

MODEL TRAINS

A blue-tinted background image of a model steam locomotive, showing the boiler, wheels, and various mechanical components. The image is slightly blurred and serves as a backdrop for the text.

FAQ

AND

COMMON MISTAKES

Legal Notice

Copyright © 2010 www.modelrailwaytrains.org

All rights reserved.

Important Note

You may give away this report. As long as you do not alter it in any way

Disclaimer

This special report is presented for informational purposes only. The content is of the nature of general comment, and neither purports, nor intends to give any advice. No guarantees or claims are made or implied. Readers should not act on the basis of any matter in this special report without first considering, and if appropriate taking, professional advice with due regard to their own particular circumstances. All the content represents the views of the author at the time of publication and is as accurate as is possible to ascertain. The author and publisher will not accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Table of Contents (clickable)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	4
Q. HOW DO I START BUILDING A LAYOUT?	4
Q. CHOOSING A SCALE IS THE FIRST STEP, SO WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SCALES?.....	5
Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GAUGE AND SCALE?	5
Q. I WANT TO START MY MODEL RAIL WAY WITH A SINGLE SET, WHAT IS THE BEST RECOMMENDATION?.....	5
Q. WHAT IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET MY TRACK AND TRAINS?.....	6
COMMON MISTAKES OF FIRST TIMERS	7
MISTAKE 1 - CHOOSING THE WRONG SCALE TRAIN	7
MISTAKE 2 - GETTING THE WRONG SCALE ENGINE/TRACK	7
MISTAKE 3 - OUT OF SCALE SCENERY	7
MISTAKE 4 - BENCH NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR LAYOUT	8
MISTAKE 5 - BUILDING A BENCH AT THE WRONG HEIGHT	8
MISTAKE 6 - NO PLACE TO UNCOUPLE AND COUPLE CARS.....	8
MISTAKE 7 - MAKING THE LAYOUT TOO COMPLICATED	8

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How do I start building a layout?

Having a layout is the only way to get started with your model railway. There are four steps to getting your layout going.

Step One: You have to pick out a scale. They range from Z scale, which is the smallest, to G which is the largest. The scale will help you determine how much room you will need to work with. If you are unsure of what size, visit your local hobby store, they will be able to tell you everything you need to know about the different scales. Also by visiting the hobby store you can see some of the sizes and accessories for yourself.

Step Two: learn all you can about your chosen scale. There are lots of websites, books, magazines, and newsletters about model railroading. The more you learn about the hobby and the scale you've chosen the better you can plan.

Step Three: What do you want your first layout to be? Do you want to be a simple layout for Christmas time? Do you want to start small and then expand later? What are your plans for this layout? Decide on the style and design of you railway.

Step Four: Make sketches. It's the only way you are sure that you can get it all set up right. Put your ideas down on plain sketch paper. Use a pencil so you can erase. If you aren't confident you can draw it where it looks right then look in some of the magazines for software ads that can do the drawing for you.



Q. Choosing a scale is the first step, so what are the different scales?

There are several different scales but the most common sizes are as follows (ordered from largest to smallest):

G 1:24
O 1:48
S 1:64
OO 1:76.2 (found in United Kingdom)
HO 1:87
TT 1:130 (found in Germany)
N 1:160
Z 1:220

It should be noted that the HO and O scales are the most popular scales in the model railroading world, especially with first timers. You should pay attention to the fact that O scale is actually laid out on a 5.0" gauge rather than the standard that most follow. This can cause a problem for some first time model railroaders because they underestimate the turning radius this scale needs.

Q. What is the difference between gauge and scale?

Scale is the ratio between the model and the prototype (also known as the real world trains). The HO scale of train runs at a 1:87 ratio or 1/87th of the real world train. Gauge, however, is the distance between the inside of the two rails on the track. For the real world gauge the standard is 4'8.5". Narrow gauges, which just literally means a narrower track is 2' or 3'. So if you are talking about a HO scale track you are looking at a track that is 1/87th of the 4' 8.5" gauge.

Q. I want to start my model rail way with a single set, what is the best recommendation?

This is complete opinion, as one model train enthusiast will choose one manufacturer over another and yet another enthusiast might disagree and choose a different manufacturer. A good choice to start your collection is Lionel trains. They have been in business for quiet sometime and have a good

reputation for model trains. If you want it all you might find that you will be paying quite a bit of money. They do have some starter sets that are on the cheaper side, around \$150 but they may not have sound or lights.

MTH is another good company to start with and run a little less than Lionel but they still make a good set. You can get everything you need for around \$200 to \$250 and that includes sound and steam.

Probably the best scale to start with is the HO because there are lots of options and the turn radius isn't as large as the O scale which can cause problems with your layout.

Q. What is the best place to get my track and trains?

Now this all comes down to personal taste. If you are someone that wants to go hold to the train and inspect it before buying it then you need to go to a hobby store to make your purchase. This way you can actually see the train before you buy it.

If you are looking for good deals then check out the Internet. You can find some direct sellers that offer discounts by not having to go through the middle man of the hobby store. You can also find some good buys on eBay. Mail order forms from magazines and newsletters are also a good way to find deals on model trains and track.

If you are a savvy shopper you might also hit flea markets and antique stores. Often you can find some nice trains and their accompanying track here without spending a lot of money. Sometimes these trains work just fine; they may just need to be cleaned up a little bit.

Common Mistakes of First Timers

If this is your first time building a model railway, there are a lot of things to learn. While not everyone makes mistakes, they are easily made. Here are some of the most common mistakes made by first time railway enthusiasts.



Mistake 1 - Choosing the wrong scale train

There are a lot of things that can go wrong when you choose the wrong scale train. It is probably tempting to go with a larger scale and gauge train, such as the O scale, because you might feel more comfortable with the size. But one of the things that can go wrong is the fact that it has a larger turn radius than most model trains. Not giving it enough room to turn can cause constant derailments. Also with the O scale the cars aren't always the same length. This too can cause frequent derailments that will slow down you progress.

Mistake 2 - Getting the wrong scale engine/track

Because engines and train cars are listed in scale and the track is listed in gauge this is an easy mistake to make. You probably won't even realize your train won't fit on the track until you have it all together. While there are many companies out there that will put both the scale size and the gauge size on their boxes, it's important for you to pay attention to what you are getting when you purchase your trains and track. Nothing is more frustrating than getting the track all attached to your bench and wired to the controller than to find out everything you built is wrong for the engine you purchase.

Mistake 3 - Out of scale scenery

Speaking of scales, scenery being out of whack is another first timer oops. Yes, your engine might be taller than your homes, if they are all single story, but is it taller than your trees? If it is then you have got the wrong scale when it comes to the trees. Remember things like trees and taller buildings will loom over your train. The engine doesn't need to be the biggest thing on the bench.

Mistake 4 - Bench not big enough for layout

This is why you need to know your layout before you get started. You don't want your track to be too close to the edge. Having your track right on the edge of your table could result in a mess. Not only could your train derail all the way to the floor by the littlest jolt of the table or bump of the elbow, but you can dislodge your ballast or your scenery. If you have your train running behind trees and other scenery it can be difficult to judge the distance between the scene and the edge of the board. If your track is too close to the edge and too close to the scene you could be picking up more than just the train off of the floor.

Mistake 5 - Building a bench at the wrong height

The last thing you need is to struggle with your creation. Normally, when someone builds a benchwork to be the wrong height it's actually too short. No one wants an achy back because they've been bent over for hours so why should you. Remember you have to be able to run your layout and you have to run the wiring underneath. While it doesn't happen often you could go the other way and build a bench so large you can't reach everything. If you can't reach the center from any side of the bench then it is too big. How are you supposed to put scenery and complete the bench if you can't reach it?

Mistake 6 - No place to uncouple and couple cars

This is a common oversight. Many people just forget to put in the sidings for the trains to do such things. It's easy to forget but remember your train is running like a real one, it has to have a place to put the cars it's not pulling.

Mistake 7 - Making the layout too complicated

When you are just starting out it's best to use the K.I.S.S. method to layout design. That means Keep It Simple Stupid. Sounds rude, but you have to remember you want to get your railway working so you can enjoy it. If you make the design too complicated you might not have the time, money or space for it. Most people will get frustrated with it if they can't get everything going

like they want. For your first layout just keep it simple. You can always grow your railway later.

Want To Learn More?

If you are motivated to build a stunning layout and want more training and resources to help you finally create the layout of your dreams, then I offer you my step by step model train system packed in an easy to read ebook.

Click the link below for more details:

www.modelrailwaytrains.org/model-railroading-guide



Albert Coleman

www.modelrailwaytrains.org

["Discover All You Need to Know About Model Trains And How to Create An Amazing Layout In Just 7 DAYS!" - Click Here For Details](#)