

THE O SCALE

RESOURCE

NEWS, REVIEWS, INFORMATION TO USE

**We're putting the "modeling" back
in Model Railroading! ®**

Volume 13 No. 5

May/June 2026

**O Scale Central's
The Coupler now included**



**New Tracks
March Meet Roundup
March Meet Contest and Display Models
Building An Open Air Engine Shed Part 2
Artificial Intelligence in Model Railroading
Buck Regulators: Why You May Want Some
Enhancing Train Videography with a Simple Digital
Technique
And so much more...**

Published Bi Monthly

The Model Railroad Resource LLC
407 East Chippewa Street
Dwight, Illinois 60420
815-263-2849

May/June 2026
Volume 13 No. 5

Owner / Publisher
Amy Dawdy

Managing Editor
Daniel Dawdy

Advertising Manager
Jeb Kriigel

Welcome to the online *O Scale Resource Magazine*. Our magazine is presented in an easy to use format. The blue bar above the magazine has commands for previewing all the pages, advancing the pages forward or back, searching to go to a specific page, enlarging pages, printing pages, enlarging the view to full screen, and downloading a copy to your computer.

Front Cover Photo

*A scene from Serge Lebel's Mooselick Bay
Railroad*

BILL OF LADING

- 2 Bill Of Lading**
- 4 From the Publisher's Desk**
- 8 News You Can Use - New Items of Interest**
- 16 March Meet Roundup**
- 28 March Meet Contest**
- 40 Artificial Intelligence in Model Railroading: A New Era of Creativity and Realism**
By Serge Lebel
- 51 What Is a Buck Regulator and Why You May Want Some**
By Dan Dawdy
- 61 The Faux Dolly Shot: Enhancing Train Videography With a Simple Digital Technique**
By Santiago Pineda
- 69 Building An Open Air Engine Shed Part 2**
By William W. Davis
- 78 O Scale Central's *The Coupler***
- 81 New Tracks**
By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR
- 102 New Tracks 02/25/26 My Build**
- 107 New Tracks 03/25/26 My Build**
- 111 Show Schedule**
- 112 Classified Ads**
- 112 Advertiser Index**



Find us on
Facebook

The Model Railroad Resource, LLC publishes *The O Scale Resource Magazine* six times a year. We also have a line of 3D products as well as custom printing.

[Click here for our 3D offerings!](#)

ALLEGHENY SCALE MODELS

O SCALE LOCOMOTIVES & ROLLING STOCK

Website: www.alleghenyscale.com • Email: oscale@alleghenyscale.com
470 Schooley's Mountain Road, Suite 117, Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840 • (908) 436-7581

Steam Locomotives

ATSF 1950 Class 2-8-0, SS, L/N, CP, Can Motor, Oil Tender, DCC/Sound, Road No. 1971	\$895
ATSF 2-8-2, MG, L/N, CP, Updated, Dir. Lights, Can Motor, Road No. 4083, Japan	\$895
ATSF Blue Goose S/L 4-6-4, MTH, New, FP, 2R, Can Motor, Lights, Proto 3.0, No. 3460, Korea	\$895
ATSF 3700 4-8-2 Mountain, SS 3rd, New, Early version, FP, Can Motor, Road No. 3733, Korea	\$1095
ATSF 2900 Class 4-8-4, USH, L/N, Pro Paint, Lights, Road No. 2900, KTM Japan	\$995
ATSF 2-10-4, USH, L/N, CP, Pro Weathered, KES Drive, Can Motor, Lights, No. 5028, Japan	\$1250
B&O C16 0-4-0T Dockside, SS 3rd, New, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 97	\$525
B&O 0-8-0 Switcher, SS 3rd, L/N, FP, Road No. 2375	\$595
B&O P7 4-6-2 Early, Custom/Ken Henry, L/N, Pro Paint, Green/Gold, "Pres. Tyler", No. 5308	\$2095
B&O P7d 4-6-2 Cincinnati, SS 3rd, Mint, FP, Can Motor, Lights, 1 of 25, No. 5301	\$1895
B&O P7E 4-6-2 Pacific, Semi-Streamlined, SS 3rd, Mint, FP Blue, Boxpox Drivers, No. 5314	\$1195
B&O Q4b 2-8-2, Custom/Ken Henry, L/N, CP, Vandy Tender, Road No. 4412	\$1695
B&A Class K6a 4-6-2, SS/Custom, L/N, CP, Upgraded, KES Drive, Lights, Road No. 590	\$1295
CP Royal Hudson 4-6-4, WVR, L/N, FP, Streamlined, Lights, Road No. 2860, Korea	\$725
C&O C16 0-8-0 Switcher, MTH/Custom, EX, CP, C&O Detailing, Can Motor, 2R, No. 276, NOB	\$475
C&O F19 4-6-2 "George Washington", OMI No. 0108, L/N, CP, Can Motor, Road No. 492, Ajin	\$1695
C&O J2 4-8-2, SS, EX, CP, "G. Washington", Can Motor, LEDs, Road No. 542, Korea, NOB	\$750
C&O T1 2-10-4, WSM, L/N, CP, Lt. Weathering, Upgraded drive, Can motor, Lights, No. 3032	\$1795
CB&Q S4 4-6-4, PSC 317159-1, New, F/P, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 3012, Korea	\$2495
CB&Q S4a 4-6-4, PSC No. 17159-2, New, FP, Can Motor, LED HL, Road No. 4003, Korea	\$2695
C&NW Class E5 4-6-2, Scratch Built, New, ProPaint, KES Drive, Can Motor, No. 1666, Unique	\$1695
GN 08 2-8-2 Vestibule Cab, ORI, New, FP Black, Lt. Weathering, No. 3377, Samhonga	\$1395
GN P2 4-8-2, PRB, L/N, FP, Glacier Park, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 2510	\$795
GN S2 4-8-4, SS/Custom, L/N, Pro Paint, Glacier Park, KES Drive, Lights, Road No. 2575	\$1695
MILW A5 Hiawatha 4-4-2, Weaver, New, FP, Upgraded, Can Motor, LEDs, Road No. 1	\$895
MILW F6 4-6-4, PSC #17337-1, New, FP Blk, As Shopped, Lts, Mars Lt, Road No. 135, Korea	\$2550
MILW F6a 4-6-4, Scratch Built/Frank Miller, New, Pro Paint, Can Motor, No. 146, Exceptional	\$5295
NYC CR&I B62 USRA 0-6-0, SS/Custom, New, Pro Paint/B. Beedy, No. 223, Unique	\$1495
NYC J3a 4-6-4 Late Destreamlined, Kohs, New, FP, Mixed Drivers, No. 5451, SJ Models	\$6595
NYC J3a 4-6-4 Destreamlined, SS 3rd, L/N, FP, Marcus Drive, Disks, PT-4, No. 5451	\$1095
NYC J3a Dreyfus, Lionel Smithsonian, L/N, FP, Wood Case, Road No. 5454, SJ Models Korea	\$2050
NYC K5 4-6-2, SS/Custom, New, Pro Paint, Road No. 5000	\$1295
NYC L3b 4-8-2, SS 3rd, Like New, FP, Full Cab Detail, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 3035	\$1095
NYC S1b 4-8-4 Niagara, PSC Crown, L/N, UP, Twin HL, Pittman R1 Motor, LEDs, KTM, Japan	\$1795
NYC S1b 4-8-4 Niagara, SS 3rd, L/N, FP, Modern, Lights, Kadec, Coal Load, No. 6024	\$750
NKP L1b 4-6-4, Weaver, L/N, FP, Smoke Lifters, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 175, Korea	\$795
NKP S2 2-8-4, USH/Custom, L/N, CP, Detailed, KES Drive, Can Motor, Lights, No. 763	\$1295
N&W K2A S/L 4-8-2, SS 3rd/Custom, New, FP, Correct PSC Drivers, Lights, No. 126	\$1195
NP A4 4-8-4, OMI 0151-2, L/N, CP, Gray Boiler, Lights, Road No. 2677, Ajin, Korea	\$1695
PRR B6sb 0-6-0, Gem/Custom, L/N, CP, KES Drive, Can Motor, Road No. 525	\$1195
PRR B6sb 0-6-0, PSC, New, FP, Standard Version, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 1670	\$1250
PRR H8sc 2-8-0, Key, New/TR, UP, Standard Front End, Can Motor, Samhonga, Korea	\$1595
PRR H9 2-8-0, Key/Custom, L/N, CP, Post-War Detail, I-1 Tender, Marcus Drive, No. 8014	\$1525
PRR H10 2-8-0, Key, New, FP, Std. front end, Stoker, Window Glazing, Lights, No. 8014	\$1595
PRR H10s 2-8-0, CLW/Custom, EX, CP, Enclosed Gearbox, Hines West Brass Tender, No. 9915	\$595
PRR K4 4-6-2 Postwar, Kohs, New, FP, 130p75 Tender, Road No. 3863, SJ Models, Korea	\$5495
PRR K4 4-6-2 Prewar, Kohs, New, FP, 130p75 Tender, Road No. 5339, SJ Models, Korea	\$5395
PRR K4 4-6-2 Postwar, Kohs, New, FP, 130p75 Tender, Kohs Installed DCC/Sound, No. 1522	\$5695
PRR K4 4-6-2 Prewar, Scratch Built/Ken Henry, EX, CP, Road No. 5425	\$1295
PRR K4sa 4-6-2, Kohs, New, FP, 130p75 Tender, 1 of 10, Road No. 612, SJ Models, Korea	\$6295
PRR M1a 4-8-2 Prewar, OMI, New, UP, 210p75 Tender, Can Motor, 1996 Run, Ajin, Korea	\$1895
Reading Crusader 4-6-2, WVR, L/N, FP Stainless/Blue, DCC/Sound, KTM GB, Streamlined, No. 118	\$1050
SP Lines C-10 2-8-0, PFM, New, FP, Prewar Lettering, Can Motor, Lights, No. 2852, Samhonga	\$1495
SP F-3 2-10-2, PSC, Post War, L/N, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 3666, Korea	\$1895
SP G5 4-4-8-4, PSC, New, FP, San Joaquin Partial Daylight, De-Skirted, Road No. 4439	\$3250
SP MT-4 4-8-2, SS 3rd, New, FP, Postwar, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 4360, Korea	\$1250
SP MT-5 4-8-2, PSC, Postwar, L/N, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 4375	\$1895
SP 5000 Class 4-10-2, C&LS, Pilot Model, New, UP, G. Schrader Drive, No. 5021, Unique	\$5650
UP 5000 Class 4-12-2, SS 3rd, 1st Run, New, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 9000	\$895
UP FEF-2 4-8-4, Oil Version, Key, L/N, FP, TT Gray, Silver Stripes, Can Motor, Lts., No. 825	\$1695
Wabash 2-6-0, Kemtron Pro Built Kit, L/N, CP, Marcus Drive, No. 587, Unique	\$650
WM J1 4-8-4 Potomac, C&LS, New, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 1412, Boo-Rim, Korea	\$2295

Articulated and Duplex Steam Locomotives

C&O H4 2-6-6-2, C&LS, L/N, FP, Can Motor, DCC/Sound, Lights, Road No. 1411, Boo Rim	\$3195
C&O H6 2-6-6-2, C&LS, L/N, FP, Weathered, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 1477, Boo Rim	\$3195
C&O H6 2-6-6-2, C&LS, L/N, FP, VC12 Tender, DCC/Sound, Kadees, Road No. 1492	\$3295
C&O H8 2-6-6-6 Late, Kohs, Schrader mods, L/N, FP, DCC/Sound, Weathered, No. 1652	\$8950
C&O H8 2-6-6-6, Kohs, L/N, FP, Late, Version 2, Road No. 1657, SJ Models, Korea	\$6995
N&W Y3a 2-8-8-2, OMI, L/N, Pro Paint, C&LS Dual Drive, LEDs, No. 2061, Ajin, Korea	\$1795
N&W Y6a 2-8-8-2, Kohs, Ver 2, New, FP, 1 of 17, Road No. 2164, SJ Models	\$7195
N&W Y6b 2-8-8-2, Kohs, Ver 4, New, FP, Ser No. 25 of 100, Road No. 2190, SJ Models	\$6595
N&W Z1b 2-6-6-2, PSC/Custom, L/N, FP, Sofue Twin Motor Drive, Road No. 1363	\$2495
NP Z5 2-8-8-4, SS 3rd, Anniversary Series, New, FP, Black Boiler, Lights, Road No. 5000	\$995
NP Z5 2-8-8-4, Early Ver, PSC, New, FP, Black, Upgraded Detail & Drive, Lts, No. 5001	\$3195
NP Z5 2-8-8-4, Late Ver, PSC, New, FP, Black, Upgraded Detail & Drive, No. 5008, Korea	\$3195
PRR Q2 4-4-6-4, SS 3rd, New, FP, Can Motor, Lights, Road No. 6131, Korea	\$1250
PRR T1 4-4-4-4, SS 3rd, EX, FP, Orig. Production, 3 Portholes, Can Motor, Road No. 6110	\$895
PRR T1 4-4-4-4, Modified, CB, L/N, ProPaint, Detailed, DCC/Sound, Road No. 5544	\$2750
UP Big Boy 4-8-8-4 Early, USH, L/N, CP, C&LS Gearboxes, Twin Cans, LEDs, No. 4006, KTM	\$1795
UP Challenger 4-6-6-4, Key, New, FP, TT Gray/Yellow, Oil Version, No. 3978, Samhonga	\$2095
UP Challenger 4-6-6-4, USH, Mint, UP, Coal Ver, Assembled, Pittman Can Motor, KTM, Japan	\$2195

Diesel and Electric Locomotives

ACL EMD FP7A/F7B, SS 3rd, New, FP Pass Scheme, Can Motor, Lights, DC/Prototype Sound	\$895
ALCO PA Demonstrator, SS 3rd, New, FP Orange, Lights, DC/DCC/Sound, No. 8375A	\$750
ATSF EMD E8 A-B Set, Key, L/N, FP Warbonnet, LEDs, All Powered, No. 80, Samhonga	\$2995
ATSF EMD F3 PH I A-B-B-A Set, Atlas, New, FP, Warbonnet, 2 Units Pwr, DCC/Sound	\$1495
ATSF EMD F7 A-B Set, Phase II, Key, L/N+, FP Warbonnet, DCC/Sound, No. 314, Samhonga	\$1850
B&O EMD F7 A-B Phase I, Key, L/N, FP, Ser #78, DCC/Sound, Road 949, 949X	\$1895
B&O EMD GP7, SS 3rd, New, FP, Blue/Gray Scheme, DC/DCC/Sound, Lights, No. 743	\$795
B&O EMD SD9, SS 3rd, Mint, FP, DC/DCC/Sound, Can Motor, Light	\$795
B&O FM H-10-44, OMI, L/N, CP by OMI, Cab Detail, Can Motor, Flywheels, Lts, No. 196, Ajin	\$850
DM&IR EMD SD9, SS 3rd, New, FP, 1st Run, DC, Can Motor, Lights, No. 102	\$795
Erie Lackawanna F7A-F7B, Atlas, New, FP, Road No. 7114(A)-Powered - No. 7123(B)	\$875
GN ALCO RS-1, Atlas, L/N, FP, Green/Orange Scheme, Cat #7871-1, 2R, DC, Road No. 182	\$375
GN EMD F3 PH II A-A Units, Atlas, L/N, FP, Lt. Weathering, DC/DCC/Sound, Nos. 228-230	\$795
Morristown & Erie ALCO RS-1 Diesel, Atlas, New, FP, Road No. 15	\$375
NYC EMD E7 A-B Units, OMI, L/N, CP, L. Stripe, Frt. Pilot, Lg. No. Boards, Nos. 4025/4112	\$1595
PRR BLW V0-1000, WVR, Mint, FP, 2R, DC, Lights, Road No. 5916	\$525
PRR EMD E7 A-B Units, Key, L/N, FP, Single Stripe, Phase II, Dual Power, No. 5840A/B, Samhonga ..	\$1495
SRR EMD FP7A/F7B, SS 3rd, New, FP Tuxedo Scheme, Can Motor, Lights, DC/Prototype Sound	\$895
UP FP45, USH, EX, CP Yellow/Gray Scheme, Road No. 9184	\$450
WM EMD SD35, Atlas, New, FP, Late Scheme, Item #7819-2, Road No. 7433	\$375
ATSF RDC-1 Coach, DVP, New, FP Stainless, Interior, Can Motors, Road No. 191	\$1095
PRR Gas Electric, SS 3rd, New, FP Tuscan, Interior Detail, Passengers, Road No. 4666	\$650
NYS&W Gas Electric, Erie Design, OMI, L/N, CP Red/Gray Scheme, Powered, No. 5012	\$650
PRR GG1, Kohs, L/N, FP, Five Stripe Brunswick Scheme, Futura Lettering, No. 4801	\$4895
PRR GG1, Kohs, New, FP, Tuscan Red Five Stripe/Clarendon, Drop Couplers, Road No. 4910	\$5395
PRR P5a Box Cab Electric, MG/Custom, L/N, FP, KES Drive, Can Motor, No. 4754	\$1295
PRR P5a Box Cab Electric, SS 3rd, Mint, FP, Can Motor, Road No. 4746	\$795

Passenger Consists & Cars

Lincoln Funeral Train, PSC, New, FP, CCC&St.L 4-4-0/2 Pass. Cars, Interiors, No. 18 of 35	\$4295
UP M10000 Streamlined Articulated 4 Unit Set, OMI, L/N, CP Brown/Yellow, KES Drive, Interiors	\$3495
B&O Cincinnati 5 Car Passenger Set, SS 3rd, L/N, FP, Interiors, Lights	\$1495
C&O George Washington HWT 7 Car Set, American Standard/Custom, L/N, CP, Air-Cond	\$2250
C&O Pullman Standard LWT 10 Car Set, Fischer, EX, Stainless Fluting, Interiors, Unique	\$4250
MILW 1925 Hiawatha 5 Car Pass. Set, WVR, New, FP, 2R, Ribbed Side, Lights	\$750
NYC 1939 20th Century Limited LWT 9 Car Set, SS/Custom, EX, CP, Detailed, 2 Diners	\$2695
PRR 1930 Broadway Ltd 8 Car Set, Fischer, L/N+, CP, Orange Sashes, Bronze Gold Let, Interiors	\$4095
PRR PD Class 2 Car Passenger Set, SMR Trains, New, FP, 2R, Interiors	\$1495
Reading Crusader 5-car LWT Passenger Set, Weaver, L/N, Factory Plated, 2R, Interiors, Lights	\$895
Ferdinand Magellan US No. 1 Presidential Car, Truman Era, OMI, New, FP, 2R, Interior, Lights	\$1495

Email oscale@alleghenyscale.com for a complete O Scale model list

From the Publisher's Desk

Hello and welcome back to the Publisher's Desk, a/k/a rant, diatribe, harangue, tirade, and jeremiad page. I think I covered everything.

If people had any doubts about the [March Meet](#) and it's popularity, then this year's show should dispel any of it. Attendance was up, there was a large group of people waiting in line Saturday morning. There were many collections with pricing that makes one wonder why eBay even exists. We cover the show and the model contest in this issue. [Why not click here](#) and sign up for the 2027 show now while you are thinking about it!

Let's talk about "why shows are worth going to". Looking at eBay today I pulled a few examples of items. Bottom right are show pricing vs the four eBay listings. Now, this does not mean that the eBay sellers ever sold these models, but the deals at shows, along with the show experience and comradery of

meeting old and making new friends, is definitely worth consideration.

Locomotives and higher end rolling stock is even more of a spread. Now I realize we all can't go to every, show or that some people are just too far away to be able to attend, but for those who can, should!

The point is to try and attend any local show in your area.

On another note, when I started going to the Chicago show, way back when it

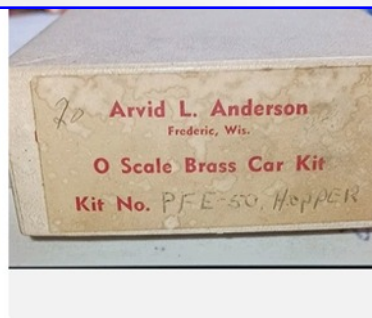
was in Mundelein, IL, I would run around looking and possibly buying items and then just left. I never stopped to talk to dealers or anyone for that matter. As the years went on, I started to engage people, tell them what I was looking for and generally making connections; and most importantly, making friends. That is a big part of the show experience and something I look forward to at any show I attend.

OK, soapbox OFF...



Arvid Anderson O Scale Brass Flat Car Kit Complete Unbuilt w/Instructions

\$59.95



Arvid Anderson O Scale Brass Car Kit PFE-50 Hopper Train Parts Started Kit

\$29.95



Weaver O Gauge Red Plastic 36' Ribbed 2-Bay Hopper Model Railroad Tank Car

\$29.95



O Scale Athearn Metal Line Silver Gate Convention NMRA 1974 Unassembled Kit

\$50.00

This month, Serge Lebel is back with a thought provoking article on "Artificial Intelligence in Model Railroading: A New Era of Creativity and Realism" featuring his new Mooselick Bay Railroad. Also linked is a video of Serge's CN Sanmore Subdivision episode 15. Be sure to watch that.

"The Faux Dolly Shot: Enhancing train videography with a simple digital technique" by Santiago Pineda is a great tutorial for anyone shooting videos of their layout.

Of course, we cover this past March Meet and the contest models, And William W. Davis continues his "Building An Open Air Engine Shed".

I put on my electronics hat and write about "What Is a Buck Regulator and Why You May Want Some". While maybe not for all, these devices do solve a problem that I had and you may have too.

O Scale Central has moved their publication, *The Coupler*, to *The O Scale Resource Magazine* for more widespread coverage and to show what they are all about. O Scale Central is a 501c(3) Non-Profit organization with its primary focus to promote all aspects of 1/48 scale model railroading from O, P48, On3, On30, On2, and On18. They also welcome modelers in 3 Rail 1:48 Scale (3RS).

Also, be sure to check out New Tracks and New Tracks My Build, shows and more this time around.

Happy Reading & Happy Modeling,

Amy & Dan Dawdy

Buy US A COFFee



Know the old joke "How do you make a million dollars in the model railroad business? Start with two million."? Well, same here. We are not going anywhere and will still continue to bring you the best in O scale information every other month but...

As with any ad supported endeavor, there are ups and downs. We have not raised our ad rates (and will not) since we started 11 years ago. We feel the rates are more than favorable for the thousands readers our magazine reaches. Of course, not everyone wants to advertise instead using Facebook and other social media. In a normal paper magazine you have the subscription fee that more than covers mailing and normal operations. Not having that is fine here, but our costs have also climbed.

Traveling to layouts, web services, storage, and hosting fees have all gone up. So we thought we would try "buy us a coffee" in hopes of helping with these extra expenses.

Therefore, if you are getting a good read and enjoying the information, please "buy us a coffee" and help us continue to bring you the best in O scale information. **Hey, even a buck an issue every few issues will help.**

So, if you like what you see and can go with out a Starbucks for a day, click here and give it try.

Thanks for your support!



Indianapolis O Scale Show 2026

2 Rail O Scale Swap Meet

O Scale 2 Rail/P48, Narrow Gauge/On30, O Scale Traction, and 3 Rail Scale

Friday September 18, 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Dealer setup September 18, 12:00PM

Saturday September 19, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

107 trading tables.

Cost of admission is \$20.00 per person, spouse and children under 16 free.

La Quinta Inn & Suites Indianapolis South, 5120 Victory Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46203

For More Information: Call: 317 435-8378

Website: indyoscaleshow.com

Facebook: <https://fb.com/indyoscaleshow>



MODELS

Phoenix Precision Models

Website: <http://phoenixprecisionmodels.com>
Email: phoenixprecisionmodels2023@gmail.com

4220 West Opportunity Way
Suite 104 (Rear)
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Sales & Info. Ph: (623) 551-2548

Phoenix Precision Models is a manufacturer of 3D-printed parts, buildings, vehicles, & accessories for model railroading, and diorama building.

These objects are 3D-printed in gray resin, come with the supports off the model, and are undecorated.

They are available now from your favorite retailer. You can contact us either by phone or through our email at phoenixprecisionmodels2023@gmail.com. You can view undecorated versions of our 3D-printed objects at our website: phoenixprecisionmodels.com.

April, 2026

PPM-33654

PPM-33613

PPM-33703

Gas Station Sign- Gulf®
Bus Stop
Bar #1: Long, Straight
Add-on piece



May, 2026

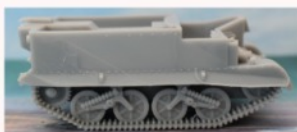
PPM-33140

PPM-33701

PPM-33705

PPM-33706

WWII: T16 Universal Carrier
Bar #1: Long Corner Add-on
piece
Bar #1 or #2: Barstool #1
Bar #1 or #2: Barstool #2



Current

PPM-33010

PPM-33571

PPM-33635

Mid-Dozer
Damaged, Closed 55-Gallon
Drums
20' Halogen Street Light



NEW PAINTS

TCP-4216 Canadian Pacific- Kansas
City Southern- Hydrogen
Green
TCP-4217 Canadian Pacific- Kansas
City Southern- Hydrogen
Gray
TCP-4218 Canadian Pacific- Kansas
City Southern- Hydrogen
Light Blue



Tru-Color Paint

Website: www.phoenixprecisionmodels.com
Email: phoenixprecisionmodels2023@gmail.com

Sales and Information
Phone: (714) 488-9779

Post Office Box 74524
Phoenix, AZ 85086



Owned and Operated by
MrMuffin'sTrains
Atlanta, Indiana

Make us part of your model RR

Over 100 Kits and detail parts

www.korbermodels.com



THINK BIG!
THINK "O" SCALE
THINK!

ALL NATION LINE

The Digital Workbench + New Traction Kits

Your next O Scale project starts here.



THE *A*LL-NATION LINE

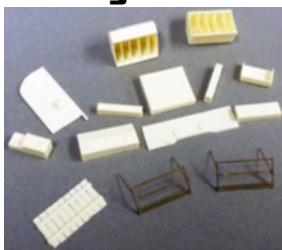
MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTOR "O" SCALE MODEL RAILROADS

Delta Models

Cast Resin Parts for O Scale Passenger Cars

NEW

DM 507 RPO /
Baggage interior
15 ft length
30 and 60 ft also
available



MADE IN AMERICA

Visit Us at www.deltamodelsusa.com



Join today and
explore all there is
to offer in the 1:48
Scale community

O Scale Central® a non-profit 501c(3)
organization that promotes and
supports all aspects of 1:48 scale
from O, P48, On3, On30, On2 to On18

www.OScaleCentral.com

Stevenson Preservation Lines

O Scale

Kits and Parts From Past Masters

Baldwin Model Locomotive Works
Lobaugh
Adams & Sons
Lenoir
Kansas City Kit
Hines Lines
Alexander
Pearce Tool Co.



We are moving. Check our web site for details

www.stevensonpreservationlines.com

Model Trolley Specialist For Over 40 years

St. Petersburg Tram Collection
Car Works * MTS * Q Car * Bronze Key
Ken Kidder * LaBelle * Clouser * Ashland
Parts * Trolley Poles * Power Trucks
Kits * Overhead Wire & Fittings

NEW TORONTO CLRV KITS ARE NOW SHIPPING!
KIT INCLUDES INTERIOR, UNDERBODY AND NEW DECAL SHEET
NEW PCC KITS, ILLINOIS TERMINAL INTERURBANS
& MORE COMING!

The Berkshire Car Shop

505 Morning Dove Road, Audubon, PA 19403-1807
610.631.9751 Evenings and Weekends
Email berkshirecarshop@comcast.net

All-Aboard-Trains.com
256-653-7215



13 Different O Scale Brass Switch Stands
with LED lighting or day targets



NEWS YOU CAN USE

[Rusty Rails](#) has some new castings available.

Three new Hit and Miss engines are available.

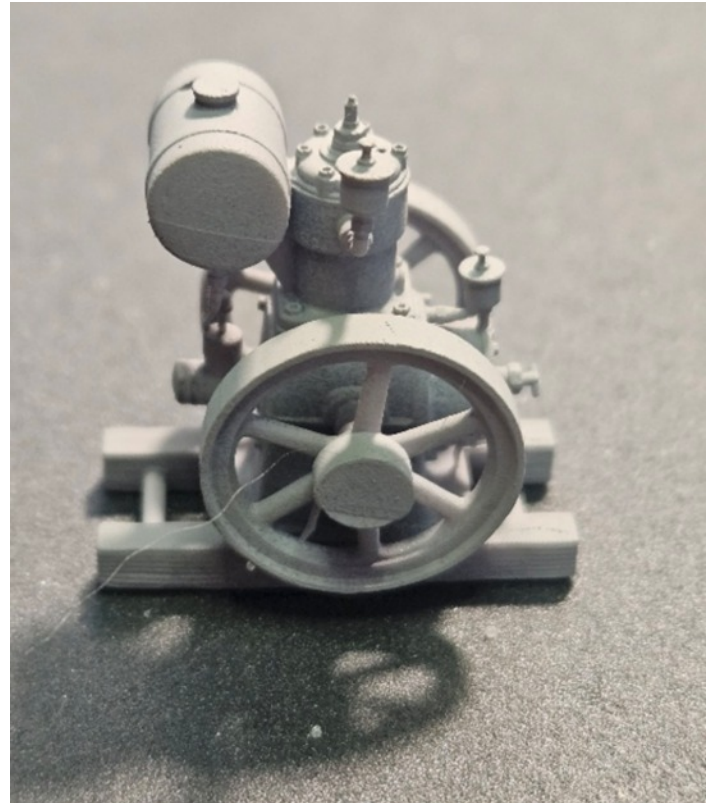
RRSP-O-21—Here is a large Hit and Miss engine. This 3D printed engine does not require any assembly and is a one piece print. You all you have to do is prime and paint. The engine is 2" long by 1 1/2" wide by 1 1/4" tall. the figure is not included.



RRSP-O-22—Here is another Hit and Miss engine. This 3D printed engine does not require any assembly and is a one piece print. You all you have to do is prime and paint. The engine is 1 1/4" long by 5/8" wide by 1" tall. the figure is not included.



RRSP-O-24—Here is another Hit and Miss engine. This 3D printed engine does not require any assembly and is a one piece print. You all you have to do is prime and paint. The engine is 1" long by 3/4" wide by 1 1.8" tall. the figure is not included. Special pricing of you buy all three.

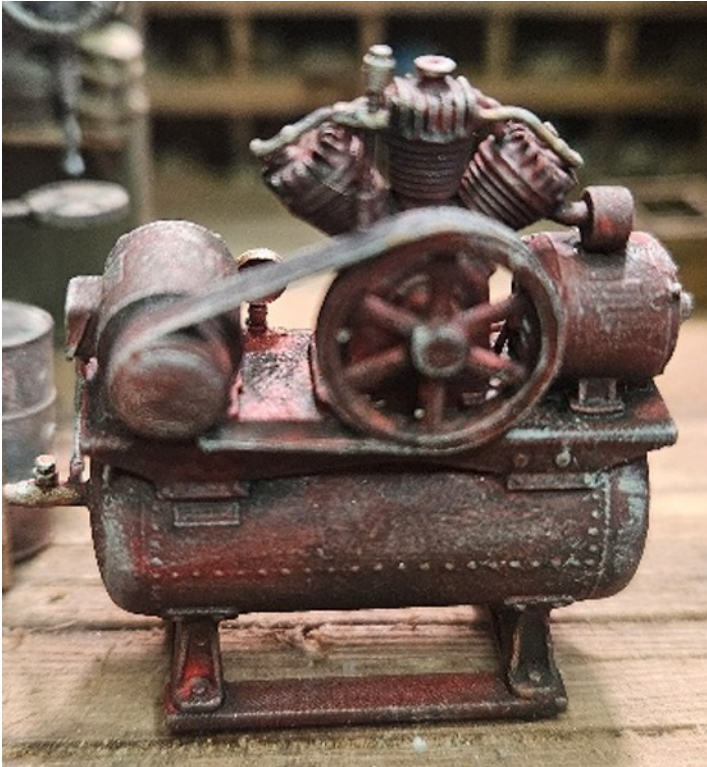


Need a electric generator that is gas powered for those remote mines and logging areas. Well here it is. As you can see quite detailed and had a panel to



monitor the equipment. Has a skid bottom so it can be dragged and eye bolts to connect too. A lot of detail and would add to any scene. The unit is 3D printed and ready to paint and place. The item comes unpainted.

Here is a 3D printed electric air compressor for any shop or gas station. Great detail in this one piece 3D printed model ready to paint and place. The item comes unpainted.



[Check their Website for all their new products.](#)



James and Anna Cleveland of [Frenchman River Model Works](#) have some new items.

[O/On30 1:48 Scale Downtown Book & Flower Shops](#). The law firm of Williams, Shakerton & Speare invested in a building located downtown in Stinkwater Crik. The main level storefront is rented out to Yorick who runs a quirky used book and manuscript store where many obscure manuscripts and first editions can be found. Next door is the quaint flower shop run by Ophelia. Beautiful arrangements can be found for any occasion; however, Ophelia tends to specialize in sympathy arrangements. Even though Yorick and Ophelia appear to be polar opposites, in the end they have more in common than you might think.



[On3/On30 1:48 Scale Side Dump Rock Car](#), designed by Thomas Yorke.

"This model started while surfing the Internet for dump car photos. The design is pretty much universally found around the world on quarry railroads. The design is suitable for On3 and On30 but probably could be used in 1/35 scale too. If assembled with care, it will also dump to one side as per the prototype." ~Thomas Yorke



Also new from Frenchman River Model Works: [On3/On30 1:48 Scale Swayback Flat Car](#). (next page)

Here is a flat car that is just about ready for the RIP Track. Inspired by the famous John Allen and his Gorre and Dephetid Railroad. The hard part of this kit is done for you. It already comes with the swayback cast into it.



These cars are noticeably taller than the typical car from the era, call it a wood sheathed high cube, so really stand out in a train.

Two sets of decals are available for these cars, both the delivery lettering and later, post ARA lettering.



This kit includes parts, instructions and drawings for the Swayback Flat Car only. Trucks and couplers are not included to allow for the wide variety in preferences and scale that will work with this kit.

See their Website for more O scale models.
Model Tech Studios LLC has a Portable Crane for use in a Warehouse, Loading Dock, Wharf, Engine Facility, Factory etc. Comes Built up and Finished.



See all their fine products on their Website.



Lines West Products has released an O scale version of the Nickel Plate Road 40' double sheathed Auto boxcar in three variants each. Available with Hutchins or Murphy ends with Hutchins roofs.

A Hutchins/Murphy XLA roof combo available as well. They all come with pre drilled grab irons and Lines West's unique screw/threaded insert body, coupler and truck mounting system to eliminate stripped threads and ease assembly.

Also Fruit & Vegetables Crates - Full Of Produce, Pre Aged And Layout Ready.

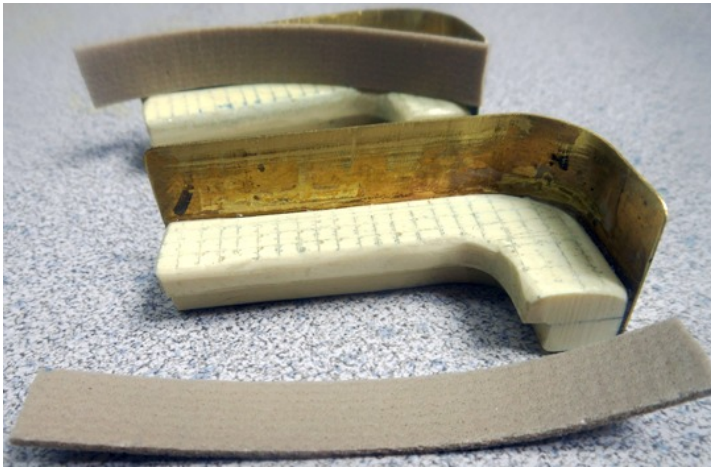


See their Website for all their proucts.

Bill Basden of Delta Models has some new products.

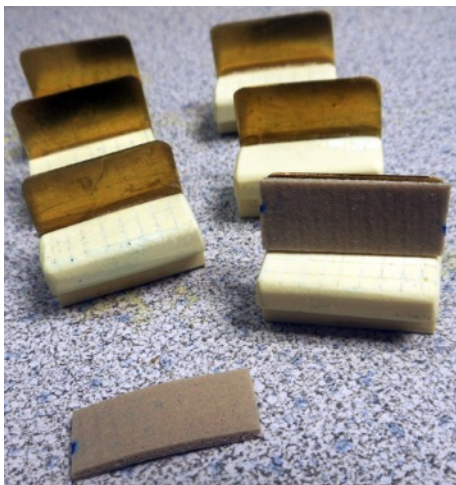
DM 355 and DM 355A are seats L shape in design with a rubberized cushion back on 355. 355A bench only L shape.

DM 354 is a very nice clear resin casting for EMD



diesels type models you get a left and right. The will all OMI models F3 thru F9 A units. Will also fit OMI E 3 thru E9 A units. These may fit other model with modifications.

DM 356 is a narrow seat with cushion back.



Check out all their fine products on their Website here.



Here are the latest uploads from Lake States.

We are pleased to announce another new collection. Chris J. Burger is well known for his 39 years of service in the railroad industry in various leadership positions. Chris is also a talented photographer who enjoys the added benefit of “being in the right place at the right time.” He got his start as a NYC signal helper at Harmon, NY in the mid 1960s, served at the New Haven for a brief time, and soon moved to the C&NW in the Midwest where he managed the Wisconsin Division.

Chris’ interest in steam locomotives made him the moving force behind the railroad’s “Good-Will Ambassador” steam program featuring C&NW 1385 from 1982 until 1988. He returned to the eastern U.S. to head the Central Vermont and wrapped up as president of a regional railroad holding company in Kokomo, IN. He resides in Russiaville, IN with his wife Rita and enjoys maintaining contact with his many friends and colleagues, and occasionally visits trackside to record more images of railroading, although today it is in the digital realm.

It was during his time at the C&NW that he turned his photographic skills toward Circus World Museum’s Great Circus Train which operated out of Baraboo to Milwaukee over the C&NW for several years. The train’s operation brought great attention to the railroad and its role in transporting circus performers and equipment. The colorful train was a crowd pleaser. We have scanned Chris’ slides and uploaded them to the following new gallery (128 images):

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Chris-Burger-Collection/CWM-Great-Circus-Train>

We have added a new steam gallery to the Bruce Meyer Collection. This time it is the Illinois Central’s 900-series 2-8-0s. Bruce photographed these operating out of Bloomington, IL while he was a student at Illinois State in the mid-1950s. They can be viewed at this link (286 images):

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Bruce-Meyer-BW-Negative-Collection/Illinois-Central-Steam-Locomotives/2-8-0-900-Series>

We have completed more Norm Metcalf “Super Slides” donated by Jim Ehernberger a few years ago. This time it is the Burlington Northern (316 images): <https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Ehernberger-Norm-Metcalf-Collection/BN>

More Art Anderson Milwaukee Road slides have been uploaded. This is a new gallery featuring photography from January through June in the year 1978 (534 images):

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Art-Anderson-Collection/CMStPP-1978-Jan-Jun>

Two all-new galleries of depots/structures have been added to the Charles Bohi Collection as follows: AT&SF depots/structures (228 images):

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Charles-W-Bohi-Collection/Depots-Structures/ATSF>

Baltimore & Ohio depots/structures (162 images):

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Charles-W-Bohi-Collection/Depots-Structures/BO>

We have completed another “mini-collection” of photography in the Ray W. Buhrmaster B&W Collection. This time it is the work of photographer R.A. McLeod. 369 of his images can be viewed here: <https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Ray-W-Buhrmaster-BW/RA-McLeod>

When we received the John S. Ingles Collection as part of the J. David Ingles estate several years ago, we scanned a photo album of old B&W prints taken on the Detroit Toledo & Ironton in the 1920s-1930s. John finished off his railroad career working for the DT&I as their Chief Mechanical Officer. We recently came upon additional metadata information for these photos so we rescanned and uploaded them. You can view the 62 images at this link:

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/John-S-Ingles-Collection/DTI-Company-Files>

A few more prints in the Herb Sullivan Collection have been scanned and uploaded. These were views for which there were no negatives. Some of Herb’s older nitrate negs had deteriorated and had to be discarded upon accession. Luckily, prints had been made of many of his negatives many years ago and these were

donated by Kalmbach at the same time as his negatives. They have survived in good condition. We have compared every Herb Sullivan print against the existing negatives and scanned ones that were missing a negative. These last two were recently discovered.

This should now complete the Herb Sullivan Collection. They can be viewed in the SP gallery:

<https://www.lakestatesarchive.org/Herb-Sullivan-Collection/Southern-Pacific>



What’s New: Step Into the All Nation Line Digital Workbench

The All Nation Line Digital Workbench <https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/anl-workbench.html> is redefining what a modern O Scale workspace can be. Whether you’re restoring a classic, researching a prototype, or diving into deep modeling knowledge, the Digital Workbench brings the entire O Scale universe together in one powerful, easy-to-use hub.

Built by All Nation Line

These are the Workbench’s core tools — created in-house to support builders, restorers, and tinkerers:

- Ask the Workbench

<https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/anl-ai-agent.html> Your on-demand modeling companion. Ask questions, get guidance, explore techniques — it’s like having an expert builder at your bench 24/7.

- All Nation Line Parts Index

<https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/anl-parts-index.html> A fast, organized gateway to the ANL parts catalog. Perfect for restorations, kitbashing, and scratch-building.

Curated From the O Scale Community

These sections bring together decades of work from respected O Scale publishers and organizations:

- O Scale Resource Magazine Index

https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/oscale_article_index.html A fully searchable archive of articles, tips, and deep-dive modeling knowledge from across the O Scale Resource Magazine.

- TAMR Modeling Archive

<https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/tamr-modeling-article-index.html> A curated look into decades of Teen Association of Model Railroaders creativity, projects, and inspiration.

The Digital Workbench is built to make your modeling faster, smarter, and more enjoyable — and it's growing every month. If you haven't explored it yet, now's the perfect time.

SPECIAL THANKS TO GARY REIGHN

These new additions roll into the catalog thanks to the craftsmanship of Gary Reighn (<http://www.reighn.com/3dprint.html>), who designed each of these traction and trolley models and generously allowed All Nation Line to offer them for modelers who don't have access to 3D printers. His work brings rare prototypes back to life — ready for you to build and add to your layout.



Trolley Power Substation Building Kit (Rotary Converters + Transformers)

<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=trolley-power-substation-building-kit-with-rotaryconverters-2-transformers-2-3d-printed-pn709ank>



A showstopper for any traction scene — this powerhouse structure comes loaded with rotary converters, transformers, and industrial detail. It's the

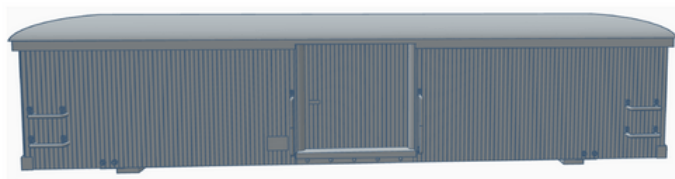
The O Scale Resource March/April 2026

kind of building that instantly tells a story on your layout. If you want a centerpiece with character, this is the one to grab.

Cincinatti & Lake Erie Freight Car 3321 — Flat Roof

<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=cincinatti-lake-erie-cle-traction-freight-car-3321-withflat-roof-kit-3d-printed-pn712ank>

A clean, classic C&LE freight motor with the distinctive flat roof profile. Sharp lines, great proportions, and perfect for traction fans who want something beyond the usual interurban fare. Pair it with the detail kit, on Website, and trucks for a complete build.



Cincinatti & Lake Erie Freight Car 3321 — Coach-Style Roof

<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=cincinatti-lake-erie-cle-traction-freight-car-3321-withcoach-like-roof-kit-3d-printed-pn711ank>

Same rugged C&LE freight motor, but with the elegant coach-like roofline. A great choice if you want a little more style in your traction fleet. Fully compatible with the detail kit and trucks listed on Website.



Detail Kit — C&LE Freight Car

<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=detail-kit-cincinatti-lake-erie-cle-traction-freight-car-pn713ank>

The finishing touch for either version of the 3321. This kit adds the hardware, fittings, and small parts that bring the model to life. A must-have if you want your C&LE motor to look right at home on the main line.

Optional Trucks (Highly Recommended) All Nation Arch Bar Sprung Trucks — 33" Wheels
<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=allnation-arch-bar-sprung-trucks-33-wheels-assembled-pn3813>



Smooth-running, layout-ready trucks that complete the build and give your freight motor the stance it deserves.

New Jersey River Line Stadler Car Kit
<https://allnationline.com/WP/?product=new-jersey-river-line-car-stadler-kit-3d-printedpn710ank>



A modern light-rail favorite — the River Line Stadler car is sleek, distinctive, and instantly recognizable. Perfect for anyone modeling contemporary transit or looking to add something fresh to their roster. Clean print, crisp lines, and a fun build.

See all of their products here:
<https://allnationline.com/WP/>



Alan Zamorski of Millhouse River Studio has a new product this month. Their Engine Service building kits are available in 3, 5 & 7 stall kits.

Kits include brick detail inside and out, base with inspection pits and rails are included.



Pricing \$650 3 stall kit, \$900 5 stall and \$1200 for 7 stall. Lighting kits are also available and come with power supply, brass conduit, Industrial lamp shades, junction boxes, wire, shrink tube and warm white chip LEDs

For more info go to our website
www.millhouseriverstudio.com or call our office.
 (716) 830-5267

Millhouse River Studio
 Quality Products Built to Last Generations and Made in the USA!

Superior Build Quality & Operation • Aluminum Construction • Brass Details • Precision Auto Indexing
 Our tables use mounting tabs for easy installation and make upgrading from other manufacturers tables easy & fast

PRODUCTS THAT ENHANCE THE REALISM OF YOUR LAYOUT

Engine Service & Roundhouse Kits, Plus Lighting Kits Available
 The look of a craftsman kit details, with precut parts for fast and easy painting and assembly

NEW

Both Available in 3, 5 & 7 Stall Kits

Coal Industry Products
 Built from Aluminum, like all our other products.

Rotary Coal Dumper

Working Conveyor Adjustable Legs

Check Website for Details

MillhouseRiverStudio.com (716) 830-5267

BUILD UP YOUR OWN EMPIRE WITH HILLSIDE STRUCTURE KITS FROM



Item #6916
Steel Water Tower Kit



Item #66910
Margie's Macchiatos Coffee Shop Kit



Item #66911
Steve's Music Store Kit



Item #66913
Road Sign Kit
(7 pcs.)



Item #66915
Single Traffic
Light



Item #66916
Double Traffic
Light



Item #66910 Wilson's Gas N Go Service Station Kit



Item #6917 Wheeler's Auto Dealers Kit



ATLAS MODEL RAILROAD CO, INC. • 378 Florence Ave., Hillside, NJ 07205 • shop.atlasrr.com



Amish Buggy – Berkshire Valley



Perfect for any layout. Laser cut wood, white metal kit. Horse available separately.

#269 Amish Buggy (1/48) \$26.00

The Public Delivery Track

5000+ O gauge items in stock

100+ PDT special run items

2 Rail and 3 Rail

Atlas • MTH • GGD • Lionel

Weaver • Williams • Woodland Scenics

www.PublicDeliveryTrack.com

pdt212@gmail.com . 805-226-0320

P.O. Box 2637, Paso Robles, CA 93447

**Support all the O scale shows
See our show list in this issue!**

MARCH MEET 2026

We are back, baby!

If there was any doubt of the March Meet slowing down, this year's event put that to rest. Outstanding attendance, so many collections and really good pricing along with great vendors, and I was not sick this year!

First off, our open house had over 40 people attend. Thank goodness I got some new areas finished before that. A new "other side of the tracks" area was completed for this year and our gas station got new owners.



OK, on to the show... Friday night was set up and I assigned Amy to begin "stocking the shelves" as I wandered around aimlessly meeting up with old friends.



Amy happily working away while I oversaw the process.



Our usual Friday night dinner at Greek Islands Restaurant. Nancy Krügel and Bill Baur have no idea the flaming cheese is arriving.



Sit back and enjoy the images from this year show!



Our advertising manager, Jeb Kriigel had most every Arttista figure available.



Daniel Raible had a nice display showing his passion for 3-D printing.



Buildings, buildings and more buildings, all at good prices.

Tully Models with all their fine agricultural and industrial models.



Catherine Bocskor, on left, taking with Monica Gerber Bulgarino.





Berkshire Valley Models



Our friend Frank Ceeko with thumbs up for the show.



New Nickel Plate Road stockcar kits from Smoky Mountain Model Works and Train Kitchen (Sarah Griessenböck).





John, Jay Escamilla and Johnny of Third & Townsend Models and Sunset Models 3rd Rail.



I may have done a thing...





Tom Kleinschmidt of KES Engineering.



Brian Huang is now offering decoder installation services.





More eye candy!





ReSourced Rails was on of the new vendors this year and had amazing stock and pricing.



A good friend, Craig Smith, was here, and on the way, he up picked up my Stout Auction box for me!

Glenn Guerra was showing his custom locomotives and well trucks that Lou Houlemarde of Central Locomotive Works sent out for display.

Jim Kindraka is talking with Glenn.

More eye candy!



Time to Party

**O SCALE CENTRAL MEMBERSHIP MIDNIGHT SOCIAL WITH A CASH BAR
SPONSORED BY O SCALE CENTRAL**



Show and Tell time as James Schultz shows off his new purchases from the show.



James Schultz, Ken Burney, Jim Anderson and Bob Kjelland







OSCALE TURNOUTS™, INC.
"Ready to Lay on your Right of Way"™

Features:
 Designed to the NMRA, A.R.E.A. and 1921 Maintenance of Way Standards.
 Cast frog, guard rails and points for a prototypical appearance.
 PC ties resistance soldered to the rail to insure precise track gauge.
 Solid (non-hinged) Points.
 Prototypical tie spacing.
 Staggered rail ends.
 DCC compatible.
 Insulated Frog.
 Made in the U.S.A.



CONTACT:
 P.O. Box 818
 Hamburg, MI 48139
 810.231.4461
wcm@oscaleturnouts.com

MARCH O SCALE MEET CONTEST & DISPLAY

CABOOSE



First Place Caboose: Conrail Transfer Caboose by Patrick Welsh



Second Place Caboose: Frisco by Terry Box

ASA 200 24 EXP. DIESEL



First Place Diesel: Canadian Pacific GP20's by Bill Yancey



Second Place Diesel: Rock Island GP7 by Kevin Leyerle



Third Place Diesel: Northern Pacific RS3 by Armour Peterson

PASSENGER CAR



First Place Passenger Car:
Business Car "Milwaukee"
Milwaukee Road
By James Schultz



Second Place Passenger Car:
Northern Pacific Parlor Lewis
& Clark Travelers Rest #495
By David Schultz





Third Place Passenger Car: SLSF Lake Apopka Pullman by Tom Dooling



First Place Freight Car: HJH Co 486 Heinz 57 Varieties Reefer by Attalee S Taylor



Second Place Freight Car: Gorre & Daphetid 1937 AAR Boxcar by Sean Kelly



First Place Traction & Best In Show: THI&E #600 Private Car by Ralph L Nelson





Second Place Traction: THI&E #21 James Whitcomb Riley by Ralph L Nelson



Non-Revenue Car Only Entry: Working Crane Riley by Terry Box



Thank you to our judges!

Rusty Damm

Jim Osborn, MMR

Mark Willmering

Eric Peterson

Bill Kennedy

ASA 200 24 EXP. STEAM



Steam Only Entry: Northern Pacific Z-4 #4500 by Mike Booth

ASA 200 24 EXP. DISPLAY



Glenn Guerra built Mullet River Model Works freight cars



First Place Structure:
PRR Single Stall
Engine House
By Attalee S Taylor

Second Place Structure: Union Ice
Company
By Gregory Cygnar





DISPLAY



Marty Megregian's The Beast. [See article in last issue of *The O Scale Resource Magazine*.](#)



Skyler Shippy's NKP 717

**Support all the O scale shows
See our show list in this
issue!**



Rusty Dramm's Northern Pacific 24' Caboose



David Vaughn's NKP 0-6-0



Did you miss an issue of The O Scale Resource? Forgot to look? Well, sign up here and never miss another exciting issue. We'll send you an Email when the latest issue is loaded to our site. Don't worry, we won't sell or post your Email address to anyone! Click Here to sign up today!



Skyler Shippy's NKP War Emergency Caboose 1354



Michael Mangini's SP Automat Car

Grab Iron Ends (Nut/Bolt) and for modern cars, Grab Iron Ends (Rivet). These small parts will really dress up an older Athearn/Reynolds/AllNation car as well as some new cast cars and, of course, your own custom built equipment. The stem is .020 and designed for .015 wire. There are 17 parts per sprue and four sprues package.

Also our new double Nut/Bolt grab iron end used on many cabooses.



**Model Railroad
Resource 3D
Division - Resin
Parts**

modelrailroadresource.com

AMERICAN SCALE
MODELS



Purchases and Sales of Scale Model Trains

Estate and collection liquidations

Consignment Sales

Purchases of new, used, and unwanted equipment

References gladly furnished.

Bill Davis, P.O. Box 1011, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 • (262) 560-1619 • bdavis148@aol.com
Visit my website at americanscalemodels.com for models, detail parts, trucks, and more!

TRAINZ

Trainz wants your O scale collection! With over 45 years of experience, we make it easy to sell your collection.

sellmytrains.com/osr
(866) 234-1900



Looking for a great selection of new and used O scale trains?

Visit trainz.com



Structures - Small to Big Rolling Stock - Old to New



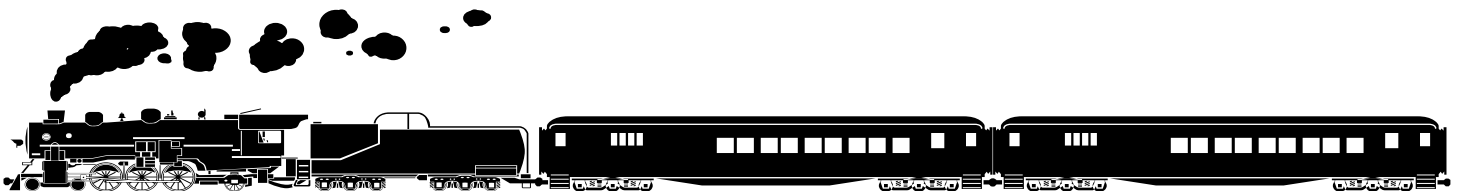
B.T.S. has over 195 O Scale kits . . .

B.T.S.
Better Than Scratch!

1782 Trinity Rd
Belington, WV 26250
304-823-3729

www.btsrr.com

with more coming!



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MODEL RAILROADING: A NEW ERA OF CREATIVITY AND REALISM

By Serge Lebel



Model railroading has always blended craftsmanship, engineering, and storytelling. From hand-laid track to meticulously weathered locomotives, hobbyists have long pushed the limits of realism and creativity.

I have been a model railroader for over 48 years, and during that time I have witnessed remarkable changes and innovations in the hobby. The introduction of Digital Command Control (DCC), the rise of laser engraving, and the accessibility of 3D printing have all transformed how we build and operate our layouts. Each advancement has opened new doors for creativity and realism.

Today, a new and powerful tool is entering the scene: artificial intelligence (AI). I know many of you will cringe just reading the title of this article. I have seen a lot of negative comments on social media about the use of AI in our hobby. So please allow me to bring an old modeler's perspective on this new technology. Just like many of you, I am above all a scratch builder and I value the craftsmanship in working with basic materials and hand tools. AI will not do any of that for you, but it can assist you in ways you never thought of.

Once confined to high-tech industries, AI is now accessible to hobbyists and is rapidly transforming how model railroaders design, build, and operate their layouts. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned modeler, AI offers powerful ways to enhance both creativity and efficiency. Here is a list of basic uses of AI... Further in this article, I will give concrete examples with photos to show you how I have used these AI features on my layout.

Layout Design and Planning

One of the most time-consuming aspects of model railroading is designing a layout that balances realism, space constraints, and operational interest. For many of us, a lack of real railroad experience, or being relatively new at layout building, creating a good track plan can be a challenge.

AI tools can assist you with the following:

- Generate track plans based on room dimensions and scale
- Suggest realistic railroad operations and industries
- Optimize track flow to avoid bottlenecks or unrealistic geometry

By inputting parameters such as available space, era, and preferred operations, hobbyists can quickly explore multiple design options that would otherwise take hours—or days—to sketch manually.

Scenery and Structure Visualization

Creating believable scenery requires imagination and planning. AI image-generation tools allow hobbyists to:

- Visualize landscapes before building them
- Experiment with different terrain styles (mountains, forests, urban scenes)
- Design custom structures like stations, factories, or depots

This is especially useful when trying to match a specific geographic region or historical setting. AI can generate reference images or concept art that guides construction and improves realism.

Custom Paint Schemes and Branding

For those who enjoy freelancing their own railroads, AI is a game changer. Modelers can:

- Design custom liveries for locomotives and rolling stock
- Experiment with color schemes and logo placement
- Create fictional railroad identities complete with branding

This allows hobbyists to visualize their ideas before committing paint to plastic—reducing costly mistakes and encouraging creative exploration.

Operations and Automation

AI is also beginning to influence how layouts are operated. Potential applications include:

- Intelligent train dispatching systems
- Automated scheduling based on real-world traffic patterns
- AI-driven signaling systems that respond dynamically to layout conditions

Combined with Digital Command Control (DCC) systems, AI could eventually enable highly realistic, semi-autonomous railroad operations that mimic real-life rail networks.

Historical Research and Prototyping

Many model railroaders aim to replicate real-world railroads with historical accuracy. AI can assist by:

- Summarizing historical documents and railroad records
- Identifying locomotive types, paint schemes, and consists
- Providing quick answers to detailed research questions

This dramatically reduces the time needed to gather information and helps ensure a higher level of authenticity.

3D Modeling and Custom Parts

With the rise of 3D printing, AI is becoming a valuable design partner. It can help:

- Generate 3D model concepts for custom structures or rolling stock
- Assist in refining designs for printability
- Create unique parts that are not commercially available

This opens the door to truly one-of-a-kind layouts and equipment. I am sure you have all seen AI created figures for 3D printing... The possibilities here are endless.

Coding Arduino and others for computer animation

AI has a fantastic coding ability. If you ever considered using Arduino-type microprocessors to animate your layout, but got stuck at the coding phase, AI can now write the code for you in minutes!

Weathering and Detailing Guidance

Weathering is both an art and a science. AI can:

- Provide visual references for realistic aging effects
- Suggest techniques for rust, grime, and fading
- Simulate before-and-after results

This is particularly useful for beginners looking to improve their detailing skills.

Community Engagement and Content Creation

AI also helps hobbyists share their work:

- Writing blogs and layout descriptions
- Creating video scripts or narration
- Generating social media content

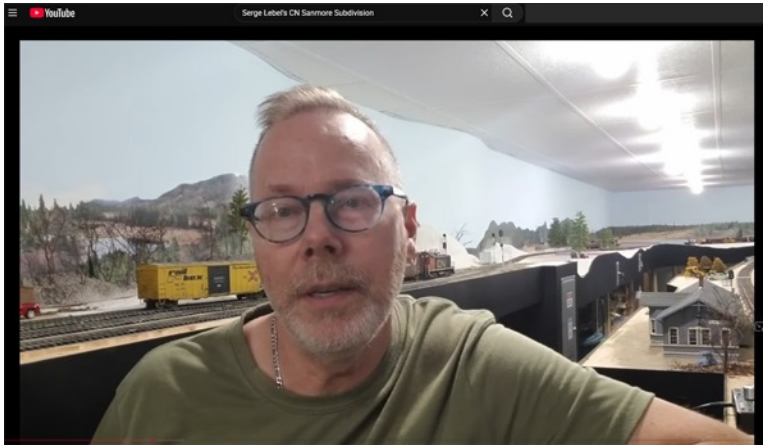
This makes it easier to document and showcase projects, helping grow the model railroading community.

A Personal Perspective: AI on the CN Sanmore Subdivision

While the potential of AI in model railroading is impressive, its true value becomes clear when applied to a working layout.

Having an operating layout equipped with Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) and signaling, realistic operation sessions typically require a dispatcher. However, when a human dispatcher is not available, AI has provided an innovative solution.

By using AI, it is now possible to simulate real-time conversations with a dispatcher. During operating sessions, AI can issue proper authorizations for train movements, including permission to enter the main line, granting combined work authority, or allowing entry into a foreman's work block. Unlike traditional soundboards or scripted responses, these interactions are dynamic and unscripted, closely mimicking real railroad communication. This is actual conversation with a dispatcher.



Click to view on YouTube

This approach is demonstrated in my YouTube video series, [Serge Lebel's CN Sanmore Subdivision – Episode 15](#), where AI-generated conversations are used in a live operating context. The video also showcases additional creative uses of AI, including animated characters and even a custom-generated theme song—further illustrating how AI can enhance both operations and presentation. I strongly recommend you watch this short video to get a glimpse about having AI as a member of your operating group!

Designing the Mooselick Bay Railroad with AI

AI has also played a key role in the development of my freelanced railroad, the Mooselick Bay.

One of the most impactful uses has been in designing custom paint schemes. By describing my vision and requirements, AI generated photo-realistic renderings of my locomotive fleet in the proposed livery. This allowed me to experiment freely with colors, striping, and lettering across different locomotive models—without ever committing paint to a single shell. The locomotives are not exact replicas of my models or of prototype locomotives, but that is something I could have corrected with AI... But in this case, all I wanted was a general view of what my paint scheme could look like.



For this process, I started by asking AI to design a logo for my new railroad. The requirements I prompted in the chat were that I wanted a shield-type logo with a tree covered background, and the Mooselick Bay Railway name across a banner. AI suggested adding a curved track in the design in order to bring in a railroad element. This is what the logo looks like:

Once I had the logo, I imported a few locomotive photos and asked AI to generate a rendering of my new paint scheme based on a few basic guidelines. This is where AI is very practical... I could change my mind time and time again and try all sorts of variations

on any locomotive type I wanted... no paint, no decals, no time wasted. This gives me a good visual reference that I will use when I get to actually paint my locos!



And this is not limited to locos or cars either! The same approach has been applied to service vehicles and maintenance-of-way equipment. AI enables unlimited iteration: designs can be refined, adjusted, or completely re-imagined with no cost, no material waste, and no risk.

I used AI to generate a very consistent look throughout my entire fleet, including a Budd car and my maintenance-of-way and service equipment! All I did was to import a photo of the model, it did not even have

to be the right color... AI created renderings of my entire fleet of trucks with a very fluid consistency. It even created a Brandt truck for me, using an existing diecast truck I have on my layout. I can now use AI to assist me in designing the 3D files for the parts needed to build this truck.



Scenery Planning Through Visualization

Scenery design is another area where AI has proven invaluable. Take, for instance, this small curved scene on my layout. By taking a photograph of this bare section of the layout and prompting AI with a vision for the scene, I can generate multiple realistic concepts for how that area could be developed. Whether exploring different terrain features, vegetation density, or structure placement, AI provides a range of visual options that help guide decision-making before any physical work begins. Here, AI proposed two different scenes that would tie in very nicely with my existing scenery:



This not only improves planning, but also inspires ideas that might not have been considered otherwise. Another great example is this canyon scene on the layout. This is going to be my signature scene.



I have been working on and off this particular 16 foot section of the layout over a period of 3 years, and I am still nowhere close to being done. But using AI, I am able to get a visual of the finished scene. This helped me in determining the placement of rock faces and vegetation. My finished scene will be different from the AI version, but that was exactly the goal: avoid certain mistakes ahead of pouring all those plaster castings.

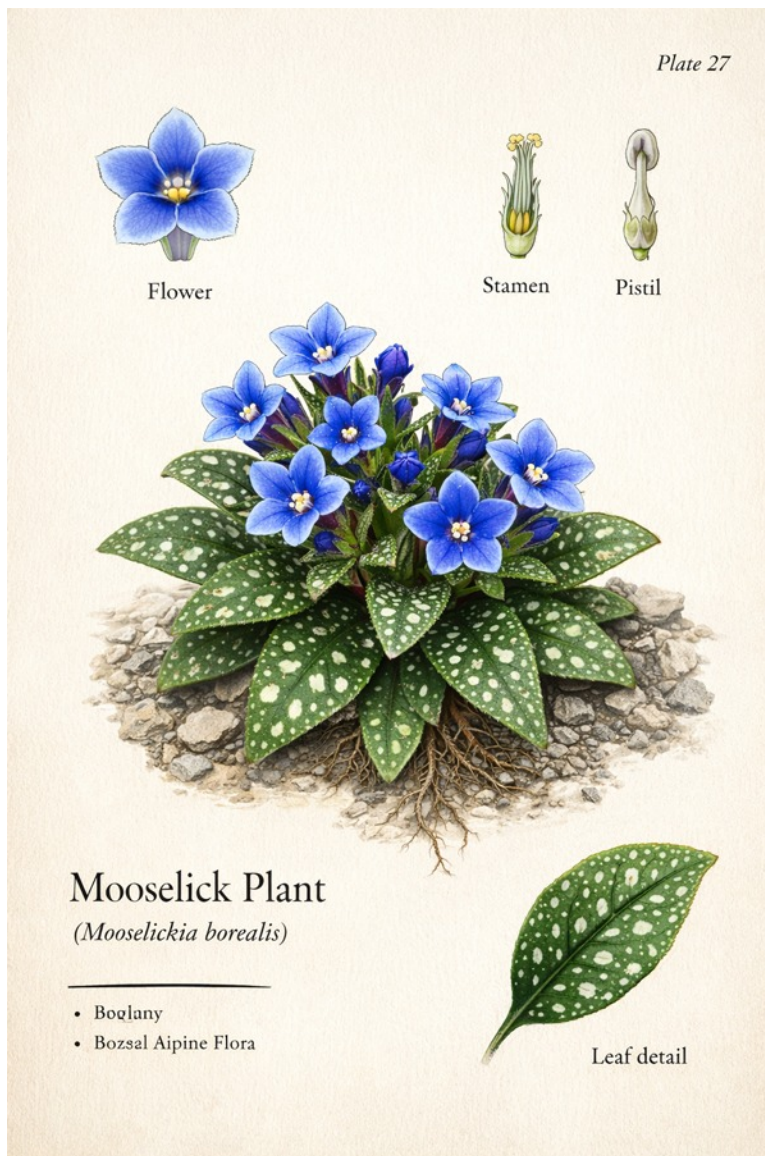


Storytelling and World-Building

Beyond the physical layout, AI has also contributed to the narrative side of the hobby.

As part of developing the identity of the Mooselick Bay Railroad, I used AI to create a fictional back story involving a unique flowering plant. By prompting AI to invent a new species and generate a botanical-style description, the “Mooselick plant” was born—a hardy flower that blooms in the harsh northern climate.

This creative twist adds depth and personality to the railroad. While many might assume the name “Mooselick” refers to a moose—especially given its Canadian roots hey!—but the true origin lies in this fictional plant,



adding a layer of intrigue and originality to the story. Here, AI created a totally fictitious plant, and generated a botanical file for it. Story goes that this Nordic plant only blossoms once every 5 years, and for just a few days... but these flowers have the property of curing many types of degenerative diseases.

So as you can see, using AI on my model railroad has not taken any of my craftsmanship away from my modeling, but it has instead inspired me to get even more work done on the layout, by giving me new ideas, inspirations and even techniques and steps to follow in making my dream layout a reality.

Getting Started with AI in Model Railroading

For model railroaders curious about artificial intelligence, getting started is easier than it might seem. You don't need programming skills or specialized equipment—just a willingness to experiment.

Start Simple... For me, it was just a matter of installing Chat GPT (I went with a paid version to get more tools and less limitations on the number of renderings I could ask for.)

The best way to begin is by using AI as a creative assistant. Try asking it:

- “Design a small HO scale switching layout in a 10 x 12 room.”
- “Suggest a realistic industry for a rural Canadian branch line.”
- “Create a back story for a short line railroad in Northern Quebec.”

You'll quickly discover how AI can generate ideas and help overcome creative blocks.

Experiment with Image Generation.

Simply describe what you want in detail, and refine your prompt as you go. The more specific you are, the better the results. As demonstrated on the CN Sanmore Subdivision, this can evolve into a highly immersive experience. A Few Practical Tips:

- Be specific: Detailed prompts produce better results
- Refine gradually: Build on previous results instead of starting over
- Use reference images: Show AI what you like
- Stay critical: AI is a tool—your judgment is still essential

Keep the Hobby at the Center

AI should enhance your enjoyment, not replace it. The hands-on aspects—building, detailing, operating—remain at the heart of model railroading.

Think of AI as another tool on your workbench, alongside your hobby knife, airbrush, and soldering iron.

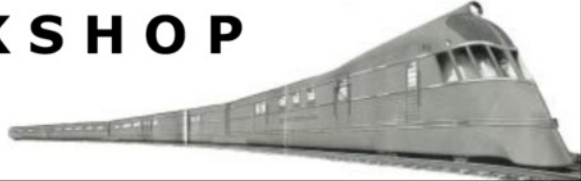
In Conclusion

In my own experience, AI has not taken anything away from the hobby. On the contrary, it has added new dimensions of realism, creativity, and enjoyment. Whether running a session without a dispatcher, designing a new paint scheme, or inventing a back story for a freelanced railroad, AI has become another valuable tool on the workbench.

The tools may change, but the spirit of model railroading remains the same: bringing a vision to life, one scene at a time.

Oh and by the way... If you are still not convinced about the practicality and the virtues of AI but you did enjoy this article, you need to know that AI actually wrote 80% of this article for me!

STREAMLINED BACKSHOP
Sales ... Service ... Solutions ...



Installation ?

WWW.SBS4DCC.COM





'O' Scale First with Accurately Scaled Rail Since 1963

Track, Turnout Parts, Ties, & Spikes for 2R O Scale, P48, & O Narrow Gauge Custom Drives & Conversions

2286 Hampton Way
Clovis, CA 93611
559.862.5791

Jay@right-o-way.us
<http://right-o-way.us/>



YOUR SOURCE FOR OVER 80
RAILROAD LETTERING, RAILROAD
ROMANS, ALPHABETS,
SILHOUETTES, DINGBATS,
TRAINS, PLANES AND
AUTOMOBILES AND EVEN SOME
SURPRISES. ALL FONT SETS ARE
AVAILABLE IN WINDOWS, TT
AND ATM, OR MAC VERSIONS.

RailFonts.com

**DES PLAINES
HOBBIES**

**Kits or RTR
Brass
Books
Supplies
Structures
Detail Parts**

3-1/2 Miles north of O'Hare airport on Lee St.
1524 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL. 60018
Ph. 847-297-2118 Open Week Ends
www.desplainshobbies.com

Check our on line store. We ship daily.

International sales welcome. Thousands of items listed.

Call our friendly staff



"Don't settle for the copycats..."

**IT'S
MEGA-STEAM
Smoke Fluid**



"When only the best will do!"

- Safe in ALL scales and ALL manufacturer's smoke units
- Proudly made in the U.S.A. by passionate model railroaders
- Offering a choice of 50 premium scents
- Celebrating over 13 years of quality service to the hobby
- Superior smoke output with quick dissipation

\$6.00 per 2oz. dropper bottle
\$18.00 per 18 oz. bottle

Shipping charges are posted on our website
or call for current rates

MEGA-STEAM

11 Out of Bounds Road
Palmyra, VA 22963

e-mail: jkmegasteam@aol.com

For Visa / MC orders and info:

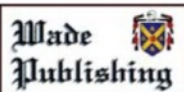
www.megasteam.com (434) 589-2660 • 10AM TO 6 PM EST

Bill Wade of B.T.S. - Kit Manufacturer by day; Novelist by night!

While waiting for the glue to dry on your latest B.T.S. kit build, read the novels inspired by Wade's time in the Navy serving at the Naval Investigative Service, the predecessor to today's NCIS!

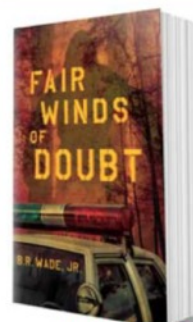
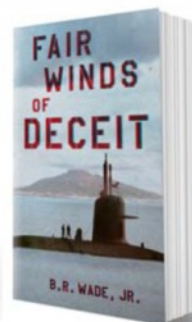
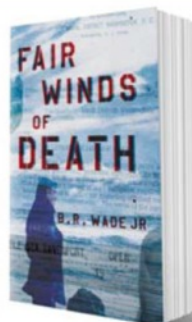
Go back to the 1970s where Navy crimes were solved without computers, cell phones, GPS, or DNA. Vietnam was winding down, but the Cold War was still hot and crime never stops.

Read the synopses and reviews on the web site and place your orders there. By the way, the fourth book is well underway!



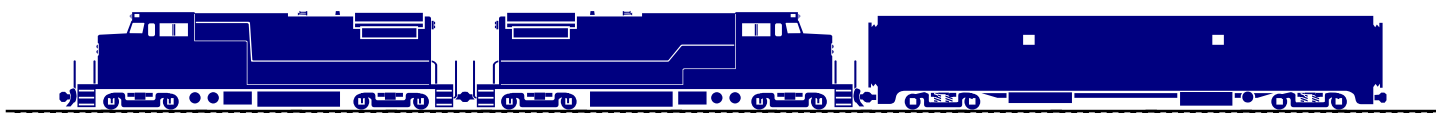
1782 Trinity Rd, Belington, WV 26250
Phone: 304-823-3729

www.wadepublishing.com



You can include a book or two
with your next B.T.S. order!

B.T.S.
Better Than Scratch!

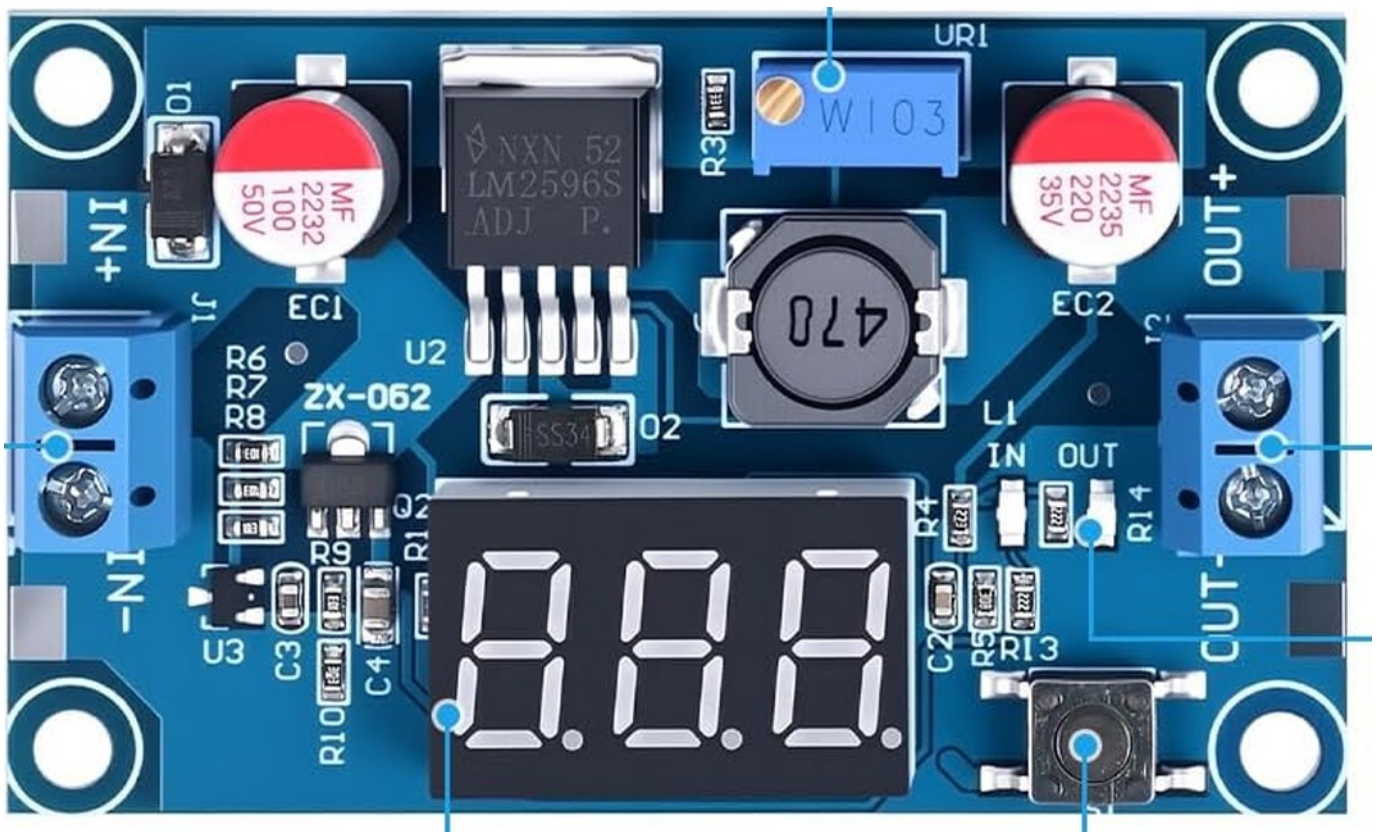


What Is a Buck Regulator and Why You May Want Some

By Dan Dawdy

What is a buck regulator?

A buck regulator (step-down converter) is a highly efficient DC-DC converter that reduces a higher input voltage to a lower, regulated output voltage, typically achieving 90–95% efficiency. It works by rapidly switching a power transistor, using an inductor and capacitor to filter the resulting waveform into a stable, lower voltage. OK, no more technical talk, in terms we all understand, it will take in 4.0V to 40V and then output 1.25V to 37V. That is the specifications for the one I am using below. In my case, I run 12V from my buss wires and I can then output 12V down to 1.25V. See where this is going? So let's talk about what they can do for your layout lighting and other accessories.



Above are the buck regulators I am using. These are from Amazon and cost is \$18.99 for eight of these things. That's under \$2.40 a piece with two day shipping. I thought about using AliExpress, but the cost was not much different and I did not want to wait for six weeks. Plus, Amazon is a lot easier to return to if it's not what you thought it was. [Click here for the Amazon link.](#)

When I was doing bench work many years ago, I ran a 12 volt 5 amp buss wire around the layout. I also ran a 1.5 volt 2 amp buss wire as well. I did this because I had been building structures since the 1980's knowing that I would have a layout someday. These structures used incandescent “grain of wheat” and “grain of rice” bulbs, most rated for 1.5 volts. Newer structures have warm white Surface-mounted device LEDs or “SMD LEDs”. So I needed both sources of power distribution. While getting the town area behind the tracks ready for this year's March Meet open house, I had a mix of all of those lighting situations to take care of.

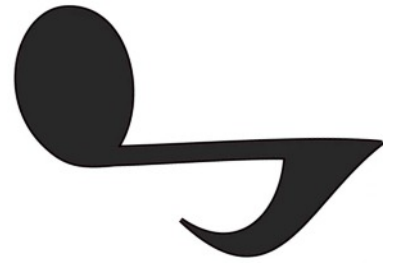
All the LED's in my structures had a 1k ohm resistor wired on so they would work at 12V. **See the side note on the right for the number one question I see on forums.**

Even using a 1K ohm resistor I thought the lights in my structures were too bright. I have seen some layouts where, even in room lighting, the light from some structures seems to pour put of the windows. And then try shooting pictures with the room light off... you get a lot of "hot spots" which don't look good at all.

Here is the street scene I finished up for the open house. I have marked the type of lighting for these to show the differences I had.

Most buildings were lit with LEDs and resistors. Two where 1.5V incandescent. The street lights are LEDs with no resistors as I was in a hurry to finish these for the open house. The Miller Engineering billboard and small window sign are also in the mix.

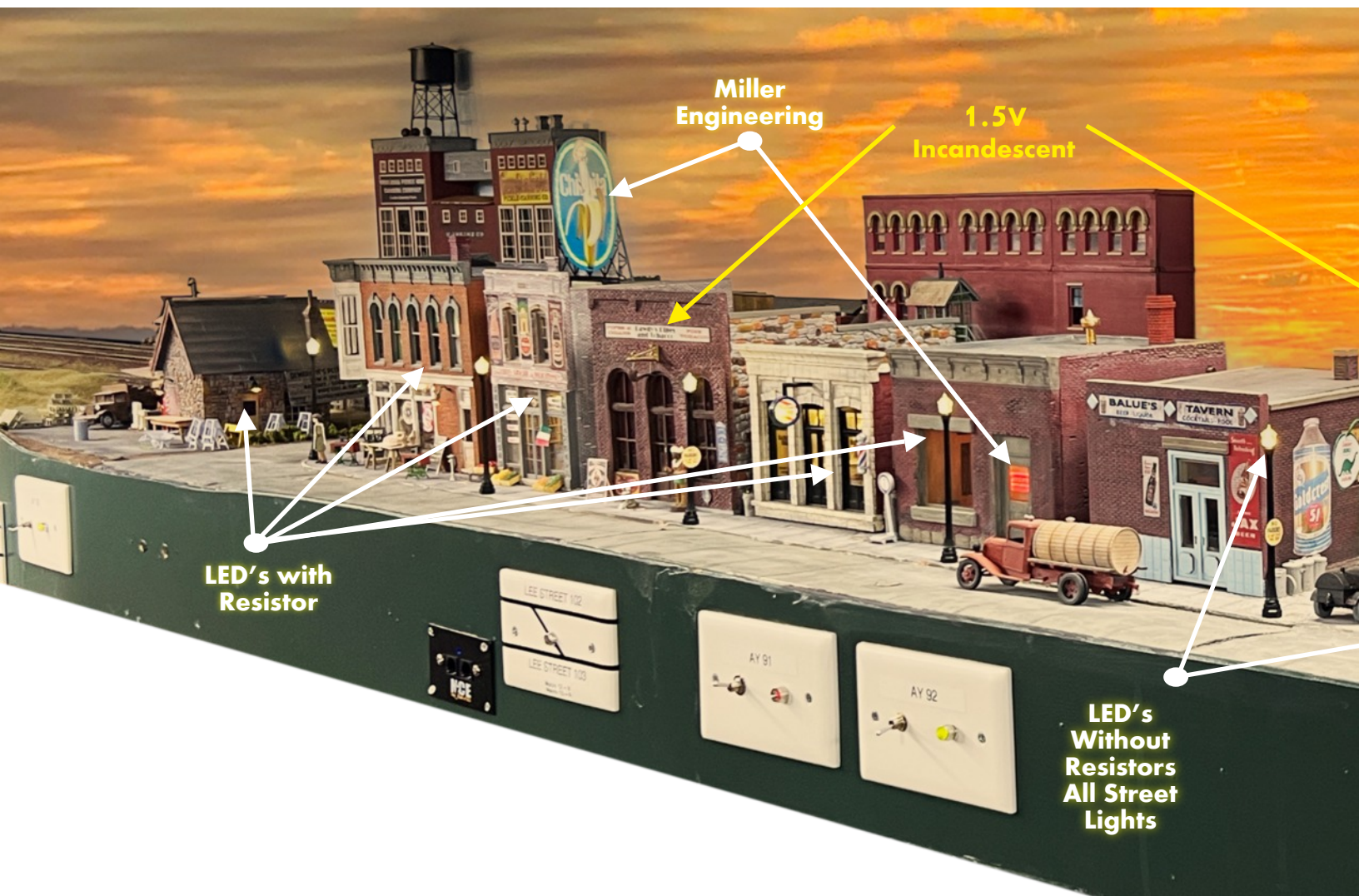
Side Note...



"I am using LEDs but don't know what size resistor to use, can you help me?"

The answers come fast and furious, 1K, 750K, 512K and more. Let's try and settle this once and for all.

LED's are current devices and NOT voltage devices. When you buy an LED, there are two specifications that you need to know. Forward voltage and forward current. Let's take a typical white SMD LED.



They will have a forward voltage of about 1.2 to 3.6 V and a forward current of about 20mA. The forward voltage is the voltage that it needs to turn on. The forward current is the maximum current it can handle. More current, more light output.

Going over the forward current will causes rapid overheating, significant brightness degradation, and even catastrophic failure, in other words, a little puff of smoke.

So let's do some math. To find the current we use $I=V/R$ or current (I) = Voltage divided by Resistance. That's it, easy peasy.

So if I have 12 volt buss and use a 1K ohm resistor 12 divided by 1000 = 0.012 or 12m A.

That is way below the 20m A rating. So if you want a brighter light output, let's try a 750 ohm resistor.

$12/750=16\text{m A}$ which is still safe and below the 20m A rating.

Now let's try a 512 ohm: $12/512=23\text{m A}$ which is too much and you run the risk of issues down the line.

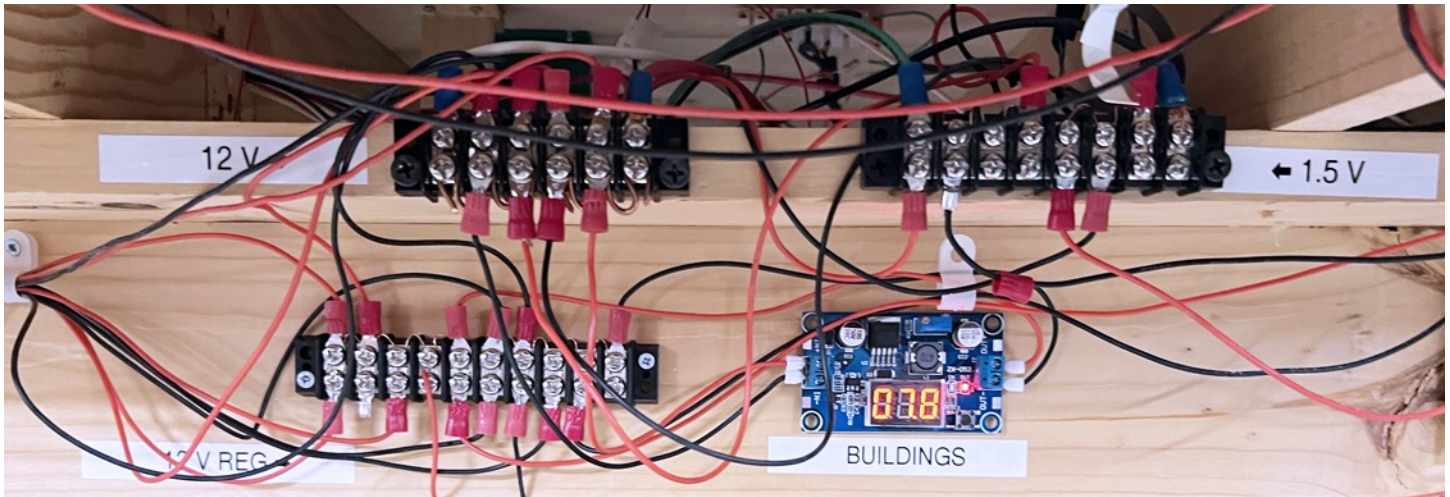
That is all there is to it for most lighting we will be doing.

Not to get too far into the weeds, there are some bi-color and tri-color LEDs that may have a different forward voltage and forward current for each color, Just be sure to read the spec sheet and you will be fine.



Building Lighting (LEDs with Resistors)

Below shows the buss wiring and the first buck regulator. You can see there is a 12V and a 1.5V buss coming into terminal blocks. The 12V terminal block feeds the buck regulators, and then each buck regulator's output feeds another terminal block (12V REG) where the connections to the buildings using resistors are attached (labeled buildings). Keeping it simple, all you are doing is attaching your feeder block terminal from the output of the buck regulator; whereas, with out the regulator you would feed it directly from the 12V buss. This buck regulator has been dialed down to 7.8 volts as seen below.



So now I am able to increase or decrease the brightness of all of the LED equipped buildings from 12V down to the Forward Voltage of the LED. At 7.8V and running the math, (You did read the side bar right?) $(7.8/1000)$ we have about 7.5m A, and even at that low current the LEDs are more than bright enough.

Street Lights (LEDs without Resistors)

I was in a hurry and installed the beautiful [Model Railroad Resource 3D street lights](#) without resistors. Shameless plug here: [Five Street lights. Common North American-style street lights used in many communities. Choice of globes, standard or fancy. Package includes five poles, five globes, five LEDs and five 9V to 14V resistors. NEW: Choice of LED color. Cold white for modern lighting and Warm white for pre-sodium-vapor lamp / LED lighting, 1970's and earlier. \\$10.00.](#)



I set up another buck regulator and dialed it down to 3 volts to start. Here is where we deviate from the “side bar”. Testing, and even running LEDs from a 3V battery will work. It’s the internal resistance of the battery, or power supply, that will give you a safe forward current in most cases. So, coming off the 12V buss into this buck regulator and the output (2.6V) went to the street lights. This works well, but you can see the limitations. I only have from 3V down to the forward voltage of the LED, 2.2V in my case. That is a very small spread compared to the LEDs with resistors

where we can go from a full 12V down to 2.3. Now, if you can live with this, then go ahead and skip the resistors.

I want more control of the street lights now that the open house is past so here's another quick tip. On one output on the regulator to the street lights we can add a single 1K ohm resistor. This trick also works for buildings if you don't want to wire each LED to a resistor. BUT... we need to go back over the math again. Out resistors have other ratings than just ohms. The other one we need to look at is wattage (power). Wattage is about how much heat can the resistor dissipate before burning up. I normally use ¼ watt resistors which is more than adequate for a single LED, and even more. Let's say we wanted to run all 7 street lights from a single resistor. To keep this simple for our needs the formula is $P = V \times I$ or voltage x total current equals power (wattage). Yes, I know there are other power dissipation formulas and derived relationships, blah, blah, blah.... we're just wiring LEDs here.

So I have have a 12V source and the forward current of all 7 LEDs is 140m A (20m A x7).

So $12 \times .140 = 1.6800W$ or almost 1.75 watt resistor. If you tried to use your ¼ watt resistor in this circuit, it would get hot, real hot. So when you order resistors for your LEDs grab some ¼, ½, 1, 2, and maybe some 5 watt versions. They are cheap enough so splurge a little. Also, since we are using a 1K resistor, we are really looking at 12m A we can do the formula over ($12 \times .84 = 1.0080 W$) and use a 1 watt resistor.



So in my case, I'll add a 1 watt 1k ohm resistor to one output of the buck regulator. It does not matter which side, plus or minus, but best practice places the resistor on the positive side (before the anode) simply because it makes schematic reading more intuitive.

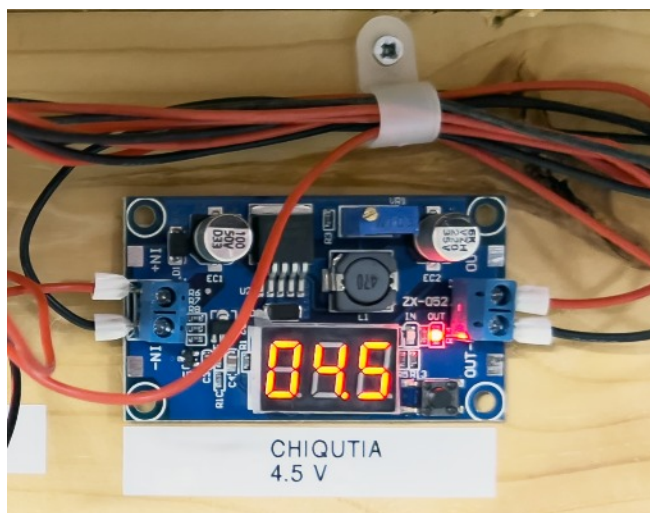
Miller Engineering Billboard and Window Sign

Let's do the easy one first, the Joe's Diner sign. This really needs a full 12V to be seen and stand out. So I ran this directly off the 12V buss that also feeds the buck regulators.

Now it's time for a rant... I hate wall warts. They maybe a necessary evil for phones and countless other gadgets, but I don't want them near my layout. I have friends with over 20 Menards buildings on their layout. Yes, they look great but that's 20, 4.5 volt wall warts plugged into now many power strips. Same with Miller Engineering Billboards and others.

So, another buck regulator is set at 4.5V and runs that billboard just fine.

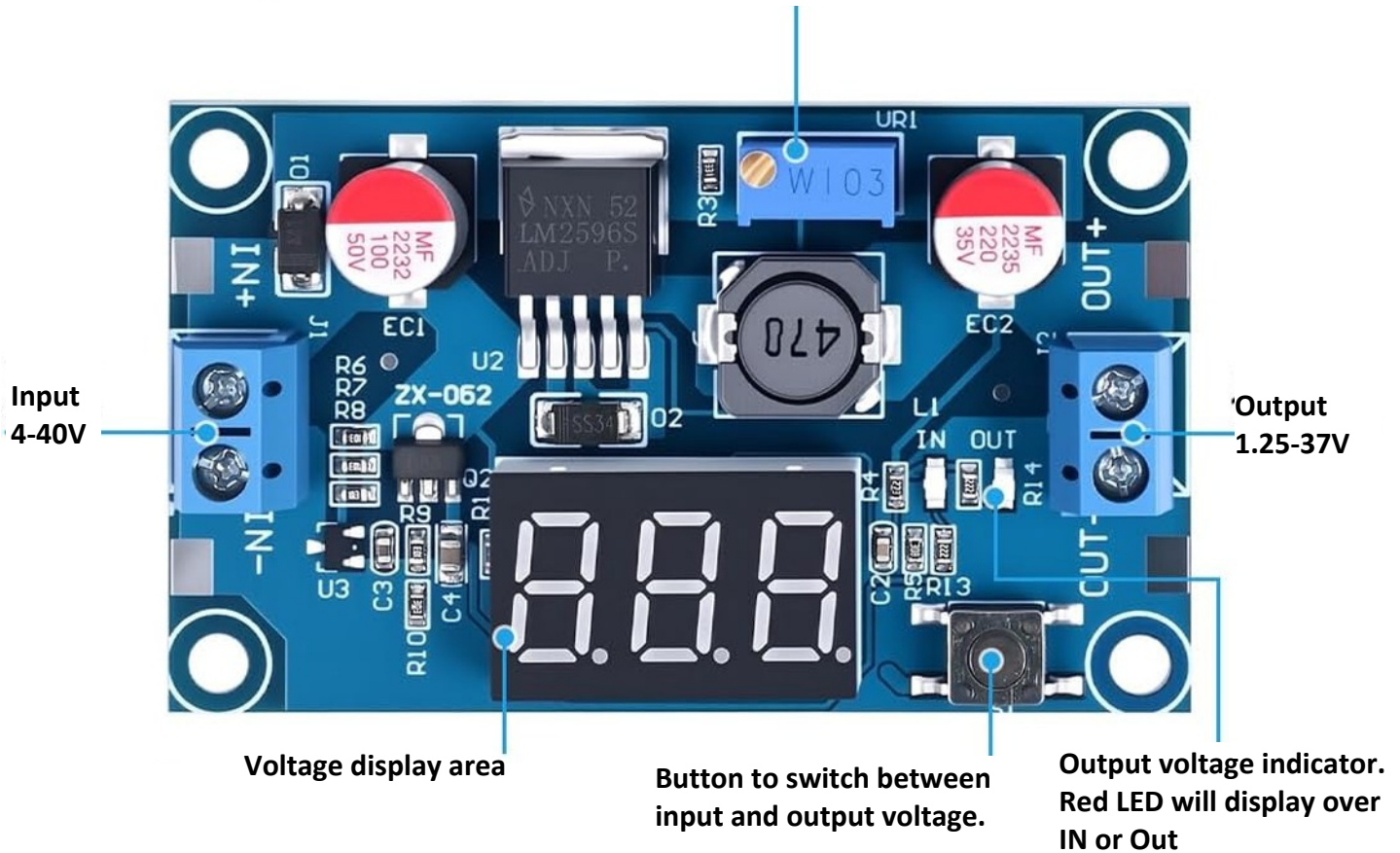
The 1.5V lamps that I have can use the 1.5 buss, so in my case another buck regulator is not needed; however, if that power supply dies, I can simply swap it out with a buck regulator.



VOLTAGE REGULATION

⌚ Clockwise to step up voltage

⌚ Counterclockwise to step down voltage



I left this until the end as I wanted you to see what a buck regulator is and how it can work for you. Now let's take a look at the version I have.

When originally hooked up to input power, the display will show that input voltage. Push the button and it will display the output voltage. Here is where you want to adjust before adding an output IF you must have less than the input. So, for my street lights with no resistors, I turned the screw counterclockwise until the output showed 3 volts. When power is reset, the display will go back to display the input voltage BUT the output will stay where you set it. Some other brands will hold the display on reset to the output voltage – it's a nice feature, but not needed.

When you are turning counterclockwise it may take 20 or more turns to see the voltage drop. That is normal, and to be honest, threw me until I looked at the specs and they warned you about that. Just keep turning, the voltage will go down, just make sure you are looking at the output voltage.

I used Scotch carpet tape to affix the buck regulator to the wood underneath the layout. You can also use small wood screws.

This unit will handle up to 3 amps, although I would stay below that. 1 Amp = 1,000 Milliamps. That is 50 LEDs.





I have structures and other electrical accessories in other parts of the layout and since these regulators are so inexpensive, I'll use more buck regulators in those areas powered from the 12 volt buss.

Think of all the things you may use this for. Lighting of course, and I have a mini welder simulator along with a burning trash can both needing 3 volts. Many are putting lights in cars and trucks, running wires underneath the layout. Signals that may be too bright and any DC operated accessories. I hope this helps some in managing wiring and different voltages (amps) with different lighting and accessories.





Excelle Lubricants distributed by JT's Mega-Steam

Excelle Lubricants



- Special Viscosity for S Scale Trains
- Oils are plastic compatible and conductive
- Convenient 4-pack; or purchase individually
- Usage Guide Provided
- Featuring precision needle point applicators
- Developed, tested, and packaged in the U.S.A.

MEGA-STEAM
 11 Out of Bounds Road
 Palmyra, VA 22963
 e-mail: jkmegasteam@aol.com
 For Visa / MC orders and info:
 (434) 589-2660 • 10AM TO 6 PM EST

www.megasteam.com

Along the Railroad

A North American Rail Journey
 1958 - 1978



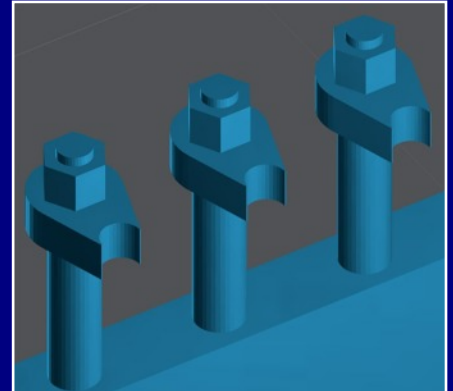
Howard Serig

with
 Kent Loudon

Along the Railroad features the exciting and unique railroad images of photographer Howard Serig who has captured the special time "when trains were really trains!" Many have claimed it to be "The best railroad book out there!" To see a video preview of the contents of the book please click on the image above. This is a limited edition hard cover book containing 222 pages of content. Copies are available for \$49.95 plus actual shipping. Orders may be placed by contacting the seller below:

kjkriigel@aol.com (mention book title) or by phone: 434-589-2660.

Grab Iron Ends (Nut/Bolt) and for modern cars, Grab Iron Ends (Rivet). These small parts will really dress up an older Athen/Reynolds/AllNation car as well as some new cast cars and, of course, your own custom built equipment. The stem is .020 and designed for .015 wire. There are 17 parts per sprue and four sprues package.



Also our new double Nut/Bolt grab iron end used on many cabooses.



**Model Railroad
 Resource 3D
 Division - Resin
 Parts**

<https://modelrailroadresource.com/WP/>

THE FAUX DOLLY SHOT

ENHANCING TRAIN VIDEOGRAPHY WITH A SIMPLE DIGITAL TECHNIQUE

By: Santiago Pineda



The pacing shot is a dolly shot where the camera rides on the car's wheels.

Model trains carry in their DNA traits from mechanical automata. At its base, this means that our trains have the property of being self-propelled. Put simply, they can move by themselves. Naturally, we get the impulse to capture their movement in video form. In other words, the moving image may be one of the best visual mediums for depicting our models vividly.

However, model train videography is as ubiquitous as it is disregarded. On the one hand, regular modelers tend to use the video format to “document” or “review” models and share them with others. I’m sure we all appreciate those kinds of videos as long as they are properly made with quality visuals and in-depth commentary. The exhaustive video updates by the great and late Gary Schrader come to mind. On the other hand, so called “influencers” seem content to elbow each other over who has the most obnoxious YouTube thumbnail or the less desirable train site discount code. Apparently, this is “good for views, bruh”.

The problem I see is that regardless of the scale and apart from a very small number of modelers, the community’s video output doesn’t seem to be visually considered. There are of course exceptions. In our scale, gifted artist Erik Lindgren takes his time producing captivating and engaging videos of his and his friends distinguished collections. Erik’s videos are truly generous, and they display a great control of rhythm, narrative and continuity. To achieve this, he utilizes multiple shot types, a variety of lenses, and audiovisual effects that in concert create a satisfying visual experience. I myself keep coming back to his video Tribute: “Southern Pacific Daylight in O Scale 2 Rail”. In it, Erik’s Key Model Imports GS2 proudly pulls a full Pecos River Brass Southern Pacific Daylight train. It is a sight to behold.

Yet, the vast majority of model train videos shared by enthusiasts tend to show train “runby” clips where it can take up to 15 seconds before the engine enters the frame. And, since the models are in constant motion, you can barely see them. This “carefree” approach to making videos has two effects. First, the models (the very subject of the videos) can’t be fully appreciated. Second, the video presents itself not as a cohesive visual piece, but as a tired, conventional product where clips are strung together to “showcase” a model in operation.



Watch Erik’s video here: https://youtu.be/-mT2_pz1xr8?si=XIrrbrEvKHyR_XGa

No, I’m not saying making videos is easy. Regardless of the subject matter, the principles and practices of the moving image are deep and complex. Videography not only demands perceptual proficiency but also specific technical know-how. And on top of it, doing it is also sort of cumbersome. Yet, after editing my own videos for a while, I realized that the common shots depicting long trains felt rather uninteresting. So, I started experimenting with ways of making them more engaging. In the following piece, I will explain how to enhance certain model train video clips by utilizing the Ken Burns feature to create a faux dolly shot.

The Dolly Shot and the Ken Burns effect

But, what is a dolly shot? A dolly shot is a camera technique where the device is physically moved through space using a wheeled platform, track, or smooth rolling surface. While it is often associated with moving closer to or farther away from a subject, a dolly shot can also involve tracking alongside a subject as they move. Because the camera itself is changing position, the shot maintains natural perspective and depth, unlike a zoom which only adjusts the lens. This physical movement helps place the viewer inside the scene, creating a sense of presence and continuity.

In videography, dolly and tracking movements are used to control how the audience experiences motion, space, and emotion. A dolly-in can heighten intensity or focus attention, a dolly-out can create emotional

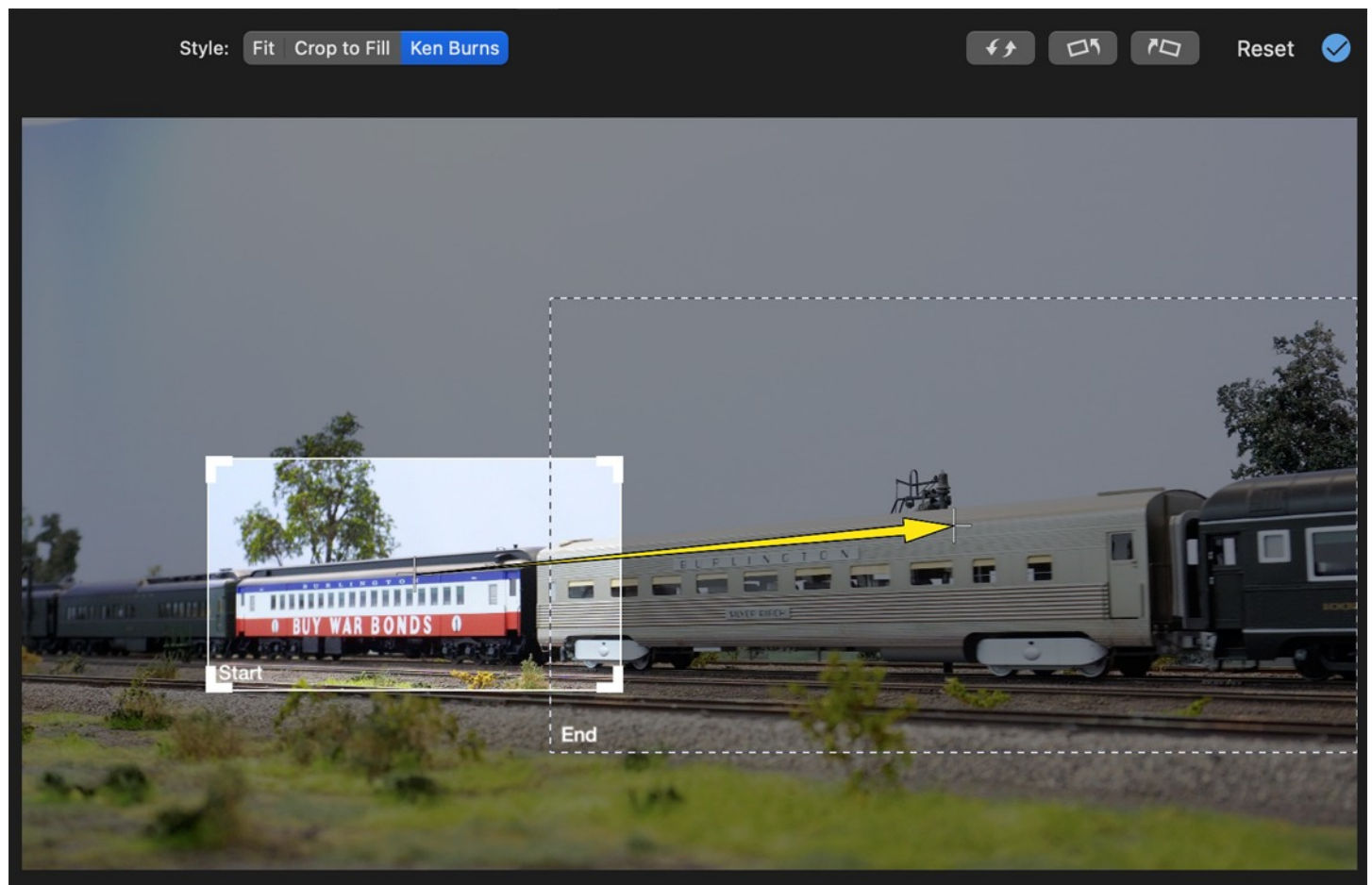
distance or reveal context, and a tracking dolly shot can follow action smoothly, keeping subjects centered while showcasing their environment. Tracking is especially useful for scenes with movement, such as walking characters or dynamic actions, adding energy without feeling shaky. Together, these techniques help tell stories visually, guide the viewer's eye, and produce a cinematic, intentional look.

And, the Ken Burns feature? The Ken Burns effect is a technique used in post production which creates a sense of motion in still photos. It essentially means moving the viewpoint over the photo or zooming into it to simulate camera movement within the frame. Yet, when used in video production, the Ken Burns effect can highlight detail, control the rhythm of the video and generate a focal point. For instance, a gradual closing in on the subject can highlight an important element of the picture, whereas a smooth pan can introduce new details or imply moving through a location.

Now, using a dolly shot in model train videography is costly and impractical. **But, the Ken Burns feature can be used as a technique for simulating a dolly shot.** Essentially, the feature takes carefully controlled digital panning and zooming to give the viewer a sensation of the camera moving through a scene. Keep in mind that resolution matters here. Using 4k footage, permits enough visual detail to gently travel the frame without much quality being visibly degraded. If done right, the outcome is as if the camera were smoothly gliding alongside the trains, buildings, or scenic details. Let's take a look at some examples.

Demo clips

To demonstrate the technique, I put together a series of clips where you can see what can be achieved. But first, I'll briefly discuss the clips, and towards the end of the article, you'll find a link to the video containing all the clips.



The Ken Burns feature determines what is framed in the final clip. Here, the intention was to stay on the BUY WAR BONDS chair car.

Clip #1 Emphasize a single car

A great way to display a specific car in a consist is to maintain the visual frame of the Ken Burns feature on the car during a running clip. Here, I wanted the “camera” to stay on the striking CB&Q BUY WAR BONDS chair car. As you can see from the clip, the Ken Burns feature, in tandem with the moving subject, creates a gliding effect similar to that of the dolly shot. The gain, however, is in the smoothness of the effect. Attempting to create this shot with actual, physical dolly equipment at a miniature scale would be extremely difficult.

Clip #2 Showcase two cars

Depending on the length of the original clip and the speed of the moving subject, you can play with the synchronization of the Ken Burns feature. This allows you to show more of the consist than a single car. In this case, the tracking of the slow-moving train allowed me to showcase two cars, the CB&Q prewar Budd coach and a 10-1-2 Pullman sleeper. Note that the “camera” moves alongside the train, but it is slightly slower. Thus, we get a dynamic, yet sharp, shot of both cars.



By fine-tuning the tracking speed in relation to the train, you can highlight more than one car.

Clip #3 Track an engine

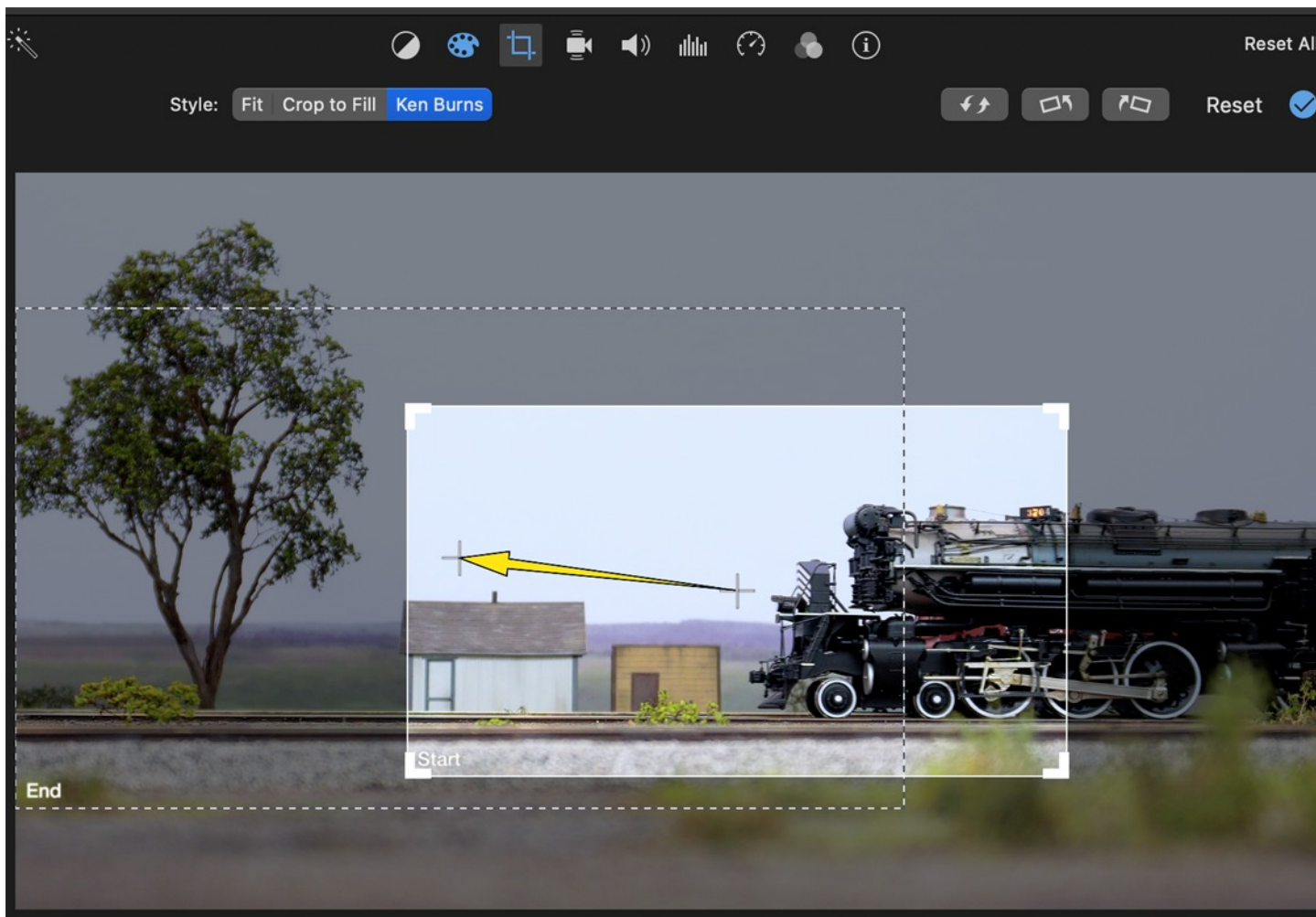
This may be one the most useful shots to highlight an engine with this technique. Here, the camera tracks next to the CB&Q E5 as it goes through the washing station. The camera is sharply focused on the E5, but the tracking is somewhat slower than the engine, thus allowing us to see more of the engine as it traverses the station. Yet, my favorite part of this clip, is that the train on the back is running faster than the E5, making the clip even more lively. Three moving elements on the same shot. (See image on next page.)

Clip #4 Highlight valve gears

It doesn't get any more classic than this. By placing the camera at 90 degrees from a steam engine, you can showcase its valve gear in motion. And, since the depth of field won't be altered, the clip will remain sharp throughout. In this case, the mighty D&RGW L-105 rolls by displaying a very busy drive.



With three moving elements on the same shot, both trains and the camera, the illusion of a busy yard is created.

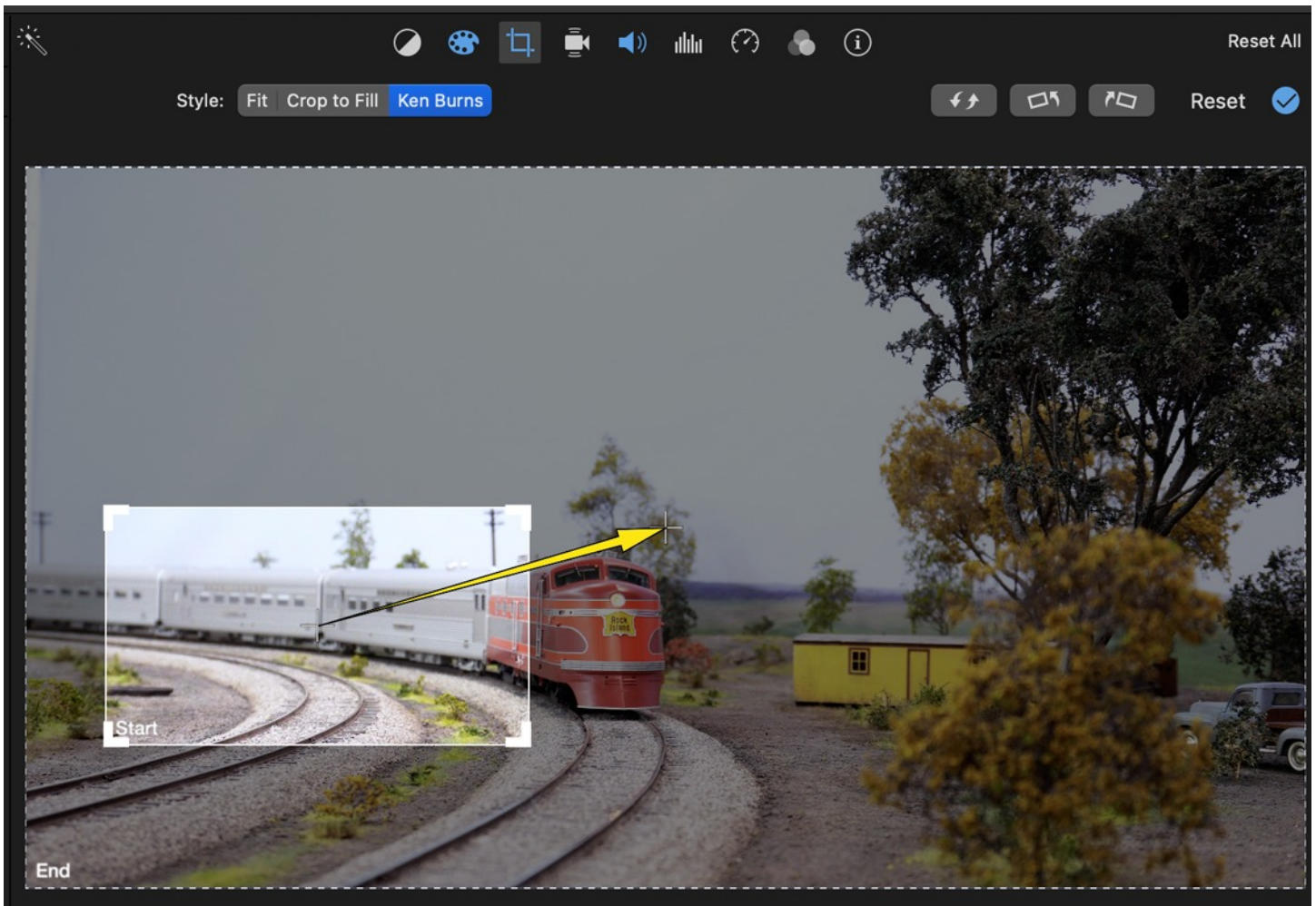


3rd Rail's D&RGW L-105 faunts its busy valve gear. Note that the clip remains focused because the camera is perpendicular to the subject.

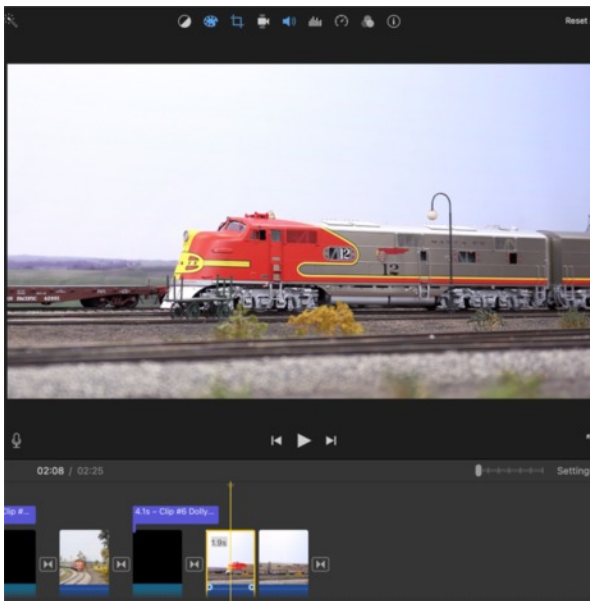
Clip #5 Track an engine + AF

This one is more involved. In this clip, the Rock Island TA was heading straight towards the camera, so depth of field was constantly changing. To remedy this, I used the tracking auto focus feature on my Sony

camera. In the shot, the camera continuously focuses on the TA nose as it approaches. Later, in post production, I applied the faux dolly shot technique to pan across the frame, making for a much more cinematic clip. For clips such as this, I always cut after the engine has rolled by because once the subject is out of frame, the camera tracking system struggles and the footage becomes jittery. Finally, this clip illustrates the need for 4K resolution when using this technique. Because we're only using a portion of the lens' capture by utilizing the Ken Burns feature, the higher the number of pixels the better.



Tracking the nose of the Rock Island TA with automatic focus allowed me to keep a quality clip while panning across the frame.



Clip #6 Dolly mid clip

For this short clip, I wanted the “camera” to track the Santa Fe E6 as it started to roll. To do this, I split the video just before the engine started moving, and applied the faux dolly shot technique on the second part. This created the illusion that the camera started rolling alongside the train. This added a layer of interest to an otherwise standard clip.

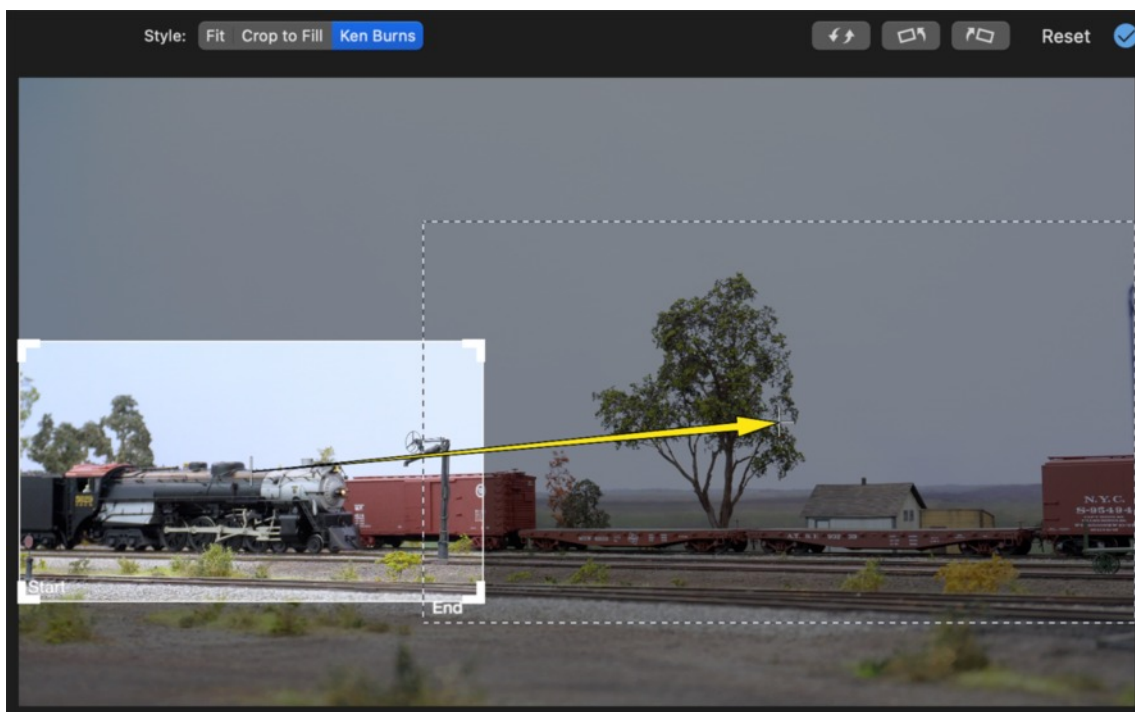
Note that the original clip was split into two. And, the digital dolly shot technique was applied on the second half only.



For longer clips like this of a full California Zephyr train, two dolly shots were used to keep the entire clip vivid.

Clip #7 Track and open

Longer clips of longer trains can become boring after a while. To enhance the engagement of a wide-spanning clip, two dolly shots can be used in a single clip. Here, a full California Zephyr was being pulled by a set of D&RGW Alco PAs. To keep things engaging, I split the clip into two. In, the first segment the camera tracks the PAs until they leave the frame towards the right side. On the second one, The camera opens up to the left side revealing the full train as well as a complete scene. Consider this approach when depicting longer trains.



A wide shot track can be a powerful way to showcase a particular engine.

Clip #8 Track an engine wide shot

Tracking can be done closely or widely. In this clip, the camera tracks a CB&Q O5a from a medium distance, revealing all its details and drive action sharply. As in clip #5, here resolution mattered. The Ken Burns feature used only a small fraction of the footage, so the fact that the camera sensor collected the maximum amount of information allowed for the final clip to be high-quality.

Closing thoughts

Model trains and videography go hand in hand. Our trains move, and we want to record them moving. But the moment we take a camera and start shooting, we're stepping into the difficult world of moving image making. Interestingly for us, of all art forms, film may be the one to have established a rich historical symbiosis with miniatures and scale models. For instance, the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) in New York employs the majority of its display space to showcase famous miniatures and models from cinema history, which implies that the relationship between the miniature object and cinematography is objectively significant. However, it would be trivial to characterize this relationship as simply the use of miniatures on sets.

In fact, film theory is so saturated with notions of scale, that the concept weighs on the specificity of the medium itself. In other words, the medium of film is inherently related to the concept of scale, since the filmmaker has to take into consideration the simultaneous interplay between features and limitations of the camera as a technological device for capturing images at a distance (close-up, medium shot, long shot) and the size of the projected image with relationship to the observer in the theater. As it turns out, these conditions are so multifaceted, that in *Bigger Than Life: The Close-Up and Scale in the Cinema* author Mary Ann Doane dedicated an entire publication to this problematic.

Be that as it may, model train videography is difficult. It's difficult because video is a type of the moving image medium. And, like any other art form, it has medium-specific principals and practices. In other words, grabbing a camera and shooting your trains, is akin to grabbing some brushes and making a painting. What are the odds of that painting turning out well? Yes, we're barely scratching the surface here. Yet, I hope that you find the Faux Dolly shot, a simple yet effective digital technique, useful. And, that you apply it to enhance your model train videos. Our beautiful models deserve quality depictions.

Watch the accompanying video here: https://youtu.be/i_oY3kvr6Ho



Building An Open Air Engine Shed Part 2

By William W. Davis

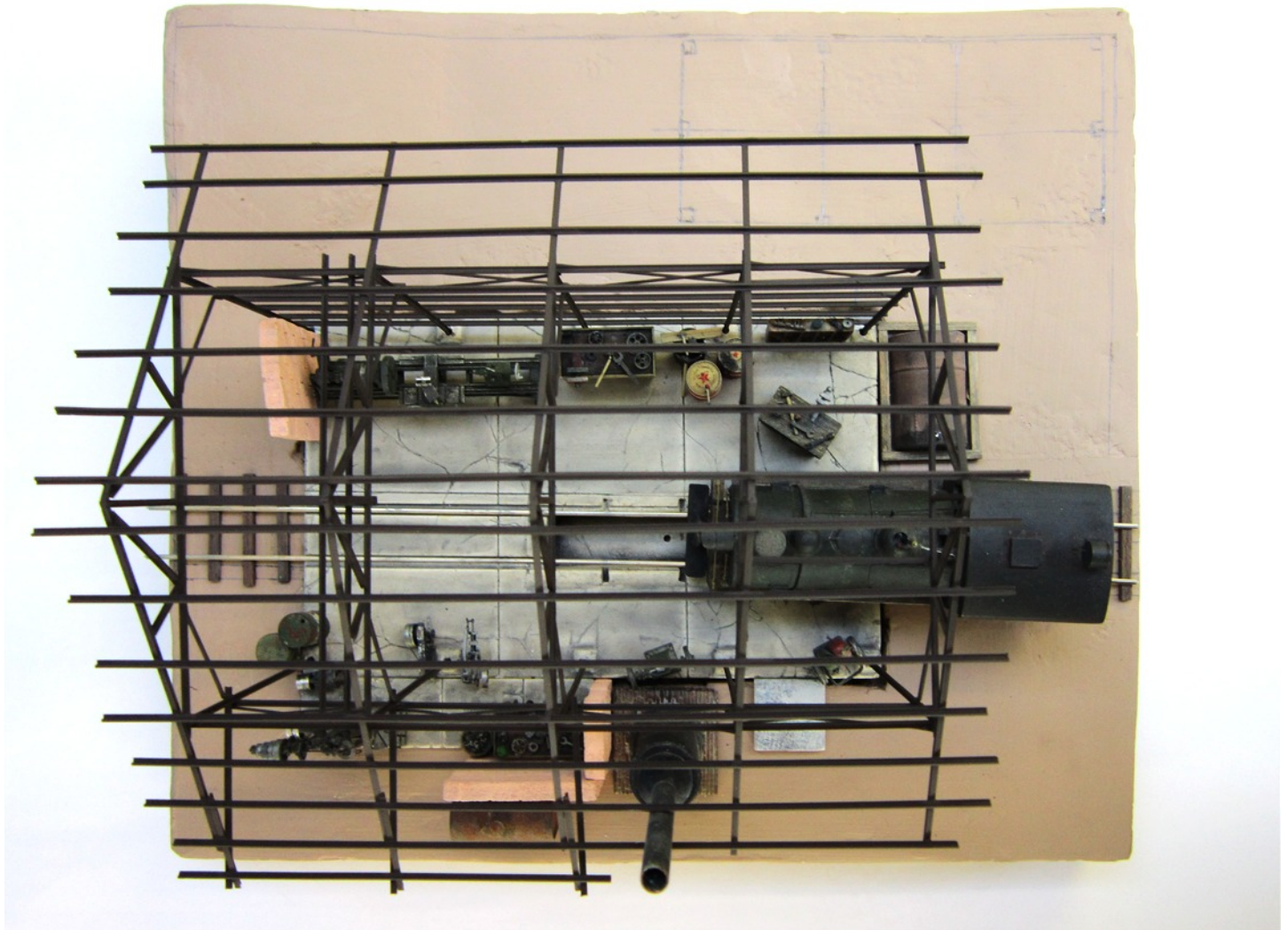


INTRODUCTION:

In [part 1 of this series](#), I told you about the source of this project. The design, base construction, construction of the rail structure, how I made the corrugated sheet, the parts shed walls and the pipe rack. In this part, we will continue with more of the equipment, details and construction of this open air shed.

GROUND COVER (part 1):

Before I moved on with the construction, I painted the base with a light brownish dirt color. You might have noticed the parts shed and fence line drawn in what I thought would be their locations. However, as we progress, you will see that the shed will be turned 90% and the fence lengthened.



I then put down a layer of finely sifted decomposed granite as the first layer of the ground cover. I also added gravel in some areas. However, I didn't at this time, cover the entire base. This was because there will be

a stationary boiler, a work area and the drill press that would be outside beyond the open air shed's concrete floor. To accommodate these things, I will enlarge the concrete floor area. Once done, I'll add the dirt around these areas. I will go back later adding junk, weeds and grass before I consider the ground cover finished. More on this will be in part 3.

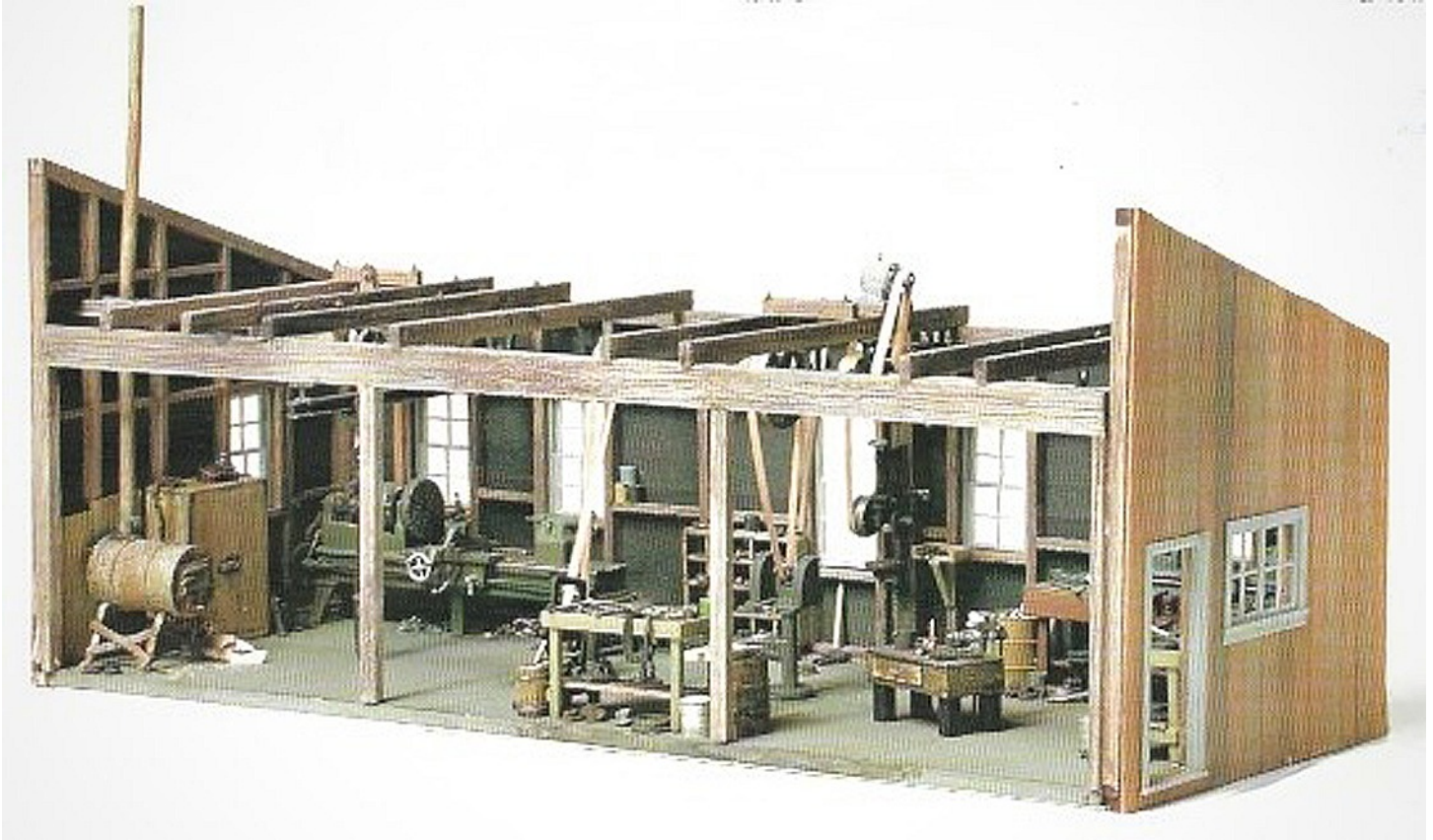
THE EQUIPMENT LAYOUT (part 2)

In part one, I talked about how I laid out the machinery, cabinets, work benches etc. How my friends' advice changed my design. Here are pictures of the equipment in their final locations. As mentioned, the concrete floor wasn't wide enough to fit all this inside on the rail structure's concrete floor. To add to the floor area there were some sidewalk pieces in my parts bin. These were castings from Tom Yorke called "sidewalk chips" that I have had for many years. I have used them for sidewalks on some of my street scenes. These were 6' long X 6' wide X 6" thick. I used them here to widen the front edge of the concrete floor. I used three pieces that I modified in length to fit my planned addition area. The idea being they had expanded the equipment area for more work space. On the right end of this addition area I used a couple of the cinder block wall pieces that I modified to make a semi enclosed area. As you can see, there is a work area inside these walls. I made a brick foundation for the boiler, and beside it a pad for the stationary steam engine that ran some of the machinery in the open air shed using an overhead belt system. I made a heat shield behind the boiler area using rail for post and some of the corrugated pieces. In addition to these, there will be more equipment and details outside of the open air shed proper. More on those as we progress.



In the pictures you can see there are work tables and parts bins, etc. Also the lathe, drill press, grinder and powered hack saw. These were rescued from a machine shop diorama that I built years ago that didn't survive a

move across the country. It was sad to lose that diorama, but fortunately I was able to save the pieces and only lost the structure part.



THE FENCE:

The purpose of the fence was to make a containment area for the bone yard. The fence runs from one end of the diorama to the part shed making a semi closed area between the fence and the open air shed. It will be covered with junk and parts typical of a bone yard. The fence was built using wooden 4x4 posts and wooden 2x4 rails covered with corrugated pieces. The outside of the fence has the green paint but the inside was left





rusty brown. The idea here being that these pieces of corrugated were being reused as a fence. Also you can see that I put an outhouse by the fence. This was a plaster casting.

THE PART SHED:

So in part one I discussed the building of the shed structure and how I achieved the 2 heavy peeling paint effect. Now we will discuss the placement and the

detailing of that shed. My intention was to have a full interior. I built a set of wooden shelves and located them on the left corner of the shed. The shelves were built using wood 2x12 with 2x4 shelf supports. I wanted the shelves 2' deep so I paired the 2x12. I then loaded them with all kind of parts and pieces. I had a pair of lockers in my parts bin so I decided to put them in the shed near the shelves. These lockers were cast in plaster and were Tom Yorke castings. They represented wooden type lockers. I painted them with washes to create a weathered wood look and then gave them a wash of a bluish color.



Since the rest of the shed interior was going to be on the floor, I needed to build the floor before continuing on. Before building the floor I had to decide on the location of the part shed. I knew it would be in the back corner of the diorama. And as I mentioned earlier, after considering its location, I decided to turn it 90% from how its location was drawn on the base. Once that was settled, I built 3 rows of posts, 5 posts per row equally spaced, for the support structure under the floor. On to that I added floor joists and flooring. These wooden post and floor joists were made out of 6 x 6's. Then I made the flooring out of 2x12s. I pre stained all these wooden pieces a weathered brown. Before adding the floor boards, I added weeds and some junk under the floor and a wooden tool box in the far corner.



With the floor built, it was time to add all the details that would be in the shed. I had a wood workbench casting from Rusty Rails that fit in right rear corner. I painted it with washes of browns, and on the drawer and door faces I painted them green. There were details cast on top that I carefully painted, but I also added a lot more. Once that was finished, I added as many other details in front, under and around this workbench, thus creating a very cluttered scene. As if that wasn't enough, I made a rack in the right front corner to hold welding tanks. Barrels, cans, jacks, etc. were also added on the floor area. Also notice that there is now a concrete step and trash barrel beside the tool box out front.

So once again I decided to share the shed and all its details with my circle of friends. What I got back was: "all that stuff in and around the shed is really cool, but the building is well weathered and the floor is not. Gee! I hadn't considered that. So I went back dirtied and scuffed up the floor. Also broke a board by the entry. This really improved the look of the shed but there was still something missing.





PAINT CANS AND LABELS:

With all that was being stored in the shed there were no paint cans. In my collection of bits and pieces I have a lot of barrels and cans. I found that I had some cans that would work for 5 gal paint cans. I put 2 full can in the shed, an empty can on the ground outside the shed, and a can by the entry spilling paint onto to concrete step. I made the paint spill with a piece of paper strip that I painted the reddish brown color. I then painted a spill spot on the concrete step, and added some black chalk to the step to weather it. Before gluing them in place, I needed to give these paint cans labels! So I searched the Internet for labels. Finding some, I photo shopped them to the size I





needed. I then printed them and glued them to the cans. Also notice there is a label for the can of Texaco grease and a thermometer which I also used in or on the shed. I added some more signs and the part shed was done.

THE BARREL RACK:

Now that the shed was done, I felt that I needed a barrel storage area. This consisted of a barrel rack and barrels outside the right end of the shed. Back in the day, Greenberg and Nash had sold a kit for barrel racks. I used the plan from that kit to scratch build a two barrel rack. As I mentioned, around this rack I put other barrels, both full and empty. On the ground I painted black stain areas to represent barrel seepage. To label some of the barrels, I used barrel labels from a decal set. I found I had a “No Smoking” sign and I put it on the side of the shed above the barrel storage area. Finally, you can see in the completed barrel rack scene a board laid on the barrels in the rack. I discovered that there was a seam crack between the barrel and the lid castings. I used that board to hide that crack. Finally, I felt that they were just to clean so I added some weathering to the barrels and more ground cover that showed the contamination of this area.



CONCRETE FLOOR AND INSPECTION PIT:

I painted the concrete floor with various colors of gray. I added black and put spillage spots around to give it that grungy look caused by years of use. However, I felt the inspection pit needed to also be grungy. After all, there was no way that it would stay clean. I found some pictures like the one on the next page which showed me what an inspection pit would be like. One difference with the pit picture and the model pit was the design of the pit because the model needed beams to help support the rails. I used 1/8” styrene I beans painted a rusty brown to represent that detail. Then I added spills, water residue, tools and stains in the pit. On the concrete floors I added some stuff running into the pit. See picture on next page.



AIR COMPRESSOR AND SUNKEN TANK:

I scratch bashed the air compressor. I used one of the “sidewalk chips” for the base. In my collection of bits and pieces there was a couple aircraft engine cylinders. Not being an aircraft modeler, I have no idea now where I got them. I built a housing to hold the cylinders and a pulley wheel. I then added some piping. To power the air compressor, I installed a Wiseman Model Service gasoline engine.



Now it needed an air storage tank. I used a tank casting I had in my parts bin for that detail. Once completed, I knew where I wanted it, but I hadn't yet decided which way it would be turned. After I test fitted it both horizontal and parallel to the open air shed building, I decided on parallel.

To complete this corner of the diorama I wanted a half sunken storage tank. In my parts bin I had a plaster half tank casting. Perfect! I painted the tank black and added a lot of rust. I built a wood containment frame around it and put it in the corner in front of the air compressor.



Next time, we will discuss the more of the details that went inside and around the open air shed. Things like what is in the bone yard. We'll discuss the boiler, the overhead belt system and other such details. Till then happy modeling!



The
OSC

COUPLER

**PROMOTING "O" SCALE 2-RAIL
AND SUPPORTING MODELERS IN 1:48 SCALE**



O Scale Central Collaborates with *The O Scale Resource*

O Scale Central (OSC) is a membership organization whose mission it is to promote O Scale 2 Rail (OS2R) and support modelers in the scale. We work to build an informed and cohesive O Scale 2 Rail community. OSC is pleased to support and work with *The O Scale Resource* to get out the word.

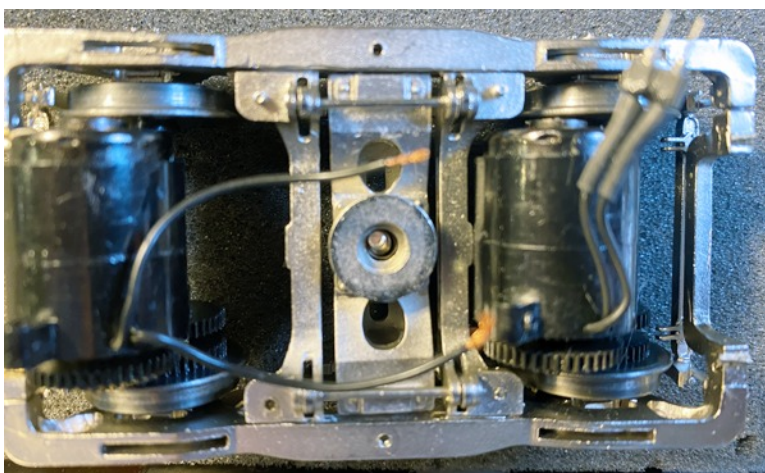
OSC provides an information-filled website <https://oscalecentral.com/> which includes an introduction to and overview of the Scale, as well as a trademarked OS2R product and service guide to connect modelers with products, services and resources. The guide is indexed, searchable, free to use and be listed. The Website includes membership information. Dues are only \$24.00 per year. If you are new to the Scale or are just O Scale curious, check out [OscaleCentral.Com](https://oscalecentral.com/) and consider joining.

The website also has a Members Area requiring your email and a password for access. This now includes an O Scale Central Member Directory with additional member information. Over half our members have ok'd listing in the directory. This is searchable by many of the fields. You can search for others interested in the New York Central or living in Indiana. Past issues of the OSC Coupler and OSC Drawbar newsletter are also available.

O Scale Central maintains an active outreach program to train shows, RPM meets and NMRA Conventions. We display O Scale trains, describe OS2R's advantages and tell people how to get started. OSC is also the NMRA's Special Interest Group - or SIG - for O Scale. We work with the NMRA to make and keep OS2R visible. O Scale Central members are also involved with reviewing new products for compliance with NMRA standards and model contest evaluations at the March Meet.

OSC publishes a monthly newsletter - the Drawbar - filled with interesting features about O Scale 2 Rail products, modelers, layouts, clinics and news. We sponsor a monthly online program, using the Zoom platform, which brings in top manufacturers, importers and news makers in the scale, presents layout tours of quality O Scale 2 Rail layouts, has short clinics and news you can use. Programs are recorded and available on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@oscalecentral1757>

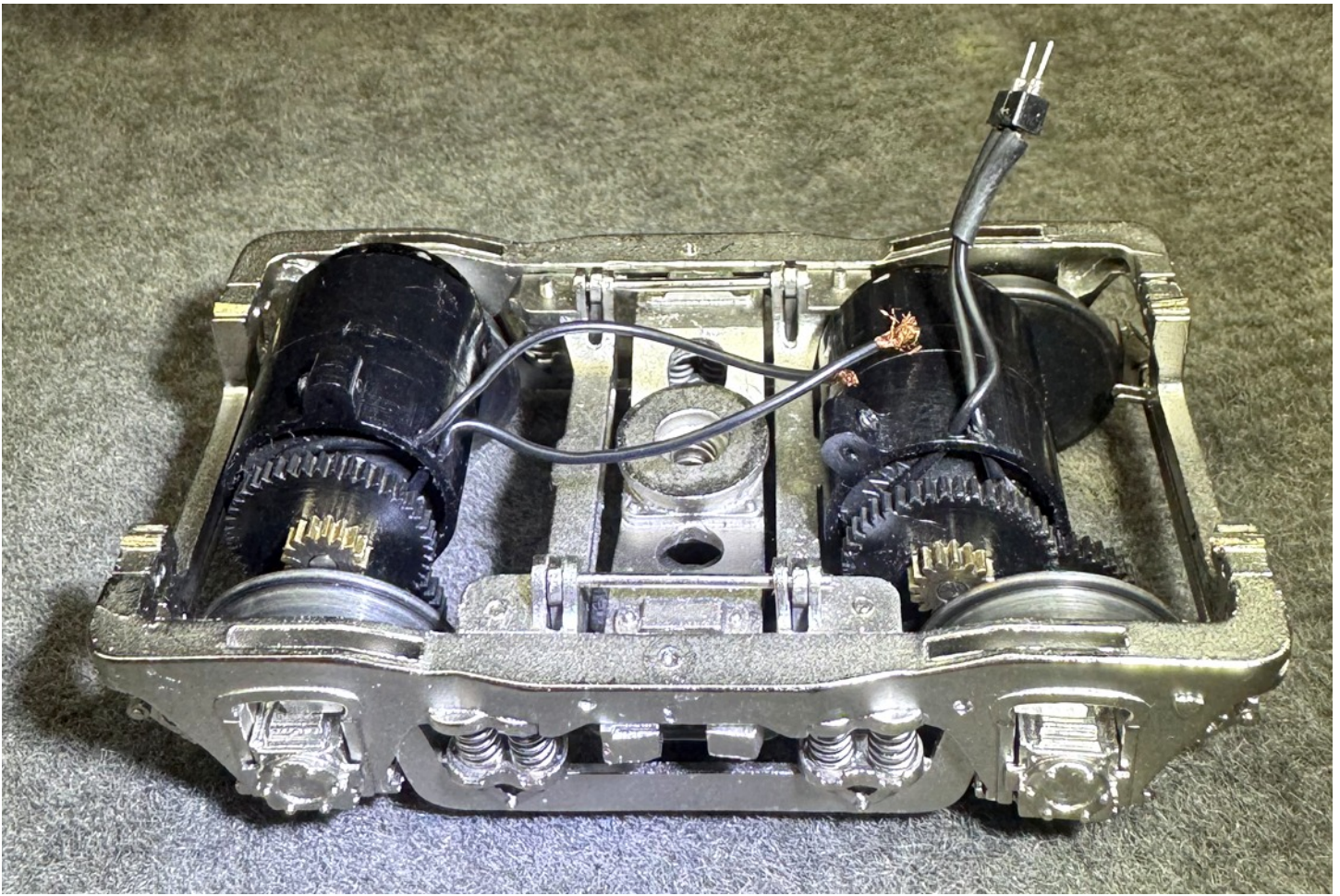
O Scale Central is a non-profit 501c3 tax exempt membership corporation. It is the active successor to O Scale Kings.



A Question from NorthWest Short Line

NWSL Magic Carpet axle mounted drives are out of stock and O Scale Central members have been communicating with Dave about making them again.

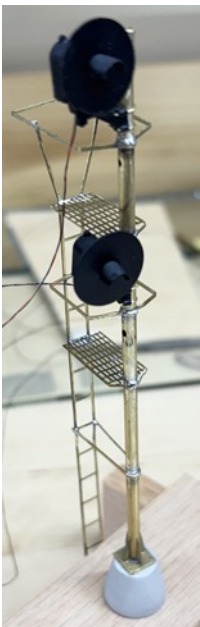
A friend has a model equipped with a power truck using two NWSL Magic Carpet drives with one motor to be replaced. Magic Carpet drives can be produced with three different gear ratios for speed ranges: Switcher (0-40 SMPH), Freight (0-60 SMPH) and passenger (0-80 SMPH).



NWSL Magic Carpet axle mounted traction motors

Complete details are in the NWSL old catalog that is on line. Go to pages 2-14 and 2-15, where there are complete details. Fifty prepaid orders would get this started with the motor order. The rest of the parts are in stock for both Traditional O and P48. The price is expected to be \$75-80 per axle drive. You can contact Dave, at tech@nwsl.com with any questions or concerns. O Scale Central is frequently discussing projects and ideas with manufacturers and having their representatives on the Monthly On Line Zoom programs.

3-D Printing is Making New Signal Components Possible



Part of my railroad career with CSX was in the signal department involved with design and construction of many different signal improvement and maintenance projects. I have been working for many years to have the parts to build wayside signals for my layout to implement TCS dispatching. I have brass castings and etchings to make modern CSX signals.

Recent progress using 3-D printing to make additional parts is coming along quickly. Daniel Raible displayed his example of a color light signal with three different US&S heads at the March Meet. Dan Dawdy displayed and is selling SA-1 searchlight signal heads and etched brass signal platforms and ladders. Friends have helped me by 3-D printing US&S M-23 dual control power switch machine, US&S T-20 hand throw switch machine with an electric lock, signal houses, signal cases and more are in progress.

These basic parts add to the realism of a control point or interlocking on a layout. Am I alone in these interests or are there others in 1/48 modeling interest in wayside signal details with or without lighted and operating signal?





Maybe you have made more progress than I have achieved. Last night I was soldering 805 SMT LEDs to a small circuit board that will go in color light signal heads. Would you like to get together during the Indy O Scale Meeting this fall to exchange information and show some of your projects? If so, let me know. Eric Peterson ericgpet@gmail.com.

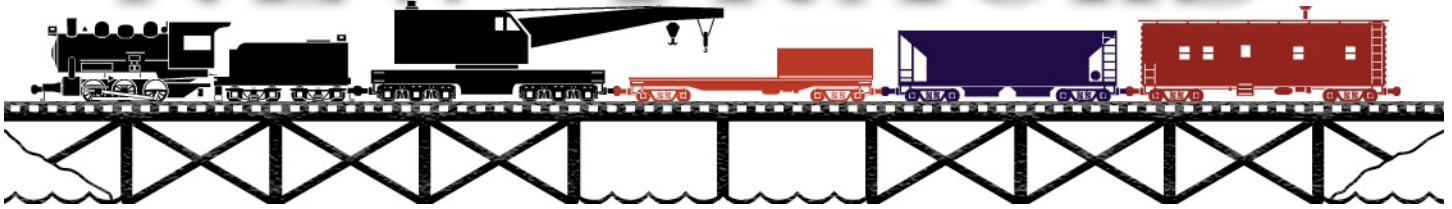
Publications Featuring O Scale

We all enjoy paper and on-line publications about our favorite model railroad topics. I was reminded again by an answer in another publication of the need for material and pictures to include in the publications about O Scale topics.

At times I hear complaints from O Scale modelers that other publications favor HO and N compared to S, O and other scales. They are more popular, but the publishers can only publish what they receive from individual modelers. It is up to all of us to draft articles and take pictures about something you think is important, different, a new idea, a different model or an interesting layout feature. Just take a few pictures and write up less than half a page of information and then send it to [Dan Dawdy](#), [O Scale Central](#) or other model railroad publications.



NEW TRACKS



Mentor Definition: A Trusted Counselor or Guide

By Contributing Editor Jim Kellow MMR

Let's Get and Keep new Young Modelers in our Hobby

I just received the first two segments of John Wubbel's (CEO Conductor Railway Hobbies, LLC All Nation Line) new Blog called: "The Quiet Web." I am very impressed with his research and conclusions and encourage every New Tracks member to read John's first two Blog posts shown below.

First Segment Title: The Quiet Web. The link is: <https://allnationline.com/WP/?p=18386>

Second Segment Title: "The Quiet Web & The Teen Association of Model Railroaders (TAMR) Production Culture". The link is: <https://allnationline.com/WP/?p=18476Pop>

After all this development R&D work John decided to build a searchable Index of all the model articles that were archived on the TAMR web. John reviewed 952 articles from the teens and then indexed them from 467 issues of the newsletters from 5 regional publications.

John said he hopes everyone will enjoy the access this gives to the work these teens did within the hobby many years ago. It is a great resource to have at your fingertips.

The end results can be viewed from John's All Nation Line website via the following link: <https://allnationline.com/WP/workbench/tamrmodeling-article-index.html>.

JK. Thank you John for your significant research. I am very impressed with the articles the teen modelers of yesterday wrote about and built. If there are teens who want to currently get an article published or make a presentation on our New Tracks Zoom show, please let me know at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

John also told me: "If I could put words coming off Jim Mellow's tongue, it would be: Mentor a teen modeler today and you'll keep a hobbyist for life — prove me wrong."

Let me know if anyone wants to try to prove this statement wrong. I personally think John hit the nail on its head. John's statement is also why I am so proud to have my New Tracks articles and programs supported by Amy and Dan Dawdy's magazine *The O Scale Resource* and my monthly articles by the publisher of my local Chronicle newspaper. I genuinely believe that today's modelers, providing mentoring to new young modelers is what will keep our great model railroading hobby vibrant and growing into the next generation. Please do your part today.

Now let's discuss working with our young model railroaders who are the future of our hobby. Many young kids are already providing the CAD information needed for our 3D printing. I wonder how long it will be before robotics become a part of our model railroad hobby; I wonder when and if model railroad clubs will become part of our middle and high school activities; I wonder when model railroad clubs will actively recruit kids to join their clubs; I truly wonder when we will get the first, 12 year old NMRA MMR? I hate to say it, but I believe a lot of us older kids will need to change our attitudes toward the younger next generations before any

of these things will happen. What do you think? Can anyone tell me what specific program your organization is implementing to attract young kids to our great hobby?

Working With Kids

Kids are the future of our hobby. What are you, the existing model railroad community members, doing to help kids develop the skills and enjoy the creative experiences of becoming a model railroaders?

There is no doubt in my mind that model railroading can provide a solid foundation for kids to learn how to build whatever they want with their hands, gain confidence in their abilities to create, and develop their imagination to visualize what is possible and achievable.

I love hearing from readers about their mentoring and involvement with kids. I often receive comments from readers that make me feel my emphasis on mentoring kids and providing them opportunities to experience the model railroad hobby are appreciated by readers and actually happening.

Veronica Wavrich, a Chronicle Newspaper reader, sent me an email telling me about her late husband's train experiences and wondered if I could help her donate some of his train material to a local charity where the material could be of benefit to some local kids. Her husband's name was John William Wavrich, who everyone called Bill. Judging by what Veronica wrote I would have really liked to have met Bill and seen his operating layout.

Veronica said: "Jim, I've read a few of your articles in the chronicle and thought it was great trying to encourage young kids to learn modeling skills. My late husband, Bill, loved trains and as you described, he started as a youngster with his Dad's help who was also a "train guy". The donated items include: A Microsoft Train Simulator... video game that allows players to operate various locomotives on realistic routes: a 5 volume series of Dream-Plan-Build videos for layouts, modeling tips and prototype railroads: Plasticville USA building kits: including: Hardware/Pharmacy, Railroad signal bridge, US Post office, Ranch house, Switch tower, Frosty Bar, Build a house, Hospital, Supermarket, and Motel kits."



Bill Wavrich

These items will be donated to the local Boys and Girls club for use by the kids in their after school program. Thank you, Veronica for donating your late husband's model train items. Veronica's recent email to me explains why this donation to the Boys and Girls Club was so important to her: "Thank you Jim... I spoke with them and they're coming Thursday to pick up the stuff I'm donating. Thanks so much for the contact...my Bill would be happy to share his things with the kids!" Thank you, Boys and Girls Club Director, Travis Anderson, for your support and help.

Such donations may be the first time some kids get access to model train items. I am sure some readers will remember that Christmas morning when Santa left you that first train. I wish every kid could experience the thrill you had when you first saw your Santa's model train gift.

Bill and Veronica were certainly true train people. Here are some details about Veronica and Bill's train experiences which show their love for trains, both real and models.

My wife certainly understands Veronica's involvement with Bill's trains. Every time we moved, the first space she asked the realtor to show her was the basement. If it was not suitable for our model trains, there was no need for her to see the rest of the house. The exception was in Florida where she required sufficient land so we could build a separate building for the trains. I bet all model railroader wives have similar tales to tell about there involvement in the hobby.



Bill with his Dad

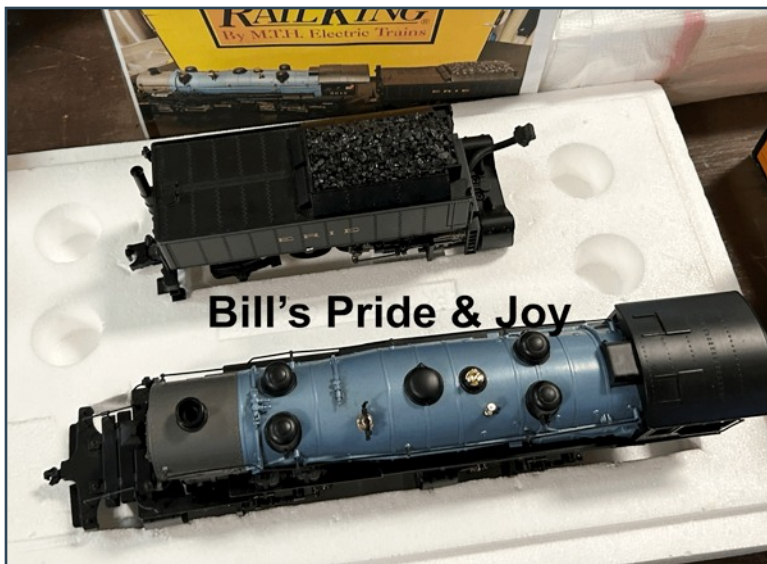
“Bill loved trains just as much as his father, Bill Sr, did. No matter where he was or where we would vacation, there were always trains involved. He started model railroading as a kid in Brooklyn NY with his dad.

His first trains were HO Lionel, and his father taught him so much about building layouts in small areas in his Brooklyn home. As he progressed as an adult, he started collecting larger O gauge trains because he said they were easier to handle and were even more life like. We also had a lot more room in our home's large basement on Long Island.

I learned a lot about trains through his interest, and I accompanied him to many train shows and antique stores everywhere we went. We rode a lot of trains wherever we went, Alaska, Mt Dora, Edaville, Durango/Silverton cog RR, Pennsylvania museums, Long Island RR Museum, and I shared in his excitement of something he purchased either old or new.



Long Island layout



Probably one of the most exciting times for Bill was when I surprised him for his 75th birthday, by giving him the opportunity to be the engineer on a train at the Florida RR museum. He was thrilled.

Bill also read everything he could about Modeling and general train information.

Before we moved to Florida, he meticulously disassembled his layout in NY (4 separate 4x8 plywood sections) but was only able to set up $\frac{3}{4}$ of it in our new garage in Florida.

He belonged to the Lionel Century Club and had a membership in a group in Holbrook, Long Island where he exchanged ideas and got discounts on trains and accessories.

Bill would be so happy to know that some of his things would be enjoyed by kids, and he would highly recommend they learn model building. It is a hobby that is losing some popularity, but it teaches kids patience, engineering, coordination, and camaraderie with others with similar interests.

I hope the kids enjoy these model train items as much as my husband Bill did”.



Veronica, I am sure they will. I also hope the kids apply for the New Tracks Scholarship's when they are older, graduate from High School and pursue a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Mathematics) undergraduate education.

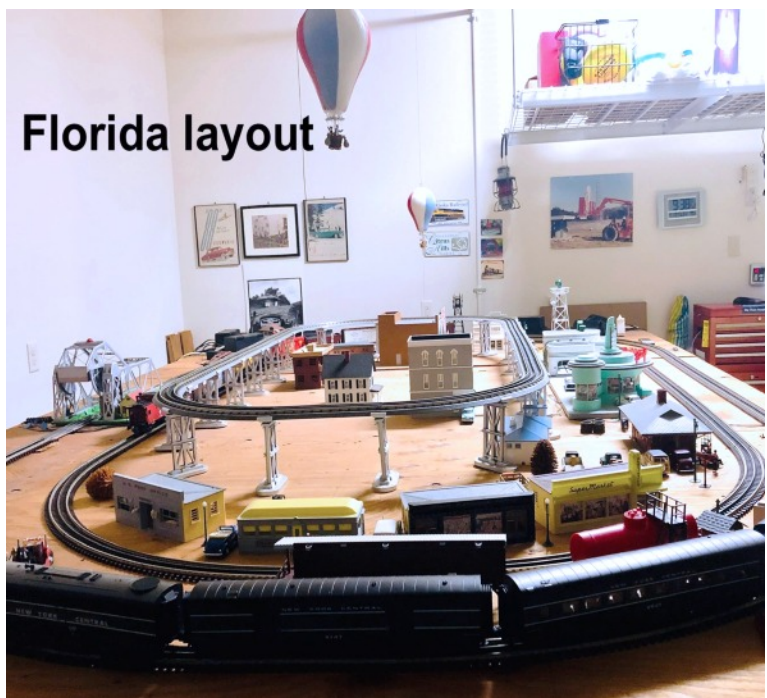
If you have a story to share about your experiences working with kids, please send it to me. Helping kids experience our model railroad hobby and, hopefully fall in love with it as we did is, in my opinion the most important thing we older modelers can do to promote the future continuation and development of our hobby. What do you think? My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

O Narrow Gauge

Today many of us recognize, On30, O Scale bodies on HO trucks and operating mechanisms, as

the main O narrow gauge modeling scale. But will it maintain that status given the rising interest and allure of On18, which is O scale bodies on N scale trucks and mechanisms? Well, we shall see.

I first heard about On30 a long ago when it was first being modeled. It was very inexpensive compared to other narrow gauge scales. As more modelers experimented with On30, more Scale like On30 track was

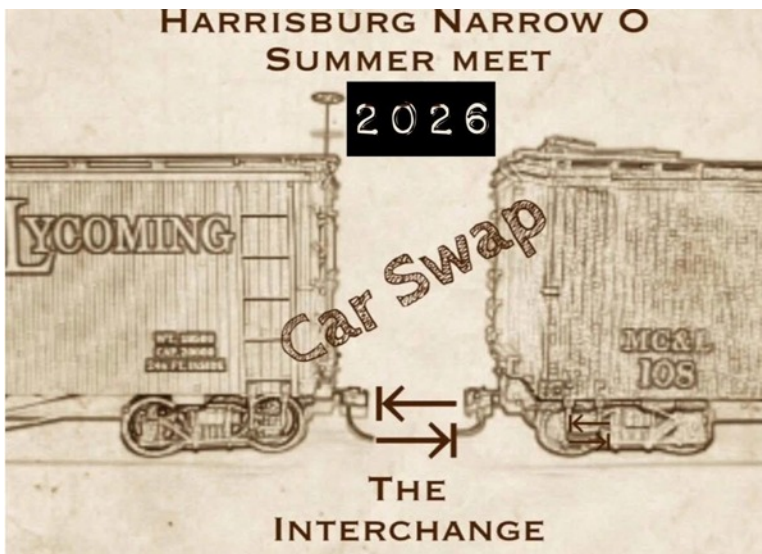


produced to replace the regular HO track. Next came ready to run models and 3D prints, for modelers more interested in scratch building and kit bashing. Today the Scale has further developed, and for some modelers, into what I think of as “On30 fine Scale”.

During this development period, the *48 Ft/O Scale News* magazine decided that On30 was sufficiently accepted to include it on each of their magazine’s front covers. This significantly helped make it a legitimate modeling part of the O Scale hobby. The magazine’s editor, Greg Heier, had the foresight to see the potential On30 brought to the O scale narrow gauge market and the courage to express his opinion. The Bachman Company also stepped forward and is widely recognized as being responsible for On30 becoming today’s leading narrow gauge modeling scale.

However, recently I hear less about On30 modeling and more about a new, at least for me, narrow-gauge scale called On18. It seems to me On18 is getting the same kind of early favorable modeling interest I heard years ago when On30 was just starving to gain recognition.

For example, I recently saw this post by Aaron Loyet on the Harrisburg Narrow O Summer Meet Facebook group.



“We are excited to announce that the annual car swap at Harrisburg interchange is back for 2026! This year’s swap features two different opportunities to join in on the fun! First, the On30 swap is back for the 3rd year in a row, and a new, On18 car swap has joined in!

The On30 swap is open to both short and long cars. We ask that if you enter a long car, that you pick from the long cars available and vice versa. Our second category will be On18! This will be realistic styling (nothing whimsical). All entries must be constructed in a way that allows the new owner to change wheels/trucks (if needed) and be able to mount a Kadee 242 gearbox (coupler box).

All entries must be customized, kitbashed, or scratchbuilt and we ask that your entry be lettered for your personal railroad or utilizes your initials as for interchange name. This event is always a lot of fun and hope you are able to join in on the fun!”

There seem to be distinct reasons for the On18 interest, including that it is the cheapest modeling scale where you can use N scale and 3D printing to build any locomotive or railroad car you want. Also an On18 operating diorama or micro layout can be easily transported to various locations which allows modelers to display their skills and artistic creativity to a wide range of other modelers. These small layouts also requires little storage space at home and are easily being traded and/or sold.

I am personally encouraged about On18 modelers interest in showing their micro On18 modeling and having their artistic creativity recognized as true pieces of art. I hope Art Galleries around the country recognize the On18 micro layouts as true pieces of art and include them in their Galleries. If a company, such as Kato for example, steps up to promote On18, as Bachman did years ago for On30, I believe On18 could well become as popular, or maybe even more popular for O scale narrow gauge modelers than On30! What do you think?

I asked some current On18 modelers to comment on this article and express their opinions about On18 and it’s future.

Modelers comments about On18: [Allen Littlefield NTM](#)

Jim, I think On18” will be complimentary or a supplement to the On30 modeler. An animated mine or other wayside industry can now be brought to life with the reliable N scale motors. I just sent an article to the *On30 Annual* expressing my thoughts a few examples of some of the 3-D prints that are being turned out by both Les Davis and Ryan Vigus who produces 3-D kits in O scale for both 18” & 30” examples. He also does some larger scale models. His company is: [Carroll Creek Designs](#). Hope this helps your article.

JK. Thanks Allen, I appreciate your viewpoint as a long time On30 modeler and producer of the twice a year On30 Gathering which is a must go to for On30 modelers. Allen thinks On18 will complement, On30, citing new 3D prints and reliable N scale motors. I look forward to seeing his combined On30 and On18 efforts.

[Kevin Macomber](#)

While I retired three years ago, I spent the prior three decades working in the entire lifecycle of product management from design development to commercialization. I was fortunate in the fact that I worked for large companies and supplied many of the largest companies in the tech sector. Because so much money is involved, you learn to develop products effectively, so they succeed and most importantly, you learn how to monitor and benefit from market forces. And that is what I have seen in the transition of On30 to On18.

My personal entry to On30 was actually by mistake, when I found a trolley and did not recognize the large body on a narrow gauge. I was immediately hooked and as I learned more, my fascination began what would become a great journey. This not only included my personal modeling, but the development of a robust business that supported all gauges within O Scale. But that was almost 15 years ago and much has changed since and quite rapidly. In early 2024 the market as I saw it was like a switch that turned ‘off’ and had seen this a couple times during my career. At that time, I regularly mentioned On30 was declining and understandably, I received much push back. I felt strongly enough about this and knew it was time to sell the assets of my business. Fast forward, I was correct.

What happened? I believe the strongest force impacting the transition was the Covid pandemic, where new and existing modelers were stranded at home and were buying up a good portion of the secondary market. As there wasn’t new product available, namely engines being made, this demand drove prices up rapidly and by no small amount. Even the engines with known gear issues, were being picked up to rebuild. It is fair to say that the market price of the most desired engines and particularly On30 specific turnouts, doubled in price. Recently, I saw a Porter locomotive with DCC and sound sell for about \$300 and that is not sustainable. On30 which has been traditionally frugal, has been readily squeezed, putting downward pressure on modelers’ work. It’s also become a barrier to the entry to the market. New modelers are not going to spend several hundred dollars to ‘try’ something new and most certainly won’t have the confidence to cut the engine up. Most are not going to enter the craft with a box set, because that isn’t the designs that drew them to it.

Another market force is really the history of On30 and why On18 is taking the foothold it is now. On30 started as a ‘makers’ scale and was built upon HO locomotive mechanisms. When there became a notable supply of products, the roster of engines expanded to appeal to broad range of modeling interests, most notably logging engines, but also long haulers of freight. But the core of the craft remained in the maker side where the smaller On30 engines, namely Porters and Gas Mechanicals (Davenport), would be dissected for their mechanisms or rebuilt into more elaborate designs. When the supply of these dwindled significantly and the prices jumped, a good portion of these modelers went back to HO mechanisms, but many also saw On18 as a solid substitute.

Another trend, and it is quite apparent across all scales/gauges, is that full-sized model railroads are not built as often. Within On30, modelers have levitated to shelf layouts and more recently, have moved heavily towards micro layouts. I personally have a significant On30 railroad, but being active, I recognize how few of us there

are in the realm of the craft. A good portion of the On30 roster in the secondary market are no longer wanted by modelers. They are not going to run articulated, 10 wheelers, or consolidations on this type of display. The biggest will be a geared locomotive and sometimes a Mogul since they are the most available design. But that is not what they really want. They want small engines that can be modified to their interests on highly creative diorama like layouts.

When you understand the actual designs that appeal to small engines modelers, the only thing changing was the gauge of the track. To facilitate this, modelers embraced the Kato N Scale mechanism which can be purchased for \$30 (or less) and the track is readily available. The high quality of the Kato brand is also well known. Interestingly, the price points of the mechanism and track are close to what they were in On30 about 10 years ago. And while there have been 3D engine printings available in On30 for a number of years, they too began to wane when the engines dried up in the market. So those designers along with a number of new On18 influencers, began designing engines that mirrored what the modelers wanted and for a very reasonable price point. This led to a complete engine, including the engine and 3D printing for \$70-90. While, of course, it is not fully apples-to-apples, this cost is less than just an On30 mechanism now. This was the final impact and it took off.

A final market force, and this cannot be expressed enough, is that a number of key influencers in On30 passed in recent years. While there are several, Lee Riley and Al Judy were at the top of the list. Al, who was not in the product development side, was by far the number one influencer of the 'craft' in the hobby during the past decade and his presence and contributions were everywhere. While others have worked to replace his contribution in both the social media world and trains shows, it is not to the same degree. The timing of these passings with the other forces compounded the contraction in On30. Simultaneously, new influencers began in On18, and some very good ones.

In a closing note, there seems to be an opportunity for a new company to enter the On30 mechanism market, but it would need to be similar to Kato's approach or a direct model, which we are seeing expand with a number of successful brands.

JK. Thank you, Kevin. Kevin Macomber models the freelance prototypical Fitchburg Railroad, which has 2100 followers on his Facebook page. His work is also often shown in an array of modeling articles and presentations.

Steve Sherrill NTM

Once upon a time there was a large model train manufacturer who produced a new line of narrow gauge models termed On30. Many of us longing for narrow gauge model railroading saw a chance to enter this area without breaking the bank. On30 was larger in size and gave a new challenge in model railroading. Everything was going great until our supplier decided to curtail its offerings.

Enter a new means of producing models using 3D printing to produce new likes in motive power and rolling stock in On18. About this same time American modelers were introduced to Small and Micro Layouts. Now we had more detailed models of anything we could design and print or have made using this method. With 3D models, small and micro layouts there is no more need to have large empires that we can't finish or transport to share with other modelers. On18 layouts can be in small areas and easily taken to train shows or shared at train meets. As with earlier On30, On18 gives a way to create your version of railroading in miniature. The cost is very reasonable.

Even as we talk about the new trains in On18 there is a new scale and gauge lurking ready to emerge and that is Gn15. We will talk about Gn15 in the future as it develops, until then share the fun of On18.

JK. Thanks, Steve, for your comments. Steve is one of the first people who I heard talk about On18. He has done presentations on New Tracks live Zoom shows and recently held a On18 gathering at his home which was very well attended and had displays brought by most of the attendees. I think Steve's On18 gatherings can easily become as popular as Allen Littlefield's On30 gatherings. Here is a link to one of Steve's micros On18 displays.

Greg Cassidy NTM

As has been mentioned elsewhere, many modelers think that the rise of On30 model railroading has peaked and is actually on the decline. Much of this is based on the rumor that the company Bachmann, that really got many people interested in On30, has stopped their production in that scale. Bachmann has not stopped making On30 and continues to produce and support the line, with new announcements, such as the 0-6-0 switcher and 14-ton Stearns-Heisler. While production has slowed, and some items are listed as discontinued due to high costs or low demand, they remain committed to the scale.

Fueling that rumor, the new upstart On18 seems to be kicking On30's behind. But I think one thing that will always be different between those two scales is that On18 is not going to have any one manufacturer championing it. While Bachmann led a quiet revolution of getting more modelers interested in On30, you still had many modelers who were just using Bachmann's involvement as a starting point. They had a production item such as a locomotive mechanism or freight car that could then be changed and customized to fit in their railroad theme. I think some of these are the modelers that years ago would have built their own On2 or On3 layouts with all the re-gauging work that was involved in that. I believe many of these custom builders are the modelers that are now moving over to On18, and while much of the appeal of it is being able to lay a fair bit of track in a small space, or to make a portable layout easily transportable, I think a large reason for the interest in it is getting back to the idea of being able to build whatever you want.

There were quite a few 3D prints of locomotive bodies On30 that could fit onto an HO drive chassis. But you're now seeing just as many if not more O scale bodies being developed to fit on the very affordable Kato 11-109 drive system which is perfect for On18. And it seems like every day there's a new 3D print developer that's coming up with some cars made for On18.

I'm not sure I fall in line with those saying that On30 is dying, I just don't think it's growing like it was. There was a lot of product that has been put out, and I know much of it is still new in boxes just waiting for someone else to decide that they want to work in a larger scale but don't want to have to allocate a larger space for their track work. I think it will be a while before we have that kind of inventory in the secondary market of On18 stock. But at the rate it's coming out, I don't think it will take very long. It's just not going to be sitting on sale tables in the ubiquitous green Bachmann Spectrum box.

Where you will see the future of On18 items is at train shows being put out by cottage industries and individuals who know how to 3D print. It's been less than a decade where it's been easy for the ordinary individual to develop and manufacture something such as a locomotive body or a railcar, or in fact other model railroad items, and be able to sell them on the open market. A few of these people have actually made quite a business of it, and while they may not have the household names of the big plastic manufacturers, they are, nonetheless, well known within the narrow gauge community. And you have others who are happy to keep their small business just going as a hobby and not wanting to get dragged down into the business end of it.

I just recently saw a beautiful 3D printed Model T shell that was designed to look like an early 20th Century railcar and built to fit on a Kato drive unit. That would never have the appeal that a large manufacturer would bother to make dies for that and try to sell it. But nonetheless, this small manufacturer has more orders for it than he can fill. And that can be another of the appealing aspects of being in a smaller portion of a large hobby. That railcar body isn't going to be something that very many people in your area have on their layouts, unless you happen to have a lot of like minded narrow gauge model railroaders around you. And that gets back to the

appeal of narrow gauge railroading and especially On18 as a builder's hobby where you can create your own vision of what your railroad should look like. It's not going to be like mainline model railroading, where regardless of the scale, it's possible for you to just buy much of your inventory and put down some track and be running trains. This was not only possible in On30, but it was the way that that scale and gauge of model railroading took off. No, with On18 you are going to have to do a little bit of building on your own. Just not near as much as the early proponents of narrow gauge model railroading had to do.

JK. Thank you Greg for your comments. See a video of the micro On18 layout Greg build on our live New Tracks Zoom shows January 21 and 28, 2026. A video of each of the shows is available on our New Tracks Modeling YouTube channel. January 21, 2026 link: https://youtu.be/_xl1Bbenkic?si=np-R-jkG8tlWIEZg

What's Next For O Narrow Gauge?

Will On30 retain its dominance in O narrow gauge? Will On18 convene to gain strength and overcome On30 in the narrow gauge market? Will the next O Scale narrow gauge scale to raise it's head be OnTT or OnZ scale? If so, what will we call it? Anyone modeling in OnTT or OnZ now? Lastly, where is On3 and On2 in our future O narrow gauge modeling discussions?

Or, as Steve Sherrill predicts, will an even larger scale, Gn15, emerge as a significant part of the larger size narrow gauge market and compete with O scale?

Steve Sherrill's photo. "On30 (on left) and Gn15 (on right) scratch built on block of wood. Note platform cover. My railroad doesn't scrap anything."

Steve uses 132 G scale for his bodies and HO scale for wheels and mechanisms for his Gn15. Steve told me: "I used the Bachman trolley mechanism on some but also Tyco HO scale diesel mech because they are very plentiful and inexpensive. All diesels are battery powered and use Genie units or RC cars if no sound. Steve's



Gn15 diesel, 3D printed by Carroll Creek Designs, with Bachman trolley drive and Genie sound unit in 1/32 scale.

Steve says he can run both On30 and Gn15 on the same layout with little clearance or structure modifications. Anyone else modeling in Gn15? If so, what G scale gauge are you using for the railroad bodies and structures; and what scale do you use for the “narrow gauge 15” trucks and power mechanisms?



Steve Sherrill points out: “1/32” which I use is one of scales in America called G scale. In Europe it is called Gauge One. US manufacturers made 4 scales that operated on same 45mm track. Scales are 1/32, 1:29, 122.5 and 120.3. Different commercial manufactured built in the different scales. LGB was 122.5 example. I chose 1/32 because I found I had only minimal clearance problems on rock cropping locations. 1/32 was easiest because some current buildings could be used with only door heights changed. The tunnel portals became victims of closure due to rock slides so they aren’t missed. Currently running G scale 1/32 And On30 with HO scale 36” wheels on same HO Track.”

I would love to hear your opinions and comments about the future of O scale narrow gauge market. Will you become a O narrow gauge modeler? Where do you think O scale narrow gauge will be in say 5 years? My email is jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

Now let’s turn to talk about personalizing our model railroads with figures of us enjoying our childhood memories and experiences.

Reaction to my article in the previous issue about my need for custom figures: “Including Childhood Memories in your Model Railroad”

The following Australian reader’s reaction to my article in the previous issue of this magazine is something I feel deserves to be seen and read by everyone. In my last article I had the following statements and photo:

“This is a photo of the 1/4” scale playground equipment I scratchbuilt in brass for my playground scene. Notice that currently the kids are just cut out card figures from Internet photos I found. I want to replace them with more realistic 3D figures but so far have not found a way to do that unless I sculpt them. I must admit I considered trying to 3D print my figures, but I don’t know how to use a CAD program to design the kids for 3D printing. In fact, I don’t even know if there is a CAD program that can design people in various poses?”



A reader, Lindsay O'Reilly, lindsay.oreilly@optusnet.com.au provided me the following response to my article. “This email is a response to Jim’s comments in OSR March-April 2026, about the challenges of creating custom figures for the children’s playground scene

described in pages 100-101. I'm Lindsay O'Reilly, a 67-year-old Australian ex-high school art teacher and co-owner of West Edge 3D Pty Ltd. We are a 3D printing company based in the lower Hunter Valley on the east coast of Australia, about 100 miles north of Sydney.

Part of our business is creating and selling scale figures for railway modelers, architects and diorama builders. These are 3D printed in full color on our own Stratasys J55 Prime color polyjet printer. (You can see the range at <https://westedge3d.com.au/shop/>. They have been positively reviewed by model railroading magazines here in Australia, in the UK, and in the USA, including *Model Railroader*.)

Initially, our figures were created by color scanning real humans - our friends, family, neighbours and even ourselves - to create what we think are the most convincing scale figures currently available. They are nothing other than 3D color photos of real people, printable in any scale from N to G. Eventually, however, we hit a wall: we ran out of people we know that would let us scan them! And there was another, even bigger issue. We were receiving an increasing number of requests for period (historical) figures and overseas prototypes, but our scanning method would require finding people with the correct period clothing and physical appearance (height, weight, hairstyle, facial hair etc) that we could pose and scan. This was simply not practical, given the wide range of eras and figure styles (railroad crew and station staff, passengers, workers, elderly folk and children, passers-by...) that customers were requesting. We managed to create two sets of contemporary USA loco crews from photos we were sent - including women, which was the specific request - and you can see some of these in the attached photos. But we had no way to replicate the ethnic mix seen in other photos. We have a limited number of Latino, African-American, South-East Asian and Indian sub-continent neighbours in suburban Newcastle, New South Wales! This is essentially the same problem that you described in your article: how can we create realistic specific-purpose custom figures for 3D printing

Our solution came in the form of a program - a website, actually - called Meshy.ai (<https://www.meshy.ai/>). This extraordinary tool initially created 3D objects from text prompts, and early versions often made very cartoonish, exaggerated figures from those written descriptions. However, improvement and progress in the creators' coding and algorithms has been almost unbelievably swift, and the latest version, Meshy 6, now offers the option of generating convincing human figures from a photograph also. For our purposes at West Edge 3D, the killer feature is Meshy's ability to texture (color) those images and create incredibly lifelike figurines that we can print in full color. This latter feature is, of course, one that few people with normal consumer single color SLA (resin) 3D printers will need; though texturing the figure in Meshy does give a ready-made painting guide!



The following photos show some examples of Meshy-generated and color-3D-printed scale figures. As well as the aforementioned American train crew figures in hi-viz vests, also shown here are:

- A screenshot from Meshy, and the resulting printed figure alongside other Meshy-created miniature people.

- A set of James Bond figures made from publicity photos for the movie franchise, showing that even in O scale Meshy can capture a likeness of an actor.

- A set of contemporary Appalachian coal miners, created from photos found via a simple Google search.

Some were group photos that were cropped down to be just individual miners so that Meshy wasn't confused by multiple people in the photo. The female miner, however, was created from a text prompt; that is, a written description of what I wanted, based on some photos I found that weren't high-resolution enough to use on their own.



- And lastly, a single figure of a 1940's black American coal miner, made from a contemporary photo depicting him heading home exhausted after his shift. The photo was in black and white, and initially Meshy (unsurprisingly) produced the figure also in monochromatic shades of gray. Looking at this result, I was struck by a brainwave, and loaded the photo into ChatGPT and asked it to colorize the image. This it did in a matter of moments, generating a subtle and convincing new version. That color image when uploaded to Meshy gave the illustrated result.



Meshy is a subscription service, and thus may not be for everyone. I am a firm believer, though in the Biblical principle that a worker is worthy of his hire. The creators of the site must have invested unnumbered hours and dollars into a program that simply works, and works brilliantly most of the time. Sure, there's the occasional third leg, or dodgy hand shape, but when you consider what the program is doing - making a printable realistic 3D object from a 2D image, or even just words - the results are astonishing. So I'm happy to pay the cost to have this power at my fingertips.





The downloadable Meshy files are not yet perfect. Because we print them in color, we download them in .OBJ format; but the non-color 'normal' .STL 3D file format is also available. My process is to open the downloaded file in MeshMixer, check and repair the file if needed using MeshMixer's 'Inspector' tool; and then use the Edit>Format tool to resize it to life size and save it with a new, easily recognizable name. We save all our figures as life-size files because then printing to any scale is done simply by applying a percentage scale reduction in our Stratasys printer software. A 1/48 O scale figure is 2.08% of the height of the real thing, HO is 1.15%, etc.

Don't assume that this is only a tool for making human figures, though. Meshy can make a printable 3D file of anything that you can describe, or supply a picture of. We have successfully made animals, and scenic items like piles of abandoned oil drums. We've had mixed success with vehicles because they are often just a shell with no internal structure to the 3D, so the print is just a thin skin that collapses under its own weight; but perhaps a dedicated user could find solutions to those issues. We did make one fantastic 1964 red Mustang convertible that printed beautifully. Really, the uses of Meshy and other similar 3D

are only by the user's imagination. I hope this information is helpful. What a time it is to be a part of all this technology available to us."



Stratasys J55 colour polyjet printer we use. Photo by Stratasys

It's a great time. Lindsay, I look forward to working with you on my school figures. I will set up a meeting to discuss this issue with you. Thanks again for reading my article in OSR magazine and expect readers may hear more about Lindsay's color 3D program in future articles and on my shows Wednesday evenings at 7pm Eastern Time.

For more information about Lindsay's 3D capability please see the following information: "West Edge 3D is a business, co-owned with his brother-in-law Moss West. it was formed in 2022. As well as SLA and full-color polyjet 3D printing, we sell a range of figure sets, scenic accessories, and Australian cars from the 1948-1973 era in scales N to G from our website shop. See <https://westedge3d.com.au>. We are also on Facebook and Instagram; links on our homepage, or search 'West Edge 3D'."

JK. I will have a more detailed article about Lindsay and his two companies in the upcoming November/December 2026 issue of this magazine. I am very impressed with Lindsay and believe he is on the cutting edge of what 3D printing may mean for the future of our hobby. Lindsay will also be on our New Tracks weekly live Zoom show as soon as we can agree on an agreeable date. Make sure you subscribe to our website: newtracksmodeling.com so you will get the advance notice of the date he will be on our show.

Remember when we had to hand build our play stuff? "Did you live through those good old days? I did!"

What did you do as a kid besides being a model railroader? How did you learn your modeling by hand skills? Before discussing model railroading, I want to discuss two other hobbies or games that as kids we found



O scale figures on a U.S. layout



The 4 men in hi-viz workwear are all gold miners from central NSW, printed in 1:32 scale.



The set of 4 standing figures including the two women, one with a spade, are all printed from iPhone app scans.



The cemetery memorials are O scale, printed from scans of the real things in a Sydney cemetery.

were great fun for our outdoor at home activates. It was a time when our house doors were unlocked and after breakfast, we were outside most of the day playing with our friends (boys and girls). What did we play?

Cork Ball

This game required making a ball which was a 2 or so inches long of fishing cork we rapped with medical tape. We all custom made our cork balls to supposedly give us an advantage in throwing them by the hitters.

With practice, a pitcher could make his cork ball rise or fall and the batter would have to learn each person's pitch to be able to hit it. I don't remember ever seeing two identically made cork balls.

Our bat required cutting down a stick from one of our mom's old throw away brooms and making a handle on it with the same medical tape. No gloves, helmets, uniforms, etc were required. To score a point after hitting the ball, we had to run to the designated base and return to home plate before being touched by someone holding the retrieved ball. These bases were small pieces of cardboard or folded old newspapers. We usually played it in our low traffic neighborhood street. How long was a game? No set time or score, we played until we decided to do something else.

Cowboys and Indians or Cops and Robbers

Another game was called either Cops and Robbers, or Cowboys and Indians. Both games required us to make a rubber gun out of an empty apple box we got from the local grocer, who always threw them away anyway. We cut out the pistol shape, handle, and barrel, from the thick wooden end of the box. My guess is the end was about 1/2" thick. We got two pistols from a box. Next we got an old tire inner tube, remember those, from the local service station who always threw them away, and cut them into 1/2 inch to 1 inch round circles. There were two colors of inner tubes, red and black, with the red more prized as it was stronger rubber and went further when fired. These circles were our ammunition. The circles were also used to fasten a wooden spring loaded clothespin to the back of the gun's handle. We were then able to pull a round rubber circle from the front end of the barrel to the rear handle and hold them in place in the spring loaded jaws of the clothespin. Now you had your pistol loaded and ready to fire. Pistol in one hand and ammunition in your pocket or other hand and we were ready for action

Funny, the other day I saw a manufacturer was selling pre made rubber guns and ammunition ready to use. Kids today don't have to use their imagination or hands to make them. Too bad as making what we needed to play these games was part of the fun and taught us model building skills. Naturally no two guns were ever the same. Length and shape of the handle and barrel was up to the imagination and skill of each kid as was the width of the rubber circles. Some guys had cowboy hats or tin police badges. The other guys were always the Indians or robbers!

Building these play toys led me to building all types of stuff evidently including my railroad models. Funny, but even today, I still use some of those childhood skills I learned by trial and error way back then. I bet you do to!

Play toys helped me start my railroad modeling journey

For most of us, model railroad trains were provided one early Christmas morning by Santa Claus. This hobby normally went in stages for us. Stage one: We had a Lionel or American flyer train that Santa provided as a Christmas present. The track and a power transformer came with the train. Now we had to figure out how to become a model railroader or decide to pack the train up after Christmas and put it in the attic or basement storage until next Christmas.

If our choice was to become a more full time model railroader, we had to get Dad's help to build a plywood table to put the layout on. Mom did not tolerate your train layout on her living room carpet for long. Once the table was built, you were basically on your own with the help of your mentor, Dad, to turn that wood table into your railroad empire. Want a bridge, build it, house, stores, farms, industry, scenery, you build it. Besides Dad, your main help came from the local hobby shop, and magazines you might find at the local drug store. Mom and Dad were usually too busy with earning a living and keeping the house clean and food on the table to be much help.

We used whatever material we could find. Cardboard from your dad's shirts when they came back from the laundry, wood came from the thin side slats from those apple crates; really anything that was usable, fabrics, junk tin cans, whatever you could find you used your imagination to turn it into something useful for your purposes. Tools you borrowed from your Dad. Ideas, your imagination? You usually built what you saw or heard about in the real world. Later, TV came along, and your railroad modeling world immediately expanded.

And of course, there were those unbelievable operating accessories Lionel and American Flyer made that you saw in the local Department store at Christmas time. Sure, you had to have one each year but that might also require redoing some of the space and scenery on your railroad table, plus learning a new skill with Dad, called electrical wiring. These are my memories before I found girls and cars at about 16 years old.

Stage two: This was limited to building an occasional model and dreaming of my future model railroad. This lasted through military service, undergraduate college, graduate school, and the start and development of a career. Frankly more dreaming and reading about a model railroad, than actually building railroad models. Magazines were extremely important to keep up with your model railroad hobby.

Stage three: I had a stable career and family life and some free time, and thank goodness, some surplus funds which enabled me to be able to start turning my childhood wishes and stage one and two dreams into building a large model railroad. At some point, the models and trains of stage one were retrieved from long term storage.

Stage three: Efforts were great times. I built a full basement of 3 rail Lionel with as many trains and accessories, as I could remember wanting during stage one and two of my model railroad career. Oh, what fun, building and providing scale scenery around my various Lionel accessories, bridges, and stations. The Train Collectors Association (TCA) was a major help in finding and repairing older trains that you acquired at train shows.

Next, I accidentally discovered the NMRA Achievement Program and learned scratch building methods from a mentor. When I first heard about the NMRA Master Model Railroader award I figured no problem, I should be able to easily get that with my exciting basement Lionel layout. My first visit by NMRA judges proved the assumption was very wrong. I even learned that my scratchbuilt flat cars could not be judged because flat cars were not difficult enough to scratch build for the Achievement Program to judge. I understand this has now changed. My great triumph in this period was finding a highly skilled mentor who taught me to build in brass. He also got me to build traction models, and a layout with operating overhead, which is what I still model today. Without his help I would never have obtained MMR #202. I think one or two of those original NMRA judges are still unhappy about me getting the award. Oh well.

Eventually, I sold all the Lionel and LCCA collections and donated my O scale traction layout to the Detroit Historical Museum when we sold our home and downsized in a new retirement location. In retirement I have a much smaller traction layout, and most days just scratch build models of all kinds or railroad models rather than operating the layout. I also created various New Tracks activities and articles as a way to give back to my hobby by promoting model building and mentoring.

My modeling all started with a cork, a broom stick, an apple box, and a rubber tire inner tube. Learning to build things with my hands and using my mind and imagination for creating my toys gave me the skills and confidence to be able to create and build my railroad models; and frankly, anything I see that I want on my traction layout. Boy am I lucky to have had the childhood I did and to have found the mentors along the way who taught me to build and conquer the NMRA MMR program. I eventually became the 7th person in the World to obtain all the Achievement Program awards offered by the NMRA.

Now I am an old guy in the last phase of my childhood, who loves building railroad models and creating New Tracks activities for my hobby. New Tracks goals include encouraging young modelers to learn how to

build things with their hands and use their mind's imagination and creativity. It also encourages getting a mentor, so you can learn faster and have better modeling results.

Also, if you are a young railroad modeler, I truly hope you consider applying for our New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship when you graduate from High School and are going to pursue a STEAM undergraduate education in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Mathematics major. You and your parents can obtain all the needed scholarship details on our website: newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship

I have found that model railroading has been a major influence throughout my life and is a major part of my retirement years. Give it a try. If you have any questions, comments, or advice on mentoring, please email me at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

New Tracks Mentoring Inc. Mission and Target Audience as envisioned by its founder: Jim Kellow MMR, NTM

Before this is addressed, I think it is important for you to know who I am as the New Tracks founder, and my personal journey as a model railroader the last 70 something years. My experiences, good and bad, definitely influenced what I wanted New Tracks to achieve.

I am a long, long, time model railroader. I remember my first Lionel Train I got for Christmas in the mid 1940s. I remember later when I could afford it, acquiring all the Pre-War and Post-war Lionel trains and accessories I wanted and dreamed about as a kid but never had. I remember building my first Lionel layout with my Dad and later filling my basement with a Lionel operating layout. I remember repairing and bringing back to operating condition old, what some might call junk Lionel items. I remember becoming a 'Lionel Ambassador' and joining all the Model Train Associations I could find, including the TCA, TTOS, LCCA, LOTS, O Scale Kings, and NMRA. I remember the day I discovered the NMRA Achievement program, won my first judged contest with a scratchbuilt Brass Trolley, obtained my NMRA Master Model Railroader (MMR #202) Achievement Award, received my NMRA award for being the 7th person in the world to receive both the Gold Spike and all 11 NMRA Achievement Program awards.

Very important to me was being a mentor to a lot of other model railroaders to help them achieve their individual goals, including the MMR, in the hobby. I loved it all and wanted New Tracks to be inclusive and beneficial to all model railroaders whatever they enjoyed about the hobby, but particularly, those modelers who wanted to learn new or improve their modeling skills. Please let me know how you think we are doing.

New Tracks Mission

The New Tracks mission is to provide a welcoming, educational, and collaborative digital platform where modelers of all ages, skill levels, and interests, whether beginner or veteran, can exchange knowledge, receive mentoring, and share creative projects. The initiative emphasizes improving modeling skills, fostering community engagement, and encouraging creativity and technological innovation within the hobby.

New Tracks aims to connect model railroaders globally by offering mentoring opportunities and access to accomplished modelers and manufacturers willing to share expertise. The platform provides free digital content, such as our weekly live Zoom events, our public Facebook group, and website, focusing on hands-on learning, step-by step builds, and problem-solving tips for modelers at any age or stage of their model railroad involvement.

A core focus is on inclusively, enabling participants to both teach and learn regardless of their experience level. New Tracks is a space where everyone can inspire, contribute, and grow.

New Tracks Target Audience

The target audience includes hobbyists of all ages and backgrounds interested in railroad modeling, from absolute beginners to highly experienced enthusiasts and NMRA Master Model Railroaders.

New Tracks addresses association and club members, independent hobbyists, and younger modelers seeking modeling mentorship or scholarship support. Our outreach extends to anyone eager to improve their modeling, exchange ideas, or simply participate in a supportive model railroading community.

Overall, New Tracks is designed for anyone passionate about railroad modeling and eager to be part of a vibrant, skill-sharing community. New Tracks connects and inspires railroad modelers by offering mentoring, resources, and content that fosters appreciation for railroad modeling

Well what do you think? Can New Tracks help you in your enjoyment of our model railroading hobby? What changes to our digital Zoom shows, YouTube channel, Website, and Facebook group, or other activities would you like to see?

Your views are extremely important to me because, as the New Tracks Founder who has passed the continuation of New Tracks, on to the next generation, I want to give them, your considered, constructive, opinions as what they need to do to have my original dream for New Tracks continue and thrive. Thank you for all your past and continuing support and encouragement. Please email me at: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Purpose of our New Tracks Mentoring Inc. 501(c)(3)

Many of us have been involved with model railroading for what seems like our entire lives. The memories of our first layout, the excitement of operations, the pride that came along with finishing a craftsman kit... these are the things that originally drew us to, and kept us involved, in model railroading.

But we are facing a real challenge today. Fewer young people are getting involved in model building and railroading. There are many reasons discussed: cost, time constraints, as well as social, educational, and family obligations. But wait, didn't every older model railroader have to negotiate those same problems and yet we still became model railroaders? It is imperative that we all do everything we can to encourage young people to begin and continue their involvement in model railroading. But are we? Are our associations and clubs providing programs to attract young people to our hobby?

As is often true, after those competing obligations wane, many older modelers are returning to the model railroad hobby. These returning modelers have the need to refresh and update their modeling skills and relearn in some areas how to build railroad models using current technology. Do our associations have programs to help them return to our hobby?

Encouraging more railroad modeling, providing educational programs, and mentoring to help educate and pass along the old and new modeling skills and building confidence to modelers who need the help is critical to maintaining vibrancy in the hobby. These are the areas where New Tracks Mentoring Inc. has a role to play.

Our programs are designed to get more people building more railroad models, mentoring to help them build the best models possible and award academic scholarships to young model railroaders who are high school graduates entering, or are currently in, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) undergraduate college, university, or technical-school programs.

As the New Tracks founder, I see a lot more we can do. For example, we should get involved with local logistics clubs, Boys and Girls clubs, local Technical and Middle and High schools STEAM programs, write columns or articles for our local newspapers, etc.. We can do all of these things if we have volunteers who

are willing to help. I am trying to get involved in all of these activities in my local area and will be glad to discuss my efforts with you. My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com.

New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. is a totally free to join, volunteer group of railroad modelers who are passionate about ensuring that our craft continues to the next generation. We see our programs, especially our scholarship, as a bridge between today's modelers and the next generation.

These are the young men and women who will be responsible for continuing our craft, and who will be developing the latest technologies that will heighten the modeling experience for all of us. Before our hobby "ages out", we are committed to taking whatever steps we can to ensure that railroad modeling remains a vibrant, rewarding pastime for years to come. I hope you will join us and help us achieve our goals.

2026 Scholarship Applications

Now it's time to start working on getting students to apply for our Scholarship program for 2026. For the 2026/27 academic year, NTMI will be awarding at least three, \$2,500 scholarships to deserving students pursuing higher level degrees in the STEAM disciplines. Please visit our website: newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship for details about submitting an application for one of the 2026/27 Scholarships. Applications are being accepted until Jun 1, 2026.

If you know a student model railroader in or entering college, let them know about the scholarship. Clubs and organizations can help us get the word out about the scholarship by distributing flyers or displaying one of our banners at train shows, conferences, meetings or at your local school or college. Contact Hank Primas for more information on helping us find applicants for the NTMI Scholarships. His email is: Henry.Primas@newtracksmodeling.com Thanks to everyone in the model railroad community for all your help.

Why donate to New Tracks 2026 activities and scholarship fund

We hope all members of the model railroad community will consider donating to the New Tracks Mentoring educational activities that includes funding the Scholarships because it stands for a direct investment in the future leaders of the hobby. Donations made in 2026 will be used to fund our educational programs and the scholarships for the 2027/28 academic year.

Our unique scholarship program is specifically designed for model railroaders who are pursuing a college degree or technical school credential in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) related field. By supporting these young individuals, the community is not only helping them achieve their educational goals but also nurturing the next generation of creative and technically skilled modelers. The scholarship committee reviews applications based on academic achievement, involvement in modeling activities, and an essay detailing how their hobby has impacted their lives. Donating to this fund is a tangible way to give back, ensuring that the passion, knowledge, and innovative spirit of model railroading continue to thrive for years to come.

Every donation, regardless of amount, is extremely welcomed and needed. We believe our mentoring programs and scholarships help to show students that their hobby is a worthwhile educational endeavor which will help them in their STEAM undergraduate pursuits.

Businesses can provide support to the mentoring activities and scholarship in several ways: First, by making a cash contribution of any amount. Donation recognition categories are available at the \$250.00, \$500.00, \$1,000.00, and \$2,000.00 levels. We also encourage manufacturers and distributors to include information about the scholarship in their product packaging. This can make a big impact by reaching out to the total modeling community.

Please join us with a donation thru Zeffy : <https://share.google/9GQhavF0PbWqxnSUq>

Or send a check for any amount to our Treasurer Bob Davidson at:

New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship
c/o. Bob Davidson
6273 Gulf Stream Path
Cicero, NY 13039

Closing comments from New Tracks Founder: Jim Kellow MMR, NTM

I am extremely proud of all our New Tracks volunteers, and activities. I believe, however, there may be other activity areas we should investigate. Even retired, I am still around and playing with my trains.

1. My Monthly New Tracks Newspaper Column

My monthly column in my local *Chronicle* newspaper is having readers approach me with ideas I have never previously thought about. In fact, I just got invited to speak to a local group I had never heard about before. I am pleased to get this speaking invitation because I am doing everything I can think of to promote railroad modeling, mentoring and our Scholarship Program. Here is a link to my February 20, 2026, and March 20, 2026 articles in the Citrus County Chronicle newspaper.

2. Evaluations of Your ideas

Please write to me about your ideas we should consider for New Tracks projects. I love getting your comments, suggestions, modeling ideas, constructive criticism, or just having a modeling conversation. My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com. Well, it's time for me to do some actual modeling and time for me to return to my workbench and start working on something that I fell in love with and just must model. It happens all the time.

But before I start modeling, making/correcting mistakes, and learning, I want to ask you to please help us promote modeling and mentoring in our great hobby by helping support our various New Tracks Modeling programs I founded by doing the following:

1. Volunteer to join our Team and help produce and develop our New Tracks Modeling Zoom and YouTube shows, our Facebook Group, our NTM Award program, and our website. Email Phil Edholm NTM at philedholm@newtracksmodeling.com.
2. Subscribe for free to our YouTube Channel, New Tracks Modeling, and ring the bell to get advance notices of our YouTube shows. Please watch the YouTube advertisements placed on our videos so we can earn a little revenue from YouTube to produce our shows. There are over 1,600 videos of our past shows available on our channel for you to view.
3. Subscribe for free to our website: newtracksmodeling.com which provides login links to our Wednesday live Zoom shows, and information about the upcoming agendas for New Tracks Modeling.
4. Donate to our New Tracks Mentoring Inc., program. Details for Individual and Corporate donations are on website: newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship
5. Spread the word to high school graduates and college students about applying between January 1-June 1, 2026, for our \$2,500.00, New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarships to be awarded July 1, 2026. Represent us at shows, conventions, and events with our banners and handouts, and prizes. Details and an Application are on our website: newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship

6. Subscribe for free to *The O Scale Resource* online magazine so you don't miss any of my New Tracks articles and see some great modeling by various modelers who may become one of your mentors.

7. Let Kurt Thompson MMR NTM, know if you want to become a New Tracks Mentor (NTM) by being on one of our Zoom shows, or being profiled in one of my articles. Kurt can be reached at Kurt.Thompson@newtracksmodeling.com.

8. Write to me! I love getting your comments, suggestions, modeling ideas and just having a conversation with modelers. My email is: jimkellow@newtracksmodeling.com

Thank you again for all your interest and for reading this far. Until next time with more New Tracks, I wish you happy, successful modeling in 2026 with whatever you are building! Please don't forget to become a New Tracks Mentor (NTM) so you can help young modelers excel in our model railroading hobby and provide the leadership for it's future.

NEW TRACKS MODELING

Where Mentors Help Modelers Build



NEW TRACKS LIVE – Streaming Every Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Eastern on YouTube & ZOOM

Subscribe for free on our website to receive program links: www.newtracksmodeling.com



NEW TRACKS MODELING



MY BUILD offers modelers a platform to share projects, get advice, celebrate their achievements, and help others learn tips that can improve their modeling abilities. Monthly Modeling Challenges are designed to inspire your imagination and creativity, but all types of models are always welcome during these special events.

The MY BUILD is a friendly, non-judgmental space where modelers of all ages and experience levels can connect, teach, and grow. Even if you can not participate, please Join and follow our Facebook Group, New Tracks Modeling, to meet and connect with other modelers, and discuss the MY BUILD show content and ideas for the future.

To participate in one of our MY BUILD show segments, please send one or more photos of your modeling projects with captions to, Chris Coarse at railrunner130@hotmail.com. He will compile them into a slide show for the show. Participants are encouraged to talk about their work, share techniques, ask questions, or give feedback. You will find it's a fun and educational experience! We welcome your feedback and suggestions for MY BUILD.

"My Build" Featuring Models From Our Viewers (02-25-2026)

[You can see a video of the entire MY BUILD segment here.](#)

Each of the participants has an email address included, and welcomes your contact.

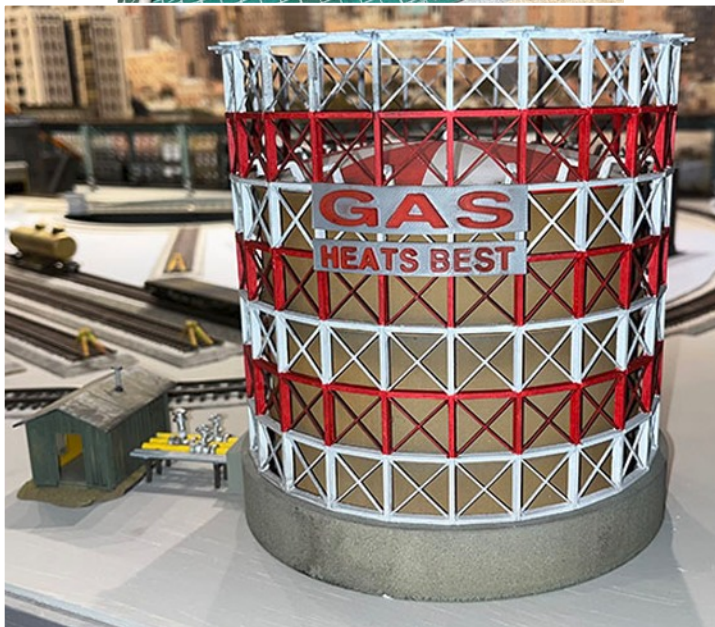
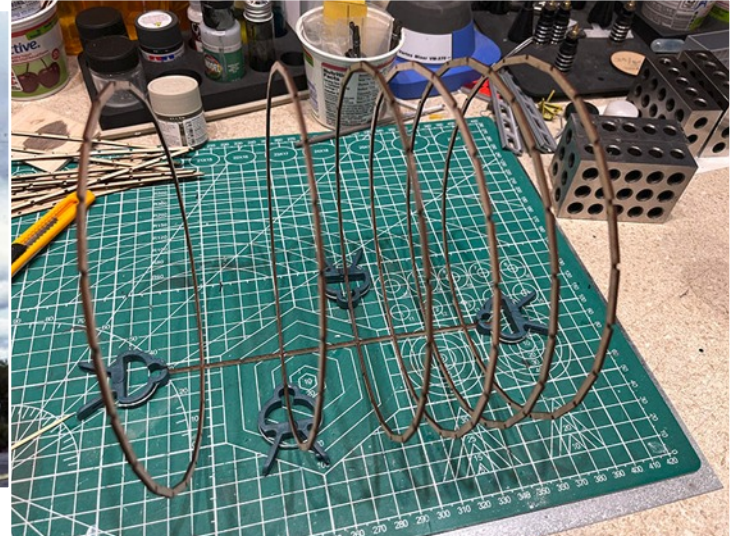


Jeff Jordan – On30 –
jordanjordan54@verizon.net -
Scratchbuilt coaling tower



Bob Davidson NTM - HO - gowanus13039@gmail.com I decided to scratch-build an old gas holder for my Gowanus & Northern layout, and made extensive use of my laser cutter and 3D filament printer. Here's a brief history of the tank.

The Maspeth Gas Holders (or Greenpoint Gas Tanks) were two massive, iconic, and, at the time, obsolete natural gas storage tanks on Maspeth Avenue in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, near the Maspeth border. Built in 1927 and 1948 by Brooklyn Union Gas, they were imploded on July 15, 2001, to make way for new development, concluding their role in regulating regional gas pressure.



These pictures only give a brief look at these wonderful layouts. Be sure to watch the video for a full description and many more pictures.

Greg Cassidy NTM – HO - gcassidy2@verizon.net There were 30 images with this and we can't print everything so I'll hit the highlights and then please [watch the video](#) to see all of them.



I got a Bar Mills workbench.



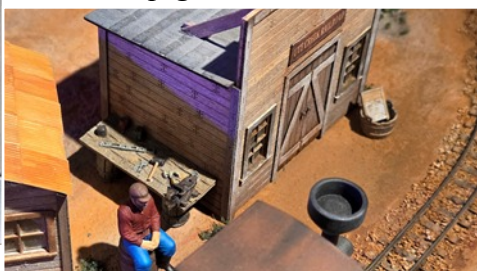
I painted, dry brushed, and added pigments to it.



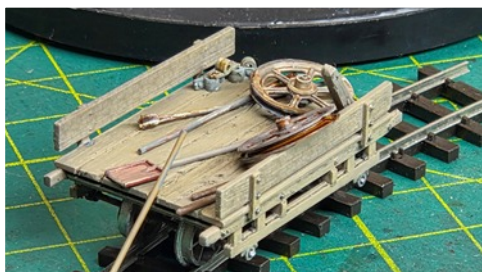
Two workers that I picked up from Alkem models. These are 3D prints from actual 19th century photographs.



I painted them using my wet palette.



I placed them on the layout along with the workbench just behind the building.



I picked up a mine cart and some tools from Grandt Line and cut all of them out and put the mine cart together. Then I airbrushed the mine cart.



I picked up and painted a new engineer for my locomotive since the old one kept his hands in his pockets.



I got a sheet of dynamite boxes from Thunder Mesa studios and cut a couple of them out and glued them together.



This shows the old and new engineer.



This shows how much all that detailing adds to the overall scene.

Dave Landels - HO - keddes@icloud.com I don't have room for a home layout so I decided to build a switching layout on an 18-inch x 8 foot table so I could still enjoy my trains and keep modeling. It is all scratch built with styrene and some kit bashing as well.



Gary Shurgold – HO - gshurgold@gmail.com Railroad Kits Dannen Feed.



Ed O'Rourke – HO - edwardorourke1@me.com I've been working on getting scenery in on the east end of the layout as it enters staging. The first part involved building upside walls with Chooch flexible wall sections. and a Central Valley bridge shortened and modified to a road bridge. The bridge camouflages the end of the catenary. I didn't want to run it into staging. The gas tanks, which were iconic parts of the New Haven skyline in the '50's are Walthers kits. I wanted a structure to fill the space in front of the yard throat, and settled on a Connecticut Company car barn, housing some static trolley models I repainted from toys. The walls are DPM modulars, the girders are Central Valley, and the concrete posts are Plastruct square tube. The floor is 1/4" plywood. I used a router to carve the pits and track space. The floor is painted and the lines drawn on with an artist pencil. Finished scene. The concrete pagoda-roof tower is a resin kit from decades ago, I think by Railway Design Associates. The photo backdrop is from LARC Products.



Craig Veitch – 2mm/ft - craigveitch51@gmail.com Attached is a file that includes photos and a brief outline of a pair of 2mm/ft finescale coaches that I built years ago. I offer these in case you're still looking for items for the upcoming My Build segment.



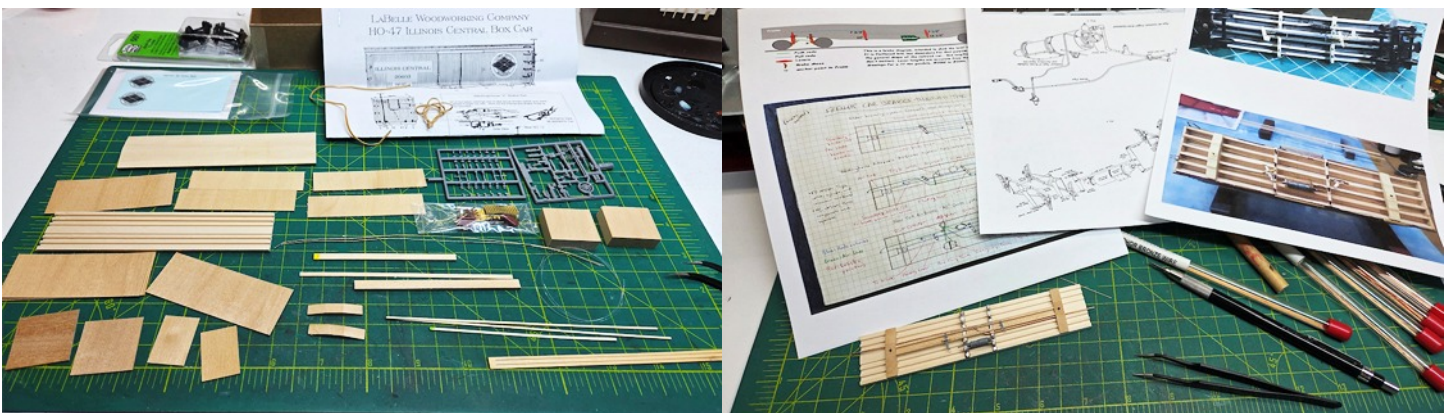
Not all participants are shown. Please watch the video for more.

"My Build" Featuring Models From Our Viewers (03-25-26)

[You can see a video of the entire MY BUILD segment here.](#)

Each of the participants has an email address included, and welcomes your contact.

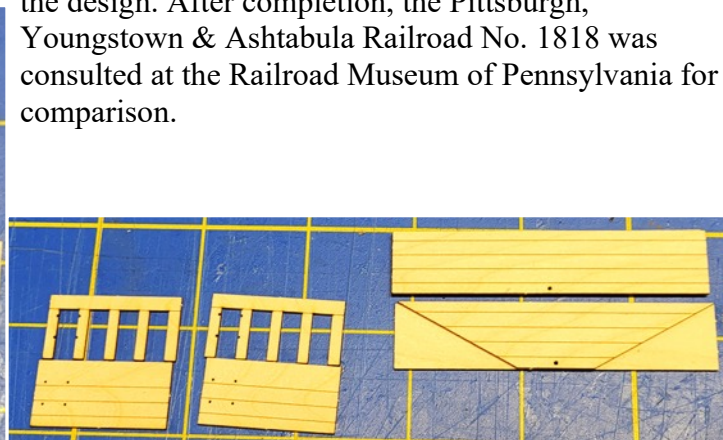
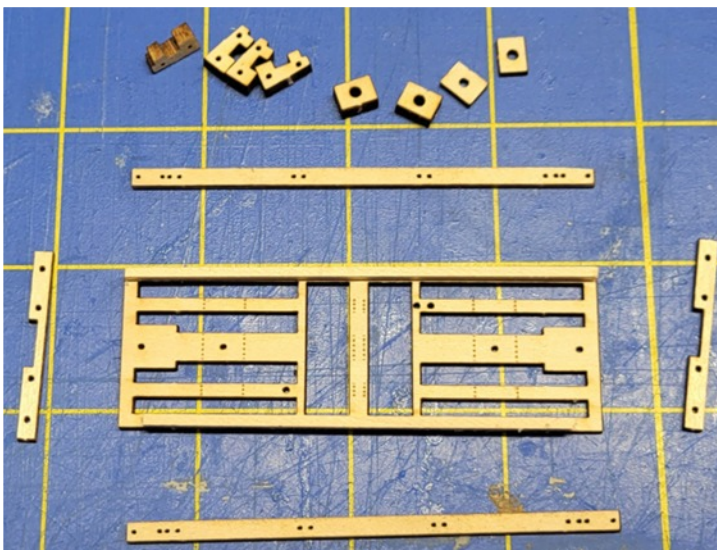
Greg Cassidy – HO – gcassidy2@verizon.net Starting my first wooden car build...HO LaBelle 40' box car



There were many images with this build as well as others in this segment and we can't print everything so I'll hit the highlights and then please [watch the video](#) to see all of them.



Chris Coarse – HO – conowingomodels@yahoo.com The pilot build of the 24-Foot Ore Car kit. The kit does not replicate one particular prototype, but uses characteristics from a number of different ore cars. Built using laser-cut basswood, 3D printed parts, Tichy details and custom decals. Two pilot models were used to finalize the design. After completion, the Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Railroad No. 1818 was consulted at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania for comparison.





Jeff Jordan – On30 – jordanjordan54@verizon.net Microscale LeHigh decals on Proto2000 cabooses. Several sets available and used. Kadee trucks. One was an MDC kit modified per Chuck Younger article.

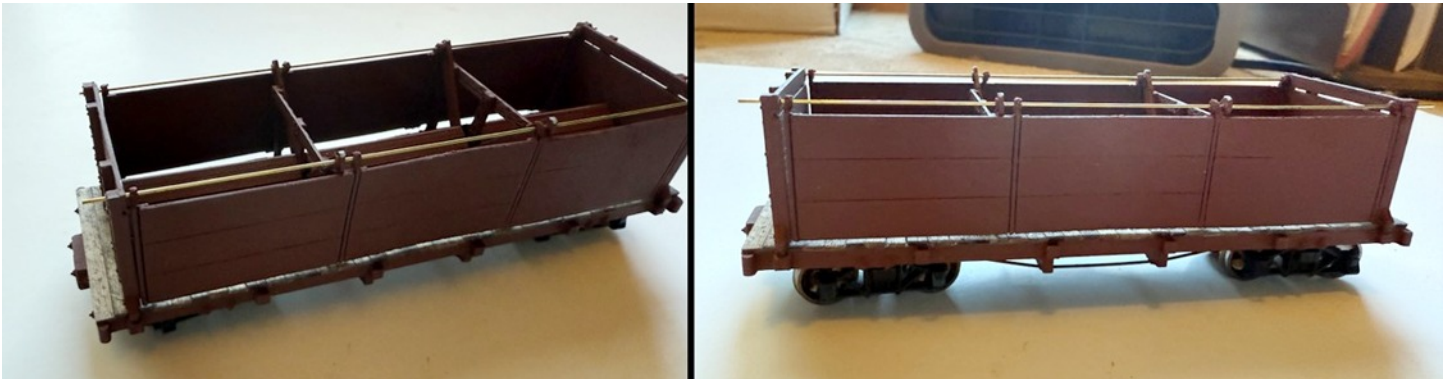


Bill Stimson – Various – wstimson@q.com The HOn3 kits are from Rail Line and I haven't added decals to the flat car. The decals for the boxcar disintegrated before I could put them on, so I used some G&D decals I purchased from the NMRA. The N scale 24ft flat is from Rail Scale Models it was an easy build, but I haven't weathered it or put decals on. It probably also needs some weight.

The wagon top boxcar is one of three I purchased at last year's NMRA convention. They were Quality Craft N scale kits. The sides are brass as are many of the details. I finished all three and have painted them, but I was only able to salvage one set of decals. I'm not really happy with how that set turned out.



Phil Edholm – On30 - pedholm@pkeconsulting.com Phil needs 80 cars for his layout. He 3D printed pieces to build a number of beet cars. He used Bachmann On30 freight cars (flats) for the base. Photos show mass wheel set painting. 3D printed car bases for drying. Used chalk/alcohol for weathering.



O SCALE SHOWS & MEETS

Have an upcoming O Scale event? We would like to help publicize it. Send us the information up to one year in advance, and we'll place it here along with a direct link to your Website and/or Email.

Harrisburg Narrow O Summer Meet

June 12-13, 2026

Friday June 12, 11am to 6pm

Saturday June 13, 9am to 3pm

Sponsored by: [Narrow Gauge Modeling Company](#)

New Hope Church

584 Colonial Club Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

[See the Facebook page for more information.](#)

St. Louis RPM Meet

July 23 - July 25

O Scale Central will be at the St. Louis RPM meet.

Come out and join us for this highly acclaimed model railroad event. This year's theme will be "Operation – The Key To Modeling YOUR Prototype".

The Gateway Center

1 Gateway Center Drive

Collinsville, IL 62234

Website: <https://www.stlrpm.com/>

NMRA National Convention

July 27 - August 2

Nashville Convention Center

1 Carter S

Chattanooga, TN, United States

The 2026 NRMA National Convention will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, TN July 27th - August 2nd. O Scale Central will be there promoting 2-Rail O Scale.

Website: <https://www.nmra2026.org/>

Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show

August 8, 2026

Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co, 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, Pennsylvania. 9 am-1 pm. Admission \$7, wives/children/military w. ID free, tables \$35 for first table, additional \$30 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact Richard Yoder EST evenings 484-256-4068 [Click here for info.](#)

Indianapolis O Scale Show 2026

September 15-19, 2026

LaQuinta Inn Indianapolis South

5120 Victory Dr,

Indianapolis, IN 46203

Fri. Sept. 18, 3:00 – 7:00 PM

Sat Sept. 19, 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Website: indyoscaleshow.com

Email: indyoscaleshow@gmail.com

Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show

October 10, 2026

Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co, 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, Pennsylvania. 9 am-1 pm. Admission \$7, wives/children/military w. ID free, tables \$35 for first table, additional \$30 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact Richard Yoder EST evenings 484-256-4068 [Click here for info.](#)

O Scale West, the only O Scale, S Scale, and Narrow Gauge Meet West of the Rocky Mountains
2027 To Be Announced...

O Scale March Meet

March 11-17, 2027

O Scale March Meet

Westin Lombard Yorktown Center

Lombard, IL

The March O Scale Meet is a 3 day gathering of vendors, customers, clinics, and fun held annually in March in the Chicagoland area. This is the Chicago O Scale train show you've heard of. See ad in this issue.

Website: <http://marchmeet.net/>

Email: ChicagoMeet@yahoo.com

MANUFACTURERS

"the people people"
Fun & Games
unparalleled craftsmanship

Phone: 573-619-8532
Email: orders@scalefigures.com
Web: scalefigures.com

PRE-SIZE **Free Shipping**
MODEL SPECIALTIES
See our web site for details

Cast resin items for your S & Sn layout.
Tunnel portals, bridge piers, abutments, culverts, and retaining walls.
Trackside details and sage brush tree armatures.

YOUR AD HERE!
...OR HERE!
...OR HERE!
...OR THERE!!!
FOR AS LITTLE AS \$56
CLICK HERE TO EMAIL JEB KRIIGEL
ADVERTISE WITH US

SHOWS & MEETS

March O Scale Meet
March 11-14, 2027
<https://marchmeet.net/WP/>
Ph. 414-322-8043



DEALERS

Caboose Stop

Hobbies

[Caboose Stop Hobbies](http://CabooseStopHobbies.com)
301 Main St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: 319-277-1754
trainguy34@gmail.com
Web: www.caboosetophobbies.com

RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN RAILROAD HOBBIES

RGSRR Hobbies
2224 H Road
Grand Junction CO 81505
PH 970-245-5100

www.rgsrrhobbies.com

ALLEGHENY SCALE MODELS
O SCALE LOCOMOTIVES & ROLLING STOCK
www.alleghenyscale.com

Advertiser Index

All Aboard Trains	Pg. 7
All Nation Lines	Pg. 7
Allegheny Scale Models	Pg. 3
Along the Railroad by Howard Serig	Pg. 60
American Scale Models	Pg. 39
Atlas O	Pg. 15
B.T.S.	Pg. 39
B.T.S. / Wade Publishing	Pg. 50
Berkshire Car Shop	Pg. 7
Berkshire Valley Models	Pg. 15
Delta Models	Pg. 7
Des Plaines Hobbies	Pg. 50
Excelle Lubricants	Pg. 60
Indianapolis O Scale Show	Pg. 6
JT's Mega-Steam	Pg. 50
Korber Models	Pg. 6

Millhouse River	Pg. 14
Model Railroad Resource 3D	Pg. 38
Model Railroad Resource 3D	Pg. 60
Model Railroad Resource 3D	Pg. 113
New Tracks Modeling	Pg. 101
O Scale Central	Pg. 7
O Scale Turnouts	Pg. 27
Phoenix Precision Models	Pg. 6
RailFonts.com	Pg. 50
Right-O-Way	Pg. 50
Stevenson Preservation Lines	Pg. 7
Streamlined Backshop	Pg. 49
The Public Delivery Track	Pg. 15
Trainz	Pg. 39

Announcing New Products In O Scale Model Railroad Resource 3D Division - Resin Parts



We offer two types of globes as well as choice of LED color. Cold white for modern lighting and Warm white for pre-sodium-vapor lamp / LED lighting, 1970's and earlier. Package include 5 poles, 5 LED's with color selection, 5 globes, standard or fancy and five 9V to 14V resistors for \$10.00 and ready to ship.



Announcing Passenger Car Parts:

Dining Tables

Parlor Car Seats

Two Seat Settee

Dining Car Chair

Modern / Streamline Coach Seats

<https://modelrailroadresource.com/WP>