

The Wonderful Hobby of Model Railroading

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World's Greatest Hobby?

- Model Railroading often called this
- A hobby organization is even branding this
- Model Railroader mag. often used "Fun" slogan
- Why do you think it's said to be "great and fun"?



Model Railroading is Fun!

Why Hobby So Appealing?



- Endless depth and breadth of interest areas
- Building something cool with your own hands
- Artistic expression and creativity
- Opportunity to create a masterpiece
- Opportunity to learn and apply new skills
- Opportunity to problem solve and invent
- Stress relief
- Life-long relationships and friendships
- Satisfaction, enjoyment and endless fun!

Unlimited Interest Areas

- Photography – real and models
- Historical research & railfanning
- Layout design and construction
- Layout operations – dispatching, crews, etc.
- Modeling – locos, rolling stock (Cars), structures, scenery, track, benchwork (wood working), ...
- Electrical and computers – wiring, controls, etc.
- Leading and serving – administration, officers
- Group events – conventions, shows, trips, clubs



Cincinnati Tops in the World

- 3 Museums with professional model railroads
 - Cincinnati Hist. Society Museum in Union Terminal
 - Entertainment Junction in West Chester
 - Behringer-Crawford Mus. in DeVou Park, KY
- Over 150 cataloged model railroads
 - 50 published, including 32 in Kalmbach Publications
 - 16+ published in annual "Great Model Railroads"
- Many very active railroad organizations
 - NMRA, Cinti RR Club and historical society chapters
 - Over 15 model railroad clubs, in all scales



Model Railroad History

- First model trains static, then steam or springs
- One early electric train had kitchen faucet driven dynamo to generate electricity
- Early key brands included Ives, Marx, Bing, Marklin, Lionel, American Flyer
- 3-rail AC, then 2-rail DC, now 2-rail DCC (Digital Command Control) with wireless throttles
- HO scale gained popularity in 1950's to 1970's
- Quality injection molded plastics revolutionized



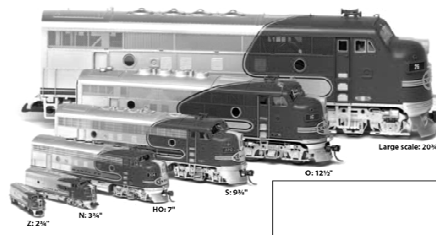
Types of Model Railroading

- Scale Model Railroading
 - Realistic equipment, scenery and operations
 - nearly everything in scale proportions
 - Photogenic realism often a key goal
- Toy Trains
 - Scenery often minimal or characterized
 - Tin-Plate, Hi-Rail, 3-Rail – e.g. Lionel O27, Am. Flyer...
 - Usually not scale proportions (wheels, size, details, ...)
- Garden Railroading
 - German made LGB equipment made this popular
 - Many couples partake in this outdoor narrow gauge



Common Scales

- Live Steam** – large enough to ride on
- Large Scale** (G, F, etc.) – popular with gardens
- O** – still popular, both scale and hi-rail
- S** – having resurgence as narrow gauge
- HO** – most popular
- N** – 2nd most popular
- Z** – very tiny

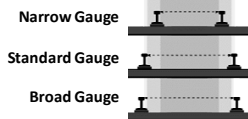


Common Scales



Scale	Proportion	Scale Foot	Track Gauge
Z	1:220	~1/16"	~1/4"
N	1:160	~5/64"	~3/8" (9mm)
HO	1:87.1	~1/8" (3.5mm)	~5/8"
S	1:64	3/16"	~7/8"
O	1:48	1/4"	~1-1/4"
Lrg Scales (F, G, ...)	1:20.3, 1:22.5, 1:24, 1:29, 1:32	~3/8" to 9/16"	~1-3/4"
Live Stm	1:16, 1:12, 1:8	3/4", 1", 1-1/2"	3.5", 5", 7 1/4"

Gauges



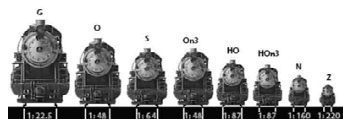
Gauge is the distance between the rails

- North America Standard Gauge = 4' - 8 1/2"
- Narrow Gauges = 2 ft, 30 in, 3 ft, 1 meter ...
- Broad Gauges (extinct) = 5 ft, 6 ft, ...
- Nomenclature examples -
 - HO scale 3 foot narrow gauge = HO_{N3}
 - O scale 30 inch narrow gauge = O_{N30}

Which Scale/Gauge Best for You?

Depends on –

- What you want to focus on
- How much room you have
- How much you want to build vs. buy r-t-r
- Your eyesight
- Your personal preference



Hobby Evolution

Topic	Pre 1950	Post 1960	Now
Best Locos	Metal (Tinplate)	Handmade Brass	Plastic
Best Cars	Metal and Cardstock	Wood and Plastic Kits	RTR Plastic, Resin Kits
Controls	Batteries, Transformers	Power Packs, Cab Control Blocks	Wireless Digital CC
HO Couplers	Talgo (Loops)	Horn Hook	Knuckles
Structures	Metal and Cardstock	Wood and Plastic Kits	Wood, Resin, Plastic, RTR
Scenery Base	Screen Wire	Cardboard Strips	Carved Foam Sheets
Benchwork	Plywood Tables	Wood Grids	Foam Sheets
Layout Design	Simple Ovals, 8's	Spaghetti Bowls	Walk-around

Many Effort Levels Possible

- Ready-to-Run – Growing manufacturing trend
- Kits – Varying skill levels in plastic, resin, wood, plaster
- Kit-Bashing
 - Mix and match kit parts to create something new
 - Popular and often fast way to create unique items
- Scratch-building
 - Use basic raw materials to build structures, cars, locos, ...
 - Many still enjoy this ultimate creative expression



How to Get Started

- Join with others!
- Read handbooks and magazines
- Start simple, with expandability in mind
- Don't be in a hurry
- Do be eager to learn and grow
- Try lots of areas to discover your interests
- Visit nice layouts for inspiration
- Join with others!



Learning Resources

- Model RR magazines, handbooks and videos
- Associations, clubs, other modelers
- Visits to other model railroads
- Hobby shops and train shows
- National Model RR Assoc. (NMRA)
 - monthly meetings and conventions
 - Short classes or talks - called "clinics"
 - Regular visits/tours of inspiring model railroads
 - Connections to modelers and modeling groups



Cincinnati Organizations



- Model RR Associations
 - Cincinnati Division 7, Mid-Central Region of NMRA
 - Many gauge or scale specific interest groups
- Model RR Clubs - see Cincinnati Division 7 website
 - Many HO, two O, two N, one G, one Live Steam
 - 6 clubs located inside Old Ross High School
- RR Enthusiasm Organizations
 - Cincinnati Railroad Club (Tower A CUT)
 - National Railway Hist. Society (Cinti Chapter @ EJ)
 - Many RR specific historical and "friends" societies

Cincinnati Division 7 NMRA



- Cincinnati chapter one of most active in world!
- Meets every month, usually 2nd Sunday at 2pm
 - Rotating locations around town
 - Short bus. meeting, fun raffle, popular vote contest
 - Informative clinics by accomplished modelers
 - Visit 1 to 3 inspiring layouts on way home
- Conduct two popular public events each year
 - Fall Cincinnati Model Train Show (October)
 - Spring Flea Market & Swap Meet (March)
- Nice newsletter, website, tours, merchandise

Cincinnati Area Clubs

Cinti Chapter Nat. Rwy Hist. Society (NRHS)	-	Entertainment Junction
Cincinnati Railroad Club (Tower A, CUT)	-	Cincinnati Museum Center (CUT)
Cincinnati Transit Historical Society	-	Queensgate Garage
B&O/Chessie Historical Societies	-	via national website
Allegheny Western Modelers	HO	round robin
Black Diamond Lines *	HO	Old Ross High School
Cincinnati Model Railway Club	O	Harmony Lodge, Winton Place
Cincinnati Northern Model RR Club *	HO	Old Ross High School
Cinder Sniffers	Live Steam	I-74 off Indiana-Ohio border
The Eastern Loggers	HO/HO _{N3}	West Chester, Ohio
Greater Cincinnati Garden Rwy Society	G	round robin, Entertainment Junc.
Greater Cinti Modular RR Assoc. (GCMRA)	HO	rotating locations
Ohio Valley Shpping & Switching Society *	HO	Old Ross High School
Pennsy Modelers	HO, O	via national website
Queen City Hi-Railers *	O 3-rail	Old Ross High School
Queen City N'Gineers *	N	Old Ross High School
Ross Rails *	HO	Old Ross High School
Tri-State Ntrak	N	various show venues
Whistle Stop Train Club	HO, N, O	Partners in Prime, Hamilton, Ohio