

FLYER ALL★ABOARD PANEL LAYOUT p. 40

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS®

O AND S GAUGE FOR THE OPERATOR AND COLLECTOR

JULY 2021



p. 50

**BIG
BOLD
GS** LIONEL'S
VISION LINE 4-8-4
REVIEWED

CALL *of the* WEST

Family travels
inspired this
great layout p. 30

Blend a
sawmill into
your scene p. 58

GREATEST FIND

Rare postwar
era hopper p. 36





COMING SOON

MISS MOLLY'S DINER

Built-&-Ready® Landmark Structures®

- Interior lighting compatible with Just Plug®
- Hand-painted train car styled eatery
- Interior features booths, a kitchen and authentic details
- Pair Just Plug Spotlight with included signage
- Available for N, HO and O scales



O scale

COMING SOON

RECORDS & RECRUITING

Built-&-Ready® Landmark Structures®

- Interior lighting compatible with Just Plug®
- Authentic decals provide superior realism
- Upstairs windows reveal apartments
- Available for N, HO and O scales



**WOODLAND
SCENICS®**

Purchase from your local hobby store.
woodlandscenics.com



30



46

LINEUP. JULY 2021 VOL. 34 NO. 5

22

COLLECTIBLE CLASSICS

Lionel's no. 9854 billboard reefer car

Baby Ruth graphics honored tradition.

BY ROGER CARP

26

Trains from a special uncle

Saluting the real Santas in my life.

BY TOM WALKER

30

COVER STORY

Layout brings family memories to life

A dad and his twins built a great O gauge railroad.

BY PAUL GEFFKEN

Cover photo by Paul Geffken

36

Postwar hopper with its own identity

Andy Amante added this Lionel treasure.

BY ROGER CARP



22

38

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Scratchbuild a tell-tale

A simple project sure to add scenic interest.

BY STAN TRZONIEC

40

All Aboard with American Flyer

S gauge layout built with special panels.

BY JON BALKA

46

Lionel's conveyor lumber loader

Time to let the logs in with the great no. 364 accessory.

BY ROGER CARP

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Editor's Desk
- 6 Letters
- 8 Modern Era Notes
- 10 Photo Album
- 14 News & Products
Companies acquire O, S gauge MTH tooling.
- 18 Questions & Answers
- 21 Views from the Underground
- 50 Reviews
Lionel Vision Line GS-6, Lionel LionChief 2.0 O-6-OT
- 57 Ad Index
- 58 Tips & Techniques
Modifying a Flyer no. 23796 sawmill



trains.com

SUBSCRIBERS HAVE ACCESS TO MORE THAN 100 PLANS FROM OUR TRACK PLAN DATABASE. TRAINS.COM/CTT/HOW-TO/

What is normal going to look like?

Some of the things we've done during the pandemic should continue

■ THERE'S A SAYING I'VE TOLD MY KIDS

many times throughout their lives: "You never know what you can do until you *have* to do it."

A little more than a year ago most of us had never heard of COVID-19, nor did we think such a thing could wreak so much havoc around the globe.

The illness and the loss of life have been staggering and should be first and foremost in our minds. Precious few of us haven't been touched by the loss of a friend or loved one.

In the efforts to avoid getting ourselves and others ill, we've had to change so many things. From a hobby standpoint, this has meant the cancellation of shows, scrapped work and operating sessions, virtual club meetings, and fewer visits to hobby stores.

You'd think O and S gauge model railroading would, as a result, be on life support. But not only is the hobby still alive, it's actually doing well. Really, most hobbies have enjoyed an uptick over the past 12 months.

The silver lining

With limitations on businesses and interactions, people have



Our "booth" for a recent World's Greatest Hobby show. Virtual events should be part of the new normal.

had time to stay home and work on their layouts or start new ones. I've had quite a number of emails that start with "I'm just getting back into the hobby and ..." This kind of trend is great to see.

That said, I'm as eager as anyone to get back to more in-person interaction. I want to wander the aisles at shows and shake hands and just talk.

But I think there will and

should continue to be virtual meetings and shows via the internet. Such events reach a different audience and expand the scope of the hobby.

Not to mention they bring people together who might never have crossed paths.

Some individuals have really embraced technology, learning to use and installing cameras that give others a look at them, their layouts, and

their niche in the hobby.

There's a good chance that none of this would have happened – at least not as quickly – had it not been for the events of the past year.

I hope the positive momentum continues.

Hal Miller, Editor

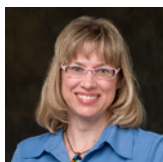
YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM



Editor
Hal Miller
hmiller@
Kalmbach.com



Senior Editor
Roger Carp
rcarp@
ClassicToyTrains.com



Production Editor
Rene Schweitzer
rschweitzer@
Kalmbach.com



Copy Editor
Steven Otte
sotte@
Kalmbach.com



Group Technical
Editor
Cody Grivno
cgrivno@
ModelRailroader.com



Contributing Editor
Bob Keller
editor@
ClassicToyTrains.com

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE and photos, email manuscripts@classictoytrains.com, or send materials to Classic Toy Trains, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53186. Write the words "Manuscript Enclosed" on the envelope. Before preparing an article, contact us to determine interest. Article/photo guidelines are available at trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines/. *Classic Toy Trains* assumes letters, new product information, and other unsolicited materials are contributed gratis. We assume no responsibility for the safe return of unsolicited material.

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

OUR MISSION

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

Monica Freitag Editorial Assistant
Lisa M. Schroeder Assistant Design Director
Kelly Katlaps Graphic Designer
William Zuback Photography Supervisor
Sue Hollinger-Klahn Production Specialist
Martha Stanczak Ad Sales Representative

TRAINS.COM

A. David Popp Executive Producer
Kent Johnson Producer

KALMBACH MEDIA

Dan Hickey Chief Executive Officer
Christine Metcalf Senior Vice President, Finance
Nicole McGuire Senior Vice President, Consumer Marketing
Stephen C. George Vice President, Content
Brian J. Schmidt Vice President, Operations
Sarah A. Horner Vice President, Human Resources

Scott Redmond Advertising Sales Director
Liz Runyon Circulation Director
Angela Cotey Director of Digital Strategy
Michael Soliday Director of Design and Production
Kathy Steele Retention Manager
Kim Redmond Single Copy Specialist

NEED HELP?

For questions about new subscriptions, existing subscriptions, and magazine delivery, or to make an address change or purchase products, contact:

CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE

Phone: 877-243-4903

Outside the US and Canada: 903-636-1125

Customer Service: customerservice@ClassicToyTrains.info

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

To contact our editorial staff, call us at 262-796-8776, fax us at 262-796-1142, or send an email to editor@ClassicToyTrains.com.

To contact our advertising department, call us at 888-558-1544, or send an email to adsales@ClassicToyTrains.com.

RETAIL QUESTIONS

Phone: 800-558-1544

Outside U.S. and Canada: 262-796-8776 Ext. 818

Fax: 262-798-6592

Email: tss@kalmbach.com

Web site: Retailers.Kalmbach.com

Outside the United States and Canada, call us at 262-796-8776.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy: \$8.99 (U.S.). Print + digital subscription rate:
U.S.: 1 year \$47.95. Canadian: Add \$10.00 postage.
Canadian price includes GST, payable in U.S. funds. All other international: Add \$12.00 postage, payable in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank. (Canadian price includes GST) BN 12271 3209 RT.

© 2021 Kalmbach Media Co. Title registered as trademark. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Lionel and Gilbert catalog art reprinted with the permission of The Lionel Corporation.

Looking to build a new layout?

Look no further, GarGraves has what you need for your model railroad empire!

We have been manufacturing track, switches, operating and special tracks for 80 years.



Visit our website, give us a call or stop in to your local dealer and ask for GarGraves Track Products.

www.GarGraves.com

GarGraves Trackage Corp.
8967 Ridge Road
North Rose, NY 14516
315-483-6577
email gargraves@gargraves.com



SHOP ON-LINE 24/7

WE SUPPLY THE WORLD



AMERICA'S LARGEST
INTERNATIONAL MAIL ORDER
DISCOUNT TRAIN STORE

TRAINWORLD.COM

0 GAUGE SUPER SAVINGS
LIONEL MTH WILLIAMS

10% OFF

@ TRAINWORLD.COM
On-Line Orders Only

Use CODE Word CTJ121 In User Comment Box
SALE ENDS July 15, 2021

10% OFF
\$100.00 and OVER
THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL

MTH 30-5189
UNCLE SAM
RNC HAND
CAR



Limited Quantities
SUPER SALE \$59.99

MORE SALE ITEMS @ trainworld.com

• CODE WORD MUST BE APPLIED AT TIME OF ORDER
• IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY
• NO NEW RELEASES; NO BACK ORDERS; NO PRE-ORDERS
• NOT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH OR GIFT CARDS
• LIMITED QUANTITIES ON CERTAIN ITEMS
• DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO SALES TAX OR SHIPPING & HANDLING
• NO RETURNS, NO REFUNDS, NO STORE CREDIT ON PREVIOUSLY SOLD ITEMS
• CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR OTHER DISCOUNTS
• IF DISCOUNT APPLICABLE, TRAINWORLD WILL APPLY IT WHEN ORDER IS PROCESSED
• NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS

The Products We Sell Are Not Toys and Are Not Intended For Use By Children Under The Age Of 14.

Sign-up for our E-mail Sales 1-800-541-7010 e-mail: ORDERS@TRAINWORLD.COM
HUGE INVENTORY • GREAT SELECTION • FAST SHIPPING
751 McDONALD AVE, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

Go Digital!

Read *Classic Toy Trains*
on your favorite device!

Visit <https://www.trains.com/ctt/subscription-plans/>

The Serious Buyer

Travels anywhere to buy train collections!

Long time advertiser buying electric trains!
Specializing in larger train collections and estates.

I will travel **anywhere** for larger train collections.
In business for over **25 years**.
I offer professionalism, confidentiality, and fairness.

Easy to deal with, very honest!
Please contact me personally by phone, fax, letter, or e-mail.

Charles P. Siegel 321.799.4005

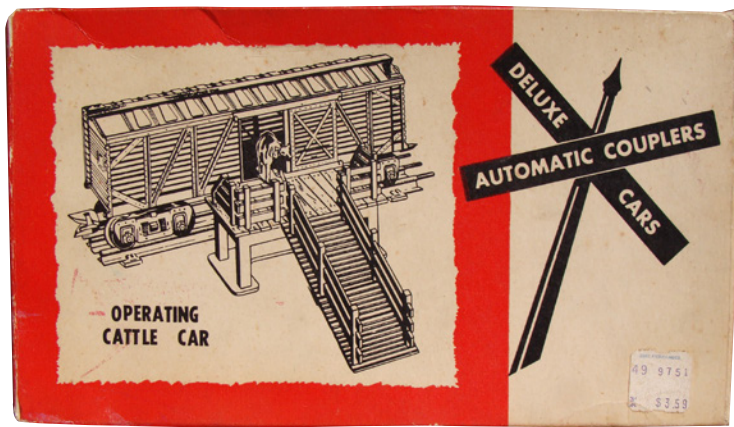
387 Imperial Blvd., Suite 2, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 Fax 321.799.4044

Email: trainman@traincity.com Web site: www.traincity.com

Charles Siegel is president and buyer for Train City, Inc.



Marx also loaded cattle



The operating cattle car offered by Louis Marx & Co. never earned the publicity of Lionel's, but it always entertained O gauge modelers.

■ **I JUST RECEIVED THE MARCH ISSUE** of *Classic Toy Trains* and wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the article by Roger Carp about Lionel's no. 3656 operating cattle car and corral. I remember seeing TV commercials back in the 1950s that showed one of those units in operation.

Louis Marx & Co., of course, had its own version of an operating cattle car that was quite basic and yet always enjoyable. When the O gauge car was eased in next to the unloading platform, a protruding lever at the car's bottom would be pushed back, causing the door to open and a small cow to tentatively move forward as if to exit the car – which it never did! The best thing about this unit was the unloading platform and ramp. By adding a few non-Marx cattle, it made a terrific addition to any three-rail layout.

– Eric Beheim, Descanso, Calif.

Milk car benefits from Turtle Wax

I was brought up in Friendship, Maine, about a mile from where I live now. My father was a lobster fisherman, and he owned land contiguous from our house to his wharf. The salty air tended to make things rust, including the piece of plated steel onto which the milk cans of my Lionel operating milk car were tossed. Mine always seemed to work better when the steel was frequently polished with Turtle Wax.

My boyhood layout was in the walk-in basement, where our milkman left quart bottles of fresh milk. Once I invited him to watch my Lionel cattle

car in action. After my demonstration he said firmly, "Just like all cows, you have to prod them." – Stephen H. Burns, Friendship, Maine

Lionel cows need help

I've been rereading the article about how to maintain and adjust the Lionel 3656 operating cattle car and corral and think it's great. My old set has never worked right. Twenty years ago, I took it to a service guy and paid him 50 bucks, and he still couldn't get the accessory to cooperate. I reworked the car following the tips in the article and have seen some improvement. Too bad the car still seems to interfere

with the ramp and the first cow in tries to back up. Any advice? Also, one mistake in the text: Operation requires 12 to 24 volts, not watts, as printed. – Jim Kussy, West Chicago, Ill.

Catching up on CTT

Most of our lives have certainly changed over the past year, as sheltering in place became the norm! My wife and I, after 55 years of marriage, finally found time to clean closets, empty drawers, and rearrange a room or two. But there was only so much cleaning, sorting, rearranging, and other house tasks I could do to fill the free time.

So I found opportunities to work on my postwar Lionel trains. And when I needed something interesting to read – and didn't want to immerse myself in news magazines bound to leave me feeling depressed – I turned to *Classic Toy Trains*, in particular old issues I'd let pile up.

What a surprise it was to go back to copies from more than 30 years ago and find a wealth of interesting, and still timely, articles I had forgotten. Each time I read through one of those old issues was like reading it for the first time!

If you have vintage copies of CTT, I encourage you to give them another look or two. You won't be disappointed. The number of articles and their high quality has changed little over more than 30 years. – Richard Pemble, Fargo, N.D.

Postwar memories

I just finished reading Lou Palumbo's "Views From The Underground" in the March 2021 issue of CTT. His column is always a highlight for me, and the latest one brought back

so many good memories of growing up in the 1950s with Lionel trains. If Lou and I got together for lunch, I'm certain we would end up talking well into the night! – Tom Fidler, Warrington, Pa.



Memories of Johnston's

I was surprised to read about the Johnston's Electric Train Shop in the February 2021 issue of *Classic Toy Trains*. I grew up in St. Louis and remember the store quite well.

I received my first electric train for Christmas of 1946, when I was three years old. It had a Lionel no. 224 steam engine with a whistle tender, three freight cars, and a caboose. My father purchased it and a type-Z transformer from Johnston's. That Christmas gift lit a fire that continues to burn today. I still have that train and transformer. Christmas and my birthday were good times to ask for an addition to my collection.

As I got older I always looked forward to the month of November. I would pester my dad to take me to Johnston's to see what was new and to get a copy of the latest Lionel catalog. I would read through that catalog until the pages were nearly worn out. In 1954, I used my own money to buy a train from Mrs. Johnston. It was a New York Central F3 set I still have. Thank you for your great story. – Nick Dalba, Canton Ga. CTT

INFO / ORDERS : (570) 451-1700 or 451-1726

MAIL / SHIP TO: 200 Glenmaura National Blvd., Moosic, PA 18057

FOR PLACING ORDERS CALL 1-800-8LIONEL

Website: www.grzybositrains.com

Prices Subject to Change & Valid for Mail Order only



State Rt 502 & Glenmaura National Blvd.

Take Rt. 11 South to Rt. 502 • 3 minutes off I-81 - Exit 180

We accept MasterCard, Visa, & Discover • Shipping Charges are actual cost charged by the shipping carriers (UPS or USPS). Charge is based on order total, weight, destination, and multiple box shipment (if required). Call for cost. Minimum order \$40 • PA Residents add 6% Sales Tax including freight charge Shipping Charges are Non-Refundable • 10-Day Return Policy-Exchange Only • No Refunds • 15% Restocking Fee Applies • Items are new unless noted • Not Responsible for typographical errors • Store Hours : check website

WAREHOUSE CLEANUP SALE!!

15002	Chessie Waffle-Sided Boxcar	25.00
15003	Green Bay & Western Waffle-Sided b/c	20.00
16138	Goodyear's Tank Car	25.00
16429	Western Maryland Coal Hopper 2pk	55.00
16431	32 or 33 Lionel Corp. Hoppers	each 20.00
16681	Lionel Gold Animated Aquarium Car	35.00
16708	C&N Maintenance Car	25.00
16718	USMC Missile Launching Car	40.00
16719	Exploding Boxcar	35.00
16725	Animated Rhino Transport Boxcar	25.00
16738	Pope LePew Animated Boxcar	30.00
16742	Trout Ranch Operating Aquarium Car	35.00
16922	C3 Flatcar w/Single Trailer	30.00
16924	Lionel Corp. Flatcar w/Single Trailer	25.00
16930	Santa Fe Flatcar w/Wheel Load	25.00
16933	Lionel Lines Flatcar w/Autos	25.00
16953	NYC Flatcar w/Red Wing Shoe Trailer	25.00
16968	Dep. Flatcar w/Lightflight Helicopter	30.00
17009	NYC ACF 2-Bay Hopper Car	29.95
17217	State of Maine 'New Haven' St'O' Boxcar	35.00
17218	State of Maine 'BAR' St'O' Boxcar	35.00
17219	Tasmanian Devil St'O' Boxcar	25.00
17221	New York Central St'O' Green Boxcar	25.00
17222	Western Pacific St'O' Boxcar	25.00
17304	Wabash St'O' Reefer Car	20.00
17305	or 06 Pacific Fruit Ex. St'O' Reefers	each 25.00
17307	or 17308 Tropicalia St'O' Reefers	30.00
17309	or 17310 Tropicalia St'O' Reefers	30.00
17311	REA St'O' Reefer Car	25.00
17407	Nickel Plate St'O' Gondola w/Scrap load	30.00
17522	St'O' Flatcar w/Yellow Prowler	35.00
17903	Conoco Unit-body Tank Car	25.00
17909	Hooker Chemicals Unit-body Tank Car	30.00
18423	Orange Motorized Step Van	30.00
18424	Blue Motorized Pick-up Truck	30.00
19276	6464 Series V Boxcar 3-pack	50.00
19283	Erie 6464-style Boxcar	20.00
19286	Sylvester & Tweety Boxcar	25.00
19423	Circle L Flatcar w/Racing Cars	25.00
19824	U.S. Army Target Launch Car	25.00
19447	Mama's Baked Beans Vat Car	25.00
19927	Lionel's Visitor Center Boxcar-1993	10.00
19932	Lionel's Visitor Center Boxcar-1994	10.00
19934	Lionel's Visitor Center Boxcar-1995	10.00
19944	Lionel's Visitor Center Tank Car	10.00
19917	Toy Fair Boxcar 1992	10.00
19931	Toy Fair Boxcar 1994	10.00
19996	Toy Fair Boxcar 2001	10.00
25757	Texas Special 15' Alum. Passenger 2-cars	199.95
26426	Fish Food Vat Car	25.00
29225	HORDE Music Festival Boxcar	15.00
29252	C.P. Rail 6464 (yellow) Boxcar	30.00
29612	Las Vegas Poker Chip Display Car	30.00
29671	Smoke Pellet Display Car #2	20.00
37112	Helicopter 2-pack	9.95
38219	Texas Special FT (Style) B-unit	44.95
39217	Century Club II Boxcar	20.00
39252	Lenny Dean 60th Ann. Boxcar	25.00
81446	Santa Fe Tie-Jector w/Command Control	99.95
81448	Amtrak Tie-Jector w/Command Control	99.95
82022	Lionel Steel Command-Only Gantry Crane	224.95
82543	Exploding Ammunition Dump	19.95
82977	MLB 2015 All-Star Game Boxcar	25.00
83157	Smithsonian Air & Space Flight Boxcar 2pk	99.95
83230	Amtrak Die-Cast Girder Bridge	19.95
83246	Shell Gas Billboard Art Boxcar	45.00
83497	Lionel 2015 National Train Day Boxcar	25.00
84053	B.N. 21' Pass. StationSounder Brown Car	194.95
84166	Logging Dissonnet (single pair) brown	29.95
84230	Norfolk Southern 21' Theater Car Vista	194.95
84599	Buckling Feed & Tack Building	54.95
29385	ATSF Double Sheathed Boxcar	39.95
81081	Alaska Steel-Sided Reefer	49.95
82847	MKT 40' Tractor-Trailer	39.95

LIONEL 'SCALE-SIZE' CARS - SALE!!

83347	Atlantic Coast Line Double Sheath Boxcar	39.95
84120	Eastern Steel 40' Steel-Side Reefer	39.95
84125	Milwaukee Road PS-2CD Hopper Car	44.95
84126	Northern Pacific PS-2CD Hopper Car	44.95
84128	TLDX Demonstrator PS-2 CD Hopper Car	44.95
84131	BNF Extended Vision Caboose	59.95
84141	Western Maryland 2-Bay Coal Hopper 3pk	99.95
84145	Western Maryland 2-Bay Coal Hopper 3pk	99.95
84478	or 79 Wabash PS-4 f/c w/40' Trailer	ea. 69.95
84984	or 95 Pennsylvania Round Roof Boxcar	ea. 49.95
84918	or 19 David Ind. Cylindrical Hopper	ea. 54.95
85069	ARZC Husky Stack w/End-Of-Train	84.95
85070	Southwind Husky Stack w/End-Of-Train	84.95
85082	GATX 30K Tank Car w/FreightSounds	84.95
85090	Cargill 30K Tank Car w/End-Of-Train	69.95
85091	ACFX 30K Tank Car w/End-Of-Train	69.95
85092	Procor 30K Tank Car w/End-Of-Train	69.95
85290	Penna. MOW Gla Hopper 3-pack	134.95
85299	Reading & Northern N5 Caboose	74.95
85408	Union Pacific 1943 LED Flag 60' Boxcar	74.95
84863	64 or 65 ARZC Husky Stack Car	ea. 74.95
84867	or 68 Southwind Husky Stack Car	ea. 74.95

LIONEL 'LIQUOR' REEFER SERIES

9827	Cutty Shark Scotch Whiskey	45.00
9828	J&B Whiskey	45.00
9829	Dewars 'White Label' Whiskey	35.00
9834	Southern Comfort	40.00
9836	Old Grand Dad Bourbon Whiskey	40.00
9837	Wild Turkey Whiskey	55.00
9840	Fleischmann's Gin	30.00
9841	Calvert Gin	35.00
9842	Seagrams Gin	35.00
9843	Tanqueray Gin	40.00
9844	Sambuca Romana	40.00
9846	Seagram's Vodka	35.00

LIONEL CONVENTIONAL DIESELS

8030	8/254 Illinois Central GP-9's (P/D)	175.00
8031	8/258 Canadian National GP-7's (P/D)	175.00
8051	51 Delaware & Hudson U36B's (P/D)	195.00
8068	Rock GP-20	125.00
8071	7/2 Virginian SD-18 (Power/Dummy)	195.00
8158	5/9 Duluth Missable GP-35 (Pow/Dum)	195.00
8162	6/3 Ontario Northland SD-18 (Pow/Dum)	245.00
8250	5/5 Santa Fe GP-9's (Power/Dummy)	175.00
8454	5/5 Rio Grande GP-7's (Power/Dummy)	195.00
8463	Chessie GP-20	125.00
8470	8/560 Chessie U36B's (Power/Dummy)	175.00
8571	7/2 Frisco U36B (Power/Dummy)	175.00
8575	Milwaukee Road F-3 B-unit	95.00
8657	Canadian National GP-B-unit	75.00
8665	Jeremiah O'Brien GP-9 w/Caboose	125.00
8668	Northern Pacific GP-9 Dummy	95.00
8753	Pennsylvania Tuscan GG-1	295.00
8754	New Haven Rectifier	145.00
8759	6/0 Erie-Lackawanna GP-9's (P/D)	195.00
8761	Grand Truck NW-2 Switcher	125.00
8850	Penn Central GG-1	295.00
8872	7/3 Santa Fe SD-18's (Power/Dummy)	225.00
8957	5/8 Burlington Northern GP-20's (P/D)	195.00
8960	6/1 Southern Pacific U36B's (Power/Dum)	195.00
11711	Santa Fe F-3 ABA's w/RS (sealed)	595.00
11724	Great Northern F-3 ABA's w/RS (sealed)	495.00
18107	Denver Rio Grande PA Alco ABA's w/RS	395.00
18116	Erie-Lackawanna PA Alco 'AA' w/RS	295.00
18117	1/21/22 Santa Fe Blue/Yellow F-3 ABA's	550.00
18119	Union Pacific Alco 'AA' (Sealed)	245.00
18256	Amtrak Scale Dash-9 w/SignalSounds	195.00
18263	CSX Scale SD-60 w/SignalSounds	195.00
18301	Southern Trainmaster FM	195.00
18309	Reading Trainmaster FM	195.00
18513	New York Central GP-7 w/horn	145.00
18551	Susquehanna RS-3 w/case	175.00
18552	Duluth Missable SD-18 w/case	175.00
18553	Union Pacific GP-9 w/case	150.00
18554	Gulf, Mobile & Ohio RS-3 w/case	175.00
18558	MKT GP-7 w/display case	195.00
18590	Nickel Plate Road C-420 w/SignalSounds	195.00
18811	Alaska SD-9	175.00
18832	Pennsylvania RSD-4	145.00
18842	Bessemer & Lake Erie GP-38 w/case	195.00
18897	Christmas 1999 GP-7 w/SignalSounds	195.00
18908	New York Central Alco 'AA'	145.00
18934	Reading F-4 Alco's 'AA' (sealed)	150.00
28504	Atlantic Coast Line GP-7 w/SignalSounds	195.00
28823	Virginian Rectifier	145.00
28848	Santa Fe GP-38 w/display case	195.00
38351	Union Pacific GP-7	225.00
38504	BNF GP-20 w/TrainSounds	199.95
58526	Texas Special NW-2 & Calf Unit (LCCA)	395.00

LIONEL STANDARD 'O' DIESELS

8265	Santa Fe (Blue & Yellow) SD-40	150.00
18203	Canadian Pacific SD-40	195.00
18208	Burlington Northern SD-40 Dummy	150.00
18210	Illinois Central SD-40 #6006	150.00
18211	Susquehanna Dash 8-40B	175.00
18218	Susquehanna Dash 8-40B	175.00
18214	CSX Dash-8 40C #7500	175.00
18215	CSX Dash-8 40C #7643	195.00
18216	Conrail SD-60 w/RailSounds	225.00
18217	Illinois Central SD-40 #6007	175.00
18219	C&N Dash-8 w/RailSounds	195.00
18220	C&N Dash-8 w/Diesel Horn	150.00
18221	Denver Rio Grande SD-50 w/TMCC	295.00
18222	Denver Rio Grande SD-50 w/Horn	225.00
18223	Milwaukee Road SD-50 w/RailSounds	225.00
18228	Southern Pacific Dash-9 w/TMCC	250.00
52206	LCCA Platinum SD-60 w/Matching Caboose	295.00

LIONEL BOXED SET (NO T&T)

1450	Rio Grande F-3 'AA' Freight-SSS	350.00
1585	75th Anniversary Set	175.00
1971	Reading Quaker City U36B Freight Set	295.00
11705	Chessie SD-40 Hopper St'O' Set	350.00
11710	C.P. Rail SD-40 St'O' Freight (sealed)	350.00
11713	Santa Fe Dash-8 St'O' Freight (sealed)	395.00
11718	Norfolk Southern Triple Crown Set	395.00
11733	W.P. 'Feather River' Freight Set	295.00
11738	So Line GP38 Freight Set	275.00
11744	NYC RS-3 Diesel Freight/Pass. Set	245.00
11749	Western Maryland GP20 Hopper Set	225.00
11838	ATSF Warhorse Hudson Weathered Set	695.00
11909	N&W J Warhorse Weather Hopper Set	695.00
11914	NYC GP-9 TMCC Freight Set	325.00
11918	Conrail SD-20 Merger Freight (sealed)	250.00
11982	Corvette Set (sealed)	450.00
29124	Phoebe Snow F3 Aluminum Passenger	895.00

K-LINE DIE-CAST 2-BAY HOPPERS

K6251-1752	New York Central Smooth-Side	49.95
K6253-1892	Pennsylvania Ribbed	54.95
K6255-1051	ATSF Outside-Braced	44.95
K6255-1351	Chicago, Burlington, Quincy	44.95
K6255-1891	Pennsylvania Outside-Braced	44.95

K-LINE DIE-CAST 'QUARTER' STATE CARS

K623-7425	Connecticut Scale Hopper Car	30.00
K623-7427	Mainland O-Gauge Tank Car	25.00
K623-7432	North Carolina Scale Hopper Car	35.00
K623-7421	Delaware O-Gauge Tank Car	20.00
K623-7427	Maryland O-Gauge Tank Car	25.00
K623-7429	New Hampshire O-Gauge Tank Car	25.00
K623-7433	Rhode Island O-Gauge Tank Car	25.00
K765-7422	Pennsylvania Scale-Size Boxcar	30.00
K765-7423	New Jersey Scale-Size Boxcar	20.00
K765-7424	Georgia Scale-Size Boxcar	25.00
K765-7426	Massachusetts Scale-Size Boxcar	25.00
K765-7431	New York Scale-Size Boxcar	25.00
21104	Oregon Scale-Size Boxcar	25.00

FOR SALE 44-QUARTER STATE CAR SET

LIONEL AMERICAN FLYER S-GAUGE

8150	5/1 SP PA Alco w/9500 to 03 Pass. Cars	595.00
8153	5/4 B&O PA Alco ABA's Diesels	395.00
8251	Erie PA Alco 'AA' Diesels	275.00
8350	Boston & Maine GP-7 Diesel	195.00
8458	Southern GP-7 Diesel	175.00
8458s	Southern GP-7 Diesel w/6 South. Freight	295.00
8552	NYC GP-9 w/6 Matching Freight Cars	395.00
42550	Nickel Plate LEGACY ES44AC Diesel	489.95
42560	Monongahela LEGACY ES44AC Diesel	499.95
42566	American Flyer Line 0-6-0 Dockside	99.95
47992	New Haven LEGACY PA Alco 'AA' Diesels	649.95
48000	Southern Pacific GP-9 Diesel	175.00
48000	S.P. GP-9 w/6 Matching SP Freight Cars	395.00
48001	Illinois Central GP-20 Diesel	150.00
48002	Southern Pacific GP-9 Non-Pwd Diesel	135.00
48008	New Haven EP-5 Diesel	195.00
48009	American Flyer GP-7 Diesel	155.00
48010	Milwaukee Road EP-5 Diesel	175.00
48017	Nickel Plate Road GP-7 Power/Dummy	245.00
48019	Southern Pacific GP-20 Diesel	175.00
48020	Milwaukee Road GP-9 Diesel	195.00
48034	Seaboard Baldwin Switcher Diesel	195.00
48041	U.P. TMCC 2-8-2 Mikado Locomotive	495.00
48043	New York Central Baldwin Diesel	185.00
48048	Duluth Missable SD-9 Diesel	195.00
48049	Southern Pacific SD-9 Diesel	225.00
48065	American Flyer SD-9 Diesel	295.00
48070	U.P. LEGACY Big Boy Steam Locomotive	995.00
48071	Canadian National GP-9 Diesel	250.00
48075	New Haven EP-5 Diesel	245.00
48102	C&O PA Alco 'AA' Diesels	275.00
48129	Silver Flash PH-1 A-unit (non-pwd)	145.00
48144	Pennsylvania Baldwin Switcher Diesel	245.00
48185	ATSF Warbonnet LEGACY U33C Diesel	479.95
48187	MD&E LEGACY U33C Diesel	429.95
48193	Penn Central LEGACY U33C Diesel	429.95
48270	NASS GP208 Baldwin Switcher Diesel	325.00
49613	Southern Baldwin Work Train Boxed Set	395.00
9614	PRR PA Alco Passenger Boxed Set	625.00

AMERICAN FLYER PASSENGER CARS

44130	Polar Express Baggage Car	57.95
44131	Polar Express Abandoned Toy Car	57.95
44132	Polar Express Coach Add-on Car	57.95
48914	Missouri Pacific Coach Car	49.95
48944	ATSF Streamlined 4-Car Set	295.00
48968	Santa Fe Streamlined 2-Car add-ons	149.95
48975	Penna. Streamlined 2-Car add-ons	149.95
48990	NYC Heavyweight 4-Car Set	349.95
48991	NYC Heavyweight 2-Car add-ons	189.95
48993	Penna. Heavyweight 2-Car add-ons	189.95
48994	Blue Comet Heavyweight 2-Car add-ons	174.95

LIONEL 'LEGACY' STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

11267	Pilot Western Milwaukee Road S3	1395.00
84468	New York Central Light Mikado	875.00
85176	Chesapeake & Ohio USRA 2-6-6-2	1149.95
85178	B&O USRA 2-6-6-2	1149.95
85182	New York Central USRA 2-6-6-2	1149.95
1931400	Chesapeake & Ohio T-1 #3001	1249.95
1931420	Pennsylvania J1 #6174	1349.95
2031170	or 2031180 Santa Fe 4-8-4 Northern	1439



You dream it. We build it.

www.trainlayouts.com • 973-366-5788

We specialize in:

- Complex Multi-Level Track Plans
- Operating Accessories
- TMCC™ and DCS Control Systems
- Yards and Switching
- Multi-Train Operation
- Highly Detailed Scenery

East Coast Enterprises • Roman Electric

SUPERSMOKE®

- Non-Toxic Liquid & Vapor
- Fast Wicking
- Cedar * FIR TREE
- Arctic Mint
- Christmas Tree
- Sugar Maple
- Hickory * Cinnamon
- Big-Puff Odorless

2 oz. W/ DROPPER \$ 8.50
4 oz. W/ SAFETY CAP \$15.00

PLUS \$10.00 SHIPPING & HANDLING PER ORDER
AVAILABLE SINCE 1979

BART'S PNEUMATICS CORP.
1952 LANDIS VALLEY RD. • LANCASTER, PA. 17601
717-392-1568 VISA • MASTERCARD
www.bartspneumatics.com MINIMUM ORDER
PA. RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX

TRAINSHOW.COM

The best place to find Great Train Shows in America

OUR SHOWS:

Greenberg's Train & Toy Show
America's Train & Toy Show since 1976

Great Train Shows
Quality Train Shows from coast to coast

Great Midwest Train Show
The best place to buy & sell trains since 1971

SUMMER 2021 Schedule:

July 24-25 Monroeville, PA - Convention Ctr
August 7-8 Fredericksburg, VA - Expo Center
August 8 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fair
August 14-15 Dayton, OH - Montgomery Cty Fair
August 14-15 Edison, NJ - New Jersey Expo Ctr
August 21-22 Pomona, CA - Fairplex
August 21-22 Oaks, PA - Greater Philadelphia Expo
September 12 Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fair

For information & tickets visit
TRAINSHOW.COM

Great American Train Shows Inc - Info@cats.email
PO Box 1192 - Lombard, IL 60148 - 224-500-4159
Check our website for any last minute schedule changes!

Modern era notes

WITH BOB KELLER

Playing the long game

But what do you do after you find "The One"?

■ **EVERYBODY IN THIS HOBBY** has passed through the "I want it all" stage. This usually results in buying a lot of stuff that in a few years may become excess to requirements. This isn't about the stuff you eventually sell to get something new, but what happens when you find those items that fall into the stop everything, "Oh my gosh I've got to get that!" category.

Cases in point

When I got back into the hobby in the early 1990s, I discovered all my postwar equipment still worked. But my track had mostly rusted away, and I wasn't sure about my old Lionel no. 1033 transformer. I also realized that I had known more about three-rail trains when I was 8 years old than my 40-year-old self remembered. So I needed a starter set, just to get going.

I worried about this a bit because there were quite a few choices between K-Line and Lionel. I ended up getting a Lionel New York Central Flyer outfit led by a no. 18632 4-4-2 Atlantic steam engine and tender and built a layout around it. That was easy – the next thing was just fleshing out the railroad. Until ...

I saw a photo of a layout where the owner had no fewer than six 6-8-6 Turbine locomotives running.

They looked awesome. That was my next quest.

Postwar was hot, hot, hot at the time, and the West Coast prices had that "west of the Mississippi" surcharge. You know,

from all the wagon trains needed to bring those toys out west.

I agonized and fretted while checking the local stores – it was a golden era, with no fewer than six of them in the area selling postwar Lionel.

I checked the ads in the club magazines and even the then-common ads offering



I was smitten by an MTH Trains New York Central 4-8-4 Niagara, but played hard-to-get until the right one came along.

postwar trains in *Classic Toy Trains*. I ended up buying a pair of Turbines: the nos. 671 and 2020.

Those Pennsy engines became my go-to postwar steamers when running at public displays with the local club in Tacoma, Wash. They were bulletproof and could handle all the freight and passenger cars I could couple to them!

In the intervening years the "must

haves" tended toward rolling stock and an accessory or two. That changed in 2000.

After getting a few original MTH Electric Trains ProtoSound engines, such as the four-motored Centipede, and dealing with the "five clanks of death" (or was it "five clunks of doom"?), the arrival of ProtoSound 2.0 caused me to pay greater attention to MTH locomotion! And there it was: a New York Central Niagara. But it was priced in the \$1,000 range.

Now I'll confess, I had previously bought a steamer with a \$1,000 price tag. It wasn't MTH and had visible flaws in the die-casting; it looked a bit more tubby in person than in the catalog; and when running with the sound off, its audio footprint was like an electric coffee grinder. I was underwhelmed, and it left the fleet after a few years.

The Niagara kept calling my name, but I wouldn't budge. It was still being offered

here or there at or above the original sticker price. I'd seen examples at shows, and I loved the locomotive to death. Still, once stung, twice shy and all that.

Then I saw an MTH Niagara being offered in an online auction at a nice discount. It had a broken pipe below the cab, but a photo revealed it had been fixed. Maybe not the best repair, but if the train was in motion you'd never notice it. There were even 50 watchers on the item. Nobody was biting.

Certainly there must be a reason, right?

I think the Niagara was online for three weeks, a lifetime for something with that many watchers. After saving some of the photos to my iPad (so I could see them larger) I pulled the trigger and bought it. I really expected to be disappointed and was prepared to use this as a "don't ever do this again" moment.

Until the steamer arrived. I checked its progress across country six times a day! It

arrived on a day my wife was at work! A double-win!

I scurried to the basement, unpacked it, and placed it on the tracks. It looked new. It was exceptionally clean, not even dust from being out on a shelf. I checked the Digital Command System, and it had less than 20 hours on the odometer! That was less than an hour a year. Clearly, this wasn't the jewel of someone's operating fleet.

Firing it up with the MTH app, I discovered the Niagara sounded amazing. The smoke was a steady stream, and the locomotive literally glided along the rails. Underway, it made my New York Central passenger car fleet look, well, shabby. Sigh.

Unlike Captain Ahab, who found his Great White Whale, I didn't get dragged to the bottom of the ocean when I found mine.

This is a case where taking the (really, really) long view paid off. So what's my next "must have?" I'm not really certain, but I'll surely think of something.

As Sherlock Holmes once said, "The game's afoot!" **CTT**



**POSTWAR WAS
HOT, HOT, HOT
AT THE TIME,
AND THE WEST
COAST PRICES
HAD THAT
"WEST OF THE
MISSISSIPPI"
SURCHARGE.**

Charles Ro Supply Company

662 Cross Street, Malden, MA 02148 • 781-321-0090

WORLD'S LARGEST LIONEL DEALER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

VISIT OUR EASY TO USE WEB SITE



★ Shop By Gauge

N
SCALE

HO
SCALE

S
GAUGE

O
GAUGE

G
SCALE

★ Large Inventory & Great Prices
Over 11,000 items listed



★ Latest News from Charlie "updated weekly"

- New Product Announcements
- New Products "Just In"
- "Collection Fillers" Used items for Sale

www.charlesro.com

ORDER ON-LINE or Call to Order: 800-225-4424 • 800-225-4425

PHOTO ALBUM

YOUR PICTURES

↓ JOHN STUNDON'S O GAUGE LAYOUT

Late one evening in June, when movie theaters and restaurants are closing for the night, a handful of teens and adults wait for the Metro North M7 that will carry them back to the neighborhoods they call home. John Stundon, who resides in Hopatcong, N.J., knows all about the exciting sights that come alive when the sun goes down over Manhattan. He's captured the mood on his 4 x 12-foot home layout, where this LionChief set will never quit running as long as commuters need a lift.



→ ARNOLD CRIBARI'S O GAUGE LAYOUT

The quiet scene Mel Garelick photographed on the three-rail layout built by his friend Arnold Cribari leaves them wondering if life was once this relaxed and peaceful in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., where Arnold makes his home. The two talented O gauge modelers captured an MTH New York Central Alco RS-3 road switcher ferrying a few Lionel postwar coaches along the main line near the local the station. The plastic figures painted by Arnold and his children, David and Maria, look terrific alongside the die-cast metal items from the Artista line.





WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Please send your best pictures to CTT Photo Album, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612 or email them to photoalbum@ClassicToyTrains.com. Digital photos must be taken with the camera set at the largest possible file size. Include your name, address, and daytime telephone number; a description of each image, including the gauge and make of the train; and the name of the photographer or layout owner if he or she is someone other than you. If your photograph is published, we will pay you \$50 as long as we have not previously bought the photo. For more on photos specs, please go to trains.com/ctt/magazine/contributor-guidelines/

↑ JOHN TORGERSON'S O GAUGE LAYOUT

The perimeter of John Torgerson's 6 x 14-foot tribute to the prewar and postwar trains manufactured by Louis Marx & Co. never fails to showcase something scarce and unusual. Just stand by, as readers of an upcoming issue of *Classic Toy Trains* will discover, and a jewel from the collection on display in La Crosse, Wis., will appear. A favorite to share with fellow enthusiasts is this New York Central passenger train with a rare single-powered E7 diesel with silver horns and short flags pulling stately matching cars that lack any illumination.

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site

AVXLIVE : ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

PHOTO ALBUM

YOUR PICTURES



← RICK ARMSTRONG'S STANDARD AND O GAUGE LAYOUT

Every smile-inducing aspect of pre-war and postwar trains makes Rick Armstrong's Standard and O gauge layout the ideal place to while away an afternoon. Surrounded by antiques and railroad memorabilia, folks who drop by his home in Castine, Maine, find it impossible to quit investigating the different scenes on Rick's slick 12 x 28-foot display. He photographed a favorite corner where his Lionel nos. 66 semaphore and 124 station neatly frame a Standard gauge no. 8E electric pulling two matching pea green passenger cars.

→ BILL BROWN'S S GAUGE LAYOUT

Summer will have arrived by the time you pick up this issue, and that's the time of year commonly associated with baseball games, picnics, fishing, and circus performances. Fortunately for visitors to Bill Brown's S gauge model railroad in Cicero, N.Y., the circus is always in town. In addition to his classic American Flyer no. 5002T circus set, he has acquired during a lifetime of collecting and modeling many sideshow attractions, tents, wagons, and human and animal figures that fill out the scene in a wonderful fashion. Look around and you can almost hear the ringmaster announcing the next show and see acrobats, clowns, and daredevils rehearsing for tonight's crowd.





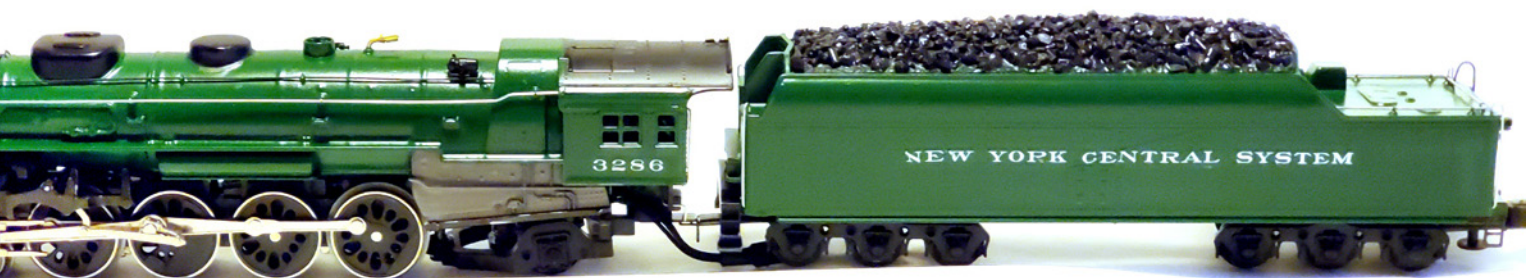
↑ ROBERT BARTH'S O GAUGE LAYOUT

The letter Robert Barth mailed to our offices in which he included this photograph of his O gauge layout and a brief description couldn't have been more direct: "My layout is Classic; it's Toy; and it's Trains." A good look at this bustling area in which an American Flyer no. 531 4-6-4 Hudson steam engine and tender from 1940 lead a few other prewar models attested wonderfully to the truth of his declaration. "I can run any O gauge train from any time," Bob added, motivating us to check out the colorful Marx and Lionel models nearby. Really, there's no question that he can run old and new on the slick three-rail display he's built at home in Perryopolis, Pa.



↓ CHARLES PLAYER'S O GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE AND TENDER

Skilled modelers sometimes find a locomotive that, gorgeous as it was made, they still think can be improved. Charles Player thought a black New York Central 4-8-2 Mohawk engine and tender from Lionel (no. 18009) could be transformed into an elegant thoroughbred by repainting it. Charles, whose workbench and paint booth are incorporated into his home in Ventura, Calif., viewed Rust-Oleum Satin Hunter Green as perfect. He painted the firebox with Gun Metal Gray and then completed the job with Rust-Oleum Satin Clear Coat.



WITH THE CTT STAFF

NEWS

ATLAS, SCALETRAINS.COM
ACQUIRE MTH TOOLING

WHEN MTH PRESIDENT MIKE WOLF announced his retirement in June 2020, there was much speculation about who would acquire the tooling for his company's product lines. This spring, Atlas Model Railroad Co. purchased a selection of tooling from MTH's Premier line of O gauge locomotive and rolling stock as well the company's RailKing accessory line. ScaleTrains.com bought the S gauge and HO scale tooling.

According to a release from Atlas, the company acquired molds for more than 20 freight cars and 15 diesel locomotives; heavyweight, lightweight, and Amfleet passenger cars; and figures, lights, and other accessories from the RailKing line.

In addition, Atlas acquired a license for the MTH Proto-Sound 3.0 sound and control electronics boards. Part of the license will also give Atlas the option to sell Digital Command System (DCS) components.

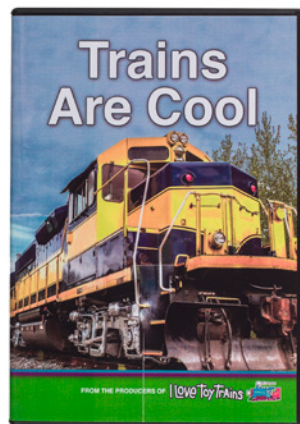
Jarrett Haedrich, chief operating officer of Atlas Model Railroad Co., said, "We will be working closely with the existing supplier to ensure that the models are produced and delivered in a timely fashion."

ScaleTrains.com, known among model railroaders for its HO and N scale products, purchased steam and diesel locomotive, freight car, and track tooling from MTH's S gauge and HO scale lines. Also included with the HO tooling were turbine and electric locomotives, subway sets, passenger cars, and engineering schematics for several all-new HO steam locomotive projects.

"The purchase of MTH's HO products allows us to broaden our product line into passenger cars, track, and more," said Shane Wilson, president of ScaleTrains.com. "We believe there is an opportunity to grow the S market as well."

Mike Wolf announced in 2020 he would close MTH Electric Trains in May 2021. The company's electronics department will live on as a separate entity, continuing to manufacture and provide support for DCS hardware and the Wi-Fi app.

WANT TO SUBMIT A PRODUCT? Send complete ordering information and a large, hi-res photo file to hmler@kalmbach.com or on a CD by mail to Hal Miller, Classic Toy Trains magazine, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.



ALWAYS SO COOL. TM Books & Video has long defined the coolness in toy trains, so it makes sense for them to release a 30-minute video called *Trains Are Cool*. The newly released DVD features visits to two FasTrack layouts, reviews of a pair of Lionel starter sets, and a tour of the Hesston Steam Museum in Indiana. Narrated by Jeff McComas, *Trains Are Cool* sells for **\$14.99** plus shipping and handling. To order, call **219-879-2822** or visit tmbv.com

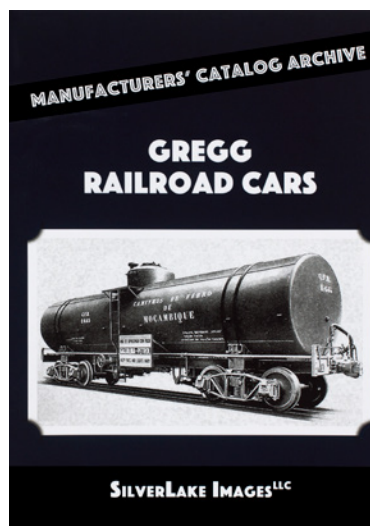
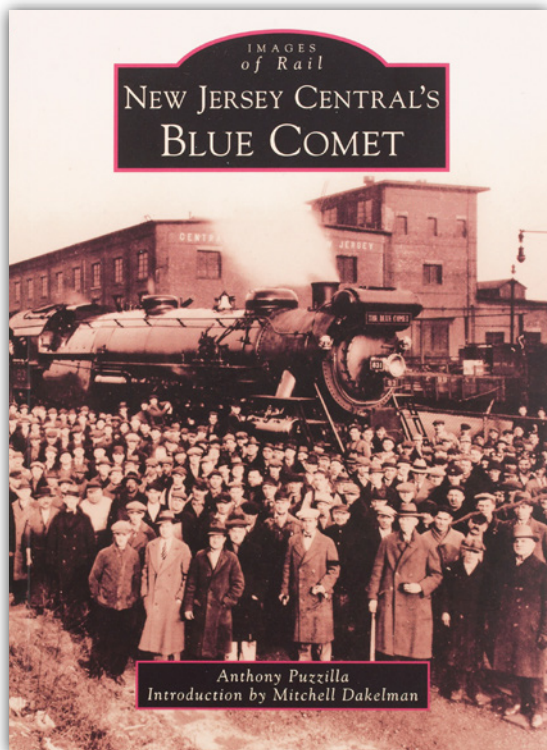


NEW ADDITIONS. Atlas O will be expanding its Trainman line roster of 70-ton three-bay hoppers with new paint schemes, including Seaboard Coast Line (black and white); Baltimore & Ohio (Chesapeake & Ohio patchout); Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (black, white, and red); Cambria & Indiana (black and white); Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac (black and white); and Southern Ry. (brown and white). The O gauge model will be available in two road numbers per scheme; undecorated models will also be offered. The three-bay hopper will have flat or arched ends as appropriate; sprung, die-cast metal trucks; and a separate, factory-applied coal load, brake wheel, and brakewheel platform. The car, scheduled for release in the fourth quarter, will be priced at **\$72.95 (undecorated, \$67.95)**. You can order the hopper at your favorite Atlas O dealer or by contacting the manufacturer by phone at **908-687-0880** or online at atlasrr.com

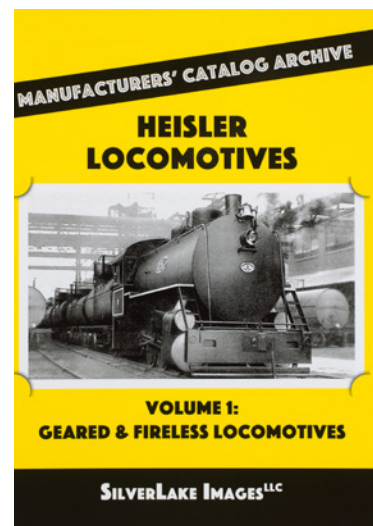
SWEETEST TRAINS. The perfect way for an O gauger to start the day is with the fresh and delicious baked goods packaged in an Entenmann's wrapper. This long-established business on Long Island has inspired the Metropolitan Division of the Train Collectors Association to offer an exclusive locomotive and caboose combination from Lionel. The GP7 road diesel features LionChief Plus 2.0, along with dual motors, smoke, and die-cast metal trucks. The NE5 caboose comes painted and lettered to match. The O gauge duo is priced at **\$399**, which includes shipping in the continental U.S. Checks payable to METCA. **METCA Entenmann's, % Stuart Rankin, 6 Packard Dr., Middletown, NJ 07748**; online orders (credit card or PayPal) at metca.org



COMETS BIG AND SMALL. Lionel collectors and rail-fans alike will discover a world of information about the famous *Blue Comet* passenger train in Anthony Puzzilla's *New Jersey Central's Blue Comet*, an entry in the Images of Rail series available from Arcadia Publishing. The 128-page softcover book contains information as well as historic photos of the full-size train and the Standard gauge version cataloged by Lionel in the 1930. Copies of the 6½ x 9¼-inch volume can be ordered from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$21.99 plus tax and shipping.



A BYGONE BUILDER. *Gregg Railroad Cars* is part of the growing Manufacturers' Catalog Archive from SilverLake Images LLC and Ron's Books. The softcover book (\$35) features a reproduction of an undated freight car equipment catalog presumed to be from the 1950s. Among the body styles featured are boxcars, cane cars, dump cars, flatcars, gable-bottom cars, gondolas, Granby cars, hoppers, mine cars, passenger cars, sisal cars, stockcars, and tank cars. Also shown are various freight and passenger car trucks used by the company and the different types of couplers available for the cars. To purchase a copy, call 914-967-7541 or visit ronsbooks.com

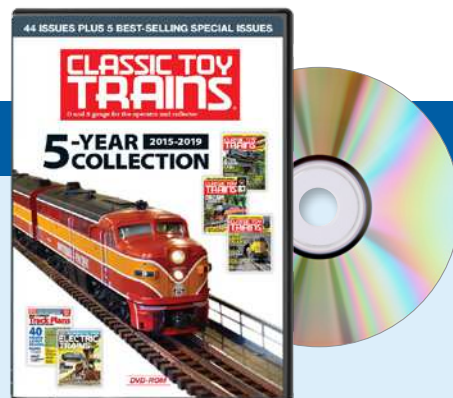


CLASSIC CATALOGS. *Heisler Locomotives Vol. 1: Geared & Fireless Locomotives* is now available from SilverLake Images LLC and Ron's Books. The 124-page softcover book (\$35), includes reproductions of Catalog 123 (selecting an industrial locomotive and Heisler features); *Heisler Fireless Locomotives* (a look at some of the locomotives they build), and *Pictures Tell the Story* (a look at Heisler locomotives in use in various industries, including mining, construction, and logging). The book also includes four Descriptive Folders for Heisler geared locomotives (2240 [two-truck, eight-driver with I-beam frame], 4763 and 5065 [two-truck, eight-driver with diamond frame], and 7090 [three-truck, 12-driver with diamond frame]). To order, call 914-967-7541 or visit ronsbooks.com



From KalmbachHobbyStore.com

FIVE FOR THE ARCHIVE: The past 5 years of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine are available on DVD-ROM (no. 15360). You can access every issue from 2015 to 2019, including the 30th anniversary issue, an expanded issue with how-to articles, and another about compact layouts. Also featured are exclusive special issues, including some long out of print: *Small & Midsize Track Plans for O Gauge Trains*, *Lionel's Showroom Layouts*, *Lionel Trains: Accessories*, *Lionel Trains: Best Layouts & Store Displays*, and *Electric Trains from A to Z*. Price is **\$29.95**.



MAINTAINING THE FLEET. Perform routine maintenance, clean locomotive wheels, and more with this O gauge test track from GoodDealsDCC. Priced at **\$54.95**, the 36"-long test track (locomotive shown not included) features non-warping PVC construction; GarGraves "Phantom" line track; foam bumpers; wired connectors; and soft, non-marring padded feet. The track is compatible with AC and command-control power systems. Order online from the Kalmbach Hobby Store website, KalmbachHobbyStore.com



SWITCHES & TRACK

for all 3 Rail O Gauge & O27 Trains
Demand them from your dealer or call us direct!

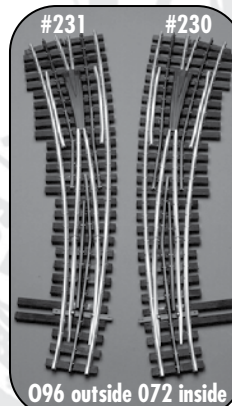
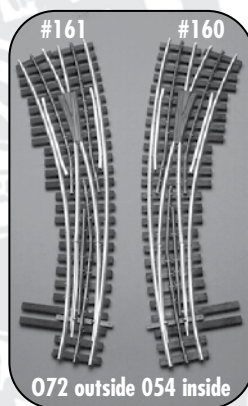
Visit us at: www.rossswitches.com

A sampling of some of our neat curved switches.

All now available remote control ready to run!

*Featuring
ALL WOOD TIES
and STEEL RAIL!*

*All RCS Products
are Proudly Hand
Made in the USA*



New

#240RH #241LH curved
O120 outside curve
O96 inside curve
#150RH #151LH curved
O54 outside curve
O31 inside curve

Not Shown

ROSS CUSTOM SWITCHES

1-800-331-1395 CALL FOR FREE COLOR CATALOG

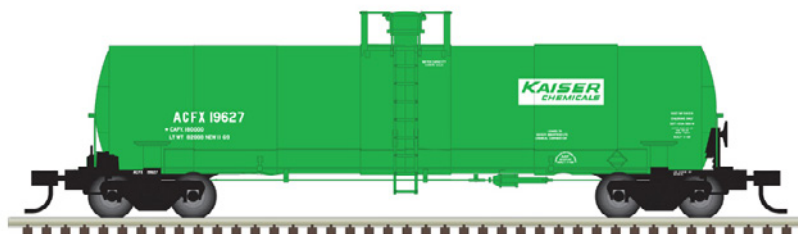




EASY LINESIDE DETAILS. Woodland Scenics has made it simpler than ever to detail the right-of-way on your O gauge model railroad with these factory-wired utility poles. The hand-painted and weathered poles include guy wires and other details and are priced between **\$24.99** (single crossbar) and **\$29.99** (double crossbar). Look for them at well-stocked hobby shops or purchase direct from the manufacturer, **573-346-5555** or woodlandscenics.com



WATTAGE FOR YOUR COTTAGE. This electric substation is now available from Woodland Scenics. The factory-assembled and painted O gauge model (**\$189.99**) has a control building and modeler-installed signs. Additional factory-applied details include insulators, cables, and a circuit breaker. The electric substation measures 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{15}{16}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". To order, visit your local Woodland Scenics dealer or contact the manufacturer by phone at **573-346-5555** or online at woodlandscenics.com

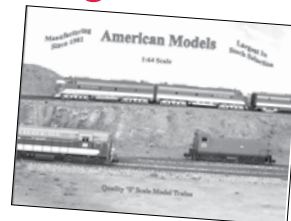


COLORFUL TANKERS. New paint schemes on the Atlas O American Car & Foundry 17,360-gallon insulated tank car will include Kaiser Chemicals (green, white, and black), American Railcar Leasing (Oxy Chemicals, black and white), General American (white and black), Occidental Chemical Corp. (gray and white with HOKX reporting marks), Pennwalt (black, white, and blue), and PPG Industries (black and yellow). New road numbers will be offered on cars lettered for Hooker Chemicals (orange, white, and black). The Master Line model will be available with two road numbers per scheme; an undecorated version will also be offered. The O gauge tank car (**\$94.95; undecorated, \$84.95**) will have metal safety bars, tank fittings, and safety placards; die-cast metal stirrup steps; and 100-ton roller-bearing trucks with rotating bearing caps. The car will be arriving at your local hobby shop in the fourth quarter. Direct orders can be placed by calling **908-687-0880** or going online to atlasrr.com

S Gauge Trains

Since
1981

Engines
Cars
Track
Structures
Figures



68 Pg. Catalog send \$10.00

American Models
11770 Green Oak Industrial Dr.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
www.americanmodels.com

OVER 25,000 PARTS

Brasseur

ELECTRIC TRAINS

410 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

989-793-4753
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30

www.brasseur-electrictrains.com

989-793-6887

40 years of Lionel service and sales.
Authorized MTH service and sales.
Best Source for K-LINE parts.

Just 90 miles north of Detroit, just off I-75.

S&W PARTS SUPPLY

**LIONEL PARTS DEALER AND
AUTHORIZED SERVICE STATION #91
PROVIDING EXPERT REPAIRS TO
PREWAR, POSTWAR AND OTHER
MODERN LIONEL EQUIPMENT**

EMAIL: trains@sandwparts.com

WEB: www.sandwparts.com

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9AM-4PM EST

TEL - (518) 280-5197

762 Whitney Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309

NY Sales Tax (where applicable) & shipping

Texas Trains & Diecast



(972) 824-7123

We buy collections of all sizes!

**30 Years of Experience
Finances Available
Ready to Travel
Confidential at all Times
Professional Treatment**

www.txtrains.com
texas:trains@yahoo.com

WITH JOSEPH L. MANIA & THE CTT STAFF



The Lionel no. 464 operating lumber mill provides entertaining and dependable action. Unfortunately for operators with sensitive ears, it can be unbearably loud. Is there a safe way to adjust its noise level?

Ear-splitting Lionel saw mill

Can you adjust the sound on a no. 464 accessory?

Q My Lionel no. 464 operating saw mill works well, but it's really loud. Any suggestions on how to adjust the sound? – *Ted Large, Fowler, Calif.*

A The motor in the 464 is a vibrator type and relies on a vibrating armature to continually tension a string wrapped around a pulley. This movement makes the pulley turn and operate the accessory. This design was an inexpensive alternative to the standard motors of the time, but unfortunately, it ends up making a ton of noise. Some of the postwar saw mills are quiet, and some are loud. If your works reliably, I suggest leaving it alone. Trying to modify the delicate tuning can sometimes render them non-operational.

Marx with FasTrack

Q I built my layout with Lionel FasTrack. I want to install a Marx switch tower that activates via the train passing. The tower connections are a rail that goes under the outside tubular rail and the clip-type connector that goes on the third rail. How can I attach it to FasTrack sections with molded roadbed? Should I use the FasTrack accessory power set that has a rail section with two connecting wires and two short isolating pieces that go on either end of the activation track? – *Dave Molter, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

A Yes, Dave, you absolutely can use the Marx switchman's tower with Lionel FasTrack sections. You clearly have the basic understanding, so just follow the same wiring and connect it in a different way. The wire that would go to the small connector to the center rail will go to the center rail of the FasTrack with the spade connector. The wire that goes to the control rail will go to the isolated section of the activation track.

Best operation for Flyer Atlantic

Q I recently purchased an American Flyer no. 302 4-4-2 Atlantic steam engine and tender. Does this S gauge locomotive run on AC or DC? Also, what Gilbert transformer would you recommend to safely operate this vintage train? – *Gary Smith, Prescott, Ariz.*

A The American Flyer 302 Atlantic has a universal motor and therefore can be run on AC or DC. It's probably best to stick with AC if you plan to add Flyer accessories in the future because some were designed for AC only. Just about any American Flyer or Lionel transformer will be more than adequate. All this basic steamer needs is 15 volts, which is what a Lionel no. 1033 generates.

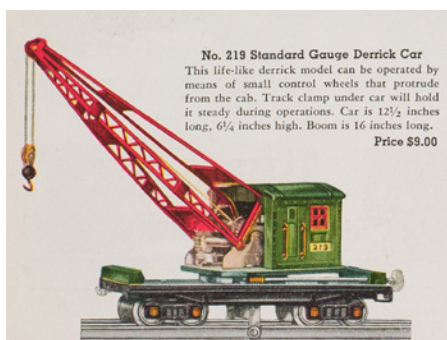
Longer trains need some boost

Q I like to run long trains on my O gauge layout, but when I try to do so I have to shorten them so they run at all. I'm talking about two Williams passenger trains: a Baltimore & Ohio set pulled by an Alco PA-PB-PA combination (the first two units are powered) and a Southern Pacific set pulled by matching steamers. It's difficult to keep the PA and PB units synchronized. I have the same problem with the double-headed steam engines. Is there a heavy-duty reverse unit I can use and then tether to the other power to solve my problem? Or do you have a better solution? – *Ken Woelfer, Bowleys Quarters, Md.*

A I like your plan, Ken, and so would recommend using the no. 1400 electronic reverse unit from Dallee Electronics (www.dallee.com) It can handle 12 amps. Good luck and let us know how everything works out.



Gilbert first cataloged the no. 302 4-4-2 Atlantic steam engine and tender in 1948.



Crane cars promised fun, whether they're Standard gauge models like this no. 219 from the prewar era or various O gauge types from postwar days. But over time, parts can become damaged and require replacement.

Disintegrating gears

Q In trying to repair a Lionel Standard gauge no. 219 crane car, I noticed the boom and drum gears were made from die-cast metal. Over the years, both gears have disintegrated. Replacement brass gears are available; taking care of the boom gear seems easy because the hole in the middle is keyed (simple on and off). But the drum gear seems more difficult. With the original gear disintegrated and gone, I'm left with a brass shaft with a small lip on the outside edge. The replacement gear doesn't fit over the lip, and even if it did I'm not sure how it would bind to the shaft. What do you recommend to fix it? – *Paul Hoffman, Raleigh, N.C.*

A The raised lip held the original gear in place. From the factory, the gear was placed on the shaft and the lip was rolled over to stake it in place. You'll need to remove the rolled lip to get the new gear in place. You won't have enough material to roll it back over (and probably

lack the tools to do this), so you'll have to secure it another way. Any type of glue or epoxy that adheres to metal should work.

Using WD-40 correctly

Q The wheels on the trucks of the used Lionel Dash 8-40C road diesel I recently bought didn't move. The grease had hardened to the point that it was like cement. I used WD-40 to lubricate the gears and was able to get the engine running again. Will the WD-40 do any harm? – *Robert Houghton, Universal City, Texas*

A WD-40 is not a lubricant. It is a water displacer hence the "WD." It does contain some petroleum-based oils and Naphtha, among other ingredients. While WD-40 does have some lubrication qualities (so does water), it's not intended for that task. With that in mind, be aware WD-40 may affect some plastics. Your Dash 8 may have plastic gears, so the risk of damaging them does exist.

Instructions for Lionel E6 diesels

Q I recently acquired Lionel no. 24504 Santa Fe E6 A-A diesels from 2004. Is there an owner's manual for this combination? Also, does anyone make diaphragms for these O gauge cab units? – *Ed Lambrechts, St. Peters, Mo.*

A Lionel didn't offer diaphragms for those locomotives, possibly because the distance between them failed to allow for the proper clearance. You may try to alter the ones available for passenger cars. As for an owner's manual for your diesels, you'll find it available for download at www.lionelsupport.com.



The Lionel O gauge replicas of the famous E6 cab units developed by the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors look absolutely stunning. An instruction sheet would make upgrading them a bit easier.

Your Southern Connection for Quality O Gauge Products

ROUNDHOUSE SOUTH

4611 S. Ridgewood Ave. • Port Orange, FL 32127

PH. 386-304-7002/7003

facebook

MTH 20-20339-1 Great Northern Inspection Car 3.0	\$399.95
MTH 20-20446-1 CSX SD-60M with Proto 3.0	\$439.95
MTH 20-20479-1 Norfolk Southern MOW Set w/P3	\$699.95
MTH 20-20697-1 Florida East Coast BL2 with P3	\$439.95
MTH 20-20833-1 Florida Tri Rail GP-40 w/Proto 3.0	\$439.95
MTH 20-20933-1 CSX GE U30C with Proto 3.0	\$449.95
MTH 20-20993-1 FEC SD-40 with Proto 3.0	\$469.95
MTH 20-21168-1 Ontario Northland SD40-2 Proto 3.0	\$469.95
MTH 20-21272-1 Union Pacific SD70M #4014 P3	\$469.95
MTH 20-21502-1 Canadian Pacific Heritage SD70 P3	\$499.95
MTH 20-91616 Florida East Coast Bay Wind. Cab Uncat.	\$69.95
MTH 20-92138 Florida East Coast Tank Car Uncat.	\$69.95
MTH 20-92139 Florida East Coast 40' Box Car Uncat.	\$64.95
MTH 30-1683-1 Milwaukee Hiawatha w/Proto 3.0	\$479.95
MTH 30-1696-1 Southern Streamlined Hudson 3.0	\$429.95
MTH 30-1719-1 Pennsylvania Torpedo w/P 3.0	\$479.95
MTH 30-1822-1 SP Cab Forward (Gray) Proto 3.0	\$749.95
MTH 30-20237-1 Indiana Railroad SD60 w/Proto 3.0	\$339.95
MTH 30-20261-1 N&W C30-7 with Proto 3.0	\$339.95
MTH 30-20278-1 Pennsylvania PA AA with Proto 3.0	\$399.95
MTH 30-20387-1 Southern Pacific FM with Proto 3.0	\$499.95
MTH 30-20387-3 Southern Pacific FM Non Powered	\$339.95
MTH 30-20388-1 Chessie FM with Proto 3.0	\$339.95
MTH 30-20394-1 Norfolk Western E-8 AA w/Proto 3.0	\$379.95
MTH 30-20512-1 EMD SD70ACe with Proto 3.0	\$324.95
MTH 30-20513-1 Canadian National SD70ACe P3	\$324.95
MTH 30-20703-1 UP #1111 SD70ACe with Proto 3.0	\$334.95
MTH 30-20732-1 Denver Rio Grande ABA Proto 3.0	\$334.95
MTH 30-68180, 81, 82, 83 DRG 8 Car Passenger Set	\$1095.00
MTH 30-20744-1 Santa Fe Dash-8 with Proto 3.0	\$334.95
MTH 30-20745-1 Union Pacific Dash-8 with Proto 3.0	\$334.95
MTH 30-20805-1 George Bush 4141 SD70 w/P3	\$334.95

Freight charges added to ALL orders.

www.roundhousesouth.com

TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION™

JOIN TCA!

Friendships that Last a Lifetime!

Here are just a few great TCA benefits:

- TCA Train Meets (including York, PA!)
- *3* Publications: The Train Collectors Quarterly, National Headquarters News & TCA E-Train, our online magazine
- TCA x-change (online marketplace)
- National Toy Train Museum
- Toy Train Reference Library

Call or visit us online for your application today!

717.687.8623

www.tcamembers.org

Speed control with TMCC

Q I bought a used Lionel TrainMaster Command Control setup for the O gauge layout I'm constructing. It worked fine, but I had to make changes to my benchwork that required removing all the track. Since I have laid it again and tried to operate the trains with the handheld unit, the trains take off at full speed. I can't control the speed with the CAB-1 handheld. This has happened with my TMCC-equipped engine and an older conventional steam engine with an E-unit. I double-checked the wiring, and it is correct. Any ideas on what the problem might be? – *Ralph Davis, Fayetteville, Ga.*

A You don't mention what you're using for power. The command base has no effect on conventional trains. The only way to control conventional trains with a CAB-1 is through a PowerMaster. Your transformer will put 18 volts into the PowerMaster: You put the switch on the PowerMaster to CONV, and the CAB-1 will vary the voltage to the track. With command control, the transformer still supplies 18 volts, but the PowerMaster is switched to CMD and 18 volts goes out to the track.



The TrainMaster Command Control system works equally well with engines designed to operate via command control and older ones dependent on conventional modes.

When a TMCC engine takes off, there's either a problem internally (such as the speed sensor) or loss of the TMCC signal. Conventional locomotives don't have

speed sensors nor do they react to TMCC commands, so yours has another problem. You'll need to determine what the track voltage is in both scenarios and figure out why there's high enough voltage to make the conventional locomotives speed off.

Check your wiring again. Make sure the command base is plugged into a properly grounded outlet (the house wiring is part of the signal circuit). If you're using a PowerMaster, check the switch on the side and make sure it's in the proper position. If everything checks out, you may have one or more faulty pieces of equipment.

Question for readers

Before I switched from modeling in HO to O gauge, I enjoyed assembling car kits from Bowser and Athearn. What manufacturers past and present have offered kits to build rolling stock? How about structures? – *Philip Coblenz, Jefferson, Md. CTY*

HAVE A QUESTION?

Write to "Questions & Answers" at Classic Toy Trains, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, or email us at qsandas@ClassicToyTrains.com and put the words "questions & answers" in the subject line.



217 Central Way
Kirkland, WA 98033
(425) 828-4098
Toll Free (877) 857-7246



Come Visit us
On-line
@
www.eastsidetrains.com

LIONEL

11181	C.N. GP-9 Piggy Back Set w/Legacy	599.99
11379	Pennsy 0-4-0 Switcher Loco	429.99
11385	U.P. 0-4-0 Yard Switcher	429.95
11427	S.P. 0-4-0 Switcher	439.95
11428	Milw 0-4-0 (Conv) Multi Roads Avail	439.95
28312	B.N. SD60 #8301 w/Legacy	469.95
28363	B.N. SD60 #8302 w/Legacy	469.95
28384	C.N. Genset Switcher w/Legacy	769.95
31778	#1484WS Hudson Pass Set	449.00
37821	Smoke Fluid Loader	219.95
38310	#2185W NYC F3 AA Freight Set	449.00
38312	#2343 SF F3 AA	399.99
38324	#2507W N/H F-3 Freight w/5 Cars	429.00
38328	#1623W N.P. Frt Set w/Leg. Closeout	399.95
38329	#2261W Freight Set (646 w/5 Cars)	459.00
38353	X-628 Promo Navy Set	549.00
38419	U.P. U30C #2918 w/Legacy	499.00
38421	N.P. U33C #3305 w/Legacy	499.00
38422	N.P. U33C #3307 w/Legacy	499.00
38785	C.N. #4005 GP-35	479.95
38855	G.N. GP-35 #2519	479.95
39568	BCR Dash-9 w/Legacy	499.95
39572	BNSF Dash-9 w/Legacy	499.95
81135	B.N. SD70MAC #9431 w/Legacy	549.00
81137	BNSF SD70MAC #9858 w/Legacy	549.00
82035	Crane Sounds Work house	129.95
82055	Beth Steele CC Trackside Crane	449.99
82097	Bucyrus-Erie Legacy Crane	299.95
82121	G.N. S-2 Diesel w/Legacy	599.99
82127	U.P. S-2 Diesel w/Legacy	599.99
82528	Empire State Express Set	1,849.95
82697	Rio Grande 4-6-6-4 LM Challenger	969.00
82726	Lionel Lines Alco FA Passenger Set	399.99
82761	U.P. SD-90MAC w/Legacy	629.99
82784	B.N. GP-9 #1706 w/Legacy	499.95
82785	B.N. GP-9 #1804 w/Legacy	499.95
82809	U.P. FEF #838 Black	1,599.99
82963	Rio Grande LC-1 Mikado	389.00
82964	Milw LC-1 Hudson	389.00
83193	S.P. Lines #4449 GS-4 w/Legacy	1,649.95
83197	AM Freedom Train #4449 GS-4	1,649.95
83371	G.N. SD-45 #400 Hustle Muscle	599.95
83380	U.P. SD-45 #1	599.95
83386	Milw NW-2 w/Legacy	479.99
84064	Milw #261 4-8-4 w/BT & Legacy BTO	1,659.99
84067	Milw Hiawatha #260 4-8-4 BTO	1,659.99

84072	Everett Mogul #11	619.99
84104	MRL SD-70ACe	569.00
84248	S.P. AC-9 #3800	1,899.99
84416	G.N. FA AA LC+	479.99
84422	U.P. FA AA LC+	479.99
84641	S.F. E-6 AA w/Legacy	899.99
84843	GE Demo AC6000 #6000 w/Legacy	589.99
85034	MRL SD-45 w/Legacy (2 #s)	549.99
85047	BNSF SD70ACe w/Legacy (2 #s)	549.99
85057	U.P. SD70ACe #8650 w/Legacy	549.99
85058	U.P. SD70ACe #8665 w/Legacy	549.99
85180	G.N. 2-6-6-2 w/Legacy	1,549.99
85315	U.P. SD70ACe #1943 w/Legacy	549.99
316020	BNSF 50' Modern Box Car 6pk	175.00
316050	ATSF 3-Bay Hopper 6pk	175.00
316100	Alaska 3-Bay Hopper 6pk	175.00
316150	D&RG 3-Bay Hopper 6pk	175.00
1922060	BNSF ES44AC Oil Train Set	949.99
1933011	B.N. RS-11 #4186 w/Legacy	479.99
1933081	B.N. SD40-2 BTO 2#s Avail	529.99
1933112	Milw SD40-2 BTO 2#s Avail	529.99
1933132	U.P. SD40-2 BTO 2#s Avail	529.99
1933231	BNSF C44-9W BTO 2#s Avail	529.99
1933232	BNSF #4173 C44-9W	549.99
1933281	BNSF ES44AC #6411 w/Legacy	579.99
1933322	U.P. ES44AC #8109 w/Legacy	579.99
1933371	BNSF GP-35 BTO 2#s Avail	479.99
1933550	SP&S FA AA BTO 2 Diff B-Units Avail	849.99
2022050	George H.W. Bush Funeral Train Set	1,199.99
2031120	DM&IR EM-1 #220 2-8-8-4 w/Legacy	1,699.99
2031140	U.P. EM-1 #1213 2-8-8-4 w/Legacy	1,699.99
2031160	S.F. 4-8-4 #3751 w/Legacy	1,599.99
2031170	S.F. 4-8-4 #3759 w/Legacy	1,599.99
2031220	Rio Grande 4-8-4 #1802 w/Legacy	1,599.99
2031261	U.P. Big Boy #4014 (Oil Burner)	2,199.99
2031330	Pennsy B6 #525 w/Legacy	699.99
2031440	S.P. Vision GS-2 #4410	1,979.00
2031530	S.P. Vision GS-4 #4449	1,979.00
2033130	N.P. S-4 #717 w/Legacy	499.99
2033140	N.P. Terminal S-2 #40 w/Legacy	499.99
2033150	Portland Terminal S-2 #1001	499.99
2033250	B.N. F-7 AA Set	899.99
2033321	U.P. SD70AH #96	599.99
2033441	S.P. Trainmaster FM #4800	549.99
81881S	S.P. Crane & Sound Tender	699.95
84088S	NYC E-8 AA w/4 21" Pass Car	1,599.99

18041	U.P. 4-8-4 FEF w/PS 3.0	499.95
25581	U.P. Dash-9 Diesel w/PS 2.0	369.00
26431	U.P. Dash 8 Narrow Nose w/PS 2	379.00
29021	G.N. GP-35 Diesel w/PS 2.0	429.00
29351	G.N. SD-45 LH Diesel w/PS 2.0	399.00
31681	UP 4-6-6-4 Challenger w/PS 2	1,395.00
34851	S.P. 4-8-4 GS-4 w/PS 3.0 #4444	1,049.95
35011	G.N. 4-8-4 Loco w/PS 3	1,099.95
35081	G.N. 4-8-4 Loco w/PS 3	1,099.95
35341	U.P. FEF 4-8-4 Northern w/PS 3	1,199.95
37471	US Army USRA 4-6-2 Pacific w/PS 3	1,079.95
37491	S.P. 4-8-4 GS-4 Loco PS 3	1,199.95
37581	S.P. 4-8-4 Daylight w/LED Xmas Lts	1,399.95
200811	BNSF SD-60M w/PS 2	399.95
202481	S.P. GP-9 Diesel	399.95
203391	G.N. DC-3 Rail Inspection Car w/PS 3	459.95
204211	BNSF Dash 8 Diesel Frt. Set w/PS 3	729.95
204651	Pennsy GE 44-Ton Diesel	429.00
204681	S.F. GE 44-Ton Diesel	429.00
206531	N.P. SD-45 Diesel w/PS 3	459.95
206541	N.P. SD-45 LH Diesel w/PS 3.0	459.00
207311	S.F. Dash 8 Diesel w/PS 3.0	449.95
207981	MetroLink F40PH Diesel	499.95
208921	G.N. Alco S-2 Switcher	459.95
209261	U.P. GE U30C Diesel w/PS 3	499.95
209631	U.P. SD70ACe Diesel PS 3	499.95
210551	U.P. #80 Coal Turbine	1,299.95
211021	MRL GP-9 w/PS 3	479.95
211541	Gold S.F. PA Diesel	499.95
211551	George Bush SD70ACe #4141PS 3	519.95
211561	U.P. SD70ACe #9096 w/PS 3	519.95
212681	BNSF SD70ACe w/PS 3.0	499.99
212891	BNSF GP-30 w/PS 3	499.99
213141	S.F. SD40-2 w/PS 3.0	539.99
213311	B.N. RS-11 w/PS 3	499.99
213321	B.N. RS-11 Diesel w/PS 3	519.95
213371	N.P. RS-11 w/PS 3	499.99
213461	BNSF SD70ACe w/PS 3.0	499.99
201411RK	BNSF SW1500 Switcher w/PS 3	299.95
202001RK	BNSF SD-40 Diesel w/PS 3	299.95
205201RK	U.P. SD70ACe #1943 w/PS 3	429.95
205601RK	BNSF Dash 8 w/PS 3	339.95
206141RKS	Sounder F59PH w/4 Pass Cars	699.95
206621RK	C&O C-630 Diesel w/PS 3	369.95
210271S	N.P. F-3 AA w/6 Pass Cars	1,279.95
210331S	S.F. F-7 AA/6 Pass	949.95

MTH TRAINS

U.P. 4-8-4 FEF w/PS 3.0	499.95
U.P. Dash-9 Diesel w/PS 2.0	369.00
U.P. Dash 8 Narrow Nose w/PS 2	379.00
G.N. GP-35 Diesel w/PS 2.0	429.00
G.N. SD-45 LH Diesel w/PS 2.0	399.00
UP 4-6-6-4 Challenger w/PS 2	1,395.00
S.P. 4-8-4 GS-4 w/PS 3.0 #4444	1,049.95
G.N. 4-8-4 Loco w/PS 3	1,099.95
G.N. 4-8-4 Loco w/PS 3	1,099.95
U.P. FEF 4-8-4 Northern w/PS 3	1,199.95
US Army USRA 4-6-2 Pacific w/PS 3	1,079.95
S.P. 4-8-4 GS-4 Loco PS 3	1,199.95
S.P. 4-8-4 Daylight w/LED Xmas Lts	1,399.95
BNSF SD-60M w/PS 2	399.95
S.P. GP-9 Diesel	399.95
G.N. DC-3 Rail Inspection Car w/PS 3	459.95
BNSF Dash 8 Diesel Frt. Set w/PS 3	729.95
Pennsy GE 44-Ton Diesel	429.00
S.F. GE 44-Ton Diesel	429.00
N.P. SD-45 Diesel w/PS 3	459.95
N.P. SD-45 LH Diesel w/PS 3.0	459.00
S.F. Dash 8 Diesel w/PS 3.0	449.95
MetroLink F40PH Diesel	499.95
G.N. Alco S-2 Switcher	459.95
U.P. GE U30C Diesel w/PS 3	499.95
U.P. SD70ACe Diesel PS 3	499.95
U.P. #80 Coal Turbine	1,299.95
MRL GP-9 w/PS 3	479.95
Gold S.F. PA Diesel	499.95
George Bush SD70ACe #4141PS 3	519.95
U.P. SD70ACe #9096 w/PS 3	519.95
BNSF SD70ACe w/PS 3.0	499.99
BNSF GP-30 w/PS 3	499.99
S.F. SD40-2 w/PS 3.0	539.99
B.N. RS-11 w/PS 3	499.99
B.N. RS-11 Diesel w/PS 3	519.95
N.P. RS-11 w/PS 3	499.99
BNSF SD70ACe w/PS 3.0	499.99
BNSF SW1500 Switcher w/PS 3	299.95
BNSF SD-40 Diesel w/PS 3	299.95
U.P. SD70ACe #1943 w/PS 3	429.95
BNSF Dash 8 w/PS 3	339.95
Sounder F59PH w/4 Pass Cars	699.95
C&O C-630 Diesel w/PS 3	369.95
N.P. F-3 AA w/6 Pass Cars	1,279.95
S.F. F-7 AA/6 Pass	949.95

WITH LOU PALUMBO

The pioneers

Remembering two longtime friends

■ THE RECENT PASSING OF

CHARLES RO SR. reminded me of just how my interest in our great hobby was renewed. After a hiatus from model trains lasting from my late teens until my middle 30s, I started to purchase trains again in the 1970s.

I started by going to local train shows and some hobby shops. I also subscribed to *Model Railroader* magazine and read each issue from cover to cover. I was searching for information on this “new” hobby I had rediscovered. The articles about O gauge layout inspired me, as did the advertisements. In fact, those ads sparked a return to the hobby I have never left after almost half a century.

The key advertisers for O gauge trains in the pages of *Model Rail-*

roader were Charles Ro Supply, Train-World, and Madison Hardware Co., dealers from whom I bought many trains.

I eventually met Charlie Ro and Peter Bianco, the owner of TrainWorld. They seemed to have the best selections of O gauge trains and were the most reliable of the retailers. I first got to know them over the telephone. Both men seemed cordial and down to earth – guys you would enjoy sitting down with and having a beer.

Our conversations started with “How are you doing, Lou?” and then “How’s everything out in New Castle?” From there, we talked about trains and family.

I met Pete and Charlie in person when I started out attending the semi-annual train shows put on by the Eastern Division of the Train Collectors Association (TCA) in York, Pa. Both of them had tables in the Yellow Hall (under the grandstand on the county fairgrounds). I always looked forward to seeing them during the show and often had dinner with them and their staff.

Charlie and Pete had a good philosophy on the hobby and the business. Their promotion of model trains was unmatched by anyone in the hobby. They provided

excellent outlets for both collectors and operators to find the vintage and new trains they were looking for.

Pete passed away on Sept. 14, 2003, but I’ve maintained good relations and a strong friendship with his son, Kenny, and his grandson, Kenny Jr. In addition, I’ve been a good friend of Charlie Ro Jr. (“Chuckie”) over these many years.

I call them “sons of the pioneers,” using the name of the great cowboy country and western singing group from the 1940s known for songs such as “Tumbling Tumbleweeds” and “Cool Water.” I’m definitely aging myself by mentioning that old-time group.

Chuckie and Kenny have a great knowledge of model trains and the business. They should, since they were brought up by fathers who were kings of model train sales in America.

The sons and I often talk about the pulse of the hobby and exchange ideas on its betterment. We also discuss the TCA and how it can improve the hobby.

Surprisingly, neither Kenny nor Chuckie is an avid train collector. They don’t have personal train collections, at least as far as I know.

Maybe being brought up in the business never gave them a chance to search for trains for their own collection. Of course, each has sold thousands of trains over the past 50 years.

I honor Charlie Ro and Pete Bianco as two good friends who were notable “pioneers” in this hobby. Let’s hear from CTT readers about the pioneers who shaped their love of O and S gauge modeling.

Keep searchin’ **CTT**



LOU PALUMBO, the owner of the Underground Railroad Shoppe in New Castle, Pa., writes this exclusive column for *Classic Toy Trains*. He can be reached at 1906 Wilmington Rd., New Castle, PA 16105 or by email at trainplum@yahoo.com

THEIR PROMOTION OF MODEL TRAINS WAS UNMATCHED BY ANYONE IN THE HOBBY.

SHOWCASE-EXPRESS
Wall to Wall Expandable Display Case
Case Size Available: Z, N, HO, S, O, G, #1 & Standard Gauge
Lighting Kits and Backgrounds Available
Join Top to Bottom or End to End 714-842-0672
www.SHOWCASE-EXPRESS.com

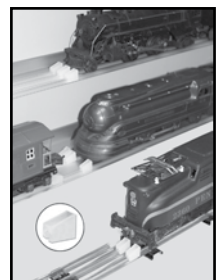
DISPLAY SHELVES FOR YOUR TRAIN ROOM!



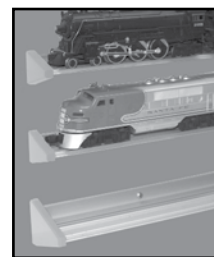
Satin Finish,
Hardened Anodized
Extruded Aluminum
No Brackets Needed
Raised Rails Hold
Your Trains in Place
6 Ft. Lengths,
Expandable with
Joiner Pins Supplied
Special Cutting
Available

Combination “HO/S” Gauge\$16.00
“O” Gauge\$20.00
Combination “O/STD/LGB” Gauge ...\$30.00
Plus UPS Shipping

RAIL STOPS - This extremely versatile product is designed to fit our shelves or similar shelving from HO/S gauge or O gauge to O/STD/LGB gauge. **RAIL STOPS** can be used any place along your shelves and will prevent your trains from being rolled along the rails. **RAIL STOPS** fit all track and can be used in place of bumpers on train layouts.



RAIL STOPS are \$12.00 per dozen, including shipping.



RAIL END CAPS - The newest addition to Glenn Snyder Display Systems product line. Designed to trim the ends of our shelves or similar shelving. **RAIL END CAPS** will give a finished look to the end of your shelves and

will prevent your trains from being knocked off the ends.

Please specify when ordering: combination “HO/S” gauge, “O” gauge or combination “O/STD/LGB” gauge.
RAIL END CAPS are \$3.50 each, any size.
Plus shipping and handling.

GLENN SNYDER DISPLAY SYSTEMS
5940 Woodlee Court • Orchard Park, NY 14127
Toll Free 1-877-852-4676
e-mail: glenn@gsds.com • www.gsds.com
ALL PRODUCTS MADE IN USA

WITH ROGER CARP

Lionel's no. 9854 billboard reefer car

Baby Ruth graphics honored tradition

■ **DECISION MAKERS AT MODEL** Products Corp., the division of General Mills overseeing the manufacturing and marketing of Lionel trains after 1969, took baby steps when assembling their initial lines. They first used old tooling to produce familiar locomotives, rolling stock, and trackside accessories. Later, they invested in new tooling so they could create models unlike what had filled postwar catalogs.

Among the items added was an O gauge refrigerator car distinguished by large, generally colorful graphics reminiscent

of a billboard. The no. 9854, one of six reefers introduced as uncataloged items in 1972, helped launch what quickly became a popular series. That it carried bright red lettering for Baby Ruth candy enabled it to honor a tradition at Lionel.

Sweet sight

Full-size billboard reefers appeared on freight trains during the first third or so of the 20th century until banned by the federal government as an unfair trade practice. Until then, they promoted a fascinating variety of perishables. The

graphics created were genuine works of art, which explained why modelers love the cars.

Curtiss Candy Co., the Chicago business responsible for developing Baby Ruth candy bars, never owned any billboard refrigerator cars. So it never promoted its milk chocolate-peanuts-and-caramel treat in the manner suggested by the Lionel model. That might have been unfortunate, since the 9854 looks so sweet.

Why, then, might the product planners at MPC have concluded a Baby Ruth billboard reefer would enhance the line

cataloged for 1973? The answer could very well be connected to the history of Lionel's pre-war and postwar lines of trains.

Curtiss Candy and Lionel signed an agreement in 1934 to permit Lionel to decorate O-27 boxcars with the name of Baby Ruth and eventually an illustration of the wrapper. By the end of the decade, more than 750,000 such models had been manufactured. In addition, ads for Baby Ruth were appearing regularly in *Model Builder*.

Ties between the two firms revived after World War II, starting with the no. X2454 in

MIANNE
Customizable Benchwork

The Fast Track to Layout Construction

Model 06-24 12'x16' overall



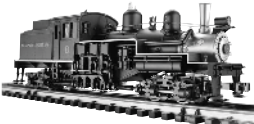
IT'S TIME FOR THE ROLLING STOCK TO START ROLLING....

Send \$1 for catalog or visit us on the web at:
www.miannebenchwork.com
Foley Woodworking 44 Union St., Attleboro, MA 02703



THE WESTERN DEPOT
1650 Sierra Ave. Suite 203 Yuba City, CA 95993

Everything Model Trains!



- Huge in-stock inventory
- Website updated daily

Call 530-673-6776
westerndepot.com

Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30

worldwide shipping!

Authorized
Lionel, MTH and Bachmann dealer



MARIO'S TRAINS™
THE SOURCE FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

GIVE US A CALL (540) 868-0025

Mention this ad for FREE shipping anywhere in continental USA

mariostrains.com

Watch

Classic Toy Trains

on **You Tube**

youtube.com/classictoytrains



1946. Any number of O-27 boxcars were issued with the Baby Ruth name again stamped on the sides, with the keystone associated with the Pennsylvania RR not far away.

Not forgotten

The trend died quietly after 1956. The parade of short boxcars advertising a candy every child in the U.S. loved ended

with the no. X6014. Perhaps Curtiss, believing electric trains were losing their favor, chose to stop paying a royalty. Or else executives at Lionel preferred a different advertiser on its low-end rolling stock.

Whatever the reason, Baby Ruth disappeared from Lionel Lines for the rest of the post-war era. Things might have stayed that way if someone at

MPC had not chosen to revive the tradition. A billboard refrigerator car would have been the ideal vehicle, because its color and decoration could mimic the wrapper of a Baby Ruth candy bar, even if no full-size reefer had been built.

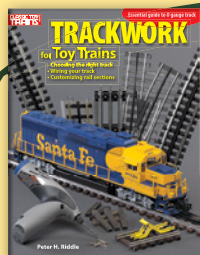
The 9854 looked superb, thanks to the electrocalcs added to the 11½-inch-long white body with a red roof and ends.

Sliding plug doors and a brake wheel looked neat. The car ran well, thanks to its Symington-Wayne trucks. — Roger Carp

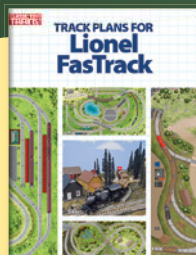
Lionel cataloged the no. 9854 Baby Ruth refrigerator car from 1973 through 1976. The 2021 edition of Greenberg's Pocket Price Guide to Lionel Trains values it at \$22 in excellent condition and \$26 in mint.

LEARN WHAT THE — EXPERTS KNOW! —

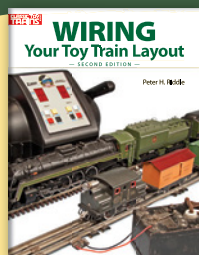
We have a variety of toy train books that include all of the resources you need to thrive in the hobby. Each book is written by experts who have been in the hobby for years. View our selection today!



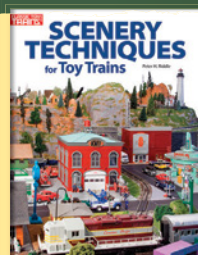
10-8365 • \$19.95



10-8804 • \$16.99



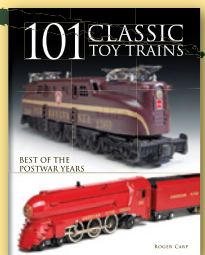
10-8405 • \$21.95



10-8400 • \$17.95



10-8806 • \$25.99



64100 • \$24.95



**Buy now from your local hobby shops!
Or shop at KalmbachHobbyStore.com**

NOW'S THE TIME TO INVEST IN REAL ESTATE.



WORLD HEADQUARTERS

O Scale (279–3972)



TAMPA TOWERS

O Scale (279–4432)

If you are on the fence about buying a Menards structure, remember buildings you buy today can easily find a new home in the future. So think of your purchase as an investment!

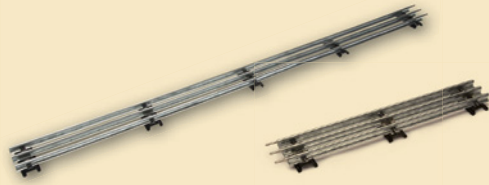
Menards buildings have created a bit of a stir as collectibles. Two key elements to collectability are building unique designs – original, never before seen designs – and very limited production runs. Though unintended, the limited runs of Menards structures have created a special aura around them and are commanding notable premiums over their original price tags.

The secondary market – and rising re-sale prices – continues to grow from people who couldn't find an item during its first release, and from new collectors entering the fray years after an item sold out. A check of verified sales of Menards buildings from the secondary market revealed some interesting results. Many Menards products, both retired and product still available from the Menards website are selling for more than double the original cost. That sounds like a great investment to me!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER, VISIT **MENARDS.COM/TRAINS**

THE BEST TRACK ON THE MARKET!

ALL SIZES ARE BACK IN STOCK!



30" STRAIGHT

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$69.99 case (279-3465)
• That's Only \$2.92 each!

By the Piece
\$4.99 each (279-3079)



10" STRAIGHT

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$37.99 case (279-3464)
• That's Only \$1.58 each!

By the Piece
\$1.99 each (279-3078)



8 PIECES PER 31"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-31 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$44.95 case (279-3466)
• That's Only \$1.87 each!

By the Piece
\$2.99 each (279-3080)



8 PIECES PER 36"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-36 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$44.95 case (279-3469)
• That's Only \$1.87 each!

By the Piece
\$2.99 each (279-3085)



**MADE FROM
EXTRA STRONG
HIGH TENSILE
STRENGTH STEEL!**



12 PIECES PER 42"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-42 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$44.95 case (279-3467)
• That's Only \$1.87 each!

By the Piece
\$2.99 each (279-3081)



16 PIECES PER 54"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-54 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$49.99 case (279-3470)
• That's Only \$2.08 each!

By the Piece
\$3.49 each (279-3086)



16 PIECES PER 72"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-72 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$54.99 case (279-3468)
• That's Only \$2.29 each!

By the Piece
\$3.99 each (279-3082)



16 PIECES PER 96"
DIAMETER
CIRCLE

0-96 CURVE

By the Case (24 Pieces)
\$59.99 case (279-3471)
• That's Only \$2.50 each!

By the Piece
\$3.99 each (279-3099)

One end mates with
FastTrack™ and one
end mates with
tubular track!



FASTRACK™ TO TUBULAR TRANSITION PIECE

10" Long (1 Piece)
\$4.99 (279-3867)

10" Long (2 Pieces)
\$9.99 (279-3868)

THE Cripple Creek COLLECTION



Cripple Creek Lumber Yard

O Scale (279-5923) | HO Scale (279-5530)

Interior and exterior lit by 32 LED lights

Includes three figures, various stacks of lumber and pipes, handcart, ladders and barrels, and Jack the German Shepherd

Weathered exterior with two wood "Cripple Creek" signs, sliding doors and pipe chimney



Cripple Creek Water Tower

O Scale (279-5924) | HO Scale (279-5878)

Grass-covered base with
Jack the German Shepherd

Moving spigot arm with chain
and counterweight



Cripple Creek Engine Works

O Scale (279-5926) | HO Scale (279-6292)

Prelit with an astounding
87 LED Lights

Includes two figures, eight bushes, barrels, trash can, pallets, handcart and Jack the German Shepherd

Three 6" x 3-1/2" train doors, realistically weathered with soot, 15 intricate windows and two chimneys

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER, VISIT **MENARDS.COM/TRAINS**



TRAINS FROM A SPECIAL UNCLE

Saluting the real Santas in my life

STORY BY TOMWALKER

December 24, 1952. It's almost midnight, and I'm still awake. Lying in my foldup bed, eyes closed so Mom and Dad will think I'm sleeping. They probably can hear me giggling with joy at the thought of opening the Lionel Santa Fe F3 diesel locomotives and the silver streamlined passenger cars that I'm absolutely sure Santa Claus will bring me.

I had told Santa exactly what I wanted as I sat on his lap at the Marshall Field's Department Store on State St. in downtown Chicago. I had watched those diesels with my Aunt Harriet as they went around the layout in the store's fabulous toy department.

I really wanted that O gauge layout, but since my family lived in a 200-square-foot apartment I knew it wasn't possible. In fact, I didn't know how Santa was going to deliver my train – we didn't have a chimney – until Mom told me Santa had a magic key.

THESE LIONEL "O27" SETS ARE REAL BUYS!

LIONEL No. 1477S "O27" 3-CAR FREIGHT
This Locomotive puffs SMOKE

Here's a lead of railroading for the money! Handsome, hardworking locomotive puffs realistic smoke as her big driving wheels eat up the miles. Just look at the detail of this loco — sand dome, steam dome, ladders and handrails. Action of driving gear is thrilling to watch. Cars include finely designed "Baby Ruth" box car, gondola, and caboose. Cars and tender have real railroad type knuckle couplers that operate by remote control. This set includes No. 1034 transformer with engineer type throttle and red warning light for "shorts." Set is 3 ft., 5 1/4 ins. long. Track furnished forms oval 44 1/4" x 27 3/4".

LIONEL No. 1463WS "O27" 3-CAR FREIGHT
With SMOKE and built-in WHISTLE

One of Lionel's outstanding values! Locomotive is the tough, speedy 2026 that will rocket along your pike with smoke streaming from her stack and whistle long and short for the crossings — see the closeup picture of the head end shown at the left. Cars include the extra long gondola, complete with barrels, "Sunoco" double dome oil car and caboose. Lionel No. 1033 90 Watt transformer comes with the set. Train is 3 ft., 8 1/2 ins. long. Track furnished forms oval 44 1/4" x 27 3/4".

Lionel No. 1477S 3-Car Freight Set Comprises:

- 1 No. 2026 Locomotive with Smoke
- 1 No. 6466T Tender
- 1 No. 6012 Gondola Car
- 1 No. 6014 Box Car
- 1 No. 6017 Caboose
- 8 sec. 1013 Curved Track
- 3 sec. 1018 Straight Track
- 1 No. 6019 Remote Control Track Set
- No. 1034 Transformer
- CTC Lockon, Tube of Lubricant
- SP Smoke Pellets, Instruction Booklet

\$29⁹⁵

Lionel No. 1463WS 3-Car Freight Set Comprises:

- 1 No. 2026 Locomotive with Smoke
- 1 No. 6466W Tender with built-in, two-tone Whistle
- 1 No. 6462 Gondola Car
- 1 No. 6465 Double dome "Sunoco" Oil Car
- 1 No. 6257 Caboose
- 8 sec. No. 1013 Curved Track
- 3 sec. No. 1018 Straight Track
- 1 No. 6019 Remote Control Track Set
- No. 1033 90 Watt Transformer
- CTC Lockon, Tube of Lubricant
- SP Smoke Pellets, Instruction Booklet

\$35⁷⁵

■ Waking to a freight train

I finally did fall asleep, and on awakening hours later I rushed into our tiny living room. I saw the shimmering 3-rail track aglow from the Christmas lights draped all around the tree.

"Oh no," I thought, "it's not the Santa Fe diesels and shiny passenger cars." What I saw was a Lionel no. 2026 steam engine and tender. They were pulling nos. 6462 black gondola and 6465 Sunoco double-dome tank car, along with a no. 6257 caboose. [It was set no. 1463WS from 1951. — *Editor*] Some other, luckier, kid had surely gotten my train!

My father was at the throttle of a small Lionel transformer with black and red handles. He blew the whistle and then handed the controls over to me. Well, I was immediately hooked. The locomotive smoked and smoked as it whizzed around the Christmas tree.

I played with that train until it was time to walk the 2 1/2 blocks to the Chicago & North Western railroad station. I was six years old and was allowed to cross the street by myself.

Once there I waited for the northbound train on which Uncle Ernie would be arriving. My uncle was round with red cheeks, so he looked a lot like Santa Claus.

▲ Six-year-old Tom Walker had dreamed of Santa Claus bringing him a Lionel Santa Fe passenger set for Christmas of 1952. His parents brought home, instead, a Lionel O-27 outfit cataloged in 1951. Momentary disappointment quickly gave way to happiness.

Uncle Ernie always was the last one off the last grimy commuter coach. He didn't get out of his seat until he saw me waving to him. As he got off the train I noticed that he had a big sack over his shoulder. He said Santa had left some things for me at his apartment.

My eyes lit up knowing what was in the sack. We raced the 2 1/2 blocks back to our apartment house, climbed up to the second floor, and ran down the narrow hall to our place.

Once inside, after Christmas hugs and greetings were finished, I was allowed to open the presents Santa had left with Uncle Ernie. My Santa Fe train?

I opened the boxes, but instead of my streamliner it was an American Flyer Royal Blue freight set! "How could this have happened?" I thought. I was an only child so Santa Claus could not have forgotten my request. I figured he had just run out of time.

Anyway, we set up the S gauge track inside the wider O gauge oval. Then it hit me! I had gotten two great trains for Christmas and both were running at the same time!

■ Still hoping for Santa Fes

December of 1953 saw me once again visiting Santa and his helpers, circling what I wanted in my Lionel and American Flyer catalogs, and still dreaming of those red-and-silver Santa Fe diesels. Maybe this was going to be the year I finally got them.

On Christmas morning I rushed to see what was under the tree. There it was, an oblong package beautifully wrapped and sitting inside the two loops where my dad was running both the Lionel 2026 steam engine and tender and the American Flyer Royal Blue model.

Wrapping paper flew off the box in seconds. I reached inside and, to my surprise, found a Santa Fe warbonnet B unit. "This is wonderful," I thought, "an A-B-A set."

Not to be, however. All the other wrapped presents under the Christmas tree with my name on them contained shirts, pairs of socks, and the obligatory boys underwear.

I looked at my father with a look that must have said, "What happened? Where's the A unit?"

Dad saw my look of disappointment and said, "Maybe next year Tommy."

train go around the oval of track in my tiny bedroom.

Kindness to strangers

Then it happened! A cold day sometime in December of 1955. My life was about to change in expected ways.

I had just walked the mile from my elementary school to our apartment, eager to get my trains running. A cup of hot cocoa and the Lionel streamliner and Flyer freight were all a 9-year-old needed for fun. But my trains weren't there. Nor were the track, the signals, or the transformers.

"Where are my trains?" I shouted. My mother came walking into the kitchen and said, "I gave them away." I was devastated. Then she explained that two little boys who lived down the street, named Bill and Gordon, needed the model trains more than I did.

Mom went on to inform me their dad had cancer and there would be no Christmas for the boys as their family had no extra money for toys. This way both boys could have an electric train. The explanation didn't relieve any of my pain. I was still devastated.

That Christmas Dad bought me a Varney HO scale train. The set had a Dock-side switcher, four freight car kits we could build together, and a wide-vision caboose. With that gift, my enjoyment of model railroading changed. I focused my interest on HO scale.

Reunion of sorts

As the decades passed and I became an

avid railfan, I became close friends with Bill, one of the little boys who had lived down the street. It turned out he also liked to chase real trains.

One day Bill mentioned still having the electric trains he had played with as a youngster. I said I'd like to see them, as I really would like to collect a set like his. I just could not bring myself to tell Bill that those old Lionel and American Flyer sets had been mine.

Forty years later, he told me how he had found the train as a boy. His mother had told him how my mom had given both sets to his brother and him. Sadly, because his family had not had enough money for food that Christmas, his father had needed to sell the Lionel passenger set. Bill and his brother never saw it, but they loved the Royal Blue.

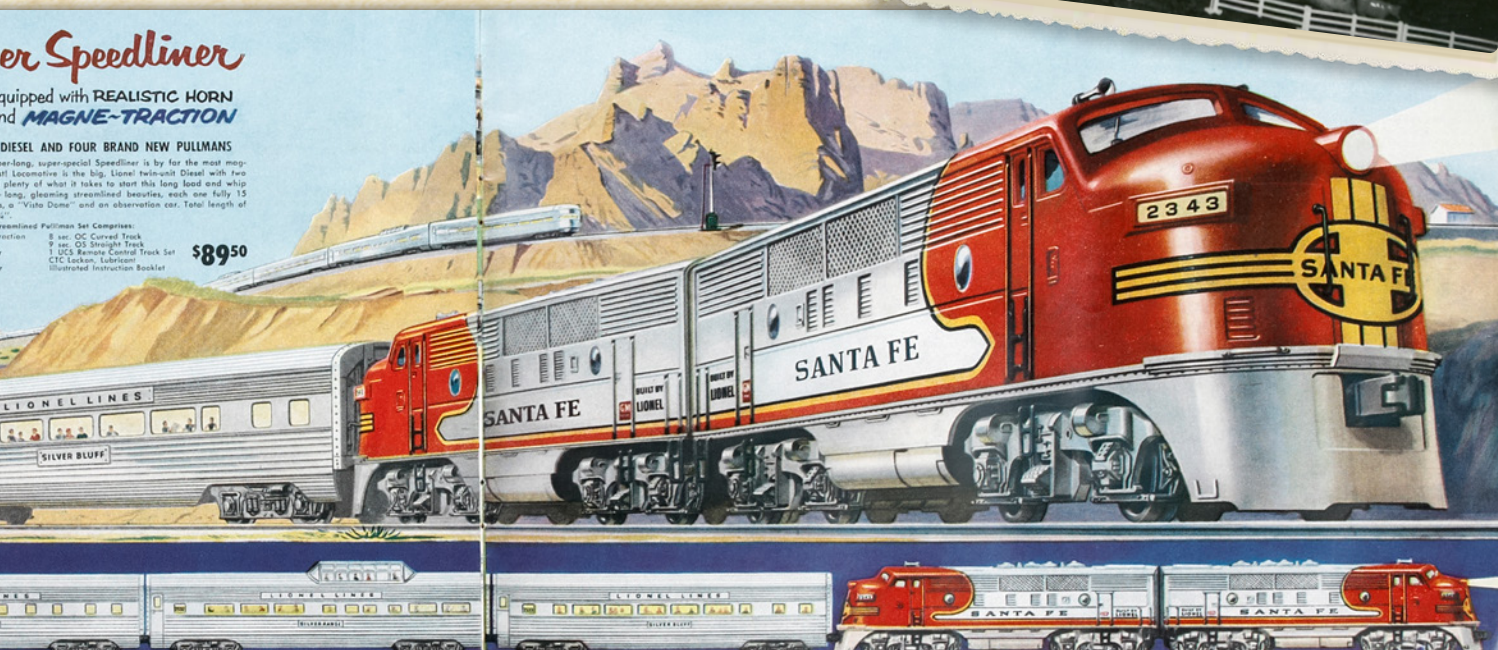
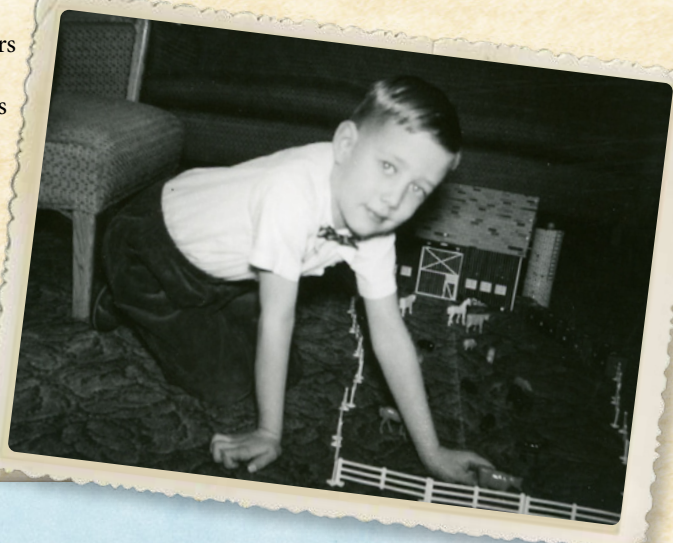
I was humbled by what Bill told me. Not too long after, at my 69th birthday party, my friend kindly presented me with the American Flyer freight set. It was 60 years after my mother had lovingly given it to a couple of brothers who had a lot less than I did.

All I can say is, "Thanks Mom. Thanks Bill. And thank you Uncle Ernie." **CTT**

► Let Dad and Uncle Ernie spend Christmas eating and then napping on the sofa. Tom was more than content to get down on the floor with his trains.



▲ Tom and his devoted father shared a great many fulfilling times together, including hours together working on toy trains and a few years later HO scale models. His dad always seemed to know when to offer assistance and when to step away so Tom could have fun.





LAYOUT BRINGS
FAMILY MEMORIES
to life



A dad and his twins built a great O gauge railroad

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY PAUL GEFKEN

Every family has wonderful memories based on shared experiences, celebrations, and travels. Parents and their children also remember the daily events that, while routine, define them as a family and bring meaning to their relationship. And families try to keep those memories alive by telling stories, snapping pictures, and cracking jokes.

Our family – my wife (Lisa) and I and our twin sons, Aidan and Josh – is no different. We like being together at home and on the road and are quick to recall favorite times and to laugh about what someone has said or done. Our good times continue to enhance life and make things happier, even during challenging moments.

The four of us have found another great way to preserve memories of what we've seen and where we've gone: We have built a 10 x 20-foot O gauge layout that captures some of the most enjoyable and meaningful places we've visited out West.

Aidan and Josh have provided much of the inspiration and assistance for the project, with Lisa chipping in regularly with details and words of encouragement. It's now the pleasure of the Gefken family to share our work with readers of *Classic Toy Trains* and recommend they attempt to do something similar with their families.

Greatest hobby

I've often heard that model railroading is the world's greatest hobby. It offers so much to every participant, especially children: imagination development, concept planning, scale model building, lessons in electronics, and problem solving. I can't think of any other leisure-time activity that can do so much for people joining in.

Perhaps as important, model railroading is a hobby parents and grandparents

1 The scenery Paul and his sons, Aidan and Josh, created for their 10 x 20-foot O gauge layout blends beautifully with the backdrop they installed around part of the display.



The 200-square-foot display boasts three independent loops of Lionel FasTrack over which Paul and his sons can run trains at the same time using Legacy command control.



The Gefken family (left to right: Paul, Josh, Lisa, and Aidan) spent almost seven years building this great O gauge layout to keep alive memories of family life.



2 While a Lionel Pennsylvania RR K4 4-6-2 Pacific (product no. 11327) bursts out of a tunnel, men below dig out ore for the Grand Central Gold Mining Co.

can share with their children and grandchildren to nurture memories of times spent together planning and building a layout. The dimensions and complexity of the railroad don't matter, so long as family members are involved and have fun.

In a world of home computers, video games, and smartphones that promise instant gratification for a fraction of the cost, model railroading is often overlooked, though it offers long-term benefits for a child's development to adulthood. Further, keeping kids interested long enough in the hobby to reap its benefits can be a challenge, particularly because there's a short timeframe from when they begin to pick up the necessary skills until they lose interest during adolescence.

Lisa and I have found that a terrific way to spark interest in the hobby early is to take kids on train rides while touring historical sites. She and I discovered how well those places and experiences can serve as the foundation for the layout built.

Our railroad has developed from family trips and vacations throughout California, starting when our teenage sons were 2 years old. Lisa and I have taken them to Roaring Camp Railroad in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the old mining town in Bodie,

and Railtown 1897 State Historic Park turntable and roundhouse in Jamestown. We've visited Yosemite National Park and its waterfalls, Lake Tahoe, the Merced River at Wawona, and the town of Graeagle. We've made sure our layout incorporated the interests of our boys. For Josh, that means performing in theater productions; for Aidan, that means sports.

Our layout represents a working piece of artwork that transcends our family's adventures and experiences and is a tribute to our memories. I find it impossible to think of another hobby with the ability to incorporate such deep meaning.

Layout planning

From our trips and my boys' interests I started to get ideas about what to include in a layout that would serve as a tribute to our family memories. By no means was I planning to build exact replicas of our favorite places, but rather use those places for inspiration and highlight them in

AT A GLANCE

Name: Gefken family's O gauge layout

Dimensions: 10 x 20 feet

Track and switches: Lionel (diameters range from 48 to 72 inches)

Motive power: Lionel

Rolling stock: K-Line, Lionel, Williams by Bachmann

Controls: Lionel CW-80 transformer (3), with Lionel Legacy command control

Accessories: Atlas O, K-Line, Lionel

Structures: Ameri-Towne, Atlas O, JV Models, Lionel, scratchbuilt, Woodland Scenics

Vehicles: Corgi, Ertl, MTH

Figures: Lionel, Woodland Scenics

modeled areas by referring to them with familiar names.

I thought about what gauge to use and how large a layout we would need to allow for an adequate number of tracks to run multiple trains so my sons and their friends would stay engaged. I decided bigger engines and rolling stock would be more impressive, so I went with O gauge rather than HO. I concluded a minimum layout size of 10 by 20 feet would allow for three different routes of track.

Until 8 years ago, those ideas remained just ideas, since there wasn't sufficient space to build a layout with those dimensions. It wasn't until Lisa and I extensively remodeled our home and added a family room that these ideas became reality.

The timing couldn't have been better, because our sons were then 9 years old and had enough skills to help build the layout. Of course, I had no idea we would need 7 years to complete the layout. But with model railroading, as with other pursuits, it's the journey that matters most and provides important everlasting memories.

Ongoing inspiration

At times I wondered whether the effort and cost of building an extensive layout would be worth the reward. But there always seemed to be signs to continue.

The first sign came on the day the three of us went to The Home Depot to buy wood for the benchwork. When checking out, the woman at the register asked us what we were building. When my boys said our family intended to construct a

"table" for a model railroad, she started to cry and replied, "It's wonderful to see that this is still happening."

The clerk's response showed me how important it is for a father and his children to work together to build something meaningful. Until recently, assembling plastic model kits, operating scale or toy trains, and racing slot cars were common

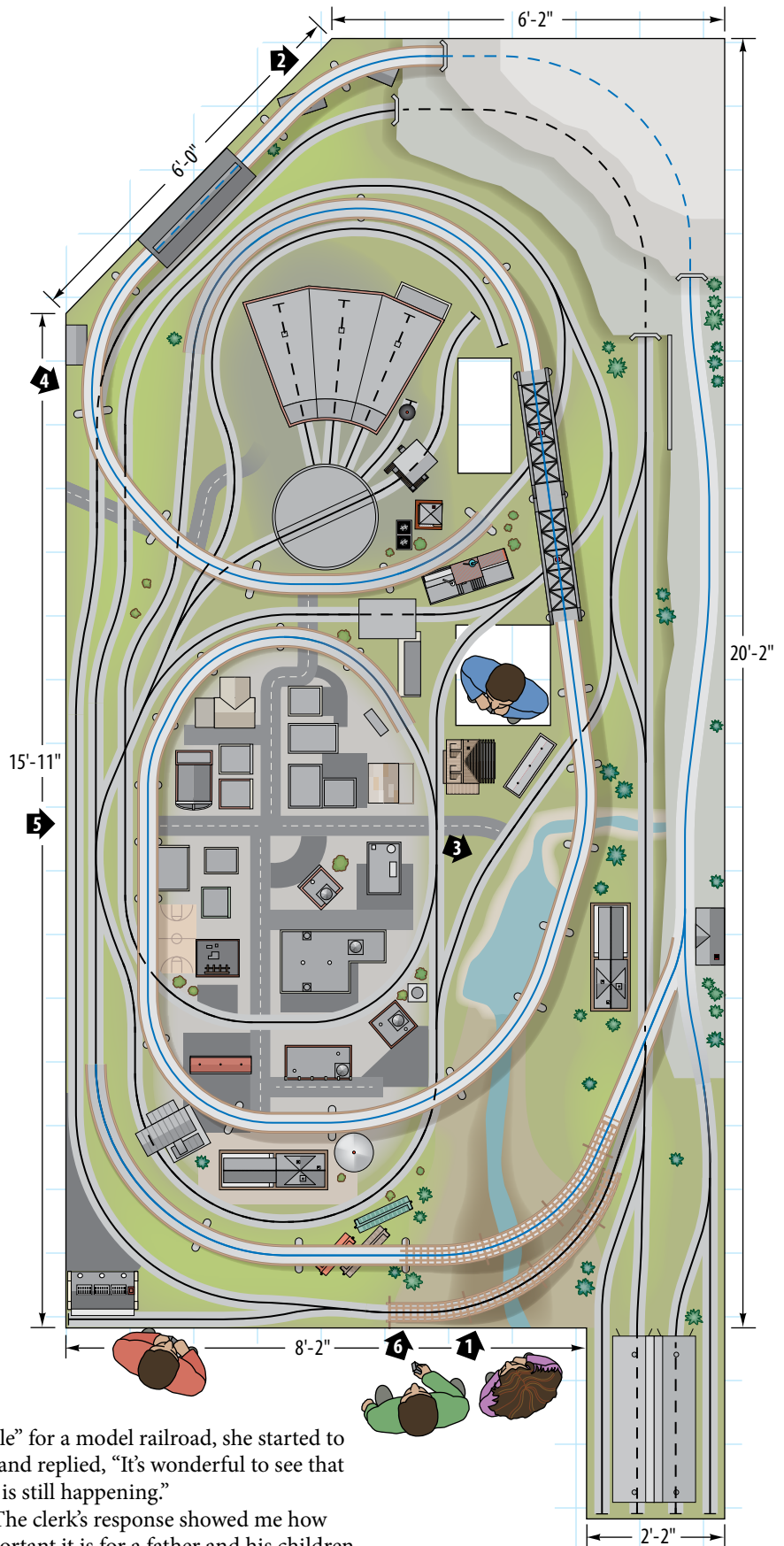


Illustration by Kellie Jaeger



3 Something in every scene brings back memories for Paul and Lisa and their twin sons. The fisherman dipping his line into a pond is a K-Line accessory the boys found.

experiences; I have many great memories of enjoying those hobbies with my father.

Other signs occurred when we would come across a needed item for our layout on one of our trips or at a local train show. I saw the kids' excitement and felt their imagination percolate on how to incorporate it into our layout.

For instance, once we stopped at a train shop in Tehachapi, Calif., on our way back from the Grand Canyon and purchased a K-Line bridge pier with a waterfall and moving fisherman. That item proved to be just what we needed on the layout to transition the river scene from the mountain backdrop to the Merced River swimming hole. Aidan and Josh couldn't wait to get home to add that accessory and get it up and running.

Or the time at a local show when Josh spied a set of marching band figures. After buying them, he brainstormed how to make them move in a parade down Main Street in our city using a conveyor belt or a thread attached to an electric motor. He demonstrated the creative thinking that I believe is one of the greatest attributes of model railroading.

Time to start

For the benchwork, we used 2 x 6 lumber spaced 4 feet apart with sheets of ½-inch-thick plywood on top. The foundation seemed sturdy enough to support the scenic features and structures we had in mind. To enhance the surface, we covered it with grass mats from Woodland Scenics.

My sons and I included a layout cornerstone consisting of a large mountain with two tunnels on the lower and upper levels. There would be a smaller lower-level mining tunnel to make use of an HO scale train from my childhood.

We lined the tunnels with aluminum foil painted gray and brown to look like blasted rock. I was amazed at how realistic the look was for such a simple process.

Before securing the mountain in place we added a 48-inch-high backdrop around two adjacent sides of the corner location. Next came a ridgeline outcropping for the track running from the upper tunnel over a deep canyon with three large waterfalls. That area represented Yosemite. Four 24-inch-high trestles were scratchbuilt for two separate tracks to span the canyon.

4 This great shot of a Lionel no. 11388 Southern Pacific 2-8-4 Berkshire being moved on an Atlas O turntable revives memories of family trips to Jamestown, Calif.

The boys and I used Lionel trestle kits to transition the track down to the flatland. By the way, we laid the track on top of ½-inch-thick foam to reduce the noise.

Once the two outer tracks were set in place, Aidan and Josh assisted me in incorporating a third inner track through the central part of Mountain View city.



The two outer tracks used Lionel Fas-Track O-72 curves to accommodate our largest engines; the inner third track used O-48 sections. Each track was powered with a Lionel no. 14198 CW-80 pack.

Focus on structures

More important than the landscaping when thinking about how we provided our layout with its unique identity were the structures. All four of us gave a great deal of thought as to which commercial items to purchase, where to place them on our model railroad, and whether to enhance their appearance with additional details.

Our family bought many of the buildings as kits, notably the roundhouse and a two-engine stall from Atlas O, two Rico stations from Lionel, city buildings from Ameri-Towne, and a mining camp from JV Models. Others came fully assembled, including the Electra Theater from Atlas O and models from Woodland Scenics.

Lionel was the source of animated structures: a water tank, a control tower, an operating sawmill, and a package conveyor belt. By the way, we installed an electric motor and pulley from Tamiya in the water tank to raise and lower its pipe.

We created an operating smokestack for a factory using a smoke unit from a retired steamer. Josh suggested inserting tissue paper highlighted with gray chalk dust to look like billowing smoke into the other chimneys and smokestacks.

A source of pride is the four-block city



5 Travelers on a Northern Pacific train catch glimpses of a marching band and fire-fighting equipment at a local parade.

with functioning traffic and streetlights. Some of the features reflect the interests and life goals of my sons. Take the marquee on the Electra Theater – it highlights Josh as the star of a new show. Not too far away observers see a basketball game going on. There, Aidan dunks while playing with his friends. We cleverly used a basketball coaching board for the court.

Fruits of our labor

Now that my sons and I have finished our O gauge model railroad layout, Lisa and I can say with pride and satisfaction it contains all the family memory features we

had hoped it would. Meanwhile, we have fun running trains past the illuminated buildings and scenery. Josh and I often operate Lionel steamers with Legacy features; Aidan prefers diesels with the same qualities. We usually have four engines running simultaneously on our three tracks using Lionel Cab 2 controllers.

The locomotives pull a mix of passenger and freight rolling stock from Lionel, K-Line, and Williams by Bachmann. Josh enjoys coupling Northern Pacific streamlined passenger cars to a Lionel 2-8-4 Berkshire steam engine. His brother often does the heavy lifting, using his diesels to pull coal hoppers and other freight cars.

Everlasting memories

For the past seven years, my wife and sons and I have been deriving from our home layout all the pleasures this hobby has to offer. As I look back on our adventure, I the effort and the cost of building an extensive layout were worth the reward.

Our display started as a tribute to our family experiences and memories. Along the way the four of us created wonderful new memories of the times spent together building the layout, going to train shows, and meeting other enthusiasts who have become new and treasured friends. **CTT**

6 Aidan prefers to operate diesels. No wonder he's at the throttle of the General Motors DD35 "Double Diesel" in the Union Pacific's scheme (Lionel product no. 28311).



POSTWAR HOPPER WITH ITS OWN IDENTITY

Andy Amante added this Lionel treasure

STORY BY ROGER CARP ● Photos by Dave Kelber

There are many advantages to living in New Jersey. A musical heritage that spans Sinatra to Springsteen is one; the beautiful beaches along the Jersey Shore are others. But the greatest benefit of making your home in the Garden State may be that nowhere else can an O gauge collector hear these magic words:

"I have a few trains to sell that my father left me. His mother used to work at Lionel between the 1940s and the 1960s. I wonder if you might be interested."

That in a nutshell was the message Andy Amante heard on his answering machine a few years ago. As enthusiastic a

hunter for Lionel trains from the postwar era as you'll find, he quickly grabbed his cellphone to return the call.

■ Treasure awaits

Before Andy knew it, he was talking with Christopher, whose grandmother had indeed been on the workforce at the plant Lionel maintained in Irvington, N.J. during the prewar and postwar periods.

Christopher had a nice stash of trains from the 1950s that he was selling on behalf of his father. Andy suppressed his excitement as best he could and quickly negotiated a deal to acquire all the trains.

Soon Andy was unpacking them at his home. He took his time, trying to study each and every model he had bought.

Then he noticed it – a black hopper with heat-stamped markings that identified it as a no. 3456 Norfolk & Western car, the same operating hopper Lionel had packed inside the box containing its no. 456 coal ramp. Nothing out of the ordinary, at least not at first glance. Andy was familiar with the 3456, which was cataloged with the 456 and as a separate-sale item from 1950 through 1955.

Only after perusing everything obtained did Andy go back to examine the

This scarce Lionel hopper has all the markings used on a no. 3456 Norfolk & Western operating model, developed in 1950 for the no. 456 coal ramp. However, the car lacks the features that are essential to making a 3456 functional.



freight cars more carefully. That was the moment when he realized this 3456 was unlike any he had ever seen before or was mentioned in any reference guide.

"This hopper lacked the plunger and opening bottom doors installed on the 3456 so it could operate with a coal ramp," Andy said. "From the bottom, my car looked exactly like any of the regular hoppers Lionel lettered for Lehigh Valley."

■ Learning more

Absolutely thrilled by his discovery, Andy set out to learn whatever he could about the unusual hopper. He contacted Christopher, but the former owner had no ideas. He merely repeated his grandmother had worked at Lionel and so she obviously picked up the oddball and carried it home for her son to play with.

Then Andy had a brainstorm. Being a

steady reader of *Classic Toy Trains*, he had seen Joe Algozzini's byline for many years and believed this respected expert on Lionel trains of the postwar era might be able to shed some light on his hopper.

Which is exactly what Joe did. In fact, he solved the mystery in a matter of seconds.

According to Joe, Lionel was producing no. 6456 Lehigh Valley hoppers around the same time it was manufacturing the 3456. In the course of doing so, a line worker inadvertently decorated a regular black hopper with the white heat stamp intended for the operating version. Everything was as simple as that.

In Joe's words, Andy has a "Manufacturing Make Ready." In other words, the unique hopper is actually a 6456-1 (the suffix used for an item meant to come in



Lionel heralded the no. 456 coal ramp and its operating hopper as highlights for 1950. Here, factory supervisors watch it in action with a no. 397 diesel-type coal loader.

its own component box), despite being incorrectly stamped 3456. The body shell used naturally and logically lacked the features of an operating hopper.

Joe concurred with Andy that the unusual hopper was without a doubt the product of Lionel's factory – nothing fraudulent or questionable about its origins. And, Joe finished, it was really neat, a gem for Andy to treasure for years. **CTT**

The absence of opening hatch doors and a plunger on the underside of the 3456 suggested to CTT contributor Joe Algozzini the car was an incorrectly stamped no. 6456.



WITH STAN TRZONIEC

Scratchbuild a tell-tale

A simple project sure to add scenic interest



A tell-tale keeps workers safe on Stan Trzoniec's O gauge Delaware & Raritan Valley RR. Making it is a great first building project.

■ **BECOMING A MEMBER** of any railroad's historical organization has its benefits. You learn history and take part in meetings and events. Above all (at least for me), you regularly receive the group's colorful and informative magazines.

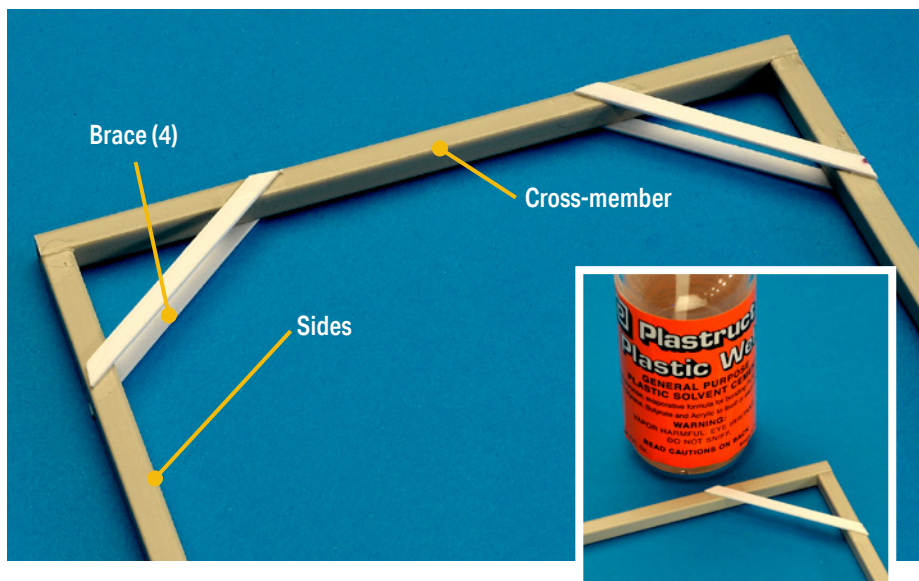
Being an O gauge modeler, I peruse them for interesting projects to build, especially if they have a detailed drawing.

The Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society puts out the quarterly *SP Trainline*. A recent issue featured a full-size tell-tale plan courtesy of the Shasta Division Archives that was drawn in a scale of ¼" to the foot.

A tell-tale is used to call attention to low-clearance situations, such as tunnels and bridges, that would endanger workers on top of rolling stock. Those laborers might have been up there to turn brake wheels or walk the train.

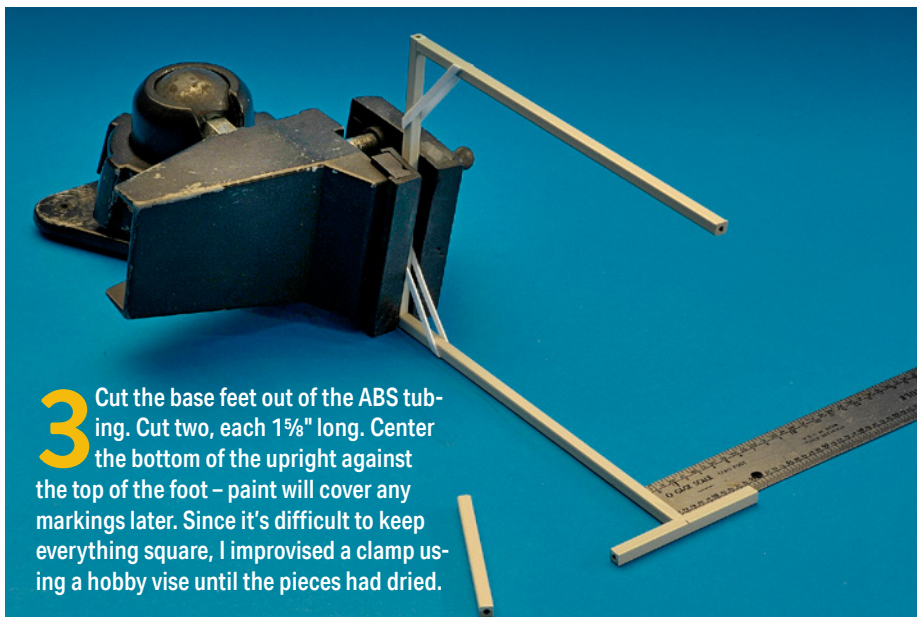
The drawing was almost right. After checking the dimensions, I needed to reduce the drawings to 80 percent to make them perfect for construction.

For those starting to scratchbuild, this is a simple project that can take as little as a couple of hours. If you cut everything to the drawing, it moves along smoothly. **CTT**



1 First, cut the top and sides from Plastruct no. 90202 ¾" light gray ABS square tubing. My top beam measures 4¾", and the sides measure 6½" each. Square up each end with a file. Attach these three pieces with liquid cement. Capillary action assures a neat yet strong weld. Make sure the sides are attached to the top at a 90-degree angle. A small square can help.

2 While the main assembly is drying, cut four angle braces from Plastruct no. 90736 ⅛" x 30" styrene strip. Each should have a 45-degree angle at the end and be 1⅞" on the long end of the brace. The angles will help line them up on the upright and cross-member. Apply the liquid cement to the top corners on the front and back.



3 Cut the base feet out of the ABS tubing. Cut two, each 1 5/8" long. Center the bottom of the upright against the top of the foot – paint will cover any markings later. Since it's difficult to keep everything square, I improvised a clamp using a hobby vise until the pieces had dried.

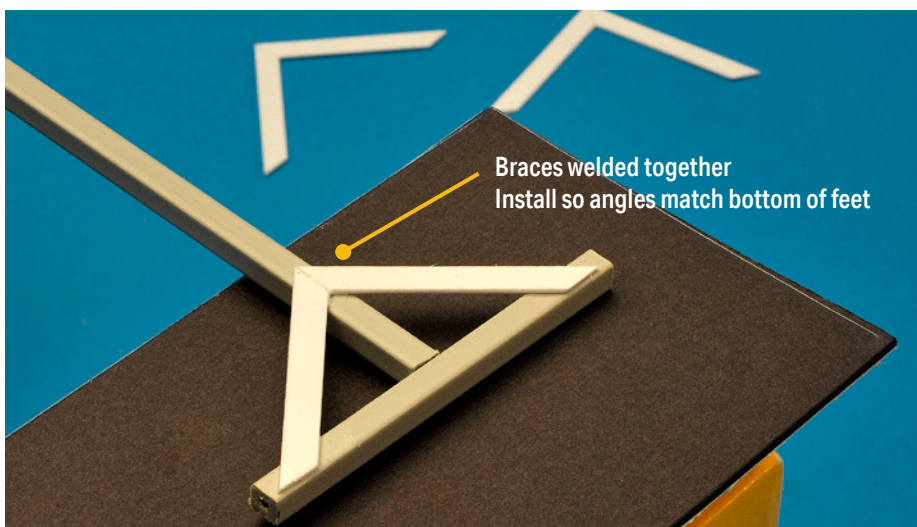
BILL OF MATERIALS

Plastruct

90202 3/16" light gray ABS square tubing
90736 1/8" styrene rectangular strip
90738 3/16" styrene rectangular strip
93968 gray window screen
AC-12 3/8" clear acrylic cubes

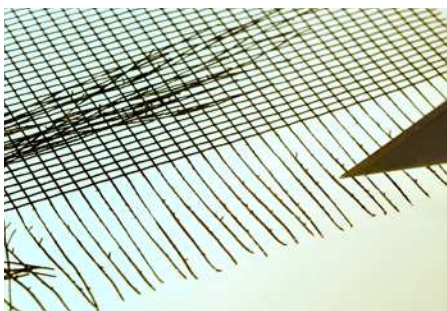
Miscellaneous

File
Gel super glue
Hobby knife
Liquid cement, such as Plastic Weld
Miter box
Paints
Scale ruler
Testor's Dullcote

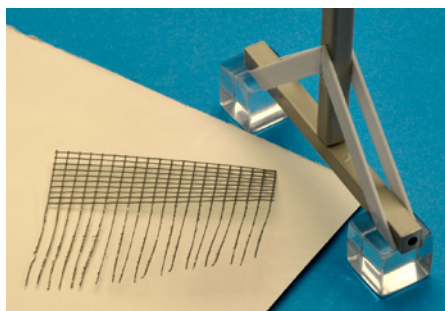


Braces welded together
Install so angles match bottom of feet

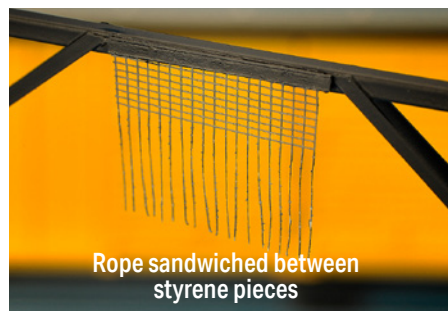
4 Cut four braces for each foot-upright pair from the Plastruct no. 90738 3/16" x 30" styrene rectangular strip; again, they will all have 45-degree ends and measure 1 7/8" at the longest point. Put two of the cut strips together to form a 90-degree angle and weld with the liquid cement. Then repeat the process until you've made four pairs. Attach braces inside and outside so the angle is centered on the upright and the angles of the lower ends line up with the bottom of the foot.



5 Next, cut a piece about 6" square from the gray window screen material (Plastruct no. 93968) and lay it flat on a self-healing mat or cutting surface. Cut the cross-members and remove them with the tip of a hobby knife so you have vertical "strings" about 1" long.



6 Keep two rows, or another 1/2" of material, and cut a section 1 3/4" wide. Don't worry about trimming them perfectly; they're supposed to look like heavy manila rope that's frayed and weathered. This photo also shows how the AC-12 3/8" cubes will be positioned under the tell-tale after painting. They should be painted a concrete color, as they represent the bases for the tell-tale.



Rope sandwiched between styrene pieces

7 Cut two pieces of the 1/8" strip a little longer than the width of the rope assembly. Then sandwich the top of the rope assembly between two sides with gel-type cyanoacrylate adhesive (CA, or "super glue"). Once everything has dried, use the same adhesive to attach the assembly to the cross-member. Placing the tell-tale ropes on the back side (closer to the tunnel) of the top brace ensures a neat and prototypical look.

ALL★ABOARD with AMERICAN FLYER

**S gauge layout built
with special panels**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JON BALKA

All Aboard American Flyer....” I can guess what you’re thinking after reading the words in quotation marks. You think this article must be about the famous talking stations the A. C. Gilbert Co. cataloged for its American Flyer brand of S gauge trains back in the 1940s and ’50s. The ones with a small record player announcing, “Through train to New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and all points west.”

Actually, not! This is an article about the other “All Aboard” associated with American Flyer: The All★Aboard scenic panels cataloged in 1965 and ’66 as well as the Pike-master trains sets offered to operate on them. My perspective on the panels and the trains is less a historical one and more an operational one. You see, I’ve built a 5½ x 10-foot S gauge layout entirely out of those 17-inch-square panels and various Flyer accessories.



1 Take a look at Jon Balka's 55-square-foot S gauge layout. The uniform curves and straights cut into the roadbed and the seams running through the middle are clues that he has used American Flyer All*Aboard panels to build it.





2 Shrewd purchases of All*Aboard panels at train shows and from dealers enabled Jon to amass enough of them, including ones with switches and crossovers, to assemble this fascinating home layout.

Moving up

How did this all begin? As a teenager back in the early 1990s I decided to move from HO scale railroading to collecting and operating toy trains. Because I already preferred the look of two-rail track and scale dimensions, American Flyer S gauge was the natural choice.

I first stumbled upon some All*Aboard panels while attending a local train show. Not having enough space for a permanent layout, I decided they were the perfect solution and bought them. Only later did I realize panels weren't complete or compatible with the longer Flyer locomotives and rolling stock I already owned, including the no. 312 K5 4-6-2 Pacific steamer and tender my parents had given me. I put the panels aside, but I remained intrigued by the idea of building a modular layout entirely of All*Aboard sets.

Fast-forward to 2015. On a routine visit to my favorite train store, I spotted a large quantity of the All*Aboard panels and enough original detail parts to scenick some of them. A discussion with the owner revealed there were several more cases of panels including those with switches, crossovers, and even steam whistles.

Before long, the store owner and I agreed on a price; the panels and everything that went with them were mine. Now came the challenging part of creating a layout with them.

Down to work

I carried the panels home and started planning. I eventually assembled them on some tables to make the S gauge railroad showcased here. To build the 55-square-foot display that stands 29" off the floor, I needed a total of 28 All*Aboard panels.

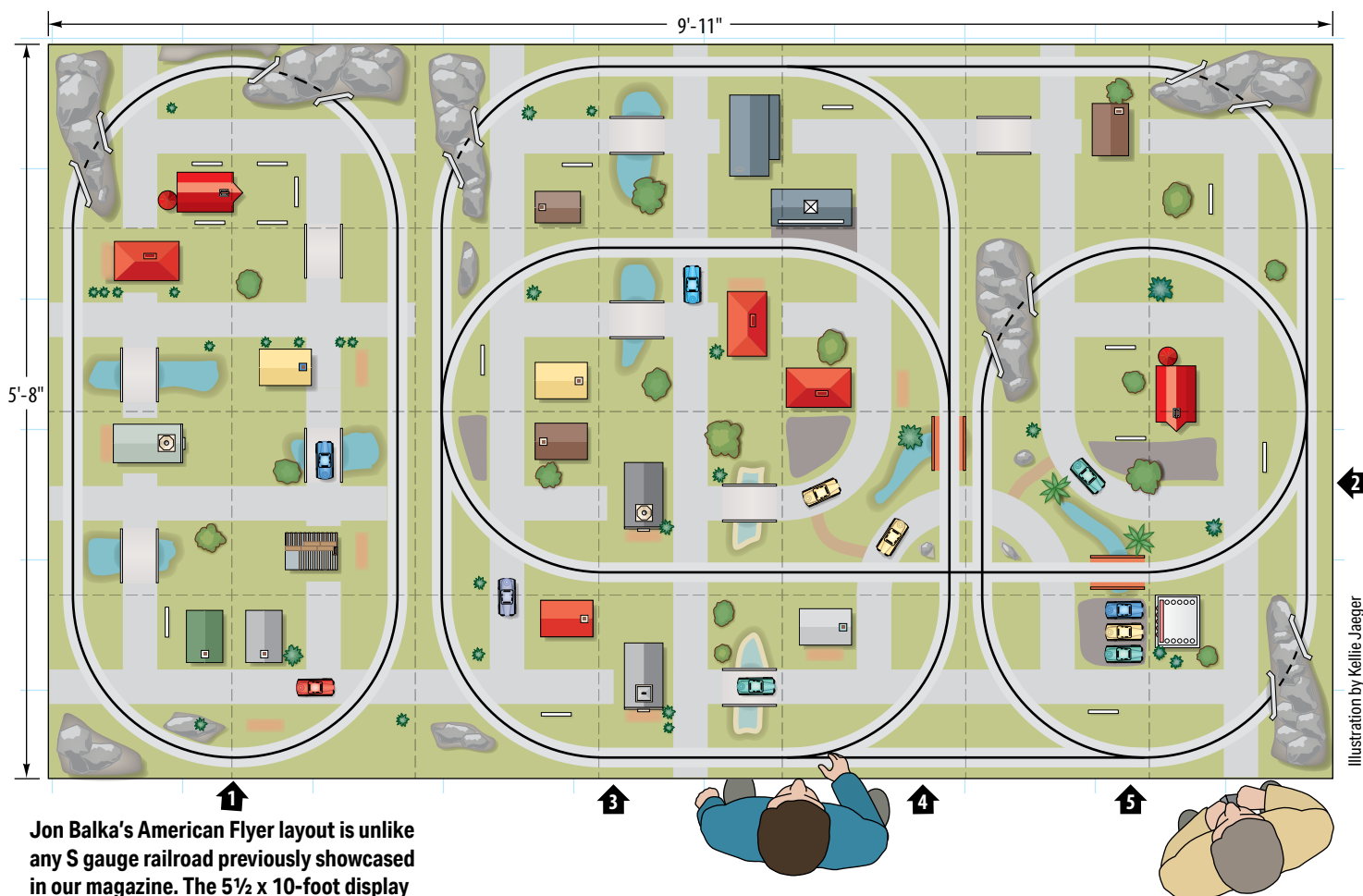
In addition to regular panels that were manufactured as straight or curved sections, I built the display with 10 switch sections, two crossovers, and a couple of the ones Gilbert equipped with structures housing whistles. I separated the layout into three electrical blocks so I could run three trains independently at the same time or so one train could cover the entire layout.

Because the layout is fairly compact, I elected to focus on residential and farm scenes. A mix of American Flyer, Little-town, Marx, and Plasticville U.S.A. buildings worked perfectly when developing those areas. These structures also had a vintage feel that in my view matched the track.

I took the same approach with the trees and some of the other details you can see in my photographs. Many are American Flyer items included with the panels. A few, notably the tall multi-color fir trees,



Jon Balka switched from HO to S gauge modeling years ago.



Jon Balka's American Flyer layout is unlike any S gauge railroad previously showcased in our magazine. The 5½ x 10-foot display consists of 28 of Gilbert's All*Aboard panels.

have different sources – but what matters is that they fit in visually.

Looking right

Time for me to get a little philosophical here. The most important consideration when assembling an All*Aboard layout is making sure that everything looks right and blends together. Usually, that means all the items are made of plastic and about the same proportion.

Structures like the Cape Cod houses and the barns in the Plasticville U.S.A. line from Bachmann work really well. Many of the downtown commercial and industrial buildings produced in the postwar era turned out to be too large for my purposes, so they aren't on the layout.

Regarding vehicles, I once arranged several high-quality and expensive die-cast metal automobiles and trucks on the layout. However, I quickly noticed they looked out of place. I decided to replace them with plastic vehicles by Marx, Renwal, and others that fit. The same issues caused me to go exclusively with plastic

animal and human figures of various makes to populate the layout.

Visual appearance is also important for the locomotives and rolling stock. With the exception of the tippie cars used in the no. 5300T miners' work train, I run only plastic items. For head-end power, I prefer Baldwin diesels and 4-4-2 Atlantic steam engines and tenders.

I opted for those locomotives for esthetic reasons and because large heavy engines can't navigate the tight curves of the Pikemaster track and would cause the panels to flex. Fortunately for me, the Gilbert Co. manufactured a fairly large selection of Pikemaster and lightweight equipment, so there's plenty of variety out there to choose from.

A few benefits

Whenever someone learns about what I've done with All*Aboard panels and asks me what about them has piqued my interest, I always mention two great benefits:

First, changing both the configuration of the panels and the structure details is

AT A GLANCE

Name: Jon Balka's S gauge layout

Dimensions: 5½ x 10 feet

Track and switches: American Flyer All*Aboard panels

Motive power: Gilbert American Flyer

Rolling stock: Gilbert American Flyer

Controls: Gilbert American Flyer nos. 8B and 22004 transformers

Structures: Gilbert American Flyer, Littletown, Marx, Plasticville

Vehicles: Marx, Renwal

Figures: Marx

Illustration by Kellie Jaeger



TIPS ON BUILDING AN ALL*ABOARD LAYOUT

Planning and constructing my 5½ x 10-foot S gauge layout out of All*Aboard panels taught me a great deal about how to work with them in a successful and entertaining manner. Here are 10 of my best suggestions and insights for anyone intended to build a layout like mine:

1 Understand that the All*Aboard panels were designed for Pikemaster motive power and rolling stock. Be sure to operate shorter S gauge models, especially from the 1960s.

2 Take advantage of the layout-planning cutouts included with the instructions packed in the All*Aboard sets. They work quite well for designing an enjoyable model railroad.

3 Purchase the most complete panels or sets you can find. Finding the accessories and details that were originally added to panels but are now often missing can be difficult.

4 Shimming, adding more power leads, and making custom rail joiners may be necessary to ensure smooth operation when you use original panels from the 1960s.

5 Be aware All*Aboard panels can't support a human's weight. Therefore, avoid designing a layout that doesn't allow you to reach by hand each and every area.

6 Search junk boxes at train shows. Lots of fun and imaginative items are out there ready to be found at low cost that will make your All*Aboard railroad unique.

7 Do not overpopulate your panels. It's tempting to keep adding more items, but ultimately it takes away from the scene. I never put more than one structure on a panel.

8 Vary your scenery with correctly sized structures and figures from manufacturers other than Gilbert's American Flyer line. Doing so

9 The no. 20550 *Frontiersman* set from 1959 is one of the jewels in Jon's collection. He likes to bring the old-time train off the shelf and let it run.

always adds variety and interest to a layout.

9 Keep in mind that the product is modular. Consequently, you can take off the tunnel tops and convert them to bluffs. That makes it easy to operate longer passenger cars before you decide to turn those scenic elements back into mountains when you want.

10 Lock the reverse units into the forward position when operating several trains at the same time. The panels are rigid, so the vibration may trip a locomotive into neutral.



4 The no. 355 Chicago & North Western Baldwin switcher is short enough to operate smoothly on the All*Aboard panels. Most of the other American Flyer diesels cataloged in the 1950s, especially the classic Alco PA units, are too long to fit comfortably through the tight curves.

incredibly easy. Nothing ever goes to waste – you simply move things around and add or subtract items, and before you know it, your S gauge model railroad looks completely different.

Second, the hunt for items that work is extremely enjoyable. I love digging through scrap boxes at swap meets and train stores to find items I know will look right, such as original All*Aboard mountains, plastic cars and structures, and my palm trees and swimmers.

Often, I end up paying just a few dollars for what I've picked up. Better yet, there have been times when vendors have just given me items at no charge. Even though I've bought some items for the layout from online auctions, I generally prefer to buy what I like in person.

Looking ahead

What lies ahead for my All*Aboard layout? To start, I have more panels at home,

so I can imagine adding an industrial area and possibly a commercial district. The challenge will be finding enough structures with appropriate dimensions and colors to fit in neatly.

Given that the mountains are cast into the panels, I can also see the possibility of adding risers to integrate an elevated segment and thereby create a scene with more than a single level. Finally, I wouldn't mind adding a backdrop and a low-relief background consisting of more of the Plasticville buildings I like. Available space is the only issue.

There you have it. All the reasons why S gauge enthusiasts or modelers without much real estate at hand should think seriously about building a layout out of the All*Aboard panels. And there's no need to stop after making a 4 x 8-foot display. As my model railroad shows, expanding beyond what Gilbert recommended long ago is great fun. **CTT**



5 The guys inside the caboose are hanging out the windows, hoping to see the lovely ladies tanning and swimming in the pond.

LIONEL'S CONVEYOR LUMBER LOADER



Dump the logs in and then ship 'em out with the no. 364 accessory

STORY BY ROGER CARP

All of us at *Classic Toy Trains* have been enjoying ourselves, thanks to the Lionel operating cars and accessories brought into our office by David Popp, executive producer for Trains.com. Once David called attention to the postwar items his father and maternal grandfather had acquired new in the late 1940s, Hal Miller and I couldn't keep our eyes or hands off them, especially after deciding to share those treasures in the magazine.

How to showcase what David had discovered proved to be a subject of debate. Presenting the models in the order his relatives had acquired them would have been fun, but no one had any firm conclusions. And opting for a strict chronological sequence of when Lionel had introduced the various items risked boring readers if similar pieces followed each other in consecutive issues.

So, Hal and I decided to move ahead by emphasizing differences among the operating models. From a milk car in February we stayed on the farm while dashing to a

cattle car and corral the next month. Then in the May issue we tried out an accessory, one with prewar roots that handled coal. This time we're focusing on a postwar accessory for logs: the no. 364 Conveyor Lumber Loader.

■ Wooden traditions

While Lionel heralded the 364 as a brand-new addition to its line for 1948, offering an accessory designed to automatically load and unload the dowels that served as miniature logs hardly broke new ground for the corporation. To be frank, lumber had been big business along Lionel Lines for several decades.

Lumber – the long planks and boards people use to frame residential and business structures, to serve as floors and ceilings, and to shaped into tables and cabinets – became the first type of load Lionel ever created for its toy flatcars. Standard and O gauge models came with flat pieces of wood by the middle years of the 1920s so children could imagine they were transporting softwood lumber.

The miniature boards on flatcars had to be rectangular so they wouldn't slip off during operation. Then the no. 3651 Remote Control Lumber Car joined the line in 1939. To make the load “dumpable,” designers knew it must be able to roll off into a tray by the right-of-way. That made cylindrical pieces essential.

Big news arrived the next year, when Lionel brought out its first remote-controlled accessory intended to handle logs. Only with dowels could the no. 164 Lumber Loader complete its tasks to the satisfaction of operators young and old.

Touching and turning the buttons on the controller let anyone empty a dump car and watch as logs rolled off to be picked up by the motorized chain conveyor and lifted to the upper unloading platform. Realism triumphed.

What a great step forward the lumber loader and the rolling stock serving it represented for Lionel! Executives acknowledged the importance of bringing back the 164 after World War II while updating the log dump cars serving it.





The no. 364 Conveyor Lumber Loader represented a new direction at Lionel in the years after World War II. A second-generation accessory for handling logs, it required only a single stretch of straight track for effective and entertaining operation.

■ Time for improvement

The over-arching strategy as World War II ended and production of toy trains was given a green light boiled down to bringing back as many of the finest prewar items as the market was likely to appreciate. That approach characterized the thinking among engineering and sales leaders with regard to accessories.

This wasn't a reluctance to innovate, but an understanding that consumers hadn't lost their appetite for the biggest and most innovative operating models that had broken new ground right before global conflict engulfed the United States.

Therefore, the 164 returned in 1946, a highlight of the first full line Lionel cataloged after the war. Similarly, as shown in the May issue, the individuals overseeing

what was presented insisted on bringing back the no. 97 Coal Elevator.

But the 164 loader demanded a fairly sophisticated operation. It called for a line of track in front and one behind so logs could be loaded and unloaded.

Accommodating model railroads with only a main line or a single siding, engineers working under the supervision of Joseph Bonanno at the Lionel plant commenced to look for a solution. The answer, they found, was to go horizontal.

■ Getting horizontal

The 364 Conveyor Lumber Loader aimed not to update its companion or to speed

up the process of vertically moving and unloading dowels. Instead, the steel accessory represented a re-imagining of how miniature lumber might be shifted.

The 364 simplified the process by depending on nothing more than a long straightaway for its action. To be precise, all an O gauge operator needed on his or her layout was a section consisting of three pieces of regular straight track.

As the instruction sheet for the 364 explained, "A remote control section should be placed in the track layout in front of the loader receiving platform and the Lumber Loader positioned so that its receiving platform is in the center of the remote control section." Unload the logs, let them travel up the conveyor belt, and wait to release them one by one into the now-empty no. 3451 Lumber Dump Car.

■ Reliable operation

The 364 challenged layout builders for the obvious reason that it measured almost 28 inches in length. Creating a siding long enough to handle it might not be easy. But dependable and straightforward operation made it a pleasure to own.

The sequence of activities, as David's Conveyor Lumber Loader showed, was short and sweet. Manually or via remote control, logs were put at the lower receiving end on the right end of the accessory. Next, an operator flipped the no. 364C on/off switch included with every 364 to fire up the red conveyor belt.

Scarcely before you could exhale, one of the dowels was cruising up the belt to the upper portion of the log loader. Once



Lionel heralded a pair of breakthrough freight loaders for its new line for 1948. The 364 provided a different method for unloading and loading miniature logs, and the no. 397 diesel-type coal loader offered a different manner for handling tiny chunks of Lionel coal.

it had reached the top of the platform, gravity took over and it rolled effortlessly over the tilting stakes into a freight car.

Not the kind of animation to leave you bowled over, yet slick. The 364, for which Chief Engineer Bonanno earned a patent, featured one other effect – illumination. A clear light bulb inserted into a lamp cover at the bottom of the ramp shone brightly once the loader was activated. Better still, the rays glowed through red and green lenses to boost the sensation of realism.

■ Hardly changing

Everyone from factory production supervisors to consumers must have been happy with the look and operation of the Conveyor Lumber Loader. After all, the accessory underwent no genuine modification after its first year in the line.

The dark gray crackle finish yielded to one described as silver-gray and smooth hammer-tone probably within a year after the 364 was added to the line. That aesthetic change was the most obvious way to distinguish an early model.

In term of operation, engineers sought to remove any kinks or sources of frustration for young lumber barons. For example, they added a metal guide tab at the uppermost end of the loader to facilitate movement of the logs into a waiting car. Designers also redesigned the brushplate on the motor after 1949.

That sums up the story of the 364, cataloged through 1957. Each corrugated cardboard box also included five dowels

packed in a no. 164-64 component box, a 364C on/off switch, hookup wire, and an instruction sheet.

■ Easy maintenance

Besides developing a dependable and reasonably priced accessory (the 364 sold for \$12.50, which was \$9 less than the 164), the engineering crew came up with a log loader that was remarkably easy for hobbyists to maintain and authorized repair personnel to troubleshoot, service, and keep in tiptop shape.

The heavy-duty motor hangs upside down, a fact that causes liquefied gearbox lubricant to drip into it when the loader is operated frequently. Both the brushes and the commutator often need cleaning.

In addition to tending to the motor and its major components, keep the upper surfaces of the 364, particularly the conveyor belt, free from oil, dust, and dirt. Periodic cleaning is essential; applying lubricant to either the gearbox or the rollers with the belt is not. To the contrary, doing so may gum up those parts.

The conveyor belt can be tricky, because over the decades it can end up stretched until it fails to move the logs. It should run ride flat with no slippage.

Parts dealers typically sell replacement belts, which are installed by first removing the sheet-metal screws securing the backplates. Then, beginning at the low end of the loader, follow the path of the old belt as you put on the new one.

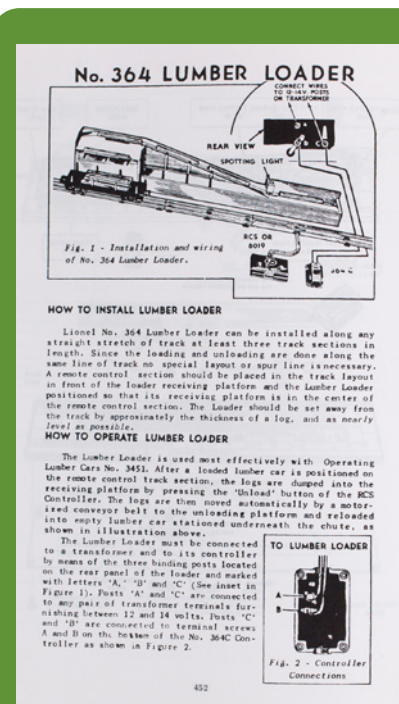
The three belt rollers and cam are held

in place by pins you can gently pull out individually while you thread the new belt through its course. Don't forget to add a tiny drop of oil to each pin before you reinsert it. And "tiny" is the key word.

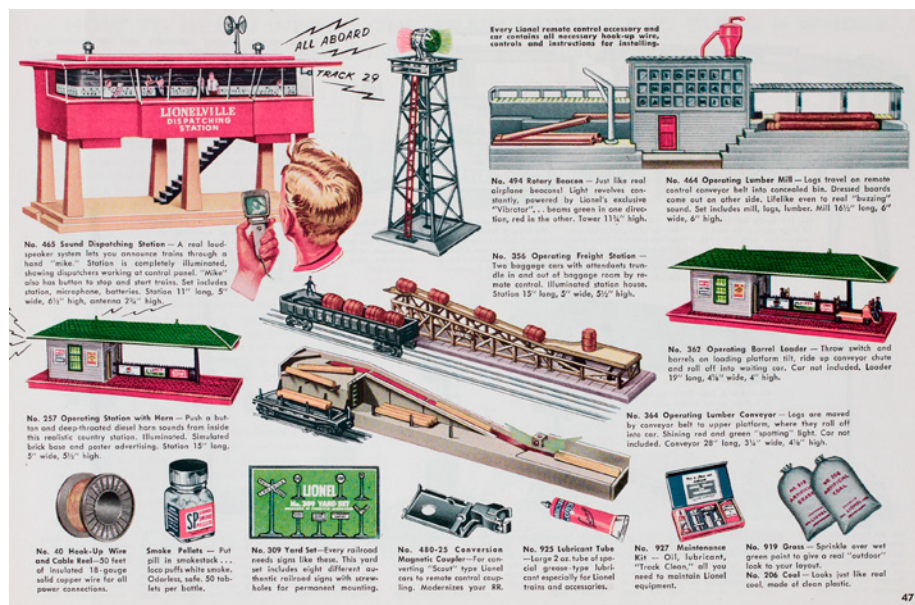
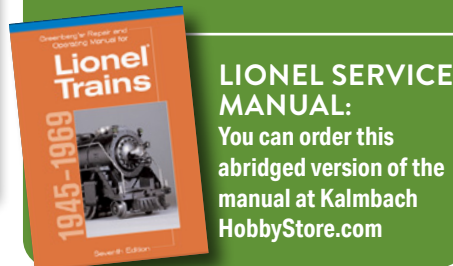
■ Time for fun

Once your 364 is ready for action, make certain you have located it on a level surface. Hook it up to an appropriate fixed-voltage circuit on your transformer, where it can get the 12 to 14 volts necessary.

As the instruction sheet explained, leads from a transformer should be connected to binding posts A and C on the underside of the loader's base. The 364C on/off switch is connected between binding posts B and C to ensure the light burns continually and the motor is easily and reliably controlled. **CTT**



Keeping the 364 Conveyor Lumber Loader in tiptop condition demanded very little in terms of maintenance. The simplicity behind the accessory was reflected in the illustration and brief description of the accessory's operation in the *Lionel Service Manual*.



Unlike other operating accessories cataloged for only a few years, Lionel kept the 364 in its line for a decade. It continued to be prominently illustrated and described through 1957.

NICHOLAS SMITH TRAINS

MODEL RAILROADING FOR ALL SEASONS®

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, or GIVE US A CALL

2343 West Chester Pike Broomall, PA 19008

Just 1 Minute off I-476 Exit 9

June. 2021 Classic Toy Trains Ad • 111 Years Selling Trains

Prices Subject to Change Without Notice.

MIN. Order: \$30.00 -15% Restocking Fee on Returns

Product information (610) 353.8585

ORDERS ONLY: (800) 848.9119 • Fax (610) 359.9846

Most domestic orders will follow shipping schedule below*

\$0.00 - \$500.00 - \$13.00

\$500.01 - \$1100.00 - \$17.00

\$1100.01 - \$1500.00 - \$26.00

*Orders with Track, Power & Control Devices, Sets, Expansion Packs, Oversized Items, & **SALE ITEMS** will be charged Actual Shipping

No P.O. Box's, PA Residents Add 6% Sales Tax

Not responsible for typographical errors

Lionel Legacy Locomotives

LIO683199 Reading T1	\$1439.99
LIO684067 Milwaukee Road Fantasy S3	\$1529.99
LIO684068 DL&W S-3	\$1529.99
LIO684075 ACL E8 AA	\$899.99
LIO684238 Elk River 3 Truck Shay	\$1349.99
LIO684240 West Side Lumber 3 Truck	\$1349.99
LIO684249 SP AC-9 #3805	\$1719.99
LIO68426X 0/1 CSX SD40	\$584.99
LIO68427X 0/1 B&O GP9 Torpedo	\$494.99
LIO684288 Great Northern U33c	\$521.99
LIO68429X 2/3 PC U33C	\$521.99
LIO68440X 0/1 BN SD60M	\$544.99
LIO68440X 3/4 SOO SD60M	\$544.99
LIO68440X 7/8 CSX SD60M	\$544.99
LIO684410 NS SD60M	\$544.99
LIO684508 NYC S2 Electric #113	\$719.99
LIO684510 PC S2 Electric #4710	\$719.99
LIO684511 NYC S2 Electric #101	\$719.99
LIO684512 S2 Electric Set	\$869.99
LIO68462X 4/5 KCS SD40T-2	\$539.99
LIO68462X Lancaster & Chester SD40T-2	\$539.99
LIO68462X 7/8 GECX SD40T-2	\$539.99
LIO684636 UP SD40T-2	\$539.99
LIO684637 Cotton Belt SD40T-2	\$539.99
LIO684647 FEC E6 AA	\$899.99
LIO684690 W&LE Berkshire #2716	\$1349.99
LIO684691 American Railroad Berk	\$1349.99
LIO684843 GE Demo AC6000 Green	\$584.99
LIO68484X 4/5 GE Demo AC6000 Red	\$584.99
LIO68484X 8/9 CSX Diversity AC6000	\$584.99
LIO684851 Southern Pacific AC6000	\$584.99
LIO684946 Long Island E-6 Atlantic	\$719.99
LIO685023 Maine Central SW 7	\$449.99
LIO685026 Southern SW7	\$449.99
LIO685030 B&P SD45	\$539.99
LIO685039 N&W SD45 #1711	\$539.99
LIO68504X 2/3 Wisconsin Central SD45	\$539.99
LIO68505X 1/2 EMD SD70ACe	\$539.99
LIO68505X 3/4 KCS SD70ACe	\$539.99
LIO685170 Atlanta & West Point 4-6-2	\$1259.99
LIO685173 Northern Pacific 4-6-2	\$1259.99
LIO685176 Chesapeake & Ohio 2-6-6-2	\$1439.99
LIO685177 W&LE 2-6-6-2	\$1439.99
LIO685181 Maine Central 2-6-6-2	\$1439.99
LIO685182 NYC 2-6-6-2	\$1439.99
LIO1931130 Southern 4-8-2 Mountain	\$1169.99
LIO1931290 UP 49er 4-6-6-4 Challenger	\$1799.99
LIO1931440 PRR J1A 2-10-4 #6500	\$1349.99
LIO1931500 Lime Stone 2 Truck Shay	\$1079.99
LIO1931650 CP 4-4-0 Brass Jupiter	\$1099.99
LIO1931660 UP 4-4-0 Brass #119	\$1099.99
LIO1931720 CB&Q 2-10-4	\$1349.99
LIO1933031 Conrail RS11 (Patched)	\$449.99
LIO193306X 1/2 Seaboard RS11	\$449.99
LIO1933092 FEC SD40-2	\$494.99
LIO193330X 1/2 GE Demo ES44AC	\$539.99
LIO1933321 UP ES44AC	\$539.99
LIO193338X 1/2 Locomotive Valley GP35	\$449.99
LIO193341X 1/2 Apache Railroad GP35	\$449.99
LIO1933441 Erie Mining C-420	\$449.99
LIO1933490 Alco FA Demo AA	\$809.99
LIO1933500 C&NW FA AA	\$809.99
LIO1933550 SP&S FA AA	\$809.99
LIO1933562 Long Island FA Cab Car	\$389.99
LIO1933572 Milwaukee Road Bipolar	\$1169.99
LIO2031190 SF 4-8-4 #3765	\$1439.99
LIO2031220 D&RGW 4-8-4 #1802	\$1439.99
LIO2031300 RBM&N Legacy T1	\$1529.99
LIO2031320 Freedom Train T1	\$1529.99
LIO2031352 PRR B6Sb	\$629.99
LIO2031370 Bethlehem Steel B6Sb	\$629.99

MTH Locomotives

MTH2037081 SP 4-8-2 AC-6	\$1349.99
MTH2037581 SP GS4 w. Lights	\$1299.99
MTH2037731 N&W 611 J Spirit	\$1249.99
MTH2038111 R&N 4-6-2	\$1199.99
MTH2057091 Amtrak AME-7 #920 PHV	\$429.99
MTH20208131 Santa Fe GP60M	\$409.99
MTH202085XX 71/81 NJ Transit E8 A	\$399.99
MTH20208761 USMC 44 Ton	\$399.99
MTH20208881 PRR 44 Ton	\$399.99
MTH20209931 FEC SD40-2	\$449.99
MTH20210421 RF&P E-8 A Unit	\$409.99
MTH20210861 NASA Alco S2	\$399.99
MTH20211221 UP ES44AC (Pink Ribbon)	\$439.99
MTH20211241 GE ES44 AC Tier 4 Demo	\$439.99
MTH20211391 Santa Fe FT A Unit	\$409.99
MTH20211551 UP SD70Ace Bush #4141	\$449.99
MTH20211581 UP SD70Ace #1943	\$459.99
MTH202119XX 31/41 NS SD70Mac	\$459.99
MTH20211961 Alaska SD70Mac	\$459.99
MTH20211981 BNSF SD70Mac	\$459.99
MTH20212571 SF E8 A Plated	\$459.99
MTH20212641 UP SD70Ace #1111	\$439.99
MTH20213511 PRR ES44AC #8102	\$459.99
MTH20213531 CSX ES44AC Veterans	\$459.99
MTH20214321 WC SD35	\$459.99
MTH30205241 GE Demo ES44AC	\$364.99
MTH30205631 MA&PA NW2 w. PS3	\$299.99
MTH30205681 Amtrak MP15DC	\$309.99
MTH30205711 UP ES44AC	\$309.99
MTH30205951 R&N MP15DC	\$309.99
MTH30206061 CSX F40PH #9999	\$309.99
MTH30206281 EMD Demo F3 ABA	\$469.99
MTH30206501 EL GP7	\$314.99
MTH30206531 WM RS3	\$314.99
MTH30206601 US Steel SW1500	\$309.99
MTH30206641 Reading C630	\$319.99
MTH30206731 B&O Alco PA AA	\$374.99
MTH30206811 Illinois Terminal SD70Ace	\$314.99
MTH30206981 Alaska MP15	\$309.99
MTH30207301 UP SD70ACe	\$319.99
MTH30207451 UP Dash 8	\$319.99
MTH30207791 Wash Term Alco RS-1	\$329.99
MTH30208051 UP 4141 SD70ACe	\$329.99
MTH30208061 UP Spirit SD70ACe 1943	\$329.99

Nicholas Smith EXCLUSIVES



LIO2131640 Strasburg
4-6-0 #972 \$299.99



MTH20207741 ConDot
P40 #836 \$444.99



LIO1933740 Reading
FA AA \$849.99



MTH20207751 Amtrak
44 Ton #1100
\$399.99



Amtrak Amfleet Capstone Passenger Cars
MTH2064021 4 Pk \$409.99 MTH2064022 - 2 Pk \$204.99



SALE ITEMS

O Locomotives

Lionel Locos below are sold without warranty

LIO681190 WP Heavy Mikado	\$875.00
LIO681193 W&LE Heavy Mikado	\$875.00
LIO682213 KCS Naked Bell ES44AC	\$450.00
LIO682275 B&O/Chessie SD40	\$450.00
LIO682278 Grand Trunk SD40	\$450.00
LIO682284 Conrail Savings Bond SD40	\$450.00
LIO682536 NYC J3a Hudson PT Tender	\$990.00
LIO682537 NYC J3a Hudson J3 Tender	\$990.00
LIO68279X 6/7 Conrail SD38	\$475.00
LIO682802 PC SD38	\$475.00
LIO682829 B&O E7 AA	\$725.00
LIO68426X 0/1 CSX SD40	\$500.00
LIO68426X 8/9 WM SD40	\$500.00
LIO68428X 6/7 Guilford D&H U33C	\$450.00
LIO685018 ACL SW 7	\$400.00
LIO685219 Conrail Powered B	\$350.00

O Freight Cars & Accessories

LIO625731 CB&Q 18" Aluminum 2 Pack	\$199.99
LIO627496 Polar RR Covered Hopper	\$43.99
LIO639362 Thomas Kinkd Emerald Box	\$31.99
LIO682664 B&LE Gondola & Flatcar	\$109.99
LIO684500 NS First Responders Tank	\$45.00
MTH2093661 US Army Waffle Boxcar	\$49.99

MTH Rolling Stock

MTH2064088 SF Gold Bonnet 4 Car set	\$399.98
MTH2064094 UP RPO Car	\$89.99
MTH2068265 NS 70' RPO	\$86.99
MTH2092151 US Army Flat w. Tank 4Pk	\$299.99
MTH2092186 US Army Flat w. 105MM	\$324.99
MTH2092231 NS Hopper 4 PK Plated	\$279.99
MTH2092274 US Army Flat w. Humvee	\$349.99
MTH2093661 US Army Waffle Side Box	\$49.99
MTH2093699 NS 50' DD Boxcar	\$65.99
MTH2093739 TTX 50' DD Boxcar	\$64.99
MTH2093740 Alaska 50' DD Boxcar	\$60.99
MTH2093771 C&O 50' PS1 Boxcar	\$60.99
MTH2094291 SF R50B Reefer	\$64.99
MTH2094430 Tropicana 60' Reefer	\$60.99
MTH2094437 Lion Milk 36' Wood Reefer	\$57.99
MTH2098986 CP Rail Flat w. Container	\$56.99
MTH3068122 UP Flag Baggage Car	\$59.99
MTH3068127 UP Bush 41 Baggage Car	\$69.99
MTH2068171 SP Full Dome Car	\$59.99
MTH3073493 BNSF Tank Car	\$47.99
MTH3073517 NS Veterans Moderns Tank	\$50.99
MTH3073531 Sunoco Tank Car	\$47.99
MTH3073555 Dupont Tank Car	\$50.99
MTH3075598 W&LE Map Hopper Car	\$47.99
MTH3075613 ITX 4 Bay Hopper	\$47.99
MTH3075631 RF&P Map Hopper Car	\$50.99
MTH3076546 PRR Flat w. Trailer	\$54.99
MTH3076646 Long Island Flat w. Lumber	\$47.99
MTH3076648 CSX Flat w. Lumber	\$47.99
MTH3076668 B&O Flat w. 2 Pickups	\$49.99
MTH3076676 BNSF Flat w. 2 Transits	\$49.99
MTH3076749 CSX Center Beam Flat	\$50.99
MTH3076750 NS Center Beam Flat	\$50.99
MTH3076795 TTX Husky Stack	\$56.99



MTH2062073 - Green
Strasburg 5 Packs
1 Combo, 4 Coach
\$449.99



MTH2057191 Amtrak
AEM-7 #942 Chrome
Body w. Retirement
Trip Sounds \$444.99

www.nicholassmithtrains.com

WITH THE CTT STAFF



Wow!

Lionel's Vision Line GS is just spectacular

Lionel's 2020 Vol. 1 catalog celebrated the firm's 120th anniversary, and what a catalog it was. For me, the most distinctive offering wasn't a single locomotive, but a single style of locomotive: The Southern Pacific's venerable GS (General Service or Golden State) line of 4-8-4 Northern steam engines.

I don't believe any manufacturer (in any scale) has taken on such an audacious program in covering a single locomotive type. We're talking more than 20 road numbers! That's right – the catalog offered the model in more than 20 road numbers in GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-4, GS-5, and GS-6 classes, plus six road names and assorted livery variations. Whew!

If you're an SP fan, then as my grandmother used to say, your ship has come in!

Production numbers of these O gauge beauties are limited, and they have all the latest technology Lionel offers. In addition, the starting price is, shall we say, robust. Nevertheless, the bold scope of this project may be a new standard for Lionel!

Background of the models

Our test subject was an SP design, but in Western Pacific livery. So how did the WP get these engines?

It's probable that without the onset of World War II, the WP would never have acquired this specific type of locomotive. Wartime production limitations narrowed

the choices railroads had in buying new motive power.

In 1943, the SP sought to build 14 streamlined 4-8-4s for *Daylight* passenger service. The War Production Board nixed the streamlining as superfluous to wartime transportation. SP reworked the design.

Enter the Western Pacific. It was a 1,500-mile carrier running from Salt Lake

City to Northern California and San Francisco. Passenger operations were fairly limited; the WP hosted the western leg of the Chicago-Oakland *California Zephyr* passenger train as well as tri-weekly service from Oakland to Salt Lake City.

The railroad was in a crunch for more power, steam or diesel. It was, after all, a main artery to the Pacific Coast for travelers and, more important, the armed forces fighting in the Pacific Theater.

The WPB agreed the line needed new power, so it reassigned six GS-6s from the SP's order to the Western Pacific. Dubbed GS-64-77s, they were broadly similar to their SP cousins and were used in freight and passenger service.

As postwar dieselization grew on the WP, three of the GS-64s were sold to the Southern Pacific as parts sources.

O gauge Vision Line Western Pacific GS-6 4-8-4 by Lionel

Price: \$1,999 (no. 2031630)

Features: O-54 operation, can-style motor, die-cast metal construction, remote coupler on tender, Legacy RailSounds system

Control modes: conventional, Lionel's TrainMaster Command Control, Legacy, LionChief Plus 2.0, and LionChief Bluetooth App Command, Voice control through the app; and sound system, smoke unit, remote coupler

Low speed (Cmd): 2.1 smph **Low speed: (Conv)** 6.1 smph, **High speed:** 71.9 smph

Drawbar pull: 3 pounds, 9 ounces

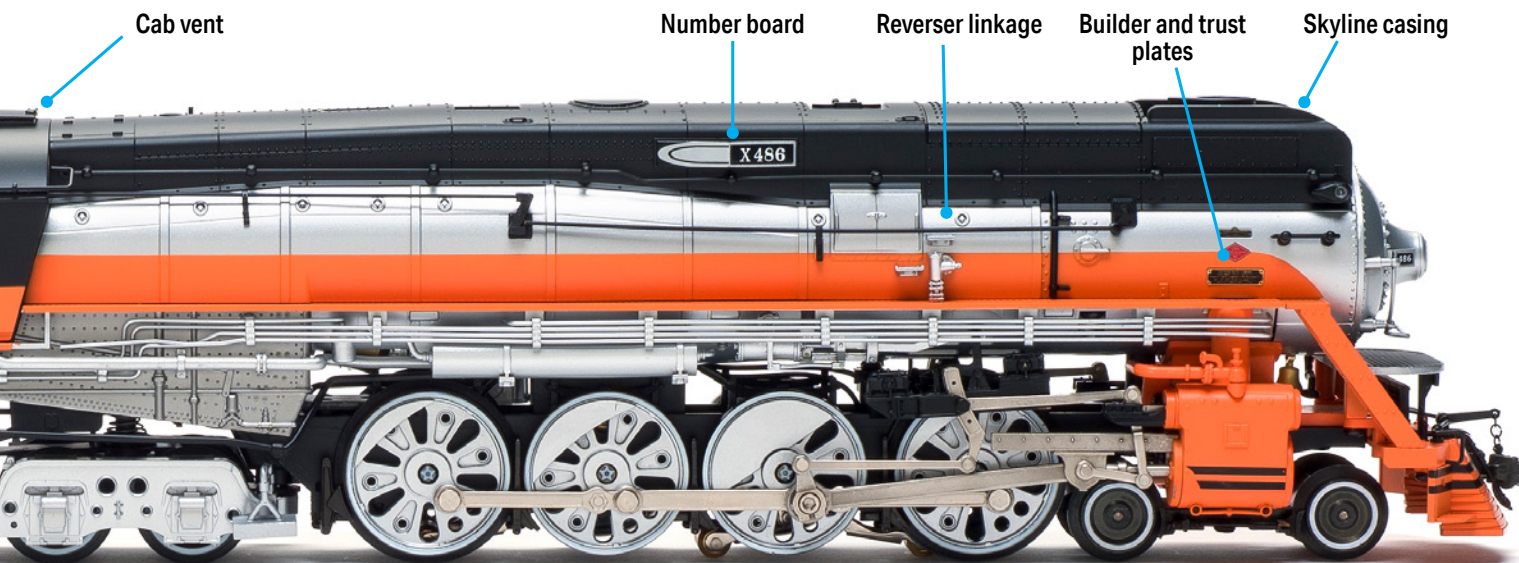
Current production road names: See sidebar

Opening the box

Let me remind everyone that this is a \$2,000 Vision Line product. It promises all the bells, whistles, and technology associated with that impressive series.

I had high expectations, and yet when the wrapping material was off I was still amazed. This may be the most beautifully crafted locomotive I've ever seen. After reviewing several hundred products over the past 25 years, that says something.

The uncoupler arm, air brake lines, and scale-sized coupler on point are very visi-



ble. Just above the pilot is a black-painted deck for maintainers to access the smokebox, headlight, and number boards.

Being unaware of the variety of SP locomotive classes on which this model is based, I expected the over-and-under headlights. Nope, there's a single headlight in the middle of the smokebox.

The front of the smokebox has superb deep-rivet detail. Just above and to the sides are the classification lights. Using a Legacy controller, you can select them to be off, white (an extra unscheduled train), or green (additional sections to follow).

On the upper fireman's side, just above the classification light, you may spot something curious. No, it isn't a blunderbuss or a bugle, but an air horn. Yes, these locomotives had air horns as well as a traditional steam whistle.

The top of the locomotive has the familiar streamlined "skyline" casing that minimizes resistance and facilitates airflow over the top of the engine. The shroud incorporates the smokestack. The casing is fluted to drive the smoke upward – and it's needed, since this model has a tremendous smoke unit!

About halfway down the hood you'll spot number boards on the side angled outward. These are illuminated, showing X486 (Extra 486). Two pop-off valves, a turbogenerator, and the steam whistle are located up top. These are in recesses a bit closer to the cab.

The sides of the boiler have grab irons, piping, and a reverse lever. You'll also spy a diamond-shaped Lima builder's plate and a trust plate on the smokebox side.

Below the running board are piping and running gear, all done in a delightful silver tone – terrific for enhancing the details, in particular piping rivet detail on the smokebox.

The locomotive, being an oil burner, negates the need for the fireman to shovel coal from the tender. This, combined with some of the worst weather in all of mountain railroading, called for an enclosed all-weather cab.

There are steps leading up to the cast-in cab door, and add-on grab irons on both sides. The interior is green, and crew figures have been installed. The cab is illuminated, and up top is a ventilation hatch you can open to peek inside.

The tender is a metal monster! It boasts six axles and intricately shaped truck side-frames. Silver paint highlights detailing that would have been lost if done in black.

On the top of the cab end of the tender is a flat deck with safety tread. Handrails bracket it. The top of the oil bunker has cast-in rivet detail as well as a pipe for fuel oil. The water tank has cast-in rivet detailing as well, but there's a simulated wood deck with textured planks. The four water hatches can be opened with a fingernail.

Grab irons are on both sides of the water tank, and there are handrails on the rear. These are placed at ladders that curve up and over the round end of the tank.

The tender rear has two class lights, a backup light, and a remote coupler.

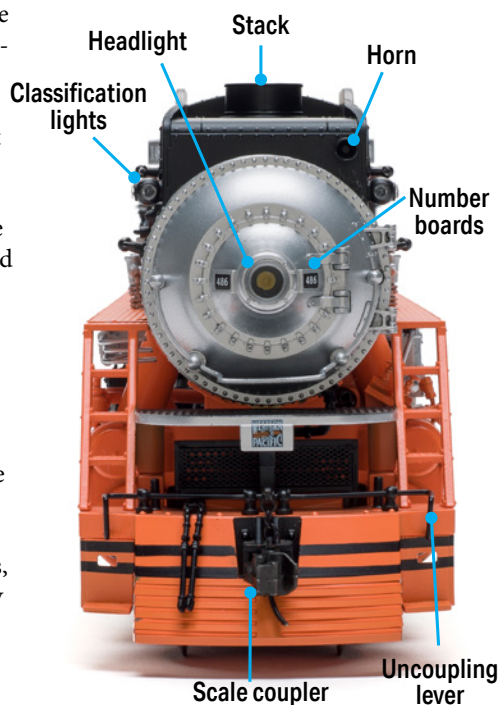
Painting was outstanding. As mentioned, the silver makes details really stand out. The orange striping is flawless and almost looks to be part of the casting rather than an added coloration.

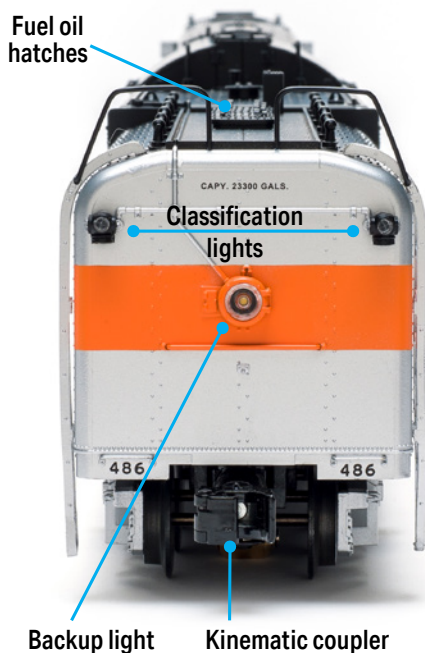
On the test track

Just powering up the model is a show in itself. The sounds at startup are terrific, but the model doesn't need to move a wheel to provide a show.

The smoke unit is powerful. You can adjust the output, which is a handy feature, so it isn't a case of full power or off.

There are some fun "steam" features as well. Trigger the whistle, and you'll get a stream of smoke emanating from the whistle area. You can also see "steam" cycle out of the steam chests through the reciprocating cylinder feature. This is a lot cooler than I thought it would be! It looks





amazing when the 4-8-4 is running at slow speed. Who hasn't seen a movie where people trackside vanish in a cloud of steam as a big locomotive rolls by?

As with most contemporary models, you have crew talk, the dialog for which is railroad specific and chimes in throughout

a run. The "at rest" sounds are good, and once the locomotive gets moving, the DynaChuff makes itself known through several levels of effort.

The whistle has a quilling feature to enable you to perfect your own custom toot as you approach each grade crossing.

An interesting feature can be accessed if you're using the app: voice control.

I tried it out and got mixed results. There's a list of commands to start, stop, and activate certain functions like the whistle. It does work, but I had to repeat about half of the commands more than once. Several times I repeated the commands, but my phone replied, "Unable to identify command."

I thought that might have been the phone (Siri) replying, although it's turned off on my iPhone. I look forward for further development of this feature.

The model's performance was exemplary. I put a mishmash of O gauge passenger cars in tow, and all those hot vintage light bulbs didn't intimidate the locomotive at all. Neither did the freight consist I hooked up.

Drawbar pull was among the best I've seen at 3.9 pounds. The speed range was excellent as well. In command mode the high speed was 71.9 scale mph; the low

speed was 2.1 smph. The conventional low speed (using an MTH no. Z-4000 transformer) was 6.1 smph.

I was surprised that a locomotive of this size would run on curves as tight as O-54 – I'd have guessed O-72 at a minimum [It actually made it around the O-31 curves on our layout! I wouldn't recommend doing this, however; the tender trucks weren't happy with the tight curves. – Ed.].

One detail that may be easy to overlook is the Kinematic drawbar. This is a Lionel design that gives the coupler shaft a wider range of movement, permitting easier movement of a connected car through a tighter curve. This is pretty neat.

Some years back I wrote that Lionel's Union Pacific FEF 4-8-4 was the best locomotive the firm had ever built. This series of SP-inspired models certainly makes a strong case for that title, and one could be the centerpiece of your fleet.

I sure hope Lionel doesn't decide to give this same star treatment to, say, the various sub-classes of New York Central Mohawks. My bank account couldn't possibly afford it! – Bob Keller

More photos available at Trains.com/ctt. Thanks to Sommerfeld's Trains & Hobbies in Butler, Wis., for loaning us this model.

Reader Review

Lionel's new Bluetooth O-6-O steam locomotive is a winner!

The Lionel LionChief Plus 2.0 o-6-oT steam locomotive is an attractive O gauge model with lots of nice features and a moderate price.

The engine was originally listed in the 2019 Vol. 2 catalog and again in the 2020 Big Book. Due to shipping delays, it's just becoming available.

It comes lettered for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Bethlehem Steel; Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal; Denver & Rio Grande Western; and Pennsylvania RR. It will also serve as the motive power for several sets, including Christmas Candies, Easter Eggspress, Granite Run Quarry, and The Polar Express.

This steam engine operates with the LionChief Plus 2.0 system. Consequently, it can be used with any of the company's control systems: conventional transformer, TrainMaster Command Control, Legacy, LionChief universal remote controller, and the app for smartphones or tablets.

It doesn't come with a controller, so you'll need a universal Bluetooth remote or the LionChief app. It's available for free download for Android or Apple devices.

Pairing the locomotive with your Bluetooth controllers is easy and quick. The O-6-O is equipped with a wide range of features, including directional



lighting, a whistle, a bell, and other sounds. The volume can be adjusted from the controllers. Remote Electrocouplers are on the front and back.

Be aware that the remote couplers do not work with conventional transformer control or with a traditional remote-control track section.

The fan-driven smoke generator uses Lionel smoke fluid. It's controlled by an on/off



switch under the locomotive. Smoke output is not variable, but rather is synchronized to the wheel rotations.

There's also an announcement option with different

CATALOGED PAINT SCHEMES AND CAB NUMBERS

Southern Pacific

Daylight livery

GS-2 no. 4412

GS-3 no. 4423, LAUT Special no. 4423

GS-4 no. 4439, no. 4449

GS-5 no. 4459

Golden State livery

GS-3 no. 4428

Lark livery

GS-2 no. 4414

Daylight, Southern Pacific Lines on tender

GS-3 no. 4416

GS-4 no. 4449

GS-5 no. 4458

Black, Southern Pacific Lines on tender

GS-2 no. 4410

GS-6 no. 4460

GS-6 (round SP herald) no. 4467

Black, Southern Pacific

GS-2 no. 4411

GS-4 no. 4457 with Vision Stock Express
freight set

GS-6 no. 4462

Other road names

American Freedom Train GS-4 no. 4449

BNSF GS-4 no. 4449 (black)

Chessie Steam Special GS-4 no. 4449

Lionel Lines no. 120, GS-4 with separate
matching car set

Western Pacific GS-6 no. 486 (orange and
silver)

Western Pacific GS-6 no. 481 (black)

messages. In addition, there are two electrical pickups for good electrical connectivity. The engine's short wheelbase means it can operate on even the sharpest Lionel curves.

Using both the universal Bluetooth controller and the LionChief app, the locomotive operated flawlessly with all functions working as expected. Lionel equipped the 0-6-0T with a traction tire and left off Magne-Traction. Even so, it easily pulled a train of eight cars on a level route.

The catalog price is \$249.99, and a universal remote is an additional \$40 to \$50.

This little steam engine may not have all the features of a Legacy locomotive, but I found it has everything most operators will want and use, and it's a good runner. – *John Hudak*

TRAINZ

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

sellmytrains.com/ctt
(866) 345-4558



Looking for a great selection of new
and used O gauge trains?
Visit trainz.com

Lionel Operating Train Society *Celebrating 42 Years!*

Join LOTS today! Experience the Difference:



*The club for
O-gauge
operators!*

Switcher Magazine - still 6 times per year!

Limited Edition Lionel Cars - sold only to club members!

Lionel FasTrack Modular Layout – Great kid appeal.

Outstanding Website - includes "Track Changes".

Lionel Catalog Mailings - be among the 1st to see what's new.

Exciting Conventions - Planned for August 1-7 in Lawrence, KS.
Check our website for current status of event.

Great Friendships and Operating Tips.

For membership info, visit www.lots-trains.org or call (513) 598-8240



**For more,
Follow Classic Toy Trains
on Facebook!**

Classic Toy Trains remains the trusted
source of information for collectors and
operators of the O and S gauge toy trains.

- Updates
- Videos
- Posts
- Community
- Info
- And More!

Go to
facebook.com/ClassicToyTrains
today!

We're behind you all the way
SceniKing®.com
...nothing compares...
 N - HO - S - O since 2005

**BERKSHIRE
 TRAINS**
 209 Rosemont Gdn
 Lexington, KY 40503
 859-694-8144
www.berkshiretrains.com

Lionel®, MTH Trains®
 & All Scale Sales,
 Factory Trained
 Service Center, Sales/
 Consignment Services

**Port Lines
 HOBBY**
www.portlines.com
 doug@portlines.com
 (978) 465-8798

**"Your S-Gauge
 Specialists!"**
 ON-LINE AMERICAN
 FLYER PARTS CATALOG
 AF, Lionel, MTH, Am. Models,
 & other S-gauge products!

ChooChooAuctions.com
*The premier site for serious train collectors,
 whether you are buying or selling!*
 Easy to use. Friendly, fast, and fun.
 Please stop by and say hi!
**New items
 listed
 every day!**
www.choochooauctions.com

Crushed Granite BALLAST
*Dennis Brennan says,
 "It ain't chicken grit!"* 
Brennan's Model Railroad
 P.O. Box 520174 Independence, MO 64052 • (816) 252-4605
www.brennansmodelrr.com

MODEL RAIL SCENES
**CUSTOM LAYOUTS
 & BUILDINGS**
207-564-0705
www.modelrailscenes.com

Arkansas Traveler Hobbies
Located in the heart of Bald Knob
**Visit our 105 year old 1915 MoPac Depot,
 and Regional Rail Museum**
 400 Market Street • Bald Knob, AR 72010
 501-RAILFAN (724-5326) or 870-692-8273
 athtrains@yahoo.com

**First Run-Limited Railroad Police of NJ
 O Gauge Box car. Only 323 being made**
\$70 ea. \$10 shipping fee
Check to: PBA 323
 Mail to: PO Box 301 Rahway NJ 07065
 Questions call 732-259-6638 Tom

TRAINS & MORE, LLC
AF TRAINS & PARTS
 AFCC, NASG, TCA, TTCS & TTOS
 P.O. Box 1751 • Manchester, CT 06045-1751
 860-432-2124 • trainsmore@aol.com
www.trainsmore.com

HENNING'S TRAINS
Serving The Model Railroader Since 1939
Pre-War / Post-War Parts
COLLECTOR COLOR PAINT
Model Engineering Works
 128 SOUTH LINE STREET LANSDALE, PA 19446
www.HENNINGSTRAINS.COM

LEN CARPARELLI
**ACCURATE, AUTHENTIC, PROFESSIONAL
 RESTORATIONS SINCE 1972.**

L & L Model Train Restoration Co.
www.LenCarparelli.com
 1 Orient Way, Suite F-348, Rutherford, NJ 07070 • (201) 438-1266
Visit our website to download our free catalog.

www.raildesignservices.com
 Design model railroad layouts in any scale or revamp any
 existing track plan to suit your specific requirements. Original
 railroad logos and signs. Custom structure and car building.
 Let us bring your dream railroad to life.
Michael Tylick, MMR
781 837-2511
413 262-1582



**TK
 TRAINS**
 Phone 740-633-6607
 500 Hall St, Building 1
 Bridgeport, OH 43912
 Just off I-70
 O Gauge Trains, Track, Scenery,
 Accessories and Much More!
 Fully detailed, operating O gauge layout.
 We have Lionel, MTH,
 Atlas and many others!
Visit us online for great savings!
www.tandkhobby.com

Millhouse River Studio
 2541 River Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Division of Studio Z
Turntable & Transfer Tables

 Aluminum Construction **Made in USA** Scale Brass Details
 Products built in the USA, to last Generations!
 Visit our website and see why so many customers
 Choose Our Products Over the Competition
www.millhouseriverstudio.com
(716) 830-5267 Rotary Coal Dumper

Tinplate Repair Parts, Light Bulbs & Supplies
 for Dealers, Collectors and Operators!
SUPER-FLEXIBLE WIRE for pick-up rollers, and...
LIONEL-TYPE
 2,3,4,5 and 6-WIRE
FLAT CABLE
WIRE-Plex™
 2966 South Church Street
 Suite 167, Burlington, NC 27215
Wire-Plex.com
 Phone: (336) 549-0343 • Email: davis@wire-plex.com
**NEW
 contact
 info**

NORTHLANDZ
 THE WORLD'S LARGEST MINIATURE WONDERLAND
2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE
**1 LAYOUT
 CARETAKER**
**2 OUTDOOR
 TRAIN OPERATOR**
**HELP
 WANTED**
 Flemington,
 New Jersey
 ☎ +1 (347) 234-3908 info@northlandz.com
WWW.NORTHLANDZ.COM

Watch
Classic Toy Trains
 on **You Tube**
youtube.com/classictoytrains

When contacting
 advertisers, mention
 you saw their ad in
Classic Toy Trains
 magazine!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

This section is open to anyone who wants to sell or buy toy trains merchandise. CLASSIC TOY TRAINS reserves the right to edit undesirable copy or to refuse listing.

Word Rate per issue: 1 insertion – \$1.06 per word, 5 insertions – \$1.00 per word, 9 insertions – 92¢ per word. \$35 minimum order per issue. Payment must accompany the ad. To receive the discount you must order and prepay for all ads at one time. Count all initials, single numbers, groups of numbers (i.e. 4-6-4 or K4's), names, address number, street number each as one word. Example: R. Meister, 400 E Depot Ave., Waukesha, WI 53187 would count as 8 words.

Events Rate: \$45 per issue (55 word maximum). Ads will contain the following information about the event: state, city, sponsoring organization and name of event, meet, auction or show, dates, location, times, admission fee, name and/or telephone number and/or email of person to

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

All copy is set in standard 6 point type. First several words only set in bold face. If possible, ads should be sent typewritten and categorized to ensure accuracy.

For CTT's private records, please furnish a telephone number and when using a P.O. Box in your ad, a street address.

SEND YOUR ADS TO: *Classic Toy Trains* — Classified Advertising
21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612 Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
888 558-1544 Ext. 551 Fax: 262-796-0126
E-mail: classads@kalmbach.com

Events

FL, OCALA: Lions Tri-Annual Train Show. First Christian Church, 1908 E. Fort King St. Saturday, June 12, 2021, 9:00am-2:00pm. Adults \$5.00, children 12 and under free w/adult. Bring two canned goods and receive \$1.00 off admission. Information: Bob 352-694-6381 or cell 813-203-3216

FL, TALLAHASSEE: 30th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale! 2-DAYS! Leon County Fair Grounds, 441 Paul Russell Rd., Bldg. 2 & 4. June 26-27, 2021. Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm & Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission: Adults/Children 13 & over, \$10 BOTH DAYS! Scouts in uniform/children 12 & under FREE! SCALES Z-G! FOOD! Contact: Andy Zimmerman, 850-524-4399. Email: GNTrainman@comcast.net

IA, ELKADER: 9th Annual Elkader Model Train Show-Swap Meet. Sunday, August 22, 2021, 10:00am-4:00pm. Johnson's Reception Hall, 910 High Street. Adults \$4, children 6-12 \$2, under 5 FREE. Free parking, lunch-stand and door prizes. Information: Larry Lerch 563-880-2066 or 563-245-3345

NE, SPRINGFIELD: NE-IA Railroaders Train and Toy Show. July 17-18, 2021. Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am-2pm. Meet. Sunday, August 22, 2021, 10:00am-4:00pm. Johnson's Reception Hall, 910 High Street. Adults \$4, children 6-12 \$2, under 5 FREE. Free parking, lunch-stand and door prizes. Information: Mark Nelson 402-731-1349; Bob Schaffer 402-990-0085; Jeff Carper 402-960-7824 www.NebraskaRailroaders.com

OK, EDMOND: Train Show – Steaming into Summer Fun. July 16-17, 2021. Friday, 5pm-8pm. Saturday, 9am-3pm. Admission: \$5.00. Edmond Community Center, 28 E. Main St., in the heart of downtown Edmond, OK 73034. Sponsored by the TTOS Sooner Division. For further information visit: www.ttos-soonerdiv.org

All listed events were confirmed as active at the time of press. Please contact event sponsor for updated status of the event.

S Gauge For Sale

AF TRAINS, PARTS, ACCESSORIES. Visit www.trainmore.com or send \$3.00 for printed catalog to Trains & More, P.O. Box 1751, Manchester, CT 06045-1751.

MASSIVE LIST OF GILBERT AND LIONEL AMERICAN FLYER: Updated daily. Original boxed sets, engines, cars, accessories, rare paper, catalogs and more, including boxed Plasticville, American Flyer and Plasticville parts. Buying all Flyer. Send \$3.52 postage, Judy Hajash, PO Box 5, Augusta, WV 26704-0005. 304-359-2194.

O Gauge For Sale

CANHELP, A NON-PROFIT CHARITY in Sulphur Springs, Texas, raises money for its services by accepting donations from people and reselling them to finance its projects. They have received a sizeable donation of O gauge trains. Most of these trains relate to the western Pennsylvania area. Examples are: MTH 30-7843 Curve Premium Beer Reefer; Iron City Beer Tank cars (regular and light); Pittsburg Brewing Car flatcar with IC Beer trailer; other beer cars; 30-7854 Marsh Wheeling Cigars; Steeler SB 40 and SB 43 hi-cube boxcars; 30-74126 Forbes Field boxcar; Lionel 6-39284 and Weaver Nittany Lions boxcars; Montaur caboose and 2bay hoppers; P&WV caboose; 20-94313 Ft. Pitt Brewing 36' wood reefer; Lionel 6-28218 Lehigh Valley Alco C-420 with TMCC and Odyssey; MTH Pennsy K-4 MT-3018LP; many other cars and cabooses available. Z-4000 and track and scenery stuff. Call Adele: 903-885-9797, or visit: <https://canhelponline.org/>

CASEY'S CABOOSE TRAINS featuring new and pre-owned "O" Gauge trains. We are an MTH and Gargraves dealer. Competitive pricing on all items. See list of items for sale at caseyscaboosestrains.com or email Bill@caseyscaboosestrains.com with questions, or for a complete listing. Member of TCA, LCCA and M3R Maine 3 Railers.

FOR SALE: WILLIAMS "O" GAUGE. Item No. 40201, Full Scale NYC Hudson 4-6-4 with Tender, new and boxed \$750.00. Free shipping. SSAE for more new Williams items. Blazey, 4807 Lewis Ave., Toledo, OH 43612. 419-699-0018

LIONEL "SUPER O" TRACKAGE: All Super O BOUGHT & SOLD. Long time reliable supplier. Contact Mike at: hspanier@aol.com or call 708-845-0937

O Gauge For Sale (cont.)

LIONEL MARX PLASTICVILLE: Big list of boxed sets, engines, cars, etc. Rare paper, catalogs, Lionel O, O27 & HO. Marx O & HO. Plasticville and Plasticville parts. Send \$3.00 postage, Judy Hajash, PO Box 5, Augusta, WV 26704-0005. 304-359-2194.

LIONEL VINTAGE COMPLETE TRAIN SET #2032 Erie Diesel with cars track transformer boxes (no master carton). Mint condition \$375. 606-932-3117, Larry Lewis

O Gauge Wanted

ALL TRAIN COLLECTORS- We need more trains to supply our large customer base. Modern era specialists-Lionel, MTH, K-Line, Williams, Weaver, 3rd Rail, etc. We buy collections, store inventories, and parts of all sizes and eras. Send us your list or call us today. We travel extensively all over the US and Canada. Trainz, 2740 Faith Industrial Dr., Suite 200, Buford, GA 30518. 866-285-5840, Scott@trainz.com Fax: 770-271-1295.

HONEST, VERY RELIABLE, established buyer of Lionel, MPC, American Flyer, Ives, Marx and others. I will pay cash for large or small collections or dealer inventories. Long time advertiser in this magazine. I want to spend \$200,000 this year. I will travel if merited. Please call or send a list (with your price if possible). Charles Siegel, 387 Imperial Blvd., Ste. 2, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920. 321-799-4005. Fax 321-799-4044.

WE BUY ALL COLLECTIONS BIG & SMALL Lionel, American Flyer, K-Line, Marx, Weaver, Williams, Marklin, Hornby & more. Ready to travel, 30 years experience, confidential. Send us your lists today. 306 Sonoma Drive, Suite 773, Allen, TX 75013. www.txtrains.com, texasrains@yahoo.com, Phone: 972-824-7123

Standard Gauge For Sale

USA TRACK LLC. Traditional tubular tinplate Standard Gauge (2-1/8" gauge) toy train track made entirely in the USA. Fully compatible with vintage Standard Gauge track, reproduction Standard Gauge switches and Ross Custom Switches. Contact StandardGaugeTrack@gmail.com or visit www.StandardGaugeTrack.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

LIONEL POST-WAR, LIONEL MODERN ERA 1970-2019, MTH & Rail King, Weaver, Williams, American Flyer, Indust. Rail, K-Line, Marx, and miscellaneous stuff. About 362 items. Appraised at \$20,000. Will sell all for \$10,000. Serious inquiries call 219-769-7549.

Miscellaneous Wanted

ALL ELECTRIC SLOT CARS WANTED. Any kind, any condition. Top dollar paid. PAUL at 248-760-6960. E-mail: slotcarguy@slotcarguy.com

MODEL AUTOMOBILE AND TRUCK KITS. Unbuilt or built. One piece to large collection. Good prices paid. Fred Sterns, 48 Standish, Buffalo, NY 14216, phone 716-838-6797, fax 716-836-6057, email: fsterns@aol.com

CLOSING DATES:

September 2021 closes June 16, November closes Aug. 18, December closes Sept. 16.



Item #14017 • \$15.95

Protect Your Investment!

Preserve your library of *Classic Toy Trains* magazines with durable hardcover binders.

Order yours today!

Buy now from your local hobby shop!
Shop at KalmbachHobbyStore.com

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS

LEADING MODEL RETAILERS

Dealer Directory spaces are sold on a year's basis at \$284 per year, eight issues, (payable in advance), or at \$40 per issue (billed to established accounts for one year minimum). Ads will be set in standard format typography. All insertions must be consecutive and may be invoiced if you have credit established with us. No mention of mail order business permitted. Closing dates listed in the Classifieds section. Call 888-558-1544, ext. 551.

CALIFORNIA • Burbank

All scales G through N, collectibles old & new. Authorized LGB, Lionel, MTH & Märklin dealer. One of the most complete train stores in So. Calif. UPS worldwide shipper. Visit our website at www.trainshack.com

THE TRAIN SHACK
1030 N. Hollywood Way 800-572-9929

CALIFORNIA • Concord

Largest selection in the East Bay, 93 foot operating HO layout. Buy - sell - trade - consign - repairs - detail parts in all scales. Lionel. Discount prices & friendly service. Website: www.just-trains.com

JUST TRAINS
5650 Imhoff Dr. 925-685-6566

CALIFORNIA • Costa Mesa

Lionel, AF, LGB, HO, N, & Playmobil. New, used, & collectibles. Buy, sell, trade & repair. Tue - Fri 12-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-3.

THE TRAIN CROSSING
1113 Baker Street, Ste. F 714-549-1596

CALIFORNIA • Pasadena

Model rail specialists since 1951. LGB, Lionel, O, S, On3, HO, HOon3, N, Z. Complete stock of brass imports, new & used. Books, tools, structures, detail parts. Open 7 days www.thewhistlestop.com

THE ORIGINAL WHISTLE STOP INC.
2490 E. Colorado Blvd. 626-796-7791

CALIFORNIA • Westminster (Orange Co.)

Specializing in big trains only (O & G). Discount Prices, Open 6 Days a Week! Authorized Lionel, MTH, LGB, NIKO Dealer! www.milepost38.com

MILEPOST 38 TOY TRAINS
6462 Industry Way 714-892-9471

CALIFORNIA • Yuba City

A full service model train Store! Large inventory, HO, N, O & O27 Tintplate. Books, videos, collectors & gift items. Repair service. We buy old toy trains. www.westerndepot.com

THE WESTERN DEPOT
1650 Sierra Ave. #203 530-673-6776

DELAWARE • Ocean View

No sales tax at the Delaware seashore. Lionel new & used...also Atlas, Bachmann, MTH. We buy used trains. Auth. Lionel repairs. Large inventory of used HO trains. Open Tues-Sat 11-4:30, Closed Sun & Mon

SEASIDE HOBBIES
15 Daisey Ave. 302-539-1601

FLORIDA • Cape Canaveral

Lionel, American Flyer, MTH on the internet www.traincity.com www.chochooauctions.com

TRAIN CITY, INC. - CHARLES SIEGEL
387 Imperial Blvd., Ste. 2 321-799-4005

FLORIDA • Miami

Largest train store in the South. MTH, Lionel, LGB, HO & N. Five operating layouts. Open Mon - Sat 10am-5pm Sun (Nov-Jan) 10-1. Email us at rrtrains@aol.com

READY TO ROLL
831 NW 143rd Street 305-688-8868

FLORIDA • Pensacola

Competitive prices, friendly service. All makes & models, trains & accessories. New store hours, Tue-Sat 9:00am-5:00pm. www.trainsohjohnson.com Directions: Old Palafox St. at 10 Mile Rd.

TRAINS BY JOHNSON
10412 N. Palafox Hwy. 850-478-8584

FLORIDA • Tampa Bay - Pinellas Park

2600 sq. ft. Showroom. Lionel & MTH Dealer. NEW USED LGB, HO, N, Z. All Gauges Z thru G. Over 6,000 Parts. Repair Services. Trains, Track, Sets, Scenic Supplies. Tues - Sat 10-6 www.zitniktrains.com

ZITNIK TRAINS
5193 73rd Ave. N. 727-201-9668

GEORGIA • Atlanta (Lilburn)

Lionel Train Top 10 Dealer MTH Train Mega Dealer 400 s.f. layout. HUGE selection, service, repair www.legacystation.com 800-964-8724

LEGACY STATION TRAINS
4153 Lawrenceville Hwy., #12 770-339-7780

INDIANA • Atlanta

Model train museum and hobby shop MTH • Atlas • Lionel • scenery supplies Layout construction help / workshop Club sized 3-rail display layout mrmuffintrains.com

MR MUFFIN'S TRAINS
177 West Main 765-292-2022

INDIANA • Michigan City

Home of I Love Toy Trains DVDs - specializing in scale O gauge model railroading. Two large operating layouts. We buy/sell Lionel. Certified Lionel repair & service center. Web: tmbv.com Sat 10-4 CST. Other days, call for an appt.

I LOVE TOY TRAINS - THE STORE
4212 West 1000 North 219-879-2822

IOWA • Dubuque

MTH, K-Line, Williams, Lionel, Gargraves, New & Used, Authorized MTH & Lionel Service Center. Mon - Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4. skippertim99@gmail.com

CATHY'S TREASURES
Electric RR Dealer/Upgrades 563-590-5318

KANSAS • Overland Park (KC Area)

O, S, HO, N, Z, & G Scale Lionel, MTH, A/F, Märklin, LGB & more! New, Used & Vintage. Extensive scenery line. Repair, custom work & layouts. www.fredstrainshop.com

FRED'S TRAIN SHOP
8909 Santa Fe Dr. 913-383-3500

MARYLAND • Hagerstown

One of the largest operating train layouts and museum. MTH, Lionel, Z, N, HO, O, G, scenery, magazines, videos, Thomas, Brio, Rokenbok System, Lionel/AF logo stools. Call for hours. www.the-train-room.com

THE TRAIN ROOM
360 S. Burhans Blvd. 301-745-6681

MARYLAND • Leonardtown

49 years of trains experience. Largest contemporary tintplate dealer in the U.S. Complete lines of Lionel and MTH trains. Wed-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-3, Sun-Tues closed. SideTrackHobbies.com

SIDE TRACK HOBBIES
40845 Merchants Ln 301-475-5381

MASSACHUSETTS • Duxbury

G - 1 - O - S - HO - N - Z Buy - Sell - Trade - New - Used - Repairs Märklin Dealer Wednesday - Sunday 11-6

DUXBURY GREEN, INC.
382 Kingstown Way (Rt. 53) 781-585-2164

MASSACHUSETTS • Lexington

Parts and service, factory experienced. Parts list available, \$4.00. Tue - Fri 9-5. "The Coupler", repair hints, back issues. Email: dave@drinkertrains.com www.drinkertrains.com

DR. TINKER'S ANTIQUE TOY TRAINS
1 Belfry Terrace 781-862-5798

MICHIGAN • Fraser

Long term experience with customer service. We service the products we sell and are here to help you, 7,000 sq ft of retail space. Stop in or visit www.pdhobbyshop.com Open Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 EST

P & D HOBBY SHOP
31280 Groesbeck Hwy. 586-296-6116

MICHIGAN • Traverse City

Let your imagination run wild! Z to G, Lionel, scenery, tools, structures, scratchbuilding supplies, special orders, ships, armor, cars, more...

TRAINS & THINGS HOBBIES
210 East Front St. 231-947-1353

MISSOURI • St. Louis

Largest selection of prewar & postwar in Midwest. Lionel, Am Flyer, Marx, Athearn, Proto, Atlas, etc.

Highest price for large collections. www.trainstownstl.com

TRAIN TOWN
9832 Manchester Road 314-716-2755

NEVADA • Las Vegas

The area's most complete Lionel MPC, LTI selection. Buy, sell & trade. Postwar new & used. Accessories, parts and supplies.

THE TRAIN ENGINEER
2550 Chandler #53 702-597-1754

NEVADA • Las Vegas

Big selection of HO, N and Lionel O Gauge trains. Only 7 miles west of the Las Vegas Strip. www.westsidetrainslv.com

WESTSIDE TRAINS
2960 S. Durango #117 702-254-9475

NEW JERSEY • Mountain Lakes

Direct dealer for LIONEL and MTH. The largest train store in northern NJ since 1974! 4 Showrooms plus Operating Layout. WE BUY OLD TRAINS! Lionelpalace Station #556. www.TRAIN-STATION.COM

THE TRAIN STATION
12 Romaine Rd. 973-263-1979

NEW JERSEY • Trenton/Ewing

Lionel Value-Added Dealer. Authorized Service Station. Lionel, MTH, Williams, Weaver, K-Line, GarGraves, New & Used O & O27. Glen Roc Shopping Center.

TRAINS & THINGS
246 Scotch Rd. 609-883-8790

NEW YORK • Ardsley

Lionel, MTH & Atlas Lionel Authorized Service Center Discount Pricing www.tomstrainsny.com Call for hours

TOM'S TRAINS AT ARDSLEY
686 Saw Mill River Road 914-329-0354

NEW YORK • North Rose

Lionel MTH Sales and Lionel Service Station #144 Monday - Friday 9-5, Saturday 10-4 (Saturday hours October - April only) www.gardnerthetraindoctor.com

GARDNER, "THE TRAIN DOCTOR"
8967 Ridge Rd., 1 mi E of 14 315-483-6577

NEW YORK • Staten Island

We are your source for O gauge trains & accessories. We carry MTH, Lionel & Gargraves. www.e-zcatch.com e-zcatch@verizon.net

E-Z CATCH HOBBY SHOP
5 Tysen St. 718-727-7373

NORTH CAROLINA • Winston (Salem)

K-Line Superstore, MTH, Lionel, Large selection of older MTH. First in O gauge. In-store layout! Located off I-40. Tues-Sat 9:30am-5pm. E-mail: JKonC52032@aol.com www.trainloft.com Celebrating 20 years!

THE TRAIN LOFT
4007B Country Club Rd. 336-760-9817

OHIO • Akron

Akron's largest old & new Lionel Dealer. Authorized Lionel & MTH sales & service stations. We specialize in MTH DCS and Lionel Command and Railroads. We buy, sell, trade & restore. EandSHobbies.com

E & S TRAINS AND HOBBIES
980 Kenmore Blvd. 330-745-0785

OHIO • Oberlin (W. Cleveland)

MTH Service Center. Authorized dealer for MTH, Lionel, Atlas. Closed Sun & Mon. 30 miles west of Cleveland - off State Rte. 20 www.stockyardexpressllc.com

STOCKYARD EXPRESS
49293 Plate Rd. 440-774-2131

OREGON • Portland

Full service train shop. Lionel, 3-Rail, American Flyer. New-used-buy-consignments. T-F 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4, Closed Monday www.hobbysmith.com 1-877-284-1912

THE HOBBY SMITH
1809 NE Cesar Chavez Blvd. 503-284-1912

OREGON • Portland

Your complete model railroad store. From Z to G, we stock it all. Lionel, MTH, Atlas, K-Line. Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday www.wsor.com

WHISTLE STOP TRAINS
11724 SE Division St. 503-761-1822

PENNSYLVANIA • Blue Ridge Summit

The Exclusive model railroad store. From Z to G, we stock it all. OPEN 7 days a week. Only minutes from Frederick, MD. www.mainlinehobby.com

MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY
15066 Buchanan Trail E. 717-794-2860

PENNSYLVANIA • Broomall

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, Atlas & MTH HO, N, ON30, Standard, O & S gauges bought, sold & traded. Auth. service station. www.nstrains.com

NICHOLAS SMITH TRAINS
2343 West Chester Pike 610-353-8585

PENNSYLVANIA • Greensburg

Authorized Dealer of Lionel, Atlas-O, MTH. N to G, Track, Remotes, Buildings, Accessories. Buy, Sell, Trade, Repair. Mon-Sat: Noon-6pm 5,500+ SqFt. Exclusively Trains! 20,000+ items

BRADY'S TRAIN OUTLET
1046 S. Main Street 724-838-8448

PENNSYLVANIA • Hanover

Lionel, American Flyer & MTH. New Lionel & MTH at discount prices. Standard O & S gauges bought, sold & repaired. Authorized service station. 20 min. from York PA. Tue-Sat 12-6

TOY TRAINS UNLIMITED
38 York St. 717-637-4717

PENNSYLVANIA • Hatboro

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, MTH, Märklin, Bachmann, Williams. HO, N & Z. We buy, sell & repair. Mon-Fri 12-8; Sat 10-5 www.JoesTrainStation.com

JOE'S TRAIN STATION
283 E. County Line Rd. 215-322-5182

PENNSYLVANIA • New Castle

Buy/sell/trade, repair all types of trains. Giant Lionel village display during the holiday season, November - January. Call for hours. E-mail: trainplum@yahoo.com www.undergroundrrshop.com

THE UNDERGROUND RR SHOPPE
1906 Wilmington Rd. 724-652-4912

PENNSYLVANIA • Strasburg

From trains to diacast to scenery, everything for the layout builder. Open 7 days a week. N, HO, O, Lionel, LGB. Buy, sell, trade used train. Located adjacent to Choo Choo Barn. www.e-trainshop.com

STRASBURG TRAIN SHOP
226 Gap Road 717-687-0464

PENNSYLVANIA • Zelienople

Lionel, MTH, Atlas O, Ross Custom Switches GarGraves, Woodland Scenics. Please call or visit our website for hours. www.cttrains.com

CT MCCORMICK HARDWARE
147 S. Main St. 724-452-6130

SOUTH CAROLINA • West Columbia

All scales, all major brands of model railroad equipment. We buy & sell used Lionel trains. Open daily 10-6. Closed Sun.

NEW BROOKLAND RR & HOBBY SHOP
405 State St. 803-791-3958

TENNESSEE • Murfreesboro

Authorized Lionel Dealer. Pre-War, Post-War & Modern. Hundreds of rolling stock cars. Large inventory of engines and accessories including O, HO, & N Scale. Monday - Saturday 9-5

THOR'S
416-F Medical Center Pkwy. 615-895-6918

TEXAS • Dallas

Official Lionel Layout Builder Since 2001. Traininger shop/showroom includes: Custom Layouts, Modulars, Model Stations, Bridge Kits...come see...there's always something new!! www.TWTrainWorkStore.com

TW TRAINWORX
2808 McGowan St. 877-881-4997

VIRGINIA • Ashland (Richmond)

OPEN 7 DAYS: Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 11-4. Personal service/repairs/layout ideas. We ship. Gauge G, O, HO, N, Thomas Wooden, & more. I-95, EXIT 92, ONLY 1.2 Miles West to tracks. www.trainandtostore.com

TINY TIM'S TOYS & TRAINS
104 S. Railroad Ave. 804-368-0063

VIRGINIA • Manassas

Northern Virginia's largest & most complete train store for new & gently used Lionel, MTH & Bachmann. We carry Standard, O, O-27, S, HO & N. Expert repairs. dandhtrains@comcast.net

TOY TRAINS & COLLECTIBLES
7216 New Market Court 571-379-5497

VIRGINIA/MARYLAND • Chantilly, VA

Full service storefront & online store. All makes & scales. New/used trains sales, service, repair & upgrades. All scales & Digitrax dealer. Online Sales Visit www.traindepot.biz

TRAIN DEPOT
13944 Willard Rd., Suite I 703-953-3767

WASHINGTON • Burien (Seattle)

Close to SEA-TAC airport - short drive from downtown Seattle. New & vintage electric trains in all scales, Tues - Sat 11-6 www.electricktrainshop.com

THE ELECTRIC TRAIN SHOP
625 SW 152nd St. 206-244-7077

WASHINGTON • Kirkland

Lionel, American Flyer, LGB, HO, N. Buy - Sell - Trade - New & Used Trains. Supplying all your railroading needs. Open Mon-Sat. www.eastsidehobby.com

EASTSIDE TRAINS, INC.
217 Central Way 425-828-4098

WEST VIRGINIA • Wheeling

Largest Selection of Trains in the Valley. Buy - Sell - Trade - New & Used Trains. MTH-Weaver-Williams-Lionel-Atlas Dept 56 M, F 12-7, Tu, W, Th 12-6, Sat 10-3 www.patstrains.com

PATRICK'S TRAINS
142 29th Street 304-232-0714

WISCONSIN • Green Bay

NE Wis. largest O Gauge dealer. Lionel, MTH, Atlas O, 3rd Rail, Weaver & Williams Accessories, structures, books & videos. Open Mon 12-7 Tues-Fri 10-5 (Sat 10-2 Nov-Mar) www.railtycoon.com (formerly GB TV & Trains)

GB TRAIN SHOP
1353 Velp Ave. 920-496-9697

CANADA-BC • Savona

Model trains in G, O, S, HO, N, Z. Old toy trains, railway antiques, art books, DVDs, souvenirs and Thomas too. Canadian road names a specialty. 20 min. west of Kamloops. www.kellyskaboose.ca

KELLY'S KABOOSE, THE RAILWAY STORE
6648 Savona Access Rd. 250-377-8510

CANADA-ON • Toronto (Markham)

Model Railroad Specialists since 1962. Lionel Authorized Distributor & Repair Center. All Scales - Special Orders. Closed Mondays www.georgestrains.com

GEORGE'S TRAINS LTD.
550 Alden Rd., Unit 101 905-470-6200

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR READERS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS OUR ADVERTISERS. If you do not receive your merchandise or a reply from an advertiser within a reasonable period, please contact us. Provide details about what you ordered and the amount you paid. If no action is obtained after we forward your complaint to the advertiser, we will not accept further advertising from them. *Classic Toy Trains* magazine, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI 53186-4055
The Advertiser Index is provided as a service to *Classic Toy Trains* magazine readers. The magazine is not responsible for omissions or for typographical errors in names or page numbers.

American Models.....	17	Mianne Benchworks	22
Arkansas Traveler Hobbies.....	54	Millhouse River Studio.....	54
Barts Pneumatics Corp.....	8	Model Rail Scenes	54
Berkshire Trains.....	54	ModelTrainStuff	50
BPH Enterprises	54	Nicholas Smith Trains.....	49
Brasseur Electric Trains.....	17	Northlandz Model Railroad.....	54
Brennan's Model Railroading	54	Nyerges Bolt & Screw Co.	54
Charles Ro Supply Co.	9	PBA 323.....	54
Charles Siegel's Train City.....	5, 54	Port Lines Hobby Supply.....	54
Classic Toy Trains Backlist Books	23	Raildesign	54
East Coast Enterprises	8	Rich Roman.....	8
Eastside Trains.....	20	Ross Custom Switches.....	16
Gargraves Trackage Corp.....	5	Roundhouse South.....	19
Glenn Snyder Display Systems	21	S & W Parts Supply	17
Great Midwest Train Show	8	Showcase Express.....	21
Great Train Exopo	8	T & K Hobby Shop	54
Greenberg Shows.....	8	Train & Toy Collection Buyer	17
Grzybowski's Trains	7	Train Collector's Association	19
Henning's Trains	54	Traincity.com.....	5, 54
Lionel Operating Train Soc. Inc.....	53	Trains & More, LLC	54
Mario's Trains.....	22	Trains.com.....	59
Menard, Inc.	24-25	TrainWorld.....	5
		Trainz.com.....	53
		The Western Depot.....	22
		Wire-Plex	54
		Woodland Scenics	2

NEXT ISSUE



COVER STORY

KEEPING THE MODELING IN MODEL RAILROADS

It's the details that give a layout a certain look and feel. Learn how to make your railroad pop!

NEW!

S GAUGE NOW AND THEN

A regular column from Don Heimburger and Bill Clark focusing on Flyer old and new.

A TASTE OF THE SOUTH

Visit an O gauge railroad that has a distinctive Southern Railway flavor.

**PLUS PHOTOS,
NEWS, REVIEWS
AND MORE!**

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

Trains.com

WITH JOHN POULETSOS

Making a sawmill fit in

Simple changes help this Flyer accessory cut a better figure

■ **I READ YOUR EDITORIAL** in the March 2021 issue, “Keeping ‘S’ in classic.” Here are a couple of photos from my S gauge Lackawanna Valley layout.

I thought the modified American Flyer no. 23796 operating sawmill might interest some readers. I noticed from other S gauge layouts showcased in *Classic Toy*

Trains how other modelers had cleverly blended the sawmill into their layouts.

Out of the box, the sawmill has a toy-like appearance; however, certain features fit with a scale layout like mine.

Most American Flyer accessories were actually closer to O scale in size. The sawmill, however, was more diminutive and

truly proportioned for S scale.

The key was to tone down the colors and shrink it to the eye. Using readily available materials, including some from Micro-Mark (micromark.com), I made a few modifications.

I cut and glued down a wood-plank-ing deck. Then I put shingle material on the two roofs and fitted the base with simulated stone. I brushed glue onto the simulated plastic sawdust pile and sprinkled some readily available turf product on it and around the decking to simulate the real thing.

I added a small water tank, a red barrel, and an HO scale rail cart. The figures are 1:72 scale, so they shrink the overall size of the scene to the viewer.

I painted the surface under the log carriage a concrete color for more realism.

It's an easy one- or two-night project, depending on your patience to let glue and stain dry.

I prefer S scale, but still miss the operation of the traditional American Flyer accessories I enjoyed as a boy.

Now my grandchildren can enjoy them. They unload a side-dump car full of logs into the adjacent pond. Then they load the car with cut boards and deliver the cargo to a different part of the layout.

Three grandchildren operating one button each translates into lots of fun for them and me! **CTT**

THE KEY, I THOUGHT, WAS TO TONE DOWN THE BRIGHT COLORS AND SHRINK IT TO THE EYE.



John's American Flyer no. 23796 operating sawmill adds action to his S gauge layout. A few added details improve the postwar accessory's looks while helping it blend into the scene.

WANT TO SHARE? Write to "Tips" at Classic Toy Trains, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612, or email us at tips@classictoytrains.com and put the word "tips" in the subject line. We'll pay you \$25 for any tip we publish unless it was contained in a previously purchased article.



trains.com
UNLIMITED

Experience premium access to the best in modeling and railroad content with the trains.com Unlimited Membership.

Become an Unlimited Member to unlock exclusive videos, track plans, layouts and expert tips. You will get premium content from all of the best train brands - in one convenient location. PLUS, you will also receive an exclusive Trains.com Unlimited Membership t-shirt, free upon payment.

Get started today with a 30-day free trial membership!

Visit us online at: trains.com/membership

*After 30-day free trial, Unlimited Membership is just \$6.99/month, billed annually in one installment of \$83.88.



**Model
Railroader**

**Model
Railroader
PLUS**

**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS**

**Classic Trains
MAGAZINE**

**Garden
RAILWAYS**

Trains

THE BEST IN MODELING & RAILROADS • ALL IN ONE STOP!

Everything Model Railroad, Delivered Right To Your Door!



- Award-Winning Rewards Program
 - Competitive Prices
- Coming Soon Alerts For New Products
- Large & Diverse Inventory (O, S, HO, N Scale)
 - Worry-Free Packaging
- M.B. Klein Collector's Corner (Coming Soon!)



ModelTrainStuff.com