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OCTOBER 2026 | FREE

MRH

MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST

ISSUE #200!

ALSO:

- DCCNEXT decoder
- "Car taco" storage idea
- Ken Patterson: Layout rebuild
- Advanced modelers wood miter

... and more inside!

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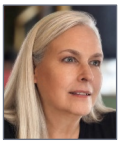
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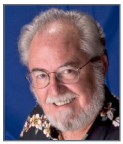
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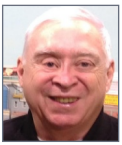
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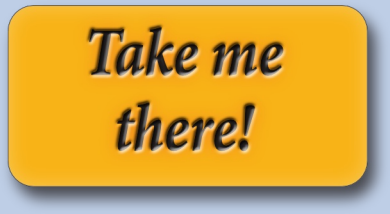
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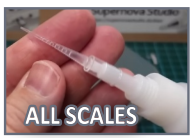
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PUBLISHER'S MUSINGS



Model Railroad Hobbyist | October 2026

Joe Fugate: Celebrating *Model Railroad Hobbyist* issue number 200!

View reader comments

Welcome to Issue 200 of Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine!

Reaching this milestone is an exciting moment for all of us at MRH Media. Two hundred consecutive issues represents a remarkable journey – one that lets us reflect on where we started, the challenges we've overcome, and where our hobby is headed.

When we launched MRH in January 2009, we stepped into uncharted territory.

Our concept was bold: an all-digital, PDF-format magazine delivered over the internet, fully supported by advertisers, and completely free to modelers. That idea sent a chill down the spines of traditional paper-and-ink hobby publishers who questioned whether an internet-first digital publication could succeed.

The digital reading landscape looked very different back then. In 2008 and early 2009, the iPhone was barely two years old, and consumer tablets didn't exist.

But we knew the technology was coming. In late 2008, in a forum post before our launch, I predicted that hardware makers would soon release a device costing about $300, roughly the size of a standard letter pad, that would let modelers read MRH easily anywhere.

When Apple launched the iPad in 2010, that prediction became reality, and digital reading changed forever.

Growing from quarterly to monthly

In our first year, MRH published quarterly. In our second year, we moved to bi-monthly.

By our third year, strong reader interest and advertiser support allowed us to go monthly – and we've stayed monthly ever since.

Our readership grew rapidly. Within a few years of launching, we were reaching more than 60,000 modelers per issue. Today, our annual average readership hovers around 71,000.

We proved that an ad-supported digital magazine could attract a large, dedicated audience across the model railroading community.

Advertising changes and the article backlog

Publishing models evolve.

While our initial ad-supported approach worked well, the early excitement over digital advertising eventually leveled off across the industry. Our advertising volume peaked in 2016.

With fewer ad pages coming in, we adjusted our issue size, dropping from over 250 pages down to about 150 pages per issue.

That reduction in page count created a serious problem: our article submission backlog expanded until authors faced waiting times of three years or more for publication.

That long delay frustrated our authors, who'd worked hard to prepare their material, and it frustrated our staff because we had valuable how-to content sitting idle rather than reaching our readers' workbenches.

Learning through video: TrainMasters TV

Before solving the magazine page shortage, we recognized that watching techniques demonstrated on screen is an effective way for modelers to learn.

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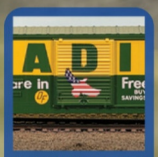
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WE CONTINUE TO BE SURPRISED BY HOW MANY MODELERS STILL HAVE NEVER HEARD OF US - SO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD ABOUT MRH!

PUBLISHER'S MUSINGS | 3

In 2013, we launched TrainMasters TV (TMTV), our online streaming video channel. TMTV has grown into a vast video library with over 500 segments covering:

- Layout tours
- Step-by-step how-to clinics across all areas of the hobby
- Prototype videos
- Quick tips and tricks
- Show reports

To put that into perspective, if you watched TMTV for 30 minutes every day, it would take you over a year to view it all.

Solving the backlog: Running Extra

To fund more magazine pages, clear our article backlog, and keep MRH free, the staff developed a new companion publication in 2018.

We initially considered calling it "*MRH* Premium," but we chose a prototypically inspired name instead: *Running Extra.*

In railroad practice, a dispatcher runs an "extra" train when additional freight or passenger traffic exceeds regular scheduled capacity. That term fit our situation perfectly: we had extra how-to content that needed an "extra train" to reach our readers.

Running Extra (RE) is a monthly magazine delivering 80 to 100 pages of additional how-to articles for $3.99 per month or $39.99 annually. That's all meat and *no ads.*

For convenience, we add the free *MRH* pages to the back of each file, giving *RE* subscribers every page we produce in a single download.

Annual subscribers also receive free access to all *Running Extra* back issues – a $400-plus value as RE approaches its 100th issue.

Special bicentennial celebration offer

To celebrate reaching our 200th issue milestone, we're running a special bicentennial promotion from **October 15 through November 15:**

Monthly Plan – $2.99/month (regularly $8.98/month): Unlimited monthly access to TrainMasters TV and *Running Extra*. Cancel anytime.

(Note: The monthly plan doesn't include access to the *Running Extra* back-issue library.)

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A quick note about the annual subscription: Because annual subscribers receive immediate download access to the complete back-issue library, all annual plan sales are final and non-refundable. You can manage your account and turn off auto-renewal anytime to prevent next year's charge, but we can't issue refunds once you've purchased the plan.

Don't miss this unprecedented package – this special celebration offer ends November 15! (Look across the page for a link).

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Thank you to our community

Reaching 200 issues is above all a community accomplishment.

We've been fortunate to work with talented modelers who write articles and participate in our online forum. The *MRH* forum has become an invaluable community asset – a friendly place to hang out, ask questions, solve layout problems, and share ideas.

Most of all, we couldn't have reached this milestone without you, our readers. Your enthusiasm and support make this publication possible.

The Future of operations

Looking ahead, I see many exciting years for model railroading. New technology, new methods, and new materials will continue to transform our hobby in profound ways.

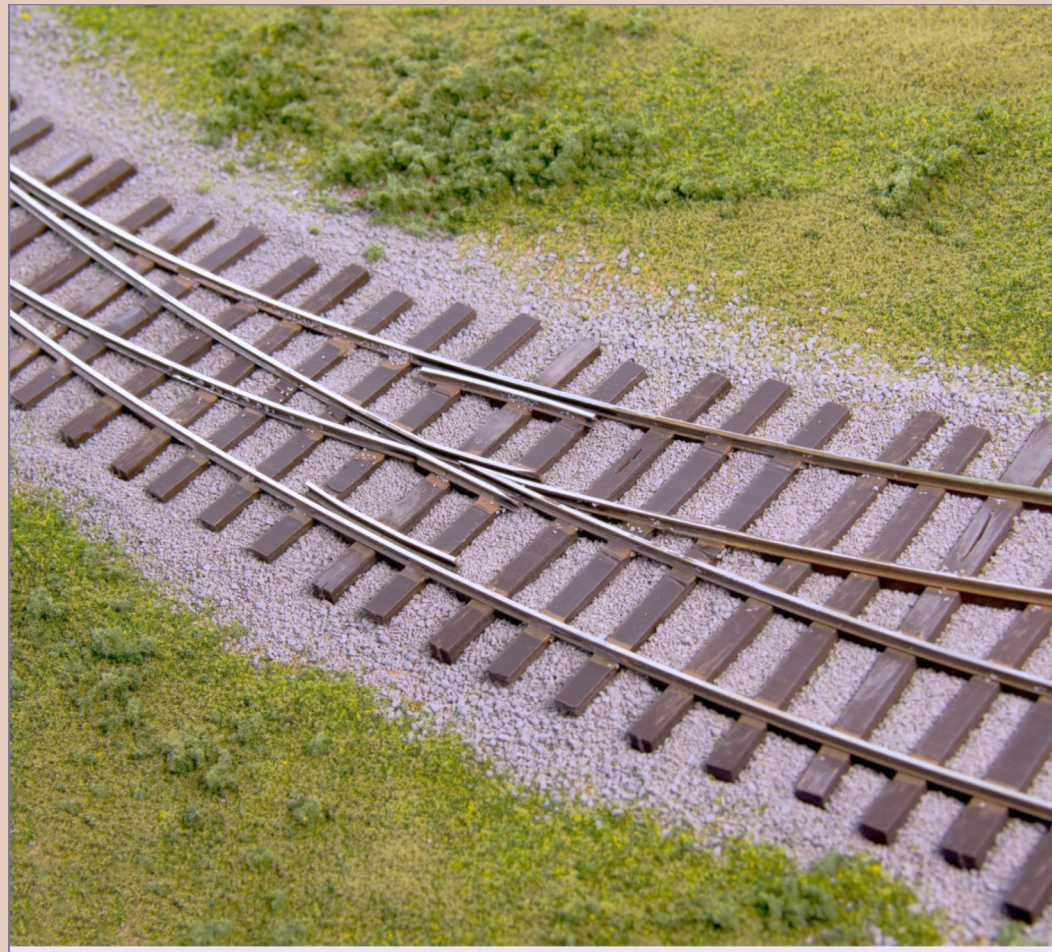
For decades, the traditional measure of a layout was often its physical footprint – how many scale miles of mainline you could fit in a basement. Today, what makes an operating session rewarding is changing.

A major catalyst is the ongoing evolution of Digital Command Control (DCC). Advances in

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You throttle up, listen to the prime mover notch up under load, drift toward the turnout, and carefully feather the brake to spot or couple to a car smoothly.

Working through a local switch list and watching the clock turns even a simple three-turnout industrial park into an intensely absorbing operating session.

Because of these advances, smaller layouts today can be every bit as engaging – if not more so – than sprawling basement empires.

It comes down to what you enjoy simulating most. Surveys conducted by the Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) show that modelers generally fall into two broad camps: ***railfans*** and ***engineers***.

Railfans love watching lots of trains roll through expansive scenery. They relish long manifests, passing sidings, timetable meets, and the choreography of macro-operations across a large layout.

Engineers mentally place themselves inside the cab. For them, the real thrill lies in micro-operations – throttle response, slack action, braking, and the tactical problem-solving required to switch an industry.

I have always been an engineer and micro-operations enthusiast at heart. Yet as publisher of *MRH*, I fully appreciate the magic of watching multiple trains running across a sweeping layout.

My original Siskiyou Line had plenty of trains and heavy traffic, and I loved that macro-operations experience firsthand. However, modern micro-operations trends have made the engineer perspective even more compelling for me.

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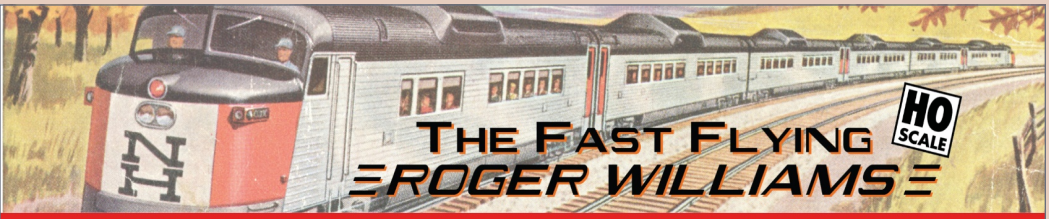
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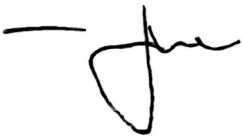
Instead, you can build a single, highly detailed module or section, complete the scenery, add temporary staging on the ends and dive straight into realistic micro-operations on day one.

From there, you can expand at your own pace – adding another section whenever time and budget permit, with zero rush or hard construction deadlines.

It delivers the immediate gratification of a small layout alongside the limitless potential of a larger empire. It truly is the best of both worlds.

As we look toward the next 200 issues, these evolving tools and methods will continue to enrich our modeling. Whether you run a fleet of freights across a vast basement or carefully switch a single rural team track, our hobby offers deeper satisfaction than ever before. ☑

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3rd Electrical Impulses: Build your own auto-reverser

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3rd Publisher's Welcome: Common item as model lamp shades

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September issue ...



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Model Railroad Hobbyist | October 2026

Compiled by JOE FUGATE



"Car taco" storage?

VIEW READER COMMENTS

MRH forum member **MSutinen** asked for car storage ideas on a recent thread.

Member **Eric Bergh** posted the photo above and said:

"I use a couple of rolling carts of plastic drawers, with the cars resting inside folded pieces of cardstock. The printed cardstock provide a place to record car data... I refer to them as 'car tacos.' They make it easy to remove the cars from the drawers..."

Eric has several follow-on posts with more on his clever "car tacos."

View the full thread on the MRH website

▶ *MRH'S* MONTHLY GREAT MODELER POSTS



1. Forum member **splitrock323** (Thomas Gasior) illustrates the kind of fine detail painting he is able to do with his recommended brushes.

Brushes for fine detail work

MRH forum member **hbgatsf** (Rick B.) recently asked for advice on the best brushes for fine detail work.

Forum member **splitrock323** (Thomas Gasior) posted the photo above of some very nice figure detail painting and talks about the brushes he uses:

"I have been using these disposable eye liner brushes [available in packs of 100 for a few dollars]. They work great for adding lines in clothing to create a flannel shirt and more. I'll keep about 5-7 on the workbench and assign a color to each one. Then when done painting I toss them away."

The post has a link to where you can buy these brushes.

View the full thread on the MRH website

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2. *MRH* forum member **johncaff22** (John C.) has a number of blog entries about his Union Pacific Cascade Subdivision on the MRH forum.

Union Pacific Cascade Subdivision

MRH forum member **johncaff22** (John C.) has had a number of great blog posts about the construction of his Union Pacific Cascade Subdivsion layout, but his activity had fallen off in recent years.

Then John showed back up on the *MRH* forum and posted:

"The long and short, if anyone is still interested ... the clock has been turned back from Spring 2020s to early summer/spring 1991 meaning that the Union Pacific Cascade Sub is now the Southern Pacific Cascade Line."

To watch a recent video of John's layout, visit the full thread! ☑

View the full thread on the *MRH* website

Recent photo fun thread

Recent *MRH* forum Photo Fun threads have some great locomotive photographs. Here are just two, visit the list of threads for lots more!

View list of recent Photo Fun threads

3. *MRH* forum member **Charlie Comstock** (*MRH* Editor Emeritus) posted this dramatic layout photo: "SP 4405 heading west out of Deschutes Jct. on the grade to Oakhill back in 2014." Charlie used dry ice to make the fog for this shot. Very effective!





4. Forum member **Sauced07** (Shane B.) posted this interesting photo of this mixed diesel locomotive lashup. He says, "While waiting for a decoder, I placed the ex Conrail unit with two other GEs. They should sound great together. I am thinking that for the later era the Chessie unit, and Conrail unit will be used purchases while the NS unit will be leased." Nice weathering job, Shane.

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Model Railroad Hobbyist | October 2026

Card cards and fascia slot management

Let's review the car card methods I will be using on my upcoming Siskiyou Line 2. I'm adopting an inexpensive solution for card placement: commercially available TV remote holders mounted on the fascia.

Each town gets one labeled holder slot per industry spot, plus one shared OFF SPOT slot.

If an industry has multiple doors on a single building, I use one card slot and let the waybill identify the specific door – the switching crew can sort through a few cards easily enough. Industries with multiple spurs or separate buildings each get their own slot.

In a yard, I provide one slot per yard track, one per industry located there, and one OFF SPOT slot.

When a switching crew delivers a car, its card goes into that industry's slot. When they pick up a car, they pull the card from the slot and add it to their train's car-card pack.

Between sessions, I turn the waybill to the car's next destination. On the crew's next visit, any car whose waybill no longer matches the industry where it sits becomes a pickup.

The crew's job is simple: follow their assigned train route, at each industry drop off arriving cars, pick up mismatched destination cars, and leave routing decisions to the yardmaster at the destination yard.



1. I am repurposing some TV remote holders as car card pocket mounted on the layout fascia. You can see they hold car cards nicely. See this shopping list link for where to get these holders.

The holder enforces real-world capacity limits. If an industry is full when a car arrives, its card goes into the town's OFF SPOT slot – representing a car spotted on a nearby passing siding or team track.

When space opens at the industry, OFF SPOT cars have priority over new arrivals. Spot the waiting OFF SPOT car first, then spot new arrivals if room remains.

The OFF SPOT holder can contain any number of cards, but if cars consistently pile up there, it's a signal: reduce the waybill supply for that industry. This models the market shifting away from an unreliable or oversupplied vendor.

The result is a system where the cards themselves enforce switching priorities, track capacity, and realistic congestion – all visible at a glance on the fascia. ☑

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WHAT'S NEAT column



KEN PATTERSON COVERS THIS MONTH:

VIEW READER COMMENTS

- BACHMANN'S NEW CABOOSES
- BLI'S N SCALE NORTHERNS WITH SOUND
- LAYOUT REBUILD – STARTING A NEW SWITCH YARD
- DARRYL HADERLEIN'S FORSHANA VALLEY RAILROAD LAYOUT



click to play video

PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF SUPERB MODELS

Ken starts in the backyard to show off the new shorty cabooses from Bachmann and BLI's new Santa Fe 4-8-4 locomotives with sound in N scale. Going into the basement, Ken shows where he is in rebuilding his layout and his plans, then gets down to removing the old switch yard and beginning work on the new one. Closing out the show, Joshua Barton and Mike Budde visit Darryl Haderlein's Forshana Valley Railroad layout, an Ozark Mountains railroad where it is always Fall.

Bachmann's new HO caboose models



1. Bachmann has introduced a line of transfer cabooses, including this one for Missouri Pacific. While most roads used cabooses this size for transfer service, Missouri Pacific used them for standard road service.

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2. L&N 6600, built by Fruit Growers Express in 1981, was also a road caboose. MSRP for the Bachmann caboose models is $87.00.
Info: shop.bachmanntrains.com

Broadway Limited's N scale Santa Fe 3751-Class Northerns with sound



3. Santa Fe #3759 is famous for its use in the Farewell To Steam excursion from Los Angeles to Barstow, California in 1955, making it the last Santa Fe revenue steam train to go over Cajon Pass. It is now on display in Kingman, Arizona.



4. Santa Fe #3751 was the first 4-8-4 Northern locomotive built for the Santa Fe railroad. Now owned by the San Bernadino Railroad Historical Society in Los Angeles, it is still used in excursion service. It is also the oldest surviving 4-8-4 steam locomotive in the world. MSRP with Paragon4 Sound/DCC: $449.99, Stealth DCC-ready: $359.99.
Info: broadway-limited.com

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Layout rebuild – starting on the switch yard



5. Ken is expanding the Caterpillar Dealer module he built in 2024 so it can hold more new pieces of equipment. It is not practical to remove the foam entirely, so Ken is exploring ways to minimize its use.

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6. The section of the layout that crosses over the washer and dryer will be getting more clearance due to new cabinets to be installed overhead.

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7. Ken discovered that, while trying to desolder rail joiners is slow and frustrating, cutting them with a battery-powered motor tool takes no time at all.



8. After using a pair of pry-bars to carefully break the Liquid Nails adhesive, Ken lifts the old switch yard off the supports. He'll soak it in rubbing alcohol to soften the Woodland Scenics scenery cement, and remove the tracks later.



9. Landon helps Ken lift a new plywood panel into place for the new switch yard.



10. Because it was originally cut for another switch yard pre-fire, the panel is too narrow to connect to an adjacent module. Here Ken determines the dimensions of the panel that he will need between them.

Darryl Haderlein's Forshana Valley Railroad layout



11. Joshua Barton (left) and Mike Budde traveled into the Ozark Mountains southwest of St. Louis to visit Darryl Haderlein's HO scale Forshana Valley Railroad (right).

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12. The Forshana Valley is based in the Ozark mountains of Missouri in Fall 2005. It is 15′ x 30′ in size.



13. Darryl has been working on the Forshana Valley since about 1998. This large town is representative of De Soto, Missouri.



14. This other town, located up in the mountains, is based on Eureka Springs, Arkansas and includes a covered bridge and other elements familiar to people who have visited there.



15. The Forshana Valley includes a lot of scenery in a space slightly larger than a single-car garage. Expanding the railroad to another room is being considered.

Click the link at the beginning of the article to see all the cabooses Bachmann sent Ken and more views of the Santa Fe Northerns. The video also contains all the work that Ken has been doing in the basement and the full video of the Forshana Valley Railroad interview. ☑

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A closer look at the ARCOMORA DCCNext decoder



Electrical Impulses

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NICO TEERING GIVES HIS DEVELOPER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE DCCNEXT ...

MRH STAFF INTRODUCTION

JEAN-YVES MAZZOLENI'S MAY 2026 ARTICLE, "Animate swinging engine house doors" provided a practical example of using the DCCNext accessory decoder from ARCOMORA ((mrhmag.com/magazine/mrh2026-05/article-2). This prompted us to invite developer Nico Teering (a key

technical guy behind ARCOMORA products) to contribute a detailed technical overview of the DCCNext and the broader ARCOMORA ecosystem for our "Electrical Impulses" column.

Please note: The following information is from manufacturer-supplied material. Nico Teering presents the DCCNext's specifications, capabilities, and configuration methods directly from ARCOMORA – making it the primary source for the product information presented here. This is a detailed introduction to a vendor product and its ecosystem, not a comprehensive how-to guide or independent product review.

MRH is particularly interested in the DCCNext because its servo-driving software includes a mechanical bounce effect for semaphore blades, making realistic semaphore signals relatively easy to implement.

ADDING ANIMATION TO YOUR LAYOUT (NICO TEERING)

Adding animated features – such as operating turnouts, opening engine house doors, building lighting, and working grade-crossing gates – adds operational interest to a model railroad.

While traditional toggle switches and relays can handle basic on/off duties, complex animations often call for microcontroller-based electronics like the Arduino. However, programming microcontrollers from scratch requires coding skills many modelers do not possess.

The **ARCOMORA** (**AR**duino **CO**ntrolled **MO**del **RA**ilway) project addresses this by providing a modular ecosystem of hardware boards paired with free, pre-written software.

ARCOMORA markets the system as a way for modelers to implement custom layout animations and DCC accessory control without writing custom code.

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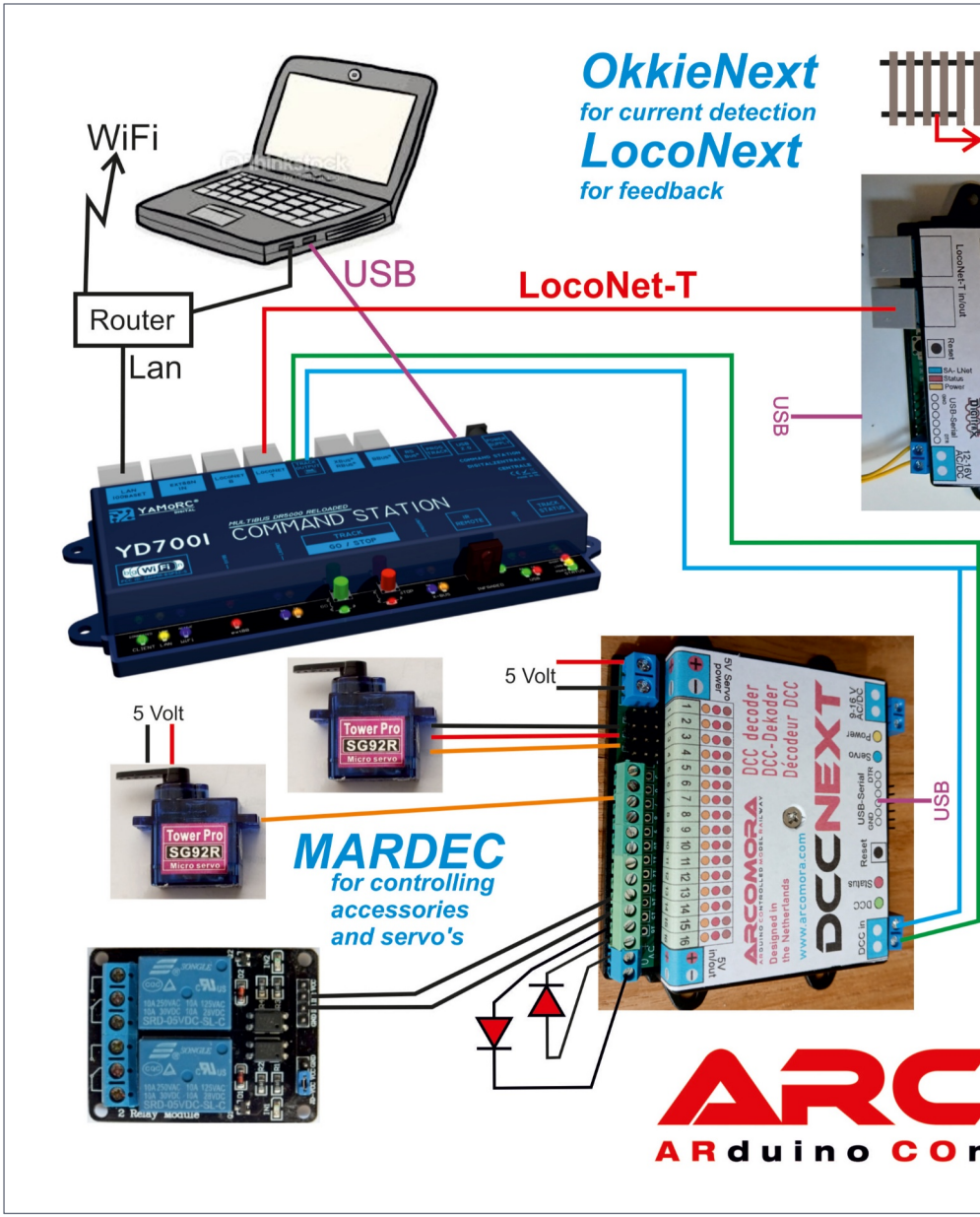
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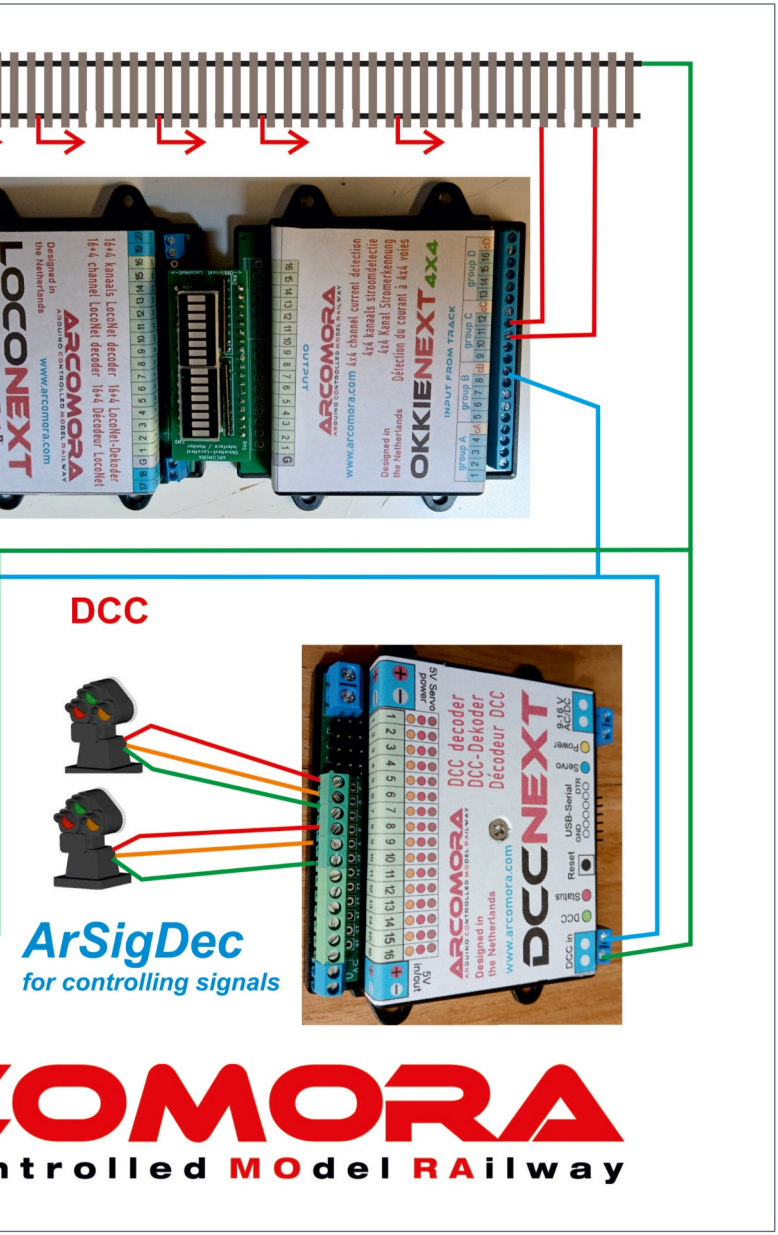


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THE ARCOMORA ECOSYSTEM

The ARCOMORA ecosystem combines purpose-built hardware modules with specialized software packages:

Hardware modules:

1. **DCCNext:** The core multifunction DCC accessory decoder.
2. **PowerNext:** A driver board designed for twin-coil switch machines and lighting loads requiring higher current than that supplied by the base DCCNext.
3. **LocoNext:** A feedback interface board for LocoNet networks.
4. **OkkieNext:** An optical sensor and occupancy-detection interface.

Free control software:

1. **Mardec:** Configures and controls accessories including servos, relays, and LEDs.
2. **Arsigdec:** Manages multi-aspect LED signals according to prototype signaling rules.
3. **LocoNext software:** Provides 20 feedback channels over LocoNet (four of which support specialized logic) for current-sensing track occupancy detectors, turnout point position contacts, and infrared optical sensors.

Each software package operates in two distinct modes:

- **Configuration mode:** Connect a PC to the decoder to set parameters and assign port functions using an interactive, question-and-answer terminal dialog.
- **Operation mode:** The decoder listens for incoming DCC commands or local input triggers and executes the programmed accessory actions.



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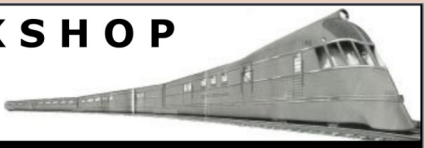
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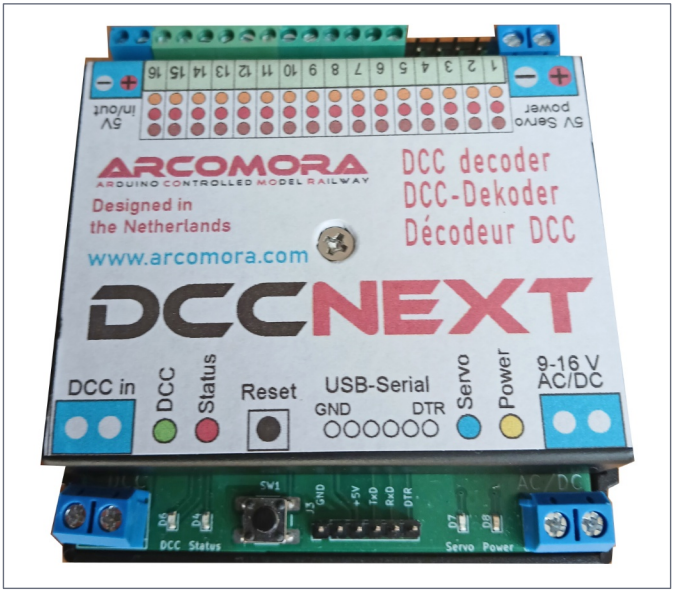
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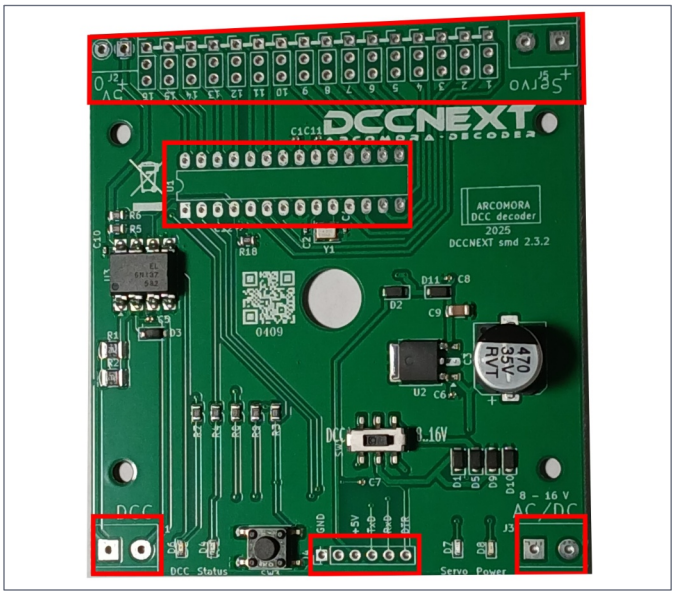
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NEXT ACCESSORY DECODER



2. DCCNext in optional enclosure.



3. PCB with surface-mounted components.

The DCCNext is a decoder built around an ATmega328P microcontroller, an onboard power supply circuit, and an opto-isolated DCC detector circuit.

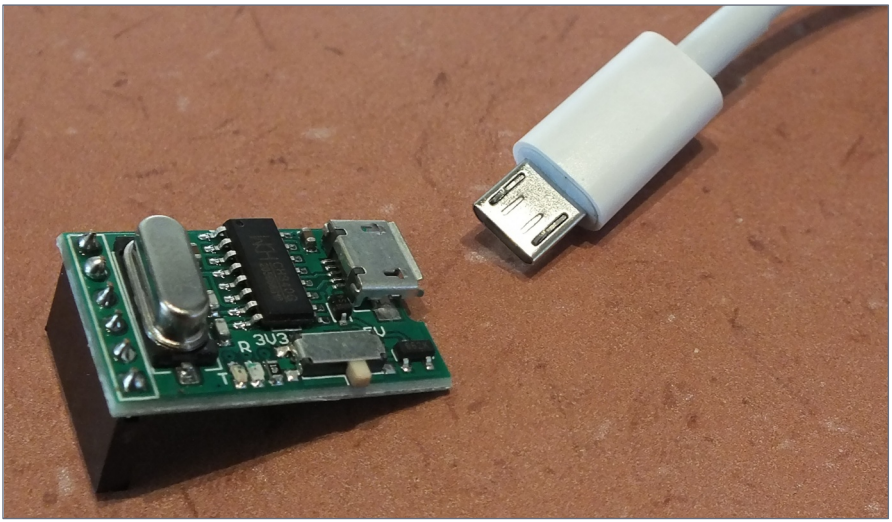
Most of the board's components are surface-mount devices (SMD) installed during manufacturing; users only need to solder a few through-hole connectors and headers (highlighted by the red boxes in [3]). Fully assembled and tested boards are also available from ARCOMORA.

PC communication is handled through a small plug-in CH340 USB interface module available from ARCOMORA. Because the USB module is needed only during configuration, a single module can serve multiple decoders across a layout.

An optional plastic enclosure is also available.

The DCCNext provides 16 configurable input/output ports.

To connect servos and accessories, users can install screw terminal blocks, 0.1-inch Dupont header pins, or a combination of both. The kit includes hardware for 16 screw terminals, 16 Dupont header pins, or a custom mix.



4. CH340 USB interface module.

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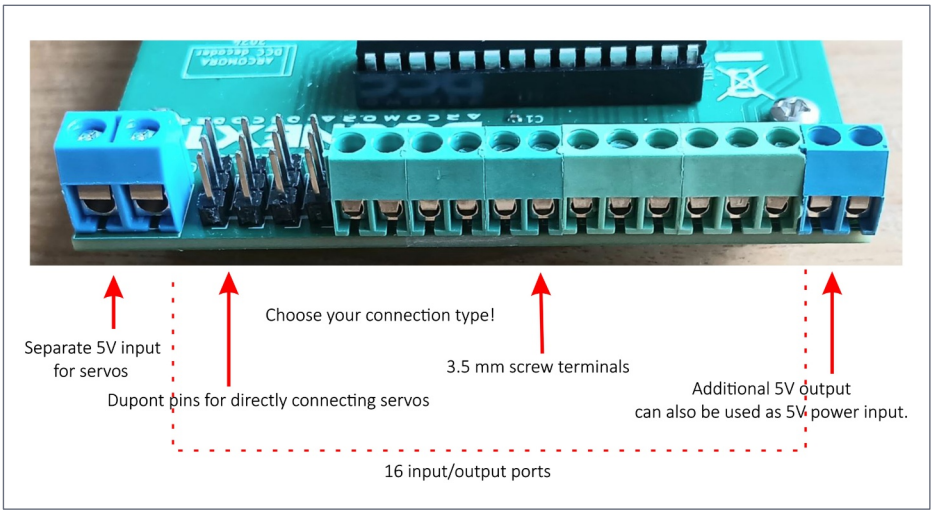
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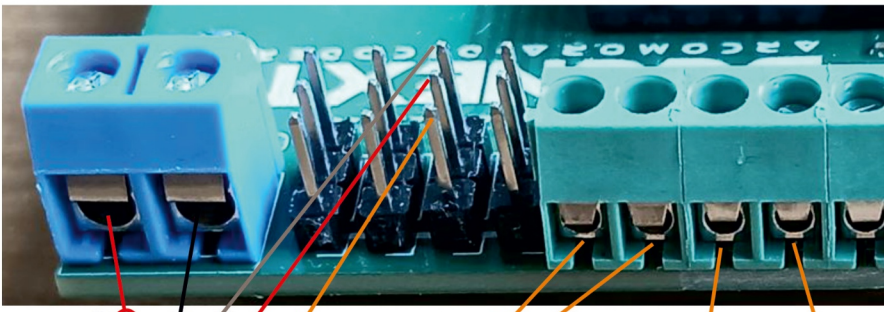
5. Housing enclosure with label.



6. DCCNext connection pinout.

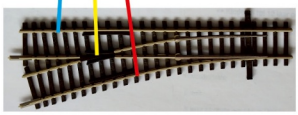
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A servo can be directly connected to the Dupont pins. An additional power supply of 5 Volt must be connected to the blue Servo terminals.

You can also connect the orange wire of a servo to a green terminal.
The red and brown wire must be connected to a separate 5 Volt power supply.



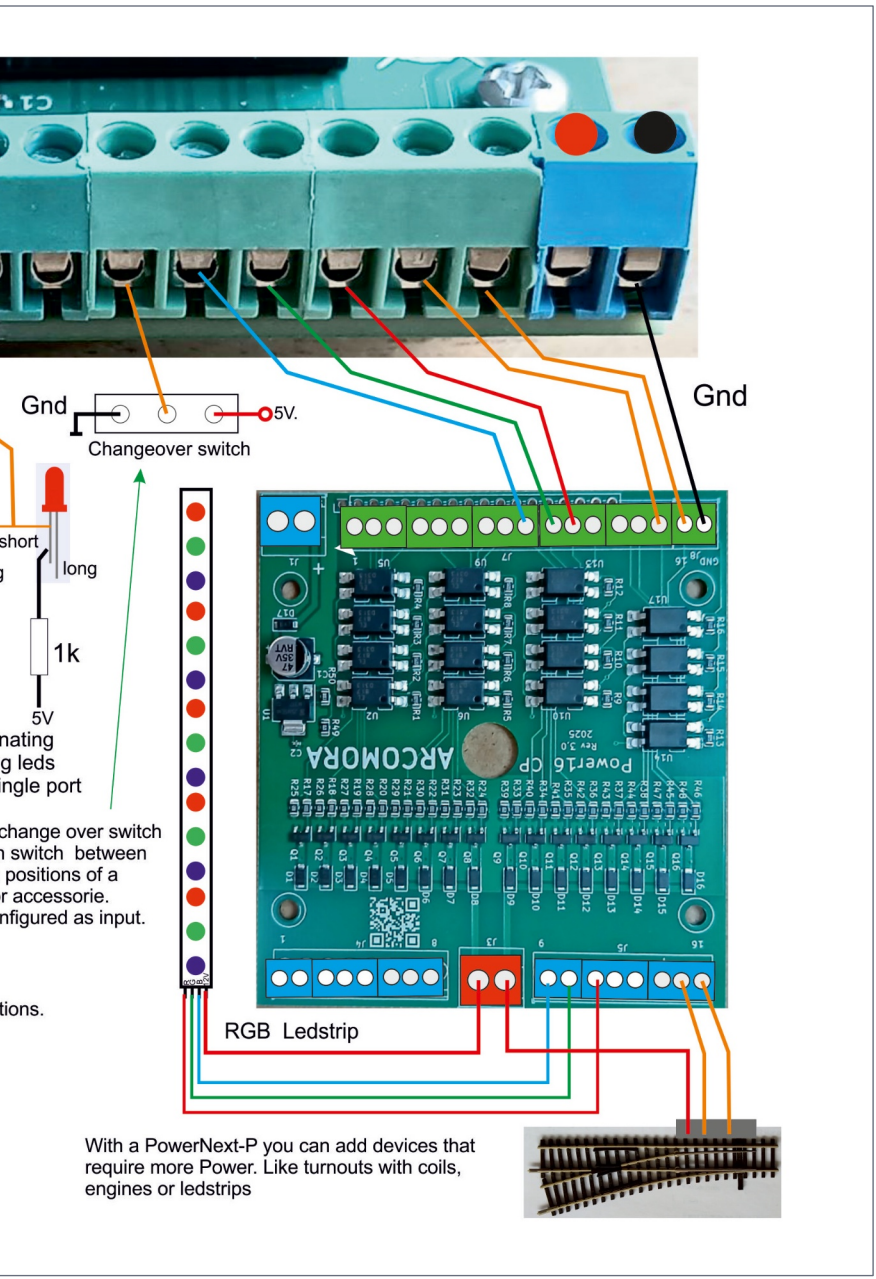
Frogpoint polarisation

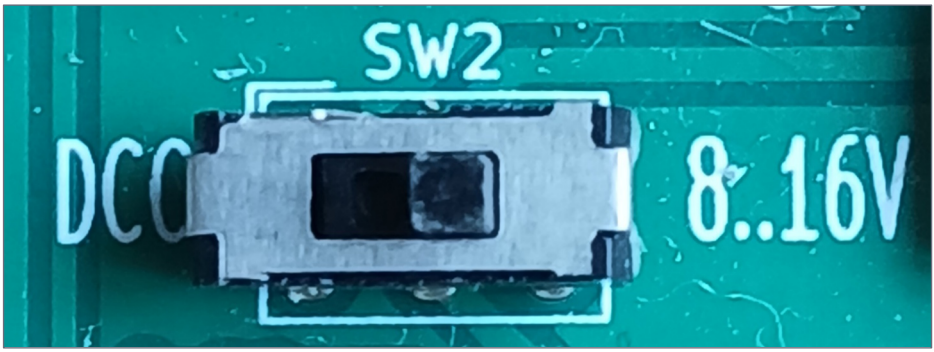
A standard Arduino relay can directly be connected to a terminal.
Connect VCC and Gnd to a 5 Volt power supply.
Do **not** connect to 5V output terminal.

Here is one relay used to switch the frogpoint of a turnout

Connecting a led to the DCCNext.
A led can be connected in both direc
With 'inversion' you can also switch between on and off.

7. Connection examples.


Gnd
5V.
Changeover switch
short
long
1k
5V
nating
g leds
ingle port
change over switch
switch between
positions of a
r accessorie.
nfigured as input.
tions.
Gnd
RGB Ledstrip
With a PowerNext-P you can add devices that require more Power. Like turnouts with coils, engines or ledstrips



8. Power supply selector switch.

POWER SUPPLY OPTIONS

The DCCNext offers several power options [8] to match layout wiring configurations:

Auxiliary AC or DC power: ARCOMORA identifies connecting an 8–16V AC or DC auxiliary power supply to the dedicated screw terminals as the standard approach. An onboard voltage regulator reduces this to 5V DC. When using auxiliary power, set the onboard selector switch to the "8–16V" position.

DCC track power: Setting the selector switch to "DCC" powers the board directly from the DCC track signal.

Regulated 5V DC: Users can connect an external regulated 5V DC supply directly to the 5V terminal blocks. This is required if driving servos.

USB power: During bench-testing and initial setup, the board can run directly from a PC's USB connection without an external power supply.

Servo power: When powering servos connected via Dupont headers, provide a dedicated external 5V power supply wired to the designated onboard terminals to avoid overloading the logic regulator.

CONTROLLING ACCESSORIES WITH MARDEC

In operation mode, the Mardec firmware decodes accessory packets from a DCC command station and drives the assigned output ports.

1. Servos

Mardec is an Arduino sketch designed to drive standard RC-style servos.

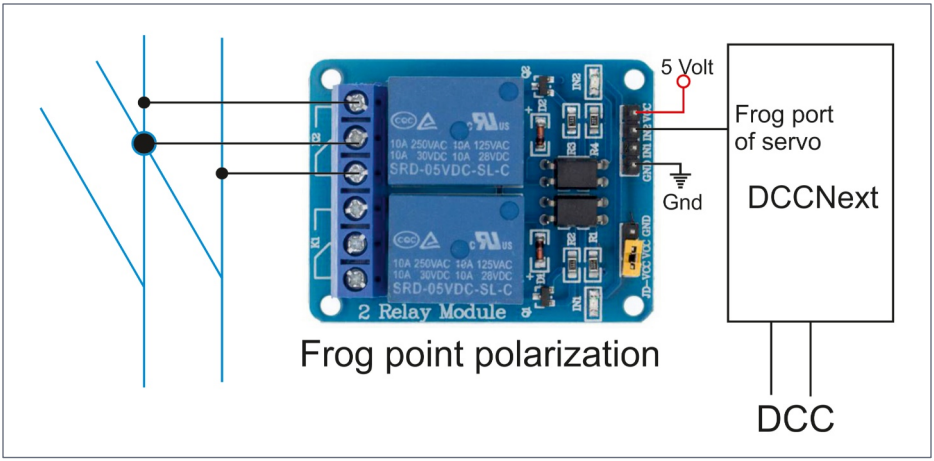
In configuration mode, you assign a servo to an output port and adjust its travel limits directly from your PC keyboard using the "+" and "–" keys. According to ARCOMORA, each keystroke adjusts the servo horn position by one degree.

The software also allows adjusting travel speed and adding a mechanical "bounce" effect intended for grade crossing gates and semaphore blades. A built-in test routine can cycle each configured servo through two full travel strokes to verify settings.

The manufacturer states that a single DCCNext board can control up to 12 servos, or manage up to eight turnouts when configured for frog polarization (live-frog switching). Frog polarization is handled by assigning an external relay to a secondary port, which Mardec energizes at the midpoint of the servo's stroke.

Mardec configuration is handled through a standard terminal emulator, such as PuTTY, where single-letter commands navigate the menu structure.

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9. Frog polarization schematic using an external relay.

Enter command (P/A/D/E/I/R/?): p	**Here we select « configuration mode »**
Select port number. Enter value from 1 to 16: 8 Port is undefined. Enter DCC address (0=cancel)	We choose port 8 to be configured
Set DCC address for port 8 Enter value from 0 to 2000: 23 DCC Address set to 23	We choose to assign DCC address, we type «23»
Select port type(enter=cancel) Accessory(A), Input(I) or Servo(S): S	We select to configure a servo, we type «S»
Port 8 set as Servo port. Servo on A23/P8 set to 75 degrees	DCCNext set the servo linked at port 8 with DCC address 23 at 75°
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?: - Servo on A23/P8 set to 74 degrees	We type a «minus» – the servo moves to 74°
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?: C Servo on A23/P8 set to 105 degrees	We type «C» - the servo moves to the other end stop 105°
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?: + Servo on A23/P8 set to 106 degrees	We type a «plus» - the servo moves to 106° - we can do that until final value
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?: N	We type «N» this means we want to register an administrative note
Enter administrative note: Wi12 Administrative note set to Wi12	The administrative note is registered under reference «Wi12»
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?: S	We type now «S» to for setting the servo speed.
Set speed for servo on A23/P8 Enter value from 5 to 100 (25): 30 Speed set to 30 ms/step	We type «30» to modify the servo speed from 25ms/° to 30ms/°
Enter command for Servo on A23/P8 +/-/9/C/F/I/B/S/T/R/A/D/N/enter/E/?:	We type «enter» or «E» , Mardec stores the data in memory.
Port settings are saved! Enter command (P/A/D/E/I/R/?):	Mardec confirms that the configuration is stored.

10. Configuring a servo with Mardec.

2. LEDs and lighting effects

Mardec can switch LEDs on and off, or flash them individually or in alternating pairs with independent cycle times.

ARCOMORA notes that four ports on the DCCNext support pulse-width modulation (PWM) for variable brightness and

fading effects. Connecting LEDs allows control of structure or layout lighting, while higher-current loads can be driven using the companion PowerNext module.

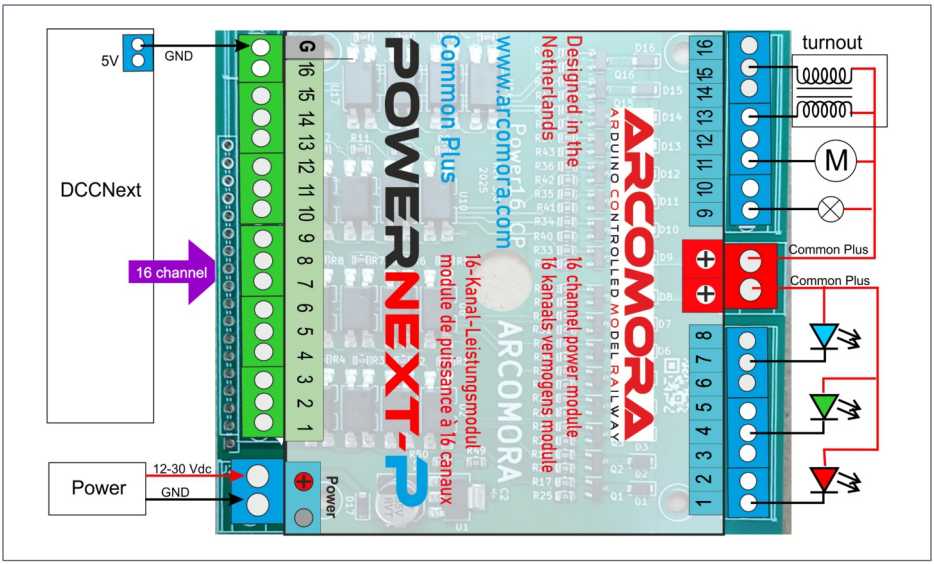
By setting brief timing intervals, modelers can also simulate dynamic lighting effects such as an arc welder or a flickering fire.

3. Twin-coil switch machines

For twin-coil switch machines, the DCCNext pairs with the PowerNext expansion board.

ARCOMORA designed the PowerNext to handle high-output LED strips or high-current inductive loads like twin-coil switch machines. Because each twin-coil switch machine uses two outputs (one for normal and one for reverse), ARCOMORA specifies that a single PowerNext board can throw up to eight turnouts.

A compact interconnect board provides a solderless bridge between the DCCNext and PowerNext modules.



11. PowerNext connections.



12. Interconnect board between DCCNext and PowerNext.

LAYOUT INPUTS AND AUTOMATION SEQUENCES

Mardec also includes input capability. Individual ports can be configured as direct inputs for pushbuttons, fascia toggle switches, or for block occupancy detectors.

According to ARCOMORA documentation, a single input trigger can activate up to three output ports in a timed sequence with user-defined delays.

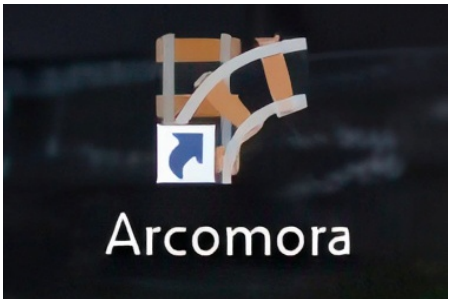
For example, when an approaching train triggers an optical track sensor, Mardec can activate grade crossing flashers first, pause for a preset delay, and then lower the crossing gates with a servo. When a trailing sensor clears the train, the sequence automatically reverses: the gates rise first, and the flashers shut off once the gates are raised.

SETUP AND IMPLEMENTATION

The DCCNext onboard status LED remains dark during standby, and illuminates when the decoder receives a valid DCC command and executes an accessory action. In configuration mode, the status LED remains lit continuously.

All port assignments, addresses, and timing parameters are stored in the microcontroller's non-volatile EEPROM memory, preserving settings across power cycles.

A built-in documentation menu displays current port configurations on demand, and a reset command allows you to clear an individual port or restore factory defaults.



13. ARCOMORA desktop shortcut icon.

VIEW READER COMMENTS

Software packages and USB drivers (supporting Windows XP, 7, 8, 10, and 11) are available as free downloads from the ARCOMORA website.

Once the installer is run and the DCCNext is connected via USB, clicking the "ARCOMORA" desktop shortcut allows uploading either the Mardec or Arsigdec firmware directly to the board.

The download package includes an English manual detailing configuration commands.

An introductory video demonstrating the ARCOMORA DCCNext in operation is available on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yaw6TOkc7mE

CONCLUSION

The ARCOMORA DCCNext is best understood as a configurable accessory-control platform for modelers who want complex layout behavior – servo-driven turnouts and gates, synchronized lighting effects, twin-coil switch machine control, and input-triggered automation sequences – without writing Arduino code.

However, successful implementation requires careful attention to wiring, power supply configuration, accessory specifications, and current ARCOMORA documentation.

This "First Look" has introduced the system's capabilities and ecosystem; modelers interested in building on the DCCNext should consult the manufacturer's detailed guides and community resources before committing to a layout-wide installation. ☑

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J. Fugate

ARCOMORA: PRICING, AVAILABILITY, AND PRACTICAL LIMITS

Information source: ARCOMORA

Current pricing

According to ARCOMORA's current listings, component pricing is as follows (interface, enclosure, and accessories may be ordered separately):

- DCCNext SMD kit: €14.95
- CH340 USB interface module: €3.25
- Optional enclosure with label: €4.75
- Fully assembled DCCNext: €21.95
- PowerNext-P SMD kit: €13.95

Availability and pricing can change; check the official ARCOMORA website for current status.

Supported protocols and software

ARCOMORA identifies DCC and LocoNet as its supported protocols.

Configuration software and USB drivers are distributed for Windows (XP, 7, 8, 10, and 11).

A separate Windows PC is required during the configuration phase; operation mode does not require a connected computer.

Power supply and current limitations

ARCOMORA's DCCNext documentation identifies the onboard power supply as limited to approximately **500 mA.**

The manufacturer recommends a separate regulated **5V DC supply for servos and relays** to avoid overloading the logic regulator.

ARCOMORA: PRICING, AVAILABILITY, AND PRACTICAL LIMITS *CONTINUED...*

The **PowerNext module** is designed to handle higher-current loads such as twin-coil switch machines and high-output LED strips.

Practical considerations

Prospective users should account for the following:

- Assembly and soldering: The SMD kit requires hand-soldering through-hole connectors and headers; fully assembled boards are available at higher cost.
- Separate power supplies: Servos and other high-current accessories may require dedicated external 5V supplies, adding to system complexity and cost.
- Windows PC requirement: The materials reviewed for this article document Windows installation and configuration.
- MacOS and Linux: Though ARCOMORA only offers direct board connection software through Windows, ARCOMORA offers a download with the Arduino sketches and libraries, executable files, and instruction manuals for compiling and installing the sketches to the boards using Arduino IDE and other third-party tools.

Compatibility information: A comprehensive command-station compatibility list and detailed per-port current-rating table are not included in the ARCOMORA documentation reviewed for this article.

Prices, availability, supported software versions, and technical specifications can change. Confirm current information directly on the official ARCOMORA website: www.arcomora.com ■

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NICO TEERING



The ARCOMORA software was developed by Nico Teering, who is in the Netherlands. Nico is passionate about model railroading, and automation in particular. With this in mind, he developed three Arduino sketches for ARCOMORA. They are easy to use, require no special programming skills, and are available for free on the Arcomora website. In addition, Nico Teering has developed several hardware accessories with the help of other model railroading enthusiasts, and sells them through ARCOMORA. ■

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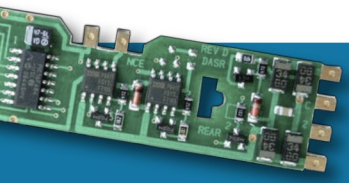


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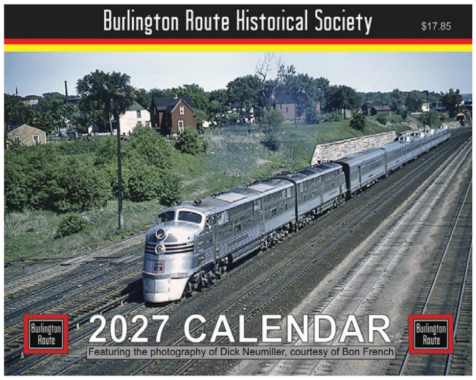


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The BRHS is taking pre-orders for the 2027 All-Color Burlington Route calendar available after October 1st. This calendar features 13 large (12" x 8") eye-catching views of the CB&Q in Illinois and Wisconsin; one scene a month from January 2027 through January 2028. The scenes are from the lens of the late C. Richard "Dick" Neumiller in the collection of Bon French.The retail price is $17.85. Add $5.00 for Shipping & Handling to US addresses. International orders will be billed actual cost prior to shipping. Illinois Residents add 10% State Sales Tax.

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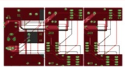
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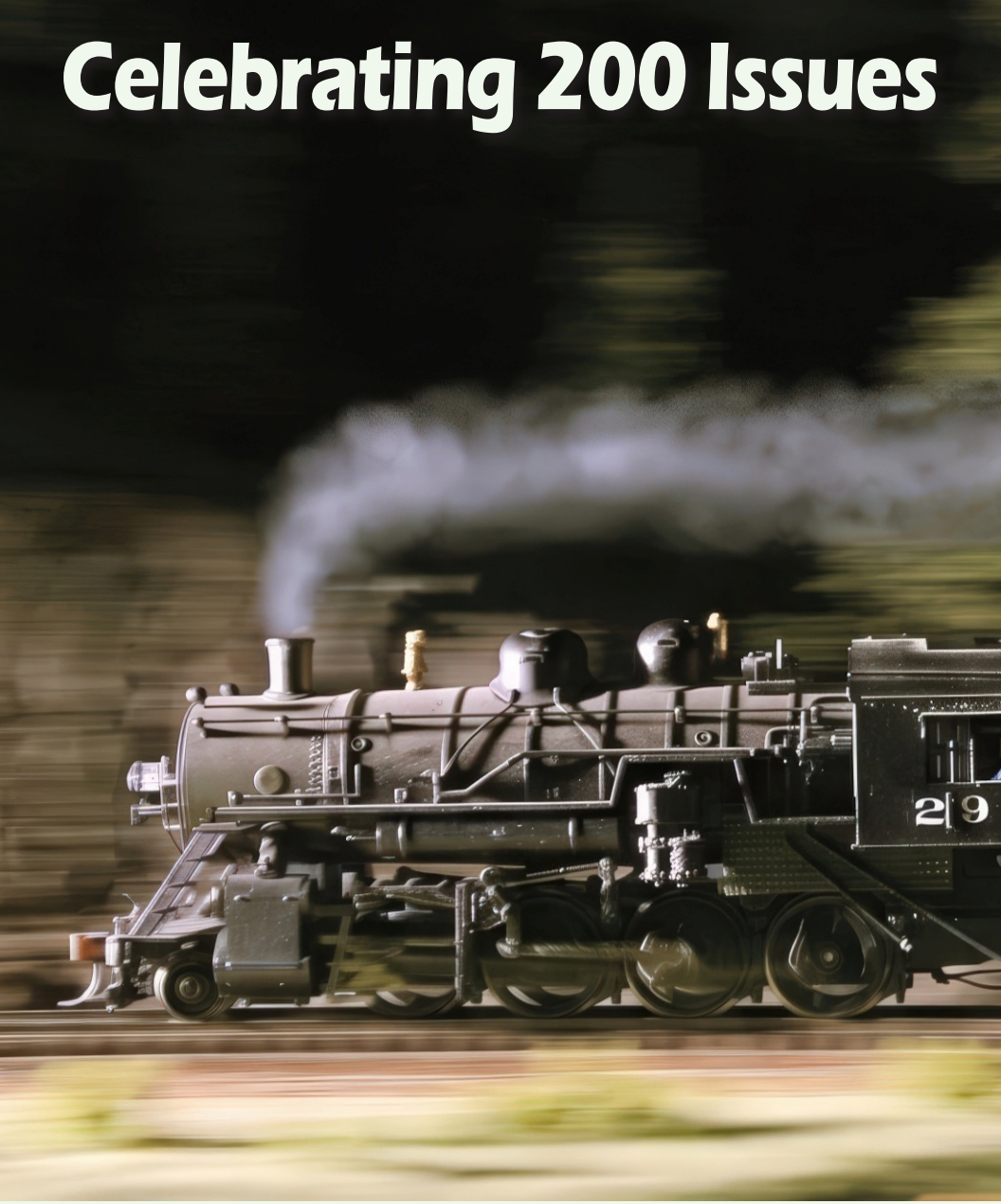
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Celebrating 200 Issues



Joe Fugate presents a gallery of memorable covers ...

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Jan-Mar 2009: What makes model railroading such a fascinating hobby? The trains move! Charlie Comstock perfectly captures this motion as 2-8-0 number 29 rumbles down the track on his new Bear Creek & South Jackson layout. Charlie added the smoke in Photoshop.

Model Railroad Hobbyist | October 2026

VIEW READER COMMENTS

WOW, 200 ISSUES!

When we launched *Model Railroad Hobbyist* back in 2009, reaching issue 100 in June 2018 felt like a major milestone – a real achievement worth celebrating.

Now here we are at issue 200, twice that number, and still counting. It's hard to believe how far we've come, and I'm deeply grateful to every reader, contributor, modeler, and advertiser who has been part of this journey.

To mark this special occasion, I created a visual walk down memory lane featuring 36 of my personal favorite cover photos from over the years. These images appear here without the usual text overlays, polished and refined to look their absolute best, accompanied by recreated captions from their original issues.

Think of it as a vintage photo collection – a celebration of the incredible modeling and photography that has graced our covers. This is not a definitive ranking of the "best" covers in *MRH* history, that would be impossible.

These are my personal favorites, chosen for different reasons – some for their memory value, like our very first issue 1 cover; some for sentimental reasons, such as covers featuring mushroom layouts, a concept I've long promoted.

Others I chose for their outstanding modeling and photography; some showcasing great steam and diesel work; and some just for the sheer fun of it, like Tom Hokel's wonderful John Allen French Gulch look-alike.

The selection process tried to balance several goals. We've always been honored to feature modelers who have established names in the hobby – the builders and photographers whose work has inspired countless others.

At the same time, we've made it a point to showcase modelers who had never been published before, because great modeling can come from anywhere, and discovering new talent is one of the joys of what we do.

As a general rule, I limited the gallery to one cover per modeler. There was only one exception: Neil Schofield. His modeling and photography are so consistently stunning that I couldn't resist including two of his covers. I hope you'll agree the exception was warranted when you see them.

Of course, limiting ourselves to 36 covers meant many excellent images had to be left out. This wasn't a reflection on their quality – far from it. Wonderful covers featuring the work of Jack Burgess, Ken McCrorry, Steve Davis, Bob Rivard, and my own Siskiyou Line, among many others, couldn't fit within the practical constraints of magazine size and the time needed to prepare each image properly.

Every cover we've ever published represents someone's passion and skill, and I wish we could have included them all.

Speaking of preparation, I personally went through our online archive to collect these 36 images and spent considerable time refining each one in Affinity Photo.

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The goal was to make sure every photo looked its absolute best: optimizing exposure, focus, color balance, and framing. In some cases, that meant removing distracting elements like ceiling details, wall edges, or other background clutter that can creep into layout photography.

When necessary, we replaced those distractions with a simple, generic blue sky. I want to emphasize "simple" and "generic" here. We generally avoid dramatic clouds or anything overly theatrical. The layout should always be the focus, not the sky.

We're not trying to create something artificial or sensationalized – just a clean, polished presentation that lets the modeling speak for itself. Think of it as the photographic equivalent of good matting and framing: it shouldn't call attention to itself, but it should make the subject shine.

The result is a collection of images that feel both nostalgic and fresh – covers you may remember from years past, now presented in their best possible light, with their original captions recreated to preserve that vintage feel.

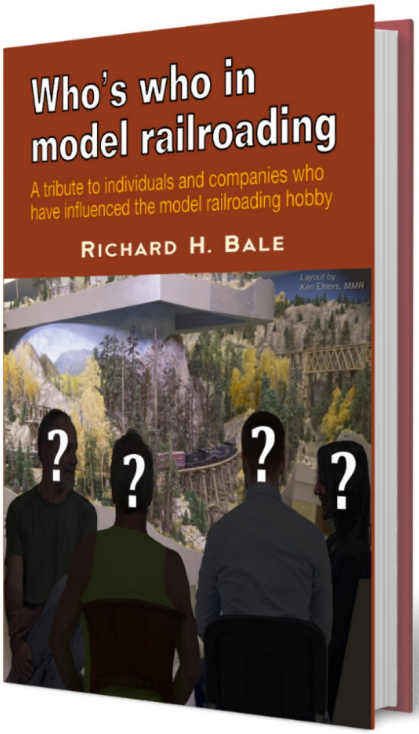
As you page through this gallery, I hope you'll enjoy the memories, the craftsmanship, and the sheer variety of approaches to our hobby.

From steam to diesel, from prototype-inspired scenes to whimsical tributes, from established masters to exciting newcomers, these covers represent what *Model Railroad Hobbyist* has always been about: celebrating the creativity, skill, and passion of model railroaders everywhere.

Here's to 200 issues – and to many more ahead.



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1. Mar-Apr 2010: A mixed freight and passenger local pulls out of Franklin on George Sellios' Franklin & South Manchester. George has been busy making changes and updates to his well-known layout, and the *MRH* staff got a chance to visit with George and learn what's behind these changes.



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2. May-Jun 2010: A B23-7 switching on a branchline in Florida on Lance Mindheim's HO scale CSX layout: Having wrapped up its duties in the bowels of the Downtown Spur, Y120 pulls off the 12th Avenue switchback and grinds across 22nd Street. Lance makes the case for modeling a modern time-frame with his highly detailed models and scenery.



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3. Jan 2011: Steve Cavanaugh's Western Pacific layout, built using a double-decked mushroom configuration, was one of the layouts on display at the 2011 NMRA National Convention in Sacramento, CA. Steve passed away in 2018.
Jack Burgess photo



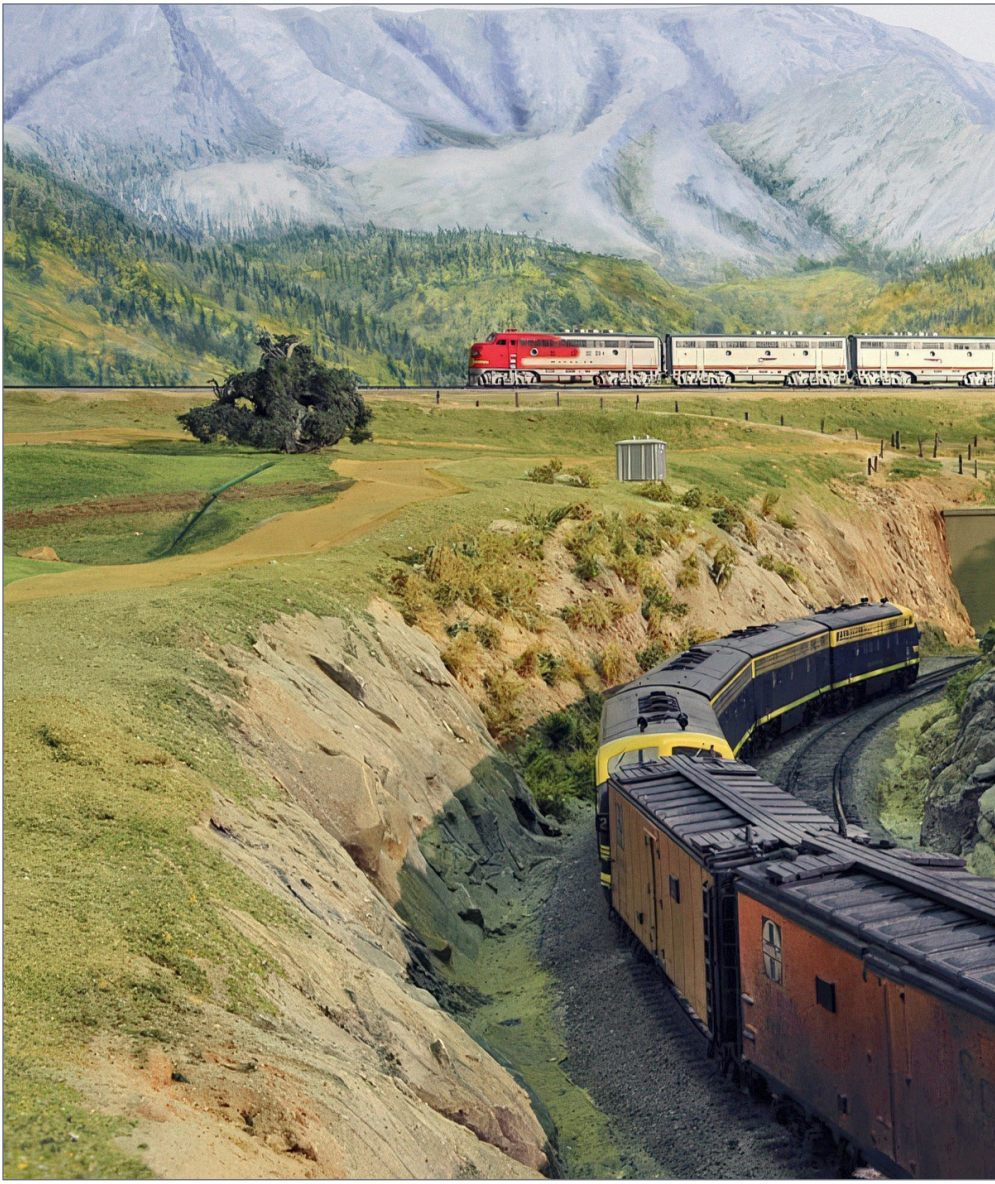
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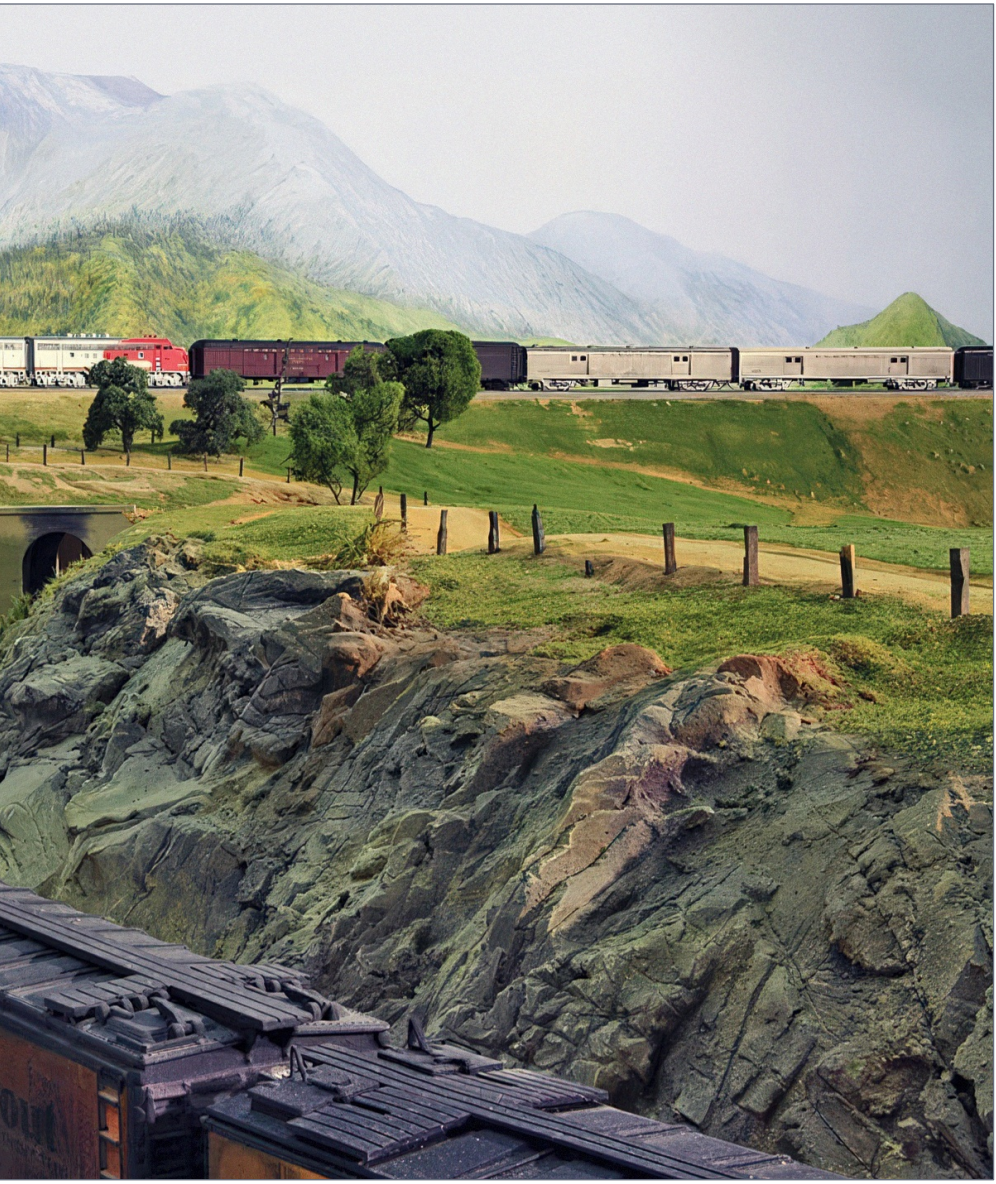
4. Mar 2011: Kermit Paul's well-done layout really impresses when you turn out the lights! As you can see from this photo, Kermit has an obvious electronic bent.
Jack Burgess photo



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5. Sep 2011: The La Mesa club in San Diego has made great strides recently on their famous layout and *MRH* is delighted to publish this exclusive first look at their completed scenery on the famed Tehachapi loop. *Charlie Comstock photo*



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6. Nov 2011: Tom Patterson shows us how he beefed-up a Central Valley truss bridge to make it more suitable for heavy coal train mainline traffic on his CVE railroad. Tom Patterson photo Editorial note: We often like photos with lots of blank sky so we can put cover text there, and keep it perfectly legible. This photo was perfect for that.



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7. Apr 2012: Mike Confalone's newly completed St. Regis Paper Mill scene on his Allagash Railway.
Mike Confalone photo



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8. Jul 2012: When we saw this photo of Tom Hokel's layout, we thought famed model railroader John Allen himself had been resurrected! Allen's Gorre & Daphetid inspired Tom's beautiful Pine Ridge Railroad. *Tom Hokel photo*



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9. Jan 2013: No, it's not a newly discovered O. Winston Link photo – it's modeler Jay Herr's photo of his HO layout. Nicely done and a great callback to the famous railroad photographer, and his stunning night black-and-white flash shots!



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10. Jul 2013: Rob Carey takes us on a tour of his beautiful D&RGW N scale layout. Rob uses N scale to its full advantage with great scenic vistas.



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11. Mar 2014: Guy Cantwell demonstrates techniques that can help improve your modeling as well as reducing the time required for each individual car. Guy's HO layout, The Willoughby Line, is built in a 13′ x 22′ room using a double-deck design.



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12. Jan 2015: Victor Roseman did an in-depth series on modeling Southern Pacific passenger trains. Vic started off in this issue by looking at the classic Daylight train. Sadly, he passed away in 2024.



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13. Apr 2015: Imagineering columnists Dave Meek and Verne Niner collaborated to get this hypothetical shot of Verne's idea for a freelanced D&RGW narrow-gauge branch.



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14. Aug 2016: Tim Dickinson's HO Burlington Northern layout and the principles he used to model this prototype well. *Robert Schleicher photo.*



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15. Jan 2017: You may recall actor Michael Gross as Michael J. Fox's TV dad on the '80s "Family Ties" sitcom. Michael Gross is also a serious scale model railroader, and he shares his weathering techniques in our cover story.



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16. Feb 2018: A train eases across Don Ball's 1890 HO Stockton & Copperopolis massive 8-foot Stanislaus River Bridge. Don tracked down authentic late-1800s drawings detailing the bridge dimensions and the exact heights of the individual timber trestle bents, allowing him to make an accurate model of it. Don passed away in 2022.



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17. Apr 2019: Ted York has captured the parched desert look of Cajon with its many bridges across dry washes on his Cajon Pass layout. Here, helper 2-10-2 number 3841 pushes a long train upgrade.



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18. May 2019: Accomplished railroad artist Gil Bennett models a freelanced branch of the Denver & Rio Grande three-foot narrow gauge in Sn3. Here K-37 #497 rolls south out of Salina, Utah and climbs toward Terill Pass.



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19. Jun 2019: Pelle Søeborg built this grain elevator complex using one at Lexington, Nebraska as his inspiration. Even though it is selectively compressed quite a bit, it still dominates the scene.



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20. Jul 2019: Of all the bridge scenes on Rob Spangler's 8th Sub, this is the most dramatic. The train departs Milton and rumbles across this high bridge on its way to Cedar. Rob kitbashed this bridge from Micro Engineering and Central Valley kits.



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21. Oct 2019: Bruce Chubb bases his Sunset Valley upon the real 1955 Southern Pacific in Oregon, with a freelance twist. Bruce assumes the railroad kept the original Siskiyou Line route through southern Oregon, effectively creating an alternative timeline with a mix of prototype and freelance elements.



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22. May 2020: John Russell's modeling here in his Eldon roundhouse is impressive. John made the back walls removable and, after taking one of the roundhouse walls off, this is what you see. Very nice!



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23. Aug 2020: On his 34′ x 64′ HO scale Hoosac layout, the late Dick Elwell recreated scenes in the Berkshire Mountains along the railroads of western Massachusetts and eastern New York.



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24. Feb 2021: Neil Schofield's recreation of CPR's inner bay crossing of Lake Memphremagog trestle. This bridge was once double-track, but one has been removed, making for an especially interesting structure. Neil shot the backdrop photos from the actual bridge, making sure to include elements of water, houses, and hill in each frame.



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25. Jun 2021: In this issue of *MRH,* Verryl Fosnight and Dennis Drury show how Verryl's UP Wyoming Division layout uses automated block signals for operations. This is the signal bridge at the west entrance to Cheyenne yard as a train departs Cheyenne. *Editorial note: Verryl added the sky to this photo before he submitted it to us.*



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26. Oct 2021: Greg Baker took this “drone shot” of his Astoria, Oregon branch test diorama for this issue’s cover story on modeling your own Jersey barriers. *Editorial note: MRH transitioned to vertical-format (portrait) cover shots by this issue. The following magazine cover shots are portrait, unless they were cropped from landscape originals.*



27. Oct 2022: Barry Silverthorn's CSX Elkhorn Subdivision, commonly known as "The River," models West Virginia. There's a lot of stratified limestone cuts on this mountain line, and Barry shows how he models this rock realistically on his Elkhorn Sub.



28. May 2023: Mike Ross' Virginian Railway engine-servicing area on his O scale Appalachian-themed layout.


VIRGINIAN
244



29. Jun 2023: You can see the superb scenery-to-track ratio of N scale in this stunning canyon scene on Dean Ferris' layout. This canyon is five feet deep, and would require 10 feet in HO or 20 feet in O. The Oregon Joint Line was disassembled in early 2025.



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30. Jul 2023: A freight train rumbles past the train order board at Iowa Falls on Mike Armstrong's double-decked Rock Island Railroad.



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31. Apr 2024: A couple of Pennsy L1 Mikado's slowly pull this heavy coal train across Sherman's Creek near View tower, which represents the 1930s era. The smoke in this photo is real – Neal's locos have smoke generators, and he added smoke fluid for this shot. *Neal Schorr's Pennsylvania RR Middle Division*



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32. Dec 2024: A Delaware & Hudson U23B approaches on Neil Schofield's CP Rail Newport/Lyndonville Subdivision layout modeling northern Vermont.

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33. Apr 2025: A hard-working Ann Arbor FA-2 set crosses the Huron river in the Detroit area on Jay and Brook Qualman's Michigan Lines layout. Meanwhile, a Pere Marquette 0-8-0 switcher pulls a cut of cars across the river.



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34. Feb 2026: Brand-new units 250 and 209 lead an intermodal freight through rural Texas (near FM1172 on Sammy Carlile's Santa Fe Hereford Subdivision). Locomotives #250 and #209 are both modern EMD SD75M units, part of the final group of locomotives ordered by the Santa Fe Railway before the BNSF merger.



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35. Apr 2026: A mixed freight rumbles past tall cedars on Wille Clonts' 1930's era Soddy Daisy Southern layout. Editorial note: We don't recall ever seeing a photo of a train rolling through tall cedars on a model railroad, making this cover shot unique.



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36. Jul 2026: A C&O H8 2-6-6-6 Allegheny pulls a coal drag through Covington, VA on Jerry Holmes S scale layout. The C&O engineered this loco specifically to haul massive, heavy coal trains over the punishing grades of the Allegheny Mountains. ☑



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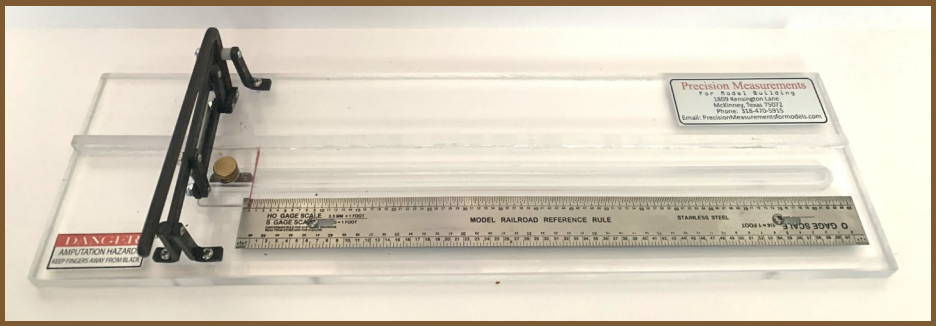


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Precision Measurements Wood Miter



1. The Precision Measurements Wood Miter cutting tool for model railroad and other scale-model work.

VIEW READER COMMENTS

Model Railroad Hobbyist | October 2026

Jeff Palmer tries out a new precision mitering tool ...

Being a "tool junkie" means always looking out for tools that help do modeling work better. While researching my article about the Ultimation Slicer (September 2022 *MRH:* online.fliphtml5.com/buups/zulg/index.html#p=153), I examined several miter cutters. That research introduced me to modeler Charles Goodrich. His company, Precision Measurements (PM), is one of the few that still makes a "Wood Miter."

I wanted to see how this design compared with the Northwest Short Line (NWSL) Chopper I already knew. In particular, I wanted to know if it offered a genuine alternative for precision cutting work.

Opening the box and removing the packing paper, I found the Wood Miter resting in the bottom along with a single folded 8½″ × 11″ instruction sheet. Lifting out the tool, I immediately noticed the machined solid Plexiglas base and the intricate, mechanical cutting mechanism.

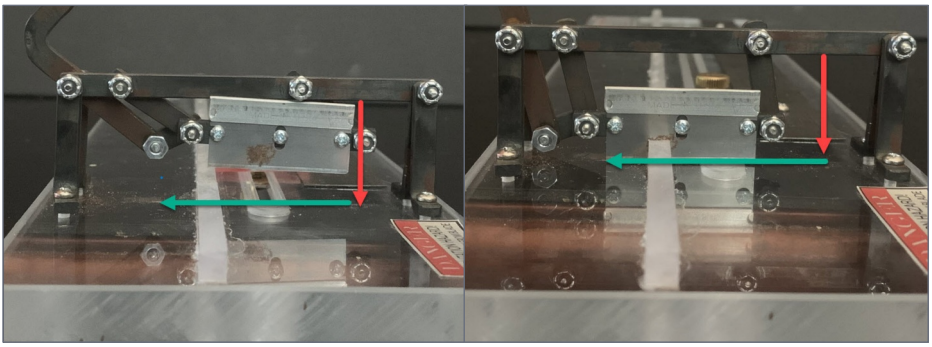
To understand how the Wood Miter action works, it helps to compare it with The Chopper, which is likely more familiar [2]. On the Chopper, the razor blade moves straight down like an axe or guillotine.

The Wood Miter uses a linkage system to draw the blade forward across the workpiece as it lowers. This slicing motion delivers clean, consistent cuts [3, 4].

PM delivers the tool fully assembled, calibrated, and ready for work right out of the box. As the mechanism operates, the



2. On The Chopper, the blade is mounted to the handle for a guillotine-style cut with a simple lever.



3. Two views of the Wood Miter's slicing cut, with the raised position at right and the lowered position at left. As the blade lowers, it moves across and through the material.

blade swings downward and forward through the material like a pendulum.

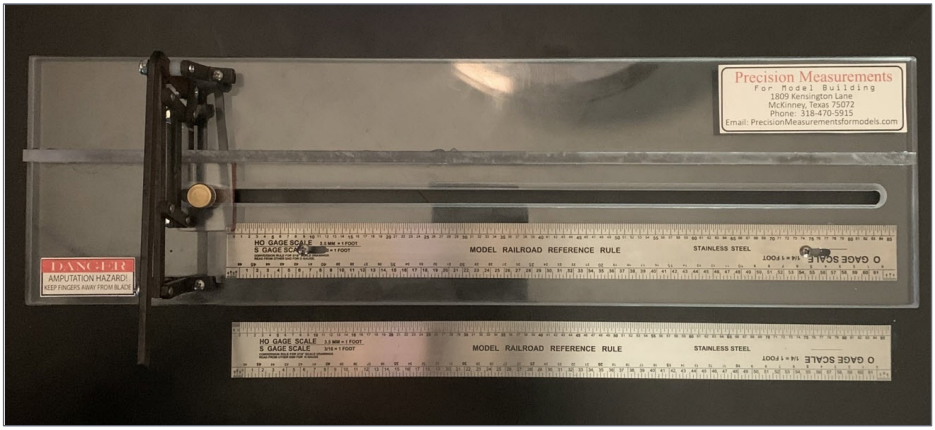
As another standout feature, PM integrated the classic Model Railroad Reference Ruler including N, HO, S, and O scales into the Wood Miter [4]. Indispensable at the workbench, a scale ruler is rarely within reach when you need it, and the Wood Miter solves this issue by building it in.

Just beside the rule is the adjustable stop: a small Plexiglas slider block that locks in place with a brass thumbscrew.

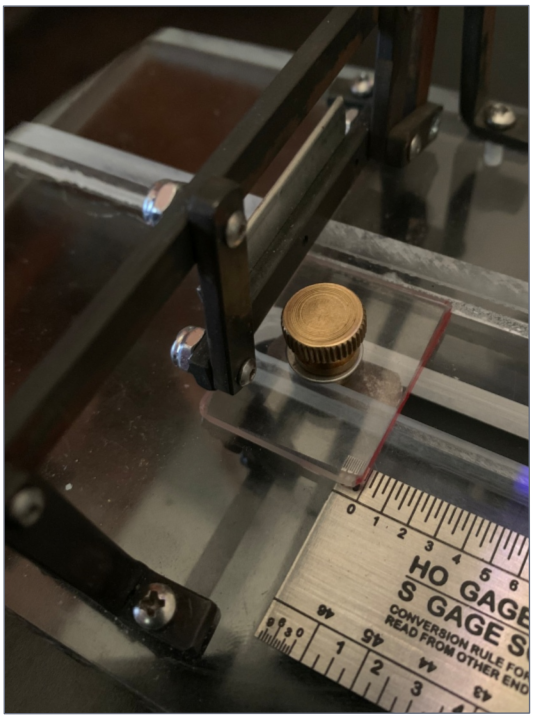
The tool arrives with the scale ruler oriented for your chosen scale, with the slider zeroed [5]. Its rear face rests against the razor blade, and its front edge is aligned precisely with zero on the scale ruler.

My Wood Miter arrived with the ruler set for HO scale. After loosening the thumbscrew counterclockwise, I set the slider to the 12-foot mark and snugged the thumbscrew back down.

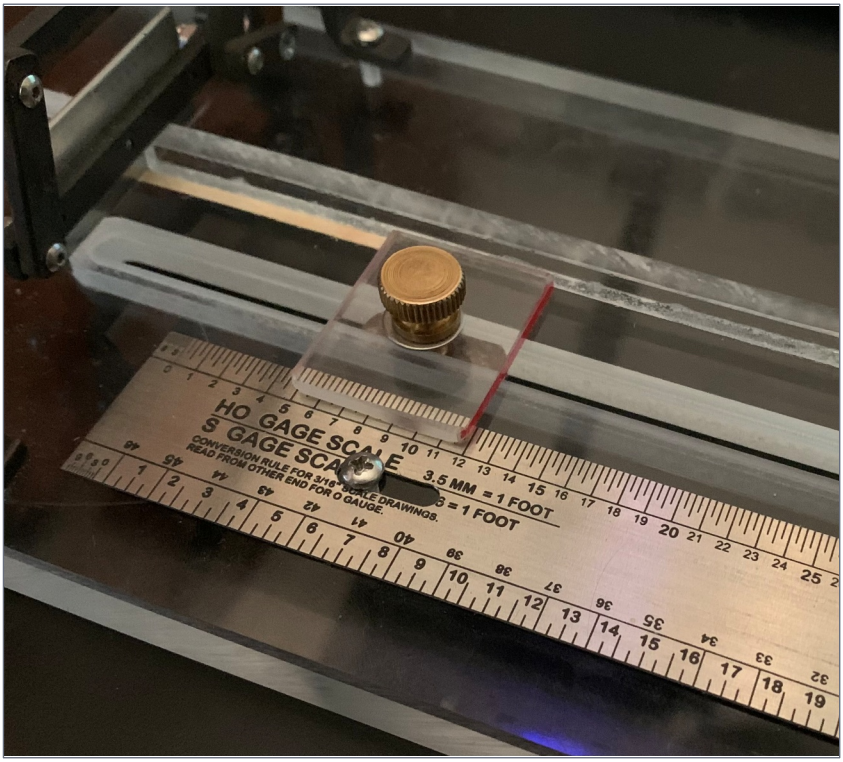
Finger-tight is plenty – no need to over-tighten. With the scale lumber seated against the guide rail and flush to the stop, I made the cut [6].



4. A stainless-steel model railroad reference rule marked with HO, S, and other scale conversions is integrated in the PM Wood Miter.



5. Closeup of the Wood Miter's slider block and built-in scale, shown at its zero setting. I used a red marker to color the right side of the slider block to make its alignment with the ruler more visible – the only modification I made to the tool.

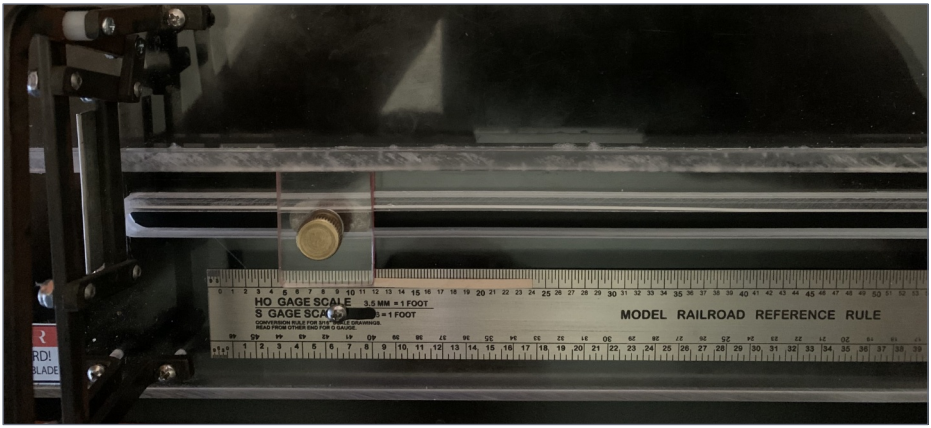


6. Scale lumber positioned against the guide rail and slider for a 12-foot HO-scale cut.

To verify the cut, I laid the piece along the ruler starting at the 12-foot mark. An accurate 12-foot cut should extend exactly to the 24-foot line – and it did [7].

One challenge common to choppers and miters is blade deflection. Because a razor blade is thin, downward cutting pressure can cause it to flex, producing a cut that is slightly out of square.

In the September 2022 issue of *MRH,* the **Ultimation Slicer** article included a comparison that yielded the results in [8] with the Precision Measurement deflection added.



7. The completed cut checked against the ruler to verify the 12-foot scale dimension (look closely at the 24′ marking).

1	**O Scale 12"x12"**	**AVG Deflection**
2	NWSL Chopper	0.072
3	Precision Measurement	0.026
4	Ulitmation Slicer	0.014*
5		
6	**S Scale 12"x12"**	**AVG Deflection**
7	NWSL Chopper	0.018
8	Precision Measurement	0.013
9	Ulitmation Slicer	0.012*
10		
11	**HO Scale 12"x12"**	**AVG Deflection**
12	NWSL Chopper	0.029
13	Precision Measurement	0.009
14	Ulitmation Slicer	0.005*
15		

8. Comparison table of average blade deflection for the NWSL Chopper, PM Wood Miter, and Ultimation Slicer across O, S, and HO-scale cuts. *The Ultimation Slicer remains the most accurate cutter.



J. Fugate

THE ULTIMATION SLICER

For readers unfamiliar with the Ultimation Slicer, it is a heavy-duty precision cutting tool designed for the same modeling work as the Wood Miter and NWSL Chopper. The key difference lies in its blade: instead of a dual-beveled razor blade, the Ultimation Slicer uses a single-bevel chisel blade.

This geometry concentrates the cutting force on one side of the blade while leaving the opposite side flat. The result is a cleaner cut on the flat side – the side that matters most for model work – and reduced deflection overall.

The Ultimation Slicer includes an adjustable fence with a protractor head, allowing cuts from 0 to 50 degrees, and an adjustable stop for repeatable cuts. In the comparison tests referenced here, the Ultimation Slicer produced the lowest blade-deflection measurements across all three scales (O, S, and HO), making it the performance benchmark against which the Wood Miter and Chopper are evaluated.



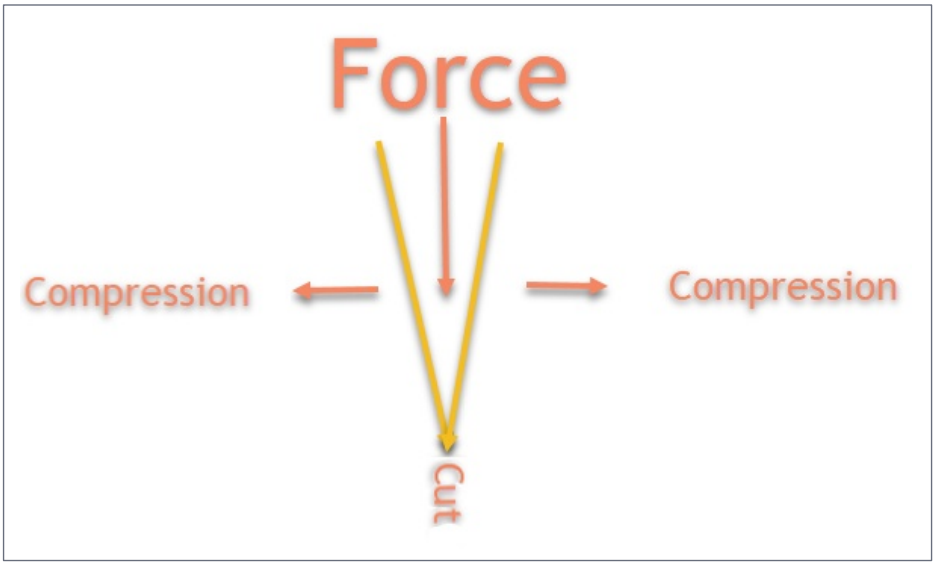
9. Ultimation Slicer, still the king.

In every test, the PM Wood Miter finished a close second behind the Ultimation Slicer. This is why: the mechanism concentrates the user's applied force along an extremely narrow edge, which is why a keen, thin blade cuts material so efficiently.

Unlike a saw that removes material as kerf, a knife-edge forces material to compress and cut cleanly without removing stock. The tradeoff is that the compression causes deflection in the cut's profile [10].

Because both the Chopper and the Wood Miter rely on standard razor blades, why does the Wood Miter yield truer cuts? The cutting geometry provides the answer.

Rather than crushing straight down, the linkage draws the blade through the material in a smooth slicing stroke. Furthermore, as the blade descends, it passes into a precisely



10. A conceptual diagram of compression and slicing during a knife cut, illustrating how the blade separates the material.

machined slot in the guide rail, which restrains the blade from flexing during the cut without pinching or binding it.

You might wonder whether the razor blade will wear and widen that guide slot over time. Long-time owners I have asked report no measurable increase in deflection over years of use. This suggests the slot's durability under normal conditions.

Between the slicing motion and the support of the guide slot, the Wood Miter produces consistently square cuts. In my testing and from user reports, deflection remains tiny when cutting stock 1/16″ or thinner, making it reliable for precision work at those thicknesses.

The instruction sheet supplied with the Wood Miter begins with a sensible safety warning: ***Keep fingers and hands well clear of the cutting path at all times.***

Changing the scale

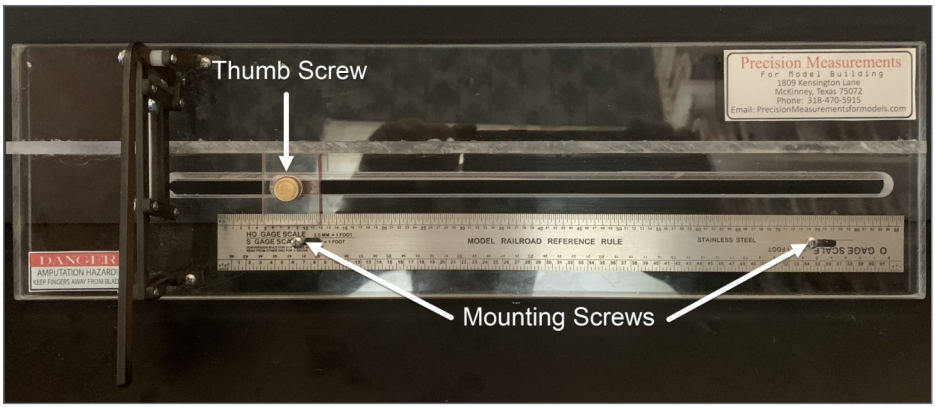
When ordering, you can specify your primary scale – in my case, HO – and the tool arrives ready to work. The instructions explain how to reconfigure the integrated scale ruler to choose another scale if desired. The process follows in photos [11-13].

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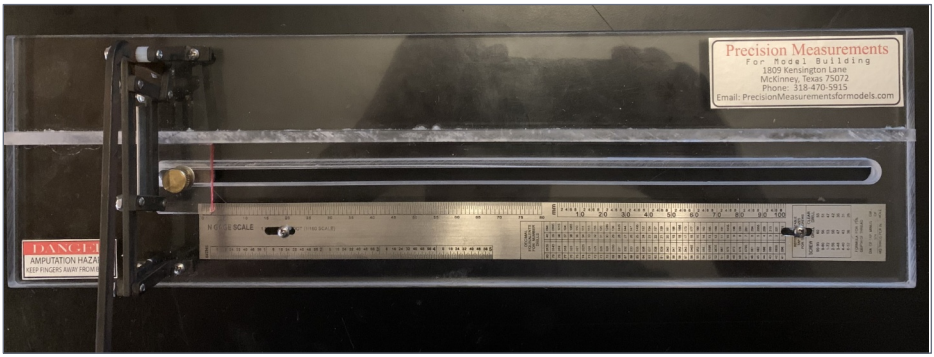
To confirm the calibration, make a test cut with scrap wood. Move the slider so the right side aligns with the ruler at the desired test length, make the cut, measure the result, and readjust if needed.

BLADE REPLACEMENT

Like any cutting edge, the razor blade in the Wood Miter will eventually dull and need to be replaced. The instruction sheet

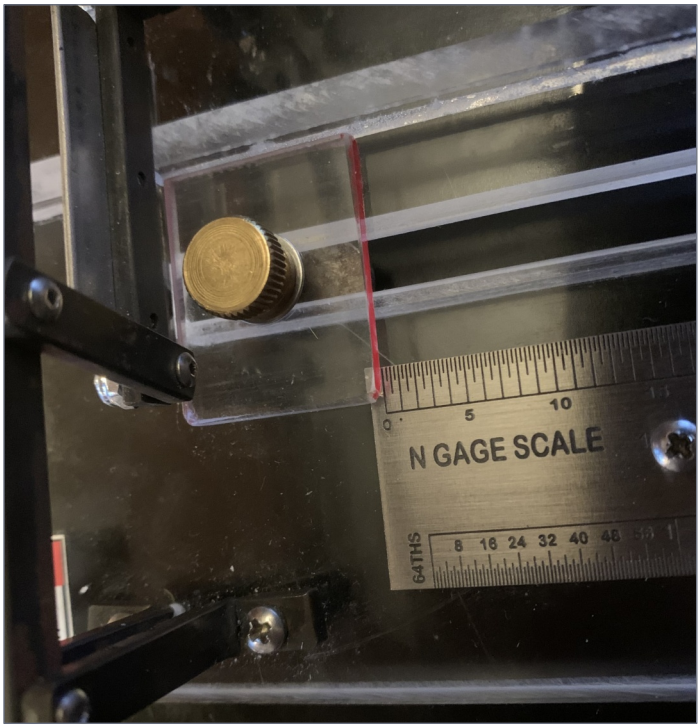


11. Loosen the two 4-40 mounting screws and the thumb screw if necessary to free the ruler.

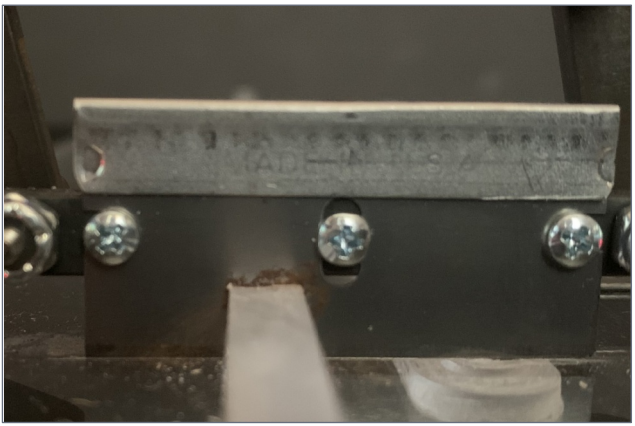


12. Rotate the ruler so the chosen scale faces the working edge. Reinstall the mounting screws, but do not tighten.

provides instruction for replacement. The first step is to lower the blade to the cutting surface, resting in the guide channel [14].



13. Properly zero the ruler. Place the slider so its left side is against the blade, and adjust the ruler so the zero is aligned with the right side of the slider. Tighten all the screws.



14. The Wood Miter is positioned for blade replacement, with the blade seated and the retaining hardware ready to be loosened.

Remove the center and right screws holding the blade. Loosen the left screw enough to free the blade, but leaving it in place. Lifting the handle should cause the blade to drop free. If it hangs on a nut, tap its spine gently with a tool. Never grab the sharp edge with your fingers.

To insert the fresh blade, hook it onto the remaining screw, and seat its upper spine against the blade arm. Lower the assembly slightly to guide the blade into the guide-rail slot, and gently shift the operating handle to align the blade's mounting holes with the screw holes. Reinstall the center and right-hand screws, then tighten all three firmly.

With the hardware secured, lift the handle to verify that the mechanism cycles smoothly, with the blade touching the Plexiglas base squarely and entering the guide-rail slot without binding. If the blade binds, loosen the screws slightly, realign the blade, and recheck the travel. Never force the linkage.

As with the Chopper, drafting triangles placed against the fence of the Wood Miter allow you to make clean, repeatable angled cuts.

When you need an end that is dead-square or precisely dressed, finishing tools like the Ultimation Sander [15] or the NWSL True Sander [16] make great companions.

THE WOOD MITER IN PRACTICE

The Wood Miter excels at producing repeatable, square cuts with minimal material deflection. The controlled slicing motion concentrates force along a narrow blade edge, and the integrated scale rule eliminates the need for separate measurement tools. In testing across multiple scales, the Wood Miter consistently delivered low deflection – second only to the Ultimation Slicer – making it reliable for modelers who demand precision.

For modelers already comfortable with the NWSL Chopper, the Wood Miter offers an appealing alternative. The Chopper



15. The Ultimation Sander, a motorized sanding wheel with a work platform for refining model-building cuts.



16. The NWSL True Sander, a flat workbench tool with angled fences for producing precise, clean angled ends.

remains a capable tool, but the Wood Miter's lower deflection and integrated scale markings make it particularly valuable for those working in smaller scales or who prioritize repeatability over speed. For modelers new to precision cutting, the Wood Miter's straightforward design and clear feedback make it an accessible entry point into this class of tool. ☑

For those who want to know more:

Geometry cuts: the physics behind why some knives cut well and others don't

www.reddit.com/r/chefknives/comments/mgl8k9/geometry_cuts_the_physics_behind_why_some_knives

Physics of a Cut

ffden-2.phys.uaf.edu/webproj/211_fall_2018/Chloe_Allan/chloe_allan_physics211/4physicsofacut_chloe_allan.html

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Jeff Palmer



Until he retired, Jeff spent 50 years developing software, and 25 years as a college professor.

Jeff loves to build structures, bridges, scenery, and locos. More specifically, he has a keen interest in logging and mining, and the accompanying narrow gauge railroads. He says he likes the free form, and ruggedness that surrounds logging and mining railroads.

Jeff is always on the lookout for new techniques, and tools that improve the hobby. Model railroading allows him to expand his skill set, work with his hands, and share what he has learned with his fellow modelers.

About seven years ago, Jeff gained his MMR (Master Model Railroader) certificate from the NMRA. ■

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We've all struggled with keeping those CA glue tips from clogging. Here's a solution!

VIEW READER COMMENTS

In this quick video, YouTuber **Off the Sprue** shares several secrets to keeping those handy superglue fine tips from clogging. The video runs just a few minutes but Sprue shares a number of clever tricks for keeping the applicator tips from clogging up. A couple of his suggestions are somewhat obvious once you see them, but one special trick sounds like it's definitely worth a try. ☑

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CANADIAN MODEL RAILROAD MANUFACTURERS

Canadian Model Railroad Manufacturers will host a Canadian Model Railroad Showcase—Live! on YouTube on Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 1-4pm Eastern. It will feature product demonstrations, new and favorite products, live conversation, Q&A, and special event offers. Meet the people behind the company names and see what they are creating for the hobby. Visit the link below to learn more and sign up for an event reminder.
Info: cmrm.ca/live

O SCALE PRODUCT NEWS

Bachmann has released new models of an On30 three-bay hopper with removable coal or ballast load. Based on a Pressed Steel Car Co./East Broad Top railroad prototype, many of the hoppers were sold to other narrow-gauge railroads. The model is



available decorated for the East Broad Top, Durango & Silverton, White Pass & Yukon, and unlettered oxide red. MSRP is $93.00.



Also available are two-bay hoppers based on a Pressed Steel Car Co./East Broad Top design, with removable coal loads and many separately applied details. Paint schemes include Consolidated Narrow Gauge RR, East Broad Top (two schemes), and unlettered oxide red. MSRP for two cars is $164.00.
Info: shop.bachmanntrains.com

HO SCALE PRODUCT NEWS



New from **Athearn** in the Genesis line is a run of GP38-2 locomotives. **Preorders are due October 31, 2026** for delivery in February 2028. Road names in this run are Chicago & North Western three with road numbers, Delaware & Hudson with three numbers, Missouri Pacific with four numbers, Reading & Northern with four numbers including #2026, an America 250 locomotive, Soo Line with three road numbers, Union Pacific with three numbers, and Vermont Rail System with three numbers. MSRP w/o sound MSRP is $234.99, with Tsunami2 sound the MSRP is $334.99.



For GP38-2s in the Primed for Grime line, there are four CSX numbers and three Conrail numbers. MSRP for Primed for Grime w/o sound is $244.99, with Tsunami2 sound the MSRP is $344.99.



Also in the Genesis Line is a new run of Pacific Car & Foundry 50′ 10′6″ plug door boxcars. Road names in this run are Burlington Northern (2 schemes), Great Northern, Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Legendary Liveries), Southern Pacific (2 schemes), and Western Fruit Express (4 schemes). MSRP for each car is $47.99.

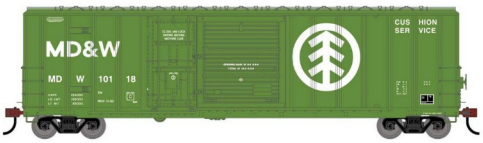


In the Athearn line is a new release of the EMD SD40-2 locomotive. Road names on this model are Burlington Northern (four numbers, including Battle of Little Big Horn #1876), CIT Rail Leasing/CEFX (three numbers), Grand Trunk Western (three numbers), Indiana Railroad (three numbers), Iowa, Chicago and Eastern (three numbers), Louisville & Indiana, Milwaukee Road (four numbers including Bicentennial #156), New York, Susquehanna and Western (two schemes), Southern (three numbers w/ high short hoods), and an Electro-Motive Division Leasing/EMDX Primed for Grime former Milwaukee/Soo unit. MSRP for the standard units is $199.99 w/o sound and $269.99 with Economi sound. The EMDX Primed for Grime is MSRP $209.99 w/o sound and $279.99 with Economi sound.



Also in the Athearn line is a new run of Ortner five-bay Rapid Discharge Hoppers with coal loads. Road names in this run are Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (single, two five-packs), Burlington Northern Santa Fe in black (single, one five-pack), a Primed for Grime BNSF five-pack, Itel/SSIX (single, two five-packs), Kerr-McGee/KMCX (single, two five-packs), Santa Fe (single, two five-packs), The Andersons/Holly Sugar (single, two five-packs). MSRP – Single: $54.99, Five-Pack: $244.99, Primed for Grime Five-Pack: $269.99.

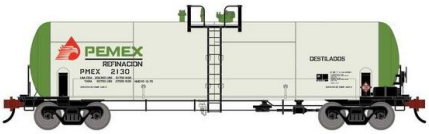
Another part of the February 2028 production is a run of 50′ FMC 5277 Combination Door boxcars in HO scale. Road names in this



release include Railbox in four schemes – the Early and Late schemes and those schemes in the weathered Primed for Grime series. Also in the Primed for Grime series is an ex-Railbox (Early) car patched for Canadian National/CAN. Canadian National is also represented in a freshly painted car, as is the Minnesota, Dakota and Western in a 1982+ green scheme and a 2015+ boxcar brown scheme. The cars include machined metal wheels and screw mounted trucks. MSRP is $39.99 for the standard cars and $44.99 for the Primed for Grime cars.



A new run of the HO scale Auto-Max car carrier is part of this production run, with three road numbers each available for ATSF, CSX, BNSF, Kansas City Southern, Southern Pacific (Legendary Liveries), and Union Pacific. MSRP is $79.99 each.



The final announcement in this production run is the Richmond Tank Car 20K General Service Tank Car. Road names in the run are ATSF, BNSF (two schemes), Exxon Mobile/HPLX, PCS Phosphate/TGAX, and Pemex/PMEX. MSRP is $54.99 each.

All models in this announcement are available **for preorder through October 31, 2026** with an estimated arrival date of February 2028.
Info: athearn.com



Atlas has several HO scale Accurail kits in the Grit N' Grime Series including the three-bay covered hopper kit in Union Pacific, Montana

Rail Link, and Conrail (ex-PRR). The MSRP for the kits is $49.95 each.



Also in the Grit N' Grime Series are three Accurail 50′ exterior post boxcar kits. Two of the cars have been patched for ATSF and UP with one still wearing RBOX reporting marks. MSRP is $59.95 each.





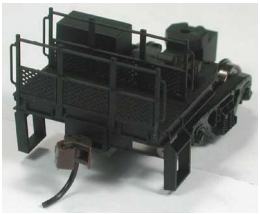
Atlas has announced a new model with a short preorder period in HO scale. The HO Articulated Bulk Carriers with Waste Containers includes one articulated bulk carrier and six waste containers with an MSRP of $129.95. Additional waste containers are available in six-packs at an MSRP of $79.95. Road names in this run are Environmental Protection & Improvement Co./EPIX bulk carrier with EPIU waste containers, General American Marks/GIMX bulk carrier with Energy Solutions/ESUU waste containers, Heritage Environmental Services/HESX bulk carrier with HESU and Containers LLC/ESDU waste containers, Heritage Environmental Services/HESX bulk carrier with HESU and Merco Joint Venture/MJVU waste containers, Greenfield Logistics/GFLX bulk carrier with GFLU, MHF Logistical Solutions/MHFU, and Environmental Solutions/BFLU waste containers, MHF Logistical Solutions/MHFX bulk carrier with MHFU and ICE Service Group/ISEU waste containers and MHF Logistical Solutions/MHFX bulk carrier with MHFU waste containers. Featuring a diecast metal body, 100-ton trucks, and metal couplers, it will negotiate a 15″ radius curve. **Preorders are due by Wednesday, October 28, 2026** with arrival estimated to be first quarter 2027.
Info: shop.atlasrr.com



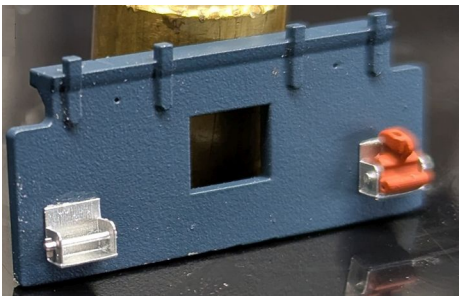
Bachmann has released several new paint schemes for the 52′ centerbeam flatcar with a wrapped lumber load. Road names in this run are Bennett Lumber Products, Canadian National, Northern Pacific, and Union Pacific. MSRP for the models is $54.00.
Info: shop.bachmanntrains.com



Bowser is taking preorders for a new run of HO scale Roadrailer vehicles. **Preorders are due October 15, 2026** with delivery expected in Summer 2027. Road names for this run are Alliance/ALLZ, BNSF Ice Cold/ICEZ, Canadian National/ECOZ, Schneider, Swift, Triple Crown/TCSZ – 10000th, and Triple Crown/TCSZ (six schemes). MSRP for the Roadrailers is $32.95 each.

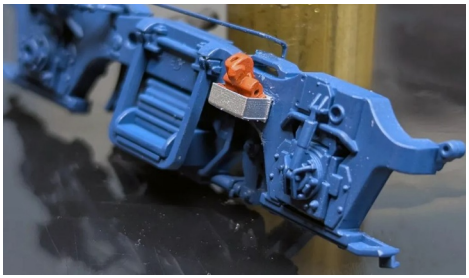


A CouplerMate is required to connect the lead Roadrailer in a train to the locomotive or car in front of it. It can also be used on the rear of the Roadrailer string to allow a few regular cars to connect to the train. MSRP is $19.95 each.
Info: bowser-trains.com



New from **Gotham Rail & Marine** are two different styles of knuckle holder. The Basic EMD style includes both rounded and angled edge bracket types and can be purchased with or without knuckles. Empty brackets

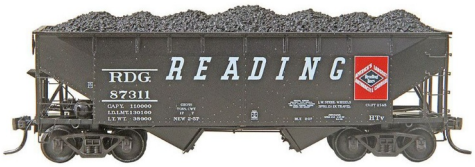
include the bracket pin. Two left and right brackets come in each set, which is priced at $5.00.



D&RGW and SP, as well as subsequent owners, use a spare knuckle box mounted to the truck. Four boxes with four separate knuckles are also priced at $5.00.



The knuckles, which are based on the Type E coupler, are available for $5.00 for a set of 10.
Info: gothamrailmarine.com



Kadee's September 2026 release is a Reading two-bay 50-ton AAR Hopper. It includes a "lump-egg" load and is depicted factory new with a built date of 1957.
Info: www.kadee.com



Kaslo Shops has released an HO scale kit for a GATX 2800 cu. ft. Pressure Flow Cement Car. The 3D-printed kit includes the 38′7″ tank body, etched metal ladders, and walkways, and 3D-printed and etched metal details. Manufactured in 1965-66, roads using this car included Burlington Northern, Chicago Burlington & Quincy, Dragon

Cement, Seaboard Air Line, and Seaboard Coast Line. Trucks, couplers, decals and weights are not included. It is priced at $40.00.
Info: www.kasloshops.com



Rapido Trains has announced a new run of HO scale Gunderson 53′ Husky Stack well cars with a flashing EOT device. The cars also feature semi-scale knuckle couplers, 70-ton Barber S-2 trucks, and a fully die-cast body. Road names in this run are Arkansas & Oklahoma/AOK, Canadian Pacific, Ferromex, TTX as delivered, and TTX patched with the red logo.
Info: www.rapidotrains.com
All artwork and graphics are courtesy of Rapido Trains



A new announcement from **ScaleTrains** is for a run of Rivet Counter Gunderson 3250 covered hoppers in HO scale. Road names in this run are ANCAF/patched GAMX, GE Rail Services/NAHX, Greenbrier Management Services/AOKX, Greenbrier Management Services/Carbo Ceramics, Keg River Chemical/KEGX, Riverside Construction Materials/patched RSMX, Union Pacific/Anti-Graffiti Reporting Marks, and Wells Fargo Rail/patched WFRX. **Preorders are due by November 2, 2026,** for a March 2027 delivery. The current price is $54.99.



Also announced is the seventh run of Rivet Counter GE Dash 9 locomotives, with three road names in multiple paint schemes: Santa Fe/Warbonnet,

four BNSF ex-Santa Fe Warbonnet schemes, and Norfolk Southern Dash 9-40C in both Thoroughbred and Horsehead schemes. **Preorders are due by November 2, 2026,** for a June 2027 delivery. MSRP is $219.99 for DC/DCC Ready and $334.99 for DCC/Sound equipped.
Info: scaletrains.com



Tangent Scale Models has released several new paint schemes on an HO scale PS-1 40′ boxcar equipped with a 9′ door. Road names in this release are Chicago & North Western (2 schemes), Green Bay & Western, Lancaster & Chester (2 schemes), Louisville & Nashville, Milwaukee, Missouri-Kansas-Texas, and Southern Railway (3 schemes). The cars are equipped with the appropriate Superior or Pullman-Standard doors and the correct Barber S-2 or ASF A-3 trucks with plain or roller bearings. MSRP is $56.95. Several undecorated kits with specific doors and trucks are also available for $48.95.
Info: www.tangentscalemodels.com



With an anticipated delivery date of Spring 2027, **Walthers** has announced a run of WalthersProto 54′ 23,000-gallon funnel flow tank cars in HO scale. Road names in this run are Amoco/AMCX, Chevron/CPDX, Dow/DOWX, Exxon/ECUX, Procor/white, Procor/green, and UTLX. The models will be equipped with the new Proto MAX double shelf coupler (see below). MSRP for the tank cars is currently $64.98.

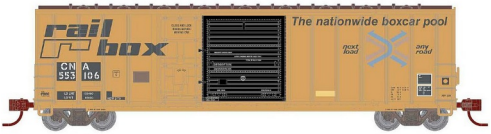
New from Walthers is the HO scale Proto MAX metal double shelf coupler. Knuckle couplers with factory installed magnetic trip pins, they are equipped with metal knuckle springs. A



separate metal centering spring that fits standard coupler pockets is included. Now available for preorder, the MSRP for four pairs (8 couplers) is currently $17.98 and 20 pairs (40 couplers) is $69.98.

Info: www.walthers.com

N SCALE PRODUCT NEWS



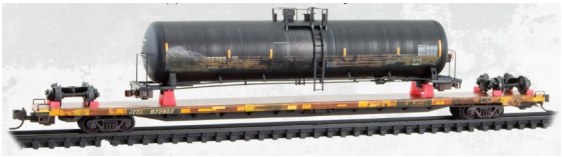
Athearn has announced a run of 50′ FMC 5277 Combination Door boxcars in N scale. Road names in this release include Railbox in four schemes – the Early and Late schemes and those schemes in the weathered Primed for Grime series. Also in the Primed for Grime series is an ex-Railbox (Early) car patched for Canadian National/CAN. Canadian National is also represented in a freshly painted car, as is the Minnesota, Dakota and Western in a 1982+ green scheme and a 2015+ boxcar brown scheme. The cars include machined metal wheels and screw mounted trucks. **Preorders are due on October 31, 2026** for an estimated arrival of February 2028. MSRP is $34.99 for the standard cars and $39.99 for the Primed for Grime cars.

Info: athearn.com



Micro-Trains by Atlas has released two ATSF 57′ converted TOFC flatcars including M1 Abrams tank kit loads. The two-pack has an MSRP of $73.95.

Also available now are two weathered TTX PSH20-class 89′ flat cars, one with a wrecked tank car as a load and the other with



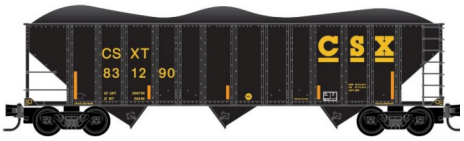
two wreaked flat cars as a load. Each has an MSRP of $79.95.



Two-packs of weathered 100-ton three-bay rib side hoppers with a coal load are available in two road names, Norfolk Southern and Wheeling & Lake Erie. The two-packs retail for $63.95.



Preorders are being taken through October 15, 2026, for a three-pack of weathered Southern Pacific 57′ converted TOFC flat cars with wood products loads. Rebuilt from the ATSF TOFC cars by Gunderson in 1986 as general purpose flatcars, they were sold or leased to the Southern Pacific. MSRP for the three-pack is $99.95.



Also part of the **October 15th preorder** is a four-pack of 100-ton three-bay rib side hoppers with coal loads decorated for CSX. Representing cars built in 1978 for PLE, the cars served through several mergers and a late 1990s rebuilding. MSRP for the four-pack is $129.95.



A set of four 40′ steel ice reefers is available for preorder through October 15. Decorated for Great Northern/Western Fruit Express, the models represent cars built in 1949 and serviced in the late 1960s. MSRP for the four-pack is $129.95.

The last N scale item in the October 15 preorder is a four-pack of Union Pacific three-bay trough-hatch covered hoppers.

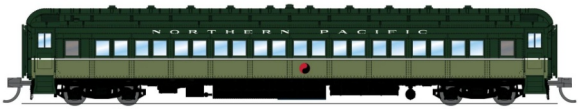


Originally Cotton Belt cars, they maintain the SSW reporting marks along with a Union Pacific shield. MSRP for the four-pack is $149.95.

All items with an October 15, 2026 preorder date are estimated to arrive Winter 2026.
Info: shop.atlasrr.com



Bachmann has 50′ high cube boxcars in N scale in stock. Equipped with either a single Youngstown or plug door as appropriate, road names available are ATSF, Milwaukee Road, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, and the North Pole & Southern Christmas scheme. MSRP is $47.00.
Info: shop.bachmanntrains.com

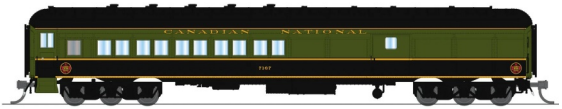


Preorders are being taken for new Heavyweight Passenger Cars in N scale from **Broadway Limited.** The first sets include Pullman cars with one combine, three coaches, and a business car. Road names in this release are Chesapeake & Ohio, Chessie Steam Special, Canadian National, Northern Pacific, and a Christmas paint scheme. MSRP for the set is $299.99.

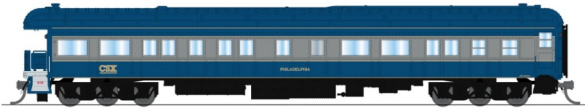


Three separate Pennsylvania RR heavyweight five-car sets are being offered, each including a PB70 Combine, three P70 Coaches, and a Z74D Business car. The 1930s era set includes PB70 #5034, P70s #823, #989, #1042, and Z74d #120

"Pennsylvania." The late 1940s era set includes PB70 #4780, P70s #3420, #3575, #3706, and Z74d #7504 "Quaker City." A late 1950s era set includes PB70 #4792, P70s #3455, #3609, #3724, and Z74d #7509 "Ohio." MSRP for the set is $299.99.



The PB70 combine is available separately in the three PRR eras, Santa Fe, Baltimore & Ohio, Chesepeake & Ohio, Chessie Steam Special, Canadian National, Norfolk & Western, Northern Pacific, Christmas, and Unlettered in Pullman Green. MSRP is $59.99.



Like the PB70, the Z74D Business Car is available separately in the three PRR eras, Santa Fe, Chesapeake & Ohio, Chessie Steam Special, Canadian National, CSX, Norfolk & Western, Northern Pacific, New York Central, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Christmas, and Unlettered in Pullman Green with either the Clerestory or Balloon roof. MSRP is $79.99.

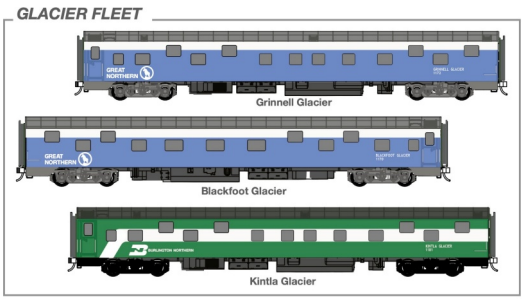
Preorders are due December 3, 2026, with delivery in Spring 2027.

Info: broadway-limited.com



Railsmith has announced three new N scale diners. For the B&O is the diner Pittsburgh, Southern Pacific – Rock Island Golden State has the coffeeshop-lounge Golden Ladle, and the Missouri Pacific has Diner #840, The Eagle. Price for the Pittsburgh is $64.00, and the Golden Ladle and The Eagle are $65.00 each.

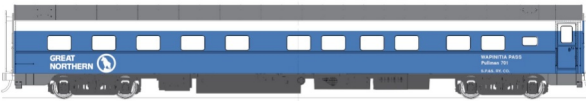
Also announced are three new Great Northern/Burlington Northern Glacier sleepers, the Grinnell Glacier and Blackfoot



Glacier in Big Sky Blue, and Kintla Glacier in Cascade Green. They are priced at $182.00 for the entire set.



Three new sleepers have been announced for the Tuscan Fleet – the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac's King William, Norfolk & Western's Buchanan County, and the Pennsylvania Railroad's Allegheny Rapids. Price for the King William and Buchanan County is $64.00 and for the Allegheny Rapids $63.00.



Two sleepers in Big Sky Blue for the Great Northern Empire Builder of 1967 have been announced. The Wapinitia Pass was owned by the Spokane, Portland & Seattle and was the only SP&S car painted in BSB. The GN car is the Rogers Pass. The price for the set is $126.00.
Info: lowellsmith.net

STRUCTURES & SCENIC SUPPLIES



3G Resin Prints has several new N scale items including a two-pack of 30-yard dumpsters for $9.95 and a three-pack of standard front-load dumpsters for $6.35.



Info: 3gresinprints.com



Ammo has released primer in several new colors in the Rail Center acrylic paint line, including Transparent, Sand, Brown Oxide, Grey, White, and Black (MSRP $7.97 ea.). Also newly available are Ammo Rail Center Solution Box 04, Railway Scenery (MSRP $108.32), and Ammo Rail Center Solution Box Mini 05, Cars, Trucks, Vans, & Construction Vehicles (MSRP $74.58). Each solution box contains an instructional guide and an assortment of appropriate colors and types of paint.
Info: www.migjimenez.com/en



Banta Modelworks has released several new structure kits in HO scale including four based on East Broad Top Railroad prototypes – the Foundry/Pattern House kit is made of laser-cut wood and a 3D-printed brick wall, measuring 18″ x 7″. It is priced at $165.00. The Electrical Shop kit is 5-3/4″ x <4″ and priced at $65.00. The Machine Shop Boiler House kit combines laser-cut and 3D-printed parts and is designed as a companion to a large machine shop kit sold by the Friends of the EBT. Measuring 6-1/2″ x 5″ it is priced at $148.00. The Sandhouse kit also combines laser-cut wood and 3D-printed parts for a structure measuring 6-1/2″ x 3-1/2″ for $86.00.



Another new structure kit is the Miners Cabin in HO scale. Consisting of laser-cut wood parts, the small structure is priced at $36.00.
Info: www.bantamodelworks.com



Bar Mills Scale Model Works has announced several new kits and new scales for existing kits. In HO scale Pop Gracins Garage is a 3.5″ x 3″ structure featuring skylights in the roof. Its price is $49.95.



The South Side Service Station kit is approximately 4″ x 8″ in HO scale with numerous white metal and resin detail castings that include gas pumps, restroom facilities, potbelly stove, and a wooden handcart. Its price is currently $79.95.



Hubcap Haven in HO scale measures 4″ x 2″ and includes both wood and corrugated siding. Its price is $42.95.



A limited run of 50 N scale Mortimer Stiphs' Caskets & Headstones is available for $42.95. It includes 3D-printed figure of a Mort, plastic windows, laser-cut freight doors, and "pre-nailed" rolled roofing material. Details include tombstones, caskets, and a wagon.

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R.C. TV Repair (5″ x 6″, $54.95) and Reed's Locksmith (5″ x 5″, $52.95) are now available in O scale. See the September 2026 news for descriptions of the HO scale kits. Info: barmillsmodels.com

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New from **Berkshire Valley Models** is the Croydon General Store in HO scale. A former American Model Builders kit, the laser-cut and scribed structure kit includes rolled roofing and hexagonal shingles. With a footprint of 5.25″ x 7 x 3.25″, it is priced at $44.00.



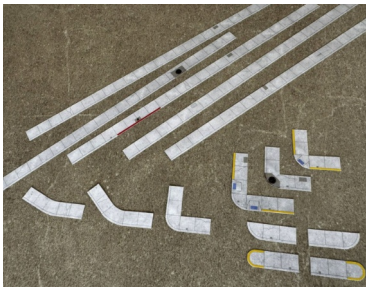
Also new is an O scale Bakery Wagon kit consisting of white metal and laser-cut wood parts. The decals are included. Appropriate drivers and horses are available separately. The wagon body measures approximately 1-3/8″ wide x 2″ long with the tongue extending another 2-3/4″. It is 1-5/8″ high. It is priced at $26.00.
Info: berkshirevalleymodels.com



BEST Trains has introduced two related kits in HO scale. The first is the Colonial Georgian Home, a laser-cut wood kit featuring peel & stick shingles, injection molded windows and doors, and a cast foundation. Measuring 5-1/4″ x 3-7/8″, the kit is priced at $94.95.



The second kit is the Colonial Georgian Home with Addition. Along with the standard house kit the addition brings the width of the kit to 7-3/4″. It is priced at $114.95.
Info: besttrains.com



Digcom Designs has introduced a set of sidewalks in N and HO scales. Including corners, driveways, sidewalk ends, accessibility ramps, manhole covers, cracks and weathering, the prints are intended to be glued over styrene strips. They are priced at $5.95 for each scale.
Info: www.digcomdesigns.net



Fos Scale Models has introduced a new HO scale kit, Monty's Cab Co. It includes laser-cut walls, roof cards, and roof sign supports with all color signage. Its approximate footprint is 2.5″ x 3″. Cab is not included. Its price is $36.50.
Info: fosscalemodels.com



Frenchman River Model Works has acquired the kits and detail parts previously produced by Scale Model Masterpieces and are working to convert hydrocal kits into resin as well as updating other parts as necessary. A former Scale Model Masterpieces kit now offered by Frenchman River Model Works is the 1:48 scale Stationary Horizontal Boiler, based on a Houston Stanwood &

Gamble Co. prototype found in a Florida field. The kit consists of a resin boiler body, resin boiler door, resin boiler support, resin brick pilings, resin steam dome, resin brackets, styrene tube, and wire. Dimensions are approximately 3″ x 1.625″ x 3.625″. Its price is $44.95.



In 1:87 scale Frenchman River Model Works has introduced The Vicksburg Building. Based on photographs of a near-derelict structure in the American South in the mid-1930s, the kit consists of resin structural parts, window glazing, lumber, styrene, tar paper roofing material and other items. It is intended to have a out-of-square appearance. Dimensions of the building are 5.5″ x 6.125″ x 4.25″. Its price is $84.95.
Info: www.frenchmanriver.com



igMakes has added a T300 medium commercial truck to its line of 3D-printed resin N scale vehicles. Versions available include a single-axle semi-truck, a propane truck with four sets of decals, a bare frame truck, a flatbed, and a box truck. Models come unpainted. All are priced at $7.99 each.
Info: igmakes.com

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Jason Jensen Trains has released two new structure kits. The first is an HO scale 2-pack Garage Set. Filament 3D-printed, the buildings come unpainted and have an approximate footprint with the driveway/sidewalk of 4.25″ x 4.5″. The set is priced at $57.50.



Also new from Jason Jensen is Boxcar Tattoos, an HO scale filament printed brick structure with resin printed awning, detail parts, and unique signage. Its approximate footprint is 3.75″ x 6.25″ and it is priced at $69.95.
Info: jasonjensentrains.com



Mine Mount Models has released a new HO scale structure kit. The third kit in the Main Street Series, The Bookworm Bookstore includes additional signage to build it as Madame Nairoe Mihnd Astrology. A laser-cut structure, it includes both sign options, rolled roofing, shake shingles, resin details, Tichy doors & windows, and a sidewalk base. The assembled kit measures 4.25″ x 1.5″ x 5″. Its price is $45.00.
Info: minemountmodels.com



miniprints really enjoys October, with ghoulish new products being

introduced that month each year. The Graveyard Shift miniscene includes four gravediggers in working poses, an open grave, two six-sided pine coffins, and five graveyard ghouls emerging from the ground. HO: $40.00, S: $60.00, O: 80.00.




Two additional products to finish off a cemetery is a Cemetery Mausoleum (N, HO: $15.00 S: $20.00, O: $25.00) and a Fenced Grave (HO: $9.99, S: $14.99, O: $20.00).
There is an additional charge for painted figures.
Info: miniprints.com



Mudd Creek Models has released a new color stain, "Rotten Wood." A 70% alcohol stain, it provides a grey appearance with an undertone of brown. A 4oz bottle is $6.50.
Info: muddcreekmodels.com





Walthers has announced several SceneMaster figure sets in HO and N scale now in stock and preorder. In HO scale, a package of Children in Snow includes a Snowman figure complete with broom and top hat. A set of three Bicycle Racers includes helmet wearing, spandex clad bicyclists on racing bicycles that have the handlebars that curl under from the front. All the figures are factory painted. MSRP is $19.98 for HO scale.




In N scale there are sets of six Railway Officials, six Construction

Workers, six members of the Fire Brigade with a ladder, six Sitting People with a bench, and six Passengers. All the figures are factory painted. MSRP is $14.98 for N scale.



Preorders are being taken for two HO scale WalthersTrainline buildings. The first is a kit for First National Bank, a three-story brick building with a roof cupola. It is molded in four colors and clear plastic and includes a simulated concrete sidewalk base. The assembled kit measures 4-1/2 x 8 x 5-1/2″. MSRP is currently $34.98.

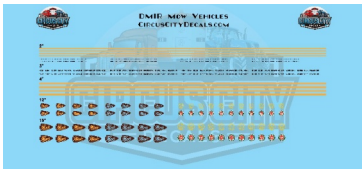


The second structure kit is for a Legal and Professional Building in HO scale. Featuring a stone façade, it is molded in four colors and clear plastic and has interior curtain detail. The assembled kit measures 3-7/8 x 8 x 6-1/8″. MSRP is currently $34.98.
Info: www.walthers.com

NEW DECALS, SIGNS, AND FINISHING PRODUCTS

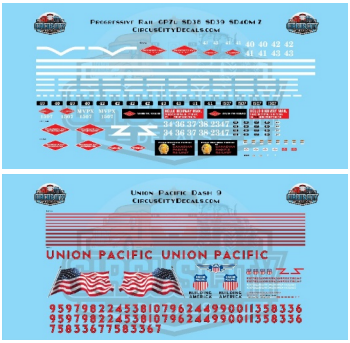






Circus City Decals has three new decal sets in HO scale, each for $10.99. The first is the RBMN Reading & Northern Railroad T1 #2102 decal set. The second is

the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range MOW Vehicles set, and the last is the James E. Strates Shows Stock Car decal set.



In N scale Circus City has released a set of decals for Progressive Rail's GP7u, SD38, SD39, SD40M-2, and SW1200/1500 locomotives. Also new is a decal set for Union Pacific's C44-9W Dash 9 locomotives. Both are priced at $10.99.
Info: circuscitydecals.com



Fusion Scale Graphics has introduced N scale Graffiti Decal Sets 8 and 9 at $9.00 apiece. Set 8 is in black and set 9 is the same graphics in white. Also introduced is an HO scale CPKC EMD SD Locomotives decal set for $12.00.
Info: fsdecals.com



Great Decals has released a new set of N scale decals in black for Virginian Railway ballast cars, class BL-4. Set #219 decorates one car. The BL-4 is a two-bay hopper and prototype photos can be found on page 58 of *The Virginian Era* by Lewis and page 40 of *The Virginian Railway Handbook* by Wiley and Wallace. The price for the decal sheet is $2.99 postpaid.
Info: greatdecals.com

Briefly noted at press time ...

BEST Trains has released a new Premium Kit titled "Thomas Oyster Company." Based on a business founded in 1874 in New Haven, CT, the building has been part of the Mystic Seaports Museum of America since 1984. It measures 8-5/8″ x 4″.
Info: besttrains.com

Lionel has released their October digital catalog.
Info: catalogs.lionel.com/2026/OD

Rapido has announced several new releases in HO scale: Phase III B23-7, B30-7, B30-7A locomotives, SW10 locomotive, and the SW1200RSm "Sweep" locomotive. New schemes will be available on HO scale EMD FT and GE B36-7 locomotives and Horizon cars, and preorders are being taken for the CNR 4-6-0 Class H-6 steam locomotive. Most **preorders are due January 15th** with the Sweep conditional on **preorders by December 15th.**
Info: rapidotrains.com

State Tool & Die has announced a new 122F Hot Coil Car kit in HO scale. Two body styles will be available.
Info: www.statetoolanddie.com/ourproducts ■

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SELECTED EVENTS



October

Please submit your event information, including website, to model-railroad-hobbyist.com/contact/News_event_-product_announcement

Ongoing Online and In-Person

ONLINE, Zoom & YouTube, Wednesdays at 7pm Eastern. New Tracks Modeling Live Weekly
Info: newtracksmodeling.com
YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCMA_VhPb5pjdkAYTdXLceJA

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

October - November 2026

CANADA, ALBERTA, EDMONTON, October 24, 2026. Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship Fall Swap Meet. Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre, Atrium & Auditorium, 11113 – 113 Street.
Info: mmrf.ab.ca/node/15

CANADA, ONTARIO, MARYHILL, October 17, 2026. Waterloo Region Model Railway Club fall open house. 1589 Maryhill Road (Woolwich Township Road #56).Info: www.waterlooregionmodelrailwayclub.ca/open-house

CANADA, ONTARIO, ST CATHARINES, October 25, 2026. Fall Niagara Model Railway Show. Merritton Community Centre, 7 Park Avenue.
Info: nfrm.ca/events.php

CANADA, SASKATCHEWAN, MOOSE JAW, November 7-8, 2026. Moose Jaw Thunder Creek Model Railroad Show. Moose Jaw Convention Center, 250 Thatcher Dr E.
Info: www.facebook.com/groups/562094199802859

CALIFORNIA, INDIO, November 7, 2026. Coachella Valley's Semi-Annual Premier Model Railroad Display. Front Gate 1, Riverside County Fair, National Date Festival Fairgrounds, 82503 Highway 111, directly across from Wienerschnitzel.
Info: www.cvmrr.com

COLORADO, GREELEY, October 16-18, 2026. Colorado Rail Proto Meet. Island Grove Event Center, 421 N 15th Ave.
Info: corpm.org

FLORIDA, OCALA, October 15-18, 2026. Iron Horse, the 2026 Sunshine Region Convention. Ocala Hilton, 3600 SW 36th Ave.
Info: www.nmrasunshineregion.org

GEORGIA, RINGGOLD, November 14, 2026. Dixie Division Train Show. The Catoosa Colonade, 264 Catoosa Circle.
Info: www.dixiedivisiontca.com/dixie-div

INDIANA, DANVILLE, November 21, 2026. 19th Annual Danville Train Show, sponsored by the Central Indiana Division of the NMRA. Hendricks County Fair Grounds, 1900 E Main St.
Info: www.cidnmra.org

INDIANA, FORT WAYNE, November 21, 2026. Three Rivers Division of the NMRA Train Show and Swap Meet. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave.
Info: 3riverstrainshow@gmail.com

IOWA, IOWA CITY, October 18, 2026. Iowa City Train Show, sponsored by the Hawkeye Model Railroad Club. Johnson County Fairgrounds, 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd S (old Hwy 218).
Info: www.hawkeyemodelrrclub.com

KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE, November 14, 2026. 36th Annual Train Show and Sale sponsored by Division 8, Mid-Central Region, NMRA. Holy Family Parish Saffin Center, 3938 Poplar Level Rd.
Info: div8-mcr-nmra.org/train-show

MAINE, BREWER, November 21, 2026. Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club 50th anniversary show. Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way.
Info: tomcote4270@gmail.com

MARYLAND, TIMONIUM, October 31-November 1, 2026. The Great Scale Model Train Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd.
Info: gsmts.com

MASSACHUSETTS, SOUTHBRIDGE, October 15-18, 2026. Eyes on the NER, Northeastern Regional Convention. Wellsworth Hotel, 14 Mechanic St.
Info: conventions.nernmra.org/home/home-2026

MICHIGAN, BELLEVILLE, November 22, 2026. Southeast Michigan Model Railroad Show and Sale presented by Belleville Rails on Wheels and Division 6 NCR, NMRA. Wayne County Community College's Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Rd.
Info: www.railsonwheels.com/index.shtml#trainshow

MICHIGAN, KALAMAZOO, November 1, 202. 46th Annual Model Train Show, presented by the Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society. Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St.
Info: kmrhs.org/trainshow

MICHIGAN, SHELBY TWP, November 28, 2026. Model Train Show at the Packard Proving Grounds. Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site, 49965 Van Dyke Ave.
Info: packardprovinggrounds.org/event/model-train-show

MISSISSIPPI, MERIDIAN, November 7, 2026. Meridian Rails Historical Society RAILFEST. 1805 Front St.
Info: meridianrails.org

NORTH CAROLINA, CONCORD, October 24, 2026. Carolina Train Shows. Hilton Garden Inn, 7831 Gateway Lane.
Info: carolinatrainshows.com/#shows

OHIO, CAMBRIDGE, October 25, 2026. Eighth Annual NMRA Buckeye Division Train Show. Pritchard Laughlin Center, 7033 Glenn Hwy.
Info: www.nmrabuckeyedivision.org/train-show

OHIO, COSHOCTON, October 17, 2026. Inaugural Coshocton Train Show 2026. Coshocton County Career Center, 23640 Airport Road.
Info: www.coshoctontrainshow.com

OHIO, DAYTON, November 7-8, 2026. 50th Original Dayton Train Show. Montgomery County Fairgrounds and Events Center, 645 Infirmary Road.
Info: www.daytontrainshow.com

OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA CITY, November 14-16, 2026. 49th Annual OKC Train Show. Bennett Event Center, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, 3101 Gordon Cooper Blvd.
Info: okctrainshow.com

OREGON, PORTLAND, November 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, December 5-6, 2026. Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Historical Society Annual Open House. 2505 North Vancouver Ave.
Info: www.cgmrhs.org

PENNSYLVANIA, ALTOONA, November 15, 2026. Model Train Show sponsored by the Alto Model Train Museum Association, Inc. Blair County Convention Center, One Convention Center Drive.
Info: www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1073151698444343&set=g.3415453285366609

PENNSYLVANIA, DUNMORE, October 18, 2026. The Great Northeast Model Train Show. Holiday Inn Scranton East, 200 Tigue St.
Info: bernies-model-railroad-shop.square.site

SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, October 17, 2026. Carolina Train Shows. Seven Oaks Park, 200 Leisure Lane.
Info: carolinatrainshows.com/#shows

VIRGINIA, VIRGINIA BEACH, October 15-18, 2026. Tracks to Tidewater, 2026 Mid-Eastern Regional Convention. Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach, 5655 Greenwich Rd.
Info: mer-nmra.com/savethedate/index.html

WASHINGTON, CENTRALIA, October 17-18, 2026. Lewis County Model Railroad Club Train Show and Swap Meet. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Blue Pavilion, 1909 S Gold St.
Info: tinyurl.com/mr24nueh

WASHINGTON, KENT, November 14, 2026, 46th Annual Boeing Employees Model RR Club Swap Meet. Kent Commons Community Center, 525 4th Avenue North.
Info: bemrrc.org/events

WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE, November 7-8, 2026. Milwaukee Trainfest. Baird Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave.
Info: www.eventcreate.com/e/trainfest-2026-reg

Future 2026/2027 by location

ALABAMA, MOBILE, March 6, 2027. SWARM Model Train Show. Mobile Via Health, Fitness, and Enrichment Center, Arlene F. Mitchell Campus, 1717 Dauphin Street.
Info: www.facebook.com/p/SWARM-South-West-Alabama-Railroad-Modelers-100070094629309

CALIFORNIA, MOUNTAIN VIEW, February 26-27, 2027. 36th O Scale West 2027. Portuguese IFES Society Hall, 432 Stierlin Road.
Info: www.oscalewest.com

COLORADO, LONGMONT, December 11-13, 2026. Boulder Model Railroad Club 49th Annual Model Train EXPO 2026. Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Rd.
Info: www.bmrconline.org

FLORIDA, THE VILLAGES, December 10-13, 2026. The Villages Holiday Train Show. Colony Cottage Recreation Center.
Info: www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com/Events.html

FLORIDA, THE VILLAGES, February 6-7, 2027. The Villages Model Train Club Winter EXPO. Savannah Recreation Center.
Info: www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com/Events.html

ILLINOIS, ROBINSON, February 20-21, 2027. Crawford County Model Railroaders Train Show. Robinson Civic Center, 300 S. Lincoln St.
Info: www.facebook.com/groups/3415453285366609/posts/4513558255556101

MICHIGAN, MASON, February 20, 2027. 1st Ever Mason Michigan Train Show and Sale. 700 East Ash St.
Info: www.facebook.com/groups/MTSS1/posts/4610422492536466

OREGON, PORTLAND, February 20, 2027. Willamette Model Railroad Club Annual Swap Meet. Kliever Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Dr. Info: wmrrc.com

OREGON, RICKREALL, December 5, 2026. Railroad Show and Swap Meet, sponsored by the Willamette Valley Model Railroad Museum. Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S Pacific Hwy W Info: www.wvmrm.org/new-page

TENNESSEE, LEBANON, December 12, 2026. 32nd Annual Christmas Toy Train Show. Wilson County Fairgrounds, "Made in Tennessee" Building, 945 East Baddour Parkway. Info: www.dixiedivisiontca.com/dixie-div ■

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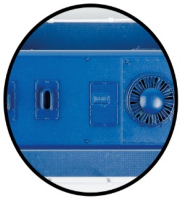
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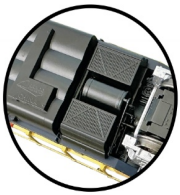


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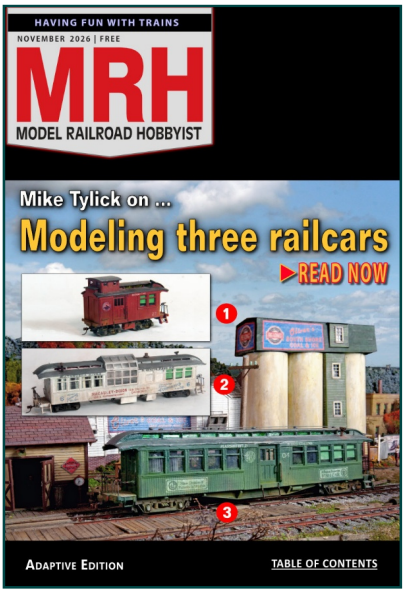
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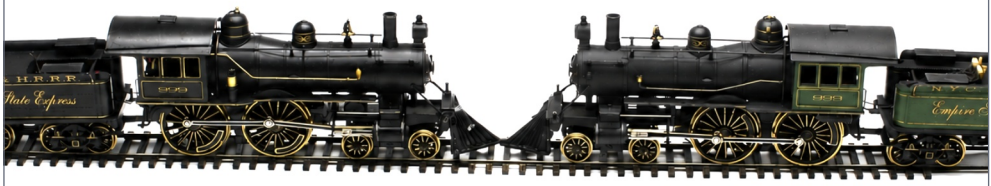


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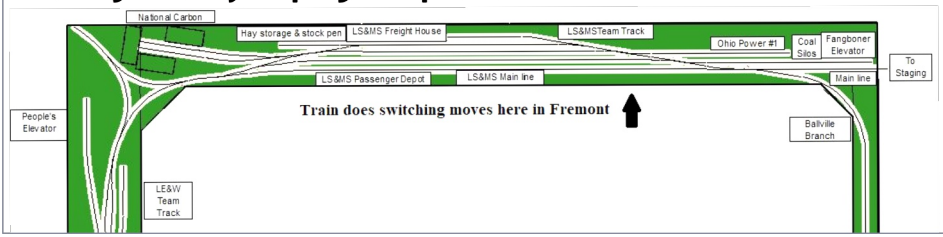
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