with an oval of track and an inner line using a pair of switches hardly changed. Neither did the accessories installed, although the location of the No. 154 Highway Flasher evidently was shifted back a few inches from the front.

Whoever had purchased the D40 shown in the black-and-white shot had been free to choose different sets to promote on the shelves. He had decided to use a larger and more powerful transformer while moving the No. 132 Passenger Station to the left side and sticking a leftover No. 156 Station Platform by it.

Feel free to keep studying the images of a D40 and see what else strikes you as important. For now, we're content to recall it as a truly great display.



Comparing this surviving example of a D40 display against the ones that are illustrated in the display catalog and shown in the vintage black-and-white photo sheds light about how Lionel modified the 4 x 6-foot item when crews were building and wiring it.



KANSAS CITY AND ITS O GAUGE MASTERPIECE

TW TrainWorx builds a great layout for Union Station Kansas City

ansas City means the heartland of America. It brings to mind the majesty of the Missouri River and the expeditions of Lewis and Clark. Kansas City signifies mouth-watering barbecue you can fight about which restaurant has the best.

Kansas City calls itself a sports capital, and who dares to argue about that claim with Patrick Mahomes and George Brett on their side? Kansas City gets your fingers snapping and your toes tapping, thanks to jazz pioneers Count Basie and Charlie Parker and blues shouters Big Joe Turner and Jimmy Rushing.

Kansas City means railroads — today and always. The Santa Fe and the Union Pacific dominated the scene; another giant was the Kansas City Southern. Personal

experience reminds me how popular O gauge and HO scale modeling have been for generations. You could spend weeks in town visiting great layouts.

Now, to the good fortune of railfans and modelers alike, one remarkable site can satisfy everyone. Union Station Kansas City, long one of the wondrous railroad stations in the U.S., has been beautifully restored to glory. Among the finest reasons to plan a visit is the tremendous three-rail display finished just a few years

HISTORIC SITE Our destination is one of the principal tourist attractions in Kansas City. Stop by the National World War I Museum and Memorial or the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum first. And don't leave town without spending time at the American Jazz Museum and the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures. But somewhere in

> The refurbished 110-year-old structure, still serving passenger traffic on a regular basis, promises fun and education. Depending on your interests, you can keep yourself occupied at the Science Center, the Irish Museum and Cultural Center. and the Center for Dance and Creativity. But most of the men and women reading CTT will want to walk if not sprint to the magnificent 20 x 27-foot layout.

between, get yourself down to Union Sta-

ago by the talented team of artisans that

Schweitzer has spent months compiling

the extensive list of toy train layouts and exhibits open to the public you'll find else-

where in this issue. I can't say that I've vis-

ited even half of them. Still, I will bet her

the outstanding O gauge display at Union

Station Kansas City can match any of them

when it comes to entertaining and inform-

ing you. Time for a visit!

tion Kansas City.

are affiliated with TW TrainWorx.

Classic Toy Trains Editor Rene

The full and formal name of the threerail exhibit is "All Aboard! Union Station Kansas City, Science City, Model Railroad Display." Quite a mouthful.



1 On a beautiful June day in 1930, a 4-6-2 Pacific decorated for the Chicago & Alton RR flies past the Kansas City Livestock Exchange. The steam engine and tender came from the Lionel catalog of 2008 (No. 38657); the structure was a custom-made piece for the 20 x 27-foot exhibit designed by TW TrainWorx.





This photo shared by TW TrainWorx shows the Union Station Kansas City Model Railroad Display right after its completion. Once everything was checked over and tested, crews would transport it to Kansas City and install it.

The big layout is nestled between the loading platforms built on the lower-track level of the facility. It was designed to pay tribute to and thus enlighten adults and kids about railroading in America and the social and cultural influence that key segment of the transportation industry has had over the past 200 years.

PRELIMINARY WORK

The story behind the layout, its design and construction, opened almost a decade ago. The Lionel Collectors Club of America planned to hold its 2016 annual national convention in Kansas City. In preparation, officers of the LCCA contacted TW Train-Worx, a highly respected layout-building

firm with shops in Concord, N.C., and its headquarters in Dallas, about constructing a replica of Union Station Kansas City.

The stunning model, which became a treasured addition to the Landmark Series developed by TW TrainWorx, went on display in Kansas City for the next year. Then in 2017, a local patron purchased the replica to donate to the station.

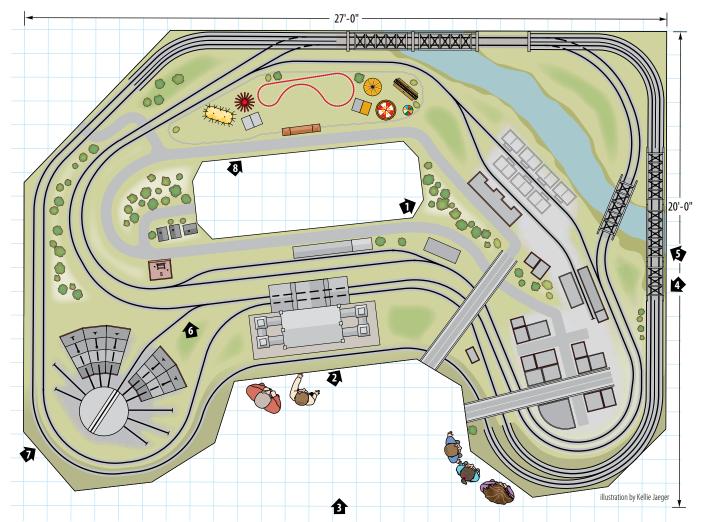
At the presentation ceremony, Union Station Kansas City Chief Executive Officer George Guastello spoke with Roger Farkash, founder of TW TrainWorx, about the history of the structure and the importance of railroading in the city. None of this was new to Roger, who had studied at the Kansas City Art Institute in the 1970s and spent endless hours exploring the station while watching trains.

The two men hit it off, and each expressed a wish to collaborate on an O gauge railroad for Union Station Kansas City. Their hopes became a reality in September of 2018, after several productive discussions with Director of Exhibits and Projects for Science City Jeff Rosenblatt. He encouraged Roger Farkash on behalf of TW TrainWorx to submit a proposal for building a three-rail display.

Months of effort by TW TrainWorx culminated in the acceptance of the firm's plan toward the end of 2018. Fine-tuning of the design went on during the following year until everyone involved was satisfied the proposed layout would fit into the designated space while meeting the overall



Refrigerator cars that are loaded with locally packed beef are rumbling out of Kansas City, bound for western markets. The action takes place on the O gauge layout at Union Station Kansas City, a magnificent operating display open to residents and tourists alike.



AT A GLANCE

Name: Union Station Kansas City **Model Railroad Display**

Gauge: 0

Dimensions: 20 x 27 feet

Track: GarGraves (maximum diameter is 84 inches)

Turnouts: Ross Custom Switches

Motive power and rolling stock: Atlas O, Lionel, MTH, 3rd Rail

Controls: Lionel CW-80 transformers

Accessories: Coaster Dynamics, Department 56, Lionel

Structures: Atlas O, Lionel, MTH,

scratchbuilt

Vehicles: Eligor, Ertl, Matchbox, Solido

Figures: Arttista, Preiser, Woodland

Scenics

The Union Station Kansas City Model Railroad Display has four independent O gauge loops plus several scale replicas of local landmarks designed and built by TW TrainWorx. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of the captioned pictures.



Mandering along the banks of the Missouri River, we suddenly stop to admire the Santa Fe freight train braking to a halt. The custom-made bridges, realistic water, and detailed structures testify to the wide range of modeling skills at TW TrainWorx.



6 Life is quiet and still on this Sunday morning almost 100 years ago. Families in the small houses have awakened and probably are now preparing to go to church.

goals of the leadership of Union Station Kansas City. Adequate funding was allocated, and work began.

RECREATE THE PAST

Designers and modelers at TW TrainWorx have over the past 20 years faced any number of hurdles when developing layouts for public facilities and private individuals. Even so, Roger Farkash and his wife and business partner, Dorcie Farkash, knew they faced some unique challenges before they had even cut the first piece of wood or soldered the first wire at Union Station Kansas City.

TW TrainWorx was being instructed to create a massive and advanced O gauge layout capable of appealing to young children as well as the adults the age of their parents and grandparents. The display

must be physically accessible to each and every visitor while also engaging them with ongoing activity and striking scenery.

Furthermore, Union Station Kansas City had requested several detailed replicas of notable structures and institutions in the city's history. Key people there wanted the exhibit to show viewers what life had been like from the 1920s through the 1950s, a span of three decades when Kansas City had undergone significant demographic, social, economic, political, and cultural changes.

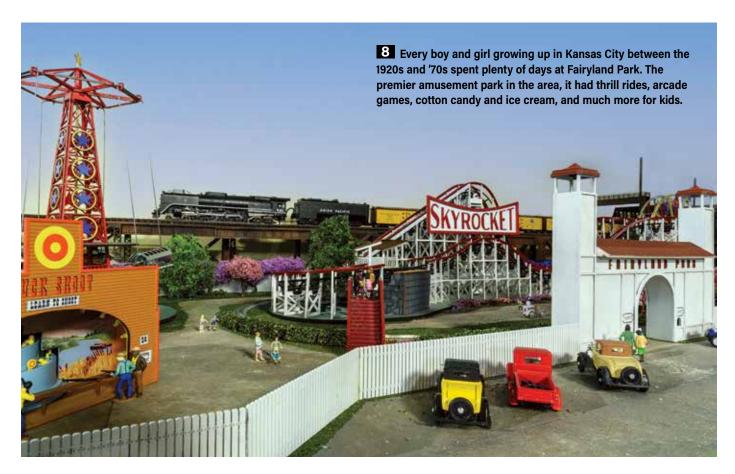
Needless to say, railroading in and around the city also had experienced incredible changes during that 30-year period. Somehow, sections of the 470-square-foot layout were expected to reflect and illustrate what had happened.

And, as a point understood by everyone involved as an absolute given, the layout would have to run flawlessly hour after hour and day after day. Trains must stay on the rails and never suffer an embarrassing short circuit or collision.

Push buttons were installed on the exterior of the display so museum attendees could activate lights and accessories and thus believe they were interacting with it simply could not fail. Otherwise, youngsters and other ticket holders might leave with feelings of disappointment and



The dedicated crew that finished servicing another of the 2-8-2 Mikados on the Kansas City Southern locomotive roster pauses from their labor to admire the powerful steam engine and tender gleaming in the sunlight...



frustration. To put it plainly, lots and lots had to go right. Still, the team at TW TrainWorx knew they were ready to go.

KID-FRIENDLY FOUNDATION

By the time TW TrainWorx received confirmation of its selection as the builder of the layout, its talented crews had standardized their methods for assembling benchwork, laying track, wiring transformers and electrical blocks, and crafting the landscaping. They had as well narrowed down the materials best suited for each of the tasks associated with those familiar steps in the process.

Consider the foundation. Recognizing that the O gauge model railroad was supposed to win the approval of boys and girls no older than 10 years of age, TW TrainWorx determined the main platform would be roughly 30 inches high. Even the youngest visitor, they concluded, would be able to watch all the trains pass by.

Better yet, the exhibit's design was going to include a wide tunnel through which kids could climb from the exterior to reach an open area in the center of the exhibit. That feature would let them check out the layout — its trains and many vignettes — from a perspective not available if they remained on the periphery.

ELECTRONIC BASICS

To operate a layout as large and complex as this one, Roger and Dorcie opted for what they describe as "modified conventional control." The railroad consists of four independent loops of track, each of which is controlled by three Lionel CW-80 transformers. And each of the loops has been divided into electrical blocks labeled, "Incline," "Level," and "Decline."

Roger added,

"Trains do not run continuously. Letting them go without interruption would mean replacing the locomotives too often. So, we installed push buttons to activate each loop of

track to involve visitors and added timers and relays that vary how long there's activity on each loop. It simplifies operation."

ALMOST FINISHED

Everything was moving toward completion by the early months of 2020. Computer-generated vinyl backdrops had been installed by the staff of the Science Center at Union Station Kansas City, and TW TrainWorx workers had done their magic with FlexCoat and acrylics for the streets.

Everything else paled in comparison to the replicas of the landmark structures that had defined Kansas City in the previous century. The greatness of TW Train-Worx comes out when making buildings.

"We begin," Dorcie said, "by using AutoCad programs to design the scale models. Historic photos provide guidance. So does going to the site to take measurements. If possible, we consult architectural

drawings. Next, the files are laser-cut or laser-resin-printed, using the best materials and assembled."

The custom-made stations, factories, businesses, and residential structures are

colored and weathered. So are "stock" structures made from parts from items by Atlas O, Korber, Lionel, and MTH.

Transporting the finished bridges and buildings from Dallas to Kansas City and settling them into their new homes on the layout went smoothly. Before long, the managers and personnel at Union Station Kansas City were finalizing plans to open the exhibit. All the preliminary work had come to a close, and soon throngs of visitors would arrive to see the layout.

TO SHOW VIEWERS WHAT LIFE HAD BEEN LIKE FROM THE 1920S THROUGH THE 1950S.

KEY PEOPLE THERE

WANTED THE EXHIBIT

TOYTRAIN LAYOUTS YOU CAN VISIT

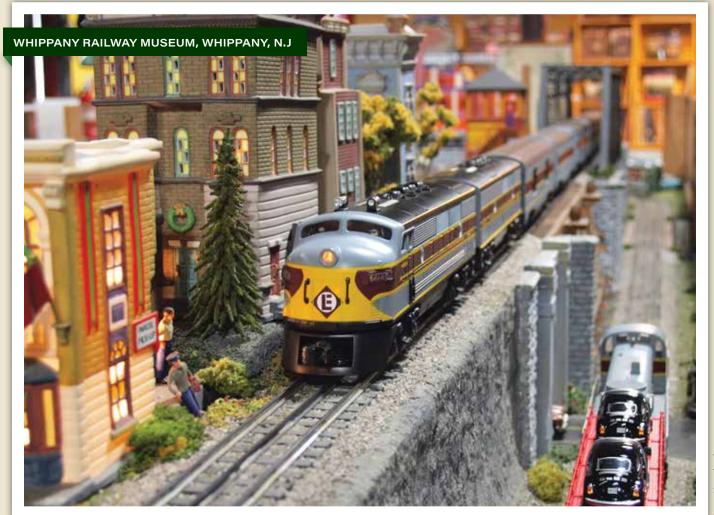
See some of the hobby's finest displays

STORY BY RENE SCHWEITZER

hortly after I became editor of *Classic Toy Trains* in 2023, I put out a request for toy train layouts open to the public. You, our readers, did not disappoint! I present this list of more than 80 locations you can visit from across the U.S. and Canada. It includes a variety of layouts, museums, hobby shops, and more.

While I have done my best to provide the most current information, you should call ahead before traveling any distance. The status of any location can change.

If your layout is not included here, please email me at editor@classictoytrains.com so I can continue building this list.



Steve Heavrin photo

ALABAMA

Foley Railroad Museum and Model Train Exhibit

125 E. Laurel Ave. Foley, AL 36535 **Phone:** 251-943-1818

Website: foleyrailroadmuseum.com **Open:** Tues, Thurs., Sat; check web-

site for hours O scale layout

ALASKA

Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry - Whitney Section House

3800 W. Museum Dr. Wasilla, AK 99564 **Phone:** 907-376-1211

Website: museumofalaska.org **Open:** May to September every day except Mon.; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 0 and S gauge layouts

ARIZONA

Gadsden-Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum

3975 N. Miller Ave. Tucson, AZ 85705

Phone: 520-888-2222 (recorded

message)

Website: gpdtoytrainmuseum.com **Open:** Second and fourth Sun. of each month except June, July, and August. See website for calendar. Standard, O, and S gauge layouts

Kingman Railroad Museum

401 E. Andy Devine Ave. Kingman, AZ 86401 Phone: 928-753-7995 Website: facebook.com/ kingmanrailroadmuseum Open: Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m O gauge layout

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

7301 E. Indian Bend Scottsdale, AZ 85250 **Phone:** 480-312-2312 **Website:** therailroadpark.com **Open:** Daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

O gauge layout

CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Central Railroad Society

Alameda Cty. Fairgrounds (Gate 12) 2005 Valley Ave.

Pleasanton, CA 94566 Email: info@accrs.org Website: accrs.org

Open: Friday, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; special

events and open houses

0 gauge layout

Bosse Toy Train Museum

1303 State St.

Santa Barbara, CA 93101 **Phone:** 805-708-4444

Website: bossetoytrainmuseum.org **Open:** By appointment. Call or visit

website to schedule.

O gauge layout and collection

California State Railroad Museum

111 "I" St.

Sacramento, CA 95814 **Phone:** 916-445-6645

Website: californiastaterailroad

museum.org

Open: Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Standard and 0 gauge layouts

Carquinez Toy Train Museum

645 Loring Ave. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 **Phone:** 510-722-3323 **Website:** cttom.org

Open: See website for events and

general meetings

O gauge layout and museum

Golden State Model Railroad Museum

900-A Dorman Dr. Point Richmond, CA 94801 **Phone:** 510-234-4884 (recorded

message)

Website: gsmrm.org/index.shtml **Open:** April-November, Sun. noon to 5 p.m.; other events on website

0 scale layout

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Balboa Park, 1649 El Prado St. San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-696-0199 Website: sdmrm.org

Open: Tue., Wed., Thur., Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

0 gauge layout



San Diego S Gaugers

Grossmont Center 5500 Grossmont Center La Mesa, CA 91942

Website: sites.google.com/site/

sdsgaugers

Open: Tues., Sat. noon to 5 p.m.; see

website for special events

S gauge layout

San Leandro Railway Historical Society

1302 Orchard Ave. San Leandro, CA 94577 **Phone:** 510-569-2490 **Website:** slhrs.org

Open: Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; special events online

O gauge layout

COLORADO

Colorado Railroad Museum

680 10th St.
Greeley, CO 80631
Website: cmrm.org
Phone: 970-392-2934
Open: year round
O gauge layout, Lionel collection

3 3 7 .

Frisco Historic Park & Museum

1 Main St. Frisco, CO 80443 Phone: 970-668-3428 Website: townoffrisco.com

Open: Year round; hours vary; con-

tact for current hours

O gauge layout; free self-guided tour

CONNECTICUT

Boothe Memorial Railway Society

Boothe Memorial Park 5800 Main Street Putney Stratford, CT 06614

Email: bmrailways@gmail.com Website: bmrailways.com Open: Year round. Email or see online calendar for events. 0, S gauge layouts

Connecticut Society of Ferroequinologists & Model Railway Engineers

Time Machine Hobby

71 Hilliard St.

Manchester, CT 06042 **Phone:** 860-646-0610

Website: timemachinehobby.com **Open:** First & third Sunday of each month, 1 to 4 p.m. Call for informa-

tion.

0 gauge layout

FLORIDA

Beaches Museum

381 Beach Blvd.

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Phone: 904-241-5657, info@beaches

museum.org

Website: beachesmuseum.org **Open:** Tues.-Sun.; check website for

special events O gauge layout

Gold Coast Railroad Museum

12450 S.W. 152nd St. Miami, FL 33177 **Phone:** 305-253-0063

Website: goldcoastrailroadmuseum.

org

Museum: Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Model Train Building: Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m. to 4

O gauge layout

Naples Lionel Train Museum

1051 Fifth Ave. S. Naples, FL 34102 **Phone:** 239-262-1776

Website: explorenaples.com (select

museums)

Open: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

0 gauge layout

GEORGIA

Legacy Station (hobby shop)

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy. No. 12 Lilburn, GA 30047 **Phone:** 770-339-7780 **Website:** legacystation.com

Open: Year round O gauge layout

Trainmaster Models (hobby shop)

601 E. Main St. Buford, GA 30518 **Phone:** 678-546-3600

Website: trainmastermodels.com

Open: Year round O gauge layout

HAWAII

Toy Train Museum Hawaiian Railway Society

91-1001 Renton Rd. Ewa, HI 96706 **Phone:** 808-681-5461

Website: hawaiianrailway.com/ ToyTrainMuseum.php

Open: Wed., noon to 1 p.m., Sat-Sun.,

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. O gauge layout

ILLINOIS

Illinois Railway Museum

7000 Olson Rd. Union, IL 60180 **Phone:** 815-923-4391 **Website:** irm.org

Open: Wed., Sat., Sun., 10 a.m. to 4

p.m.

0 gauge railway

INDIANA

Mr. Muffin's Train Layout

163 E. Main St. Atlanta, IN 46031

Website: mrmuffinstrains.com **Open:** Sat., 10 am. to 4 p.m. or by

appointment

O gauge layout and collection; Mr. Muffin's Trains hobby store located

at 177 W. Main

National New York Central RR Museum

Box 1708
721 S. Main St.
Elkhart, IN 46515
Phone: 574-294-3001
Website: elkhartindiana.org
Open: Tue., Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat. 10
a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. noon to 4 p.m.
O gauge layout

IOWA

Sioux City Railroad Museum

3400 Sioux River Rd. 1A Hwy. 12 North Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Sioux City, IA 51102

Phone: 712-233-6996

Website: siouxcityrailroadmuseum.

org

Open: Thurs.-Sun. O gauge layout

KANSAS

Exploration Place

300 N. McLean Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 **Phone:** 316-660-0600 **Website:** exploration.org

Open: year round; see website for

hours

O gauge layout

Wichita Toy Train Museum

130 Laura St. Wichita, KS 67211 **Phone:** 316-633-1179

Website: wichitatoytrainmuseum.

org

Open: year round; Sat., 10 a.m. to 5

n.m.

O gauge layouts; S gauge layout

KENTUCKY

Nostalgia Station Toy & Train Museum

279 Depot St. Versailles, KY 40383

Phone: 859-873-2497 **Open:** Wed.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Website: nostalgiastationmuseum.

com

O gauge layouts and collection

MARYLAND

Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum

296 Burhans Blvd. Hagerstown, MD 21741 **Phone:** 301-739-4665 **Open:** Fri.-Sun., noon to 4 p.m. **Website:** roundhouse.org O gauge and seasonal layouts

Sykesville & Patapsco Ry.

731 Oklahoma Ave.

Sykesville, MD 21784-7363. **Phone:** 443-280-9878

Email: contact@sprailway.com
Website: facebook.com/sprailway
Open: See website for open house

schedule

O and S gauge layouts

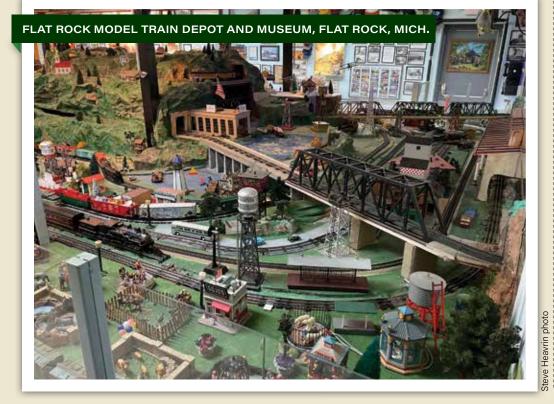
MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State Model Railroad Museum

760 South St. Roslindale, MA 02131 **Phone:** 617-327-4341 **Website:** bsmrm.org

Open: Open houses/special events. Book a visit via the website or email

info@bsmrm.org O gauge layout



Hilltop Plaza

180 Route 6A Unit 3A. Lower Level

Orleans, MA 02653 Website: nausetmodelrrclub.com Open: See website for open house

schedule

O and S gauge layouts

Wenham Museum

Bennett E. Merry Train Gallery 132 Main St. Wenham, MA 01984

Phone: 978-468-2377

Website: wenhammuseum.org Open: Tue. through Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Summer hours may vary. 0 and large scale layouts

MICHIGAN

The Henry Ford

20900 Oakwood Boulevard Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 Phone: 313-982-6001 Website: thehenryford.org Open: year round O gauge layout

Flat Rock Model Train Depot and Museum

28700 Arsenal Rd. Flat Rock MI 48134 Phone: 734-782-2786

Website: none; find on Facebook Open: weekends, October-April, 1 to

4 p.m.

O and S gauge layouts; displays of O, Standard gauge, and large scale

items

MINNESOTA

Crosslake Train Club

36184 County Rd. 66 Crosslake, MN 56442 Phone: 218-692-1900

Website: crosslaketrainclub.com Open: Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wed.

hours during summer

O gauge and large scale layouts

Twin City Model Railroad Museum

668 Transfer Rd., Ste. 8 St. Paul, MN 55114 Phone: 651-647-9628

Website: tcmrm.org Open: See website for hours and

open house schedule 0 scale layout

MISSOURI

Big River Train Town

320 N. Third St. Hannibal, MO 63401 Phone: 573-221-1966 Website: visithannibal.com

Open: Mon. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 5

p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

0 gauge layout

KC Rail Experience

30 W. Pershing Rd. Kansas City, MO 64108 Phone: 816-460-2020 Website: unionstation.org

Open: year round; check website for

more info

O gauge and large scale layouts

MISSISSIPPI

TrainTastic (formerly Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum)

615 Pass Rd. Gulfport, MS 39507 Phone: 228-284-5731 Website: traintastic.com

Open: Year round: check website for

Layouts in multiple scales, including

I FGO

NEW JERSEY

Cape Atlantic Model Railroad Club

599 Marks Rd.

Somers Point, NJ 08244

Phone: John Barbieri, 609-517-9064 Email: capeatlanticmodelrailroad@

gmail.com O gauge layout

Morris Museum

6 Normandy Heights Rd.

Morristown, NJ 07960 Phone: 973-971-3700

Website: morrismuseum.org Open: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

O gauge layout

New Jersey Hi-Railers Train Club

185 Sixth Ave. Paterson, NJ 07524 Phone: 973-553-1555 Website: njhirailers.com Open: check website for shows/

open houses 0 gauge layout

New York Society of Model Engineers

341 Hoboken Rd., Carlstadt, NJ 07072 Phone: 201-939-9212

Website: modelengineers.org Open: Wed. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Visit web-

site for events. 0 scale layout

Northlandz

495 Rt. 202

Flemington, NJ 08822 Phone: 908-782-4022 Website: northlandz.com

Open: Thurs.-Monday, 10 a.m. to 6

O gauge layout

Ocean County Society of Model Railroaders

500 Country Club Dr. Lakewood, NJ 08701 Phone: 732-363-7799 Website: ocsmr.com

Open: Tues. & Fri., 6:30-10 p.m. and

by appointment S and O gauge layouts

Whippany Railway Museum

PO Box 16

Whippany, NJ 07981-0016 Phone: 973-887-8177

Website: whippanyrailwaymuseum.

Open: year round; see website for

hours

0 gauge layout

NEBRASKA

Nebraska-Iowa Railroaders layout

Oak View Mall, first floor 3001 S. 144th St. Omaha, NE 68144

Website: nebraskaiowarailroaders.

com, oakviewmall.com

Open: Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See web-

site for special events

O scale layout; elevated large scale

track

NEW YORK

Edgerton Model Railroad

Edgerton Recreation Center 41 Backus St. Rochester, NY 14608 Phone: 585-428-6769 Website: cityofrochester.gov Open: Last Sat. of the month, 11 am.

to 2 p.m.; also by appointment

0 gauge layout

More places to visit

A collection of 500+ railroad destinations across the U.S. and Canada is available in the newly redesigned 10th edition of the *Tourist Train Guide*book! For sale at shop.trains.com

Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad

136 E. Main St. Milford, NY 13807

Phone: 607-432-2429 (not actively monitored, prefer email at cacvrr@

vahoo.com)

Website: www.lrhs.com

Open: March-December. See web-

site for schedule.

Lionel postwar D-131 layout in Milford

depot

Manchester Model Railroad Association

103 S. Main St. Manchester, NY 14504 Phone: 585-478-4269 Website: mmra1853.org

Open: Third Sunday of the month

O scale layout

Train Masters of Babylon layout

Upper Room Christian Center 722 Deer Park Ave.

Dix Hills, NY 11746 Phone: 631-486-0986

Email: tmbtrainclub@gmail.com Website: www.tmbmodeltrainclub.

Open: Hours vary by season; check

website O gauge layout



Railroad Museum of Long Island

40 Fourth St. Greenport, NY 11944 Phone: 631-477-0439 Website: rmli.org

Open: Hours vary; check website

O gauge layout

NORTH CAROLINA

Ablemarle Railroad Club

1051 Hwy. 17 S. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Phone: 252-430-4630

Email: sutphen2116@outlook.com **Open:** Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

extended hours Nov.-Dec. S and O gauge layouts

Great Smoky Mountain Railroad

45 Mitchell St. Bryson City, NC 28713 Phone: 800-872-4681 Website: gsmr.com

Open: Times vary by month (consult

website) O gauge layouts

OHIO

Central Ohio Model Railroad Club

6471 Proprietors Rd. Worthington OH 43085 Website: comrc.club

Open: See website for schedule

0 and S scale layouts

Cincinnati Museum Center

1301 Western Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45203 Phone: 800-733-2077

Email: information@cincymuseum.

Website: cincymuseum.org Open: Weekdays, Sat. 10 a.m. to 5

p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. S gauge layout

Corner Field Model Railroad Museum and Hobby

16720 Pioneer Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062 Phone: 440-636-5162

Website: cornerfieldmodelrailroad

museumandhobby.com Open: Year round

O gauge layout and hobby store

EnterTrainment Junction

7379 Squire Ct.

West Chester, OH 45069 **Phone:** 513-898-8000

Website: entertrainmentjunction.

Open: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.;

Sun., Noon. to 6 p.m.

Large scale layout and museum **Note**: Venue closing permanently

after 12/31/24.

OKLAHOMA

RS & K Railroad Museum

411 N. Sixth St. Sayre, OK 73662 Phone: 580-928-3525 Website: sayreok.net Open: Daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Multiple gauge layouts

Science Museum Oklahoma

2020 Remington Pl. Oklahoma City, OK 73111 Phone: 405-602-6664

Website: sciencemuseumok.org

Open: year round

Tiny Tracks model train exhibit

PENNSYLVANIA

Choo Choo Barn

Route 741 E. 226 Gap Rd. Strasburg, PA 1757 Phone: 717-687-7911

Website: choochoobarn.com

Open: year round

O gauge layout and hobby shop

Milton Model Train Museum

139 S. Front St. Milton, PA 17847 Phone: 570-742-7377

Website: miltonmodeltrainmuseum.

Open: See Facebook page for schedule: facebook.com/miltonmodel

trainmuseumofpa O gauge layout

Miniature Railroad & Village

Carnegie Science Center 1 Allegheny Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Phone: 412-237-3400

Website: carnegiesciencecenter. org/exhibits/miniature-railroad/ Open: Wed.-Mon., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

O gauge layout

National Toy Train Museum

300 Paradise Ln. Strasburg, PA 17572 Phone: 717-687-8976 Website: www.tcatrains.org/

museum

Open: April-Dec., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. G, O, S, Standard gauge, and LEGO

layouts

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

300 Gap Rd. Strasburg, PA 17579 Phone: 717-687-8628 Website: rrmuseumpa.org Open: Wed.-Sun.; see website O gauge, O scale, S gauge/scale, large scale layouts

Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum

5507 Lakeside Dr. Gibsonia, PA 15044 Phone: 724-444-6944 Website: wpmrm.org

Open: Nov.-Jan. Group tours available by emailing groupinfo@wpmrm.org

O gauge layout

SOUTH CAROLINA

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia

1800 Lincoln St. Columbia, SC 29201 Website: amroc.org Open: Thursday nights 0, S, and large scale layouts

Grand Strand Model Railroaders

Myrtle Beach Mall 10177 N. Kings Hwy. Myrtle Beach SC, 29572 Phone: 834-273-4625 Website: gsmrrc.org

Open: Wed., noon to 4 p.m.; Sat., 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. O gauge layout

Central Texas Area Model Railroaders

403 W. Ave. B

Temple, TX 76501

Email: centramodrrclub@gmail.com

Website: centramodrr.com Open: First and third Saturdays of

the month, 1 to 5 p.m. O scale, large scale layouts

Eagle Lake Depot Museum

322 E. Main St. Eagle Lake, TX 77434

Email: stationagent@eaglelakede-

pot.org

Website: eaglelakedepot.org Open: Second and fourth Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 0 scale layout

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

1501 Gaylord Trail Grapevine, TX 76051 Phone: 877-491-5138 Website: marriott.com/en-us/ hotels/dalgt-gaylord-texan-resortand-convention-center/overview/ Open: year round

O gauge and large scale layouts

Leonard's Department Store Museum

200 Carroll St. Fort Worth, TX 76107-1900 Phone: 817-336-9111 Website: facebook.com/ LeonardsMuseum Open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Restored Lionel postwar D-147 display layout

Lone Star Hi-Railers layout

410 West Dallas Rd.

Grapevine, TX 75061 Website: lonestarhirailers.com Open: Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun,

noon to 3 p.m.

O scale layout in baggage car

Texas Transportation Museum

11731 Wetmore Rd. San Antonio, TX 78247 Phone: 210-490-3554

Website: txtransportationmuseum.

org

Open: Thur., Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat.,

Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

O and Standard gauge layouts

VIRGINIA

Bevell's Hardware

109 N. High St. Blackstone, VA 23824 Phone: 434-292-7208

Open: Thanksgiving into the following January. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday

noon to 4 p.m. O gauge layout

Children's Museum of Virginia

21 High St.

Portsmouth, VA 23704 Phone: 757-393-5258

Website: childrensmuseumvirginia.

Open: Mondays, Memorial Day

through Labor Day

O gauge layout and vintage trains

Virginia Museum of Transportation

303 Norfolk Ave. Roanoke, VA 24016 Phone: 540-342-5670 Website: vmt.org

Open: Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. O gauge layout

WEST VIRGINIA

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

610 Green St. Parkersburg, WV 26101 Website: movmrc.org

Open: Tue., Thur. evenings and dur-

ing club events

S gauge layout open: Second and fourth Thur. of each month and dur-

ing club events O gauge layout

Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum

144 Kruger St. Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-242-8133 or 877-242-

8133

Email: museum@toyandtrain.com Website: toyandtrain.com

Open: January 2 to Memorial Day, Sat., Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; after

Memorial Day to December 31, daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

O gauge and large scale layouts

Oglebay Park Good Zoo

465 Lodge Dr. Wheeling, WV 26003 Phone: 304-243-4030 Website: oglebay-resort.com/

goodzoo/train

Open: Daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

O gauge layout

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club

2721 S. Calhoun Rd. New Berlin, WI 53151 Phone: 262-754-9900 Website: milw-lrrc.com

Open: Fri. 1 to 10 p.m.; plus special

O and Standard gauge layouts

Toy Train Barn Museum

W. 9141 Hwy. 81 Argyle, WI 53504 Phone: 608-966-1464 Website: whrc-wi.org/trainbarn

Open: Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; O gauge, large scale layouts

VIRGINIA

Rappahannock Model Railroaders

406H Hudgins Rd. Fredericksburg, VA 22408 Website: rmrailroaders.com Open: open houses at clubhouse; community events/ shows Dual O/S gauge club layout

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Model Trains Museum

1502 Duranleau St. Granville Island Vancouver, V6H 3S4 Phone: 604-683-1939

Open: Daily except Mon. 10 a.m. to

5:30 p.m.

Standard and O gauge layouts

ONTARIO

Moore Museum

94 Moore Line Mooretown Ontario NON 1MO Phone: 519-867-2020 Website: mooremuseum.ca Open: Hours vary based on time of

year; call or see website O gauge layouts

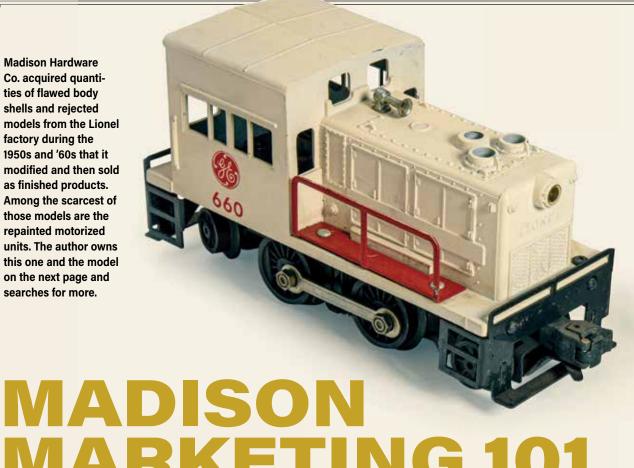
View photos of the former B&O O-scale layout at the "Holiday Trains" exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center. See more in the Winter 2024 issue of Classic Trains magazine.





Rene Schweitzer photo

Madison Hardware Co. acquired quantities of flawed body shells and rejected models from the Lionel factory during the 1950s and '60s that it modified and then sold as finished products. Among the scarcest of those models are the repainted motorized units. The author owns this one and the model on the next page and searches for more.



MARKETING 101

Special Lionel models created by that famous retailer

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAUL LEONE PETERS

adison Hardware Co. in New York City was the repository of a wealth of "excess" product from the Lionel Corp. in the 1950s and '60s in the form of unsold production or rejected stock. As late as the 1970s, a trip to 105 E. 23rd St. in Manhattan still turned up unfinished heavyweight passenger car shells, for example, or less-than-perfect bodies for just about every type of GG1. That, of course, was in addition to the mint, cataloged items from all eras of production. Less recognized was the way owner Lou Shur and his brother, Carl Shaw, tried to move some of that flawed and excess stock by creating special "road name pieces."

Never shy about repainting old Lionel body shells – or even creating their own reproductions of various Lionel models -

workers at Madison Hardware produced many custom-made items, in quantity, to move otherwise damaged or lackluster production. Those special pieces included various passenger cars, motorized units, and tank cars, all in road names not issued by Lionel on its regular-production items.

HEAVYWEIGHT CARS

The most familiar and controversial of those models probably are the heavyweight passenger cars lettered for the Pennsylvania RR. Madison Hardware evidently acquired a large quantity of incomplete or flawed body shells and assembled yet damaged heavyweight cars, probably due to the problems Lionel experienced when manufacturing and decorating those models in the late 1940s. There were issues related to the

paint adhering to the Bakelite bodies, the brittle nature of the castings themselves, and Lionel's inexperience in dealing with the relatively new processes involved in their production.

While Madison Hardware did offer some of the better shells for sale as they were, Lou Shur unloaded the rest by retouching or repainting them and adding yellow-lettered decals for "Pennsylvania" plus the "Madison," "Manhattan," and "Irvington" car names used on the production models, along with the corresponding car numbers.

Joey Lomando, Madison's clever craftsman and serviceman under the stairs, then mounted the redecorated bodies onto the appropriate frames and trucks. Those passenger cars, along with reproductions of the scale tender used with New York Central J-1e Hudson



steam locomotives, were among the items regularly listed in the small partial-page ads Madison used to place in *Model Rail-roader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazines in the 1950s and '60s.

M.U. CARS AND STREAMLINERS

Showing more initiative and craftsmanship, Joey went a few steps further with some of the heavyweights by converting them to multiple-unit interurbans, known as M.U. cars. To do so, he first replaced the six-wheel trucks with powered and dummy trucks from Lionel's early Alco FA-1 diesels. Then he added GG1 pantographs mounted on bushings from the parts bins, along with headlight castings from No. 2403 scale slope-back tenders, among other detail items.

Madison M.U. cars are quite hard to find today (although replicas, using different parts, have surfaced). The Pennsy heavyweights are a bit more common.

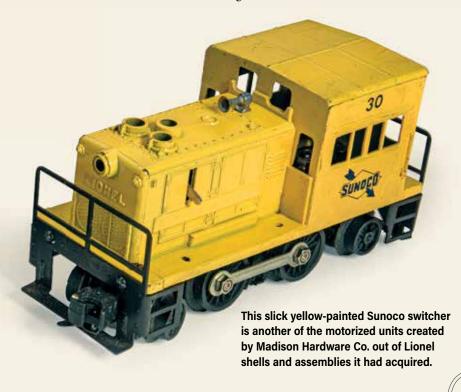
Not surprisingly, Madison also modified rejected body shells of extruded aluminum streamlined passenger cars. They painted and lettered them for road names other than Lionel Lines even before Lionel started to do so in 1955 with the Pennsylvania RR for the newly cataloged No. 2254W *Congressional* outfit.

Madison Hardware repaints — decorated for the Baltimore & Ohio, Pennsylvania RR, and Santa Fe, among other

road names — had what I thought at the time were custom-made aluminum letter boards for the railroad and car names. However, I later realized that Madison's workers used parts from the similar streamliners once made by American Model Toys that plainly inspired the repaints. A nice selection of the custom aluminum cars filled a display case below the sales counter at the back of the store.

MOTORIZED UNITS

Among the many interesting pieces – original Lionel production and otherwise – displayed on the shelves along the wall to the right of the sales counter at Madison were some custom-painted motorized units. I remember seeing several of those small models, mostly the drab Nos. 41 U.S. Army and 42 Picatinny Arsenal gas-turbine switchers, that Madison



repainted and lettered in a handful of colorful schemes. Specifically, I recall models lettered for Esso, Ford, GE, Sunoco, and Union Pacific, although there may have been others.

STILL OTHERS

Madison also created a range of singleand double dome tank cars that I'll focus on in another article. And it had clever ways to use its huge Lionel parts inventory, notably by producing accessories, like dwarf signals! Maybe this article will inspire other collectors to share pictures and information of other custom items from that era of Madison Hardware.

Postwar enthusiasts like me acknowledge that none of these different models represent original Lionel production. But

we believe the close connection between the original Lionel Corp. and Madison Hardware Co. lends them an air of semilegitimacy, if not a collectible value.

What else? Lou Shur and his brother commissioned repaints of seemingly every F3 road name for which they no longer had original replacement bodies. They also created reproductions of many accessory parts and flatcar loads, such as baggage carts for the No. 356 Operating Freight Stations and automobiles for the No. 6414 Evans Auto Loaders. In doing so, Madison Hardware helped to launch the pervasive Lionel reproduction parts industry that still confounds collectors.

But that, of course, is another story for another time.



What postwar enthusiast wouldn't want to own some of the Lionel extruded aluminum passenger cars that Madison Hardware Co. painted and lettered for full-size railroads? The author prizes his Pennsylvania RR and Santa Fe streamliners.







ANOTHER COLLECTOR WEIGHS IN

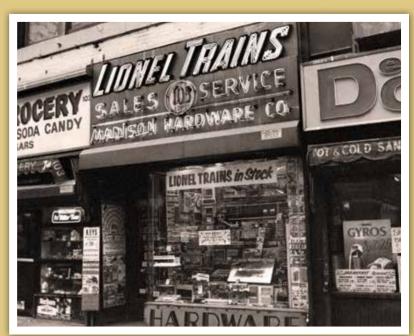
Madison Hardware's "manufacturing" efforts started even before the heavyweight passenger cars it sold in the 1950s. The earliest example that I could definitively date was a pair of American Flyer tinplate passenger cars from 1940. The A.C. Gilbert Co. originally equipped the Nos. 494 baggage car and 495 coach with four-wheel O gauge trucks and link couplers. Madison modified them by substituting prewar Lionel trucks.

During World War II, when toy train production was prohibited, Madison made 0-27 freight cars using miscellaneous Lionel parts. Take my orange-and-black boxcar (see photo at lower right). Its wood frame was cut precisely and painstakingly

sanded to fit a repainted Lionel No. 2679 Baby Ruth boxcar shell. Mint prewar trucks were screwed into the frame.

Other examples include tank cars made from No. 6080 shells mounted on wood frames and gondolas with metal frames.

Trains were cobbled together in the 1950s, too. Someone at Madison cut a slot in the top of a silver-painted shell for a No. 2023 Union Pacific Alco FA diesel from about 1951. This let the E-unit lever from a later-model No. 200-series Alco frame and motor arrangement fit through. To finish this diesel, a No. 2333/2343 F3-type pilot was mounted on the lead truck, which was then screwed into the frame. — *Tim Weigard*



Lionel collector Dennis Monsen, along with Paul Leone Peters, was a frequent customer at Madison Hardware and knew owner Lou Shur and his brother, Carl Shaw. Dennis snapped this picture of the unassuming exterior sometime in the 1970s.



Three of the freight cars Madison cobbled together during WWII out of Lionel parts.

William Zuback photo

Rehab a Lionel No. 38 Operating Water Tower

How to troubleshoot and get your tower pumping again

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIM BIELANSKI

hen showing my O gauge layout to friends, they gravitate toward the Lionel No. 38 Operating Water Tower. They're amazed at how water is pumped out of the tank into a hidden storage reservoir under the roof, which gives the illusion it is being dispensed into the tender below.

My early attempts at making it work were messy. Unfortunately, the tubing Lionel used to connect the internal pump to the double walled tank and storage reservoir did not react well with the polyurethane used in the amber colored tank.

I was able to secure new fittings from a local pet store (aquarium tank parts) and glued them in place after removing the damaged ones and cleaning the tank mating surface and trimming the new nipples to size.



PUMP BASICS

The rotation of the drive and idler gears (drive gear rotating counterclockwise and idler gear turning clockwise) creates a low-pressure effect at the suction port. That suction pulls water into the pump chamber as the gears force the water to the other side of the pump chamber, where it is expelled at the pressure, or discharge, port.

In the 38, the suction port is connected to the bottom nipple of the double-walled water tank and the discharge port is connected to the top nipple on the reservoir tank hidden under the roof. When the pump is activated, water is sucked from the double-walled side of the tank and discharged into the storage reservoir under the roof. When the pump is turned off, gravity allows the water in the reservoir at the top to flow back into the double-walled tank.

NEW TUBING AND FITTINGS

Using aquarium tank parts, cut a new nipple you've trimmed to the thickness of the inner tank wall. Be sure the trimmed nipple does not touch the outer wall of the tank and interfere with water flow and that the nipple is clear of any debris from cutting (**Photo 1**).

Remove old tubing and then clean the old hole with a small file until the surface is even with the inner tank wall. Re-open the old hole by using a drill bit that fits snugly through the old hole. By hand, turn the bit carefully until it turns freely (**Photo 2**). Be sure not to cut into the outer wall of the tank. Use progressively larger bits until the newly trimmed nipple fits securely through the inner wall of the tank.

Install the new nipple to the inner tank wall by applying cyanoacrylate adhesive (commonly known as CA cement or super glue) to the portion of the new nipple that will contact the surfaces of the tank wall. Secure with a clamp until the CA has dried (**Photo 3**).

If the nipple attached to the hidden top storage tank is damaged, you can use a similar procedure to replace it. Since this nipple is easier to reach, you can use an electric drill instead. Drill slowly! Be careful not to overheat or crack the polyurethane tank.

After I had repaired the water tank, I noticed that the pump would unfortunately leak where the armature shaft passed through the base of the pump. At times, the leak would spray onto the wall of the inner tank and damage the paper lining Lionel had placed inside to block the view of the pump mechanism. **Photo 4** shows the damaged pump before I repaired it.

CHECK PUMP OPERATION

Does the motor operate? If not, is it frozen or corroded, or is something caught in the gearbox? Is there electrical continuity? Every operating water tower I've worked on had an electrical issue with the grounding circuit. Lionel used the metal chassis of the accessory as a source of ground instead of a separate ground wire.

To guarantee electrical continuity, I soldered an additional ground wire from the accessory power lug nut position (**Photo 5**) and ran the wire up the black center tube with the hot wire and attached it to one of the two screws holding the pump to the assembly plate (**Photo 6**).







DENTIFY THE PUMP LEAK POINT

Since leaks are difficult to view through the amber tank, I built two test jigs to mimic the tank operation. I used empty juice bottles fitted with aquarium tank nipples glued to their sides (**Photo 7**). The jig on the left of **Photo 7** mimics the amber tank double-walled reservoir while the jig on the right mimics the hidden storage reservoir under the tank roof. **Photo 8** shows an easy way to stress test the pump by continuously pumping water using the tank that mimics the side of the double-walled amber tank by using a clothes pin.



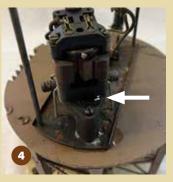
Be aware that you may want to disconnect the solenoid wire that operates the filler spout during testing to prevent damage from overheating it.

If the pump does not leak during this test, you can assume the source of the leakage is the amber tank, nipple attachment points, or flexible tubing. If the pump shows leakage, you'll need to remove the pump and rebuild it completely.









PUMP REMOVAL

First, disconnect the wire attached to the pump brush plate assembly. (This wire is connected to the hot wire that comes up through the center tube and feeds the pump and the solenoid.) Be sure to carefully mark it — or take photos first. Remove the two screws that mount the pump to the assembly plate.

Place the tank superstructure and solenoid with assembly plate to the side to clean or restore as required. If the pump was leaking from the gearbox only, you'll need to determine whether the plastic gearbox is cracked or the seals are damaged. However, if water was leaking at the point where the armature passes through the pump case or if the armature has excessive play side to side, water probably is leaking through the armature shaft casing of the pump case.

PUMP DISASSEMBLY

Disconnect the wire that connects the brush plate assembly to the field winding. Remove the brush plate and associated brushes. Clean the brush plate and associated brush tubes. I soak the brush plate in rubbing alcohol before scrubbing it with a toothbrush.

I use cotton swabs to clean brush tubes. Place these parts in a safe place and then clean the armature commutator. I use a rag soaked in rubbing alcohol to clean the commutator. After it has dried, I use a pencil eraser to polish the commutator and use a toothpick to remove any residue in the slots between the plates on the commutator.

Use a flathead screwdriver to pry the field winding off the pump assembly. Alternate prying under each side of the metal lament field and the pump motor base to work it loose (Photo 9). Take your time and use WD-40 if required. Remove the field winding. Verify that the wire used to connect it to the armature brush plate is functional; if it isn't, repair or replace it.

Remove the two retaining clips that hold the plastic gearbox in place. Be sure to document the way they're attached to the pump motor base. Pay attention to any thin washers associated with the idler gear, as they tend to be small and so easily lost. If they're missing, you will probably notice the plastic



gearbox has been "scored" with swirled gouging marks from the idler gear dragging on it during operation. A good replacement part is Lionel No. 2035-167. Although the inner diameter is slightly larger, these parts work well and prevent further damage to the plastic pump housing.



Remove the idler gear and then safely store it as well as the retaining clips, washers, and plastic gearbox housing. You armature may find two gaskets that create field winding a seal between the pump housing and the plastic gear box. I've had some fall out and others that remained in the pump motor housing base.

At this point, all that should remain are the pump base, armature, and drive gear. Separate the armature from the drive gear by finding a deep socket from a socket wrench kit that can fit over the armature and provide enough depth to allow the armature to fall freely into it when separated from drive gear.

It is critical to stabilize the pump base so you can punch out the armature without damaging it. Use soft strokes to gradually loosen the drive gear from the armature shaft with a properly sized punch. I prefer to use a table-mounted vise to do this (Photo 10). Anyone using a vise needs a way to capture the armature once it is freed from the armature shaft so it doesn't fall and become damaged.





The brass drive gear has a slot cut through it at one point, a modification that facilitates removal and installation. Note the concave depression in the center of the drive gear. We'll use this area for the O-ring placement during reassembly.

Photo 11 shows a disassembled pump assembly. Remove all corrosion and thoroughly clean all mating surfaces.

Photo 12 shows a cleaned view of the armature base plate and pump base mating surfaces.

Photo 13 shows a pump base-to-drive gear mating surface so corroded that the collar ring was destroyed while cleaning. A new O-ring will still mate against this surface, but pump efficiency will be reduced since the tolerances between the components have been increased. As a result, the pump will take longer to empty the amber side tank.

Remove as much corrosion from these surfaces as possible, as water will infiltrate the crevices and leak out of the armature shaft.



PUMP REASSEMBLY

Take the cleaned armature and lubricate the shaft with lithium grease. Insert the arma-

ture into the pump base and position an O-ring onto the shaft with the drive gear at the bottom of the pump base (Photo 13). Be sure to orientate the drive gear so the concave side faces the rounded side of the O-ring. The mating of these two components will form the seal of the rebuilt pump. Note how the flat side of the drive gear must face outward.

As shown in Photo 14, place the armature, pump base, O-ring, and drive gear into a C-clamp so you can press the drive gear

on easily. You may place the C-clamp into a vise as you begin to press the drive gear on by tightening the clamp.

Turn the C-clamp slowly as you press on

the drive gear to ensure the drive gear is straight. Make sure the O-ring remains snug against the base of the pump.

Periodically, rotate the pump base to make sure you have movement around the armature shaft as the drive gear begins to mate against the O-ring and pump base. Remove the assembly from the clamp, and verify that the tip of the armature shaft has not come to the top of the drive gear nor made contact with the C-clamp, as this will distort the armature shaft if you continue to tighten.

If you need more tightening, place it back into the C-clamp and continue. If the armature shaft is at the top of the drive gear hole and you need to press it more, check to see whether the C-clamp contact point has a depression in the center as mine did. If it does not, add washers to this contact point to ensure the C-clamp does not contact the armature tip and continue to tighten.

The armature shaft should be at the top surface of the drive gear. If it is below the surface of the drive gear, the O-ring may be too thick and the drive gear will bind on the plastic gear pump case. If this is the case, you must modify the thickness of the O-ring.

Place the O-ring onto a nail with the approximate thickness of the armature shaft. Carefully slice it into two pieces (like a bagel)

with a safety razor and remove each half (Photo 15).

Insert the armature into the pump base and place one of the newly cut O-rings onto the shaft where it comes through the bottom of the pump base. Be sure to place the flat (cut) side of the O-ring toward the bottom base of the pump housing and orientate the drive gear so the concave side faces the rounded side of the O-ring. The mating of these two parts will form the seal of the rebuilt pump.

Reassemble the rest of the pump assembly. Be sure the armature turns the gears freely by rotating the armature by hand.

Insert the field winding back

into the pump base and then install the brush plate plus both mounting screws with lock washers, and tighten. Next, install both brushes, attach the field winding wire back onto the

> correct brush screw, and attach the complete assembly to the tank superstructure assembly plate. Finally, connect the power wire to the other brush.

Connect transformer power leads to the accessory tower lug nuts. Apply power (8 to 12 volts) and watch operation. Do this for a short time (less than 30 seconds).

Turn off the power and connect the test jig (Photo 7). Add about 2 inches of water to the jig that simulates the double-walled tank (left side). Add about an inch of water to the jig that simulates the hidden storage tank (right side). Apply power and watch operation. You

should see the water level drop on the left-side test jig while the right-side test jig begins to fill. When the jig on the left side has emptied, turn off the pump and wait for gravity to refill it from the jig on the right side. Repeat this process a number of times to verify operation.

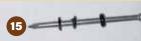
Connect the pump as shown in Photo 8 to stress-test pump operation and "break in" the new O-ring installation. I usually leave the pump in the test jigs for several days to verify that no leakage occurs.

If there are no leaks, reassemble the amber tank with new hoses and test operation with colored water (blue food dye works best). Happy pumping! @



Lionel cataloged the No. 38 Operating Water Tower in 1946-47.









ow should John McAlister describe the 10½ x 14½-foot S gauge railroad he and his wife, Suzanne, enjoy running for their five children, eight grandchildren, and four greatgrandchildren plus numerous friends and neighbors? Well, the gentleman that folks near and far have long referred to as "Rocky" hardly hesitates before blurting out his answer.

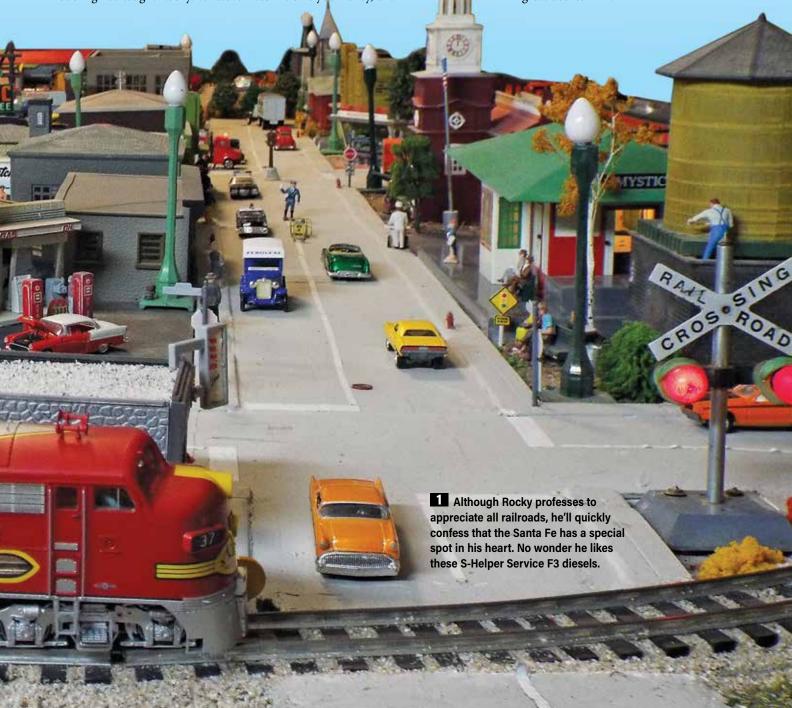
"It's just simple and fun!" Asked to elaborate, Rocky confesses that Suzanne and he don't know much about gauges of wire, haven't fully figured out electrical blocks, and understand next to nothing about command control. When constructing their layout, they trusted on what a lifelong appreciation of American Flyer modeling had taught Rocky. Whatever was familiar from his youth seemed good enough to guide them to success.

The result, as readers of *Classic Toy Trains* are about to discover, is a traditional-looking and smooth-operating S gauge pike that, according to its owners, "will thrill you, tickle your fancy, and

inspire you to try things you probably shouldn't!" In other words, the McAlisters have built a layout sure to entertain and make you feel like a kid again.

GREAT COLLABORATORS

Behind every great layout is someone very special. This declarative statement can serve as Rocky's mantra for the hobby that has entranced him since he received his first electric train as a youngster back in 1948. Since being given an American Flyer No. 342 Nickel Plate Road 0-8-0 steam switcher and freight cars, he has constructed three noteworthy model railroads alongside individuals who have meant a great deal to him.





Early on, of course, there was Rocky's dad. Lewis made certain his little boy was playing with electric trains, probably because he dreamed of owning one. Just about every Christmas in the late 1940s and into the 1950s, Lewis brought home something exciting he likely had acquired from a friend who managed the toy department at a major department store in southern California, where the McAlister family then called home.

American Flyer S gauge trains and accessories practically begged the father and son to start work on a layout. Rocky remembered an 8 x 10-foot display on the second floor of the McAlister homestead. An enormous mountain dominated the two-track layout. The railroad seemed bigger and better to Rocky, thanks to the Flyer switches, illuminated station, trestle bridge, and freight loaders, all powered by a monster Lionel transformer.

Then as an adult, Rocky returned to the hobby with guidance and inspiration from Paul Kirby, the owner of a popular store in San Dimas, Calif. Besides selling old trains and vintage track to Rocky, Paul offered ideas, time, expertise, and sweat as a new 8 x 12-foot S gauge marvel came to life in the 1990s. The two-level railroad that boasted four main lines filled much of the family's garage. The attractive Flyer layout could be raised or lowered via pulleys so that Rocky and others were able to park their cars inside.

Assorted railroad memorabilia and travel souvenirs decorate the walls surrounding the beautifully landscaped and smooth-running S gauge layout built by this talented husband-and-wife team. Postwar as well as modern transformers handle all the trains, turnouts, signals, lights, and freight loaders. They make operation a breeze!

A third person who proved that behind every great layout is someone special was Rocky's son, Jason. Not that he was responsible for laying the track or designing a key scenic element. While home on leave from the Marine Corps, Jason spent many an hour playing with the layout. More than ever before, Rocky understood how his old American Flyer engines and

rolling stock could bring pleasure to adults as well as kids. If he ever got validation for his hobby, watching Jason run the trains certainly provided it.

BEST OF ALL

Go ahead and quiz Rocky on his favorite collaborator, and he'll immediately put his arms around Suzanne. "Behind every great layout is a great

woman!" he announces, leaving no doubt about the enjoyment the two of them have had building the railroad being featured here. It has been central to their lives since they married in May of 2016.

Rocky had pulled up stakes and moved

to Texas to be near his grown kids (Jason and Stephanie) and grandchildren. He brought almost 100 boxes filled with American Flyer trains, accessories, and transformers. Missing, however, were visions of his next S gauge layout. Maybe there wasn't sufficient space in his new home for a model railroad, he fretted. Worse yet, perhaps his motivation for

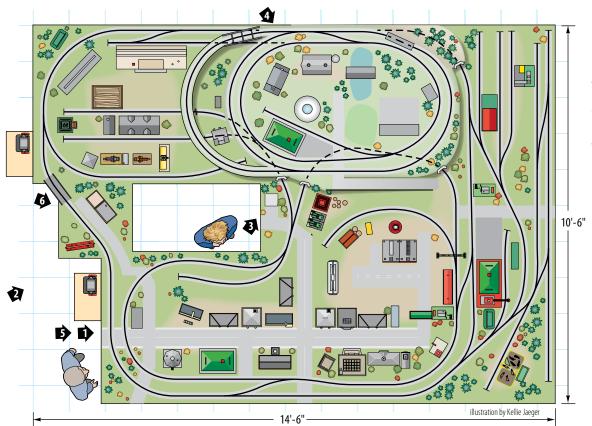
building had vanished on the long drive.

After meeting Suzanne and daring to show her all the trains gathering dust on shelves, the fire ignited again. She loved the toys and encouraged Rocky to return them to life – with her assistance! After their wedding, the two moved into a new home that, among its many wonderful features, promised more than enough real estate for a layout.

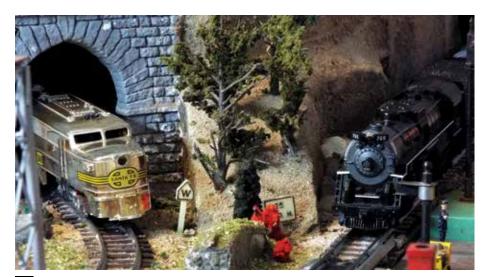
Husband and wife had in mind a model railroad on the upper floor of their residence that was familiar in terms of its look and construction and idiosyncratic in terms of its details and operation. Just how familiar is something we'll get to. First, here are a few of the odd



Rocky and Suzanne share all the fun of a layout known widely for its American Flyer trains, track, and accessories.



Suzanne and Rocky call their S gauge display the Village Springs RR, taking the name from their current residence. The numbered arrows correspond to the numbers in each of the captioned photographs Rocky snapped for this exclusive article.



Two S gauge classics - a Gilbert No. 360 Santa Fe Alco PA and a Lionel No. 42562 Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 Berkshire meet on the 10½ x 14½-foot tribute to traditional Flyer model railroading designed, built, and wired by Rocky McAlister and his wife, Suzanne.

yet personal aspects of what Rocky and Suzanne named the Village Springs RR.

Let's begin with a model of King Kong chasing Gabe the Lamplighter up the classic No. 23780 operating accessory from the A.C. Gilbert Co. Visitors can then spot Big Foot lurking at the mouth of a cave while atop one of the mountains is a gang of aliens from outer space with parachutes draped over their bodies. Rocky assures

everyone they're friendly. Elsewhere, he warns, Martians conspire to kidnap a cow in their flying saucer.

Already you can tell that Suzanne and Rocky share a wicked sense of humor. They went for laughs and thrills when creating unforgettable and rather whimsical scenes that epitomize what it means to be engaged in the toy train niche of our hobby. These are the kinds of vignettes

AT A GLANCE

Rocky and Suzanne McAlister's S gauge layout

Dimensions: 10½ x 14½-foot

Track: GarGraves, Gilbert American Flyer (maximum diameter 42 inches)

Switches: Gilbert American Flyer

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

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

Controls: Gilbert American Flyer, Model Rectifier Corp. transformers

Accessories: Gilbert American Flyer, Lionel, Miller Engineering, Scenery Unlimited

Structures: Bar Mills Models, Plasticville U.S.A., scratchbuilt

Vehicles: Ada Toys, Ertl, Hartoy, Matchbox, Racing Champions

Figures: Arttista, Gilbert American Flyer



Another treasure from Rocky's youth is this American Flyer No. 342 Nickel Plate Road 0-8-0 steam switcher. He doubts the tough little engine has lost a step since the day it left the A.C. Gilbert Co. factory almost 70 years ago.

visiting youngsters – and adults – get a kick out of finding.

WHAT'S FAMILIAR

We can shift attention from the giant gorillas and visitors from other planets for a little while. Or at least long enough to focus on the familiar elements of an awesome pike.

The Village Springs RR rises 36 inches off the floor, a height making it perfect for boys and girls to enjoy. The elevated section stands 9 inches

above it, so grown-ups have more to look at and appreciate. Hobbyists among them may also peek under the

main level to admire the 1 x 4 pine boards reinforced by pieces of 2 x 2 and 2 x 6 lumber.

Because Rocky and Suzanne had to carry all their construction materials up a flight of stairs ("and we're no longer spring chickens," he admits), they wisely opted for lightweight foamboard as the foundation of the layout. They consider the platform they assembled sturdy and strong, but caution visitors against walking on it!

Over the sheets of pink foam purchased at a local home-improvement center went rubber stripping material acquired in big rolls. It cushions the network of track and switches secured by drywall screws. And wherever the McAlisters decided they wanted a more realistic look, they went with GarGraves straights and curves in place of the traditional sections made by the Gilbert Co.

The quantity and variety of accessories offer a bit of an education to newcomers to the hobby. Naturally, Rocky wanted the Village Springs RR to provide a good home for his vintage models powered by

transformers from Gilbert and Model Rectifier. But so many cool items have been introduced by

Lionel, Miller Engineering, Scenic Express, and other firms in recent years that he refused to descend into postwar purism.

GETTING SMARTER

"SIMPLICITY IS OUR MOTTO."

HUSBAND AND WIFE CHIME IN

WHEN QUIZZED ON HOW THEIR

S GAUGE LAYOUT OPERATES.

When the conversation about the layout shifts to electronics and wiring, Rocky and Suzanne shrug their shoulders, lower their heads, and describe their approach as merely "whatever works until a warning light flashes or a short circuit causes everything to stop." The pinnacle of their prowess in the field of electricity may be

getting old Flyer signals to illuminate and switch machines to change the location of postwar turnouts.

"Simplicity is our motto," husband and wife chime in when quizzed on how their S gauge layout operates. Both of them do become much more excited and speak with greater confidence when the topic of scenery is raised. They can without ridicule make fun their priority.

The husband-and-wife team again depends on lightweight foam. Rocky has salvaged pieces packed with televisions and stereos and then carefully shaped them with an electric carving knife, a hot wire, and a power sander before securing them with white glue.

After discarding safety goggles and gloves, Rocky and his wife grab their smocks to make the transition from carpenters to artists. Different shades of commercial stains and latex house paints serve to color the bare foam covered with sawdust. The McAlisters need only stare out the windows of their home to gather ideas for how flatlands, knolls, prairies, shallow valleys, and rolling hills in the Southwest ought to be modeled.

"Truth is," Rocky interjects, "credit for how the terrific landscaping belongs to Suzanne. She has the patience and sharp eye to make everything look nice." Among her favorite products are ground covers (ballast, foam, and turf) from Woodland Scenics. It also sells the lichen, brush, and trees added to different areas on the Village Springs RR.

Anything borrowed from the natural world? "Suzanne is an avid scrounger of pebbles, stones, and twigs," Rocky says. "That's why you'll find many of them here." A final triumph for Mrs. McAlister is the lake she fabricated from a Woodland Scenics kit.

MOSTLY FOR KIDS

It doesn't take long to realize that Suzanne and Rocky, regardless of their age, have the energy and enthusiasm of people decades younger. Little wonder they designed their S gauge layout to entertain and thrill children, especially during the holiday season, when Christmas-oriented trains take the stage during open houses for relatives and neighbors.

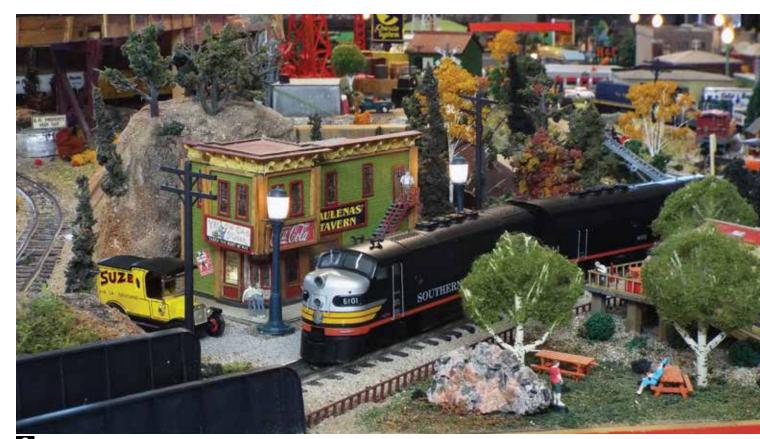
The accessories ("a dozen things that go bump in the night" is how Rocky puts it) keep kids busy. The youngest members of their clan "grin to the ends of the earth when driving a train, blowing a whistle, dumping logs, and moving cows."



Just a typical day in the world Rocky McAlister and his wife, Suzanne, have created for their American Flyer trains plus models from every current S gauge manufacturer. The two of them know well how to blend vintage and contemporary pieces for coherent scenes.

In Rocky's view, having fun is what this hobby is all about and has been for as long as he can remember. And that's a long time – his memories of toy trains stretch back 75 years! Along the way, he has been

fortunate to have shared the good times with his father and then his children and these days a very special lady. Familiarity with American Flyer model railroading has bred nothing but content for him.



The romantic pair about to stroll inside Saulenas' Tavern (a Bar Mills Models structure) focus on each other and miss the Southern Pacific F3 cab units (S-Helper Service) easing past. Railfans would never make that mistake, no matter how much in love they were!



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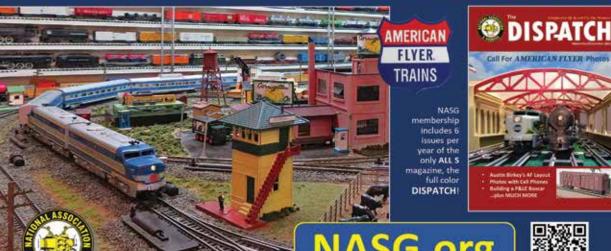
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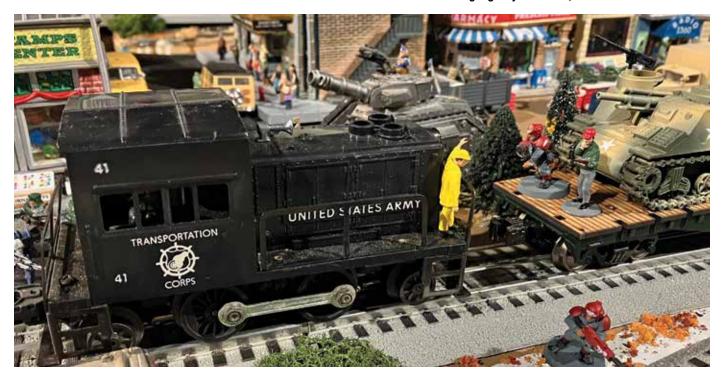




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Lionel's 41 U.S. Army switcher

An engine from childhood still holds a place of honor

My early "trainhood" lasted from 1955 to 1968.

I had an uncle who gave me a train the year I was born, and he added to the Lionel fleet on birthdays and Christmases for many years. The trains were Lionel, though when I unboxed everything in the early 1990s I discovered the track, switches, and most of the accessories were Marx. But what rolled was Lionel.

My first O gauge layout was on a 4 x 8-foot sheet of fiberboard. I started with a figure-8 arrangement before opting for a loop with two switches going to sidings. One had a Marx barrel loader, and the

other one had an old shoebox I called a "factory."

I had three locomotives: A 2-6-4 steam engine dedicated to passenger service, a No. 6250 Seaboard NW2 diesel switcher for hauling freight, and a No. 41 U.S. Army gasturbine unit that was my general-purpose switcher and so-called "war wagon."

Frankly, the 41 is a pretty weak puller. It even had a

hard time handling my three postwar No. 2400-series passenger cars. So, I tailored its duties to what it could handle – usually gondolas with plastic pipe loads or my two Baby Ruth boxcars.

Like a lot of kids, I had a ton of toy soldiers by Marx, Auburn, or Tim Mee Toy. Most were probably 1:32 scale, making them great for garden trains.

I would put troops that were kneeling (or at least not standing upright) in a gondola in front, and then put the taller guys in a No. 6446 Norfolk & Western cement

quad hopper on the rear.

Remember, when you're 8 or 9, reality and scale are, well, somewhat flexible.

So the freight got delivered, but my 41 gas-turbine switcher got the credit for keeping German, Russian, or Japanese troops, or even invaders from Mars, from severing my logistical pipeline!

What my 41 might have lacked in pulling power was made up for with fun memories. This small engine is certainly a locomotive I love. — *Bob Keller*

Lionel cataloged its 41 U.S. Army switcher from 1955 to 1957. Model courtesy Joe Algozzini; photo by William Zuback

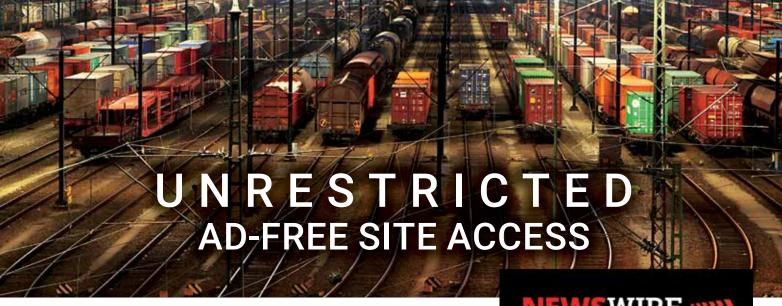
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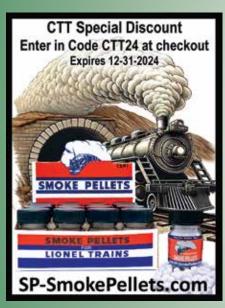
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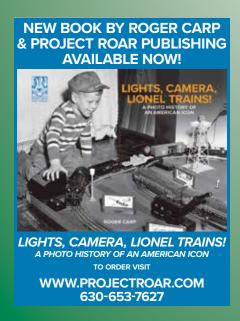
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Getting Lionel postwar F3s to run again

HOW TO REVIVE THE MOTORS ON NO. 2379 DIESELS



I have a set of Lionel No. 2379 Denver & Rio Grande Western F3s from 1957 that do not run. I have taken both motors apart, cleaned the grease out of the gearboxes, and put in new grease. I have taken off the brush covers and cleaned the armature faces and the brush wells. I have oiled everything and still can't get the engines to move. Any suggestions? — Marc Vannette, Byron Center Mich.

Here are some points that come to mind after reading what has happened with your F3s. See which of my suggestions may be relevant and try it. First, after you removed the motors, did you check each one individually? It

seems unlikely, although not impossible, that both of them would completely fail. Second, check to see whether the headlight works and the E-unit solenoid engages. If they fail to activate, there may be an issue with the electrical pickup.

There are a few straightforward techniques to use if your Lionel postwar F3 diesels, including these cool No. 2379 A and B units from 1957, quit working.

If those two features do activate and both motors still fail to operate, I suggest turning your attention to the E-unit.

Because that reverse unit is the common link between the motors, it's the next likely source of your problem. A final point of advice regarding the E-unit: even if one of the three replaceable parts failed (two contact sets and the drum) I always opt to replace them all.

Postwar switches at 14 volts or less

I operate eight pairs of Lionel No. 022 switches on my O gauge layout. The switches require about 16 volts to get most of them to switch to the locked position, and that seems like a lot. So I cleaned the sliding plunger and sliding contact surfaces with a cotton swab and an electronics cleaner and lubricated them with silicone. I retested everything, and they still required the same amount of voltage, which melted the lenses in the switch lanterns. New switches (Nos. 5132 and 5133) work consistently at 14 volts. How can I get my postwar switches to operate at 14 volts or less? — Robert Schumm, Convoy, Ohio

Contributor Bruk Bannister points out that a major issue with older Lionel No. 022 switches is sluggish performance. He says that cleaning and lubricating everything you noted will improve some switches, but a lot of the time problems are caused by the sliding contacts related to the tight tolerances

between the contacts and bottom of the switch body. If they get misaligned or bent, they become "sandwiched" when you reinstall the "motor" to the switch base. That creates a bind that prevents the switch from opening or closing properly.

One way to resolve the issue is getting those contacts bent back down. It's not an easy task according to Bruk, but it can be done by carefully using needlenose pliers. Another method involves shimming the motor away from the base. Applying aluminum tape or HVAC ducting tape to the screw-mounting locations will create a shim to help prevent the contacts from getting sandwiched. You may have to add one or two layers to each mounting location. It will take some trial and error, but eventually you will succeed.

A good way to test whether the contacts are the issue is by just loosening the motor screws from the switch body and then cycling it with power. This takes tension off the sliding contacts, and you'll see better performance.

The reason Nos. 5165 and 5166

switches work a lot better is that Lionel modified them to get rid of the sliding contacts. They ended up going to micro switches in place of the contacts. This removed any issues of those contacts getting sandwiched during assembly.

When it comes to switch lanterns, we all have had one melt at one point. After all, they typically sit close to the No. 53 bayonet-style bulb Lionel used. Bruk reminded us that you can get those bulbs in many voltage ranges. He went to an 18-volt model for his O gauge layout because he uses command control.

You can get an LED version of a 53 bayonet-style bulb. You can find them on eBay or Amazon. Most of them specify 12 volts only, but Bruk states they can handle as many as 18 volts with no issues. He advises using one with a low-profile lens.

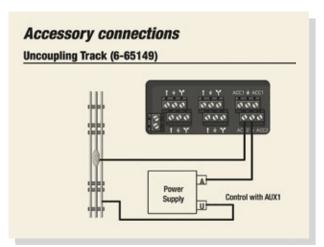
Adding LED bulbs allows you to crank the voltage up a bit more to help with cycling issues and not melt your lanterns. As a final observation, Bruk told us he prefers a warm white bulb having a smaller and low-profile lens.

Using a Lionel controller with an uncoupling track

How do I wire a Lionel SC-2 controller to a Lionel No. 65530 O gauge uncoupling/unloading track? — Frank Lawrence, Richmond, Va.

Frank, everything you need to know and more can be found by going online and downloading the Lionel SC-2 manual (www.lionelsupport.com). Or you can pick up a printed copy of Lionel SC-2 Switch and Accessory Controller Owner's Manual (product No. 72-2980-250).

On page 20 of the SC-2 manual, you'll find information on programming the output on the SC-2. On page 35 (reprinted here), you will find an illustration of the connections for using the uncoupling track with the SC-2 controller.



The Lionel SC-2 **Switch and Accessory Controller Owner's** Manual can easily be downloaded from www. lionelsupport.com to answer questions, including those related to wiring the controller to a No. 65530 uncoupling/ unloading track.

K-Line passenger car and lighting

I purchased a K-Line Electric Trains Pennsylvania RR business car and was wondering if the lighting can be replaced so I can operate it on my O gauge layout at the constant voltage of 18 or higher. — Morris McAtee, Louisville, Kv.

That K-line business car I believe has a simple printed circuit board with multiple 1.5-volt lights in series that stretches the whole car length. The bulbs are identical to what you find on a string of Christmas lights. They are difficult to remove individually, and the soldering traces are easily damaged. So, a simple bulb replacement is not feasible, but converting the cars to LED lighting is easy.

The easiest method to convert the lighting is by purchasing a long roll of 3528 SMD (surface-mount device) LED strip (available from Amazon and Mouser Electronics, among other sources). It can be cut to length and has

an adhesive back for easy application.

Each piece you cut has soldering pads for easy installation of wires, but you can buy solderless wire clips separately. You can wire it straight to track power (it will work in an 18-volt environment) by removing the original lighting system first so you can install the strips to underside of the roof on the body shell.

You can make the lights "anti-flicker" by adding an AC-to-DC bridge rectifier. In addition, installing a 680-ohm to 1,000-ohm resistor between the LED and the bridge rectifier will dim the lights to a nicer and more realistic glow inside the car.

The advantages of adding light-emitting diodes to passenger cars include lowering the amperage draw on your transformer. For example, a passenger train having 14 MTH Premier line cars equipped with incandescent light bulbs can draw as much as 8 amps on a No. Z-4000 transformer. Converting all 14 cars to LEDs reduced the draw to only 2 amps. That's a huge improvement.

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Schedule of Events

CA, ANAHEIM: 2024 TTOS-SP Super Meet. December 13-14, 2024. Friday, 5-8pm; Saturday, Noon-6pm. Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 Crescent Ave. Buy-Sell-Trade Trains, Toys, and Railroad Memorabilia. Train races, super raffle, 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/THESUPERMEET/ to register. Questions: info@ttos-sp.org

FL, BROOKSVILLE: Regal Railways presents Toy Trains & Hobby Show. Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34601. Saturday, January 25, 2025. 9:00am-2:00pm. Admission: \$6.00 adults, children under 12 free. Vendors and model train layout. Lunch available. Contact: Joe at 727-244-1341 or visit: www.regalrailways.com for more information.

IA, MONTICELLO: 2025 Train Show. 2 Days, February 1-2, 2025. Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 9am-2pm. Berndes Center, Jones County Fairgrounds, 766 N. Maple St., Monticello, IA 52310. Tables \$30. Admission: \$5, children under 12 free with paid adult. Monticello RR Club, PO Box 169, Monticello IA 52310 or email Ron Ackermann at rack611@gmail.com

IL, SPRINGFIELD: Springfield Railroad Society Annual Train Fair. Orr Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Sunday, March 9, 2025. 10:00AM-4:00PM. Early bird shopping starts at 9:00AM for \$10.00. Admission fee \$5.00 from 10:00AM-4:00PM. Free parking. Largest show in downstate Illinois! For info call Mike at 217-899-3100 or Ray at 217-544-4295 or visit www.springfieldtrainfair.com

NJ, WAYNE: ECTP and Collectibles LLC presents The Wayne Special Holiday Train Show. P.A.L. Hall, 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470. Sunday, December 15, 2024, 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. January 5, 2025, February 9, 2025 and March 16, 2025. 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

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

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OH, MASSILLON: CJ Trains Winter Train and Toy Show. Massillon Knights of Columbus Hall, 988 Cherry Road NW, 44647. Sunday, December 15, 2024, 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@sssnet.com www.cjtrains.com

OH, TOLEDO: Greater Toledo Train & Toy Show. Owens Community College (SHAC), 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551. Sunday, March 9, 2025. "Early Birds" 9am \$10. General 11am \$7. Children 12 and under are FREE with paid adult. Show runs until 3pm. Contact: Randy Ramsey, 1566 South Ave., Toledo, OH 43609, 419-215-4181, email: toledotoymasters@gmail.com, website: www.toymasters.org

VA, FREDERICKSBURG: Rappahannock Model Railroaders 27th Annual Christmas Model Train Show, December 14-15, 2024. Operating G, O, S, HO, N, Z and LEGO train layouts. Vendors, Santa, train set raffle, kids area. Saturday 9am-5pm. Sunday 10am-4pm. Adults \$10. Youth 13-17 \$5. Under 13 free. Eagles Lodge, 21 Cool Springs Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405. Info: www.rmrailroaders.com

WI, LA CROSSE: The 33rd Annual Great Tri-State Rail Sale. La Crosse Center, 2nd & Pearl Streets. Saturday, January 25, 2025. 9:00am-3:00pm. Admission \$8.00, under 12 free. 300 vendor tables. All Scales; Model, Toy & Antique Trains & Memorabilia. Information: 4000 Foundation, PO Box 3411, La Crosse, WI 54602, 608-781-9383. Visit: www.4000foundation.com

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Please contact event sponsor for current status of the event.

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Ever wonder how a custom-run boxcar is designed? LCCA member Mike McLintock explains the design process for the Lionel Collectors Club of America's Krispy Kreme donut boxcar.



Meet the modeler: Michael Tylick

Michael Tylick is a longtime CTT contributor who has designed dozens of track plans. Learn more about him in this article.



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- Title of publication: CLASSIC TOY TRAINS.
 Publication No. 005-466.
 Date of filing: October 1, 2024.
 Frequency of issue: 4 times per year.
 Number of issues published annually: 4.
 Annual subscription price: \$47.95.
 Location of known office of publication: 605 Chestnut St., Ste. 800, Chattanooga, TN 37450-507.

- 7. Location of Known Office of Publication. We Curestina Gr., Str. On School Composition of Known Office of Publisher. Nicole McGuire, 18650 W. Corporate Dr., Ste. 103, Brookfield, WI 53045. Editor: Rene Schweitzer, same.

 10. Owner: Firecrown Media Inc., 605 Chestnut St., Ste. 800, Chattanooga, TN 37450-5507

 11. Known bondholders, mortgagese, and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of total bonds, mortgages or other securities: N/A.

 12. Tax status: For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 423.12 DMM only). N/A

 13 Publication title: Classic Toy Trains

 14. Issue date for circulation data below: Winter 2024

 15. Extent and nature of circulation:

| 15. Extent and nature of circulation: | Average # copies each issue during preceding 12 months | Actual # copies of single issue published nearest to filing |
|---|--|---|
| A. Total no. copies printed (net press run) B. Paid circulation: | 25,011 | 23,456 |
| Paid/requested outside county mail subscription: | s 18,814 | 17,851 |
| 2. Paid/requested inside county mail subscriptions | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Street vendors and counter sales | 1,829 | 1,490 |
| 4. Other classes mailed through USPS | 0 | 0 |
| C. Total paid circulation (sum of 15B (1 through 4)) | 20,644 | 19,341 |
| D. Free distribution by mail and outside | | |
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| 2. In county | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Other classes through USPS | 208 | 112 |
| 4. Outside the mail | 0 | 0 |
| E. Total free distribution (sum of 15d) | 208 | 112 |
| F. Total distribution (sum of 15c and 15e) | 20,851 | 19,453 |
| G. Copies not distributed | 4,160 | 4,003 |
| H. Total (sum of 15f and 15g) | 25,011 | 23,456 |
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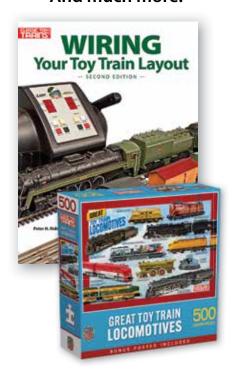
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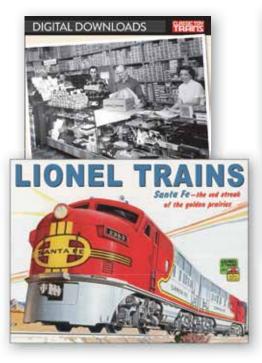
(signed) Nicole McGuire, Chief Operations Officer



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0-54 CURVE

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. That's Only \$2.08 each!

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16 PIECES PER 72" DIAMETER CIRCLE

0-72 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)

\$54.99 case (279-3468) That's Only \$2.29 each!

By the Piece

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0-96 CURVE

16 PIECES PER 96"

DIAMETER CIRCLE

By the Case (24 Pieces) \$59.99 case (279-3471)

That's Only \$2.50 each!

By the Piece

\$3.99 each (279-3099)

Quick and easy flatcar loads for Christmastime



The author secured these gifts with wire from a dry cleaner.



Ring in the holidays (or the new year) with a load of bells.



Two Ford Mustangs with bows are ready to make someone's day.



These red pickup trucks started life as holiday floral picks from a crafts store. The author removed the flexible rod from the trucks. Two of them certainly fit well on a Lionel flatcar. All photos by Bill Wasinger

INEXPENSIVE WAYS TO ADD A FESTIVE LOOK TO YOUR ROLLING STOCK

WANT TO MAKE QUICK AND EASY

FLATCAR loads for Christmastime? With a little imagination and a trip to an arts and crafts store, you'll have cargo to turn almost any piece of rolling stock into a holiday hauler.

Most arts and crafts stores and dollar stores carry a selection of miniature holiday items, such as ornaments, Christmas trees, gifts, and bells, that are great for gondolas, hoppers, and work cabooses. I found several holiday-oriented items that fit perfectly on an O gauge flatcar.

My favorite cargo finds came from the floral section. That's where I discovered "floral picks," decorative items on flexible rods used to adorn floral arrangements. I found floral picks with wrapped presents and red plastic pickups hauling Christmas trees. I pulled out the flexible rod from each item, placed two or three of each on a flatcar, and tied each one down. Florist's wire in holiday colors works great for tie-downs.

The arts and crafts store's holiday section led to even more holiday flatcar freight. That's where I found sleighs, plastic ornaments, and silver bells the ideal size to fit on a flatcar.

I also dressed up my existing freight for the season. Wrapping small, red foil bows over little autos turned a Lionel No. 6424 flatcar into a fun holiday car. These bows can wrap around small containers or crates. If your existing cargo is too large for foil bows, you can find other sizes of bows with an adhesive back that you can easily apply and remove after the holidays.

The best part about making your own festive flatcars is that the crafts store inventory changes every year and will vary between retailers. With a little planning, you'll find Christmas cargo to assemble an entire train of eye-catching holiday haulers! — *Bill Wasinger*

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



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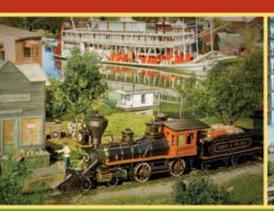






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- "Certificate of Excellence"- Trip Adv
- "Travel Gem" A A

ST CHANCE The Junction will be closing in January 2025

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- **Coney Island Replica**
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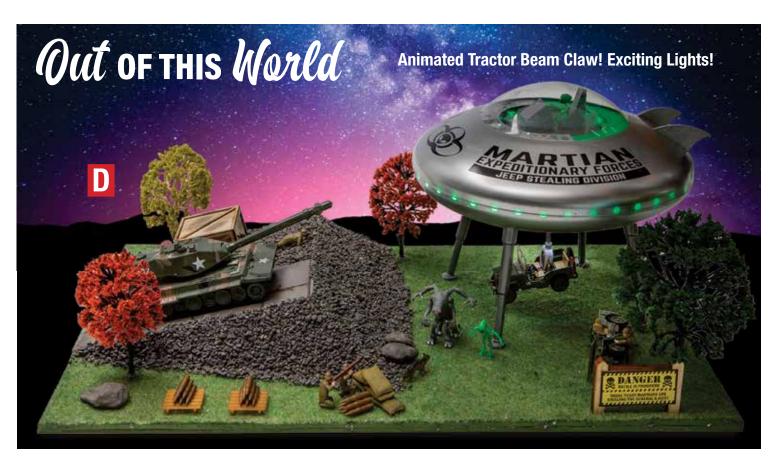
- Officially licensed 1957 Dodge® Sweptside (O scale only)
- Electronic D-I-N-E-R sign with animated lighting pattern
- Includes seven figures, four tables with chairs, 22 bushes, planters with flowers, and Jack the German Shepherd - Dimensions: 18"W x 8-3/4"D x 3-3/4"H
- O Scale (279-8322), HO Scale (279-8309)

B CABOOSE COFFEE

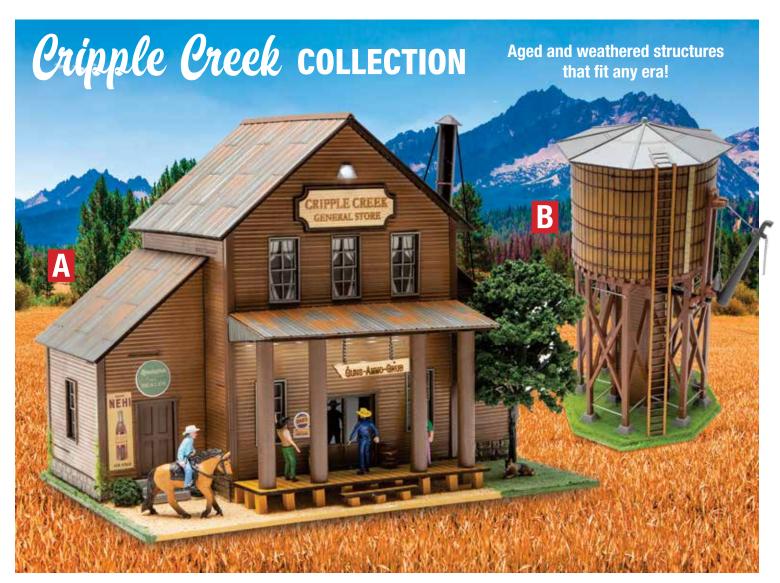
- Officially licensed 1957 Dodge® Sweptside
- Includes four figures (two customers, a barista, and a delivery guy), a table with chairs and umbrella, a bush and planters with flowers, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Beautifully painted Pennsylvania Railroad caboose body with lit interior and marker lights
- Dimensions: 11"W x 5"D x 2-3/4"H
- 0 Scale (275-9034)

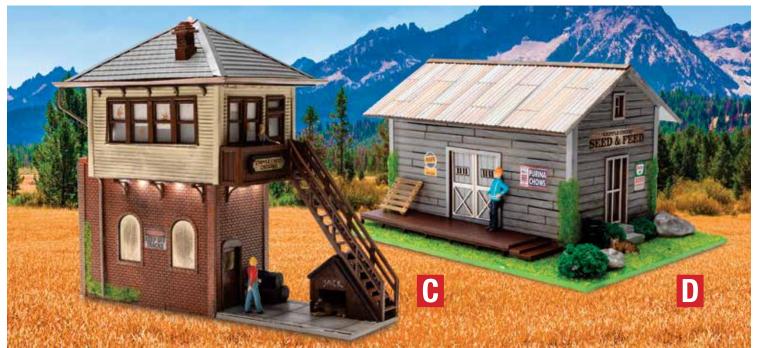
C CALAMITY CABOOSE WORKS

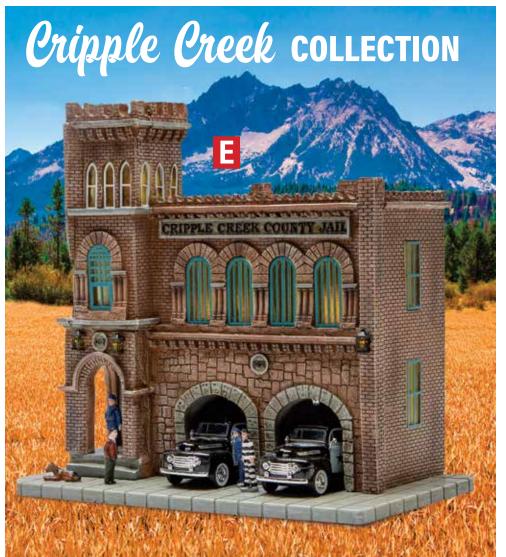
- Prelit 1956 fire truck with exciting wig-wag lights
- Red LED lights and smoke simulate smoldering embers
- Includes two firefighters, barrels, pallets, tree, and Jack the
- German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 10"W x 8"D x 4-11/16"H
- 0 Scale (275-9250)











A CRIPPLE CREEK GENERAL STORE

- · Highly detailed and realistically weathered
- Landscaped with grass and gravel, bushes, and a tree
- Includes four figures, horse, chimney, barrel, trashcan, vintage signs, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 11-5/8"W x 7-5/8"D x 9"H
- O Scale (279-8306), HO Scale (279-8333)

B CRIPPLE CREEK WATER TOWER

- Grass-covered base with Jack the German Shepherd
- Moving spigot arm with chain and counterweight
- Dimensions: 5-1/2"W x 5-1/2"D x 11"H O Scale (279-5924), HO Scale (279-5878)

C CRIPPLE CREEK CROSSING*

- 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
- Dimensions: 9-1/2"W x 5"D x 8"H
- O Scale (279-8305), HO Scale (279-8332)

D CRIPPLE CREEK SEED & FEED

- Includes figure on loading dock, oil drums, pallet, seed bags, various greenery and rocks, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Decorated with vintage signs on all sides - Dimensions: 8"W x 6"D x 4-3/8"H

O Scale (275-9378), HO Scale (275-9379)

E CRIPPLE CREEK COUNTY JAIL*

- 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
- Dimensions: 10"W x 5-3/4"D x 9-3/4"H
- 0 Scale (279-8490)

F CRIPPLE CREEK SAND & GRA

- Includes 1:48 scale 1956 Cripple Creek dump truck
- Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details
- Illuminated interior
- Front opening: 2-7/8"W x 2-7/8"H
- Dimensions: 7-3/8"W x 7"D x 5"H
- 0 Scale (275-9121)



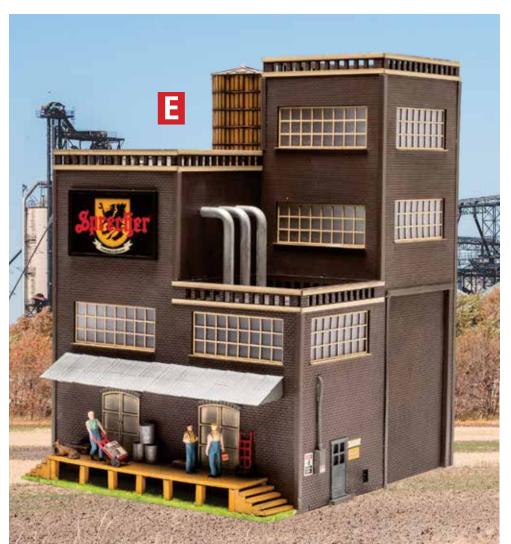
Big buildings, Small footprints

Big buildings designed with built-in train tunnels, allowing you to place them over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert





6



A TIDE® SOAP FACTORY

- 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
- Dimensions: 11-5/8"W x 10-3/4"D x 15"H 0 Scale (279-5518), H0 Scale (279-5877)

- B NATIONAL POWER & LIGHT*
 - Electronic Sign with lightning striking animation - Detailed electrical transformer with red blinking LEDs
 - Dimensions: 14-1/2"W x 9-1/2"D x 15"H
 - O Scale (279-4844), HO Scale (279-5021)

C GAMER & THRONES

- 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
- Dimensions: 18-1/4"W x 10-1/2"D x 11"H O Scale (279-4428), HO Scale (279-5141)

D MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING*

- Includes two figures, six shrubs, chimney, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Backlit sign with 26 interchangeable decals
- Dimensions: 16"W x 10-1/2"D x 8-1/4"H
- 0 Scale (279-4452)

E SPRECHER™ BREWERY*

- 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
- Dimensions: 9-1/2"W x 11"D x 13-1/2"H
- 0 Scale (279-4493)

F DOG FOOD FACTORY*

- 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
- Dimensions: 18-1/4"W x 10-7/8"D x 11"H
- 0 Scale (279-4494), H0 Scale (279-5023)



Big buildings, Small footprints

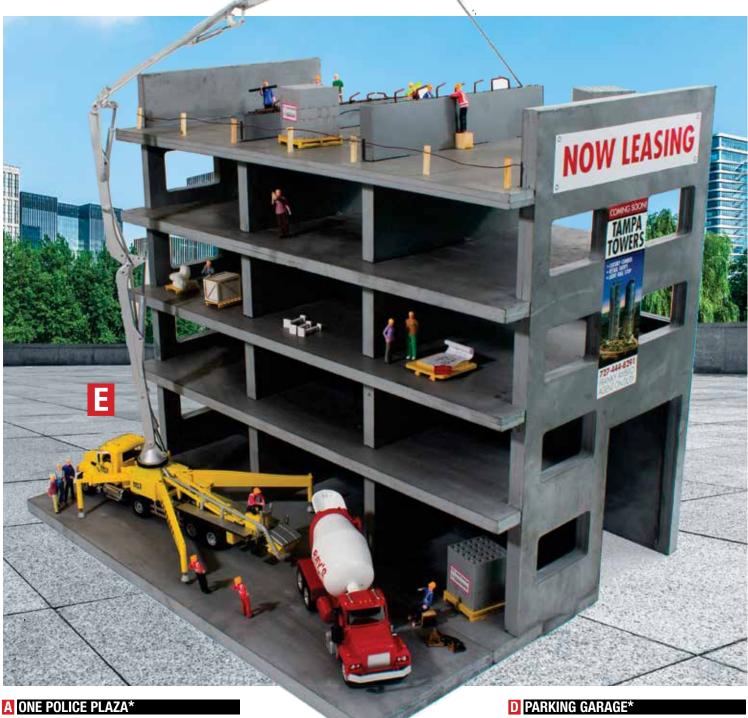
Big buildings designed with built-in train tunnels, allowing you to place them over the track for a minimal footprint, or camouflage the tunnel with the innovative tunnel insert





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

8



- 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
- Dimensions: 12"W x 10-3/8"D x 13-1/8"H
- 0 Scale (279-4435)

B COUNTY HOTEL*

- 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
- Dimensions: 12"W x 11-1/4"D x 15"H
- 0 Scale (279-4427), H0 Scale (279-5142)

C SACRED HEART HOSPITAL*

- 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
- Dimensions: 13"W x 10-1/8"D x 16-3/8"H
- 0 Scale (279-8283)

- Prelit on all levels, for a total of over 200 LED lights
- Three unique storefronts with lit and decorated interiors and two parking garage doors
- Holds up to (38) 0 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.
- Dimensions: 21"W x 12"D x 16-7/8"H

0 Scale (279-4392)

E TAMPA TOWERS

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

0 Scale (279-4432)





10

A JIMBO'S GYM*

- Fully lit modern building packed with details
- First floor coffee shop with simulated interior, tables and chairs, barista, and customers
- Second floor gym and yoga studio with exercise equipment and mirrored walls
- Removable back panel for easy access inside
- Dimensions: 10-1/2"W x 5-7/8"D x 7-1/4"H
- 0 Scale (275-9253), H0 Scale (275-9254)

B ARBY'S® RESTAURANT*

- Officially licensed 1951 Ford® truck (O scale only)
- 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 AC units
- Dimensions: 10-5/8"W x 10-1/4"D x 5-3/4"H
- 0 Scale (279-6149), H0 Scale (279-6919)







C SOOTY'S COAL TIPPLE*

- Lit exterior with yardlights and LED lights under the tunnel to illumate coal cars
- Realistically weathered coal tipple with "Sooty's" logo on the roof
- Exclusive Sooty's coal car and officially licensed Dodge® Sweptside, both only available with this structure (0 scale only)
- Includes four figures, pile of coal pile, dog house, and Jack the German Shephard
- Dimensions: 9"W x 8-1/2"D x 12"H
- O Scale (275-9271), HO Scale (275-9272)

D AMERICAN MATERIALS #1*

- Two electronic signs with waving flag animation
- Built-in tunnel for a minimal footprint
- Includes two figures and Jack the German Shephard
- Dimensions: 6-1/4"W x 5-3/4"D x 16-1/2"H

0 Scale (279-4434), H0 Scale (279-5043)

E AMERICAN MATERIALS #2*

- Electronic sign with waving flag animation
- Blinking red LED aircraft warning lights
- Includes two figures and Jack the German Shephard
- Dimensions: 9-11/16"W x 5-7/16"D x 11-3/4"H

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



A MOE'S CYCLE SHOP*

- Lit exterior with LED lights under the eaves
- Fully decorated motorcycle shop packed with cool details and vintage signs
- Features three scale motorcycles
- Includes three figures and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 9"W x 6"D x 7"H

12

O Scale (275-9251), HO Scale (275-9252)

B FURY MOTORS CAR DEALERSHIP*

- Features five officially licensed vehicles
- Includes rotating platform with blue 1958 Plymouth® Fury (O scale only)
- Backlit sign with 11 interchangeable decals
- Accessories include, five figures, table and chairs, two roof vents, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Lighted showroom with access panel on the back, so you can swap out the cars
- Brilliantly lit Art Deco style building with over 50 LEDs
- Dimensions: 15"W x 13-1/4"D x 8"H

0 Scale (275-9025), H0 Scale (275-9026)

C SUNOCO® STATION*

- Includes an officially licensed 1951 Ford® pickup and 1948 Ford® panel truck (O scale version)
- Beautifully decorated station with authentic Sunoco® signs and branding
- Prelit interior and exterior with lights under the canopy
- Dimensions: 12-3/8"W x 9"D x 4-3/4"H
- 0 Scale (275-9288), H0 Scale (275-9289)







A GRANDMA'S HOUSE

14

- Lit exterior with LED lights above the porch
- Highly detailed scale motorcycle
- Includes four figures (two adults, two children), eight bushes and one tree, ladder, porch swing, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 8-11/16"W x 8-3/8"D x 6-3/4"H
- O Scale (275-9376), HO Scale (275-9377)

ILIAM'S FROZEN CUSTARD

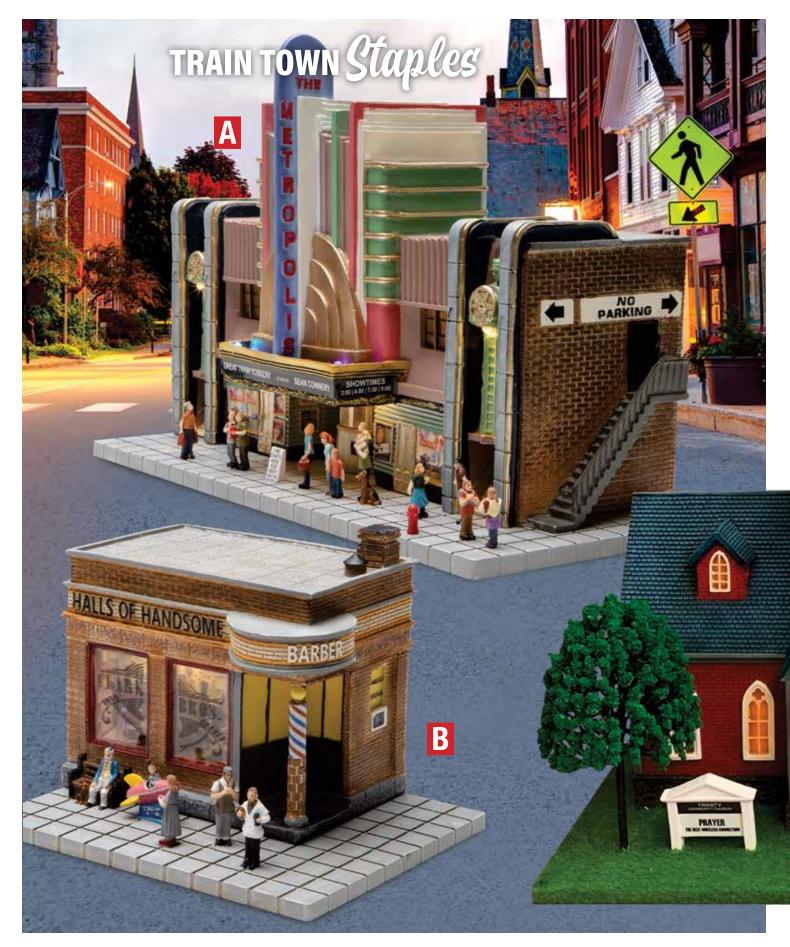
- Officially licensed 1957 Dodge® Sweptside (O scale only)
- Fully lit and decorated interior with clerk and ice cream/ slushy machines
- Brilliantly lit exterior with two adults and two children figures, Jack the German Shepherd, giant ice cream cone, garbage can, and evergreen tree
- Dimensions: 8-7/8"W x 6"D x 4-3/4"H
- O Scale (275-9284), HO Scale (275-9285)

C LAMONT LANES*

- Brilliantly lit exterior with two adults and two children figures, Jack the German Shepherd, giant ice cream cone, garbage cans, and evergreen tree
- Exciting, colorful chase lighting inside
- Lit interior and exterior with over 25 LED light
- Officially licensed 1958 Plymouth® Fury with working lights (0 scale only)
- 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
- Dimensions: 13-7/8"W x 11-1/2"D x 4-1/4"H 0 Scale (275-9140), H0 Scale (275-9205)

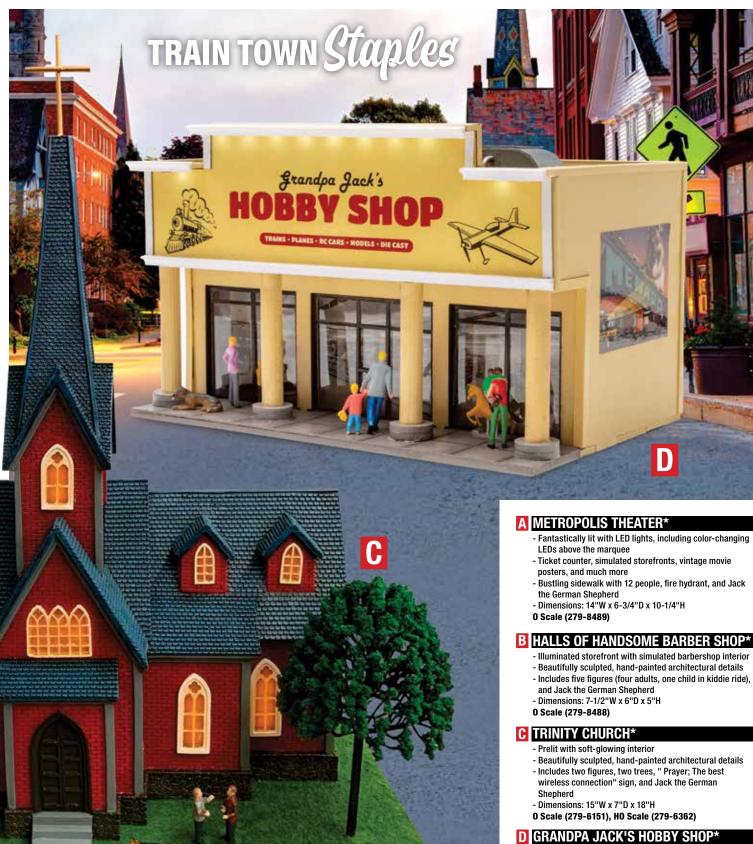






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16



- Illuminated storefront with simulated barbershop interior
- Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details
- Includes five figures (four adults, one child in kiddie ride),
- Beautifully sculpted, hand-painted architectural details
- wireless connection" sign, and Jack the German

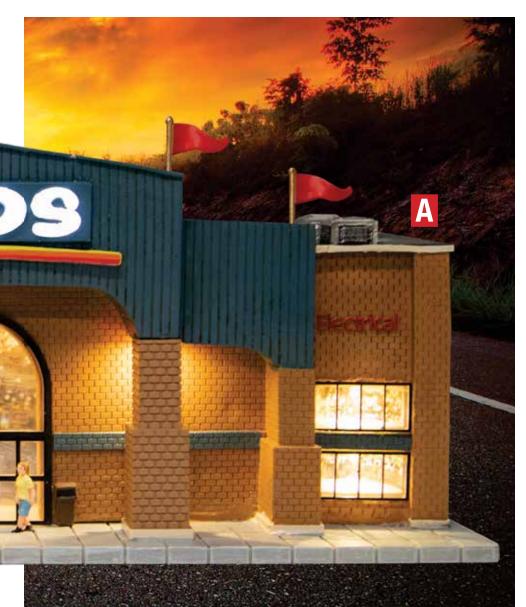
- Hobby shop with large windows and simulated interior packed with all your hobby needs
- Exterior lit with 22 LED lights
- Includes six people (three adults, three children), kiddie ride, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 9"W x 5-3/4"D x 5-3/4"H
- -0 Scale (275-0616), HO Scale (275-0617)





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18



A MENARDS® STORE*

- 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
- Plays the Menards® "Save Big Money™" jingle with the push of a button (located on the roof)
- Simulated interior photos and happy shoppers inside
- Exterior details include trash cans, propane tanks, AC
- units, and even the iconic red flags on the roof
- Dimensions: 22-1/2"W x 6"D x 8-1/4"H **0 Scale (275-9120)**

B FEDEX® FREIGHT BUILDING*

- Prelit with 24 LED lights
- Animated, motor-driven forklift that moves in and out (0 scale only)
- Includes a FedEx® worker, three packages, flag and pole, three bushes, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 12"W x 6"D x 5-1/2"H
- 0 Scale (279-6395), H0 Scale (279-6324)

C SCHNEIDER FREIGHT BUILDING*

- Animated, motor-driven forklift that moves in and out (O scale only)
- Includes four workers, three crates, two pallets (one with load), two bushes, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Features three scale motorcycles
- Dimensions: 14"W x 11-1/2"D x 5-3/4"H
- 0 Scale (279-5098)

D AMTRAK® STATION*

- Prelit with 30 LED lights
- 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
- Dimensions: 9-1/2"W x 6"D x 4-1/4"H

0 Scale (279-4523)

E MENARDSVILLE TRAIN STATION*

- Prelit with LED lights under the eaves
- Includes eight figures, trashcans, luggage, crates, three bushes, announcement boards, and Jack the German Shepherd
- Dimensions: 10-1/2"W x 9-3/8"D x 6"H

0 Scale (279-4436)



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*

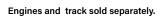
O Scale (275-9126)

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

20



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: $18"L \times 8-3/4"W \times 7-1/4"H$, Clearance: $6"H \times 7-1/2"W$

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 Menards® Containers

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9240) \$24.99 8-Pc. (SKU# 275-9241) \$84.96

(Save \$15)



40-Ft ONE Containers

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40-Ft Mitsui O.S.K. Containers

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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)

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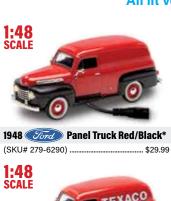


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| 4-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9179)\$84.96 (| Save \$15) |



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Pennsylvania Covered Hopper

Single (SKU# 275-9319)\$34.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9320)\$114.99 (Save \$24.97)



Union Pacific ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper



Weathered ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper



New Haven Covered Hopper

Single (SKU# 279-9126)\$24.99 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9127)\$124.94 (Save \$25)



Delaware & Hudson Covered Hopper

Single (SKU# 279-5279)\$24.99 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-5280)\$124.94 (Save \$25)



Lehigh Valley Covered Hopper

Single (SKU# 279-6981)\$24.99

Handsome Hoppers & Outstanding ore cars



Seaboard System Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 275-9186) | . \$24.99 |
|---|-----------|
| 6-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9187)\$124.94 (Sa | ve \$25) |



Soo Line Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 275-9194 | 4) | | \$24.99 |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SK) | U# 275-9195) | \$124.94 (| Save \$25) |



New York Central Pacemaker Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 279-89 | 952) | | \$24.99 |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (S | KU# 279-8953) | \$124.94 | Save \$25) |



The Rock

| Single (SKU# 279-6284) \$24.99 | |
|--|--|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-6285) \$124.94 (Save \$25) | |





BNSF Ore Cars

| 2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9155) | \$34.99 |
|--|------------|
| 8-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9156) \$119.96 (| Save \$20) |



Norfolk and Western Ore Cars

2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9161)\$34.99 8-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9162) ... \$119.96 (Save \$20)



Southern Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 275-9190) | \$24.99 |
|--|---------|
| 6-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9191)\$124.94 (Sav | e \$25) |



Susquehanna Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 279- | -8942) | \$24.99 |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack | (SKU# 279-8943) | \$124.94 (Save \$25) |



Frisco Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 279-6276) | \$24.99 |
|---|------------|
| 6-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-6277)\$124.94 (\$ | Save \$25) |



| Starburst® Hopper* | *Candy not included |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Single (SKLI# 275-9149) | \$24.90 |

| Single (SKU# 275-9149)\$24.99 | |
|--|--|
| 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9150)\$84.86 (Save \$15) | |



New Haven Ore Cars

| 2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9157) |) \$34.99 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU | I# 275-9158) \$119.96 (Save \$20) |



Canadian National Ore Cars

| 2-Pc. (SKU# 279-8557) | \$34.99 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8-Pc Dealer Pack (SKU) | # 279-8558) \$119.96 (Save \$20) |



Great Northern Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 275-9192)\$ | 24.99 |
|---|-------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9193)\$124.94 (Save | \$25) |



Norfolk & Western Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 279-8950)\$2 | 24.99 |
|--|-------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8951) \$124.94 (Save | \$25) |



Minneapolis & St. Louis Coal Hopper

| Single (SKU# 279-6280) | \$24.99 |
|---|-----------|
| 6-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-6281) \$124.94 (S | ave \$25) |



| Skiπies° Hopper* | *Candy not included |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Single (SKU# 279-8134) | \$24.99 |

| Single (SKU# 2/9- | 8134) | | \$24.99 |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|------------|
| 4-Pc. Dealer Pack | (SKU# 279-8135) |)\$84.86 | Save \$15) |



Chessie Ore Cars

| 2-Pc. (SKU# 275-9159) | \$34.99 |
|---|------------|
| 8-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9160) \$119.96 (S | Save \$20) |



BNSF Ore Cars

| 2-Pc. (SKU# 279-8559) | \$34.99 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8-Pc Dealer Pack (SKLI# 2 | 279-8560) \$119.96 (Save \$20 |

Fantastic flatcars



Union Pacific Flatcar w/ Modern Ram® Truck

Single (SKU# 279-9385)\$24.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9386) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Air Force Flatcar w/ 1947 Air Force Power Wagon

Single (SKU# 279-9435) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9436) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Military Flatcar w/ Military Truck

Single (SKU# 275-9127)



Pennsylvania Flatcar w/ 1956 York County Dump Truck

Single (SKU# 279-9346)\$24.99



New York Central Flatcar w/ 1956 Fire Truck

Single (SKU# 279-8316) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8317) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Military Flatcar w/ Military Van

Single (SKU# 279-3449)



CSX Flatcar w/ Modern Ram® Truck

Single (SKU# 279-9387) \$24.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9388) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Union Pacific Flatcar w/ 1957 Texaco® Sweptside

Single (SKU# 279-9437) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9438) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



CC&W Flatcar w/ 1948 Cripple Creek Dairy Panel Truck



Railway Express Flatcar w/ 1956 REA Truck

Single (SKU# 279-8312) 4-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8313) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Pennsylvania Flatcar w/ 1956 Sunoco® Fuel Truck

Single (SKU# 279-8318) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8319)\$84.96 (Save \$15)



Military Flatcar w/ Two Jeeps

Single (SKU# 279-3380) 4-Pc, Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-3381) ...



Military Flatcar w/ 1947 Military Power Wagon

Single (SKU# 279-9433) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9434) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



Pennsylvania Flatcar w/ 1957 Sunoco® Sweptside

Single (SKU# 279-9439) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9440) \$84.96 (Save \$15)



DT&I Flatcar w/ 1948 Ford Panel Truck

Single (SKU# 279-6873) ...

Union Pacific Flatcar w/ 1956 Texaco® Tow Truck

Single (SKU# 279-8314) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-8315)



CNW Flatcar w/ Kubota Tractor

Single (SKU# 279-3186)



Military Flatcar w/ Half Track

Single (SKU# 279-3384) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-3385)\$99.96 (Save \$20)

Fantastic flatcars







2-Pack Union Pacific Flatcars

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-9404) \$24.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9405) \$84.96 (Save \$15)





2-Pack Milwaukee Road Flatcars

4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9411) \$84.96 (Save \$15)





2-Pack Pennsylvania Flatcars

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-9406), \$24,99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9407) \$84.96 (Save \$15)





2-Pack Burlington Northern

2-Pc. (SKU# 279-9408) \$24.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-9409)\$84.96 (Save \$15)

14.75



Canadian Pacific Flatcar

Single (SKU# 275-9036) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9037)\$99.96 (Save \$20) 14.75 INCHES



Single (SKU# 275-9038)\$29.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9039)\$99.96 (Save \$20)



Norfolk Southern Flatcar

Single (SKU# 275-9040) . \$29.99 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9041)\$99.96 (Save \$20)



New York Central Flatcar

Single (SKU# 275-9042) . 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9043)\$99.96 (Save \$20)



Cripple Creek Cattle Car

Single (SKU# 275-9286) 4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 275-9287) \$139.96 (Save \$20) 14.75 INCHES



Auto Carrier with 1948 Ford® Panel Trucks

Single (SKU# 279-3912)



4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-3915) \$179.96 (Save \$20)

4-Pc. Dealer Pack (SKU# 279-3913)\$179.96 (Save \$20)

17.50 INCHES



Florida East Coast Flatcar w/ Saturn V Rocket

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



Corrugated Auto Carrier (Yellow)

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



Corrugated Auto Carrier (Burgundy)

Auto Carrier with 1951 Ford® Trucks

Single (SKU# 279-3914)

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

Totally Tubular track



 10" Straight Tubular Track
Single (SKU# 279-3078)\$1.96
Case of 24 Pieces (SKU# 279-3464)\$37.96



| 0-36 Curve Tubular Track | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Single (SKU# 279-3085) | \$2.99 |
| Case of 24 Pieces (SKU# 279-3469) | \$44.95 |





| 0-42 Curve Tubular Track | |
|--|----------|
| Single (SKU# 279-3081) | |
| ouse of 24 Floors (often 215 0401) miniminim | ψ-1-1.00 |



| 0-96 Curve Tubular Track | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Single (SKU# 279-3099) | \$3.99 |
| Case of 24 Pieces (SKU# 279-3471) | \$59.99 |





MADE FROM EXTRA STRONG HIGH TENSILE STRENGTH STEEL!

