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SEPTEMBER 2025 | FREE

MRH

MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST

ALSO:

- Diode matrix control for turnouts
- More on modeling yard limits
- Modeling rocks with foam
- Tsunami2 sound loco install
- ... and more inside!

Geoff Bunza ...

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Photo and modeling
by Tom Johnson

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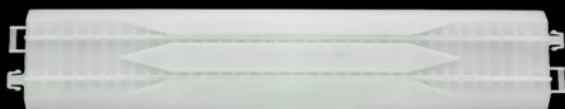


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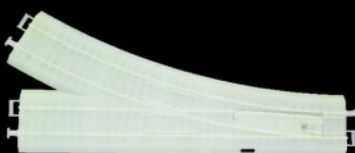
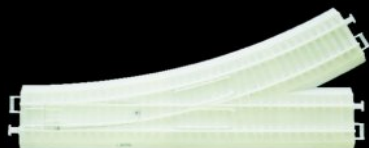
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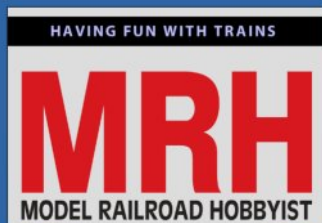


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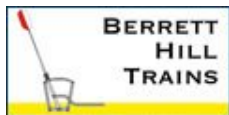
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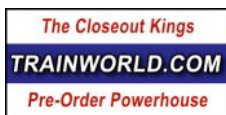
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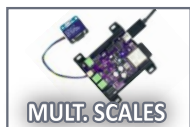
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Publisher's Musings: Shenware software update

JOE FUGATE



MRH Website this month: DCC-Ex command station, ...

Compiled by JOE FUGATE



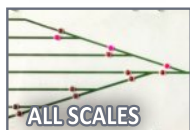
Let's talk ops: Yard limits per the rule book, part 3

JOE FUGATE



What's Neat: George Bogatiuk Tsunami2 install, ...

KEN PATTERSON



Electrical Impulses: Diode matrix turnout control

ROSS HURLEY



How to model signs from old photographs

GEOFF BUNZA



JTC N scale Pullman Standard 60' container flat car

JEFF SHULTZ



Savvy Modeler online: Modeling rocks with foam

Compiled by the MRH STAFF



September 2025 news and events

RICHARD BALE and JEFF SHULTZ



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N
1:160 SCALE



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PUBLISHER'S MUSINGS



Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025

JOE FUGATE GIVES AN UPDATE ON THE SHENWARE OPS SOFTWARE PACKAGE ...



IN MY FEBRUARY 2025 EDITORIAL, I WROTE ABOUT THE PASSING OF PETER WHITE, the creator of the wonderful Shenware OPs software. It's heartbreaking he's gone. Peter always wanted to do whatever he could to help his fellow modelers.

Concerned about Shenware's future, we contacted Peter's widow. We hoped to continue Peter's legacy with his software.

Peter's wife gave us all his software CDs, but they lack the source code, preventing us from fixing bugs. His laptop was reformatted and sold, so that's out.

The CDs also lack registration codes, complicating software unlocking. Luckily, we got the keys from Shenware buyers.

Our tests confirm the keys unlock the software for unlimited use. Without them, it offers a couple weeks of free use before requiring a key.

Testing versions 6, 7, and 8, we discovered version 8 has bugs we can't easily find and fix without the source code.

So we're offering version 7 as a free bonus from *MRH*, honoring Peter's widow's wish for it to be free.

Getting a copy of Shenware version 7

To get Shenware version 7, register on the MRH forum and [access the bonus downloads for September](#). Registration is free and connects you to the *MRH* forum for support.

If you struggle with installation or registration, ask for help. *MRH* forum members can assist.

What's in Shenware 7

Download Shenware to get a zip file with the install program and a text file with registration keys. Unzip to find a folder titled Shenware.

MiTrains Inventory System 8.00.04 [MSample.mv6 Last updated: 2/12/2025]

File Edit Categories View Print Item Help

New Backup Scan Sort Photo LookUp Print P Path Add Dup Cancel Delete Help Color

Category: [Edit]
04: Freight Cars and all sub categories.

Cat Key	Category
01	Loco (01, 02)
02	Steam Locomotives
03	Diesel and Electric Locos
04	Passenger Cars
04.00	Freight Car Packs

149 Remove

Items In Category, selected row 53 282 Items.

Item	Road Name	Road No.
04.00031	SP Southern Pacific	228617
04.00032	RBOX Rail Box	10001
04.00033	SP Southern Pacific	355132
04.00034	SP Southern Pacific	355470
04.00035	COP City of Prineville	7341
04.00036	MP Missouri Pacific (MoP)	724399
04.00037	CNW Chicago & NW	178688
04.00038	DRGW Denver & Rio Grant	15641
04.00039	CNW Chicago & NW	178633
04.00040	UP Union Pacific	73849
04.00041	WP Western Pacific	12005
04.00042	MP Missouri Pacific (MoP)	710894
04.00043	UP Union Pacific	52190
04.00044	SP Southern Pacific	328000
04.00045	MILW Milwaukee Road	62155
04.00046	DRGW Denver & Rio Grant	15609
04.00047	SP Southern Pacific	400897
04.00048	BCIT British Columbia Rail	600608
04.00049	UP Union Pacific	215663
04.00050	RI Rock Island	27205
04.00051	SSW Cotton Belt	67768
04.00052	ATSF Santa Fe	12369
04.00053	ATSF Santa Fe	93794
04.00054	ATSF Santa Fe	100801

Detail Area (Format: ShowAll: [Edit])

Cat: 04	Item: 04.00035	Qty: 1	Pack: 1
Description:			
Manufacturer:			
Model:			
Supplier:			
Location:	Scale:		
Road Name:	COP City of Prineville		
Road No.:	7341		
Herald:			
Color:	Orange		
Construction:	AAR Code:	XM Boxcar	
Condition:	Coupler:		
Index 1:	Index 2:	Index 4:	Index 6:
Index 3:	Index 5:	Index 6:	
Issued Date:	List (Each):	Qty x Highest Amt:	
Purch. Date:	Cost (Each):		
Appr. Date:	Appraised:		
Auct. Date:	High Bid:		
Add On:	Show AddOn:	(0 Items):	.00
Sell Price:	Sold Price:		
Maint. Date:	4/19/2009	Maint. Period:	
Notes:			

Print Print Label? Print Added: 2/12/2025 Updated: 2/12/2025

(This data is automatically saved when you do something else.)

1. MiTrains "inventory" main screen.



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Return of the Berkshire

HO Scale 2-8-4 Berkshire & Kanawha Locomotives from Bachmann

The late-era Lima Locomotive Works 2-8-4 emerged during the Second World War as a poignant example of American steam at its finest. Designated the Berkshire as a nod to their predecessors, which were designed for use on Boston and Albany's Berkshire Mountains route, the type saw use across the East and upper Midwest. In the mountains of West Virginia, Chesapeake & Ohio® examples were given the moniker Kanawha in recognition of the Ohio River tributary of the same name. While their service life was short-lived due to advancements in diesel technology, the Berkshire has endured as a symbol of American steam power thanks to several examples in preservation. Nickel Plate Road #765 and Pere Marquette #1225, both featured in this run, have enjoyed long and varied excursion careers, with #765 taking part in Norfolk Southern's 21st Century Steam Program, while #1225 was used as the basis for the locomotive in a popular railroad-themed Christmas movie. Both locomotives remain fully restored and capable of mainline operation to this day, making the Berkshire the perfect choice for steam power, whether you're modeling their heyday or the present era.

Features include:

- Authentic Lima Locomotive Works design
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Inside the folder you'll find two files:

SetupShenwareCD.exe and **shenware-registration-keys.txt**.

Double-click the Setup file to start the installation. Choose which components to install. We recommend at least **MiTrains** and **Waybills**.

The package also includes tools like a fast clock and scale converter. Feel free to install these too. If they're not useful, you can remove them later.

MiTrains

MiTrains is your complete inventory management system for all your model railroad items [1]. It lets you efficiently catalog and track everything – from locomotives to structures.

Tracking locos and rolling stock is quite useful. You can record the item type, manufacturer, maintenance history, as well as other handy details.

With a comprehensive equipment database, managing your hobby collection becomes easy.

A standout feature of MiTrains is printing car cards for your equipment. These cards track individual cars and their status on the layout.

During operating sessions, car cards travel with each car, showing essential info like car ID and type, and include a pocket for waybills to route the car.

Waybills

The Waybills program complements MiTrains, featuring a database of North American industries and their commodities.



2. Here are some car cards printed from the MiTrains software on heavy manila paper. Note the pocket for holding the waybills. I also like to stamp the card back with the car maintenance dates – very handy.





National Steel Car 5431 cu ft 3 Bay Hopper

“Grain Car Of The Future”



NARC has a long history of working with National Steel Car (NSC) in the research & development of our model railroad products.

The new cars can load 100 metric tons (tonnes) compared to old cars, which are limited to 90 tonnes. A tonne is about 10% heavier than a U.S. ton. The new cars are also shorter, allowing more cars per train (up from a typical length of 112 cars to at least 134 cars). These changes in efficiency will completely change the economics of grain distribution and transportation in Western Canada.

You may also notice the new car looks like a stretched version of our 4300 cu ft Potash car. See illustration here.



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PUBLISHER'S MUSINGS | 5

Waybills map out each car card's journey, serving as itineraries for your train cars. They fit into pockets on the car cards.

Waybills help build realistic routes. You specify industry spots for deliveries or pickups, mimicking real railroad operations.

You can customize industry and commodity lists to match your layout. Pairing waybills with car cards lets you build trains and route cars with purpose, like real railroads.

I keep hundreds of pre-printed waybills organized by car type. When routing a car, I simply flip through the waybills and grab one with the desired routing.

This method makes it easy to get any car moving. Just slip the waybill into the car card pocket, and you're done.

For software to streamline your operating session paperwork, [grab your free copy of the Shenware app from the bonus downloads.](#)


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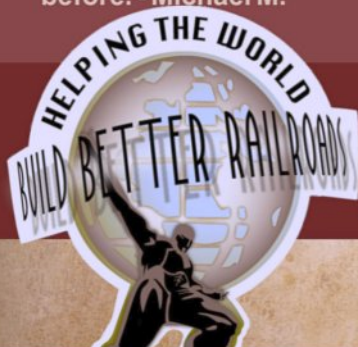
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The new *Who's who* in the hobby sampler

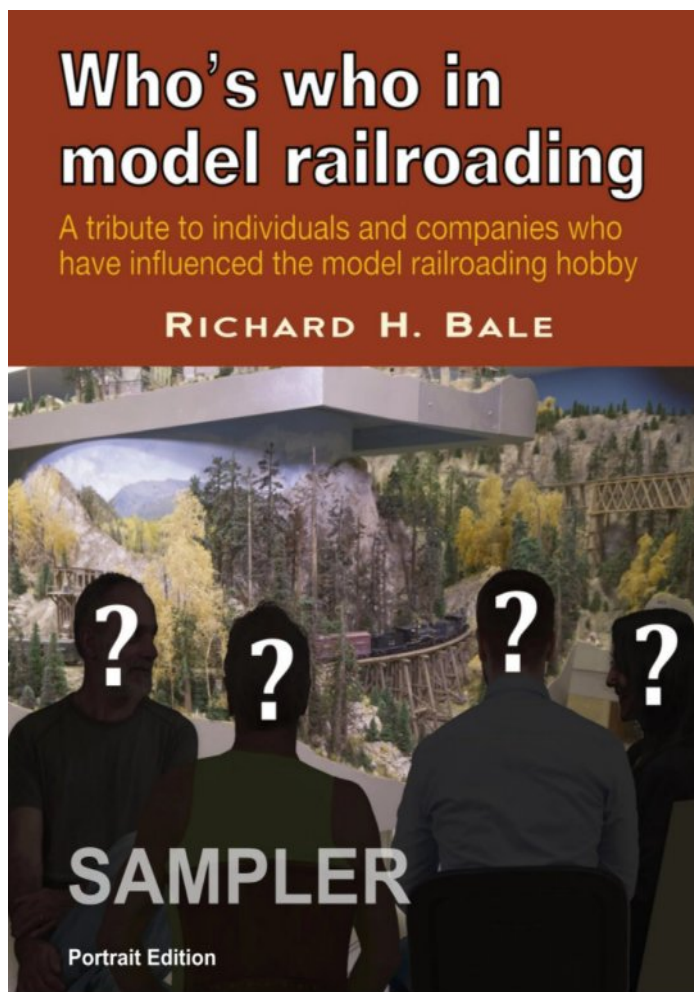
You may have seen ads for the new *Who's Who in the model railroading* book by our news editor, Richard Bale.

Curious about its contents and worth? We've put together this sampler for modelers like you.

Most readers find it surprisingly entertaining and eye-opening. Richard Bale, active in the hobby since the 1960s, worked with legends featured in the book – folks like John Allen, Whit Towers, and Cliff Grandt.

We're thrilled Richard shared his experiences and compiled this history of our hobby for future generations.

The book has



2.To read a free sample of our new *Who's who* in model railroading book: [click here](#).



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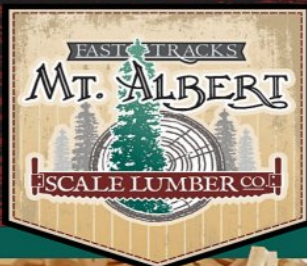
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All 3D CAD renders and artwork are subject to revisions before final production. GP9u photo courtesy of Rob Picani. SW Slug photo courtesy of Dave Minihall.

All locomotives feature the MoPower capacitor for uninterrupted DCC power. Suggested minimum radius: 18".

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fascinating stories that highlight our hobby's evolution both in terms of the leading modelers and the hobby firms that helped shape it over the years. ☑

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- 1st** Building a scenery practice module
- 2nd** Electrical Impulses: LED locomotive lighting
- 3rd** Let's talk ops: All about yard limits: 2

Most liked articles in [August 2025 issue](#) of *Running Extra* ...

- 1st** Modeling a Northampton and Bath boxcar
- 2nd** Limited Modeler: How TOMA pays dividends
- 3rd** DIY 3D Printing Overview – FDM

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In



RUNNING EXTRA

September issue ...



All meat: zero ads!

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Issue 82: September 2025



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JOE FUGATE



Limited Modeler: Ballasting track with a purpose

GREG BAKER



Getting Real: Modeling SP automobile cars

TONY THOMPSON



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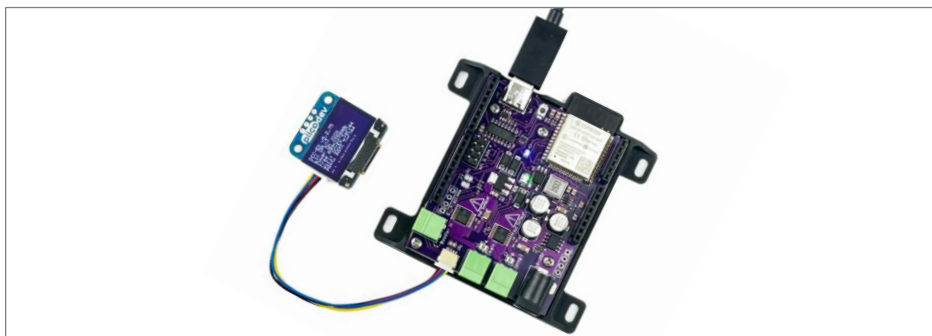
Best of the

MRH FORUM



Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025

Compiled by **JOE FUGATE**



DCC-Ex command station system

MRH forum member **Watawna** (Gary A.), writes that he is intrigued with the DIY DCC-Ex command station as a way to get a DCC system for very affordable price. Depending on how much you do yourself, this approach could get you a feature-rich DCC command station for less than \$70.



See the full thread for a detailed discussion of the pros-and-cons of the DIY approaches to get a DCC-Ex system, as well as how to outfit it with some nice WiFi throttles..

[View the full thread on the MRH website](#)

▶ **MRH'S MONTHLY GREAT MODELER POSTS**



1. *MRH* forum member **porthos** (Kris M.) posted this photo of an a brick wall, asking how to make large brick buildings on a budget.

Modeling large brick buildings

MRH forum member **porthos** (Kris M.) says:

“I’m looking for methods, techniques and material to make large brick buildings. Commercial products are going to cost a small fortune. I’m not concerned with windows/doors or ornamentation at this point, just how to create large brick walls. The buildings I want to model were built between 1890 and 1920 and most have been converted to other uses now.”

Forum members provided Kris with many great suggestions on brick building construction materials and techniques. Check out this thread for some *very* useful suggestions.

[View the full thread on the MRH website](#)



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2. MRH forum member **gna** (Gary A.) is looking for a source of tender trucks – something like the nice selection of Bowser tender trucks shown here.

Looking for tender trucks?

MRH forum member **gna** (Gary A.) asked what people are using for tender trucks. Preferably, Gary would like tender trucks that pick up from both rails. He mentions that he could also use other metal trucks in some cases, and just retrofit them with wheel pickups.

To see the many suggestions forum members have made to Gary, have a look at the full thread!

[View the full thread on the *MRH* website](#)



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Recent build thread with nice model photos

Rather than pull images from the *MRH* forum Photo Fun thread as usual, this month, a module build thread had some great model photos.

[View entire module build thread](#)

3. *MRH* forum member **James Willmus** says, "A friend and I decided to challenge ourselves by building a diorama for our own modeling projects based on one of three 'bridges' (more like culverts) located east of Aberdeen, SD."



4. Forum member **James Willmus** said, "I took the photo module out for a test drive with my cell phone and I think the results are quite good. Used a couple of Ken Patterson's tricks, only I'm on the high plains instead of meandering river country." ☒



Let's talk about OPs

by JERRY ZEMAN (GUEST)

 [VIEW READER COMMENTS](#)

Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025

Yard Limits: the Rule 93 rabbit hole

For the last two months, Joe Fugate has discussed yard limits, a hot topic on model railroads. Joe asked me to guest write this next column. While Joe provided some bullet points on Rule 93, let's look at the rule book itself.

I like the “Condensed Code of Operating Rules¹,” designed for model railroads and based on the actual railroad “Consolidated Code of Operating Rules.”

RULE 93: Yard limits will be indicated by yard limit signs and in the timetable or by train order. Within yard limits, the main track may be used, clearing first class trains when due to leave the last station where times are shown. Protection against second and third class trains, extra trains, and engines is not required.

In Non-ABS [signal] territory, in case of failure to clear the time of first class trains, protection must be provided as explained by Rule 99.

Second and third class trains, extra trains, and engines must move within yard limits at restricted speed unless the main track is known to be clear.

Now, before your eyes start to glaze over, Rule 93 need not be hard to understand. Rather than trying to explain it all myself, I'll share insights from *Model Railroader's* Andy Sperandio, a passionate model railroad operator (sadly, Andy passed away in 2015).

From Andy's “The Operators” column (Feb 2007² and Oct 2013³):

“Main tracks, not yards. The first point to understand about Rule 93 is



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1. Yard limits isn't just for yards. Any location such as this on Andy Keeney's Nashville Road where you want trains to work without requiring mainline track approval from dispatch is a candidate for the yard limit designation.

that it applies on the main line and not in the yard. Yards fall into the general category of side tracks, where the rules for mainline train movements don't apply. It doesn't take a special rule to allow for movement as needed in yards. What 93 does is to relax the restrictions on mainline movement over part of the main track ..."

"At stations where a railroad assigns a local switcher, it may establish yard limits to allow the switching crew to work on the main track without requiring special authority from the dispatcher. Sometimes entire branch lines may be designated as within yard limits. At stations where helpers are added to or cut out of trains, yard limits may be established to let engines move on the main as required."

"There's no more reason for us to invent our own operating rules and procedures than there is for us to design our own steam or diesel locomotives. If we want our operations to reflect the prototype roads, it's easier to learn and follow their rules."

Steve Gust and Rick Kang created a great PowerPoint, hosted by the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA, that simplifies the topic with practical examples: [All About Yard Limits PDF](#)

Notice Rule 93 sneaks in another rule: Rule 99, flag protection. And yes, there are model railroads that use paper cutouts or figures of flagmen to protect their trains. ☑

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¹ Copyright 1996, 2009-2020 by Steve P. Karas and Robert Hanmer. Copies can be ordered at <https://mrhmag.com/url/condensed-code-of-operating-rules>

² <https://www.trains.com/mrr/magazine/archive-access/model-railroader-february-2007/>

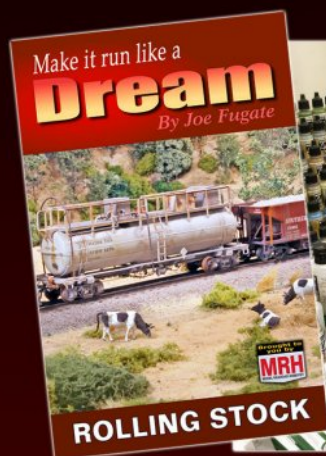
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WHAT'S NEAT

column



Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025

KEN PATTERSON COVERS THIS MONTH:



- EMD GP35s IN HO FROM BLI
- BACHMANN 2025 MID-YEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS
- GEORGE BOGATIUKE UPGRADES THE ATLAS MP15DC

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SEPTEMBER 2025

WHAT'S NEAT with Ken Patterson
Tsunami2 install by George Bogatiuk

click to play video

PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF SUPERB MODELS

FOR THE SEPTEMBER “WHAT’S NEAT,” Ken shows new HO scale GP35 locomotives from Broadway Limited and talks about Bachmann’s 2025 mid-year announcements with Tyler Haney and Matt Stern. George Bogatiuk upgrades a pair of HO scale Atlas MP15AC locomotives from the original QSI decoders to SoundTraxx Tsunami2 decoders with Scale Sound Systems speakers and rooftop beacons.

Broadway Limited’s GP35 in HO scale



1. Ken enjoyed photographing this BLI Norfolk Western GP35 locomotive in natural sunlight in his backyard.



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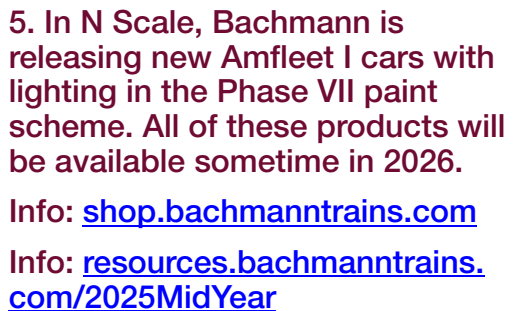
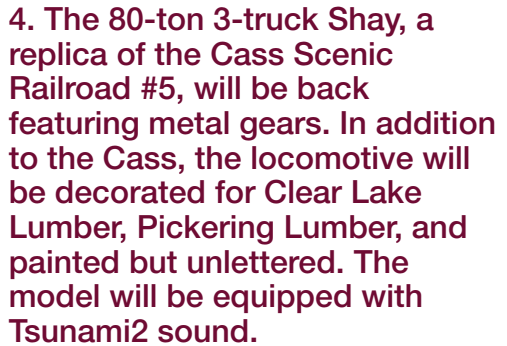
2. He's also been photographing the low-short-hood version of the GP35 decorated for the Reading Lines.

Info: broadway-limited.com

Bachmann's 2025 mid-year announcements



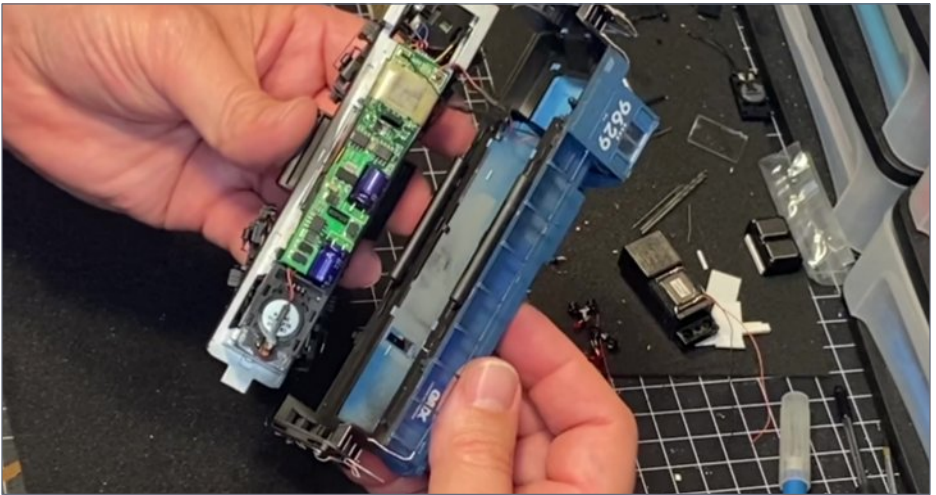
3. Bachmann's Tyler Haney and Matt Stern join Ken via the internet to go over many of the new announcements that Bachmann made at the National Train Show in Novi, MI. To start, a new American Freedom Train set, limited to a production of 1,000, will be released next year. Additional Freedom Train cars also will be available. The GS-4's paint scheme will be updated for closer accuracy to the original.



George Bogatiuk upgrades two Atlas MP15AC locomotives



6. Ken sent George Bogatiuk two Atlas MP15AC locomotives that were equipped with non-functioning factory-installed sound, requesting that George update them with Tsunami2 sound and some additional lighting.



7. The original factory-installed sound decoder and speaker took up a lot of the space in the model's shell.

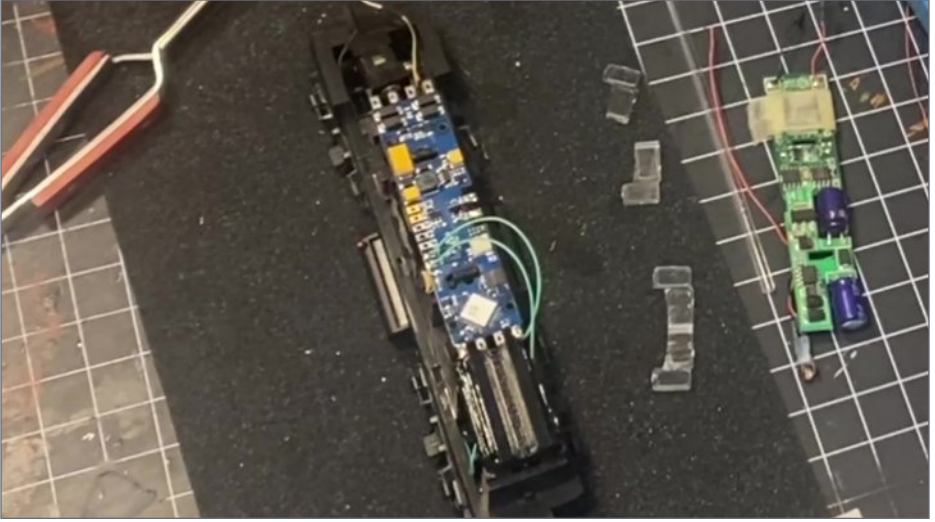


8. Having removed the original decoders and speakers from both models, George prepares to install Scale Sound Systems speakers. The speakers come with 3D-printed enclosures that are designed to mount in the particular locomotive without any modifications to the frame or shell.

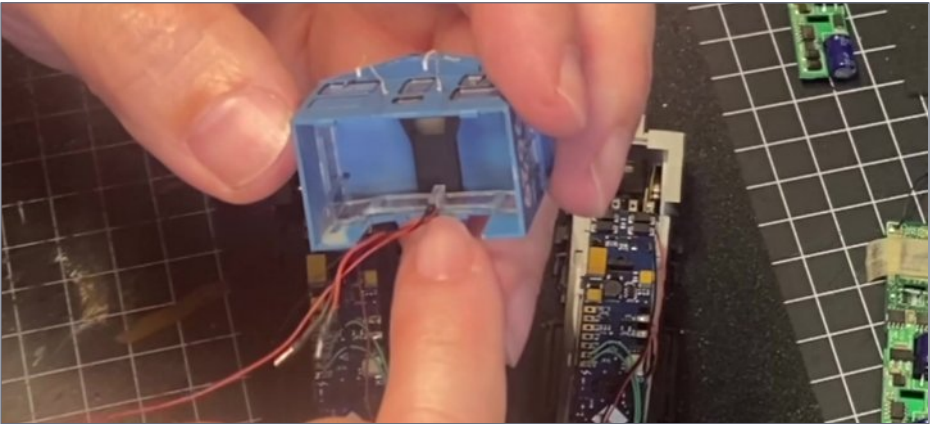


9. After gluing in the speakers with Microscale Micro Kristal Klear, George set them aside to dry, disassembling the bodies to get access to the inside of the cab. He then drilled a #61 hole in the cab roof and mounted a rotary beacon.





10. Returning to the locomotive chassis, after soldering on the motor and track wires, the new Tsunami2 decoder snaps into the original mount. George then soldered the speaker wires to the decoder.



11. The wires for the lights in the cab, including the new rotary beacon, are hidden in a slot in the front windows that is behind a pillar. George shows how he gets all the wires in place and reassembles the cab and shell.



12. With the locomotives reassembled, George takes them out to the layout for testing and programming, where he programs the rotary beacon to look like a rotary beacon. He also programs the address, prime mover, and horn sounds.

Info: soundtraxx.com

Info: scalesoundsystems.com

Click on the video link at the beginning of the article to see the full video, with more views of the BLI GP35 locomotives, George Bogatiuk's complete sound and lighting upgrade, and more of Bachmann's mid-year announcements - like the DeWitt Clinton, Siemens SC42-DM dual mode locomotive, Siemens S70/S700US light-rail vehicle, new Thomas products, and several other new and updated products. ☑

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Who's who in model railroading

A tribute to individuals and companies who
have influenced the model railroading hobby

RICHARD H. BALE



Charlie Getz, past president of the National Model Railroading Association ...

"Richard Bale's monumental *Who's Who* should appeal to anyone who cares and is curious about the hobby and its history. There is an amazing amount of information about many pioneers who shaped and created the hobby of scale model railroading we enjoy today. Even if you do not think you need to know about them, you will be fascinated by the stories and connections of these individuals and the products and features we know and use. This book is a monument to some truly great people who are responsible for what we have today."

Photo of Ken Ehlers Pandora & San Miguel layout



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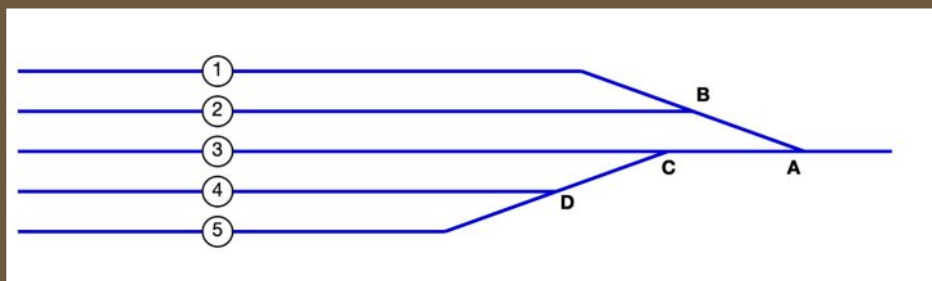


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WIRING A DIODE MATRIX



1. Assume the circled numbers in circles in Diagram 1 are pushbuttons on a control panel. Pressing Button 4, for example, will throw Turnouts A, C and D together to align that route.



Electrical
Impulses

Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025



ROSS HURLEY SHOWS HOW TO WIRE DIODE MATRIX
ROUTE CONTROL FOR SOLENOID TURNOUTS ...

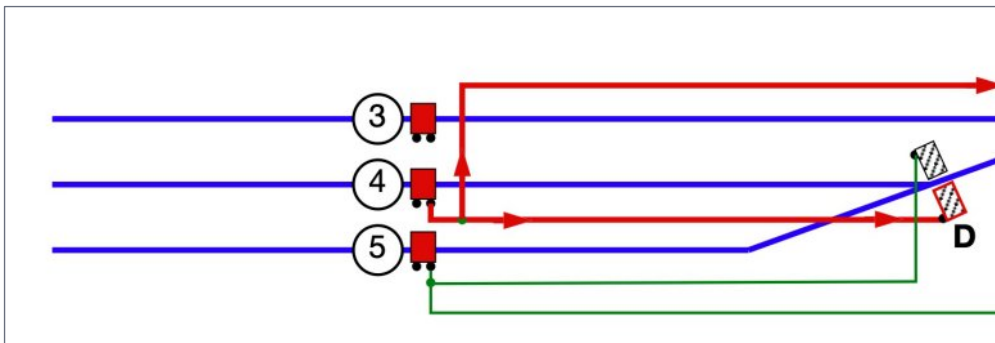
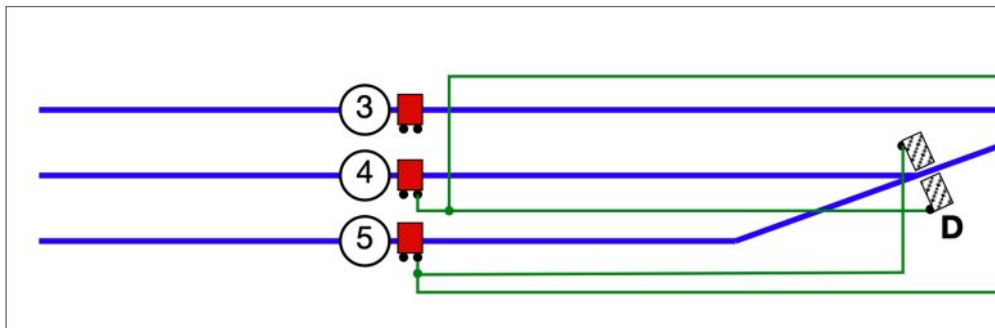
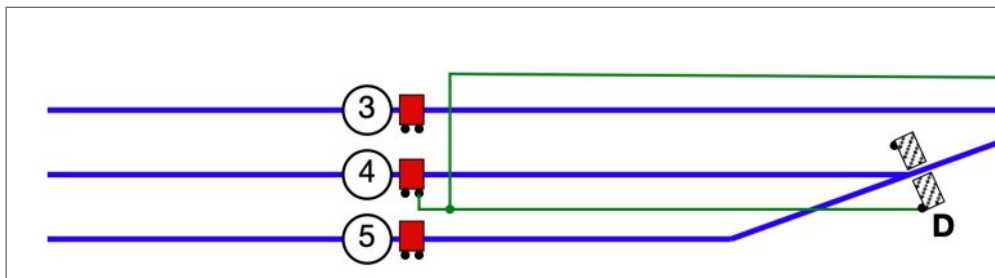
A DIODE MATRIX IS A METHOD OF WIRING A YARD with solenoid-powered switch machines so pressing a single button aligns the turnouts for the desired track [1]. This article shows to wire a diode matrix for yard turnouts.

Some modelers might have considered diode matrices before, but dismissed them as too complicated. I am an electrical novice, but found when I started wiring mine that it really is quite straightforward. You just have to follow two simple rules:

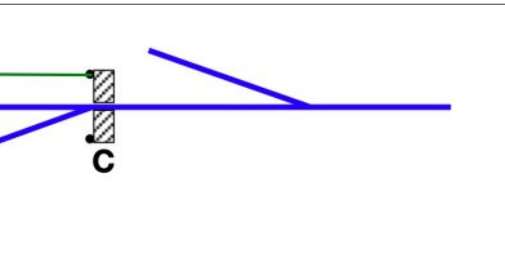
WIRING A DIODE MATRIX | 2

- Rule 1: Wire pushbuttons directly to the most “inboard” turnout (i.e., closest to the yard tracks).
- Rule 2: Run diode-fitted wires to each “downstream” turnout (farthest from the yard tracks).

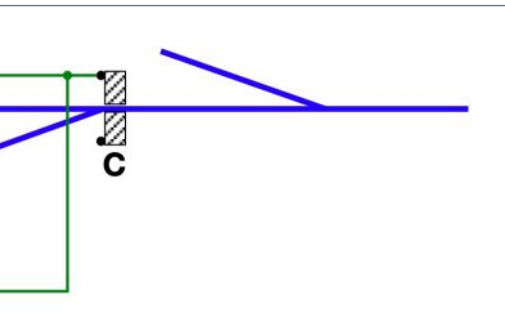
The inboard turnouts are Turnout B and D in [1]. For Turnout D, the downstream turnouts are C and A.



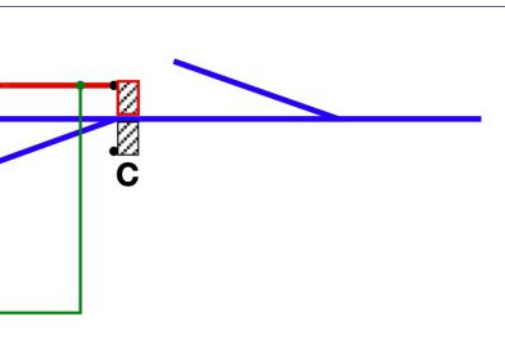
Why do we need diodes? Look at Diagrams [2, 3, and 4]. Notice the pushbuttons on Tracks 3, 4, and 5, and the solenoids of Turnouts D and C.



2. (Upper left) Let's say we want to set the route to Track 4. Following Rule 2, the button is wired directly to the solenoid of Turnout D that sets it to the diverging route. (I've omitted the return path to the power supply to make the diagram simpler.) Turnout C also needs switching to the diverging route from Button 4, so we wire that too.



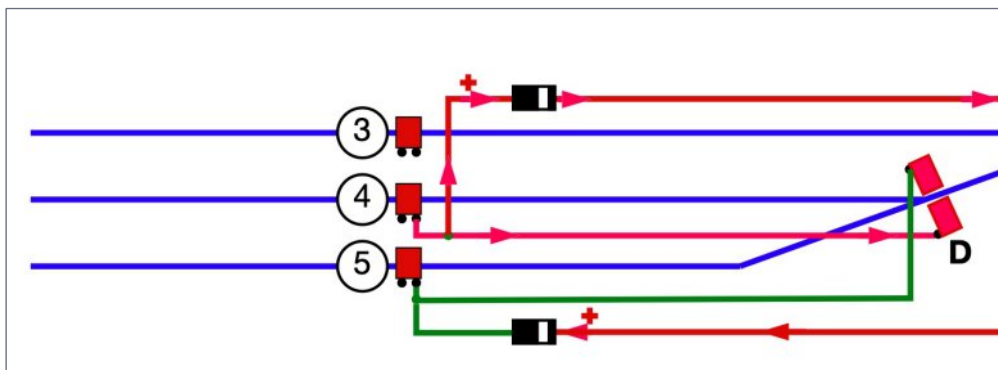
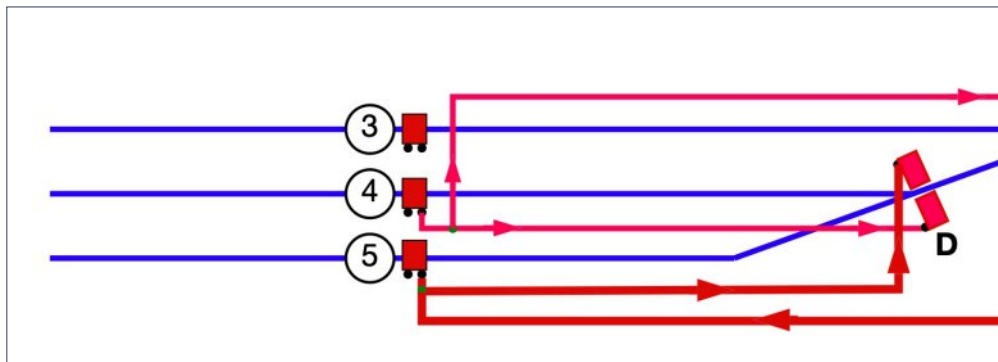
3. (Middle left) To set up the route of Track 5, Turnout D needs setting to the Main so that wiring can be put in. But both Buttons 4 and 5 need to set Turnout C to the Diverging route, so here they are both wired to the same solenoid of Turnout C.



4. (Bottom left) Now see what happens when we push Button 4 to set the turnouts. The current flows to both turnouts D and C. So far, so good.

WIRING A DIODE MATRIX | 4

Diodes can fix this problem. Diodes are like one-way valves that allow current to flow only one way, positive to negative. We need to put a diode in the wires going to each downstream turnout, in this case Turnout C. Now see what happens to the current flow in Diagram [6].



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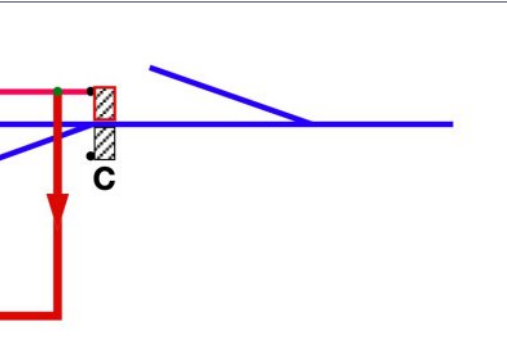


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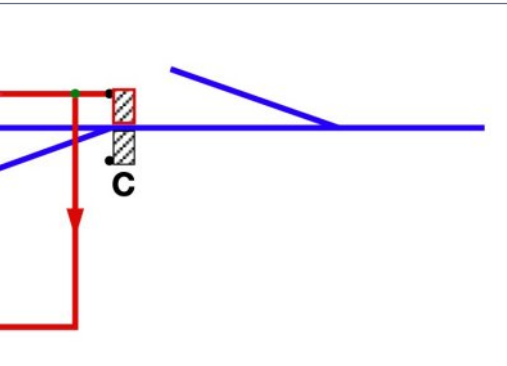
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That's the reason for Rule 2: wires to all downstream turnouts require a diode. Diagram [7] shows the wiring for a five-track yard.



5. (Upper left) But Button 5 is also wired to the Diverging-route solenoid of Turnout C, so current will flow unimpeded toward Button 5 and the Diverging-route solenoid of Turnout D. Both Main and Diverging solenoids of Turnout D will get power, and it will fail.



6. (Lower left) I've drawn the diodes as they look when you buy them, with a white band near the cathode (-). The current from Button 4 flows to the Diverging solenoid on Turnout D, and through the diode to the Diverging solenoid on Turnout C. Another diode prevents the current from continuing to Button 5 and the Main solenoid on Turnout D.



Article continues on page 6 ...

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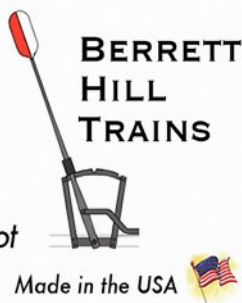


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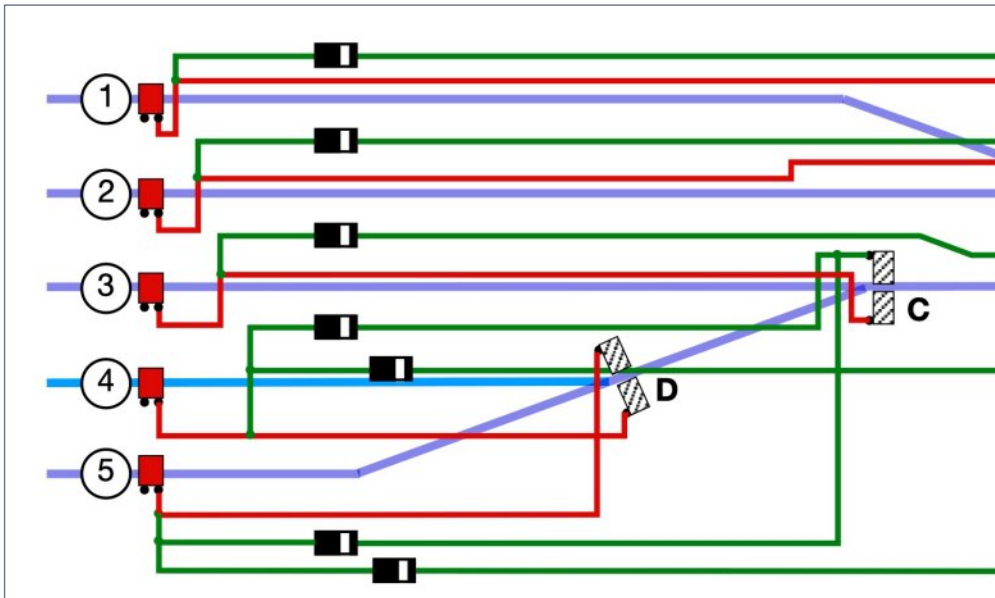


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WIRING A DIODE MATRIX | 6

I'm using separate wires from the buttons to each downstream turnout. Each diode drops about 0.7 volts, so if the wiring to the downstream turnouts is daisy-chained, the ones at the end of the chain could suffer significant voltage drop as the current passes through multiple diodes. I'm using 1N4007 diodes [see the sidebar about electronic components. ed].



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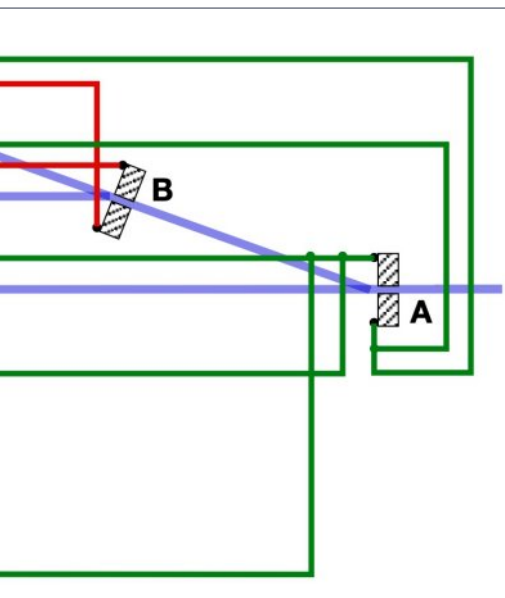
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WIRING A DIODE MATRIX | 7

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7. For a five-track yard, all the most inboard turnouts are wired directly to the buttons [red]. All the downstream turnouts are wired with diodes (green). The pushbuttons emit positive DC current.

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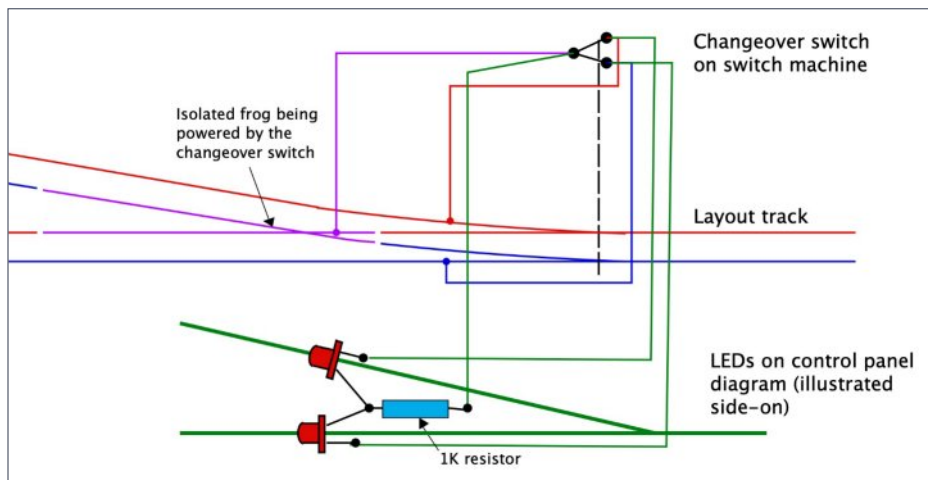
A diode matrix will likely require a capacitor discharge unit. A normal 12VDC power supply usually can't supply enough current to operate multiple solenoids at once.

Capacitor discharge units store power when idle, and, when a pushbutton is pressed to set a route, they discharge a surge of power to operate multiple solenoids. Commercial CDUs are available, or you could build your own.

LED CONTROL PANEL

If you are using DCC* you can have LEDs display just the route set. Most switch machines have only one set of changeover contacts. You can use it to both switch the frog and light the LEDs. The power routing of the turnouts will light only the LEDs in the powered route [8]. LEDs are meant to be used in a DC circuit, but work fine with the AC-like DCC power.

** This technique won't work with regular DC power. One of every pair of LEDs will light, and only when the DC throttle has been opened and the direction switch is feeding + and - power through the LEDs correctly. ☑*



8. This diagram shows how you can wire LEDs to light up to indicate set routes.



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M. Dodd

NOTES ON ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

Diodes

The author mentions using 1N4007 diodes in his matrix to control solenoid switch machines. The 1N400x family of diodes is rated to carry a current of 1 amp.

Depending on the type of solenoid switch machine used, it may draw more than 1 amp of current, which could ruin the diode.

To protect against this, I recommend using a diode rated for higher current, such as one from the 1N540x family (e.g., 1N5402), which is rated for 3 amps.

LEDs

Diagram [8] shows LEDs wired to DCC track voltage. Such a connection risks destroying the LED because DCC waveform is an **alternating** voltage with polarity changing back and forth.

LEDs have a specified maximum voltage that may be applied in the **reverse** polarity. This Peak inverse Voltage (PIV) typically is around 5 volts. DCC pulses typically are around 12 to 18 volts.

An LED will conduct current (and light up) with a DCC pulse in the “forward” polarity, but not with a pulse in the “reverse” polarity. Instead, that reverse voltage likely exceeds the LED’s PIV rating, and could destroy it.

My advice: **Always** power LEDs from a regular DC power supply. **Never** power them from DCC track voltage.

Article continues on page 10 ...



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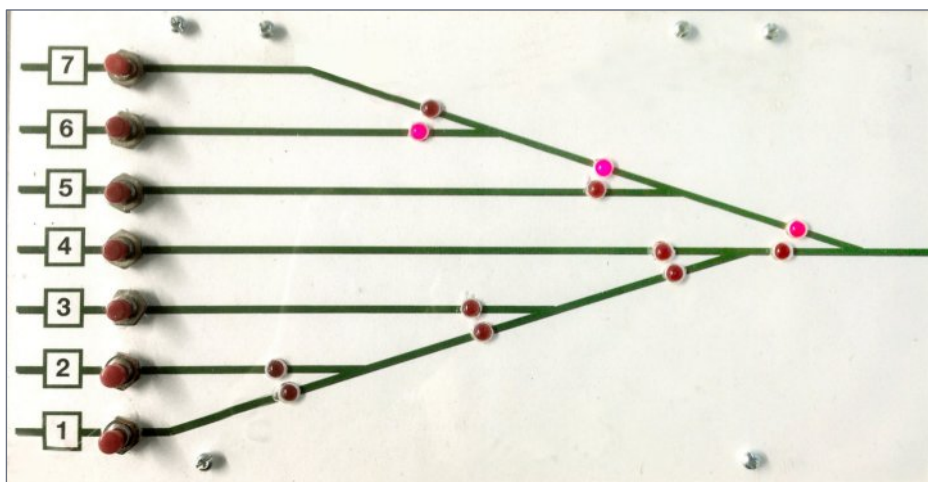


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9. My push button control panel with LED route indicators. Here it is aligned for Track 6.

ROSS HURLEY



Ross has been a model railway enthusiast for over 60 years, living in Adelaide, South Australia. He models the local railway system, set in the 1920s, in P87 and using the prototype's 5'-3" track gauge. He scratchbuilds or casts most of his models.

His layout is fully scenicked but also operational, based on 1920s timetables and using rolling stock cards and removeable waybills.

He is an organizer for an annual model railway convention that has been held in Adelaide for the past 27 years, preparing the articles for the 200-odd page packet of notes that are handed to attendees on arrival. It provides detailed articles on all presentations they will see that day. Ross is also a past editor of the *Australian Model Railway Magazine*. ■



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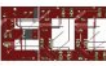
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VEEDERSBURG INC



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G GRAIN



MODELING SIGNS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS



CARDINAL
CAFE



1. Geoff shows how he modeled these prototype signs.

Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025



DR. GEOFF BUNZA GENERATES SIGNS FROM FROM OLD PHOTOS...

THIS ARTICLE EXPLAINS HOW I RECREATED TWO SIGNS: VEEDERSBURG GRAIN AND CARDINAL CAFÉ.

The signs were poorly photographed, but with Corel Paint Shop Pro (PSP) and Microsoft Power Point I restored them for use in scale models.

I am most comfortable with the two applications mentioned, though equivalents for both are available on the web, some at lower cost, or free. I hope the methods shown here can be applied in other forms.

VEEDERSBURG GRAIN

On the *MRH* forum AndyZ posted a picture of the Veedersburg Grain Mill from his home town, hoping he might get some help how to recreate it for his layout.

I could decipher Veedersburg Grain, but not much else. My first step is almost always to take the “best” photo (in this case the only photo) into PSP, crop the sign, apply Adjust->One Step Photo Fix, magnify the sign in the window on-screen, and see if I can read it [3]. Veedersburg Grain Inc was readable, but not the two logos. I used Google to search for Veedersburg Grain, both text and picture, but no joy.

Google can search for exact and similar pictures, and is sometimes very useful. Fortunately, AndyZ named the ANAFAM logo (American National Feed and Mineral) in his original post and barr_ceo posted a picture of an ANAFAM Feeds pencil in



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2. Starting point photo: Veedersburg Grain. AndyZ's original contribution



3. Here is the magnified image of the sign from [2]. Unfortunately, the sign was small enough in the original image that attempts to magnify and sharpen the image left the text all but unreadable.

the *MRH* Forum comments, and that nailed-down the logo text in the lower left [4].

AndyZ also indicated the mill was located in Indiana. So I searched for feed mills in all the adjoining states. I found references to “Master Mix” feeds, chicken feed, and hog feed – progress, but none with the same sign.

Since this was from AndyZ’s home town back in the 1950s I reverted to my standard search for rare “old stuff” – eBay. I found a rusty old tin sign with the correct logo.

I brought the photo into PSP. The first step was to “flatten” the photo, using the Perspective Correction tool [5].



4. ANAFAM logo as found on a pencil.



5. This is the original cropped photo I found on eBay. Look closely to see the outline with four square dots in the corners. Much of the outline is snug against the edges of the sign, which is how I want it to be for the perspective correction.



I used the selection tool to outline the sign to correct its perspective, making sure that the four square corners of the selection box were as true to the sign as possible. If you make a mistake or slip with your mouse placement, just “Undo” the command, reset the edge outline, and try again.

With a little practice, it works great [6]. For prototype photos, this tool is almost always used. Next crop (trim) the sides for square corners and minimal excess space [7].

My goal was to create a sign in its original, delivered condition, so the faded white needed to be replaced with a true white.



6. New perspective.



7. Cropped photo. The logo on the elevator billboard had no “FEEDS” text underneath, so I didn’t need it here.



This is easy using the PSP's color replacement tool. Photo [8] shows the process.

For color substitution, set the size of the cursor, the background and foreground colors, and the hardness to 99. Use the eyedropper to select the gray/off-white Master Mix background color, and it will appear in the middle upper left color box in the Materials window.

Change to the foreground color by selecting the quarter circle arc, and the gray color will appear in the lower right box. Now use the eye dropper again and select a bright white from the color bars (upper left box).

Go back and select the color replacer from the leftmost menu. Use your mouse to "wipe" over the picture, and you should be able to selectively change areas of the picture from gray to white.

Once you've brightened the logo, use the "paint brush" (selecting black) or the rectangle drawing tool (setting foreground and background colors to black) and fill-in and trim the edges of the logo. Save it as a JPG or PNG picture. Mine wound up being about 680x971 pixels, a size I could work with.



8. Color substitution in PSP.



With a little effort, the cleaned-up Master Mix logo appears as in [9]. The real benefit of starting with the logo is you have a clean sign element that is about the right proportion. Its proportions will be used to determine the size and placement of the entire sign.

Saving a picture like this one as a JPG will preserve its white background. Sometimes this is not good, but we can selectively erase the white background around the logo, and only represent the logo alone by saving it as a PNG file. Learning which file formats preserve different photo elements is valuable.



9. Edges cleaned.



J. Regier

FLESHING OUT THE DIFFERENCES

We thought it worthwhile to illustrate some of the key differences between JPG, PNG, and GIF files as to how they function. Many of the photos you'll encounter online are in JPG format. If you're looking for a logo, however, you may encounter them in PNG or GIF format.

As mentioned, the author's Master Mix logo was in JPG format. I redrew it using "Graphic" on my Mac (any vector illustration and design drawing program such as Adobe Illustrator, Affinity Designer, Libre Office Draw, etc., would work, and would be our recommendation) so I could save it in the above-mentioned formats [10].

Exporting the file as a JPG saves it as a rectangle, with an automatically assigned background of white, with full opacity. Graphics exported in PNG or GIF format will also export a rectangular image, but will automatically assign a transparent background, which can be beneficial if you are using the graphic on a sign that is something other than white. I dropped JPG, PNG, and GIF versions of the graphic onto a blue background in Adobe Photoshop Elements to illustrate [11].

Worth noting is that if you import a PNG or GIF and save it as a JPG, you will replace the transparent background with white, so be sure that's what you want. Conversely, if a JPG is saved as a PNG or GIF, they will maintain whatever portions of the JPG were white, so the image would have to be modified to erase or delete the background.



10. I recreated the Master Mix shield logo in Graphic. To find the font, I uploaded the image file from [9] into the What the Font tool at MyFonts (www.myfonts.com/pages/whattthefont). The shield shape has an infill value of white at 100% opacity. The empty portions of the canvas appear as a grid in the lower corners.





11. The Master Mix image on a blue background, from left to right in JPG, PNG, GIF, and PNG. For the sake of illustration, I set the fill color for the shield shape at far right to white with 50% transparency before exporting, so the blue background shows through.

After saving the Master_Mix.jpg file, let's switch to PowerPoint. It has limited photo editing, but has many more editing options for signs.

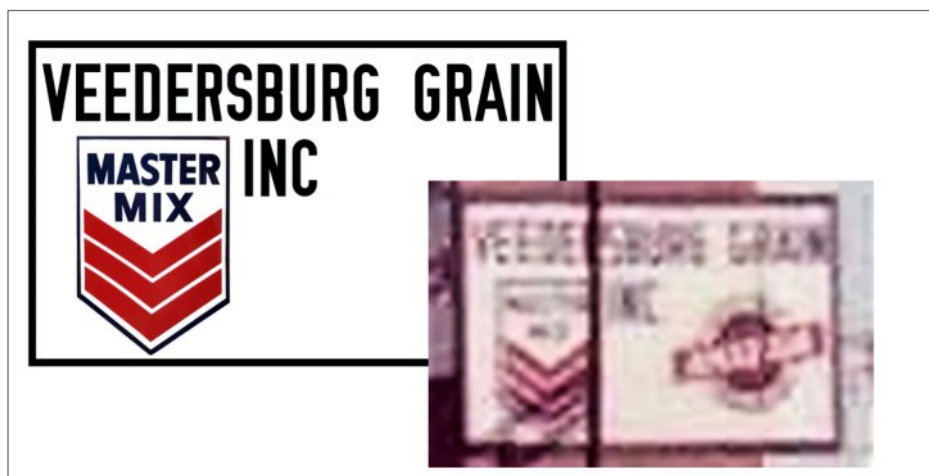
Open PowerPoint (PP) and insert the Master_Mix.jpg onto a completely blank working "slide." The fully cropped and straightened sign from the original photo becomes the placement guide.

I drew a 6-point (6-pt) black rectangle (specific size at this point not important) that occupied most of a slide in landscape format, and placed the "Veedersburg Grain" text in the rectangle. I searched for a font from the standard list of fonts in PP, using the "V" and "E" as my guide. I found "OPS-DIN" to be a good match.

I tried to match the edges of the logo with the letters in the text, keying off of the prototype sign. This is a tedious and iterative process, matching fonts, size, and the Master Mix logo. Remember that the logo has the best-represented proportions – I used it to key the size and placement of everything else in the sign. The "INC" was added and placed next, using the same font.



12. Master mix in rectangle.



13. Fitting the border rectangle.



The ANAFAM logo remained, and it was a pain. I will go through all the steps I finally found to work.

As usual with text, I start trying to find a usable font, and in this case the font will need to easily lend itself to “outlining” for the logo. Again, after a tedious search I found the “Bahnschrift 60 Bold” font, which looked good for a start.

On a separate blank slide, I placed the ANAFAM text. Selecting the text alone, select (right mouse-click on selected text) format shape and text options. Select White solid fill, and black solid line 2-pt text outline. You should have the text as shown in [14].

Next highlight and select the ANAFAM text, then go to the top Menu->Format->Text Effects->Transform->*abcde* from the lower left bottom selection (the “*abcde*” appears on a slant from lower left to upper right). *Note: you may need to expand the PP window to maximum size to see all the menu picks I described.* If you picked successfully, you should see your ANAFAM text as shown in [15] with the letters inclined rising from left to right.



14. Outlined text with white fill.



15. Transformed text ready to slant.

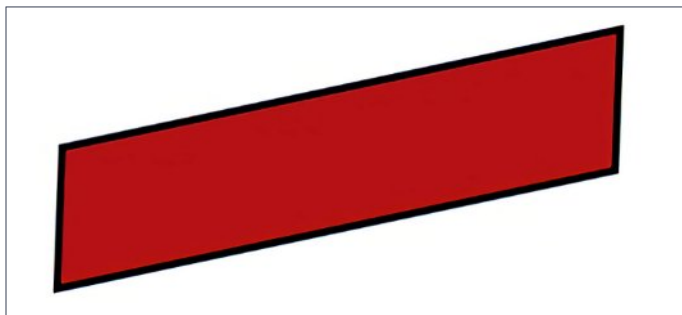
Next create a parallelogram big enough to enclose the ANAFAM text, and fill with red [16]. If you copy the Master Mix sign to your working ANAFAM slide (you can reduce the size), you can select the exact same red using the “Eyedropper” selection from the color selector for Fill, and then selecting the red from your original Master Mix photo. Remember when using actual photos for color references that the actual colors can fade and discolor, especially on outdoor signs.

Set the outline color to black, and the thickness to three points. Rotate the red stripe to match the incline of your ANAFAM text, and the completed shape should look like [17].

Now select your red and black parallelogram on its edge, and right-click on the drop-down menu “Send to Back.” Next you can move it over the slanted ANAFAM text, and you should see something like [18]. Try to match the background and text positions, using the blurry original photo as best you can. Now is also the time to try and get the slant and text combined looking good.



16. Background parallelogram.



17. Outlined and rotated parallelogram.



Next form a circle using the insert shapes menu pick. Set the circle outline to 3pt black line, with the same red fill you used for the parallelogram background stripe [19].

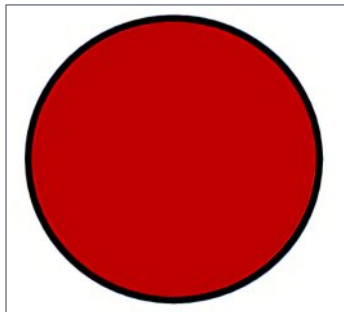
Select the filled circle edge and “Send to Back” as before. Then move it onto the ANAFAM banner and position it referring to the original Mill sign. (See [20]) I used the intersection of the circle near each of the letters to size and position the red circle. Take your time until you think it looks “good enough.”

Next form the outer background circle, “Send it Back [21].” and then move it over your ANAFAM sign, like [22].

Iterate on positioning all the elements of the ANAFAM logo until it looks just right. Now take your mouse and select all elements



18. ANAFAM text on background.



19. Inner background circle.



20. Inner circle to the rear.

in the logo by left clicking a corner outside the logo and expanding it until the logo is completely contained, and all elements are highlighted together.

Move your mouse onto the selection (no click yet) until the pointer turns into a vertical cross, then right-click, and select Group->Group from the drop-down menu. You can now treat your ANAFAM logo as if it were a single graphic.

If you want to go back and manipulate individual elements again, you can select the graphic, right-click and select Group->Ungroup. Now you can select the ANAFAM logo, right-click and copy it back on the slide with the Veedersburg Grain rectangle. You should have something like [23].

The logo still needs a little resizing. I copied a small, well-proportioned picture of the prototype mill temporarily onto a slide from time to time as a placement reference.

Since we “grouped” all the elements of the ANAFAM graphic, we can easily resize it in PP by clicking on the logo, holding down the shift key, and then grabbing a corner of the outline, and moving it toward the center to reduce the size of the graphic proportionately.

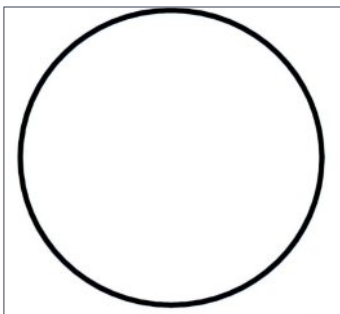
Once satisfied with the entire sign in PP, we can find the menu pick at the top of the window for Export->Change File Type->JPEG File then Save As, set file name and folder location, click Save, and select “Just This One” when asked which slides you want to save.

Now you have a JPG photo you can re-size, duplicate, rotate, and crop using any photo editing software. Because we worked with reasonably sharp, well-sized graphic elements, scaling for most models should be easy.

CARDINAL CAFE

AndyZ’s next challenge was “The Cardinal Cafe” also in his home town. We have a “wealth” of three incomplete photos for reference, two of which are in black-and-white [25, 26, 27].





21. Outer background circle.



22. Second outer background circle added.



23. ANAFAM logo placed.



24. Veedersburg Mill sign complete.



25. Reference photo A. *AndyZ's original contribution*



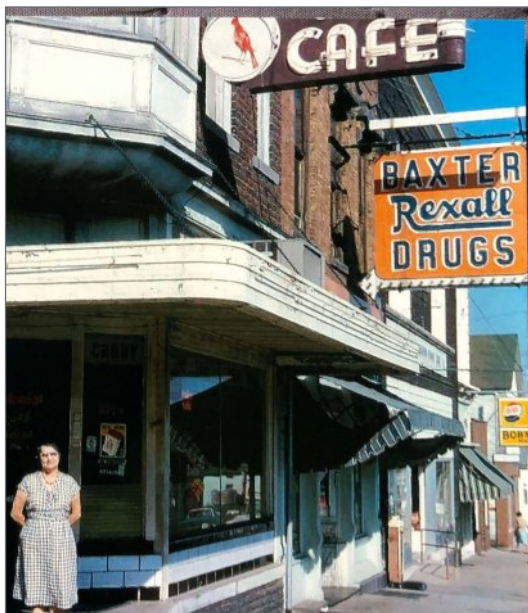
26. Reference photo B.
AndyZ's original contribution



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27. Reference photo C.
AndyZ's original
contribution

A Google web search revealed no more information, and the cafe sign is unique. The only references for size are the width of the sidewalk, the windows, and the light post. These are *relative* indicators; I had no actual measurements.

The Cafe font and storefront remind me of pre-war Art Deco [28, 29]. I did not think I would ever find the same font, so I was convinced I would have to recreate or “fix-up” the photo font. The cardinal image looked impossible to me, so I left it for last [30]. With not the most optimistic outlook, I went from here.

I flattened the sign perspective as for the Master Mix sign [31]. This left an odd shape on top of the sign’s “flattened perspective” since the top of the sign had been cut off in the original photograph [30].

Simply applying the PSP perspective correction tool would cause it to lose the top of the picture. The remedy is to take the photo in [28], paste it onto a much larger background, and then



28. The zoom-in from [23] showed the font for “cardinal,” and also the cardinal image on the sign. However it did not help us colorize the image, and the original photo was so pixilated that the results in the enlargement were blurry.



29. The zoom-in from [24] showed the complete sign, but the text and logo were unclear.



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apply the perspective correction tool. This will correct and preserve the top of the photo, but adds the odd shape in [31] to the top.

Now the major task is cleaning up the graphic. Part of the issue is removing the neon lights highlighting the text and sign. Once “flattened” I began the tedious task to repair the letters with the paintbrush and clone brush tools, with the goal of making the “cafe” text outline crisp, the white fill a solid white, and the background “brown” a solid color.

Paintbrush will place a solid shaped color where ever you place your mouse and left click. In the menu bar you can set the shape



30. Best detail, color, and cardinal graphic were from [25].



31. Straightened sign.

(square or circular), the size, the color, and the hardness (which will fade the edges – in this case I set it to 99 which should fill in the entire brush shape). Remember you can enlarge the image you are editing for better precision. Change the shape and size to match the edges of the text characters you are editing [32, 33].

I am a firm believer in “good enough.” Working on these signs filling the PSP and PP windows as much as possible will yield good graphics, even with tiny irregularities. Your signs will likely need to be reduced in size for your models, and with that reduction the imperfections become insignificant. Enlarging the graphic being edited will allow you to modify it pixel by pixel. I simply choose to find better things to do with my time!

Once the “cafe” text looks good, I save it in PSP as a JPG file (you can up-size the graphic two or three times by hitting shift-S if



32. Remove neon lights, fix letters.



33. Create a clean base.



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need be), and then insert the new graphic into a PP blank slide. This will make the next steps easy.

Create a large rectangle with the same background “brown” color (using the eyedropper in PP color selection). Move the “cafe” text onto the large background rectangle after setting the text “Bring to Front.” The reference for sizing everything else comes from the text.

Create and place a small white rectangle to the right of the “E” to the edge of the sign—don’t worry about the length, just the position and width. Use [31 and 32] for placement references.

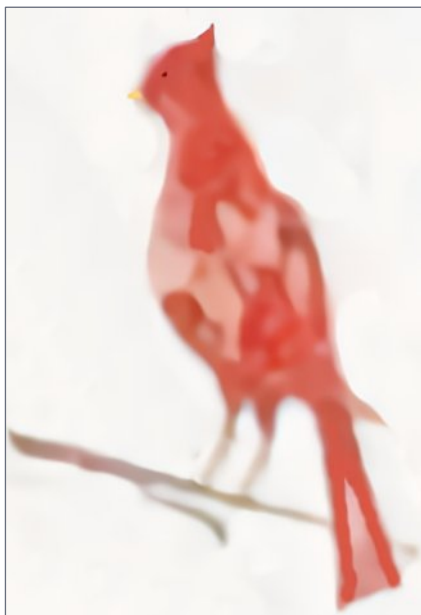
Next insert a solid white circle, again checking its relative size and position with the pictures of the prototype sign. Then crop the overall sign to size. [33] should be close to the result. Save the graphic as a picture (JPG or PNG) for later use.

I decided it was time to grab the cardinal and hope for the best. [31] was the best representation I had of the cardinal graphic – and it was unique. It actually looked hand-painted. PSP editing this took some time, as I wound up editing some areas pixel-by-pixel.

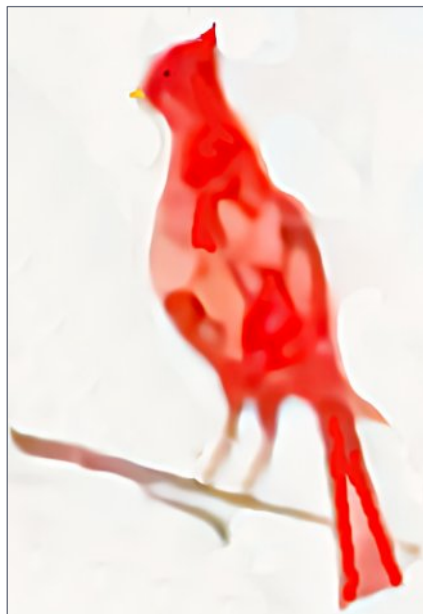
First, I cropped the entire bird from the [31] photo, and pasted it onto a much larger white background [34]. I enlarged the head and finished-off the top to create the tuft. Next was the beak. I formed it with two yellow lines, and was happy with that.

The stick it stood on got some attention, pixel by pixel. I did not like the colors – too faded for me. I wanted something more vibrant. I spent way too much time adjusting the color hue, saturation, lightness, and vibrancy. I even tried the Color Replacer tool. I stopped when satisfied. It wasn’t perfect, but much better than the start – good enough [35].

You may use the Color Replacer tool to change the off-white background to white. You can adjust the “Tolerance” parameter for a sloppy range color match with good effect. Save the new cardinal as a file.



34. Cardinal graphic cropped and ready for work.



35. Enhanced Cardinal graphic.



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I then switched back to PP, inserted the saved file [33] onto a blank PP slide, then inserted the new cardinal file (saved previously [35]) onto the PP slide just created, making sure the cardinal was “Brought to Front.” I switched back to PP because resizing, rotation, and positioning are all easier to do in PP.

The cardinal graphic is centered in the circle. Relative sizes are checked against the original photos. The cardinal graphic can be easily rotated in position [36].

Next, I went searching again for another font for the “CARDINAL” text, and found the “Fira Sans ExtraBold” font in the PP font list. At Bold 54pt (based on my resizing in PP) it worked with all capital letters, set to white, and brought forward. It was positioned onto the sign. The sizing was set to match the positioning of the text relative to the edges in the “cafe” text. I heaved a sigh of relief – it worked!

Last, an easy white line was added across the top from the cardinal circle to the other edge, using the line-drawing capability in PP with 8pt width. A final edge crop of the whole made sure the line edges were crisp and well-sized. I then saved the entire graphic as an exported jpg file without any size reduction. [37] was the result. This was a two-sided sign, so I had some work left to rearrange the graphic elements to create the sign reverse, shown in [38]. This was straightforward.

One of the valuable things about saving graphics to photo files (JPG, PNG, etc.) is that both PSP and PP can resize them (until artifacts are created due to resolution limits). I mentioned earlier that small imperfections are negligible if you start with large graphics and then reduce them.

The Cardinal Cafe sign did not have an inherent size reference I trusted. When I looked at [26]. I noticed the sign might have been as long as the sidewalk below it was wide. For a small Indiana town in 1955, I estimated that could have been 4-6 feet. The car at the curb in front was likely no more than six feet wide.



36. Cardinal attached.



37. Cafe striped and cropped.



38. Cafe reversed sign.



Assuming our sign was no longer than six feet, I rescaled the Cardinal Cafe sign in PP to approximately 0.827 inches (PP ruler), and placed it in scale next to my working graphic in PP. [39] This gives you an idea of the reduction necessary for an HO scale (87.1:1) model. You may need to increase the size of the magazine photo a bit more, but perhaps you will understand why I don't sweat the small stuff.

The capabilities described herein have been available in PSP and PP for years, so you do not need the latest version.

The transformations I described might one day be supplanted by more sophisticated Artificial Intelligence-enhanced tools. Some AI-based graphic tools are already available to remove picture elements, enhance resolution, and reduce distortion. Knowing how to use your tools, in whatever form, is essential for improving your modeling. ☑

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39. Reduced HO scale signs compared to PowerPoint full window graphic.

DR. GEOFF BUNZA



Geoff started as a Model Railroader when he received a Mantua train set for Christmas, at age 6. He fed his interests through college, becoming a member of the Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC) at MIT while earning his doctorate and three other degrees in electrical engineering.

Geoff has presented clinics for the NMRA at divisional, regional and national meets, and the National Narrow Gauge Conventions. He has authored over 50 articles on animation, electronics and modeling for *Model Railroad Hobbyist*, the *New York Central System Historical Society Modeler*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, and *The HO Collector*. Scale model animation in HO is one of his great interests. He is blessed with his wife, Lin, in marriage for 46 years, two terrific sons, and an amazing young grandson. Geoff is a life member of the NMRA and holds an Extra Class amateur radio license, call sign AD7JP. ■

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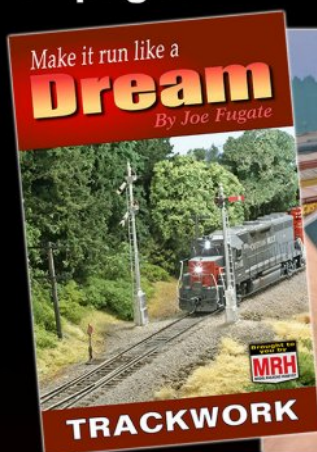
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LOOK column

Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025



JTC N scale 60' Pullman Standard container flat car

JEFF SHULTZ SHOWS US A 60' CONTAINER FLAT CAR FOR THE LATE 1960s TO PRESENT ...

THE JACKSONVILLE TERMINAL COMPANY (JTC) HAS PRODUCED AN N SCALE model to replicate the container version of Pullman Standard's (PS) 60' flat car.

THE PROTOTYPE

The introduction of containerized intermodal freight in the 1960s began a revolution in railroading. The International Standards Organization soon established two standard container lengths of 40 feet and 20 feet, and railroads modified existing cars and purchased new ones specifically designed to carry these containers and road trailers.

PS built at least 4,000 of its new 60' flat car in a variety of styles. A subset of these were designed specifically for container service.

60' PULLMAN STANDARD CONTAINER FLAT CAR | 2

Instead of the usual wooden or steel deck, these container flats had pedestals to carry the containers.

The TTX Corporation, a flatcar-pooling company originally created by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Norfolk & Western, and the Rail-Trailer Corporation, purchased many of these container flats, and designated them with the reporting mark VTTX.

As of June 2004, the *Official Railway Equipment Register* listed over 300 of the VTTX cars in service. By the 2010s, the earliest-built of these cars would have reached their 40-year service life, though cars built after July 1974 had a 50-year regulatory service life. JTC's models would be good for any time between the 1960s and the present.



1. VTTX 91983 configured for three 20' containers.



2. VTTX 91983 configured for a 40' and a 20' container.



WHAT'S IN THE BOX

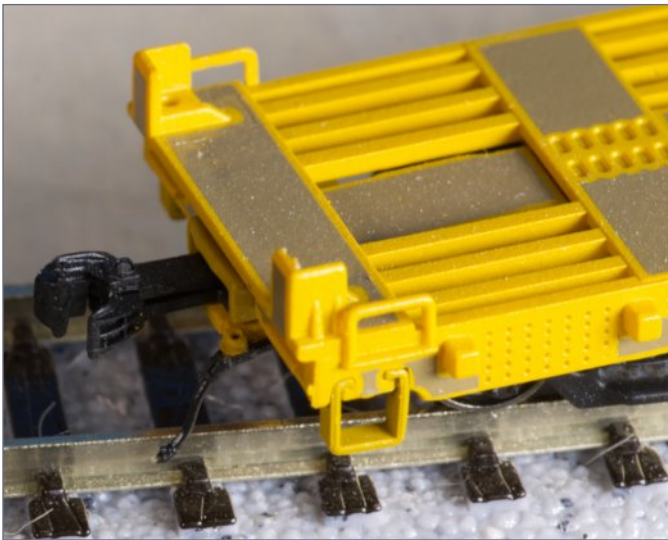
The two models provided to *MRH* are VTTX 91973 and 91983 and are both described as “weathered TTX patch over TrailerTrain 60’ flat car, 8-11 years weathered car.”

The weathering consists of a darker yellow color than the “new” version, with the TTX logo on a painted lighter yellow patch where it would have had the “TT Trailer Train” markings.

The cars come configured with container pedestals for three 20’ containers, with parts to swap one of the center pedestals for a simulated collapsed connector to accommodate a 40’ container.

JTC’s 40’ and 20’ containers fit on the cars snugly enough that you can lift the car by the containers, though this is not recommended.

The cars are equipped with 70-ton trucks and 33” metal wheels of JTC’s own design. They are also the first models released with body-mounted JTC VRK (“Very Real Knuckle”) couplers. They are Micro-Trains-compatible, and test at the correct height, though the VRK couplers do not have magnetic trip pins.



3. The Very Realistic Knuckle (VRK) coupler.

60' PULLMAN STANDARD CONTAINER FLAT CAR | 4

When empty, the cars weigh 0.4 oz, significantly under the NMRA recommended weight of 1.2 oz for a 4.5" car. Three 20' containers or one-each 40' and 20' containers increase the weight of the car to 0.9 oz.

The bottoms of the containers are removable, so adding more weight to a loaded car is simple. The models tracked through 11" radius curves without difficulty, and while the cars did roll on a slight slope, they stopped quickly on level track.

The cars are available through dealers or directly from JTC (jtcmodeltrains.com/collections/pullman-60-flatcar-series). MSRP is \$48.95-\$49.95. ☒



4. Underside of the N scale 60' Pullman Standard container car with brake components and lines.



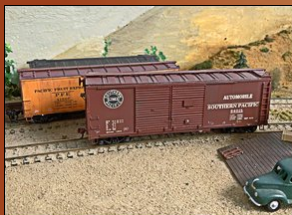
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5. Both cars together, showing
different container
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Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025



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## Making rocks from foam

YouTuber **railfan220** shows how he uses foam to form and carve realistic rocks for his Marias Pass layout area.

He uses pink foam and shows exactly how he installs and carves it to get some nice looking rocks. Once he has shaped the rocks, railfan220 goes on to show how he paints the rocks and adds water seepage to the rock face. As a side note, it's nice to see **railfan220** is a young guy (in his 30s maybe) who is building a very nice layout and telling us all about it. ☒

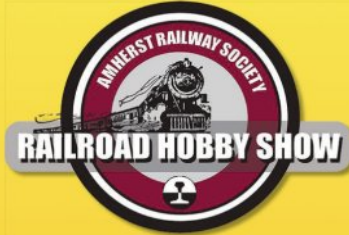


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# SEPTEMBER NEWS

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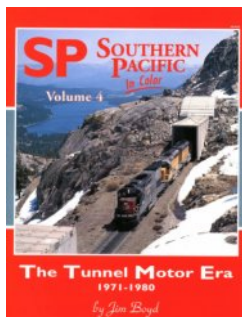


Model Railroad Hobbyist | September 2025

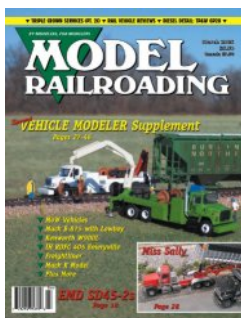
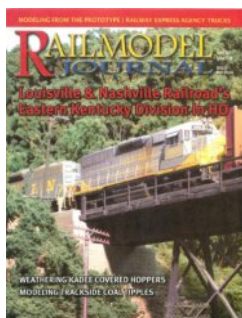
RICHARD BALE AND JEFF SHULTZ  
REPORT THE LATEST HOBBY  
INDUSTRY NEWS ...



## NEW PRODUCTS FOR ALL SCALES



**Morning Sun** has released a digital reprint of Jim Boyd's *Southern Pacific Color Volume 4*. The eBook covers the Espee's tunnel motor era including the troubled 1970s.  
Info: [www.morningsunbooks.com](http://www.morningsunbooks.com)



**ScaleTrains** has posted five out-of-publication model railroad and railroading magazines to the internet, available for reading online or downloading as PDF files. Available at [magazines.scaletrains.com](http://magazines.scaletrains.com), the magazines are *1001 Model*

THE LATEST MODEL RAILROAD PRODUCTS, NEWS & EVENTS

[MRHMAG.COM](http://MRHMAG.COM)

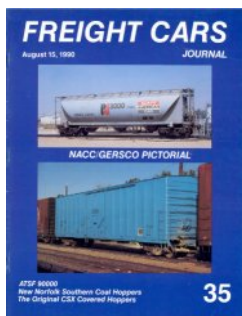
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*Railroading Ideas, Model Builder, Model Railroading, Pacific News/Pacific RailNews/RailNews, and Railmodel Journal.*

Info: [scaletrains.com](http://scaletrains.com)

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The archive section of the **Railroad Magazine Index** (a service of **Iowa Scaled Engineering**) has a new publication available, with David Casdorph's *Freight Cars Journal* now available for reading online or downloading as PDF files. If you have the photo supplement for issue #58, please contact [support@rrmagazineindex.org](mailto:support@rrmagazineindex.org). Info: [www.rrmagazineindex.org/archive](http://www.rrmagazineindex.org/archive)

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## CLUB CARS



Custom decorated Accurail HO scale kits available from **Superior 1980** include a 40' double-sheathed wood boxcar decorated for Meteor Motor Car Co., a 40' wood reefer leased to the Pere Marquette Railroad by Northern Refrigerator Line, and a 55-ton twin bay coal hopper decorated

for Litchfield & Madison. The easy to assemble kits feature Accurail's usual attention to detail including appropriate trucks with Delrin wheels and AccuMate knuckle couplers.

Info: [Superior1980@yahoo.com](mailto:Superior1980@yahoo.com)

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## HO SCALE PRODUCT NEWS

HO scale kits for two versions of an ACF twin-bay covered hopper are now available from **Accurail**. One is decorated for



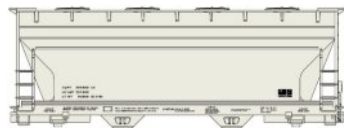
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Chesapeake & Ohio, the other has data only, making it ready for decaling as any modeler chooses.



HO scale kits for ACF triple bay covered hoppers decorated for BNSF are available in a 3-pack with different car numbers. The economy-priced kits are also available singly. All Accurail car kits come with appropriate trucks with Delrin

wheelsets and Accumate knuckle couplers.

Info: [accurailinc.com](http://accurailinc.com)



Now in stock from **Bachmann** are SD40-2 locomotives in HO scale in several new paint schemes. The models feature SoundValue DCC, all-wheel drive, can motor, fine-

scale handrails, blackened metal RP-25 contour wheels, and E-Z Mate Mark II couplers.



Road names available are Santa Fe (Kodachrome), Conrail Quality, Milwaukee (Bicentennial), CSX, KCS, Norfolk Southern, and Union Pacific.

Info: [shop.bachmanntrains.com](http://shop.bachmanntrains.com)



**Bowser** is taking preorders for modified versions of the RS3 locomotive known as the DeWitt and Juniata RS3m. Between 1972 and 1978, 98 Alco RS-3 locomotives were

rebuilt with ex-E8 EMD 567B prime movers by the ex-NYC DeWitt and ex-PRR Juniata shops, involving both the Penn Central and Conrail.



The primary visual difference between the DeWitt and Juniata versions of the RS3m is a squared off full-width hood extension above the prime mover on the DeWitt locomotives, whereas the Juniata versions had a narrower low-profile box beneath the exhaust stacks.



The DeWitt model will be available in three Penn Central numbers, three Conrail (PC Patch) numbers, and three Conrail numbers. The Juniata version will be available in three Conrail numbers, three Maryland & Delaware numbers, and

a special Juniata Hammerhead RS3m will be available in Conrail and as Lehigh Valley No. 211, currently part of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Museum. All models will be available as DCC-ready with a 21-pin socket and with LokSound 5 DCC/Sound. Preorders are due October 3, 2025. All photos from the Bowser website.

Info: [bowser-trains.com](http://bowser-trains.com)



New from **Conowingo Models** in HO scale is a Bobber Pickle Car. Described as a whimsical twist on the original pickle car models, the car includes laser-cut wood components, custom decals, 3D-printed parts, Tichy details, LaBelle siderails, and Kadee Couplers.

Also new is an HO/HOn3 is Caboose #4, inspired by the Pickering #4 caboose at the Niles Canyon Railway in Fremont, CA. The kit consists of laser-cut wood components, custom



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decals, custom 3D-printed parts, and Tichy details. Trucks and couplers are sold separately.

Info: [conowingomodels.com](http://conowingomodels.com)

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A new product from **English's Model Railroad**, a division of **Bowser Mfg**, is real coal hopper loads consisting of two packs of 3D printed bases covered with Pennsylvania anthracite coal. The bases are sized for specific hopper cars, to include:



Bowser: 100-ton hopper, 14 & 13 panel offset side hopper, H-21/H22 hopper, Gla hopper, GS 40ft Gondola, 55-ton hopper, 12 panel hopper.

InterMountain: 14 panel Coal Porter



Accurail: 50-Ton offset twin hopper, 55-ton hopper, 70-ton offset hopper.

Walthers: 50-ton War Emergency, 50ft 100-ton hopper, Trainline 2-Bay hopper.

Athearn: 2-bay hopper, 40ft 3-bay ribbed hopper, 40ft 4-bay offset hopper.



Rapido: H21A and H21E hoppers. Tangent: PS4000 HT 3-bay hopper, 3350cf quad coal hopper. Cars are not included.

Info: [bowser-trains.com/history/englishcoalload.html](http://bowser-trains.com/history/englishcoalload.html)



**Jacksonville Terminal Company** has released four new paint schemes of the 8-55-8 corrugated 4VI 53' container in HO scale. Available in three packs, the containers are decorated for Amazon, FedEx Multimodal, Walmart, and YRC. Info: [jtcmmodeltrains.com](http://jtcmmodeltrains.com)

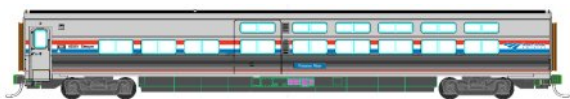


**Kadее** is selling an unlettered 40' PS-1 boxcar. Features include 6' Youngstown sliding doors, 4/5 Pullman-Standard (P-S) ends, a P-S roof, grating metal running boards, latitudinals, and brake platform; seven-rung separately applied ladders, Kadее self-centering couplers, and Bettendorf-style plain-bearing trucks with metal wheel. The unlettered HO scale ready-to-run model is painted boxcar red.



Kadее's August release is a 40' PS-1 boxcar decorated for the US Navy. Featuring 8' P-S doors, an Ajax brake wheel, and see-through roof walk, the car includes lettering for a shop date of 11-72.

Info: [www.kadee.com](http://www.kadee.com)



New HO scale models under final

development by **Kato USA** include Amtrak Viewliner II, Superliners, and F40PH locomotives.

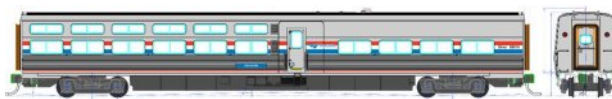
Three new Viewliner II cars include a sleeper with roomettes and bedrooms, a modern diner with booths and large windows,



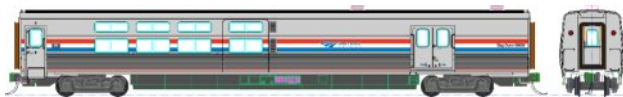
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overnight sleeping accommodations for crew members.



The models feature optional kinematic couplers for close coupling of the cars, and appropriate trucks with shock absorber detail and rotating bearing caps. An optional interior lighting kit (Item 7-504) will also be available.



Also coming from Kato is an HO scale version of a Metra F40PH diesel electric locomotive. Built by EMD, the F40PH has been the backbone of Chicago's commuter rail system since the early 1980s. With an output of 3,000hp, the F40PH was designed to handle the stop-and-go nature of commuter service.



Over the years, Metra has upgraded many of these units for modern operation resulting in several paint schemes. Road specific details will include ditch lights, cab air conditioners, fan height, directional headlight arrangement, and pilot, rear platform, and cab roof arrangement. The model will be available with DCC and sound installed.

Info: [www.katousa.com](http://www.katousa.com)

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Throughout next year, **Rapido** will celebrate America's 250th birthday by releasing various models decorated in red, white, and blue.

Preorders are being booked now for a Santa Fe CF7 wearing fantasy livery inspired by the familiar 1976 Bicentennial scheme. The model will be the angled cab version of the CF7, with Cannon 36" cap top radiator fans, full underbody details, etched grilles and steps, working headlights, ground lights,



DCC/Sound (ESU LokSound), and a MoPower capacitor system for uninterrupted DCC power.



In anticipation of America's 1976 Bicentennial, the Lehigh Valley Railroad painted caboose No. 95085 in a patriotic red, white and

blue scheme, complete with stars on the ends. The caboose was renumbered 1776. Although the LV was folded into Conrail later in 1976, the caboose continued to proudly wear its Bicentennial scheme until it was repainted Conrail blue.

Rapido plans to deliver an HO scale version of the LV caboose. The model will have a Duryea Cushion underframe, single square end windows, operating interior lights and multiple optional parts including stacks, window blanks, etched window frames and screens, and toolboxes. A MoPower capacitor for uninterrupted DCC lighting will be installed..



Originally designed for the Reading Railroad in the early 1920s, the prototype caboose was so successful that other railroads

ordered copies. In addition to the Lehigh Valley birthday version, Rapido will offer the Northeastern caboose with porthole end windows, and a variety of other options including a Duryea or solid underframe.

Road names on Rapido's release will be Reading, Reading & Northern, Chicago & North Western, Conrail, Lehigh Valley, Penn Central, Rock Island, Union Pacific (ex CNW), Central of



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New Jersey, Maine Central, Metro North, Province & Worcester, and Western Maryland.

In 1962 the Southern Pacific placed an order with Pacific Car & Foundry for 100 class 66-B-2 economy baggage cars. Rapido plans to deliver an accurate HO scale version of the cars based on field measurements including 3D scans of the prototype.

Decorating schemes will include SP (Daylight), SP business car (Scarlet stripe), SP (Choice of early or late doors), SP MOW, SP scale test car, Alaska Railroad, Amtrak Phase II, Eureka Southern, and Rock Island.

The models will feature Rapido's usual attention to detail including full underbody piping and rigging, separate metal grab irons, stirrups and end gates, sprung diaphragms, and SP Class 4-T-1 trucks with full brake rigging. Power cars feature generator sounds and a MoPower capacitor system for uninterrupted DCC power. A minimum track radius of 22" is suggested. Images in this report are courtesy of Rapido Trains.

Info: [www.rapidotrains.com](http://www.rapidotrains.com)

In February 1973, Norfolk & Western built the first of 1,500 class HC-71 4750 cu. ft. covered hoppers in its Roanoke Shops. In many ways, N&W's home-built HC-71 was similar, if not identical, to the 4750 car Pullman-Standard introduced the previous year. **Tangent Scale Models** has released an accurate HO scale version of the Roanoke 4750 HC-71 in five decorating schemes, plus two assembled but unpainted models.



Portloc outlets gates, slot-style jacking pads, and an ACI label.



This version represents 4750 cu. ft. cars built at Roanoke in 1979. Like the prototype, Tangent's HO scale version has smooth-style roof hatches, open-circle jacking pads, double-style COTS boxes, and a mix of Miner Selflock and Keystone Portloc outlet gates. A similarly equipped painted but unlettered model is also available from Tangent.



Keystone Portloc outlet gates, smooth-style roof hatches, and Stuki HS-7 snubbers on the trucks. The 1989 and 2005 editions display the Norfolk Southern logo.



All of Tangent's 4750 models in this release come with 100-ton Barber S-2 roller-bearing trucks with 36" machined meal wheels, and either Brenco or Timken rotating bearing caps. Info: [www.tangentscalemodels.com](http://www.tangentscalemodels.com)



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**Walthers** is booking preorders for a retooled 60' high-cube Plate F boxcar with horizontal side posts.



Southern Railroad), Ferromex, and two TBOX schemes.



Scheduled for release next winter, the Mainline series HO scale model features a cushioned underframe with

correct brake gear and angle-mounted reservoir, separately applied door latch bars, and a mix of both X and diagonal roof panels. All versions will come with 100-ton roller-bearing trucks with 36" metal wheels.



Also coming next winter is another production run of Walthers Proto series Greenbrier 89' 110-ton flatcar. The HO scale model is based on a prototype designed for heavy duty service, including hauling military vehicles, containers and other large loads such as wind turbine components.



Indianapolis Railroad), and three TTX schemes including one designated for military use only.



Special details on the Proto series model include dual tie-down chain channels, positionable container pedestals (for two 40' or four 20' containers), separately applied nonworking cable straps and

strap brackets, wire grab irons, a detailed underframe with separate brake rods and piping, and 100-ton roller-bearing trucks with 36" machined metal wheelsets. The 89' car requires a minimum track radius of 24".

Info: [www.walthers.com](http://www.walthers.com)

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**ZYX Creative** is taking preorders for the ARI 53'-9" coil car in HO scale. The model will consist of a high resolution 3D-printed

resin body on a 3D-printed PLA underbody. The model will include Delrin 100-ton trucks with 36" metal wheels, Kadee couplers, and separately applied details. A limited number of ready-to-run cars will be offered in single and 3-packs, and an undecorated kit with decals will be available without trucks and couplers. Estimated availability is November 2025.

Info: [www.zyxcreative.com](http://www.zyxcreative.com)

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## N SCALE PRODUCT NEWS



R. Bale

### EMD GP40 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE

In late 1965 EMD introduced a new line of locomotives powered by its 16-cylinder 645-series prime mover. Riding comfortably on Blomberg four-axle trucks, the 3000hp turbo-charged locomotive was christened GP40. Although similar in appearance to its GP35 predecessor, the new GP40 was distinguished by three large 48" radiator fans at the rear of the locomotive body. EMD produced 1,225 GP40s including 60 units built with high-short-hoods and dual control stands for the Norfolk & Western Railway. Concurrent with the introduction of the GP40, a non-turbocharged version, built on the same chassis and using the same body with only two radiator fans, was introduced as the 2000hp GP38. It also carried a considerably lower price tag. On January 1, 1972, the GP40 was discontinued and replaced by the GP40-2, which has a modular electrical system and a few minor exterior changes.



MOW, Maine Central, Port Huron, Penn Central, and Denver & Rio Grande Western.



**Atlas** has recently released several new N scale models to its dealer network including this GP40 diesel electric locomotive.

Road names include CP Rail, CSX

Features on the N scale model include gold-white LED directional lighting, walkway safety tread, and dynamic brakes (as appropriate by railroad). Atlas Silver series models

of the GP40 are DCC/DCC ready. Gold series models will have a factory installed DCC/ESU LokSound decoder.



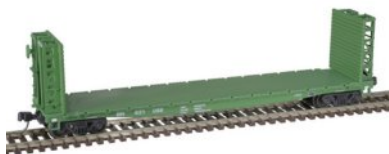
3,500 cu. ft. Dry-Flo triple bay covered hopper recently released by Atlas. Features include a separately etched brake platform and other brake detail applied to the injection molded plastic body.



The model comes with 70-ton ASF Ride-Control trucks with 33" metal wheels.



This N scale bulkhead flat car is now available from Atlas in five different road names including Gulf Mobile & Ohio, Union Pacific, Burlington, and two Burlington Northern schemes.



Features include a heavy diecast frame, lattice bulkheads, and a well-detailed deck.



Atlas's N scale version of a 4,000 cu. ft. covered hopper features BLMA 100-ton trucks with BLMA 36" metal wheels. An additional feature of the 10-hatch triple bay outside-braced model is a chemically-etched brake platform and roof walk.



Road names are Santa Fe, Monon, CSX, and Kansas City Southern. All Atlas N scale models come with AccuMate knuckle couplers. Check with a dealer as some of the models in this report are already sold out at the factory.

Info: [www.atlasrr.com](http://www.atlasrr.com)



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**Jacksonville Terminal Company** has released several different paint

schemes of the NSC NWF13 class 53' 17-post well car in N scale. All lettered for DTTX, the cars reflect different decorating schemes used by TTX over the years, including a large red TTX logo, a small red TTX logo, and silver or yellow stripes.

Info: [jtcmodeltrains.com](http://jtcmodeltrains.com)

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**Micro-Trains Line** has released several new N scale ready-to-run models including this 65' mill gondola decorated for Conrail.



This 4-pack from Micro-Trains represents aging cars the Santa Fe placed in Maintenance of Way service in the 1980s.



Originally built for New York Central, this triple bay covered hopper was redecorated for Conrail following the merger of NYC and the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1968.



Micro-Trains has released an N scale version of a Southern Pacific flatcar equipped with trailer hitches and wheel guides for TOFC (Trailer-On-Flat-Car) service. The model is offered as a 2-pack including two SP trailers. Info: Contact a dealer

---

## Z SCALE PRODUCT NEWS



auto rack without removing the decks. The newly tooled model will include truck mounted operating couplers and newly tooled trucks with blackened metal wheelsets.



While the rack carries the road name of the railroad that owns it, they ride on flatcars that are owned and lettered for TTX, either TTGX or CTTX. Road

names on the racks are BNSF, CSX, Ferromex, KCS, TTX only, and Union Pacific. Preorders for this model close on September 17, 2025.

Info: [shop.atlasrr.com](http://shop.atlasrr.com)

## STRUCTURES AND SCENIC SUPPLIES



**Conowingo Models** has released a new laser-cut kit in N scale, the Grey Street Company House. Based on a catalog home from the early 1900s, the kit includes a 3D-printed base and Tichy doors, windows, and chimney.

Info: [conowingomodels.com](http://conowingomodels.com)



Fans of the movie *The Great Race* (1965) will enjoy two recent releases from **Inter-Action Hobbies**. Professor Fake's Phantom Submersible (names may be changed to protect the copyrighted...) is a 3D-printed HO



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scale kit and includes Professor Fake and Max figures. The finished model measures 1.8" wide x 2.9" long x 1.97" tall (2.33" with periscope extended).



Professor Fake's Rocket Sled is available in HO, S, and O scales. The unpowered kit is 3D-printed in resin, with laser-cut braces and steps. Seated and standing figures of Professor Fake and Max are included. The HO scale vehicle is 0.75" wide x 2.5" long x 1.1" tall. The S scale vehicle is 1.0" x 3.4" x 1.5" and the O scale vehicle is 1.36" x 4.5" x 2.0.

Info: [www.interactionhobbies.com](http://www.interactionhobbies.com)

**Monster Modelworks** has released an HO scale craftsman-style flat kit for a four-story industrial building. With creative signage, the highly detailed model can serve as almost any industrial warehouse or manufacturing facility.



The structure is 9.5" tall and has a footprint of 11.25" x 1.25'. Components include 3-D laser-engraved brick siding, concrete coping and poured concrete form overlays. The detailed fire escapes, security bars, and wall anchors are all laser-cut. Painting and assembly are required.



Monster Modelworks has also released 90', 110' and 130' pit flooring for Walther's HO scale turntables.

Info: [www.larkspurlaserart.com](http://www.larkspurlaserart.com)



A 1950 Studebaker Champion Starlight coupe is now available from **Oxford Die Cast**. Among the HO scale model's features are the unique wrap-

around rear window and wide white wall tires.

Info: [www.walthers.com](http://www.walthers.com)

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**Summit USA** has released a new HO scale kit of a Tractor Supply Co. store. An American chain store that sells home improvement, agricultural, and animal care equipment and

supplies, with over 2,000 stores across the country. The model includes laser-cut white and clear acrylic, self-adhesive micro-plywood, Plastruct corrugated roofing, Evergreen styrene strips, and necessary support materials.

Available as both a full structure and a backdrop model, the full structure measures 16-1/4" x 11-1/4" x 3-3/4" and the backdrop model measures 16-1/4" x 3-3/16" x 3-3/4".

Vehicles and parking lot are not included.

Info: [www.summit-customcuts.com](http://www.summit-customcuts.com)

---

**Walthers** has released a group of HO scale tank trailers decorated for eleven different chemical, food, and petroleum industry carriers. The well-detailed trailers feature separate ladders, piping, walkway platforms, and landing gear.



Chemical industry trailers include ChemGo, Pehoski Transport, and North Island.



Food grade trailers are available decorated for Dairy Fresh - Brook Hill Farm Dairy, Golden Kernel Corn Syrup, and Gourmet Chocolate Co.



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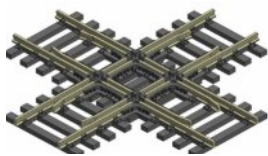
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Petroleum industry trailers include Interstate Fuel & Oil, Winner's Circle Petro, and North American Ethanol.



Three unlettered tank trailers are also available.



Walthers is quoting a spring 2026 availability date for a new 90<sup>0</sup> Code 83 track crossing. Suitable for DC or DCC layouts, the nickel silver crossing features thin-profile brown plastic ties molded in wood grain with spikes and a tie plate in each tie.



Modeling a wind turbine operation will get easier next winter when Walthers is scheduled to release a 30" tall three-blade turbine, a single turbine blade (designed as a load for Walthers Proto series 89' Greenbrier 110-ton flatcar – sold separately), and six turbine technician figures.

Info: [www.walthers.com](http://www.walthers.com)



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## ELECTRONICS

**Iowa Scaled Engineering** has announced the SimpleSig MSS Block Signal Advanced. Coming soon in both the Home (includes one ATOM DCC block detector) and Modules (includes two ATOM DCC block detectors) versions, the Block Signal Advanced is designed for adding basic ABS block



signals at a track block boundary. More capable than the Block Signal Basic, the Advanced can display configurable aspects on single or double-headed signals in each direction. It is fully compatible with the Modular Signal System standard.

Info: [www.iascaled.com](http://www.iascaled.com)

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## NEW DECALS, SIGNS AND FINISHING PRODUCTS



**Chicago Link Decals** is selling three new HO scale lettering sets including a thoroughly-researched set for Seaboard System covered hopper cars. Printed by Cartograf, the

Seaboard System Beige sheet (CLD-204) is suitable for accurately relettering Tangent PS2929s and PS4750s, and Accurail and Athearn ACF 4600s covered hoppers.

Also new is Pullman Patches (CKD-205) which features a unique stencil for PS4750s operated by PLCK, PTLX, and ITLX. Completing the list of three new carefully detailed decal sheets is Final Mile 1 (CLD-303) which includes some hobo and car knocker markings, QR codes, and barcode stickers for a variety of cars including those operated by Seaboard System.

Info: [chicagolinkdecals@yahoo.com](mailto:chicagolinkdecals@yahoo.com)

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## Floquil/PollyScale stash running out?



**MRH has mapped the old familiar colors  
to new readily-available acrylic paints.**

[illegible]

| Paint          | Color                                                                               | Color (Munsell) | Munsell Number | Floquil® Number | MIR®s Color                                  | Notes |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Tan            |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.056     | 16-15                                        |       |
| Reddish-Orange |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.083     | 16-09                                        |       |
| Redder-Orange  |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.070     | 16-10                                        |       |
| Red-Brown      |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.249     | 16-17b                                       |       |
| Reddish-Tan    |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.059     | 16-15a<br>Closest MIR®s<br>to Floquil #16-15 |       |
| Red-Brown      |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.038     | 16-17c                                       |       |
| Red            |    |                 |                | 1969-F1.037     | 16-17d                                       |       |
| Carmine        |   |                 |                | 1969-F1.047P    | 16-17*                                       |       |
|                |  |                 |                | 1969-F1.033     | 16-17b                                       |       |
|                |  |                 |                | 1969-F1.037     | 16-17c                                       |       |
| Algal Green    |  |                 |                | 1969-F1.031     | 16-05                                        |       |

\* Indicates a color not exact match. All MIR®s Floquil paint is a proprietary formula. Notes: MIR®s Floquil and Algal Green, and Red-Brown paint. Red-Brown paint is a proprietary formula. 1 Gram, 10 Grams, 100 Grams.

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Chapter 2 Paint conversion chart

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## BRIEFLY NOTED AT PRESS TIME ...

**Bachmann Trains** has released a run of HO scale Trinity 5161 cu. ft. 3-bay covered hoppers. Two road numbers are available for BNSF, CSX, Canadian Pacific/Soo, and Norfolk Southern ...

**Bowser** has announced a refreshed version of the HO scale 100-ton 3-bay open hopper featuring separately applied wire details, air lines, improved brake wheels, and brand new trucks. Models decorated for B&LE, B&O, CN, Conrail, D&H, Frisco, N&W Bicentennial, N&W Claytor, NS, Pecos Valley Southern, PC, Pittsburg & Shawmut, PPLX, Reading, Seaboard, SP, Southern, and UP will be included in the run ...

Three new products in HO scale have been announced by **Broadway Limited**, a brass-hybrid UP early Challenger, Instruction/Exhibit Cars based off the modified coach tooling used for the 1947 American Freedom Train, and two fantasy Streamlined Hudson paint schemes using the ATSF Blue Goose tooling, a 1947 American Freedom Train Scheme and the ATSF Valley Flyer livery ...

**Trainworx** has a new run of N scale Kenworth W90, W900, T80, and T800 and Peterbuilt 379 log trucks. Available in a variety of colors or decorated for logging companies, the trucks ride on three or four axles with two axle trailers that can be carried on the back of truck straddling the front log bunks like the prototype ... ■

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***Please submit your event information, including website, to [https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/contact/News event - product announcement](https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/contact/News-event-product-announcement)***

## Ongoing 2025

**ONLINE, Zoom & YouTube**, Wednesdays at 7pm Eastern. New Tracks Modeling Live Weekly

Info: [newtracksmodeling.com](https://newtracksmodeling.com)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCMAVhPb5pjdkAYTdXLceJA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMAVhPb5pjdkAYTdXLceJA)

**ONLINE, Facebook & YouTube**, dates vary, see Facebook page. "NMRax" organized by Gordy Robinson, Martyn Jenkins, Speed Muller, Jordan Kramer.

Info: [www.facebook.com/groups/nmragroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nmragroup)

**ONLINE, Zoom**, Second Tuesdays, 8pm Eastern. "Off the Beaten Track" featuring Narrow Gauge layouts, clinics, and manufacturers.

Info: [groups.io/g/NNG](https://groups.io/g/NNG)

**ILLINOIS, CALEDONIA**, Monthly Meetings of the Rock River Valley Division, Midwest Region. Paulson's Agriculture Museum of Argyle, 6950 Belvidere Rd. See Events page on website for dates.

Info: [rrvd-nmra.com](http://rrvd-nmra.com)

## September - October 2025

**AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, TOOWOOMBA**, September 13, 20, 27, 2025. 2025 Carnival of Trains Open House, sponsored by the Toowoomba Model Railway Club, Inc. Toowoomba Showgrounds, Glenvale Road.

Info: [www.facebook.com/toowoombamodelrailwayclub](https://www.facebook.com/toowoombamodelrailwayclub)

**CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SIDNEY**, September 21, 2025. 33rd Annual Victoria Model Train Show. Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue.

Info: [victoriatrainshow@gmail.com](mailto:victoriatrainshow@gmail.com)

**CANADA, ONTARIO, BURLINGTON**, October 17-19, 2025. Real Rails 2025 Convention, sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Historical Association. Holiday Inn and Candle Wood Suites, 3060 South Service Road.

Info: [www.cptracks.ca/realrails2025.html](http://www.cptracks.ca/realrails2025.html)

**ALABAMA, GADSDEN**, September 20, 2025. Coosa Valley Model Railroad Association 2nd Annual Fall Train Show. Mary G Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, 501 Broad St.

Info: [www.facebook.com/coosavalleymodelrailroad](https://www.facebook.com/coosavalleymodelrailroad)

**COLORADO, ESTES PARK**, September 20, 2025. Rails in the Rockies XXVIII, Estes Park Events Complex, 1125 Rooftop Way.

Info: [railsintherockies.org](http://railsintherockies.org)

**COLORADO, GREELEY**, September 27-28, 2025. Colorado Rail Proto Meet, in association with the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, featuring the HomeShops Freelance Forum and the Narrow Gauge Gathering. Island Grove Event Center, 421 N 15th Ave.

Info: [corpm.org](http://corpm.org)



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**FLORIDA, OCALA**, October 9-11, 2025. Sunshine Region 2025 Annual Convention. Ocala Hilton, 3600 Southwest 36th Ave.  
Info: [www.nmrasunshineregion.org/2025-annual-convention](http://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/2025-annual-convention)

**FLORIDA, THE VILLAGES**, September 20-21, 2025. Summer Expo Model Train Sale & Show, Savannah Center, 1545 N Buena Vista Blvd.  
Info: [www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com](http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com)

**ILLINOIS, NAPERVILLE**, October 16-18, 2025. Railroad Prototype Modelers Conference - RPM Naperville 2025. Northern Illinois University Conference Center, Northern Illinois University.  
Info: [www.rpmconference.com](http://www.rpmconference.com)

**INDIANA, FORT WAYNE**, October 18, 2025. Three Rivers Division Train Show and Swap Meet, Allen County Ware Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue.  
Info: [www.nmra.org/events/three-rivers-division-nmra-train-show](http://www.nmra.org/events/three-rivers-division-nmra-train-show)

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**, October 4, 2025. Indianapolis Train Show @ Garfield Park. Garfield Park Burello Family Center, 2345 Pagoda Dr.  
Info: [www.naptownrr.org/shows](http://www.naptownrr.org/shows)

**MINNESOTA, WOODBURY**, October 18, 2025. Newport Model Railroad Train Flea Market, sponsored by the Greater East Area Model RR Club. Woodbury High School, 2665 Woodlane Dr.  
Info: [newportclub.us](http://newportclub.us)

**MISSOURI, KIRKWOOD (St Louis)**, October 11-12, 2025. 34th Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show, sponsored by the Mississippi Valley N Scalers LLC.. St. Louis Community College-Meramac Gym, 11333 Big Bend Road.  
Info: [mvns.club/annualshow.php](http://mvns.club/annualshow.php)

**MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD**, September 19-20, 2025. Ozarks Model Railroad Association 2025 Train Show. Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, 3001 Grant Ave.  
Info: [www.facebook.com/events/1337256877719034](https://www.facebook.com/events/1337256877719034)

**NEW YORK, HEMLOCK**, September 20-21, 2025. 5th Annual Hemlock Train Show. Hemlock Fairgrounds, AG Expo Building, 7370 Water St.

Info: [www.fctt-hirailers.com](http://www.fctt-hirailers.com)

**OHIO, CAMBRIDGE**, October 26, 2025. Seventh Annual Buckeye Division (Division 6, MCR) Train Show. Pritchard Laughlin Center, 7033 Glenn Hwy.

Info: [div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html](http://div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html)

**OHIO, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS (Berea)**, October 4-5, 2025. 51st Annual Great Berea Train Show, hosted by the North Coast Division, Mid-Central Region, NMRA. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 19201 Bagley Rd.

Info: [thegreatbreatrainshow.org](http://thegreatbreatrainshow.org)

**OHIO, WEST CHESTER (Cincinnati)**, October 11-12, 2025. 57th Annual Division 7 NMRA Fall Train Show. Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Centre Blvd.

Info: [cincy-div7.org](http://cincy-div7.org)

**OREGON, PORTLAND**, October 25, 2025. 6th Bridgetown Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet. Holiday Inn Airport – Portland (I-205), 8439 NE Columbia Blvd.

Info: [www.facebook.com/groups/2001136043323501](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2001136043323501)

**PENNSYLVANIA, EASTON**, October 5, 2025. 47th Annual Lehigh Valley Regional Train Show & Expo. Charles Chrin Community Center 4100 Green Pond Road.

Info: [www.lehighlines.org/chrin-flyer.html](http://www.lehighlines.org/chrin-flyer.html)

**PENNSYLVANIA, KING OF PRUSSIA**, October 16-19, 2025. Philly Express, 2025 NMRA/MER Convention. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 260 Mall Blvd.

Info: [phillyexpress.org](http://phillyexpress.org)

**TENNESSEE, GATLINBURG**, September 17-20, 2025. Smoky Mountain Rails Convention, sponsored by the Southeastern Region of the NMRA. Glenstone Lodge, 504 Airport Rd.

Info: [2025serconvention.org](http://2025serconvention.org)



**WASHINGTON, BATTLE GROUND**, September 27, 2025. Southwest Washington Model Railroaders Great Train Swap Meet. Battle Ground High School, 250 N Parkway.  
Info: [larry.sprnkel@gmail.com](mailto:larry.sprnkel@gmail.com)

**WASHINGTON, LYNDEN**, October 4-5, 2025. 40th Anniversary Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show. Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Henry Jansen Agricultural Building, 1775 Front St.  
Info: [lyndentrainshow.com](http://lyndentrainshow.com)

**WASHINGTON, SPOKANE**, October 12, 2025. River City Modelers Fall Model Train Show. Spokane Fair & Expo Center, Buildings A, B, & C. Gate G, 404 N Havana.  
Info: [www.rivercitymodelers.org/rcm-train-show-info.html](http://www.rivercitymodelers.org/rcm-train-show-info.html)

### Future 2025-26 by location

**ARIZONA, TUCSON**, November 9, 2025. All Gauges Tucson Model Train Train Show and Swap Meet. Gadsen Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum, 3975 N. Miller Ave.  
Info: [gadsdenpacific.org/train-shows](http://gadsdenpacific.org/train-shows)

**ARIZONA, TUCSON/PHOENIX/PRESCOTT/FLAGSTAFF**, November 15-16, 2025. 2nd Annual Cactus Crawl Layout Tour, hosted by the Arizona Division, PSR, NMRA.  
Info: [www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org)

**CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO**, November 8-9, 2025. International Railfair. Cal Expo, Building C, 1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Info: [internationalrailfair.com](http://internationalrailfair.com)

**COLORADO, LONGMONT**, December 12-14, 2025. 48th Annual Boulder Model Railroad Club Train EXPO. Boulder County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall, 9595 Nelson Road.  
Info: [www.bmrconline.org](http://www.bmrconline.org)

**CONNECTICUT, VERNON**, November 9, 2025. Vernon Model Train Show, sponsored by the Rockville High  
Info: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551588057395](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551588057395)

**INDIANA, DANVILLE**, November 22, 2025. CID-NMRA Danville Train Show. Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main Street.  
Info: [www.cidnmra.org](http://www.cidnmra.org)

**MASSACHUSETTS, WEST SPRINGFIELD**, January 24-25, 2026. Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show. Better Living Center, Young, Stroh, and Mallary Buildings at The Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds – Home of the Big E. 1305 Memorial Avenue.  
Info: [www.railroadhobbyshow.com/index.php](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/index.php)

**MICHIGAN, BELLEVILLE**, November 23, 2025. Southeast Michigan Model Railroad Show and Sale, sponsored by Rails on Wheels and Division 6, NCR, NMRA. Wayne County Community College's Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Rd. ½ mile north of I-94, exit 192.  
Info: [www.railsonwheels.com](http://www.railsonwheels.com)

**NEW JERSEY, NORTH HALEDON**, November 28-30, December 6-7, 13-14, 2025. Garden State Model Railroad Club Annual Fall Show. 575 High Mountain Rd.  
Info: [gardenstatetrainclub.org/modelrailroadshow](http://gardenstatetrainclub.org/modelrailroadshow)

**NEW YORK, SYRACUSE**, November 1-2, 2025. 50th Great New York State Model Train Fair, sponsored by the CNY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. NYS Fair Exposition Center, 581 State Fair Blvd.  
Info: [www.modeltrainfair.com](http://www.modeltrainfair.com)

**OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA CITY**, November 15-16, 2025. OKC Train Show. Bennett Event Center, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, 2101 Gordon Cooper Blvd.  
Info: [www.okctrainshow.com](http://www.okctrainshow.com)

**TEXAS, PASADENA (Houston)**, February 21, 2026. Greater Houston Train Show, sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club. Pasadena Convention Center, 902 Fairmount Parkway.  
Info: [sanjacmodeltrains.org](http://sanjacmodeltrains.org)



**TEXAS, PEARLAND (Houston)**, November 15-16, 2025. 2025 Houston Area Model Train Show. Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Rd.

Info: [houstontrak.org](http://houstontrak.org)

**UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY**, November 7-8, 2025. 37th Intermountain Train Expo, hosted by the Northern Utah Division. Stadler USA, 5880 West 150 South.

Info: [www.intermountaintrainexpo.com](http://www.intermountaintrainexpo.com)

**WASHINGTON, KENT**, November 8, 2025. Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club Annual Swap Meet. Kent Commons Community Center, 525 4th Avenue North.

Info: [seattleandnorthcascades@gmail.com](mailto:seattleandnorthcascades@gmail.com)

**WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE**, November 1-2, 2025. Trainfest – America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show. Baird Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave.

Info: [www.trainfest.com/trainfest.html](http://www.trainfest.com/trainfest.html) ■

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Mike Armstrong's Rock Island  
Ron King's Erie Railroad  
Jim Tilley's PRR / B&O

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Jim Six's layout update ...



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