

New to Model Railroading?

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Del Mar, CA

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- Available Space
- To Join a Club or Not
- Scale
- Track and Power
- Equipment
- Scenery
- How to Get Helpful Advice
- Where to Buy?
- Help

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Space

- What Kind of Space Do You Have?
- You Need Layout Space
- You Need Work Bench Space

- Trainset?
- Home Layout?
- Club?

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Trainset

Pros

- Cheap
- Everything Included Loco, Cars, Track
- You May Have To Buy a Power Pack
- Snap Track
- Atlas Trainman & Walthers Trainline Are Quality Sets.

Cons

- Most Have Low Quality Loco and Cars
- No Spare Parts
- No Support

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Home Layout

Pros

- Design Your Empire The Way You Want
- Freedom To Select Size, Scale, Layout Design, Rail Guage, Locos, Rolling Stock, Structures, Scenery, and Operation

Cons

- Alone
- No Help

Club

- Modular
- HO or N Scale
- Can Make Module at Home
- Combine with Others for Op Sessions
- Camaradarie

- Permanent Layout Club
- Choose Your Scale
- Fixed Location
- Help Build Empire
- Camradarie

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N

Z

HO

S

O

G

PLEASE
DO NOT
TOUCH
THE
MODELS

HO SCALE
RTRD 1/87

N SCALE
RTRD 1/160

S SCALE
RTRD 1/88

Z SCALE
RTRD 1/228

O SCALE
RTRD 1/48

G SCALE
RTRD 1/27



HO Scale

- Most Popular
- Largest Range of Models and Accessories
- Great Detail and Quality
- Takes a Lot of Space

N Scale

- Growing in Popularity
- Operating Scale
- Plenty of Operation in a Small Space
- Very Good Quality Models

O Scale

- Excellent Detail Opportunity
- Few Modelers - Not Growing
- Very Expensive

Z Scale

- Great Operating Possibilities
- Very Expensive
- Some Detail Compromise
- Small But Growing Segment

Track

- Many Varieties of Snap Track Available in All Scales
- Can Choose Flex Track, But Have to Permanently Install
- Can Hand Lay Ties and Rail. Most Prototypical. Requires Most Skill.

Power - DC

- Simple Power Pack. Can Only Control 1 Train at a Time.
- Dual Power Pack Will Control 2 Trains at a Time.
- Layout Needs to be Correctly Wired.
- Layout Needs to Have Blocks if There Will be More Than One Train Operating.
- Expensive and Complicated Wiring.

DCC

- Requires Simple Wiring. Only 1 or 2 Blocks Needed.
- Can Operate Many Different Trains at a Time.
- Can Buy DCC Equipped Locos.
- Entry Level Systems Available.
- Buy From a Dealer for the Support
- Best Choice if Just Starting a Layout.

Equipment

- Steam or Diesel?
- Freight or Passenger?
- All
- Are You a Collector (Accumulator) or an Operator?

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What Are Good Brands?

- Kato
- Atlas
- Athearn
- Intermountain
- BLMA
- Fox Valley
- Newer Life Like
- Walthers
- Some Bachmann

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- Brands To Avoid
- Trix or Minitrix
- Old Life Like
- Some Bachmann
- Model Power

Scenery

- Do you Even Want Scenery?
- How Elaborate do You Want Your Scenery?
- From Grass Mat to Museum Quality
- Bridges
- Grass
- Trees
- Water
- Look at Layouts in Person or Magazines
- Buy Books on Scenery

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How To Get Helpful Advice

- Buy From a Local Retailer - Ask Questions
- Don't Buy On Line and Expect Local Help
- Have a Friend
- Join a Club
- Attend a Train Show
- Buy a Magazine
- Join On Line Forums

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Where to Buy?

Local Train Store
On Line Retailer

Local Retailers

- Hobby Central - San Diego
- Value Craft - Escondido

On Line

- Wig Wag

Enjoy Model Railroading

It's a Great Hobby

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We Are:
Short Track Railroad

We Are Located:
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Dr.
Vista, CA 92083

www.shorttrackrr.org

www.agsem.com

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